

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUSIVE OF HYDERABAD TIMES (FOR METRO ONLY) | TIMESOFINDIA.COM | EPAPER.TIMESOFINDIA.COM

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER



Total Business Crosses

CITY UNION BANK LTD.

www.cityunionbank.com

Rasiyana Bank. Easiyana Bank.



₹ 10,00,00,00,000 (One lakh crore)

We thank our customers, stakeholders and well-wishers who have stood by us in achieving this stupendous milestone.

Podu row: Cops attacked, 21 tribals detained

Police took 21 tribals into custody after a row over revenue from podu land triggered a violent clash between two tribal villages and subsequent attack on police personnel in Khammam district on Sunday afternoon. As tension was building up, police intervened to calm the frayed tempers, but a section of villagers allegedly chased and attacked Sathupalli inspector T Kiran and other policemen. Cops had to send in reinforcements. A criminal case has been filed against the attackers. **P8**

Supreme Court fully independent, Gavai says in US

SC is "fully independent" and brooks no political interference, Justice B R Gavai, in line to be CJI, told a US audience. Indian Constitution has a "clearly defined" foundation of separation of powers, he added. **P8**

Govt staffer can't cross red line on murder: Garcetti

US envoy to India Eric Garcetti, referring to alleged foiled assassination plot against Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, said a 'red line' should not be crossed between the two countries. **P8**

INDIA bloc demands level playing field, release of arrested leaders

Match Fixing, Cry Oppn Netas At Show Of Strength

Ambika.Pandit
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In a show of unity, 'INDIA' bloc leaders came together at 'loktantra bachao' (save democracy) rally here on

► EDIT: All Together, But...

Sunday and attacked NDA govt for being "dictatorial" and "misusing" ED and other central agencies to "rig" Lok Sabha polls by getting its opponents jailed and bank accounts of parties sealed.

At the Ramlila Maidan ral-



Sunita Kejriwal interacts with Sonia and Rahul Gandhi at the rally. Kalpana (left), wife of jailed J'khand ex-CM Hemant Soren, looks on

ly — almost all 'INDIA' parties attended it — held against the backdrop of Arvind Kejriwal's arrest and amid tensions in some states over alliance seat-sharing, leaders demanded immediate release of the Delhi CM and Jharkhand ex-CM

Hemant Soren, an SC-monitored red SIT probe into BJP's "ex-tortion" through electoral bonds and a "level playing field" for upcoming elections.

Rahul Gandhi of Congress accused PM Modi of trying to engage in electoral

KCR: BRS won't sleep, nor let Cong govt sleep

Hyderabad: Alleging that the Congress govt is to blame for the state's power and water crisis, former chief minister and BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao on Sunday warned that BRS will wage a war against it.

BRS will not sleep and nor let the govt sleep if promises are not kept, he said, reports Sribala Vadlapatla. **P2**



Cong to KCR: Stop drama for farmers

Hyderabad: The Congress on Sunday hit out at former CM KCR and said he never stepped out of his farm when he was the CM and now he should stop this drama of showing fake love for farmers. **P2**

Roushan Ali. **P2**

T govt mulls power plan to cut cost, meet demand

Koride.Mahesh
@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: The Congress govt plans to bring in a new power policy with twin objectives — reduce financial burden while meeting the rising demand in the state.

Immediately after taking over as CM, A Revanth Reddy had ordered a review of all power purchase agreements (PPA) signed by the previous BRS govt which he said had

pushed the power discoms into a debt trap.

The govt now aims to move away from costly thermal power and focus on hydel, solar, wind and other non-conventional and renewable energy.

Plans include setting up hydel power plants like in Himachal Pradesh with private partnership to ensure power at cheaper rates. Revanth reportedly held talks with HP CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu in Delhi recently.

Planned to make a statement on India-Sri Lanka Maritime Agreement signed by the Indira Gandhi govt by which India relinquished its claim on Katchatheevu island.

Sezhiyan expressed anger that the Indira regime had kept Parliament and the M Karunanidhi-led DMK government in Tamil Nadu in the dark about the "unholy agreement" and the surrender of territory. **P8**

PM: I can't be scared, action against corrupt will continue

'It Is This War On Graft That Has Put Biggies In Jail'

Sandeep.Rai@timesgroup.com

Meerut: PM Narendra Modi on Sunday said that his govt would continue to take action against the corrupt and attempt to scare will not succeed, framing once again the Lok Sabha contest as a battle between the "corrupt" and those taking efforts to remove corruption.

Addressing a rally here soon after the INDIA bloc accu-



PM Modi and UP CM Yogi Adityanath at a rally in Meerut on Sunday

Karunanidhi, taken into confidence by Indira on Katchatheevu deal, agreed to give SL island

Diwakar & Akhilesh Singh | **TNN**

New Delhi: "This agreement goes against the interests of the country since it amounts to pure surrender of our territory without going through any of the norms. This is an unholy and disgraceful act of statesmanship unworthy of any govt. Therefore, we do not want to associate ourselves with the statement that is going to be made by the Hon. Minister, and we want to disassociate ourselves by walking out of the House," thundered DMK MP Era Sezhiyan on July 23, 1974 as the then foreign minister Swaran Singh mo-

ved to make a statement on India-Sri Lanka Maritime Agreement in 1974 to accuse Congress of "callousness" and "weakening the country's unity and integrity". Reacting to the TOI story on the island issue, Modi, at a Meerut rally, said country can't trust a party that gave away an "integral part" of "Mother India". **P8**

had kept Parliament and the M Karunanidhi-led DMK government in Tamil Nadu in the dark about the "unholy agreement" and the surrender of territory.

►Continued on P8



Dayananda Sagar University



Dayananda Sagar University (DSU), Bengaluru is proud to announce the award of: **NAAC A+**

Placing DSU among the most credible Universities in the country.

DSAT
Dayananda Sagar Scholarship Admission Test
Your Gateway to Success

REGISTER NOW!

DSAT PROGRAMS

B.Tech | M.Tech | B.Pharm
B.A. LL.B | B.B.A. LL.B

APPLY NOW

Engineering
Medicine
Pharmacy
Physiotherapy

Allied Health Sciences
Basic & Applied Sciences
Information Technology
Commerce & Management

Nursing
Journalism
Design
Law

DSU PROGRAMS

DSU is now on the path to secure more honours nationally and internationally.

The Management wishes to place on record its sincere appreciation to all our faculty & staff, students and parents, the community & the Government for the unstinted contribution for DSU to achieve this unique ranking excellence.



Dr. D. Hemachandra Sagar
Chancellor
Dayananda Sagar University



Dr. D. Premachandra Sagar
Pro Chancellor
Dayananda Sagar University

DSU Main Campus
Devarakallalhalli, Harohalli
Kanakapura Road, Bengaluru

DSU City Innovation Campus
Kudlu Gate, Srinivasa Nagar, Singasandra
Hosur Road, Bengaluru - 560068

admissions@dsu.edu.in

www.dsuetu.edu.in

080 46461800

DANCE of DEMOCRACY

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ASKED BY MP

• Details of medical seats available in all medical colleges, and the reasons for charging higher price for medical seat by the deemed universities or private universities (March 20, 2020)

• Whether the Government is considering to include Jogulamba Town under the Heritage Circuit/Tourist Circuit; and if so, the funds allocated for the State of Telangana under the Tourist Circuits? (March 16, 2020)

2 BATTLEGROUND TELANGANA

FOLLOW DANCE OF DEMOCRACY ON TWITTER @TIMESOFINDIA



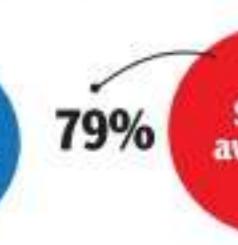
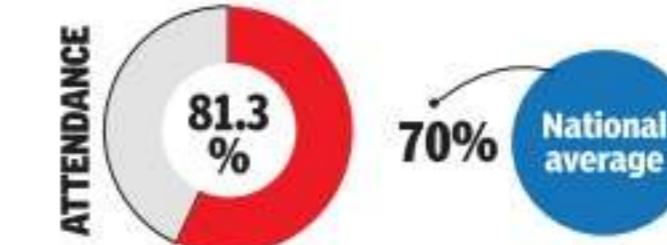
HOW TELANGANA MPs FARED

Ramulu Potuganti

Nagarkurnool

DEBATES ■ 71

QUESTIONS ■ 6



- Whether it is a fact that NITI Aayog had recommended for sanction of funds to Telangana for schemes like Mission Bhagiratha, Mission Kakatiya, Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation project and Palamuru Rangareddy River Project; Whether Telangana sought financial assistance of ₹40,000 crores from the Union govt for these four schemes (March 23, 2020)

— Compiled by Kaushik Gunuganti

THE TIMES OF INDIA | HYDERABAD, MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024

KCR takes water war to Cong, slams govt over Rythu Bandhu

Says 200 Ryots Died By Suicide In Just 100 Days

Sribala.Vadlapatla
@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Alleging that the inept Congress govt is to blame for the state's power and water crisis, former chief minister and BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao has warned a war will be waged against the Congress govt. BRS will not sleep and not let the govt sleep, if promises are not kept, he added.

Addressing the media in Suryapet on Sunday after visiting withered paddy crop in Jangaon, Yadadri, and Suryapet districts under the 'Polam Baata' by BRS, KCR slammed the Congress govt for not pay-

KCR INSPECTS WITHERED CROPS, MEETS RYOTS



Former CM K Chandrasekhar Rao interacted with farmers of Velugulapally village on Sunday

Pic: Tharun A

Ex-CM KCR interacted with paddy farmers of Dharavath Thanda

- One of the farmers, Satyamma said her crops dried up due to lack of water, resulting in debts of ₹4 lakh
- KCR announced ₹5 lakh for her
- He also inspected damaged crops at Velugulapally under Thungathurthy

— Inputs from Shiva Kumar Pinna

Cong hits back, says KCR made T'gana 2nd across country in farmer suicides

Roushan.Ali@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: KCR came down heavily on CM A Revanth Reddy. "Mr CM, there is only a 1.8% vote difference. We will fight against you, you might have snatched some cheap leaders from our party." TNN

ing 'Rythu Bandhu' and the re-appearance of water tankers, motors, empty pots despite good rainfall. "I wanted to give time to the new govt for three to four months, I don't want to talk politics now, we will fight for the farmers. I appeal to them not to take extreme steps like suicide," he added.

The urged BRS cadre to submit memorandums to collectors and MLAs at the secretariat on April 2 demanding a ₹500 bonus per quintal of paddy. The BRS chief said that everyone would sit on 'Deeksha' on April 6 in front of all paddy procurement centres and raise slogans. Incidentally, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge

and former chief Rahul Gandhi will hold a public meeting at Tukkuguda in Rangareddy district on April 6 and release the Telugu version of party's elections manifesto.

"You (Congress) are alleging as if something is wrong with Rythu Bandhu, we used to dispense funds in a week, even now most farmers don't

get funds, in addition, CM A Revanth Reddy told farmers not to pay loans, but banks are after them, they have taken loans to face the water woes with help of borewells, this is total mismanagement," he said.

KCR said: "I never thought that in just 100 days, the situation would turn so bad... 200 farmers committed suicide, 15

sands of farmers die by suicide due to crop losses, said TPCC working president and MLC B Mahesh Kumar Goud and Bhongir lok sabha constituency Congress candidate Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy.

The Congress leaders said that the previous KCR-govt did not even pay compensation for crop loss whereas the new Congress govt will be implementing crop insurance scheme from June and will pay ₹10,000 per acre for crop

loss due to recent hail storms in some of the districts, they said.

"The previous BRS govt emptied the water from reservoirs when they got inflows in monsoon. The KCR-govt emptied the state coffers resulting in delay in Congress govt waiving off Rs 2 lakh crop loans of farmers," the Congress leaders said.

"The BRS govt indulged in corruption in Kaleshwaram and other irrigation projects, Mission Bhagirat-

ha, power purchase agreements and in establishment of power generation plants.

The previous KCR-govt is the root cause for all the problems in the state, and the new Congress govt is trying to set them right, one by one," said Mahesh Kumar Goud.

How can KCR accuse Congress as responsible for a natural calamity like drought when it is by and large a country-wide phenomenon, said Congress leaders, while claiming KCR of trying to mislead the people.

ty power supply," he added.

He said 14 TMC of water was available in Nagarjunasagar project, but crops on lakhs of acres had dried up. "BRS govt distributed ₹500 crore when rains damaged crops," he said, demanding enumeration of crop damage and distribution of ₹25,000 per acre as compensation.

lakh acres have dried up, around 3.5 lakh acres in Nalgonda alone." He said the Congress govt failed to continue 24-hour free power supply. "Hyderabad was made a power island city" for the benefit of IT companies and the environment. "During BRS term, we hired technicians instead of IAS officers to ensure round-the-clock qual-

ity power supply," he added.

He said 14 TMC of water was available in Nagarjunasagar project, but crops on lakhs of acres had dried up. "BRS govt distributed ₹500 crore when rains damaged crops," he said, demanding enumeration of crop damage and distribution of ₹25,000 per acre as compensation.

Madiga netas unhappy over Warangal seat

Hyderabad: Discontent is brewing among Madiga leaders over the possibility of K Kavya being tipped to get the Warangal seat. The Madiga leaders are planning to take out a rally with some of them leaving for Delhi to complain to high command about antagonising the Madigas in the state if at least one seat is not given to them. TNN

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Kadiyam Srihari and Kavya joined Congress on Sunday in the presence of chief minister A Revanth Reddy and AICC in-charge Deepa Dasmuni

Cong appoints in-charges for 17 LS seats

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Congress brass on Sunday appointed ministers and important leaders as in-charge for 17 Lok Sabha seats in the state with roads and buildings minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy being given

the charge of Secunderabad parliamentary constituency.

BJP state president G Kishan Reddy and former minister and ex-deputy speaker T Padma Rao Goud are in the fray from this seat. Congress has nominated Khariratbad MLA Danam Nagender.

Other in charges include ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy for Khammam, N Utam Kumar Reddy (Nalgonda),

Ponnam Prabhakar (Karrimangar), D Sridhar Babu (Peddapallipet), Tummala Nageswara Rao (Mahabubabad), Konda Surekha (Medak), D Anasuya Seethakka (Adilabad), D Rajanarasimha (Zahirabad) and J Krishna Rao (Nagarkurnool), and MLAs Revuri Prakash Reddy (Warangal), P Sudarshan Reddy (Nizamabad) and Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy (Bhongir). and

AICC secretary SA Sampath Kumar (Mahabubnagar), CM Revanth Reddy's aide and advisor Naren Reddy (Chewella), Mynampalli Hanumanth Rao (Malkajgiri) and Congress minority leader Obaidullah Kotwali (Hyderabad).

AICC secretaries Rohith Choudhary and Vishnu Nath would be overall in charge of nine and eight parliamentary constituencies respectively.

'Cong manifesto vows SC bench in Hyderabad'

Hyderabad: The Congress is poised to unveil its election manifesto during the Tukkuguda public meeting on April 6, promising to establish a regional Supreme Court bench in Hyderabad and fulfil all commitments made to Telangana in the AP Reorganisation Act if it gains power at the national level. AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi will unveil the manifesto, addressing state-specific issues.

A member of the Congress Telangana state committee, A Shyam Mohan, confirmed to TOI that the manifesto will include the establishment of a Supreme Court bench in Hyderabad along with promises such as the modernisation of Warangal airport, the establishment of new regional airports in Telangana, and the improvement of railway infrastructure for coal transportation for Singareni Collieries.

Chaired by IT minister D Sridhar Babu, the state-level committee will convene on April 2 to draft local issues for inclusion in the manifesto, with finalisation scheduled for April 4 ahead of its release 6 at the Tukkuguda meeting. TNN

Direct flights from Hyd to Ayodhya from Apr 2

Hyderabad: State BJP chief and Union tourism minister Kishan Reddy said direct flights to Ayodhya from Hyderabad will operate from April 2, with flights scheduled thrice a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. "On Feb 26, I had penned a letter to the Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, urging for direct flights," said Kishan Reddy. TNN



MIT-WPU CET
Common Entrance Test 2024
A University for Students' Life Transformation

Join the ranks of tomorrow's leaders with MIT-WPU CET 2024 which offers entry into multiple educational programmes across various streams.

Computer-Based Multiple Choice Online Test & Online Personal Interaction.

Apply Online ✓ admissions.mitwpu.edu.in

5 th April 2024 Integrated B.Tech	10 th April 2024 B.Tech Admissions based on JEE/MHT-CET/NEET	10 th April 2024 UG Programmes	17 th April 2024 PG Programmes
---	--	--	--

Programmes offered

B.Tech M. Tech	Integrated B.Tech	BCS MCS	BCA MCA	BBA MBA
B.Com M.Com	BA MA	B.Sc M.Sc	BFA MFA	B.Pharm M.Pharm
B.Des M.Des	Law	B.Ed M.Ed	PG Diploma	& many more

Merit-Based Scholarships* Up to 100% scholarship available
More than 2500+ students to get upto ₹ 50 CR worth of scholarships

*terms and conditions apply

✉ Kothrud, Pune ☎ +91-020-71177137 ☎ +91-98814 92848 ✉ admissions@mitwpu.edu.in ✉ mitwpu.edu.in

SCAN TO APPLY 



Highest Ever Production

During 2023-24

About **1,15,920 tonnes** Extrusions

The reasons for this humble achievement despite 14% higher prices are :

- Dedication of our manufacturing, quality and marketing teams.
- Consuming high quality inputs and not cheap scrap.
- Thoughtful decision of our customers, dealers, and end consumers for preferring quality products.

They all deserve appreciation and thanks.

Plus

About **49,461 tonnes** Rolled Products

We can produce wider and large-diameter profiles in special alloys for use in defence, aerospace, industrial, structural and other applications.

Know More

 +91 9900-072-169
Hello@JindalAluminium.com

Iconic Brands of India, 2023 Edge ISO 9001:2015 | ISO 45001:2018 | PED by HSB Global Standards, UK | AS 9100D Certified

We use **100%** our own renewable energy for manufacturing
Bengaluru and Dabaspet units

Commemoration of Reserve Bank of India's 90th year

Keynote address by:

Chief Guest
Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Guests of Honour

Shri Ramesh Bais
Governor, Maharashtra

Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman
Union Minister for Finance
& Corporate Affairs

Shri Pankaj Chaudhary
Union MoS for Finance

Dr. Bhagwat Kishanrao Karad
Union MoS for Finance

Shri Devendra Fadnavis
Dy. Chief Minister, Maharashtra

Shri Ajit Pawar
Dy. Chief Minister, Maharashtra

The Reserve Bank of India rededicates itself to the cause of financial stability and economic growth of the country.

Shri Shaktikanta Das
Governor, Reserve Bank of India



भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक
RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

April 01, 2024 at 11:00 am; NCPA, Nariman Point, Mumbai
By invitation only

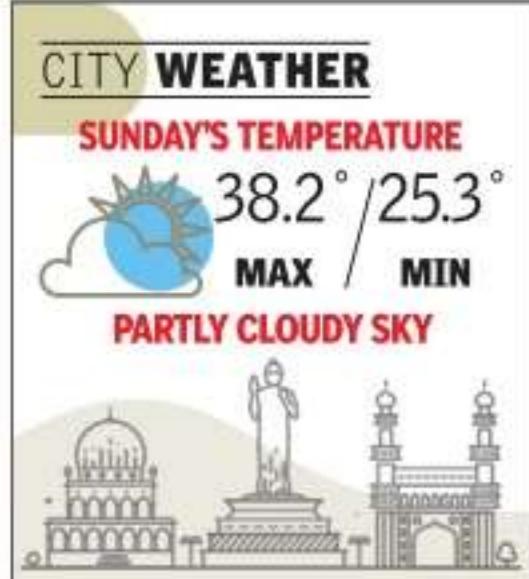


Scan to watch the live event of RBI's 90th year inauguration ceremony or use the link given below:
<https://youtube.com/live/mG21cNAB-w?feature=share>

RBI Says Reserve Bank of India

RBI Says ReserveBankOfIndia

RAMZAN TIMINGS	
Iftar (Monday)	6.43 pm
Sehri (Tuesday)	5.01 am



SUNRISE TUE | 06.09 AM
SUNSET MON | 06.29 PM
MOONRISE MON | NA
MOONSET MON | 10.59 AM

MONDAY'S REPORT |
Partly cloudy sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 38°C and 24°C respectively.

