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EU regulators level their first charges under the bloc's new digital competition rulebook, accusing Tim Cook-led Apple of preventing app makers from pointing users to cheaper options outside its App Store P 11

Flames engulfed a lithium battery factory in S Korea after multiple batteries exploded, killing 22 workers, most of them Chinese. The victims likely succumbed to toxic gas within seconds of the blaze P 11

A schoolboy from England becomes the first in the world with severe epilepsy to trial a new device fitted in his skull to control seizures. Neurostimulator is said to have reduced his daytime seizures by 80% P 11

The toll from attacks on churches & synagogues in Russia's Dagestan rises to 20. Putin, who's long accused the West of trying to stoke separatism in the Caucasus, sends his condolences to victims' kin P 11



Change name to Keralam: State

Kerala assembly on Monday adopted a resolution urging Centre to change the state's name to "Keralam". This is the second time the state passed a resolution on renaming. **Flap Opp**

UP govt staffer crushed to death

In a suspected road rage case, a driver crushed to death a UP irrigation department staffer who tried to stop him after he accidentally hit the latter's car in Kanpur late Sunday. **P 7**

Man lynched for mobile 'theft'

A 28-year-old man was lynched by a mob on Monday in Assam's Sivasaagar town on suspicion that he had stolen a cell phone. The phone has still not been recovered. **Flap Opp**

3 killed in car crash near Mum

Three people, including a 7-year-old and his father, died while the boy's brother (11) was grievously injured as their car hit a tree and tumbled into a pit following a tyre burst in Raigad district. **P 3**

'Make parent nod must, no live-in'

Haryana khaps are demanding that govt bring in laws to make parental assent must in love marriages and to end the live-in relationships system. **P 7**

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Times Interact | P 6 & 8

Emergency reminds us to protect Constitution: Modi

Oppn MPs Hold Up Copies Of Statute Book

Akhilesh.Singh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: PM Modi marked the beginning of the maiden session of the new Lok Sabha by lobbying the "Constitution" issue back at the INDIA bloc, asking everybody to ensure that there was no subversion of the Constitution as during the Emergency.

► EDIT: It's People's House

A day before the 49th anniversary of the Indira Gandhi govt's decision to curb dissent by imposing Emergency, Modi urged people to ensure such an attempt to "blacken" the Constitution is never repeated and pledged to safeguard it.

His remarks came as the opposition, flush with the success of its allegation that Modi-led BJP had sought 400+ seats to change the Constitution,



PM Modi arrives in Parliament to take oath as MP for the third time. Oppn MPs marched from the old Parliament building to the new, chanting slogans of 'save democracy' | P 10

Be 'strong oppn': Naveen to MPs

BJD appears to be changing its stance, with Naveen Patnaik urging Rajya Sabha MPs to work as a "strong opposition" and "make Centre accountable on all issues". **P 10**

carried on with the theme. Members of Congress, TMC, DMK, Left and others held a protest after paying respects at Mahatma Gandhi's statue in

Nadda leader of House in RS

Union health minister J P Nadda has been appointed leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, replacing his Cabinet colleague Piyush Goyal, who is now an LSM. **P 10**

Parliament complex, holding copies of the Constitution and "promising to protect it".

► Will deliver 3 times more', P 8

Pro tem protest: Some oppn bloc MPs skip oath

The first sitting of the 18th Lok Sabha was marked by three opposition members nominated to the panel of chairpersons (who fill in for the speaker) refusing to take oath at their scheduled time over the pro tem speaker's post not going to Congress's K Suresh. Further, INDIA bloc made plan in its intent to force a contest for the speaker's post if a consensus was not arrived at.

An unfazed BJP, however, began consultations with its allies on the NDA's candidate for the speaker's post. The election is scheduled for Wednesday and nominations have to be filed by Tuesday.

The three opposition MPs — Suresh, Sudip Bandyopadhyay (TMC) and T R Baalu (DMK)—skipped oath-taking as they were listed to do so just after the PM and ahead of the council of ministers. **P 10**

No urgent hearing of Kejriwal plea, but HC decision 'unusual': SC

Asks: 'If HC Erred, Should We Repeat It?'

New Delhi: Supreme Court Monday termed as "unusual" Delhi HC's decision not to immediately pass a reasoned verdict on ED's plea challenging the bail given to Arvind Kejriwal by the trial court last week.

► HC verdict on Kejriwal's bail likely today

but declined the Delhi CM's plea seeking its immediate intervention and posted the matter for Wednesday. A bench of Justices Manoj Misra and S V N Bhatti said passing order at

this juncture would amount to prejudging the issue as HC was yet to pass its verdict, which is likely to be delivered in a day or two, reports Amit Anand Choudhary.

Kejriwal's counsel, senior advocates A M Singhvi and Vikram Chaudhary, contended that HC prejudged the case and passed the order on an oral mentioning by ED when the trial court order was not even available. They said it was violative and contrary to the age-old established norm. Singhvi pressed for interim relief, and said if HC could stay trial court's order when it was not available, then SC should also stay HC's interim order without waiting for a copy of the order.

► All papers filed', P 10

Iron tool flies off truck, kills city hotelier on walk

Mumbai: A hotelier from Bandra's Turner Road, Vijay Asrani (40), was killed by an iron anvil that fell on his head from a truck after a crash around 3-3.30am Sunday. His friends told police he would go for walks after downing shutters for the day. Asrani was the sole provider for his elderly parents, who resided with him about 150 metres from the accident spot, reports V Narayan.

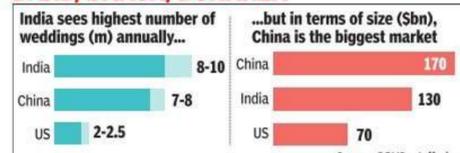
Police said the truck, carrying material for coastal road work, hit a protruding tree branch, breaking the rope tied around its iron items. The driver lost control and the truck hit a roadside railing and then a tree, causing the anvil to be flung out.

► Coastal road material, P 3

Big fat Indian wedding drives \$130bn industry, avg spend/nuptial at ₹12.5L

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BAND, BAAJA, BONANZA



New Delhi: The Indian wedding industry at \$130 billion ranks second only to food and grocery, and is a significant driver of discretionary consumption, says a new report, highlighting the enormous economic impact of the event across sectors.

The Indian wedding market is twice the size of the US market but smaller than China, said the report by investment banking and capital market firm Jefferies. The overall size of the industry was based on various available numbers and the report was prepared after visiting various hubs that cater to the industry. It estimated that the average

expenditure on a wedding is around \$15,000, or Rs 12.5 lakh, and an average Indian couple spends approximately twice on weddings compared to education (pre-primary to graduation) — a sharp contrast to countries such as the US, where the spend is less than half that of education.

The numbers suggest that the average spend on a wed-

ding is around five times India's per capita GDP of \$2,900 (over Rs 2.4 lakh) and more than three times the average annual household income of around Rs 4 lakh. India's wedding spend to GDP ratio of 5 times is significantly higher than several other countries, the report added.

► Key growth driver, P 13

HC: Hawkers cleared for VIPs, why not for all?

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Bombay high court Monday frowned at the state and BMC's inability to remove unlicensed hawkers encroaching on footpaths in the city, saying "there can't be an abject surrender by any of the authorities. Otherwise, there will be lawlessness".

Justices Mahesh Sonak and Kamal Khata said there seems to be a lack of will despite orders passed by the courts, and questioned why there is no protection for citizens who pay

her suicide, says Bombay HC granting him pre-arrest bail | P 4

► **IN THE COURTS** No provision in Indian law to penalise anyone indulging in prostitution, says K'taka HC while quashing proceedings against a 29-year-old woman. Adds that 'what is punishable is sexual exploitation for commercial purposes'

► A man abusing sister when she asked for her money back cannot be considered abetting taxes. "When the Prime Minister or VVIPs come, streets and roads are immediately cleared, and it stays so till they are here.

motu PIL converted out of a petition regarding illegal hawkers obstructing access to a Borivli shop "to ensure encroachments on public access ways and footpaths do not occur".

The judges suggested that hawkers need to be identified. "Let there be a combing operation. Like biometrics for slums. Take one street after another... We have to find a solution. We have to get data on the density of hawkers," Justice Khata added.

► 'Something drastic', P 2

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UBT MLC moves pvt bill for 50% Marathi quota in new buildings

Chaitanya.Marpakwar @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Just months ahead of the assembly elections, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Anil Parab has submitted a private member's bill to the legislative council seeking 50% reservation for Marathi-speaking people in new residential buildings in Mumbai.

Sena (UBT) has nine legislators in the 78-member council and 15 in the 288-seat assembly. MVA, the opposition bloc, has 75 members in the assembly and 29 in the council, while Mahayuti, the govt alliance, has 212 members in the former and 28 in the latter.

Parab alleged that "multiple instances" of Marathi-speaking people being denied housing under the pretext of food preferences or religion had prompted him to submit the bill. "Any discrimination based on religion or food preferences is unconstitutional."

A private member's bill can be moved by any House member in their personal capacity seeking a new law or tweaks in an existing statute.

Parab has also made a push for protecting the Marathi community's interests in his manifesto as MVA's candidate from the Mumbai graduates constituency for the MLC election scheduled for Wednesday. He plans to establish a branch of the Balasah Thackeray IAS Academy in suburban Mumbai to groom more Marathi graduates for civil services.



COURTS ON SOCS' QUOTA DEMANDS

Bombay high court | Nov 9, 1999

Talmakiwadi Cooperative Housing Society vs divisional joint registrar

Issue: The Tardeo society with 10 buildings had challenged the legality of a 1996 order of the divisional joint registrar to amend a bylaw that required members to belong to Kanara Saraswat community

What HC held | There is no logic in insisting that a person must belong to the Kanara Saraswat community to be the society's member. There is no nexus between this requirement with the objectives of the society, which are to carry on the trade of building and of buying, selling, hiring, letting and developing with cooperative principles.

Supreme Court | April 15, 2005

Zoroastrian Cooperative Housing Society Ltd and another vs district registrar cooperative societies (urban) and others

Issue: Can a cooperative housing society restrict its membership to the Parsi community by way of a bylaw? The society, formed in 1926, was governed by Gujarat Cooperative Housing Society Act

What Gujarat HC held | Bylaw was invalid

What SC held | It set aside the HC ruling and allowed restriction of membership to Parsis. It said so long as the approved bylaw stands and the Act does not provide for invalidity of such a bylaw nor interdicts formation of cooperative societies confined to persons of a particular vocation, community, persuasion or sex, it could not be held that the formation of such a society would be opposed to public policy and consequently liable to be declared void or directed to amend its bylaw relating to qualification for membership



Legal experts: Against equality, unlikely to pass judicial scrutiny

Swati.Deshpande @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Legal experts said the bill submitted by Sena (UBT) MLC Anil Parab proposing a 50% quota for Maharashtra may not withstand judicial scrutiny and turn into an Act as it goes against the grain of the constitutional principle of equality.

R D Dhanuka, former chief justice of Bombay HC, said such a quota "is impermissible in law". "So many societies in Mumbai seek to allow members of only a particular religion or community or bar certain categories. It has been held constitutionally invalid by our courts."

Senior counsel Milind Sathé said there has been no precedent in Maharashtra of a private member's bill being

passed as a law. "Secondly, even if govt were to pass it, the bill may not pass the test of judicial scrutiny as such a classification is impermissible under the Constitution."

Agreeing with both, former advocate general of Maharashtra S G Aney said, "It is an arbitrary proposal with no data to back the claim [on the Marathi community's dwindling numbers in Mumbai]. Asserting that "the bill is not even worth the paper it is written on", he said it has not been submitted in the form that a private member's bill should be presented. "A private member's bill, like any other bill, must contain a draft of the Act that it proposes to be passed. This (Parab's proposal) is, at best, wishful thinking or aspiration of a private member who hopes

that such a bill is framed and brought before the House."

Aney asked what provision should be made if there is no taker for the quota in a project, and if govt would provide funds to the Marathi community to buy such flats. "Realistically, buildings are built in order to be sold."

Ramesh Prabhu, a cooperative housing society expert consultant, and advocate Vinod Sampat said such a quota would impinge on free trade and commerce. "Reservation in allotment of Mhada flats or subsidised houses has already been implemented. Even if govt decides to pass this bill as proposed, courts will strike it down as unconstitutional," said Prabhu.

Maharashtra has 1.25 lakh registered housing societies, of which 70% are in MMR.

NEET leak: ZP headmaster arrested, 2 others detained

Mohammed.Akhef @timesgroup.com

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Hours after registering an FIR against four suspects for their alleged links to the NEET paper leak, Latur police arrested Jaleel Khan Pathan, a Katpur-based zilla parishad (ZP) school headmaster on Sunday.

On Monday, police detained two sub-agents. "Pathan was produced before a local court on Monday, which remanded him in police custody till July 2," said Latur superintendent of police Somay Munde. "We have also detained two sub-agents from Beed district who were working under Pathan."

Police said the detained sub-agents were added to the FIR which already names Pathan; Sanjay Jadhav, a ZP schoolteacher serving in Solapur's Madha; Irrana Kongalwar, an ITI group instructor in Dharashiv's Omerga; and

one Gangadhar, who hails from Parbhani district and has connections in Delhi and Noida.

The accused have been booked under 3 (v) (for directly or indirectly assisting a candidate in any manner unauthorised in the public examination), 4 (for no person or group of persons or institutions shall collude or conspire to facilitate indulgence in any such unfair means) and 10 for (any person or persons resorting to unfair means and offences under this act shall be punished for not less than three years but which may extend to five years with fine up to Rs 10 lakh) of the newly introduced Public Examinations (Prevention of unfair means) Act, 2024 as well as sections 420 (cheating) and 120-B (criminal conspiracy) of the Indian Penal Code.

The case was registered on the complaint lodged by Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS).

Local crime branch teams have been fanned out to nab Jadhav and Kongalwar, who went into hiding on Sunday. Both men had participated in the hours-long questioning by ATS on Saturday.

Latur local crime branch managed to zero in on Jadhav for questioning again late on Monday. The investigation team has also managed to identify Gangadhar. He reportedly switched off his phone on Monday and is in hiding.

Sources in the state ATS said three phones belonging to Pathan, Jadhav and Kongalwar have been seized and sent for forensic analysis.

The sources added that based on the incriminating data found in the phones of these three suspects, some parents, who reportedly paid them money to get their children to score high in NEET, are also being summoned. These parents' statements would be recorded, said a source.

Hoarding crash: SIT summons partner in IPS officer wife's co

Mumbai: The Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the May 13 Ghatkopar hoarding collapse that killed 17 persons, has summoned one Arshad Khan on whose behalf Rs 46.5 lakh was transferred into 10 different accounts by Ego Media Pvt Ltd, which owned the billboard.

A police officer said no money has been transferred directly into Mahpara Garments Pvt Ltd, in which Khan and IPS officer Quaiser Khalid's wife Summana are partners. "During scrutiny of Ego Media's bank details, we found that Rs 46.5 lakh had been transferred into 10 accounts on the behalf of Khan. When we questioned Khan, he couldn't give satisfactory answers," said the officer. Probe suggests that there have been lapses on part of Khalid, the then GRP chief who is under the scanner for illegally allowing the fourth hoarding of Ego Media without any tender. [TNN](#)

Will consult staff, students before starting classes in shifts, says St Xavier's principal

Yogita.Rao@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: With plans to expand and add several skill-oriented courses, St Xavier's College in south Mumbai is considering to run classes in shifts during to space constraints on its premises.

"We are looking at expansion. New programmes are on the cards. There are so many new courses in the science domain, such as AI and ML, data science and apprenticeship-embedded programmes that we want to explore. We are unable to start these newer courses in the existing capacity. Our building is a heritage structure and that's why we cannot grow vertically. But most of our classrooms remain vacant after 4pm. Therefore, the management thought of making optimal use of the existing space," said principal Rajendra Shinde, adding that the college committee will not only look at the feasibility of the plan but also study the shift system that is followed in institutions across the country.

While St Xavier's College has been enjoying autonomy for around 14 years, it was awarded with the empowered



St Xavier's was awarded with empowered autonomy status last year

autonomy status last year. This will enable the institute to award degrees jointly with the parent university — in this case, Mumbai University. St Xavier's College has recently added BCom (accounting and finance), a few masters programmes, and only on Monday, was granted permission to start four PhD programmes in physics, biotechnology, biochemistry, and economics.

Currently, four PG programmes — MA (Economics), MA (Public Policy),

MA (Psychology) and MA (Ancient Indian Culture) — run in the afternoon and evening shifts, but all the UG courses, except commerce, and the junior college section start in the morning.

After the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, classes for existing courses also run till late in the afternoon. For instance, the arts section used to wrap up by 1pm, but now with more subjects being offered under the six verticals of NEP, and those subjects be-

ing offered across courses, even the arts classes go on till 3pm and there is also a gap of one or two hours between some of their lectures.

"A lot of aspects have to be taken into consideration. All stakeholders, including teachers, students, and staff, will be consulted before the implementation. We may consider at least two shifts and running aided and unaided sections in separate shifts seems feasible, but the plan will be implemented only after the recommendations of the committee," said Shinde, adding that it may or may not be from the next year.

Space constraint has been a perennial problem for city colleges, especially the ones in south Mumbai. Principal of Jai Hind College, Vijay Dabholkar, said that they may consider the option if they add more courses in the future. But as of now there are no plans, he added. HSNB Board, which manages the HSNB University (KC and HR as constituent colleges), had recently acquired a 20-acre plot land in Alibaba near Mandwa for a residential campus, as part of their expansion plans.

WR TO SPEND ₹513CR ON EIGHT STATIONS WITH UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY IN MIND

Western Railway has allocated Rs 513 crore for the enhancement of passenger amenities, including facilities for the differently-abled, across eight stations on Mumbai's suburban network. The programme is under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS), reports Manthan K Mehta

STATIONS SET TO BENEFIT

- Marine Lines, Charni Road, Grant Road, Lower Parel, Prabhadevi, Malad, Jogeshwari Coaching Terminal, Palghar



All improvements will be designed considering the needs of specially-abled individuals, to ensure equal access for all



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KEY ASPECTS OF THE SCHEME Emphasis on cleanliness | In line with the Swachh Bharat mission, all eight stations will feature a modular sewage treatment plant, ensuring efficient waste management and promoting a cleaner environment Visually appealing platforms | Platforms will undergo resurfacing and aesthetic enhancements, including the incorporation of "captivating" landscaping on platform walls Enhanced amenities | Travelers will benefit from improved amenities such as superior seating, drinking water facilities, & optimized lighting & ventilation on platforms and within the main station building For the differently-abled, we are planning ramps and railings, special toilets and drinking water booths, and designated parking spaces near station entrances — A SENIOR WR OFFICIAL

Udaipur man who let online cheats use a/c to park over ₹1cr fraud funds held

Mateen.Hafeez @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Central Region cyber police station at Worli recently arrested a 38-year-old man from Udaipur allegedly involved in four online share trading cases where complainants were cheated of a total of Rs 1.17 crore. The money defrauded in these cases was sent to many accounts, including a company's. KYC details of the accused for the bank were linked to the company's account. The arrested man, Samarth Vijay Singh, got a commission to let them use the bank account.

The police were working on a case where a 49-year-old

government servant had lodged an FIR on April 19 that was cheated of Rs 17.4 lakh. The complainant had seen an advertisement on Facebook about online share trading. When he clicked on it, he was added to a WhatsApp group, Goldman stock compass. In the group, other participants were discussing share market, profit and losses and some of them even shared screenshots of profit they made while trading.

When the complainant showed interest, the accused sent him a link containing an App GSIN and asked him to download it. He could see a virtual account in his name. He began investing and also invested money from his friends from his account. "He sent Rs 17.4 lakh to 12 bank accounts, provided by the accused. He saw his profit and investment increasing to Rs 40 lakh. When he wanted to withdraw his profit, he couldn't and virtual account was also deleted. This is when he approached the police," said an officer.

Investigators found one of the accounts was in a company's name and its details led the police to the accused. The police learnt that this account was used in three more cases registered with them and a portion of Rs 1 crore in these cases was sent to this account. In another case of part-time job fraud, police arrested

two accused, Uday Singh (46) and Sanjay Verma (34), both from Jaipur. They were accused of luring a complainant to invest money to buy task jobs like giving reviews to brands. The complainant was cheated of Rs 18.31 lakh. The police found that the money had gone to an account held by a company.

On further inquiry, it was found that it was a shell company and the police nabbed the accused whose details were given in the company's bank account.

A team supervised by DCP Datta Nalawade, and led by senior inspector Mousami Patil, officers Santosh Khade and Nilesh Hembe is probing these cases.

something drastic". Senior advocate S U Kamdar said BMC is considering HC's suggestion for mobile hawking and the option of underground markets. He informed that the labour commissioner has appointed a returning officer for elections of town vending committees. To the judges' query, Kamdar said unlicensed hawkers are regularly removed, but they come back. The judges said they cannot be allowed to return and need to be identified.

The judges referred to the Supreme Court's judgment of 2012 on hawking zones and licensing of hawkers.

"People are not able to run their shops. They are beaten. There is complete lawlessness. We need to see the state working," said Justice Khata. When told that Supreme Court had directed police commissioners to issue circulars to station house officers to take action when hawkers return, Justice Khata said: "Prima facie, SHOs are not doing their duty." Adjourning the hearing to Jul 22, the judges asked BMC if it is possible to identify one area for implementation to see who are the licensed and unlicensed hawkers in it. They suggested the high court precinct.

CR clears 1.6L cubic metres of muck from tracks in 2 months

Manthan.K.Mehta @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Central Railway (CR) cleared nearly 1.6 lakh cubic metres of muck/garbage from along the tracks in May and June in comparison to 1.3 lakh cubic metres collected in the corresponding period in 2023.

"One of the most important challenges in ensuring

smooth running of trains is to maintain cleanliness on railway tracks. The muck and garbage not only deface the tracks, but also clog the drainages crossing under it, leading to waterlogging on tracks during monsoon," CR's chief public relations officer Swapnil Nilas said.

CR runs special muck services to clean the garbage on the tracks between Chhatra-

pati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) to Kalyan on the main line and CSMT to Mankhurd on harbour line.

It deploys JCB machines instead of relying entirely on manual effort to deposit the waste in the muck specials, which are old EMU rakes.

The clearing of muck is carried out after suburban train operations shut beyond midnight.



People are forced to jaywalk, HC said

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Bombay HC Monday said something drastic has to be done regarding the problem of illegal hawkers encroaching upon city footpaths.

Justices Mahesh Sonak and Kamal Khata said that due to encroachment by hawkers on footpaths, people are forced to walk on the streets. "It is their fundamental right... We tell our children to walk on footpaths. But if there are no footpaths, what are they going to do?" Justice Khata asked, adding that "the state has to do

7-year-old, dad among 3 dead in car mishap, brother in hosp

Umesh K Parida

Navi Mumbai: A 7-year-old boy, his father and the father's friend died in an accident that occurred in Rajgad district Sunday afternoon. The boy's 11-year-old brother is battling for life at a hospital in Mumbai.

The boys' father who was driving lost control after the front left tyre of the vehicle burst, the police said, adding that all three persons died on the spot.

The car crashed into a tree along the Shrivardhan-Goregaon highway. After crashing into the tree, the car veered off the road and tumbled into a pit along the highway before it overturned, said police inspector UB Rikame.

Due to the impact of the collision, the bark of tree has been left severely battered, the police said.

The deceased have been identified as Isa (7), his father Ali Rafiq Shaikh (34), and Ali's friend Krishna Kamble (54).

The elder son, Rihan (11), who has sustained grievous injuries was initially taken to the local rural hospital at Mhasla village and was later shifted to a medical facility in Mumbai.

While a case of causing death by negligent and rash driving has been filed against Ali at Mhasla police station, the same will be abated as he is dead.

Schools that host polls to get day off

Mumbai: Schools and colleges that are voting centres for the biennial MLC election, for teachers and graduates constituencies, to be held on Jun 26, will have a holiday on voting days. Also, teachers registered as voters will be able to avail special casual leave.

Four MLC seats that go for elections comprise one each for graduates and teachers constituencies in Mumbai. In Konkan, a graduate constituency seat, and in Nashik a teacher constituency seat will have elections. Counting of votes will be held on July 1.

Principals have to ensure teachers are given casual leave to cast votes. **TNN**

111kg ganja seized, 4 held by city cops

Mumbai: Narcotics Control Bureau busted an interstate drug syndicate and seized 111 kg of ganja besides two vehicles and arrested four persons.

In pursuance of active intelligence on interstate drug trafficking syndicates about a network was involved in illicit trafficking of drugs from Odisha based sources into Mumbai & Pune for further distribution.

A network from Pune was learnt to have received a consignment of ganja slated for distribution. A watch was kept near Patwardi, Ahmednagar, to trap and apprehend the interstate traffickers, leading to its recovery. **TNN**

'Anvil fell from truck ferrying material to coastal road site'

V.Narayan@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: A hotelier, Vijay Asrani, was killed by an anvil that struck him on the head after it was flung off a truck that met with an accident near the businessman's home on Turner Road in Bandra (West) in the wee hours of Sunday.

A police officer said the truck was carrying iron material to the coastal road work site in Bandra.

Taken by a night police patrol to the nearby Bhabha Hospital, the 40-year-old Asrani was declared dead before admission.

The unmarried Asrani's family, comprising his aged parents, learnt about his death from the police.

Asrani's friends reached the hospital after learning about the accident.

