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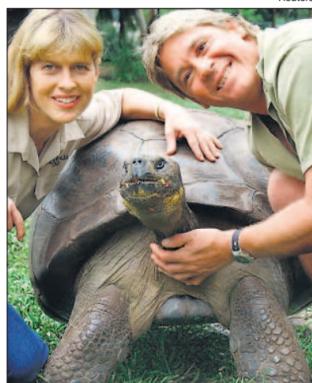


Pune

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SNAPSHOTS



'Crocodile Hunter' Steve Irwin and wife Terri pose with 'Harriet', a giant Galapagos land tortoise, at Australia Zoo in Brisbane, in this file photo. Harriet died on Friday, aged 176 years, the oldest animal in captivity, according to the Guinness Book of Records

Five killed in Kashmir violence: An army captain and two militants of Hizbul Mujahideen were among five people killed in two encounters and a grenade attack in Kashmir on Saturday. In a night-long fierce gunbattle between army and Hizb militants at Mirbagh in Pulwama district, army Captain S.B. Singh and two Hizb militants, Nissar Ahmed Sofi and his deputy Sarafraz Ahmad, were killed. A school boy was killed in a crossfire between paramilitary forces and militants at Palhallan in Pattan. In an incident of grenade attack at Budshah Chowk in Srinagar, one person was killed.

Jolt for Raj's party: Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena has suffered a jolt as another member, Jitendra Janavale, has left the newly-formed party and returned to the Shiv Sena. Janavale is the fourth prominent member to leave the party.

Army jawan shoots at colleagues: An army jawan on Saturday turned his assault rifle on his colleagues at the Mahajan firing range near Bikaner. Hiralal G. Patil, a jawan of a mechanised infantry unit, opened fire and seriously injured Naiks Anil Kumar and Ravindra. Both the injured jawans were stated to be in stable condition.

Nalco stir intensifies: The agitation against Nalco's disinvestment intensified further on Saturday with employees stopping work at different plants and burning effigies of PM Manmohan Singh and Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

Special package being finalised for farmers: Pawar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: The Centre will soon announce a special package worth a few thousand crores of rupees to initiate urgent measures to prevent suicide by farmers, Union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar said here on Saturday.

Pawar was the chairman of the committee appointed by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to probe the growing incidence of farmer suicides and recommend measures.

Speaking to reporters, Pawar said the committee recently finalised its report and he informed the PM about it on Friday. "The Prime Minister has asked me and the finance minister to

hold a meeting on Monday and finalise the special package based on the committee's recommendations."

The minister said the committee has identified 32 districts from four states, including Maharashtra, Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, which have reported most farmer suicide cases over the past several years.

"Every year, around 16,000 people from these 32 districts commit suicide," Pawar said, adding that the package will be mainly for these 32 districts and it will be the responsibility of the four state governments to implement the schemes.

The six districts in Maharashtra which have been shortlisted for the package are Wardha, Amravati, Yavatmal, Buldhana, Washim and Akola, he said.

As per the committee's plan, the Union government will issue grants to the states for implementing irrigation projects in the shortlisted 32 districts. Special assistance will be given to farmers from these districts for seed replacement, or for changing the pattern of their agriculture. All the banks in these districts will be asked to re-schedule the loans granted to farmers and give concession in interest rates, Pawar said.

Besides, farmers' family members in these districts will be given training and assistance in developing an alternative source of income through poultry farming, dairy units or fisheries, Pawar said.

These suggestions are based on the findings of the committee that a majority of the farmers have committed suicides either because of crop failure or indebtedness. Non-availability of irrigation, social problems faced by them and mono-crop pattern had also contributed to the suicide cases, he added.

Replying to a question, Pawar said that his Nationalist Congress Party was in favour of quota for OBCs and that he did not support the stand taken by party leader Shalinital Patil who had opposed the reservation policy.

'I will talk to Pranab about Chakan airport'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: Union agriculture minister Sharad Pawar on Saturday said he would hold a meeting with defence minister Pranab Mukherjee in the first week of July to once again explore the possibility of starting an international airport at Chakan.

He admitted that the Chakan airport plan had run into trouble as the Indian Air Force objected to the civil aviation ministry's plan to have two runways there.

Pawar said civil aviation minister Praful Patel and the three MPs from Pune — Suresh Kalmadi, Shivajirao Adhalarao Patil and Rahul Bajaj — will also attend the meeting.



German forward Lukas Podolski (right) celebrates with Miroslav Klose after scoring the second goal for his team during the second round of World Cup soccer match against Sweden at Munich's World Cup Stadium on Saturday. Germany won the match 2-0. Report on Page 17

GOAL	TODAY'S MATCHES
2006	England vs Ecuador 20:30
	Portugal vs Holland 00:30

City fraud examiner wins global award

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pune: Forensic accounting is still nascent in India, but city-based chartered accountant and certified fraud examiner, Mayur Joshi, has outclassed thousands across the world to win the outstanding achievement award in outreach/community service, presented by the Association of certified fraud examiners (ACFE), headquartered in the US.

Forensic accounting is a combination of accounting, auditing and investigation skills. Mayur is the first Indian to bag this international award from the ACFE, which will be presented during the association's annual conference in Las Vegas, scheduled for July 3 and 4.