Source: IMD

POLLUTION AQI of Pollutant WATCH PM 2.5. Reading as on Mar 31 (7.35 pm)

SUNDAY'S AVERAGE PPM DATA | AVERAGE VALUE

SANATH NAGAR | 34.61

IDA BOLLARAM | 53.14

ZOO PARK | 41.76

ICRISAT PATANCHERU | 48.03

CENTRAL UNIVERSITY | 28.23

IDA PASHAMYLARAM | 61.48

GOOD RANGE 0-60µg/m³

AVERAGE AQI ACROSS FOUR MAJOR CITIES (AQI: air quality index)
(Data for 24hrs till 4 pm on Sunday)

HYDERABAD | 84 BENGALURU | 88 CHENNAI | 58 DELHI | 242

Source: Central Pollution Control Board

VEGETABLE PRICES

WHOLESALE PRICES OF VEGETABLES PER KG

TOMATO | LADY'S FINGERS

8 - 13 | ₹45 - 55

POTATO | BRINJAL

₹28 - 33 | ₹25 - 35

BOTTLE GOURD | GREEN CHILLIES

₹10 - 15 | ₹50 - 60

TIMES CITIZEN MY SPACE

Ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, tell us the top 5 issues that should be given priority by political parties in their manifesto.

Send in your views and suggestions to us at:
toi.timesconnect@gmail.com
or scan the QR code.
Last date for entries: April 2



GHMC scouts for open, unused land in new parking policy

Sunny.Baski@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: To ease parking woes of residents in the city, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is drafting a comprehensive parking policy, expected to be rolled out post the May 13 Lok Sabha elections.

As part of this new policy, the civic body will identify unused spaces along the wider roads on busy corridors and develop them into street and multi-level parking lots. While dead spaces will be designated for street parking, open or government-owned plots will accommodate multi-level parking. Additionally, GHMC intends to utilise commercial spaces in busy areas for parking two and three-wheelers, as well as heavy vehicles, sources said.

Currently, the GHMC is scouting for suitable locations which are accessible for motorists to park their ve-

'Need to engage on same-sex marriage, marital rape cases'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Challenging the state on subjects such as same-sex marriage or marital rape might not get you the verdict you expect but you cannot stop, said Justice Sapana Pradhan Malla, judge of Nepal's Supreme Court, on Sunday.

Speaking on Day 2 of the Courts and the Constitution: 2023 in Review conference at Nalsar, the judge underlined the importance of continuous engagement and evidence-based research while sharing her experience of fighting for such issues -- equality in inheritance, in marriage and family law, legalisation of abortion, criminalisation of marital rape, among others. Justice Malla said that while dealing with these cases it is important to "engage, sensitise and educate judges, lawyers, and prosecutors" by sharing one's research or framework.

"It's not easy, but we need to engage. When I initiated some PILs the court said that it is not discrimination but part of custom, which is part of state religion. We had that mindset, but it is changing. This change can be seen as we were able to engage in law-making," Justice Malla said.

Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a panel discussion on Developments in Equality Jurisprudence. She cited one of her cases -- on property rights -- as an example where in the Nepali court finally said that one cannot discriminate based on marital status.

Talking about Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a panel discussion on Developments in Equality Jurisprudence. She cited one of her cases -- on property rights -- as an example where in the Nepali court finally said that one cannot discriminate based on marital status.

Talking about Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a panel discussion on Developments in Equality Jurisprudence. She cited one of her cases -- on property rights -- as an example where in the Nepali court finally said that one cannot discriminate based on marital status.

Talking about Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a panel discussion on Developments in Equality Jurisprudence. She cited one of her cases -- on property rights -- as an example where in the Nepali court finally said that one cannot discriminate based on marital status.

Talking about Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a panel discussion on Developments in Equality Jurisprudence. She cited one of her cases -- on property rights -- as an example where in the Nepali court finally said that one cannot discriminate based on marital status.

Talking about Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a panel discussion on Developments in Equality Jurisprudence. She cited one of her cases -- on property rights -- as an example where in the Nepali court finally said that one cannot discriminate based on marital status.

Talking about Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a panel discussion on Developments in Equality Jurisprudence. She cited one of her cases -- on property rights -- as an example where in the Nepali court finally said that one cannot discriminate based on marital status.

Talking about Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a panel discussion on Developments in Equality Jurisprudence. She cited one of her cases -- on property rights -- as an example where in the Nepali court finally said that one cannot discriminate based on marital status.

Talking about Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a panel discussion on Developments in Equality Jurisprudence. She cited one of her cases -- on property rights -- as an example where in the Nepali court finally said that one cannot discriminate based on marital status.

Talking about Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a panel discussion on Developments in Equality Jurisprudence. She cited one of her cases -- on property rights -- as an example where in the Nepali court finally said that one cannot discriminate based on marital status.

Talking about Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a panel discussion on Developments in Equality Jurisprudence. She cited one of her cases -- on property rights -- as an example where in the Nepali court finally said that one cannot discriminate based on marital status.

Talking about Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a panel discussion on Developments in Equality Jurisprudence. She cited one of her cases -- on property rights -- as an example where in the Nepali court finally said that one cannot discriminate based on marital status.

Talking about Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a panel discussion on Developments in Equality Jurisprudence. She cited one of her cases -- on property rights -- as an example where in the Nepali court finally said that one cannot discriminate based on marital status.

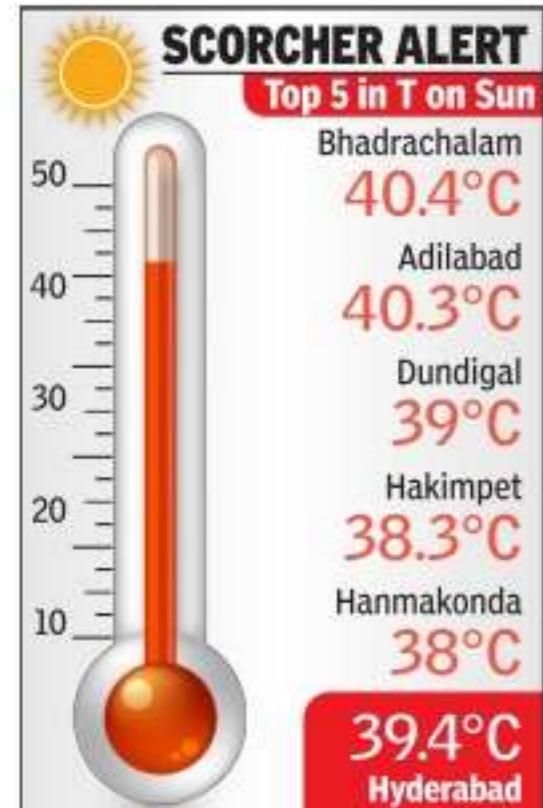
Talking about Supriyo Chakraborty and Abhay Dang's petition on same-sex marriage -- their plea to legalise it was struck down by the Supreme Court last year -- said that everyone may be frustrated or tired, but it is a process.

"When you challenge the law, you are not only challenging the law but are challenging the state; you are challenging the culture, the religion, customs, and patriarchy. It is not easy. Everyone is standing against you. But you have to keep fighting and use the tool -- PIL -- with conceptual understanding," Justice Malla said.

In 2008, the Supreme Court of Nepal ruled in favour of same-sex marriages.

While Arvind Narain, visiting faculty from the National Law School of India

law-making," the judge said during a



Abode Biotech, OU ink deal for joint research

Hyderabad: Osmania University (OU) and Abode Biotech India have formalised a strategic collaboration aimed at joint research.

Hameeda Bee from the microbiology department of the university will oversee the collaboration. The collaboration is significant for OU's department of microbiology which researches microbial-based technologies addressing global health issues.

Water board resumes tapping twin reservoirs as GO scrapped

More Drawals In Coming Months: HMWSSB Chief

Koride.Mahesh@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Two years ago, the BRS govt withdrew GO 111 on the grounds that requirement of Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar was no longer needed for the city's drinking water needs and their dependability was less than 1.25% of the total requirement. But with water scarcity looming large, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) is now compelled to draw water from both the reservoirs.

GO 111 was issued three decades ago to protect the catchment areas of the twin reservoirs up to an area of 10 km from the full tank level, covering 84 villages in the catchment areas around Hyderabad, especially in Rangareddy and Vikarabad districts.

Official sources said due to po-

PLAN TO OVERCOME SCARCITY

WHAT IS GO 111

- GO 111 issued 30 years ago to protect catchment areas of Himayat Sagar & Osman Sagar

WHY WAS IT SCRAPPED

- Then govt wanted to protect area of 10km from full tank level of twin reservoirs
- Due to poor inflows into Krishna river, water levels in Srisailam & Nagarjuna Sagar dwindled
- Since Krishna water serves many parts of city, supplies set to get affected in a month
- BRS govt said requirement of Osman Sagar & Himayat Sagar was no longer needed for drinking water



- It cited reasons that their dependability was less than 1.25% of total requirement

- 2 years ago, govt withdrew GO to tap water from Himayat Sagar & Osman Sagar

- We started drawing minimal water from twin reservoirs. From next month, we may have to draw more water

—C Sudarshan Reddy | MD, HMWSSB

or inflows into Krishna river in the previous monsoon season, water levels in Srisailam and Na-

garjuna Sagar have also dwindled considerably. Since Krishna wa-

ter serves many parts of the city,

especially southern and eastern areas, supplies are set to get affected in the next one month.

"We started drawing water from Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar a few days ago, but the quantity is minimal. From next month, we may have to draw more water from the twin reservoirs," HMWS&SB managing director C Sudarshan Reddy told **STOI**.

When GO 111 was withdrawn and GO 69 was brought in its place in April 2022, the govt argued that only 27% of installed capacity of drinking water capacity was in the two reservoirs. Since the total installed capacity of drinking water requirement for Hyderabad had gone up from 145 million gallons per day to 604 MGD and an additional 344 MGD was also under execution, the dependability of these two reservoirs was less than 1.25%, the govt argued then.

"The BRS govt had lied when GO 69 was issued. The HMWS&SB has been drawing water from the two reservoirs over the years," Lubna Sarwath, founder-director of Centre for Wellbeing Economics, told **TOI**.



Chief Electoral Officer
Telangana



TO CHECK YOUR NAME ON THE VOTERS' LIST

Log on to website: voters.eci.gov.in
or Download:
Voter Helpline Mobile App

If your name is missing in the voters' list you can register as voter by filling in Form 6 before 14th April, 2024

Update details such as your mobile number and address by using Form 8

To apply online
Scan the QR Codes



voters.eci.gov.in Voter Helpline App
or Contact BLO (Booth Level Officer)
ERO (Electoral Registration Officer) / AERO to assist you.

Bizman files plaint against Bhujanga

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Managing director of Sandhya Convention, Sridhar Rao, recorded a statement against the arrested additional superintendent of police, N. Bhujanga Rao, at the Banjara Hills police station on Sunday.

It is learnt that this was in connection with a property issue wherein the businessman was contacted by the former Intelligence officer. The latter allegedly exerted pressure on him regarding the case.

Sridhar Rao, however, chose to stay tight-lipped about it.

"I have filed a complaint against Bhujanga Rao. The case is under investigation and, hence, I cannot disclose anything else," he said after coming out of the police station.

Soon after the arrest of

'PRESSURED OVER PROPERTY ISSUE'

- Sandhya Convention Hall MD Sridhar Rao filed plaint
- Said additional SP Bhujanga Rao had contacted him earlier
- It was over a property issue, said bizman
- Officer pressured me over issue, Sridhar said in plaint
- Sridhar also raised suspicion over his phone being tapped

Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) deputy superintendent of police, D Praneeth Rao, Sridhar Rao had lodged a complaint with the Panjagutta police through his advocate claiming that he was harassed by Bhujanga Rao. He also raised suspicion over his phone being tapped as well.

Strategy to reduce cost of power purchase, generation in 2-3 yrs

► From P1

The new power policy will be brought after consultation with people, experts and officials, and public hearings. A draft will be presented in the assembly after the Lok Sabha polls," a senior official said.

An official involved in drafting of the policy said, "The govt will encourage solar power through private firms and it will be used between 10 am and 5 pm daily. The power requirement during the remaining period will be via other sources. All the 33/11 kv substations will have solar power plants. Self-Help Group with aid of private firms will be encouraged to set up solar power plants in open govt land. All educational institutions and state govt office will be asked to utilise solar power by setting up solar panels."

Pointing out that thermal power generation was expensive, officials in TS Genco said NTPC was supposed to provide 4,000 MW to the state but it was delayed for 10 years and only 1,600 MW was available. Though the NTPC asked the state to enter into a PPA for

The govt will encourage solar power through private firms and it will be used between 10 am and 5 pm daily, said an official

rest 2,400 MW, the BRS govt did not. Now, the Congress govt was of the view that while the NTPC was offering power at Rs 5.90 per unit, it was expected to touch Rs 8 to Rs 9 per unit after five years when it becomes operational. But power via other sources such as hydel and wind were available at Rs 2 to Rs 4 per unit in the market. Secondly, thermal plants such as Yadadri, which started a few years ago, were facing hurdles and cost of generation had gone up.

The multi-pronged strategy to reduce cost of power purchase and generation while meeting demand would be possible in the next two to three years, officials said.

To explore hydel power op-

tions, govt has directed the irrigation department to look into the possibility of generating power in medium and major irrigation projects through pump storage. It was estimated that this would produce around 6,700 MW of power. Sources said while the present maximum power demand in the state was 15,623 MW, it was expected to touch 27,000 MW by 2031-2032.

Pointing out that thermal power generation was expensive, officials in TS Genco said NTPC was supposed to provide 4,000 MW to the state but it was delayed for 10 years and only 1,600 MW was available. Though the NTPC asked the state to enter into a PPA for

rest 2,400 MW, the BRS govt did not. Now, the Congress govt was of the view that while the NTPC was offering power at Rs 5.90 per unit, it was expected to touch Rs 8 to Rs 9 per unit after five years when it becomes operational. But power via other sources such as hydel and wind were available at Rs 2 to Rs 4 per unit in the market. Secondly, thermal plants such as Yadadri, which started a few years ago, were facing hurdles and cost of generation had gone up.

The multi-pronged strategy to reduce cost of power purchase and generation while meeting demand would be possible in the next two to three years, officials said.

THIS WILL ONLY MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY



Online Gift Card

BUT THE REAL GIFT WILL MAKE SOMEONE'S LIFE.

WILL AND TESTAMENT

So, make sure you keep all your real documents safely.

#PrintIsReal

An initiative by The Times of India

WT.5694.2024

THE TIMES OF INDIA
LEADS YOU
THEIR TRUST
TO MAKE
YOU MORE
CREDIBLE.



Abhishek Kapoor Group CEO, Puravankara Ltd.

Print advertising with The Times of India has been an integral part of our approach to connecting with our valued customers for decades. **There's something irreplaceable about the touch-and-feel of print that other platforms can't replicate.** We firmly believe in its ability to connect better with high credibility while creating immense trust among our customers.

*Brand Estate enables to lay a strong foundation for Real Estate developers

For Innovations, Brand Solutions and Advertising, please contact your **Times Response or Brand Estate* Representatives.**

#CountOnTOI



THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHANGE Begins Here

**SUITS &
SAYINGS**

CORPORATE JUICE. NOW SERVED FRESH DAILY.



Chief Electoral Officer
Telangana



THE CASE OF THE SUDDEN RESIGNATION

No one expected it, not now at least!

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

THE SUDDEN RESIGNATION



2 robbers held with 250 gram gold in AP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Visakhapatnam: Srikakulam district police arrested two persons in connection with a gold robbery case and recovered around 250 gram of gold from them.

The arrested persons were identified as Challa Jampa of Bhadrachalam of Khammam district, Telangana and Poduthuri Sambasiva Rao of Seetharampuram of Etapaka mandal in ASR district of Andhra Pradesh.

The duo allegedly broke into the house of a 75-year-old widow in Srikakulam on March 2.



They threatened her with a knife and robbed her gold ornaments

tension, the elderly women told them that she lived with her son and was often alone at home.

"On March 2, the accused waited for the victims son to leave for work. Before entering into the house, they covered the CCTV cameras installed there with black clothes. They gagged her mouth, threatened her with a knife and stole the gold," she added.

A team of cops led by SI B Ganesh investigated the case and nabbed the two miscreants. On being interrogated, the duo confessed that they had pledged the stolen gold with a finance firm and later melted it to sell. The cops recovered the melted gold from the duo. Further investigation is on.

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, AHMEDABAD BENCH

COMPANY APPLICATION NO.6 OF 2024
In the matter of Section 66 read with Section 52 of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules framed thereunder

AND

In the matter of Reduction of Equity Share Capital of

A.MENARINI INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

CIN: U74130GJ2001PTC039600

A company incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, having its registered office at No. 101 in Tower A, Shapath-4, Opp. Karnavati Club, S. G. Road, Ahmedabad – 380 015 in the State of Gujarat, India.....

APPLICANT COMPANY

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

Notice may be taken that an application was presented to the Tribunal at Ahmedabad Bench, on the 7 day of February, 2024 for confirming the reduction of the sharecapital of the above Company from Rs.25,54,67,470/- Rs. 22,12,28,330/-.

The notices to individual creditors have been issued. The list of creditors prepared on the 24th day of January, 2024 by the company is available at the registered office of the company at No. 101 in Tower A, Shapath-4, Opp. Karnavati Club, S. G. Road, Ahmedabad – 380 015 in the State of Gujarat, India for inspection on all working days during 11 AM to 4 PM between Monday to Friday.

If any creditor of the company has any objection to the application or the details in the list of creditors, the same may be sent (along with supporting documents) and details about his name and address and the name and address of his Authorised Representative, if any, to the undersigned at No. 101 in Tower A, Shapath-4, Opp. Karnavati Club, S. G. Road, Ahmedabad – 380 015 in the State of Gujarat, India within three months of date of this notice. If no objection is received within the time stated above, entries in the list of creditors will, in all the proceedings under the above petition to reduce the share capital of the company, be treated as correct. It may also be noted that a hearing has been fixed for Thursday, 25th April, 2024 on which the Tribunal shall hear the application. In case any creditor intends to attend the hearing he/she should make a request along with his/her objections, if any.

Dated this 1 day of April, 2024

Tushar Vaishnav

Place : Ahmedabad Authorized Signatory of the Company

21 tribals taken into custody as mob attacks cops in Khammam village

Clash Between 2 Villages Over Podu Land

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Over 20 persons have been taken into custody after a tiff over podu land triggered a violent clash between two tribal villages — Buggapadu and Chandraiahpalem — and subsequent attack on police personnel in Khammam district on Sunday.

The trigger for the clash was revenue from podu land between the two villages in Sathupalli mandal. As tension was building up, police intervened to calm the fray-

ATTACK VIDEO GOES VIRAL



Video grab shows tribal mob attacking inspector Kiran (in blue shirt)

ed tempers, but a section of villagers allegedly chased and attacked Sathupalli police inspector T Kiran and other policemen.

Later, reinforcements were sent to the location

and police had to resort to lathicharge to control the angry mob. Subsequently, a criminal case was filed against those who attacked police personnel and engaged in violence. So far, 21 per-

sons, including K Mahender, Dugra Prasad, J Nagesh and Samuel of Chandraiahpalem were taken into custody for their alleged involvement in violence.

