



Kharge says, "14.98 crore MNREGA worker's bank accounts are not linked

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Afternoon

VOIC E

IEWS & VISION OF CITY

Volume: 15, Issue: 168

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2023 MUMBAI

08 PAGES, ₹ 2/-

RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332

www.afternoonvoice.com

600 Madrassas got shut in Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma



Himanta Biswa Sarma, Chief Minister of Assam claimed that he has closed 600 madrassas and intends to close all madrassas because he wants schools, colleges and universities instead. The Assam Police is working with Muslims in the state to "rationalise" madrasa education, he said. Assam is not the first state making headlines for its bid to enhance a regulatory oversight over madrasa education. Sarma said that a checklist has been prepared for the madrasas, though the state is yet to "enter into an agreement with stakeholders, but things are moving in the right direction".

"People from Bangladesh come to Assam & create a threat to our civilization &

culture. I have closed 600 madrassas & I intend to close all madrassas because we do not want madrassas. We want schools, colleges and universities," he said. The chief minister had introduced a controversial law in Assam in 2020, which planned to convert all state-run madrasas into "regular schools" that impart "general education". Earlier,

In the same vein, in August last year, Madhya Pradesh Culture Minister Usha Thakur had said illegally-run madrasas may be used for human trafficking and a probe must be carried out against such facilities. Meanwhile, at the rally, Sarma also lashed out at the Congress and said that the party represents the "new Mughals today". "Once upon

a time, the ruler of Delhi used to talk about demolishing temples but today under PM Modi's rule, I am talking about building temples. This is new India. Congress is working to weaken this new India. Congress is representing the new Mughals today," Sarma said.

The urge of having government and foreign jobs duped many youths of India

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

The government jobs in India are much sought after even today. Most of the young people opt for government jobs under parental pressure, who still hold the same opinion of Government jobs as it was a few generations ago. In rural India, most marriages are dependent on government jobs. The parents of the bride give first preference to the groom having a government job. The fact is that India has truly transformed in the last three decades. The private sectors and multinationals have come up in a big way in India while the prestige, perks and importance of government jobs have considerably declined.

Government is no longer in the driver seat for the development

of the nation. Its new slogan is 'minimum government, maximum governance'. You can expect the trend to continue and the role of government services to get reduced even more in future. Hence, you must think and plan well, if you are considering joining government services. Most of the people selected in the civil services (IAS, IPS, IRS, IFS etc.) and other government jobs are intelligent, hardworking and honest. Many of them become corrupt soon after they join the government jobs in India because they have to recover the bribe money that is already paid for the job.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 02

Editoritis

The urge of having government and foreign jobs duped many youths of India

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The lure of landing a government job has led many unsuspecting people into a web woven by fraudsters, who use the victim's desperation to dupe them of their money.

Amid a rise in these job scams, three persons, including a peon in the Mantralaya, have been arrested for allegedly impersonating a joint secretary and luring young people by promising them jobs in the state secretariat.

They allegedly took anywhere between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 9 lakh from each candidate, held fake interviews inside Mantralaya, issued fake appointment letters and duped more than a dozen people of Rs 74 lakh.

The lure of landing a government job has led many unsuspecting people into a web woven by fraudsters, who use the victim's desperation to dupe them of their money. Many of these groups or individuals provide fake government job offers to their victims for a huge amount, thereby cheating them. Amid a rise in these job scams, three persons, including a peon in the Mantralaya, have been arrested for allegedly impersonating a joint secretary and luring young people by promising them jobs in the state secretariat. They allegedly took anywhere between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 9 lakh from each candidate, held fake interviews inside Mantralaya, issued fake appointment letters and duped more than a dozen people of Rs 74 lakh. Mantralaya peon Sachin Dolas and two liasoning agents - Mahadev Shirwale and Nitin Sathe trapped young job seekers and looted lakhs of rupees.

Earlier a 26-year-old engineering graduate from Chennai who was cheated in such a scam said the person he trusted took Rs 5 lakh and absconded. He also stopped answering calls. He said the fraudster had made him believe he would get a well-paying, highly respectable government job in a matter of six months. The person was a friend of his father. When a person is cheated, the bitter experience takes a toll on their mental health also.

