

IN BRIEF

86% pass II PUC exam, girls dominate results

BENGALURU: This year too, girl students have dominated the II PUC exam results. The pass percentage has registered a record increase, with 6.10 lakh students passing out of 7.10 lakh who appeared, translating to an impressive 86 per cent success rate.

In the Arts stream, children of farmers have delivered remarkable performances. Two girl students from Indu College in Kotturu town of Vijayanagara district scored 598 out of 600 marks. Archana and Sangeetha from the same college achieved this high score, standing out in the Arts stream.

Archana D M, a student from Baliganur in Harapanahalli taluk of Vijayanagara district and daughter of farmer couple Hanumanthappa D M and Renukamma D M, scored 598 marks (99.66 per cent). Similarly, Sangeetha from Koppal district's Kukanoor, also studying at Indu College, scored 598 marks (99.66 per cent). She is the daughter of farmer couple Shekharagouda Patil and Shwetha.

Chennai's Amirta aviation college signs MoU

BENGALURU: In a significant step towards enhancing global exposure for aviation students, Chennai's Amirta International Aviation College has signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with University College of Aviation Malaysia.

The collaboration aims to bring international aviation expertise directly to Indian classrooms and strengthen industry-oriented training.

The MoU was formalised by Chairman Boomee Naathan of Chennai's Amirta Group of Institutions and Dean Umar Abdillah Anwar of UNICAM Malaysia.

The signing ceremony was attended by key dignitaries including Kalaiarasan, Chairman of Future Dream Academy Malaysia, Jainanak Singh, CEO of Future Dream Academy, along with senior academic leaders and faculty members of the institution.

Seminar on 'Innovative Plumbing Technologies'

BENGALURU: Smile Foundation, in collaboration with Ashirvad by aliaxis, India's leading provider of plumbing and water management solutions organised a seminar on "Innovative Technologies in Plumbing" in Bengaluru.

The seminar spotlighted a significant opportunity to transform the sector, generate higher employment opportunities by training 44% of the workforce with modern plumbing technologies.

Bringing together industry leaders, Sector Skill Councils, and training organisations, the seminar focused on accelerating technology adoption, expanding on-ground training, and building a future-ready plumbing ecosystem to support India's rapid urban and infrastructure growth.

Govt extends insurance coverage to root canal treatment

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

IN a major boost to public healthcare, the government has announced that dental treatments, including root canal procedures, will now be covered under state-supported health insurance schemes.

The decision brings root canal treatment under the ambit of Ayushman Bharat and the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya-Mukhyamantri Jan Arogya-Karnataka scheme, enabling beneficiaries to access dental care at reduced or no cost.

Announcing the move via a social media post, Health

Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the initiative marks another significant step toward strengthening public healthcare services in the state.

According to the minister, the coverage includes root canal treatments for both anterior (front) and posterior (back) teeth.

The initiative aims to provide timely, affordable, and quality dental care services across Karnataka.

The treatment packages will follow Central Government Health Scheme Tier-3 standard pricing, along with clear clinical classifications to ensure uniformity in procedures and costs.

The scheme will be implemented through the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST), and will cover all associated treatment expenses. This means patients will not be required to pay any additional charges for eligible procedures, further easing the financial burden on families.



'Women must step forward to make reservation bill effective'

BENGALURU

PADMA Shri awardee, Dr Vijayalakshmi Deshmane, on Thursday hailed the Women's Reservation Bill as a historic and bold reform, urging women across the country to actively participate in politics and take responsibility for nation-building.

Notably, after the Parliament's Budget Session reconvenes on April 16, the primary agenda will be to discuss and debate proposed amendments to the Women's Reservation Act, 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam), officially known as the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Thursday, shared a video message urging collective support for the Women's Reservation Bill by all political parties.

Speaking to IANS, she credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for pushing forward a long-pending reform, saying that the decision reflects a strong commitment towards women-



led development.

"I would like to begin with a very beautiful slogan — if PM Modi is there, everything is possible. This long-pending, historic Bill had remained pending for a long time. Prime Minister Modi and his Cabinet have taken a very bold decision," Deshmane told IANS.

She emphasised that the Bill is only the first step, and its true success will depend on women stepping forward and making their presence

felt in the political arena. "Now, it is up to the women of the country to take responsibility, enter politics, and make it 100 per cent effective. I request young, dynamic women to come forward, join politics, and contribute to nation-building," she said.

