

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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**In a political gamble, UK PM Sunak says 18-yr-olds will have to do mandatory nat'l service if his party wins July 4 election. Says it will help unite society in an 'increasingly uncertain world' P 12**

**Over 670 feared dead in Friday's Papua New Guinea's landslide, says Int'l Organization for Migration. The UN agency bases its toll estimate on info that over 150 houses were buried P 12**

**Musk plans to build a supercomputer to support development of his AI startup xAI. It will be 'at least four times the size of the biggest GPU clusters that exist today' P 12**

**Swati Maliwal alleges receiving rape & death threats following 'orchestrated campaign of character assassination' by AAP colleagues and posting of 'one-sided video' by a YouTuber P 8**



## S Africa fines SBI for violating laundering laws

The Prudential Authority, South African Reserve Bank, has imposed administrative sanctions and a monetary penalty on SBI for violating the country's anti-money laundering laws. SBI said the action on the South African branch included an immediate payment of 5.5mn rand (Rs 2.5cr) and 4.5mn rand (Rs 2cr) payable over 36 months. **P 11**

## Truck overturns on bus, 12 dead

Twelve pilgrims, three of them minors, were killed in UP's Shahjahanpur when a dumper truck crashed and overturned on a parked bus carrying about 50 people on their way to Purnagiri temple in Uttarakhanda on Saturday night. **P 5**

## SSC results at 1pm today

SSC results will be announced at 1pm Monday on mahresult.nic.in. Students have to then soon register for FYJC admissions online. The registration process will continue for two days after the state board class X results are declared. **P 3**

## Ex-cabinet secy to be ICICI chief

Former cabinet secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha will take over as chairman of ICICI Bank from G C Chaturvedi, who retires, the bank said. RBI approved his appointment on May 24 for a three-year term effective July 1. **P 11**

## Stones fall from top flrs, 1 killed

A 22-year-old labourer lost his life when stones fell on him from the top floors of a construction site in Mira Road while he was at work. In Sept 2022, two kids of construction workers were killed when an iron beam crashed on them at the same site. **P 4**

## IISc tech boosts 'space bricks'

A team of IISc scientists has achieved a breakthrough that strengthens the "space bricks" they built earlier using lunar soil simulants. One of the researchers explained that by heating regolith (loose soil) to 1,200°C, molten basalt acts as a binder, enhancing particle binding and resulting in significantly stronger consolidated "space bricks". **P 5**

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Times Interact | P 6 & 8

# 6 newborns dead, 5 battle for life after Del hosp fire

## No Emergency Exit Or Fire Extinguishers

Abhay & Siddhvi Singh | TNN

New Delhi: Six newborns died after a massive fire broke out at New Born Baby Care Hospital in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar late Saturday. Five babies rescued from the fire are battling for lives in another hospital. The ho-

**EDIT: Tragedy Foretold**  
► Police probe illegal oxygen filling racket, P 6

spital owner and the on-duty doctor have been booked for culpable homicide and other offences, cops said.

The fire department received a call around 11.30pm and rushed to the spot. Witnesses said the hospital building turned into an inferno in just a few minutes and was followed by



Witnesses said the east Delhi hospital building turned into an inferno within a few minutes and was followed by multiple explosions

multiple blasts that possibly originated from the oxygen cylinders stored there. In all, around a dozen children were pulled out, but only five survived. Police suspect a short circuit triggered the blaze.

"It was found that there was no fire extinguisher, improper entry exit, absence of emergen-

cy exit, deployment of BAMS doctor etc. Therefore, more stringent sections were added to the FIR," police said.

The bodies will be handed over to the parents after DNA match confirms their identities, cops said.

► 'Oxygen cylinders flew', P 6

## Army chief gets unusual 1-mnth extension

The Centre has granted a month's extension to Army chief Gen Manoj Pandey (62) just 6 days before his slated retirement. This unusual move could impact the line of succession in the force, reports Rajat Pandit.

The delay in announcing his successor had triggered speculation of a supersession in the hierarchy. The two next senior-most officers are slated to retire on June 30. Army, Navy and IAF chiefs can serve till 62 or for three years, whichever is earlier. A govt official, however, said "any speculation or controversy is unwarranted" as it had been decided that no senior post would be filled before the election process was completed. **P 5**

## Rlys confirms it does not own hoarding site, GRP lie on jurisdiction exposed

Ahmed Ali & Sanjeev Devasia | TNN

Mumbai: The railways has sent a letter to Mumbai crime branch confirming that the Ghatkopar plot, where a hoarding collapsed on May 13 claiming 17 lives, does not belong to it. The letter thus confirms that the plot belongs to Maharashtra govt which allotted the land to Govt Railway Police (GRP) for police housing.

The accused Bhavesh Bhide, director of Ego Media that erected the billboard, had secured approval from GRP for the structure though it needed civic clearance as it was not central govt land. "For doing anything on it, they had to follow civic regulations," an official said. GRP itself comes under the state.

BMC's notices to GRP on the hoardings were counte-

## BMC still to get ₹65cr fine over CC rd delay

Almost 5 months after BMC scrapped Roadways Solutions India Infra's Rs 1,600cr contract for CC road works in island city and slapped a Rs 65cr penalty, it is still to recover the dues as the company has dragged it into arbitration, the first such case in recent years **P 2**

red by GRP officials saying the civic body had no jurisdiction, though it did. Additional municipal commissioner Ashwini Joshi said, "The hoardings were illegal, which is why we issued notices. But GRP responded that the notices are without jurisdiction and should be withdrawn."

► Bhide in custody, P 3

## Rajkot fire: Two held as toll rises to 28, no victim identified so far

Rajkot: Gujarat police filed an FIR against 7 partners of TRP Game Zone in Rajkot for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and arrested two of them on Sunday following a devastating fire that claimed 28 lives on Saturday evening. The fire left the bodies charred beyond recognition. According to the FIR, the 28 recovered bodies included 15 males, six females

► Five of a family killed, newly-weds among dead, P 5

es, and 3 kids. The gender of three bodies could not be determined due to severe burns, while only partial remains of a person were recovered.

Forensic experts are tasked with the challenge of identifying the victims through DNA test, a process that could take up to 7 days. This is crucial to provide a closure to grieving families.

► 5-member SIT, P 6

## Cyclone hits WB, 1L evacuated, Kolkata on alert

Over 1 lakh people from low-lying coastal zones were evacuated before "very severe" Cyclone Remal made landfall around 9pm Sunday along the coasts of Bengal and Bangladesh around 100km from Kolkata. The cyclone, categorised as "very severe", brought wind speeds ranging from 110kmph to 120kmph, with gusts up to 135kmph, accompanied by heavy rainfall. In Kolkata, it disrupted life, with airport suspending operations for 21 hours and railways cancelling several trains. **P 6**

# PM: Oppn wants to turn India's majority into 2nd-class citizens

## Cites Manifestos, Past Moves To Target SP, Cong

Lucknow: PM Modi upped the ante Sunday against Congress and SP over "Muslim reservation", alleging that repeated attempts by them to snatch the rights of backward communities and appease their vote bank would someday "turn the country's majority community into second-class citizens", report Pankaj Shah & Shalabh.

"In 2012, during assembly polls in UP, SP declared in its manifesto that just as Dalits and OBCs enjoy reservation, so will Muslims. SP went to the extent of saying it would even rewrite the Constitution to do so," Modi said in Mirzapur. He said SP repeated its pledge in 2014. "Not just that, SP said it would allocate a 15%

## Tejashwi: Gujarat itself gave OBC quota to Muslims

Bihar opposition leader Tejashwi Yadav Sunday wrote to PM Modi claiming BJP-governed Gujarat allowed Muslim OBC quotas. He attacked with it a purported 'central list of OBC Muslims for Gujarat' to buttress his point. "Perhaps, you are not aware (of this, though)... you served as CM for 13 years," Tejashwi wrote, advising Modi against "spreading confusion and hatred". Dubbing PM "anti-backward and anti-Dalit", Tejashwi said he had urged him to allow quota hikes under Constitution's 9th Schedule but he did not pay heed. **P 7**

quota to Muslims in police and PAC (Provincial Armed Constabulary)."

► 'Vote jihad drive', P 6

## Nadda: BJP has crossed majority mark, will win 370

Akhilesh.Singh @timesgroup.com

BJP president J P Nadda has expressed confidence that the party will win over 370 seats in the LS elections. He said BJP would make significant gains in states such as Bengal,

Odisha, Telangana and AP, while retaining its dominance in north and central India. "BJP on its own has already crossed the majority mark... some guesstimates suggest it has won 310 seats after 5 phases. After 7 phases, NDA will go past the 400 mark. People trust Narendra Modi and are voting for BJP to make him PM again," Nadda said.

## Mumbai tops state's civic areas in maternal deaths

Pune: In the one-year period ending March 2024, over 1,100 expectant mothers died within 42 days of pregnancy termination in the state. Among Maharashtra's civic areas, BMC's jurisdiction accounted for the most—166 deaths, reports Steffy Thevar.

Maternal deaths are a key indicator, highlighting the efficiency of the health system in preventing and addressing the complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Maternal mortality ratio is the number of women who die from pregnancy-related causes or within 42 days of pregnancy

### CASES HIGH IN NAGPUR TOO

WORST CIVIC AREAS	DEATHS
BMC	166
Nagpur	113
Pune & Pimpri	105
Chinchwad	105

### WORST DISTRICTS

Amravati	35	Total deaths: 2023-24
Nandurbar	33	1,127
Thane	28	

termination per 1 lakh live births. As per Sample Registration System for 2018-20, the state's maternal mortality ratio stood at 33 against India's 97.

► 2 leading causes, P 2

## 63.4% turnout in sixth phase, 74.5% in Odisha

The overall voter turnout in the sixth phase of Lok Sabha elections on Saturday was revised to 63.4% by Sunday evening, beating fifth phase's 62.2%, which is the lowest so far. However, the Phase 6 polling was still way lower than the first 4 phases. The overall voter turnout in Delhi was revised to 58.7%, lower than 60.6% in 2019. Among states, the biggest rise was in Odisha, up from 69.6% on Saturday to 74.5% (4.9 percentage points) on Sunday. Bharti Jain reports, **P 7**

## KKR ROUT SRH; WIN THEIR 3RD IPL



Team KKR celebrate in Chennai. Only CSK and MI have won more IPL titles than KKR

► KKR beat SRH by 8 wickets to win their third IPL title. Spearheaded by Starc (2/14) & Russell (3/19), KKR dismissed their opponents for just 113, the lowest-ever total in an IPL final, before Venkatesh (52\*) & Gurbaz (39) won it in 10.3 overs

► It was KKR's hat-trick of wins over SRH this time, having beaten them both in the league stage and the qualifier

► The spell of 8/81 by KKR pacers (Starc 2, Russell 3, Rana 2, Arora 1 wkt) is the 2nd best performance by a pace attack in a playoff game in IPL, behind 9/107 by MI vs CSK at Eden Gardens in 2013 final

FULL COVERAGE | P 13

## Sitar in every moment: Bengal village rises and sleeps with string melody

Kamalendu Bhadra | TNN

Uluberia/Howrah: Each time a sitar virtuoso tugs at heartstrings, it might just be an ode to some nimble fingers in faraway Dadpur.

The nondescript village in Uluberia in Bengal's Howrah district virtually rises with string melody and sleeps with it. Most of its 250-odd households are engaged in making sitars, surbahars and guitars.

"This art requires not just delicate craftsmanship but a refined sense of music, too. That's achieved through rigorous training, passion and perseverance," said Shyamal Halder whose father Tarapada Halder started nearly 65 years back when he went to Lucknow and learnt to make stringed instruments.

Shyamal's words about "training and passion" found resonance on the verandah of a house nearby. There, master



Most of the village households are engaged in making instruments

craftsman Dipak Halder was engrossed in the task of "Joari"—fine-tuning a sitar. In the serenity of Dadpur's abundant greenery, ponds and serpentine lanes—almost resembling a painting in water-colour—Dipak was immersed in playing Raag Jaunpuri. The purity of the notes his fingers were producing was accentuated by the ambience.

► Across country, abroad, P 8

## 'All we imagine...': Called anti-national 9 years ago, she is now nation's toast

Ardhra.Nair@timesgroup.com

Nine years is all it took for FTII graduate Payal Kapadia to go from "anti-national" to toast of the nation. The filmmaker, whose 'All We Imagine as Light' clinched the Grand Prix at Cannes, was a student at the country's cradle of cinema and TV when she braved chants of "go to Pakis-

tan" for participating in a 139-day protest in 2015 against appointment of actor Gajendra Chauhan as FTII chairperson.

She, along with 34 former students, continue to wage a legal battle over a case filed by the then FTII director, Prashant Pathrabe, alleging their involvement in geroaing him and vandalising his office.

A day after conquering Cannes, all she reflected, however, was the afterglow of the triumph. "It's a great feeling to



Kapadia led protests against FTII chief Gajendra Chauhan

receive this prize because there are so many good films from India alongside ours, and we feel a part of the larger family of filmmakers. We have three films from FTII directors this time. My FTII batchmate Maim Ali's film 'In Retreat' is the first Indian entry to Cannes' ACID sidebar (Association for the Diffusion of Independent Cinema)," she told TOI from the French Riviera.

► 'Shaping my ideas', P 6

# Rishabh's Trusted Pain Relief Partner.

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Hypertension, haemorrhage top maternal death causes

Steffy.Thevar@timesgroup.com

Pune: In her 38th week of pregnancy, Geeta (name changed) was rushed to Cama Hospital with a ruptured uterus and heavy bleeding on May 22. It was found that the foetus had already died, necessitating an emergency C-section to save her life.

Geeta had arrived at the hospital from Titwala, about 70km away. Doctors said the 32-year-old woman would have died had she been an hour late. But, not all expectant mothers are as lucky. Though various initiatives undertaken by the state govt have helped bring down the number of maternal deaths, there is still a long way to minimise the fatalities.

Dr Tushar Palve, medical superintendent at state-run Cama Hospital and head of gynaecology department, said, "When Geeta came to us, she was already in hypovolemic shock (massive blood loss). The foetus had slipped into her abdomen and the blood had also seeped into the stomach after the rupture in the uterus." He said the woman had un-

'NEED DECENTRALISED SYSTEM'



Top causes in 2023-24: Hypertensive pregnancy disorders: 19% of total deaths; Antepartum haemorrhage & postpartum haemorrhage: 16% of total deaths; Infections: 13% of total deaths; Anaemia: 4% of total deaths



We routinely train our on-ground staff, including doctors and Asha workers, to ensure that every pregnant woman is registered and regularly monitored. We also have many financial schemes for women - Dr Babita Kamalpurkar

dergone a C-section seven years ago too and was registered in Faizabad, UP. "In May, her ultrasound at a health centre in Titwala showed that her baby was completely healthy. She experienced abdominal pain on May 21 and returned to the same centre around 5pm. At 8pm, a sonography revealed that her baby had died and was outside the uterus, suggesting a ruptured uterus. She was then asked to go to a tertiary care centre, but she came to us the next day only. By then, she had lost a lot of blood."

Dr Palve said most of such cases at city govt hospitals come from outside BMC limits, such as Kalyan, Bhiwandi, Thane and Mumbai. "Precious time is lost in travel, which is important to save patients in such cases," he said. An analysis showed that of the 1,127 maternal deaths recorded in the past financial

year, hypertension and antepartum and postpartum haemorrhage were the leading causes. But, with proper management of the patient and decentralised healthcare system, these deaths could be prevented, experts said.

Dr Babita Kamalpurkar, joint director, health care services, Maharashtra, said, "Govt analyses each maternal death and the reasons are thoroughly inspected, based on which policies and schemes are drafted... We are still working to ensure that every single avoidable death is prevented."

Dr Pradip Awate, in charge of Daga Memorial Hospital in Nagpur, said, "We mostly receive cases from tribal areas of Gondia, Bhandara and Gadchiroli. We get cases from MP tribal communities, too. Most of these cases come at a very late stage and with multiple complications. The primary reasons are sickle cell and anaemia which are highly prevalent within the tribal communities. Early marriages and lack of awareness about modern medicine also contribute to maternal deaths."

₹65cr fine pending for 4 mths as CC roads contractor seeks arbitration

Chaitanya.Marpakwar @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Four months after it terminated Roadways Solutions India Infra Ltd's (RSIIL) Rs 1,600-crore contract for cement concrete (CC) road works in island city for the second time and slapped a penalty of Rs 64.6 crore to be paid within 30 days, BMC is yet to recover the dues as the company dragged it into arbitration in Feb, former Colaba corporator Makarand Narwekar from BJP has claimed.

This is the first case in recent times where a contractor has dragged the civic body into arbitration after contract termination.

Narwekar demanded that BMC appoint a special counsel in the arbitration case.

"The BMC order had stated that the penalty must be paid in 30 days... I demand that the BMC file a civil suit against the contractor for payment of the penalty. Why is BMC dragging its feet and allowing the contractor to take the civic body for a ride? The civic body must act sternly with contractors, as

'50% TARGET BY JUNE, ONLY 25% MET'



Jan | Roadway Solutions India Infrastructure Ltd's (RSIIL) given work orders of around ₹1,600 crore for concreting roads in island city

Oct | BMC gives termination notice to RSIIL

Nov | BMC terminates the contract, saying that RSIIL failed to start work even 10 months after issuance of the work orders

Dec | The company moves Bombay high court

Jan | HC stays RSIIL's termination, directs BMC chief to appoint senior officer to give a hearing to RSIIL

BMC appoints Dr Ashwini Joshi, additional municipal commissioner (city), as designated officer for the hearing. BMC terminates RSIIL's contract and directs that the company pay the total penalty of Rs 64.6 crore within 30 days, BMC also forfeits RSIIL's 2% contract deposit and 10% earnest money deposit

Feb | RSIIL drags BMC into arbitration. No penalty recovered from it

taxpayers' money is involved," said Narwekar.

He also claimed that by the onset of the monsoon in

June, 50% of the scheduled 397km cement concrete (CC) road works in the city were to be completed, but only 25%

of that target has been met. Pointing out that CM Eknath Shinde himself had instructed BMC to concrete all roads, he asked municipal commissioner Bhusan Gargani to publish a status report on CC roads by June 1. Of the 2050-km network of roads in Mumbai, just over 1,200km in all has been concretised, he said.

In Nov 2023, BMC had terminated RSIIL's contract for the first time (see graphic) for failing to start work. Two months later, it awarded CC contracts for 397km roads in the eastern and western suburbs worth Rs 6,080 crore.

Officials acknowledged that only 25% of this work has been completed. They said when RSIIL was awarded its contract in Jan 2023, 50 stretches were to be ready before the last monsoon. Thereafter, 400 stretches were to be taken up from Oct 2023 to May 2024, and the last 450 stretches were scheduled for Oct 2024 to May 2025. "Whether these deadlines have been achieved or not will only be clear through a status report," the former corporator said.

Will Mumbaikars ride underground Metro-3 from Aarey to BKC by July?

Manthank.Mehta @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: You might be able to commute by the underground Metro train from Aarey to Bandra-Kurla Complex by July, if things go to plan.

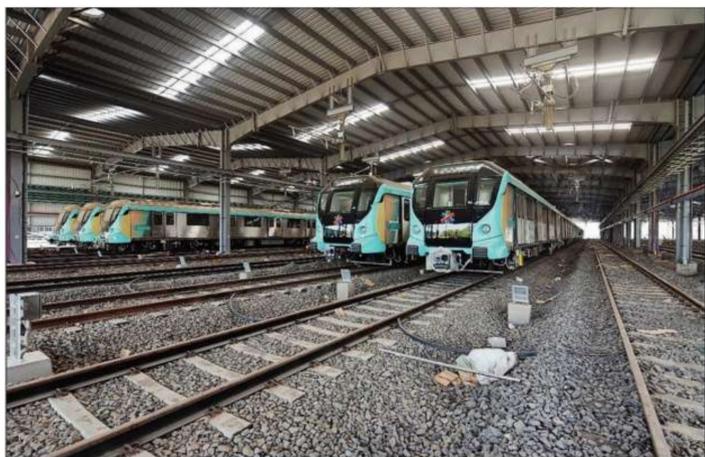
Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited has said that it anticipates commencement of phase I commercial operations on this route by July. The dry runs have been done and some assessments and green signals are now awaited. With 19 trains in its possession, the Metro agency is equipped to run over 260 services.

The Metro agency had earlier announced that the first phase operations would begin in May, but could not meet this deadline due to a slew of factors.

Now, the watchdog body, Research, Design & Standards Organisation, which will do the assessment testing and give approval for operations, is set to arrive in the first week of June to assess the Metro 3 system.

Already, the testing of Metro trains with heavy loads placed on board have been done. "Yes, trials of fully loaded trains have been done at a speed of 95km/hr... The results were excellent," SAID a source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The 'loaded' trials that the source referred to include



With 19 trains in its possession, the Metro agency is equipped to run over 260 services

placing of "gunny bags of debris" on board the trains to get a real feel of passenger loads on the moving trains between BKC and Aarey.

Now, the watchdog body will be here to assess the entire system after which it will submit its report, said the source. This assessment will include safety and performance testing including checking of braking systems, acceleration and deceleration rates, and emergency response mechanisms. The team will also assess quality and stability of tracks and related infrastr-

structure, inspect alignment, welding quality, and structural integrity.

Prior to the 'loaded' trials, similar tests had been carried out but with the coaches running empty at speeds of up to 95km/hr.

Regarding the overall progress of the work on this route, the source pointed out that "only minor finishing touches" are needed at stations and at entry and exit points.

On successful completion of integration trials, and obtaining safety certifications for various systems, approval

will have to be sought from another authority called 'Independent Safety Assessor' for safe train operations.

Following the relevant certifications, Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited will approach the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety for statutory permissions that are required to commence passenger services.

Commercial operations will begin only after receiving the green signal, ensuring full compliance with safety regulations and operational standards.

Students point to 'erroneous' question in MH-CET paper

Mumbai: A question in the PCM (physics, chemistry and mathematics) section of the MHT-CET paper held in the morning session on May 4 was erroneous, alleged a section of students.

The question carried two marks. Students got access to their question papers, with the answer key and their responses to the questions and could raise objections, if any. The exam for the PCM section was held between May 2 and May 16. The last day to raise an objection was Sunday.

The state's CET cell has introduced objection trackers for all the CETs they conduct. A parent of an aspirant claimed that the question was taken from a JEE (Main) question paper from 2016.

"But there was an error in the question. Instead of putting (x) cube, the question mentioned only (x) in the equation. Students may have spent around seven to eight minutes on this wrong question," said the parent.

A CET cell official said that the objection trackers have been introduced for the benefit of students. "The experts will look into it and accordingly a decision will be taken," said the official. Around 7.25 lakh students registered for the MHT-CET exam this year. TNN

BMC property tax collection exceeds target by ₹356 crore

Sanjeev.Devasia @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The BMC has collected Rs 4,856 crore as property tax, Rs 356 crore more than the target Rs 4,500 crore. The BMC in 2022-23 had garnered Rs 5,575 crore.

This time along, the BMC had set May 25, 2024, as the last date for payment of property tax for the 2023-24 financial year, as the civic body had delayed issuing bills and issued property tax bills only towards the end of Feb this year, without any increase. This was done after the civic body came in for criticism for uploading property tax bills with a hike, in Dec last year.

By March 31 this year, the assessment and collection department of BMC had managed to collect just Rs 3,195 crore from the nine lakh-plus properties within their jurisdiction. This was the lowest property tax collection in a decade. The civic administration had earlier set a target of Rs 6,000 crore for 2023-24, but later lowered the target to Rs 4,500 crore. However, the civic body managed to collect an additional eight percent property tax as compared to its target of Rs 4,500 crore.

Property owners, who are yet to pay property tax will be now penalised at 2% per

month for defaults. During the last few months, the civic administration has been consistently urging property owners to pay tax within the given time-frame and avoid punitive and legal action. To avoid inconvenience to property owners regarding payment of taxes, civic amenities centers were kept open on



BMC earned Rs 1,425cr property tax from the city division

Sundays, Saturdays and public holidays as well.

Of the Rs 4,856 crore collected as property tax, about Rs 1,425 crore has been collected from city division, Rs 2,456 crore from western suburbs and Rs 968 crore from eastern suburbs. Rs 10 crore has been collected from various other government agencies.

MLC polls: Sena man eyes Mum grad seat

Priyanka.Kakodkar @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Shiv Sena's Deepak Sawant has declared his interest in contesting the MLC elections from the Mumbai graduate constituency from the Mahayuti's quota, a sign of a possible tussle between the chief minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena and its alliance partner the BJP.

The BJP has staked claim to the seat but Sawant told the media on Sunday that the seat belongs to the Shiv Sena. "Traditionally, the Shiv Sena has contested the seat of Mumbai graduate constituency. I was on the Legislative Council earlier. But the BJP and Shiv Sena will take a decision in this regard together," he said.

The name of Anil Parab has already been announced by the Thackeray group for the seat. The election for the four seats of the legislative council in the state will be held on June 26 and the result will be declared on July 1. Earlier, Vilas Potnis of Shiv Sena Thackeray faction was MLC in Mumbai graduate constituency.

However, the Mahayuti is still to announce its candidate for the seat.

Continue ongoing demolition work for widening of Mithi river, says HC

Swati.Deshpande @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Bombay high court vacation bench, on Saturday, allowed ongoing demolition work for the widening of Mithi river to proceed and found no case made out by occupants of residential and commercial structures, to stay it or delay the developmental project, on a plea made by encroachers.

The HC vacation bench of Justices NR Borkar and Somashekhar Sundaresan, however, granted liberty to a set of petitioners to approach the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to reconsider



Work on to widen the river

their ineligibility and others already eligible to opt for either alternate accommodation or compensation.

Three petitions were moved urgently overnight for a Saturday holiday hearing citing scheduled weekend demolition by the BMC.

Since permanent demolition of premises, whether of a residence or a place of business, is a grave exercise, said the HC, it heard them. In one petition, five occupants were held ineligible, in another one, and in the third, all 13 were ineligible for alternate accommodation, "suddenly, inexplicably" though earlier held eligible by Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) in 2013, contended their advocate Mathews

Nedumpara.

The HC said the demolition was underway and noting previous orders in connected matters, had called for a survey to know if the process was followed. After also hearing BMC senior counsel Narendra Walawalkar, HC observed it indeed had, as all had received civic notice. Occupants sought a stay for ongoing demolition till their appeal, against ineligibility for alternate accommodation, pending before an additional municipal commissioner is decided. HC said while BMC decides the petitioners eligibility afresh, their appeal be suspended.

LIFE IN PLASTIC, NOT FANTASTIC!



South African cricketer A B de Villiers joined hands with NGO Project Mumbai to clean plastic waste from beaches through the Jalosh initiative on Sunday. Over 150 kg of plastic waste was collected in 10 minutes

Aspirants: JEE (Advanced) papers 'far from easy'

Mumbai: IIT aspirants found Sunday's JEE (Advanced) paper I to be moderate to difficult, but not easy. Many students claimed that the physics section was relatively tougher than mathematics and chemistry in paper I and some questions in the mathematics section were found to be lengthier. Most students claimed that paper II was tougher than paper-I.

In paper II, mathematics section was found to be the toughest by students, mentioned the preliminary analysis done by Ramesh Batlish, managing partner of one of the leading coaching institutes. The analysis is done based on the feedback from students.

This year, about 2.5 lakh students, who cleared JEE (Mains) were eligible for JEE (Advanced) for admissions to the premier IITs. IIT-Madras was the organising IIT for JEE (Advanced) this year. Over 50% of the students who were eligible for JEE (Advanced) came from six states, including Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka. From Maharashtra, 24, 596 students were eligible. TNN

Man whose limbs were cut lost balance & fell off train: Cops

Fatka Gang Probe On; Family To Raise Funds Via Crowdfunding

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Thane: A 30-year-old Kalyan resident who lost his legs after falling off a running train and being run over by another on Wednesday lost his balance and fell on the tracks, according to a press statement issued by the police on Sunday. The police said this on the basis of their preliminary probe even as another

police officer said they are probing if the man had been victim of a fatka gang's hit.