During Operation Job Scam, police had announced phone numbers for the public to contact in case they wanted to share information regarding any job scam they come across. The numbers are 044-28447701 and 28447703 (fax); mobile: 9498105411 (Whatsapp); State control room: 044-23452359; Chennai Police Public Grievance section: 044-23452380.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had earlier issued an advisory warning Indian youths against the fake job offered by an international racket that promises jobs in the information technology sector in Thailand only to illegally send unsuspecting candidates to Myanmar. Some fraudulent IT companies appear to be engaged in digital scamming and forged cryptocurrencies. The Indian workers were held

captive and forced to commit cyber fraud. The companies appear to be operating through agents in Dubai, Bangkok and some Indian cities and were recruiting Indian workers through social media advertisements for fake highly lucrative jobs in Thailand. Many of the workers were taken illegally across the border into an area of Myanmar that is difficult to access because of the local security situation, Bagchi said. He said nearly 50 workers have been brought back to India from Myanmar, while some others were still in Myanmar police custody for questioning because they illegally entered the country without visas. Several candidates protested in Bengaluru as the state government cancelled the Police Sub-Inspectors recruitment and announced re-exam to be conducted.

Many aspirants allegedly involved in the recent Police Sub-Inspectors (PSI) recruitment scam had staked their all—from land to valuables—to pay fat bribes for police jobs. In Kalaburagi, a 55-year-old father is accused of arranging Rs 50 lakh in two instalments to ensure that his son was recruited into the police department. In another case from Holenarsipur, Hassan district, a candidate's brother who cleared the exams, committed suicide days after learning that the results were annulled. The family eventually denied that the scam was the reason. These cases put into perspective the lengths to which candidates and parents can go to get government jobs. Such incidents, that bring disrepute to government recruitment agencies, are not alien. The present example of the Police Recruitment Board is just the tip of the iceberg.

Volume No. 15 | Issue No. 168

Afternoon VOICE
RNI No. MAHENG/2009/29332
VIEWS & VISION OF CITY

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Voices



Letters to the Editor

Good decision!

Mumbai Municipal Corporation has decided to increase the opening hours of parks and grounds, good decision. So children can enjoy playing. Senior citizens can exercise in the open air. But, after the evening, some of the gardens and grounds are visited by some people with bad intentions. Taking advantage of the darkness of the night, they sit in a corner. Indulging in immoral activities like drinking and gambling secretly. A full-time watchman should be there to check such bad tendencies. So, the extra time will be put to good use without being misused.

Sudhir Kangutkar

Do not want such employees

The ongoing strike of government employees regarding old pensions is illegal. Legal action should be taken against the employees who have participated in this strike. This can make government employees undisciplined. So the government should take concrete steps in this regard. It will not be right to trouble the common citizens in this way.

Uday Waghvankar

Good move by SEBI

As per reports, good initiatives are taken by SEBI recently for example, given the increasing complexity of market participants' conduct regulation, SEBI has tightened the responsibilities of intermediaries, particularly trading-related entities. It has proposed that brokers be held accountable for their client's actions in order to root out malpractices. Similarly, brokers and depository participants are asked to maintain websites that disclose a variety of standard information. Furthermore, in order to reduce money laundering avenues, it is planning to hold intermediaries accountable for enhanced KYC standards for their clients as per the recent reports. It intended to create a centralised database of Foreign portfolio investment beneficial owners. SEBI has instructed regulated entities to implement best practices and improve their risk management systems. All of these regulatory steps will improve the quality, integrity, and stability of our securities markets by increasing disclosure, holding clients accountable for their actions, improving risk management practices, and reducing system/cyber vulnerabilities. It will, however, come at a cost to the intermediaries and their clients, depending on how much cost transfer the intermediaries are able to do in an increasingly competitive environment.

Vijaykumar H K

Films that depict crime should not be passed by the sensor board!

A SOBO woman slicing her mother into several pieces & living with her rotten body for months before she is caught is depressing news for all. Such insane ideas are derived from films & the sensor board should not pass films that depict crimes of this nature as they influence weak minds. Family disputes and financial problems are part & parcel of life that needs to be addressed through proper forums than getting physical & taking the law into one's own hands.

Peace of mind is vital for healthy living & people should exercise regularly & do meditation to keep themselves stress-free. The help of a psychologist should be taken as sometimes one may need medication to deal with the problem. The law too should be stringent so that it acts as a deterrent for people wanting to commit such crimes in the future!

