THE TIMES () FIND

Trump mocks rival Nikki Haley over the absence of her husband, who is deployed overseas, drawing a sharp reaction from the Indian-American politician. who says a person who disrespects military families has no business being commander-in-chief, P 13

Nearly 8.7 lakh foreign nationals became US citizens during fiscal 2023, of which 59,100 were from India, behind only Mexico (1.1 lakh) as the top source country of new citizens, P 13

Egypt is threatening to suspend its peace treaty if Israeli troops are sent into the densely populated Gaza border town of Rafah, where it says fighting could force closure of the besieged territory's main aid supply route, P 13

Glenn Maxwell equals Rohit Sharma's record for most men's T20I tons (5) as his unbeaten 120 off 55 balls helps Australia (241/4) beat West Indies (207/9), take winning 2-0 lead in three-game series, P 15

Cong's oxygen is 'loot & phoot': PM

ongress will be wiped out from MP in LS polls, said PM Modi at a rally in Jhabua Sunday, adding "loot and 'phoot (divisiveness)" are oxygen for it. He revealed BJP's winning mantra: 370 additional votes in each booth will take its seat tally to 370 a figure local saffron functionaries linked to Article 370's abrogation in J&K. P6

India lose to Aus in a WC final again

Three months after beating Rohit Sharma's India to ODI World Cup title, Australia (253/7) inflicted on India (174) another final heartbreak, winning the U-19 ODI WC Sunday. Australian seniors are reigning world Test champions too and their women ODI and T20 WC holders. P15

U'khand green cess on vehicles soon

......

Tttarakhand govt is set to implement a green cess on vehicles entering the state, following the model adopted by Himachal Pradesh. The cess will be collected through FASTag, with amounts ranging from Rs 20 to Rs 80. EVs and cars fuelled by CNG will be exempted. P9

MP HC slams 'fashion' of demolishing houses

Compensation To Be Paid To Two Petitioners

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Indore: It has become "fashionable" for authorities to teardown any house without adhering to "principles of natural justice", Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh HC has observed, ordering a compensation of Rs1lakh each to two petitioners whose homes were bulldozed by Ujjain Municipal Corporation for allegedly

lacking building permissions. Justice Vivek Rusia noted the illegality of the act carried out in Sandipini Nagar on Dec 13, 2023, without serving prior

'LAST RECOURSE'

- > HC criticises trend of resorting to demolitions 'without complying with principles of natural justice'
- > Says, 'criminal case was filed against kin of petitioners' and 'drastic action' taken on 'concocted panchnama'
- Says razing 'should be last recourse' after giving owner chance to regularise house

notice to petitioners Radha Langri and Vimal Gurjar or giving them opportunity for a hearing. They approached HC after the demolition. Rusia also ordered disciplinary action against errant civic officers.

▶'Drastic action', P 7

IN THE COURTS

> Woman living separately on her own not entitled to maintenance: MP court | P7

> Marriage pious institution, should try for reconciliation, says Guj court, quashes divorce decree | P7

Can't reject accident death

claim over expiry of bike

- registration, pay ₹15L to kin of deceased man: Guj consumer forum to insurance co | P 9 Corruption accused can be convicted only if demand and acceptance of bribe
- Kebab from Lucknow reaches Ggn customer in 30 mins, Zomato in dock | P7

proved: Odisha HC | P7

'Delhi will give all 7 to AAP': Kejriwal

No seat-sharing?

Tarn Taran (Punjab): Aday after announcing that AAP would independently declare candidates for all 13 seats in Punjab and one in Chandigarh in a fortnight, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday dropped clear hints that his party would contest all seven Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, delivering a blow to fellow IN-DIA bloc constituent Congress's plans to have an alliance in national capital.

"People of Delhi have decided to give all 7 seats to AAP," said Kejriwal in his address to a gathering during a ceremony to inaugurate Sri Guru Amar Das Thermal Plant here, expressing confidence that AAP will win all LS seats in Delhi. TNN

▶ 'Do some work', P 8

90 get cabinet rank in Cong govt; 77 are MLAs

Sandeep.Moudgal @timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: As many as 90 persons, including 77 MLAs and nine non-legislators, have been granted cabinet rank by the Siddaramaiah govt ever since it took office nine months ago. Sources said such a contingent is, perhaps, the largest ever in Karnataka governance history.

With Congress scoring a big win in the 2023 polls leading to claims galore from different sections of the party, 77 of its 135 MLAs and four MLCs have been given the prestigious rank. These include ministers (including the CM), chairpersons of boards and cor-

LARGEST EVER?

> At least 90 in Congress govt enjoy cabinet rank, said to be largest ever; not all them have been given full perks of a cabinet minister

A cabinet-rank leader can have 14-member staff, a car with a police escort and higher salary

 According to sources, BJP had a maximum of 60 leaders in that rank

porations, multiple advisors to the CM and even the chief whips of the ruling party in both assembly and council.

► Nine CM's advisors, P 3

PPP demands Pakistan PM post for Bilawal

PP, which has come third in Pakistan polls with 54 seats behind independents affiliated with Imran Khan's PTI (95) and Nawaz Sharif's PML-N (74), is demanding during talks with PML-N the PM's post for its leader and ex-foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. In return, PPP is offering PML-N support to form a provincial govt in Punjab. But the latter is reluctant to concede PM's post, reports Omer Farooq Khan. Imran's PTI has rejected talks with PML-N and PPP and intends to form federal govt independently. It is willing to contest poll results they deem manipulated. P13

BJP names Bhandge for sole RS seat; Rajeev to contest LS polls?

Bengaluru: BJP on Sunday elections from the states. sprang a surprise, nominatingformer MLC and North Karnataka hardliner Narayan Sa

Bhandge for the

sole Rajya Sabha Karnataka seat the party has in this edition of biennial

From RSS-VHP background, Bhandge, 73, is a Kshatri-

ya leader who is expected to help BJP win

BJP denies buzz of sculptor Yogiraj joining politics, P 3 over smaller, yet influential communities to the party fold

in the Lok Sabha polls. This comes amid strong

lobbying by Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who was seeking a re-election from the state for a third consecutive term.

Sources said he might contest the Lok Sabha polls from Bengaluru Central or Kerala. Congress, which is expected to finalise its list of three Rajya Sabha nominees from Karnataka in the coming davs. is actively considering names of GC Chandrashekar, Syed Nasser Hussain, L Hanumanthaiah and Abhisheka Manu Singhvi. TNN

▶Former RBI governor, P 4

AI is breaking link between college degrees and knowledge: Nadella

Shilpa Phadnis & Sujit John

Ten years ago, when he was appointed CEO of Microsoft, Satya Nadella made a big bet on cloud computing, and pulled the legendary company out of the morass it had fallen into after it lost out on mobile and search revolutions. Now, he's making

an equally big bet on AI, which markets love - his ambitious wager has taken Microsoft past Apple and made it

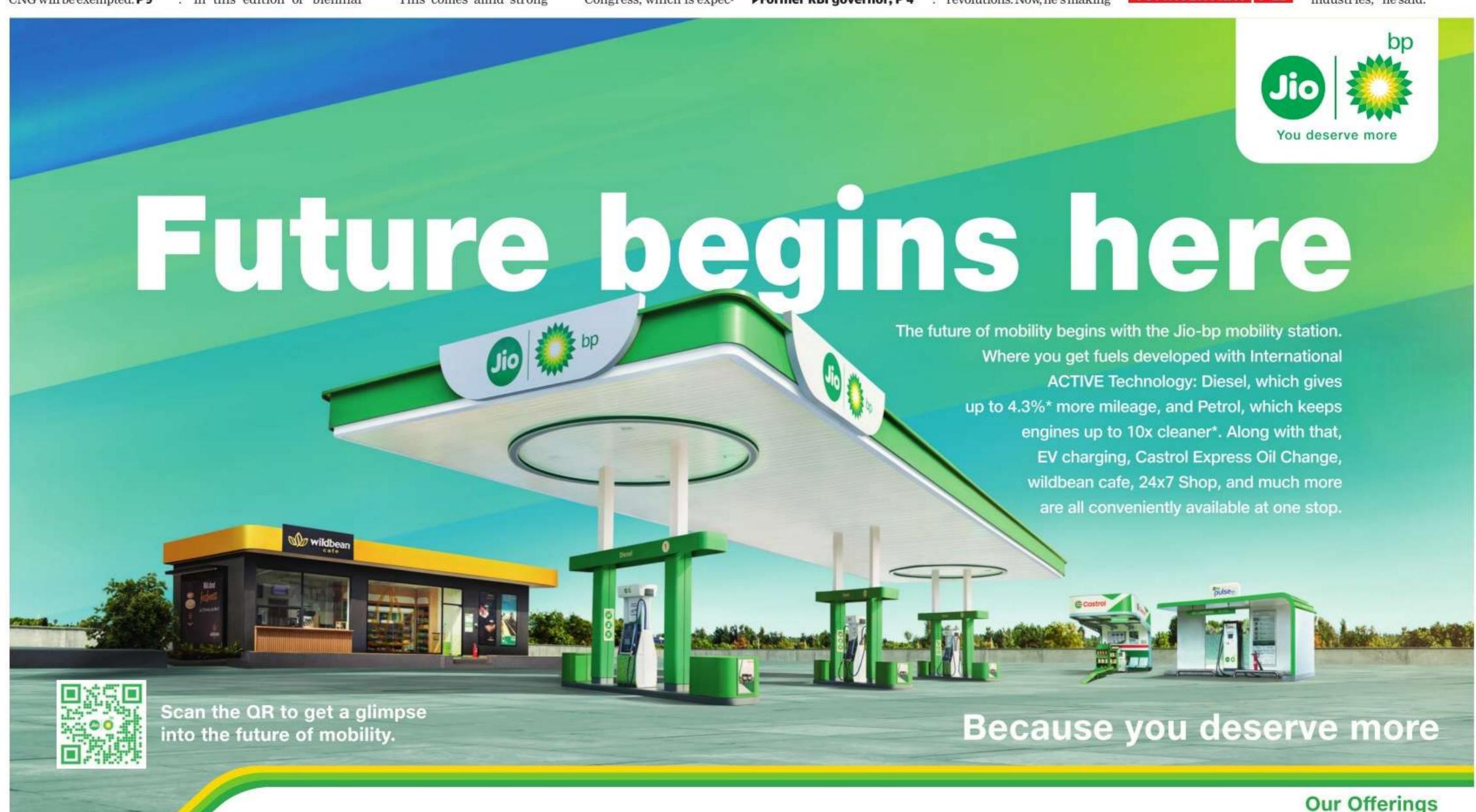
> witha\$3trillion market cap.

world's most va-

luable company

On a three-day visit to India last week, Nadella spoke exclusively to TOI. AI, he pointed out, is breaking the link between college degrees and knowledge.

"This tech will give India the ability to turn more of its people more productive, with better wages, in more industries," he said.



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Don't re-tire the retired: K'taka HC to developers

Vasantha.Kumar @timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Developers particularly while building retirement homes - should not make the elderly run from pillar to post to secure the accommodation after taking substantial amount from them, the Karnataka high court observed in a recent judgement.

"It is necessary to bear in mind that retired people should not be made to re-tire themselves," Justice M Nagaprasanna has said in an order dismissing the petition filed by Ozone Urbana Infra Developers, Bengaluru.

The petitioner had challenged the July 5, 2023, order passed by the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA), rejecting an interlocutory application filed by it in a complaint registered by ▶'Details blank', P 2

The GP granted OC in 2017 to an apartment complex which did not have power supply None of the amenities that were assured and promised to lure the retired home buyers were in place. STP was yet to come up. Lifts were not provided as DG installation clearance for the lift was issued only on Jan 4, 2019. Water supply was not complete - Justice M Nagaprasanna

the Serene Urbana Apartment Owners' Association.

The petitioner is the promoter of 'Serene Urbana', an apartment complex exclusively built for retired persons at Kannamangala and Poojanahalli villages, Devanahalli taluk, Bangalore Rural district. Approval was granted for a total of 350 apartments over 6 acres of land. The project was to be completed in 2017.

Haldwani riots 'mastermind' nabbed in Delhi

Dehradun: Police on Sunday apprehended Abdul Malik, the suspected mastermind of the violence that erupted in Haldwani on Thursday in which five people were killed.

In a joint operation with Delhi police, Nainital district police detained Malik based on preliminary evidence. "He was traced to the national capital and nabbed by us with assistance from Delhi police. He will be brought to Uttarakhand after completing the required documentation," said an officer. Cops said Malik, the owner of Malik Ka Bagicha, the spot around which the violence had erupted, built the "illegal" madrassa and mosque on the Nazul land in Banphoolpura, TNN

Both camps corral MLAs, Nitish set to win trust vote

Jainarain.Pandey @timesgroup.com

Patna: Bihar's political landscape is ablaze with high-octanedrama as CM Nitish Kumar prepares to prove his govt's majority in assembly on budget session's inaugural day slated for Monday. JD(U) leader Nitish, requiring 122 lawmakers' backing, seems to command a majority on paper after severing ties with RJD-Congress-Left Grand Alliance (GA) on Jan 28 & joining NDA.

With support of 128 MLAs, including BJP (78), JD-U(45), HAMS(4), and one independent, NDA appears poised Sunday to secure victory during the trust vote in 243-member assembly. In contrast, GA stands at

115 MLAs, comprising RJD (79), Congress (19), Left (16), and AIMIM (1).



A bomb squad inspects the Bihar assembly complex on Sunday

ching, both sides have fortified their ranks by corralling respective lawmakers. Probability of a significant exodus of legislators from their camps seems remote, considering the inherent risk of forfeiting their assembly membership.

3 wks to go, 53% city shops sport **Kannada boards**

Bengaluru: With three weeks to go for the Feb 28 deadline for shops in Bengaluru to reserve 60% of space for Kannada in its nameboards, more than 26,000 of 49,000 (or about 53%) commercial establishments which had been issued notices have adhered to the rule, reports Santoshkumar B.

This comes amid govt's efforts to introduce the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development (Amendment) Bill in the legislature session. To ensure shops install boards with 60% signage in Kannada, BBMP had issued notices to 49,751 owners. Officials said the highest number of notices were issued in East, which has CBD areas in its jurisdiction, and Bommanahalli zones.

: ► Stringent action, P 9 : Amid fears of MLA poa- ► 'Rules on speaker', P 8 : ► Boards by Feb-end, P 4 : listeners erupt in cheers in ► Counsellor soon, P 8

Jailhouse rock: Inmate doubles up as prison 'RJ'

Nitasha Natu & Mateen Hafeez

very afternoon, for three hours, loudspeakers at the Byculla District Prison crackle to life, not with official pronouncements, but with the vibrant strains of music. Between Hindi film songs and an occasional English tune, a chirpy voice reminds listeners that they have tuned in-

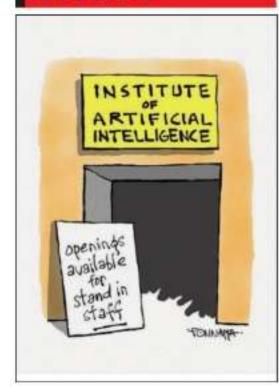
to the Prison Radio show. Prison radio shows may not be an entirely new concept but what sets this programme apart is its hostess Rani(not her real name), a 24-year-old undertrial who is the first female radio jockey in a state prison. "You might think all is lost, but it's not," her voice booms over the speakers. She then plays a fellow inmate's 'farmaish' (song request) and



The 24-year-old undertrial is the first female RJ in a state prison

their barracks. Rani was incarcerated on charges of cheating around eight months ago. A graduate in business financial management with a stint in a production house and theatre, she saw the RJ position as an opportunity, a chance to hone her skills and build a future beyond the prison walls. "I look at it as adding to my skill set when I seek employment once I'm out," she told TOI.

OFFSIDE



ALMANAC (12.2.2024)

Makara Masa 28 - Shri Shobhakruth Nama Samvatsara -Uttarayana - Shishira Ritu - Tithi: Magha Shukla Tritiya h. 17-45 Nakshatra: Purva Bhadrapada h. 14-57 Yoga: Siddha h. 26-37. 01 Shaban; Kali Day 18717587

Rahu Kalam 7.30am — 9am KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

NAL tests drone-like prototype at Challakere

@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Scientists from city-based National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), a Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) lab. achieved a breakthrough by successfully testing an unmanned aerial vehicle called High-Altitude Pseudo Satellite (HAPS) at Chitradurga's Challakere earlier in Feb.

L Venkatakrishnan, chief scientist and programme director (high-altitude platform) at NAL, told TOI: "HAPS is similar to drones but is designed to hover in the stratosphere above the airspace used by commercial airplanes. This platform, which can be powered by solar cells and batteries, can be operated for up to 90 days while regular high-altitude long-endurance (HALE) dro-



FLYING HIGH: Series of tests are planned by CSIR-NAL to develop a 30-metre-wingspan HAPS by 2027

nes operate for about 48 hours at best."

He said HAPS platforms are of interest to military operators for intelligence, surveillance roles. They can also be used for civilian roles by acting as telecommunication satellites mainly in case of environmental disasters.

"Compared to satellites, HAPS, which operates in the stratosphere, offers lower latency and less path loss," Venkatakrishnan said. It can also be deployed comparatively rapidly at a lower cost. It can connect to multiple ground stations simultaneously.

"The HAPS we tested in Challakere is a prototype. It's a scaled-down 5-metre-long system with 12-metre wingspan, weighing 23kg. By 2027, we're confident of building a full-scale version that could

have a wingspan of under 30m and weigh more than 100kg but less than 150kg. It will be able to carry payloads weighing 15kg and have multiple uses," Venkatakrishnan explained.

During the trials, the prototype rose to an altitude of 2.7km and remained airborne for 8.5 hours. It met all targeted performance metrics, as per the scientists associated with the project.

This is part of a series of planned tests by CSIR-NAL to develop a full-scale 30-metre-wingspan HAPS by 2027 that can fly at 23km altitude for at least 90 days.

Pointing out that HAPS requires significant engineering expertise to fly unmanned for days using solar-powered batteries instead of jet fuel and withstand atmospheric turbulence despite being a lightweight structure, Venkatakrishnan said tests of the battery management system and the propeller for the full-scale version will be completed by Sept 2024.

"The realisation of the full-scale airframe is aims to achieve by 2027. As of now, the only functional HAPS in the world is the Airbus Zephvr. which means we aren't really far off so far as the technology goes," he added.

Cabbie arrested for shouting slogans against transport min

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 50-year-old man was arrested for shouting slogans against transport minister Ramalinga Reddy during the chief minister's Janaspandana held at Vidhana Soudha Thursday.

AT JANASPANDANA

The arrested is cab driver Munegowda, a resident of Doddaballapura. Police said he attended the CM's programme to complain about alleged corruption in the regional transport office.

When CM Siddaramaiah was near the stalls in the eastern side of Vidhana Soudha, Munegowda was in the northern side. He shouted slogans against Reddy and allegedly used abusive language. Cops tried to shoo him

away, but Munegowda continued to shout slogans and created a ruckus for some time. To maintain law and order during the event, police detained Munegowda.

During interrogation, Munegowda said he had applied for driving licence renewal in 2018, but RTO officials made him wait for a few months and demanded bribe. A broker had his DL card and gave it to him after taking some money. Munegowda said he has been submitting petitions and running from pillar to post seeking necessary action to stop corruption. But the govt, including Reddy, hasn't been taking his petitions seriously, he claimed.

A senior police officer said Munegowda was produced before a court and remanded in judicial custody.

Trial by waste fires leaves residents Don't want Cubbon Park to of Whitefield gasping for clean air

Smoke Smells Like Poison. Say Residents

Sanika.Athavale @timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Several pockets of Whitefieldnestlingnext to green fields aren't exactly soaking in an idyllic setting. Many patches of these fields have turned into illegal dumpyards and the waste set on fire spewing toxic fumes has become an everyday nightmare for residents.

Several residential complexes in the area have been complaining of their helplessness in having to live alongside illegal dumpyards that go up in smoke with metronomic regularity. Respiratory issues are on the rise in the area due to garbage burning in the open, which, however, has been outlawed by the state govt and National Green Tribunal for seven years.

Chaya (name changed), a Whitefield resident who lives next to one such fiery dumpyard, said 'health inspectors' of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) tell the residents that the land owners burn leaves and stubble for agricultural purposes and that they cannot stop their activity. "But which farmer burns

their stubble throughout the year?" she said.

Residents in the area said the smoke cannot be of only leaves and stems because it smells like poison.

On Feb 8, the plush villa

colony of Prestige Ozone, be-

hind Nexus Mall in Whitefield, went through a horrifying experience as clouds of smoke billowed out of the green fields on its eastern side. The smoke was caused by the burning of garbage which residents say has been an issue since 2017 but has worsened over the last 4-5 months. "Every two days, there are piles of waste burnt on the fields bordering the eastern compound of our society, about 2-3km from us. Over the last few months, our copper tumblers have turned turn black. My air purifier's index for PM 2.5 (an identified pollutant) is at 210. I had respiratory issues 10 years ago but they have now resurfaced due to this problem," said Ibraiz Siddiqui, president of the Prestige Ozone Welfare Association.

Siddiqui said they had written to the PMO after which Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) officials inspected the area. Marshals were deployed for a month but the burning reportedly continued at night. "When we wrote to the PMO again, they replied that the matter was closed," Siddiqui added.



LEADER NEEDED: Residents say the absence of a local elected body has made it practically impossible to handle these kind of issues

'TWO CASES OF FIRE DAILY IN SUMMER'

ccording to officials from the fire and emergency services, there will be at least two cases of grass fire or garbage blaze reported from Whitefield every day during summer months.

"Such calls start from Feb and go on till April or May. Due to heat, objects on the ground will go dry and catch fire in no time. It is the negligent behaviour of humans, who

Chaya said not having a local elected body has made it practically impossible to tackle the matter.

"As citizens, we are all entitled to a few services that are entrusted to the govt to handle. But we are suffering here because no one in the

fire extends to other objects too sometimes," a fire brigade officer explained. entire system is ready to take

throw butts of cigarettes and

beedis near garbage heaps or

on the ground with grass that

mostly causes the fire. There

are days when we receive

Whitefield area on grass or

is not cleared, residents

garbage fires. When garbage

choose to burn them but the

responsibility," she said.

around five calls from

Nitesh Dowgar, a resident of Prestige Ozone, said the community's volunteers have seen trucks dump sludge sewage treatment plants at the empty sites on

the eastern side.

"The space is like a green belt... We even had officials from the KSPCB come and test the soil during the Ganesha festival last year. They found out that the soil was contaminated beyond use and there was an order instructing the residents to not draw any underground water from this area. Yet multiple illegal bores operate in these fields and are being dug consistently. When we went there along with the KSPCB to question the land owners, the people on the fields said that they were hired by contractors and had no links to the property owners. It is all very shady," Dowgar said.

Farmers issued warning

Mahadevapura Task Force (MTF) members said a team of BBMP's solid waste management department visited the site and found that the smoke was due to farmers burning their crops.

The AEE warned farmers to not repeat it, but the area comes under panchayat limits, they added.

Eesidents are not sure about the claim of the land being under panchayat limits and argued that the absence of a BBMP council is aggravating their troubles. "Whenever an official has shown up to check on our problem, she/he has never provided maps to prove the 'panchayat land' claim despite being asked to," a resident said.

become IT park: Protesters

Sanika.Athavale @timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Over 100 citizens gathered at Cubbon Park on Sunday morning to protest the proposed high court an nexe building coming up at the cost of its green cover.

Representatives from resident welfare associations located in HRBR Layout, Whitefield and Malleswaram, along with socio-political ac-

FOR GREEN COVER

tivists from B.PAC, members of citizen advocacy initiative Heritage Beku and other groups met at the State Central Library in the park and used a megaphone to share personal stories and memories of the city's premier lung space.

The protesters said they feared the proposed building would set a bad precedent and trigger slow concretization of the green space. "We do not want Cubbon Park to become Cubbon IT Park in a few years," they declared.

"My family and I have travelled to many developed countries and pictures from the parks there are almost a



UNIMPRESSED: The protesters said they fear the proposed high court annexe building will trigger slow concretization of the green space

match to Cubbon Park. We came for the protest but stayed on for a few more hours. It is such a peaceful and mesmerising place. My children loved spending time in the park and I'd prefer this green space is maintained for the future generation. This was one of the many things the protestors discussed today," said Christopher Cruz, a resident of HRBR Layout.

Alex James, an environmentalist and one of the con-

veners of the protest, wondered why Cubbon Park is the favourite target of the authorities. "It is not just 100-150 trees that we will lose to clear land for the annexe building. Once they start digging, another 100-200 trees will be affected as their roots will get weakened," he pointed out.

"This movement is gathering steam, Bengalureans settled abroad are also in solidarity with us in this endeavour," a protester said.

Passion, discipline at sports meet



ADDING ZEST TO THE SHOW

ayananda Sagar International School held its much-awaited annual sports meet, Zest, recently. International throwball player Hazel Mary

was the chief guest. Secretary of Dayananda Sagar Institutions Galiswami and other dignitaries

were present on the occasion.

It was a day of enthusiasm, passion, discipline and enjoyment. Students put up their best performance in track events and display presentation. Principal Varsha Jaideep has always been a strong mentor who aims for all-round development of students. The day concluded with presentation of the winners' trophy and multiple awards.

Rugby team wins accolades

The rugby team of Mount Litera Zee School, Whitefield, is resilient. No matter what is thrown at them, no matter how deep the hole, they find a way to bounce back. Students of the school secured first place in U-11 category,



a spirited school band.

Inspiring speeches by the

chief guests were followed by

second in U-14 boys' category and runner-up in girls' category at Bangalore Urban Inter Schools Championship-2023.

Students shine at school's annual day



day celebration, Utsav 2023-24, recently and it was a resounding success. The programme commenced with a grand welcome to

the principal presenting the annual report listing out the school's achievements in academics and co-curricular activities. The students showcased cultural diversity through mesmerizing dance JR Kengeri Public performances. Proficiency School held its annual awards and cash prizes were awarded to students with commendable performances and to class 10 ICSE (2022-23) toppers, recognising their dedication and academic achievements. Overall, it was chief guests — BEO, Bangalore South, Jayalakshmi CD, a day filled with pride, and circle inspector, joy and shared commitment Kengeri, Sanjeev Gowda, by to excellence.

All details remained blank in completion certificate: Judge was obtained two years later

Continued from page 1

n the same year, Kannamangala gram panchayat issued occupancy certificates (OCs). Sale deeds were executed for 241 allottees. even though the project was incomplete.

Thereafter, Serene Urbana Apartment Owners' Welfare Association complained to Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority, seeking a direction to declare the project an "ongoing project".

On the other hand, Ozone Urbana Infra Developers filed an application, seeking rejection of the complaint on the ground that the project is not required to be registered as it had been completed before RERA rules came into force. K-RERA, after an inspection, passed an order declaring Serene Urbana as an ongoing project, prompting Ozone Urbana Infra Develop-



ers to approach high court.

After perusing the material on record, Justice Nagaprasanna noted that in the completion certificate placed before the gram panchayat in April 2017, all the information, including owners' names and signatures, remained blank and yet the GP accepted it and affixed

the signature. "It is rather shocking that as to how the GP could affix the signature on the receipt of a completion certificate blank," the judge added.

which was completely The judge pointed out that the GP had issued the OC on August 16, 2017, whereas the project inspection was conducted five years later on

June 29, 2022, fire clearance

on May 21, 2019 without which OC could not have been granted and Bescom power supply was provided on August 21, 2018.

"The GP granted OC to an apartment complex which did not have even power supply. None of the amenities that were assured and promised to lure the retired home buyers were in place. Sewage-treatment plant was yet to come up. Lifts were not provided as DG installation clearance for the lift was issued only on January 4, 2019. Water supply was not complete," Justice Nagaprasan-

na pointed out in his order. Declaring that Serene Urbana project of the petitioner was an 'ongoing project' as on July 10, 2017, the date on which RERA rules came into force, the judge directed the developer to register the project with K-RERA.

Chain-snatcher, 48, who skipped court for 26 years nabbed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A 48-year-old man did not imagine police would catch him 26 years after he had allegedly committed a crime.

Accused of snatching the

gold chain of a woman in 1998 Gulab Khan alias Gullu and his associate evaded court proceedings till the law finally caught up with him this month. According to police, Gullu and his aide committed the crime when Vasantha, a resident of Jayanagar 4th Block, was walking on the road. Gullu, who was residing in Navandahalli, and his associate were arrested. After coming out of jail on bail, the duo did not appear before the court even once. They were declared proclaimed offenders and a register was maintained against them.

Top police officers, during a recent review meeting, instructed their subordinates to nab all suspects who were not attending court proceedings. Assistant sub-inspector Lakshmanachar KV, who was assigned to trace Gullu, collected information without technical support. He and

I think taking permission when using

restricted areas like operation theatres is a

natural courtesy. These are the sanctum



his colleagues — constables Kumaraswamy, Pruthviraj and Deekshit — camped near Gullu's house for a couple of days and managed to nab him in the early hours of Feb 3.

Gullu had installed an advanced CCTV camera which would rotate in the direction of people's movements. The camera was often monitored by his family members.

Gullu told police after they came out on bail, he and his family went to Ramanagara where he worked as a sweeper and later worked as a welder at Kanakapura. Efforts are on to nab his associate.

Police are yet to get in touch with Vasantha. They have booked a case under IPC section 174 A (non-appearance in response to proclamation under CrPC) against Gullu, who is in judicial custody.

Photographic artist Shi-

bu Arakkal, however, feels

the best generations weren't

raised with kid gloves. "Let

us not get soft and abdicate

our responsibilities to our

communities therefore. If an

institution has rules, not get-

ting into whether they are

justified or not, their breach

attracting consequences is

perfectly acceptable to me.

Now, if the authorities have

acted in a heavy-handed

manner and could've been

Pay ₹3.2L fine or face FIR, cops tell scooterist

Bengaluru: Traffic police warned a two-wheeler owner, who has a pending fine of Rs 3.2 lakh for nearly 350 violations, that he will have to face an FIR if he doesn't pay the fine.

Venkataraman, a resident of Sudhamanagar and owner of a scooter told police they could take away his vehicle because he won't be able to pay the fine; the scooter won't fetch him even Rs 30,000 in the used two-wheeler market.

According to police, Venkataraman's scooter was involved in violations almost every day. They include riding without a helmet, signal-jumping, using mobile phone while riding, both rider and pillion rider not wearing helmet and riding on

one-way roads. Police traced Venkataraman's house with the help of the address given while purchasing and registering the scooter. "We have given him time to pay the fine in instalments," a traffic police officer said. TNN

Murder suspect falls in hospital

Ranganath K TNN

murder suspect, under treatment at Jalap-🕽 pa Hospital in Kolar following a suicide attempt, sustained injuries when he fell from the first floor of the hospital Sunday morning. Police are looking into whether it was another suicide attempt or an accident.

Nithin, 25, a resident of Baraguru village in Malur taluk, was hospitalised on Feb 7 after he allegedly attempted suicide by slitting his throat. Nithin is suspected to have murdered a class 9 student from Malur taluk.

Nithin had allegedly be-

en harassing the girl earlier and village elders pulled him up. On Feb 6, the girl went missing, and two days later, her half-burnt body was found near Banarahalli in Hoskote taluk. Meanwhile, Nithin allegedly attempted suicide in front of his ho-: use at Baraguru.

'Medicos' suspension harsh, but decorum vital'

Mini.Thomas@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: Thirty-eight students of Gadag Institute of Medical Sciences (GIMS) were suspended Saturday for dancing to movie songs and making Instagram reels, drawing the ire of the authorities after people started complaining about hospital premises being used for shoots. The punitive action, however, has elicited

mixed reactions. Dr Don Rodrigues, an intern at St John's Medical College Hospital, feels that suspension, as a form of punishment, is too harsh. "I think this sort of treatment might discourage others from being creative and staying positive in a stressful work environment," he said.

Students shouldn't be punished for dancing or making funny reels. However, if they are doing it in hospital without following the correct protocols related to patient safety, confidentiality and decorum, and permissions of the hospital administration, then they may be violating hospital administrative rules Dr Jagadish Chaturvedi

sanctorum. That aside, doctors must be given a chance to express themselves or just be. A medical student who indulges in other artistic aspirations becomes more empathetic and more sensitive Dr Anil Abraham **ENT SURGEON AT FORTIS DERMATOLOGIST &** HOSPITAL & STANDUP TRICHOLOGIST, ABRAHAMS COMEDIAN SKIN & HAIR CLINIC

tists up in arms. "Unless they were dancing while doing brain surgery, I'd say the punishment is nonsense. All authority tends to promote a joyless world," Prakash Belawadi, film director, theatre

artist and activist, told TOI. Filmmaker Kavita Lan-The suspension has ar- kesh said: "I think it is appal- reached out to pointed out College of Commerce.

ling they were suspended for having some innocent fun. Leave the kids alone. We are not a Taliban state at least."

The medicos, all house surgeons, were suspended for a period of 10 days with ef-

fect from Feb 10. Many academicians TOI

that suspension should only be used as a last resort. "It is important to have a clear policy of what is and isn't allowed before using harsh forms of punishment such as suspension," said Maryanne Pais, head of the department of psychology at St Joseph's

understanding is, I would guess, their prerogative and not something the offenders must expect as entitlement," he opined.

It may be recalled that medicos from a Kerala college had danced to Boney M's 'Rasputin' a few years back and gone on to become social media stars.





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They bang on vehicles & divert attention to steal mobile phones

Thieves Target Lone Drivers At Kodigehalli Jn

Chaithanya.Swamy @timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: If you are driving past Kodigehalli Junction on Ballari Road during peak hours and if someone bangs on your car windows, don't roll them down. A doctor and an elderly professor learnt this lesson the hard way after finding their phones were stolen from their vehicles when they responded to strangers banging on the windows recently.

Dr Bhavyashree, 34, who works at Aster CMI Hospital, was driving home around 6.20pm on February 5. As many vehicles were waiting at the junction, she was stuck in front of the Fabindia showroom. A man blocked her way by standing in front of her car and acting as if he was on a call. In a couple of seconds, another man started banging on the front offside window.

Bhavyashree's husband Vishal Naik told **TOI** that his wife decided not to roll down the window. But the miscreant banged continuously for about 45 seconds and it appeared that the glass would give away. She rolled down the glass a little. He kept shouting at her. Meanwhile, the other miscreant started banging the front nearside window. She rolled it down to ask him why he was doing so when she was talking to the person on

HOW THEY GO ABOUT IT

Two or three men hang around busy Kodigehalli Junction

They wait for signal to turn red Once vehicles stop. they quickly look for

women, aged or

the other side

driving alone A person bangs on the car window. When the driver rolls it down, another person bangs on the front window on

physically weak people

The duo shout in Hindi. By diverting the attention of the driver, one of them steals

the right side. Both of them shouted at her and went towards the other side of the road after a few seconds.