The family of the man, Jagan Jangale, who is slated to undergo a series of surgeries after losing his limbs below the knee, said they have not asked him about the incident considering his condition and the immense trauma. To tide over the mounting medical expenses, Jangale's wife,



Jagan Jangale (30) is slated to undergo a series of surgeries

Rupali, and other family members hope to raise funds for his treatment through crowdfunding. The two tied

the knot three months ago.

"Rupali doesn't earn much... We have appealed for help from well-wishers," said Jagan's brother Mangesh.

Deputy commissioner of police (Central Railway), Manoj Patil, told TOI that the injured commuter told rescue staff he fell off the train.

Senior inspector Archana Dusane said: "We will speak to the commuter and conduct a fresh probe in case he has allegations of being hit by some miscreant."

Prashant Shinde, Jagan's brother-in-law, said, "He fell

off the train on a subway near Thane station. He started to scream to get attention of passers-by after which people rushed to his help," he said. "We suspect a fatka hit as his phone is untraceable and is still switched off..."

Dr Balasaheb Chavan, orthopaedic surgeon, said the patient had been brought in a "very critical" condition with major blood loss. He was operated upon the next day. "His limbs were cut and not in a position to be stitched back... a few more surgeries may be needed," he said.

Two from Pune order drugs via courier, arrested

Mumbai: Two from Pune were arrested for ordering marijuana from London through courier. The special Intelligence and Investigation branch (SIIB) of Customs arrested Ronak Maniyar 30 and Toshiba Vipul Shah (28) under the NDPS Act.

The officials intercepted the parcel at foreign post office in Mumbai and found marijuana. They issued summons to the addressee Ronak who told them that the parcel was ordered by his friend Toshiba. TNN

# Doc gets bail; cops suspect DUI or cell use, say he was mum for 18 hrs & lied

S Ahmed Ali & Sumitra DebRoy | TNN

Mumbai: Police investigating the Sion Hospital accident, where a 60-year-old woman from Mumbai was killed, suspect that Dr Rajesh Dere, head of forensic medicine at the hospital, was either under the influence of alcohol or using his cellphone when he allegedly ran over her. They claimed that Dere misled them by stating that Rubaida Shaikh was found unconscious and intimated the authorities of her death only after 18 hours.

Dere, who was arrested under IPC Sections 304-A (causing death by negligence), 338 (causing grievous hurt by an act endangering life or personal safety of others), 279 (rash driving), and 177 (furnishing false information), was produced before a Dadar court and remanded in judicial custody. He was later granted bail for Rs20,000.

Shaikh's son, Shah Nawaz, alleged on Sunday that the 18-hour delay was sufficient to eliminate traces of alcohol from Dere's system. After carrying out the final rites, he expressed surprise that Dere had been granted bail.

Shaikh was struck by a car allegedly driven by Dere around 7.30pm on Friday. Police said Dere filed a report about it in the emergency po-

## Autopsy: Blood in chest cavity

The provisional cause of death given by JJ Hospital said there was "evidence of bilateral hemothorax". It's a condition where both sides of the chest cavity accumulate blood, often due to trauma or injury. This can lead to impaired lung function and respiratory distress, which requires urgent intervention to drain the blood. Rubaida Shaikh is also believed to have suffered a rib fracture. A final opinion has been reserved pending histopathological and chemical analysis. TNN

lice register only at 3pm the next day. "It was only after independent witnesses informed us that a senior doctor had run over a woman patient on the premises did we learn about the accident," said a Sion police officer. "Dere claimed that the woman was found unconscious. When we questioned him, he didn't cooperate, and neither did the hospital staff, who appeared to be under duress. This made us more suspicious."

Police said they forcibly scanned CCTV footage and found Dere's car. "We are waiting for Dere's blood test report and have asked the mobile service provider for call detail records to determine if he was



Dr Rajesh Dere (right) being produced in a Dadar court on Sunday

using his phone during the accident," said a source.

Sion Hospital authorities said there was no attempt to hide information from police, as the incident was recorded in the emergency department's logs. A senior official said the woman was brought in with bradycardia (abnormal heart rhythm), and tests (ECG and CT scan) revealed she had had a heart attack and blockage. Treatment started immediately, but she died around three hours later. The hospital listed the cause of death as "heart attack... cardiogenic shock". "Who will hide facts and why? Police took control of the casualty room around midnight," said

a senior hospital official.

Hospital authorities said prima facie, there was no obvious wound on the body typical of a vehicular accident, such as blood splashes and injuries to lungs, spleen and chest. "She only had abrasions on one leg and a bandage on her right hand from a previous injury," said a source. On the DUI suspicion, the official asked why "anyone would be drinking in the workplace, least of all, in a mortuary".

Additional commissioner Dr Sudhakar Shinde visited the hospital on Sunday after learning that the staff were reluctant to hand over the file. Hospital officials claimed there was no delay.

## Son learnt of crash day after death

Mumbai: On April 22, Rubaida Shaikh accidentally cut her left finger while slicing a carrot. This led to gangrene and swelling, prompting her to seek treatment at Sion Hospital, according to her son, Shah Nawaz. Shaikh was admitted to the hospital that same day and discharged after treatment on May 16.

"She said travelling back and forth from Mumbai every two days would be difficult. So, she stayed with relatives in Bandra and visited the hospital for follow-up appointments," said Shah Nawaz. When she met with the accident around 7.30pm on Friday, he was not with her.

Shah Nawaz got a call from the hospital late that night, informing him that his mother had died. Sion police also called him at 3am on Saturday, but he didn't answer as he was asleep. When he went to the police station in the morning, he was told of his mother's death. He identified the body, which had been listed as unidentified. Later, he learnt that his mother had been killed in an accident. —S Ahmed Ali

# Hoarding crash: Accused sent to cop custody till Wed

S Ahmed Ali & Sanjeev Devasia | TNN

Mumbai: Bhavesh Bhide, director of Ego Media that erected the hoarding which collapsed on May 13 claiming 17 lives, was on Sunday remanded to police custody till May 29. The crime branch sought further custody, informing the court of their intention to investigate the details for all 28 hoardings erected by his company in the city. Police suspect irregularities in them too. Bhide, for instance, had failed to obtain insurance for these massive billboards despite their placement in busy public areas like Eastern Express Highway near the BPCL petrol pump.

Bhide had managed to secure approval from GRP to put up the structure in Ghatkopar. Civic officials said GRP had refused to be subjected to BMC jurisdiction on licenses and fees for hoardings on their plot. GRP claimed that it fell within the definition of Railways though it is under the state govt.

Under BMC rules, hoardings have to be restricted to a size of 80 x 80 ft. However, Ego Media erected four hoardings flouting the rule with GRP's protection.

A BPCL petrol pump too was set up on the plot. The revenue from the hoarding went to the Police Welfare Board. Ex-GRP commissioner Quaiser Khalid had earlier told TOI, "I have received a show



17 people were killed and over 60 injured in the May 13 hoarding collapse

cause notice and will file my reply. There is no illegality. I left the railway commissioner in Dec 2022, the hoarding was constructed after my transfer."

During court proceedings on Sunday, his lawyer Rizwan Merchant objected to the police's mention of other hoardings, arguing that the current investigation should only pertain to the collapsed billboard. However, investigating officer Atmaji Sawant of unit 7 said, "Investigation into the money trail of the revenue generated from the hoardings shows money went into two personal bank accounts of Bhide, his wife Jigna and daughter and son. He was running the show. Bhide is not cooperating and has not given us the details of his other bank accounts." Police maintained that

Bhide was the main person running the show, despite taking over directorship from a woman who resigned in Dec 2023. Inspector Mahesh Dawde mentioned that the VJTI is yet to provide them with the structural audit inquiry report. Police said there are a total of four hoardings at the crash site, three of which are managed by Ego Media, while the fateful hoarding was given to Minimax company for marketing.

The statements of the owners of Minimax has also been recorded, indicating that decisions regarding rent, advertisement, and finance were made along with Bhide through phone and personal meetings. Police intend to investigate persons responsible for designing the hoarding, fabrication, civil work, and providing the structural stability certificate.

## SSC results today; 2 days left for FYJC registration

Mumbai: With SSC results being announced on Monday, students have to ensure that they register for the ongoing First Year Junior College (FYJC) online admission process. So far, over 58,000 students have registered on tithadmission.org.in.

The process of student registration (Part 1 of form) began on May 24 and will continue for two days after the results are declared on Monday at 1pm on www.mahresult.nic.in.

All FYJC registrations are online. There are 50% seats reserved for minorities, 10% in-house and 5% management quota seats. The forms have to be verified and locked to be able to participate in the admission process.

The Form 2, in which students can select a maximum of 10 colleges where they want admission, will begin 10-15 days after the results are announced on Monday.

After registration process is complete, students will have to wait for the merit list to be released. In case a student does not get admitted to their desired college in the first round, they can participate in the subsequent admission rounds. TNN

## Lawyer loses phone during flight; theft case filed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A lawyer, who practices at Bombay high court, on Thursday filed a complaint with the Sahar police stating that his mobile phone was stolen during a flight from Singapore to Mumbai on May 22.

According to the Sahar police, the 48-year-old lawyer, Avinash Phatangare, had kept his mobile phone in the seat-back pocket before falling asleep. When he woke up around 10.30 pm, he noticed that the phone was missing. He informed the crew about it, but they could not find the phone. According to Phatangare, he requested the cabin crew to check the passengers in his bay, they only checked in the space below the passenger seats. "They told me that on arrival in Mumbai, they would check the bags of the co-passengers, but they did not," he said. The flight reached Mumbai at 12.00 am.

After notifying that the cabin crew did not check the passenger baggage as promised, Phatangare filed a complaint with police on May 23. An officer from the Sahar police station said that they have requested passenger details from the airline to investigate the matter. A case has been registered against an unknown person for theft.

## SHOWER OF BLESSINGS FOR SPECIALLY ABLED

Pics: Sanjay Hadkar



Poverty coupled with disability can concoct a challenge that makes everyday life a burden. Against this background, a small premises in Kannamwar Nagar, Vikhroli, offers an umbrella of protection to unemployed disabled persons. Handicapped men and women from South Mumbai, Ghatkopar, Kalyan, Ulhasnagar and Badlapur travel here to manufacture export quality umbrellas for sale.

The National Association of Disabled's Enterprises launched its Nethra Umbrella project in 2018. KN Radhakrishnan Nair, founder of the NGO, says, "Visually impaired



persons assemble the shafts and ribs, those with hearing and speech impairments sew the canopy to the ribs. Mentally challenged inmates do labeling and packaging. Orthopaedically challenged persons are involved at every stage. They also conduct quality checks."

## Minor drives dad's BMW on busy rd with youth perched on bonnet

Pradeep Gupta

Kalyan: The police swung into action after a video showed a youngster performing stunts, lying on the bonnet of a moving BMW driven around Kalyan by 17-year-old has gone viral. The 21-year-old on the bonnet, Subham Mitalia, has been arrested while the teenager and his father, a retired government official, have been booked.

The incident came to light on Saturday afternoon. The video shows the young man on the bonnet as the teen, who has no driving licence, steers the BMW around

the busy Shivaji Chowk locality in Kalyan (west) as passers-by watch, some recording the daylight daredevilry on their phones.



DAREDEVILRY IN KALYAN

The father has been booked for letting his underage son drive. The police have served a notice to the father.

The police said that the teenager, inspired by reels on social media, recently coaxed his father to buy the second-hand BMW costing around Rs 5 lakh. The car is registered in the father's name. This incident comes close to the heels of a similar case of a minor from Pune driving his father's Porsche, allegedly drunk, killing two young techies.

Senior inspector of Bazarpeth police station, Suresh Gaud, said that no sooner did the video go viral than they tracked down the car, the youth on the bonnet and the minor at the wheel.

# PM, Shah & Fadnavis worked to defeat Gadkari; Yogi may lose CM post: Raut

## Senior BJP Netas Rubbish Claims; Mahayuti Strong, Says Shinde

Priyanka Kakodkar @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: In a column which has created a stir, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut claimed on Sunday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union home minister Amit Shah and Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis had united to defeat Union minister Nitin Gadkari in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls from Nagpur. Raut also alleged that BJP stands to lose 30 seats in Uttar Pradesh because word was out that if Shah returned to power, then chief minister Yogi Adityanath would be removed.

CM Eknath Shinde had worked towards ensuring that none of NCP leader Ajit Pawar's candidates are elected, Raut alleged. He al-

so claimed that Shinde had spent Rs 25-30 crore in each constituency for the Lok Sabha polls.

While senior BJP leaders rubbish the claims, Shinde told the media, "Mahayuti alliance is strong. On June 4, everything will be clear. Doodh ka doodh aur pani ka pani."

Raut made the statements in his 'Rokthok' column in the party mouthpiece Saamna on Sunday. He alleged that Fadnavis had unwillingly campaigned for Gadkari, when he realised the Union minister couldn't be defeated. "The RSS people in Nagpur are openly saying Fadnavis helped the Opposition to get Gadkari defeated," said Raut.

"Gadkari and Yogi (Adityanath) face the same situation," the column said. "The slogan among Adityanath's

followers is—if Yogi has to be saved, then Modi has to go... The North's Yogi and his followers have decided to defeat Modi and Shah," the column said.

Raut said Modi and Shah would be defeated and their govt would fall. "The INDIA alliance will get around 300 seats," he stated. In Maharashtra, the Modi-Shah camp would be defeated in 32 of the state's 48 Lok Sabha seats, the column stated.

Raut further said that there were questions about whether Modi would hand over power or would resist doing so, like former US President Donald Trump. "Modi and Shah will have to accept it because the people will come out on the streets," said Raut.

Opposition leader from NCP (SP) Anil Deshmukh

supported Raut's claims regarding Gadkari's election. "The whole of Nagpur knows this. Their own party's people know this," he said.

State BJP chief Chandrasekhar Bawankule said Raut had become "delusional." "BJP is not a party but a family. People who have always played the politics of factionalism will never understand family bonds. We always work on the principle of nation first, then party and last self," he said. "If Raut has the courage, he should write a column about how he tried to become CM in 2019 (when the undivided Sena joined hands with NCP and Congress)." BJP minister Sudhir Mungantiwar said, "Raut has a habit of making sensational statements. His allegations are not only false, but utter nonsense."

## Man smokes inside luo of Mum-bound AI flight, held

Mumbai: A resident of Rajasthan, Arjun Thalore (34), was caught smoking inside the lavatory on an Air India flight travelling from Jaipur to Mumbai on a Saturday. The onboard crew observed smoke ash inside the lavatory after Arjun Thalore (34) exited, and they handed him over to the airport security officials upon landing at Mumbai airport. Subsequently, he was arrested by the Sahar police.

The associate security official for Air India, Om Deshmukh (28) said that the flight that took off from Jaipur at 6.21pm had no smoking logo highlighted near the lavatory zone. "The flyers onboard were alerted by the cabin crew to not smoke. Despite the warning, Thalore entered the lavatory when the flight was mid-air and smoked," said a police officer of the Sahar police station. TNN

# MIDC blast: Cops seek technical experts' help

Pradeep Gupta

Kalyan: Three days after the deadly reactor blast in the Amudan chemical unit in Dombivli MIDC Phase-2, the Thane Police's Crime Branch team is taking the help of forensic teams and technical experts from industrial safety department to ascertain the exact cause of the mishap in which 12 people were killed and 68 others injured.

Meanwhile, the Crime Branch team on Sunday took the arrested factory owner, Malay Mehta, to his house in Ghatkopar from where the team has recovered some documents related to the company. After this, he was taken to the company's site in Dombivli where they obtained information related to the company's structure. He was also taken to the reactor where the accident happened.

An investigator said that since the reactor blast is a



Rescue team continued to remove debris from the blast site on Sunday

technical case, the Crime Branch is taking the help of DISH (director of industrial safety and health) team to ascertain if there was negligence on the part of the company officials and who else, besides the owner, should be held accountable.

Namdev Chaudhari, chief fire officer of KDMC said on Sunday, "Since three

factories have been badly affected, we are still removing plant debris to check if there are more casualties."

Meanwhile, on the eight anniversary of the blast in the Probac Chemical Plant in Dombivli that occurred on May 26, 2016, the survivors called for shifting all hazardous chemical factories from the MIDC as soon as possible.

# Poor rainfall caused up to 20% water cuts in last 6 years

Sanjeev Devasia @timesgroup.com

## LONGEST LASTED OVER 8 MONTHS

Year	Water Cut	Duration
2018-2019	10%	Nov 15, 2018 - July 20, 2019
2020	20%	Aug 5 - 20; 10% Aug 21-29
2021	No water cut	
2022	10%	June 27-July 8
2023	10%	July 1-Aug 8



(Figures do not include cuts introduced for repairs or other works)

Mumbai: BMC has imposed a water cut of 5% since May 30 that will double to 10% from June 5. While there's no word on when it will be lifted, such a measure stays in place till the monsoon arrives to replenish water stocks. The expected onset of the monsoon is June 11.

However, a glance at figures of the last six years shows that Mumbai had fared worse on previous occasions. It faced around 10-20% water cuts owing to less rainfall, with the exception of 2021, with the longest lasting over

eight months, from Nov 2018 till July 2019 (see graphic).

While some officials said the early withdrawal of monsoon in 2023 had led water stocks to drop below 10%—the

lowest in the last three years—a senior BMC official said this year's action is "a precautionary measure". "The situation is not bad. We have reserved stock approved by the

state govt," said the official.

Earlier, the city had encountered stricter curbs on supply. During the 2018 monsoon, lakes in catchment areas had received good rainfall in June and July, but not in August and Sept, leading to the longest water cut in the last six years. Lake levels filled up to 75.7% of the required quantum that year. In 2015, erratic rainfall had led to 20% water cuts from Aug that year. The same year, BMC had also imposed around 50% water cut for bulk consumers like malls, star hotels, factories and stadiums.

A BMC official said in the

last few years, it had rained even in Oct, but in the last season, the city barely got any rain after Sept 29. BMC officials are hoping for satisfactory rainfall in the catchment areas soon after the monsoon's arrival.

On Saturday, a 5-10% reduction in BMC's water supply to Thane, Bhiwandi-Nizampur Municipal Corporations and other villages, too, was announced. So far, water cuts had been announced only in Navi Mumbai and Panvel in MMR. Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation has announced a water cut of one day a week, while in Panvel,

supply will be provided only on alternate days. Thane and Kalyan-Dombivli civic bodies have not imposed similar measures so far.

The stocks in the lakes supplying water to the city dropped to 9.5% (1.36 lakh million litres) on Sunday. The figure had stood at 14.7% (2.12 lakh million litres) last year and 19.6% (2.83 lakh million litres) in 2022 on the same day. In addition to this, the state govt has also sanctioned 1.37 lakh million litres of water from Bhatsa dam and 91,130 million litres from Upper Vaitarna dam for Mumbai this season. (With inputs by BB Nayak)

## Body found hanging from tree in SGNP

Thane: The body of a 24-year-old man was found hanging from a tree atop a hill inside Sanjay Gandhi National Park on Sunday afternoon.

Yasin Tavdi, in-charge of Thane regional disaster management cell, said they informed police and rushed to the spot after they received an alert about the body, which was later identified as that of P R Ziman, a resident of Konkani Pada in Thane.

Chitlars Manpada police has registered a case of accidental death. TNN

## CITYLIGHTS

## Anniversary Spl

A milestone marriage anniversary needs a novel celebration, thought a young Mumbai couple. The couple, both 36, decided to take off on a 6,000km journey—on a two-wheeler. Vinayak Patil pulled out his favorite bike and with his wife, Sarika Nerurkar, as the pillion rider, went from 46 feet to 19,024 feet—Mumbai to Umling La, the highest motorable road in the world. They are on their way back to Mumbai. The Mumbaikars gushed about the beautiful landscapes they saw during their escapade. "Motorbike riding has always been my passion and Ladakh is every rider's dream destination," Patil told the correspondent. But this time it was special, he said, as he had taken his wife along, a "non-rider". He said the occasion was to celebrate their decade-old vows. It was a no-man's land they were on at the time. They followed other tyre marks to



FASTER THAN A BIG CAT? A boy pedals past a colourful mural at Kalachowki

reach Umling La. He credits his wife for keeping him motivated when the road got tough and the path was sandy, extremely windy and slippery. The snow-clad mountains, a view that never fails to impress, was the icing on the cake for them too, he said. It was an anniversary to remember.

## Race against Time

Growing up in Chembur's Siddharth Colony, Raj

Lokhande, a diehard fan of nine-time Grand Prix champion Valentino Rossi, dreamt of becoming a racing driver. A teenaged Lokhande would speed on his motorbike with fellow slum-dwelling motorsport enthusiasts till life forced him to apply the brakes. "The weight of responsibility made me slow down," says 33-year-old Lokhande, who abandoned his dreams and revived his

family's dormant, decades-old ambulance-driving business to help his tin-roofed "one-plus-one"-storey household navigate through tough times. "This is also a race," says Lokhande, reflecting on his now-decade-long high-stakes job of dodging pedestrians, puddles and potholes besides overtaking cars and autos to rush patients to hospitals in record time. "We have to get from point A to

point B in half the time it normally takes," says Lokhande, thankful for the anonymous clusters of helmet-clad bikers who carbonise in critical moments like a flash pitcrew mob to clear the roadblocks in front of him. Most people give them space on the road. Respect, however, is another matter. "People who don't mind tipping food delivery executives wonder why we deserve tips," says Lokhande, adding that odd timings, emergency situations and family concerns are some of the many risks ambulance drivers face everyday. "An ambulance driver also assists helpers in carrying patients up and down flights of stairs, ensures the patients are safely tucked in and steers the vehicle in a way that's both swift and gentle. Still, he gets respect only 10% of the time," says Lokhande, who was recently featured in a visual documentation project by Siddhesh Pandey.

## Inclusive Cricket

Former India coach Ravi

Shastri, who was present with the Col C K Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award in Jan along with former India wicket-keeper Feroz Engineer, has been named Cricket Australia's Multicultural Ambassador for two years. Besides Shastri and his "good friend", legendary Pakistan pacer Wasim Akram, the inaugural ambassadors include Usman Khawaja, Mel Jones, Lisa Sthalekar, Kishwar Chowdhury, Alana King, Peter Varghese, Swati Dave and Fawad Ahmed. "The Multicultural Ambassador Program represents Cricket Australia's unwavering commitment to creating a sport that reflects contemporary Australian society and embraces individuals from all backgrounds. Through collaboration and collective action, the program aims to ensure that cricket remains a welcoming and inclusive sport for all," said Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley this past week. (Contributed by Swati Deshpande, Sharmila Ganesan Ram & Gaurav Gupta. Compiled by Rucha Chitrodia)

## Of Shade and Shadows

Santosh Desai

The one thing everything in the world owns is a shadow. There is an air of mystery about the shadow; it is a nagging presence that one cannot shake off. Although it is directly related to us, it seems to have a mind of its own. It is amenable only to sight. Not to touch, sound or smell.

The shadow is an apparition, a cipher of darkness that approximates the human form. It is attached to our beings while being no part of us. It is the sun imprinting us on the earth. A tattoo that floats across the surface as we move. It is, strictly speaking, an absence of light, but it feels very much like a real thing, stubbornly clinging to us, changing shape and size freely as we go on about our lives. The light plays games with us, sometimes magnifying us, sometimes diminishing us, and always distorting us. As I type this article, my fingers converge with their own shadows, underpinning them and the emphasising my actions as if they were collaborators. In that sense, we are never alone, never truly singular.

two polarities of human consciousness. In Hindi films, we have the idea of identical twins, one good and the other evil, which is a variation on the same theme. The shadow is the inspiration for the idea that, from the same source, two radically different personae can emerge. The shadow self is ever present, flickering with malign intent, ready to disrupt the overt order in our lives.

The shadow is commonly used as a metaphor, but in some ways, the shadow by itself is like a metaphor. Something that captures the essence of a thing without being the thing itself. Language uses the idea of the shadow in multiple ways. We shadow somebody or live in their shadow. We can be shadowy, we can cast shadows on people and things, we can emerge from the shadows, we act without a shadow of doubt, and we are afraid of our own shadows.

Photography, which is nothing but an attempt to capture the dance of light, uses shadows to paint a scene. The shadows fill up space and reveal something about the object that the thing itself cannot display. It allows us to imagine the world in a new way. B&W photography in particular is as much about the shadow as it is about light. In cinema too, shadows play a crucial role in making a scene come alive; the striking visual effect of Guru Dutt films has a lot to do with his brilliant use of the shadow.

Sun and shade are seen as two facets of life, but interestingly, their meanings are culturally fluid. In English, to find a place in the sun is to be someone, whereas to be put in the shade is the opposite. Throwing shade at someone is to disparage them. In India, dhoo is the hardship of life, from which we seek the relief of chhaav.

## CITY CITY BANG BANG

The idea of the shadow has a much more benign meaning in India, understandably so, given the dramatically different value that each culture attaches to the sun. In the West, the sun is an invitation to strip down to the bare minimum and absorb as much sunshine as one can; in India, the sun is to be escaped from, relentless as it is in baking us brown.

The shadow self is increasingly finding public expression. Social media is the modern conduit through which our shadow selves find fluent expression. It cajoles us to shed our careful exteriors and submit to our shadow impulses. It encourages us to spend hours reacting to stimuli using the most reflexive part of our brains and induces a desire to express the baser parts of ourselves in the coarsest language possible. On social media, restraint is counterproductive.

To light a candle is to cast a shadow, writes Ursula Le Guin. We can have light without the accompanying darkness. The enigmatic nature of the shadow is what makes it so fascinating. Without a shadow of doubt.

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## Labourer killed by falling stones at Mira Rd site

Mumbai: A 22-year-old labourer Dablu Yadav, working on a construction site at Mira Road, lost his life when stones fell on him from the top floors while he was working in the open without any safety gear, including a helmet.

The incident took place at Apna Ghar Phase 3 construction site in Vinay Nagar on Friday. The Kashigaon police have booked the supervisor and manager of the construction site under IPC section 304 (A) for causing death due to negligence.

However, this is not the first time such an incident has occurred at this particular site. In Sept 2022, two children of construction workers, aged six and four, were killed when a 10-foot tall iron beam collapsed on them. TNN

## Airline to pay ₹1L to biz-class flyer for non-reclining seat

Rebecca Samervel  
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Holding Air India guilty of 'deficiency in service' for providing faulty business class seats that did not recline to a retired rear admiral from Powai who was on a Delhi to Toronto return flight last year, a consumer commission has ordered it to pay him a compensation of Rs 1 lakh.

The complainant, Anil Kumar Saxena, experienced discomfort during both legs of the journey for which he had paid Rs 2.36 lakh. In an order pronounced last week, the South Mumbai District Consumer Disputes Redres-

sal Commission said that it was a frightening and horrific experience for Saxena as he had to sit in an upright position throughout his 14-15 hours-long air journey, causing severe physical pain and discomfort.

"The complainant could not get sleep during the entire period since it was a traumatic experience. The complainant arrived as a tired passenger, feeling deeply hurt and being cheated with the indifferent attitude of the staff, and after paying heavy price he received the worst service and felt cheated," the commission said.

The airlines did not represent itself before the

commission, so, the order was pronounced ex parte.

In his complaint of Oct 2023, Saxena submitted that on his flight to Toronto the seat did not recline, causing immense trouble and pain. After efforts of crew members, the seat partially reclined, but it did not go back into sitting position.

A complaint was made to the personnel who could repair it, but they woke up after three hours and during this time he had to sit in an awkward position. As they could not fix the seat after an hour of effort, Saxena was allotted another seat through the alleyways and pantry under the staring eyes of

other disturbed passengers which was an embarrassing experience. Saxena faced the same situation three weeks later on his return flight to India. During this journey, the allotted seat was not functional and none of the controls for operating the seat was working.

