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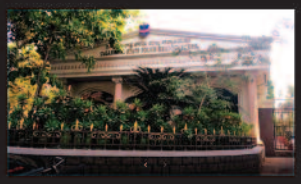
BOGUS VOTES BOOST MIM CONFIDENCE

COPS! WHOSE FRIENDS ARE THEY?



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VOL:6 ISSUE:6 JULY, 2018 ₹30

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Printed, Published And Owned By Ramya Sree , Printed At S.M.S. Press, H.No.11-38, Pragathi Nagar, P&T Colony, Saroor Nagar, Dist Ranga Reddy – 60, Published At The News Publications, H.No.334, B, Prajay Sai Gardens, Keesara Mandal, Dist - Ranga Reddy, Telangana

Editor : Sudhakar

Note: Focus/Infocus features are marketing initiatives, *any legal disputes comes under the jurisdiction of courts in Hyderabad*

Governor's rule has been imposed in Jammu and Kashmir on June 20, for the eighth time in four decades.

President Ram Nath Kovind approved imposition of governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir, a day after the BJP pulled out of its alliance with the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Jammu and Kashmir.

Following the President's approval, Governor NN Vohra will be presiding over the state. He's doing it for the fourth time, having overseen governor's rule in 2008, 2015 and 2016. Vohra was set to complete his second term in a few days, but is now set to continue in Raj Bhavan at least till the conclusion of 'Amarnath Yatra' on August 26.

The BJP pulled out of the alliance saying it was "untenable" to continue. "It has become untenable for the BJP to continue its alliance government in Jammu and Kashmir, hence we are withdrawing," BJP general secretary Ram Madhav said at a press conference on June 20.

With J&K having a provision for governor's rule for six months, the BJP leadership is keen to let this period run as close to the end of 2018 as possible. The calculation is that if the six months ended in December, it would be too close to the Lok Sabha elections to be scheduled ahead of the national polls. The electoral process for the Lok Sabha is expected to begin to unroll from March onward.

It is estimated that the BJP will take some bold steps through the Governor during the period and improve its image in the eyes of voters across the country. Sources say that Narendra Modi dispensation may order strikes against Pakistan around the end of year and rouse patriotic feelings among voters so that the BJP can easily win 2019 elections.

A war with Pakistan, irrespective of its size, is likely to help the BJP consolidate its vote bank and divert the attention of the voters from its failures, say the sources.

(Sudhakar)

Hyderabad students win second prize at global TiE Young Entrepreneurs competition

6

GHMC crackdown on footpath encroachers

7

In a major crackdown of establishments that were encroaching footpaths in GHMC undertook a massive drive and removed 1,024 structures in a single day. In all, the GHMC aims to remove 4,133 encroachments on footpaths and has identified encroachments on 48 stretches of road totalling 127.5 km.

Why tenant farmers are not covered under Rythu Bandhu scheme: HC

9

Polavaram: Andhra's lifeline caught in bureaucratic wrangles

20

Smaller cities better at waste-segregation policy: CSE

39

Smaller cities have been innovative and "more successful" in implementing waste segregation at source methodology compared to the bigger ones, a green body on June 7 said, as it awarded a small town in Maharashtra for its eco-friendly initiatives.

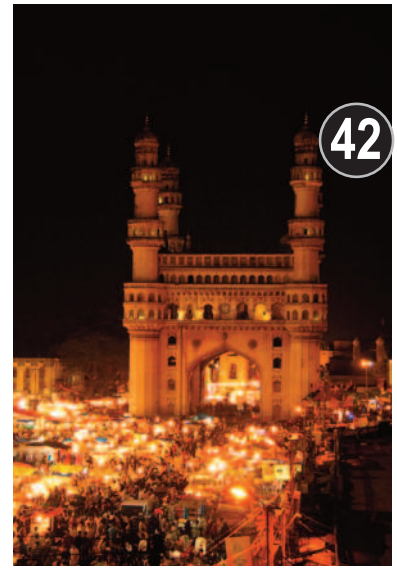
46

Vijay Mallya offers to sell assets to repay bank loans

Fugitive tycoon Vijay Mallya has petitioned the Karnataka High Court to permit him and his holding firm UBHL to sell their assets under its supervision to repay creditors, including state-run banks, while saying a civil law matter of loan recovery had been made a criminal matter in his case.

Hyderabad is 3rd most sound-polluted cities in India

Hyderabad has been ranked number three in the list of sound polluted metropolitan cities, according to figures released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).



42

Manifestations of rage tearing social fabric, says Pranab at RSS event

22

Eight out of 10 millennials support inter-caste marriage in India

36

Hyderabad students win second prize at global TiE Young Entrepreneurs competition

TYE (TiE Young entrepreneurs) is a TiE Global initiative dedicated to chapters integrating classroom sessions, mentoring and business plan competition aimed at high school students

THE NEWS BUREAU

TiE Hyderabad team Pop&Lick has won the grand second prize at the TiE-TYE (The Young Entrepreneurs) annual competition in the US.

The team from Hyderabad bagged the honours at TiE Young Entrepreneurs Global Final Competition held in Washington on June 22 and 23. The competition featured 20 teams of high school students from different chapters of The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) from across the world, said a statement from TiE here on Monday.

Team Pop & Lick comprised Aryana Rao and Sreeja Muppidi from Chirec International School, Sohini Kasu (Oakridge International School), Abheek Dendukuri (Sadhu Vaswani International School), Mukund T Dittakavi (Bhavans School), Vaishnavi Simran Palreddy (SilverOaks School) and Jeshurun Nikhil Chauhan (Rockwell International School).

At the Global Final Competition, students competed in groups, created business plans and presented their ideas in front of a panel of judges and audience.

Earlier, the team Pop&Lick were declared the winners for their innovative product "Pop&Lick", an edible popsicle holder that prevents dripping. Their simple solution not only arrests the dripping but it is also an eco-friendly popsicle-holder that is fully-edible itself.

Kali Prasad Gadiraju, President, TiE Hyderabad said they were proud of the performance of the team, comprising students from various schools in Hyderabad.

TYE (TiE Young entrepreneurs) is a TiE Global initiative dedicated to chapters integrating classroom sessions, mentoring and business plan competition aimed at high school students (grades 9-12 or equivalent college students). The students go through a 16-week programme to learn entrepreneurship and leadership skills.

TYE is designed to teach high school students entrepreneurship and leadership skills. Its core objective is to encourage entrepreneurial mindset from an early age and provide insight into entrepreneurship and instil confidence to lead in a global environment.

The best overall winners at the TYE Global Finals 2018 were TiE Oregon (MelaKnow), TiE Hyderabad (Pop&Lick) and TiE Atlanta (Bye-bye Wifi). TN

GHMC crackdown on footpath encroachers

P VISHNUVARDHAN REDDY

In a major crackdown of establishments that were encroaching footpaths in Hyderabad, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) undertook a massive drive and removed 1,024 structures in a single day. In all, the GHMC aims to remove 4,133 encroachments on footpaths and has identified encroachments on 48 stretches of road totalling 127.5 km.

The municipal body has also formed six teams, each with 20 members, equipped with JCB machines and other equipment required to demolish and clean up encroachments.

In the 1,024 structures that were removed, the GHMC said that 822 of those were permanent or immovable structures and 202 were movable encroachments like push cart vendors. The GHMC said that it is also formulating a plan to accommodate the street vendors, who have encroached several footpaths across the city.

"The GHMC is implementing Street Vendor Policy in proper manner for the convenience of the vendors to do their business for their livelihood. The Government of India has given certain directions for implementation of street vendor policy. As per the directions, Town Vending Committees (TVC) have been formed in all the circles with officials from various departments and representatives of street vendors and their associations," the GHMC said.

"24,580 Street Vendors (SVs) are surveyed in which 22,324 ID cards have been issued. Meetings are organized on financial literacy in coordination with the bankers. 204 SVs have been facilitated to get loans under SEP/Mudra to the tune of Rs 89.48 lakh and 23 Common Interest Groups have been linked to banks and an amount of Rs 19 lakh has been provided," the GHMC added.

In June, ahead of the monsoon, the GHMC undertook a massive drive to demolish old and dilapidated structures.

This came after orders from Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) Minister KT Rama Rao issued instructions to senior officials on June 12, during a review meeting.

"An action plan was prepared to identify most dangerous structures in each circle of GHMC and a proposal was submitted for demolition through a special drive," the GHMC said.

Burial ground grabbing

I did not take names of legislators: Activist

THE NEWS BUREAU

Kumarwadi Peace Welfare Association president Mohammed Ahmed Khan has said that he did not take the names of MIM legislators Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, Asasuddin Owaisi or any of their family members in his representations to the authorities seeking protection of burial ground admeasuring 6,314.88 square yards, situated in survey number 309/1 to 5 in TS No.1, Block-G, Ward No.275 of Kandikal village in Bandlaguda mandal. In a statement, Ahmed Khan said he was only interested in protecting the burial ground from landgrabbers but the names of the legislators and their family members were inadvertently mentioned in the report published in these columns under the title 'MIM legislator grabs burial ground'.

Appreciating the efforts of the magazine in publishing the report, he sought to clarify that he mentioned only the names of some landgrabbers in the representations but not the names of the legislators.

While so, BJP leader Ch Roopraj told The News that the landgrabbers were indeed MIM men and followers of MIM legislator Mumtaz Ahmed Khan. The report published under the title 'MIM legislator grabs burial ground' is completely true and that he was planning to approach the court seeking action against the corrupt officials who facilitated the MIM leaders grab the burial ground. Roopraj further said that he would wage the legal battle against the MIM legislators also. TN

Why tenant farmers are not covered under Rythu Bandhu scheme: HC

THE NEWS BUREAU

The high court at Hyderabad pulled up the Telangana government and sought to know why the benefits of the Rythu Bandhu scheme were not extended to tenant farmers. The court was hearing a case by a tenant farmer, Durgam Prasanth, from Jayashankar Bhupalapalli district.

The petitioner told the court that the financial assistance scheme by the state government was only benefiting landlords and land owning farmers, while the tenant farmers tilled the land and grew the crop.

The High Court then issued notices to officials from the Agriculture and Revenue department along with the Principal Secretary and District Collector of Jayashankar Bhupalapalli district. The case will be heard again in three weeks.

Thousands of farmers staged road blockades across six districts of Telangana earlier this month, blocking the highway from Karimnagar to Khammam-Bhadrachalam to raise their voices in protest against the exclusion of 15 lakhs real cultivators, including tenant and adivasi farmers, from the state's 'Rythu Bandhu' scheme.

The protests which took place in Karimnagar, Warangal (Urban and Rural), Mahbubabad, Kothagudem and Khammam districts were jointly organized by various farmer organisations and supported by political parties including Professor Kodandaram's Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) and Left parties.

The farmers also demanded the implementation of the 2011 Licensed Cultivators Act to grant recognition to all cultivators including tenant farmers.

The Rythu Bandhu scheme was recently launched in Telangana wherein the government gives farmers an incentive of Rs 4,000 for each acre of land as investment for the crop. However, this scheme is restricted only to landowning farmers.

Under the Rythu Bandhu, the government has identified 57.33 lakh landowning farmers, who can avail its benefits. For this flagship programme, the government intends to spend Rs 12,000 crore every year, with Rs 6,000 crore having already been released for it.

Activists allege that the scheme fails to take into account tenant farmers, who are the ones who actually cultivate the land. TN

Aadhaar-PAN linking deadline extended till March 31, 2019

The News Bureau

Tax payers have been given time till March next year to link their PAN cards to Aadhaar, the government announced on June 30.

The order was issued hours before the deadline was to end at midnight. It said the Central Board of Direct Taxes, or CBDT "extends the time for linking PAN with Aadhaar (while filing the tax-returns) till 31 March 2019".

This is the fifth time that the government has extended the last date. The government had last year changed the income tax law to mandate that tax payers quote their Aadhaar number to file income tax returns and to get a new PAN card. Existing Pan card holders were also required to complete the process to link their Aadhaar numbers.

The Supreme Court, which has heard a bunch of petitions filed against the Aadhaar law, had earlier supported the argument to push back the deadlines till the court decides the petitions. The court had concluded the marathon 38-day hearing of the case in May.

The five-judge bench of the court hasn't yet delivered its ruling whether making Aadhaar mandatory for welfare schemes and financial transactions like getting a loan or filing taxes violates the constitutional right to privacy.

India had launched Aadhaar, now the world's biggest biometric database, in 2009 to streamline welfare payments and reduce wastage in public spending.

Since then, the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been keen to mandate the use of Aadhaar for everything from filing income taxes to the registration of mobile phone numbers and booking railway tickets. Aadhaar is now mandatory for welfare, pension and employment schemes.

Activists have challenged the validity of the Aadhaar law, claiming that forcing citizens to link the unique identification number to various services violates their Right to Privacy.

The Supreme Court had last year ruled that privacy was a fundamental right. The large-scale sharing of biometric data like iris scans and finger printing also leaves room for misuse, they have contended. TN

THE NEWEST STATE IN THE COUNTRY STEERING INDIA TO PROSPERTITY

TELANGANA STATE 4th FORMATION DAY

TELANGANA MARCHES AHEAD ON THE PATH OF PROGRESS - INDIA RAISES HER HEAD IN PRIDE

4 Years of unstoppable growth in

- Agricultural Infrastructure
- Education
- Rural Economy
- IT Exports
- Industrialization
- Employment generation
- Urban Infrastructure
- Law & Order
- SHE teams
- Cyber Protection....

Telangana has emerged as the role-model for other states. Its widely acclaimed and successful developmental and welfare schemes are emulated and adopted by other state governments. A dramatic turnaround for a State that, since Independence, had been languishing due to neglect and biased policies. Over the past 4 years, under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister **Sri. K. Chandrashekhar Rao,** the State has thrived and prospered, through visionary growth policies and people-friendly governance. Proving, once and for all, that an iron will can take a State far and above all others. For Telangana, the best years have begun!

HARNESSING PROGRESS. USHERING PROSPERITY. IN THE VANGUARD TO SET THE STANDARD

The Government of Telangana has initiated several schemes and programmes to achieve the objective of providing irrigation to one crore acres of agriculture land in the State.

- **Completion of several mega, major, medium and small irrigation projects to provide water to agricultural fields**
- **Rs. 25,000/- crores per annum for Irrigation Sector - the largest allocation in the country**

01 SOWING THE SEEDS OF FARMER EMPOWERMENT

RYTHU BANDHU PATHAKAM
Farmers investment support schemes extended to 58 lakh farmers, under which they will get Rs. 8000/- per acre - Rs. 4000/- for Kharif and Rabi seasons

MISSION KAKATIYA
- Launched to revive/revitalize 46,000 tanks in the State
- Will ensure complete utilization of 265 TMCs of water allocated to Telangana under minor Irrigation

Rs. 5 LAKHS RYTHUBHIMA TO THE FARMER
Life of every farmer of Telangana in the age group of 18-60 yrs is insured for Rs. 5 Lakhs. At the rate of Rs. 2271/- per head, the premium will be paid by government and entire amount is budgeted. from June 2nd the nominee proposals will be received and from August 15th Insurance bond certificates will be issued.

UNINTERRUPTED POWER
24/7 uninterrupted power to Agriculture & allied sectors from 1st January 2018

02 STRENGTHENING THE ROOTS FOR ALL TO ENJOY THE FRUITS

POLY HOUSES, GREEN HOUSES & DRIP IRRIGATION
Agriculture subsidies have been substantially increased - 95% to SC and ST farmers and 75% to other farmers

MISSION BHAGIRATHA
A commitment to supply drinking water to each and every household in the State

RYTHU SAMANVAYA SAMITHIS
Forming Farmers' Associations from village level to state level

REGULARIZATION OF SADA BAINAMAS
11,19,111 Sada Bainamas, accounting for 15,68,171 Survey Nos., have been processed for regularization till date

03 ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET FOR INVESTORS AND GROWTH

TS-iPASS
- Single-window policy for all industrial clearances within 15 days
- Generated employment for about 4,00,000 people

T-HUB
- Telangana Hub is India's largest incubator for startups located in Hyderabad
- State No.2 in IT exports from the country, with 12% share

PURIFICATION OF LAND RECORDS
- Schemes to stop land litigations and related crimes through purification/ rectification/ verification of all the land records in the State
- Launched in 10,806 villages of 568 Mandals

MEGA TEXTILE PARK
At Warangal to facilitate large-scale production of blankets, sarees and other accessories

PHARMA CITY
Coming up on 19,000 acres at Mucharla in Ranga Reddy district

04 WELFARE SCHEMES TO FULFIL PEOPLE'S DREAMS

KCR KITS
- KCR Kits worth Rs.15000/- for pregnant women and lactating others, delivering in a government hospital
- Pregnant women get 4 installments of Rs.12,000/- each
- KCR Kit worth Rs.2,000/- for newborn babies, with 16 essential items

2-BEDROOM HOUSES
To enhance quality of life, 2-bedroom houses given with no cost to the beneficiaries

SHE TEAMS
Special SHE Teams to curtail eve-teasing and protect rights of women

KALYANA LAKSHMI / SHAADI MUBAARAK
- Scheme to present Rs.1,00,116/- (enhanced from the previous Rs.51,000/-) to parents of the bride for marriage expenses
- Scheme is also applicable to all those below poverty line.