The doctor drove for some distance and noticed her iPhone kept on the left seat had been stolen. She came home and told her husband about the incident. "We then went to the police station and lodged a complaint," Naik said.

Bhavyashree tracked the phone's location to Malad in Mumbai, Dr Naik said.

Sometime before the theft of Bhavyashree's phone, a OnePlus 6 was stolen from David K Dass (62).

A resident of Sahakar Nagar and guest professor at multiple colleges, Dass was driving back home. Around 6pm, he was near Kodigehalli junction and two people started banging on the front windows to his right and left. When he rolled them down, the miscreant standing on the

the mobile phone from inside the car and escapes

left side stole his mobile pho-

ne and ran to the other side of

the road before escaping in an

Dass's advocate-friend Ra-

ON THE PROWL: Miscreants

autorickshaw.

at Kodigehalli Junction

take advantage of traffic snarls

vi Kumar said the professor noticed his mobile phone had been stolen only when he stopped at a nearby fuel station. "He immediately alerted me about the incident. After filing a complaint at the station, we went to a service provider's outlet at Sahakar Nagar to buy a new sim card. The executives told us that we were the seventh or eighth victims of such incidents. One of their executives became a victim himself a few days ago. Most of them have not filed complaints because stolen phones are hardly recovered by police," Ravi Kumar said.

A police officer said two cases were registered under IPC Sections 420 (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 379 (theft).

CM's 9 advisers not legislators

▶ Continued from page 1

esides, nine members appointed advisers to the CM with rank and status as cabinet ministers are members of neither of the houses. This includes Congress victory mastermind Sunil Kanugolu, CM medical adviser H Ravikumar, former IAS officer and 'Brand Bengaluru' expert BS Patil, vice-president of the NRI Cell Aarthi Krishna and others.

The total number is estimated to be 90 members, including the soon-to-be-appointed state poll guarantees committee chairman. What does a cabinet-rank status entail? Apart from the inherent heft, a cabinet-rank person can hire as many as 14-member staff, a car with a police escort and higher salary.

However, DPAR officials suggest that none of the cabinetrank legislators appointed to boards and corporations or as chief whips and political secre-

taries have higher salaries.

"Besides, the salary component of such appointees is the same as a regular MLA — Rs 40,000 a month, additional travel and dearness allowances. The same is provided to cabinet-rank legislators, who can only choose one salary (as MLA or minister) and cannot reap the benefits of an MLA and that of cabinet rank member," said the official. Basavaraj Rayareddy, newly appointed economic adviser to the CM, said the cabinet-rank sta-

tus is "just for prestige" and does not entail major perks for most of his colleagues. "However, RV Deshpande, BR Patil and I are the only three in the government outside the 34 ministers who draw all the benefits of a cabinet-rank minister. This is because of our seniority

and the role given to us," said Rayareddy, adding he rationalized his expenditure despite higher eligibility at times by traveling economy class while other ministers took business class on government money.

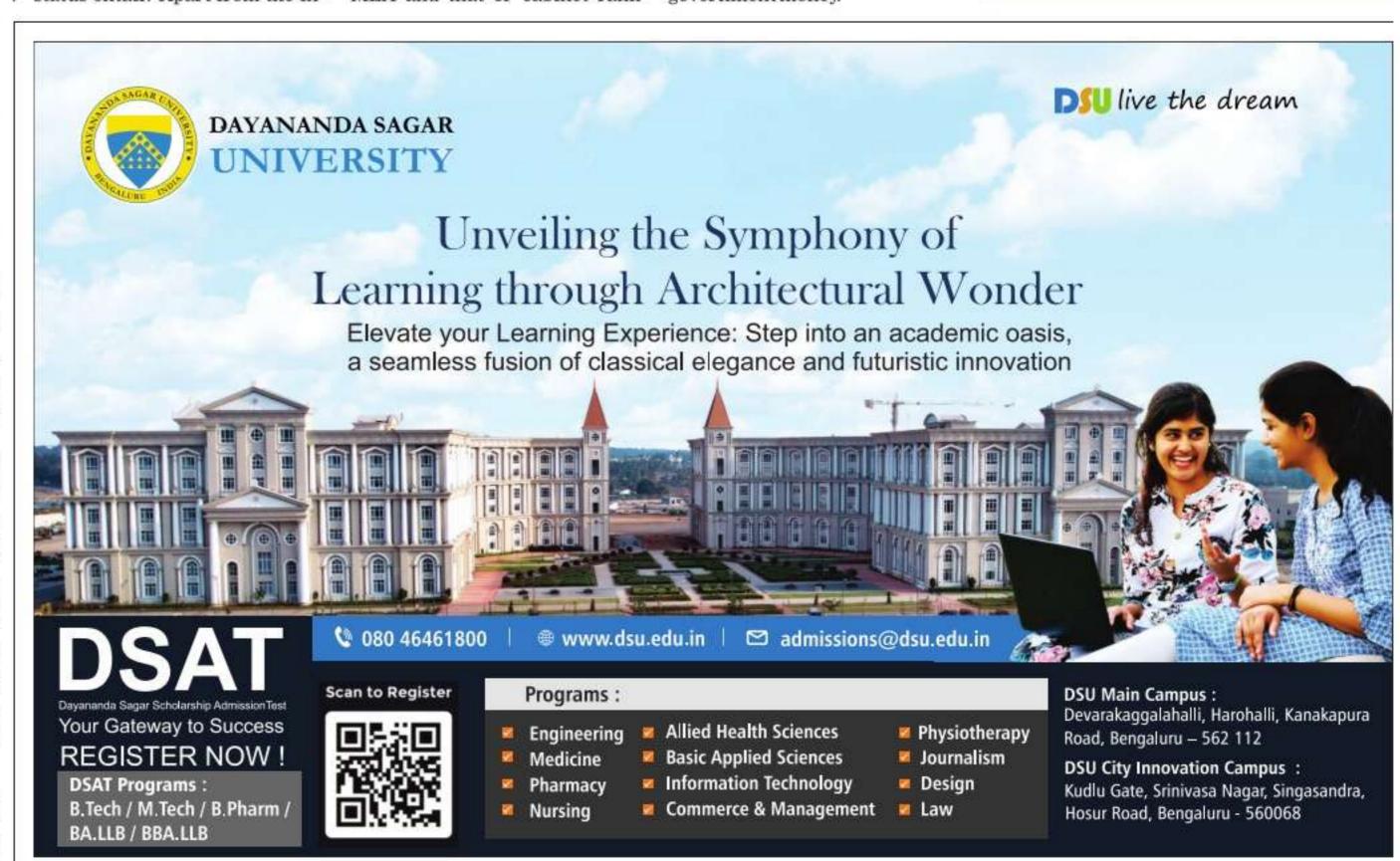
BJP DISMISSES SPECULATION OF ARUN YOGIRAJ JOINING POLITICS

Mysuru: Mysuru-based Arun Yogiraj, who sculpted the statue of Ram Lalla that was consecrated at Ram temple in Ayodhya in January, attended a lunch with Union home minister Amit Shah and state BJP functionaries at Suttur on Sunday.

Despite strong denials, some BJP workers suggested that the stage is ripe for Arun's entry into politics and eventual electoral fray later this year. Arun was not available for comments.

Sources denied any political dimension to the lunch. However, they conceded the coming electoral fight from Mysuru did figure in the discussions, but they steered clear of probable candidates' names.

In the evening, Shah posted on X that he met Arun, who has carved his "space in our history and our hearts", and felicitated him at the annual Jatra Mahotsava at Suttur. TNN



Speeding truck kills pedestrian in serial accident

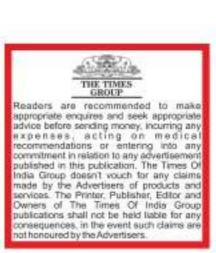
scooter and a KSRTC bus in and a few others. Hoskote town on Sunday afterand truck driver sustained se-

Bengaluru: A 22-year-old pe-vere injuries. The victim is scooter and finally the KSRTC and killed by a speeding truck ry and was visiting a temple in Bengaluru. The bus passengin a serial accident involving a the area along with her mother ers sustained minor bruises.

truck hit Sudha first, then the Sharif Ulla, 30. TNN

destrian was knocked down Sudha, who worked in a facto- bus heading to Tirupati from

The injured scooter rider is Police said the incident Nazeer Khan, 65, from Kolar noon. The two-wheeler rider happened at 2pm when the district and the truck driver is





Hemmigepura will get Cauvery water soon: MLA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Yeshwantpur Bengaluru: MLA ST Somashekhar has promised residents of Hemmigepura in south Bengaluru that work to supply Cauvery water to the ward will begin on February 23 and within a few months, individual households will be included in the water distribution network.

JANA SAMPARKA

Taking part in the monthly 'Jana Samparka' meeting on Saturday, the legislator regretted the delay in laying Cauvery pipeline across the ward, especially in and around Mallasandra village that was handed over to BBMP in 2021.

"The tender has been finalized and work orders on laying the pipeline will be issued by February 23. Work will be completed in a couple of months," he said.

Referring to the confusion over payment of property tax, Somashekhar said all properties in Hemmigepura will be brought under BBMP's tax network.

"Until 2021, all of us were paying tax to Kaggalipura gram panchayat. However, the GP handed over properties in and around Mallasandra village and other adjoining areas in Talaghattapura limits to BBMP and they were subsequetnly added to Hemmigepura ward (no. 198). Neither panchayat nor BBMP officials are accepting tax from us. For no mistake of ours, we have been asked to pay penalty and there is so much confusion over the issue," said a resident from Mallasandra, which has several residential projects belonging to prominent builders of Bengaluru.



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ACCUSATIONS FLY Siddaramaiah Says Shah, BJP Trying To Scuttle Schemes | BJP Cautious On Wholesale Changes In North Karnataka

CM CRITICISES SHAH, SAYS GUARANTEES

HAVE NOT EMPTIED STATE EXCHEQUER

Bengaluru: Chief minister Sid-

daramaiah chastised Amit Shah

and BJP, accusing them of trying

to scuttle his govt's guarantee

schemes by spreading lies and

false rumours about them. He

said rather than taking potshots

at his govt, Shah should instead

"Union home minister Amit

Shah, who arrived in Karnataka.

has vented envy at our govt by

saying the treasury is empty be-

cause of the guarantee schemes.

If this is truly Shah's opinion, he

should participate in a public de-

bate with me," Siddaramaiah said.

pontiff Shivaratri Deshiken-

dra Swami labelled PM Modi

and Shah 'jodettu' and said

Shah has the qualities of first

deputy Prime Minister Sard-

ar Vallabhbhai Patel and

strategist and philosopher

Chanakya. The seer praised

Shah for his bold decisions on

national security and unity.

He said Shah "is one of the

Centre's lack of support, the

"I can prove our treasury is not

engage in a debate.

With Ram Mandir, PM rejuvenated country's cultural heritage: Shah

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mysuru: Union home minister Amit Shah on Sunday praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying under his governance, India's cultural heritage and legacy has been "rejuvenated".

Shah, who arrived in Mysuru in the wee hours on Sunday, said Modi put "our cultural heritage on the world map" and brought honour to the nation. He said the inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, the Varanasi and Mahakal corridors and works at Kedarnath temple are all aimed at promoting Indian culture. "The govt's focus on yoga and Ayurveda are also aimed at strengthening our culture and heritage," he said.

Speaking on the final day of 'Suttur Jatra Mahotsava'. the annual fair of Suttur Mutt, the prominent spiritual centre that propagates the Veerashaiva-Lingayat faith, Shah hailed social reformer and 12th century poet Basavanna saying he "inspired lakhs of people". He also said the Mutt will open a



HOW DO YOU DO? Union home minister Amit Shah at Suttur Mutt on Sunday. Pontiff Shivaratri Deshikendra Swami was also present

branch at Ayodhya.

"Suttur Mutt has been a centre of selfless service: At the Mutt, work is worship and it has continued this tradition of service for ages," Shah said. "On behalf of BJP, I not only want to acknowledge it but also salute it."

Shah also inaugurated 'Parvatamma Shamanur Shivashankarappa' residential building which was funded by veteran Congress MLA

Shamanur Shivashankarappa from Davanagere.

Hailing the contribution of Suttur Mutt to society, Shah said its dedicated polytechnic institutes for people with disabilities is an innovative intervention which helps bring people with disabilities into the mainstream. He said that the Suttur car festival is a mini world where one can see all kinds of activities. Meanwhile, Suttur Mutt schemes; instead, there is an unfair distribution of taxes from the Centre to the state." He said if BJP is opposed to

empty because of the guarantee

such schemes, it should stop promising similar schemes in BJPgoverned states. "Why are BJP functionaries trying to destabilise guarantee schemes in Karnataka? Do they hate the people of Karnataka so much? Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who opposed our guarantee schemes, has now stolen not only our schemes but also the name 'guarantee' and is using it in advertisements," he said.

most powerful personalities" of the country today.

BJP state unit president BY Vijayendra was present on the occasion but while former chief minister and JD(S) state president HD Kumaraswamy was expected to attend the event, he didn't turn up.

Cculptor Arun Yogiraj was felicitated at the event.

Announce drought relief, Byregowda urges Shah ing water and private bore-

> in Mysuru protested Shah's visit, holding a poster campaign and shouting slogans like "Go Back Amit Shah". They accused the Centre of giving Karnataka a raw deal in allocation of grants and drought relief.

Poster campaign Meanwhile, Congress workers

Spotlight on B'luru devpt, irrigation

100 demands

Bengaluru: Chief minister Siddaramaiah met several stakeholders, including members of farmer organisations and trade associations, on Sunday as part of ongoing preparations for the state budget.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

granting drought relief.

Farmers meet

CM, present

The chief minister's office said farmers thanked Siddaramaiah for implementing the guarantee schemes which they said has ensured economic empowerment of women and families of farmers.

Sources say representatives requested the CM to announce measures in his budget to upgrade the agriculture department so that it can meet demands of the farm sector. The wish list includes some 100 demands including policies to encourage youngsters, making Karnataka a model state in agriculture and taking over Mandya sugar factory.

Siddaramaiah is scheduled to present the budget, a record 15th for him, on Friday (Feb 16).

does, it will show that he has Byregowda said Shah had

@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The much talked

about rivalry between chief

minister Siddaramaiah and

his deputy DK Shivakumar

has turned the spotlight on

expected budget allocations

for water resources and Ben-

galuru development, portfo-

lios which Shivakumar holds.

functionaries is said to have

urged the CM to allocate

adequate funds to these de-

partments, to present a pic-

ed on alleged friction between

the CM and his deputy and

the opposition is fanning it

with selective remarks," said

TB Jayachandra, senior Con-

gress legislator and Karna-

taka's special representative

in Delhi. "The perception that

Shivakumar is eying the CM

post and Siddaramiah is

that will fill his heart and

soul. His search ends when he

meets Anuraaga (Swathishta

Krishnan). Anu, on the other

gether, they have to navigate

their journey, keeping in

Suni's trademark humor-

ous films have never disap-

pointed the audience, and

that come their way.

"Theories are being float-

KARNATAKA

ture of "unity".

BUDGET

A section of Congress

promised a delegation led by chief minister Siddaramaiah

Gowda said despite the

poned to the first week of

> Siddaramaiah, on Sunday, met with members of farmer groups besides various stakeholders as part of budget

preparations

Fund flow for water resources 2023-24: ₹19,057cr (irrigation and flood control) 2022-23: ₹22,933cr Allocation for water resources:

₹16,760cr Released till Jan end: ₹11,500cr Spent so far: ₹10,619Cr Bengaluru development Allocated in 2023-24: ₹3.350Cr

sought for 2024-25: ₹8,000Cr blocking it is fueling this speculation. The best thing the CM can do to put speculation at rest is to leverage the budget and allocate sufficient funds to the departments held

by the deputy CM." In his budget last year, Sid-

OSPK makes it to the top of

that list. From Simpleaag Ond

Love Story to OSPK, one can

see the way Suni's writing has

matured over the years, es-

pecially in terms of weaving

in an endearing tale. He has

infused humour and poign-

ancy into a warm love story

that is sure to strike a chord

music and the quest for love

and the second is filled with

interesting twists and turns.

The movie is a comeback of

sorts for both Suni and Vi-

nay. Vinay delivers a nu-

anced performance, adding

depth to the movie. Swa-

thishta and Mallika win

hearts with their natural act-

ing, as also Rajesh Natarang.

To review any movie and check

show timings visit etimes.in

Harish Basavaraj

The first half deals with

with the audience.

daramaiah had reduced allocations for water resources, earmarking Rs 19,057 crore for irrigation and flood control. It was a 17% decrease from Rs 22,933 crore allocated in the previous budget.

Of the 16,760 crore allocated for water resources, the finance department released Rs 11,500 crore till Feb 1 and the department has spent Rs 10.619 crore so far. Now, the water resources

department expects the CM to double allocation to Rs 36,000 crore while actual requirement to complete the pending projects is more than Rs 56,000 crore. Shivakumar, during a pre-budget meeting last week, did not pressure the finance department last year in view were in the initial stage of implementation, but he needs adequate funds for 2024-25.

Rs 1 lakh crore have been sanctioned and more than Rs 56,000 crore worth of works have been tendered. The department needs at least Rs 20,000 crore to finish projects which are 90% complete," said an advisor to Shivakumar.

While Siddaramaiah allocated Rs 7,400 crore for Bengaluru's development under Nagroththana scheme for five years, the city got about Rs 3,350 crore for 2023-24. Now, Shivakumar is seeking more than Rs 8,000 crore for works such as restoring storm water drains (Rs 2,000 crore), ward works (Rs 1,500 crore) and

flyovers (Rs 3,000 crore). "The city's development needs govt's support," said NA Harris, Congress MLA and chairman of Bangalore Development Authority. "For instance, we need to hire urban designers through a global is learnt to have said that he tender to prepare a masterplan. The govt must ensure funds for this."

Tax devolution, temple to dominate discourse

ManuAiyappa.Kanathanda @timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: As Lok Sabha polls approach, two issues have taken centre stage in Karnataka: Construction of Ram Mandir and economic injustices allegedly meted out to the state by the Centre.

This clash, between religious identity and economic injustice, is likely to shape political discourse in the days leading up to elections.

BJP is strategically leveraging the momentum generated by the construction of the Ram Mandir to bolster its electoral prospects. By making the temple's construction a cornerstone of its campaign, it aims to appeal to vot-

CAMPAIGN TALK

ers through the narrative of cultural and religious identity. The party hopes to galvanise support among its traditional voter base and secure widespread endorsement from religious and nationalist segments of society.

On the other hand, Congress has chosen to prioritise economic injustice, highlighting grievances faced by Karnataka in terms of resource allocation, development projects, and financial support from the Union government. By portraying itself as a champion of Karnataka's interests, Congress seeks to ap-

GOOD ENOUGH? A Congress protester at Jantar Mantar

peal to voters disillusioned by perceived neglect and unfair treatment from the Centre.

Expert opinions on these contrasting strategies vary. Political commentator Vishwas Shetty said BJP's emphasis on Ram Mandir could mobilise its core supporters and consolidate Hindu votes, providing a significant electoral advantage. Conversely, analyst MN Patil views Congress' emphasis on economic injustice as crucial for governance and development. By addressing pressing economic concerns, the Congress hopes to resonate with a broader spectrum of voters and regain political ground in Karnataka, he said.

Vivek Menon, a campaigner for ethics in politics, said BJP has seen a constant erosion of its vote share in the South, and is making Con-

gress' claims of economic disparity a separatist issue.

Congress, on the other hand, with cracks developing within the INDIA alliance, is trying to cement its position in the South by raising the issue of economic disparity since the Ram Mandir has been hijacked by BJP, "Both parties are playing appropriation politics," Menon said. "But Ram Mandir will give BJP an advantage in UP and the north and pockets rather than across the country, while the fiscal disparity issue will give Congress some mileage in the South."

Prof Ravindra Reshme, political analyst, said: "Congress has done well to highlight economic injustice, but its impact on votes is uncertain. BJP's aggressive Hindutva stance historically backfires in Karnataka. To retain support and attract Congress scheme beneficiaries, BJP must embrace inclusivity, to avoid a recurrence of the 2023 assembly election setback."

But psephologist Sandeep Shastri cautioned against oversimplification, insisting that no single factor defines voting preference. "Both issues are likely to resonate with different sets of voters. It is often a class divide, with poorer voters prioritising their economic condition and their perception of what lies ahead with what was delivered in the past," said Shastri.

randum to the Centre, requestfailed to delief of Rs 2,000 each to 32 lakh farmers and released Rs 628 liver. He said ing funds for drought," Byregowda said. "Since he is in Karnataka crore for the purpose. He said

"It is more than four TIMES NEWS NETWORK months since we sent a memo-Bengaluru: Revenue minister Krishna Byregowda on Sunday appealed to Union home minister Amit Shah to Karnataka, I urge the Union immediately release central home minister to announce funds to mitigate drought, grants today [Sunday]. If he saying it would make his visit to Karnataka "meaningful". concern for our farmers." Shah heads the high-level committee that decides on

that he would convene a committee meeting on Dec 23 but

in. was formed that the meeting was post-

Jan, but it wasn't held then too.

state has granted interim rehis govt has also taken several measures, including issuing 7 lakh seeds for sowing, and providing drinking water in 7,082 villages and 1,193 wards. He said local authorities have been authorised to

hire tankers to supply drink-

wells in these areas.

session of the legislature of guarantee schemes that government is set to table "Irrigation projects worth The Kannada Language mandates 60% space in signages of shops and establishments to be in Kannada, and Karnataka

> will provide reservation for SCs, STs, OBCs and women for elected and nominated posts in cooperative societies.

SHORT TAKES

Budget session from today

↑ Ilies BJP and JD(S) is likely Ato come hard at the govt over its allegations that the Centre is biased against the state in devolution of taxes from the central pool in what is expected to be a stormy budget beginning Monday. The session is scheduled till Feb 23 and the important legislations including Comprehensive Development (Amendment) Bill, 2024 that Souharda Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2024 which

Revive VISP: Patil

Industries minister MB Patil sent a formal request to Union steel minister Jyotiraditya M Scindia, urging a re-evaluation of the closure of Visvesvaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISP) in Bhadravathi. Citing "unsuccessful disinvestment" efforts by Steel Authority of India in privatising VISP, Patil appealed to the Centre to reconsider its decision. He said VISP's operational challenges were due to inadequate capital investment from the Centre.

SAD DEMISE

SAD DEMISE

Dr. TS RADHA BAI

Retired Scientist, ISU (CISL)

IISC, Bangalore

Passed away on Sunday

February 11th 2024 at

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BJP may not risk candidate changes Gururaj Jamkhandi | TNN party's core committee hint

Dharwad: While Congress will stake its electoral appeal on the state govt's five key guarantees to turn the tide in North Karnataka in the Lok Sabha elections likely in April-May this year, BJP has opted for a cautious path and is likely to retain incumbent MPs to consolidate its electoral strongholds.

A former minister revealed BJP's intention to maintain continuity by pre-

dominantly fielding sitting MPs except in segments where incumbents are unable to contest. For example, MP Shivakumar Udasi has withdrawn from the race in Haveri constitu-

Additionally, BJP is contemplating a potential change in Belgaum seat, eyeing a replacement for incum-

swirling around potential candidate shifts in seats like Bijapur, Dharwad and Uttara Kannada, BJP insiders assert a cautious approach, citing lessons learned from previous elections.

Emphasising the primacy

ed at the possibility of lastminute ticket allocations for MPs facing uncertainties, such as Dharwad MP Pralhad Joshi and Bijapur MP Ramesh Jigajinagi.

It will be a tightrope walk as the saffron party grapples with a balancing act in Bijapur, weighing the candidacies of Jigajinagi and Kalaburagi MP Umesh Jadhav, each representing distinct communities.

NORTH KARNATAKA underscore

ency, and the party will have to seek a replacement.

bent Mangala Angadi. Despite speculations

of 'winnability' in candidate selection, a member of the

the significance of community representation, highlighting the electoral impact of incumbents like PC Siddanagoudar in Bagalkot. Denial of the ticket to Siddanagoudar could hit the party's electoral

Analysts

prospects. Meanwhile, in Haveri, names like former CM Basavaraj Bommai, BC Patil, Jagadish Shettar, Kantesh Eshwarappa, and Dr Mahesh Nalwad, as potential candi-

dates, are doing the rounds. In Uttara Kannada, renewed interest from sixtime MP Anantkumar Hegde signals a nuanced blend of continuity and strategic adjustments in candidate selection, as the party seeks to optimise its electoral prospects.

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CINEMA OF THE WEEK

Ondu Sarala Prema Kathe (Romance, Comedy) *** Cast: Vinay Rajkumar, Mallika Singh, Swathista Krishnan Language: Kannada (U/A)

Duration: 150 mins

Direction: Suni

Athishay is an aspiring music director. He wants to marry a woman who can match the rhythm of his heartbeat. But can love come so easily?

thishay is an aspiring hand, is waiting for a kindmusic director. He hearted man. As they get towants to marry a woman who can match the rhythm of his heartbeat. But mind the twists and turns can love come so easily?

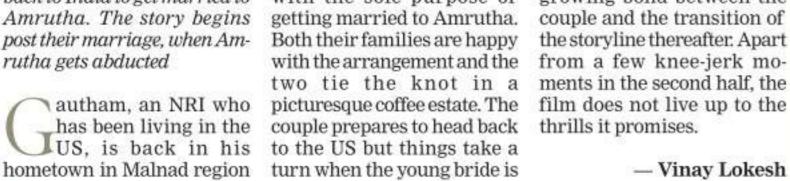
Aspiring music director Athishay (Vinay Rajkumar) is on a quest to find a voice

Pranayam

Naina Ganguly



■ Gautham, an NRI, heads back to India to get married to with the sole purpose of Amrutha. The story begins post their marriage, when Amrutha gets abducted autham, an NRI who picturesque coffee estate. The has been living in the couple prepares to head back thrills it promises.



abducted. Then begins the mystery — who has kidnapped Amrutha and why, and do Gautham and his family find her again? Pranayam begins as a ro-

mantic family drama and then turns into a thriller. However, not enough screen time has been given to convince the audience of the growing bond between the couple and the transition of the storyline thereafter. Apart film does not live up to the

Vinay Lokesh

Ex-RBI governor Rajan may be surprise Cong candidate

▶ Continued from page 1

ormer RBI governor Raghuram Rajan may emerge as a surprise candidate from Congress.

With BJP asking a majority of Rajya Sabha members to contest Lok Sabha polls by identifying favourable seats, it appears Chandrasekar's name was dropped from the RS list.

It is speculated Chandrasekar may be asked to contest from Bengaluru Central, which has three-time BJP MP PC Mohan as the incumbent, or from Kerala where the party has no representation. Bhandge is a one-time MLC from 2010 to 2016 and BJP state VP.

BBMP officials confident all boards will be up by Feb-end

▶ Continued from page 1

fficials said they started issuing notices to shops from the first week of Jan 2024 and gave them 15 days to install Kannada boards. Some put up the boards soon after receiving notice, while some did so after being warned by BBMP of trade licence suspension or constant follow-up calls. In some areas, BBMP officials defaced nameboards

with the help of marshals after the owners failed to respond to the notices. According to BBMP officials, 5.921 of 8,427 establishments issued notices in Bommanahalli have installed boards in Kannada. They said they're confident of achieving complete implementation at all shops and commercial establishments in the city within the deadline.

The state cabinet recently gave consent to the Kannada Bill. While the govt initially decided to issue an ordinance in the wake of a protest by pro-Kannada activists, who vandalized boards in English across the city on Dec 27, 2023, governor Thaawarchand Gehlot sent the ordinance back to the state govt in the last week of Jan 2024.

Later, the governor's office clarified he had returned — not rejected — the ordinance with an advice to present it before the legislature.

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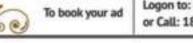
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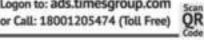
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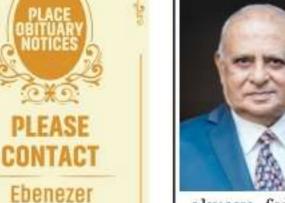
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TIMES NATION

ASSAM MINISTERS, GOVT STAFF WON'T GET SUBSIDISED POWER NOW, SAYS CM SARMA

HAVE CLARIFIED SEVERAL TIMES, NO PATCH-UP WITH BJP: AIADMK GEN SECY PALANISWAMI



Even oppn now knows it will be '400 paar' for NDA: Modi

Slams Cong For 'Looting & Dividing Nation', Says It'll Be Wiped Out

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jhabua: Prime Minister Modi on Sunday exuded confidence that BJP on its own will win more than 370 seats in the coming Lok Sabha elections.

Addressing at rally at tribal-dominated Jhabua district, Modi said even the opposition now realises the country's mood and its functionaries have started saying that BJPled NDA is going to win at least 400 seats. "I have also heard about NDA going to win 400 seats in the general elections, but BJP on its own is going to win more than 370 seats," Modi said, adding that he is giving a 'jadi-buti' (local remedy) to people to help achieve this target.

"You all have to do one thing — take out the number of votes BJP polled in the last

Stop referring to

trial courts as

lower courts: SC

New Delhi: Supreme Court

has asked its registry to stop

referring to trial courts as

lower courts. "Even the re-

cord of the trial court should

not be referred to as lower

court record (LCR). Instead, it

should be referred to as trial

court record (TCR)," a bench

of Justices Abhay S Oka and

Ujjal Bhuyan said in an order

plea filed by two persons chal-

hearing on August 6. PTI

from Telangana died after she

fell on the roof of a house

while paragliding in Dobhi

village near Manali in Hima-

The bench was hearing a

on February 8.



PM Modi interacts with tribal beneficiaries of govt schemes during 'Janiatiya Sammelan' in Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, on Sunday

nullifying Article 370.

"In the 2023 assembly polls, people of MP sent Congress on leave, and in the 2024 general elections, Congress will get

Modi govt's achievement of used to be counted among 'Bimaru states'," he added, adding that "loot and 'phoot' (divisive-

ness) are oxygen for Congress". "Congress never worried for your villages. It is always three elections and ensure wiped out from the state," Modi worried about its own palace. the pride of the nation. Tribal that at least 370 new votes are said. "Madhya Pradesh has Congress was apathetic to- community is a guarantee of polled for BJP in the upcom- witnessed two eras — this cur- wards developing your areas our country's bright future, ing polls," he said. Many BJP rentera of BJP's double-engine while we are working hard to and your respect and developfunctionaries in the front row govt, and the earlier black era fill all the pits they had dug," of the public meeting linked of Congress regime. When Modi said, mentioning BJP Modi's resolution to fulfil all the target of 370 seats to the Congress was in office, MP govt's schemes for uplift of

'I received your love, stop waving please'

M Modi on Sunday pleaded with a child at a tribal rally to stop waving at him so that his arm doesn't ache.

"I got your love, son. Please lower your arm, otherwise it will start to pain," PM Modi appealed to the child who was held up by a man, apparently his father, as the crowd cheered.

Modi was addressing the Jan Jatiya Mahasabha in Jhabua district after inaugurating and laying the foundation stones of Rs 7,550 crore development projects in Madhya Pradesh. PTI

tribals. "Tribal community is not a vote bank for BJP. It is ment is Modi's guarantee. It's dreams of tribals," he added.

In a 1st, CAPF constable job test in 13 regional languages

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: For the first time, question papers for recruitment of Central Armed Police Forces constables (GD) will be set not only in Hindi and English but also in 13 Indian regional languages, benefitting lakhs of aspirants from non-Hindi-speaking states.

These languages include

Assamese, Bengali, Gujarat,

will see 48 lakh candidates tak-

Kullu tourist paraglider dies as harness gives way mid-air

gliding harness gave way mid-

air minutes after she took off

in a tandem flight, police said.

lenging an Allahabad HC ver-Marathi, Malayalam, Kannadict that dismissed their apda, Tamil, Telugu, Odia, Urdu, peal against conviction and Punjabi, Manipuri and Konlife sentence awarded to them kani. The first Constable (GD) in a murder case of 1981 examination for jobs in CRPF. SC asked its registry to call BSF, ITBP and CISF in 15 lanfor the soft copy of trial court guages, to be conducted by record of the case concerned Staff Selection Commission and posted the matter for (SSC) from Feb 20 to March 7.

Kullu: A 26-year-old tourist chall Pradesh on Sunday.



It is a decisive step towards realising PM's vision to facilitate the faculties of our youth force with the power of their mother languages, Shah posted on X

ing it across 128 cities.

The paraglider pilot has been

against him. All paragliding

activities at Dobhi have tem-

porarily stopped. TNN

Navya fell when her para- arrested and a case registered

A senior government officer told TOI that the move was an initiative of home minister Amit Shah to inparticipation crease youth in central forces and also promote regional languages. "Offering this exam

in 15 languages will improve regional candidates' selection prospects and offer them equal opportunity at employment, while also increasing the exam's reach among candidates from across the country," the officer said.

Shah, meanwhile, posted on X, "It is a decisive step towards realising PM Modi's vision to facilitate the faculties of our youth force with the power of their mother languages."

Constable (GD) examination is one of the flagship tests conducted by SSC. The home ministry had last year signed an MoU with SSC to facilitate conduct of the test in 13 regional languages in addition to Hindi and English.

5-yr-old boy killed in celebratory firing

Banda (UP): A five-year-old boy was killed in a celebratory firing in UP's Banda, posaid. ASP Lakshmi Niwas Mishra said, "A minor boy Shambhu Shukla who had gone to attend a family function was killed in a celebratory firing on Saturday ." "The firing was done with a country-made pistol by one Prateek Shukla during the family function," said the officer. TNN

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CPM neta held for violence in Sandeshkhali, protests erupt

Rohit Khanna & Sanjib Chakraborty

Kolkata/Sandeshkhali: CPM's former Sandeshkhali MLA Nirapada Sardar was arrested Sunday in connection with violence and arson, prompting a fresh wave of protests. In response, CPM called a 12-hour bandh Monday in Sandeshkhali to denounce Nirapada's arrest, which stemmed from an FIR filed by Shibaprasad "Shibu" Hazra, a close associate of fugitive Trinamool Congress strongman Sheikh Shahjahan, who is wanted in connection with a

12-HOUR BANDH

multi-crore ration scam.

Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district has been engulfed in protests since last Wednesday, with demonstrators expressing their discontent over perceived high-handedness of two close associates of Shahjahan. This is the same area where villagers attacked ED officers during a search at Shahjahan's house on Jan 5.

