



Chess Candidates: R Praggnanandhaa comes up with a spectacular game to down compatriot Vinit Gujrathi in the third round. His sister R Vaishali also scores her first victory in the event at the expense of Nuryul Salimova of Bulgaria

Six security personnel and 12 terrorists were killed in separate incidents in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan on Friday night and Saturday. The six security personnel include a DSP

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

Hardik Pandya finally gets his first victory as Mumbai Indians skipper as the five-time champion log home their first points in this year's IPL with a 29-run win over Delhi Capitals



TOI bags green brand award for UnPlastic, tiger campaigns

Times of India has bagged the title of green brand of the year at IAA Olive Crown Awards 2024 for two initiatives — 'UnPlastic India' and 'Saving Our Stripes'.

'UnPlastic India' was launched on June 5, World Environment Day to spread awareness against plastic use and also offer green alternatives to single-use plastic in daily life.

'Saving Our Stripes,' launched to mark the 50th anniversary of Project Tiger, featured not only sustained reportage on tiger reserves, but also a first-of-its-kind tiger anthem launched by the Union environment minister and praised by PM Modi.

'UnPlastic India' bagged eight awards, including 6 golds (2 joint); 'Saving Our Stripes' bagged two awards (joint golds). **P16**

In a 1st, SC strikes a balance between climate & ecology

'Green Energy Needs Boost, But Save GIB Too'

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In a first-ever judgment recognising the perils of climate change and supporting India's ambitious international commitment to achieve 'zero emission' by 2070, Supreme Court struck a delicate balance between the country's drive to shift from fossil fuel-based electricity to renewable energy and protection of the highly endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB).

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra disapproved the SC's April 2019 order imposing a blanket restriction on overhead power transmission lines in 90,000 square km that virtually

BLANKET BAN OFF, GIB HABITAT SPARED



It is necessary to adopt a holistic approach which does not sacrifice either of the two goals (saving GIB & fulfilling India's energy commitments) at altar of the other

By transitioning towards solar power... India aims to not only reduce carbon emissions but also improve energy access, foster economic growth, and create employment opportunities... (it is a) strategic investment in India's future... **—SC BENCH**

crippled solar energy generating units in prime harvesting areas in Rajasthan and Gujarat and threatened to derail India's target of increasing renewable energy capacity to 450 gigawatt (GW) by 2030.

On March 19, based on the open court dictation of the order by the CJI, TOI had reported lifting of the ban on overhead power transmission lines in 77,000 sq km, except 13,000 sq km of the GIB's core habitat.

► Related report, P7

Climate change may up inflation, stunt growth: RBI

Reserve Bank of India has cautioned that climate change can increase inflation and stunt growth, and necessitate tighter monetary policy.

RBI's monetary policy report said global average temperatures are rising, with an accompanying increase in extreme weather events, and the economic and social impact is becoming increasingly evident. It said this disrupts agricultural production and supply chains, and reduces productivity while the aftermath could hinder the effectiveness of monetary policy in influencing financing conditions for households and firms.

RBI's observations amid persistent hikes in prices of food items, which are impacted by climate change. **P15**

PM: Central agencies attacked as TMC wants free pass to loot

'Crackdown On The Corrupt Will Be Bigger After June 4'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar during a public meeting in Nawada on Sunday

PTI

Malpaiguri/Patna: Recurrent attacks on central agencies in Bengal reflect Trinamool Congress's disregard for the rule of law and the Constitution, PM Modi said on Sunday, a day after an NIA team faced the fury of a Purba Medinipur mob resisting the arrest of two suspects linked to a 2022 explosion.

"Trinamool wants a free pass to loot and terrorise. The party is either attacking central investigating agencies or orchestrating attacks by others," Modi said at Malpaiguri district's Dhubguri, his second campaign stop in north Bengal in four days. "Everyone

knows what happened in Sandeshkhali. The court has to intervene in every issue now. There is syndicate raj everywhere. I guarantee you that the crackdown on the corrupt will be even bigger after June 4."

If Dhubguri witnessed a bruising counter-attack meant to turn on its head TMC's nar-

rative about BJP's alleged misuse of central agencies, Bihar's Nawada provided the dais for Modi to fire a broadside at Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for questioning the relevance of talking about Article 370 in Rajasthan.

► Continued on P8

At 70k , T's EV drive stuck in slow lane

Sunny.Baski@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: At a time when the popularity of electric vehicles is growing across other states, Telangana is still stuck in the slow lane.

Currently, the state has just about 70,000 EVs – 57,000 two-wheelers, 6,000 four-wheelers and remaining are commercial and transport vehicles. This is about two to four times lower than the EVs plying in neighbouring Maharashtra (3 lakh), Karnataka (2.5 lakh) and Tamil Nadu (1.7 lakh). Even Kerala with population similar to Telangana has 1 lakh EVs, shows data available with the Union ministry of road transport and highways.

According to the RTA records, EVs in Telangana occupy only 0.4% of its total vehicular population of 1.6 crore.

► T's 70,000 EVs is about two to four times lower than the EVs in neighbouring states

► EVs in the state occupy only 0.4% of its total vehicular population of 1.6 crore

► Greater Hyderabad alone contributes 60% of this fleet, with 43,000 EVs

re. Greater Hyderabad alone contributes 60% of this fleet, with 43,000 EVs.

Experts attribute this to a host of issues including lack of incentives from the state, fear among public of batteries blowing up and inadequate charging stations.

► Continued on P4

centres in our area. Students attend classes at these centres at night," Vaishnavi said.

She wrote a heartfelt letter to Telangana high court Chief Justice Alok Adarsh, highlighting the challenges faced by residents, particularly students attending night classes and senior citizens wary of venturing out for evening walks. Chief Justice Adarsh, moved by the young girl's plea, converted her letter into a PIL in March 2024. Seeking accountability, HC summoned state, excise, and municipal officials to explain how a bar was sanctioned in a residential and educational locality. The case remains under court scrutiny.

19kg of seized drugs missing: Rats ate it, say J'hkhand police

Dhanbad: A confiscated stash of 10kg of cannabis and 9kg of marijuana kept as evidence in a contraband case in the storehouse of a police station in Jharkhand's Dhanbad has gone missing mysteriously, reports Anil Ashutosh.

Jai Prakash Prasad, investigating officer in the case involving a father-son duo, testified recently in the court of principal district judge Ram Sharma of Dhanbad that the culprits behind the disappearance were no one other than rats on a muncing mission in the makhana of Rajganj police station. Hence, he was unable to produce evidence.

The other "happy" party must be the accused, arrested in Dec 2018, at the disappearance of evidence. **P6**

BREASTFEEDING RIGHTS

In 2018, a groundbreaking legal initiative took shape in Delhi HC, spearheaded by an unexpected petitioner: **Ayavan Rastogi**, a mere nine-month-old at the time. Represented by his mother Neha Rastogi, an advocate, his PIL sought

to address a pressing issue: the absence of breastfeeding facilities in public spaces in India. The heart of Ayavan's PIL lay in recognition of the challenges faced by lactating mothers when venturing outside their homes.

► Continued on P7

Ponguleti's son under lens for buying smuggled luxe watches

Chennai Customs Issues Summons To Harsha Reddy

U.Sudhakarreddy
@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Amid high-pitched Lok Sabha poll campaigning, Chennai customs has issued summons to Ponguleti Harsha Reddy, son of revenue and housing minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, for allegedly purchasing smuggled luxury watches worth Rs 1.73 crore

The two watches were seized from Indian national Mubeen, returning from Singapore, at Chennai airport on Feb 5

Mubeen is a Hong Kong-based luxury watch dealer. Harsha is alleged to have bought it via intermediary Naveen Kumar

Naveen Kumar has identified Harsha, customs officials have claimed

defended as he was down with dengue. He has agreed to depose after April 27 as per medical advice.

Investigations indicated that Harsha Reddy had acquired the watches from Hong Kong-based luxury watch dealer Muhammed Faherdeen Mubeen, through an intermediary Alokavaneen Kumar, who has allegedly confessed to facilitating the

sale through cryptocurrency and via hawala transactions. Harsha Reddy is said to have been identified as the buyer of the luxury watches through Naveen Kumar.

Denying the allegations of buying smuggled watches, Harsha Reddy, who operates the realty firm Ragava Projects, said: "It is completely baseless. I am unwilling now."

Madras high court had earlier dismissed an anticipatory bail plea filed by Naveen Kumar, stating that the total value of luxury watches smuggled over time by him could easily exceed Rs 100 crore. The judicial magistrate in Alandur has directed customs to investigate Harsha Reddy and arrest Naveen Kumar.

Harsha Reddy has maintained his innocence and promised to cooperate with authorities post recovery from dengue.

Minister Srinivasa Reddy was not available for comment.

BRS' lone MLA from Khammam, Tellam Venkat Rao, joins Cong

Hyderabad: Ahead of Lok Sabha elections in Telangana, the exodus of leaders from BRS continued as another MLA joined the ruling Congress party on Sunday. Tellam Venkat Rao, BRS MLA from Bhadrachalam, joined the Congress in the presence of chief minister Revanth Reddy and revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy.

Bhadrachalam was previously the only seat held by BRS among the 10 assembly seats in Khammam district, with one won by Congress and one by itself CPI.

He is the third MLA from the main opposition party to join Congress in less than a month after Darnam Nagender and Kadriyan Srihari switched to the ruling party. **P2**

1st-timers keep T LS election field buzzing

Roushan.Ali
@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: It's going to be trial by fire for many contestants in this Lok Sabha polls. While some are first-timers, there others who are veterans of poll field but are in the LS fray for the first time.

For instance, in Malkajgiri, one of the biggest LS constituencies in terms of number of voters in the country, Congress, BRS and BJP have all fielded candidates who are contesting LS polls for the first time. BJP has fielded Eatala Rajender, Congress has picked Patnam Sunitha Mahender Reddy and BRS has nominated Radigi Lakshma Reddy.

Eatala is a veteran who has won seven assembly polls including bypolls. He was the first finance minister of Telangana from 2014 to 2018 and health minister from 2019 to 2021. Later, he joined BJR and won Huzurabad bypoll. But in 2023 polls, he lost Huzurabad as well as the second seat of Gajwel which he contested against then CM K Chandrasekhar Rao. Now, he is trying his luck in the LS poll arena.

► Continued on P2

Women seen as voters, not candidates; WB most hospitable, K'taka least

Roughly half of all voters are now women. Yet, when it comes to candidates and MPs, women are only a very small part of the picture. In 1962 – the year from when continuous gender data is available for voters, candidates and MPs – 42% of the voters were women. By 2019, this had increased to 48.2% – almost equal to their share of population. But when it comes to candidates, only 9% were women. The count of MPs, though, was a little better at 14.4%, report Atul Thakur and Chethan Kumar.

Karnataka, along with Kerala, stands out as the worst state for women politicians, with only about 5 out of 100 women candidates winning polls between 1996 and 2019. In contrast, Bengal is the most hospitable state for women, with a

winning rate of 20 out of 100. Gujarat is second-best state, followed by Rajasthan.

► Full report P10

Ex-U'khand Cong min joins BJP; Naveen baiter joins BJD

With election dates nea-

ring, Sunday marked yet another hectic day of crossovers.

Former Uttarakhand cabinet minister and three-time MLA Dinesh Agarwal joined BJR on Sunday, a day after resigning from Congress. He was among the star campaigners short-listed by Congress in the state.

There was an exodus in Rajasthan as well, a day after Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka and party Mallikarjun Kharge held a public meeting. A former MLA and PCC vice-president were among many who crossed over to BJR.

In Odisha, state BJR vice-president Lekhashree Samant Singh, a vocal critic of CM Naveen Patnaik and 5T chairman V.K. Pandian so far, joined BJR. **P10**

After their farewell to arms, former Maoists find a life of peace, security

Rashmi.Drolia
@timesgroup.com

Raipur: Laxman Atami, once a Maoist insurrection navigating treacherous jungles of Chhattisgarh, wakes up often at night just to watch his year-old baby sleep peacefully, a sight that brings immense joy and relief after years of living in fear. He can't look away until the sun peeps through the window and it's time to go to the fields.

Four years ago, he would wake up in a cold sweat, panicking that it would be his last.

A snapped twig, a rustle of leaves, or sometimes his own nerves would snap him out of a fitful sleep on the jungle floor. "Always went to sleep wonder-

ing if I would wake up, if soldiers would shoot me dead, or if a rival would stick a knife into me," Atami said. He is among the fortunate ones who have surrendered their arms and embraced a new life —

from hiding in jungles to being able to stroll into a village shop to buy red squeaky shoes for his little one who has just begun to toddle.

► Continued on P7



LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL: Laxman Atami at home with his wife and child

DANCE of DEMOCRACY

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS ASKED BY MP

• Whether the number of pedestrians killed under the category of road user has increased in the country? The details including the number of such incidents in Telangana, especially Mahabubnagar? (Nov 28, 2019)

• The details of projects proposed under Bharatmala Pariyojana in Mahabubnagar, the present status of preparation of detailed report for each of the projects. (Dec 12, 2019)



HOW TELANGANA MPs FARED

Manne Srinivas Reddy, 65 |

DEBATES 13

356

Mahabubnagar |

QUESTIONS

ATTENDANCE 64% 70% National average 79% State average

70%

79%



• Whether the high powered committee for 'one nation one election' constituted under the chairmanship of former President Ram Nath Kovind has submitted its report to the govt. Whether the committee has sought suggestions from public and stakeholders and if so, the details indicating the number of suggestions received? (Feb 2, 2024)

—Compiled by Kaushik Gunuguntla

2 BATTLEGROUND TELANGANA

FOLLOW DANCE OF DEMOCRACY ON TWITTER @TIMESOFINDIA

Lok Sabha polls swing spotlight from national to local issues in T

Phone Tapping & Loan Waiver In Focus Now

Sribala.Vadlapatla
@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: In the upcoming Lok Sabha elections on May 13, there is a noticeable shift in the state from the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. This time around, the spotlight is on local issues like never before with concerns ranging from loan waiver to phone tapping to irregularities in irrigation projects to Congress govt's six guarantees, dominating the electoral narrative.

Political circles are agog with discussions on the potential impact of these factors on the elections. While some analysts speculate that BJP might suffer because the focus of the narrative is not on the central govt's report card in the last decade, others emphasise the significance of BRS performance in determining the outcomes.

GRASSROOTS GROUNDSWELL

SHIFT IN ELECTORAL FOCUS

- Contrast between 2019 Telangana elections and upcoming Lok Sabha polls
- Increased emphasis on local grievances such as loan waivers & irregularities
- Previous focus on Narendra Modi-led BJP govt now shifted to local issues

CHALLENGES FOR BJP

- Saffron party need to address local concerns amidst changing narrative
- Congress party and BRS are now targeting each other instead of BJP
- Possibility of varied results due to shifting dynamics and poll narrative

WHAT ANALYSTS FEEL

- Criticism from Congress & BRS unexpectedly benefited BJP in past elections
- Anticipation of consideration for both local and national concerns during polls
- Parties gain ground at the expense of others; this will become evident before polls



BRS, having secured a significant victory in the 2018 assembly elections, had anticipated a hung Parliament in 2019 and aimed to play a pivotal role in forming the next govt at the Centre. BRS chief K. Chandrasekhar Rao had advocated a 'Federal Front', comprising regional parties, to counter BJP and Congress.

However, BRS fell short of expectations in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, winning only nine out of 17 parliamentary seats. Meanwhile, both BJP and Congress, despite suffering defeats in the Dec 2018 assembly elections, surprised many in the Lok Sabha polls by securing four and three seats respectively.

Political analyst professor Nageshwar Rao said the focus has shifted from being a referendum on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's govt to addressing local issues.

"In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, criticism from both BRS and Congress unexpectedly benefited BJP in securing four seats. This time around, the flip side, of course, is that anything a government does, by default, will be political. You can't escape it."

Political observer S. Rama Krishna acknowledged the current focus on local issues but believes national concerns might also influence voters during the election. He said, "It's crucial to observe which party gains ground at the expense of others. This will become evident just before the elections."

ONLINE WARS & PATS COVER T POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

Congress deceived people & speaking about justice: KTR

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Sunday said the people of Telangana, feeling betrayed by Congress over the past four months, are ready to deliver a resounding message in the Lok Sabha elections.

Taking to X, KTR characterised Rahul Gandhi's recent 'Jana Jatra' public gathering at Tukkuguda as nothing more than a "festival of lies and broken promises". "Rahul Gandhi misled the public with six promises prior to the assembly elections and is now staging another theatrical performance in the name of justice. After deceiving the people of Telangana, he speaks of justice," said KTR.

Claiming that Congress govt is responsible for the alarming rate of farmer suicides in the state, KTR said that the unfulfilled promises of Congress resulted in the deaths of 209 farmers. "The Congress pledged paradise before the elections, but instead, people are experiencing pure hell," he added. TNN

PM showers praise on BJP's Hyderabad candidate Madhavi

Hyderabad: BJP's Hyderabad Lok Sabha candidate, Kompella Madhavi Latha, received a shot in the arm ahead of May 13 Lok Sabha elections as Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised her recent interview in Hindi.

"Madhavi Ji, your interview is exceptional. You've made very solid points and also done so with logic and passion. My best wishes to you," Modi said in a post on X.

In the interview, Madhavi Latha predicted a victory margin of 1,50,000 votes over her opponent, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi. She hailed Modi as the epitome of transparent politics, claiming his choice to select her demonstrated such transparency.

She took to X to express her gratitude, saying, "It is you who have given me the courage to speak the truth fearlessly and our party's ideal Sab Ka Sat Sab Ka Vikas is my inspiration. We will follow your path till our last breath and ensure BJP's victory." TNN

Exodus continues from BRS as MLA Tellam joins Cong

Roushan.Ali@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Ahead of Lok Sabha elections in Telangana, the exodus of leaders from BRS continued as another MLA joined the ruling Congress party on Sunday. Tellam Venkat Rao, BRS MLA from Bhadrachalam, joined the Congress in the presence of chief minister A. Revanth Reddy and revenue minister Pongal Srinivas Reddy.

He is the third MLA from the main opposition party to join Congress in less than a month. Bhadrachalam was previously the only seat held by BRS among the 10 assembly seats in Khammam district, with eight won by Congress and one by its ally CPI.

Interestingly, Venkat Rao had quit BRS and joined Congress along with Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy in July last year in the presence of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi at a huge public meeting in Khammam. However, he quit Congress and returned to the BRS after the grand old party denied him the assembly election ticket from Bhadrachalam.

Interestingly, Venkat Rao had quit BRS and joined Congress along with Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy in July last year in the presence of Congress

MP Rahul Gandhi at a huge public meeting in Khammam. However, he returned to BRS after being denied an assembly election ticket from Bhadrachalam by the Congress, which favoured its sitting MLA Podem Veeraiah.

Venkat Rao had defeated Veeraiah in the 2023 assembly polls on a BRS ticket. He was perceived to be part of Ponguleti's political faction in Khammam. Speculation arose about his loyalty when he met Revanth after Congress's victory in the assembly polls, but Venkat Rao denied any intention to switch sides at the time.

His move to join Congress marks another setback for BRS since its defeat to Congress in the 2023 assembly polls.

Interestingly, Venkat Rao had quit BRS and joined Congress along with Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy in July last year in the presence of Congress

MP Rahul Gandhi at a huge public meeting in Khammam. However, he returned to BRS after being denied an assembly election ticket from Bhadrachalam by the Congress, which favoured its sitting MLA Podem Veeraiah.

Venkat Rao had defeated Veeraiah in the 2023 assembly

polls on a BRS ticket. He was per-

ceived to be part of Ponguleti's

political faction in Khammam.

Speculation arose about his loy-

alty when he met Revanth

after Congress's victory in the

assembly polls, but Venkat Rao

denied any intention to switch

sides at the time.

His move to join Congress

marks another setback for BRS

since its defeat to Congress in

the 2023 assembly polls.

Interestingly, Venkat Rao had

quit BRS and joined Congress

along with Ponguleti Srinivas

Reddy in July last year in the

presence of Congress MP Rahul

Gandhi at a huge public meet-

ing in Khammam. However, he

returned to BRS after being

denied an assembly election

ticket from Bhadrachalam by

the Congress, which favoured

its sitting MLA Podem Veera-

iah.

Venkat Rao had defeated

Veeraiah in the 2023 assembly

polls on a BRS ticket. He was per-

ceived to be part of Ponguleti's

political faction in Khammam.

Speculation arose about his loy-

alty when he met Revanth

after Congress's victory in the

assembly polls, but Venkat Rao

denied any intention to switch

sides at the time.

His move to join Congress

marks another setback for BRS

since its defeat to Congress in

the 2023 assembly polls.

Interestingly, Venkat Rao had

quit BRS and joined Congress

along with Ponguleti Srinivas

Reddy in July last year in the

presence of Congress MP Rahul

Gandhi at a huge public meet-

ing in Khammam. However, he

returned to BRS after being

denied an assembly election

ticket from Bhadrachalam by

the Congress, which favoured

its sitting MLA Podem Veera-

iah.

Venkat Rao had defeated

Veeraiah in the 2023 assembly

polls on a BRS ticket. He was per-

ceived to be part of Ponguleti's

political faction in Khammam.

Speculation arose about his loy-

alty when he met Revanth

after Congress's victory in the

assembly polls, but Venkat Rao

denied any intention to switch

sides at the time.

His move to join Congress

marks another setback for BRS

since its defeat to Congress in

the 2023 assembly polls.

Interestingly, Venkat Rao had

quit BRS and joined Congress

along with Ponguleti Srinivas

Reddy in July last year in the

presence of Congress MP Rahul

Gandhi at a huge public meet-

ing in Khammam. However, he

returned to BRS after being

denied an assembly election

ticket from Bhadrachalam by

the Congress, which favoured

its sitting MLA Podem Veera-

iah.

Venkat Rao had defeated

Veeraiah in the 2023 assembly

polls on a BRS ticket. He was per-

ceived to be part of Ponguleti's

political faction in Khammam.

Speculation arose about his loy-

alty when he met Revanth

after Congress's victory in the

assembly polls, but Venkat Rao

denied any intention to switch

sides at the time.

His move to join Congress

marks another setback for BRS

since its defeat to Congress in

the 2023 assembly polls.

Cantt bypoll: BRS chooses Lasya's sister

Hyderabad: BRS has chosen Lasya Nivedita as its candidate for the Secunderabad Cantonment assembly bypoll, which will be held on May 13. However,

the party will announce her name after Ugadi. Nivedita is the sister of Lasya Nanditha, the BRS MLA from Cantonment, who passed away in February this year in a car accident.

The move comes a day after Congress named Sri Ganesh as its candidate for the assembly by-poll. On Sunday, BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao reviewed the by-poll and selection of the candidate, with the senior BRS leaders.

According to Cantonment BRS leaders, KCR has decided to give ticket to Nivedita, daughter of late BRS MLA, G Sayanna. TNN

Victim of phone tapping: Eatala

Hyderabad: Former minister and Malkajgiri BJP candidate Eatala Rajender, on Sunday, alleged he was the first victim of phone tapping during the BRS tenure. "Along with my phone, those of my kin and workers were tapped," he said.

Predicting that BJP will win 12 Lok Sabha seats, he said that even if Congress wins 17 LS seats from Telangana, Rahul Gandhi can't be prime minister. TNN

Shabbir slams Modi's remarks

Hyderabad: Advisor to the state govt Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Sunday condemned PM Narendra Modi's remarks alleging that Congress' election manifesto bears resemblance to Muslim League.

Shabbir also highlighted BJP's fondness for Mohammed Ali Jinnah and his Muslim League, citing instances whereon LK Advani and Jaswant Singh had openly praised Jinnah. TNN

Revanth sets 5L vote target for Secunderabad LS seat

Cong's Arjan Polled 4.8L Votes In 2004

Roushan.Ali@timesgroup.com

'CONG HERE TO STAY FOR 10YRS'

- Congress to bank on implementation of 5 'guaranteed schemes for votes in Lok Sabha polls
- CM Revanth held meet with party leaders from SC parliamentary constituency
- Sets target of getting five lakh votes for party candidate Danam Nagender

Congress is here to stay in power for 10 years. Work hard and get recognized by the party – A Revanth Reddy | TELANGANA CM

respectively with M Arjan Kumar Yadav polling 4.85 lakh votes in 2004, which is the highest in the Secunderabad parliamentary constituency in the last four elections. However, he had polled 3.40 lakh votes to win the seat in 2009.

A senior Congress leader, privy to the meeting held by CM Revanth, said, "The main reasons for the TPCC chief setting an ambitious target of at least five lakh votes

is that Danam Nagender belongs to Munnuru Kapu community, which has nearly three lakh voters, also there are nearly eight lakh people belonging to minority communities, including Muslims, Christians, Sikhs among others. There is also a strong resentment against BJP MP Kishan Reddy, who is also BJP Telangana president, for not having done anything significant for the constituency in the last five

years. There is also resentment against the Modi govt over inflation."

"Though the support of AIMIM to get Muslim votes will be crucial, both Congress and BRS are confident that Asaduddin Owaisi-led party will support them, and there is a general feeling among the Muslim community that Congress is better placed than BRS to defeat BJP and come to power at the Centre. The Muslims, by and large, had supported BRS in the city in the 2023 assembly polls, but they are inclined towards Congress in parliamentary elections," a senior leader said.

AIMIM had contested the Secunderabad LS seat in the 2014 general election and polled 1.45 lakh votes. However, it did not contest the 2019 LS election from Secunderabad.

Revanth directed party leaders to go to the doorsteps of voters stating that the new Congress govt was supplying 24x7 power and ensuring there is no drinking water shortage in the state.

MLA candidate held for rape & blackmail

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Hyderabad: Kotagiri Mohan, a businessman from Jagtial town who unsuccessfully contested the Dec 2023 assembly elections as an independent, was arrested for allegedly raping and blackmailing a woman.

Mohan, 39, contested from the Jagtial constituency and had secured only 520 votes.

According to police, he was involved in 12 cases so far, including attempt to murder, assault on a government official and other offences. However, his election affidavit submitted to Election Commission during the assembly elections made no mention of these cases.

In January, according to police, the accused befriended a married woman, who worked as a labourer. He often took her with him in his car and clicked pictures with her.

"Showing these pictures, he threatened to publish them and raped her repeatedly. He also warned her not to go to police or the media, saying he already had several cases against him," said police.

However, the woman approached police, who registered a case and slapped rape charge against him. He was sent in judicial custody on Sunday.

T Congress lodges plaint against KCR

Hyderabad: TPCC senior vice-president G Niranjan has written to ECI complaining against former CM and BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao for allegedly using "derogatory and objectionable" language against Congress leaders.

In his letter to the ECI, Niranjan said, "Using such language amounts to violation of the model code of conduct. KCR is frustrated with the present state of his party and the arrest of his daughter and BRS MLC Kavitha in the Delhi liquor scam."

KCR is trying to provoke and instigate people with baseless allegations against Congress. "The language used by KCR is objectionable and ECI is requested to take action and impose restrictions," Niranjan told ECI. TNN

'AIMIM indulges in irregularities'

Sribala.Vadlapatla
@timesgroup.com



Hyderabad: Telangana BJP chief G Kishan Reddy on Sunday stated that there is no possibility of 80% voting in areas like Hyderabad where AIMIM is contesting. Interacting with the media during his outreach in Secunderabad parliament seat he said AIMIM indulges in irregularities.

Talking about the Modi government's achievements he said the NDA government abolished triple talaq. "It does not exist even in Islamic countries. Legislations were passed to give 33% reservation to the women in legislative houses." Slapping Congress govt in the state he said they have not completely implemented the six guarantees. "CM Revanth Reddy is saying that he would implement six guarantees if Congress comes to power at the Centre, in a way he is saying that his govt will not implement six guarantees" he said.

Meanwhile BJP spokesperson Rani Rudrama on Sunday asked Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy to spell out what was meant by 'Gig employment' stated in the Congress manifesto. Addressing a press conference, she said Revanth Reddy should take Rahul Gandhi as model and start walking on roads not use helicopters to travel for the campaign.

She demanded that Congress should seek votes only after telling people what they have done for them in the last 100 days.

Now Subscribing is #SurprisinglyEasy

Owning a car without buying one.
That's a miracle.

Simply subscribe to a new Maruti Suzuki car for a monthly fee starting at just ₹14,446*. All with Maruti Suzuki Subscribe.