Mayur Joshi

The founder promoter of Indiaforensic Research Foundation — a non-profit community to tackle increasing cases of white-collared fraud — Mayur was selected for the award "for creating awareness and sensitising the community

about forensic accounting." "At Indiaforensic, we have been working in four core areas, namely cyber frauds, bank frauds, money laundering and occupational frauds," Mayur said, expressing happiness at being selected for the award.

Jeff Kubiszyn, the ACFE awards committee liaison, in a communiqué to Joshi, said, "The award recognises those members and chapters who have displayed exceptional achievement in preventing, detecting and investigating fraud."

Mayur has been invited to give an expert presentation at the 3rd annual fraud management conference in Mumbai in the first week of July. He has so far handled 10

critical cases, which had direct links with fraud detection and money laundering. "The economic offences wing of the Pune police was amongst the first to seek my help in investigating a fraud case. The findings of the case were submitted by the police to the Bombay high court as crucial evidence."

Mayur, who is also the first fraud examiner in the city and 33rd in India to be certified by the ACFE in 2001, brings out a bi-monthly magazine *White Crimes* on forensic accounting. "But in India, it is still a new concept," he said, adding that even banks are hesitant in approaching certified fraud examiners, and are mostly dependent on their internal auditors.

WEATHER

The city on Saturday recorded a maximum temperature of 30.2 degrees Celsius and a minimum of 22.2 degrees Celsius. Relative humidity was 85 per cent.

Rainfall: Nil.
Season's total: 82.6 mm.
Forecast: A few spells of rain in parts of city.
Sunrise: 5.59 am. Sunset: 7.15 pm.
Moonrise: 5.18 am. Moonset: 7.15 pm.

CCTV to keep eye on jailed MP's condition

Patna: Amid allegations by Opposition RJD and Congress of neglecting the health problems of MP Mohammed Shahabuddin, the Bihar government has decided to install close circuit TV cameras in his cell at Siwan jail to keep an eye on his condition.

The CCTV, to be installed soon, will ascertain whether the RJD MP is really critically ill, as alleged by the Opposition, the state's home secretary, Afzal Amanullah, said. There has been a "lot of noise" over Shahabuddin's condition and the CCTV will give a "fair" idea of that, Amanullah said.

Meanwhile, the medical team which examined the MP has submitted its report to the home secretary, health secretary Deepak Prasad said without divulging its contents. PTI

'Quota only for state OBCs, not migrants'

By Shibu Thomas/TNN

Mumbai: Reservations in Maharashtra are only for the 'sons of the soil' and not for migrants, the Bombay high court has iterated. Dismissing the application by a Mumbai resident for being included in the other backward caste (OBC) list, a division bench of justices F.I. Rebello and Vijaya Kapse-Tahilramani has upheld the order of the caste scrutiny committee invalidating the petitioner's caste certificate.

"The law is now well settled that the migrant is not entitled to reservation in the state of migration, but is entitled to the protection in the state of origin," observed the judges, iterating an earlier judgement by the supreme court.

"The rationale behind reservation is to provide benefits to a particular caste or segment of the society belonging to that state and not to a migrant," assistant government pleader Niranjan Pandit said. "Persons from a caste may have been oppressed for centuries in one state, but not the other." Rules say a person whose parents were domiciled in Maharashtra when the state came into being in 1960 and belong to a specified caste/tribe can claim benefits of reservation.

The petition was filed by Rohit Yadav after the caste scrutiny committee turned down his application for an OBC certificate. Rohit's father, Radhekrishna Yadav, was born in Uttar Pradesh and migrated to Mumbai in 1970 as a nine-year-old.



Ringtones help corporates bond with customers

By Aparna Ramalingam/TNN

New Delhi: The next time you hear *Hum Hai Na*, ICICI Bank's signature tone, instead of *Beates California Dreaming*, don't be surprised. Corporates are on a mobile makeover mode. And it has started with the ringback tone.

Companies are busy incorporating their signature tone on their employees' handsets. The tone is mostly an ad jingle which has worked so well for the company that it wants to be identified with it. So all ICICI employees have the *Hum Hai Na* ad jingle on their mobiles, while those in Pepsi have the *Oye Bubbly* jingle on their devices. Sanjay Tikotekar, joint GM, ICICI

Bank, says, "The mobile phone is an important device through which the customer interacts with the bank. We felt that by introducing this jingle as a standard ringback tone, we could reiterate our commitment to our customers."

Says Naveen Chopra, chief marketing officer, Hutch, "If you are contacting a corporate executive and hear the company tone, you know immediately that you've di-

alled the right number." Also, a standardised ringback tone is seen as building affinity inside an organisation.

Adds Sanjay Kapoor, joint president, mobility, Bharti Airtel, "Our research has shown that a corporate executive gets a minimum of 30 calls everyday. When both employees and customers hear the same tone, it goes a long way in reinforcing brand identity."

Airtel has provided the corporate ringback tone feature to companies such as UTI, Kingfisher, Bajaj and

Glaxo. Similarly, Idea Cellular has provided the corporate ringback tone service to companies such as Pepsi and Parle.

Companies normally forward the tone content and employee numbers to the cellular provider. The provider in turn standardises it and the tone automatically gets uploaded on the employees' handsets. The charges are upwards of Rs 15 per user. "The ringback tone can be the starting point for a mobile marketing campaign. It is affordable and well-targeted," vouches Kapoor. In most cases, the corporate tone is also put on the cellular provider's ringback tone repository for others who wish to download the same.

Oye Bubbly, Hey Bubbly



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