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ORGAN DONATION DAY

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

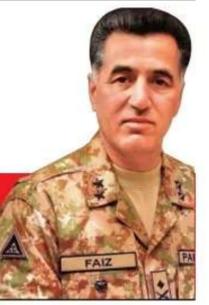


Wrestler Vinesh Phogat is expected to return to Delhi from Paris Oly village on Tuesday, the same day ad hoc division of CAS will announce its decision on her plea that she be given a silver medal

An 11-year-old girl and her mother stabbed at the busy Leicester Square in central London. Police arrest the attacker, say there is no indication that stabbing is terror-related, P 16

US defence secretary Lloyd Austin has ordered deployment of a guided missile submarine to West Asia, says Pentagon, as the region braces for possible attacks by Iran & allies after killing of Hamas and Hezbollah senior members, P 16

Ex-ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (retd) has been taken into military custody & field court martial proceedings initiated against him over allegations of corruption & misuse of authority, says Pak army's media wing, P 16



Southern states lead in heart transplants

Southern states lead in heart transplants, according to data shared by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation. In 2023, 221 heart transplants were carried out across India. Data shows that a maximum of 70 were carried out in Tamil Nadu, followed by Karnataka (35) and Maharashtra (33). P 5

Tribal woman killed in Maoist IED blast

A 27-year-old tribal woman was killed in a Maoist IED explosion in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district Sunday, a day after Naxals had apologised for the death of two minors in IED blasts. Six civilians have been killed and nine injured in Maoist IED blasts in Bastar division this year. TNW

CM: Grand Mysuru Dasara from Oct 3

Chief minister Siddaramaiah has announced grand plans for Mysuru Dasara festival, aiming for a large-scale celebration from Oct 3 to 12, following a year of subdued festivities due to drought. The CM said his govt will allocate necessary funds to ensure a large-scale celebration. P 4

Fgn tourist traffic up, forex nos grow

Over 40 lakh foreign tourists have visited India from Jan to May this year as compared to 37.3 lakh during the same period last year, a year-on-year growth of 9.1%. Foreign exchange earnings for the same period were Rs1 lakh crore compared to Rs 88,441 crore last year. Flapopp

Stir in govt hosps across country against Kol rape

OPD, Surgeries Hit As Docs Ask For CBI Inquiry

New Delhi: Govt hospitals across the country on Monday experienced significant disruptions in outpatient services and routine surgeries as resident doctors staged protests against the rape and murder of a doctor at R G Kar Medical

EDIT PAGE: How Unsafe Are Our Hospitals

College and Hospital in Kolkata. Hospitals in Delhi and Kolkata were most affected as the two cities emerged as the epicentres of the protest.

The doctors have demanded a CBI inquiry and urgent implementation of a central law to prevent violence against healthcare workers. TNW

More hosps may join, P 6

OFFICER CLAIMED SUICIDE BY DOC

Police have summoned an assistant superintendent who had allegedly called slain PG trainee doctor's family and informed them that their daughter had 'died by suicide'

Doc's father had said Sunday the officer was the first to call them Aug 9, the day the trainee doctor was found dead in hosp

Family also claimed that their 31-year-old daughter



Doctors protest outside R G Kar Hosp in Kolkata on Monday

had been under 'mental pressure' and that they suspected an 'insider role'

RG Kar principal quits, gets another posting

RG Kar principal Sandip Ghosh resigned Monday after accusations of covering up the incident. However, Ghosh was reassigned as the principal of Calcutta National Medical College within four hours of resigning. P 6

Finish probe by Sun, Mamata tells police

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee told police to finish the probe by Sunday, failing which the probe would be handed over to CBI. She gave the ultimatum after meeting the doctor's parents at their home amid widespread protests. P 6

Hasina's prolonged stay in India won't hurt our ties with Delhi: Bangladesh

AKM Moinuddin & Sachin Parashar

Dhaka/New Delhi: Bangladesh's ties with India under the stewardship of the new interim govt in Dhaka won't be affected even if deposed PM Sheikh Hasina remains New Delhi's guest for an extended period of time, foreign affairs adviser Md Touhid Hossain said Monday. His remarks can give the beleaguered Awami League chief some breathing space and be seen as reassuring for India. Hasina was initially understood to have sought refuge in India "only for the moment".

Quitting of officials close to Hasina legal: Yunus

Muhammad Yunus, head of Bangladesh's interim govt, said Monday the high-profile resignations of authorities close to Sheikh Hasina are legal after student leaders issued ultimatums for them to quit. "Legally ... all steps were taken," Yunus said. The country's chief justice, five justices and central bank governor have all resigned in the past few days. Yunus also said the country had experienced a "student-led revolution", adding, "I respect you (students). I admire you". On Tuesday, Yunus will hold a meeting with representatives of minority communities following attacks, especially against Hindus. P 16

"Bilateral relations are a much larger issue. Friendship is based on mutual interest," Hossain said. "We will always strive to maintain our good relations (with India),"

he said after meeting foreign diplomats in Dhaka to brief them about the situation and efforts to restore law and order.

Reassuring for India, P 16

Retail inflation in July at 5-yr low of 3.5%

Led by a moderation in prices of vegetables, fruits and spices and the impact of a statistical high-base effect, retail inflation in India softened to 3.5% — a near 5-year low — in July, bringing much-needed relief from stubborn price pressures witnessed in the past few months.

"We expect inflation to ease and average 4.5% this fiscal mostly due to softer food prices. This should allow RBI to begin cutting (rates) earliest by Oct," said D K Joshi, Crisil's chief economist.

Separate data showed industrial output growth, as measured by Index of Industrial Production (IIP), moderated to a five-month low of 4.2% in June from the seven-month high of 6.2%. P 15

'1st priority is to ensure AAP wins assembly polls'

New Delhi: Former Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia said on Monday that his first priority was ensuring AAP wins the upcoming state assembly polls, irrespective of the responsibilities assigned to him by the party, reports Atul Mathur.

In his first interview after his release on bail from Bihar, where he spent 17 months as an accused in the case of alleged irregularities in formulation and implementation of the now-revoked excise policy and on money laundering charges, Sisodia told TOI that it was for the party to collectively decide if his utility was more in govt or party. P 12

Govt to bring fresh broadcast bill draft after consultations

Deadline For Suggestions Pushed To Oct 15

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The information and broadcasting ministry Monday extended the deadline for comments and suggestions on the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill till Oct 15 and said it would issue a revised draft based on consultations that began last Nov.

The statement from the ministry, posted on its X handle, on the contentious set of proposals came amid reports that the draft was being withdrawn and that it had asked all stakeholders to return physical copies given to them between July 24 and 25. Sources in the ministry

1ST DRAFT CAME IN NOV

Ministry is holding a series of consultations with stakeholders on draft bill. Additional time is being provided to solicit comments till Oct 15, 2024. Fresh draft will be published after detailed consultations

—I&B ministry on X

A draft was first placed for comments last Nov

Bill aims to overhaul rules governing broadcasting services. Has raised concerns over treating independent news creators as broadcasters

denied any such move and said there would be further consultations on the bill.

The draft was placed for comments last Nov and multiple suggestions were received from stakeholders, including associations, ministry said, adding that a series of consultations was being held.

Bharti acquires 24.5% of UK's BT Grp in \$4bn deal

New Delhi: Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, on Monday announced the acquisition of a 24.5% stake in iconic BT Group plc from Altice UK, which will make it the largest shareholder in the company that once owned 21% in Bharti Airtel.

Bharti has already acquired 9.9% in the UK's top fixed and mobile communications provider through a market deal. Based on BT's current market value, entire transaction — which is subject to regulatory approvals, including security clearance — is estimated at \$4 billion. The deal adds

FULL CIRCLE

Once BT deal transaction is complete, Bharti will own a bigger stake than Deutsche Telekom's 12%

Bharti's BT deal is its 1st big foray into a developed country market. Ironically, BT Grp once owned 21% in Bharti Airtel

to the list of marquee British firms and brands acquired by Indian entities, including Jaguar Land Rover, Corus and Tetley by Tata, BSA by Mahindra Group and Hamleys by Reliance Brands. TNW

Long term investors, P 15

RSS, BJP netas in 5-hr huddle over selection of party chief

New Delhi: Senior BJP members have held detailed consultations on the party's future course and who should succeed J P Nadda whose extended tenure as president has also ended, reports Akhilesh Singh.

Although details of the five-hour meeting held at the residence of defence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday were not available, sources said there was a thorough discussion on who should be the next working president or the full-time president in view of the looming assembly polls.

Besides Singh, home minister Amit Shah and BJP general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh attended the deliberations. RSS was represented by its number two, general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale, and joint general secretary Arun Kumar. TNW

RSS consent vital, P 12

7 die, 16 injured in stampede at Bihar temple

Patna: At least seven people, including six women, were killed Monday and 16 injured in a stampede at Baba Siddheshwar Nath Temple in Bihar's Jehanabad, reports Sheezan Nezami.

Locals said a clash between a flower vendor and a group of kanwariyas near the temple on Barabar Hills sparked the stampede a little past midnight amid large crowds on Shrawan's fourth Monday. Jehanabad district magistrate denied allegations of police lathicharge.

Manhunt launched, P 11

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MORNING RUSH



UPI bandh ho gaya! Khatam!



National Bank is putting curbs on all private bank accounts!



Home verification of PAN Cards to start soon.



Ministry of IT keh rahi hai online scams badhenge.



IS UPI FINISHED?



Scan to find out.

IN WITH THE NEWS, OUT WITH THE NOISE.

RAIN & PAIN Primary School And ORR Stretches Flooded | Traffic Crawls Across City

Morning mayhem: Tree falls on 4 school kids & two parents; roads turn cesspools

Pics: Chetan Shivakumar & Syed Asif

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Flooded roads, inundated underpasses and fallen trees ... the pre-dawn downpour left a trail of destruction across Bengaluru Monday, leaving school-going children traumatised and office-goers stuck at several places.

Six people, including four children, sustained injuries after a tree fell on them in Jai Bharath Nagar in east Bengaluru in the morning. The children were on their way to school when the accident occurred. Two were travelling on a motorcycle with their father, while the other two were walking with their mother. The adults sustained grievous injuries.

All the injured were rushed to a private hospital. Sources said the children, aged 7, 10, 12, and 13, sustained minor injuries and are stable. The father, 37, is under ICU care, and the mother, 45, suffered a femoral fracture and will undergo surgery.

"A huge tree uprooted and blocked Tharalabalu Road in RT Nagar before dawn. Traffic police arrived at 9am to regulate traffic movement but BBMP officials were nowhere to be seen," a local told TOI.

Hurdles on roads

Traffic jams on roads made life miserable for students across the city. "The school

bus was late by 30 minutes as it was stuck on the Outer Ring Road. The children reached late for classes," said a parent of a student in a Marathahalli school.

Hebbal, Nagawara, Electronics City, Sarjapur, Whitefield, Tubarahalli Road, Jayanagar 1st and 2nd Blocks, Rayasandra Main Road, Bommanahalli, Sonesta Silver Oak Apartment at Horamavu, and Seshadripuram were among the worst-hit areas.

A video of the road in front of Manyata Tech Park, inundated with water around 6am quickly went viral on social media platforms, sparking outrage among netizens. Sunder Neelakantha, an employee of Manyata Tech Park, had to drive through the waterlogged streets from Hebbal to reach his office. "There's already so much construction work happening in Hebbal, and traffic is a nightmare. Now, with this waterlogging, it's like we're cursed," Neelakantha told TOI.

Srinivas Alavilli, an urban expert, said BBMP should stop resorting to quick-fixes to treat the city's major problems. "There is heavy concretisation, unplanned approval of construction projects, and encroachment of stormwater drains. This needs to be handled better," Alavilli said.

BLAME IT ON CLOGGED DRAINS

A traffic police officer said whenever it rains, waterlogging at multiple locations along the ORR stretch between Hebbal and Nagawara, becomes a common occurrence. "The primary cause of this rainwater inundation is obstruction of the drainage system. The accumulation of waste, particularly large quantities of plastic, hinders the flow of rainwater. Construction debris

from infrastructure works have also contributed to clogging of the drainage to a certain extent. Apart from waterlogging on the road, the presence of potholes further impedes the smooth flow of traffic. Motorists are facing difficulties while using the service road beneath Hebbal flyover. There is an urgent need for road repairs to facilitate better traffic movement in the area," he added.



BANGER LURKS: Flooded underpass at Jayadeva flyover on Bannerghatta Road



WALKERS' CHALLENGE: Students and others heading for work had a tough time crossing the main road under the Metro pillar on Mysuru Road Monday morning; (R) A tree came crashing down near a playground in Siddapura; (Below) People struggle to wade through the underpass at Jayadeva flyover



ANKLE-DEEP WATER IN SCHOOL

At Siddapura near Lalbagh, students walking into the govt primary school were in for a shock. The five classrooms, toilets, and teachers' room were filled with ankle-deep water and slush. It took close to three hours for the students and teachers to flush out water from classrooms. Students used buckets, brooms, mops, and everything available to get the classrooms to a habitable condition. Learning began only at 11am, by which time, the students were tired.

"The pit for the toilet is small and gets filled every two months. Cleaning them so frequently is expensive. With every rain, it gets full, and the water comes out in reverse and fills the room. We are short of money to do any correction work," said a teacher. The school has 175 students in classes 1-7.



CLEAN MISSION: Children and teachers flush out rainwater and dirt from the classroom of Government Primary School, Siddapura, after heavy rain late Sunday night. Water got into all the five classrooms and toilets



JAMMED: Vehicular movement from Nayandahalli flyover to Kempegowda Circle took a hit due to waterlogging at Kempegowda Circle

Min: DCs told to temporarily shift people living in high-altitude areas

Continued from page 1

Revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda, following a meeting with revenue department and disaster management officials, said: "On account of the alerts sounded by IMD, we have already spoken to the district administrations in these regions regarding precautionary measures."

The Krishna basin districts are expected to receive heavy rainfall between August 16 and August 20.

Byregowda stressed the need for effective coordination with water resources department officials to manage rising water levels in areas that have already been affected by recent flash floods.

"I have instructed the district administrations to ensure that water is released consistently instead of allowing excess storage and forcing a heavy release once the catchment areas are flooded," he



Rainwater entered houses near Hennur Bande Road in east Bengaluru

said. Gowda also directed district commissioners to "temporarily move" residents living in high-altitude areas that are vulnerable to landslides or those residing near mountainous regions.

He said the entire state, except parts of Yadgir and Bidar, has experienced excess rainfall ranging between 1% and 30% this year.

He added that with another month-and-a-half of southwest monsoon still to go, the prospects look bright now for agriculture in the state. Gowda said 80,000 hectares of agricultural and horticultural land have suffered losses due to excessive rain. Though he said such loss is still minimal compared to the damage suffered in previous years.

Panathur road a mess, oohs & aahs break internet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Balagere Main Road scything through Panathur in east Bengaluru turned into a waterway Monday.

A photograph of the road in knee-deep water captured by a resident from a rooftop, gave the stretch the look of a serpentine riverway and it soon went viral on social media, eliciting mixed reactions. Netizens smelt an opportunity and someone morphed the picture by adding two boats, giving the road a Venetian look. Residents commented on the post, comparing the scene to locations such as: "World tour on Balagere road", "Kerala backwaters", "River through cities like Europe", "New Venice" and "Italy".

The Balagere stretch till Panathur was waterlogged since early-morning hours and most residents working in the IT sector preferred to work from home. The water drained out by 11am.

Sheethal Kulkarni, a resident of Prathuri Enclave, sa-



RIVERWAY? Balagere Main Road (R) The morphed photo doing the rounds

id: "We woke up to a river-like scene outside our apartment. Almost all IT employees worked from home and none of us took vehicles out. Hence, traffic near S-Cross and railway underpass was less. Yet, school buses were stuck early in the morning and took almost one hour to cross Panathur and Balagere stretch."

Due to the ongoing RUB work at S-Cross, a few cars got stuck as the road had become

slippery. A resident travelling to Panathur Dine, a road adjacent to the railway underpass towards Balagere, said: "It looked like there was clay on the road. My car got stuck and I managed to get it moving with help from seven people. Evading potholes, water-filled camouflaged drains, balancing on slippery roads, saving ourselves from speeding tankers and getting past S-Cross safely was a Herculean task."



UNDERPASSES GO UNDER WATER

Key underpasses across the city, including Jayadeva underpass, Panathur railway underpass, Varthur Kodi Road, Bannerghatta Road and Aduddi Road saw major waterlogging.

Traffic police at Hebbal, Outer Ring Road and Bellandur were seen manually clearing drains clogged with garbage. According to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, Kodigehalli received 61.5mm of rain, followed by VV Puram (57.5mm), Vidyapeeta (56mm), Yelahanka (49mm),

and Bellandur (22mm). Deputy CM DK Shivakumar inspected the rain-affected areas at Yogeshwara Nagar near Hebbal, Nagawara Junction, HBR Layout 5th Block, Silk Board, and Jayadeva Junction. He directed officials to address the damage immediately and maintain infrastructure.

BS Prahalad, the engineer-in-chief, BBMP, said: "We're working to resolve these issues. As a city with varied terrain, water flows downward, which contributes to these challenges."

Garment salesman sues hospital after botched surgery, wins ₹5L

Vindhya.Pabolu@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: A garment salesman underwent a spinal surgery at Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) Super-specialty Hospital following injuries he had sustained after falling from his moped. However, he continued to suffer extensive pain. On learning that the source of his pain was improper tightening of screws during the surgery, the salesman approached a consumer court, which recently held the doctor guilty of negligence.

CONSUMER IS KING

The commission ordered the hospital, Dr Balaji Pai, then professor and head of the department of neurosurgery, and the govt to pay the man Rs 5 lakh as global compensation for the doctor's negligence.

Reddy Balraj, who works as a garment salesman at a Shivajinagar outlet, was delivering goods on Jan 14, 2014 on his moped when he fell and hurt his back. He initially took a tablet for back pain, but when it did not subside, he went for an MRI scan. It was suggested he undergo an operation as his disk bone



As he couldn't lift his right leg or walk after an operation, Reddy Balraj visited a private hospital, where he was told the surgery wasn't done properly and the screws were wrongly tightened on his muscles

was broken. The Thattaguppe resident underwent surgery at the hands of Dr Pai at BMCRI hospital, also known as PMSSY hospital, on Sept 7, 2014, and was shifted to the ICU for five days. He went home thinking everything was resolved, but the problem resurfaced. After a week, Balraj felt there was no action in his right leg. When he returned to the same doctor, he was advised to take follow-up treatment and do some physiotherapy exercises for 13 days, which also didn't provide any relief. Later, Pai suggested he undergo plastic surgery, which Balraj declined.

Since the pain persisted and he couldn't lift his right leg or walk, Balraj visited a private hospital, where he was told the previous surgery wasn't done properly and the screws were wrongly tightened on his muscles.

Balraj filed a complaint with Karnataka State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. While the govt and the hospital re-

mained ex-parte, Dr Pai appeared and submitted that Balraj had made allegations with the sole objective of falsely levying a charge. He further stated that Transforaminal Lumbar Interbody Fusion was a standard procedure performed on Balraj with exceptional care and caution, and the outcome was very successful.

After reviewing the documents, hearing arguments from both sides, and considering the opinion of a few other specialist doctors who had examined Balraj, the commission held that the surgery hadn't been done properly by Dr Pai and because of his negligence, the complainant had suffered a loss.

The commission asked the respondents to pay Balraj Rs 5 lakh as compensation within a month of the order. If they fail to do so, they will have to pay the amount alongside 8% interest from the date of default until realisation. Balraj has also been awarded Rs 25,000 as litigation cost.

OFFSIDE



6.5k libraries in villages soon

Bengaluru: The govt Monday announced the setting up of 6,599 new rural libraries at a cost of Rs 254 crore.

An announcement to this effect was made by CM Siddaramaiah on the occasion of Librarians' Day. Currently, there are 5,895 libraries in gram panchayats across the state. These include 819 disabled-friendly libraries.

The CM said, "Every village should have libraries and children should be enrolled in them. It is crucial for our youth to take advantage of these resources."

Under the govt's 'Oduva Belaku' campaign, 48.5 lakh children have registered with gram panchayats in the state. TNN

BBMP, cops told to stay vigilant on illegal flexes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: The high court has directed the authorities, including BBMP and city police, to continue their drive against unauthorized hoardings and flexes and ensure they don't come up during the monsoon season.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice KV Aravind issued the direction recently while adjourning the hearing on a batch of PILs on the issue until the last week of Sept.

The bench emphasized that the authorities should not become complacent in their duty to monitor and prevent illegal hoardings and flexes and ensure the safety of pedestrians and vehicular traffic during the monsoon season.

"The competent authorities shall continue to monitor flexes to ensure that they do not pose danger to the life of the people, especially in monsoon season... If any major lapse on the part of the city corporation or police dept is noticed in this regard, it is open for any of the petitioners to file an appropriate application to draw the attention of the court," the bench said.

The court also noted that the issue of controlling and preventing illegal flexes and advertisements in areas other than Bengaluru will be addressed at subsequent hearings.

9.7k hoardings removed in city

BBMP chief commissioner Tushar Giri Nath stated that a total of 9,761 illegal flexes, banner, LEDs, hoardings have been removed and FIRs lodged in 154 cases across all zones in the city with Rs 3,09,400 penalty imposed.

As many as 196 enforcement teams have been formed and orders served against 277 printing presses for printing flexes and banners without permission, he said in his affidavit submitted to the high court. According to him, three printing presses in the Mahadevapura zone and one in Rajarajeshwari Nagar zone were raided and about 4 kg of materials seized from the latter's premises.

Ramesh Chandra, an advocate for the petitioner in one of the PILs, submitted that there has been a decline in the number of illegal hoardings following the initiation of the proceedings by the court. Additional advocate general Prathima Honnappa informed the court that BBMP is in the process of bringing by-laws (BBMP Advertisement By-laws 2024).

Metro services to be curtailed on Green Line

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: To facilitate signalling-related tests from Nagasandra to Madavara, BMRCL announced a curtailment in Metro services on the Green Line from Peenya Industry to Nagasandra stations from Aug 13-15.

On Tuesday, the last train service will operate at 10pm instead of 11pm. On Aug 14 and 15, the morning train service will commence at 6am instead of 5am.

"Last train from Nagasandra on Aug 13 and 14 will be at 10pm instead of 11:05pm... The last train from Peenya Industry to Silk Institute Metro Station on Aug 13 and 14 will be at 11:12pm," a press note said.

Paper tickets
In the backdrop of the Lalbagh Horticultural Flower Show, Namma Metro will offer flat Rs 30 return journey paper tickets, purchasable at Lalbagh Metro Station from 10am to 8pm on Aug 15, 17, and 18. These paper tickets will be valid for travel from Lalbagh station to any other Metro station on the day of purchase.

Crook tricks kid playing on mobile, extorts ₹1.5L

'Fellow Player' Contacted Him Over Telegram

Chaithanya Swamy
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: A class 10 student addicted to playing games on his mother's phone ended up losing Rs 1.5 lakh to a cybercrook who used an ingenious way to trick him.

The boy's mother, Nirmala (name changed), a domestic help living on BTS Main Road in Wilson Garden, filed a complaint with police seeking help in recovering her hard-earned money. She had saved it to lease a house.



The fraud came to light when Nirmala visited Canara Bank in Hombegowdangar, Wilson Garden, on Aug 7, to transfer money to one of her relatives, whose house she wanted to lease.

The bank officials informed her she didn't have sufficient balance to transfer the money she had mentioned on the challan. Nirmala was shocked as she thought she had Rs 5 lakh balance in her account. However, the officials informed her Rs 1.5 lakh was transferred from her bank account to different UPI IDs from Aug 4 to 7.

She returned home and asked her son Arya if he had transferred money to any UPI ID, as he alone uses her phone to play games. Arya told her he was playing a game named 'Free Fire' on her phone on the evening of Aug 4 when he received a message on Telegram from an unknown number with the account name 'King Bhai Jaan'. He said Jaan was also part of the game he was playing and had found that there was Rs 5 lakh balance in the bank account. Jaan demanded Arya transfer some money to his account. When Arya refused to do so, Jaan warned him that he would siphon off the entire Rs 5 lakh if he didn't transfer part of it.

After exchanging some more messages, Arya agreed to transfer the money. The miscreant sent him a QR code and asked him to transfer Rs 1.299. Later, the person blackmailed him using many tricks, and ended up cheating him of Rs 1.5 lakh in all.

Bank officials helped Nirmala call 1930 and complain about the fraud. Later, they guided her to the cops. "We registered a case under the Information Technology Act on Saturday. We suspect Arya engaged in betting within the game and lost money. But we're yet to confirm it. If he has told the truth to his mother, then we must find out how the cybercrook got to know her bank account balance," a senior police officer said.

ORNAMENTS STOLEN FROM CA'S HOUSE

Bengaluru: A 57-year-old chartered accountant and his family were shocked to find platinum, diamond, and gold ornaments missing from the wardrobe on the first floor of their villa in Kannuru village.

The family suspects thieves barged in through a window and stole the ornaments, weighing around 350 grams and worth more than Rs 20 lakh. A complaint has been filed by Ramesh Subbarao, CA for five firms who has been living in Alanoville in a three-storied villa since 2020.

Ramesh's wife's ornaments had been kept in the wardrobe in a room on the first floor. The wife and daughter last saw the ornaments around 11pm on Aug 8. The next morning, around 4.30am, Ramesh's wife found the window open from outside. She assumed



BURGLARY AT VILLA

that someone had opened the door to clean the room. Later in the night, around 11.30pm, when the wife and daughter went to take the ornaments, the wardrobe was open and the ornaments missing.

A case has been registered under BNS Section 305 (theft in a dwelling house or means of transportation or place of worship). An investigation is on. **TNN**

K'TAKA INSTITUTIONS MAKE IT TO NIRF'S TOP 100 LISTS

In the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024 released Monday, Karnataka made its presence felt, with a number of institutions from the state featuring in the top 100 in various categories. Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science (IISc) led the way, ranking second overall and first in the universities category

OVERALL
IISc, Bengaluru | 2
Manipal Academy of Higher Education | 14
JSS Academy of Higher Education | 36
National Institute of Technology-Karnataka, Surathkal | 46
Mysore University | 86
Christ University | 90



COLLEGES
St Joseph's College of Commerce | 55
St Aloysius College | 58
Kristu Jayanti College | 60
MS Ramaiah College of Arts, Science & Commerce | 87

LAW
National Law School of India University | 1
Christ University | 15
Alliance University | 18

ENGINEERING
NITK, Surathkal | 17
Manipal Institute of Technology | 56
Visvesvaraya Technological University | 69
International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore | 74
MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology | 75
Christ University | 93
Jain University, Bengaluru | 95
RV College of Engineering | 99
Siddaganga Institute of Technology | 100

MEDICAL
National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru | 4
Kasturba Medical College, Manipal | 9
St John's Medical College | 28
Kasturba Medical College, Mangaluru | 33
JSS Medical College, Mysuru | 39
MS Ramaiah Medical College | 46

MANAGEMENT
Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore | 2
TA Pai Management Institute, Manipal | 58
Christ University | 60
Alliance University | 71
Jain University | 477

AGRICULTURE
University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru | 11
UAS, Dharwad | 24

STATE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY
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Flyers demand separate shoe trays at KIA security check-in

Yashaswini Sri
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Bengaluru: A flyer at Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Monday raised serious concerns over hygiene and called for dedicated trays for placing shoes at airport security check-in.

Using the hashtag #HygieneMattersBIAL, Anand Nichani, MD of Magniflex India, posted on X: "The same trays that carry our muddy shoes are used for our personal items at airport security! This is NOT okay! @BLRAirport, it's time to make dedicated trays for shoes MANDATORY for a cleaner & more pleasant experience for everyone! Who's with me? (sic)"

Explaining his point further, Nichani told **TOI**: "I was flying from Bengaluru to Delhi in the morning when an incident caught my attention. As I waited at the security check-in, the passenger ahead of me placed his muddy shoes on one of the trays. Once he emptied the tray, it was returned to the common tray stand. These trays are neither cleaned nor sanitised regularly, they are simply recycled to keep up with the flow of passengers."

He added: "I had to place my shoes on the same tray, and it struck me how unhygienic this practice was. These trays can become breeding grounds for germs, especially during the rainy season." "Bengaluru boasts of one of the finest airports in the country, but such practices are simply unacceptable," he opined.



HYGIENE MATTERS

Officials' response
Responding to his tweet, airport officials clarified: "Hygiene and passenger experience are top priorities for us. That is why we've kept dedicated shoe trays adjacent to all the X-ray [machines] for ease." However, Nichani disagreed with this explanation. Many netizens also echoed his concern, saying they have never noticed designated shoe trays during their travel.

Ryana Peters, a netizen, said: "Providing separate trays for items like shoes and other belongings is a basic necessity. This is clearly a hygiene issue." Aashna Kaney, another netizen, added: "This is so unhygienic and hazardous for health! We need to mandate separate trays for shoes."

BBMP truck kills elderly woman crossing road

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 79-year-old woman, hurrying to cross the road to catch a private bus, died after a BBMP garbage truck, which was allegedly being driven rashly, mowed her down in KS Layout, south Bengaluru, on Monday morning.

The deceased is Adilakshamma and the arrested truck driver is Mohammed Shafi, 22, of Gottigere.

Traffic police said the accident occurred around 6.45am when Adilakshamma and her daughter Kalavati were walking on Jambosavari Dinne main road to catch an Andhra Pradesh-bound bus. Kalavati and Adilakshamma live in Kottanur Dinne and had planned to visit their hometown, Chittoor. "An APSRTC bus leaves for Chittoor from Jambosavari Dinne every morning. The two were rushing to board the bus early Monday. Kalavati ran ahead, boarded the bus and requested the driver to wait for her mother. Adilakshamma was hurriedly crossing the road and the BBMP garbage truck knocked her down," a police officer said.

BBMP garbage trucks have been frequently involved in fatal accidents. In 2021, eight persons were mowed down by BBMP garbage trucks. The number came down to seven in 2022 and six in 2023. In Jan 2024, a 14-year-old girl was mowed down by a garbage truck in Pulakeshinagar. Again, on July 28, two techies died when a garbage truck rammed into their bike near KR Circle.



Biker skids off road

A 34-year-old tailor succumbed to injuries after his motorbike skid off the road, throwing him on to the ground in Jnanabharati late Sunday night. The deceased is Vishwanath, who was from Tumakuru and lived in Sunkadakatte.

This holiday, don't just take a day off!

15th August is near, my dear!
A million excuses for a leave on 16th will soon be here.

A headache, or a cold so critical.
Oh no, food poisoning sir,
getting admitted in the hospital!
But thank god these are only lies,
for hospital bills can be quite a surprise.
If these illnesses come true,
your life savings won't stay long with you.
In 2024, don't let ailments rule your life.
Claim true freedom with pride.
In these Independence Day holidays,
don't just unwind,
get Health Insurance to secure
your financial freedom and peace of mind.

Scan the QR Code to say 'Hello' to us on WhatsApp

India has one of the highest healthcare inflation rates in the world!
Niva Bupa Health Insurance aims to give every Indian the confidence to access the best healthcare.
So, India, this Independence Day, claim your financial freedom from medical bills.

Zindagi ko claim kar le

Consult our Health Insurance experts | 1800-309-3333 | Visit our Website | www.nivabupa.com

Learning hit as teachers take part in stir

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In a primary school in east Bengaluru, a grade 2 Kannada class was under way Monday. However, the class was being conducted not by teachers but two grade 4 students. In another school in Rajajinagar, classrooms were locked as teachers had left for a protest, while a guest teacher was seen engaging children outside in the corridor.

The situation was similar in many other schools across the state, as thousands of primary school teachers boycotted classes Monday to protest against some of the govt's policies.

Thousands of teachers assembled at Freedom Park in Bengaluru to protest the new cadre rules brought in after the introduction of graduate primary teachers. With the commissioner of school education and literacy issuing an order that schools have to function normally, half of the faculty from each school took part in the protest, while the



Pics: Muthu P

NO CLASSES: Thousands of primary school teachers boycotted classes Monday to protest against some of the govt's policies. As a result, many classrooms were empty and locked. In some cases, students were engaged by guest teachers on the school corridor

other half remained in the schools. "Midday meals will come and children will have to be taken care of. So, half of the teachers here have gone to represent us at the protest, while the other half remains," said a teacher.

