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Lamine Yamal and Jamal Musiala — two of the most exciting talents — will be on show when **Spain play hosts Germany in Euro '24 quarterfinals today**; focus on captains **Kylian Mbappe, Cristiano Ronaldo** when **France & Portugal renew their rivalry in the 2nd QF**

Prez Joe Biden tells a group of Democratic governors that he is staying in the 2024 campaign, even as Trump's allies launch a **pre-emptive political strike on V-P Kamala Harris** amid talks that she may replace Biden

Rajasthan minister Kirori Lal Meena, who had said that he would quit the state Cabinet if BJP lost any Lok Sabha seat under his responsibility, **submits his resignation**, but it is yet to be accepted

Britons vote in key parliamentary election that is expected to bring Keir Starmer's Labour Party to power, sweeping away UK PM Rishi Sunak's Conservatives after 14 'turbulent yrs'



B'luru-Chennai greenfield corridor by Dec

Union minister Nitin Gadkari Thursday announced the inauguration of the Greenfield Corridor between Bengaluru and Chennai and the Bengaluru Satellite Township Ring Road (STRR) project by Dec 2024. The Rs 17,930-crore greenfield project was announced in 2018, while the STRR project, which will reduce traffic inside the city by 30%, was launched in 2022. **P 4**

Darshan in custody for 14 more days

Judicial custody of actor Darshan, girlfriend Pavithra Gowda and 15 others arrested in the Renukaswamy murder case was extended by 14 days after the special public prosecutor argued that the accused have no respect for the law and have destroyed evidence. **P 2**

JEE aspirant dies by suicide in Kota

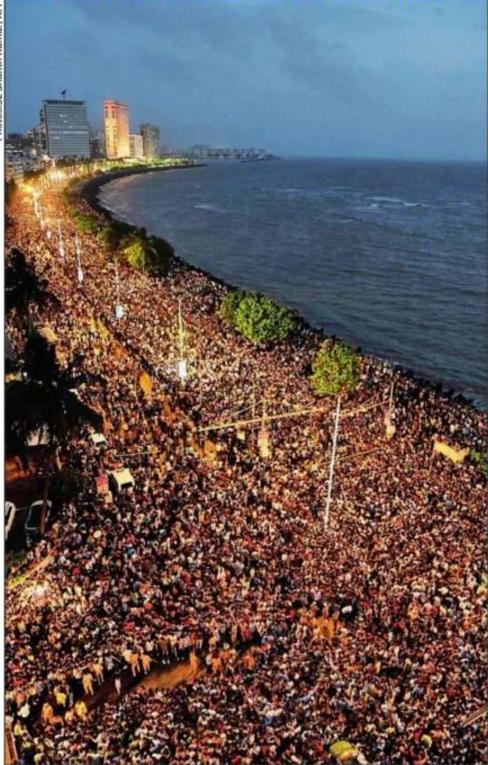
A 16-year-old engineering aspirant from Bihar died by suicide in Kota Thursday, becoming the 13th student to take the extreme step in the city this year. Sandeep Kumar Kurmi had been preparing for JEE for the last two years. **Flap opp**

NEET leak: J'khand principal, dy fired

Hazaribag's Oasis School sacked principal Ehsanul Haque and vice-principal MI Alam Thursday, a week after they were arrested by CBI for their alleged role in NEET paper leak. **Flap opp**

SEA OF LOVE FOR CHAMPS

A BILLION DREAMS COME HOME



It's Crowded At The Top: From Barbados, Storm Arrives In A Cup

The sea looked bluer in Mumbai on Thursday evening. After their delayed departure from Barbados due to a hurricane, Rohit Sharma's T20 World Cup-winning Team India returned home to a different kind of storm with cricket-crazy Mumbaikars filling the entire stretch from Nariman Point to Wankhede Stadium. The Men in Blue held the

coveted trophy in an open bus convoy as thousands danced, waved the tricolour and flashed smartphone lights. The bus covered the five-minute distance in more than one-and-a-half hours as the players savoured the evening of their lives. The crowd chanted 'We Love You, Team India', 'Team India Zindabad' 'Mumbaicha Raja, Rohit Sharma', and

more, voicing the ecstasy of seeing the T20 World Cup return to India after 17 years. Earlier, the team landed in New Delhi on a charter flight and met PM Modi for breakfast. "An excellent meeting with our Champions! Hosted the World Cup winning team... had a memorable conversation on their experiences..." Modi tweeted.

At Wankhede, packed to capacity with cheering fans, BCCI office-bearers felicitated the team and presented it with a cheque for Rs 125 crore. "The huge turnout of fans shows they were as desperate for this T20 World Cup title as we were," said Rohit. "I am going to miss this love. What I saw on the streets tonight, I won't forget it," said outgoing India coach Rahul Dravid.

Sonia's nudge puts Hemant back in Jharkhand saddle

Dhritiman.Ray @timesofindia.com

Ranchi: Hemant Soren was back in the saddle Thursday for a third stint as Jharkhand CM after an unannounced 5pm swearing-in bereft of ceremony and purportedly hastened by a prod from Congress's parliamentary ch-

airperson Sonia Gandhi. The Congress ex-president, whom Hemant called on June 30 after getting bail in the Ranchi land scam case two days earlier, is said to have convinced him to take charge quickly "in the interest of clarity within the JMM-led coalition".

Hemant will seek a floor test during a one-day assembly session scheduled for July 8 and expand his cabinet thereafter, JMM said.

Both Raj Bhavan and the JMM rank and file had been given to understand after stand-in CM Champai Soren's resignation Wednesday that Hemant would prefer to take the oath of office on July 7.

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Hemant Soren takes oath as CM

Isolate, expose states that back terror: Modi to SCO

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New Delhi: PM Modi's address to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the security-oriented Eurasian bloc which held its annual summit in Astana Thursday was replete with messages to Pakistan and China as he sought a decisive response against cross-border terrorism—calling upon all to shun double standards—and backed connectivity linkages that respect territorial integrity.

Modi did not participate in the summit, but in remarks delivered through foreign minister S Jaishankar who filled

in for him, sought to allay apprehensions about India's commitment to the group, saying in a world moving inexorably towards real multipolarity, the SCO will only become more important and that it occupies a prominent place in India's foreign policy.

However, he added its true value would depend on how well the member-states cooperate amongst themselves.

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From funds to refinery, Naidu calls on PM with list of demands

New Delhi: Just weeks after the NDA govt was sworn in, Andhra CM N Chandrababu Naidu, who heads TDP, the second largest member of the coalition, came calling to the Capital with a long wish-list of demands from the Centre — from short-term funds to additional capex support for infrastructure, money for the capital city of Amaravati and a new oil refinery — suggesting that some of the announcements made in the Union budget, reports Sidhartha.

Sources in AP govt described the meeting between PM Modi and Naidu as "very positive and focussed on positive outcomes for the state", and refrained from stating whether there was any demand for a package.

In several pages, P 12

IN THE COURTS

➤ Taking cognizance of the CID chargesheet, a B'luru court asks BS Yediyurappa, 3 others to appear in person on July 15 in Pocco case | P 3

➤ Reasons for SC collegium rejecting recommendations for HC judgeship can't be made public, Delhi HC rules, says such disclosure will 'stifle' selection process | P 12

➤ Karnataka HC allows local cadre postings outside Hyderabad-Karnataka region in public interest | P 3

➤ Aadhaar no. is no proof of citizenship or domicile, UIDAI submits in Calcutta HC | P 13

➤ Indore bench of MP HC grants an extension of 10 days to ASI to submit report on survey of Bhojshala

➤ Repeated accidents, graft marring state's image, Guj HC on Rajkot fire tragedy | P 13



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Dengue alert: Keep your premises clean or pay fine, says BBMP

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Bengaluru: In view of the alarming spike in dengue cases, BBMP is contemplating slapping fines on property owners who fail to keep their premises clean. First-time offences are likely to draw a fine Rs 50, and a further penalty of Rs 15 may be levied for every day.

Officials said provisions under the Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Prevention and Control of Mosquito Breeding and Eradication of Malaria

and Other Mosquito-Borne Disease Bylaw-1997 provide BBMP the power to slap fines on those failing to implement measures to control the spread of the vector-borne diseases.

According to the bylaw, BBMP officials can enter any premises, including buildings, to inspect them and take action to prevent mosquito breeding. Officials will instruct property owners to take measures, including clearing stagnant water. If the owners fail to do so, the Palike can impose a fine of Rs 50 for breaching the bylaw. A further fine of Rs 15 can be levied for every day of such continued breach, after the receipt of a notice from the competent authority.

Officials confirmed that an order would be issued to zonal-level officials asking them to collect fines from defaulters. Owners of both residential and non-residential properties will be penalised.

BBMP officials said they've started house-to-house surveys covering over 24 lakh houses in the city to identify dengue cases. The drive is aimed at identifying larvae and killing them. Officials are also focusing on educating the public on how to prevent dengue by maintaining cleanliness, including clearing stagnant water and emptying stock water from their storage containers and filling them with fresh water. Officials are focusing on clearing stagnant water on public premises, including fountains in parks.

Plea to hike penalty

BBMP officials, who participated in a recent inter-departmental meeting organised by the health and family welfare department, said similar bylaws exist within various urban local bodies. Consequently, officials from the directorate of municipal administration requested the govt to increase the penalty amount.



Considering construction sites are potential places for mosquito breeding, the civic body held a meeting with developers on Wednesday. The developers will be slapped with fines if they fail to maintain cleanliness.

Officials to educate public
Health minister Dinesh Gundurao said officials of all departments must spend Fridays for field visits to spread awareness among the public. He also asked the deputy commissioners and ZP CEOs to stay alert on Zika virus. He suggested setting up fever clinics where dengue cases are high, and step up testing.

OFFSIDE

IF NOT A WALK... THEN TAKE HIM FOR A SWIM... BUT OUT OF THE GATE!



Drivers' stir triggers traffic chaos; action on e-bike taxis from today

Protesters And Police Lock Horns At TTMC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Chaos broke out at the transport department headquarters at Shantinagar TTMC in central Bengaluru on Thursday, when hundreds of autorickshaws and cab drivers staged a protest. Their demands included action against illegal operations of bike taxis, violation of fare rules by taxi aggregators, private cars being used as taxis via unauthorised apps, and delay in the registration of school vans.

The drivers who wanted to convey their grievances to officials became agitated after entry was restricted to only representatives of various drivers' unions. Arguments ensued between police and the protesters on the ground floor of the building where the transport commissioner's office is located.

The protesters managed to enter the conference hall where the officials waited to meet their representatives. The officials spoke to the protesters and assured them that their grievances would be addressed.

The protesters demanded that the transport department direct taxi aggregators in the city not to charge more than a 5% commission for providing bookings. They also claimed that fitness certificates for transport vehicles were withheld because of the non-installation of panic

What auto & cab drivers want

Action against illegal operations of bike taxis, violation of fare rules by taxi aggregators, private cars being used as taxis via unauthorised apps

What officials promise

Enforcement drive against illegal e-bike taxi operations from Friday. On non-e-bike taxis, the transport department cites an HC order preventing coercive action against their operations



STREET FIGHT: The drivers who wanted to convey grievances to officials became agitated after entry was restricted to representatives of unions



buttons and vehicle-tracking devices, despite the deadline for compliance being Sept 10.

The officials informed the protesters about the orders issued to the joint commissioner, Bengaluru, to carry out an enforcement drive against illegal e-bike taxi operations from July 5, president of the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations, S Nataraja Sharma, told TOI.

The move soothed the frayed nerves and the protesters dispersed. The incident also impacted traffic flow in the area as the protesters had arrived in their vehicles. There

was chaos from 11am to 3pm. Sharma said, "Despite imposing a ban on bike taxis in the city, illegal operations are going unchecked. When there is no policy in place to run bike taxis, how can officials allow aggregators to operate them? Since the bike taxi policy was withdrawn, auto drivers have been demanding action against the operators who continue to violate the rules. But that hasn't happened so far. Officials are misinterpreting the high court order to initiate action."

Incidentally, auto and taxi drivers' unions had fel-

litated transport minister Ramalinga Reddy and senior officials of the department for fulfilling their demands prior to the Lok Sabha elections. A few months later, the same officials had to face the wrath of the drivers.

'Unwarranted aggression'
C Mallikarjun, additional commissioner (enforcement) of transport department, said, "We've already fulfilled various demands of auto and taxi drivers. The aggression shown by the protesters was totally unwarranted."

The official said, "The department has already with-

drawn the e-bike taxi policy in the state, and action will be taken against aggregators violating the rules."

He maintained that with regard to non-e-bike taxis, there is an HC order directing the department not to take coercive action against their operations. In city limits, 11 teams have been formed to carry out the drives.

Meanwhile, taking strong objections to the move of the transport department, the Bike Taxi Welfare Association, Karnataka, in a statement, said it would approach the HC if it comes across violations of the earlier order.

Actor, aides in judicial custody for 14 more days

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A city court on Thursday extended by 14 days the judicial custody of Sandalwood actor Darshan, his girlfriend Pavithra Gowda, and 15 others arrested in the Renukaswamy murder case.

The accused were produced before court through video-conference. The special public prosecutor told the court that the accused have no respect for the law and have already destroyed evidence. The case is still under probe and the investigating officer is yet to collect more scientific and technical evidence.

According to the prosecution, police have so far seized Rs 83.6 lakh from the accused. They are yet to get the vehicles used in the crime inspected by RTO officials and trace the original owners. The phones of the accused persons have been sent to Hyderabad FSL and they are yet to get the retrieval report. Police are yet to send the hard disk of the CCTV cameras seized in the case to FSL and record statements from many people. Hence, the judicial custody of the accused was extended.

Sim card registration

Kamakshipalya police have found that Darshan, Pavithra and four other accused — Nandeesh, Pradosh, Karthik, and Keshavamurthy — were using sim cards registered in others' names. A senior police officer said, "It is not illegal for anyone to use sim cards registered in others' names as long as there is consent."

Man offers KMF job for pal's kin, pockets ₹17L

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Bengaluru: A man claiming to have links with politicians and bureaucrats allegedly cheated a 28-year-old man of Rs 17 lakh on the assurance of getting a job for his brother-in-law at Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF).

The accused is Lakshman Ilegar, a resident of Govindarajanagar, west Bengaluru. Shashikanth M, a resident of D Group Layout, Herohalli, in his complaint to police on July 1, stated that Ilegar had befriended him four years ago through common friends. He claimed to have contacts in the govt and KMF. After getting to know about Shashikanth's family members, Ilegar allegedly told him he felt very sad for his sister who was working with a private firm and offered to help her get a job with KMF by using his influence.

He also claimed he had already helped many others in this manner. Ilegar even sent across a few seemingly genuine appointment letters in KMF letterhead for posts such as supervisor and purchase store officer.

In 2022, Ilegar told Shashikanth that direct recruitment was happening at KMF and he could get a job for his sister. Ilegar collected her Aadhaar card, marks card and other required documents. After a few days, he said there was no vacancy for women in any of the posts, but he could get a job for Shashikanth's brother-



FAKE APPOINTMENT ORDER

in-law. He convinced Shashikanth by calling every day for a few days, and collected the brother-in-law's papers. He then said the job would cost Rs 17 lakh. Shashikanth told police he paid Ilegar the money by way of bank transfers and cash in March 2022.

After a few months, Ilegar gave an appointment order in the name of Shashikanth's brother-in-law. But when he checked with KMF, Shashikanth got to know the order was fake, and so were the ones Ilegar had sent him on WhatsApp.

A few days later, Ilegar told Shashikanth he would return his money. But after three months, Ilegar allegedly claimed he hadn't taken any money from Shashikanth or offered a job to anyone. Eventually, he allegedly made death threats.

A senior police officer said, "Ilegar has filed a complaint with Vijayanagar police stating he was cheated by someone who offered a job to aspirants at KMF. The case is under investigation. In our case, Ilegar is the accused and we've learnt that he is abroad. Once he returns, we'll take action."

Blame game on as revival works at Bellandur, Varthur lakes falter

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Bengaluru: Bellandur and Varthur lakes continue to suffer neglect and inefficiency with incomplete dredging and unchecked sewage inflow being major concerns. Agencies involved in their revival, though, are busy pointing fingers and shifting the blame.

Directives from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to form a lake development monitoring committee have been ignored, exacerbating the issues faced by critical waterbodies. Lack of funds and poor coordination between BDA and BBMP are the other issues stymieing rejuvenation efforts. "Desilting operations at Bellandur Lake, spread over 900 acres, are only 60% complete. About 12 lakh cubic metres of silt is yet to be removed and this is severely impacting the lake's ecosystem," said a senior lake activist.

BDA is overseeing works to rejuvenate the waterbody like desilting and building bunds, while BBMP is in charge of the periphery and is tasked with preventing dumping of waste. BWSSB has to monitor the water quality and ensure treated water enters the lakes.

The continuous flow of sewage into Bellandur lake from surround-



ing areas highlights the lack of adequate sewage treatment plants. Resource-strapped marshals are finding it near impossible to patrol the lake effectively in the absence of vehicles and this has allowed unchecked dumping of construction waste, lake activists allege.

Though the original plan envisaged dredging up to 3m, logistical challenges limited the depth to only 1.5m. To date, 20 lakh cubic metres of silt have been removed and transported to quarries in Mysalandra and Vithalsandra. BWSSB has failed to coordinate with Karnataka State Pollution Control Board for installing the required 110 MLD-capacity STPs, allowing sewage to flow continuously into the lake.

Security and monitoring of the lakes too have been poor. Twenty-two marshals have been deployed for patrolling each lake, but the absence of patrolling vehicles and CCTV cameras have rendered their work ineffective.

Jagadish Reddy, a social worker with Bellandur-Varthur Lakes Development Committee, said, "A monitoring committee must be formed, and the dredging of the lakes needs to be completed swiftly. Additionally, the massive pipeline in the middle of Varthur Lake must be relocated to facilitate better water release to Kolar, and CCTV cameras should be installed to curb waste dumping and encroachments. At Varthur, BBMP hasn't even built a small toilet for marshals to use, forget about them monitoring the lake."

Security and monitoring of the

WHO DOES WHAT?

- BDA is overseeing works to rejuvenate the waterbody like desilting & building bunds
- BBMP is in charge of the periphery and is tasked with preventing dumping of waste
- BWSSB has to monitor the water quality and ensure treated water enters the lakes

AGENCIES PASS THE BUCK

"We're doing our best with the resources provided, but without proper support and coordination, our hands are tied. We are desilting the lakes and transporting the silt, while BBMP should have prevented waste from entering the lakes. BBMP needs to be responsible for its actions" — Senior BDA member

"We're doing everything we can to check dumping of waste into lakes. It is the lack of will from BWSSB and KSPCB that is affecting our work. How can we be blamed? Moreover, BDA needs to speed up desilting works. We've had multiple meetings with civic bodies and things will expedite now" — BBMP official

"BBMP blames all its problems with regard to Bellandur and Varthur lakes on BWSSB. We're working on installing the STPs soon. Cleaning the lake is BBMP's duty, and ensuring that marshals are vigilant is also their responsibility, not ours. We asked for money to set up an STP, but the govt delayed it, citing elections. Now, we are working on a war footing to do it, but it is not an easy task" — Senior BWSSB official

Directives from National Green Tribunal to form a lake development monitoring committee have been ignored by officials, exacerbating the issues faced by critical waterbodies in Bengaluru

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Bengaluru: The BBMP's work to give a complete makeover to the congested 8km stretch of Kanakapura Road as part of its High-Density Corridor project has left locals, including residents' welfare associations (RWAs), agitated.

Concerned that the change would shrink the width of the road, which is already choked with vehicles through the day, they've slammed the civic body for failing to consult the stakeholders before executing the project.

With BBMP engineers already executing the project, citizen bodies have registered their dissent with the engineers over the "unscientific" work and its impact on the already congested road. Efforts by the engineers of BBMP's major roads wing at a consultative meeting last week to convince the citizen bodies of the effectiveness of the project were not successful.

Abdul Aleem of the ChangeMakers of Kanakapura Road, a consortium of 80+ RWAs, revealed that the work has drastically reduced the width of the carriageway.

"The work will result in further narrowing of the already congested Kanakapura Road. The engineers, during



UNDER WAY

With the civic agency already executing the High-Density Corridor project, citizen bodies have registered their dissent with the engineers over the "unscientific" work and its impact on the congested road

the consultation, explained to us that the uniform width of the carriageway would ensure a smooth flow of traffic, we were not convinced why they have provided parking facilities all along, which will eventually only slow down the traffic. The 10-metre-wide road has already been congested with vehicles throughout the day and further reduction in the width would only worsen the situation."

Yet another member of the RWA on Yelachenahalli Road said, "The engineers argued that they want to have a uniform carriageway of 7.5m width and convert the rest of the road into a parking bay along the footpath. When we objected to parking, they clarified that they could convert that into a cycle track or wider footpaths. But Kanakapura Road itself is not of uni-

form width. While it is wider at some points, it is less than nine metres broad at some stretches like at Yelachenahalli. If you take away 7.5m of carriageway at those narrow points, there will not even be space for pedestrians to walk."

BS Prahalad, chief engineer, BBMP, clarified that the entire project is designed by experts. "The uniform width of the motorable road will avoid congestion and ensure unobstructed movement. The project is designed by experts, where the walkability of people is important. So if we don't provide good footpaths, people tend to use more vehicles. Our work may seem absurd to the general public initially... but once we wrap up the work by Dec 2024, they will get to notice the changes."

(With inputs from Poojitha BV)

Pourakarmikas to get weekly off

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Bengaluru: Pourakarmikas across the state will soon get one full day off from work every week. This decision was taken by the urban development department (UDD), following persistent demands from workers. The new policy will come into effect very soon, official sources said.

"This is a big relief for us. Managing work with two half-days off in a week was tough. People could barely spend time with their families. Now we can finally have a full day to rest," Narayan, former Mysuru mayor and president of Karnataka State Commission for Safai Karmacharis,

told TOI. Pourakarmikas across Karnataka currently take half a day off each on Wednesdays and Sundays. The new full-day off will be chosen on the basis of workload by zone. While civic workers had requested off on Sunday, UDD says the one day off should be taken on any day of the week.

"The new order requires at least 85% attendance... Furthermore, in the absence of regular staff, additional workers will be appointed to cover their work, assuring continuity of service," said Lakshmi G, a pourakarmika. However, the weekly off isn't a permanent right and can't be accumulated to be taken together later.

Why are surgeons rushing to get robotic certification?

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Bengaluru: As the demand for robotic surgeries skyrockets in the city, surgeons are seen hitting the books and mastering the technology. They say patients want nothing less than specialists, certified in the art of robotic precision, to treat them.

Why the hype? Experts spill the beans: Robotic surgery is accurate and precise. "With the growing number of robotic surgeries, surgeons are compelled to become experts in the field. Patients feel reassured knowing their surgeons are up to date with the latest technology, which



INFLUENCE OF AI IN THE TECH

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) would be helpful in robotic surgery, according to experts. Dr Ravikumar Mukarthi says a lot of data like reports of CAT scan and other tests can be fed into it, which can create an algorithm or database of health records, helping robotic surgeons to plan future courses of treatment and steps for a successful surgery.

drives doctors to upskill and master robotic techniques," says Dr Mohan Keshavamurthy, senior director of transplant & robotic surgery at Fortis Hospitals. Surgeons upskill themselves with a six- or eight-week certification programme in robotic tech under the guidance

of a proctor (a senior surgeon, who has performed over 300 robotic surgeries). Dr Ravikumar Mukarthi, consultant orthopaedic and robotic joint replacement surgery, Sparsh Hospitals, said, "For the certification, we go through reading materials, followed by a theoretical

exam. Once the person qualifies in the exam, he has to perform a surgery on a cadaver with the robot, under the guidance of a proctor. If the surgery is successful, the surgeon gets certified to perform robotic procedures."

With robotic-assisted surgeries, there's a 90% reduc-

tion in hospital stays, quicker recovery time, and fewer side effects," adds Dr Keshavamurthy. It also reduces the possibility of human error and inconsistencies.

"It helps provide more precise implant placement, leading to a natural post-surgery feel, decreased risk of injury to surrounding tissues, reduced infection risk and blood loss and early rehabilitation, contributing to shorter hospital stay. The precise implant placement also enhances implant longevity, potentially reducing the need for future revisions," said Dr Prashanth BN, orthopaedic surgeon, robotic joint replacement,

knee replacement surgery, Narayana Health City.

Helps in cancer treatment
Robotic technology has also revolutionised cancer treatment. Dr Raghunath SK, senior consultant and director of uro-oncology and robotic surgery, HCG Cancer Centre, said, "Its precision and 3D visualization capabilities allow for precise tumour removal, while sparing healthy tissue. This results in faster recovery time, less post-operative pain, and minimised scarring, empowering cancer patients to swiftly return to their normal routines and focus on their healing journey."

Girlfriend's ex and aides kidnap, assault, rob law student of ₹43k

Held 24-Yr-Old Captive At A Construction Site

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Bengaluru: A 24-year-old student returning home after meeting his girlfriend was allegedly kidnapped by a gang including her ex-lover. He was assaulted with a machete and wooden logs at a construction site and released after he was robbed of Rs 43,000 and a gold chain.

Acting on a complaint from Ayush (name changed), a resident of Rajajinagar, who is now recovering from the injuries, Byatarayanapura police detained his girlfriend's former lover, Bharath, and are looking out for the other suspects.

Ayush, a first-year law student at a private college, befriended a graduate who was searching for a job through a common friend. Having met her near her house at Timber Yard Layout on Mysuru Road on July 1, the student was riding back home on his electric scooter when a Honda City car with eight men intercepted him around 10.30 pm.

One of the men introduced himself as Bharath alias Guddu and asked Ayush how dare he was to meet his "girlfriend".

The gang allegedly took him to a nearby under-

The gang took the student to an under-construction building where they attacked him with wooden logs. He was also hit with the blunt side of a machete



construction building, where they assaulted him with wooden logs. Ayush said Bharath hit him with the blunt side of a machete.

Gang demanded ₹5L

The gang demanded Rs 5 lakh to release Ayush. As he pleaded with them to leave him, they checked his bank balance on his phone.

Ayush told TOI, "They held me captive in the building till 12.30 am and assaulted me continuously. Later they took me to an ATM kiosk somewhere on Kanakapura Road in JP Nagar in their car and made me withdraw Rs 20,000. After I gave them the money, they took my phone and transferred Rs 15,000 to a mobile number through a digital payment app. They also robbed Rs 8,000 I had on me and a gold chain weighing

eight grams." Ayush was later released and given his scooter back. He received treatment at KC General Hospital and he filed a police complaint on Wednesday.

Guard scolded me in public, so I bought knife for ₹70, stabbed him: BA student

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Investigation in to the murder of a security guard inside Sindh College in Hebbal-Kempapura on Wednesday revealed that the accused student killed him for getting humiliated in front of his peers.

Final year BA student, Bhargab Jyothi Barman (22), who has been arrested for stabbing college's surveillance and discipline sentry, Jai Kishore Roy, told the police: "I got angry and killed him, as he shouted at me filthily, while other college-mates, including girls, watched," Barman said, while explaining what triggered him to take the extreme step.

In an interesting twist, medical tests conducted on Barman, following his arrest, have ruled out him being under the influence of alcohol, when he engaged in a verbal argument with Roy. Initially, it was suspected that Barman was drunk, when he committed the murder.

Roy's colleague Shekar

Accused wanted to teach him lesson



The victim, Jai Kishore Roy (L); Bhargab Jyothi Barman

During interrogation, Barman told police that the college had an anniversary function and a lot of cultural programmes were lined up. He went out of the college campus a couple of times as

he had some work. Roy, who was at the gate, was objecting to students stepping out of the college premises.

"He had warned me that he wouldn't let me inside. But I ignored him and went out. When I returned around 2pm, he started scolding me. So, I got angry and decided to teach him a lesson. I went to a nearby shop and purchased a knife for Rs 70 and returned to the college and stabbed Roy," an officer quoted the boy.

and again, fought with Roy after the latter refused to let him in. Subsequently, he came for the third time around 2pm with a knife and stabbed Roy in the chest," Shekar stated in the complaint.

Barman was produced before the court on Thursday afternoon, and he has been taken into police custody for three days. The police took him to the spot for mahazar.

former girlfriend for 30 minutes. After I returned home, she called me and apologised. But I have decided to stop meeting her," Ayush said.

BSY told to appear before court on July 15

Bengaluru: Taking cognizance of the chargesheet filed by the special investigation team of CID against the former chief minister, BS Yediyurappa and three others in a Pocco case, a local court in city on Thursday issued summons, directing the four accused to appear in person before it on July 15.

POCSO CASE

Earlier last week, CID had filed a 750-page chargesheet, accusing the ex-CM of allegedly sexually assaulting a minor girl in his residence in Feb. The three other accused are his associates, Arun YM, Rudresh M and Y Mariswamy.

The CID has charged Yediyurappa with sexual assault under section 8 of the Pocco Act and for sexual harassment under Section 354(A) of the Indian Penal Code, while the other three have been accused of destroying the evidence under IPC section 204 and, for offering gifts to cover up an offence under IPC section 214. Meanwhile, Yediyurappa approached the HC, seeking anticipatory bail and quashing of the case and, justice S Krishna Dixit has stayed his arrest. TNN

10 lakh students to be trained in IT security

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: With the tech city reporting a spike in the number of students falling prey to cyber frauds, the department of information technology has collaborated with Meta to empower 10 lakh students with digital safety knowledge and augmented reality/virtual reality (AR-VR) skills by 2025.

Around 1 lakh teachers from across the state too will be trained under the 'Digital Nagrik and AR-VR Skills Programme', which was rolled out Thursday. "This will be the first time in the country that such a programme has been launched," said IT-BT minister Priyank Kharge.

Data collated by police shows that over 9k cyber crimes are registered per annum in Bengaluru and around Rs 1 crore is lost to fraudsters every day. Lack of awareness about cyber frauds is said to be a major reason for the rise in the cyber crime incidence and even students are victims of cyberbullying, morphing and gaming-related frauds.

According to Kharge, the first phase of the programme will focus on Bengaluru, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Belagavi and Dakshina Kannada and the remaining districts will be covered in the next phase. Over 10 lakh students in the age group of 18-24 years and from different schools and PU colleges across the state will receive digital awareness training. Besides, Meta will also train and deploy master trainers across these schools, PU colleges and universities and they in turn will train students in digital safety knowledge and AR-VR skills.

Further, the initiative will also cover 100 colleges and universities across Karnataka where in students themselves will be the master trainers and promote peer learning.

"This initiative would help us march towards a cyber-safe Karnataka. The Digital Nagrik campaign is aimed at fortifying the minds of our young people with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the complexities of the cyber world," he added.

UGCET correction: Over 2.4k applicants attend on Day 1

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: On Day 1 of the three-day initiative of the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) to correct errors in UGCET-24 applications on Thursday, over 2,400 applicants visited KEA office in Mallesw-

ram. Candidates were instructed to visit the office in person from July 4 to 6 to correct any errors they found.

As per the schedule, students with ranks below 1,00,000 attended on the first day. The mistakes included issues with details regarding rural educa-

tion, Kannada medium, Hyderabad-Karnataka quota, and category information, among others.

Candidates with rank above 1,00,000 and below 1,80,000 are scheduled to attend on Friday, and those with ranks above 1,80,000 on Saturday.

English official language for use in court: HC

Continued from page 1

The division bench noted which language should be used in govt affairs is essentially a matter of policy, convenience and realism.

"While Kannada, which is a local language in the state, has to be promoted and be given importance, that itself will not justify entertaining the present public interest petition, by directing positively the state govt and its authorities to use Kannada language," the bench added.



"Kannada language may be endeared, at the same time, utility of English language should not be overlooked or discarded. English is an official language for use in the high court under the Constitution," it pointed out.

"At local level, however, it is hoped that the government and the officers, as far as possible, may use, promote and give prominence to the local Kannada language to subserve the culture and the people of Karnataka. It cannot be, but, a universal phenomenon," the division bench further observed, dismissing the petition in its order passed on June 28.

RTE: BBMP to map out-of-school kids

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Bengaluru: To ensure effective implementation of the Right to Education Act, BBMP will conduct a door-to-door survey to identify children, dropped out of school or failed to enrol.

According to officials, they have estimated that there are 30 lakh houses, including in slums, and Palike will hire NGOs, self-help groups, and local organisations to conduct the survey. At a recent meeting, BBMP decided to invite voluntary organisations to express their interest for it. The Palike had conducted a similar survey in 2021 and found that about 30,000 children were out of school.

Officials from BBMP's education wing said the main intention of the initiative is to identify children, aged 6-14 years, who may have dropped out of school or failed to enrol. Later, the Palike will take steps to get them into the formal education system. BBMP will select organisations on a zonal basis, and they should visit households with a detailed questionnaire to ascertain the number of such children. The survey teams will collect details on children, especially those aged 6-14 years, their schools and other information. Parents should furnish the details of their children, even if they are studying in schools outside the BBMP limits.

Palike officials will intervene if the surveyors find any kids missing school and take steps to bring them to formal education.

BBMP will spend Rs 10 per house and has estimated that it will have to spend Rs 3 crore for surveying 30 lakh houses. The surveyors should upload details in an exclusive mobile app developed for the purpose. The survey will help determine the reasons behind the children leaving school if they are found to be dropouts.



BACK TO SCHOOL

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KIA's ATC likely to be upgraded

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Bengaluru: The Air Traffic Control (ATC) of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) is likely to be upgraded to accommodate future air traffic growth and incorporate cutting-edge technologies. The refurbished ATC is likely to be ready anytime between six months and a year.

The current ATC, situated near Terminal 1, commenced operations in May 2008. This critical hub for flight operations, managed by Airports Authority of India (AAI), has witnessed a substantial increase in air traffic over the years.

"The airport handles 720-730 air traffic movements every day. To meet the rising demand and enhance the efficiency of operations, plans are under way to construct a new ATC tower with technological advancements within the airport premises before upgrading the existing ATC," a spokesperson of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) told TOI.

The refurbishment process is expected to cost approximately Rs 200 crore.

Coming soon: BBMP's 28 affordable dental clinics

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Bengaluru: BBMP has scaled up its investment plans on health infrastructure to come up with dental clinics across all its eight zones.

It had earlier earmarked Rs 275 crore for health infrastructure improvements - Rs 150 crore to increase bed capacity, establish operation theatres and enhance facilities at maternity centres, Rs 45 crore for crematorium upgrade and Rs 80 crore for



Photo for representation

various other developments. Suralkar Vikas Kishore, special commissioner of health and family welfare, told TOI, "While the initial budget was Rs 275 crore, now we are increasing it to Rs 400 crore for various infrastructure developments, especial-

ly for establishing dental clinics across the eight zones. We are now proposing to set up 28 dental clinics to ensure everyone benefits."

The proposal and an action plan have been submitted to the govt and BBMP hopes to see a positive outcome in the upcoming week.

This initiative aims to alleviate the financial burden poor and middle-class residents face in accessing dental care. "Complaints have surged regarding the exorbitant fees charged by private

dental clinics, prompting the state govt to take action," another civic official said.

The initiative will be a collaborative effort with the govt dental colleges.

"The doctors from dental colleges will be providing services on an honorarium basis and BBMP will be coordinating with them to ensure seamless treatment for everyone," Kishore said.

If approved, the clinics are expected to be operational within the next three months, Kishore added.

'Cabinet's decision may curb corruption'

Continued from page 1

Under the old system there was fierce competition among sub-registrars and other staff for plum postings at sub-registrar offices which are regarded as dens of corruption largely because land worth crores get registered every day. Social activists say the decision is likely to curb cor-

ruption involved in transfers of sub-registrars, especially in cities like Bengaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad and Mangaluru, where land prices have skyrocketed. The cabinet also approved transfers of panchayat development officers and first division accountants through counselling.

Additionally, the cabinet decided to reduce the mini-

mum years of service for forest department officials to be promoted as deputy conservators of forests from five years to three years.

"Since there are several posts of deputy conservators of forests vacant, the govt has decided to fill these by reducing the minimum years of service prescribed for promotion to these posts," Patil said.

Local cadre hired for Hyd-K'taka can be posted outside in public interest: Court

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: There is no complete bar on a person appointed under the local cadre in Hyderabad-Karnataka, being posted outside the region in public interest, the Karnataka HC recently observed.

A division bench, comprising Justices Anu Sivaraman and Anant Ramanath Hegde made this observation, while upholding the order, passed by Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal (KSAT), Bengaluru on June 12, 2024.

One N Srikanth, a candidate from Hyderabad-Karnataka region, was appointed as sub-registrar by way of direct recruitment in 2019. After initial training at Kalaburagi, in Nov



2021, he was posted at Chikkamagaluru. Thereafter, on May 21, 2022, he was posted as sub-registrar, Mysuru (west).