Nominal Monthly Fees

Flexible Tenure Options



Hassle Free Ownership



Choose From Multiple Subscription Providers



Choose From A Wide Range Of New Cars



No Down Payment



SCAN TO KNOW MORE.

*Above fixed price is for WagonR LXI 1.0L for 48 months tenure and 10,000 kms annual usage in Hyderabad as on 08th April 2024. Terms & Conditions Apply. Applicable on select models/variants. Subscription scheme is at the sole discretion of the subscription partner(s) and terms and conditions as expected by the subscription partner(s) shall apply. Maruti Suzuki Subscribe is available in Hyderabad. Car images shown are of top variant and for illustration purposes only. Accessories and features may not be part of standard equipment. Orix Auto Infrastructure Limited, ALD Automotive Private Limited and Quicklly are our subscription partners, and vehicle subscription services will be provided by our Subscription Partners.

FOR ENQUIRY, MAIL AT: RENJITH.NAIR@MARUTI.CO.IN | CALL AT: 9611700577

AUTHORISED DEALERS: HYDERABAD: RKS: (NARSINGI) CALL: 9848898488. SAI SERVICE: (ERRAGADDA) CALL: 9703500020, (MIYAPUR) CALL: 7036048866. ADARSHA: (ATTAPUR) CALL: 8897973366, (KARMANGHAT) CALL: 9652886453. KALYANI MOTORS: (NACHARAM) CALL: 9100067776, (LB NAGAR) CALL: 9100114809. GEM MOTORS: (KONDAPUR) CALL: 9912341526. AUTOFIN: (BOWENPALLY) CALL: 8885040004. JAYABHERI: (GACHIBOWLI) CALL: 9100909255. PAVAN: (SERILINGAMPALLY) CALL: 7093711199. VARUN: (BEGUMPET) CALL: 886817766, (BANJARA HILLS) CALL: 9966502929, (KUKATPALLY) CALL: 9703970707, (VANASTHALIPURAM) CALL: 9052343438, (GACHIBOWLI) CALL: 9885994888. RKS: (NARSINGI) CALL: 9848898488, (SOMAJIGUDA) CALL: 9848845138, (MALAKPET) CALL: 9848866170, (SECUNDERABAD) CALL: 9133391029, (KUSHAIGUDA) CALL: 8121497101. MITHRA: (HIMAYATHNAGAR) CALL: 7799884945, (MEHDIPATNAM) CALL: 7799884949. E-OUTLETS: SAI SERVICE: (SANGAREDDY) CALL: 9703500020. ADARSHA: (SIDDIPET) CALL: 9652886453. VARUN: (MEDAK) CALL: 9703656111. AUTOFIN: (MEDCHAL) CALL: 8885040004. PAVAN: (IBRAHIMPATNAM) CALL: 7093711199.

BJP starts outreach to galvanize booth panels for LS polls

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: The Justice L Narasimha Reddy-led commission probing the alleged irregularities in the power sector during the previous BRS government will submit its report within 100 days to the state govt.

Sribala.Vadlapatla
@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: After sluggish campaign, 33 election management committees of BJP Telangana were set a deadline of a week to pull up their socks.

The commission held its first meeting on Sunday under the chairmanship of high court former judge Justice Narasimha Reddy and collected information with regard to Bhadrak and Yadadri power plants.

Energy department principal secretary SAM Rizvi and senior officials of Transco and Genco and energy department attended the meeting.

Justice Narasimha Reddy said the panel had started its probe into the alleged irregularities taken place in power purchase agreement (PPA) with Chhattisgarh and Bhadrak and Yadadri power projects.

They would soon issue notices to officials involved in the decision making of power purchase agreements.

POLL HEAT ON

• BJP poll in-charge of Telangana Abhay Kumar Patil begins outreach from Karimnagar

• Drive to strengthen booth panels for parliamentary elections

• Instructs booth-level leaders to overcome lack of coordination & work in tandem

aders in Karimnagar; Patil directed them to gear up for the booth strengthening programme on April 12, it is planned in a such way that three boothmembers would be very active and similarly mandal level leaders also would add to the strength. "He told us to overcome lack of coordination and work in tandem," a top source said.

Meanwhile, BJP contestant and sitting Karimnagar MP Bandi Sanjay is all set to hold a 'deeksha' next week for the sake of powerloom workers in Sircilla. Sanjay had shot off a letter to chief minister A Revanth Reddy to come to the rescue of the workers. Sources said the Karimnagar MP has released funds for works like installation of street lights.

SALE OF MACHINERY

The genuine buyers are requested to email their enquiries on: ravidher.b@susheeinfra.com Following machinery situated at Ramagundam (Telangana) www.susheeinfra.com

S. No.	Equipment Details	Mfg. Year	Qty
01	Volvo FMX460 8X4 (20.3 cum)	2021	55
02	CAT Excavator 345GC	2021	02
03	CAT Dozer D6R2 XL	2021	03
04	CAT Wheel Loader 950L	2021	02
05	CAT Grader 140K2	2021	01
06	Komatsu Dozer D85ESS-2A	2016	02
07	Volvo Grader G930	2016	02
08	Volvo Excavator EC480	2015	01
09	Diesel Bowser (B Benz & Eicher)	2015	04
10	Water Sprinkler(B Benz & Eicher)	2016	05

SUSHEE INFRA & MINING LTD
Sri Nilaya Cyber Spazio, # 8-2-269/A/2, Ground Floor, Banjara Hills, Road No-2, Hyderabad- 500034.
Ph: 9866633044, 9502297346, 9502853999

500 EV charging stations in T'gana not enough to meet demand: Users

52 Charging Stations Set Up By Govt

Sunny.Baski@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: While it has been more than three years since Telangana EV policy was drafted, the state still lacks adequate charging infrastructure.

At present there are 510 charging stations in the state of which only 52 belong to the govt. The rest are all privately run. In fact, these 52 stations were set up within Greater Hyderabad under the central govt's FAME II scheme.

In all, Hyderabad has 195 charging stations (govt and private) and another 19 battery swapping facilities located in different parts of the city.

Nationally, Maharashtra has the highest number of EV charging stations in the country with more than 3,000 charging stations, followed by Delhi (1,886) and Karnataka (1,041). Together, there are over 12,000 public charging stations in India.

According to the Telangana State Renewable Development Corporation (TSREDCO), the state nodal agency for implementing EV infrastructure, 150 charging stations were allocated under FAME II out of which 52 are in operation, while they are waiting for electricity connection for another 30.

"We are finding it difficult to get suitable locations for setting up new charging stations. The land parcels we found earlier were not viable and easily accessible to the public. We require up to 500 square feet of land for setting up an EV station. We are requesting the state govt to expedite the process," said a senior official from TSREDCO.

INCENTIVES CAN BOOST EV SALES

57,000 two-wheeler EVs & 6,000 four-wheeler EVs plying on Telangana roads

EVs only constitute 0.4% of state's total vehicular population of 1.6C, RTA records show

60% of state's EV fleet, about 43,000, in Greater Hyderabad alone

Experts blame lack of incentives from state, fear of batteries blowing up & inadequate charging stations as reasons for low EV sales

300 to 400 EVs being sold in state every month

Experts say incentives from state govt will boost EV sales in Telangana



STATES WITH MOST EVS IN COUNTRY

State - No of EVs



150 charging stations allocated to state under FAME II scheme out of which 52 are operational

FINDING CHARGING STATIONS

• Telangana State Renewable Development Corporation to roll out TSEV App to help users to find nearest EV charging station

• App to guide users to nearby charging station using Google Maps

• To provide information about type of chargers available & their capacity to charge electric bikes, cars and autos

Lack of incentives in state, safety concerns over batteries holding back EV boom in T

From P1

Gujarat, Maharashtra and Delhi provide subsidies on the purchase of two, three, and four-wheelers, whereas in Telangana the govt only offers exemption on road tax and registration fee. In fact, Telangana EV policy is more beneficial to manufacturers than buyers. Moreover, some banks too do not provide loans for purchase of EVs," said N Venugopal Rao, chief marketing officer of Keto Motors, an EV manufacturer.

According to him, the monthly sale of EVs ranges between 300 and 400.

Customers said that the price range from ₹1.5 lakh to ₹2



lakh for two-wheelers and upwards of ₹1 lakh (approx) for four-wheelers often make an EV unviable. The other fear is of safety.

"Last year, I had planned to purchase an e-bike at a cost of ₹1.5 lakh. However, frequent battery failures and explosions prompted me to go for a conventional scooter," said Aditya Verma, an IT professional.

Another private firm employee, CK Kalyan, who recently bought a two-wheeler, said

how he was dissuaded by the insufficient charging infrastructure in his area.

"I would have to go all the way to Begumpet from Red Hills. Also, the cost of charging is very steep—roughly ₹12 per kWh," he said.

While Gujarat offers an incentive of ₹10,000 per kWh on any e-vehicle, Delhi provides a subsidy of ₹5,000 per kWh of battery capacity for two-wheelers. For three-wheelers, the subsidy is ₹30,000 per vehicle, irrespective of total cost and battery capacity. Kerala gives free vehicle registration, exemption on road taxes along with toll exemption and free parking.

"Some incentives from the state govt will definitely boost EV sales in Telangana. The state also should create some awareness on the importance of EVs," said Chetana Chakravarthy, director of Quantum Energy.

Vinod Kanumla of the Indian Federation of Road Safety reiterated the fear factor among motorists, especially since the cost of the vehicles is so high.

"Despite spending that amount, they have to always be in fear of the vehicle blowing up once the battery is fully charged. Another issue is that the cost spent on batteries in four to five years works out to be almost the same as what is spent on fuel," he said.

Fire breaks out at yet-to-open supermarket

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: A fire broke out at a soon-to-be-inaugurated supermarket in Bandlaguda Jagir on Sunday.

The incident caused no casualties, but resulted in significant damage to the new stock on the ground floor, which was worth several lakhs. The false ceiling was also completely destroyed by the fire.

Following an investigation, officials are considering a short circuit as the likely cause of the fire. The exact extent of the damage is still being assessed.

32kg ganja worth ₹10L seized, 1 held

Hyderabad: The special operations team (SOT) of Cyberabad police nabbed a construction worker hailing from Sangareddy district identified as Banoth Laxman and seized 32kg ganja worth over ₹10 lakh from him on Sunday.

Based on a tip off, the Madhupur zone SOT sleuths caught Laxman when he was moving suspiciously near the outer ring road (ORR) toll gate at Kollar. TNN

ASI found dead with two bullet injuries at outpost

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of police from Telangana State Special Police (TSSP) battalion died, after two bullets hit his head, under suspicious circumstances at Kabutarkhana in Hussainiwal outpost in the early hours of Sunday.

Police said Baleshwar, 50, was declared dead at Osmania Hospital. "We are still probing whether it is a case of misfire or suicide," Hussainiwal inspector S Sunderender told TOL.

Baleshwar, who had joined police department 25 years ago, was leading a platoon of TSSP force for over a week. He and his subordinates were posted at the outpost

Baleshwar, who had joined police department 25 years ago, was leading a platoon of TSSP force for over a week. He and his subordinates were posted at the outpost

jaw and they got ejected from the head.

At the time of the incident, an attached barber of the platoon was at the outpost and it was on his information police came to know about the accident. After speaking to his family members, police realized that the ASI had no personal problems and was never in distress.

"On Saturday night, he called us and spoke normally and did not show any sign of disturbance," family members, who stay at battalion quarters in Beechpally, said at the mortuary.

"At 5.15 am we got information about the incident. When we reached Osmania General Hospital (OGH), he was declared dead. He was mentally a strong person and we don't think he would have died by suicide," they said.

Woman, her 2 daughters die in accident in Kothagudem

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: A woman and her two young daughters lost their lives in a hit and run accident at Dammapeta in Bhadravathi Kothagudem district late on Saturday night. The victims, who were riding pillion on a motorcycle, were knocked off the vehicle by an unidentified vehicle, causing them to fall on to the road and run over by a truck, resulting in their death on the spot.

The deceased have been identified as P Lakshmi, 25, her daughters — eight-year-old Sharanya Sri, and six-year-old Sharanya Sri. Lakshmi's husband Ch Balakrishna sustained severe injuries in the accident and was undergoing treatment at hospital. According to police, Lakshmi had recently married Balakrishna, a year after separating from her first husband. Along with her two daughters, she had moved in with Balakrishna, and the couple were employed at a poultry farm in Aswaraopet, where they also resided.

On Saturday, the family had attended a wedding in the neighbouring NTR district of Andhra Pradesh and were on their way back home on a motorcycle. As they approached Mandapalli, an unidentified vehicle hit their bike, causing all four individuals to be thrown off the two-

3 LIVES SNUFFED OUT



• Bike hit by an unidentified vehicle at Mandapalli

• The three victims, who were riding pillion, fell on the road after which a truck ran over them

• Family were on their way back from a wedding when the accident occurred

wheeler.

Lakshmi and her daughters landed in the middle of the road, while Balakrishna was thrown a short distance away. The mother and her two children were then run over by a fast-moving truck, resulting in their immediate death at the scene. Police have registered a case and have initiated an investigation into the incident.

Telangana continues to sizzle at 44.5° Celsius

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Telangana remained at heatwave levels for the second day in a row with Nidadamoor in Nalgonda district recording 44.5° Celsius on Sunday.

According to data from Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS), Ananthagiri in Suryapet also saw mercury at 44.5 degrees, followed by Nellakondapalle in Khammam (44.4 degrees). As per India Meteorological Department (IMD), Kham-



A school student wraps himself in a towel to escape the heat

HEAT IS ON

man is presently under heatwave owing to nearly 6 degree excess heat being recorded against normal.

In a similar pattern, weather in Hyderabad was no better with Saifiguda in Malkajgiri recording 41.5° Celsius.

On Saturday, Suryapet had recorded the season's highest temperature at 44.5° Celsius in Telangana, with two districts Khammam and Ramagundam being declared under heatwave by IMD.

Latest predictions by IMD suggests the situation may continue on Monday, after which relief is in sight with

strong thunder-showers expected. Districts of Gadwal and Wanaparthy are likely to see similar high temperatures above 41° Celsius, according to IMD.

Meanwhile, the data from TSDPS suggests that the last time Telangana and Hyderabad experienced such a heatwave was in 2016 when temperatures soared to 48° Celsius in various districts. However, officials note this is unlikely to be breached this year as an extended phase of thunderstorms with high temperatures will continue in the state. The highest ever temperature recorded in Telangana was 48.8° Celsius on April 26, 2016 in Mancherial.

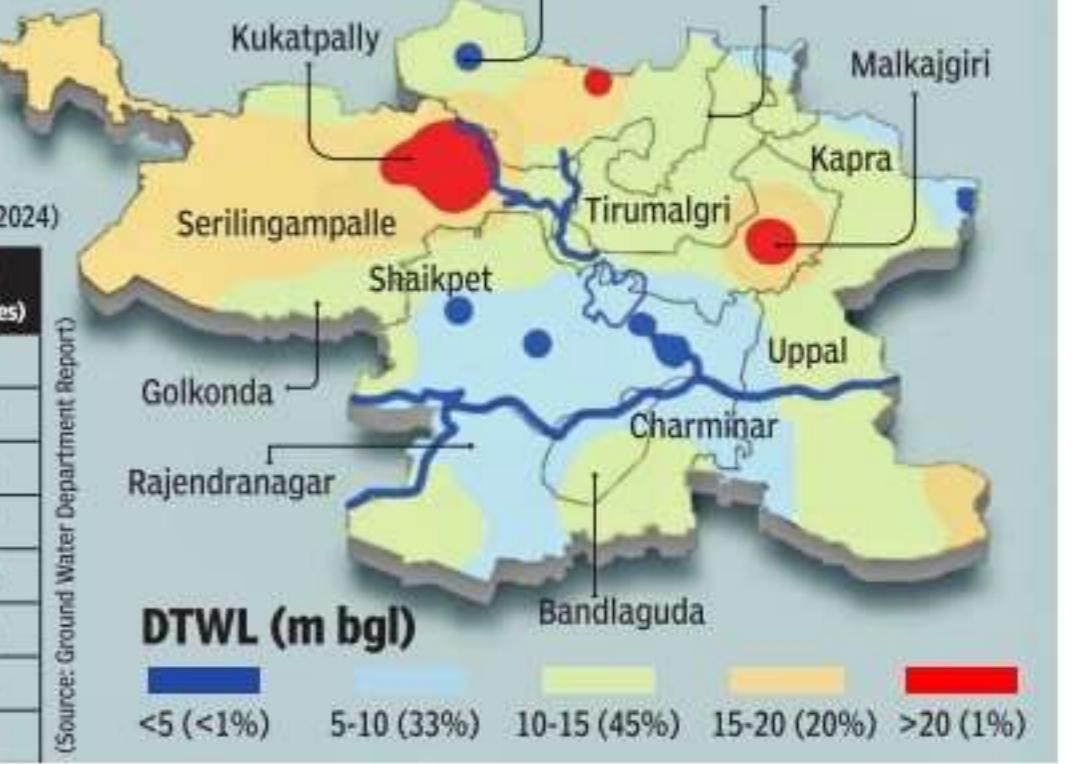
Greater Hyd records 2 to 7 mtr drop in water level

WATER CRISIS IN MAKING

Ground water department has observed a net fall of 1.15m in groundwater levels during March 2024 compared to May 2023 (pre-monsoon 2023)

Ground water depletion (March 2023 & 2024)

Area	March 2023	March 2024	Dip (in metres)
Abdullapurmet	11	17.8	6
Malkajgiri	19.5	24.4	4.9
Medipally	12.4	15.3	2.9
Alwal	7.8	10.7	2.9
Bachupally	3.8	6.6	2.8
Saidabad	6.1	8.7	2.5
Balanagar	7.4	9.7	2.3
Charminar	8	10.3	2.3



Water board plans to open multiple summer camps in city amid scorch

Hyderabad: With the rise in temperatures, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSB) has opened summer water camps at various locations in the city.

On Sunday, the HMWSB Managing Director, C Sudarshan Rythu Bazar. Speaking on the occasion, Sudarshan Reddy said that a few more summer water camps will be opened in densely populated areas. TNN

son: Year-round construction activity, officials say.

"In most mandals, the groundwater table has sunk by over two meters. Areas such as Asifnagar and Charminar in the Old City have been particularly affected," said a ground water department (GWD) official, adding: "In these areas, which are considered fully commercial, the levels are dropping faster than other parts of the Old City."

Officials also underlined

Auto driver held for raping minor in Vikarabad

Hyderabad: A 31-year-old driver was arrested by Vikarabad police for allegedly raping a 17-year-old girl on Thursday. Vikarabad police said that the survivor, who had recently appeared for the SSC exams, used to travel to the exam centre and back in the auto of the accused, B Ambesh.

"During these days, Ambesh befriended her and came to know that the girl would be attending a friend's wedding in Tandur on Thursday. Knowing this, he also attended the wedding," said police, adding that at the wedding, he offered to take her home in his autorickshaw.

Police said that instead of taking the girl home, he took her to his farm in a neighbouring village. "He pulled the girl out of the vehicle, threatened to kill her and raped her," police said.

He dropped her off at Tandur railway station on Friday morning. TNN

Staffer arrested for siphoning ₹3cr from co

Hyderabad: An employee of an e-commerce company has been arrested by the Cyberabad police for allegedly siphoning off ₹3 crore of the company's money into various accounts linked to him. Police said that the accused, who joined the company in 2015, was part of the company's finance department, where he handled employees' salaries and was also responsible for settling the arrears of former employees. TNN

To place an Obituary announcement or Remembrance Ad

Logon to ads.timesgroup.com

or

Scan QR code

Unavailability Of Some Textbooks Hampers Studies ■ No textbook start to new academic year in T'gana

Nirupa.Vatyam@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: The new academic year, especially for the schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE) boards might have started, but books for the new curriculum for various classes are still unavailable in the market.

New books are expected to be printed in April and May and might only be available in June as schools in Hyderabad and elsewhere in the state will shut for summer vacation in the fourth week of April.

"I have checked in several shops, but couldn't find first language, Physics and English textbooks anywhere," said C Vivek Reddy, whose son is studying in class 9 at a private school in the city. He said that though the books are not available in the stall at school as well, teachers are asking students to bring textbooks to classes every day so that they can understand the subject better. Another parent Sireesha T said, "This year the curriculum for class 3 has been changed. So, we can't even borrow books from seniors as a stop-gap arrangement. Why can't CBSE ensure that all books are available before the mar-

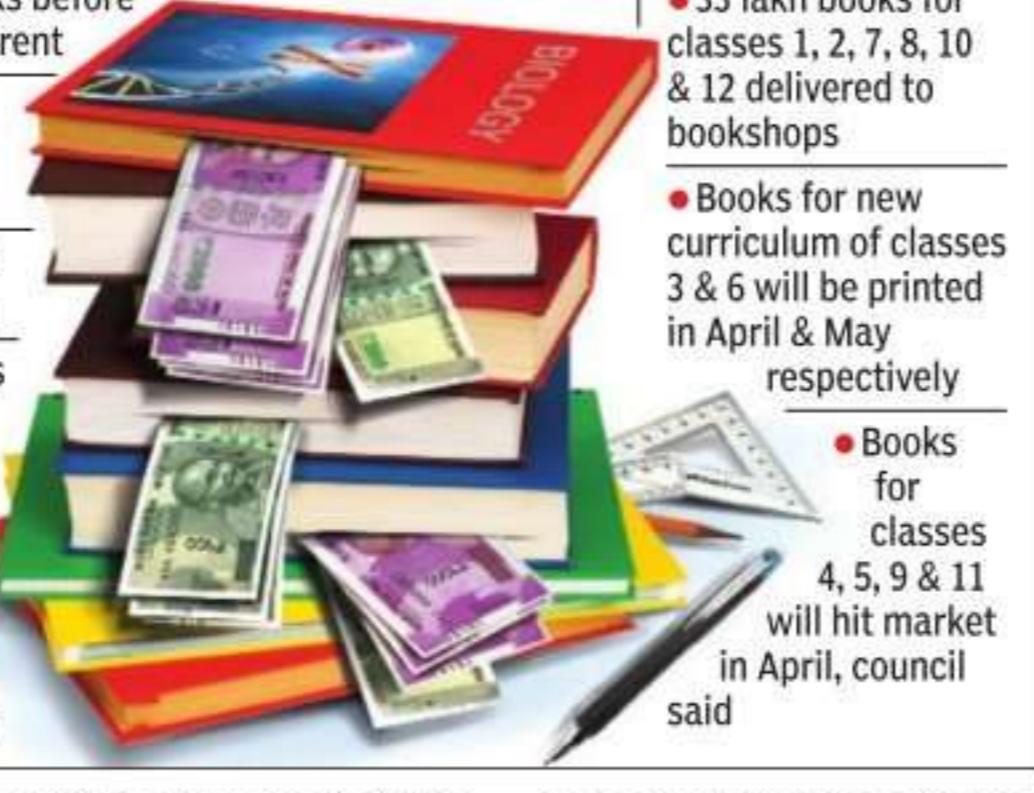
STRIVING TO MAKE BOOKS AVAILABLE ON TIME: NCERT

PARENTS' CONCERN

- Books of new curriculum are not going to be available anytime soon
- Why can't CBSE provide all books before academic year begins, asked a parent
- Many books are even not available in stalls at school, said another parent
- But teachers asking students to bring books to classes every day
- This is totally impossible as books found nowhere, said the parent

I have checked in several shops, but couldn't find class 9 first language, physics & English textbooks anywhere"

— C Vivek Reddy | PARENT OF A STUDENT



WHAT NCERT SAID

- NCERT, which publishes CBSE books, asked parents not to worry
- NCERT striving to make textbooks available on time, said council
- 33 lakh books for classes 1, 2, 7, 8, 10 & 12 delivered to bookshops
- Books for new curriculum of classes 3 & 6 will be printed in April & May respectively
- Books for classes 4, 5, 9, and 11 will hit market in April, council said

ve been printed and delivered to bookshops. Books for the new curriculum of classes 3 and 6 will be printed in April and May respectively. Books for classes 4, 5, 9, and 11 will hit the market in April. All students and parents are requested to be patient and not to worry," read a tweet from NCERT.

Parents said that boards shouldn't have started the new academic year in March itself, if books are not going to be available anytime soon.

Teachers said that they are encouraging students to borrow old textbooks from their seniors as several books are not available in the mar-

Nirupa.Vatyam@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Despite rules prohibiting schools from forcing parents to buy textbooks, many schools still do not share book lists with parents, forcing them to buy books only from the school stall or from the vendor the school has contracted with.

Parents said that although books are available at discounted prices online and also in some shops outside the school, they have to take all the books from the school itself as they are only sold as complete sets.

Schools selling uniforms, worksheets, & through vendors

A book kit costs between ₹4,000 & ₹15,000 depending on class & school

STATIONERY & UNIFORMS SOLD DIRECTLY OR THROUGH VENDORS

- Many books can be availed at discounted prices online & shops, said parents
- However, they have to buy all books from school as they are sold as complete sets
- Schools selling uniforms, worksheets, & through vendors
- A book kit costs between ₹4,000 & ₹15,000 depending on class & school
- Some parents said they want to buy books from shops outside
- But schools not sharing book list despite requests, they said

than buying the books from schools."

Some parents even took to 'X' to raise the issue. One among them was Parag who questioned the monopoly of schools and book publishers. "@cbseindia29 Can you check monopoly practice being followed by one of the well-known schools in Kokapet. Being a CBSE school they are sharing their book list only with one online book vendor and no other bookstores. The online book vendor only sells complete book set and at full MRP. This is just monopoly and looting parents," posted Parag with the handle @parag_a.



SCHOOLS NOT SHARING BOOK LIST

Hyderabad: Question papers in technical colleges — engineering, pharma and other courses — will be printed in Telugu soon as well as All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has directed universities and colleges to prepare bilingual question papers — English and local language, for the benefit of students coming from diverse backgrounds.

The decision is in line with the Centre's initiative to promote technical education in Indian languages in the country. "To give opportunity to the students for expressing their subject knowledge effectively in solving the question papers and to facilitate the conduct of examination it is desirable that the question papers may be prepared in bilingual languages and one language must be local language. Conducting exams in Indian languages offers several important purposes and can be beneficial for the students coming from diverse backgrounds," AICTE said in its directive.

AICTE said many students were not proficient in English and by offering exams in Indian languages, educational institutes could include a more diverse range of students.

AICTE said the move would promote fairness and equity, help students maintain their culture and identity, and understand questions better. TNN

RAMZAN TIMINGS	
Iftar (Monday)	6.47 pm
Sehri (Tuesday)	4.53 am

4-yr-old dies as boy lights matchstick while playing

Hyderabad: A 4-year-old girl died after she caught fire by a live matchstick that accidentally fell on her at Mangalhat. The incident happened while she and a boy (5) from her neighbourhood were playing with the matchstick on April 1. The girl succumbed to injuries on Saturday. The fathers of both the kids are policemen.

According to cops, the girl went to the house of the boy who was playing with a matchstick. The victim sat next to him. While playing with the matchstick, it lit and caught the girl's clothes.

By the time the boy called her parents, the girl was lying on the floor with burn injuries. They doused the fire and she was immediately rushed to Osmania General Hospital, where she died after battling for more than 5 days. "She suffered 55% burn injuries," Mangalhat police said. Since the boy is below 7 years, there won't be any police action against him. After post mortem examination, the body was handed over to the girl's family. TNN

Decomposed body found in cane farm

Vijayawada: Police recovered decomposed and decapitated body of a woman from a sugarcane field near a primary school in Kalasamalapalli of Thotlakur in Krishna district on Friday. While the identity of the deceased has not been established, the cops are assuming her age to be between 30 to 40 years. TNN

Dozens hang out on cable bridge hrs after fatal crash

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Visitors hang out on Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge on Sunday

Hit-&-run driver got car from friend for a joy ride

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

According to police Naveen is unemployed and the car that he was driving was borrowed from his friend, Dhanraj. The latter was given the vehicle by his owner, Venkat Reddy, and asked to sell it.

"Dhanraj was looking for buyers when Naveen borrowed the vehicle from him to go on a joy ride around the city," said a cop. While returning home, he hit two people killing one of them. He then fled from spot.

Based on CCTV clues and the number plate that fell at the spot, cops identified the vehicle owner. Subsequently, on his admission, cops identified Naveen.