However, some schools shut down completely while the atten-

dance of students was low in many others. About 250 teachers from Mysuru district and 200 from Chamarajanagar attended the Bengaluru agitation by skipping schools. Though the department strictly directed officials to ensure teachers' attendance in schools, some teachers attended

the protest by taking leave, while others worked.

"We have combined the classes. Grades 1-3 are together, while grades 4 and 5 are in another classroom. One of the two teachers on campus is attending each class," said a teacher from another east Bengaluru school, adding that they are used to multi-grade classrooms.

Karnataka State Primary School Teachers' Association had threatened to go on protest demanding a change in cadre and recruitment rules. While until 2016, primary school teachers used to teach grades 1-7, under a new order issued by the Centre, the state recruits graduate primary teachers for classes 6-8. The association has been demanding a change in the rules to allow graduates from before 2016 to teach in higher grades as well. A meeting with the minister for school education failed to bring any consensus. The department had warned of disciplinary action if teachers participated in the protest.

Resident docs suspend services, stage protest seeking safety & more stipend

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Hundreds of doctors Monday suspended non-emergency and outpatient services and gathered to protest attacks on their fraternity and to demand a hike in stipends.

Interns, postgraduates, super-specialty residents and senior residents from Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, and other govt hospitals sat at Freedom Park in protest, holding placards. Under the aegis of Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors (KARD), the doctors continued to demand an increase in the stipend they receive.

"The last revision was more than four years ago. First-year PG students receive Rs 45,000, Rs 50,000 in the second year, and third year, Rs 55,000. Superspecialty doctors receive Rs 55,000, Rs 60,000 and Rs 65,000 for the first, second and third years, respectively. In-



Syed Asif

GATHERING AT FREEDOM PARK

terns get Rs 30,000 stipend. Our stipends are much lower than in other states, while fees are higher as well. Stipends should be revised just as there is a revision of fees, and must be adjusted with inflation too," said Dr Sirish Shivaramiah, president of KARD and a post-graduate in radiology.

Dr Nitish S, a third-year PG student in orthopaedics, said stu-

dents have been placing these demands for more than two years. "We've been asking seniors and officials about increasing stipend. We met the principal secretary, finance minister, health minister, and were verbally assured the finance department would be consulted. There was nothing in writing though. Although we planned on holding the protest prior to May elections, we dropped the plan on the advice of seniors that the issue would be resolved. However, following no positive response, we had to resort to this," he said.

Nimhans docs express solidarity
Resident doctors at Nimhans, in solidarity with the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA), protested the alleged rape and murder of a colleague at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. They halted OPD activities, elective procedures, ward duties, and lab services.

After TB dam scare, expert panel to assess safety of all reservoirs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In the wake of a crest gate at the Tungbhadra reservoir being washed away, DK Shivakumar, deputy chief minister and water resources minister, on Monday announced the formation of an expert committee to evaluate structural safety of all dams in Karnataka.

The National Register of Large Dams, which is maintained by the central water commission, and National Dam Safety Authority, Karnataka, lists 231 large dams in the state, of which some 20 are classified as major dams.

After inspecting the Tungbhadra dam on Sunday, Shivakumar acknowledged the gravity of the situation but insisted there is no cause for alarm.

"This has happened for the first time in 70 years," he said. He explained that unlike other dams which have double chain links for their gates, the Tungbhadra dam has only one chain. It snapped for gate No 19.

Shivakumar said repairs have been initiated. "In 4-5 days, the gate will be repaired," he said while urging farmers not to panic. "We are doing this on a war-footing. We can save about 55-60tmcft of water. We want to help farmers save at least one crop. We have alerted areas downstream since a significant amount of water is being released."

The deputy chief minister emphasised the importance of enhancing dam safety and detailed plans to engage JSW Steel for production of a stronger iron gate. Sources say the dam has a maximum storage capacity of 133tmcft and held 100tmcft of water on Saturday, with the remainder comprising silt.

On allegations of govt neglect towards Al-matti and Tungbhadra dams compared to Krishna Raja Sagara (KRS) dam, he labelled them "political allegations." Shivakumar clarified that Tungbhadra dam is governed by a separate board and while the state is a member it does not have full control. On Union minister HD Kumaraswamy comments on KRS dam, Shivakumar shrugged them off, saying, "What does Kumaraswamy know? He only knows how to indulge in politicking."

Chief minister Siddaramaiah is scheduled to visit Tungbhadra reservoir on Tuesday.

While govt sits on Navale project, ageing dam faces growing risks

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Bengaluru: Years of silt accumulation, amounting to some 32tmcft, pose huge safety issues to Tungbhadra Dam since it has reduced water storage capacity by over 25%. This has increased the risk of flooding and structural failures, such as Saturday's crest gate failure. The dam was built in 1953.

"Alarmingly, the dam is full although the monsoon is only half-way through," said Himanshu Thakkar, coordinator, South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People (SANDRP). "This is because of the reduction in storage capacity."

Aware of the problem, the previous BJP govt proposed constructing a balancing reservoir in Navale, Koppal district, to take the pressure off Tungbhadra (TB) dam. The project plans to link the two reservoirs via a flood canal, diverting 32tmcft of water to the new dam, which will have a holding capacity of approximately 45tmcft.

No progress

A detailed project report estimated the cost at Rs 15,600 crore, which was included in former CM Basavaraj Bommai's budget for 2022-23. But the current Congress govt has not advanced the project.

While chief minister Siddaramaiah acknowledged the project in his budget for the current fiscal, no allocations were made. The water resources department requires



FREE FLOWING: To reduce stress on the broken Tungbhadra dam sluice gate, the other gates were opened to let water out

about Rs 1 lakh crore to complete ongoing irrigation projects, but only Rs 16,000 crore was allocated.

The severe funding shortfall has hindered the Navale Dam project and senior officials say special funds are necessary to take the initiative forward.

"The govt has a lot of ground to cover," Bommai said. "Besides mobilising funds, it must reach out to Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, as they are riparian states. He said his govt had opened talks with the neighbouring states, but the Congress govt "has shown no political will to advance discussions".

'Committed to project'

However, deputy CM DK Shivakumar, who oversees the water resources department, affirmed the govt's commitment to the Navale project. "We will expedite implementation after discussing

details with Andhra Pradesh and Telangana," he said.

But many stakeholders, including politicians from Koppal, have raised concerns over the environmental impact. They say large tracts of land would be submerged if the project goes through.

Koppal district in-charge minister Shivaraj Tangadagi suggested an alternative solution. "We propose that the govt consider constructing 10-15 small reservoirs, with storage capacities ranging from 1-5tmcft. We have sent a proposal for this project to the govt," he said.

Meanwhile, Bommai, who was water resources minister from 2008 to 2013, urged the govt to upgrade sluice gates of other reservoirs, many of which are over 50 years old. He said the current vertical gates are prone to malfunction and recommended installation of stoplog gates.

Siddaramaiah must shift focus back to governance

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Bengaluru: Having seemingly drifted into a state of inertia while countering the BJP-JD(S) padayatra, the govt now faces the task of steering its focus back to governance.

To combat the eight-day padayatra, which was aimed at forcing chief minister Siddaramaiah to quit over alleged involvement in Mysore Urban Development Authority and Valmiki ST Development Corporation scams, the govt launched a series of public rallies under the Janadollana banner. Ministers and senior party functionaries were heavily engaged in refuting the opposition's claims and minimising the damage caused by the padayatra.

But this focus on political manoeuvring has come at a significant cost: Key governance issues have been sidelined, critical infrastructure projects have been delayed, public service delivery hampered, and a noticeable slow-down in policy implementation across various sectors.

The opposition seized the opportunity to portray the govt as ineffective and disconnected from people's pressing needs. "There is no administration in the state. Siddaramaiah has lost moral authority to run the govt," said deputy opposition leader in the assembly Aravind Bellad, citing delays in payments under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme as evidence of administrative failure. "He (CM) has failed



TIME TO TAKE FRESH AIM: Chief minister Siddaramaiah takes aim at an event in Bengaluru on Monday

to respond to crucial issues, especially rain and floods and failed to deliver on the party's pre-poll promises."

The govt has sought to reassert its authority, with ministers announcing a series of measures aimed at addressing farmers' issues but these announcements have been met with scepticism. Critics argue that they come too late to mitigate the damage.

Analysts say the govt's approach to countering the opposition's narrative has been reactive rather than proactive, resulting in a loss of focus on governance. They argue that the govt needs to recalibrate its strategy and concentrate on delivering tangible results to regain public trust.

"The Muda row has diverted attention from key issues," said Vivek Menon, a civic activist and campaigner for ethics in politics. "Siddaramaiah must regain public trust by delivering results, as poor governance could erode

his reputation. He should address critical concerns like the fiscal deficit, city governance, and investment attraction. With internal friction rising, he must act swiftly to douse flames and prove his leadership."

A political analyst from North Karnataka said: "Siddaramaiah must prioritise SC-ST funds and reassure these communities that it is not being misused. He must also address the flood situation, restore law and order, and project his govt's honesty and transparency. Additionally, he should engage with opinion makers and release development grants to reduce the impact of corruption allegations and restore confidence in his govt."

The govt faces a delicate balancing act. Congress cannot afford to ignore political implications of the opposition's campaign. Simultaneously, it must demonstrate its capability to govern effectively and address issues that matter to people.

POLITICS & POLICY

Land records conundrum: 37.4 lakh parcels still in names of deceased

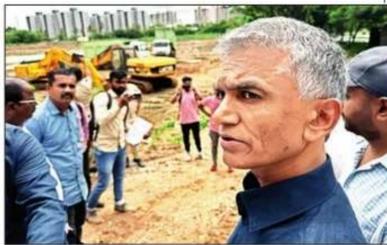
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In testimony, perhaps, to the difficulty in dealing with officialdom, the govt said some 37.4 lakh land parcels are still in the names of deceased people, a statistic that raises concerns over lack of action from legal heirs over transfer of ownership and even irregularities in some cases.

Revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Monday said the govt has identified some four crore landowners in the state, which include joint and multiple owners for several parcels.

"We have tried to seed Aadhaar numbers with landowners' survey numbers in 2.7 crore cases. When we went to these land parcels and tried to seed them, it came to light that 37.4 lakh land parcels continued to be registered in the name of people who are dead," Byre Gowda said.

But he insisted that not all instances can be attributed to foul play, while admitting administra-



RED TAPE: Revenue minister Krishna Byre Gowda said his department is considering launching adalats in two months to facilitate easy transfer of ownership to legal heirs and update records

tive initiatives are necessary to facilitate transfer of land to heirs.

"We are considering launching adalats in two months to ensure that these plots are transferred to rightful heirs and update land records," he said.

Using 'Land Beat', an application, the revenue department has identified some 1.4 crore acres of govt land across the state, which includes nearly 14.1 lakh land parcels under 15 govt departments.

"Overall, about 13 lakh land parcels (92%) of govt land have been spot verified by village ac-

countants and district administrations. The rest is likely to be completed in the next two months," he said.

Byre Gowda said this technological advancement provides a clearer picture of available govt land and encroachments. The govt plans to transfer identified parcels to respective departments to safeguard them from encroachments. For existing encroachments, the govt is ensuring cases are registered and tahsildars have been tasked to address removal efforts.

Yogeshwar threatens to go independent

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In trouble for BJP, former minister CP Yogeshwar on Monday said he will contest the upcoming Channapatna assembly bypoll as an independent candidate if he is denied the saffron party ticket.

This has the potential to complicate BJP's alliance with JD(S), potentially playing into Congress' hands which is intensifying efforts to secure victory.

Yogeshwar, who represented the constituency four times before losing to HD Kumaraswamy, JD(S) state president, in 2018, rushed to Delhi to meet the party high command and lobby for the ticket.

Now an MLC, Yogeshwar acknowledged that Kumaraswamy, JD(S) state president, is unlikely to support his candidacy "as he may prefer to nominate his son, Nikhil". However, Yogeshwar was optimistic that Kumaraswamy would consider his candidature, highlighting his role in the BJP-JD(S) alliance.

The Channapatna bypoll, necessitated by Kumaraswamy's move to the Lok Sabha, is expected to take place alongside Maharashtra assembly elections.

Opposition leader R Ashoka said that it is premature to comment on possible candidates since elections are yet to be announced.



PROTEST PROS: Youth Congress members staged a dharna on Monday to protest BJP and JD(S) targeting chief minister Siddaramaiah

Mysuru Dasara from Oct 3

Bengaluru: With copious rain bringing joy to farmers, the govt has announced plans to celebrate the Mysuru Dasara state festival with pomp and grandeur. After a preparatory meeting on Monday, chief minister Siddaramaiah said his govt will allocate necessary funds to ensure a large-scale celebration.

"Due to drought, we could not celebrate the festival in a grand manner last year," he said. "But this time, there is a festival-like atmosphere across the state, with bountiful rain filling all reservoirs. We want to carry this atmosphere into the Dasara festival."

The nine-day festival will commence on Oct 3, culminating in the world-famous Jam-

boo Savari on Oct 12. At the meeting, Siddaramaiah was empowered to select a distinguished individual to inaugurate the festival.

Like last year, Dasara lights will be extended until the first week of Nov, allowing visitors to enjoy the visual spectacle. The govt will also request defence minister Rajnath Singh for an air show.

Siddaramaiah emphasised the importance of providing greater opportunities for local artistes during the festival. "Our artistes are highly capable. The tableaux should be more attractive," he said.

Forest minister Eshwar Khandre said 18 elephants have been shortlisted for the Jambho Savari. **TNN**

Abraham files second plaint against CM

Bengaluru: Social activist and advocate TJ Abraham on Monday filed a private complaint in a court against chief minister Siddaramaiah and 11 others, accusing them of corruption in Mysore Urban Development Authority site allotments.

This is the second private complaint against the CM. Last week, an activist from Mysuru had filed a similar complaint against Siddaramaiah.

"I filed a complaint against Siddaramaiah, his wife BM Parvathi, son Yashra Siddaramaiah, and 10 others, including govt officials who served in different capacities during the scam period. The court will hear my case on Tuesday," Abraham told TOI.

Last month, Abraham had filed a petition with governor Thawar Chand Gehlot in the same case, seeking permission to prosecute Siddaramaiah. The governor had issued a show-cause notice to Siddaramaiah. **TNN**

At global conference, southern states join forces on man-elephant conflict

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Bengaluru: In a united effort to tackle the escalating issue of human-elephant conflict, which has led to loss of humans as well as wildlife and caused property damage worth crores of rupees along protected areas, the southern states of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana have joined forces. Together, they are urging the central govt to take urgent action and calling for increased funding to support effective mitigation measures.

At the global conference on 'human-elephant conflict management', hosted by the Karnataka govt in Bengaluru, the southern states, along with the distant state of Jharkhand, made a strong statement by adopting a 15-point 'Bengaluru Charter'. Key among their resolutions is the development of a uniform SOP for tracking, capturing and managing elephants



SAFE PASSAGE: Forest minister Eshwar Khandre opined that effective utilisation of tech is key to mitigating rising incidents of such conflict

across the region. They emphasized the importance of real-time information sharing, committing to 24x7 coordination among member-states to minimize human casualties and reduce property damage.

Focusing on landscape management across elephant-inhabited areas of So-

uth India, the states—represented by their forest ministers—agreed to take up habitat management to ensure enough availability of fodder and water. Anticipating fragmentation of habitats due to linear projects, the states also resolved to collect 5% of the proposed project costs towards mitigation measu-

res all along the project site.

Tech to drive elephants

Pointing out that effective utilisation of technology is the key solution to mitigating rising incidents of human-elephant conflict, forest minister Eshwar Khandre said, "Karnataka has already been at the forefront in using technology to drive elephants back into the forest, besides alerting the local population about herd movement. We need to ensure zero casualties in the coming days."

M Mathiventhana, forest minister of Tamil Nadu, offered insights into the state's experiment with AI tools to address the issue. "Tamil Nadu has been working with AI tools including sensors, thermal cameras, and other facilities to locate elephants and track their movements constantly. But with a vast forest area with Karnataka and Kerala, the state is open to adopting scientific programmes and best practices."

Colleges should give undertaking on ensuring transparency

Continued from page 1

As per the medical education department's directive, as many as 212 seats from 17 colleges have to be surrendered. If the colleges comply, the seats will be added to the seat matrix which is yet to be announced by the DME.

The DME also asked Na-

tional Medical Commission to implement the court order by not including the seats of the colleges in Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) counselling and to inform the respective colleges to surrender those seats to the state govt to include in the govt seat matrix.

"The approval of admission of petitioners will be

subject to respondent medical colleges surrendering and transferring seats from the 20% management/NRI quota to the state merit quota for the upcoming academic year. This transfer should be completed in compliance with the guidelines set forth by the KEA," said the order.

The colleges should also give an undertaking that

they will ensure transparency and fairness in the admission process and that all admissions will be strictly based on merit and the colleges will never indulge in attempting to block or manipulate seats. Failure to comply with the directives will result in punitive actions including further reduction in seats.

Full report: toi.in

73-yr-old gets lifer for raping 9-year-old girl

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A Pocco court sentenced a 73-year-old man to life imprisonment and slapped a fine of Rs 2.5 lakh for raping a nine-year-old girl in Shivamogga in Nov 2023.

The minor's mother filed a case under Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (Pocco) Act against G Nagaraja Gadlabasappa, alias Gidda Naganna Maama, in Shivamogga's Kudli village. Nagaraja was arrested in Nov 2023, and since then, he has been in judicial custody.

The girl's mother filed a complaint on Nov 21, stating that Nagaraja had taken her daughter to a riverbed and raped her. "She was complaining of pain and bleeding in her private parts. Initially, I thought it to be normal health issues. However, when the pain continued, I sensed something was wrong. Taking her into confidence, I asked her what had happened. Her first reaction was I shouldn't ask anything of 'Gidda Naganna maama'. Then she said how he took her to a shop on Nov 18, purchased chocolates and

bonda before taking her to the riverbed. Later, he threatened to kill her if the matter was revealed," the complaint read.

"The girl has to face stigma throughout her life. She has suffered pain and a bleeding injury for three days due to the assault..." observed special judge Mohana JS.

6k patients on waiting list for kidney transplant in K'taka

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Bengaluru: Despite kidneys being the most commonly donated organ in Karnataka, there are still 5,974 patients out of 8,500 on the waiting list for a transplant.

According to sources from State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (SOTTO), formerly known as Jeevasarthakathe, kidneys continue to be the most sought-after organ for transplantation, both in terms of demand and donation.

The state has seen 94 organ donations so far this year, according to sources at SOTTO. "Kidneys are the most in-demand organ for patients, while hand transplants are the least common," a SOTTO representative told TOI. The data reveals donors aged 18-44 dominate the list, with women donating more frequently

MYTHS THAT NEED TO BE DISPELLED

- Organ donation disfigures the body
- Only young and healthy people can be donors
- One cannot be organ donor if the person has any medical condition
- Donating organs can delay funerals; there cannot be a normal funeral

than men at a ratio of 7:3.

Further insights from Jeevasarthakathe highlight the critical shortage of human organs and tissues relative to life-saving needs. "After kidneys, liver and heart are the most sought-after organs," said Rajni M, joint director (medical) at Jeevasarthakathe/SOTTO Karnataka. She emphasised that while organ donation rates are improving, there is still a need

for greater public awareness. With rising cases of hypertension and diabetes among India's young population, the demand for organ transplants continues to grow.

Dr Chinnadurai R, lead consultant in critical care at Aster RV Hospital, explained why kidneys are in such high demand. "India has become a global epicentre for diabetes and hypertension, leading to widespread organ failure. Early diagnosis of these conditions often results in serious complications by the age of 40 if blood pressure and insulin levels are not managed. Kidney failure can be temporarily managed with dialysis, and since kidneys can be donated by living donors, they are the most commonly transplanted organs. Additionally, in cases of brain death, kidneys have a longer viability compared to other organs..."

Royal family gets stay on C'deshwari authority

Three months after the govt established Sri Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority, the Mysuru royal family has obtained a stay order from the high court and claimed that Sri Chamundeshwari Temple and surrounding properties are their private assets.

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, matriarch of the royal family, on Monday said the HC's

stay order was issued due to the authority's alleged violation of the petitioner's fundamental rights.

Pramoda Devi noted that the royal family filed a writ petition in 2001 claiming ownership of Chamundi Hills, which is still under consideration by the court. She argued that establishing the authority while the case is pending in court is unconstitutional.

She asserted that Chamundi Hills, including the temple, Devikere, Rajendra Vilas Palace, and Nandi statue, are private properties as recognised by the Union ministry of home affairs in 1971. She explained that during the 1950 accession with the govt of India, several properties were declared private, and records of these declarations were submitted to the high court. **TNN**



PRIYANKA URGES INTERIM BANGLADESH GOVT TO ENSURE SAFETY OF HINDUS, CHRISTIANS, BUDDHISTS

EX-ODISHA CM PATNAIK WRITES TO SCIENCE MINISTER TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR UNESCO KALINGA PRIZE



'Mothermonials': Going Beyond Fair and Tall

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In a refreshing twist on traditional matrimonial ads, the "Mothermonials" initiative launched on July 28, has sparked a wave of heartwarming stories that celebrate brides for their authentic selves. This AI-powered platform encourages mothers and families to craft personalised ads that go beyond superficial attributes, focusing instead on personalities, achievements, and ambitions.

The response has been overwhelming, with thousands of testimonies/entries flooding the website. These ads stand out for their creativity and honesty, offering a glimpse into the true essence of the women they describe.

Take Nikki Dimri's family, who playfully warns: "This ad may cause uncontrollable laughter and spontaneous adventure! Meet Nikki Dimri — a humble do-gooder with a heart for animals and a knack for baking. A star-gazing daydreamer who excels at bargains, she'll charm you with her free spirit & captivating stories."

Pallavi Mehta, 20, says:

You guys know me as an actor, mother, author and fitness enthusiast. Imagine if people saw me as 5'3" fair woman? It reduces my achievements and hobbies to height, weight & colour. It would be such a massive blow to my confidence. This is what every woman is going through. All thanks to the matrimonial ads that only look at women through these superficial beauty tests.

Soha Ali Khan

We've climbed Mt Everest, sent Chandrayaan to Moon and even have apps to remind us to drink water. So much has changed over the years and yet the matrimonial ads and this marriage biodata still remain the same. If the questions are not changing, why not change the answers.

Twinkle Khanna

"Can you handle a loving leader laced with quirky naps? Here's Pallavi Mehta: a vibrant animal lover whose photography captures moments better than a cat in a lamp. This pottery whiz offers warm hugs, tech-savvy investor insights, and creativity lent with laughter!"

Suman Soni, 52, addressing her daughter's prospective partners, says: "Do you thrive on spontaneity and Excel spreadsheets? Suman Soni is your ideal backup dancer. A daydreaming perfectionist who gardens like a boss and games with joy!"

These entries encourage matchmakers and suitors to look beyond outdated norms and embrace

the quirks and passions that truly define a person. Mothers, once pressured to conform to societal expectations, are now taking a bold stand for their daughters' individuality.

A survey conducted by Dove in association with TOI reveals that despite changing times, traditional ideals still hold sway with men, when it comes to choosing a life partner. The survey, which gathered responses from 5,766 men, found that: 76.7% consider height an important factor; 76% are drawn to a potential partner's complexion; only 18.6% value shared hobbies and just

Looking for a fair tall girl with an ideal weight of 64 kg: That was not a casting call for a production house but a matrimonial ad in a newspaper. It is unbelievable, yet it is still happening right in front of us to all the women we know and love. Let us not turn a blind eye to these beauty tests.

Sania Mirza

22.4% look for common values.

These findings highlight the ongoing tension between progressive initiatives like "Mothermonials" and lingering societal norms. "Mothermonials", an initiative of Dove in association with TOI has captured the hearts of mothers and daughters across India.

Donations from deceased make South heart transplant topper

Of 1,099 Donations In '23, 252 Were In T'gana & 178 Each In K'taka & TN

DurgeshNandan.Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Southern states lead the country in heart transplants, according to data shared by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (Notto).

In 2023, 221 heart transplants were carried out across India. Of these, Notto data show that a maximum of 70 were carried out in Tamil Nadu, followed by Karnataka

(35), Maharashtra (33), Gujarat (29) and Telangana (15). Delhi NCR witnessed only 14 transplants, according to the govt report. Officials attribute the higher number of heart transplants in South India to an increase in harvesting from the deceased.

India recorded a total of 1,099 deceased donations in 2023, with the highest number (252) reported in Telangana, followed by Tamil Nadu and Karnataka with 178 each, Maharashtra with 148, and Gujarat

with 146, according to an official. A heart transplant is a surgery to remove a damaged or diseased heart and replace it with a healthy donor heart. While the liver and kidney can be donated by living donors, the heart must be donated by someone who is brain-dead and is on life support, also referred to as a 'deceased donor'.

According to Dr YK Misra, the head of cardiac sciences and chief cardiovascular surgeon at Manipal Hospitals, southern states get considera-

TN, K'TAKA LEAD WAY



bly more deceased donations hence most patients requiring a heart transplant go there and get enrolled. "Some of these states also provide free of cost medications to heart recipients," he added.

The first successful heart transplant happened in India at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the year 1994. Since then, the number of such transplants have grown multi-fold.

Nearly 10% of the total number of heart patients suf-

fer from end-stage heart failure which may necessitate a transplant. But due to the scarcity of donors, doctors say, few can undergo a heart transplant. Private hospitals charge anywhere between Rs 20 to 25 lakh for a heart transplant.

Dr Sudhir Gupta, assistant professor of forensic medicine at AIIMS, said, "In India, certain amendments to the Human Organ Transplant Act 1994 are required. This may include making it mandatory for hospital ICUs to declare all brain deaths and register them with an online central organ registry for better coordination of cadaver heart donation, retrieval and transplantation."

Nearly 10% of the total number of heart patients suf-

TIMES VIEW: Data shows that while the number of deceased donations in the South and the West show a substantial uptick, other regions are lagging behind. Laggard states must find out what makes these states more successful in their endeavours and adopt those practices. An inter-state meet on the subject would help.

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Woman washes guns in MP, video helps bust firearms racket

Bhopal: A social media video of a woman scrubbing country-made pistols in soap and water has led to a major firearms bust, barely 18km from Morena district headquarters in Madhya Pradesh. Police raided a house in Ganeshpura village and arrested the woman's husband and father-in-law. A large cache of illegal pistols and semi-finished firearms was seized.

Last week, a 17-second video went around on social media in this region, around 60km from Gwalior. It shows a woman cleaning two 'kattas' with a brush and soap water, while two lay on the floor along with a tumbler. Police verified the video, identified the woman and raided the house Friday night. The woman's husband, Shakti Kapoor Sakhwar, and father-in-law, Biharilal, were captured while trying to escape with a cache of weapons. The raid led to the seizure of several pistols of 315 and 32-bore from Shakti. Materials and machinery used for illegally producing weapons were found in the house.

An FIR was filed against the father-son duo under the Arms Act Saturday. **TNN**

Kanwariyas' death: Case against NHAI authorities

Bijoor: A case was registered against a project director, manager and construction team unit of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) with regard to Haridwar-Kashipur national highway, police said on Monday. The officials were accused of "negligence" after an incident where two kanwariyas from Bareilly fell into a canal along with their bike while travelling on the highway on Friday night.

Police said Pradeep Kumar, 20, and Surendra Dayal, 21,

both residents of Kodampur village in Bareilly district, were part of a group of kanwariyas as going to Haridwar to fetch water from the Ganga when their bike fell into Shraavanpur canal. Their bodies are yet to be recovered.

Pradeep's father Mihilal Kumar lodged a complaint against project director of Haridwar-Kashipur NH, Mohd Sarfarazur Rahman, manager Amit Sharma, and the team of the NHAI's regional construction unit. **TNN**

Queenie, last of Kochi's foreign Jews, passes away

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Queenie Hallegua, the last of Paradesi (foreign) Jewish women in Kochi, passed away Sunday at age 89. Her death leaves her nephew Keith Hallegua as the only surviving Paradesi Jew in the Kerala city.

Queenie was the daughter of Satto Koder and married into the Hallegua family of Kochi's Jew Town. Her

grandfather, Shabdai Samuel Koder, was an Iraqi immigrant who settled in Kochi and established Koder House, a historic three-story bungalow now functioning as a three-star hotel.

Queenie's two children, both US residents, were with her when she passed away Sunday. Her funeral was held at a

Jewish cemetery near the 456-year-old Paradesi Synagogue.

According to KJ Joy, caretaker of the synagogue in Mattancherry area, European Jews in Kochi trace their origins to Baghdad, the Netherlands, Babylon and Spain. "Over the past few decades, all Jews from these regions have gradually left Kochi, leaving only Keith as the last remaining member of this community," Joy said.

SSLV's final devt flight pushed by a day; launch on Aug 16

The Isro has announced a change in the launch date for the third and final developmental flight of its Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). Originally scheduled for August 15 at 9.17 am, the launch will now take place on August 16, with the lift-off time remaining the same. The rocket will carry latest Earth Observation Satellite (EOS-08) into orbit. EOS-08,

weighing approximately 175.5 kg, is equipped with three advanced payloads: an Electro Optical Infrared Payload (EOIR), a Global Navigation Satellite System-Reflectometry Payload (GNSS-R), and a SIC UV Dosimeter. These payloads will help add data to various scientific and practical fields, ranging from environmental monitoring to disaster management. **TNN**

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

Kol med college principal quits, but reassigned at CNMC within 4 hours

Sumati.Yengkhom
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Sandip Ghosh, principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, resigned Monday after three days of protests by junior doctors and students accusing him of covering up the rape-murder of a postgraduate student at the institution. However, Ghosh was reassigned as the principal of Calcutta National Medical College (CNMC) within four hours of his resignation, sparking further unrest among students there.

Suhrita Paul, former vice chancellor of West Bengal University of Health Sciences, was appointed as the new principal of RG Kar. Paul had been serving as an officer on special duty at Swasthya Bhawan until Monday. "My resignation was desired by the students. I felt this was the wish of the entire state. I hope now the students and junior doctors will return to work," Ghosh said, announcing his resignation. "Not only am I resigning from the principal position, but also resigning from my professorship. I am leaving my govt job."

However, sources in the Bengal health department said efforts were made until the last minute to keep Ghosh in his po-

Ghosh, who had taken charge as RG Kar's principal in mid-2021, had been removed twice before, only to be reinstated shortly after — once within 48 hours and the second time within a month

sition. His resignation from the medical education service was ultimately not accepted, and by evening, he was appointed principal of CNMC, replacing Ajay Ray, who was reassigned as an OSD at Swasthya Bhawan.

The protests against Ghosh began Friday, with students and junior doctors demanding his immediate removal. They insisted that he not be given any administrative role in any medical college. On Monday, the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association called a nationwide strike, demanding improved security in public hospitals and a central agency investigation into the RG Kar crime. Ghosh, who had taken charge as RG Kar's principal in mid-2021, had been removed twice before, only to be reinstated shortly after — once within 48 hours and the second time within a month.

Mamata to cops: Wrap up probe by Sunday, or case goes to CBI

Expresses Shock At The Brutality Of The Murder

Sanjib Chakraborty & Tamaghna Banerjee | TNN

Kolkata: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Monday told Kolkata Police to wind up investigations into the rape and murder of a PG trainee doctor at the state-run RG Kar Hospital by Sunday, failing which the probe would be handed over to CBI.

Mamata gave the ultimatum after meeting the 31-year-old doctor's parents at their home amid widespread protests in Bengal and elsewhere over the murder on Aug 9 and two days after a police volunteer, Sanjay Roy (35), was arrested in the case.

Speaking after the 45-minute interaction with the family, the CM referred to their suspicions about an "insider role". "There were nurses and others around. I still do not understand how this incident took place. The parents have told me that they suspect the involvement of an insider. I have told the police that if there is any suspicion against anyone — be it



Doctors and nursing staff at a mass rally near RG Kar Hospital on Monday

the doctor's friends or the first caller (who informed the family of the incident) — they should be questioned," the CM said. She expressed shock at the "brutality" of the murder, repeating her promise to seek capital punishment in the case. Indicating her willingness for a possible CBI probe, Mamata couched it with a reminder about the central agency's alleged lack of success in taking big Bengal cases to their logical conclusion. "I do not have any issue with a CBI takeover (of the case) but their success rate is low," the CM said, reeling off some cases including one related to Tagore's Nobel medal theft (2007).

Kolkata Police chief Vi-

neet Goyal, who was with the CM when she met the doctor's family, expressed confidence the probe would be wrapped up "in the next four-five days". "We can make more arrests if needed and, even after that if the family is not satisfied (with the police probe), then whatever Madam (Mamata) has said will happen," Goyal said.