Protesters alleged that Shahjahan's aides Uttam Sardar and Shibu Hazra had encroached upon their wetlands without paying due lease fees.

Last week, Hazra lodged a complaint against 117 people for purportedly setting fire to his farmhouse, residences, and liquor shop. Sardar was among the primary accused.

Asserting his innocence, Nirapada said: "I was not even in Sandeshkhali. I had been to Manipur for party work since Feb 4 and was returning to Birbhum via Midnapore." His wife contended that police did not furnish any warrant prior to his arrest.

Following protests, TMC formed a four-member factfinding team, which led to the suspension of Uttam, who also serves as a North 24 Parganas zilla parishad member. Later, he was arrested in connection with the violence.

2 docs, nurse at Hyd hosp suspended after rats bite patient's legs, fingers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Two doctors and a staff nurse at the Kamareddy government hospital were suspended for medical negligence on Sunday after rats bit a patient in the ICU. The patient, SK Mujeebuddin, was allegedly bitten by rats on his legs and fingers on Feb 9. The three were suspended after a probe following a complaint by the family.

Officials said that Mujeebuddin had undergone decompressive craniotomy surgery at NIMS, Hyderabad, on January 21. He was on ventilator support with tracheostomy and later shifted to the ICU in Kamareddy hospital.

A preliminary enquiry by Kamareddy collector Jitesh V Patil concluded that ICU in-

The Telangana govt doctors' association has condemned the suspension, saying the doctors are concerned only till they treat the patient

charge doctor Kavya, ICU incharge general medicine doctor Vasanth Kumar and nurse G Manjula were negligent in taking care of patients in the ICU during night shift. "The services of district coordinator of health services, S Vijaya Lakshmi, is also surrendered to government by the district collec-

Following instructions from health minister Damodar Raja Narasimha, Telangana Vaidhya Vidhana Parishad commissioner Ajay Kumar later visited the hospital. The government has also ordered a departmental inquiry into the matter.

"The government general hospital in Kamareddy has a capacity of 10 ICU beds. The rodent problem is due to dismantling work beside the ICU for renovation of the dialysis unit as well as because of food throw by patients' attendants," a statement issued by the department of health, medical and family welfare stated. It added that the department was monitoring the situation and "no untoward incident will be tolerated."

EC snatching NCP from its founder is shocking: Pawar Sr

Anurag.Bende @timesgroup.com

Pune: NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday said that never had a political party

been taken away from its founder. He was talking in Pune for first time after EC's ruling granted NCP name and symbol to faction led by his nephew and Maharash-

tra deputy CM Ajit Pawar. "EC's decision shocking. It not only took away symbol but handed over entire party to other group. This has never happened before, but EC made it happen," Pawar said.

Pawar camp has challenged EC's verdict in SC. Pawar said people would not support poll panel's order. "I have contested elections on different symbols

in past. Party symbol has limited use. For people, ideology and thought are more important," he added.

Replying to a question about getting a symbol, Pawar said, "We have not yet

> sought any symbol. EC is expected to give us an appointment on either Monday or Tuesday and it is likely to be finalised then."

Responding to recent remarks from Ajit Pawar in Baramati that 'some' people may make an emotional appeal to voters by projecting upcoming LS election as their last election, Pawar said, "I had declared long ago that I will not be contesting elections. People of Baramati are wise and they know who has worked for them and who has brought pride to them and they will

vote accordingly."

NCP workers want Ajit as CM, say Munde and Bhujbal

Pune: Two NCP ministers, Chhagan Bhuibal and Dhananjay Munde, on Sunday said party workers want Maharashtra's deputy CM Ajit Pawar to become CM and they have to work hard to fulfil this dream in state assembly polls later this year. They said this at an event in the presence of Ajit Pawar, reports Alim Shaikh.

Bhujbal said NCP will have to take all sections, including OBCs, minorities and tribals, together to fulfil this dream. "We have to take strength from all sections to do it and work on principles of Shahuji Maharaj, Jyotiba Phule and BR Ambedkar," he added.

Ajit Pawar told his followers to not keep talking about CM position and urged them to get more people to join NCP. Decision to split from Sharad Pawar-led party was taken to ensure that NCP was not behind any other political party, he added.

Parl panel proposes partnership of pvt medical colleges with district hospitals bled in the Lok Sabha on Fri-

DurgeshNandan.Jha @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A parliamentary committee has recommended the govt should formulate a comprehensive framework to address bureaucratic hurdles and effectively implement the partnership of private medical colleges with district hospitals. According to the committee, chaired by MP Bhubanaeshwar Kalita, this will not only provide sufficient clinical material to the MBBS students but also decrease the set-

ting up and functioning cost of private colleges, thereby rationalising the costs of medical education.

"Additionally, as another measure to reduce the cost of medical education in private colleges, the committee rec ommends the govt subsidise the necessary equipment/machines for the setting up of skill labs in private colleges as they are sophisticated and costly and are often imported," the committee has said in its report on the quality of medical education that was ta-

day. The average MBBS course fees across govt colleges in India (both centrally funded, and state govt funded) can reach Rs 50,000 per annum. However, such subsidised medical education can only be availed by a select few who perform exceedingly well in the NEET UG exam.

The committee report says there are only 56,193 govt seats in MBBS and as per NTA (National Testing Agency), more than 11 lakh candidates qualified for the NEET UG exam in

2023. Therefore, the report points out, more than 10 lakh MBBS aspirants are left either to opt for MBBS seats in private medical colleges where the course fees can range up to Rs 1.5 crore or to pursue their dream in countries like China, Ukraine, and Russia, where the cost is lower.

The committee recommended the govt should create need-based scholarship programmes to assist ecodisadvantaged students covering their tuition fees.

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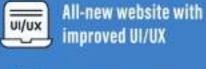


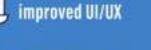
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ence for Women-A Technology & Innovation) portal to create a single online platform representing Indian women and girls in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Medicine). This is the country's first portal to have an an active search engine and a searchable database (name, affiliation and area of interest) of women and girls in

STEMM. Developed, hosted and maintained by the National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), New Delhi, the portal aims to have data of all women scientists in the country, spanning both academia and industry.

Launching the portal here at Indian National of Tata Elxsi Ltd, located at Science Academy (INSA), principal scientific advis-Bangalore 560048, India, Dist er to govt, Ajay Kumar Sood said the database will help in policy making.

> "With this endeavour of the inter academy panel (IAP), a platform would be created to encourage and bring together all the young women scientists, faculty members, researchers and also the young startups from India," said the ministry. TNN



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Kebabs from Lucknow delivered in under 30 minutes, man knocks on court's doors!

Vineet.Upadhyay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Zomato, the app-based food delivery service, is in the dock for delivering food too fast. One of its users in Gurgaon wanted galauti kebab from a shop in Lucknow, 500 km away. Zomato delivered it in less than 30 minutes.

The user, 24-year-old Souray Mall, has filed a case in Delhi's Saket court, saying that this quick-delivery feat pulled off by Zomato was inexplicable and instead of the spicy aromas of kebab, he had smelled "fraudulent and unfair practice, meant to misrepresent and deceive the class of consumers who are purchasing food products from Zomato".

Zomato did not give any reaction when **TOI** approached it. Sourav questioned the app's promise of rapid service under the Zomato Legends sub-service, which allows foodies to order dishes from cities outside their city of residence. Select famous shops and their legendary dishes are available for ordering through this sub-service.

Using the Legends service on October 14, 2023, Sourav ordered four dishes. Three dishes were from shops in Delhi, and one from Lucknow.

The dishes were chicken kabab roll from Jama Masjid, triple chocolate cheesecake from Kailash Colony, a vegetarian sandwich from Jangpura and galauti kebab from Lucknow.

'Drastic action based on concocted panchnama'

▶ Continued from page 1

Tustice Vivek Rusia criticised a trend of local authorities resorting to demolitions "by drawing up proceedings without complying with principle of natural justice". Rusia further said: "It appears that in this case also, criminal case was registered



tion was carried out." Upon HC's directives, Ujjain Muncipal Corporation commissioner examined the cases and reported that petitioners' houses lacked required building permissions. However,

ous owners, not current ones. Rusia criticised "drastic action of demolition" based on a "concocted" panchnama prepared without on-site verification.

"spot panchnama" drafted by

civic officers indicated that

notices were served to previ-

Woman living separately on her own not entitled to maintenance, says HC

Jabalpur: A family court in Jabalpur dismissed the application of a woman for maintenance allowance from her estranged husband on grounds that she had decided to live separately on her own and hence was not entitled to it. During hearing of the application, her husband said she has been living away from him since Dec 15, 2020. He had moved court for restitution of conjugal rights under Section 9 of Hindu Marriage Act.

His wife had lodged a complaint against him for dowry harassment and also got a case registered for cheque bounce of Rs 12 lakh under Negotiable Instruments Act. The court of principal judge, family court, K N Singh, referred to the woman's statement in which she had said that she didn't want to live with her husband, and dismissed her application seeking maintenance. TNN

"The commissioner has conveniently avoided giving an explanation about details of deposition of property tax on the ground that server is down...corporation has physical records of property tax payment, which could have verified who is depositing the tax for this house," the high

court pointed out. Noting that petitioners had purchased houses, not

open land, Rusia emphasised that regularisation should have been explored instead of demolition.

"Demolition should be the recourse, that too after giving the owner a proper opportunity to get the house regularised," he said.

The petitioners were instructed to legalise their constructions by applying for building permission.

Hindu law, says court

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: A sessions court cancelled a divorce decree granted by a lower court to a Hindu couple and said marriage is a pious institution under Hindu law, where it is a sacrament and not a contract unlike in other belief systems.

Insisting that courts should try for reconciliation, the court requested the couple to try to settle their disputes by going for mediation or through an alternative dispute redressal mechanism.

The couple hail from Dhandhuka town in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. They got married in 1998 and have three children.

The wife has been living with her parents since 2012 and the husband sought a divorce in 2014. A court in Dhandhuka granted him divorce in 2018, on grounds of cruelty and desertion by wife. The wife challenged the decision. Sessions **Insisting that courts** should try for reconciliation, the court requested the couple to try to settle their disputes by going for mediation or through an alternative dispute redressal mechanism

court said trial court jumped to conclusion that the husband was subjected to mental cruelty, based on conjectures and surmises. The husband cannot be allowed to take advantage of his wrongs and follies, as evidence shows that it is the wife who is facing cruelty and domestic violence, the court noted. Court requested the couple to explore the possibility of an amicable settlement.

Marriage pious under | HC: Proof of demand of bribe must for conviction

Lalmohan Patnaik@timesgroup.com

Cuttack: The Orissa high court has held that an accused cannot be convicted for taking bribe merely on the presumption of demand and acceptance of illegal gratification. Conviction can be sustained only if demand and acceptance of bribe is proved, it added. This ruling came recently while passing

acquittal orders in six separate cases in which government servants were convicted of taking bribe by special vigilance courts 10-14 years ago. The acquittal orders were passed on six criminal appeals on February 5 after taking note that the trial

accepted bribe. Since the appellants were on bail upon appeal, the high court discharged their bail bonds. In one order, the single-judge bench of Justice Gourishankar Satapathy said, "The court has found that the trial court has erroneously appre-

ciated the evidence on record and con-

court had in all cases found the ac-

cused to have neither demanded nor

victed the appellant (convict) without considering the fact that the demand and acceptance of bribe by the accused (convict) has not been established beyond all reasonable doubt and, therefore, the necessary consequence is that the guilt of the appellant is found to have not been established by

the prosecution beyond all reasonable doubts and he is, therefore, entitled to an acquittal of the charge."

In another order, Justice Satapathy observed, "In a case of demand and acceptance of bribe by the accused, the prosecution is expected to lead evidence about prior and subsequent demand of bribe and followed by acceptance of the same as illegal gratification by the public servant." He said, "Mere acceptance/recovery of currency notes alleged to be illegal gratification without the proof of demand ipso facto would thus not be sufficient to establish the charge against the appellant and, therefore, the conviction of the appellant in this case appears to be unsustainable in the eye of law."

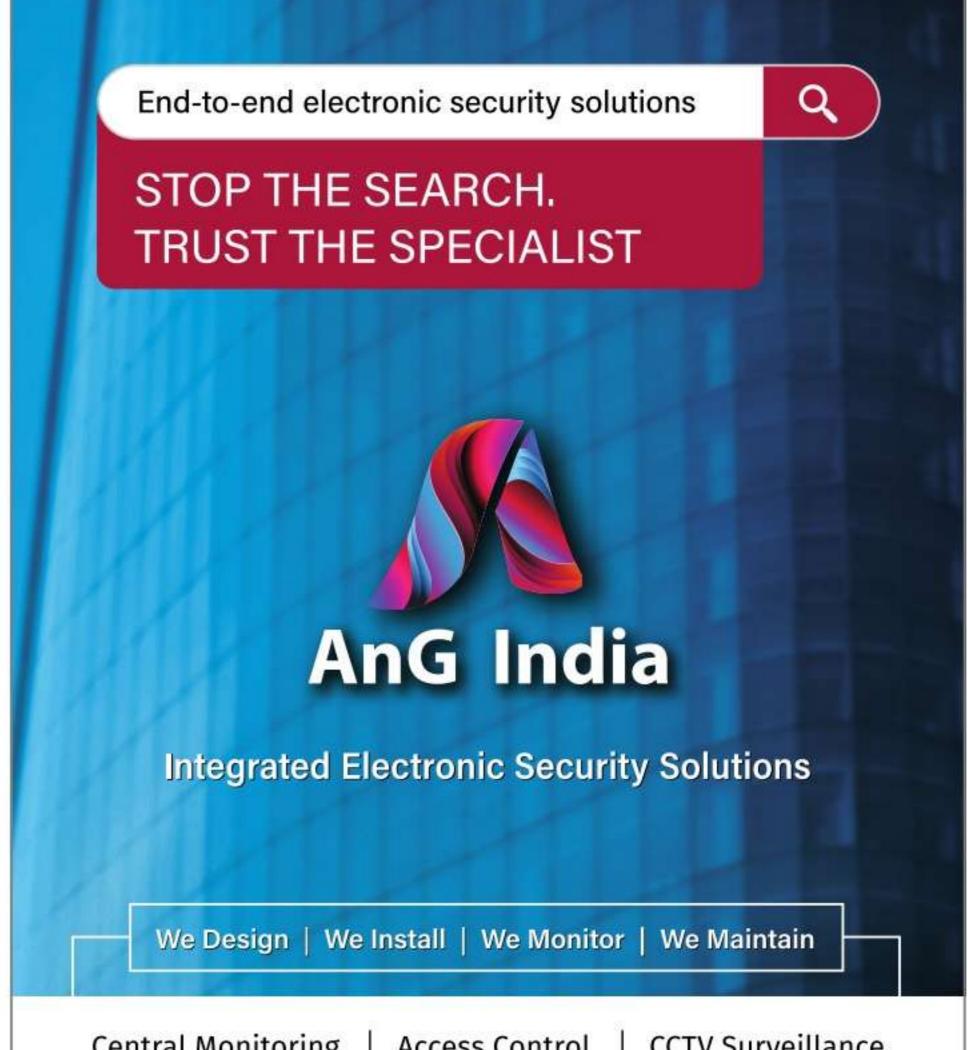
Sri Lanka and Mauritius to launch UPI services today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

and Sri Lankan President Ranil conferencing on Monday.

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The launch will enable availalaunch of Unified Payment Inter- bility of UPI settlement services New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi face (UPI) services in Sri Lanka for Indian nationals travelling to will be joined by his Mauritius and Mauritius and also RuPay card Sri Lanka and Mauritius as well as counterpart Pravind Jugnauth services in Mauritius, via video for Mauritian nationals travelling to India.



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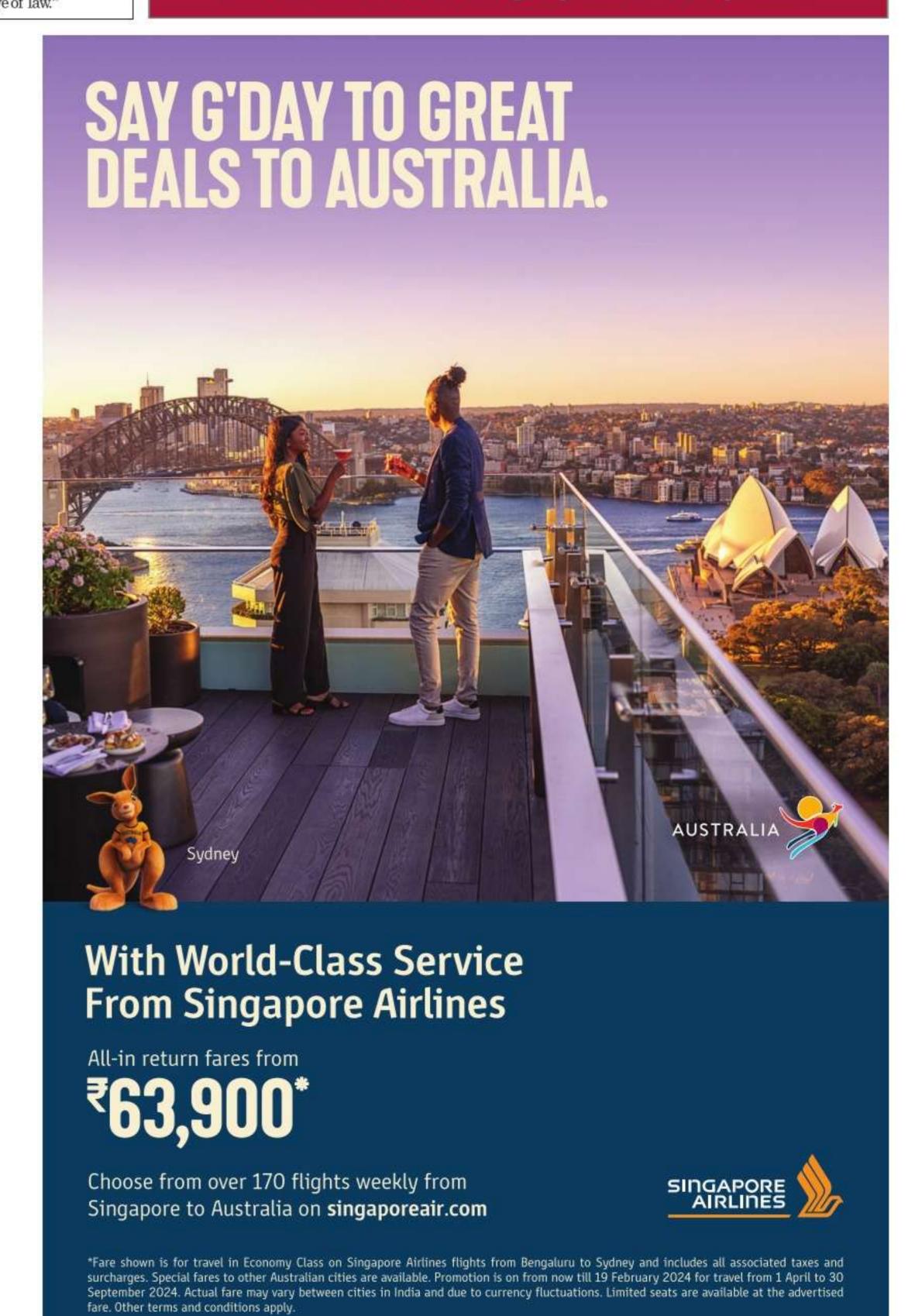
Smt. Vedavalli Partha Sarathy

15/05/1935 - 11/02/2024

With profound grief we mourn the sad demise of Smt. Vedavalli Partha Sarathy, affectionately known as Vedu. She will be deeply missed by the Partha Sarathy family, other family members, friends & well wishers.

Funeral service will be held on February 12, 2024 (Monday), from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM at BBMP Crematorium, Hebbal, Bangalore.





Sudhanshu Trivedi, RPN in BJP RS list; Sushil Modi left out

Party Relies On New Faces, Balances Caste Equation Ahead Of LS Polls

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Lucknow: Former Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Modi and senior functionary Saroj Pandey were among the noticeable omissions in the list of BJP candidates for Rajya Sabha polls in which former Union minister in UPA RPN Singh was nominated from Uttar Pradesh along with Sudhanshu Trivedi, the only one to be renominated so far.

indication that several Rajya Sabha members will be fielded in the Lok Sabha polls or assigned organisational responsibilities, a cue from PM Narendra Modi's recent remarks of a journey from Rajya Sabha erstwhile Gond royal family to Jan Sabha.

Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who represents Karnataka, and the party's chief spokesperson Anil Baluni, the outgoing MP from Uttarakhand, have been replaced with fresh faces amid one seat. BJP candidates from

Cong may pick

Sonia Gandhi,

ex-RBI guv

Rajan for RS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: There is intense

speculation that Congress ma-

triarch Sonia Gandhi and for-

mer RBI gover-

nor Raghuram

Rajan may fig-

ure in the par-

ty's list of nom-

inations to Ra-

jya Sabha.

Congress is likely to final-

The buzz in the party is

ise its list for the upper House

that Sonia may come to RS

from Himachal Pradesh. Par-

ty sources said she is unlikely

to contest Lok Sabha elections

because of health reasons and

Rajya Sabha will help in stay-

ing in Parliament, besides al-

so helping in some other logis-

tical issues. It is said Priyanka

Gandhi Vadra is also a possi-

ble option from the hill state.

on Monday.



Former Union minister in UPA RPN Singh (L) was nominated from UP, where 10 seats are falling vacant. Nine are from BJP and one from SP. Given BJP's strength in the UP assembly, the party can get seven candidates elected to Rajya Sabha

indications that they may contest the Lok Sabha polls.

Some like Narayana K The list was seen as a strong Bhandage from Karnataka and Devendra Pratap Singh from Chhattisgarh are little known but have been rewarded for their years of work for the party, something BJP leadership values. Singh is from the and replaces Saroj Pandey.

Bihar has six vacancies and both NDA and the opposition are likely to win three seats each, going by their current strength. JD(U), a BJP ally, is likely to name its candidate for

the state are Dharmshila Gupta and Bhim Singh.

None of the Union ministers, whose terms are coming to an end, were named. However, the party is yet to name many candidates, including from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

Union ministers Mansukh Mandaviya and Parshottam Rupala from Gujarat, Dharmendra Pradhan and L Murugan, both of whom represent Madhya Pradesh, and Narayan Rane from Maharashtra are among those retiring.

Former Haryana BJP president Subhash Barala, a Jat,

will be the party's candidate from the state and Samik Bhattacharya from West Bengal.

Besides relying on new faces, BJP has maintained a balance of caste equation in picking its candidates.

Elections for 56 Rajya Sabha seats spread across 15 states are scheduled to be held on Feb 27.

Ten seats are falling vacant in Uttar Pradesh. Nine are from BJP — Anil Jain, Anil Agarwal, Ashok Bajpai, Kanta Kardam, Sakaldeep Rajbhar, GVL Narasimha Rao, Vijay Pal Singh Tomar, Sudhanshu Trivedi and Harnath Singh Yadav. Jaya Bachchan is the sole Samajwadi Party MP to retire from the Rajya Sabha.

Given BJP's strength in the UP assembly, the party can get seven candidates elected Sources said the party may field eight candidates, amid speculation of Jayant Chaudhary-led RLD allying with it. RLD has nine MLAs who can potentially add to BJP's numerical strength.

Ahead of CAA, 7 nominates Matua representative to RS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Trinamool Congress on Sunday nominated Matua community representative Mamata Bala Thakur, journalist Sagarika Ghose and party insider Sushmita Dev as Rajya Sabha replacements for Santanu Sen, Abir Ranjan Biswas and Subhasis Chakraborty, with only Nadimul Haque retaining his seat.

With nominations for former MPs Thakur and Dev. along with first-timer Ghose, five of TMC's 13 Upper House MPs would be women. In the Lok Sabha, meanwhile, 41% of its 23 MPs are women.

Party sources said the Rajya Sabha candidates would file their nomination papers before Wednesday (Feb 14).

Apart from five women in TMC's RS team, there would be four members from the

E-TENDER NOTICE

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following

Office of the Chief Engineer(WWM-West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(WWM-W)/ACE(WWM-N-W)/DCE(WWM-E&W)/TA-2/861/2023-24 Dt:09.02.2024

For the Above work, Last date for receipt of tenders: 19.02.2024 upto 15.00 Hrs. Technical

Office of the Chief Engineer(Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

Providing and Laying of 1000mm dia RCC NP- 3 class sewer line Rs. 113.01 Lakhs

Name of the Works

from 2nd Cross Road along 8th Main East Road to 5th

A Cross Road, HRBR Layout 1st Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru.

Hiring of Water Tankers (6000 Ltrs Capacity) to Supply Water from

Hiring of Water Tankers (6000 Ltrs Capacity) to Supply Water from

Hiring of Water Tankers (6000 Ltrs Capacity) to Supply Water from

Hiring of Water Tankers (6000 Ltrs Capacity) to Supply Water from

Sinking of 61/2 " dia new borewells with necessary accessaries at

Tenders will be opened on: 20.02.2024 at 15.30 Hrs.

IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA(D&QA)/JE/2194/2023-24

West Maintenance Zone Service Station Filling Points.

IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA(D&QA)/JE/2195/2023-24

South Maintenance Zone Service Station Filling Points.

IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA(D&QA)/JE/2196/2023-24

North Maintenance Zone Service Station Filling Points.

IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA(D&QA)/JE/2197/2023-24

East Maintenance Zone Service Station Filling Points.

IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA(D&QA)/2202/2023-24

various locations of Pulikeshinagara Constituency.

IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE(D)/TA(D&QA)/2203/2023-24

various locations of Sarvagnanagara Constituency.

Tenders will be opened on: 19.02.2024 at 16.00 Hrs.

EMD: Rs. 30,000/-

Name of Work

Request for Proposal for Engagement / Appointment of a green consultant for providing consultancy services to plan and construct

the new Community Centre Sector 51, Chandigarh as an Intelligent

building conforming to minimum 3-star GRIHA rating/ IGBC Gold

Construction of Drain along Boundary Wall to collect & proper

Estimated Cost: Rs. 301.70 Lacs Earnest Money: Rs.6,03,400/-

disposal of leachate at Dumping Ground Dadumajra. Head: SWM

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 1

Estimated Cost : As per Quoted by Bidder

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 3

rating. Revenue head-Minor Work

Time Limit: 27 Months

Time Limit: 12 Months

or etenders.chd.nic.in

With nominations for Mamata Bala Thakur, Sushmita **Dev and Sagarika** Ghose, five of TMC's 13 RS MPs will be women. In the Lok

minority community and two from the backward classes, with half of the MPs below 55 years of age. "This is true diversity, not just in words, but in action," said Derek O'Brien, the party's RS leader, adding, "Skill sets and diversity make for a very strong parliamentary team in both Houses." In the five Bengal RS seats, TMC is set to win four and BJP one, given

15.02.2024

03.30 p.m.

20.02.2024

12.00 noon

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

Amount put to Tender

EMD Amount

Rs. 2.00 Lakhs

Dt:09.02.2024

Dt:09.02.2024

Dt:09.02.2024

Dt:09.02.2024

Dt:09.02.2024

Dt:09.02.2024

Rs. 246.38 Lakhs

Rs. 246.38 Lakhs

Rs. 246.38 Lakhs

Rs. 3.70 Lakhs

Rs. 246.38 Lakhs

Rs. 142.57 Lakhs

Rs. 2.53 Lakhs

Rs. 2.50 Lakhs

Sd/-

Chief Engineer(Design & QA)

Rs. 3.70 Lakhs

Rs. 3.70 Lakhs

Rs. 3.70 Lakhs

Sd/-

Chief Engineer(WWM-West)

08.02.2024

To 15.02.2024

upto 03.00 p.m.

10.02.2024

To 19.02.2024

upto 12.00 noon

Roads Division No.1 and Roads Division No.3, M.C. Chandigarh

Sabha, 41% of its 23

MPs are women

tion of funds to states. the 223-71 "official" split in the 294-member state assembly. "Maharashtra's **CORPORATION CHANDIGARH** Bid Submission | Opening Technical Schedule (Online) Bid (Online)

Uddhav follows in Sidda's steps, seeks Maha's 'rightful due'

Chaitanya.Marpakwar @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Days after Karnataka CM Siddaramajah led a protest to Delhi against the Centre's alleged bias in allocation of funds to states, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray said Maharashtra must get its rightful share.

Uddhav said Maharashtra pays one rupee as tax to the Centre, but only 7 paise is returned to the state. He demanded that the state be paid back at least 50% of the money it sends to the Centre.

Speaking at a meeting of Sena's (UBT) Sthaniya Lokadhikar Samiti, Uddhav said that whenever govt at the Centre changes, he would take the lead to amend the laws related to the distribu-

hardearned money accounts for a large portion of 'Modi guarantee'. What are you giving to Maharashtra in return? You are stripping the state of funds and diverting this money to schemes and doling out freebies," he said.

Allies want Cong to fight both LS seats in Jammu, but GOP hesitant Subodh Ghildival TNN solo in the national capital.

New Delhi: INDIA allies are nudging Congress to contest both the seats in Jammu, while the party is eager to contest only one seat in the region, and wants to go for the other in Kashmir or Ladakh.

The seat-sharing discussions in J&K are stuck on regional distribution of seats among Congress, National Conference and PDP.

Top sources said Congress has staked claim to one of the two seats in Jammu, one of the three in Kashmir, and the sole one in Ladakh. But NC and PDP are urging Congress to fight in Jammu region. Over the last two elections, Jammu emerged as an impregnable fort of BJP, and there appears a reluctance among regional parties to try their luck there. However, Congress is resisting allies' push to confine itself to Jammu.

Sources said an agree-



Tourists enjoy snowfall at Lal Chowk in Srinagar on Sunday

ment between NC and PDP should not be a problem, but Congress is arguing its case for a better distribution of berths in the UT.

Uncertainty continues to dog the opposition camp, as alliances or seat-sharing formula across states have not yet been finalized. While Congress and AAP were unlikely to join hands in Punjab, there is uncertainty about Delhi too, given that Arvind Kejriwal announced his party will go with Congress, it is argued.

Maharashtra is said to be nearing conclusion, while Jharkhand is practically sorted given the cohesion between Congress and JMM. In Bihar, RJD and Congress will divide the seats afresh after the exit of Nitish Kumar's JDU. However, West Bengal remains a hurdle for Congress as TMC is refusing to give it more than two seats.

Interestingly, a Congress leader said there is pressure on the party leadership to announce a deal with Samajwadi Party before the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra of Rahul Gandhienters Uttar Pradesh, especially since Akhilesh Yadav has said he will join Rahul in Amethi/Rae Bareli, the traditional seats of the Gandhi family. The anticipated defection of RLD of Jayant Chaudhary from the alliance to the BJP camp will give more leeway to the SP to share some seats

dural clarity is paramount.

retary and not speaker.

House rules are very clear."

Make united efforts to oust **Modi: Kharge to** Cong workers

Harmandeep.Singh @timesgroup.com

Ludhiana: A day after AAP supremo and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal announced plans to contest all 13 Lok Sabha seats in Punjab, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday told party workers to make united efforts to help the party win all the seats.

Addressing the inaugural Punjab Congress Workers' Convention at Samrala near here, Kharge said: "We are forging an alliance (INDIA) across all states. In some states, talks have been fruitful and in others, we have not been successful in reaching a consensus. But you should under-



Ludhiana district on Sunday

attempt to stitch an alliance with

AAP in Punjab, Kharge said:

the first on the agenda of the Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge House after governor's joint address to legislators," he during a public meeting in said. "Once a no-trust proposal comes, speaker has to stand that we have to fight, fight vacate chair and his deputy alone and fight till the end to will preside. Secondly, nowin." Pointing at an unsuccessful tice is given to assembly sec-

"What came from this alliance is Former additional solicwelcome and what did not come is itor general SD Sanjay cited Patna HC's judgment in Karalso fine. It is not about Punjab or any other state. The alliance is poori Thakur vs Abdul Gaabout removing the Narendra foor case of 1975, along with Modi govt. We are fighting from Articles 176(1) and 181. Kanyakumari to Kashmir and "When any new session be-Bengal to Gujrat. All should pargins, governor has the right ticipate in this fight." to address a single House or joint session. It must be followed by a no-confidence notice against speaker if there is any such. In that case,

Punjab PCC chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring said they would win all seats in the state. "We will extirpate them (AAP) in Punjab," he said.

Kharge also formally announced his party's support to the ongoing stir of farmers against the Centre's failure to implement their demands.

'Rules say speaker must step aside before trust vote'

2020 विधानस

▶ Continued from P1

months remainto relish perks of their MLA status, the allure of stability and security within their current affiliations prevails. JD(U) minister Vijay Ku-

mar Choudhary exuded confidence in securing the trust vote. BJP MLAs returned from a Bodh Gaya training camp, congregating at deputy CM Vijay Kumar Sinha's residence, as preparations for the crucial vote intensified. Against a backdrop of political maneuvering, RJD and Congress MLAs sought refuge at former deputy CM Tejashwi Prasad Yadav's residence. RJD MP Manoj Jha indicated GA would not give NDA a walkover and asked Nitish to show 122 MLAs' support required to remove speaker Awadh Bihari Chaudhary from RJD.

The fate of Chaudhary remains uncertain, with a no-trust proposal submit- Nand Kishore Yaday, proce-

ted against him. Chaudharv asserted his intent to preside over the session, while NDA contested the validity of his claim, citing constitutional stipulations.

16th day since submission of a no-confidence proposal against him, NDA emphasised adherence to Article 179 of the Constitution and Article 110 of Rules of House Conduct and Business.

With Feb 12 marking the

According to BJP MLA resolution for his removal is

speaker will have to vacate chair. Then comes the trust vote." Article 181 says speaker will not preside while a under consideration.

Rahul Gandhi to offer prayers at Kashi Vishwanath temple on Feb 17 ahead of PM Modi's visit to his day after his Bharat Jodo tra will begin in Kashi from leave for Bhadohi, address a

Varanasi: Just a few days temple in Varanasi on Feb 17, a out of the temple. His Nyay ya- Manduadih. He will then

prayers at Kashi Vishwanath

ing at Godowlia after coming ing Pilikothi, and culminate at College. TNN

constituency, Congress leader Nyay Yatra enters UP from Bi- Golgadda, move towards Mus- public meeting at Rajpura be-Rahul Gandhi will offer har Rahul will address a meet- lim-dominated areas, includ- fore reaching Gyanpur Inter

R (A Government of India Undertaking)

OPEN E-TENDER (TWO PACKET SYSTEM) INVITATION NOTICE Name of Work: Rate contract for deployment of Manpowers for Electrical Projects as and when required basis in all over India. Notice No: KR/CO/EL/MANPOWER/T/20/23, Dated: 12.02.2024. Completion Period: 24 (Twenty Four) Months. Estimated Cost: Rs. 21,72,55,893/- including GST. Bid Security: Rs. 12,36,300/-. Last Date & Time for Online Submission of Tender: 04.03.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. Opening of Tender: On 04.03.2024 at 15:30 Hrs. Amendments/ Corrigendum if any, would be uploaded on IREPS website only. Submission of Tender Documents: Through IREPS. Manual Tende

TENDER NOTICE

Directorate of Archaeology and Museums,

Government of Gujarat, Abhilekhagaar Bhavan, Sector-17, Gandhinagar Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Gujarat invites interested Bidders to participate in the bidding process for the following

1. Empanelment of Agency for Conservation and Restoration Services at Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Gandhinagar.