The commission said that evidence revealed that Saxena suffered a lot, on Jun 3 and 24, 2023. "...admittedly the complainant has suffered physical inconvenience and mental agony because of defective seats for long air journey, the airlines is bound to compensate for its deficiency in providing service...," the commission said.

## No quota for Covid-hit kids in RTE admissions

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar:

The admission process under the Right to Education (RTE) Act for the academic year 2024-25 has removed the special quota for Covid-hit students, evoking sharp reactions. Also, there is no reservation for orphans and HIV+ students in the admission process, calling for corrective measures.

Activist Prashant Sathe said the process under RTE admission had a special quota for Covid-affected CHILDREN during the last academic year. "Children, who lost either or both their parents, were accommodated in the admission process as a special provision last year. There was no need for the state education department to do away with this provision this year," he said. Last year, children whose parent/s died between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2022, were considered for the admission under the RTE Act as special cases.

Activist Tukaram Saraf said Covid-hit children must get admissions under the RTE Act at least for the next three years. "It is insensitive on part of the authorities to remove the quota without any consultation. There are many kids who became orphans during the pandemic and they should be offered a helping hand," he said.

Pressing for corrective measures before the admission windows closes, educational activists also demanded accommodating orphans and HIV+ kids in the admission process under the RTE. The last date for beneficiary registration under the RTE is May 31. TNN

## Body dumped in gunny bag: 6 co-workers of waiter held

George Mendonca

Navi Mumbai: A week after the body of a restaurant waiter had been found in a gunny bag on May 19, six people working at the same eatery were arrested on Sunday in connection with the murder.

The body of the waiter, who worked for a restaurant in Panvel, was found dumped in a trench near Ambivali junction in Pan along the Mumbai-Goa highway.

The six arrested persons include the restaurant manager, waiters, cooks and a woman who used to help in cleaning work.

The police said they got a vital clue from the gunny bag that had a tag bearing the name of a store. This led the cops to arrest one of the accused persons from Matunga who spilled the beans on his other accomplices.

The accused assaulted the waiter for "harassing the woman" employee. He had recorded a video of her on his phone, said senior inspector Devendra Pol. Balasaheb Khade, senior inspector of crime branch said they got CCTV footage showing two men were buying the gunny bag. With this, they got the first accused, Anuj More, who confessed to his involvement in the waiter's murder. He revealed names of the others.

## Woman booked for thrashing husband to death

Mumbai: BMC staffer was allegedly beaten to death by his wife at their Chembur home after he came home drunk. RCF police have booked his wife, Jaya Makwana, under IPC Section 304 for culpable homicide not amounting to murder. On May 24, an unconscious Dhanji, who worked in BMC's sanitation department, was rushed to Rajawadi Hospital, where he died. Autopsy report showed the cause of death as serious injuries on his ribs and stomach. TNN

## 56-yr-old loses nearly ₹5 lakh to e-fraudster

Mumbai: A resident of Powai was surprised to discover that 10 fraudulent fund transactions totalling nearly Rs 5 lakh were carried out from his savings bank account between May 21 and 23.

The transfers took place after he installed a remote access app on his mobile, following instructions from an individual he encountered while searching for Cooper Hospital's contact information to gather his nephew's medical bills, said the police. Powai police said that the complainant, SR Vishwakarma (56), became aware of the money being debited from his account after a Rs 2 lakh cheque issued by him bounced. TNN

## Electrocution: Cops quiz soc's panel members

Mumbai: The Achole police investigating the tragic incident that occurred on Friday in Sky Heights Society, Evershine City in Vasai (east), where a nine-year-old boy Joseph Thomas died due to electrocution, have questioned the committee members. Thomas, was playing in the society's garden when he accidentally touched an electric pole and was electrocuted. The residents of the building immediately rushed him to a private hospital where he was declared dead. Police said the committee members have been questioned to gather more information about the incident. TNN

## TAKING THE LAW COLLEGE INTO THEIR HANDS

ANDHERI



LAWFUL OR PLAIN AWFUL? There is reclamation and construction work in the Lokhandwala back road mangroves area, Andheri, with a board saying there is a law college coming up. There are several dumpers, excavators, bulldozers and heavy machinery in this covered compound - Chandan Kowli

## CITIZEN REPORTER

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SLOWDOWN: Work on a bridge between Akurli and Poyisar metro stations on the WEH is pending for nearly a year with traffic delayed by 40 minutes during peak hours. Work seems to have stopped for the past many months. The part which is open for traffic is guarded by iron rods which is very risky for people travelling on two wheelers - Nikhil Bhatia

MIND YOUR STEP: As thousands of commuters exit Churchgate Station they encounter not only illegal hawkers but broken and uneven footpaths on the road near Eros theatre - Vijay Hinduja



CHURCHGATE

THESE PICTURES WERE TAKEN OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS

## Central Bank of India told to pay ₹25 crore for fraudulent transfer

Jehangir Gai

Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), a registered society formed with the aim of establishing new institutes of public health and assisting existing ones, had collaborated with state and central govt agencies for fulfilling its objectives.

At the stage of formation, the ministry of health and family welfare had granted Rs 65 crore towards corpus. Later, PHFI received grants running into hundreds of crores from Bill and Malinda Gates Foundation of USA, Nand and Jeet Khernka Foundation, and also from several donors. Instead of keeping the money in the bank

account, PHFI decided to invest it in various fixed deposits. It placed a total amount of Rs 25 crore in fixed deposits with Central Bank of India, Malad West branch. It also invested in fixed deposits of Punjab and Sindh Bank and Dena Bank.

On June 28, 2014, PHFI received

an e-mail from the senior inspector of policy, Economic Offences Wing, Mumbai, inquiring about certain transactions forming part of the investigation into a large scale embezzlement of Rs 58 crore invol-

ving several banks, viz. Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India and Punjab National Bank. Upon inquiry with all the banks about its fixed deposits, PHFI learnt that money was either not invested in fixed deposits, or had been placed in fraudulently opened current account, or the money fraudulently transferred to fictitious accounts opened without adhering to KYC regulations.

PHFI lodged a complaint with all the relevant authorities regarding the fraud committed by Central Bank's branch manager and demanded a refund of its investment totalling Rs 25 crore. Since Central Bank did not comply, PHFI filed a complaint before the National

Commission. The bank's defence regarding the maintainability of the complaint was not accepted, as the consumer fora provide an additional avenue for redressal of grievances. The objection about the complaint being time-barred was also rejected, observing that limitation cannot be calculated from the date of fraud, but from the date of knowledge of fraud.

Accordingly, by its order May 16, 2024, delivered by the bench of Justice Ram Surat Ram Maurya and Bharatkumar Pandya, the National Commission ordered Central Bank of India to pay Rs 25 crores along with 9% interest from the date of the transfer till the date of payment.

## Dereliction of duty at all levels led to Ghatkopar hoarding crash tragedy

BMC, led by veteran bureaucrat Bhushan Gagrani, woke up after the death of 17 persons following the collapse of a massive hoarding on a petrol pump in Ghatkopar two weeks ago. Although there was no commission and omission on its part—it wasn't civic body-owned land and it was the then railway police chief who gave permission for the 120x120sqft hoarding, as a planning and competent authority, it was BMC's responsibility to ensure that rules were implemented in their letter and spirit. If it had come across an illegality, it should have brought it to the notice of the CM Eknath Shinde-led urban develop-

ment department or the railway administration since the railways owns huge tracts of land in and around Mumbai.

It has been found that Bhavesh Bhide, the owner of the firm that was granted permission to erect the hoarding, is involved in several cases and

40x40sqft limit permitted by BMC, the railway administration failed to initiate stringent action against Bhide. The hoarding should have been pulled down the day it was found to be bigger than the size it was granted permission for.

Police probity under probe The credibility of Pune police led by Amitesh Kumar is at stake following the Porsche accident. There was an uproar over police's initial handling of the case that allowed the teen to be granted bail by the juvenile justice board in just seven hours of the case being filed. Alert citizens, led by local legislator Ravindra Dhan-gekar, swung into action im-

mediately. The protest was so strong that deputy CM Devendra Fadnis, who also holds the home portfolio, rushed to Pune. He had to face a volley of questions, and Kumar spent most of the day defending himself. Ultimately, an additional FIR was filed, which included a few non-bailable IPC sections. A fresh plea was filed before the juvenile justice board, which cancelled the teen's bail and sent him to its custody.

Earlier, following the 'koyta' gang's emergence in Pune, it was expected that Fadnis would revamp city police, but just two junior officials were suspended then. A former DGP said Fadnis is giving a long rope to erring officials.

## CONSUMER AS KING

Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), a registered society formed with the aim of establishing new institutes of public health and assisting existing ones, had collaborated with state and central govt agencies for fulfilling its objectives.

## PUBLIC EYE

Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), a registered society formed with the aim of establishing new institutes of public health and assisting existing ones, had collaborated with state and central govt agencies for fulfilling its objectives.



**KUSHWAHA SAYS NEXT NDA GOVT WILL TRY TO SCRAP 'UNDEMOCRATIC' COLLEGIUM SYSTEM**

**BIHAR CM NITISH TOOK CAR TO POLL RALLY AS HIS CHOPPER RAN OUT OF FUEL, SAYS AIDE**



## In unusual move, govt panel OKs 1-month extension for Army chief

No Decision On Filling Senior Posts Till Poll Process Ends: Official

Rajat.Pandit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In a highly unusual move that could impact the line of succession in the 12-lakh strong force, central govt on Sunday granted a month's extension to Army chief General Manoj Pande just six days before his slated retirement on May 31.



**Gen Pande's extension comes six days before his slated retirement on May 31. The next two seniormost officers, vice chief Lt-Gen Upendra Dwivedi and Southern Command chief Lt-Gen Ajai Kumar Singh, are also slated to retire on June 30**

The inordinate delay in announcing the successor of Gen Pande, who took over as the 29th Army chief in April 2022 and turned 62 this month, had already triggered widespread speculation that a supersession in the military hierarchy was in the offing, amid the continuing confrontation with China in eastern Ladakh as well as the impending move to create integrated theatre commands.

The extension by the PM-led Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) will add further grist to the mill since the next senior-most Army officer, vice chief Lt-Gen Upendra Dwivedi (Jammu and Kashmir Rifles), as well as the one after him, Southern Command chief Lt-Gen Ajai Kumar Singh (Gorkha Rifles), are both slated to retire on June 30. The Army, Navy and IAF chiefs can serve till 62 or for three years, whichever is earlier, while a Lt-Gen rank officer retires at 60 unless he is ap-

proved for the four-star rank.

A top govt official, however, told TOI that "any speculation or controversy is unwarranted" because it had been decided that no senior post would be filled before the election process was completed.

"No top-level military or civilian posting has been done in the last one month. The next Army chief was scheduled to take over on May 31, one day before the last phase of polling. Now, the next govt can announce the new Army chief in mid-June, who will then take over from Gen Pande on June 30 (both Lt-Gens Dwivedi and Singh will still be in the reckoning)," the official said.

The election model code of conduct, however, did not prevent the govt from announcing on April 19 that Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi would take over as the new Navy chief from Admiral R Hari Kumar on April 30.

While Lt-Gens Dwivedi and Singh are both from the

same course, the former became GoC-in-C of the Udhampur-based Northern Command in Feb 2022 and then the vice chief in Feb this year. Lt-Gen Singh became GoC-in-C of the Pune-based Southern Command in Nov 2022.

The next three officers in seniority, whose names were also sent to the ACC, are Northern Command and Central Command chiefs, Lt-Gens M V Suchindra Kumar and N S Raja Subramani, and chief of integrated defence staff Lt-Gen J P Mathew.

While there have been a few supersessions for the top post in the hierarchy-conscious armed forces, the only available example of an extension being granted was when Indira Gandhi extended the tenure of Gen G G Bewoor (who had succeeded Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw's also slightly extended tenure as Army chief after the 1971 war) in 1975 to deny the post to Lt-Gen P S Bhagat.

The NDA govt has junked the long-enshrined seniority principle two times during its 10-year tenure. First, it superseded two senior Lt-Gens (Praveen Bakshi and PM Hariz) to appoint Gen Bipin Rawat as Army chief in Dec 2016, who later became the first chief of defence staff before he was killed in a helicopter crash in Dec 2021.

Then, Admiral Karambir Singh was appointed as the Navy chief in May 2019, superseding the then Andaman Nicobar Command chief Vice Admiral Bimal Verma. Both times, the govt contended it had taken the decision "based on merit, not just seniority".

There have been other exceptions to the seniority principle in the past as well. Indira Gandhi, for instance, superseded Lt-Gen S K Sinha to appoint Gen A S Vaidya as Army chief in 1983. Similarly, Air Chief Marshal S K Mehra became IAF chief by superseding Air Marshal M M Singh in 1988. "Earlier, a new Service chief was announced two months in advance. These last minute decisions are not good for the morale of the armed forces. There is also increasing politicisation of the armed forces, with some top officers actively seeking out politicians to push their promotion claims," a senior officer said.

## 12 dead in UP as dumper truck hits bus with 50 people, falls on it

Bareilly: Twelve pilgrims, including three children, were killed in Shahjahanpur when a gravel-laden dumper truck crashed and overturned on a parked bus carrying about 50 people on their way to Purnagiri temple in Uttarakhanda on Saturday night, reports Kanwardeep Singh.

## COUPLE LOSES SON, 10-YR-OLD HIS FATHER

The incident saw a couple of deaths that can best be described as tragic twists of fate. A 10-year-old boy sent to fetch a bottle of water by his father moments before the accident, survived while his dad, still in the bus, was killed. Another passenger and his wife, having dinner at the eatery where the bus had stopped, asked their son to keep a bag in the bus. As the 15-year-old was doing so, the truck came hurtling onto the bus. He died while his parents survived.

SSP Ashok Kumar Meena said: "An FIR has been filed against the truck driver under IPC Sections 304 (culpable homicide) and 269 (rash driving). He is absconding."

## 9 die in 24 hours in T'gana rain; May toll hits 32

Hyderabad: Telangana reported nine rain-related deaths on Sunday, raising the toll to 32 in May so far, weeks before the onset of monsoon.

On May 8, a two-hour spell of torrential rainfall resulted in the death of 20 people across the state, followed by another three deaths due to lightning strikes about 10 days later during heavy downpour. On Sunday, two people died in Hyderabad. Four construction workers died when asbestos sheet along with a newly constructed wall collapsed on them in Nagarkurnool. Furthermore, one died after a stone kept atop the asbestos sheet of a house flew off and hit the car's windshield. Lastly, two people on a bike died after a tree fell on them. TNN

## HC takes suo motu notice, calls Rajkot fire 'man-made disaster'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: A special bench of Gujarat high court (HC), which assembled in Ahmedabad on Sunday to take suo motu cognizance of the deaths at a gaming zone in Rajkot, called the fire an "unfortunate tragedy" that was "prima facie a man-made disaster".



Debris being removed from the gaming zone site in Rajkot on Sunday

A bench of Justice Biren Vaishnav and Justice Devan Desai cited news reports and observed that such gaming zones and recreational facilities in the state have come up without necessary approvals from competent authorities. The judges directed four municipal corporations—Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat and Rajkot—and state govt to come up with details about the provisions of law under which their authorities allowed such gaming zones to be set up and operate. HC has granted one day's time to the lawyers of these municipal corporations to come up with replies.

The bench expressed shock at news reports that TRP gaming zone in Rajkot had taken advantage of loopholes in Gujarat Comprehen-

sive General Development Control Regulations (CGDCR) to pave way for creating illegal recreational activities. The court took notice of the fact that like Rajkot, such gaming zones have mushroomed in Ahmedabad, from Sidhu Bhavan Road to SG Highway and SP Ring Road, "which pose significant threat to public safety, especially innocent children".

President of Gujarat High Court Advocates' Association, Brijesh Trivedi, and advocate Amit Panchal, who demanded HC's intervention in this matter, appeared before the court and drew the court's attention on how a stock of inflammable material was kept carelessly at

the gaming zone in Rajkot. This led the court to say, "Prima facie, a man-made disaster has occurred where many lives have been lost and families have grieved today for the loss of lives in their respective families..."

Advocate Panchal has sought action in this matter by filing an application in relation to a PIL which he had filed in 2020 about fire safety in hospitals. He pointed out that despite direction from HC and the SC to the state govt to strictly implement fire safety rules, this tragedy has occurred, showing gross negligence on the authorities' part. HC directed to list the 2020 PIL along with the suo motu PIL on Monday.

## Five of a family killed in inferno, newlywed couple among missing

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Rajkot: Pradeepsinh Chauhan stood among many anxious relatives of the "missing" outside Rajkot civil hospital, enduring the sweltering Sunday heat without food or water, hoping for any positive news about their loved ones. None came. Chauhan said five members of his family perished in the devastating fire at TRP Game Zone.

This included his 15-year-old son, his brother-in-law, and his sister's family. "Two of my family members went to the second floor to save the children, but they could not come out," Chauhan said. The toll touched 28. The severely burnt bodies were un-

identifiable, necessitating DNA tests, which would take time. Authorities compiled a list of people reported "missing" after the fire.

Among the "missing" was a newly married couple—Vivek, 26, and Khushali Dusura, 24—and their sister-in-law Tisha. The family in Gir Somnath district spent a sleepless night, unable to reach the couple over the phone. They travelled Sunday to Rajkot. Vivek and Khushali had tied the knot just two months earlier, adding to the heartbreak of their sudden loss.

Surpalsinh Jadeja had visited the game zone with two friends, but the trio was later listed as "missing". His father Pathubha Jade-

ja said, "My son was involved in the rescue. He was saving people. I was in contact with him. But after some time we lost contact."

Kalpesh Bagda, 22, had been working at the game zone for the past two years. He is now presumed dead. Bagda had been a source of hope for his family. His uncle Mansukhbhai lamented: "Kalpesh's family was hoping for a good life with his new job. But now everything is gone."

Monu Gaud, a 17-year-old who had come to work at the game zone just 20 days ago from UP, was also on the "missing" list. "Had we known that this job would take his life, I would not have called him here," his aunt Sangeeta said.

## Hosp morgue fills up as heatwave sweeps Raj

Intishab.Ali@timesgroup.com

Jaipur: Bodies in Jaipur's state-run SMS Hospital's mortuary have piled up in the past two weeks and overwhelmed its capacity after several deceased people were picked up from roadsides amid Rajasthan's searing summer.

On Sunday, the state confirmed its first heat casualty this year, 40-year-old Moti Singh of Sarana village in Ajmer. Singh, a granite worker, fell ill on Saturday while loading stones on a tractor trol-

## Security guard dies of heatstroke in Assam

A security guard of a cement firm in Assam's Karimganj district died of heatstroke on Sunday. Amar Sinha, 38, had joined Valley Cement Company just two days ago. Sinha suddenly felt uneasy while being stationed at the main gate. He was rushed to a local hospital. Doctors declared him dead and confirmed he died of heatstroke. His body has been sent to Silchar Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem. TNN

He died on the way from a rural health centre to the district hospital.

So far, govt had denied any heat deaths. The numbers at SMS Hospital's mortuary—which has a capacity

of 40—are telling. The bodies have almost doubled to 42 from 22 on May 10. Half of these are of unidentified individuals. Officials said these were typically found by police on the streets.

The situation has become increasingly challenging for the hospital employees as they struggle to accommodate the growing number of bodies within the limited space.

According to officials, the surge in unidentified bodies may be attributed to heatwave deaths but cannot be officially categorised as such. "We need to find out the actual reason for the spike in bodies received by our mortuary," said SMS Medical College principal and Controller, Dr Deepak Maheshwari.

## NTCA: Cornering of tiger by tourist vehicles in Tadoba is 'eco-terrorism'

Nagpur: The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), a statutory body under MoEFCC monitoring all the tiger reserves in the country, has strongly condemned the recent incident at Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR), where a tigress named Roma (T-114) was cornered by over 150 tourists, drivers and guides in 20 safari vehicles on the Khatoda-Tadoba road on May 17.

Talking to TOI on Sunday, NTCA member-secretary Gobind Sagar Bhardwaj said, "This is not eco-tourism but eco-terrorism." Bhardwaj added, "We have taken a serious note of the incident and action has been taken against guides and vehicle drivers by the park management for obstructing the tigress."

Bhardwaj further said: "On Sunday, nine drivers and guides were temporarily suspended and fined Rs 3,000 for not maintaining sufficient gap between the tiger and safari vehicles." TNN

## 2 jawans die after drinking beer, poisoning suspected

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bhopal: Two Special Armed Force personnel died on Sunday from suspected poisoning after drinking beer on Saturday night in MP's Chhindwara. The deceased, head constable Dhaniram Uike, 55, was off duty, and constable Premal Kakodia, 54, was guarding the bungalow of the SAF unit commander from 8pm to midnight.

"Two beer cans, two glasses, and a packet containing some powder were found in Dhaniram's scooter. Premal, in his dying declaration, said Dhaniram had brought the beer around 9pm, and they both drank outside the bungalow. There was no third person there," Chhindwara SP Manish Khatri told TOI. After the drink, Premal resumed his duty and Dhaniram returned home. Soon, both fell ill. Dhaniram died on way to hospital. Premal was admitted to a hospital, which informed police. He regained consciousness around 5am on Sunday and recorded his state-

## Army averts tragedy by deactivating 3 IEDs

Army defused three IEDs near Maphou dam in Imphal East district on Saturday, averting a major loss of life and property. Security forces found the three IEDs—two weighing 2kg and one 5kg—on a road connecting Nongdam Tangkhul and Etham Tangkhul villages during area domination. "Army columns swiftly cordoned off the area before the bomb disposal squad arrived," Army spokesperson Lt Col Amit Shukla said on Sunday. Electronic detonators were also found alongside the IEDs, reports Mukut Das.

ment before death, said police. "Whether one of them mixed some poisonous substance or they did it mutually or some other chemical caused their death will be clear after investigation. We have collected all the samples, including stomach wash, for forensic test," the SP said.

## 19 students from Kyrgyzstan back home after 4-day arduous journey

Ujjain/Barwani/Khargone: After a marathon four-day journey, spanning three nations, to flee violence in Kyrgyzstan, five youths from Madhya Pradesh, among a group of 19 Indian medical students, finally arrived home in MP on Sunday.

Ravi Sarathe, Vivek Sharma and Rohit Panchal from Ujjain, Chetan Malviya from Barwani, and Kushagra Sawaner from Khargone are now worried for their friends back in Bishkek, especially those living in rented flats with no security. Sawaner said he could return because of Indian Embassy. Chetan, studying MBBS, had shared a video few days ago, pleading with govt and MP CM Mohan Yadav to evacuate them. "We reached Bishkek airport but were not allowed to enter. I hired a cab for Kazakhstan, 425km away," he said.

—Brijesh Parmar & Animesh Jain

## Home on Moon? IISc technology boosts 'space bricks' built earlier

Chethan.Kumar@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: A team of scientists at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, has achieved a breakthrough that strengthens the "space bricks" they built earlier using lunar soil simulants. The achievement takes them one step closer to realising the technology of building structures on the Moon using local resources.

IISc researchers, led by associate professor Alok Kumar and assistant professor Koushik Vishwanathan, had earlier developed a promising new method for manufacturing building materials from lunar soil simulants that could enable future construction of infrastructure on the Moon.

In 2020, TOI had first reported the development of "space



This is one step closer to realising the tech of building structures on the Moon using local resources

bricks" by Kumar's lab at IISc in collaboration with ISRO.

Pointing out that constructing habitable load-bearing structures on lunar and martian surfaces presents unique challenges, Kumar said: "A promising paradigm for effecting construction is by in situ resource utilisation."

The new innovation, distinguished by its potential to reduce de-

pendency on Earth resources, holds promise for significantly lowering mission costs and logistical challenges compared to alternative building methods.

Nitin Gupta, lead author of the paper published in the journal, Science Direct, explained that by heating regolith (loose soil) to 1,200°C, molten basalt acts as a binder, enhancing particle binding and resulting in significantly stronger consolidated "space bricks".

"Our findings demonstrate the feasibility of harvesting lunar resources to produce robust construction materials, reducing the massive costs of transporting all materials from Earth. This is a significant step towards realising sustainable extraterrestrial settlements," Vishwanathan said.

## 2 C'garh women injured in Maoist IED blast at home

Raipur: Two women were hurt in a Maoist IED blast at their house in a remote village, 10km from dreaded Maoist commander Madvi Hidma's home, in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Sunday morning.

Medical help could not reach the injured till late on Sunday in Bheemapuram village, home to battalion 1 of Maoists. It's not known if Maoists stashed the IED in the house or planted it there, Sukma SP Kiran Chavan told TOI.

"We are in touch with the sarpanch. We have appealed to villagers to help the women leave the village for treatment. Police are trying their best. Sending troops to the naxal hub is risky," the SP said. TNN

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## Luxury car mows down Noida AIR employee out for morning walk

Avishek Kumar  
@timesgroup.com

Noida: A 53-year-old man out for morning walk was crushed to death by a luxury car in Sector 53 on Sunday morning. Police said Janak Dev Shah was walking on one side of the road when a speeding car ploughed into him from behind and crushed him under the wheels. The driver did not stop as the man slumped to the ground, Kumar said.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the man was walking on one side of the road when a speeding car ploughed into him from behind and crushed him under the wheels. The driver did not stop as the man slumped to the ground," Kumar said.

## 1 dead as SUV hits Noida e-way divider

A 26-year-old businessman died and two of his friends were injured when the SUV in which they were returning home to Delhi from a party crashed into a divider on the Noida Expressway in Sector 126 and turned turtle a number of times around 1am. The car, police said, flipped past the service road. **TNN**

CCTV footage sourced from a camera on the road showed Shah walking with a milk can in his hand when the car crashed into him. The collision was so powerful that Shah was flung in the air and he landed on the road 20 metres ahead.

Shah's family members lodged a complaint, following which a case was registered against the vehicle driver under Sections 279 (rash driving) and 304A (death due to negligence) of the IPC.

"Two teams have been formed to trace the driver and carry out an investigation. We are checking CCTV footage of nearby areas. In one of the clips, a white car can be seen, but the number plate isn't visible," he said.

# 1L evacuated along coast as cyclone Remal makes landfall

## Kol On Alert As 135Kmph Winds, Heavy Rain Predicted

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: More than 1 lakh residents from low-lying coastal zones were evacuated to storm shelters by Sunday afternoon before Cyclone Remal made landfall around 9pm along the coasts of Bengal and Bangladesh — between Sagar Island and Khepupara — around 100km from Kolkata.

The cyclone, categorised as "very severe", brought wind speeds ranging from 110kmph to 120kmph, with gusts up to 135kmph, accompanied by heavy rainfall.

In Kolkata, the cyclone disrupted life, causing moderate rainfall of 23.9mm, with forecasts predicting heavy rain between 70mm and 100mm Monday. Transportation services, including air, rail, and road, experienced disruptions. Kolkata airport suspended operations for 21 hours, affecting 394 flights, while Eastern and South Eastern Railways cancelled several trains. The Kolkata port also suspended cargo and container handling for 12 hours.

Relief materials, such as dry food and tarpaulins, have been sent to coastal areas. Quick response teams, consisting of trained civil defence volunteers and vehicles, have been deployed and are ready for action. Fourteen NDRF teams are stationed across south Bengal districts. Indian Coast Guard and Navy deployed measures to ensure the safety of those at sea, including broadcasting alerts to fishing vessels and deploying ships



A rail worker ties a train to the track with chains as a precautionary measure in Howrah on Sunday, ahead of landfall of cyclone Remal

## PM reviews readiness with MHA, NDRF

PM Narendra Modi on Sunday chaired a high-level meeting here with his principal secretary PK Mishra and other senior officials from the National Disaster Management Authority and the home ministry and reviewed the response and preparedness for cyclone 'Remal', likely to make a landfall on the Bengal coast sometime Sunday midnight.

The PM was briefed that the National Crisis Management Committee is in regular touch with govt of West Bengal. He said the Centre has extended full support to the state and asked the home ministry to monitor the situation and take a review after the landfall of the cyclone in order to extend necessary assistance for restoration.