The truck driver, Manjor Alam Ansari (49), was caught by a patrolling team after locals who witnessed the incident called for assistance. The police said Ansa-



The accident spot near Vijay Asrani's residence on Turner Road

ri was speeding and was taken to the Bandra police station, where he was arrested. Produced before the Bandra court later on Sunday, the driver was remanded in police custody.

The police said they were not yet clear where Asrani was coming from or going, but they had learnt from his friends that it was routine for the hotelier to walk about in the small hours after his business establishment clo-

sed for the day. "Asrani was walking by the roadside when the heavy cast iron fell on him. Local witnesses promptly informed the police control room, and the night police patrolling team quickly arrived at the location. The truck driver is in police custody and has been booked under the Indian Penal Code sections 279 (rash driving) and 304 (A) (causing death due to negligence)," senior inspector

Sanjay Marathe said.

A police officer said the blood samples of Ansari, the truck driver who they said was from Uttar Pradesh, had been sent for analysis to determine whether he was driving under the influence of alcohol.

Asrani's friends described him as a happy-go-lucky person. Asrani's brother-in-law Shoven Shah said that it was not known whether the hotelier was returning home after a walk or heading out for a walk.

"We received a call from the police in the wee hours informing us that Vijay Asrani had met with an accident. We were asked to reach Bhabha Hospital. When we reached the hospital, we were informed that he had lost his life while he was walking on Turner Road. He was hit by a heavy item that fell on his head after dislodging from a large vehicle after it hit a tree, killing him instantly," Shah said, adding that Asrani's parents were devastated.

2 boys drown in pond while on a picnic

Navi Mumbai: Two teenage boys drowned at a pond in Alibaug where they had gone for a picnic at a hillock with six others Sunday afternoon.

According to the police, Atharv Hoke (16), who could swim, first got into the pond for a dip. However, he found it difficult to stay afloat and started struggling, the police quoted the other picnickers as saying. That's when, the other boy, Shubham Bala (15), entered the water to rescue his friend, but he too started drowning.

Other boys who were around the pond started screaming for help. A few villagers launched a search for the two who had, by then, gone missing. Two hours later, they were found at the bed of the water body, said inspector Sandip Bagul of Alibag police station. Both were declared dead at a local govt hospital.

The boys, who just cleared class X, were to take admission to college. —**Umesh K Parida**

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Merely 195 of state's 31,500 hsg projects have grievance cell

Sanjeev.Devasia @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Of the more than 31,500 ongoing real estate projects in the state, only 195 have established a complaint redressal cell to resolve complaints by homebuyers.

In August, MahaRERA had directed developers to set up a complaint redressal cell and depute at least one complaint redressal officer. Subsequently, the authority carried out a review to see whether the developers had adhered to the directive. It found that only 195 developers across the state had set up the cell and posted details of it on their website.

MahaRERA officials say developers have a casual approach and are apathetic to complaints of homebuyers once bookings are completed.

During the initial phase, developers deploy sales and marketing persons to provide information about the project. Subsequently, homebuyers face a difficulty in addressing their queries or resolving complaints. Homebuyers do not know whom to contact for the purpose, leading to misunderstandings and grievances even after completion of a project.

The MahaRERA directions make it mandatory for the developer to display the person's name and contact details prominently displayed at the project's site. "Developers are casual in their approach and do not care about complaints of homebuyers. This is reflected in their apathy towards setting up the complaint redressal cell," said an official.

MahaRERA has also pointed out that a dedicated complaint redressal cell will help the complainant get timely access to official and credible information about the project. Additionally, if the developer puts up details of the total number of complaints received and redressed, the project's credibility would get elevated.

"The establishment of trust in the service sector is necessary for the growth of business. So far, the construction sector has only been recognised as a product sector. Now it has started to grow as a service sector. In such a case, it is the need of the hour to have a grievance redressal mechanism in place," MahaRERA chairman Ajoy Mehta said.

MONSOON AND MARINE DRIVE: THE COMBO IS A CELEBRATION IN ITSELF



People enjoy as sea waves crash against the Marine Drive promenade during high tide on Monday

Tata to upgrade lines to supply 600 MW more

Somit.Sen@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Tata Power plans to augment power supply to the Mumbai region by up to 600 MW soon by upgrading a few 110 KV transmission lines to 220 KV, amplifying and doubling the capacity to wheel power to the region. The enhancement will prove beneficial in catering to the burgeoning demand of consumers, which has not abated even with the onset of rains.

"Tata Power will also upgrade other 110 KV transmission lines in Mumbai to further bolster power-carrying capacity for Mumbai and this could mean bringing in 1,000 MW more electricity to the city in future. The utility has a total of 60 such lines of 110KV spanning across 700 km," an official said.

"We have initiated the process and will be seeking requisite approvals from the state transmission utility and the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission," another official said.

Recently, Tata Power commissioned a new 220 KV Salsette-Kalva line to reinforce

the transmission corridor, facilitating the influx of additional power to the city. "We are taking proactive measures to ensure the blackout experienced by the Mumbai region in October 2020 should never recur," an official said.

The power utility has devised standard operating procedures for emergencies in collaboration with the State Load Dispatch Centre, the apex body overseeing the power system in the state.

"In contrast to the past, there is now enhanced coordination for prompt corrective action in the event of any transmission corridor being unavailable or tripping, as witnessed during the Oct 2020 outage," a Tata Power official said. "Previously, when disturbances occurred, generators lacked sufficient time to recover. Now, settings have been optimized to prevent tripping or blackouts."

Another official said the majority of the network was underground, reducing the likelihood of faults. "The system is digitized to facilitate swift restoration in case of any fault," the official said.

Metro 3: Train trials completed, testing of electrical systems on

Mumbai: The Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) of Indian Railways has completed trials for the rolling stock or train set that will be deployed for commercial services on the underground Metro 3 (Colaba-Bandra-Seepz). Trials are currently underway for the Phase I stretch between Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) and Aarey.

"This is a significant milestone as oscillation trials for the Metro rakes have been concluded. RDSO will now send its report of this segment of trials to the railway board and the commissioner of metro rail safety," said a senior MMRC official, adding: "Testing of other electrical systems and integrated testing of the rolling stock with signalling is in progress. After completion of testing, the commissioner of metro rail safety will

be invited." These trials, which commenced June 8, were undertaken at a maximum speed limit of 95kmph with both empty and loaded rakes. Oscillation trials for Metro systems test the dynamic performance and stability of the train at different speeds.

The key aspects tested during these trials include determining ride comfort by evaluating the vibrations and accelerations experienced inside the train to ensure passenger comfort.

The dynamic stability is also checked to assess the train's stability to avoid derailments, particularly at high speeds and during curves. Analysis of how the train interacts with the track, including the forces exerted on the rails and the potential for rail wear or damage, is also undertaken. —**Manthan K Mehta**

Man dies after being hit with stone, wife held

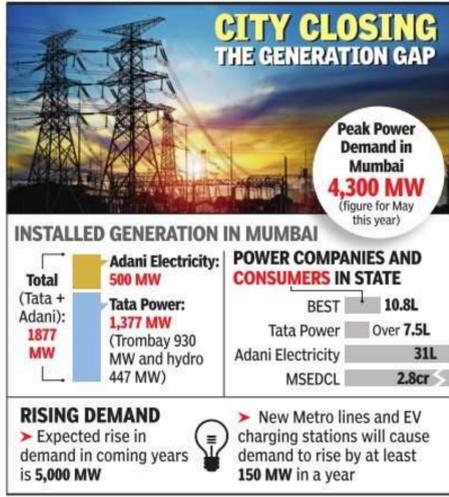
George Mendonca

Navi Mumbai: A woman from Khopoli, Momina Shah, (32) has been arrested for allegedly killing her husband, Arshad (34), by smashing his head with a stone while he was asleep at home around 5.30 am on Sunday.

The police said that the woman has said she suspected her husband of an extramarital affair.

After the murder, the woman sat outside her house with her 12-year-old daughter, their clothes blood-stained, shouting that two men had entered the house and killed her husband, said senior police inspector Shital Raut. Subsequently, sniffer dogs brought to the site kept barking at the woman, making her a suspect. Neighbours told the police that the couple often fought.

The daughter later told the police that her mother had smashed her father's head with a stone.



City subways to be shut if flooded with over half ft water amid rains

Nitasha.Natu@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: To prevent mishaps or casualties in waterlogged subways, Mumbai Traffic Police have decided to shut down traffic movement in subways once water level reaches half to one feet and heavy rainfall continues. Baricades may be put up and traffic will be diverted. Police said there is a risk of vehicles breaking down or getting washed away in waterlogged subways, because of which this decision was taken.

Last month, state CM Eknath Shinde had announced a 'Zero Casualty Mission,' aiming to curb casualties during the rainy season. "Earlier, we used to deploy traffic police personnel to manually prevent motorists from entering waterlogged subways. But it wouldn't always work as not



Aim is to reduce mishaps; team also set up to attend to emergencies

all would pay heed," said a police officer.

An 8-10 member BMC team has been deputed to tackle waterlogging in subways. "The team will function around the clock. They will keep cranes and large ropes ready in the eventuality of

a vehicle getting stuck," said an officer.

Markings have been done on subways to indicate different water levels. At Andheri subway, a digital signboard has been installed to keep motorists updated on whether the subway is working or not.

Traffic Police have already communicated to BEST to keep teams on standby to attend to broken down buses. In the western suburbs, two such teams have been kept ready at Vakola and Jogeshwari.

Road maintenance works will be halted by the traffic department to keep roads ready for traffic movement. Major infrastructure work, like Metro, will continue.

To tackle potholes, traffic policemen from every chowky in the city have been asked to coordinate with the BMC. The road department of the BMC has been asked to ensure potholes are filled up within 24 hours of being alerted. The BMC has also published a list of Whatsapp numbers of sub-engineers in each ward to enable citizens to register complaints regarding potholes.

Kareer and Saunik in shortlist for post of RERA chairman

Mumbai: Outgoing chief secretary Nitin Kareer, former chief secretary Manoj Saunik and Mumbai Port Trust chairman Rajiv Jalota are the front-runners for the post of MahaRERA chairman after Ajoy Mehta's tenure ends on September 20.

A high-level search committee headed by Justice Atul Chandurkar is learnt to have shortlisted the names of the three bureaucrats for appointment as MahaRERA chairman.

On Feb 21, 2021, Mehta was appointed MahaRERA chairman.

Kareer's extended tenure ends on June 30, while Saunik, an IAS officer of 1987 batch, retired on December 31. Besides the post of Maharashtra chairman, the post of chief information commissioner is lying vacant for a year ago. The post of state election commissioner, currently held by former chief secretary U P S Madan, too will have to be filled in Sept. Former chief electoral officer Shrikant Deshpande, who retired on April 30, has been appointed a member of MahaRERA appellate tribunal.

—**Prafulla Marpakwar**

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Bhujbal slams Jarange's 'OBC quota for Muslims' demand

Tushar Pawar & Prasad Joshi | TNN

Nashik/Sambhajinagar: State cabinet minister Chhagan Bhujbal on Monday criticized Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange for saying that Muslim community members with Kumbi records should get reservation benefits under the OBC category similar to the Maratha community.

"Jarange has done little homework on the issue. All OBC elements in the Muslim community were granted reservation nearly 25 years ago, with actor Dilip Kumar taking a leading role in the matter at that time," he said.

Bhujbal said all OBC leaders stand united and will con-

tinue the fight to protect OBC reservation. He also reiterated his demand that the state govt should conduct a caste census.

Bhujbal expressed his support for the NCP nominee in the Nashik division teachers' constituency MLC polls, Mahendra Bhavsar. His statement assumes significance as Mahayuti partners Shiv Sena and NCP have fielded their own candidates for the Nashik MLC polls. While Sena has fielded Kishore Darade, Bhavsar is NCP's pick. Sena (UBT) nominee Gopal Gulve is MVA candidate for the polls.

Meanwhile, OBC activist Laxman Hake on Monday said NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar must clarify his stand

on the Maratha reservation issue. He said Pawar "once upon a time" was a "progressive and liberal leader", and it is unfortunate that he was not being clear about the issue at hand. "He (Pawar) is an influential politician. He should convene a meeting. He can appeal to (Maratha) youths, and it will show results. Youths will not end their lives by following some 'khulkhula' (a musical instrument) player," he said in an indirect attack on Jarange.

Hake added that Pawar was "extremely liberal" in the early 90s and was instrumental in bringing in women's reservation and implementing recommendations of the Mandal Commission for OBCs.

"Anyway, I am too small a person to comment on him. I am a son of a shepherd and hail from a family of nomads," the OBC activist told reporters in Jaina.

Reacting to Hake's remarks, NCP (SP) spokesperson Ankush Kakde said Pawar is in favour of Maratha reservation without harming OBC quota.

Jarange meanwhile again accused Bhujbal of using provocative language intended to incite a rift between Marathas and OBCs. "If he wants riots to happen in the state, the Maratha community should also remain alert," Jarange said while addressing a press conference from a private hospital in Sambhajinagar. — With PPT inputs

9 more city crematoriums to get new eco-friendly system

Sanjeev.Devasia
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Mumbai: The BMC will set up an eco-friendly pyre cremation system at nine crematoriums across the city. BMC's environmentally friendly wood pyre furnaces is a step towards reducing air pollution and environmental degradation.

According to BMC, currently, there are 10 electric crematoriums and 18 gas crematoriums in the city. Along with electric and gas crematorium, the use of eco-friendly pyre systems is another step towards reducing pollution.

Earlier, in 2020, the civic body had set up a two similar systems on a pilot basis in Sion which, according to BMC, is functioning well. Subsequently, BMC's mechanical and electrical department initiated a tender process for implementing the same system at nine other locations.

"Earlier, cremation was carried out in the open on a wood pyre. In the eco-friendly system, the pyre is covered on all sides and the body is placed on a trolley along with wood. The trolley is then slid into an enclosed furnace, which has an exhaust and releases the smoke after purification. This



New system will control pollution and also adhere to traditional rites

not only helps control spread of smoke and pollutants into the surrounding area, but also ensures that the sentiments of the people about cremating in a traditional manner by using wood is also catered to. The rites can be performed before it is slid into the furnace," said a BMC official.

This system has combustion chamber for cremation, and due to the furnace's special design, minimum wood is used in the combustion process. Normally, between 350-400kg of wood is used for cremation, but in this system, only 100-125kg of wood is used, saving an average 250kg of wood. This will also help re-

duce the amount of carbon emissions. The system also has water scrubbers and cyclonic separators which help remove particulates and toxic gases from air pollutants released into the air through a 30-meter-high chimney.

The eco-friendly wood pyre cremation system will be set up at Bhowwada crematorium, Gowari crematorium (Wadala), Vaikunthdham crematorium (Reay Road), Tagore Nagar crematorium (Vikhroli), Deonar Colony crematorium (Govanandi), Amardham Postal Colony (Chembur), Babhai Crematorium (Borivli), Oshiwara crematorium and Shiv Dham (Goregaon).

Man accused of 'molesting' stepdaughter gets acquittal

Thane: A 36-year-old man accused of molesting his 16-year-old stepdaughter was acquitted by Thane court as his wife, the complainant in the case, told court she lodged a false case as she had a quarrel with him as he had two wives.

The judgement was delivered by judge DS Deshmukh in his recent order. According to prosecution, the complainant had alleged that the accused, her second husband, sent obscene videos to the victim, her daughter, and made inappropriate propositions, followed by physical assault on September 3, 2021.

Based on these allegations, police registered a case against the accused under various sections of the IPCs as well as under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (PoCSO) Act, 2012. The accused was arrested and spent three months and six days in jail before securing bail.

— Nishikant Karlikar

Cong netas seek removal of city chief Gaikwad

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Mumbai: A day before a meeting convened by AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge to take stock of the political situation, Congress leaders led by RSMPC Chandrakant Handore have sought a meeting with him for discussing organizational issues. Though not mentioned directly in the letter, the Mumbai Congress delegation has sought appointment of a new person to lead the city unit in place of Varsha Gaikwad saying that following her election to the Lok Sabha, she won't be able to devote more time for organizational matters.

While the letter written to Kharge has been signed by 16 leaders, Gaikwad's signature is missing. Gaikwad, who won the LS poll from Mumbai North Central, did not respond to TOI's messages and calls for her comment.

Handore said in his letter,

"There is complete dissatisfaction with the current administration and a growing desire for progressive leadership have created a conducive environment for the Congress to regain its foothold in the metropolis. Under such circumstances, it is imperative that we focus on fortifying our organizational framework in Mumbai. This includes revitalizing local committees, enhancing coordination among party workers and effectively communicating our vision and policies to the electorate."

A Congress leader who has signed the letter stated Gaikwad had no doubt won the crucial Lok Sabha election, but at the same time it is essential that she is replaced before the state assembly elections as it will not be possible to defeat BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP under her leadership. "She lacks leadership qualities and the ability to take everyone along," the leader said.

Cops: Body of woman run over in K'divli identified

Mumbai: Three days after an elderly woman died after being run over by a motorist who did not know how to drive, Kandivli police have established her identity and traced her family. Lukma Jaiswar, 65, was headed to a local temple when the crash occurred last Friday.

The motorist, Surendra Gupta, was later arrested along with his friend, Rajendra Gupta, who had given him the vehicle and was supposed to guide him from the adjacent seat. Besides Jaiswar, the car had hit two male pedestrians who escaped with injuries.

Jaiswar's body will be handed over to her family. Police said she lives at Palsar in Kandivli. Her husband does electric work. Her two sons are based in New Delhi, while her daughters are based out of Mumbai. Surendra told police he hit the accelerator instead of brakes. TNN

IT'S NOT ALL MELLOW ON P D'MELLO



NOT A SLICK MOVE: Handcarts dangerously stacked with oil cans on P D'Mello Road on Monday

Soon, school students to get lessons on road safety

Mumbai: School students will soon have to undergo training on road safety. The state has directed education officers to coordinate with school management and conduct road safety training for students and teachers.

A circular issued by the state on June 21, states that with every household having at least one car, it is important to instill road safety among students, who can then influence other members of the family.

Brainstorming sessions and seminars on road safety and control, along with training camps, will have to be held by schools. The decision comes a month after a 17-year-old student from Pune killed two software engineers while driving a Porsche car.

Schools will have to coordinate with the Road Safety Patrol (RSP) and Civil Defence (CD) and undertake sessions on road safety and first aid. According to the circular, teaching students about road safety will help reduce accidents. Early this year, the school education minister spoke about making road safety education mandatory for school students during this academic year. The plan was to teach the subject on Saturdays, covering both theoretical and practical aspects of road safety, including safe driving and wearing helmets. TNN

UBT won more LS seats, but our strike rate better: CM

Bhandara: Chief minister Eknath Shinde on Monday said the Shiv Sena got less seats than the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) in the Lok Sabha polls but his party's strike rate, denoting seats won against seats contested, was better.

Shiv Sena (UBT) won nine of the 21 seats it contested, while Shinde faction emerged victorious after fielding candidates in 15. Speaking at a gathering here, where he laid foundation stones of projects worth Rs 547 crore, Shinde said opposition's fake narrative about change in Constitution to do away with reservations for various segments of society affected the ruling alliance. MVA won 30 of 48 LS seats in state but its vote share and that of the Mahayuti was almost the same, Shinde asserted. "The MVA criticises me daily, but I will reply with my work," he said. PTI

Fr Arun de Souza of St Xavier's no more

Mumbai: Father Arun de Souza, director of self-financed courses and head of masters of public policy programme at St Xavier's College, Mumbai, passed away at Holy Spirit Hospital on Monday. Fr Arun (61) was from department of sociology and anthropology at the college and was also the chairman of the managing trust of the college for five years till 2022. He was an advocate of critical thinking and Jesuit tradition. TNN

Abusing sister seeking return of money not abetting suicide: HC

Swati.Deshpande
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Mumbai: A man's action in abusing his sister when she asked for her money back cannot be considered as his intent to drive her to commit suicide, observed the Bombay high court as it granted him pre-arrest bail.

A single-judge bench of Justice Manish Pitale on June 19, granted anticipatory bail to Sandeep Chavan and his wife Aruna Chavan from Pune, both accused in the first information report (FIR) of abetment of suicide of his sister who had died on Dec 10, 2023. The sister's husband had lodged the FIR for section 306 (abetment of suicide) under Indian Penal Code (IPC) on Dec 30, 2023.

Justice Pitale said, in such cases, the law is settled that "actions of the accused should be with an intention to drive the victim to commit suicide". He examined the informant's statement to the police to check whether

"even prima facie" the offence of suicide abetment is made out.

The Chavans moved HC apprehending arrest and sought pre-arrested bail, which a lower court denied. Additional public prosecutor Mayur Sonavane, opposing the bail, said the FIR lodged by the woman's husband said she had given her brother money and

MAN GRANTED PRE-ARREST BAIL

when she went to ask for it on Dec 3, he not only refused to return it but also threw her out of his house. Sonavane said the chain of events indicate the brother had harassed her.

She went again on Dec 5, and her brother and sister-in-law allegedly abused and also assaulted her. She went to the police station and when the police contacted her brother, his phone was allegedly switched off. On

Dec 6, when she went out for work "she was found unconscious" and admitted to a hospital where she died on Dec 10, 2023, the FIR added.

Advocate Piyush Toshniwal for the couple seeking relief said the FIR has an unexplained delay of 20 days and the allegations do not attract the offence of abetment to suicide as "by no stretch of imagination" can the brother be said to have intended to drive her to a suicidal death.

Justice Pitale, after hearing both sides, also noted the lack of suicide note. Factoring in the delay in the FIR and accepting the Chavans' statement of cooperating with police, HC granted both pre-arrest bail directing their release on bail in the event of arrest, on a PR bond of Rs 25,000 each. HC directed the couple to appear before the investigating officer on June 25, 2024, between 10am and 12pm, and not to tamper with evidence. Any violation will render them liable to face bail cancellation proceedings.

PhD fellowships cut to 600, reserved category students march to Mumbai

Ardhra.Nair@timesgroup.com

Pune: Students from OBC, Maratha-Kumbi, vimukta jati and nomadic tribes, special backward class and scheduled caste categories began a protest march from Pune to Mumbai on Monday to oppose the recent changes in PhD fellowship rules. The march is expected to reach Vidhan Bhavan by July 2.

The protesters want scholarships for over 2,000 eligible researchers who applied from Sarthi, Barti and MahaJyoti institutions for 2022-23 and revocation of the Oct 30, 2023, govt resolution (GR) that reduced fellowships to 200 for each institution.

Activist Baba Adhav (94), who was start of the protest, said govt must support the education of students from weaker sections. Kasba Peth MLA Ravindra Dhangekar,



The protesters want revocation of the Oct 30, 2023, govt resolution that reduced fellowships to Sarthi, Barti and MahaJyoti institutions

who was in attendance, criticised the state's "stinginess" in funding fellowships. "It has money for advertising and campaigning but cuts back on educational support," he said.

Pune NCP (SP) chief Prashant Jagtap said his party supports the stir and will raise the issue in the House.

Tukaram Shinde, a doctoral student from Savitribai Phule Pune University, said Sarthi had invited applications last March, conducted an interview and verified their documents. "Instead of implementing the GR next year, govt rolled it out now. The first common entrance exam was cancelled due to mistakes by the exam agency

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F. No. I/(11)31/2024-0/o PR COMM-CGST-MUMBAI(S)/ E-TENDER FOR HIRING OF FURNISHED OFFICE PREMISES FOR CGST & CX, MUMBAI SOUTH/ AUDIT-I/ MAHARASHTRA APPELLATE AUTHORITY FOR ADVANCE RULING FOR GST.

On behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, online E-tenders are invited from legal owners / power of attorney holders by Principal Commissioner, CGST & CX, Mumbai South for hiring of ready-built building with furnished office accommodation having carpet area upto 49077 sq.ft. with minimum 25 car parking and 40 two wheeler parking located around South and Central Mumbai areas comprising of BMC Ward-A, B, C, D, E, F(N), F(S), G(N) & G(S) for an initial period of 03 (three) years for the office of Principal Commissioner, CGST & CX., Mumbai South, office of Commissioner, CGST & CX, Audit-I and office of the Maharashtra Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling for GST

The amount of rent payable for the premises taken on lease will be as per the Government of India Rules and the same shall be fixed and paid in accordance with the Government of India instructions in force.