Trouble started over

plantation in podu land

Podu land was in middle of 2 tribal villages

Plantation revenue shared with one village & other village objected

On Sunday, people from 2 villages clashed & cops tried to pacify them

But some villagers attacked Sathupalli inspector T Kiran & colleagues

piece of forest land, which had been developed through plantation by forest department. The land is located between the two villages. Revenue from this land was shared with one of the villages, leading to objections from the other, who tried to encroach upon it.

Villagers from both sides came face to face on Sunday. Inspector Kiran, who was in civvies, rushed to the spot along with a few policemen. "He was chased and attacked by the mob, including women. Additional policemen at the scene were also assaulted," police sources said. The violent incident was captured on phones by some villagers and it quickly became viral on social media.

Pawan vows skill centres for fishermen

Venu.Lanka@timesgroup.com

Vijayawada: Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan is leading the party's poll campaign in Pithapuram from where he is seeking mandate.

During the three-day campaign, he visited Sri Pada Gaya Kshetram to offer prayers. Pawan spent time listening to the issues faced by fishermen from U Kotaphalli mandal. He assured that skill centres will be established at every fishermen village at Pithapuram. Pawan said he is aiming to convert fishermen into a skilled workforce. He expressed confidence in his alliance's chances in the elections, promising to send a strong message to chief minister Jagan Mohan Reddy.

RUN FOR PEACE



People participate in 'Ahimsa Run 2.0 for Peace and Non-violence' at Jala Vihar in Hyderabad on Sunday

Lokesh gets Z category security

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Vijayawada: Former minister and TDP national general secretary Nara Lokesh has been granted Z category security by the Central government. This decision came into effect on Sunday, with 10 armed CRPF commandos assigned for his security.

The state government and Lokesh were informed about the decision by Centre on Saturday evening.

This decision comes in the wake of increased security concerns, particularly due to the presence and threats posed by Maoists in the AOB region. TNN

Alert passengers avert rail mishap

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Vijayawada: Alert passengers of Krishna Express played a crucial role in preventing a potential rail disaster near Alair station in Telangana.

The passengers, on Adilabad to Tirupati Krishna Express, heard a loud sound as the train neared Alair railway station, about 70 km from Hyderabad. They alerted the railway authorities, who stopped the train for a thorough inspection. Officials found that there was damage to a portion of railway track.

Passengers heard loud sound as the train neared Alair station. They alerted authorities, who stopped the train and found damage to a portion of railway track

immediately repaired. And the train resumed its onward journey to Tirupati.

The track damage could have led to a major rail accident if not for the alertness of passengers in Krishna Express.

There was no loss to life or property.

MISSING PERSON



Baby Vargheese, (Age 76), S/o Mathan vargeese, Putthenveedu, Thathampally Ward, Thathampally P.O., Alappuzha district, has been missed from 22.02.2024 and he has not returned so far. Hence if any information is received about him, please inform to the nearest Police Station or below mentioned phone numbers. **Description:** Height: 172cm, Complexion:Medium, Body Shape: Lean.

Contact number:
SHO Alappuzha North PS: 947987058
DySP, Alappuzha : 9497990041
District Police Chief, Alappuzha : 9497996982
126/F/2024/I&PRD

TIMES interact

To book your ad

Logon to: ads.timesgroup.com

or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free)



business

DISTRIBUTORS

WANTED DISTRIBUTORS & DEALERS FOR GLOSSY STAIN PROOF EPOXY TILE & FLOOR JOINT FILLER MOB / WHATSAPP 8921890349, YOYO IND, COCHIN 33.

LOANS

SHIVGANGA Fin Ltd Loan Avail @3% PA Property, Busi. Proj, Edu, Indus, Agri, Home Hotel, PL IL to 100CR (Agents Welcome) 7535897241, 7599520394

IIFL Finance Ltd.
5 Lakh to 1000 Cr Personal/Project, Business Loan, 30% Subsidy, 3% P.A. Agents Welcome Call us at: 8755810966, 7902137162

5 LACK to 1000 Cr Persnl Proj/Project, Business Loan, 30% Subsidy, 3% P.A. Agents Welcome Call us at: 8755810966, 7902137162

real estate

COMMERCIAL land (480 sq.y, with gowdown) for sale in Janpak, NSPT Main Rd. Warangal. 8121255349

LAND FOR SALE

NATIONAL FINANCE 5Lakhs to 500 Cr. Personal/Proj/ Project/Buss/Proj./Home Loan, Intt. @ 5% Subsidy 2% PA.agents welcome M: 9669300747, 9193293650

LVS Finance Ltd 2lack 1000cr Business Property, Proj. Home Loan, 3.4-4% rate of intt, 30% Subsidy 2% PA.agents welcome M: 9669300747, 9193293650

FOR SALE

SINGLE-MALT DISTILLERY AND INF (LIQUOR) MANUFACTURING UNIT

FOR SALE IN GOA

Plot Area 10,00,000 Sq.Ft. Approx., Building Area 7000 Sq.Ft. Approx., located in Prime Geo Industrial Estate with all Government Permissions including Pollution NOC and having beautiful River view with following Active Liquor Licences:

1. IMFS Manufacturing Licence.

2. IMFS Bottling Licence.

3. Malt Spirit Manufacturing Licence.

4. Malt Spirit Bottling Licence.

5. Grape Spirit Manufacturing Licence.

6. Grape Spirit Bottling Licence.

7. High Bouquet Spirits Manufacturing Licence.

8. High Bouquet Spirits Bottling Licence.

Contact on +91 9923466999

GOA PROPERTIES

FOR SALE

SINGL-MALT DISTILLERY AND INF (LIQUOR) MANUFACTURING UNIT

FOR SALE IN GOA

Plot Area 10,00,000 Sq.Ft. Approx., Building Area 7000 Sq.Ft. Approx., located in Prime Geo Industrial Estate with all Government Permissions including Pollution NOC and having beautiful River view with following Active Liquor Licences:

1. IMFS Manufacturing Licence.

2. IMFS Bottling Licence.

3. Malt Spirit Manufacturing Licence.

4. Malt Spirit Bottling Licence.

5. Grape Spirit Manufacturing Licence.

6. Grape Spirit Bottling Licence.

7. High Bouquet Spirits Manufacturing Licence.

8. High Bouquet Spirits Bottling Licence.

Contact on +91 9923466999

TEACHER

MAHESH

Vidya Bhavan CBSE School, Shivrampally, needs Middle & High School Faculty for English, Social Sciences & IT. Trained.

Experienced Graduates / Post Graduates may mail resumes to principal.mvbs@gmail.com , 075802644 / 7561890011

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public Notice hereby

informed that my client intending

to purchase the below mentioned

schedule of property from its

owner Mr. Mrs. Tahira Fatima,

Mr. Md. Mohammed Abdul

Azeem Azeem, aged about 34

years, Occ: Housewife, Ro

H.No: 8-13-76/18A,Raghavendra

Colony, Shivrampally Village

GMRD Hajira Nagar, Ranga Reddy District-52, if anybody is

having any objection, claim

interest, dispute for the above

Rural job scheme in big demand, hints at distress in villages

Job Opportunities In Cities May Not Have Returned To Normal

Subodh Chidhary
@timesgroup.com



Mahesh G

New Delhi: MGNREGA has generated 40 crore persondays of work more than the pre-pandemic (2019-20) level—suggesting a continuing rural distress, and that job opportunities in the cities may not have returned to normal.

As 2023-24 completes, the flagship distress labour scheme clocked 305.2 crore persondays on March 31. It is a figure which is updated till the end of month and the final number will end up higher. It is in sharp contrast to 293.7 crore persondays generated in 2022-23—roughly 12 crore person-days more.

The number in 2023-24 was expected to go down as 2022-23 was the first year after the country came out of the pandemic, and employment avenues were seen as not having returned to normal after the disruption caused by the two major corona waves which triggered the shuttering of econo-

The last two years—2022-23 and 2023-24—provide evidence that employment for the unskilled poor has not returned to the year 2019-20, when the work generated was 265.3 persondays

my across the rural-urban divide. But instead of dipping, the work has gone up by 12 crore days and the final figure would be even higher.

However, for MGNREGA, derided as ditch-digging scheme for the poor, the true measure of what is in store as the last resort for unskilled wage earners, is the financial year 2019-20. The pre-pandemic year marked the natural trajectory of work demand under the job scheme, encapsulating seasonal disruptions like rains or drought, without the unnatu-

pandemic hit year of 2020-21, and then barely slipped to 363.2 crore in 2021-22. The two years are seen as aberrations in the MGNREGA graph because of the closure of traditional work avenues owing to lockdown, and their slow return to normalcy after the virus subsided.

Rajendra Narayanan, faculty at the Azim Premji university and an expert on the job scheme, said, "There is no doubt that it shows a high demand for MGNREGA because of high levels of rural unemployment. It has been observed in various surveys."

That the work demand and generation under the job scheme should stay elevated, and higher than the pre-pandemic years, is viewed unanimously by experts as signs of high unemployment and rural distress. The unskilled or semi-skilled workers constitute the migrant labour force which mostly finds wages in the construction sector and similar employment in towns and cities.

April 5 is last date for CUET-UG

New Delhi: The application deadline for Common University Entrance Test (CUET)-UG has been further extended till April 5, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Sunday. The deadline was extended following representations from candidates regard-

ing Aadhaar-related issues. NTA said candidates can also use school ID or any govt ID with photograph to facilitate identification. The first deadline was March 26, which was initially extended to March 31. The exam is scheduled to be held from May 15 to 31. TNN

2 held on way to Unnao, 110 being taken for conversion rescued

Faiz.Siddiqui@timesgroup.com

Kanpur: UP police intercepted on Sunday two buses ferrying 110 people from Kanpur to Unnao for an event where they were to be allegedly converted to Christianity. Two people, both residents of this city, were arrested and charged under the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance.

ACP Mahesh Kumar said the accused—Simon Williams and Deepak Morris—promised Rs 50,000 each to residents of slums in Kanpur's Nawabganj, Armapur, Kohna and some other places if they converted to Christianity.

A group of Bajrang Dal activists got wind of the plan and alerted Nawabganj police station late on Saturday, sources said.

Two buses picked up the group from Nawabganj and were headed to a church in Unnao for the alleged conversion ceremony when police came in the way. "Apart from cash, they were assured jobs. The unmarried people in the group were promised help in finding partners. Most of them are impoverished," the ACP said.

Sunil Balmiki, one of the 'rescued' people, later filed a complaint against Williams and Morris. An official quoted him as saying that his wife was the first one to be lured into agreeing to convert. "Sunil alleged that Deepak and Simon told them their lives would be filled with happiness if they both converted to Christianity."

Police said some more people involved in forced conversion were on their radar.

4 dead, 360+ in hospital as winds batter north Bengal

Jalpaiguri: At least four people were killed—crushed under falling trees—at two different places when a nor'wester, accompanied by a 'mini tornado', lashed Jalpaiguri for five minutes on Sunday afternoon, reports Pinak Priya Bhattacharya. Around 367 people had to be hospitalised for injuries, even as initial estimates said there was massive loss to property at Jalpaiguri Sadar and Maynaguri blocks.

Alipore Met office said the Maynaguri storm may have been a 'mini tornado' that accompanied a nor'wester in the region. "It generated an estimated wind speed of around 60kmph to 70kmph, though the speed inside the system must have been much more," said Regional Meteorological Centre director GK Das.

IPL fan beaten up for cheering fall of Rohit's wicket dies

Kolhapur: An IPL fan in Maharashtra's Kolhapur attacked by a friend and the latter's nephew for celebrating the fall of Rohit Sharma's wicket during a Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Mumbai Indians match on Wednesday succumbed to his injuries in hospital on Saturday.

Bandopant Tibile (63) was beaten repeatedly with a wooden block by Balawant Jhanjhe (50) and nephew Sagar. According to police, both were initially arrested on charges of attempt to murder and have now been booked for murder under IPC Section 302. Tibile, a farmer, and Jhanjhe were watching the match at a common friend's house in Hanmantwadi village of Kolhapur's Karveer tehsil. When Rohit's wicket fell, both got involved in a spat. According to the police, Tibile made certain comments that enraged Jhanjhe, a Rohit fan. TNN

ICAR - INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MAIZE RESEARCH, LUDHIANA
Dated: - 30.03.2024

INTERVIEW

Online Interview will be held on **15.04.2024 at 10.00 AM onwards** and **16.04.2024 at 10.00 AM onwards** for One Position of Resident Consultant (RC), 17 Positions of Young Professional-II and 18 Positions of Young Professional-I under the project titled "Enhancement of maize production in catchment areas of ethanol industries" project at ICAR-IIMR, Pusa Campus, IARI, Delhi. For details, please visit <https://iimr.icar.gov.in>.

Senior Administrative Officer

Reliance digital
PERSONALISING TECHNOLOGY

WORRIED ABOUT RISING TEMPERATURE?

GET AC @ ₹1*

INVERTER AC 1.5T Starting from ₹25,990*

LG INVERTER AC 1.5T TS-Q19CNZE PER DAY EMI STARTING FROM ₹129*

***T&C APPLY**

FASTEAST DELIVERY*

YOU CAN FIND A DREAM PROPERTY ONLINE

BUT TO OWN ONE, YOU'LL NEED THE REAL THING.

So, make sure you keep all your real documents safely.

#PrintIsReal

An initiative by The Times of India

make my trip

NO KIDDING SALE 1st - 4th April

FLAT 45% OFF ON HOLIDAY PACKAGES

Unbelievable deals for unforgettable summer holidays.

Europe Holiday Packages starting @ ₹1.5 lacs/-*

INCLUSIONS: All Flights, Hand-picked Hotels, Indian Meals, Activities

Best Selling International Destinations

- THAILAND 5N/6D** starting @ ₹44,999
- BHUTAN 7N/8D** starting @ ₹50,000
- BALI 6N/7D** starting @ ₹62,222
- SINGAPORE 4N/5D** starting @ ₹59,999

Best Selling Domestic Destinations

- KASHMIR 4N/5D** starting @ ₹34,999
- GOA 3N/4D** starting @ ₹15,555
- HIMACHAL 5N/6D** starting @ ₹21,111
- KERALA 4N/5D** starting @ ₹41,599

T&C Apply

INDIA'S TOP HOLIDAY PLANNERS **24X7 TRAVEL ASSISTANCE** **VISA ASSISTANCE** **15 LAC+ HAPPY TRAVELLERS** **150+ STORES**

Scan the QR Code to book your holiday now.

Or visit your nearest MakeMyTrip store.

Banjara Hills 7337322745 | Paradise Circle 8655363785
Dilsukhnagar 7303093256 | Raidurg 7303093262

make my trip

IT'S NOT A PRANK. THE SALE IS REAL.

NO KIDDING SALE

'Modi's mantra is bhrashtachar hatao'

► Continued from P1

He dismissed opposition's allegations as rants of those feeling jittery over his action against the corrupt and said: "When I'm taking action against corruption, some people are upset and losing their senses. Modi's mantra is 'bhrashtachar hatao' (eradicate corruption). They say 'bhrashtachari bachao' (save the corrupt). This election is a battle between two sides. One is NDA — the arena to remove corruption. Second is the field to save the corrupt. Now you have to decide if the corrupt need to be saved or corruption needs to go."

"When Modi with all his strength started to remove corruption, these people allied to form 'INDIA' alliance. They think Modi is afraid of them, but for me my 'Bharat' is my family. It is because of this fight that the biggest of the corrupt are behind bars and they are not getting respite even from Supreme Court," he further said, working up the crowd to endorse his anti-corruption plank.

This was his first rally after the declaration of candidates; also the first one he addressed with the newly-recruited ally, RLD leader Jayant Chaudhary, and other NDA constituents.

Seeking support for NDA candidates from five constituencies of western UP — Meerut, Baghpat, Bijnor, Muzaffarnagar and Kairana — Modi said that in its two terms, his govt had pulled off feats: from construction of Ram Mandir and abrogation of Article 370 to banning of triple talaq, which were considered impossible.

"This year, Ram Lalla also played Holi in Awadh with great gusto," he said in an allusion to the consecration of Ram Mandir at Ayodhya, which was applauded by the audience. But it was corruption which emerged as the main theme of the speech.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/24/18 Dated: 22/03/2024. PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the following. The following E-Tender/s is/are for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in for detailed instructions. These are E-Tenders only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Quantity; Due On: [058]; Tender Cost as follows: Note: [058]; 25245012; Cordless heat gun. Specification as per annexure-05. Make/Brand- Makita/Bosch/Hitachi; As per tender/documents; 11/04/2024; ₹ 0.00; [059]; 25245020; Loco Maintenance Booking Record Book (Loco Log Book booklet of 75 pages) printing in 70 GSM A4 size white paper, both sides printing (attached as per content given in pdf); Number of total sheets 75 pages, sheets to be bound with glue pasting & strong threading, proper stapled with strong pins and red binding cloth sticking off, one binding side properly as a book with thick front cover multi colour printed page-1 laminated art paper & page-2 to 7 one side printed white & back, remaining page printed on both side printed. Note: One sample to be got approved before bulk supply as per his printed matter requirement; As per tender/documents; 15/04/2024; ₹ 0.00; [060]; 25245032; Brass Collector Shoe For EOT Crane Rating: 500 AMP. Suitable For HDBC WIRE, Suitable For Carbon Insert Thickness 20MM and Collector Spindle Dia 15 MM. HSN CODE:-7418 MAKE:- ELECTRO POWER, KAKKU; As per tender/documents; 30/04/2024; ₹ 0.00; [061]; 25245004A; Flocculator (Jar test apparatus) with 06 (Six) nos. Stirrer. As per specn. uploaded; As per tender/documents; 19/04/2024; ₹ 0.00; [062]; 25245037; PWO Water Oil Cooler, Type- B10TH x 30/I - SC, Brand/Make- OIL TECH/SWEP/ORELL Tee /PARKER; As per tender/documents; 30/04/2024; ₹ 0.00; [063]; 25245034; Master Controller 4 Steps 7 CAM Along With Spring Return Rated 40 AMP with Silver Tips Suitable For Eot Crane HSN CODE 8536 MAKE: SPEEDAGE, ELECTRO POWER, KAKKU; As per tender/documents; 30/04/2024; ₹ 0.00; [064]; 25245036; Casting Roller Hub in Two parts as per Drawing no. 3D/CLW/02/2023 for R.G.PLANT Machines. HSN Code: 8483; As per tender/documents; 23/04/2024; ₹ 0.00; [065]; 31242929; LOKTITE 577 or Equivalent to CLW's Drg./Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0650/A (SELF.LIFE-18 MONTH HS); As per tender/ documents; 19/04/2024; ₹ 0.00; [066]; 25245033; Shrouded DSL BAR Copper (4 BAR) Suitable For 400 AMP Insulated DSL Line With 4 Colour Red, Yellow, Blue, Black Copper BAR, Thickness 1.2 TO 1.3 MM With 59 to 66 MM With 1 NO. 4 Pole Hanger Clamp Per Meter MAKE:- ELECTROPOWER, SPEEDAGE, KAKKU HSN CODE: 8431; As per tender/ documents; 23/04/2024; ₹ 0.00; [067]; 25245005; Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Special Type Induction Heater as per Specification No. CLW/WS/09/INDUCTION HEATER/02 Dt. 20.12.2023. (Make offered must be made in India/procurement compliant); As per tender/ documents; 19/04/2024; ₹ 0.00; PR6/358 PCMM/CLW/HWH

DMK MP Sezhiyan may have known contours of the deal

► From P1

His intervention was of a piece with the many by the DMK member that had already established him as an effective Parliamentarian.

There was, however, something amiss about this particular one: The usually alert Sezhiyan was probably unaware that TN CM M Karunanidhi had given his concurrence to the agreement more than a month ago.

In fact, the DMK leader was perhaps the only person barring the PM and "one or two senior Cabinet ministers" who may have known the contours of the agreement that was in the works.