'Transfer premature'

On Oct 11, 2023, one S Nandeesha was posted as sub-registrar, Mysuru (west) and the incumbent Srikanth was transferred. Srikanth approached the tribunal, which held his transfer as premature. Challenging the order of the tribunal, Nan-

deesha approached the high court. He argued that as per the amended transfer guidelines issued in 2015, the employees appointed under Hyderabad-Karnataka region should not be transferred outside the region for a period of 10 years and hence, the very posting of Srikanth outside the region violated the same.

Srikanth defended his initial transfer to Chikkamagaluru and also to Mysuru, arguing it to be premature.

The division bench noted that paragraph no.5(2)(b) of the Karnataka Public Employment (Reservation in Appointment for Hyderabad Karnataka Region) Order, 2013 specifically provides that nothing shall prevent the state govt

from making provision for the transfer (or deputation) of a person from one local cadre to another cadre, where no qualified or suitable person is available in the latter cadre or where such transfer is otherwise considered necessary in the public interest.

The division bench said, "It is true that the transfer guidelines stand amended and that the govt orders passed pursuant to Article 371-J and the transfer guidelines have not been challenged by the third respondent (Srikanth) before the tribunal. However, it is clear that there was no embargo on the state govt on posting a person, belonging to the local cadre to any other cadre in public interest."

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RTI activists flag 100% stench in Muda's 50:50 botch-up

Revival Of Cancelled Scheme, 'Largesse' To CM's Wife Under Scanner

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Bengaluru: Mysuru Urban Development Authority (Muda) is found to have allocated sites to beneficiaries, including chief minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi, under a scrapped 50:50 ratio scheme. The scheme, originally introduced in 2009, was scrapped in September 2020, but revived during the Covid-19 pandemic by Muda, without seeking permission from the then BJP govt.

"This is illegal. The body [Muda] cannot revive a cancelled scheme. It could have been revived only through an amendment by the state legislature," said an RTI activist.

The scheme aimed at allotting a portion of developed land as compensation to those who had lost their land to acquisition by Muda, with the land given away being necessarily a part of the same area from where it was acquired for developing a layout.

However, it later came to light that in a gross violation of norms, Muda gave away sites in prime locations that fetched a fortune to landowners, the CM's wife being one of the beneficiaries of such largesse. Parvathi received 14 alternative sites of various sizes in Vijayanagar III and IV in east Mysuru.

"This, too, is illegal as al-

ternative sites can be allotted only in that particular layout or in upcoming layouts," another RTI activist said.

The scam started unravelling after BJP MLA TS Srivatsa wrote to the chief secretary on June 26, 2024, demanding a probe into the allotment of sites under the scrapped 50:50 scheme in October 2023. According to RTI activists, site distribution under this scheme was rampant from 2021 to 2023.

Former Muda employee PS Nataraj, who had served as an assistant director for town planning, has lodged a complaint with deputy commissioner KV Rajendra, seeking details about the total number of sites distributed under the 50:50 scheme since November 2020.

Nataraj accused several former Muda employees - including former chairmen HV Rajiv and Yashaswini Somashekar, commissioners DB Natesh and GT Dinesh Kumar, special land acquisition officers Harshavardhan and Vishnuvardhan Reddy, and other officers - of being complicit in this irregularity.

Deputy commissioner KV Rajendra had written to Muda, seeking an explanation, but didn't receive a response. He then escalated the matter to the Urban Department secretary, though it remains unresolved.

UNRAVELLING THE PLOT

Urban Development Authority and its earlier avatar, City Improvement Trust Board, have in all formed 63 layouts, allotting 50,445 plots from 1967 to 2017. Of them, nearly 18% of the sites - or 9,508 - are unallotted and some of them are being given under the 50:50 scheme or through auctioning. It's par for the course for urban authorities to keep aside a few sites to generate revenue later through auction. A significant number of sites in these layouts remain unallocated.

What's the brouhaha about site allotment to CM Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi?

■ Opposition BJP alleged Mysuru Urban Development Authority, in 2022, allotted 14 sites of various dimensions (30x40ft, 30x50ft, 50x80ft and 40x60ft) in now-upscale layouts developed more than three decades ago.

What's the 50:50 scheme? Why is it under the lens?

■ The controversial scheme intends to give land-losers (whose land is acquired by Muda for developing layouts) 50% of the developed sites on their land. However, there was confusion whether sites could be provided in other, developed layouts and if the scheme could be applied retrospectively. Muda used a 2020 resolution to start allotting sites in prime areas for land acquired for layout formation.

Why has the scheme come under scrutiny now?

■ The 50:50 rules which came into effect in 2015 lacked clarity. The scheme was cancelled in



TOI EXPLAINER

September 2020 and brought back during the Covid-19 years. The CM's wife received sites in tony Vijayanagar III Stage and Vijayanagar IV Stage in East Mysuru. Here, sites are sold at Rs 5,000 to Rs 7,000 per sqft, and the total value of sites given to Parvathi is about Rs 10 crore, according to industry watchers. These layouts were developed in 1991 and 1994. Siddaramaiah denied any illegalities, and said sites were allotted by the BJP government in 2022, and "I was an opposition leader then". The

CM has since suspended allotment until an inquiry is completed. According to RTI activists, site distribution under the 50:50 scheme became more frequent from 2021 until November 2023.

Is the scheme being misused as has been alleged?

■ Muda rules are eloquently vague on allotment of sites in unrelated or other layouts - an unintended ambiguity many allege was exploited into an opportunity for personal gain.

- Lawrence Milton

B'luru-Chennai greenfield corridor set for Dec launch

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari on Thursday announced a double-bonanza for Bengaluru, promising to inaugurate both the Greenfield Corridor between Bengaluru and Chennai and the Bengaluru Satel-



lite Township Ring Road (STRR) project by December 2024, initiatives aimed at alleviating the city's notorious traffic congestion. He also said that the greenfield corridor will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Gadkari made the announcement at the valedictory event of the Karnataka BJP special state executive committee meeting on Thursday evening, stating that the STRR project, worth Rs 17,000 crore, will be completed by December 2024, a year ahead of schedule. The project, which was launched in June 2022, aims to connect the peripheries of Bengaluru and reduce traffic inside the city

Union minister Gadkari said the Bengaluru Satellite Township Ring Road project worth ₹ 17,000 crore will be completed a year ahead of schedule

by 30%. The Rs 17,930 crore greenfield project, announced in 2018, has been in development for six years and is set to open by the end of this year, according to Gadkari.

The foundation stone for the STRR was laid in June 2022. The road will connect the peripheries of Bengaluru, passing through Doddabespet, Ramanagara, Magadi Road, Doddaballapur, Devanahalli, Hoskote, Sarjapur, and Hosur. The project is expected to reduce traffic within Bengaluru city by up to 30%.

The Bengaluru-Chennai greenfield corridor, worth Rs 17,930 crore, will reduce travel time between the two cities to just two hours. Gadkari also highlighted that Karnataka has received Rs 3.5 lakh crore worth of road transport works in the last decade, with every

MP from the state receiving funding for their projects.

However, Gadkari rued that many road projects are stalled due to environment and forest clearances, and urged the state govt to expedite the process. He said there is no shortage of funds for projects, and that the Centre is willing to undertake Rs 2 lakh crore worth of road projects in Karnataka, subject to clearances. "The CM and deputy CM came to meet me yesterday regarding certain projects. I reiterated that there was no scarcity of funds for projects. In fact, I assured them Rs 2 lakh crore worth of road projects will be undertaken," he said.

In a veiled attack on the Congress, Gadkari also spoke about BJP's commitment to justice and equality for all castes and communities, and accused the opposition of indulging in appeasement politics. Gadkari also addressed the issue of Hindus being defamed by Congress in Parliament, asserting that the BJP believes in justice for all castes and communities, unlike opposition's appeasement politics.

BJP gearing up for scorched earth campaign against CM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The state BJP unit has been directed by national general secretary Radha Mohan Das Agarwal to form a protest committee to wage a fierce campaign against chief minister Siddaramaiah over the alleged Mysore Urban Development Authority (Muda) scam, which reportedly implicates the CM's wife. Agarwal exhorted the party's state executive committee to establish a protest committee (sangarsh samiti) to take to the streets and corner the CM over the supposed Rs 4,000 crore scam.

Agarwal implored Mysore-Kodagu MP Yadvuvar Krishnadatta Chamara Wadiyar to lead the protest charge, stating, "This is the most effective strategy to corner the CM." The BJP has vowed to persist until the CM relinquishes his position. Former CMBS Yediyurappa and his son Vijayendra accused Congress of having lost the trust of the Karnataka populace and demanded the immediate resignation of the state govt.

Vijayendra targeted the Congress for becoming a "den of corruption," citing the Valmiki Development Corporation and Muda scams as prime examples. "We will raise the issues both inside and outside the legislature. There is no assurance that this govt will complete its term due to the ongoing power struggle over the DCM posts, with the CM and DCM camps openly fighting to undermine each other," he said.



BATTLE PLANS: BJP national general secretary Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, former CM BS Yediyurappa, state unit chief BY Vijayendra and others offer puja to a cow on Thursday

Gadkari calls out Cong hypocrisy on price rise Union minister for road transport and national highways Nitin Gadkari took a swipe at the Congress party over their accusations that the PM Narendra Modi govt is responsible for price rise in the country. Speaking at the valedictory of the BJP state executive committee meeting in Bengaluru, Gadkari pointed out the irony of the Congress party blaming the central govt for price rise while their own govt in Karnataka has increased petrol and diesel prices.

"They blame us for price rise and inflation, and here in Karnataka, their own party's govt has burdened people with an additional tax of Rs 3 each on petrol and diesel. This is how they lie to the nation," Gadkari said, exposing the Congress party's double standards.

Cabinet OKs steps to revitalise judicial system

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: To ensure greater efficiency of the legal system and allow better accessibility to legal recourse, the state cabinet Thursday approved a comprehensive law and policy document. The document proposes several key changes, including elimination of the age-old practice of calling the accused and witnesses by openly shouting out their names.

"There will be suitable amendments to the Act and rules. This system of calling out names is humiliating and against the very basic tenet of criminal law that an accused is presumed to be innocent until proven guilty," law and parliamentary affairs minister HK Patil said.

"The new policy is to ensure the benefit of the Constitution reaches the people in terms of life with dignity. People should not be at the mercy of the govt, the govt should be at the service of the people. This aims to en-

sure 'Litigation-free Villages', start the directorate of legal education, and establish the advocates training academy," he said.

Another significant proposal is to provide the accused persons with a seat in the dock during trial proceedings. This move aims to reduce the humiliation and discomfort faced by the accused in court. To reduce the need for court interventions, the document proposes creation of an ombudsman-type institution where people can file applications to address grievances against the govt. This move is expected to reduce the burden on courts and provide quicker redressal of public grievances.

The document also proposes to make administrative legality a fundamental principle for govt employees, ensuring they follow laws and rules strictly. In case of any violation, the officers concerned will be held liable, not the govt. Other key proposals include enacting new laws to pre-

vent theft of voters' information, regulating online loan agencies, and securing drinking water rights.

What are 'Litigation-free Villages'?

In a bid to reduce the burden on the judicial system and promote harmony in rural areas, the govt has proposed to create 'Litigation-free Villages'. The programme aims to resolve disputes, especially those involving the govt, through alternative dispute resolution (ADR) systems. The ADR process will involve all stakeholders, including the aggrieved parties, govt departments, legal service authorities, and others.

A survey of pending cases related to select villages will be conducted under the supervision of legal services authorities or deputy commissioners and resolved through negotiations. "The goal is to address disputes efficiently and effectively, reducing the need for court interventions. Additionally, the govt proposes to repeal

OTHER KEY DECISIONS

● Building 100-bed hospitals at Nelamangala, Anekal, Shirahatti, Yalaburga, and Khanapura at a cost of ₹237 crore.

● Upgrading 15 primary health centres to community health centres.

● Allowing BMTC to purchase 840 buses at a cost of ₹363 crore.

● Purchasing kitchen items and furniture for Indra Canteens at a cost of ₹84 crore.

● Implementing Mahatma Gandhi Nagarra Vikasa Yojane in 10 city corporations.

● Reviving the sugar factory at Mudhol in Bagalkot district by handing it over to private players.

outdated laws and establish model courts to further enhance the efficiency of the judicial system. This pioneering initiative has the potential to transform the lives of villagers, promoting peace and prosperity in rural Karnataka," HK Patil said.

CM says BJP functionaries too got sites

Continued from page 1

The same BJP which has given us sites is now claiming it is illegal. BJP has no work to do. They are parroting what RSS tells them," Siddaramaiah said, dismissing charges of illegalities.

At a cabinet meeting, Siddaramaiah told his colleagues that there was no foul play, and BJP was trying to tarnish his image even though several BJP functionaries, too, have taken alternative sites.

Regarding BJP's decision to intensify protests and raise the issue in the monsoon session, home minister G Parameshwara said they will give appropriate answers.

Curbs imposed at Abbey Falls

The local administration has prohibited the movement of tourist vehicles to Mandalpatti and Abbey Falls in Kodagu district.

The K Nidugane gram panchayat has also banned the parking of rented vehicles at Nandi Motte and Abbey Falls tourist sites.

During a meeting, the gram panchayat discussed the issue of tourist jeeps operating from Hebbettageri-Nandi Motte Junction to Mandalpatti and Abbey Falls. The panchayat has submitted a request to Kodagu DC Venkata Raja to take appropriate follow-up action regarding the matter.

In response, the jeep owners and drivers association has appealed to the DC, requesting the withdrawal of the ban. TNN

Storage rises in Kabini, KRS dams

Even as water levels in all major reservoirs of south Karnataka continue to rise following heavy rainfall, Kabini dam is on the cusp of reaching its maximum level of 2,284ft. The water level in the dam reached 2,281 ft Thursday following which the authorities have started releasing some amount of water as a precautionary measure.

At KRS dam, the water level touched 99.70 feet on Thursday as against the maximum level of 124.80ft.

Data showed the storage at KRS dam touched 22.27 tmcft Thursday. Kabini had a storage of 17.25 tmcft as against 4.93 tmcft on this day last year. Hemavati and Harangi have also recorded nearly double the storage from the last year. TNN

SHORT TAKES

Ex-HC judge B Veerappa is Upalokayukta

Former HC judge Justice B Veerappa, 63, was on Thursday appointed the Upalokayukta of the state. It was done on the recommendation of CM Siddaramaiah after consulting Chief Justice of the Karnataka HC NV Anjaria, speaker UT Khader, chairperson of the Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti and leader of opposition of both Houses of the state legislature. Justice Veerappa was appointed additional judge of the HC on January 2, 2015, and became a permanent judge on December 30, 2016.

BSY's dare to CM: Dissolve assembly, hold polls

Former CM BS Yediyurappa on Thursday challenged CM Siddaramaiah to dissolve the assembly and go for elections and claimed that the saffron party will win 140 to 150 seats. He said the people of the state have rejected the 'useless

guarantees', money and muscle power of the Congress govt. "I challenge Siddaramaiah, if he has the guts, to dissolve the assembly and go for elections," he said during the BJP's state special executive meeting organised at Palace Grounds.

Cong office-bearers meet on Saturday

In compliance with the high command's directive to curb camp politics, CM Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar will convene a meeting of party office bearers on Saturday. Much to the embarrassment of the party leadership, supporters of both leaders openly squabbled over the CM and deputy CM's post prompting the high command to step in. Last week both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar met AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and leader of opposition in Lok Sabha separately in Delhi. Following this, Shivakumar, also KPCC president, convened a meeting with the office bearers on Monday. Now, in a bid show of unity, both have decided to convene a joint meeting with the officer bearers. Officer bearers may

call 7899116899 to register for the meeting to be held at the party office on Queens Road between 3 and 5 pm.

Shobha urges Centre to set up Doppler radar

Heavy rain and sudden deluge are issues plaguing Bengaluru for years. Despite adopting scientific measures such as installing flood-detection sensors to prevent such incidents, the absence of a Doppler Weather radar that can accurately forecast sudden rainfall has hurt the city. Close on the heels of waterlogging and flash floods in New Delhi last week, elected representatives have begun to exert pressure on the Centre to set up the much-required Doppler radar in Bengaluru. Drawing the Centre's attention to the city's problems, Bangalore North MP Shobha Karandlaje has written a letter to Union minister of state for science and technology Jitendra Singh. "Bengaluru, the Silicon Valley of India, is highly vulnerable to weather-related disturbances... Doppler Weather Radar would enhance the accuracy of weather forecasts," Shobha wrote.

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04 September 1949 - 01 July 2024

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followed by burial at
Pallotti Nilaya Campus, Chelikeri.

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RADIANT RESORT

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Mrs. JAYA GEORGE
AGE : 92
DOB: 13th March 1933
DOD: 4th July 2024
FUNERAL MASS @
10.30AM on 6th July
Saturday @
IMMACULATE HEART OF
MARY CHURCH-
Kalenagahara-
Bannerghatta Road.
Followed By Burial @
Mysore Road Cemetery
From George & Family
Dear and near ones
Ph: 9945083032

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OBITUARY

SAD DEMISE

OUR DEAREST BELOVED MOTHER
UMA THIVARI
(Alka Eve's Corner)
LEFT FOR HER
HEAVENLY ABODE
ON 4th July 2024

DEEPLY MOURNED
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Lalitha, Anitha,
Shambunath,
Vamshi, Vaishnavi,
Vaishnav, 9620996022
9482214141
8884466066

SAD DEMISE

SAD DEMISE

REV. FR. PHILIP ETTAMPAMPIL SAC
Pallottine Priest

Member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Province, Bangalore Society of the Catholic Apostolate

Viewing today 05.07.2024 from
10:30 am to 01:30 pm
FUNERAL MASS is at 03:00 pm at
St. Vincent Pallotti Church,
Banaswadi, Bangalore 560 043.

WITH LOVE

Pallottine Fathers and Parishioners of
St Vincent Pallotti Church, Banaswadi

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(1931 - 2024)
Shri A.K.P. Nambiar (ex-LRDE)
passed away peacefully on
1st July 2024.

Deeply mourned by:
Wife: Thangam, Raghu & Aruna,
Prabha & Sudhir, Namratha,
Aditya, family & friends.

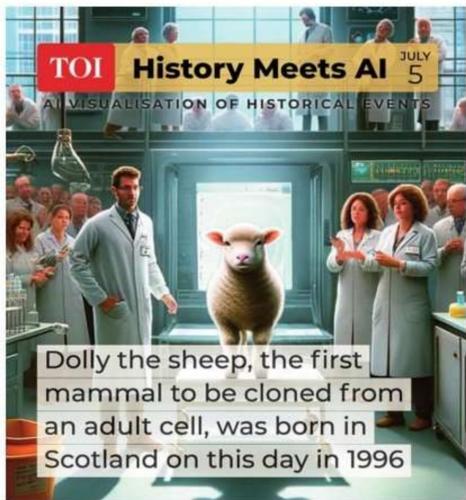
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DMK USING NEET AS A TOOL TO OPPOSE BJP, CLAIMS TAMIL NADU BJP PRESIDENT K ANNAMALAI

NO CONFRONTATION WITH BJP BUT WE WANT TO EXPAND, SAYS JD(U) LEADER SANJAY KUMAR JHA



TOI History Meets AI
A VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

Dolly the sheep, the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell, was born in Scotland on this day in 1996

Under BNS, cops now get more teeth in gold smuggling cases

The Criminal Code Classifies Them As Organised Crime

Rajeev.KR@timesofindia.com

Kozhikode: Gold smugglers beware. Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has provided more teeth to the police to arrest gold smugglers under stringent sections by bringing it under the category of organised crimes. The first FIR and arrest in gold smuggling case under BNS were made by Karipur police in Kerala on July 2. The accused, who belongs to Thrissur, has been remanded in custody and his passport seized.



The first FIR and arrest in gold smuggling case under BNS were made by Karipur police in Kerala on July 2

The accused, Mohammed Rasheed P, 62, was booked under Section 111(1) (organized crime involving trafficking of illegal goods) and 111(7) (punishment for person in possession of any property on behalf of a member of an organised crime syndicate which he cannot satisfactorily account for).

The powers of police in seizing smuggled gold outside airports were earlier limited. They had to take the contraband gold into custody under Section 102 of CrPC and produce it before a court, with

the matter being referred to the Customs department.

BNS Section 111(1) encompasses a wide range of 'continuing unlawful activity' including kidnapping, robbery, vehicle theft, extortion, land grabbing, contract killing, economic offences, cybercrimes and trafficking of persons, drugs, weapons or illegal goods or services.

Police have made use of 'trafficking of illegal goods' in the section to clamp down on gold smugglers. Conviction under the Act carries a punishment of not less than

five years, which may extend to imprisonment for life, and would also be liable to slap a fine not less than Rs 5 lakh.

The police, acting on a tip-off, intercepted Rasheed who had moved out of the Kozhikode airport and found four capsules containing 964.5gm gold compound concealed in his rectum.

Karipur inspector of police Rajeev S said the new sections in BNS empower the police to take stern action against gold smugglers. "Though we used to make gold seizures outside the airport

earlier, we could not file FIR against the accused. We produced the seized gold before the court and refer the matter to the Customs. Now, under the provisions of BNS, we can register FIR and investigate the crime. We expect that the stringent provisions would prove to be a deterrent and discourage people from acting as carriers for a one-time payment," he said.

The officer said police would seek custody of the arrested as part of investigation into the source of the gold and arraign those who had provided it to him in the UAE and those it was meant for on arrival in Kerala.

"We will be able to issue a lookout circular against members of the racket who are based in the Gulf so that they can be nabbed on their arrival in Kerala," he said.

Sources said police have made around 200 gold seizures from outside the Kozhikode airport premises since 2022 from passengers after they emerged from the airport following mandatory customs checks.

CCTV cameras must in exam halls: CISCE tells schools

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) dispatched a comprehensive handbook to its affiliated schools, encompassing the academic calendar for the entire year pertaining to the 2025 ISC and ICSE examinations. The guidelines mandate CCTV cameras at all examination halls and storage of footage by exam centres till declaration of results.

The council circulated a handbook to schools, where they have been given a time frame according to the activities throughout the year and guidelines for arrangements at exam centres for the 2025 ICSE and ISC examinations. The handbook mentions all responsibilities of the convener in conducting exams seamlessly and tasks schools to make the necessary arrangements at exam halls. TNN

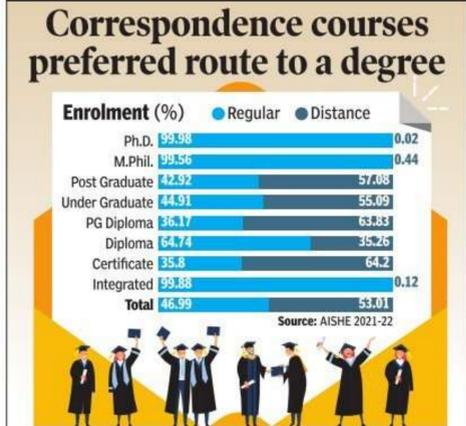
FIR against Bajrang Dal members for attack on Cong HQ

Two days after workers of Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) workers stormed the Congress headquarters — Rajiv Gandhi Bhavan in Paldi — police on Wednesday evening registered a complaint against three Bajrang Dal members and nine others, for unlawful assembly and damage to property.

Congress MLA Shailesh Parmar stated in his FIR that some 12 Bajrang Dal and VHP members had barged into the Congress office at 4.30am on Tuesday. When a security guard tried to stop them, they abused and threatened him, defaced posters of party leader Rahul Gandhi in retaliation to his alleged anti-Hindu statements in Parliament, damaged Congress party flags, and threw stones at the office.

Parmar checked CCTV footage of the premises and identified three accused. TNN

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers



In middle of village, plush ashram for Baba, but locked since 2022

Anjali Singh | TNN



SURAJPAL SINGH AKA BHOLE BABA

Noida: Surrounded by two dozen one-room houses with brick walls, this white building with palatial gates and posters of a smiling Surajpal Singh hanging from them stands out in Naya Gaon.

Locked since 2022, a group of villagers stood around as Singh's followers pulled the posters down on Thursday morning, one after another. This is one of the many 'ashrams' of Singh — 'Bhole Baba' Narayan Hari Saakar at whose satsang in Hathras 121 people died in a stampede on July 2. According to villagers, the single-storey building — spread across 1,000 sq yards and with five rooms — was donated to Singh by Puranmal — one of his followers from Delhi. After the building was ready in 2021, women from the village and elsewhere would flock there every evening and sing in praise of 'Bhole Baba'.

Puranmal, according to followers of Singh, made multiple requests to 'baba' to visit his building at least once so that it could be considered an 'ashram'. "He came in 2022 and stayed here for 15 days. But he did not meet any of his followers during this period," said Amit Kumar, who stays in one of the single-room houses around the ashram that Puranmal built and put up on rent.

like BMW and Mercedes and clean the rooms themselves. "It looked like they came to do seva here. They would sing bhajans too in his praise. But the sevaks would change every week," he said.

The regular bhajans and congregations, however, stopped when Singh left after his 15-day stay. Villagers believe this 'ashram' would host satsangs too had 'baba' allowed them. "When baba ji left, he asked us to stop singing bhajans at this ashram. Since then, we had been attending his 'Pratham Mangal' satsang that is organised in several cities," said Reena, one of the followers from Naya Gaon. Some followers of Singh in the village said he had nothing to do with the 'ashram' as he had visited the building only once.

Police said they had already visited the building, but found no follower there. "This ashram in Naya Gaon was donated to baba by someone called Puranmal, who lives in Delhi and follows him. Apart from this building, Puranmal constructed around 30 rooms in the village and rented them out. As of now, no one lives in this ashram. But we will keep a watch on the building," said Vindhyaachal Tiwari, the SHO of Phase 2 police station.

Maha man gyps firm of ₹10cr, blows it up on lavish wedding

Ahmed.Ali@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Not everyone who robs Peter pays Paul. A 32-year-old who allegedly cheated his company of Rs 10.6 crore used the ill-gotten funds on having a lavish wedding, taking his new bride on their honeymoon and much more. This is what the chargesheet filed by the police states.

Raj Mukesh Ganatra (32), a senior employee at Trident Creation, which has its office in the city, repaid two loans he had availed of — one for Rs 30 lakh taken to bet on cricket matches, another loan of Rs 10 lakh. He also invested Rs 15 lakh in shares and mutual funds, splurged Rs 15 lakh on himself. A lavish wedding reception that had cost him Rs 16 lakh which he paid from the company's funds, and paid Rs 3.5 lakh for the honeymoon.

The chargesheet also mentions that the police investiga-

tion has revealed that the accused had availed of 42 loans between 2014 and 2022, of which he had repaid 31 using the company's funds which he allegedly misappropriated.

The chargesheet filed last month by Economic Offences Wing the city police how the accused used the money. The police said he forged company documents to pinch huge sums from the company. During his six-year stint, the accused diverted the money into various bank accounts of his relatives, the police said. According to the company director, Kajal Ajmera, the accused, who worked as 'shipment document-

tation officer' inflated bills of 55 of the company's clients by 10% to 15% each.

He then diverted the company's funds into his bank account and accounts of his relatives — his wife Jarna, sister Bhakti, friend Dinesh Doshi, Doshi's son Yaman, and another friend Darshan Potdar. The scam was unearthed when the company stumbled upon certain discrepancies in their bank account statements.

The police said that the accused had purchased air conditioners, fully automatic washing machines, and water purifiers. The chargesheet also mentions that the police have recorded the statements of his friends from whom he had taken loan to bet on cricket matches.

Ganatra was arrested by officials of Economic Offences Wing earlier this year and booked for cheating and misappropriation of funds.

Driver assaulted in Kathua after stray cattle killed

Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

Jammu: A bus driver was mercilessly assaulted by some locals in Ghati area of Jammu's Kathua district, after the vehicle accidentally hit and killed a stray calf and a bull.

The incident occurred on Tuesday night, when the bus driver, employed with a factory, was returning to Kathua after dropping the workers. The severely injured driver is admitted to GMC hospital in Kathua. "One Ravinder Singh and his accomplices chased and intercepted the bus and took the driver back to the spot where the animals were killed. There, they started beating him with sticks," said a local. A video that has gone viral shows the assailants forcing the driver to seek apology from the dead animals.

The victim's family members and other locals staged a sit-in protest on Wednesday demanding arrest of the accused.

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Bitten back by rly worker, snake dies

SB.Sinha@timesofindia.com

Nawada: A railway employee in Bihar's Nawada who found himself in a life-and-death struggle with a snake bit back the reptile in a fightback that left it dead, driven apparently by a belief steeped in local folklore that doing so would reverse the venom's effect.

The unusual turn of events unfolded Tuesday night in Rajauli area when Santosh Lohar (35) and his colleagues had finished dinner and were settling down for sleep after laying tracks in the forested patch.

Reacting swiftly after being bitten, Lohar managed to seize the snake and bit it twice in quick succession.

Miraculously, the snake died minutes later.

Colleagues rushed Lohar to Rajauli subdivision hospital where a doctor, Satish Chandra Sinha, attended to him promptly. Dr Sinha confirmed that Lohar responded well to treatment and was discharged the next morning.

The bizarre outcome underscored the local belief system that biting the snake back transfers the venom's deadly effect back to the reptile itself. Lohar's quick thinking and adherence to this belief may have saved his life, lending a peculiar, yet remarkable, twist to the annals of human-wildlife encounters.

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PM Modi to visit Russia and Austria

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt officially announced PM Narendra Modi's visit to Russia and also Austria Thursday saying he will be in Moscow on July 8-9 for what will be his first visit to the country in five years. According to an official statement, Modi and President Vladimir Putin will review the entire range of multifaceted relations between the two countries and exchange views on contemporary regional and global issues of mutual interest. Modi will be in Moscow for what will be the 22nd India-Russia Annual Summit.

Prime Minister will, thereafter, travel to Austria for what will be the first visit by an Indian PM to Austria in 41 years. Modi will call on Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen and hold talks with Chancellor Karl Nehammer. Prime Minister and Chancellor will also address business leaders from India and Austria. Modi will interact with members of the Indian community in Moscow as well as in Vienna.

Jaishankar to China: Enhance pullback & ensure LAC peace

China Seeks Active Resumption Of Normal Exchanges

Sachin.Parashar
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New Delhi: Foreign minister S Jaishankar in a meeting with his counterpart Wang Yi called for redoubling military and diplomatic efforts to achieve complete disengagement in the remaining areas of eastern Ladakh, as India and China agreed that prolongation of the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side.

Jaishankar told Wang that respecting LAC and restoring border peace and tranquillity is essential for removing obstacles to normalising the Sino-Indian bilateral relationship, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently described as important for the entire region and the world.

Jaishankar met Wang on the margins of the SCO summit in Astana on Thursday. While they met briefly at the Munich Security Conference in Feb this year, their last formal bilateral meeting was in



DIPLOMATIC TANGO: External affairs minister S Jaishankar meets his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of the annual Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Summit, in Astana on Thursday

Jakarta in July 2023.

In line with China's position that progress in bilateral ties is not stymied by the border issue, Wang sought "positive thinking" in the form of efforts on one hand to manage the situation in the border areas and, on the other, to "actively resume" normal exchanges on the other. This never sat well with India's position that there can't be normalcy till the time disengagement is fully completed in eastern Ladakh. India and China have achieved

disengagement at four points in the western sector, since the ongoing standoff erupted in May 2020, but the same has remained elusive in Depsang and Demchok areas even after 21 rounds of military and 15 rounds of diplomatic talks. China sees these as legacy issues that predate the current standoff.

During the "in-depth" exchange of views for early resolution and rebuilding of ties, Jaishankar reaffirmed the importance of fully abiding by re-

levant bilateral agreements, protocols and understandings reached between the two govts in the past. "The Line of Actual Control must be respected and peace and tranquillity in the border areas always ensured," said the Indian side in its readout, adding India and China agreed to step up meetings to address the remaining issues. Another round of diplomatic talks is expected soon.

Jaishankar reiterated India's position that mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interest — the three mutuals — will guide bilateral ties. Before Modi opted out, the SCO summit was seen as the first opportunity for both sides to consider a meeting between him and President Xi Jinping, who have not had a formal bilateral meeting since 2019, after the return of the NDA govt. The leaders, who did meet informally at the BRICS summit in Johannesburg last year and at G20 in Bali 2022, are expected to come face to face only in Oct at the BRICS summit in Russia.

Modi urges decisive response to cross-border terrorism

Continued from page 1

Cross-border terrorism requires a decisive response and terrorism financing and recruitment must be resolutely countered. We should also take proactive steps to prevent the spread of radicalisation of our youth," he said, adding that if left unaddressed, cross-border terrorism can become a major threat to regional and global peace.

Addressing the partici-

ating leaders, including Chinese President Xi Jinping and Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif, Modi said terrorism ranks foremost for many member-states as it continues to be used by nations as a tool of destabilisation. Reminding the organisation that combating terrorism was one of its original goals, Modi said that the SCO must never waver from its commitment. "We cannot have double standards in this



regard," he said, in remarks aimed at China, which has blocked UN ban on Pakistan based operatives of proscribed terror groups.

In another message to China and Pakistan, he reiterated India's position that connectivity and infrastructure projects must not undermine sovereignty and territorial integrity. India remains the only SCO member-state to not endorse China's BRI because its

"flagship" project CPEC passes through Gilgit-Baltistan in POK. India was also the only member-state to not endorse the SCO Economic Development Strategy 2030 announced last year.

Modi said connectivity linkages must be respectful of sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and be built on the foundation of non-discriminatory trade and transit rights to neighbours. Pakistan continues to deny India land access to Afgha-

nistan and Central Asia. Modi mentioned the progress made on the Chabahar port recently in the form of a long-term agreement between India and Iran, saying it not only holds great value for landlocked Central Asian states but also de-risks commerce between India and Eurasia.

The Prime Minister said that Shanghai Cooperation Organisation is a principle-based organisation, whose consensus drives the approach of its member states.

Isro chief: India keen on asteroid defence mission

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Isro chairman S Somanath while stressing that no one country can individually develop a planetary protection system against asteroids, on Wednesday said India also wishes to, and is qualified to be, part of larger global missions that study asteroids. Speaking at Isro's first workshop on planetary defence for students at its headquarters in Bengaluru, he emphasised the need for international co-operation in protecting Earth from potential asteroid impacts. He pointed out that while asteroids pose a potential danger to Earth, they also offer valuable opportunities for scientific exploration. He noted that studying asteroids could provide insights into the formation of the universe and the origins of life on Earth.

Somanath expressed India's interest in participating in global asteroid research and defence initiatives. He suggested that Isro could contribute to upcoming international missions, such as the one planned to study the asteroid Apophis in 2029. He proposed that India could provide instruments or other support to joint missions led by space agencies like

Isro announces Bhartiya Antriksh Hackathon 2024

Isro on Wednesday announced the Bhartiya Antriksh Hackathon (BAH) 2024, a nationwide competition for Indian students to tackle space-related challenges. This event is part of the National Space Day 2024 (Aug 23) celebrations. "The hackathon will present 12 problem statements on Geo-Spatial Applications from various Isro centres. Teams of three to four students from undergraduate, postgraduate, and PhD programmes are invited to participate," Isro said. TNN

NASA, ESA, and JAXA. Highlighting India's growing capabilities in space exploration, Somanath cited recent achievements such as the Chandrayaan-3 and the Aditya-L1 solar observatory missions. He specifically mentioned the successful placement of Aditya-L1 in its halo orbit around the Lagrange point L1, demonstrating India's ability to execute complex space manoeuvres.

He said these accomplishments showcase India's readiness to take on more challenging missions, including potential asteroid exploration.

GETTING READY FOR PURI RATH YATRA



YATRA PREP: Workers prepare the chariot of Lord Jagannath for the annual Rath Yatra in Puri, on Thursday

Marital discord ends in murder and suicide

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Vadodara/Bharuch: A marital discord over from the wife's alleged extramarital affair ended in a tragic sequence of twin suicides and murder, wiping out the entire family between 12 midnight and 1:30 am on Thursday in Gujarat's Bharuch. The sad turn of events unfolded in the city's railway quarters, where 35-year-old Trupal Makwana hanged herself when her husband Jatin Makwana (38) and son Harshvardhan (12) were sleeping in another room.

When Jatin, a section engineer with the railways, woke up in the middle of the night, he saw Trupal's body and immediately sent a WhatsApp message to his father, informing him about the suicide. "Out of despair, Jatin allegedly strangled his sleeping son and then went to the railway track at some distance, where he jumped in front of a moving train," a senior police official told TOI. As Jatin had informed his father in Rajkot, the latter got worried and informed his second son. Jatin's brother alerted Bharuch police, who reached the family's house and discovered the bodies of the mother and son.