The interested bidders may download the Tender Documents from the Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) website <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> or www.cbic.gov.in or <https://gstmumbai.gov.in/tender/> as per the schedule given in the CRITICAL DATE SHEET as under:

Particulars of event	Date	Time
Tender Publishing	25-06-2024	10.00 am
Bid Document download Start	25-06-2024	10.00 am
Bid Submission Start	25-06-2024	10.00 am
Bid Submission Closing	16-07-2024	05.00 pm
Technical Bid Opening	18-07-2024	11.00 am
Financial Bid Opening	24-07-2024	11.00 am

sd/-
(Saroj Samaiya)
Additional Commissioner,
CGST & CX, Mumbai South

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in → login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or REPS related information if any. Dy. Chief Engineer (CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. OFFICE ADDRESS: OFFICE OF THE PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan, [A] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162 Date: 19/06/2024. Sl. No.: Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Qty.; Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as follows: [1]: 75243854; (1) SET OF BOLTS HEX HEAD FOR WAG-9HC FOR ELAUA/DKAE [EACH SET IS A LOCO SET CONSISTING OF 16 ITEMS AS PER SET DETAILS ATTACHED] [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; (2) BOLTS HEX HEAD FOR WAG-9HC [EACH SET IS A LOCO SET CONSISTING OF 33 ITEMS AS PER SET DETAILS ATTACHED] [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; (3) M100 Set, 887.00 Set; 402310.00; 22/07/2024 at 11:00 AM; [2]: 75243721A; All Steel Lock Nut for WAG-9HC Locomotives as per Specification No.-CLW/MS/3/089 [Rev-1 April 2007] [A-4 [01] (One) Set consists of 05 items as per set details attached]. [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]; 768.00 Set; 629660.00; 17/07/2024 at 11:00 AM. [B] No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162 Date: 20/06/2024. Sl. No.: [1]; Tender No.: 70241084; Brief Description of Item: MAIN COMPRESSOR WITH MOUNTING ACCESSORIES ALONG WITH MOTOR (WOUND WITH CORONA RESISTANCE WIRE), DRG./SPEC. (DRD/SO 2018/E.L.Spec/0137 REV.0 (2) SPEC/E-102.000 (Motor) With Amendment No.-01 to 06. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; Qty.: 1708.00 Set; Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.): 5000000.00; Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as follows: 20/07/2024 at 11:00 AM. [C] 2482 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrairways

Murder accused challenges Nikam's return as special PP

Files Plea Saying BJP LS Nominee 'Will Act For Party's Agenda'

Rebecca.Samervel
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Submitting that it was neither in the public interest nor made in accordance with law, accused in murder cases Vijay Palande has moved a trial court against the reinstatement of Ujjwal Nikam as special public prosecutor in his case. Nikam, BJP's nominee from the Mumbai North Central Lok Sabha seat who lost, had resigned from 29 cases before his election campaigning commenced.

intment was made with mala-fide intentions and seeking cancellation of his fresh appointment in the cases, Palande's plea alleged Nikam will now act for the BJP's agenda and "for making the image in the eye of the public, he may go to any extent for getting false conviction in famous high-profile cases which is against the fundamental rights of the accused and against the expectation of fairness."

"It is humbly submitted that the fresh appointment by BJP-led government in state of... Nikam is for extraneous

consideration, made with mala-fide intention to promote him and to make campaign through him as well as to give him hefty remunerations and facilities in (the) name of legal fees which is public money, this is favoritism and illegal," the plea said.

The plea also said that Nikam's immediate reappointment after the polls shows "extraneous consideration", keeping in view the upcoming state assembly elections. "It is humbly submitted that already in public, during Lok Sabha elections Nikam (has

shown himself as a leader of BJP and alliance partners, his every activity is a political activity and hence he will not be fair to the applicant who is not (a) voter of BJP," the plea said.

The matter will come up for hearing on June 28.

Among the cases Palande is accused of is the April 2012 murder of businessman Arunkumar Tikku (62). Tikku was found dead at his home in Oshiwara. Palande is also on trial in the murder of film producer Karankumar Kakkar. He has been in jail since his arrest in 2012.

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A father hands an umbrella to his children to protect them from the scorching heat, at Marine Drive

Painter gets ₹9L for letting frauds use his a/c, arrested

Mumbai: Central Cyber police have arrested a 35-year-old man part of an investment scam who received Rs 8.9 lakh of the Rs 36 lakh siphoned from a woman banker's account.

Accused Surendra Surve, a painter by profession, is merely a beneficiary, as cybercriminals misused his KYC to open two bank accounts using which they duped many others, said Mausami Patil, the investigating officer.

A 29-year-old female banker seeking investment opportunities was lured into joining a stock group on WhatsApp where the scammer initially demonstrated substantial profits from her minimal investment, gaining her confidence. Subsequently, the fraudsters persuaded her to invest more in upper circuit stocks for higher returns.

When she attempted to transfer the funds to her account, she was unable to do so. Upon contacting the accused, she was told to deposit Rs 50 lakh. This is when she realised she was cheated and lost Rs 36 lakh.

—Ahmed Ali

Over 900 liquor bottles seized from Guj train

Mumbai: Over 900 bottles of liquor were seized from the toilet of a sleeper coach of the Kochuveli-Porbandar train at Vasai on Monday. The seizure was made after alert passengers informed the railway police.

The weekly train left from Kochuveli in Kerala on Sunday morning. When the train reached Madgaon in Goa, unknown persons loaded boxes containing liquor bottles in the S2 coach. When the passengers objected, the unidentified men moved to coach S3, kept the boxes in the toilet and moved away. Passengers who suspected foul play on inspecting the box found 90ml and 180 ml liquor bottles in it.

Postal dept hosts African delegates on study visit

Mumbai: The postal department has collaborated with the Universal Postal Union and the United States Postal Service to organise a study visit for officials of 24 African countries.

The inauguration took place in Bandra with 45 African delegates. The objective of the visit is to showcase various services offered through India's post offices. A special cover with a unique cancellation mark was released. A delegation from Mauritius Post presented a joint first-day cover to mark the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Mauritius and India. The delegates visited the International Business Centre in the air mail sorting division.

'Killer' BF's police remand extended

Palghar: A court in Vasai on Monday extended till June 27 the police remand of Rohit Yadav, who allegedly bludgeoned to death his girlfriend Aarti Yadav on a busy street on June 18. Several on-lookers filmed Rohit hit her repeatedly with a wrench, but no one came forward to overpower him.

Cancel delay fee, demand automen

Mumbai: Autorickshaw drivers/owners on Monday held protests in several districts demanding cancellation of the "delay fee" for vehicle fitness certificate renewal. In Navi Mumbai and Kalyan-Dombivli, due to the code of conduct, no marches were held, but representations were submitted at RTOs, union leader Shashank Rao said.

Akshay joins tree plantation drive

Mumbai: Actor Akshay Kumar planted a Bahava tree in Bandra's Kherwadi area as part of BMC's campaign to plant 300 trees along Western Express Highway to improve the city's green cover. Kumar was accompanied by municipal commissioner Bhushan Gagrani and other senior BMC officials.

718 wrong-side driving FIRs: Cops

Mumbai: In a crackdown against motorists driving in the wrong direction, Mumbai Traffic Police recorded 718 FIRs under IPC for rash driving. The action was taken between June 15 and 23 as part of a special drive. Police said 732 vehicles were detained for violating the law. Traffic Police have appealed to motorists to follow traffic rules.

Don't hike fares till BEST bus fleet increased by 500, demand experts

Somit.Sen@timesgroup.com

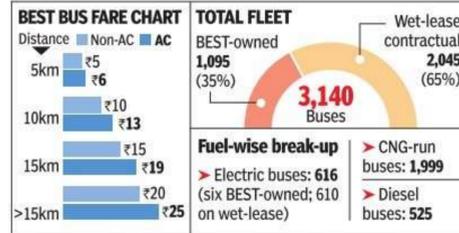
Mumbai: Amid news reports of possible bus fare hike in Mumbai in the near future, transport analysts demanded that BEST should not implement any hike till it introduces 500 new buses — 250 AC and 250 non-AC — on city roads.

In a petition to BEST on Monday, members of the think tank Mumbai Mobility Forum (MMF) said that any revised fare in future should be on a "telescopic" basis, which involves reducing the quantum of hike as the distance increases.

The petition further suggested that "the fare for AC buses should be increased by Rs 2 for the first kilometre, then reduced to Rs 1.50 for each additional kilometre, and should be Re 1 hike for upto 5km distance. Non-AC bus fares, on the other hand, should not be increased at all". BEST non-AC bus tickets cost Rs 5 for a 5km ride, while AC tickets cost as low as Rs 6 for the same distance.

Transport analyst Ashok Datar from MMF said it was surprising why BEST, BMC and MMRDA were not creating dedicated bus lanes

BUS SHORTAGE HITS COMMUTERS



NEARLY 5,000 MORE ELECTRIC BUSES TO ARRIVE IN CITY

- ▶ BEST has issued work orders for 2,100 electric single-decker AC buses
- ▶ Another tender floated for 250 e-buses
- ▶ A third contract floated recently for procuring 2,400 electric AC long buses (12m long)
- ▶ Work orders issued for 150 more electric AC double-deckers which are



across the city. "The dedicated lanes should come up so that commuters get better services, in case there are any plans of a hike in future," he demanded.

State to rope in sr lawyer to plead case against ex-min

Vaibhav.Ganjaware
@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: Maharashtra govt has decided to appoint a senior lawyer, preferably from Mumbai, to argue its case against former Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) minister Sunil Kedar, who has been convicted in the Rs 170-crore Nagpur District Central Cooperative Bank scam which surfaced in 2002. Kedar, former Saoner M.L.A., has approached HC seeking a stay on his conviction.



State govt's decision was conveyed by additional government pleader Neeraj Jawade, who requested additional time to finalise the appointment.

Senior counsel Surendra Kumar Mishra, representing Kedar, vehemently opposed

the govt request, noting that similar adjournments had been sought previously. Mishra accused the govt of using delay tactics and insisted that govt pleader Deven Chauhan should argue the case if a special public prosecutor cannot be appointed. He supported his argument with multiple Supreme Court verdicts.

Justice Urmila Joshi Phalke, while declining immediate relief to the govt, granted a final opportunity to appoint a lawyer by June 27, the date of next hearing. State govt had initially considered sending advocate general Birendra Saraf, but abandoned the plan due to time constraints.

During the last hearing, before the summer recess, Justice Joshi Phalke issued

notices to govt through Ganeshpeth police station, which was investigating the case.

Kedar was convicted by a magisterial court on Dec 22, 2023, for misappropriating bank funds under the pretence of purchasing govt securities using illegal resolutions and forged documents. These offences, committed in 2000 and 2001, resulted in his conviction and a five-year rigorous imprisonment sentence along with Rs 12.5 lakh fine. The sessions court upheld this sentence on Dec 30.

Kedar's legal maneuvering is seen as a strategic move to overturn his conviction and contest the upcoming state assembly elections. His current six-year disqualification from fighting elections stems from his conviction, which exceeds two years.

'Quota benefits should go to needy among the OBCs'

Priyanka.Kakodkar@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Dr Rahul Ghule and some other OBC doctors have said they want to give up their quota. "Today I am in a strong condition financially. I do not want to avail of reservation or other benefits of the OBC-NT quota in education and govt schemes for myself and my family. Instead, the quota benefits should be extended to needy members of the community," Ghule's letter says. The doctor set up the One Rupee Clinic in Thane in 2017 and runs a string of these in the city and Uttar Pradesh.



OBC doctors want to return their caste certs too

The fact remains that OBCs in the creamy layer with an annual family income of Rs 8 lakh and above for three consecutive years are in any case excluded from benefiting from the quota. The rule seeks to prevent socially advanced OBCs from benefiting from the quota. However, the doctors are keen on making this gesture.

"The Maratha-OBC agitation has created a social rift. If the wealthy in the reserved quotas give up their reservation, then the quota will go to the poor in these communities and such conflicts will end," Ghule feels. The group has launched the "Leave reservation, unite society" campaign.

Why not simply choose not to avail of the quota without making it a public campaign? "We want to spread the message to the privile-

ged in different quota categories," he says.

Two others who work in Ghule's clinics say they plan to do the same. Dr Vaibhav Malave is based in Kalyan and belongs to the Sonar community. Anil Choudhary, who hails from Dhule, belongs to the Tel community. "Our caste will remain the same throughout our lives. But we do not need to avail of reservations lifelong or for future generations once we are financially secure," says Malave.

The OBC community has a 19% quota in government jobs and education in the state. Various categories of Nomadic Tribes have 8% reservation and Denotified Tribes have a 3% quota in Maharashtra.

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Sealed Item Rate Tenders are invited for Civil Repairs and internal painting work at **SATYAM INDUSTRIAL PREMISES C.S.L., Satyam Industrial Estate, Subhash Road, Jogeshwari (East), Mumbai - 400 060.** Tenders are available at Satyam Society Office between 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. from 25th June to 2nd July 2024, on Payment of Rs. 3500/- in cash (Non Refundable) Mob. No. 9324762552

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The Cricket Club of India Limited

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Items & Services:

Stage and Seating Arrangements, Professional Lighting System, Associated Electrical Equipment (Optional: include other relevant items like Backdrops, Sound Systems, etc. if applicable)

Collection of tender Form:

Interested contractors can collect the tender form from The Purchase Manager after paying tender form fees of Rs. 2000.00.

Tender Documents:

Interested parties can obtain tender documents from The Cricket Club of India Ltd. office located at Stadium House, Block - 3, 1st Floor, Veer Nariman Road, Churchoate, Mumbai - 400 020 during working hours 10:30 AM to 04:30 PM from Monday to Friday and 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM on Saturday.

Deadline for Submission:

Completed tender documents must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "Tender - Club Event Equipment & Services" by 08th July 2024 at 5:30 PM. The Cricket Club of India Ltd. office located at Stadium House, Block - 3, 1st Floor, Veer Nariman Road, Churchoate, Mumbai - 400 020.

Important Notes:

The Club reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason. Shortlisted candidates may be called for a presentation. Only experienced and qualified companies with a proven track record in event management should apply.

For further inquiries, please

contact: Purchase Manager - 022 67853617, purchase@ccicub.in

Secretary For The Cricket Club of India Ltd.

tender & notices

TENDERS

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Sealed tenders are invited from reputed contractors for Civil & Structural Works, Waterproofing, Plumbing, Bedding and Allied Works of

GUNDECHA GARDEN CO. OP. HSG. SOC. LTD.

Bldg. Configured: Two (2) Building Structures of Seven (7) Wings. C.S. No. 44, 144, Patel Sewri Division, Lalbagh, Mumbai - 400 012. Tender can be collected from Consultant's Office from 25.6.2024 to 9.7.2024 (Except Sunday & Holiday) between 10:30 am to 5:30 pm. Tender Cost Rs. 23,600/- (incl. GST) DOUPI (Non-Refundable) in favor of Saksham Consultants

Sealed Tenders to be submitted in

Society's Office between 11:00am to 5:30pm on 18/7/2024. Contractors should meet all the following pre-qualifying criteria:

- Experience of 10 years in undertaking similar repair works.
- Satisfactory completion of 5 projects of Min. 22 Storied.
- Satisfactory Completion of atleast 3 projects over 3 Crs. (Single Work Order) in last 7 years.
- Total turnover for last 3 years should be above 10 Crs. per year.

SAKSHAM CONSULTANTS

ISO 9001: 2015 Structural Engineers & Architectural Services Unit No.100, 2nd Floor, Kakad Udyan Bhawan, Salarom Kher Marg, off. T. H. Kalia Road, Matunga (W), Mumbai - 400 016. Mob: 98199 70180 / 86550 67230 Tel. No.: 022 24370102. Mail id: sakshamconsultants2008@gmail.com gundechagardens@gmail.com

REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE

Gautam View CHSL

Opp. Axis Bank, Off. Juhu Versova Link Road, Seven Bungalows, Andheri West, Mumbai - 400053.

CTS No. 1314 (pt.) of Village

Versova, Ward K/W Plot Area 3,186.60 sq. mtrs. as per Property card Plot Area 1,697.43 sq. mtrs. as per conveyance deed Plot Area 1,012.13 sq. mtrs. as per Total Station Survey Existing Built-Up Area : 1,535.67 sq. mtrs. Total No. of Flats : 26 (Residential) & (retail)

Sealed tenders are invited from

reputable, reputed, experienced & financially sound developers for Redevelopment of the said Premises. Tender can be purchased from PMC's office from 25-06-2024 to 19-07-2024 between 11:00 am to 6:00 pm on any working day. Tender cost Rs. 10,000/- by DD/ Cash (non-refundable) in the name of "Gautam View Co-Op. Hsg. Soc. Ltd."

No EMD Payable

Sealed Tenders to be submitted in Gautam View Bld. Office Time - 11am to 4 pm. All days. DATE - 25th June to 20th July 2024. The society reserves the right to reject any or all the offers and/or accept any offer without assigning any reason therefor.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

• Prime Location in Andheri West Link Road, 1100 mt. wide Juhu Versova Link Road
• Close to Versova Metro Station and proposed Versova Seafont Promenade
• Close Proximity to upcoming Sea Link-Versova exit
• Close to Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Schools, Colleges, Markets, Mall.

Project Management Consultant:

Architect Sameer Kadam, A-8, A Wing, Chandra Premises, ChSL, off. Taty Gully Cross Lane, Malad, Mumbai - 400069

For Gautam View CHSL

Hon. Chairman - Mr. Somesh Desai (800145161) Hon. Treasurer - Mr. Raj Sinha (961997822)

For any queries, email on info.sameerkadam@gmail.com or contact us on 9835683318 / 7021435145

Book Your Tenders & Public Notice Ads For Any query, call -

Asif Faridi 9594343468

Jitesh Dominic 9867407521

Digital Portal - <https://ads.timesgroup.com>

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that (1) Mr. Mohan Hoondmal Mahtani and (2) Mrs. Kamlesh Mohan Mahtani (hereinafter referred to as "the proposed Vendors") are negotiating to sell to our clients premises being Flat No.131 on the 13th floor in Block-B of the building known as "Grand Paradi" more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written (hereinafter referred to as "the said Premises").

All persons having any claims in respect of the said Premises, or any part or portion thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, guarantee, gift, trust, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, lien, license, or any right of prescription by way of easement or otherwise, or pre-emption or under any decree, order or award passed by any Court, Tribunal or Authority or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to make the same known in writing along with copies of relevant documents in support of their claim, to the undersigned having their office at Ready Money Mansion, 43, Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001, within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which, all or any of such purported claims/objections, interest or demand shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

(Description of the said Premises)

Five (5) fully paid-up shares of Rs.50/- each issued by Grand Paradi Co-operative Housing Society Limited represented by Original Share Certificate nos. 381 to 385 (both inclusive) dated 30th June, 1979, together with the right to use, enjoy, occupy and possess residential Flat No. 131, measuring 1678 sq. ft. (built up area) or thereabouts on the 13th floor in Block-B of the building known as "Grand Paradi" belonging to Grand Paradi Co-operative Housing Society and together with the facility to use one (1) car parking space bearing no. 108 in the basement of the said building, which building is constructed on land bearing

Cadastral Survey No.572 of the Malabar and Cumballa Hill Division, situate, lying and being at Dady Seth Hill, August Kranti Marg, Mumbai 400 026.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2024.

Kanga and Company, Sd/- (S.S. Vaidya) Partner Advocates and Solicitors

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that MRS. HINA H. PATEL & MR. HARISH D. PATEL have agreed to sell to our clients, their Premises more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written, free from all encumbrances. Any person having any claim in, to or over the Premises or any part thereof described in the Schedule hereunder written by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, trust, inheritance, possession, lease, sub-lease, assignment, transfer, tenancy, sub-tenancy, bequest, succession, license, maintenance, lis-pendens, loan, advances, lien, pledge, orders, judgments or decrees passed or issued by any Court, Tax or revenue or statutory authorities, attachment, settlement or otherwise howsoever is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with documentary evidence to the undersigned at 5th Floor, Durga Chambers, 40, Waterfield Road, Bandra (West), Mumbai - 400050, within 14



HARYANA CM SAINI VISITS RAM TEMPLE, SAYS WILL ASK UP GOVT TO SET UP GUEST HOUSE IN AYODHYA

'NEET NEET' CHANTS IN PARLIAMENT AS UNION EDU MINISTER DHARMENDRA PRADHAN TAKES OATH | 10



TOI History Meets AI JUNE 25
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

Michael Jackson, the King of Pop, passed away on this day in 2009, leaving behind a lasting legacy in the music industry

K'taka bans artificial colours in kebabs

After 'Gobi Manchurian' and 'Cotton Candy', Karnataka govt has now prohibited the use of artificial colouring agents in the preparation of kebabs (veg and non-veg) across the state, saying it adversely affected the public health.

In case of violation of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 rule 59, it can file a case in the court which can lead to imprisonment ranging from seven years to lifetime and a fine up to Rs 10 lakh, an official order stated on Monday.

According to the Food Safety and Quality department, the quality of kebabs being sold across the state were found to be "poor" due to addition of artificial colours, which can have serious impact on the health of the public. PTI

Border village gets poll booth

After the formation of Uttarakhand as a separate state, for the first time, the inhabitants of Mana, one of the country's remotest villages situated near the India-China border in the Garhwal Himalayas, will cast their vote inside the village in the by-election to be held for the Badrinath assembly seat on July 10, reports Pankul Sharma. A primary school in the village has been designated as the polling booth, and repair work is presently underway there, officials said.

2 kids tonsured, paraded for theft

Two children, aged 10 and 14 years, were thrashed, their hands tied with a rope and paraded with shaved heads around the village for allegedly stealing Rs 5,000 from a shop in Uttar Pradesh's Kasganj, reports Deepak Lavania. SHO of Dholna, Ajayveer Singh, said, "On Monday, an FIR was registered against five people, including shopkeeper Hariprasad. Four of the accused, including the shopkeeper, were arrested." The boys' mother said, "My sons didn't steal anything. No money was recovered."



Boy, 10, buried under sand pile in Rajkot, dies

Rajkot: A 10-year-old boy, Mohammad Patani, died in a freak accident after getting buried in a sand pile near his father's cement factory in Gondal town near Gujarat's Rajkot on Monday.

Razak Patani, the victim, got buried while playing in a sand pile near the cement unit owned by his father, when the pile collapsed. His father, who was busy in the factory, later found his son unconscious. He rushed the boy to the civil hospital where doctors declared the boy dead. The deceased boy was the youngest of the three children of Razak. TNN

Civic councillor, aides bulldoze '100-year-old' graveyard in UP

Rahul Singh @timesgroup.com

Meerut: Four people, including a local municipal councillor, were charged under IPC sections for "provocation with intent to cause riot" and "criminal intimidation" after they allegedly razed an "over-100-year-old graveyard" at Khurja in Bulandshahr district.

Police said the FIR came after Khurja resident Mohd Saleem accused municipal councillor Arsheel Baudh, his father Vijay Baudh and two others for desecrating the graveyard. Purported videos of a bulldozer razing the graves were widely circulated on social media, causing tension among local residents.

FIR LODGED AGAINST 4

In his complaint, Saleem said, "On Friday, the municipal councillor brought a bulldozer and started destroying the graves. Our ancestors are buried here. The gravey-

TN hooch toll rises to 58, 3 more arrested

Kallakurichi: Death toll in the hooch tragedy in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi rose to 58 by 4pm on Monday, with 16 still critical, police said. Thirty-two died at Kallakurichi govt hospital, 19 at Salem, 4 at Villupuram, and three at Jipmer, while 155 people are admitted to hospitals.

CB-CID arrested three more people on Monday, taking the total to 10. Justice B Gokuldas commission began probe in the tragedy in which 221 people from complained of giddiness, headache, vomiting, nausea, stomach pain and irritation in eyes after consuming spurious liquor on June 18 and 19. TNN

In Telangana village, shepherd turns up alive at his own burial

Sushil Rao @timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: It had all the trappings of a bizarre tale but the heart-warming twist at the end banished all doubts about the mistaken identity of a 'dead' person in a Telangana village.

Pittla Yellappa (47) of Vikarabad district, a shepherd, was presumed dead and his family were busy making arrangements for his last rites when he showed up just as the body was to be buried.

But whose body was it that was handed over to the family by police? Yellappa said his mobile phone was stolen when he was tending sheep on June 21 and the device was detected on a person whose body was found at the railway tracks. The man's face was smashed beyond recognition after he was hit by a train near Vikarabad railway station.

On June 22, police officers called up some of the numbers on the phone, found out that it belonged to Yellappa and handed over the body to his family.

The family reached Vikarabad and tried to identify the victim. "The skull was smashed in the accident. There were hardly any clothes on the body, except for his undergarment. The family claimed the body as his mobile was found near it." GRP inspector K Shankaraiiah told TOI. In the grave which was dug for Yellappa a rooster was killed and buried, as per local belief.

Trudeau: AI bombing reminder of shared duty to condemn terror

Pays Homage Amid Strained Ties With India

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Paying homage to victims of Air India Kanishka bombing, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said it remains the deadliest terrorist attack in Canadian history, and a reminder of the shared responsibility to unequivocally condemn terrorism.

The two sides paid their respects to the 329 victims, 280 of them Canadians, amid growing strife in bilateral ties caused, as India has repeatedly said, by the political space given by Canadian authorities to Khalistan extremists who advocate violence against India.

Earlier on Sunday, the Indian high commission in Ottawa had on Sunday termed it a cowardly act of terror, carried out by Canada-based Khalistani terrorists



Indian high commission in Ottawa had on Sunday termed it a cowardly act of terror, carried out by Canada-based Khalistani terrorists

Canadian high commission in Ottawa said in a press release, while remembering the victims, that the bombing was a cowardly act of terror, carried out by Canada-based Khalistani terrorists.

Stating that perpetrators and co-conspirators of the dastardly act remained free, the Indian mission said any act of glorifying terrorism including the bombing of AI-182, in 1985, is deplorable and should be condemned by all peace-loving countries and people. "It is unfortunate that such actions are allowed to be routine on many occasions in Canada," said the statement.

Foreign minister S Jaishankar had on Sunday posted on X that the anniversary is a reminder why terrorism should never be tolerated. Canada has observed the anniversary of the June 23, 1985, terrorist attack since 2005 as National Day

of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism.

"Today, we remember and honour every Canadian whose life was cut short or forever changed by a terrorist attack," said Trudeau in his message.

"Thirty-nine years ago today, 329 innocent people, including 280 Canadians, died when a bomb, planted on Air India Flight 182 in Canada, exploded mid-flight. This remains the deadliest terrorist attack in Canadian history. It reminds us of our shared responsibility to unequivocally condemn terrorism," he added.