Documents accessed from the MEA through RTI by chief of TN BJP K Annamalai, show that on June 19, 1974, the then foreign secretary Kewal Singh, accompanied by director historical division, B K Basu, called on Karunanidhi at the secretariat conference room in what was then Madras to brief the latter of the deal and returned with his "general acceptance" of it. The official account of the meeting that lasted for over an hour and whe-



File photo of devotees from India and Sri Lanka at Katchatheevu island during the St. Antony's annual festival

re Karunanidhi was assisted by chief secretary P Sabayagam and, later, also home secretary S P Ambrose, thus sums up Karunanidhi's response to the then PM Indira Gandhi's decision to have the deal with Sri Lanka.

On the substance of the proposal, the CM indicated that he was inclined to accept the suggested solution. It also shows that Karunanidhi may have got to know of the agreement ahead of many in the Union govt and in the ruling Congress. He (Karunanidhi) wanted to know whether the PM has sounded the opposition. Foreign secretary said that, to his knowl-

edge, the proposal was known only to one or two senior Cabinet ministers and that the Prime Minister would like to have the views of Tamil Nadu before discussing it with opposition leaders.

The official narration of the exchange also brings out that Karunanidhi anticipated a public backlash against the agreement but promised that he would ensure that it remained within safe limits. "The chief minister having signified his general acceptance of the suggested solution, said that for obvious political reasons, he could not be expected to take a public stand in favour of it. The

chief minister, however, assured foreign secretary that he will help keep the reaction at a low key and would not allow it to be played up.

"Foreign secretary appreciated the gesture and stressed that nothing should be done to embarrass the central government or turn the affair into an issue between the Centre and the State. In this connection, foreign secretary also recalled that the Tamil Nadu govt had been kept informed throughout the negotiations with Sri Lanka." The documents also reveal that at one stage Karunanidhi sought to know whether the signing of the agreement could be put off for another two years, but did not press the point when the foreign secretary cited "internal" and "external constraints", coming around to appreciate the "urgency and need for a bilaterally negotiated compromise settlement". Foreign secretary said India had extricated concessions from Sri Lanka that the latter was not initially willing to concede and explained to Karunanidhi that referring the dispute for international arbitration was not going to be helpful.

SC is fully independent: Justice Gavai to US audience

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: At a time when

Prime Minister Narendra Modi got involved in highlighting alleged pressure being exerted by certain sections of activist lawyers on the courts, Justice Bhushan R Ga-

vai, one of the most senior

judge of SC, on Saturday said

India's apex court is fully independent and brooks no political interference.

Speaking to an audience of

budding lawyers and legal minds at Kennedy School, Harvard University, days after the US govt said it would expect a fair trial in the case that led to the arrest of AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal and income tax

case against Congress, Justice Gavai said, "Indian Constitution has a foundation of separation of powers, which is well established and clearly defined."

When questioned about fairness and independence of the judiciary as well as political interference in the judicial decision-making and judges' appointment system, Justice Gavai, who would be the Chief Justice of India next year, said, "India stands strong on the three parameters of democracy: prevalence of the rule of law, independence of the judiciary, and non-interference of the military in legislative and govt functions.

He emphasised that SC with its foundation resting on the 13-judge Constitution bench judgment in Kesavananda Bharati case on the inviolability of the basic structure of the Constitution, a principle which guides every institution in India. He engaged in an absorbing discussion ranging from functioning of SC, judicial appointments, and recent landmark judgments such as the electoral bond case. Additionally, ethical considerations for judiciary within a democratic society were examined.

Explaining the important role of judicial review in Indian democracy, he said, "The main objective behind judicial review is to have a mechanism for observing checks and balances so that there is no misuse of the power conferred to the three pillars of the State. In a nutshell, judicial review is an assurance of preserving and upholding constitutional values... In India, where the rule of law is paramount, judicial review remains a roadblock to any abuse of power by the legislature..."

"When the country became independent, we had this island, but 45 decades ago, Congress cut off a part of Mother India and separated it from India," the PM said as he asserted that the Island is extremely important from the perspective of national security.

Cong: PM's pre-poll desperation bared

Hitting back at PM Modi over his charge that Indira Gandhi gave away Katchatheevu island to Sri Lanka, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday asked why he did not take steps to get it back and alleged that raising the "sensitive" issue ahead of elections shows his "desperation". Kharge also questioned why the PM gave a "clean chit" to China after 20 bravehearts made supreme sacrifice in eastern Ladakh, PTI

years and counting," the PM remarked as he shared the TOI story.

PM Modi, at a rally in Meerut, once again raised the Katchatheevu issue, asserting that the country cannot trust a party that gave away an "integral part" of "Mother India".

PM Modi, at a rally in Meerut, once again raised the Katchatheevu issue, asserting that the country cannot trust a party that gave away an "integral part" of "Mother India".

Even from miles away, the destruction of Baltimore's Francis Scott Key Bridge is a jarring visual: Chunks of steel jut above the water like metallic icebergs and twisted gray beams protrude as 'Dali', the 985-foot-long cargo ship that struck the bridge on March 26 resulting in the death of six people, remains lodged in the wreckage. Less visible, however, are the 22 crew members from India — their timely alarm saved many more lives — still stuck on the ship. While keeping the vessel operable, they are answering a deluge of questions from officials probing the catastrophe.

One thing is certain: they are not going to dock at the port soon as they must wait for enough debris to be cleared to free the ship and reopen the channel to one of the busiest ports in US.

Little is publicly known about the 22 Indian crew members other than that they are seafarers who embarked on a journey aboard 'Dali', the cargo ship that was

on its way to Sri Lanka carrying 4,700 shipping containers, when it lost power and struck Baltimore's Key Bridge on March 26, causing the structure to collapse.

Since the accident, the crew members have found themselves in an unexpected spotlight. While officials investigate what could have caused the tragedy, a question has emerged this past week: What could the crew, who have limited access to the outside world, be going through right now?

"They must feel this weight of responsibility that they couldn't stop it from happening," said Joshua Messick, the executive director of the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center, a religious nonprofit that seeks to protect the rights of mariners.

The captain of the vessel and the crew have a duty to the ship," said Stephen Fraley, a partner at Pacific Maritime Group, which helps with marine salvage and wreck removal.

We were & are still part of INDIA, says TMC's O'Brien

► From P1

(J&K National Conference), Mehbooba Mufti (PDP), Tejaswini Yadav RJD, Jharkhand CM Champak Soren and Arvind Kejriwal from our team were arrested and put inside. What kind of elections are these? Govts are toppled by using money power, leaders are threatened and arrested," Rahul said.

He highlighted his own party's case saying, "Congress is the biggest opposition party and all its accounts have been frozen at a time it has to run a campaign and send leaders to states."

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra read out Congress's demand charter and said, "EC must stop coercive action by I-T department, ED and CBI to financially strangle opposition parties and manipulate elections."

Congress was represented by the entire Gandhi family (Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka) and party president Malikarjun Kharge and other senior leaders. Other attendees included NCP's Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) Uddhav Thackeray, Trinamool Congress's Derek O'Brien, Akhilesh Yadav (SP), Farooq Abdullah

Kheriwala's wife Sunita marked a big presence. Seated in the front row, she was flanked by Soren's wife Kalpana who has been increasing her public presence since the arrest of her spouse, and Sonia Gandhi who rarely comes out for public functions.

'Unacceptable red line...': US envoy on Pannun case

New Delhi: Acknowledging that India and the US are working together in the investigation of the alleged foiled assassination plot against Khalistani terrorist Gurparwan Singh Pannun, US ambassador to India Eric Garcetti said that a "red line" should not be crossed between the two countries.

Referring to the Khalistani marches and the threats issued by Pannun, Garcetti said that the American system protects free speech "for better or for worse," while adding that an American citizen can be convicted or deported only according to the country's laws.

Garcetti said, "When people do step over the line saying something will be bombed as opposed to saying somebody shouldn't fly. The

Vineet Jain gets ENBA Lifetime Achievement Award

New Delhi: Times Group managing director Vineet Jain has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement award 2023 by the jury of the exchange4media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA) in recognition of his "immeasurable contributions to the Indian television news landscape."

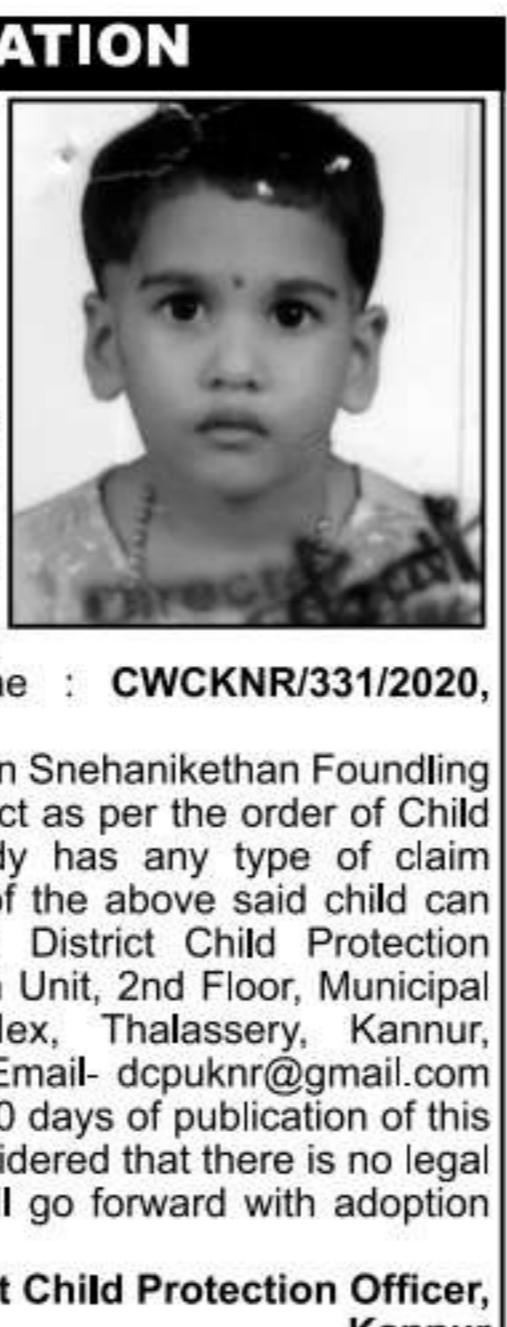
Accepting the award at a function here on Saturday, Jain said he dedicated the award to teams across the Times Group and acknowledged "the support of my elder brother, Mr. Samir Jain, in my journey to expand and diversify the group". Mentioning that he has "many miles to go", he said he has "always held one unshakeable core belief" in a free, fair, independent and strong media". "We have to be strong to be free. I am dedicated to strengthening our media industry and institutions in whatever way I can," he added.

The award citation lauded Jain for founding the group's TV platform, Times Network, which includes channels like Times Now, ET Now, Mirror Now, Times Now Navbharat and ET NOW Swadesh that have "shaped the way news is delivered in India." "Your commitment to innovative programming, balanced coverage and catering to a changing India has earned you widespread respect and admiration," the citation read. It added that the jury also recognised his "exceptional ability to foster a dynamic work environment and attract top journalistic talent to the Times Network".

The ENBA jury included former SC judge Justice AK Sikri (retd), Annurag Batra, chairman and editor-in-chief exchange4media and Businessworld, Dhanendra Kumar, chairman, Competition Advisory Services (India) LLP and Alok Mehta, former president, Editors Guild of India, among others. TNN

NOTIFICATION

Issued as per 6(7) of Adoption Regulations 2022
Name of the Child : Venma
Gender : Girl
Date of Birth : 30/10/2020
Age: 3 Years 4 Months
Name of Child Care Institution where the child is living in : Snehanikethan Foundling Home, Pattuvam, Kannur
Date of Admission in the Children Home: 5/11/2020
Child Welfare Committee placement Order No & Dtae : CWCKNR/331/2020, 5/11/2020
The above said child is staying in Snehanikethan Foundling Home, Pattuvam, Kannur District as per the order of Child Welfare Committee. If anybody has any type of claim over the parent responsibility of the above said child can inform the following address: District Child Protection Officer, District Child Protection Unit, 2nd Floor, Municipal Town Hall Shopping Complex, Thalassery, Kannur, Phone-04902967199, Kerala, Email- dcpukr@gmail.com with proper documents within 30 days of publication of this notice. Otherwise it will be considered that there is no legal claim over the child. Hence will go forward with adoption process.



Sd/-, District Child Protection Officer, Kannur

REELS CAN SHOW YOU PLACES
BUT ONLY SOMETHING REAL CAN TAKE YOU THERE.
REELS
PASSPORT
REPUBLIC OF INDIA

So, make sure you keep all your real documents safely.

#PrintIsReal

An initiative by The Times of India

6 days on, Dali's 22 Indian crew still tangled in steel



MANGLED MESS: Cranes stand by as the wreckage of the Francis Scott Key Bridge rests on the container ship Dali

According to Chris James, who works for a consulting firm assisting the ship's management company, Synergy Marine, the crew members have ample supplies of food and water, as well as plenty of fuel to keep the generators going. Indeed, when Jennifer Homendy, chair of the National Transportation Safety Board, went onboard the ship this past week, she observed the cook cooking. "It smelled very good," she said. But there is still no exact timeline for when the ship might be extracted from the wreckage, James said. Once the NTSB and Coast Guard finish their investigations, he said, "we'll look at potentially swapping the crew out and getting them home."

Cristian Jo Sequeira, an Indian seafarer who was docked in Baltimore from another cargo ship Friday, said in an interview that he feared the repercussions that the bridge collapse could have on his industry and his country.

"I'm scared that because this crew is Indian, our international flag will suffer," said Sequeira, 31. "Maybe we lose jobs." With so many questions still unanswered about the crew members' next steps, Messick said he was eager to provide them with trauma care and emotional support. NTV

make my trip





Education TIMES

THE PATH TO EXCELLENCE

Advertisorial, Education Promotional Feature

IIT Kanpur introduces eMasters degrees

To meet the growing demand for finance professionals across the globe, IIT Kanpur has introduced eMasters degree programmes in Climate Finance, Business Finance, Fintech, and Quantitative Finance. "These new programmes are designed to create future-ready finance professionals and cater to the growing demand for skilled talent in the finance industry. The flexibility of completing the eMasters degree programmes within 1-3 years, makes it a unique and preferred choice for working professionals," states IIT Kanpur. However, the selection into these programmes does not require a GATE score.

The eMasters in Financial Technology and Management blends fintech with traditional finance, giving professionals a deep understanding of technology's impact on finance. The eMasters in Quantitative Finance and Risk Management focuses on improving risk management skills.

Unplanned mushrooming of medical colleges and red-tapism have led to faculty crunch

Considering the number of vacant posts, the government will require a minimum of three years to fill them

Shuddhanta.Patra
@timesgroup.com

The medical colleges in Telangana are reportedly facing a 50% faculty deficit

After the Parliamentary Standing Committee report published in February 2024 highlighted severe faculty shortages in medical colleges across the country, several medical associations have underlined the problems arising in medical colleges due to a lack of faculty. As per the Ministry of Health, the recommended teacher-student ratio must be 1:2 or 1:3, but the situation is said to be far worse.

Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD), Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA), Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA) have recently complained to the higher authorities regarding the deteriorating quality of medical education due to the lack of quality teachers in colleges. The Parliamentary report also invoked concerns about the overall quality of education, pointing to the criticality of the shortage of teachers, demanding immediate attention and reforms by the government.

The faculty shortage in medical colleges in India is due to several reasons including lack of appointment of teachers, inadequate infrastructure, appointment of ghost faculty, lack of senior residents, and the reluctance of professors to meet the mandated attendance requirement.

Speaking to *Education Times*, a Health Ministry official says, "There is a huge faculty shortage in medical colleges across the country. The case is worse in district hospitals and the major problem is the lack of qualified and eligible teachers. MD/MS is the minimum eligibility for these positions, which means it could take at least 9-10 years to get to that level, but the salaries are much less for that post."

A candidate must have at least eight years of experience after MD/MS to become a

Major roadblocks

"As per the FORDA survey, there are 3000-5000 faculty vacancies in medical colleges across the country. The government is not advertising for the vacant posts and reservation in the medical profession is a major roadblock. Often, there are no reserved category candidates in the job posting. As a result, the seat remains vacant for years. The government mostly hires contractual medical staff. Eligible candidates do not show interest as they prefer permanent employment," says Dr Aviral Mathur, president, FORDA.

Students pursuing MD/MS, adversely impacting their academic progress.

As per our knowledge, there is a shortage of around 1000 assistant, associate professors and senior professors in all the government medical colleges."

"The role of PG guides is indispensable in shaping the academic and professional development of medical students pursuing MD/MS. These guides provide crucial mentorship, supervision, and support throughout postgraduate studies. However, the current shortage of qualified and available PG guides has resulted in several problems faced by students," adds MARD.

Abhijit Rajesh Helge, presi-

dent, MARD says, "The commissioner and director of DMER confirmed to speed up the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) recruitment." The medical colleges in Telangana are reportedly facing a 50% faculty deficit, while in West Bengal as many as 5000 medical professors are missing. To ensure attendance, the Parliamentary Committee has recommended regular inspection of medical colleges and introducing systems where students can report low attendance or ghost faculty. To improve quality, the Committee has also asked the NMC to focus on upskilling teachers by introducing relevant programmes and establishing a dedicated national institute for their training.

Need for speedy appointments

Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors (MARD), recently poin-

ted towards the shortage of postgraduate (PG) guides within the state medical education system. There is reportedly a shortage of around 1,000 assistant, associate professors and professors in Maharashtra govt medical colleges. In a recent letter to Directorate of Medical Education and Research (DMER), Maharashtra, MARD wrote, "The faculty shortage has led to significant challenges for medical

guides in India, Explore, Enable, Excel (Established by Reserve Bank of India)

ADMISSIONS TO EIGHTH BATCH OF POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN BANKING TECHNOLOGY

IDRBT, the premier Institute for Banking Technology in India, invites applications for the full-time one year Post Graduate Diploma in Banking Technology (PGDBT) commencing from July 01, 2024.

The last date for receipt of applications is APRIL 30, 2024. Visit www.idrbt.ac.in for details and call 988585024/8919132013 for queries.

Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology Allahabad
Prayagraj-211004, UP, INDIA

Ph.D. Admission for Odd Semester Session 2024-25

Applications are invited for admission to Ph.D. (Full-Time/Part-Time/Sponsored) programme of the Institute for the academic session 2024-25. Eligible candidates may apply online through URL <http://www.academics.mnnit.ac.in/admission2024> from April 01, 2024 to May 12, 2024. The application fee is Rs. 1200.00 (Rs. 600.00 for SC/ST/PwD). For more details, please visit the Institute website <http://www.mnnit.ac.in>

DIRECTOR

Education Times

BRAINSTRAIN

>> Three correct entries will win Pen Drives. Send in your entries only through e-mail with your Name, Address, Email, Tel no. and Profession to brainstrain.hyd@gmail.com

1. A trader marked up the price of a product by 75%. When the discount was decreased from 50% to 25% his profit increased by ₹210. What is the cost of the product?
(A) ₹210 (B) ₹280 (C) ₹320 (D) ₹480
2. How many positive integers are factors of exactly one of 1125 and 1800?
(A) 10 (B) 15 (C) 20 (D) 30
3. If A is 30% more than B and B is 20% less than C, then A is what % more/less than C?
(A) 4% less (B) 6% more (C) 4% more (D) 6% less
4. A man had three sons and they were born at an interval of five years. The sum of their ages after five years will be sixty years. What was the age of the youngest son five years ago?
(A) 10 years (B) 15 years (C) 5 years (D) 20 years
5. If the price of a chocolate goes up by ₹5, 18 less chocolates can be bought for a total amount of ₹1800. Find the number of chocolates bought.
(A) 80 (B) 90 (C) 100 (D) 96
6. A group of 810 children arranged themselves in N rows for a group photograph. In each row except the last, there were 3 more children than the row behind it. Which of the following can be the value of N?
(A) 6 (B) 8 (C) 5 (D) 10

Answer Key to last quiz:

1.D 2.B 3.C 4.A 5.B 6.B 7.D

Join Classroom/LIVE Online/Online Course for

CAT 2024/25

T.I.M.E. Enrol online @ www.t4e.info/enroll or 40088300/400



ISTOCK

upes.ac.in

UPES
UNIVERSITY OF TOMORROW

SHREYA SINGH
Lead Business Development,
SLB (Schlumberger Limited)
UPES Alumna (B.Tech.)

