

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 6 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER | To subscribe call 1800 1200 004 or visit subscribe.timesofindia.com



Official Nutrition Partner of Team India
Herbalife

HERBALIFE IS PROUD TO BE THE OFFICIAL NUTRITION PARTNER OF TEAM INDIA FOR PARIS OLYMPICS 2024

Rain fury leaves 30 dead in four states in north

Rain fury in the north left 30 people dead on Sunday across Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, UP and Punjab, where nine from an extended family were washed away after their car sank in a stream. At least five people were missing in the four states. Rajasthan, especially Jaipur and Bharatpur, bore the brunt of the monsoon misery, with 16 deaths and two people missing. **P 18**

IED explosion kills Manipur ex-MLA's wife

The wife of Yamthong Haokip, a Manipur ex-MLA, was killed in an explosion in the compound of an abandoned house adjacent to theirs in tribal-dominated Kangpokpi district on Saturday. Though the blast was initially suspected to have been triggered by militants, police didn't discount the possibility that Charubala accidentally set it off while burning waste. **P 5**

3 dead, 5 injured as trucks collide on Tumakuru Rd

Three persons, including a pedestrian, were killed when two mini trucks collided near Nelamangala on Tumakuru Road, Sunday evening. Police said the accident happened around 4.15pm and traffic on National Highway-4 was disrupted for close to two hours. Of the five injured, one person is battling for life at a nearby hospital. Both drivers have been arrested. **P 3**

Dad freed after 5yrs in jail for daughter's 'rape'

A special Pocco court in Dehradun acquitted a 42-year-old man, who had been accused of raping his 15-year-old daughter and had spent the past five years in jail, after it was found that he had been falsely incriminated by the girl since he objected to her bunking school and having a relationship with a boy. The court discovered that the girl's beau instigated her to implicate her father. **P 8**

Slapped boy turns blind, FIR against 2

Following a CJM court order, police in Meerut lodged an FIR against the principal and yoga instructor of a govt-run Army public school in Meerut Cantt for "slapping a class 7 student who later turned blind". **P 6**

Civilian dies, J&K encounter toll rises to 3

The death toll in Saturday's shootout between security forces and terrorists in the remote upper reaches of Jammu & Kashmir's Anantnag district rose to three, with one of two civilians caught in the crossfire dying of gunshot wounds on Sunday, report Saleem Pandit & Sanjay Khajuria. Havildar Dipak Kumar Yadav from Bihar and Lance Naik Praveen Sharma from Himachal were killed in the encounter. Abdul Rashid Dar, a resident of Kokernag, died in hospital. Kashmir Zone IGP VK Birdi said the presence of the two civilians close to Saturday's shootout site is "being investigated". The manhunt for the terrorists continues in the forests. **P 6**

Buchs, Sebi, Adani, fund deny H'burg allegations

Stay Calm, Probed Most Claims, Sebi Tells Investors

New Delhi/ Mumbai: Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband, Dhaval, Sunday trashed allegations of impropriety levelled by Hindenburg and hit out at the short seller for not responding to a Sebi show-cause notice and instead "attacking" Sebi's "credibility" and attempting "character assassination".

The market watchdog, too, waded in, saying it had **She has admitted to some issues: H'burg**

Late Sunday, Hindenburg responded on X saying the Sebi chief had admitted to some of the issues raised by it and demanded that she release the full list of clients and the details of their engagement. **TNN**

acted on the allegations made against Adani Group, with 23 out of the 24 probes completed by March, 2024. "Investors should be calm and exercise due diligence before reacting to such reports," Sebi said. Hindenburg's report had alleged Puri Buch and Dhaval had investments in two funds with exposure to Adani stocks, which led to Sebi "drawing a blank" in its probe against the group. **TNN**

► **'For transparency', P 5**

Decision to invest in this fund (IPE Plus) was because **CIO Anil Ahuja is Dhaval's childhood friend from school and IIT-D...** (with many decades of a strong investing career... in 2018, Ahuja left his position... we redeemed the investment —MADHABI PURI BUCH & DHAVAL

...Sebi has adequate internal mechanisms for addressing issues relating to conflict of interest... **Relevant disclosures** required in terms of holdings of securities and their transfers **have been made by the chairperson** from time to time... (she) has also **recused herself** in matters involving potential conflicts of interest —SEBI

We completely reject these allegations... Group has **absolutely no commercial relationship** with individuals or matters mentioned in this calculated deliberate effort to malign our standing... —ADANI GROUP

Oppn 'conspiracy' to destabilise economy: BJP

BJP claimed Congress and other opposition parties were part of a "conspiracy" to create financial "instability and chaos in the world's fastest-growing economy". Calling it a classic "Congress-style innuendo and lies glued together," ex-Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said Hindenburg attacked Sebi in an "obvious partnership" with Congress. BJP's Sudhanshu Trivedi claimed the opposition knew the report was forthcoming. **P 5**

Rahul: Risk in mkt, JPC must probe charges

Alleging quid pro quo between Adani Group and Sebi chief Madhabi Buch, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi Sunday demanded a JPC to probe the allegations. Warning of a serious threat to hard-earned investments, Rahul also demanded the sacking of the Sebi chief and asked if Supreme Court will look into the matter again. While SP sought "a historical investigation of Sebi", AAP demanded PM Modi's resignation. **P 5**

Hasina never resigned as Bangladesh PM, claims son

In a stunning twist to the tumultuous developments unfolding in Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed claimed on Sunday that his mother never resigned as PM and reports to the contrary were "completely false and fabricated", report **AKM Moimuddin and agencies**. "The recent resignation statement attributed to my mother published in a newspaper is completely

US 'design' behind my ouster: 'Letter'

A purported letter from former Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina is seen shared among her party cadre that attributed her ouster to US's alleged design on strategically crucial St Martin's Island. **P 14**

► **Media companies risk shutdown for misinfo, P 14**

false and fabricated. I have just confirmed with her that she did not make any statement before or since leaving Dhaka," Wazed wrote on X, introducing a new complication into an already complex situation. His assertion contradicted the claim made a while ago by Mohammad Touhid Hossain, interim govt's foreign policy adviser, that Hasina put in her papers before fleeing.

► **'Will ask India...', P 14**

TB dam crest gate washed away, north K'taka dists on high alert

Chamaraj Savadi | TNN

Munirabad (Koppal): Lakhs of farmers and villagers in Karnataka and AP found themselves in the path of danger with the 19th crest gate of Tungbhadra reservoir breaking down and a part of the gate getting washed away around 1am Sunday, leading to concerns about safety of the dam inaugurated in 1953. Karnataka's Ballari, Vijayanagara, Koppal and Raichur and Andhra Pradesh's Kurunool and Nandyal are on alert.

The dam, 350km from Bengaluru, has 33 crest gates. Engineers said at least 60m³ of the 100m³ of water stored in the dam built across the Tungbhadra has to be released before they can replace the damaged gate. The twin exercises—reducing pressure on the dam and building a new crest gate—could take up to four days, if not longer: Consultations

► **Media companies risk shutdown for misinfo, P 14**

with experts from across the country are underway to get a new gate, and the design of the current gate will be analysed before starting work. The dam with a maximum storage capacity of 133m³ had 100m³ as of Saturday.

HELPS IRRIGATE 6.5 LAKH HECTARES

- Sir Arthur Cotton of Madras Presidency conceived the project in 1860 for irrigation, electricity generation and flood control
- Kingdom of Hyderabad and the Madras Presidency built TB dam from 1949 to 1953
- Also called Pampa Sagar, dam built across the Tungbhadra river at Hosapete-Koppal
- Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal allotted 151m³ of water to K'taka & 79 to Andhra
- Crops are grown in two seasons on 6.5L hectares of land



► **TB reservoir and Kerala's Mullaperiyar dam** are the only two reservoirs in India built of mud and limestone

► Of 33 crest gates, 19th came unstuck at 12.50am Sunday; each gate is 6-metre wide and 18m high

► **Maintenance work, P 4**

Insurer must pay interest on victim's future earnings, rules Karnataka HC

Vasantha.Kumar @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Karnataka high court has ruled that insurance companies cannot avoid paying interest on amounts awarded under 'future prospects' — a term to describe likely earnings if the victim had survived — in accident cases.

A division bench consisting of Justices K Somashekar and Chillakur Sumalatha made the decision while dismissing an appeal filed by Reliance General Insurance Company. The case involved Supreeth, a software professional with a finance major who died in an accident on

Nov 18, 2014, while returning from Sabarimala in a car with friends. The accident occurred on National Highway near a hotel on Hosur Road when a lorry ahead of the car suddenly turned right without signalling, causing the collision. Supreeth was seriously injured and died in hospital.

► **'Act beneficial', P 2**

With 16% vacancies, lower courts in K'taka grapple with 20L+ pending cases

Chethan.Kumar @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: District and subordinate courts in Karnataka — staring at 20.2 lakh pending cases — are burdened by unfilled posts of both judicial officers/judges and staff. As per data from the Union law ministry, lower courts in Karnataka have 16.4% posts — or 225 of 1,375 — of judicial officers unfilled.

Of the 20.2 lakh pending cases, as per the national judicial data grid (NJDG), 2,098 are pending for 20-30 years and 58,577 cases are pending for 10-20 years. Nine lakh cases are pending for a year and 5.1 lakh cases are pending for 3 years. Overall, there are more criminal cases pending than civil cases, but the latter have been pending for a longer time than the former.

Karnataka law and parliamentary affairs minister HK Patil told TOI the issue of vacancies is being addressed and shared data of vacant judicial staff posts. As per Patil, nearly 28% of

30-YEAR-OLD CASES

- K'taka law minister HK Patil says nearly 28% of judicial staff posts remain vacant as of date
- As of Aug 11, 2024, 9,77,520 civil and 10,48,155 criminal cases are pending in Karnataka
- Over 2k cases pending for 20-30 years & 2.8L for 5-10 yrs
- Families going bankrupt fighting civil cases, undertrials spending more time in jail due to delay in criminal cases

the judicial staff posts remain vacant as of date.

"The sanctioned strength of judicial staff as of 2023-24 is 21,527, of which we have 15,545 positions filled. We will fill up these vacancies, including those of judges. We will support all actions taken by the high court to fill up these vacancies," Patil said.

Separate data from the Union law ministry shows that the sanctioned posts of judicial officers in Karnataka have reduced from 3,972 as of Dec 31, 2018, to 1,375 as of Dec 31, 2023.

► **'Reduce appeals', P 2**

Wheeling by minors: 4-fold rise in parents fined in B'luru

Rajiv.Kalkod @timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The number of parents/guardians paying court fines for handing over two-wheelers to their minor wards who were caught performing wheelies in the city has grown four fold since 2022, according to police records.

In 2022, parents/guardians of 22 minors caught wheeling appeared before the court and paid the prescribed fine at a monthly average of less than two. The number of such parents/guardians rose to 71 in 2023, at an average of six per month. The first seven months of this year has already seen 74 adults coughing up fines for handing over their two-wheelers to their children/wards at an average of more than 10 a month.

The fines paid by parents/guardians were shy of Rs 2.4 lakh in 2022, making it an average of Rs 10,700 per parent/guardian.

► **'Spread awareness, P 3**

6 medals, 0 gold: India's haul sub-par but it's not all gloom

Shashank.Shekhar @timesofindia.com

As curtains fell on Paris Olympics on Sunday, Indian fans were left with a mixed feeling over the country's performance. For a nation of 1.4bn people, our return of one silver and five bronze is very meagre. That the world's most populous country couldn't produce a single gold medal is hard to digest.

However, if we look at India's showing in the past Sum-

mer Games, the Paris tally isn't too bad. Yes, we couldn't better our 2020 Tokyo haul of seven (one gold, two silver, four bronze) but we did much better than in Rio 2016, when our

US BAGS LAST GOLD TO TOP TALLY

US won a close women's basketball final, beating France 67-66, to equal China's gold haul & top medals tally

	G	S	B
FINAL US	40	44	42
MEALS China	40	27	24
TALLY Japan	20	12	13

1st time since 2008 Beijing, China equalled US in gold tally



India's flagbearers Manu Bhaker & PR Sreejesh during the Olympics closing ceremony in Paris. During 16 days of sporting excellence, at least 17 world records were set. Next games in LA in '28

► **India at No. 71, P 15**

YUN HI NAHIN MAIN, RAJNIGANDHA BAN JAATA HUN

DS GROUP

Superb in Freshness and Taste!

SCAN AND BUY

Rajnigandha.com

FOOL'S GOLD

Have you bought Red Gold? 55% return guaranteed hai.

Achchhe rate dilwa doonga main.

55% rate of return. Voh bhi tax-free!

Who said tax-free? No, it's not.

Jiju ko bolo, invest now!

YOUR NEXT INVESTMENT?

Scan to find out.

Intra-layout bus service gets residents' thumbs up

AT HSR LAYOUT A Year On, BMTC Facility Saves Citizens From Parking Woes & Costly Short-Distance Rides

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation's first intra-layout feeder bus service in Hosur Sarjapur Road (HSR) Layout has successfully completed one

TIMES Special

year, ferrying more than 1 lakh passengers a month on average. The layout, which has seven sectors, is home to over a dozen schools and colleges and a few companies and marketplaces. It has a population of about 43,000.

Every day at 6am, 10 BMTC buses begin their journey from Agara, covering all seven sectors in HSR Layout before returning to the starting point. Each ticket is priced at Rs 10, irrespective of where you board or deboard. For women, it is free under the Shakti scheme. The route length is 8.6km and according to BMTC officials, at least 5,000 passengers use the feeder buses daily.



MORE REACH: Every day at 6am, 10 BMTC buses begin their journey from Agara, covering all seven sectors in HSR Layout. Each ticket costs ₹10



HSR Layout residents say the service has helped them a lot as it saves them from parking troubles as well as spending hundreds of rupees on autorickshaws, besides reducing the carbon footprint.

"We have everything in our layout, from shopping complexes to schools, but the problem is how to reach them as they are located 5-6km from each other. These feeder buses have actually saved us a lot of money. I use these buses daily to pick up and drop my daughter at college. I've seen many elderly and domestic workers taking this bus to Agara as it's the only stop for anyone to enter or exit HSR Layout from the other parts of the city"



"When we launched this project, many people were sceptical whether it would work. We attached audio devices to the BBMP's garbage vehicles, displayed posters, and went to schools and colleges to spread the word. We can see many people are actively using the bus services; it has helped domestic workers and IT crowd the most"



Bheema Nair, 44, an HSR Layout resident since 2002, said, "Parking in our layout isn't so great, so driving a car is not feasible all the time."

These feeder buses help as twice a week, I go out on personal work. My son wouldn't usually take buses and he was very afraid to do so, but after these feeder buses arrived, he slowly got habituated to taking them and became independent, which was my main goal. He now uses these buses to travel to and from college."

The idea of the intra-layout bus service originated in 2020 when HSR Citizen Forum and HSR Cyclists group participated in Sustainable Mobility Accord (SuMA), a citywide citizen-driven contest from the Directorate of Urban Land Transport.

Shashidhara K, founder of HSR Cyclists, said, "We prepared 136 questions and passed it on to the citizens. In the responses, feeder buses was the top answer."

Ratnakar BNS, an executive of HSR Citizen Forum, said volunteers from both groups located feeder service facilities, bus stops, and route maps, and enabled the launch of the city's first loop-based BMTC feeder service in HSR Layout on Aug 1, 2023. Ramachandran R, MD of BMTC, said the HSR feeder buses are the first intra-layout ones Bengaluru has seen, and they have decongested the locality. "There are a few factors that made the service a huge success. Firstly, they are free for women under the Shakti scheme. The buses are operated at high frequency and at the convenience of passengers. They have reduced the need for private vehicles and cabs," he explained. He added if there is demand for a similar service in other areas, it would be considered and the routes surveyed.

OFFSIDE



New director for BEL Bangalore Complex

Bengaluru: Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has announced the appointment of Rajnish Sharma as director of its Bangalore Complex. He had previously served as GM of BEL's military radars strategic business unit and stepped into his new role with a background in core tech, including radar systems and electronic warfare. **TNN**

Admissions to BBMP institutions advance; teacher crunch an issue

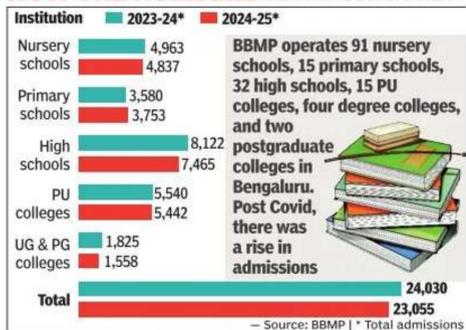
Santoshkumar.B
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Admissions to BBMP schools and colleges, which had lagged in the initial weeks of the season, gathered pace as July 31, the last date for admissions, neared. The final numbers are just shy of last year's data.

The number of students admitted in BBMP schools and colleges was around 9,500 till June 6. It has jumped 140% to cross the 23,000 mark, and is just 1,000 short of the total in the 2023-24 academic year. However, the civic body continues to battle teacher shortage, to address which it has planned to put in place a few measures, including hiring guest faculty through school development and monitoring committees and college development committees. The Palike is also planning to tie up with private educational institutions to get their employees to teach at the BBMP institutions.

According to Palike data, the student strength in its high schools has dipped from

HOW THE NUMBERS HAVE CHANGED



8,122 in 2023-24 to 7,465 this year. The pre-pandemic student strength in BBMP schools and colleges was between 12,000 and 15,000. The number of students increased to about 25,000 from 2020-21.

BBMP operates as many as 91 nursery schools, 15 primary schools, 32 high schools, 15 PU colleges, four degree colleges, and two postgraduate colleges in the city. BBMP officials said the

last few years saw a big rise in admissions, owing to the economic distress caused by Covid-19. However, parents showed poor response to enrolling their kids in BBMP institutions in the initial weeks. It led Palike officials to assume that the student strength may decrease by at least 50%, but they were proved wrong as 23,055 students had enrolled by the end of July 31—the last date for admissions.

FLOWER SHOW DELIGHTS VISITORS OVER WEEKEND

Pics: Chethan Shivakumar



SIGHTS & SCENTS: The Independence Day flower show at Lalbagh saw a huge crowd on Sunday as Bengalureans arrived in droves with their kids and other family members, clicking selfies in front of colourful floral arrangements. The show will be on till Aug 19 and the theme of this edition is the life and achievements of Dr BR Ambedkar



Eco-friendly mosquito killer to help control dengue spread in city

Santoshkumar.B
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: In a bid to mitigate dengue cases in the city, BBMP has decided to utilise an eco-friendly method to trap and kill mosquitoes. The civic agency has decided to launch a pilot project in Adugodi, south Bengaluru.

The eco-friendly method consists of keeping in public places a bucket containing water laced with some chemicals that draw mosquitoes and trap and kill them. BBMP's chief health officer (public health), Syed Sirajuddin Madani, told **TOI** they have written to a multinational engineering and tech firm in south Bengaluru for financial assistance under its corporate social responsibility fund. The Palike will procure an adequate number of traps and keep them every 50 metres in the area.

According to Madani, a trial with these traps was successful in controlling mosquitoes in Mumbai.

Palike officials said they need to test how effective these traps are in controlling the breeding of mosquitoes and are therefore taking up the pilot project. "We'll keep these traps using biodegradable



PILOT @ADUGODI

buckets. If we get a good result, we'll install them across the city," said Madani.

115 new inspecting officers BBMP's health wing has appointed 115 inspecting officers to conduct house-to-house surveys effectively. They will supervise the survey teams and monitor their work to identify mosquito-breeding spots and take measures to prevent dengue in the city.

The Palike claimed that fogging, among other things, is being done to eliminate mosquito breeding, and 51 hotspots have been identified across the city. The civic body has already completed a survey of nearly 25 lakh houses. They will also revisit these houses to check the status of mosquito-control efforts.

According to BBMP health wing officials, the city witnessed over 10,000 dengue cases in June and July.

Ex-SC judge: Reduce appeals, penalise speculative litigation

PENDING IN DIST, SUBORDINATE COURTS

Pendency age	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total
For 20-30 years	1,259	839	2,098
10-20 years	34,901	23,676	58,577
5-10 years	1,41,333	1,41,306	2,82,639
3-5 years	1,27,345	1,36,944	2,64,289
1-3 years	2,54,246	2,59,128	5,13,374
0-1 years	4,18,436	4,86,262	9,04,698
Total	9,77,520	10,48,155	20,25,675

Source: NJDG | In K'taka, as of Aug 11, 2024

Continued from page 1

Advocate Maitreyi Krishnan said a key concern is the judge-to-population ratio, which is about 21 per million across India and incomparable with many other countries. She argued that the sanctioned strength itself needs a rethink. In fact, the SC, in multiple judgments, has endorsed a target of 50 judges per million population. This recommendation, originally made in the 120th Report of the Law Commission, highlights a significant gap between the current situation and the ideal judicial strength.

Despite this, the current ratio indicates that the judiciary remains understaffed, potentially contributing to the backlog of cases and delays in the justice system. Nationally, of the 25,439 sanctioned judges' posts in subordinate courts, 21.3% or 5,428 posts are vacant, as per the ministry.

Activists pointed to how delays in criminal cases have seen hundreds of undertrials serve more time pending trial than the quantum of punishment prescribed in law for the crime they may have committed.

MV Act is beneficial legislation: Court

Continued from page 1

On June 17, 2019, the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal in Bengaluru awarded Rs 51.6 lakh compensation to Supreeth's family members, with the insurer being ordered to pay 95% of the amount. The insurer argued the car driver was also negligent, and that the car owner should be liable to pay a portion of the compensation. Additionally, the company claimed the awarded amount was excessive and the tribunal should not have awarded interest on

the amount awarded under loss of prospects. After reviewing the evidence, the division bench found the accident was caused solely by the negligence of the lorry driver, as per the police investigation report. The bench noted that Supreeth was a 26-year-old MBA graduate.

The bench emphasized the Motor Vehicles Act is beneficial legislation, and insurance companies are required to settle claims promptly. "The award of an amount as compensation is a one-time procedure. Even if in the future course, it is found the deceased would

have earned much more amount in light of hike in his position and global opportunities, the tribunals will not order payment of any further amount and insurance companies will not be made liable on that count. Such being the case, this court is of the view that the insurance companies are liable to pay the awarded amount, including the amount awarded under the head future prospects together with banking rate of interest which is prevalent during relevant time," the bench explained.

"In no case, the claimants get the exact amount the de-

ceased would have earned had he been alive. In all cases, the amount claimants would get for livelihood through the deceased would be many times more than the actual amount awarded. The insurance companies are depositing the compensation years after the date of accident, which is in clear violation of Section 149 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988," the bench said.

The bench directed the insurer to pay an additional Rs 40,000 compensation to Supreeth's family, along with 6% interest on the enhanced amount.

and termites (which degrade the stubbles in the field and pulverise the soil). Processed food products that were made on a small scale on the campus, fruit grafts and vegetable seeds were sold.

Amla and breadfruit were in high demand. "Around 1 quintal (100kg) of amla harvested on campus was sold out. Its freshness and medicinal properties were driving up the demand. We had harvested 50kg of breadfruit each day, and it was sold out, considering the festival time," added Doddabasappa.

Shubha, from National Seeds Corporation Ltd, was

Gumless jackfruit & monkey guns big draws at Santhe

Pearl.DSouza@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Panduranga Bhat from Puttur was flaunting a no-pellet gun to scare monkeys. All that the gun needed was a stone along with a firecracker. On pulling the trigger, the gun ignited a green-coloured explosion similar to that caused by mini-bombs used for festival celebrations.

Bhat's gun was among the displays put up by 80 nurseries, seed companies, artisans, processed food vendors, fertiliser startups, and agriculture and horticulture researchers grabbing eyeballs at the three-day Sasya Santhe, the sapling fair that concluded at the Gandhi Krishi Vi-

gyana Kendra (GKVK) on Sunday. Open to the public, the annual fair attracted about 25,000 locals, providing nurseries from different parts of Karnataka with a revenue of lakhs of rupees, said Doddabasappa, professor of entomology and a member of the Sasya Santhe organising committee. "Krishi Mela happens at the end of the year and there is no rain at that time. This month is likely to see moisture for the growth of agricultural and horticultural crops and hence a good time to acquaint locals with it. To attract the gathering, old agricultural implements were displayed," he added.

GKVK researchers displayed insects like honeybees



The three-day Sasya Santhe concluded at Gandhi Krishi Vigyana Kendra on Sunday



fielding questions on the African tall maize from several visitors. "It can be stored for a few years and then sowed. One bag of 5kg is sufficient for an acre of land. The demand for it comes from its use as cattle fodder. This cannot be consumed by humans."

Gumless jackfruit saplings were in high demand. Visitors were seen buying vegetable seeds and flower saplings, making inquiries about growing lotuses at home while also ensuring no mosquito breeds, the difference between wild honey and that grown on farms, and produce from cold-pressed oils.

Even as products were being marketed, there were serious concerns expressed

about the quality of water and pollutants that have made their way into the food chain. Lakeman Anand Malligavada, who was the chief guest at the programme and was honoured for his contribution to conserving the lakes, said, "Dakshina Pinakini river has 32 streams—Hebbal, Koramangala, Challaghatta among other valleys—if all lakes are purified, the river will change. That will impact the 80,000 hectares of cultivation of vegetables that come to Bengaluru. Earlier, the water was pristine from Nandi Hills, but now with chemicals polluting the water, the pollutants come back to us through the vegetables and milk we consume."

Caught at home, 32-yr-old woman & lover strangle husband to death

Claimed It As Accidental Death Later

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A woman and her lover, who were spending private time at her home, allegedly strangled her husband after they were caught by him, at Hagadur near Whitefield on Aug 9.

The arrested accused, Tejaswini, 32, and Gajendra Babu, 34, from Indiranagar, tried to portray the murder as accidental death, claiming that Mahesh, 36, lost consciousness after a fall.

Whitefield police said Tejaswini and Babu used a USB cable to strangle Mahesh, an autorickshaw driver, between 3.30pm and 4pm. When Ma-



Tejaswini and Gajendra Babu

hesh became unconscious, the duo, who work as EMI collectors in a private finance firm, took him to a hospital. Police received an alert about Mahesh's death the same evening. Tejaswini told police that Mahesh used to fight with her over petty issues. When they were having a heated argument at home, she pushed him. He became unconscious, and she rushed him to a hospital with the help of a relative, she claimed.

Police found marks on Mahesh's throat and they visited the spot to collect details from

neighbours. Tejaswini and Babu were subjected to thorough interrogation by the cops, and they confessed to having killed Mahesh.

According to the complaint filed by Mahesh's brother Ramesh from Whitefield, the former was killed by the duo in front of his son. Mahesh and Tejaswini fell in love during their college days and got married. They have a 14-year-old son and an eight-year-old daughter. Before becoming an auto driver last year, Mahesh, a native of Hassan district, used to sell rangoli. Tejaswini, who used to work in a grocery store, joined the finance firm one-and-a-half years ago. She got into a relationship with Babu and used to spend time at her house after Mahesh left for work, it was alleged.

Police said Mahesh and Tejaswini fought frequently

Student from J&K dead in PG

Bengaluru: A 21-year-old BSc student of Reva University at Kattiganahalli, near Yelahanka was found dead in PG accommodation on Sunday morning.

The deceased is Tanveer Rathor from Budgam district in Jammu and Kashmir. Other inmates found him hanging in his room at 10.30am. Yelahanka police have

found a death note, stating he's solely responsible for his death and apologised to his parents. "The exact cause is yet to be ascertained," said a cop. Sources said Tanveer was depressed after his exam results, announced on Saturday.

If you are having suicidal thoughts, call Tele-Manas helpline: 14416 or SA-HAI: 080-25497777. TNN

over the affair. Ramesh had witnessed Tejaswini roaming on Babu's bike and asked to stop the affair. Before getting into a relationship with Babu, she had run away from the house two years ago and returned after a week. Ramesh received a call

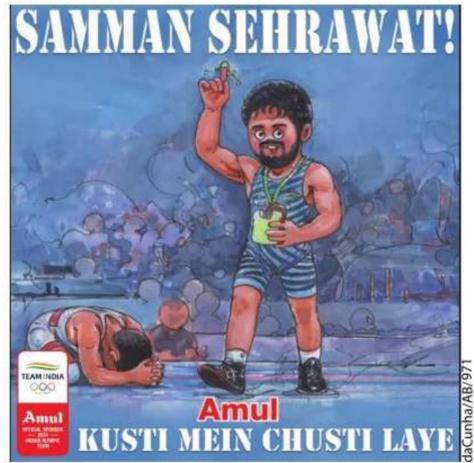
from his nephew at 5.30pm, telling that Tejaswini told him that Mahesh fell and was declared dead in the hospital. Later, Ramesh went near the house and learnt from neighbours that the couple had a fight, before Mahesh was found unconscious.

Docs to start protest today

Bengaluru: Interns, postgraduates, super-specialty residents, and senior residents from govt medical colleges in Karnataka will begin an indefinite protest from Aug 12, citing the govt's inaction on their demand for a stipend hike.

The doctors under the aegis of Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors (KARD) will suspend non-emergency services at the hospitals affiliated with autonomous medical colleges under the state govt. However, emergency services will continue to operate to ensure that critical care is not disrupted, said KARD.

"The govt has failed to address the disparity in stipends provided to resident doctors in Karnataka compared to other states. The stipends here are among the lowest in the country, while the fees for education remain the highest. This inequity has placed an undue burden on doctors, who tirelessly serve the people, often under challenging conditions," they said. TNN



3 killed, 5 injured as 2 trucks collide on NH4



Truck was ferrying labourers from construction site to their sheds

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Three persons, including a pedestrian, were killed when two mini trucks collided near Kuluvaiahalli Gate near Nelamangala on Tumakuru Road (NH) 4, Sunday evening.

The deceased were Shivagangaiiah, 55, a pedestrian and resident of Seethahal in Tumakuru district, and two labourers, who were travelling in one of the mini trucks—Husenappa, 34, and Narasappa, 35, both from Yadgir. Another labourer, identified as Bangarappa, is battling for life at a nearby hospital. Two other labourers, Sabanna and Kattappa, have also sustained injuries but are out of danger.

Superintendent of Police, Bengaluru district, CK Baba, said the accident happened around 4.15pm. The mini truck with cement mixture machine attached as a trolley was ferrying nine labourers from a construction site to their sheds near Shivagange of Dabaspete, while the other mini truck was heading to-

wards the city from Tumakuru on the highway. The driver of the Shivagange-bound truck took a free left at a T-shaped junction, but ended up colliding head on with the other mini truck coming from the opposite side.

The mini truck ferrying the labourers hit Shivagangaiiah, who was crossing the road. Two labourers in the vehicle died at the spot, while the pedestrian succumbed to injuries on the way to a hospital, Baba said. The drivers of the mini-trucks, who also sustained minor injuries, were secured later, he added. A senior officer said they don't have much information on the pedestrian except his name and age.

The traffic was disrupted on the highway for almost one-and-a-half hours. Nelamangala traffic police said there were three children among the nine adults travelling in the mini truck. The children and two women labourers escaped with bruises. The trucks have been seized and the case is being investigated.

Cafe employee tries to film women in washroom, held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 23-year-old man working in a cafe chain Third Wave Coffee, who kept a mobile phone on recording mode to film women using washroom, was arrested on Saturday morning.

Manoj from Bhadravathi in Shivamogga district and a resident of BEL Road works at the outlet on 80 Feet Road in Ashwath Nagar, off New BEL Road, in north Bengaluru.

Sadashivanagar police said they received an alert about the incident and upon verifying the video, they found it was in recording mode for one hour and 40 minutes. However, no women had been recorded.

A woman, who visited the outlet with a friend, spotted the phone covered with tissue papers in the dustbin and immediately rushed out of the washroom. She then complained to the management, an officer said. They found that the phone belonged to cafe employee Manoj. The phone was put in flight mode before be-

Terminated from service: Mgmt

When TOI reached the outlet, an employee said the issue has been sorted and police are investigating.

In a post on X, Third Wave Coffee stated: "We regret the unfortunate incident at our BEL Road outlet in Bengaluru and want to emphasise that such actions are unacceptable. We acted swiftly to address the situation by immediately terminating the person and ensuring the

safety of our customers." A spokesperson said they are implementing stricter safety protocols across their cafes in the country.

"Every café will have a dedicated woman attendant to check washrooms after usage. In addition, the café manager will periodically check the washrooms and private areas for bugs, hidden cameras or similar devices," he said.

ing set to recording mode so that incoming phone calls wouldn't disrupt the recording.

"He claimed this was the first time he tried filming, but we are not sure if he has deleted the previous videos. We have seized the phone and will be sending it for data retrieval," another officer said.

The woman's male friend, who was with her at the outlet, has filed a complaint. The incident was posted on Insta-

gram story from a handle named 'Gangs of Cinepur' on Saturday. The handler claimed to be present at the outlet at the time of the incident. According to his post, "the phone was hidden in the dustbin bag with a hole in it so that only the camera was exposed. It was quickly found that the phone belonged to one of the men working there. Police were called, and they arrived soon and action is being taken."

Min: Reclaim forest land worth ₹10k-cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Forest minister Eshwar B Khandre has ordered immediate action to reclaim 599 acres of notified forest area, valued at over Rs 10,000 crore, in survey numbers 1 and 2 of Peenya Jalahalli Plantation. A statement issued on Sunday read that the said

@JALAHALLI

land has been subject to illegal sales by HMT, a central govt-owned firm.

Khandre issued a note to the additional chief secretary, highlighting that the land was declared a forest under the Forest Regulations Act of 1878, with a gazette notification dating back to 1896. HMT allegedly sold portions of this land to various govt departments, firms, and private individuals. He has instructed immediate reclamation of 281 acres out of 469 acres, reportedly sold by HMT, with legal ac-



tion to follow for the remaining land. Khandre expressed dissatisfaction with forest officials for their inaction despite previous orders for land clearance under the Forest Conservation Act.

Investigations reveal that a 1963 donation deed transferring the land to HMT lacks proper gazette notification and de-notification procedures, rendering the transfer invalid. The statement added that recent SC judgments support the principle that "Once a Forest Always a Forest," emphasising environmental protection over civil rights. It has also come to light that the forest department submitted an Interim Application (IA) to the SC in 2020, seeking permission for de-notification. Khandre has ordered immediate withdrawal of IA and called for a probe.

—Adithri Chitloor

Cops: Spreading awareness via social media

Continued from page 1

The next year, the fines touched Rs 10.3 lakh, at an average of Rs 14,600 per head. The first seven months of this year has seen 74 parents/guardians paying Rs 5.2 lakh in all, at an average fine of Rs 7,000 per head. The fine per head can go up to Rs 25,000 and is at discretion of the court.

When cops catch minors performing wheelie stunts, their parents/guardians are booked under Indian Motor Vehicles Act, and if they injure others, parents/guardians have to bear hospital expenses and other related issues.

Number of adults caught doing bike stunts are also on the rise. In 2023, 214 adults were caught and the number has reached 283 in the first seven months this year.

Joint commissioner (traffic) MN Anucheth said, "The numbers are alarmingly increasing and should be controlled. We are spreading messages on social media against handing over vehicles to minors and ill-effects of indulging in wheelie stunts."

ಸ್ಪಾರ್ಶ್ ಹಾಸ್ಪಿಟಲ್



SPARSH HOSPITAL

THE TOUCH OF LIFE

www.sparshhospital.com



Strengthens its legacy of excellence across specialities.