PENSION TO SINGLE WOMEN, BEEDI WORKERS
- Schemes to pay Rs.1000/- per month to all single women, married yet staying away from husband for more than a year, or unmarried single women
- Support for about 1,23,294 women
- First schemes of its kind in the country.
- Rs. 1000/- per month pension paid to over 4.5 lakh beedi workers in the State

Issued by : Commissioner, Department of Information & Public Relations Government of Telangana

BOGUS VOTES BOOST MIM CONFIDENCE

Asad dares Modi to contest from Hyderabad

>>> P:14

Moullim Mohsin Bin Hussain Bin Abdad Al-Kathiri

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief and Member of Parliament Asaduddin Owaisi has thrown an open challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Amit Shah to contest election from Hyderabad.

Addressing a gathering in memory of his late father Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi at Santoshnagar in Old City on June 29, Asaduddin said even the Wazir-e-Azam Hindusthan (Prime Minister of India), Narendra Modi would not be able to defeat MIM in Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat.

Asaduddin went on boasting that MIM cannot be defeated in Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat even the BJP and Congress join hands. He also said, "I challenge anyone to fight MIM from Hyderabad."

Commenting on Asaduddin's challenge, political analysts and some political leaders said the MIM chief was confident of his victory because of the bogus votes.

"The MIM has mastered the art of using bogus votes to win successive elections. The party founded by Razakars controls the voter enrolment process in most of parts of Hyderabad. In fact, it runs voter enrolment mafia and vitiates the democratic process of elections in the city by resorting to bogus votes", says Ali Bin Omer Afeef Al Yafai.

Ali Bin Omer also recalled Asaduddin's statement at a similar meeting organized in memory of his father late Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi at Khilwat Ground on August 17, 2013, where the AIMIM chief called up on his party workers and supporters to ensure not only 100 percent polling but see to it that 150 percent polling was done in favour of MIM.

Ali Bin Omer further said that Asaduddin had told the gathering to cast Khair-O-Barkat ke vote. In Urdu, khair-o-barkat ke vote means bogus votes. He alleged that it has become a regular practice for MIM to address the gatherings at historic Mecca Masjid and gathering in the name of Asaduddin's late father where they incite voters with provocative speeches.

If the bogus votes are removed as per the data collected by the election commission as part of NERPAP (National Electoral Roll Purification and Authentication Programme), taken up in 2015, none of the MIM candidates can win the elections, he said.

Ali Bin Omer Yafai, who had collected the entire data of NERPAP with regard to all the assembly constituencies in Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation limits, told The News that as per the data, there are 5,62,151 bogus votes in Hyderabad Parliament Constituency, whereas Asaduddin secured 5,13,868 votes in 2014 general elections. It means, he secured less than the number of bogus votes identified by the election commission. Even if, it is considered that only half of 5,13,868 votes are bogus, Asaduddin would have lost the 2014 general elections.

"Now that I have obtained entire data of NERPAP under Right to Information Act, my family will see to it that the 2019 elections are held without anomalies," Ali Bin Omer said.

Responding to Asaduddin's challenge, BJP leader and contestant from Yakutpura Assembly Constituency, Ch Roopraj told The News that the MIM candidates are able to win the elections purely with the help of bogus votes.

"Our party candidate Dr Bhagwant Rao secured 3,11,414 votes against Asaduddin in 2014 general elections. The MIM candidate was declared elected with a majority of

Ch Roopraj

Lubna Sarwath

Ali Bin Omer Afeef Al Yafai

General Elections, 2014: Hyderabad Lok Sabha				
Party	Candidate	Votes	%	±
AIMIM	Asaduddin Owaisi	5,13,868	52.88	+10.74
BJP	Dr. Bhagavanth Rao	3,11,414	32.05	+21.72
INC	S. Krishna Reddy	49,310	5.07	-7.78
TRS	Rashid Shareef	37,195	3.83	+3.83
Pyramid Party of India	Binghi Rajashekar	21,796	2.24	+0.45
AAP	Lubna Sarwath	6,118	0.63	
BSP	Venu Gopal P	3,100	0.32	
All India Azaad Congress Party	S Khaja Moinuddin	1,593	0.16	
SP	Jaya Vindhyala	598	0.06	
YSRCP	Boddu Sainath Reddy	10,743	1.11	
Nava Bharat National Party	N.Mahender Singh	485	0.05	
Majlis Bachao Tahreek	Syed Mustafa Mahmood	2,102	0.22	
Independent	MD Osman	728	0.07	
Independent	Shaik Moin	626	0.06	
Independent	Syed Abdul Gaffer	740	0.08	
Independent	M A Habeeb	5,992	0.62	
NOTA	None of the above	5,013	0.52	+0.52
Majority	2,02,454	20.83	+5.25	
Turnout	9,71,421	53.29	+0.82	
AIMIM hold	Swing	+10.74		

2,02,454 votes, whereas the number of bogus votes in Hyderabad Parliamentary Constituency as per NERPAP are 5,62,151. Thus, Asaduddin won the election by making mockery of the democracy", Roopraj said.

Roopraj threw a challenge to Asaduddin saying, "There is no need for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to contest from Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat. Even I can win against the MIM candidate if the bogus votes are removed and elections are conducted in a fair and free manner by installing CCTV cameras and biometric equipments in all the polling stations."

Speaking to The News, social activist, Dr Lubna Sarwath, said, "No effort was made to clean the bogus votes. Staking claim to be re-elected without any doubt reflects the anomalies in the election process. There is a lot to be thought about the process that is being followed."

Status of deletion of name of voters under duplicates / ineligible / dead / shifted / door locked cases and action taken under Not Enrolled (Assembly wise) – As per NERPAP	
Malakpet	– 82695
Karwan	– 99737
Goshamahal	– 72491
Charminar	– 65071
Yakutpura	– 86972
Bahadurpura	– 63903
Chandrayangutta	91282
Total	562151

She also said that authentic system of voting should be in place to prevent death of democracy.

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders M A Wahab and M A Akheel said their father M A Basith died while fighting the legal battle against MIM leaders.

"Our father fought although his life against MIM leaders illegal activities and their poll irregularities. We are committed to continue the legal battle against the bogus vote mafia of MIM and also their illegal activities", they said.

Meanwhile, political analysts say that there is an urgent need for the people who love democracy to join hands and fight against the poll irregularities of MIM, whose candidates are winning the elections on the strength of bogus votes.

They said people should come forward and approach the higher judiciary to stop the voter enrolment mafia from making mockery of the democracy.

COPS!

Whose friends are they?

THE NEWS BUREAU

Friendly policing is the buzz word these days. Starting from Home Guard to the Director General of Police (DGP), Telangana boast of implementing friendly policing in the state. However, the truth appears to be different.

Most police officials from the rank of Sub-Inspectors seem to be friendly with accused persons in many cases that are registered in their respective police stations for obvious reasons. Police officials act very friendly with the accused and try every trick to protect them even at the cost of damaging the interests of the victims.

Brokers in the garb of Mythri Committee, Peace Committee and self-styled human rights groups quickly step in and negotiate with the police officials on behalf of the accused to get them out of the cases or to dilute the seriousness of the criminal charges against the accused.

This is the situation prevalent not just in a few police stations in Hyderabad, but it has become a common phenomenon across Telangana. Though the Telangana police boast about free registration of FIRs, the truth is that station house officers drag the matter to such an extent that the complainants get frustrated and either drops the idea of lodging the case or knock the doors of court for justice.

B. Ravinder, SHO, Narayanaguda

C. Shankar Reddy, SHO, Jeedimetla

Here are two classic examples where Station House Officers helped the accused go scot free for extraneous reasons.

In one case, Narayanaguda Inspector, B Ravinder helped the accused in crime number 108/2018 get out of the case at the instance of a broker, Venkatesh.

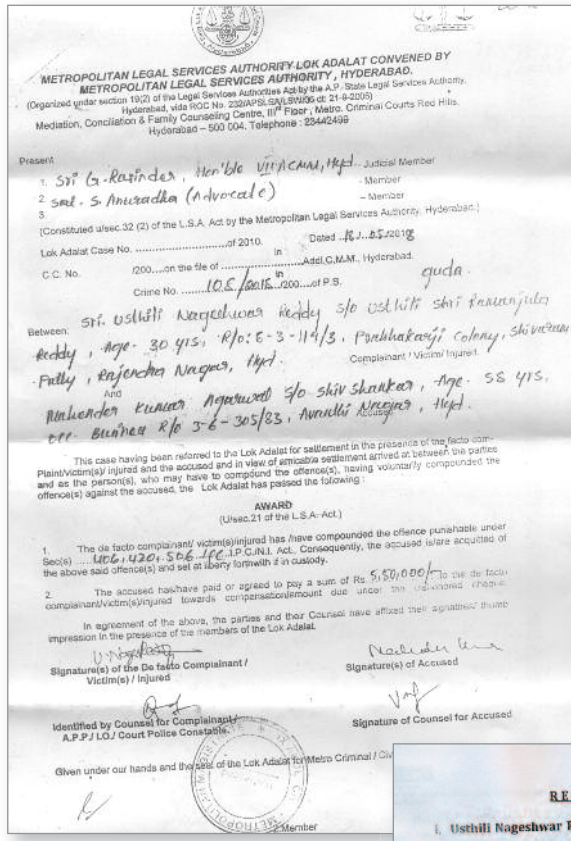
Documents available with The News show that a young man from Ananthapur in Andhra Pradesh, U Nageshwar Reddy filed a complaint with Narayanaguda police against one Mahender Kumar Agarwal as the latter cheated him to the tune of Rs 8 lakh by promising to find a job for the young man in Indian Railways.

Inspector Ravinder quickly ordered registration of FIR as Mahender Kumar Agarwal hurt his ego a few days ago. Consequently,

Agarwal was arrested and sent to judicial custody. When the accused filed bail plea, police not only objected but also sought police custody. As the court was about to grant custody, Agarwal's son Kapil Kumar Agarwal held negotiations with the complainant and agreed to repay the money taken by his father in return for compromise.

The complainant and Agarwal's son signed a MOU to the effect that the former will withdraw the case after the latter pays Rs 6,90,000. However, Narayanaguda inspector objected for the compromise through the public prosecutor and took the accused into police custody for questioning. He also called the complainant and warned him not to settle the case without his knowledge assuring that he would make the accused return the entire money taken by him from the complainant.

A couple of days later, Narayanaguda inspector called the complainant and compelled him to withdraw the case by accepting Rs 5.50 lakh only. Thus, the complainant lost Rs 1.40 lakh. All this happened after a broker identified as Venkatesh negotiated a deal with the Narayanaguda inspector, Ravinder.



METROPOLITAN LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY-LOK ADALAT CONVENED BY
METROPOLITAN LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY, HYDERABAD.
(Organized under section 19(2) of the Legal Services Authorities Act by the A.P. State Legal Services Authority, Hyderabad, vide ROC No. 232/A/PS.SM/LSW/06 dt: 21-8-2005)
Mediation, Conciliation & Family Counseling Centre, IIIrd Floor, Metro. Criminal Courts Red Hills, Hyderabad – 500 004. Telephone : 23442499

Present
1. Sri G. Ravinder, Hon'ble Vijayawada, Hyd. – Judicial Member
2. Smt. S. Anuradha (Advocate) – Member
3. – Member
(Constituted u/sec.32 (2) of the L.S.A. Act by the Metropolitan Legal Services Authority, Hyderabad.)

Lok Adalat Case No. .....of 2010. Dated ..15.05.2018
C.C. No. /200....on the file of ..... in .....Addl.C.M.M., Hyderabad.
Crime No. .....105/2015 ...200....of P.S. Gudia

Between:
Sri. Usthili Nageshwar Reddy s/o Usthili Shri Ramanjula Reddy, Age 30 yrs, R/o: 6-3-119/3, Prabhakarji Colony, Shivrampally, Rajendra Nagar, Hyd. – Complainant / Victim/ Injured
And
Mahender Kumar Agarwal s/o Shiv Shankar, Age 58 yrs, occ: Business R/o 3-6-305/83, Avantli Nagar, Hyd. – Accused

This case having been referred to the Lok Adalat for settlement in the presence of the de facto complaint/victim(s)/ injured and the accused and in view of amicable settlement arrived at between the parties and as the person(s), who may have to compound the offence(s), having voluntarily compounded the offence(s) against the accused, the Lok Adalat has passed the following :

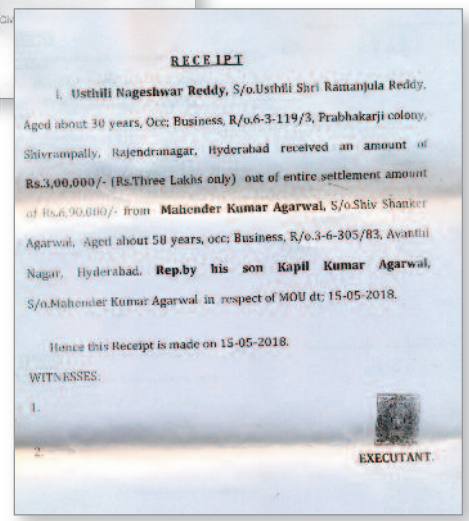
AWARD
(U/sec.21 of the L.S.A. Act.)

1. The de facto complainant/ victim(s)/injured has /have compounded the offence punishable under Sec(s) ....406, 420, 506 r/w I.P.C./N.I. Act. Consequently, the accused is/are acquitted of the above said offence(s) and set at liberty forthwith if in custody.

2. The accused has/have paid or agreed to pay a sum of Rs 5,50,000/- to the de facto complainant/victim(s)/injured towards compensation/amount due under the dishonored cheque.

In agreement of the above, the parties and their Counsel have affixed their signature/ thumb impression in the presence of the members of the Lok Adalat.

Signature(s) of the De facto Complainant / Victim(s) / Injured
Signature(s) of Accused
Identified by Counsel for Complainant/ A.P.P./ I.O./ Court Police Constable.
Signature of Counsel for Accused
Given under our hands and the seal of the Lok Adalat for Metro Criminal / Civil
Member



RECEIPT

I, Usthili Nageshwar Reddy, S/o.Usthili Shri Ramanjula Reddy, Aged about 30 years, Occ: Business, R/o.6-3-119/3, Prabhakarji colony, Shivrampally, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad received an amount of Rs.3,00,000/- (Rs.Three Lakhs only) out of entire settlement amount of Rs.6,90,000/- from Mahender Kumar Agarwal, S/o.Shiv Shanker Agarwal, Aged about 58 years, occ: Business, R/o.3-6-305/83, Avantini Nagar, Hyderabad. Rep.by his son Kapil Kumar Agarwal, S/o.Mahender Kumar Agarwal in respect of MOU dt: 15-05-2018.

Hence this Receipt is made on 15-05-2018.

WITNESSES.
1.
2.
EXECUTANT.

In another case, Jeedimetla Inspector, C Shankar Reddy, deliberately delayed registration of FIR in a case of theft for seven months. He did not care even Home Minister Nayani Narasimha Reddy and a senior IPS officer's words who telephoned the inspector asking him to register FIR and do the needful.

According to information available with The News, the victim Chalapathi Rao lodged a complaint with Jeedimetla police on November 29, 2016 stating that 75 grams of gold ornaments were stolen from his wife's handbag kept in the house. He expressed strong doubt on his tenant Padmaja since she visited his house on the day of theft.

However, Inspector Shankar Reddy refused to direct the Sub-Inspector Radha Krishna to register FIR and take up investigation. The police did not even call Padmaja for questioning despite the fact that the complainant expressed suspicion on her.