Mamata sought to underscore the message that the govt had acted promptly so far. "The RG Kar principal has resigned on his own. We have removed the medical superintendent-cum-vice-principal and department head (chest medicine) as well as the assistant commissioner of police," the CM said.

'No politics please': Students slam doors on netas

Tamaghna Banerjee, Poulami Roy Banerjee & Subhoyoti Kanjilal | TNN

Kolkata: In a show of resistance, students, doctors and family members protesting against the rape and murder of the duty 31-year-old PGT doctor inside RG Kar Medical College and Hospital last week, have managed to prevent involvement of any political party in their protests so far. "We have maintained our stand since day 1. We don't want to politicise this issue. We are not here for any personal gain but are protesting to seek justice for our friend and batchmate and to make the place safer for our fellow juniors and colleagues. Allowing political parties to join our protest will defeat the very purpose of the protest," said a PGT doctor.

When a team of BJP supporters armed with saffron flags entered the college on Friday, the students pushed them back. On Saturday and Sunday, they sent back CPM and Congress leaders too.

'More hosps likely to join the protests, suspend OPD'

► Continued from page 1

A spokesperson of the Federation of All India Medical Association (Faima) told TOI that more hospitals are likely to join the protests and suspend OPD and elective surgeries from Tuesday. "Resident doctors from states like Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand and Gujarat, among others, will join the protest from Tuesday onwards," said Faima founder Dr Manish Jangra.

On Thursday night, the mutilated body of a 32-year-old doctor was found in the seminar hall of RG Kar Medical College & Hospital. The initial autopsy report stated that the victim was bleeding from her eyes, mouth and private parts.

Meanwhile, hospitals said they are preparing plans to ensure patient services are minimally affected by the strike. The administration of AIIMS Delhi, which saw nearly 80% reduction in elective surgeries and 35% fall in admissions on Monday, said it has prepared a contingency plan to ensure critical and other patient care services do not get affected. Delhi's RML Hospital, another central govt-run fac-

ility, also issued an order asking all HODs to submit an action plan in view of the strike by its resident doctors' association so that patient-care is minimally disrupted.

In Kolkata, the strike by junior doctors continued to affect the functioning of govt hospitals across the city.

In UP, protests were held at King George's Medical University, Kalyan Singh Super Speciality Cancer Institute and Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences.

Protests were also held in Maharani Laxmibai Medical College, UP University of Medical Sciences (Saifai), SN Medical College (Agra) and a hospital in Kanpur.

In Chandigarh, over 100 elective surgeries were halted and OPD services were impacted as resident doctors at PGI went on an indefinite strike.

Resident doctors in Jammu staged a peaceful protest, suspending their regular work to demand justice. Doctors in several other states, including Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Telangana, also joined the strike.

The Indian Medical Association has shot off a letter to Union health minister J P Nadda seeking urgent action to make hospitals safe.

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Dr. V.S. Jayaram

1934 - 2024

MBBS, MD Former Principal & Sr. Prof. HOD of Microbiology Govt Medical Collage Bellary, Mysore, Bangalore Retired as Dean of KMC Hubli.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. V. S. Jayaram, who left us on 10th August 2024 at the age of 90. A cherished husband, father, grandfather and friend, lived a long, full life filled with love and wisdom.

Condolence on 7892115651

MARCO



In the Memory of our Dear

Nita H Kirpalani (Babloo)

Marco will be held on Tuesday the 13.08.2024, in Guru Mandir Sindhi Colony from 5:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Akhand Path Bhog Sahib will be held at Gurudwara, Ulsoor on Friday, 16.08.2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Always in our hearts, Vinod-Heena, Chirag & Shreya Kirpalani

REMEMBRANCES

Prof B.C. Pathiyanna

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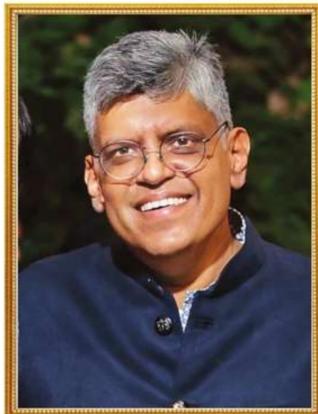
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We remember and honor your life everyday and always. You are an inspiration to many including your students. Your blessings and love keeps us all going.

Wife H.G.Sathyavathi, Son, Daughter and Grandchildren

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Prayer Meet



Vikas Goyal

You will always remain a profound source of love, affection and shall be in our hearts forever.

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Sena, NCP could not transfer votes to BJP in Lok Sabha polls as expected: Fadnavis

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The CM Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the NCP led by Ajit Pawar could not transfer their votes to the BJP to the extent anticipated during the Lok Sabha elections, said Dy CM Devendra Fadnavis on Monday while speaking about the Mahayuti's poor performance. He further said the BJP could not transfer as much of its votes to Ajit Pawar's party as it did to Shinde's Sena.

In an interview to an on-line news channel, Fadnavis said, "We had estimated that we



ALLIANCE DYNAMICS: Fadnavis said it was difficult for the BJP to transfer its votes to NCP as they had fought against each other for years

(BJP) have a certain number of votes and along with the Shiv Sena and NCP votes, we should reach a certain number. It happened to some extent, but these two parties being new, they had limited capacity to transfer their votes

to the BJP. On the other hand, the BJP transferred 90% of its votes to the two parties," he said, adding that in the assembly elections the picture would be different as people have realised the formations.

He said it was difficult for the BJP to transfer its votes to the NCP as they had fought against each other for years. "We had only considered a limited transfer, but even that did not happen," he said.

On the BJP's poor performance in the Lok Sabha polls in the state, winning only nine seats as against 23 in the previous elections, and its

impact on seat-sharing for the assembly elections, Fadnavis said the BJP's overall vote percentage has remained unchanged.

"If you do the Lok Sabha poll analysis, we secured 43.6% of the votes, they (MVA) got 43.9%, and there are 12 seats which we lost by less than 3%. There is a typical pattern to the loss - in 5 assembly seats we are ahead and in one we fall back and lose the seat. This has happened in Dhule, Amravati, Bhiwandi, Mumbai North-East, Mumbai South-Central... This cannot be replicated in the assembly elec-

tions. Our overall voting percentage has remained unchanged and so we will contest around the same number of seats as in the last elections (162)," he said.

He said seat-sharing will be based on each party's strength and limitations. "Our meetings have started and our direction has also been decided. There will be hard negotiations on certain seats, but this time it will be less because we have realised that in the Lok Sabha polls, the hard bargaining on certain seats had its repercussions on those seats," he said.

India and Russia eye ₹10,000 crore nuclear-fuel deal, local production

New Delhi: India and Russia are working on a deal worth Rs 10,500 crore for the supply of nuclear fuel and core components to Kudankulam nuclear power plant's two new units coming up with Moscow's help, people in the know said.

The deal envisages Russian nuclear fuel company TVEL JSC supplying to the dept of atomic energy the initial loads and subsequent five reloads for units 3 and 4 of the Kudankulam N-power project along with control rods and fuel assembly inspection tool set from 2025 to 2033. **TNN**

ऑयल एंड नेचुरल गैस कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
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Popn to hit 152.2cr by 2036, sex ratio will improve to 952: Govt

New Delhi: By 2036, India's population is expected to reach 152.2 crore, with a slightly improved female percentage of 48.8% as compared to 48.5% in 2011, a report published by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI) showed on Monday.

The report — 'Women and Men in India 2023' — projects that the proportion of individuals under 15 years of age will decrease from 2011 to 2036, likely due to declining fertility rates. In contrast, the proportion of the population aged 60 years and above is anticipated to substantially increase during this period.

India's population in 2036 is expected to be more feminine compared to 2011, as reflected in sex ratio which is projected to increase from 943 (per 1,000 males) in 2011 to 952 by 2036, highlighting a positive trend in gender equality, the report said.

The report offers a comprehensive view of the situation of women and men in India, providing data on population, education, health, economic participation, and decision-making. It presents gender-disaggregated data across urban-rural divides and regions, highlighting disparities. Key indicators are derived from published data of various ministries, departments, and organisations.

"Gender statistics play a crucial role in promoting and measuring gender equality. They provide benchmarks for progress, making visible similarities and differences between men and women," it said.

The report said that from 2016 to 2020, age-specific fertility rate (ASFR) in the age group of 20-24 and 25-29 has reduced from 135.4 and 166.0 to 113.6 and 139.6, respectively. ASFR for 35-39 age group during this period has increased from 32.7 to 35.6 which shows that after settling in life, women are thinking of expansion of family.

Adolescent fertility rate was 33.9 for illiterate population against 11.0 for the literate in 2020. This rate is considerably lower for even those who are literate but without any formal education (20.0) as compared to illiterate women, re-emphasising the importance of imparting education to women, said the report. **TNN**

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KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

OPEN E-TENDER (SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM) INVITATION NOTICE

Name of Work: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV, 50 Hz, Single phase, Traction Overhead Equipment for construction of 4 lane Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Rawanfand, Madgaon in the state of GOA. **Notice No: KR/CO/EL/ROB-RE/17A/24 Dtd: 13/08/2024. Completion Period:** 6 (Six) Months. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 2,06,28,714/- excluding GST. **Bid Security:** ₹ 2,53,200/- **Last Date & time for Online Submission of Tender:** 03/09/2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Opening of Tender:** On 03/09/2024 at 15.30 Hrs. **Amendments / Corrigendum** if any, would be uploaded on IREPS website only. **Submission of Tender Documents:** Through IREPS. **Manual Tender Documents** shall not be accepted.

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)

No.8, "Samparka Soudha", Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. **Telefax :** 080-22024000 **e-mail :** ce.krdcl@gmail.com **Website:** http://www.krdcl.in

No. KRDC/L/IB/2024-25/03 **Date:** 09-08-2024

INVITATION OF BIDS FOR COLLECTION OF ROAD USER FEE

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited [KRDC] invites bids from reputed company/ Partnership firm / proprietary firm / individuals for collection of road user fee in 4 state highways namely 1) Shimoga-Hangal, 2) Davangere-Birur, 3) Bidar-Chincholi and 4) Gubbi-CS Pura. Interested bidders can participate through KPPP portal and documents can be downloaded from website <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Last date of receipt of tender is on 03-09-2024 upto 17.30 hours & Technical bids will be opened on 05-09-2024 at 11.30 hours.

Note: Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through News Papers and further changes if any, will be updated only on KPPP portal/ KRDC Website.

Sd/- Chief Engineer
KRDC, Bengaluru

Government of Odisha
Skill Development and Technical Education Department
Directorate of Technical Education & Training, Odisha
At-Killamaidan, PO-Buxibazar, Cuttack-753001
Phone No-0671 2301061, e-mail: dtetorissa@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
To setup Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Mining with Drone Survey at Govt. Polytechnic, Deogarh under OMBADC districts of Odisha. **NIT No. DTET/2024-25/ 11928** **Date:** 12.08.2024

Directorate of Technical Education and Training, Odisha (DTE&T) invites Request for Proposals (RFP) to setup "Centre of Excellence in Mining with Drone Survey at Govt. Polytechnic, Deogarh under OMBADC districts of Odisha". The firms, those having experience in similar work can submit their Technical and Commercial proposals. The RFP document comprising of Eligibility Criteria, Instruction to Bidders, Scope of Work etc. can be downloaded from DTE&T website (www.dtet.odisha.gov.in) from 5 PM of 13.08.2024. Any addendum or corrigendum (if required) will be uploaded at DTE&T website mentioned above.

Sd/-
DTE&T, Odisha, Cuttack

BIJU PATNAIK UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, ODISHA ROURKELA

No. BPUT/XII/CAPGS/Furniture/104/2022/5398 **Date :** 09.08.2024

EXTENSION OF TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR DIFFERENT LABORATORY OF CUPGS, BPUT, ROURKELA

Sealed Tender (two bid System) were invited from the reputed and experienced agencies/ Firms for supply of laboratory items for different departments of CUPGS, BPUT, Rourkela. The detail Tender available in the website i.e www.bput.ac.in.

Sl	Name of Laboratories	Tender Notice No. & Date
1	Supply of Table and Stools for Chemistry & Physics Lab	BPUT/XII/CAPGS/Furniture/104/2022/4743 dt. 18/07/2024
2	Tender for supply and installation of Partition Walls for various Labs of CUPGS, BPUT, Rourkela	BPUT/XII/CUPGS/61/2023/3709 dt. 18/07/2024
3	Tender for supply of 2.0 ton Inverter Split AC for simulation Lab of ECE Department, CUPGS, BPUT, Rourkela	BPUT/XII/CUPGS/55/2023/3710 dt. 18/07/2024

The following schedule is hereby notified all the above tenders due to some unavoidable reasons. The last date of submission bid through speed post on or before 23.08.2024 by 5.00 PM, Opening of Technical Bid : 27.08.2024 at 11.30 AM and opening of Financial Bid will be notified in the University website. All the other condition shall remain unchanged.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR
OIPR-11059/11/0011/24-25

Government of Odisha
Department of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

No. 6039 /SSEPD SSEPD-DA6-MISC-0023-2022 **Dt.08.08.202324**

Expression of Interest for Providing/Managing Services for Recovery Centres for Drug Addicts under Disha Scheme

SSEPD DA6 MISC 0023-2022. **Date : 07.08.2024**

The EO aims to select successful agency to act as Programme Implementing Agency (PIA) that will be responsible to provide/manage services as outlined at scope of work. The details of scope of work, eligibility criteria and submission of details can be downloaded from website <http://www.ssepd.gov.in> Last date and time for submission of the EO documents by speed post/ Registered post/courier/ hand in all working days up to **Dated. 06.09.2024.**

This EO does not entail any commitment on the part of SSEPD Deptt, Govt. of Odisha either financial or otherwise. SSEPD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the grounds. The EO will be evaluated based on the information provided.

Sd/-
Director, SSEPD
OIPR-46001/11/0010/24-25

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ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED VIDYUT SOUDHA:VIJAYAWADA

NIT No.:610001651

APGENCO invites Online tenders for "Outsourcing the services for Maintenance and Up keeping works pertaining to Civil Operation Division/MHE(Jt)/Jalapat and O&M division, Machkund for the period from 01.09.2024 (or from actual date of commencement of the work) to 31.03.2026"

Bid Start date & time: 09.08.2024 at 05:30 PM
Bid Submission closing date & time: 23.08.2024 at 3:00 PM
For further details visit <https://tender.apgenco.gov.in> Phone (08864-294192)

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (O&M)/LSHES
DIPR No.3115PP/CLADVT/11/2024-22 Dt.12/08/2024

U.P. State Road Transport Corporation
Parivahan Bhavan, Tehri Kothi, 6.M.G. Marg, Lucknow-226001 (U.P.)

E-Tender No.: 2095 MT/2024-18 MT/2024 **Date:** 12.08.2024

TENDER NOTICE

UPSTRC is inviting E-tender from eligible Bus Body Fabricators for Fabrication of Ordinary Bus Bodies on Diesel Passenger chassis BS-VI Norms. Interested parties are requested to participate in the above E-Tenders separately as per schedule calendar given below. E-Tender Document can be downloaded from Government e-portal etender.up.nic.in and other terms & conditions can be obtained from there. For any addendum and corrigendum please visit on etender.up.nic.in

1. E-Tender Document will remain available on government e-portal etender.up.nic.in	13.08.2024 to 03.09.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.
2. Pre bid Conference	21.08.2024 at 12:00 Hrs.
3. Last Date of e-submission of Form (Technical/Financial)	03.09.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.
4. E-Tenders Technical Bid Opening on	03.09.2024 at 16:00 Hrs.

Chief General Manager (Tech.)

Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)
(Set up under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India)

B-500, Tower - B, 5th Floor, World Trade Center, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi - 110029
Telephone: 011-49431800/49431811/49431854/49431829/49431894/49431874
Website: www.janaushadhi.gov.in

e-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF DRUGS ON RATE CONTRACT BASIS FOR TWO YEARS

e-Tender for supply of 67 nos. of DRUGS for "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)" are invited by PMBI. Last date and time for submission of online bids against e-Tender no. PMBI/DRUG/RC-219/2024 dated 06/08/2024 for supply of drugs is 30/08/2024 up to 17:00 hours.

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

Sd/-
CEO, PMBI

Government of Odisha
Department of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

No. 6039 /SSEPD SSEPD-DA6-MISC-0023-2022 **Dt.08.08.202324**

Expression of Interest for Providing/Managing Services for Recovery Centres for Drug Addicts under Disha Scheme

SSEPD DA6 MISC 0023-2022. **Date : 07.08.2024**

The EO aims to select successful agency to act as Programme Implementing Agency (PIA) that will be responsible to provide/manage services as outlined at scope of work. The details of scope of work, eligibility criteria and submission of details can be downloaded from website <http://www.ssepd.gov.in> Last date and time for submission of the EO documents by speed post/ Registered post/courier/ hand in all working days up to **Dated. 06.09.2024.**

This EO does not entail any commitment on the part of SSEPD Deptt, Govt. of Odisha either financial or otherwise. SSEPD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the grounds. The EO will be evaluated based on the information provided.

Sd/-
Director, SSEPD
OIPR-46001/11/0010/24-25

WATER CORPORATION OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan Near Satyanagar Fly Over Bridge, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha, India
Telefax: +91-674-2391444 • E Mail: ceowatcoodisha@gmail.com
EOI Identification No. CEO, WATCO-06-24/25 Dated : 09.08.2024
WATCO No. 4909 Dated : 09.08.2024

NOTICE INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR FINANCIAL MODULE, ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR INCORPORATION IN THE BID DOCUMENT OF AREA-XIII OF CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD.

Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO), a state PSU invites financial module, environment impact assessment Report and the required documents for incorporation in the bid document of Area- XIII of CMWSB.

The proposal for the above work is invited from the interested firms having their office in Chennai and Bhubaneswar in prescribed format so as to reach to the undersigned on or before 23.08.2024 by 5.00 PM. For detail enquiry, the firms may visit our website www.watcoodisha.in. The management reserves the right to accept / reject the application without assigning any reason therefor.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer, WATCO
OIPR-13194/11/0011/24-25

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice

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

Description of work: Jhansi-Kanpur section:- Construction of limited height subway in lieu of LC No. 173, 174 & 185 (3 No.) and construction of road from LC 177 to 176 under ADEN/CNB jurisdiction.

E-Tender No.	Approx. Cost	Earnest Money
JHS-ENGG-C-2024-158	₹ 160966450.91	₹ 54800.00

Date of Closing tender: 06.09.2024 at 15.00 hrs., **Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter:** 12 Months. * Tender online can be submitted up to 15.00 hrs. on 06.09.2024. * For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railway website www.ireps.gov.in. 1414/24 FA

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

ASSAM POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of Assam Public Limited Company)

E-Tender

TENDER EVENT No: Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd/Long/Coal from CIL/24-25/ET/RFQ/89 for purchase of 500 MW Thermal (Coal based) Power on Long Term basis

Start of Event : 09.08.2024 (10:00 Hrs)
Event close Date : 23.09.2024 (15:00 Hrs)
TOE start date : 23.09.2024 (15:30 Hrs)

Bidders need to login to Deep Portal of "www.mstcecommerce.com" website to participate.

Sd/-, Chief General Manager (Commercial & EE)
APDCL, 5th Floor, Bijulee Bhawan, Guwahati, Assam-781001
Please pay your energy bill on time and help us to serve you better!

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE No. 36/2024 Dated : 06-08-2024

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

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty.
1	L8245986A	IGBT Auxiliary converter for 3 Phase locomotives - 3x130 KVA IGBT based auxiliary converter complete (01 loco set)	01 Set
2	L8246186	Design, Supply, installation, commissioning and prove out of the machine, Electric Overhead Traveling Crane shall be Double girder	01 Set

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 10:30 Hrs for Sl. No. 1 is on 29-08-2024 and for Sl. No. 2 is on 30-08-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka undertaking)

Corporate Office, "MESCOM BHAVANA", Bejai, Mangaluru - 575 004
Ph: 0824-2885795 CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

No: MESCOM/SEE(P)/EE(W)/AEE(W)/102669/2024 **Date:** 07.08.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP MODE ONLY)

MESCOM invites tender for the work of Enhancement of 1x5MVA power transformer-2 (Bank-2) by 1x10 MVA power transformer at 33/11kV 2x5MVA Koppa Sub-station in Koppa Sub-Division of Koppa Division on Partial Turnkey basis vide respective bid enquiry no. MESCOM/2024-25/SS/WORK_IDENT239.

The interested eligible bidders may log on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 14.08.2024

Sd/-, Superintending Engineer (Ele) (Proc)
For Power Related Complaints & Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
STATE HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Office of The Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit,
State Highway Development Project, PWD Annex Building, K.R.Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
Website: www.shdpkar.in E-Mail: cepishdp@gmail.com

No: CPO/SHDP/Tech/EE-3/Phase-5(Stage-1)/Tender Notification/2024-25/2642 **Date:** 12.08.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF STATE HIGHWAYS & MAJOR DISTRICT ROADS UNDER SHDP-PHASE 5 (STAGE-1)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 08/2024-25 DATED: 12-08-2024

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Chief Engineer (Additional Charge), Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible Class-I contractors registered with KPWD/CPWD. approved vide G.O No: PWD E-304 EAP 2023 Bengaluru, Dated: 29.02.2024 for below mentioned package works under SHDP Phase-5 (Stage-1), as per Standard Tender Document (KW-4) and SHDP norms in two cover system. The Tenders may submit tenders for the work given in the table through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal of the Government of Karnataka (<https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>).

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender inclusive of 18% GST (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)	Class of Contractor	Duration
1	PKG Nos: 621, 709, 741, 743, 758, 805, 806 (2 nd Call). PKG Nos: 682, 696, 697, 811, 812 (3 rd Call).	Package wise amount put to tender may be obtained through KPP Portal	Package wise EMD may be obtained through KPP Portal	Class-I & above	11 months (including monsoon)

TENDER PROCESS DETAILS: (1) Tender documents can be downloaded in KPP Portal from: 16.08.2024 to 23.08.2024 upto 4:30 P.M. (2) Pre-Tender meeting on: 19.08.2024 at 11:30 A.M. (O/o Chief Project Officer, SHDP, Bangalore). (3) Last Date & time for receipt of Tenders: 23.08.2024 upto 4:30 P.M. (4) Date & time for opening of Technical Bid: 27.08.2024 at 11:30 A.M. onwards. (5) Tentative Date & time for opening of Financial Bid: 04.09.2024 at 11.30 A.M. (6) Corrigendum/addendums and modifications in notification if any will be published in KPP portal only.

Registered Contractors in KPWD/CPWD and e-procurement are eligible to participate in tender. Any information about the tendered works can be obtained from O/o The Chief Project Officer, Project Implementation Unit, State Highway Development Project, Bengaluru during office hours on all working days and also through support@eprocelpdesk.com KPP Portal helpdesk telephone nos are +91-8046010000 / +91-8068948777.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Additional Charge),
PIU-SHDP, Bengaluru.

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No: V/E.29/2024-25/39 **Dated :** 05.08.2024

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

Name of the Work	Approx. Value (Rs.)
(Re-tender) 1) Provision and Improvement by generating Solar power for water pumping equipment at 10 locations over Mysuru Division. and 2) Provision of Solar pumps at various locations over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 89,68,360/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 26-08-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer-General
Mysuru

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bangalore - 560064

E - TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/M/OT/MRS/2024-25/22 dtd. 09/08/2024

E - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> (Works)

(1) Tender No.: RWF/M/OT/MRS/2024-25/32 dtd. 09/08/2024, (2) Name of the work: Need based filling and disposal of Graphite Dust at MRS, (3) Estimated Cost: Rs. 1889336.40, (4) Earnest Money Deposit: Rs. 377800.00, (5) Date & Time of Closing of Tenders: 31/08/2024 at 10.30 Hrs., (6) Completion Period: 24 Months, (7) This tender notice can be viewed on our website "www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in".
Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer/W-I

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 07-SNT-MYS-2024 **Dated :** 06-08-2024

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

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value (Rs.)
1	Provision of Intermediate Block Signal between Arsikere and Banavara Station on both UP and Down line.	Rs. 3,61,49,043.63
2	Replacement of conventional type block instrument with SSBPAC to enhance the reliability of the block instrument in Arsikere - Birur section of Mysuru Division.	Rs. 1,13,93,857.69

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs on 28-08-2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication, Mysuru

SC takes exception to UP CM's office for flouting its order

Says Not The First Case Of Delay In Taking Decision On Premature Release

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesgroup.com



The court had on April 10 asked Uttar Pradesh govt to consider a permanent remission plea of a life term convict who had already spent more than 14-years in jail, and granted the state six weeks time

New Delhi: Taking exception to Uttar Pradesh chief minister's secretariat not accepting and processing a file for premature release of a prisoner on the ground that the model code of conduct was in force during general elections, Supreme Court on Monday sought to know the name of the officer who was responsible for it as it had specifically ordered that model code of conduct is not a hindrance in taking the decision.

The court had on April 10 asked UP to consider a permanent remission plea of a life term convict who had already spent more than 14-years in jail and granted it six weeks time. The matter came up for hearing after twelve weeks on July 7 but the state again sought time of two weeks which was granted by the court with a warning that no further extension would be granted and contempt of court proceedings would be initiated in case of non-compliance. The court was informed that the jail authorities had favourably recommended the case of the petitioner.

The court also allowed the state to go ahead and take a decision irrespective of model code of conduct being in place during the general election. As the govt failed to take a final decision, the court had on August 5 directed the principal secretary of the prison administration department of the state to remain present in the court through video conference.

When a bench headed by Justice Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih asked the secretary the reason for delay, he informed the bench that the file was sent to CM secretariat which refused to accept the file and sent it back. The court thereafter asked him to file

his response on affidavit giving details of what happened and the name of the officer in CM office who refused to accept the file. The court said that it may proceed against the officer for contempt.

The court noted that it was not the first case where there had been delay in taking decision on premature release. In other cases also the court had said that such approach of the govt was not acceptable.

Advocate Pradeep Yadav, appearing for the life convict, submitted that the state govt approach had been discriminatory as one accused Udaybhan Karvariya was granted remission only after completing nine years in jail. Yadav said that the accused in that case was granted premature release by the governor exercising his power U/a 161 of Constitution despite the fact that he killed not only a sitting MLA but also committed murder of two unknown persons who were passing by the incident place.

TOI History Meets AI AUG 13
A VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

The Mayan calendar, believed to have started on this day in 3114 BC, predicted the world would end on Dec 21, 2012

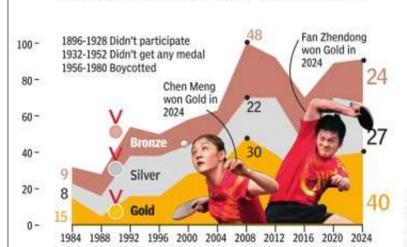
After 11 yrs, Guj HC grants bail to 2 accused in jail tunnel case

The Gujarat high court on Monday granted regular bail to two people accused in an attempted Sabarmati jail-break case from 2013. They, along with 22 others, all accused in the 2008 serial blasts case, dug a 213-foot tunnel to escape from the jail according to the charges. The two men who were granted bail on Monday, Nasir Ahmed Patel and Nadeem Saiyed, are among the three who were acquitted two years ago in the 2008 serial blasts case, but arrested in the tunnel digging case. After their acquittal in the serial blasts case, in which 49 were convicted, Patel and Saiyed applied for bail. However, their request was rejected by the court citing the gravity of the offence. After filing successive bail pleas, Musaab Shaikh, their counsel, contended that the accused have been behind bars in the case for 11 years and there is no possibility of a trial soon. This is because all the accused people have been in jail and available for the trial, but certain legal tangles delayed it.

STA TISTICS A slice of life in numbers Atul Thakur

China's Olympics Dominance

Although China dominates the recent Olympics, its overall tally of 727 medals is lower than those of the USA (2,772), Germany (1,294) and GB (983). Amid civil war and Japanese occupation, China first participated in 1932. In the next 3 editions, it couldn't win a medal. Because of a dispute with IOC over Taiwan, China withdrew from the next 6 games and didn't participate in the Moscow Games



HC: Review OCI plea for HK minors with Pak-born mom

Chandigarh: Punjab and Haryana high court directed the ministry of external affairs (MEA) to reconsider the request for Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards made by two minors whose mother is a former Pakistani citizen and father a native of Punjab. Both parents currently hold Hong Kong citizenship.

The Indian consulate general in Hong Kong had rejected their application, citing the mother's previous Pakistani citizenship. However, Justice Vinod S Bhardwaj of the high court said in a recent judgment that Section 7(A)(3) of the Citizenship Act, 1955, grants Union govt the discretion to make exceptions in such cases.

The family's counsel argued that the Centre had overlooked Section 7(A)(3), which allows for exceptions if "special circumstances" are determined. TNN

Kavitha, Nair seek parity with Sisodia & Kejriwal

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Citing Supreme Court's ruling that delay in trial and long incarceration are grounds to grant bail in money laundering cases, Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha and Aam Aadmi Party communications-in-charge Vijay Nair told the top court that they too should be granted bail as the same relief was granted to co-accused Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia.

Their petitions were listed before two different benches but their lawyers relied on the same ground to seek relief and brought to the court's notice the recent verdict in Sisodia's case in which he was granted bail in both corruption and money laundering cases being probed by CBI and ED respectively. Kavitha, who has been in custody for five months, has sought bail in both CBI and ED cases from the SC but Nair, in custody for 23 months, is seeking bail in the PMLA case as he has already

Can't arrest Puja Khedkar till Aug 21, HC tells police

New Delhi: The Delhi high court on Monday granted interim protection from arrest till Aug 21 to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar, accused of cheating and wrongly availing OBC and disability quota benefits to join the service.

Justice Subramonium Prasad, while granting relief, issued notices to Delhi Police and the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on her anticipatory bail plea. "...the court is of the opinion that the petitioner be not arrested till the next date of hearing," HC said, adding that Khedkar shall cooperate with the investigation. It listed the case for further hearing on Aug 21. During the hearing, the HC asked the police and UPSC to explain why her custody is alleged in the case when allegations are of "false representation" in a document. TNN

Apologise to CJM, J&K HC tells DC in contempt case

Saleem.Pandit
@timesofindia.com

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir high court on Monday rejected the oral apology of Ganderbal deputy commissioner (DC) Shyambir Singh in a contempt of court case, and gave him two days' time for "a more concrete demonstration of remorse" by personally apologising to Ganderbal chief judicial magistrate (CJM) Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi. The CJM had initiated contempt proceedings against Singh, a 2018 batch IAS officer, for trying to harass and intimidate him after the judge issued an order to stop the salary of several govt officials, including the DC, for non-compliance of court order in a land dispute case. The DC, who was summoned by the high court, appeared before a division bench comprising justices Atul Sreedharan and Sanjeev Kumar to respond to the contempt charges. "It was because of unforeseen circumstances, I can never dream of disrespecting the court. I apologise," Singh submitted. The bench, however, was unimpressed, and told the DC: "If you are sincere, go to the CJM Ganderbal and tender your apology there. Your apology may be considered then."

The matter was adjourned to Wednesday. The CJM initiated the contempt proceedings against Singh, accusing him of misusing his official position to harass him and interfere with the judicial process by deploying a revenue team to survey his land without proper notice.

Under state govt policy, male employees are allowed only 30 days' leave on account of their kids (under paternity leave), while women are entitled to 730 days (under childcare leave). Justice Amrita Sinha was hearing a petition by Md Abu Raihan, a teacher at a govt-aided school in North 24 Parganas, whose wife died in Dec 2023, making him the primary caregiver of their two children. He moved court after he was allowed only 30 days' leave to look after them, following current laws.

Justice Sinha said state govt should treat its employees equally, without any gender bias, adding that it should extend similar benefits to men as it does for women. She asked the state finance department joint secretary to consider the teacher's plea to review the state govt's childcare scheme. The petitioner's counsel contended that the variance in the number of leaves was discriminatory and gender-biased. "When the Constitution speaks of equality, the state govt should rise to the occasion and encourage equality in all respects," he argued, saying childcare leave should be equally distributed. Counsel for the state told the court that the benefit granted to women employees was not yet available to men.

Why not childcare leave for single dads, Calcutta HC asks govt

Srishti.Lakhotia
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Calcutta high court on Monday directed the Bengal govt to decide whether to extend childcare leave — on par with women — to an employee who is a single father, saying a father was equally responsible for raising his children as much as a mother would be.