Welcomes new doctors at Infantry Road



Internal Medicine | Cardiac Sciences | Gastrosciences | Respiratory Medicine | Renal Sciences | ENT, Head and Neck Surgery | Medical & Surgical Oncology
Critical Care Medicine | Neurosciences | Plastic Surgery | Orthopaedics | Obstetrics & Gynaecology | IVF | Paediatrics

24x7 Accident and Emergency Services (Adult & Paediatric)

45 ICU & 8 NICU Beds

7 Operation Theatres

State-of-the-Art Cath Lab, CT & MRI

100+ Doctors & Experts

40+ Specialities

Infantry Road | Yeshwanthpur | RR Nagar | Women & Child, Infantry Road | Yelahanka | Davanagere | Hassan

080 61 222 000

Channapatna bypoll could define future of Shivakumar and HDK

Sandeep.Moudgal@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: The impending Channapatna byelection could significantly impact politics in the state as JD(S) state president and Union steel minister HD Kumaraswamy faces off against Congress state president and deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar.

POLITICS & POLICY

The contest has gained additional intensity as the seat was previously held by Kumaraswamy before he won the adjacent Mandya Lok Sabha seat in May. Kumaraswamy is expected to pass the assembly seat on to his son, Nikhil.

Shivakumar's determination to wrest the segment is heightened by the defeat of his brother DK Suresh from Bangalore Rural Lok Sabha seat — which includes Channapatna assembly segment — to Kumaraswamy's brother-in-law and popular cardiologist



ONE-UPMANSHIP: DK Shivakumar and HD Kumaraswamy have been bombarding each other with personal remarks

Dr CN Nanjunath.

This has added a "revenge" element to the contest. The rivalry between the two political dynasties and the stakes between former

friends-turned-adversaries has added a personal dimension. The stakes for JD(S) are high since its alliance with BJP, while effective short-term, could come at the ex-

pense of allowing BJP to gain inroads in south Karnataka, a stronghold of the regional outfit.

Much at stake

A loss to Congress could endanger Nikhil's political career and provide BJP with an opportunity to gain influence in the Vokkaliga heartland, marking a decline in influence for Kumaraswamy and his father, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda's family.

As it is, the relationship appears strained. During the JD(S)-BJP padayatra in Channapatna, BJP's CN Ashwath Narayan, a former deputy CM, announced support for CP Yogeshwar as the party candidate, causing discomfort to BJP and JD(S) functionaries. Yogeshwar had twice represented Channapatna in the assembly and some of his supporters pressured Kumaraswamy into naming his local rival as the candidate.

Kumaraswamy defused the situation saying: "I am not here to

announce any candidate's name. I want an NDA candidate to win." However, within BJP there is speculation on whether it will undermine Kumaraswamy if he fields Nikhil or attempt to take the seat by fielding Yogeshwar.

"Yogeshwar cannot be underestimated and may even shift sides to damage the alliance. We will have to find a middle path to ensure our alliance and our growth trajectory in southern Karnataka is protected," a BJP functionary said.

For Shivakumar, winning Channapatna amid political and corruption issues against chief minister Siddaramaiah would bolster his claim to the chief minister post. "It does not matter who the candidate is in Channapatna; it will be Siddaramaiah and I who will be your MLA for the next four years," Shivakumar asserted at public rallies.

But a defeat would be a significant setback for Shivakumar since it would mean consecutive election losses in his backyard.

Yatnal & Co plan 'Ballari Chalo' march, take aim at Vijayendra

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Belagavi: Miffed with BJP state president BY Vijayendra for allegedly not taking them into confidence on the 'Mysore Chalo' padayatra, a group of senior BJP members are mulling a similar march from Kudala Sangama in Bagalkot district to Ballari.

Members of this group, who have all along opposed the elevation of Vijayendra to president of the state unit, met on Sunday at a private hotel on the outskirts of Belagavi to discuss plans for a 188km 'Ballari Chalo' padayatra.

Led by Vijayapura MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and Gokak legislator Ramesh Jarkiholi, the group intends to highlight the Valmiki corporation scam and the diversion of SCPTSP funds meant for Scheduled Castes and Tribes for the govt's guarantee schemes.

Those who attended included Harihar MLA BP Harish, former MPs Pratap Simmha, GM Siddeshwar and Annasaheb Jolle, former MLAs Arvind Limbavali and Kumar Bangarappa, and former chief minister BS Yediyurappa's personal assistant NR Santosh. None of them had participated in the 'Mysuru Chalo' padayatra.

In an apparent dig at Vijayen-



MAKING A MOVE: Basanagouda Patil Yatnal and Ramesh Jarkiholi address BJP members at the meeting in Belagavi on Sunday

dra, Yatnal told the gathering, "Our fight should be pro-public rather than benefit one functionary. The Muda scam is restricted to Mysuru, but the Valmiki corporation scam and diversion of SCPTSP funds are good issues for BJP to brand the govt as anti-Dalit."

He said 'Ballari Chalo' padayatra would be subject to clearance from the high command. "We will convince the high command about the need for this padayatra. The dates will be finalised after the Ganesh festival," he said.

It is said 'Ballari Chalo' was planned as a parallel event to 'Mysuru Chalo' but since the high command did not give permission, it was put on hold.

We aren't dissidents: Limbavali Former minister Limbavali urged reporters not to label the group "rebels" or "dissidents". He said the media "should not pass on the wrong message".

"We are discussing ways to strengthen the party," Limbavali said. "Our state president announced the 'Mysuru Chalo' padayatra without consulting anybody. We will seek consent of all for 'Ballari Chalo'." He said BJP must be strengthened after the defeat in the assembly elections.

On why they did not participate in the 'Mysuru Chalo' march, Limbavali said, "We wanted to concentrate on 'Ballari Chalo'. The issues we have chosen are very important."

Cabinet rejig in 6 months, says Hebbalkar; retracts

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Shivamogga: With the Siddaramaiah-led govt completing over a year at the helm, pressure is mounting on Congress party brass to drop non-performing ministers from the cabinet and give other "senior legislators" an opportunity.

On Sunday women and child development minister **Laxmi Hebbalkar** faced an embarrassing situation in Bhadravathi when a Lingayat seer compelled her to speak on a potential cabinet reshuffle.

After offering 'bagina' at Bhadra dam, Hebbalkar, alongside cabinet colleague and primary and secondary education minister Madhu Bangarappa and Bhadravathi MLA BK Sangameshwar participated in a programme.

Seated next to her, Shivacharya, seer of Bilaki Mutt, asked Hebbalkar of the possibility of inducting Sangameshwar into the cabinet. Forced to reply, Hebbalkar, while addressing the audience, said a reshuffle will happen in six months and that Sangameshwar would be given a cabinet berth.

However, later, while inter-

acting with reporters, she retracted, insisting "all legislators" are united, but supporters of some functionaries are demanding ministerial positions. She also said a seer from a prominent mutt in Bhadravathi has also inquired about a post for Sangameshwar.

Hebbalkar clarified that she responded to him by saying that the party high command would take a decision, but that she did not explicitly mention a reshuffle. She added that either she or district in-charge minister Bangarappa, would step down to a c o m m o d a t e Sangameshwar if push came to shove.

Hint from Cong brass

It may be recalled that AICC national general secretaries KC Venugopal and Randeep Singh Surjewala held one-on-one meetings with some senior ministers last week and took stock of their performances.

Sources claimed certain ministers were asked to buckle up and improve their performance, failing which they would be replaced in the next two months.

With 60k properties, Karnataka's Waqf board faces scrutiny

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, which was tabled and referred to a joint house committee in Parliament last week, has placed properties and boards across India under intense scrutiny. The big concern is whether the bill will enhance transparency over property ownership or infringe on the rights of Muslims. In Karnataka, scepticism is growing over the Centre's intent, with chief minister Siddaramaiah aligning with claims that the legislation could harm minority rights. TOI takes a look at Waqf properties in Karnataka and the controversies surrounding them

WAQF INSTITUTIONS | 28,000-30,000
A Waqf institution is one which comprises a management committee that takes care of Waqf properties

PROPERTIES | 47,470
A waqf property is movable or immovable property that is dedicated in the name of god for charitable purposes and executed by a deed or an instrument

COMMERCIAL INSTITUTIONS | 942
A Waqf commercial institution is one that manages properties that supplements the actual Waqf property's upkeep and maintenance

PROPERTIES USED FOR COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES | 14,855
Waqf commercial property that is attached by philanthropists to help existing Waqf charitable institutions which require monetary assistance to run them

Top 3 districts with commercial properties	Bottom 3 districts
Bengaluru Urban 1,672	Yadgir 79
Dharwad 1,138	Kodagu 141
Tumakuru 1,114	Haveri 191

Annual rental income from properties ₹77 cr **Total Waqf land ₹1,11,874 acres**

CONTROVERSIES

- A 7,000 page report by the 2012 Karnataka minorities commission alleged that some 29,000 acres of land was being misused by using it to benefit commercial interests of primarily Congress party politicians. It alleged a loss of Rs 2 lakh crore due to exploitation of land.
- In 2017, the Karnataka Waqf board was in focus after it was accused of grabbing 100 acres of land in Bengaluru, including a prime property in the central business district

Siddaramaiah | CHIEF MINISTER

— Sandeep Moudgal

CINEMA OF THE WEEK

Borderlands (Sci-Fi, Fantasy) ★★

Cast: Cate Blanchett, Ariana Greenblatt, Kevin Hart, Jack Black, Jamie Lee Curtis, Edgar Ramirez
Direction: Eli Roth
Duration: 1 hour 40 minutes
Language: English

■ A bounty hunter, Lilith (Cate Blanchett) is hired by a powerful man, Atlas (Edgar Ramirez), to retrieve his kidnapped daughter from planet Pandora. However Lilith soon figures out Atlas has sinister plans in mind.



to go back with her. But when the duo are attacked by the Altas soldiers, they are forced to team up. Roland (Kevin Hart) and his mate, Krieg (Florian Munteanu) soon come to their rescue. Roland, a former Altas soldier is actually trying to keep Tina safe from her 'father' or rather her creator, who created her with the sole purpose of finding and accessing the vault. They are eventually joined by scientist Tannis (Jamie Lee Curtis) and decide to find their way to the vault to access its powerful technology before Atlas can. But there's a twist that comes with opening of the vault that they are not aware of.

Director Eli Roth's 2018 film, *The House with a Clock in Its Walls*, was a charming children's horror with Cate

Blanchett and Jack Black as the principal characters. But unfortunately, the director and his actors are unable to recreate the magic with this one. Or even come close, actually.

Saddled with a clunky narrative *Borderlands* comes off as an uninspired, messy piece of filmmaking. Even with a prominent cast at its disposal, the film struggles to keep afloat. For a movie based on a video game, the special effects and sets are jarring and jaded. Moreover, the actors seem disconnected with the proceedings. As characters out on a mission together they have zero chemistry, to keep one invested in their journey. Kevin Hart is wasted in an action role, with barely any comic punches. Jamie Lee Curtis feels out of place and not in her element. And while Blanchett with her shock of red hair, packs in some action and emotions, it's not enough to save the film. Jack Black as Claptrap lands a couple of jokes, here and there. The climax is over drawn, bloody and loud. And the 102 minutes run-time plods on. Perhaps fans of the original game will find some connect with the film, but for others there's not much to sink their teeth into.

— Sreeparna Sengupta

To review any movie and check show timings, visit etimes.in

Bheema (Action Thriller) ★★

Cast: Vijay Kumar, Ashwini, Rangayana Raghu, Achyuth Kumar, Cockroach Sudhi
Language: Kannada
Duration: 148 minutes (A)
Direction: Vijay Kumar

■ *Bheema* (Vijay Kumar), a gangster who runs a mechanic shop, goes on a rampage after a personal loss caused by his rivals.

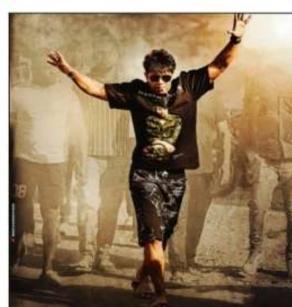
Troubled by how the youngsters of his locality are becoming addicts, Bheema (Vijay Kumar), a gangster who runs a mechanic shop, wages a war on drugs. Bheema takes it upon himself to teach a lesson to the villains — Dragon Manju and Shunti (Cockroach Sudhi).

Bheema, Vijay Kumar's directorial venture after *Salaga*, is written for a mass audience and is clear about it from the get-go. The movie is written for him and his fans, and by him, so one can expect a lot of fan service. He pulls out every stop to make sure all the boxes of a commercial entertainer are ticked. The first half takes off well with an interesting approach and a lot of

relatable jokes. However, the second half falters because of a formulaic approach with no space for experimentation.

Priya Shatamarsha as Girija is wonderful. She delivers dialogues with panache, almost making her the real hero of this film. Her role, although written well, deserved more screen time. Because Bheema is a commercial star vehicle, Girija, who starts off well, ends up being one among the other characters in the film. A little focus on her could have changed the trajectory of the film. Rangayana Raghu, Kalyanee Raju, Achyuth Kumar, and Ashwini Ambrish aide Bheema in his struggle to win the war against drugs. Dragon Manju, Cockroach Sudhi, and Raghu Shivamogga play the bad boys. Vijay has used a lot of local talent from Bengaluru, which is a welcome move.

If there is one industry that has been churning out films in the 'underworld stories' category, it has to be KFI. From OM in 1995 to the latest *Bheema*, these movies retell similar stories with different themes. Bheema faithfully uses this foundation and narrates the story of the city youth, their addiction to drugs, the mafia around the supply, and politics that serves and protects criminals.



The dialogues and jokes are good, but they just cater to one section of the audience. The biggest strength of *Bheema* is Charan Raj's music. The first half an hour, with three rap songs, almost makes it feel like a musical film. Charan's background music peaks during the climax scene. Also, fans should watch out for the 'Duniya Vijay cinematic universe' twist in the climax! *Bheema* is Duniya Vijay's ode to the underbelly of Bengaluru, and to a genre of films that carried him to stardom.

— Sridevi S

Maintenance work at dam carried out in May

► Continued from page 1

Tungabhadra Board secretary ORK Reddy ruled out any room for concern as the dam's design allows for release of up to 6.5 lakh cusecs of water at a time. The maximum so far was release of 3.6 lakh cusecs in December 1992. Within hours of the gate giving way, all district administrative chiefs, including that of Andhra's Kurnool, were put on high alert on a likely flood-like situation. Deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar, accompanied by district minister Shivaraj Tangadagi and minor irrigation minister NS Boseraju, arrived at the site to assess the emerging situation.

He said, "On Saturday night, 40,000 cusecs of water was being released into the Tungabhadra river through 10 crest gates. At 12.50am, the 19th gate malfunctioned, causing a substantial flow of water into the river... We need to release about 60mct of water into the river."

Chief minister Siddaramaiah is set to visit the reservoir on Tuesday.

In May, the dam authorities carried out essential maintenance and thorough check of all crest gates. Irrigation experts from Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Mumbai have been consulted to find a lasting solution.

Pharmacist molests nursing student, held

Bengaluru: A 28-year-old pharmacist has been arrested by Soladevanahalli police for allegedly molesting a 21-year-old nursing college student on July 30.

The accused, Basavaraj is a resident of Maruthinagar in Chikkabanavara and hails from Jewaragi in Kalaburagi district.

The student from West Bengal is studying in the fourth semester of BSc nursing. According to her complaint, she was on her way home in ABG Layout. When she was walking on the footpath near Sathagiri College around 9pm, the accused touched her inappropriately. Shocked, she tried to get away from him. The miscreant kissed her, and when she raised an alarm for help, he ran to his bike, which he had parked a few metres away, and escaped.

The police verified CCTV footages from the surroundings and got his bike's registration number. Basavaraj was nabbed a week ago and, sent to Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara.

A senior officer said Basavaraj had sexually harassed another girl in the same area, a few weeks ago. The girl had not filed a complaint against him and he felt emboldened to repeat the act. There were similar incidents reported in Peenya, Bagalagunte, and Soladevanahalli. Basavaraj claims that it is only his second offence. "We are verifying if he is behind the other incidents," a senior officer said. **TNN**

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

TIMES TRIBUTE
PAYING HOMAGE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL
To book your ad log on to: ads.timesgroup.com or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free)

SAD DEMISE

Sad Demise

Shri M A Krishna Kumar
11-8-2024

Proprietor: RAMSONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Ashok 9342234993
Kishore 9886395812

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

13TH DAY CEREMONY

In Loving memory of
Late R. Sathyamurthy
22.02.1944 - 31.07.2024
12.08.2024, 9:30 - 11 Am,
Followed By Lunch At YMIA,
5 Assaye Road, Halasuru,
Bangalore - 560042
9844000005, 9901054769

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

4th Year Anniversary

Sri. K. N. JAYALINGAPPA
15.07.1944 - 12.08.2020
Former President: FKCCI, KASSIA & ITI Ancillary Industries Association
Without your vision, we would have no dreams or no direction. Without your inspiration, we would have no guidance. You will always be in our heart and thoughts.
Fondly Remembered by Karachur Family & Nadig Family

Grieving Relatives and friends, Staff of RAMSONS Infrastructure

TIMES TRIBUTE
Classifieds Obituary Rs. 495/- pscm | Display Obituary Rs. 850/- pscm
Mini. ad size : 3(w) X 5(h) | Mini. ad size : 4(w) X 5(h)
For details contact: Bharat 7760833522

To place an Obituary announcement or Remembrance Ad

Log on to ads.timesgroup.com or Scan QR code

PLEASE CONTACT Bharat 7760833522 OR LOG ON TO [Ads.timesgroup.com](https://ads.timesgroup.com)

CREATIVE SUPPORT & ASSISTANCE



Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister



International Youth Day-2024

NACO
National AIDS Control Organisation

KSAPS
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society

Department of Health and Family Welfare
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society

Theme
Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development

Launch of Intensified IEC Campaign for HIV Free Karnataka



Hon'ble Health Minister **Shri Dinesh Gundurao** addressing during HIV campaign



Sri D K Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Date : 12-08-2024, 11:00 am | Place : Arogya Soudha Auditorium, Ground Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 023

To develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform - is the Fundamental duty of every citizen of India, enshrined in our constitution ... If any Myths and misconceptions on HIV/AIDS Call National toll free Helpline No. Download the NACO AIDS app on Google Play <https://ksaps.karnataka.gov.in> KarSAPS Your Health, Our Responsibility

'JPC probe' vs 'plot': Cong, BJP in slugfest over Hindenburg report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Alleging quid pro quo between Adani Group and Sebi chief Madhabi Buch following fresh Hindenburg claims, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi Sunday demanded that govt constitute a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) to probe the allegations, warning there is a serious threat to the hard-earned investments of small and medium investors. Rahul also demanded the sacking of the SEBI chief and asked if Supreme Court will look into the matter again. AAP, meanwhile, demanded PM Narendra Modi's resignation over the issue.

SP chief too wrote on X: "There should be a historical investigation of SEBI because the history of SEBI has been such that it has never become the true protector and support of investors. Only an impartial investigation can restore SEBI's reputation to instill a sense of security in investing in the Indian markets. A thorough investigation of the SEBI case is an imperative for India's economy."

Kharge, calling Adani a close associate of PM Modi, reminded that SEBI had previously cleared the billionaire businessman following the Hindenburg report allegations in Jan 2023.

Party spokesperson Jairam Ramesh said the Supreme Court expert committee had noted that the SEBI

had shown strange reluctance to investigate the Adani 'MegaScam', while underlining that the SEBI had in 2018 diluted, and in 2019 entirely deleted, the reporting requirements relating to the ultimate beneficial ownership of foreign funds, which tied the hands of the expert panel and led to SEBI's failure to reach to the bottom of the irregularities.

Ramesh noted that SEBI reintroduced the stricter reporting rules in June 2023 when the "Adani horse had bolted".



IN THE EYE OF THE STORM: Sebi chairperson Madhabi Buch

Kharge said, "A JPC inquiry is imperative to investigate this massive scandal. Until then, concerns persist that PM Modi will continue to shield his ally, compromising India's constitutional institutions, painstakingly built over seven decades."

AAP leader Sanjay Singh, demanding a JPC, said, "Any statement or report made by the SEBI chairperson in the Supreme Court on Adani's investigation has no meaning."

Oppn Wants To Create Chaos, Instability, Says Saffron Party

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP on Sunday claimed Congress and other opposition parties were part of a conspiracy to create financial instability and chaos in India, as the party rejected Hindenburg's charge against the Sebi chairperson as an attempt to discredit the financial watchdog.

BJP spokesperson Sud-

leased just ahead of or during Parliament sessions, he said opposition leaders were aware that the report was coming when Parliament was in session. The monsoon session of Parliament was scheduled to end on Monday but was cut short by one working day and ended on Friday.

BJP leader and former Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said Hindenburg had attacked Sebi in an "obvious partnership" with Congress and had an ominous motive. "It is to destabilise and discredit one of the world's strongest financial systems and create chaos in the world's fastest-growing economy," he said on X.

"I have said often and say again, many global forces with the help of the Congress dynasty want to slow down or trip up India's rise. We won't let them," he said.

Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia too claimed Congress was behind the Hindenburg report. "Congress work is only to spread anarchy and entangle the country in controversial matters," he said. He said PM Modi and BJP workers were carrying the "torch of development and progress", whereas Congress has been trying to keep it in the dark for years. The Adani group also termed the allegations malicious and based on manipulation of select public information.

hanshu Trivedi said the short-selling firm, which last year levelled serious allegations against the Adani group, was facing scrutiny from Indian probe agencies. "Opposition is echoing its allegation, and the conspiracy is now clearly visible that it wants to create chaos and instability, especially in the financial sector," he said.

Noting that many such critical reports emanating from foreign soil were re-

'Adani Group committed to transparency'

Continued from page 1

Giving a point-by-point rebuttal, Puri Buch and Dhaval, who have had long corporate careers, said the investment in the fund was made when they were both private citizens. The statement pointed out that the Sebi chief had graduated from IIM Ahmedabad and her husband from IIT Delhi and before joining the corporate sector. "During this long period, Madhabi and Dhaval have accrued their savings through their salaries, bonuses and stock options. Insinuations about their net worth and investments referencing Madhabi's current government salary is malicious and motivated," it said seeking to dismiss Hindenburg's claims of the Indian consulting firm set up by her reported revenue that was 4.4 times her disclosed salary at Sebi.

The couple said the deci-

sion to invest in the fund, two years before Puri Buch joined as a whole-time Sebi member. "The decision to invest in this fund was because the chief investment officer, Anil Ahuja, is Dhaval's childhood friend from school and IIT Delhi and, being an ex-employee of Citibank, J P Morgan and 3i Group plc, had many decades of a strong in-

HINDENBURG ROW

vesting career. The fact that these were the drivers of the investment decision is borne out by the fact that when, in 2018, Ahuja, left his position as CIO of the fund, we redeemed the investment in that fund. As confirmed by Ahuja, at no point in time did the fund invest in any bond, equity, or derivative of any Adani group company," their said.

Hindenburg's report had said Ahuja had served as a director on the board of Adani

Enterprises, and insinuated irregularities. Sebi said, "Investors may also like to take note of the disclaimer in the report that states that readers should assume that Hindenburg Research may have short positions in the securities covered in the report."

Separately, 360 One Wam, which ran the fund where the couple had invested, said: "Throughout the fund's tenure, IPE-Plus Fund 1 made zero investments in any shares of the Adani Group either directly or indirectly through any fund... The fund was managed as a discretionary fund by the investment manager. No investor had any involvement in the fund's operations or investment decisions. Mrs Madhabi Buch & Mr Dhaval Buch's holdings in the fund were less than 1.5% of the total inflow into the fund."

The Adani Group said Ahuja was a nominee director of 3i investment fund in Adani Power (2007-2008) and, later,

a director of Adani Enterprises until 2017. "The Adani Group has absolutely no commercial relationship with the individuals or matters mentioned in this calculated deliberate effort to malign our standing. We remain steadfastly committed to transparency and compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements," the statement said.

In their statement, the Sebi chief and Dhaval said the two consulting companies, named by Hindenburg, were set up while Puri Buch was in Singapore and became immediately dormant on her appointment to the regulatory agency. "These companies (and her shareholding in them) were explicitly part of her disclosures to Sebi... When the shareholding of the Singapore entity moved to Dhaval, this was once again disclosed, not just to Sebi, but also to the Singapore authorities and the Indian tax authorities."

Manipur former MLA's wife killed in IED blast near house

Kangkan.Kalital
@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: A former Manipur MLA's wife was killed in an explosion Saturday in the compound of an abandoned house adjacent to theirs in tribal-dominated Kangpokpi district. Although the afternoon blast was initially suspected to be a militant attack, police haven't ruled out the possibility that Yamthong Haokip's wife Charubala accidentally lit an IED while burning waste in the compound belonging to a relative in Saikul area.

Charubala (59) was rushed

to a primary health centre, which referred her to Kangpokpi district hospital. But she died on the way, police said. Haokip and their daughter, who were also home at the time of the explosion, were unhurt.

Haokip (64) was a two-time MLA from Saikul who switched from Congress to the governing BJP ahead of the 2022 assembly polls. Haokip was a Kangpokpi (hills) native, while Charubala was from the valley (Imphal East).

Charubala was cleaning her own compound and the one next door when the hidden IED went off.

450 helipads for Naveen's aide Pandian under lens

Riyan.Ramanath
@timesofindia.com

Bhubaneswar: Days after Odisha commerce and transport minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena called for a thorough probe into V K Pandian's helicopter rides, state law minister Prithviraj Harichandan on Sunday said the govt will investigate how 450 helipads were constructed to land the chopper carrying the bureaucrat-turned-politician.

V K Pandian, a close aide of former CM Naveen Patnaik, took helicopter rides between Feb and Sept last year during

BJD govt to interact with the public and gather feedback.

"We will investigate who covered the cost of the helicopter rides. Clarity must be provided on this matter. It needs a thorough probe. At the govt level, helipads were constructed wherever the helicopter landed, and govt funds were used. He (Pandian) visited 400-450 places. It is not clear who authorized this. A department secretary does not have the authority to use helicopters. How, then, was permission granted?" asked Harichandan. Pandian was the 5T secretary at the time.



Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka



Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department



Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister of Karnataka



Arivu Kendra

NATIONAL LIBRARIANS' DAY

ANNOUNCEMENT OF 6599 NEW VILLAGE LIBRARIES

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister,
Govt. of Karnataka

UNVEILING MODEL ARIVU KENDRA

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister,
Govt. of Karnataka

EMINENT PRESENCE

Shri Priyank Kharge
Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development & Panchayat Raj,
IT & BT. Govt. of Karnataka

PRESIDED BY

Dr. C.N. Ashwath Narayan
Hon'ble Member Of Legislative Assembly
Malleshwaram Constituency

Date: 12.08.2024, Monday

Timings: 5:00 PM

Place: Tripuravasini, Gate no: 02, Palace Ground, Bengaluru

All are cordially invited



To Get All The Popular Newspapers.
Type in Search Box of Telegram

@sharewithpride

If You Want to get these Newspapers Daily at earliest

English Newspapers»»»

Indian Express, Financial Express, The Hindu, Business Line, The Times of India, The Economic Times, Hindustan Times, ET wealth, Business Standard, First India, Mint, Greater Kashmir, Greater Jammu, The Himalayan, The Tribune, Brill Express, The Sikh Times, Avenue Mail, Western Times, Millennium Post, The Statesman, State Times, The Pioneer, Hans India, Free Press, Orissa Post, Mumbai Mirror, Mid-Day, Deccan Chronicle, Deccan Herald, Telangana Today, Financial Times, The Asian Age, The Telegraph, Oheraldo, Gulf of Times, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, USA Today, The Wall Street Journal, The Guardian, The Times

Hindi Newspapers»»»

दैनिक जागरण, राजस्थान पत्रिका, दैनिक भास्कर, दिव्यभास्कर, हिंदुस्तान, नवभारत टाइम्स, बिज़नस स्टैंडर्ड, अमर उजाला, जनसत्ता, द पायोनीर, राष्ट्रीय सहारा, प्रभातखबर, लोकसत्ता

Others»»»

Hindi & English Editorial, Employment News, Malayalam Newspapers, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Gujarati

Type in Search box of Telegram https://t.me/Magazines_8890050582 And you will find a Channel named @Lalit712 join it and receive daily editions of all popular epapers at the earliest

Or

you can click on this link

<https://t.me/sharewithpride>

The Light in Our Lives

CITY CITY BANG BANG

SANTOSH DESAI



An indelible memory of my childhood is that of my insomniac grandmother playing hand after hand of Solitaire (which she called Patience) lit by a zero-watt bulb while we were all sprawled on the floor trying to sleep. Her sight was extremely poor, and it was a miracle that she managed to, by squinting ferociously at the deck of cards, navigate her way through her nightly pastime in such dim light.

But then those were the days of bulbs that were extremely miserly when it came to delivering even a reasonable quantity of illumination, and my memory of childhood is dotted with scenes of dimly lit rooms with perfunctorily whitewashed walls. A 60-watt bulb was considered robust, and a 100-watt bulb was a shameful indulgence. The economic burden that the magic of electricity placed on us was only too evident in our niggardliness when it came to wattages, but it was also a recurring feature of our growing-up years to be admonished by our parents every time we left a room without switching off the lights. I remember many lengthy sermons on the virtues of frugality, thanks to the light bulb. Besides, stories of relatives who had assiduously studied late at night under a lonely streetlamp were a staple. The message was very clear: artificial lighting was a scarce resource to be used with great care.

Over and above the economic necessity, perhaps it was an acknowledgement of the power of a night as a primal force, a sign of respect that while we were flouting the laws of nature by illuminating our abodes artificially, we were doing so with the full knowledge that this is not how things were meant to be. We apologised even as we lit our electric lamps—for some reason, always with a little prayer. That was a time when we consciously shrank our world at night, lighting up only the most necessary parts of our lives. It

was time to be home, not go gallivanting around outside. In any case, we barely had any streetlights in the small towns where I spent most of my childhood, and going out at night for any errands was a much grumbled-about event. The night felt distinctly different from the day; it was as if we lived life in two different registers.

The flashlight was an integral asset in those times. The power supply was erratic, and street lighting was virtually non-existent. In rural areas, in particular, life would be unimaginable without this sturdy companion; a fact that made Nokia one of the bestselling phones in India.

The light bulb changed civilisation of course, by being, as Marshall McLuhan put it, a medium without a mes-

As our lives become more brightly lit, it is curious how, in some ways, we seek out its absence. There is a market for dimly lit bars, and films and television seem to revel in producing content that is so poorly lit that it is difficult to follow what is being depicted. That's a full circle of sorts

sage. It transforms the environment merely by its presence, turning night into day and, in effect, doubling the world we have access to. We could work 24 hours a day. The idea of 'night life' is a direct result of the bulb, yet another way in which human ingenuity has thwarted the designs of nature.

The coming of tube light was a sharp stab of abundance in the parsimonious world of the light bulb. It shone white with gauche self-consciousness, without any of the modesty of the bulb. It consumed less electricity too, and hence soon came to dominate our lives with ease.

Today, of course, as one looks upon empty office buildings late at night that are ablaze with light, it is easy to see dramatically how our relationship

with lighting has changed. And while it is true that the power situation in India has improved significantly, what this really points to is the change in our attitude towards lighting. We abhor darkness and have begun to find it unnatural. Darkness feels like a void, an aberration that we are no longer comfortable with. We rarely encounter darkness in our lives anymore until it's time to go to sleep. Light is a sign of space being animated by life. This probably explains the urge to keep one light on even if we are not at home.

The advent of LED technology has helped bring about this transformation. Lighting is now much cheaper and more versatile. Lighting methods have changed, and modern homes today can have a dazzling array of lights used in different ways. Lighting has become a lifestyle accessory, to be used for aesthetic as well as functional reasons. Today there is talk about lighting design, which involves using light purposefully to highlight and underline different spaces that we use. There are cove lights, spotlights, accent lights, and ambient lights; a whole new vocabulary of lighting has sprung up. If earlier we lived by the rules of the lighting options available to us, today we paint our lives with light in the way we see fit.

Along with the greater versatility of artificial lighting, there is a craving for natural light. We evaluate homes based on how much natural light is available. In an earlier time, when homes had courtyards, natural light was never an issue. Today, with more and more urban life being centered around apartments, this need has become heightened. Not only do we want to be suffused by natural light, but we also even want the artificial light to resemble the real thing.

As our lives become more brightly lit, it is curious how, in some ways, we seek out its absence. There is a market for dimly lit bars, and films and television seem to revel in producing content that is so poorly lit that it is difficult to follow what is being depicted. That's a full circle of sorts. From a time when we made do with the little light that we could afford to a time now when we seek out some version of darkness.

santosh365@gmail.com

Civilian dies, toll in J&K encounter hits 3

Police Launch Probe Into His Presence At Shootout Site

Saleem Pandit & Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

Srinagar/Jammu: The death count from Saturday's shootout between security forces and terrorists in the remote upper reaches of J&K's Anantnag district rose to three, with one of the two civilians caught in crossfire dying of gunshot wounds in the hospital on Sunday.

Deceased were identified as Havildar Dipak Kumar Yadav from Bihar and Lance Naik Praveen Sharma from Sirmour (in Himachal), both attached with 1 Para Special Force, and Abdul Rashid Dar, of Kokernag.

Kashmir Zone IGP VK Birdi said presence of the two civilians close to Saturday's shootout site is "being investigated". There are reports of locals being coerced or lured by terrorists to help them navigate the terrain. Operation to hunt down terrorists, who escaped deep into the jungles, continued despite heavy rain & challenging landscape of Ahlan Gagarmandu.

According to officials, three to four "highly trained Pakistani men" suspected to



On Saturday, terrorists were sighted in Ahlan Gagarmandu forest of Anantnag. As soldiers approached the spot, the terrorists unleashed a barrage of gunfire, wounding six soldiers and two civilians

be banned Jaish-e-Mohammed were involved in the attack on a security search team that was in pursuit of terrorists spotted in Kapran Garol in Kokernag.

The terrorists crossed Pir Panjal's Kishtwar range and entered south Kashmir on Aug 5, escaping a manhunt in Doda district of Jammu division following an attack on July 15 that left four soldiers dead, officials said.

On Saturday, the terrorists were sighted in Ahlan Gagarmandu forest, Anantnag. As the soldiers approached the location, the hiding terrorists unleashed a barrage of gunfire, wounding six soldiers and two civilians.

Early on Sunday, a brief gunfight between security forces and terrorists was reported from a remote forest in Kishtwar. No casualties were reported. The shootout had

no impact on annual pilgrimage to Machail Mata shrine. "As a precautionary measure, traffic and movement of pilgrims were stopped briefly. There is no need to panic," an official said, assuring pilgrims of adequate security. Machail Mata Yatra started on July 25 and is scheduled to conclude on Sept 5.

The two slain soldiers were among 16 security personnel killed in J&K since May 4, while 10 civilian fatalities have been reported since an ambush on a bus in Reasi district on June 9 left seven pilgrims, the driver, and conductor dead.

Most of these fatalities are from Jammu region, which has seen an increase in terrorist violence this summer. Official sources estimate that of the 70 to 80 Pakistani terrorists active in J&K, nearly 55 to 60 are in Jammu zone.

'Drunk' Mumbai motorist hits biker, assaults cop, arrested

Mumbai: A 40-year-old man was arrested for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol and assaulting a traffic cop at Goregaon Friday evening, reports V Narayan.

The man, Shailesh Kumar Singh, a Nallasopara resident, was driving at Penkarpada junction to head towards Dahisar when his car had a collision with a two-wheeler at around 9.15pm.

A traffic constable and a warden, who were on night patrol, flagged down the driver even as the biker, who had sustained minor injury, left the spot without lodging any police complaint. The car driver sped away without halting, raising suspicion of the constable.

Traffic constable Swapnil Gharat, along with the traffic warden whose identity has not been revealed by the police, chased the car on a bike. They tailed the car for about 15 minutes, before intercepting it at one point. "When he rolled down the window, the smell of alcohol filled the air. He stepped out and held me by my collar. I called up the police control room... Dahisar police station cops reached there and took him into custody," the constable told TOI.

He has been booked under BNS and MVA for offences including assault on a public servant, rash driving, criminal intimidation, intentional insult, disobedience of orders, dangerous driving, and driving under the influence of alcohol.