While he made no special mention of Khalistan extremism, Trudeau cited example of how his govt has listed Iran's Islamic revolutionary guard corps (IRGC) under Canada's criminal code. "We stand united against hate, intolerance, and division. We reaffirm Canada's determination to fight against violent extremism and keep our people safe," he said.

5 months on, Ram Mandir roof 'leaks' after first rain

Ayodhya: Five months after the inauguration of Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, water leaked from the roof of the temple's sanctum sanctorum as the temple town received the season's first pre-monsoon shower early Sunday, reports Arshad Afzaal Khan.

Temple's chief priest, Acharya Satyendra Das, expressed concern over the seepage as water was dripping right in front of the Ram Lalla idol. "In the first rain, the roof of the sanctum sanctorum, where the idol of Ram Lalla was installed, started to leak. There is no arrangement to drain water out of the temple. Attention should be paid to find out what was missing," Das told ANI. "If the rain intensifies, it would be difficult to offer prayers," he added.

Temple construction committee chairman Nripendra Mishra rushed to the spot and gave necessary instructions to the vendors for repairs. He said the seepage occurred as the temple is still under construction and its mandaps are yet to be closed. "I saw the rainwater dripping from the first floor. This is expected because Guru Mandap is exposed to the skies as the second floor and completion of shikhar will cover this opening. Work on the conduit is in progress. On completion, it will be closed," the former principal secretary to PM Modi said.

Mamata names & shames TMC netas for hoarding money

'Tender Process To Be Centralised'

Tamaghna Banerjee & Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

Kolkata: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee shifted her glare on Monday from the usual suspects like BJP to her own, surprising even her inner circle with a public takedown of some "errant" cabinet colleagues, Trinamool Congress functionaries, and bureaucrats found wanting in various respects.

In her sharpest public criticism to date of ministerial and administrative performance, Mamata set a 10-day deadline for everyone to shape up or ship out.

From ministers to bureaucrats, municipalities to the state urban development department, police to district heads, everyone seemed to be in Mamata's firing line as she scanned their report cards.

"It is my turn to speak today and yours to listen," she told the audience of civic body chiefs, ministers, MLAs and senior officials. Mamata named fire services minister and Bidhannagar MLA Sujit Bose, accusing him of en-

UP govt staffer stops motorist who hit his car, crushed to death

Kanpur: In a case of suspected road rage, a car driver crushed to death a UP irrigation department employee who tried to stop him from fleeing after accidentally hitting the latter's car in Kanpur on Sunday night, reports Faiz Siddiqui. The deceased has been identified as Ravindra Kumar Tiwari, 47. According to police, the car driven by 28-year-old Shubham Vimal had collided with Tiwari's car.

As Tiwari stepped out and tried to stop the car by coming in front of its bonnet, Shubham knocked him down and dragged him a few metres before fleeing, hitting a few other cars in his way. Tiwari was rushed to hospital but declared dead.

Videos of the road rampage went viral, stirring tension. Police launched a search, arresting Shubham from a relative's place in Unnao. "Several teams have been roped in to scan and collect CCTV footage to be presented in court as evidence so that strictest punishment can be awarded to the accused," said DCP RS Gautam.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Women now live longer than men

Male vs Female Expectation of Life at Birth

Source: SRS. By Atul Thakur

Government of Maharashtra

The World Bank Funded

Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Agribusiness & Rural Transformation (SMART) Project

Tender Ref No: SMART/PCMU/EXTERNAL/CS/83/2024-25

Selection of Chartered Accountancy firm for External Audit

The SMART Project invites proposals from the eligible Chartered Accountancy firms for External Audit of SMART project. The RFP document is available on <https://mahtenders.gov.in> and the project website www.smart-mh.org. Interested Chartered Accountancy firms need to submit their "Proposal" through online at <https://mahtenders.gov.in> latest by 16/07/2024 up to 3.00 PM. If there is any change in the RFP document or any other scheduled date, it will be published only on the aforesaid website.

Dr. Hemant Vasekar I.A.S
Project Director

DGIPR 2024-25/398

महाराष्ट्र आरोग्य विज्ञान विद्यापीठ, नाशिक

वर्गा दिंडोरी रोड, म्हासरोवर, नाशिक - ४२२००४

जहिरात क्र. ०१ / २०२४ (थेट मुलाखत)

MUHS Gene Health पुणे येथे खालील पदावर नियुक्ती करण्याच्या अनुषंगाने थेट मुलाखतीचे आयोजन करण्यात आले आहे.

अ.क्र.	पदांनम	पदसंख्या	मुलाखतीचा दिनांक
०१.	कनिष्ठ संशोधन सहाय्यक (Junior Research Fellow)	०१	दि. ०४/०७/२०२४ वा. सकाळी ११:०० वा. महाविद्यालयीय कार्यालय, ३ रा मजला, जिल्हा रुग्णालय, औंध, पुणे

पदांनम, कामाचे स्वरूप, विहित नमुन्यातील अर्ज, दरमहा निश्चित वेतन इ. माहिती विद्यापीठाच्या www.muhs.ac.in या संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध आहे.

दि. २५/०६/२०२४

कुलसचिव महाविद्यालय, नाशिक

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Gov. of India

MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (IDEMI)

3 DAYS GOVERNMENT TRAINING ON PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL (PMP)

Course Duration: 3 Days (ONLINE) Date: 28, 29 & 30 June 2024 Time: 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Course Content: Project Management Basics, Project Integration Management, The Project Management Framework, Project Scope Management, Project Time Management, Project Cost Management, Human Resource Management, Project Risk Management, Project Quality Management, Project Procurement Management, Project Communications Management, Project Stakeholder Management, Professional Responsibilities. More Topic.

Fees: Rs. 3,000/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)

Fee Payment Only in MSME TDC CGI ACCOUNT

Coordinator: 8603769900, 9818528498

Government of India certificate will be awarded.

महाराष्ट्र आरोग्य विज्ञान विद्यापीठ, नाशिक

वर्गा दिंडोरी रोड, म्हासरोवर, नाशिक - ४२२००४

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दि. २५/०६/२०२४

कुलसचिव महाविद्यालय, नाशिक

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTER (IDEMI), MUMBAI

Government Certificate Course on SOLAR ROOFTOP INSTALLATION

2 Days training program

Date: 29 & 30 June 2024 Time: 10.00 am to 5.00 pm

Venue: IDEMI, Bhaktidham Mandir road, Near Everard nagar, bus stop, Chunabhatti (E), Sion, Mumbai - 400022

E-mail - dnd@idemi.org Web: www.idemi.org Ph: (022) 2405 0301/2/3/4

DEMO ON 5 KW ROOFTOP SOLAR SYSTEM

Contents: Solar basics, Solar system components, Installation techniques, Selection of materials, case study, Off-grid and On-grid solar system

Course fees: Rs. 4500 + 18% GST (Including Lunch & Tea) For Registration scan QR code

For Whom: Engineers, Architect, Buiding Entrepreneurs, Students, Other Interested candidates

Mobile - 9819495547, 9405040524, 9029858848

Documents required: Aadhar card xerox, Education documents, 2 Passport photograph

Khaps: Make parent assent must for love marriage, bar live-in

Vijender.Kumar @timesgroup.com

Hry couple killed 2 months after love marriage

Hisar: In a suspected honour killing, a married couple was shot dead in Hansi town of Haryana on Monday morning.

The assailants fired seven rounds, leaving the couple, who had a love marriage two months ago, dead in Hansi's Hukum Chand Jain Park. The victims have been identified as Tejbir, 27, of Badala village, and Meena, 24, of Sultanpur village. Meena's paternal aunt is married to Tejbir's maternal uncle. Tejbir and Meena married against the wishes of Meena's family in Ghaziabad on April 22. Cops said a case has been registered against 11 people at Hansi police station as per complaint of Tejbir's father Mehtab Singh. Tejbir's maternal uncle Mahender's son Virender and his maternal aunt Guddi Devi are among the 11 accused.

Mehtab told cops that Mahender and his family were against marriage. Tejbir and Meena were living in Delhi and had come to stay in Badala village for 10-15 days. "Jai Singh had threatened Tejbir to kill them," he said. Mehtab said they left for Delhi at 8.15am. At 10.15am, he learnt they have been shot. —Kumar Mukesh

ture of the country, which is gradually adopting Western culture," Sandhu said.

Kandela khap head Om Prakash Kandela said elopement of girls without family consent and live-in relationships, both are "stigmas" in society. "A khap never encourages honour killings, but on seeing ground situation we are demanding nod of parents in love marriages and scrapping of the live-in relationship system so that social balance may be maintained," Kandela said.

UT ADMINISTRATION OF DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU

Public Works Department - Daman

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Providing and Supplying Modular Furniture for New Government School Building at Kachigam, Nani Daman.

Tender ID No.: 2024_DAMAN_3555_1

Pre bid meeting date: --

Last date of download: 27/06/2024

Last date of hard copy submission: 27/06/2024

Bid opening date: 27/06/2024

Executive Engineer, P. W.D., W.D.-I, Moti Daman.

IP/DMN/2/5/2024-25/383 Dated: 21/6/2024

Government of Maharashtra

The World Bank Funded

Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Agribusiness & Rural Transformation (SMART) Project

Tender Ref No: SMART/PCMU/EXTERNAL/CS/83/2024-25

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Dr. Hemant Vasekar I.A.S
Project Director

DGIPR 2024-25/398

National Highways Authority of India

(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)

नर्ती सूचना / RECRUITMENT NOTICE

भा.रा.प्र.ा. मुख्यालय, नई दिल्ली में डीपीआर सेल में काम करने के लिए अनुबंध के आधार पर निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है।

NHAI invites applications for the following positions on contract basis to work in DPR Cell at NHAI HQ, New Delhi.

क्रम सं. / Sr.No.	पदों का नाम / Name of the Posts	पदों की संख्या / No. of Posts
1.	प्रिंसिपल डीपीआर विशेषज्ञ / Principal DPR Expert	05
2.	डोमेन विशेषज्ञ - / Domain Experts -	
	वरिष्ठ राजमार्ग विशेषज्ञ / Senior Highway Expert	05
	सड़क सुरक्षा विशेषज्ञ / Road Safety Expert	05
	यातायात विशेषज्ञ / Traffic Expert	05
	पर्यावरण / वन विशेषज्ञ / Environment / Forest Specialist	05
	भूमि अर्जन विशेषज्ञ / Land Acquisition Expert	05
	मू-तकनीकी विशेषज्ञ / Geotechnical Expert	05
	ब्रिज विशेषज्ञ / Bridge Expert	02
	टनल विशेषज्ञ / Tunnel Expert	01

2. अधिक जानकारी के लिए भा.रा.प्र.ा. की वेबसाइट www.nhai.gov.in देखें।

For details, kindly visit NHAI website www.nhai.gov.in

ऑनलाइन आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि: 18.07.2024 (सायं 6:00 बजे तक)

Last date for submission of online application: 18.07.2024 (6:00 PM)

3. इस विज्ञापन के संबंध में शुद्धिपत्र/अनुषंग/पिस्तीकरण, यदि कोई होगा तो, उसे केवल भा.रा.प्र.ा. की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।

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BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

Modi vows NDA will deliver 3 times more in its 3rd term

► From P1

Opposition MPs flashed copies of Constitution in what appeared to be a celebration of the success in paring down BJP's numbers. "Tomorrow is the 25th of June. For those dedicated to the dignity of the Constitution and who believe in Bharat's democratic traditions, the 25th of June is an unforgettable day. Tomorrow marks 50 years since a dark chapter was written into India's democracy. The new generation of Bharat must never forget how the Constitution was completely disregarded, torn apart, and the country was turned into a prison, with democracy utterly suppressed," the PM said in his address to media ahead of the session.

Modi, who had rebutted the charge that BJP intended to change the Constitution during the campaign and had argued that, to the con-



PM Modi welcomed by Union ministers at Parliament on Monday

trary, it was the opposition which had violated the decision of the founding fathers by implementing quotas for Muslims on grounds of religion, sent out an equally loud signal that for him, the battle over the Constitution was not over yet. Taking up suspension of democracy and civil rights during the Emergency, he said, "These 50 years since the Emergency remind us to protect our Constitution and democracy with pride. The countrymen must resolve that such a trav-

esty will never be allowed to happen again. We commit ourselves to ensuring a vibrant democracy and fulfilling the common man's dreams as outlined by the Indian Constitution."

The remarks appeared to be a prelude to a BJP campaign to recall the days of the Emergency when most of its stalwarts were put in prison. Modi sought to play down his lower-than-expected numbers by highlighting his success in getting a record third term. Terming NDA's

third victory as remarkable and significant, he said the third consecutive mandate also meant a three-fold jump in his responsibilities, as he sought to assure that he would work three times harder. "We will achieve three times the results, moving forward with this new mission," he said, adding, "This House of ours will become a House of resolutions. Our 18th Lok Sabha should be filled with resolutions that bring the dreams of the common man to fruition."

He emphasised the importance of consensus in governance, but not without mentioning the role of a "responsible opposition". Recalling past disruptions during Parliament proceedings, he said people expect debate and diligence, not tantrums, drama and disturbance. "They seek substance, not slogans. The country needs a good and responsible opposition," he said.

GST has helped lower prices of commodities: PM

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said his govt is committed to moving ahead on reforms path to "transform people's lives" and pointed to introduction of GST helping lower prices of commodities.

"For us, reforms are a means to improve lives of 140 crore Indians. After introduction of GST, goods for household use have become much cheaper. This has resulted in significant savings for the poor and common man," PM tweeted, citing data to argue how levies had been lowered, helping reduce price of goods and services. Modi's comments signalled govt's intent to push reforms despite lower numbers in Lok Sabha. Analysts were worried if NDA regime would be able to push ahead with key changes as it marks a return of coalition. The overall expectation is that some legislative changes may have to wait while executive decisions will be implemented. The statement came ahead of almost seven years since GST was introduced in the country. TNN

Hry may file review plea or introduce bill in assembly: CM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini said on Monday there was no threat to the jobs of Group C and D employees recruited by Haryana Service Selection Commission (HSSC) under socio-economic criteria after the SC upheld a high court judgment quashing the Haryana policy.

About 23,000 employees were recruited to these posts in the Haryana govt after implementation of the criteria since its notification in June 2019. "We respect the SC verdict. We stand by our policy. No employee will be asked to leave their job on the basis of this verdict," CM Saini said. He said, "If needed, we shall bring legislation in the assembly. Whether we are forced to go for a review petition or we have to take this to the Vidhan Sabha, we shall do everything."

State says no need for retest, SC differs

Appearing for the Haryana Staff Selection Commission, AG R Venkataramani pleaded the SC that there was no need to hold fresh examinations and results could be declared after doing away with additional marks granted to state residents. But the bench said HC had given reasons to hold re-test and there was no error in the verdict.

Under this "socio-economic" criteria, additional weightage was granted by Haryana to domiciles of Haryana on fulfilment of certain conditions, including that none of the applicant's family members was a regular govt employee and the gross annual income of the family from all sources was less than Rs 1.8 lakh. TNN

Assam governor pushes away RSS man off stage

Jaipur/Udaipur: Assam governor Gulab Chand Kataria pushed an RSS veteran off the stage when he purportedly attempted to garland ex-Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje at an event Sunday in Udaipur's Sukhadia Hall. Kataria said he deemed the act of someone from the audience climbing the stage and approaching Raje in the middle of the event "inappropriate". TNN

IB director, NHRC secy general get 1-yr extension

New Delhi: The Centre on Monday announced a one-year extension for Intelligence Bureau director Tapan Kumar Deka until June 30, 2025. This comes close on the heels of national security adviser Ajit Doval's reappointment as the national security adviser. A year's extension was also given to secretary general of the NHRC Bharat Lal. TNN

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tender & notices

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ANY PERSON / ENTITY having objection to the grant of redevelopment rights by the Society in favour of our client and/or any objection by way of having any claim, right, title, benefit, interest, objections and/or demand in respect of the Said Property by any way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, assignment, exchange, lien, license, deposit of title deeds, pledge, gift, occupation, possession, tenancy, sub-tenancy, leave and license, lease, sub-lease, transfer of title or beneficial interest under any trust, maintenance, bequest, easement, development rights, partnership or otherwise of whatsoever nature, succession, family arrangement, settlement, litigation, Decree or Court Order, Award of any Court of Law or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate to the undersigned in writing within 14 (fourteen) days (both days inclusive) from the date of publication of this Notice of his / her / it's such claim and/or objection, if any, with all supporting documents duly certified in that regard, failing which it will be considered that no claim(s) and/or objections exist, or that they have been waived and/or abandoned.

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Dated this 25th day of June 2024
Sd/-
Advocate Ajit N Makhijani
M M Legal Associates
Advocates & Consultants
Chamber: Landmark Platinum,
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Junction of 34th Road & S. V.
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In fond memory of

SHRI TRISHULESHWAR SHRINIVASA UPADHYAYA
19th June, 2024

We miss your smile, your loving eyes, your silly jokes and your unshakable faith in the supreme power. We know you are in a peaceful place now with your beloved Lord Trishuleshwar. You will forever remain in our thoughts.

Upadhyaya Family

Smt. Nirmala Punjabi
(w/o Late Shri. Pinjo K. Punjabi)

With profound grief we inform that our beloved mother left for her heavenly abode on 22nd June 2024. Prayer meeting (Chautha) will be held on Tuesday 25th June 2024 between 5:30 pm and 6:00 pm at Gurumandir, Navjeevan Society, Chembur Colony, Chembur, Mumbai 400 074.

Fondly remembered by family and friends.

SAD DEMISE

SAD DEMISE

With deep regret & heavy heart, we convey you all that **Sachidanand Kini (Gandi Sethi)** left for heavenly abode on 21st June 2024

In Remembrance
Entire Kini family, relatives & friends

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

ELANO MARIO PINTO
(07/10/1941-22/6/2024)
HUSBAND OF LORETTA PINTO
FATHER OF: TREVOR/REBECCA, DARRYL/ALISON, ANDREAJ/OELUI
GRAND FATHER OF HARRISON & WESLEY
BROTHER IN LAW OF SANDRA BELL
Funeral Mass on 26th June 2024 at Immaculate Conception Church, Borivali (West) at 4.15 pm
MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE

SAD DEMISE

M K Gopalan
9/05/1946-19/06/2024

Remembered by:
Vimala Gopalan (wife)
Vipin Madambi (son)
Priya Vipin (daughter-in-law)
Shreyas Madambi (grandson)

SAD DEMISE

A. S. Thomas
(Retd. Western Railway, CBS). Age : 89 Years
Expired on 24.06.2024

Residence : 403, Daze, Chincholi, Malad (W), Mumbai - 400064.

Funeral : In Kerala

Wife : Mrs. Saramma Thomas
Children : Shibu, Shaju
Daughters in Law : Prasanna, Mini
Grand Children : Michelle, Christina, Aliena

PRAYER MEETING

OBITUARY

Prakash (Tuni) Kirpalaney

This is to share with you that our ever so beloved Prakash (Tuni) Kirpalaney has left his earthly body for the heavenly abode peacefully on 23rd June 2024. He was a kind son, a devoted husband, a loving father, a fun grandfather and a loyal friend.

Husband of Shobha Kirpalaney
Son of Mrs. Duru and (Late) Kishen Kirpalaney
Brother of Ramon and (Late) Asha Kirpalaney
Brother in law to Pinky Kirpalaney
Father of Vivek and Vinay Kirpalaney.
Father in law to Priya and Tina Kirpalaney
Grandfather to Nirvaan, Naveen, Kimaya and Nyan Kirpalaney.

MARKA
His family invites you to please join us for Condolences on 26th June Wednesday, 5pm to 5.30 pm at Gurmandir Association, Block 8, Shyam Nivas Bhulabhai Desai Road Mumbai 400 026

MARKA

Prayer Meet

The Sahijwanis profoundly inform the sad demise of their beloved son **Nitesh P Sahijwani**

Marka
on Tuesday 25 June 2024 between 5 and 6 pm at 4 th floor Bhakti Vedanta Swami Mission School, Shastri Nagar, Andheri West.
No Condolences thereafter

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MARKA

HIRO THAKUR RAICHANDANI
16.01.1960 - 22.06.2024

Advocate **Hiro Thakur Raichandani**, passed away peacefully at his home on 22nd June, surrounded by his family. Devoted husband to Manju, loving father to Sidharth, Rachna, Richa, Anahita & Ashwin, and doting grandfather to Kabir & Arjun, he will be forever revered. A service in his honour will be held today, **Tuesday, 25th June, 5.30-6pm**, Nij Thanw, Khar.

In Loving Memory Of

Fr. Arun De Souza SJ
27 Dec, 1962 - 24 Jun 2024
Jesuit, Educator, Friend
With deep sorrow we inform you of the demise of our dear Fr. Arun de Souza (61/40) on 24 June 2024 at Holy Spirit Hospital, Mumbai.
The funeral will be held at Holy Family Church, Chakgala, on Thursday 27 June at 4.30 pm
You can pay your last respects from 3pm onwards

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

SEVENTEEN YEARS LEFT US!

ANAL KAUSTUBHA
(24.08.1980 - 25.06.2007)

SEVENTEEN YEARS ~ PAIN CONTINUES!
"HE" loves you more than we love us! AND You agreed to meet "HIM" - He left Earth..... well before Mom+Papa!
MISS You. Love you: Kaushik, MA, Papa & many others whose life you touched intimately

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ॐ श्री महावीर्य नमः ॐ

Prayer Meet and Aarva

With a heavy heart we announce the sad demise of **Shri Kanti Anandilal Gandhi**
(8/4/1945 - 23/6/2024)

Fondly remembered by

Wife - Meera Gandhi,
Son & D/L - Vikram & Navita Gandhi,
Son & D/L - Nikhil & Ruchika Gandhi,
Grandchildren - Yuvaraj, Anaaya, Aliya, Kimaya.

Brothers & Families
Shantilal & Manju Gandhi, Rajendra & Rajlata Gandhi, Ashok & Rajni Gandhi, Dhanpal & Anita Gandhi, Ranjana Gandhi, Vinit & Sarita Bagadiya

In Laws
Ramesh & Ratna Ullal, Navin & Veena Ullal, Deepak & Tara Ullal

And All Gandhi, Bagadiya, Ullal Families & Friends.

Prarthana Sabha
Tuesday - 25/06/24
Prayer Meet: 7pm - 8pm | Aarva: 8pm onwards
Ajivasan Hall, Next to SNTD College, Juhu Tara Road, Santacruz West, Mumbai 400054.

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TIMES Personal

THANKSGIVING

THANK You Saint Jude for granting my wishes. AA

NOVENA PRAYERS

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world. St. Jude worker of miracles, Pray for us. St. Jude helper of the hopeless. Pray for us. From MS

Prof preaching Islam, complains ABVP; MP varsity orders probe

Ujjain: Vikram University in Ujjain has formed a five-member committee to probe allegations by ABVP that a professor was "propagating Islam".

Vice-chancellor Akhilesh Pandey said the move was prompted by students' complaints against guest pharmacy professor Anis Sheikh.

Sheikh, however, rejected the allegations and said the ruckus was created by a group of students seeking unwarranted favours. "Some students who skipped classes and lab assignments wanted high marks," he claimed. The committee has to submit the report in 15 days, Pandey said, adding: "Sheikh has been asked to keep away from the university till the report is submitted." The committee is expected to start recording students' statements Tuesday. **TNN**

Pune bar owner, 7 others arrested for drug party

Four Cops Suspended; Bar sealed

Gitesh.Shelke@timesgroup.com

Pune: Police on Monday arrested eight people, including a bar owner, three licence holders, and an event manager, for an alleged drug party at Liquid Leisure Lounge (L3) bar on Pune's Ferguson College Road.

The arrests follow a Sunday night raid on L3 for the illegal party from 1.30am to 4.30am. In a viral clip, two youths, among a group of 40 to 50 revellers in the 22-35 age group, are seen consuming some suspicious substance in a wash room.

But DCP Sandeep Singh Gill said the two youngsters were not part of the party that organised the party.

"We are verifying the video. We have not yet invoked provisions under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. We have identified 10 people and have collected their blood samples and are awaiting forensic reports," Pune police commissioner Amitesh Kumar said.

Four cops from Shivajinagar police station have been

Bulldoze facilities used for drug consumption: CM to Pune top cop

Pune: Chief minister Eknath Shinde on Monday directed Pune police commissioner Amitesh Kumar to take strong action, including using bulldozers, to bring down any unauthorised facility used for consumption of drugs.



This comes in the wake of the police raid at Liquid Leisure Lounge bar. The CM told the police chief to check bars and pubs indulging in illegal drugs activity and whether they are operating from buildings with proper plans and permissions. He directed cops to bulldoze the structures that are found violating the (building) norms. He directed Kumar to go for renewed action against drug peddling and consumption activity in Pune.

Kumar told TOI, "I got a call from the CM. He asked me to take strong actions against such establishments, including their demolition, by using bulldozers at the illegal sites." **TNN**

en suspended for dereliction of duty, he said. The state excise department has also sealed the bar.

On Monday, members of a local organisation pelted stones at the bar, damaging its signboard, lights and window glasses.

DCP Gill said the group of 40-50 men had earlier partied till around 1 am at another pub in Hadapsar but had to step out as the establishment started shutting down.

"The group ran an online search for after-party options and came across Kamthe's contact number. Kamthe accepted the deal. The group then reached L3 in separate vehicles. Kamthe collected entry fees either in cash or through UPI payments. The bar kept the front door on FC Road shut and allowed the group to enter via the rear one," the DCP said.