While so, the suspect vacated the house in a hurry and left the place. The complainant ran from pillar to post and finally with the intervention of some media persons Jeedimetla police registered FIR No.470/17 on May 25, 2017, by forcing the complainant to give a fresh complaint.

Even after that no action was taken. It is said that Sub-Inspector Radha Krishna and one of his subordinates recovered the stolen gold articles from the suspect and allegedly siphoned off the same in collusion with the Inspector.

There are umpteen numbers of similar instances in most of the police stations where victims are waiting for justice. It is time the higher ups wake up and take concrete measures before the people lose confidence in the police department. TN

Telangana registers highest growth rate in tax revenues

THE NEWS BUREAU

Telangana stands first among all states in the country in terms of growth rate in state's own tax revenues, an official statement said.

With 17.6 per cent growth rate in tax revenues from June 2014 to May 2018, Telangana tops the states, revealed the state government, quoting the information on the official website of the Comptroller and Auditor General.

According to CAG, Telangana has registered the highest growth rate of 17.6 per cent followed by Haryana with 14.2 per cent, Maharashtra with 13.9 per cent, Odisha with 12.4 per cent and West Bengal with 10.3 per cent.

Telangana's growth rate was

13.7 per cent during 2015-16, 21.1 per cent during 2016-17 and 16.8 per cent during 2017-18.

Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao said that the progressive financial policies, fiscal discipline, the commitment of the people in paying taxes to the government, resulted in the Telangana state achieving the highest average growth rate.

He said that despite the effects of demonetization and GST on the finances of the state, Telangana could achieve stable growth rate.

He also said that the growth rate will also help the government in better implementation of development and welfare programmes in the state.

Telangana CM hints at early polls

THE NEWS BUREAU

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has said that he was ready to go for early elections and dared the opposition to face the same.

The Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) chief, who met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 15, said the elections may be advanced.

Rao said the leaders of his party and even people were ready for early elections. He exuded confidence that TRS will win over 100 seats in 119-member state assembly. Elections to Telangana assembly are scheduled in April-May next year along with Lok Sabha polls but ever since the TRS chief's meeting, there have been reports of

the polls being advanced.

Modi is understood to have hinted that simultaneous polls to Lok Sabha and state assemblies of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana could be conducted by November-December.

KCR held meetings with TRS leaders during last few days to discuss the possibility of early elections and to review the preparedness of the party. On June 24, KCR formally admitted former minister Danam Nagender into the TRS. Nagender, who quit the Congress two days ago, joined the ruling party along with his followers.

Speaking on the occasion, KCR said all surveys show that TRS will win the next elections as the party was striving to achieve the goal of golden Telangana.

He slammed the opposition parties for criticizing the government. Alleging the opposition parties were unable to digest the number of welfare and development schemes launched by the TRS government during last four years, he challenged them to face the early elections.

AP introduces scale-out scheme for natural farming

THE NEWS BUREAU

The Andhra Pradesh government has launched a Zero Based Natural Farming (ZBNF) scale-out scheme, aimed at benefitting around six million farmers by 2024. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu made a formal announcement of the scheme on June 2. The state agriculture department also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard, with the Sustainable India Finance Facility (SIFF), an initiative with the partnership of the United Nations Environment Program, the World Agroforestry Center, and the BNP Paribas.

The agreement aims at scaling up the ZBNF against investment worth Rs. 16,134 crores over the next six years. As of 2017-18, around 1, 63,034 farmers are practicing ZBNF in Andhra Pradesh.

However, the government here aims to bring all farmers in the state under the scheme by 2024.

Meanwhile, the SIFF will extend financial and investment support to the farmers.

Polavaram: Andhra's lifeline caught in bureaucratic wrangles

THE NEWS BUREAU

The Polavaram Irrigation Project, billed as the lifeline of resource-starved Andhra Pradesh, is apparently bearing the brunt of a long-drawn slanging match between the Centre and the state government. Officially known as the Indira Sagar Multipurpose Project, it is expected to irrigate 2.91 lakh hectares, generate 960 MW of power, and fulfil the water needs of industries and 540 villages in Andhra. But bureaucratic wrangles between the Centre and the state have dealt heavy blows to the project.

That's the main roadblock. The major component of the project is Rs 33,000 crore for rehabilitation. Unless we resettle the affected families, we cannot complete the dam. We cannot submerge the villages," he says

Though the project had been under contemplation since 1941, the works started in 2005. Efforts to complete it gained momentum in 2015, following the bifurcation of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, says Ramesh Babu, the superintending engineer of the project.

He says 54 per cent of the works have been completed and the rest will be finished by December 2019. But he does not sound very assuring. The reason - a large number of the affected families have not been rehabilitated yet.

"That's the main roadblock. The major component of the project is Rs 33,000 crore for rehabilitation. Unless we resettle the affected families, we cannot complete the dam. We cannot submerge the villages," he says.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu suggests Andhra Pradesh may stop paying taxes to the Centre if it doesn't provide funds for the rehabilitation work. "The rehabilitation work has been completed to a certain extent. As and when the Centre gives the money, we will complete the rest of it.

"The central government will have to give the money. It is our right and is mentioned in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation

Act. They cannot go against it. If they do all these things... Why should we pay taxes to the Centre? Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not doing us any favours," he says.

Officials say Naidu visited the project site 30 times in the last

three years. He reviews the work every Monday, in keeping with his slogan "Polavaram on Somavaram".

They say the main components of Polavaram are -- a dam across the Godavari and two main canals, one to its right and the other to the left. For constructing the dam, it is imperative to resettle the affected people. Around 3,000 of the 98,000 affected families have relocated. The cost of resettling the affected villagers was calculated according to the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, Babu says.

"We have submitted revised estimates to the Centre, which is scrutinising them. Once that is completed, we are expecting to receive the funds required," he says. He adds the release of funds by the Centre doesn't match the pace of the work at the project site.

Andhra Irrigation Minister D Uma Maheswara Rao says the onus to rehabilitate the villagers is on the Centre, which had declared Polavaram a national project in 2014 and promised to bear the construction cost for the period starting from April 1, 2014.

The Andhra government has been directing a lion's share of its resources to the project, so much so that it has left no money to spend on its other flagship schemes.

"Rs 13,460 crore has been spent on the project since its inception. The Andhra government had squandered Rs 5,135 crore before Polavaram was declared a national project in 2014.

"The state spent another Rs 8,330 crore on it up to April 2018. The Centre has so far released Rs 5,342 crore to the AP government. It is yet to reimburse Rs 2,988 crore (calculated since 2014)," Rao says.

"The state government is providing the maximum share of funds for the payments of the project. As a result, it has become very difficult to handle the payments of other flagship programmes. The Centre is responsible for the situation," he says. The Polavaram project is the lifeline of Andhra Pradesh, which has been building a legacy from scratch following the agonising bifurcation, he says.

According to officials, the Union Ministry of Water Resources ordered to stop the work at the dam site twice. First, it questioned the need for a cofferdam to build the main dam and on the second occasion, it sought to know why the state government changed a contractor.

In January, it shot off a letter to the state government asking it to reply to an RTI query on "large-scale corruption and illegalities in the execution of the Polavaram project".

Babu says the state government has responded to the letter.

"There are a few persons who are trying to create roadblocks in the project. In a democratic setup, anyone can write a letter or raise an issue. But there should be concrete evidence. We've responded to the letter. There's no corruption," he says.

On a plea moved before the National Green Tribunal, alleging that a diaphragm wall at the Polavaram dam would have a devastating effect" on the marine life and the fishermen in the area, Babu says, We haven't stopped the water. It continues to flows smoothly. There's no cause for concern."

"The diaphragm wall will be cut to the level of the riverbed or half a metre below it. The diaphragm wall is not above the water wall (riverbed). During the construction of the diaphragm wall, the water is being diverted through a culvert, he says. A bench headed by acting NGT Chairperson Justice Jawad Rahim had last week issued notices to the Polavaram Project Authority, Union Environment Ministry, Central Inland Fisheries Institute, District Collector of West Godavari and others, seeking their replies to the plea before July 31.

Manifestations of rage tearing social fabric, says Pranab at RSS event

THE NEWS BUREAU

Former President Pranab Mukherjee expressed concern over "manifestations of rage" tearing country's social fabric and cautioned against any attempt at defining nationhood in terms of dogmas and identities of religion, region, hatred and intolerance. Speaking at a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) event at its headquarters in Nagpur on June 7, Mukherjee said there is increase in violence in the society, and identified darkness, fear and mistrust as the reasons.

"Every time a child or woman is brutalised, the soul of India is wounded. Manifestations of rage are tearing our social fabric. Every day, we see increased violence around us. At the heart of this violence is darkness, fear, and mistrust. We must free our public discourse from all forms of violence, physical as well as verbal," Mukherjee said.

The RSS is the ideological fountainhead of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Nothing should be done to divide the people and create animosity amongst them, he said.

The former President, who dwelt upon the India's history and also referred to freedom struggle at length, said the country derives its strength from tolerance.

"We accept and respect our pluralism. We celebrate our diversity. These have been a part of our collective consciousness for centuries. Any attempt at defining our nationhood in terms of dogmas and identities of religion, region, hatred and intolerance will only lead to dilution of our national identity," he said. Mukherjee said that Indian nationalism emanated from "universalism" -- the philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumakam" and "Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niramayah".

"We see the whole world as one family and pray for the happiness and good health of all. Our national identity has emerged through a long drawn process of confluence, assimilation and co-existence. The multiplicity in culture, faith and language is what makes India special," he said.

He said only a non-violent society can ensure the participation of all sections of people in the democratic process, especially the marginalized and the dispossessed. "We must move from anger, violence and conflict to peace, harmony and happiness."

The former President said peaceful co-existence, compassion, respect for life and harmony with nature form the foundation of the country's civilisation. He said that after Independence, democracy became the country's most precious guide towards peace and regeneration from the swamp of poverty created by centuries of colonial rule.

"In a democracy, informed and reasoned public engagement on all issues of national importance is essential. A dialogue is necessary not only to balance the competing interests but also to reconcile them. Divergent stands in public discourse have to be recognised.

"We may argue, we may agree or not agree, but we can't deny the essential prevalence of multiplicity of opinion. Only through a dialogue we can develop the understanding to solve complex problems without an unhealthy strife within polity," he said.

Mukherjee said India had done well in economic indicators, but it had fared poorly on the World Happiness Index and had ranked 133rd among 156 countries in 2018.

He quoted Kautilya and said: "In the happiness of the people lies the happiness of the king, their welfare is his welfare." People are at the centre of all activities of the state and nothing should be done to divide the people and create animosity amongst them, he said.

Just 25% adults use Internet in India: Pew survey

THE NEWS BUREAU

Despite talk of Digital India, only one-in-four in the country reported using the Internet in 2017, which is among the lowest in the world, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center.

South Korea stands out as the most heavily connected society, with 96 per cent of adults reporting Internet use, showed the survey conducted in 37 countries.

While majorities use the Internet in much of the world, sub-Saharan Africa and India has much to catch up with, according to the results released on June 20.

Samrtphone ownership among adults in India went up from 12 per cent in 2013 to 22 per cent in 2017, while social media use went up from eight to 20 per cent during the same period. That means 78 per cent of adults in India do not own a smartphone and a whopping 80 per cent of the population in the country have no clues about Facebook or Twitter. While the gap in Internet use between emerging and advanced economies has narrowed in recent years, there are still large swaths of the world where significant numbers of citizens do not use the Internet, the study said.

Internet penetration rates -- as measured by Internet use or smartphone ownership -- remain high in North America and much of Europe, as well as in parts of the Asia-Pacific.

UP college students invent 'smart washbasin' that save water

THE NEWS BUREAU

Students of a private engineering college in Uttar Pradesh have designed a 'smart washbasin' that can help to conserve water.

The 'smart washbasin' is said to be designed in such a way that if a tap is leaking, an alert will be sent on users mobile phone.

Earlier, six teams from across the country had came up with working prototypes of solutions for effective waste management.

All the projects were focused towards furthering the Centre's Swachh Bharat initiative. The notable projects included 'Automatic drainage cleaning system' by Team Logistic; smart drainage cleaning system by Team Electrical Levellers; self-powered biogas plant with solar tracking by Team Lokmanya; design and fabrication of garbage picker machine by Team The Gladiators; smart washbasin by Team Water Cops; and marble slurry and waste plastic brick by Team Slick.

Yet, others are not far behind. In Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden, Canada, the US, Israel, the UK, Germany, France and Spain, roughly nine-in-ten report Internet use. Regionally, sub-Saharan Africa is one of the least wired parts of the globe.

However, among people who use the Internet, those in developing countries often turn out to be more likely than their counterparts in advanced economies to network via platforms like Facebook and Twitter. In 2015-16, roughly four-in-ten adults across the emerging nations surveyed said they used social networking sites.

As of 2017, 53 per cent use social media. Over the same period, social media use has been generally level in many of the advanced economies surveyed.

The report also showed that there has been a steady increase in Internet use over the past five years among the 19 emerging and developing economies surveyed.

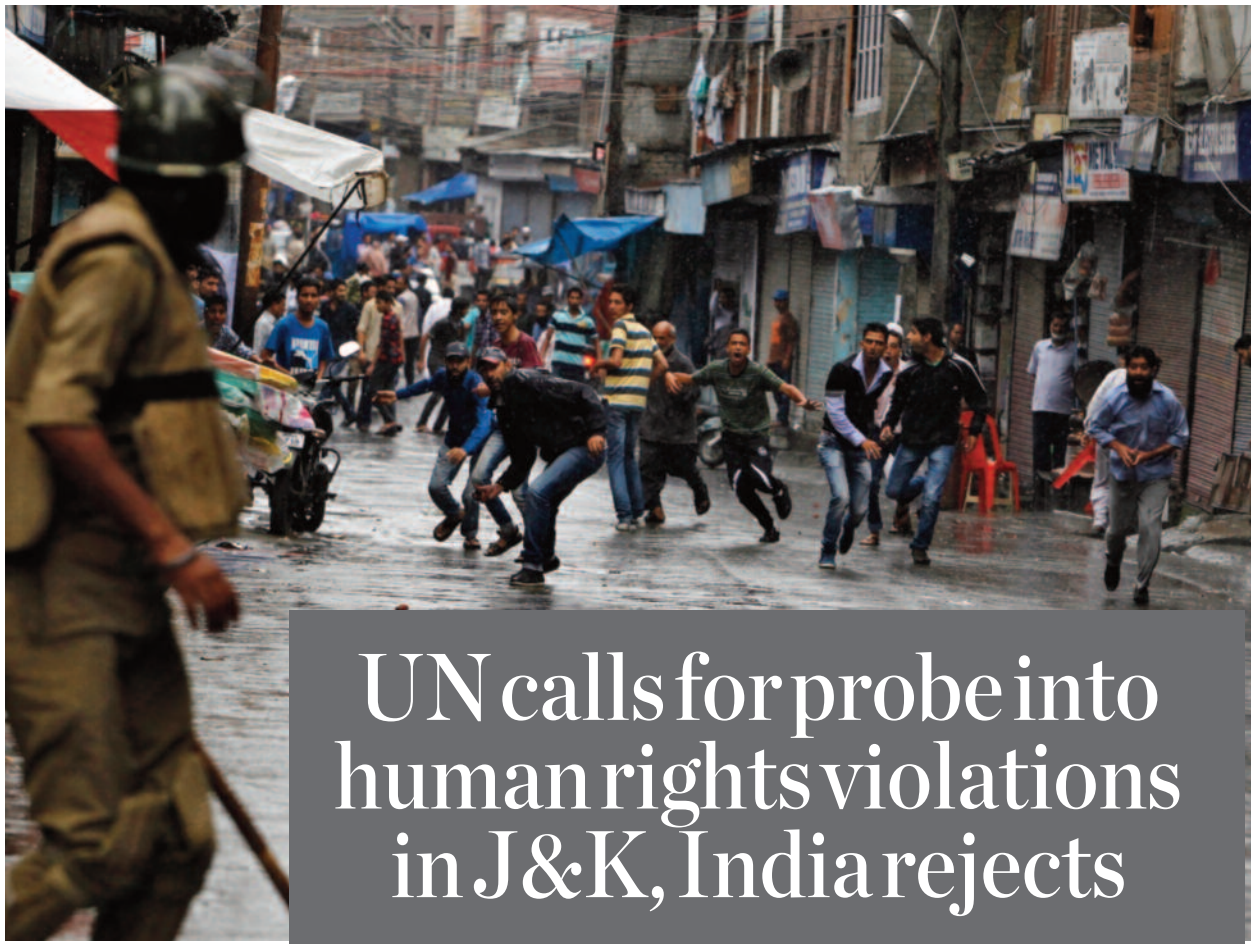
In 2013, only 16 per cent adults in India reported using the Internet. The percentage of adults using the Internet in India went up to 25 per cent in 2017.