One person died and another injured when the car hit the duo in the early hours of Saturday, while they were taking a joy ride on the bridge.

Naveen has been booked under Sections 304A (causing death by negligence) and 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the IPC.

Officials say people set fire in forest for better growth of tendu plants

Wildfires in Mulugu forest man-made, says official

Shiva Kumar Pinna

Mulugu: Fire ravaged thousands of hectares of forest in Mulugu district. The forest department suspects the handiwork of a few miscreants in the outbreak of the fire.

Miscreants likely set forest having tendu trees on fire deliberately to get better growth of young tendu plants, which are more commercially valuable. There is also a tendency among contractors to burn forest areas as having tendu trees to have a better flush of leaves, Wazeed Forest Range Officer (FRO) B Chandramouli said.

Miscreants had been burning the forest to make money by selling tendu leaves and so far, 90,000 hectares of forest area have been intentionally burned by miscreants, he said.

"We suspect the local cattle rearers and shepherds behind the wild fire," Chandramouli said. The forest personnel rushed to the spot with a quick response team and brought the fire under control by using air blowers, the FRO further said, adding that the personnel have made arrangements to prevent such incidents in future. The forest beat and section officers are also trying to minimize losses in case of forest fire. "We are creating awareness and cautioning forest dwellers."

Mulugu District Forest Officer (DFO) Rahul Jadhav said they were preparing a report on the forest fire and submit it to the govt soon.

"We have intensified bike and foot patrol, but visitors do not seem to be bothered about their safety and troubling other users on the stretch. They are leaving the place when we tell them, but are returning when we go to the other end and loitering there," said a cop.

Officials say people set fire in forest for better growth of tendu plants

URBAN ORGANISM



An aerial view of the newly opened Sagar Ring Road in the night. With connectivity increasing with the flyover, the colonies have extended beyond the city

Phone tapping case: Accused used Snapchat, Signal to liaise

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Investigators probing the alleged phone tapping case have found that the accused and suspects were using Snapchat, Signal and WhatsApp to communicate among themselves.

"They all decided to communicate with each other through encrypted social media apparatus as they thought using technology and tools would ensure they do not get caught," said an investigator.

After the BRS party lost the 2023 assembly elections and Congress government started a probe into the phone tapping incident, the accused allegedly erased the data from their phones about the communication.

Prior to the 2023 polls, WhatsApp groups were crea-



ted for each district and all the intelligence ground staff who were involved in the surveillance on the opposition parties, used to share information in the respective groups. It was accessed by several senior Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) sleuths, investigation has revealed.

The data from the WhatsApp groups were recovered by investigators from the phones of lower rung intelligence sleuths and it was used to confront the accused. They were many phone num-

bers which were exchanged between the accused and their ground staff, to continue surveillance on opposition leaders and their associates.

Though SIB was originally set up to gather anti-naxal intelligence, Hyderabad police, during their probe found that some of the SIB teams were deployed to gather political intelligence by monitoring opposition leaders.

The arrested prime accused, former SIB's deputy superintendent of police D Praneeth Rao, was heading the Special Operation Team (SOT), wherein he and his handful of people were allegedly involved in phone tapping and social media scraping by targeting opposition leaders, their family members and friends, besides businessmen and others.

Nooyi advice: Now, safety is top priority for Indian students abroad

Students Abroad Alert Post Spate Of Violent Cases

Amisha.Rajani@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: A recent video by former PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi, addressing Indian students studying overseas to prioritise safety and avoid trouble, has resonated with hundreds of those either working or pursuing an education in a foreign country. Her video was released amid a spate of instances where Indian students were assaulted — some leading to deaths — or caught on wrong side of law.

Since the beginning of this year alone, more than eight Indian students have reportedly

died in the US, with an equally high number of them having been attacked or mugged.

TOI spoke to some students and working professionals currently staying in the US, UK, Canada etc, who agreed how moving to a foreign country is not always a smooth sail and comes with a lot of struggles. Sharing their experiences, they listed out some dos and don'ts that students must bear in mind.

Understand rules

"The first priority should be to thoroughly understand the rules and laws, including traffic regulations. If they own a vehicle, it's crucial to carry a licence and insurance at all times. Ignorance of these rules can result in dire consequences. If one is caught violating laws it could result in imprisonment or, in severe cases, deportation to their home country," shared Amitav Sanjay, a resident of Uppal who is current-

RECENT ATTACKS & DEATH CASES OF CITY STUDENTS

● Syed Mazahir Ali (23), studying at Illinois Institute of Technology, severely hurt by 4 robbers in Chicago on Feb 4

● Shreyas Reddy Benigeri (19) found dead in his dorm room at Lindner School of Business in Ohio on Jan 31

● 27-year-old Tejaswini Reddy Kontham stabbed to death at Needles Crescent in London's Wembley on June 15, 2023

● 28-year-old woman sustained injuries after being stabbed in same attack, but survived

ceping cash payments.

"It's important to understand the risks involved; one could not only face deportation if authorities discover such activities, but also be banned from entering that country again," he cautioned and advised students to adhere to permitted working hours which is typically 20 hours or consider on-campus employ-

ment opportunities.

Stay close to college

Some also highlighted the significance of having accommodation close to college. "While university housing is both economical and secure, students often opt for co-living spaces, shared apartments, or studio apartments to experience the city better," said Saurabh

Arora, founder of University Living, a provider of accommodation services for international students. However, he stressed that such accommodations should be within a 20-minute walking distance from the college, and if it's late, students should rely on public transportation rather than walking alone in the dark.

Steer clear of strangers

Some also cautioned against befriending strangers, highlighting the potential dangers as students are vulnerable targets for petty criminals. "Speaking from personal experience, our inclination to assist others can be risky, especially if we don't know the person," said Ayesha Charaniya, from Yavatmal, Maharashtra, who has been living in Texas for 11 years. She advised against helping strangers, citing common occurrences of individuals faking the need for assis-

stance to later extort money or threaten students.

Know your city

She recommended that students should get an idea about the city from their teachers or college friends or simply search online to avoid certain locations. "Every city has a few pockets which are filled with goons, criminals, thieves and burglars. It is always advisable to avoid venturing around such locations," added Charaniya.

Don't overshare on social media

Another important issue highlighted by many was the excessive use of social media. Indians residing abroad often share excessive updates about their location, college, or accommodation on social platforms. "It's wise to avoid adding strangers on social media and to refrain from sharing day-to-day details, especially

on open accounts," said Avinash Lanjewar, a master's student in computer science in Melbourne, Australia.

Discussing health insurance, Nitashi Yerola from Abids, a nursing student in Vancouver, emphasised the high cost of healthcare in Canada. "Upon completing my two-year course, obtaining a work permit is necessary to claim insurance. Unfortunately, before I could secure insurance, I fractured my hand in a road accident," Yerola recounted.

"I had to personally cover expenses exceeding six lakhs for treatment, nearly wiping out my savings. Thus, the transition period from college to work is critical, requiring individuals to prioritise self-care like avoiding sports and adventurous activities and students should opt for public transport during this period to avoid injuries etc to avoid unexpected medical expenses."



CPM'S MANIK SARKAR URGES PARTY WORKERS AND SUPPORTERS TO VOTE FOR ALIY CONGRESS IN LS POLLS

CONGRESS IS BENT UPON HARMING COUNTRY'S UNITY AND INTEGRITY, SAYS UNION MINISTER ANURAG THAKUR



TMC links BJP neta to 'NIA attack', calls him 'gaddar'

NIA Will Come Even For Choco Bomb: Mamata

Tamaghna Banerjee & Tanuja Singh Deo | TNN

Kolkatा/Purulia: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Sunday directly linked BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari to an "NIA attack" on women in East Midnapore's Bhupatinagar the previous day and contrasted BJP's over-dependence on central agencies to win elections with Trinamool's focus on social development.

Mamata fired the salvo at state opposition leader Suvendu without naming him, alluding

to him as "gaddar (traitor)". She was speaking about the row around the NIA team that had gone to Bhupatinagar to arrest suspects in a 2002 blast case. Bhupatinagar is a part of Contai LS seat, where Suvendu's brother Soumendu is the BJP candidate.

"The women were sleeping when NIA entered their home in the gaddar's area without informing the police. In the past, goons have created trouble in Singur and Nandigram, wearing police uniforms. How would the women understand if they were real officers? Since the women protested, they have lodged complaints against them. Ram Navami is coming. You would see that even if a 'chocolate bomb' bursts, NIA will come again."



The chief minister said. The state had seen clashes during Singur and Nandigram, wearing police uniforms. How would the women understand if they were real officers? Since the women protested, they have lodged complaints against them. Ram Navami is coming. You would see that even if a 'chocolate bomb' bursts, NIA will come again."

BJP leader went to NIA SP's home: TMC

Kolkata: Trinamool on Sunday alleged that a state BJP leader, Jitendra Tiwari, had met an NIA SP at the latter's Kolkata apartment on March 26 after the model code of conduct had kicked in and declared that it would move the Supreme Court.

The allegations came a day after NIA's raids in East Midnapore's Bhupatinagar during which two local TMC leaders were arrested in a 2022 blast case. A 10-member TMC delegation will next week brief the Election Commission (EC) on the alleged visit. TMC claimed Tiwari had carried a "white packet" and was at the apartment of the NIA SP, Dhan Ram

Singh, from 6.30pm to 7.22pm on March 26. TMC said if a denial was issued, it would release CCTV footage. Tiwari, who was earlier with Trinamool, hit back. "They (TMC) should give proof within the next one week. Otherwise, I will take legal action." State leader of opposition, BJP's Suvendu Adhikari, dared TMC to "release the footage".

NIA released a statement on the Bhupatinagar case but did not refer to these allegations. NIA official Singh could not be reached for comment.

Trinamool claimed if Bengal could have three DGP in 48 hours - referring to the poll panel's transfer of top cops recently - EC could also pack the NIA SP off for meeting a political leader at home.

NIA: Attack by villagers was 'unprovoked'

New Delhi: A day after West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee accused the NIA of "attacking" local residents during raids in East Medinipur, the central agency strongly refuted allegations of any malafide on its part in Saturday's action and said it were the villagers who had unleashed an unprovoked attack on its team. Telling the entire controversy as unfortunate, NIA made it clear its actions were bona fide, lawful and legally mandated as part of its ongoing investigation into the heinous crime related to fabrication of crude bombs, which had caused an explosion and killed three persons in Naruabila village, Purba Medinipur district in Dec 2022.

NIA said its team had come under violent attack by an unruly mob as it reached Naruabila on Saturday to conduct searches. "The attack was completely unprovoked and uncalled for, and an attempt made to obstruct NIA from carrying out its lawful duties," the agency said. It said the searches at five locations in East Medinipur were conducted in the presence of independent witnesses.

NIA reiterated that an aggressive crowd had assaulted its personnel as they took arrested accused Manobrata Jana to the local police station to complete the legal formalities. TNN

Rats ate seized drugs at thana, J'khand cops tell court

Dhanbad: Looks like even the rats are trying to get high on the job as a confiscated stash of 10kg of cannabis and 9kg of marijuana kept as evidence in a contraband case in the storehouse of a police station in Jharkhand's Dhanbad had quietly disappeared, reports Anil Ashutosh.

Jai Prakash Prasad, investigating officer in the case involving a father-son duo, testified in principal district judge Ram Sharma's court in Dhanbad that the culprits behind the disappearance were none other than rats. Hence, he was unable to produce the evidence.

The public prosecutor informed the court about Prasad's written submission and the filing of a station diary documenting the rodent heist. While the accused, arrested in Dec 2018, may be breathing a sigh of relief at the lack of evidence, the real question remains: just how high can rats climb the criminal ladder?

Woman smoking at paan shop kills man staring at her, is held

Soumitra.Bose@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: A 24-year-old woman was arrested with her two friends on the charge of murdering 28-year-old Ranjit Rathod, a father of four girls, late Saturday night allegedly for ogling at her while she was smoking a cigarette at a pan shop in Maharashtra's Nagpur, police said Sunday.

The crime, captured on CCTV, has shocked the local community. According to police reports, the altercation began when Jayashree Pandhare felt offended by the stares of Rathod, who was at the shop to buy cigarettes. Rathod had recorded on his cellphone a video clip of Jayashree blowing smoke circles towards him and verbally abusing him. The video also shows Rathod retaliating and exchanging abuses with Jayashree, who was with her friend Savita Sayare.

Enraged, Jayashree called her friends Akash Raut and Jeetu Jadhav to confront Rathod, who left for home after the altercation. However, Rathod stopped to enjoy a beer at Mahalaxmi Nagar, where the assailants accosted him. The situation quickly escalated, leading to Rathod's fatal stabbing. CCTV footage shows Jayashree stabbing the man multiple times with a knife. Following the murder, the four fled.

Ready for talks with Centre, says Ulfa-I chairman Baruah

Prabin.Kalita@timesgroup.com



Guwahati: On its 45th foundation day on Sunday and just ahead of Lok Sabha elections, the proscribed Ulfa(I) proposed that New Delhi should create a favourable atmosphere for a meaningful dialogue so that an amicable political solution was achieved.

In a video message, the outfit's chairman Pares Baruah said: "The United Liberation Front of Assam (Independent) is quite willing to engage in dialogue within a specific timeframe and agenda on our legitimate right of restoration of sovereignty."

Baruah pointed out that "restoration of political rights doesn't mean secession." "To jaw-jaw is better than to war-war," he said quoting Winston Churchill.

He said Congress "not only betrayed by creating inequality in the name of politics but also exploited and plundered the valuable natural resources of our naturally rich region."

At the same time he said, "What is even more terrible is that BJP has not only exploited and plundered but also legalized citizenship to the people imported by the Congress. Now it is using stories from Ramayana and Mahabharata as a tool to promote Hindu fundamentalism in our region. This approach threatens to erase the unique religious practices, living history, and reality of the tribes and communities that have inhabited this land since time immemorial."

He said Ulfa (I) understands that common people and intellectuals of Assam want "us to look for a negotiated settlement".

But he pointed out that the erstwhile 'United Liberation Front of Assam' "surrendered

in good faith to the Indian authorities expecting something substantial in a negotiated settlement, and the result is there for all to see." Baruah called BJP and Congress two sides of the same coin.

He said Congress "not only

exploited and plundered the valuable natural resources of our naturally rich region."

At the same time he said, "What is even more terrible is that BJP has not only exploited and plundered but also legalized citizenship to the people imported by the Congress. Now it is using stories from Ramayana and Mahabharata as a tool to promote Hindu fundamentalism in our region. This approach threatens to erase the unique religious practices, living history, and reality of the tribes and communities that have inhabited this land since time immemorial."

He said Ulfa (I) understands that common people and intellectuals of Assam want "us to look for a negotiated settlement".

But he pointed out that the erstwhile 'United Liberation Front of Assam' "surrendered

Vistara cutting 10% flights following mounting discontent among pilots

Saurabh.Sinha@timesgroup.com



TROUBLED TIMES FOR VISTARA

New Delhi: Vistara is cutting 10% flights—mostly domestic—following mounting discontent among pilots over the twin issues of "inhumane" rostering that is inducing fatigue & stress and impending pay cuts, reports Saurabh Sinha. This capacity cut just ahead of peak summer travel season could send the already high airfares further up north due to a worsening demand-supply mismatch.

While passenger numbers are at a record high, there are few planes to fly them for a variety of reasons like almost 75 A320s of IndiGo being grounded due to snag-ridden Pratt & Whitney engines; grounded GoAir; SpiceJet operating fewer flights and slower than promised supply of new planes from crisis-hit Boeing and Airbus.

"We are carefully scaling back our operations by around 25-30 flights per day; roughly 10% of the capacity we're operating. This will take us back to

of rising airfares, a trend largely fuelled by an imbalance between supply and demand. As domestic air passenger traffic continues to surge, the industry grapples with a capacity crunch. Nearly 25% of the fleet is anticipated to be grounded by the end of this fiscal year due to maintenance and mechanical issues, exacerbating the situation." Both domestically and internationally, the air travel industry is facing unprecedented challenges and changes that directly impact fare structures, the online travel agency added.

Vistara was supposed to see the maximum increase in weekly domestic flights among big airlines this summer at 2,324—up 25% from 1,856 last time. But now that seems unlikely to happen. The airline says "all affected passengers have already been re-accommodated on other flights... with this all changes for April 2024 have been done and the situation has already gotten better."

'Road collision not an act of God': Bombay HC junks tribunal order

Swati.Deshpande@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Setting aside an almost two-decade-old MACT order, Bombay high court recently held that a head-on collision between a car and an state transport bus in 1997 was not an 'act of God', directing the insurance company and MSRTC to pay compensation of over Rs 20 lakh each to the three remaining family members of the car owner, Rajesh Sejpal, who died during pendency of his appeal.

In its April 4 order, a division bench of Justices A S Chandorkar and Jitendra Jain said that an 'act of God' would mean something not in control of the human being, but in this case, there was no averment like

HC asks Himachal to pay Emergency allowance

HC notice to Odisha on doctors' plea

Orissa high court has issued notice to the state govt seeking response to a PIL for intervention against private practice by govt doctors as it was allegedly taking its toll on quality of healthcare in state-run facilities. TNN

foggy weather and the collision was in the centre of the road. "Hence, it cannot be a case of an act of God and the principle of elimination applied by the tribunal is erroneous," the bench said, holding both drivers 'equally responsible and negligent'.

Motor Accident Claims Tribunal

had in 2005 by a "process of elimination" ruled out negligence by either driver and held the accident to be an 'act of God'.

The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation bus had collided with the car carrying four people on Nov 14, 1997 at around 5.15pm.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL / EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

प्र. नो. प्र. के. (वे) में लेवल संवेदकों (यू.एस.एल.एस.एल.) के संविरचन, समुद्रव्यवहार, परीक्षण एवं इनकी सुपर्दीनी के लिए अनियकि।

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR FABRICATION, ASSEMBLY, TESTING AND DELIVERY OF LEVELSENSORS (USLS & HDS) AT LPSC (B).

नियारित तिथियाँ / SCHEDULE

इओआई की तिथि / EOI Date : 08.04.2024
नियत तिथि / Due Date : 07.05.2024

सभी प्रस्ताव गोप्तव्यवाही वालों के बीच विभिन्न विकल्पों के बीच चयन किए जाएं।

All Proposals in sealed cover should be sent to "Purchase and Stores Officer, Administration Building, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Bengaluru - 560008" through registered post/ courier/ direct delivery on or before bid submission due date.

हस्ताक्षरित / Signed

क्र. व मंडार अधिकारी / Purchase & Stores Officer

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL / EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

प्र. नो. प्र. के. (वे) में दाव ट्रांसडब्ल्यूरों के संविरचन, समुद्रव्यवहार, बंशोकन, परीक्षण एवं इनकी सुपर्दीनी के लिए अनियकि।

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR FABRICATION, ASSEMBLY, TESTING AND DELIVERY PRESSURE TRANSDUCERS AT LPSC (B).

नियारित तिथियाँ / SCHEDULE

इओआई की तिथि / EOI Date : 08.04.2024
नियत तिथि / Due Date : 07.05.2024

सभी प्रस्ताव गोप्तव्यवाही वालों के बीच विभिन्न विकल्पों के बीच चयन किए जाएं।

All Proposals in sealed cover should be sent to "Purchase and Stores Officer, Administration Building, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Bengaluru - 560008" through registered post/ courier/ direct delivery on or before bid submission due date.

हस्ताक्षरित / Signed

क्र. व मंडार अधिकारी / Purchase & Stores Officer

'Kanyadan' not essential under Hindu Marriage Act, 'saptapadi' is: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: The Lucknow bench of Allahabad high court has recently said that 'kanyadan' is not necessary for solemnisation of a Hindu marriage under the Hindu Marriage (HM) Act.

The court said only 'saptapadi' (Sanskrit for 'saat phere') is an essential ceremony of Hindu marriage and the HM Act does not provide for the ceremony of 'kanyadan' for a Hindu marriage.

A bench of Justice Subhash Vidyarthi made the above observation in the course of hearing of a revision petition filed by one Ashutosh Yadav.

Yadav had challenged an order passed by the Lucknow additional sessions judge on March 6, whereby the judge had declined to recall two prosecution witnesses for their re-examination during the trial.

The petitioner, who is contesting a criminal case filed by his in-laws, had maintained before the trial court that his marriage under the HM Act mandated a 'kanyadan' ceremony, which was not performed in his case.

"The HM Act merely provides 'saptapadi' as an essential ceremony of a Hindu marriage... Whether the ceremony of 'kanyadan' was performed or not, would not be essential for the just decision of the case," the bench said and junked the revision plea.

Pune deck cadet goes missing from ship sailing to Singapore

Pune: A 22-year-old Pune resident, working as a deck cadet on a merchant ship, went missing from the vessel sailing from Indonesia to Singapore, his father said on Sunday.

"My son Pranav is employed with Wilhelmsen Ship Management India Pvt Ltd, a US-based company with its India office in Mumbai. He joined six months ago. He was on board the ship from where he was reported missing since Friday afternoon. The company officials communicated this to us on Friday evening. However, they did not explain to us how he went missing," said the cadet's father, Gopal Karad, a private driver. TNN

BOOK YOUR RECRUITMENT ADS

FOR BOOKING PLEASE CONTACT
Dilip
9000881016

To Book Online Log on To
Ads.timesgroup.com

SCAN TO LOG IN

EXCLUSIVE OFFERS AND ASSISTANCE

Book your Classified Ad in 3 easy steps

Scan QR code or logon to ads.timesgroup.com

1. Select your city and ad type.
2. Upload your creative and content.
3. Pay online

Exclusive offers | 100% online

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquiries and seek appropriate advice before spending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times of India Group does not accept any liability made by the Advertisers of products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and Owners of The Times Of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.


Stay Informed. Stay Updated.

Scan & Download the **Voter Helpline App**, your voting guide to get all relevant information on elections.

**चुनाव का पर्दा
DESH KA GARV**
LOK SABHA ELECTION 2024

CBC 5210173/0005/2425

SC forms panel to determine Great Indian Bustard habitat

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court has appointed a fresh seven-member expert committee to determine the core habitat area of the highly endangered Great Indian Bustard (GIB) for banning overhead power transmission lines. The panel is to submit a report to the court through govt by July 31.

The CJI-headed bench said, "The committee may balance the need for preservation of GIB, which is non-negotiable, with the need for sustainable development, especially in context of meeting the country's international commitments towards promoting renewable sources of energy. By leveraging scientific expertise and engaging stakeholders in meaningful consultations, this approach ensures that conservation efforts are grounded in evidence and inclusive of diverse perspectives."

Accepting sustained arguments from attorney general R Venkataramani, solicitor general Tushar Mehta and additional SG Ashwarya Bhati, the bench said, "India's commitment to promoting renewable energy sources, particularly in regions like Gujarat and Rajasthan, aligns with its broader sustainable development objectives. By transitioning towards solar power and other renewable energy sources, India aims to not only reduce carbon emissions but also improve energy access, foster economic growth and create employment opportunities."

The bench said, "Forest dwellers or tribal and indigenous communities are at a high risk of losing their homes and culture, which is inextricably intertwined with the places they live in and the resources of that place. Indigenous communities often lead traditional lives, whose dependence on land is of a different character from dependence which urban populations have on the land."

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA

GATI SHAKTI VISHWAVIDYALAYA
(A Central University under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India)
Lalbaug, Vadodara, Gujarat 390004

गति शक्ति विश्वविद्यालय
(रेल मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के आधीन केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय)

ADMISSION NOTICE : AY 2024-25

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), Vadodara is a Central University established by an Act of Parliament [Central Universities (Amendment) Act 2022]. The University is sponsored by the Ministry of Railways, Govt. of India. Being a University of first-of-its-kind, GSV focuses on transport and logistics related education, multidisciplinary research and executive training. GSV invites applications for admission to the following academic programs across Technology and Management disciplines for the AY 2024-25:

Discipline	Level	Program	Duration	No. of Seat	Entrance Test
Technology	Under-graduate (Regular Programs)	B.Tech. in Civil Engineering (Specialization : Rail Engineering)	4 Year	60	JEE (Main) 2024 Admission through JOSAA Visit JOSAA website https://josaa.nic.in/ for details.
		B.Tech. in Electronics and Communication Engineering (Specialization : Rail Engineering)	4 Year	60	
		B.Tech. in Mechanical Engineering (Specialization : Rail Engineering)	4 Year	60	
		B.Tech. in Electrical Engineering (Specialization : Rail Engineering)	4 Year	60	
		B.Tech. in Artificial Intelligence & Data Science (Specialization: Transportation and Logistics)	4 Year	60	
		B.Tech in Aviation Engineering	4 Year	30	
Management	Post-graduate (Regular Programs)	MBA (Logistics and Supply Chain Management)	2 Year	30	CUET-PG/ CAT/ MAT/ XAT
		MBA (Ports and Shipping Logistics)	2 Year	30	
Executive Programs - Exclusively for Working Professionals					
Technology	Post-graduate (Executive Programs)	M.Tech (Intelligent Transport System)	3 Year	20	GSV Entrance Test
		M.Tech (Railway Engineering)	3 Year	20	
Management	Post-graduate (Executive Programs)	MBA (Logistics and Supply Chain Management)	2 Year	30	GSV Entrance Test
		MBA (Multi-modal Transportation)	2 Year	30	
Technology/ Management	Doctoral (Sponsored)	MBA (Metro Rail Management)	2 Year	30	GSV Entrance Test/ JRF/SRF/GATE
		Ph.D (Engineering)	-	-	
		Ph. D (Management)	-	-	

♦ Apply Online at- <https://gsvadm.samarth.edu.in/2024>

♦ Visit GSV website (<https://gsv.ac.in>) for detailed information about the programs.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The only University in India exclusively focused on transport and logistics education.
- Multi-disciplinary programs based on demand-driven curriculum addressing industry needs.
- Innovation Led & Industry Driven University with strong emphasis on industry connect.
- Collaborations with top Higher Education Institutes and Industry.
- Highly experiential and unique inter-disciplinary pedagogical approach incorporating latest technologies.
- High quality and experienced faculty with global exposure.
- Focus on 21st century skills: communication, critical thinking and innovation.
- Project-based teaching-learning, and well-structured Internships at Indian Railway Establishments and other organizations.
- State of the art Railways facilities and Lab infrastructure.
- Excellent Hostel facilities for the UG students and female PG students -for regular students only.
- GSV Financial Aid upto 100% of tuition and 50% of hostel fee - only for the eligible regular students.

Post C'garh policy, 2k Reds laid down arms

►Continued from P 1

Since 2019, when Chhattisgarh govt first floated its surrender policy, over 2,200 Maoists have laid down their weapons, leaving behind the life where they had to "constantly look over their shoulders, fear every whisper of the jungle, and live in harsh conditions under a brutal leadership".

One significant change for surrendered Maoists is the ability to start families. Under Naxals' orders, couples were prohibited from having children, fearing it will detract from their militant cause. They couldn't have babies bawling while on the hunt or being hunted by security forces. Male members were coerced into vasectomy to enforce this rule. However, surrendered Maoists are supported by the administration to reverse the procedure, enabling them to have children. This is how Atami became a father: "I surrendered in 2020 and the next year, police took me to a hospital to reverse 'nasbandi'. When I surrendered, my wife of today was still with Maoists. I wrote to her to give up arms and join me. She did. And now we have a baby boy. He is a gift of God and police," Atami said, adding: "We could create a new life as we got a new life."

Bastar Range IG P Sundarraj said in past 10 years, 26 surrendered Maoists underwent vasectomy reversal, and 12 have become parents in Bijapur, Narayanpur, Kanker, Dantewada and Sukma districts. Some for-



'When I was a Naxal, I had nothing. Now, I have everything.' For Bhima Markam, who spent seven years as a Maoist, everything has changed

mer Maoists joined District Reserve Guards, a police wing that spearheads anti-Maoist operations – an all-tribal unit that trains them in guerrilla warfare. Many opt for livelihood, training or agricultural pursuits, seeking to stay away from guns, bloodshed and death. The administration provides loan support for self-employment or farming endeavours, allowing them to rebuild their lives away from conflict.