Bihar's 10th bridge collapse: Issue attributed to design and cement

Abay Singh | TNN

Patna: A 15-year-old bridge across the Gandaki river in Baniapur block of Saran district collapsed on Sunday morning, making it the 10th bridge to fall down in north Bihar in the last fortnight. The first to crumble was in Sikti block of Araria district, bordering Nepal, on June 18.

The fear is that someday vehicles full of people might go crashing into the river along with the collapsing bridge, as in the case of the eight-lane bridge over the Mississippi in the US in August 2007 when cars and trucks fell into the river.

Unsurprisingly, RWD minister Ashok Chaudhary suspended three engineers in the earlier Araria bridge collapse, and an order has also been issued for the filing of an FIR against the contractor concerned since the bridge collapse prima facie was found to be the result of compromises at various levels of construction.

Saran saw a second bridge give way in the last 24 hours. "A bridge built in the colonial period had collapsed on Wednesday, and the second one, built 15 years ago by the district administration, suffered the same fate on Thursday," Saran DM



Aman Samir said.

While Samir said no one died or was injured in both bridge collapses or the previous eight bridge collapses, structural engineers and experts said the series of incidents exposes deep-rooted corruption in construction of bridges in Bihar.

Former road construction department chief engineer J K Dutt said, "The basic causes are tinkering with the bridge design, use of sub-standard materials, like low-value cement, unspecified sand, concrete, and steel rods thinner than the approved diameter and thickness. All this leads to the construction or erection of poor and weak structures."

"The contractor engaged to build the bridge is driven by profit. He violates norms of quality work, but it cannot happen without

The frequency of the bridge collapses — even though most of them are old, barring the three that were under construction — have alarmed both the govt at the level of CM Nitish Kumar as well as retired engineers associated with Bihar Engineering Services Association (BESA) and others

Madhubani and East Champaran, and two in Saran.

One of the bridges that collapsed in Siwan was built with the MLA Local Area Development funds of Uma Shankar Singh, while the two bridges in Kishanganj were constructed with the MPLAD funds of Mohammad Taslimuddin, and the one in Maharajganj block, Siwan, with the MPLAD funds of Prabhunath Singh.

While high-value bridges are constructed by the road construction department (RCD), which takes care of the national highways (NH), state highways (SH) and major district roads (MDRs), the rural works department (RWD) handles the construction of roads and bridges under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) to provide connectivity to villages, linking them with block headquarters. All the bridges that have collapsed come under the RWD's ambit.

The frequency of the bridge collapses — even though most of them are old, barring the three that were under construction — have alarmed both the govt at the level of CM Nitish Kumar as well as retired engineers associated with Bihar Engineering Services Association (BESA) and others.

Why TN's hooch widows are ready to battle bootleggers

Bosco.Dominique@timesofindia.com

Karunapuram — a thickly populated residential pocket in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi town — is now a village of hooch widows. More than 40 women from this area lost their husbands to plastic pouches of methanol-laced liquor ten days ago.

It's not just grief that is writ large on their faces but also anger that their repeated pleas to officials to stop people from brewing and selling spurious liquor fell on deaf ears. Some of them are ready to dismantle the hooch dens themselves if the authorities fail to do so.

"We are fed up. There must be an end to this. We don't want the kids to end up like their fathers," a young widow told TOI. "This time, we won't be waiting around for govt to act. If we come across anyone selling illicit arrack in the locality, we will bash them up and destroy their units. After this tragedy, we have the support of people."

"This time, we won't be waiting around for govt to act. If we come across anyone selling illicit arrack in the locality, we will bash them up and destroy their units"

K Manikandan, a 33-year-old load man at Karunapuram vegetable market, was among those who died. His second wife, M Radha (36), is two months pregnant and inconsolable. "What will I say when my child asks about the father? I don't have the strength to tell my child that he died of consuming spurious liquor, and that I failed to make him kick the habit," she says. Radha's elder daughter is in Class VI.

Manikandan also has two children from his first wife M Savithri (33). "He used to consume arrack right before and after he picked up heavy loads. For years, this was his habit and that of other men in the locality. Finally, the arrack took their lives," Savithri said.

Alcohol has often been a hot-button political issue in Tamil Nadu as its sale is controlled by the government. Since locally brewed moonshine is much cheaper than



MOONSHINE MAYHEM: M Radha, who is two months pregnant, is one of over 40 women who lost their spouses to spurious liquor

that available in state-controlled shops, the poor gravitate towards this illicit brew. Most of those who died in the tragedy were daily-wage workers.

One of them was S Madan, a 45-year-old painter and sole breadwinner of his family of five — wife Ilayarani (37), two daughters aged 19 and 20, and a 15-year-old son.

The free availability of illicit arrack in the locality is no secret. "It has been ruining families for the past two decades. The officials concerned are least bothered about this illegal business as they get good financial returns from it," says a political activist living in Karunapuram on condition of anonymity.

A widow who did not wish to be identified says it's not easy to speak up. "The bootleggers have the support of all the influential people — whether it's politicians or govt officials, including those in excise, prohibition and police departments. Not just that, many people in the locality support the brewing and sale of illicit arrack, and even threaten us whenever we identify the culprits and complain," she says.

Though the scale of this tragedy shocked everyone, alcohol-related problems aren't isolated to this town. A recent report released by a social organisation called 'Kalangarai', based in Nagapattinam, found that out of the 495 widows studied in Tamil Nadu, nearly half (188) had lost their husbands to alcohol addiction and its related complications.

Study: Air pollution kills thousands in Indian cities

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Roughly 5,100 Mumbaikars die every year after breathing in microscopic air pollutants even at levels that are lower than India's permitted air quality standards.

This is the finding of a new Harvard University-led study published in the 'Lancet Planetary Health' on Thursday which, for the first time, looked at the relationship between short-term air pollution exposure and deaths in India.

The study estimated that roughly 33,000 died annually in 10 cities, including Mumbai and Delhi, across the country due to air pollution levels that are higher than World Health Organisation-prescribed (WHO) levels but lower than Indian standards. Delhi, considered one of the most polluted cities in the world, recorded the highest number of such deaths at 12,000 per year.

According to the Indian standards, the annual average concentration of



SILENT KILLER

PM2.5 — a toxic microscopic air pollutant that has a diameter of 2.5 micrometre — should not exceed 40 µg/m³ while the 24-hour exposure should not exceed 60 µg/m³. In 2021, the WHO revised the air pollution norms, stating that the annual average concentrations of PM2.5 should not exceed 5 µg/m³, while 24-hour average exposure should not exceed 15 µg/m³ on more than 3-4 days per year. "Our study found that even levels of air pollution below current Indian air quality standards could lead to increased daily mortality rates in India," said the aut-

hors. They studied air pollution levels in 10 cities — namely, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune, Shimla and Varanasi — as well as daily counts of mortality between 2008 and 2019.

Lead author Dr Bhargav Krishna from the Sustainable Futures Collaborative said, "The results of this first-of-its-kind multi-city study show us that reducing air pollution is a nationwide challenge. Our analyses highlight air pollution's substantial effects on death even in cities previously considered less polluted such as Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata and Chennai." Even Shimla, which records low levels of air pollution as compared to Delhi, recorded 59 deaths annually.

"The significant effects observed below the current Indian standards have implications for what we consider acceptable air quality, and emphasise the need for stringent year-round action across the whole country," he added.

Boy dies from brain-eating bacterial infection

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kozhikode: A 12-year-old boy became the latest victim of a rare infection caused by brain-eating bacteria a fortnight after taking bath in a contaminated pond in Kerala's Kozhikode on Wednesday night.

Three people have died from primary amoebic meningoencephalitis, a rare brain disease caused by free living amoeba Naegleria fowleri, in the state since May 20.

E P Mrdul fell sick five days after a bath in a pond near Ferok College in Ramanattukara. His fever, headache and vomiting symptoms aggravated on the seventh day. As he fell unconscious, he was rushed to Kozhikode Baby Memorial Hospital on June 24. Consultant paediatric intensivist Dr Abdul Rauf on Tuesday administered him a cocktail of five drugs brought from Germany, but it was too late to save the boy.

Earlier, the infection killed a girl from Kannur's Thottada on June 12, and a five-year-old girl from Malappuram's Munniyoor on May 20. Dr Rauf said the recurring instances of amoebic meningoencephalitis in Kerala call for a detailed study on the reasons behind the rise in infections.

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Advertisement for the Recruitment of Principal at Raksha Shakti School, Gandhinagar

Raksha Shakti School (a residential school) at Rashtriya Raksha University invites applications from eligible candidates for the contractual position of Principal. For more details kindly visit the University website: <https://rru.ac.in/career>. The last date of application is 14/07/2024

REGISTRAR
INF/394/2024-25

MANGALURU CITY CORPORATION
Date: 04.07.2024

e-Auction document
(e-Auction Notification Eligibility Criteria and Terms and Conditions)

e-Auction for Investment of Surplus funds Through e-Portal of Government of Karnataka (Public Sector DMA/2024-25/AUCTION 883)

SCHEDULE OF VARIOUS EVENTS FOR e-AUCTION

S.No.	Particulars	Calendar of Events
1.	Date of e-Auction Notification	Date: 05.07.2024
2.	Last Date to upload the Eligibility Criteria in Annexure A & Declaration in Annexure -B in the e-portal	Date: 12.07.2024 on or before 16.00 Hrs.
3.	Live binding	Commences at 11.00 Hrs. & concludes at 16.00 Hrs. on Date: 18.07.2024

SD/-
Commissioner,
Mangaluru City Corporation

DIPR / MNG / 203 / MPL / 24-25

Engineering a sustainable future through resilience, innovation and excellence.



Address by
Mr. S. N. Subrahmanyam
Chairman & Managing Director

Dear Shareholders,

It gives me great pleasure to address you at my first Annual General Meeting as Chairman and Managing Director of the Larsen & Toubro Group. We are at an interesting stage in the development of the Country and the Company alike, and intend to make optimum use of the unfolding opportunities to grow in a sustainable manner.

India today stands tall as an oasis of opportunity amidst global turmoil and supply chain disruptions. The Government's continuous efforts to strengthen the domestic economy through increased capital spending, policy shifts towards improving the ease of doing business, and the creation of a world-class digital infrastructure and payments platform have all contributed to an annual GDP growth rate of at least 7% for the last three years, and over 8% in the year under review. The pursuit of 'Aatmanirbharta' (self-reliance) through innovative schemes like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, the Start-Up India scheme, and the National Infrastructure Pipeline, has set a strong foundation to realise a *Viksit Bharat*.

During the year under review, the Company has benefitted from these positive policy interventions, as evidenced from its stellar financial performance.

79TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING | JULY 4, 2024

A Portfolio of Excellence

The Company's journey has been one of resilience, innovation, and unwavering commitment to excellence. The diverse business portfolio comprises:

1. EPC Projects (Construction & Energy):

The Company's expertise in executing large-scale EPC projects is unparalleled. Its indelible stamp of excellence graces iconic bridges, hydrocarbon facilities, large solar fields, and infrastructure across India and beyond. Notable recent achievements include the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), Mumbai Coastal Road Phase 1 and Shree Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir in Ayodhya. Internationally, the Company delivered the 1.8 GWp Sudair Solar PV plant in Saudi Arabia, a gas compression facility in Algeria, and contributed to blue hydrogen infrastructure in The Netherlands, among various other projects.

2. Hi-Tech Manufacturing (Heavy Engineering and Precision Engineering & Systems):

The Company's Heavy Engineering division remains a global leader, supplying bespoke industrial equipment. It is at the forefront of adopting Industry 4.0 techniques, ensuring efficiency and quality. The Precision Engineering & Systems business focuses on indigenous design and has proudly contributed to India's lunar programme through Chandrayaan-3.

3. Services (IT, Engineering, Digital and Financial):

The Company's listed arms continue to play pivotal roles, creating shareholder value:

- **LTI Mindtree:** India's 6th largest IT player and 5th largest by market capitalisation, bridging physical and digital realms.
- **L&T Technology Services (LTS):** India's leading Engineering and Technology Services company, providing cutting-edge ER&D solutions globally.
- **L&T Finance (LTF):** Promotes financial inclusion by empowering millions with diverse financial products in the retail sector.

The Company's digital ventures, including L&T-SuFin (an integrated B2B marketplace), L&T Cloudfiniti (end-to-end data center and cloud services), L&T Semiconductor Technologies (focused on fabless chip design) and L&T EduTech (bridging industry-academia skill gaps), showcase the Company's foresight and adaptability in the realm of modern business.



21.8 km Mumbai Trans Harbour Link - India's longest sea bridge

4. Other Businesses:

- **L&T Realty:** Crafts integrated spaces, residential complexes, and commercial hubs. Over 50 million sq.ft. of properties are currently under development. Accolades such as 'Best Realty Brand 2024', among others, affirm its commitment to quality and timely completion.

- **Construction and Mining Machinery:** The Company's in-house Product Development Centre drives cost-effective solutions, with over 40,000 active machines in the market.

- **Others:** A global leader in tyre curing machinery and a valves business operating across 61 countries are sheer testament to the product reliability.

New Milestones in Growth

This year, the Company crossed a historic milestone: annual Group Order Inflow surpassed ₹ 3 lakh crore, registering an impressive 31% growth year-on-year. This was achieved on the back of major international order wins in Hydrocarbon and Infrastructure businesses. A large, growing, and diversified Order

Book of ₹ 4,75,809 crore as on March 31, 2024, with a growth of 20% over the previous year, provides clear revenue visibility in the medium term. Revenues clocked in at ₹ 2,21,113 crore, while Profit After Tax reached ₹ 13,059 crore, registering 21% and 25% growth respectively.

The Company continues to focus on shareholder value creation by divesting non-core assets, capturing cost efficiencies, and leveraging technology for productivity gains. A strategically diversified business portfolio, geographical diversification, a healthy balance sheet, and a strong order book are definite markers for long-term value creation.

In line with its strategy to grow the core and exit from concessions, the Company successfully divested its 51% stake in L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Limited and monetised a commercial property in the Hyderabad Metro. Improved operations, capital restructuring, support from the State Government and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) monetisation are expected to make the Metro asset value accretive over a period of time.

In FY 2023-24, the Company outperformed the Nifty 50 growth index, achieving a stupendous growth of 77% compared to the index's 29%.



Oil Production Deck Module in Saudi waters

Group Performance Overview for FY 2023-24



Tech-ionic Shifts

The Company embarked on a journey to leverage technology for sustainable progress well ahead of its global peers. The proactive investment in digital technology and Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) to automate manufacturing processes paid off during the pandemic. As India's leading infrastructure player, the Company was among the first to realise the importance of digitalisation, beginning its digital acceleration journey as early as 2016.



Remote diagnosis and support

Today, the Company leverages a vast array of technologies across its various verticals, including AI, ML, VR/AR, Cloud, Big Data & Analytics, Drones, GPS, RFID & QR Codes, LiDAR, BIM,

IoT, and 3D printing. Adoption of frontier technologies like advanced sensors, embedded software and robotics is in progress. The Company has digitally connected over 15,000 assets across its global projects and manufacturing bases to a central IoT platform. All these initiatives enable the Company to make project execution faster, safer, cleaner, economical and more sustainable.

Tech-celerating Sustainable Progress

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) has emerged as a game-changer, and the Company is leveraging its power to enhance its processes across the project life cycle - from tendering to contract management to design, execution, and operation & maintenance. To fuel this innovation, the Company has launched a collaborative platform connecting aspiring data scientists with domain experts and technology champions to develop cutting-edge, future-proof solutions.

Going Green

Aligned with its sustainability vision 'For A Better World', the Company has developed strong capability in executing projects for its customers in Clean Energy, Clean Mobility, Water & Sanitation, Green Infra, and other areas. Such projects help in lowering carbon emissions, improving water availability, recycling & reuse of water, scaling up energy efficiency, reducing air pollution, and enhancing resource conservation.

Green Buildings - The Company constructs green buildings which are LEED/IGBC/GRIHA-certified. In FY 2023-24, the Company created 14.8 million sq.ft. of Green Buildings infrastructure.

Clean Mobility - The Company completed the electrification of more than 3,400 track km of mass transit systems in FY 2023-24.

Clean Energy - The Company is involved in building Clean Energy projects, including renewable energy plants, primarily solar and hydro, as well as nuclear power plants. In FY 2023-24, the Company commissioned 2.2 GWp of solar capacity, 6.2 GW of nuclear power and 3.5 GW of hydel power, with additional capacity under construction at the moment.

During the year under review, the Company constituted a Green Energy Council with globally renowned energy sector experts to provide expertise and strategic guidance on technology trends in green energy.



Green Hydrogen Plant at L&T's A.M. Naik Heavy Engineering Complex in Hazira, Gujarat

Growing Globally

In today's VUCA (Volatility, Uncertainty, Complexity and Ambiguity) world, the key to mitigating geopolitical risk is through geographical diversification. The Company's policy of wider geographical dispersal aids broad-basing the portfolio, yielding positive results, and de-risking exposure to a particular region. At the Group level, apart from the 62% domestic share in the total order book, the Middle East accounts for 35%, while the rest of the world accounts for the balance 3%.



OxO Reactor for BASF Guangdong Integrated Project, China

Giving Back

The Company believes in fostering inclusive growth and building long-term relationships with all its stakeholders. Its CSR initiatives across health, education, skill development and water & sanitation have benefitted more than 1.6 million people. The Company has planted 4 million saplings globally and helped build resilience in rural communities through its Integrated Community Development Programme (ICDP).



Health Camp being conducted as part of L&T's CSR activities

Governance & Ethics

The Company is committed to the highest ethical standards in all business dealings, fostering transparency and accountability throughout the organisation. A robust governance framework ensures compliance with regulations and global best practices including adherence to international standards of Human Rights and Fair Business Practices.

Creating Safer Workplaces

Safety remains a paramount concern for the leadership team, reflected in the Company's 'Mission Zero Harm' principle and the 'L.I.F.E.' (Live Injury-Free Everyday) framework. Enhanced supervision, more frequent safety briefings, extensive training (with AR/VR technology) and the use of robotics for hazardous operations are some of the initiatives that have further bolstered our safety performance.

People Power

The Company's success is attributable to the dedication, adaptability and accomplishments of every member of Team L&T. People policies revolve around onboarding the right talent, providing a conducive work environment, nurturing talent, offering opportunities for learning and self-development, empowering collaboration and innovation, recognising and rewarding achievements, and such. These policies have enabled the Company to be rated as a Great Place to Work (GPTW) for the second consecutive year.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

The Company's transformation into a tech-driven conglomerate has improved its Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) quotient. Exclusive career-assisting schemes for females and women-friendly facilities in offices are moving the Company towards achieving the Lakshya target of women constituting 10% of the workforce by FY 2025-26.



Celebrating Women Power at L&T

In Conclusion

Today, the Company stands tall in the midst of challenges, armed with strategic foresight, technological prowess, and an unyielding commitment to excellence. The future is bright, with the promise of sustained growth, innovation and value creation for all stakeholders.

I would like to thank our employees, our customers, supply chain partners and the Government for their contributions, directly and indirectly, to our growth. I also thank my fellow Board members for their invaluable support in guiding the Company through volatile times when there are multiple variables at play. My special thanks to you - my dear shareholders - for the trust you have reposed in us. You remain an invaluable pillar of strength, and I look forward to your continued support in our journey towards achieving higher levels of excellence.

For over eight decades, L&T has served as a cornerstone of India's infrastructure and industrial development, continuously pushing boundaries to ensure that the Nation remains at the forefront of global progress.

It is this very dedication to excellence that has earned the Company a reputation of a nation-builder, instrumental in shaping the landscape of a new, modern and aspiring India.

L&T BUILDS THE THINGS THAT MAKE INDIA PROUD.





समस्त झारखण्ड एवं समस्त देशवासियों को



हल जोहार

सत्यमेव जयते!

प्रिय झारखण्डवासियों,

आपके अटूट समर्थन और विश्वास के लिए हम आभारी हैं।
आपके भरोसे पर खरा उतरने का निरंतर प्रयास पूर्व की भांति जारी
रहेगा। हम पुनः एक नए युग की शुरुआत कर रहे हैं,
एक ऐसा युग जहाँ विकास और समावेशिता साथ साथ चलेगा।

श्री हेमंत सोरेन
मुख्यमंत्री, झारखण्ड

सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार

PR NO: 328707(IPRD)/24-25

Punjab cops in Assam to take Amritpal for oath-taking

Dibrugarh (Assam): An eight-member team of Punjab Police on Thursday arrived here to escort jailed 'Waris Punjab De' activist Amritpal Singh to New Delhi for his swearing-in as a Member of Parliament, an official said.

Singh, who has won from the Khadoor Sahib Lok Sabha constituency in Punjab, has been granted four-days parole for the swearing-in. The police team, led by a police official of senior superintendent rank, arrived here in the afternoon and is scheduled to escort Singh, lodged in Dibrugarh Central Jail, to New Delhi in a special flight amid tight security for the swearing-in on Friday.

Singh's lawyer Rajdev Singh Khalsa said he will be taken to Delhi aboard a "military aircraft" for the swearing-in. Singh's parole orders are stringent, prohibiting him or his relatives from making any public statements during his visit to New Delhi. ❧

Amid heavy rain, 5,600 pilgrims begin Amarnath Yatra

Jammu: Despite heavy rains, a contingent of over 5,600 pilgrims set off from Jammu towards the twin basecamps, Baltal and Pahalgam, of the Amarnath cave shrine on Thursday, officials said. More than 30,000 devotees offered prayers to the naturally formed ice lingam on Wednesday alone, bringing the total number of pilgrims to over one lakh, they said.

The seventh batch of pilgrims included 4,487 men, 1,011 women, 10 children and 188 'sadhus' and 'sadhvis' who departed at 3.13 am in 219 vehicles, under the escort of CRPF, from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp. Of these, 3,668 pilgrims opted for the traditional 48 km Pahalgam route, while 2,028 chose the shorter but steeper 14 km Baltal route, they said. ❧

6 more deaths take Assam flood toll to 52 since May

Five Lakh People Affected Overnight

Kangkan.Kalita
@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: The flood situation in Assam continued to be grim, with over 21 lakh people across 29 districts affected and six deaths reported since Wednesday evening.

Rising floodwaters from the upper Assam region have now inundated lower Assam districts and historic towns like Goalpara and Dhubri have been under water since Wednesday night. With about 5 lakh people affected overnight, relief and rescue efforts have been strengthened amid rising casualties.

With the six deaths, the total number of fatalities since May has risen to 52. Of the six deaths, four were reported in Golaghat district alone while one each was reported in Charaideo and Dibrugarh districts.

Currently, Dhubri district, located close to Bangladesh, has the highest number of flood-affected people—6.48 lakh. Across Assam, nearly 40,000 people are currently living in relief camps.

On Thursday, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma began a two-day inspection tour of the



As many as 194 villages in the Morigaon district are still submerged in the floodwaters. The water level of the Brahmaputra River is receding, but the flood situation is still grim, say govt sources

IMD: Shimla to get heavy rainfall

Shimla: The weather department has predicted heavy rainfall in some parts of the state in the next 48 hours, said a bulletin on Thursday. "In the next 48 hours, light to moderate rain with thunder and lightning is likely at most places in the state and heavy to very heavy rain is likely at one or two places," said IMD Shimla. Heavy rains have caused significant disruption across Himachal Pradesh, leading to the closure of 115 roads to vehicular traffic and the issuance of an orange alert by the IMD. The orange alert, which is in effect until Friday, warns of heavy to very heavy rains along with thunderstorms and lightning in isolated areas. A total of 115 roads are shut down. ❧

worst-affected parts of upper Assam districts. After reviewing the situation in the Pandu area of Guwahati's western part, Sarma inspected an embankment breach at Jugundihari village in Majuli district, home to the world's largest riverine island. After the inspection, Sarma posted on X, "Situation is under control, and if there are no further rains in Arunachal and South Tibet, things will improve. Be it funds or the support of NDRF

& Armed Forces, govt of India is standing completely with the people of Assam."

According to the Central Water Commission (CWC) bulletin on Thursday evening, the Brahmaputra was flowing above the danger level at Neamatighat, Tezpur, Guwahati, Goalpara and Dhubri. Though the water level in the worst-affected Dibrugarh district has fallen below the danger mark, it is showing a rising trend again. Tributaries of the Brahmaputra are also flowing above danger levels in central and upper Assam districts. In southern Assam, Barak and Kuchiyara rivers continue to flow above danger levels.

Directorate of Legal Affairs
KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES COMMISSION
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Govt. of India
Gramodaya, 3, Irla Road, Vile Parle (W), Mumbai - 400056
Tel.: 022-2671 3538, E-mail: legalaffairs.kvic@gov.in, Website: www.kvic.gov.in

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from Law Firms/Trade Mark Consultant Firms having an office in Mumbai and/or New Delhi and having five years of experience in handling Trademark related work for empanelment in the Panel of Trade Mark Consultants of KVIC. The Standing Order containing the KVIC Panel of Trademark Consultants and Trademark Consultants Fee Scheme, 2019 governing the empanelment, including application form can be downloaded from KVIC website www.kvic.gov.in under the head 'Vacancies'

The last date for submission of application is 30 days from the date of publication of advertisement. Application received after the closing date will not be entertained. Application should be submitted in a sealed envelope superscribing as "Application for empanelment of Trademark Consultants" addressed to Dy. Director I/c (Legal Affairs), Khadi and V.I. Commission, 3 Irla Road, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai-400 056. Scanned copy of the application along with the enclosures may also be e-mailed to legalaffairs.kvic@gov.in Dy. Director I/C

Central Bureau of Communication
Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

IMPORTANT NOTICE
Central Bureau of Communication
invites applications for fresh Empanelment of Multi-service Operators (MSOs) with CBC for publicity of Central Government advertisements.

For more details, please visit https://cbcindia.gov.in/cbc/public/uploads/website_advisory/17199122_46-1318-advisoryFile.pdf
CBC 22204/11/0002/2425

WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION
PROVISION OF FOB WORKS
E-Tender Notification No. 03 of 2024-25 Date: 28-06-2024 E-Tender Notification No. 03/2025/GSURJT (1) Name of Work: Provision of 12m wide FOB works in connection with Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at Rajkot and Jamnagar Station of Rajkot Division. Approximate NIT Cost: ₹ 28,65,25,889.26/- Date & Time of Closing of Tender: 29-07-2024 at 15:00 hrs. Office Address: Chief Project Manager, Gali Shakti Unit, Rajkot, Junction Road, Opp. Kothi Compound, Rajkot, Gujarat-360001. Website: www.ireps.gov.in ❧
Follow us on twitter.com/WesternRly

WESTERN RAILWAY - RAJKOT DIVISION
SIGNALING WORK
E-Tender Notice No. SNT_W_RJT_EPC_24_1 DT-27-06-2024 (1) Tender No. SNT_W_RJT_EPC_24_1 (2) Name of Work: Provision of EI & MSDAC based Automatic signaling along with provision of EI & other signaling systems at 25 stations and Auto huts in Viramgam-Rajkot (182 route km) section of Rajkot Division and Viramgam (RRI) station of Ahmedabad Division of Western Railway. (3) Estimated Cost of the Work: ₹ 250,45,83,494.00 (Rs. Two hundred fifty crore Forty five Lakh Eighty three Thousand Four Hundred and four Only) (4) Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 1,25,23,000.00 (Rs. One crore Twenty five Lakh Twenty three Thousand Only) (5) Cost of Tender Documents: 00.00 (6) Completion Period: 730 (Seven hundred Thirty) days. (7) Validity of offer: 180 Days (8) Type of e-tender: Open e-tender (9) Time & Date for closure for submission of e-Tender Documents: 15:00 Hrs. on 08-08-2024 (10) Time & Date for opening of e-Bid: 15:30 Hrs. on 09-08-2024. The tender can be viewed online at E-Tender Portal www.ireps.gov.in and offer may be submitted on same E-Tender Portal. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received will be ignored. ❧
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RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Website: www.indianrailways.gov.in
TENDER NOTICE NO. RWF/S/146/2024-25/03 Dated 04.07.2024
On behalf of the President of India, The Principal Chief Materials Manager/RWF invites electronic tender for the following work through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> from experienced/reputed contractors in the field.
Tender No.: RWFSTPT_RT_CWD_2500Kms. Due Date & Time : 05.08.2024 at 14:15 Hrs.
Scope of Work : Carriage of Condemned Wheel Discs of Railways, from various locations of Indian Railways in India to Rail Wheel Factory, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064, by Road.
NOTE: (1) Bid Capacity Clause is not applicable for this Tender. (2) Mandatory documents should be submitted in Compliance of Bid Security, Annexure-V, Annexure-V(A), Annexure-VI(B), Power of Attorney and IBA Certification. Non-Submission of necessary documents in support of the above shall result in summarily rejection of Bids. (3) Distance 1000 + Above 1000 Kms (with a mean distance of 2500 Kms) Quantity : 37500 MT (approx.). Estimated Tender Value : Rs.24,84,37,500.00 EMD Amount : Rs.13,92,200.00 Contract Period : Minimum 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of Letter of Acceptance
TENDER NOTICE NO. RWF/S/05/2024-25 Dated 02/07/2024
Global Tender Number : P3245026
Brief Item Description : Supply of Oil Chiller (Hydrostatic Bearing) Suitable for Grinding Machine. Qty: 1No.
Tender Closing Date and Time : 31/07/2024 14:00 hrs.
Tender details can be viewed on our website www.ireps.gov.in or www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in. The tender documents and the corrigendum to Tender if any, will be available on the portal only.
PRINCIPAL CHIEF MATERIALS MANAGER

For resolution of your complaints against RBI Regulated Entities (RE)* follow these steps

- 1 Lodge your complaint first with the RE
- 2 Get acknowledgement/reference number
- 3 If no resolution is received from the RE in 30 days or you are not satisfied with it, you may file your complaint with the RBI Ombudsman on RBI's CMS portal (cms.rbi.org.in) or by post to CRPC**

RBI Kehta Hai...
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Filing complaints directly with the RBI Ombudsman may lead to rejection.

For more details, visit <https://rbikehtahai.rbi.org.in/ios>
For feedback, write to rbikehtahai@rbi.org.in

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Dr Nandita Iyer
Nutritionist & Author
Anupama Menon
Nutritionist and Health & Food Coach

NUTRITION FOR PROFESSIONALS
Dr Rebecca Raj
Professor and Head, Division of Nutrition
St. John's Research Institute

MINDFUL EATING
Nidhi Nahata
Lifestyle coach,
Plant-based recipe curator

ALTERNATIVE DIETS FOR AN ACTIVE LIFESTYLE
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Nutritionist And Body Transformation Specialist

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'I am Gita' is the first-ever book that explains the essence of all 700 shlokas of the Gita along with its psychological & spiritual dimension in totality. The book begins at the decisive moment when Arjuna puts down his weapons and says to Krishna...

"I don't wish to slay my brothers or commit violence just to gain a kingdom even the scriptures forbid this!"
- Arjuna

At this crucial juncture, the author poses pertinent questions to readers such as:

- Are you in agreement with Krishna?
- Why did Krishna disagree with Arjuna?
- Did Krishna incite Arjuna to fight the war or did he show him the right path?
- Can there be valid reasons for committing violence and waging a war?
- Who is right—Krishna or Arjuna?
- Why did it take Krishna all of 18 chapters to convince Arjuna?

In his incisive and inimitable style, And 'I am Gita' explains this very aspect of the Bhagavad Gita in a simple language, helping readers of all age groups grasp the true essence of the Gita effortlessly.

Deep Trivedi poses these thought-provoking questions to readers, taking them on a journey that explores the psychological aspects of Gita, which so far have remained undisclosed. Undoubtedly, Gita is the epitome of psychology and Krishna is the first psychologist of human history, and it is spiritual psychology alone that can accurately answer all the questions related to human mind and life.

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Phone No. 079-68128800

Advertisement for the Recruitment of Teaching and Non-Teaching Positions at Raksha Shakti School, Gandhinagar

Raksha Shakti School (a residential school) at Rashtriya Raksha University invites applications from eligible candidates for the contractual positions of Teaching and Non Teaching Staff. For more details kindly visit the University website: <https://ru.ac.in/career>. The last date of application is 14/07/2024

INF/393/2024-25 Registrar

MAHARASHTRA SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Maharashtra Undertaking)
"Krupandini", 9 Walchand Hirachand Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai - 400001, Tel: 022-22620624

E-RFP

MSSIDC invites E-RFP for "Selection of Agency to deploy 36 District RAMP Coordinators (Mentors) for Business Development Services to MSMEs in Maharashtra". The RFP document & schedule of activities is available on the Government e-Marketplace website i.e., <https://gem.gov.in> from 05.07.2024 at 11:00 am onwards. The last date for submission of e-RFP is 22.07.2024 up to 5.00 PM. The reference for said RFP is GEM/2024/B/5121987. Any amendments/corrigendum, if required, shall be published on GeM website only, and no intimation about the same will be given individually or through a newspaper to the bidder. MSSIDC Ltd. reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Date : 05.07.2024, Place : Mumbai Authorized signatory

MAHARASHTRA SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Maharashtra Undertaking)
"Krupandini", 9 Walchand Hirachand Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai - 400001, Tel: 022-22620624

E-RFP

MSSIDC invites E-RFP for "Selection of Agency for Establishment of Business Facilitation Centers (BFCs) for providing handloom support to MSMEs in Maharashtra". The RFP document & schedule of activities is available on the Government e-Marketplace website i.e., <https://gem.gov.in> from 05.07.2024 at 11:00 am onwards. The last date for submission of e-RFP is 22.07.2024 up to 5.00 PM. The reference for said RFP is GEM/2024/B/5121592. Any amendments/corrigendum, if required, shall be published on GeM website only, and no intimation about the same will be given individually or through a newspaper to the bidder. MSSIDC Ltd. reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Date : 05.07.2024, Place : Mumbai Authorized signatory

Centre for Post Graduate Studies
Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology,
Bhubaneswar-751003

Walk in Interview for Engagement of Guest Faculties in the Department of Agri-Business Management

CORRIGENDUM

This is in reference to the advertisement made on 27.06.2024 towards "Walk-in-Interview for engagement of Guest Faculties" in Department of Agri-Business Management, CPGS, OUAT, Bhubaneswar; the date of Walk-in-Interview is rescheduled to 11.07.2024 at 10.00 A.M. All other terms and conditions of the said advertisement stated above remain unchanged.

For details, please refer to website: www.ouat.ac.in

Sd/-
Dean, PGF-cum-DRI
OIPR-6153411/0902/24-25

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
RISHIKESH-249203

ADMISSION NOTICE

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh invites applications for Entrance Examinations leading to admission in M.Sc. Course at AIIMS, Rishikesh for August 2024 Session.

Important: For detailed information etc. please visit institute website (www.aiimsrishikesh.edu.in): Examination-Entrance Exam and Result) regularly as all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will only be uploaded on website.

Executive Director
AIIMS Rishikesh

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA
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Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India
Jorawar Singh Gate, Amer Road, Jaipur-302002

Admission Notice
M.Sc. (Interdisciplinary) Program

Applications are invited for admission for 2 year M.Sc. Courses (Interdisciplinary) in the following Departments.

1. Ayurvedic Diet and Nutrition
2. Ayurveda Manuscriptology
3. Ayur-Yoga Preventive Cardiology
4. Marmalogy and Sports Medicine
5. Ayurveda Cosmetology
6. Vrکشayurveda

Application Form can be filled and submitted only online mode from our website www.nia.nic.in, in from 08/07/2024. Last date to submit the application is 07/08/2024.

Prof. Anita Sharma
Registrar

MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(An Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)
BHOPAL-462003 (M.P.) INDIA

No.AB/Estt./Tem.Fac./2024/611 Date :04/07/2024

Walk-in-Interview for Appointment of Temporary Faculty

Walk-in-Interview for appointment of Temporary Faculty is to be held in the Departments/Centre as given below:

- (1) Architecture and Planning
- (2) Biological Science and Engineering
- (3) Civil Engineering
- (4) Chemistry
- (5) Computer Science and Engineering
- (6) Electrical Engineering
- (7) Mathematics, Bioinformatics and Computer Applications
- (8) Physics
- (9) Centre of Excellence in Product Design and Smart Manufacturing

Candidates who have already served in the Institute for more than five semesters in their entire career, their candidature shall not be considered. Interested candidates may submit application and resume on plain paper along with photocopies of certificates & testimonials in the Office of the concerned Head of Department/Centre on or before the date & time of interview.

Detailed advertisement for qualification, remuneration, date of interview etc., may be referred on Institute website www.manit.ac.in.