Between 2013 and 2014, a median of 42 per cent across the emerging and developing economies said they accessed the Internet at least occasionally or owned a smartphone.

By 2017, a median of 64 per cent were online. Meanwhile, Internet use among the 17 advanced economies surveyed has remained relatively flat, with a median of 87 per cent across these nations using the internet at least occasionally in 2017, similar to the 86 per cent who said this in 2015 or 2016.

Similarly, in 2013-14, about a quarter of people in emerging and developing economies reported owning a smartphone.

By 2017, that share had risen to 42 per cent. Among the advanced economies, 72 per cent report owning a smartphone in 2017, the same rate as in 2015-16.



UN calls for probe into human rights violations in J&K, India rejects

The News Bureau

Indian and Pakistani security forces used "excessive" force in both sides of Jammu and Kashmir, killing and wounding civilians since 2016, a UN body said on June 14, in a first-ever report calling for an international investigation into alleged violations in the disputed territory. India outright rejected as "fallacious, tendentious and motivated" the report as far as it relates to Jammu and Kashmir.

The 49-page report issued by the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva on the human rights situation in "Indian-Administered and Pakistan-Administered Kashmir", detailed human rights violations and abuses on both sides of the Line of Control and highlighted a "situation of chronic impunity for violations committed by security forces".

"The political dimensions of the dispute between India and Pakistan have long been centre-stage, but this is not a conflict frozen in time. It is a conflict that has robbed millions of their basic human rights and continues to this day to inflict untold suffering," said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

"This is why any resolution of the political situation in Jammu and Kashmir must entail a commitment to end the cycles of violence and ensure accountability for past and current violations and abuses by all parties and provide redress for victims," he said.

"It is also why I will be urging the UN Human Rights Council to consider establishing a commission of inquiry to conduct a comprehensive independent international investigation into allegations of human rights violations in Kashmir," Zeid said.

The UN report focused mainly on alleged serious violations committed in Jammu and Kashmir from July 2016 to April 2018. Activists estimated that up to 145 civilians were killed by security forces and up to 20 civilians killed by armed groups in the same period, it said.

India reacted strongly to the report with External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar

saying: "India rejects the report. It is fallacious, tendentious and motivated. We question the intent in bringing out such a report.

Calling it "a selective compilation of largely unverified information", Kumar said the report "is overtly prejudiced and seeks to build a false narrative".

Stating that terrorism is the most egregious violation of human rights, the spokesperson said that yet the authors have conveniently ignored the pattern of cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan and territories under its illegal control.

"Cross-border terror and incitement is aimed at suppressing the will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, disrupting its political and social fabric and undermining India's integrity," he stated.

"It is disturbing that those behind this report have chosen to describe internationally designated and UN-proscribed terrorist entities as 'armed groups' and terrorists as 'leaders'. This undermines the UN-led consensus on zero tolerance to terrorism."

Stating that the report violates India's sovereignty and territorial integrity, Kumar, in his response, said that the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

"Pakistan is in illegal and forcible occupation of a part of the Indian state through aggression. We have repeatedly called upon Pakistan to vacate the occupied territories," he said.

"The incorrect description of Indian territory in the report is mischievous, misleading and unacceptable. There are no entities such as 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' and 'Gilgit-Baltistan'."

Kumar also said that the motivated report deliberately ignores that fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the Constitution to every Indian citizen, including in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, are protected also by an independent judiciary, human rights commissions, free and vibrant media and an active civil society.

He said India's protest and views in the matter have been conveyed unequivocally to the OHCHR.

"We are deeply concerned that individual prejudices are being allowed to undermine the credibility of a UN institution," he said.

"Such malicious reports cannot undermine the will of the people and the government of India to take all measures necessary to protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country from cross-border terrorism," he added.

The UN report also talked about the "most dangerous weapons" used against protesters in 2016 and which is still being employed by security forces -- the pellet-firing shot gun.

It also criticised the enforcement of special laws like Armed Forces Special Powers Act, AFSPA, and Public Safety Act, PSA, saying armed forces were acting with impunity. Calling for repeal of AFSPA, the report said in nearly 28 years of AFSPA in force, there has not been a single prosecution of armed forces personnel granted by the Central government.

The UN rights chief called on Indian security forces "to exercise maximum restraint and strictly abide by international standards governing the use of force when dealing with future protests".

As for Pakistan, the report cited experts' belief that its military continued to support the operations of armed groups across the Line of Control. It says violations in Pakistan-administered Kashmir are of a more "structural" nature.

It urged Pakistan to end the misuse of anti-terror legislation to persecute those engaging in peaceful political and civil activities and those who express dissent.

Among the issues highlighted in the report is the constitutional relationship of the two distinct territories of "Azad Kashmir" and Gilgit-Baltistan with Pakistan. The "Azad Kashmir" has effectively been controlled by Pakistan throughout its entire history. Pakistan's federal authorities also have full control over all government operations in Gilgit-Baltistan, and federal intelligence agencies are reportedly deployed across both regions.

Centre likely to oppose polygamy, nikah halala, nikah mutah, nikah misyar

The News Bureau

The Central government is likely to support a PIL challenging the constitutional validity of the practice of polygamy, nikah halala (a requirement for a divorced couple to remarry), nikah mutah (temporary marriage in the Shias) and nikah misyar (short-term marriage among Sunnis) among the Muslim community.

The government, which has already taken a strong position against the practice of triple talaq, nikah halala and polygamy on the touchstone of their constitutionality in the Shayara Bano case, is likely to reiterate it when the matter comes up for hearing before the constitution bench, said informed sources.

The Supreme Court on March 26 sought the Central government's response on the plea. Noting the importance of the issue, the top court had said the matter would be heard by a Constitution bench.

It is a matter of common understanding that when the government opposed instant triple talaq on the grounds of gender equality and justice, it will oppose nikah halala and polygamy on the same grounds, said a source in the Union Law Ministry.

Lawyer Madhavi Divan, who presented the government's stand during the hearing of challenge to instant triple talaq, said that in the Shayara Bano case "the Centre has already taken a strong stand on affidavit" on the issue of triple talaq, nikah halala and polygamy.

The Central government in an affidavit filed in April 2017 described triple talaq, nikah halala and polygamy as "patriarchal values and traditional notions about the role of women in society" that were an impediment to the goal of achieving social democracy.

"The conferment of a social status based on patriarchal values or one that is at the mercy of menfolk is incompatible with the letter and spirit of Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution," the government had said. "The right of a woman to human dignity, social esteem and self worth are vital facets of her right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution."

Contending that the practice of triple talaq, nikah halala and polygamy were not protected by Article 25(1) guaranteeing right to profess, practice and propagate religion, the government in 2017 said that the "fundamental question (is)... whether in a secular democracy, religion can be a reason to deny equal status and dignity, available to women under the Constitution."

When the government filed the affidavit, the challenge was to triple talaq, nikah halala and polygamy but when the matter was taken up for hearing by the Constitution bench, headed by then Chief Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar, the issue was narrowed down to the constitutional validity of instant triple talaq only.

The top court by a majority 3-2 verdict on August 22, 2017 held that triple talaq being practised by the Muslim community was "unconstitutional", "arbitrary" and "not part of Islamic faith".

Danam shifts loyalty again for power

Analysts say voters will teach him a lesson

YANADI REDDY

Former minister and Greater Hyderabad Congress leader Danam Nagender has recently quit the party and joined ruling TRS.

Though he alleged that BCs, SCs, STs and minorities were ignored by the Congress party and infighting in the party has affected the cadre's morale, the actual reason behind his jump to the ruling party is not unknown to the people of Hyderabad.

Nagender wrote in his resignation, "In the recent times, I have tried my best to explain to the party high command both at the state and centre, the changing political scenario in Telangana state with particular reference to the welfare of the backward class communities (BCs) which comprise more than 50% of the populace. All my appeals have fallen on deaf ears."

The Congress hit back at Nagender and condemned the allegations. Attacking him for the remarks, Congress leader Guduru Narayan Reddy said that the ex-MLA of Khairtabad never fought for the cause of BCs but only fought for posts.

Narayan Reddy also said, "Nagender is known for opportunistic politics. He joined TDP when it was ruling AP. He returned to the Congress after YSR became the

In the recent times, I have tried my best to explain to the party high command both at the state and centre, the changing political scenario in Telangana state with particular reference to the welfare of the backward class communities (BCs) which comprise more than 50% of the populace. All my appeals have fallen on deaf ears.

CM in 2004. Nagender shifts to whichever party is in power. He will come to Congress if it wins in 2019."

He further said that though there were leaders like Marri Shashidhar Reddy, Janardhan Reddy, who had won from the city, the Congress chose Nagender as the GHCC president, because he was from the BC community.

Nagender, who reached the higher echelons of Congress starting from NSUI and Youth Congress, was given due respect by the party by way of appointing him as Greater Hyderabad Congress president and as minister. Also, he was elected as legislator for five times.

Despite getting due respect, he joined Telugu Desam Party (TDP) in 2004 and got elected from Asifnagar Assembly Constituency on the TDP ticket. However, he resigned his seat and left the TDP in an effort to get a place in Y S Rajasekhar Reddy cabinet through re-election as a Congress MLA. But people rejected him.

After delimitation of constituencies, Nagender contested from Khairathabad Assembly Constituency in 2009 elections and was inducted into the cabinet for the first time by Rajasekhar Reddy.

It is said Nagender enjoyed enormous influence during Rajasekhar Reddy regime and amassed huge wealth by resorting to settlements, land grabbings, running pubs and bars. He opposed separate statehood for Telangana and demanded Hyderabad be made union territory.

However, Nagender became weak after Rajasekhar Reddy's death and he was defeated in the 2014 elections. Since then, he has been making attempts to join TRS. Since he was sure that he will be out of power even after 2019 elections if he continued with Congress, Nagender joined the ruling party in an apparent attempt to gain power.

Political analysts say that TRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao will not give importance to leaders like Nagender who shift loyalties for power. Further, voters will certainly teach him a lesson because the people of Hyderabad know his true colours and he was never interested in the uplift of backward and downtrodden communities.

Combative Gowda warns Cong not to take alliance for granted

THE NEWS BUREAU

All's not well with the Janata Dal (Secular) and Congress coalition in Karnataka. In a clear signal to the Congress, JDS supremo H D Deve Gowda warned its ally not to take the party for granted.

"Six non-NDA parties may have attended the swearing-in ceremony of H D Kumaraswamy as chief minister to present a united opposition, but it is not necessary that they will contest together in all states in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls," Gowda told reporters in New Delhi.

During the swearing-in-ceremony of Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy, top Opposition parties came together to show their present a united front.

Mamata Banerjee led Trinamool Congress, Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati, Sitaram Yechury of the Communist Party of India (Marxist), N Chandrababu Naidu of Telugu Desam Party, Tejashwi Yadav from Rashtriya Janata Dal along with Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi were present at the ceremony.

Deve Gowda called for an early formation of a Third Front by the Opposition parties. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party chief Amit Shah have already hinted of early Lok Sabha polls. It could be advanced from April next year, to November-December this year to coincide with the assembly elections of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh.

"We need to form a Third Front at the earliest to take on the BJP," he said.

Gowda said the parties are still discussing an alliance with each other. In West Bengal, the TMC and Congress have almost reached a consensus to fight together. But in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana the parties are yet to take a stand.

"Only in Karnataka, we have decided to fight with the Congress, despite having small differences. So far, there has not been any discussion on this issue. Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and Kumaraswamy will discuss and finalise and I will also meet some non-NDA leaders in the coming days to apprise them," he said.

Gowda also said about power sharing in the state and said his party will give a seat to BSP in Karnataka, in lieu of a seat to JDS in Uttar Pradesh. While in Kerala, the Left Democratic Front has decided to give a seat to JDS.

"We have decided to give away one parliamentary seat in Karnataka to BSP. In return, I will ask BSP to give one seat in Uttar Pradesh to K Danish Ali (JDS) secretary general). In Kerala, LDF will give one seat to us," he said. According to Gowda, he went to Delhi to attend a parliamentary meeting and not to complain about former Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah. TN

One year of GST

Long way to go for a simple, uniform tax regime

THE NEWS BUREAU

Touted as the biggest economic reform since Independence, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was supposed to replace the complex indirect tax system prevalent in the country with a more simplified, uniform regime.

As its roll-out completes one year on June 30, it can be argued that while India has come a long way from a complicated taxation system, with over a dozen different taxes and many more cesses, GST is still far away from an ideal taxation regime.

Also, the one year journey of the GST has not been a smooth one either with glitches and teething problems experienced from day one. While many of those glitches were addressed by a proactive government, some still remain to be resolved including simplification of return filing and further rationalisation of tax rates.

According to NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar: "GST has put the economy on a completely different paradigm now because more and more pressure will be on people to register under GST and bring their economic activity into the formal sector."

It is not enough only to analyse the one year journey, but it is important to understand the future roadmap.

While many economists would argue that an ideal GST structure should have a universal coverage and a single tax rate, most would also agree that it was not practical for a country like India with vast economic disparities. This is a stand the government has also maintained often giving the example that "a BMW car and a Hawai 'chappal' (flip-flops) can't be taxed at the same rate".

However, having six different rates -- 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent apart from some items being taxed

at zero per cent and gold at 3 per cent -- makes India's GST one of the most complex in the world, something acknowledged by the World Bank in its biannual India Development Update report.

"To make things worse, petroleum products, power and real estate have been kept outside the GST ambit," the report noted.

It added that not only India has one of the largest number of tax slabs, but at 28 per cent, it has the highest standard GST rate in Asia and the second highest in the world after Chile.

Soon after the new indirect tax system was rolled out, NITI Aayog Member Bibek Debroy -- who is now also the chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council -- had told IANS that "India is a long way off from the ideal GST structure and it may not get there anytime in the near future".

Favouring a maximum of three GST rates with all items covered, Debroy had said that starting with seven rates, "depending on how you count it", has put India in a situation where it may not get to the ideal GST.

Fast forward to present. The economy is still grappling with the rather high multiplicity of tax rates while also debating bringing petroleum products, electricity and other items into the GST net with little clarity in the picture.

While there has been expression of intent by the government to merge some of the tax slabs, there has been little progress on that front so far.

Right from the first day of the roll-out on July 1 last year, there were technical glitches appearing on the GST Network portal causing a lot of hardship to taxpayers in registering on the network. There were often instances of the portal not being able to take the load of last-minute rush to file returns, forcing the government to postpone the filing of deadlines several times.

The glitches also led to export refunds piling up, resulting in a grave situation of cash crunch for exporters, whose working capital was getting blocked.

However, to address this, the government initiated two special fortnight-long drives (extended by a few days later) to process pending refunds -- one in March and another in June -- clearing a major portion of the backlog while some still remains.

To address the GST network issues, the GST Council has set up a five-member ministerial panel headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi to oversee its functioning and smoothen the process.

"GST is a very huge and complex exercise and one has to be honest that it could be implemented better and the details could have

been (better) thought through," the NITI Aayog's Kumar told IANS.

While there was consensus that no reform could be undertaken without some glitches and teething problems, which could be addressed as we go along, one major concern was that GST might lead to some loss of revenue, especially for the states.

This fear almost came true when GST collections fell for two consecutive months from over Rs 92,000 crore (later revised to Rs 95,132 crore) in September to Rs 83,346 crore (later revised to Rs 85,931 crore) in October, and Rs 80,808 crore (later revised to Rs 83,716 crore) in November.

This prompted the GST Council in its December meeting to prematurely roll out the e-way bill mechanism for inter-state movement of goods from February 1 to plug gaps and check tax evasion.

The e-way bill portal crashed on Day One prompting the government to extend the trial period and eventually postpone the roll-out to April 1.

According to the NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, in a country like India, which is proud of its IT sector, there is hardly any excuse for the IT systems not to work.

However, when the system was rolled out the second time on April 1, the technical issues were sorted out and infrastructure boosted enough for a smooth implementation. The revenue collections also picked up subsequently crossing the Rs 1 lakh crore mark in March (collected in April) -- which was, however, attributed to the financial year-end effect -- and then again showing credible buoyancy in April when it crossed the Rs 94,000 crore.