PM releases 109 high-yielding, climate-resilient crop varieties

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday released 109 high yielding, climate resilient and biofortified varieties of 61 crops, including 34 field crops and 27 horticultural crops, and suggested that Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) should proactively inform farmers about benefits of the new varieties.

Farmers will receive seeds of all new varieties within three years.

Lauding scientists for development of these varieties, the PM said they would lead to value addition, thus boosting farmers' income. PM proposed that experts from KVKs, ICAR and state agricultural universities engage with farmers one day each month and the goal of this exchange should be to tackle a current issue related to agriculture and attempt to identify answers through mutual learning.

Such an exchange will be helpful in handling the simmering tensions among farmers at a time when a



PM Narendra Modi accompanied by Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan (L) at ICAR-IARI in New Delhi on Sunday. PM said adoption of organic farming by farmers will be quite beneficial for them

section of them has constantly been on protest demanding better price for their produce either through MSP or other interventions.

These crop varieties have been developed for different agro-climatic zones of the country, focusing on short duration, resistance to floods and droughts/heat, and adaptability to various biotic and abiotic conditions.

Interacting with farmers at the farms of ICAR-IARI, Modi said these climate resilient varieties of different

crops will increase yield as well as farmers' income in addition to encouraging them towards environment-friendly sustainable farming practices. The PM also discussed importance of millets. On benefits of natural farming, he said people have started consuming and demanding organic food and adoption of organic farming will be beneficial for farmers.

Agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan accompanied Modi to ICAR-IARI farms.

Student 'loses vision after slap'; principal, teacher named in FIR

Meerut: Following a Chief Judicial Magistrate court order, police in Meerut lodged an FIR against principal and yoga instructor of a govt-run Army Public School in Meerut Cant, for 'slapping a Class 7 student who later turned blind', reports Krishna Chaudhary.

The student's mother, Indu Devi, said her son is suffering from a retinal problem and had very low vision, and after the yoga instructor, Daksh, slapped him, there was further damage. She said the principal, despite knowing about the incident that took place last year, didn't take action. The child underwent five major eye surgeries, but lost his vision.

Police have registered an FIR under IPC sections 325, 351 and 201, among others. No arrests have been made so far.

Principal, Rita Gupta, told TOI: "The student was involved in a scuffle and the teacher intervened. The teacher informed us he merely tapped the child and did not slap him. But, even tapping is unacceptable. Consequently, his services were terminated."

India reaffirms commitment to Maldives with major infra projects

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Maldives is very much at the heart of India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and a key partner in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), foreign minister S Jaishankar said as he joined his counterpart Moosa Zameer in Addu city in inaugurating the Addu reclamation and shore protection project and Addu detour link bridge project facilitated by India.

Jaishankar's three-day visit is said to have reaffirmed the continued commitment of both countries to strengthening their multi-dimensional bilateral relationship and deepening their close people-to-people ties. During the visit, both sides also reaffirmed their commitment to deepen the India-Maldives defence and security partnership. "Maldives for us is a key partner in the Indian Ocean Region. It is very much at the heart of our Neighbourhood First policy. And it is therefore ve-

ry natural that the cooperation between our two countries has moved beyond the traditional role. And today really aspires to be a modern partnership," Jaishankar said. "Our development cooperation is aimed at touching all facets of people's lives and finding ways of bringing tangible benefits to their lives," he added.

According to Indian govt, Maldives remains an important partner in maintaining peace, stability and prosperity in IOR. In the last few years, India has invested around \$220 million which provides a fair idea of the importance that it attaches to regional development in Maldives, he said. "We are today among the largest trading partners among others. We're also witnessing greater investment flows from India to the Maldives, particularly in the tourism sector," he said. India has partnered with the govt of Maldives on the Addu reclamation and shore protection project to find a sustainable way to develop it as a regional hub, he said.

The reclamation of 184 hectares of land was concluded earlier this year. This ambitious \$80 million programme involves land reclamation for the purpose of tourism development, as well as for the overall economic development of Addu. The project will help in the overall growth of the region, bringing in better opportunities for employment, entrepreneurship and trade.

"Another important project being carried out with Indian assistance is the redevelopment of the Addu roads and drainage development with an outlay of \$70 million. This project is in the last phase and once completed, will provide a solution to problems of waterlogging of roads in Addu," Jaishankar said. "The Addu detour link road that has been inaugurated today which is the cause for us gathering here is an important component of this project and will significantly ease connectivity within the atoll," he said. "Under the Indian Line of Credit, we have focused not only on developing Addu's facilities as a region but also connecting it to the outside world," he said.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
DEPARTMENT OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION
ADMISSION NOTIFICATION-2024
(For the Wards of Kashmiri Migrants into Professional and Technical Institutions)

1. Applications are invited from the wards of Kashmiri Migrants for admission into 1st year Engineering / MBA and MCA Courses offered in Professional and Technical Institutions in 2024.

2. Eligibility: As per G.O.R.No.151 Higher Education (TE) Department, Dated:25-06-2018

a. Last date for receiving of applications: 19-08-2024
b. Physical Counselling and Issuance of Allotment orders: 23-08-2024

For Further details visit: <https://tgeapct.net.in>
Date:08-08-2024, Place: Hyderabad Sd/- A. Sridevasena, IAS CTE & Convenor 2024
R.O.No.: 316/PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/2024-25 Date: 08-08-2024

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO.17/SBC/24 OF 31.07.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

SN	Item of work	Approximate value (in Rs.)
1	1 Sr DEN/South Bengaluru Section: Manufacturing supply and stacking of machine crushed track ballast including leading and loading at Pariyaga Thunai depot and Karuvalli Cess in connection with the work of Bangalore-Salem section: CTR(P) for a length of 18km from 11900+230 and 72100+770 SL to replace D Mark Rails.	Rs. 2,22,72,084
2	2 Salem Section: Strengthening of Bank by providing standard width in isolated locations for a length of 18.85km from Km 145/650-165/600 SL in ADEN/Dharmapuri section. Subwork-I: Bengaluru - Salem Section - Cess work in connection with the work of through Ballast recruitment of points and crossings at Dharmapuri, Rayakkottai, Pariyaga Thunai, Mahalingam and Banaswadi yards-Totally 11 Nos in ADEN/Dharmapuri section. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 3,74,99,976
3	3 Bengaluru - Salem Section: RCC side drain for a length of 1500m in connection with the work of Strengthening of bank by providing standard width in isolated locations for a length of 18.85km from 145/650-165/600 SL in ADEN/Dharmapuri section. Maintenance is 6 months	Rs. 1,77,64,723
4	4 Provision of STP Tank of 50KLD Capacity Subwork-II: Bengaluru-Salem Section: Dharmapuri-Provision of STP tank of 50 KLD capacity. Maintenance period is 24 months	Rs. 3,66,88,621

Last date of submission of bid for tender: **Up to: 15.00 Hours on 27.08.2024**

For details log on to www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer (Co-Ordination) Bengaluru
PUB/322/ADD360/PB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN E-TENDER

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162
Date: 08/08/2024. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any. Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Office Address: Office of the PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan. S. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as follows: [1]; 91240873A; Thrust Carrying Piece, Drg. No: 31TW.096.037 ALT-5, Spec. No: IS: 10192-1982, GR. EP3, STR. NO: CLW/TM/17030 REV-1, [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 1140.00 Numbers; ₹ 0.00; 31/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [2]; 75243850; (i) Set of Stainless Steel Hardware Items consisting of 35 items for WAG-9HC As per Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/040, Alt-15. [Each set is a Loco set consisting of 35 items as per set details attached] [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery], (ii) Stainless Steel Hardware items for ELAAU/DKAE as per Drg./Specn. No. CLW/MS/3/040 Alt-15. [Each set is a Loco set consisting of 26 items as per set details attached] [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]; (iii) 856.00 Set, (iv) 90.00 Set; ₹ 119830.00; 02/09/2024 at 11:00 AM. [3]; 75243746A; Modified Hand Brake Assembly [Gear Type] for WAG-9HC to RDSO Drg. No. - SKEL-4993 Alt-0, SKEL-4998 Alt-0, SKEL-4999 Alt-1, SKEL-5000 Alt-0, SKEL-5001 Alt-0, SKEL-5002 Alt-1. [01 (One) Set consisting of 06 (Six) items as per Set Details attached]. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 390.00 Set; ₹ 76290.00; 02/09/2024 at 11:00 AM. PR3/579 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan

Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

ASRTU

ASRTU BHAWAN PLOT NO.4-A, PSP Block Pk.14, Sec-6, Dwarka NEW DELHI-110 077 Ph. 011-43294234 Extn. 404/414

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BID

NIT NO. 2/2024 - 269" SC (S&C)

A	Tender Commencement Date	12/08/2024	11 00 Hrs
B <td>Tender Forms request Last Date</td> <td>10/09/2024</td> <td>11 00 Hrs</td>	Tender Forms request Last Date	10/09/2024	11 00 Hrs
C <td>Tender Closing Date (CAT-1 e-submission)</td> <td>11/09/2024</td> <td>11 00 Hrs</td>	Tender Closing Date (CAT-1 e-submission)	11/09/2024	11 00 Hrs
D <td>Tender Closing Date (CAT-2 Manual submission)</td> <td>11/09/2024</td> <td>17 00 Hrs</td>	Tender Closing Date (CAT-2 Manual submission)	11/09/2024	17 00 Hrs

Cost of Tender form including GST Rs 3,540/- to be paid only at www.tenderwizards.com/ASRTU for more details of Tender Notice Visit www.asrtu.org

2 die as truck rams bike in Delhi: Two men died after their bike was hit by a truck on Delhi-Jaipur Highway (NH-8) at Bilaspur on Saturday. The bike was dragged by the truck for around 50m and got stuck under it. The driver fled the spot soon after, police said. TNN

TAMILNADU POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sl No.	Specification	Description of Work / Materials	Due date & time for submission of e-tender
1	Coal (SHIP) - 168 Dated 08.08.2024	TIME CHARTERING OF ONE SELF-TRIMMING PANAMA MAX KAMSARMAX GEARLESS BULK CARRIER VESSEL WITH THE LAYDAYS FROM 1st OCT to 15th OCT 2024 FOR A PERIOD OF 12 MONTHS + 3 MONTHS CHOITION + 1 MONTH CHOITION +/- 15 DAYS CHOITION	22.08.2024 Upto 14:30 Hours.

Submission of E-Tender: THROUGH THIS HYPERLINK <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgepp/app> Date & Time of commencement of download of Tender Specification: 17:00 Hrs. on 12.08.2024 Date & Time of closing of download of Tender Specification: 14:30 Hrs on 22.08.2024

Soft copy of Tender Specification: The tender specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website www.tangedco.gov.in, from Tamil Nadu Government Web site i.e. www.tenders.tn.gov.in and from National Informatics Centre website <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgepp/app> free of cost. Tender will be opened: Through the NIC portal <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgepp/app> DIPR/2011/Tender/2024 CHIEF ENGINEER / MECH / COAL, TNPCCL / CHEMNAL - 2

Sub-quota a plot to divide & rule Dalits, allege SP veterans

Subodh Ghildiyal @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Samajwadi Party's Dalit leadership has dubbed the proposal of sub-categorisation of Scheduled Castes a ploy to "divide and rule", arguing that the party stands strongly for the unity of the community as prescribed by Ambedkar.

Veteran MPs RK Chaudhary and Awadhesh Prasad told TOI that division of SCs into sub-groups will sound the death knell of Dalit unity which cannot be accepted. "SP led by Akhilesh Yadav stands resolutely with the SC/ST community," he said.

The views of the MP duo from Uttar Pradesh came as SP is positioning itself to tap into BSP's support base which has diminished amid steady erosion of its Dalit base. Several BSP leaders have joined SP with Chaudhary being a key figure from Kanshi Ram's era. As Mayawati has come out strongly against the Supreme Court judgement on sub-categorisation and has historically stood for a single bloc of SCs, the views of SP's Dalit brass are politically significant given its firm eyes on the fragmenting BSP votebank. Chaudhary said Kanshi Ram played a big role in uniting Dalits across divisions and

4 feared dead in clashes between militants, village guards in Manipur

Kangkan Kalital @timesofindia.com

Guwahati: Four armed men are feared killed in a fratricidal shootout between militants and village guards in Manipur's Tengnoupal district, police said. A militant belonging to the United Kuki Liberation Front (UKLF) and three village volunteers were reportedly killed in the gunfight near the Molnom area of the district on Friday.

Police are yet to recover the bodies, but search operations by Central security forces continue. Other reports suggest that the bodies of the three volunteers have been kept in a nearby village.

A senior police officer said "Central security forces are continuing their operation in the area. The situation is under control but bodies are yet to be recovered by police or security forces."

Manipur CM N Biren Singh had on Friday confirmed the incident, but said no specific information about injuries or casualties could be obtained at that time. Since the gunfight was between two armed groups of a community and not between two different communities, Biren said there was no cause for alarm of a communal clash. The violence began around 9am on Friday in the Molnoi Palle and Molnom areas of Tengnoupal district. It was reportedly triggered by some "misunderstanding" between the two Kuki groups.

(Government of Karnataka)
Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited
(A Government Undertaking)
No. 3, 4th Floor, Embassy Icon, Infantry Road, Bangalore - 560001.
E-mail: director@karnatakaturism.gov.in Tel: 080-22352828 Fax: 080-22352626.

NO: KTIL/YO-02/03/2024-25 Date: 09.08.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Director, KTIL, Invited the Respective Tender for Development of Passengers Ropeway at Various Tourist Spots of Karnataka Under Suitable PPP Model for Development of Karnataka Tourism at (Karnataka Public Procurement Portal) <https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. The details of the Tender & Calendar Events are available at: <https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Portal.

Work Name: Development of "Passengers Ropeway" At Tourist spots of Karnataka Under Suitable PPP model, **Indent No.:** KTIL/2024-25/PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_1 **Event Date Description:** Date of Pre Bid Meeting: 14.08.2024. 12:00 P.M. Last date for submitting proposals: 23.08.2024 17:00 Hrs Opening of Technical Proposal: 26.08.2024 17:00 Hrs.

Postponement of Calendar of events (if any), subsequent notification, changes, amendments and selection / rejection of proposal shall be intimated only through Karnataka public procurement portal and will not be published in newspapers. KTIL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders received without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
Executive Director, and Tender Inviting Authority,
Karnataka Tourism Infrastructure Limited
DIPR/CP/1399/Zen/2024-25

Skin under Kol doc's nails is of accused, says forensic report

Dwaipayan Ghosh & Tamaghna Banerjee | TNN

Kolkata: Investigators on Sunday found the strongest evidence yet against Sanjay Roy, the prime accused in the rape and murder of a 31-year-old postgraduate trainee doc at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital: traces of blood and skin found under the victim's nails are a perfect match with Roy's, and correspond to the injuries he suffered.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday had directed the police to ensure a fast-track trial, calling it a "despicable crime". Kolkata Police sources said they tried their best to speed up the probe after that.

The victim — even half-asleep — had desperately tried to fight back, and it was this fight that gave investigators the proof they needed, said a senior cop. "She had tried to resist, and caused deep injury marks and scratches on the hands of the accused. In a medical examination, the scratch injuries on Roy's body matched the skin and blood samples collected from the nails of the victim. We expect to get the final forensic report soon," he told TOI.

The postmortem report has said the death was due to smothering and throttling. There are aberration marks and bruise marks on the victim's face, on the eyes till the neck. The report mentions that the accused "got certain advantage as the victim was in deep sleep at the time of the attack." The report, however, said that the judicial inquest was wrong in suggesting a collarbone and pelvis fracture.

Police commissioner Vineet Goyal said the police had "nothing to hide". Meeting the agitating students on the RG Kar Medical College Hospital campus, he said: "We have handed over the postmortem report to the victim's family, and have apprised them of the probe."

The police claimed that the only motive, for the prime accused, appeared to be lust, or sexual gratification. "There is no evidence of the victim and the accused knowing each other," an officer said, but added that that line was still being probed. The cops also said that a male doctor, who was a close friend of the victim, had also given his statement, as are several other doctors and colleagues whom she was close to.

Bengalis attacked, labeled as Bangladeshis in Odisha: Didi

Odisha DGP: No Major Violence, Will Take Action

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata/Bhubaneswar: Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee contacted Sunday her Odisha counterpart Mohan Charan Majhi, urging his intervention following reports of Bengali-speaking workers being assaulted and labelled as "Bangladeshis" by local vigilante groups in his state.

Four videos surfaced on social media over the past 24 hours, purportedly showing attacks on Bengali-speaking people in Odisha.

Attacks were reported from Jajpur, Kendrapada, Jagatsinghpur, and Sambalpur districts in Odisha, where locals confronted Bengali-speaking workers, demanding proof of their Indian citizenship. In one video, a hawk from Bengal's Ranaghat was assaulted in Kendrapara for not having a physical Aadhaar card, despite showing a digital copy. An attacker is heard saying that he was a Bangladeshi. Another clip shows a



Hindus in Bangladesh hold a protest rally condemning atrocities committed against them, in Dhaka, on Sunday

man suffer a head injury after being attacked on suspicion of being a Bangladeshi. In Sambalpur, over 30 Bengali-speaking workers were taken to Ainthapali police station but were released after their Indian citizenship was verified.

Banerjee requested Majhi to ensure the safe return of any workers wishing to leave Odisha. In response, Odisha govt instructed police to remain vigilant against attacks on Bengali-speaking people suspected of being illegal immigrants.

Odisha DGP Arun Sarangi said: "There was no major violence and police have acted promptly on isolated inci-

dents of Bengali-speaking people being targeted. Action will be taken against the guilty as per law."

Bengal Migrant Welfare Board has launched a helpline (08001030009) for those facing such attacks. Rajya Sabha MP Samirul Islam, who heads the board, urged affected people to seek assistance through the helpline.

The alleged attacks stemmed from fears that Bangladeshi refugees have illegally entered Odisha amidst the upheaval in the neighbouring nation that saw the ouster of Sheikh Hasina's govt and the formation of an interim administration Thursday.

11 Bangladeshis held in WB, NE for illegal entry

New Delhi/Kolkata: Eleven Bangladeshis have been arrested for illegally entering India, Border Security Force (BSF) said on Sunday.

"Two each were apprehended at West Bengal and Tripura borders, while seven were caught at Meghalaya border. We have not yet ascertained or confirmed their political affiliations, but all are from Bangladesh," said BSF's South Bengal Frontier in Kolkata. After preliminary questioning, they will be handed over to the respective state police for further legal action, a BSF spokesperson stated.

An Awami League student wing functionary, arrested by the BSF at the Bengal border on Saturday, was produced before Murshidabad's Jangipur court for crossing the border without valid papers. BSF has thwarted several infiltration attempts and sent back thousands of Bangladeshis in recent days with the assistance of Border Guard Bangladesh TNN & AGENCIES

TN panchayat men create 'phantom' village, siphon off ₹58 lakh govt fund

Ram Sundaram @timesofindia.com

Chennai: For nearly five years, three men from a panchayat on Chennai's outskirts slyly and gradually siphoned off ₹58 lakhs from govt's Mineral Resource Fund claiming to install streetlights and water taps. But all the development work existed only on paper.

Not a single brick was laid. Finally, holding them guilty of the crime, Chengalpet judicial magistrate announced one year imprisonment to all three.

Announcing the sentence on Aug 5, Judge RD Aarathi also ordered them to pay ₹10,000 fine and an additional month in jail if they failed to pay the amount. Keerapakkam panchayat's president M Sabiya Parveen, its vice-president S Ruthrakoti, and assistant R

The funds, allocated between 2003 and 2004, were intended for the development of infrastructure

Dillibabu have been convicted of orchestrating the misappropriation from Mineral Resource Fund, a govt initiative intended to benefit areas impacted by mining activities.

The funds, allocated between 2003 and 2004, were intended for the development of essential infrastructure. Court found that projects which included work on roads and drinking water lacked both technical approval and the necessary panchayat resolution. There was no documentary proof of the projects. The discrepancies were uncovered during an audit in 2006.

Diplomat and former minister Natwar Singh remembered for his legacy amidst controversies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: He could have been anything and he did become everything. A royal who wore many hats and a diplomat who was witty and also excelled at arts and letters. A politician who had the free pass as someone "close" to four generations of the Gandhi family, starting with Nehru. Natwar Singh achieved so much and more, that his death could have been a glowing celebration across partisan lines. But when Singh did depart at the ripe age of 93, he was remembered as a bitter man who had a sad falling out with the Gandhi family, with a cloud of corruption over his head, and his counter charges against Congress and its leadership. And, as a man who shook hands with "communal forces" out of personal pique.



Natwar Singh passed away late on Saturday at the age of 93

Singh's journey from Congress towards BJP dominated his obituaries, when the man could have been toasted just for the breadth of his experiences, nicely compressed in his book 'Profiles and Letters' about his

elite acquaintances, that included EM Forster and Rajgopalachari.

Singh was a member of the Congress's "charmed circle", since he joined politics and became an MP and minister in 1984, after a rich life as diplomat of IFS who had served key postings in China, the US, Pakistan and the UK. He was close to Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, and

then to Sonia Gandhi. But the dominant and defining chapter of his life came with the Volcker Report and the allegations about his having benefitted from 'Oil for Food' programme of the UN by using his acquaintance with then Iraqi strongman Saddam Hussein. That sparked a furore under the initial days of the UPA govt led by Manmohan Singh. Interestingly, the timing of the case in 2001 was when Congress was in the opposition and Singh was the head of the party's foreign affairs cell.

Aniel Matherani, who in 2005 was ambassador to Croatia, and two other Congressmen were said to have gone to Iraq as part of the party delegation. Matherani laid the blame on Singh, and "corroborated" the allegations that the veteran had laid the ground for benefiting his son and son's friend. Singh contested the claims and pointed out that Congress too was named in the annexures of the Volcker report.

Singh left the govt and the party, and quickly turned into a

pariah. The Justice RS Pathak Committee was, as was reported, said to have fixed the responsibility with Singh. He always countered the view and insisted that he had been exonerated, as per his interviews and press reports.

From charmed circle to persona non grata, Singh lived his later years with bitterness, his comments about Sonia Gandhi, and even barbs at other members of the family betraying his peeve.

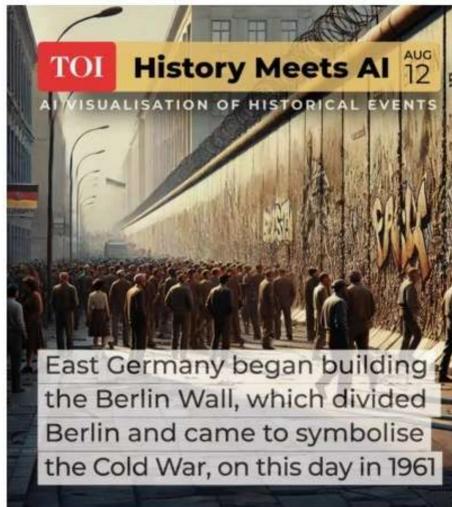
On Sunday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge paid tributes to Singh, writing on X: "Our deepest condolences on the passing away of Former Union Minister K Natwar Singh. An acclaimed intellectual and a Padma Bhushan recipient, he made a profound contribution to India's diplomacy and external affairs. Our thoughts are with his family, friends and followers." Praising his personality and achievements, Jairam Ramesh said, "He was truly someone who has left behind his 'footprints on the sands of time'."

Twin-seater aircraft crashes in MP's Guna; 2 pilots injured

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bhopal: Two-seater Cessna 152 aircraft, that took off for a test flight at Madhya Pradesh's Guna airport around 1pm Sunday, crash landed at the same place around 40 minutes later, injuring its two pilots. Both are reportedly out of danger; Cantt police officials said.

Reports suggest engine failure caused the crash. A detailed probe will be carried out by aviation officials, said Guna tehsildar GS Bairwa.

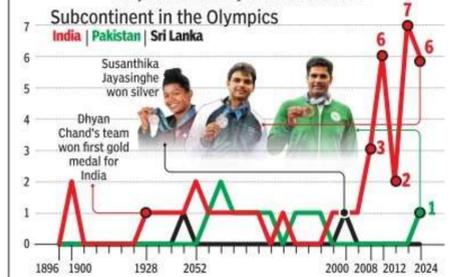


Boy making video falls into Punjab canal, friend jumps in, both drown

Two teenage friends drowned in Bhakra canal near Ablowal in Punjab's Patiala district on Saturday. One of the boys fell into the canal while recording a video on his mobile phone, and the other jumped in to rescue him but was swept away by the current. Patiala Civil Lines SHO said a search operation was underway to find Karan (14) and Sahil (17), both from Patiala. "The boys' friends reported the incident three hours later, reducing their chances of survival," a diver said.

India's Olympics tally has been improving since the Beijing games

Sprinter Norman Pritchard won two medals in the Paris 1900 but his nationality is disputed. In Amsterdam 1928 Dhyana Chand's hockey team clinched India's first Olympic gold. In Helsinki 1952 wrestler KD Jadhav won India's first individual medal. Then came medal drought years — 1984, 1988 and 1992 — and this jinx was broken by Leander Paes in 1996



Maratha protest halts Pawar's convoy, activist attempts self-immolation

Abhijeet.Patil@timesofindia.com

Kolhapur: NCP (SCP) chief Sharad Pawar faced the ire of Maratha activists who halted his convoy in Kurduvadi in Maharashtra's Solapur district and later an activist tried self-immolation during his rally in Barshi on Sunday.

The activists demanded Pawar to clear his stance on Maratha reservation. They let him go after he expressed support for their cause. However, barely five minutes into his 20-minute speech at Barshi, Maratha activists started shouting slogans — "Ek Maratha Lakh Maratha, Manoj Jarange Tum Aage Bado Hum Tumhare Saath Hai" — and waved black flags.

Pawar paused briefly before resuming his speech, highlighting farmers' issues. Soon after, a Maratha activist doused himself with petrol at the rally. Policemen standing nearby intervened quickly, extinguishing the flames. They later took him into custody.

Pawar alleged that PM Narendra Modi failed to fulfill his promise of doubling the farmers' income. "Instead, the rate of farmer suicides has doubled. Farmers are not getting fair prices for their produce," said Pawar.

He also accused the PM of neglecting youth issues. "They have no jobs. They are in depression which may plunge the economy in depression," said Pawar.

Police exam: 3 'solver gang' members held

Chhapra: Bihar Police Sunday arrested three more members of the "solver gang" active during constable recruitment exam in Saran district. This follows the arrest of three persons last Sunday and one on Saturday. With the latest arrest, police now have with them seven members of the gang. SP Kumar Ashish said the gang worked in collusion with exam centres. Its members had devised a plan to solve question papers using Bluetooth and other equipment. Those arrested have been identified as Saran residents Ravikesh Kumar, Randhir Kumar Mishra and Rajnish Kumar. Ashish said they have confessed to their involvement not only in constable recruitment exam but also in Central Teachers Eligibility Test (CTET), STET, and Common Management Admission Test (CMAT). TNN

WhatsApp and phone hacked, claims Sule

New Delhi: After Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) MP Supriya Sule alleged that her phone and WhatsApp were hacked, Sule thanked Pune Rural Police and WhatsApp Support for their quick help and said that her phone started working. Earlier today, Supriya Sule alleged on Sunday that her phone and WhatsApp had been hacked. "Urgent: My phone and WhatsApp have been hacked. Please do not call or text me. I have reached out to the police for help," Sule said. Later, in a post on X, Sule said that, "Phone and WhatsApp are now working again. Thanks to Pune Rural Police and WhatsApp Support for their quick help..." TNN

Government of India, Ministry of Railways

Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs)

CENTRALISED EMPLOYMENT NOTICE (CEN) No.04/2024

Recruitment of the various posts of Paramedical categories

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the various posts of Paramedical categories in the table below. The last date for submission of application is 16.09.2024. Application (complete in all respect) must be submitted ONLINE ONLY.

Opening date of application : 17.08.2024
Closing date for Submission of Application : 16.09.2024

Name of the Post	Pay Level as per 7th CPC	Initial Pay (₹)	Medical Standard	Age as on 01.01.2025	Total Vacancies (All RRBs)
Dietician (Level 7)	7	44900	C2	18-36	05
Nursing Superintendent	7	44900	C1	20-43	713
Audiologist & Speech Therapist	6	35400	B1	21-33	04
Clinical Psychologist	6	35400	B1	18-36	07
Dental Hygienist	6	35400	C2	18-36	03
Dialysis Technician	6	35400	B1	20-36	20
Health & Malaria Inspector Gr III	6	35400	C1	18-36	126
Laboratory Superintendent	6	35400	B1	18-36	27
Perfusionist	6	35400	B1	21-43	02
Physiotherapist Grade II	6	35400	C1	18-36	20
Occupational Therapist	6	35400	C1	18-36	02
Cath Laboratory Technician	6	35400	B1	18-36	02
Pharmacist (Entry Grade)	5	29200	C2	20-38	246
Radiographer X-Ray Technician	5	29200	B1	19-36	64
Speech Therapist	5	29200	B1	18-36	01
Cardiac Technician	4	25500	B1	18-36	04
Optometrist	4	25500	B1	18-36	04
ECG Technician	4	25500	C1	18-36	13
Laboratory Assistant Grade II	3	21700	B1	18-36	94
Field Worker	2	19900	C2	18-33	19
Grand Total					1376

This includes a relaxation of 3 years in age beyond the prescribed age limit as a one-time measure due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

For further details, please refer to the detailed centralized Employment Notice (CEN) No. 04/2024 available on the official websites of all participating Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) listed below.

Websites of RRBs Participating in CEN No.04/2024		
Ahmedabad www.rbamedabad.gov.in	Chennai www.rrbchennai.gov.in	Muzaffarpur www.rrbmuzaffarpur.gov.in
Ajmer www.rrbajmer.gov.in	Gorakhpur www.rrbgkp.gov.in	Patna www.rrbpatna.gov.in
Bengaluru www.rrbnc.gov.in	Guwahati www.rrbguwahati.gov.in	Prayagraj www.rrbprayagraj.gov.in
Bhopal www.rrbhopal.gov.in	Jammu- Srinagar www.rrbjammu.nic.in	Ranchi www.rrbanchi.gov.in
Bhubaneswar www.rrbbs.gov.in	Kolkata www.rrbkolkata.gov.in	Secunderabad www.rrbsecunderabad.gov.in
Bilaspur www.rrbilaspur.gov.in	Malda www.rrbmalda.gov.in	Siliguri www.rrbiliguri.gov.in
Chandigarh www.rrbcdg.gov.in	Mumbai www.rrbmumbai.gov.in	Thiruvananthapuram www.rrbthiruvananthapuram.gov.in

This notification is purely indicative in nature. Candidates are required to go through the Post Parameter Table and Vacancy Table of detailed CEN No.04/2024 to ascertain their eligibility before applying through ONLINE mode. Any Corrigendum/addendum/Important Notice related to the aforesaid recruitment shall be issued time to time on the above websites of RRBs only.

No. RRB/MFP/Advt./CEN 04/2024(Paramedical)/2
Date : 12.08.2024

Chairpersons
Railway Recruitment Board (RRBs)

Easily treated in most cases, common monsoon maladies land a few in ICUs

Malathy.lyer@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: On July 31, when 30-year-old Andheri resident Babu was wheeled into the casualty of a super-specialty hospital in Juhu, he had a very high fever, low blood pressure, and his breathing was erratic. Initial scans and rapid tests revealed a scary picture: His platelet count was low, he was bleeding into his lungs, he had acute respiratory distress syndrome as well as jaundice, and his kidneys were non-functional.

In the next two hours, the doctors at Nanavati Hospital, Juhu, had a diagnosis that Babu or his family hadn't heard in the nursing home he had spent three days before transferring here: Leptospirosis.

Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that one gets after wading through flood water contaminated with the urine of an infected animal. Like gastroenteritis or malaria, it's one of the monsoon

TIMES Special

maladies that usually gets resolved with medicines given by the neighbourhood doctor. However, in a small percentage of patients such as Babu, rain-related diseases wreak havoc and need ICU admissions, costing between Rs 15,000 and Rs 25,000 or more per day depending on the intensity of treatment and the hospital's address.

"It's not only the money, the entire family goes through emotional trauma as they wait for some good news," said senior consultant Dr Pratit Samdani, who asks people to be careful during monsoon because he has had patients in the last month whose viral infection metamorphosed into pneumonia in three days. Moreover, he added, "bugs are stronger than drugs".

In Babu's case though, according to his treating doctor Dr Harshad Limaye, there was a 90% risk of mortality given the severity of his leptospirosis infection. "He pulled through very well because he's young," said the infectious diseases specialist. Babu was strapped to a ventilator for more than five days, had to undergo regular

8-MTH-OLD WITH CHIKUNGUNYA HOSPITALISED

Doctors are reporting a steady rise in cases of chikungunya, a mosquito-borne viral infection characterised by debilitating joint pains that could last for months

Paediatrician Dr Indu Khosla from SRCC Children's Hospital, Haji Ali, said four children with chikungunya have been hospitalised in the past 10 days.

"The youngest child is barely eight months old and was highly irritable, couldn't feed and had rashes on his body," said Dr Khosla.

She said the number of cases are not alarmingly high, but it's higher than in the previous years

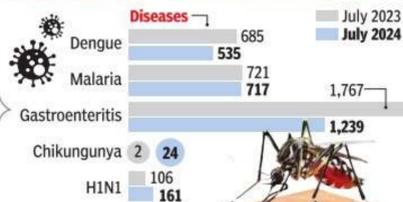
Dr Gautam Bhansali said he had treated a few cases of chikungunya in the last few weeks. "Some of these patients can barely stand or walk," he said.

Chikungunya is a mosquito-borne viral disease caused by the chikungunya virus (CHIKV). As it's similar to dengue and zika, it's difficult to diagnose but it's rarely associated with severe symptoms and deaths. According to BMC's fortnightly health update, 24 cases were reported from Mumbai in July compared with two in July 2023



MUMBAI IS BETTER THAN LAST YEAR

While private sector doctors say the incidence of monsoon diseases, especially dengue, is increasing, BMC's fortnightly health data showed the incidence is lower this July compared with July 2023



INFECTIOUS DISEASES STILL RULE

Various studies in India show the burden of non-communicable diseases has increased from 37.9% to 61.8%

Burden of communicable and infectious diseases, though, is still at 27.5% since three decades in the country

Most patients with monsoon illnesses recover on OPD treatment and don't require hospitalisation. Even among those who need hospitalisation, case fatality rate is low for many of these diseases, be it H1N1, dengue or malaria

Dr Harshad Limaye | INFECTIOUS DISEASES SPECIALIST

dialysis, take platelet as well as blood transfusions along with potent medicines in the intensive care unit. On Friday, 10 days after he entered the ICU, he was wheeled into a general room where he is likely to stay for another week. "His kidneys may take another couple of months to heal so need to continue with dialysis," said Dr Limaye.

Roughly 25km away from Babu's hospital bed, a street hawker's teenage son took him to Fortis Hospital, Mulund, as he was worried about his father's "extreme weakness". His father's diarrhoea bout had started roughly 24 hours back on Ju-

ly 30 and none of the oral medicines had worked. Infectious diseases specialist Dr Anita Mathew, who inspected the hawker, decided it was most important to know the pathogen that had damaged his kidneys and wasn't showing signs of stopping. "We decided to do a biofire test (a rapid PCR-based panel test for multiple pathogens) and found out in a few hours that he has cholera," said Dr Mathew. He was started on the cholera treatment of doxycycline, but needed ICU stay for dehydration and kidneys. "He recovered well and was discharged after a week's stay," said Dr Mathew.