Registrar

Government of Maharashtra Department of Agriculture
Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Agribusiness & Rural Transformation (SMART) Project
MSFC Building, 270, Bhamburda, Senapati Bapat Road, Pune 411016
Telephone: 91-20-25656577, website: www.smart-mh.org

Supply and Installation of Various Post Harvesting Processing Machineries

The Government of Maharashtra is implementing the World Bank-funded SMART Project to support the development of inclusive and competitive agriculture value chains focusing on smallholder farmers and agri-entrepreneurs in Maharashtra. The project is extending subsidy up to 60% to the eligible community-based organizations (CBOs). CBOs are the beneficiaries of the project and are inviting various online bids on <https://mahatenders.gov.in>, for the supply and installation of various post-harvest processing machines. In order to get information via SMS or email about the tenders that have been published by the CBOs for the aforesaid machines, the interested bidders are requested to do a one-time registration on the project website www.smart-mh.org.

Dr. Hemant Vasekar IAS
Project Director
DGIPR 2024-25/600

CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute
Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow-226001 U.P. (India)
www.nbri.res.in

No.: 3-2/88(Group IV)/2021-R&A **Notice**

It is hereby informed that due to unavoidable administrative reasons, the previously issued Advertisement No. 03/2021 for the recruitment of Scientific posts in the Institute, stands cancelled with immediate effect.

Controller of Administration

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OIPR-31041/13/0006/24-25

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425) (A Government of U.P. Undertaking)
Address: SUDA Bhawan, 7/23, Sector-7, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow

Advertisement No.: UPMSCL/04/HR/2024-25369 Dated: 01/07/2024
Advertisement No.: UPMSCL/04/HR/2024-25376 Dated: 02/07/2024

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited invites application for the following positions on Deputation/Contractual:

Sr. No.	Designation	Maximum Age Limit (in year)	Vacancy	Cast Category	Mode of Recruitment	Honoraria in INR (Monthly)	Essential Qualification	Post Qualification experience
01	Consultant (Drug Procurement)	50 (Retired government/ P.S.U official with up to age of 62 years may also apply)	01	GEN-1	Deputation/ Contractual	(1,18,500 - 2,00,000) Pay Matrix-13 (in case of Deputation)	Applicants must have M.Pharm / M.B.B.S. with post graduate degree or diploma in Medicine from a recognized university/Institution	Applicant must have (I)- Minimum 12 years of post Qualification experience of which at least 5 years in procurement of drug for public or Government agencies. (II)- Min. 3 years of supervisory experience
02	Pharmacist (Drug Procurement)	45	02	GEN-2	Deputation/ Contractual	(47,600- 50,000) Pay Matrix-8 (in case of Deputation)	Applicants must have B.Pharm degree from a recognized university / institution	Applicant must have 1 year overall work experience of which atleast six months must be in drug procurement / drug logistics or drug supply chain
03	Bio Medical Engineer (Quality control)	45	01	GEN-1	Deputation/ Contractual	(47,600- 50,000) Pay Matrix-8 (in case of Deputation)	Applicant must have full time bio medical engineer degree from UGC recognized Indian University	Applicant must have minimum 3 years work experience in the field of Bio Medical Engineering

* Interested Candidates must send their application form in the prescribed format along with self attested relevant document by speed post/registered AD from Indian Postal Department by mentioning on the envelop "Application for the (Post Name)" to GM (AHL), SUDA Bhawan 7/23 sector -7 Gomti nagar extension, Lucknow PIN: 226010. Applications sent by any other mode shall not be entertained. Submission of Application Starts from July 03, 2024. * The Last Date of Submission of Application is August 02, 2024 at 05:00 PM. * Regular government (Department/Corporations/Institutions) employees with suitable experience on seniority (matrix level) are encouraged to apply on deputation. * Vacancies shall be subject to the State reservation policy of Uttar Pradesh. * Age relaxation for candidate applying on Deputation shall be in accordance to Govt. of UP Service Norms. * Please note July 01, 2024 shall be taken as a reference date for computing age, qualification, experience etc. Application not received on prescribed format will be rejected. Application format may be downloaded from the website: www.upmsc.in

For vacancy notification and other related detailed information please visit www.upmsc.in

Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Invites application for the post of Director & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in Odisha Coal and Power Limited (OCPL)

A. Company & Job Profile :

Odisha Coal and Power Ltd (OCPL) is a State PSU functioning under the administrative control of Energy Department, Government of Odisha, with Corporate Office at Bhubaneswar. OCPL is currently operating two Coal Mines namely Manoharpur and Dip-Side Manoharpur coal blocks in Hemgir Tehsil of Dist. Sundergarh, with a Peak Rated Capacity of 16 Million Te per annum and supplying Coal to its end use plants at OPGC through Merry Go Round System. The Coal Mines of OCPL are 5-Star rated Mines by Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India.

Energy Department, Govt. of Odisha/OCPL invites applications for the post of Director & Chief Executive Officer in E-13 grade (Board level) in OCPL on full time fixed term basis.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Qualification	Job profile
1	Director & Chief Executive Officer (CEO), OCPL	Engineering graduate/ Chartered Accountant/ Cost Accountant / Post Graduate/Graduate with MBA/ PGDIM from a leading institute.	Director and CEO, OCPL is a Board Level position reporting to the Chairman, Board of Directors, OCPL and is accountable to the Board for overall management and control of the company. The position is based at Corporate Office of OCPL at Bhubaneswar.

B. Selection, Tenure and CTC :

Selection will be made based on merit in interview, level of expertise and experience in operation of large Opencast Coal Mines. Experience at various levels including regulation and commercial shall be preferred. Candidates with experience at the level of Director in Board/ Executive Director/ equivalent position in a reputed Coal Mining Company with at least 5 Million Te per annum production capacity shall be preferred.

- Minimum age will be 45 years and maximum age will be 60 years for both external and internal candidates as on 03.07.2024.
- This position is on full time contract basis for a period of 05 (five) years or up to the age of superannuation i.e. 63 years whichever is earlier. The pay will be as per Market based Salary (MBS) Structure in E-13 grade of OCPL with CTC in the range of Rs. 47.5 to Rs.85.5 Lac per annum.

C. Application :

Interested and eligible candidates may send their applications and C.V by Registered post/ Speed post/ e-mail giving details of their experience in Operation & Maintenance, regulatory & commercial affairs, and leadership positions to Energy Department within 30 (thirty) days. For the detailed advertisement, candidates may visit the website of Energy Department <https://energy.odisha.gov.in/> For other queries you may contact on the following address :

Sd/-
Lipsa Das
Additional Secretary to Govt.,
Energy Department, Govt. of Odisha
Email: energy@nic.in

ADVERTORIAL

Humrahi: Revolutionizing Diabetes Care with Comprehensive Support

In the realm of diabetes care, Lupin Limited (Lupin) has introduced Humrahi, a groundbreaking patient support initiative. Humrahi is designed to improve patient positive outcomes, provide guidance on medication adherence and accessible medication throughout a patient's healthcare journey. Humrahi serves as a comprehensive tool that simplifies diabetes management, enhances effectiveness and provides value-based care to the patients. It offers a unique array of services making it a vital resource for individuals dealing with this chronic condition.

One of the key features of Humrahi is its service delivery in regional languages with personalized counselling sessions on diet and nutrition, and emotional well-being of eligible members who are registered under Humrahi. By addressing both emotional and psychological aspects, Humrahi ensures a holistic approach to improving patient health outcomes and well-being.

Additionally, eligible members receive one-month complimentary medications as part of their subscription. This alleviates financial stress and promotes better therapy adherence for patients. Humrahi also offers complimentary blood sugar tests to monitor glucose levels facilitating early detection and effective diabetes management by retarding the progression of complications. Regular testing helps individuals understand their blood sugar trends enabling timely intervention and better health outcomes.

Humrahi's lifestyle management tips further support healthy living. Through personalized counselling sessions, blogs, recipes, podcasts and videos, the platform promotes balanced diet, exercise, stress management and overall well-being guiding individuals towards a healthier lifestyle.

Language accessibility is another significant advantage of Humrahi. The program offers services in twelve regional languages ensuring registered members receive support and information tailored to their linguistic preferences. This commitment to accessibility makes Humrahi a valuable resource for diverse communities across India.

Remarkably, Humrahi is entirely free of charge, with no registration fees or monthly charges. This ensures that a wide range of patients can benefit from its comprehensive support. By raising awareness about diabetes and promoting adherence to treatment plans through educational resources, notifications and reminders, Humrahi keeps patients informed and engaged in their care.

Lupin through Humrahi is transforming diabetes care in India. Its unwavering commitment to accessibility, medication adherence and affordability ensures that more patients can effectively manage their diabetes and lead healthier lives instilling a sense of hope and optimism in them.

Humrahi is truly a partner in care dedicated to improving the lives of those living with diabetes.

At Lupin patient centricity is at the heart of everything we do. We prioritize listening to patients' needs, ensuring their well-being and delivering personalized value-based care. Our commitment is always to empower patients with knowledge and support thereby improving their quality of life every day.

Rajeev Sibal,
President,
India Region
Formulations

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are verifying the title of industrially converted land situated at Kacharakana Halli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District totally measuring 2 Acres 14 Guntas. Details of the land parcel, including details of its current owners are provided in the schedule below. The land parcel which is the subject matter of our title investigations shall be collectively referred to as the "Schedule Property."

If any person has any right, title, interest, claim or demand in relation to the Schedule Property or any part thereof or, has executed any transactions or documents (whether registered or unregistered) with the Owners or predecessors in title of the Schedule Property, having the effect of creating an encumbrance thereon, are called upon to submit their statements, objections or claims in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned, within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication of this notice. If no objections are received, we would conclusively presume that no person has any right, title, interest, claim, demand, charge, or encumbrance whatsoever existing on the Schedule Property or any part thereof and we will issue our opinion confirming that the owners have title in respect of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of industrially converted land situated at Kacharakana Halli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District which is morefully detailed in the table herein below:

Sl No.	Owner's Name	Sy. Nos.	Extent (including kharab land)		Boundaries			
			Acres	Guntas	East	West	North	South
1.	(i) Anand Dass Joseph alias Anand J, (ii) Selvi William, (iii) Karunakaran J, (iv) Anitha Paranthaman and (v) Rajendra Prasad.	189	2	14	Land in Survey No. 188	Village Boundary and Road	Land in Survey No. 190	Land in Survey No. 184

Date: 04/07/2024
Place: Bangalore

Gerald Manoharan, Partner, JSA, Advocates, Level 3, Prestige Obelisk, 3, Kasturba Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Ph. 080-43503600/080-43503610, Email - gerald@jalaw.com

LIC LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA
(constituted under the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956)
IRDAI Registration No. 512
Central Office: "Yogakshema", Jeevan Bima Marg, Mumbai, Maharashtra - 400 021, Tel. No. 022 - 2202 2079, Email: investors@licindia.com, website: www.licindia.in

3RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, RECORD DATE FOR FINAL DIVIDEND, TDS ON DIVIDEND INCOME AND E-VOTING INFORMATION

Members may note that the 3rd Annual General Meeting ("AGM"/"Meeting") of Life Insurance Corporation of India ("the Corporation") will be convened at 11:30 a.m. (IST) on Thursday, August 22, 2024 through Video conference ("VC")/ Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") facility provided by National Securities Depository Limited ("NSDL") to transact the business as set out in the Notice to be issued for convening the AGM in compliance with the provisions of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 ("LIC Act, 1956" or "LIC Act") and rules and regulations made thereunder, Companies Act, 2013 (to the extent applicable), circular No. 9/2023 dated September 25, 2023, read with circulars dated April 08, 2020, April 13, 2020, May 05, 2020, January 13, 2021, December 08, 2021 and December 28, 2022 (collectively referred to as "MCA Circulars") or any other relevant Circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India ("MCA") and SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulation, 2015 ("Listing Regulations"). Further, Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") also vide its Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CFD-PoD-2/P/CIR/2023/167 dated October 7, 2023 ("SEBI Circular") has provided relaxation to listed entities from sending hard copy of annual report to the Members.

The Corporation is pleased to provide remote e-Voting facility before and during the AGM to all its Members to cast their votes on all resolutions set out in the Notice of the AGM and has engaged NSDL as the authorized agency to provide the e-voting facility. Detailed procedure for such remote e-Voting and the schedule will be provided in the Notice.

Members can attend and participate in the AGM through the VC/OAVM facility ONLY. The detailed instructions with respect to such participation will be provided in the Notice convening the Meeting. Members attending the Meeting through VC/OAVM shall be counted for the purpose of reckoning the quorum under LIC Act, 1956 read with rules and regulations made thereunder.

The e-copy of the Annual Report of the Corporation for the Financial Year 2023-24 along with the Notice of the AGM, Financial Statements and other Statutory Reports will be sent to those members whose email address is registered with the Corporation / Registrar & Transfer Agent ("Registrar" or "RTA") / Depository Participants ("DPs"). The copy of the same will also be available on the website of the Corporation at www.licindia.in and on the website of NSDL at www.evoting.nsdl.com. Additionally, Notice of the AGM will also be available on the website of the Stock Exchanges on which the securities of the Corporation are listed, i.e., at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.

Members whose email addresses are not registered are requested to get their email addresses registered with their respective DPs on or before 05:00 p.m. (IST) on Friday, July 19, 2024 for the purpose of receiving the credentials for remote e-Voting along with the Notice of the 3rd AGM and Annual Report 2023-24 electronically. In case of any query, members may send email to investors@licindia.com or enward.ris@kfintech.com mentioning their DP ID and Client ID.

Record date for the purpose of Final Dividend and registration of E-mail address and Bank details:

Members may note that the Board of Directors of the Corporation in its meeting held on May 27, 2024, has recommended a final dividend of ₹6/- per equity share of face value of ₹10/- each for the Financial Year 2023-24, subject to declaration of the same by the members of the Corporation at the 3rd Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, August 22, 2024.

The dividend, recommended by the Board of Directors if declared at the 3rd Annual General Meeting, will be paid to those members holding equity shares of the Corporation, either in electronic or in physical form as on the record date i.e., **Friday, July 19, 2024**. The final dividend would be paid to the eligible members within a period of 30 days from the date of declaration of dividend, i.e., on or before September 20, 2024, through various online and other permissible modes of payment to those members who have updated their bank account details with their Depository Participants.

Members who have not updated their bank account details are requested to update their Bank Mandate with the respective DPs on or before 05:00 p.m. (IST), Friday, July 19, 2024 to receive dividend directly into their bank account through any permissible mode.

In case of non-availability of the bank details of any Member, the Corporation shall pay the dividend to such Members through any other permissible mode.

Members holding shares in physical form are requested to take note that SEBI vide circular dated November 3, 2021 (subsequently amended by circulars dated December 14, 2021, March 16, 2023 and November 17, 2023) has mandated that the security holders, holding securities in physical form, whose folio(s) does not have PAN, Choice of Nomination, Contact Details, Mobile Number, Bank Account Details, Specimen Signature updated, shall be eligible for any payment including dividend, interest or redemption in respect of such folios, only upon their furnishing all the aforesaid details in entirety to Registrar and Transfer Agent and payment shall be made only through electronic mode with effect from April 01, 2024.

TDS on Dividend Income

Dividend income is taxable in the hands of the Members and the Corporation is required to deduct tax at source ("TDS") from dividend paid to the Members at rates prescribed under the Income Tax Act, 1961 (the "IT Act"), as amended from time to time. To enable compliance with the TDS requirements, Members are requested to complete and /or update their Residential Status, PAN and Category as per the IT Act with their DPs. The aforesaid documents, as applicable, are required to be emailed to the Corporation (investors@licindia.com) / Registrar and Transfer Agent (enward.ris@kfintech.com) or upload on the link <https://ris.kfintech.com/Form15> on or before Friday, July 19, 2024. The notice for the same was given to the Members on July 04, 2024 whose email address were registered with the Corporation / Registrar / DPs. No communication on the tax determination / deduction shall be entertained beyond 5:00 p.m. (IST) on Friday, July 19, 2024.

Members will also be able to see the credit of TDS in Form 26AS, which can be downloaded from their e-filing account at <https://www.incometax.gov.in/iec/foportal>.

For Life Insurance Corporation of India
(Anshul Kumar Singh)
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place: Mumbai
Date: 04.07.2024

T'gana CM meets PM, seeks IIM and steel plant for state

Revanth Urges PM To Transfer 2,450 Acres Of Defence Land

Koride.Mahesh
@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Chief minister A Revanth Reddy Thursday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to transfer 2,450 acres of defence land to the state in Greater Hyderabad and in return offered to transfer state govt's 2,462 acres in Raviryal permanently to Research Centre Imarat which is currently given on lease.

Revanth and deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka met the PM in New Delhi and submitted a list of 12 requests, including allocation of coal blocks to Singareni, setting up of IIM, revival of Information Technology and Investment Region (ITIR) etc.

Expressing concern over Centre's decision to include Sravanapally coal block among those put up for auction, the CM sought its removal from the list. Revanth urged the PM to allot it to Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) as it was a



Telangana chief minister Revanth Reddy met Prime Minister Modi and submitted a list of 12 requests on Thursday

Telangana public sector undertaking with state holding 51% share and Centre 49%.

Revanth also sought an IIM for Telangana while pointing out that it was the policy of the Centre to have one IIM in each state. "There is sufficient land available in the University of Hyderabad (UoH) and we are ready to provide alternate land also," the CM said.

Asking the PM to include Telangana in India's semi-conductor mission, the CM said many companies were keen on establishing such firms in Hyderabad.

On housing issues, Revanth asked the Centre to sanction 25 lakh houses under PM Awas Yojana in the next five years. The CM also reminded the PM of Centre's earlier assurance to set up an

Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) and urged him to revive the project for Telangana. The project was announced by the then UPA govt at the Centre in 2010 for both Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

"The state govt had earlier identified land in three clusters for new IT companies and IT space developers," the CM said. On the promises made to Telangana in the AP Reorganisation Act, the CM said instead of Integrated Rail Coach Factory promised at Kazipet, the Centre announced periodical overhauling workshop, but many other places got coach factories. He urged the PM to sanction a coach factory to Kazipet and also a steel plant at Bayyaram.

Similarly, he pointed out that the backward region grant fund (BGRF) to the state was released for only two years and had not been given for the past three years. The pending amount now stood at Rs 1,800 crore.

Oath stand-off: Bengal gov asks dy speaker to swear in 2 MLAs

Debashis.Konar
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Kolkata: Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose put out a six-page Q&A on his social media handle Thursday, seeking to explain the implications of the stand-off over newly elected Trinamool MLAs Sayantika Banerjee and Reyat Hossain Sarkar refusing to take the oath of office at Raj Bhavan and his decision to "authorise" deputy speaker Ashish Banerjee to swear in the duo.



Bose's post showed up on his X handle within hours of speaker Biman Banerjee announcing a special assembly session Friday. He said "the assembly is not held in the hands of the governor". Bose said he took the decision on July 2 in New Delhi after considering the requests made by the two MLAs, both of whom contested the recent bypolls.

Banerjee said he hadn't received any formal communication from Raj Bhavan. "I cannot react to what the governor has said on his X handle... The special session will commence on Friday at noon. Like I said, we are not helpless."

Although the special session has been officially convened to extend the term of the 26 assembly standing committees whose tenures end on July 8, the impasse over Sayantika and Reyat Hossain not being sworn even after a month since their election is likely to be the talking point.

HC to hear Bengal gov's defamation case against CM Mamata on July 10

Kolkata: Calcutta HC on Thursday permitted senior counsel Dhiraj Trivedi, representing West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose, to proceed with a defamation suit against CM Mamata Banerjee.



The court will take up the case for hearing on July 10. On Wednesday, Justice Krishna Rao had directed Trivedi to withdraw the petition due to procedural discrepancies. Trivedi mentioned the matter before Justice Rao on Thursday despite it not being listed for hearing.

Bose had filed the defamation case against Mamata on June 28, a day after she claimed women told her they were afraid to visit the Raj Bhavan. The comment came in the wake of a former Raj Bhavan employee's sexual harassment allegation against the governor. TNN

Locals can't stop raving about Srinivas and his contributions

Continued from page 1

He pleaded helplessness and, as a stickler for rules, insisted he had no option as an "order was an order". But few in the school expected what happened next. The students told their parents about Srinivas' transfer and decided to go along with their favourite teacher to his new govt school at Akkapelliguda.

Srinivas was transferred on July 1 and in the next two days, the parents of 133 of its 250-odd students (from Classes 1 to 5) got their wards transferred to his new school posting—3km away. It meant an extra commute for both the students and their parents but neither had any problems with going that extra mile, or two.

Srinivas himself appeared to play down the icon-like adoration for him. "It shows the trust the parents have in me. I merely did my duty of teaching their children to the best of my abilities. They loved my teaching. Since govt schools now have better facilities, I would urge parents to



THE NEW ICONS

make use of them," Srinivas told TOI on Thursday.

Locals recalled Srinivas' contributions over the past 12 years, especially his role in boosting the strength of the school in Ponakal from 32 to 250 through his efforts and motivation. "He took great interest in the students. If anyone was absent, he would enquire and get children to join the school. If there were students who needed more attention in their studies, he would take special classes after school hours," an official said.

If Ponakal can't stop raving about Srinivas, he has already become a talking point in Akkapelliguda, his new posting. Thanks to the 133 students who moved with him, the strength of the new school has increased to 154.

PM's remarks in Lok Sabha misleading, says Cong MP

New Delhi: Congress MP Manickam Tagore has written to Lok Sabha Speaker alleging that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and BJP MP Anurag Thakur made "grossly misleading and factually incorrect" remarks in the House. Tagore has requested Speaker Om Birla to take note of the remarks and initiate appropriate action against them.

Tagore has in his letter flagged that Prime Minister Modi in his reply to the motion of thanks to the President's Address on July 2 in Lok Sabha had said that the Congress vote share has gone down in 16 states where it contested on its own. Tagore in his letter has challenged this citing it to be "factually incorrect and sharing that Congress vote share increased in HP, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Telangana etc."

Tagore also highlighted that PM said that the Congress made a false promise of Rs 8,500 per month to women. On this the Congress MP points out this was a promise made by the party if it would have won and formed the govt at the Centre. TNN

List of items for which TDP sought Centre's help runs into several pages

Continued from page 1

The CM highlighted how Andhra is grappling with the repercussions of the unfair and unjust bifurcation of 2014. Additionally, the miserable governance of the previous administration marked by malice, corruption and mis-governance has dealt a more deleterious blow to the state than the bifurcation," said a source.

Accusing the earlier YSRCP govt of "financial harakiri", which left little money for investment, during his meeting with the PM, Naidu sought "financial handholding" from the Centre to tide over the financial crisis in the state and focus on investments in specific projects and backward regions. Naidu argued that there was "no other way to face such a challenge".

The list of items for which the TDP govt has sought the Centre's "cooperation" runs into several pages—covering short-term assistance as well as an additional allocation under the



Andhra chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu with PM Modi, in New Delhi on Thursday. Without making any reference to the special category status, Naidu asked for industrial incentives and a special package for backward regions, that was promised at the time of state bifurcation

Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment, meant to build core infrastructure.

Besides, project-specific support to build the govt complex and trunk infrastructure in Amaravati, which was chosen by Naidu to be

the capital after the loss of Hyderabad to Telangana, the Polavaram irrigation project and development of Duggirajupatnam port also figure in the list.

Naidu also met home minister Amit Shah, road transport and highways mi-

nister Nitin Gadkari, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal, oil minister Hardeep Puri, power minister Manohar Lal, agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and 16th Finance Commission chairman Arvind Panagariya and had specific demands from each of them, including projects and release of funds that are due to the state.

For instance, when he met Puri, he demanded that state-run BPCL set up an oil refinery in the state, in line with the AP Reorganisation Act of 2014, and suggested that an announcement by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman would "augur well" for increasing the refinery capacity in the country.

During his meeting with the home minister, the Andhra CM flagged division of assets with Telangana as an issue, along with bifurcation of several institutions and a resolution of financial issues between APGENCO, the power generation company, and Telangana power discoms.

Raj min Kirori Lal resigns; CM yet to accept it

Shoebkhan@timesofindia.com

Jaipur: Rural development minister in Rajasthan Kirori Lal Meena (72) resigned from his cabinet post owing responsibility for the BJP's dismal performance in state in the recent Lok Sabha elections. CM Bhajan Lal Sharma has not accepted it yet. Meena said he gave his resignation to the CM on June 21. "I tendered my resignation on moral grounds as I failed to deliver victory for my party in Lok Sabha elections," he said, adding, "I will continue to work for the party."

Sources said reason for resignation was his discontent over portfolios allocated to him. Besides rural development, Meena was assigned agriculture and horticulture, disaster management & relief, and civil defence, redressal of public litigation as portfolios.

6 'sevadars' arrested in Hathras stampede case

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Hathras: Six people were arrested on Thursday in connection with the stampede during a sermon by self-proclaimed godman Surajpal Singh, also known as Bhole Baba which resulted in 121 deaths on Tuesday. The arrests occurred after the police announced a ₹1 lakh bounty on the main suspect, the 'mukhya sevadar' (chief volunteer), who was the main organiser of the event. Bhole Baba has not been named in the FIR.

The arrested individuals are Ram Ladete, 50, from Manipuri; Upendra Singh Yadav, 62, from Firozabad; and Megh Singh, 61, Manju Yadav, 30, Mukesh Kumar, 38, and Manju Devi, 40, all from Hathras. Inspector General of Police (Aligarh Range), Shalabh Mathur, said the investigation is in its preliminary stages and more arrests



Forensic team collects evidence from the Hathras stampede incident site, in Uttar Pradesh, on Thursday

will follow based on emerging facts. He confirmed that Bhole Baba has not been questioned yet.

Mathur added, "All six worked as 'sevadars' at the congregation. We have announced a ₹1 lakh bounty and issued a non-bailable warrant against Devprakash Madhukar, the main organiser in whose name the event permission was taken. The organisers did not allow the police to intervene,

as they handled arrangements themselves. These volunteers managed crowd control, donations, and other logistics." Mathur added that no one would be given a clean chit and all aspects, including police negligence and administrative lapses, would be investigated by a judicial commission formed by the UP govt. He also said that a conspiracy angle was being explored.

"The negligence of the organisers became evident as they failed to manage the crowd. Among the 121 victims, 112 were women, six were children, one was an infant, and two were men. They hailed from Hathras, Agra, Aligarh, Etah, Badaun, Mathura, Shahjahanpur, Bulandshahr, Kasganj, Faridabad, Auraiya, Pilibhit, Sambhal, Lalitpur, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Firozabad, Lakhimpur, Unnao, Ghaziabad, Gwalior, Morena, Palwal, and Deeg."

Baba has friends across parties

Continued from page 1

Popular as Bhole Baba in parts of UP, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, the godman's life took a significant turn when he joined UP Police as constable. For over 18 years, he served in various districts of UP, with a stint in the intelligence unit.

Zaffar Ali, the husband of Bahadur Nagar village pradhan Najis Khanam, said, "Bhole Baba has no children, and his wife is known as Matashree. His younger brother Ram Prasad died some years ago. The other sibling, Rakesh, tills the fields."

In 2000, when Bhole Baba took voluntary retirement as head constable with UP Police, it immediately saw him en-

counter the other end of law. That March in Agra, he and a few others were charged with something startling; the claim to possess powers that could resurrect a dead teenage girl. It caused a commotion at the cremation ground. Police later closed the case due to lack of evidence. Slowly, there was remodelling of his persona at multiple levels. He kept his hair long and swathed himself in long robes, looking more like the traditional spiritual leader.

As his worshippers grew, so did his whims. Bhole Baba cultivated a private army of fiercely loyal followers ready to defend him at great cost to themselves. The Narayani Sena, the Garud Yodha, and the Hari Vahak guarded him round the clock.

Ram Sanai, a 65-year-old who was present at the ill-fated satsang on Tuesday, said that a large part of Bhole Baba's appeal came from his admonitions against excessive alcohol consumption and advice for women facing domestic violence.

Bhole Baba has allegedly been involved in several crimes, from fraud to land grabbing and sexual assault. He has managed to evade charges, thanks to what many say is his "political influence". Bhole Baba's political power, many say, was "seeded" in 2007 when Mayawati-led BSP assumed office in UP. He had close connections with several senior politicians across party lines and was often seen sharing the stage with them during public events.

Battles of Tololing, Tiger Hill proved to be decisive, say Kargil heroes on 25th anniversary of 1999 war

New Delhi: Barely four months into his service, a young Lieutenant Balwan Singh led the Indian Army's Ghatkhat Platoon in a strategic assault on Pakistani intruders during the Kargil war and was among the brave soldiers who captured Tiger Hill on July 4, 1999.

"There was no looking back from there. It was victory after the capture of the Tiger Hill," recalls Singh, now a Colonel with the famed 18 Grenadiers, who was injured while fighting the enemy but continued to fight.

He was honoured with Maha Vir Chakra for his valour. Raised in 1976, the 18 Grenadiers played a pivotal role in the war. The battalion was conferred with 52 honours, including a Param Vir Chakra, two Ma-



Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan unveils a special cover during the silver jubilee commemorative function of the Battle of Tiger Hill and Tololing under Operation Vijay, at the Manekshaw Centre, in New Delhi

ha Vir Chakra, six Vir Chakra, several Sena medals and a Commendation Card of the Chief of the Army Staff.

On Wednesday, Col Singh and many other Kargil heroes from the battalion recalled the heroics of its brave hearts in Operation Vijay.

urt collegiums, said the law regarding appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and high courts is well settled, and the top court has repeatedly drawn a distinction between eligibility and suitability of a candidate. "...The appointment of a judge to the high court or Supreme court is an integrated, consultative and non-adversarial process, which cannot be challenged in a court of law except on the ground of want of consultation with the named constitutional functionaries

or lack of any condition of eligibility in the case of an appointment, or of a transfer being made without the recommendation of the CJI," the bench said in its recent ruling.

"Further, publication of reasons for rejection will be detrimental to the interests and standing of people whose names have been recommended by the high courts, as the (SC) collegium deliberates and decides on the basis of information which is private to the individual being considered. Such information, if made public, will have the effect of stifling the appointment process," it further said.

Petitioner Rakesh Kumar Gupta had sought directions to SC collegium to provide the "qualification" considered for appointment as an HC judge and publish monthly data related to pending and disposed of recommendations.

The petitioner, who claimed to be a victim of delay in disposal of his case pending in the Rohini district court, said the "high" rejection rate of HC judgements recommendations by the SC collegium was "extremely disturbing" and showed there was a communication gap between the top court and high courts regarding the appointment criteria.



Hemant Soren along with his wife and JMM MLA Kalpana Soren after taking charge as Jharkhand CM, in Ranchi, on Thursday

SC collegium's reasons to reject judgeship recommendations can't be made public: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The reasons for the Supreme Court collegium rejecting the recommendations for high court judgeship cannot be made public, the Delhi high court has ruled, underlining that such disclosure will be detrimental to candidates and "stifle" the appointment process.

A bench of acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, while dismissing a plea seeking a direction to the Supreme Court collegium to publish the reasons for rejecting certain names recommended by high co-

urt collegiums, said the law regarding appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and high courts is well settled, and the top court has repeatedly drawn a distinction between eligibility and suitability of a candidate. "...The appointment of a judge to the high court or Supreme court is an integrated, consultative and non-adversarial process, which cannot be challenged in a court of law except on the ground of want of consultation with the named constitutional functionaries

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HC: Repeated accidents, corruption by officials marring Gujarat's image

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: While hearing a suo motu PIL on the Rajkot fire tragedy, Gujarat high court on Thursday expressed concern over the image of the state in the aftermath of repeated accidents at public places and reports of massive unaccounted wealth amassed by an accused officer.

A massive fire at TRP Game Zone in Rajkot in May had killed 27 people.

When the Gujarat govt informed the court about action initiated against officials including Rajkot's town planning officer MD Sagathiya, the bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice

MP High Court grants ASI 10 more days to file Bhojshala survey report

Indore: The Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh high court on Thursday granted an extension of 10 days to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to submit the complete report on the survey of Bhojshala / Kamal Maula mosque complex in Dhar district.

A division bench comprising Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Justice Duppala Venkata Ramana directed ASI to submit the report by July 15. ASI had told the court that the survey had been completed in keeping with HC's March 11 directions. However, it will take time to analyse and interpret the Ground-Penetrating Radar (GPR) & Geographical Information Systems (GIS) data, it said, and asked for three weeks' time. **TNN**

Pranav Trivedi remarked on news of unaccounted wealth that Sagathiya has allegedly amassed.

"This person has been be-

nefited, reports say. Everybody knows how it is done. This state (Gujarat) has a lot of potential. They cannot put this state in this situation for the

sake of, and benefit of, a few of-ficers. It is very serious if these incidents happen one after the other," the court said.

On the issue of fire at TRP Game Zone, the HC questioned the govt why demolition order for the gaming zone was not executed for nearly a year after the Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) issued the notice in June 2023, and another fire incident that took place in Sept last year.

The HC inquired about the report of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and directed the govt to place the report before it along with action taken report (ATR) by July 25.

The judges also inquired about the structure of fire de-

partments in the state and the strength in accordance with the Gujarat Fire Safety Act and directed the govt to apprise it about its implementation and applicability in municipal corporation areas.

It also sought to know about recruitment in fire departments. When the advocate general said that there is little response to recruitment drives, the CJ said the state govt should not face such a limitation. She cited HC's experience in recruitment of district cadre judges, in which no lawyer has succeeded in examination this year. It has posted further hearing on July 25 by directing authorities to show "concrete action taken on all aspects."

Having Aadhaar no proof of citizenship: UIDAI in Cal HC

Subrata Chatteraj | TNN

Kolkata: Having an Aadhaar number is no proof of citizenship or domicile, senior counsel for the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) submitted in Calcutta high court Thursday, citing provisions of the Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update) Act.

Senior counsel Laxmi Gupta submitted that Aadhaar card is issued to residents staying in the country for 182 days at a stretch for the purpose of targeted govt subsidies. Gupta was making the submission to contest the prayer by the Joint Forum against NRC to strike down regulation 28A of the Aadhaar Act, 2023, that specifically deals with foreign nationals.

"UIDAI can deactivate the Aadhaar card of a foreign national overstay in the country after the expiry of his visa," the senior counsel submitted.

Joint Forum against NRC had moved a PIL at the division bench of Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharyya pointing to the confusion over deactivation of Aadhaar cards in Bengal. "There is confusion and contradiction in



UIDAI can deactivate Aadhaar card of a foreign national overstay after the expiry of his visa, the counsel said

statements of Union ministers. A letter from the CMO has been sent to the PMO on this issue and a member of the Rajya Sabha from Bengal has also taken up the matter with Centre. The UIDAI initially said it was a technical error." Forum counsel Jhuma Sen had submitted.

The UIDAI counsel argued that the petition was not maintainable since it pleaded for persons who were not citizens of India. The UIDAI, upon getting inputs from passport authorities or authorities governing the Foreigners Act, may cause an inquiry into the documents of individuals as provided under regulation 29, Gupta submitted.

Sen on Thursday prayed before the court to strike down regulation 28A.



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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AGARTALA
AGARTALA - 799046 (TRIPURA)

No.F.NITA.4/(109-Accounts)/IITA/Temporary Faculty/2022-23/602 Date: 28.06.2024

ADVERTISEMENT FOR APPOINTMENT OF CONTRACTUAL FACULTY ON TEMPORARY BASIS

Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT) Agartala is an Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model. IIIT Agartala invites applications from eligible candidates for appointment as Contractual Faculty purely on Temporary basis on Consolidated remuneration. The details are available on the website of IIIT Agartala <https://www.iiitagartala.ac.in/>.

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Engagement of Management Trainees in NFL-2024

NFL had invited applications from energetic, young & qualified Indian Nationals for recruitment of Management Trainees in following departments. vide advertisement no. 03(NFL)/2024 dated 12/06/2024:

CHEMICAL, MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL, INSTRUMENTATION, CHEMICAL LAB, CIVIL, FIRE & SAFETY, IT, MATERIALS, HUMAN RESOURCE.

The last date of submission of Online Application has been extended upto 17/07/2024. Detailed advertisement & online application portal is available on NFL website: www.nationalfertilizers.com → Careers → Recruitment in NFL → Engagement of Management Trainees in NFL-2024. Any corrigendum/addendum/errata/update for this recruitment shall be published only on the NFL's website. **GM (HR-Pers.)**

NFL - A NAVRATNA COMPANY

NHIT
National Highway Infra Trust

Native

Invites applications for the position of VICE PRESIDENT (Operations & Maintenance)

Native is exclusively mandated to fill a leadership role in Project SPV under NHIT. We are looking for a **seasoned O&M professional** (BE/B.Tech. with 20+ years of experience) in the road sector, currently managing multiple road assets, with a strong background in risk and governance, and demonstrated leadership, team-building, and stakeholder management skills (**Job Code-001**).