Kumar said now that the GST has stabilised, it would give a massive fillip to economic activity.

Finance Secretary Hasmukh Adhia said earlier this week that GST had now entered a "smooth phase" with good tax compliance. He added the priority of the government would now be simplification of tax return forms.

Deloitte India Partner Prashant Deshpande said while GST has resolved the issues of multiple taxable events and double taxation, there are some concerns which still need to be addressed.

"On the legislation side, GST can be improved by extending it to petroleum products, electricity, land and building which are currently taxed under old laws... The number of tiers in tax rate structure are required to be reduced to resolve classification issues," Deshpande told IANS.

On the execution side, he added, prime concern is the GST compliance infrastructure "which is complex and cumbersome" which needs to be replaced with "a simple and robust compliance system". TN

Situation will improve from next year, bad-debt banks tell parliamentary panel

THE NEWS BUREAU

Representatives from the 11 public sector banks, which are under RBI scanner for mounting bad loans, assured a parliamentary panel on June 26 that "things would start looking up from next year" and by 2020, they would be able to come out of the austerity regime imposed by the central bank on them, sources said.

The Parliamentary Committee on Finance headed by senior Congress leader M. Verappa Moily in its meeting held on Tuesday heard out 11 banks -- IDBI Bank, Allahabad Bank, Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce, UCO Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Dena Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, United Bank of India and Corporation Bank.

The Committee is looking into 'Banking Sector in India- Issues, Challenges and the Way Forward, including Non-Performing Assets/Stressed Assets in Banks/Financial Institutions'.

Senior representatives from these banks also answered the queries of the committee.

One of the concerns discussed during the meeting was the "stagnation" in the lending process as these banks "are not able to lend money", resulting in "no income" to them, according to sources.

It also emerged that there was a "lot of fear" among the bankers of institutions like the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Enforcement Directorate (ED) etc and bank officials are shunning action.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework on banks reeling under bad-debt under which banks face restrictions on distributing dividends and remitting profits.

Besides, there are restrictions on expanding their branch networks and remuneration of directors. Since the banks have to comply with the Basel III international norms on capital adequacy and make provision for non-performing assets, it too has constricted lending space.

The total NPAs have touched around nine lakh crore rupees or 10.11 per cent of total advances at December-end 2017.

The parliamentary panel also desires that RBI Governor Urjit Patel should appear before it "at least twice a year if not more" to brief the Committee on the state of economy, a source said.

Eight out of 10 millennials support inter-caste marriage in India

THE NEWS BUREAU

The institution of marriage is constantly evolving with millennials nowadays having complex attitudes towards commitments, companionship and gender stereotyping. One of most welcome change is that 8 out of 10 millennials support inter-caste marriage in India, says a survey.

Inshorts, a news app with more than 10 million downloads on Android and iOS, has come up with "Pulse of the Nation" -- a Pan India survey that was done to understand the changing opinions of millennials about the institution of Indian marriages.

The poll, conducted in the third week of June 2018 captured the views of 1.3 lakh netizens, said the newsapp.

In the survey, 8 out of 10 Indians did not shy away from inter-caste marriages with more than 70 per cent males saying that they do not think their partners should change their maiden names. Over 50 per cent respondents were from tier 2 and 3 cities.

Also for 84 per cent females, it doesn't matter if there partner earns less or more than them, the poll said. According to the poll, more than 90 per cent male respondents said they are ready to split the wedding expenses which is a shift from the mindset where the bride's family had to bear the entire costs.

Commenting on this, Azhar Iqubal, CEO and Co-founder, inshorts said: "With an egalitarian mindset on the rise, the concept of a marital relationship today clearly defies all conventional and linear lines of patriarchy, thus laying roots for a completely new society on the rise."

When asked about the comfortness of the partner's earning, only 7 per cent Indian males said they were not comfortable with their partner earning more than them. This is again a great shift from the era when females were considered to be only home makers and males to be achievers in the society, the company said..

Further, only 16 per cent males get married under the influence of societal pressure, this percent for females is more than 25 per cent, the poll said.

Bug made private posts of 14mn users public, admits Facebook

THE NEWS BUREAU

In yet another privacy goof-up, Facebook has admitted that 14 million users were affected by a bug in May that automatically suggested posting publicly when the users were writing posts meant only for friends.

The bug made sure that the posts could be viewed by anyone, including people not logged on to Facebook. It was not yet known users in which country were affected the most.

The bug, according to Erin Egan, Chief Privacy Officer at Facebook, occurred as the Facebook developers were building a new way to share featured items on users' profile, like a photo.

"Since these featured items are public, the suggested audience for all new posts -- not just these items -- was set to public.

"The problem has been fixed, and for anyone affected, we changed the audience back to what they had been using before," Egan said in a blog post.

The revelation came after a New York Times report exposed how the social network allowed about 60 device makers, including Chinese smartphone players, to access personal information of users and their friends.

Facebook admitted sharing users' data with Chinese company Huawei -- facing the heat in the US over data privacy concerns -- along with three other China-based smartphone makers Lenovo, OPPO and TCL. The latest bug affected audience selector that lets users decide who gets to see the post.

Starting Thursday, "we have started letting the 14 million people affected know -- and asking them to review any posts they made during that time.

"To be clear, this bug did not impact anything people had posted before, and they could still choose their audience just as they always have," Egan said.

It took Facebook developers five days to fix the bug.

"If you posted publicly (during the period May 18 to 27), you'll see a notification from Facebook when you log in that leads to a page with more information -- including a review of posts during this period," said Egan.

Every time you share something on Facebook, it shows you an audience selector so users can decide who gets to see the post.

For example, if you choose to share a photo with friends only, your audience selector will automatically suggest you share to friends next time you start a post.

"We've heard loud and clear that we need to be more transparent about how we build our products and how those products use your data -- including when things go wrong," Egan said.

Facebook is already under intense scrutiny for misuse of millions of its users' data after the Cambridge Analytica data leak scandal became public. TN

Google, Facebook tricking users to not use privacy rights

THE NEWS BUREAU

Tech giants Google, Facebook and Microsoft have been using "dark patterns" around privacy settings to discourage users in the European Union from exercising their privacy rights, according to a new report by the Norwegian Consumer Council.

The popups from Facebook, Google and Windows 10 have design, symbols and wording that nudge users away from the privacy friendly choices, said the study.

The consumer watchdog studied the privacy settings of the firms and found a series of "dark patterns", including intrusive default settings and misleading wording, the BBC reported on Thursday.

"The use of exploitative design choices, or 'dark patterns', is arguably an unethical attempt to push consumers toward choices that benefit the service provider," the Norwegian Consumer Council said in its report.

It picked Facebook, Google, and Microsoft for the study as they are some of the world's largest digital service-providers.

In this study, the Norwegian group looked at user settings updates in the three digital services that relate to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came into force in May.

European service providers gave users a wide array of GDPR updates. Among these services, users of Facebook, Google's services, and Windows 10 had to click through and approve update messages as part of the companies' attempt to comply with the new legislation.

These popups contained references to new user terms, and presented a number of user settings related to the ways that the companies may collect, process, and use personal data.

This is not a problem in itself, but analysis of a sample of settings in Facebook, Google and Windows 10 by the group showed how default settings and "dark patterns" were used to nudge users towards privacy intrusive options.

The privacy intrusive defaults in Facebook and Google make users who want the privacy-friendly option to go through a significantly longer process, the report said.

They also obscure some of these settings so that the user cannot know that the more privacy intrusive option was pre-selected.

"At the same time, we find that the service providers employ numerous tactics in order to nudge or push consumers toward sharing as much data as possible," the report, titled "Deceived by Design" said.

Besides privacy intrusive default settings and hiding away privacy-friendly choices, the service providers were found to be using "misleading wording", giving users "an illusion of control", and having a "take-it-or-leave-it" approach.

The three companies said user privacy was important to them, the BBC report said.

Smaller cities better at waste-segregation policy: CSE

THE NEWS BUREAU

Smaller cities have been innovative and "more successful" in implementing waste segregation at source methodology compared to the bigger ones, a green body on June 7 said, as it awarded a small town in Maharashtra for its eco-friendly initiatives.

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has been working with cities to promote and implement source-segregation and decentralized model of waste management.

To advance this work, the CSE had launched 'Forum of Cities that Segregate' last December. The forum now has 26 members, including cities like Indore, Thiruvananthapuram, Mysore, Muzaffarpur and some municipal corporations in Delhi-NCR (such as SDMC, EDMC and Gurgaon).

The 2017-18 assessment report of the performance of 20 of these 26 forum cities was released here by the CSE today.

The cities were assessed based on their performance in 2017-18. The parameters included segregation at source, collection, transportation, waste processing, adoption of decentralised systems, inclusion of informal sector and enforcement of solid waste management byelaws and plastic waste management.

Based on the findings of the assessment report, the best performers were selected and the Leaves Awards conferred on them, with Vengurla in Maharashtra receiving the highest 'Five Leaves Award', the CSE said in a statement.

Four of the 20 forum cities assessed have a segregation percentage higher than 90 per cent -- Indore in Madhya Pradesh, Panchgani and Vengurla in Maharashtra and Alappuzha in Kerala, it said.

"Six cities have wet waste processing greater than 90 per cent -- Indore, Mysore, Alappuzha, Panchgani, Balaghat and Vengurla. Four cities have 90 per cent or higher dry waste processing -- Panchgani, Vengurla, Indore and Alappuzha," the CSE said.

The National Capital Region did not perform well. The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) and the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) received the 'Two Leaves Award' and Gurgaon got 'One Leaf Award' only it said. "Our objective through this assessment is to work with cities and help them perform better and continue to reinvent their waste management systems," CSE's deputy director general Chandra Bhushan said. Under this forum, 26 cities from 14 states have come together to ensure that they adopt 100 per cent source segregation and become the pioneers of waste management in the country.

"It is clear in our assessment that smaller cities have been more successful in implementing source-segregation compared to bigger cities. They have also been innovative in their approach and hence have performed well," said Swati Singh Sambyal, programme manager, waste management unit, CSE. Chairman of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) S P S Parihar, in his address at a session, said, "Indore has set an example. We are looking for catalysts. The CSE Forum can help identify those catalysts."

"But, question is how can we sustain the efforts. When you are looking at a mission mode to meet these challenges, you need sustainable and successful cities," he said.

To create the nuclei of successes, it is extremely critical to move towards the policy of reuse and recycle, he added. TN

India suffering from worst water crisis in history: NITI Aayog

THE NEWS BUREAU

India is suffering from the worst water crisis in its history and millions of lives and livelihoods are under threat, the NITI Aayog has said.

It also warned that the crisis was only going to get worse and by 2030, the country's water demand is projected to be twice the available supply, implying severe water scarcity for hundreds of millions of people and an eventual six per cent loss in the country's GDP.

Currently, 600 million Indians face high to extreme water stress and about two lakh people die every year due to inadequate access to safe water, said the NITI Aayog report on Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) released on June 14, which aims to enable effective water management in Indian states in the face of this growing crisis.

The report ranks Gujarat at top in managing its water resources in the reference year (2016-17) followed by Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. The worst states include Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Among North Eastern and Himalayan states, Tripura has been adjudged number one in 2016-17 followed by Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Assam.

In terms of incremental change in index (over 2015-16 level), Rajasthan holds number one position in general states and Tripura ranks at first position amongst Northeastern and Himalayan states, the report said.

According to the NITI Aayog report, Centre-state and inter-state cooperation were some of the key levers to help address the crisis.

"There is an opportunity to improve Centre-state and inter-state cooperation across the broader water ecosystem. Water management is often currently viewed as a zero-sum game by states due to limited frameworks for inter-state and national management.

"This has resulted in seven major disputes regarding the country's rivers, involving 11 states, as well as limited policy coordination on issues like agricultural incentives, pump electricity pricing etc," it said.

The report was released by Water Resources Minister Nitin Gadkari and NITI Aayog Vice

Chairman Rajiv Kumar.

Gadkari said that water scarcity was one of the biggest problems the country was facing today and that more than the scarcity of water, it was an issue of management of water resources.

He said there was a need to reward those states which were doing well in managing their water resources and also to bring in public domain the names of those states which were not managing their resources properly.

"States which have done well on water management are also the states which do well in agricultural growth rate as well. There is a direct connection between water and agricultural economy," Gadkari said. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar added one could never imagine India would face such a water crisis. However, he added, the government was serious about facing this challenge and addressing it.

The Composite Water Management Index report is a step in that direction to create awareness among people and governments about the realities of this crisis, he said.

"Just like we have various media campaigns to create awareness about pollution, the time as come to take the issue of water just as seriously," Kumar said.

The NITI Aayog said that the water management index would provide useful information for the states and concerned Central ministries and departments enabling them to formulate and implement suitable strategies for better management of water resources.

NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said the government's policy think-tank would publish ranking of states on an annual basis in future.

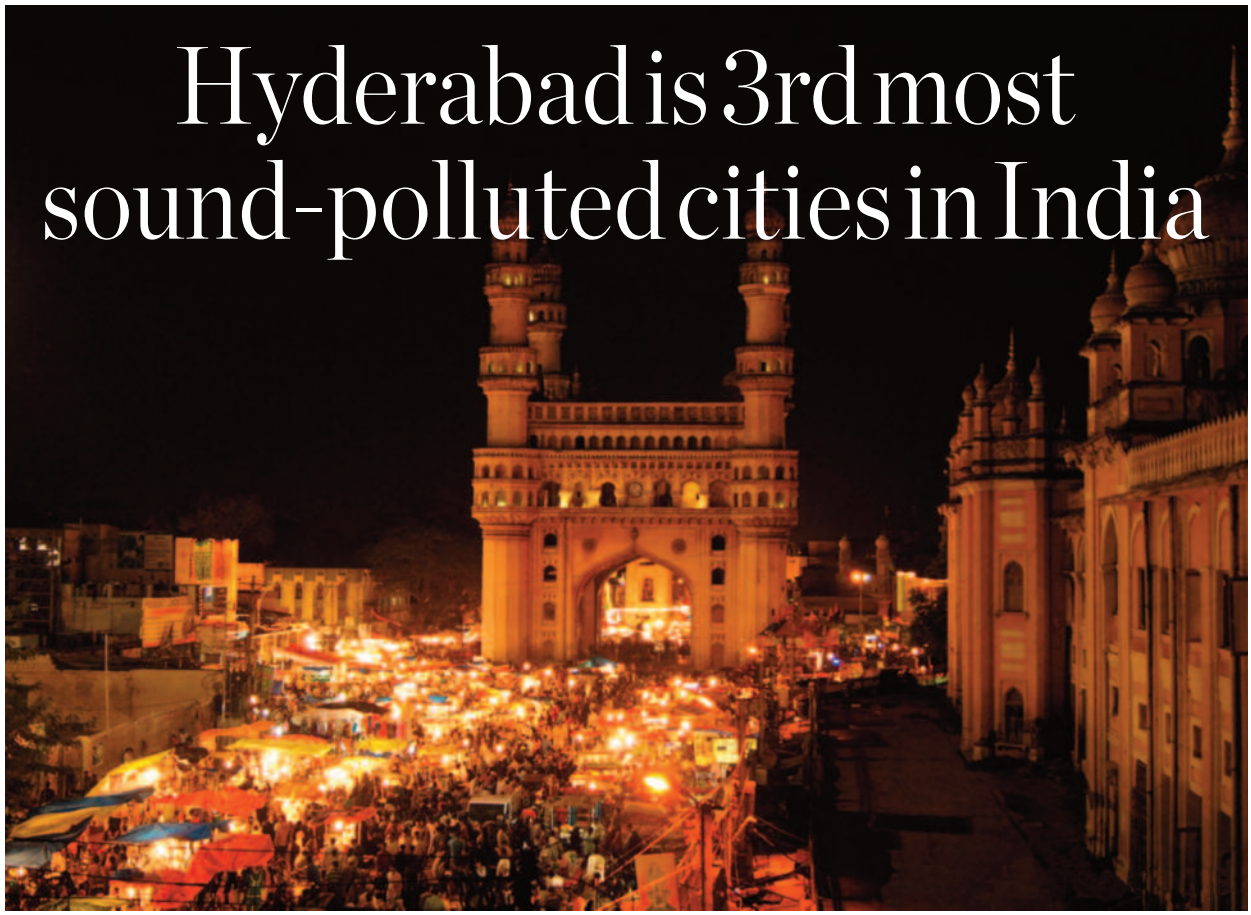
TRS leader booked for kicking woman

The News Bureau

Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) mandal parishad president Immadi Gopi has been booked for kicking a woman over a property dispute. The woman had purchased a property from the Dharpally MPP a few months back. However, Gopi did not hand over the possession of the property and demanded an additional amount. "The victim had purchased the property for Rs 33 lakh from Gopi. Today, the woman, along with her few community members, went to the residence and asked Gopi to hand it over to her. Gopi demanded more money and threatened her," said the ACP of Nizamabad north.