All fishermen have been advised not to venture into South Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea. IMD is also extending information support to Bangladesh with regular updates. **TNN**

equipped with disaster relief and medical supplies. Relief materials and quick response teams were dispatched to the coastal areas, and specialised diving teams were stationed in Kolkata for prompt assistance.

IMD's eastern regional head Somnath Dutta cautioned about surface wind speeds reaching 135kmph and warned of potential damage, although less severe compared to Cyclone Amphan in 2020. The IMD also advised residents to remain indoors and issued warnings of localised flooding and damage to infrastructure.

Bengal minister Akhil Giri affirmed the state's readiness, citing the deployment of 117 flood centres in Sundarbans and the use of school buildings for evacuee

## 21-hr Kol airport closure sparks scramble, sends airfares soaring

Kolkata: Mad scramble for tickets to fly out of Kolkata on Sunday morning took airfares to steep levels before Kolkata airport shut down for 21 hours — from noon on Sunday to 9 am on Monday. Between midnight and 12.16 pm, the airport hosted 12,833 passengers who left aboard 71 flights. Airlines said most of the vacant seats were booked on Saturday night and in the early hours of Sunday, report Subhro Niyogi and Tamagnha Banerjee.

On Sunday morning, Air India offered the quickest travel option to Chennai — in 7 hours and 40 minutes. One had to fly to Mumbai and switch to a Chennai-bound flight. The fare worked out to Rs 79,403 at 7.30 am. (With inputs from Mayukh Sengupta)

able structures. Housing societies circulated advisories to ensure residents' safety, emphasising the importance of keeping doors and windows shut and securing balconies and terraces. Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim said civic teams are on standby, equipped with tree-cutters, dumpers, bulldozers, and cranes to remove uprooted trees. He cautioned that while civic authorities are prepared with heavy-duty pumps to tackle storm water, prolonged rainfall coupled with high tide in the Hooghly might prolong efforts to clear waterlogging in the city. (Inputs from Abhi Banerjee, Saikat Ray, Suman Chakraborty, Monotosh Chakraborty, Suman Mandal, Sarthak Ganguly)

# PM rakes up 'Cong's pre-2014 plan' to 'create' minority institutions

From P 1

Modi also raked up Congress's "pre-2014 plan to declare schools, colleges, and universities as minority institutions".

"For this, Congress swiftly changed laws overnight and declared thousands of educational institutions as minority institutions. Previously, these institutions provided reservations to SCs, STs, and OBCs, but that was completely abolished and reservations were now given to Muslims," he said.

At Deoria, PM Modi said that he wasn't surprised that "jihadis across the border" were backing Samajwadi Party and Congress' campaign for a "vote jihad". He accused both parties of working on the agenda of "anti-national powers" by announcing they would repeal CAA and restore Article 370 to give back J&K its special status.

A few days ago, the PM had shared on social media a video of Congress MP Rahul



PM Narendra Modi and UP CM Yogi Adityanath at an election rally in Mirzapur on Sunday

Gandhi campaigning in Uttar Pradesh "10-12 years ago", where he is purportedly heard accusing the late SP patriarch Mulayam Singh of going back on a promise to provide reservation to Muslims.

In Ghosi, addressing another large gathering, Modi said, "Today, I have come to alert people of Purvanchal and Ghosi about the big conspiracy of INDIA bloc."

Citing the opposition alliance's three "big conspir-

acies", he said, "First, they will change the Constitution so that reservation can be given based on religion. Second, they will end reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs. Third, they will distribute the entire reservation basket among Muslims."

Modi said a new conspiracy was being hatched to achieve their objective. "They are declaring Muslim castes as OBCs overnight. Recently, Calcutta high court rejected OBC reservations for 77 classes in West Bengal. The vote-hungry Congress and SP want to change Ambedkar's Constitution so that their nefarious designs can't be challenged in court."

Attacking SP and Congress again for turning down invitation to attend Ram temple consecration, the PM said their senior functionaries tried to even find fault in construction when nothing else worked. He said this was the same opposition that conspired to overturn the SC verdict on Ram Janmabhoomi.

# Payal's film on 2015 FTII stir had also won Cannes laurel

From P 1

Also, an FTII student's (Chidananda Naik) film, titled 'Sunflowers Were the First to Know', won the main prize in La Cinef section. It's fantastic for us and FTII." Payal's batchmates and other alumni recall that the 2015 protest was "against the appointment of people who had no achievement in filmmaking" but were allegedly included in FTII's governing council for political reasons.

Harishankar Nachimuthu, ex-president of FTII Students' Association and spearhead of the agitation, said Payal always had a vision about where she wanted to go

## PM: India proud of Kapadia for her feat

PM Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated Payal Kapadia for her historic win at Cannes for her film 'All We Imagine as Light', which received 'Le Grand Prix' award. Modi on X wrote: "India is proud of Payal Kapadia for her historic feat of winning the Grand Prix at the 77th Cannes Film Festival for her work 'All We Imagine as Light'. An alumnus of FTII, her remarkable talent continues to shine on global stage, giving a glimpse of the rich creativity in India." **TNN**

and was willing to fight it out. "She was denied a scholarship and a foreign exchange opportunity for participating in the four-month protest," he said.

Payal credited her teachers as well as students at FTII for her success. "My batchmates were instrumental in shaping my ideas," she said.

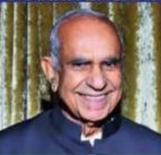
Payal's senior by two years in college. He said, "She was pained by the then gov't's attitude against the protest by students. So, she took out a camera and started filming everything. She made hours of footage into a documentary titled 'Night of Knowing Nothing'. It won the L'Œil d'Or at Cannes in 2021."

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### REMEMBRANCES

#### 4<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



### S. T. Gerela

"On this anniversary of your passing, we take a moment to reflect on the beautiful legacy you left behind. Your love still surrounds us."

Deeply missed by  
Wife: Kamini, Son: Rajiv  
Daughter: Prerana  
Daughter-in-law: Jyotsna,  
Son-in-law: Amrishi Dhirawani  
Grandchildren:  
Chaitali, Yash  
Abhinav and Niyati.

### SAD DEMISE



### Asha Kapoor

Wife of: Late B.D Kapoor  
Passed away peacefully  
on 26th May 2024

Mom, your life was a blessing,  
your memory a treasure,  
you are loved beyond words  
and missed beyond measure

Remembered always by:  
Children: Meena, Mahesh,  
Geeta & Kiran  
Daughter-in-Law: Vibha  
Son in laws: Nayan & Sanjay  
Grandchildren: Neel, Namrata,  
Poja & Rishabh  
Family & Friends

## Guj forms 5-member SIT to probe Rajkot gaming zone inferno

From P 1

It is one of the biggest disaster victim identification (DVI) cases in the country in the recent years, said a senior official from directorate of forensic sciences in Gandhinagar, comparing it with last year's Balasore train accident that claimed more than 200 lives.

A special bench of Gujarat HC convened on Sunday, taking suo motu cognisance of the deaths and calling the fire a "man-made disaster." A team from National Disaster Response Force began clearing debris from the site.

The FIR revealed that the entertainment facility's structure, which was the height of a three-storey building, lacked sufficient fire safety equipment. The facility also operated without a necessary fire no-objection certificate (NOC). The operators had never applied for this certificate, according to the FIR.

A special investigation team (SIT) led by ACP Vidhi Choudhary has been formed. Gujarat govt has also constituted a five-member SIT headed by ADGP Subhash Trivedi. Police had arrested Yuvrajsinh Solanki, 30, a partner in Raceway Enterprise, and Nitin Lodha, 45, the facility's manager and another partner. Lookout notices have been issued for the remaining accused—Dhaval Thakkar, Ashoksinh Jada, Kiritsinh Jada, Prakashchandra Hiran and Rahul Rathod. (With inputs from Parth Shastri in Ahmedabad)

# Delhi hospital fire: 'Oxygen cylinders flew into air and 6-7 explosions rocked the area'

Abhay & Siddhvi Singh | TNN

New Delhi: Around 12 fire tenders, cops and crime & forensic experts rushed to New Born Baby Care Hospital in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar late Saturday following an SOS and began dousing and rescue operations. Witnesses recounted the terrifying ordeal, describing a series of explosions that rocked the area. They reported seeing oxygen cylinders propelled into the air as the fire raged out of control. They heard at least six to seven blasts.

In all, there were seven deaths reported after the blaze. Confusion prevailed around the death of the seventh baby, who the hospital claimed had died at 9pm, before the blaze started. Cops said they would verify this from the autopsy report. The post-mortem of the victims was conducted at GTB Hospital.

Sarika Jain, a resident living in close proximity to the hospital, was about to enter her home when an explosion occurred. The force of the blast flung her several metres, leaving her with injuries. Similarly, there was a clo-



Investigators at Delhi's New Born Baby Care Hospital on Sunday

se escape for a woman and her two daughters, living on the second floor. They, however, lost their opticals shop.

Rajni Oberoi, who lives adjacent to the hospital, said: "Initially, we thought there was an issue with the transformer when the blasts began. I heard three consecutive explosions, and by the time we reached the road in front of the hospital, 8-9 blasts had occurred. The impact was so intense that the AC unit in the adjacent building also caught fire."

When cops started searching for the accused owner, they found him missing. His last location was traced to Jaipur. Raids were conducted and he was summoned to join the investigation. He appeared

before police in the evening and was arrested. An FIR under IPC Sections 304 (culpable homicide), 308 (attempt to commit culpable homicide), 336 (negligent conduct with fire) and 34 (common intention) was filed, and a special team formed to investigate the case.

The corporation said, "The premises was found consisting of ground and first floor and was constructed in 2001-02 and the baby care hospital in this building has been in operation since 2015. This building was built under the sanctioned building plan. In this context, 'Other Activities' (including nursing/hospital activities) are allowed as per Mixed Use Regulations of Master Plan.

## Licence had expired, facility owner held

Probe revealed that the hospital's licence had expired on March 31 this year, yet it continued to operate without any obstacles. Police have arrested the facility owner, Dr Naveen Kishi, besides Dr Akash, who was on duty on Saturday night. Further, it appears that the doctors lacked the necessary qualifications and expertise to provide care for newborns requiring neo-natal intensive care. According to DCP (Shahdara) Surender Chaudhary, their inquiry disclosed that the doctors held only BAMS (Bachelors in Ayurvedic Medicine) degrees. **TNN**

## Police probe illegal oxygen filling racket

Police are investigating the possibility of an illegal oxygen cylinder filling operation at the hospital. This line of inquiry was initiated after a large number of cylinders were found at the scene and neighbours reported suspicious activities. There were a series of blasts after the blaze began, which could be due to the cylinders. Firefighters and locals faced a daunting task as the hospital quickly became engulfed in flames. Fire chief Atul Garg said, "One team started firefighting because there was...a chain of blasts... So, we had to save the firemen as well." **TNN**

## Could've saved kids if we were there: Kin

Many family members of the survivors and the deceased only found out about the incident on Sunday morning. Every family expressed one significant regret: that they weren't present to try and save their little ones. The hospital allegedly only allowed families to visit the babies between 2pm and 4pm when they collected the daily bills. Shakuntla, a relative, said, "If they couldn't protect our children, why did they tell us to leave?" Pawan Kasana, a 27-year-old UP Police constable, lost his six-day-old daughter. He was on poll duty when he heard about the birth of his first child and did not even see her once. **TNN**

# Pune crash: Search on for BMW allegedly used to abduct driver

Joy.Sengupta@timesgroup.com

Pune: Bolstering the prosecution's case in Porsche's fatal Kalyaninagar crash on May 19, the initial probe by Pune RTO found no technical problems with the vehicle. Meanwhile, the crime branch is searching for a black BMW allegedly used by the 17-year-old's grandfather to coerce their family driver into taking the blame for the crash.

Pune regional transport officer Sanjiv Bhor told TOI on Sunday, "Prima facie, the car is without any technical issues. However, it is a high-end electrical vehicle (EV) belonging to a foreign car manufacturer, and hence, a technical expert from Porsche has been called in to assist with the car's inspection. The final report is expected to come out in two or three days."

Earlier, the builder father of the 17-year-old, who has been arrested in the case, claimed that the car had not been properly registered with Pune RTO due to some technical problem, leading

## Pub near crash spot sealed by excise dept

Excise officials on Saturday sealed a Pune pub in front of which the 17-year-old driving a Porsche hit and killed two techies on May 19. The officials said the pub, Ballr, had violated licence norms and served liquor without verifying age of customers. When the sleuths walked into the pub in Kalyani Nagar around 11.45pm, nearly 500 patrons were enjoying drinks and dance. Amid jeers, the officials told the DJ to stop the music and directed the patrons to clear out. Minutes later, the pub was sealed.

"We registered a case against the pub Thursday after we found internal changes on the premises and the register was not maintained as per its FL-III (liquor) licence. The pub was also selling liquor to guests without verifying the age," excise superintendent Charan Singh Rajput told TOI. According to Rajput, a report on the violations was prepared and submitted to the collector's office. "On Saturday, the collector issued an order to seal Ballr," Rajput said. **TNN**

to a case being filed in Delhi Consumer Forum. The crime branch is currently scanning footage from 100 CCTV cameras for a black BMW that the accused boy's grandfather allegedly used to abduct the 17-year-old's grandfather before confining him to their Wadgaon Sheri home and threatening him to take the blame for the fatal accident that took two lives.

A police officer revealed the footage from the builder's bungal-

low had been tampered with by the septuagenarian grandfather. Police are checking call detail records and chat messages exchanged between family.

According to the driver's statement, while he was on his way home at Wagholi from Yerawada police station on May 19, the boy's grandfather intercepted him at Shashtrinagar chowk, forced him into a black BMW, took him to his bungalow and threatened him to own up to the crime.

## Nagpur cops go undercover to find violations

Nagpur: Taking a cue from the Pune Porsche accident case, Nagpur Police on Saturday night went undercover to unearth various violations at some of the pubs and lounges in the city, including liquor and hookah being served to minors without verifying their ages, said police sources.

The undercover cops of the ranks of deputy commissioner of police and assistant commissioner of police would be submitting a reporting to the CP detailing violation of safety and licensing norms, reports Soumitra Bose.

Senior cops posing as customers collected information and evidence at the pubs and lounges till their closing time. The cops even paid the entry charges and joined revellers partying on the weekend. They drove to the pubs and lounges in private vehicles and collected information from the parking lot too, said sources, adding the evidence would be presented before court and revenue authorities.

# Thrown off mom's lap, infant fractures skull in Nagpur crash, survives

Soumitra.Bose@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: A 42-day-old boy has survived an accident wherein he crashed on the road head-on in Nagpur on Friday night. Police said a speeding car driven by an intoxicated goon hit a scooter, which the child's father Wasim was riding.

## MOM RECUPERATING

The accident took place near Zenda Chowk. Relatives said Wasim's wife Nazmin Shaikh was riding pillion with Johann in her lap. She had lost her grip on the baby due to the impact, "which probably proved to be blessing in disguise". But, she was dragged for almost 100 metres under the car's axle. Johann was tossed off the bike, somersaulted a few times in air before landing on his head on concrete road.

Nazmin sustained several fractures all over her body and

is recuperating at a private hospital in Sakardara, said a relative. The baby is recuperating at a paediatric hospital. "We can only express gratitude to the Almighty as Nazmin was not holding the baby tightly, else he too would have got dragged under the car along with her," the relative said.

Dr Anil Jaiswal, paediatrician, said it's a miracle Johann survived with just a skull fracture. "Hopefully, he will come out of it and get discharged soon," he added. The father sustained bruises after being thrown off the bike.

After hitting the family, the car ploughed into a crowd injuring another eight-10 people. Police said they have arrested driver Sunny Chauhan and two of his aides. They will move court to add IPC Section 308 against him for intentionally driving under influence of ganja and alcohol, which were recovered from the car later.

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**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

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**Kharge: INDIA bloc to form next govt, Modi didn't fulfil any promise**

Patna: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday called PM Narendra Modi "jhothon ka sardar" (master of lies), alleging that he hasn't fulfilled any promise he had made to the voters, reports **Manoj Chaurasia**. "He (PM) had promised to give two crore jobs to youths every year, bring black money stashed in Swiss banks, increase farmers' income, and make cities smart. Did he do anything?" Kharge said at an election meeting in Patna.



Congress chief Kharge in Patna on Sunday

Without naming NDA or PM Modi, Kharge said: "Galti se agar wo aa gaye, toh dictator banke apko ghulam bana denge (If by mistake they form govt, they will make you slaves under a dictator)."

Claiming that INDIA bloc, and not NDA, would form next govt at Centre, Kharge said Congress regimes in states did what they promised before assembly polls. "We waived loans of farmers worth Rs 72,000 crore," he said.

On the unemployment issue, Kharge said former Bihar deputy CM Tejashwi Prasad Yadav alone gave around five lakh jobs to the youths in a single state. "Just imagine how many jobs could be given in the whole country," he said. "This time neither Modi nor Nitish (Kumar) would come to power... Is baar gathbandhan aayega (INDIA bloc will form next govt)," he said. Slamming CM Nitish Kumar for going back to NDA fold, Kharge advised Tejashwi not to take him back to the Grand Alliance in future.

**Cops: B'deshi MP murder accused likely to be in US**

Kolkata: Almost a fortnight after the alleged murder of Bangladeshi MP Anwarul Azim Anar in New Town, a team of Dhaka police reached Kolkata and said they suspected mastermind Akhtaruzzaman Shaheen, a childhood friend of Anar, had fled to the US. Bangladesh is now seeking Interpol's help to catch him.

"The mastermind left Kolkata on May 10," said Mohammad Harun-or-Rashid, head of the detective branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police. "He went to Delhi from where he fled to Kathmandu and Dubai. We suspect he is now hiding in the US. We, along with Kolkata CID, are seeking help from Interpol," he added. TOI had reported on Friday that police officials from Bengal CID had hinted that India's extradition treaty with the US would help investigators nab the accused. TNN

**EC FIR against UP man over false VVPAT slip claim**

Lucknow: The Election Commission has lodged an FIR against a man in UP's Azamgarh for falsely claiming that his VVPAT slip was different from the party he had voted for in Saturday's polls. The action followed a video-graphed "test vote" that debunked the claim.

Poll officials initially told Arvind Rajbhar (25) he had a misunderstanding, but he stuck to his stand. "The test vote was then conducted in front of all agents and VVPAT remained the same. The entire procedure was recorded as evidence," UP chief electoral officer Navdeep Rinwa said. TNN

**Phase 6 turnout rises to 63.4%, exceeds polling in previous lap**

**At 82.7%, WB Tops In Voting Across States**

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Overall voter turnout in Lok Sabha poll's sixth phase, held on Saturday, stood revised at over 63.4% by Sunday evening, beating the Phase 5 polling percentage which, at 62.2%, remains the lowest so far. But, the turnout for Phase 6 is still way lower than polling in first four phases.

Polling data officially shared by Election Commission at 11.45pm on Saturday put Phase 6 turnout at 61.2%. It has since been constantly updated via EC's Voter Turnout app as more polling parties returned and submitted their reports, resulting in a 2.2 percentage points jump over the polling day figure. Also, Phase 6 turnout is now 1.2 percentage points higher than Phase 5 polling, notwithstanding high tempera-

**FIGURE REMAINS UNCHANGED IN UP**

State	Phase 6 Voter Turnout %	
	At 11.45 pm, May 25	On May 26 (as per voter turnout app)
West Bengal	79.5	82.7
Odisha	69.6	74.5
Jharkhand	63.8	65.4
Haryana	60.4	64.8
NCT of Delhi	57.7	58.7
Bihar	55.2	57.2
J&K	54.3	54.8
Uttar Pradesh	54	54
<b>Overall</b>	<b>61.2</b>	<b>63.4</b>

tures recorded in many constituencies that went to polls on Saturday.

Turnout data for Phase 6, as available on EC app at 10pm on Sunday, is almost final as no re-polls were scheduled after scrutiny held on Sunday in the presence of candidates or their agents, sources told TOI. But, current turnout figures for all phases are based on EVM votes and do not factor in postal ballots since the latter are counted only on results day.

The overall turnout in NCT of Delhi stood revised at 58.7% on Sunday evening from 57.7% at 11.45pm on Sa-

turday. This is, however, still lower than the 60.6% turnout recorded in 2019.

All the seven parliamentary constituencies in Delhi, too, have clocked lower turnouts as compared to last Lok Sabha elections.

Statewide turnouts, as updated in the app by Sunday evening, show biggest rise of 4.9 percentage points in Odisha, up from 69.6% at 11.45pm on Saturday to 74.5% on Sunday evening. Also, there was a climb of 4.4 percentage points in Haryana, up from 60.4% at 11.45pm on Saturday to 64.8% on Sunday evening. The uptick was also significant in Odisha, with revised turnout being 4.1 percentage points higher than 69.6% polling declared by EC on voting day.

West Bengal saw a 3.2 percentage point jump from 79.5% to 82.7%, possibly due to polling parties having taken time to return from remote polling stations. The rise in turnout in Jharkhand was around 1.6 percentage points, 1.9 percentage points in Bihar, 0.5 percentage points in J&K and 1 percentage points in Delhi. The turnout figure for UP was almost the same as Saturday.

Turnouts have fluctuated through the phases, with Phase 4 having recorded the highest polling at 69.2%, followed by 66.7% in Phase 2, 66.1% in Phase 1 and 65.7% in Phase 3. The graph dipped to the lowest at 62.2% in Phase 5 but has since climbed back to 63.2% in Phase 6. LS polls across 486 parliamentary constituencies (PCs) and assembly polls in three states have been completed. The remaining 57 PCs and 42 assembly seats in Odisha will go to polls in the final phase on June 1.

**Will implement UCC across India in next 5 years: Shah**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Shah accused Congress of misleading people on Muslim quota

New Delhi: Home minister Amit Shah, confident of a third term for Narendra Modi-led govt, has asserted that Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will be implemented across India in next five years and justified the PM's strident opposition to Muslim quota.

In an interview with PTI, Shah claimed BJP had not engaged in religion-based campaign. However, he emphasised that if opposing Muslim reservations, advocating abolition of Article 370 and implementation of UCC were considered religion-based, then BJP would continue such efforts.

He accused Congress of misleading people on Muslim reservations, asserting that BJP's stance on the issue was consistent with its policies in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The Union minister defended Modi's criticism of

**'Mann govt won't last beyond June 4'**

Amit Shah predicted on Sunday the end of Bhagwant Mann govt in Punjab after June 4, saying it was a mystery to him whether the latter wanted to govern the state or be AAP convener and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's "personal pilot". He said Kejriwal would go back to jail after polls. TNN

Congress's alleged religious quota and wealth redistribution promises, questioning the practicality and sincerity of such commitments.

"If they divide the truth into pieces to mislead people, then isn't it our duty to put these pieces together and inform people," he said, defending Modi's intense attack on Congress on religious quota and redistribution of wealth. Shah debunked allegations about tampering of EVMs by

citing the opposition's successes in West Bengal, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh and other states at the cost of BJP and said, "If those elections were fair; then this election is also fair." He said Congress had realised it was headed for another defeat and had started cooking up excuses to preemptively explain the impending loss. "When you see defeat, you start crying in advance and try to find excuses to go abroad," he added.

**Guj also gave Muslims quota, stop 'spreading hatred': Tejashwi to PM**

Manoj.Chaurasia @timesgroup.com

Patna: A day after PM Narendra Modi accused the INDIA bloc of planning to give reservation meant for OBCs/SCs/STs/EBCs to Muslims, Bihar's former deputy CM and RJD politician Tejashwi Prasad Yadav on Sunday wrote to the former, claiming BJP-governed Gujarat allowed Muslim OBC quotas. Tejashwi attached with his letter a purported "central list of OBC Muslims for Gujarat" to support his point.

castes are availing reservations under OBC category. You yourself have served as chief minister of Gujarat for 13 years," Tejashwi wrote in his two-page letter to the PM, advising against "spreading confusion and hatred".

Mounting further attack on Modi, he mentioned how Centre "discovered a unique way to end reservations" granted under the Constitution.

"Reservation is available only in govt jobs under Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution, but since you have abolished govt jobs from railways, Army and other departments, the concept of

reservation automatically stands cancelled," Tejashwi said. He also addressed reservations in private sector, claiming Modi had ignored the issue.

Describing Modi as "anti-backward and anti-dalit", Tejashwi said he had repeatedly requested the PM to allow quota hikes under the Constitution's Ninth Schedule for deprived castes in the light of last year's Bihar caste survey, but claimed that he did not pay heed. "I raised the issue again before the Union home minister at the meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council in Dec last year," Tejashwi wrote, alluding to Amit Shah.

**If voted to office, will fill up 30L govt vacancies: Rahul**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kullu/Shimla: Congress's MP **Rahul Gandhi** on Friday said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "openly saying he would try to topple govt in Himachal Pradesh using all means, including money and corruption". But Centre will not be able to do so in the state, he said.

"epicentre of corruption", the Congress MP asked why central govt was not revealing names of those who donated under the electoral bond scheme.

Talking about Agnipath scheme, Rahul said, "It creates two types of soldiers. The Army never wanted such a scheme created by Prime Minister's Office. There won't be any such scheme in INDIA bloc govt."

"Modi govt martyred 700 farmers on the Delhi border, but till date they have not given them the status of martyr," he said. Law will be made to guarantee MSP to farmers, he added.

"Unlike the Prime Minister who falsely promised two crore jobs, I would be more realistic. We would fill 30 lakh govt vacancies on coming to power. All the educated youths would be granted the right to employment for one year," Rahul said.

The Congress MP accused Modi of serving the "interests of a handful of corporates like Ambani and Adani".

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**SCHEDULE**  
Description of the Property  
All that piece and parcel of the land currently bearing municipal corporation PID No. 197536 (old PID No. 384345), Plot No. 1+3+5+6+7, which is a part of resurvey No. 106A, 107B, 108A and 109A admeasuring 1,34,198.73 square feet (equivalent to 12,467.67 square meters) ("the Building Plot") together with commercial building constructed thereon and popularly known as "Akshay Sky Mall" comprising of Cellar -1 + Cellar -2 + ground floor + 4 upper floors, having an approximate gross built-up area including common areas admeasuring 6,43,319.09 square feet (i.e., equivalent to 59,766.30 square meters) and units having an approximate carpet area of 3,21,214.13 square feet (i.e., equivalent to 29,841.77 square meters) and parking area of 97,156.02 square feet (i.e., equivalent to 9026.09 square meters) (the "Building") along with all the Building plant & machinery, fittings and fixtures installed therein (the "Fixtures") together with all the appurtenant utilities, amenities and facilities developed on the Building Plot and situated at Village Krishnapur, Hobli Chabbi, Taluk Hubballi Nagara, District Dharwad, State Karnataka - 580 030, in the registration District of Dharwad. The Building, Building Plot and the Fixtures together with all the appurtenant utilities, amenities and facilities developed on the Building Plot are collectively, referred to as the Property. The Building Plot is bounded on the:  
**East by:** Plots No. 2 and 4 in resurvey numbers 106A, 107B and 109A and MCL Road;  
**West by:** Plot No. 7 in resurvey numbers 98/4, 98/5 and 107/A2;  
**North by:** 30 meter wide Gokul Road; and  
**South by:** 12 meter road and plot No. 8 in resurvey numbers 106A, 107B and 109A.  
Ms. Savitha K.G., Partner  
**Poovayya & Co., Advocates and Solicitors**  
The Estate, Level Four, 121 Dickenson Road, Bengaluru - 560 042  
Place: Hubli  
Date: 27.05.2024

**RETHINKING, RENEWING, REINVENTING WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**₹ 872.9 Cr. TOTAL REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS**

**₹ 201.8 Cr. EBITDA**

**₹ 109.1 Cr. PROFIT BEFORE TAX**

Figures are for FY24

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**Antony Waste Handling Cell Limited**  
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antony-waste @antonywaste www.antony-waste.com

**Government Certificate course on CYBER SECURITY & ETHICAL HACKING**

Course duration : 2 days Date-1,2 June 2024  
Time -10AM to 5PM

Venue : IDEMI, Swatantrayeeer Tatya Tope Marg, Chunarbhatti, Sion PO Mumbai - 400 022

After successful completion, certificate will be issued

Email id : training@idemi.org Web : www.idemi.org Ph.: (022) 2405 0301/2/3/4

Contents : Cyber crime & terrorism, Type of attacks, Goal of Security & computer Forensic, Social Media, Mobile Hacking, Cyber Hacking, Digital Forensic, Data Recovery.