Authorities in Bastar have set up camps in Jagdalpur and Dantewada for surrendered Naxalites. Here, they begin a new life under police monitoring, away from the reach of Naxals who are always on the lookout for revenge. Surrendered Maoists create a community of their own once back in the mainstream society. In Dantewada, a group of surrendered Maoists got together to form a farmers cooperative and 'Jai Layyor Jai Kamma' – meaning "youth will now take up farming". They asked for a tractor from the administration, hoping to try their

luck, and were stunned when a "swanking red one" rolled into their village.

A Maoist-turned-farmer said: "I was with Maoists for nearly eight years. All I knew was bloodshed and agony. My decision (to surrender) brought back dignity to my family. This is the first time in life that I am at peace. I'm happy that I hold a plough, not a gun, and that I can earn my livelihood." For Bhima Markam, who spent seven years as a Maoist, the transition has brought newfound stability and security. "When I was a Naxal, I had nothing. Now, I have everything. Earlier, police used to hunt for me. Often, I'd think I wouldn't live through the day. Today, I can earn money to feed my family and go wherever I want. I don't have to live in fear," said the father of a two-year-old daughter.

Despite dangers of being killed by ex-comrades, surrendered Maoists affirm that the opportunity for a peaceful existence is a risk worth dying for.

Teen's plea led to formation of air quality mgmt panel in Oct 2020

►From P 1

ognising the importance of extending these facilities beyond Delhi, Neha filed a subsequent PIL in Supreme Court in 2022. Avyaan is now six years old; a student of Class 2.

As Delhi wore its vicious smog cloak, 13-year-old Aditya Dubey's sinuses flared up. He initiated tree plantation campaigns to combat air pollution in Delhi-NCR. With public support, Aditya led efforts to plant one million saplings. However, realising the need for more comprehensive action, he filed a PIL in SC at the age of 17, demanding a permanent solution to Delhi's annual air quality crisis.

"I realised that planting saplings is not enough... I was concerned about the well-being of people around me as my aunt and some friends are asthmatic," said Aditya, now 21, and currently studying computer sci-

ence at University of Wisconsin-Madison. His petition led to formation of Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in Oct 2020.

In 2016, Supreme Court took a significant step in combating air pollution during Diwali in Delhi by banning firecrackers, responding to a petition filed by Arjun Gopal, Aarav Bhandari, and Zoya Rao Bhasin, children of advocates.

The following year, when the children were between two- and four-years-old, they approached the top court once again, urging for reinstatement of the ban and advocating for prohibition of firecracker sales in Delhi. The top court, acknowledging the gravity of the situation, found merit in the children's plea and the arguments presented by lawyer Gopal Shankaranarayanan, father of Arjun Gopal.

6 held in Guj for selling samosas with cow meat

Vadodara: Owners of a popular samosa shop in the city have been arrested along with four others for stuffing cow meat in their samosas and selling them to unsuspecting customers. TNN

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GANDHINagar
MTech Admissions, Semester I, 2024-25

Online applications are invited from highly motivated candidates for admission to MTech programmes in Artificial Intelligence, Biological Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Earth System Science, Electrical Engineering, Integrated Circuit Design and Technology, Mechanical Engineering and Materials Engineering.

Application deadline : 17 April 2024
For more information, please visit : www.iitgn.ac.in/admissions

YOGA NATA TATHA VASTU KALA VIJAYAWADA
School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada

An Institute of National Importance, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
Survey No.4/4, ITI Road, Vijayawada – 520 008, AP, India.
No. 1/SPAV/Acad/PhD/Admission/2024-25/01
08 / Apr / 2024

NOTIFICATION FOR DIRECT ADMISSION FOR DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

SPA-Vijayawada announces the admission to Doctoral Programmes (Part Time & Full Time PhD) in Architecture, Planning, and Building Engineering and Management, under various categories. For further Details, Deadlines, Fees, Admission and Application process, please visit - www.spav.ac.in

Sd/- Registrar

IN THE HIGH COURT FOR THE STATE OF TELANGANA :: AT: HYDERABAD
Arbitration Application No. 173 OF 2023
Between:
Gummadi Venkat Ram Reddy & others ...Applicants
AND
Mrs. Alpine Infratech ...Respondent
To,
Mrs. Alpine Infratech, A Partnership Firm, Represented by its Managing Partner Mohd. Aamir Hussain, Son of A.J. Ashfaq Hussain Having its registered office at Plot No.22, Flat No.301, Satyam Residency, Janakpuri Colony, Secunderabad, 500009, Sir.

Take notice that the Applicants, Sri. Gummadi Venkat Ram Reddy & three others have filed Arbitration Application No. 173 of 2023 against you on the file of the Hon'ble High Court for the State of Telangana, Hyderabad against you seeking appointment of Arbitrator. The said case is directed to be listed on **02-05-2024**. You are hereby required to enter your appearance on or before **02-05-2024** either personally or through a duly instructed counsel and on your failure to appear by the said date, you will be decided ex parte and the matter will be decided in your absence as per law.

(By order of the Court)
Anand Chandarana, Advocate, 101, Ashish Orchids, Narayanguda, Hyderabad-500029
Counsel for Applicants

A range of yummy pickles rooted in tradition

RED CHILLI PICKLE

MANGO PICKLE (AVAKAYA)

TOMATO PICKLE

GONGURA PICKLE

LIME PICKLE

A Quality Product from SWASTIK MIRCH STORE, Hyderabad

No added colours or preservatives.

AVAILABLE AT ALL MAJOR SUPERMARKETS & STORES.

Trade Enquiries: +91 70751 74203 / 040-2339 5532 / 5068

Follow us: [/Swastik spices](#) [/swastik.spices](#)

Buy Online at: www.swastikspices.com

Available in all General Stores and Supermarkets

Also available at Online Store: [ibuyfood](#)

Corrupt INDIA bloc leaders are either on bail or in jail: Nadda

Trichy/Madurai: The Narendra Modi government made India stronger through a raft of schemes that benefited marginalised sections, women, farmers and the youth, BJP national president J P Nadda said while campaigning for NDA candidates in central and south Tamil Nadu on Sunday.

He bore down on the opposition, calling INDIA bloc "a conglomeration of corrupt parties whose leaders are either on bail or in jail".

"DMK stands for dynasty, swindle and katta panchayat (kangaroo courts), while Congress is full of corruption. All parties in the opposition alliance are family parties embroiled in corruption."

Nadda said extreme poverty in India declined to less than 1% due to Pradhani Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana, which benefited 80 crore people. "We took care of Dalits, tribals and people who were left behind, and by doing that, we made India stronger," he said.

At Ariyalu, where he campaigned for P Karthiyayini, BJP's candidate for the Chidambaram (reserved) seat, Nadda said Tamil Nadu was special to PM Modi. "PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, a direct benefit transfer programme, and Jal Jeevan Mission benefited 30 lakh farmers and 80 lakh people, respectively." TNN

Rajnath bats for 'One Nation, One Election' at Bikaner rally

Stresses Need For Streamlining Poll Process

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Defence minister Rajnath Singh and Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal along with others during a public meeting in Bikaner on Sunday

Cong govt fed biryani to terrorists while poor starved, says Yogi in Raj

PCM Yogi Adityanath on Sunday fired a broadside at Congress, accusing it of soft-pedaling terrorism, divisive politics, graft, misgovernance, and working against Hindu sentiments. "During Congress government, biryani was served to terrorists, while the poor kept starving. But BJP govt ensured that 80 crore people are covered under PDS and receive ration for free," Yogi said during public rallies in Rajasthan, mobilising support for BJP candidates in Bharatpur, Dausa, and Sikar Lok Sabha seats. Yogi credited PM Modi with taking the country on the path of development. He said that people aware of the poll outcome will favour Modi. TNN

the next century belongs to India. This credit goes to PM Narendra Modi."

Dismissing the notion of BJP being embroiled in Hindu-Muslim disputes, Singh pointed out that five Islamic nations have conferred their highest civilian awards upon PM Modi.

INDIA bloc a den of corrupt, anti-national people: Modi

Jai Narain Pandey | TNN

Patna: The opposition INDIA bloc has neither vision nor credibility, but its constituents are engaged in an unseemly scramble for the prime ministerial, PM Narendra Modi said at Bihar's Nawada on Sunday.

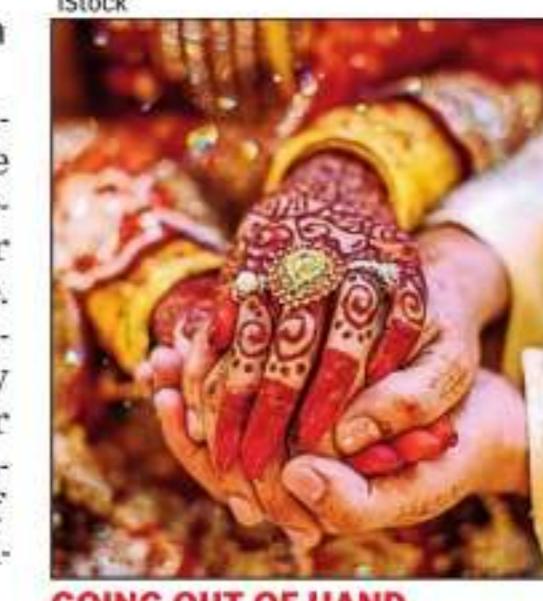
"Unke beech sirf utawal machi hai (there is just infighting in the group). One of the alliance leaders refused to campaign until he was declared the PM candidate," Modi said.

The INDIA bloc is a den of corrupt and anti-national people trying to divide the country between north and south. They have come together under compulsion to protect the corrupt, but don't know who their leader is."

While releasing his party's manifesto on Friday, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said the INDIA bloc would take a decision on its prime ministerial face after the general election.

Wedding crasher: Polls in peak shaadi season trigger taxi rush

Tanmayee.Tyagi@timesgroup.com



GOING OUT OF HAND

Dehradun: Elections in Uttarakhand, coinciding with the peak wedding season, have resulted in a surge in demand for buses and cabs across the state. Families who had made preparations for weddings say they are struggling for vehicles for their baraat (wedding processions) since a large number of taxis and buses have been diverted for election duty.

According to information made available by the transport department, a total of 12,395 vehicles, including 3,653 buses and 7,161 private taxis and cabs, have been acquired by state authorities for election duty.

"The INDIA bloc is a den of corrupt and anti-national people trying to divide the country between north and south. They have come together under compulsion to protect the corrupt, but don't know who their leader is."

This year, peak wedding season has also arrived around this time with April 18, just a day before the polls, being considered the most auspicious day of the season to get married. Priests say that the wedding season gains momentum after Baisakhi on April 13, and extends until April 24.

"We have a wedding in the family on April 18 and the vehicles we had booked more than a month back are no longer available. We have had to make alternate arrangements at short notice. None of the taxi services we know have any available vehicles for those dates. We are in a dilemma what to do," Janardhan Singh, a Dehradun resident, said.

N P Singh, who runs Sanjeevni Travels, a prominent city-based cab operator, said,

"Vehicles from almost all transport agencies have been engaged for polls. Between April 17 and 20, buses and cabs will be engaged at booths and transporting security forces among other election-related works. This has come about even as the wedding season demand for vehicles is also high, and customers are facing issues due to unavailability of vehicles on these dates."

Meanwhile, state transport authorities said they will address the concerns of those who are facing difficulties in arranging vehicles for their events. "If there is any genuine case where a vehicle engaged in poll duty is needed for private purposes, we will consider the request and address it," regional transport officer, Dehradun, Sunil Sharma, said.

Lekhashree, BJP's face and vocal Naveen critic, joins BJD

Bhubaneswar: In politics, there are no permanent enemies. This was evident after BJP's Odisha vice-president Lekhashree Samantsingh, who till the other day was a vocal critic of chief minister Naveen Patnaik, joined BJD on Sunday and could be the party's nominee for Balasore Lok Sabha seat, reports Debabratra Mohapatra.

Balasore is the only seat where BJD has not fielded any candidate yet. If picked, she would be BJD's seventh woman candidate for the 21 Lok Sabha seats that will simultaneously go to polls with state assembly elections.

"I gave my sweat and blood to BJP for the last 10 years. Despite my hard work and sincerity, I could not earn the trust of the leadership," Lekhashree resignation letter addressed to BJP state president Manmohan Samal read.

Another jolt for Cong: U'khand ex-minister quits party, joins BJP

Dehradun: Former cabinet minister and three-time MLA, Dinesh Agarwal, joined BJP on Sunday, a day after resigning from Congress. Agarwal previously held the forest, law, and sports portfolios in Congress govt from 2012 to 2017. He represented Dharampur seat and was among the senior-most ministers. Incidentally, he was among the star campaigners shortlisted by Congress for campaigning in Uttarakhand, reports Gaurav Talwar.

On joining BJP, Agarwal said he commenced his political journey with Congress in 1968, but now, "there is complete lack of leadership in the party. It is no longer possible for any ideological and public-minded person to remain in Congress."

Praising PM Modi, he said, "Wherever I go, I hear the same thing that there is no leader like PM Modi in this era." Following his resignation, Congress suspended him for six years for "anti-party activities".

Cong's quota vow aims to fulfil long-standing promises

Subodh.Ghildiyal
@timesgrou.com

New Delhi: The Congress Manifesto 2024 is heavy on reservations in the private sector, with the party seeking to fulfill two key promises — job quota in private sector and education quota in private institutions — that it could not deliver during the decade of UPA in power.

The pledge to create a "diversity commission" to "measure, monitor and promote" diversity in public and private employment and education, has shades of what Congress had promised in 2004. The manifesto had then promised to create a "national consen-

BALLOTS IN OR BALLOTS OUT?

In those days, as only about 20% of the population was literate, polling booths had a row of ballot boxes with symbols, says former journalist K Vishwanathan. "The ballot paper merely had to be dropped into the box that had the symbol of the candidate being voted for. But confusion ensued since it was the first election, and some ballot papers were found placed on top of the boxes instead. Fraudulence was rampant, and interested parties would collect these and drop them in their own candidate's box," says the 92-year-old.

Counting, he says, took several days and people got to know the results only through newspapers. Not many people lived to old age, so there was no question of postal votes.

"Women from Thanjavur-Trichy belt were progressive and made sure they cast their vote. They had been active during the freedom movement as well."



A SENSE OF POWER

It was the first election in which anyone could be a candidate and that gave a lot of confidence to the common man and the working classes, says R Raman, principal of Presidency College in Chennai. "Until then local landlords held power and were the presidents of panchayats. The 1952 election was thus a kind of celebration for the masses; they felt the country belonged to them, for the first time. It brought people together. Meetings were held all night, till 4am and 5am, often on the beaches of Chennai, as there were no restrictions on the timings."

FRAMED: The photographs are of the 1957 election from Madras, and from the magazine Madras Information (1957), Connemara Public Library

BACK UP OR PAY UP

As quoted in the Madras Information magazine (editions 1951-1952), the rules of campaigning were that anyone who held a public meeting or canvassed on polling day within 100 yards of a polling station even in a private place, or exhibited signs could be arrested without warrant and fined up to ₹250 (more than ₹20,000 today).

Any person who tampered with a ballot box would also lose the right to vote in future elections.

PITCHER, TWIG OR CAMEL?

Party candidates who were qualified to fill reserved seats were distinguished by a black circle around the party symbol. Independent candidates had to specify in their order of preference, any three symbols out of only six options — bow and arrow, boat, flower, pitcher, camel and a twig with two leaves, left after allotment to the All-India parties and state political parties, says T S Krishnamurthy, former chief election commissioner.



FOR THE PEOPLE: Campaigning in the time of Kamaraj

POLL NUMBERS OVER THE YEARS

1952 51.5% of the country voted (8.9 crore voted out of 17.3 crore). There were over 2.7 crore voters in Madras State which included parts of modern-day Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh

1957 only 47.57% voted (9.2 crore out of 19.3 crore)

1962 Polling period was reduced to less than a week from the initial 19 days. The number of polling booths were increased to 2.5 lakh, one for 900 voters. No one had to travel more than one mile to vote. Also, a new system of voting was introduced where the choice of candidate was indicated on the ballot paper itself. Until then, each candidate had a different ballot box.

Source: Madras Information magazine

Compiled by Asha Prakash

sus" on reasonable SC/ST share in private sector jobs, and had proposed to hold a dialogue with the industry to devise ways of accomplishing it.

A group of ministers held talks with the industry, raising the tempo to the point of the possibility of a law to enforce quotas in the private sector. Later, amid uproar from the corporates, the govt settled for "voluntary" affirmative action, with a high-powered committee in the PMO to follow up on the issue. The compromise offered never raised hopes of any forward movement.

Though the 'Nyay Patra' (doctrine of justice) has again promised a voluntary measure for the private sector, the "di-

versity commission" is a crucial step forward as it would collect caste-wise employee data, including of OBCs, from individual companies. It is likely to be used to create social and institutional pressure on corporates about any low share of weaker sections on their rolls.



ON MISSION RESERVATION

versity commission" is a crucial step forward as it would collect caste-wise employee data, including of OBCs, from individual companies. It is likely to be used to create social and institutional pressure on corporates about any low share of weaker sections on their rolls.

Given that Congress has

already made "caste survey" a flagship plank, the diversity commission seems like a follow-up body. But compared to private jobs, it is in diversity in private education that Congress seems decisive.

The frontal promise "to enact a law to provide for reservation in private educational institutions for SC/ST/OBC" is a direct reference to what the Congress-led UPA did under then HRD minister Arjun Singh in 2008.

While the govt had effected the 93rd constitutional amendment to enable quotas for OBCs as well as SC/STs in public and private institutions, the enabling Act limited it to introducing OBC res-

ervation in the govt's higher education institutions.

The reason for limited action on the original idea to extend the quota frontiers was the backlash from within Congress as well as from outside.

The introduction of 27%

OBSC quota in IITs and IIMs, besides central universities, led to an uproar, with claims of limited infrastructure and compromise on quality, forcing Congress on a prolonged fire-fighting mode.

The fresh vow to take the incomplete UPA task to its logical conclusion is a novel social justice move in view of the proliferation of the private sector in education to make up for the shortfall in the intake capacity.

►Continued from P 1

Accusing Kharge of "speaking the language of the tukde-tukde gang", the PM said his remark was tantamount to disrespecting the sacrifices of countless security personnel from Rajasthan and other states, including Bihar, killed in the line of duty in J&K.

In Dhubguri, he had spoken of the "sacrifice" made by Jan Sangh founder Syama Prasad Mukherjee, a native of Bengal, in "keeping J&K with India". On Congress's manifesto, Modi said it had the "Muslim League" stamp of appeasement politics. The PM contrasted it with BJP-led NDA's development vision,

saying the past 10 years had already shown the heights India could achieve.

The PM, campaigning for BJP's Navdanya candidate Vivek Thakur, urged voters not to lose this opportunity to give the party another massive mandate to continue the work. "Modi is not born to enjoy life, but to work hard 24x7 and not take rest until his mission to eradicate poverty from the country is accomplished," he said.

Just as he did during his previous Bihar rally in Jamui four days ago, the PM questioned where Congress stands on the faith of millions. "The Congress leadership expelled those who visited Ayodhya for the consecration of the Ram temple. I don't know what they have against Prabhu Shri Ram. Ram Navami is coming, remember those who sinned," he said.

Without naming Pakistan, Modi said "jo Bharat ko aankh dikhata the, woh aajata ke liye bhatak raha hain (those who threatened India are now desperate for flour)". Bihar CM Nitish Kumar looked on as the PM listed the work done in Bihar whenever an NDA govt held the reins.

He asked the gathering to inform the younger generations about the previous 15 years of "jungle raj", when RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his wife Rabri Devi governed the state.



Education TIMES

educationtimes | @_educationtimes

THE PATH TO EXCELLENCE

Advertisorial, Education Promotional Feature

NCERT introduces new books for classes III, VI to discourage rote learning

The textbooks will be available in May 2024 and the CBSE schools will also make a fresh timetable to accommodate new subjects

Ayushi.Gupta1
@timesgroup.com

To promote project-based and activity-intensive learning, the NCERT will release new sets of textbooks for classes III and VI in May. Focussing on curriculum transition, the content of the textbooks will discourage rote learning and help students understand the course better. These books are aligned with the National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) introduced under the NEP-2020, to enhance the learning experience. For class III, three new subjects including Physical Education (PE), Art Education and World Around Us have been introduced to give a holistic learning opportunity to students. The resource management team of NCERT is conducting training programmes for the school teachers to effectively understand new pedagogies and familiarise them with the content in the new textbooks.

Foundation programme

The new subjects intro-

duced by NCERT will help in the well-rounded growth of the students. Besides the basic subjects, the students will have to learn these new subjects to get physically active, appreciate Art and acquire basic general knowledge. "The curriculum of class II was changed earlier and it was already aligned with the NEP-2020, thus, we have introduced new components besides the regular subjects for class III. These subjects

will impart basic knowledge and understanding through various engaging methods, including activities and other interactive approaches," Dinesh Prasad Saklani, director, NCERT told *Education Times*. Simultaneously, NCERT has developed a 15-day foundation programme for teachers to get familiarised with these new subjects. Under the foundation programme, vario-

Parents must not buy books for classes III and VI that are based on the old curriculum

us guidelines have been incorporated focusing on the well-rounded development of class III students. These guidelines include classroom-oriented, creative, and project-based activities, among other methodologies, adds Saklani.

The NCERT has requested the parents and students to avoid getting panicked, assuring them that the textbooks will be made available without any shortage.

Parents are urged not to purchase books for classes III

and giving clear directions. The revised curriculum will emphasise transforming reading and learning sessions into enjoyable and motivational experiences. Simultaneously, it will aim to offer a tailored learning environment, fostering a culture of joyful learning rather than rote memorisation," adds Saklani.

Art-related activities

In the first week of April, NCERT officially shared the soft copies of the new textbooks designed for classes III and VI to CBSE. The school timetable will also be revised and will be aligned with the new plans to allow students to participate in art-related activities. "The CBSE will formulate strategies for imple-

mentation of a new curriculum based on redesigned books," says Saklani. The NCERT has formulated a comprehensive 'Curriculum Transition Plan' following the directives of the NEP-2020. As part of this plan, various transition documents have been compiled. The BMP reflects just one aspect of the transition plan.



PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

RTI activists point to corruption nexus over non-payment of stipends

Shuddhanta.Patra
@timesgroup.com

As many as 100 post-graduate (PG) students of a private medical college in Sullia, Karnataka recently complained of non-payment of their monthly stipend by their college authorities. This has once again opened the can of worms highlighting the problems faced by the PG medical students across medical colleges in India.

Karnataka students claim in their persistent requests for stipend have fallen on deaf ears of the college authorities. Earlier this week, the PG students decided to stage a protest against the college management if their stipends were not released. This is not a single case, as several private medical students across the country have complained of non-payment of stipends. As per the NMC, PG doctors must receive Rs 45,000, Rs 50,000, and Rs 55,000 for their first, second, and third years, respectively. However, most students claimed that they received Rs 10,000, Rs 12,500, and Rs 15,000, respectively.

Uniformity in stipends

In 2023, an NMC survey revealed that 27% of PG students in private medical colleges did not receive stipends. As many as 4,288 PG students claimed that the compensation they received was not at par with the amount paid in government medical colleges. The stipend for PG students varies from one state to another, ranging from Rs 45,000 to Rs 95,000. Few private medical colleges give less than Rs 25,000 as a monthly stipend, while some students get the money in instalments.

The NMC has issued guidelines to all medical institutions to have uniformity in stipends for PG students. The NMC had warned that strict action for non-compliance with the provisions of the Regulations of PGMER, 2000, would be taken against medical colleges if any complaint is received in future regarding stipend irregularities. Speaking to *Education Times*, a senior

Salary scam

Dr Aviral Mathur, president, (FORDA), says, "The mal-practices are most common in deemed universities and the ones that have been granted recognition recently by the NMC. In government colleges, there are issues such as delayed salaries. Colleges prescribe a certain salary on paper only to take it back from the student sooner or later. The salary scam is a big nexus."

NMC official says, "Stipend is mandatory for all medical students. The Commission has formed strict laws against stipend irregularities but corruption continues to rule the roost. NMC conducts physical inspections annually to check the accounts in all medical colleges. Sometimes, the stipend allotted to medical colleges does not reach the students. Many a time, private medical colleges give a stipend to their students but take it back from them by increasing the tuition fees. If any written complaint comes to NMC, action against such medical colleges will be taken immediately."

According to Right to Information (RTI) activist Sharanaabappa Ambesinghe, who is spearheading the movement against stipend irregularities, there is an ongoing stipend scam across the country. "The NMC must make surprise visits and seek audit reports to check such malpractices. Every month colleges deposit the stipend amount in the bank accounts of students, the record of which is usually shown to the NMC. However, it later withdraws the amount through cheques collected from all of them in advance."

Mathur says, "This is also because of the mushrooming of medical colleges across the country. The authorities do such corruption to get NMC recognition in a short period".

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

Choose the most suitable synonym for the following:

- Pavonine
Related to : (A) novels (B) ballet (C) peacocks (D) serpents
- Temerarious
(A) Gregarious (B) reckless (C) rubble (D) ambush
- Viridescent
(A) Azure (B) nostalgic (C) dazzling (D) greenish
- Humdudgeon
(A) Bete noire (B) dungeon (C) imaginary illness (D) bugbear
- Impulsive
(A) Powerless (B) prolific (C) pelulant (D) pedantic
- Harbinger
(A) Scavenger (B) doyen (C) herald (D) descendent
- Choose the closest antonym for the following:**
- Knotty
(A) Messy (B) virulent (C) convoluted (D) unproblematic

Answer Key to last quiz:
1.D 2.D 3.C 4.C 5.B 6.C

Join Classroom/LIVE Online/Online Course for
CAT 2024/25
T.I.M.E.
Triumphant Institute of Management Education Pvt. Ltd.
Enrol online @ www.t4e.info/enroll or [40088300/400](tel:40088300/400)



and VI that are based on the old curriculum, as these will not be utilised in schools. However, textbooks will be first released online in different languages.

Teacher training

NCERT has formulated a month-long programme for the teachers, who will enable students to think critically, be creative, and will help them use languages proficiently. "The teachers will undergo a comprehensive training programme called Bridge Month Programme (BMP), which will provide diverse learning approaches, including engaging activities

The UGC promotes Tele MANAS

The UGC has requested HEIs to widely publicise about the Tele-MANAS helpline, which is available 24/7 for the benefit of those in need of mental health and wellness services, free of cost. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had launched a trademark initiative Tele Mental Health Assurance and Networking Across States (Tele MANAS) on October 10, 2022, on the occasion of World Mental Health Day. It aimed to provide free telemental health services all over the country catering to people in underserved areas.



BITS Pilani

Pilani | Dubai | Goa | Hyderabad | Mumbai

BITS Pilani – RMIT PhD Research Partnership

Transform your **future** with a transnational collaborative **PhD** from two leading universities!

Attractive scholarships including tuition fees, funded travel to Melbourne, Australian stipend and overseas health cover!

Join a unique collaboration between:

- BITS Pilani (Birla Institute of Technology & Science)
- RMIT University (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology)

Experience world-class education combining the research expertise of both institutions and gain exposure to cutting-edge research and research facilities across:

- Business
- Science
- Engineering
- Computer Science & IT
- Mathematics
- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Health
- Design

Develop your research skills, network with renowned expert academics and gain hands-on experience conducting original research.

Highlights:

- Acquire an internationally recognised qualification from an Indian Institute of Eminence and a top Australian University
- Receive a full RMIT tuition fee scholarship for the duration of your enrolment
- Receive a generous scholarship with nominal tuition fee from BITS
- Benefit from the combined expertise of two leading universities and access world-class research facilities
- Travel to Australia for up to one year of candidature and be supported by an Australian stipend for the duration of your year in Melbourne

Candidates admitted to the program are jointly supervised by faculty from BITS and RMIT.

Apply now and unlock your full potential, empowering your future in academia or industry.

Closing date: 17th April 2024 for the July 2024 intake.

For more information visit: <https://tinyurl.com/586rdn5d>

To register and apply visit:
<https://bitrmit.edu.in/publicResources/ResearchProjects>



Dean | AGSR Division



NEW AGE INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHERS

Golden®

ENGLISH CORE

SCIENCE

HINDI

MATHEMATICS

CLASS XII

CLASS X

CLASS IX

CLASS VIII

CLASS VII

BUY ONLINE

TO BUY VISIT YOUR NEAREST BOOK SHOP

upes.ac.in



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

UPES
UNIVERSITY OF TOMORROW

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

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

For online programs, visit upesonline.ac.in

QS World Ranking 2024



Scan to unlock
tomorrow, today!