Under state govt policy, male employees are allowed only 30 days' leave on account of their kids (under paternity leave), while women are entitled to 730 days (under childcare leave). Justice Amrita Sinha was hearing a petition by Md Abu Raihan, a teacher at a govt-aided school in North 24 Parganas, whose wife died in Dec 2023, making him the primary caregiver of their two children. He moved court after he was allowed only 30 days' leave to look after them, following current laws.

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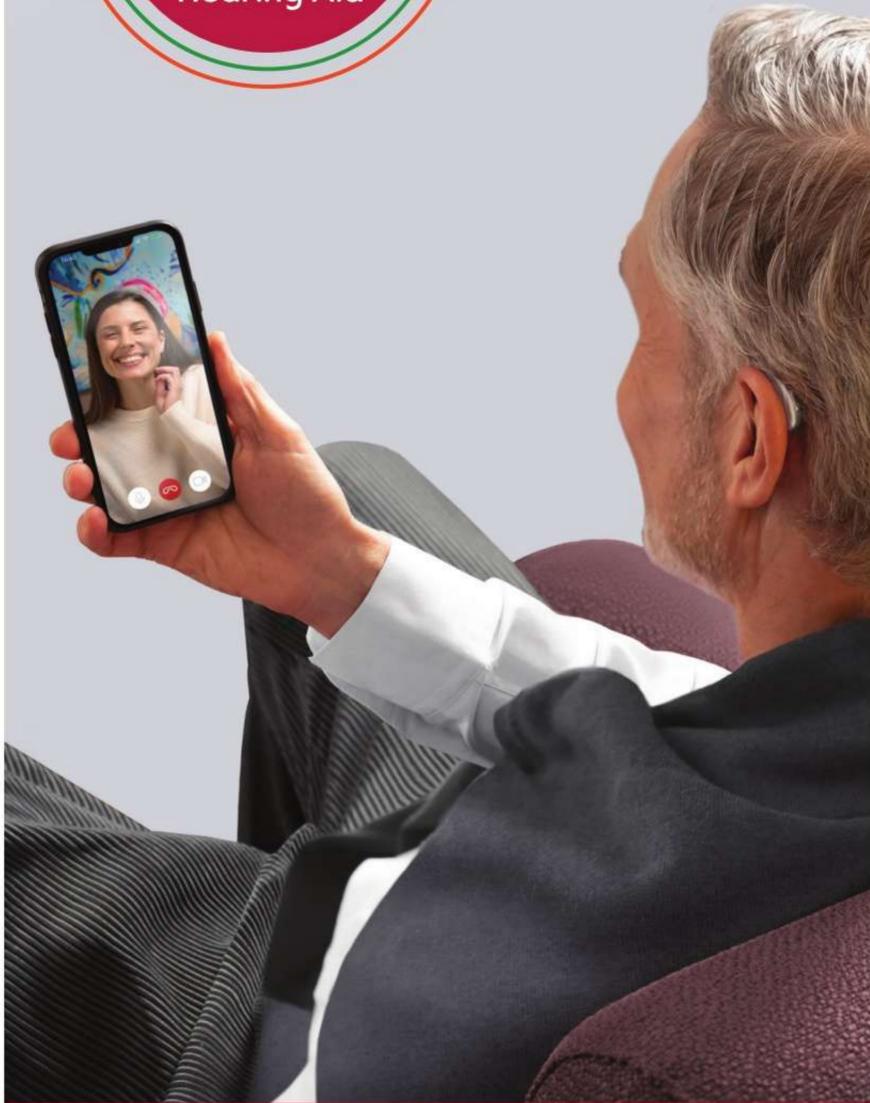
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A free primary care physician for every Indian available 24x7 and a free tutor for every child is doable in 2-to-5 years

Between the perils of tomorrow and the promise of tomorrow, Vinod Khosla has always bet on the latter. That's why billionaire founder of Khosla Ventures, who describes himself as a 'techno-optimist with caring & empathy', is busy convincing the world of an AI-powered future that can be good for all. Among the first investors in Open AI — and several Indian AI startups — Khosla spoke to Rohit Saran, Sujit John and Surojit Gupta of TOI on a host of issues ranging from AI to startups to Muhammad Yunus and Elon Musk. Here's an edited excerpt:

You have been one of the early investors in OpenAI. You have also invested in AI startups in India. As a long-time technologist and tech investor what are your views on AI and the opportunities it offers?

Let's look at a couple of different aspects of AI. From the national security point of view, govts want to be in control of their AI destiny, not be dependent on foreign algorithms.

This is why we invested in Sarvam in India. Because India should have a national AI champion. We have invested in a company called Sakana in Japan. Japan has already announced doubling of its national defence budget. They made it clear that AI be a Japanese AI, so they have control over it. Sovereignty and AI are important at a level people don't quite understand.

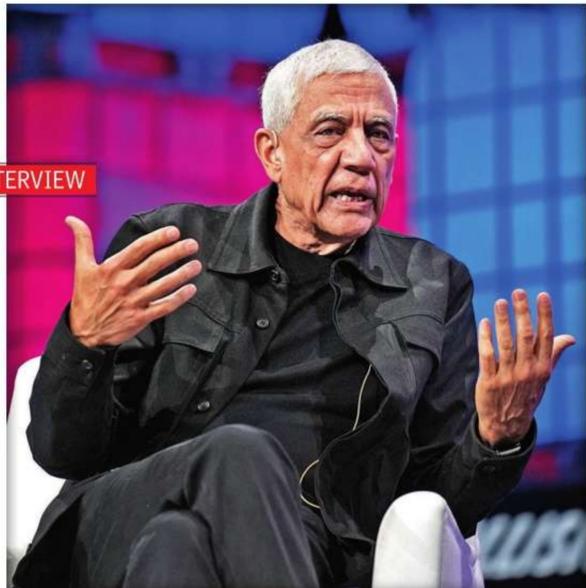
I would like to see a primary care physician for every Indian, available 24/7, for free as part of the set of digital services the govt offers. Aadhaar was the first example of such a service. The hardest part of that service was identity, and that's already done. With UPI payments are done too. There's no reason not to add other digital services — the two most important ones are a free tutor for every child and a free primary care doctor for every citizen of the country.

I would like to send a clear message to the Indian govt that AI educators, AI teachers for every child in India would cost far less than today's schools and provide much more personalised instruction. Similarly, AI primary care doctors could scale primary care and health far better than any other way. None of these are hard technologies in today's context of AI, and we are working on both. If the Indian govt wanted to take and offer it as their service, we would give them all the technology for free. There's no agenda here. I'd give them all the technology for free, so it becomes a govt service, and nobody has any questions about what the agenda is, other than these services should be available to every Indian and every Indian child and even adult education. It's very, very doable in the very short-term, and I mean two-to-five years max.

“If the govt wants to take and offer it as their service, we'd give all the technology for free”

Where does one start? What would be the roles for the govt, private sector?

My wife is in India right now, talking about our free AI tutor (CK-12 tutor). One way is to just take it over. It's used in many countries already. It's being translated into 120 different languages. I'm fine if they develop it inside India and take it over and have a starting point that's useful today. Kids using



TOI INTERVIEW

this tutor do better. Turns out it's not only cheaper, but also substantially better. It can teach each kid at the level at which they are, in their language, in a way that the kid will understand best. For example, the same physics concept can be explained using the analogy of cricket or dance, depending on which kid understands better with what analogy. You can generate AI explanations in real time, generate the content so it looks more interesting, though it's teaching the same concept. An AI tutor would change the level and method of teaching depending on each student's level of understanding. If they're not keeping up with the class. Teach them in simpler steps, change the language...

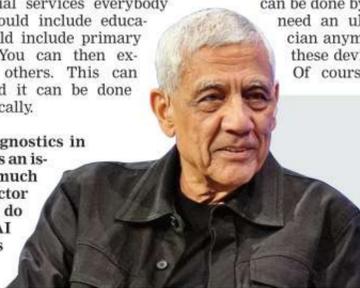
I really hope this becomes a national agenda in India. We would give the technology. The content is already there. I think fairly large chunks are translated into the Indian context. It's relatively lightweight to launch it as part of the digital public infrastructure. Digital public infrastructure should include payments, which are basic financial services everybody needs. It should include education. It should include primary healthcare. You can then expand it to others. This can be done, and it can be done philanthropically.

Medical diagnostics in rural areas is an issue, not so much getting a doctor online. How do you think AI can solve this problem?

“An ultrasound can be done by an AI. You don't need an ultrasound technician anymore”

In India we started '10 Bed ICU' during Covid, because ICUs were not available in most parts of rural India. I donated the first couple of 100 to remote areas and we wanted to cover all 700 remote districts in India. It's working really, really well. AI lets you take an unskilled person and teach them very quickly how to do skilled tasks, because the expertise sits in the AI. A 10 Bed ICU is a very simple version of it, typically under the supervision of a regional hospital. A hospital in Manipur would cover the remote areas around it. It's just the beginning of what is really possible.

Yes, if you need an MRI, you are going to go to a city to get an MRI. But for simpler things like even an ultrasound can be done by an AI. You don't need an ultrasound technician anymore. You can buy these devices for Rs 50,000. Of course, there's expen-



“Risk-taking is very different from the financial venture ecosystem in India – it's less risk-taking and more focused on growth investments. I hope we start to get to more fundamental risk-taking in India”

“Do we want farm labourers to be earning (lower) farm wages working in 45 degrees centigrade? No, that's not a job. It's servitude, but it's a necessity today...we can change the nature of those jobs”

sive ones too, but small hand-held, portable ones are becoming inexpensive and adapted to the Indian environment. All six lakh, however many villages there are, should have one. In fact, these diagnostics can be put in one van—blood test, ultrasound, ECC...

We have a company called Allvecor that sells ECG machines in the US for \$99. They diagnose without a cardiologist 35 different cardiology conditions with AI. It's FDA approved. Most of cardiology can be done with a simple device, and you don't need expertise, and expertise is what's expensive. The cardiologist is what takes 20 years to train. So, this is the promise that I hope India pivots to rapidly.

India has large youth unemployment and the fear is that AI could worsen it...

This is a real issue. Firstly, you can upgrade the skills of India's youth very quickly with AI. We had a company (that General Electric bought) to teach an Uber driver to do a cardiac ultrasound in a week. It's FDA approved. This is an extension of the idea of an AI tutor, which is where we should start. You can impart skills, which very quickly can be upgraded so they can participate at a higher level. The countries that do this well will be more competitive than others. Secondly, it's hard to imagine the kind of abundance we can get (in an AI-driven economy). If GDP grows 10% in real terms for the next 25 years, you can imagine the standard of living we can achieve and the kind of surplus we can have to provide income and other support to people for whom transition will be hard. The economy can grow much, much faster, and people can be upskilled much faster. We should think about the transition period. There's very much Utopia at the other end, but there is a transition period, and people will get disrupted.

Are you talking about guaranteed work or guaranteed income?

India has schemes for guaranteed work. I think we will have to get guaranteed income.

Should it be universal basic income? I think it will be absolutely required. I first wrote about it in 2016 that AI will cause great GDP growth, great productivity growth. I ended that piece by saying, we will need to think about universal basic income. It's very clear to me, it's where it leads, but there will be enough abundance. If we are thinking of the world in 2050 do we want farm labourers to be earning farm wages working in 45 degrees centigrade heat in the fields? No, that's not a job. In my view it's servitude, but it's a necessity today, and if we can change the nature of those jobs then it's a good thing.

“We have to find somebody who has a vision and can turn it into a reality. Mukesh Ambani did that with Jio. Sam Altman is doing it with Gen AI. He was a big part of my belief in AI”

How should AI be regulated? There are differing views on this...

I believe there's some right level of regulation. I was very involved in what President Biden did with what's called the 'executive order on AI', and that was the right level to focus it on. The technology is in very early stages. Remember, it was only December of 2022 that ChatGPT was released. It's so new, most people haven't had time to adjust. And, my bet is that in 6-12 months from now, the capability will be substantially better than it is today. Technology is making rapid progress, but, you know, human beings adjust at their pace, and jobs will take a decade or two to adjust. If you look at my robot prediction (over a billion robots that will do most of the low-value labour work done today), it's like creating a business larger than the auto industry globally. How long does that take to put in place? A long time. So, the physical world moves at a different pace, even with technology like robots. We just have to recognise that these things have to be managed and managed closely. Regulation may need to protect certain people.

What do you think about the future of entrepreneurship as an individual

passion, and startup as a business in India?

The venture business in the US is very different what's called the private equity business, which is the investing business, where you run spreadsheets and you calculate rates of return. We just bet on big ideas and we bet on technological risk. India's startup system has been closer to private equity than real risk-taking. If you need a physics invention or an AI algorithm invented, you don't know you can do it when you start. So, risk taking is very different from the financial venture ecosystem in India. It is less risk-taking and more focused on growth investments. I hope we start to get to more fundamental risk taking in India.

Should the govt play a role in setting up a large fund itself?

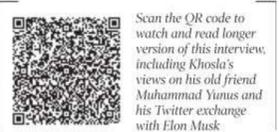
I don't think govts should be in this business. It's too dynamic a business for governments.

You were one of the earliest backers of Sam Altman. What prompted you to invest in Open AI?

Look, there are so many good ideas. People don't try them, and when they try them, you need certain types of special individuals to make them happen. These things don't happen because some academic made a forecast. They happen because one person decides to change things. When Elon Musk said, I will build an electric car, every major automaker in the world had given up on it. In fact, the department of energy here did a forecast for the number of electric cars in 2035, which Elon Musk (Tesla) exceeded in 2016 itself. So, big companies and institutions don't do these things. We have to find somebody, who has a vision and can turn it into a reality. Mukesh Ambani did that with Jio. He said, I will lay fibre... I don't care about the market. Everybody thought it was a stupid \$10 billion investment. He just made it happen. So, it takes individuals, and Sam was a big part of my belief in AI.

Dependence on technology is also creating a lazy workforce at a time when India needs to reap benefits from the demographic dividend...

The one problem technology will not solve is human motivation. If there's an easier way, humans tend to take it. I am not sure we should say technology will solve every problem, because human motivations will not change. They haven't changed for the last 500 years. In the new context, they're presented differently, but personal self-interest has always been the case. Less work and more goods have always been something people strive for.



SpiceJet flights delayed over 'salary'

Ahmedabad: Low-cost carrier SpiceJet faced major operational disruptions, reportedly due to non-payment of salaries, delaying five flights from Ahmedabad by three to seven hours on Monday. "Due to operational reasons (grounding of an aircraft), some of

our flights from Ahmedabad have been delayed," a SpiceJet spokesperson told TOI. The airline's Dubai-bound flight was delayed by seven hours, while domestic operations to Delhi, Ayodhya and Goa also faced delays. SpiceJet operates two daily flights from Ahmedabad to Delhi, they were delayed by three hours and six-and-a-half hours. The flights to Ayodhya and Goa

were delayed by at least seven hours. Similar was the situation for the arrivals. "A Goa-Ahmedabad SpiceJet flight scheduled to arrive in the city at 10.35am arrived by 5.19pm. Similarly, a Delhi-Ahmedabad flight scheduled to arrive here by 11.45am arrived at 6pm. The flight arriving from Ayodhya was delayed by about 7 hours," a source told TOI.

YouTuber cooks peacock; activists demand probe

Hyderabad: Despite crackdown by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) on YouTube channels promoting illegal hunting and cooking protected wildlife, several channels continue to host videos featuring recipes of wild boar, deer, monitor lizard, and even peafowl. A latest video of a YouTuber, Kodam Pranaykumar, on 'Traditional Peacock Curry Recipe' on his channel has triggered an outrage among animal rights activists. A case has been registered against Pranaykumar, a resident of Tangalappalli in Sircilla. In the video uploaded on Saturday, he demonstrates how to cook peafowl curry using traditional methods, indirectly promoting the illegal killing of the national bird. Pranaykumar's SriTV channel has another controversial video on cooking wild boar curry. Although these videos have since been deleted, animal rights activists have demanded an investigation by police and forest officials. "A case has been registered under BNS sections and strictest action will be taken against him and others who indulge in such activities," Rajanna Sircilla SP Akhil Mahajan said in a post on 'X'. Police have now launched a manhunt to nab him. According to Forests and Wildlife Protection Society (FAWPS), another channel, OneVBH Vlogs from Telangana, has been repeatedly uploading videos of hunting protected species. "We have asked the officials to take immediate action and book them under relevant sections of law," Mirza Kareem Baig of FAWPS said, expressing frustration over lack of action.

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No. TMC/CRP/EE Tender/CR/ 07/2024-25 Date: 12-08-2024
E-Procurement Tender :

The Chief Officer, TMC, Channarayapatna invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the development of works detailed in the below. The tenderers may submit the tenders as below. Name of Work: Providing Services of Solid Waste Management labours Such as Drivers, Supervisor, Watchman, Tractor Loaders and Unskilled labours on Out source basis For Town Municipal Council, Channarayapatna Indent No.-DMA/2024-25/SE3409. Eprocurement portal Address (Visit:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/), Channarayapatna Website Address www.channarayapatnatown.mrc.gov.in. 1] Last date and time for receipt of tenders through E-portal : From 09-08-2024 to 23-08-2024, Time:17.30 P.M 2] Time and date of opening of Technical bid : date: 26-08-2024, time 11.00 A.M Estimate Cost- 99.58 L EMD Amount - 2.0 L
sd/- (K N Hemantha) Chief Officer , TMC Channarayapatna

University of Agricultural Sciences
Estate Office, GKVK, Bangalore - 560065
No. EO/SPO/e-Proc/7/2024-25 Date:05-08-2024
TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per the Standard tender document KG-1, & KG-2, from the reputed firms for the procurement of Equipment's.

Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. Last date and time for uploading the tender on 19-08-2024 up to 4.00 p.m. The Technical bid will be opened on 21-08-2024 at 10.30 a.m. The Financial bid will be opened on 24-08-2024 at 10.30 a.m. in the Tender Committee room of Estate Office. Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also refer Website: support@eprocurehelpdesk.com Help Desk- 91-80-46010000, +91-80-68948777. Or www.uasbangalore.edu.in The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

DIPR/CP/1412/2024-25 Sd/- ESTATE OFFICER

Government of Maharashtra Swachh Maharashtra Mission (U) Urban Development Department
4th Floor, Apeejay House, Dinshaw Vacha Rd, Churchgate, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400020
Adv. No: SMM/Adv/828/2024 Date: 13/08/2024

Tender Notice
Mission Directorate, Swachh Maharashtra Mission invites online tenders from reputed and experienced firms to participate in bidding for the below-mentioned RFPS.

Name of RFPS	RFP No.	Bid Security	Cost of Document	Period of Completion	Date of Publishing RFP	Bid Due Date
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Agency for Capacity Building (CB) activities at Municipal Corporations under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 Maharashtra	RFP No: SMM/2024/CBM Corp/826	INR 20,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh only).	Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) Inclusive of GST.	Twelve (12) Months	13/08/2024 11:00 hrs	03/09/2024 15:00 hrs
Request for Proposal (RFP) For "Procurement of Tractors for Carriage of Municipal Solid Waste Under Solid Waste Management for ULBs in the Maharashtra State"	SMM/C&T/827/2024	INR 7.58 Cr.	Rs 3,50,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh and Fifty Thousand Only)	Three (3) Months	13/08/2024 11:00 hrs	28/08/2024 15:00 hrs

The complete bidding process will be online (e-tendering). Tender documents can be downloaded from the website <http://mahatenders.gov.in> from 13/08/2024 11:00 hrs. Bids can be submitted online in the e-tendering portal www.mahatenders.gov.in as per above bid schedule. All the notifications regarding this tender notice hereafter will be published online on the website <http://mahatenders.gov.in>.

Sd/- Mission Directorate, Maharashtra Urban Development Mission, Swachh Maharashtra Mission
DGIPR/2024-2025/1887

MSME DEVELOPMENT AND FACILITATION OFFICE
MINISTRY OF MSME, Government of India
Rajajinagar Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-560 010.
Ph: 080-23151581/82/83, e-Mail: dcdd-bang@dcmsme.gov.in

NOTIFICATION

MSME Development & Facilitation Office, Govt. of India, Ministry of MSME, Rajajinagar Industrial Estate, WOC Road, Bengaluru has received a proposal from M/S. Tori Dental Ceramics Manufacturers Association, Dental Cluster, Bengaluru for the Establishment of Common Facility Centre for Dental Labs under MSE-CDP, Gol scheme at 19/1, 3rd cross, Magadi main road, Vrusbhavathi nagara, Kamakshipalya Industrial area, Bengaluru District. The total project cost of Rs. 10 crores. In this regard anybody having similar projects for Establishment of CFC in the vicinity of Bengaluru are requested to submit the proposal along with requisite details to this office within 10 days from date of publication of this Notification.
CBC 25113/12/0033/2425

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Chennai airport officials seize exotic wildlife from passenger

First Gibbon And Flying Lemur Smuggling Case In India

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Customs officials at Chennai international airport arrested on Sunday a passenger from Thailand and seized from his possession exotic wildlife and reptiles, including a siamang gibbon monkey, two Sunda flying lemurs, nine four-eyed turtles, five Indo-chinese box turtles, two green-tree pythons, one white-lipped python, a red-foot tortoise and a keeled-box turtle. The flyer, Mohamed Meera Sardharali, had come from Bangkok.

The species, most of which are new to the trade, is an indicator of how the choices of illegal exotic pet lovers have changed, experts say.

The passenger, found carrying a few cartons, was stopped for questioning and officials found a variety of wildlife species hidden in ventilated boxes. The species were identified with the help of



EXOTIC ESCAPEES: A siamang gibbon and slithering pythons caught in Chennai smuggling bust. Officials confirmed they were in good health

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) who fed the animals and later confirmed they were in good health.

Based on the confession of Mohamed Meera Sardharali, customs officials secured Mohammed Idris (37), who was waiting to receive the animals, and handed him over to WCCB officials. The Chennai wildlife warden was alerted.

Based on Idris' inputs, WCCB and forest officials searched a house at Lakshmi-puram, in Kolathur, and seized 240 Indian-roofed turtles and tricarinate hill turtles, 383 star tortoises, three black pond turtles, and a royal ball python. The house had been rented by S Ravi Kumar, a police constable dismissed for his repeated involvement in

the illegal wildlife trade, said an official. "Idris was working as a smuggler for Ravi Kumar. The department is looking out for Ravi Kumar who is out on bail."

Wildlife officials said the species smuggled from Thailand were native to different continents and had arrived in Bangkok en route to Chennai to be sold in the illegal pet trade. "This is the first time a gibbon and flying lemur have been smuggled into India. With details of their feed and upkeep unknown, they may not be able to survive if treated like other pets," said a wildlife official.

The species seized in Kolathur are native to northeastern and northern India, while star tortoises are found in the dry deciduous forests of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. All the turtle species seized are categorised under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972.

Coal scam: SC debates accused's appeal rights

Continued from page 1

Bhati drew the court's attention to two orders passed by a two-judge bench led by Justice A S Oka asking coal scam accused to move the jurisdictional HC for relief, while refusing to entertain their pleas.

The three-judge benches of the SC in their judgments of 2014 and 2017 had said if any accused wanted to challenge an order of the trial court, then they would have to move the SC di-

rectly. In doing so, the SC had followed an earlier judgment that had cancelled illegal allocation of 2G spectrum to private parties on a first-come-first-served basis. The intent of the court was to prevent accused in both 2G scam and coal scam from impeding the trial process by moving the HC and had kept only the forum of SC open for them.

Appearing for some accused, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said the right of the accused, who are presumed innocent till pronounced guilty,

could not be constricted by barring them from moving the jurisdictional HC under Section 482 of Criminal Procedure Code to appeal against orders of the trial court. Though the SC had taken care to stop accused from delaying trial by moving the top court, the stay it granted on April 1, 2015, to the summons issued by a trial court to former PM Manmohan Singh in the alleged irregular allocation of Talabira-II coal block in Odisha to Hindalco in 2005 has not come up for hearing even once in the last nearly one decade.

Plaintiff demands trench for Gyanvapi survey

Rajeev Dikshit
@timesofindia.com

Varanasi: The plaintiff in the original Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi dispute suit has demanded the digging of a trench for an additional survey of the mosque to reach what he referred to as "the sanctum sanctorum of Aadi Vishweshwar temple where a tall Shivaling and arched well are buried under its central dome". The litigant, advocate Vijay Shankar Rastogi, in case No. 610/1991 Swayambhu Lord Vishweshwar vs Anjuman Intejamia Masjid (Gyanvapi mosque management committee), completed his argument on Monday before a fast-track court (FTC) in support of an additional ASI survey of the mosque. After this, the FTC of civil judge (senior division) Prashant Kumar Singh fixed Aug 21 as the next date of hearing and asked AIM to file its reply by then, Rastogi told TOI.

Police launch manhunt after deadly stampede

Continued from page 1

The vendor fled after the stampede. Police have launched a manhunt," Jehanabad DM Alankrita Pandey said. According to SP Arvind Pratap Singh, people at the front started moving back after the clash, leading to a stampede on a staircase where many of them fell. "Most of the victims were in their 30s and 40s," the SP said. The DM denied allegations of police lathicharge. "The temple sees a massive turnout of 50,000 to 1 lakh devotees on Somvati. We allow batches of 5,000 devotees at a time. All precautions were in place," Pandey said.

According to the DM, a committee of officials will carry out a probe. "The committee has been asked to submit its report in three days," Pandey said. CM Nitish Ku-



Family members of the victims mourn in Jehanabad on Monday

mar expressed condolences, describing the deaths as "extremely painful". He announced an ex gratia of Rs 4 lakh for the kin of the deceased. Local RJD MLA Kumar Krishna Mohan alleged that

enough police had not been deployed. "If it was so, the situation could have been contained with just injuries, not deaths," he said. Mohan called for oxygen cylinders to be provided at large gatherings to prevent similar tragedies.



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I Am Proud Party Stayed United When Entire Leadership Was Under Attack

After his release from jail, former deputy CM of Delhi Manish Sisodia spoke to Atul Mathur on a host of issues related to his incarceration, his role in AAP in view of the upcoming Delhi assembly polls, equation with bureaucrats and governance in Delhi. Excerpts:

You spent 530 days in jail. How did you cope and what were your thoughts in prison?

It was a much longer stay in jail than I had expected. If you are in politics, being jailed is not something unexpected. Anyone speaking out against a tyrannical govt should be prepared for it. I was in jail for 530 days on fake charges...but these fights give positive results. In jail, I used to have mood swings, sometimes after watching the news on TV, or due to the fate of my own case, or because of the general political discourse in the country. Incidents like the Hathras stampede and wrestlers' protest disturbed me. I was in jail when the elections were going on. I felt like a soldier of King Rukmi (a character in Mahabharata who was not taken by either side and watched the war from the fence) who could not fight the war and felt restless. Imagine the emotions of a warrior who has been confined or isolated when the war is on. I lived that life. It was painful.

How has your family—wife and children—coped?

It was quite tough for my son and wife. My son had just gone abroad for studying and we had no inkling that this was going to happen. My wife suffers from multiple sclerosis and her condition deteriorated when I was in jail. She is facing new complications now. She has really suffered a lot. I had never imagined that my wife would have to pay for my political fights.

You have been released at a time when chief minister Arvind Kejriwal is in jail. Both AAP govt and party are in a flux. How do you plan to

In my absence, a lot of developmental work has been done in Delhi, which, if fast-tracked and not obstructed by the LG, will immensely benefit people...It's a big achievement that even in this crucial time, construction of schools and hospitals did not stop. A lot of work has been done in the transport sector...People of Delhi want all these works to be speeded up

bring both back on track?

I am so proud that I belong to a party which stayed united and in high spirits even when the entire senior leadership was under attack. Such difficult times can break one's resolve. But the volunteers and leaders stood their ground and didn't let governance or the party get affected. Both gave their best performance.

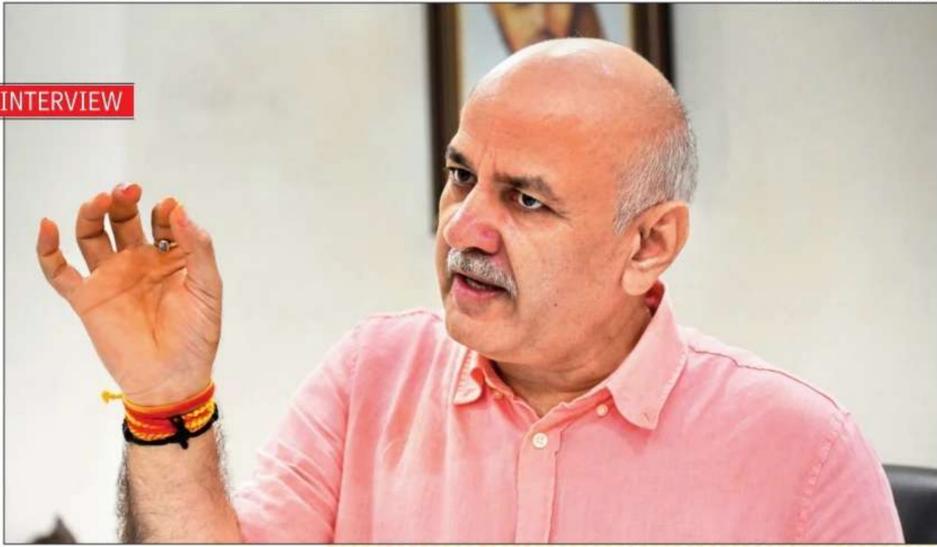
Are you going to be inducted into govt anytime soon? If yes, what will be your role—deputy CM, CM or acting CM till Arvind Kejriwal is released on bail?

I have no personal thoughts on this. I have just come out and am trying to understand a lot of things. The fact is that the elections are just a few months away and I will discharge whatever role is assigned to me. If the party or Arvind ji decide that I should join govt, I will. My first priority is winning this election. Whether my role will be required in the party or in govt, will be a collective decision.

Delhi assembly polls are months away. In the absence of the CM, neither any cabinet meeting, nor any major policy decision has been taken in the past five months. How do you plan to take governance forward?

As far as my understanding about governance goes, there is not much need to hold regular cabinet meetings to take policy decisions. Under the transaction of business rules, the ministers are capable of taking important decisions. And, as per the new Act, LG has got certain powers now. This is unconstitutional but it's a law. It all depends on LG now. If he wants some work in govt to be done, he can easily get it done. And if he wants to stop any work, he

TOI INTERVIEW



Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay

can give the excuse that the CM is not there.

How confident are you that CM Arvind Kejriwal will be out of jail soon?

Under our constitutional framework, the Supreme Court can play the role of a lawmaker. If an institution, central govt in this case, misuses its powers or makes a wrong law, Constitution empowers the other institution to check and balance it. Whenever the central govt misuses its powers, SC safeguards the rights of the affected states or individuals. It has happened in my case and I am sure it will happen in Arvind ji's case too. He will be out soon.

Is Sunita Kejriwal going to get a bigger role in the party?

There has been no discussion in the party on that. We are part of one family. I have seen her working as a bright officer and as a good life partner to Arvind ji. I have seen her as an individual who is well-educated, well-read, well-behaved and mature; and I saw her on TV as a seasoned speaker in the absence of her husband, echoing his voice in the political vacuum. People are emotionally connected with Arvind ji, and when she says that she has come to deliver his message, people listen to her. She has played this role very well in the past few months.

In the last year or so, especially after the central govt brought an ordinance to bring services under LG and later

When I said all parties should come together...it did not only mean they should join hands to contest elections. I meant it for every cause. And if there is a need, they should contest elections together....If the entire opposition joins hands, Arvind ji will be out of jail within 24 hours

enacted a law, the chasm between the elected dispensation and bureaucracy has widened. You are known to have a good equation with bureaucracy. How do you plan to bridge this gap?

I was in jail when the SC order on the 'services' matter was delivered. It was an order establishing democracy. But they killed the guiding principles of democracy by bringing the ordinance and later amending the law. Bureaucrats in Delhi are not suffering because AAP ministers are doing anything wrong. They are suffering because there is no democracy left in Delhi. You cannot call it a democracy when people elect a govt but the central govt-appointed LG threatens the officers, transfers them or does not let them work. This is not AAP vs bureaucracy in Delhi. Anybody who thinks the weakening of democracy does not affect him, Delhi is a classic example. Most bureaucrats are good, I know them personally. But whenever democracy is murdered, people suffer. Even if you bring another party to govern Delhi, it also will be affected. Our govt did a lot of work in

the last five to seven years, but everything has been stalled now in the name of the new law. LG is known only for stopping the work of people of Delhi. Officers are not scared of us. They are scared of the LG.

If AAP is elected again in the 2025 assembly polls, how are things going to be different vis-a-vis your govt and the Centre? You will have to function under the same law.

