



Karnataka U-turn

Day after, governor says govt in majority **P 13**

Dharamshala calling

Leading 3-1, India look to crush Eng **P 17**

'Death penalty for 21'

27 die in Egypt riots after soccer verdict **P 16**



NEW DELHI

PRICE ₹5.00 OR ₹9.00 WITH SUNDAY NAVBHARAT TIMES

NEWS DIGEST

Eight Kumbh pilgrims flown to city hospital

Eight of the 18 pilgrims injured in Friday's Mahakumbh mela blaze were airlifted to Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi on Saturday. The burns department in the hospital is considered one of the best in the country. Police investigations revealed that a leaking LPG cylinder had sparked the fire. **P 12**

High court lents on posh school: The elite Sanskriti School is under the Delhi high court's scanner over allegations that it hasn't admitted economically poor children under the EWS quota. **P 7**

LG's call to gun owners shot down: Lieutenant Governor Tejendra Khanna's suggestion to make citizens with gun licences serve as vigilantes and fight crime against women has not found favour with women's rights groups. **P 3**

HC rejects PIL on 2-child norm: The Allahabad high court has refused to entertain a PIL seeking a direction to the Centre to enforce the two-child norm, saying the issue fell within the domain of the legislature and executive. **P 13**

Docs told to push generic drugs: In its latest bid to end the pharma-doctor nexus, the Medical Council of India has directed doctors and hospitals to prescribe generic medicines. **P 11**

KING OF HAPPINESS SPREADS WARMTH IN DELHI



Bhutan's king Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck exchanges notes with President Pranab Mukherjee while queen Ashi Jetsun Pema Wangchuck shares a light moment with PM Manmohan Singh at the at-home ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan on Saturday. The 32-year-old king, who was crowned in 2008, was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations. However, it was his 22-year-old queen who stole the show. She was heard telling guests at the at-home that she particularly enjoyed the fly-past and the motorcycle stunts. The Oxford-educated king and his queen will stay in Delhi for a few more days to meet friends | **P 13**

Soon, outer Delhi may grow vertically

Dipak Kumar Dash | TNN

New Delhi: The skyline in outer Delhi may change in the years ahead if the government approves a plan to let private developers build highrise condominiums and spacious 15-17 storey housing complexes with modern facilities. To ensure that development is uniform and planned, the government is set to finalise rules for "land pooling" which will ensure that there is no indiscriminate building spree.

The government has sought views from private developers to suggest what the minimum project size brackets should be — 50 and 100 acres or less than that — to enable a builder to get approval. The developers say that they have been

► Developers buying large plots, P 7

sitting on nearly 20,000 acres bought from farmers more than a decade ago in Dhichao Kalan, Chhawla, Baprola and Kangan Hedi among other areas.

The Union urban development ministry recently held a meeting of real estate bodies and Delhi Development Authority (DDA) officials to fast-track the process. "We will soon send our replies on what the land parcels should be. There are two

HIGH PROFILE

► Condominiums/residential highrises of 15-17 floors likely to come up in outer Delhi in a decade. Complexes to have community facilities, schools, shopping complexes

► Potential areas for development: outer Delhi villages Dhichao Kalan, Chhawla, Baprola,

Kangan Hedi, Jhatikra, Tajpur; parts of south Delhi close to Gurgaon

► Developers claim to have around 20,000 acres with them. Policy nod expected by April

► Ministry of urban development has sounded out private developers and sought feedback on the land parcel size for issuing licences

views — while the big players are in favour of 50- and 100-acre norms, small players are pushing to reduce the size. We are consulting everyone so that there is a unanimous view," said a senior official of a body representing private builders.

Ministry officials said they expected the "land pooling" policy to be approved by April, around the same time the DDA finalises the development plan for 2021.

US rules out Headley's extradition

Washington: Despite India's earnest efforts to extradite David Coleman Headley over the 26/11 attacks, the US has virtually ruled out the possibility, saying the Pakistani-American Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative "will serve (his prison term) in the United States". State department spokesperson Victoria Nuland said on Friday, "He's been tried, convicted, and will serve in the US".

India expressed disappointment at the 35-year sentence handed by a Chicago court to Headley, but Nuland called it "a very positive example of US-Indian collaboration in counterterrorism. From our perspective, justice was served".

Nuland added, "This investigation and the prosecution stems from the unprecedented and intense collaboration between the US and Indian authorities... to bring people responsible (for 26/11) to justice." **IANS**

Academic brands SC/STs corrupt, sparks furore

Clarifies, Says Sorry Later As Cops File FIR

TNN & AGENCIES

Jaipur: A huge row broke out at the Jaipur Literature Festival on Saturday with academic-writer Ashis Nandy finding himself bang at the centre of it.