Fees-4500+18% GST in the name of IDEMI (include lunch & tea)

Contact- 8007765693, 9403566219, 9270076724, 9869087617

Documents required : 2 passport photos, Adhar card xerox, Education proof xerox



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- Minimum Qualification: - Graduate preferably from Commerce background (B. Com, BCA, BBA and BMS)
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- Good computer knowledge, should be proficient in IT

Interested candidates may send their applications at the following email address on or before 01.07.2024.

Note: - Scanned application in the prescribed format along with documents should be mailed at the above Email ID.

Age Relaxation is as per Maharashtra Government Rules for OBC/SC/ST candidates.

Incomplete application will be automatically rejected without assigning any reason.

Applications received by Post/in person will not be entertained.

[recruitment@navalbank.com](mailto:recruitment@navalbank.com)

**FORMAT OF APPLICATION**

- Name in Full (block Letters)
- Father's/Husband's Name
- Whether Parent/spouse of the Applicant is a Shareholder of the Naval Dockyard Co-op Bank
- If Yes, Mention L/F No.
- Present Address
- Permanent Address
- Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy)
- Whether Belong to ST/SC/OBC/NT
- Sex Male/Female
- Education Qualification
- Technical Qualification
- Computer Knowledge
- Work Experience If any
- Mobile No
- Email ID
- Self Attested Xerox Copies Of DOB, Caste Certificate, Education Certificate, Computer Knowledge and Work Experience Certificate Attached (y/n)

I Herby declare that all information furnished in this application form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Of The Applicant

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

We are investigating (a) the title of the Persons enlisted in the Schedule hereunder written (collectively "the Owners"), to respective shares (held by each of the Owners respectively) issued by the Shanti Kuti Co-operative Housing Society Limited and corresponding thereto, all the right, title and interest of the Owners to their respective residential flats (aggregating to 5 flats in number), as more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written (collectively "the said Properties"); and (b) the rights and entitlements of the Owners to create third party rights in respect of the said Properties including inter alia by creation of a mortgage in respect thereof.

All persons having any right, title, claim, benefit, charge, demand or interest in respect of the property described in the Schedule hereunder written, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, trust, maintenance, possession, inheritance, tenancy, lease, leave and license, lien or otherwise howsoever or objection to the Owners creating third party rights in respect of the said Properties including inter alia by creation of a mortgage in respect thereof, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing, along with supporting documents of such claim or objection to the undersigned, at Law Scribers, 703, DLH Plaza, Beeta Society, S. V. Road, Andheri (West), Mumbai 400058, within a period of 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be construed and accepted that there does not exist any such claim or objection, and the same shall be construed as having been non-existent/waived/abandoned.

**SCHEDULE**

**[i] Share certificate number 216, containing 23 [twenty three] of Rs.100/- each, fully paid up shares, bearing distinctive nos. 11172 to 11194 [both inclusive], issued by the Shree Nirmal Commercial Limited ["said Company"];**

**[ii] Premises admeasuring 230 square feet (equivalent to 21.36 sq. mts.) on the 19th floor, wing A, of the building known as Nirmal, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021, belonging to the said Company and situated on the property bearing C.S. No. 1919, of Fort Division, and plot nos.241/242 at Backbay Reclamation, Nariman Point, in the Registration district and Sub-District of Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban.**

**Date: 27-5-2024**

**Tushar R. Desai Solicitor & Advocate. C/o. TLC Legal Nirmal, 19th floor, 241/242, Nariman Point, Next to Express Towers, Mumbai 400021.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that I am investigating the title and ownership rights of **Duncan International (India) Ltd.**, having its registered office at Duncan House, 31 Netaji Subhash Road, Kolkata 700031 and having principal business office at 14th floor, Tower B, World Trade Tower, Plot no. C-1 Sector 16, Noida, 201301, UP in respect of property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written.

All persons having any right, title, claim, benefit, charge, demand or interest in respect of the property described in the Schedule hereunder written, by way of sale, exchange, let, lease, license, lien, assignment, mortgage, inheritance, bequest, easement, trust, possession, family arrangement/agreement/settlement, any decree/order/direction of any court of law or of any arbitrator/s or any authority established under any statute, contract/agreement, development or other rights similar in nature, partnership or otherwise of whatsoever nature are hereby requested to make the same known in writing, along with documentary evidence to the undersigned at the address mentioned below within 15 days from the date of the publication of this public notice, failing which it shall be deemed to have been waived/given up, abandoned and it will be presumed that there does not exist any claim or objections and our client shall proceed to acquire the property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder.

**SCHEDULE**

**[i] Share certificate number 216, containing 23 [twenty three] of Rs.100/- each, fully paid up shares, bearing distinctive nos. 11172 to 11194 [both inclusive], issued by the Shree Nirmal Commercial Limited ["said Company"];**

**[ii] Premises admeasuring 230 square feet (equivalent to 21.36 sq. mts.) on the 19th floor, wing A, of the building known as Nirmal, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400021, belonging to the said Company and situated on the property bearing C.S. No. 1919, of Fort Division, and plot nos.241/242 at Backbay Reclamation, Nariman Point, in the Registration district and Sub-District of Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban.**

**Date: 27-5-2024**

**Tushar R. Desai Solicitor & Advocate. C/o. TLC Legal Nirmal, 19th floor, 241/242, Nariman Point, Next to Express Towers, Mumbai 400021.**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that, under the instructions of our client, we are investigating the title of **Shree Hind Co-operative Housing Society Limited**, a co-operative housing society registered under the provisions of the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 as a housing society, under Registration No BOM/HSG/4956 of 1976, having its registered address at Plot No 23, N S Mankar Marg, Sion (East), Mumbai - 400 022 ("Society") to the property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written ("Property") as our client proposes to redevelop the Property.

The land comprised in the Property has been granted on leasehold basis by the Governor of Maharashtra in favour of The Hind Co-operative Housing Society Limited vide an Indenture dated 21 November 1966 registered with the Office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances at Bombay under Registration No 4212 of 1966 for a period of 99 (ninety-nine) years commencing from 18 September 1953. Vide an Order dated 21 October 1976, the Assistant Registrar Co-operative Societies, Bombay granted approval for the division of the aforesaid The Hind Co-operative Housing Society Limited into 2 (two) societies i.e., (i) the Society being **Shree Hind Co-operative Housing Society Limited**; and (ii) Hind Co-operative Housing Society Limited and pursuant to such division, the Society became entitled to the Property.

**SCHEDULE**

All persons having any share, claim, right, title interest or demand whatsoever into, upon or in respect of the Property or any portion thereof including by way of sale, share, conveyance, acquisition, requisition, right of development, right to utilize development potential, FSI consumption, partition, transfer, exchange, assignment, mortgage, agreement for sale, release, relinquishment, power of attorney, guarantee, charge, gift, trust, maintenance, inheritance, claim, possession, let, lease, sub tenancy, lien, *lis pendens*, license, sub-license, easement, devise, Will, bequest, family arrangement / settlement, allotment, encumbrance, covenant or beneficial right / interest under any trust, right of prescription or preemption or under any agreement / writing / document or other disposition or under any decree, order or award passed by any court or tribunal or authority or otherwise claiming whatsoever including by operation of law ("Claims"), are hereby requested to make the same known in writing to Khaitan & Co. Advocates, at One World Centre, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Tower 1C, 841 Senapati Bapat Marg, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400 013 also with a copy addressed over email at [mumbai@khaitan.com](mailto:mumbai@khaitan.com), along with copies of necessary supporting documents, within 10 (ten) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which it would be deemed that the claimant(s) has / have relinquished such Claims and that no such Claims, right, title, estate or interest exist and same shall be treated as waived or abandoned and/or not binding upon the Society and/or our client and our client shall be free to complete the intended transaction in respect of the Property with the Society, without any reference or recourse to such Claims.

**SCHEDULE**

**(Description of the Property)**

All that piece and parcel of land or ground bearing Cadastral Survey No 23 of Sion Division, registered in the books of the Collector of Bombay under Rent Roll No 8621, admeasuring 18,273 square meters, situate, lying and being at Duncan Causeway at Sion, Mumbai along with 18 (eighteen) residential buildings and consisting of 158 (one hundred and fifty-eight) residential flats. The land comprised in the Property is bounded as follows:

On or towards the North: By lands bearing C.S. No 1/34 and C.S. No 33 of Sion Division

On or towards the South: By land bearing C.S. No 1/23 of Sion Division

On or towards the East: By Central Railway Harbour Branch

On or towards the West: By Duncan Causeway

Dated this 27th day of May 2024.

**For Khaitan & Co Sd/- Harsh Parikh Partner**

**Receiving rape & death threats, claims Maliwal**

**Accuses AAP & YouTuber Of 'Victim-Shaming'**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** AAP Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal on Sunday said she has been receiving rape and death threats, attributing the hostile environment to her party colleagues and YouTuber Dhruv Rathee for inciting negative sentiments against her.

"After the leaders and volunteers of my party i.e. AAP orchestrated a campaign of character assassination, victim-shaming and fanning of emotions against me, I have been getting rape and death threats. This got further exacerbated when YouTuber @Dhruv Rathee posted a one-sided video against me," Maliwal posted on X.

Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal's aide Bibhav Kumar was arrested on May 18 in connection with the alleged assault on Maliwal. She had alleged that Bibhav brutally assaulted her on May 13 when she had gone to meet the CM. AAP has countered her allegations citing the whole incident to be



Maliwal said AAP leadership trying to 'intimidate her into withdrawing plaint'

a "BJP conspiracy" and alleging that Maliwal was made the face of this conspiracy to frame Kejriwal.

In her post on X on Sunday, Maliwal alleged that "as far as the party leadership goes, it is very clear that they are trying to intimidate me into withdrawing my complaint. However, for Dhruv, I tried my best to reach out to him to tell him my version but he ignored my calls and messages."

"It is shameful that people like him, who claim to be independent journalists, could act like other AAP spokespersons and victim shame me to the extent that I am now facing extreme abuses and threats," she added. The former Delhi Commission for Women chief highlighted in her post that "the manner in which the entire party machinery and its supporters have attempted to vilify and shame me, speaks volu-

mes on their stand on women's issues". Maliwal said she would report these rape and death threats to Delhi Police.

"I hope they take strong action against the perpetrators," she added. She also said in her post: "In any case, if something happens to me, we know who all instigated it."

On Dhruv Rathee's video posted on May 22, Maliwal listed the "facts" that she alleged "he failed to mention in his 2.5-minute video." Maliwal alleged that the video does not mention that "the party took a U-turn on its stand after accepting the incident has happened; the MLC report reveals injuries due to the assault; selected part of the video was released and then the phone was accused was formatted".

She further highlighted that Rathee missed out on raising questions on issues like — "the accused was arrested from the crime scene (CM house). Why was he allowed to enter the place again? For tampering of evidence?"

"How a woman who always stood for the right issues, even went to Manipal alone without security could be bought over by the BJP?" she asked, listing this as one of the points that she felt the YouTuber failed to mention in his video.

**Govt directs telcos to block incoming int'l spoofed calls**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** To tackle cyber criminals, gov't has directed telecom operators to block all incoming international spoofed calls that display Indian mobile numbers.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has said that fraudsters are making international spoofed calls displaying Indian mobile numbers to mobile users and committing cybercrime and financial frauds.

Such calls appear to be originating within India but are being made by cybercriminals from abroad by manipulating the calling line identity (CLI), and have been misused in recent cases of fake digital arrests, FedEx scams, drugs or narcotics in courier, impersonation as gov't and police officials, disconnections of mobile numbers by DoT or TRAI



DoT said fraudsters were making international spoofed calls displaying Indian mobile numbers

officials, etc.

"DoT and Telecom Service Providers (TSPs) have devised a system to identify and block such international spoofed calls from reaching any Indian telecom subscriber. Now directions have been issued to TSPs for blocking such incoming international spoofed calls," said an official statement.

The incoming international spoofed calls with Indian landline numbers are already being blocked by the TSPs in accordance with the directions issued by DoT.

"Despite best efforts, there may still be some fraudsters who succeed through other means. For such calls, you can help everybody by reporting such suspected fraud communications at the Chakshu facility on Sanchar Saathi," the statement said.

Last week, DoT had issued directives to the telecom operators to carry out immediate re-verification of 6.8 lakh mobile numbers within 60 days. These mobile numbers are suspected to have been obtained using invalid, non-existent, or fake documents. The department has flagged around 6.80 lakh mobile connections as potentially fraudulent after advanced AI-driven analysis.

**After bird hits engine, Delhi to Leh flight returns to IGIA**

**New Delhi:** A SpiceJet flight headed to Leh returned to Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) on Sunday after a bird hit its engine mid-air. All 135 passengers were deplaned after the aircraft landed safely. An airport official said the flight, which had taken off at 10.30am, landed at Delhi airport around 11am.

A SpiceJet spokesperson said, "On May 26, 2024, SpiceJet B737 aircraft operating SG-123 from Delhi to Leh returned to Delhi after suffering a bird hit on engine two. The aircraft landed back safely in Delhi and passengers were deplaned normally."

The aircraft made a normal landing and not an emergency landing, the spokesperson added.

"The flight told the ATC there was vibration in the engine," said an airport official.

An Air India flight, which took off from Delhi with 175 passengers, returned to IGIA, after a fire warning from its auxiliary power unit on May 17. Last July, a Kolkata-bound flight was forced to return mid-air to Delhi airport due to some technical glitch.

Earlier in June 2023, a Delhi to Dehradun flight had returned to IGIA due to some technical glitch. **TNN**

**Sitar from Bengal village sold across country & abroad**

► From P 1

**D**adpur's instruments have travelled far and wide, across the country and abroad.

Many in the village have shifted to making instruments from other professions. "Sitar and surbahars are made in 12 workshops in this village. At least one member from each household is into this," said Samar Mondal, who has been engaged in one of the workshops for 17 years.

Crafting a sitar is an intricate task. Each part—body-making, curving, engraving, polishing and tuning—requires craftsmen specialising in that particular aspect.

Abhijit Mondal switched to instrument-making a few years ago. He is now an expert in designing sitars and surbahars. "Not a single part of the instrument is made with the help of a machine. It is wholly dependent on human skills and acumen," he said.

Kolkata, Varanasi, Lucknow, Pune, Delhi and Patna are among the cities from where Dadpur gets big orders. "Apart from bulk sales, we get individual orders from across the co-



Sitar and surbahars are made in 12 workshops in Dadpur village

untry. Many popular brands take unfinished instruments from us," said Dipak Halder. These brands later customise the instruments according to their specifications.

Eminent Kolkata sitar player Pundit Deboprasad Chakrabarty vouched for Dadpur's cachet. "They never compromise on quality. The price is reasonable, affordable even for beginners," Chakrabarty said.

Ironically, the comment about prices coincided with a jarring note in Dadpur—a refrain about low earnings. Most of the craftsmen complained that they did not make enough money in spite of their full-time engagement and the high market value of their instruments, especially when these were marketed by big players.

**Myanmar civil war halts transportation of essential goods, fuel from Mizoram**

HC Vanlalruata | TNN

**Aizawl:** The transportation of essential goods, including petroleum products, from Lawngtlai in southern Mizoram to Rakhine state of Myanmar via adjoining Siahia district has been suspended from Saturday mid-night, as civil war rages on in the neighbouring country.

This came about after the largest civil society organisation in

Lawngtlai, the central committee of Young Lai Association (YLA), appealed to transporters to halt operations for their own security. YLA issued a statement saying that intense clashes between Arakan Army (AA) militants and Myanmar army in Rakhine and Chin states has led to acute shortage of essential items, especially fuel, in the war-torn country.

In such a situation, sending a

large number of vehicles to Rakhine has often resulted in oil scarcity in Lawngtlai and Siahia districts as well, besides a shortage of vehicles for travel and transportation of goods within the districts, the media note said. "Large quantities of fuel and goods have been transported to Rakhine state from Mizoram via Lawngtlai and Siahia districts since mid-March," the statement said.

**jobs**

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**real estate**

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**personal**

**LOST & FOUND**

**OUR** application documents for ICICI Corporate Credit Card submitted to ICICI Bank Employee have been lost by ICICI and an FIR is filed by ICICI. If found please contact us BluePlug Innovations Pvt Ltd on +91 8098090902.

**tender & notices**

**TENDERS**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Sealed Tender are invited for Structural Repairs, Civil, Waterproofing, Plumbing, **CHANDIVALI NARAYAN PLAZA PREMISES C.S.LTD**  
26-A, Off. Saki Vihar Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 072.  
Tender collection from consultant office on working days From - 27/05/2024 to 03/06/2024 (Between 11.00am to 06.00pm)  
Tender cost of Rs. 4,000/- cash (Non- Refundable).  
**STRUCTURAL TECHNO CONSULTANT**  
Office No. 308, 3rd floor, Master Mind IV Premises C.S.Ltd Royal Palms, Aarey Milk Colony, Goregaon (E), Mumbai - 400 065.  
Phone :- 77385 26682 / 93240 07523

**TENDER NOTICE**

Tenders offers from PMC/ARCHITECT with minimum 10 years experience are invited for providing Feasibility report for redevelopment of society as per the Rules. Sealed tenders should be sent within 7 days of the notice to Chairman Ratandeep Cosmopolitan CHS LTD, Next to Shoppers Stop, SV Road, Andheri West, Mumbai 400058. Society reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids received without assigning reasons.

**STOCK HOLDING CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED**  
Regd. Office: 301, Centre Point, Dr. B. A. Marg, Parel, Mumbai 400012

**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER - RATINGS DEFAULT AND RATINGS TRANSITION ANALYSIS DATA**

StockHolding invites bids by e-tender system (Technical & Financial) from computerized and experienced Credit Rating Agencies in the prescribed format for obtaining Ratings Default and Ratings Transition Analysis Data for Issuer Rating Grades of "AAA" to "C" (or Equivalent) & Default Statistics for Top 7 Industries by Default-Rate, on a Monthly or Quarterly basis from JAN 2005 till DEC 2023. RFP document is available for download on our website: <https://corporate.stockholding.com/notices.html> from 10.00 a.m. on 27th May 2024 till 11th June 2024. Corrigendum / Addendum to this Request for Proposal (RFP), if any, would be posted only on the website of StockHolding. StockHolding reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals without assigning any reason. For Queries contact: **Yogesh. Singh@stockholding.com**

**REDEVELOPMENT NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from reputed and experienced Builders / Developers (registered with RERA for earlier projects) for proposed redevelopment of SBI Employees Nagardas Road CHSL, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai- 400 069.

**Plot Area : 1609.00 Sq. Mts. (as per Property Register Card) - 1773.42 (32 Per Conveyance Deed) (32 Residential Members) Conveyance is in favor of the Society.**

Tender Documents can be obtained from Society Office, SBI Employees Nagardas Road CHSL, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Road, Andheri (East), Mumbai-400069  
From 27.05.2024 to 08.06.2024 On Week days Monday-Saturday (10.00 am to 1.00 pm & 3.00 pm - 5.00 pm) On Payment of Rs. 10,000/- (Non-Refundable) by Cash/DD favoring SBI Employees Nagardas Road CHSL  
Last date for submission of bids shall be 22.06.2024 upto 5.00 pm at Society Office  
The society reserves the right to extend/accept / reject any or all the tender proposals received without assigning any reasons.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**1. First Flat:**  
**a. Name of Owner -** B. Kandhari Properties LLP, a limited liability partnership incorporated under the provisions of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, holding LLP identification no. AAF-4457 and having its registered office at 40, 4th Floor, Blue Nile CHS, 891, Nutan Classic, 24th Road, Bandra (West), Mumbai 400050.  
**b. Details of Shares -** 5 (Five) fully paid-up shares of Rs. 50/- (Rupees Fifty Only) each, bearing distinctive nos. 16 to 20 (both inclusive) comprised in the share certificate bearing no. 4.  
**c. Details of Flat -** Flat bearing no. 4 admeasuring 480 square feet carpet area equivalent to 45.06 square meters on the ground floor.

**2. Second Flat:**

**a. Name of Owner -** Mr. Bihari Paramanand Kandhari, an Indian inhabitant, having his address at Flat no. 1101, 11th Floor, Pinnacle Gold, Vandana CHSL, Plot no. 36/B, 2nd Road, Alimda Park, Bandra (West), Mumbai 400 050.  
**b. Details of Shares -** 5 (Five) fully paid-up shares of Rs. 50/- (Rupees Fifty Only) each, bearing distinctive nos. 26 to 30 (both inclusive) comprised in the share certificate bearing no. 23.  
**c. Details of Flat -** Flat bearing no. 6 admeasuring 576 square feet built-up area equivalent to 53.51 square meters on the 1st floor.

**3. Third Flat:**</

# 'AAP netas a bunch of propagandists who believe in Goebbels' principles'

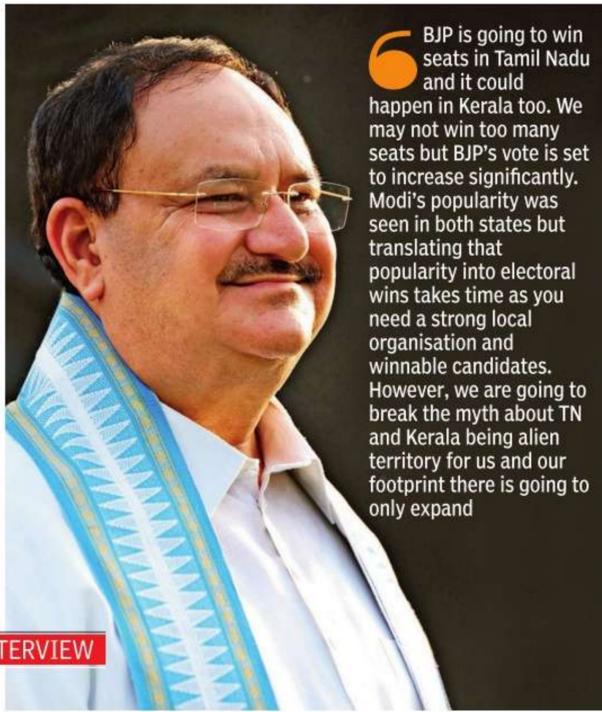
Confident of significant gains in states like West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh while equally sure of retaining dominance in north and central India, BJP president J P Nadda tells TOI's Akhilesh Singh his party is set to retain office with a thumping majority. Excerpts:

**Just one phase of polling remains. What is your assessment of BJP and NDA's performance?**

■ See, BJP on its own has already crossed the majority mark... some guesstimates suggest the party has won 310 seats after five phases. After seven phases, our party is poised to cross 370 seats and NDA will cross 400. The mood across the country is very positive for the BJP-led alliance. Voters trust Narendra Modi and they are voting for BJP to make him PM again. There is no ambiguity among them, which makes us confident of winning with a bigger margin. Even opposition parties have started acknowledging that BJP is winning and they are sounding distressed. Their tone changed from the third phase onwards as they realised that there is a wave for BJP and PM Modi.

**Which factors do you think are working for BJP?**

■ Modi ji's leadership has been the key factor. There is a general feeling, I think unanimity, across the country that PM Modi has brought about a paradigm change across the social spectrum, including the political culture of the country... politics of report card, politics of accountability, performance, last-mile delivery, saturating implementation of social welfare schemes. There is unflinching trust in PM Modi's leadership among diverse sections. Be it educated or semi-educated, urban or rural resident, they have all been beneficiaries and the way global perception about the image of the country has changed has resulted in optimism and enthusiasm. Before 2014, there was indifference towards governance and political leadership of the country. PM Modi changed that. Let me give you a few examples. We entered the poll fray in Tamil Nadu and Kerala in a big way and our candidates had to face entrenched regional players like AIADMK and DMK in TN and the two alliances (LDF, UDF) in Kerala. However, thanks to the Modi factor, we are expecting seats from these states also. If you look at the popularity chart, Prime Minister Modi has trumped and



TOI INTERVIEW

6 BJP is going to win seats in Tamil Nadu and it could happen in Kerala too. We may not win too many seats but BJP's vote is set to increase significantly. Modi's popularity was seen in both states but translating that popularity into electoral wins takes time as you need a strong local organisation and winnable candidates. However, we are going to break the myth about TN and Kerala being alien territory for us and our footprint there is going to only expand

there is hardly anyone raising questions about his leadership. Ease of living, and empowerment of women, poor, farmers and youth created a pro-Modi wave. Besides, people are feeling proud about the focus on cultural heritage as we have a slogan 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi', which underlines our aim to move on with the times and yet remember our legacy.

**Reports suggest that BJP is not improving its performance in Tamil Nadu and Kerala and its struggle for a foothold in the two states continues.**

■ I have no idea about your source of information but let me tell you that our party is going to win seats in Tamil Nadu and it could happen in Ker-

ala too. We may not win too many seats but BJP's vote is set to increase significantly. Modi's popularity was seen in both states but translating that popularity into electoral wins takes time as you need a strong local organisation and winnable candidates. However, we are going to break the myth about TN and Kerala being alien territory for us and our footprint there is going to only expand.

**What is your reaction to AAP's allegation that their Rajya Sabha MP, Swati Maliwal, is a 'BJP agent'?**

■ See, AAP leaders, and I say with full responsibility, are urban Naxals in disguise. And in a way, their style of functioning is to create disorder in

society. Therefore, spreading lies and falsehoods come easily to them. They had pledged not to join politics, they floated a political outfit, they ruled out alliance with Congress but they are now allies. They claim to be anti-corruption but have been proven to be, despite being a young outfit, the most corrupt. They assured respect for women, look at the way they have behaved (Maliwal's assault). There is a huge gap between what they say and what they do. The liquor scam and assault on a woman MP have exposed them. Swati Maliwal's case has exposed Arvind Kejriwal personally, his true face is now there for people to see. This is their way of functioning that they first commit sin (paap) and then make wild allegations to divert attention. They believe in anarchy. They have no ideology... their only ideology is to grab power and hold it at all costs. When they are caught red-handed, then their conduct gets more outrageous. Maliwal is Kejriwal's party MP, the incident happened in his house, and they released the video, his party MP made the allegations and lodged an FIR and they have to call her a BJP agent. AAP leaders are propagandists, who believe in Goebbels' principles.

**You sound confident that NDA will win 400 seats but reports suggest that BJP is not doing too well in Uttar Pradesh despite there being no SP-BSP alliance like 2019. Moreover, construction of Ram temple has taken place but it seems a sweep by BJP is far-fetched.**

■ Ram temple is an issue of faith for us and not a political issue, we have maintained it for years and still feel so. If you remember, the alliance of the two caste-based parties (SP and BSP) in 2019 was said to be formidable and it was believed BJP won't repeat its success of 2014. However, political pundits were proven wrong and BJP won 62 seats and the alliance's tally was 64. Again, there has been an attempt to set the poll narrative on caste and communal lines. However, the groundswell is so different from the reports you are talking about. There is a one-way wave in favour of BJP and people have made up their minds to make BJP the winner again.

6 There is no denying that an attempt in Rajasthan was made to divide voters on caste lines and I can say that the opposition succeeded in a few seats. I agree that there are tough contests in a few seats but I don't see significant damage happening there

**Maharashtra and Karnataka played a big role in helping BJP cross 300 seats in 2019. But the political situation in both states has changed.**

■ There will not be much of a difference in the two states. BJP will achieve 90% of its targets.

**Similar reports are coming from Rajasthan as well.**

■ There is no denying that an attempt in Rajasthan was made to divide voters on caste lines and I can say that the opposition succeeded in a few seats. I agree that there are tough contests in a few seats but I don't see significant damage happening there.