Any party that wins the election will have to fight these battles.

What are the major works that you would like to see done in Delhi before the city gets into election mode?

In my absence, a lot of developmental work has been done in Delhi, which, if fast-tracked and not obstructed by the LG, will immensely benefit people. A number of new schools were being built, but they have now instituted an inquiry into the construction of classrooms. We are now pushing for construction of new classrooms and completing other school projects. I would

like the construction of three new hospitals to be completed. Three have already been built. As I said before, it's a big achievement that even in this crucial time, construction of schools and hospitals did not stop. A lot of work has been done in the transport sector. A number of e-buses have been inducted into the fleet. Delhi has more than 7,500 buses now which is the highest ever. Of this, 2,000 are e-buses, which means we are fighting pollution as well. The work to provide better and cheaper electricity and water is already on. People of Delhi want all these works to be speeded up.

In your speech at the party office on Saturday, you called upon all opposition parties to join hands against BJP. Are you hinting at a possible alliance with Congress in Delhi for the assembly polls given the fact that the state unit is not at all keen and is giving statements against AAP and Delhi govt?

When I said all parties should come together and fight the dictatorship, it did not mean only that they should join hands to contest elections—I meant it for every cause. And if there is a need, they should contest the elections together...If the entire opposition joins hands today, Arvind ji will be out of jail within 24 hours. In the recent Lok Sabha elections and assembly polls, people have given voice to the opposition. The entire opposition should be together to question the govt on the Hindenburg report.

Why do you think BJP swept the Lok Sabha polls in Delhi despite AAP's campaign to turn the election into a referendum on the arrest of AAP leaders, including the CM?

Different narratives play out in Lok Sabha elections and assembly polls. That was not a mandate against AAP. If we had more time, we would have probably communicated the illegality of Arvind ji's arrest better. We have seen in the past elections that people vote for one party in national elections and for a different one in assembly polls.

We saw a couple of your sitting MLAs and a few municipal councillors join BJP in the last 2-3 months. How are you going to prevent defections?

As Bashir Badr said, *kuchh to majbooriyan rahi hongi, yunhi koi be-wafa nahi hota* (There would have been some compulsions for sure. One is not unfaithful without a reason). Someone was raided by ED, some have cases pending in ACB. Cases have been registered against a number of AAP MLAs and leaders but 99.9% did not buckle under pressure and stood strongly. That is the power of AAP. I suffered a lot, my family suffered, but I didn't break.

197 roads closed in HP as more rain lashes state

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kullu: Around 197 roads were closed, many areas plunged into darkness, and water supply schemes hit in Himachal Pradesh on Monday, as rains continue to lash the state through the day. According to the state emergency operation centre (SEOC), heavy rains and landslides forced 66 roads to stay closed in Shimla district, 58 in Sirmaur, 33 in Mandi, 26 in Kullu, five in Lahaul-Spiti, apart from some more in Kinnaur.

Many areas of the state were plunged into darkness, as 211 distribution transformers regions (DTRs) were disrupted on Monday, with highest 118 DTRs reported in Una, which saw heavy rain-fall and flash floods on Sunday. In all, 143 water supply schemes were affected throughout the state.

Chandigarh-Manali highway was reopened at 9 Mile in Mandi, but only one-way traffic was allowed, as landslide debris made it difficult to run traffic on both lanes.

Apoorv Devgan, deputy commissioner of Mandi, said keeping highway open at 9 Mile became a challenge. "Heavy rains are causing frequent landslides at 9 Mile. We deployed workforce, through the day and night, to ensure the highway remains open. The



Vehicles ply on a waterlogged road in Jaipur on Monday

Heavy rain lashes Rajasthan, 20 dead

Jaipur: Incessant showers, especially in Jaipur and Bharatpur divisions, have caused 20 deaths in rain-related mishaps in Rajasthan since Sunday. On Monday afternoon, two cousins from Sawai Madhopur drowned in Galta Kund in Jaipur, while one body was fished out from Kanota dam, where four others had drowned earlier. Rainfall ranging from 100 mm to 258 mm was recorded in Dausa, Karauli and Sawai Madhopur districts.

The heavy rains have disrupted normal life, with waterlogging at many places and low-lying areas inundated. Rescue teams are working round the clock to evacuate people from flooded areas and provide them with food, water and medical aid. State govt has appealed to people to avoid venturing out, unless absolutely necessary, and stay away from flooded areas. The Met department has issued a red alert for Jaipur, Karauli and Sawai Madhopur districts, where heavy to extremely heavy rainfall is expected in the next 24 hours. **TNN**

district has suffered a loss of around Rs 160 crore during this monsoon," Devgan said.

According to officials, a stretch of the highway near Pandoh started caving in and

NHAI officials inspected it on Monday. In Kinnaur, another landslide at Nigulsari blocked NH-5 on Monday afternoon, apart from five other roads in the district.

RSS consent vital to pick BJP president

Continued from page 1

The meeting, a periodic interaction between the netas, came ahead of a crucial coordination meeting of RSS in Palakkad, Kerala, from Aug 31 to Sep 2. Sources said the senior BJP and RSS functionaries also discussed other issues, including attacks on Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh, an issue on which the saffron fountainhead has expressed concern and the PM has also asked the interim govt to ensure safety of Hindus in the neighbouring country.

Sources said "RSS consent" will be crucial to nominate the next party president for which the process should have started by now as Nadda is also holding charge of the ministries of health and chemicals & fertilisers in the Modi cabinet.

As a large number of functionaries, who had long stints in crucial party posts, have been inducted into the Union govt, the party and RSS decision-makers are said to be exploring someone from a "grass-roots politics" background for the next BJP chief. There is also speculation that the next party president could be a woman or an OBC. BJP has never had a woman president and passing the baton to a woman is said to be an ideal call in view of the implementation of women's quota in Parliament.

WAR OF WORDS ENSUES AFTER HINDENBURG RELEASES SECOND REPORT

Cong, oppn trying to create economic anarchy in India: BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP on Monday slammed Congress and other opposition parties for endorsing short-seller Hindenburg's attack on Sebi and questioning the resilience of the Indian stock market and alleged that this was part of the plan to destabilise India backed by controversial currency speculator George Soros.

"After being rebuffed by the people of India, the Congress party, its allies and the trolkit gang have conspired together to usher in economic anarchy and instability in India. Hindenburg report is released on Saturday, there is uproar on Sunday so the capital market is destabilised on Monday. India is globally seen as a safe, stable and promising market," former Union minister and senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said at a press conference.

He said Congress and other opposition parties had developed "pathological hatred" for PM Narendra Modi and were trying to destabilise the country at the behest of Hindenburg, which has Soros as its main investor. Emphasising that the currency



Ravi Shankar Prasad said Congress and the opposition parties had developed "pathological hatred" for PM

speculator, who has been funding protests in different parts of the world, Prasad said, "Today we want to raise some issues. Whose investment is there in Hindenburg? Do you know this gentleman George Soros who regularly runs propaganda against India... He is the main investor there. In their pathological hatred for Narendra Modi, the Congress party has developed hatred for India itself."

The attack was amplified by Union ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia and Giriraj Singh and came amid a palpable sense of satisfaction in BJP circles over Sensex dodging the crash it suffered after Hindenburg fired its first attack on the Adani group last year.

Congress urges SC to transfer Adani probe to CBI or SIT

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress on Monday demanded the resignation of Sebi chairperson Madhabi Buch and urged the Supreme Court to transfer the Adani probe to CBI or a special investigation team "given the likelihood of Sebi's compromise".

Reiterating its demand that a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) be convened without delay to investigate the full extent of the scam, Congress leaders threatened to launch a nationwide stir with INDIA bloc parties if its JPC demand was not met.

The party also rejected BJP's allegation that Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi were trying to create "economic anarchy in the country and destabilise the market". Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh told TOI that it was "not even worth responding to such pathetically puerile posturing".

Commenting on Sebi's statement on Sunday, Congress said the regulatory body had sought to project an "image of hyperactivity" by citing the large number

of summons issued, letters and emails sent out and documents examined. Ramesh described these antics as tactics to divert attention from the core issues involved.

Pointing out that the SC had directed Sebi in March last year to "expeditiously conclude the investigation", the party said, "The fact is that Sebi's seeming inability to close two of its 24 investigations delayed publication of its findings for over a year." Ramesh alleged that "this delay conveniently allowed the prime minister to navigate an entire general election without addressing his role in facilitating his close friend's illicit activities".

"The illusion that the Sebi chairperson and her husband had separated their finances has been shattered by the revelation that after joining Sebi, she transacted in the fund from her personal email account on Feb 25, 2018," Ramesh claimed. "Clearly, no institution is sacrosanct in Amrit Kaal. Did the Sebi chairperson recuse herself from the Adani investigations?" the Congress leader asked.

Chocolate — the universal passport which has no barriers

Dr Hemant Thacker

The single most ubiquitous symbol of celebration, festivity, affection and relationship, one which is universally accepted and acknowledged among all race groups and cultures, is 'chocolate'. This brownish, mud-coloured token is a favourite across all age groups — whether little 'gattu' or 'nannu-dadu', a small bite is still savoured across the board.

It's time to now put this under the medical microscope. Chocolate is the solid bar made by combining cocoa liquor

with cocoa butter and varying quantities of sugar or sweetening agents. The cacao beans from the Theobroma cacao tree provide the basis and the terms cacao and cocoa are often used synonymously.

Cacao products, especially the unsweetened and unprocessed powder and nibs, are excellent sources of several minerals like iron, selenium, chromium, magnesium, manganese, et cetera. The medicinal benefit is imparted by the high concentration of flavanols (beneficial plant compounds), which have antioxidant, heart-protective, anti-

cancer benefits, besides other positives.

Notably, cacao products contain tryptophan, an amino acid that the body uses to make serotonin, a compound that produces brain relaxation. Notwithstanding all this, chocolate is high in calories, especially because of the saturated fats and sugar content. Of course, you can partially circumvent this by choosing dark chocolate (containing at least 70% cacao) and alternately sweetened cacao products to minimise the caloric gain and

avoid dental decay.

Really, the difference between cacao (bitter) and cocoa that you love and have grown upon, is in the stage of processing. After the harvesting of cacao pods they undergo fermenting, drying, roasting, extracting and finally grinding to make cacao powder (the cocoa butter is separated from the cocoa liquor to finally grind).

What comes to you beautifully wrapped and what you place in your mouth is a mixture of liquor and butter in different proportions. Cacao

is bitter and when additives are added and processed, the medicinal value dwindles but the bitter taste too disappears.

Innovations of today use honey with high cacao content to retain the flavonoids and health attributes without taking away from the taste.

In fact, research has shown that chocolates existed in 400 AD and after a systematic electronic database search using several sites of available data since then, the positive effect of cacao on triglycerides was remarkably favourable. The collection of data

from Kuna Indians in Panama, who had a history of regular consumption of cocoa (3 cups of 10 oz of daily beverage), showed a low incidence of hypertension and cardiovascular disease. However, when these very Indians migrated and went elsewhere this benefit dropped probably because of low consumption.

Taking a leaf out of this, newer innovations have started adding ashwagandha, turmeric, beetroot and other nutraceuticals, while maintaining a high standard of cocoa purity, to their chocolates, thus 'having the cake and eat-

ing it too'. Modern manufacturers want you to eat chocolates the way we were years ago, with no remorse or guilt after the munch, like children. I recently picked up a brand that had these ayurvedic additives along with flavours of rose and cardamom, which made the binge interesting, therapeutic and less guilty, whilst satisfying the taste buds.

So the adage that chocolates are for children can now also wear a pharmacy garb and still adorn the dessert hat. Cocoa in any form, whether beverage, nibs or even be-

ans, in moderate proportions can and does provide benefit whilst not taking away the pleasure. If Audrey Hepburn in 'My Fair Lady' wanted 'lots of chocolates' for many reasons, only 100 gm of 'Chandu Chocolate Champion' can give you the gold ticket in health benefits from natural sources, whilst sweetening your palate.

(Dr Hemant Thacker is a Consultant Physician & CardioMetabolic Specialist practising in Mumbai and affiliated to TOI. Email: dochpt@gmail.com)

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ವಾರ್ತಾ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ನಂ.17, "ವಾರ್ತಾ ಸೆಂಟರ್", ಭಗವಾನ್ ಮಹಾವೀರ ರಸ್ತೆ
(ಇನ್‌ಫೋ ರಸ್ತೆ), ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560 001.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ವಾಸಾಸಂಇಇ/8/2017-18 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06.08.2024

ಅಡಲೆ

ವಿಷಯ : ಮೆ/ ವಿಷಯ ಫಿಲಂ ಇನ್ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್ ಅನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಹಾಯಾನುಧಾನ ಸಂಹಿತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ತೆಗೆದು ಹಾಕುವ ಅಡಲೆ.

ಮೆ/ ವಿಷಯ ಫಿಲಂ ಇನ್ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್ ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಬಡಬಡ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅನುಧಾನವನ್ನು ಸಹಾಯಾನುಧಾನ ಸಂಹಿತೆಯ ನಿಯಮಗಳ ಅನ್ವಯ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡದೇ ಅನುಧಾನ ದುರುಪಯೋಗ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿದ್ದು ಹಾಗೂ ರೂ.66,02,224/- ಗಳನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪು ಎಂದ ವಸೂಲು ಮಾಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಮಾನ್ಯ ಲೋಕಾಯುಕ್ತರ ವಿಚಾರಣಾ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಡಲಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

(i) ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20-11-2009 ರ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಅಂತರಿಕ ತಪಾಸಣಾ ವರದಿ
(ii) ದಿನಾಂಕ : 22-05-2015 ರ ಉಪ ನಿಯಂತ್ರಕರು (ಅಕ್ಷಪತ್ರ), ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕಾಯುಕ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
(iii) ದಿನಾಂಕ : 26-07-2019 ರ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಲೋಕಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಇವರ ವರದಿ
(iv) ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06-07-2024 ರ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನೋಟಿಸ್

ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುವ (i) ರಿಂದ (iii) ರ ತಪಾಸಣಾ/ತಪಾಸಣಾ ವರದಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಪ್ಪು ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಬಡಬಡ ಮಾಡಿದ ಅನುಧಾನವನ್ನು ಸಹಾಯಾನುಧಾನ ಸಂಹಿತೆಯ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ವೆಚ್ಚ ಮಾಡದೇ ಅನುಧಾನ ದುರುಪಯೋಗ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವುದಾಗಿ ವರದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ರೂ.66,02,224/- ಗಳನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪು ಎಂದ ವಸೂಲು ಮಾಡಲು ಸೂಚನೆ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದೆ. (iv) ರ ಇಲಾಖೆ ನೋಟಿಸ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ತಪ್ಪು ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಕ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು 07 ದಿನಗಳೊಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವಂತೆ ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶ ನೀಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ತಪ್ಪಿದ್ದು ತಪ್ಪು ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಅಡಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಒಪ್ಪಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತೀರಿ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ಏಕಪಕ್ಷೀಯವಾಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮುಂದಿನ ಸೂಕ್ತ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ ಎಂದು ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಇದುವರವಿಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ರಕ್ಷಣಾ ಹೇಳಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಕ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳು ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸದ ಕಾರಣ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 30-07-2024 ರ ಅಡಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೆ/ ವಿಷಯ ಫಿಲಂ ಇನ್ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್ ಅನ್ನು ಸಹಾಯಾನುಧಾನ ಸಂಹಿತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆಯಿಂದ ತೆಗೆದು ಹಾಕಿ ಅಡಲಿಸಿರುವ ಅಡಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ತೆಗೆದು ಹಾಕಿ ನೀಡಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿ ಕಳುಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ, ಅವುಗಳ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತಿಯಾಗದೆ ಅಂತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯವರು ಇಲಾಖೆಗೆ ಒಂದು ದಿನ ನೀಡುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಆದ ಕಾರಣ, ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಡಲೆ ಸಂ: ED 228 ST13 77, ದಿನಾಂಕ : 23-06-1978, ವಾಕ್ಯಯು 359 ಕಸದ 90, ದಿನಾಂಕ : 05-11-1992 ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 139 ಕಸದ 2005, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20-03-2005.

CHAPTER-III: General Conditions of Recognition
10 (0) (i) Withdrawal of Recognition
ಸೂಚನೆ ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ಮುಂದೂಡಿಕೆಯ ಸಹಾಯಾನುಧಾನ ಸಂಹಿತೆಯ ನಿಯಮದಡಿ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶನದ ಅಡಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕ್ರಮವಾಗಿ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಚಲಾಯಿಸಿ ಮೆ/ ವಿಷಯ ಫಿಲಂ ಇನ್ಸ್ಟಿಟ್ಯೂಟ್ ಅನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಹಾಯಾನುಧಾನ ಸಂಹಿತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಚಲನಚಿತ್ರ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಿಂದ ತೆಗೆದು ಹಾಕಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಅಮಯಕ್ರಮ
ವಾರ್ತಾ ಮತ್ತು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ
DIPR/PRO/14/IA/PL/2024-25

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TUBERCULOSIS AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES
(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Sri Aurobindo Marg, Near Outer Ring Road, New Delhi-110030

No. : I/12396/2024 Dated : 12.08.2024

SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

1. **WHEREAS**, Mohd. Iqbal Wani, S/o Sh. Manzoor Ahmad Wani, resident of New Colony Kanihama, Tehsil Beerwa, Dist. Budgam, P/O Magam, State - Jammu & Kashmir - 193401, while working as HMTS Sanitation in this Institute, is absent from his duty since 17.12.2018 without any prior information/permission.
2. **AND WHEREAS**, an Inquiry under Rule 14 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 was instituted against Mohd. Iqbal Wani, HMTS Sanitation and Sh. Vijay Bhatt was appointed as Inquiry Authority vide office order No. Adm.2/2019/HMTS(S)-98/2527-2528 dated 24.07.2019. The Inquiry was completed and Inquiry Authority had submitted his report on 01.12.2022.
3. **AND WHEREAS**, on a careful consideration of the Inquiry Report, the Disciplinary Authority has provisionally come to the conclusion that Mohd. Iqbal Wani, HMTS Sanitation, is not a fit person to be retained in service and accordingly proposes to impose on him the penalty of "Termination of Service" under Rule 11 of CCS (CCA) conduct Rules, 1965.
4. **AND WHEREAS**, a show cause notice No.2016 dated 10.12.2022, Reminder Show Cause Notice No.I/7428/2023 dated 11.01.2023 and Reminder Show Cause Notice No.I/9457 dated 21.09.2023 were sent by post at his known address calling upon him to submit his defense, if any, in writing against the penalty proposed. However, no reply to the said show cause Notice has been received till date.
5. **NOW THEREFORE**, Mohd. Iqbal Wani, HMTS Sanitation is hereby given a last opportunity of making representation on the penalty proposed above. Any representation which he may wish to make against the penalty proposed will be considered by the Disciplinary Authority. Such a representation, if any, should be made in writing and submitted to reach the Disciplinary Authority not later than **Ten Days** from the date of publication of this Notice.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that, our client intends to transact with land measuring 59 acres 78 cents, situated in Hodakana Village, Madikeri Taluk, Kodagu District, Karnataka, from its owners, Mr. Jatin Thakorbai Naik, Mr. Prakash A Desai and Mr. Bharat Kumar S Patel, which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter to as the "Schedule Property".

Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of easement, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority, arbitrator, lis-pendens, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance howsoever ("Claim"), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent		Boundaries			
		Acres	Guntas	East By	West By	North By	South By
1.	8/70 (Old Survey No 8/24)	02	72	Survey No 8/68	Survey No 8/11	Survey No 8/67	Survey No 8/69
2.	8/67 (Old Survey No 8/11C)	07	50	Survey No 8/10	Survey Nos 12 & 8/11	Survey Nos 10/1 & 8/66	Survey Nos 8/70 & 8/78
3.	8/66 (Old Survey No 8/11D)	02	00	Survey No 8/65	Survey No 10/2	Survey No 8/65	Survey No 8/67
4.	10/1	02	46	Survey Nos 10/2 & 8/65	Survey No 8/23	Survey No 8/65	Survey No 8/67
5.	8/65 (Old Survey No 8/11B)	32	52	Survey No 1/1	Survey Nos 8/13, 8/38 & 8/23	Survey No 8/11B	Survey Nos 8/10, 8/66 & 10/1
6.	11	01	43 (Inclusive of 7cents of pot kharabh)	Survey No 8/67	Survey No 8/67	Survey Nos 8/66 & 10/2	Survey No 8/67
7.	12	04	53 (Inclusive of 45 cents of pot kharabh)	Survey No 8/67	Survey No 8/23	Survey No 8/23	Survey Nos 8/67
8.	8/68 (Old Survey No 8/9)	01	82	Survey No 8/10	Survey No 8/70	Survey No 8/67	Survey No 8/9
9.	8/9 (Old Survey No 8/9)	02	90	Survey No 8/10	Survey No 8/69	Survey No 8/68	Survey No 8/7
10.	8/23	01	90	Survey No 8/10	Survey No 8/38	Survey No 8/38	Survey No 12

Date: 12.08.2024
Place: Bengaluru
Sudheer Madamaiah, Khaitan & Co LLP.
Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor, 45/1, Magrath Road, Bengaluru-560 025, Tel: +91 80 43397000.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COOPERATIVE TRAINING (NCCT)
(An Autonomous Society Promoted by Ministry of Cooperation, Govt. of India)
3, Sri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016

Announcement for Extension of date for submission of applications.
This has reference to the advertisement dated 14.07.2024 for filling up one post of Director, VAMNICOM Pune on contract basis initially for a period of 3 years. The last date for submission of applications has now been extended to 22.08.2024 (midnight). For more details please log on to NCCT website <https://ncct.ac.in>
Deputy Director (Pers.), NCCT, New Delhi

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 023. Tel: 080-2955 7021
E-mail: pdksaps@gmail.com

No: KSAPS/PRC/04/2024-25 Date: 08.08.2024

Invitation for Tender
Through e-Procurement

Tenders (Two cover) are invited for **Printing & supply of ART register/Formats/Cards** under e-Procurement System. Details are available at e-Procurement website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> Last date for submission of tender on **02-09-2024 at 5:30 p.m.**

Sd/-
Project Director
KSAPS, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/1404/MAA/2024-25

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama" Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka State, India.

No: VTU/BGM/RE/2024-25/IFT No.27/2162 Date: 10-08-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
Two Cover System (e-Procurement Only)

The e-Tender is invited induplicate from eligible tenders, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi-18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the works of 1) Providing & Supplying Class Room Desk, Podium & Ceramic green writing board to New Classroom Complex, at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi, amounting to **Rs.1,14,06,000/- (Including GST)**; 2) Renovation, Interior & Electrical works to ITISMU / CNC / PMC at First Floor of PG Block-1, VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi (2nd Call), amounting to **Rs. 69,99,862/- (Including GST)**. The tenders, who have executed similar nature of single work costing 50% of amount put to tender, shall only apply for this work. Other details log on to website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on **13-08-2024**.

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/592/Adverto/2024-25

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (TDC)
An Autonomous Body under Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India
Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400050 (E.P.)
Extension Centre - Chikmagalur

Export-Import Management & Procedures

General Contents: Export & Import Procedures, Foreign Trade Policy and Procedures, The Documents in Export & Import, Terms of Payment including Letter of Credit, Export Promotion Council role, Marine Insurance, Credit risk coverage by ECDC, Shipping line and customs, Customs Duty Calculation, INCOTERMS, Warehousing, Port, Freight Calculation, Incentives related to Exports.

Date : 19.20.21.22.23rd Aug 24
Time : 06.00 P.M - 09.00 P.M
Fees : 3540/- (Inclusive of GST)
5 Days (week-days) Online Training Program

For more details: 9600776611, 8667359360, 7358887633
Visit us at: www.pspgkarnataka.com
E-Certificate will be Awarded

Disclaimer: The success of trainee activities, we never act to make payment on any personal account.

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India
MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (TDC)
A-17, Industrial Area, Phase-2, B-2, U.P. www.cgdnia.net

3 DAYS GOVERNMENT TRAINING ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL (PMP)

Course Duration: 3 Days (ONLINE) Date: 16, 17 & 18 August 2024
Time: 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Course Content: Project Management Basics, Project Integration Management, The Project Management Framework, Project Scope Management, Project Time Management, Project Cost Management, Human Resource Management, Project Risk Management, Project Quality Management, Project Procurement Management, Project Communications Management, Project Stakeholder Management, Professional Responsibilities. More Topic.

Fees : Rs.3,000/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)
FREE PAYMENT ONLY IN MSME TDC CDGI ACCOUNT
Coordinator: 8603769900, 9818528498
Government of India certificate will be awarded

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact number 9646117606)

E-Tender Enquiry No. 109/MM-1/BMC-336(B)/O&M/GHTP/2024 dated 09/08/2024

Dy. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Mtc. Circle-I/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for Capital/Major overhauling of Furnace Pressure Parts, Air Pre-Heaters and Wind Box & Burner System of Unit-2 (210 MW, OEM-BHEL) at GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat on Lump sum rates. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 12/08/2024 from 03:00 PM onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
GHTP/66/24, DPR/Pr: 76155/12/3285/2023/36605

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client (Client) is desirous of acquiring the immovable property which is more fully described in the Schedule hereto and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Property". Mrs. Bindu Joseph, wife of Mr. Joseph Zachariah, aged about 58 years, residing at No.32, 1st Cross, 1st Main, Shanthi Layout, Mallesandra, Jalahalli West, Bengaluru-560015, Karnataka (Owner) has represented that she is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Property, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person's other than the Owner, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, interest or claims whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their objections, if any, to the proposed transaction in connection with the Schedule Property. The said objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claims and should reach us at the address given below within a period of **07 (Seven) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owner has any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable property being three bedroom apartment with Marble floor bearing No.502 in the Fourth Floor having super built-up area of 2,805 square feet (which is inclusive of balconies and a proportionate share in the common areas) in the multi-storied building known as "Embassy Orchid", constructed on the property bearing Municipal No.57/38 (comprising of 57, 58 and 63), measuring 29,709.875 square feet, situated at 6th Cross, Raj Mahal Vistas Extension 1 Stage, Ward No.99, along with an undivided 4.012% share (equivalent to 1191.96 square feet), together with two car parking space bearing No.24 in the Basement and 01 on the surface. The entire land is bounded on the **East by : Road; West by : Road; North by : Property bearing No.59; and South by: Road.**

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 12.08.2024

(Sd/-)
Nishan G.K. Advocates,
Genesis Law Partners,
No. 307, 3rd Floor, 15/16, House of Lords, St. Marks Road, Bengaluru 560 001
nishan.gk@genesislaw.in

Government of Goa
Directorate of Mines Geology
Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji-Goa
Website: www.dmg.goa.gov.in e-mail: auction-dmg@goa.gov.in
No. DMG/28/Auction-Cell/3rd NIT/2023/ Date: 12/08/2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease of Iron ore"

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10(B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 notified thereunder, as amended from time to time notified thereunder, the Government of Goa has identified 03 (Three) Mineral Blocks of iron ore mineral for electronic auction and hereby invites tenders for the purposes of grant of Mining Lease.

Accordingly, financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format from eligible bidders.

Eligibility conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Detailed Tender Documents along with timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process for the mineral blocks are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Limited: (<https://www.mstc.com/mstc/auction/home/mc/in/index.jsp>) Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost on the website of MSTC Limited.

Last date for purchase of Tender Document after payment of tender fee on website of e-auction platform provider is Tuesday, September 24, 2024 or before 17:00 hours (Indian Standard Time) and the last date for submission of the bid is Friday, October 04, 2024 or before 17:00 hours (Indian Standard Time).

List of Mineral Blocks for Auction

Sr. No	Name of the Block	Mineral	District	#Price of Tender Document
1	Block X-Onda Mineral Block	Iron Ore	North Goa	5,00,000.00
2	Block XI- Curpema- Sulcorna Mineral Block	Iron Ore	South Goa	5,00,000.00
3	Block XII- Codlii Mineral Block	Iron Ore	South Goa	5,00,000.00

The price of Tender Document for mineral block is exclusive of GST, GST is payable under Reverse Charge Mechanism.
DI/ADVT/609/2024

Government of Goa
Directorate of Mines Geology
Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji-Goa
Website: www.dmg.goa.gov.in e-mail: auction-dmg@goa.gov.in
No. DMG/28/Auction-Cell/3rd NIT/2023/ Date: 12/08/2024

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In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10(B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 notified thereunder, as amended from time to time notified thereunder, the Government of Goa has identified 03 (Three) Mineral Blocks of iron ore mineral for electronic auction and hereby invites tenders for the purposes of grant of Mining Lease.

Accordingly, financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format from eligible bidders.

Eligibility conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Detailed Tender Documents along with timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process for the mineral blocks are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Limited: (<https://www.mstc.com/mstc/auction/home/mc/in/index.jsp>) Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost on the website of MSTC Limited.

Last date for purchase of Tender Document after payment of tender fee on website of e-auction platform provider is Tuesday, September 24, 2024 or before 17:00 hours (Indian Standard Time) and the last date for submission of the bid is Friday, October 04, 2024 or before 17:00 hours (Indian Standard Time).

List of Mineral Blocks for Auction

Sr. No	Name of the Block	Mineral	District	#Price of Tender Document
1	Block X-Onda Mineral Block	Iron Ore	North Goa	5,00,000.00
2	Block XI- Curpema- Sulcorna Mineral Block	Iron Ore	South Goa	5,00,000.00
3	Block XII- Codlii Mineral Block	Iron Ore	South Goa	5,00,000.00

The price of Tender Document for mineral block is exclusive of GST, GST is payable under Reverse Charge Mechanism.
DI/ADVT/609/2024

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Govt. of India
MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (TDC)
A-17, Industrial Area, Phase-2, B-2, U.P. www.cgdnia.net

3 DAYS GOVERNMENT TRAINING ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL (PMP)

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Time: 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Course Content: Project Management Basics, Project Integration Management, The Project Management Framework, Project Scope Management, Project Time Management, Project Cost Management, Human Resource Management, Project Risk Management, Project Quality Management, Project Procurement Management, Project Communications Management, Project Stakeholder Management, Professional Responsibilities. More Topic.

Fees : Rs.3,000/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)
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Coordinator: 8603769900, 9818528498
Government of India certificate will be awarded

BangaloreTimes

Share a favorite memory with your sibling: A sunny day at our childhood park when we played on swings and slides. My brother and I laughed and had fun.

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Scan to enter



A thought for today

I have to do what's right for me & focus on my mental health...not jeopardise my health & well-being. That's why I decided to take a step back

SIMONE BILES (TOKYO 2020)

Factor Of Four

Maharashtra heads for polls with all players battling questions. But the test is sharper for regional parties

The soon-to-be-held state elections in Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand and likely J&K, will witness cut-throat contests no less brutal than Lok Sabha fights. Lok Sabha results were a timely reminder to the political class that no party can bank on past performance and no party, in today's multi-party reality, can fight alone at the national level. State-level issues dominated both campaign and candidate performance. The upshot is, ahead of assembly elections, particularly in Maharashtra, where the stakes are the highest for all parties involved, especially the four regional ones (two Senas, two NCPs), much of everything has muchly been said.

Tricky lotus lines | For BJP, as the single party that is in office in Haryana and majority player in Maharashtra, the stakes are high not only as incumbent, but also in how the party is perceived after the knock it took in LS polls. In Maharashtra, how Mahayuti (Shinde Sena, BJP and NCP), in office, emerged from LS polls is notable. CM Shinde, who lacks a statewide presence, viewed his haul of 6 of 15 seats contested as victory, while Fadnavis, under whom BJP won 9 of 28 seats it contested, offered to resign over the party's tally. Perennial deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who recently lamented over missing out on CM-ship, holds his not being made CM as the factor responsible for his inability to rally all of NCP to his side.



Where's what matters | As Pawar Jr paddles furiously to line up his ducks in a row, the change in balance of power post LS has all three Mahayuti parties claiming credit for a slew of pre-poll measures - dole for men and women, free this and that. There's little, so far, by way of addressing Maharashtra's severe rural crisis, the Maratha quota mess or the jobs question.

Vague party lines | Whether opposition MVA (UBT-Sena, Congress, NCP-SP) will be able to carry to the assembly election gains of its LS performance is also iffy. Congress suffered a jolt when its MLAs cross-voted in biennial polls to 11 seats of the legislative council. Uddhav is yet to articulate his own brand of Sena politics that's removed from Shinde's. Sharad Pawar is reeling in MLAs from nephew's NCP, but not everyone's taking the bait. The drama of party lines and party loyalties remains unresolved for both Senas and NCPs. The Maharashtra contest will be as fascinating as its impact on national politics.