BMC's fortnightly health data showed a rise in dengue and malaria in late July. Senior consultant Dr Gautam Bhansali concurred, stating patients with dengue, H1N1 and other flu needed hospitalisation because of their high temperatures and respiratory symptoms. Consider Cuffe Parade resident Pravin Shah, who came to Bombay Hospital with high fever and cough. "I am prone to severe chest infections and my cough was so violent that Dr Bhansali suggested I get admitted for better management," said Shah who tested positive for H1N1-flu. Another family that had to

shell out a bill of Rs 2.5 lakh for their patient's one-week stay in a south Mumbai hospital said they were just relieved. In terms of mortality, monsoon diseases rank much lower than non-communicable diseases such as heart diseases and hypertension that account for most of the annual deaths in the country. But monsoon maladies pose a big public health risk because, as intensivist Dr Rahul Pandit from H N Hospital, Girgaum, puts it: "We see a big proportion of patients in three short months. From the second week of June to Sept, we see a mixed bag of problems, from dengue to malaria.

Concessions give fillip to patent filings by edu institutes, SMEs

Chethan.Kumar@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: There's been a significant upward trend in patent filings by startups, small business entities, and educational institutions over the past few years, largely attributed to the govt's initiatives to promote innovation and intellectual property rights — primarily, fee concession.

Patent filings from all three categories have registered triple-digit increases in percentage terms in 2023-24 compared to their pre-concession years. As per the commerce and industry ministry, 75% fee concessions at each stage of prosecution of design applications are extended to startups and MSMEs and 50% to trademark application filing.

The most striking growth is seen in patent applications from Indian educational institutions. After the introduction of fee concessions in Sept 2021, filings skyrocketed from 7,405 in 2021-22 to an impressive 23,306 in 2023-24. Foreign educational institutions also showed increased engagement, with applications rising from 96 in 2021-22

to 237 in 2023-24. As per the ministry, the National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM) launched in Dec 2021 to impart IP awareness and basic training in educational institutes across the country has also had a significant impact. "As a consequence, more than 2 million persons have been trained about IPRs so far," a statement reads.

Indian startups have shown consistent growth in patent filings, with numbers rising from 801 in 2018-19 to 2,546 in 2023-24. Foreign startup applications have remained relatively stable, with 25 filings in both 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Pointing out that the scheme for facilitating startups intellectual property protection (SIPP) that supports startups in safeguarding their IP rights (patents, trade marks and designs) provides pro bono facilitation by empanelled IP experts and facilitation fees of

the IP experts to be borne by the govt, the ministry said: "... After the scheme, there has been a significant increase in IP applications by startups." Among Indian small entities, there's been a dramatic increase in filings, which jumped from 607 in 2018-19 to 3,421 in 2023-24. Foreign small entity applications fluctuated, peaking at 429 in 2022-23 before decreasing to 128 in 2023-24.

Separate data shows that the Indian patent office has granted an unprecedented 1 lakh patents in the fiscal year 2023-24.

"To address liquidation of the backlog applications, technical manpower strength in the patent office has increased by promoting various officers to the post of controllers in the patent office, and further, young professionals and technical assistants were engaged on a contractual basis to support controller's decision making," the ministry added.

Study using 200 captive snakes shows age-related changes in venom toxicity

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A new study by researchers from IISc, published in the journal BMC Biology, has uncovered "fascinating insights" into how snake venom evolves and changes throughout a snake's lifetime. The research, led by Kartik Sunagar, associate professor at the Evolutionary Venomics Lab, Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc, focused on two of India's most dangerous snake species: the Russell's viper (Daboia russelii) and the spectacled cobra (Naja naja).

These two species are responsible for a significant number of snakebite-related deaths and disabilities in India. The study's findings could have far-reaching implications for both our understanding of venom evolution and the development of more effective snakebite treatments.

The research team maintained more than 200 snakes in captivity, collecting venom samples at various stages of their lives. Through a series of experiments, they analysed how the composition, activity, and toxicity of the venom changed as the snakes aged and altered their diets.

One of the most striking discoveries was the variation in venom toxicity based



The research team from IISc maintained more than 200 snakes in captivity, collecting venom samples at various stages of their lives

on the snake's age, a phenomenon known as ontogeny.

The Russell's viper showed a remarkable difference in venom potency across its lifespan. Newborn vipers produced venom that was considerably more toxic to mammals and reptiles compared to that of juvenile and adult snakes. "This marks the first documented case of such an ontogenetic shift in viperine snakes," the study claims.

In contrast, the spectacled cobra's venom maintained a consistent level of toxicity throughout its development. However, the researchers found that cobra venom could bind strongly to receptors on the cell surface of various prey animals.

This adaptation may compensate for the lack of ontogenetic variation in toxicity.

These findings offer a glimpse into the evolutionary arms race between predator and prey, showcasing how snakes have adapted their venom composition for maximum effectiveness. The study not only enhances the understanding of venom diversity evolution but also has potential implications for improving snakebite treatments.

The research team's approach of maintaining snakes in captivity and sourcing venom at different life stages provides a robust foundation for future studies in this field. As snakebites continue to be a significant public health concern in many parts of the world, insights from this study could prove invaluable in developing more targeted and effective antivenoms.

Dad acquitted after spending 5yrs in jail for daughter's 'rape'

Dehradun: The additional district judge of a special Pocos court in Dehradun acquitted a 42-year-old man, who had been accused of raping his 15-year-old daughter and had spent the past five years in jail, after it was found that he had been falsely incriminated by the girl since he objected to her bunking school and associating with a boy. Upon scrutinising the evi-

dence and hearing witnesses, the court discovered that the girl's beau had instigated her to implicate her father in a fabricated rape case.

A case was registered on Dec 25, 2019 based on a complaint filed by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), in which the committee members said that "the girl had told them about sexual abuse by her father and her younger sister al-

so supported her claim". The man, who worked as a laundryman in Dehradun, was arrested and sent to jail on Dec 27.

During the investigation, police recovered some letters written by the girl to her boyfriend. She later confessed during cross-questioning that she was in love with a boy who instigated her to lodge a false complaint with the CWC. The girl also admitted to being upset

with her father due to his disapproval of her relationship and skipping school. Furthermore, during the trial, the doctor informed the court that the girl's medical reports came negative, and it could not be confirmed that she had been raped. After reviewing the evidence, the court declared the man innocent and issued an acquittal order last week. TNN

TIMES interact

Connecting People, Connecting Needs.

To book your ad

Logon to: ads.timesgroup.com
or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free)



business

BUSINESS PROPOSALS

ASLEECHICKEN.COM
7338 999 769

UNIQUE CHICKEN
Real Snack needs partners who can invest One Crore.
asleechicken.com

FINANCE

AMERICAN FINANCE LLC.

10 LAKHS TO 1000 CR.
Personal/ Prop./Business/ Project/ Home Loan, Intt. @ 3% per annum in 3Days.
M: 8149176799, 9404671899

LOANS

COUNTRYSIDE INVESTMENT PARTNERS
Your Personal Financial Planner

TERM LOANS 10-800 Cr for Business/Project/NPA or ECB Foreign Funds at ROI 6-11% in 15Days.Call 9429692130 or visit www.countrysideinvestmentspartners.com

MICRO-FINANCE Pvt Ltd. Personal, Business, Property, Ladies Group Loan @3% yearly interest within 2 Days. CIBIL, NPA Cases accepted. 8979224979

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

INDIRA NAGAR

INDEPENDENT bldg G+3 flr near to 100ft Rd.suitable for staff acmdn/office.Rent 1lakh.. Call 9886050624.

VARTHUR

SALE: 3210 Sft Commercial Site for Sale, Near Varthur, WEST Facing, 'B' Khatha, in BBMP Limit. Contact - 9353532040

WHITEFIELD

RENT - Prestige Shantiniketan opp - Prime Commercial 4500 Sft-15000 Sft in 3rd, 4th & 5th floors avbl for rent on ITPL main Rd. Suitable for Restaurants, Co Working, Offices etc. # 9353532040

FOR SALE

BANGALORE

FOR SALE Prime Agriculture Land of 2 Acres in Devanahalli on Doddaballapura - Kotar high way, fully fenced. Road facing side is 200 feet wide. Contact - 9353532334.

MYSORE

SITE FOR SALE IN MYSORE. PRAGATHI NAGAR, ILVALA HOBLI. Plot Size 50*80 Sqft East Facing Site. Ready For Construction. Well Developed Layout. Price Rs 1500/ Per Sqft. PIs Call Shashi 9741220544

BARODA

Factory for Sale

A factory with land area 32280 sq ft, Shed built up area 41035 sq ft with EOT crane 5T, 10T, 15T, 20T, 1st floor 8000 sq ft fully furnished office having seating capacity of +100 with separate management wing in export zone of GIDC, Near Vadodara

Interested party may contact +917436033302

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

HOTELS/ RESTAURANT

RESTAURANT & PARTY HALL BUSINESS PROPOSAL

Prime rental space, well-furnished, available for vegetarian fine dining restaurant and banquet halls, to accommodate all range of functions, events, conferences, etc., having capacity of about 500 persons in about 14,000 sq.ft. in three floors of a modern, posh building, located on a corner plot in the heart of B'lore. Very close to the City Central Railway station and Bus stand, in Chamaraipet, with ample parking space, lift and generator facilities.
Mobile : 91080 12898
lvsurthy2009@gmail.com

INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

INDUSTRIAL land Manufacturing company looking to purchase 4 to 6 acres of industrial land, in Bommasandra/Jigani/Attibele /Anekal area. Contact 9611724198

PROPERTY WANTED

WANTED RESIDENTIAL PLOT 4000 sqft EAST/NORTH-CENTRAL BANGALORE IMMEDIATE SETTLEMENT CONTACT:9686911410

PERSONS WITH experience in RTA/DP/Broking. Apply cv.goldrat@gmail.com or visit: www.goldrat.in

MARKETING, ADVERTISING & SALES

WANTED Tele Sales Executive & Field Sales Executive for a reputed real estate company. Minimum 1+ year experience, English + Kannada mandatory. Attractive Salary + Incentive. Location - RR Nagar Bangalore. Contact 8951920083

REQUIRED urgently: Primary HM, High School Physics (M.Sc) Part-time / full-time, Computer Science (MCA) & PE Teacher. Cont:5035033560

REQD Accountant with 2-3 years exp, tally knowledge for an office near Ashoka Pillar, Jayanagar. Call 70193 13004, email hbj_9@hotmail.com

ADMINISTRATION

EXECUTIVES

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that following share certificate of Tejas Networks India Limited having its Registered Office at No. 58, 1st Main, J P Nagar, 3rd Phase Bangalore - 560078 registered in the name of the following Shareholder/s have been lost by them:

Sr No	Name of Shareholder	Id No	Card No	Share No	No of Shares
1	Noventkar	700734	091	28071 to 28073	03
2	Noventkar	700734	096	48808 to 48807	08

The Public are hereby cautioned against purchasing or dealing in any way with the above referred share Certificates. Any person who has any claim in respect of the said share certificate/s should lodge such claim with the Company or its Registrar and Transfer Agents Link Intime India Private Limited 247 Park, C-101, 1 Floor, L. B. S. Marg, Vikrol (W) Mumbai-400083
TEL: 022 49186270 with in 15 days of publication of this notice after which no claim will be entertained and the Company shall proceed to issue Duplicate Share certificate/s.

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 10/08/2024
Name of Legal Claimant: Navreet Kaur

tender & notices

CHANGE OF NAME

I Nagarathna Basappa Achari, Aged 63 Yrs. Res #98, B Narayanapura, Dooravan Nagar Post, B'lore-16, intend to change my name from Nagarathna Mallesha Achari To Nagarathna Basappa Achari for future documentation vide affidavit dtd. 10-08-2024 Sworn before Notary J Anand Kumar, Bangalore.

I B. Brahma Prashanth S/o Brahmaraaj R/o No.5 2nd B cross Dasarahalli main road, Maruthi Layout, Bangalore-560024, have changed my name from B. Brahma Prashanth to B. Brahma Prashanth. Vide Affidavit date: 09/08/24, Notary: Sivakumara M N

I Anagha S D/O. K C Sivasankaran R/o No 18, First Main, Second Cross, Dinnur, RT Nagar Post, Bangalore 560032 have changed my name to Anagha Sivasankaran.

I Athira Arun W/O, Arun P S R/o 052, Brigade Northridge, Kogilu Main Road, Yelahanka, Bangalore, 560064 have changed my name to Athira Chandran K.

LOST & FOUND

I, S.Gajjarajan Shanmugamudalar have lost Original (PR) Sale deed document Situated in Begapalli Village of Hosur Taluk Krishnagiri Dist., Doc No-762/1983 Sy No -2, Plot No- 76,77,78 (Approved Vellore) (Area Extend 7200 sqft) (SRO Hosur) While Some Personal Work in B'lore Byappanahalli Metro Station,Case Registered No.1171592/2024, (Sakala No) Finder Please Contact or Return to This Address, Gajjarajan Shanmugamudalar, Res/At Aadiyari Village of Post kandil union Vellore, T.N Phone-978884943

For Rent - Commercial Property

54,000 Sq.Ft. Retail Space at Poised Ranganathan St, T.Nagar Chennai Available for Rent

9 Storey, Suitable for Textiles & Jewellery Prime Locality, Well Connected Next to Railway Station

Contact: 72999 92226
vk.chennai@icloud.com

BOOK YOUR SHOPPING ADS

FOR BOOKING PLEASE CONTACT
Ebenezer
9986 482 217

TO BOOK ONLINE LOG ON TO
[Ads.timesgroup.com](https://ads.timesgroup.com)

EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND ASSISTANCE

Educational TIMES

FMGs from Philippines shine in FMGE June 2024 which has a 79% failure rate

More than 80% of FMGs struggle to clear the FMGE in their first attempt

Ayushi Gupta1
@timesofindia.com

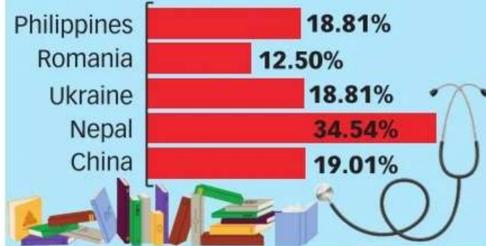
The recently released results for the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) June 2024 session highlighted the dismal performance of Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs) with a pass percentage of 20.19%. Out of 35,819 candidates who appeared for the exam, approximately 27,297 failed to pass translating into a failure rate of around 79% and only 20.19% as the pass percentage. The pass percentage of the June 2024 exams dipped in comparison to December 2023 exams, which saw a pass rate of approximately 22%.

In 2014, the FMGE pass percentage hit as low as 4.93% since then, the average pass percentage ranged between 10% and 20%. Speaking to *Education Times*, Dr Kaushal, media coordinator, All FMGs Association (AFA), says, "The lack of progress in pass rates points to the deficiency of rigorous eligibility criteria. The National Medical Commission (NMC) must introduce a gateway exam similar to NEET or establish a cut-off rate for students wishing to study medicine abroad. Many students who opt to study medicine abroad have low NEET UG scores and fail to secure seats in Indian medical colleges. Several FMGs are often not serious about their education, and they waste their time in a foreign country which leads to poor results in FMGE. Consequently, more than 80% of these FMGs struggle to clear the FMGE in their first attempt."

Despite these challenges, the pass percentage has improved post the pandemic. "The widespread adoption of online learning during the pandemic and the shift to online education led students to rely more on digital resources for FMGE prepara-



Country-wise performance in FMGE 2023



tion," adds Dr Kaushal.

Every year, around 25,000 students travel abroad to pursue medical education in countries such as Russia, Bangladesh, Georgia, Nepal, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Belarus and more. From 2015 to 2018, the average FMGE pass percentage of students from Bangladesh was 27.1%, rising to 36.2% in 2019 and 35.8% in 2020. In China, the average pass percentage was around 11.7% from 2015 to 2018, 21.2% in 2019, and 12.9% in 2020. In 2023, the average pass percentages for various countries were as follows: Philippines 18.48%, Romania 12.50%, Ukraine 18.81%, Nepal 34.54%, and China 19.01%.

Strong performers

Four MBBS graduates from the Davao Medical School Foundation (DMSF) in the Philippines achieved top rankings in the FMGE June 2024 session. Dr Dinesh Subburaj from Coimbatore secured All India Rank (AIR) 2 with a score of 244 out of 300. Dr Ayub Mohamed achieved AIR 6, Dr Bharat Reddy Ammati Venkat secured AIR 8, and Dr Preetha Murugan obtained AIR 9. This is not the first time that Philippine medical colleges have given a significant number of high scorers. Meanwhile, graduates from the Philippines have cited higher standards of education compared to other countries offering MBBS programmes.

Dr Rajiv Dhawan, ENT specialist and FMGE, NEET PG educator says, "Not all medical institutions in the Philippines maintain consistent standards; for example, some institutions in Manila and Cebu do not perform well. However, this variability is not exceptional in the Philippines, it is the case in all other countries where Indian students go for medical education. Additionally, colleges in the Philippines follow the US medical educational model, which is different from the Indian system. This approach offers students a clearer understanding of their subjects and topics."

Dr Dinesh Subburaj (23), says, "The MCQ-based questions, rather than essay-type questions, help in better assessing the practical knowledge and concepts. Medical education in the Philippines supports international standards, making it easier to pass exams such as FMGE due to the similar exam pattern. The comprehensive learning approach supported by a favourable student-teacher ratio of 1:8, and the presence of at least 10 USMLE-certified medical colleges have contributed to fair pass percentage from the country." Dr Bharat Reddy Ammati Venkat (25), AIR 8, says, "Many of my college seniors have successfully cleared the USMLE and are now practising in the USA. He attributes this to the high-quality infrastructure and education provided by the institutions, which also offer better job prospects."

While the Philippines and Nepal offer a conducive environment for medical students, Dr Kaushal says, "The presence of Indian or Indian-origin faculty members and English as the primary medium of instruction in these countries facilitates easier learning and integration for Indian students."

Disabled aspirants face systemic barriers increasing need for reforms in UPSC

The cancellation of Puja Khedkar's candidature has brought to light the challenges faced by specially abled aspirants in the civil services

Sonal Srivastava
@timesofindia.com

The UPSC recently cancelled Puja Khedkar's candidature and debarred her from future exams, accusing her of 'misrepresenting information.' Khedkar had submitted multiple 'questionable' disability certificates and was inducted as a trainee IAS. The ride is bumpy for several specially-abled candidates who have cleared the UPSC, with many from 2008 still waiting for an appointment in any of the 24 posts.

Aspirants from the specially abled category face significant difficulties preparing for the UPSC exams. Visually impaired candidates do not get access to the required study material in Braille. Once they clear the Preliminary, Mains, and Personality Test, they have to wait for an appointment, unlike general category candidates, who are inducted into the civil services as soon as they clear the UPSC exam. Many disabled candidates have to approach the courts to get an appointment. Ira Singhal (topper in 2014) had to file a case in the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), and after four years, she was appointed as an assistant commissioner in the Indian Revenue Service (IRS).

Besides these challenges, they must contend with influential candidates who can game the system to enter the civil services. "Candidates with a missing finger are given an appointment, technically that is considered a disability, while visually impaired candidates have to wait for vacancies," says Jobin S Kottaram, founder of IAS Absolute Academy, Kottayam. Khedkar presented certificates for multiple disabilities, says Kottaram, while

Medical ethics play a crucial role in ensuring the integrity of the selection process

candidates such as Kartik Kansal, who has been suffering from muscular dystrophy, have been waiting for an appointment for the past eight years. A mechanical engineering student from IIT Roorkee, Kansal is a scientist at ISRO and has been wheelchair-bound since 14. He was selected for the civil services four times; however, he was not appointed as muscular dystrophy was not included in the list of conditions in the functional classification eligible for any UPSC posts.

"Franklin D Roosevelt was disabled, yet he was President of the US. There are around 2.2 crore disabled people in India, and almost 85% of them are unemployed. Disabled candidates work hard to prepare for the civil services, putting wholehearted efforts into Preliminaries, Main, and Inter-



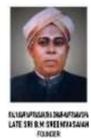
view, and they also get into the final ranks list. However, some candidates have been waiting for appointments since 2008," adds Kottaram. It is concerning that Khedkar managed to submit certificates with multiple disabilities and was hired briefly. "As per the Right To Disability Act, at least 4% of appointments should be for disabled candidates. However, most of the time, appointments are not available for such candidates. Some aspirants are 100% visually impaired and are very smart, but they are not appointed," says Kottaram, who started Project Chitrahala to help disabled candidates prepare for the CSE.

Prioritising public interest

The functional requirements differ significantly between the IAS, IPS, and IRS roles. "IAS and IPS officers often need to engage in extensive fieldwork, whereas IRS officers have more desk-based responsibilities. In today's digital age, resources and information are readily accessible online, including UPSC-empowered scribes for visually impaired candidates. However, medical ethics play a crucial role in ensuring the integrity of the selection process, especially when doctors may collude with candidates," says JK Dadoo, a retired senior IAS officer.

To maintain the integrity of the medical examination, he suggests, "Implementing a system where candidates are sent first to AIIMS and then to RML. After a comprehensive examination, a cross-check by a UPSC-appointed doctor could further ensure the accuracy and fairness," adds Dadoo.

Talking about why disabled candidates with cerebral palsy must wait for appointments, he says, "Public interest must be prioritised alongside the candidates' disabilities. Appointing an unsuitable candidate can have adverse effects on public service," explains Dadoo.



BMS Educational Trust
BMS ACADEMY
FOR PROFESSIONAL COURSES



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STAR ACHIEVERS FROM BMS ACADEMY

Congratulations to
CA Harshitha C
for clearing her CA Final 2024



TOP SCORER IN CA/CS FOUNDATION EXAMS

CA FOUNDATION ACHIEVERS



CSEET ACHIEVERS



BMS Academy is proud to have nurtured future leaders in the field of Chartered Accountancy and Company Secretaryship

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANCY
Foundation / Inter / Final

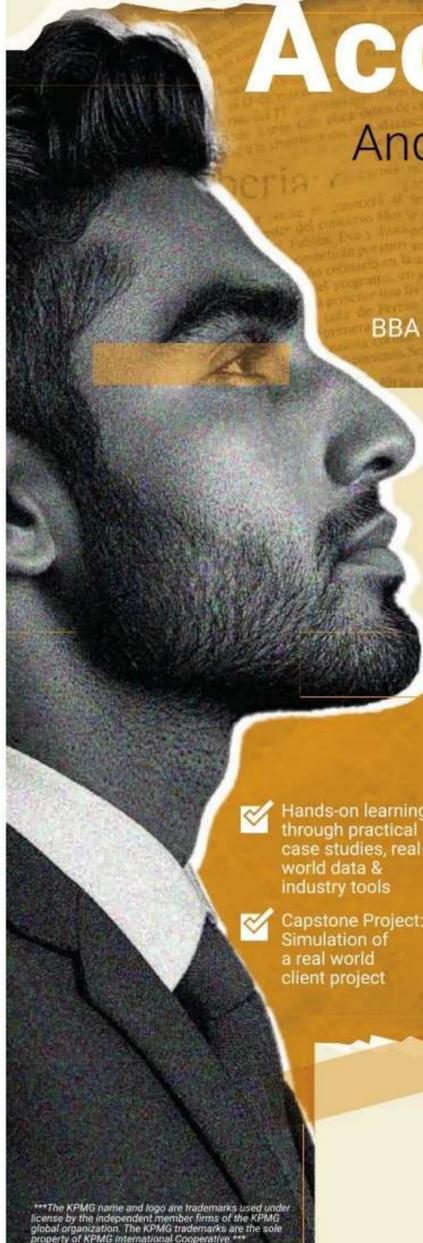
COMPANY SECRETARY
Foundation / Executive / Professional

BMS ACADEMY FOR PROFESSIONAL COURSES, BMSCE Campus, Bull Temple Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560 019
Mob: 90365 10011 / 89717 36008 Email: bmsiasacademy@gmail.com Website: www.bmsacademy.org.in


x


Be a Global Accounting And Finance Professional

BBA degree awarded by Bangalore University



Join the BBA program in professional accounting & finance - developed collaboratively by KPMG in India & IFIM college. Taught by the best in class professional faculty from KPMG in India & academicians from IFIM college. Excellent employment opportunities for graduates in mushrooming GCC (Global Capability Centres) space and consulting companies in India.

What Makes This Program Different?

- ✓ Hands-on learning through practical case studies, real world data & industry tools
- ✓ Classes taught by KPMG in India Professionals and IFIM faculty
- ✓ Masterclasses by KPMG in India Directors & Partners
- ✓ Capstone Project: Simulation of a real world client project
- ✓ Industry visits, networking opportunities & skill mapping sessions
- ✓ Two internship opportunities providing immersive industry exposure

Admissions for the program closes soon
Apply Now

Phone: +91 7356496258 / +91 9956431836
Email: admissionsbba.professional@ifim.edu.in



The KPMG name and logo are trademarks used under license by the independent member firms of the KPMG global organization. The KPMG trademarks are the sole property of KPMG International Cooperative.

Why regime changes come with selfies and toppling of statues

Himanshi Dhawan & Ananya Khara | TNN

One person clutched a pale pink Dior suitcase, another took a duvet, some seized livestock, another gang gleefully unfurled a red zari sari. As protestors forced out the Sheikh Hasina government from Bangladesh, the scenes at the prime minister's residence evoked both carnival and mayhem. A few years ago in Sri Lanka, mobs had ransacked the presidential palace, some diving into the pool, others lolling on the former president's high four-poster bed. In Kabul, there were images of Taliban fighters using the presidential palace gym.

NUSRAT CHOWDHURY, PROFESSOR

The objects found in Gonobhaban are suffused with the aura of power. In touching, destroying, or pilfering these objects, the crowds saw themselves as partaking of a power that until then was elusive

These recent events in our neighbourhood come out of different histories and backgrounds. But the scenes are familiar: the storming of the citadels, the sense of a vacuum, the toppling of statues, the jubilation of the new order that often proves short lived.

Iconic oil paintings form our imagination of famous revolutions. Newspaper photographs and TV cameras recorded the upheavals of the last century. Today's political uprisings are captured by smartphone selfies and satirised through memes. They are "a way of mapping yourself in historical events,"

Mob madness or revolutionary joy? Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and other sites of uprisings may be very different but bring up similar visuals and emotions

says Subir Sinha, South Asia director at School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London.

Regimes can be toppled by a relatively peaceful popular upsurge, foreign invasions, violent rebellions, military coups or palace takeovers. The situation in Bangladesh or Sri Lanka can't be conflated with Afghanistan, or the Arab spring experience, or that of eastern Europe throwing off communism. But as far apart as they are, the moment of public disorder looks similar. "Sab taj uchhale jayenge, sab takht giraye jayenge" — the day of revolution, or judgement, in the famous poem by Faiz Ahmed Faiz imagines the rule of the people, rather than icons who falsely claim to represent them.

Every uprising has an inflection point. In Bangladesh, years of steady growth had ended after Covid, political fissures widened, and the election was widely seen as meaningless. Sri Lanka, meanwhile, had seen a severe economic crisis, with 50% inflation, power cuts and shortages. Austerity measures were prescribed for the people, even as then President Gotabaya Rajapaksa continued to enjoy a life of luxury.

But what to make of these dramatic ruptures, when mobs rampage through the seat of power, taking what they want? It is the distance between those in power and ordinary citizens that makes for such eruptions, says Nusrat Chowdhury, professor of anthropology at Amherst College, Massachusetts. "In Bangladesh and many parts of South Asia, public property is used as private luxury by regimes that thrive on nepotism and crony capitalism. Ordinary people have to wait in traffic for hours as VIPs pass through." Over time, this alienation builds up, and taxpay-



DIFFERENT LENS: Iconic oil paintings formed our imagination of famous revolutions. Today's political uprisings are captured by smartphones

er-funded property becomes perceived as a fortress to lay siege to. "Gonobhaban, Hasina's residence, literally means the home of the people, but every news outlet has been describing it as her palace. It was guarded like one, with very few people ever having an idea how luxurious or palatial it was until the crowds stomped on its grounds," says Chowdhury.

But leaders like Hasina and Rajapaksa had relatively modest lifestyles. The fall of famous tyrants has exposed far more eye-popping visuals of opulence. In Libya, armed rebels posed on baroque furniture in Gaddafi's palace. There were stories of the expensive things found in Malacañang Palace, the residence of ousted Philippines president Ferdinand Marcos. The estimated 3,000 pairs of shoes belonging to the first lady, Imelda Marcos, have become the stuff of legend. The huge marble palace, crystal chandeliers and brocade wallpaper of Romania's communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu

were dismantled by mobs, and revealed to the world.

Of course, those who storm the fortresses also help themselves to the booty. This kind of "soft vandalism" brings a thrill to many protestors because "it represents a fundamental sense of victory," says Michael Kugelmann, director of the South Asia Institute at the Wilson Center in Washington DC. This looting is not just about economic gain. "The objects found in Gonobhaban are suffused with the aura of power; a power that until that moment seemed all-encompassing, invincible. In touching, destroying, or pilfering these objects, the crowds saw themselves as partaking of a power that until then was elusive. In other words, these objects are now fetishes," says Chowdhury. The Bangladesh uprising was one of the most documented events of its kind. Official narratives were belied by thousands of TikTok videos and YouTube shorts, which were like a visual archive of the violence inflicted on protestors,

says Chowdhury. As the Hasina regime clung on to power, security forces fired at protesting crowds from helicopters. This fuelled greater rage, including targeting anything linked to Hasina, her party or family, says Kugelmann.

In Dhaka, protestors defaced and took down a statue of Hasina's father and Bangladesh's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rehman. "Personally, I find these attacks distasteful and short-sighted," says Naomi Hossain, a SOAS professor. "Young people do get over-excited and try to show their passion by destroying symbols that matter to others, as we have seen in recent years in Sri Lanka, South Africa, Kenya, Europe and North America," she adds. But this iconoclasm is part of the moment, say others. "In Bangladesh, all governmental and non-governmental establishments were forced to display portraits of the PM and her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. This, along with the fact that any criticism of the PM or her father was deemed criminal, made this moment of 'release' historical," says Chowdhury.

Far more concerning are the reports of attacks on religious minorities and Awami League supporters, says Hossain. While the picture is still blurry, and it's also been blamed on the Awami League's youth militia, even as the BNP and Jamaat try to present themselves as reformed actors, "a tiny minority of bad actors still wants violence, and seem to be armed, organised, and very dangerous," she says. A popular uprising cannot be exactly planned, wrote Ryszard Kapuscinski, a reporter who chronicled many global turning points, from Iran to Ethiopia. "The hour of that outbreak takes everyone, even those who have been striving for it, unawares... It demolishes so ruthlessly that in the end it may annihilate the ideals that called it into being."

No ruffing it! How AC first class became the 'kutton ka dabba'

The premium coach is a howling success with pet parents who don't want to park their furry babies in plane cargo holds and train luggage vans

Mohua Das & Manthan K Mehta | TNN

A lady, slightly flustered and with her excitable cocker spaniel in tow, was recently navigating the Bombay Central platform in search of the first-class coach. Desperate for directions, she stopped a coolie for help, who responded with a knowing nod, "Oh, you mean 'kutton ka dabba'?" Confused, she corrected him, "No, no, AC first class!" Unfazed, the coolie insisted, "Haan wohi toh... kutton ka dabba!"

And just like that, the elite class had earned an unexpected nickname among train attendants. And why not? The AC first-class two-berth coupes or four-berth cabins have quickly become the preferred ride for passengers with tails and their dotting owners, given that they make for a stress-free alternative to the nerve-wracking options available otherwise.

Not that there are too many choices. In trains, none of the other coaches allow pets in the compartments. They can only be carried in a dog box in the second-class luggage and a brake van (SLR), while currently, only a few airlines like Air India and Akasa, allow domestic pets — dogs and cats — in the cabin. However, the combined weight of the pet and its container must

not exceed 7 kg and heavier ones must be transported in the cargo compartment as baggage.

Ranjun Panicker credits his first-class train journeys from Delhi to Bengaluru to her feline trio, Coffee, Chase and Yoshi. "Not fat-shaming, but my furry babies are way over that limit. There's no way I was sending them in cargo," she laughs.

Prashi Chaturvedi recounts her journey from Mathura to Mumbai on the August Kranti Rajdhani Express with her parents and their indie dog, Ginger. "We were three of us but secured an extra ticket in the four-berth cabin," she says. "It was a breeze. We just needed to show up 90 minutes early and take the dog to the luggage booking department where they weighed it, checked for vaccinations and for around Rs 200, Ginger had his ticket. He could roam around, and we could even take him for quick walks at station stops," she says, waving off flights as a "nightmare".

Flying can be challenging for dogs, especially elderly ones or those with health or behavioural issues. Aircrafts make for loud noises, bright lights, crowds and rapid changes in air pressure and cabin temperature while for pets relegated to the second-class luggage van on trains or the cargo hold on flights, the experience can be even more daunting, separated from their beloved owners and placed in an unfamiliar environment for hours.

Western Railway's chief public relations officer Vineet Abhishek says, "Many passengers find train travel less stressful because it offers ample space for movement and allows pets to stay in a familiar environment with their owners, which significantly reduces anxiety."

Aarushi Bhaumik, who recently moved from



Mumbai to Coimbatore, knows this all too well having tried out all the options with her canine companions, Dobbie and Ghost. "Dobbie's like my kid," she says, reminiscing about her first big trip together with the indie — who she found on a fateful night under her building — for a post-pandemic escapade to Goa with friends in September 2021.

"Because of my travel companions and budget constraints, I booked myself in the general compartment and had to put Dobbie in the brake van," she says. It's an experience she vows never to repeat. "It was traumatic for her. The coach was miles away so I was unable to comfort her through the journey. The train was loud, dark, and dingy and by morning when we reached, she was too scared to step out."

Determined to spare Dobbie from further distress, Bhaumik opted for a two-berth coupe on her return journey, despite the higher cost almost bordering plane

PAWSOME PASSENGERS: Mridula Iyengar and Noor (above) have taken three train trips, while Ranju Panicker's cats have made their way from Delhi to Bengaluru in first-class

travel. "It was worth every penny," she says with relief. Later travels included her second dog, Ghost.

The pets also have their run of the place — a whole floor to scamper on and their very own berth. "Ginger loved climbing up to his berth, playing with his softball and staring out of the window like he owned the view," says Chaturvedi, recounting how her dog's impeccable behaviour surprised even her. "Normally, he barks at strangers but on the train, he was a model passenger," she says, chuckling about her pet's friendly interactions with the ticket checker.

Mridula Iyengar from Powai has twice hit the tracks with her three-year-old indie, Noor, in a first-class coupe. The first trip was from Mumbai to Goa in 2022, where Noor settled comfortably in their private two-berth coupe with her own sheet. The most recent journey was from Mumbai to Chandigarh, alongside six other pets and their parents, all booked into first-class cabins. A sight that brought a range of reactions from fellow passengers who witnessed the entire canine spectrum onboard. "We had indies to Great Danes. While some loved it and a few were wary during our pee-poo breaks at station halts, people gladly created a corridor for the dogs to cruise in and out of the train."

Sharvil Shringarpure, founder of Pawdventure started four years ago to organise train and road trips for pet parents, says: "Urban life often stifles dogs' natural instincts but socialisation, mental stimulation, and physical activity are crucial for their well-being. Road-tripping is only viable if you have ample time but the ease and comfort of AC first-class train travel has revolutionised the way pet parents travel with their four-legged kids."

The idea of pets travelling in first-class not just intrigues passengers but also train staff and cleaning attendants, who Iyengar calls "the class monitors". "For many, seeing a dog enjoying first-class perks was a novelty." "What was nice is that the staff seemed to enjoy themselves, seeing and interacting with the pets. They never made us feel unwanted, which can sometimes be the case in public scenarios," adds Bhaumik.

One particularly amusing incident involved a chaiwalla who froze upon seeing dogs in the cabin. When reassured that Noor, Iyengar's dog, was gentle and harmless, he went about his rounds, only to return later with an observation: "Noor looks just like Rani Mukerji. Both have the same kind of light eyes!" laughs Iyengar, recalling the episode. "The moment was both funny and humanising, that a dog, usually seen as belonging to the streets, can also be beautiful and deserving of care, just like a human child," smiles Iyengar.