He further said that after the woman hit MPP Gopi with her footwear, he retaliated by kicking her in the chest. The other members later broke open the door of the residence and vandalised all the furniture. A case was registered against Gopi for kicking and threatening the woman. Another case would be registered against the woman and her community for vandalising the furniture.

Hyderabad is 3rd most sound-polluted cities in India



D Bal Reddy

Hyderabad has been ranked number three in the list of sound polluted metropolitan cities, according to figures released by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Attributing this to the increasing numbers of cars, traffic jams and congestion in the city, Traffic Department, Additional Commissioner of Police (ACP), Anil Kumar said that several steps were being taken.

"Sound pollution is one of the major problems in city. For that we have started campaigning against noise pollution; we have also tied up with Telecom companies through which we can give messages to common masses about the awareness," the ACP told media persons. Other reports add that there were real time noise monitoring stations at different places in the city, which found that noise pollution exceeded permissible levels in various parts of the city.

In January this year, it was reported that data recorded in 11 cities and towns across Telangana including Hyderabad, Warangal and Medak, found that the air quality was above permissible levels in many places.

The IT Hub of Hyderabad, more commonly known as Cyberabad, unsurprisingly, had the highest PM10 levels.

In November 2016, the recorded PM10 levels were 17% higher than the daily standard and almost twice as much the annual standard. In 2016, the cities and towns that exceeded the annual PM10 levels by National Ambient Air Quality (NAAQ) standards included Medak, Mehboobnagar, Adilabad and Hyderabad.

This development comes even as Hyderabad was ranked the best city in India to live for the fourth continuous year, according to Mercer's Quality of Living rankings 2018.

Hyderabad ranked 142 in the list of all the countries in the world, sharing a spot with Pune. While Pune was ranked 151 last year, Hyderabad was ranked 144. Both cities have managed to improve their quality of living.

The organisation also said that the data was largely analysed between September and November 2017.

Mobile data traffic in India to grow 5 times by 2023

THE NEWS BUREAU

With exponential rise in smartphone subscriptions and LTE/4G becoming the most dominant technology by 2023, the total mobile data traffic per month in India is set to grow five times in the next five years, according to an Ericsson report. The boost in mobile data traffic growth could also be due to commercial rollout of 5G during this period, although Ericsson projects that the 5G subscriptions will become available in India from 2022.

North America is expected to lead the 5G uptake, with all major US operators planning to roll out 5G between late 2018 and mid-2019, said the 14th edition of the Ericsson Mobility Report that provides projections and analyses of the latest trends in the mobile industry.

The report estimates that the monthly data usage per smartphone (GB/month) in India will increase from 5.7 GB in 2017 to 13.7 GB by 2023. "Overall, we see an increase in smartphones and LTE/4G becoming the dominant technology in the world, as seen in the end of 2017. It is growing very fast, and this change will also be seen in India," Patrik Cerwall, Executive Editor - Ericsson Mobility Report, told IANS in an interview.

"India has been a country where we have seen GSM being the majority of all subscriptions, as around 60 per cent users right now are still on GSM network. By 2023, LTE is going to account for 80 per cent of total subscriptions in India," said Cerwall, who is also the Head of Strategic Marketing, Business Area Networks at Ericsson. In 2017, LTE subscriptions in India stood at 20 per cent. With the addition of 16 million mobile subscriptions, India also saw the second highest number of net mobile subscription additions by country in the first quarter of 2018, the report said. The total smartphone subscriptions in the country will grow 2.5 times to cross 975 million by 2023, acording to the report.

By end of 2023, close to 50 per cent of all mobile subscriptions in North America are forecast to be for 5G. Globally, major 5G deployments are expected from 2020.

Ericsson forecasts over one billion 5G subscriptions for enhanced mobile broadband by the end of 2023, accounting for around 12 per cent of all mobile subscriptions. Larger than previously forecast deployments of cellular IoT (Internet of Things) is another focal point in the latest edition of the Ericsson Mobility Report.

The forecast for cellular IoT connections has nearly doubled since November 2017.

It is now expected to reach an estimated 3.5 billion in 2023, driven by ongoing large-scale deployments in China.

New massive IoT cellular technologies such as NB-IoT and Cat-M1 are fuelling this growth, giving service providers opportunities to improve efficiencies and enhance customer value, the report said.

Cellular IoT connections are also forecast to grow in a big way in India by 2023.

"We also see IoT picking up in a big way with cellular IoT connections in India to reach 72 million by 2023 growing at a CAGR of 25 per cent," said Nitin Bansal, Head of Network Solutions for the Market Area South East Asia, Oceania and India for Ericsson. TN

Now apply for passport on mobile, from anywhere

THE NEWS BUREAU

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj launched the mPassportSeva Mobile App along with a new scheme on June 26 by which an applicant can apply for passport from anywhere in the country, an official statement said.

The mPassport Seva App, released on the occasion of the Sixth Passport Seva Divas, is available in Android and iOS platforms and will have the facilities to apply, pay and schedule appointments for passport services.

"With the launch of this mPassport Seva App, citizens would not require access to a computer and printer to apply for passport services," it said.

The new app will support services such as new user registration; signing in to registered user account; application form filing to apply for passport and police clearance certificate; paying for passport services; appointment scheduling; application availability status; document advisor; and fee calculator.

The Ministry said its other new scheme allows applicants to choose the Regional Passport Office (RPO) and thus the desired Passport Seva Kendra (PSK) and Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) where they wish to submit their application irrespective of whether the present residential address specified in the application form lies within the jurisdiction of the selected RPO or not.

"The police verification, if required for a specific passport, would be conducted at the address specified in the application form. The passport will be printed and despatched by the RPO selected for application submission by the applicant," it said.

This initiative is expected to benefit the applicants who are unable to apply at a PSK or POPSK near their ordinary place of residence, it said.

New malware stealing financial data from Android users in India: Quick Heal

THE NEWS BUREAU

Two new sophisticated Android Banking trojan viruses are exploiting mobile users' behaviour in India to gain access to their confidential data, global IT security firm Quick Heal has warned.

Security experts at Quick Heal Security Labs have detected "Android.Marcher.C" and "Android.Asacub.T" -- the two trojans that imitate notifications from popular social applications such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Skype, Instagram and Twitter as well as some of the leading banking apps in India.

By gaining access to incoming messages through administrative privileges, these malware also allow hackers to bypass the two-factor OTP authentication typically used for securing online transactions in India, the researchers warned.

"Indian users often download unverified apps from third-party app stores and links sent through SMS and email. This gives hackers a lucrative opportunity to steal confidential information from unsuspecting users," said Sanjay Katkar, Co-founder and CTO, Quick Heal Technologies Limited.

"The fact that we've detected three similar malware in less than six months indicates that hackers are now targeting mobile users, who are far more vulnerable to sophisticated phishing attacks," he added.

While "Android.Marcher.C" uses the Adobe Flash Player icon to look like a genuine app, "Android.Asacub.T" mimics an Android Update icon.

Whenever users access an app on the database of these malware, they are tricked into entering sensitive information such as banking credentials, card details, and login IDs/passwords before they can continue using the app.

This is not the first time that Quick Heal Security Labs has detected such a malware. The researchers previously raised an alert in January this year about a similar Android Banking Trojan.

Known as "Android.banker.A2f8a", the malware was distributed through a fake Flash Player on third-party app stores and mimicked more than 232 banking and cryptocurrency apps.

The security researchers have recommended Android users to avoid downloading apps through third-party app stores or through links provided in SMS and email.

"Always keep 'Unknown Sources' disabled, and verify app permissions before installing any app from official stores," the security firm said.

Users must also keep their Google Play Protect service always 'ON' and install a reliable mobile security app to detect and block fake/malicious apps, it added. TN

Vijay Mallya offers to sell assets to repay bank loans

THE NEWS BUREAU

Fugitive tycoon Vijay Mallya has petitioned the Karnataka High Court to permit him and his holding firm UBHL to sell their assets under its supervision to repay creditors, including state-run banks, while saying a civil law matter of loan recovery had been made a criminal matter in his case.

"UBHL (United Breweries Holding Ltd) and myself have filed an application before the Karnataka High Court on June 22, setting out available assets of about Rs 13,900 crore," said Mallya from London in a statement released by his office in Bengaluru on June 26 .

The 62-year-old liquor baron, who fled India on March 2, 2016, has been living in London since then despite summons from Indian courts and law enforcement agencies to appear before them for trial in various related cases.

Asserting that recovery of loans was a civil matter, Mallya said the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Enforcement Directorate (ED) had, however, criminalised it in his case by moving against him despite his intentions to settle the dues with the banks.

"The CBI and ED seem determined to frame criminal charges against me on the pretext of non-payment to the banks. The motivation, however, seems to be to secure my presence in India to face charges than to determine if the evidence collected by them demonstrates criminal charges against me or to permit me to sell assets and repay creditors," he said.

A consortium of 17 banks, led by the State Bank of India (SBI), gave Rs 5,500 crore loans to Mallya's now defunct Kingfisher Airlines since over a decade.

Claiming that the bulk of the dues were on account of interest, Mallya said owing to injunctions, attachments and refusal to grant permission to sell the assets, this had kept mounting.

"Consequently, the bloated figure of outstanding dues to the

banks is on account of these mala fide actions. If CBI or ED object to my proposal and sale of assets, it will demonstrate that there is an agenda against me beyond recovery of dues to the banks," he claimed.

Reiterating that he made efforts to settle the dues, Mallya said if politically motivated and extraneous factors interfere, there was nothing he could do, adding over Rs 600 crore has been recovered through sale of pledged assets and Rs 1,280 crore deposited with the Karnataka High Court since 2013.

On the charges made by politicians and the media that he ran away from the country after "stealing" Rs 9,000 crore loaned to his airline, Mallya said some of the lending banks had also declared him a wilful defaulter, while the CBI and ED have filed chargesheets against him with "untenable and false allegations acting at the behest of the government and lending banks".

"The ED also attached assets belonging to me, my group companies and owned and/or controlled by my family, under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), currently valued at Rs 13,900 crore," said Mallya.

Observing that he became the "Poster Boy" of bank default and a lightning rod of public anger, he said though he wrote identical letters to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on April 15, 2016 clarifying his position and seeking their intervention to settle the dues, there was no response from either of them.

Recalling that all loans were approved by each bank, restructured and consolidated under a master debt recast pact in December 2010 with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) permission, he said the airline could not repay in time as the airline industry was under a great stress then.

"The SBI wrote to the central bank (RBI) in January 2012 explaining that the position was beyond the airline's control, confirming that its promoters (UB Group) had infused substantial funds into it," said Mallya in the statement.

When the banks went to the Debt Recovery Tribunal for recovery of Rs 6,200 crore, including Rs 5,000 crore principal amount and Rs 1,200 crore interest, Mallya made two settlement offers to the banks in the Supreme Court on March 29 and April 6, 2016.

The first offer was for Rs 4,000 crore, which was revised to Rs 4,400 crore plus the assignment of a claim in a pending suit of Rs 2,000 crore.

Noting that the twin offers need to be viewed in the context of one-time settlements made between state-run banks and borrowers in the past and recently the bank partial recoveries with haircuts under the Indian Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code before the National Company Law Tribunal, he noted that the consortium of banks rejected both. TN

Mumbai court issues summons to Mallya under new law

THE NEWS BUREAU

A special court in Mumbai issued summons to absconding liquor baron Vijay Mallya to appear before it on August 27.

The order came on June 30 following a hearing on a fresh plea filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

The ED has sought action against him under the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance in the over Rs 9,000-crore bank fraud case.

Prevention of Money Laundering Act Court Special Judge M.S. Azmi ordered issue of the notice to Mallya after taking cognisance of the recent second ED chargesheet and its application on June 22 seeking to invoke the charges against him under the FEO Ordinance.

This is first time that action has been initiated invoking the new Ordinance promulgated by the government to tackle fugitive bank loan defaulters.

If Mallya -- currently holed up in the United Kingdom -- fails to honour the special court's summons, he could be proclaimed a "Fugitive Economic Offender", and all his properties can be confiscated.

The special court has earlier issued non-bailable arrest warrants in Mallya's name in the two main cases lodged by the ED, but he has denied all charges against him. Last week, the fugitive tycoon petitioned the Karnataka High Court to permit him and his holding firm UBHL to sell their assets under its supervision to repay creditors, including state-run banks, while saying a civil law matter of loan recovery had been made a criminal matter in his case.

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Activist alleges corruption in Malkajgiri SRO

DEMANDS PROBE AGAINST JSRO AND HIS TEAM

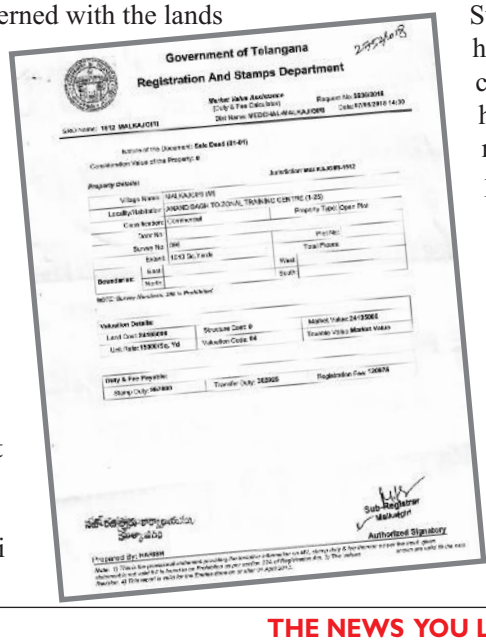
URGES AUTHORITIES TO PROTECT WAKF AND GOVERNMENT LANDS

THE NEWS BUREAU

Sustained vigil by social workers and anti-corruption crusaders appears to have failed to put a check for corruption in various government departments, particularly in the stamps and registration department.

The Sub-Registrar's Office (SRO) at Malkajgiri, which has often been in the news for all wrong reasons, is again in the news, this time for allowing registration of prohibited properties belonging to Wakf Board.

Mohammed Salman Ali, Nayab Imam of Masjid-e-Jaffer at Bagh-e-Hydri in Moula Ali area of Malkajgiri, has lodged complaints with every official and minister concerned with the lands and registration.


Government of Telangana
Registration And Stamps Department
Authorized Signatory

According to him, the illegal registrations have become rampant after Joint Sub-Registrar, B Surendra Naik took over charge at Malkajgiri SRO. In his complaint, Ali alleged that the JSRO in collusion with some of his staff and some land sharks has been allowing illegal land registrations.

Ali said in his complaint that Surendra Naik hands over charge to one of his subordinates for brief period on a particular day on the pretext of attending an official meeting or a court. By the time, he comes back to office and resumes charge, the incharge officer will complete registration of the prohibited properties.

The corrupt team of JSRO is collecting huge amount of bribes for registering the prohibited properties. The corrupt team of JSRO is registering wakf land in survey number 398 despite the fact that it is a Gazatted notified Wakf property vide Gazatte Notification No:6-A, Dt:09-02-1989, Sl.No:2893. The one-acre wakf property is attached toDargah Hazrath Mir Mehmood Sahib Qibla at Attapur, Ali said in his complaint.

He also said in his complaint that the corrupt team of JSRO has undervalued the property at Rs 6,000 per square yard though the actual value as per SRO records is Rs 15,000 per square yard. Thus, the corrupt team is not only facilitating the land sharks in alienating wakf land but causing huge revenue loss to the government exchequer by undervaluing the property, Ali said in the complaint.

He demanded the authorities concerned to order a probe against the JSRO and his corrupt team and initiate appropriate criminal proceedings against them for their nefarious activities so as to protect the wakf and government properties. TN

Karnataka CM, six ministers face criminal cases

Kumaraswamy faces serious criminal charges, including forgery for the purpose of cheating, causing disappearance of evidence, and other charges relating to criminal breach of trust.

THE NEWS BUREAU

Seven Karnataka Ministers, including Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy, face criminal charges ranging from forgery to causing death by negligence, said two election watchdogs in a report.