Deshmane highlighted that the move would significantly strengthen India's democratic framework by ensuring greater representation of women in legislative

bodies. "This is the number one step that is going to increase the seats for women in Parliament, and that helps quite a lot in our democratic setup. Democracy is a numbers game. So, this decision will definitely empower women and accelerate the country's progress," she added.

Praising the Centre's broader push for women-led development, she said the Bill presents a "golden opportunity" for women to take leadership roles and shape the future of the nation.

"This is how we can respond to a Prime Minister who believes in women-led development. I thank the Central government, especially Modi ji, for taking such a visionary step. He has done a wonderful job during his tenure," she said.

The Women's Reservation Bill seeks to reserve one-third of seats in Parliament and state legislatures for women, a move widely seen as a transformative step towards inclusive governance and gender equality.

'Too early to draw definitive lessons from West Asia conflict'



BENGALURU

DESCRIBING the West Asia war as a critical case study in modern warfare, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi on Thursday said it was too early to draw definitive lessons from the conflict. Addressing the 'Ran Samvad' forum on "Maritime Forces -- Visualisation of Multi Domain Operation (MDO)", he said the Indian armed forces were closely tracking developments in the West Asia conflict to derive lessons for future operations.

"It is too early to draw definitive lessons. The war is still going on. We are monitoring what is happening, what is working, what is not working, and learning the correct lessons," Admiral Tripathi said during the question-answer session. The Navy Chief emphasised that one of the most striking takeaways from the conflict is the heightened vulnerability of military assets across domains.

At the time, he was a Cabinet minister in the Siddaramaiah-led government. Although his name surfaced, no action was initially taken against him.

The BJP later made it a major issue, with former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa vowing at election rallies that Kulkarni would be sent to jail if the BJP came to power.

The case was subsequently handed over to the CBI, and Kulkarni was arrested. He spent more than nine months in jail before securing bail from the Supreme Court.

portance of resilience, particularly in sustaining supply chains under prolonged hostilities.

Admiral Tripathi further noted that carrier battle groups continue to remain central to maritime power projection, demonstrating their operational effectiveness even in contested environments, while their vulnerability depends on the adversary's capabilities and the balance of offensive and defensive systems. The Navy chief said the services are analysing the conflict "on a near 24x7 basis" and will incorporate lessons at an appropriate time, stressing that modern warfare now demands constant adaptation to rapidly evolving technological and operational realities.

Emphasising that maritime forces have always operated across multiple domains but now face a far more complex and interconnected battle-space, Admiral Tripathi said the Indian Navy is reorienting its strategy to deliver integrated multi-domain effects in an era defined by speed, scale and simultaneity.

He highlighted the need to align strategic thought with technological capability amid evolving global security challenges and rapid technological advancements. "Today, there is no fixed system of war, no rigid doctrine that we can blindly rely upon,"

Admiral Tripathi said.

The Navy Chief noted that ongoing instability in India's extended neighbourhood, particularly tensions in West Asia and disruptions to maritime traffic, underline the interconnected nature of modern security. He said distance no longer insulates nations from consequences, while technological advances are compressing decision-making timelines and merging operational domains.

Drawing from India's civilisational strategic thought, he said multi-domain operations are not entirely new, citing Kautilya's concept of integrating diplomacy, deception and force. "The pursuit of national objectives extends beyond any single form or domain of conflict," he observed. Explaining the evolving maritime battlespace, Tripathi described it as a "dense yet more transparent, layered yet deeply interconnected grid extending from the seabed to space". He identified three defining attributes shaping this grid -- speed, scale and simultaneity.

On speed, he pointed to artificial intelligence-driven systems that compress decision cycles. "Speed is no longer merely an enabler of warfare, but a distinct capability," he said, noting that modern systems can process vast datasets and enable precision strikes in significantly reduced timeframes. At the physical level, the Navy is restructuring its force to be "capable, resilient, and inherently networked", with seamless integration between sensors and shooters across domains, he noted.

Highlighting indigenous capability, Admiral Tripathi said the Navy's combat management system has evolved into a key enabler of multi-domain operations, integrating inputs across domains for faster decision-making and coordinated engagement.

Spl court adjourns verdict in BJP leader's murder case to April 15

BENGALURU

THE Special Court for MLAs/MPs in Bengaluru has adjourned the pronouncement of its judgment to April 15 in the murder case of BJP leader and Zilla Panchayat member Yogesh Gowda, in which sitting Dharwad Rural Congress MLA Vinay Kulkarni is an accused.