S.N.Kabra

Nattu Nattu Nail Biting



RRR song Naatu Naatu has won the award for Best Original Song at the 95th Academy Awards. The song is composed by M.M. Keeravani with lyrics by Chandrabose and features the voices of Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava. SS Rajamouli's RRR has made history as Naatu Naatu is the first Indian song to win the category. RRR's Naatu Naatu has landed a satisfying win at the Oscars 2023. The song was up against Applause from Tell It Like a Woman, Hold My Hand from Top Gun: Maverick, Lift Me Up from Black Panther: Wakanda Forever and This Is a Life from Everything Everywhere All at Once. RRR is one of three Indian films to be nominated at the Oscars 2023. While All That Breathes did not win in the Best Documentary Feature category, The Elephant

Whisperers won the Best Documentary Short category. At a time when Telugu Film Industry is flourishing well after Covid19, Bollywood is still struggling to get a firm footing in the film industry.

Continuing its winning streak after the Golden Globe award in January this year, Director SS Rajamouli's hit Telugu film 'RRR' made history yet again at the Oscars, with its energetic song 'Naatu Naatu' becoming the second song by an Indian to win the Best Original Song award. The award was first won by Indian musicians when composer AR Rahman and lyricist Gulzar received it for 'Jai Ho' from 2009's 'Slumdog Millionaire', a film by British director Danny Boyle. Composer MM Keeravani and lyricist Chandra bose received the award for the song sung by Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava. Keeravani

riffed on the song 'Top of the World' by The Carpenters, changing the lyrics in the most melodious way. There was only one wish on my mind that Rajamouli's and my family's, 'RRR' has to win, the pride of every Indian and must put me on top of the world. The Telugu film industry has come a long way to win this prestigious award. It all started with the Golden Globe award and now the ultimate Oscars. At a time when both Nattu Nattu and Jai Ho have won lares in the world stage, the leader from the age-old party is trying to tarnish the image in the most immature ways.

Jayanthi Subramaniam

Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at

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No postal letters will be entertained
(The views expressed are authors' own.)

City

“Question that arises now is: will this state remain the kingdom of saints in future?” Sena mouthpiece Saamna



Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' wife, Amruta, appeared in the latest editorial of Shiv Sena's [UBT] mouthpiece, 'Saamna'. Uddhav Thackeray claimed that money and bribery have become the buzzword in the state. The editorial refers to the case that came to fore on Thursday of a 'designer' named Aniksha allegedly offering Amruta Fadnavis a bribe of Rs 1 crore to get her father, a notorious cricket bookie, Anil Jais-

inghani, off the hook in a criminal case. Amruta claimed that she [Aniksha] had also threatened and conspired against her. Taking a dig at the same, Sena in their editorial wrote that the image of Maharashtra has become that of giving and accepting bribe. "The question that arises now is: will this state remain the kingdom of saints in future," Sena questions in Saamna and that present Maharashtra government is silent on Adani row.

Claiming that anything could

happen in Maharashtra, the editorial stated that the rule of law has "clearly collapsed". They said that if the situation persists any longer, the image of the state will be "shattered".

The editorial raised questions on how a person who tried to bribe Amruta with Rs 1 crore could access their home. They also said the matter is serious and that the matter should be thoroughly investigated.

Apart from the bribery case, the editorial also speaks about the farmers' protest. Uddhav faction of Sena in the editorial said that the farmers have been protesting against incumbent government by throwing onions on roads and like the root vegetable, the government is also making farmers cry. The editorial stated that corruption charges have been coming to fore every day for last six months and Deputy CM has been questioning what work the previous government did.

Devendra Fadnavis' wife Amruta and Shiv Sena leader Priyanka Chaturvedi in Twitter spat



Designer Anishka Anil Jaisinghani was arrested by police on March 16 on complaint filed by Maharash-

tra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis's wife Amruta. Amruta accused the designer of offering a bribe for intervening in

a criminal case and also threatening her. The matter transformed into a political fight between the BJP and Shiv Sena (Uddhav) after the matter was raised in the Assembly and Devendra Fadnavis gave a statement in the Assembly. Thereafter, a very public twitter spat broke out between Shiv Sena Uddhav faction MP Priyanka Chaturvedi and Deputy CM's wife Amruta Fadnavis.