The controversy, which overshadowed much of the action at JLF, started with Nandy's remarks on corrup-

► FIR against Nandy, P 14

tion. "It will be an undignified and vulgar statement but the fact is that most of the corrupt come from the OBCs, the scheduled castes and now increasingly the scheduled tribes," Nandy said.

The news spread like wildfire, and by the evening, there was an FIR against him and angry protests everywhere. BSP chief Mayawati, in fact, called for his immediate arrest.

Nandy later issued a strongly-worded clarification that came with an apology. Addressing the media with

“It will be an undignified and vulgar statement but the fact is that most of the corrupt come from the OBC, the scheduled castes and now increasingly the scheduled tribes

(Later) There was neither any intention nor any attempt to hurt any community

ASHIS NANDY



his co-panelists — authors Tarun Tejpal and Urvashi Butalia — he clarified that he had only endorsed Tejpal's view of corruption becoming an 'equalizing force' in a society where other avenues of mobility were closed.

"I believe a zero-corruption society in India would actually mean a despotic society," Nandy said, elaborating that privileged people could be corrupt in underhanded ways — such as using connections to get their children fellowships at elite universities abroad — but

such behaviour was not recognized as corruption. "That could be seen as supporting talent." Bereft of such camouflage, dalits, tribals and OBCs were perceived as very corrupt, he explained.

Nandy offered his apologies for offending people, while adding they had no cause to feel offended since he meant support for the marginal and oppressed.

Seeking to explain double standards in how corruption is perceived in India, with the privileged easily camouflaging their graft, Nandy's statement was intended to be ironic. But his irony was lost in an immediate backlash.

Some members of the audience booted while others questioned his theory. The backlash spilled out of the JLF and members of an OBC community promptly gathered by the venue to protest.

Rajaram Meel, president of the Rajasthan Jat Mahasabha, said his group would lodge an FIR against Nandy. Dausa MP Kirori Lal Meena pitched in to say he wasn't against the literature festival but no one could be allowed to defame his community.

Bhutto-Zardaris' Indian friend helped break LoC ice

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India and Pakistan used track-II diplomacy to defuse tensions along the line of control just after the killing of Indian soldiers and mutilation of their bodies earlier this month which had threatened to set the border ablaze and push the dialogue process off rails.

Well-placed sources said that an Indian contact close to Pakistan's ruling Bhutto-Zardari family came in handy as the twosides groped for ways to keep talks on course amid rising fury in India over the killing of two sol-

Water talks put off

Talks between the water secretaries of India and Pakistan, scheduled to be held in Islamabad during January 28-29, have been put off in the wake of tension between the neighbours over ceasefire violations along the LoC. The Tulbul navigation project was to feature in the talks.

diars, one of whom the Pakistani troopers beheaded.

When contacted, the Bhutto-Zardari contact confirmed playing a "small" role, but insisted on maintaining his anonymity.

Sources said that Indian authorities conveyed it to the Pakistani government that while they were keen to carry on the dialogue, the objective would be helped if Islamabad struck a conciliatory note.

Pakistan, which had until then brushed aside India's protests, responded to the suggestion positively, perhaps because of mounting challenges back home. Within a span of days, cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri laid siege to Islamabad, the killing of Shias triggered an uprising and the SC order to arrest PM Raja Pervez Ashraf.

► Khar's positive talk, P 14

Swine flu pandemic hit 1 in 5 Indians: Study

Kounteya Sinha | TNN

London: The H5N1 swine flu pandemic that swept the world in 2009 infected at least one in five Indians, with the highest rates of infection being among children.

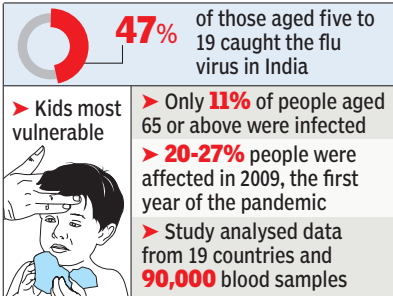
A joint study of Imperial College, London and the World Health Organization (WHO) released on Saturday found that 47% of those aged 5 to 19 showed signs of having caught the deadly influenza virus in India. Only 11% of elderly people were infected. Multiple expo-

► 5-19 age group worst affected, P 13

sures to circulating flu viruses may have given them protection, it deduces.

The study analysed data from 19 countries, including India, UK, US and China, to assess the global impact of the 2009 pandemic and collated results from over two dozen studies involving more than 90,000 blood samples. It showed the virus affected 20-27% people studied during the first

FLU DEMOGRAPHIC



year of the pandemic. The study was published in "Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses" journal on January 26.

Imperial College's Dr Maria Van Kerkhove said, "This study is the result of a combined effort by more than 27 research groups worldwide, which shared their data to improve our understanding of the impact the pandemic had globally."

Singer turns down Padma, says too late

Ekatha Ann John | TNN

Chennai: Veteran playback singer S Janaki has turned down the Padma Bhushan on grounds that few talented people from the southern states traditionally figure in the awards list and that the honour to her has come too late.