The arrested people include bar owner Santosh Kamthe; FL-III licence holders Utkarsh Deshmahar, Yogenendra Girase and Ravi Maheshwari; Akshay Kamthe, an event manager at the bar; DJ Dinesh Mankar; lounge manager Manas Mallik; and Rohan Gaikwad, one of the party organisers.

'Attempts on to make list of NEET students who did well on 2nd try'

► From P 1

The NTA has always maintained that a computer randomly generates an exam centre based on the choice of cities given by each candidate. "If computer-generated centres are given, how are students who have paid ending up in compromised centres?" asked Shenoy.

In another instance last year, a private university's head was surprised to find their brightest first-year students failing on concepts that they had cracked in the entrance test conducted by the university just about 10 months ago and analysed the problem closely to find that some of their exam centres were compromised.

"We changed the test agency we worked with. We realised that the centres were compromised," the head of the university, who did not want to be named, told TOI.

Govt sources said attempts are on to make a list of students who scored well in their second attempt at ob-

secure centres and are now pursuing their MBBS in govt-run medical colleges.

Experts said the NEET 2024 paper leak controversy is not just "local" but probably one with a "large spread." "The NTA needs to "look closely" at the system and "find gaps and fix them," they said.

Student representative and counsellor Sachin Bangad said, "A student should be allotted a local centre based on the combination of where the candidate took Class X, XII exams and the address on Aadhar card. Additionally, govt officials need to be roped in for supervision. Like in

polls, they should be informed a night before where their exam supervision duty is."

An officer, who has worked with the Maharashtra admission process for decades, said NEET should be conducted on computers for safety reasons. "Additionally, the new provisions brought in for the post-graduate test, to break down the test into multiple-timed sections that cannot be revisited once the time is up, should also be brought into the undergraduate test," the officer added.

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND

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Office of the Superintending Engineer Central Equipment & Stores Procurement Circle-II, Irrigation Department, Uttar Pradesh, Ganga Sinchai Bhawan, Telibagh, LUCKNOW-226025

Short Term e-Tender Notice No. TE-983/2024-25

Online e-Bid in three parts namely (i) Earnest Money Bid (ii) Technical Bid (iii) Price Bid are invited simultaneously by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Uttar Pradesh only from **BCH/L&T/HAVELLS/SIEMENS/SCHNEIDER/ABB/C&S** Original Manufacturers or from their dealers/distributors/channel partner authorized by the firm to participate in this bid, for the supply of **Automatic Air Break Star-Delta Starter Panels of ratings 12.5 HP to 50.0 HP** to be used on state tubewells for Submersible/VT Pumps for water handling and catering irrigation to farmers, conforming to IS:13947(Part-4/Sec-1):1993 read with IS:13947 (Part-1):1993 & latest amendments if any. Details for eligibility, qualification and method of submission of bids etc. in the bidding document uploaded on the U.P. Government e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in>. The undersigned reserves the right to cancel any or all the e-bids/annual the bidding process without assigning any reason. In case of any variation in English and Hindi version of this tender notice, English version shall prevail. The details of different activities are as follows:-

(a)	Date & time for Availability of the bidding document on website.	26.06.2024 From 14.00 Hours onwards
(b)	Period for online e-Bid submission & Online opening date & Time of Part "A" i.e. Earnest Money etc. of bid.	From 26.06.2024, 14.00 Hours to 10.07.2024, 17.00 Hours & 11.07.2024, 12.00 Hours
(c)	Bid document fee	Rs. 29500.00 (Rupees Twenty Nine Thousand Five Hundred only) including all taxes.

Note:-

- 1) This Tender Notice is also available on Information & Public Relation Department website (<http://information.up.nic.in>) and Irrigation Department website (<http://idup.gov.in>).
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- 3) In case the date of opening of bids is declared a holiday then the e-bids shall be opened on the next working day at the same time.

Superintending Engineer
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CENTRAL RAILWAY

DESIGN, SUPPLY ERECTION AND VARIOUS OTHER WORKS

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Const.) Dadar, Near Titik Bridge, Opposite to Platform No.5, Western Railway, Dadar (West), Mumbai - 400 028 on behalf of The President of India invites open tenders online through website from reputed contractors for the following work. **Name of Work:** "Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 25 KV AC OHE in connection with Patch Doubling between Pen-Dolvi section under proposed expansion of Private Railway siding of JSW Ltd. at Dolvi in connection with Patch Capacity Expansion of 10 MTPA- Deposit work of JSW Ltd. in Mumbai Division of Central Railway". **Approx. Cost :** Total Cost of Work ₹ 6,66,75,910/- (Rupees Six Crore Sixty Six Lakh Seventy Five Thousand Nine Hundred & Ten only) **Earnest money:** ₹ 4,83,400/- (Rupees Four Lakh Eighty Three Thousand Four Hundred Only) or as guided by the website ireps.gov.in **Completion Period :** 12 (Twelve) Months including Monsoon. **Cost of Tender Form :** Nil. **Validity of Offer :** 60 (Sixty) days. **Website :** Tender Notice & Tender document can be accessed from Website ireps.gov.in **Date & Time of Submission :** On 16/07/2024 up to 15.00 hours **Date & Time of Opening :** On 16/07/2024 up to 15.15 hours. **Note:** Prospective Tenderers are advised that before tendering their offer electronically, they should refer to the CRIS Website ireps.gov.in for tender details regarding terms and conditions, eligibility criteria, mode of Submission of Cost of EMD & Tendered Documents etc. **Open Tender Notice No. LCF/DR/OHE-PEN/468/24/4 Dated 21/06/2024** [21]

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SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE

dt. 20.06.2024

Short E-Tender No: B56/023101/2024- TNCS/24-25

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites Online electronic tender for the Purchase of "15,000 Metric Tonnes of Tur dal (Split- Husked & Fatka) (Indigenous)/Tur Dal (Split Husked-Imported)/ Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Split - Husked & Laidred No.2) / Lentil locally known as Canadian Yellow Lentil (Whole - Husked & Laidred No.2) as per AGMARK specifications" Complete short e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded from <https://tenders.gov.in/nicpep/app> The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III Last Date and Time for Online Submission: **03.07.2024 up to 11.00 A.M.** Managing Director

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING OPEN E-TENDER COMMERCIAL, BRANCH, HEADQUARTERS OFFICE TENDER No. NMRT/02/2024/ dated 24.06.2024.

For and on behalf of The President of India, acting through the Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Commercial Branch, Head Quarters, Southern Railway, Park Town, Chennai-3 invites e-tender for the following work:

1.	Name of the work and its location	For operation of tourism based Nilgiri Mountain Train for a period of three years under two packet system
2.	Advertised value	Rs.1,85,44,475 (Rupees One Crore eighty five lakhs forty four thousand four hundred seventy five only) Excl. GST (Per annum 52 trips)
3.	Completion Period of work	Three years from the date of commencement of operation.
4.	Type of TENDER	Two packet open e-Tender.
5.	Earnest Money to be Deposited	Rs.2,42,800/-
6.	Date and Time of Closing of Tender	Upto 15.00 Hrs of -15.07.2024
7.	Date and Time of opening of Tender	15.30 Hrs on-15.07.2024
8.	Website particulars	www.ireps.gov.in

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Website : www.invest.mp.gov.in, CIN : U51102MP1977SGC001392
NIT No. MPIDC/Tech-RFP/CE/2024/170-172 Date : 24.06.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online percentage rate Bids for the following works are invited on behalf of Managing Director, MPIDC from MP PWD centralized registered contractors and firms :

NIT No.	Name of Work	District	Probable Amount of Contract (in Rs. Cr.)
170	Infrastructure Development work of New Industrial Area Basaniya, distt. Neemuch (Second Call)	Neemuch	8.35
171	Upgradation Work at Industrial Area Rangwasa, distt. Indore (Second Call)	Indore	13.75
172	Construction of New 33/11 KV Sub-Station 2x5 MVA PTR and Street Light work at I/A Tilgara, Tehsil Badnawar, Distt., Dhar (M.P.)	Dhar	10.40

The Tender documents can be downloaded from the e-procurement Portal- <https://mptenders.gov.in> shortly.
M.P. Madhyam/115024/2024

CHIEF ENGINEER

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-07205

Open Tender Enq. No. 532/P-II/EMP-W-12683 dt. 20.06.24

Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-2) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites Open E tender ID No. 2024_POWER_122549_1 for Breakdown, Periodical, Preventive and Shut down maintenance of 220KV/132 KV Substation/Switchyard & 66KV Substation/Switchyard & 11 Kv Micro Hydel Substation/Switchyard all transformers and allied equipment like Breakers, superstructures, cables etc along with 11 KV/ 6.6KV lines and all Transformers (GTs, STs, UATs etc.) installed at Stage-II & III, operation & maintenance of Transformer Oil filtration sets etc under EM-IV cell, GGSSTP, Roopnagar. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 21.06.24 from 05.00 PM onwards.

Note :- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://pspcpl.in>

RTP-53/24, DPR/Ph: 76155/12/3020/2023/34919

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

COMMISSIONERATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, Mumbai.
e-mail - procurementcell@gmail.com
Procurement Cell, 6th Floor, Arogya Bhavan, St. Georges Hospital Compound, Mumbai - 400 001.

TENDER NOTICE

Ad. No.01 Date : 21-06-2024

Joint Director of Health Services (Procurement Cell), Mumbai invites tender in two envelope system from the eligible Service Providers for Mechanized Cleaning Services in Hospitals & Primary Health Care Centre under Health Institutes under Commissionerate of Health Services, Maharashtra.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Item	Type	Prebid Meeting	Period of sale, download & submission	Tender Opening
1	E-01	Notice for inviting request for proposal for Mechanized Cleaning Services in hospitals & Primary Health Care Centers.	Sale Period	Dt. 01-07-2024 At 14:00 Hrs	Dt.21-06-2024 to Dt.12-07-2024 upto 14.00 PM	Dt. 15.07.2024 from 14.01 Hrs to 17:30 Hrs

1. For detailed information, the interested bidders may visit the website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> The Jt. Director of Health Services, (P.Cell), Mumbai reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity to be purchased and also reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without giving any reason to.

For e-tendering help/ information, please contact.
Website: <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.
Contact: Toll-free Number-18020-419-3436;1800-102-3436 Jt. Director of Health Services (Procurement Cell) Mumbai.
Email: procurementcell@gmail.com

Biennial Election to Maharashtra Legislative Council, 2024

The Election Commission of India has declared a programme of Biennial Election to the Maharashtra Legislative Council by the members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. Accordingly, the said programme of the Biennial Election is to commence from 25th June, 2024 and the last date of making nominations is 2nd July, 2024. Also, the poll, if required, will be taken on 12th July, 2024.

In pursuance of the directions issued by the Election Commission of India, a 24x7 Control Room has been put into operation at Room No. 122, First Floor, Vidhan Bhawan, Mumbai - 400032 from 25th June, 2024 till the completion of the electoral process in order to attend all complaints submitted by people with regard to but not restricted to undue influence by offering cash or kind to a voter with a view to getting his/her vote, any type of threat, coercion to voters in the free exercise of franchise, misuse of the state machinery for electoral gains, partisan attitude or unbecoming conduct of connected election officers/pollice officers adversely affecting the fairness of poll etc. Whoever wishes to submit a complaint in respect of the said election may submit the same in the aforementioned control room.

Sd/-
(Jitendra Bhole)
Secretary (1) (In-Charge),
Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat and
Returning Officer

DGIPR/2024-2025/424

FORM 1 (See rule 3 of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961) NOTICE OF ELECTION

BIENNIAL ELECTION TO THE MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that :-

- (1) an election is to be held of Eleven members to the Maharashtra Legislative Council by the members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly;
 - (2) nomination papers may be delivered by a candidate or by any of his proposers to Shri Jitendra Bhole, Secretary (1)(In-Charge), Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat and Returning Officer or to Shri Umesh Sharad Shinde, Deputy Secretary, Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat and Assistant Returning Officer or to Smt. Seema Sachin Tambe, Under Secretary, Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat and Assistant Returning Officer at Room No. 122, First Floor, Vidhan Bhawan, Backbay Reclamation, Mumbai 400 032 between 11.00 A.M. and 3.00 P.M. on any day (other than public holiday) not later than the 2nd July, 2024.
 - (3) forms of nomination paper may be obtained at the place and time aforesaid;
 - (4) the nomination papers will be taken up for scrutiny at 12.00 noon on 3rd July, 2024 at Vidhan Bhawan, Backbay Reclamation, Mumbai 400 032;
 - (5) notice of withdrawal of candidature may be delivered either by a candidate or by any of his proposers or by his election agent who has been authorised in writing by the candidate to deliver it to either of the officers specified in paragraph (2) above at his office before 3.00 P.M. on the 5th July, 2024;
 - (6) in the event of the election being contested, the poll will be taken on 12th July, 2024 between the hours of 9.00 A.M. and 4.00 P.M.
- Place : Vidhan Bhawan, Backbay Reclamation, Mumbai -400 032.
Dated: 25th June, 2024.

Sd/-
(Jitendra Bhole)
Secretary (1) (In-Charge),
Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat
and Returning Officer

DGIPR/2024-2025/423

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

6th, 7th, & 8th Floor, Tower-B, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi-110029

Petition No. 178/TL/2024 Dated: 21.6.2024

NOTICE UNDER CLAUSE (a) OF SUB-SECTION (5) OF SECTION 15 OF THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2003

An application under Sections 14, 15 and 79(1)(e) of the Electricity Act, 2003 (the Act) has been made WRSS XXI (A) Transco Limited, Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Near Vaishno Devi Circle, S G Highway, Khodiyar, Ahmedabad - 382421, for the grant of a separate transmission licence for implementation of the "Augmentation of transmission capacity at 765/400 kV Lakadia S/S (WRSS XXI(A) Transco Ltd) in Gujarat - Part A" on RTM route (hereinafter referred to as the "transmission scheme/project"). The scope of the project for which a transmission licence has been sought is as follows:

S. No.	Name of the scheme and Implementation timeframe	Estimated cost (₹ crore)	Remark
1.	Augmentation of transmission capacity at 765/400 kV Lakadia S/S (WRSS XXI(A) Transco Ltd) in Gujarat - Part A Tentative Implementation timeframe: 18 months (By 30.06.2025 on best effort basis)	142	Approved to be implemented under RTM by WRSS XXI (A) Transco Limited

Detailed scope of the Scheme is as under:

S. No.	Scope of the Transmission Scheme	Capacity/ km
1.	Creation of 220 kV switchyard at Lakadia 765/400kV S/S along with 220kV line bays for RE Interconnection	220 kV switchyard & 220kV line bays - 2 Nos. 220 kV bus coupler - 1 No. 220 kV Transfer bus coupler - 1 No.
2.	Installation of 2x500 MVA, 400/220 kV ICTs (1st & 2nd) at Lakadia PS along with associated ICT bays	400/220kV, 1x500MVA ICT - 2 Nos. 400kV bay - 2 Nos. 220kV bay - 2 Nos. Associated 400 kV Bus Bar extension

- The Central Transmission Utility of India Limited vide its letter dated 14.5.2024 has recommended for the grant of a transmission licence to the applicant to establish the proposed transmission system.
- Based on the material available on the record, the Commission vide order dated 21.6.2024 in Petition No. 178/TL/2024, has proposed to issue a transmission licence to the applicant for establishment of the transmission scheme as noted in para 1 above.
- A copy of the application, along with its annexures and enclosures, made by the applicant for the grant of an inter-State transmission licence to WRSS XXI (A) Transco Limited before the Commission can be accessed at the website www.adanienergysolutions.com or inspected by any person in the Commission's office by following the laid down procedure.
- Notice is hereby given in pursuance of clause (a) of sub-section (5) of Section 15 of the Act that suggestions or objections, if any, to the Commission's proposal to grant a transmission licence to the applicant, as aforesaid, be sent to the undersigned by 2.7.2024 at the above noted address. The suggestions or objections received after the specified date shall not be considered.
- The application shall be taken up for the further hearing by the Commission on 4.7.2024. Any person who files suggestions or objections may in his/her discretion attend the hearing, for which no TA/DA shall be paid by the Commission.

Sd/-
(Harpreet Singh Pruthi)
Secretary

Oppn campaign sends little black-and-red book's sales soaring



Rahul Gandhi and Mahua Moitra with the coat pocket version of the Indian Constitution at Parliament House on Monday

Arvind Chauhan
@timesgroup.com

Lucknow: A key attraction on the inaugural day of 18th Lok Sabha was Indian Constitution's coat pocket version, waved by several INDIA bloc members, including Rahul Gandhi, in House as well as outside to protest against Narendra Modi's govt.

The leather-bound black and red book published by Lucknow-based Eastern Book Company (EBC) had grabbed limelight when it was frequently pulled out by opposition leaders, especially Rahul, in LS election rallies to claim that BJP would tamper with the Constitution if it returned to office. EBC publisher Sumeet Malik claims to have sold 5,000 copies in last three months. The same number was sold in 2023. EBC is the sole publisher of the coat pocket version, first printed in 2009 with 16 editions since. "The demand is quite high. We are selling out as soon as fresh stock is received," said Malik, who recently gifted Union home minister Amit Shah a copy.

The 624-page edition is printed on Bible paper and

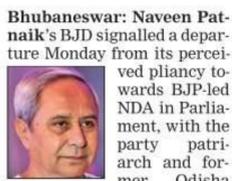
contains a chapter on making of Indian Constitution by Ranbir Singh, former vice-chancellor of National Law University, Delhi.

The foreword to the edition has been written by former attorney-general KK Venugopal. It says: "Every Indian, whether he be a lawyer, judge or not, should have a copy of this little book, small in size but huge in its human dimensions. I believe that this elegant book should be in the pockets of every Indian, enabling him to derive inspiration from greatness of ideas contained in Constitution of India, which we, the people of India, have given unto ourselves."

Eastern Book has secured intellectual property rights, meaning the book cannot be copied. "PM Narendra Modi had presented a copy to Ram Nath Kovind when he was appointed President. Supreme Court judges often carry the coat pocket version when they travel abroad in official capacity. It's available in many libraries across the world as well," said Malik, adding, "The more access the people in this country will have to legal material, the better it will be governed."

Naveen signals shift, urges party to work as oppn force

Ashok Pradhan
@timesgroup.com



Bhubaneswar: Naveen Patnaik's BJD signalled a departure Monday from its perceived pliancy towards BJP-led NDA in Parliament, with the party patriarch and former Odisha CM urging his Rajya Sabha members to function as "a strong and vibrant opposition" that would "make the Centre accountable on all issues". "Be the voice of the 4.5 crore people of Odisha in the Parliament," BJD quoted Naveen as saying at a parliamentary party meeting in preparation for the RS session starting June 27.

"Many just and rightful demands of Odisha haven't been met. We must ensure that those demands are met in right earnest by the Centre," said Naveen, whose party drew a blank in the Lok Sabha polls and fell short of a sixth successive term in Odisha.

BJD's changed stance is seen as part of the party's renewed resolve to pursue its long-standing demand for special-category status to Odisha.

The party also intends to highlight the poor condition of national highways passing through Odisha and alleged delays in projects. BJD also plans to seek a provision for at least 20 lakh houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and the Kendriya Vidyalayas and Eklavya Schools in each block of Odisha. BJD will demand AIIMS campuses in Sambalpur, Koraput, and Balasore to cater to Odisha's northern, western, and southern regions.

Nadda replaces Goyal as leader of House in RS

New Delhi: Union health minister and BJP's national president J P Nadda has been appointed as leader of the House in Rajya Sabha, replacing Union minister Piyush Goyal, who has been elected to Lok Sabha. Nadda, currently a member of RS from Gujarat, is in charge of ministries of health and family welfare and of chemicals and fertilisers. Besides, 11 other members of Upper House are in Union council of ministers. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is the leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha. Congress's Jairam Ramesh urged him to accommodate views of opposition in the House. TNN



Congress MP Sonia Gandhi with MPs from Samajwadi Party outside Parliament House on Monday

against Modi. Despite this, if he has become PM, he should work. People need substance not slogans."

LS MP K C Venugopal said, "INDIA enters 18th LS taking Bapu's blessings and with a fresh resolve to give voice to people's issues, challenges, hopes and aspirations in Parliament, and keeping govt in check every single minute." Rahul Gandhi said, "Opposition will not allow PM to escape without accountability." TNN

Oppn MPs on chairpersons panel skip taking oath in LS

Cong & SP MPs Protest As PM, Shah Take Oath

Akhil Singh
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The routine custom of newly-elected Lok Sabha members being administered oath by pro tem Speaker was marred on Monday with opposition members nominated by President to panel of chairpersons refusing to take oath to avoid presiding over the session in absence of pro tem Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab. PM Modi was the first to



Amit Shah & Rajnath Singh take oath on Monday

Prez hosts dinner for PM and ministers

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday hosted a dinner for the council of ministers led by PM Modi. VP Jagdeep Dhankhar was also present. "President Murmu hosted a dinner in honour of the Council of Ministers, led by the PM, at Rashtrapati Bhavan," Murmu's office said in a post on X. TNN

take oath followed by members of the panel of chairpersons, which included Radha Mohan Singh and Faggan Singh Kulaste of BJP, after which the council of mini-

sters took oath before other MPs in alphabetical order.

However, the three opposition MPs in panel of chairpersons, K Suresh (Congress), Sudip Bandyopadhyay (TMC) and T R Balu (DMK), gave a miss to oath-taking. They were listed just after PM Modi and ahead of the council of ministers.

With substantial rise in their numbers, most opposition MPs, particularly from Congress and Samajwadi Party, carried copies of the Constitution to the House. While Modi was taking oath, opposition members rose to their feet, holding copies of Constitution. They did the same when Union home minister Amit Shah took oath.

Relatives of sr AAI official found hanging being quizzed

Aakash Ahuja & Kalyan Das | TNN

Dehradun: A senior Airports Authority of India official, who was found hanging in his bedroom dressed as a woman, had spent the night with two relatives, who had slept in another room, and had made plans to visit a spot in the neighbourhood with them in the morning, the police said.

A police officer who is part of the investigation said, "The official was in his two-bedroom accommodation with two relatives."

All three had dinner together on Sunday and went out at night before returning to the apartment. Preliminary investigation suggests that the two were in one room while the AAI official was in the other. They had planned to visit a nearby mango orchard around 8am on Monday.

"However, when the official didn't wake up in the morning despite several calls by the two, they informed his colleagues living in the same neighbourhood. They then broke open the door of his room to find him hanging from a noose made from a dupatta tied to the ceiling fan... We're probing why he was in women's attire."

A police officer said that they are questioning the two relatives and his colleagues. He added: "We have also seized his mobile phone to examine his call details and other data to conduct a cyber forensic probe. His seniors and colleagues termed him an 'outstanding professional who was never involved in any misconduct'. The reasons behind his death would be ascertained after we receive the postmortem report. We're not ruling out anything..."

Trial court did not go through all papers filed in Kejriwal case: ED

From P 1

But the bench responded that if HC had committed a mistake, as submitted by him, then the same mistake could not be repeated by the apex court.

Arvind Kejriwal's plea was opposed by solicitor general Tushar Mehta and additional solicitor general S V Raju, who, on behalf of ED, submitted that the agency did not get full opportunity to present its case before the trial court, which cut short its arguments. They said that the trial court did not go through all the documents filed in the case and granting bail was also violative of Section 45 of PMLA on twin conditions test.

Singhi, however, said that the trial court in its order recorded all submissions and the order falsified ED's arguments. He said that Kejriwal is not a flight risk if he comes out on bail and there was no need for High Court to stay the order without hearing the case on merit. As both the sides kept questioning trial court and HC orders, the bench said that the HC itself indicated that it would soon pass a detailed order and said that it could hear the case on Wednesday, hoping that HC may deliver the verdict on Tuesday.

Granting bail to Kejriwal last Thursday in a money laundering case related to the alleged scam in the now-scrapped Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22, a city court has observed that ED was acting with bias. The bail order was stayed by HC on Friday, saying the bail would remain stayed till it pronounced its verdict, and had asked counsel from both sides to file written submissions by June 24.

Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan was taunted with cries of "NEET, NEET". Giriraj Singh was told by TMC's Kalyan Banerjee that "your comments increased Trinamool's tally". Rahul let out guffaws as Banerjee told Prahlad Joshi "we will miss you as parliamentary affairs minister". The day was for left-handed barbs. Not long ago, Day 1 used to be a solemn occasion of bipartisanship. This time, there were few handshakes.

Leopard kills 2 cubs of Kumaon tigress

Dehradun: A leopard killed two of the four cubs born to a tigress translocated from Kumaon forests (Corbett Tiger Reserve or possibly the Terai forests) to the western part of Rajaji Tiger Reserve (RTR), reports Shivani Azad. The frontline staff of the reserve are now searching for the remaining two cubs.

The post-mortem report of the two cubs showed evidence of a leopard attack, with one having a punctured neck and the other a crushed skull, officials said. RTR director Saket Badola stated, "Our field staff sighted the tigress in the southern part of Rajaji, and while they have found pugmarks of the other two cubs, they have yet to spot the cubs."

Oppn parties make their intent clear with 'save democracy' march

Mohua Chatterjee
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The INDIA bloc of opposition parties made their intent clear on the first day of the 18th Lok Sabha session on Monday by marching from the old Parliament building gate towards the new Parliament House holding copies of the Constitution and chanting slogans of "save democracy" and "long live Constitution".