DANCE of DEMOCRACY

BATTLEGROUND INDIA | APRIL 19-JUNE 4, 2024

Full
SANDEEP ADHWARYU
Circle



Women make a stand with votes, but men keep seats

Roughly half of all Indian voters are now women. The increase in their numbers in the populous Hindi belt states over the past 15 years is shaping poll outcomes. But when it comes to Parliament and state assemblies, women still have less than 15% of seats

Atul Thakur & Chethan Kumar | TNN

India's first election was among the world's most challenging administrative tasks of the 1950s. Its unprecedented scale and prevailing social conditions — less than 20% literacy, for one — created many problems. It might surprise you that the names of about 2.8 million women, mostly in the Hindi belt, were struck off the electoral rolls because they wanted to be identified by their relation to men: A's mother, B's wife, C's daughter, etc. Over the years, Indian women's participation in elections as voters and representatives has increased but the progress is so slow that India remains far behind most major countries.

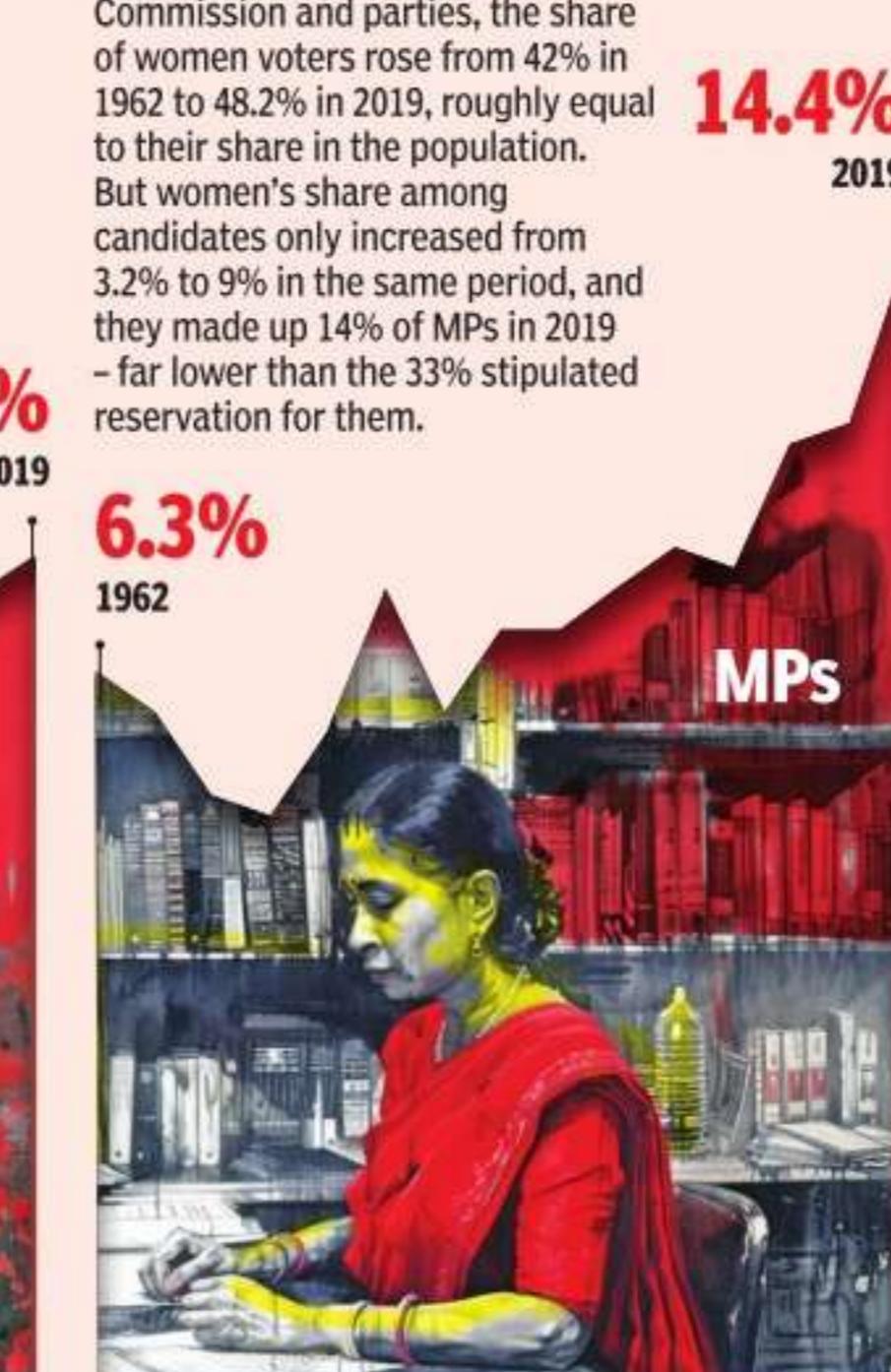


Seen as voters, not candidates

Continuous gender data is available for voters, candidates and MPs from 1962. While the number of women voters has steadily increased, their proportion as candidates and MPs has grown at snail's pace.



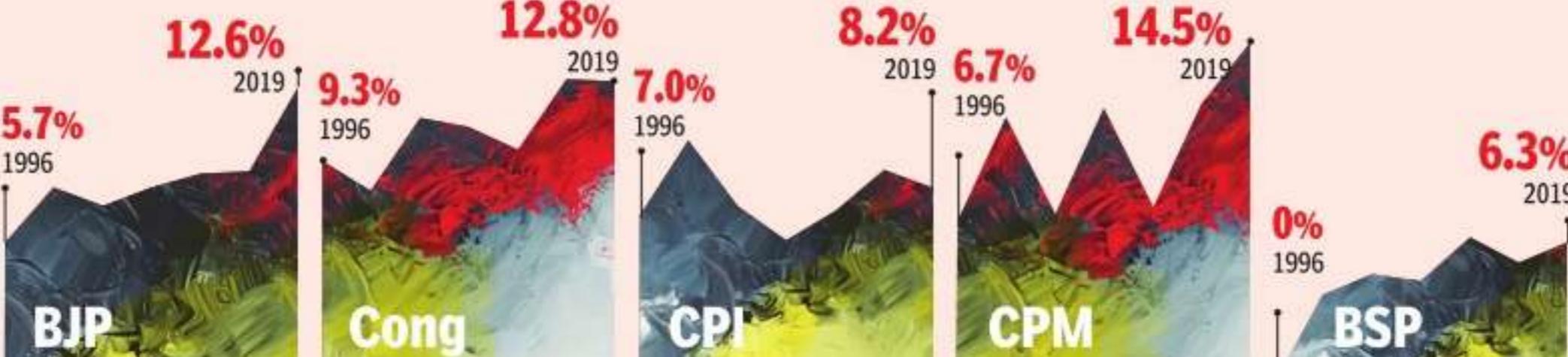
With the efforts of Election Commission and parties, the share of women voters rose from 42% in 1962 to 48.2% in 2019, roughly equal to their share in the population. But women's share among candidates only increased from 3.2% to 9% in the same period, and they made up 14% of MPs in 2019 — far lower than the 33% stipulated reservation for them.



Most parties stingy with tickets

Over the seven elections from 1996 to 2019, none of the top national parties gave more than 10% of their tickets to women even though the HD Deve Gowda-led United Front govt had introduced a Constitution Amendment Bill for reservation in Parliament in Sept 1996. Some parties did give more than 10% tickets to women in some elections.

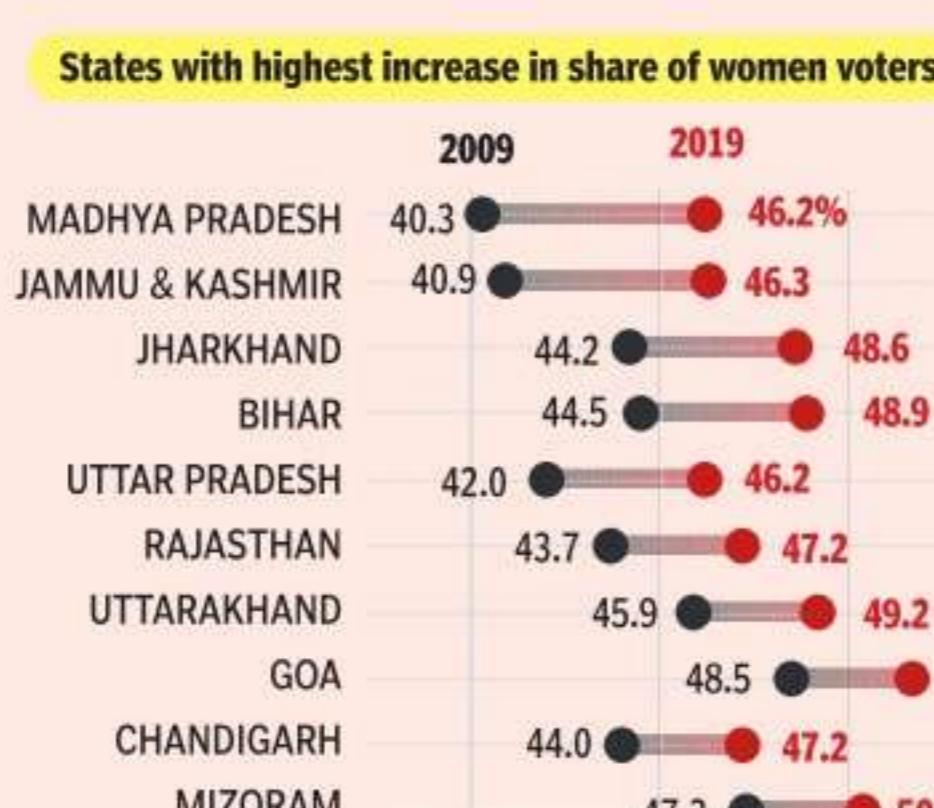
On average, Congress gives at least 1 in 10 tickets to women, while BSP gives only 1 in 20. BJP and CPI give 8% each, and CPM 9%. Taken together, women average 8.5% of these five parties' candidates.



Women decide results, even in Hindi belt

Just 15 years ago, in 2009, women made up less than 45% of voters in the states of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

These states have witnessed the highest increase in the share of women voters to catch up with the rest of the country.



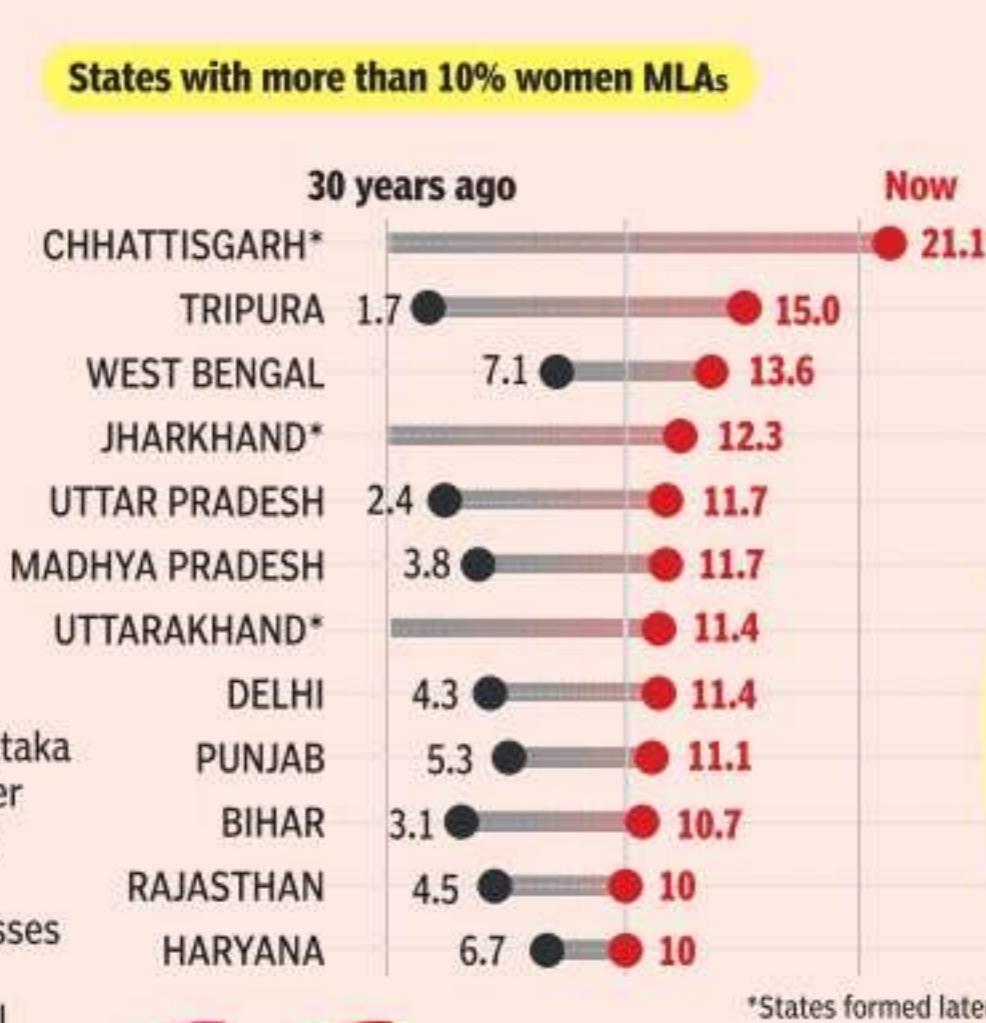
More women than men vote in 11 states

Women make up almost half of the voters in most states, barring a few like Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra and Gujarat that men migrate to for work. In 11 states and UTs, led by Puducherry (52.2%), women outnumber men as voters. Mizoram, Meghalaya and Manipur follow. Among other states, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu also have more women voters.

Women MLAs also a small set

Women are an important constituency that all parties woo with special schemes, such as free bus rides and direct money transfers, but they don't get many tickets even in state elections. In fact, all states with the exception of Chhattisgarh and Tripura have a smaller proportion of MLAs than parliamentarians.

Advocate and former Karnataka MLA Pramila Nesargi had earlier told TOI that men only want to see women as primary school teachers, nurses and air hostesses but not MLAs. "Until there's reservation, no major party will field women," she had said.



Graphics: Sajeet Kumaraparam

66

"All parties must give more tickets to women... But one must also address the fact that there aren't too many women who are 100% committed to just politics, thanks to the way society still operates."

Dolly Sharma | AICC SPOKESPERSON

Khushbu Sundar
BJP NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

"It becomes the responsibility of the parties that have voted in favour of the reservation bill to actively field women. The onus is especially on the two big national parties (Cong & BJP) which have claimed that getting more women into Parliament has been a long-cherished dream of theirs."

Priyanka Chaturvedi
SHIV SENA RAJYA SABHA MEMBER

What's driving the revolution?

Women voters have steadily increased during the past few elections, both in absolute numbers and as a percentage. What's responsible? TOI talked to a few experts.

Tara Krishnaswamy, who started Political Shakti to advocate for higher representation of women in politics, says the number of women voters has gone up because both population and education levels have increased. This means women are finally comfortable putting down their own names, rather than being referred to as someone's wife or mother.

Political parties have also played a big role in raising awareness. "It was in their

(parties') interest to woo women and bring them out to vote, as it meant an incremental increase in votes," she says.

"Political parties have been a catalyst for change by pursuing the women's vote and creating women-centric policy interventions, such as sops linked to women's education and livelihoods," Krishnaswamy says.

Kankshsi Agarwal, founder of NETRI Foundation, an incubator and aggregator for women in politics, says mobilisation of women became a core focus area when parties could no longer be assured of the male vote. "Men would migrate to work, and travelling back home to vote came at the expense of time and cost," she says.

The EC also did its bit. It created enabling conditions to make it more comfortable for women to visit booths and vote without being pushed and shoved by strange men, she says. There were special provisions made for pregnant women and seniors, too.

Agarwal stresses capacity-building. NETRI conducts training workshops for women not just to vote but as campaigners and public leaders. "Politics must be seen as a job. Just as you would train for a job, you need to train as a politician," she says.

So, what would be the ideal scenario? Instead of a "women's wing" in parties — which remains peripheral to decision-making — there should be a gender cell in every department of the party to examine each issue through the gender lens, whether it is poverty alleviation or climate change, Agarwal says.

— Himanshi Dhawan

18 states have never had a woman CM

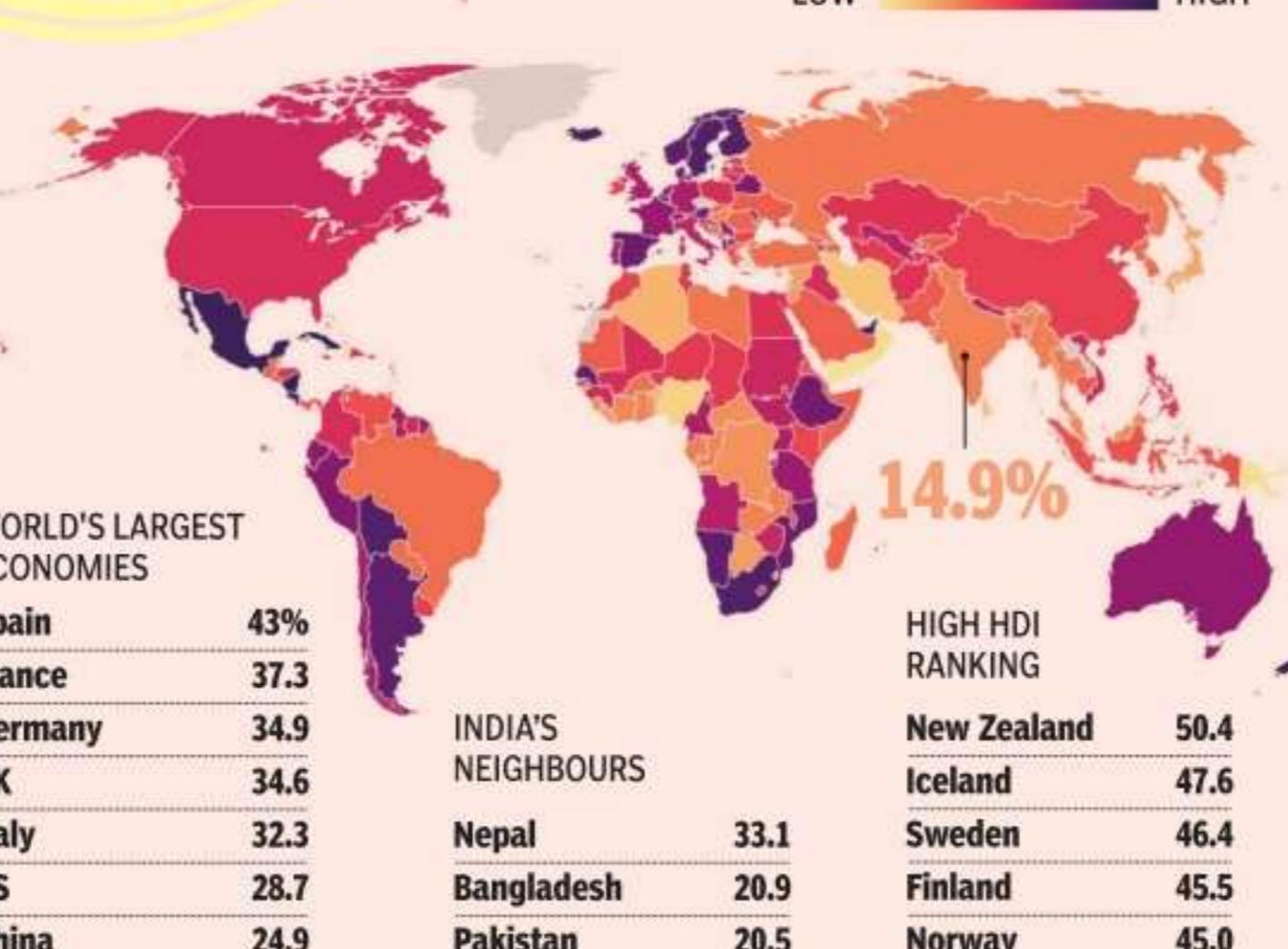
Only 13 of 31 assemblies in the country have had a female CM, while UP, Delhi and Tamil Nadu have had two each (not counting multiple terms of same CM)



Much catching-up to do

Countries with higher Human Development Index rankings tend to have higher women's representation. New Zealand, for instance, has more than 50% women MPs. Spain, France, Germany, UK and Italy also have more than 30% women legislators each in the lower House. India lags not only these wealthy countries but also Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan in its neighbourhood.

LOW HIGH



SURROUND SOUND

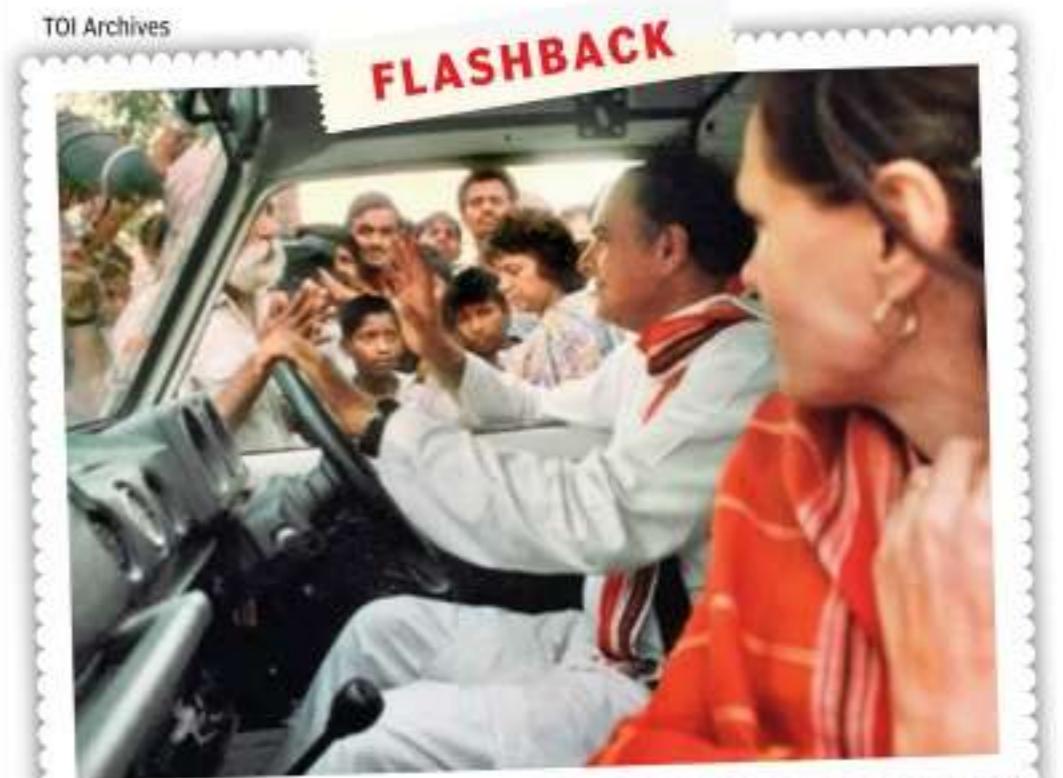


What makes Gogoi click? Selfies

Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi has a rather unusual metric to predict winnability: selfies. Gogoi, an MP from Kaliabor who is contesting from Jorhat, Assam, this time, expressed confidence of a win if the number of selfies he has been requested for on the campaign trail converted into votes. "I am overwhelmed with the love you have showered on me. If we convert those into votes, BJP will lose by a huge margin," Gogoi said to rousing applause and laughter. After Gogoi's Kaliabor seat was rechristened Kaziranga in delimitation, he was assigned the task of taking on BJP in Jorhat, which has become a stronghold of the saffron party over the last 10 years. Gogoi is hoping to build an emotional connect with voters, especially young ones. However, bridging the gap of over 82,000 votes, the margin by which Congress lost the seat in 2019, looks like an uphill task. PTI

'Party' all night in Lakshadweep

In pristine and remote Lakshadweep, electioneering has gone nocturnal with the poll season coming around Ramzan. That's because most islanders get out and about only after the breaking of the fast at dusk. It is properly night time when activities peak and party workers pop up to pray for votes. The pitch is vigorous as the constituency is vast. Its roughly 57,000 voters make it India's smallest LS seat, but they're spread across the archipelago's 10 inhabited islands, spanning hundreds of kilometres. Congress's Hamidullah Sayeed said they've hired a boat to move around the islands. He's taking on two-time MP Mohammed Faisal PP of NCP (Shardachandra Pawar) for the April 19 vote. PTI



1991 | After his mother Indira's death in 1984, the responsibility of leading Congress fell on former Indian Airlines pilot Rajiv Gandhi. Within four years of reluctantly joining politics following the death of younger brother Sanjay Gandhi in a plane crash he found himself as the holder of the Prime Minister's office. His Italian wife Sonia had grave misgivings about his political foray but had to give in. Here the couple is on the campaign trail in UP, months before Rajiv's assassination in May in Tamil Nadu's Sripurumbudur

Kyunki reality's not a saas-bahu show

Actor-politician Smriti Irani, who became a household name with the daily soap 'Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi', has said saas-bahu serials are very far removed from reality, and women voters need to pay attention to important political issues if they want to be taken seriously in politics. "Casting your vote is a heavy responsibility, it is not a game of any TV serial," said the Union minister in Bengaluru on Friday. "I request all the women, if we want everyone to take women seriously in politics, we have to pay attention to important political issues. Saas-bahu serials are very far from the realities of life. The women who understand this can have a successful social and political life," Irani said. ANI



Sound system not amicable to Kerala CM! Mics are not ready to listen to Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The latest incident was at Thalayolaparambu near Vaikom on Friday when he was speaking at KC(M) candidate Thomas Chazhikadan's campaign event. When the CM tried to adjust the mic, its stand broke. However, unlike previous occasions, he smiled and went back to his seat. The relief of LDF leaders didn't last long as smoke later emanated from an amplifier placed in the audience. The CM had to stop his speech again and could resume it only after fixing the snag. In 2023, a police case was registered over malfunctioning of a mic during Vijayan's speech at a meeting organised by Congress to commemorate the death of former CM Oommen Chandy. TNN

THEN IS NOW

RK LAXMAN



Certainly, I do shout, fight, damage property to serve the country as a politician. But you are kids and must play quietly



WE MAKE BIG DREAMS COME TRUE

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

PAGE
JUNIOR COLLEGE

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

Every man dies. Not every man really lives
—WILLIAM WALLACE

Can't Reserve Change

Congress manifesto's promise on quotas reflects failure of political parties to quicken economic transformation

Congress in its 2024 election manifesto has promised a constitutional amendment to push aside the 50% ceiling on collective reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs. It's a position all major political parties subscribe to even if it's articulated differently. It's presented as a social justice measure even though recent reservation agitations have their roots in India's jobs crisis. Reservations are not just the wrong response to this crisis, but they also run the risk of triggering unintended consequences.

Maharashtra's repeat performance | In Feb, Maharashtra passed a law to provide a standalone 10% quota for Marathas, taking the state's overall reservation to 72%. For a decade, political parties have repeatedly tried to introduce a Maratha quota even after each attempt has run into a judicial roadblock.

Not social but economic | A commission to generate data to provide a legal basis for the Maratha quota cites some factors that are fundamentally economic in nature such as suicides by farmers. More reservations cannot solve these problems because Marathas already get benefits under EWS quota. An analysis in **TOI** showed that Maratha students got more than 75% of EWS seats in the state's common entrance test in both 2022 and 2023.

Knock-on effect | The example of Marathas is similar to other recent reservation movements where relatively well-placed social groups such as Jats are now seeking reservations in some states.

Structural failure | All these movements are a symptom of an underlying economic failure. Since 1980s, India's economy has grown at a brisk pace by global standards. Yet four straight decades of good growth have not done enough to bring about the most important structural change, which is to move most of the workforce out of agriculture into manufacturing and services.

Getting left behind | GOI data showed that just before the pandemic 42.5% of the workforce was engaged in agriculture in 2018-19. By 2022-23, the proportion had increased to 45.8% even though India emerged from the pandemic as the fastest growing major economy.

Political parties are using reservations as a shortcut to deal with this challenge. It's bound to fail. But what's really risky is that it can trigger social strife as more powerful groups use their clout to ask for standalone quotas. The solution lies in reforms that quicken the labour movement out of agriculture, not further slicing and dicing of social groups.