KULDEEP PARASHAR
Founder, PensionBox
UPES Alumnus (B.Tech.)

BHUPENDRA VERMA
Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas
UPES Alumnus (BA.LL.B.)



Empowering students to proudly say,

"I AM TOMORROW!"

***NO.1 PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN ACADEMIC REPUTATION**

**DESIGN YOUR OWN DEGREE
CHOOSE FROM 180+ MINORS**

LIFETIME PLACEMENT ASSISTANCE

RUNWAY START-UP SUPPORT

Admissions open for UG, PG and PhD programs

ADVANCED ENGINEERING | COMPUTER SCIENCE | DESIGN | BUSINESS LAW | HEALTH SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY | LIBERAL STUDIES



Scan to unlock
tomorrow, today!

UPES, Dehradun | upes.ac.in | 040 68440685 (10 am to 7 pm)

With poll meet & road show, Shah bid to fire up Raj cadre for hat-trick of sweeps

Issues Complacency Warning, Tells Unit To Hardsell Modi Govt's Feats

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: Union home minister Amit Shah directed BJP's core committee members and leaders in Rajasthan on Sunday to aggressively publicise Modi govt's achievements in the past 10 years during the campaign for the April 19 and 26 Lok Sabha elections in the state. BJP is eyeing all 25 LS seats in Rajasthan for the third consecutive time.

Shah is in Rajasthan on a two-day visit. After a close-door meeting with senior leaders at a private hotel in Jaipur, Shah held a road show in Sikar and returned to the state capital, where he addressed social organisations and BJP leaders during a late-night meeting.

At his third event, Shah accused Congress of inflicting four wounds on society: corruption, casteism, nepotism, and terrorism. "PM Modi has eradicated these ailments and has ushered in a new era of

governance by consecrating the grand temple of Lord Shri Ram, revoking Article 370, implementing 33% reservation for women, and abolishing triple talaq," he said.

In a direct attack on Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, Shah said: "He has accused PM Modi of neglecting OBCs, yet Modi himself hails from the OBC category. He reads out a taped speech and doesn't even know whose govt was in the country 30 years ago. Rahul Gandhi does caste politics. This country is no one's grandson. If a person represents society, he should not become the boss."

Earlier in the day, Shah told BJP leaders that the party should not be complacent about being successful in the past, and give 100% support to its candidates. "He fixed the responsibility of senior leaders on all 25 seats. He emphasised the push for 'Abki Baar 400 Paar' by winning all the seats in the state. During his address to the party



Shah during a roadshow on Sunday in support of Sumedhanand Saraswati, BJP's candidate for Sikar, where the party is battling anti-incumbency

workers, he underlined that the party should contest the polls with unity and leave no room for factionalism," said a leader.

Later, Shah held a road show in Sikar for party candidate and two-term MP Sumedhanand Saraswati, who is up against INDIA bloc's Amra Ram of CPM. The Sikar event also officially marked his campaign in Rajasthan.

A massive crowd gathered in the major markets of Sikar to witness a rally, which received an overwhelming response. As Shah's convoy passed through the streets, people adorned the route with

flowers and shouted victory slogans. Accompanying Shah were CM Bhajan Lal Sharma and Saraswati, who rode alongside him in an open car throughout the rally.

Although Shah did not convene any formal meetings during his visit to Sikar, his presence sent a clear message to party workers to rally behind the chosen candidate.

With Ram being an opposition alliance nominee, the mobilisation of support from Congress workers on the ground could potentially pose a formidable challenge to BJP's prospects in the region.

PDM: Owaisi-led front may add to INDIA bloc's UP troubles

Lucknow: Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) and Pallavi Patel's Apna Dal (Kamerawadi) came together on Sunday to launch PDM Nyay Morcha to jointly contest Lok Sabha polls.

Newly-floated PDM Nyay Morcha is a spin-off on Samajwadi Party's PDA plank which talks of Pichhde (Backwards), Dalit and Alpsankhyak (minorities). 'M' in PDM Nyay Morcha stands for Muslims.

Announcing launch of the Morcha at a joint press conference in Lucknow, Patel and Owaisi said their doors are open for SP rebel Swami Prasad Maurya and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief as well.

Owaisi skirted questions on Swami Prasad Maurya and Mayawati. "Anyone who wants to join us is welcome," he said on possibility of BSP and Mayawati joining them.

Announcement of the Morcha — which can add to the troubles of INDIA bloc in UP that primarily comprises SP, Congress and TMC — comes close on the heels of Patel being snubbed by SP for unilaterally declaring candidates for Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh earlier.

Morcha convenor Pallavi Patel said: "This new political alternative is in line with the sentiments of a large number of people of UP who want to establish the presence of PDM in executive, judiciary and legislature. We are confident that people will remove the present govt which is against Pichhde, Dalits and Muslims." TN



TMC's Krishnanagar candidate Mahua Moitra with Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee in Nadia on Sunday. Mocking BJP's ambition to secure over 400 seats in the Lok Sabha polls, the CM, launching TMC's campaign, challenged the saffron party to win in just 200 constituencies. Mamata reiterated that she will not allow implementation of CAA in the state. The CM also said that Moitra was thrown out of LS because she used to speak against BJP

Women voters pip men in TN but 6 seats to see all-male battles

Vivek.Narayanan
@timesgroup.com



"It is not that we don't have women applicants, but most of them are controlled by men," said BJP's Kushboo Sundar

controlled by men. It is better to not have such (proxy) candidates.

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

CPI(M) leader U Vasuki advocated for early implementation of a 33% reservation for women in parliament and state assemblies. "If this is done, we don't have to request political parties to field women; they will have to do it, and women would emerge leaders," she said.

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol. "I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol.

"I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol.

"I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol.

"I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol.

"I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol.

"I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol.

"I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol.

"I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol.

"I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol.

"I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol.

"I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol.

"I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol.

"I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in elections," he said.

In 33 districts, a few independent women candidates are in the fray. A Surya, a Class X pass homemaker, is contesting from Kanchipuram on the camera symbol.

"I want to bring in child welfare schemes and fight drug addiction," said Surya, who

is married to a driver. When asked about her campaign, Surya said: "Have to consult my husband."

However, not all women candidates have the support of their male family members. Sarah Fathima, contesting on 'sugarcane farmer' symbol from Chennai North, says she is happy to see many women as independent candidates. "I have my friends," she says, "and of course, social media."

Political analyst Vamsi Chandram suggests parties should create more posts for women. "This will ensure the participation of more than half the population in



INK YOUR SUCCESS



WITH THE DOUBLE ADVANTAGE

INTEGRATED LEARNING PROGRAMMES WITH INTER/+2

Integrated Learning Programmes from PAGE enable students to ace the toughest entrance exams in whichever stream they choose and the Intermediate Board exams, simultaneously. Since inception, PAGE has powered thousands of students to top national and international universities with its proven coaching.

CLASS X STUDENTS CAN REGISTER FOR THE FREE CAREER INTEREST TEST AT THE NEAREST PAGE BRANCH

Integrating Entrance Exam training with Board Exam preparation

JEE

NEET

EAMCET
& BITSAT

NATA

CLAT

CA

UCEED,
NID & NIFT

IPMAT

SAT



Reach out to your nearest branch:

Banjara Hills **92465 72065**, Himayatnagar **91002 22939**
HITEC City **92465 72066**, Kompally **92465 72078**

Or interact with us on WhatsApp and begin your chat with a **Hi to +91 9100079119**



www.pageacademy.com



CONTRAPUNTO

I take the debate on the method of promoting democracy seriously

-ERDOGAN

All Together, But...

Arrests of Kejriwal, Soren have galvanised oppn. But making that work on ground won't be easy

At Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, opposition bloc INDIA was present in numbers, with most big anti-BJP leaders attending, and those not, like Mamata and Stalin, sending representatives or messages. The speeches were, if not rousing, on point, and sent out a consistent message against this election's favourite, BJP. Arrests of Jharkhand's Soren and Delhi's Kejriwal appear to have galvanised INDIA's campaign. Takeaways:

Common agenda | Opposition leaders Rahul, Akhilesh, Tejaswi, Pawar, Yechury, Raja, Bhagwant Mann, all appeared to have found common cause – finally – in spearheading their Lok Sabha campaigns on issues of governance. Speakers focused on jobs crisis, on MSP support, and price rise. Allegations of ‘autocratic rule’ rang through the air as well, but it was in the articulation of unemployment and inflation that a common agenda emerged.

Voter slumber | Turnout swings poll outcomes. BJP's booth management is clinical, it piled on votes in 2019, winning over 50% of polled votes on many seats. To give themselves a fighting chance, opposition parties have to ensure their voters turn up. This exhortation to the voter was evident yesterday as leader after leader – from Tejaswi and Akhilesh to

Kharge – all tried to animate their followers to just go out and vote.

Reality bites | Kharge, visibly annoyed and recounting the freezing of Congress's bank accounts and income tax penalties, also made a pit stop at opposition's bugbear: seat-sharing and working at cross purposes. Don't bicker among yourselves, work together, he said. Remember opposition unity had melted like ice-cream in Delhi summer, the minute seat-sharing talks started. So, sure, TMC's representatives emphasised their party's place in INDIA, but it's to be seen whether Kharge's words are heeded back in Bengal.

Sum of parts? | Even if opposition parties can get their voters out, even if they keep split in anti-BJP votes to the minimum in North, East and West, even if the arrest of Kejriwal and, to a far less extent, Soren induces some sympathy votes outside the two leaders' backyards, opposition still has a formidable job taking on BJP. Modi's party is far better organised, as of now far ahead in poll prep, and led by an absolutely determined politician. Whether central agencies' action passes the smell test is a question opposition leaders will keep asking. But whether that issue has as much voter traction is the question opposition really needs to ask.

Save Our Boys

New Delhi should get Moscow to immediately repatriate citizens caught up in Russia's war against Ukraine

Fresh revelations by Indian youths duped by agents and taken to the Ukraine-Russia war frontline are deeply worrying. Two men from Haryana – who were lucky to return home – have claimed more than 200 South Asian men are trapped in camps along the Russia-Belarus border where they are being forced to join Russian army to fight in Ukraine. If they refuse, they are tortured and threatened with dire consequences, including 10 years' imprisonment.

Sinister network | A network of agents is preying on Indian youths. The two Haryana men were promised jobs in Germany but were taken to Thailand and then Belarus where their ordeal began. Putin's regime may be slyly trying to replace the massive number of

Russian soldiers killed in Ukraine by forcibly recruiting foreigners. And agents appear to be on Moscow's payroll.

Evading responsibility? | Serious questions need to be asked of Russia here. It told Nepal – hundreds of whose citizens are reportedly serving in Russian army, and at least 20 of whom have been killed in the war – that many youths had travelled to Russia illegally. If that is indeed the case, Moscow should deport them, not march them to the war front.

Push factors | Of course, these youths are looking for better economic opportunities. With lack of steady jobs at home, they are willing to try their luck in foreign countries. Plus, India's switch to the Agnipath scheme of recruitment of soldiers to the army – which also affects Nepal – has created a pool of youngsters susceptible to being recruited by unscrupulous agents under false promises.

Bring them back | While New Delhi has initiated a crackdown on trafficking networks here, it must directly ask Moscow to provide a list of all Indians recruited by Russian army and militias like Wagner, and facilitate their return. Moscow cannot treat Indians as cannon fodder. Indian blood cannot be forcibly spilt for Russia's war.

Their country, their rules

How US happily gets away with its own CAA

Arnab Ray



International media likes to pillory India over CAA, in which govt is, as per the narrative, officially codifying discrimination of asylum seekers on the basis of their religion. But looking at what other countries do to asylum seekers is an un-fun check on where their moral standard is coming from.

First of all, no country treats foreigners as equal to their own citizens or treats foreigners from different countries as equal to one another. Citizens of certain countries enter visa-less; citizens of certain other countries require visas.

Even among those who need a visa, citizens of certain countries face mild questioning at ports of entry, some others face a minor inquisition, and some others get pulled out of line and have their luggage searched in a small side room. This happened to me many years ago in Denmark. I was pulled out of line at the airport immigration office because I had an Indian passport. At the same time, my fellow conference speakers, American and European citizens, were waved through. But I never batted an eyelid. Their country, their rules.

What about America, beacon of individual liberty and fundamental rights? They impose country quotas on employment-based permanent residencies, at most 7% to any one country. Given the volume of Indian applicants and politics-driven slowing of clearing applications, Cato Institute estimated in 2023 that the most popular Green Card categories, Indians, have to now wait close to 130 years, yes, you read that right, to get a green card.

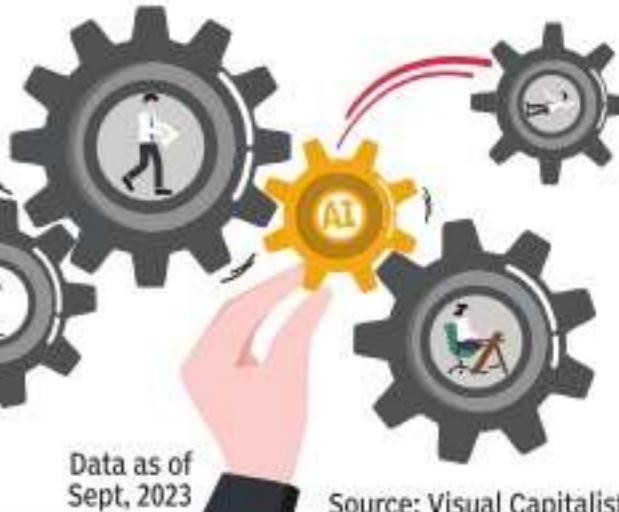
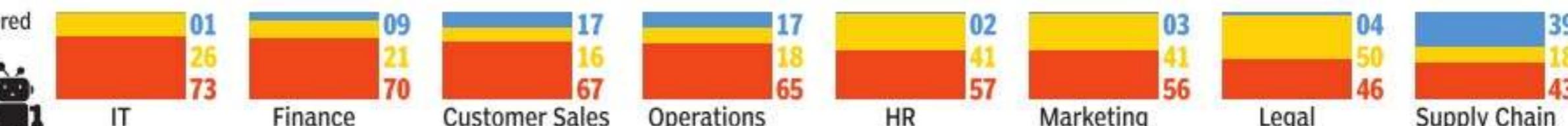
The ostensible moral defence is that this is to ensure fairness. But why should fairness be imposed on a group level and not at the level of the individual? Why should an Indian face discrimination just because there are so many other Indians in the world? Given that it is the country of origin that is being abandoned in the process of immigration, why is that even a factor? No matter how they structure it, the effect of US's country quota is discrimination based on a parameter – ‘country of origin’ – an individual has absolutely no control over.

But again, it's their country, their rules. Be it Denmark or US, their policies of discriminating, without apology, between non-citizens do not open them to international criticism or a slide down the rankings of free countries. A privilege that India, too, should have.



Large language models (LLMs) and other generative AI tools haven't been around for very long, but they're expected to have a far-reaching impact on the way people do their jobs. World Economic Forum report has estimated that IT & finance sectors will have highest share of tasks exposed to AI disruption

■ Large impact | Tasks are automated or significantly altered
■ Small impact | Tasks are not fundamentally changed
■ No impact (In %)



Data as of Sept, 2023
Source: Visual Capitalist

RBI likely to hold rates as GDP grows at steady pace

This Week's Meet To Focus On Inflation, Liquidity: Economists

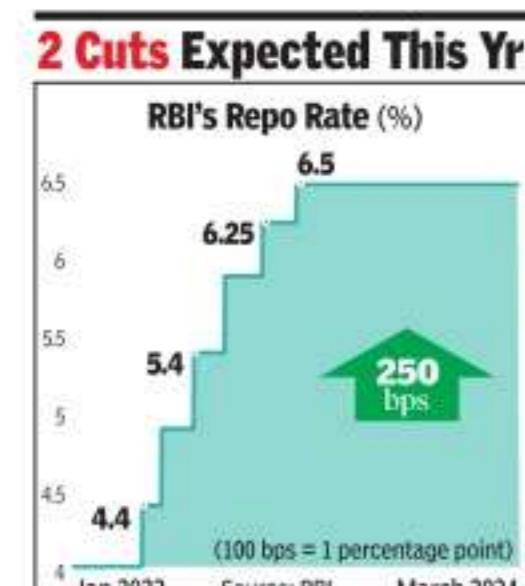
Mayur.Shetty@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Strong economic growth has given RBI reason to hold interest rates when the monetary policy committee meets this week. The focus is shifting to liquidity, with the market anticipating the central bank to gradually ease liquidity before reducing rates.

In its last policy meeting in Feb, RBI had retained the repo rate at 6.5% for the sixth consecutive meet while retaining the 'withdrawal of accommodation' stance. With Oct-Dec 2023 GDP growth surprising on the upside at 8.4%, RBI's concern is entirely around inflation management.

While core inflation has declined below RBI's target of 4%, periodic supply issues are causing food prices to hike. As a result, inflation is expected to be above 5% for the first half of 2024.

Banking system liquidity has eased with active interventions by RBI and govt spending over the last month, which has softened



inter-bank and short-term borrowing rates for bank and non-bank entities. In our view, when RBI eventually starts the easing cycle, we expect them to run liquidity surpluses and let the inter-bank rate trade below the repo rate," said Santanu Sengupta, an economist with Goldman Sachs. The investment bank expects RBI to cut interest rates twice by 25 basis points (100bps = 1 percentage point) in July-Sept and Oct-Dec of 2024.

RBI has dialled back its hawkishness on liquidity

Key data points to eco's buoyancy: NCAER

New Delhi: Key markers point to the Indian economy remaining buoyant at the end of fiscal year 2023-24 with the Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) for manufacturing increasing and that of services maintaining a robust trend, according to the monthly economic review for March, released by NCAER on Sunday.

The PMI for manufacturing activity increased to 56.9 in Feb. Growth in the output of eight key infrastructure sectors rose to a three-month high of 6.7% in Feb from 4.1% in Jan 2024. GST collections too remained buoyant, reaching Rs 1.7 lakh crore in Feb. Collections of GST e-way bills marked an equally impressive YOY growth of 18.9%. Bank credit growth remained strong at 20.5%. TNN

management since the Feb meeting, allowing weighted average call rates to drift lower, said Rahul Bajaria, MD & head of emerging Asia economics at Barclays.

"Not much has changed since the last MPC meeting in Feb, with RBI overseeing an economy enjoying high growth and falling core inflation, amid stable macro stability parameters. Against this backdrop, we expect the MPC to keep the repo rate on hold at 6.5% and maintain the monetary policy stance at a 'withdrawal of accom-

modation,'" said Bajaria.

Kaushik Das, chief economist, Deutsche Bank India, said there is a slight chance of the monetary policy committee voting for a change in stance. "We expect RBI to maintain a pause yet again in the April 5 policy, holding the repo rate steady at 6.5%. As far as the stance goes, we think there is a small likelihood that it could change to 'neutral' from the current 'withdrawal of accommodation', but if that happens, it will be a positive surprise for the market," said Das.

"There is hardly any issue with KYC compliance for Fastag according to RBI guidelines. But people who have multiple tags for one vehicle won't be able to use all of them as we are not extending the deadline. Barring the latest tag, all old tags will get deactivated anytime," said an official.

NHAI is implementing the One Vehicle, One Fastag norm after reports of multiple tags being issued for a particular vehicle had surfaced. There have been instances of people deliberately not fixing the tags on their vehicles' windscreen. There were also instances when owners of heavy vehicles crossed toll plazas by paying the user fee of a car or a smaller vehicle.