2. Empanelment of Design and Technical Agency for Museums at

Directorate of Archaeology & Museums, Government of Gujarat. Please note that the Bid Documents ean be downloaded from the website https://tender.nprocure.com from 12th February 2024. Further the last date of submission of the Online Bid is 6th March 2024 by 18:00 hrs. The last date for submission of hard copies of the documents is 7th March 2024 by 18:00 hrs. Evaluation of Preliminary Qualification criteria will be

Directorate of Archaeology & Museums

INF/2435/23-24

Documents shall not be accepted.

G2. NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY Tender Notice No.: 13720232024 Dated: 06.02.2024

announced later. For further detail please contact 079-23256730/40.

E-Tendering Tender Notice Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering)/North Central Railway/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-TENDERS by Two Packet System on prescribed form for the following work up to 13.30 hrs. on 06.03.2024 The details of the

Approx. Cost Completion Date of Opening Earnest of Work (Rs.) Money (Rs.) oftender 12,95,900.00 06 Months 06.03.2024 22,91,75,644.85 Name of Work: Construction of RCC Boundary wall in ALJN-HGJ Section to prever

encroachment of railway land & Trespassing under ADEN ALJN

Eligibility Criteria For similar work: Any Civil Engineering Work which includes RCC Concrete work among other works. (1) E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (2) The complete information along with tender document of above E-ΓENDERS by Two Packet System is available on Website **www.ireps.gov.in**, upto 13:30 hrs. on the due to date of tender opening i.e., 06.03.2024. (3) Tender offer shall be made on line through Two Packet System. (4) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificate issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (5) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. Rates and any other financial entity in any other form/letter head if attached by vendors shall be straightway ignored and shall not be considered. (6) The tenderers shall submit a certificate as given in tender document in standard format, without which their tender may not be considered and shall be summarily rejected. (7) The supplier/contractor of goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. (8) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (9) This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. (10) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (11)Tender can be submitted online upto 13.30 hrs. on 06.03.2024. (12) The tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-I) of GCC July 2022 mandatorily, otherwise offer will be considered as Incomplete offer and accordingly

Byculla prison also has plans to rope in counsellor soon

▶ Continued from page 1

The initiative was inau-

gurated in December rector general of prisons Amitabh Gupta. At the time of the launch, Gupta had said in a press statement: "The prison houses individuals facing diverse charges. They grapple with anxieties about their families, their futures, and ongoing legal battles. The aim of the radio show is to inject a dose of positivity into their lives."

Weeks before the inauguration, prison officials scoured the Byculla complex for their hidden radio star. The prison complex in central Mumbai houses nearly 380 women and 390 men. Rani, who gave dance lessons to fellow inmates, emerged as one of the five finalists. The trans-



Requests range from '90s **Bollywood classics to** contemporary remixes, with the occasional English track thrown in for the foreign inmates

to a makeshift studio was swift, adorned with pictures of musicians and equipment set up by an NGO working for prisoner welfare. Yet, for Rani, the initial broadcasts were laced with nervousness. "The script and song re-

quests have to be vetted," explained a prison official, highlighting the need for sensitivity within the confines. "We can't have anything controversial or hurtful."

The diversity of song re-

quests reflects the diverse population behind bars. Requests range from '90s Bollywood classics to contemporary remixes, with the occasional English track thrown

in for the foreign inmates. Going ahead, the prison has plans to rope in a counsellor who can take in questions from inmates and address them on air. "We have also put in a request for new speakers. The existing lot was put up only keeping routine announcements in mind," said a prison official.

Kejriwal, Mann to visit Ram temple today

New Delhi: AAP national convener and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, along with their families, will visit Ayodhya on Monday to pay obeisance at the Ram Mandir. The visit ahead of Lok Sabha polls is yet another attempt by Kejriwal to strike a chord with people by showing support for the temple.

Kejriwal's parents will also accompany him. He was invited to the January 22 consecration ceremony but had said that he wanted to visit the temple later with his parents, wife and children.

BJP has cited videos to maintain that Kejriwal has done a U-turn on the temple issue. TNN

'If you have courage, then do some work' Continued from page 1

n last LS elections, BJP had won all seven in a triangu-Lar fight, pushing Congress to second position in five seats (North East Delhi, Chandni Chowk, West Delhi, New Delhi and East Delhi) and AAP to third. AAP was runner up in North West Delhi (SC) and South Delhi.

Claiming that AAP govt in Punjab stands as a beacon of honesty, Kejriwal appealed to voters to support his party and ensure victory in all 13 Lok Sabha seats in state. "Such a mandate will empower Mann to serve people with even greater dedication and expedite resolution of your issues.'

Describing his party as a : "10-year-old baby", Kejriwal lenged BJP.

said AAP had formed govts in two states within that timeframe and won assembly seats in Gujarat and Goa. "This fledgling party of a decade has instilled fear in major political entities like BJP, even haunting them in their dreams."

"Wherever we fight elections, we secure so many votes. Today, BJP fears that if (AAP) continues to grow like this, then there will be an AAP govt at Centre," Kejriwal said and added that "they want AAP to be crushed and finished... arrest (our leaders), defame AAP. They make new accusations every day."

He said AAP can undertake work that BJP cannot. "If you have courage, then do some work," Kejriwal chal-

The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For further details contact the above signed office during working hours. DIPR/CP/JA/3521/2023-24

Sinking of 61/2 " dia new borewells with necessary accessaries at Rs. 140.47 Lakhs

For the Above works, Last date for receipt of tenders: 18.02.2024 upto 16.00 Hrs. Technical

Delhi police fortify borders as intel points to farmers' protest

Haryana Police Put Up Roadblocks

Rajshekhar.Jha @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Massive security arrangements are being put in place in Delhi and its borders after alerts from the inestablishment telligence about plans of protests by some farmer groups in the next few days.

While the focus is on thwarting any unlawful congregation between Feb 13 and Feb 15, there are apprehensions that attempts may be made after that as well in the run up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election. A gathering on the lines of protests of 2021 is being anticipated and cops have been asked to take appropriate measures to stop the groups from entering Delhi. Haryana Police is also taking a range of measures, including putting up different kinds of roadblocks. On Saturday, police conducted drills and tested their teargas shells and launchers, which led to many residents of east Delhi complaining of eye burns.

One of the alerts issued by an agency regarding the possible congregation says that the protesters may sneak into



The Harvana government sealed the state's border with Punjab in Ambala following alerts about plans of protests by farmers

Delhi before Feb 13 also and may try to gather at PM's house and residences of the home and agriculture ministers. "The protesters may reach New Delhi area in small groups by cars, two-wheelers, metro trains, trains, etc, and appear suddenly at any spot to hold snap demonstrations," the alert warns.

The protesters, cops anticipate, may try to enter Delhi during the night, apprehending that there would beheavy deployment of force during the day. "Some opposition political parties, trade unions and students' unions may also support and join the protesters to gain mileage. Security may be upped in New Delhi, North and Central districts like Ramlila Ground, Rajghat, Red Fort, Kisan Ghat and Parliament, besides PM

and HM residences, among other places of significance,"

reads the alert. Farmers are expected to come to Delhi via borders of Shambhu (Ambala), Khanori (Jind) and Dabwali (Sirsa), along with their tractors/ trollies with sufficient food, ration and logistics for six

months from various places. "Some farmers might start early to evade police action and arrive 2-3 days prior to Feb 13 and hide in prominent gurdwaras, dharamshalas, ashrams and guest houses and hold snap demonstrations. Some farmers may try to enter from remote, nonmotorable borders where there is less movement to create an element of surprise. If the protesters are able to gain entry into Delhi, they may not vacate soon," the alert warns.

इसरो डिंग्व

क्रम सं./SI No.

Farmer-Centre talks: MSP may

Neel.Kamal@timesgroup.com

be moot point

Bathinda: In a last-ditch effort to persuade farmers to not march towards Delhi. three Union ministers will hold a second round of talks with farm leaders on Monday evening, hours before they launch their 'Dilli Chalo' stir the next morning.

The moot point in this

meeting is expected to be the farmers' demand for a legal right to minimum support price (MSP) on all crops, which is calculated according to the recommendations made by MS Swaminathan. Union agriculture minister Arjun Munda, food, consumer affairs and public distribution minister Piyush Goyal and junior Union minister for home affairs Nityanand Rai will represent the central government, while Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, Kisan Mazdoor Morcha convener Sarvan Singh Pandher and leaders Kumar Abhimanyu, Ramandeep Singh and Tejveer Singh are expected to represent the protesting side. Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann may not be able to attend the meeting.

भारत सरकार/Government of India

अंतरिक्ष विभाग/Department of Space

भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन/Indian Space Research Organisation

विक्रम साराभाई अंतरिक्ष केंद्र/VIKRAM SARABHAI SPACE CENTRE

तिरुवनंतपुरम/Thiruvananthapuram-695 022

पद संख्या / Post No.

1506

1515

1520

वरिष्ट प्रशासन अधिकारी/Sr. Administrative Officer, आर एवं आर / R & R

शुद्धिपत्र दिनांक 12.02.2024 / CORRIGENDUM DATED 12.02.2024

दिनांक 01.07.2023 के विज्ञापन सं. 327 तथा दिनांक 16.01.2024 के शिद्धपत्र द्वारा अधिसूचित रिक्तियों के अतिरिक्त, नीचे दिए

In addition to the vacancies notified vide Advertisement No. 327 dated 01.07.2023 and its Corrigendum dated 16.01.2024, 04 new vacancies are notified for Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC), Bengaluru as per the details

ब्यौरों के लिए, कृपया दिनांक 12.02.2024 को 1000 बजे से दिनांक 21.02.2024 को 1700 बजे तक कृपया वीएसएससी

वेबसाइट http://www.vssc.gov.in देखें। भविष्य में, आगे का कोई भी शद्धिपत्र केवल वीएसएससी वेबसाइट में अपलोड किया जाएगा

For details, please visit VSSC website http://www.vssc.gov.in from 1000 hours on 12.02.2024 to 1700 hours on

21.02.2024. In future, any further corrigendum will be uploaded in VSSC website only. All applicants are advised

गए ब्यौरों के अनसार, मानव अंतरिक्ष उड़ान केंद्र (एचएसएफसी), बेंगलुरु के लिए 🗗 नई रिक्तियां अधिसचित की जाती हैं:

Police warn of stringent action against miscreants

▶ Continued from page 1

alik's unnamed son and SP leader Matin **V** ▲ Siddiqui's brother Javed Siddiqui have also been arrested.

"Police had detained over 60 people, including Malik's son, for questioning due to their suspected involvement in the violence. Based on questioning, he was apprehended," the officer added.

Police Headquarters spokesperson Nilesh Anand Bharne said investigation is on to identify others involved in the violence.

"Five persons have been arrested, and over 60 detained. Probe continues to identify more involved and we are expecting further arrests in the coming days," said

Bharne. The Nainital district administration has deployed a large number of police forces in Haldwani's Banbhoolpura area after the violence that broke out on February 8 following an anti-encroachment drive. To keep the situation under control the entire area has been divided into five super zones supervised by seven magistrates. Lifting the suspension of internet services, police warned of stringent action against miscreants who try to disrupt communal harmony by posting provocative photos and comments on social media.

पदों की संख्या / No. of posts

01

BECOME THE TALK

By talking about your

OF THE TOWN.

NIA raids 21 locations in Tamil Nadu, arrests four

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday arrested four persons in raids at 21 locations in Tamil Nadu, including 11 connected with a college where youths were allegedly being radicalised in Islamic State ideology in the garb of imparting Arabic classes and being motivated to carry out terror acts.

The raids were in connection with two cases relating to IS modules inspired by the 2019 Sri Lanka Easter bombings accused Zahran Hashim the 2022 Coimbatore car blast case and the Tamil Nadu IS radicalisation and recruitment case. Among the items seized were six laptops, 25 mobile phones, 34

SIM cards, six SD cards, three hard disks, etc; material objects; and documents.

Eleven locations associated with Madras Arabic College or Kovai Arabic College were searched in connection with the Tamil Nadu IS radicalisation case. The case involves individuals engaged in clandestine radicalisation of gullible youth signed up for Arabic classes, through preaching of radical ideologies and promoting violent jihad at regional study centres

across Tamil Nadu. The radicalisation also took place in the online space, through social media platforms and mobile applications such as WhatsApp and Telegram. The IS operatives were using the classes and the social media to impart radical sermons to propagate Khilafat and IS ideologies inimical to India's constitutionally established principles of secularism, democracy etc, NIA said on Sunday.

NIA teams on Saturday simultaneously swooped down on 10 other locations connected with the Coimbatore car bomb blast case. The searches covered places linked with the suspects, who were part of an encrypted mobile platform group along with other arrested accused. Investigations showed that the suspects had eulogised Zahran Hashim and along with the accused, used the platform to discuss IS activities and prospects with a view of establishing the outfit's foothold in India.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that we are investigating the title of Mr. D.V. Prasad son of Damera Jagga Rao residing at Survey No.2/5, Venkatala Village, Yelahanka P.O., Bengaluru - 560064, in relation to the agricultural land more fully described in the SCHEDULE shown below and hereinafter referred to as "Property".

It is informed that our client is intending to enter into joint development agreement in relation to the Property which is owned by the said Mr. D.V. Prasad. If any person/s, entity, firm, institution (corporate or otherwise) having any claim/s any right, title, interest, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Property or any part thereof or against the said Mr. D.V. Prasad, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details of the right, title, interest, claim, pending litigation or demand made together with supporting documents within fourteen (14) days from the date of this notice. Failing to do so, it shall be presumed that the ownership and title of Mr. D.V. Prasad in relation to the Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and that no other person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in the Property or any part thereof and our client will then proceed to enter into the joint development agreement with respect to the Property. Further, claims or alleged interests, if any, which are not received within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication of this notice shall be deemed to have been consciously waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall thereafter not be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land comprised in Survey No.2/5 (earlier forming part of Survey No.2/1) measuring 5 acres 12 1/4 guntas situated at Venkatala Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk (earlier forming part of Bangalore North Taluk) and bounded as follows:

East by	:	National Highway Road;			
West by	:	Survey No.1/2 and Survey No.1/4;			
North by	:	Survey No. 2/4; and			
South by	:	Village of Venkatala.			

Mridul Kumbalath Partner, Trilegal

Advocate & Solicitors, Prestige Poseidon 139, Residency Road, Bangalore - 560 025

Date: 09/02/2024 Place: Bengaluru

T: 080 4343 4646 Email: mridul.kumbalath@trilegal.com

BangaloreTimes

'Can't reject accidental death claim due to expiry of vehicle registration'

Tushar.Tere@timesgroup.com

Vadodara: A consumer forum in Narmada district in Gujarat ordered an insurance company to pay Rs 15 lakh in death claim to the family of a man who died in a road accident after rejecting the firm's argument that the victim's vehicle registration had expired.

Dinesh Baria, a resident of Narmada district, died of grievous injuries after a truck hit his bike in March last year.

Baria had a personal accidental insurance cover of Rs 15 lakh. When his family filed the claim with Go Digit General Insurance Company last year, the firm rejected it on the grounds that the registration of Baria's bike had expired in August 2021.

Baria's family then filed a complaint with the Narmada District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in August 2023. The insurance firm submitted at the forum that the victim hadn't renewed the mandatory registration under the Motor Vehicles Act and, thus, flouted the insurance policy rules.

After going through all the documents during the trial, ed that according to the FIR the complainant.

Pankul.Sharma

@timesgroup.com

Dehradun: The Uttarak-

hand govt is all set to imple-

ment a green cess on vehicles

entering the state from other

states, following the model

adopted by neighbouring Hi-

machal Pradesh. As per a no-

tification issued on Friday,

the cess would be collected at

toll plazas through FASTag,

with amounts ranging from

Rs 20 to Rs 80. Electric vehi-

cles and cars fuelled by CNG

that while the notification

Secretary of transport, Arvind Singh Hyanki, said

will be exempted.

A consumer forum in Gujarat ordered an insurance company to pay Rs 15 lakh in death claim to the family of a man who died in a road accident, rejecting the firm's argument that the victim's vehicle registration had expired

filed in the case, it appears that the accident occurred due to the mistake of the truck driver and, that, there was no negligence on the part

of the victim. The forum also noted that the insurance firm sold the policy to Baria for the period between April 2022 and April 2023, despite his vehicle's registration expiring in August 2021. The insurer, thus, cannot argue that the vehicle's registration of the victim had expired, the forum noted.

The forum ordered the firm to pay Rs 15 lakh to the complainant with 7% interest. The firm was also ordered to pay Rs 3,000 for mental hathe consumer forum observ- rassment and legal costs to

checkposts operational at en-

try points for collecting entry

fees, but they have been

closed for a few years now. We

realised that collecting a fee

or cess at manually operated

checkposts was inconvenient

for tourists and people, in

general, visiting Uttarak-

hand due to long queues." He

added, "Now, the green cess

will be collected by the con-

of implementation, Hyanki

said talks with the Centre

gressed, and collection of

cess will begin before the

commencement of the Char

Explaining the timeline

significantly pro-

cessionaires of NHAI."

U'khand set to levy

'green cess' on vehicles

entering the state

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

पद का नाम / Name of the Post

वैज्ञानिक/इंजीनियर-एससी

Scientist/Engineer-SC

सभी आवेदकों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे नियमित रूप से वेबसाइट देखें

RECRUITMENT FOR THE EX-CADRE POST OF DIRECTOR (LIBRARY) Applications from eligible candidates are invited for selection

of a suitable candidate for appointment to the ex-cadre post of Director (Library) in Level 13 of Pay Matrix. The details about eligibility conditions etc. can be downloaded from the website of the Supreme Court of India i.e. www.sci.gov.in. The last date for receipt of applications is 11.03.2024.

Place: New Delhi Date: 09.02.2024

to check the website regularly.

Registrar (Recruitment)

This is to inform the General Public that my client intends to purchase/acquire the property described in the Schedule hereto below free from all encumbrances from its respective owners mentioned and described in the Schedule hereunder. The Owners represents and warrants that they are the absolute owners of their respective properties.

Any person or persons, having any claim, interest or right on the property described in the Schedule written hereunder or any part thereof by way of any litigation(s) pending before any court or tribunal or governmental or statutory authority or by way of inheritance, sale, exchange mortgage, lien, pledge, gift, trust, bequest, possession, lease, charge, easement, grant, tenancy or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing within Fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/its claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim/s, and the claims, if any, of such person (s) shall be treated as waived and not binding on my client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land totally ad-measuring 7 Acres 35 Guntas, situated at Heggedegere Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagar Taluk, Ramanagar District. The details of Survey numbers and Owners are as follows:

SI. No.	Sy. No.	Extent		OWNER'S	Boundaries				
		Α	G	NAME	East By	West By	North By	South By	
1.	161/1	0	251/2	Mr.H.S.Gopal Krishna S/o H.M.Shivanna	Road	Land belonging to Kariyanna	Sy No. 165	Land belonging to H.S. Arunkumar	
2.	161/4	0	25%	Mr. H.S. Arunkumar S/o H.M.Shivanna	Road	Sy No.165	Land belonging to H.S.Gopal Krishna	Land belonging to Mr. Lakshmana	
3.	176/1	0	33	Smt. H.S. Vishalakshi D/o H.M.Shivanna	Land belonging to Shoba	Land belonging to Thimmappa	Thoti Inam Land	Land belonging to Manjula	
4.	176/2A	1	0	Smt. Yashodamma & Prakash,	Land belonging to Ramaiah	Land belonging to Patel Kadappa	Land belong to H.M. Shivanna	Land belonging to Laksh- manalah	
5.	176/2B	0	14	Mrs.Shobadevi W/o late. Nagaraju	Sy No.177	Sy No. 176/2A	Sy No.177	Sy No. 176/2A & 176/5,6	
6.	176/3	0	39	Sri.K.Boraiah S/o.late Karadi Gowda	Land belonging to Rama- shivaiah	Land belonging to H.K.Harish	Land belonging to Muniraj	Land belong to H.M. Shivanna	
7.	176/4	0	33	Smt. Manjula W/o Nagaraju	Land belonging to Shoba	Land belonging to Thimmappa	Land belonging to Shivanna & Thayamma	Land belonging to Yashoda	
8.	176/5	0	14	Sri.M.R.Muniraj S/o late.Ramaiah	Land belonging to Ramashiva	Land belonging to H.R Muniraju	Land belonging to Shoba devi	Land belonging to BoreGowda	
9.	176/6	0	10	Sri.M.R.Muniraj S/o late.Ramaiah	Land belonging to Muniraju	Land belonging to Yashodamma & Prakash	Land belonging to Shobhadevi	Land belonging to BoreGowda	
10.	177/1	0	31	Mrs.Shobadevi W/o late. Nagaraju	Land belonging to Manjula	SY No.174	Sy No.201/4	Sy No. 176/2A	
11.	177/5	0	15%	H.S Gopal Krishna	Land belonging to Shiva	Land belonging to Shoba	Thoti Inam Land	Land belonging to Arun Kuma	
12.	177/5	0	151/2	H.S. Arun Kumar	Land belonging to Shiva	Land belonging to Shoba	Land belonging to Gopal krishna	Land belonging to Shoba	
13.	200/1	0	19	Mrs.Shobadevi W/o	Sy No. 200/2	Sy No.201	Sy No.201	Sy No.177	

Vaishali Basawanal, Advocate VSB Law Associates #312, III Level, Prestige Meridian II, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560 001, Ph No: 9844091496 email : vaishali70@gmail.com Place: Bangalore Date: 11-02-2024

romance around town!

This Valentine's Day, send us your stories of how your city played a major role in your love story. Stand a chance to get featured and win* vouchers. BENGALURU to get started.

Pick up your copy of Bangalore Times to explore special celeb love stories.

came into effect on Friday, the Dham Yatra. collection of the green cess According to the transport from vehicles entering Uttadepartment, three-wheelers rakhand will require some and four-wheelers (LMVs) will be subject to Rs 20 and Rs 40 retime to organise. Highlighting challenges spectively as green cess, while medium and heavy motor vehicles will have to pay Rs 60 and

posed by closure of manual checkposts at entry points, Hyanki said, "Earlier, we had

उत्तर-पूर्वी अंतरिक्ष उपयोग केंद्र /North Eastern Space Applications Centre भारत सरकार /Government of India, अंतरिक्ष विभाग /Dept. of Space उमियम /Umiam - 793103, मेघालय/Meghalaya दूरभाष /Tel: 0364-2570140

Rs 80 respectively.

Date: 12.02.2024 Advt. No.NESAC/RMT-TEMP/01/2023 Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up the positions of Research Scientist, Research Associate, Junior Research Fellow and Project Associate on purely temporary basis for various projects, at NESAC, Umiam. For detailed advertisement, kindly visit NESAC Website: www.nesac.gov.in. Corrigendum/addendum, if any, will be published only in the NESAC website. Sd/-

Director, NESAC





A thought for today

If youth knew; if age could SIGMUND FREUD

Listen To The Young

Pakistan's youth almost upset crooked plans of its grizzled generals. Lesson for old & powerful everywhere

akistan's election is similar to matches played by the country's cricket team. You never know what to expect. An election most of the world likened to a fixed match has veered off script. Thank Pakistani youth for it.

Charged up by Imran Khan's rhetoric of sweeping away the old order, we have an extraordinary situation where independents (read Imran's PTI supporters) have bagged more seats than established political parties.

Tidal waves of idealism | It follows a familiar pattern of waves of change started by idealism of youth. Think of Vietnam War protests in US. Student marches probably did more to change US policy on the war than military's battlefield performance.

When young ask for change, it immediately translates into creative output in popular culture. Books, movies and music channelled youth critique of a jaded cynical establishment. Never mind that



many of the young protesters later went on to represent another cynical order. Nothing energises society like young people who set off to change it. Cinema as subversion

Passion is the motif in works of

young idealists. Indian cinema's 'new wave' that began almost six decades ago was a self-styled pursuit of artistic truth. Subversion was the real truth here as state

financing was used to make movies that took on the establishment. You have to be young and crazy to have the chutzpah to pull that off.

Rock on If there's one enduring and universal symbol of youth power, it's rock music. With its origins in US, appealing to youngsters frustrated by social shackles, it just blew away conventions. Rock endures and has made its way into popular culture across the world. Think of a protest movement anywhere, there are bound to be images of outraged youth marching to the beat of high-octane music.

Change's possible | In early 1970s, a young American dropout wandered along the hippie trail. He spent some time in India. Not long after that the young hippie co-founded a company that would change customer experience in electronics. That Steve Jobs made Apple the company it is despite being a counter-culture nomad in his youth tells greybeards something – older generations should look deeper into what they think are apparent naivete and aimlessness of the young. There are always undercurrents and it is wise to be alive to it. For it's often 'unsophisticated' dreamers who bring change.

Dig Baby Dig

Critical minerals race is on. India must work with US-led group to secure these strategic resources

Tt's good that GOI is looking to press the accelerator on securing supply chains in critical minerals. Critical mineral block proposals received by partner countries in the US-led Minerals Security Partnership (MSP) will be checked out by PSUs, a first step to their acquiring critical mineral assets abroad.

Critical alliance | India joined MSP in June last year during Modi's US visit. The 13-country group wants to jumpstart public and private investments in critical mineral supply chains globally. That's code for working together to explore, extract and process stuff like lithium, cobalt and graphite. These power industries of today and tomorrow - everything from mobile phones and EVs to semiconductors and aerospace need them.



China all the way | What adds to complications in acquiring critical minerals is their uneven concentration. Few countries have the high tech needed to extract and process them. China produces 60% of the world's rare earth elements. 69% of cobalt is

mined in DR Congo, but China processes 65% of global supply. Australia is lithium king with 52% of global output, but China processes 58% of this critical mineral needed for batteries. Get the drift?

Strategic scramble | So the global minerals race is on. Given Chinese domination, West wants to secure supplies and friend-shore extraction and processing. With India also locked in a strategic tussle with China, teaming up with MSP partners made sense.

Indian gains | India has massive geological potential for critical minerals. But this remains largely unproven. And current dependence on China is problematic. So the way out is to collaborate with high-tech MSP players like US, Japan, Korea, Australia, etc, secure overseas assets and encourage Indian private players to get into the game-they face too many restrictions. PSUs and private companies must work together to get their hands on as much of critical minerals as they can.

Bye bye evil eye

Kids no longer burn chillies to scare you away

Bikram Vohra



So the other day someone praised my kids and I reverted to childhood and said better remove the evil eye (nazar) with seven chillies and burn them. I recall how we would stand around in suspense as the chillies burnt...the more stinky and sharp the smoke the more it doomed the evil eye. No one does

There used to be so many little acts to ward off bad luck that would make the new gen over with mirth. Imagine telling my grandchildren they can't wash their hair on Saturday or have a haircut on Tuesdays. No logic, just bans handed down the ages. These kids would say Tuesday schmoozday, give me shampoo.

Like if you were leaving home and someone sneezed you had to come back, sit in a chair and have a spoonful of sugar with yogurt before you could leave again. No one ever told you why this was mandated, you just did it or else you were flinging temptation to the fates.



And if you were travelling, they would put a glass of water at the front door as you trotted off and you never knew why except that it would protect you from bad luck. By the same token you never called out to someone when they were leaving because that meant their mission would be in jeopardy. A spinoff from this is the 'no backtracking' exercise. We still follow it. Leave home for airport, discover a mile

down the road you have forgotten your mobile charger but ingrained habit forbids you from going back. So, you stop car in another street, call home on your mobile, ask someone to bring it to car, phew, disaster averted. Breaking a mirror was bad news but breaking a glass was exactly the oppo-

site. As the shards were picked up everyone told the apologetic offender not to worry, it is a sign of good luck, even though it was expensive crystal cut glass and has ruined the set of six. Grandmothers would warn against going out in an eclipse and expectant mothers were kept in the room till it was over. To be caught sweeping with a broom at night was a gilt-edged invitation to peril.

Animals had a role. Black cats meant oops don't cross that path, lizards falling on your head was either lucky or unlucky, an owl hooting meant baaad scene and a dog howling even worse. But a crow cawing meant guests were coming. Much of this is passé now but if there is some residue the lemon and green chilli defence always worked. Just hang it on the door. Touch wood.

Vox Militum Beats Vox Populi

People have voted against the military's political favourites but General Munir still gets to cook up the next coalition government

Ajay Bisaria



Pakistanis braved stiff odds on Feb 8 to cast their vote. A strong electoral tsunami, led by young voters, coalesced a distinct anti-army mood with deep anger at economic hardships and a sympathy wave for jailed

Imran Khan and his beleaguered PTI. While PML-N ended up as largest federal party (with 75 of 266 direct national assembly seats) but no majority in its home base of Punjab, and Zardari-Bhutto's PPP claimed 54 seats and won its home province of Sindh, it was independents (mostly) backed by PTI that surprised with over 100 seats. Without poll rigging on election day, they may have crossed the simple majority mark of 134. And sans massive pre-poll manipulation, PTI may even have breached two-thirds level that Imran's AI avatar claimed.

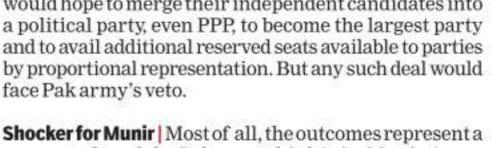
Queered pitch | However, all that remains theoretical. The elections were perhaps the most brazenly rigged ones in Pakistan's recent history, despite global and social media scrutiny. Analysts expect more uncertainty and post-poll horse-trading. But Pakistan seemed headed for a repeat of PDM model that Pak army had in place

for 16 months when it booted out Imran in April 2022. With army failing to deliver the majority Nawaz Sharif hoped he would govern with, the 'victory' that he hurriedly announced "will be more bitter than sweet', Dawn pointed out. Speculation has arisen that Nawaz may opt to remain the non-playing captain, the party's 'Qaid' accepting a role analogous to Sonia Gandhi's in India's erstwhile UPA government, with his brother Shehbaz as PM and daughter Maryam as Punjab CM. Coalition partner Zardari, still demanding the post of PM for son Bilawal, may settle for the post of President for himself.

Tricky road ahead In next few days, the spotlight would fall on Pakistan's President (former PTI activist and Imran loyalist) Arif Alvi, who must invite the largest party to form government, and the judiciary, which must adjudicate appeals on multiple cases of poll rigging filed by PTI-backed candidates, apart from the sentencing of Imran in kangaroo courts. PTI planners

would hope to merge their independent candidates into a political party, even PPP, to become the largest party and to avail additional reserved seats available to parties by proportional representation. But any such deal would

moment of truth for Pak army chief Asim Munir. Army was still not over the shock of events of May 9 last year



Imran is demanding 'vote ki hifazat' (protect the vote) from jail...Pak army may want to offer Imran political exile or even deploy him as a threat to the new dispensation in future

when a popular rebellion by PTI cadres was joined by sympathisers within military after Imran's arrest. Pakistanis have again sent an angry message through ballot boxes, protesting imposition of army's incompetent governments.

Hybrid democracy | Munir did try to propel himself above the electoral fray by asking civilians to show a healing touch, unity and maturity. Clearly, Pak army

has so far rejected the Egypt or Myanmar model of complete power grab. But it has also not learnt from the Bangladesh model-of army stepping back in favour of civilians after elections in 2008 - preferring to stick with the uniquely Pakistani model of the post-Musharraf era, where army has evolved from guided democracy to hybrid democracy, playing unelected senior partner. While Pak army always has ready civilians willing to play its game, voters are pointing out they have seen

through it and won't be fooled.

General's true colours | Munir will need to decide on his legacy soon enough. By Nov 2025, Munir will need to decide what kind of army chief he would like to be. One who would walk into the sunset completing his single term, or armtwisting civilians to stay on for six years (par for the course) or for nine-plus (requiring a coup and suspension of constitution and facing international opprobrium).

Shoe on the other foot On his part, Nawaz would need to decide on his own political legacy. He has got sweet revenge for his tribulations and ouster in 2017. His wish for 'vote ko izzat' (respect the vote) was fulfilled. Imran's relentless army-supported dharnas had in fact kept Nawaz off balance for all of his days as PM from 2013. But now the same Imran is demanding 'vote ki hifazat' (protect the

vote) from jail. Pak army may want to offer Imran political exile or even deploy him as a threat to the new dispensation in future.

Chasing normality? | With political maturity and experience of his three abbreviated PM terms, Nawaz could try and end this game. He may be better off attempting a 'charter of democracy' with other political parties, of the kind he had cobbled together with PPP in 2007 to encourage Musharraf to abandon power. This time, he should include both PPP and PTI in a conversation with army to allow civilians to run governments, howsoever corrupt or flawed they may appear. Instead of attacking each other, Pakistan's political parties may see the wisdom of encouraging army to focus on the country's myriad security challenges, largely of its own creation. That would be an important step towards a normal Pakistan.

The writer was Indian high commissioner to Pakistan

For The Love Of Dogs...And Other Animals

Ratan Tata's hospital for animals is a vital argument against speciesism, the dogma that holds humans are superior to other animals. Simple truth is if we care more for other species, we too will be better off

Srijana.Das@timesgroup.com



Amidst the blitzkrieg of bathos that mostly forms the news, one recent story made many sit up. Tata Trusts will soon open a hospital for small animals in Mumbai, offering 24-hour in-patient wards, surgery services, speciality care,

etc. Envisioned by industrialist Ratan Tata, an animal lover, the hospital will also look after stray dogs who don't have anyone around to call their 'pet parents'. For many, this is welcome news. Those who have experienced an animal's love know this is a relationship of inexplicable affection and deep comedy. Many

are familiar with the hilarious tug of war between your pet and you over a slipper or shoe. Many collapse laughing as your pet proudly shows you a book or scarf they've shredded (any other perpetrator would be treated rather differently). And many know the sheer contentment of having your pet in your arms, its form round, its eyes holding the deepest, loving trust in you.