The case dates back to 2016 and the court will also decide the fate of 21 other accused in connection with the incident. The court was scheduled to deliver the verdict today. It stated that the pronouncement of the judgment is in its final stage. Counsels

representing both sides have submitted thousands of pages of Supreme Court judgments in reference to this case.

Vinay Kulkarni and the other accused persons were present in court. Vinay Kulkarni is listed as accused number 15. The case was handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by the state government. At the time the allegations surfaced, Kulkarni was serving as a minister and district incharge minister.

Yogesh Gowda was hacked to death by a group of assailants at a gym in Dharwad city on June 15, 2016. He had politically

challenged Kulkarni, and the incident soon took a worse turn.

Kulkarni was arrested in 2020 and released on bail in 2021. He was accused of influencing witnesses, following which the CBI sought cancellation of his bail, alleging violation of bail conditions. The court accepted the plea and revoked his bail.

Subsequently, Kulkarni, who is currently the Chairman of the Karnataka Urban Water Supply and Drainage Board, surrendered before the authorities and was recently released on bail again.

It may be recalled that Kulkarni was accused of

conspiring in the murder of Yogesh Gowda.

At the time, he was a Cabinet minister in the Siddaramaiah-led government. Although his name surfaced, no action was initially taken against him.

The BJP later made it a major issue, with former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa vowing at election rallies that Kulkarni would be sent to jail if the BJP came to power.

The case was subsequently handed over to the CBI, and Kulkarni was arrested. He spent more than nine months in jail before securing bail from the Supreme Court.

BENGALURU

INDIRA IVF, one of India's leading fertility service providers, today announced the inauguration of its new fertility centre in RR Nagar (Rajarajeshwari Nagar), Bengaluru. The launch marks a continued step towards strengthening access to organised and technology-enabled fertility care in

Indira IVF launches new fertility centre

the city. The centre, located on the second floor, above Kushal's Showroom, Jawaharlar Nehru Road, opposite Balakrishna Ranga Mandira, BEML Layout, third stage Rajarajeshwari Nagar, will

offer a comprehensive range of fertility evaluation and assisted reproductive services supported by Indira IVF's standardised clinical protocols and laboratory systems. The inauguration ceremony

was graced by Dr. Shyam N. Gupta, Centre Head, Indira IVF JP Nagar, Bengaluru, who attended the event as the Chief Guest. The event was also attended by Dr. Prajwal B K, Consultant Gynaecologist, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Centre Head, Indira IVF Rajarajeshwari Nagar, along with senior representatives and medical professionals from Indira IVF.

HANS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU

THE High Court has dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking to declare as invalid the Centre's protocol guidelines on singing all six stanzas of Vande Mataram, ruling that the song is not mandatory like

the national anthem. The petition was filed by Bengaluru-based advocate Somashekar Rajavanshi and was heard by a division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhrui and Justice Vibhu Poonacha.

At the outset of the hearing, counsel appearing for the Centre clarified that the

High Court dismisses plea against Vande Mataram singing guidelines

Ministry of Home Affairs' order uses the term "may be sung," which indicates that singing Vande Mataram is not compulsory. The counsel also pointed out that the Supreme Court of India had recently dismissed a similar plea on the issue.

Accepting the argument, the High Court observed that Vande Mataram has not been incorporated into any statutory framework mandating its singing. The bench noted that the wording in

the Centre's order reflects a permissive, not mandatory, approach. Referring to the Supreme Court's stance, the court ruled that the song cannot be equated with the national anthem in terms of compulsion and dismissed the petition.

Background of the case The petitioner had challenged guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which were published on its official website regarding national songs. The plea

argued that the directive effectively mandated schools to sing all six stanzas of Vande Mataram daily before the commencement of classes.

It was contended that the Constituent Assembly had recognised only the first two stanzas for general use, while later stanzas include references to Hindu deities such as Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati.

The petitioner argued that making all six stanzas compulsory could violate consti-

tutional provisions, including Articles 14 (equality), 25 (freedom of conscience) and 28 (prohibition of religious instruction in educational institutions).

The petition also sought directions to limit the singing to the first two stanzas in schools and to restrain authorities from enforcing the remaining portions, particularly in government and aided institutions.

It further urged that bodies like the National Com-

mission for Minorities and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights examine the potential impact of such guidelines on minority communities.

However, the High Court held that there was no legal basis to treat the guidelines as mandatory and declined to interfere. The ruling reinforces that while Vande Mataram holds significant national importance, its singing remains voluntary and not legally enforceable.