Mind & Body

Elite athletes' mental health deserves more attention than it gets. Paris Olympics was a reminder

With curtains coming down on the Paris Olympics, there's much analysis about the performance of Indian athletes. But one aspect of the Games that has changed over the years is the extreme scrutiny of athletes via social media. India's Avinash Sable, who represented the country in the 3000m steeplechase at Paris, recently highlighted social media abuse as having a big impact on athletes' well-being.

All in the mind | Being a high-performance athlete requires considerable mental fortitude. But the mental health aspect of sports is only just getting recognised. The issue came to prominence at the Tokyo Games when US champion gymnast Simone Biles pulled out of multiple events citing a case of 'twisties' - a temporary loss of spatial awareness. For Paris, a psychiatrist and a sports psychologist accompanied the Indian Olympic contingent for the very first time.

Not just about performance | While sports psychologists have been part of training of elite athletes for a while, the focus till now has been on performance enhancement. It's only after the pandemic-hit Tokyo Games that overall mental well-being of athletes became a priority. Plus, stereotypes about that elite athletes aren't supposed to show 'weakness'. Which is why it was refreshing to see Viktor Axelsen, the men's badminton gold medallist at Paris, get emotional and say, "If men cannot cry, what kind of world do we live in?"

The human touch | Just as social-media trolling won't end, athletes too will continue to get impacted by cyber-chatter. Australia's female break-dancer Rachael Gunn was the target of internet mockery over her Paris performance. While she has strongly defended herself, others can easily break. English cricketer Jonathan Trott stepped away from the game over mental health. Another former English batsman Graham Thorpe recently took his own life after struggling with depression. Elite athletes need much more systemic support to ensure their mental well-being.

Bestsellers by machine

So wrote Dahl 70 years ago, so it's happening now

Anupam Srivastava



As redundancy caused by artificial intelligence stares in the face of humanity, the first ones to go will be writers. They deserve this fate, along with their readers.

Roald Dahl's short story, *The Great Automatic Grammatizator*, heralded the end of original writing 70 years ago. In it, books written by a machine became a roaring success even if some were of 'poor quality and not 'respectable'. In the real world, success is all the respect that one needs. The one who wields the power of the pen is not the writer. The columns belong to celebrities and 'important people', with the pieces often written by 'ghostwriters' who are banished to a state of non-existence by the powerful. The bylines are fake, and as hollow as the angst the 'authors' claim to possess and display like their designer clothes.

A visit to the bookstore would further confirm the demise of original writing. The writers 'are departed', and have 'left no addresses', to rephrase Elliot. Beneath fancy covers lie words that are clichéd, the turns of phrase forced and insufficient to breathe life into dead prose. Even poetry as *vers libre* is a heap of broken sentences without rhythm or rhyme and indistinguishable from the mass of words littered in the literary purgatory. Plagiarists continue to thrive and, when caught, claim they were 'inspired', while editors reject great books that are sent to them.

The final actors in this tragic drama are readers - essentially OTT devotees who sometimes pick up a book when they cannot watch their favourite show. They are decision-making gods who dip into gossipy tales to keep up, take a break, or turn pages without reading, like lip-syncing singers who hide behind smoke jets, flames and other special effects to remain undisclosed to their audience.

It will be a nemesis of sorts for the world to lose its ability to create original writing since it has disrespected writers and artists for so long. Like everything beautiful, writing must die and be replaced by synthetic and perfect prose and poetry so well that few would notice the difference. In a utilitarian world, the purpose of writing is to inform and self-project, not awaken, reveal, or rouse. AI will take this vestigial aspect of writing out and make it fit for our times.

US Recession? Good News For India

If Fed starts cutting rates, it will increase room for rate cuts here, which are necessary because our economy is still more than a year behind where it would have been if not for the pandemic

Neelkanth Mishra



Over the past two years, consensus on US economy had shifted from anticipating a 'hard landing' (that is, a recession) to a 'soft landing': that inflation would be contained without much of a growth sacrifice. Some observers hailed this as 'immaculate disinflation'.

This has been challenged by recent economic data. Despite a slight fall, unemployment claims are well above the lows of Jan, and new job openings have slowed. In July, the unemployment rate rose to 4.3%, the highest in 3 years, and the ISM manufacturing PMI, an important bellwether, fell to a 9-month low, to a level rarely seen outside recessions.

Recession fears are back: Google Trends shows searches for 'recession' in US are up 9 times since mid-July to the highest in 2 years. A large part of the jump in stock-market volatility can be attributed to other factors, like some unwinding of the Yen carry trade, but recession fears have played a major role. Market expectations of rate cuts by the US Fed have risen significantly, as many believe these will be necessary to moderate the economic slowdown.

In particular, July's labour data triggered the 'Sahm Rule'. Discovered by Claudia Sahm, a former Fed economist, this rule states that a recession is probably underway if the average unemployment rate over the past 3 months has risen by half a percent from its low point over the previous 12 months.

The underlying logic is simple - when unemployment rises by this quantum, it triggers a self-reinforcing cycle; it hurts incomes and therefore consumption, triggering more layoffs, and so on. Over the past half-century, this rule would have correctly predicted all US recessions.

At first glance, such fears seem premature. US economy is slowing but is far from recessionary. It is the only large economy where GDP is above its pre-pandemic path. Nowcast estimates for this quarter's GDP growth in US economy were recently raised to 2.9%, from 2.6% earlier. Consumption remains steady, wage growth on average is above inflation, home prices are still rising, and layoffs have not started yet.

Even after the increase in July, the unemployment rate is still below 'normal'. Further, a large part of the

rise in unemployment has been due to more people joining the workforce (including due to a rise in immigration), with the labour force participation rate the highest this century.

But much of that is backward-looking, and financial markets tend to price in recessions or recoveries several months before they appear. Let alone 'nowcast' estimates, built on a relatively narrow set of

significant part of the growth surprise over the past two years was due to an expansion in the federal fiscal deficit. An increase in fiscal deficit boosts growth, a falling fiscal deficit is a drag on growth, and high but unchanged deficits have no impact on growth.

The fiscal impulse in US was a strong 5% of GDP around this time last year. As the deficit could not rise further, this impulse has slowed sharply to nearly zero this quarter and is likely to be in negative territory in the next few months.

Over the past two years, the pain from higher interest rates in US had been offset by the rise in fiscal deficits. Even if the deficit does not shrink to sustainable levels immediately, the absence of a positive impulse is likely to show up in weaker growth.

For example, a guinea pig (economy) that gets a growth inhibiting injection (higher interest rates) but also a growth enhancing injection (higher fiscal deficit) may not see a change in growth. But when growth boosters are stopped, its growth would slow down.

The Fed is now likely to start cutting interest rates, but a complete rate normalisation will take several quarters at least, and the impact of cuts appears with long and variable lags.

Separately, as US fiscal deficits were 'pro-cyclical' (high deficits when growth was already strong), slowing growth would push deficits higher, and thus, despite the Fed's rate cuts, yields on US gov bonds and the cost of borrowing may not fall as much.

In our view, a growth slowdown is likely, but it is too early to call for a precipitous decline. The slowdown

should be orderly if monetary easing can reduce the risk of accidents in financial markets. Volatility in the markets, though, is likely to remain elevated, as growth expectations are recalibrated, and upgrades to US growth forecasts are replaced by downgrades.

A US slowdown would affect the Indian economy too, through weaker exports. However, if there are no accidents in financial markets, easier global financial conditions, as the Fed cuts rates and potentially restarts quantitative easing, should provide Indian policymakers room to ease policy. This is necessary because despite strong growth, India's economy is still more than a year behind where it would have been if not for the pandemic.

The writer is Chief Economist, Axis Bank and Head of Global Research, Axis Capital



Volatility in the markets is likely to remain elevated, as growth expectations are recalibrated, upgrades to US growth forecasts are replaced by downgrades

indicators, even reported quarterly GDP growth can see significant revisions. The first estimate for the March 2001 quarter, for example, showed 2.0% growth, but the final one a 1.3% decline, showing that it was the first quarter of a recession.

Such large revisions are not normal, but some cooling of the economy is to be expected. In our view, a

The Kolkata Horror: How Unsafe Are Our Hospitals

A doctor's rape-murder has led to calls for a central law to protect health workers. Many states already have a stringent law in place. And absent in this conversation is the risk faced by women patients

Rema.Nagarajan@timesofindia.com



The rape and murder of a resident doctor, in Kolkata, has put the spotlight on the safety of women in hospitals. Doctors are now protesting across India, asking for a central law to protect healthcare workers, citing rising attacks. However, is it the lack of a specific law that is responsible for attacks on health workers and healthcare facilities?

The petition being circulated by protesting doctors provides an insight into why a law alone might not provide the necessary safety. It cites the case of a nurse who was attacked in Surat, in March 2022, by an emergency ward patient with an iron table and had to get three stitches. "The nurse filed an FIR and the person was booked under the Indian Penal Code 332. But there is no further information on any action taken by the hospital or by the police," states the petition.

If convicted under IPC 332, which deals with violence causing hurt to a public servant from his/her duty, the punishment is imprisonment up to three years and/or fine. It is a cognizable offence, which means the accused can be arrested without a warrant. It is non-bailable and it is non-compoundable (a provision usually applied for heinous crimes), which means that court proceedings will continue even if the victim and the accused reach a settlement privately.

Thus, the law applied was strong. That there was no further info on action taken suggests either inadequate follow-up by the hospital or the usual tardiness of the justice system. Both these problems would persist even with a new central law, as the difficulty seems to be with implementation more than the law itself.

A majority of states have already adopted a law - Medicare Service Persons And Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of violence and damage/loss to property) Act - that punishes violent perpetrators,

with some variations. However, research has shown that even in these states less than 10% of cases pursued under this law reached the court after charges were filed. Would a new law change this?

While the petition talks about safety for all health workers, there isn't a fraction of the outrage against the horror at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital when such attacks target nurses or lower-level hospital staff. There have been several horrific incidents of rape and murder of nurses where the fight for justice has



been left to their families.

In the health system, female nurses are the most vulnerable. They are subject to verbal, physical and sexual abuse by everyone from co-workers to patients and their attendants. They have no special law to protect them. They only have recourse to the general laws protecting all women in the workplace.

Consider a further twist. In four out of five cases of sexual assault in hospitals reported in 2024, the victims were female patients. In the last 10 years, there have been almost two dozen cases reported from

across India of female patients being sexually assaulted in hospitals. Do patients have recourse to a special law to protect them from violence inside the health system?

Is there a special law to protect women subjected to obstetric violence, which includes abusing and slapping a woman in labour, the prevalence of which most doctors would attest to? Is there a special law to protect patients and their families from the financial assault of being overcharged? There isn't. They use the same sections of the law as available to the general population to seek justice within the same sluggish justice system that health workers struggle with.

Patients are probably the least empowered in a health system and they do not have an organised group to protest on their behalf. No lobby has taken to the streets for patients' safety or basic rights. There are plenty of studies on the violence faced by health workers, but hardly any on the violence patients face, often by those supposed to care for them. This asymmetry has a significant effect on the sense of victimhood among health personnel, deflecting it from systemic ills.

Violence against health workers has been documented globally and it is estimated that the likelihood of assaults against health workers is four times greater than that against professionals in general workplaces. Has there been a similar study on whether patients seeking healthcare are more likely to face violence than consumers of any other service? Is there a more vulnerable category in the health system or in any service delivery system than sick patients and their families?

Studies addressing violence in health facilities have identified several risk factors, including understaffed emergency departments, lengthy waiting times for patients, poor quality of healthcare services and of communication. While these factors increase the risk of violence for health workers, they could mean risk of much suffering or even death for patients.

Calvin & Hobbes

HOW MANY BOARDS WOULD THE MONGOLS HOARD, IF THE MONGOL HORDES GOT BORED?



4-12



4-12



Sacredspace

The smallest minority on earth is the individual. Those who deny individual rights cannot claim to be defenders of minorities.

Ayn Rand

Meditation Is All About Dedication And Diligence

Sant Rajinder Singh

People from all parts of the world practise meditation to realise its physical, mental, and emotional benefits. Doctors advise their patients to meditate to help them deal with many physical ailments. Research has shown the role of meditation in slowing down brain waves, which makes us feel calmer and helps with many stress-related illnesses. Meditation involves focusing our attention, which helps with concentration and thus increases our productivity and efficiency in all spheres of life. Many people meditate for emotional gains so they can improve their relationships. We focus on these physical, mental and emotional gains because living at the level of our physical senses, we take ourselves to be our body, mind and emotions.

There is another reason for which we should meditate, and that is for spiritual gains. This is because our true nature is spirit, and the spirit, being a part of God, is everlasting. Thus, any gains experienced at the spiritual level are also everlasting. As such, it is our soul that we should focus on nourishing while we are in this body. We should meditate to realise our true nature and discover our relationship with the Creator. Meditation is a simple process for which we sit still and concentrate within to experience inner treasures. There is a typical problem that people throughout the world have while trying to meditate. That is: how to keep one's attention in meditation without being distracted by thoughts?

Our minds are active and restless and do not like to be still to focus on the wonders within. Distractions from the mind include trying to tell us we have more important things to do than to meditate, engaging us in anger, lust, greed, attachment, and ego through its need to fulfil desires, or making us dwell on the past or anticipate the future.

There are two switches for our attention: one is the switch to be attuned to our soul and the other is to be attuned to our mind. The solution for the thoughts that the mind sends us is to be able to separate what thoughts are of God and the soul, and what thoughts are of the mind. We need to learn to be vigilant when the mind is pulling a trick to distract our attention either in meditation or throughout our day.

When we have a goal that we really want to attain, nothing can stop us from trying to achieve it. Whether we want to win at sports, reach our financial goals, lose weight, or improve our relationships, we spend time working to achieve success. We put in the time and effort. It is the same with meditation. We have within us a gateway to peace, joy, and happiness. However, to access these treasures we need to meditate, by sitting in silence and staying focused to enjoy them.

We need to set our priorities. When we want to study for an exam, we set aside time and focus only on that. Similarly, when we set a time for our meditation, we focus only on meditation for that period. We then allot time for other activities through the rest of the day. This helps us preserve our meditation time only for that purpose.



THE SPEAKING TREE

Qatar Uses Most Energy Per Capita

Qatar had the highest per capita energy consumption in 2023 at 817GJ. Almost all of the country's energy consumption is derived from natural gas, of which the country has abundant reserves

Source: Visual Capitalist

Top Energy Consumers (gigajoules per capita)

817
Qatar

603
Iceland

577
Singapore

539
UAE

India's Per Capita Consumption Is Just 10% Of That Of The US

277
US

120
China

27
India



Net direct tax collection grows 23% to ₹6.9L crore

New Delhi: Net direct tax collection grew 22.5% to about Rs 6.9 lakh crore as of August 11 this fiscal, driven by personal income tax mop-up, govt data showed on Monday. The mop-up includes personal income tax collection of Rs 4.5 lakh crore and corporate tax collection of Rs 2.2 lakh crore. Securities Transaction Tax (STT) fetched Rs 21,599 crore, while other taxes (which include equalisation levy and gift tax) earned Rs 1,617 crore. AGENCIES



Ola Elec's shares up 20% for second day

Bengaluru: Ola Electric Mobility's share price rose 20% to close at Rs 109 apiece on Monday reaching the upper circuit limit for the second straight day since its public debut. On Friday, Ola Electric's shares had already risen by 20%, resulting in a valuation of \$4.8 billion for the company. The initial public offering (IPO) was priced at Rs 76 per share. With a 39% market share as of July, Ola Electric has emerged one of the leading players in India's electric scooter sales. The company introduced its first model three years ago and faces competition from other players like Ather Energy, which is also planning to go public. Ola Electric is expected to announce its first quarter financial results on Wednesday. Additionally, the company is expected to reveal a new product in the two-wheeler segment, specifically motorcycles, on Thursday. TNN

figure it out

40% of organised milk industry's revenue in India now comes from value added products like ghee, paneer, butter, curd, ice cream, cheese, yoghurt and whey

Retail inflation softens to near 5-yr low of 3.5% in July

At 4.2%, Industrial Output Growth Slows To 5-Mth Low In June

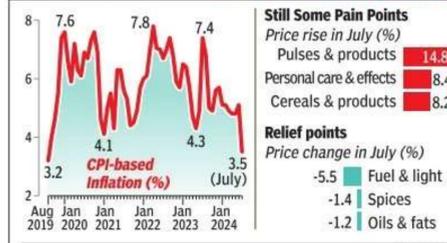
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Retail inflation softened to a near 5-year low in July, led by a moderation in vegetables, fruits and spices and the impact of a statistical high-base effect, bringing much-needed relief from the stubborn price pressures witnessed in the past few months and triggered hopes of a cut in interest rates in the second half of the fiscal year.

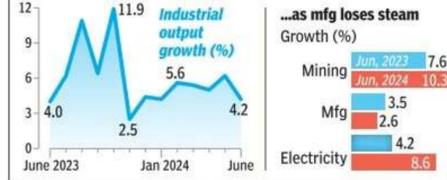
Separate data showed industrial output growth, as measured by Index of Industrial Production (IIP), moderated to a five-month low of 4.2% in June from the seven-month high of 6.2% as manufacturing sector slowed, while mining recorded a double digit expansion during the month.

The retail inflation data, which was released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday, brought some cheer as price pressures appeared to have eased. Retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), slowed to a 59-month low of 3.5%, lower than the 5.1% in June and below the 7.4% recorded in July last year. Rural inflation was at 4.1%, while urban was at near-

Retail Inflation In RBI's Comfort Zone



Industrial output growth (%) moderates in June...



ly 3%. The food price index was at 5.4%, lower than the 9.4% in June.

The food and beverages inflation moderated to a 13-month low of 5.1% after remaining above the 7% mark for the past eight months. The key driver of the easing was vegetab-

le inflation, which softened to 6.8% in July from 30% in June, but month-on-month vegetable prices rose.

"Aided by pick-up in rainfall since early-July 2024, the cumulative sowing of kharif crops exceeded the year-ago level by 1.4% as on Aug 12, 2024.

The IMD's expectations of above normal rainfall during Aug-Sept, amidst the likely development of La Nina conditions at end-Aug 2024, augurs well for kharif crops, although we remain watchful of the episodes of heavy rainfall and flooding across some states that could harm the standing crops and impact perishable prices during this period," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ratings agency ICRA.

She said that with all of the 22 essential commodities reporting an easing in their year-on-year inflation rates till Aug 10, as per the department of consumer affairs data relative to July 2024, the food and beverages inflation print should ease further in the ongoing month, dampening the headline retail inflation to 3.4% in Aug 2024. "Nevertheless, the trajectory of perishable prices remains a key monitorable in the near-term," said Nayar.

"Overall, though, we expect inflation to ease and average 4.5% this fiscal mostly due to softer food prices. This should allow the RBI to begin cutting (rates) earliest by Oct," said D K Joshi, chief economist at ratings agency Crisil.

Sensex shrugs off H'burg charge, Adani stocks dip

Selling in Adani Group Cos Not As Sharp As During Jan-Feb 2023 After First Report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In volatile trades on Monday, the Sensex closed a marginal 57-point lower at 79,649 points as investors on Dalal Street mostly discounted US short-seller Hindenburg Research's report that alleged conflict of interest on part of Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch while investigating alleged wrongdoings by Adani Group.

While the latest Hindenburg report didn't have much impact on the broader market, stock prices of some of Adani Group companies witnessed selling on Monday. However, the selling was not as sharp as during Jan-Feb 2023, after the publication of Hindenburg's first report that had alleged serious corporate malfeasance against Adani Group, which the it has denied.

After Hindenburg released its report on Saturday, there was apprehension among investors that the market may react negatively to the report, just like it had done when the first report was published in Jan 2023. However, as some market veterans had reasoned that Hindenburg's second report had no surprise element and hence unlikely to impact investor sentiment, the markets, after

a negative start in the new week, recovered quickly.

According to Vinod Nair of Geojit Financial Services, the market's initial trajectory "was eclipsed" by the controversy generated by Hindenburg's report on Sebi chairperson. "However, the market tried to ignore these noises,

"given firm oil prices and volatility in food inflation". Market players don't see any negative fallout from the Hindenburg report.

On Monday, foreign funds were big sellers with a net outflow figure of Rs 4,681 crore, BSE data showed. However, domestic funds were aggres-

Group Mcap Down ₹20K Cr To Under ₹17L Cr

FMCG Co's Stock Falls Most, Ports Biz Mcap Takes Biggest Hit

Company	Market cap (₹ cr)	Mcap change (₹ cr)	% change
Adani Ports	3.25L	-6,696	-2
Adani Energy	1.19L	-4,562	-3.7
Adani Ent.	3.59L	-3,967	-1.1
Adani Total Gas	92k	-3,849	-4
Adani Wilmar	48k	-2,073	-4.1
Adani Power	2.66L	-1,755	-0.7
ACC	43k	-683	-1.5
Sanghi Ind.	2,329	-51	-2.1
NDTV	1,308	-42	-3.1
Ambuja	1.57L	862	0.6
Adani Green	2.85L	3,152	1.1

taking positive cues from global markets. Moreover, the domestic market is anticipating ease in CPI inflation (came in at a multi-month low after markets closed), which is going to be further supported by a good monsoon."

Nair said that there are some upside risks to the market,

sive buyers and recorded a net inflow of Rs 4,478 crore. In Monday's session, among the group's companies Adani Wilmar was the worst hit and closed 4.1% down, while Adani Total Gas was down 4% and the group flagship Adani Enterprises closed 1.1% lower (see graphic).

RBI tightens norms for deposit-taking hsg fin cos

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI has tightened norms for deposit-taking housing finance companies and brought them on an par with non-banking finance companies.

The new norms increase liquidity requirements, restrict deposit mobilisation based on credit rating and restrict branch opening. The revised rules also now allow HFCs to participate in derivatives pertaining to interest rate, currencies, and credit risks.

RBI had begun the process of harmonising regulations of HFCs and NBFCs in 2020 and had said that it would progress in a phased manner to avoid disruption. The new regulations makes it much more difficult for HFCs who are not in good financial health to raise deposits. Currently, deposit-taking HFCs are required to hold 13% of public deposits as liquid assets. This requirement will increase to 15% by July 2025. Additionally, HFCs must obtain an in-

The new norms increase liquidity requirements, restrict deposit mobilisation based on credit rating and restrict branch opening



vestment-grade credit rating annually. The ceiling on the quantum of public deposits will be reduced from three times to 1.5 times their net owned fund, and the maximum maturity for public deposits will be reduced from 120 months to 60 months. New regulations for opening branches and appointing agents to collect deposits will apply to HFCs, similar to those for NBFCs.

At present, there are nine deposit-taking HFCs in operation: Cent Bank Home

Finance, Aadhar Housing Finance (formerly DHFL Vysya Housing Finance), Housing and Urban Development Corporation, ICICI Home Finance, LIC Housing Finance, Manipal Housing Finance Syndicate, PNB Housing Finance, and Sundaram Home Finance.

The regulator has also placed restrictions on premature withdrawals of large deposits with NBFCs. For emergencies, including medical needs or disasters, finance companies have to follow the insurance regulator's guidelines for defining critical illness. Currently, if a HFC makes investments in its own group companies or other HFCs that exceed 10% of its own funds, these investments must be subtracted when calculating its net owned fund (NOF). This rule will now also apply to investments made through an alternative investment fund if the HFC provides 50% or more of the money in the AIF, or if the HFC controls the AIF and contributes at least 50% of its funds.

Wipro CTO Tatavarti steps down

Bengaluru: The top-level churn continues at Wipro. Subha Tatavarti has stepped down as Wipro CTO effective Monday after a three-year stint with the IT firm.

In a regulatory filing on Monday, the company said Tatavarti has resigned to pursue opportunities outside the firm. "Tatavarti will be stepping down as chief technology officer with effect from close of business hours of August 16, 2024," Wipro said in the filing without naming her successor. At Wipro she was instrumental in driving the Lab45 AI platform that runs on a SaaS (software-as-a-service) model and supports various large language models (LLMs) from leading providers as well as custom deep-learning models.

Tatavarti was appointed in 2021. She joined Wipro from Walmart. Prior to Walmart, she headed the product, data & infrastructure platform at PayPal. Barring its CHRO Saurabh Govil, Wipro's top leadership team is relatively new. Wipro CFO Jatinder Dalal quit to join its rival Cognizant. TNN

Higher returns & secrecy draw rich to offshore funds

Partha Sinha @timesofindia.com

On Aug 10, US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research released a report that said Sebi chairman Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhal had investments in offshore investment funds which were used by Vinod Adani, brother of billionaire Gautam Adani, to invest in



ISLAND INVESTORS

ments, and diversification across asset classes and geographies. Tax havens also provide a high level of secrecy of investments and investors.

TOI Explains

Adani Group's stocks. Here's an explainer on offshore funds, their structure and tax implications:

What's an offshore fund? An offshore fund is like a mutual fund that collects money from people and invests the same abroad. Most Indians invest in offshore funds that are based in Cayman Islands, Bermuda and Cyprus, which offer huge advantages. Some funds are also based in finance hubs like Singapore and Mauritius.

Why invest in such funds? These funds offer better returns than traditional invest-

ment and wealth managers who help rich Indians invest in such funds. There is no minimum investment amount but usually, each person needs to invest at least \$100,000 in these funds. A resident Indian can invest up to \$250,000 per person per annum through RBI's liberalised remittance scheme route. An NRI can invest money from abroad without any limit.

What are the fees like? Most offshore funds charge fees in the 2-20 or similar models. This has two parts. The initial charge is 2% of the va-

lue of the assets on an annual basis. Then comes the 20% carry. Here, say the fund says it would generate an annual return of 10%. Anything above that 10% rate of return, 20% of that would be charged by the offshore fund, while the balance would remain with the investor. While the 2% annual fee is an industry standard, the 20% carry could vary depending upon the asset class, the investment region, among other factors.

The tax implications? It depends upon the tax status of the investor. Also, on how the returns — capital gains and/or dividend — are taxed in the hands of the investor at his place of residence.

Can an investor influence fund's decision-making? In most pooled funds, in which there is a large number of investors, such influence is not allowed. However, such influence could be used in offshore funds that are investment holding companies in which there's only one investor who could be an individual, an institution or a family office.

Chief executive's compensation in IT soars, it's sometimes over 1,000 times median pay

Shilpa Phadnis & Veena Mani | TNN

Bengaluru: The disparity between CEO and employee compensation in the IT industry continues to expand. Data from the past five years for select large companies shows that only IBM has seen a narrowing of the gap between CEO pay and the median employee remuneration. Accenture, Infosys, Wipro, and HCL have experienced a widening of this gap, reflecting the sharp increase in CEO compensation and particularly the value of their stock grants.

The issue has received little attention from shareholders in India. Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy has previously indicated that a fair CEO remuneration would be about 25 to 40 times that of the lowest level employee. But in his own company now, CEO Salil Parekh's compensation is nearly 700 times that of the median remuneration in the company (compared to that of the lowest level employee, it would be significantly more). And that figure has risen sharply since 2019.

Wipro has witnessed a substantial increase in the remuneration of the CEO compared to that of its employees. Former Wipro CEO Thierry Delaporte's com-

penensation was \$20 million, which meant his salary was 1,702 times more than that of the median remuneration of Rs 9.8 lakh in the 2023-24 financial year.

Within a single year, the ratio between HCL CEO C Vijayakumar compensation and the median employee remuneration widened to 707 in 2023-24, from 253:1. Accenture chief executive officer Julie Sweet's compensation in the 2023 fiscal was \$31.5 million, 633 times that of the median salary, which was \$49,842. This median salary was actually lower than the \$50,512 in the 2019 fiscal. A report by executive intelligence platform Equilar finds that the median S&P 500 (largest listed companies in the US) employee earned \$81,467 in 2023, a 5.2% increase from 2022. Due to CEO pay increasing at a higher rate than the median employee, the CEO pay ratio increased from 185 in 2022 to 196 in 2023.

The report also noted that stock awards accounted for approximately 70% of total CEO compensation in 2023. The median value of stock awards increased by 10.7% to \$9.4 million in 2023, significantly contributing to the overall rise in total compensation.

In India, disclosure of pay ratios was mandated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) in 2014. However, the regulations do not specify a computation methodology, allowing companies to use their own discretion in arriving at these numbers. Shriram Subramanian, founder and MD of proxy ad-

THE EXPANDING PAY GAP: CEO Vs EMPLOYEE

CEO compensation as multiple of median employee remuneration	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
David Rowland (Interim) / Julie Sweet, Accenture CEOs**	298	402	473	653	633	
Virginia Rometty / Arvind Krishna, IBM CEOs	319	354	347	271	312	Follows CY
Brian Humphries / Ravi Kumar Cognizant CEOs	514	414	575	571	556	
Rajesh Gopinathan / K Krithivasan, TCS CEOs*	262	214	326	396	427	
Salil Parekh, Infosys CEO*	396	502	689	872	627	677
Abidali Z Neemuchwala / Thierry Delaporte, Wipro CEOs*	689	495	896	1,006	916	1,702
C Vijayakumar, HCL CEO*			Data unavailable	253	707	

visory firm InGovern Research Services, says that over the past 10-15 years, these IT services firms have become large global companies. "Hence talent at senior levels becomes benchmarked to global levels, thus ensuring compensation is also benchmarked to global levels and growing at a rate

greater than the rate at which the company grows. However, since the number of entry level employees has increased significantly, the compensation at entry levels has not increased. This is the main reason why the pay ratio will keep increasing. Shareholders are more interested in CEO compensation be-

found significance or usefulness anywhere." Phil Fersht, chief executive officer of IT research and advisory HFS Research, says that leadership in IT services firms is increasingly becoming a critical differentiating factor, particularly at the CEO level and the CEO's direct reports. "With the recent high number of senior defections, board directors are increasingly concerned about keeping their CEOs aligned, incentivised and focused, and CEOs are similarly anxious to keep their leadership teams intact. The more cut-throat the competition, the more these firms will protect their talented leaders."

Asked about shareholder activism on this issue, Amit Batish, senior director of content & communications at Equilar, said, "There is always going to be some level of activism around the compensation that executives are awarded, given their large values. Shareholders will likely raise a red flag if they feel compensation is high compared to how the company is performing, particularly financially. If shareholders believe that their return is not adequate or if there is misalignment in pay and performance, then there will always be a possibility for some level of activism."

Long term investors, not for quick money: Mittal

Continued from page 1

BT to my mind has a much brighter future ahead and they need to be following their strategy, if I may say, even more boldly... We are not in this for making a buck or looking at stock markets up or down. We are long-term telecom investors," Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said during a call, adding that investment offered synergies. Flanked by his son Shrawin, Bharti Global MD, he pitched it as a strategic deal which was in line with strengthening India-UK ties and offered opportunities on AI, 5G and core engineering.

Once the transaction is completed, Bharti will own more stake than Deutsche Telekom's 12%. The deal follows Mexican magnate Carlos Slim's 3.2% acquisition in BT two months ago. Despite slower growth opportunities, it marks Bharti's big foray into a developed country market with the group having so far focused on Africa, Bangladesh,

Sri Lanka and Seychelles in addition to the home market. "Growth in Europe and the UK is bound to be much... So, growth is very small, 1-2% a year... But the revenue is pretty large, \$25 billion of current revenues, and \$10 billion in EBITDA... can we create more efficiency, can the free cash flows increase over a period of time..." he said.

Mittal said that his group zeroed in on BT from other options that were on the table and indicated that it may opt for more acquisitions in future. "We got this opportunity to buy a very important block of shares. It is very difficult to buy such stock in the market. It takes a long time and there are uncertainties of pricing... here was a block with a willing seller who moved in to make this offer and we quickly decided to take the same," he said.

Mittal said the stability in the Indian business in recent months, which came af-

ter some large investments and intense competition, had given the group "the courage to look at the opportunity" and the Indian operations will not be impacted in any way by the investment. BT and British authorities welcomed the transaction as did Indian authorities. "...the wheel has come full circle since 1997 when British Telecom acquired a 21% stake in Bharti Airtel... We thank UK Prime Minister @Keir_Starmer and Foreign Secretary @DavidLammy for their continued support in strengthening business ties between the two countries," commerce & industry minister tweeted.