Haathi & saathi: What animals can teach us about luv, shuv, shaadi

Amid a backdrop of icy grey acacia trees, four elephants stood in a trance. A female recognisable by the geometric planes of her head and three bull elephants. Perched on the bouncing seats of a khaki jeep, I had stumbled upon a primeval mating ritual. The elephants moved slowly. Approaches. Rejections. Swiping right and left with their trunks. The mating was short-lived and clumsy. Like a section of Indian men, bull elephants also seem to believe that if two minutes are good enough for Maggi noodles, then it's good enough for them. Our safari guide, who could be mistaken for Shikari Shambu, informed us that the elephants would mate several times over the next few days and then go their own way. The resulting calf would be raised by a herd of predominantly female elephants.

This was a common phenomenon among the mammals I spotted in Tanzania: lionesses protecting their cubs and tiny wildebeests running alongside their moms and aunts. Communities of females raising their young, with males either absent, or wandering in and out without doing much of the heavy lifting. I found it intriguing how we humans evolved from these collective structures into units of two and decided that our mating rituals had to include both monogamy and matrimony. Why did we confine ourselves in a 2BHK, hum-do-hamare-do cage? And if marriage is about everlasting love, why does it seem to run out faster than an Eveready battery?

A little digging into history brought up a startling fact. The concept of marriage had initially nothing to do with love but was due to the advent of agriculture. When we were nomads, it didn't matter if the child you were carrying was Sharma ji's from the neighbouring cave or that foolish Desai's who was scared of the rain. Then came farming, and land became an ownable commodity. Men needed to ensure that only their biological children would inherit their assets. Enter wedlock, a mechanism to tie down a woman by making the prosperity of her children dependent on her monogamy. Only around the 18th century did luv, shuv and all the bheja fry that entailed enter the fray.

While a marriage does have its chafing issues, it has some surprising medical advantages. A recent paper published in the Annals of Behavioural Medicine found that people who never married were twice as likely to die early as those in solid marriages. It's men, though, who seem to wither away without partners, while women tend to put on their lipstick and just get on with it. There is also enough research that shows raising a family with a reliable partner has definite advantages over being a single parent. But how do you sleep next to a partner when, at least twice a week, you are overcome with the urge to strangle them — and that's not counting the times when their snoring is louder than the baboons chattering outside your tent. While philosophers and self-help gurus dissect human nature, I chose to focus on nature itself, observing the techniques animals use as their survival often hinges on a delicate balance of cooperative hunting strategies and symbiotic relationships.

1. Hyena's Hustle: Hyenas don't battle with lions for a share of the kill. They approach stealthily and run away with a juicy bit. Instead of constant confrontations, perhaps sometimes we should just resort to trick-

ery. When your partner starts singing Punjabi songs at ear-shattering decibels, asking him to stop may become a battle of freedom like he is Gandhi ji fighting for swaraj. Instead distract him with questions like, "What was that movie we saw that day with that guy? It was on Netflix, remember?" While his mind does multiple cartwheels, enjoy the blissful silence.

2. Bonhomie of Baboons: I watched baboons grooming each other

Mrs. Funnybones



TWINKLE KHANNA

er and playing together. These creatures tend to live in large groups where females make lifelong bonds. After entering a relationship, women especially tend to concentrate primarily on their partners. Focus is a



Illustrations: Chad Crowe

dangerous thing if directed only in one direction. It's how a magnifying glass sets paper on fire. Perhaps we are better off strengthening our social network like baboons. Basically, keep your man close but your girlfriends even closer.

3. Giraffe's Gaze: Giraffes seem to be eternally scanning the landscape. In relationships as well, it's better to look through a wide angle instead of a zoom lens. Your partner's poor jokes and preference for mummy's rajma can feel like significant grievances in the moment but fade away a week later.

4. Hint from Hippos: Hippos communicate through grunts, roars, and sprays of water. Our guide told us that these signals convey their moods and avoid conflicts within their group. Communication in a marriage is often not about what you are saying but how you present it. I have a friend who, whether she is asking her husband to empty the bin or share her biryani, always begins



by calling him 'baby'. I used to laugh at her in my twenties but looking at them still going strong three decades later, I have to say that effective communication is the true Fevicol ka Jod.

5. Cheetah's Composure: Cheetahs are gifted with speed, but they wait and go for the kill only when the time is right. Instead of getting into heated discussions over whose turn it was to take your kid shopping for sneakers and why dirty clothes are on the floor, wait till you both have downed a glass of wine or whatever beverage helps you see the world through rose-tinted glasses. Then, when your partner, like the grazing impala, has his guard down, launch your attack.

On our last game drive, we saw another herd, with a solitary bull elephant walking far ahead of the females with calves. The bull elephant had my husband's sympathies. "Poor guy, he is all alone." I was more focused on how the male could wander off as he pleased, while the females had to take care of the young. That, I suppose, is marriage in a nutshell — two people looking at the same scenario with different interpretations and then bickering over what is right, and often these days, why right is wrong and left is right.

Driving back to camp that evening, the guide pointed out a pair of birds called tik-tik who are so devoted to each other that when one dies, the other sometimes kills itself by eating poisonous grass. I told my husband, "Acha, if I die first, you better eat poisonous grass too. If I see your second wife walking around with my handbags, I promise I will come and haunt you both."

He shook his head and replied, "I want to eat that poisonous grass right now, at least then I won't have to listen to all this nonsense." Then he swatted a mosquito on my arm, the human equivalent of baboons delousing each other. We continued engaging in the complex choreography of cooperation, affection and mutual tolerance as our jeep raced against the setting sun.

AS PARIS OLYMPICS DRAWS TO A CLOSE, A LOOK AT ITS FIVE VIRAL STARS

1 THE NAME IS BOND

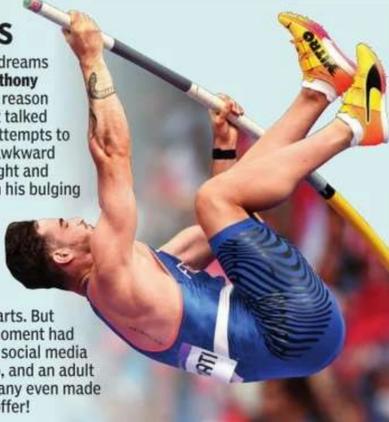
South Korean pistol shooter **Kim Ye-ji** not only won a silver medal in the 10m air pistol women's event, but also countless fans for her style. An all-black attire, a cap turned around, futuristic gaming-like glasses and a savage demeanor catapulted her to internet fame. Some said the 31-year-old looked straight out of a James Bond film, while others drew manga versions of her icy cool avatar.

2 HITMAN-NEXT-DOOR

Turkish shooter **Yusuf Dikec** became an online sensation for quite the opposite reason. Unlike Ye-ji, Dikec looked as if he was going for a walk in the park, with one hand tucked in his pocket. There was no fancy gear, only a T-shirt and a pair of everyday glasses. The everydayness of his style led to wild speculations, including jokes about him being a retired hitman on one final mission: winning an Olympic medal.

3 SIZE MATTERS

Not even in his wildest dreams could French pole-vaulter **Anthony Ammirati** have predicted the reason he'd become one of the most talked about athletes in Paris. His attempts to clear the pole took a rather awkward turn when he missed the height and accidentally hit the pole with his bulging crotch before falling to the ground. Later, it was clarified that his failure to qualify was due to his knees touching the pole first, not his private parts. But by then, clips of the moment had gone viral, Ammirati's social media followers had shot up, and an adult entertainment company even made him a \$250,000 job offer!



4 TT GRANNY

It's never too late to make your dreams come true. That's what table tennis player **Zeng Zhiying** reminded everyone as she made Olympic debut at the age of 58. Nearly four decades after she missed out on being selected to represent China in 1984, Zeng qualified as part of the Chile team. Even though she lost in the opening round, 'table tennis Grandma' earned a lot of affection.



5 CLARK KENT 2.0

In a discipline focused on physique, US gymnast **Stephen Nedoroscik**, now dubbed the Pommel Horse guy, became an overnight sensation for something else: his nerdy demeanor. The bespectacled 25-year-old, who has a disease that renders his eyes permanently dilated, solved the Rubik's Cube about 100 times to prepare for the final. Before executing a medal-winning performance he took off his glasses, drawing comparisons to a Clark Kent-to-Superman transformation.



Bangladeshi students feel safe in India but dream of building a better homeland

Thousands of students from Bangladesh in various Indian varsities are concerned about the safety of their families and restoration of democracy in their country

Divyansh Kumar
@timesofindia.com

Worried about the well-being of their family members back home as the political turmoil escalates in Bangladesh, the native students studying in India have expressed their gratitude for the support and safety provided by Indian universities. More than 2000 students are in India pursuing various courses, and amidst the upheaval, they dream of restoration of peace in their country.

As many as 17 students from Bangladesh are studying in Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), with most of them regularly calling their families back home to learn about their safety. Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has been a favourite university for international students, particularly those from Bangladesh. Banaras Hindu University (BHU) which has 205 students are getting management support. Several students who have completed their course have been given hostel facilities with their fees waived off by the management considering the crisis in Bangladesh.

A 22-year-old final year student of MA (Human Rights) from JMI, who wished to remain anonymous, wants to return to Bangladesh to participate in the student movement for

the formation of a strong government. A native of Naogaon, she aims to actively support human rights crusades when she returns to Bangladesh. "The mindless killing of the minority people particularly youngsters are disturbing. The solution lies in better leadership and in creating an inclusive society. Stronger representation of minorities has been a concern, and we hope that social justice prevails," said the student. "My family is fine, and they want me to return after normalcy is restored," she added.

A 21-year-old sociology stu-



A meeting was organised by International Centre of Savitribai Phule Pune University to address the concerns of Bangladeshi students

Native students have expressed their gratitude for Indian varsities' support

dent from Bangladesh's Jashore studying at JMI who also agreed to talk to Education Times on the condition of anonymity, said, "The youth of Bangladesh dream of a democratic and secular Bangladesh. We want the country to offer better education but also have more job opportunities."

Vidyut, a student

from Bangladesh, studying in BHU voiced his concerns about increasing violence in the country. Glued to the TV to get regular updates, he is unable to contact his family due to the internet shutdown in Bangladesh ever since the protests started.

Another student in BHU, who is from Bangladesh's Sherpur district, echoed these worries as he was also unable to contact his family and friends. The student said that he watches news on every possible platform as one of his friends has died and many have sustained injuries during the protests in Bangladesh.

"It is impossible to get an ex-

act picture of what is happening even from the news because of the spread of fake news, however, we get a rough idea of the possible scenario from TV and the internet," said the 20-year-old student who wishes to go home but is unable to do so in the wake of the ongoing unrest.

As of now, 31 students are in the AMU campus with more girls from the country, who have been supported by the management.

"Female students from Bangladesh have been traditionally enrolling in AMU. Our international desk is helping them get in touch with their families. None of them have felt insecure on campus, as they have been assured of help by the management," said Omar Peerzada, AMU spokesperson.

SVS Raju, coordinator, BHU's International Centre, said that the university would provide all possible support to Bangladeshi students wishing to stay on campus, waiving any charges for their extended stay. "We have assured the students that in case they face any other difficulty during their stay on campus, the university will take necessary measures to address it," said Raju.

In Gujarat, state education minister Praful Pansheriya confirmed that 20 Bangladeshi students, sponsored by the Government of India and studying at Gujarat University, are safe amidst the ongoing crisis. The University and the state government have taken responsibility for their security.

A meeting was organised at Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) on August 8, which was

attended by 40 students from Bangladesh studying there for the past few years.

Prof Vijay Khare, director, International Centre, SPPU, told Education Times, "Students feel secure here but their hearts remain with their families. Studying in a city far from home can be challenging, especially during turbulent times, but a sense of security and community feeling can make all the difference."



Why seats in the NIT+ System remain vacant despite multiple rounds of counselling and special seat allocation efforts

Rajlakshmi Ghosh
@timesofindia.com

Even as the aspirants put in their best efforts to crack JEE Main, not all of them seem inclined to join the NIT+ System leading to several seats lying vacant. The reasons say experts, range from plain logistics where an institute's location is away from metropolitan cities or paucity of internships and limited industry exposure to students in non-IT programmes.

Many of them may even take a gap year to prepare again for JEE Main and Advanced, hoping to secure a better branch next year. Alternatively, they might seek admission to private institutions and other universities that offer their desired stream. As per reports, a total of 13,500 seats were lying vacant across 31 NITs, IEST Shibpur, 26 IITs, 3 Schools of Planning and Architecture, and 37 GFTIs (collectively referred to as the NIT+ System) this year post the five rounds of counselling. As per the seat matrix released by Joint Seat Allocation Authority (JSA) in June, the total number of seats in the NITs and IITs was 24,229 and 8,546 respectively. After Ro-

und 5, the Central Seat Allocation Board (CSAB) has to conduct two special rounds of seat allocation to fill the unfilled seats in the NIT+ System. Once the special rounds of seat allocation draw to a close and students confirm their seats, the total number of vacant seats would finally be evident.

Delving into some of the key reasons behind the vacant seats, Prof NV Ramana Rao, director, NIT Raipur, and ex-director, NIT Warangal, says, "There seems to be an oversupply of engineering seats compared to the number of students interested in pursuing engineering. Moreover, with growing interest in fields such as data science, Artificial Intelligence (AI), finance, and humanities, which are perceived as offering better career opportunities, many of the seats in the traditional engineering programmes lie vacant. Students may also prefer institutions located in metropolitan areas or those closer to home, leaving seats in the other locations vacant."

Better access

While this a recurring phenomenon, there are no vacant seats in the top 20 NITs, says Rao. The problem lies with



the NITs in remote locations, and even there, the challenge is to fill the conventional stream seats. "Students who do not opt for the allocated branches tend to seek admission in state universities, which are as good as the government institutions and are ideally situated in the metropolitan cities with better access to internship and placement opportunities. Since the fees in a private institute could be unaffordable for students from the less privileged sections, they tend to first opt for the Centrally Funded Technical Institutes (CFTIs) or the state-funded technical institutes to apply for circuit branches such as Computer Science (CS) and Electronics and Communica-

Remote chance

tion Engineering (ECE)," Rao adds. "Between the NITs and IITs, it has been observed that less seats lie vacant in the IITs, since these institutes have only CS and Electronics branches where placement records tend to be better than the non-IT branches," says Prof Sumit Darak, Dean of Academic Affairs (DoAA), IIT Delhi which is an autonomous institute with a self-sustainable model.

Consequently, there is a dire need for a coordinated effort at multiple levels to minimise the seat wastage in the NIT+ System. "It has to start with a national plan with strategic skill demand projections 5 years into the future. Thereafter, the regulatory authorities like AICTE should take it forward with controlled intake approvals for admissions. Finally, the industry should come forward to close the loop by hiring graduates from diverse disciplines as per the initial national skill development plan," Ramanathan says.

Coordinated strategy

me in this year's admissions," says Chandrashekar Ramanathan, professor & dean (Academics), IIT Bangalore.

Integrating work experience with academic learning



TIMES NEWS NETWORK

To equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to launch a startup, Taproot Group of PU Colleges is facilitating opportunities for hands-on learning that includes activities such as outbound programmes, participation in live flea markets, bank visits and training in industries.

Through outbound programmes, students gain hands-on experience in entrepreneurship, developing essential skills in marketing, finance, and leadership. The participation of students in the live flea market allows them to get the feel of a real-world setting and helps them refine their business strategies. Under the training programme with the industry, students are given job exposure and learning experience. They learn and get trained for a couple of hours a week in companies such as Astrae Engineering Pvt Limited and Bright Future India Foundation.

The college organises visits to banks and financial institutions to further equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to launch a startup. According to Vaibhav Kumar Singhal, business head of Taproot Group of PU Colleges, the programme is designed to equip students with practical knowledge and industry experience, allowing them to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world settings.

THE INSTITUTE OF Company Secretaries of India
भारतीय कम्पनी सचिव संस्थान
IN PURSUIT OF PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE
Statutory body under an Act of Parliament
(Under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Corporate Affairs)

Vision
"To be a global leader in promoting good corporate governance"

Motto
सर्वं वद। सर्वं वद। कृष्णं चैव त्रैलोक्यं शोकेन ब्रुवते।

Mission
"To develop high calibre professionals facilitating good corporate governance"

Company Secretary (CS)

The Governance Professional
A Career with Endless Opportunities
Join CS Course Now

ARTS & SCIENCE COMMERCE

Opportunity for students from all streams

Distance Learning
Study Material provided by the ICSI
Optional Class Room Teaching
Online centred classes / Recorded Video Lectures
E-Learning facility

Opportunities in Employment, Practice & Academia
Attractive remuneration and growth opportunities

UGC recognises CS qualification as equivalent to Post Graduate Degree

UK ENIC has benchmarked CS Executive and CS Professional Programme as Bachelor and Master degree respectively, with reference to UK and UAE qualification

Journey from a Student to a Company Secretary

CS EXECUTIVE ENTRANCE TEST (CSEET)

ELIGIBILITY - Senior Secondary Examination (10+2 pattern) pass/appearing Students or equivalent thereto

CUT-OFF DATES FOR REGISTRATION

- May CSEET : 16th December to 15th April
- November CSEET : 16th June to 15th October
- July CSEET : 16th April to 15th June
- January CSEET : 16th October to 15th December

FEE : Rs. 2,000/-

CS EXECUTIVE PROGRAMME

ELIGIBILITY - CSEET pass students (Senior Secondary Examination (10+2 pattern) pass & with CSEET result not older than one year / CS Foundation Programme Pass students/Graduates/ Post Graduates/ CA Final Pass students/ CMA Final Pass students.

*Students appearing in the Final Year/Final Semester examination can register provisionally.

CUT-OFF DATES FOR REGISTRATION

- 31st May (Both groups in December examination - same year)
- 31st July (One group in December examination - same year)
- 30th November (Both groups in June examination - next year)
- 31st January (One group in June examination - same year)

FEE : Rs. 16,500/- CSEET Qualified Students / CS Foundation Pass
Rs. 21,500/- For Graduates/Post Graduates / ICMA/ ICMAI Final Course Pass students

ROLE OF COMPANY SECRETARY

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) is a premier national professional body constituted under an Act of Parliament (Company Secretaries Act, 1980) to regulate and develop the profession of Company Secretaries.

Connect with ICSI | www.icsi.edu | Online helpdesk : http://support.icsi.edu

ICSI SUPPORT DESK : 0120-4522 000 (MONDAY TO FRIDAY 9:30 AM TO 5:00 PM)

CMR UNIVERSITY
Private University Est'd in Karnataka State by Act No. 46 of 2013
BENGALURU | RECOGNIZED BY UGC

CREATE THE FUTURE

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
B.Arch.

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
B.Tech.
• CSE • CSE (AI & ML) • CSE (Data Science)
• Computer Engg. • NEW • CST • NEW •
* With specialization in Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Internet of Things
• IT • ECE

M.Tech. (For Regular and Professionals) • CSE • AI
Ph.D. CSE (AI & ML, Networking and Cloud Computing, Data Analytics, Cyber Security, Data Science and Internet of Things)
• ECE • Mechanical Engineering

SCHOOL OF DESIGN
B.Des.
• Communication Design • Product Design
• Fashion Design • Interior Design

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL STUDIES
(Formerly School of Social Science & Humanities)
B.A. / B.A (Hons) (Major + Minor)
• Psychology • English • Journalism • Economics
• Political Science • History • Sociology
• Media Studies • Travel & Tourism • NEW

B.Sc. | Psychology
M.Sc. | Psychology • Clinical • Counselling
• Human Resource Development and Management
Ph.D. | Psychology

SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS & COMMERCE
B.Com. / B.Com. (Hons.)
• General • International Accounting & Finance (ACCA, UK)
• Professional - CA Integrated • Data Science • NEW
• Certified Management Accountant (US CMA) • NEW

Ph.D. | Economics • Commerce

SCHOOL OF LEGAL STUDIES
B.A., LL.B. (Hons.), LL.B.
B.B.A., LL.B. (Hons.), LL.B.
LL.M. | Constitutional Law • Commercial Law
• Criminal Law • NEW • Ph.D. | Law

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & COMPUTER STUDIES
(Formerly School of Science Studies)
BCA / BCA (Hons.) • General • Cloud Computing
• Data Science • Game Development
B.Sc. | Sound Engineering • Visual Effects & Animation
• Information Technology • NEW
M.Sc. | Information Technology in Data Science • NEW

MCA
Ph.D. | Computer Application

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT
BBA / BBA (Hons.)
• General • Digital Marketing • Business Analytics
MBA with Dual Specialisation in • Marketing • HR
• Finance • Business Analytics (IoA, UK) • Digital Marketing
• Supply Chain Management
MBA | Business Analytics & Business Intelligence • NEW
Executive MBA | Product Leadership
Ph.D. | Management

3rd RANK IN INDIA

Emerging Institutes & Placement category
Source: Times All India Engineering Institutes Ranking Survey 2024

PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO GET SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH 12 CRORES

CMRUAT • MERIT • SPORTS • DEFENSE • CET RANK BASED

Accelerated Credit Course Programme (ACCP)
Stay ahead of the competition
APPLY TODAY
to get trained and certified for FREE in niche courses

PGCET code: MBA (City Campus) - B150
MBA (OMBR Campus) - B149 | MBA (Lakeside Campus) - B395
MCA (OMBR Campus) - C527 | MCA (Lakeside Campus) - C521
CET codes: B.Tech. - E257 | B.Arch. - A245

We honour JEE, Comedk, and all National-level tests.

CMR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Permanently affiliated to VTU • Approved by AICTE
Recognised by the Govt. of Karnataka • Accredited by NAAC with A++ grade • NBA Accredited • NIRF Ranked

B.E. | MBA | MCA | Ph.D.

CSE • CSE (AI & ML) • AI & DS • AI & ML
CSE (Data Science) • ISE • ECE

B.E : CET code - E097
ComedK code - E032

PGCET code : MCA - C420MC
MBA - B151MB

www.cmr.ac.in
admission@cmr.ac.in

+91 93429 00666
admissions@cmr.edu.in
www.cmr.edu.in

Lakeside Campus: Off Hennur-Bagalur Main Road, Chagalhatti, Bengaluru - 562 149
City Campus: #2, 3rd Cross, 6th A Main, HRBR Layout, Bengaluru - 560 043
OMBR Campus: No.5, Bhuvanagiri, OMBR Layout, Bengaluru - 560 043
CMRIT Campus: 132, AECS Layout, ITPL Main Road, Kundalahalli, Bengaluru - 560 037

9th, 10th, 11th & 12th Students

Career in Design & Architecture

NID | NIFT | PARUL
PEARL | ISDI | UID
GLS_{ID} | CEED | NATA

Best Design & Architecture Coaching Institute of India - MBA Awards 2023
Highest Selection record from BRDS as compared to any coaching institute in India*

89807 57598
www.rathoredesign.com
Maleshwarum • BTM Layout • Indiranagar

गैंगर राठोड़ डिजाइन स्टुडिओ
BHAVAR RATHORE DESIGN STUDIO
Art, Design and Portfolio Consultancy

Bengaluru • Ahmedabad • Delhi • Jaipur • Hyderabad • Kolkata • Lucknow • Mumbai • Pune

EducationUSA is the U.S. government's Official Source of information on U.S. Higher Education

Join the EducationUSA U.S. University Fair - the biggest U.S. university fair in India!

Meet 55+ reputed, accredited U.S. universities, EducationUSA Advisers and U.S. Consulate officials.

Free Entry Registration Mandatory

Bengaluru | Taj MG Road
2 PM - 5 PM | Sun, August 18

REGISTER NOW! | <https://bit.ly/EdUSAFair24NP>

CMRIT
CMR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, BENGALURU.

CMR INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Permanently affiliated to VTU • Approved by AICTE
Recognised by the Govt. of Karnataka • Accredited by NAAC with A++ grade • NBA Accredited • NIRF Ranked

B.E. | MBA | MCA | Ph.D.

CSE • CSE (AI & ML) • AI & DS • AI & ML
CSE (Data Science) • ISE • ECE

B.E : CET code - E097
ComedK code - E032

PGCET code : MCA - C420MC
MBA - B151MB

www.cmr.ac.in
admission@cmr.ac.in



CONTRAPUNTO

If my mind can conceive it and my heart
can believe it - then I can achieve it

-MUHAMMAD ALI

Model For Medals

Olympics tally won't rise unless more athletes
are picked. Create larger talent pool

A medal tally of 6 – no gold – is a disappointing Olympic performance for India. There were as many as 6 fourth-place finishes that could have gone our way, but for a nation of 1.4bn, even that's not really good enough. Though there is no doubt India has improved considerably at Games since Beijing 2008, we have stayed in the 2-7 medal range in the last five editions. In what is a striking and sobering contrast, China bagged second place in total medals tally at Paris, even as it matched US in number of golds. For India, rethink of strategy and implementation is required to move to the next level.

Contingent's still small | One reason we haven't enough to show is that we aren't sending enough athletes to Olympics. Our 117 athletes at Paris made for a representation of just .08 per mn population. Compare that with 37.8 for New Zealand. Or, Japan, with less than one-tenth of our population, sending more than 400 athletes. A larger pool at the Games is the first step to go up the medal tally. Increasing the number of sports we compete in is one way this can be done. At Paris, we were in the reckoning in just 16 of the 32 sports. Our neighbour China competed in 30. The problem is too few athletes qualify for Olympic selections.

Expand pool to draw from | Widening of the talent base is what's needed if more of our athletes are to qualify for the Games. Our top-level infra has improved immensely in recent years. But, barring sporting states like Haryana and Punjab, it is largely urban talent that is benefiting from such infra. This will not change without a grassroots-based approach. We need to create a sporting culture and build infra at our schools and universities. Such infra is what is behind US's sporting success. To take just one example, American universities have produced US gymnastics champions.

Reform sporting bodies | And then there's the pressing need to change how our sporting federations function. As the Wrestling Federation of India controversy highlighted, politicians, their kin, or their aides continue to rule the roost at many of these bodies, often at the cost of our athletes. A Vinesh Phogat bloomed not because of the system but despite it. The National Sports Development Code of India, meant to reform their functioning, is yet to be followed by many federations. Unless these changes, we might have to continue to endure underwhelming performances at sport's greatest event.

Property, Propriety

Two jobs for waqf JPC: block ways for dodgy
business & retain board's unique identity

As the Waqf Amendment Bill with 40 amendments goes to a joint parliamentary committee, parties must keep in mind the uniqueness of waqf alongside the urgent need for sharp oversight of its management and property. It's good to remember the two parts of waqf, jurisdiction and administration, have always been contested issues.

Complexity | Waqf is a unique Islamic charitable endowment, involving properties movable and immovable. All profits from waqf properties are to be used for charity. Property can also assume the character of a waqf by its usage over time. It is irrevocable in its use. As SC had held, once a waqf, always a waqf. The very nature of waqf makes it a complex phenomenon.

Misuse | While that is waqf's noble nature, it is the not-so-noble nature of its administrators down the decades that has made many waqf issues cesspits of graft and misuse, a political hot potato and a fraught matter for the Muslim community. State waqf bodies abuse accountability and transparency. Enumeration of property is patchy. Almost 5% India-wide have been encroached. Disputes are plenty over lease, sale, tenancy and encroachments. Cases run for decades in constitutional courts and in understaffed, underfunded waqf tribunals. Land mafia has grabbed waqf property. Enforcement of existing law is absent – it's lucrative to look away.

What's needed | Opposition parties and Muslim bodies have challenged the amendments as failing constitutional guarantees. Objections have been raised to amendments proposed, such as online asset management by GOI, stripping state waqf boards of power, replacing elections to state waqfs with nominations, opening CEO-ship of a board to non-Muslims, among others. Yes, waqf assets – 9.4L acres countrywide, estimated worth of ₹1.2L cr – need efficient management. But amendments mustn't exacerbate existing challenges.

Complexity | Waqf is a unique Islamic charitable endowment, involving properties movable and immovable. All profits from waqf properties are to be used for charity. Property can also assume the character of a waqf by its usage over time. It is irrevocable in its use. As SC had held, once a waqf, always a waqf. The very nature of waqf makes it a complex phenomenon.

Misuse | While that is waqf's noble nature, it is the not-so-noble nature of its administrators down the decades that has made many waqf issues cesspits of graft and misuse, a political hot potato and a fraught matter for the Muslim community. State waqf bodies abuse accountability and transparency. Enumeration of property is patchy. Almost 5% India-wide have been encroached. Disputes are plenty over lease, sale, tenancy and encroachments. Cases run for decades in constitutional courts and in understaffed, underfunded waqf tribunals. Land mafia has grabbed waqf property. Enforcement of existing law is absent – it's lucrative to look away.

What's needed | Opposition parties and Muslim bodies have challenged the amendments as failing constitutional guarantees. Objections have been raised to amendments proposed, such as online asset management by GOI, stripping state waqf boards of power, replacing elections to state waqfs with nominations, opening CEO-ship of a board to non-Muslims, among others. Yes, waqf assets – 9.4L acres countrywide, estimated worth of ₹1.2L cr – need efficient management. But amendments mustn't exacerbate existing challenges.

Complexity | Waqf is a unique Islamic charitable endowment, involving properties movable and immovable. All profits from waqf properties are to be used for charity. Property can also assume the character of a waqf by its usage over time. It is irrevocable in its use. As SC had held, once a waqf, always a waqf. The very nature of waqf makes it a complex phenomenon.

Misuse | While that is waqf's noble nature, it is the not-so-noble nature of its administrators down the decades that has made many waqf issues cesspits of graft and misuse, a political hot potato and a fraught matter for the Muslim community. State waqf bodies abuse accountability and transparency. Enumeration of property is patchy. Almost 5% India-wide have been encroached. Disputes are plenty over lease, sale, tenancy and encroachments. Cases run for decades in constitutional courts and in understaffed, underfunded waqf tribunals. Land mafia has grabbed waqf property. Enforcement of existing law is absent – it's lucrative to look away.

What's needed | Opposition parties and Muslim bodies have challenged the amendments as failing constitutional guarantees. Objections have been raised to amendments proposed, such as online asset management by GOI, stripping state waqf boards of power, replacing elections to state waqfs with nominations, opening CEO-ship of a board to non-Muslims, among others. Yes, waqf assets – 9.4L acres countrywide, estimated worth of ₹1.2L cr – need efficient management. But amendments mustn't exacerbate existing challenges.

Complexity | Waqf is a unique Islamic charitable endowment, involving properties movable and immovable. All profits from waqf properties are to be used for charity. Property can also assume the character of a waqf by its usage over time. It is irrevocable in its use. As SC had held, once a waqf, always a waqf. The very nature of waqf makes it a complex phenomenon.

Misuse | While that is waqf's noble nature, it is the not-so-noble nature of its administrators down the decades that has made many waqf issues cesspits of graft and misuse, a political hot potato and a fraught matter for the Muslim community. State waqf bodies abuse accountability and transparency. Enumeration of property is patchy. Almost 5% India-wide have been encroached. Disputes are plenty over lease, sale, tenancy and encroachments. Cases run for decades in constitutional courts and in understaffed, underfunded waqf tribunals. Land mafia has grabbed waqf property. Enforcement of existing law is absent – it's lucrative to look away.

What's needed | Opposition parties and Muslim bodies have challenged the amendments as failing constitutional guarantees. Objections have been raised to amendments proposed, such as online asset management by GOI, stripping state waqf boards of power, replacing elections to state waqfs with nominations, opening CEO-ship of a board to non-Muslims, among others. Yes, waqf assets – 9.4L acres countrywide, estimated worth of ₹1.2L cr – need efficient management. But amendments mustn't exacerbate existing challenges.

Games Over, So Is Fraternité?

Basking as Olympics host, French found common cause. Question is will this survive
renewed encounter with deep political divisions in the country

Gilles Verniers



France is currently experiencing an unusual sentiment, collective enjoyment, starkly contrasting with its usual, self-imposed pessimism and brooding. It hosted the Olympics, which ended yesterday, with great success. Detractors were forced to mute their criticism. Even the Olympics mascot, two Phrygian hats, which were initially derided, was enthusiastically adopted by the crowds.

Sport has the ability to bring people together beyond their differences, to celebrate their shared sense of belonging to a national community. In 1998, France's victory in the football World Cup led to a celebration of its social diversity, reflected in the composition of its national team. The fact that France is doing well in these Olympics – they finished fifth among nations, and were fourth in absolute number of medals – contributed to this domestic Olympic truce.

The question is: is this a temporary pause between phases of political and social discord, or will the fraternity that manifests itself during major sports events have a more lasting effect. One could argue that the capacity to feel and express fraternity already exists within French society. Fraternity finds expression in moments of collective celebration, and these Olympics have proven to be an excellent catalyst for it. The Games produce national heroes, who get celebrated regardless of their social or ethnic origins.

Nonetheless, the Olympic Games are, by definition, a fleeting event that does not answer or address the causes of the disgruntlement that characterise French society and politics in regular times.

France is nowhere nearer to having a govt now than before the Olympics. The pre-poll prime minister, who initially stayed in position after elections, heads a caretaker govt. The left front succeeded in finding a consensus candidate for the PM position: Lucie Castet, a 37-year-old economist and civil servant in charge of finances and procurement for the city of Paris. Other parties have also floated various names for the top position. Still, the fact is that the appointment of a PM lies solely in the hands of President Macron, whose intentions remain shrouded in mystery.

The key challenge for French parties and political leaders after the election was to learn how to deal with an intensely fragmented National Assembly. French MPs filled the Speaker position (by re-appointing the incumbent Speaker) and appointed the heads of major



parliamentary standing committees. But they must still learn the art of producing legislation without a majority. For now, some parties have adopted new names to convey their willingness to change, but they

have yet to mend their political ways and accept to seek compromise with other formations.

Over the past few weeks, Macron has sent signals that he would rather work with parties to the right of the ideological spectrum than seek accommodation with the left, which remains united. This tilt towards the right has created rifts within his party, which has already been weakened after losing its majority in 2022, and by the setback of July's elections. As compared to 2022, Macron's party, Renaissance, has lost 70 seats – plus its immediate allies lost another 30. Some of his political family's remaining left and centre-left-leaning members have expressed disillusionment and unwillingness to continue with Macron's political experiment.

These issues will resurface now that the Games are over, bringing France back to its usual state of discontent. After all, the exhilaration and the celebration of multiculturalism arising from the 1998 World Cup victory did not last long. It was followed by the ascendancy of Jean-Marie Le Pen, who succeeded in qualifying for the second round of the 2002 presidential election. France's other World Cup victory in 2018 was followed by the Yellow Vest movement, which plunged the country into violence.

This should not come as a surprise, as the concept of an Olympic truce has always been more fiction than reality. Since 1992, United Nations has adopted a resolution every two years ahead of the Olympiads, calling for the respect of a truce, a revival of a tradition inherited from ancient Greece. Greek kings used to sign a peace treaty that enabled their subjects to travel safely and attend the Games. This truce (*ekecheira*) would come into effect a week before the event and end a week after it, which UN still adheres to. However, the Games have had zero impact on the ongoing wars in Ukraine, Gaza, and Sudan. All these issues, currently sidelined in France's national discourse, will resurface and affect its politics.

Still, the 2024 Olympics allowed France to display a positive image of itself, with remarkable success. Setting the Games in the heart of Paris produced stunning visuals. It has also enabled many French people to experience fraternity again, which in these days should not be scoffed at. One can only hope that it encourages people to think about other ways of creating this kind of bonding.

The writer is Karl Loeuvenstein Fellow & visiting assistant professor, political science, Amherst College, US. Views are personal

The Point About Regulators Hindenburg Didn't Raise

Regulators need autonomy from executive & accountability to public. That's why the best forum
for Sebi chief, who's issued a statement, to explain herself is a multi-party committee of MPs

TK Arun



They also serve who stand and accuse. Hindenburg Research's allegations against the Sebi chief should, regardless of the specific merit or otherwise of charges, lead to some systemic improvement of the regulatory regime.