► 'Felt no emotion', P 13

"I have been in the field for 55 long years and they thought of recognizing me only now. The award feels like a form of tokenism to appease me. I am not taking the bait, I have no interest," the 75-year-old singer told TOI.

Janaki, who has won four national awards, was chosen in the 'art category' among 24 Padma Bhushan awardees.

Consumer courts in a mess

Purna Sodhi | TNN

New Delhi: After being assured by a hospital that the health of the baby in her womb was normal, a woman was shocked to find out that the little one was born without a hand and a kidney. She filed a complaint with the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) hoping justice would be done. She has been waiting for two years now. And joining her in the queue are thousands of others.

The country's eyes may be on criminal cases right now, but consumer courts across India are in a mess like never before. Accord-

LONG QUEUE	Consumer forum	Cases Filed	Disposed	Pending
	National Commission	78,471	68,241	10,230
	State Commissions	5.9L	4.9L	93,839
	District Forums	32.1L	29.6L	2.4L
	Total	38.8L	35.3L	3.5L

As of Dec 21, 2012

ing to data released by NCDRC, over 3.5 lakh cases are pending at various consumer courts as of December 21, 2012. Of these, nearly 2.5 lakh are with district consumer forums, 93,839 with state forums and 10,230 with NCDRC. This when innumerable men and women just don't file

complaints at all, unwilling to go through the hassle of fighting big firms, institutions or companies.

Forget bringing down the volumes, some state forums, in fact, registered a significant increase in pending cases last year. In Gujarat, the number of pending cases at the state forum

jumped 44% — from 4,379 in December 2011 to 7,824 in December 2012. Similarly, in Delhi, it went up from 1,195 in December 2011 to 1,579 in December 2012. Experts believe that the statistics clearly reflect a "system working at very slow pace indeed". Go down to the districts and

► Staff crunch, P 12

the story gets worse. In UP, for instance, a staggering 75,722 aggrieved consumers are in queue with their petitions; 12,172 in Gujarat and 19,249 in Maharashtra. It is 27,828 in Rajasthan. In Delhi, as per NCDRC data dated January 2012, the number of pending cases in district forums stand at 10,340.



QUEEN VICTORIA! World No 1 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus lifts the Australian Open trophy in Melbourne on Saturday. She beat China's Li Na 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 | **P 20**

Govt focus on disabled welfare: The ministry of social justice and empowerment has asked government departments to earmark 3% of their budget on disabled-related schemes. **P 13**

I-T route to improve road safety: The Centre has allowed income tax exemption on 50% of the amount that people or entities contribute for road safety activities. **P 11**

50 dead in Venezuela prison riot: At least 50 people were killed and 90 others wounded on Friday in clashes at a prison in northwest Venezuela. **P 16**

Don't Miss!

- Organ donors across India are a helpless lot with insurers regularly shutting their doors on them. Most firms reject their applications as 'high risk' cases even if they live healthy lives **P 14**
- Lakhs of unskilled workers from Odisha go through hell in Andhra Pradesh's punishing brick kilns after they migrate every year to escape grinding poverty **P 11**

North Korea ready for nuke test: North Korea could be almost ready to carry out its threat to conduct a nuclear test, an American research institute said, pointing to recent satellite photos of the 2009 nuclear test site. **P 16**

'UK terror suspects visited Pak': Two terror suspects who allegedly plotted suicide bombings in Britain have been accused of travelling to Pakistan for terrorist training, shooting suicide videos and to make crude bombs. **P 16**

Indian pleads guilty in US: An Indian-origin investment adviser from California has pleaded guilty to defrauding investors of more than \$2.3 million, and now faces the prospect of 20 years in jail along with a hefty fine. **P 16**

WEATHER

Max 21.4°C (0) / Min 6.4°C (-2)
 Moonrise: Sunday - 6.17pm
 Moonset: Monday - 7.32am
 Sunrise: Sunday - 5.57pm

CCE MBD CBSE SAMPLE PAPERS IX-X (Term-II) & XI-XII

- C.B.S.E. Sample Papers Solved
- Expected Questions Solved
- Sample Papers for Practice
- Both English & Hindi Mediums

Unitech / South Park

Two and Three bedroom park view homes. Sector 70, Gurgaon. Call 1800 102 0277

unitechgroup.com

License No. 204 of 2008 Dated 13.12.2008 • Type of colony and its area: Group Housing, 20.20 Acres
 • Name of the colonizer: M/s Unitech Ltd. & others • No. and date of approval of bldg. plan: ZP-643/JD(BS)/2011/17015 dated 17-11-2011 • Total no. of flats: General 892, EWS 160 • Provision for Community centre, Nursery school, Shopping centre • Approvals can be checked in our office

ZERO PRE-EMI offer for 18 months from

HDFC **ICICI Bank**