Zomato gets GST demand of ₹23cr

New Delhi: Zomato on Sunday said it has received a tax demand, interest, along with penalty, to the tune of Rs 23 crore from the assistant commissioner of commercial taxes (audit), Karnataka. The company said it will appeal against the order. TNN

2011-12, Infosys has a tax demand of Rs 4 crore, including interest. Additionally, Infosys' subsidiaries have received assessment orders with a total tax demand of Rs 145 crore for assessment years 2021-22 and 2018-19, respectively. It has faced two other tax demands of Rs 127

crore and Rs 5 crore respectively for the assessment years 2022-23.

"Further, a subsidiary of the company has received refund orders under Section 254 for assessment years 2007-08 and 2008-09, and under Section 154 for assessment year 2016-17. The refund amount as per these orders is Rs 14 crore. The company is in the process of evaluating the implications of these orders on the financial statements for the quarter and year ending March 31, 2024," Infosys said in its filing. As of March 29, the above orders cumulatively exceed the materiality criteria as prescribed under Regulation 30 of the Listing Regulations, and the disclosure is submitted.

Infy to get over ₹6k cr in I-T refund for 11 years

Also Faces ₹2.3K Cr Tax Demand For 2022-23

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: After effecting an organisational reshuffle, Maruti Suzuki has now created an all-powerful executive committee within the company — just like its Japanese parent Suzuki — as the company works out a coherent strategy for new launches and investments in line with its plans to double sales to four million units by 2030-31 with a tax demand of over Rs 1.25 lakh crore.

The carmaker has rolled out a 3.0 strategy where it aims to increase the number of models under its fleet to 28 against the existing 18, which includes a plan to drive in six electrics by 2030-31, sources told TOI.

The executive committee will have ten members, including Maruti MD & CEO Hisashi Takeuchi, former top executive officers Shashank Srivastava and CV Raman, corporate affairs head Rahul Bharti, finance head Arnab Roy, sustainability director Kenichiro Toyofuku, legal head Manjaree Chowdhary, engineering director T Fuji.

Takeuchi, in a recent communication with the senior leadership, said that the executive committee (EC) will also play a critical role in driving synergies between various verticals within Maruti and parent Suzuki. The verticals include R&D, production, product engineering, supply chain, and marketing & sales.

The move comes as the company is not only planning to transition into electrics, but also setting up two factories — in Haryana and Gujarat. Both will have capacities of 10 lakh each, making them among the biggest car factories in India. "The EC will be handy to work on the large-scale operations as well as manage potential complexities," the source said.

₹5k cr: Torrent's Mehtas join philanthropy club

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Billionaire brothers Sudhir and Samir Mehta pledged to donate Rs 5,000 crore to a slew of social causes on their father and Torrent Group founder's birth centenary on Sunday.

The Mehtas join the ranks of other billionaires who have committed large parts of their wealth for philanthropy. "The contribution will be over and above the statutory CSR contributions of the Torrent Group companies," a release from the pharmaceutical-to-power enterprise said.

The donation will be managed by the UNM Foundation for bolstering healthcare, education, ecology and



BILLIONAIRE BROTHERS:

Sudhir and Samir Mehta

arts. The Mehtas draw a chunk of their wealth from Torrent Pharma, the flagship of the \$5-billion group.

They will start donating Rs 5,000 crore (nearly \$600 million) to the UNM Foundation from April 1 to five years, the release said. Their father Uttambar Nathal Mehta (UNM) founded the group in 1959, the year when Bajaj Auto obtained licence from the

Indian govt to manufacture two and three wheelers and when India saw the launch of Doordarshan.

UNM's journey from being a medical representative for Swiss pharma giant Sanofi to laying the foundation of the Torrent Group is inspiring. Born in a poor family, he lost his mother at the age of two. He weathered many health challenges such as being diagnosed with mental health issues at the age of 39 due to the side effects of a medicine that was prescribed to him, and being diagnosed with an extremely rare form of cancer at the age of 53. UNM had also failed in his first attempt at setting up a business.

The decline in the share of loans-to-industry has been due to lower borrowing by large corporates. This has been partly because of deleveraging — relying more on internal resources — and partly because of corporates' shift to bond markets.

This absence of corporate borrowing prompted banks to chase personal loans. The segment also got a boost from HDFC-HDFC Bank merger, which became effective this year and added

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

to its portfolio of red lines. In terms of red lines, we have a blacklist of sectors we don't want to go into, such as the arms industry. As for AI, we need to be vigilant... AI has to be constrained to respect privacy, intellectual property etc

— GIAN PAOLO BASSI |
SR VP, DASSAULT SYSTEMES

del's in manufacturing and design knowledge. When you create a new line of product, say an electric automobile, you need to transfer a lot of knowledge from previous ICE versions. Large AI design models can solve this problem, giving you the ability to understand, reuse and enhance knowledge specific to design and manufacturing.

AI has been making news lately. How is it changing the way you design and create products?

A chatbot, which is very popular today, is created around language models. At Dassault Systemes, we want to train AI to create large mo-

This is the key to creating better products faster and in a much more sustainable way.

'One Vehicle One Fastag' norm kicks in today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Vehicle owners who have more than one Fastag for their vehicles won't be able to use the older ones 'anytime' from Monday. NHAI had set March 31, 2024 as the deadline for implementation of 'One Vehicle, One Tag'. Officials said that most of the Fastag users have complied with the KYC norms.

₹500cr e-mobility scheme gets going

New Delhi: The new Rs 500 crore scheme to promote electric mobility in India will come into force from Monday and continue till the end of July. Meanwhile, the second phase of FAME, or Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles in India (FAME-II) programme, ended on March 31, 2024. TNN

"There is hardly any issue with KYC compliance for Fastag according to RBI guidelines. But people who have multiple tags for one vehicle won't be able to use all of them as we are not extending the deadline. Barring the latest tag, all old tags will get deactivated anytime," said an official.

NHAI is implementing the One Vehicle, One Fastag norm after reports of multiple tags being issued for a particular vehicle had surfaced. There have been instances of people deliberately not fixing the tags on their vehicles' windscreen. There were also instances when owners of heavy vehicles crossed toll plazas by paying the user fee of a car or a smaller vehicle.

The automated systems are primarily used in chain-making and polishing opera-

Robots set foot in your jeweller's workshop

Machines' Precision In Tasks Like Chain-Making, Polishing Helps Brands Deliver Uniform Quality

Vipashana Kamble & Reeba Zachariah | TNN

Robots have entered the arena of artisans, and your next piece of jewellery may as well have been crafted by a machine.

Jewellery brands like Tanishq and Malabar Gold are integrating robotic arms into their studios, harnessing the machines' agile movement and precision. From chain-making to polishing to casting, these machines are providing jewellery makers increased productivity levels under decreased supervision.

"Most of the automation systems run in multiple shifts and require lesser maintenance. They have enhanced productivity more than two times in comparison to conventional methods," said a Tanishq spokesperson, which introduced robots into its jewellery-making process in 2020 with a nearly Rs 5-crore investment. Currently, Tanishq's factory in Tamil Nadu's Hosur is equipped with three robots.

Malabar Gold and Diamonds, too, has introduced robots and automation systems in its manufacturing process, helping it eliminate manual tasks and maintain uniform quality in jewellery production. It implemented the process last year with a nearly Rs 30-crore investment.

"The automated systems

FILL SKILL GAP

① Robotic arms are providing jewellery makers increased productivity levels under decreased supervision

② Traditionally, jewellery making has been labour-intensive, owing to the artistic precision and creativity required

③ However, relying on manual labour often resulted in inconsistent productivity levels due to varying skill levels, especially in fast-selling dailywear products

and maintaining a consistent, fine uniform quality across products," said Ahmed.

At Tanishq, more than 150 employees work along with a team of 30-plus technology experts in the machine-made jewellery section.

The Indian jewellery sector is in for more competition with the Aditya Birla Group planning a foray into the space. It may look at automated jewellery production as well.

The Indian jewellery market is valued at Rs 8 lakh crore

and is expected to grow at the rate of 5-7% annually.

Globally, too, luxury brands like Bulgari and Christian Tse have started using automation systems to make basic jewellery pieces.

While gold prices continue to be dictated upwards by global factors, production costs for jewellers switching to automation systems have resulted in costs dropping by 50% as against the conventional method.

Personal loans make up third of bank credit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The personal loan portfolio of banks has grown by nearly Rs 11 lakh crore in the first 11 months of FY24 to Rs 52.7 lakh crore, accounting for a third of total bank credit of Rs 162 lakh crore.

According to monthly data released by RBI, the share of personal loans in non-food credit has gone up to 32.6% in Feb 2024 from 30.6% a year earlier. Consequently, loans-to-industry share has declined to 22.7% from 25%, while the share of agriculture and services has remained almost steady at nearly 13% and 28%, respectively.

Two years ago, the share of personal loans, services and industry was 29%, 25% and 27%, respectively.

The decline in the share of loans-to-industry has been due to lower borrowing by large corporates. This has been partly because of deleveraging — relying more on internal resources — and partly because of corporates' shift to bond markets.

This absence of corporate borrowing prompted banks to chase personal loans. The segment also got a boost from HDFC-HDFC Bank merger, which became effective this year and added

RBI considers agency to check illegal loan apps

RBI is considering establishing a Digital India Trust Agency to stop the mushrooming of illegal lending apps.

The proposed agency will enable verification of digital lending apps and maintain a public register of verified apps, sources said. Apps without the 'verified' signature of DIGITA would be considered unauthorised, sources said. AGENCIES

Rs 4.1 lakh crore to the personal loan segment of the banking sector. The growth in the service segment has flattened due to the slowing down of bank loans to NBFCs in the wake of RBI clamping down on unsecured loans. Bank credit to NBFCs — growing at 32% year-on-year in Feb 2023 — eased to 14.7% in Feb 2024. The portfolio of loans to NBFCs, however, is still high at Rs 15.1 lakh crore or 9% of overall bank credit. The home loan portfolio is now Rs 26.8 lakh crore or 16.6% of overall non-food credit — up from 14.6% last year.

The decline in the share of loans-to-industry has been due to lower borrowing by large corporates. This has been partly because of deleveraging — relying more on internal resources — and partly because of corporates' shift to bond markets.

This absence of corporate borrowing prompted banks to chase personal loans. The segment also got a boost from HDFC-HDFC Bank merger, which became effective this year and added

High Volatility? Go For Systematic Transfers From Debt To Equity

With elections around the corner and volatility in equities likely to be high, money managers believe investors should stagger their investments into equity mutual fund schemes. Fund houses offer various options for staggered investments such as a daily, weekly or monthly systematic transfer plan (STP) from a debt-oriented scheme like a liquid fund or ultra short-term fund to the chosen equity fund.



TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, HYDERABAD | MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024

EXPERIENCE IS THE
TEACHER OF ALL THINGS
— JULIUS CAESAR



COURTENEY COX IN TALKS TO REPRIZE HER ICONIC 'SCREAM' ROLE OF GALE WEATHERS IN 7TH FILM OF SLASHER SERIES, SAYS REPORT

LIZZO DECLARES 'I QUIT' ON INSTAGRAM AFTER CITING CRITICISM SHE'S FACED ONLINE: 'STARTING TO FEEL LIKE WORLD DOESN'T WANT ME IN IT'

Israel team in Egypt for new round of truce talks

Military Says Militant Killed In Strike On Al-Aqsa Hosp

Israeli strikes killed 77 Palestinians in Gaza in the past 24 hours, health authorities said on Sunday, as Egypt hosted an Israeli delegation for a new round of talks in a bid to secure a truce with Gaza's Hamas rulers.

The Israeli military said it killed a senior Islamic Jihad militant in a strike on a command centre in the courtyard of the Al-Aqsa Hospital in central Gaza. It did not mention his name or rank. "The command centre and terrorists were struck precisely; the military said, adding it was intended to minimise "harm to uninvolved civilians in the area of the hospital". "The Al-Aqsa Hospital building was not damaged and its functioning was not affected." There was no immediate comment from Islamic Jihad, a militant group and ally of Hamas.

Palestinian health officials and Hamas media said the strike hit several tents inside the Al-Aqsa hospital, killing four people and wounding several, including five journalists. More than 32,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's military offensive in Gaza since Oct 7, according to the health authorities. The war erupted after Hamas militants rampaged through communities in southern Israel, killing 1,200 people and abducting 253 hostages, according to Israeli tallies.

The two sides have stepped up negotiations, mediated by Qatar and Egypt, on a six-week suspension of Israel's offensive in return for the proposed release of 40 of 130 hostages still held by Hamas militants in Gaza after their Oct 7 attack on southern Israel. Hamas says any deal must secure an end to the fighting and withdrawal of Israeli forces. Israel has ruled this out, saying it would eventually resume efforts to dis-



Police officers clash with anti-govt demonstrators in Tel Aviv on Saturday

Bibi undergoes hernia surgery at crucial moment

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel will undergo surgery on Sunday night to treat a hernia, his office said in a statement. The operation comes at a time when Netanyahu is under mounting pressure as the war in Gaza drags on and international calls for a ceasefire grow louder. Netanyahu's office said on Sunday that he had been diagnosed with a hernia during a "routine examination" on Saturday night. The PM decided in consultation with his doctors to have an operation, it said in a statement, adding that the surgery would take place on Sunday evening "under full anaesthesia." Justice Minister Yariv Levin will be temporarily taking over his duties, the statement said. Levin is a longtime stalwart in the prime minister's Likud party. **REUTERS**

mantle the governing and military capabilities of Hamas.

Hamas would not be present at the talks in Cairo, an official told Reuters on Sunday, as it waited to hear from mediators on whether a new Israeli

US to send more bombs, warplanes to Israel: Report

The US in recent days authorised the transfer of billions of dollars worth of bombs and fighter jets to Israel, two sources familiar with the effort said on Friday, even as Washington publicly expresses concerns about an anticipated Israeli military offensive in Rafah. The new arms packages include more than 1,800 MK84 2,000-pound bombs and 500 MK82 500-pound bombs, said the sources, who confirmed a report in Washington Post. Washington gives \$3.8 billion in annual military assistance to Israel, its longtime ally. The package comes as Israel faces strong international criticism over its continued bombing campaign and ground offensive in Gaza and as some members of President Joe Biden's party call for him to cut US military aid. **REUTERS**

offer was on the table.

In the southern city of Khan Younis, Israeli forces continued to blockade the two main hospitals, and tanks shelled areas in the middle and eastern areas of the territory. **REUTERS**

POPE CALLS FOR GAZA TRUCE IN EASTER ADDRESS

AFP



Pope Francis called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the release of all Israeli hostages in an Easter Sunday address. He presided over Mass in a packed St Peter's Square, and then delivered his 'Urbi et Orbi' blessing and message from the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica. Francis, 87, has been in poor health in recent weeks, forcing him on repeated occasions to limit his public speaking. However, he took part in Holy Week events leading up to Easter, and appeared in good spirits on Sunday. **REUTERS**

From glassware to pillowcases, rampant theft from press section of Air Force One

Washington: Normally they're the ones grilling Washington power players. But the tables have been turned on the White House press corps.

A news report made waves Friday in the US capital with its humorous—but detailed—investigation into rampant theft from the press section of Air Force One, the president's official plane. "For years, scores of journalists—and others—have quietly stuffed everything from engraved whiskey tumblers to wine glasses to pretty much anything with the Air Force One insignia on it into their bag before stepping off the plane," Politico reported.

Last month, the White Hou-



se Correspondents' Association sent an email to its members, issuing a stern notice that missing items had not gone unnoticed. When the US president travels, he is accompanied by 13 journalists in the back of his Boeing. The crew distributes as souvenirs small packages of M&M's chocolates bearing the presidential seal. Gl-

asses and other Air Force One-branded accessories are available for purchase online.

But that is not good enough, Politico's report noted, describing the sounds of glassware clinking in journalists' backpacks as they disembark. In one instance, a former White House correspondent hosted a dinner party, serving food on a set of gold-rimmed Air Force One plates that had been pilfered over time, the report said. At least one journalist heeded the scolding—culminating in the "discrete return" of an embroidered pillowcase after a meeting was arranged between the reporter and a press officer, Politico said. **AFP**

Pakistan man who filmed sister's honour killing held

Islamabad: A Pakistani man who allegedly filmed his brother strangling his sister to death has been arrested as part of the latest "honour" killing that has outraged the country, police said Sunday.

Mari Bibi, 22, was killed overnight on March 17, allegedly by her brother Muhammad Faisal and in the presence of her father Abdul Sattar near Toba Tek Singh town in the central-eastern province of Punjab. A video filmed by the woman's other brother Shehzad, and which has gone viral, appears to show Faisal strangling the girl on a bed in the family home while their father sat nearby.

At one point, the video appears to show Shehzad saying "father, tell him to let go", but is rebuffed as his brother continues to strangle the motionless body for more than two minutes. When Faisal is done, his father offers him water to drink. **AFP**

normalise for many workers, can make it more difficult to put a firm stop to the workday. Haney said, "People now find themselves always on and never off," he said. "There's an availability creep that has reached into many people's lives, and I think it's not a positive thing for people's happiness, for their well-being, or even for work productivity."

California workers already enjoy more generous rights than those in many other parts of the country. The minimum wage is \$16 an hour, compared with the federal minimum wage of \$7.25. California law also requires employers to provide overtime pay, paid family leave, paid sick leave, reimbursement for business expenses, and mandatory meal and rest breaks. It also has broad anti-discrimination and anti-harassment protections that go beyond similar laws in many other states.

The idea originated in France and has spread in various forms to countries including



Canada, Italy, Belgium and the Philippines. New York City debated a similar proposal in 2018 but didn't adopt it.

Remote work, which the co-

ronavirus pandemic helped to

normalise for many workers, can make it more difficult to put a firm stop to the workday. Haney said, "People now find themselves always on and never off," he said. "There's an availability creep that has reached into many people's lives, and I think it's not a positive thing for people's happiness, for their well-being, or even for work productivity."

California workers already enjoy more generous rights than those in many other parts of the country. The minimum

AT&T notifies users of data breach and resets millions of passcodes

Telecommunications giant AT&T announced Saturday that it had reset the passcodes of 7.6 million customers after it determined that compromised customer data was "released on the dark web." "Our internal teams are working with external cybersecurity experts to analyse the situation," AT&T said. "To the best of our knowledge, the compromised data appears to be from 2019 or earlier and does not contain personal financial information or call history."

AT&T is the third-largest US retail wireless carrier, behind Verizon Communications Inc. and T-Mobile US Inc., according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The company said that "information varied by customer and account," but that it may have included a person's full name, email address, mailing address, phone number, Social Security number, date of birth, AT&T account number and passcode. In addition to those 7.6 million customers, 65.4 million former account holders were also affected.

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

US senators oppose move to reclassify potato as a grain

Washington: A powerful group of US senators from both the Republican and Democratic parties have vehemently opposed the move to reclassify potato as a grain and asserted that it should be considered as a vegetable, which is the case right now.

American vegetable and grain growers are currently bitterly fighting on the classification of potato as a grain or a vegetable after proposals for stripping the potato of its "vegetable" status appeared in the forthcoming Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2025-2030.

"The scientific justification behind the assertion that potatoes are not vegetables is not strong, and there are documented nutritional benefits of potatoes," the bipartisan group of 14 senators wrote in a letter to the agriculture secretary Tom Vilsack. Americans eat more potatoes than any other vegetable—50 pounds per person per year, as per US department of agriculture figures—although almost half of those come in frozen form, for example as fries. **PN**

Pakistan man who filmed sister's honour killing held

Islamabad: A Pakistani man who allegedly filmed his brother strangling his sister to death has been arrested as part of the latest "honour" killing that has outraged the country, police said Sunday.