In the past, stake acquisition in companies such as BT has attracted security concerns in the UK and Goyal's tweet suggested that the British govt may be on board. By Mittal's own admission, the transaction marks a departure from his usual style of being "an operator". Instead, his group is not seeking a board seat, at least for the moment.



HUGH JACKMAN REVEALS HE ATE 6,000 CALORIES A DAY DURING INTENSE TRAINING FOR 'DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE'

PAMELA ANDERSON ADMITS SHE QUIT HOLLYWOOD TO DITCH PLAYBOY IMAGE: 'I'M NOT THAT PERSON ANYMORE'



Bangladesh is experiencing a student-led revolution: Yunus

Says Resignations Of Officials Close To Hasina Legal

Dhaka: Bangladesh was experiencing a "student-led revolution" after the ouster of PM Sheikh Hasina, the country's new interim leader Muhammad Yunus told a group of journalists Sunday night. "This is a revolution, a student-led revolution," the Nobel laureate told a news briefing on Sunday. "There's no doubt about (that) because the business of the whole government collapsed."

Yunus, 84, arrived back in Bangladesh from Paris Thursday after he was called by the student leaders of the protests to steer democratic reforms. "I said, 'I respect you, I admire you. What you have done is absolutely unparalleled,'" he said. "Because you ordered me to do this, I take your order," Yunus said he told them.

Yunus also said that the high-profile resignations of authorities close to Hasina are legal after student leaders who organised protests against Hasina's government ultimatum for them to quit. "Legally... all the steps were taken," Yunus said. The country's chief justice, five justices and central bank governor have all resigned in the past few days.

Yunus said a key priority of the interim government is to restore the independence of the judiciary. He called former chief justice Obaidul Hassan "just a hangman".

The interim government is expected to announce a new election, but it is not clear when it will be held. AGENCIES



Bangladeshi police resumed duty on Monday, ending a weeklong strike

Army chief: Soldiers to return to barracks as police resume work

Dhaka: Bangladesh's army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman said on Monday that soldiers will return to barracks once the police resume normal operations, as he met and reviewed the security situation with the interim government head Muhammad Yunus after police officers agreed to call off their strike and return to work.

On Monday, General Zaman said there is improvement in the law and order situation in the country. "If the situation continues to improve, all regular forces will carry out their counter-terrorism operations," he was quoted as saying by the United News of Bangladesh news agency. Underlining that 30 crimes against minority communities have been committed in 20 districts of the country, he called upon the political parties to shun violence and do politics for the people.

According to sources from the chief adviser's office, Yunus expressed his satisfaction

with the improvement in the country's law and order situation. He also praised the military for stabilising the situation.

Zaman's remarks came after protesting police officers agreed to call off their strike after the interim government assured them to meet most of their demands. The Bangladesh Police Subordinate Employees Association declared the strike on Aug 6, following clashes across the country between police and students. Operations of 628 police stations, out of 639, resumed across the country Monday, the Daily Star paper reported, citing police HQ.

During the turmoil, most police stations in the country had no police personnel. Multiple police officers have reported that over 400 police stations across the country have experienced attacks, vandalism, arson, and looting.

A police HQ official said that the police have not faced such a situation since 1971. AGENCIES

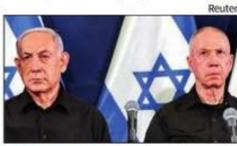
Economy priority, says interim govt as businesses face cash crunch

Dhaka: Businesses in Bangladesh are facing a liquidity crunch as the central bank has capped the withdrawal of cash from banks at 2 lakh taka amidst uncertainty in the country following the fall of Sheikh Hasin govt, a report said Monday. Bangladesh Bank set a cash withdrawal limit of 2 lakh taka (approximately Rs 1.42 lakh) per account on Saturday, increasing it from the 1 lakh taka announced earlier.

Interim finance and planning adviser Salehuddin Ahmed, a former governor of the central bank, said the priority of the interim govt was to bring the economy back on track and restore the people's trust in banks. A recent report by Moody's had warned that closure of businesses, which were already struggling due to global economic issues, could severely hurt the economy. It had lowered its GDP growth forecast for Bangladesh this year from 5.4% to 5.1%.

Meanwhile, two Bangladesh Bank deputy governors and head of the Financial Intelligence Unit (BFUI) resigned Monday following directives from the interim govt. Deputy governors Kazi Saïdur Rahman and Md Khurshid resigned in the morning, along with Masud Biswas, head of BFUI. Similarly, Bangladesh Bank's adviser Abu Farah Md Nasser submitted his resignation to the government. AGENCIES

Israel PM, def min trade barbs over 'aim' of Gaza war, exposing govt rift



GROWING APART: Netanyahu's public reprimand of Gallant is the latest episode of internal strife that has persisted since the govt took office

Jerusalem: Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu traded barbs with his defence minister Monday, underscoring the deep internal splits that continue to plague the govt as the war in Gaza risks spilling out into a wider regional conflict.

Following Israeli media reports quoting defence minister Yoav Gallant dismissing Netanyahu's war aim of total victory against Islamist movement Hamas in Gaza as "nonsense", Netanyahu's office put out a statement rebuking Gallant. "When Gallant adopts the anti-Israel narrative, he harms the chances of reaching a hostage deal," the statement said.

It said Israel's war aim remained "total victory", with the elimination of Hamas and the release of the remaining hostages seized by Hamas-led gunmen on Oct 7 last year. "This is the clear directive of PM Netanyahu and the security cabinet, and it obligates everyone — including Gallant," it said.

The public reprimand of Gallant, who has repeatedly clashed with Netanyahu and the nationalist-religious parties in his coalition, was the latest episode of internal strife that has persisted since the govt took office in 2022. Last year, Netanyahu tried to sack Gallant over his opposition to plans to curb the power of Supreme Court, only to have to reverse course in the face of mass protests. REUTERS

Amid Israel-Iran tensions, US deploys submarine to W Asia

Washington: US defence secretary Lloyd Austin has ordered the deployment of a guided missile submarine to West Asia, the Pentagon said on Sunday, as the region braces for possible attacks by Iran and its allies after the killing of senior members of Hamas and Hezbollah. While the USS Georgia, a nuclear-powered submarine, was already in the Mediterranean Sea in July, according to a US military post on social media, it was a rare move to publicly announce the deployment of a submarine.

In a statement after Austin spoke with his Israeli counterpart, the Pentagon said Austin had ordered the Abraham Lincoln strike group to accelerate its deployment to the region. "Secretary Austin reiterated the United States' commitment to take every possible step to defend Israel and noted the strengthening of US military force posture and capabilities throughout the Middle East in light of escalating regional tensions," the statement added. The US military had already said it will deploy additional fighter jets and navy warships to West Asia as Washington seeks to bolster Israeli defences.

Ismail Haniyeh, the political leader of Iran-backed Hamas, was assassinated in the Iranian capital Tehran on July 31, an attack that drew threats of revenge by Iran against Israel, which is fighting the Palestinian Islamist group in Gaza. Iran blamed Israel for the killing. Israel has not claimed responsibility. The assassination and the killing of the senior military commander of the Iran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah, Fuad Shukur, by Israel in a strike on Beirut, have fuelled concern the conflict in Gaza was turning into a wider West Asia war.

Iran has said the US bears responsibility in the assassination of Haniyeh because of



CALLS FOR GAZA TRUCE GROW: Int'l pressure mounted Monday for a truce in Gaza, with Britain, France and Germany issuing a joint plea for an end to fighting between Israel and Hamas with 'no further delay'. The call came a day after Hamas urged mediators to implement a truce plan presented by US Prez Joe Biden instead of holding more talks

Israeli min told US a large-scale Iranian attack expected: Report

Washington: Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant told US defence secretary Lloyd Austin on Sunday that Iran was making preparations for a large-scale military attack on Israel, Axios reporter Barak Ravid said in a post on X, citing a source with knowledge of the call. In a statement on Monday, Gallant's ministry confirmed the call took place overnight. It said Gallant and Austin discussed operational and strategic coordination and the Israeli military's readiness in the face of Iranian threats.

On Friday, an Iranian Revolutionary Guards deputy commander was quoted as saying

up Hezbollah, Fuad Shukur, by Israel in a strike on Beirut, have fuelled concern the conflict in Gaza was turning into a wider West Asia war.

Iran has said the US bears responsibility in the assassination of Haniyeh because of

ing by local news agencies that Iran was set to carry out an order by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to "harshly punish" Israel over the assassination of Hamas chief in Tehran.

Israel air force suspends travel abroad for personnel

Israel's air force on Monday suspended travel abroad for its service personnel, a military spokesman said. The region is bracing for possible attacks against Israel by Iran and its allies. Safety instructions from the military for the general public remained unchanged. REUTERS

its support for Israel. Reuters reported several US and coalition personnel were wounded in a drone attack on Friday in Syria, in the second major attack in recent days against US forces amid soaring tensions in West Asia. REUTERS

Hossain's statement is seen as reassuring for India

Continued from page 1

This (Bangladesh objecting to Hasina staying longer in India) is a hypothetical question. There is no reason for that. Why should relations with a particular country be affected if someone stays there?" Hossain said.

His statement is seen as reassuring for India as the UK and other Western countries dither on offering Hasina asylum. BNP, a major political force in Bangladesh, has already cautioned India against hosting her indefinitely.

How the interim govt may



Protesters demand accountability and trial against ex-PM Hasina in Dhaka

finally want to deal with Hasina remains open to speculation as Bangladesh also hasn't ruled out efforts to seek her deportation. Hossain had said the previous day that the interim govt would follow the law ministry's advice on the issue.

For India, the challenge will be to ensure that its ties with Hasina, as reflected in her decision to land here after fleeing Bangladesh, don't come in the way of likely efforts in the next few months to rebuild its relationship with ex-PM Khaleda Zia's BNP. India has had a rocky past with BNP because of the bitter rivalry between its ailing chairperson and Hasina.

A senior BNP functionary said last week that the people of Bangladesh weren't going to take kindly to India offering her a temporary home. "Right now, she is the most wanted person in

Bangladesh for numerous crimes — from murders and forced disappearances to massive corruption like siphoning out billions of dollars," said party spokesperson Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury. Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for India's ministry of external affairs, told reporters in Delhi that the Centre had little to do with Hasina's plans. "We don't have an update on her plans. It is for her to take things forward," he said.

At his meeting with foreign diplomats, Hossain reiterated that violence against any religious or ethnic group wouldn't be tolerated.

Ex-ISI chief Faiz Hameed in military custody: Army

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: A former chief of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd), has been taken into military custody and field court martial proceedings initiated against him over allegations of corruption and misuse of authority. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Pakistan army's media wing, said Monday.

This is the first time in the country's history that a court martial has been initiated against a former ISI chief. Hameed, who served as ISI chief from June 2019 to Oct 2021, was widely believed to be close to jailed former PM Imran Khan's govt.

The arrest, said ISPR, was ordered by Supreme Court on a petition filed by the owner of a private housing society in Islamabad accusing the former spymaster of torturing him and his family, and robbing them of their properties and valuables. Hameed has also been accused of multiple violations of the Pakistan Army Act after retirement.

"Complying with the orders of Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry was undertaken by Pakistan Army to ascertain the correctness of complaints in the Top City (housing society) case made against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd)," the military said.

The management of Top City had accused Hameed of orchestrating a raid on its offices and residence of its owner, Moez Khan. As per the petition, filed in May 2017, Pakistan Rangers and ISI officials had taken away valuables, including gold and diamond ornaments and money, in connection with a purported terrorism case.

Consequently, according to ISPR, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against Hameed under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act. "In addition, multiple instances of violation of Pakistan Army Act post-retirement have also been established," ISPR said.

Hameed came into the global spotlight when he was filmed drinking tea in the lobby of a Kabul hotel shortly after Taliban took over Afghanistan in 2021, forcing the former ruler, Ashraf Ghani, to flee. His transfer out of his ISI post had become a bone of contention between Imran and then army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa which ultimately ended in Imran's ouster from office in April 2022. Hameed had sought early retirement from army in Nov 2022.

Putin: Kyiv incursion a bid to stop our offensive but we will carry on

Kyiv: Russian President Vladimir Putin said Monday the Ukrainian army's incursion into the Kursk region, which has caused more than 100,000 civilians to flee and embarrassed the Kremlin, is an attempt by Kyiv to stop Moscow's offensive in eastern Ukraine's Donbas region and gain leverage in possible future peace talks.

Russian forces are still scrambling to respond to the surprise attack after almost a week of fierce fighting, but Putin insisted Moscow's army will prevail. Speaking at a meeting with top security and defence officials, Putin said the attack that began Aug 6 appeared to reflect Kyiv's attempt to gain a better negotiating position in possible future talks to end the war. He argued that Ukraine may have hoped to cause public unrest in Russia with the attack, adding that it has fa-



Putin and Russian Armed Forces chief Valery Gerasimov attend a meeting with security officials

iled to achieve that goal, and claimed the number of volunteers to join Russian military has increased due to the assault. He said Russian military is driving on with its eastern Ukraine offensive regardless.

Acting Kursk governor Alexei Smirnov reported to Putin that Ukrainian forces had pushed 12km into the Kursk region across a 40km front and currently control 28 Russian

settlements. He said 12 civilians have been killed and 121 others, including 10 children, hurt in the operation. About 121,000 people have been evacuated or left areas affected by the fighting on their own, he said. The governor of Belgorod region adjacent to Kursk also announced evacuation of people from a district near the border, describing Monday as "alarming" but giving no detail.

Russia's defence ministry said Monday reinforcements sent to the area backed by air force and artillery had fended off seven attacks near Martynovka, Borki and Korenevo during the previous 24 hours. It said forces blocked an attempt by Ukrainian mobile groups to forge deep into Russian territory near Kauchuk. Air force and artillery also struck concentrations of Ukrainian troops and equipment, it said. AP

Ukraine & Russia trade charges over N-plant fire

Moscow and Kyiv accused each other of starting a fire on the grounds of Europe's largest and now Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine on Sunday, with both sides reporting no sign of elevated radiation. The UN's IAEA nuclear watchdog, which has a presence at the vast six-reactor facility, said its experts had seen strong, dark smoke coming from the northern area of the plant following multiple explosions.

Russian state news agencies, TASS and RIA, cited the country's nuclear energy company Rosatom as saying the fire was extinguished shortly before midnight Sunday. RIA, citing Rosatom, said a drone attack started the fire at the cooling tower, without providing proof. Ukraine's nuclear power firm Energoatom said one of the cooling towers and other equipment were damaged. REUTERS

Man held after stabbing in London, 11-year-old in hosp

London: An 11-year-old girl and a 34-year-old woman were stabbed Monday in London's busy theatre district and a man was arrested, the Metropolitan Police said, adding there was no indication the attack was terror-related. The attack occurred outside a tea shop in Leicester



A cop stands guard at the attack scene in London's Leicester Square

Square, a magnet for tourists with its shops, theatres and cinemas. The square and surrounding area have an estimated 2.5 million visitors every week.

The victims were taken to a major trauma centre. The girl required treatment but her life was not in jeopardy, police said. The woman's injuries were less serious. The stabbing occurred during a recent rise in knife crime in Britain, which is on edge after days of violence as crowds spouting anti-immigrant and Islamophobic slogans clashed with police. The disturbances have been fuelled by right-wing activists who used social media to spread misinformation about a mass stabbing that killed three girls during a Taylor Swift-themed dance event. It was not clear if Monday's attack had any link to the unrest.

Police had been braced for further riots over the weekend, but no widespread unrest emerged. Ministers remained on high alert, PM Keir Starmer's office said, adding its work was not done in dealing with the fallout from the violence. AP

Trump meltdown over crowd size raises fears of mental decline

Faces Calls to Rejig Strategy As Poll Says Harris Now More Trusted To Handle Eco

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Concerns about Donald Trump's mental state is rising in America after the former president falsely accused his rival Kamala Harris of using artificial intelligence to generate fake photos of crowds at her rallies. There are also growing fears about the future of democracy in the US after Trump used his demonstrably false allegation to demand Harris be disqualified from running for White House because using AI to fake photos constituted "election interference." Calls for examining

Trump's mental fitness erupted on Monday after he endorsed a conspiracy theory by a MAGA follower about "fake crowds" at Harris events, which even Republicans acknowledge have been generating surprising energy and enthusiasm, and which have reportedly rattled the former President.

"Has anyone noticed that Kamala CHEATED at the airport? There was nobody at the plane, and she 'A.I.'d it, and showed a massive 'crowd' of so-called followers, BUT THEY DIDN'T EXIST!" Trump wrote on Truth Social, reposting a fan's theory, alleging, "She's a

CHEATER. She had NOBODY waiting, and the 'crowd' looked like 10,000 people! Same thing is happening with her fake 'crowds' at her speeches."

"This is the way the Democrats win Elections, by CHEATING — And they're even worse at the Ballot Box. She should be disqualified because the creation of a fake image is ELECTION INTERFERENCE. Anyone who does that will cheat at ANYTHING!" Trump added.

Hundreds of Harris followers and independents who attended the airport reception and her rallies responded by posting videos and photos showing crowds at different angles to counter the charge even as political veterans, including Republican stalwarts, cringed



A protest group marches in San Francisco on Sunday

at Trump's meltdown. Many are expressing fears that he is already laying the groundwork to contest a prospective electoral defeat as he did in 2020, his latest salvo coming after he raised doubts about whether Harris' ascent to the nomination replacing Biden is constitutional

by likening it to a "coup." Some of his MAGA followers have also questioned whether Harris is eligible to run for White House — because she was born to foreign students when they were not US citizens and is therefore an "anchor baby."

Even Republicans on the moderate spectrum are aghast at the direction Trump is taking, amid calls for him to be disciplined and on-message to take on an incumbent vice-president with the handicaps that comes with being in office. While many are urging him to recalibrate, other never-Trumpers are saying his current state is reflective of a "mental decline" that comes from being a "malignant narcissist" and a "sociopath." Democrats are also calling on the media to hold him to the same level of scrutiny as they have held President Biden to.

The turnaround for the worse for Trump, described by a headline that said "frontrunner is now an also-ran," is underscored by a Financial Times poll that says more Americans now trust Harris to handle the US economy than Trump.

Amid panicked calls to recalibrate his campaign and draft new advisors and strategies, Trump will be sitting down for a "live conversation" on Monday night with Elon Musk on X. Musk, now an openly pro-Trump partisan, said the event will be "Entertainment Guaranteed," while the Trump team said it will be the "interview of the century."

AROUND THE WORLD
With a record 22 Oscars from 59 nominations, Walt Disney holds the most Academy Awards ever
The Times of India is the world's largest-selling English daily



"These were sensational Olympic Games from start to finish. Or dare I say: Seinesational Games! Dear French friends, you have fallen in love with the Olympic Games. And we have fallen in love with all of you."

THOMAS BACH
INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE CHIEF



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Tom Cruise Sprinkles Stardust On Dazzling Closing Ceremony As France Celebrates Successful Staging Of The Olympics

MISSION POSSIBLE!

Paris: France bid a reluctant farewell on Monday to an "enchanted" fortnight of Olympic sport as athletes headed home from Paris praising a dazzling edition of the Games that has breathed new life into the biggest show on earth. Hollywood star Tom Cruise delivered stardust at the closing ceremony on Sunday evening — and a link with the next Games in Los Angeles — by abseiling into the national stadium. The 'Mission Impossible' star descended on a wire in front of 71,500 spectators, grabbed the Olympic flag and jumped onto a motorbike, to the delight of thousands of dancing athletes and awe-struck fans. The final act of the Paris Olympics brought relief that an event foreshadowed by worries about terror attacks, strikes or protests had passed off with barely a hitch. But there was also sadness that two weeks of high-spirited celebration had come to an end. "Keep the flame alive," urged the front-page headline of France's biggest sports newspaper, *L'Equipe*, which featured new

national swimming hero Leon Marchand and urged French people to maintain the spirit "of this enchanted fortnight". At the Athletes' Village in northern Paris, bleary-eyed athletes were packing their bags after a late night, with the French capital's two main airports braced for a huge influx of travellers and sports equipment. Magda Skarbonkiewicz, a Team USA fencer, said she would return home filled with memories of competing inside the Grand Palais, one of the historic venues used around the French capital. "It's such an iconic venue and just nothing like I've ever seen before," she said. "It's amazing to see so many people care about fencing the way the French people do." During Sunday night's closing ceremony, which stressed the Olympics' core message of peace and cooperation, International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach had praised the Paris Games for being "sport at its best". Observers had seen Paris 2024 as essential for the Olympics brand as a whole,

coming after a Covid-affected edition in Tokyo and a corruption-tainted version in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. Around 9,000 athletes flooded into the Stade de France on Sunday night for a show that featured music from French electro act Air, guitar band Phoenix, Belgian singer Angele and the Cambodian rapper VannDa. "We knew you would be brilliant, but you were magic," Paris 2024 organising chief Tony Estanguet told the crowd during a triumphal speech. He said the Games had transformed "a nation of implacable complainers" into "unbridled supporters who don't want to stop singing". Much of the media commentary has focused on the uplifting impact of the Games on the generally morose national mood. Just weeks before the Olympics, snap elections called by President Emmanuel Macron delivered a hung parliament and a historic number of seats for the far-right National Rally party. "The Paris Games offered the capital and the entire country more than two weeks of fervour and happiness that were so unexpected and appreciated given that they came after a political period dominated by the sad passions of decline and xenophobia," said an editorial in *Le Monde*. "For 17 days the stereotype of the in-

different, grumpy Frenchman went missing," wrote sports writer Owen Slot in the *Times* newspaper, adding that Paris had "made the Olympic Games look more beautiful than ever before". The closing spectacle marked the beginning of the four-year countdown to the LA Games, and American gymnastics icon Simone Biles joined Los Angeles mayor Karen Bass as the Olympic flag was formally handed over. The ceremony followed 17 days of drama-filled sporting action lit up by Biles, American sprinter Noah Lyles, Pakistan's javelin king Arshad Nadeem and casual Turkish shooter Yusuf Dikec, who has become an Internet sensation. They also featured a damaging gender row about two female boxers, Imane Khelif of Algeria and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting, who both went on to win gold. The last day of sporting action saw the United States pip China for top spot in the battle for medals after the US women's basketball team squeezed past France 67-66 to clinch the last gold of the Games. The win — the eighth consecutive Olympic women's basketball title won by the USA — ensured the Americans finished level with China on 40 golds each. The USA however finished on top of the overall medal table with a total of 126 medals, with China in second place on 91. AFP



HERO MODE: Tom Cruise (clockwise from left) rides a bike after being lowered on to the Stade de France; the Golden Voyager adds sheen; the Olympic rings and fireworks light up the Paris sky

Memories of a lifetime for Manu and Reetika

TIMES AT THE GAMES
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Paris: Manu Bhaker fuelled India's hopes at the Olympic Games by bagging two bronze medals, so it was only fitting that the youngster came back from Delhi to carry the flag along with bronze winner and retiring hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh as the curtains came at the stroke of midnight here at the Stade de France. Manu, who won third place in women's 10m air pistol and team events and narrowly missed another third place in the women's 25 pistol final, enjoyed every moment of the three-hour long spectacle in front of more than 71,500 spectators, who filled the stands hours in advance for the program, that started with a musical performance followed by the entry of flagbearers from 205 delegations. Sreejesh and Manu walked in dressed in the official team colours with 'India' glittering in golden bold letters on the back as loud applause rang from the hundreds of Indians who had taken their seat for the closing ceremony. "It was an unforgettable moment and I'll always cherish this day," Bhaker said. "The 22-year-old added that it was "such a great honour to carry the national flag". Manu's only disappointment was that she couldn't capture some of the treasured moments on her mobile phone. "Manu lost her phone when she returned to Delhi. She put it in airplane mode and left it on her seat and forgot to take it with her after landing in Delhi. It was a big loss as it was the same phone that was gifted to her by the official sponsor at the Tokyo Games," sources told TOI. "A complaint was lodged with the carrier and we searched in the lost-and-found items. But Manu's mobile was not there," sources added. Sreejesh, meanwhile, had no such problems and he was seen clicking away after



STAR STRUCK: Wrestler Reetika Hooda poses with Cuban legend Mijain Lopez

they took turns to wave the national flag. Wrestler Reetika Hooda was among the lucky few in the Indian contingent who got to stay back to be part of the closing ceremony. "I felt very good to represent my country in front of such a large audience. It was a bitter sad moment for me as I missed out on a medal," said Reetika, the first Indian wrestler to qualify in the women's heavy-weight category. For Reetika, the big moment was not to watch Hollywood star Tom Cruise take the Games flag to Los Angeles but to meet and greet Cuban wrestling legend Mijain Lopez. Lopez won his first gold at Beijing in 2008 and he retired here after winning his fifth straight gold in the men's Greco Roman 130-kg category. "I'm not even a big fan of Bollywood, so Hollywood is very far," she said with a smile. "But to meet and pose for a picture with Lopez sir was a priceless moment," she told TOI.

Diving champ Daley feels it's 'right time' to retire

London: Former Olympic gold medalist Tom Daley said on Monday it was the "right time" to retire as Britain's most successful diver walked away from the sport following the Paris Games. Daley, who won five Olympic medals during his decorated career, revealed the decision to call time on the sport during an interview with *Vogue*. The 30-year-old bowed out after winning silver in the Olympic men's synchronised 10m platform in France, having clinched gold in the same event at the Tokyo Games.

"I have to make the decision at some point, and it feels like the right time. It's the right time to call it a day," Daley said. Daley emerged as the star of British diving after first competing at the Olympics in the 2008 Beijing Games aged just 14. He won bronze at the 2012 Olympics in London in the 10m platform, as well as bronze in the men's synchronised 10m platform in Rio 2016. Daley had effectively retired after his gold medal success in Tokyo, before deciding to return for a fifth Olympics in



order to compete in front of his two children. He decided ahead of the event that he would stop diving competitively once he stepped out of the pool in Paris. "It feels very, very surreal. I felt so incredibly nervous going into this, knowing it was my last Olympics," he said. "There was a lot of pressure and expectations. I was eager for it to be done. It was emotional at the end." AFP

IRISH OLYMPIAN WIFFEN HOSPITALISED AFTER SEINE SWIM

Paris: Irish double medal-winning Olympian Daniel Wiffen said on Monday he had "rushed" to hospital in Paris with a stomach bug two days after taking part in the marathon swimming in the Seine river. The 800m swimming champion and 1500m bronze medallist was meant to be carrying the Irish flag during Sunday's closing ceremony, but did not appear. "I'm incredibly disappointed," Wiffen wrote on X. "I rushed to hospital as I was very unwell with a bug that I am being treated for." Wiffen took part in the men's 10km marathon swim. He did not link his illness to the water quality. AFP

Off-beat stories

In every Summer Games, many unique sports make it to the programme. Paris also had several fringe disciplines which added their own flavour and colour to the Games. Hindol Basu gives you the lowdown...

SKATEBOARDING

Skateboarding made its debut appearance at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. There are two different skateboarding disciplines at the Olympics: park and street. With male and female categories open for both disciplines, there are a total of four skateboarding events at the Games. Park skateboarding takes place on a varied course combining bowls and bends, to help the athletes gather speed and perform tricks mid-air. In the park events, athletes compete in three 45-second runs and are judged on their ability to use the surfaces to gain height and perform a wide range of tricks in preliminary rounds and finals. The street competition takes place on a 'street-like' course with stairs, handrails and other obstacles to resemble the urban environments where skateboarding started out. Street competitions see athletes compete in two 45-second runs, performing just five tricks per run in a competition of preliminary rounds and finals.



SURFING

Surfing made it onto the Olympic programme for the Tokyo 2020 Games and made a return to Paris 2024. The picturesque surfing spot of Teahupo'o in Tahiti was venue for the surfing competition. Surfers perform manoeuvres and tricks on a wave that are scored by five judges based on the

variety, type and difficulty of the tricks. Surfers are also judged on their speed, power and flow (the way in which a surfer seamlessly connects their moves from one to the next). Shortboards are the surfboards of choice for the Olympics. Smaller than longboards, shortboards are faster and more manoeuvrable.



MOUNTAIN BIKING

Mountain bike made its Olympic debut at the Atlanta 1996 Olympics with individual races for men and women. French and Swiss athletes have regularly finished on the Olympic podium, combining for 16 of the 42 medals awarded in the discipline. The sport at the Olympics involves two cross-country mountain bike events: one for women and one for men. Riders set off from the same starting line and contest multiple laps around a loop on mountainous, rough terrain that tests their technique, endurance, and stamina. Races feature a mass start and, in general, multiple laps. Riders take one to two hours to complete an intense course full of twists and turns, covering tens of kilometres during the event.



3X3 BASKETBALL

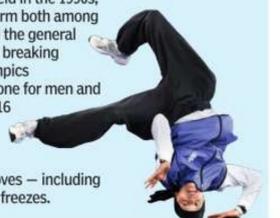
Considered to be the number one urban sport in the world, 3X3 basketball has its roots in street basketball — a creative variation of the indoor game with a less formal structure. Evolving from outdoor courts to the Olympics, 3X3 basketball has been structured over the years by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), the governing body responsible for developing basketball. 3X3 basketball is played on one half of a basketball court where two teams of three players compete. Both teams attack and defend the same hoop, depending on who has possession of the ball. The winner is the team with the highest score at the end of 10 minutes or the first team to reach 21 points. The three-point line in conventional basketball serves as the two-point line in 3X3 basketball, with shots made outside the line earning two points and those inside it one. It was at the 2020 Olympics that the first-ever 3X3 Olympic titles were won.

SPORT CLIMBING

Climbing also debuted at the Tokyo Games. Climbing's addition, along with skateboarding and surfing, was part of a movement to expand the programme to include more urban sports. Climbing is broken down into three disciplines: bouldering, speed and lead. Bouldering: Athletes ascend a 4.5-metre wall without ropes in a limited period of time and in the fewest attempts possible. Lead: Climbers go as high as they can on a 15-metre wall in six minutes in a single attempt. Speed: A race against the clock, climbers scale a 15-metre wall with a five-degree incline.

BREAKING

Breaking is an urban dance style that originated in the United States in the 1970s. With roots in hip-hop culture, breaking first took form in the lively block parties in the Bronx borough of New York, and is characterized by acrobatic movements, stylised footwork, and the key role played by the DJ and the MC (master of ceremonies) during battles. International competitions were first held in the 1990s, popularising the dance form both among hip-hop communities and the general public along the way. The breaking competition at Paris Olympics comprises two events — one for men and one for women — where 16 boys and 16 girls faced off in solo battles. Athletes used a combination of power moves — including windmills, the 6-step and freezes.



SNAP SHOTS

Scheffler gets \$8m bonus

Olympic champion and world No. 1 Scottie Scheffler has pocketed \$8 million for finishing top of the Comcast Business Tour Top 10 list that highlights season-long performance, the PGA Tour said on Monday. Scheffler won six tournaments during the PGA Tour's 2024 season, including four Signature events and a second career major championship (Masters).

Atletico sign Alvarez from Man City:

Atletico Madrid signed striker Julian Alvarez from Manchester City on Monday in a deal reported to be worth up to 85 million euros (\$93 million). "The club has reached an agreement with Manchester City for the transfer of the Argentine forward, who has signed a contract for the next six seasons," said Atletico in a statement. Spanish reports say Atletico will pay 75 million euros for the forward, with potentially 10 million more in bonuses.

Preeti shines: Preeti scored a brace in Maatrpratishana FC's 2-0 win over Misaka United FC in the Karnataka Women's League football tournament in Bengaluru on Monday. In another match, Rebels Women's FC and United FC Kodagu played out a 2-2 draw. Senorita Nongpluh scored twice for Rebels while Ayush Malvi and Divya Rana found the net for United FC. **Results:** Maatrpratishana FC 2 (Preeti 28, 67) bt Misaka United FC 0; Rebels Women's FC 2 (Senorita Nongpluh 23, 63) drew with United FC Kodagu 2 (Ayush Malvi 29, Divya Rana 90+3).

St. Joseph's Boys HS prevail: St. Joseph's Boys' High School blanked Baldwin Boys' High School 6-0 in the Centenary Shield (U-17) hockey tournament in Bengaluru on Monday. Gagan Chetan sounded the boards twice, while Brenden Vincent, Ronith Infant, Adhavan and Akrit Rodrigues scored one apiece. **Results:** St. Joseph's Boys HS 6 (Brenden Vincent 3, Ronith Infant 7, Adhavan 12, Gagan Chetan 13, 19; Akrit Rodrigues 16) bt Baldwin Boys High School 0; Frank Anthony Public School 1 (Ronnie 27) bt Bishop Cotton BS 0; Vidyaship Academy 4 (Shikarjeeth Singh 12, 22; Sohan Kadali 28, Nived Nair 38) bt Sarala Birla Academy 0.