Opposition leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, party MP Rahul Gandhi, Trinamool Congress's Sudip Bandyopadhyay and DMK's T R Balu, among others, assembled at the spot where the Gandhi statue once stood in the Parliament complex. Former Congress chief and Rajya Sabha MP Sonia Gandhi too

joined the MPs.

Rahul said they (opposition) would not allow the Constitution to be "attacked" by PM Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah. "This attack is not acceptable to us and that is why we held the Constitution and took oath," he said. "Our message is reaching the public and no power can touch the Constitution and we will protect it," he added.

The Gandhi statue, the favourite protest site for MPs, was recently relocated along with 14 other statues that dotted the complex, to a new spot in the Parliament complex named Prerna Sthal. Several opposition parties said the mandate of the Lok Sabha elections was against the BJP, even though it was able to form govt with support of other parties.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



End politicking, focus on progress: NDA

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: NDA leaders on Monday criticised opposition MPs for taking out "save Constitution" march to Lok Sabha on Monday, saying they should now consider how to take the country on the path of progress, ending political bickering as the elections were over.

Union minister and BJP MP S P Singh Baghel slammed the opposition parties and said the country would run according to rules and laws, not "mobocracy". TDP MP and Union mi-

BJP plans to use Emergency to 'expose' Cong

BJP on Monday said it will launch a nationwide programme on the anniversary of the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi in 1975 to "expose" Congress's "authoritarianism and disregard" for the Constitution. BJP president J P Nadda will address the main event, dubbed "Dark Days of Democracy", at its headquarters on Tuesday, the party's chief spokesperson Anil Baluni said. "Emergency stands as an unforgettable dark chapter in India's robust democracy... marking severe curtailment of democratic freedoms. The then-Congress govt held the country's democracy and the Constitution captive, unleashing countless atrocities on people, media and opposition leaders," Baluni said. TNN

minister K Rammohan Naidu added, "It was not right to do such politics, make such comments and create such

an atmosphere on a day when everyone (newly-elected MPs) would like to take oath in a good atmosphere.

When the elections are over, political matters should also end. There should now be conversation on how to take the country on the path of progress and serve the nation." He asserted the NDA govt wants to take the opposition along and work with them in people's interest.

"We will also take their concerns seriously and try to address public-oriented issues if they bring up. The NDA government is functioning with such an attitude. We will walk along with them. We will not leave them," he said.

No bonhomie pretence, session starts amid hostility

Subodh Ghildiyal
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The divide between the treasury and the opposition benches in the 18th Lok Sabha went beyond seat arrangements to appear like battlelines drawn on the first day of the new House.

The INDIA bloc kicked off the day with a protest in the Parliament complex. Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, K C Venugopal, and Trinamool MPs like Mahua Moitra, DMK's Kanimozhi and T R Balu, N K Premchandran, Rajkumar Roat and others, held up red-covered copies of the Constitution and led rounds of sloganising.

Rahul said, "We will protect the Constitution from at-

tacks by PM Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. Our message is going deep." As part of a plan, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav with this troupe of 37 MPs walked into the parliament, all with a copy of the Constitution. It was in Hindi, with white covers.

Modi entered the house at 10:57 am, to the now familiar chants of "Modi, Modi" and loud applause. And when at 11:07 am, he took the podium to say "main Narendra Damodardas Modi" for oath, Rahul Gandhi, K Suresh, K C Venugopal, Gaurav Gogoi, Deepender Hooda, Supriya Sule, Dimple Yadav raised copies of the Constitution—the same was done to Amit Shah. It appeared bitter, a spillover of the no-holds-barred campaign that ended days



PARLIAMENTARY SNAP: TMC MP Kalyan Banerjee clicks a photo of his party MPs on the first day of the 18th Lok Sabha on Monday

ago. Suresh, ignored for pro-tem Speaker, would be recorded in history as the first protester in the 18th House, rising within minutes of convening to ask that his name be dropped from the panel to assist pro-tem Speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab. His shouts were

ignored, which led to even louder shouts.

The PM, on his part, did not make any pretence of bonhomie. He took the oath, and took his seat. Given a govt by was decades-old custom of a round of the opposition benches with folded hands

RAJASTHAN SAMWAD
DIPR Complex, Government Secretariat, Jaipur-302005
(Telephone & Fax No. 0141-2227057, E-mail id: eproc.dpr@gmail.com, dpr.rajasthan@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING BIDS
NIB No. 55 Date: 24/06/2024

INVITATION OF BIDS FOR THE PROVIDING SERVICES FOR MAN POWER invited from interested bidders up to 03:00 PM 15/07/2024. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> & <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state; and <https://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in>. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 2 Crore. UBN: IPR2425SLRC00008

Managing Director
Rajasthan Samwad, Jaipur
Raj.Samwad/C/24/1229

Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board
Vikas Kutir, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002

E-Auction Notice

Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board invites online e-auction of 13 sites of various Assets/ Premises of DUSIB for renting out for installation of Mobile Network Tower (as per list available on website) on temporary basis as per prescribed terms & conditions for an agreement for a period of six years from the date of taking over the possession with one extension of 4 years and total maximum period upto 10 years with the approval of competent authority. There will be an automatic escalation/increase in the rates of license fee (rental) by 8% every year at the beginning of each successive year.

DATE OF E-AUCTION
22.07.2024 (Monday) from 11.00 AM to 02.00 PM
Online registration starts: 01.07.2024 (Monday)
Last date for online registration/submission of mandatory documents with EMD is 12.07.2024 (Friday) upto 6:00 PM

For further details of the sites and procedure kindly visit the e-auction website: <https://dusib.ebizard.in> or DUSIB website www.delhishterboard.in.

Sd/- Dy. Director (RP)
(Mob. No. 8826697456)

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & PROJECT DIRECTOR
STATE PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT
WEST BENGAL MAJOR IRRIGATION AND FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECT
JALASAMPAD BHAWAN, 9TH FLOOR, SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA - 700 091
EMAIL: ce.pd.wbmfmp@gmail.com Tel: - 033-23581315
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement
Procurement Notice for India - P162679

West Bengal Major Irrigation & Flood Management Project - IN-IND-430222-CW-RFB (Funded by World Bank, AIB & Government of West Bengal)

1st Corrigendum / Addendum Notice

Name of Work: "Distributed PLC based SCADA Canal Gate Automation Project under West Bengal Major Irrigation & Flood Management Project; Package No. IRR-15 - comprising of two lots", RFB No: WBMFMP/PD/NCB/24-25/IRR15, Tender ID: 2024_IWD_689681.1, Tender ID: 2024_IWD_689681.2. For detailed 1st Corrigendum / Addendum to above work, Please visit the website: <https://wbftenders.gov.in>

Sd/- Chief Engineer and Project Director,
SPMU, WBMFMP, Government of West Bengal

बिहार सरकार
सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क विभाग
आवेदन आमंत्रण सूचना

बिहार विज्ञान नियमावली, 2016 में निहित प्रावधानों के अंतर्गत वित्तीय वर्ष 2024-26 के लिए सूचना एवं जन-सम्पर्क विभाग, बिहार सरकार द्वारा प्रचार-प्रसार के विभिन्न माध्यमों को स्वीकृत सूची में शामिल करने एवं विभागीय विज्ञान दर निर्धारित करने हेतु विहित प्रपत्र में दिनांक-18.07.2024 के 04:00 बजे अपराहन तक आवेदन आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। बिहार विज्ञान नियमावली, 2016 की कड़िका-32 में उल्लेखित प्रावधान के अनुसार प्रचार-प्रसार के इच्छुक समाचार पत्र/पत्रिका/टीवी/रेडियो एवं एजेंसी (आउट-आफ-होम, रेलवे स्टेशन, एयरपोर्ट इलेक्ट्रॉनिक डिस्प्ले) सूचीबद्धता एवं विभागीय दर निर्धारण हेतु विहित प्रपत्र में निर्धारित तिथि तक आवेदन समर्पित कर सकते हैं।

सामान्यतया स्वीकृत सूची 02 (दो) वर्षों के लिये मान्य होगी। स्वीकृत सूची के माध्यमों के विभागीय दर का वार्षिक पुनरीक्षण दर निर्धारण समिति द्वारा किया जायेगा। जबतक विभागीय दर का पुनरीक्षण/पुनर्निर्धारण नहीं होगी तब तक के लिये पूर्व का विभागीय दर मान्य होगा।

दर निर्धारण समिति द्वारा अनुशंसित दर एवं विज्ञान प्राधिकृत, समिति की अनुशंसा के आलोक में किसी माध्यम का अवधि विस्तार किया जा सकेगा।

बिहार विज्ञान नियमावली, 2016 तथा विहित प्रपत्र विभाग के वेबसाईट state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा एवं डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।

(अमित कुमार)
निदेशक

PR-002536 (I & PRD) 2024-25

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SUPPLY OF RAW MATERIALS, FRUITS AND VARIOUS OTHER ITEMS

Name of Work with its Location:
Supply of Raw Materials, Fruits, Breads, Eggs, Milk & Vegetables for Hospital Kitchen at Dr. B.A.M. Hospital, Central Railway, Byculla, Mumbai - 400027. Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 1,14,22,980/- (Rs. One Crore Fourteen Lakh Twenty Two Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty only) (GST Inclusive). Contract Period: 365 Days (One Year). Earnest Money: ₹ 2,07,100/- Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 2,07,100/-

E-Tender form shall be issued free of cost to all the Tenderers. Date and Time of Closing of Tender Submission: 15/07/2024 up to 11.00 hrs. Online through IREPS Portal Only. Tenders shall be accepted only in E-Tendering format through the Website <https://www.ireps.gov.in>. Tender Document is available on the website. Open E-Tender Notice No. BAMHAKitchen 2024-2025 Date: 21/06/2024

अनुशंसित तथा अनधिकृत रूप से ये वेबसाइट के पार कर कार्य करना दंडनीय अपराध है।



TAYLOR SWIFT SURPRISES FANS BY BRINGING BF TRAVIS KELCE ON STAGE AS DANCER AT UK SHOW; CLIP OF NFL STAR LIFTING HER VIRAL

YOU WIN THE VICTORY WHEN YOU YIELD TO FRIENDS — SOPHOCLES



ELON MUSK QUIETLY WELCOMES BABY NO. 12 THIS YEAR, HIS 3RD WITH NEURALINK EXEC SHIVON ZILIS: 'NOT A SECRET. FRIENDS, FAMILY KNOW'

Attack on religious sites in Russia's Dagestan kills 20

Churches, Synagogues And Police Post Targeted In Assaults Suspected To Be Conducted By Islamist Extremists; 15 Cops Among Dead; All 5 Gunmen Killed

Moscow: Russia's southern region of Dagestan held the first of three days of mourning Monday following an attack by Islamist militants who authorities say killed 20 people, mostly police, and attacked Christian and Jewish houses of worship in assaults in two cities. Sunday's violence in Dagestan's regional capital of Makhachkala and nearby Derbent was the latest that officials blamed on Islamist extremists in the predominantly Muslim region in the North Caucasus. It was also the deadliest in Russia since March, when gunmen opened fire at a concert in suburban Moscow, killing 145 people.



Dagestan governor Sergei Meliko (in grey shirt above) visits an Orthodox church attacked on Sunday. Dagestan is a predominantly Muslim region.

8 die in building inferno near Moscow

Two people jumped to their death from the top floors of a burning eight-storey former Russian electronics research institute on Monday and at least six others died in the fire, state-run TASS news agency reported. Black smoke billowed from the building outside Moscow and flames roared up its walls. Some people were trapped on the top floors but were unable to escape. One man was seen jumping from the upper floor of the building, while another — with serious burns — fell. It was not clear what caused the fire. **REUTERS**

link the attack to Moscow's military action in Ukraine — but also provided no evidence. Prez Putin had sought to blame the March attack on Ukraine, again without evidence and despite the claim of responsibility by the Islamic State affiliate. Kyiv has vehemently denied any role. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin has received reports on Sunday's attacks and efforts to help the victims. The Investigative Committee, the country's top state criminal investigation agency, said all five attackers were killed. Of the 20 people killed, at least 15 were police. Authorities said at least 46 people were injured. Among the dead was the Rev. Nikolai Kotelnikov, a 66-year-old Russian Orthodox priest at a church in Derbent. The attackers slit his throat before setting fire to the church, according to Shamil Khadulayev, deputy head of a local public oversight body. The attack came as the Orthodox faithful celebrated Pentecost. Melikov, the Dagestan governor, said also among the dead were a Russian Orthodox believer and 18 Muslims. The Kele-Numaz synagogue in Derbent also was set ablaze. Shortly after, militants fired at a police post in Makhachkala and attacked a Russian Orthodox Church and a synagogue there before being killed by special forces.

In the early 2000s, Dagestan saw near-daily attacks on police and other authorities that was blamed on militant extremists. The violence has abated in recent years, but in a sign that extremist sentiments still run high in the region, mobs rioted at an airport there in Oct, targeting a flight from Israel. Over 20 people were hurt — none of them Israelis — when hundreds of men, some carrying banners with antisemitic slogans, rushed onto the tarmac, chased passengers and threw stones at police. The airport rampage challenged the Kremlin's narrative that ethnic and religious groups co-exist in harmony in Russia. **AP**

Blaze at S Korea lithium battery plant kills 22

18 Of Them Were Chinese Workers

Seoul: A fire likely sparked by exploding lithium batteries swept through a manufacturing factory near South Korea's capital on Monday, killing 22 mostly Chinese migrant workers and injuring eight, officials said.



The fire, likely caused by exploding lithium batteries, started at one of the factories owned by battery manufacturer Aricell. Authorities will probe whether fire extinguishing systems were at the site and if they worked

The fire began after batteries exploded while workers were examining and packaging them on the second floor of the factory in Hwaseong city, just south of Seoul, at around 10.30am, fire officials said, citing a witness.

many people from China have migrated to South Korea to seek jobs. They often end up in factories or in physically demanding and low-paying jobs shunned by more affluent South Koreans. Kim said a worker remained out of contact and rescuers were searching the site. He said two of the eight injured were in serious condition.

The fire started at one of the factory buildings owned by a battery manufacturer, Aricell. Rechargeable lithium-ion batteries are ubiquitous in consumer goods from laptops to cellphones. They can overheat if damaged, defective or packaged improperly, leading to fires and explosions and making them a hazard for shipment on aircraft.

The dead included 18 Chinese, two South Koreans and one Laotian, local fire official Kim Jin-young said. He said the nationality of one of the dead was to be verified. In the past few decades,

Senior fire official Jo Seon-ho, citing video footage, said workers mobilised fire extinguishers but failed to put out the blaze. They later rushed to an area where there was no exit before they likely inhaled toxic smoke and lost their consciousness, he said.

Prez Yoon Suk Yeol, wearing a safety helmet and a mask, visited the site. He expressed condolences to the dead people and ordered officials to put in place measures to effectively deal with battery-related fires. Monday's blaze is one of the deadliest in South Korea in recent years. **AP**

Criminal charges recommended against Boeing in fatal crashes case

Washington: US prosecutors are recommending to senior US justice department officials that criminal charges be brought against Boeing after finding the planemaker violated a settlement related to two fatal crashes, two people familiar with the matter said. The federal agency determined in May that Boeing had breached a 2021 deferred-prosecution agreement that was put in place after the 737 Max crashes, which killed 346 people in 2018 and 2019. The planemaker has denied the findings, and the DoJ now has until July 7 to decide what punishment, if any, it should face. Under the 2021 deal, the company was asked to overhaul its compliance practices and submit regular reports. Boeing had also agreed to pay \$2.5 billion to settle the probe. **REUTERS**

If Labour wins UK polls, party says 'ready to go' for FTA with India

London: The UK's opposition Labour Party Monday criticised the governing Conservatives of having "over-promised and under delivered" on relations with India and declared that it is "ready to go" on striking a free trade agreement (FTA) if it wins the July 4 general election. Addressing the India Global Forum (IGF), the party's shadow foreign secretary David Lammy laid out his ambitions of the FTA being "a floor not a ceiling" of the partnership he aspires to with his "friend" external affairs minister S Jaishankar.

India and the UK have completed 13 rounds of FTA negotiations to enhance the estimated GBP 38.1 billion a year trading relationship, with talks currently stalled amid the election cycles in both the countries.

"Many Diwalis have come and gone without a trade deal and too many businesses have been left waiting," said Lammy referring to the missed Diwali 2022 deadline set by former PM Boris Johnson for the FTA. "My message to [finance] minister (Nirmala) Sitharaman and (trade) minister (Piyush) Goyal is that Labour is ready to go. Let's finally get our free trade deal done and move on," he said, adding he will be in Delhi before the end of July if elected to govt on July 4. **PTI**

Russia summons US envoy to protest Ukraine's use of 'US missiles' in Crimea

Russian foreign ministry summoned American ambassador Lynne Tracy on Monday to protest what it says was the use of US-made advanced missiles in a Ukrainian attack on Russian-annexed Crimea that reportedly killed four, including two children, and wounded over 150. Washington "has effectively become a party" to the war on Ukraine's side, the ministry said, adding, "Retaliatory measures will certainly follow."

There was no comment from US or Ukrainian officials. Meanwhile, Russian defense ministry on Monday reported striking a "major logistical hub" of the Ukrainian military that held Western-supplied missiles and other weapons. It said the strike was carried out by warplanes, drones, ground-launched missiles and artillery. The ministry didn't name its location. **AP**

Bibi: Intense Gaza ops winding down, to focus on Hezbollah

Says War Not Ending, Prepared To Fight On Several Fronts

Jerusalem: Israeli PM Netanyahu said on Sunday that the "intense phase" of fighting against Hamas in Gaza is winding down, setting the stage for Israel to send more troops to its northern border to confront Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.



Israeli jets bombed an UNRWA compound near Gaza City Sunday, killing at least 8 people. The Israeli military said the compound was being used by Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants, which Hamas denied

The comments threatened to further heighten the tensions between Israel and Hezbollah at a time when they appear to be moving closer to war. Netanyahu also signalled that there is no end in sight for the grinding war in Gaza. The current phase of the war "is about to end," Netanyahu said. "That doesn't mean the war is about to end."

Netanyahu said in a lengthy interview that while the army is close to completing its ground offensive in Rafah, that would not mean the war against Hamas is over. But he said fewer troops would be needed in Gaza, freeing up forces to battle Hezbollah.

Gallant holds talks in US on war's next phase

Israel's defence minister Yoav Gallant met with the CIA director on Monday morning in Washington and was expected to sit down with secretary of state Antony Blinken, as the US works to head off a new Israeli military push in Lebanon. The visit comes at a crucial time for Israel and the war in Gaza. The fate of a ceasefire deal that would release the hostages is unclear, worries about intensified fighting between Hezbollah and Israel are increasing, and PM Netanyahu said that the intensive phase of Israel's war against Hamas was "about to end". Monday's meetings will focus on all three issues, with US officials seeking clarity on the Israeli govt's intentions with a possible ceasefire agreement and whether Israeli leaders are considering a new offensive against Hezbollah fighters, military action that Washington worries could drag the US. **NYT**

war: Netanyahu said he hoped a diplomatic solution to the crisis could be found but vowed to solve the problem "in a different way" if needed. "We can fight on several fronts and we are prepared to do that."

Hezbollah warned Israel last week against launching war on Lebanon's front, saying it has new weapons and intelligence capabilities that could help it target critical positions deeper inside Israel. **AP**

Apple is first company charged under new EU competition law

Apple is imposing unfair restrictions on developers of applications for its App Store in violation of a new European Union law meant to encourage competition in the tech industry, regulators in Brussels said on Monday. The charges further escalated a tussle between Apple, which says its products are designed in the best interest of customers, and EU regulators, who say the company is unfairly using its size and considerable resources to stifle competition.



EU regulators said Apple was putting unlawful restrictions on companies that make games, music services & other apps

Apple is the first company to be charged for violating the Digital Markets Act, a law passed in 2022 that gives European regulators wider authority to force the largest "online gatekeepers" to change their business practices. After initiating an investigation in March, EU regulators said Apple was putting unlawful restrictions on companies

that make games, music services and other applications. Under the law, Apple cannot limit how companies communicate with customers about sales and other offers and content available outside the App Store. The company faces a penalty of up to 10% of global revenue, a fine that could go up to 20% for repeat infringements. Apple reported \$383 billion in revenue last year.

"Today is a very important day for the effective enforcement of the DMA," said Margrethe Vestager, European Commission executive vice-president in charge of competition policy. She said Apple's App Store policies make developers more dependent on the company and prevent consumers from being aware of better offers. EU regulators said the charges were preliminary and gave Apple a chance to respond. A final decision will be announced by next March.

Apple defended its practices, saying its rules and fees are a fair trade for providing such a large platform to reach consumers. Developers can point consumers to websites to make purchases outside the App Store, the company said. "Throughout the past several months, Apple has made a number of changes to comply with the DMA in response to feedback from developers and the European Commission," Apple said. "We are confident our plan complies with the law." **NYT**

Suffered Seizures In Dozens To Hundreds. Now, A Big Relief

UK schoolboy gets world's first epilepsy device fitted in skull

London: A schoolboy from England has made medical history as the first in the world with severe epilepsy to trial a new device fitted in his skull to control seizures, the UK media reported Monday. The neurostimulator, which sends electrical signals deep into brain, has cut Oran Knowlson's daytime seizures by 80%.



The neurostimulator, which sends electrical signals deep into his brain, has cut 13-year-old Oran's day seizures by 80%. The surgery that lasted 8 hrs took place in Oct 2023 when he was 12

Oran has Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, a treatment-resistant form of epilepsy which he developed at three. Since then he has suffered daily seizures ranging from two dozen to hundreds, BBC reported. His mother Justine told BBC Oran had a range of different seizures, including those where he fell to the ground, shook violently and lost consciousness. She said he would at times stop breathing

and require emergency medication to resuscitate him. The surgery, which lasted some eight hours, took place in Oct 2023. It was part of a trial at Great Ormond Street Hospital when Oran, who is now 13, was 12. It was in partnership with University College London, King's College Hospital and Oxford University.

Epilepsy seizures are triggered by abnormal bursts of electrical activity in the brain. The device, which emits a constant pulse of current, aims to block or disrupt abnormal signals. Justine told BBC he was happier and had a "much better quality of life". "He's a lot more chatty, more engaged. I definitely now have a teenager — he's happy to tell me no," she said. His night-time seizures are now "shorter and less severe". Deep brain stimulation has been tried before for childhood epilepsy, but until now neurostimulators were placed in the chest with wires running up to the brain. **PTI**

Restored Ranjit Singh statue to be unveiled at Kartarpur gurdwara in Pak on June 26

Yudhvir Rana | **TNN**

The restored statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, vandalised thrice since its installation in Lahore Fort and relocated to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib complex in Kartarpur, Pakistan, will be inaugurated in the neighbouring country to commemorate the 185th death anniversary of the Sikh warrior on June 26.

Nearly 450 Indian Sikh are currently in Pakistan to observe the death anniversary of Ranjit Singh who ruled Punjab in the 19th century and was the first maharaja of Sikh empire. Lahore's Fakir Khana Museum director Fakir Syed Saifuddin spearheaded the project to repair, rebuild, and restructure the statue that had incurred nearly 80% damage.

"It was out of love and respect for Ranjit Singh that I undertook this project. The restoration cost around Rs 27 lakh and the work spanned over a year. The statue was donated for its installation in Gurdwara Darbar Sahib complex," Saifuddin, a fifth generation descendant of Fakir Sayed Azizuddin who was chief secretary and foreign minister in Ranjit Singh's govt said. His brothers Fakir Syed Imamuddin and Fakir Syed Nooruddin were acting governor, Amritsar, and governor, Lahore, respectively.

The 9-foot bronze statue was sculpted by Fakir Khana Museum in 2019. It was vandalised in 2019 and 2020 by religious groups and in 2021 by terrorist outfit Tehreek-e-Labbaik.

AROUND THE WORLD



DALI LEAVES BALTIMORE FOR VIRGINIA: Cargo ship Dali headed out of Baltimore for Virginia on Monday, nearly three months after it lost power and crashed into one of the Francis Scott Key bridge's supporting columns and caused the bridge to collapse. The 984-foot Dali started moving shortly before 8.30am (local time) with four tugboats. The Dali was sailing under its own power with a full crew of 22 and six salvage experts, said the US Coast Guard said, which is overseeing the voyage & providing a 500-yard safety zone around Dali

In latest UK royal health setback, Anne hospitalised with head injury

Princess Anne, King Charles' younger sister, is in hospital after suffering a head injury on Sunday, Buckingham Palace said, adding that the royal was expected to make a full recovery from the incident which was believed to have involved a horse. The palace said on Monday that the 73-year-old had suffered minor injuries and a concussion following the incident, and was now recovering at Southmead Hospital in Bristol. The princess had been walking in the grounds of Gatcombe Park estate where her home is located when she suffered minor injuries to her head, a royal source said. The source said there were horses in the vicinity and her medical team said the head injuries

were consistent with impact from a horse's head or legs. "Hello Kitty", parasites & more trash: N Korea resumes balloon landings in South

North Korea resumed launches of balloons likely carrying trash toward South Korea on Monday night, South Korea's military said, in the latest round of a Cold War-style campaign on the Korean Peninsula. Among the trash that balloons carried over the border from North were articles printed with Hello Kitty characters, badly worn clothing, and soil containing traces of human faeces and parasites, South Korea said. North Korea has flown balloons with trash since late May, with hundreds landing in the South. Parasites and human DNA were found in the dirt in some of the bags, which shows it contained fertiliser that used human faeces, the South said. It also contained worn items of clothing with Mickey Mouse and Winnie the Pooh characters, as well as clothes that were donated from the South that were slashed and cut up.