The report by the Karnataka Election Watch and Delhi-based Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) was based only analysis of the poll affidavits belonging to 26 of 27 cabinet ministers, save Women and Child Development Minister Jayamala, the lone woman minister, whose affidavit was not available, ADR said.

It said that seven (27 per cent) of the 26 ministers, including Kumaraswamy have declared criminal cases against them, while four ministers, including him, face serious criminal charges.

The other six ministers are Venkatrao Nadagouda (Animal Husbandry and Fisheries), B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan (Food and Civil Supplies), D.K. Shivakumar (Water Resources and Medical Education), D.C. Thammanna (Transport), N. Mahesh (Primary and Secondary Education) and Ramesh L. Jarkiholi (Municipalities and Local Bodies).

Kumaraswamy faces serious criminal charges, including forgery for the purpose of cheating, causing disappearance of evidence, and other charges relating to criminal breach of trust. Twenty five of the 26 ministers are crorepatis, as per the asset declarations in their poll affidavits, with Shivakumar being the richest with total assets worth Rs 840 crore.

Kumaraswamy is also among the top five ministers with highest declared assets and income, with total assets worth over Rs 160 crore.

Two of the ministers have only studied up to class 8 - with Higher Education Minister G.T. Deve Gowda being one of them.

A dozen of the 26 ministers have declared their educational qualifications to be between class 8 and 12, and 14 are graduates and above.

In a pre-poll survey by the election watchdogs, of the 2,654 candidates who were in fray for the state election, 883 were crorepatis and 645 had criminal cases against them.

The BJP candidates were found to be with the highest number of criminal cases against them, with 83 (37 per cent) of the 223 in fray having criminal cases against them and 58 others (26 per cent) having serious criminal cases against them including murder, attempt to murder and kidnapping etc. TN

Four actresses resign from AMMA over Dileep row

THE NEWS BUREAU

The row over the reinstatement of accused actor Dileep into an artistes body took a curious turn on June 27 with four leading actresses, including the kidnap victim, resigning from the Association of Malayalam Movie Actors.

Dileep is an accused in the February 2017 actress kidnapping case which took place in Kochi, that landed him in a Kerala jail for 85 days. Those who have decided to resign include the victim, besides Rima Kallingal, Remya Nambisan and Geetu Mohandas, all of whom are leading lights in the Malayalam film industry.

The decision to resign was posted in the official Facebook site of the newly formed Women in Cinema Collective (WCC), led by Dileep's former wife Manju Warrier.

The WCC had earlier also expressed its displeasure, soon after Dileep was reinstated at the annual general body meeting held in Kochi on Sunday.

The victim in the kidnapping case noted in the post: "In the past when this star had thwarted to keep me away from films by denying opportunities to me, I did approach the organisation, but no action came up.

"And now when I have gone through very tough times, the organisation appears to be protective of this person and hence I feel there is no point in being a member of this organisation."

Remya Nambisan wrote that she has no other way but to resign from AMMA as it has taken the most irresponsible decision with regards to the trials and tribulations faced by her co-actress.

"AMMA has taken a very inhuman stand against my actress colleague and hence I am resigning...," said Nambisan.

"I feel I should have resigned long back because AMMA does not want any member to question their decisions. I cannot stand such acts again...," said Geetu Mohandas, a former executive member of AMMA.

Rima Kallingal in her post said: "I decided to resign for the upcoming generation who will be able to pursue their profession without making any compromises."

Late thespian actor Thilakan's daughter, Sonia Thilakan also slammed AMMA for having different standards for Dileep and her father, who was suspended in 2010 for criticizing AMMA.

It was mistake, says Sara Khan on viral nude video

THE NEWS BUREAU

Television star Sara Khan's nude video in a bathtub created ripples on internet when according to the actress her sister Ayra Khan uploaded their fun moments on social media by mistake.

Sara, who was in Colombo with her sister Ayra, broke the internet when her sister posted a video of her taking a bath in the hotel room. However, they did not take long to understand that it was a mistake and took it down in no time but the video went viral on social media at rocket speed.

Sara, in her interaction with a webloid said that we all are humans

and prone to make mistakes in our lives. The nude video uploaded by her sister was a mistake thus they deleted it later.

In her statement to another daily the "Sapna Babul Ka...Bidaai" actress said that her sister was slightly under the influence of alcohol and accidentally uploaded the video which they took down within minutes but the damage had already been done by then.

The actress, who is in Sri Lanka for an event profusely denied the claims of publicity gimmick and said, "Why would indulge in a publicity stunt like this? I am a girl and I am accountable to my parents. And most importantly. I don't die for making headlines with such cheap stuff. I have a lot to talk about my work instead to come in the headlines".

Prabhas reveals his favourite B'wood actresses

THE NEWS BUREAU

South superstar Prabhas better known as 'Baahubali' is busy shooting for his upcoming venture "Saaho" which has been the talk of town for its larger than life action sequences. Amidst that, the "Mirchi" actor revealed his favourite B-town actresses in a recent interview with Filmfare middle east.

Prabhas, who will be seen sharing screen with Shraddha Kapoor in "Saaho" was asked about his favourite Bollywood actresses to which the actor promptly said, "Deepika, Katrina and Alia."

The actor also confessed about his dilemma with Hindi language and how he was amazed by Shraddha's command over Telugu while saying, "In Hindi, she used to take a couple of takes, but in Telugu, she would just do it well."

"Saaho" is an action-packed drama helmed by Sujeeth which promises to be one of the best ever action dramas for its lavish fight scenes.

The movie which also stars an ensemble cast of Neil Nitin Mukesh, Jackie Shroff, Mandira Bedi, Mahesh Manjrekar and Chunky Pandey will hit screens next year.

I was told to get a boob job: Deepika

THE NEWS BUREAU

Actress Deepika Padukone opens up about her struggling times and how people advised her to pickup shortcuts to Bollywood, which was her ultimate dream.

The actress in her recent interview to a magazine spoke about the current environment in Bollywood.

"We're in the same position as the rest of the world, I think we're all in this together. There's so much more awareness. There are so many people who speak up and I think in the same way that we see the wheels moving in the right direction globally, I see the same thing happening in India as well" Deepika stated.

She also shared her experience about dealing with sexism. "There were lots of things I was advised to do. To get a boob job, do the beauty pageants. They felt it was the right way to be recognised or picked up by a Bollywood director or producer. It might be an easier way to achieve what you want to achieve. But I haven't been that person; I've always followed my gut."

Ranbir is extraordinary in 'Sanju': Sanjay Dutt

Audiences and critics are going gaga over Ranbir Kapoor's magnificent portrayal of actor Sanjay Dutt in his biopic 'Sanju' but now praise for the actor is coming straight from the horse's mouth as Sanjay Dutt praised Ranbir Kapoor saying he has been extraordinary in the film.

Sanjay Dutt was interacting with media at the trailer launch of "Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster 3" along with his co-actors Deepak Tijori, Deepraj Rana, Chitrangada Singh, director Tigmanshu Dhulia and producers Raju Chadha, Rahul Mitra on Saturday in Mumbai.

Asked for his reaction on Ranbir Kapoor's performance in "Sanju", Dutt said: "Ranbir is extra-ordinary in the film. I think the film is fantastic. Rajkumar Hirani, Vicky Kaushal and everybody has done a fantastic job in it. Whatever has been the truth that has been portrayed in the film."

Sanjay Dutt, who has played the character of anti-hero in "Musafir", "Plan" "Khalnayak in his career is also playing negative role in "Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster 3".

Asked how he manages every time to play the anti-hero so effortlessly that it remains in the minds of audience, he said: "Tishu (Tigmashu Dhulia) has written brilliant script and dialogues for this film but I think the character of a gangster lives within me (laughs).

"When I came out of jail lot of people told that we need a gangster in films. I think the character that I am playing he is very polished gangster and he is really khandani (cultured) as well, so I really had great fun while playing this character."

In "Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster 3", Jimmy Sheirgill plays the 'saheb', Mahi Gill will be seen as his wife with Dutt as a gangster.

With "Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster 3", Dutt will make a comeback to characters with negative shade. It also stars Chitrangada Singh, Deepraj Rana, Soha Ali Khan, Nafisa Ali, Kabir Bedi and Deepak Tijori in pivotal roles.

The film is directed by Tigmanshu Dhulia and produced by Rahul Mittra and Raju Chadha. It will hit the screen on July 27, 2018.TN

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BENEFITS OF ALKALINE WATER

Drinking alkaline water has been shown to help the body to expel 10 different heavy metals. Research conducted in Sweden on the long term benefits of alkaline ionized water for detoxification shows that maintaining an alkaline pH balance can protect you from the harmful effects of mercury.

Drinking alkaline water has been shown to help you lose weight. A clinical study tracked the weight of four people who began drinking alkaline water. The study followed the new drinkers for two months. The study participants

lost 12 pounds from drinking alkaline water and their bodies released significant amounts of 10 different heavy metals. The doctors who conducted the study proposed that the weight loss and the detoxification worked together: As the weight came off, heavy metals stored in the fact tissue were released.

Alkaline water has been shown to lower harmful V-LDL cholesterol and triglycerides in clinical testing. One study showed a significant benefit. At the beginning of the study, test subjects had an average of 110 mg/dl triglycerides. At the end of the study, their average triglyceride levels had dropped to 87.21. A 21% drop in harmful triglyceride levels.

There are two reasons why alkaline water is good for bone health. Drinking it can raise both blood and urine pH, helping to prevent bodily acidity from eating away at your bones. It also supplies your body with easy-to-absorb calcium and magnesium. In fact, drinking alkaline water can improve your body's calcium levels – even if you get enough calcium in your diet.

It's a simple fact that India is becoming more health conscious. Indians want to lose weight, detoxify, lower cholesterol and improve their hydration levels. Alkaline water holds promise for all those health benefits and more. Studies on the health benefits of alkaline water are ongoing and suggest that it holds a lot of promise for improving health.

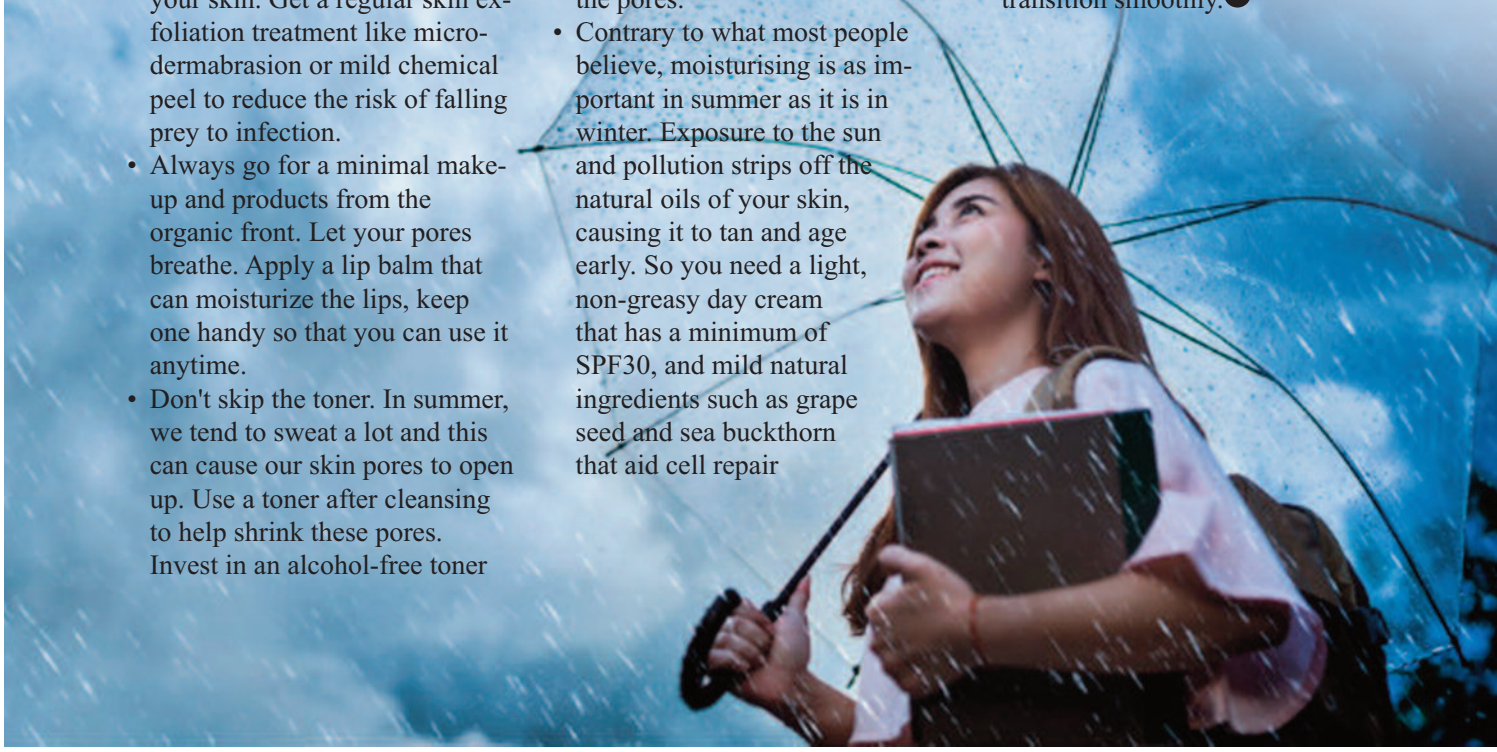
The prestigious Mayo Clinic has written that alkaline water has a link to better bone health. Alkaline water is also an amazing sports beverage. Studies show that it can enhance hydration and fight muscle fatigue. Alkaline water by Life Ionizers is endorsed by pro athletes like Barry Zito, Derek Lee and hundreds of others. These pros drink alkaline water because it helps them stay at the top of their game. TN

Beauty tips during monsoon

THE NEWS BUREAU

Don't stop taking care of your skin during monsoon thinking that the blazing sun would not harm your skin anymore. Use a soap-free cleanser, exfoliate regularly and do not skip the toner, say experts.

- Limit washing your face 2-3 times a day with a soap-free cleanser. This will help maintain a clean, healthy skin without stripping your skin off its essentials oil.
- Exfoliating the skin is necessary to get rid of the dead layers on your skin. Get a regular skin exfoliation treatment like micro-dermabrasion or mild chemical peel to reduce the risk of falling prey to infection.
- Always go for a minimal make-up and products from the organic front. Let your pores breathe. Apply a lip balm that can moisturize the lips, keep one handy so that you can use it anytime.
- Don't skip the toner. In summer, we tend to sweat a lot and this can cause our skin pores to open up. Use a toner after cleansing to help shrink these pores. Invest in an alcohol-free toner with antioxidant ingredients like green tea and glycolic acid that help tighten enlarged pores, to control blemishes and acne, while removing dead cells.
- Choosing the right sunscreen for the right complexion and skin type is extremely important. Use nothing below SPF 30. Put where your skin gets exposed to the sun for a long period of time, apply evenly and generously on the face before sun exposure.
- Re-apply frequently, especially after swimming or drying yourself with a towel. Apply every 2-3 hours for optimum protection.
- Seal the moisture with a mask. Control oiliness in the skin caused by humidity, with a once-a-week clay mask that naturally absorbs oil. Look for one with tea tree or green tea extracts and gentle exfoliation to prevent breakouts by removing dead cells and impurities from the pores.
- Contrary to what most people believe, moisturising is as important in summer as it is in winter. Exposure to the sun and pollution strips off the natural oils of your skin, causing it to tan and age early. So you need a light, non-greasy day cream that has a minimum of SPF30, and mild natural ingredients such as grape seed and sea buckthorn that aid cell repair and regeneration.
- Take extra care of sensitive areas: The skin on our lips and around our eyes is thinner than that on the rest of the face, so they need extra attention during the summer. The heat can make the eyes burn and lips, chapped. Make sure you splash your eyes regularly, and keep your lips protected with lip balm.
- If you can't do without kajal, invest in an ophthalmologically approved, waterproof kajal pencil, free from parabens, mineral oil or paraffin. Also, remove all make-up before retiring for the night, and soothe your eyes with rosewater-dipped cotton balls.
- Take Vitamin C to boost your immune system as that can help fight infections.
- Dust yourself with antifungal powder on clean dry skin to stay away from unwanted infections.
- Use gentle products and maintain a good, simple routine using sunscreen regularly and incorporating chemical peels or exfoliants, so your skin will transition smoothly. TN



Chanu to lead five-member weightlifting squad for Asiad

THE NEWS BUREAU

World Champion Saikhom Mirabai Chanu will spearhead the Indian weightlifting challenge in the upcoming Asian Games as the national federation named a five-member teamon June 29. Mirabai, who won gold in the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in April, will compete in the women's 48kg while Rakhi Halder has been named as the second woman and will take part in 63kg.