Advice 'pet parents' need

When our pets fall ill, our heart cracks. It is beyond distressing to see a dog or cat you adore feel unwell or cry in pain. You are prepared to do anything to get help for your little one. For such guardians, the Tata hospital is cheering, many hoping other chapters might be opened too.

A suggestion is to eventually add a wing on pet breeding-India has 'dark breeders' who snatch puppies under three months of age from their mother. Recent incidents of domestic dogs attacking people could also stem from this for a puppy needs time with its parent to be properly socialised. It would help if a respected voice like the Tatas emphasises that pet lovers adopt their charges only when the latter are ready, as opposed to when unscrupulous dealers want to profit off pups.

Look in the mirror, sapien

But this isn't to preach to the choir - this hospital is good news for non-animal lovers too. The human species, while brilliant and tenacious, is also short-sighted. The wise call our weakness 'speciesism', the belief that only humans matter, every other animal being 'inferior' and undeserving thus of care or the right to exist in peace.

We live in the Anthropocene where humans are transforming the world - these changes aren't only in the ether where our emissions are remoulding the elements. They're also on Earth where our activities are shrinking space and security for animals, forcing even elephants and tigers into towns, desperately seeking water or food as forests are cut, lakes concretised and hills blasted away. Elizabeth Kolbert, the environmental writer, calls this the 'sixth extinction', a human-caused





with settled existences. Over time, dogs became our best friends, sharing a communication that transcends language itself – those who haven't hugged a dog or felt its loyalty haven't truly lived. Such love makes speciesism seem the paltry pettiness it is - the sublimation of it makes the Tata hospital even more commendable.

But what of humans, critics ask?

Animals teach us to be humans

To this too, the health centre presents a good answer. Only a society that loves animals will care for people since speciesism also splinters how we perceive our own kind. As we imagine humans superior, some, to twist George Orwell, seem more superior than others – speciesism leads thus to the marginalisation of the poor, women, the non-White, the non-normative.

Looking after animals helps us transcend this for you realise life belongs to us all. We are all creatures of nature and each deserves gentleness and space.

It's tradition, not bourgeois fetish Ancient Indian traditions expressed this through

the Panchatantra and Jataka tales where animals tell stories, have adventures and gift wisdom to their human friends - or today, often, their pet parents. Many accuse animal love of being a bourgeois preoccupation, part of a world of hot chocolate and soft slippers. Yet, there are instances of society's poorest people, migrants, pavement dwellers, alms seekers, looking after strays, a child in a hut sharing meagre food with a pup, a physically challenged man giving his blanket to a cat.

> The love for animals keeps us human. Looking after them keeps the divine.

Calvin & Hobbes I'M IN A VERY BAD MOOD,



GOT YOU A NEW COMIC BOOK. WHY DON'T YOU JUST SIT ON THE COUCH AND I'LL MAKE YOU SOME PEANUT BUTTER CRACKERS. ARE YOU COMFY? UM, I GUESS



Sacredspace



dreams, there are goals. With goals come distances, and with distances come paths. On these paths lie challenges, and facing challenges requires courage. With courage comes confidence because a 'fighter' always triumphs Javed Akhtar

These doctrines contradict the principle

be responsible for her actions. An

individual is awarded or punished in accordance with her deeds. Therefore,

of karma, which holds every individual to

each individual must perform her actions

sincerely. In case there is forgiveness, all

individuals will be tempted to act in a

Swami Dayananda's Pursuit Of Ultimate Truth

Ashok Vohra

hat is the divine truth and

how does one find it?' is the question to which all sages try to find an answer in their own time. Though the Vedas say, 'Ekam sad vipra bahudha vadanti'-truth is one, though the learned men interpret it differently. yet in a pluralistic, multi-religious society, each institutional religion gives different and many a time, conflicting interpretations. Which one of the articulations of truth is better than the rest assumes significance because it becomes the root cause of disharmony in society.

In order to answer these questions Swami Dayananda studied original sourcebooks of various religions and their main sects. Wherever the translations were not available he got the sacred texts translated. However, due to his conviction that the Vedic truth is the supreme truth some critics allege that There was no mood of confrontation.

he was not able to "grasp the deeper meaning of myth or symbol or to probe the religious and historical rationale of a custom or rite" of other religions.

In his magnum opus Satyarth Prakash, Swami Dayananda argues that no religion worth its salt would ever offend reason and morality. He rejects the possibility of miracles on the grounds that they are irrational. These myths and miracles are woven by so-called gurus so that they can maintain their flock of disciples, he said.

Dayananda entered into THE SPEAKING TREE debates with Christian priests, Muslim maulvis and Hindu pundits with a view to ascertain their notion of truth. All these debates were carried out in a cordial atmosphere. The purpose was to satisfy intellectual curiosity and arrive at the 'ultimate truth'.

That Dayananda entered these debates with an open mind is demonstrated by the fact that in 1875 after a debate with the leading Christian representative Rev Scott on creation and salvation he changed his views about creation to the more orthodox Hindu view that the cosmos with its cycles is beginningless.

> Dayananda made it the purpose of his life to purge religions in general, and Hinduism in particular, of ignorance and corruption. The differences amongst religions, said Dayananda, concern only myths and superstitions. According to him, the points of agree-

ment among all religions include speaking truth, acquiring knowledge, associating with the good, controlling sensual passions, cultivating active habits and being honest in dealing with others. Swami ji rejected the doctrine of

licentious way in the hope of redressal While Dayananda, by projecting the Vedic religion as the repertory of eternal universal truth, met the challenge of sectarianism at the theoretical plane, he successfully used the orthodox Hindu doctrine of Suddhi, ritual purification, for reforms in Hinduism from within, and for meeting the challenges from without. As a consequence of the tool of Suddhikaran

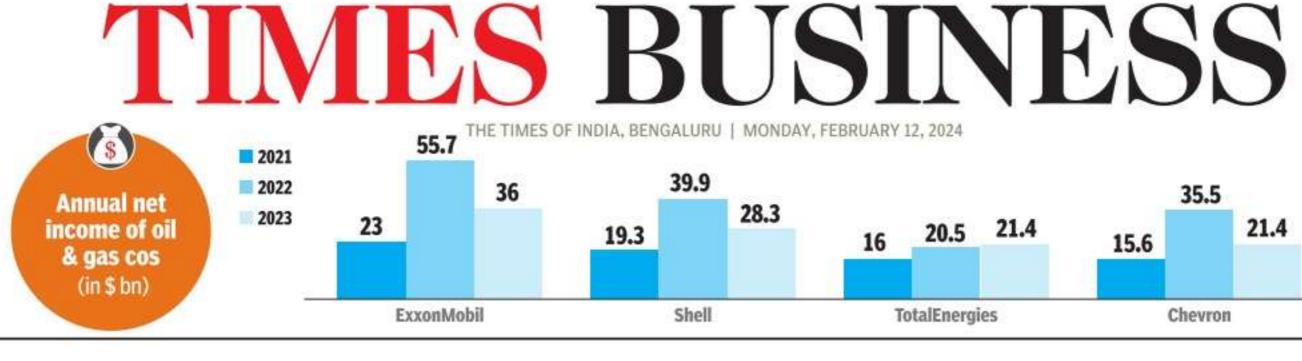
Dayananda, Hindu religion had become enriched with yet another dimension. February 12 is Swami Dayananda

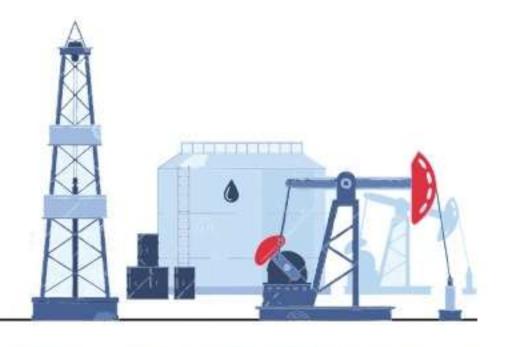
Saraswati's bicentennial birth forgiveness of sins, grace, or atonement. anniversary

developed by Arya Samaj founded by

Oil & Gas Giants Rake In **Profits Amid Volatile Market**

French energy company TotalEnergies announced a record annual net profit of **\$21.4bn** for 2023 — a 4% increase YoY despite falling oil and gas prices after the Russia-Ukraine war sparked a price hike in this sector. It overtook US-based Chevron with a slim margin of \$20mn. ExxonMobil and Shell also raked in tens of billions of dollars, while Saudi Aramco posted a net of \$33bn in Q3 2023 alone Source: Company reports





India Inc backs One Nation One Election

Seeks Simultaneous Holding Of LS, Assembly Polls To Avoid Disruptions, Additional Costs

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: India Inc has pitched for simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly elections, once every five years, to avoid disruptions and additional costs.

Industry bodies Ficci and CII have made separate presentations to the committee headed by former President Ram Nath Kovind. While Ficci is firm in its demand for a single election every five years for Union, state and local governments, CII too has backed the idea, while proposing elections every two-and-a-half years as an

alternative plan. "Our ease of doing business is getting significantly constrained by multiple elections at various times at various levels. With multiple codes of conduct for these elections, the inevitable slowdown in

Making A Case For Eco Efficiency

Ficci

➤ Simultaneous polls for Parliament, state assemblies, local bodies every 5 years

> In cases where majority is lost, time should be given for confidence vote. If no group can claim majority, mid-term elections should take place for remaining term

decision making by govt hurts business and industry badly. This also discourages necessary reforms to be carried out by various govts," Ficci general secretary

It has said that govts should be

CII Single step simultaneous election

Second option: election cycle every 5 years > Bring half the states in the next general elections, add the rest in the next cycle

Alternatively, 2-stage elections: Two-stage elections with a gap of at least 2.5 years

voted with majority for five years, and in cases where majority is lost a specific period of, say, 10 days should be given to seek a vote of confidence for an alternate group. "If term," Ficci has suggested.

The lobby group cited a report by Niti Aayog to argue that in 2014. the model code of conduct resulted in suspension of governance and development activities for nearly seven months. Reducing frequent elections could help save anywhere between Rs 7,500 crore and Rs 12,000 crore, it estimated.

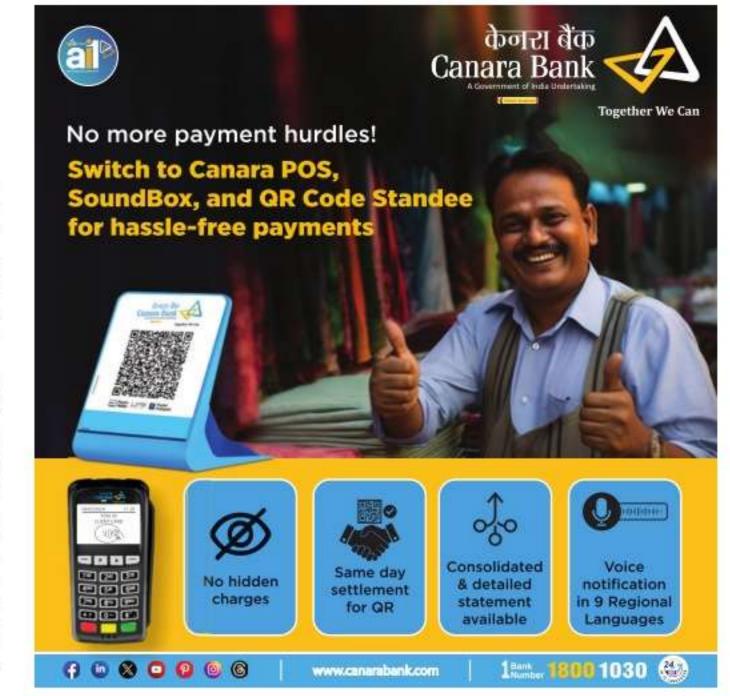
It has also proposed allowing

voters to cast their vote at the nearest polling booth and use the 'India Stack', based on homegrown technology, to prepare electoral rolls instead of the current system which is time consuming. Rival chamber CII, which met

the panel earlier, has pointed to its demand for a common election in 2012 and 2018 itself, and argued that model code of conduct takes a toll on infrastructure projects in the initial stage of execution with each election hitting govt work as

employees are pulled into the electoral process for nearly two months. "Private sector is reluctant to invest months before and after the elections. So is the case for public investment which affects economic activity, overall development and jobs & livelihoods," it said.

It further argued that apart from one productive day getting lost every time polls are held, there is economic loss as workers often take holidays to go to vote, which is often not the same as the place of work. "Simultaneous elections can reduce the overall expenditure incurred on general as well as state legislatures, making it more cost-effective and at the same time there are less days of productive work that are lost due to multiple elections," CII said.



Direct tax kitty reaches 80% of revised FY24 target

New Delhi: Net direct tax collection so far in the current fiscal grew 20% year-on-year to Rs 15.6 lakh crore, which is 80% of revised Budget estimates for full fiscal year.

"The provisional figures of direct tax collections continue to register steady growth. Direct tax collections up to Feb 10, 2024 show that gross collections are at Rs 18.4 lakh crore, which is 17.3% higher than the gross collections for the corresponding period of last year," Central Board of Direct Taxes said in a statement.

Direct tax collection, net of refunds, till Feb 10 of FY24 stands at Rs 15.6 lakh crore, which is 20.3% higher than the year-ago period.

This collection is 80.2% of the total revised estimates of direct taxes for 2023-24.

Refunds amounting to Rs 2.8 lakh crore have been issued during April 1, 2023 to

Feb 10, 2024. Gross revenue collections for corporate income tax (CIT) and personal income (PIT) tax also showed a steady growth. Growth rate for CIT was 9.2% while for PIT, it was 25.7% (PIT only).

After adjustment of refunds, the net growth in CIT collections was 13.6% and that in PIT was 26.9% (PIT only), it added. AGENCIES

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Bezos sells Amazon shares worth \$2bn

eff Bezos filed a statement with federal regulators indicating his sale of nearly 12 million shares of Amazon stock worth more than \$2 billion.

The Amazon executive chairman notified the USSecurities and Exchange Commission of the sale of close to 12 million shares of common stock on Feb 7 and Feb 8.

The collective value of the shares of Amazon, which is based in Seattle, was over \$2.04 billion, according to the listed price totals. The stocks were grouped in five blocks between 1 million and more than 3.2 million. AP

Shailesh Pathak wrote in a letter no group can claim majority, then to the committee, following a meemid-term elections should take place only for the remaining ting last week.

ong Kong's old-money families are feeling the chill of China's downturn. An unprecedented four out of the five Hong Kong dynasties who rank among the 20 richest Asian clans have seen their fortunes erode over the past year, according to Bloomberg. The families - many of whom have substantial chunks of their riches in real estate — are confronting both the

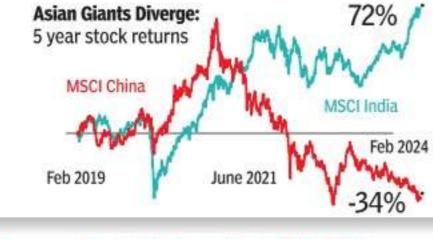
slide in the city's stock market and their exposure to the sustained property crisis in China

Indian Family Billionaires Lead Asia's

Surge, Hong Kong's Suffer Reversal

China Disappears

There wasn't a single Chinese business family in this year's Bloomberg top 20 Asian richest clans list. This was largely due to erosion of stock market wealth in the country. Keep in mind, the list doesn't include first-gen wealth creators like Jack Ma and Gautam Adani. It also excludes fortunes of single heirs





Over A Quarter Of Asia's 20 Richest Clans Are Indian

ix of Asia's 20 richest clans are from India. The divergence is an indication of how the concentration of wealth and power in Asia is shifting as China's growth slows

Ambani's Wealth, Reliance Market Cap At Record Highs

> Ambani family's fortune (\$103 billion) and RIL stock have both hit record

highs in recent weeks The six Indian clans are together worth \$219 billion, which is 41% of the total wealth of Asia's top 20 > The stock market boom has also bolstered Mistry, Jindal, Birla

chief

Sajjan Jindal

is now going

on an overdri-

and Bajaj fortunes

Hong Kong's Chengs See Their Flagship Co Sink To 20-Year Low

> One of the prominent losers in this rejig are Hong Kong's Chengs, whose \$24 billion fortune grew from a jewellery shop a century ago The Chengs' wealth is \$2.4 billion lower than it was last year, the first time it has declined since Bloomberg began

tracking the data in 2019 (Cheng Yu-Tung was the group's patriarch)

JSW looks to decouple auto supply chain from China

New Delhi: After acquiring a sizeable stake in MG Motor JSW India,

group



ve when it comes to manufacturing of green vehicles and broadening his play in the automobile industry.

The company has informed the Odisha govt that it will set up a 3-lakh-unit per annum capacity factory for electric cars and SUVs in the state, apart from a one-lakh annual capacity plant for green commercial vehicles, with supply chain "de-coupled from China", Jindal told TOI.

Importantly, he intends to have these products priced similar to the current petrol/

Jindal plans to not only take needs, the sources said. on major carmakers such as Mahindra & Mahindra, Tata Motors, Hyundai and market leader Maruti, but also go after formidable commercial

The company will set up a 3-lakh-unit per annum capacity plant for EVs, one-lakh capacity unit for green CVs in Odisha

vehicle makers like Ashok Leyland, Tatas, Volvo Eicher, and BharatBenz.

JSW, which has outlined a plan to invest Rs 40,000 crore in the state, is building its green strategy in Odisha around its own 50Gwh battery plant which — when operational — will be used for both

Pankaj.Doval@timesgroup.com diesel vehicles. With this, mobility and energy storage

JSW will be one of the first top industrial groups to tap into Odisha for an automobile manufacturing facility, something he also highlighted in his meeting with state CM Naveen Patnaik.

Jindal said that he sees Odisha transitioning from a "mineral-based economy to a knowledge-based economy" that is centred around sustainability. "Our EV project is the offshoot of that consistent effort & vision," he is understood to have said as the businessman highlighted that Odisha could be the first state where combustion engines can be eliminated. "We seek to redefine the way people commute and power their lives by enhancing EV penetration," he is understood to have said.

FDI flow from China in Paytm Payment under govt scanner

New Delhi: Govt is examining FDI from China in Paytm Payments Services, the payment aggregator subsidiary of One97 Communications. sources said.

In Nov 2020, Paytm had applied for a licence with RBI to operate as a payment aggregator under the guidelines on Regulation of Payment Aggregators and Payment Gateways. However, in Nov 2022, RBI rejected its application and asked the company to resubmit it, so as to comply with Press Note 3 under FDI rules.

One97 Communications has investment from Chinese firm Ant Group.

Subsequently, the company filed the required application on Dec 14, 2022 with govt for past downward investment from One97 into the company in order to comply with Press Note 3 prescribed under FDI guidelines.

An inter-ministerial committee is examining investments from China in Paytm and decision would be taken on the FDI issue after due consideration and comprehensive examination, sources said.

Under Press Note 3, govt had made its prior approval mandatory for foreign investments in any sector from countries that share land border with India to curb opportunistic takeovers of domestic firms following the pandemic. AGENCIES

Suppliers wary to set up ops in India: Xiaomi

New Delhi: China's Xiaomi has told New Delhi that smartphone component suppliers are wary about setting up operations in India amid heavy scrutiny of Chinese companies by govt, according to a letter and a source with direct knowledge of the matter.

Xiaomi, which has the biggest share in India's smartphone market at 18%. also asks in the letter dated Feb6that India consider offering manufacturing incentives and lowering import tariffs for certain smartphone components. The Chinese company assembles smartphones in India with mostly local components. REUTERS

Red Sea crisis: Freight costs rise for India Inc

Vessels' Transit Time On Some Routes Doubles 'Exports To Europe And Africa Feel The Heat'

Rupali.Mukherjee @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Red Sea crisis has started to have repercussions for India Inc, leading to higher freight costs on certain routes, and doubling of transit time of vessels. Container leasing rates for one of the major routes, Shanghai to Chennai, have witnessed 144% increase in Jan 2024 from \$85 per unit in Nov 2023, the latest data from Container xChange, an online container logistics platform, showed.

The average increase in freight cost for trade from India to Europe and US across sectors, including pharma, automobiles and textiles, has been around 40-50% in Jan 2024 compared to Sept 2023, experts told TOI. Storage charges are reasonable in India, hence liners are preferring to use leased out boxes instead of moving their own

containers, they pointed out. "Throughout Jan, container prices have consistently maintained historically elevated levels, reflecting a widespread belief that container prices would continue to soar due to the ongoing Red Sea crisis. So far, the degree of impact for India is lesser as compared to that felt in Europe and US," they said,

IN ROUGH WEATHER

Average monthly one-way leasing rates for 40-ft high cube, cargo-worthy containers (in \$) for three major routes - Shanghai to Nhava Sheva - Shanghai to Chennai - Shanghai to Mundra **|||| \$** 300 Dec Jan 2023 2024 Jan 2023 Jun 2023 Source: Container xChange

further surge around Chinese New Year. (The Chinese New Year started from Feb 10 and celebrations will continue for 16 days).

"Our analysis reveals a pronounced capacity tightening in China, with container rates surging week on week as exporters grapple with moving containers out of China. The challenge compounds as repatriating empty containers from Europe to China faces obstacles due to the Red Sea crisis. In contrast, India experiences a milder impact compared to China and Europe," Christian Roeloffs, cofounder and CEO

Domestic companies use the Red Sea route through the Suez Canal to trade with Europe, North America and adding the market expects a North Africa. These regions accounted for around 50% of India's exports worth Rs 18 lakh crore, and 30% of imports valued at Rs17 lakh crore last fiscal, according to

Crisil Ratings. "Exports to Europe and Africa are getting impacted as freight rates have shot up. Also, transit time is up, thus impacting cash flow. For our European purchases, transit time increased from 30 to 45 days. Since we buy on a CIF (cost, insurance and freight) basis from Europe, it's not really affecting us," an executive with a freight-forwarding firm said. To add to woes, the transit time for certain routes of Container xChange, said. is an additional two weeks. Increasing attacks on ships sailing in this region since Nov

Govt drops non-life PSU merger plan

Mumbai: Govt has decided against the merger of nonlife public sector companies as proposed in the Budget of FY19. This was disclosed by the department of financial services to the parliamentary standing committee on finance.

The decision gains sig-

nificance in view of the fact that govt had earlier attributed part of their losses to the unhealthy competition between public sector companies which were undercutting each other for top-line growth.

The standing committee on finance last week released its report on performance review and regulation of the insurance sector. In the report, the committee has recommended that govt amend laws to reduce GST on health and term insurance, to reduce capital requirements for micro insurers and enable the issue of composite licences allowing insures to undertake both life and non-life.

In his Budget speech in 2018, then finance minister Arun Jaitley had said, : "Three public sector gene- of business.

ral insurance companies National Insurance Company, United India Assurance Company and Oriental India Insurance Company will be merged into a single insurance entity and will be subsequently listed." However, govt continu-

ed to infuse capital into the non-life companies in subsequent years. In 2021, Nirmala Sitharaman said that govt would divest stake in

COMPOSITE LICENCES

one public sector general insurance company but did not specify whether it would follow a consolidation.

Responding to the committee, the department of financial services said that the cabinet had taken a decision in 2020 itself not to proceed with the merger.

Incidentally, the additional secretary department of financial services deposing before the parliamentary committee said that the problem with the general insurance companies was that of their portfolio - of which 50% is health, 40% motor and only 10% is other lines

Large-cap MFs see highest inflows in 19 months

2023 have forced shippers to

consider longer route past the

Investors Delhi: flocked large-cap oriented mutual funds with influx of Rs 1,287 crore in January, making it the highest fund infusion in 19 months, as a significant run-up in small and mid caps prompted them to book profit. This is a huge turnaround following a net outflow of Rs 281 crore in Dec. Also, the quantum was 80% higher than inflows of Rs 716 crore in Jan last year.

The latest inflow helped push the asset base of large-cap equity category by 26% to Rs 3 lakh crore at Janend from Rs 2.4 lakh crore a year ago.

According to latest data by Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi), equity mutual funds focused on largecap received inflow to the tune of Rs 1,287 crore in Jan. This was the highest level since July 2022, when the category saw an inflow of Rs

2,052 crore. Given the significant run-up in small and mid caps, investors are booking some profits and rebalancing into large-caps, Kaustubh Belapurkar, director manager research at Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

Before the outflow in Dec 2023, the category attracted Rs 307 crore in Nov and Rs 724 : Crore in Oct. AGENCIES

Suzuki aims for sky, to make e-air copters po in Japan and may first be pit-Pankaj.Doval maintenance costs," the

@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: From being the carmaker that put the nation on wheels, Maruti now seems to aim for the sky, courtesy Japanese parent Suzuki. The company is planning to make electric air copters — bigger than a drone but smaller than a conventional helicopter to transport at least three passengers, including the pilot.

The idea is to take an early lead in new mobility solutions, which may initially be targeted for consumers in Japan, and the US, and thereafter come - rather fly - into India, and that too very soon. These could be air taxis similar to the Uber and Ola cars running on the ground.

Eyeing Lead In New Mobility Solutions

> SkyDrive - Suzuki's electric air copter - will debut at 2025 Osaka Expo in Japan

> At 1.4-tonnes, the take-off weight of air copter is almost half of a conventional helicopter. This enables the use of building rooftops as take-off and landing locations

Initially, it will have a range of 15 kms, which is likely to be doubled to 30 kms by

be limited to exploring India

for sales. The company is even looking to manufacture in India for economic reasons, and has been conducnes ting feasibility for the same, Global Expo. including talking to aviation regulator DGCA, Kento Ogu-

2029, and thereafter to 40 kms by 2031

It may first be pitched in Japan and the US for sales

zuki Motor (automobile product planning group), global automobile planning department, told TOI on the sideliof Bharat Mobility

The SkyDrive – with 12 units of motors and rotors The initiative will not just a ra, assistant manager in Su-will debut at the 2025 Osaka Ex-craft manufacturing and cheaper here.

ched in Japan and the US for sales. Thereafter the plan is to look at 'Make in India', Ogura said. "We are doing market research to look for customers and partners in India." The Suzuki executive said

the product cannot be expensive. "It has to be cheaper than a helicopter." At 1.4-tonnes, the take-off weight of the air copter is almost half of a conventional helicopter. This enables the

that to be successful in India,

use of building rooftops as take-off and landing locations. Also, due to electrification, the number of aircraft parts has been reduced to one-tenth in comparison to a helicopter. "This results in significant reduction in aircompany says. Ogura said that initially the three-passenger version

will have a range of 15 kms, which is likely to be doubled to 30 kms by 2029, and thereaf ter to 40 kms by 2031. "India is a large country, and we a need a range which is more than 15 kms for sure." The company is involved

with the government. "We met DGCA officials, and are talking to them to exchange opinions," Ogura said. On manufacturing in India, he said that there is "no confirmed timeline as yet",

though adding that "it does

in "regulatory discussions"

make sense to make in India.' "If we come here, we Make in India. It will surely be

Mayur.Shetty @timesgroup.com

'India is leading the world with digital public goods, and solutions like Bhashini'

Microsoft chairman & CEO Satya Nadella says the ministry of IT's sponsorship of the multilingual speech-to-text and text-to-speech stack is very impressive; predicts it will enable creation of incredible innovations like allowing students to summon AI tutors just in time

Shilpa Phadnis & Sujit John | TNN

atya Nadella, born and raised in Hyderabad, was appointed CEO of Microsoft on February 4, 2014, becoming only the third CEO of the iconic company. In the 10 years since, Nadella has transformed Microsoft, which was then muddling along having missed the mobile boom, into the world's most-valued company at over \$3 trillion. The company's stock has soared by more than 1,000% since he took the helm. Microsoft's turnaround under Nadella first came from his big push into cloud computing. Now, with his huge investments into artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure and solutions, he's pulled Microsoft's valuation ahead of even Apple. Nadella was recently on a three-day visit to India, where it has 23,000 employees, and a growing part of its business. On the final day, at Microsoft's massive facility in Hyderabad, he took time out to have an exclusive interaction with TOI.

our folks on why we innovate, how we innovate, how do we meet unmet, unarticulated needs of customers, curate those continuously. So, I go back to those pillars of sense of purpose and mission and culture, and a real sense of where the arc of technology is, and not rest on what happened before.

You would have had to change the culture of the organisation as well to get here.

You have to be able to achieve things by working with people all around you, and especially in organisations like

us, where there's a lot of talent. And the question is, can we all collectively be that learnit-all organisation, ultimately in service of a mission and a set of customers and partners - have that hunger, that humility. One of the things I always say is that there's a

thin line between confidence and

hubris. You should have confidence

that you can learn from mistakes, I always sort of say, God, I wish I had Copilot when I was studying electrical engineering and I couldn't figure out Maxwell's equations... We sometimes are afraid to go do new things because we feel the learning curve is steep. We now have a new tool that makes the learning curve easy to transcend. And so, I think there is no

Your ten years at the helm of Microsoft has been nothing short of stunning. Analysts are calling you the most impactful tech executive since Steve Jobs. What do you think enabled you to accomplish this?

better time to be more fearless.

Every 10 years, something very big happens in our industry. I've had the privilege to be part of four of these technological waves: PC client-server, web/internet, mobile cloud, and now AI. The mindset I have is: This is year two of AI, where we are scaling AI. I look back, and see, how was it in year two of PC client-server, what are the things we did, both right and wrong. What did we do when it came to the browser and the internet! What did we do in mobile cloud! And that's kind of the most important thing. And what will really matter is our ability, long before it's conventional wisdom, to have a real point of view on what the arc of technology is. And then to go all in and build some-

thing of value. Even as we are doing this, it's also important to be grounded. After all, we are Microsoft. Microsoft exists because of its sense of purpose and mission. Here we are in the Microsoft campus, talking to

but you can't have hubris that you are somehow God's gift.

You have one of your biggest engineering and R&D centres in India. A lot of work around AI and even AI infrastructure happens here. How do you see India's engineering capabilities and the larger Indian developer ecosystem?

One of the things I'm really tracking is where India is, and how is Indian human capital, Indian businesses, and Indian public sector organisations adopting these new waves of technology. If I go back to the four platform shifts, we had some moderate success with PCs in India, the web was big, mobile and cloud were really big. But I think AI can be even bigger. In the three days I have spent here, I have seen some of the use cases. What is unique is India's digital public goods (like Aadhaar, UPI) now being juxtaposed with, say, some of the innovations that Microsoft is bringing in terms of AI stack to allow Bhashini (AI-driven language translation system), Jugalbandi (multilingual chatbot) to create scenarios that are allowing students to summon AI tutors just in time. That's an unbelievable innovation.



I think the government in India

has always had a pretty enlightened

view. As I said, India is leading the

world in some sense with these

digital public goods. That's why I

was so impressed with the fact that

the ministry of information tech-

nology was the one behind Bhashi-

ni. They sponsored the speech-to-

text and text-to-speech stack, so that

it's truly democratised and availa-

ble for any application in India to

always be multilingual. And now

you can daisy chain that with, let's

say, the latest model like a GPT-4

Turbo and you can have a startup

that can offer in any Indian lan-

guage, some very sophisticated AI

capability. And that is the magic -

sovereignty's success absolutely

comes from being able to tap into

what I'll call a commodity that is

available and then add unique value

to it, use it intensely and reduce the

barriers to adoption. That's the way

which I had not even thought of. The fact is, Indian software developers, Indian users, NGOs, are all coming together to conceive of putting these things together in unique ways. Same thing with businesses. For Air India, the Tatas have an ambitious goal of saying, let's change how Air India operates and really provide great service. They built one of the best customerfacing agents. A 100-year-old textile company like Arvind says, let's bring efficiency to how we do contracts and legal documents, but then really make our commercial organisation even better at doing these contracts.

And you see that even in our development centre, where we are sitting, we have unbelievable talent and they're all contributing. Someone asked me, in Microsoft, what's the AI product; I said everything there's not a single layer of the stack that is not touched by AI. And we have people here contributing to the entirety of what we're doing. So, it's an exciting time.

Should India build its own sovereign Al infrastructure? There are those



whether its data centres, which are like the modern factories. We are making in India the compute utilities, so it's also sovereign, because it's on Indian soil.

There's not a South Asian you're going to meet anywhere in the world who doesn't love cricket and I love it as much as the next person.

Any one suggestion to the government, something they should

be thinking more about? One thing I know the government cares deeply about is, how is all this technology ultimately benefiting the Indian citizen, and how is it safe. Those are two things that matter. Therefore, it's important to continue having a rich dialogue with the private sector – participants like us – and then be able to come up with the right set of guidelines and norms. And, ultimately, regulations too. There are regulations in food, in automotive, in finance. There's no reason why it should be different in tech, especially tech applied in healthcare, applied in finance. So, the key suggestion would be to really make sure that you're getting the benefits, and the unintended consequences are the ones we're mitigating, as opposed to stalling the overall progress.

You've been a part of four tectonic shifts. Do you think the disruption in the labour market is going to be profound with AI?



The human is not being cut out (by AI). If anything, the human agency is being amplified because that linkage between, let's say, a college degree and lots of knowledge, and human smarts is now being broken.

I think it's a great question. I start from fundamentally saying, look, let's not fall for the lump of labour fallacy. That said, I'm also clear that there will be displacement, but I would submit a couple of things. One is, in this shift, you could say that the expertise to some degree is easier to pick up in order to get better wage support. Let's say you're a frontline worker in manufacturing. You have domain expertise, but you can now easily pick up some IT skills in order to build an application just by using natural language prompts. So suddenly, you're not only a very valuable member of the manufacturing staff, but you're now also a member of the IT staff. And that would provide more employment opportunities and better wage support, and drive productivity. I think that will happen in healthcare, that will happen in retail. In fact, one of the things I'm most looking forward to is our frontline jobs participating in what is the increasing digital economy of ours.

The other thing is, the learning curve and experience curve are coming down. I graduate from a college, but then I want to pick up real-world skills quicker, now we have tools for it. We will have the ability to turn more of our graduates to be more productive, with better wages, in more industries. One of the best examples I came across in India this time around is what Karya is doing the fact that they're creating jobs for rural Indian women to participate in what is an emerging AI economy. It's not something we could have conceived of two years ago. When I met this lady from rural Maharashtra, she was so really enthused by what she was doing. She was both making economic benefits accrue to her and she was learning, and she was enjoying it. That sense of empowerment was awesome to see.

If you had a suggestion for an Indian youngster, what would that be?

Be it anyone – youngsters or midcareer professionals - what's important I think is that sense of curiosity, the fearlessness to go pick up new things. When I am with my Copilot, I have that sense of exploration, that sense that I can learn anything, I can get well-versed about things. I always sort of say, God, I wish I had Copilot when I was studying electrical engineering and I couldn't figure out Maxwell's equations. That's when I needed it. We sometimes are afraid to go do new things because we feel the learning curve is steep. We now have a tool that makes the learning curve easy to transcend. And so, I think there is no better time to be more fearless.