Eyes In Space

Satellite tech is now crucial for winning wars on Earth. India must speed up its mastery over this domain

China, according to US, has started providing geospatial intelligence to Russia in its war against Ukraine. Aside from the fact this marks Beijing's increased involvement in the war on the side of Moscow, it also shows how critical satellite tech is to modern warfare. From guided navigation of fighter jets and warships to precision targeting and gathering real-time intelligence, satellite tech is the backbone of modern militaries.

Fourth domain | This literally makes space the fourth domain of military operations after land, air and sea. Case in point, in the early days of the Ukraine war, Russia tried to deny Ukrainian troops access to their Viasat satellite communications system by launching a cyberattack against the ground infrastructure. Subsequently, Ukraine also went to SpaceX and used its Starlink system for combat communications.

Star Wars 2.0 | All of this has made protecting one's satellites and having the capability to disable enemy satellites vital. A US intelligence report predicts satellites with radio-frequency jammers, chemical sprayers and lasers that disable competition over the next decade. China is already launching unmanned space planes into orbit and adding AI capabilities to its satellites. US now has a Space Force, the newest branch of its military.

India's catch-up | Though India now possesses ASAT capabilities or the ability to shoot down satellites, it has some ground to cover in developing 24x7 space awareness and integrating the armed forces with our space assets. True, GOI has established Defence Space Agency and Defence Space Research Agency. But since India's space programme was civilian in origin, it faces technical and operational gaps in developing military space assets. The solution lies in creating a military-space complex involving universities, think tanks, civilian experts, and commercial space companies. For today, mastering space is a national security imperative.

Stay with us

You say this in weak moments. Regret follows

Bikram Vohra



Columnist based in Dubai

Dubai is like a magnet for friends and relatives wishing to go on vacation and rash promises of 'stay with us' made in weak moments come to bite you in the butt.

It is one of those inexplicable coincidences that during this very week that wife's kin are perched on your porch, office is hugely busy and there is no chance of taking even a day off. Unlike when your relatives came, you took three days off. It is not deliberately, of course not, perish the thought, I just cannot duck work to go on a desert safari.

Anyway, here they are and wife is giving them the standard tour while pursing her lips at your inability to escort them on the cruise. By day 3 your kids heartily loathe their kids and want their room back, the help is looking daggers and you are paying for Uber for their sightseeing tours. Why, because somewhere it is written you cannot expect them to pay...it does not look nice, looking nice being a primary element in playing host.

Around day 4 you know the inevitable is coming. Can you loan them some foreign exchange, they will pay it back in rupees. If I wanted rupees I would have stayed home but peace must be maintained at all costs so off to the ATM we go. There is this general feeling that all Gulf expats are loaded to the gills and loaning money is small potatoes. If only they knew how easy it is to mangle the budget. There goes your ticket to the gold souk.

Now comes part II of the saga. The man wants to buy a top of the range camera with a long distance lens and your wife has told him that your very good friend runs an electronics store so now he wants you to call said friend and get a good rate. So you have to be obligated to said friend whom you haven't called in months and ask the favour that he grudgingly grants and everyone is happy.

Finally, it is flight day and much fake love is expressed seeing as how it was wearing thin on both sides. Then, you get this message that the camera we bought is flawed. What's this 'we'? You chose it, you tested it, you paid for it (with my money) I wasn't even there so what's with this collective ownership suddenly. Ask your friend to replace it, we got conned, we trusted you.

'We didn't get conned. 'We' were not in a partnership. 'We' is you, you call the shop and deal with it. And, there go the rupees.'

We were not in a partnership. 'We' is you, you call the shop and deal with it. And, there go the rupees.'



Edward Moon-Little

On the eve of LS polls in Assam (14 seats), Himanta Biswa Sarma faces little coordinated opposition. Bullish commentators say Congress will be reduced to a single constituency. The steady growth of brand Modi has been slow, but noteworthy. Himanta has proven a capable and popular CM, who has presided over undeniable economic growth in Assam. The pollution of Guwahati and the Brahmaputra floods do not feature among electoral issues. In a triumph of careful political management, this formerly volatile region will witness relatively peaceful elections revolving around identity politics.

Northeast parivar | Himanta has crafted a distinctly northeastern version of *Modi Ka Parivar*. While consolidating BJP's North-East Democratic Alliance, he has skilfully micro-managed the delicate inter-ethnic relations in Assam, becoming the arbiter for the state's many *bhumiputra* (sons of the soil) or "indigenous" communities – the words that abound on social media and will be key to these elections.

ST(H) or ST(P) | Himanta's smiling face greets visitors to Assam's caste certificate website: "Mission Bhumiputra". This is where members of Assamese tribes can obtain their ST(Hills) and ST(Plains) certificates, which secure for them a variety of regional reservation benefits. Drawing on an old bureaucratic distinction between hills and plains tribes, which goes back to colonial days in the Northeast, Assam govt today sees the plains ST(P) communities as being in greater need

The CAA formula | Himanta has dismissed concerns that CAA will impact Assam's demographics. For six years, tribal activists and influential student bodies like All Assam Students' Union have opposed CAA, which allows non-Muslims fleeing India's neighbouring states to apply for Indian citizenship. The few outspoken Assamese liberals argue that the Act puts an end to India's secularism, and indigenous activists fear that it will legalise mass migration, especially from Bangladesh. Himanta admits that the Act will create new citizens, but says the numbers will be negligible. Grievances against CAA remain a key rallying call for opposition leaders

like Rajior Dol's president Akhil Gogoi, but they are unlikely to turn the elections against BJP.

Decreasing importance of regional alliances | How long will BJP need its North-East Democratic Alliance? As BJP further embeds itself across Northeast India, it will soon outgrow the regional alliances that ensured its post-2016 successes. Regional opposition parties must innovate to survive.

Rajior Dol announced it will merge with Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) to create a new regional party after Lok Sabha polls.

Delineating indigenous Muslims |

Opposition to Muslim immigrants is now Himanta's loudest rallying cry. Goading his beleaguered Congress opponents, he warned that should they keep throwing support behind Muslims, "No Hindu will be left in Assam Congress by 2026." Having made it clear that he does not need the votes of the Miya, Bengali-speaking

Muslim immigrants, in Feb, Himanta oversaw the repeal of Muslim Marriage and Divorce Registration Act in the state. Ostensibly, this was meant to end child marriage and polygamy. If Muslims wished to be part of Assamese society, said Himanta, they could not marry underage daughters. In a concession to a minority within a minority, Himanta did adjudge five Muslim communities to be indigenous to Assam.

Managers, Learn This Bit Of Economics

Diminishing marginal utility explains why extra helpings of our favourite dish are not necessarily delightful. It's also a key business strategy for pricing, marketing & design

Somali Ghosh



We have all experienced the law of Diminishing Marginal Utility (DMU) in practice. We may have been eating our favourite dessert, a cookie, or a piece of cake, and found that beyond a point eating more just did not give the same level of satisfaction.

The more we have of something the less we value it subsequently. DMU, which originated in economics, is especially potent when incremental consumption of a product happens in quick succession. It touches many aspects of business, especially the marketing strategies associated with hotels, restaurants, social media posting schedules, brand and product management, discounting etc.

It's about behaviour | DMU is used to understand consumer behaviour and make strategic decisions. The aim being to maximise utility for consumers by offering products or services that provide the greatest satisfaction for each unit consumed.

This satisfaction is addressed through factors such as pricing strategies – price the first plate of food more than the incremental extra servings that may be ordered.

Climbing too fast | Let's consider an example. Ambition often plagues the

upwardly mobile professional, and in their drive to achieve the ultimate goal, they skew towards overachievement. The same is true of upwardly mobile brands.

Personal experience indicates that if important professional achievements follow one another in quick succession, then each subsequent achievement gets less traction, publicity and appreciation than the one before it. People under-

successful marketing is all about, every professional must market their personal brand through effective impression management. What holds for personal brands holds for brands in general, too many achievements communicated in quick succession are likely to get increasingly less traction with consumers.

Too much of a good thing | The length of stay in a hotel has been linked to decline in consumer satisfaction. The reason could be speculated as a decline in satisfaction being linked to a decline in the "wow" factor over time. How could this trend be reversed? The solution lies in additional benefits linked to the length of stay, with a new surprise element unfolding periodically as the length of stay increases in the form of a free gift or free amenity.

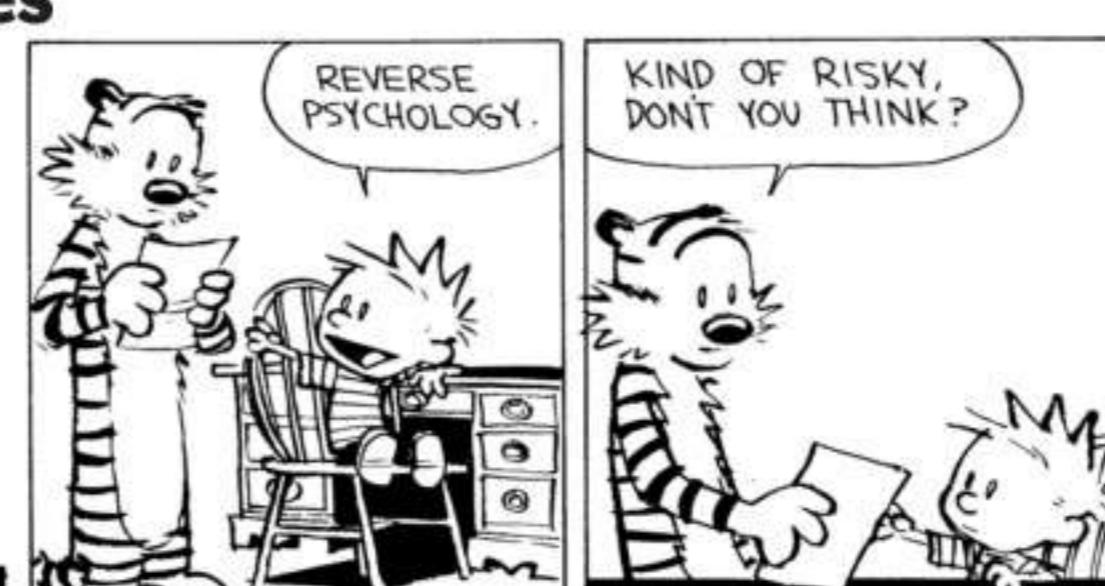
Quality, not quantity | Social media can also be impacted by DMU since algorithm-based social media platforms afford greater benefits to higher quality posts than to higher frequency of posts. Algorithm-based social media platforms employ a set of rules and signals to rank content through social feeds based on how likely a social media user is to like and interact with it. If a post gets satisfactory engagement, then a subsequent post should be paced to come so as not to disappoint.

Social media posts made too frequently can end up garnering less attention and even repel potential users, due to a lower level of novelty in the content posted.



Calvin & Hobbes

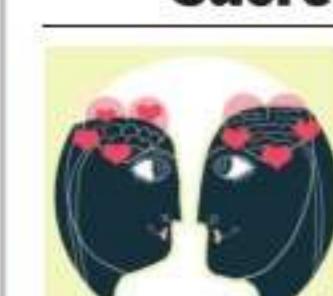
DEAR SANTA,
THIS YEAR, I DON'T
WANT ANY GIFTS. I
JUST WANT LOVE AND
PEACE FOR MY FELLOW
MAN.



12-8 © 1995 Watterson. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission of Universal Uclick.

NETCOM

Sacredspace



You're an interesting species...capable of such beautiful dreams, and such horrible nightmares. You feel so lost, so cut off, so alone, only you're not. See, in all our searching, the only thing we've found that makes the emptiness bearable, is each other.

Carl Sagan

Eclipse, Umbrella, Ellipsis And Umbra

Narayani Ganesh

As we await the total solar eclipse that will be visible in parts of North America on April 8, let's look at what an umbrella has in common with ellipsis and these two words, with ellipse. Both umbrella and ellipsis block or leave out something. The umbrella blocks rain, for example, and the ellipsis, words. Anu Garg, in his Word a Day online sharing, expands on the similarities between the ellipse, umbrella and ellipsis.

The word 'umbrella' comes from the Latin 'umbrā', shade, and 'ellipsis' comes from the Greek 'ékleipsis', which means, 'to fail to appear'. It's the same root word for 'eclipse', says Garg. The total solar eclipse that is to take place will happen when the Moon comes between the Sun and Earth. Imagine, the Sun that is some 400 times wider than the Moon, will 'disappear' from

sight, as the positioning is such that the much smaller Moon ends up completely eclipsing the mighty Sun.

"Maybe there's a metaphor in there somewhere," muses Garg. "You can overshadow and overcome the mighty; you just need to find the right place and right time." What comes to mind at a snap is the story of the little boy David and the tall and mighty Philistine warrior, Goliath. When the boy hears the towering Goliath – who was wearing heavy, protective armour and wielding weaponry – issuing a challenge to the Israelites for engaging in single combat with him. David, who happened to be with his slingshot and pebble, strikes Goliath in the centre of his forehead and kills him, and the Philistines flee the field.

THE SPEAKING TREE

The story illustrates how size and resources need not matter when it comes to facing daunting challenges. Being in the right place at the right time, is a big advantage, as we can see from the positioning of the Sun and Moon during the eclipse. To take Garg's metaphor further, we can safely say that when faced with formidable situations and/or people, what counts are presence of mind, confidence, faith, resolve, courage of conviction and good strategy.

Umbra, the shadow that falls as a result of the Moon obliterating the Sun from view and penumbra, the partly shaded region between fully dark and fully lit areas in the region close to the umbra, are handy metaphors for ignorant and partially ignorant persons who either live in darkness or in grey areas, robbed

of the brilliance of the Sun. The Sun could be likened to the inner light that is revealed when one comes out of darkness, so to speak, to strive for enlightenment and experience the warmth and brightness of knowledge and wisdom, like that of the Sun's.

Continuing to live in a state of occultation – hidden and blocked from the light – is like depriving oneself of light-filled experience, rather like the one, who, confined in a dark dungeon, resists the opportunity given to come into the free and open, lit-up world, when the time comes for his release.

Celestial events like the eclipse are reminders that we ought to reflect on our lives and strive to overcome obstacles. Even if the moment of overcoming is fleeting, it indicates that the power and potential inherent in us are waiting to be explored.

ganeshnarayani@yahoo.com

MOST TRUSTED JUNIOR COLLEGE CHAIN IN HYDERABAD

BY THE TIMES GROUP (An Initiative by OMS), HYDERABAD (2023 - 2024)



COLLEGE INTEGRATED COURSES

- BiPC - NEET
INTEGRATED - SAT
MPC - ARCHITECTURE
: MPC-IIT JEE/ MAINS / ADVANCED / BIT SAT / CUET
: MEC - IPMAT / CLAT / CA FOUNDATION
: MPC/MEC-BUSINESS STUDIES

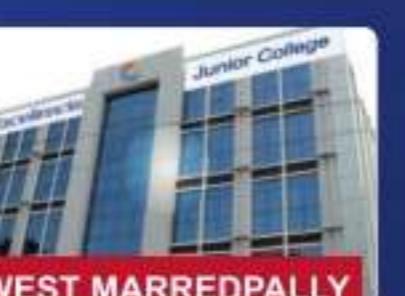
SCHOOL INTEGRATED COURSES

- INFINITUM CBSE School : Grade 1 to 12 with Foundation classes from Grade 6
Aanandini CBSE School (Girls) : Grade 6 to 9 & 11 with Foundation classes from Grade 6

OUR RESIDENTIAL CAMPUSES



OUR DAY SCHOLARS CAMPUSES



10 JUNIOR COLEGES
2 CBSE SCHOOLS

800 EMPLOYEES

6000 CURRENT STUDENTS ENROLLMENTS

THOUSANDS OF SATISFIED PARENTS & COUNTING

COMMITMENT, INTEGRITY, MORALS AND CONVICTION
ARE THE PILLARS OF DELIVERY IN EXCELLENCE

ADMISSIONS OPEN (2024 - 25)

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT

+91 98487 34734 | 91211 62821 | 91213 99926



Pearl Academy

Become a
**COMPLETE
CREATIVE
PROFESSIONAL**

**B.DES., BBA,
M.DES., MBA
DEGREES***
AND 11-MONTH PROFESSIONAL
CERTIFICATE COURSES.

FASHION | BUSINESS | INTERIORS | COMMUNICATION
PRODUCT DESIGN | FILM | GAMING

Global Immersion[®] | [®]Unreal Engine Authorised Campuses | Start-Up Support | Lifetime Placement Support**

Merit-Based Scholarship Available**

APPLY BY: 20TH APRIL'24

www.pearlacademy.com | 1800 103 3005
Bengaluru | Delhi-South | Delhi-West | Jaipur | Mumbai



EXPLORE MORE

*From Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (Recognised University of National Importance)

#ProudlyPlaced

Parul[®] University
NAAC A++ HAI TO BEST HAI

#PUPlacements

Parul[®] University
NAAC GRADE A++

#ProudlyPlaced

Parul[®] University
NAAC GRADE A++

#PUPlacement



2,000

Recruiters

40 LAKHS

Highest Package Offered

4 LAKHS

Average Packages

Infinite
Dreams.
One
University.

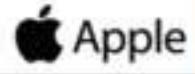


DHAIRYA KIKANI

Supply Chain

Lead – Wearables,

Apple Inc., USA



JAY VAIDYA

Principal Technical Account Manager

amazon

Top Notch Packages Offered

40 Lakhs

Mirror Lake Inn, Lake Placid (USA)

37 Lakhs

Park Hyatt Beaver Creek (USA)

36 Lakhs

Trilogy Innovations

33 Lakhs

Commvault

32 Lakhs

Juspay | Hyatt Regency
Nightingale Hospital London

20 Lakhs

Innovation Group (Qatar)

15 Lakhs

TalentServe

12 Lakhs

Property Pistol

11 Lakhs

Ujjivan Finance | Practically

5-7
Lakhs

MG Motors | Atlas Copco
Berger Paints | Sophos Tech.
Deloitte | Airtel | Nestle
PhonePe | IndusInd Bank
Indigo Airlines | Bajaj Capital
Aditya Birla | Swiggy | Odoo

2.6 CR
Package



MILIND PURSWANI
Security Engineer, Amazon

amazon



Other Recruiters
TCS | L&T | Alembic | Reliance
Adani | Apollo | Piramal | SBI



#ProudlyPlaced At



ADITYA BIRLA



#ProudlyPlaced At



Atlas Copco

#ProudlyPlaced At



PhonePe

IndusInd Bank



IndusInd Bank

G&T

IMPECCABLE PLACEMENTS OFFERED UNDER FOLLOWING FACULTIES

Engineering | Management | Commerce | Medicine | Paramedical Sciences | Pharmacy | Applied Science | Design
Architecture | Fine Arts | Ayurved | Homoeopathy | Law | Agriculture | Nursing | Physiotherapy | Public Health | IT
& Computer Science | Library Science | Arts | Aviation | Hotel Management | Social Work | Performing Arts

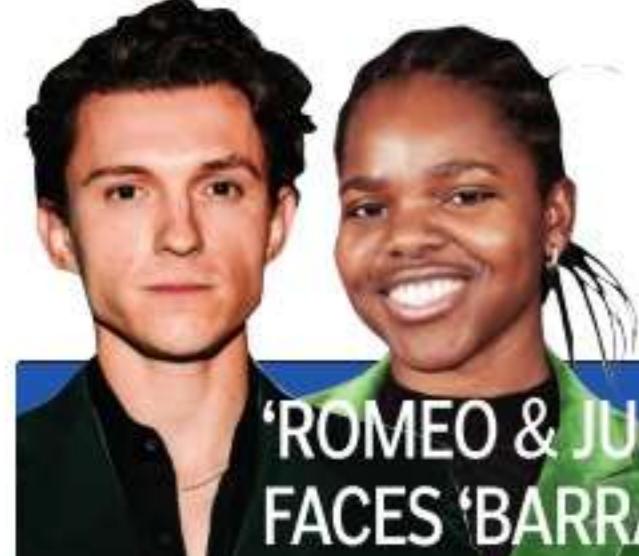
Parul[®]
University

VADODARA, GUJARAT

HYDERABAD ADMISSION OFFICE ☎ 9676685308

Flat No 101, Metro Residency, Beside Lake View Guest House,
Raj Bhavan Road, Somajiguda, Ranga Reddy (Dist.) Telangana-509001

CHOOSE MORE CHOOSE RIGHT® ☎ www.paruluniversity.ac.in ☎ 18001231104



'ROMEO & JULIET' PLAY STARRING TOM HOLLAND AND FRANCESCA FACES 'BARRAGE OF RACIAL ABUSE', PRODUCER SAYS 'MUST STOP'

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, HYDERABAD | MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024

NOTHING IS PERMANENT IN THIS WICKED WORLD – NOT EVEN OUR TROUBLES – CHARLIE CHAPLIN



DWAYNE JOHNSON WON'T ENDORSE ANY PREZ CANDIDATE AS BACKING BIDEN IN 2020 CREATED 'DIVISION': 'WILL KEEP MY POLITICS TO MYSELF'

Your embassies not safe after Syria strike, Iran warns Israel

Tel Aviv On High Alert; Netanyahu And His Def Min Say Military Ready For Any Scenario With Tehran

Jerusalem: A top Iranian military adviser on Sunday warned Israel that none of its embassies were safe following last week's strike in Damascus blamed on Israel that killed two elite Iranian generals.

Regional tensions threaten to draw West Asia into a wider conflict as Israel's war against Hamas marks six months.

The remarks by General Rahim Safavi, a military adviser to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, signalled that the attack on a diplomatic mission could be met with a similar response. Israel has not directly acknowledged its involvement. Speaking at a ceremony in Tehran for the generals killed in the strike that flattened an Iranian consular building, Safavi said Tehran now viewed confrontation with Israel as a "legitimate and legal right".

Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency published a graphic on Sunday that it said showed



Palestinians who had taken refuge in Rafah leave the city on Sunday return to Khan Younis after Israel pulled its ground forces out of the southern Gaza Strip. The withdrawal means troop presence in the territory is at one of the lowest levels since the six-month war began

Israel reduces troops in south Gaza, Egypt to host new truce talks

Israel said on Sunday it had withdrawn more soldiers from southern Gaza, leaving just one brigade, and it and Hamas sent teams to Egypt for fresh talks over a potential ceasefire in the six-month conflict.

Israel has been reducing numbers in Gaza since the start of the year to relieve foreign powers have said could wreak an unacceptable toll on civilians. White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said the troop reduction appeared to be a "rest and refit" and not necessarily indicative of any new operations.

The six-month mark in the war has been met with growing frustration in Israel, where protests have swelled over what some see as govt inaction to help free about 130 remaining hostages, about a quarter of whom Israel says are dead. Hamas-led militants took about 250 captives when they crossed from Gaza into Israel on Oct. 7 and killed 1,200 people. Over 33,100 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli offensive, as per Gaza's health ministry. AGENCIES

Both Israel and Hamas, the group that controls Gaza, confirmed they were sending delegations to Egypt. But PM Benjamin Netanyahu warned that Israel would not bend to foreign pressure and give in to "extreme demands". Hamas says an agreement must secure a complete and comprehensive ceasefire, full withdrawal of forces from areas occupied after Oct. 7, and freedom of movement of residents across Gaza.

It was unclear whether the troop reduction would delay a long-threatened incursion into the city of Rafah, which Netanyahu says is needed to eliminate Hamas but anxious foreign powers have said could wreak an unacceptable toll on civilians.

White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said the troop reduction appeared to be a "rest and refit" and not necessarily indicative of any new operations.

The six-month mark in the war has been met with growing frustration in Israel, where

protests have swelled over what some see as govt inaction to help free about 130 remaining hostages, about a quarter of whom Israel says are dead. Hamas-led militants took about 250 captives when they crossed from Gaza into Israel on Oct. 7 and killed 1,200 people. Over 33,100 Palestinians have been killed in the Israeli offensive, as per Gaza's health ministry. AGENCIES

Ecuador police storms Mexico embassy to arrest politician, sparking global outrage

Quito: Mexico's govt severed diplomatic ties with Ecuador after police broke into the Mexican Embassy to arrest a former Ecuadorian vice president, an extraordinary use of force that shocked and mystified regional leaders and diplomats.

Ecuadorian police late Friday broke through the external doors of the embassy in the capital, Quito, to arrest Jorge Glas, who had been residing there since Dec. Glas sought political asylum at the embassy after being indicted on corruption charges. The raid prompted Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to announce the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Ecuador, while his govt's foreign relations secretary said the move will be challenged at the World Court in The Hague. "This is not possible. It cannot be. This is crazy," Roberto Canseco, head of the Mexican consular section in Quito, told press after the raid.

On Saturday, Glas was taken from the attorney general's office in Quito to the port city of Guayaquil, where he will remain in custody at a maximum-security prison. Glas' attorney, Sonia Vera, said that officers broke into his room and he re-



Why is embassy break-in such a big deal?

Diplomatic premises are considered foreign soil and "inviolable" under the Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations, and host country law enforcement agencies are not allowed to enter without the permission of the ambassador. People seeking asylum have lived anywhere from days to years at embassies around the world, including at Ecuador's in London, which housed WikiLeaks' Julian Assange for seven years because UK police could not enter to arrest him. AP

sisted when they attempted to put his hands behind his back. She said the officers then "knocked him to the floor, kicked him in the head, in the spine, in the legs, the hands," and when he "couldn't walk, they dragged him out". Authorities are investigating Glas over alle-

ged irregularities during his management of reconstruction efforts following a powerful earthquake in 2016 that killed hundreds of people. He was convicted on bribery and corruption charges in other cases. Ecuador's foreign minister Gabriela Sommerfeld on Saturday

As war touches 6-mth mark, Bibi says Israel one step from victory

Jerusalem: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday said Israel was "one step away from victory" in the Gaza war. "But the price we paid is painful and heartbreaking."

He was speaking in a cabinet meeting marking six months of the war that broke out on Oct 7 after an unprecedented attack on Israel by Hamas militants. Though Israel has routed Hamas in much of Gaza, and fighting seems to have slowed, the conflict is being drawn out by Israel's reluctance to either hold ground or transfer its control to an alternative Palestinian leadership, creating a power vacuum.

By dragging on for so long, the war has become the longest involving Israel since the 1980s. And the ramifications extend far beyond the Gazan border — including increasing domestic pressure on US President Biden, who has continued to supply arms to Israel even as he expresses greater alarm over its actions, and the threat of the violence spilling over into a regional conflict between Israel and Hamas allies, like Iran. AFP & NYT

Houthi target Western ships

Houthi forces in Yemen said on Sunday they had launched rockets and drones at British, US and Israeli ships, the latest in a campaign of attacks on shipping in support of Palestinians in the Gaza war. The Iran-aligned group said it had targeted a British ship and a number of US frigates in the Red Sea, while in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean it had attacked two Israeli vessels heading to Israeli ports. The operations took place during the last 72 hours, spokesperson Yahiya Saree said. He did not give further details. Britain and the US have also been launching retaliatory strikes. US forces destroyed a mobile surface-to-air missile system in a Houthi area of Yemen on Saturday, the US Central Command said. REUTERS

Two pairs of pale blue eyes enter a room filled with journalists. You can tell the two young men in battle camouflage are grinning under their snoods. They're camouflaged head to foot. The patterns differ from those of their British and Australian instructors just so you know who's on the live-fire training ground.

They're brothers.

"Jimmy and Jack," they offer by way of introduction. There's scepticism all round. Someone proposes "Ilya" and "Kuryakin", the given and surname of a fictional spy. Jimmy and Jack start laughing. They've seen "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." To protect their identities we settle on "Igor" and "Vlad" as noms de guerre.

How ordinary Ukrainians are getting battle-ready in UK's training fields

From Grocers To Teachers, Volunteers Looking To Join The Campaign Against Russia Are Being Taught War Skills, Strategies By Experts From 12 Countries

Suneel.Sinha@timesgroup.com

Somewhere in the rolling, frost-covered hills of England, Ukrainian fighting resolve is being given a steel tip.

Volunteers from Ukraine are being flown in from Poland, on about 130 flights every six months on average. There are florists, grocers, butchers, single mothers and teachers — ordinary people with one thing in common: they want to fight the Russian invasion of Ukraine. There are some, though, with previous military experience.