Madhabi Puri Buch has denied the allegation of any conflict of interest – the context is past association with a fund related to the Adanis – either while Sebi investigated charges raised by Hindenburg against the Adanis or while issuing a show-cause to Hindenburg. Buch and her husband issued a statement yesterday.

Buch is the first person from the private sector to be appointed to head the markets regulator. She and her husband have had successful careers in corporate and financial worlds, saved amounts that look significant to most Indians, and invested those savings, including in overseas instruments.

The ethical nature of such investments has to be judged by the manner in which such savings were accumulated, and the normative legitimacy of the investment methods adopted. It would be wrong to proceed on the assumption that if the savings in question involve a confusingly large number of zeros, the confusion must be smoke emanating from a bonfire of ethics.

Past heads of Sebi have all come from within the govt, and they have done a decent job, too. India's capital markets serve to let Indians deploy their savings to claim ownership of and/or returns from the economy's productive capacity. The market is able to absorb large inflows from abroad and tolerate outflows, without being overwhelmed. Securities are dematerialised, trades are cleared and settled, with total reliability and speed.

It is the absence of such a functional capital market that lies at the root of China's current property crisis: most Chinese see property as their most reliable form of savings, and buy second homes, and, in some cases,

even third homes. Oversupply of real estate, financed through loans, can avoid a crisis only for so long. Thanks to a well-regulated capital market, India's savings find more diversified deployment.

This does not mean that there remains no scope for regulatory improvement, in terms of structure or practice. Finance is a continuum and calls for unified regulation, with macroprudential regulation alone being left to another agency, say a committee of the central bank, as in UK, or, ideally, an economic advisory council. When different regulators oversee different segments of finance, the borders between the segments either go under-regulated or lead to turf battles.

To take an example, credit default swaps insure bonds against default. Should these be regulated by the insurance regulator or the bond market regulator? What public purpose is served by having separate regulators for pensions and insurance, considering that annuity plans are formulated by the insurance industry, making use of its actuarial expertise?

The accumulation stage of a pension fund is similar to the accumulation stage of a life insurance policyholder who refuses to die in a hurry. Why have two different regulators for govt bonds and corporate bonds? Fortunately, we have done away with separate regulators for commodities and securities markets, and never had the US idiosyncrasy of separating the regulatory responsibility for spot and forward markets.

These are problems of regulatory structure, fashioned by law and flawed policy. But regulators alone are to blame for deficient regulatory practice. India has a stunted market for corporate bonds, and only large companies, for whose custom banks grovel, have access to the bond market. The regulatory

practice does not support a market for corporate control. In fact, the delisting norms reinforce incumbent control, at the expense of the small shareholder.

Some problems are created by uninformed investors, such as overvalued small companies. Others, by deficient regulation: for example, the futures and options market functioning virtually as a casino, rather than to hedge against risk. The budget's solution of a higher securities transaction tax induces inefficiency, whereas regulatory action to significantly increase the lot size would preclude gambling by the small fry.

A practitioner from the industry is better equipped to improve regulation than a civil servant. The US markets regulator is headed by Gary Gensler, a Goldman Sachs veteran.

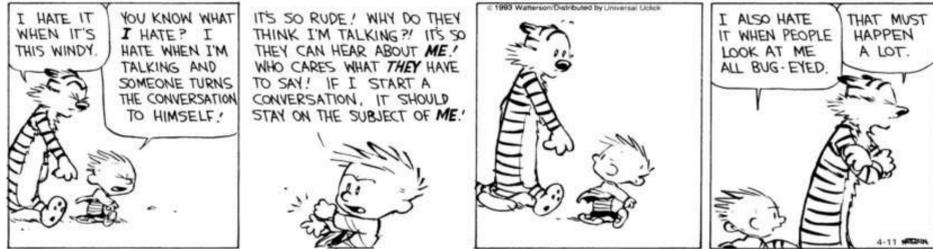
The service rules for Sebi staff are outdated – these bar employees from badla, for example, long after badla itself has been abolished. Regulation 64 bars employees from investing in equities, the restriction extending to spouses and children. More sensible is the comparable US regulation, requiring employees to not misuse privileged access to information, to have minimum holding periods and full disclosure.

The biggest change required in the regulatory regime is to make all regulators periodically testify before multi-party committees of legislators, as happens in US. This would give them autonomy from the executive, and yet hold them accountable to the ultimate sovereign, the people.

Buch deserves a chance to explain how her conduct entails no conflict of interest to a committee of elected representatives.



Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace

Be not
astonished at
new ideas; for
it is well
known to you
that a thing
does not therefore cease to be
true because it is not accepted
by many.

Baruch Spinoza

True Competition Kindles Self-Actualisation

Deepak Ranade

Paris Olympics saw the Swedish pole-vaulter Duplantis, clearing the bar at a new world record height of 6.25m, having already secured the gold medal earlier by clearing 6.00m. This is the ninth time Duplantis has broken the world record, bettering his own effort of 6.24m he set in the Xiamen Diamond League in April this year.

Olympics represents man's relentless competitive spirit, his eternal endeavour to push himself 'faster, higher, longer'.

It is a sporting event that brings out the best, demands utmost dedication and perseverance and commitment to find a place on the podium and assert being the 'best of the best'.

Duplantis's effort to go beyond the gold medal effort, stood out on this global competitive arena. The crowd was cheering and encouraging a man

who was competing with the most challenging competitor – himself. The rapturous applause at the end of his spectacular leap was not for the height he cleared, but for the victory that man had achieved over his own mind.

The quest for reaching higher had a pristine divine element – to better oneself. It transcended the need to overtake another. It was more about taking over one's own limitations and doubts. The competition was between one's own abilities and one's doubts.

Competition with another surely brings out the best, but taken to the extreme, it can degenerate to a rat race, each attempting to outdo the other and, in some cases, even 'undo' the competitor.

Olympics has always been testimony to man's constant efforts to seek perfection in a myriad of activities. It

reflects his undaunting spirit to triumph over formidable odds and opponents. Opponents who more often than not spur each other to delve deep down in the vaults of courage, resilience and confidence and reveal flashes of extraordinary skills and strengths that might have languished untouched for want of being summoned. The quest to beat oneself was perhaps best embodied by Sergei Bubka.

With a career that spanned over 15 years, Bubka broke the world record for the pole vault an astonishing 35 times. His ability to consistently break records became his trademark, as he continuously pushed the self-imposed boundaries. He broke his own record 14 times and that showed his remarkable ability to surpass himself.

"Believe in yourself, even when others doubt you. You can achieve anything you set your mind to," says Bubka.

In today's world, competition has degenerated from being a healthy virtue of improving oneself into an unhealthy effort to win at any cost, using any means. Such a mindset and approach are the surest recipe for disaster.

Competition that results in eliminating a rival can never be deemed as a victory. It is a cursed, Pyrrhic victory. True competition helps mankind evolve; it nurtures the spirit to improve and excel rather than stifle competition. It kindles the spirit of self-actualisation.

When Duplantis cleared 6.25m, he successfully vaulted restrictive and regressive understanding of competition. He truly raised the bar of dealing with the fears and doubts of not others, but more importantly of overcoming the fears and doubts lurking within oneself. He seamlessly delivered competition from the science of decimating the opponent to the art of transcending the self.

The writer is a consultant neurosurgeon



THE SPEAKING TREE



Smiley

MUTUAL FUN by HSBC Mutual Fund



An Investor Education & Awareness Initiative by HSBC Mutual Fund



Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

CL 1717

Amara Raja plans to set up battery plant in North India

Divitipally: Battery maker Amara Raja Group, which has entered the race to set up India's first gigafactory after players like Ola and Exide, is looking to set up a 6-million units per annum lead acid battery plant in North India. This is part of efforts to de-risk the business and cater to markets in North and West India better. Group chairman Jayadev Gallia said at the inauguration of its 1.5GWh Li-ion battery plant and ground-breaking of its customer qualification plant for cell manufacturing on Saturday. **TNN**

Sebi: Have mechanisms to fix conflict of interest issues

Regulator Says Chief Recused Herself In Potential Cases

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Take Informed Decision Before Reacting: Sebi

Sebi has adequate internal mechanisms for addressing issues relating to conflict of interest, which include disclosure framework and provision for recusal... Relevant disclosures required in terms of holdings of securities and their transfers have been made by the chairperson from time to time. Chairperson has also recused herself in matters involving potential conflicts of interest...

—Sebi's statement in response to Hindenburg's latest report alleging conflict of interest by Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch

Mumbai: Markets regulator Sebi on Sunday said that US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research's latest report was "inappropriate" and that it had "adequate internal mechanisms for addressing issues relating to conflict of interest". In its report, Hindenburg has alleged conflicts of interest by Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch.

Sebi has asked investors to take an informed decision before reacting to such reports. "It is emphasized that Sebi has adequate internal mechanisms for addressing issues relating to conflict of interest, which include disclosure framework and provision for recusal. It is noted that relevant disclosures required in terms of holdings of securities and their transfers have been made by the chairperson from time to time. Chairperson has also recused herself in matters involving potential conflicts of interest," Sebi said.

Sebi release also, in detail, produced relevant data, to

deny Hindenburg's allegations that the regulator had not taken any action against the Adani Group. The report had also questioned Sebi's action of issuing a show-cause notice to the US based short-seller.

"...Sebi had completed 22 out of 24 investigations into the Adani group. Subsequently, one more investigation was completed in March 2024, and one remaining investigation is close to completion. During the ongoing investigation in this matter, more than 100 summonses, around 1,100 letters and emails have been issued to seek information. Further, more than 100 communications have been made seeking assistance from domestic/foreign regulators and external agencies. Also more than 300 documents containing around 12,000 pages have been examined," it said adding that enforcement proceedings have also been initiated where the probe has been completed.

On June 27, Sebi's show-cause notice to Hindenburg had, among other issues, pointed out that before the release of Hindenburg first report against the Adani Group on Jan 24, 2023, a fund run by Kingdon Capital had built short positions in the group's companies. These positions were built based on a report by Hindenburg that was shared with the fund be-

fore it was released publicly.

The positions were squared off by Feb 22, 2023, at a profit of about Rs 183 crore. As part of the deal, Hindenburg received a 25% profit from Kingdon Capital.

Sebi believed such gains were illegal and hence had issued to Hindenburg and some other related entities as to why legal actions should not be initiated against them. Sebi had also asked the entities to disgorge those ill-gotten gains.

There are several people in the market who believe that Hindenburg's latest report against the Sebi chairperson was mainly to get back to the regulator for issuing the show-cause notice.

In its release, Sebi also denied it had changed any regulations for REITs "to benefit a diversified multinational financial conglomerate". Hindenburg had alleged that some changes to rules were made to benefit global financial giant Blackstone since Dhaval Buch, husband of Sebi chairperson, was employed by its India arm.

Tough talking Puri Buch broke several barriers

Sebi Chief Hasn't Shied Away From Publicly Flagging Concerns Unlike Her Predecessors

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In 2022, when Madhabi Puri Buch took charge as Sebi chairperson, she broke several barriers — primary of them being the first woman and the first former private sector professional to head the markets' regulatory body. After a four-and-a-half-year stint as a whole-time member at Sebi, she had taken a few months off due to personal reasons but in March 2022 came back to head it.

At Sebi, Puri Buch, a tough taskmaster, is known for bringing in a collaborative practice in decision-making, especially in putting in place new rules for the regulated entities. She also put strong focus on IT in market regulation and surveillance. In addition, she's known for her data-driven approach to management and decision making.

Unlike many of her predecessors, the 59-year-old has not shied away from publicly flagging concerns, be it those relating to futures and options or valuation of SMEs. Besides, she has initiated fresh changes in regulating mutual funds and used technology cracked down on market manipulators.

Before Sebi, Puri Buch — a graduate of in maths from St Stephen's College with an MBA degree from IIM Ahmedabad — had a long innings at ICICI Bank and at one point was identified as one of the women leaders at the private sector lender. She was among those recruited from top business schools just before the 1991 economic reforms that also transformed the financial sector in India.

From IIM-A's 1989 batch she has several prominent batchmates, including Ramesh Shah, chairman of Edelweiss; Sanjeev Bikhchandani-

ni, founder of Naukri.com; Nirmal Jain, CEO of India Infoline; Rahul Bhasin, managing partner at Baring Private Equity and Vedika Bhandarkar; former Credit Suisse CEO, who now heads Water.org founded by Matt Damon. India's economic reforms

In 2011 Puri Buch moved to Singapore to head business development at Greater Pacific Capital.

Dhaval An HUL Veteran: Dhaval is an alumnus of IIT Delhi and has had a corporate career of 35 years in Hindus-

ICICI Bank Veteran 1st Woman & Pvt Sector Professional To Head Sebi

At Sebi, Madhabi Puri Buch brought in a collaborative practice in decision-making, especially in putting in place new rules for regulated entities. Unlike many of her predecessors, the 59-year-old has not shied away from publicly flagging concerns. Puri Buch had a long innings at ICICI Bank and in 2011, she moved to Singapore along with her husband Dhaval Buch, an HUL veteran, who was appointed as a senior adviser at Blackstone in 2019. She took charge as Sebi chief in 2022 after a four-and-a-half year stint as whole-time member at the markets regulator.

gave ICICI an opportunity to break out into multiple new financial services that opened up for the first time. Puri Buch was among the young management graduates to take leadership positions in the new housing finance unit.

Much of Buch's character was shaped by her early years at ICICI, where she gained foundational experience in retail finance and an understanding of technology in the financial sector. The ICICI environment, along with Kamath's policy of a 90-day timeline for conceiving and launching new concepts, instilled in her a strong drive for getting things done.

She later went on to head ICICI Securities after the global financial crisis. When Kamath's term was nearing a close in 2009 most of the young leaders were seen as contenders for the top job which finally went to Chanda Kochhar.

tan Unilever in India and then in Unilever globally as part of its senior management team.

Currently, he is a senior advisor at Blackstone and Alvarez & Marsal. He's also a non-executive director at sports apparel brand Gildan. With over 30 years of experience in supply chain management, primarily at Unilever, he also had brief roles at Mahindra & Mahindra before co-founding the financial services consulting firm Agora Advisory with his wife in 2013.

Blackstone sources said that Buch's appointment at the India unit of the US-based buyout fund pre-dates Madhabi's appointment as Sebi chief in 2022. Buch was appointed as a senior advisor of Blackstone in 2019.

Dhaval didn't have any private equity experience before Blackstone as he had spent a good part of his career in procurement and supply chain.

crazy bosses



TaMo pins hopes on revival in demand

New Delhi: Tata Motors expects demand to remain sluggish in overseas markets this fiscal while pinning hopes on a bounce back in India on the back of new launches and the festive season. Earlier this month, the automaker reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 5,566 crore and total income of Rs 1,09,623 crore for June quarter. **AGENCIES**

Oyo raises ₹1,457cr in latest funding round

New Delhi: Oravel Stays, the parent company of Oyo, has raised Rs 1,457 crore from a consortium of investors in the latest funding round, sources said, at a valuation of \$2.4 billion. **AGENCIES**

FPIs turn net sellers, withdraw ₹13,400cr

New Delhi: After infusing money for two months, foreign investors have turned net sellers as they pulled out over Rs 13,400 crore from equities in Aug due to unwinding of the yen carry trade and US recession fears. **AGENCIES**

figure it out

₹4.3L Cr worth was the output of 'fruits & vegetables' in 2022-23 at constant (2011-12) prices compared to ₹2.9L crore in 2011-12

Source: Mospi

Govt unlikely to step into Hindenburg-Sebi row

Sidhartha@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Govt is unlikely to immediately step into the controversy created by the Hindenburg report as senior officials believe that the charges against Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval, are "untrue and malicious" and are in response to the regulator's notice to the short seller.

They alleged that Hindenburg may also be trying to make a quick buck from the Indian markets through its latest action and the regulator and govt are keeping a close tab on how the developments unfold.

Describing it as a fresh attempt to "create a smokescreen", a govt source suggested that this may be part of a larger attempt to discredit the regulator at a time when the Indian stock market is seeing a good run on the back of healthy macroeconomic fundamentals and strong growth prospects with clean corporate and bank balance

TERM ENDS IN 6 MTHS

Market players are closely monitoring govt's response, given that Madhabi Puri Buch has over six months to go as Sebi chief and is eligible for another term. She took over as Sebi chairperson in March 2022 and was given a three-year term. Senior govt officials alleged that Hindenburg may also be trying to make a quick buck from the Indian markets.

The source alleged such actions were part of a pattern to hit Indian markets but argued that the markets were now strong and deep enough to withstand Hindenburg-type attacks.

"There have been a series of regulatory actions to improve the overall functioning of the markets and the regulator itself has not shied away from cautioning investors, wherever it sees pressure building up," another official said, while listing out a

host of measures taken by Sebi. The officer said that Sebi has submitted its probe findings on issues raised by Hindenburg in its earlier report to the Supreme Court.

Pointing to the statements issued by Puri Buch and Dhaval, who both worked in the private sector, officials said required disclosures had been made, which may not be in public domain like those of civil servants.

While suggesting that some of Puri Buch's actions may have upset some of the market participants, sources said, the regulator has followed an elaborate consultation paper, even in the case of REITs, amid suggestions by Hindenburg that the rules benefited Blackstone, where Dhaval is an adviser.

Market players are closely monitoring govt's response, given that Puri Buch has over six months to go as Sebi chief and is eligible for another term. She took over as Sebi chief in March 2022 and was given a three-year term.

Two industry bodies call allegations 'unwarranted'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: At least two industry bodies — AMFI and The Indian Venture and Alternate Capital Association — on Sunday publicly came out in support of Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and the market regulator and called Hindenburg's allegations "unwarranted" and "lacking in context".

"We believe that the recent allegations made by Hindenburg are unwarranted and do not reflect a deep understanding of the Indian regulatory environment... India is one of the fastest-growing markets in South Asia, and much of this success is attributed to the robust framework and oversight provided by Sebi, led by Ms Buch," IVCA said in a statement. AMFI, the industry body for mutual funds, described the allegations as an attempt to "undermine" India's "economic progress" by creating a "trust deficit" in the market.

"Left unchecked, it can create unnecessary hurdles in the path of the world's fastest-growing economy. Such advances must be viewed as creating a hurdle in India's endeavour to become a developed economy. Investors and partners, both domestic and international, must be reassured that India's financial system is secure, transparent, and designed to foster growth and innovation with high integrity driven right from the top of the institution," AMFI said.

most of that loss has been recovered. Also investigations to look into Hindenburg's allegations against Adani Group have mostly drawn a blank.

Market players feel that "shock value" is lost with the second Hindenburg report,

As a result, "Hindenburg has been found to be a toothless entity," said Arun Kejriwal, director, KRIS, an investment advisory firm. "Nobody believes Hindenburg (any more)," he said. Kejriwal also believes that

this repeated attempt by Hindenburg to disrupt the Indian market is setting a bad precedent. "It's high time India takes up this matter with IOSCO and initiate legal steps against it (Hindenburg) and the people behind it." IOSCO, the International Organization of Securities Commissions, is an association of securities markets regulators globally.

Market players feel that the negative global factors like geopolitical issues or the volatile world markets could impact trading on the Street in the new week than the Hindenburg report.

What Are REITs & Why They Are Taking Heat

REITs or real estate investment trusts are entities that primarily own and operate a portfolio of real estate properties for returns, mostly rental income. The portfolio is divided into units, which are sold to buyers. 90% of the income generated is distributed to unitholders. In India, these entities are incorporated as trusts. Over the years, many changes to rules have made REITs an attractive asset class. Recently, the mcap of all listed REITs & InvTs (Infra investment trusts) crossed the ₹10L cr mark. Hindenburg alleged that some changes to rules were made to benefit financial giant Blackstone since Dhaval Buch, the husband of Sebi chief, was employed by its India arm as an adviser.

Report not big negative for D-St: Marketmen

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Dalal Street on Monday is unlikely to react negatively to Hindenburg Research's latest report that alleged instances of conflicts of interest by Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch.

Traders, dealers and fund managers that TOI spoke to and also who commented on social media messaging groups that are private, were more annoyed with the US based short-seller than pointing fingers at the people and entities named in the report. Market players feel that,

How Adani Group's Market Cap Has Swung



for one, with Hindenburg's second report, unlike from the first one, the 'shock value' is lost. After the first report in

January 2023, in about five weeks the Adani group had lost about 65% of its combined market value. Since then,

Why Flexicap Funds Are A Good Starting Point For Investors

For investors making an entry into equity mutual funds or moving some money away from deposits, financial planners say flexicap funds are a good starting point. These all-weather funds can form a core allocation of an individual's equity portfolio.

What Are Flexicap Funds?

A flexicap mutual fund category, according to regulatory guidelines, is one in which the fund manager can choose to invest across companies of any market capitalisations, be it large, mid or small-cap companies, without restrictions. The fund manager has the complete freedom here unlike other categories, where they need to allocate a fixed amount to a category. A flexicap scheme needs to have a minimum investment in equity and equity-related instruments of 65% of the total assets of the scheme and the fund manager is free to choose a suitable benchmark.

Invesco Mutual Fund

An investor education and awareness initiative. For Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines along with the documentary requirements and procedure for change of address, phone number, bank details, etc., please visit the Education and Guidance section on www.invescomutualfund.com. Investor should deal with only SEBI registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified under "Intermediaries/Market Infrastructure Institutions" on <https://www.sebi.gov.in/index.html>. For any grievance / complaint, please call us on 1800-209-0007 or write to us at mf.services@invesco.com. Alternatively, complaints can be registered on the SEBI SCORES Portal at <https://scores.gov.in>

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

Why It Is A Preferred Category?

Schemes in large-cap, mid-cap, small-cap and multi-caps have restricted mandates and are required to stick to the companies that are defined by market cap. For example, a large-cap fund will have to invest a minimum of 80% in companies ranked 1 to 100 by market capitalisation, while a mid-cap fund needs to allocate at least 65% of its portfolio to companies ranked 101-250 by market cap and a small-cap fund needs to invest 65% in stocks ranked 251 and below. Such schemes also work for investors who are unable to decide whether to opt for large-cap, mid-cap, small-cap, multi-cap, or sectoral funds.

How Large Is The Category?

Flexicap is the largest category in the equity MF space, with many funds in this space being flagship schemes for the fund house. All the schemes put together manage a total of ₹3.9 lakh crore of assets. There are 39 schemes in this category.

Who Should Consider This?

Wealth managers believe these are all-weather funds for any equity investor. Long-term or first-time investors, who do not want to take the trouble of stock selection, and want to make a long-term allocation to Indian equities, can opt for flexicap funds.

Investors looking for just one fund in their portfolio where the fund manager makes a decision and gives them access to the best bets in the market irrespective of market capitalisation with the aim to balance risk and volatility and help them accumulate wealth to meet long-term goals can consider the flexicap category as a core portfolio allocation. Investors looking to stagger their investments through systematic investment plan (SIP) could also look to using this category of funds.

—PRASHANT MAHESH



IS SELENA GOMEZ ENGAGED? ACTOR SPARKS RUMOURS WITH MIRROR-SELFIE, COVERING RING FINGER WITH HEART EMOJIS

JUDE LAW ENTERS 'STAR WARS' GALAXY WITH NEW TV SERIES, SAYS HE HAS BEEN A FAN OF THE ORIGINAL FILMS SINCE AGE 10

US pressure over St Martin's Island led to ouster, claims 'Hasina's letter'

Washington Denies Unconfirmed Note's Allegations

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: A letter allegedly from Bangladeshi ex-PM Sheikh Hasina is circulating among Awami League supporters, suggesting that her ouster from 15 years in office was the result of pressure from the US regarding the strategically important St Martin's Island.

The letter, which has gained traction despite the absence of official confirmation, attributes her removal to her refusal to cede control of the island in the Bay of Bengal to Washington. The island's importance is linked to the US's interest in countering China's influence in the Indian Ocean. "I could have remained in power if I had left St Martin's and the Bay of Bengal to America," the letter says.

The message echoed the ousted PM's long-standing stand against foreign intervention in Bangladesh's sovereignty, according to a party activist currently abroad. Last year, Hasina had said, "I don't want to return to power by leasing out St Martin's Island", during a press conference following her visits to Switzerland and Qatar.

St Martin's Island, known locally as "Narikel Zinzira", which translates to "Coconut Island", is in the northeastern part of Bay of Bengal, about 9km south of the tip of the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf peninsula. With an area of just 3sqkm, the coral reef island is home to about 3,800 residents, most of whom are fishermen. There have been allegations circulating that Hasina's rival and ex-PM Khaleda



A student patrolls a burnt-down police station in Dhaka on Sunday

Media outlets risk shutdown for flattery and misinformation, says interim govt

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: The interim govt warned media outlets Sunday that any attempt at flattery or misinformation instead of publishing or broadcasting the truth could lead to them being shut down. "Shame on you, shame on the media owners... you did not tell the truth," home affairs adviser Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhat Hossain said, alluding to the alleged suppression of truth

Zia had sought to "sell" the strategically important island to the US in exchange for American support in regaining office. The US authorities have denied these claims, maintaining that it respects the sovereignty of Bangladesh and has no intention of acquiring the island or intervening in the country's internal political matters.

The letter suggests Hasina's departure was motivated by her desire to avoid further blood-

shed. "I will return soon," she is quoted as saying. Hasina, currently in India, is also said to have addressed accusations that she had insulted students; "I never called you Razakars (ruthless mercenaries from the Bangladesh independence war). My words have been distorted."

The alleged claims are similar to Pakistan's former PM Imran Khan's allegations that US pressure played a role in his ouster. The US has denied it.

Will ask India to deport Hasina if law min asks for it: Foreign policy adviser

Continued from P1

Asked at his first press briefing if the new govt will ask India to deport Sheikh Hasina back to Bangladesh, Hossain said he will do so only if the law ministry asked for it. "She resigned and the resignation letter is with the President. This has been confirmed. If the law ministry tells us to seek her return, I will do so," said Hossain, whose position is equivalent to that of a minister.

According to earlier accounts, Hasina wanted to announce his resignation in a TV address before leaving her official residence, but didn't get to do so because of army's insistence that she leave immediately in view of violent protesters closing in on her Ganabhaban residence. She instantly took off in a chopper to board the C-130 that took her to Delhi. That would leave the question of whether she actually resigned unsettled and a bone of contention for the opposite groups.

In his briefing, Hossain said Bangladesh would have a "balanced" foreign policy, asserting that Dhaka intends to maintain "smooth and positive" relations with all, including India and China. "Our policy is to maintain good relations with all countries while protecting our national interests."

Hossain said it is meaningless to assume that this interim govt is focused solely on any particular direction. "We in-

Yunus acquitted in corruption case

Muhammad Yunus was acquitted Sunday in a second legal case since taking over as chief advisor of the interim govt in Bangladesh Thursday, reports AKM Moinuddin. Yunus, along with 13 others, was charged by the nation's anti-corruption commission (ACC) on June 12 for the alleged misappropriation of about Bangladesh taka 25.22 crore from Grameen Telecom workers' profit participation funds. Recently, ACC sought the withdrawal of prosecution in the case, leading to Yunus and the others being acquitted by a special court in Dhaka this weekend.

tend to maintain smooth and positive relations with all... including India and China," said Hossain.

When asked about the interim govt's approach towards India, Hossain said both countries share strong and deep bonds. "(But) it is important that people feel India is a good friend of Bangladesh... We want that, we want to advance the (Dhaka-Delhi) relation towards that direction," said Hossain, a career diplomat and former foreign secretary. He said the interim govt "would like to see India cooperate with us in this regard" and underscored the need for "addressing public expectations by delivering tangible outcomes from ties with India".

Zelensky confirms Kursk incursion, says move meant to pressure Russia 'Pushing War Onto Aggressor's Territory To Restore Justice'

Kyiv: President Volodymyr Zelensky said Ukraine had launched an incursion into Russian territory to "restore justice" and pressure Moscow's forces, in his first acknowledgement of Kyiv's surprise offensive into the western Kursk region.

Moscow's forces on Sunday were in their sixth day of intense battle against Kyiv's largest territory since the start of the war, which left southwestern parts of Russia vulnerable before reinforcement started arriving. Russian authorities rushed to evacuate residents and imposed a sweeping security regime in three border regions on Saturday.

In his nightly video address, Zelensky said he had discussed the operation with top Ukrainian commander Oleksandr Syrskiy. "Today, I received several reports from commander-in-chief Syrskiy regarding the front lines and our actions to push the war onto the aggressor's territory," he said Saturday. "Ukraine is proving that it can indeed restore justice and is ensuring the exact kind of pressure that is needed — pressure on the aggressor."

Russia's defence ministry said on Sunday it had destroyed 14 Ukrainian drones and four Tochka-U tactical ballistic missiles overnight over the Kursk region, and 18 drones over other Russian regions that Ukraine frequently attacks. In a statement, it called the ground incursion "barbaric" and said it made no military sense.

Ukraine has at most occupied several tens of square kilometres of Russian terri-



A residential building damaged after shelling by Ukraine in Kursk on Sunday

Hit Ukrainian units 30km into Russian territory, acknowledges Moscow

Russia's army appeared to acknowledge Sunday that Ukrainian units had driven deep into the country, saying it had hit troops and equipment around 30 km from the border. Russia has sent in additional reserves, tanks, drones, artillery and aviation to try to quash the offensive. The defence ministry in Moscow said Sunday that its troops had "foiled attempts by enemy mobile groups with armoured vehicles to break through deep into Russian territory." But in an apparent sign of how far some Ukrainian units have managed to advance, it said it had hit enemy units near the villages of Tolpino and Obshchy Kolodez, which are around 25 km and 30 km from the Russia-Ukraine border. Russia's army said Sunday it had continued to use aviation, drones and artillery to try to put down the attack. It also said it had foiled an attempt by Ukraine to break into another border district of the Kursk region, further to the south from where the bulk of the fighting has occurred so far. AFP

torily without laying claim to it, while Russia controls more than 100,000 sq km of Ukraine's internationally recognised territory. Russia's top general, Valery Gerasimov, said on Wednesday the attacks had been halted, but Russia has not pushed the Ukrainian forces back over the border. Russian military bloggers said the situation had stabilised after Russia's reinforcements, though they said Ukraine was

'Demoralised' police unable to rein in rioters across Bangladesh

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: M Sakhat Hussain, the retired military officer heading home affairs in Bangladesh's interim govt, acknowledged Sunday that the country's police force was "demoralised" and currently unable to operate in the manner required to stem the surge in violence and looting in parts of the country.

"Restoring law and order remains the interim govt's priority, but a state cannot run like this. The politics of a state cannot go on like this. The state is not

anyone's personal property," he said of the continuing lawlessness that has paralysed economic activity. Brig Gen (ret'd) Hussain urged people to cooperate with police, saying a society couldn't function without them.

Newly appointed IGP Md Mainul Islam said at least 42 police personnel were killed and many injured in clashes during the student-led upheaval that led to ex-PM Sheikh Hasina fleeing the country. Three of the dead were officers of the rank of inspector. Although 599 of the country's 639 police stations pa-

New CJ sworn in

Syed Refaat Ahmed was sworn in as the 25th chief justice of Bangladesh at Bangabhaban Sunday. Bidhan Ranjan Roy Poddar and Supradeeep Chakma, two advisers out of the three who couldn't be sworn on Thursday, took the oath of office at the same event. Farooq-e-Azam, the only one remaining, is still abroad. TNN

rtially resumed operations Sunday, they are all hamstrung by a shortage of personnel. A senior police officer said he and

his colleagues were traumatised by what happened and feared returning to work. Many are undecided about whether to remain in the police force, he said.

Violence over the weekend included protesters attacking an army patrol with sharp weapons in Gopalganj, injuring three officers, a junior commissioner and five other personnel. They also set fire to an army vehicle and vandalised two vehicles, according to a military spokesperson. The army patrol fired four rounds of ammunition to disperse the mob.

Brig Gen (ret'd) Hussain said the army and border guard couldn't be expected to continue doing what is the police's job. Videos shared online show mobs that have purportedly done looting attempts over the past few days and the presence of vandals in residential areas.

The home affairs adviser said that he would advocate a police overhaul. "I will insist that the police function under a police commission." He also opposed giving police "lethal weapons", saying he was surprised to see "7.62s in their hands".

Dropped out to avoid becoming a 'distraction': Prez

Washington: Prez Biden, in his first TV interview since dropping out of the White House race, said he had abandoned his bid for a second term because he did not want to create "a real distraction" for Democrats. "A number of my Democratic colleagues in the House and Senate thought that I was going to hurt them in the races," he said. "And I was concerned if I stayed in the race, that would be the topic. You'd be interviewing me about, why did Nancy Pelosi say, why did so — and I thought it'd be a real distraction."

Biden said that he had "no serious problem" with his health but added that the highest priority had to be defeating Donald Trump. "A critical issue for me still is maintaining this democracy... He's (Trump) a genuine danger to American security." AGENCIES

Trump attacks Kamala for 'stealing' ideas Harris Backs Ending Taxes on Tips, A Promise Made By Ex-Prez To Woo Working Class

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Charges of plagiarism and stealing ideas erupted against Kamala Harris on Saturday after she pledged a "no tax on tips" policy at a campaign rally in Las Vegas, ground zero of the \$235-billion US hospitality industry that employs nearly 15 million workers.

Eliminating taxes on tipping has been part of Donald Trump's campaign promise and the Republican nominee immediately flew into a rage, accusing Harris of copying his idea for "political purposes". He wondered when she would "steal" his promise to eliminate taxes on social security benefits for seniors. "Kamala Harris, whose "honeymoon" period is ending, and is starting to get hammered in the Polls, just copied my no taxes on tips policy. The difference



TIPPING POINT: Trump supporters questioned why Kamala hasn't taken the lead on this as well copycatkamala is doing the rounds online

is, she won't do it, she just wants it for political purposes! This was a Trump idea — She has no ideas, she can only steal from me," he fumed in a post.

Harris' "no tax on tips" pledge came in a nod to the local culinary union which was present in strength at a raucous rally in Nevada, a toss-up state. Las Vegas alone employs more than 300,000 workers in hospitality sector, mainly in hotels, casinos and restaurants. Whi-

le Harris' promise was part of a broader agenda in which she also promised to raise the minimum wage for workers and stop "wage theft". Trump supporters questioned why she has not taken the lead on this as well over the past three years, trending #copycatkamala.

It was the second time this week that the Harris campaign has been put on the defensive after it was forced to acknowledge that her running mate Tim Walz "misspoke" when he gave the impression he had served in combat during his 24-year service in the National Guard. With polls showing Harris surging in half a dozen swing states that will determine the outcome of the election, the Trump campaign has stepped up its attack on the first woman of colour to win a major party nomination, with crude sexist and racist salvos led

by the ex-prez himself.

Both the abuse and the tipping issue is seen together in a now infamous video clip in which Trump, driving a golf cart, peels off cash to tip caddies praising his debate performance, while he appears to call Prez Biden "a broken down pile of crap" and Harris a "f...king b...ch". Trump supporters maintain the audio is deliberately distorted and he is actually saying she is "f...king bad". Both sides have now taken to manipulating visuals to undermine the rival campaigns, notably by posting videos — taken hours before rallies — showing unoccupied seats. While both campaigns are attracting large partisan crowds, the inflow of political donations, particularly of small retail contributions, point to a surge of enthusiasm on the Democratic side, backed by polls showing Harris ahead.

Trump campaign says was hacked, blames Iran govt

Washington: Donald Trump's US prez campaign said Saturday some of its internal communications were hacked and blamed Iranian govt, without providing direct evidence. The Republican's campaign statement came after Politico reported it had begun receiving emails in July from an anonymous source offering authentic documents from inside Trump's operation. The Trump campaign referred to a Friday report from Microsoft researchers that said Iranian govt-tied hackers tried breaking into the account of a "high-ranking official" on a US prez campaign in June. The hackers had taken over an account belonging to an ex-political advisor and then used it to target the official, the report said. An Iran official said Tehran "neither possesses nor harbours any intent or motive to interfere in US election". REUTERS

Popular music fades at Trump rallies as Harris hits crescendo

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: If tastes in popular music and support from musicians are any indication of voter support, then Donald Trump is fading even as Kamala Harris campaign is reaching a crescendo in the US elections.