The **VP-Operations & Maintenance** will be responsible for coordinating and driving progress, quality, and safety in all works related to the EPC contractor, Intelligent Transport System (ITS), (ATMS, TMS) / System integrator, and other agencies engaged by the SPV. Regular responsibilities include appraising the company management on the following:

(1). Toll Operations (2). Operations & Maintenance (3). Contracts Management (4). Environment, Health & Safety (EHS) (5). Operations Technology (6). Procurement (7). P&L

This position will be based at the Corporate Office, Delhi and will report to the Head SPV.

LAST DATE FOR APPLICATION IS 18 JULY 2024

Write to us at Email:
mohit.kumar@nativeworld.com

Financial Services Institutions Bureau
An Autonomous Body of Government of India
invites applications for the position of

DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR IN IIFCL

For details of Age, Educational Qualifications, Experience/ Service Requirements, Criteria of Deputation for Government Officers and officers from Public Sector Banks and other eligibility terms and conditions, please see the advertisement on <https://fsib.org.in/> under the "Vacancies & Recommendations" tab.

How to apply: Interested candidates can apply online through the link available on <https://fsib.org.in/> under the "Vacancies & Recommendations" tab or directly at <https://www.research.net/r/dmddiifcl2024>

Last date of application: 5:00 pm on 31-July-2024

Note: Further details including corrigendum, if any, shall be published only on the Bureau's website.

INDRADHANUSH GAS GRID LIMITED
(A Joint Venture Company of IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL & NRL)

IGGL
Guwahati, Assam - 781006, Phone No.: +913612801400

Advertisement No. IGGL/R01/2024

Indradhanush Gas Grid Limited (IGGL) is a JV Company promoted by five leading Oil and Gas PSUs of the country, namely, IOCL, ONGC, GAIL, OIL and NREL for setting up a Natural Gas Pipeline Grid connecting the eight North Eastern States, viz. Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. The company invites online application from experienced, committed professionals for the following positions:

Position	Grade	No. of Post	Min Exp (in Yrs.)	Upper Age limit (in Yrs.)
Manager (F&A)	E-3	01	06	40
Manager (Marketing)	E-3	01	06	40
Manager (HSE)	E-3	01	06	40
Manager (O&M)	E-3	04	06	40
Manager (Project)	E-3	02	06	40
Manager (BIS)	E-3	01	06	40
Sr. Engineer (O&M)	E-2	04	04	35
Sr. Engineer (Project)	E-2	02	04	35
Engineer (Telecom)	E-1	01	02	32
Officer (Legal)	E-1	01	02	32
Officer (F&A)	E-1	01	02	32
Officer (HR)	E-1	01	02	32
Officer (C&P)	E-1	01	02	32
Assistant Company Secretary	E-1	01	02	32

For online application, eligibility criteria, application fee and other details, please refer the detail advertisement in the Career Section of IGGL website: <https://iggl.co.in/careers/>

- Age and post qualification experience will be calculated as on 01-06-2024.
- Commencement of online registration: 05-07-2024 at 18:00 hrs.
- Last Date for online registration: 14-07-2024 at 23:59 hrs.

Sd/- Chief Human Resource Officer

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client ('Client') is desirous of entering into a sale transaction in connection with the immovable properties more fully described in the 'Schedule' hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the 'Schedule Properties' with its respective owners as set out below in the table ('Owners'). The Owners have represented to our Client that they are the absolute owners of their respective portions of the Schedule Properties, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same. Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties is/are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties or their objections, if any, to the aforementioned sale transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, so as to reach us at the address given below within a period of 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners have any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties. Further any claims or alleged interests, if any, which are not received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days shall be deemed to have been consciously waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall thereafter not be binding on our Client and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said sale transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE - (Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties totalling admeasuring 23 Acres 19.08 Guntas, all situated at Huralagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District, described in the table below:

Sl No	Survey No	Extent Acres/Guntas	Boundaries	Owner/s	Sl No	Survey No	Extent Acres/Guntas	Boundaries	Owner/s
1	71/2	00 00	East by : Sy. No. 71/3; West by : Sy. Nos. 72/1, 2, 10, 5, 6, 8 & 7; North by : Sy. No. 71; and South by : Sy. No. 104.	(i) Mrs. Gayathri, wife of Late Nandeshwaraiah; (ii) Mr. Sharath Chandra, son of Late Nandeshwaraiah; and (iii) Ms. Shilpa, daughter of Late Nandeshwaraiah; Parties (i) to (iii) are holders of portion of Survey No. 71/2, measuring 16 Guntas] (iv) Mr. Veerabadrappa, son of Late Munijappa; (v) Mr. Prabhu, son of Mr. Veerabadrappa; (vi) Mr. Veeranna, son of Mr. Veerabadrappa; (vii) Mrs. Sookagayamma, wife of Mr. Nagaraj; (viii) Mrs. Dhakshayini, wife of Mr. Paraneswara; Parties (iv) to (viii) are holders of portion of Survey No. 71/2, measuring 02.10 Guntas] (ix) Mrs. Parvathamma, wife of Mr. Shivuradappa (02.11 Guntas); (x) Mrs. Putta Nagamma, wife of Mr. Nagarajappa (02.11 Guntas); and (xi) Mr. Shivakumar, son of Late Basappa (16 Guntas).	13	74/2	00 07	East by : Sy. No. 73; West by : Sy. No. 75/2; North by : Sy. No. 74/5; and South by : Sy. No. 74/3.	Mr. H. L. Nagaraj, son of Late Lokappa.
					14	74/3	00 23.04	East by : Sy. No. 73; West by : Sy. No. 75/2; North by : Sy. No. 74/2; and South by : Sy. No. 103.	Mr. K. Nagaraj, son of Mr. A. Krishnappa.
					15	74/4	00 9.08	East by : Sy. No. 73; West by : Sy. No. 75/2; North by : Sy. No. 74/1; and South by : Sy. No. 74/5.	(i) Mr. G. R. Mohan Babu, son of Mr. G. A. Ramachandrappa; and (ii) Mr. H. Ramachandra Reddy, son of Mr. H. Ramachandra Reddy.
					16	74/5	00 07	East by : Sy. No. 73; West by : Sy. No. 75/2; North by : Sy. No. 74/4; and South by : Sy. No. 74/2.	(i) Mr. G. R. Mohan Babu, son of Mr. G. A. Ramachandrappa; and (ii) Mr. H. Ramachandra Reddy, son of Mr. H. Ramachandra Reddy.
					17	75/1	02 16	East by : Sy. No. 72; West by : Sy. No. 76/1; North by : Sy. No. 83; and South by : Sy. Nos. 75/2, 74/1 & 73.	(i) Mr. Nanjamma, daughter of Late Veerabadrappa (01 Acre 08 Guntas); (ii) Mr. H. G. Rudrappa, son of Mr. H. N. Gurulingappa (24 Guntas); and (iii) Mr. H. G. Ramesh, son of Mr. H. N. Gurulingappa (24 Guntas).
2	72/1	00 04	East by : Sy. No. 71/2; West by : Sy. No. 73; North by : Sy. No. 72/9; and South by : Sy. No. 72/2.	Mr. Narayanappa, son of Late Appoajappa.	18	75/2	01 19	East by : Sy. Nos. 74/1, 4, 5, 2 & 3; West by : Sy. Nos. 101/2 & 76/2; North by : Sy. No. 75/1; and South by : Sy. No. 103.	(i) Mr. H. G. Nagarajappa; and (ii) Mr. H. G. Nanjundappa, both sons of Mr. Gurulingappa.
3	72/2	00 12	East by : Sy. No. 71/2; West by : Sy. No. 73; North by : Sy. No. 72/1; and South by : Sy. No. 72/10.	Mr. Narayanappa, son of Late Appoajappa.	19	76/1	02 00	East by : Sy. No. 75; West by : Sy. No. 77/4; North by : Sy. Nos. 83 & 80; and South by : Sy. No. 76/2.	Mrs. Nanjamma, wife of Late H. B. Shankarashankarai.
4	72/3	00 24	East by : Sy. No. 71; West by : Sy. No. 75/1; North by : Sy. No. 72/4; and South by : Sy. No. 72/9.	Mr. Jainunijappa, son of Mr. Narayanappa.	20	76/2	02 06	East by : Sy. No. 75/2; West by : Sy. No. 77/1; North by : Sy. No. 76/1; and South by : Sy. Nos. 101/1 & 101/2.	Mrs. Nanjamma, daughter of Late H. G. Veerabadrappa.
5	72/5	00 08	East by : Sy. No. 71/2; West by : Sy. No. 73; North by : Sy. No. 72/10; and South by : Sy. No. 72/6.	Mr. Manjunath S, son of Mr. Seetharamappa.	21	77/3	00 16.08	East by : Sy. No. 77/4; West by : Sy. No. 77/8; North by : Sy. No. 80; and South by : Sy. No. 77/6.	Mrs. Seethamma, wife of Late Krishnappa.
6	72/6	00 04	East by : Sy. No. 71/2; West by : Sy. No. 73; North by : Sy. No. 72/5; and South by : Sy. No. 72/8.	Mr. Narayanappa, son of Late Appoajappa.	22	77/4	00 15	East by : Sy. No. 77/1; West by : Sy. No. 77/3; North by : Sy. No. 80/4; and South by : Sy. No. 77/7.	Mrs. Seethamma, wife of Late Krishnappa.
7	72/7	01 00	East by : Sy. No. 71/2; West by : Sy. No. 73; North by : Sy. No. 72/8; and South by : Sy. No. 104.	Mr. K. Nagaraj, son of Mr. A. Krishnappa.	23	100/2	01 01	East by : Sy. No. 101; West by : Sy. No. 100/1; North by : Sy. No. 77; and South by : Sy. No. 119.	(i) Mr. G. R. Mohan Babu, son of Mr. G. A. Ramachandrappa; and (ii) Mr. Manjunath Reddy, son of Mr. H. Ramachandra Reddy.
8	72/8	00 04	East by : Sy. No. 71/2; West by : Sy. No. 73; North by : Sy. No. 72/5; and South by : Sy. No. 72/7.	Mr. Narayanappa, son of Late Appoajappa.	24	101/1	01 00	East by : Sy. No. 101/2; West by : Sy. No. 100/2; North by : Sy. No. 76/2; and South by : Sy. No. 102.	Mr. H. C. Rudraswamy, son of Late Channamalappa.
9	72/9	00 16	East by : Sy. No. 71; West by : Sy. No. 73; North by : Sy. No. 72/3; and South by : Sy. No. 72/1.	Mr. Munishyamappa, son of Late Appoajappa.	25	119	04 20	East by : Sy. Nos. 102 & 114; West by : Sy. Nos. 109, 78 & 113; North by : Sy. Nos. 109 & 100; and South by : Road.	(i) Mrs. Narayamma, wife of Late M. Narayanappa; (ii) Ms. Namrata T. N., daughter of Late M. Narayanappa; (iii) Mr. Nitin Prasad, son of Late M. Narayanappa; (iv) Ms. Yashawini, daughter of Late M. Narayanappa.
10	72/10	00 08	East by : Sy. No. 71/2; West by : Sy. No. 73; North by : Sy. No. 72/5; and South by : Sy. No. 72/5.	Mr. K. Nagaraj, son of Mr. A. Krishnappa.					
11	73	02 16	East by : Sy. Nos. 72/9, 1, 2 & 3; West by : Sy. Nos. 74/1, 4, 5, 2 & 3; North by : Sy. No. 75/1; and South by : Sy. No. 104.	Legal heirs of Late Munishami.					
12	74/1	00 23.04	East by : Sy. No. 73; West by : Sy. No. 75/2; North by : Sy. No. 75/1; and South by : Sy. No. 74/4.	(i) Mr. G. R. Mohan Babu, son of Mr. G. A. Ramachandrappa; and (ii) Mr. Manjunath Reddy, son of Mr. H. Ramachandra Reddy.					

Ms. Brijita Prakash,
Partner, J. Sagor Associates
Level 3, Prestige Obelisk, 3, Kasturba Road,
Bengaluru - 560 001.
Ph. 080 43503600/080-43503676 Email : brijita.prakash@jsalaw.com
Date: 05.07.2024, Place: Bangalore

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material / Work Description	Issue Date	Due Date
242513 001775	Wheel Mounted front end "Z" bar type Loader (pay load of 3.0 tons) TNPL will follow Two Bid system and E-Tender cum Auction.	-	22.07.2024
242513 001964	Project Consultancy Services for the proposed Revamping of Steam and Power System (RSP/SP2) at TNPL Unit-I.	08.07.2024	29.07.2024
242513 001937	Procurement of Hydrogen Peroxide 50% for Unit-I and Unit-II.	-	18.07.2024
242513 001959	Oxygen Molecular Sieves	-	22.07.2024

E-mail: 242513001775 - purchase.auto@tnpl.co.in
242513001964 - pmd4@tnpl.co.in
242513001937 - purchase.rawmatt@tnpl.co.in
242513001959 - purchase.geni@tnpl.co.in

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tntenders.gov.in / nicgepp/app / dipr2180/TENDER/2024

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CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
Corrigendum

No. PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/Corrigendum/24/14. Dated: 02.07.2024.

The following Corrigendum of E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.tntenders.gov.in for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. Sl. No. : 011. Tender Notice no. : SL No. 146 of PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/24/30 Dated: 15/05/2024. Tender No.: L1242692A. Tender Opening Date: Tender Opening Date is to be read as "05/08/2024" instead of existing entry.

PR/S/501 PCMM/CLW/HWH
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CAD-453
ODISHA SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE (ORSAC)
Dept of Science & Technology, Govt. of Odisha
Plot No.45/48, Jayadev Vihar, Near Gopabandhu Academy of Administration
Unit-16, Bhubaneswar-751 023
TENDER NOTICE No. 07/2024

Odisha Space Applications Centre (ORSAC) invites sealed Tender to undertake Drone Survey for River Sand replenishment study and resource estimation through ORSAC Empanelled UAV/Drone Survey Agencies/ other Survey Agencies for execution of work.

For details, please visit Website <https://odisha.gov.in/> and ORSAC website <https://orsac.odisha.gov.in/> or ORSAC office.

Scientist 'E'
OIPR-28007/11/0001/24-25

Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board
Headquarter, 4-Institutional Area, Jhatana Doongari, Jaipur-302004
E-Mail: member-secretary@rspcb.nic.in
Phone: 0141-2711263, 2716802, RSPCB Helpline No. - 0141-2716877

Inviting e-tender for procurement of "Laboratory Consumables (Chemicals, Glass wares & Plastic Wares)"

Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board invites e-tender for procurement of "Laboratory Consumables (Chemicals, Glass wares & Plastic Wares)"
Further Details are available at RSPCB website and SPP Portal: <https://environment.rajasthan.gov.in/content/environment/en/rajasthan-state-pollution-control-board/information.html> <https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/sppp/>
NIB Code: PCB2425A0018
UBN: PCB2425GLRC00018
Raj.Samwadi/G24/1708

Member Secretary

TT- **Government of Odisha**
Sports & Youth Services Department
SYS-BSPSC-MISCS-0004-2021/63 Date: 04/07/2024

Request for Proposal

Sports & Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha invites bids from reputed agencies to the RFP for "Procurement of Swimming Pool Chemicals for DSYS, Government of Odisha". The details of the document are available at the below mentioned website.

Website : <https://tendersodisha.gov.in> & <https://sports.odisha.gov.in>

Interested firms/ parties/agencies are advised to study the RFP document carefully before submitting their bid.

Important Dates and Information :

Last date and time for sending Pre-bid queries - Date: 11/07/2024; Time: 4:00 PM
Pre-bid Meeting - 12/07/2024; Time: 11:30 AM
Last date and time of submission of proposal - 25/07/2024; Time: 3:00 PM
Opening of the Technical Bid - Date: 25/07/2024; Time: 4:00 PM

Sd/-
Commissioner-cum-Secretary
OIPR-29001/11/0006/24-25

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No. RWF/N/24-25/04
Dated: 02/07/2024

E-TENDERS: On behalf of the President of India, the Dy. CHIEF ENGINEER invites electronic tender for the following works online through the website <http://www.reps.gov.in> (Works).

Tender No. : W.496/RWF/YNK/1032
Description : Zonal Colony (2024-25) - Additions, alterations and improvements to the existing structures, special repair works, supply and transportation of building materials and horticulture related works etc in Administrative Building along with colonies of RWF for a period of one year. Estimated Value: ₹. 1,29,69,69.52. Closing Date & Time: 30/07/2024 @ 11.00 hrs.

DY. CHIEF ENGINEER

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. JHS-N-W-39-24 Date: 02.07.2024

E-TENDERING NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Jhansi, DRM's office, Jhansi, for and on behalf of President of India invite open Tender through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following works:

E-Tender No. : JHS-N-W-39-24 | Description of Work : Strengthening of data logger network at stations and IBHs/LCs gates over Jhansi division.

Approx Cost : Rs. 20785488.12, Earnest Money : Rs. 253900/-, Cost of Tender Form : Nil, Opening of Tender : 25.07.2024 Time 15.00, Completion period from issue of letter of acceptance : 09 Months.

* Tender on line can be submitted upto 15.00 hrs on 25.07.2024 * For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways Website www.reps.gov.in, (NORTH CENTRAL RLY/JHANSI DIVISION-S AND T) 1166/24(AN)

North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPNCR

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2 : Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu, Ph.: 04332 - 261600

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Scope of Work	Due date
242513 001957	Supply of Green Bamboo from open market sources of Tamil Nadu to TNPL Unit - I, Kagithapuram.	19.07.2024
242513 001958	Supply of Debarked Acacia Pulpwood from open market sources of Kerala to TNPL Unit - I, Kagithapuram.	19.07.2024
242523 001240	Supply of Debarked Acacia Pulpwood from open market sources of Kerala to TNPL Unit - II, Mondipatti.	20.07.2024

Email: purchase.wood@tnpl.co.in

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. Detailed requirements, Quantity, Period, Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from website: www.tnpl.com

DIPR/2205/Tender/2024 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

Prayagraj Nagar Nigam
1, Sarojini Naidu Marg, Prayagraj-211001 Uttar Pradesh

E-TENDER NOTICE

Nit No/ 227 ENV/2024 Date: 04.07.2024

This is to inform to all prospective bidders having the required qualification mentioned in the RFP document that Municipal Corporation Prayagraj invites request for proposal for Door To Door Waste Collection and transportation of Municipal Solid Waste Services and other Services in 22 Wards of the City of Prayagraj.

1	Tender Document Fee	Non-refunding fee of INR 10,000 (through RTGS only)
2	EMD/Bid Security	Refundable amount of INR 4,00,000/- (Rupees Four Lakh Only) (through RTGS/NEFT/FDR valid till 180 days from the date of submission of bid).
3	Method of selection	QCBS (30 Technical : 70 Financial)
4	Account details for EMD/ Bid Security & Tender Fee	For Bid Processing Fee and EMD Name of Bank: UCO BANK Account No-0694011006498 IFSC code- UCBA0000694 Branch Address- Nagar Nigam Office Campus, Prayagraj
5	Date/Time of Publication of Tender document on e-Procurement portal	05.07.2024, 14:00 hrs onwards
6	Pre-bid conference	15.07.2024
7	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender online.	27.07.2024 up to 15:00 hrs
8	Date & Time of Bid Opening (Technical Bid)	27.07.2024, 16:00 hrs onwards
9	Time-period of contract	3 years + 2 years extendable as per mutual consent of both parties
10	Contact Details for the queries (if any)	Environment Engineer, Prayagraj Municipal Corporation email ID: env.prayagraj@gmail.com Mobile No. +91-8303701016

For more details, please visit the website at <http://www.etender.up.nic.in>.

Environment Engineer
Prayagraj Nagar Nigam

Government of Maharashtra, Water Resources Department, Instrumentation Research Division, Nashik, Notice for Budgetary offer No. 02 of 2024-25

Name of Work - Supply, erection, testing & commissioning of the Dam Safety Instruments for the proposed Cement Concrete & Earthen Dams in Maharashtra.

Instrumentation Research Division, Nashik, Water Resources Department, Government of Maharashtra invites online budgetary offers from the OEMs/ Suppliers/ Distributors/ Agencies/ Dealers for supply, erection, testing & commissioning of the Dam Safety Instruments for the proposed Cement Concrete & Earthen Dams in Maharashtra.

For the detailed B. O. Notice, interested agencies are requested to visit <http://mahahp.gov.in>

Last date for submission of the Budgetary offers is Dt. 12/07/2024.

Sd/-
Research Officer,
Instrumentation Research Division,
State D. S. O., Nashik

DGIPR/2024-2025/613

CAD-448 **ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED**
BHUBANESWAR, ODISHA PIN: 751012, Tel No.(0674) 2562020, e-Mail: theoccl@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN-21AAOC2571K22M
1st CORRIGENDUM

"e- Procurement Notice No- 08/OCC/2024-25 (on-line)

1. The availability of tender on-line start date is hereby extended to 20.07.2024 instead of 06.07.2024.
2. The date of opening of the tender (on-line) is hereby postponed to 05.08.2024 instead of 22.07.2024.
All other terms and conditions remain unaltered.

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR
OIPR-341201/11/0018/24-25

Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)
(Set up under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India)
B-500, Tower - B, 5th Floor, World Trade Center, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi - 110029
Telephone: 011-49431800 | Website: janaushadhi.gov.in

e-TENDER FOR DRUG DISPOSAL OF EXPIRED MEDICINES AND MEDICAL DEVICES

e-Tender for the collection, Transport, Treatment and Disposal of Expired Drugs/Medicines, Surgicals & Consumables and Medical Devices for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) are invited by PMBI. Last date and time for submission of online bids against e-Tender no. PMBI/TENDER/DRUG DISPOSAL/002/2024 dated 04/07/2024 for drug disposal of expired Medicines and Medical Devices is 25/07/2024 up to 17:00 Hours.

For detailed eligibility criteria, and terms & conditions of the tender, please visit the website <https://eprocure.gov.in> & <https://janaushadhi.gov.in>.

CEO, PMBI

CAD-457 **ଓଡ଼ିଶା ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ଉନ୍ନୟନ ଓ ବିପଣନ ସମିତି**
ପଞ୍ଚାୟତରାଜ ଓ ପାନୀୟ ଜଳ ବିଭାଗ, ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର
Odisha Rural Development & Marketing Society
creating competence and values in rural Odisha
Panchayat Raj & Drinking Water Department, Government of Odisha

No : 2848 / File No: ORMAS-SD-MISC-0007-2023 Date: 03.07.2024

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
"Hiring of services of Technical Support Agency (TSA) for providing techno-managerial supports in project management of Skill Development Program of ORMAS, Odisha"

Odisha Rural Development & Marketing Society (ORMAS) under the administrative control of Panchayati Raj & DW Department, Govt. of Odisha invites proposal from eligible bidders to carry out "Hiring of services of Technical Support Agency (TSA) for providing techno-managerial supports in project management of Skill Development Program of ORMAS, Odisha". Bidders fulfilling the prescribed eligibility criteria of the RFP can access and download the complete RFP Document and other details from www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The bid calendar under the end to end process are:

Sl. No.	List of Key Events	Critical Dates
1	Date of publish of RFP	05/07/2024
2	Last Date & time for Submission of Bid	26/07/2024 (03:00 P.M.)
3	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	26/07/2024 (04:00 P.M.)
4	Date of Technical Presentation	Tentatively in the 1st week of Aug, 2024, the exact date will be intimated later on
5	Date of Opening of Financial Bid	Tentatively in the 3rd week of Aug, 2024, the exact date will be intimated later on

The bidder must submit through e-tender process latest by 26th July 2024 by 03:00 pm clearly mentioning "REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL - Hiring of services of Technical Support Agency (TSA) for providing techno-managerial supports in project management of Skill Development Program of ORMAS, Odisha". The proposals received after the last date and time will be rejected without assigning any reason. The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any proposal without assigning any reason thereof. Similarly the authority also reserves its right to withdraw / cancel this request for proposal at any stage without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Director-cum-Chief Executive Officer, ORMAS
OIPR-1904/11/0001/24-25

O-89 **ଓଡ଼ିଶା ରାଜ୍ୟ ସରକାର, ବର୍ହମ୍ପୁର**
At: - Ambapus Po:- Engineering School Near Income Tax office, Berhampur-760011

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(E-Mail: serwbrp2004@yahoo.com, Tel/Fax:- 0680-2404287)

NOTICE
FOR PM-JANMAN UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY) NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH "e-Procurement Bid identification No. Online Tender/03-2024-25/PMGSY/BPR

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads / Bridges under PRADHAN MANTRI- JANJATI ADIVASI NYAYA MAHA ABHIYAN (PM-JANMAN Batch-II/2023-24) under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the districts of Ganjam, Gajapati & Kandhamal for 11 (Eleven) number of packages with estimated cost totalling to Rs 30.53 Cr (Approximate) including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD/CPWD/MES/Railways. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement. Dtd. 09.07.2024

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security declaration and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur // Superintendent Engineer of the Concerned divisions on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 24.07.2024 upto 5.30 P.M
For further details and corrigendum (if any) please log on to www.pmgstenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer
R.W.Circle, Berhampur
OIPR-2507/11/10005/24-25

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: 080-29557023 E-mail: cekhdsrpr@gmail.com & cekhdsrpr-hfws@karnataka.gov.in)
No: HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-6/TND/2024-25/727 Date: 04.07.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

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

Sl. No.	Description of work	Approx. cost of the Project (including GST Rs.in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs.in Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Upgradation of existing classrooms & facilities at UVCE college, K R Circle, Bengaluru.	572.00	8.58	11 Months
2	Upgradation of existing classrooms & facilities at UVCE college, Jnanabharathi Campus, Bengaluru.	156.00	2.34	06 Months
3	Upgradation of existing classrooms & facilities at UVCE college, Jayanagar, Bengaluru (Girls Hostel).	142.00	2.13	06 Months

Calendar of Events: For Sl.No. (1): 1. Last date for receipt of tenders: 05.08.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. 2. Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): 06.08.2024 at 16.30 hrs.

Calendar of Events: For Sl.No. (2&3): 1. Last date for receipt of tenders: 19.07.2024 up to 16.00 hrs. 2. Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): 20.07.2024 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 only on Karnataka Public Procurement portal.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru.

E-92 **Directorate of Public Health, Odisha State TB Cell (NTEP)**
Ground Floor, Heads of Department Building, Unit IV, Bhubaneswar-751001
Email: stoor@ntpc.org, Phone/Fax: 0674-2390395

Advt. No. 460/TB Cell Date: 03.07.2024

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF PATIENT PROVIDER SUPPORT AGENCY (PPSA) UNDER NATIONAL TB ELIMINATION PROGRAMME (NTEP), ODISHA

Sealed Proposals are invited from the eligible bidders for selection of PPSA in respect of the following bid reference:

Bid Reference No	Bid Document Cost (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)
DPH (O)/PPSA 2.0/2024/460/TB	1,500/-	1,00,000/- for each District

The eligible bidders may participate by submitting their proposals in the specified RFP form along with the bid document cost and EMD(s) required for the proposed district(s). The RFP document containing the information relating to the bidding process including EMD, Eligibility Criteria, Scope of work, General terms & conditions of Contracts and Formats for Submission of Proposal may be downloaded from the official website: <https://www.nhmodisha.gov.in/> <https://www.dphodisha.nic.in>.

The pre-bid meeting & bid submission / opening schedules are as mentioned below :

Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting	Last date & time of Submission of Bid	Date & time of Opening of Technical Bid
Dt.10.07.2024, 11:30 AM	Dt.03.08.2024, 2.00 PM	Dt.03.08.2024, 4.00 PM

The details regarding the venue of pre-bid meeting and the address for bid submission/ opening are mentioned in the RFP document. Any amendments as decided in above RFP pre-bid meeting shall only be notified in the aforesaid website. The sealed envelope should be clearly labelled with "Proposal for Patient Provider Support Agency (PPSA) under NTEP, District Name (s) " and Bid/RFP Ref. No. " and should reach the office of the undersigned by registered post / speed post / courier, on or before the stipulated date & time of bid submission as mentioned above.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Director Public Health, Odisha
OIPR-10036/11/0001/24-25

KARNATAKA STATE INDUSTRIAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (KSIIDC)
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
"Khanija Bhavan", 4th Floor, East Wing, No.49, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-1. Ph: 080-22258131-33, E-mail: murthy.ksiidc@gmail.com / info@ksiidc.com Website: <http://ksiidc.karnataka.gov.in>

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION - FOR SELECTION OF AN AGENCY TO PROVIDE AMBULANCE AND OPERATIONAL VEHICLES ON RENTAL BASIS AT VIJAYAPURA AIRPORT, VIJAYAPURA.
Through GoK e-Procurement Platform (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

Karnataka State Industrial & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (KSIIDC), Government of Karnataka is proposed to operate Vijayapura Airport. KSIIDC invites tender (two cover system) for an agency to Provide Ambulance and Operational Vehicles on Rental basis at Vijayapura Airport, Vijayapura. The tender document may be accessed from e-Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

To provide Ambulance Vehicles on rental basis at Vijayapura Airport EMD Amount: Rs.75,000/- (Rupees Seventy Five thousand only).

To provide Operational Vehicles on rental basis at Vijayapura Airport EMD Amount: Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One lakh only).

Important Dates: Tender document can be downloaded from 05.07.2024 onwards. Pre-Bid Meeting: 15.07.2024, 11.00 hrs. Last Date for submission of tender documents: 25.07.2024 up to 17.30 hrs. Further details may be obtained from the above during office hours or website (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>) Any further changes pertaining to this tender will be uploaded in e-Procurement platform only.

Sd/- General Manager (I/c)
KSIIDC & Tender Inviting Authority

X-09 **DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMICS & STATISTICS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR**
CORRIGENDUM -2 No.3678, dtd. 04.07.2024

The detailed Corrigendum-2 of Request for Proposal (RFP) issued vide file No.DES-WB-OSCRGPP-0005-2023/dt.23.05.2024 on Hiring of Project Management Consultancy for Strengthening of State Statistical System in Odisha under Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Policy Programme are available in the official website of DE&S, <http://www.desorissa.nic.in/> and Planning and Convergence Department, <https://pc.odisha.gov.in/>. Besides, the last date of submission of the proposals has been extended up to 12.07.2024 by 5.00 PM.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR
OIPR-21002/11/0006/24-25

B-65 **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT**
E-mail: ceworldbankprojects@gmail.com

Bid Identification No. CE-(Bridges) - 01 / 2024-25

1. The Chief Engineer (Bridges), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road & Bridge work as detailed below:

2. Nature of work : Bridge work
3. No. of work : 01 no.
4. Tender cost : Rs.10,000.00 (on-line)
5. Class of Contractor : A/ Special Class Contractor
6. Available of bid document in the website : From 10.00 AM of 10.07.2024 to 5.00 PM of 25.07.2024
7. Date of opening of Bid : Dt.26.07.2024 at 11.30 AM
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum /corrigendum/ cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Bridges, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34174/11/0009/24-25

Bareilly Smart City Limited (BSCL)
Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh, India)

Ref No: BSCL/2024-25/4393 Date: 04.07.2024

Bareilly Smart City Limited, Bareilly invites e-tender for the following projects:-

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Tender Fee with GST@18% (Rs.)	Work completion Period	Bid Start Date
01.	"Selection of Agency for Operation of 16 Outdoor Variable Messaging Display for 3 years on Rental basis under Bareilly Smart City Limited"	2,00,000.00	11,800	3 Years	05.07.2024 11:00 AM
02.	"Request for proposal for selection of Agency for Operation and Maintenance of Skywalk at Patel Chowk and installation of Kiosks in Bareilly for 15 years under Bareilly Smart City Limited on yearly license basis".	3,00,000.00	11,800	15 Years	05.07.2024 11:00 AM
03.	RFP For Licensing of Commercial Complex Spaces (New Building) at Old Tanga Stand, Bareilly for a period of 30 Years on Yearly License Basis.	8,00,000.00	11,800	30 Years	05.07.2024 11:00 AM
04.	" For Selection of Private Sector Partner (PSP) for Operation, Maintenance and Comprehensive Management of Bareilly Urban Haat Cum Handicraft Center Complex located near Gandhi Udhyan At Bareilly for a period of 30 years".	1,28,00,000.00	29,500	30 Years	05.07.2024 11:00 AM

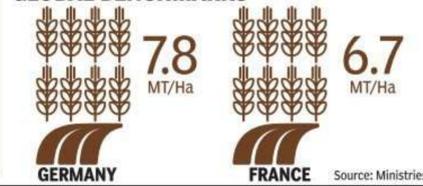
1. Detailed NIT and Bid Document shall be available on: <https://etender.up.nic.in> and <http://www.bareillysmartcity.in>

2. Tender call notice in two Bid systems (Part-I: General & Technical Bid and Part-II: Financial Bid/ Price Bid / BOQ) from intending bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned in this Notice and other qualifying requirements mentioned in this RFP.

3. Amendment to NIT if any would be published on website only.

4. In case of any queries on this RFP, intending bidders may contact THE SENIOR GENERAL MANAGER, BAREILLY SMART CITY LIMITED, Bareilly (Tel. No.:- 0581-25510074, 7055519602) or send an email to: ceo.bscl01@gmail.com

Chief Executive Officer, Bareilly Smart City Limited, Bareilly.



'Good guys need to win, tell us about mischief makers in mkt'

Sebi Chief Puri Buch Asks D-St Players To Report Frauds

TNN & Agencies

Mumbai: Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch on Thursday nudged market players to report mischief makers to enable the regulator to act against them, as the watchdog put in place an institutional mechanism for stock brokers in a bid to check frauds and market abuse.

Addressing portfolio managers, Buch said the markets regulator wants to stamp out any irregularity at the earliest to prevent any systemic concerns.

"I urge the association to bring forth to the regulator any instances of mischief in the market that are going on, so that the regulator can take early action and not wait until it explodes in the system and then we have to come back with a heavy hand," she said.

Recalling her own experience as an industry participant, Buch said it is "frustrating" for the law-abiding participant when he or she discovers an industry peer



Addressing portfolio managers, Buch said the markets regulator wants to stamp out any irregularity at the earliest to prevent any systemic concerns

HDFC Bank's loan book, current & savings a/cs deposits shrink in Q1

Mumbai: HDFC Bank's loan book shrunk nearly 1% in April-June 2024 as compared to the previous quarter. While overall deposits remained flat, current & savings accounts (Casa) deposits declined 5% in the June quarter from Jan-March 2024. HDFC Bank attributed the decline in Casa deposits to seasonal factors. Casa deposits entail relatively lower interest rates, and higher amount of low-cost deposits mean better margins for banks. Industry numbers for the comparable period are not available, but RBI's credit & deposit data up to June 14 indicates that industry deposits increased by 2.1%. TNN

gaining using bad practices.

"Good guys need to win. You guys need to tell us about what mischief is going on so that we can stop it early on. It's in your own self-interest to come and tell the regulator what some of the bad practices are in the market." The Sebi chief

said that mischief results in erosion of trust and a strong regulatory response.

The circular on "measures to instil confidence in the market" issued Thursday evening has provided for implementation of the new rules for brokers in three

phases starting Jan. Given that there are existing governance and client behaviour surveillance governance structures, qualified stock brokers have to comply with the requirements from next month itself. In addition to obligations for stock brokers and their employees, the circular mandates the implementation of systems for the surveillance of trading activities and internal controls, introduction of a whistleblower policy and escalation and reporting mechanisms.

The standards will be formulated by the broker's Industry Standards Forum, in consultation with Sebi.

The regulator also directed stock exchanges to amend their bye-laws, and ensure that brokers notify the obligation/requirement on the stock brokers to follow the standards adopted by the ISF, and issue a joint notice which indicates the date of applicability of the circular to various stock brokers based on the criteria.

Surging markets: CJI advises Sebi, SAT to be cautious

Mumbai: Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud on Thursday advised markets regulator Sebi and the Securities Appellate Tribunal to exercise caution amid a significant surge in equity markets and pitched for more tribunal benches to ensure that the "backbone is stable".



Inaugurating the new SAT premises here, CJI Chandrachud pitched for authorities to consider opening up new benches of the SAT given the higher workload. Referring to newspaper articles calling the crossing of 80,000-point-milestone by the BSE as an ecstatic moment, where India is entering a "stratospheric domain", the CJI pointed out that such events emphasise the need for regulatory authorities to ensure that everyone holds their "balance and nerves" amid the wins. "The more you see the surge in the stock market, the greater the role, I believe, for Sebi and SAT, as institutions which will exercise caution," the CJI said. AGENCIES

Former Byju's staffers issue ₹2.3cr demand notice

Supriya Roy | TNN

Bengaluru: About 62 employees of Byju's on Thursday issued a demand notice of over Rs 2.3 crore to the embattled edtech startup.