Haj deaths put spotlight on underworld of illicit tour operators

1,300+, Including 98 Indians, Have Died; 83% Of Them Were Walking In Heat Sans Permits

Cairo: More than 1,300 people died making the Islamic pilgrimage of haj in Saudi Arabia this month, the vast majority of whom the Saudi govt said did not have permits. Many walked for miles in scorching heat as high as 51.8 degrees Celsius after paying thousands of dollars to illicit tour operators. The fatalities included 660 Egyptians, 165 from Indonesia, 98 from India and dozens more from Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria and Malaysia, according to an AP tally. Two US citizens also died.

While pilgrims with permits are transported around Mecca in air-conditioned buses and rest in air-conditioned tents, unregistered ones are often exposed to the elements. On Sunday, Saudi health minister Fahd bin Abdurrahman Al-Jalajel said 83% of the 1,301 reported deaths involved pilgrims who lacked permits. With nearly 2 million participating each year, it is not unusual for pilgrims to die from heat stress, illness or chronic disease. But it is unclear if the number of deaths

this year was higher than usual, because Saudi does not regularly report those statistics. But as so many of those who died had no permits, this year's toll exposed an underworld of illicit tour operators and smugglers who profit off Muslims desperate to make the journey. An estimated 400,000 undocumented people tried to perform haj this year, a senior Saudi official told AFP. Haj tour operators, pilgrims and relatives of the dead described easily exploited loopholes that allow people to travel to the kingdom with a tourist or visitor visa before haj. Once they arrive, they find illegal brokers and



A child in a stroller during this year's Haj pilgrimage. Temperatures in Mecca climbed as high as 51.8° C

smugglers who offer their services, take their money and sometimes abandon them to fend for themselves, they said. The number of unregistered pilgrims appeared to have been driven up this year by rising economic desperation in countries such as Egypt and Jordan. An official haj package can cost more than \$5,000 or \$10,000, depending on a pilgrim's country of origin — far beyond the means of many. One unregistered pilgrim who died was Safaa al-Tawab from the Egyptian city of Luxor. Al-Tawab, 55, had not been able to obtain a haj permit but found an Egyptian tour company to take her for around \$3,000, her brother Ahmed said. After she arrived, she told relatives she had been put in

inadequate housing and prevented from going outside. Although the tour operator had promised air-conditioned buses, she found herself walking for miles in the heat, her brother said. She died midway through the pilgrimage, but when her brother contacted a representative from the tour company, he assured him she was fine, then turned off his phone. Even for the young and fit, haj is a physically challenging event, and many pilgrims are elderly or ailing by the time they can make the journey. Some believe the hajj might be their final rite, and that dying in Mecca will confer great blessings. **NYT & AP**

**A thought for today***Politicians will be politicians, they will have a weakness at times for not seeing beyond their nose*

ARUN JAITLEY

It's People's House

Challenge before new LS is to deliver quality debate in a civil manner. That's the message voters sent

As MPs took oath on Day One of the 18th Lok Sabha, three incidents stood out as an indication to what can be expected in the days ahead. Opposition's protest against temporary speaker and Congress's missive to NDA govt on key issues for first 15 days showed INDIA in attack mode. Modi's comments about opposition, that "people want substance not slogans", showed PM is in no mood to relent. And third, soft-spoken Naveen Patnaik's stark message to BJD's Rajya Sabha members to be in opposition hints at rows in RS.

On fire | Opposition MPs refused to be part of the panel to assist the temporary speaker during the oath ceremony. Though negotiations for a consensus speaker continue, it's likely India may witness its first election to the speaker's post since Independence. The 18th LS will have made history from the first day House meets for business. INDIA bloc also hit the deck running to try and continue to set the agenda as it did through the election campaign. Rahul Gandhi

listed out "NDA's first 15-day agenda", including train accidents, quality of train travel, NEET-NTA scandals, high prices, forest fires and heatwave deaths. Expect fireworks.

Firing back | Modi recognises the challenges of a hawkish opposition. His address captured it — that people

want from opposition "debate and diligence", not "drama and disturbance". Govt will need to bring its best game — of listening — to ensure its first session is not lost in the din of hostile exchanges, or that opposition voices aren't drowned out. So far, most interruptions in Parliament occurred during the 15th LS (2009-2014). And dubious history was made in the 17th LS too. A hundred LS MPs and 46 Rajya Sabha members were suspended during Parliament's winter session last year — the highest number of MPs suspended in a single session in Parliament's history.

Stoking some | It was also no coincidence that Naveen Patnaik should have chosen Day One to send a message to his party's nine Rajya Sabha members — BJD has zero LS MPs for the first time ever. Patnaik asked the RS members to emerge as a "vibrant and strong" opposition. In BJD's wipeout in Odisha assembly and LS, Modi seems to have lost an all-weather ally in Patnaik. Expect a more combative RS session too.

Day One may have been far from routine. But it is still not too much to expect civility and conviviality in the House — electoral results suggested an aggressive govt and forceful opposition work side by side. Will parties comply with the people's verdict?



Neat Solution For NEET

Allow more local input in medical education, let states tailor admission to their govt colleges per their needs. But continue an all-India test for private colleges, which can't be trusted to hold their own exams

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NEET 2024 paper leak has brought the focus back on the demand to scrap a nationwide single entrance test. But when looking for possible solutions to the current mess, it is important to understand the circumstances under which NEET came into being and how it has fared on its basic mandates:

- To put an end to multiple entrance tests across India
- To bring in merit-based admission
- To tackle capitation fees.

Before NEET, there were dozens of entrance exams all over the country. Students had to appear for at least five to six exams and worry about clash of exam dates and travel to distant places for counselling for seat allotment. Every year, numerous cases were filed in high courts and Supreme Court related to these issues.

Along with this, there were reports of frequent scams, especially in the entrance exams conducted by private medical colleges or their associations in each state. In Madhya Pradesh, even the state govt-conducted entrance exam for govt medical colleges was compromised.

Crises being paid for admission into medical colleges were mostly unaccounted money, euphemistically called donation or capitation fee. There was a rising demand to put an end to all such practices and to ensure admission based on 'merit'.

With a final push from SC and dismissing objections from states, NEET was born. While NEET has made it possible to replace a plethora of exams with a single exam, it has failed to ensure 'merit'. There is no requirement to pass in each of the subjects students are tested on — physics, chemistry and biology. High scorers have to forego seats in expensive private colleges, which then accommodate poor scorers who have deep pockets. Thus, money continues to decide who gets admission to almost half the medical seats in the country. Moreover, instead of scams at state level in a few states, we have scams and leaks that affect students across the whole country.

Case for state-run admission policy | Despite govt-owned medical colleges remaining relatively free of scams in the pre-NEET era, courts repeatedly insisted

on judging govt and private colleges the same in the name of fairness. But with 85% of seats in most govt medical colleges being open only to students from the respective states, there was actually no reason why states should not have continued to use Class XII marks of students for admission — as most of them would be from the state educational board.

This would have given states greater flexibility in designing admission policies that suited their needs — as Tamil Nadu did in reserving seats for students from govt schools, thus improving the odds of underprivileged students getting a chance to become doctors. It would also have helped save poorer students from having to spend on coaching for entrance exams, as they could opt out of trying to crack the all-India quota and only concentrate on scoring well in school to get into a college within their state.



Uday Deb

For many states, it might make a lot of sense to revert to Class XII board exam results as the basis for admission into state govt medical colleges. Meanwhile, states whose school systems are too uneven in quality, could conduct entrance exams for seats in state medical colleges.

Either way, since it has become clear that a centrally administered exam is as vulnerable as a state-level

exam, exam systems need to be strengthened in general. Govt should reduce outsourcing of sensitive functions like setting and printing of question papers, invigilation and correction. This will help ensure that responsibility is easily traced and fixed. It should also treat whistleblowers as people aiding govt in keeping the system honest, instead of proceeding against them as enemies of state.

Fix admission to private medical colleges | Private colleges, whether deemed universities or otherwise, can hardly be left to conduct their own admission tests. They have strong incentives to game the system and state govt has proved totally ineffective in regulating them. Moreover, since their intake is from all over India, there is every reason to club them with the all-India quota and subject them to a centralised entrance test.

In many states like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu, 50% of seats in private medical colleges are for state govt to fill. Those seats can be filled the same way the state govt fills seats in its own medical colleges. Thus, the case for an all-India exam for about 40%-50% (15% all-India quota + management/NRI quota in private colleges) of MBBS seats remains strong.

There is an urgent need to undo the centralisation of everything, especially in health and education, which are the domain of states. Medical education involves both health and education, but it is a concurrent subject as doctors in any state are allowed to practise anywhere in the country once they clear the final MBBS exam. However, medical education must allow for more local input, with states being allowed to tailor admission policies according to their needs.

If there are underserved areas/communities within a state, the state govt might want to take in more students from those areas/communities. If NMC can make peace with admitting students who score zero in a subject or have ranks below 10 lakh but can pay crores in the name of 'merit'-based admission, it can surely allow states to give preference to students from rural areas or to govt doctors who have done rural service.

The White & Wrong Of UK's Rishism

No British politician of a party seen to be losing has got it like Sunak. But this racism has worked subtly, through dog whistle or sneer. Britain may have moved forward on race question but it still matters

Rashmee Roshan Lal



Is the race card finally in play against Rishi Sunak in the second half of Britain's six-week general election campaign? Just the dog whistle, not in propah fashion, not enough to provoke some genuine sympathy for the country's first prime minister of Indian ethnicity, rather than the abundant pity he currently evokes.

As of now, all the funeral head-shaking is about Sunak leading "Torysauros" — the shrunken dinosaur that is Conservative Party — through a political Jurassic Park, which is readying for an "extinction-level" event.

It keeps coming | Alternately cast by tabloid pundits as "gaffe machine" or "sleep agent" of the main opposition Labour, Sunak is subject to daily verbal pummeling for failing to arrest the political decline of a party weary from 14 years in govt. To outward seeming, it's politics as usual and Sunak is just the unlucky captain of a vessel that started to go down long before he took command 21 months ago.

In actual fact, Sunak's predicament seems unlike that of any other politician of a major British party said to be headed for a major election defeat. Oddly for a British born-and-bred man, he is deemed an outsider and a rootless cosmopolitan, and is almost always predicted to be unlikely to stay on in Britain or its politics should his party lose. Faced with race-baiting commentary, he is either unable or unwilling to call it out because he is supposed to be the face of a rainbow nation with British characteristics.

He is not one of us | A case in point is the fallout from Sunak's ill-advised early exit from an inter-

national commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Normandy landings, one of the turning points of 20th century history and World War II. When Britain learnt that Sunak had skipped a June 6 event in France attended by Joe Biden, Emmanuel Macron and Olaf Scholz, in favour of a TV interview back home, it was as if he had been found butchering babies. The commentary as well as radio and TV talk shows erupted in fury.

But it was left to Nigel Farage, champion of Donald Trump, Brexit firebrand and newly installed leader of the right-wing Eurosceptic Reform UK party, to say the unsayable. That Sunak "has no sense of our history, or feeling genuinely for the culture", that he wasn't "patriotic" and that his "instinct" is not the same as the British people's because he's "utterly disconnected in every way".

Other than some half-hearted protests about dog whistles from a few politicians, Farage's commentary on Sunak's moment of shame was allowed to stand.

The racist overtones in that judgment seemed to be on a par with an earlier incident revolving around roots and reflexive instincts, when a quite different English politician delivered a damning verdict on another non-White politician, though from across the Atlantic.

Back in 2016, Boris Johnson wrote a newspaper column saying Barack Obama's removal of a bust of Churchill from the Oval Office was driven by the US president's "part-Kenyan" ancestry. He added that this act was seen by some as a sign of an "ancestral dislike of the British

Empire". Though, like Farage, Johnson wasn't UK prime minister at the time, he was hardly a political nobody. As for Obama, like Sunak, he too seemed to symbolise a new post-racial politics. Except that it isn't.

There and not there | Britain has moved quite some way towards an inclusive politics from the charged immigration debates of the late 1960s and the infamous "rivers of blood" speech of Enoch Powell, but Sunak's rise to Downing Street was no post-racial moment. There is euphemistic racism, just as attended Sunak's election to parliament nine years ago from an ultra-safe Conservative seat in Yorkshire. At the time, his prospective constituents offered comments that went heavy on the curry theme: "Just tell him ya' don't like curry". "That MP he'll be doing curry night every night". What they were saying, of course, had nothing to do with food but perception of belonging.

Sunak hasn't helped matters | Interestingly, in his scant decade in frontline British politics, Sunak himself has contributed nothing meaningful to the debate about racism other than to declare it "unacceptable". Before the election was called, he acknowledged the racism he experienced as a child, his mother's determination that he and his siblings "didn't speak with accents (but) properly", his parents' determination their Indian heritage not be "a barrier... in any way shape or form" and that their children should "fit in".

That, he has done, in quintessentially understated British fashion. And he was fortunate to find political prominence at a time when British politics either ignored or minimised race, thereby relegating it to a hidden transcript.

Like Schrödinger's cat, the nearly century-old thought experiment in which the hypothetical feline in its sealed box could be considered simultaneously alive and dead, Sunak's situation may suggest that racist and post-racist realities both flourish at the same time.

Lal writes on international affairs

Lithium & More

Syncing mining and battery tech R&D crucial to India's Atmanirbhar goals

In mixed progress for India's battery tech ecosystem, Chhattisgarh's Korba district has seen one block of lithium move to the auctions stage and another block showing promising deposits of the mineral. This comes after setbacks such as the cancellation of auctions for the lithium block in J&K's Reasi district due to insufficient investor interest, and shelving of exploration plans in Manipur's Kamjong district due to local resistance. But if India is to emerge as a top player in sunrise manufacturing sectors such as electric vehicles (EVs) and consumer goods, it has to get ahead in the battery game, lithium-ion and others.

Lithium-ion challenge | In 2022, China accounted for as much as 77% of global lithium-ion battery production capacity. Beijing is projected to retain this dominance even in 2027. It's on the strength of this lithium-ion battery manufacturing capacity that the Chinese are looking to dominate the global EV market. India is way behind here. If it's not to remain dependent on Chinese suppliers, it must ramp up its own lithium-ion battery production base or look for alternatives.

Poor technical depth | India also faces handicaps such as underdeveloped mineral reporting standards. This leads to figures for mineral reserves for several blocks being inconclusive, hindering investments. Plus, most of the lithium found in India is in the form of hard rock granites and pegmatites, making it difficult to extract the mineral.

Alternatives on anvil | There are other battery options too, but they need significant R&D. Metal-air batteries use atmospheric oxygen and metals such as aluminium, zinc and iron. They can be a lightweight, budget-friendly, and recyclable but non-rechargeable, option. Then, China is heavily investing in cheaper sodium batteries. For India to follow suit, it has to heavily invest in battery research and line up appropriate mining industry tech and processes. That's the only way India can emerge as an alternative battery hub to China.



Exes with benefits

Putting children first is the love story after divorce

Shinie Antony



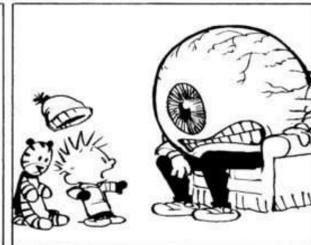
A new and tender love story is doing the rounds. This one is made up of exes. Once a marriage heads for divorce courts, a husband and wife are simply called Tom and Jerry. While wedding anniversaries are all about roses and candlelit dinners, divorce anniversaries don't come with mushy cards and teddy bears. But couples who part ways may still be bound together eternally — as parents. Romance flies out of the window, children don't.

Parents have always had a choice: stay together and mess up the kids or split up and mess up the kids. In US, about 50% children have separated parents. India, with its non-stop worrying about what others will say, artificially maintained the world's lowest divorce rates for a long time. Many a grim-faced Mr and Mrs would rather murder each other than part and bring bad name to family. Fidelity was optional for men, a terminal illness for women. In a traditional household when the 'divorce' word is uttered, everyone shrieks against a loud background score. Divorce was a public tragedy; even strangers demanded to know the gory details. 'At least he doesn't beat you' was the anti-divorce hymn.

Modern divorces are thought to be too pat. Young couples don't try hard enough, say old couples. We don't want to end up like them, shudder the young couples. Custody battles follow. The family becomes single-parent, blended or extended, and co-parenting is parallel, cooperative or conflicted. Couples move into different flats in the same building to make child care easier; an ex is now a neighbour! Some women dump offspring with husband just so his new romance is punctuated with adolescent cries of 'I won't eat this!' and 'Give me your credit card'.

The initial strategy of running the other spouse down is replaced by the practicality of having someone to fall back on. An ex who will pick or drop a kid when you run late is always better than one who stands there making faces. Up against a child's decision to tattoo a life-size Zendaya or Timothée Chalamet on their back another type of togetherness beckons the former spouses. Now they actually listen to each other — the previous vacant look sported during the marriage is gone. They find themselves defending each other when kids complain instead of sighing with deep contentment. Such a relief to lay down weapons, which are also the children.

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace



Life is life — whether in a cat, or dog or man. There is no difference there between a cat or a man. The idea of difference is a human conception for man's own advantage.

Sri Aurobindo

Navigating Uncertain Times With Ontological Leadership

Yogi Balkrishna

Amid today's tumultuous and rapidly changing world, the idea and spirit of leadership need a profound transformation. Conventional leadership models, once effective, are now proving inadequate in the face of complexity and uncertainty. In this era of chaos and disruption, a compelling need emerges for a new leadership paradigm: ontological leadership, rooted in timeless Indic wisdom, offering a path towards deeper understanding and harmony that resonates with today's challenges.

It transcends prosaic managerial techniques or strategic frameworks. Ontological leadership delves into the essence of Being and consciousness, drawing inspiration from profound insights in the Indic philosophies of Yog and Vedanta. At its core, ontological leadership is about leading with the

light of unbound inner wisdom emanating from unattached, unswayed and all-inclusive consciousness, including virtues such as integrity, authenticity, creativity, courage, and compassion.

Yog, as expounded in the Yog Sutras of Maharshi Patanjali, offers a holistic framework for Self-realisation and transformation. The union of Vashti, individual consciousness, with Yamashita, universal consciousness, is central to the yogic vision. In the context of leadership, this union implies a deep recognition of the interconnectedness of all beings and a sense of responsibility for the well-being of the entire ecosystem — be it an organisation, community, nation, or planet. Vedanta deepens this idea further, revealing the essential oneness of all beings. From the leadership standpoint, ontological leadership recognises the inherent

oneness of all existence and leads from a place of profound interconnectedness and compassion. Its key tenets are:

Self-awareness | The ability to introspect and understand one's strengths and weaknesses and operate from a place of authenticity. Strengthening one's strengths and weakening one's weaknesses, an ontological leader constantly evolves into a finer version of oneself. Drawing from the practice of *atma vichar* of Vedanta supported by yogic disciplines, leaders need to cultivate a deep understanding of themselves, enabling them to lead with clarity and purpose.

Presence | A state of being fully engaged in the present moment, free from distractions, preconceptions and preoccupations. Being mindful, leaders develop the capacity to remain grounded amidst chaos.

Compassion | Driven by the principle of *ahimsa*, practising empathy and compassion in all interactions, ontological leaders don't just recognise the inherent dignity and worth of every individual; they actively seek to create an environment, culture, and institutions that nurture growth, fostering a sense of connection and empathy among all.

Resilience | Ontological leaders embrace change as a natural part of life. They cultivate resilience and adaptability, recognising that challenges and setbacks are opportunities for growth and learning.

Servant leadership | In accordance with the spirit of *Karm Yog*, ontological leaders adopt a servant leadership approach, placing the needs of others above their ego-driven desires. Without hankering for power, they empower and inspire those around them, nurturing a culture of trust, accountability, and collective purpose.



THE SPEAKING TREE



Source: Bloomberg

■ A surge in demand for Nvidia's chips sparked by the AI frenzy has made a mockery of Wall St's financial estimates. Even Nvidia's leadership is struggling to anticipate how much money the chipmaker will generate 3 months into the future

Tough Time Forecasting

■ Since Nvidia's sales began exploding in April 2023 qtr, revenue has exceeded the midpoint of the co's own forecast by an average of 13%

What Price To Pay

■ Jensen Huang-led Nvidia is projected to deliver a profit of \$14.7bn on sales of \$28.4bn this quarter, up 137% and 111%

■ Microsoft's sales are set to rise 15% with Apple projections sitting 3%

Sebi probes Quant MF over front-running by employees

Fund House Confirms Inquiry, Says It'll Cooperate With Sebi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

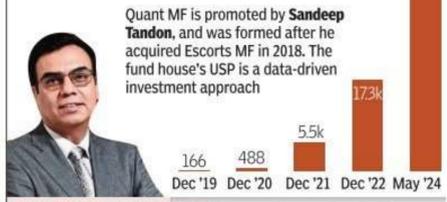
Mumbai: Sebi has launched an investigation into possible front-running by Quant Mutual Fund employees after the markets regulator's surveillance system flagged suspicious activities.

Front-running refers to an illegal practice in the stock market where an entity trades on the basis of advance information from a broker or analyst before the information has been made available to their clients.

Sebi is understood to have conducted search operations at Quant's offices in Mumbai and Hyderabad. After reports of search operations, several stocks in the mutual fund's portfolio ended lower on Monday. RBL Bank closed 2.6% lower while Nalco was down 2%. Quant MF is one of the fastest-growing mutual funds, with over Rs 84,000 crore in assets under management as of May 31. The company's small-cap funds top the industry in performance with 31% returns in five years.

AUM Jumps From ₹166Cr To ₹84K Cr Within 5 Yrs

Quant MF's assets under management (₹ cr) have surged 46,285% in less than 5 years



Quant MF is promoted by Sandeep Tandon, and was formed after he acquired Escorts MF in 2018. The fund house's USP is a data-driven investment approach

Quant MF has received inquiries from Sebi... We want to assure you (investors) that Quant MF is a regulated entity, and we are always fully committed to cooperate with the regulator throughout any review

Market surveillance tools typically help detect front-running in stocks by continuously monitoring trading patterns and analysing order timing to identify suspicious activities. They compare employee trades to client orders, flagging those that consistently precede large client transactions.

These tools also analyse profitability, looking for unusually high trade profits before significant market movements.

Quant MF, in a communication to shareholders, confirmed the inquiry from Sebi. "Recently, Quant MF has received inquiries from Sebi... We want to assure you that Quant

MF is a regulated entity, and we are always fully committed to cooperating with the regulator throughout any review. We will provide all necessary support and continue to furnish data to Sebi on a regular and as-needed basis," the fund house said.

Quant MF is promoted by Sandeep Tandon, and was formed after Tandon acquired Escorts Mutual Fund in 2018. The fund house's USP is a data-driven investment approach a strategy which was borne out by the performance of its small-cap funds.

Quant claimed it currently has over 80 lakh investors and Rs 93,000 crore in assets under management. "Quant MF believes this support will continue, thanks to its research capabilities and analytical tools," the company said.

In May 2022, Sebi directed entities involved in Axis Mutual Fund front-running case to collectively impound Rs 30 crore of wrongful gains. Sebi's action resulted in the sacking of the mutual fund's chief dealer.

Trade unions seek rise in tax rebate for salaried class

New Delhi: Constitution of the 8th pay commission, increase in tax rebate for salaried class and restoration of the old pension scheme are some of the key demands made by trade union leaders during a pre-Budget meeting with FM Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday. The unions also asked the government to stop the privatisation drive of PSUs.

"The ceiling limit for the income tax rebate for the salaried class on their salary and gratuity must be substantially raised. Govt-sponsored social security fund for the unorganised workers and agricultural workers has to be set up to provide them with defined universal social security schemes, including minimum pension of Rs 9,000 per month and other medical, educational benefits," CTUs said in their memorandum.

Besides, they have sought that all the existing vacancies in the central government departments and PSUs must be filled immediately and the practice of contract and outsourcing should be stopped. They further said resource mobilisation has to be done by increasing the corporate tax, wealth tax and introducing inheritance tax instead of burdening common masses with the GST on essential food items and medicine. AGENCIES

Houses under construction see 15% rise in prices: Study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Prices of under-construction properties rose by 15.2% QoQ across top 13 cities in the June quarter. The supply of such properties which also increased by 11.7% QoQ helped the overall market for residential supply which witnessed the fastest growth rate in the last 24 months through the quarter, said a report.

This surge has resulted in prices of under-construction properties surpassing those of ready to move properties in several cities such as Gurugram, Mumbai, Noida and Thane, according to a Magicbricks Propindex report. The continued customer confidence in under-construction properties is seen as an indication of a promising outlook in the long run. On the demand front, top cities continued to grow, recording an aggregate increase of 4.6% QoQ during the June quarter. Gurugram, Delhi and Noida, home to several corporate employees, registered the highest increases with a QoQ growth of 19.6%, 17% and 16.4%, respectively.

Sony appoints Walt Disney exec as its India MD

Mumbai: Sony Pictures Networks India has appointed entertainment industry veteran Gaurav Banerjee to succeed outgoing MD & CEO N P Singh with effect from August 26. SPNI said last month that Singh was stepping down to pursue other opportunities. Banerjee will join the company from Walt Disney India, which is being merged into Viacom18. TNN

Beware... 800 online financial frauds a day

At Nearly 3L In FY24, Cases 10X More Than RBI's Figure That Excludes Sub ₹1L Frauds

Mayur.Shetty@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Nearly 800 digital payment fraud cases are reported every day in India, nearly 10 times more than what RBI's annual report showed. This is because the central bank's took into account cases above Rs 1 lakh only.