NCP objects to Karnataka CM's 'anti-Maharashtra' stand

Nationalist Congress Party legislator Jayant Patil on Friday raised the "anti-Maharashtra" comments of Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and asked the state government to take a note of it. The NCP leader told the Maharashtra Assembly that after the government announced its plan to extend health insur-



ance scheme Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana to the 865 Marathi-speaking villages in poll-bound Karnataka, Bommai has been targeting the neighbouring state.

CM holds review meet as cases of H3N2, H1N1 spiral

Chief minister Eknath Shinde chaired a review meeting on Thursday to discuss the spread of the H3N2 influenza virus in the state and highlighted that hospitals could appoint contract staffers if they are impacted by the ongoing strike of government employees. The state health department said that the number of lab confirmed cases of H3N2 has increased to 119 while that of H1N1 (swine flu) is 324.

Mumbai has reported 118 lab tested flu cases, of which 105 are H1N1 and 15 H3N2



BMC said they will conduct door-to-door survey of fever cases. The health department also released some guidelines for contacts of infected patients. On Wednesday, the BMC had also advised private physicians to start treating all suspected cases with oseltamivir if the fever doesn't decrease within 24 hours. "Private practitioners should start oseltamivir if fever doesn't subside within 24 hours without waiting for diagnostic test reports," said the circular. Dr Mangala Gomare, BMC's executive health officer, said swab testing is not mandatory in all cases. For mild patients, testing is not necessary and oseltamivir can be started after reviewing condition over 24 hours. For moderately ill, testing is to be done in selected

patients with high risk. Shinde emphasised that patients affected by the viral infection should be treated immediately, and therefore hospitals should have adequate stock of the antiviral drugs. The CM has said private hospitals should be roped in to ensure there is no problem in treatment due to the ongoing strike of the employees over the pension scheme. Batting for masking, the CM said that if an individual has cough, they should wear a mask or a three-layer handkerchief, and the sick person should avoid going to public places. The meeting was attended by deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, public health minister Dr Tanaji Sawant, medical education minister Girish Mahajan, and BMC Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal, among others.

Is Maha govt sensitive to hardships faced by farmers, asks Opposition; CM says yes



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Friday said panchnamas are being prepared to assess crop losses caused due to unseasonal rains and his government is committed to the welfare of farmers. Speaking in the Assembly,

Shinde said he has spoken to the collectors of Nanded and Nashik districts to take stock of the extent of losses caused due to unseasonal rains on Thursday. He said the panchnamas pertaining to crops destroyed by untimely showers last week are almost complete.

Nation

Will take up issue of land allotment for lawyers' chambers with govt: SC



The Supreme Court on Friday said it would take up the issue of allotment of land for lawyers' chambers with the government. The top court was hearing a plea moved by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) to convert a land measuring 1.33 acres allotted to the top court for the construction of lawyers' chambers. A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud asked SCBA president Vikas Singh as to how can a judicial order be passed to

take over the land for allotment of chambers.

"Lawyers are part of us But can we use our own judicial powers to safeguard our own people? It seems like the Supreme Court is exercising its own judicial powers to meet its own needs. "We must trust the court to take it up on the administrative side with the government. A signal must not go to the government that we can bulldoze their authority by passing judicial orders," the bench, also

comprising justices SK Kaul and PS Narasimha said.

The CJJ said the government engages with the top court on the administrative side and the issue can be put to it. "For example, for the e-courts project, the government allotted us Rs 7,000 crore because they said that we need it," the bench said. Singh thanked the bench on behalf of the entire bar. "We are extremely grateful. The entire bar is with the institution and we will not do anything to undermine the majesty of the institution irrespective of whatever happens in this case," he said.

The SCBA president, however, said his reservation is that the bar and other stakeholders will not be a part of such administrative consultation. Referring to the Delhi High Court, Singh said it had taken over some land for its expansion and urged the top court to adopt a similar approach. PTI

"Rahul Gandhi never demanded foreign forces to save our democracy", Shashi Tharoor

With the continuous demand of the Bhartiya Janta Party (BJP) for an apology from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his remarks in London on democracy in India, party MP Shashi Tharoor has said that the Wayanad MP never demanded foreign forces to save our democracy. "Rahul Gandhi never demanded foreign forces come to our country to save our democracy. He hasn't said anything he should apologise for. It's

nonsense," Tharoor told Agency on Friday.