Mari Bibi, 22, was killed overnight on March 17, allegedly by her brother Muhammad Faisal and in the presence of her father Abdul Sattar near Toba Tek Singh town in the central-eastern province of Punjab. A video filmed by the woman's other brother Shehzad, and which has gone viral, appears to show Faisal strangling the girl on a bed in the family home while their father sat nearby.

At one point, the video appears to show Shehzad saying "father, tell him to let go", but is rebuffed as his brother continues to strangle the motionless body for more than two minutes. When Faisal is done, his father offers him water to drink. **AFP**

normalise for many workers, can make it more difficult to put a firm stop to the workday. Haney said, "People now find themselves always on and never off," he said. "There's an availability creep that has reached into many people's lives, and I think it's not a positive thing for people's happiness, for their well-being, or even for work productivity."

California workers already enjoy more generous rights than those in many other parts of the country. The minimum

A Russian defector's killing in Spain raises spectre of Kremlin hit squads

Maksim Kuzminov's Murder Proves Russia's European Spy Networks Are Active

The men who killed Maksim Kuzminov wanted to send a message. This was obvious to investigators in Spain even before they discovered who he was. Not only did the killers shoot him six times in a parking garage in southern Spain, they ran over his body with their car. They also left an important clue to their identity, according to investigators: shell casings from 9-millimeter Makarov rounds, a standard ammunition of the former Communist bloc.

AT&T is the third-largest US retail wireless carrier, behind Verizon Communications Inc. and T-Mobile US Inc., according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The company said that "information varied by customer and account," but that it may have included a person's full name, email address, mailing address, phone number, Social Security number, date of birth, AT&T account number and passcode. In addition to those 7.6 million customers, 65.4 million former account holders were also affected.

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The company said it would be "reaching out to individuals with compromised sensitive personal information separately and offering complimentary identity theft and credit monitoring services." A company representative did not address how the breach happened or why it went unnoticed for so long. **NYT**

The entrance to the parking garage where Russian helicopter pilot Maksim Kuzminov (inset) was murdered in Feb in Villajoyosa, Spain. Russia's intelligence services have begun operating at a level of aggressiveness at home and abroad reminiscent of the Stalin era

2018. Skripal survived.

The two hooded killers who appeared on surveillance camera footage from the parking garage of Kuzminov's apartment complex were clearly professionals who carried out their mission and quickly disappeared, police officials said.

"It is not common here in Spain for someone to be shot with a lot of ammunition," said chief Pepe Alvarez of the Villajoyosa police department.

"These are indications that point to organized crime, to a criminal organization, to professionals."

While no evidence of direct Kremlin involvement has emerged, Russia had made no secret of its desire to see Kuzminov dead. Weeks after his defection, the Kremlin's signature

Shooting down of the British spy was a well-known base of operation for Russian organized crime figures, the Spanish authorities say.

On the morning of Feb 13, a white Hyundai Tucson entered the garage under Kuzminov's apartment building and parked in an empty spot. Two men waited there for several hours, according to the senior Guardia Civil official. Around 4:20pm, Kuzminov drove into the garage, parked and began walking toward the elevators.

As he passed in front of the white Hyundai, the two assailants emerged, called out to him and opened fire. Though he was struck by six bullets, most of them in the torso, Kuzminov managed to sprint a short distance before collapsing. The two killers then got back into the car and ran over Kuzminov's body on their way out. **NYT**

Instead, Kuzminov left Ukraine in Oct and drove to Villajoyosa, a small town on the Mediterranean coast popular with British and Eastern European tourists. There, he settled at a modest apartment building. It was a curious choice for someone targeted by the Russian authorities for liquidation. The region is a well-known base of operation



LOOK WHO'S BACK!

Vintage Pant, Khaleel Star In DC's First Win This Season

Shiva.Gundra@timesgroup.com

Visakhapatnam: Like their coach Ricky Ponting had said on the eve of their clash, Delhi Capitals played good cricket throughout 40 overs and recorded their first win of the season by defeating Chennai Super Kings by 20 runs at the ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

After posting a challenging 191-5 riding on fine half-centuries by skipper Rishabh Pant and David Warner, Mukesh Kumar (3-21) and Khaleel Ahmed (2-1) restricted the defending champions to 171-6.

Super Kings had the worst possible start to their chase. Khaleel Ahmed used the bounce in the wicket to good effect, dismissing Ruturaj Gaikwad (1) in the first over and Rachin Ravindra (2) in the third to reduce them to 7-2 in three overs.

Ajinkya Rahane (45; 30b; 5x4, 2x6) and Daryl Mitchell (34) kept them in the hunt with a 68-run third wicket stand. But Axar Patel foiled the New Zealand batter. Seamer Mukesh Kumar then tilted the match in favour of Capitals with a double strike in the 14th over. He got rid of Rahane and Sameer Rizvi off successive deliveries to reduce them to 102-5.

CSK's hopes rested on big-hitting Shivam Dube. But Mukesh put paid to their chances by dismissing him in the 17th over. Though Dhoni (37*) entertained the crowd with some big hits, the match was out of their reach by then.



RISE AFTER THE FALL: Rishabh Pant's 51 off 32 helped Delhi Capitals post 191-5

Earlier, skipper Pant found his touch and his entertaining 51 (32b; 4x4, 3x6) along with Warner's 52 (35b, 5x4, 3x6) helped Delhi Capitals set a daunting target.

Electing to bat, the hosts got off to a strong start with Prithvi Shaw (43; 27b), who made the playing XI at the expense of local lad Ricky Bhui, and Warner laying the platform with their 93-run opening stand. It took a brilliant catch from Matheesa Pathirana at short third to dismiss Warner off Mustafizur. Shaw then took his side past the 100-run mark with a six off Jadeja

but departed next ball, edging to wicketkeeper MS Dhoni.

Two quick wickets slowed down the scoring. Pathirana's twin blows in the 15th over knocked out Mitchell Marsh's middle stump and Tristan Stubbs' off stump as hosts slumped to 134/4.

Back in his elements, Pant cut loose in the 18th over, hitting Mustafizur for a six and a four. He then went after Pathirana to reach his half-century with a 6, 4, 4. But he ballooned the next delivery to Ruturaj Gaikwad. The Capitals managed 57 runs in the final five overs.

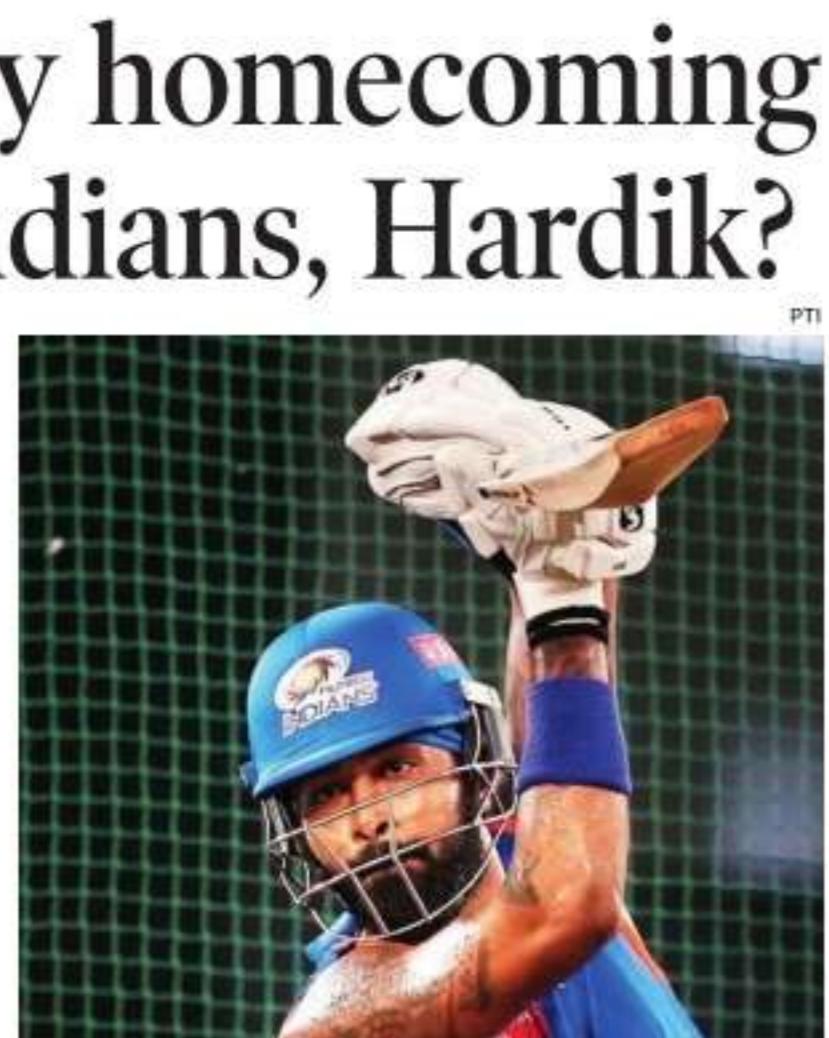
With Prithvi Shaw's catch, Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the first wicketkeeper to affect 300 dismissals in T20–213 catches and 87 stumpings.

52 David Warner's 62nd fifty in the IPL is his ninth vs CSK. With four hundreds, his tally of 66 fifty-plus scores is an IPL record—the next best being 59 (seven hundreds and 52 fifties) by Virat Kohli.

51 Rishabh Pant has posted his 16th fifty in the IPL and his third in 11 innings vs CSK. His last fifty in the IPL was 51 not out vs CSK at Dubai on Oct 10, 2021.

3-31 Matheesa Pathirana has produced his best bowling performance vs DC—his second best in the IPL behind the 3-15 vs MI at Chennai on May 6, 2023.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar



UNDER FIRE: Hardik Pandya has faced fans' wrath in Mumbai Indians' opening two games

Will it be happy homecoming for Mumbai Indians, Hardik?

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Almost 22 years ago, a chilling act shocked the sporting world. When Luis Figo showed up in bitter rivals Real Madrid jersey to take a corner kick in an El Clasico clash at Barcelona's famed Camp Nou, a butchered head of a pig was hurled at him.

The severed skull laid near Figo's feet demonstrated the extreme hatred that Catalan fans had developed for the former Portuguese captain, who had, two years back, chosen to be a 'Galactic' at a handsome price of 44 million pounds.

While things are unlikely to go that level at the Wankhede here on Monday night, there could be resentment in the hearts of passionate Mumbai Indians fans when Hardik Pandya—having replaced Rohit Sharma—leads them out against Rajasthan Royals in one of most highly-anticipated IPL matches.

Having been booed and heckled in the ground and trolled on social media ever since he replaced Rohit, who led MI to a record five titles, Pandya is set to play the toughest match of his career. And what makes it worse for the India allrounder is the fact that despite Pandya taking over, Mumbai Indians have made their trademark slow start, losing both their away games so far, by six runs to the Gujarat Titans, followed by a 32-run loss to Sunrisers Hyderabad in Hyderabad.

A few of Pandya's decisions, like opening the bowling himself and holding back Jasprit Bumrah in Powerplay, coming to bat as late as No 7 when the chase was getting tighter against GT, giving an IPL debut to South Africa's 17-old left-arm pacer Kewena Maphaka, who went for 0-66 in four overs as SRH's marauding batsmen tore into him, have come under fire. Despite the barrage of negativity around him for the last month or so, Pandya, as Steve Smith recommended to him, has "shut out external noise" and is unfurled. "What's appearing on social media doesn't bother him since he has avoided it completely

of late. He wants his team too to be focused on cricket, rather than worry about him being booed in stadiums," a source told TOI.

A match-winning performance with either bat or ball, or both, will help Pandya win back the love of his fans.

It remains to be seen if MI persist with Maphaka or English left-arm pacer Luke Wood comes back in. Will they hand an IPL debut to Sri Lankan import Nuwan Thushara? Additionally, will Mumbai left-arm spinner Shams Mulani, finally getting match-time for Mumbai Indians, come to the party at his home ground?

For MI to get back to winning ways, it's vital that Rohit and Ishan Kishan find their mojo again. Like he has done in the last few IPL seasons, Rohit, who scored a 29-ball 43 vs GT and 12-ball 26 vs SRH, is showing a tendency to lose his wicket after an initial burst.

For someone who can be susceptible to left-arm pace early on, Rohit needs to be guarded while playing RR's left-arm speed merchants Trent Boult and new recruit Narendra Burger, who has been impressive.

BOULT, CHAWLA BACK HARDIK TO BLOCK THE NOISE OUT

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: At a time when he has been the target of abuse in stadiums and on social media after replacing Rohit Sharma as the Mumbai Indians captain, Hardik Pandya has received some encouragement from the rival camp.

Ahead of MI's first home game of the season, against the Rajasthan Royals at the Wankhede Stadium on Monday, the Jaipur-based side's speedster Trent Boult went gaga in his praise for the India allrounder, calling him one of his "favourite Indian cricketers".

"He's (Pandya) a quality player; he fits boundaries, and is a match winner. I've played a lot against him in franchise cricket as well as in India vs New Zealand contests. He's a phenomenal player who can take on the best bowlers on any given day," Boult said.

Teammate Piyush Chawla on Sunday said: "He is just focused on the game, he is not worried what the crowd is doing and once we get a win under our belt things will be totally different," Chawla said.

For some one who can be susceptible to left-arm pace early on, Rohit needs to be guarded while playing RR's left-arm speed merchants Trent Boult and new recruit Narendra Burger, who has been impressive.

down, as well as by Shaheen in T20Is. Shaheen's only T20I series in charge was the 4-1 loss in New Zealand in January. Former head coach Mickey Arthur was also replaced after the World Cup disaster.

'PCB to appoint separate foreign coaches for different formats'

Lahore: Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to appoint separate foreign coaches for red ball and white ball formats, narrowing down to former Australian pacer Jason Gillespie and ex-South African batter Gary Kirsten as probable candidates for the respective positions, according to sources.

The PCB officially issued advertisements for the red ball and white ball coaches' positions. Interested candidates—foreign and local—can apply by April 15 and they must have at least five years of experience of coaching a domestic, international or franchise team besides holding a minimum of level two coaching credentials. AGENCE

Registration No. APENG/2000/03128 Published for the proprietors, Bennett, Coleman & Company Ltd. by P. Manikantan, at 'Times House', 8-2-351, Road No. 3, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500034, and printed by him at 'Times Press' Plot No. 5A, Road No. 1, IDA, Nacharam, Hyderabad 500076, Ranga Reddy Dist. Tel. No.: (040) 23254000, Fax No.: (040) 23254300. Registered Office: Dr. D. N. Road, Mumbai 400001. Editor (Hyderabad Market): Robin David responsible for selection of news under the P.R.B. Act. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of the publisher is prohibited.

AIFF member gets bail, denies charge

Marcus.Mergulhao@timesgroup.com

Panaji: The Goa police has granted bail to Deepak Sharma, a senior football official who was accused of physically assaulting two women footballers of Khad FC, Himachal Pradesh, when they were in Goa for the Indian Women's League (IWL) 2.

The executive committee member of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and secretary of the Himachal Pradesh Football Association was arrested by the Mapusa police on Saturday evening.

"The offences were bailable, so he was granted bail by the police," a senior officer told TOI. "Sharma has been warned and told that he will have to present himself before the court when required."

Mapusa police have registered a case under section 323 (causing simple hurt to a person), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 354 A (sexual harassment) of the IPC. According to sources, Sharma told the police that he scolded the players for stepping out at night.

Miller, Sai, Mohit take Titans home

Sabu.Cherian@timesgroup.com

Yogesh Chawda



KEY STRIKES: Mohit Sharma was adjudged Player of the Match

Ahmedabad: There's a reason why Gujarat Titans (GT) continue to back southpaws Sai Sudharsan (45 off 36b; 4x4, 1x6) and David Miller (44* off 27b; 4x4, 2x6)—because, more often than not, the duo have delivered over the last two seasons. On Sunday too, despite being pegged back in the middle overs by Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) bowlers, the pair stitched a crucial 64-run partnership off 42 balls, of which the last 24 runs came off six balls, to guide the Titans to a comfortable seven-wicket win at the Narendra Modi Stadium, in Ahmedabad.

The 16th over, bowled by leg spinner Mayank Markande, saw the pair taking the Punjab bowler to the cleaners. Miller began with boundaries on either side of the ground before Sudharsan lifted Markande for a maximum between long-on and deep mid-wicket. The South African then lifted him over the long-on fence off the last ball to tilt the chase in Titans' favour.

The duo came together after captain Shubman Gill (36, 28b; 2x4, 1x6) departed. Gill's bid to take on Markande was unsuccessful as he was caught at wide long-on by Abdul Samad. Opener Wriddhiman Saha's 25 (13b; 1x4, 2x6) had given the Titans a swift beginning but he was caught by SRH captain Pat Cummins at mid-off off Ahmed's bowling.

Earlier, cameos from Samad (29 off 14b; 3x4, 1x6) and Ahmed (22 off 20b; 1x4, 1x6) guided SRH to 162-8 after they had slipped to 114-5 in 14.4 overs. Their openers Mayank Agarwal and Travis Head put on 34 for the opening wicket

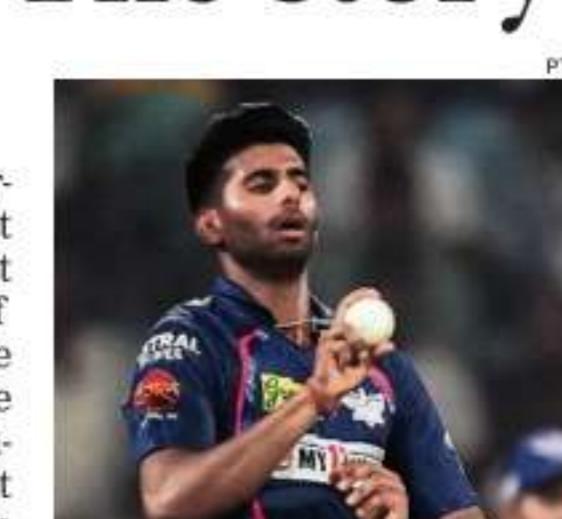
and saw his stumps get shattered.

Abhishek spooned a catch to Gill at extra cover to be sent back by Mohit Sharma (3/25 in 4 overs). Heinrich Klaassen (24 off 13b; 1x4, 2x6) joined Aidan Markram (17 off 19b) and though the former smashed Noor for two sixes over the mid-wicket boundary in the 13th over, Khan's quicker one disturbed his stumps in the next over.

Brief Scores: Sunrisers Hyderabad 162-8 (Abhishek Sharma 29, Abdul Samad 29; Mohit Sharma 3-25) lost to Gujarat Titans 168-3 (Sai Sudharsan 45, David Miller 44*, Shubman Gill 36) by 7 wickets.

How a frail teenager became superfast pacer: The story of Mayank Yadav

Arani.Basu@timesgroup.com



ONE FOR THE FUTURE: Mayank Yadav caught everyone's attention with his fiery spell against Punjab Kings

and wanted to show his gratitude to his club and coaches, Tarak Sinha and Sharma.

Maybe the aversion to even permissible hyperbole is somewhere down to Yadav's humble, no-frills upbringing. Fuelled by sheer pace, with his 3/27 helping Lucknow Super Giants outbowl Punjab Kings in Lucknow on Saturday, then, said a 'debut' in every sense of the term. "He has always been a simple and humble guy," recalled Sharma, adding how during the 2021-22 winter, Yadav distributed sweets to everyone at Sonnet, because he had just made his debut for Delhi in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. Then he had defended three runs in the final over of a chase, helping Delhi pull off a win. Now 21, the unassuming lad then seemed just happy that he was playing for Delhi.

"He was a frail 14-year-old then, and we were looking for bowlers at the club. Seven years ago, when we found him, he didn't even have proper shoes," the coach recalled. The groundedness then, is not a choice but a compulsion.