You spoke about how developers are in a golden age. But is Al going to create some sort of an existential risk for them, where it can replace humans in the loop?

As AI evolves, we all can use AI to help us remove the drudgery in our work, improve our ability to learn things, and the ability for us to participate in the world more fully. I go back to what I saw last time here, with Jugalbandi, where an Indian farmer was able to really access services from the government through the help of AI. So, the human is not being cut out. If anything, the human agency is being amplified because that linkage between, let's say, a college degree and lots of knowledge, and human smarts is now being broken. Therefore, I feel humans can flourish. We do have to think, if there's an AI take off, how is it in control? The one thing humans have done throughout is harness powerful new technology to benefit us. I feel we can do the same with AI, but it will require us to establish these norms and then translate those norms into laws and law enforcement and technical guardrails.

You have a big interest in cricket. The US is co-hosting the T20 World Cup. Are you going to the India-Pakistan match in New York?

I hope so. If I can get my tickets, I will go. I'm a minority owner of one of the teams out of Seattle (Seattle Orcas). There's not a South Asian you're going to meet anywhere in the world who doesn't love cricket and I love it as much as the next person.

How do you excite Americans to watch cricket?

They will excite themselves (laughs).

TIMES SPORT

VINI GIVES REAL WINGS

Brazilian Striker Leads 4-0 Rout Of Title Pretenders Girona As Madrid Giants Open Up A Five-Point Lead

Barcelona: Vinícius Junior delivered a stellar all-round performance and Jude Bellingham scored twice before leaving with an injured left ankle as Real Madrid crushed title rival Girona 4-0 in the Spanish league.

First-place Real Madrid opened up a fivepoint lead over second-places Girona, whose only two losses in an otherwise sensational season have both come against Carlo Ancelotti's team. Real Madrid's perfect night had one blemish. Bellingham asked to be substituted early in the second half just moments

LA LIGA

lotti said it was a sprained ankle. While Bellingham took his league-leading tally to 16 goals and reached 20 goals overall

after making it 3-0. Ance-

since joining Madrid last summer, it was Vinicius who powered Madrid to the statement victory by playing a part in all of the hosts' goals. The Brazil forward opened the scoring just six minutes after kickoff. He then assisted on goals for Bellingham and Rodrygo, and had a strike that was blocked by Girona's goalkeeper into the path of Bellingham for an easy goal. Vinicius had missed the previous game, a 1-1 draw with Atletico Madrid, because of back pain. But he was back in fine form when he used a couple of touches to widen his shooting angle in the midst of four defenders and curled a long strike in off the far post. AP

JUDE TO MISS LEIPZIG TRIP

WITH ANKLE SPRAIN Palma: Real Madrid confirmed Sunday midfielder Jude Bellingham has sprained his left ankle and Spanish media report he will be out for up to three weeks. "Bellingham has been diagnosed with a high-grade sprain in his left ankle," said Madrid in a statement. The 20-year-old is also likely to miss league clashes with Rayo Vallecano, Sevilla and Valencia.



Leverkusen seize control of title race

took control of the Bundesliga title race on Sat- do I think we were missing? In training we show urday, thoroughly outclassing Bayern Munich what we can do much better because we are couin a 3-0 home win to go five points clear at the top of the table. Munich-born defender Josip said. Stanisic, on loan from Bayern, scored the opener in the 18th minute and Alex Grimaldo added another early in the second half.

Jeremie Frimpong grabbed a third in injury time, scoring on the counter after Manuel Neuer came up for

BUNDESLIGA a Bayern corner, with Levfirst German title.

Bayern had few answers against an energetic and skilful Leverkusen side, fluent in attack, and kept tight control of star striker Harry Kane in defence. Bayern forward Thomas Mueller was heavily critical of his side the loss. Mueller, a 12-time title winner

Angry Mueller Slams Bayern Munich's 'Lack Of Guts, Freedom To Play', After 3-0 Loss Leverkusen: Xabi Alonso's Bayer Leverkusen visibly angry speaking after the match. "What

> rageous, because we play football freely," Mueller "What we're missing is the guts and some freedom to play. Leverkusen were taking risks,

looking for solutions and playing football. "Nobody plays freely or takes risks. There are some consequences

that you can see on the pitch and that's why I'm pissed off," he added. erkusen rounding off an emphatic vic- Mueller laid the blame for the defeat at the feet tory in style as they chase the club's of the players, deflecting criticism from coach Thomas Tuchel. "There are not always clear reasons why," Mueller said.

> "We weren't there today. There were enough international-calibre players -- that's why we don't need to discuss the coach."

Leverkusen boss Xabi Alonso said his unbeaten side still had a long way to go in their bid with Bayern including the last 11 in a row, was to win a first Bundesliga title. AGENCIES

AWAY WIN IN EPL

London: Arsenal exacted sweet revenge on West Ham United with a 6-0 away thrashing to stay right in the thick of the Premier League title race on Sunday, obliterating their hosts before halftime.

Mikel Arteta's side had lost twice against their London rivals this season but were 4-0 ahead by halftime with goals by William Saliba, Bukayo Saka, Gabriel and Leandro Trossard.

The punishment continued in the second half with Saka making it 5-0 before former West Ham midfielder Declan Rice, who assisted two goals in the opening period, thumped his team's sixth on a day of abject humiliation for the hosts.

It is Arsenal's jointbiggest margin of victory in an away league match and their first since a 7-1 win over Aston Villa in December 1935.

It was a sublime display by Arsenal who wiped off a goal difference deficit to champions Manchester City who they joined on 52 points, although they stay in third place courtesy of scoring fewer goals. Leaders Liverpool have 54 points. Arsenal were defeated by West Ham in the League Cup although the bigger blow was a 2-0 home defeat in December.

This time they were lethal as they tore eighth placed West Ham to shreds at the London Stadium. Thousands of home fans who streamed out of the exits before halftime were spared the rest of West Ham's worst home league defeat since an 8-2 loss by Blackburn Rovers in 1963. It was even more impressive seeing that wins for Liverpool and Manchester City on Saturday had cranked up the pressure on Arsenal to respond. Rice refused to celebrate but the party was in full swing amongst the away fans who left the ground dreaming of going one step further than last season's runner-up I finish. REUTERS

Polished Girl for main event

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: Rajesh Narredutrained Polished Girl and K Satheesh-schooled Candy Girl should battle it out for the Kakatiya Million over 1200 metres, the main event at the races on Monday. First race at 12.50 pm.

1. Saroornagar Plate (Div II) 1200M: Glimmer Of Hope 1, Riffa 2 2. Kamareddy

HORSE RACING Cup (Div II) 1400M: Park Lane 1, Silver Arrow 2 3. Rising Star Plate (Div II) 1400M:

Huntingdon 1, Malaala 2

4. Jangaon Plate 1200M: See My Spark 1, Adbhut 2 5. Kamareddy Cup (Div I) 1400M: Voice Of A Dream 1, Crimson Rose 2 6. Vegavathi Cup 1600M: Sacred Bond 1, Ivanhoe 2 7. Kakatiya Million 1200M: Polished Girl 1, Candy Girl 28. Rising Star Plate (Div I) 1400M: Siddharth 1, Watch My

Stride 2. 9. Saroornagar Plate (Div I)

Day's best: Siddharth Jackpot: 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5; 1st Mini jackpot: 3, 4,

SON OF A GUN TRIUMPHS

5 & 6. 2nd Mini jackpot: 6, 7, 8 & 9. 1st Tre-

ble: 2, 3, & 4, 2nd Treble: 4, 5, & 6.

Narendra Lagad-trained Son Of A Gun, ridden well by Mustakim Alam, won the Bangalore Turf Club Trophy, the feature event of the Mumbai races on Sunday.

GOREN BRIDGE

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q 1 - Neither vulnerable, as South, you hold:

A A K 109864♥ O9 ♦ J 87 ♣ 6 As dealer, what call would you make?

Q 2 - North-South vulnerable, as South, you hold:

♦ K 4 2 ♥ A J 10 7 5 ♦ 7 6 4 ♣ 9 7

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH What call would you make?

Q 3 - East-West vulnerable, as South

A O J 9 6 5 ♥ A K Q J 10 9 ♦ Void A A 7 Partner opens 2D, weak, and right-

hand opponent passes. What call would you make?

Q 4 - Both vulnerable, as South, you

▲J1064♥Q653♦AQ**♣**KJ5

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST What call would you make?

Q 5 - North-South vulnerable, as

South, you hold: A Q Void Q K Q 7 6 4 ♣ Q J 9 8 7 5 4

Right-hand opponent opens 1H. What call would you make?

Q 6 - East-West vulnerable, as South,

you hold: ♦Q75♥A2♦J763♣KJ75

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST What call would you make?

Look for answers on Monday.

(Bob Jones welcomes readers' responses sent in care of this newspaper or to Tribune Content Agency, LLC., 16650 Westgrove Dr., Suite 175, Addison, TX 75001.)

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RALPH FIENNES SEEKS END TO TRIGGER WARNINGS, SAYS PERFORMANCES SHOULD LEAVE VIEWERS 'SHOCKED': 'AUDIENCES HAVE GONE TOO SOFT'

JUDD APATOW ROASTS BIDEN, TRUMP AT DIRECTORS GUILD AWARDS: 'A GUY OLD ENOUGH TO HAVE MET HITLER & A GUY WHO WISHES HE HAD'

Omer Faroog Khan TNN

Islamabad: Pakistan Peo-

ple's Party (PPP) adopted Sun-

day a firm stand in negotia-

tions with Pakistan Muslim

League-Nawaz (PML-N) led

by former three-time PM Na-

waz Sharif, after securing

third-largest number of seats

in Feb8general elections. PPP

is demanding prime ministe-

rial position for its leader and

former foreign minister Bila-

wal Bhutto Zardari, offering

support to form a provincial

of election results, three

largest parties — indepen-

dents affiliated with jailed ex-

PM Imran Khan's Pakistan

PML-N, and PPP - have been

vying to form next govt at

Centre and in four provinces.

PTI secured 95 seats, PML-N

obtained 74, and PPP got 54 se-

ats in National Assembly, the

lower house of parliament. A

coalition of PPP, PML-N and

smaller parties had been go-

verning Pakistan since the

PML-N president Shehbaz

Sharif conveyed to his elder

brother Nawaz and other se-

nior party leaders that former

Pakistan President Asif Ali

Zardari demanded the posi-

tion of PM for Bilawal during

their meeting Friday night.

However, PML-N is reluctant

According to sources,

ouster of Imran in April 2022.

Tehreek-e-Insaf

Since the announcement

govt in Punjab in return.

Will encourage Russia to do whatever it Coalition talks get tricky: PPP wants if Nato allies don't pay up: Trump

White House Slams 'Appalling, Unhinged' Remarks

Chidanand Rajghatta TNN

Washington: Alarm bells are ringing in Washington's traditionalist foreign policy establishment and in European capitals after former president Donald Trump indicated he would throw Nato allies under the Russian bus unless they paid protection money to US.

Although he made similar remarks during his first term and claimed he had got Nato countries to commit to greater military spending, Trump went much further during a rally Saturday, virtually threatening he would encourage Russia to attack them if they did not pay for protection. Treaty obligations enjoin Nato nations to spend 2% of their GDP on defence.

In language evocative of a racket, here's how Trump related a conversation he claimed House said, asserting "Thanks he had with a leader of a presumably Nato ally he did not name. "One of the presidents of a big country stood up, said, "Well, sir, if we don't pay and we're attacked by Russia, will you protect us?" "I said, 'You didn't pay, you're delinquent." "He said, 'Yes, let's say that happened." "No, I would not protect you. In fact, I would encourage them to do whatever the hell they want. You've got to pay. You got to pay your bills."



Trump at a rally in South Carolina

The remarks alarmed the White House, which has hewed to a traditionalist foreign policy that adopts quiet diplomacy in these matters. "Encouraging invasions of our closest allies by murderous regimes is appalling and unhinged — and it enced leadership. Nato is now the largest and most vital it has ever been," "Rather than calling for wars and promoting deranged chaos, President Biden will continue to bolster American leadership and stand up for our national security interests

— not against them," it said. At the same rally, Trump also railed against a Senate foreign aid bill to channel money to Ukraine and Israel, saying Wa-

Trump puts US, allies at risk: Nato secy-gen

ato secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg warned against talk that "undermines security" after Trump threatened to encourage Russia to attack Nato members. "Any suggestion that allies will not defend each other

undermines all of our security,

including that of the US, and puts

American and European soldiers at increased risk," he said. AP shington should "give it to them as a loan." The former president is tapping into growing scepticism and weariness in America, particularly among his MAGA faithful, about the US having to foot the bill for the

security of its allies and part-

ners, without taking care of its

Trump torpedoed a recent to President Biden's experien- bipartisan bill negotiated by his own party lawmakers that combined foreign aid and border security reforms, arguing that it effectively legalised entry of 5,000 illegal immigrants into the US every day, and calling it a "death wish" for his party. Trump loyalists have alleged that Democrats are deliberately facilitating illegal immigrants into the country to change demographics that will allow them to

win elections in perpetuity.

Ex-prez taunts Haley over military husband's absence

Chidanand Rajghatta TNN

Washington: Things are getting exceedingly ugly between former president Donald Trump and his one time ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, as they fight for the Republican Party presidential nomination.

At a rally on Saturday in her

home turf South Carolina, which will hold primaries on Feb 24, Trump taunted Haley, asking where her husband Michael Haley was, seemingly alluding to Haleybaiters alleging that she was involved with other men. "Where's her husband? Oh, he's away...

What happened to her husmob boss running a protection curity, global stability, and our own borders that is being being band? Where is he? He's goneeconomy at home," the White overrun by illegal immigrants. ...he knew, he knew, he jeered.

> "Michael is deployed serving our country, something you know nothing about," Halev clapped back, referring to Trump avoiding military service as a young man. Michael Haley is currently deployed in Africa, having previously served in Afghanistan. At her own rally a few hours later, Haley said "Donald, if you have something to say, don't say it behind my back. Get on a debate stage and say it to my face." She also posted photos of her children in

front of her tour bus in South Carolina, saying, "Running for president is hard. It's even harder to do when it feels like I'm missing my rock, Michael..."

Things have gotten increasingly testy between Trump and his one-time cabinet colleague, who is the only remaining challenger for the nomination that he has all but sewn up. But Haley has refused to throw in the towel despite trailing by over 30

> points in her own home state where she was governor for two terms. She has pledged to stay in the race till Super Tuesday, March 5, when 15

states will hold primaries that will decisively tilt the nomination race. Her refusal to fold has clearly irked Trump.

Neither Trump's denigration of Haley, and of women in general, nor his disdain for military service, including calling captured soldiers "losers", appears to cost him any support from MAGA faithfuls who lap up such insults. Shortly after his latest salvo, Michael Haley himself posted a meme with a picture of a wolf and the text: "The difference between humans and animals? Animals would never allow the dumbest

ones to lead the pack."

to concede the PM slot. PPP information secretary Faisal Karim Kundi sugges-



seeks Pak PM post for Bilawal

In Exchange, The Party Has Offered To Support Nawaz's

BY PERSEVERANCE THE

SNAIL REACHED THE ARK CHARLES SPURGEON



Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's PPP got 54 seats in National Assembly and Nawaz Sharif's PML-N obtained 74. A coalition of PPP, PML-N and smaller parties had been governing Pakistan since April 2022

Pak courts flooded with petitions as losing candidates backed by PTI challenge results

akistan courts have been flooded with petitions by losing candidates who challenged the provisional results in their constituencies. Though PML-N emerged as the single largest party in the February 8 elections, the number of independent candidates, a vast majority of them backed by jailed former PM Imran Khan's PTI party, were the single largest block of winners. The PTI claimed that its supported candidates have won the maximum number of seats but the results were manipulated to deprive it of the majority, and in order to turn the tide, its losing candidates have througed the courts. According to a report in the Dawn newspaper, a vast majority of those filing challenges against results are PTI-backed independents, including high-profile politicians such as former Punjab chief minister Parvez Elahi. PTI

ted that Bilawal should consider sitting in the opposition if he doesn't secure the PM post in a stable coalition. "We should prioritise our party and continue serving people from

that position," Kundi said. Imran's PTI claimed a landslide victory and rejected talks with PML-N and PPP. It intends to form federal govt independently and is willing to contest election results they deem manipulated. "We don't feel comfortable with both of them for talks. It

is better to sit in opposition than to form a govt with them," PTI's interim chief Barrister Gohar Khan said. Imran said 95 of 102 inde-

pendent candidates were backed by PTI and remained its loyalists. He emphasised PTI's near victory in Punjab and its two-thirds majority in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. He also demanded release of PTI's "political prisoners" in response to Pakistan Army chief Gen Asim Munir's call for stability and reconciliation.

Egypt threatens to suspend key peace treaty if Israel pushes into Rafah on its border: Officials

Fighting Could Force Closure Of Gaza's Main Aid Supply Route Israel working on a

Rafah (Gaza Strip): Egypt is threatening to suspend its peace treaty with Israel if Israeli troops are sent into the densely populated Gaza border town of Rafah, where it says fighting could force the closure of the besieged territory's main aid supply route, two Egyptian officials and a Western diplomat said on Sunday.

The threat to suspend the Camp David Accords, a cornerstone of regional stability for nearly a half-century, came after PM Benjamin Netanyahu said sending troops into Rafah was necessary to win the fourmonth war against the Palestinian militant group Hamas.

Over half of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have fled to Rafah to escape fighting in other areas, and they are packed into sprawling tent camps and UN-run shelters near the border. Egypt fears a mass influx of hundreds of thousands invasion of Rafah would "blow of Palestinian refugees who up" talks mediated by the US,

The standoff between Israel and Egypt, two close US alli- se of Israeli hostages.



A Hamas official was quoted as saying that any invasion of Rafah would 'blow up' talks aimed at ceasefire and the release of Israeli hostages

es, took shape as aid groups warned that an offensive in Rafah would worsen the already catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza, where around 80% of residents have fled their homes and where the UN says a quarter of the population faces starvation.

Hamas' Al-Aqsa television station quoted an unnamed Hamas official as saying that any may never be allowed to return. Egypt and Qatar aimed at achieving a cease-fire and the relea-

Israel's offensive has caused widespread destruction, particularly in northern Gaza, and heavy fighting is still taking place in central Gaza and the southern city of Khan Younis. In Gaza City on Sunday, the remaining residents covered decomposing bodies in the streets or carried bodies to graves. Some streets were piled high with sand from bombings. Smoke billowed from destroyed buildings. A

ground operation in Rafah cou-

ld cut off one of the only avenu-

es for delivering Gaza's badly ne-

eded food, medical supplies. AP

'detailed plan' to move Gazans out of Rafah: Netanyahu

M Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel said that his govt was working on a plan to evacuate people from the city of Rafah in southern Gaza ahead of an expected ground offensive there against Hamas, as

allies voiced concern about the ground assault. Netanyahu, in excerpts from an interview with ABC News, said that he agreed

with US officials that "safe passage" must be provided to the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian civilians who have taken shelter in Rafah. He said, without giving specifics, that Israel was "working out a detailed plan" to move Gazans to areas north of Rafah. "Victory is within reach," the PM said. "We are going to get battalions in Rafah, which is the last bastion," he said, NYT

rv-of-birth data of its new ci-

tizens, an annual flow report

by the department of home-

land security provides such

rican citizens in fiscal 2022.

Mexico at nearly 1.3 lakh (or

13.3%) led the pack, followed

by India at nearly 65,960 (or

6.8%) and Philippines at

(being a lawful permanent re-

sident) for at least five years an

individual can apply for Ame-

rican citizenship. For indivi-

After holding a green card

Of the 9.69 lakh new Ame-

information.

53,413 (or 5.5%).

Ukraine: Russian forces are using **Musk's Starlink** in occupied areas

Kyiv: Ukraine said Sunday Russian forces were using terminals of Elon Musk's satellite internet service Starlink in occupied areas, releasing what it said was an intercept of an exchange between two Russian soldiers as proof of its "systemic" use.

Starlink systems have been vital for Ukraine's battlefield communications throughout Russia's nearly two-year-old invasion.

The defence ministry's main directorate of intelligence posted an audio clip on Telegram which it said featured troops from Russia's 83rd Air Assault Brigade discussing setting up the terminals in eastern Ukraine. The directorate gave no details about the alleged scale of use, or how the terminals were obtained. Russia did not comment.

SpaceX, which runs Starlink terminals, said on X last week that it "does not do business of any kind with the Russian govt or its military' and that its service does not work in Russia. REUTERS

Landslide buried a Philippines village on Tue, toll now 54

Manila: The death toll from a massive landslide that hit a gold-mining village in the southern Philippines has risen to 54 with 63 people still missing, authorities said Sunday.

The landslide hit the mountain village of Masara in Davao de Oro province on Tuesday night after weeks of torrential rains. Davao de Oro's provincial government said in a Facebook post that 54 bodies had been recovered. At least 32 residents survived but 63 remained missing, it said. Among those missing were gold miners who had been waiting in two buses to be driven home when the landslide struck and buried them. The search operation has been hampered by poor weather and fears of more landslides. AP

CLASH WITH POLICE

Police fired tear gas to disperse supporters of ex-PM Imran Khan on Sunday after his party urged protests outside election offices after claiming vote rigging. Clashes were reported in Rawalpindi and Lahore, while protests were held across the country without incident

Imran Khan's 'victory speech' from jail shows AI's peril and promise

duration of the country's everybody," electoral campaign in jail, disqualified from running in what experts have described as one of the least credible general elections in the country's 76-year history. But from behind bars, he has been rallying his supporters in recent months with speeches ons, Khan's videos offer an ex-

that use artificial intelligence to replicate his voice, part of a tech-savvy strategy his party deployed to circumvent a crack-

down by the military. al counts showed candidates aligned with his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, winning the most seats in a surprise result that threw the country's political system into chaos, it was Khan's AI voice that declared victory. "You fulfilled my faith in you, and your

the mellow. slightly robotic voice said in the minute-long video, which used historical images and footage of Khan and bore a disclaimer about its AI origins.

As concerns grow about the use of AI and its power to mislead, particularly in electiample of how AI can

work to circumvent suppression. But, experts say, they also increase fear about its potential dangers. "In

this case, it's for a good And on Saturday, as officiend, perhaps an end we'd support — someone who's locked up on trumped-up charges of corruption being able to speak to his supporters," said Toby Walsh, author of "Faking It: Artificial Intelligence in a Human World". "But at the same time, it's undermining our belief in the things we see and he-

mran Khan has spent the massive turnout has stunned ar." In Dec, PTI began using AI to disseminate Khan's message, creating the speeches based on notes he passed to his lawyers from prison, according to statements from the party, and putting them into video.

> This is not the first time political parties have used artificial intelligence. In South Korea, the then-opposition People Power Party created an AI powered avatar of its presidential candidate, Yoon Suk Yeol, which interacted virtually with voters and spoke in slang and quips to appeal to a younger demographic ahead of the 2022 vote. (He won.) "The integration of AI, particularly deepfakes, into political campaigning is not a passing trend but a trend that will continue to evolve over time," said Saifuddin Ahmed, an assistant professor in at the school of communication

and information. NYT

At 59k, 6.7% of new US citizens in '23 were Indians 2022 does not provide count-

Lubna.Kably@timesgroup.com

nationals became US citizens during the fiscal 2023, around a lakh less than the previous year's data of 9.7 lakh new American citizens. Over 1.1 lakh Mexicans

early 8.7 lakh foreign

(12.7% of the total number of new citizens) obtained US citizenship. With 59,100 (6.7%) Indians acquiring US citizenship, India occupied the second slot as the top source country of new citizens. Five per cent or 44,800 of the new Americans were Philippines-born. The top five countries, which include the Dominican Republic and Cuba collectively comprised 32% of new citizens. According to the annual

progress report-2023 recently released by the US Citizenship and Immigration Servi-



59,100 (6.7%)

44,800 (5.1%)

65,960 (6.8%)

ces, naturalisation (awarding of US citizenship) during the fiscal years 2022 and 2023 made up nearly a quarter

India

2023 | 8,78,500 53,413 (5.5%) of all naturalisations over the past decade.

While the comparative USCIS progress report of

128,878 (13.3%)

Total number

of new citizens

2022 | 9,69,380

duals who have married a US citizen, the time period is reduced to three years. However, for Indians the waiting time for a green card itself runs into several decades, which in turn derails the opportunity to opt for American citizenship.

When Bowen was growing up, his parents made it clear to him that he should pay for dates.

In a paper published in 2023 in Psychological Reports, a pe-

rosexual college students in Wilmington, North Carolina, and asked them whether they, as a man or a woman, typically paid more. The researchers found that young men paid for all or most of the dates around 90% of the time, while women paid only about 2% (they split the cost around 8% of the time). On subsequent dates, splitting the cheque was more common, though men still paid a majority of the time while women rarely did. Surprisingly, views on man, they find joy, likening the

researchers surveyed 552 hete-much of a difference: On average, both men and women in the sample expected the man to pay, whether they had more traditional views of gender roles or

more progressive ones. Part of the reason the norm may persist is that dates are inherently awkward, researcher Shanhong Luo said. Once two people make it past the initial, awkward courtship, navigating the trickiness of date financing tends to be easier. When one person pays, man or woholds true: Men tend to foot the total cost of the date, usually over and says, "I'll grab that". er-reviewed journal, a team of gender norms didn't make act of paying to gift-giving. NYT

AROUND THE WORLD

Pope & Milei hug after pontiff canonises first Argentine female saint ope Francis and Argentine

President Javier Milei embraced on Sunday in St. Peter's Basilica, as Argentine faith and politics came together during a Mass to canonise the country's first female saint. The ceremony to declare Mama Antula a saint marked the first meeting between the Argentine pope and Milei, who once called Francis an "imbecile" for defen-



over and gave the pope a big bearhug when Francis was wheeled over to him at the end of the service. Mama Antula was an 18th century laywoman who ministered to the poor and helped keep Jesuit spirituality alive in Argentina after the religious order — to which the pope ding social justice. Milei bent belongs — was suppressed. AP

For Gen Z, age-old question: Who pays for dates... Wage gap, tradition factor in t work and on social me- bill more than women do on da- over drinks, coming to around \$80. Lundahl, 24, always offers dia, where young people tes. And there seems to be an exto split the cheque but expects } spend much of their perpectation that they should. sonal time, they like to empha-Some progressive defenthe man to pay. Lundahl's reasize equity and equality. When ders of the norm cite the per- soning: The person who makes sistent gender wage gap, the it comes to romance and courts-

hip, young people — specificalfact that women pay more for man—should cough up. ly women and men in heteroreproductive products and apsexual relationships — seem to befollowing the same dating ruamount of time women spend les older generations grew up preparing for dates to comport learning. Contemporary resewith societal norms. Kala Lunarch, popular culture and condahl lives in New York and versations with more than a doworks at a recruiting firm. She zen young Americans suggest that a long-standing norm still through dating apps, with the cheque to when Bowen reaches

more money — usually the

Scott Bowen, a 24-year-old parel than men, and the greater accountant, said he always pays for drinks, meals and coffees on dates. Usually that winds up being \$70 to \$100 per outing. The conversation over who pays lasts a split second — from the typically matches with people time the waiter sets down the



SNAP SHOTS

Tejaswin wins high jump gold

Tejaswin wins gold in Belgium: National record holder in high jump Tejaswin Shankar won the top prize in the International High Jump Gala Elmos 2024 athletics meet in Heist-opden-Berg, Belgium, with a leap of 2.23 metres. Shankar, competing for the first time since October last year, finished ahead of Greece's Antonios Merlos (2.20 metres) in the World Athletics Indoor Tour Challenger event on Saturday. The 25-year-old, who holds both the men's high jump and decathlon national records, however, could not better his personal best of 2.29m. The other Indian in fray, Jesse Sandesh, finished joint-10th with a jump of 2.09 metres. Gukesh ends up sixth i

K'taka bowlers dominate: Karnataka bowlers were on the dot in the Col CK Nayudu Trophy U-23 tournament league fixture against Baroda, On Sunday, hosts Baroda opted to bat but the Karnataka opening bowling pair of Yashovardhan Parantap (2/42) and Monish Reddy (3/52) pegged back the home side early in the game. With spinner Rajvir Wadhwa too claiming two wickets, Baroda were bowled out for 189 in the 69th over. In reply, Karnataka were dealt an early blow with N Macneil (8) and Aneesh KV (11) back in the dressing room. Karnataka ended the

OVERS. Brief scores: Baroda: 189 all out in 68.4 overs (Nitya Pandya 31, Tanmay Bedade 67, Ansh Patel 32; Yashovardhan Parantap 2-42, Monish Reddy 3-52, Rajvir Wadhwa 2-35) vs Karnataka: 50/2 in 18 overs.

opening day at 50/2 in 18

St Joseph's prevail:

Nazid starred with a fivewicket haul to help St Joseph's University score a two-wicket win over Christ University in the CMRU T20 state-level inter-university men's cricket tournament on Sunday. Batting first, Christ University were all out for 78 and St Joseph's reached the target in the 20th over.

Brief scores: CMR University 'A': 99/6 in 17 overs lost to Gitam University: 102/4 in 16.3 overs; Christ University: 78 all out in 19.4 overs lost to St Joseph's University: 79/8 in 191 overs. On Saturday: Alliance University: 56 all out in 15.5 overs lost to CMR University 'B': 61/2 in 7.5 overs; RV University: 136/4 in 20 overs lost to Manipal University: 137/8 in 19.3 overs.

MORE SPORT ON PAGE 12

Curry helps Warriors past Suns: Stephen Curry made a 3-pointer with 0.7 seconds left and the Golden State Warriors beat the Phoenix Suns 113-112 on Saturday night for their sixth victory in seven games. With the Warriors down 112-110 and 3.3 seconds to play, Curry caught the inbounds pass from Brandin Podziemski, turned and hit a 33-footer for his ninth 3-pointer of the night. He had 30 points. Results: Warriors 113 bt Suns 112; Nets 123 bt Spurs 103; Clippers 112 bt Pistons 106; Mavericks 146 bt Thunder 111; Hawks 122 bt Rockets 113; Pelicans 93 bt Trail Blazers 84; Cavaliers 119 bt Raptors 95; Pacers 125 bt Knicks 111; Hornets 115 bt Grizzlies 106; 76ers 119 bt Wizards 113; Magic 114 bt Bulls 108 (0T)

Hafnaoui fails to qualify for 400 final: Olympic champion Ahmed Hafnaoui's World Championships got off to a poor start as the Tunisian bombed out of the 400 metres freestyle on the opening morning in Doha on Sunday. Bidding for a 400-800-1,500 treble of world titles, the 21-year-old ranked 17th in the 400 heats after posting a slow time of three minutes 48.05 seconds. Runner-up behind Australia's Sam Short at last year's event in Fukuoka, Hafnaoui declined to talk to reporters after the setback. Australia's former world champion Elijah Winnington qualified fastest for the 400 final with a time of 3:44.37.

Sheeraz, Ganemat miss out: Sheeraz Sheikh and Ganemat Sekhon were the top Indian finishers in men's and women's skeet respectively at the ISSF World Cup for Shotgun in Rabat, Morocco, on Sunday. Sheeraz shot 120, courtesy five identical rounds of 24 across two days and 125 targets. He finished 11th with the sixth and final qualifying spot going at 121. In the women's event, Gane-

mat's tally of 114 gave her

going at 117.

12th spot with the final spot

WRISTY WONDER

A Player Who Was Poetry In Motion, A Person Who Remains Humble & Grounded Despite His Towering Achievements. As Indian Batting Maestro GR Vishwanath Turns 75 Today, TOI Looks Back At One Of The Fabled Journeys In Indian Cricket

Manuja.Veerappa@timesgroup.com

n 1960, an aspiring cricketer. barely 11 years old from sporting-rich South Bengaluru. watched his hero – Australia's Neil Harvey-in action against an Indian Universities team in a tour match at the erstwhile Central College ground.

The youngster was in awe of the left-handed great's fearlessness and dominance over the bowlers. It left a deep impact on the child, who then made a resolution to play for India.

His dreams were almost extinguished when at 15, he was told he was too young and short to make it to the state schools' team. Disappointed, but unwilling to give up, he continued to pile on the runs and a few years later, scored a sparkling double-century (230) on debut for Mysore state (now Karnataka) against Andhra in Vijayawada. That was only the beginning of his storied journey in Indian cricket.

Short in stature, towering in deeds, he was an artiste who showcased bold batting. The silken square cuts were as revered as his

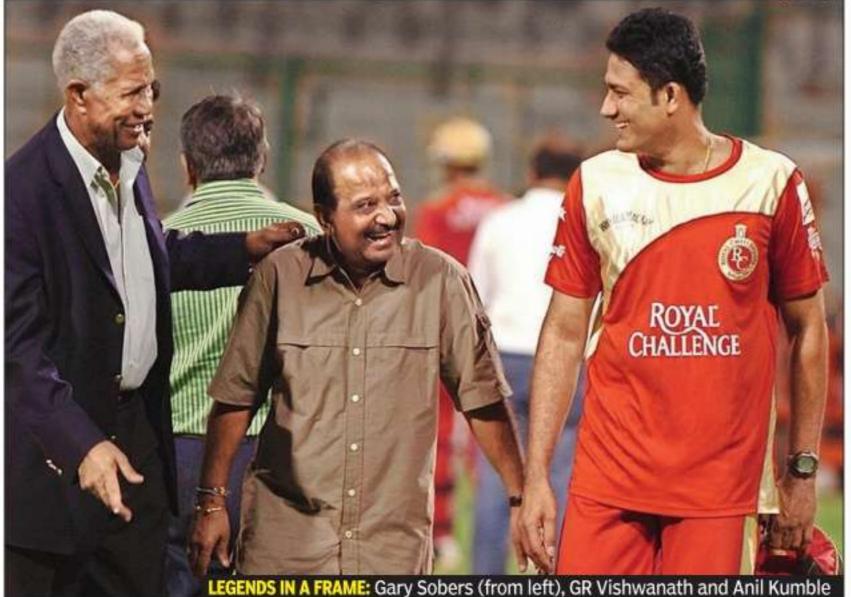
MASTER STROKE

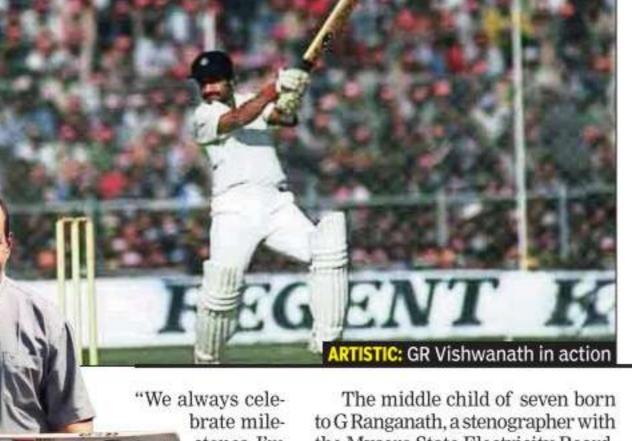
on-field grace and fair play. Humble and endearing off-field, the legend goes by the name Gundappa Ranganath Vishwanath.