**Your tenure as BJP president has witnessed induction of outsiders. Don't you think there will be a clash of ambitions and interests and that may translate into disappointment among the old party members?**

■ We focus on three important factors. First, BJP is an ideology-based party, second we are cadre-based and third we have a mass following. We don't accept all but we follow a long process of due diligence and assess them on the three parameters. We assess what strength is added, our old cadres are not disturbed and our ideology is not compromised. Our party is a big family, and we ensure a balance to safeguard the interests of the party cadre and accommodating a newcomer. You haven't heard of any protest against anyone joining the party. We

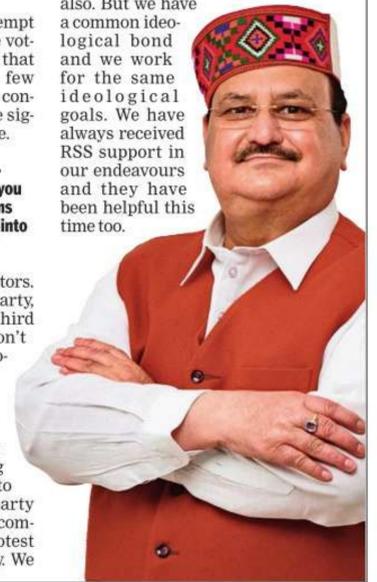
manage it. We also take cadres into confidence. There might be reservations in a few quarters but our internal democracy and structure are so inclusive that anyone joining the party feels the comfort.

**BJP won 303 seats in 2019 but your target is to win 370 this time, which states do you think the party is improving?**

■ West Bengal is for sure, look at the way Mamata Banerjee is behaving. She is set to be wiped out. I won't be surprised if BJP wins 18 seats in Odisha. We are headed for double-digit figures in Telangana and doing well in Andhra Pradesh with our allies. North-east and north India will be intact.

**There is discussion that RSS has not been very active in the ongoing polls?**

■ Not at all. RSS is a social organisation and not a political outfit. You can't expect it to work like a political organisation, it won't be acceptable for its leadership also. But we have a common ideological bond and we work for the same ideological goals. We have always received RSS support in our endeavours and they have been helpful this time too.



## HC denies bail to cop who tried to kill wife

**Bengaluru:** Karnataka high court recently refused bail to a police constable arrested after his wife filed a complaint, alleging he tried to kill her. She alleged that two years after their marriage, her husband V K Narasimha Murthy, instigated by his parents, started ill-treating her and on Feb 16, 2024, he tried to gag her. **TNN**

## 3 workers feared dead in Assam after rat-hole mine caves in

**Dibrugarh:** At least three coal miners were feared dead in a rat-hole mine that caved in due to a landslide in Patkai hills, infamous for illegal and perilous mining, in Assam's Tinsukia district on Sunday, reports Rajib Dutta.

The sole survivor, who was standing outside the mine hole to assist the trio, told police, "A landslide sealed the mine's entrance, trapping Dawa Sherpa from Nepal's Bhojpur, and John and Fenaal from Meghalaya." A rescue worker said, "Survival inside the caved-in rat-hole for so long isn't possible, but we can't say anything until we get to them."

Local green organisations blame mafia, politicians and police for illegal rat-hole mining in the area. "Around 1,000 to 1,200 illegal rat-hole mines are operational in the area. It's a multi-crore racket. Many miners have died in the past, but mafia hushed it up," said Devojit Moran, secretary of Green Bud Society, an NGO.

## 4 killed as 'drunk' driver crashes bus into Goa huts

**Margao/Vasco:** Four labourers were killed by a bus of a private firm after its driver ploughed into roadside huts at Verna in South Goa late Saturday night. Four other labourers sustained grievous injuries and are undergoing treatment, police said.

The bus was ferrying the firm's employees, who escaped unhurt. The driver suffered injuries and was hospitalised, police said. They confirmed he was drunk after a medical test. Police said he failed to negotiate a turn on the slope and drove into the huts. Four labourers were trapped under the wheels and died on the spot, they said. **TNN**

**MAHAGENCO**  
Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd.

**NOTICE INVITING FOR E - TENDER**

(01) RFX code.3000047046 Ash Utilization Sub: Sale of fly ash from U-8,250MW on short term (2Year) basis of Parli-TPS. Estimate Rs. 22.20 Cr  
EMD: Rs. 11,10,067/- For RFX Sr. No. 01 Sale / Issue: From Date 28.05.2024 at 11:00 hrs to Date 17.06.2024 at 16:00 hrs. Submission & Opening of RFX: Date 18.06.2024 up to 12:00 hrs & 15:00 hrs Respectively. RFX Fee for All Tenders: Rs.1180/- Contact Person: Chief Engineer, TPS Parli-Vajinath. Mail ID: cegenparli@mahagenco.in, parlitpsrp@mahagenco.in. For further details & vendor registration visit our Website: <https://eprocurement.mahagenco.in> SRM Help Desk Line Nos:- 8411971525 & e-mail ID: etendering.pri@mahagenco.in

CHIEF ENGINEER

**CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS**

**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**

No. COS/CR/PUB/E-Tender/19/0162 Date: 22/05/2024. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in). Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) - Login -> E-Tender Stores/Supplies. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any. Dy.CMM /HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Office Address: Office of the PCMM, CLW/Chittaranjan, SL No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as follows: [1]; 75244103; Aluminium Sheets & Plates for WAG-9HC Loco, CLW'S Specn. No. CLW MS/3/075 ALT-7, (Consisting of 09 (nine) items as per set details attached) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 850.00 Set; ₹ 126140.00; 13/06/2024 at 11:00 AM. [2]; 75243838; Blind Installation (LH & RH) for WAG-9HC Loco, as per Drg./Specn. No.CLW/MS/3/014 ALT-4, (01 set consist of 04 items as per details attached) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 894.00 Set; ₹ 182860.00; [3]; 75244082; Filter Frame Assy(Fly SCREEN) for WAG-9HC Loco as per DRGNO. 1209-11-235-173 Alt. J & 1209-11-235-174 Alt. I, Cat. No. R/9/0078. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 1.00 Set; ₹ 182860.00; [4]; 75243709; Brake Gear Arrangement & Details for WAG-9HC Loco. Scope of supply as per Category No. - V/9/0001A (Copy attached with the tender documents) [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 872.00 Set; ₹ 2000000.00; 19/06/2024 at 11:00 AM. [5]; 75244088; WINDOWS for WAG-9HC Loco, as per Drg./Specn. No.CLW/MS/3/014 Alt-5, Category No. R/9/0017, [Each Set is a Loco Set consisting of 2 items][Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 291.00 Set; ₹ 406560.00; 26/06/2024 at 11:00 AM. [6]; 75244088; PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan. Like us on: [www.facebook.com/chlwraiyas](http://www.facebook.com/chlwraiyas)

**BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD**

**INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)**

BWSSB invites tenders in Two cover system from eligible tenderers for the following works.

Name of the Work	Amount put to tender EMD
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G.Road, Bangalore- 560 009.	
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(UFW)/TA/515/2024-25 Date: 24.05.2024	
Work of Construction of 4 ML capacity Ground level reservoir, providing and laying of 450mm dia MS water supply inlet feeder main to GLR from High Grounds service reservoir. Construction of pump house with service sation and allied works at football ground, ward No. 60 Sagayapuram, Pulikeshinagara constituency under AEEC-1-2 Sub-division, EEC division. (3rd Call).	Rs. 2615 Lakhs Rs. 26.15 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(UFW)/TA/525/2024-25 Date: 24.05.2024	
Work of Modernization & Remodelling of Water Supply Systems in Thyagarajanagara area of existing SW3DMA13- under AEE(SW)-3 Sub-Division limits of BWSSB, Bangalore.	Rs. 468.58 Lakhs Rs. 7.05 Lakhs
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(UFW)/TA/529/2024-25 Date: 24.05.2024	
Work of Modernization & Remodelling of Water Supply Systems in Srinagara area of existing SW3DMA03- under AEE(SW)-3 Sub-Division limits of BWSSB, Bangalore.	Rs. 461.78 Lakhs Rs. 6.95 Lakhs

The last date for uploading of completed tender document is on: 11.06.2024 upto 16:00Hrs. The Bids will be opened on: 11.06.2024 after 16:00Hrs. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

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DIPR/CP/RA/117/2024-25  
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## CONTRAPUNTO



He knows nothing and thinks he knows everything.  
That points clearly to a political career

—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

## Tragedy Foretold

Rajkot, Delhi fires point to familiar stories of official negligence that allow shady businesses to flout norms

A horrifying weekend — fires killing at least 9 children along with 28 adults and counting in a Rajkot gaming/recreational set-up, and 7 newborns in a private children's hospital in Delhi. Post-tragedy, Indian authorities are all too efficient at making arrests, filing FIRs, hand wringing, chest-beating, announcing compensation — while courts do their thing. In a few months' time, little would have changed and in all likelihood, it'll be business as usual. Owner of the Rajkot facility that operated in tin sheds has been arrested for culpable homicide, as it should be. The tragedy was one waiting to happen.

**Loophole in urban plan** | But the Rajkot facility's owner is not alone to blame. As TOI reported, a glaring loophole in Gujarat's development regulations (CGDCR) allowed illegal recreational activities to flourish. Implemented in 2017 to regulate urban development, CGDCR has zero construction and safety guidelines for recreational facilities, which private players have exploited, erecting temporary structures for gaming facilities, without any approvals.

Here then, it is policy itself that poses a significant threat to public safety, especially for children. Per reports, numerous such establishments have cropped up, even in bigger cities like Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar. Most are functioning without mandatory fire safety or town planning sanctions. Privately owned plots hosting such activities often sidestep regulatory scrutiny altogether. On the Rajkot premises, 2,000 litres of petrol were stored onsite along with numerous tyres.

**Fires & accidents routine** | Oxygen cylinders exploding triggering fatal fires, as was the case in the Delhi hospital yesterday, are nothing new for commercial premises, even though their storage is supposed to be strictly regulated. The Mumbai billboard tragedy is a recent case of criminal negligence. It is when authorities turn away from brazen flouting of norms that fatal accidents occur. In fire after fire or bridge collapses — Morbi (135 deaths), Kollam temple fire (109 deaths, 2016), Varanasi flyover collapse (at least 18 deaths, 2018), or Delhi's Mundka fire (27 deaths, 2022) — at fault is official oversight, lax enforcement of safety norms and audits, and lack of accountability for low-quality construction and maintenance across India.

**Pin the blame** | Experts have long cautioned against this pan-India disregard for safety regulations. As court takes note, and investigation proceeds, it is the system of ignored rules, avaricious bureaucrats and crooked businessmen that must be in the dock. Nothing will lower the probability of future tragedies more than swift and exemplary punishment of the powerful.

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## All We Can Create

What Cannes Grand Prix for a young director tells us about beyond-Bollywood Indian cinema

As already noted, the Cannes Grand Prix for Payal Kapadia's *All We Imagine As Light* is a big moment for Indian cinema. Kapadia's feature directorial debut is the first Indian film in 30 years and the first by an Indian woman director to be showcased at the main competition. The question to ask, though, is why did it take so long for an Indian film to feature in Cannes' main draw.

**Bollywood to regional** | While Bollywood continues to dominate India's reach and soft power in global cinema, the last few decades have also seen regional cinema get more play. Thanks in large measure to streaming platforms like Netflix, Amazon Prime and myriad others, even small-budget, non-Hindi Indian films today have a shot at reaching larger Indian and, sometimes, global audiences.

**Global collaborations** | This in turn has provided a fillip to global collaborations in films. For example, Kapadia's film was produced by Thomas Hakim and Julian Graff through their France-based company Petit Chaos, in co-production with Indian companies Chalk & Cheese Films and Another Birth, as well as by the Netherlands' BALDR Film, Luxembourg's Les Films Fauves, Italy's Pulpa Films and France's Arte France Cinéma. Kapadia herself used money from the Huub Bals grant and Cinéfondation to live in Europe to plan the film's production.

**Many Kapadias** | The success of *All We Imagine As Light* also highlights the depth of Indian cinematic talent. India's Nehruvian socialist past had a propensity to view cinema as elitist unless it served national projects. This began to change after liberalisation. But the state still displays a control mindset when it comes to cinema, especially through censorship. Kapadia herself was disciplined for protesting against the appointment of Gajendra Chauhan as FTII chairperson in 2015. Her success today should tell officials that talent needs nurturing, not monitoring.

## My favourite Alice

Short stories that last long

Shinie Antony



Of all the Alices who wrote, only one Alice stuck to short stories. Despite declaring that her ambition was to write a novel before she died and penning interlinked stories now and then, Alice Munro gave us story after story, all of them short. Intense, raw, drawn from real life, in prose that dissolved into tragic truths, she drew you in with the deceptive promise of brevity, to keep it short. But as one story led to another, and you vanished into the Munro-esque world of fiction that felt like facts, your sense of size altered. In her shortest story was the fastest novel.

Much-awarded and maniacally-read, her tales are a tight close-up of human ties that were initially dismissed as domestic. Kitchen, babies, the urge to write, the sudden appearance of an unsuitable man...

A headline once said of Munro: 'Housewife finds time to write short stories.' A housewife who went on to pick up the Booker and a Nobel. 'Relationships' had been a pink and fluffy word pre-Munro, what women writers were thought to harp on because they knew nothing of the larger world of stocks and shares, war or bankruptcy. With a recent Harvard study on happiness bypassing career and cash to tick relationships, Munro's preoccupations proved bang-on prescient.

Munro's women are complex, carrying too much of you and me to be entirely knowable. They up and leave when we expect them to stay put. They flirt with a stranger after getting drunk. They leave their baby alone in a train compartment to cavort with a man they just met. In 'Dimension' (a story in *Too Much Happiness* that Munro said she couldn't re-read), Doree takes three buses to visit her husband. His crime and her forgiveness are both unbearable. And this is what she states: 'I could say that I was crazy then but what does that mean? Crazy. Sane. I am I.' Munro never interrupts when her characters talk.

Munro's death seems fictitious. 'The things within things' she said she wrote about have no expiry date. We know the bare facts: Canadian, dropped out of university to marry early, opened a bookstore, divorced, remarried, mom to four daughters...

With books titled *Something I've Been Meaning To Tell You* and *Who Do You Think You Are?* and multiple versions of the same story, she can never go away. Alice Munro is a two-word short story in herself.

## So, What's On UP's Mind?

Modi brand is still strong. Yogi's impact is visible. What's new is murmurs for a 'stronger opposition', as INDIA makes its presence felt. Nine observations and a short story from the fields of east and west UP

Avijit.Ghosh@timesgroup.com



**Caste holds** | Everyday struggles of life and livelihood — *roti, kapda aur rojgaar* — are part and parcel of any poll talk in east and west UP. But the centrality of caste and community in electoral discourse remains. Broadly speaking, BJP's social alliances (upper castes + non-Yadav OBCs like Patels, Nishads and others) and Samajwadi Party's (Yadavs + Muslims) remain intact. SP's ally Congress brings a sliver of vision and a certain assurance to the combo in urban constituencies. BSP is still the go-to party for most Dalits, but a section of non-Jatav Dalits is likely to migrate.

**'Betiyan mahfooz hain'** | Cab driver Deepak Mishra, a Modi supporter, lives on the outskirts of Allahabad. A father of four daughters, two in their teens, says 'law and order' has improved during the Modi-Yogi rule. For him and many like him, 'law and order' is a synonym for women's safety in their daily lives. Ghaziabad fruit-seller Shamim, critical and uneasy of Centre's new law on citizenship, says the only positive thing about governance in recent years is "betiyan mahfooz hain (daughters are safe)." Law and order is a state subject. But janta doesn't distinguish. Safety is what they experience first-hand on the ground.

POLLITICS  
Special Series on Elections

**Temple flags** | Not so long back, party flags fluttering on rooftops was a common sight in UP. BJP flags were dominant in towns, but visibly diminished as one moved towards the mofussils, kasbahs and villages, where SP and BSP flags were prolific. Now party flags have vanished. Various types of Ram Mandir and Hanuman flags are the most visible, even in homes of non-BJP Hindu voters. Ayodhya Ram Mandir has earned BJP enormous goodwill. But religion isn't a major point of discussion among the public.

**Free grain welcome** | Of all NDA govt schemes, 5kg free grain per person appeared to be the most effective and far-reaching. Irrespective of caste or community, most people that one spoke to in the hinterland admitted to receiving the handout, and the needy were genuinely appreciative.

**Modi brand endures but...** | Still all-pervasive, conversations and votes centre on Modi, not BJP nor the

candidate. The party appears to have become secondary to the leader. Yadavs are mostly committed to SP. But Varanasi railway porter Manu Yadav says he'll vote for PM. "Ghar ka mukhiya ek hona chahiye. Unke ghar ka mukhiya kaun hai (A head of family is needed. Who's their leader)," he asks of INDIA. Even some who're not voting Modi are appreciative of him. Jai Singh Yadav, a voter in Chandauli LS constituency, says, "It's hard to find someone like Modi, but I'll vote SP to help create a strong opposition."

Supporters believe Modi has raised India's prestige (*rashtra samman*) abroad and protects national interest (*rashtra hit*). But a few also feel Modi



is 'overexposed', that the brand is reaching a stage of diminishing returns.

"He can be encashed in 2024, not 2029," is Santosh Singh's take, a voter in Chandauli.

**Yogi's clout grows** | Former armyman Pawan Sharma of Ghaziabad travelled to Maharashtra, MP, Rajasthan and Gujarat last month. He found people referring to UP in 'Yogi' terms — "Aap Yogi ke yahan se aaye hain (oh, you've come from Yogi's

UP)." It's not often a state is synonymous with its CM as early as the second term. Sharma found Yogi's name has travelled beyond his state.

**Akhilesh, Rahul gain in stature** | Voters and sympathisers have a definite improved perception of both Rahul and Akhilesh. Messages of Congress's manifesto, with its specific plans to address unemployment, have made a positive impression among a section of urban youth. Unemployment is a major issue, and for most 'job' means a govt job.

**Don't quote me** | It was common for journalists covering elections to be at the receiving end of the expression, "Aur poochhiye (Ask away)". That has disappeared. People from every community still speak freely. But villagers frequently refuse to be quoted, asking half-mockingly, "Why do you want to know my name? Do you want to send ED after me?" It is interesting how 'ED' has entered the lexicon and psychology of hinterland India, just as Bofors had four decades ago.

**EVM story** | EVMs caused intense debate before the polls. The din subsided after Supreme Court ruled out problems with EVMs. But there is lingering cynicism about their integrity and vulnerability, primarily among non-BJP voters in both rural and urban areas. The yearning for ballot paper is strong, while completely non-existent is the memory of the days when ballot papers were routinely looted, found dumped in drains and rivers.

**Tailpiece** | A group of students in Prayagraj in a huddle on the other side of the river is preparing for a competitive examination. They don't want to talk about the polls. "We don't like politics. It is of no use," one of them says. "Will you vote?" "I will," she replies. "Nota".

UP votes on June 1 (13 seats) in the last of its 7-phase polls

Uday Deb

## Britain's Poor Little Rishi Rich

UK's first Indian-origin PM, almost certainly headed for a poll drubbing, had a chance to make a mark. But he saw 10 Downing Street as just another job and mucked it all up

Rashmee Roshan Lall



For Rishi Sunak, there is history and then there is his story. The history books will record Sunak as Britain's first prime minister of Indian origin, its youngest in 200 years and the wealthiest occupant of 10 Downing Street, far richer along with wife Akshata Murthy than the country's monarch King Charles III. But then there is his story.

**Rishi's meteoric rise** | After a 20-month premiership, Sunak has called a general election for July 4, which opinion polls indicate he is on course to lose. If so, Sunak will have helped pull down the curtain on 14 years of governance by his Conservative Party, which is currently some 20 points behind in the polls to the main opposition Labour.

It would be an unusual milestone in Sunak's customary high-flying trajectory, which a British TV interviewer once told him on air was "one of life's success stories". Indeed, Sunak was headboy at his expensive private school, went to Oxford and Stanford universities, had a profitable career in finance, married the daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy and entered the British parliament just seven years before his dizzying elevation to PM. Along the way, he acquired an apartment in Santa Monica, California, the sixth most expensive address in US.

**And the fall** | By every measure, Sunak has proved himself a thoroughbred winner. If his streak of success is now unmade, at least some of this could be charitably ascribed to the vagaries of Britain's current political climate, with Conservatives as enervated as the country they led through the self-inflicted chaos of Brexit, the once-in-a-century pandemic and the risible parade of five PMs.

And yet, his story at this point, may underline a

quite different failure than the predicted election loss. For Sunak, the prime ministerial role seems to have been a job like any other rather than a historic chance by a multicultural man to punt for real change.

The voting public and political pundits have been as quick to pick up on Sunak's apparent disinterest in fighting for a new vision of 21st century Britain as they



have noticed his failure to articulate one. Sunak's personal ratings have fallen precipitously in recent months. According to a YouGov survey in May, his net favourability score is a dismal -51, compared with -49 for Conservatives as a whole.

**Wobbles galore** | Sunak's personal political heavy weather hasn't been helped by his decision to pull the trigger on an error-strewn start to the six-week election campaign, spawning multiple mocking memes on

social media. He announced the election date in the pouring rain outside Downing Street, sans an umbrella or even, as one commentator trenchantly noted, without "a weather app on his phone".

**A sinking ship** | The "soggy Sunak" story would only be displaced by Sunak of the "sinking ship" when he travelled on day one of the campaign to Titanic Quarter; the historic but unhappily named regeneration site in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where the famous vessel was built and launched, only to sink on its maiden voyage. On his way back from Belfast, he injudiciously posed next to an aeroplane sign spelling out a four-letter word — exit. And he has faced the daily humiliation of an ever-larger cohort of prominent Conservative MPs announcing their renunciation of the rough and tumble of politics — 78 have decided not to stand for re-election this summer.

**No rescue in sight** | Meanwhile, Britain deals with high taxes, low growth, crumbling infra and little hope of the sunlit uplands of economic success any time soon. Through it all, Sunak has stuck to his months-long "plan-is-working" slogan, delivered in the robo-call tones that have now become staples of British radio comedy shows.

**Exit plan?** | It has given rise to perhaps the worst aspersion cast on a politician navigating a perilous stretch — he is on the point of doing a runner. The rumour mill is whirring with speculation that Sunak suddenly announced the election for the last day of his younger daughter's school term, presumably permitting the family to make a near-immediate getaway to California if it all goes badly. At least one unnamed Conservative MP has been quoted to indicate it's all very well for Sunak to call an election at a bad time, but "I don't own a ranch in California".

In fact, neither does Sunak. He has an apartment there, but also the pain of being cast as Rishi Rich.

Lall writes on international affairs

## Calvin &amp; Hobbes



## Sacredspace



Think of the life you have lived until now as over and, as a dead man, see what's left as a bonus and live it according to Nature. Love the hand that fate deals you and play it as your own...

Marcus Aurelius

## Empowerment Practices To Boost Inner Strength

Brahma Kumari Shivani

Bharat embodies a tapestry woven with threads of rich culture, history, and spirituality. However, this tapestry has knots of diseases, discord and moral decline tugging at its fabric today.

Societal well-being hinges on spiritual well-being; therefore, we must prioritise it by embracing principles that help in transcendence. Our collective spiritual wellness will provide fertile soil for happiness, health, and harmony to flourish again.

To foster a clean and healthy society, instead of pointing fingers at others or situations, we take personal responsibility for our thoughts and emotions. We refrain from seeking peace from places, love from people and happiness from objects.

The depth of our emotional resilience redirects our mindset from stress to

calmness, fear to faith, comparison to self-respect, competition to cooperation, and complaining to gratitude. In times of challenge, we do not sink in despair. Knowing everything aligns with the law of karma, we focus on elevating our present karma.

Daily empowerment practices boost inner strength, equipping us to gracefully navigate failure, loss, separation, and grief. As powerful souls, we bounce back from setbacks with renewed energy. Forgiveness, releasing the past, and letting go happen naturally. Therefore, healing past traumatic experiences becomes feasible.

Perceiving the individual self as a body, we think, 'I am unwell... I am in pain.' This mindset intensifies our suffering since it is always mind over matter. Realising that we are souls, we grasp the truth — 'I, the soul, am perfect.

My body is unwell.' Such detachment lessens pain and distress.

Many illnesses are psychosomatic, indicating that our thought patterns, radiating to every cell of the body, cause disease, apart from our lifestyle.

Releasing emotional blockages and shifting our mindset from fear to faith and from complaint to gratitude initiates the body's healing. Awareness that we are eternal souls, and the body is just a perishable costume eliminates our deepest fear of death. Overcoming the fear of death dispels numerous other worries.

We connect as souls, transcending labels of relationship, role, position, or age. This wipes away ego clashes and nurtures soul-to-soul connections. By acknowledging everyone as fellow souls, we surpass barriers of religious differences and catalyse the shift from

intolerance to unity. We understand that gender applies solely to the body, not the soul. Despite individuals inhabiting male or female bodies, we affirm the equality of all souls.

This stance eradicates gender discrimination and ensures independence and dignity for people of every gender. It marks a crucial shift from lust to purity, abuse to respect, and bias to equality. Choosing a healthy response in every interaction, we transform from ego to humility, anger to compassion, hurt to forgiveness, expectation to acceptance, and attachment to love.

Our every karma enhances soul power, leading to a natural state of contentment. This prompts us to buy things out of necessity, not for happiness or social validation. Thus, we adopt a minimalist lifestyle. When we raise our vibrations, they radiate outwards and energise the air, earth, water, vegetation, wildlife, and the world.



## THE SPEAKING TREE

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## D-St braces for volatility as LS elections enter last leg

### Buying By Domestic Investors May Cushion Foreign Players' Selloff

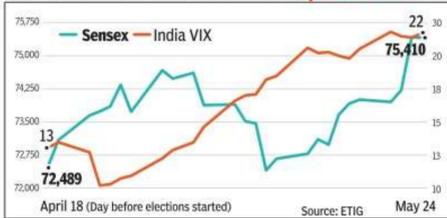
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Dalal Street investors are likely to face volatility this week with the final phase of Lok Sabha elections ending on June 1. Foreign investors may continue selling despite the booster from RBI's record Rs 2.1 lakh crore dividend to govt even as domestic institutions are seen supporting the market, as has been the trend in the past few weeks.

The Sensex and Nifty scaled new life-time highs last week. Since April 18, on the eve of the first phase of Lok Sabha elections, the two indices have seen increased volatility. The volatility index has risen nearly 70% — a level not seen since Sept 2022, even as the Sensex has gained 2,921 points (4%) while Nifty is up 961 points (4.4%) in the period. The Sensex closed the week at 75,410 points while Nifty was at 22,957.

The recent rally in the stock market came despite substantial volatility, mainly on the back of strong sel-

### Volatility Index Jumps Nearly 70% Since Start Of Polls Even As Sensex Gains 2,921 Points



ling by foreign funds, market players said. So far in May, foreign portfolio investors have net sold stocks worth a little over Rs 22,000 crore, CDSL data showed.

In contrast, domestic institutional investors have net pumped in nearly Rs 40,800 crore so far in the current month, BSE data showed. This is what has led to the up move in the leading indices, market players said.

According to V K Vijayakumar, chief investment strategist, Geojit Financial

Services, the selling by FPIs — which began as a trickle in April and turned into a flood in May — was triggered by the massive outperformance of Chinese stocks in recent months, which in turn led to a 'sell India, buy China trade'.

"The (Lok Sabha) election-related jitters too might have influenced FPI selling," he said.

Vijayakumar, however, feels that the situation is once again slowly changing and market players feel that the ruling BJP-led govt will come back to power on June

4. "Also, the massive selling (by FPIs) has eased and they have even turned buyers in recent days. Going forward, as clarity emerges on the election front, FPIs are likely to buy in India since they cannot afford to miss the post-election results rally. Actually, the rally may begin even before the election results," he said in a note.