The notice was issued on account of unpaid salaries and dues the company owes these employees since January, an employee told TOI on condition of anonymity. TOI has reviewed the notice that has been issued by Bengaluru-based Canvas Legal.

The latest development follows a series of controversies that Byju's has run into amid a drastic drop in valuation, leadership exodus, multiple legal battles against investors, vendors and layoffs over the last two years. TOI's queries on the matter to the company's spokesperson did not elicit a response till the time of going to press.

In May, its founder Byju Raveendran, who took charge of the day-to-day operations, met 1,500 sales associates and managers on Sunday to discuss new models around their salaries, sales and product pricing. The moves is expected to revive some parts of the business in the wake of a severe cash crunch.

Lenovo elevates Rohit Midha as ED of enterprise biz

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lenovo has elevated Rohit Midha as executive director of its enterprise business in India. He was previously director of the solutions & services group. In his new role, Midha will be responsible for driving end-to-end growth, and innovation for Lenovo India's enterprise business.



Midha will be responsible for driving end-to-end growth, and innovation for Lenovo India's enterprise business.

Sensex, Nifty close at fresh lifetime highs

Mumbai: The sensex and Nifty ticked higher to close at fresh all-time high levels on Thursday, following buying in market heavyweights ICICI Bank, Infosys and TCS amid a largely positive trend in global equities. AGENCIES

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Car cos stay away from new EV policy

Ministry Is Lining Up Another Round Of Talks After Witnessing Muted Response

Pankaj Doval & Sidhartha | TNN

New Delhi: Govt's electric vehicle policy, allowing duty concessions for companies that invest in domestic manufacturing, has so far seen a muted response, with just one European car maker showing interest, and that too with a rider.

Interestingly, Tesla — which was the key target for creation of the policy — has stayed away, at least for now as it revisits its India plans in view of global challenges. Vietnamese carmaker Vinfast may be looking at abandoning its investment linking it to the new EV policy, while looking at a straight local manufacturing route to launch its cars. The company, which along with Tesla, was seen as the most optimistic on the new EV policy that promises subsidised import duty on cars, now feels that it will be better off by just making them here.

"The company is of the view that it will be better and easier to make cars at its upcoming factory in Tamil Nadu, rather than get into complicated scenario of applying and then qualifying for benefits under EV policy for just a few thousand cars," a source said.

NOT FULLY CHARGED

- No clarity on Tesla's India plans
- Vinfast may delink investment from EV policy
- VW group is analysing policy
- Another European car major has sent positive signals, but also flagged concerns

The ministry of heavy industries (MHI), which deals with the automobile industry on the matter, has held one round of consultations with carmakers, but has so far failed to get many takers.

The ministry is lining up another round of discussions before finalising the norms to open the application window. "In any case, we are also planning to issue detailed guidelines regarding the policy, the investment clause, and other modalities that will clearly define the details of how one becomes eligible for benefits under the scheme," a source told TOI.

There has been heavy reluctance on the part of the auto industry to commit investments under the new electric vehicles scheme,

which was announced in March and seeks investments of at least \$500 million from the companies, while promising a highly subsidised import duty of 15% for around 8,000 cars annually.

Some of the German companies have been looking at the policy, and this includes the Volkswagen group that has luxury brands such as Audi, Porsche, and Lamborghini under its fold, apart from flagship Volkswagen. Tesla, which had been in talks with the ministry of commerce and industry, has so far not indicated any movement, although its representatives have also met with officials. Tesla founder Elon Musk, who was to be in India earlier this year, backed out at the last minute, amid indications that he wants all the issues around his companies to be resolved. At the same time, Tesla itself has been facing challenges related to demand and sales at home and in China.

While officials are still hopeful of achieving "some headway" in talks with the most high-profile EV maker, the current situation does not suggest that India will be rolling out the proposed lower-cost Tesla car from a plant any time soon, the sources said.

Prove lack of funds or face audit: NCLT to Byju's

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The National Company Law Tribunal on Thursday told Byju's that it can get its finances audited, if required, to assess whether the company lacks funds to pay salaries to its employees.

While hearing a plea filed by a group of the firm's employees who are seeking their unpaid dues, the court said that Byju's is still an operational company and must be generating some revenues to be able to pay salaries. The court said that the startup must either prove its inability to pay or be prepared to face an audit. The remarks were part of the arguments and no final order has been passed on the matter yet. Byju's declined to

comment. Several of Byju's employees have still not been paid their full salaries for the months of Feb and March. In an earlier letter to employees, founder and CEO Byju Raveendran had said that the move by a few investors to disable the company from using the funds raised through the rights issue had delayed disbursement of salaries. In April, Byju's also initiated fresh layoffs, cutting at least 500 jobs and gave up most of its office spaces. The NCLT, in an interim order in late Feb, ordered the company to keep all the funds raised as part of its \$200 million rights issue in a separate escrow account and also restrained it from withdrawing the funds until the disposal of the mismanagement and oppression suit filed by a section of investors against the company's management. Byju's investors Prosus, Peak XV Partners, Sofina and General Atlantic have been opposing the rights issue since the outset and are also understood to have challenged the Karnataka high court's recent move to set aside the NCLT stay on its second rights issue.

The court said that Byju's is still an operational company and must be generating some revenues to be able to pay salaries

VC fund DeVC to rope in Sadaani as general partner

Supriya Roy | TNN

Bengaluru: Venture Capital fund DeVC, anchored by Z47, formerly known as Matrix Partners India, is in talks to onboard Mohit Sadaani as a new general partner, sources told TOI. Z47 counts Ola, Razor-

pay, and Country Delight as some of its portfolio companies. The venture capital firm also rebranded its China arm as MPC in June. Sadaani, along with Malika Sadani, founded The Moms Co, a mother and baby care brand focused on skin, body, and hair products, in 2016.

DeVC, short for decentralised venture capital, was established in 2022 and functions as a collective of founders, operators, and investors to support startups

in their early stages. The fund invests between \$50,000 and \$500,000 per company.

Initially, DeVC had a \$10 million pool, but a second fund with a target final close of approximately \$80 million is currently being raised, according to a source who didn't want to be identified. "Sadaani has been working more closely with the fund in the last two months, even as he was already a part of the collective from the start. He has been added on WhatsApp groups with portfolio companies recently," the source said.

An email sent to DeVC and Sadaani didn't elicit a response till the time of going to press.

The founder couple sold the company to The Good

Glamm Group in 2021 for Rs 500 crore. Before founding The Moms Co, Sadaani, an IIM-Ahmedabad alumnus, worked at companies such as McKinsey & Company and Snapdeal.

The DeVC collective includes other members such as Aakrit Vaish (Haptik founder), Ashish Mohapatra (OfBusiness founder), Harshil Mathur (Razorpay founder), and Ramakant Sharma (Livspace founder).

In July 2023, DeVC announced that it had invested in more than 30 startups since its inception. Some of the startups the fund has invested in include Inspecity, an in-space satellite servicing robots startup; SolarLadder, a solar industry operations and maintenance software provider; and Depo24, a building materials marketplace.



Zomato halts delivery service 'Xtreme'

Bengaluru: Zomato has shuttered its hyperlocal delivery service, Xtreme. The standalone app has been removed from the Play Store. Zomato had launched the service last year alongside Ola's launch of Parcel, another hyperlocal delivery service. TNN

figure it out

\$1 billion

is the annual sales of Thums Up in India, more than Coca-Cola, which is world's leading carbonated drink brand

Thums Up

Source: The Economic Times

Red Sea crisis: Air freight from India doubles

Saurabh Sinha & Yashi Kesarwani | TNN

New Delhi: The Red Sea crisis has seen air freight from India has more than doubled in the last few months, putting the country on track to meeting its target of 10 million tonnes (MT) by 2030-31. The country saw its peak air freight at over 3.5 MT in 2017-18 and post-Covid saw number climb back to 3.5 MT. Air Cargo Forum of India (ACFI) president Yashpal Sharma said sorting out two issues — cutting down time for trans-shipment carriage and allowing double dipping (going to more than one city in India) by foreign freighter aircraft — will be key to meeting the

BUILDING NEW CARGO TERMINALS

Airports in India have air cargo handling capacity of around 6.5 million tonnes (MT)

The country is building new cargo terminals with integrated, multimodal, and dedicated facilities

It is expanding existing terminals to meet target of 10 MT by 2030

Air freight market is set to grow to \$16.4 billion by 2027, with a compounded annual growth rate of 5.7%, says Air Cargo Forum of India

target in the next five years. "Less than 2% of freight globally moves by air. Following the Red Sea crisis, even a half per cent shift will mean a huge jump for carriage by air. We have a huge opportunity in India and need to overcome the twin challenges as trans-shipment currently takes 2-2.5 days which needs to

be sped up," Sharma said at the ACFI Annual Conclave 2024 here on Thursday.

India is a unique market with international imports, international exports and domestic cargo having an almost equal share in the country's air freight movement. Less than 15% air cargo is carried by freighter air-

craft and the balance in belly of passenger aircraft.

"Before Covid, India had six freighter aircraft. This number rose to 28 during Covid (that saw airlines use passenger planes also purely for cargo). Post Covid, the number fell to eight and is now at 18," Piyush Srivastava, senior economic advisor in the aviation ministry, said. "During Covid, people got used to sending cargo by air. Govt allowed conversion of passenger to freighter (P2F). Many steps have been taken to boost air freight. E-commerce and express delivery are bound to grow. But given the challenges from (carriage by) rail and road, the processes and turnaround time for

air freight must be eased," Srivastava said.

Clearly there is a lot of room for improvement. Surendra Kumar, joint secretary (logistics and trade) DPIIT, said 70 airports have cargo facilities. "They are not being optimally utilised due to reasons like inadequacy of aggregation among various modes of transport. Integrated development of the sector and reduction of logistics costs is being done. India is soon going to be the third largest economy and a major hub for global supply chain. Projects worth Rs 13.5 lakh crore under PM Gati Shakti will soon be a reality and the sector will get a major impetus," Kumar said.

While some say this could be a precursor to Xiaomi trying to test waters in the Indian car market, others say it may be "too early" for the company to look at India as one of the early markets for the vehicle, whose deliveries began in China in March.

When contacted, the company said it has "no plans" to launch the car immediately, even though it continues to "evaluate market opportunities". "While we continuously monitor market opportunities, our focus remains on our core product lines for India," a company spokesperson said.

However, the company is excited about the car, which witnessed a flying start in China. The model SU7 (Speed Ultra) is a pet



project of Xiaomi CEO Lei Jun and carries a price under \$30,000 (around Rs 25 lakh) for the base model, which is nearly \$4,000 (Rs 3.3 lakh) cheaper than the base model of Tesla's Model 3 in China.

The SU7 will come in two versions — one with a driving range of up to 668 km with a single charge and another with a range of up to 800 km. The display car was imported to India a few weeks back, and company executives are excited to showcase it at Bangalore as Xiaomi celebrates a decade of its business in the country. "The idea is to showcase the strength of Xiaomi as a brand and show its diversified product portfolio, beyond smartphones which currently is its biggest consumer product," a source told TOI.

Xiaomi sold 7,058 SU7s in April, its first full monthly sales since the model was launched in late March, and is targeting more than 100,000 deliveries this year, which would correspond to monthly average sales of 11,618 units for rest of the year.

Bengaluru's avg residential prices rose by 57% in last 5 yrs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Bengaluru's average residential prices rose by 57% in the last five years, showed a report by real estate consultancy Anarock.

Prashant Thakur, regional director and head of research at Anarock Group, said, "Average residential prices in the city stood at Rs 7,800 per sq ft. by the first half of 2024 against Rs 4,960 per sq ft at the first half of 2019. Bengaluru also saw the highest year-on-year jump of 32% — from Rs 5,900 per sq ft by the end of H1 2023 to Rs 7,800 per sq ft by the end of H1 2024." Soaring construction costs coupled with rising investor and buyer demand are pushing prices up after a period of relative stagnation between the structural reforms period and the 2019 pandemic. With demand increasing significantly post pandemic and construction costs heading north, developers have now begun hiking their prices.

"Increased new launches in Bengaluru's premium and luxury segments in H1 2024 also contributed to the rise in average prices," said Thakur. "Interestingly, out of the total new supply of approximately 32,500 units in H1 2024 in the city, nearly 75% were in the premium and the luxury segments altogether." North Bengaluru commands the highest average capital value of more than Rs 7,000 per sq ft among the city's four quadrants (East, West, North, and South).



CONTRAPUNTO

Youth is wasted on the young

—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Soren Song

Jharkhand's swift CM change shows how crucial polls there & in Maha & Haryana are

Hemant Soren is back as Jharkhand CM. His swift taking back of the post from Champai Soren, who held the fort for 5 months, is as good an announcement as any of the Sep-Oct assembly elections in Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Haryana. Opposition BJP has been quick to accuse Hemant of shortchanging Champai—a well-regarded JMM veteran and Soren family loyalist. Campaign narratives are forming, with twists and much rattle in the tale.

Plenty fight | Each of the three states in the first round of assembly elections after LS polls is a unique battlefield. On test will be INDIA's unity and perseverance against BJP, which has everything to prove, its third term a coalition govt. One sampled the acrimony in Parliament. On test will be the saffron party in Haryana especially, its LS tally halved to 5 MPs. On test will be the mettle of two Senas and two NCPs in Maharashtra.

Maha muddle | Shiv Sena's haul of 56 MLAs in 2019 assembly polls is now a fractured war chest between UBT and Shinde. If, in 2019, NCP had 54 MLAs, in 2024 Sharad Pawar is toying with estranged nephew Ajit Pawar, who must find his feet after an LS knockout—his wife losing to Supriya Sule was almost a referendum on who voters believe "owns" NCP. Add to that the jarring Jarange beat which makes frenemies of deputy CM and CM—Ajit Pawar's politics compels him to fight Shinde's 'make Marathas OBC' plank.

The Sena-BJP split after 2019 assembly elections triggered a constitutional storm that cracked open political skies. In LS elections, MVA won 30 seats (Congress 13, UBT 9, Sharad Pawar 8) of the state's 48. Congress, as state's single largest party, helms MVA and is seemingly on a strong wicket. But Shinde has proved to be no walkover, and BJP is 105-MLAs strong.

Haryana hustle | The only straight battle between BJP and Congress is anything but. In 2019's assembly elections, BJP won 40, Congress 31, and state party JJP 10—in alliance with BJP. JJP's no longer a BJP ally. BJP's switching CMs hasn't worked to its advantage here—Saini heads a govt just short of majority.

Local or hyperlocal? | LS polls were fought on local issues—as much strategy as compulsion for the state constituents in INDIA. It's to be seen how party campaigns will differentiate from their LS campaign. BJP's defending in two states, and in Jharkhand, it is battle-ready to take on JMM-Congress. It's elections again.

It's The Mind

Biden's age isn't the issue, his mental acuity is. Even older heads of govt have done fine

Biden's recent presidential debate debacle has sharpened focus on his age. At 81, Biden is not only the oldest American president, he is also the 9th oldest national head in the world. Many in his own party are calling for him to drop out of the race. But is age really the barometer of a politician's abilities? Or is administrative acumen driven by other qualities?

Let's not get physical | Putin has been photographed hunting and biking. Macron, earlier this year, was photographed boxing. While Chinese leaders are known to give extraordinarily long speeches. All to supposedly project their physical prowess and vitality. But despite the youngest current heads of state or govt being in their 30s, their median age is actually around 62. In fact, in most countries PMs or presidents are significantly older than their population's median age. Only countries to beat that trend are Montenegro, Ireland and Italy.

Old but sharp | It's hardly surprising, therefore, that septuagenarian and octogenarian netas hang around. And with strides in healthcare and nutrition increasing both global life expectancy and healthy life expectancy—the latter is slated to grow from 64.8 years in 2022 to 67.4 years in 2050—older politicians shouldn't be raising eyebrows as long as they are on the ball. What ultimately matters is mental acuity to successfully navigate the complexities of state affairs. Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad is still active and the last time he was PM, between 2018 and 2020, he was 94 and sharp as a tack.

Ageism much | Besides, democracies naturally punish netas for not performing. It's voters who elect older politicians. And if they fail, age becomes a convenient target. That's barely concealed ageism. Look at governance outcomes, not how many push-ups a country's head can do.

The spoon test

Leaked question papers and other forms of cheating prove our education system is a total failure

Jug Suraiya

We addressed him as Sir or Mr Peterson, but among us schoolboys he was always Gup, as in gup-shup, because he could talk not only the hind legs off a donkey, but the front ones as well. And we, the Class 10 schoolboys of La Martiniere, Calcutta, were the two-legged donkeys Gup was trying to teach the intricacies of not just English, but the very process of thinking itself.

Write a description of a spoon, and what it's used for, for a person who's never seen or used one. And I don't want you to use the word 'thing' even once. 'Thing' is the sound of a tin plate hitting the floor, and I don't want to hear it, he'd say in his voice of soft authority.

So, trying not to sound like tin plates, we put our thoughts to spoons. What did you call a spoon? An instrument? An implement?

I recalled Gup and his spoon, and his aversion to the word 'thing', which compelled us to think more clearly and precisely, when I read about a recent case of NEET question papers being leaked in Bihar for between ₹30L and ₹32L each.

Even as the matter is being investigated, what needs to be examined is the entire edifice of today's educational system that prioritises the getting of higher and higher marks through a regurgitation of crammed or copied notes without regard to the application of mind and thought to the subject in question.

Our classrooms and examination halls, from primary to university level, promote copycattism, the replication of mugged-up rote matter, at the expense of that long and difficult, but immensely rewarding, journey of exploration and discovery that is called learning.

This might, at least partly, explain the high unemployment rate among so many multiple graduates and postgraduates. Perhaps they were never made to face their equivalent of the spoon test.

And had they failed it, it would have been a failure not on their part but on the part of today's method of teaching. Or the lack of it.

Why Bhole Babas Flourish

Hathras puts godmen back in focus. You can dismiss them as charlatans. But recognise that they connect with those who feel most vulnerable in society. You can't regulate this

Devdutt Pattanaik



Bhole Baba is absconding, after over a hundred people died in a stampede at his Hathras congregation. One response to this tragedy is to ask if this baba is 'real' or 'fake'. But this is a false binary. All gurus or babas work on our emotions, not logic. Only some abuse their power and collapse, some get institutionalised over generations as gods and prophets.

And they do not flourish in India alone. In America, they are called the Charismatics who tell you how the Holy Spirit works miracles in human lives. Blind will see. Lame will walk. Poor will be prosperous. They are so powerful that they now fund politicians, who ensure their voice shapes legislation, and they receive tax benefits and protection from law. They have convinced Americans that Jesus wants them to carry guns, hate homosexuals, and deny women reproductive rights.

In the Islamic world, holy preachers have convinced young Muslims that the whole world is against them, and they have to 'self-ghetto' themselves, with costumes that make them look like desert bedouins in the middle of London, Paris, New York. They must not think for themselves. They must simply surrender to the faith. Then, they will not have to catch up with the world. The world will stop, turn around, and follow them.

All religions begin as cults. All saints and prophets were considered charlatans by their contemporaries. Institutions come later, with whitewashed hagiographies, legitimised by state power. It all begins with the insistence that there is more to life than what is explained by science and rationality. There is a world that eludes the smartest of minds—a world of vibrations, energies, auras, dimensions. A mystical dimension of spirits and ghosts. An occult space of angels and demons.

When the world around you is collapsing, when all efforts fail, when nothing is working out, when nothing makes rational sense, you desperately seek that special someone who can navigate the mysterious field of irrationality. That is the space occupied by holy men and women. For followers, they are the real saints (sants, as politicians call them). For outsiders, they are all charlatans.

Intellectuals who write on holy men expect them to be intellectuals and rationally sound. But that appeals only to a tiny English-speaking demographic. What people seek from gurus is emotional comfort. Holy men make you feel you are special, that you are part of a sacred community, a divine tribe. They tell you life has a secret that only they can reveal. So what if you are not rich, so what if you are not smart, so what if you belong to the wrong side of tracks, so what if fortune eludes you—you have a chance to have it all, provided you attach yourself to the correct transmitter: The guru.

you, beckons you to sit next to him. It is so different from school, from home, from office where no one sees you, understands you, or cares for you. The holy man makes you feel you matter. He carries the burden of your misery—and you are eternally grateful to him. Willing to do anything he asks you to. Anything. That is when stories of exploitation and abuse emerge, but you are too invested so you resist all attempts to shake up your comfort zone.

Holy men are the 'living' gods of their times—not ideas, not icons, not memories, but people who you can engage with, talk to, your life coach with a mystical connection, far superior to parents, teachers, mentors.

Your most rational of friends will insist that life became better after the guru came into a dream—problems were solved, children got married, court cases resolved, jobs materialised. All by the grace of the living holy man.

The holy man does not speak to your rational mind. He speaks to your insecurity. He connects with your most vulnerable self. He does it intuitively. He is able to instil confidence effortlessly. We can explain this phenomenon using psychology, but it is impossible to regulate it.

Holy men need festivals, events and ceremonies to amplify their reach. They organise gatherings and concerts, filled with music, dance, chanting, breath control exercises, sound and light shows, which may have religious packaging like a Shiva-ratri festival of an English speaking mystic, or the Bhagavat-saptah of a Hindi speaking Vaishnava.

Those who attend these events are swept away into a trance by the excited congregation. If you are vulnerable, you succumb. You cannot live without it. Unlike a drug high that brings you crashing down, this high sustains a feeling of security and warmth. You feel connected, part of a wider secret society.

In most cases, the holy man is himself bewildered by the power he wields over people's minds and hearts. Willy-nilly, he is a shepherd with a flock. The flock contributes wealth. The flock brings fame and attention and power, which brings more followers, a virtue cycle. This attracts politicians who come hoping he will contribute to their vote bank. And bless them with his mysterious brand of magic. In a moment of vulnerability, even the most cynical succumb. For it is not about the head. It is about the heart.

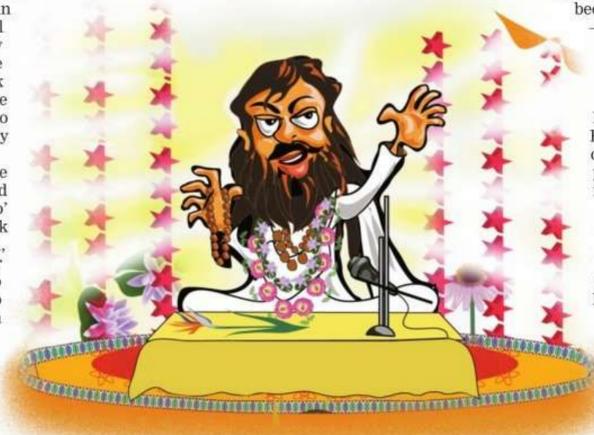


Image is for representational purposes

In a world that makes you constantly feel like a loser, the holy man makes you feel like a winner. He makes you feel confident, in control and safe. He gives you a spiritual high that is highly addictive. You go back again and again—to sing and dance in that spiritual playground. That space demands nothing of you—you just have to be there, observe, listen, engage, and somehow life seems better.

You feel so happy that you are willing to do whatever the guru tells you to do—clean his toilet, make his bed, wash his clothes. You feel privileged when he looks at

Extra Cash Can't Help Andhra Or Bihar

Naidu's in Delhi asking for more funds. Nitish wants special status for Bihar, meaning more funds. But both states lack the institutional capacity to utilise even money that's available

Govind Bhattacharjee



TDP supremo Chandrababu Naidu met Modi in Delhi yesterday, seeking enhanced assistance for Andhra Pradesh. Last week, Nitish Kumar's JDU passed a resolution demanding special category status for Bihar.

With the two NDA allies vital to Modi govt's continuance, special status/assistance is being spoken of as the only way forward for Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. But is it? Fact is the states lack the institutional capacity to even spend the money they have. In Bihar's case, there is the additional problem of mismanagement. With 10 bridges collapsing in the last two weeks, lack of funds certainly can't be blamed for the state's bottom ranking in India's development charts.

The 'special category' debate has had a past. In 2015, with demanding states drawing a blank, then FM Arun Jaitley said, "After the 14th finance commission recommendations, the era of special category status to states has ended." In keeping with that, govt has been loath to even use the term 'special category'. It simply refers to the "eight Northeast and three Himalayan states" (J&K, now a UT, besides Himachal and Uttarakhand) that receive such funds.

These states, located along India's international borders, had inherited a legacy of neglect and economic backwardness, lack of infra and shortage of capital and resources. Special status gave them access to liberal financing by Centre through Plan assistance. Of total Plan funds, 30% was earmarked for these states under the Gadgil formula.

No questions asked | Some of these states could use the resources to their advantage and prospered. Others lacked the capacity to use up funds productively. They additionally suffered from protracted insurgency that impeded development.

But funding continued, unconditionally. There were no expectations of accountability or performance from

these states. What did change gradually was the scale of funding, owing to proliferation of centrally sponsored schemes (CSS) and direct off-budget transfers.

Post-2014 changes | Post-2014, CSS were restructured and off-budget transfers abolished. Planning Commission itself was disbanded in 2014. The Planning era ended in 2017 and Gadgil formula became history.

Restricted to CSS only, these states now got 90% as grants and 10% as loans from Centre. Income tax holidays and excise duty concessions were granted to companies that set up new industrial units there, besides certain subsidies. However, in absence of market and infra, these incentives proved inadequate to attract industry or generate employment.

Funds not the answer | If the status is now given to Bihar and Andhra, they will receive some additional central grants and loans. But these won't solve their problems.

The two states have different problems. Andhra was made to sacrifice two of its most prosperous districts and major revenue earners, Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy, to Telangana in 2014. With revenue of only about ₹12k cr and expenditure over ₹90k cr; it inherited a huge liability of ₹90k cr.

To placate it, Congress govt promised the state special category status. But it was ejected from office. Many other promises were made to it, and most remain unfulfilled. Andhra today faces serious resource crunch and a huge debt burden. As for Bihar, its problems arise from governance

issues and lack of industry and infra.

Missing capacity | Both states also suffer from serious lack of institutional capacity to spend funds. As CAG's appropriation accounts show, Bihar is unable to spend a significant part of its budgetary allocations. In FY2023, as much as ₹51,722 cr of revenue expenditure (22% of revenue budget) and ₹14,786 cr of capex (24% of capital budget) remained unspent and had to be surrendered. Unspent funds during fiscals 2020, 2021 and 2022 were ₹78,122cr, ₹75,926cr and ₹70,083cr, respectively.

Total unspent fund of ₹66,508cr (FY2023) is much more than total benefits Bihar would get from special category status. When departments are unable to utilise resources at their disposal, it also means a heavier tax or debt burden on people than actually required.

Bihar's problems stem from lack of institutional capacity, infra, market, entrepreneurial skills, and proper industrial climate. These issues are not addressable in the short term.

Unused moneys | Andhra's story is not much different—in FY2023, it failed to spend as much as ₹92,567cr, or 21% of its budget allocations, covering sectors like medical and health (₹6,576cr unspent in revenue and capex), urban development (₹1,655cr), social welfare (₹5,254cr), welfare of backward classes (₹16,360cr), and irrigation (₹9,034cr).

If these states focused on strengthening capacity for utilisation of funds already available, they wouldn't need special category status. And till that happens, even additional funds would simply remain unutilised.

The writer is former DG, CAG & author of 'Special Category States of India'



Money talks, but only if you know how to spend it

Calvin & Hobbes



Celebrate The Divine In The Solitude Of The Self

Satish K Kapoor

Maun, silence is the dialect of true worship. It is the language of infinity, of Ashabda Brahmn, the soundless word that is audible to those who can transcend ordinary consciousness. Krishn says in the Bhagwad Gita: "maunam chaiva'smi guhyanam"—Of secrets, I am also silence. Maun sadhana or spiritual practice of silence is to celebrate the Divine in the solitude of the self. Silence deepens self-understanding by shutting the sensory gates steering it from outside. The silent Buddha or Mahavir contributed more to ushering peace in the world than the speaking Socrates or Sophocles.

The first step in mauna sadhana is vak mauna, silence of speech. Human energy is often wasted in useless talk. The tongue sometimes does more harm than the bullet. Conscious self-restraint

saves one from speaking unpleasant truths. Sensible people speak when absolutely necessary, measuring every word in the process. However, the silence of 'sewn-up lips', whether forced or voluntary, cannot be called silence.

The next step is chitta mauna or silence of the mind. It has threefold ramifications—buddhi mauna, silence of intellect, ahankaram mauna, silence of the ego, and iccha mauna, silence of desire. This is followed by indriya mauna, silence of the senses, made possible by withdrawing each sense from its distracting object.

Silence is stabilised by observing the flow of thoughts, as they arise, swell, dilute or subside, and then taking a quantum jump into the pure void of higher consciousness. Whispers from the divine are heard when the mind is

genuinely quiet and composed.

To achieve inner peace, mauna sadhana should be made a daily habit. It can be practised any time, for at least half an hour or more. During vacations or at weekends, the time of mauna can be increased so that the 'energy of speech' is transmuted into spiritual energy. The purpose of observing Mauni Amavasya, occurring every month on the last day of the dark fortnight, is to do self-inspection by remaining silent.

Those who undertake mauna vrat or vow of silence, for months or years—as do mauni babas—adhere strictly to their spiritual tradition. Although it is not possible for an ordinary human being to observe kashtha mauna, to remain silent like a log of wood, one can at least train one's mind in samyaka vak—right speech, as advocated by the Buddha. It implies

'avoidance of lying words, idle words, abusive words and double tongues'.

During maun sadhana, one should not eat or drink, brood over the past or the future, communicate by gestures or writing, watch television, use electronic gadgets, or do some such thing which distracts attention. Those who have no time for practising maun should restrain speech while taking a morning or evening walk with friends, waiting for bus or train, during travel, or when at home or in office. Instead of always looking for company, one should occasionally stay alone, and feel the ecstasy of inner silence.

Silence, an aspect of mental austerity, sustains one in difficult situations by connecting one with one's core self. By putting the mind in silent mode, one can augment relationship with God, the source of ultimate silence. Laghu Yog Vashisht, a 10th century work of Kashmiri origin, equates it with living liberation.

Sacredspace



We can make our minds so like still water that beings gather about us that they may see...their own images, and so live for a moment with a clearer, perhaps even with a fiercer life because of our quiet.

WB Yeats



IS AI RESHAPING THE WORLD?

We are only constrained by our imagination

In my lifetime, the only other instance I can think of technology being so broadly applicable across human segments has been the internet and we know how it changed our world. GenAI has those attributes and potential in terms of its reach, relevance and ability to be leveraged. This is going to be a tectonic shift in how we live our lives in the coming years. From our everyday lives of personalised content for entertainment, buying recommendations in online or instore retail, daily productivity for task completion through a digital assistant, we are only scratching the surface. The more exciting possibilities could be our AI avatar representing us independently in a digital setting like a virtual interview, providing suggestions to respond to conversations in our brain through embedded neural transmitters. For companies it will open completely new ways to engage with their consumers through bots or other interfaces to develop a more intimate connect and create specific value. We are only constrained by our own imagination, on what an AI-enabled future can be.

Sanjay Menon | MANAGING DIRECTOR, PUBLICIS SAPIENT INDIA

Friday July 5, 5pm to 6pm
Event page link: <https://bit.ly/techieswebinar163>

OR SCAN THE QR CODE

TIMES TECHIES WEBINAR Building the next generation of women leaders in GCCs

Veda Persad
COUNTRY EXECUTIVE, NORTHERN TRUST CORPORATION

Lalitha Indrakanti
CEO, JAGUAR LAND ROVER TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS SERVICES INDIA

Sindhu Gangadharan
VICE CHAIRPERSON, NASSCOM, AND MD, SAP LABS INDIA



Evolutionary AI is a powerful answer to complex problems

The tech is able to navigate conflicting objectives and come up with novel strategies

Akhil George & Sujit John | TNN

IT HELPS CHOOSE FROM BALANCE OF MULTIPLE OUTCOMES

“Evolutionary AI has been around for a long time, from the 70s. It is biologically-motivated machine learning. There are other areas like that, including neural networks, which is what generative models are based on, as well as swarm optimisation, and colony optimisation. If you look at biology, you notice it's doing pretty well with certain problems, and so you try to abstract that and build computational models to emulate that. That's the motivation for evolutionary AI.”

Risto Miikkulainen | VP OF AI RESEARCH, COGNIZANT, AND PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

“Evolutionary AI has some advantages over traditional decision-making technologies because evolutionary AI algorithms can create entirely new solutions not derived from existing knowledge. If you don't borrow from existing knowledge, you're going to discover strategies that humans may not have thought about before. So, you can basically discover solution spaces, but at the same time they can be explainable and transparent.”

Amir Banifatemi | TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION STRATEGIST, AI COMMONS

“If you're going for more sales, you also want to control your costs and improve your revenue. And these outcomes are often not aligned. During the pandemic, we wanted to reduce the number of cases, but at the same time we didn't want to have a major economic impact on people's livelihoods. Evolutionary AI is very good at coming up with strategies that give us a balance of multiple outcomes and then lets us choose which balance of outcomes is more interesting to us.”

Babak Hodjat | CTO OF AI, COGNIZANT

Last week on our webinar, we had three experts – Risto Miikkulainen, Babak Hodjat, and Amir Banifatemi – in the field of what's called evolutionary AI who painted a vivid picture of the innovative technology and its potential to reshape decision-making across industries.

Miikkulainen, VP of AI research at Cognizant and professor of computer science at the University of Texas at Austin, and a pioneer in the field of evolutionary AI, explains that evolutionary AI takes its cues from biology, much like neural networks. However, unlike most machine learning techniques that rely on supervised learning with clearly defined targets, evolutionary AI thrives in scenarios with weaker feedback. It can navigate complex problem spaces without predetermined answers.

While traditional AI might excel at recognising patterns – like identifying a dog in an image – Miikkulainen says stopping at just prediction is akin to “leaving money on the table”. Instead, evolutionary AI goes a step further: it doesn't just predict, it suggests actions. By simulating a population of potential solutions and allowing them to “evolve” towards better outcomes, evolutionary AI can uncover novel strategies that even human experts might overlook.

As Hodjat, CTO of AI at Cognizant, puts it, evolutionary AI is more aligned with the way we go about making decisions. In the real world, decisions often involve balancing multiple, sometimes conflicting objectives. Evolutionary AI excels here, says Hodjat, offering a range of strategies that balance various outcomes, allowing decision-makers to choose the most suitable approach.

“Look at the pandemic, you want to reduce the number of cases, but at the same time you don't want to

have a major economic impact on people's livelihoods. Evolutionary AI is very good at coming up with strategies that give us a balance of multiple outcomes and lets us then choose which balance of outcomes is more interesting to us.”

Hodjat describes a two-step process: first, using AI to create “predictors” that forecast outcomes based on different decisions. Then, evolutionary algorithms search the vast space of possible strategies to find optimal solutions. This approach, he argues, mirrors human decision-making processes, allowing for scenario testing and collaborative refinement between AI and human experts.

Banifatemi, technology and innovation strategist for AI Commons, a nonprofit that seeks to bring the benefits of AI to everyone, high-

lights evolutionary AI's creative potential. Unlike traditional AI that derives solutions from existing knowledge, evolutionary algorithms, he says, can create entirely new solutions. This creativity, coupled with the ability to optimise for

multiple objectives simultaneously, makes evolutionary AI a powerful tool for tackling complex, multifaceted problems.

Banifatemi also points out a crucial advantage: transparency. While many AI models operate as “black boxes,” the solutions generated by evolutionary AI are often more explainable. This transparency is vital in fields where understanding the reasoning behind a decision is as important as the decision itself.

Real-world use cases
Miikkulainen describes an agricultural experiment where evolutionary AI discovered that basil thrives under 24-hour light – a counterintuitive finding that challenged biologists' assumptions.

The experiment involved planting about 300 basil plants and providing them with different amounts of light, water, nutrients, temperature, etc. “Most of them were recipes that the biologists came up with – the usual suspects. But we also had some exploratory examples. And so, we now had 300 points about how the plant grows under different conditions. And then we built a predictive model. We could then come up with crazy recipes and ask the model what would happen in different scenarios. It so happened that we had initially set up a limitation of six hours of darkness. But then we said, let's open it up to try other solutions. And to the biologists' big surprise, the model found basil thrives when lights were on 24 hours. This is the kind of solution that will be difficult for humans to discover because they have all kinds of assumptions and evolutionary AI does not,” Miikkulainen says.

Banifatemi says evolutionary AI is also showing a lot of promise in pharmaceutical research, particularly for rare diseases where traditional approaches fall short. “For rare diseases, from a pharmaceutical perspective, a number of drug candidates need to be identified. And while the cost of drug research is huge, the market is not that large. With evolutionary AI you can find a cluster of potential molecules for a given set of constraints: like for toxicity, or for a particular genetic background. This accelerates drug research,” he says.