Celine Dion became the latest in a long list of artists who have objected to the Trump campaign unauthorisedly using their songs at his rallies — an anti-Trump line up that includes bands from Rolling Stones to Guns and Roses, and singers Bruce Springsteen to Rihanna.

Ironically, the Trump campaign was using Celine Dion's song "My heart will go on", from the movie Titanic when it was called out by her music label Sony Entertainment. "Celine

Dion does not endorse this or any similar use," the company said, snarkily adding, "... And really, THAT song?" Harris supporters too ridiculed the use of a song from a movie about a sinking ship, joking about Trump hitting a Kamala iceberg.

The entertainment industry has traditionally trended towards Democrats, but it has become even more pronounced in this cycle given Harris' own embrace of music and dance. Ariana Grande, Cardi B, Charli XCX, Demi Lovato and Katy Perry have voiced support for her. On Friday, an Instagram post by Taylor Swift showing what appeared to be a silhouette of Harris on her tour poster, electrified fans of both. Swift has previously expressed disquiet about Republican policies.



Celine Dion became the latest in a long list of artists who have objected to the Trump campaign unauthorisedly using their songs at his rallies. She joins the likes of Bruce Springsteen, Rihanna, bands 'Rolling Stones' & 'Guns and Roses'

Some of the Trump trashing from the singers' brigade going back to when he first ran for prez has been brutal. When the Trump campaign used the Beatles song 'Here Comes the Sun' to introduce his daughter Ivanka at the Republican convention in 2016, the estate of George Harri-



Ariana Grande, Cardi B, Demi Lovato and Katy Perry have voiced support for Kamala. On Friday, an Instagram post by Taylor Swift, showing what appeared to be a silhouette of Harris on her tour poster, electrified fans of both

son, who wrote the song, said Trump didn't have permission to use it, but that they would consider allowing him to use the song 'Beware of Darkness'. In 2020, Leonard Cohen's estate issued a similar snub, criticising Trump's use of his song 'Hallelujah' at the RNC and sug-

gesting they could have approved of 'You Want It Darker'.

Trump's attempted embrace of nativism through the use of Bruce Springsteen's 'Born in the USA' too was rejected in 2016 by the singer, who publicly supported Hillary Clinton. The ex-prez now uses the patriotic song 'God Bless the USA' by Lee Greenwood. An analysis by a local newspaper of music at a Trump rally in Minnesota found that of the 32 songs played, 27 were by white musicians or all-white groups, and 25 were by male musicians or all-male groups. The Harris campaign appears to favour black, female artists, featuring songs such as Beyonce's 'Freedom' and Tracy Chapman's 'Fast Car'. The campaign has also used live bands, leading Trumpists to allege

they are used to entice crowds.

The family of Tom Petty denounced Trump's use of the song 'I Won't Back Down' at his rallies, stating the song was written for the 'underdog' and 'common man'. Creedence Clearwater Revival frontman John Fogerty similarly opposed Trump's use of the band's song 'Fortunate Son', noting the song's lyrics were meant as a critique of how wealthy people are unfairly able to avoid the draft and paying taxes. Family members of Italian opera singer Luciano Pavarotti objected to Trump campaign's use of 'Nessun Dorma', stating that his views on immigration were incompatible with her efforts in raising money, as a UN messenger of peace, in support of immigrants and refugees.

DAILY PLANET



FISHERY BUSINESS: Banksy revealed Sunday a new artwork in London featuring a fish shoal on a police sentry box, his seventh animal-themed piece in a week. The series created by the elusive street artist has sparked a frenzy of media interest and questions over its meaning. Unlike his previous dark silhouette images, this one uses translucent spray paint, transforming the box into a giant fish tank

First deaf Miss SA takes title after divisive contest

Mia le Roux made history as the first deaf woman to be crowned Miss South Africa following a contentious competition where one finalist withdrew after facing online harassment over her Nigerian heritage, BBC reported Sunday.

In her acceptance speech, Le Roux expressed her hope that her win would inspire those who feel marginalised to achieve their "wildest dreams". She said her aim is to support those who are "financially excluded or differently abled". Last week, Chidimma Adetshina, a 23-year-old law student, withdrew from the competition after the country's home ministry found that her mother may have stolen the identity of a South African woman in an ongoing investigation. Adetshina has been the subject

of xenophobic attacks on social media since she was announced as a finalist in July, with many, including cabinet ministers, questioning her credentials because of her Nigerian descent.

Record losses spur Aussies to push for gambling ad ban

An alliance of leading Australians has demanded the govt impose a total ban on gambling ads in a country that racks up some of the biggest losses per person in the world. Gambling losses in Australia, with a population of just 27 million, are estimated at Aus\$25 billion a year (\$16bn) — a global record per capita. Adverts enticing people to risk their cash are widespread on TV, radio and billboards. Slot machines, or "pokies" are installed in many pubs, too.

AROUND THE WORLD

Yellow tennis balls, which look better on colour TV, were the idea of Sir David Attenborough. Tennis balls were traditionally white

The Times of India is the world's largest-selling English daily



"I was just in shock. Both me and Shelby were getting a little bit tired after all the jumps we took. I knew I had a good one in me, and I knew that if I could get it up sooner rather than later, then I could just finish the comp and start recovering."

HAMISH KERR
NEW ZEALAND'S GOLD MEDALLIST IN HIGH JUMP AFTER A THRILLING FINAL

KEEP SHINING, TEAM INDIA.

Reliance Foundation

MEDALS TALLY

P	TEAM	G	S	B	Total
1	USA	40	44	42	126
2	CHN	40	27	24	91
3	JPN	20	12	13	45
4	AUS	18	19	16	53
5	FRA	16	26	22	64
6	NED	15	7	12	34
7	GBR	14	22	29	65
8	KOR	13	9	10	32
9	ITA	12	13	15	40
10	GER	12	13	8	33
71	IND	0	1	5	6

AU REVOIR, PARIS!

From A Worried Vinesh To Nadeem's Travelling Javelin To The Twinkling Eyes Of Manu, It Has Been A Roller-Coaster Ride

TIMES AT THE GAMES
ALOK.SINHA @timesofindia.com

Paris: It started with incessant rain on the night of July 26, right next to the gloriously lit Eiffel Tower. It was an opening ceremony like no other. You watched it on big screens as the athletes and officials cruised on boats on the river Seine, waving at the spectators standing in hordes at the riverside.

Drenched to the bones in open stands, you watched Zinedine Zidane run into the Trocadero arena with the Olympic flame to deafening applause and hand it over to Rafael Nadal. The Olympic cauldron was finally lit with a burning arrow. It was a spectacle to remember.

Then days went by in a blur. It was competition time. The real deal. You got sucked into it. The daily rides in the Metro were the same, the food at the Olympic venues was the same, at every venue! But the action inside every arena had its distinct flavour. It was an emotional roller-coaster ride.

For me, the strongest image of Paris 2024, which ended on Sunday, was that of Vinesh Phogat sitting inside the Games Village, deep in thought, after entering the final of 50kg freestyle wrestling. She had fought bravely that day, had beaten the world champion on the way. But she was worried. Not about her American opponent in the final, but her weight. She was 2.7kg overweight and had to shed it overnight. The weigh-in was early morning and it was not going to be easy.

She missed it by a mere 100g. That must have weighed like a ton on every Indian's mind. Vinesh was severely dehydrated, mentally a wreck. She has healed physically by now. The mind is another matter.

The other image is that of Pakistan's Nadeem Arshad's javelin throw that travelled 92.97m at the Stade de France. And how it ended

Amid gender row, Lin seals emphatic gold in boxing

Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting won her Paris Olympics women's boxing final on Saturday in style, ensuring that the two fighters at the centre of a major gender controversy both take home gold. A day after Algeria's Imane Khelif clinched gold at 66kg, Lin sobbed on the podium after claiming the 57kg crown with a unanimous points decision win over Poland's Julia Szeremetka. It was Taiwan's second gold of the Games and Lin bowed to all four sides of the arena, before kneeling down and banging the canvas with her fists. "I feel incredible. I want to thank everyone who has supported me and thanks to my team and everyone in Taiwan," she said.

Khelif files legal suit over online harassment

Olympic boxing champion Imane Khelif has filed a legal complaint in France for online harassment after a rain of criticism and false claims about her sex during the Paris Olympics, her lawyer said Sunday. Khelif won gold Friday in the women's welterweight division, becoming a new hero in her native Algeria and bringing global attention. AGENCIES



THE HEARTBREAK:
Vinesh Phogat



THE HIGH:
Manu Bhaker

India's hopes of a gold medal repeat in the event. Neeraj Chopra, fighting a groin niggle, had a fantastic throw of 89.45m himself. But there was no way he was going to catch up. There will be another time when Neeraj undergoes surgery and returns to action fitter than he has been in years.

Gold and silver. It is massive. The greatest sportsperson of India, ever? Yes, without doubt, and Neeraj is just 26.

The train journeys to Chateauroux - 300km south of Paris - will certainly stay in memories - getting up at 4am to catch the train from Paris-Austerlitz and reaching the shooting ranges bleary-eyed. It was made worthwhile by the smiling, twinkling eyes of shooter Manu Bhaker who created history there. She won back-to-back bronze medals and came very close to winning another. No Indian has two medals in the same Games. She has raised the bar. She is just 22, so will surely be back for more.

Manu's second medal came in the company of Sarabjot Singh in the mixed 10m air pistol event.

Shooting gave us another bronze medal. Swapnil Kusale won it in the 50m rifle 3P event. While the buzz

over Manu's two medals had not yet died down, Swapnil, 29, quietly went about his business and pleasantly surprised us all.

The hockey bronze was special. They had won it in Tokyo and wanted it again. They won it by beating Spain 2-1. Ten of the team were part of the Tokyo bunch which had got India a hockey medal after 41 years. They knew how to win it.

They lost a very close match to Germany in the semifinals. It could have gone either way. It could have broken their confidence. But for them, there was no time to look back. They said they wanted to win a medal for their 36-year-old goalkeeper PR Sreejesh who was playing his farewell match for India. They won it in style. It was after 52 years that India had won back-to-back hockey medals.

On the penultimate day, 21-year-old wrestler Aman Sehrawat won us a bronze. It gave some solace after Vinesh's lost medal. Aman has had a difficult life, having lost both his parents by the age of 11. Wrestling saved him from going astray, gave him a purpose in life. He is giving back to the sport and the country. Those close to him say he rarely smiles. After the medal, post the press conference,

while posing for a selfie, he smiled. It went straight to the heart.

There were six fourth-place finishes for India at the Games: Arjun Babuta in men's 10m air rifle shooting; Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat in mixed team archery; Mirabai Chanu in weightlifting; Anant Jeet Singh & Maheshwari Chauhan in mixed skeet event; Manu Bhaker in women's 25m pistol and Lakshya Sen in men's singles badminton. Six medals could have very well been 12. And such is the world of sport.

Reflecting on India's performance one realized that the city had grown on you. You were reminded of those quick walks out of the competition arenas to enjoy food at the corner café. You were reminded of the volunteers here who made your workplace more comfortable. You were reminded of the croissants at the Chateauroux station, which simply melted in the mouth. You were also reminded of the smiling, welcoming faces of the Sri Lankan Tamils running the provisional store just next to your rented apartment in Belleville.

It is time to go home now, with a bag full of memories. Au revoir Paris.

Sifan trades elbows with Assefa before winning marathon

Paris: Sifan Hassan traded elbows with Tigst Assefa with 150 meters left in the women's marathon, then passed her along the railing to win the race for her third distance medal of the Paris Games on Sunday.



SIFAN HASSAN

Hassan, an Ethiopian-born racer who runs for the Netherlands, finished in an Olympic record time of 2 hours, 22 minutes, 55 seconds. Assefa won silver for Ethiopia, and Kenya's Hellen Obiri took the bronze.

Hassan raised her hands and yelled as he crossed the line, then wrapped the Dutch flag around her head as she celebrated. Wearing an orange bucket hat, she wrapped an arm around Nepal's Shantoshi Shrestha, whose smile was as bright as the sun pouring down on them.

Then, taking in the enormity of her win, Hassan plunged her head in her hands and appeared to weep with joy.

The 31-year-old Hassan also won bronze in the 5,000 and 10,000. By simply completing the marathon, she ran more than 62 km. She now has six Olympic medals. In Tokyo, Hassan won the 5,000 and 10,000 and finished third in the 1,500.

Breaking from tradition, the women's Olympic marathon was held on the final day instead of the men's race. AP

84 nations won medals in Paris, India at No. 71

Continued from P1

What may rankle is the fact that our elite athletes now get the facilities that they want — the best training, good exposure and medical support. While at the grassroots level, sport still craves for attention and support, the govt does make things easy for top athletes to train, prepare and perform.

For preparing the contingent for Paris Olympics, the Union govt spent Rs 470 crore over the last three years. This is significantly more than what used to be the figure earlier. Looking at the break-up, the highest amount was spent on athletics (Rs 96.08 cr) followed by badminton (Rs 72.02 cr), boxing (Rs 60.93 cr) and shooting (Rs 60.42 cr). All 16 disciplines in which India participated in Paris got funds.

But another number makes it look dismal — 84 countries won medals in Paris and India were placed at 71 in the table. Certainly, not flattering. Those who have a stake in Indian sport must feel the pinch.

Abhinav Bindra, India's first individual Olympic gold medallist, called the Indian contingent's show 'commendable'. "It's been a spirited performance. All our athletes have performed at a high level," he said. Encouraging words indeed. The problem is that while we improve, the world improves too. The powerhouse nations keep trying to get better and fringe countries keep producing surprise champions. The competition at this level is relentlessly high quality. The challenge is enormous.

The likes of Manu Bhaker, Sarabjot Singh and Aman Sehrawat give optimism a youthful boost. More of their ilk are welcome.



INDIA'S SPORTING SPIRIT SHINES BRIGHT!

Team India, wherever your journey takes you, I'M WITH YOU



Herbalife products are exclusively available only through its network of independent associates and not through any unauthorized sellers selling on e-commerce platforms. Herbalife recommends to buy products and avail services only from authorized independent associates. Herbalife shall not offer 30 days money back guarantee or any guarantee on quality and authenticity of products purchased from any unauthorized sales channel/e-commerce platforms. For details, please reach out to our Associate Service team at 080-40311444.

INDIA'S SIGN OF FOUR

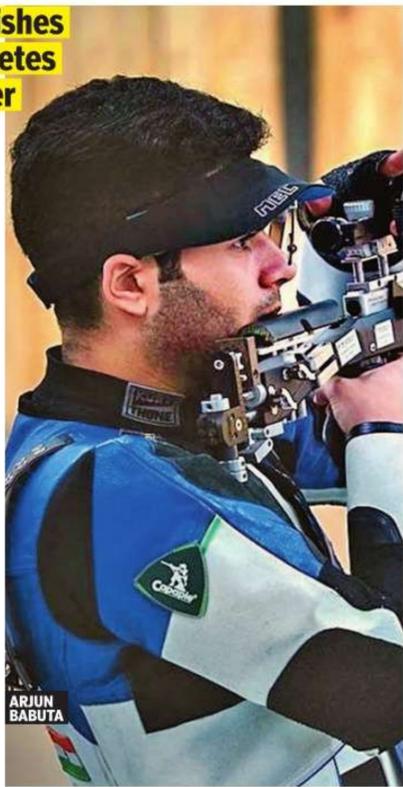
Six 4th-Place Finishes Show Indian Athletes Are Getting Better

Neeraj Chopra

I would have loved to be the reason for the national anthem to ring around the Stade de France, but I am immensely proud I won silver with a throw that was better than my gold-winning effort from Tokyo three years ago. Yes, the time has come for me to seek improvements after I sit with my team and decide on how to manage the injury.

Before heading to the rest of my competitive season, I will soak in the emotions sparked by my second successive Olympic Games medal. I am grateful for the overwhelming support that I have received from each one of you. The motivation and wishes that PM extended to me and my teammates, was the icing of the cake.

However, I want to also celebrate many of my teammates who delivered strong performances. I believe we must not use the medal tally as the only yardstick to assess India's performance. In fact, I would urge you to look at how hard our athletes trained and competed in-



ARJUN BABUTA



LAKSHYA SEN



MIRABAI CHANU

Pix: PTI, IANS, ANI, Reuters

tensely. Just spare a moment to understand how many of our athletes gave everything but missed out on podium finishes by a whisker. Even then, as many as 22 of the 117-member contingent — including the 16-member hockey team — will return home with medals from Paris 2024.

India's improved show is reflected by six fourth-place finishes and one heartbreaking disqualification, a medal that was assured, along with the six

we won. Back in the time when legends like Milkha Singh (1960) and PT Usha (1984) got fourth place, both made history and became national role models. Today, in one Olympics, we have seven such athletes who could have won a medal and 15 athletes who made it to the quarterfinals.

This is in comparison to just two fourth-place finishes in Tokyo. This shows that as a nation, our sporting prowess has significantly evolved. As a nation that

has just started to invest heavily in sports — providing world-class facilities to athletes — in the last decade, we must be patient to see these fourth-places convert to medals. I am sure in the next Olympics, many of these athletes and newer ones will bag medals for India. Arjun Babuta, Anika Bhakat, B Dhiraj, Maheshwari Chauhan, Anant Jeet Singh, Manu's third medal miss and of course Vinesh, these are athletes whose achievements

should be celebrated.

It is only a matter of time that these will transform to top-10 finishes and earn medals for India. It is imperative that we sustain the intensity with which we back the training and competition plans of our athletes across disciplines. Change will come only with such improved performances across disciplines. My confidence stems from our athletes' changed mindset and ap-

proach and the efforts being made by all stakeholders, including the government, to provide support that was unheard of till a decade ago. I have myself trained in six countries for 310 days in the last three years. All the athletes who participated are part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme which provides multiple foreign training to athletes, personal coaches, foreign experts — it is a rather long list. **PMG**

STAGE FRIGHT AND BELOW-PAR COACHING AFFECTING ARCHERS

Archiman.Bhaduri@timesofindia.com

Archers flattered to deceive once again as India still await their first medal from the discipline. Anika Bhakat and Dhiraj Bommadevara came agonisingly close ending fourth in the mixed team event. But that's it — the six-member team was one of the biggest disappointments of the Games for India.

Olympian Jayanta Talukdar agreed that Indian archers suffered from stage fright. "Olympic is different ball game. Handling pressure is so important and I felt our archers messed it up there," he said, explaining the 6s and 7s that some of them hit in crucial stages.

Both Talukdar and his former India teammate Rahul Banerjee were not happy with the coaching staff too. "Our coach Sonam Singh Bhutia should have done more to give the archers confidence in pressure situations," Talukdar said. Banerjee felt the shooting order in the men's team match

against Turkey should have been changed. "That's a coach's call. But our person (Bhutia) was not good or bold enough to take a decision," Banerjee felt.

India's Korean coach Baek Woong Ki was denied accreditation at the Games. Most of the archers felt his presence wouldn't have made a difference. "I doubt," both Talukdar and Banerjee said, raising questions about Baek's expertise. "It's high time we focus on our coaches and youth development programme," Banerjee added.

Looking ahead Banerjee felt there should be 'gap analysis' exercise. "AAI should have a brain-storming session with the archers as well as those who took part in past Olympics to find out where we are falling short. If it is happening again and again then there must be areas which we are not addressing," he said.

According to the London Olympian, we should go ahead with the 'Mission Olympic' motto. "The Korans always give priority to the Olympics. But we want medals in all competitions which somehow is perhaps diluting our Olympic preparation," Banerjee felt.

Olympian Atanu Das called for focus on team competition at domestic level. "We don't get to shoot in team events in national-ranking meets. But I feel we stand a better chance in team and mixed events and hence that could be given priority now," Das, the husband of Deepika, stated.

ARCHERY

ATHLETES: 6 | MEDAL: 0

NEERAJ'S MEDAL NOT QUITE A SILVER LINING IN ATHLETICS

Hindol.Basu@timesofindia.com

A 27-member Indian athletics contingent, headlined by Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Neeraj Chopra, competed at the Paris Olympics. They had just one medal to show at the end of the Games — Neeraj's silver in javelin throw.

A lot was expected from the athletics contingent after their impressive show at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and the following 2022 Asian Games. The CWG saw Indian track and field athletes bring home eight medals — 1 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze. Then at the, they had 29 medals — 6 gold, 14 silver and 9 bronze.

With such spectacular performances in the two years leading up to the Paris Games, the athletics ecosystem in India anticipated at least three medals from the Olympics. Neeraj's medal colour too was unexpected.

Asian Games champion and CWG silver-medallist Avinash Sable was the only Indian athlete other than Neeraj to make the finals in the track and field events. Sable finished 11th in the men's 3000m steeplechase final. "When 27 athletes qualified for the Paris Games, which was our highest-ever representation at the Olympics, the general mood among our athletics fraternity was quite upbeat.

Everyone thought that Neeraj's gold was a done deal; and apart from him, we would win at least two-three more medals.

"Sable was one contender, the men's 4x400m relay team had built expectations after their outstanding show at the World Championships last year, but things didn't materialize as expected. This points towards a necessity to create a larger pool of elite athletes, if we desire more than one medal at the Olympic level," NIS-trained athletics coach Mahipal Gaur reflected.

According to official data from the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), the government spent Rs 96.08 crore for athletics in the current Olympic cycle. It's the biggest chunk in the close to Rs 470 crore that had been spent on India's preparation for the Games this time across 16 disciplines. In the previous Olympic cycle, athletics received Rs 5.38 crore.

ATHLETICS

ATHLETES: 27 | MEDAL: 1 SILVER

SHUTTLE SERVICE BREAKDOWN AS BADMINTON DRAWS A BLANK



CHIRAG & SATWIK

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

India was expected to win at least two badminton medals in Paris but they returned empty-handed. Chief coach Pullela Gopichand, who has been at the helm since 2006, was disappointed with the Indian shuttlers' show. "I thought we would come back with more than one medal this time. We expected a medal from men's doubles, women's singles and men's singles," Gopichand said.

Lakshya Sen finished fourth in men's singles while PV Sindhu was ousted in the pre-quarterfinals. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, who were the overwhelming favourites to finish on the podium, were shocked in the quarterfinals.

"This was an unexpected result. I think the Badminton Association of India and Sports Authority of India will conduct a thorough investigation. We need to know the reasons behind this poor show.

But I am confident if we correct these flaws we will come up with a good show at the next Olympics," Gopichand said. Despite Gopi being the chief coach, most of the players were with their own coaches in Paris.

BADMINTON

ATHLETES: 7 | MEDAL: 0

TIME TO LOOK BEYOND BRONZE

Manuja.Veerappa@timesofindia.com

A bronze won or a gold lost? As the euphoria around the hockey bronze is mellowing, there's a feeling in the fraternity that the team should have bettered its Tokyo show in Paris. "First, it is no small feat to finish on the podium in two consecutive Olympics. Also, chief coach Craig Fulton did a commendable job in just 18 months. That said, this team had the potential to play the final," said Olympian Arjun Halappa.

One big chink in India's gameplan, the former midfielder said, was players' tendency to look for penalty corners, in the process squandering good opportunities to score. "There was too much dependence on penalty corner conversion," he said. "By looking to win short corners, strikers were guilty of limiting their goal-scoring options. There were times when players were within 2-3 yards of

goal and had the run of play in their favour. But instead of going for goal, they often looked for a PC. They wasted half-chances too."

Staying on the topic of overdependence, Halappa added, "Manpreet Singh was outstanding in the way he switched roles, but what we lacked was a central midfielder who could control the game."

Halappa insisted Paris is now history and it is time to focus ahead

"As in every cycle, young blood will have to be infused. Fulton did a good job in balancing teams over 18 months. Over the next four years, it is imperative new players get enough game time. India will need to develop a midfielder who has good game sense and can master the drag flick. A supply chain of goalkeepers must be put in place. The focus in this cycle should be more on performance and progress rather than results and Fulton should be given a free-hand to pick his team for 2028."

HOCKEY

TEAM: 1 | MEDAL: 1 BRONZE

LACK OF NATIONAL CAMPS HURT INDIAN WRESTLERS

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

India in Paris will be remembered for Vinesh Phogat. She won and lost in equal measure — there wasn't a medal to show for the 50 kg wrestler — but the brave Vinesh ensured that she will be one of India's most talked-about sportspersons of all time.

She was one of six Indian wrestlers who competed in Paris — Antim Panghal (53kg), Anshu Malik (57kg), Nisha Dahiya (68kg) and Reetika Hooda (76kg) in the women's category and Aman Sehrawat (57kg) in the male category. Their preparation going into Olympics wasn't the best due to reasons well-documented — there were no national camps — and at the end of the day, it was Aman, who trained at

WRESTLING

ATHLETES: 6 | MEDAL: 1 BRONZE

Chhatrasal Akhada under his personal coach till last Saturday, who won India a bronze.

Reetika, too, impressed in her debut Games but Antim and Anshu disappointed. Nisha's campaign ended abruptly after suffering a severe shoulder injury.

Experts, however, feel that the wrestlers should have brought two to three medals. "We can't say it was a disappointing performance but, yes, we should have won two more medals. There was no proper wrestling federation in place and the sport was managed by the SAI and IOA's ad-hoc body in which they clearly failed," said former India wrestler and coach Kripa Shankar Patel.

Jagbir Singh, international referee judge feels the absence of national camps and sparring partners led to such an underwhelming performance.

"I AM ENTERING A NEW SEASON NOW. SO, I DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH TIME TO CHANGE TRAINING METHODS OR TECHNIQUE. BUT I HOPE TO IMPROVE THE LINE OF THE JAVELIN. (WILL TRY TO) CORRECT ANGLE OF THROWING SO THAT I GET MORE POWER IN MY THROW. I WILL CERTAINLY WORK ON IT."



NEERAJ CHOPRA

Shooters tick most boxes

Tushar.Dutt@timesofindia.com

Pune: After firing blanks in the 2016 and 2020 editions, Indian shooters finally came back with three bronze medals from Paris. Six finalists and a few more finishing in top-12 from a contingent of highest-ever 21 shooters, the performance was well above-par.

Legendary German shooting coach Heinz Reinkemeier believes Indian shooters had more than a good outing in Chateauroux. "The obsession for medals must go. Indians have become like that kid who always cries for chocolates. India should be happy for the performance of their shooters," Heinz, who had trained Abhinav Bindra before he won gold at Beijing in 2008, told TOI on Sunday. "Look at the German shooting contingent if you want to talk about disappointment and disaster," he said. The German shooters had won quotas in 13 events but couldn't win even one medal. "There were five No. 1s and

we have more than a million shooters in Germany, but they couldn't win in Paris. Indians should learn to be happy. You should be proud of the way Ramita and Babuta (Arjun) shot. Shooting is a 140-nation sport and to get three medals is a good achievement," he added.

China and Korea topped the medals tally in shooting with 10 (5 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze) and 6 (3 gold, 3 silver) respectively. "If you want to win like China, then start treating your shooters like horses. There is a thing called humanity and I have seen how Chinese athletes get treated by their own country," the German said. "The Indian lot was mentally fit and had nice technique, not just in air events, but also in 50m rifle 3 positions, where Swapnil won a bronze," Heinz said.

Now it's on the shooters to improve their performances and turn the close-finishes into medals at Los Angeles 2028.



SHOOTING

ATHLETES: 21 | MEDALS: 3 BRONZE

MANIKA, SREEJA LEAVE A MARK

Hindol.Basu@timesofindia.com

India's table tennis campaign centered around two women paddlers — Manika Batra and Sreeja Akula. Batra became the first Indian TT player to progress to the pre-quarterfinals of the

Olympics. She was later followed by Sreeja Akula in the Round of 16, where both of them lost.

The women's team also reached the quarterfinals and it had its chances against Germany too for a semifinal spot, but it was not enough. The men's show was utterly disappointing. The team of Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai and Manav Thakkar crashed out in the Round of 16.

TABLE TENNIS

ATHLETES: 6 | MEDAL: 0

"To be at the top, a consistent winning mentality should also be there all the time, not just once in a while. The winning mentality is not about 'I want to win', it means I need to have that habit of winning," national coach Massimo Constantini said.

NO MEDAL A RESULT OF POOR PLANNING

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

Indian boxers returned from Paris with zero medals despite boasting of some proven performers in Tokyo Games bronze winner Lovlina Borgohain, two-time world championships gold medalist Nikhat Zareen and Asian and CWG champion

Amit Panghal. Only Nishant Dev showed promise and fought his heart out in a close bout in the men's 71kg quarterfinal. The pugilists' disappointing show has much to do with the Boxing Federation of India's (BFI) poor planning, overdependence on foreign experts, lack of trust in Indian coaches and introduction of a much-debatable evaluation test system at its national camps. "It was an underwhelming performance by our boxers. We should

BOXING

ATHLETES: 6 | MEDAL: 0

have won at least two boxing medals. The authorities and federation must answer what they do to prepare our boxers for the Games," said Anoop Kumar, former head coach of the Indian women's boxing team.

Another coaching veteran Jagdeep Hooda, who trained both the men's and women's national teams from 2004-22, pinned the blame on the BFI's overdependence on foreign coaches and lack of quality sparring partners. "Between the Tokyo and Paris Olympics

INDIA AT GAMES OVER THE YEARS

Games	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
2008 Beijing	1	0	2	3
2012 London	0	2	4	6
2016 Rio	0	1	1	2
2020 Tokyo	1	2	4	7
2024 Paris	0	1	5	6

AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

OPEN-MOUTHED CEREMONY

Organisers promised a spectacular opening ceremony and the rain-soaked boat parade on the River Seine ended up making global headlines, but not for the expected reasons.

Church leaders and conservatives were left outraged by a scene involving drag queens and lesbian DJ Barbara Butch that appeared to parody Jesus's Last Supper. Artistic director Thomas Jolly denied any such intention. He and others involved ended up facing vicious online harassment that led to police complaints.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE, AND A RIVER CALLED SEINE

There have been quibbles — the food at the Olympic Village and the water in the cleaned-up Seine where swimming events were held, for example. Three German swimmers became ill after competing in the open water races, though it was not clear if the long-polluted river was responsible for their sickness. The river remained dogged by pollution problems despite a 1.4 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) upgrade to improve the Paris sewerage and water treatment system.

DUPLANTIS VS DUPLANTIS

Armand Duplantis, known as Mondo, had already clinched his second consecutive Olympic gold medal in the men's pole vault. But few in the crowd of roughly 75,000 at the Stade de France in St. Denis were ready to leave. Duplantis, 24, would now try to set a world record for the ninth time since 2020. ABBA's "Dancing Queen" became the national anthem of Sweden as Armand Duplantis soared over 6.25 meters. Duplantis missed once, then twice. On his third and final attempt, he fell to earth while the bar remained on its perch. He had another record, sliced as thinly as an onion.



HOMETOWN HERO LEON

Whenever Leon Marchand dove off the starting block into the pool, La Defense Arena thrummed with indistinct cheers. But then, in the individual medley, Marchand changed from backstroke to breaststroke, and the noise changed, too. It became a beating call. Every time Marchand emerged from the water to breathe, the crowd shouted his name. When he submerged, the fans fell silent. "Leon! Leon! Leon!" From the stands, it felt as if they were blowing air into him, filling his lungs with their hope and joy.

4 Gold medals French sensation Leon Marchand won in swimming, and in each event he broke the Olympic record. His wins in the 200m butterfly and 200m breaststroke came in the same session making him the first Olympic swimmer to do so.

SUSPENDED IN MIDAIR

Brazilian surfer Gabriel Medina, 30, was the subject of one of the most eye-catching photographs at this Olympics. In it, he defies gravity as he floats in the air and poses with one finger pointed toward the sky, his surfboard parallel to him, seemingly mimicking his stance. Aside from being the subject of a stunning photo, Medina took bronze at the surfing competition, which was held in Tahiti — 9,800 miles from Paris.



Maharaj, Rabada keep SA in control

Keshav Maharaj and Kagiso Rabada combined on Saturday to earn South Africa a healthy first innings lead over the West Indies with the visitors attempting to defy the impact of inclement weather in seeking to force an unlikely victory going into the final day of the first Test of a two-match series in Trinidad.

FIRST TEST

Steady rain restricted play to just the final session on the fourth day but in that time South Africa dismissed the home side for 233 in the first innings and then reached 30/0 off five overs in the second innings at the close. With an overall lead of 154

runs and all ten wickets in hand, the Proteas will be hoping for a full day's play on Sunday for their batsmen to try and at least lay the platform which will give the bowlers a chance to put the Caribbean side under pressure in the final innings. Resuming at 145/4, Kavem Hodge and Jason Holder extended their fifth-wicket partnership to 49 only for Aiden Markram's off-spin to achieve the breakthrough when he bowled Holder for 36. **Brief scores:** South Africa: 357 all out (Temba Bavuma 86, Tony de Zorzi 78, Wiaan Mulder 41 n.o., Jomel Warrican 4-69, Jayden Seales 3-67, Kemar Roach 2-53) & 30/0 (Zorzi 14 n.o.) vs West Indies: 233 all out (Keacy Carly 42, Jason Holder 36, Jomel Warrican 35 n.o., Keshav Maharaj 4-76, Kagiso Rabada 3-56). AFP

REGD. NO. CP/PM/KA/GPD/31/2003/05, R/F/NO. 45/46/05. Published by the proprietors, Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd., by P.J. Prakashan at Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd., Elber Chancery Building, 1st, 2nd and 4th Floor, 135, Residency Road, Shamshad Nagar, Bengaluru - 560025. Phone: Office: EPABX - 080-42200000, Editorial: 080-42757878 and circulation by Jeeva Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/2071-A, 4th Main, KACB Bommasegunda Industrial Area, Anand Taluk, Bangalore - 560099. Ph: 080-22899999. Regd. Office: Dr. D.N. Road, Mumbai - 400001. Editor (Bengaluru): Manoj. Asha Kishan Rao - responsible for selection of news under PPR Act. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

Rublev puts it across struggling Sinner

Montreal: Andrey Rublev defeated a world No. 1 for the second time in his career as he stopped Jannik Sinner 6-3, 1-6, 6-2 on Saturday to reach the semifinals of the ATP Montreal Masters. The fifth seed caught the Italian at a down moment, with Sinner appearing low on energy in the final set and frequently flexing his right hip.