Born on Feb 12, 1949, in Bhadravati, an industrial town in picturesque Shivamogga district, GRV—as the genial maestro is known moved to Bengaluru as a four-year-old. From the time he picked up a bat, all he ever wanted to do was play cricket. He did, and how! In a career spanning almost a decadeand-half, he featured in 91 Test matches, scoring 6,080 runs including 14 centuries. GRV, who turns 75 on

Monday, remains as grounded as he was 55 years ago, when he scored 137 in the second innings of his Test debut against Australia in Kanpur in 1969.

Speaking to TOI on the eve of his landmark birthday, the diminutive genius' humour was as exquisite as his stroke-making.





stones. I'm grateful and thank God for keeping me going at 75. I'm looking forward to going further because being a cricketer, I always feel once you reach 50 and then 75, you look for the century. That said, this is the time to work really, really hard to get that 100. I plan to play as straight as I can. I didn't do that earlier, probably this is the right time to play straight and safe to stay healthy," he remarked.

the Mysore State Electricity Board, and Savitramma, a homemaker, GRV recalled the contribution of his parents in shaping his career.

"My parents were helpful. While I had nephews and nieces who were very academic-oriented, I wasn't inclined towards studies. I only wanted to play sport. Any parent would want their children to concentrate on academics and my parents were no different. But once they realised that I wanted to pursue cricket, they supported me and helped in shaping my career, the way I wanted to. They were very proud of me."

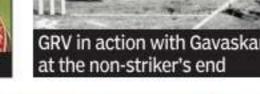
SUNNY'S WISHES FOR GRV

Commodore

am delighted to send my bestest wishes to the genius GRV on his 75th birthday. During my career I had the good fortune of playing with and against some of the greatest names in the game and I can say with my hand on my heart that there was no better batsman of my generation than Vishy. Whenever India was in trouble Vishy came to the rescue with innings of such brilliance that even the opponents applauded. For him, batting was to be enjoyed and with his artistry, he conveyed it to the spectators too. He was inimitable and nobody could bat like him.

ERFECT: (From left) Sunil Gavaskar and Alvin Kallicharran with GR

Off the field, he had the great ability to say something funny with a straight face and that used to lighten the mood all around. All over the world, there's nobody like Vishy. Not one person has an ill word or comment about him and that tells you how well loved he is all over the cricketing world. Our family is blessed that our friendship has turned into a relationship. May he always be blessed with great health and cheer. -Sunil Gavaskar



GUNDAPPA RANGANATH VISHWANATH Born: Feb 12, 1949

HALL OF FAME

GRV got emotional while speak-

"My maternal grandfather

ing about his maternal grandfa-

ther Muthanna, who offered him

Muthanna lived in Lakkenahalli,

Gubbi. Till I was about 11 or 12, I

spent all my summer holidays at

his home. We were a huge family

and I played a lot of cricket there.

When I started playing age-group

and state cricket, he was very emo-

tional about how my career was

shaping up. He took great pride in

my journey. The love, affection and

encouragement I got from him

hood hero, he spoke about the

While Harvey was GRV's boy-

meant a lot to me," he added.

unconditional support.

FACTFILE

Place: Bhadravati, Karnataka Batting: Right-handed

MATCH REFEREE Tests: 15 **ODIs: 80** List A: 4 T20s: 19

Indian Cricketer Of The Year | 1970 Padma Shri | 1971 Arjuna Award | 1977-78 **CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement** Award | 2008

Wisden India Hall of Fame | 2019

TEST Debut: Nov 15, 1969 vs Australia, Kanpur M Runs HS 100s 50s 91 6,080 222 14 35 ODIs Debut: July 13, 1974 vs England, Leeds

25 | 439 75 FIRST CLASS Debut: Nov 11. 1967 vs Andhra, Vijayawada 308 17,970 247 44

other men who played a defining

vey. My brother Jagannath helped

me a lot when I was coming up the

ranks. When I started playing for

the state, stalwarts like EAS

Prasanna and V Subramanya were

very encouraging. Once I got into

the Indian team, players like ML

Jaisimha and my first captain,

Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, offered

me unstinting encouragement and

believed in my talent. That mat-

tered a lot and helped me grow as

Test match in 1983, he continued

to represent Karnataka. His love

Although GRV played his last

a cricketer," recollected GRV.

"My hero was always Neil Har-

List A 59 1,463 108*

role in his career.

for his home state is well-documented and even today, he is never too busy to offer advice to any youngster who seeks it.

On the reasons behind it, he dwelled, "I'm not retired from Test cricket. I was dropped. Until 1987, I played for the state. I wanted to continue playing for the state because a couple of youngsters were around. If I retired, I could still go to the dressing room. But it is different going there as a player and as an ex-player. I wanted to play with these people because I wanted Karnataka to become more solid. For me, whichever team I played for, I loved playing for them.'

Known to play cricket and live life on his own terms, GRV has few regrets in life.

"I've enjoyed the way I have played and I don't want to change it. I probably missed out on a few centuries. They don't worry me personally, but my three-figure marks always came in winning causes, so I could have played longer innings and helped India win more matches. That is something that still worries me. But I continue to enjoy the love and affection people shower on me."

On his big day, GRV has one thing on his wish list. "I want to be born again to play cricket and become a more solid player."

In-form Nagal will be the cynosure

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: All eyes will be on Sumit Nagal in the Dafa-News Bengaluru Open 2024, which gets underway at the Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association courts here on Monday. Nagal, whose fifth Challenger title in Chennai on Sunday saw him debut at No. 98 in the ATP's top-100, will have to keep his celebrations short as he returns to a happy hunting ground in the Garden City.

BENGALURU OPEN

The 26-year-old, who was ranked outside the top-500 some 12 months ago, has won just two of his five Challenger titles at home, the first of them came in Bengaluru in 2017. This time, he opens against France's 25-year-old Geoffrey Blancaneaux. Nagal's opponent in the title round in Chennai, 20-year-old Italian Luca Nardi, is the top

Wildcard entrants Ramkumar Ramanathan and Prajwal Dev are the other

two Indians in the main draw this week. Ramkumar goes up against the 6'5" Frenchman Janvier Maxime while Dev takes on Aussie Adam Walton.

Nagal — who started the season ranked No. 138, battled his way through the treacherous sands of the qualifying draw in Melbourne and then went on to knock out the seeded Alexander Bublik in the main draw —has made steady and determined progress in 2024.

Like in the qualifying competition at Melbourne Park, where he didn't drop a set, the Indian worked his way through the draw in Chennai too without giving much away.

A couple of all-Indian pairings to watch out for in the doubles draw in Bengaluru — Niki Poonacha and Rithvik Choudary, the fourth seeds, and finalists in Chennai, and the champions last week — Saket Myneni and Ramkumar. Sriram Balaji and German Andre Begemann are seeded three.

Super Nagal breaks into top-100 after title win

M.Sudharshan@timesgroup.com

Chennai: India's topranked men's singles player Sumit Nagal secured an easy victory in the final of the Chennai Open Challenger here on Sunday. Nagal cruised past top seed Luca Nardi of Italy 6-1, 6-4 at the SDAT Tennis Stadium to clinch his fifth Challenger title and entered the top-100 of the world rankings for the first time in his career.

CHENNAI OPEN

Nardi did not have the greatest of starts and mistakes at crucial moments from the Italian helped Nagal go a break up. The shoulder injury that had bothered Nagal in his semifinal win seemed a thing of the past as the Indian did enough to build on the break.

Nardi tried to test Nagal on his backhand but it was not enough. Towards the end of the set, Nardi was tiring and the 26-year-old Nagal did not have too many



CUP OF JOY: Sumit Nagal

difficulties wrapping it up. In the second set, it was once again Nagal who stepped on the accelerator to go a couple of breaks up.

But Nardi was not ready to give in without a fight and he broke Nagal twice to level the scores 4-4. In the ninth game, Nardi committed three unforced errors, two being back-to-back. Nagal, too, hit a superb forehand taking Nardi by surprise. Serving for the match, Nagal did not hit the first serves well. But he showed composure to save two break points and held on to win the championship.

Nardi had less than 24 hours to recover from a gruelling three hour-three minute long three-set semifinal against Jason Tseng. It was evident that it had taken a lot out of him and Nagal was ready to make the most of it.

GETTING EMOTIONAL

Nagal was emotional, trying to soak in the moment of winning another title. "Feeling very emotional now. I could not have asked for a better place to win the title. It has been tough for the past few years (getting surgery done, not having financial support and ranking outside the top-500) with a lot of ups and downs. I am very happy that I have found a way to push every single day and give myself a chance to be here," Nagal said.

Dominant Panghal, Sachin strike gold

Sofia (Bulgaria): World Championship medallist



while Nikhat and three other Indian boxers signed off with

Amit Pang-

hal and Sa-

Siwach

gold,

silver medals at the 75th Strandja Memorial tournament here on Sunday. The 2019 World silver

BOXING

medallist Panghal (51kg)

pulled off a dominating 5-0 triumph over Kazakhstan's Sanzhar Tashkenbay in the men's flyweight final.

Sachin (57kg), a world youth champion, changed the colour of his medal from the last edition, turning bronze into gold as he out-punched Uzbekistan's Shakhzod Muzafarov with a 5-0 verdict.

However, two-time World champion Zareen (50kg), Choudhary Arundhati (66kg), Barun Singh Shagolshem (48kg) and Rajat (67kg)

settled for silver medals after going down in their respective bouts. In all, India signed off with a haul of eight medals—two gold, four silver and a couple of bronze in this edition of the event. In a commanding performance, Panghal landed powerful punches, dominating Tashkenbay with pinpoint precision and speed

in his attack. Panghal was on target for the most part with his trademark jab and left hook and didn't let loose the grip of the bout even for a second.

Sachin took some time to settle down. Both the boxers were equally dominant in the first round though the Indian managed to win it by a tight 3-2 margin. Zareen went down to 20-year-old Junior Asian champion Sabina Bobokulova of Uzbekistan.

The first six minutes of the bout were intense. However, Zareen wasn't too tight with her defence and Bobokulova was able to land decisive punches on counterattac, losing 2-3 in close bout. AGENCIES

Ashith-Amrutha pair wins

Rally Past Thai Duo In Title Clash

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: India's Ashith Surya and Amrutha Pramuthesh defeated Thailand's Phuwanat Horbanleukit and Chasinee Korepap 21-15, 21-13 to win the mixed doubles title at the Sri Lanka International Challenge badminton tournament in Galle on Sunday.

BADMINTON

Third seeds Ashith and Amrutha of Karnataka, who train at Arise Badminton Academy here under Vaibhaav and Girish, turned early deficits of 2-6 and 0-4 in the two games to match-winning leads as they sailed to their maiden gold in an International Challenge event in 32 minutes. The duo, who



ALL SMILES: Ashith Surya (left) and Amrutha Pramuthesh strike a pose with their spoils in Galle on Sunday

at the Infosys Foundation India International Challenge last year, had beaten compatriots Mayank Rana and Jiya Rawat in straight games (21-19, 21-19) in the semifinals.

rya / Amrutha Pramuthesh (Ind) bt Phuwanat Horbanleukit / Chasinee Korepap (Tha) 21-15, 21-13, Semis: bt Mayank Rana / Jiya Rawat (Ind) 21-19, 21-19.

Quarters: bt Ganesh Vittalji / Rashmi Gahad clinched a bronze medal Results: Mixed doubles: Final: Ashith Su-nesh (Ind) 18-21, 21-13, 21-13.

Rybakina bags Abu Dhabi title

Top seed Elena Rybakina powered to a 6-1, 6-4 win over Russian Daria Kasatkina in the final of the Abu Dhabi Open on Sunday to lift her second trophy of the season and seventh overall. Meanwhile, France's Ugo Humbert outclassed Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov to claim his fifth ATP title in as many finals at home in Marseille on Sunday. Humbert, who beat top seed Hubert Hurkacz in the semis, saw off second seed Dimitrov 6-4, 6-3 with a solid serve and an impressive baseline game. Results: Abu Dhabi WTA (Final):

1-Elena Rybakina (Kaz) bt 7-Daria Kasatkina (Rus) 6-1, 6-4. Marseille ATP: Final: 4-Ugo Humbert

(Fra) bt 2-Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) 6-4, 6-3. Semis: Humbert bt 1-Hubert Hurkacz (Pol) 6-4, 6-4; Dimitrov bt 3-Karen Khachanov (Rus) 6-7 (3-7), 6-4, 7-6 (7-5). Dallas ATP (Semis): Marcos Giron (US) bt 4-Adrian Mannarino (Fra) 6-1, 6-3; 2-Tommy Paul (US) bt 3-Ben Shelton (US) : 6-2,6-4. AGENCIES

BFC, Jamshedpur share spoils Jamshedpur: Jamshedpur showed sharp instincts to de-

FC held Bengaluru FC to a 1-1 draw as the visiting team's attempts to reclaim a spot in the top-six of the Indian Super League met a hurdle here on Sunday. Suresh Singh Wangjam opened the scoring for the visitors with a screamer in the 14th minute, but Javi Siverio equalised in the second half to ensure that both teams settled for a point each.

The Blues were chasing their fifth straight win against the Red Miners in the league, and they couldn't have gotten off to a better start for the same.

Chingambam Shivaldo Singh earned a place in the starting XI and he was tireless on the right flank, launching in a fierce delivery that was flicked by Siva-



A slice of action from the BFC-JFC match on Sunday

path of Sunil Chhetri inside the box. Sivasakthi and Chhetri were positioned parallel to each other a few yards away from Jamshedpur FC goalkeeper TP Rehenesh. However, Chhetri was in a very acute angle to the goal, and hence refrained from taking the onus upon him to unleash a shot at goal. He instead laid up the ball for the : sakthi Narayanan onto the onrushing Suresh, who tersys Punjab FC (7.30pm). AGENCIES

posit the ball in the top corner of the net.

Jamshedpur FC didn't let the goal get the better of them though. Rei Tachikawa came touchingly close to drawing the scores level before the half-time break, as a miscued effort by Elsinho was pounced upon and then hit straight at the crossbar by the Japanese star.

However, their moment

of reckoning arrived courtesy of Siverio. Jeremy Manzorro's corner kick in the 70th minute was cleared by the Blues, and the ball led to Imran Khan on the inside channel of the right flank. The attacker swung in a curling cross for Siverio that the midfielder headed inside the net with perfect precision.

Result: Jamshedpur FC1 (Javi Siverio 70) drew with Bengaluru FC 1 (Suresh Singh Wangjam 14). Today's match: Kerala Blas-



TIMES SPORT

HIGH JUMPER TEJASWIN SHANKAR WINS SEASON-OPENING MEET IN BELGIUM

STEPHEN CURRY'S GAME-WINNER LIFTS GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS OVER PHOENIX SUNS IN NBA

SCOREBOARD

Australia U-19s: H Dixon c Abhishek b

Tiwari 42, S Konstas b Limbani 0, H

Weibgen c Musheer b Tiwari 48, H

Limbani 20, O Peake not out 46, R

Singh Ibw b Pandey 55, R Hicks Ibw b

MacMillan c&b Musheer 2, C Anderson

lbw b Limbani 13, T Straker not out 8;

wkts) 253; FoW: 1-16, 2-94, 3-99, 4-165,

10-0-38-3, Tiwari 9-0-63-2, Pandey 10-0-

41-1, Musheer 9-0-46-1, Abhishek 10-0-

37-0, Moliya 2-0-17-0.

India U-19s: A Singh c Hicks b

Beardman 47, A Kulkarni c Hicks b

Vidler 3, M Khan b Beardman 22, U

Saharan c Weibgen b Beardman 8, S

Vidler b Anderson 9, A Avanish c&b

Dhas c Hicks b MacMillan 9, P Moliya c

MacMillan 0, M Abhishek c Weibgen b

Vidler 42, Raj Limbani b MacMillan 0, N

Tiwari not out 14, S Pandey c Hicks b

Straker 2; Extras: (lb7, nb1, w10) 18;

Total: (43.5 overs) 174; FoW: 1-3, 2-40,

3-55, 4-68, 5-90, 6-91, 7-115, 8-122, 9-168;

Bowling: Vidler 10-2-35-2, Anderson 9-0-

Run-aggregate

at an average of

56.71 in 7 innings

by Uday Saharan

-Rajesh Kumar

wicket-aggregate at an

average of 10.27 in 7

matches by Saumy

Pandey in this

42-1, Straker 7.5-1-32-1, Beardman 7-2-

- the most by a batter in the just

concluded competition.

RESULT: Australia won by 79 runs

15-3, MacMillan 10-0-43-3.

5-181, 6-187, 7-221; Bowling: Limbani

Extras: (lb11, nb1, w7) 19; Total: (7



INDIANS FAIL FINAL TEST

Crash To 79-Run Loss To Australia In U-19 World **Cup Summit Clash**

Benoni: A fresh chapter was added to the script of Australia's domination over India in the ICC World Cup finals when they bagged the Under-19 title with a 79-run victory here on Sunday. Batting by choice, the Aussies posted a healthy 253 for seven as India were forced to mount the highest chase in a youth World Cup summit clash.

But Uday Saharan's side floundered in the final step to glory, stumbling to 174 all out as the relentless Aussie bowlers led by the furious Mahli Beardman (3/15) and the crafty off-spinner Raf MacMillan (3/43) did not give them any breathing space. This was Australia's fourth U19 title and first since 2010 and, in a way, they also washed away the pain of losing to India in two title matches in 2012 and 2018.

Many would view this result as a continuation of Australia's win over India in the senior World Cup last Vidler started Australia's victory march by packing off Indian opener Arshin Kulkarni, inducing an edge to stumper Ryan Hicks.

From that point, India simply failed to stitch together any meaningful partnerships as frontline batters including skipper Saharan (8), Musheer Khan, who received a reprieve on zero, and Sachin Dhas (9) departed without making any real Hicks behind the stumps. contributions.

fence of Musheer (22) with a delivery that kept a tad low, while the pacer tempted Saharan, the tournament's highest run-getter, with a slightly wide delivery on off-stump, but his slash ended in the hands of Hugh Weibgen at point.

Beardman later added the wicket of opener Adarsh Singh, who was India's highest scorer on the day with



year at Ahmedabad. Pacer Callum a 77-ball 47, to bulldoze the Indian batting unit with pace and bounce.

> If the Indian batters could not cope with the hostility of Beardman, a disciple of legendary Dennis Lillee, they could not counter the guile of MacMillan, Australia's lone spinner this day.

20th over and he dismissed Dhas off his first ball, a regulation catch to

India were reduced to 68 for four Beardman broke through the de- then, and ouster of the free-flowing Dhas was a body blow to their chances. The strapping offie later also bagged the wickets of Aravelly Avanish and Raj Limbani, preventing any late Indian punch back.

> Murugan Abhishek (42, 45b) tried gamely in the company of Naman Tiwari adding 46 runs for the ninth wicket, highest of the innings, but the task proved beyond his reach.

We played a few rash shots, couldn't spend more time at the crease. We had prepared, but couldn't execute." -Uday Saharan

However, the Australian batters too can claim the right amount of credit for this triumph. No one really made a tall score but they fired MacMillan was introduced in the collectively around Harjas Singh (55, 64b, 3x4, 3x6) to give the Antipodeans a competitive total to defend amidst strikes by Indian pacers Limbani (3/38) and Tiwari (2/63).

> Limbani, who worked up a fair clip from the pitch, bowled opener Sam Konstas with a lovely in-coming delivery to deny the Aussies a quick start as they have done often in this tournament. But the Australians found stability through Harry Dixon (42, 56 balls) and skipper Weibgen (48, 66 balls).

Dixon, in fact, started off in a blazing fashion, hammering left-

arm pacer Tiwari (2/63) for 4, 6, 4 in the second over, but he settled into a more sedate rhythm in the company of Weibgen.

The hallmark of their secondwicket alliance of 78 runs in 18.1 overs, was the way they negated the Indian spinners, a massive restrictive force throughout this showpiece. There were no big hits but Dixon and Weibgen managed to push the scoreboard forward with those singles and twos.

Just as the stand was coasting along, Saharan threw the ball to Tiwari, who was withdrawn after an expensive first spell. Tiwari answered his leader's call in the percompetition is an Indian record in a fect fashion getting rid of a set U-19 World Cup. Weibgen, AGENCIES

Jurel likely in place of Bharat in Rajkot

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Will 'keeper-bat Dhruv Jurel make his Test debut in the third Test against England at Rajkot in place of the struggling KS Bharat? Well, that could very well be the case when action resumes in the series, currently tied at 1-1, from February 15. As per well-placed sources in the BCCI that TOI spoke to, the key decisionmakers in Indian cricket may have run out of patience with wicketkeeper Bharat, who hasn't done anything significant in the seven Tests that he has played so far in.

been well below-par, while his 'keeping hasn't been great either. He isn't making the XI in the first two Tests. use of his chances. Jurel, on the other hand, is talented, has a good attitude and has a bright future. He has done well for Uttar Pradesh, India A and the Rajasthan Royals in the IPL. Don't be surprised if Jurel makes his Test debut "Players have to play Ranji" at Rajkot," a source told TOI.

Bharat, by all accounts, has lost a golden opportunity to make a Test comeback. In two Tests in this series, he has made 92 runs in two Tests@23.00. Overall, he has scored just 221 runs in seven Tests@20.09, while not even scoring a fifty.

Bumrah may be rested for fourth Test

Considering his workload and precious value to the side, there is a thought to breather at some point in this five-Test series. "He could be rested for the fourth Test in

Dharamshala, which could well be the decider of this closely-contested series," the source said.

Pacer Avesh Khan excluded to give him 'game time'

There selectors have been under-fire due to their decision to exclude pacer Avesh "Bharat's batting has Khan from the squad for the last three Tests without giving him a chance to play in

> "The idea is to give him game time, which is why he has been asked to go and play for Madhya Pradesh in the Ranji Trophy," the source pointed out.

It's learnt that the BCCI isn't too happy with certain established India players' attitude towards red-ball cricket, particularly the Ranji Trophy. "In the next few days, all the players will be communicated by the BCCI to play for their state team in the Ranji Trophy, as long as they are not on national duty," a source said.

Slow turner on cards for Raikot Test

Meanwhile, it's learnt give pacer Jasprit Bumrah a that a slow turner is likely to be on offer for the third Test. "The Indian team management is comfortable with a Ranchi, which means that he slow turner. They don't want will be fresh and firing for a raging turner for sure," a the fifth and final Test in source told this paper.

Injured Leach ruled out of remaining three Tests

London: Jack Leach has been ruled out of the rest of England's Test tour of India with a left knee injury, the

ENGLAND IN INDIA

England and Wales Cricket Board announced on Sunday. The 32-year-old spin bowler picked up the injury

during England's first Test victory in Hyderabad, where he was forced to play a restricted role and subsequently missed the second Test in Visakhapatnam.

His absence saw Somerset team-mate Shoaib Bashir come into the side, where he picked up four wickets on his international debut.

Bashir was joined by Rehan Ahmed and Tom Hartley in England's spin attack, with the trio only holding three caps between them going into the second Test. The series resumes in Rajkot on Thursday tied at 1-1 following India's 106-run

victory in Vizag. England will not be calling up a replacement and Leach will now return home. In a statement, the England and Wales Cricket Board said: "He will fly home from Abu Dhabi in the next 24 hours. where the England team have been staying ahead of

the third Test in Rajkot, which starts on Thursday. "Leach will work closely with the England and Somerset medical teams in respect of his rehabilitation."

Leach has taken 126 wickets in 36 Tests, besides being a handy lower-order batter, AGENCIES

GAME CHANGER: PR Sreeiesh (second from left) made the difference Sreejesh the hero in

GALLERY

SL SECURE ODI SERIES

Sri Lanka secured a convincing 155 run win over Afghanistan in the second one-day international on Sunday, taking an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three match series. Afghanistan, set a target of 309 to level the series, were shot out for 153 inside 34 overs as leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga starred with four wickets. Afghanistan were well placed at 128 for one in pursuit of their target, but once Rahmat Shah (54) and Ibrahim Zadran (63) were dismissed there was little fight from the rest of the batters. Hasaranga was backed up by seamers as Dilshan Madushanka claimed two wickets in an over and Asitha Fernando, who also ended with two wickets. Afghanistan collapsed losing eight wickets for 10 runs.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka: 308/6 in 50 overs (K Mendis 61, S Samarawickrama 52, C Asalanka 97 n.o., J Liyanage 50; A Omarzai 3-56) bt Afghanistan: 153 all out in 33.5 overs (I Zadran 54, R Shah 63; D Madushanka 2-28, A Fernando 2-23, W Hasaranga 4-27)

Gukesh ends up sixth in playoffs:

Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh had to be content with a sixth-place finish in the rapid playoffs of the Weissenhaus Freestyle Chess challenge after losing the last three rounds at Wangels, Germany. Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan dominated the rapid event that was mainly done to determine the pairings for the knockout stage. Gukesh simply had a bad day in office losing round five to Fabiano Caruana, round 6 to Abdusattarov and the seventh round to Vincent Keymer. Results (Round 5): Fabiano Caruana (US) bt D Gukesh (Ind); Ding Liren (Chn) lost to Magnus Carlsen (Nor); Levon Aronian (US) drew with Alireza Firouza (Fra): Nodirbek Abdusattarov (Uzb) drew with Vincent Keymer (Ger); Round 6: Gukesh lost to Abdusattarov; Round 7: Keymer bt Gukesh; Final standings: 1. Abdusattarov (5.5); 2. Keymer (5) 3, Caruana (4.5): 4. Alireza (4): 5. Carlsen (3.5) 6. Gukesh

Pranavi signs off tied 23rd: Pranavi signs off tied 23rd: Pranavi Ursof Mysuru shot a closing three-over 76 to finish tied 23rd at the Magical Kenya Ladies Open at Vipingo Ridge on Sunday. The rookier pro on the Ladies European Tour finished with a four-day total of one-over 293. Diksha Dagar shot an impressive fiveunder 68 to finish tied 19th with an evenpar total of 292. Vani Kapoor (73), the other Indian who made the cut, finished tied 36th on three-over 296. Singapore's Shannon Tan (70) won the title with a total of 12-under 280.

(3); 7. Aronian (2); 8. Liren (0.5).

Indian scores (after 72 holes): 292: Diksha Dagar (71, 77, 76, 68, T-19); 293: Pranavi Urs (73, 73, 71, 76, T-23); 296: Vani Kapoor (73, 74, 76, 73, T-36).

Karnataka collapse but stay in control

TN Spinner Ajith Ram Claims Five-For To Peg **Back The Visitors In** The Second Innings

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Chennai: At the beginning of third day's action on Sunday, Karnataka were all over Tamil Nadu. And come the end of it, Karnataka, despite a below-par batting show in the second innings, were in a good position to secure the win in the Ranji Trophy Elite Group C clash here.

On an MA Chidambaram Stadium pitch that is deteriorating with each passing session, TN were set a daunting victory target of 355, after the tourists opted not to enforce the follow-on and were

RANJI TROPHY

bowled out for 139 in their second essay. While opener N Jagadeesan fell early in the chase, the lefthanded duo of R Vimal Khumar (16 batting) and Pradosh Ranjan Paul (10 batting) got through the last phase to leave TN with 319 more runs to get on the final day.

Before TN began their challenging chase, fast-rising leftarm spinner S Ajith Ram (5-61) offered them some hope, feasting on a surface on which any slow bowler would love to operate. The 25year-old Ajith followed up his four-wicket haul in the previous innings to finish with impressive match figures of 9-136.



ON TRACK: Karnataka players celebrate a Tamil Nadu wicket

He stuck to his plan of bowling a stump-to-stump line and executed it with aplomb, with key Karnataka batters – skipper Mayank Agarwal and Manish Pandey falling prey to his mastery. Ajith's spin-bowling partner Pradosh, an offie, did the double over Devdutt Padikkal (36 off 56 balls, 5x4), the visitors' leading run-getter in both the innings. Pradosh induced an outside edge off Padikkal's bat and Baba Indrajith took a sharp catch at first slip.

Towards the fag end of the innings, V Vyshak (22 not out off 21 balls, 1x4, 2x6) smacked Ajith for two consecutive sixes - towards deep-midwicket and long-off – to ensure Karnataka set TN a 350+ target on a tricky Chepauk track. Earlier, in the first hour of play,

pacer Vyshak (4-26) applied the finishing touches to TN's first innings with a three-wicket burst. After M Mohammed saw his stumps disturbed and Ajith was trapped LBW, Indrajith (48 off 140 balls, 3x4) offered the simplest of catches to wicketkeeper S Sharath as TN's essay drew to a close.

"The ball was doing something. It is a red-soil pitch, so we knew that the ball will reverse swing. It was difficult to get something out of the pitch for the fast bowlers since it is a slow surface. We tried to keep it simple and keep the run-rate under two," said Vyshak.

The hosts came up with a poor batting performance overall and were bundled out for a paltry 151 runs Padikkal had accumulated in the first innings - to concede a massive 215-run advantage at the end of the opening exchanges.

SCOREBOARD Karnataka (I Innings): 366.

Tamil Nadu (I Innings; o/n 129/7): Baba Indrajith c Sharath b Vyshak 48, Mohammed b Vyshak 6, Ajit Ram Ibw Vyshak 2, Sandeep Warrier (not out) O. Extras: (B-12, LB-2, NB-3) 17. Total: (all out, 69.2 overs) 151. Fall of wickets: 8-146, 9-150. Bowling: Hardik 26-6-56-2, Kaverappa 16-8-14-1 Vyshak 12.2-1-26-4, Shashi Kumar 15-1-41-3.

Karnataka (II innings): R Samarth Ibw Mohammed 2, Mayank agarwal Ibw Ajit Ram 11, Devdutt Padikkal c Indrajith b Paul 36, Hardik Raj b Sai Kishore 20, Manish Pandey b AjithRam 14, Kishan Bedare b Ajith Ram 9, Sharath Srinivas c Indrajith b Sai Kishore 18, Nikin Jose (run out) 0, Vyshak Vijaykumar (not out) 22, Shashi Kumar Ibw Ahith Ram 0, Vidwath Kaverappa c Jagadeesan b Ajith Ram 4. Extras (LB-2; W-1) 3. Total (all out; 56.4 overs) 139. Fall of wickets: 1-5, 2-32, 3-68, 4-75, 5-88, 6-107, 7-110, 8-120, 9-121.

Bowling: Sandeep Warrier 9-2-23-0, M Mohammed 5-1-13-1, Sai Kishore 18-3-27-2, Ajith Ram 19.4-2-61-5, Pradosh Paul 5-0-13-1.

Tamil Nadu (II innings): Vimal Kumar (batting) 16, N Jagadeesan c Padikkal b Vyshak 8, Pradosh Paul (batting) 10. Extras (B-2) 2. Total (1 wkt; 15 overs) 36. Fall of wicket: 1-14

Bowling: Kaverappa 3-0-13-0, Vyshak 5-1-12-1, Shashi Kumar 5-1-7-0, Samarth 2-0-2-0. OTHER GROUP C SCORES At Chandigarh: Chandigarh: 356 & 116/0 (Shiv-

am Bhambri 61 batting, Arslan Khan 49 batting) vs Tripura: 438 all out in 121 overs (Manisankar Murasingh 94, Ganesh Satish 88, Wriddhiman Saha 66, Bikramjit Debnath 64; Gurinder Singh 4-117). At Surat: Railways: 297 & 208 (Ashutosh Sharma 81; Darshan Misal 4-44) vs Goa: 200 & 93/1 in 31 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 54 batting).

At Mohali: Gujarat: 339 & 290/8 decl. (Sunpreetsingh Bagga 79; Baltej Singh 2-55) vs Punjab: 219 & 40/4 in 14 overs (Privajitsing Jadeja 3-17).

shoot-out victory TIMES NEWS NETWORK Indian goalie Krishan B Pathak stood tall to deny the Dutch from taking the early lead.

Kolkata: PR Sreejesh has done it for India time and again. And the 35-year-old India custodian was the saviour for the hosts one more time as they beat The Netherlands in their second match of the FIH Pro League at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium in Bhubaneswar on Sunday.

Sreejesh's heroics in the shootout saw India pull off a thrilling 4-2 shoot-out win against the defending champions after the game was locked 2-2 at the end of 60 minutes. He made two stunning saves while Harmanpreet

HOCKEY

Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Lalit Upadhyay and Shamsher Singh converted their chances to help India bag a bonus point from the encounter.

Earlier, Hardik Singh (13') and Harmanpreet Singh (58') scored a goal each for India while Jip Janssen (30') and Koen Bijen (39') got on the scoresheet for the Dutch in what was a thrilling 2-2 draw in regulation time.

The World No. 1 team quickly to get off the blocks and made attacking runs inside India's circle in the opening minutes of the game but

down the right flank before playing it to Sukhjeet, who passed it back for Hardik to

India broke the deadlock

in the 13th minute when Har-

dik made a stunning run

skilfully slot the ball into the net from an acute angle. The visitors were rewarded with yet another PC in the dying seconds of the first half and Janssen made no mistake in hammering it into the bot-

tom corner. Bijen was at the right place, at the right time to give the Dutch lead in 39th minute.

A thrilling final quarter saw India mount relentless pressure on the Dutch but failed to convert back-to-back PCs in the 55th minute.

With less than three minutes to go, Indian won a PC after a video referral for a deliberate push and Harmanpreet, playing his 200th match, stepped up and slotted the ball home to bring things back on level terms. Sreejesh, who was called back into the field, made some scintillating saves in the dying seconds as the Dutch couldn't find a winner in regulation time. India will take on Australia in their third match on Thursday.

SIZZLING FORM: Glenn Maxwell celebrates his century could only muster 207-9 in re-

Adelaide: Big-hitting Glenn Maxwell slammed a 50-ball century as Australia beat the West Indies by 34 runs in the second Twenty20 International to seal the series in Adelaide on Sunday.

T20 SERIES

The 35-year-old was in ominous touch, blasting eight sixes and 12 fours in a blistering 120 not out from 55 deliveries. It propelled Australia to 241-4 and the visitors

ply, led by skipper Rovman Powell's battling 63.

The hosts won the first clash in Hobart by 11 runs, with one match to play in Perth on Tuesday.