"Democracy, in our country, is in danger and everyone should know about it. I didn't hear anything wrong in it", added Congress MP Tharoor.

Further talking about the Parliamentary Budget session, Tharoor said, "It is the Government's responsibility to run the Parliament. The budget session is ongoing, there's a need to pass Finance Bill." "When there are

such important matters, you are not allowing Parliament to function over a non-issue," added Tharoor.

Earlier on Friday, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge responding to BJP national president J P Nadda's attack on Rahul Gandhi terming him as a "permanent part" of the "anti-nationalist toolkit" stated that the BJP, which had never taken part in the country's freedom movement were anti-nationals. ANI

Kharge says, "14.98 crore MNREGA worker's bank accounts are not linked with Aadhaar"

Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday attacked the BJP-led centre over the bank accounts of crores of workers under the MNREGA scheme not being linked with Aadhaar. Kharge stated that since Aadhaar based payment system has been made mandatory, the workers stand the risk of not getting their wages after the deadline of



the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme expires.

Taking to Twitter, Kharge said, "Bank accounts of 14.98 crores MNREGA workers are still not linked with Aadhaar. Modi government has made the Aadhaar-based payment system mandatory. These labourers have been given time till March 31, 2023, only. Will they not get their wages after this? Don't consider labourers as helpless, Modi". ANI

HC irked with Maha govt's persistent stand over no quota benefits for abandoned children

The Bombay High Court on Thursday was irked with the Maharashtra government's persistent stand that the reservation benefits given to orphans cannot be extended to abandoned children. The state should instead be working as a "protective umbrella" for such kids, it said. The state government offers a one percent reservation in education to orphaned children. However, it refused to extend such a benefit to children who have been abandoned by their parents as they are not "orphaned" as per the definition of the term.

A division bench of Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale had taken up the issue after a petition was filed by a city-based NGO seeking reservation for two girls, abandoned by their parents. After being slammed by the court, the government had agreed to provide "orphan" certificates to the two girls so that they could seek reservation but had clarified

that its stand was that there was a difference between orphaned and abandoned children.

Irked with this stand, the court said in every single matter the government operates with contradiction. "Why this attitude of we have to combat...we have to oppose? When will this government wake up to the realization that it is not the only one right and is most often wrong," the court said. The bench also expressed its anguish at the affidavit filed by Sharad Ahire, joint secretary of the Women and Child Development Department, justifying the government's stand.

The bench said the affidavit was scurrilous and reprehensible. The affidavit had said that parents/guardians abandon or surrender their child intentionally or deliberately to a childcare institute and misuse the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, so that schooling, boarding, lodging, and all other facilities are provided. PTI

Excise Policy case: Delhi Court extends Manish Sisodia's ED remand till March 22

The Rouse Avenue Court on Friday extended former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia's Enforcement Directorate (ED) remand by five more days in a money laundering case pertaining to alleged irregularities in the framing and implementation of the excise policy of GNCTD. While seeking further remand of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader in connection with the excise policy case, ED told the court that various crucial information is revealed during the custody of Manish Sisodia.

The agency further said, in view of the findings, it has summons to the then Excise Commissioner Rahul Singh for March 20 (who was first issued summons for March 15) but had taken adjournment of at least four days as he is suffering from viral infection and fever).

Further summons to C Aravind, the then Secretary of Deputy



CM for March 21, Dinesh Arora for March 17; and Amit Arora for March 20 have already been issued, said ED. The above findings and persons need to be confronted with Manish Sisodia, said ED.

Special Judge MK Nagpal on Friday extended the ED remand period of Sisodia till March 22, 2023. Appearing for Sisodia, Senior Advocate Mohit Mathur had opposed the remand application of ED and submitted that personal liberty is paramount.

"The court is the custodian of our liberty. My liberty is at your hand. During seven days custody, they had only four people to be confronted. Confrontation need not custody," the lawyer added. ANI

World

IHC suspends Imran's arrest warrants, gives him chance to go to trial court on March 18

The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday suspended non-bailable arrest warrants issued for PTI Chairman Imran Khan till March 18, providing him with a chance to appear before the trial court hearing the Toshakhana reference against the former premier, Dawn reported.

IHC Chief Justice Aamer Farooq also instructed the Islamabad district and sessions court and capital police to provide adequate security to Imran.