Operation Interflex, described by UK defence officials as the largest per capita trainer of Ukrainians,

has since June 2022 trained more than 32,000 men and women to fight Russian military forces and has issued more than 3.5 million items of war equipment. Eleven nations, plus Britain, are imparting training.

By dragging on for so long, the war has become the longest involving Israel since the 1980s. And the ramifications extend far beyond the Gazan border — including increasing domestic pressure on US President Biden, who has continued to supply arms to Israel even as he expresses greater alarm over its actions, and the threat of the violence spilling over into a regional conflict between Israel and Hamas allies, like Iran. AFP & NYT

"We're training them to be more lethal than their Russian counterparts, and more survivable," said Col James Thurston, commander, Operation Interflex.

"We're training them to regain territory, not just hold it," he told international journalists visiting at Britain's invitation.

Brothers In Arms

Two pairs of pale blue eyes enter a room filled with journalists. You can tell the two young men in battle camouflage are grinning under their snoods. They're camouflaged head to foot. The patterns differ from those of their British and Australian instructors just so you know who's on the live-fire training ground.

They're brothers.

"Jimmy and Jack," they offer by way of introduction. There's scepticism all round. Someone proposes "Ilya" and "Kuryakin", the given and surname of a fictional spy. Jimmy and Jack start laughing. They've seen "The Man from U.N.C.L.E." To protect their identities we settle on "Igor" and "Vlad" as noms de guerre.



FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE: More than 32,000 men and women from Ukraine have received training in UK since June 2022 as part of Operation Interflex to take on the invading Russian forces

later. Ahead, helmets bob up and down in the trenches as they try to clear them of the "enemy" without getting themselves, or the men beside them, killed.

From some distance away to the left comes the flat report of a rifle being fired. A target drops and pops back up on the 100-metre range. The volunteers are learning about accuracy under pressure so that the person they shoot at for real back home cannot return the compliment. The training distances range from 25 to 250 metres.

"We've learned a lot about trenches and urban fighting," said Vlad. "Most of our training has been in assault teams attacking trenches."

Then there's "Did".

Ukrainian for Grandpa, the younger soldiers call him that because he's 40 and has two college degrees — one in railway engineering and the other in social psychology. He's from a city on the Ukraine-Russia border. When the Russian troops crossed into his village, he was in the garden with his family. "It was winter, there were no supplies," Did says. "I studied Russian," he says, "but I didn't invite them to invade."

Survivability, Lethality, Offensive Spirit'

The frost crunches underfoot. It's about -6°C Celsius atop a hill. Short, sharp bursts of automatic fire crack the frozen air. The Ukrainians are practising flushing out the enemy in the field, moving in pairs — stopping, dropping to a knee, shooting, popping smoke for cover, moving again.

They're used to combat in -15°C and lower; they say

estimates put the Russian death toll at 60,000 killed and about 240,000 wounded.

Fresh onslaughts by Moscow are finding the Ukrainians outmanned and outgunned. But they fight on, spurred by some stunning successes in 2023 and the knowledge that if Putin succeeds, it will lead to more misadventurism. But with Sweden cleared to enter Nato as its 32nd member, the Russian president might find himself facing a more determined Nato.

"We're clear that Russia can end this war. However, there is no sign that President Putin is giving up... despite the high costs to his own side," said Nick Catsaris, UK Cabinet Office director-general for Russia Ukraine. The allies, especially Britain, are committed to supporting Ukraine as long as it takes.

"Putin thinks he can outlast Western support in this conflict. He is wrong," said Luke Dearden, Ukrainian Camp Deardon Unit deputy director FCDO.

Most courses are five weeks. On Day 35 the Ukrainians leave Britain.

This unit, too, will head out to wage a war they didn't want.

At night there will be singing, dancing, and drinking.

And goodbyes. There

will be time for more sombre reflection on life and death on the flight that returns them to a frozen hellscape bearing hope and war.

Woman engineer among Chinese nationals killed in attack in Pak: Report

Peshawar:

A woman engineer was among the five Chinese nationals who were killed last month in northwest Pakistan when a suicide bomber targeted their vehicle, the Express Tribune newspaper reported on Sunday, citing a police report. A vehicle-borne suicide bomber targeted the convoy of Chinese engineers in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces in the past two days, officials said on Sunday. The Inter-Services Public Relations, the media wing of the Pakistan armed forces, said in the Balochistan province, four militants were killed in two separate incidents.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, eight militants were killed in the Kot Sultan area of Kulach tehsil in Dera Ismail Khan district when security forces carried out an operation against them, the ISPR said. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lakkhi Marwat, a DSP and two cops were killed in two separate incidents on Friday night, officials said. PTI

6 security men, 12 militants die in Pak

Six security personnel, including a senior police officer, died while 12 militants were killed in separate terror incidents and security operations in Pakistan's restive

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan provinces in the past two days, officials said on Sunday. The Inter-Services Public Relations, the media wing of the Pakistan armed forces, said in the Balochistan province, four militants were killed in two separate incidents. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, eight militants were killed in the Kot Sultan area of Kulach tehsil in Dera Ismail Khan district when security forces carried out an operation against them, the ISPR said. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Lakkhi Marwat, a DSP and two cops were killed in two separate incidents on Friday night, officials said. PTI

NZ tightens visa rules amid near record migration

Sydney: New Zealand said on Sunday that it was making immediate changes to its employment visa programme after a near record migration last year which it said was "unsustainable".

The changes include measures such as introducing English language requirement for low skilled jobs and setting a minimum skills and work experience threshold for most employer work visas. The maximum continuous stay for low skilled roles will also be reduced to three years from five years.

"The govt is focused on attracting and retaining the highly skilled migrants such as secondary teachers, where there is a skill shortage," immigration minister Erica Staniford said. "At the same time we need to ensure New Zealanders are put to the front of the line for jobs where there are no skills shortages," she said. Last year, a near record 173,000 people migrated to New Zealand, she said.

New Zealand, which has a population of about 5.1 million, has seen a rapid growth in its migrant numbers since the end of the pandemic, raising inflation concerns. REUTERS

16,000km in 352 days: UK man runs length of Africa

Sore and sandblasted but triumphant, runner Russ Cook reached the northernmost point of Africa on Sunday, almost a year after he set off from its southern tip on a quest to run the length of the continent. Dozens of supporters gathered on a rocky outcrop beside the Mediterranean in northern Tunisia, cheering on the British charity fundraiser, who has run more than 16,000km across 16 countries in 352 days. "I'm a little bit tired," Cook said — likely an understatement.



Russ Cook (27) set off from South Africa's most southerly point on April 22 last year. He has raised more than \$870,000 for charity.

In the course of his journey the 27-year-old endurance athlete from Worthing in southern England crossed jungle

and desert, swerved conflict zones and was delayed by theft, injury and visa problems.

Cook — known online by his nickname, Hardest Geezer — set off on April 22, 2023 from Cape Agulhas in South Africa, the continent's southernmost point. He hoped to complete the journey in 240 days, running the equivalent of more than a marathon every day. He and his team had money, passports and equipment stolen in a gunpoint robbery in Angola. He was temporarily halted by back pain in

AROUND THE WORLD

19 feral cats roam Mexico's prez palace. New declaration gives them food & care 'fur-ever'

They prowl through palace gardens stalking pigeons and make cameos on televised press briefings. Some greet tourists at the doors, while others take a sneaky lick of ice cream from staff. Nineteen feral cats have had free rein of Mexico's National Palace for years. Now, the palace cats have made hiss-tory after the govt of Mexican President Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador declared them to be "living fixed assets", the first animals in Mexico to receive the title. The investment term "fixed assets" usually applies to buildings and furniture, but by applying it to cats, the current govt has obligated the country's treasury to give them food and care for them for the rest of their lives, even after Obrador leaves office in Oct.



Nepal army to collect 10 tonnes of garbage from Mt Everest Nepal army on Sunday said that it will collect around 10 tonnes of garbage and five bodies lying at Mt. Everest as it launches Mountain Cleaning Campaign 2024 in the Everest region. A 12-member team will embark on the Everest base camp on April 14 to bring the garbage from Mt. Everest, Mt. Lhotse and Mt. Nuptse, according to an army source. The source said an 18-member Sherpa team will assist the army in its cleaning expedition.

HAPPY 50TH ABBA-VERSARY

A half-century ago on Saturday, Swedish quartet Abba triumphed at the 1974 Eurovision Contest

Instagram, which is growing at a faster pace than other parts of Meta's social networking universe, brought in almost 30% of the company's revenue in the first half of 2022, according to court filings. When it was acquired by Zuckerberg in 2012, Instagram had no model for bringing in revenue. Now, the app makes money the same way Facebook does: by selling advertisements that look like regular posts in the app's main feed and in disappearing "stories" posts.

Source: Bloomberg



Climate change can stoke inflation, stunt growth: RBI

'Frequent Weather Shocks Leading To Higher Food Prices'

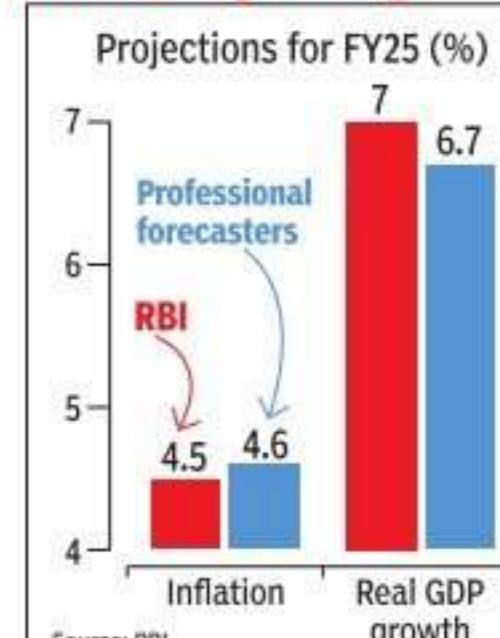
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI has cautioned that frequent shocks to inflation due to climate change can weaken policy transmission and necessitate tighter monetary policy. RBI's monetary policy report noted that climate change can increase inflation and stunt growth.

The report said global average temperatures are rising, with an accompanying increase in extreme weather events, and the economic and social impact is becoming increasingly evident.

It noted three ways in which climate change can impact monetary policy. First, it affects inflation through adverse weather events, disrupting agricultural production and global supply chains. Second, rising tem-

Monetary Policy Challenges



- Climate change affects inflation through adverse weather events, disrupting agricultural production and global supply chains
- It may alter the natural rate of interest, reducing productivity and output
- It also hinders monetary policy's effectiveness in influencing financing conditions for households and firms

rate of interest is lower, if inflation rises suddenly, the central bank may need to tighten monetary policy, it said.

The risk of global warming was highlighted by RBI governor Shaktikanta Das in his policy statement as well. "Frequent and overlapping adverse climate shocks pose key upside risks to the outlook on international and domestic food prices," Das had said. At the post-policy press conference, the governor cited IMD's report, which said that in 2024 the hot weather season between April and June will see above-normal maximum temperatures over most parts of the country.

The central bank's observations on climate change risks come when it struggles with persistent hikes in food prices.

securities and firms.

"For these reasons, central banks are increasingly incorporating climate risks explicitly into their modeling frameworks," the report said. If productivity decreases, the natural interest rate may drop. Even if the natural

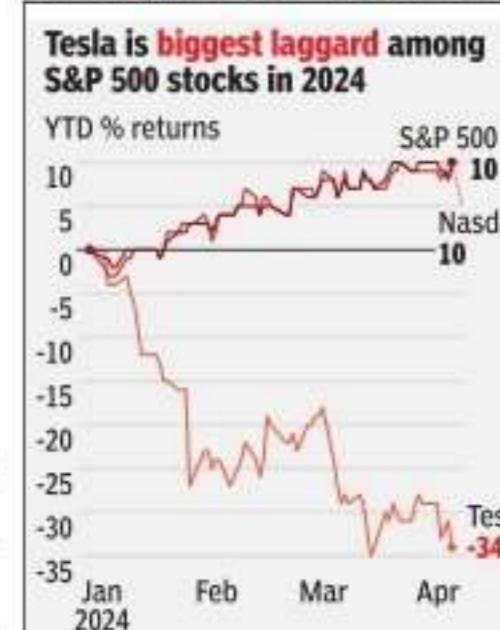
Zuckerberg richer than Musk for 1st time since '20

Mark Zuckerberg passed Elon Musk on Friday to become the third-richest person in the world, the first time since 2020 the arch-rival billionaires have held those positions. Musk, who ranked first on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index as recently as early March, fell to fourth after Reuters reported Tesla cancelled plans for a less-expensive car, sending shares lower (Musk denied the report). That followed news earlier in the week that Tesla's vehicle deliveries fell in the three months through March, their first year-over-year decline since the early days of the pandemic.

It's the first time Zuckerberg has broken into the top three on Bloomberg's ranking of the richest people since Nov 16, 2020, when he was worth \$105.6 billion and Musk's fortune was \$102.1 billion. Musk now has a net worth of \$180.6 billion, while Zuckerberg's is \$186.9 billion.

Bernard Arnault, chairman of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos hold the first two spots on Bloomberg's wealth ranking with fortunes of \$223.4 billion and \$207.3 billion, respectively. BLOOMBERG

Why Has Tesla Stock Crashed 34% In 3 Months?

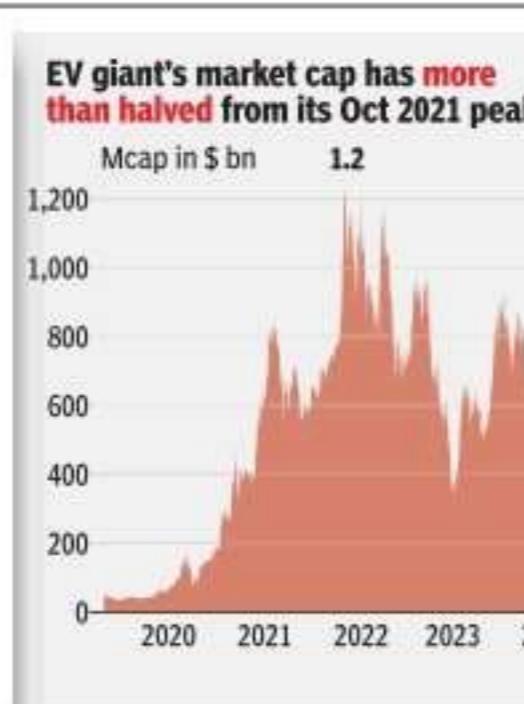
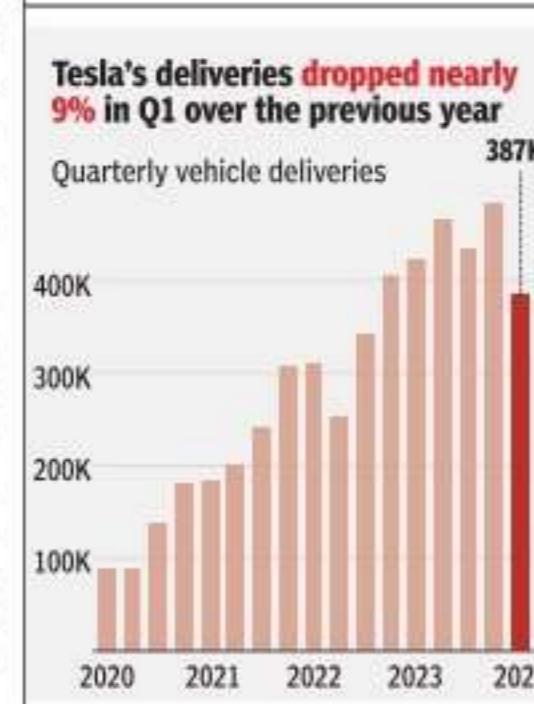


What Has Triggered The Slump?

- ① After years of rapid sales growth that helped turn Tesla into the world's most valuable automaker, the company is bracing for a slowdown in 2024
- ② The EV maker has been slow to refresh its aging models as high interest rates have sapped consumer appetite for big-ticket purchases

- ③ Tesla has faced intense competition in China from local players including market leader BYD, which overtook the US company as the world's largest EV maker in the fourth quarter, and new entrant Xiaomi

- ④ Elon Musk's persona, his tilt to right-wing politics and his polarising public statements are also turning away some potential Tesla customers in the US



- About 76% of the company's current valuation is still predicated on its future earnings potential, according to a DataTrek analysis.
- Analysts on average now expect that it will take until 2026 for Tesla to exceed the level of profitability it posted in 2022

- Investors need to be convinced that Tesla can return to its strong growth, fat margins and highly innovative ways

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters, Compiled by Asseem Gujar

Ex-fin panel chiefs raise key eco issues

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

third tier — panchayats and municipal bodies — while also calling for the secretariat to be made independent of the finance ministry.

While rationalisation of rates has been discussed in the GST Council in the past, the current thinking is not in support of a single rate structure. A discussion on the issue is expected to take place after the general election.

Kelkar and Singh were awarded for their contribution to Indian fiscal architecture by TIOL Foundation on Saturday.

Singh, who headed the

Finance Commission, whose award is valid until March 2026, flagged several challenges before policymakers, including the rise of artificial intelligence, pointing to a possible technological breakthroughs for real time data that could make cyclical-adjusted deficits possible in a time frame necessary for the recalibration of policies.

Currently, there is often a lag in adjusting policies, which creates its own set of complications for policymakers, something that central banks are grappling with at the moment in the wake of loose fiscal policy during Covid.

He also raised the issue of quality of spending and expenditure outcomes in fixing fiscal outcomes, something that policymakers have discussed but have only dealt with at the periphery.

In the same vein Singh said long-term growth emanates from investments in asset-creating infrastructure. "Do they deserve a somewhat different treatment than one-size-fits-all in determining delivered levels of fiscal deficit?" indicating that a broad stroke deficit calculation may not be the best strategy.

scal policy during Covid.

He also raised the issue of quality of spending and expenditure outcomes in fixing fiscal outcomes, something that policymakers have discussed but have only dealt with at the periphery.

In the same vein Singh said long-term growth emanates from investments in asset-creating infrastructure. "Do they deserve a somewhat different treatment than one-size-fits-all in determining delivered levels of fiscal deficit?" indicating that a broad stroke deficit calculation may not be the best strategy.

Mumbai: Not just pure play chocolate makers but dairy giant Amul, ice-cream brand Baskin Robbins, even snacking and cereal brand Kellogg, and other companies across the spectrum are beginning to feel the pinch of higher cocoa prices.

Amul is looking to hike the price of its chocolates by 10-20%, Jayen Mehta, MD at Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF), which owns the brand, told TOI. "The price of a kilogram of cocoa beans has shot up to Rs 800 in India from Rs 150-250 earlier. The pressure is real. We have the largest market share in the dark chocolate

share, with Mehta arguing that their products are competitively priced.

"In products such as ice creams, which is seasonal, it's not very easy to raise prices," he said.

US ice cream brand Baskin Robbins is also planning to hold prices. Prices of many cocoa-based ingredients are up by 70-80% compared to earlier, said Mohit Khattar, CEO at Graviss Foods, which holds the master franchise rights of Baskin Robbins in India. "As of now, we have decided to absorb the incremental costs due to increased input costs, leaving consumer prices untouched... We will reassess the situation once the season is over and take a call on further course of action.

Amul chocolates may get costlier as rising cocoa price bites

We still anticipate good sales this summer," Khattar said.

Havmor Ice Cream — which has already taken a small price hike at the start of the year in line with inflation — will try to hold on to its current level of pricing. "A price increase is the last resort in categories which are sensitive to pricing and ice cream is one such category. We will look for other ways to mitigate the impact of the rise in cocoa prices. We had predicted such a scenario and in Q4 of last year did a long-term pricing contract which will sail us through this season (March-June)," said Komal Anand, managing director at Havmor, which sources cocoa from parts of India and Africa.

ICE CREAM COS HOLDING RATES



space which uses cocoa butter as a major ingredient," he said, adding that the increase will be implemented in around two months' time.

While Amul is holding the price for ice creams and beverages for the moment, it does not see higher prices of chocolates denting its market

'Delaporte could not energise Wipro's India base from Paris'

Non-Indian CEOs Haven't Had A Good Track Record At Desi IT Cos

Shilpa Phadnis & Veena Mani | TNN

Bengaluru: Going by major financial metrics, one could say that **Thierry Delaporte** did not make things worse for Wipro than his predecessors had already done. In one significant respect, the outgoing CEO actually did better — share price. Wipro's share price since Delaporte took over has risen 16%, compared to 81% for TCS, 94% for Infosys, and 27% for Cognizant. The same holds true if one were to look at the past one year or six-month share price changes. Only HCLTech has done better among large Indian-heritage IT companies.

In revenue growth and operating margin, Wipro continues to lag its peers, like under Delaporte's immediate predecessors — which is what allowed even HCLTech to cross Wipro in revenue in 2018, two years before Delaporte took over. In 2021-22, the year after Covid struck and Delaporte's first full year, Wipro's revenue surged by almost 27%, way higher than its peers, partly on account of a huge acquisition (of Capco), but also because of a stronger deal flow. But after that, Delaporte could not sustain the momentum, and

revenue growth slipped below that of peers. The company's operating margin too has dropped significantly in the past couple of years, like that of its peers, with IT services demand globally falling. Only HCLTech has managed to keep the margin reasonably stable. So, what would have precipitated Delaporte's premature departure? There are plenty of senior executives — many of whom quit during Delaporte's tenure — who have not been happy with his restructuring efforts. Few would have questioned the need for a restructuring, given Wipro's performance before Delaporte stepped in. And, from all accounts, the steps Delaporte took in trying to simplify the structure — drastically reducing P&L (profit & loss) units reporting to him, breaking down walls between units, sharply cut-

ting the number of KPIs (key performance indicators) used to assess executives and employees — had chairman Rishad Premji's buy-in. But in its implementation, there looks to have been plenty of problems. Phil Fersht, CEO of IT analyst firm HFS Research, says in a blogpost: "Delaporte rarely left his Paris base, while his CEO counterparts have been regularly rallying the troops across India and the US. You can't run an Indian-heritage business during tough economic times when you're not physically present to boost morale and represent the firm."

Many top executives, including the SVP and VP levels, quit. The prominent ones include Toshiaki Takeuchi, country head for Japan, Sarah Adam-Gedge, MD of Australia and New Zealand, Douglas Silva, country head for Brazil, and Mohammed Areff, country head of the Middle East region. Maybe they could not fit into the culture of an Indian company. Stephenie Trautman, who was brought in from Accenture as chief of growth officer in 2021, resigned in January. This, and the integration of the strategic pursuits team into strategic market units, distracted Wipro's large deals team.

Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, partner at Catalincs and former chairman and MD of Cognizant India, says CEOs of large companies need to be rainmakers and pied pipers.</p

DAY OF SIBLING REVELRY

Praggnanandhaa & Vaishali Steal Thunder; Gukesh Misses Chance To Stun Nepo, Continues To Share Candidates Lead

Amit.Sampat@timesgroup.com

A day after losing their respective games, Praggnanandhaa R and his elder sister Vaishali R enjoyed a special Saturday, both getting decisive results in Round 3 of the Candidates chess tournament in Toronto.

While the only siblings to make it to the Candidates in its 74-year history fought their way back in a thrilling fashion, the youngest of the 16 participants, D Gukesh, missed an opportunity to stun two-time challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi. Koneru Humpy halted the winning march of a former world women's champion.

On a day that belonged to the brother-sister duo from Chennai, 18-year-old Pragg came out with a challenging defensive plan which his senior compatriot Vidit Gujrathi accepted in a bid to continue playing some fighting chess against each other. Of the seven classical games Pragg and Vidit have played against each other, six have had decisive results with an equal 3-3 share.

While Pragg chose the rare and a bit risky deferred Schliemann defence on Vidit's Ruy Lopez Opening, the latter came under severe time pressure to suffer his first defeat.

On Pragg's choice of opening, Hungarian GM Peter Leko was quoted as saying on chess.com, "I am speechless. I am supposed to be a Ruy Lopez expert, but definitely I haven't seen this position in the last 25 years."

While Vidit accepted Pragg's challenge of a sharp and double-edged game, the 29-year-old spent around 40 minutes to play his eighth and 11 moves. As the Indian masters wrestled for the initiative, Vidit made some inaccurate moves and Pragg got the decisive advantage. Under time pressure, Vidit resigned in the 45th move as Pragg posted his first victory of the Candidates. "I wanted to play something interesting," said Pragg.

Pragg's childhood coach RB Ramesh who is helping his ward from Chennai spoke with TOI at length. Ramesh said, "Pragg played a new opening today which is not very popular and has a dubious reputation as it's too risky. Vidit played well but ran low on time and made mistakes. Finally, Pragg won a nice game."

Gukesh, 17, missed an end-game opportunity with his white pieces against Russian GM Nepomniachtchi. Though Gukesh had an edge with his bishops, the experienced Nepomniachtchi defended well. After 40 moves both agreed the draw.

Five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand said, "Several quiet games today, but with a few great exceptions. Gukesh did well to outplay Nepomniachtchi and had he found the move a4 on either the 29th or 30th turn, he would have had good chances. Praggnanandhaa challenged Vidit to a full-blown battle today. Vidit to his credit accepted the challenge. After a fascinating struggle, Vidit lost to Praggnanandhaa."



ROUND 3 RESULTS:

(Indians unless specified)
Open: Vidit Gujrathi (1.5) lost to R Praggnanandhaa (1.5); D Gukesh (2) drew with Ian Nepomniachtchi (Fid, 2); Nijat Abasov (Aze, 1) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (Usa, 1); Firouza Alireza (Fra, 1) drew with Fabiano Caruana (Usa, 2).
Women: R Vaishali (1.5) beat Nuryul Salimova (Bul, 1); Koneru Humpy (1.5) drew with Zhongyi Tan (Chn, 2.5); Tingjie Lei (Chn, 1) drew with Aleksandra Goryachkina (Fid, 2); Anna Muzychuk (Ukr, 1) drew with Kateryna Lagno (Fid, 1.5).

In the next round, Pragg will face Hikaru Nakamura, Vidit takes on Nepomniachtchi, and Gukesh will square up against Caruana.

Vaishali's first win; Humpy holds leader

In the women's Candidates, Vaishali played aggressively to take Bulgaria's Nuryul Salimova in stride in just 33 moves. Making most of her advantage with white pieces, Vaishali chose the king pawn opening and offered a knight sacrifice which was declined by Salimova. Soon, Vaishali went three pawns up and converted her advantage with an easy win.

Vaishali's coach RB Ramesh was happy He said, "Vaishali played an interesting sacrifice in the Petroff opening with white pieces and her opponent didn't defend well and lost three pawns which she converted easily to a win."

A battle between two experienced leaders was fought between Koneru Humpy and China's Tan Zhongyi. With white pieces, Humpy chose the King's Indian attack. The French Variation that Zhongyi applied saw regular exchange of pieces and the rook, pawn's end-game ended in a draw after 32 moves.

Games of missed opportunities and courageous moves

MASTER'S TAKE
PRAVIN THIPSAY

The youngest player in the tournament, D Gukesh, missed an opportunity to emerge as the sole leader when he let two times World Championship Challenger Ian Nepomniachtchi escape with a draw in the third round of World Championship Candidates' Championship being held at Toronto. Gukesh still leads the field — with 2 points — jointly with his opponent Nepomniachtchi of Russia and the top seed Fabiano Caruana of USA.

The show on the third day, however, was stolen by the siblings R Praggnanandhaa and R Vaishali who played courageously to score the only victories of the day in their respective sections. While Vaishali crushed Nuryul Salimova in a straightforward game of king side attack, Praggnanandhaa had to overcome Vidit Gujrathi's defence in a game of ups and downs.

Praggnanandhaa played the extremely unusual 'Deferred Schliemann Defence' against Vidit's Spanish opening and succeeded in confusing his well-prepared opponent with a pawn sacrifice on move 8, followed by a theoretical novelty on move 10. The fact that this opening had been played once by Gujrathi's second Surya Shekhar Ganguly didn't deter Praggnanandhaa from trying it.

On move 11, he offered another pawn free but Vidit wisely refrained from grabbing it. By move 15, the players reached an extremely sharp but balanced position. Needless to say, the game saw lots of ups and downs. On move 19, Praggnanandhaa made a serious error of castling on the queen side instead of the king side, which could have had dire consequences had Vidit found the right knight move. However, Vidit played a safe-guard-

ing move, giving Praggnanandhaa enough time to safeguard his position. Vidit opted for the same plan two moves later but it turned out to be ineffective then. On move 32, in a slightly worse position, Vidit made the decisive error and got no chances thereafter.