TENNIS WRAP

It was the second match of the day for both Sinner and Rublev as organisers made up for a rained-off Friday. The Italian top seed played this week for the first time since Wimbledon. Rublev credited a quick snack from his trainer for reviving him during a 30-minute rain interruption after winning the opening set. Sinner's form took a dive in the deciding set, which he lost on a double-fault after saving two Rublev match points. Rublev owns two defeats of No. 1



FOCUSED: Andrey Rublev makes a return to Jannik Sinner

players against four defeats. He also beat top-ranked Novak Djokovic at Belgrade two years ago. Sinner started his day with a 6-4, 6-3 third-round victory over Canadian-born Chilean Alejandro Tabilo, advancing in 80 minutes at the tournament, which ends on Monday due to Paris Olympic scheduling. Second seed Alexander Zverev, the 2019 champion in Canada, overcame stiff late resistance from Dane Hol-

ger Rune, winning a third-round match 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

AMANDA STUNS ARYNA American Amanda Anisimova upset two-time reigning Australian Open champion Aryna Sabalenka 6-4, 6-2 on Saturday to reach the semifinals of the WTA Toronto Masters. Anisimova, into her first Masters semifinal, advanced to a Sunday showdown against US eighth seed Emma Navarro, who eliminated fellow

American Taylor Townsend 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

Third-seeded defending champion Jessica Pegula advanced by eliminating fellow American Peyton Stearns 6-4, 7-5 in 89 minutes. She will next face Russian 14th seed Diana Shnaidier, who upset sixth-seeded Liudmila Samsonova 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

Select results: ATP Montreal (Quarters): 5-Andrey Rublev (Rus) bt 1-Jannik Sinner (Ita) 6-3, 1-6, 6-2; Matteo Arnaldi (Ita) bt Kei Nishikori (Jpn) 6-4, 7-5. **Round 3:** Sinner bt Alejandro Tabilo (Chi) 6-4, 6-3; Rublev bt Brandon Nakashima (US) 6-2, 6-2; Alexei Popyrin (Aus) bt 7-Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3; 4-Hubert Hurkacz (Pol) bt Arthur Rinderknech (Fra) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4; Sebastian Korda (US) w/o 6-Casper Ruud (Nor); 2-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt 13-Holger Rune (Den) 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

WTA Toronto (Quarters): 14-Diana Shnaidier (Rus) bt 6-Liudmila Samsonova (Rus) 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; 3-Jessica Pegula (US) bt Peyton Stearns (US) 6-4, 7-5; 8-Emma Navarro (US) bt Taylor Townsend (US) 6-3, 7-6 (7-5); Amanda Anisimova (US) bt 2-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) 6-4, 6-2. AGENCIES

One-point win in final takes USA to top of tally

Paris: The United States held off France 67-66 to win an unprecedented eighth successive women's Olympic basketball gold on Sunday and extend their run of victories at the tournament to 61 games. It also ensured that USA finished on top of the medals tally. A'ja Wilson scored a game-high 21 points for the Americans who won the title for the

10th time overall, surviving a buzzer-beating shot from France's Gabby Williams. The hosts needed a three to force overtime in Paris but Williams' foot was on the three-point line as she let go of the ball, so her shot counted for just two points in a dramatic finale. "It's all a blur right now," said Wilson, who also registered 13 rebounds and four blocks. Kelsey Plum and Kahleah Copper both scored 12 points off the bench for the US. Wil-

liams led France with 19. An eighth straight triumph gave the US women the record for most consecutive gold medals in any team sport at the Olympics, breaking a tie with the US men, who won seven basketball titles in a row from 1936 to 1968.

Curry's late barrage seals basketball men's gold: Stephen Curry was thinking about this two years ago, after winning his fourth NBA title with the Golden State Warriors. The only thing left for him to win was Olympic gold. And in the ultimate moment, he made sure that medal would be his. The US is atop the international men's basketball world again, after Curry scored 24 points — all on 3-pointers — and led the way to a 98-87 win over France in the final. It was the fifth consecutive gold for US and the 17th in 20 all-time appearances for the Americans. AGENCIES

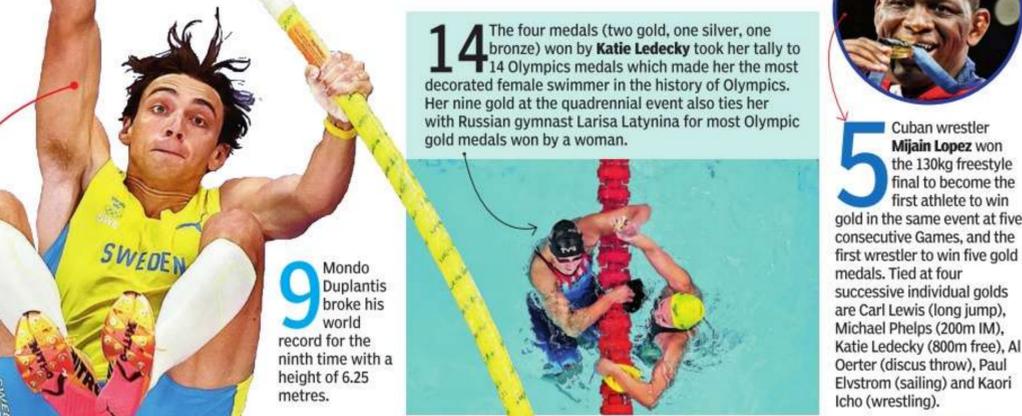
The Paris Games brought dazzling sport to the heart of the French capital and restored the Olympics' mojo. The spotlight was bright enough to highlight old faves, new faces and unlikely stars...



LANDMARK GAMES: The Eiffel Tower was the backdrop to the beach volleyball action



TAKE THAT: Lukas Joergensen (right) of Denmark scores past Johannes Golla of Germany in the handball gold medal match in Paris on Sunday



14 The four medals (two gold, one silver, one bronze) won by Katie Ledecky took her tally to 14 Olympics medals which made her the most decorated female swimmer in the history of Olympics. Her nine gold at the quadrennial event also ties her with Russian gymnast Larisa Latynina for most Olympic gold medals won by a woman.

9 Mondo Duplantis broke his world record for the ninth time with a height of 6.25 metres.

5 Cuban wrestler Mijain Lopez won the 130kg freestyle final to become the first athlete to win gold in the same event at five consecutive Games, and the first wrestler to win five gold medals. Tied at four successive individual golds are Carl Lewis (long jump), Michael Phelps (200m IM), Katie Ledecky (800m free), Al Oerter (discus throw), Paul Elvstrom (sailing) and Kaori Icho (wrestling).

120

Minutes it took to decide the Argentina-Morocco match after the game ended. The match was initially suspended with a 2-2 draw as a group of fans broke onto the pitch, and two hours later the video assistant referee (VAR) ruled out Argentina's final goal for a 1-2 victory to their rivals.

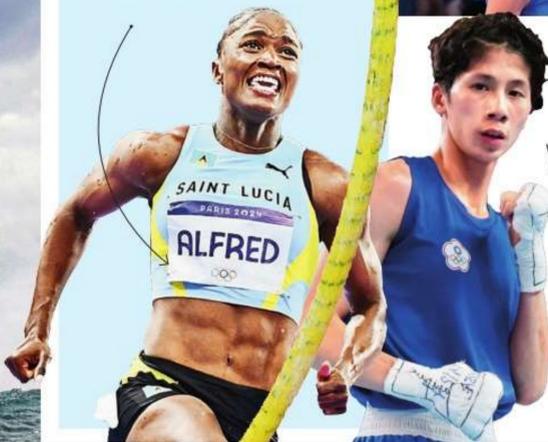
THE TURKISH SHARPSHOOTER

Many people on social media reimagined the pistol shooters at the Olympics as characters from action movies. There was Turkish shooter Yusuf Dikec, who nonchalantly competed with both eyes open, no special equipment (i.e., ear protector, specialized lens, eye cover) and one hand in his pocket. Dikec, 51, took silver in the 10-meter air pistol mixed team event, his country's first medal in shooting. When he found out about his internet stardom, Dikec told the Turkish media, "I did not need special equipment. I'm a natural, a natural shooter." Casual.



FOR FIRST-TIMERS, SMALL IS BIG

Every once in a while, a new nation joins the medal club. Thea LaFond-Gadson, 30, of the Caribbean island of Dominica, won the gold medal in women's triple jump. Then Julien Alfred, 23, of St. Lucia, also in the Caribbean, won the gold medal in the women's 100-meter sprint. Each medal was the first for their nation. "It means a lot to the small islands," Alfred said. "And seeing how we can come from a small place but also be on the biggest stage of our career."



THE GENDER CHAPTERS

Lin Yu-ting (L), who claimed the women's featherweight gold and Algerian Imane Khelif (top, in red), who won the welterweight division, were both caught up in a storm that has dominated headlines and been the subject of heated debate on social media platforms. The boxers were disqualified by the International Boxing Association (IBA) from the 2023 World Championships, which said a sex chromosome test had ruled them ineligible. Khelif's first opponent, Angela Carini of Italy, abandoned their bout after 46 seconds, saying she was in too much pain from Khelif's punches. "I'm a woman like any other woman," said Khelif.



WARPING TIME

Success or failure is defined by cruelly tiny increments. American Noah Lyles (lane 7) won the men's 100m dash by 0.005 seconds from Jamaica's Kishane Thompson (lane 4). If he had been slower by a blink of an eye, generally accepted to last 0.1 of a second, he would have finished seventh. Kenny Bednarek of the United States won a silver medal after running the 200 in 19.62 seconds; Letsile Tebogo of Botswana won gold by finishing 0.16s faster. Those hundredths of a second are microscopic, but they created a huge difference in the experience of the two men: Tebogo won his country's first Oly gold medal ever. Bednarek mulled what he could have done better.

34 Medals (14 gold, 11 silver and nine bronze) won by the US in track and field is the most they have won since the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. The Americans also swept all four hurdle events for the first time in history and the men's squad clinched a medal in nine of 10 individual track events



3 Biles won the all-around crown, which was book-ended by the team title & vault gold medal

TEARS OF JOY

Serbia's Novak Djokovic, 37, has done so much in his tennis career: winning 24 Grand Slam singles titles, earning the world No. 1 ranking and raking in more than \$180 million in prize money. But when he finally achieved the only major milestone missing from his resume, an Olympic gold, he was overcome with emotion. He got down onto the clay at Roland Garros and hunched over. His hands trembled. His body shook. He ran to find his family and sobbed.



OLYMPICS

Paris: The United States held off France 67-66 to win an unprecedented eighth successive women's Olympic basketball gold on Sunday and extend their run of victories at the tournament to 61 games. It also ensured that USA finished on top of the medals tally. A'ja Wilson scored a game-high 21 points for the Americans who won the title for the 10th time overall, surviving a buzzer-beating shot from France's Gabby Williams. The hosts needed a three to force overtime in Paris but Williams' foot was on the three-point line as she let go of the ball, so her shot counted for just two points in a dramatic finale. "It's all a blur right now," said Wilson, who also registered 13 rebounds and four blocks. Kelsey Plum and Kahleah Copper both scored 12 points off the bench for the US. Wil-

SNAP SHOTS

OZ 'A' SWEEP SERIES

Tahlia McGrath was the lead cast with an unbeaten 50 as Australia Women's 'A' team defeated India by seven wickets in the third and final T20 to complete a series sweep in Brisbane on Sunday. Australia had won the first two matches by five runs and eight wickets respectively. India 'A' will now play three one-dayers before facing the hosts in a one-off unofficial 'Test' from August 22. Chasing a modest 121, Aussies were led by McGrath, who hammered 51 not out off 22 balls with eight fours and two sixes. Australia made 121 for three in just 13.5 overs.

Brief scores: India 'A': 120/8 in 20 overs (Kiran Navgire 38, Minnu Mani 22, Nicola Hancock 2-40, Grace Parsons 2-18, Maitlan Brown 2-19) lost to **Australia 'A': 121/3 in 13.5 overs** (Tahlia McGrath 51 n.o., Tahlia Wilson 39).

Bangladesh retain Shakib: Bangladesh retained all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan on Sunday in the squad for this month's Test series against Pakistan, despite the former ruling party lawmaker facing backlash after the country's premier was toppled. Shakib, 37, lost his status as a lawmaker after parliament was dissolved following the dramatic ouster of long-time ruler Sheikh Hasina after weeks of deadly mass protests. "The emphasis was on picking our best players," chief selector Gazi Ashraf Hossain said in a statement.

The squad: Najmul Hossain Shanto (Capt), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Mominal Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Liton Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed, Khaled Ahmed.

Praggy eyeing an improved finish: Indian Grandmaster Pragganandhaa will lock horns with the world's best yet again as he takes on an elite field in the St Louis Rapid and Blitz tournament that gets underway in St Louis, USA. A slight dip in recent results, notwithstanding, Pragganandhaa will be looking forward to finish on the podium in the final standings of the Grand Chess Tour that also entitles him to earn a bonus cash prize from a kitty of \$175,000. The winner will take home \$100,000 while the runner-up will be richer by \$50,000.

Sanchez returns to Udinese: Alexis Sanchez returned to Udinese on Saturday after the Chile attacker was released by Serie A champions Inter Milan. In a statement, Udinese said Sanchez, 35, had signed a two-year deal with the club where he began his rise to the top of European football 16 years ago.

Chelsea add winger Neto: Chelsea announced the signing of Portuguese winger Pedro Neto from Wolves on Sunday for a reported fee of £54 million (\$65 million). Neto has signed a seven-year deal and will cost an initial £51 million with a further £3 million in add-ons, according to reports. The 24-year-old becomes the Blues' ninth signing of another busy transfer window for the London club since a takeover two years ago by a consortium fronted by LA Dodgers co-owner Todd Boehly.

BRAVEHEART BINU WINS

Holds Nerve To Finish One Stroke Ahead Of Aman

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: Young Shaurya Binu held his nerve on the final day to annex the inaugural Mysuru Open hosted by Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club (JWGC) here on Sunday.

The 20-year-old Bengaluru-based Binu shot a gritty five-under 65 under pressure to register a one-shot win over fast-finishing Aman Raj (63) to take home a winner's cheque of Rs 15 lakh. Binu, who shot three straight 64s on the first three days, finished with an impressive total of 23-under 257 for his second title of the PGTI season. Aman finished on 22-under 258.

Bengaluru amateur Veer Ganapathy, joint leader with Binu going into the final day, could manage on-

PGTI GOLF

ly a three-under 67 to finish third on 21-under 259 in his first-ever professional event.

Binu began with six straight pars and picked up his first birdie by driving the green on the par-4, seventh hole. Another great drive set him up for another birdie on the ninth hole. The 20-year-old picked up shots on the 11, 13th and 14th holes, he hit it close on two occasions and also sank a 30-footer. His lone blemish came on the par-3, 12th hole. But the youngster, who trains at the Tarun Sardesai Golf Academy near Kolar, was level with Aman — who played two groups ahead — when he walked on to the 18th tee.

Just off the green on the left with his second shot, Binu came up with a great chip and holed a five-



CHAMPION: Bengaluru's Shaurya Binu with the Mysuru Open trophy on Sunday

footer for a title clinching birdie.

"There were some nerves for me at the end and it was quite different from my first win earlier this year," said Binu. "On the 18th tee I knew that I had to make a birdie to win. I then executed my plan to perfection on the last hole. I hit a great 3-wood off the tee and followed it with a solid chip and putt. A win at the start

of the second half gives me great confidence and keeps me on track to end the year in the top 3 of the Order of Merit," Binu added.

Final scores (after 72 holes): 257: Shaurya Binu (64, 64, 64, 65); **258:** Aman Raj (62, 67, 66, 63); **259:** Veer Ganapathy (63, 68, 61, 67); **260:** Saptak Talwar (70, 66, 61, 73); **Angad Cheema** (63, 67, 65, 65); **261:** Sachin Baisoya (66, 66, 66, 63); **Laran Pratap Singh** (66, 67, 63, 65); **Arjun Sharma** (63, 64, 68, 66).

K'taka emerge champions

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka collected 13 medals — including five gold — on the final day of the sub-junior and junior National swimming championships to defend their overall title in Bhubaneswar on Sunday.

The reigning champions put up a dominating show to finish on top with a total of

SWIMMING

799 points. Paris Olympian Dhinidhi Desinghu, who clinched two gold medals on the day, took her overall tally to five gold and finished as the best swimmer in the girl's group II category. Alongside Desinghu, Manavi Varma and Rujula S clinched gold medals in the Group I 200m medley and 100m freestyle events respectively.



TOP FORM: Dhinidhi Desinghu

In the boy's events, Akshaj Thakuria picked up the lone gold medal for Karnataka, clocking 55.40 in the 100m freestyle event in Group II.

Karnataka bagged the team championships in all the groups in the boy's category and group I and III in girls, with Maharashtra taking the honours in group II.

Results (Karnataka only): Boys: Group I: 100m breaststroke: 2. Surya Jhoyappa (1:07.57); 3. Krishi Sukumar (1:07.64); **100m freestyle:** 2. Chinthan Shetty (52.87); 3. Aryan Bhattabhatt (53.08). **Group II:**

400m medley: 3. Dhruvad Ramakrishna (4:57.12); **100m freestyle:** 1. Akshaj Thakuria (55.40); 3. Rishith Rangan (56.43).

Girls: Group I: 200m medley: 1. Manavi Varma (2:25.83); 2. Thanya Shadakshari (2:28.38); **100m freestyle:** 1. Rujula S (58.76); **Group II: 200m medley:** 1. Dhinidhi Desinghu (2:26.97); **100m freestyle:** 1. Dhinidhi Desinghu (57.75); **Group III: 50m breaststroke:** 3. Shreya Suresh Pujar (39.62).

Best Swimmer: Boys: Group I: Rishabh Anupam Das (Mah) 4 gold, 1 silver; **Group II:** MS Nitheesh (TN) 4 gold, 1 silver; **Group III:** Kojiam Athobia Singh (Manipal) 4 gold. **Girls: Group I:** Pranshitha B Danji (Mah) 3 gold, 1 bronze; **Group II:** Dhinidhi Desinghu (K'taka) 5 gold; **Group III:** Serena Saroha (Har) 3 gold, 2 silver.

Team Championships: Boys: Group I: Karnataka (149 points); **Group II:** Karnataka (148 points); **Group III:** Karnataka (157 points). **Girls: Group I:** Karnataka (199 points); **Group II:** Maharashtra (151 points); **Group III:** Karnataka (99 points). **Overall Champions:** Karnataka 799 points.



CUP OF JOY: The triumphant Karnataka team with their spoils in Bhubaneswar on Sunday

Truth best bet for feature

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Truth, who won impressively during the Kolkata season, should repeat the performance in the Bhandranagar



Million over 1800 metres, the

HORSE RACING

star attraction on Monday. First race at 1.20pm.

1. Royal Windsor Plate 1800M: White Pearl 1, Caraxes 2

2. Three Wishes Plate 1000M: Blue Label 1, Exeter 2

3. Deverakonda Cup 1100M: Espionage 1, Calista Girl 2

4. Razia Sultana Plate 1100M: Annilaha-

tor 1, Jim 2 **5. Independence Cup (Div I) 1200M:** Devils Magic 1, Alpine Girl 2

6. Bhagyanagar Million 1800M: Truth 1, Siddharth 2

7. Independence Cup (Div II) 1200M: Winning Attitude 1, Happy Go Lucky 2

Day's best: Truth

Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7;

1st Treble: 2, 3, 4;

2nd Treble: 5, 6, 7.

DIVINE ART TRIUMPHS

Satish Narredu-trained Divine Art, ridden by Suraj Narredu, won the K Mahipathi Rao Memorial Golconda Juvenile Million, the feature event of the Hyderabad races on Sunday. TNN

Six-star Skanda sparkles for NPS B-10

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Skanda Raghavan (6/14) came up with a clinical performance to power National Public School B-10 to a six-wicket victory over Sri Kumaran Children's Home (State) in the KM Ramprasad Shield U-16 inter-school second division cricket tournament here recently.

KSCA U-16

In the low-scoring contest, electing to bat, Sri Kumaran struggled to put runs on the board with Skanda ripping through the line-up with a six-wicket haul. Dhruvad Gurumangesh top-scored with 31 as Sri Kumaran folded up for 78 in 27.5 overs. None of the other batters managed double digit scores.

In reply, NPS were off to a shaky start, losing a wicket in the opening over. Sanjeev Puranik dealt a double blow, picking up two wickets off consecutive deliveries in the sixth over. But thereafter, with a paltry target to defend, the task was too tall for Kumaran bowlers. NPS chased down the target in 13.4 overs.

In another match, **Vishwas Gowda** (146 & 2/24) put up an all-round show to pilot School Vivekananda to a 290-run win against Sri Vani Educational Centre Trust.

Vishwas struck a 99-ball 146 to power Vivekananda to 374/6 and then chipped in with two wicket-haul alongside key bowler

Dhruv Acharya (4/14) to bundle out Sri Vani for 84 in 31.2 overs.

Brief Scores: Sri Kumaran Children's Home, State: 78 all out in 27.5 overs (Dhruvad Gurumangesh 31, Skanda Raghavan 6-14) lost to **National Public School, B-10: 79/4 in 13.4 overs** (Sanjeev Puranik 2-23).

School Vivekananda: 374/6 in 45 overs (Vishwas Gowda 146 (99b, 22x4), M Tarun 30, Yuvaraj S 67, Parv Makkad 4-50) bt **Sri Vani Educational Centre Trust: 84 all out in 31.2 overs** (Vishwas Gowda 2-24, M Tarun 2-20, Dhruv Acharya H 4-14).

St. Paul's English School: 55 all out in 17.5 overs (Samanth Bhat 2-10, V Sumukha 3-2) lost to **Vidyaniketan Public School, Ullah: 56/3 in 14.2 overs**.

MES Kishore Kendra: 40 all out in 19.3 overs (Aman Shakti 3-16, Aarav Lathia 3-12) lost to **Jain IIS: 41/0 in 2.5 overs**.

Carmel High School, B-79: 51 all out in 28.1 overs (Aaryan Nagesh 3-8) lost to **Presidency School, RT Nagar: 52/2 in 6.1 overs**. **The Sports School: 227 all out in 49.3 overs**

(Tanishh Krishna 75, Jnana Prabhu 41, Vishal Kumar 28, Syed Alishah 2-28, Nakka Vasu 2-52, Vihanan Rana 5-52) bt **Frank Anthony Public School: 57 all out in 18.4 overs** (Vishal Kumar 2-12, Shreyas Indian 5-5).

Kensri School: 144 all out in 42.5 overs (Dhruvach 35, Sugrana Murthy 2-15, Monish P 2-15, Sukrith Oklunda 2-20, Bhuvan Ravi 2-36) lost to **Triveni Memorial Educational Trust: 145/8 in 42 overs** (Bhuvan Tejas 48, Preetham Pushpakumar 27 n.o, Navadeep P 4-35, Shreyas RG 2-15).

The Cathedral High School: 180 all out in 44.3 overs (Akshay Babu 53, Mohammed Saqib 25, Jalveer Saigal 3-24, Advit 2-39, Arhaan Singh 2-36) lost to **Mallya Aditi International School: 181/2 in 30.5 overs** (Yashas Shankar 98).

Deva Matha Central School: 154 all out in 43 overs (Tambrahal Samanyu 31, Harsh Udani 42, Aayush Anto 34, Gourav HS 2-27, Yashas R 3-40, Aryan Gowda 2-28, Arjun Narayana 2-12) lost to **Presidency School, Nandini Layout: 156/2 in 31.2 overs** (Yashas R 39 n.o, Ananthijit Hariharan 62 n.o).

Rain fury claims 30 lives in Raj, UP, Himachal, Punjab

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Rain fury in the north left 30 people dead on Sunday across Rajasthan, Himachal, UP and Punjab, where nine from an extended family were washed away after their cars sank in a stream. At least eight people were missing in the four states.

Rajasthan, especially Jaipur and Bharatpur, bore the brunt of the monsoon misery, with 17 deaths and five people missing. The five had gone for a dip at Kanota dam in Jaipur.

In Bharatpur, seven young men posing for reels near the Banganga fell into the river and lost their lives after ground beneath them caved in. Three youths drowned in a rain-fed pond in Jhunjhunu after getting stuck in sludge. In Karauli district, which witnessed a flood-like situation with record rainfall of 380mm on



People pass through a waterlogged road in Patna on Sunday

Sunday, a man and his 10-year-old son Jia were killed when a portion of a neighbour's house collapsed on their home. Jodhpur reported five deaths, including that of a 17-year-old who drowned in Koi-lan lake during trekking. The heavy rainfall

caused widespread damage throughout Rajasthan. CM Bhajan Lal Sharma reviewed the situation on Sunday and instructed officials to provide timely help to the affected.

In Punjab's Hoshiarpur, the nine died when their In-

nova was negotiating a seasonal stream at Jajion Doaba village on the border with Himachal. According to locals, the driver apparently misjudged the depth of the stream after watching a bulldozer wade in and cross it. A teen was rescued but two were still missing.

"The strong flow swept the Innova away. Two-three of us immediately rushed to get a rope and the bulldozer driver tried to reach them, but he had to fall back due to the swift currents. Those inside the vehicle were washed away, but a teenaged boy was pushed to the side of the stream and we pulled him out," said Manoj Kumar Sharma, a villager. According to Sharma, he could see the others being washed away but could do nothing.

In UP's Jalaun, a woman and her seven-year-old son died after the roof of their house collapsed.

NHRC issues new guidelines to end discrimination against widows

Mohua Das & Vijay V Singh | TNN

In May 2022, the villages of Hervad and Mangana in Maharashtra's Kolhapur district made history when they passed a resolution to ban regressive customs that demean and ostracise widows — wiping off kunkum, forcibly breaking bangles, preventing them from wearing colourful clothes or attending social functions, and even driving them away as harbingers of bad luck. Inspired by these villages, several others followed suit.

Building on this momentum, MP Supriya Sule introduced the "Protection of Rights of Widows and Single Women and Abolishment of Widowhood Practices" Bill in July 2022 in the Lok Sabha to eliminate discriminatory practices against widows. Two years on, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has finally stepped up with an advisory that was issued to the centre, all the state govts as well as Union Territories on the "Protection of human rights of widows".

"The NHRC has noticed that widows face many problems beyond the emotional distress of losing their spouse," explained an official from the Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission (MSHRC). "They are still isolated from society, struggle financially, receive little family support, and sometimes even lose their homes."

To tackle these, the NHRC's 'new guidelines issued on June 11 include ten key measures which include setting up a "widows' cell" in each district to help them access welfare schemes without needing a marriage certificate, access to identification documents like Aadhar, PAN and ration cards, legal help to protect their rights to property, community-based support groups to help widows feel included and remarry if they wish to.

Apart from calling on both

state and central govts to report back on the progress within two months, the NHRC has also advised the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) and relevant state departments to maintain a centralised online database of all gov-run homes for widows and deploy teams at the district level to regularly inspect these ashrams and homes to monitor their living conditions.

In response, the MSHRC launched awareness camps last month in four districts of Akola, Amravati, Washim, and Yavatmal of the Amravati region focused on the struggles of widows, especially those of farmers. "We began in Amravati due to its high number

widows are also forced out of their in-law's home, losing their rights to property or maintenance under the Hindu Succession Act. To address their financial insecurities, the MSHRC is collaborating with the agriculture department to provide skills training and free seeds to farm widows.

Another persistent problem is repressive practices by families who don't allow widows to participate in auspicious occasions, or wear ornaments or colourful clothes after their husband's death. "There was a govt resolution that banned these customs which humiliate a widow by defacing her. However, there's no penalty

statistics available since the GR was passed. "The data we have is mostly qualitative," says the official. "This is why we invite block development officers, govt officials, panchayat heads, and NGOs to our awareness camps to point out the gaps in their services that result in widows being subject to indignity or being deprived of their rights."

These issues aren't just confined to rural areas either. "It's rampant in urban centres like Mumbai and often enforced as part of funerary rituals," says the MSHRC official recalling a recent incident at a police camp in Worli. "Just the other day, a woman at a police camp in Worli was forced to break her bangles, wipe off her vermilion, and given a lecture on the things she must give up as a widow by a group of women who descended on her. Another widow is expected to leave her house whenever a prospective groom and his family visit for a marriage proposal for a younger woman in the family, as she is seen as bad luck."

"There is still no legal protection for women who are subject to such practices," reiterates Pramod Zinjade from Pothre village in Solapur, an activist for the rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who turned his attention to widows' rights after a co-worker died during Covid and within minutes of the pyre being lit, a group of women stripped his wife of her vermilion, bangles and anklets.

Shocked by this "insulting" tradition, Zinjade encouraged gram panchayats to pass resolutions banning these customs. "Today, at least 15,000 out of the 28,000-plus gram panchayats in Maharashtra have agreed to ban widow customs," he says. "Yet, in many villages, on occasions like Nag Panchami, widows and Dalit women are considered unlucky if seen in the morning. Consequently, widows hide their faces with their saris when they step out, out of a sense of guilt."

Wayanad tragedy: Teary-eyed Kerala forest min joins people's search ops

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kozhikode: The people's search held at the landslide site at Meppadi on Saturday witnessed emotional scenes after Kerala forest minister AK Saseendran broke into tears after taking part in the operations.

Saseendran had met a teenager whose father, Nassar, was still missing. He talked to a teary-eyed Ishaak, Nassar's younger son, who was present at the spot where his house once stood. "There is nothing left to be seen," Ishaak told the media. His elder brother Suhail, who sustained serious injuries to his leg, was also brought to the site in a car. Two large piles of sand had replaced the house following ex-



Search and rescue operation under way in Wayanad on Sunday

cavations done as part of rescue efforts. As Saseendran consoled Ishaak and his family, the minister struggled to hold back his tears.

"I never thought that I would have to witness such a sight. What would I answer them? There is no answer to their questions. We can only console them. If we are all feel-

ing grief, imagine what they are going through," he said.

He urged everyone to pray for the victims, act for them, and do everything to help them. "We need to salvage them, give them confidence and create a situation for them to lead a normal life. I can only assure that govt will act with commitment," he added.

Comprehensive rehab plan for Vilangad: Min

Kozhikode: Minister P A Mohamed Riyas has announced a comprehensive rehabilitation plan for Vilangad following landslides that claimed one life and caused extensive damage.

Collector Snehil Kumar Singh said that a four-member expert team would visit Vilangad on Monday to conduct a detailed study, comprising a geologist, hydrologist, soil conservationist, and hazard analyst. The collector has been asked to submit a report on damaged and uninhabitable houses by Aug 17. TNN



THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 6 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER | To subscribe call 1800 1200 004 or visit subscribe.timesofindia.com

President **Zelensky** confirms Ukraine has launched incursion into Russian territory to 'restore justice' and pressure Moscow's forces, P 14

CHOOSE THE UNTHINKABLE

PRESENTING

CITROËN BASALT

SUV coupé



When you choose to challenge the ordinary, you create the unthinkable.

That's why we broke the mould of design, redefined safety norms, pushed the limits of performance and comfort to create India's first* SUV coupé. It's like nothing you've ever seen before.

CHOOSE THE UNTHINKABLE.

INTRODUCTORY PRICE

₹7.99 LAKH*

BOOK NOW

REDEFINE YOUR DRIVE. TURN THE PAGE TO KNOW MORE.



CITROËN



**SAY YES TO THE
UNTHINKABLE WORLD OF
PERFORMANCE, COMFORT,
STYLE & SAFETY.**



Class-leading* Cabin Space

- Class-leading* Wheelbase of 2651 mm
- 2nd Row Leg Room: 980 mm



**Segment First*
Advanced Comfort**

- Smart Tilt Cushion for Under-Thigh Support with 3 Settings
- Winged Rear Headrest for Advanced Comfort

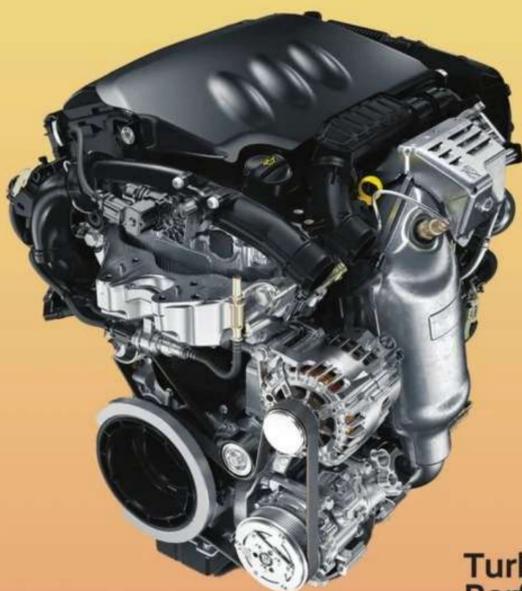


Intuitive Tech

- MyCitroën Connect Featuring
- Remote AC Pre-conditioning
 - Remote Door Lock/Unlock
 - Remote Geo-fencing
 - & Over 40 Smart Features

Advanced Safety

- 40+ Safety Features
- 6 Airbags Standard
 - Robust Build
 - ESP, Hill Hold, and TPMS



Turbocharged Performance

Award Winning**
1.2L Gen 3 PureTech Turbo Engine



Bangalore Whitefield, KHT Prime: 82914 84095 | Bangalore Yeshwanthpur, KHT Prime: 82914 84507 | Mysore, Raja: 96192 39477 | Hubli, Kumar: 91679 85706 | Mangalore, Raja: 91679 85414 | Belgaum, Kumar: 91679 85706 | Vellore, Sarvesh: 96199 82561 | Coimbatore, SGA: 88795 37224 | Pondicherry, Sarvesh: 96199 82556 | Trichy, Kuber: 88799 71219 | Calicut, EVM: 82919 65937 | Chennai OMR, VTK: 88799 35225 | Chennai Nungambakkam, VTK: 88799 35209 | Thrissur, EVM: 88799 35201 | Madurai, ARAS: 88798 24436 | Perumbavoor, EVM: 88799 35175 | Kochi, EVM: 82919 65893 | Hyderabad Banjara Hills, Pride: 82919 66075 | Hyderabad Nagole, Pride: 91670 13008 | Trivandrum, EVM: 96199 82565 | Hyderabad Kukkatpally, Pride: 88791 90210 | Vijayawada, Vanil: 96199 82520 | Warangal, Pride: 88792 70156 | Visakhapatnam, Bharath: 82919 65892

VISIT A CITROËN SHOWROOM TODAY | 1800 267 1000

Images & illustrations are indicative and for informative purposes only. Actual colour of vehicle and upholstery might differ. Accessories shown and features mentioned may not be a part of standard equipment. #Ex-showroom price of You variant. *Class/Segment refers to SUV coupé segment vehicles with length > 4.3m < 4.4m. ^Mainstream ICE SUV coupé vehicles with length > 4.3m < 4.4m. **On June 5th 2018, the Turbo PureTech 3-cylinder petrol engine (110 hp and 130 hp) was named International Engine of the Year in the 1-litre to 1.4-litre category, by the panel of the 20th International Engine of the Year Awards in Stuttgart.



INDIAN English Newspaper

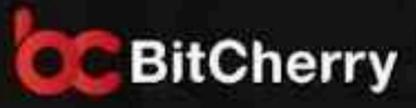
Deccan Chronicle,
 Economics times,
 Times of India,
 Mirror
 Financial Express,
 Hans india,
 Indian Express,
 New Indian Express NIE
 The Hindu,
 Mint, Newspaper
 Business standard,
 Business Line
 , States Man
 , Tribune, Newspaper
 pioneer Newspaper
 millennium Post Newspaper
 Hitavada Newspaper
 The Daily Guardian,
 The Telegraph
 Eastern Chronicle
 The Goan
 First India
 Free Press Journal
 Mid day English Gujarati
 Maharashtra time
 And also editorials of all English newspapers.
 Etc.....

© Also avialble Hindi, Andhra Pradesh language papers
 Bengali: |
 Tamil: |
 Marathi:
 Kannada
 Mumbai samachar
 Sandesh news paper
 gujrati samachar
 The Goan
 International Magazine
 International Newspaper
 Gujrati Marathi newspaper
 Urdu Newspaper
 Telangana kannada, Malayalam, Tamil Telug

International newspaper

The Economist
 The Financial Times
 The Observer
 The Guardian
 The Daily Telegraph
 Daily Express
 Daily Record
 Daily Mirror
 Daily Mail
 The Globa Mail
 The Sun
 The Times
 The Independent
 The Cricket Paper
 The New York Times
 The Wall Street Journal
 USA Today
 The Washington Post
 The Washington Times
 New York Post
 Los Angeles Times
 Chicago Tribune
 San Francisco Chronicle
 The Boston Globe
 u Le Monde
 UAE Gulf News
 El Pais
 Corriere Della Sera
 Pakistan
 Aarb News
 Qatar - Gulf Times
 Kuwait - Kuwait Times
 Oman - Observer
 UAE - Gulf News

 [Click Here To Join our Telegram Channel](#)



JOIN OUR TELEGRAM GROUP

www.bitcherry.io

<https://t.me/sharewithpride>

All International and Magazines Indian magazines

All Magazine Hindi English international magazine

You can get all the details by joining our Telegram group.

https://t.me/Magazine_8890050582



Click Here To Join our Telegram Channel