Today's fixtures: Centenary Shield (U-17): Vidyaship Academy vs Bishop Cotton BS (9.15am); FAPS vs Sarala Birla Academy (10.30am). **Fr. Claude D'Souza Memorial (U-12):** 5-A-side: SJBHS vs Vidyaship 'A' (9.15am); Baldwin Boys vs FAPS (9.50am); Vidyaship 'A' vs Chinnmaya 'B' (10.30am); FAPS vs Chinnmaya 'A' (11.15am); Vidyaship 'B' vs Baldwin Boys (11.50am); Chinnmaya 'A' vs Baldwin Boys (12.30pm).

Bagalkot City edge past Gameon: Bagalkot City Sports Club eked out a 3-2 win over Gameon Hockey Club in the KSHA-DS Murthy Memorial hockey tournament in Bengaluru on Monday. **Results:** Bagalkot City SC 3 (Raghavendra Kavita 1, 10, Shrishail Gonal 25) bt Gameon HC 2 (Sharan 11, Sarthosh 16); Naveen HC 2 (Naveen Kumar 10, 19) bt Anglo Indian HC 0.

Today's matches: Ideal SC vs Germanite HA (1.30pm); Bagalkot City SC vs Blue Star HC (3pm).

3 state para athletes for Paris: Karnataka's Rakshitha Raju (athletics), Sriharsha Devaraddi (shooting) and Sakina Khatun (powerlifting) will represent India in the Paris Paralympics, starting Aug 28. Alongside the trio, two coaches from the state — Farman Basha (powerlifting) and Rahul Balakrishna (coach/guide, athletics) — are also part of the Indian contingent.

BIG GUNS FOR DULEEP TROPHY

But No Clarity On Rohit Sharma And Virat Kohli's Participation

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Bengaluru: The Duleep Trophy, once a showpiece event on the domestic calendar, has over the years lost its sheen. The red-ball contest that began in the 1961-62 season has undergone a lot of changes, going from a five-zone tournament to a competition with teams chosen by BCCI selectors to a pink-ball contest.

This season, the tournament is set to regain some of its lustre with the domestic season opener set to feature the cream of Indian cricket. With 10 Tests scheduled over the next four months, starting with a two-Test

series against Bangladesh next month, the regulars and those returning from injuries will test their form in the tournament beginning on September 5.

Among those who are expected to be part of the four teams — India A, B, C and D — are Suryakumar Yadav, KL Rahul, Axar Patel, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja. There is no clarity on the participation of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Both haven't played a red-ball domestic competition in a long time. While Kohli last featured in a Ranji Trophy match for Delhi against Uttar Pradesh in 2012, Rohit hasn't played after turning up for the Gautam Gambhir-led India Blue in the 2015-16 edition of the Duleep Trophy. Pacer Jasprit Bumrah is expected to give it a miss along with R Ashwin, while Mohd Shami's participation is subject to him clearing fitness tests. The return of the big guns is in line with BCCI's new outline, which mandates all India team regulars to play domestic cricket when not on national duty.

B'LURU TO HOST ONE MATCH
In anticipation of their participation, one of the two matches of the opening round has been moved from Anantapur to Bengaluru. Originally, the Rural Development Trust Stadium and ACA ADCA ground in Anantapur were set to host all the matches. Last week, the Karnataka State

CRICKET
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QUOTE UNQUOTE
Virat Kohli's fitness, you can see him competing for five years. He is probably the fittest guy in the team," Harbhajan told PTI. "You ask any 19-year-old competing with Virat (on fitness). Virat will beat him. He is that fit. I believe Virat and Rohit have a lot of cricket left in them and it is entirely up to them. If

they are fit enough, they are performing and the team is winning, they should continue to play. As simple as that," the man with 700 plus international wickets said. Harbhajan believes that Test cricket is one format where you



IN FOCUS: KL Rahul is expected to feature in the competition, starting Sept 5

need both of them. "Red ball cricket, you really need these two guys to play a little bit more than what people are asking. You need expertise in all formats whether its limited overs cricket and Test cricket. You need experienced cricketers to nurture the talent that is coming up. "Selectors need to see, that if someone is not performing well, they should be dropped. Whether they are senior players or juniors. But as long as everyone is fit, they should be able to get selected in the team."

He further said: "And if they are not contributing in any manner, whether its fitness or number of runs, then the time has come. They should be making way for the youngsters." PTI



STAR DUO: Kohli (right) and Rohit

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Athanaze secures draw for Windies

Port of Spain: West Indies batsman Alick Athanaze led home resistance as he fell short of a maiden Test century but still did enough to help ensure a draw in the first Test against South Africa at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain on Sunday.

South Africa set the West Indies a target of 298 to win the match after declaring their second innings before lunch on the final day in a bid to try and bowl out their hosts and win the first of the two-Test series. But the 25-year-old Athanaze scored 92 as the West Indies proved resilient than they had in

FIRST TEST

their first innings and held out to tie the contest. They were 201-5 when the rain-affected match was called off 20 minutes from close with six overs remaining.

South Africa scored briskly at the start of the last day after resuming on 30 for no loss with a lead of 154 runs as they looked to set an imposing target and also give themselves enough time to bowl out the Windies in their second innings. Tristan Stubbs scored a maiden Test half century with a quick-fire 68 off 50 balls. Tony de Zorzi added 45 and Aiden Markram 38 before South



GRITTY: Alick Athanaze

Africa declared on 173-3 some 20 minutes before lunch.

Spinner Keshav Maharaj opened the bowling and Kraigg Braithwaite tried to slog a six off his third ball, slicing it high and being caught by Stubbs at extra cover. The Windies slumped to 18-2 when Mikyle Louis went for nine, snaggged by the speed of Kagiso Rabada, before Maharaj bagged the wickets of debutant Keacy Carty (31) and Kavem Hodge (29).

South Africa needed six more wickets in the last session but Athanaze, together with Jason Holder, held firm with a 65-run fifth wicket partnership. Holder was not out on 31, along with Joshua da Silva on two when time was called. **Brief scores:** South Africa: 357 & 173-3 decl. (Tristan Stubbs 68, Tony de Zorzi 45, Aiden Markram 38; Jomel Warrican 2-57) draw with West Indies 233 & 201-5 (Alick Athanaze 92, Keacy Carty 31, Jason Holder 31 n.o.; Keshav Maharaj 4-88). AGENCIES

Virat & Rohit have a lot of cricket left, says Harbhajan

New Delhi: Former India great Harbhajan Singh believes that Virat Kohli with his supreme fitness can easily survive the rigours of international cricket for another five years while Test and ODI captain Rohit Sharma will last at least another couple of years.

"Rohit can easily play for two more years. You never know with

Virat Kohli's fitness, you can see him competing for five years. He is probably the fittest guy in the team," Harbhajan told PTI. "You ask any 19-year-old competing with Virat (on fitness). Virat will beat him. He is that fit. I believe Virat and Rohit have a lot of cricket left in them and it is entirely up to them. If



STAR DUO: Kohli (right) and Rohit

they are fit enough, they are performing and the team is winning, they should continue to play. As simple as that," the man with 700 plus international wickets said. Harbhajan believes that Test cricket is one format where you

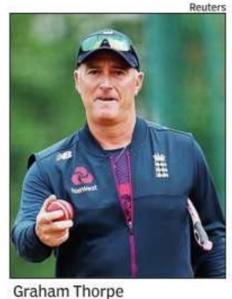
'Thorpe took his own life'

London: Former England cricketer Graham Thorpe took his own life after suffering from depression and anxiety, his wife Amanda said on Monday. Tributes poured in last week after it was announced that Thorpe had died at the age of 55.

Amanda Thorpe has now told The Times newspaper: "For the past couple of years

Graham had been suffering from major depression and anxiety. This led him to make a serious attempt on his life in May 2022, which resulted in a prolonged stay in an intensive care unit.

"Despite having a wife and two daughters whom he loved and who loved him, he did not get better. He was so



Graham Thorpe

unwell in recent times and he really did believe that we would be better off without him. We are devastated that he acted on that and took his own life. "Despite glimpses of hope and of the old Graham, he continued to suffer

from depression and anxiety, which at times got very severe. We supported him as a family and he tried many, many treatments but unfortunately none of them really seemed to work.

"Graham was renowned as someone who was very mentally strong on the field and he was in good physical health. But mental illness is a real disease and can affect anyone." Thorpe was a mainstay in the England set-up for the majority of his life, first as a batter between 1993 and 2005 and then for 12 years in various coaching roles.

A stylish and fluid top-order batter, Thorpe played 100 Tests for England. He scored 16 hundreds, including on debut against Australia at Trent Bridge. AGENCIES



TAKE THAT: Andrey Rublev defeated Matteo Arnaldi in straight sets

Rublev to face Popyrin for title

Andrey Rublev powered into his second ATP Masters 1000 final of the season on Sunday as he lined up a title match against Alexei Popyrin in Montreal. Fifth seed Rublev, who won the Madrid Masters title in May, overcame a two-hour rain interruption as he beat Italy's Matteo Arnaldi 6-4, 6-2 in their semifinal.

He faces off on Monday evening for the trophy against Australian Popyrin, who put out last week's ATP Washington winner Sebastian Korda 7-6 (7-0), 6-3 in 92 minutes. Rublev has had a patchy 2024, melting down

TENNIS

several times on court in frustration with his play and being disqualified last February in Dubai for blowing up at a linesman.

But the Russian, who skipped the Paris Olympics to be prepared for the North American hardcourts that continue next week in Cincinnati, said he made the right scheduling choice.

"That was the plan, to be set for the US Open," he said. "I guess if I'm in the finals of Montreal, it must be working." Rublev will be competing in the sixth Masters final of his career and tuned up for the title bid by

knocking out top-seeded world No. 1 Jannik Sinner in a Saturday quarterfinal.

PEGULA IN FINAL

Defending champion Jessica Pegula advanced to the WTA Toronto Masters final on Sunday by defeating Diana Shnaider 6-4, 6-3, giving her a chance to be the event's first back-to-back winner since 2000. Sixth-ranked Pegula eliminated the 24th-ranked Russian in 83 minutes to book an all-American final on Monday against Amanda Anisimova, who ousted US eighth seed Emma Navarro 6-3, 2-6, 6-2.

Pegula, trying for the first Canadian repeat since Martina Hingis in 1999-2000, is 2-0 against Anisimova, most recently winning in April at Charleston. "She's probably one of the biggest, cleanest ball strikers I've ever played against, so when she's on it can be really tough," Pegula said of Anisimova.

Results: ATP Montreal: Semis: 5-Andrey Rublev (Rus) bt Matteo Arnaldi (Ita) 6-4, 6-2; Alexei Popyrin (Aus) bt Korda 7-6 (7-0), 6-3. **Quarters:** Popyrin bt 4-Huber 7-6 (7-5), 6-4; Korda bt 3-Pegula 6-4, 6-3; Anisimova (US) bt 8-Emma Navarro (US) 6-3, 2-6, 6-2. AGENCIES

Spain's Alcaraz eyes year-end No. 1 spot

After capturing back-to-back Grand Slam titles and a silver medal at the Paris Olympics, world No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz said one of his key goals for the rest of the season is to finish as the top-ranked player in the world.

The 21-year-old French Open and Wimbledon champion, who lost a thrilling Olympic final to Novak Djokovic, returns to action at this week's Cincinnati Open, where he can gain ground on the Serb and Italian Jannik Sinner. Alcaraz is 450 points

RACE TO TURIN

behind world No. 1 Sinner in the ATP live race to the season finale in Turin, the separate year-to-date standings that serve as a measuring stick for the year-end No. 1 battle.

"Obviously being No. 1 is a goal every time that I'm (behind) and the race is an important ranking for me. At the end of the year if you end the race No. 1, in the rankings it's quite similar, so you're going to end No. 1," Alcaraz said. "So, I'm focused on that."

Masato fancied for main event

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: Masato, from the stables of Prasanna Kumar and to be ridden by Suraj Narreddu, will garner the maximum support in the Mysore Colts Trial Stakes 2024, the feature event of the races to be run over a distance of seven furlongs here on Tuesday.

Darius Byramji-trained Ranquelino (Akshay Kumar) looks to be the next best. First race starts at 1.45pm.

1. Red Rufus Plate (Div-II) 1400M: Deemed To Fire 1, Shooting Venus 2. **2. Republican Plate 2000M:** Mastery 1, She's Unstoppable 2. **3. Red Rufus Plate (Div-I) 1400M:** Vandani 1, Nisikh 2. **4. Kinsidi Plate (Div-I) 1000M:** Queen Star 1, Fancels Of Life 2. **5. Kodilpet Plate 1600M:** Nevada Gold 1. **6. Mysore Colts Trial Stakes 2024 1400M:** Masato 1, Ranquelino 2.



LOOKING AHEAD: Carlos Alcaraz

I'm focused on going to every tournament, thinking about playing great tennis, doing a good result just to get better in the race. This year, ending the year as No. 1 is one of my main goals right now."

Last year's Cincinnati runner-up, Alcaraz will begin his campaign against Gael Monfils or Alexei Popyrin as he returns to hardcourt tennis for the first time since reaching the Miami quarterfinals in March. "I'm really excited to play here again. Obviously great memories from last year, reaching the final, losing a really tight and epic match (to Djokovic)," Alcaraz said. Djokovic withdrew from Cincinnati after his Olympic triumph. AGENCIES



7. Hiriyur Plate 1400M: Ravishing Form 1, Sir Calcutus 2. **8. Kinsidi Plate (Div-II) 1000M:** Reap The Bounty 1, Mystical Merlin 2. **Day's best:** Queen Star. **Jackpot:** 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8. **First Treble:** 1, 2 & 3. **Second Treble:** 3, 4 & 5. **Third Treble:** 6, 7 & 8.

SIDDHARTH WINS FEATURE
M Srinivas Reddy-trained Siddharth, ridden by Akshay Kumar, won the Bhagyanagar Million, the feature event of the Hyderabad races on Monday.

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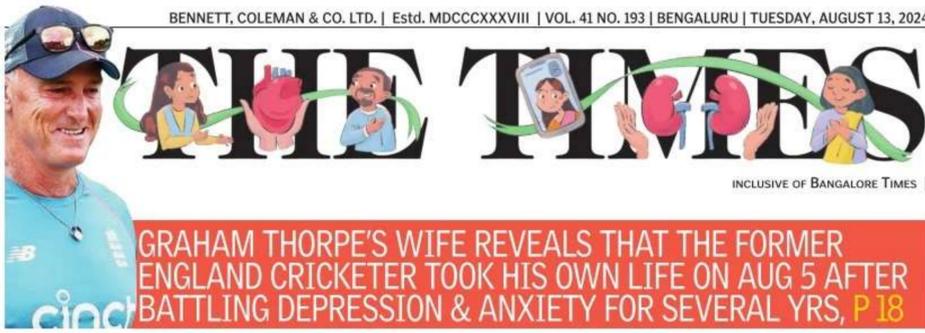
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GRAHAM THORPE'S WIFE REVEALS THAT THE FORMER ENGLAND CRICKETER TOOK HIS OWN LIFE ON AUG 5 AFTER BATTLING DEPRESSION & ANXIETY FOR SEVERAL YRS, P 18

Roads flooded, traffic hit, 6 hurt as torrential rain pounds B'luru

74mm In 24hrs; More Rain Likely Over Next 2 Days

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: 'Manic Monday' couldn't perhaps have held out a more potent real-life imagery for Bengalureans as the city woke up to a 'wet, wet, wet' start to the week. A relentless downpour in the wee hours left several roads water-

logged, throwing office-bound traffic haywire, inundating low-lying areas, bringing down 20 trees and leaving six people injured in a treefall.

The rain that began around 2am continued for roughly four hours. BBMP received 30 complaints of waterlogging and inundation. Indian Meteorological Department said its city observatory on Palace Road recorded 74mm of rain



Key underpasses in Bengaluru, including the Jayadeva underpass (above), Panathur Railway Underpass, Varthur Kodi Road, Bannerghatta Road and Adugodi Road saw major waterlogging on Monday morning

within a span of 24 hours until 8am. Elsewhere, HAL airport received 34mm, while KIA received 9.8mm of rain.

"We had provided a prediction report to BBMP and the deputy CM, regarding monsoon showers, but they failed to heed our warnings," said a senior KSNDDMC official, adding: "The city is likely to experience more rain over the next two days." The deputy CM inspected

the rain-hit areas. BSPrahalad, engineer-in-chief, BBMP, said: "Due to the prolonged, low-intensity rainfall, there was waterlogging at 180 locations. Fortunately, there hasn't been any severe inundation"

In view of the heavy rain, traffic cops switched into alert mode before dawn and took to social media to guide citizens on navigating the flooded streets and ensure their safety.

High alert in dists; CM to hold review meeting

Bengaluru: The Met department has issued warnings for heavy rainfall across Bengaluru, Central Karnataka, Mahnad, the coastal districts, and areas bordering Karnataka and Maharashtra, from Wednesday onwards.

IMD has also sounded an alert on likely waterlogging and flash floods that could potentially disrupt normal life in these areas. In response to these warnings, the state govt has issued high alerts for districts that are likely to be affected. Chief minister Siddaramaiah is scheduled to hold a meeting Wednesday to review the disaster management preparedness and discuss further precautionary measures. TNN

► **Min: Shift people, P 2**

IN THE COURTS

► **SC refuses to entertain PIL seeking a probe into hurried cancellation of UGC-NET, saying 'if we entertain this petition, it will result in utter chaos...'** | **Flap Inside**

► **Consumer court awards ₹5L to a garment salesman after an improper tightening of screws during a surgery leads to extensive pain** | **P 2**

► **73-year-old sentenced to life imprisonment by a special court for Pocco cases in Shivamogga for raping a 9-year-old girl** | **P 4**

► **SC takes exception to UP CM's office flouting its order for premature release of a prisoner, demands to know officer responsible for it** | **P 9**

► **Why not childcare leave to single dads on par with women, Calcutta HC asks Bengal govt, says father equally responsible for raising his children** | **P 9**

► **Delhi HC grants interim protection from arrest till Aug 21 to former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar** | **P 9**

Markets shrug off Sebi row as Congress and BJP slug it out

New Delhi: Amid a political slugfest over the latest Hindenburg report, Dalal Street discounted the short-seller's charges against Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch, her husband Dhaval Buch and their alleged links with the Adani probe, closing 57 points lower in volatile trade.

Unlike Jan 2023, when the report on Adani group severely eroded the conglomerate's market cap, on Monday, the group's shares lost between 0.7% (Adani Power)

► **FULL COVERAGE: P 12 & 15**

and 4.1% (Adani Wilmar).

But three days after it was released, Congress used the report to attack the govt and reiterated its demand for a JPC probe. It threatened to launch a nationwide stir while seeking Buch's resignation. BJP hit out at the opposition for endorsing the short-

Recent revelations raise disturbing questions about Sebi integrity and conduct in investigating the Adani mega scam... At a minimum, the Sebi chairperson must resign to restore the regulator's integrity. The illusion that Sebi chairperson and her husband had separated their finances lies shattered by the revelation that after joining Sebi, she transacted in the fund from her personal email account on Feb 25, 2018. Clearly, no institution is sacrosanct in Amrit Kaal

—Jairam Ramesh | Cong

After being rebuffed by people of India, Congress, its allies and toolkit gang have conspired to usher in economic anarchy in India. Hindenburg report is released on Saturday, there's uproar on Sunday so that market is destabilised on Monday

Do you know this gentleman, George Soros, who runs propaganda against India?... He is the main investor (in Hindenburg). In their pathological hatred for Modi, Congress has developed hatred for India itself

—Ravi Shankar Prasad | BJP

seller's attack, with Ravi Shankar Prasad alleging that it was part of a plan to destabilise India backed by currency speculator George Soros.

Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Giriraj Singh too joined in. "This is a gang to defame the country, Rahul (Gandhi) and Jairam Ra-

mesh. Hindenburg defames us. We will not tolerate this insult to the nation. Now, strictest action will be taken against Hindenburg," Singh said. From the other side, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh claimed that "no institution was sacrosanct in Amrit Kaal". TNN

Man smuggling exotic wildlife held

Customs officials at Chennai airport arrested Mohamed Meera Sardharali, who arrived from Bangkok, for smuggling exotic wildlife. The seizure included an array of animals including a gibbon monkey, Sunda flying lemurs, Indo-Chinese box turtles, green-tree pythons, a white-lipped python and a red-foot tortoise. **P 11**

8 held in Kathua for terrorist 'support'

J&K police have arrested eight suspected associates of terrorists for their alleged involvement in providing logistic support in recent attacks in the Kathua-Bani-Kishtwar belt, including the ambush on an Army patrol in the remote Machedi forest on July 8 that killed five soldiers. The arrests were made based on technical and human intelligence. TNN

'18 admission row: 17 colleges in K'taka asked to surrender MBBS seats from NRI quota

Sruthy Susan Ullas
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Bengaluru: In a major blow to 17 private medical colleges that were allegedly engaged in seat blocking in 2018, the directorate of medical education has asked them to hand over an equal number of MBBS seats from their NRI quota to the state govt quota for the current academic year.

The direction is based on a Karnataka HC order that was issued on April 25.

In 2018, several colleges were involved in seat blocking. When the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences took action against students who obtained seats through unlawful means by refusing to approve their admissions and barred them from writing exams, the students so-

...Medical colleges in collusion with a select group of students have indulged in manipulating practices to secure admissions. These practices involve blocking of seats... Such actions not only undermine the sanctity of the admission process but also compromise the quality and integrity of medical education —HC

ught relief from the court.

In the multiple cases it heard, the court allowed the students to write the exam but it decided to penalise the colleges by ordering them to surrender an equal number of NRI seats to the state quota in the next academic year.

► **'Give undertaking', P 4**

ED seeks clarity from apex court on role of HCs in coal scam cases

New Delhi: A decade after Supreme Court cancelled illegal allotment of coal blocks, mostly by the UPA govt, Enforcement Directorate on Monday sought clarity from the apex court on its decision barring high courts from entertaining accused's appeals against trial court decisions, reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.

Additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhat told a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra that two three-judge benches, in their rulings of July 2014 and July 2017, had barred accused from moving HCs against proceedings before the special CBI judge to expedite the trial.

► **Debate on rights, P 11**

'IIT-M INDIA'S BEST EDU INSTITUTE, IISc TOP UNIVERSITY'

OVERALL	2024	UNIVERSITY	IIT-M retains the top spot in both 'overall' & 'engineering' categories, while IISc remains India's best univ, according to NIRF rankings	ENGINEERING	2024
IIT-Madras	1	IISc, Bengaluru		IIT-Madras	1
IISc, Bengaluru	2	JNU		IIT-Delhi	2
IIT-Bombay	3	Jamia Millia Islamia		IIT-Bombay	3
IIT-Delhi	4	Manipal Academy, Manipal		IIT-Kanpur	4
IIT-Kanpur	5	Banaras Hindu University		IIT-Kharagpur	5
IIT-Kharagpur	6	University of Delhi		MEDICAL	
AIIMS, Delhi	7	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham		AIIMS, Delhi	1
IIT-Roorkee	8	Aligarh Muslim University		PGIMER, Chandigarh	2
IIT-Guwahati	9	Jadavpur University		CMC, Vellore	3
JNU	10	Vellore Institute of Technology		NIMHANS, Bengaluru	4
			JIPMER, Puducherry	5	

COLLEGES	2024	IISc, Bengaluru
Hindu College, Delhi	1	
Miranda House	2	
St. Stephen's College, Delhi	3	
RK Mission Vivekananda Centenary College, Kolkata	3	
Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College	5	
St. Xavier's College, Kolkata	6	
PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore	7	
Loyola College, Chennai	8	
Kirori Mal College	9	
Lady Shri Ram College For Women	10	

FULL COVERAGE: FLAP OPP & P 3

IIT-M and IISc retain top NIRF slots; Hindu springs surprise

DU Jumps To 6th From 11th Position In Univ Category

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New Delhi: Indian Institute of Technology-Madras continues to shine in the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF), securing the top spot in both the overall and engineering categories for the sixth and ninth consecutive years, respectively. Similarly, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore retains its position as the best university for the ninth year in a row.

However, in a surprising turn, Hindu College has unseated Miranda House, ending its seven-year streak as the top college. St Stephen's College, after a two-year absence from the top 10, has made a comeback, sharing the third position with Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College, West Bengal.

In NIRF 2024, IITs and IISc continue to dominate across various categories, much like they do in global rankings. IIT-Bombay has been ranked as the top institute for innovation, while IISc Bangalore leads in research.

The overall category, a core component of the India rankings, is overwhelmingly dominated by IITs. Eight of the top 10 institutions are IITs, with the All India Insti-

DEGREES OF EXCELLENCE

NEW CATEGORIES			
State Public University	2024		
Anna University, Chennai	1		
Jadavpur University, Kolkata	2		
Savitribai Phule Pune University	3		
OPEN UNIVERSITIES		Skill Universities	
IGNOU, Delhi	1	Symbiosis Skills & Prof University, Pune	1
Netaji Subhash Open University, Kolkata	2	Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Palwal	2
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open Univ, Ahmedabad	3	Bhartiya Skill Devpt University, Jaipur	3

tute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi at seventh place and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) at tenth. Notably, there has been minimal change in the top 10 over the past five years, except for AIIMS entering and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) dropping out in 2022.

While IIT-Madras, IISc, and IIT-Bombay claim the top three spots in the overall category, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, ranked 11th, is the highest-ranked private university. Seven private universities feature in the top 25 of this category.

The ninth edition of NIRF was released on Monday. The number of higher education institutions participating rose from 3,565 in 2016 to 10,845 in 2024. The rankings now encompass 16 categories and subject domains, up from four in 2016. NIRF assesses institutions based on five broad parameters: teaching, learning and

resources; research and professional practice; graduation outcomes; outreach and inclusivity; and perception.

In the university category, DU made significant progress, jumping from 11th to 6th place. DU also has six colleges in the top 10 and 26 in the top 100. IISc, JNU, and Jamia Millia Islamia are the top three universities. Three private institutions — Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, and Vellore Institute of Technology — are among the top 10, with nine private universities in the top 20 overall.

Siksha 'O' Anusandhan, Bhubaneswar, improved its ranking to 14th in the university category and made it into the top 25 overall, emerging as the top ranked HEI in Odisha. It also retained its position in the top 10 dental sciences institutions in the country, ranked 9th nationally.

Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, while

releasing the rankings, said that knowing the quality, performance and strengths of an academic institution "is a right of students and parents. Therefore, all the 58,000 HEIs in the country must come under the ranking and rating framework".

The ranking report noted that most research activity is concentrated within the top 100 institutions across various categories, though it also pointed out that many general degree colleges are increasingly active in research and publications. However, it highlighted a significant challenge: the majority of faculty with doctoral qualifications are concentrated in these top institutions, leaving others at a disadvantage. The report underscored the critical role that mentorship during doctoral training plays in preparing faculty for teaching careers in higher education.

In the college category, 63 of the top 100 institutions are from Tamil Nadu (37) and Delhi (26). Nine IITs are in the top ten list for engineering colleges with IIT-Madras being at the top for the ninth consecutive year in the category. IIT-Delhi and IIT-Bombay also retained their second and third spot respectively. NIT-Tiruchirappalli is the only non-IIT in the top ten list.

In pharmacy, Jamia Hamdard rose to the top spot from its second position last year while the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad slipped to the second rank. BITS Pilani retained its third position in the category.

SC junks PIL seeking probe into UGC-NET cancellation

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New Delhi: Pan-India examinations have of late been witnessing an uncanny trend of getting vetted by the SC, which on Monday refused to entertain a PIL seeking a probe into hurried cancellation of UGC-NET on June 19 following certain social media messages about question paper leak.

A PIL petitioner through senior advocate Devashish Bhurka told a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra that the CBI has now given a report that the social media messages about alleged leakage of question paper were fake ones. "UGC did not even check the veracity of the claims and hurriedly cancelled the Jun 18 test a day later," he said.

The CJ-led bench said nearly 9 lakh students are appearing for the UGC-NET examination. "We are not in a perfect world. If we entertain this petition, it will result in utter chaos and create uncertainties for 9 lakh candidates. Sometimes, we (the courts) should exercise restraint. We are just 10 days away from the exam. Candidates must have prepared hard to appear in the examination," the bench said.

Refusing to intervene with the UGC-NET examination, now scheduled for Aug 21, for determining the eligibility of candidates for 'assistant professor' as well as 'junior research fellowship and assistant professor' in universities, the bench said the govt might have decided to cancel the UGC-NET exam on June 19 as at that time it was facing the controversy over alleged question paper leak in NEET-UG and did not want to give rise to another controversy.

ON GUARD AHEAD OF I-DAY



Ahead of Independence day, Army carries out a security check near the Line of Control in J&K's Rajouri district on Monday even as police arrested eight suspected associates of terrorists for their alleged involvement in providing logistic support in the recent attacks in the Kathua-Bani-Kishtwar belt, including the ambush on an Army patrol in the remote Machedi forest on July 8 that killed five soldiers

'Dead for a decade', UP teacher found doing maths at Petrapole

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Petrapole: The tense Indo-Bangla Petrapole border in North 24-Parganas, where both Bangladeshi and Indian citizens have gathered due to the current turmoil in the neighbouring country, was scene of an unusual event recently.

Last week, locals found a man in his early 40s in ragged clothes solving mathematical problems with a stick on wet soil under a tree near Petrapole Bazar. Locals alerted police, given the situation. Upon probe, police found that the man, who seemed disoriented, was one Amit Kumar Prasad, a mathematics teacher from UP's Gorakhpur, who has been missing for over a decade.

Local police, with the help of Ham radio enthusiasts, reunited Prasad with his family on Monday. His father, Gama Prasad, came to the Petrapole Police Station with his



BSF personnel at Petrapole border

relatives from Bargo in Gorakhpur on Monday, marking an end to years of search for him. Family members said Prasad used to teach maths at a school in their home town for several years before he went missing.

Gama Prasad said: "Besides teaching students at the school, my son taught mathematics to more than 250 students from poor families in at least five neighbouring villages — free of cost. His love for mathematics began during childhood

and he started teaching early. Later, he suffered from a mental ailment and went missing. We looked for him for years, all in vain. We never expected to see him alive after so many years."

Parimal Roy, a Ham radio operator, told TOI: "Locals found him solving some mathematical equations on wet soil. When they asked him for his identity, he didn't reply and went further away to the riverbank and continued solving equations. He told them to leave him alone, in Hindi, after they persisted in questioning him, at which they informed the police."

Ambarish Nag Biswas, secretary of West Bengal Radio Club, told TOI: "Police contacted us to help locate Prasad's family. I spoke to the man and circulated his photo in the network of Ham radio operators across India to start a search for his family. Later, we got in touch with his father."

At 41L, Jan-May foreign tourist arrivals up 9%

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New Delhi: Between January to May this year, 40.7 lakh foreign tourists have visited the country as compared to 37.3 lakh during the same period last year, registering a growth of 9.1%. Foreign exchange earnings for the same period till May were Rs 1.08 lakh crore as compared to Rs 88,441 crore last year, registering a growth of nearly 22.5%.

The data was shared by govt in response to a written question in Lok Sabha during the monsoon session of Parliament that concluded last week. The govt has also shared findings of a study to assess the impact of the pandemic on the tourism sector at the peak of the pandemic



Foreign exchange earning for Jan-May was Rs 1.08 lakh crore as compared to Rs 88,441 crore last year, up nearly 22.5%

and the measures taken to steer a recovery.

Sharing the statistics for May this year, tourism minister Gajendra Singh Shekawat said that foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in were at 6 lakh as compared to 5.9 lakh in May, 2023 signalling a

growth of 0.3%. Foreign exchange earnings (FEEs) during the same period were Rs 17,762 crore as compared to Rs 17,206 crore in May 2023 registering a growth of 3.2%.

He said the trend highlighted indicate a positive impact on the overall eco-

nomie growth and development of the tourism sector in the country. "The data shows a consistent increase in FTAs and (FEEs) suggesting a robust and expanding tourism industry," he said.

The minister also shared data for the last three years that shows that while in pandemic year 2021 the number of foreign tourist visitors to India stood at 10.54 lakh it shot up to 85.87 lakh in 2022 and provisional data for 2023 shows that over 1.92 crore foreign visitors came to India.

Responding to another question, the tourism minister also shared the findings of a study — "India and the Coronavirus Pandemic: Economic Losses for Households Engaged in Tourism and Policies for Recovery - Phase II".

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