Among the stocks, Adani Ports & SEZ and Wipro would be among the large caps to watch out for in the next week. This is after the BSE, after markets closed on Friday, announced the inclusion of the Adani group firm into Sensex while excluding Wipro from it, effective June 24. Usually, after such rejigs, investors tend to buy the stock that's being included into the index while they sell the one being excluded.

In addition to poll results, global cues and the final phase of the earnings season would decide the market's trend in the coming few days, said Ajit Mishra of Religare Broking.

## SA central bank fines SBI over compliance

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Prudential Authority, South Africa's central bank, has imposed administrative sanctions and a penalty on SBI for violating anti-money laundering laws in the country.

In a statement to the changes, SBI said that the 10 million rand (Rs 4.5 crore) penalty was imposed "for not complying with certain provisions of the Financial Intelligence Centre Act". Section 45C of South Africa's Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) Act 38 of 2001 empowers the FIC to issue directives to ensure compliance with the Act. This section enables the FIC to take measures to address issues related to money laundering.

SBI said that the action on the South African branch included an immediate payment of 5.5 million rand (Rs 2.5 crore) and an additional 4.5 million rand (Rs 2 crore) payable over 36 months.

## Ex-cabinet secy Sinha is ICICI chief

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Former cabinet secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha will take over as chairman of ICICI Bank from G C Chaturvedi, who retires, the bank said in a notification to the exchanges.

RBI approved Sinha's appointment on May 24 for a three-year term effective July 1, 2024. Sinha joined the Indian administrative service in 1977 after completing his Masters in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics in 1976. He graduated in economics from St Stephens College, Delhi.

## EaseMyTrip posts its highest ebitda at ₹228cr

New Delhi: EaseMyTrip has achieved its highest ebitda in FY24 at Rs 228.2 crore, which is 19% growth year-on-year.

Ebitda (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) is used to evaluate a company's operating performance. The company also disclosed a consolidated revenue from operations of Rs 590.6 crore for the same period — a 32% increase compared to the year-ago period. ANI

## GCCs look to get more women techies on board

### Representation In Global Capability Centres Increases To 30% In FY24 From 27% In FY20

Veena.Mani@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: The representation of women technologists in global capability centres (GCCs) has seen a modest increase, reaching 30% in FY24 compared to 26.6% in FY20, according to data from staffing firm Quess Corp. However, the number of women in mid and senior-level positions remains significantly lower, creating a talent void.

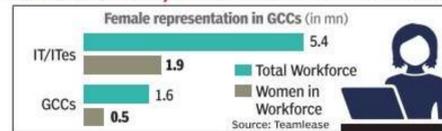
With a mere 6.7% of women in executive roles in GCCs, there is a considerable decrease in the available talent pool of women as they move up the career ladder, showed a Pure Storage and Zinnov report. At the senior level (9-12 years of experience), the representation was at 15.7%, the report said. India has nearly 1,600 GCCs. In 2022-23, GCCs added 2.8 lakh employees, taking its talent base to over 1.6 million. The report stated that family and caregiving responsibilities, limited access to career advancement and leadership opportunities, and poor work-life balance are some

of the key factors influencing women's attrition.

Vidya Munirathnam, HR head of Lowe's India, attributes the skill gap and difficulty in upskilling after a maternity break as reasons for women leaving the workforce. "When a woman co-

28% at the vice-president level and above. Similarly, at Thales India, women at senior manager and above levels constitute less than 20%, despite the organization's overall ratio being 31%. Sekhar Sahay, HR head of Thales India, acknowledges the difficulty in overco-

### Number In Mid, Senior Levels Remains Low



mes back from maternity leave, which is usually for 6 months, they find that suddenly things have changed from a technology point of view. Most organizations are undergoing a tech transformation where legacy systems are being replaced with more updated platforms. There is a skill gap, and many a time, they find it easier to just quit than figure a way to upskill," she said.

At Lowe's India, the representation of women drops from 60% at the junior level to

ming societal norms worldwide, despite having flexible HR policies like hybrid work.

Companies are implementing various programmes to support women returning from career breaks and to boost their confidence in taking up senior roles. Ushashi Tirumala, executive vice president and general manager at Manhattan Associates, believes that connecting women with successful female role models is crucial for retaining and developing women associates.

## Shipments to Russia jump but exporters are wary of sanctions

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Russia's war with Ukraine and the consequent sanctions helped push the export of engineering goods, machinery and machine parts as well as aircraft spares from India during the last financial years, while traditional items such as pharmaceuticals, tea, coffee and tobacco stagnated or fell.

While trade bodies say there is tremendous interest to import goods from India, the fear of sanctions and reluctance of banks to complete the transactions have made exporters wary of pushing their goods. But industry experts believe that some of the goods to Russia may be routed via UAE, which has significantly benefited from the tension in Ukraine and Russia.

Thanks to massive oil imports, Russia has emerged as India's fourth largest trading partner with total trade estimated at \$65.7 billion. After China, India had the second highest trade deficit with Russia, pegged at over

### MACHINES, ELECTRONICS, PARTS LEAD

India's exports to Russia (\$mn)	2023	2024	% change
Electrical machinery & parts	121.1	347.8	187.2
Meat	26.8	55.9	108.6
Machinery & parts	320.9	650.3	102.6
Optical, precision instruments	75.4	140.6	86.5
Iron & steel	159.1	282.4	77.5
Fruits	23.9	37.0	54.8
Inorganic chemicals	145.2	210.4	44.9
Oil seeds	49.2	70.9	44.1
Organic chemicals	307.1	336.4	9.5
Fish	138.7	149.4	7.7
Pharma	429.6	386.7	-10
Coffee, tea	117.9	100.7	-14.6
<b>Total exports to Russia (\$mn)</b>	<b>3,147</b>	<b>4,261.3</b>	<b>35.4</b>

Source: Commerce dept

\$57 billion. Although there has been a buzz about recent moves to allow Russian exporters, who receive the payment in rupees, to invest more freely, the norms have always been there since RBI put in place the mechanism. There have also been several trade missions to explore ex-

port opportunities in Russia, some of which can use the rupee balances.

But exporters are shy, arguing that banks are reluctant. "Most Indian banks don't want to take up this business, fearing possible sanctions," said a large Indian exporter. While Russian entities

such as Sberbank are willing to route funds through their Indian branch, domestic players want to avoid these transactions. "My advice to fellow exporters has been to route all exports through a small subsidiary so that the other parts of the business are not exposed to any sanctions," said another exporter, who has stopped all business with Russia for the last two years. A German buyer is, however, sourcing goods from this exporter and then exporting to Russia.

Sectors such as auto components had seen a lot of interest post-sanctions but the exposure of Indian companies to American buyers and global car giants has seen them stay away.

Latest official data showed that in 2023-24, exports to Russia climbed over 35% to \$4.3 billion, when India's cumulative goods exports were more than 3% lower. Of the \$1.2 billion increase, nearly a half was on account of machines and machine parts, including electronics.

## GAIL starts India's largest green H2 plant

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: State-run gas utility GAIL has started the country's largest green hydrogen (GH2) project based on the latest PEM (proton exchange membrane) technology at its Vijapur complex in Madhya Pradesh, becoming the first company to launch megawatt-scale operation for producing what is referred as 'fuel of the future'.

The 10MW (megawatt) plant, built with an investment of Rs 231 crore, marks a major step towards achieving company's target of net-zero status by 2040. The unit uses Canadian PEM electrolyzers and will produce 4.3 tonnes per day of GH2 with a purity of 99.99%, the company said.

GAIL is currently sourcing renewable power from the grid under the open access policy.

## Increase in personal income tax due to dividend income: Report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Taxes paid on dividend income accounted for 60-65% of the surge in personal income tax during the last four years, a report by Motilal Oswal said.

According to the report, the dividend tax explains the strong growth in personal income tax even as personal disposable income growth has moderated in recent years.

Income taxes paid by entities other than corporations (personal income taxes) have increased at a compounded rate of 20% during FY21-24. They have grown to 3.5% of GDP in FY24, up from 2.5% in the pre-pandemic years. Personal disposable income (and GDP) growth, meanwhile, has been more modest at less than 10%.

In her 2020-21 Budget speech, the finance minister had

### Has Grown Faster Than Disposable Income

- In FY21, the dividend distribution tax was shifted from corporation taxes into personal income taxes
- After the move, the tax rate on dividends changed from 15% (plus surcharges and cess) to the personal income tax applicable to the individual taxpayer
- The change explains the 60-65% surge in personal income tax. Their compounded 20% rate increase during FY21-24 has come even as personal disposable income (and GDP) growth have grown more modestly at less than 10%
- If dividend taxes were excluded, PIT growth aligns with nominal GDP growth, rising to 2.8% of GDP in FY24

said, "...to remove the dividend distribution tax and adopt the classical system of dividend taxation under which companies would not be required to pay DDT. The dividend shall be taxed only in the hands of the recipients at their applicable rate..."

This means that DDT ended in its erstwhile form in FY21, and was shifted from

corporation taxes into personal income taxes. "With such a shift, the tax rate on dividends was also changed from 15% (plus surcharges and cess) to the personal income tax applicable to the individual taxpayer. These two related changes — to our mind — explain about 60-65% of the surge in PIT in the post-pandemic years," the report said.

**TOI** IN THE CLASSROOM

### Opt For Systematic Transfer Plans To Beat Mkt Volatility

Investors who are bullish on long-term prospects of the Indian equity markets, but believe valuations have run ahead and that markets can be volatile over the next few months, can stagger their investments using a systematic transfer plan (STP).

### What Is A Systematic Transfer Plan?

STP is a way to stagger money typically from a liquid or ultra-short-term fund to an equity fund over a period of time. An investor with cash wanting to make a lump sum investment but worried about near-term corrections uses this method. The big advantage is that you earn a return from the liquid/ultra-short-term fund and simultaneously stagger money into your equity fund.

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### What is The Process To Start An STP?

The first step is to choose the liquid/ultra-short-term fund to park your money in and the equity fund in which you ultimately want to invest. Both these schemes need to be from the same fund house. Most fund houses have a daily, weekly or monthly option to transfer money. For example, an investor can decide to transfer ₹2,500 every week to an equity fund or even something like ₹10,000 every month.

### How Does An STP Work?

To start an STP, you need to put in a lump sum amount in a debt scheme (liquid or ultra-short-term fund) and transfer a predefined

amount into another scheme, typically an equity fund. The scheme in which the lump sum investment is made is called a 'source scheme' or 'transferor scheme' and the scheme to which the amount is transferred is called 'destination scheme' or 'target scheme' or 'transferee scheme'. Typically, investors do this exercise for a period ranging from six to twelve months. Investors could transfer this money daily, weekly or monthly using this strategy.

### How Do Investors Benefit From STPs?

The big benefit of using an STP is that till the time the money remains invested in a liquid or ultra-short-term fund, it earns an extra return, which is generally higher than a savings bank account. Currently, investors could earn 7-8% returns in such funds. In addition, STP helps in averaging out the cost due to volatility in the stock market. Some investors use this route to rebalance portfolios. If your investment in debt increases, money can be reallocated to equity funds through STPs, and if investment in equity goes up, money can be switched from equity to debt funds using STP. —PRASHANT MAHESH



**CHER ROCKS BLACK BODYSUIT SIMILAR TO ONE SHE WORE FOR '89 HIT 'IF I COULD TURN BACK TIME' AT CANNES EVENT**

**NICKI MINAJ'S UK GIG CANCELLED AFTER SHE WAS BRIEFLY DETAINED & FINED ON SUSPICION OF 'POSSESSING SOFT DRUGS' IN AMSTERDAM**



## Hamas fires missiles at Tel Aviv, setting off sirens 1st time in mths

**Israel Says Firing Came From Rafah, Cites It As Proof Militants Operating There**

Hamas launched missiles at Tel Aviv on Sunday, setting off sirens in Israel's financial centre for the first time in four months, as the Islamist Palestinian group sought to show military strength despite Israel's Gaza offensive.

The Israeli military said eight projectiles were identified crossing from the area of Rafah, the southern tip of the Gaza Strip where Israel kept up operations despite a ruling by the top UN court on Friday ordering it to stop attacking the city. A number of the projectiles were intercepted, it said. There were no reports of casualties. In a statement on Telegram, the Hamas al-Qassam Brigades said the rockets were launched in response to "Zionist massacres against civilians". Rafah is located about 100 km south of Tel Aviv.

Israel said it wants to root out Hamas fighters holed up in Rafah and rescue hostages it says are being held in the area, but its assault has worsened the plight of civilians and caused an international outcry.

On Sunday, Israeli strikes killed at least five Palestinians in Rafah, according to local medical services. The Gaza health ministry identified the de-



A US Army landing craft is seen beached on Ashdod on Sunday. Four US Army vessels supporting the pier broke free of their moorings in heavy seas and ran aground on Saturday. Israel is aiding the recovery effort.

### Spain slams Israel over 'scandalous' flamenco video

Spain condemned as "scandalous" a video posted by Israeli foreign minister Israel Katz suggesting Hamas would be grateful to Spain. The video shows the Spanish flag then a couple dancing to flamenco music. Film of Hamas fighters is interspersed including people fleeing during the Oct 7 Hamas attack on Israel. The video posted by Katz on X says "Hamas: Gracias Espana" ("Hamas: Thanks Spain"). Spain last week announced it would recognise Palestine as a state. REUTERS

### After threat to quit, Gantz wants probe into war conduct

Benny Gantz, a member of Israel's war cabinet who recently threatened to quit the govt, said he was seeking to establish an independent commission to probe Israel's failure to stop the Hamas-led attack on Oct 7, as well as its conduct in the war. Under Gantz's proposal, the commission would also probe whether Israeli military and political officials had acted in accordance with international law. He has submitted his proposal to cabinet. NYT

ad as civilians.

Israeli tanks have probed around the edges of Rafah, near the crossing point from Gaza into Egypt, and have entered some of its eastern districts, residents say, but have not yet entered the city in force since the start of operations in the city earlier this month. Israeli war cabinet minister Benny Gantz said rockets fired from Rafah "prove that the (Israel Defense Forces) must operate in every place Hamas still operates from". Itamar Ben Gvir, a hardline public security minister who is not part of Israel's war cabinet, urged the army to hit Rafah harder. "Rafah with full force," he posted on X.

Nearly 36,000 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's offensive. Israel launched the operation after Hamas-led militants attacked southern Israeli communities on Oct. 7, killing around 1,200 people and seizing more than 250 hostages.

Fighting also continued in the northern Gaza area of Jabaly. During one raid, the military said it found a weapons storage site with dozens of rocket parts and weapons at a school. It denied Hamas statements that its fighters had abducted an Israeli soldier. REUTERS

## 12 hurt as Qatar Airways flight hits turbulence, says airport

Dublin: Twelve people travelling on a Qatar Airways flight from Doha to Ireland were injured during a bout of turbulence, Dublin Airport said on Sunday, adding that the plane landed safely. Flight QR017, a Boeing 787 Dreamliner, landed shortly before 1pm Dublin time (1200 GMT), the airport said.

"Upon landing, the aircraft was met by emergency services, including Airport Police and our Fire and Rescue department, due to 6 passengers and 6 crew (12 total) on board reporting injuries after the aircraft experienced turbulence while airborne over Turkey," Dublin Airport said.

Irish broadcaster RTE, citing passengers arriving at the airport, said the incident lasted less than 20 seconds and occurred during food and drinks service. Qatar Airways said that a "small number" of passengers and crew sustained minor injuries during the flight and were receiving medical attention.

The airline did not directly comment on the turbulence, but said the matter is subject to an internal investigation. The incident took place five days after a Singapore Airlines flight from London to Singapore was forced to land in Bangkok due to severe turbulence, which killed a 73-year-old British man and left 20 others in intensive care. REUTERS

## Landslide buries 150+ homes in PNG, 670+ feared dead: UN

Sydney: More than 670 people are assumed to have died in Papua New Guinea's massive landslide, the UN migration agency estimated on Sunday as rescue efforts continued.

Media in the South Pacific nation north of Australia had previously estimated Friday's landslide had buried more than 300 people. But more than 48 hours later the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said the death toll may be more than double that, as the full extent of the destruction is still unclear and continuing dangerous conditions on the ground are hampering aid and rescue efforts. Only five bodies had been retrieved from the rubble so far.

The agency based its death toll estimates on information provided by officials at Yambali Village in the Enga province, who say more than 150 houses were buried in Friday's landslide, Serhan Aktoprak, the chief of the agency's mission in Papua New Guinea said in an email statement.

"Land is still sliding, rocks are falling, ground soil is cracking due to constant increased pressure and ground water is running thus the area is posing an extreme risk for everyone," Aktoprak said. More than 250 houses nearby have been abandoned by the inhabitants, who had taken temporary shelter with their relatives and friends, and some 1,250 people have been displaced, the agency said. "People are using



People digging at the landslide site of Yambali Village in Papua New Guinea's Enga Province



ties would be children of 15 years or younger. Social media footage posted by villagers and local media teams show people clambering over rocks, uprooted trees and mounds of dirt searching for survivors. Women could be heard weeping in the background.

The landslide hit a section of highway near the Porgera gold mine, operated by Barrick Gold through Barrick Niugini Ltd, its joint venture with China's Zijin Mining. The Porgera Highway remains blocked, IOM said, and the only way to reach the Porgera Gold Mine and other localities cut off from the rest of Enga Province is via helicopter. The geographic remoteness and the tough, hilly terrain is slowing rescue and aid efforts. REUTERS

## 25 arrested, 450+ booked after mob attacks Christians in Pak's Punjab

Lahore: Police in Pakistan's Punjab province on Sunday booked over 450 people and arrested 25 of them under terrorism and other charges for attacking members of minority Christian community and police personnel on the issue of alleged desecration of a religious book.

An enraged mob led by radical Islamist Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan activists on Saturday attacked Christians in the Muhajir colony of Sargodha district, some 200 kms from Lahore, and injured two Christians and 10 policemen. The mob burned and ransacked the homes and properties of Christians.

### 11 TTP militants arrested for their role in Chinese engineers' killing: Pak

Pakistani authorities have arrested 11 militants who were involved in the suicide bombing that killed five Chinese engineers in March in the north of the country, officials said Sunday. The arrested men belong to local Taliban, also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). A phone which the suicide bomber had been using to communicate with his local handlers led to the arrest, the officials said. REUTERS

According to the FIR, over 450 people surrounded the residence and shoe factory of elderly Christian man, Nazir Masih, accusing him of desecration of the religious book. The mob set fire to the shoe factory, some shops and a couple of houses. "The mob also torched Masih but timely arrival of a heavy contingent of police saved the life of Masih and 10 other Christians," the FIR says. "The enraged mob pelted stones at police personnel when they resorted to baton charge to disperse it."

Police said Masih has been shifted to hospital for treatment, and a case will be instituted against him if he is found guilty of desecration of the religious book. The man's family denied desecration of the religious book and said he is falsely being accused. Over 2,000 policemen have been deployed in the area to maintain law and order. PTI

## Sunak sees 78 Tory MPs exit ahead of July poll, surpassing '97 exodus before Tony Blair's win

**Mandatory national service for 18-yr-olds if Tories win: Sunak**

There were tears, anger and frustration as many Conservative lawmakers digested their PM Rishi Sunak's decision to call the UK elections on July 4, much earlier than they had expected. Some of those fighting to retain their seats feared the six weeks left to convince skeptical voters to back them would not be enough. For others planning to stand down, it meant an abrupt end to their political careers, forced to clear out their offices months earlier than planned. Trailing Labour by over 20 percentage points in polls, Sunak, analysts said, is betting that the Tories can cut their losses by facing the voters.

But a grassroots Conservative campaign coordinator said that the morale was the lowest he had known in five decades. Tory members of parliament seem to share this sense of futility: 78 of them have opted not to contest their seats, an exodus that includes Michael Gove, who once vied for party's top post and has been at the he-

All 18-year-olds in Britain will have to perform a year of mandatory military or civilian national service if the governing Conservative Party wins the July 4 national election, the party said Sunday. PM Rishi Sunak pledged to bring back a form of national service for the first time in more than 60 years, seeking to energise his election campaign. The UK introduced military conscription for men and some women during WWII, and imposed 18 months of mandatory military service for men between 1947 and 1960. Since then Britain has had an all-volunteer military whose size has steadily shrunk.

Under the plan, a small minority of 18-year-olds — 30,000 out of an estimated 700,000 — would spend 12 months in the military, working in areas such as logistics or cyber defence. The rest would spend one weekend a month working for charities, community groups, or organisations such as hospitals, the police and the fire service. Sunak said the programme would help "create a shared sense of purpose among our young people and a renewed sense of pride in our country." It remains unclear how it will be made compulsory. Home Secretary James Cleverly said no one would be forced to serve in the military. AP



PM Rishi Sunak, wife Akshata Murty attend an election campaign event.

## B'DESH IN EYE OF THE STORM



Cyclonic storm 'Remal' made landfall in Bangladesh on Sunday night as authorities evacuated over 800,000+ people from low-lying southwestern coastlines to shelters. Officials said a youth is believed to have been swept away by tidal waves in SE Patuakhali. Police said an overcrowded ferry carrying over 50 passengers sank near Mongla Port. However, the people were rescued. Bangladesh meteorology department said Ramel is expected to reach wind speeds of up to 120kmp/h. PTI

## Musk plans largest-ever supercomputer: Report

Washington: Billionaire tech mogul Elon Musk has told investors he plans to build a supercomputer dubbed "gigafactory of compute" to support the development of his artificial intelligence startup xAI, an industry news outlet reported Saturday.

Musk wants the supercomputer — which will string together 100,000 Nvidia chips — operational by fall 2025, and "will hold himself personally responsible for delivering it on time," Information said.

The planned supercomputer would be "at least four times the size of the biggest GPU clusters that exist today," such as those used by Meta to train its AI models, Musk was quoted as saying during a presentation to investors this month. Since OpenAI's generative AI tool ChatGPT exploded on the scene in 2022, the technol-



The planned supercomputer would be "at least 4 times the size of the biggest GPU clusters that exist today," such as those used by Meta to train its AI models, Musk was quoted as saying

ogy has been an area of fierce competition between tech giants Microsoft and Google, as well as Meta and start-ups like Anthropic and Stability AI.

Musk is one of the world's few investors with deep enough pockets to compete with OpenAI, Google or Meta on AI. xAI is developing a chatbot named Grok, which can access X, also owned by Musk, in real time. AFP

## Zelensky, from ravaged Kharkiv, asks Biden & Xi to join peace meet



14 DIE IN KHARKIV ATTACK: A Russian strike on Saturday on a crowded DIY hardware store in Kharkiv killed 14 people and wounded dozens more, Ukrainian officials said on Sunday morning

Kyiv: Prez Volodymyr Zelensky appealed to US Pres Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Sunday to attend his peace summit as Ukraine struggles to stave off unrelenting attacks by Russia in its 27-month-old invasion.

Ukraine hopes to host as many countries as possible at Kyiv-led talks in Switzerland next month aimed at uniting global opinion on how to halt the war and piling pressure on Russian Pres Putin, who has not been invited.

Zelensky spoke in an English-language video recorded in the northeastern city of Kharkiv, inside the charred remains of a printing house that was destroyed on Thursday in a Russian missile strike. He said more than 80 countries would attend.

But it was unclear whether Biden would be there, nor was Beijing, which maintains close ties with Moscow, said whether it would attend. A US official said on Sunday that the US will participate in the summit, but declined to say who or at what level.

In the video, Zelensky urged Biden and Xi to "show your leadership in advancing the peace — the real peace and not just a pause between the strikes." Kyiv, in its peace plan, calls for a full withdrawal of Russian troops and a restoration of its internationally recognised borders, something Moscow considers a non-starter. REUTERS

## Man throws flaming liquid on NYC subway, rider hurt

New York: A man set a cup of liquid on fire and tossed it at fellow subway rider in New York City, setting the victim's shirt ablaze and injuring him. The random attack happened on a No. 1 train in lower Manhattan on Saturday afternoon, city police said, adding that the suspect was in custody.

The victim, a 23-year-old man, was recovering at a hospital. He told the New York Post that he shielded his fiancée and cousin from the burning liquid and his shirt caught on fire. He said he slapped himself to put out the flames. Doctors told him he had burns on about a third of his body, he said. "He had a cup," the victim told the Post. "He made fire and he threw it all."

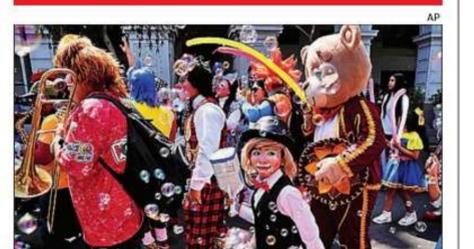
The suspect, a 49-year-old man, was arrested later after police tracked a phone he allegedly stole from another subway rider to his location, authorities said. AP

## 6 hurt in stabbings in Massachusetts

A man was taken into custody after six people, including four girls at a movie theatre, were stabbed in separate attacks that may be connected, police in Massachusetts said.

Police said a man came into the AMC Braintree 10 in Boston on Saturday and entered one of the theatres. The girls, ages 9 to 17, were inside the theatre. The man, unprovoked, suddenly attacked them before running out, the police said. The four suffered non life-threatening injuries. A video footage showed the man's vehicle and a license plate police said. A vehicle matching that description was later seen in Plymouth, 43 km south of Braintree. Police said it had left a McDonald's restaurant, where a 21-year-old woman and a 29-year-old man were found injured after stabbing. AP

## AROUND THE WORLD



HONOUR WHIMSY, SAY CLOWNS: With red noses, extravagant shoes, colourful outfits and unique makeup, hundreds of clowns on Saturday gathered in the streets of Peru's capital to mark Clown Day. They have sought for years to gain official recognition of the day. The parade in Lima, which includes awards for the best costumes, makeup, routine and improvisation, takes place annually on May 25

## Macron in Germany on 1st state visit by a French prez in 24 yrs



Macron (L) and German Prez Frank-Walter Steinmeier play table football match in Berlin

French ex-prez Hollande's 'love affair scooter' sells for €20,500: The scooter at the centre of a headline-grabbing love affair between then-French prez Francois Hollande and his actress lover Julie Gayet sold for €20,500 at an auction in France on Sunday. A huge scandal erupted in 2014 when French glossy magazine Closer said Hollande, who then lived with his partner Valerie Trierweiler, routinely hopped on a scooter to spend the night with his 41-year-old mistress, publishing pictures of the three-wheeler. Hollande went on to marry Gayet in 2022. The grey Piaggio MP3 125 was bought by Denis Breheret, owner of a car museum. Breheret wants to exhibit the scooter so that "everyone can enjoy it".

## Xi Jinping's recipe for total control: An army of eyes and ears

Beijing: The wall in the police station was covered in sheets of paper, one for every building in the sprawling Beijing apartment complex. Each sheet was further broken down by unit, with names, phone numbers and other information on the residents. Perhaps the most important detail, though, was how each unit was colour-coded. Green meant trustworthy. Yellow, needing attention. Orange required "strict control". A police officer inspected the wall. Then he leaned forward to mark a third-floor apartment in yellow. The residents in that unit

changed often, and therefore were "high risk", his note said. He would follow up on them later: "I've built a system to address hidden dangers," the officer said, in a video by the local govt that praised his work as a model of innovative policing.

This is the kind of local governance that China's top leader, Xi Jinping, wants: more visible, more invasive, always on the lookout for real or perceived threats. Officers patrol apartment buildings listening for feuding neighbours. Officials recruit retirees playing chess outdoors as extra eyes and ears. In

the workplace, employers are required to appoint "safety consultants" who report regularly to the police. Xi has branded this effort the "Fengqiao experience for a new era". "Fengqiao" refers to a town where, during the Mao Zedong era, the party encouraged residents to "re-educate" purported political enemies, through so-called struggle sessions where people were publicly humiliated until they admitted crimes such as writing anti-communist poetry.