The story of evolutionary AI is still unfolding. As researchers and companies like Cognizant continue to invest in and develop this technology, more innovative applications will emerge – and some could come from Cognizant's India offices. “Cognizant has a very strong presence in India and we have colleagues in India that are well versed in using evolutionary AI,” says Hodjat.

A basic guide to writing code using Claude 3.5

“One primary challenge with using Claude 3.5 Sonnet for coding projects is the model's complexity and the need for precise prompt engineering to generate accurate and relevant responses. Vague or ambiguous prompts can lead to inconsistent

into step-by-step instructions. For example, “Create html webpage to input login details with 2 text boxes and submit button”. When prompts involve multiple components such as context, instructions, examples, and XML tags, structured prompt

outputs, making it crucial to define tasks clearly and break down complex queries into simpler

templates help in reuse. They also help parse prompts more accurately, leading to

steps. Another challenge is managing API rate limits and associated costs. Efficiently batching requests and optimising queries can prevent unexpected expenses.

higher-quality outputs. After receiving a response, review it critically and adjust follow-up questions or prompts, basically leverage feedback loops to help improve the model's performance over time.

Vijay Navaluri | CO-FOUNDER & CHIEF CUSTOMER OFFICER, SUPERVITY

Lakshmi Shastry | ENTERPRISE ARCHITECT, BRILLIO

While writing your prompts for a coding project, focus on providing clear context to the AI. For instance, you can say “Act as a senior software engineer with 5 years of coding with deep domain experience

capabilities and limitations of Claude 3.5 Sonnet is crucial. Overly complex prompts or unrealistic expectations may lead to suboptimal results. Start

in eCommerce”. You can make Gen AI even more effective in assisting you, by sharing a sample problem and the optimum output for the sample problem. The AI will learn, and then use an approach that provides you with a comparable solution to the problems you ask it to solve.

with simple prompts and iterate based on initial outputs. Then refine your prompts based on the model's responses to gradually improve accuracy. Also try and leverage specific features of the model, such as its ability to handle technical language or generate detailed explanations, tailored to coding projects.

Keerthi Vaddi | DIRECTOR, ENCORIA

Naveen Kumar Kalyankar | REGIONAL VP, INDIA, OUTSYSTEMS

For complex tasks, break down the prompt request

Akhil George | @timesofindia.com

1111. On successful login a message should be shown.

asked software developers how they would use an AI assistant like Claude 3.5 Sonnet for a coding project. A frequently cited starting tip is to break down a complex problem into smaller, manageable parts. Software development, especially at the enterprise level, is a complex orchestra of parts that need to come together, so whatever your coding task is for the day, you can always get help from an AI assistant, as long as you have a specific task in mind.

“Claude will generate the code and an HTML version of the login page side-by-side. You can quickly test the output and instruct Claude to refine it. For plain HTML and vanilla JavaScript, Claude typically provides a demo. It can also generate Angular or React code, though not a live demo as of now,” says Shaavik.

Once you have your code, test it, starting with small, isolated tests, before integrating it into larger systems, says Arun Prakash Agrawal, professor & head of the department of computer science & applications at Sharda School of Engineering and Technology in Greater Noida.

Maintaining a comprehensive documentation of the code and decisions made during the project, Arun says, will aid in debugging and future maintenance.

How to start
Shaavik Mazumdar, senior director of front-end engineering at Ascendion, says he has been amazed by Claude 3.5 Sonnet's capabilities in generating websites, apps, and even games. “With the recent addition of ‘artifacts’, it allows us to view and interact with the results in real time too.”

He says if Artifacts is not enabled, you should do that by going to the left sidebar, clicking on your name, and navigating to ‘Feature Preview’, where you have the enabling feature.

The next step, Shaavik says, is to get back to the chat window and type a prompt to get your project started.

If you've been tasked with creating a login page for a business, you could create a prompt like this: “Design a login page (plain html). The login form needs to have a username and password as the first step. It also needs a ‘forgot password’ feature. Further on successful login, it should show Multifactor authentication. Use Material stylesheet and do basic validation. To test the system, you can use user name and default password like admin, admin and OTP as

“You've been tasked with creating a login page for a business, you could create a prompt like this:

“Developers need to be specific, and provide proper context to a problem statement. Breaking down tasks, giving examples of similar codes, and asking for code comments will help the prompt responses to be more aligned with the desired outcome. A basic prompt can be refined through proper feedback,” says Deepak Visweswaraiah, VP of platform engineering, and site MD at Pegasystems, India.

Vijay Navaluri, co-founder at Supervity, says structuring interactions as multi-turn conversations is also beneficial for complex tasks, as it allows the model to build on previous responses and maintain context.

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Four AI jobs that will play pivotal roles

Sukanya Mandal

AI has become a crucial part of our present truth, remodelling industries and redefining the employment landscape. As AI continues to strengthen at an exponential scale, it is critical for experts to stay informed about the emerging job roles that will form the future of work. Here we look at four AI process titles which look set to play pivotal roles in the coming years.

1 | AI ethicist
With the increasing integration of AI into various aspects of our lives, the need for responsible and ethical AI improvement has increased even more. AI ethicists are the guardians of this obligation, making sure that AI technologies are designed, developed, and deployed in a manner that upholds moral ideas and considers the societal impact. **Responsibilities** | Examine AI systems for bias, broaden ethical frameworks, advise businesses on responsible AI practices, and engage in public conversations on AI ethics. **Skills** | A strong knowledge of ethical principles, understanding of AI technology, communication and critical thinking

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capabilities, and a background in philosophy, regulation, or social sciences are beneficial.

2 | AI trainer or AI engineer
AI algorithms, much like humans, require continuous training for better inferring. AI engineers are the ones responsible for continuously training the AI models with relevant data and instructions for continuous upgrades. **Responsibilities** | Prepare and label datasets, develop training parameters, continuously monitor, and evaluate model performance, and further fine tune algorithms to enhance model accuracies. **Skills** | Expertise in machine learning and deep learning techniques, data analysis, programming knowledge (Python, R), and familiarity with AI tools and technologies are desired skill sets.

3 | AI interaction designer
With AI-powered applications and devices becoming more prevalent, the necessity of seamless and intuitive human-computer interaction has increased. AI interaction designers bridge the distance between AI technology and their user interaction, creating user-

friendly interfaces and experiences.

Responsibilities | Design conversational interfaces for chatbots and digital assistants, develop consumer-focused frontend for AI products, and perform A/B testing to understand user needs and preferences. **Skills** | Expertise in user interface (UI) and user experience (UX) design principles, knowledge of human-computer interaction, understanding of AI capabilities and limitations, and effective communication and collaboration skills are crucial for this role.

4 | AI safety engineer
Ensuring the safety and security of AI systems is of utmost significance. AI safety engineers are required to ensure that. **Responsibilities** | Perform risk assessments of AI systems, develop safety protocols and mitigation techniques, put in place security features to defend AI systems from cyber threats, and stay up to date on the latest research on AI safety. **Skills** | A strong understanding of cybersecurity ideas, knowledge of AI algorithms and architectures, experience with cybersecurity testing and vulnerability assessment, along with problem solving and analytical skill sets are essential.

Sukanya Mandal is a member of IEEE, the world's largest technical professional organisation

INTELLIGENT BOT FOR VIRTUAL SALES AGENTS



Anshul Srivastava, Kumar Saurav and their Vortex team

► Anshul Srivastava and Kumar Saurav's Vortex leverages GenAI to create virtual sales agents. These agents engage in natural, human-like conversations, allowing users to automate the entire sales process. It potentially eliminates the need for traditional call centres.

Kumar and Anshul have since 2016 been creating chatbots and voice bots. They developed Vortex in 2020 to make AI-powered, human-like outbound calls. With GenAI today, there's 98% speech recognition accuracy. Vortex also integrates with the client's CRM and offers WhatsApp messaging.

“Vortex's technology is not just about mimicking human speech but also understanding and responding contextually to ensure every interaction feels authentic,” says Kumar and Anshul. Sales teams can use it for lead qualification, lead generation, appointment scheduling,

appointment confirmation, and much more.

Anshul and Kumar have been friends from college. Anshul, a former Mindtree employee, brings expertise in AI and digital assistants from his previous ventures, including AxleWeb Technologies. Kumar, with over 13 years of experience in IT, IoT, and robotics, previously co-founded and served as CEO of Prescient Automation, a company that provides services in NLP, semantic search, and computer vision.

Vortex secured \$320,000 in pre-seed funding from 100X.VC, which helped them achieve \$1 million in annual recurring revenue. In April, the company raised an additional \$2 million in a seed round led by Unicorn India & Pentathlon Ventures.

The two are now exploring new use cases across various industries.

– Shilpa.Phadnis@timesofindia.com

AI IN-GROUP LINGO
COMPUTER CAN SEE BETTER THANKS TO GEN AI

Computer vision has undergone a remarkable transformation thanks to the advent of generative AI, particularly with the rise of generative adversarial networks (GANs) and diffusion models. These advancements have significantly enhanced the capabilities and applications of computer vision systems.

GenAI has revolutionised image synthesis, enabling the creation of highly realistic and diverse images from textual descriptions or abstract

concepts. This has greatly improved training data generation, allowing researchers to create large, varied datasets to train robust computer vision models, especially for rare or difficult-to-capture scenarios.

The ability of generative models to learn and represent complex visual distributions has led to improvements in image understanding and feature extraction. These models can now capture subtle nuances and contextual information in images,

enhancing object detection, segmentation, and scene understanding tasks.

GenAI has also advanced image-to-image translation, enabling sophisticated transformations like style transfer, super-resolution, and image inpainting. These capabilities have found applications in fields ranging from art and design to medical imaging and satellite imagery analysis.

In facial recognition and analysis,

generative models have improved the handling of variations in pose, lighting, and occlusions. They can generate realistic face images under different conditions, aiding in the development of more robust facial recognition systems.

Moreover, GenAI has enhanced anomaly detection in computer vision by learning normal patterns and identifying deviations, crucial for applications in quality control and security surveillance.



SEAN 'DIDDY' COMBS ACCUSED BY EX-PORN STAR OF GROOMING AND COERCING HER INTO SEX WORK; 8TH ASSAULT CASE AGAINST RAPPER

JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE'S MUGSHOT AFTER DWI ARREST TURNS INTO A 'LIMITED EDITION ART PIECE' AT A NY GALLERY, PRICED AT \$520 EACH



Sunak vs Starmer: Who will get keys to No. 10?

On Voting Day, Labour Chief Says 'Today, Britain Can Begin A New Chapter'; PM Urges Stopping 'Tax-Raiser's Supermajority'



PM Rishi Sunak and wife Akshata walked hand-in-hand to their polling booth in his constituency of Richmond & Northallerton in Yorkshire and a little later, Keir Starmer and wife Victoria voted at Camden, sporting Labour red

London: The future of Rishi Sunak — the first British PM of Indian-origin who is fighting anti-incumbency after 14 years of Conservative government in office — hangs in the balance as millions of voters cast their ballots in a historic general election on Thursday.

The British-Indian leader and the man who wants his job — Labour leader Keir Starmer — were among the early voters from an estimated 46 million registered voters as around 40,000 polling booths opened across the country at 7 am (local time).

Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty walked hand-in-hand to their local polling booth on a sunny day in his constituency of Richmond and Northallerton in Yorkshire, northern England.

A little later, Starmer and wife Victoria were at their polling station in Camden, north London, sporting Labour red colours. "Today, Britain can begin a new chapter," Starmer told voters.

Sunak, meanwhile, took to social media to drive home his message: "Polls are open. It's time to stop the Labour supermajority that would

mean higher taxes for the rest of your life." Sunak, 44, is up against voter angst and has had to contend with trailing far behind 61-year-old Starmer-led Labour Party throughout the six-week campaign.

Earlier, both leaders wrapped up their six-week-long campaign with contrasting messages — Sunak urging voters not to hand "tax-raising" Labour a "supermajority" and Starmer playing down the prospect of a landslide win for fear of a low turnout impacting the final outcome.

Candidates are being fielded for 650 constituencies across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, with 326 required for a majority in the first past the post system. Besides the two main parties, voters will be choosing from a list of candidates representing the Liberal Democrats, Green Party, Scottish National Party (SNP), SDLP, Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Sinn Féin, Plaid Cymru, the anti-immigration Reform Party and several contesting as Independent.

Polling experts have forecast a low turnout, which stood at 67% in the last election in

Dec 2019 when Boris Johnson won a solid majority on his get Brexit done message. It's the first general election at which you must bring photo ID to vote in person — and the first July election since 1945. The Elections Act introduced by Johnson in 2022 was enforced, ironically earlier this year when Johnson tried to vote without ID in a local election in South Oxfordshire. He was turned away, but returned later with his ID and cast his vote.

On the polling day, no discussion or analysis of political issues are not allowed until 10 pm, according to the UK's Office of Communications (Ofcom) media watchdog rules. The rules are intended to prevent any influence over how people choose to vote on election day, though many would have already made their choice through a postal ballot.

If opinion polls are to be believed, the incumbent Tories are in line to win anywhere between 53 and 150 seats, with Labour projected to win a landslide. This will lead to Starmer taking over as PM, the first Labour leader after Gordon Brown to enter 10 Downing Street since 2010. PTI

Pakistan to host SCO council meet in Oct, to invite India too

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Pakistan foreign ministry's spokesperson said on Thursday that her country will host the meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's council of heads of gov't in Oct and invite all members, including India, to attend the gathering in person in Islamabad.

"The year 2024 is an important milestone for Pakistan-SCO relations, as Pakistan holds the rotating chairmanship of the SCO council of heads of gov't, which is the second highest decision-making forum of SCO," foreign office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said. Pakistan became an SCO member in June 2017, after holding observer status from 2005 to 2017.

Baloch said the Oct conference would be preceded by a ministerial meeting and several rounds of high-level official talks among SCO member states, focusing on financial, economic, social, cultural and humanitarian cooperation. "The conference would be held as per the SCO procedures and in-person attendance of heads of gov't. So, in our capacity as the chair, we will be extending invitations to all heads of gov't of SCO member states," she said.

Terrorist killed, several injured in Gilgit-Baltistan

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Pakistan's security forces have killed a high-profile militant commander involved in multiple terrorist attacks in the disputed northern region of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) in a shootout on Thursday, top gov't functionaries said.

Speaking to reporters, GB home minister Shams Lone said it was part of an intelligence-based operation. Pakistan has intensified its nationwide operations in response to an increasing militant threat following PM Shehbaz Sharif's vague announcement of a military offensive against terrorism.

"Terrorist commander Shah Faisal was killed during an intelligence-based security operation in the Darel valley of GB's Diar district, while his accomplice, Zahidullah, was injured," Lone said. He did not disclose the name of the outfit with which the slain commander was associated but stated he was the mastermind of the terrorist attack in Chilas region last Dec when militants shot up a bus on the Karakoram Highway, killing nine people and injuring 21.

Liberal pundits, pollsters make case for Kamala Harris to replace Biden

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Pragmatic pundits, pollsters, and people of Democratic persuasion are starting to line up behind vice-presumptive Kamala Harris as the putative party nominee for the White House even as Prez Biden is tentaciously hanging on to his bid for a second term.

A decision on whether Biden will renounce his candidacy or continue his campaign is just hours or days away. He is expected to make a call on whether he will continue or withdraw from the race after a weekend interview and public events that could show if he is still fit for the job — or not.

Reasons being advanced to promote Harris to replace Biden as the Democratic nominee range from the practical and pragmatic to the logical and logistical. She has already been vetted and is on the Biden-Harris ticket which has all but sewn up the nomination. This means that she could easily inherit the campaign infrastructure and finances.

Political strategists say picking anyone other than Harris "represents a legal, political and financial minefield" because it would "raise questions about the status of the delegates whom Biden and Harris have won — and the nearly quarter-billion dollars in their campaign coffers, money that cannot easily or perhaps even legally be handed to someone else". Anyone aiming to replace Biden would have to have a campaign up and running — and line up new finances — within weeks if not days, both considered almost impossible.

Although Harris' performance as vice-president has not impressed many, she does



COMPETITORS NOW? US Prez Joe Biden with veep Kamala Harris

Trump, his allies shift focus on vilifying V-P

Donald Trump, his campaign and some of his allies have launched a pre-emptive political strike on V-P Kamala Harris, moving swiftly to try to discredit her amid talk among some of her fellow Democrats that she might replace Prez Biden atop the party's 2024 presidential ticket. Trump disparaged Harris in a video recorded at one of his golf courses, saying Harris was "so bad, she's so pathetic" before using an expletive to describe her. The National Republican Congressional Committee, which oversees House Republican races, called her Biden's "enabler in chief". MAGA Inc, a fundraising super PAC supporting Trump, called her the "invasion czar". In March 2021 Biden said Harris would lead efforts with Mexico and Central American nations to address illegal immigration. Republicans have seized on that to accuse her of failing to stem the flow of millions of migrants crossing illegally into the US. "Kamala Harris is incompetent. She's proven to be the weakest, worst vice president in history," said Karoline Leavitt, a spokesperson for the Trump campaign. REUTERS

have national name recognition. Other prominent Democrats spoken as potential nominees, including California governor Gavin Newsom, Michigan governor Gretchen Whitmer, and Illinois governor J.B. Pritzker, are popular in their home state but lack national appeal. Party flacks do not seriously consider outsiders such as Michelle Obama in the mix.

Democrat insiders also cite optics, arguing that as the first black and Asian-American woman to be elected to vice-presidency, denying Harris the top nomination in favour of a white

Trump claims drove Biden out of race; prez says 'screwed up' but still running

Washington: Republican Donald Trump falsely claimed to have driven Democratic Prez Joe Biden out of the White House race in a video published by the Daily Beast. Trump was filmed at one of his golf courses seeking plaudits for his debate against Biden, whose stumbling performance sparked calls from his fellow Democrats for him to step aside. "He's quitting the race ... I got him out." Trump says in the footage, published Wednesday.

Biden, 81, told his campaign Wednesday that he was still running. In a radio interview, Biden said he "screwed up" during the debate, his most direct public acknowledgment of his poor performance. "I made a mistake. But I learned from my father when you get knocked down, just get back up. We're going to win this election." REUTERS & NYT

On the downside, pundits point out that Harris fared disastrously in the 2020 race, dropping out of the presidential contest after a campaign meltdown. Kamala sceptics also warn that inasmuch as she might win minority votes, her candidacy could alienate white suburban voters in swing states. Harris herself has been circumspect so far about keeping the Oval Office in her sights as she continues. In an interview, she said: "Look, Joe Biden is our nominee. We beat Trump once, and we're going to beat him again. Period."

Israel to join renewed Gaza truce talks

Jerusalem: PM Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel told US Prez Joe Biden on Thursday that he is sending a new delegation of negotiators to Gaza ceasefire talks. Netanyahu's office said, all the while reiterating that Israel would end the war "only after achieving its goals".

The ceasefire talks, which are based on proposals laid out by the Biden administration and backed by the UN, ground to a halt in June. Israel's stated goals include destroying Ha-

mas' military and governing capabilities in the Gaza Strip, and ensuring that the Palestinian enclave cannot again pose a threat. Both aims could still take substantial time to achieve, if at all.

"The PM informed President Biden of his decision to send a delegation to continue negotiations for the release of the hostages and reiterated the principles to which Israel is committed, chief among them Israel's commitment to ending the war only after achieving all of its goals," the statement from Netanyahu's office said.

Netanyahu's gov't, which includes members who are opposed to a ceasefire deal, was meeting later to discuss Hamas' response to the new truce proposal and the release of hostages. The discussions are based on a three-stage framework deal publicised by Biden in late May and endorsed by the UNSC. NYT

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Missile deployment in Cuba an option in response to 'US escalation': Russia lawmaker

Moscow: A Russian lawmaker said Thursday that the Russian deployment of missiles on Cuba was one option being looked at in response to what he cast as a US escalation over Ukraine and an accelerating arms race among major nuclear powers. Prez Putin said last week that Russia should resume production of intermediate and shorter range nuclear-capable missiles and then consider where to deploy them after the US brought similar missiles to Europe and Asia.



Russian warships including the Admiral Gorshkov frigate (above) and the nuclear-powered submarine Kazan churned into Havana harbour last month

Sergei Mironov, the leader of the "Just Russia - Patriots for Truth" party in the lower house of the Russian parliament, said that Washington had embarked on an arms race that could lead to "devastating consequences" for the US. "The possible use of a base in Cuba, which was recently visited by Russian ships carrying hypersonic weapons abroad, is just one of many options," Mironov said in a statement. "Nowadays, the Cuban Missile Crisis could happen anywhere, taking into account the modern capabilities of the

Russian army, air force and navy." Mironov's party is staunchly pro-Putin.

The 1962 stand-off between the Soviet Union and the US over Moscow's stationing of nuclear weapons in Cuba is widely considered the moment when the Cold War superpowers came closest to intentional nuclear war. "It is worth recalling that the cause of the crisis in the 1960s was the deployment of US missiles in Turkey," Mironov said. "Now the US is again hatching plans to deploy weapons near the borders of Russia, supply long-range weapons to Kyiv regime, and plan and direct attacks on Russian territory." REUTERS

Indian economist gets honorary fellowship by LSE

Naomi Canton

London: Indian policymaker and economist NK Singh was awarded an honorary fellowship by the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) at a ceremony in London on Wednesday night.

Singh (83) joins Sir Karl Popper, Amartya Sen and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and others who have been recognised with this award. Singh said: "It is a humbling moment for me considering the stature of many of my predecessors. The LSE has been a centre of academic and intellectual excellence since the year of its inception in 1895. The India-LSE relationship has been intensive and inquisitive. Both have benefited from the exchange of ideas. In many ways, it has been integral to our contemporary history. After all, Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar, popularly regarded as the father of the Indian Constitution, was also an alumnus of LSE."



US SC cut federal agencies' wings. Ruling a 'mixed bag' for diaspora

Lubna Kably | timesofindia.com

The US Supreme Court in its recent decision has overturned a 40-year-old precedent that courts should give substantial deference to federal agency decisions. Overturning of the earlier judgement, which came to be known as the 'Chevron Deference' doctrine, has wide-reaching implications in the realm of immigration laws, and is a mixed bag for the Indian diaspora.

According to immigration attorneys, it could boost the chances of success for US employers who hire immigrant employees (such as those on H-1B visa) while challenging unfavourable decisions taken by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) — such as on visa extensions on grounds that the occupation is not 'specialised'. However, it could also mean that work authorisation available to H-4 visa holders (spouses of H-1B who are on track for a green card), could be subject to a fresh bout of litigation.

In late June, while deciding the case of Loper Bright Enterprises, Chief Justice John Roberts held that courts must exercise their independent judgement in deciding whether an agency has acted within its statutory authority. Rajiv S. Khanna, managing attorney at Immigration.com told TOI: "The Loper Bright decision cuts both ways, helpful and harmful. Because of this order, courts can now review both the beneficial and pernicious decisions made by USCIS and department of homeland security (DHS) based on their interpretation of various factors. Agency interpretations are not presumptively entitled to judicial deference."

It is a mixed bag. It could, in some cases, give US employers who hire H-1B workers or L-1 workers (on an intra-company transfer) to have a better chance in fighting their case. Cyrus D. Mehta, New York based immigration attorney, told TOI, "Without Chevron, federal courts will no longer pay deference to a gov't agency's interpretation of a provision in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Hence, employers may be able to find a court willing to give a more favourable interpretation of a statute granting H-1B or L visa classification to a noncitizen worker."

Save Jobs USA, an advocacy group of tech workers, which has been challenging the H-4 employment authorisation documentation (EAD) rule, has an appeal pending in the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. They are contesting that because of the Loper Bright decision the court should quash the H-4 EAD programme because the US Congress has not delegated the power to create it. So far, courts have held that the DHS does have the authority to issue work authorisation to lawfully admitted individuals. Khanna points out that the earlier court decision, which upheld the EAD rule, did not rely on the overturned legal doctrine. But renewed litigation means anxious times ahead for nearly a lakh Indian families where the H-4 spouse holds a work authorisation.

AROUND THE WORLD



'BLOCK THE FAR-RIGHT': Thousands of people gathered in Paris on Wednesday to protest against the results of the first round of the French legislative elections in which the far-right National Rally party secured the most votes. The protesters called on voters to block the far-right from winning the second round due to take place on Sunday

France football captain Kylian Mbappe said on Thursday it was "really urgent" to vote in elections after far-right gains. "...We can't leave our country in the hands of these people. The results are catastrophic. I hope it changes... and everyone votes for the right people," Mbappe said

One of Germany's poorest cities has taken Taylor Swift's name, temporarily

The Swifties are about to take over the German city formerly known as Gelsenkirchen, where Taylor Swift is set to give three Eras Tour concerts. In honour of the singer, the city has renamed itself "Swiftkirchen" — at least temporarily — to welcome the tens of thousands of fans who are expected to come for her shows on July 17, 18 and 19. A yellow city sign with the new name — which translates roughly to "Swift's Church" — was unveiled Tuesday by fan Aleshanee Westhoff, who suggested the name to the city's mayor and started a petition a few weeks ago. One of the poorest cities in Germa-



ny, Gelsenkirchen is a former coal mining town that's never recovered from the decline of its main industry. Expected to generate huge revenue for the city, Swift's concerts are sold out and will take place at a stadium, which has space for up to 70,000 Swifties. AP

Canine weddings on rise in China while gov't struggles to make humans tie the knot

Shanghai: It was a dream wedding, complete with picturesque outdoor setting, white lace gown and a delectable cake. The perfect day for golden retrievers — Bree and Bond — to tie the knot in front of their closest human and canine friends.

Pet weddings are on the rise in China, where gov't policies have had little success in encouraging more humans to wed in this fast-aging society where the population is declining and

marriage and birth rates remain low. The popularity of pets and an increasing willingness to splurge on them are driving the trend. Spending on furry companions in 2023 rose 3.2% to 279.3 billion yuan (\$38.41 billion) from a year earlier, industry figures show. "People have weddings. Why can't dogs have weddings?" Bree's owner Rye Ling said after escorting his female pet down the aisle, where she exchanged vows promising



PUPPY LOVE: Golden retrievers Bree & Bond and their owners with mock marriage certificates

to always share treats and play with her husband Bond.

As of 2023, there were more than 116 million cats and dogs in urban China, according to figures by research firm Acuity Knowledge Partners. If distributed evenly across China's urban population, roughly one in eight Chinese people own a cat or a dog, with a majority of owners under 40, it said. Ling and his girlfriend Gigi Chen, who said they're in no

rush to get married themselves, meticulously planned the canine ceremony for months, arranging professional photos, designing wedding booklets and ordering a custom-made, 800-yuan cake complete with toppers that resemble Bree and Bond. Ling said he hoped the ceremony would give Bree and Bond a "sense of ritual". Ling, who said he wanted only one child, also hopes to welcome puppies soon. REUTERS

“This crowd tells us that the desperation we had to win was similar to the desperation which the fans had. The win has brought smiles on faces of crores of people. This is a special team and this trophy belongs to the nation.”
—Rohit Sharma | INDIA CAPTAIN

“I couldn't quite connect with the emotions of seniors who cried that night (after 2011 World Cup triumph) but now I do. This is the first time in 15 years that I have seen Rohit show so much emotion.”
—Virat Kohli | INDIA BATTING GREAT

“I hope we (Rohit and I) have carried the burden and no better to bring the trophy back here at the Wankhede. Halfway through the final against South Africa in Barbados, I knew it was time and let the next generation take over.”
—Virat Kohli | ON HIS T20I RETIREMENT

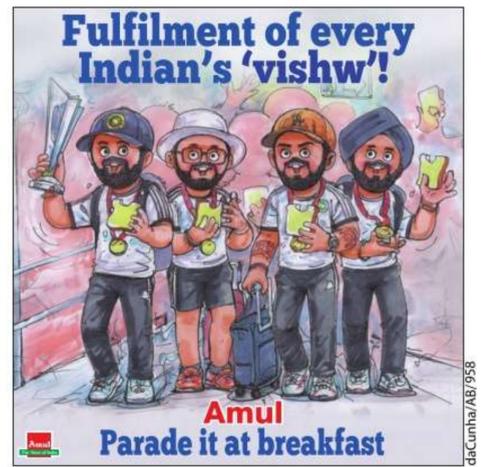
“This ground is really special. Came here as a kid and what I saw today I have never seen something like this. Seeing my son, I was emotional and I didn't have words. Told my wife that I wanted to see my son (see me playing).”
—Jasprit Bumrah | PLAYER OF THE TOURNAMENT

INDVINCIBLES ARE HOME

Pics: SI, Shanth Kumar/Sanjay Hadkar/Piyal Bhattacharjee/PTI



PEOPLE'S CHAMPS: The Mumbai crowd came out in big numbers to salute the Indian team on Thursday



Marine Drive: Sea it to believe it! After Guts, The Glory: When The Mumbai Faithful Thronged The Promenade

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Mumbai: The sea looked more blue than usual on the reclaimed-land side on Thursday evening. After their delayed departure from Barbados due to an imminent hurricane, Rohit Sharma's T20 World Cup-winning Team India returned home to a different kind of storm with cricket-crazy Mumbaiers filling the entire stretch from Nariman Point to Wankhede stadium and making the open-top bus carrying India's cricket heroes happily, gently and proudly cut through the ever-surging crowd of admirers, each eager for a glimpse of the champions.

Hours before the team even landed in Mumbai from Delhi at around 5 pm, after having met PM Modi in the morning after landing in the national capital, tens of thousands of cricket fans had flooded the route from the NCPA gates, winding their way towards the gates and stands of Wankhede which had been thrown open by the cricket authorities for a late-evening felicitation.

Some climbed trees, some tore through barricades, and everyone clicked away furiously on their cell phones as the team finally made its grand appearance atop a blue bus. Captain Rohit Sharma, flanked by Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya, Suryakumar Yadav, and other teammates, held the trophy high, waving to the delirious masses. The air was electric with chants of "Mumbaicha Raja, Rohit Sharma" and "Boom Boom Bumrah." As the parade inched forward, the frenzy left behind a scattering of shoes in its wake, evidence of the near-stampedede excitement of the moment.

After the bus reached Wankhede, the team did a lap of the ground amid resounding applause from fans in the stands, with Rohit dedicating the T20 WC title "to the entire nation."

So jubilant were the crowds from late afternoon that nothing mattered to them except the excitement and antici-

tion of the team's parade though they found themselves, for quite some time, at the mercy of nature's whims. First, the sun baked them to a crisp. Then the skies opened up. Yet everyone stood patiently for over three hours and soaked it all in as part of the celebration, with intermittent roars of "India! India!" at full pelt.

A gang of 20 friends, all clad in their own version of a Team India jersey, made the long journey from the western suburbs of Kandivli to the city's southernmost tip. As the train doors opened, they poured out onto the platform, waving the tricolour, blaring vuvuzelas and taking turns to chant the names of each one of their cricketing heroes.

Among them was Rajendra Damle, 20, who tried to capture the emotion of the moment. "It's hard to explain the feeling. It's just pure joy," he said, his eyes sparkling. "They've won, but it feels like we've won. We're a part of this and want to celebrate with them." Beside him, Kreena Vagh, 18, nodded enthusiastically. "It's also our chance to show them how much we respect and adore them," she added. Together, they joined the throngs along Marine Drive, ready to celebrate their heroes' victory as if it were their own.

High schoolers Aditya, Agastya, Sanchay, and Jainit made the trek from Goregaon to join the crowd. "Surya Kumar Yadav's catch was one of the best moments in the final," they chorused, still buzzing with the thrill of the win. "This victory has been healing for us after the Nov 2019 ODI World Cup final loss against Australia. We had to cheer for our men in blue." Agastya could barely contain his enthusiasm. "Excited to see Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, we'll be trailing them from NCPA to Wankhede. Rain or sun doesn't matter. We're ready to take a bullet for our men in blue."

Wankhede erupts in joy as team lands

Rajesh.Pansare @timesofindia.com

Mumbai: "Mumbai never disappoints". Those words of Rohit Sharma aptly summed up the reception Mumbaiers dished out to his T20 World Cup winning squad — at the Marine Drive and then at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday. Seven months ago, the man from Mumbai was distraught as he left the field, teary eyed, after India lost in the final of the ODI World Cup at Ahmedabad. Since lifting the trophy in Bridgetown last Saturday, the smile hasn't left his face. It continued Thursday as well, as he led the celebrations and soaked in the jubilant atmosphere in his hometown, on his home turf.

One would have thought the team would be tired after a long flight from Barbados to Delhi for a meeting with PM Narendra Modi and then to Mumbai but as Rohit said that "he wants to enjoy every minute, every second of it" and the rest of the pack followed. He enjoyed to the fullest as he led the team onto the field to a vociferous reception from those present in the stadium,

who had waited patiently since 4pm. He was the first one to break into a jig to a *dhol tasha* group giving their all in the MCA Pavilion. Virat Kohli then dragged him closer to them and then the entire team followed. The Wankhede isn't the biggest stadium in the country but the electric atmosphere it produces is unmatched. It was no different on Thursday as well.

The cheers were loudest for Rohit's captaincy, Kohli's tenacity, Bumrah's accuracy, Surya's that catch and Pandya's all-round performance. Yes Pandya? You heard it right. What a turnaround it has been for the Mumbai Indians' skipper who not long ago, during the 2024 IPL, was booed every time he stepped onto the same field. His performance in the World Cup had finally helped him win the fans over. Speeches done, handing of Rs125cr cheque followed, the team went on a victory lap.

In 2007, the open bus parade from the airport took almost six hours to reach Wankhede and brought Western part of the city to a standstill. Then skipper MS Dhoni had said that "he didn't realise how big the win was until he came out of the airport".

Never seen Rohit so emotional in 15 years like he was after the final: Kohli

Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: This was a victory party India's 2024 T20 World Cup winning team won't forget in their lifetime. For a Wankhede Stadium which has staged India's World Cup-winning celebrations in 2007 and 2011, the 2024 edition was truly special.

There was a sea of people on Thursday on the one kilometre stretch on the Marine Drive between the Nariman Point and the Wankhede Stadium to witness the historic moment when India's T20 World Champions enjoyed an open top bus parade.

Once Team India trooped into the Wankhede, with the players breaking into a jig to continue the celebrations, there was a sea of emotions, as the first skipper Rohit Sharma, outgoing head coach Rahul Dravid, star bat Virat Kohli, and then Jasprit Bumrah left the approximately 30,000-strong fans, waiting patiently since 4pm and having endured a sharp shower, teary-eyed with their words.

"Home boy," skipper Rohit Sharma, addressing the fans, said: "On behalf of my team and the BCCI, I would like to thank the fans. Ever since we have reached India, we have seen how much it means to them. For the last 11 years, they have wanted the trophy back in India. As much desperation we had to win the trophy, the fans had a bit more. This team is special, and I am lucky to have the chance to captain this unit."

India batting great Dravid said, "This is a fantastic note to sign off on. I am going to miss all this love. What we have been seeing today and what I have heard since the win shows how India makes cricket brilliant."

Opening-up about the sight of him hugging Rohit moments after India crossed the line Kohli said that he had never seen Rohit so emotional. "This is the first time in 15 years that I have seen Rohit show so much emotion. When we were climbing those steps (at Kensington Oval) he was crying and I was crying. When I was walking up



DANCE LIKE NO ONE'S WATCHING: Indian players do the bhanga at the Wankhede

the steps, we both were crying. For me, that's a very special memory from that day," he said.

Just after the tournament was over, Rohit, Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja announced their T20I retirements. "I hope we (Rohit and I) have carried the burden and no better to bring it (trophy) back here (Wankhede). Halfway through the game (final), I knew it was time and let the next generation take over," Kohli said. Kohli revealed that as a young member of the 2011 World Cup-winning team, he "couldn't connect with the emotions of the senior players at that time."

"When we won the World Cup back in 2011, I could not connect with the emotions of the senior players. I could not understand what it means. For me, it felt like, 'yeah, we have won the World Cup and that was a fact'. I was 22, but now, it's a different feeling," he said.

Years of slog to win a T20 World Cup, though, taught him the value of a title. "Now being at this position, (I understand what it means). Not just me, Rohit has played for so long, and we both have been trying hard for this for so long. When I was the captain, he was a senior player; now he

is the captain, I am a senior player, and our only aim was to win India a World Cup," Kohli said.

Heralded by Kohli as the one man who played a massive role in India's World Cup victory, pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who took 15 wickets in eight matches, revealed that he broke down with emotions after he saw his son Angad crying after India's victory. "This ground is really special in my life. As an under-19 kid, I came here to play cricket and what I saw today, I will never forget that. The confidence that we have to take the game by the neck and pull us out of trouble is special. Our aim is to take Indian cricket forward."