The three men are CWG gold medallist Sathish Kumar Sivalingam and Ajay Singh (both 77kg) and CWG bronze medallist Vikas Thakur (94kg).

In the 2014 Asian Games, India had sent six weightlifters and returned without a medal.

Squad: Women: Saikhom Mirabai Chanu (48kg); Rakhi Halder (63kg) **Men:** Sathish Kumar Sivalingam, Ajay Singh (both 77kg); Vikas Thakur (94kg)TN

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Mary Kom pulls out of Asian Games squad

Five-time world champion M.C. Mary Kom has decided to opt out of the Indian boxing squad for the 2018 Asian Games, which was announced on June 29.

Instead of Mary, fellow Manipur star Sarjubala Devi will represent India in the women's 51 kilogram category at the Asiad.

"Sarjubala Devi defeated Pinki Rani in the selection trial to take the final spot in the squad. Both the boxers had earned equal points and share of wins in the last two months and the trial was organised to finalize the last name in the squad," the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) said in a statement.

"Sarjubala Devi dominated in the trial match and won with rather ease to log in her name on the Asian Games roster."

Mary stated that she is concentrating on winning gold in the 48kg division at the World Championships to be held here in November.

"I opted out myself because there is is no 48 kilogram category at the Asian Games. Right now I am focussed on winning gold at the World Championships in that weight category," Mary told news agency IANS.

"Also, I have won medals at the Asian Games which include a gold and bronze in the 51kg event. Now I want to give a chance to the upcoming youngsters," she added.

NASA finds curious new clues to life on Mars

THE NEWS BUREAU

NASA's Curiosity rover has discovered "tough" organic molecules in three-billion-year-old sedimentary rocks near the surface of Mars -- a finding that suggests the planet could have supported ancient life.

It has also found seasonal variations in the levels of methane in the atmosphere, a discovery that has relation to the search for current life on the Red Planet.

"With these new findings, Mars is telling us to stay the course and keep searching for evidence of life," said Thomas Zurbuchen, Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters, in Washington.

"I'm confident that our ongoing and planned missions will unlock even more breathtaking discoveries on the Red Planet," Zurbuchen said.

While not necessarily evidence of life itself, these findings, detailed in two papers in the journal Science, are a good sign for future missions exploring the planet's surface and subsurface.

Organic molecules contain carbon and hydrogen, and also may include oxygen, nitrogen and other elements. While commonly associated with life, organic molecules also can be created by non-biological processes and are not necessarily indicators of life.

"Curiosity has not determined the source of the organic molecules," said Jen Eigenbrode of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, who is lead author of one of the two new Science papers.

"Whether it holds a record of ancient life, was food for life, or has existed in the absence of life, organic matter in Martian materials holds chemical clues to planetary conditions and processes," Eigenbrode said.

In the second paper, scientists described the discovery of seasonal variations in methane in the Martian atmosphere over the course of nearly three Mars years, which is almost six Earth years.

This variation was detected by Curiosity's Sample Analysis at Mars (SAM) instrument suite.

Water-rock chemistry might have generated the methane, but scientists cannot rule out the possibility of biological origins.

Methane previously had been detected in Mars' atmosphere in large, unpredictable plumes.

This new result shows that low levels of methane within Gale Crater repeatedly peak in warm, summer months and drop in the winter every year.

"This is the first time we have seen something repeatable in the methane story, so it offers us a handle in understanding it," said Chris Webster of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California, lead author of the second paper.

"This is all possible because of Curiosity's longevity. The long duration has allowed us to see the patterns in this seasonal 'breathing," Webster added.

Launched in 2011, Curiosity was designed to assess whether Mars ever had an environment able to support small life forms called microbes.

Although the surface of Mars is inhospitable today, there is clear evidence that in the distant past, the Martian climate allowed liquid water -- an essential ingredient for life as we know it -- to pool at the surface.

Data from Curiosity reveal that billions of years ago, a water lake inside Gale Crater held all the ingredients necessary for life, including chemical building blocks and energy sources. TN

MIND is a second order differential equation...

Srinivas Chamarthy

All the effort to develop a product is Intellectual, through calibration of SELF as discussed in the June 2018 article. The learning process covers the methods which may be adopted at appropriate stages to develop knowledge and experience in a domain. Even though it is a well laid thought process to calibrate SELF for effective learning, young minds often give up in the process due to various disturbances primarily; fear of conducting an experiment, confusion that arises over a learning process, the ambiguity of the result of the experiment, or ambiguity in usefulness of the experiment in future. So they end up mostly in gaining superficial knowledge by postponing indepth learning process in a domain. It is essential for young minds to understand this stage to overcome these factors through a formal method. In order to depict these stages, this article attempts to explain the needed thought process in a simple mathematical format through an abstract model.

"MIND is a second order differential Equation in objective work form". If we understand this terminology, it is easy to clearly distingush the type of hurdle that arises in the learning and work process and address it logically with appropriate discretion and correction. Lets approximate and define this "MIND" in a mathematical sense to gain a perspective of thought process for clarity.

Knowledge is the data of facts and information gained through experience over a period of time. Hence knowledge is a function of time. Lets define ***K = k(t).***

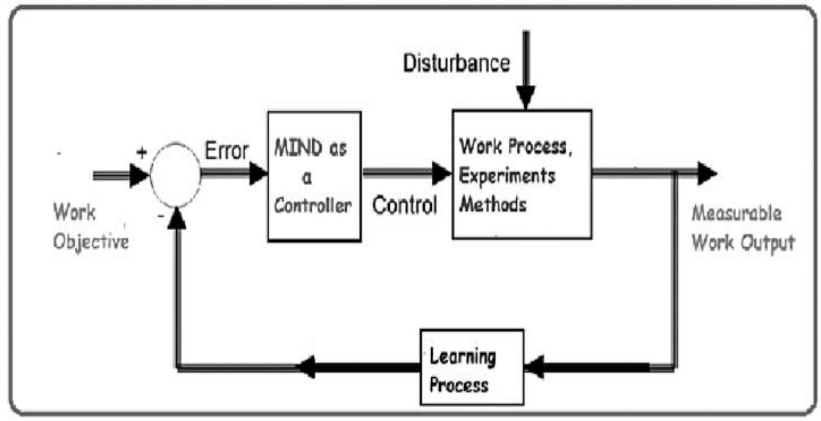
Intelligence is the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills. In other terms Intelligence is the speed/rate with which we interpret knowledge for work, which implies that Intelligence 'I' can be approximated as ***I = dk(t)/ dt.***

Intellectual Effort is the effort done to use knowledge over a period of time for executing work, which implies that E =" k(t) dt

Brain activity (B) is a cumulative effect of all the three functions mentioned above. However in reality the above terms are interdependent functions and to bring clarity in young minds, they are represented as independent components with respective ***coefficients; a, b, c,*** say.

B = K + I + E *which implies,* ***B = b . k(t) + a . dk(t)/ dt + c . ∫k(t) dt, where a, b , c are coefficients of independent components of I, K, E respectively***

Mind is the "Rate of Brain Activity" implies, M = dB/dt = ***b . dk(t)/dt + a . d2k(t)/ dt2 + c . k(t)***



Hence Mind 'M' = a . d2k(t)/dt2 + b . dk(t)/dt + c . k(t) where 'a' is an accelaration coefficient, 'b' velocity coefficient and 'c' the coefficient of applicable knowledge in the given instance of time; is a Second Order Differential Equation.

Mentioning an equation for Mind (M) as above looks fictional if we donot apply this in a model that is related to the practical

world. Let us consider the below model of the practical approach we take for productive work output and its measurement, correction, calibration and development as an continuos process. We will correlate the terms mentioned above with real world terms so that we can bring up an understanding of how this mathematically defined function influences our process of work and thinking.

In the above equation of M, 'a' is correlated with the Emotional Coefficient, 'b' is correlated with the Intelligence coefficient and 'c' is correlated with the Assimilation Coeffcient.

In the above model, as we can observe every individual has definite "**Work Objective**". Learning Process is a feedback element that guides the individual to modify or correct or bring perfection by reducing the error over continuous period of time in **"Measurable Work Output".** The standard Work process, experiments and methods are the activity of the individual to meet the desired **Work Objective.**

Assume that there is no disturbance in above work model, then MIND is an aligned element of work function. If Error = 0, Mind has no activity to perform other than continuing the existing process. And the output of the Mind Controller is a Control function that modifies or corrects the process with appropriate modfications. If error = 0, no modifications / correction is required, hence work done

In real world scenario, disturbance is a compulsory element of the process. All the processes are subjected to disturbance either implied or purposeful. For the above model to produce "Measurable Work Output", "MIND" which is the control element and the appropriateness of the Emotional Coefficient, Intelligence Coefficient and Assimilation Coefficient mentioned in equation of M, determines whether for a given disturbance the controller(MIND) Control the process to produce Measurable work Output or end up without result.

So there are 6 terms important for us to produce Output, **E, I, K** and ***a, b, c*** along with work and learning process

Emotion is an acceleration function. Any disturbance that is influenced on the work process, the acceleration function is used to learn faster. So coefficient **'a'** determines the net effect of learning and adaptation required to correct the error in the work process. **'a'** may be correlated with **Emotional Quotient.** The reaction for the disturbance in the model above determines your minds capability to respond to learn. Hence keep up your emotional balance without over reacting for effective learning and correction of error in the work process.

Gradual learning and implementation of the techniques to eliminate error is a velocity function. Any disturbance influencing the work process, the velocity function is used to integrate the learning of the accelaration function and also respond quick to the error to produce sustained results without excuses in the work output. Coefficient **'b'** may be correlated with Intelligence Quotient.

Assimilation of work process is experience and knowledge we derive out of an iteration of thinking and is the initial step for the subsequent disturbances and errors that may occur in our work system so that the correction is incremental and is memory based system. One shall have tenacity to sustain and assimilate the knowledge defined by the assimilation coefficient 'c' used to emphasize achieving the final work output.

Hence it is our mind which have to be effective to produce results, to learn from experiences and correct for disturbances which are internal or external to us. Instead of complaining about disturbances which may hamper our work as mentioned inthe first paragraph to produce results, it is our fundamental duty to make our Mind function effective to meet the final Measurable work Output at the same time being practical in doing so. Too much of emotions only produce stress and not results. Even though high emotions helps us to learn, producing results is essential along with learning. Without effective learning curve, implementation with instantaneous intelligence factors produces only spikes of results and are not sustainable. So let us learn to use our IQ effectively. Assimilation is the key to experience. Without assimilation every time we re-invent the wheel. Young minds shall calibrate to make minds efficient, adaptable and sustainable for both technical growth and career growth. Our minds are work force to build great nation. Lets build our minds effective and efficient first. **MIND is a Second Order Differential Equation** in objective form.

(For specific questions please mail at: sch.ajtrs@gmail.com or chat on whats app number: 9160882600 between 11:00 PM to 2:30 AM. Follow us on Facebook: A Journey To Realize SELF)

25% Indians ready to take pay cut for shorter commute: Survey

The News Bureau

About one in four workers in India is willing to take a pay cut for a shorter commute to work, revealed a new LinkedIn survey on June 12 that showed that more than half of Indians are unhappy with their commute.

"The daily commute is a pain-point for most professionals in India. In fact, we found that commute time has increased for a significant number of professionals in India in the last year," Deepa Sapatnekar, Head of Communications for India, LinkedIn, said in a statement.

The survey by the Microsoft-owned professional networking platform showed that the commute time increased for 48 per cent Indians last year -- the highest among other countries surveyed.

Only 45 per cent of Indians are happy with their commute, the lowest amongst 11 countries surveyed.

However, 42 per cent respondents from India claimed that they would be willing to consider a longer commute if it meant an increase of more than 20 per cent in their income.

About one in three in India would opt for a longer commute, if the company provided transportation or if a promotion or title increase was involved.

To empower job-seekers with the necessary information to make an informed career decision, LinkedIn also announced the launch of a new feature, "Your Commute", which helps members understand the potential commute time to their next job even before they apply for the role. When job-seekers visit job listings on LinkedIn on their mobile phones, they will start to see "See Your Commute" module, which will allow them to provide their address and see the estimated travel time to work, via public transportation, driving, or walking, LinkedIn said.

This new feature works by integrating data from Microsoft's Bing maps, job posters, and Company Pages information.

"Lack of access to essential information pertaining to skills, referrals, job applications and commute time, can often be a roadblock to finding new opportunities. With our new features such as 'Your Commute' we empower our members with insights to make informed career decisions, all without leaving the job listing," Sapatnekar added.

The survey also revealed that 50 per cent Indians listen to music to kill time during the commute and nearly 21 per cent Indians work or catch up on email, while 23 per cent call their friends or family.

The survey also showed that 37 per cent Indians have made new friends on their commute.

LinkedIn said that the "Your Commute" feature is available on mobile globally and has been currently ramped to 10 per cent of job listings in India. The feature will roll out on desktop in the next few months, it said. TN

Air pollution linked to diabetes, India at greater risk

THE NEWS BUREAU

Outdoor air pollution even at levels deemed safe may be associated with an increased risk of diabetes globally, with India being at a greater risk due to lack of air cleaning policies, scientists said in a report in Lancet.

The findings showed that air pollution contributes to development of diabetes by reducing insulin production and triggering inflammation, which prevents the body from converting blood glucose into energy that the body needs.

The overall risk of pollution-related diabetes is tilted more toward lower-income countries such as India that lack the resources for environmental mitigation systems and clean-air policies, Lancet Planetary Health report said.

"Our research shows a significant link between air pollution and diabetes globally," said Ziyad Al-Aly, from the University of Washington in St. Louis, US.

"We found an increased risk, even at low levels of air pollution currently considered safe by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

"This is important because many industry lobbying groups argue that current levels are too stringent and should be relaxed. Evidence shows that current levels are still not sufficiently safe and need to be tightened," Aly explained.

The researchers estimated that pollution contributed to a little more than three million new diabetes cases globally in 2016, which represented about 14 per cent of all new diabetes cases globally that year.

Nearly 10 million years of healthy life were lost in 2016 due to pollution-linked diabetes, representing about 14 per cent of all years of healthy life lost due to diabetes from any cause.

According to the UN 2018 Sustainable Development Goals Report, an estimated 4.2 million people died as a result of high levels of ambient air pollution.

In the study, the team analysed data from more than one million participants without a history of diabetes, who were followed for a median of eight and a half years.

They also looked at particulate matters, airborne microscopic pieces of dust, dirt, smoke, soot and liquid droplets.

Poverty-stricken countries facing a higher diabetes-pollution risk include Afghanistan, Papua New Guinea and Guyana, while richer countries such as France, Finland and Iceland experience a lower risk, the study said. TN

Novel 'surgery in a pill' to reverse diabetes

THE NEWS BUREAU

Researchers have developed "surgery in a pill" that can reduce post-meal blood sugar spikes and help reverse diabetes.

When the pill was administered in rats, it delivered a substance that could temporarily coat the intestine, forming a thin barrier that alters nutrient contact and lowers blood glucose response after a meal, the researchers said.

"We envision a pill that a patient can take before a meal that transiently coats the gut to replicate the effects of surgery," said Jeff Karp, a bioengineer at the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) in Massachusetts, US.

After a meal, blood sugar levels rise and can stay elevated over time.

However, one hour after the pill was administered to the rats, the response to glucose was lowered by 47 per cent.

"What we've developed here is essentially, 'surgery in a pill'," added Yuhan Lee, a materials scientist in the BWH.

This response was temporary, and after three hours, the effect essentially disappeared, the study showed.

For the study, published in the journal Nature Materials, the team selected a substance known as sucralfate -- an FDA-approved drug that is used in the treatment of gastrointestinal ulcers -- to adhere to the small intestine and then dissolve within a matter of hours.

Further, the team engineered the substance into a novel material that can coat the lining of the intestine without requiring activation by gastric acid.

The engineered compound, referred to as LuCI (Luminal Coating of the Intestine), can be made into a dry powdered form that can be encapsulated as a pill.

"We've used a bioengineering approach to formulate a pill that has good adhesion properties and can attach nicely to the gut in a preclinical model. And after a couple of hours, its effects dissipate," Lee said. The team is now testing the effect of short-and long-term use of LuCI in diabetic and obese rodent models. TN

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