Embroiled in legal complexities, Imran has been resisting arrest in the Toshakhana case and is holed up inside his Zaman Park residence surrounded by hundreds of supporters, who have



fought "pitched battles" with the police and Rangers over the past few days, Dawn reported.

The Islamabad police, backed up by their Punjab Police compatriots and the Rangers, arrived at the ex-premier's house on Tuesday to execute non-bailable arrest warrants issued by an Islamabad

sessions court for him in the Toshakhana reference, in which he has skipped several hearings.

However, the law enforcement agencies retreated on Wednesday evening, saying that the operation had been paused during the ongoing Pakistan Super League (PSL).

On Thursday, the Islamabad sessions court, where PTI had gone for the suspension of Imran's arrest warrants, upheld the warrants that it issued, observing that the PTI chief had "challenged the dignity and writ of the state".

It also maintained its order to arrest the ex-premier and present him in court by March 18.

Earlier on Friday, the former prime minister filed yet another petition in the IHC challenging the verdict of the trial court. In the plea, Imran prayed that the trial court's order be set aside and his arrest warrants be suspended "till the final disposal of the petition" so that the PTI chief could appear in court on March 18, Dawn reported.

During the hearing, Imran's lawyer Khawaja Haris submitted an undertaking by his client, assuring that the PTI chief would appear in court on March 18.

At the outset of the hearing, the court inquired about the basis on which the trial court rejected the undertaking provided by Imran to which Haris said the trial court stated that non-bailable warrants could not be cancelled. The lawyer also stated that Imran had security concerns.

"I have been informed by the administration that security arrangements were being made. The trial court judge has also issued orders in this regard and I will ensure this as well," Justice Farooq said.

Poland becomes first NATO member to pledge fighter jets to Ukraine



Poland, the first NATO member to do so - on Thursday pledged that it would send four MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine. This was a significant development in Kyiv's struggle to fend off Russian aggression, CNN reported.

President Andrzej Duda said that almost a dozen aircraft that Poland had inherited from the former German Democratic Republic would be handed over in the upcoming days after being serviced.

Duda added, "When it comes to the MiG-29 aircraft, which are still operating in defence of Polish airspace, a decision has been taken at the highest levels, we can say confidently that we are sending MiGs to Ukraine."

In providing Kyiv with heavy weaponry, Warsaw has assumed a leading position among NATO allies.

A step beyond the rest of the alliance's commitments, Poland's statement that it will send the Soviet-designed aircraft may put pressure on other members to follow suit.

The US said on Thursday that Poland's proposal would not require Washington to act, given that other NATO countries have been unwilling to go much beyond their earlier this year decision to send tanks to Kyiv.

The Polish president voiced the support of his nation and the Czech Republic for Kyiv while speaking at a news conference in Warsaw alongside his new counterpart, Petr Pavel, reported the CNN.

President Duda also said, "The Czech Republic and Poland are countries that are in the absolute vanguard when it comes to supporting Ukraine, both at humanitarian and military levels."

Ram Sahay Prasad Yadav elected as the Vice President of Nepal

Ram Sahay Prasad Yadav on Friday was elected as the Vice President of Nepal, according to the Election Commission of Nepal.

Ram Sahay of the Janata Samajbadi Party defeated Ashta Laxmi Shakya of CPN-UML and Mamata Jha of the Janamat Party to become the country's third Vice President, reported Kathmandu Post.

Out of 52,628 weightage-based votes, Ram Sahay secured



30,328 votes while Ashta Laxmi Shakya of the CPN-UML received 16,328 and Mamata Jha of the Janamat Party got 2,537 votes in an election held on Friday.

Likewise, Pramila Yadav of the Janata Samajbadi Party, who

had announced withdrawing her candidacy, got 48 votes, reported Kathmandu Post.

There are 333 federal parliamentarians and 550 provincial assembly members in the vice-presidential election.

China pledges to leave no room for Taiwan independence separatist activities

Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) will leave no room of any sort for Taiwan independence separatist activities and will resolutely protect the country's national sovereignty and territorial integrity, Xinhua News Agency reported citing a Chinese defence spokesperson.