Praggnanandhaa's elder sister R Vaishali made short work of Salimova in a game of straightforward king side attack. Vaishali played the classic attack against Salimova's Petroff defence and tried a new plan on move 14. Salimova couldn't see through Vaishali's plan and lost in 33 moves.

The game between Gukesh and Nepomniachtchi started with the Tarrasch variation of the Catalan opening and saw an early exchange of queens.

In the ensuing Queenless middlegame, Gukesh systematically outplayed his experienced opponent positionally with precise piece manoeuvre, to get a menacing position by roughly 25 moves.

When Nepomniachtchi had to give one of his bishops for Gukesh's knight on move 26, the Indian seemed to be all set for a win. Such a position in hands of Anatoly Karpov or Magnus Carlsen would have been lethal. However, instead of making decisive queen side pawn break on moves 29 and 30, the youngest player in the tournament decided to trade the last pair of rooks, which enabled the Russian to slowly guard all his weaknesses.

Gukesh lost the punch after the rook exchange and Nepomniachtchi was eventually able to create an unbreakable fortress.

Former Women's World Rapid Champion Koneru Humpy easily stopped the winning spree of the former women's world champ Tan Zhongyi of China. The players followed the game between Grandmasters Atalik and Tregubov — played in 2020 — till move 26 and agreed to a draw in a lifeless position after 32 moves.

(Pravin Thipsay is a Grandmaster and an Arjuna awardee)

Salah penalty rescues draw for Liverpool at Old Trafford

REDS MISS CHANCE TO GO TOP OF TABLE

Manchester: Mohamed Salah scored an 84th-minute penalty to salvage a 2-2 draw for Liverpool at Manchester United in the Premier League on Sunday.

The title challengers had looked like suffering a first defeat in the league since February after two stunning goals from Bruno Fernandes and Kobbie Mainoo put United ahead at Old Trafford. Luis Diaz had put a dominant Liverpool in front in the first half, but Jurgen Klopp's team trailed in the final 10 minutes of regulation time until Aaron Wan-Bissaka brought down substitute Harvey Elliott in the box.

With boos ringing around the stadium, Salah calmly sent United goalkeeper Andre Onana the wrong way to move Liverpool level on points with first-place Arsenal and one ahead of Manchester City in third. For a long time the Merseyside club looked set to go clear at the top again with a commanding first-half performance that saw the visitors register 15 shots at goal, compared to none for United.

The only surprise was that Klopp's players didn't take full advantage of that disparity and led by just one goal at the break. AP



TOTAL CONTROL: Luis Diaz volleys home Liverpool's first against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Sunday

Mikel Arteta told reporters, "He needs to maintain that."

Ajax suffer 6-0 humiliation in Dutch 'Klassieker'

The Hague: The horror season for Dutch giants Ajax hit a new low on Sunday as they suffered a record 6-0 defeat at the hands of arch-rivals Feyenoord in the Dutch "Klassieker". Feyenoord were 3-0 up at half-time thanks to Igor Paixao, Yankuba Minteh, and David Hancko. Paixao and Minteh each netted a second. Quinten Timber completed the humiliation. AGENCIES

Bilbao end trophy drought

Basque Club Caps 40-Year Wait With Copa Del Rey Win

Barcelona: Ernesto Valverde has won league titles in Spain and Greece and the Copa del Rey with Barcelona as both player and coach, but the Athletic Bilbao manager said Saturday's Spanish cup final triumph over Mallorca was "incomparable".

Athletic edged underdogs Mallorca 4-2 on penalties after a tense 1-1 draw left two sides that could not be separated following 120 minutes of high-intensity football.

It was the Basque club's 24th Copa trophy — only Barcelona have more — but their first major silverware for 40 agonising years.

During that time they have reached the final six times but lost on every occasion until Saturday at a packed La Cartuja stadium in Seville. Fans travelled in droves from the north



of Spain to the sunny south to watch their team lift the club's first major trophy since 1984. None of the current squad were born then but, with the club's unique stance of only using Basque origin players, the vast majority grew up dreaming of emulating that success.

The domestic double winning team boarded an iconic boat known as the 'Gabarra' to celebrate, and the current squad will follow suit next week. AFP

TIMES NATION

THE SPEAKING TREE

PANIC ATTACKS NO MORE

At a meditation retreat, YONGE MINGUR RINPOCHE shared valuable tips on how to calm the mind and experience joy, drawing from his own experience of overcoming panic attacks, reports NARAYANI GANESH

When the monk asks the audience, "Those who wish to be happy, raise your hand!" All hands shoot up, immediately. Then what prevents any of us from living a joyful life? Yonge Mingur Rinpoche explains, there are three levels on the path to happiness and joy: Awareness, love and compassion, and finally, wisdom. "You need to embark on a journey where awareness meditation becomes the alchemy for cultivating a serene mind and joyous heart. Through this practice, any situation, even the crucible of difficult emotions and physical pain, can become gateways to inner peace."

We feel that the world has a lot of turbulence and conflict and our personal life is unstable. First, no matter what happens, our true nature will always be pure. Therefore, we should never fight troubling things, for if we do, they will become even more menacing and powerful. Says Rinpoche, "As a young boy, I suffered frequent panic attacks that made me anxious. Even weather changes would intimidate me and I would hide in the forest or cave, but panic chased me there as well. My father said, 'Don't fight panic; it will only get worse. And if you chase peace and joy, they become elusive. Craving causes suffering just as aversion, hatred and greed do. So, you don't need to get rid of panic attacks; simply become



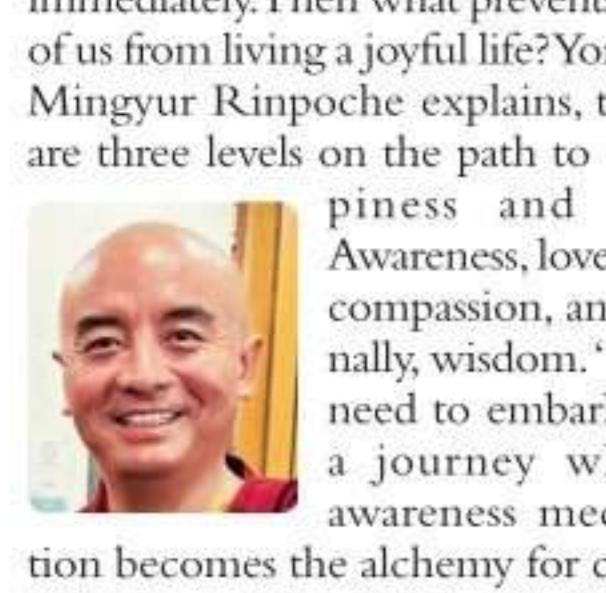
aware of them.' What he meant was, our fundamental nature is to be beyond panic attacks." The sky is beyond clouds, pollution and thunderstorms, whatever happens, the sky remains the same. Factors that distract us like stress, depression, work problems, memories and thoughts are like clouds in the sky that cannot change the nature of sky that retains its fundamental pure quality. The mind is like the sky.

"My father introduced me to inner sky. To experience joy of living, firstly, we need to discover the fundamental quality of mind. Then there is no need to get rid of suffering or negativity or create a particular state of mind; it is already pure; we need to become aware of it, to discover our inner quality," says the Rinpoche.

The second thing is, make friends with everything. Whatever

HEAL YOURSELF

YONGE MINGUR RINPOCHE



ARUNDHUTI DAS BASU

you see, hear, smell, taste, any bodily sensation and thought, emotion, we need to make friends with all phenomena, so that in the process, even poison becomes medicine, suffering becomes happiness, and problems become solutions.

To practise meditation, cultivate the right view/perspective, belief, application, and regularity. Thought comes from awareness, the mind's fundamental quality; without awareness, you cannot have the desire to know. A participant asks, why do we need to be taught awareness if it is already there? Says Rinpoche, we have trouble seeing what is too close to us and we find it difficult to believe what is easy and obvious. Normally we look for something special and/or difficult. Why am I not calm today? Is it the room? The weather? But what remains unchanged is awareness. Clarity and confusion are both in awareness. Awareness is like the sky. Thoughts and emotions are clouds that go up and down, sometimes pretty, sometimes, turbulent. Without sky, you cannot have clouds. Clear knowing is allowing for all emotions and thoughts, just as the sky allows clouds.

Meditation is to recognise our own awareness and maintain that, even as we make friends with all our sensory inputs, panic, anxiety and any negative factor. If you try to get rid of them, they never go away. Become a friendly witness. Then there are no more panic attacks. Because you have learned self-love and compassion; to forgive, and you now know, that it's OK to not be OK. ■

Calm the Mind' retreat — Nalandha Foundation, Centre for Escalation of Peace & IIC.

Nature first: TOI wins title of green brand of the year

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The environment is more than a news item in TOI. It is a commitment. From actively bringing to readers the most pressing issues facing the planet to proactively promoting green causes, this newspaper takes pride in putting nature first.

AWARDS WON

#UnplasticIndia	Press consumer products Gold
Press corporate	Gold
Digital	Gold (Joint)
Events	Silver
Out of Home	Silver
Young Green Art director of the year	Gold
Green campaign of the year	Gold
Corporate social crusader of the year	Gold (Joint)
Saving Our Stripes	Digital Gold (Joint)
Corporate social crusader of the year	Gold (Joint)
The Times of India	Green brand of the year Gold

cinematographer Subhija Nallamuthu and leading Bollywood music director Shantanu Moitra. This led to the creation of a first-of-its-kind Tiger Anthem. Rendered in the voice of a child, and featuring heartwarming, visuals of a tigress and her cub, the video achieved an instant connect.

Side by side, we engaged in a search for solutions with experts. There was also a thought-provoking cartoon series (TigerTOONS) to help spread the message amongst the youth. Podcasts, videos and contextual contests helped add to the momentum that was being spearheaded by the tiger anthem's growing popularity.

The anthem was launched by Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav on May 24, 2023, in Delhi. What followed was both humbling and awe-inspiring — recognition from PM Narendra Modi and his team of ministers. The initiative garnered an impressive reach of 384 million+ and 137 million+ engagements while the hashtag was shared more than 150k times on social media. The anthem also spread beyond India's borders. Nat Geo invited us to broadcast it across South Asia in regional languages and it was also featured at the G20 summit in New Delhi in Sept 2024. It was also recognised by platforms like Bhutan's Keunsel and Sri Lanka's Daily Mirror.

hed Tambaran railway station in Tamil Nadu on Saturday. One of them was a BJP worker holding an official party identity card, inquiries revealed. Sathish (33), his brother S

From actively bringing to readers the most pressing issues facing the planet to proactively promoting green causes, TOI takes pride in putting nature first

HC to hear plea on re-probe in former rly min's killing

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi high court has agreed to examine in May a plea filed by the grandson of former railways minister LN Mishra seeking a re-investigation into his killing in a blast at Bihar's Samastipur railway station over 48 years ago.

A bench of justices Suresh Kumar Kait and Manoj Jain listed the application by Vaibhav Mishra along with an appeal by the convicts against their conviction and imposition of life sentence. Vaibhav approached high court after SC, on Oct 13 last year, permitted him to assist



READY FOR IT.

Drive home the new GLC with **STAR Agility+ benefits.
Visit your nearest franchise partner today.



STAR Agility+



EMI starting
from ₹75 000



Down payment starting
from ₹14 lakhs



*Service package
and extended warranty
for the 4th year



Scan the QR code
to connect with us
on WhatsApp.

Silver Star Showroom: Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. Tel: 7288886683 | Workshop: Sanathnagar, Hyderabad. Tel: 7288889212. | Timings: 9:30 am to 6:30 pm

Mercedes-Benz India Pvt. Ltd. (CIN: U34102PN1994PTC083160) Toll Free no.: 0008000501888. Email: cs.ind@cac.mercedes-benz.com, Website: mercedes-benz.co.in
Accessories, colors and fitments shown may not be a part of standard specifications. For technical specification of the model available in India, please refer to the product brochure or contact the nearest Mercedes-Benz Franchise Partner. The Mercedes-Benz GLC meets Bharat Stage VI emission norms. Terms and Conditions apply. *The 4 year Service package and the 4th year extended warranty is a part of STAR Agility+ programme offered by Mercedes-Benz Financial Services India Pvt. Ltd. (MBFSI) [formerly Daimler Financial Services India Pvt. Ltd] CIN: U67190TN2010FTC077890. **STAR Agility+ is an optional financial scheme offered from MBFSI India Pvt Ltd. Finance is at the sole discretion of the financier, MBFSI. EMI and ROI is subject to change.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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

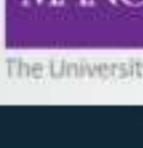
INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER | To subscribe call 1800 1200 004 or visit subscribe.timesgroup.com



leverage edu

a plan for every dream

Be the next one to
Study in the UK 

Aditya  UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAMSwati  Queen Mary University of LondonTwinkle  CARDIFF UNIVERSITY PRIFYDOL CYMRUShobhit  UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOLPiyush  OXFORD BROOKES UNIVERSITYDeeksha  NTU Nottingham Trent UniversityShubham  UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICHShivani  Coventry UniversityRajini  University of SheffieldPavni  Aston University BIRMINGHAM UKTamanna  UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICHDilip  MANCHESTER 1824 The University of ManchesterGaurav  QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFASTSaman  Cranfield UniversityMayank  BU Bournemouth University

T&Cs Apply


25000+ Success Stories

 700+
Universities

 Courses starting
₹15,00,000

 Scholarships worth
₹10,00,000

 Offer letter in
less than 7 days

BOOK A FREE SESSION TODAY

Download our app



Call us (toll-free)

1800-572-128

Visit us

leverageedu.com

Scan to book





GOODBYE OLD SCHOOL. HELLO, ACTIVE LEARNING!

The Advantages of '**The Galgotias Active Learning Environment**': Enhancing critical thinking skills, inspiring creativity and fostering innovation among students.

- Our research shows Active Learning improves information retention and recall by students up to 80% higher than conventional teaching methods
- Our Active Learning methods lead to better problem-solving abilities among students
- Our students experience better collaborative and communication skills in the specially designed Active Learning classrooms and state-of-the-art labs
- The Galgotias Active Learning method fosters a deeper understanding of complex concepts and increases motivation to learn
- Active Learning prepares our students for real-world challenges and continuous learning, bridging the industry-academia gap

Now, no more benches, only new benchmarks.



Active Learning in progress at the iOS Development Centre, powered by Apple & Infosys at Galgotias University.

Our Rankings, Accreditations and Recognition for Excellence in Education, Research and Placements.

TOP 50
in India in
INNOVATION

nirf
NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL
RANKING FRAMEWORK

Amongst
#91
in India
(MANAGEMENT
CATEGORY)

By NIRF Ranking 2023

शिक्षा मंत्रालय
Ministry of Education
Government of India

Galgotias University School of Business: Times B School Ranking Survey 2024

#6 Amongst
TOP 40 PRIVATE UNIVERSITY
PAN-INDIA

#7 Amongst
TOP 20 NORTH INDIA
B-SCHOOLS

#16 Amongst
TOP 100 B-SCHOOLS

#28 Amongst
TOP 50 B-SCHOOLS
FOR PLACEMENTS

Admission open 2024-25 for career-focussed UG/PG/DIPLOMA/Ph.D. Programmes

Computer Science & Engineering | Electrical Engineering | Electronics & Communication Engineering | Mechanical Engineering | Civil Engineering | Computer Applications & Technology | Biological & Life Sciences | Biomedical Sciences | Clinical Healthcare | Forensic Science | Design | Education | Nursing | Liberal Education | Media & Mass Communications Studies | Law | Agriculture | Basic Sciences | Finance & Commerce | Pharmacy | Allied Health Sciences | Business | Aviation | Logistics & Supply Chain Management | Hospitality & Tourism | Polytechnic | Vocational Education

TOP 3rd in India for filing **MAXIMUM PATENTS**
as per the Indian Patent Office Report for Academic Institutes and Universities

Grade
PLATINUM
BAND
A++
OBE RANKINGS 2022

NBA
ACCREDITED
Ter 1
for Computer Science Engineering,
Mechanical Engineering, Electronics
& Communication Engineering,
B.Pharm and MBA

#GetYourSelfPlaced®

**GALGOTIAS
UNIVERSITY**

(Under the Uttar Pradesh Private Universities Act No.12 of 2019)

VIKSIT
BHARAT
@
2047

SCAN
AND
APPLY
ONLINE





HAPPY BIRTHDAY
ICON STAR
ALLU ARJUN

Sukumar
writings



ICON STAR
ALLU ARJUN

PUSHPA

THE RULE

SUKUMAR
NAVEEN YERNENI Y RAVI SHANKAR

15 AUG
24



**PUSHPA RAJ THAGGEDHE LE ,
JK TYRES AAGEDHE LE**



Desh Ka Tyre



Talk like a woman: Surgery helps trans women find their voices

Those who struggle with their old, 'male' voices now have the option of completing their transition as voice feminisation procedures become more accessible in metros

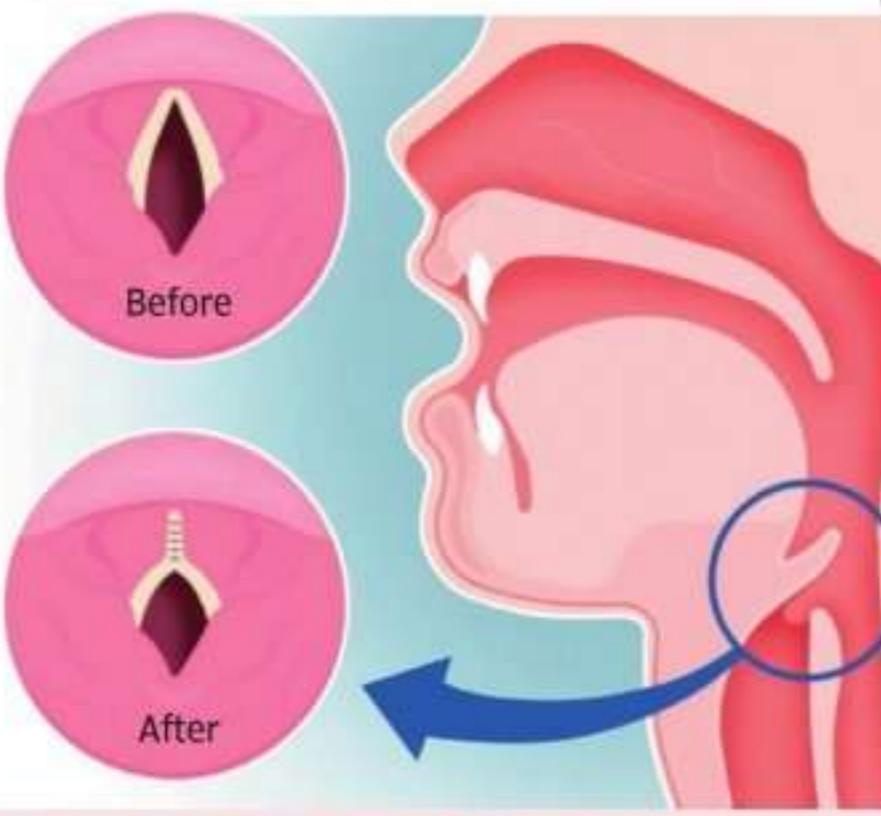
Mohua Das &
Sumitra Deb Roy | TNN

When you dial Payal Nikumb's number, the voice that greets you is calm and gentle. Her words flow at ease, drawing you in. The 27-year-old from Maharashtra's Dhule district has come a long way from the confused, isolated Yogesh she once used to be. However, the one thing that hadn't changed despite hormone therapy and surgeries that altered her sexual function, gave her breasts, thinned her body hair, and feminised her appearance, was: her voice. And it hindered an important step in her transition.

"My deep voice was a reminder of the disconnect between what I was born as and the gender I identify with," says the model and belly dancer, who transitioned through a sex reassignment surgery seven years ago. "On dates or during casting calls, I'd be asked, 'You look like a pretty girl but are you transgender?'" — a question that often marked an abrupt end of conversations. Things changed after Payal underwent vocal surgery a year ago. "Within six months, my voice transformed completely," she says, the joy palpable in her new voice. "It was awesome. Now, I get daily compliments on my voice from people who have no idea about my past."

With vocal surgery for transgender individuals increasingly recognised as a vital aspect of transitioning, more hospitals in the bigger cities are offering it. Recently, the state-run GT Hospital in Mumbai's Dharavi announced its plan to introduce this surgery, potentially becoming the first government institution to offer it free in the state.

"A disconnect between a person's voice and gender can put them as transgender, costing them relationships or making them a target of violent acts. We think this surgery will help many who can't afford it or don't know where to undergo it," says Dr Pallavi Saple, dean of JJ Group of Hospitals that includes GT Hospital. GT has tied up with Dr Nupur Nerurkar, a founding member of the International Association of TransVoice Surgeons, to improve quality of voice care as well as surgical techniques for transgender women.



HOW A GLOTTOPLASTY WORKS

- Endoscopic surgery, no cut on neck. Performed under general anaesthesia
- Vocal fold length shortened by 50% which instantly increases the pitch and makes it a feminine voice
- Anterior part of vocal folds made raw and stitched together with 2-4 very thin sutures
- No talking permitted for 2 weeks after surgery
- Complete healing and new voice usually takes 6-8 weeks

Pitch — how fast the vocal cords vibrate — is key to a voice sounding masculine or feminine. "In males, it's typically 100 vibrations per second, while in females, it's around 200," says Dr Nerurkar, who has conducted around 60 trans voice feminisation surgeries over 15 years for transgender women (those assigned male at birth and identify and transition to female). "For trans men, taking testosterone during their gender reassignment surgery naturally drops the voice pitch. So, surgery to masculinise the voice isn't usually needed," she says.

However, for trans women, while surgeries like breast augmentation, vaginoplasty, hormonal therapy, and facioplastics surgery are commonly performed to feminise their appearance, interventions like estrogen don't do much for their voice, adds Nerurkar. "So they try to make their voices sound more feminine by speaking in a higher pitch, but that can be exhausting and give them vocal fatigue. Plus, if they cough, sneeze, or get angry, their voice may revert to its original tone, giving away their identity. That's why many of them opt for voice feminisation surgery."

Another reason more people are opting for it is an advancement in technique that came about 15 years ago with Ger-

man surgeon Prof. Juergen Wender's glottoplasty technique. Dr Nerurkar describes it as a minimally invasive procedure performed endoscopically. "It results in a higher pitch with no cuts or scars on the neck."

A 46-year-old skincare expert from the northeast, who was the first to be operated on by Nerurkar using the endoscopic approach, says the surgery "boosted self-confidence," particularly in her professional space. "But surgery is not a quick fix," she adds.

Even after surgery, a transgender woman may still speak with her previous vocal tendencies, despite a more feminine tone. "To address this, we suggest voice and speech therapy sessions to refine the breathiness, accent, intonation, and inflections for a more feminine voice," explains Nerurkar.

"However, counselling is also very important. Many come with high expectations but the voice may not be 100 percent perfect," says Dr Jayakumar Menon, a senior laryngologist who has conducted around 12 trans voice surgeries at the Ananthapuri Hospital in Trivandrum since 2014.

Born and raised in Hyderabad as a man, Smita, (name changed), who underwent gender reassignment surgery in 2021 understands that. "Previously, my voice could reach at least three floors, but now it seems to struggle to carry across a big room. But I finally love hearing my voice," says the 32-year-old. Her ultimate affirmation is a reassuring address of 'Ma'am' from a caller. "It puts me on cloud nine," she exults.

There is a glaring gap between surgeries performed and the large transgender population in India, points out Dr Nerurkar. "While the number of surgeries has risen significantly since adopting the glottoplasty technique seven years ago, it's still a small fraction compared to the transgender population in India," she says. According to the 2011 census, there were 4,87,803 individuals identified as 'other' or the third gender in India.

Despite the procedure available at private hospitals, ranging from Rs 70,000 in the general ward to Rs 1 lakh, doctors recognise the lack of family support and financial means that many transgender individuals face. In cases such as this, the tie up with the state-run GT Hospital, could be a significant step forward.

India, China drive AI focus for global MBA aspirants: Study

40% Eye AI Skills, Takers For STEM-Certified Courses Up 39%

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Driven by growing demand in India and China, graduate management education is poised for a pivotal shift, with 40% of aspirants worldwide now emphasising on learning AI skills. Another notable trend among global MBA aspirants, largely propelled by India (57%) and China (51%), is the increasing clamour for STEM-certified business programmes.

These insights have emerged from the 'Prospective Students Survey 2024' report by GMAC (Graduate Management Admission Council), exclusively accessed by TOI. The survey revealed that aspiring scholars of management studies are increasingly drawn towards transformative technologies such as generative AI, which has witnessed a remarkable 38% year-over-year growth, with a significant majority citing its indispensability to their academic pursuits.

Concurrently, there has been a parallel surge in global interest towards STEM-certified business programmes, marking a 39% uptake over the past five years, particularly resonating in Asia, fuelled by the burgeoning demand in India and China.

The demand for AI proficiency mirrors the escalating need for skilled talent, prompting organisations to prioritise upskilling initiatives for their existing workforce, including engineers, IT professionals, with a focus on generative AI and machine learning (ML). Also, in a largely cautious market, AI, along with the oil sector, saw a 20% increase in hiring in Feb 2024, while AI and ML roles saw a 21% year-over-year increase in job creation.

"In the past year, the number of candidates who say AI is essential to their GME curricula surged from 29% in 2022 to 40% in 2023 — the most year-over-year growth of any curricular option, and evidence of the growing

SUSTAINABILITY A KEY FACTOR

Survey sample

Respondents
4,105

Countries of citizenship represented
132

Female respondents
42%

Gen Z respondents
61%

Dealbreaker choice in curriculum

68% Sustainability **42%** Full-time MBA **38%** AI courses **17%** Hybrid learning

Why Indian candidates prefer their top destination (%)

	UNITED STATES	WESTERN EUROPE	CENTRAL & SOUTH ASIA
Reputation of educational system	77	63	44
Better preparation for career	56	38	31
Diversity of student body	35	31	31
Affordability	31	31	55
Reputation of educational system	77	63	44
Closer to home	37	37	37

demand to learn about the role of AI in a business context," the survey said.

"The 2024 survey of prospective students reveals that candidates expect graduate business education to help equip them to advance social impact as a component of their professional and personal goals. Their strong desire to build evergreen skills like leadership in an uncertain world, data-driven problem-solving, and effective technology and human capital management persists, even though their preferences for delivery formats and study destinations may shift," said Joy Jones, CEO of GMAC.

Specifically, preference for STEM-certified programmes are important in their pursuit of higher education. To such an extent that many candidates would ex-

clude schools from their considerations if these fundamental themes were not integrated into the curriculum.

Alongside, a steadfast commitment to equity, inclusion, and sustainability throughout their academic journey is another deal-breaker. The GMAC survey indicates that for over two-thirds of aspirants, equity, inclusion, and sustainability are important aspects of their academic journey. Three-quarters express those efforts around well-being, as outlined by the United Nations' sustainable development goals' encompassing eradication of poverty, hunger, ensuring clean water and sanitation, and fostering decent work and economic growth.

As per the survey, affordability and growth of quality in-region institutions reshape global student mobility. For example, most Indian candidates now plan to apply domestically, growing from 41% in 2022 to 53% in 2023.

clude schools from their considerations if these fundamental themes were not integrated into the curriculum.

Furthermore, the survey underscores that, for Indian individuals aspiring to pursue a global MBA, the esteemed reputation of the educational systems in the United States (77%) and Western Europe (63%) stands as primary attractions, while considerations of affordability emerge as central factors for those eyeing educational opportunities in Central and South Asia (55%).

As per the survey, affordability and growth of quality in-region institutions reshape global student mobility. For example, most Indian candidates now plan to apply domestically, growing from 41% in 2022 to 53% in 2023.

To Get All The Popular Newspapers.

Type in Search Box of Telegram

@sharewithpride

If You Want to get these Newspapers Daily at earliest

English Newspapers»»

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

Hindi Newspapers»»

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

Others»»

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

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

Or

you can click on this link

<https://t.me/sharewithpride>