One of the most emotional moments of India's victory celebration was triggered by India's star allrounder Hardik Pandya, who, just before boarding the team's victory parade bus, posted on X: "See you soon, Wankhede," with a smile emoji.

A few months back in the IPL, when he was captaining Mumbai Indians, the Wankhede crowd had constantly booed Pandya, after he replaced Rohit Sharma as the captain for this season. However, on Thursday, the packed Wankhede cheered him on.



ALWAYS HAS GOOD HANDS: Suryakumar Yadav, the man who pounced David Miller, is greeted by policemen after the Indian team touched down in New Delhi in the wee hours of Thursday



GIVE ME SOME SUNSHINE: The Mumbai crowd that had given Hardik Pandya so much grief during the IPL showered its love on the allrounder for his stellar role in India's campaign



IN LETTER AND SPIRIT: Rohit Sharma's 'garden' comment which broke the internet has still not been forgotten by the crowd

PM Modi hosts champs, enjoys memorable conversation

Akhilsh.Singh@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday rolled out the red carpet for the T20 World Cup-winning Indian cricketers, who returned home to a grand reception. Despite the monsoon showers and heavy security deployment, fans turned out in huge numbers at the IGI airport to greet the champions. "An excellent meeting with our Champions! Hosted the World Cup winning team at 7, LKM and had a memorable conversation on their experiences through the tournament," the Prime Minister said on his social media handles, sharing photos and videos while interacting with the champions.

The Prime Minister was flanked by Rohit and outgoing head coach Rahul Dravid in the group picture. Several players later shared photos with the PM. Pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah shared a photograph of his wife and son with the PM. Spinner Kuldeep Yadav also shared images of his interaction and looked emotional as he was hugged by Modi. Pacer Arshdeep Singh and his parents were all smiles posing with Modi.

"What a great honour, meeting our honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. Thank you sir for inviting us to the Prime Minister's residence," star batter Virat Kohli,



BREAKFAST WITH CHAMPIONS: The Indian team with PM Narendra Modi at his residence in New Delhi

who was adjudged player of the final for his 59-ball 76, posted on Instagram.

The Prime Minister's Office shared a minute-long video in which the players were seen engaging in a chat, sitting in a circle around Modi.

For the interaction, players wore customised jerseys with the word 'CHAMPIONS' inscribed in bold letters on the front. It also featured two stars, denoting the two T20 World

Cup titles, above the Team India crest on the top left corner.

BCCI president Roger Binny and secretary Jay Shah also presented the Prime Minister with a customised Team India jersey with 'NAMO' and '1' inscribed on it.

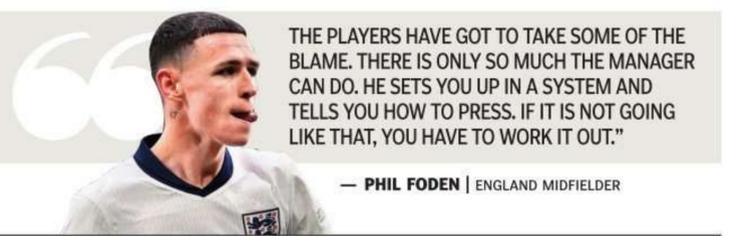
The Prime Minister, in a series of posts on social media, had hailed the Indian veterans including captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja, who have announced



ONE FOR THE PM: BCCI president Roger Binny and secretary Jay Shah presented PM Modi with a jersey with NAMO and No. 1 inscribed on it

their retirement from the T20 international cricket.

The Rohit Sharma-led squad arrived in Delhi early morning after being stranded in Bridgetown, Barbados for four days due to a category 4 hurricane. After their meeting with the PM, they flew to Mumbai for an open top bus parade at the Marine Drive promenade, followed by a felicitation ceremony at the Wankhede stadium which was attended by thousands of enthusiasts.



THE PLAYERS HAVE GOT TO TAKE SOME OF THE BLAME. THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH THE MANAGER CAN DO. HE SETS YOU UP IN A SYSTEM AND TELLS YOU HOW TO PRESS. IF IT IS NOT GOING LIKE THAT, YOU HAVE TO WORK IT OUT."

— PHIL FODEN | ENGLAND MIDFIELDER

A FINAL BEFORE TIME

Spain Pack Faces Tough Challenge Against Germany

Aasen: Spain have looked in imperious form in their four straight wins so far at Euro 2024, giving their eagerly anticipated quarter-final match-up with hosts Germany on Friday the air of a "final before the final". The squad has opted for a ferociously attacking approach over a year under the guidance of manager Luis de la Fuente.

This transformation may have surprised many fans, but players like midfielder Mikel Merino have seen it coming for almost a decade, as have many of his teammates. "We've known each other for a long time. It is probably the tightest group I have been in and I think this is our main strength - the brotherhood and team spirit," Merino said on Wednesday. "Nobody here is selfish. We all want the team to succeed."

When Merino describes the bond in Spain's changing room he is not exaggerating: over half of their squad in Germany have previously worked with De la Fuente in their national academy system.

Spain have been playing with relentless high pressure combined with lightning one-touch moves and precise passing, giving the impression of a squad where each player has an almost instinctive feel for the positioning of his teammates.

On Friday, Merino will play for and against familiar faces. He played two consecutive Under-21 Euro finals against Germany under De la Fuente, losing in 2017 but bouncing back two years later to win 2-1 against a team including Jonathan Tah, Benjamin Henrichs and Waldemar Anton, all of whom are in the Germany squad he faces in Stuttgart on Friday.

Germany veteran and 2014 World Cup winner Toni Kroos said Wednesday "the goal is to win the tournament". The midfielder has excelled in what will be his final tournament before retiring from football completely. The clash between two most impressive teams — and the only sides to have won three Euros titles — would be a marquee matchup for the final in Berlin. AGENCIES



JAMAL MUSIALA



NICO WILLIAMS

“AGAINST HUNGARY WE HAD DIFFICULT MOMENTS, AGAINST SWITZERLAND WE WERE BEHIND. WITH DENMARK THINGS DID NOT GO SMOOTHLY. SOMETHING LIKE THAT HELPS YOU GET THROUGH TOUGH PHASES, STAY CALM AND BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. WE ARE NOW WINNING GAMES OR AT LEAST NOT LOSING GAMES THAT WE WERE CLEARLY LOSING IN THE PAST.” — Toni Kroos | Germany

10-9 Germany (10) and Spain (9) are the top two scorers when it comes to passing accuracy with Germany at 92.2% and Spain on 91%.

84 Spain have had most goal attempts this Euro.

1-1 Three of the last four encounters have finished in a 1-1 draw with the exception being a 6-0 thrashing of Germany by Spain in a Nations League match in Nov 2020. Their most recent meeting was in the 2022 World Cup.



KYLIAN MBAPPE

CRISTIANO RONALDO

GALACTICOS IN BOTH CORNERS

Mbappe And Ronaldo Go Head To Head In Clash Of Generations

Hamburg: Cristiano Ronaldo vs Kylian Mbappe. A clash of football icons. A clash of generations.

They'll go head to head when Portugal play France in the Euro 2024 quarterfinals on Friday, and this heavyweight meeting might have got just that little bit bigger.

"It is, without doubt, my last European Championship," the 39-year-old Ronaldo said after his tearful performance in Portugal's penalty-shootout victory over Slovenia in the last 16.

Still, there's now a definitive spectre of finality to Ronaldo's long, headline-grabbing Euros adventure that could be brought to an end by Mbappe, the heir apparent to Ronaldo and Lionel Messi.

Mbappe grew up with pictures of Ronaldo on his bedroom wall. And only a few months ago, Ronaldo reacted to Mbappe clinching a highly anticipated move to

Madrid by writing on Instagram: "Excited to see you light up the Bernabeu." That Mbappe can now end Ronaldo's European Championship career adds an intriguing subplot to a match that will be watched around the world.

"Let's go, let's go to war," Ronaldo said of the match against France, whom he considers as the top contenders at Euro 2024 along with Spain. "It's not about leaving the world of football. What else is there for me to do or win?"

Ronaldo heads into Friday's game having failed to score in eight straight matches at major tournaments — Portugal's last four at the 2022 World Cup and their four games at Euro 2024.

Things haven't been straightforward for Mbappe, either, at Euro 2024. He sustained a broken nose in France's group opener against Austria and has since been

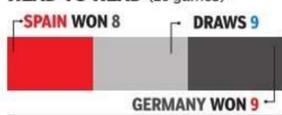
wearing a vision-limiting protective facemask during games. Mbappe has scored one penalty goal against Poland — it's the only goal scored by a France player at these Euros. "He will have to get used to it," France coach Didier Deschamps said of Mbappe and his mask.

Few would have predicted the top scorer at the last World Cup (Mbappe) and the record scorer in men's international football (Ronaldo) to have just one goal between them heading into the quarterfinals. But no one will be surprised if they come alive in Hamburg, with the pressure on and the occasion so big. Mbappe, remember, scored a hat trick in the World Cup final and has been logging Ronaldo-esque scoring numbers in the first part of his career. As their countries' respective captains, they'll shake hands and embrace before kickoff. You can bet they'll do the same after the match. AP

SPAIN VS GERMANY

Stuttgart Arena

HEAD TO HEAD (26 games)



FORM GUIDE

SPAIN				
W	W	W	W	W
GERMANY				
W	D	W	W	W

(most recent first)

SPAIN VS GERMANY
9.30pm Live on Sony Sports network

FAMILY MATTERS

The tournament in Germany has seen quite a number of sons emulating their illustrious fathers, who themselves shone for their national teams...



Lillian & Marcus Thuram

Lillian Thuram is a former French defender who won the 1998 World Cup and also the 2000 Euro. He scored 2 goals in the 1998 semifinal against Croatia. Marcus Thuram, who is leading the line with France captain Kylian Mbappe, is still a work in progress. "I'm proud to wear the Thuram name on my back," said Marcus.

Sergio & Francisco Conceicao

Francisco Conceicao has already shown glimpses of his lineage when he scored a last-minute goal against Czech Republic and helped Portugal win the game. Old-timers watching the youngster were reminded of a similar looking right winger who was part of Portugal's Golden Generation. Sergio Conceicao, Francisco's father, even has a Euro hat-trick against his name - vs Germany in the 2000 edition.

Danny & Daley Blind

In true Dutch and Ajax tradition, Daley Blind is a true disciple of Total Football just as his father Danny was. A long-serving Ajax faithful, Danny was the defensive anchor in a terrific Dutch and Ajax generation of the late 1990s and early 2000s. Son Daley is an equally unflappable presence in the heart of the Dutch midfield.

Enrico & Federico Chiesa

Enrico Chiesa was a former striker in the 1990s for a team that was always more famous for its defenders. Enrico made his presence felt at Euro 96 with his runs with Pierluigi Casiraghi before fizzling out. With Federico spearheading Italy's title charge at the last Euro, you could say the son has already surpassed his dad's legacy. This time, an unimaginative Italy gave way to Switzerland in the Round of 16.

Peter & Kasper Schmeichel

For Kasper Schmeichel, Denmark captain, it was his third Euro. A top keeper, Kasper is yet to reach the heights that his father Peter did with Denmark in 1992 when they won the Euro.

Gheorghe & Ianis Hagi

Ianis Hagi, the Romanian midfielder, is the son of the great Gheorghe Hagi. The Maradona of the Carpathians as Hagi Sr is called is arguably Romania's greatest. Ianis has shown similar flashes of intelligence and skill that made his father so famous, though even he knows he has huge, huge boots to fill.

— Ishay Mazumdar

Euro battles of the past

Spain and Germany, the two most successful European Championship nations, and among the most impressive sides at Euro 2024, come face to face in the quarterfinals on Friday. This will only be their fourth meeting at the finals.

FRANCE, 1984

West Germany were defending champs and drawn in a group with Spain, Portugal and Romania. They met in the last game, with the Germans top on 3 points (2 were awarded for a win). Spain and Portugal had 2 each. In the first half, Spain's Lobo Carrasco's poor penalty was saved by Harald Schumacher, but Antonio Maceda's 90th-min header put Spain through.

GERMANY, 1988

West Germany had their revenge four years later on home soil, however, when the sides were drawn in a group with Italy and Denmark and again they met in the final game with the Germans top of the standings. Spain needed victory, but in Mu-

nich they were no match for the hosts and Franz Beckenbauer's side secured a comfortable 2-0 win thanks to a Rudi Voeller brace. The Germans lost to the Netherlands in the semis.

AUSTRIA & SWITZERLAND, 2008 Spain and Germany clashed in the final for the first time. Fernando Torres scored the only goal as Spain clinched their second title, their first major tournament win in over



40 years starting a period of Spanish dominance. They became the first team to retain the Euro four years later and won their first World Cup trophy in 2010, beating Germany in the semis along the way. REUTERS

Contrasting emotions for Dutch-born Turk players

Hamburg: Dutch-born Ferdi Kadioglu is excited at the prospect of going up against the country of his birth when the Netherlands meet Turkey in the quarterfinals in Berlin on Saturday, but Orkun Kokcu will miss the experience.

Kadioglu was born in Arnhem and his father is from Turkey, but he played for the Dutch at junior level, even after leaving the Netherlands to play club football in Turkey aged 18. Now 24, he was the stand-out player for the Turks in their 2-1 win over Austria in the last 16. "For me it will now be a very special match against the Netherlands. The Netherlands must certainly be

afraid of us," Kadioglu added. Three years ago he was still playing for the Dutch at U-21 level but switched his allegiance when the path to the senior team looked blocked. "I thought about it carefully," he said. "Both countries are dear to me."

Kadioglu still struggles to speak Turkish and his interviews are given in English. Missing out on Saturday, due to suspension is Haarlem-born Kokcu, the other Dutch-born player in the Turkish squad, who was a fan favourite at Feyenoord and captained them to the title last year under Arne Slot. The Turk community in the Netherlands is estimated to be 500,000-strong. REUTERS

Last 8: Plenty of intrigue, even if Messi, Vinicius can't participate

Lionel Messi's leg injury was the only major obstacle that fell into Argentina's path while it rolled through group play and into the Copa America quarterfinals. Bigger challenges await the defending champions, and they're hoping Messi will be there to lead the way in perhaps his final international tournament. The 15-time Copa America champion Albiceleste are still the undeniable favorites in the Americas' biggest soccer tournament when quarterfinal play gets underway, but the other 15-time Copa champs — Uruguay — top the list of challengers capable of taking them down. With the host Americans and Mexico eliminated in group play, the spotlight shifts firmly to the South American powerhouses determined to raise the trophy.

QUARTERS ITINERARY (IST)

- Argentina vs Ecuador (Friday 6.30 am)
- Venezuela vs Canada (Saturday 6.30 am)
- Brazil vs Uruguay (Sunday 6.30 am)
- Colombia vs Panama (Sunday 3.30 am)

ARGENTINA VS ECUADOR

In Houston, it's unclear whether Lionel Messi will play in the opening quarterfinal due to a leg injury that sidelined him in the team's most recent match against Peru. Coach Lionel Scaloni said Messi's availability will be a game-time decision.

"Depending on how he responds, we will decide," Scaloni said on Wednesday before training. "There are ramifications when Leo is not able to play. We'll try to make sure that he can play. If not, we'll try to find the best solution for the team. I will talk to him today. It's only fair that he can take his time and be able to train as much as he can."

Argentina have been sturdy even without a goal from Messi in the tournament, winning all three group stage matches by a combined 5-0. Inter Milan striker Lautaro Martinez is in spectacular form, scoring four goals despite coming off the bench twice, while Manchester City's Julian Alvarez got the other goal.

If Scaloni decides to play both centre forwards together, it could be more than enough to make up for Messi — and a nightmare for underdog Ecuador, who earned their unexpected quarterfinal spot by holding Mexico scoreless last weekend.



BRAZIL VS URUGUAY

The Sin City will host easily the most tantalizing matchup of the round, featuring a faltering powerhouse against a team known for perennially punching above its weight. No quarterfinal team looked as shaky as Brazil, who stumbled into the next round with a thoroughly unimpressive display. Colombia and Costa Rica both held the Selecao to draws, and fan discontent is rolling. Even worse, Real Madrid star Vinicius Junior is suspended for the quarterfinal after accumulating two yellow cards. CONMEBOL said the referee and VAR made a mistake in not awarding Brazil a penalty during Tuesday's group-stage 1-1 draw against Colombia when defender Daniel Munoz tripped Vinicius inside the box. Only he and the VAR didn't see a penalty, which for sure was there," the Brazilian boss Dorival Junior said after the game. Yet Brazil are still laden with individual talent that's barely touched the field in this tournament, so it's far too early to write off Brazil. Uruguay look just as good under brilliant coach Marcelo Bielsa, winning all three league games. La Celeste probably would be the tournament favourites if not for Argentina's similarly strong form — but Brazil have the pure talent to end those dreams in a hurry.

VENEZUELA VS CANADA

In Arlington, Texas, it is a matchup of pleasant surprises. Venezuela have enjoyed an outstanding tournament so far, winning their three group matches by a combined 6-1 with offensive leadership from Salomon Rondon and Eduard Bello. Canada got out of Copa group stage for the first time despite scoring just one goal in three games before losing Inter Milan's Tajon Buchanan to a broken leg in training on Tuesday. Reaching the semifinals would be a massive achievement for either of these teams.

COLOMBIA VS PANAMA

In Glendale, Arizona, the quarters move west for a pair of games held in air-conditioned stadiums amid a continent-wide heat wave. Colombia are now unbeaten in 26 consecutive matches after holding Brazil to a draw to win their group. Led by veteran star James Rodriguez, Los Cafeteros will be favoured to



eliminate Panama, who knocked off the hosts USA to advance from the group. AP



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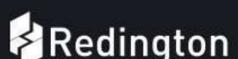
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WORLD CHAMP NEERAJ CHOPRA WILL SPEARHEAD INDIA'S CHALLENGE IN TRACK & FIELD AS AFI NAMES 28-MEMBER CONTINGENT FOR OLYMPICS

Ex-farmer & ex-cop, godman has penchant for good things

Preaches Dalit Uplift, Speaks Of Empowerment

Deepak Lavania
@timesofindia.com

Hathras: It's difficult to explain Surajpal Singh. Neither the man nor his ideology. Movie star meets activist would be close. That penchant for spotless white shirts and pants, that urgent call for Dalit upliftment and acceptance. The '70s sartorial mixing

► **EDIT PAGE: Why Bhole Babas Flourish, P 16**

oddy with a don-like fancy to be surrounded by three tiers of bodyguards — clad in pink, brown and black.

But by the time the boy

EARTHY BOND, ETHEREAL CLAIM

► A devotee describes him as being of **average height**. High standards of hygiene, **doesn't allow people to touch him**. Says he's an articulate speaker, an **avid reader, likes cars and perfumes**. Particular about diet and **exercise**



► In March 2000, was **charged with claiming to resurrect a teenage girl** in Agra. Police later closed case

► Three units — Narayani Sena, Garud Yodha and Hari Vahak — guard him around the clock

► **Push ashram for Baba, but locked since 2022, P 5**

► Another devotee who attended satsang says, 'Baba helps those in need. He **advocates sending children to school, condemns caste bias**. Baba also **helped us during the pandemic** when we didn't have food to eat'

► Faced several criminal cases, including **charges of fraud, land grab and sexual assault**, in the past

► Often **professed to be reincarnation of various Hindu gods**, boasted power to heal disease

► **6 arrested, ₹1L bounty for main suspect, P 12**

Born to Jatav parents in Bahadur Nagari village of Kasganj district sometime in the mid-1960s metamorphosed into Sakar Vishwa Hari Bhole

Baba, the legions of followers had no problem understanding what he stood for or preached, latching on to every word he uttered, every senten-

ce he spoke to articulate his own unique interpretation of religion and holy scriptures.

The man now at the centre of the stampede in Hathras that has so far taken 121 lives spent his boyhood working in the fields, learning rustic rhythms of the countryside from his father, a small farmer. His mother, a woman of deep faith, introduced him to the world of spirituality, planting in him the seeds of his future transformation.

Bhole Baba understood instinctively the struggles and aspirations of his mostly SC/ST admirers, using that advantage to position himself as their spiritual guide and saviour. His speeches revolved around social justice and empowerment. It resonated deeply with his congregation.

► **Friends in parties, P 12**

Another bridge collapses in Bihar in 24 hrs

A 15-year-old bridge across the Gandaki river of Saran district collapsed on Thursday, making it the 10th bridge to fall down in north Bihar in the last fortnight. This was the second bridge to collapse in Saran in the past 24 hours. Structural engineers and experts said the series of incidents exposes deep-rooted corruption in construction of bridges in Bihar. **P 6**

Brain-eating bacteria kills 12-yr-old boy

A 12-year-old boy became the latest victim of a rare infection caused by brain-eating bacteria a fortnight after taking bath in a contaminated pond in Kozhikode district. EP Miridul was administered a cocktail of five drugs brought from Germany, but it was too late to save him. This is the third case of fatal infection reported in Kerala since May. **P 6**

Pollution kills 12k in Delhi every yr

Roughly 12,000 Delhiites die every year — the highest number of such deaths per year — after breathing in microscopic air pollutants even at levels that are lower than India's permitted air quality standards while Mumbai recorded 5,100 such deaths. **P 6**

Trekker falls to death in U'khand

Omender Singh, 48, a trekker from Meerut in UP, fell to his death while descending the Rudranath trek in Rudrapur district. Singh slipped and fell into a 200m-deep gorge. His body was recovered after a gruelling 12-hr search. **TNN**

HC dismisses PIL, says it can't tell govt to use only Kannada, discard English

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: There can be no universal formula that only one language should be used in govt affairs, Karnataka HC has observed in a judgement.

"Wherever it is necessary, use of English language in addition to Kannada cannot be disbanded. The judicial pronouncements, the law reports, statute books and important notifications and out-of-the-state or overseas correspondence with the state authorities are all in English language. There should be a requisite blend of local language and the global language in running the govt's affairs," a division bench comprising Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind observed in its order, while declining to entertain a PIL seeking for a direction for use of Kannada in all governmental correspondences.

“Kannada language may be endeared, at the same time, utility of English language should not be overlooked or discarded. English is an official language for use in HC under the Constitution... At local level, however, it is hoped that the govt and the officers, as far as possible, may use, promote & give prominence to Kannada — **HC bench**

Petitioner Gurnath Vadde, a social worker from Kamalapur in Bidar district, had claimed that in rural areas, it is only Kannada language which is understood by the people.

On the other hand, the govt advocate submitted that there has been extensive use of Kannada language in governmental affairs, correspondences and other communications.

► **Official language, P 3**

To curb graft, sub-registrars to be transferred after five years

Bengaluru: In a move that could bring in more transparency and reduce corruption in transfers of sub-registrars, the state govt has decided to effect transfers of all employees of stamps and registration department through counselling. The state cabinet, which met on Thursday, approved the proposal.

Under the new system, sub-registrars and HQ assistants of the stamps and registration department who have served for five years or more in the last eight years in the limits of 10 city corporations, including Bengaluru, will be compulsorily transferred. "All such transfers will be taken up immediately and completed by August 10," said law and parliamentary affairs minister H K Patil.

For the first division assistants, counselling will be effective from next year. **TNN**

► **Cabinet decision, P 3**

Will surrender sites if Muda pays ₹62cr: CM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Embattled Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah Thursday made an offer to return the 14 alternative sites allotted to his wife Parvathi by Mysuru Urban Development Authority (Muda) if she's paid the market value of the properties.

"My land's market value is Rs 62 crore. If Muda is ready to pay that much, we will surrender the sites," Siddaramaiah said, rejecting BJP's demand for a CBI probe.

Siddaramaiah alleged the 3-acre-16-gunta land was encroached upon by Muda without "official acquisition", and the sites allotted to his wife totalling 38,284 sqft in upscale Vijayanagara III Stage, Mysuru, as compensation were significantly lower in

“Market value of my land is ₹62cr. If Muda is ready to pay that much, we will surrender the sites... The plots were allotted in 2021 when BJP's Basavaraj Bommai was CM. The same BJP is now claiming it is illegal... **Siddaramaiah | CHIEF MINISTER**

value than the land they lost. "Muda has accepted its mistake. In such cases, Muda must give the same extent of land. On their request, we agreed to get the sites," Siddaramaiah explained.

The CM reiterated the sites were allotted to his wife in 2021 when BJP's Basavaraj Bommai was CM.

► **'BJP got sites too', P 4**

Auto, cab drivers demand action against bike taxis

Chaos erupted at the transport department headquarters in Shantinagar on Thursday as hundreds of autorickshaw and cab drivers protested demanding action against illegal bike taxis, fare rule violations by taxi aggregators, unauthorized apps using private cars as taxis, and delays in school van registrations.

Protesters urged the department to cap taxi aggregator commissions at 5% and claimed that fitness certificates were withheld due to unmet deadlines for installing panic buttons and vehicle tracking devices despite the deadline for compliance being Sept 10. The protest was organised by the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations. **P 2**

Desi chess star, 9, youngest ever to represent England

London: Bodhana Sivanandan, a nine-year-old British Tamil chess prodigy, has made history by becoming the youngest sports star ever to represent England in an international sport, reports **Naomi Canton**.

Sivanandan, who lives in Harrow, will become the newest and youngest member of England's women's team at the Chess Olympiad in Budapest in Sept. She is over 10 years younger than the next team member, Lan Yao, 23. The other players are in their 30s and 40s.

Fide's July classical rating list ranks Sivanandan as the top under-10 girl in the world. On Fide's blitz list of the top 100 girls born after 2003, she is ranked 58th with a 2185 Elo rating, despite being the youngest player on the list.

PRINCESS'S GAMBIT

► Bodhana came upon a chess board during the lockdown when she was just five. She was interested in the pieces

► Her parents, Sivanandan Velayutham and Lakshmy Priya, from Trichy, TN, are first-generation migrants

► Bodhana plays an hour a day, and on weekends. No break from school

► **One of her new teammates, Jovanka Houska (44), said: "I can tell you one thing — I've had a lot of players say to me they're terrified of playing her. A 9-year-old that's close to 2200 — that's scary."**

► **Learned during Covid, P 21**

Teacher shifted, 133 kids follow him to new school

Sushil.Rao@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: The most telling of Teachers' Day tributes poured in two months early for a Telangana teacher when over half of the 250-odd students at his govt school shifted in droves to another school where he had been transferred recently.

Such outpourings around J Srinivas (53) of the govt primary school at Ponakal village in Mancheril district's Jannaram are a break from past agitations in which students locked up school gates when one of their favourite teachers was transferred.

"It is a rare thing. Students get attached to their teachers and feel emotional when they leave. However, students leaving to join the



J Srinivas boosted the strength of Ponakal govt primary school from 32 to 250 in last 12 years

school where their teacher has been posted is unheard of," district education officer S Yadaiah said. In Ponakal, there was initially a surge of emotions with many of Srinivas's students in tears when they heard of his transfer.

► **His contributions, P 12**

Why only 2% of colleges in India are autonomous

UGC Keeps Pushing For It, But Complicated Formalities And Reluctance By Univs To Award The Tag Are Big Hurdles Towards Achieving Independence

Preetu Nair &
Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Academic autonomy is under threat. At least in some states of India where the public university and colleges under it seem to be on the warpath over freedom. Of the 45,000-plus colleges across India, only about 995 are autonomous.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been promoting autonomy for decades. But it has been an arduous long walk to self-rule. For one, autonomy is not uniformly spread across the country: states like Jharkhand, Manipur, Rajasthan and Goa have the lowest count of autonomous colleges with the largest pool in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.

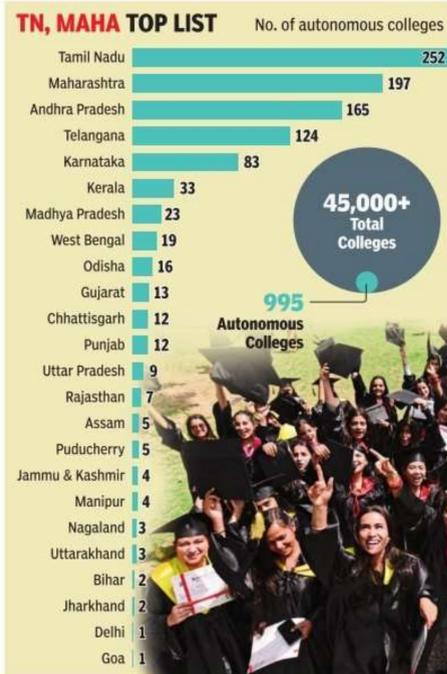
Secondly, academic autonomy in its truest sense is still uncommon, even though it is a proven fact that academic autonomy has an impact on performance in higher education. It is supposed to allow colleges to function without undue interference, allowing them to do what they do best: offer courses, alter curricula, innovate in teaching-learning and evaluate smartly. Yet, there are not many takers for it.

Multiple Issues

From political interference and universities unwilling to let go of their powers to a sheer lack of ambition and confidence in going independent, colleges across the country are reluctant or slow to turn autonomous for a variety of reasons. This despite the fact of UGC's repeated prodding of the states to encourage colleges to embrace independence.

A recent note speaks volumes about what is taking place on the ground. "...Some universities do not allow complete autonomy to the autonomous colleges in the matter of designing syllabus, introduction of new courses, and evolving methods of assessment of students' performance etc. as per provisions of the regulations. Certain universities ask the colleges to sign a MoU/agreement having terms and conditions against the provisions of the UGC regulations," it said.

Several principals in Kerala said universities discourage affiliated colleges from becoming autonomous as they "don't want a high per-



forming college to move out from their ambit". Given limited flexibility, colleges are not permitted to start new programmes or change the existing syllabus by more than 20%. Autonomous institutes are also penalised disproportionately for oversights such as misspelt names in result sheets.

Worse still, despite all instructions having been fulfilled, universities often do not give approval to start new programmes or put colleges through a long-winding process that can take years. Several autonomous colleges have now approached Kerala High Court in order to obtain approval for new programmes. But even after HC's nod, a college will have to pay high fees for getting the syllabus approved. For example, Mahatma Gandhi University charges Rs 57,890 for UG programmes and Rs 1.2 lakh for approving PG programmes from autonomous colleges.

Students At Receiving End

But it is the students that are the real sufferers in a clash of academic institutions. For instance, an autonomous college in north Kerala started five new undergraduate pro-

grammes in 2022, strictly adhering to UGC regulations of 2018 and submitting all necessary documents to the University of Calicut. Students admitted in those programmes have entered their fourth semester. But the university has yet to take any steps to give affiliation or recognise these programmes. Since these programmes are not included in the university's database, the college fears that the students admitted to these courses may be denied degree certificates after completing their course.

Worse still, as the college doesn't have the university's certificate of affiliation for the five new programmes, NAAC has now sought a clarification from the college in this matter.

Such examples point to the difficulties inherent in negotiating an autonomous path for colleges. Given the disconnect between university education and the jobs market, innovative courses through industry and sectoral linkages are clearly the need of the day. However, with state-run universities unwilling to ease up on their jurisdictional powers, the process of reform is likely to remain slow.

TOI Explains

WHAT HAMPERS AUTONOMY HOPES

DISCRIMINATION

Though autonomous colleges conduct exams, the degree certificate is awarded by the university. While results of examinations are published and intimated to the universities, there is a delay in issuing provisional and original degree certificates to autonomous colleges, which are penalised for minor mistakes, too. For instance, the university can impose a fine of upto Rs 6,000 if a student's name is misspelt by a college while the mistake is corrected only after much back and forth. Non-autonomous colleges are fined Rs 50 and the mistake is immediately corrected.

EXTRA WORK

The faculty of an autonomous college is expected to attend the university's evaluation camps. In case they don't, an explanation is sought. "Our teachers are also asked to do double duty," a college in Thrissur district wrote to UGC. It said they have to evaluate papers for the college, and also of university students studying in affiliated colleges that are not autonomous.

CIRCUITOUS PROCESSES

Proposal by an autonomous college for a new course that is not offered by the university has to be first presented to the college's board of studies, which has a university nominee. Then, it is presented before its academic council, which has three university nominees. For final approval, it is presented before the college's governing body, which has a university nominee and a state govt nominee. Yet, when the revised syllabus is forwarded to the university, there is a reluctance to clear it. One reason being that there is often no university board of studies that can study the proposal, thus leaving the college in limbo.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

A university charges a one time affiliation fee/annual affiliation for existing programmes. But Calicut University charges higher fees for self-financing courses. While the fees for self-financing courses introduced by autonomous colleges is Rs 1.2 lakh, for govt-aided programmes it is Rs 33,090.

JEE aspirant 13th student to die by suicide in Kota this yr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kota: A 16-year-old engineering aspirant from Nalanda in Bihar died by suicide in Kota on Thursday, becoming the 13th coaching student to take the extreme step in the city this year.

Sandeep Kumar Kurmi, who had been preparing for JEE for the last two years, was found dead in his room at a PG accommodation by a classmate at around 7am.

The PG caretaker, on being alerted, informed police, who sent the body for autopsy. No suicide note was found in Sandeep's room, and police are yet to ascertain the reason behind the teenager taking his life.

Police said Sandeep's brother Sanjeet was also preparing for NEET in a coaching institute in Kota and lived in a separate PG accommodation in Dadabari area. The brothers reportedly lost their parents four years ago, leaving their uncle as their guardian and responsible for their studies and stay in Kota.

Following the post-mortem, the body was handed over to Sanjeet, and a case of unnatural death was registered under section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita. Police said initial probe had revealed Sandeep was an average student and would frequently bunk classes.

Cops also found that the PG facility where Sandeep lived did not have an anti-suicide device attached to the ceiling fan, which has been made mandatory by the district administration in all hostels and PGs in Kota.

IIT-Lucknow turns to kathak to keep students stress-free

Mohita Tewari
@timesofindia.com

Lucknow: For the first time in the country, one of the leading engineering institutes, the Indian Institute of Information and Technology Lucknow (IIT-L), deputed a highly qualified kathak teacher to help students stay stress-free.

According to the institute's director, the dance classes, which were initially thought of as an experiment, have received quite a response from students, many of whom have become regulars at these sessions.

IITs, which are counted among the nation's premier institutions after IITs, are known for their interdisciplinary tech-based engineering programmes targeted at information technology.

"There are several studies that prove music and dance are mental healers. We want our students to be mentally and physically fit. Kathak is often termed a form of meditation that helps release stress and promotes relaxation," Arun Mohan Sherry, director of IIT-L, said.

Sherry says he wanted a dance teacher who understood the minds of budding engineers. "We recruited Anshima Chaudhari, who did B.Tech in biotechnology, before learning kathak from Bhatkhande Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya (Lucknow). She is currently pursuing PhD in kathak," he said.

A junior research fellow, Chaudhari did research on "the role of kathak dance in healing mental health". She



DANCE TO HEAL: Anshima Chaudhari

holds kathak classes for two hours in the evening at IIT-L, once students are done with their classes.

"Initially, engineering boys were reluctant but, now, in every class, around 15 boys and 40 girls turn up. Engineering students, including boys, perform thumri on Albeli Sajan, Yog Natyam, Stuti, and whatnot," Anshima says.

"Rhythmic footsteps, meaningful hand gestures (mudra), and emotional facial expressions (bhav) create a profound harmony between mind and body. Kathak, with its subtle movements, helps students learn patience, increases focus, and brings mental clarity," she says.

Top IITs hold mental wellness and stress management workshops for students from time to time. Also, sports and unique stress-buster activities are planned to promote the mental health of students. For example, IIT-Bombay recently launched "Recharge Zone", a unique stress relief initiative where students can take up foot spa, art, yoga, and other activities to manage stress during placements.

NEET paper leak: J'khand school principal sacked week after arrest

Vishvindu Jaipuria &
Abhijit Sen | TNN

Hazari bag: Oasis School's managing committee, led by its chairman Shabbir Ahmad, removed principal Ehsanul Haque and vice-principal Mohamad Imtiyaz Alam from their positions Thursday, a week after they were arrested by CBI for their alleged role in the NEET-UG paper leak case.

Arvind Kumar has been appointed the new principal of the school. The school issued the notification on Wednesday.

Haque and Alam were arrested by the CBI last week after digital evidence suggested they had tampered with the question paper of the NEET-UG exam. They are currently in Beur jail, Patna, being interrogated by the CBI.

The CBI had detained Haque and Alam on June 25 and officially arrested them on June 29. However, lack of immediate school management action against them drew criticism from many.

Critics argued that the school should have promptly dismissed them.

Local residents mentioned that Haque had been associated with the school since its inception and was instrumental in securing affiliation for both Classes X and XII in 2020. They acknowledged that Haque was the face of the school, with many still unaware of Ahmad's role. Haque was credited with enhancing the school's facilities and establishing it as among the best in the region.



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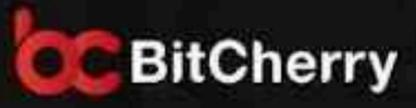
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