A report published by Xinhua News Agency on Thursday quoted Tan Kefei, a spokesperson for China's defence ministry while addressing the media regarding

recent aggressive actions by the United States that have increased tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

Tan said that the Democratic Progressive Party authorities' provocative actions to collaborate with outside forces in pursuit of "Taiwan independence" and their obstinate determination to stand in opposition to the Chinese nation's fundamental interests are the leading causes of rising tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

According to Xinhua News Agency, Tan also said that it

was OK for the PLA to conduct military operations in reaction to outside meddling and secessionist actions calling for "Taiwan independence." Tan emphasised that the Taiwan question is the first line that cannot be crossed in relations between China and the United States, adding that Taiwan is China's Taiwan and the Taiwan question is solely an internal Chinese affair and at the core of China's core interests, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Column

Civil Service Exam (UPSC) is about staying consistent



Vijay Garg

Retired Principal Educational Columnist Malout Punjab

Cracking UPSC is about staying consistent

The mantra for cracking the UPSC Civil Services Exam (CSE), one of India's most competitive and prestigious examinations, is synonymous with consistent efforts, dedication and utmost focus.

Many UPSC toppers have reiterated that the success behind cracking the exam is not just intelligence and hard work. It is essential for the candidates to also maintain focus and consistency for long periods, often years.

It may be easy for candidates to stay consistent for a week, a month, or even three months. If your target is the UPSC 2024 examination, you need to maintain that level of consistency for one and a half years. And to help you with tips, we have compiled 7 points to keep in mind while charting your preparation strategy.

1. Setting goals with timelines

The first step in this process is to set your goal and establish the timelines. For example, a 6-month-period is probably too short for a beginner to successfully crack the UPSC. Instead, the candidate should focus on pushing his or her timeline to the next year. Juggling additional tasks together can be overburdening and act counterproductive to staying consistent. Instead, candidates should prioritize tasks and focus on finishing one before moving to another.

2. Benefits of a broad strategy

Note that making a timetable and strategy is something that requires expertise and skill. Know that your specific strategy or timetable will work for you as some past ranker's strategies worked for them. Your strategy must incorporate all the factors and variables that have an impact on your preparation. This includes the time needed on a daily/weekly basis for preparation, learning style, and financial factors like coaching fees, rent, etc. One also must break down the more than year-long study preparation into small, measurable, and manageable chunks. Do not feel shy to ask for help when it is needed. In case, if you don't have anyone to help you with it, get a UPSC mentor's guidance and expertise.

3. Evaluate your learning

Preparing for the UPSC CSE exams needs long dedicated hours of studying and reading. UPSC preparation is not just about reading alone. You must analyse, retain, and learn how to utilize whatever you are reading, something which is similar to answer writing. Remember that you can improve only what you can measure. So, monitoring your progress and evaluating whatever you have covered through tests becomes essential. Prelims mock, Mains answer writing and discussion with mentors and peers must be incorporated from the first week of your preparation.

4. Create a feedback-improvement loop

You need to be accountable not only to yourself but to that person or system for the completion of a specific task. UPSC mentors, in

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many institutes, establish such a system through which your planning, target setting, monitoring, evaluation, and feedback-improvement loop is systematized into one. They will use their priceless experience to help you not divert from your goals. Thus, you should outsource accountability to other people and ace your preparation.

5. Focus on daily improvement

UPSC success is all about small measurable gains over a period of time. Remember, consistency always beats intensity. Setting new goals is easy. However, displaying consistent improvement is a daily grind. So, plan and select your suitable life-saving hacks to stay consistent with your daily routines and targets.

6. Avoid prolonged Isolation

You will get exhausted, and feel burnt out in just a matter of a few weeks. Do not wait to recharge your battery when you are fully drained out. Incorporate breaks in your UPSC timetable with

exercise, extra-curricular activities, or any physical activity. Preparing with a group of highly motivated individuals while having a common goal will only take you forward and make you more focused on your goal. At the same time, you won't even feel exhausted.

7. Maintaining emotional stability

Another perspective towards UPSC success is staying emotionally fit during this 1.5 year long journey. The biggest hurdle in achieving your highest level of consistency is the emotional bit of it. Every now and then, there is a tendency to surround yourself with negative thoughts like fear or depression. Instead of resolving negative thoughts and emotional issues like fear or depression, many avoid these. However, you have to understand that ignoring emotional troubles will only worsen the problems. It is time to rely on your UPSC mentors, teachers, friends, and family. Talk to them and spend some quality time with them.