Xi, who invokes Fengqiao regularly in major speeches, hasn't called for a revival of str-



Volunteers from a neighbourhood committee keeping watch on a Beijing street. Reviving a Mao-era surveillance campaign, authorities are tracking residents, schoolkids & businesses to forestall any unrest

uggle sessions, in which supposed offenders were sometimes beaten or tortured. But the idea is the same: harnessing ordina-

ry people alongside the police to suppress any challenges to the party and uphold party's legitimacy. The party casts this as a public service. It is also a bid to assert his political legacy.

The campaign strengthens Beijing's repressive abilities at a time of mounting challenges. With China's economy slowing, protests about unpaid wages and unfinished homes have risen. Tensions with the West have led Beijing to warn of omnipresent foreign spies. The party has also tightened scrutiny of groups like feminists, students and LGBTQ+ rights activists.

In the name of Fengqiao, the police have visited Tibetans, Uighurs and other minority groups in their homes, promoting party policies. Companies have been required to register their employees in police databases. Govt workers have given "anti-cult" lectures at churches. Police officers and judges have been installed in elementary schools as "deputy principals of law," keeping files on students' perceived risk levels. But by blocking even mild or apolitical criticism, the party could also erode the very legitimacy it is trying to project. NYT

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# THE KOLKATA MIGHT RIDERS

## Bowlers Led By Starc, Russell & Rana Help KKR Decimate Sunrisers To Win Third IPL Crown

Dwaipayan.Datta @timesgroup.com

Chennai: A team was curated with extreme care, a mentor par excellence was brought in to run the show, a diamond was picked for an incredible price, and by the end of a two-month roller-coaster, everything paid off. It was a wave of purple at the home of yellow as Gautam Gambhir's Kolkata Knight Riders, spurred on by Rs 24cr man Mitchell Starc's outstanding first spell, decimated Sunrisers Hyderabad for the lowest score of an IPL final. SRH were bowled out for 113 in the 19th over; 12 short of Chennai Super Kings' 125 in 2013 at Eden Gardens against Mumbai Indians.

It was never going to be enough as KKR batters ran away with an eight-wicket win in 10.3 overs, to present Shah Rukh Khan with his third IPL title. Venkatesh Iyer smashed a half-century and this was comfortably the most one-sided IPL final in its 17-year history.

But before that, as Cyclone Remal made its landfall in Bangladesh, the weather down the east coast was gloomy through the day, Chennai being no exception. There was a breeze on as well, making the conditions at Chepauk conducive for swing bowling. And when a bowler of the quality of Starc gets such conditions, there's a chance that he can turn absolutely unplayable.

### BEST OF THE LEAGUE

#### ORANGE CAP

Player	Runs
<b>VIRAT KOHLI (RCB)</b>	<b>741</b>
R Gaikwad (CSK)	583
R Parag (RR)	573
T Head (SRH)	567
S Samson (RR)	531

#### PURPLE CAP

Player	Wickets
<b>HARSHAL PATEL (PBKS)</b>	<b>24</b>
V Chakaravathy (KKR)	21
J Bumrah (MI)	20
T Natarajan (SRH)	19
Harshit Rana (KKR)	19

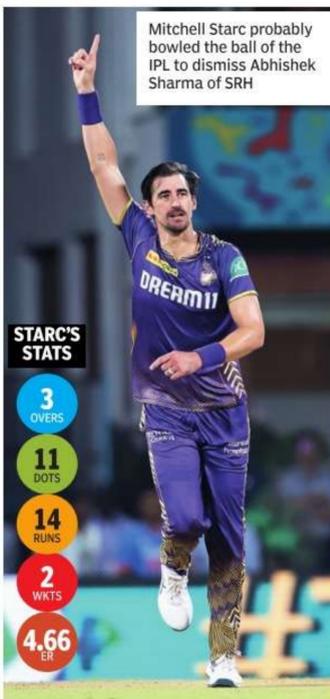
**113** SRH have recorded the lowest ever total in the history of the IPL Finals, eclipsing CSK's 125 for nine off 20 overs vs Mumbai Indians at Eden Gardens, Kolkata on May 26, 2013.

**21** Number of wickets captured by Varun Chakaravathy at 19.14 runs apiece in 15 matches — the second highest tally by a bowler in this IPL behind Harshal Patel's tally of 24 at 19.87 runs apiece in 14 matches.

—Rajesh Kumar

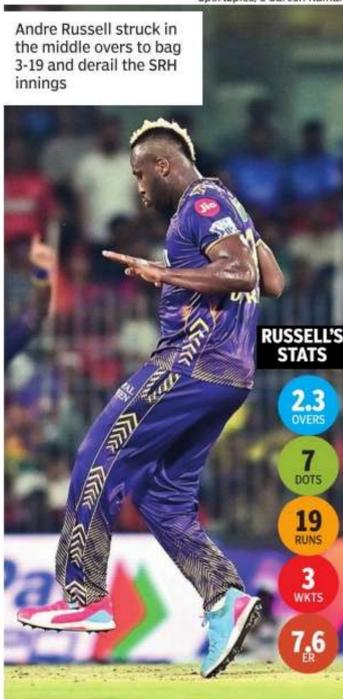
for virtually nothing, a sense of helplessness crept into the SRH ranks. Another in-form player Rahul Tripathi was dismissed by Starc within the powerplay and Hyderabad were looking down the barrel.

If SRH had to make a comeback, the middle-order of Aiden Markram, Nitish Reddy and Heinrich Klaasen had to rise to the occasion. But here too, the depth of the KKR attack came to the fore. Once Starc and Arora were done with their first spells, medium-pacer Harshit Rana and the wily Sunil Narine came into operation. While Harshit used his subtle variations beautifully, Narine was his usually stingy self, going for 1-16. If that was not enough, old pro Andre Russell (3-19) was equally brilliant.



Mitchell Starc probably bowled the ball of the IPL to dismiss Abhishek Sharma of SRH

#### STARC'S STATS



Andre Russell struck in the middle overs to bag 3-19 and derail the SRH innings

#### RUSSELL'S STATS



### SCORECARD

**Sunrisers Hyderabad:** Abhishek Sharma b Starc 2, Travis Head c Rahmanullah Gurbaz b Arora 0, Rahul Tripathi c Ramandeep Singh b Starc 9, Aiden Markram c Starc b Russell 20, Nitish Kumar Reddy c Rahmanullah Gurbaz b Harshit Rana 13, Heinrich Klaasen b Harshit Rana 16, Shahbaz Ahmed c Narine b Varun 8, Abdul Samad c Rahmanullah Gurbaz b Russell 4, Pat Cummins c Starc b Russell 24, Jaydev Unadkat lbw b Narine 4, Bhuvneshwar Kumar not out 0. **Extras:** (b 5, lb 2, w 6) 13. **Total:** (all out, 18.3 overs) 113. **Fall of wickets:** 1-2, 2-6, 3-21, 4-47, 5-62, 6-71, 7-77, 8-90, 9-113, 10-113. **Bowling:** Mitchell Starc 3-0-14-2, Vaibhav Arora 3-0-24-1,

Harshit Rana 4-1-24-2, Sunil Narine 4-0-16-1, Andre Russell 2-3-0-19-3, Varun Chakaravathy 2-0-9-1.

**Kolkata Knight Riders:** Rahmanullah Gurbaz lbw b Shahbaz Ahmed 39, Sunil Narine c Shahbaz Ahmed b Cummins 6, Venkatesh Iyer not out 52, Shreyas Iyer not out 6. **Extras:** (b 4, lb 2, w 5) 11. **Total:** (for 2 wickets, 10.3 overs) 114. **Fall of wickets:** 1-11, 2-102.

**Bowling:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar 2-0-25-0, Pat Cummins 2-0-18-1, T Natarajan 2-0-29-0, Shahbaz Ahmed 2.3-0-22-1, Jaydev Unadkat 1-0-9-0, Aiden Markram 1-0-5-0.

**Result:** KKR won by eight wickets and 57 balls to spare. **Player-of-the-final:** Mitchell Starc. **Player-of-the-tournament:** Sunil Narine

## ENGLAND MISSED A TRICK BY RECALLING PLAYERS FROM IPL, FEELS VAUGHAN

Chennai: Former skipper Michael Vaughan feels England "missed the trick" by recalling its cricketers (Jos Buttler, Phil Salt, Will Jacks) from the IPL to play a T20 series against Pakistan, saying it had denied them experiencing pressure-cooker situations of the playoffs, which could have helped them prepare better for the T20 World Cup.

"I'm all for international cricket, but now and again the IPL in particular is so exposed to pressure, and these players are under a huge amount of pressure from fans, owners and social media, it's massive," said Vaughan on a *Club Prairie Fire* podcast.

"They (ECB) have missed the trick by sending all their players home. Will Jacks, Phil Salt, (and) Jos Buttler in particular, playing in the IPL in the Eliminations pressure, crowd expectation, I

would argue that playing the IPL is better preparation than playing a T20 game against Pakistan," Vaughan opined.

Vaughan said he was not "disrespecting" either Pakistan or England with his views but just stating that the standard of IPL is probably "better".

Former Aussie captain Adam Gilchrist also felt England players not playing the final stages of the IPL was a "missed opportunity." PTI



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**3** Number of ducks by Travis Head in his last four innings — 0 vs Punjab Kings, 0 vs KKR, 34 vs RR and 0 vs KKR. He is also the first batter to manage 500-plus runs (567 at 40.50) at a SR of 175-plus.

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# Dipa creates history with gold at Asian Championships

**First Indian Gymnast To End On Top Of The Podium At A Continental Meet**

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**Kolkata:** Dipa Karmakar has always loved making history. From being the first Indian gymnast to take part in Olympics in Rio in 2016 to becoming the country's first woman to win a medal in the sport in Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, 2014, she has always been an inspiration. She was also the first to win gold in FIG Artistic Gymnas-

tics World Challenge Cup in 2018 in Mersin, Turkey. And on Sunday she created history one more time as she won gold in Vault at Senior Women Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Although Indian gymnasts, including Dipa, won bronze in the Asian meet four times earlier, it was the first time that an Indian finished on top of the podium. The girl from Tripura was expectedly over the moon after accomplishing the feat. "I have no words to express my feelings at the moment," she said after her historic feat. After finishing 16th in the all-round category in Tashkent with a



**DIPA KARMAKAR** won gold in Vault at Senior Women Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. She scored 46.166 earlier on Friday, Dipa came back with a bang on Sunday to win the gold in Vault with an average score of 13.566. Silver and bronze went to North Korea's Kim Son-Hyang (13.466) and Jo Kyong-Byol (12.966).

"I went through a lot of troubles, injuries and surgeries before I could make a comeback. It was a lot of hard work and I couldn't have done all this without the support of my coach and family who have always supported me and stood by my side through thick and thin," she said during a brief interaction with TOI trying to keep her emotions in check. Her first vault on Sunday was a Tsukahara 720 degree turn from a straight body and she followed it up with a straight body front somersault 360 turn. Asked about her performance on the day, Dipa said, "I could have executed it a bit better but there were

some penalties and the points were deducted." Irrespective of the penalties, Dipa still finished strong and coach Bishweshwar Nandi couldn't have been more proud of his pupil. "What she had to go through was highly challenging but I never gave up and neither did she," added the Dronacharya Award-winning coach. Sadly for Dipa though, she couldn't qualify for Paris Olympics and she is still hurting from it. In the Olympic Qualification Apparatus World Cup Ranking List in Vault, she finished fourth with a total of 52 points from where only the top two gymnasts qualified.

## ROHIT & CO ARRIVE IN NYC; VIRAT, HARDIK TO JOIN SQUAD LATER

**New York:** Skipper Rohit Sharma was among the 10 India squad members who landed in New York on Sunday morning for the T20 World Cup with Virat Kohli and vice-captain Hardik Pandya being the notable absentees in the first batch of arrivals. Head coach Rahul Dravid and the rest of the support staff were also part of the travelling party.

Rohit, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel were among the players who arrived. Reserve players Shubman Gill and Khaleel Ahmed were also with them. Kohli will link up with the rest of the squad later and likewise for Hardik.

## CHASE LEADS WI TO SERIES WIN OVER SOUTH AFRICA

**Kingston:** Roston Chase struck a magnificent 38-ball 67 as West Indies beat South Africa by 16 runs at Sabina Park to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match T20I series. Chase led a strong batting performance from the home side who made 207-7. **Brief scores:** West Indies: 207/7 in 20 overs (King 36, Mayers 32, Chase 67 n.o.; Peter 2-32, Phehlukwayo 2-51) beat South Africa: 191/7 in 20 overs (Hendricks 34, De Kock 41, Van der Dussen 30; Motie 3-22) by 16 runs.

## BANGLADESH RESTORE SOME PRIDE WITH WIN OVER USA

**Miami:** Bangladesh repaired some of their battered pride by beating USA by 10 wickets in the third and final game of the three-match T20I series on Saturday in Houston, with Mustafizur Rahman taking six wickets. The Americans could only manage 104-9 in their 20 overs and the visitors rattled that total off in 11.4 overs without losing a wicket. USA claimed the series 2-1. **Brief scores:** USA 104/9 in 20 overs (Andries Gous 27; Mustafizur Rahman 6-10, Rishad Hossain 1-7) lost to Bangladesh 108-0 in 11.3 overs (Tanzid Hasan 58, Soumya Sarkar 43) by 10 wickets.

# HARBHAJAN'S 2024 IPL XI

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**Chennai:** Harbhajan Singh has been part of four IPL winning teams (thrice with Mumbai Indians and once with Chennai Super Kings). Bhajji is part of the commentary team and has been travelling the length and breadth of the country for the last two months. On the day of the final, Harbhajan sat down with TOI to choose 2024 IPL's best XI. "There have been some superb performances. It's tough with so much talent around, but this is my best XI," Bhajji told TOI.

**HERE GOES THE TEAM:** **Travis Head (SRH):** It's not just the runs but the impact that he had in the tournament. "Head's batting has been a game-changer in many ways, the par-score in the powerplay has gone up from 50 to 75 and Head is central to that," Harbhajan said. **Sunil Narine (KKR):** It's his impact with the bat and ball that helps him take the spot ahead of Abhishek Sharma. "What an allround show it has been from the veteran. Narine just doesn't stop," Harbhajan said. **Virat Kohli (RCB, captain):** The legend came into this IPL with question marks about his strike-rate but he answered all those in style. The Orange Cap with 741 runs and a strike-rate of 154.43 belongs to the right-hander, and even though he opened for RCB, he will be equally

**IMPACT SUBSTITUTES**  
→ **Abhishek Sharma (SRH):** Abhishek was quite superb with Travis Head and showed in Qualifier 2 that he can be a handy bowler too.  
→ **Varun Chakaravorthy (KKR):** A very impactful mystery spinner, taking 21 wickets during the tournament.

good at No. 3. "Even though he wasn't the captain of RCB, his leadership qualities were on display as RCB went on a six-match winning streak to make playoffs," Bhajji said. **Shivam Dube (CSK):** The left-hander graduated from being a designated spin-hitter of CSK to a player who can take any attack apart. It's his long levers that helped him unleash those huge shots scoring 396 runs at a strike-rate of 162.23. On the basis of his IPL performances, he found a place in India's T20 World Cup team. "At No. 4, he keeps the left-right combination going," Harbhajan said. **Riyen Parag (RR):** He has been playing for a while, but this proved to be the right-hander's break-out year. It's not just about the 573 runs (strike-rate 149.2) that he scored, it was the way he did it, looking equally comfortable against pace and spin. "A massively improved

player, keep an eye on him for the future," Harbhajan said. **Heinrich Klaasen (SRH):** "Klaasen is the best white-ball hitter at the moment," Bhajji said, explaining the wicket-keeper batsman's inclusion in the team. His 50 off 34 balls was cornerstone of SRH's entry into the final after a difficult start. **Ravindra Jadeja (CSK):** Jadeja, with 267 runs, wasn't at his best with the bat, but he did come up with some important contributions for CSK when it mattered. "Eight wickets at an economy rate of 7.85 may not be his best, but at the No. 7 allrounder's slot, there was no one better than the southpaw," Bhajji said, while making Jadeja's case. **Kuldeep Yadav (Delhi Capitals):** He showed his wicket-taking abilities once again, taking 16 in 11 games and even though the economy was above 8, Kuldeep was quite brilliant with his wrist spin. "He is one of the

**ON TOP OF HIS GAME: Virat Kohli scored 741 runs at a strike-rate of 154.43 in the tournament**



**JASPRIT BUMRAH** (Mumbai Indians): Despite a poor show by Mumbai Indians, Bumrah was "comfortably the best bowler of the IPL." "Economy of 6.48 and all that are fine, we just hope he keeps doing this in the World Cup for India as well," Harbhajan said. **Trent Boult (Rajasthan Royals):** Sixteen wickets in 16 games at an economy rate of 8.3 may not be the best, but it's the impact that he had with his swing that went a long way in RR's entry into the playoffs. "Don't think there was anyone better than Boult bowling left-arm swing in this IPL," Boult said. **Harshit Rana (KKR):** He was one KKR's finds in the tournament, bowling the difficult overs at the death. "Rana showed heart. It makes him one of the emerging stars," Harbhajan said.

best in business, and he showed on difficult pitches how lethal he can be," Bhajji added.

# Sizzling Alcaraz hunts down American Wolf

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**Paris:** Carlos Alcaraz's court coverage is something like a light and sound show. You see, but you don't really see it. It's in the shadows perhaps. Alcaraz's feet barely skimmed the dirt when on the move in his first Roland Garros outing on Sunday. The Spaniard ran around his backhand, moved in and fell back, brandishing his unbounded athleticism like a cut-



Carlos Alcaraz after his win against JJ Wolf on Sunday

**FRENCH OPEN** lass. He reached wide and stayed low for the softer touch or the firmer grip. A performance that was as much a physical test as it was a display of dimensions. Alcaraz, 21, has been out on the injury carousel for a good part of the season so far, retiring from Rio de Janeiro in February after twisting his right ankle and playing just one tournament on clay in the spring swing, because of a right forearm injury. Alcaraz, who has been practicing with a sleeve, took the court armed with the performance accessory against American lucky loser Jeffrey John Wolf, who goes with his initials J J Wolf on the Tour, but it didn't seem like he needed the support. The world No.3, indexing his tennis miles on Court Philippe Chatrier, came through 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 in one-hour and 51 minutes. Alcaraz had 27 winners in the match, 15 of which

came from the forehand side, which augurs well for him. Alcaraz, who appeared to be debating with his box during a break in play, perhaps on holding back on power, said the performance sleeve was proposed to him by his physio Juanjo Moreno. "He told me it helps in a certain way, I don't know which way," the 21-year-old said. "I just wear it because everybody has told me that it helps my mind, just to try to forget everything in the my forearm." The Spaniard, who made the semifinal here last year, sported bright yellow shorts, which helped light up the dank, dismal conditions on a rain-hit afternoon. "The arm is 100 percent. I'm still feeling weird, afraid to hit every forehand at 100 percent," Alcaraz explained. "It's still in my mind, but I didn't feel anything after the match, which is really, really good for me. So I can say it's fully recovered."

# Sindhu surrenders huge advantage, loses in final

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**PV Sindhu** suffered a shocking meltdown and surrendered a healthy lead against Wang Zhi Yi of China in the final of the Malaysia Open BWF Super-500 tournament in Kuala Lumpur on Sunday. Trailing 3-1 at the midpoint of the third game, Wang made a splendid comeback and scored 18 of the next 23 points to seal victory from a losing position 21-16, 5-21, 16-21 in the summit clash. The loss would rattle Sind-

hu for a while as she struggled to find a way out to stop Wang after the change of courts. World No.1 Viktor Axelsen defeated Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia 21-6, 20-22, 21-13 to win the men's singles title. **Other results: Men's doubles:** 2-Kim Astrup/Anders Skaarup Rasmussen (Den) bt Jin Yong/Na Sung Seung (Kor) 21-18, 21-14. **Women's doubles:** 1-Rin Iwanaga/Ke Nakanishi (Jpn) bt 6-Lee Yu Lim/Shin Seung Chan (Kor) 17-21, 21-19, 21-18. **Mixed:** 4-Goh Soon Hwat/Lai Shevon Jemie (Mas) bt 3-Rinov Rivaldy/Pitha Haningtyas Mentari (Ina) 21-18, 21-19.

## SNAPSHOTS

### Leclerc wins Monaco GP

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc won the Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday to become the first home winner of Formula One's showcase race since Louis Chiron raced around the city streets in 1931. McLaren's Oscar Piastri finished second, 7.1 seconds behind, with Ferrari's Carlos Sainz third. Red Bull's championship leader Max Verstappen started and finished sixth. **REUTERS**

### Chebet breaks 10,000m WR

**Kenyan Beatrice Chebet** shattered the women's 10,000 metres world record at the Prefontaine Classic on Saturday. Chebet clocked 28 minutes 54.14 seconds, taking nearly seven seconds off the previous world record set by Ethiopian Letesenbet Gidey Chebet (29:01.03s) at FBK Stadium in the Netherlands on June 8, 2021. **AP**

### Richardson, Coleman win 100m

**Sha'Carri Richardson** won the women's 100 metres in 10.83 seconds on Saturday at the Prefontaine Classic competition. American Christian Coleman won the men's 100 in 9.95. **AP**

### Deepika fails to win medal at WC

**Deepika Kumari** fell short of a successive Archery World Cup medal losing to world No 2 Lim Sihyeon and No 3 Alejandra Valencia at Yecheon (South Korea) on Sunday. Lim prevailed 6-2 (28-26, 28-28, 28-27, 27-27) in the semifinal. Fighting for a bronze later on Deepika lost to Valencia 4-6 (26-29, 26-28, 28-25, 27-25, 26-29). **PTI**

### Diksha in top 10 of LET Order of Merit

Indian golfer **Diksha Dagar** secured the ninth spot on the Ladies European Tour's Order of Merit after a creditable T-20 finish at the Jabra Ladies Open in France on Sunday. **PTI**

### ACTION TODAY

**TENNIS:** French Open: 2.30pm, 8pm & 12am Tuesday (Sony)

# MAKE THAT A DOUBLE

**Down To 10-Men, Bundesliga Champs Leverkusen Ride On Khaka Goal To Win German Cup**

**Berlin:** Bayer Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso said he "needed a bit more time to grasp" the club's "dream season", after lifting the German Cup on Saturday night to claim the double. Midfielder Granit Khaka scored the only goal in a 1-0 win over Kaiserslautern, with Leverkusen down to 10 men for more than half the match.

Alonso's first full season managing at the top level finished with a Bundesliga and German Cup double, a Europa League final — and a stunning record of just one loss in 53 games. Leverkusen's only loss came in Wednesday's Europa League final against Serie A side Atalanta, but Alonso's charges rebounded in dogged fashion.

"I need a bit more time to grasp it. It was a dream season. To be able to celebrate here is incredible — we need to enjoy it," Alonso told Germany's ARD network. The coach, who rejected reported interest from Liverpool, Bayern Munich and Real Madrid to stay at Leverkusen this season, was serenaded with chants of "Xabi Alonso" by delirious fans



Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso with the German Cup during a victory celebration at the BayArena stadium on Sunday

whose club had only won two trophies before this season. "Of course I'm happy but I'm especially proud of the players. The double is totally deserved."

The victory tested Alonso as he rarely has been this season, with Leverkusen reduced to 10 men late in the first half after centre-back Odilon Kosounou's second yellow. Pictured cradling his head in his hands on the bench moments after the 42-year-old took over striker Patrik Schick and winger Jonas Hofmann while his team sat deeper and at-

tacked on the counter. Despite their one-man advantage, Kaiserslautern were kept in check by the German champions, with few clear-cut chances in the second-half. "We quickly analysed who we can change," the coach said. "We played well and created some good chances, but what's most important was the belief of the team. They were ready to fight with 10 men and get it done."

Leverkusen join Bayern, Dortmund, Bremen, Cologne and Schalke as clubs to have won the German double. **AFP**

## I'll win trophies elsewhere, says Ten Hag as talk of sack lingers

**London:** Erik ten Hag warned Manchester United's owners that he will carry on winning trophies elsewhere if they decide to sack him in the aftermath of Saturday's 2-1 victory against Manchester City in the FA Cup final.

Ten Hag went into the final rocked by reports that he would be dismissed regardless of the result at Wembley. But United's beleaguered manager made a convincing case to remain in charge as he out-witted City boss Pep Guardiola to deliver the second trophy of his turbulent two-year reign. And in a defiant post-match press conference, the former Ajax boss made it clear he did not fear the sack.

"When I started here, I said I'm here to win, also I want to build a team. Both I'm doing," he said. "If they don't want me, I go anywhere else and do what I did my whole career, winning games and trophies." Asked if he had received any assurances that his job was secure, Ten Hag said: "That is what they always tell me (in the past). Every time it is the same question. They don't have to tell me every week." **AFP**

# Withdrawal from Ostrava meet a precautionary move: Neeraj

**New Delhi:** Olympic champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra on Sunday clarified that he is not injured but has pulled out of the Ostrava Golden Spike meet in Czech Republic on May 28 as a precautionary measure after he felt "something" on his adductor muscles during a recent training session.

Chopra said he would not want to risk injury in an Olympic year and hence decided to skip the prestigious meet. "Following a recent throwing session, I decided not to compete in Ostrava as I felt something in my adductor. I have had problems with it in the past and pushing it at this stage can lead to injury," Chopra wrote on his Instagram.

"Just to clarify, I am not injured but I don't want to take any risk during the Olympic year so had to take this decision. Once I feel it's fully recovered, I will get back to competitions," he added.

## Anant Solkar passes away

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Another brother of legendary cricketer Eknath Solkar, passed away at his residence in Bandra on Sunday at the age of 72. A talented off-spinning allrounder, Anant, popularly known as 'Anya', was known to be a brilliant fielder and a talented cricketer like his elder sibling. Solkar played 26 First-Class matches for Railways and Maharashtra, in which he took 63 wickets@23.96, and scored 628 runs with one-half-century. "He was hospitalised for a while due to an injury," an old-timer who knew him told this paper. Anant was four years younger to his brother Eknath, who had passed away in 2005.

The Solkar brothers' father, as it is famously known, was a maali (curator) at the PJ Hindu Gymkhana on the Marine Drive. Both the brothers, who saw extreme poverty in their childhood, grew up at the gymkhana.

# Can go with my head held high: Mbappe

**Lille:** Kylian Mbappe said he was proud to leave Paris Saint-Germain with his "head held high" after winning Saturday's French Cup final, but said he would wait for the right time to confirm where he will be playing next season. "To finish with a trophy in a final, there is no better way. It feels really good," Mbappe said after PSG beat Lyon 2-1 in the final in the northern city of Lille.

Mbappe's contract is now up and he recently confirmed he would leave at the season's end, with Real Madrid expected to be his next destination. "All I wanted was to end things well with my club, with a trophy. I think there is a time for everything and I will announce my future club in good time," he said.



Mbappe was the toast of PSG's French Cup celebrations

"There are only good memories and now I can go out with my head held high, with a trophy as well."

Mbappe did not score in Saturday's game and so leaves his hometown team with a club-record tally of 256 goals from 308 appearances. Ousmane Dembele and Fabian Ruiz netted for PSG. **AFP**

# Kroos bids emotional farewell to Bernabeu

**Madrid:** Toni Kroos bade an emotional farewell to Real Madrid fans at a sold-out Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday as the German midfielder played his final home game after a remarkable decade with the Spanish giants.

A goalless draw with Real Betis was largely irrelevant with Real confirmed as LaLiga champions and all the European qualification and relegation spots decided, so the evening was about celebrating the 34-year-old Kroos.

One of Real's most successful players of all time, Kroos announced on Tuesday that he will retire after this year's European Championship on home soil. He fought back tears as walked on to the pitch through a corridor formed by his team mates, who were



Toni Kroos with his children at the Bernabeu after his final home game for Real Madrid

wearing his number eight jersey as the fans held up a giant flag with his face and the words "Thank you, legend" which covered the south stand. In the 85th minute, Kroos broke down in tears when, after receiving another standing ovation as he was substituted, he embraced his three children who were all crying on the sidelines. **REUTERS**

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