There seems to be a constant dark, satirical joke with Yadav and footwear. Supposed to make his IPL debut last season, he pulled his hamstring during a practice match because his old spikes didn't grip the damp crease. Even after being with the Lucknow franchise for three seasons now and playing for Delhi, Yadav is still to land a shoe contract. This even after a kind word from the Delhi and District Cricket Association top brass. Sonnet, all this while, has been providing him with playing footwear.

So, this IPL season, best understanding his circumstances, the speedster ordered himself a couple of pairs from Australia. At first glance, few would bet on him to bowl at 156 kmph like he did against Punjab last night. "When he came to us, he was poorly nourished, underfed even. But his deliveries were hitting the nets hard," lauded Yadav.

The coach then spelt out the beefing-up and the education: "He ate with us at the club. He is a vegetarian but always strong enough to effortlessly bowl quick. His deliveries skidded after pitching. But he soon learnt that he couldn't be one-dimensional. The outswing came naturally to him. We helped him develop the in-coming ball," pointed out Sharma.

Yadav has been on the national selectors' radar since the Deodhar Trophy earlier this season. KL Rahul, his skipper at LSG, bestows a lot of faith in him. He was called in to bowl to Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Rahul himself before the last Test series in South Africa. While he impressed the Indian stalwarts, that was also where he picked up a side-strain which was later diagnosed as a rib fracture, ruling him out of the Ranji season.

LSG is aware of the talent they have on their hands.

"Even when he got injured, we didn't release him. We have a facility in Mumbai which is very good for sports medicine. We sent Mayank there and got him ready for the IPL," Dahiya said.

Life took a sudden favourable turn for the young bowler when during his Delhi debut at Mohali, Vijay Dahiya too happened to be there as Uttar Pradesh coach. "We were having

joint nets session. Suddenly, I noticed him in the adjacent nets and immediately called up Gautam Gambhir," remembered the former Delhi player. The Delhi connection helped, as both Gambhir and Dahiya had been involved with LSG at that time.

"We decided to invest in him. We were not going to play him in the first season because he wasn't ready mentally and physically. He didn't have miles in his legs since he didn't play junior cricket. But he was an important investment for us," Dahiya revealed.

Yadav has been on the national selectors' radar since the Deodhar Trophy earlier this season. KL Rahul, his skipper at LSG, bestows a lot of faith in him. He was called in to bowl to Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Rahul himself before the last Test series in South Africa. While he impressed the Indian stalwarts, that was also where he picked up a side-strain which was later diagnosed as a rib fracture, ruling him out of the Ranji season.

LSG is aware of the talent they have on their hands.

"Even when he got injured, we didn't release him. We have a facility in Mumbai which is very good for sports medicine. We sent Mayank there and got him ready for the IPL," Dahiya said.

The results are beginning to show, as the cricketing world got to see on Saturday.



Priyamani

Being India's Olympic flagbearer matter of pride for me: Sharath

Was Told Neeraj, Ath Team Would Reach Paris Later, Reveals Legendary Paddler

Siddharth Saxena@timesgroup.com

Pleasantly surprised to be chosen as India's flag-bearer at the Paris Olympics opening ceremony this July, India's top-ranked table tennis player (world ranking 35) and 10-time National champion, Achanta Sharath Kamal, will be gracing his fifth – and final – Games. At 41, he tells TOI how things stand at this promising juncture. Excerpts:

A table tennis player leading an Indian Olympic contingent is perhaps a first...

It came as a surprise for me too. Neeraj Chopra would be the natural choice but the athletics team will be arriving later in Paris. The main contenders were hockey, probably PR Sreejesh, but Manpreet Singh had done it before at Tokyo along with Sindhu. What PT (Usha) ma'am told me was that several names came up in their internal discussions, and they recommended my name to the PMO after that. Perhaps, with my Khel Ratna this year; the Commonwealth Games medals, this being my fifth Olympic Games, I was chosen.

What does the flag mean to you?

At opening ceremonies, I would look at the flagbearers and think of how proud they would be feeling. Boxer Nikhat Zareen and I were given the flag at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games closing. It was my first time and I felt very proud. But an opening ceremony is always bigger.

The 2008 Beijing Olympics opening, where Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore was the flagbearer, stands out. He had a back pain that day and had a strap around his back and the flag rested on that. I was just behind and he turns and tells me, 'Come here and stand next to me'. Maybe for support, I don't know, I don't even know if he knew me or not. I can't describe how happy I was. Standing next to him, I could see the flag flying high as we walked into the stadium. I was just 25 then, my second Olympics. I am 41 now, but that picture just stays in my memory.

You are part of the Athletes Commission of the Indian Olympic Association that heard the protesting wrestlers' plea. We all know how it has turned out. How would you feel, say, if Vinesh Phoghat too is marching out with you, knowing that justice was perhaps not done to them?

Actually, they've gone through a very tough patch. When you see that Bajrang Punia has lost the trials (for the qualifiers), it's the way how he's lost the trials that rankles. That is where I feel, 'Oh, okay, he's gone through such a difficult time for almost a year and a half.' Expecting him to come back and actually perform and do well is not right.

When I was busy with the administrative part, I really couldn't scale up my game. And that was just for three months. Imagine, these guys have been doing it for a year and fighting their lives for it! It's really quite a sad state of things. On the one hand, you keep hearing about the positives of Indian sport, then there is this side too. That's quite the low of Indian sport, especially when the IOC (International Olympic Committee) is looking at India.

Paris could prove an important juncture for you personally and Indian table tennis too. For the first time, India has qualified for the teams competition where we can be contenders.

When we qualify as a team, it denotes depth and helps us position ourselves as an emerging sport with the SAI (Sporting Authority of India) and the sporting fraternity. And that is important because we still are not priority sport because we don't have medals at the Olympic Games.

Qualifying in teams gives us that opportunity to actually fight for that medal because it's only a 16-team draw. It's the

same with mixed doubles. Both give you the best or the shortest opportunity to get to the medal. In contrast, in singles the medal is seven rounds away.

Despite the recent achievements by Indian paddlers, it is staggering when you remember that the team still doesn't have a coach...

Yes, it's been six years... I guess it was being delayed so long because we were doing so well (Laughs). As for the natural rhythm, of course, we've done a lot by ourselves. Everybody has their individual coaches, which is helping each of them perform well on their own. But we still need somebody to help us. A coach will always add to the team. There's a lot of responsibilities taken off. I am given to understand that India will have a coach soon, by mid-April. The federation is in final talks with Massimo Constantini. We are keen on Constantini, the Italian is familiar with the Indian players.

The Olympics is almost a final frontier, what different would you tell your mates this time?

More than telling them, I'll have to stand by example. Unlike for Tokyo where I prepared like mad because of the sudden chance that came my way (due to pandemic forcing postponement by a year), where I went through the grind, this time that singular goal-driven plan is not going to work. I have to make sure I am able to enjoy every moment when I'm there on the court. And that can't come with going through the same thing day in and day out. At the end of it, I also get bored.

I don't have to be too hard on myself. I need to enjoy that very moment. I have to understand that it's okay to have an ice cream once in a while. It's just okay not to train one day and spend some time with the family. That gives me the mental sensation I need. At my age, even if recovery takes longer physically, I have also learnt that you can control a lot of things with your body than controlling the mental aspect.

You'll always have Paris, but after that...

I will take it slow. I think I'm done with the playing part. I'm not looking at coaching as such, but more as a sport director of a state-of-the-art planning centre, helping players improve their game. I am in initial talks with the Tamil Nadu government for it.

Japanese Rookie Keita Nakajima Wins Title By 4 Strokes; Local Hope Ahlawat Is Tied-2nd

Moushumi.Bora@timesgroup.com

Gurugram: This happens only in India. Golfers were nonchalantly lining up their putts on the 9th green to the blaring noise of Punjabi music from the streets of Gurgaon.

This happens only in India, once. The leader has the luxury of dropping three bogeys and one double bogey in the last five holes of DLF G&CC to still emerge the winner at the \$2.25m Hero Indian Open by four strokes with a record total of 17-under. Take it away, Keita Nakajima.

"There were high expectations from me, with my coach also being present. But I managed to put to-

sponsorships for his travel expenses, and most importantly, finding stability through marriage.

Ahlawat got a confidence boost with a top-5 performance at the second-tier European Challenge Tour event in Kolkata a week before, and coming on to his home course, thrived on the familiarity. But playing here also brings pressure, something he learned last year when he finished T-13.

"Chand called the weekend a "good test" for the talented golfer. "He has always had the game, but the tournament is won in the head. The more he plays, the more he settles in life, the more he learns to handle the situations he is in, he will mentally be up there with the best,"

the former Asian Games player said.

It was a chance meeting that brought a young Ahlawat to the DLF Academy. In 2011, teen Veer and his armyman father, who was posted in Shillong, happened to play with Brigadier Gyan Puri, a former national

golfing Authority of India) and the sporting fraternity. And that is important because we still are not priority sport because we don't have medals at the Olympic Games.

Qualifying in teams gives us that opportunity to actually

fight for that medal because it's only a 16-team draw. It's the

same with mixed doubles. Both give you the best or the shortest opportunity to get to the medal. In contrast, in singles the medal is seven rounds away.

Despite the recent achievements by Indian paddlers, it is staggering when you remember that the team still doesn't have a coach...

Yes, it's been six years... I guess it was being delayed so long because we were doing so well (Laughs). As for the natural rhythm, of course, we've done a lot by ourselves. Everybody has their individual coaches, which is helping each of them perform well on their own. But we still need somebody to help us. A coach will always add to the team. There's a lot of responsibilities taken off. I am given to understand that India will have a coach soon, by mid-April. The federation is in final talks with Massimo Constantini. We are keen on Constantini, the Italian is familiar with the Indian players.

The Olympics is almost a final frontier, what different would you tell your mates this time?

More than telling them, I'll have to stand by example. Unlike for Tokyo where I prepared like mad because of the sudden chance that came my way (due to pandemic forcing postponement by a year), where I went through the grind, this time that singular goal-driven plan is not going to work. I have to make sure I am able to enjoy every moment when I'm there on the court. And that can't come with going through the same thing day in and day out. At the end of it, I also get bored.

I don't have to be too hard on myself. I need to enjoy that very moment. I have to understand that it's okay to have an ice cream once in a while. It's just okay not to train one day and spend some time with the family. That gives me the mental sensation I need. At my age, even if recovery takes longer physically, I have also learnt that you can control a lot of things with your body than controlling the mental aspect.

You'll always have Paris, but after that...

I will take it slow. I think I'm done with the playing part. I'm not looking at coaching as such, but more as a sport director of a state-of-the-art planning centre, helping players improve their game. I am in initial talks with the Tamil Nadu government for it.

What does the flag mean to you?

At opening ceremonies, I would look at the flagbearers and think of how proud they would be feeling. Boxer Nikhat Zareen and I were given the flag at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games closing. It was my first time and I felt very proud. But an opening ceremony is always bigger.

The 2008 Beijing Olympics opening, where Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore was the flagbearer, stands out. He had a back pain that day and had a strap around his back and the flag rested on that. I was just behind and he turns and tells me, 'Come here and stand next to me'. Maybe for support, I don't know, I don't even know if he knew me or not. I can't describe how happy I was. Standing next to him, I could see the flag flying high as we walked into the stadium. I was just 25 then, my second Olympics. I am 41 now, but that picture just stays in my memory.

You are part of the Athletes Commission of the Indian Olympic Association that heard the protesting wrestlers' plea. We all know how it has turned out. How would you feel, say, if Vinesh Phoghat too is marching out with you, knowing that justice was perhaps not done to them?

Actually, they've gone through a very tough patch. When you see that Bajrang Punia has lost the trials (for the qualifiers), it's the way how he's lost the trials that rankles. That is where I feel, 'Oh, okay, he's gone through such a difficult time for almost a year and a half.'

Expecting him to come back and actually perform and do well is not right.

When I was busy with the administrative part, I really couldn't scale up my game. And that was just for three months. Imagine, these guys have been doing it for a year and fighting their lives for it! It's really quite a sad state of things. On the one hand, you keep hearing about the positives of Indian sport, then there is this side too. That's quite the low of Indian sport, especially when the IOC (International Olympic Committee) is looking at India.

Paris could prove an important juncture for you personally and Indian table tennis too. For the first time, India has qualified for the teams competition where we can be contenders.

When we qualify as a team, it denotes depth and helps us position ourselves as an emerging sport with the SAI (Sporting Authority of India) and the sporting fraternity. And that is important because we still are not priority sport because we don't have medals at the Olympic Games.

Qualifying in teams gives us that opportunity to actually

fight for that medal because it's only a 16-team draw. It's the

same with mixed doubles. Both give you the best or the shortest opportunity to get to the medal. In contrast, in singles the medal is seven rounds away.

Despite the recent achievements by Indian paddlers, it is staggering when you remember that the team still doesn't have a coach...

Yes, it's been six years... I guess it was being delayed so long because we were doing so well (Laughs). As for the natural rhythm, of course, we've done a lot by ourselves. Everybody has their individual coaches, which is helping each of them perform well on their own. But we still need somebody to help us. A coach will always add to the team. There's a lot of responsibilities taken off. I am given to understand that India will have a coach soon, by mid-April. The federation is in final talks with Massimo Constantini. We are keen on Constantini, the Italian is familiar with the Indian players.

The Olympics is almost a final frontier, what different would you tell your mates this time?

More than telling them, I'll have to stand by example. Unlike for Tokyo where I prepared like mad because of the sudden chance that came my way (due to pandemic forcing postponement by a year), where I went through the grind, this time that singular goal-driven plan is not going to work. I have to make sure I am able to enjoy every moment when I'm there on the court. And that can't come with going through the same thing day in and day out. At the end of it, I also get bored.

I don't have to be too hard on myself. I need to enjoy that very moment. I have to understand that it's okay to have an ice cream once in a while. It's just okay not to train one day and spend some time with the family. That gives me the mental sensation I need. At my age, even if recovery takes longer physically, I have also learnt that you can control a lot of things with your body than controlling the mental aspect.

You'll always have Paris, but after that...

I will take it slow. I think I'm done with the playing part. I'm not looking at coaching as such, but more as a sport director of a state-of-the-art planning centre, helping players improve their game. I am in initial talks with the Tamil Nadu government for it.

What does the flag mean to you?

At opening ceremonies, I would look at the flagbearers and think of how proud they would be feeling. Boxer Nikhat Zareen and I were given the flag at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games closing. It was my first time and I felt very proud. But an opening ceremony is always bigger.

The 2008 Beijing Olympics opening, where Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore was the flagbearer, stands out. He had a back pain that day and had a strap around his back and the flag rested on that. I was just behind and he turns and tells me, 'Come here and stand next to me'. Maybe for support, I don't know, I don't even know if he knew me or not. I can't describe how happy I was. Standing next to him, I could see the flag flying high as we walked into the stadium. I was just 25 then, my second Olympics. I am 41 now, but that picture just stays in my memory.

You are part of the Athletes Commission of the Indian Olympic Association that heard the protesting wrestlers' plea. We all know how it has turned out. How would you feel, say, if Vinesh Phoghat too is marching out with you, knowing that justice was perhaps not done to them?

Actually, they've gone through a very tough patch. When you see that Bajrang Punia has lost the trials (for the qualifiers), it's the way how he's lost the trials that rankles. That is where I feel, 'Oh, okay, he's gone through such a difficult time for almost a year and a half.'

Expecting him to come back and actually perform and do well is not right.

When I was busy with the administrative part, I really couldn't scale up my game. And that was just for three months. Imagine, these guys have been doing it for a year and fighting their lives for it! It's really quite a sad state of things. On the one hand, you keep hearing about the positives of Indian sport, then there is this side too. That's quite the low of Indian sport, especially when the IOC (International Olympic Committee) is looking at India.

Paris could prove an important juncture for you personally and Indian table tennis too. For the first time, India has qualified for the teams competition where we can be contenders.

When we qualify as a team, it denotes depth and helps us position ourselves as an emerging sport with the SAI (Sporting Authority of India) and the sporting fraternity. And that is important because we still are not priority sport because we don't have medals at the Olympic Games.

Qualifying in teams gives us that opportunity to actually

fight for that medal because it's only a 16-team draw. It's the

same with mixed doubles. Both give you the best or the shortest opportunity to get to the medal. In contrast, in singles the medal is seven rounds away.

Despite the recent achievements by Indian paddlers, it is staggering when you remember that the team still doesn't have a coach...

Yes, it's been six years... I guess it was being delayed so long because we were doing so well (Laughs). As for the natural rhythm, of course, we've done a lot by ourselves. Everybody has their individual coaches, which is helping each of them perform well on their own. But we still need somebody to help us. A coach will always add to the team. There's a lot of responsibilities taken off. I am given to understand that India will have a coach soon, by mid-April. The federation is in final talks with Massimo Constantini. We are keen on Constantini, the Italian is familiar with the Indian players.

The Olympics is almost a final frontier, what different would you tell your mates this time?

More than telling them, I'll have to stand by example. Unlike for Tokyo where I prepared like mad because of the sudden chance that came my way (due to pandemic forcing postponement by a year), where I went through the grind, this time that singular goal-driven plan is not going to work. I have to make sure I am able to enjoy every moment when I'm there on the court. And that can't come with going through the same thing day in and day out. At the end of it, I also get bored.

I don't have to be too hard on myself. I need to enjoy that very moment. I have to understand that it's okay to have an ice cream once in a while. It's just okay not to train one day and spend some time with the family. That gives me the mental sensation I need. At my age, even if recovery takes longer physically, I have also learnt that you can control a lot of things with your body than controlling the mental aspect.

You'll always have Paris, but after that...

I will take it slow. I think I'm done with the playing part. I'm not looking at coaching as such, but more as a sport director of a state-of-the-art planning centre, helping players improve their game. I am in initial talks with the Tamil Nadu government for it.

What does the flag mean to you?

At opening ceremonies, I would look at the flagbearers and think of how proud they would be feeling. Boxer Nikhat Zareen and I were given the flag at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games closing. It was my first time and I felt very proud. But an opening ceremony is always bigger.

The 2008 Beijing Olympics opening, where Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore was the flagbearer, stands out. He had a back pain that day and had a strap around his back and the flag rested on that. I was just behind and he turns and tells me, 'Come here and stand next to me'. Maybe for support, I don't know, I don't even know if he knew me or not. I can't describe how happy I was. Standing next to him, I could see the flag flying high as we walked into the stadium. I was just 25 then, my second Olympics. I am 41 now, but that picture just stays in my memory.

You are part of the Athletes Commission of the Indian Olympic Association that heard the protesting wrestlers' plea. We all know how it has turned out. How would you feel, say, if Vinesh Phoghat too is marching out with you, knowing that justice was perhaps not done to them?

Actually, they've gone through a very tough patch. When you see that Bajrang Punia has lost the trials (for the qualifiers), it's the way how he's lost the trials that rankles. That is where I feel, 'Oh, okay, he's gone through such a difficult time for almost a year and a half.'

</

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUSIVE OF HYDERABAD TIMES (FOR METRO ONLY) | TIMESOFINDIA.COM | EPAPER.TIMESOFINDIA.COM

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

boAt

Think
~~Different~~
Better



Don't be a Fanboy,
be a boAthead.

Better **Bass** | Better **Active Noise Cancellation** | Better **Battery Life**

Thank You India, for Making Us the 2nd Largest Wearable Company Globally.*

*IDC Worldwide Quarterly Wearable Device Tracker Q3 2023

CHOOSE BETTER

BECAUSE DIFFERENT IS JUST BORING

Airdopes Supreme

4 Mic AI ENx™ for Clear Calling
Cinematic Spatial Audio
In-Ear Detection for Supreme Convenience



Nirvana 751 ANC

Hybrid Active Noise Cancellation
65-Hours of Battery Life
Ambient Mode



Nirvana Ion ANC

Active Noise Cancellation Upto 32dB
120-Hours of Battery Life
boAt Signature Sound

boAt | **2nd LARGEST**
WEARABLE COMPANY GLOBALLY*

*IDC Worldwide Quarterly Wearable Device Tracker Q3 2023