Entertainment

Got a huge shock when my speech got cut off: Guneet Monga on Oscar moment



The Elephant Whisperers producer Guneet Monga on Friday said she got a "huge shock" when her acceptance speech at the Oscars was cut off by music. Monga, whose film, directed by Kartiki Gonsalves, won the Academy Award for Best Documentary Short Film, returned home with the golden statuette in the early hours of Friday. "I am grateful. I feel like this is a blessing. I think 1.4 billion people manifested this together. So it's surreal," Monga said. Celebrations broke out when the Tamil documentary short became the first Indian production to win an Oscar in the category.

The award was given to both the women and Gonsalves spoke first, dedicated her win to "motherland India". When Monga walked up to the mic, the music came on, indicating the end of their speech, and the team was escorted off stage. "I got a huge shock when my speech was cut off by the music. I was on the stage but I loudly said to the people who were on the ground that this is India's first Oscar for an Indian production and then everybody started clapping," Monga said, holding up the Oscar.

At the post ceremony party, she said, several members of the international film community expressed their regret over what had happened. "Literally everybody came to me in the Governors Ball and told me 'We are so sorry, how did you get cut off?' because I did not know how after my speech, the animation short got full time. That was a bit unfair," Monga added.

She said she wanted to thank her husband Sunny Kapoor as well as the team behind the documentary short, including streaming platform Netflix. "I can't believe that I was so zoned out and shocked. My heart started beating so fast. I thought I can't come this far and not be heard. At that moment I felt that I would go back and give my speech again on the main stage. But backstage, I was able to give my speech. They cut us off, which was not nice," the producer said.

The Elephant Whisperers, which is set in Tamil Nadu's Mudumulai National Park, explores the relationship between elephants Raghu and Amu and their tribal caretakers Bomman and Bellie. Before The Elephant Whisperers, Monga served as executive producer for Period. End of Sentence, an India-set US production that also won an Oscar for Best Documentary Short in 2019. PTI

Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway: Sagarika Chakraborty speaks up, says "Norwegian Govt continues to spread lies"

'Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway' hit the theatres today and while many are loving the brilliant storytelling in the film (which as per the makers is based on true events), some haven't taken the narrative of the film too well. Earlier this morning, the Norwegian Ambassador to India, Hans Jacob Frydenlund said that the film incorrectly depicts the country's (Norway's) belief in family life. The Norwegian envoy said that the film has "factual inaccuracies" and the story is a "fictional representation of the case."

In a video, Sagarika said, "Hi. I condemn the false statement by the Norwegian ambassador in the papers today. He spoke about my case without having any decency to ask me. He should take this as an opportunity to sensitize Norwegian caseworkers about cultural prejudice. Even 10 years after I have single-handedly brought up my children so well in full view of the world. When the whole world can see the beautiful bond between my children and me."

She added, "The Norwegian Government continues to spread lies against me. Till today, they have not apologised for the racism of their caseworkers. They destroyed my life, and my reputation and traumatized my children. They supported my husband when he was cruel to me and they call themselves a 'feminist country'. In Oslo and other parts of Norway, and (even) other parts of the world, people are very eager to watch the film and all the tickets are sold out. People coming from Norway and other countries want to meet me. And, last not least, the Indian Government helped me a lot and will continue to support such families in the future. Jai Hind." ANI



Fans go crazy spotting Rajinikanth at India vs Australia ODI match in Mumbai



Superstar Rajinikanth, on Friday, was spotted attending India and Australia's first ODI at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Rajinikanth was invited by Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) to attend the match.

A few pictures were posted on MCA's Twitter handle. In the image, Rajinikanth is seen enjoying the game in the company of MCA president Amol Kale. "Thalaiva in the house...The President of Mumbai Cricket Association, Mr.Amolkk1976 in conversation with the Superstar @rajinikanth during the #INDvAUS game at the Wankhede," MCA captioned the post.

Fans became excited to see Rajinikanth at the match. "Woah...Thalaiva in the house," a social media user commented.

The India-Australia ODI series started on 17 March in Mumbai. The hosts will also be without their regular captain Rohit Sharma for the first game but he is set to return for the last two games. In his absence, Hardik Pandya is leading the side in the first ODI at the Wankhede Stadium. India won the toss and decided to field first.(ANI)