West Indies opener Johnson Charles hit a giant six off the first ball he faced in the run chase, knowing his team must come out swinging. A wicket maiden by Josh

Hazlewood stymied threat, with Brandon King caught on the ropes for five.

took apart the next over from Jason Behrendorff, smacking three sixes in a row, but he didn't last, spooning to midwicket on 18 as left-arm quick Spencer Johnson picked up a wicket in his first home international. Marcus Stoinis removed Shai Hope (0) and Charles (24) in his first over to leave them on 62-4.

Maxwell's blistering ton lifts Australia to series win

Johnson collected his second to remove Sherfane Rutherford (0) and Stoinis got his third in Andre Russell (37 off

knock proved in vain. Earlier, opener Josh Inglis lasted just six balls before being caught in the deep trying to hit Jason Holder out of the ground.

Skipper Mitchell Marsh whacked an enterprising 29 to propel the hosts to 58-2 off their power-play, but he tried one slog too many and was well caught at mid-on by Holder off Alzarri Joseph, with David Warner following soon after for 22. That brought Maxwell to the Nicholas Pooran then 16), before Powell's 36-ball crease and he was looking for

the boundary with every delivery, finding it frequently with a range of magnificent shots to reach a half-century off 25 balls. He shared an 82run partnership with Stoinis (16) before being joined by fellow big-hitter Tim David (31 off 14) in a 95-run stand that saw him bring up his fifth T20 century. Brief scores: Australia: 241/4 in 20 overs (Maxwell 120 n.o, David 31n.o, Marsh 29; J Holder 2-42) bt West Indies: 207/9 off 20 overs (Powell 63, Holder 28 n.o; Stoinis 3-36, Hazlewood 2-31, Johnson 2-39). AGENCIES



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Indian batting legend GR Vishwanath, a player who was poetry in motion, a humble & grounded person despite his big achievements, turns 75 today, P 14

This is only an advertisement for information purposes and not for publication, distribution or release directly or indirectly outside India. This is not an announcement for the offer document. All capitalized terms used and not defined herein shall have the meaning assigned to them in the letter of offer dated January 28, 2024 (the "Letter of Offer" or "LOF") filed with the Stock Exchanges, namely BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE" and together with BSE, "Stock Exchanges") and the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI").





INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED

Our Company was incorporated as Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited under the Companies Act, 1956 on May 10, 2005, in New Delhi with the Registrar of Companies, Delhi and Haryana at New Delhi ("RoC") and received a certificate for commencement of business from the RoC on January 10, 2006. Our Company has obtained a certificate of registration dated December 28, 2005, bearing registration number 02.0063.05. from the National Housing Bank ("NHB") to carry on the business of a housing finance institution without accepting public deposits in accordance with Section 29A of National Housing Bank Act, 1987. For details of changes in our registered office, please see the section entitled "General Information – Changes in the registered office of our Company" on page 71 of the Letter of Offer.

> Registered Office: 5th Floor, Building No. 27, KG Marg Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110 001, India; Telephone No.: +91 11 4353 2950 Corporate Office: One International Center, Tower 1, 18th Floor, Senapati Bapat Marg, Elphinstone Road, Mumbai – 400 013, Maharashtra, India; and Plot No. 422B, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 016; Telephone No.: +91 22 6189 1400

Contact Person: Amit Kumar Jain, Company Secretary and Compliance Officer;; E-mail: helpdesk@indiabulls.com; Website: www.indiabullshomeloans.com

Corporate Identity Number: L65922DL2005PLC136029

OUR COMPANY IS A PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED COMPANY AND DOES NOT HAVE AN IDENTIFIABLE PROMOTER

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION TO THE ELIGIBLE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED (THE "COMPANY" OR THE "ISSUER") ONLY

ISSUE OF UP TO 246,226,515 PARTLY PAID-UP EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹2.00 EACH OF THE COMPANY (THE "RIGHTS EQUITY SHARES") FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹150.00 PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A PREMIUM OF ₹148.00 PER EQUITY SHARE) AGGREGATING TO ₹36,933.98* MILLION ON A RIGHTS BASIS TO THE ELIGIBLE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY IN THE RATIO OF 1 RIGHTS EQUITY SHARES FOR EVERY 2 FULLY PAID-UP EQUITY SHARES HELD BY THE ELIGIBLE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS ON THE RECORD DATE, THAT IS ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024 ("RECORD DATE") (THE "ISSUE"). FOR FURTHER DETAILS, PLEASE SEE THE SECTION ENTITLED "TERMS OF THE ISSUE" ON PAGE 674 OF THE LETTER OF OFFER.

* Assuming full subscription and receipt of all Call Monies with respect to Rights Equity Shares

RIGHTS ISSUE OPEN

LAST DATE FOR ON MARKET RENUNCIATION* FEBRUARY 8, 2024

ISSUE CLOSES ON FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

*Eligible Equity Shareholders are requested to ensure that renunciation through off-market transfer is completed in such a manner that the Rights Entitlements are credited to the demat accounts of the Renouncees on or prior to the Issue Closing Date.

**Our Board or the Securities Issuance and Investment Committee will have the right to extend the Issue Period as it may determine from time to time but not exceeding 30 days from the Issue Opening Date (inclusive of the Issue Opening Date). Further, no withdrawal of Application shall be permitted by any Applicant after the Issue Closing Date.

ASBA* | Simple, Safe, Smart way of making an application - Make use of it!!!

*Applications supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocked. *Applications supported by blocked amount (ASBA) is a better way of applying to issues by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA below.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR THE RIGHTS EQUITY SHARES									
Amount Payable per Rights Equity Share	Face Value (₹)	Premium (₹)	Total (₹)						
On Application	0.67	49.33	50.00						
Additional Call(s) as may be decided by the Board / Securities Issuance and Investment Committee from time to time	1.33	98.67	100.00						
Total	2.00	148.00	150.00						

*For further details on Payment Schedule, see "Terms of the Issue - Payment Schedule of Rights Equity Shares" on page 689 of the Letter of Offer.

Facilities for Application in this Issue

In accordance with Regulation 76 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, the ASBA Circulars, all Investors desiring to make an Application in this Issue are mandatorily required to use the ASBA process. Investors should carefully read the provisions applicable to such Applications before making their Application through ASBA. For details, see "Terms of the Issue - Making an Application through the ASBA process" on page 677 of the Letter of Offer.

ASBA facility: An Investor, wishing to participate in this Issue through the ASBA facility, is required to have an ASBA enabled bank account with SCSBs, prior to making the Application. Investors desiring to make an Application in this Issue through ASBA process, may submit the Application Form in physical mode to the Designated Branches of the SCSB or online/ electronic Application through the website of the SCSBs (if made available by such SCSB) for authorizing such SCSB to block Application Money payable on the Application in their respective ASBAAccounts.

Investors applying through the ASBA facility should carefully read the provisions applicable before making their Application through the ASBA process For details, see "Terms of the Issue - Making an Application through the ASBA process" on page 677 of the Letter of Offer.

Please note that subject to SCSBs complying with the requirements of SEBI Circular CIR/CFD/DIL/13/2012 dated September 25, 2012, within the periods stipulated therein, Applications may be submitted at the Designated Branches of the SCSBs.

Further, in terms of the SEBI Circular CIR/CFD/DIL/1/2013 dated January 2, 2013, it is clarified that for making Applications by SCSBs on their own account using ASBA facility, each such SCSB should have a separate account in its own name with any other SEBI registered SCSB(s). Such account shall be used solely for the purpose of making an Application in this Issue and clear demarcated funds should be available in such account for such an Application.

CREDIT OF RIGHTS ENTITLEMENTS IN DEMAT ACCOUNTS OF ELIGIBLE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS: Pursuant to provisions of the SEBI ICDR Regulations and the SEBI ICDR Master Circular and in terms of the Letter of Offer, the Rights Entitlements of the Eligible Equity Shareholders will be credited in their respective demat account and shall be admitted for trading on the Stock Exchanges under the ISIN: INE148I20012 subject to requisite approvals. For details of credit of the Rights Entitlements, see "Terms of the Issue - Credit of Rights Entitlements in demat accounts of Eligible Equity Shareholders" on page 687 of the Letter of Offer. In accordance with Regulation 77A of the SEBI ICDR Regulations read with the SEBI ICDR Master Circular, the credit of Rights Entitlements and Allotment of Rights Equity Shares shall be made in dematerialized form only.

Eligible Equity Shareholders are requested to provide relevant details (such as copies of self-attested PAN and client master sheet of demat account etc., details/records confirming the legal and beneficial ownership of their respective Equity Shares) to the Company or the Registrar not later than two clear Working Days prior to the Issue Closing Date, i.e., by February 9, 2024 to enable the credit of their Rights Entitlements by way of transfer from the demat suspense escrow account to their demat account at least one day before the Issue Closing Date, to enable such Eligible Equity Shareholders to make an application in this Issue, and this communication shall serve as an intimation to such Eligible Equity Shareholders in this regard. Such Eligible Equity Shareholders are also requested to ensure that their demat account is active, details of which have been provided to the Company or the Registrar, to facilitate the aforementioned transfer.

APPLICATIONS SUPPORTED BY BLOCKED AMOUNT (ASBA): An Investor, wishing to participate in this Issue through the ASBA facility, is required to have an ASBA enabled bank account with SCSBs, prior to making the Application. Investors desiring to make an Application in this Issue through ASBA process, may submit the Application Form in physical mode to the Designated Branch of the SCSB or online / electronic Application through the website of the SCSBs (if made available by such SCSB) for authorising such SCSB to block Application Money payable on the Application in their respective ASBA Accounts. For list of banks which have been notified by SEBI to act as SCSBs for the ASBA process, please refer to https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do? doRecognised Fpi=yes&intmld=34. Investors should ensure that they have correctly submitted the Application Form and have provided an authorisation to the SCSB, via the electronic mode, for blocking funds in the ASBA Account equivalent to the Application Money mentioned in the Application Form, as the case may be, at the time of submission of the Application. For details on Designated Branches of SCSBs collecting the Application Form, please refer the above-mentioned link.

ELIGIBLE EQUITY SHAREHOLDERS UNDER THE ASBA PROCESS MAY PLEASE NOTE THAT THE EQUITY SHARES UNDER THE ASBA PROCESS CAN BE ALLOTTED ONLY IN DEMATERIALIZED FORM AND TO THE SAME DEPOSITORY ACCOUNT IN WHICH THE EQUITY SHARES ARE HELD BY SUCH ASBA APPLICANT ON THE RECORD DATE.

INVESTORS MUST ENSURE THAT THEIR PAN IS LINKED WITH AADHAAR AND THAT THEY ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH CBDT NOTIFICATION DATED FEBRUARY 13, 2020, PRESS RELEASE DATED JUNE 25, 2021 AND SEPTEMBER 17, 2021, CBDT CIRCULAR NO. 7 OF 2022, DATED MARCH 30, 2022, READ WITH PRESS RELEASE DATED MARCH 28, 2023, READ WITH SUBSEQUENT CIRCULARS ISSUED IN RELATION THERETO.

APPLICATION ON PLAIN PAPER: An Eligible Equity Shareholder in India who is eligible to apply under the ASBA process may make an Application to subscribe to this Issue on plain paper in case of non-receipt of Application Form as detailed above and only such plain paper applications which provide all the details required in terms of Regulation 78 of SEBI ICDR Regulations shall be accepted by SCSBs. In such cases of non-receipt of the Application Form through physical delivery (where applicable) and the Eligible Equity Shareholder not being in a position to obtain it from any other source may make an Application to subscribe to this Issue on plain paper with the same details as per the Application Form that is available on the website of the Registrar, Stock Exchanges or the Lead Manager. An Eligible Equity Shareholder shall submit the plain paper Application to the Designated Branch of the SCSB for authorising such SCSB to block Application Money in the said bank account maintained with the same SCSB. Applications on plain paper will not be accepted from any Eligible Equity Shareholder who has not provided an Indian address.

Additionally, in terms of Regulation 78 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations, Investors may choose to accept the offer to participate in this Issue by making plain paper Applications. Please note that SCSBs shall accept such applications only if all details required for making the application as per the SEBI ICDR Regulations are specified in the plain paper application. In cases where Multiple Application Forms are submitted for Applications pertaining to Rights Entitlements credited to the same demat account including cases where an Investor submits Application Forms along with a plain paper Application, such Applications shall be liable to be rejected. Please note that in terms of Regulation 78 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations the Eligible Equity Shareholders who are making the Application on plain paper shall not be entitled to renounce their Rights Entitlements and should not utilize the Application Form for any purpose including renunciation even if it is received subsequently. Continued on next page...

The Application on plain paper, duly signed by the Eligible Equity Shareholder including joint holders, in the same order and as per specimen recorded with his/her bank, must reach the office of the Designated Branch of the SCSB before the Issue Closing Date and should contain the following particulars:

 Name of our Company, being Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited;
 Name and address of the Eligible Equity Shareholder including joint holders (in the same order and as per specimen recorded with our Company or the Depository); 3. Folio Number (in case of Eligible Equity Shareholders who hold Equity Shares in physical form as on Record Date)/DP and Client ID; 4.Except for Applications on behalf of the Central or State Government, the residents of Sikkim and the officials appointed by the courts, PAN of the Eligible Equity Shareholder and for each Eligible Equity Shareholder in case of joint names, irrespective of the total value of the Equity Shares applied for pursuant to this Issue; 5. Number of Equity Shares held as on Record Date; 6. Allotment option – only dematerialised form; 7. Number of Rights Equity Shares entitled to; 8. Number of Rights Equity Shares applied for within the Rights Entitlements; 9. Number of Additional Rights Equity Shares applied for, if any (applicable only if entire Rights Entitlements have been applied for); 10. Total number of Rights Equity Shares applied for; 11. Total amount paid at the rate of ₹50.00 per Rights Equity Share; 12. Details of the ASBA Account such as the SCSB account number, name, address and branch of the relevant SCSB; 13.In case of non-resident Eligible Equity Shareholders making an application with an Indian address, details of the NRE / FCNR/ NRO account such as the account number, name, address and branch of the SCSB with which the account is maintained; 14. Authorisation to the Designated Branch of the SCSB to block an amount equivalent to the Application Money in the ASBAAccount; 15. Signature of the Eligible Equity Shareholder (in case of joint holders, to appear in the same sequence and order as they appear in the records of the SCSB); 16.An approval obtained from any regulatory authority, if required, shall be obtained by the Eligible Equity Shareholders and a copy of such approval from any regulatory authority, as may be required shall be sent to the Registrar at: KFin Technologies Limited (formerly known as KFin Technologies Private Limited) Selenium Tower B PlotNo.31 and32 Financial District, Nanakramguda Serilingampally Hyderabad-500 032 Telangana, India Telephone No.: +91 40 6716 2222, E-mail: ihfl.rights@kfintech.com, Investor Grievance e-mail: einward.ris@kfintech.com, Contact person: M. Murali Krishna, Website: www.kfintech.com, SEBI Registration No.: INR000000221; and 17.AII such Eligible Equity Shareholders shall be deemed to have made the representations, warranties and agreements set forth in "Restrictions on Purchases and Resales" on page 704, and shall include the following:

"I/ We hereby make representations, warranties and agreements set forth in "Restrictions on Purchases and Resales - Representations, Warranties and Agreements by Purchasers" on page 704 of the Letter of Offer.

I/ We acknowledge that the Company, the Lead Manager, its affiliates and others will rely upon the truth and accuracy of the representations, warranties and agreements set forth therein."

In cases where Multiple Application Forms are submitted for Applications pertaining to Rights Entitlements credited to the same demat account or in demat suspense escrow account, as applicable, including cases where an Investor submits Application Forms along with a plain paper Application, such Applications shall be liable to be rejected.

Investors are requested to strictly adhere to these instructions. Failure to do so could result in an Application being rejected, with our Company, the Lead Manager and the Registrar not having any liability to the Investor. The plain paper Application format will be available on the website of the Registrar at https://rights.kfintech.com.

Our Company, the Lead Manager and the Registrar shall not be responsible if the Applications are not uploaded by the SCSB or funds are not blocked in the Investors' ASBAAccounts on or before the Issue Closing Date.

OVERSEAS SHAREHOLDERS: The distribution of the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Application Form, the Rights Entitlement Letter, any other Issue material and the issue of the Rights Entitlement and the Rights Equity Shares on a rights basis to persons in certain jurisdictions outside India is restricted by legal requirements prevailing in those jurisdictions. Persons into whose possession the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Application Form or the Rights Entitlements Letter may come, are required to inform themselves about and observe such restrictions. Our Company is making this Issue on a rights basis to the Eligible Equity Shareholders and has dispatched the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Application Form and other Issue material only to the e-mail addresses of Eligible Equity Shareholders who have provided an Indian address to our Company. Those overseas shareholders who have not updated our records with their Indian address or the address of their duly authorised representative in India, prior to the date on which we have sent an e-mail or sent a physical copy of the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Application Form and other applicable Issue materials, have not been sent any Issue materials.

NO OFFER IN THE UNITED STATES

The Rights Entitlements and the Rights Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933, as amended ("Securities Act"), or any U.S. state securities laws and may not be offered, sold, resold or otherwise transferred within the United States of America or the territories or possessions thereof (United States or U.S.), except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. The Rights Entitlements and Rights Equity shares referred to in the Letter of Offer are being offered and sold outside the United States in "offshore transactions", as defined in and in reliance on Regulation S under the Securities Act to the existing Shareholders located in jurisdictions where such offer and sale of the Rights Equity Shares and / or Rights Entitlements are permitted under laws of such jurisdictions. The offering to which the Letter of Offer relates is not, and under no circumstances is to be construed as, an offering of any of the Rights Equity Shares or the Rights Entitlement for sale in the United States or as a solicitation therein of an offer to buy any of the Rights Equity Shares or Rights Entitlement. There is no intention to register any portion of the Issue or any of the securities described herein in the United States or to conduct a public offering of securities in the United States. Accordingly, the Issue Documents and the Application Form should not be forwarded to or transmitted in or into the United States at any time.

Neither our Company, nor any person acting on behalf of our Company, will accept a subscription or renunciation or purchase of the Rights Equity Shares and/ or Rights Entitlements from any person, or the agent of any person, who appears to be, or who our Company, or any person acting on behalf of our Company, has reason to believe is, in the United States when the buy order is made. No Application Form should be postmarked in the United States, electronically transmitted from the United States or otherwise dispatched from the United States or from any other jurisdiction where it would be illegal to make an offer of securities under the Letter of Offer. Our Company is making this Issue on a rights basis to the Eligible Equity Shareholders and has dispatched the Letter of Offer or the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Application Form and other applicable Issue materials primarily to the e-mail addresses of the Eligible Equity Shareholders who have provided an Indian address to our Company. Any person who acquires Rights Entitlements or Rights Equity Shares will be deemed to have declared, warranted and agreed, by accepting the delivery of the Letter of Offer, that it is not and that at the time of subscribing for the Rights Equity Shares or the Rights Entitlements, it will not be, in the United States and is authorized to acquire the Rights Entitlements and the Rights Equity Shares in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Our Company is making the Issue on a rights basis to the Eligible Equity Shareholders and the Letter of Offer / the Abridged Letter of Offer and the Application Form have been dispatched only to the Eligible Equity Shareholders who have provided an Indian address to our Company. Any person who acquires the Rights Entitlements and the Rights Equity Shares will be deemed to have declared, represented, warranted and agreed, by accepting the delivery of the Letter of Offer, that, (i) it is not and that at the time of subscribing for such Rights Equity Shares or acquiring the Rights Entitlements, it will not be, in the United States; does not have a registered address (and is not otherwise located) in the United States when the buy order is made; and (iii) it is authorised to acquire the Rights Entitlements and the Rights Equity Shares in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Our Company reserves the right to treat any Application Form as invalid which: (i) does not include the certification set out in the Application Form to the effect that the subscriber does not have a registered address (and is not otherwise located) in the United States and is authorised to acquire the Rights Equity Shares or the Rights Entitlement in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations; (ii) appears to us or our agents to have been executed in, electronically transmitted or dispatched from a person located in the United States; (iii) where a registered Indian address is not provided; or (iv) where our Company believes that Application Form is incomplete or acceptance of such Application Form may infringe applicable legal or regulatory requirements; and our Company shall not be bound to allot or issue any Rights Equity Shares or Rights Entitlement in respect of any such Application Form. The Rights Entitlements may not be transferred or sold to any person in the United States.

LAST DATE FOR APPLICATION: The last date for submission of the duly filled in the Application Form or a plain paper Application is Tuesday, February 13, 2024., i.e., Issue Closing Date. Our Board or any committee thereof may extend the said date for such period as it may determine from time to time, subject to the Issue Period not exceeding 30 days from the Issue Opening Date (inclusive of the Issue Opening Date).

If the Application Form is not submitted with an SCSB, uploaded with the Stock Exchanges and the Application Money is not blocked with the SCSB, on or before the Issue Closing Date or such date as may be extended by our Board or any committee thereof, the invitation to offer contained in the Letter of Offer shall be deemed to have been declined and our Board or any committee thereof shall be at liberty to dispose of the Equity Shares hereby offered, as set out in the section entitled "Terms of the Issue - Basis of Allotment" on page 696.

Please note that on the Issue Closing Date, (i) Applications through ASBA process will be uploaded until 5.00 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) or such extended time as permitted by the Stock Exchanges.

Please ensure that the Application Form and necessary details are filled in. In place of Application number, Investors can mention the reference number of the e-mail received from Registrar informing about their Rights Entitlement or last eight digits of the demat account. Alternatively, SCSBs may mention their internal reference number in place of application number.

Master Circular, the credit of Rights Entitlements and Allotment of Rights Equity Shares shall be made in dematerialized form only. Prior to the Issue

ALLOTMENT ONLY IN DEMATERIALISED FORM: In accordance with Regulation 77A of the SEBI ICDR Regulations read with the SEBI ICDR

Opening Date, our Company shall credit the Rights Entitlements to (i) the demat accounts of the Eligible Equity Shareholders holding the Equity Shares in dematerialised form; and (ii) a demat suspense escrow account (namely, "Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited RE Suspense Demat Account") opened by our Company, for the Eligible Equity Shareholders which would comprise Rights Entitlements relating to (a) Equity Shares held in the account of the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) authority; or (b) the demat accounts of the Eligible Equity Shareholder which are frozen or the Equity Shares which are lying in the unclaimed suspense account (including those pursuant to Regulation 39 of the SEBI LODR Regulations) or details of which are unavailable with our Company or with the Registrar on the Record Date; or (c) Equity Shares held by Eligible Equity Shareholders holding Equity Shares in physical form as on Record Date where details of demat accounts are not provided by Eligible Equity Shareholders to our Company or Registrar; or (d) credit of the Rights Entitlements returned/reversed/failed; or (e) the ownership of the Equity Shares currently under dispute, including any court proceedings, if any. For further details, see "Terms of the Issue - Making of an Application by Eligible Equity Shareholders holding Equity Shares in physical form" on page 696 of the Letter of Offer.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE RIGHTS ENTITLEMENT WHICH ARE NEITHER RENOUNCED NOR SUBSCRIBED BY THE INVESTORS ON OR BEFORE THE ISSUE CLOSING DATE SHALL LAPSE AND SHALL BE EXTINGUISHED AFTER THE ISSUE CLOSING DATE. THE LEAD MANAGER AND OUR COMPANY ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY TO BEAR OR PAY ANY COST, APPLICABLE TAXES, CHARGES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING BROKERAGE), AND SUCH COSTS WILL BE INCURRED SOLELY BY THE INVESTORS.

INVESTORS MAY PLEASE NOTE THAT THE RIGHTS EQUITY SHARES CAN BE TRADED ON THE STOCK EXCHANGES ONLY IN DEMATERIALISED FORM.

LISTING: The existing Equity Shares of the Company are listed on BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE" and together with BSE, the "Stock Exchanges). The Company has received "in-principle" approvals from BSE and NSE for listing the Rights Equity Shares to be allotted pursuant to the Issue through their respective letters, each dated January 19, 2024. Our Company has received trading approval from BSE and NSE for the Rights Entitlements as required under the SEBI ICDR Master Circular. For the purposes of the Issue, the Designated Stock Exchange is NSE.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF SEBI: Submission of Letter of Offer to SEBI should not in any way be deemed or construed that SEBI has cleared or approved the Letter of Offer. The Investors are advised to refer to the full text of the Disclaimer clause of SEBI as provided in "Other Regulatory and Statutory Disclosures - Disclaimer Clause of SEBI" on pages 667-670 of the Letter of Offer.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE should not, in anyway, be deemed or construed that the Letter of Offer has been cleared or approved by BSE; nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Letter of Offer. The Investors are advised to refer to the full text of the Disclaimer clause of BSE as provided in "Other Regulatory and Statutory Disclosures -Disclaimer Clause of BSE" on pages 670 and 671 of the Letter of Offer.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE (Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Letter of Offer has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Letter of Offer. The Investors are advised to refer to the full text of the Disclaimer clause of NSE as provided in "Other Regulatory and Statutory Disclosures - Disclaimer Clause of NSE" on page 671 of the Letter of Offer.

BANKER TO THE ISSUE / REFUND BANK: HDFC Bank Limited

MONITORING AGENCY: CRISIL Ratings Limited

DISPATCH AND AVAILABILITY OF ISSUE MATERIALS: In accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations and SEBI ICDR Master Circular, the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Application Form, the Rights Entitlement Letter and other Issue material have been sent/dispatched only to the Eligible Equity Shareholders who have provided their Indian address to our Company and who are located in jurisdictions where the offer and sale of the Rights Entitlement or Rights Equity Shares is permitted under laws of such jurisdiction and does not result in and may not be construed as, a public offering in such jurisdictions. In case such Eligible Equity Shareholders have provided their valid e-mail address, the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Application Form, the Rights Entitlement Letter and other Issue material have been sent only to their valid e-mail address and in case such Eligible Equity Shareholders have not provided their e-mail address, then the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Application Form, the Rights Entitlement Letter and other Issue material have been physically dispatched, on a reasonable effort basis, to the Indian addresses provided by them.

Further, this Letter of Offer was sent/ dispatched to the Eligible Equity Shareholders who have provided Indian address and who have made a request in this regard. In accordance with the above, the dispatch of the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Rights Entitlement Letter alongwith the Application Form has been completed on February 02, 2024 by the Registrar.

Investors can access this Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer and the Application Form (provided that the Eligible Equity Shareholder is eligible to subscribe for the Rights Equity Shares under applicable laws) on the websites of:

(i) our Company at www.indiabullshomeloans.com; (ii) the Registrar at https://rights.kfintech.com; (iii) the Lead Manager, i.e., Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited) at https://www.nuvama.com/; and InCred Capital Wealth Portfolio Managers Private Limited at www.incredequities.com (iv) the Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com.

To update the respective Indian addresses/e-mail addresses/phone or mobile numbers in the records maintained by the Registrar or by our Company, Eligible Equity Shareholders should visit https://rights.kfintech.com. Eligible Equity Shareholders can also obtain the details of their respective Rights Entitlements from the website of the Registrar (i.e., https://rights.kfintech.com) by entering their DP ID and Client ID or Folio Number (for Eligible Equity Shareholders who hold Equity Shares in physical form as on Record Date) and PAN. The link for the same shall also be available on the website of our Company (i.e., www.indiabullshomeloans.com).

Further, our Company along with the Lead Manager will undertake all adequate steps to reach out the Eligible Equity Shareholders who have provided their Indian address through other means, as may be feasible.

Please note that neither our Company nor the Registrar nor the Lead Manager shall be responsible for not sending the physical copies of Issue Materials, including this Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Rights Entitlement Letter and the Application Form or delay in the receipt of this Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Rights Entitlement Letter, the Application Form or other Issue Materials attributable to non-availability of the e-mail addresses of Eligible Equity Shareholders or electronic transmission delays or failures, or if the Application Forms or the Rights Entitlement Letters are delayed or misplaced in the transit.

The distribution of the Letter of Offer, Abridged Letter of Offer, the Rights Entitlement Letter and the issue of Rights Equity Shares on a rights basis to persons in certain jurisdictions outside India is restricted by legal requirements prevailing in those jurisdictions. No action has been, or will be, taken to permit this Issue in any jurisdiction where action would be required for that purpose, except that this Letter of Offer is being filed with SEBI and the Stock Exchanges. Accordingly, the Rights Entitlements and Rights Equity Shares may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, and the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Rights Entitlement Letter, the Application Form or any Issue related materials or advertisements in connection with this Issue may not be distributed, in any jurisdiction, except in accordance with and as permitted under the legal requirements applicable in such jurisdiction. Receipt of this Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Rights Entitlement Letter or the Application Form (including by way of electronic means) will not constitute an offer, invitation to or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction or in any circumstances in which such an offer, invitation or solicitation is unlawful or not authorised or to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such an offer, invitation or solicitation. In those circumstances, this Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Rights Entitlement Letter or the Application Form must be treated as sent for information only and should not be acted upon for making an Application and should not be copied or re-distributed.

Accordingly, persons receiving a copy of the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Rights Entitlement Letter or the Application Form should not, in connection with the issue of the Rights Equity Shares or the Rights Entitlements, distribute or send the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Rights Entitlement Letter or the Application Form in or into any jurisdiction where to do so, would, or might, contravene local securities laws or regulations or would subject our Company or its affiliates or the Lead Manager or their respective affiliates to any filing or registration requirement (other than in India). If the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Rights Entitlement Letter or the Application Form is received by any person in any such jurisdiction, or by their agent or nominee, they must not seek to make an Application or acquire the Rights Entitlements referred to in the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Rights Entitlement Letter or the Application Form. Any person who makes an application to acquire Rights Entitlements and the Rights Equity Shares offered in the Issue will be deemed to have declared, represented and warranted that such person is authorized to acquire the Rights Entitlements and the Rights Equity Shares in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations prevailing in such person's jurisdiction and India, without requirement for our Company or our affiliates or the Lead Manager or their respective affiliates to make any filing or registration (other than in India).

Our Company is undertaking this Issue on a rights basis to the Eligible Equity Shareholders and has sent the Letter of Offer, the Abridged Letter of Offer, the Application Form and other applicable Issue Materials primarily to email addresses of Eligible Equity Shareholders who have provided a valid email addresses and an Indian address to our Company.

The Letter of Offer will be provided, primarily through e-mail, by the Registrar on behalf of our Company or the Lead Manager to the Eligible Equity Shareholders who have provided their Indian addresses to our Company and who make a request in this regard.

The Letter of Offer is also available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in.

REGISTRAR TO THE ISSUE

nuvama

NUVAMA WEALTH MANAGEMENT LIMITED

(formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited) 801-804, Wing A, Building No 3, Inspire BKC, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai – 400 051 Telephone No.: +91 22 4009 4400 E-mail: RI.IndiabullsHousing@nuvama.com

Investor Grievance e-mail: customerservice.mb@nuvama.com Contact person: Manish Tejwani

Website: www.nuvama.com; SEBI Registration No.: INM000013004



InCred Capital Wealth Portfolio Managers Private Limited

2nd Floor, B-Wing, Kaledonia Building, Sambhaji Nagar, Sahar Road, Andheri (East) Mumbai-400069 Maharashtra, India

Telephone No.: +91 022 41611596 E-mail: RI.IndiabullsHousing@incredcapital.com

Investor Grievance e-mail: customer.grievance@incredcapital.com Contact person: Rakesh Postandel

Website: www.incredequities.com SEBI Registration No.: INM000012865



KFin Technologies Limited

(formerly known as KFin Technologies Private Limited) Selenium Tower B PlotNo.31 and 32 Financial District, Nanakramguda Serilingampally, Hyderabad-500 032 Telangana, India Telephone No.: +91 40 6716 2222

E-mail: ihfl.rights@kfintech.com

Investor Grievance e-mail: einward.ris@kfintech.com Contact person: M. Murali Krishna; Website: www.kfintech.com SEBI Registration No.: INR000000221

COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Amit Kumar Jain Plot No. 422B, Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Gurugram - 122 016,

Haryana, India; Telephone No.: 0124 6681199

Email: ibsecretarial@indiabulls.com

Investors may contact the Registrar to the Issue and Share Transfer Agent or our Company Secretary and Compliance Officer for any pre-Issue or post-Issue related matters. All grievances relating to the ASBA process may be addressed to the Registrar, with a copy to the SCSB giving full details such as name, address of the Applicant, contact number(s), e-mail address of the sole/ first holder, folio number, serial number of the Application Form or demat account, number of Rights Equity Shares applied for, amount blocked, ASBA Account number and the Designated Branch of the SCSB where the Application Forms, or the plain paper application, as the case may be, was submitted by the Investors along with a photocopy of the acknowledgement slip. For details on the ASBA process, see "Terms of the Issue" on page 674 of the LOF.

For INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED On behalf of the Board of Directors

Amit Kumar Jain Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place : Mumbai Date: February 09, 2024

INDIABULLS HOUSING FINANCE LIMITED is proposing, subject to market conditions and other considerations, a rights issue of its Equity Shares and has in this regard filed a Letter of Offer dated January 28, 2024 with BSE, the designated stock exchange, NSE and SEBI. The Letter of Offer is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in, National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.nseindia.com, BSE Limited at www.nseindia.com, BSE Limited at www.nseindia.com, the website of the Lead Manager to the Issue, i.e., Nuvama Wealth Management Limited at www.nuvama.com and InCred Capital Wealth Portfolio Managers Private Limited at www.incredequities.com, website of the Company at www.indiabullshomeloans.com and website of the Registrar at www.kfintech.com. Investors should note that investment in equity shares involves a degree of risk and for details relating to the same, please see the section entitled "Risk Factors" on page 21 of the LOF.

The Rights Entitlements and the Rights Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under Securities Act and may not be offered, sold, resold or otherwise transferred within the United States, except pursuant to a an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to the registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws. Accordingly, the Rights Entitlements and the Rights Entitlements and the Applicable laws of the jurisdiction where those offers and sales occur. The Rights Entitlements and the Equity Shares may not be re-offered, re-sold, pledged or otherwise transferred except in "offshore transactions" as defined in and in reliance on Regulation S under the Securities Act. The offering to which the Letter of offer relates is not, and under no circumstances is to be construed as, an offering of any Rights Equity Shares or the Rights Entitlement for sale in the United States or as a solicitation therein of an offer to buy any of the Rights Equity Shares or Rights Entitlement. There is no intention to register any portion of the Issue or any of the securities described herein in the United States or to conduct a public offering of securities in the United States. Accordingly, the Issue Documents and the Application Form should not be forwarded to or transmitted in or into the United States at any time.

Sumit Nagal wins his 5th Challenger-level singles title, outplaying **Italian Luca Nardi** (6-1, 6-4) in final of Chennai Open, which will propel him into world top 100, P 14





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