According to the report, 29,082 card & digital payment fraud cases worth Rs 1,457 crore were reported in the previous fiscal. When frauds below Rs 1 lakh are taken into account, the total number of cases increases by 2.7 lakh, amounting to Rs 653 crore.

This was disclosed by RBI in a response to an RTI query where it said that in the last five years, there were 5.4 lakh fraud cases worth Rs 1,146 crore. This translates to nearly 800 fraud cases a day.

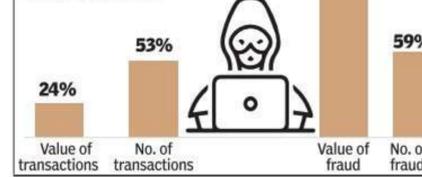
Furthermore, if all the cases from the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal are included, the surge is even higher. Many frauds reported on the portal are not recorded as banking frauds because the money is transferred voluntarily to a third party masquerading as a merchant or service provider.

In Feb this year, a committee relating to the ministry of electronics and IT said that there were Rs 5,574-crore worth of cyber frauds reported on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal in FY24 up to Sept 2023. Another RTI response last year had revealed that there were 21 lakh complaints on the portal between Jan 2022 to May 2023. According to bankers, the

remainder from earlier periods. Mamallan adds that an institutional underwriting mechanism could be created to protect consumers from these losses. In 2017, RBI had introduced the concept of zero customer liability in unauthorised transactions. The zero liability concept applies when the customer does not share credentials or if the fraud occurs after the customer reports that his account has been compromised. There is no protection for the customer when the funds are transferred voluntarily.

Frauds Rise Faster Than Payments

3-year CAGR in card & digital payments... 24% Value of transactions, 53% No. of transactions, 109% Value of fraud, 59% No. of frauds



lent scheme or fake e-commerce site. Bankers said that many cases where the customer voluntarily transfers funds are not reckoned as banking frauds because the bank systems are not breached. According to a study by payments company EPS, over the past three years, retail digital payments have grown 24% in value and 53% in volume year-over-year. However, frauds have risen 109% in value and 59% in volume over the same period. "Traditionally, when digital payments were made using cards it was the issuer bank who took the responsibility of ensuring that the customer grievance was addressed. In online transfers, the cost of unresolved frauds is borne entirely by the con-

sumers as third-party app providers only facilitate the transfer," said Mani Mamallan, chairman and MD, EPS.

The study estimated that approximately Rs 3 per lakh of digital transactions reported in 2023-24 were fraudulent, with Rs 1 per lakh occurring during that period and the re-

RBI names add'l director on board of Bandhan Bank

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI has appointed its retired chief general manager Arun Kumar Singh as additional director on the board of Bandhan bank for a year from June 24. The appointment comes just over a fortnight before the term of Chandrashekhar Ghosh, founder & CEO of Bandhan Bank, ends. The bank is still in the process of finalising a successor for Ghosh. Singh, aged 60 years, has experience of almost 36 years in RBI.

The RBI said that it has invoked its powers under Section 36AB of the Banking Regulation Act. In the past, RBI had earlier appointed chief general manager Yogesh Dayal as an additional director on the board of RBL Bank invoking its powers under Section 36AB. The appointment in RBL Bank was also made at a time when the bank had not identified a successor for Vishwavir Ahuja the outgoing CEO of the bank.

Prosus writes off Byju's bet, sees zero value in 10% stake

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: For Prosus, one of Byju's largest investors, the startup now has zero value. The company has written off the fair value of its 9.6% stake in Byju's, the Netherlands-based technology investor said in its FY24 annual report on Monday, marking a steep downturn for a startup which was once valued at \$22 billion.

"We impaired Byju's down to zero at the end of FY24. We have written down Byju's primarily because we have inadequate information on the company's financial health, liabilities and future outlook," a company spokesperson said. Prosus, which has infused over \$500 million into the troubled startup, said that it has recognised a fair value loss of \$493 million on its investment in Byju's in FY24.

A series of financial and corporate governance lapses cost Byju's the trust of its investors who had collectively invested over \$5 billion into the company that sought to leverage technology and reduce barriers to quality education for students. Byju's widening rift with its investors has been out in the open and has reached the courtroom with a group of investors including Prosus filing an oppression and mismanagement suit against the startup's management.

\$22BN TO ZERO

A Steep downturn for the edtech player that was once India's most valued startup

Investors Prosus, General Atlantic, Sofina and Peak XV Partners have also been opposed to Byju's rights

issue and have managed to get a court-approved order restricting the startup from using funds raised through the rights issue. In June last year, Prosus representative Russell Dreisenstock stepped down from Byju's board citing disregard for Dreisenstock's advice and recommendations by Byju's leadership. In Feb, a majority of Byju's investors led by Prosus also voted to oust Byju Raveendran as the CEO while seeking a reconstitution of the company's family run board.

While Byju's bleeds, Prosus' other portfolio company Swiggy's revenues grew 24% while its gross order value grew by 26% y-o-y on the back of healthy order growth and higher average order value in CY2023. "Adjusted Ebitda improved to a loss of \$261 million," Prosus said.

Zee MD Goenka buys majority stake in Maverick

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Zee MD Punit Goenka has acquired a majority stake in Maverick Media, a company that builds and refurbishes single screen theatres, for an undisclosed amount. Goenka, who is also the promoter of Zee, has made this stake purchase in his personal capacity.

"While my professional commitments continue to remain a priority (referring to his executive position at Zee), I believe that as key members of the fraternity, it is our collective responsibility to enhance the growth opportunities for all segments in the media value chain, and hence I have taken this decision in my personal capacity," Goenka said.

Well positioned to capitalise on infra spends, says Adani

Adani Group is "well positioned" to capitalise on opportunities in the country's booming infrastructure sector as spending is expected to surge, chairman Gautam Adani told investors on Monday.

The group, which has businesses across ports, power utilities, transmission and coal trading, is betting on India's infrastructure spending that is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 20-25%, Adani said. "The group has become much 'stronger' since it ca-

me under attack by US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research last year, Adani said at the annual general meeting of the group's flagship company, Adani Enterprises.

Last Jan, Hindenburg accused the Adani Group of improper use of tax havens and stock manipulation. The group, which refuted the allegations, sparked a \$150-billion meltdown in market value as the short-seller's report roiled investor confidence and attracted regulatory scrutiny.

Group companies, including Adani Power and Adani Ports, recouped all their los-

ses and moved past pre-Hindenburg levels last year. Adani Enterprises, too, bounced back past those levels in May.

"The headwinds that tested us became the very ones that made us even stronger," Adani said, pointing to investments from GQG Partners, TotalEnergies and Abu Dhabi conglomerate International Holding after the Hindenburg saga. The SC said in Jan that no further scrutiny was needed on the company. This was after a court-appointed panel said that Sebi "drew a blank" in investigations into suspected violations in overseas investments in the Adani Group. REUTERS

Current a/c surplus for 1st time in 10 qtrs in March qtr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The country's current account balance showed a surplus for the first time in 10 quarters in Q4 FY24. The surplus was a result of higher inflows from service exports and individuals.

In Q4, the surplus was \$5.7 billion compared to a deficit of \$8.7 billion in the previous quarter. The current account position was a 0.6% surplus as a percentage of GDP, compared to a 1% deficit in Q3 FY24.

For the full year, the current account deficit narrowed down to \$23 billion or 0.7% of the GDP from \$67 billion or 2% of GDP in FY23. The current account had turned into

a surplus for the first time in 17 years in FY21 when it was around 0.9% of the GDP. On a quarterly basis, the last surplus was in Q3 FY21 when imports had decreased during the pandemic. Service exports in Q4 FY24 increased by 4.1% year-over-year, driven by more exports of software, travel, and business services. Net service receipts were \$42.7 billion, up from \$39.1 billion a year ago, contributing to the current account surplus in Q4 2023-24.

Receipts from private transfers, primarily remittances sent by Indians working abroad, totalled \$32.0 billion, marking an 11.9% increase compared to the previous year. In Q4 2023-24, net inflows

from external commercial borrowings to India were \$2.6 billion, up from \$1.7 billion a year ago. Non-resident deposits saw a higher net inflow of \$5.4 billion compared to \$3.6 billion in Q4 2022-23. Foreign exchange reserves increased by \$30.8 billion during Q4 2023-24, excluding valuation effects, compared to an increase of \$5.6 billion a year ago. "For FY25, based on early trends, the current account deficit should be manageable at 1-1.5% of GDP, and steady capital inflows should ensure that the balance of payments, which reflects the fundamentals, remain comfortable," said Madan Sabnavis, chief economist of the Bank of Baroda.

Jain raises \$5bn in biggest hedge fund debut since '18

Former co-chief investment officer at Millennium Management, Bobby Jain, has gathered \$5.3 billion in commitments for his new multi-strategy hedge fund, marking the biggest fundraising haul since ExodusPoint Capital Management's record debut.

Jain Global will start trading July 1, according to people familiar with the matter. Investors include endowments, foundations, family offices, bank wealth platforms and sovereign wealth funds.

The premiere caps a busy year for Jain who has travelled the world pitching his fund. He initially aimed to gather as much as \$10 billion. But after struggling to hit that goal, he cut client fees to entice invest-

tors and reduced his target to between \$5 billion and \$6 billion. A representative for the firm declined to comment.

Even with the revised goal, Jain Global is the biggest launch since 2018. Jain topped fellow Millennium alumnus Diego Megia, whose Taula Capital Management began trading this month with \$5 billion. Megia spun out his macro pod from Millennium and received \$3 billion from his former employer. Jain has been raising money in a challenging environment, as interest rates remain elevated and deals have slowed to a trickle. New hedge funds also face stiff competition from bigger multi-strategy funds with established track records. BLOOMBERG

India gained via info sharing with 171 countries: OECD

Lubna.Kabli@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: In 2023, the exchange of information mechanism spearheaded by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which helps tax authorities detect cross-border tax evasion, enabled the Asian members of the Global Forum (including India), to identify at least 1.8 billion euros of tax revenue. During the period 2009-2023, India and 12 other Asian member countries of the Global Forum, identified 21.8 billion euros in additional revenue (tax, interest and penalties) through the use of 'exchange of information on

request (EOIR)' and 'automatic exchange of information (AEOI)', including voluntary disclosure programmes and offshore tax investigations.

The Global Forum's report on 'Tax Transparency in Asia (2024)' released by the OECD on Monday, points out that most Asian members of the forum (the international body engaged in implementation of information exchange) have a network covering more than 140 countries. India has the widest network with an exchange of information relationship with 171 countries and is a significant gainer of this mechanism. China has a network of 166 countries and Singapore of 155 countries.

As country-wise revenue data is confidential, the same was not shared.

Implementation of automatic exchange of information, has been a real game-changer for countries, including India - which, for instance, under the automatic route gets periodical data of bank account details from Switzerland. The report points out that Asian members who participate in AEOI also receive consequent information on financial assets held abroad by their tax residents. In 2023, these countries reported having received information on more than 51 million financial accounts covering assets of a total value of 3.7 trillion euros.



I NEED TO KNOW WHY THAT'S NOT A PENALTY KICK. THE REFEREE IS FROM ARGENTINA. WHY IS IT NOT A EUROPEAN REFEREE? I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE'S HERE AND NOT IN HIS OWN COUNTRY REFEREEING A GAME. IT'S JUST MY OPINION."

—STEVE CLARKE
SCOTLAND COACH, ON BEING DENIED A PENALTY VS HUNGARY

'Southgate's England not being brave'

Michael Owen, ex-England star striker, tells TOI the team's strength is in the attack but the manager is relying too much on a defensive set-up...

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Whenever Michael Owen closes his eyes, and dreams of himself in an England shirt, he sees an 18-year-old boy wonder jinking through the Argentine defenders in Saint-Etienne at the 1998 World Cup and scoring that goal. A goal iconic enough to draw comparisons with a Maradona moment. "I think that's the one that people remember me for," the 44-year-old tells TOI.

A member of England's Golden Generation, Owen best understands the pressure that the current lineup feels as it struggles at the Euros in Germany. Owen knows pressure is unavoidable but points out that there is more to England's malady than just this. Excerpts from a chat...

England started off as favourites, but they are not playing well. What do you think is going wrong?

It's been quite difficult to watch so far. I think Gareth Southgate's probably going to change his team a bit against Slovenia to try to find that missing ingredient. We're going to be all right. We still have time to build.

It's not all doom and gloom. We've got four points and we'll be in the knockouts. Looking at the positives, I don't think many teams that win tournaments start the tournament winning 5-0 and keep going in that vein. If England had won five-nil in the first two games, we'd all be saying, England are going to win the tournament. And maybe that's not the mindset that we want our players and supporters to have. Two matches down, what do you think is not working for the team?

I knew I was going to be frustrated. I think Southgate is an amazing manager in terms of man-management. He creates a great environment. He has great attention to detail. He's been there before as a player. He knows what works.

He's an exceptional manager in a lot of ways. But I knew coming in that I would be disagreeing with his team. Southgate has always played with two holding midfielders, and I've never believed that you need two. Look at the most successful teams

— they all play with one. Rodri plays for Manchester City, probably the best team in the world at the moment. Liverpool, Arsenal, Chelsea, Man United all play the same. I just think it's too defensive to play with two.

Here, Declan Rice has been joined by Trent Alexander-Arnold. Maybe in the next game, it might be a Kobbie Mainoo or Adam Wharton, but I don't think we should be playing that. I think our strength is our attack and how many players we can have (in attack) that affect games.

Declan Rice as the No. 6 is more than enough. We can play our back four. We can play Rice and then we can play two ahead, two wide players and Harry Kane up front. So, I would be trying to get a more attacking team. I'd be trying to get one more player that's more of an advanced player, a Cole Palmer, who's had an amazing season for Chelsea.

I would be trying to get him into our team, but with Southgate, I knew he would be playing with two holding midfielders. We didn't know who he would be playing with Rice. I have a feeling he's going to stick with the same system, which is frustrating, but he might change one or two players. You think England are not being brave?

Absolutely. I think our strength is in our attacking players. We have players like Bukayo Saka, Phil Foden, Palmer, obviously Harry Kane as a striker. Anthony Gordon has had a great season at Newcastle. I'd love to see him play. And then we got players

ENGLAND VS SLOVENIA

Cologne Stadium

HEAD TO HEAD (6 games)

ENGLAND WON 5 | DRAWS 1



FORM GUIDE

SLOVENIA



ENGLAND



(most recent first)



FRUSTRATING: England coach Gareth Southgate needs to let go of the idea of using two holding midfielders, feels Owen

like Jude Bellingham. There are so many good attacking players that we need to squeeze into the team.

What is the best way to involve Trent Alexander-Arnold?

I've always seen him as a right back. He is very dangerous when he comes into the midfield for Liverpool. But coming in from a right back position when nobody is marking you, and then coming in and being on your own is very, very different than just being a player that stays in midfield and has to receive the ball from a right back. (Because) then you've got people behind you, it's a 360 degree position, whereas playing at right back everything's in front of you.

You've really only got 180 degrees to look at. So, I think it's a very different role. And even though he ends up in that position playing for Liverpool, it's so different to actually staying in that position to start with.

Southgate probably won't play him as a right back. I would like to see Rice being the No. 6 and playing Foden and Bellingham ahead in midfield. And I would play Saka or Palmer or Gordon or Palmer. Just try to get an extra attacking midfielder player instead of the No. 6.

You made a case for Cole Palmer...

Anybody that's watched the Premier League last season would see that even in a struggling team like Chelsea, Palmer was just outstanding. He can take the ball, he's very

brave; he's young and he's confident; he's creative, he scores goals. I find it difficult looking at England's bench and seeing his name, knowing what he could contribute. If I were Southgate, I'd be trying to desperately find a role on the pitch for him.

Do you think Southgate is confused about his starting 11 that way?

I don't think he is. Well... in some ways he is. He's always played in this way and the criticism has always been the same. You know, in the last two tournaments, everybody has said, why do we play so defensive? Why are we playing two 'Sixes' or midfield players? He has always done this, which is why I knew I'd be frustrated that some of our best players were going to have to be on the bench. Maybe what he's confused with now is who to play as the other No. 6 because we always had Kalvin Phillips and Rice in previous tournaments.

Phillips is not there now. Jordan Henderson is not there either. And trying to find that replacement is what he's a bit confused about. But if it was me, I wouldn't be trying to find a replacement. I'd just be leaving Rice there on his own and getting one of the other players into the team.

What I'm debating and what I'm arguing with is not the players necessarily he's selecting, it's more the system. And if he's going to play that system, of course he can't

play Cole. He can't play a lot of players that I would love him to play. He's not done that for a long time. I don't think he's going to change now.

Do you think players should take more responsibility for their performances?

I think players, at the end of the day, do take responsibility. They're the ones that are out on the pitch and they're the ones that get criticized. So, I totally understand Harry Kane saying what he said (reacting to Gary Lineker's comments). I thought his words were very well measured and very responsible and on behalf of the team, as the captain, I thought it was very good.

You're never going to change pundits. If it's not Lineker, it's some-



THAT MOMENT: Owen, 18, holds off Argentina's Jose Chamot on his way to scoring an iconic goal in the 1998 World Cup

body else. But then, it's very accurate for Kane to say, hang on a minute, some of you have played before, you know how difficult it is to represent England with all the expectations.

The longer England go without winning a tournament, the more pressure grows, the more difficult it is to be able to cope with it. Then your confidence is being drained by people that are criticizing you all the time and the pressure mounts and you don't play well. It's just very difficult being an England player. It has been very difficult being an England player for a long time now. But I don't really know the solution.

What about your generation?

The pressure was probably on me and my teammates more than any player in the last few decades. We were classed as a golden generation that everybody thought would go and win competitions. It's something that you've got to be able to manage as an England player. Not every player can do it. One of the big criticisms over the years is, why don't our players play as good for England as they do at club level? You can only put it down to the pressure.

(Watch UEFA Euro 2024 on Sony LIV in six language options)

STANDINGS

GROUP A

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Ger*	3	2	1	0	6	7
Swi*	3	1	2	0	2	5
Hun	3	1	0	2	-3	3
Scot	3	0	1	2	-5	1

GROUP B

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Spain*	2	2	0	0	6	6
Italy	2	1	0	1	0	3
Alb	2	0	1	1	-1	1
Cro	2	0	1	1	-3	1

GROUP C

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Eng	2	1	1	0	1	4
Den	2	0	2	0	0	2
Slo'nia	2	0	2	0	0	2
Serbia	2	0	1	1	-1	1

GROUP D

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Fra	2	1	1	0	1	4
Ned	2	1	1	0	1	4
Aut	2	1	0	1	1	3
Pol	2	0	0	2	-3	0

GROUP E

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Rom	2	1	0	1	1	3
Bel	2	1	0	1	1	3
Svk	2	1	0	1	0	3
Ukr	2	1	0	1	-2	3

GROUP F

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Port*	2	2	0	0	4	6
Tur	2	1	0	1	-1	3
Cze	2	0	1	1	-1	1
Geo	2	0	1	1	-2	1

* Qualified for Last 16; Table updated till Sunday night matches

TONIGHT'S TUSSLES

Group D	Time
France vs Poland	9.30pm
Netherlands vs Austria	9.30pm
Group C	Time
Denmark vs Serbia	12.30am
England vs Slovenia	12.30am

Live on Sony Sports Network



GOING TO THE TOP: Germany's Fuellkrug celebrates after scoring the equaliser in added time against Switzerland

Khaka hails Swiss after reaching knockouts

Fuellkrug's Late Equaliser Helps Germany Top Group

Frankfurt: Germany survived a scare to finish top of Group A as Niclas Fuellkrug's stoppage-time goal rescued a 1-1 draw against Switzerland on Sunday. Their well-drilled opponents demonstrated an effective means of nullifying the host nation's talented side.

Switzerland sat deep to frustrate Germany's attacking players and, though Jamal Musiala showed glimpses of his ability to break the lines, the Swiss succeeded until substitute Niclas Fuellkrug's 92nd-minute equaliser.

Kai Havertz spurned a number of half chances and defender Antonio Rudiger should have done better with a first-half header but Germany, who had a goal disal-

lowed at 0-0, had few clear opportunities until late on.

Germany dominated possession completed more than double the number of passes Switzerland managed and had 18 shots on goal — though only three of those were on target. The Swiss, meanwhile,

were clinical: Dan Ndoye's acrobatic volley put away either side's best chance in the first half. "When you see how the Germans celebrated their goal that says everything," said Switzerland captain Granit Xhaka, named player of the match. "This team is hungry, this team has a completely new mentality, will, passion," he said. "And we want to show that again in the round of 16." AGENCIES

SWITZERLAND	1
Ndoye 28	
GERMANY	1
Fuellkrug 90+2	



MOMENT OF IMPACT: Hungary's Barnabas (on ground), Scotland's Gunn (yellow) collide on Sunday

Varga horror injury mars Hungary's win

Szoboszlai Livid At In-Stadia Medical Response

Dusseldorf: Kevin Csoboth scored in the 10th minute of added time after a frightening injury to Barnabas Varga as Hungary snatched a 1-0 win over Scotland to stay in the hunt for a place in the last 16.

Hungary captain Dominik Szoboszlai has criticised medical staff for what he saw as a slow response to Barnabas Varga's nasty collision. Szoboszlai was among Hungarian players waving frantically for help as Varga, who fractured several bones in his face, lay motionless on the ground after a collision with Scottish keeper Angus Gunn 68 minutes into the game.

"I don't understand this kind of protocol, why the medical staff don't rush in at this time?" Szoboszlai said.

Coach Marco Rossi confirmed Varga regained consciousness before leaving the field and was taken to hospital where his condition was stable. Hungary must wait for the outcome of other group matches to see if they will advance to the next round as one of four best third-place finishers.

Szoboszlai celebrated the victory by wearing Varga's spare shirt turned back to front. It was a bitter end to Scotland's bid to reach the knockout phase for the first time. AGENCIES

SCOTLAND	0
Csoboth 90+10	
HUNGARY	1
Csoboth 90+10	

France wait for Mbappe return and goals to flow

Dortmund: France appear almost certain to reach the last 16 but they are hoping to have Kylian Mbappe back, and rediscover their goal-scoring touch, when they face Poland in their final Group D game on Tuesday.

France have four points from two matches but have only scored one goal, off Austrian Woeber's own goal.

That gave France a 1-0 win against Austria in their opening match, before they drew 0-0 with the Netherlands in the absence of Mbappe.

Mbappe played no part against the Dutch as he recovers from the broken nose he suffered in a collision late on against Austria. He will need to wear a protective mask over his nose when he returns to action, and has been training wearing one.

"I think everyone knows he is really eager to play in the next match. That won't surprise anyone," teammate Aurelien Tchouameni said. AFP

VAN DIJK UNDERSTANDS CRITICISM OF ORANJE

Wolfsburg: Netherlands captain Virgil van Dijk said he understands the criticism of his team despite the Dutch picking up four points out of a possible six in Group D. The Netherlands are hoping to pinch top spot in Group D ahead of France but on Tuesday face a confident Austria side who may need a positive result to reach the last 16.

"Against France we were more compact as a team. Keeping a clean sheet against the World Cup runners-up is good. But in possession of the ball, we were very poor," Van Dijk said. The Dutch team came under fire from TV pundits and newspaper columnists following the game but Van Dijk was unfrustrated by the criticism.

"If it irritated me, I would have a very unpleasant life. Expectations are high. We have a good team. We want to show it in big matches." AGENCIES

FRANCE VS POLAND

BVB Stadion Dortmund

HEAD TO HEAD (17 games)



FORM GUIDE



N'LANDS VS AUSTRIA

Olympiastadion

HEAD TO HEAD (20 games)



FORM GUIDE



BACK-TO-THE-WALL SERBIA CONFIDENT, SAYS MIDFIELDER BIRMANCEVIC

Munich: Serbia have their backs against the wall but are confident of the win they require against Denmark to reach the last 16 at Euro 2024, midfielder Veljko Birmancevic said on Sunday.

Dragan Stojkovic's side have one point from two games to sit bottom of Group C and, while a draw could mathematically prove enough to stay in the tournament, they want to leave nothing to chance in Munich. "We have no options for comfort, we have reached the wall," Stojkovic said. "There is no going back and we can only go forward. If you want to move forward, you have to win."

They pushed England hard in their opening 1-0 loss and then grabbed a stoppage-time equaliser in the 1-1 draw with Slovenia but are in danger of an early exit. "Everyone is ready to give 100%. We learned a lot from these two games."

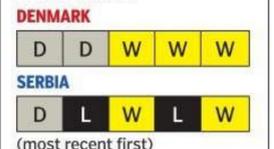
DENMARK VS SERBIA

Munich Football Arena

HEAD TO HEAD (10 games)



FORM GUIDE



Uruguay's Bielsa sees room for improvement in 3-1 win

Miami Gardens: Uruguay opened their Copa America campaign with a 3-1 win over Panama on Sunday but head coach Marcelo Bielsa was quick to temper expectations and said they must continue to improve.

Maximiliano Araujo scored when he sent a long-range shot into the top far corner in the 16th minute. Darwin Nunez and Matias Vina added late goals and Uruguay beat Panama 3-1.

Bielsa took charge of Uruguay in May last year and steered them

through a transitional period in which veterans Edinson Cavani and Diego Godin both retired, with all-time leading goalscorer Luis Suarez looking set to follow suit soon.

The 15-times Copa America winners have been in excellent form over the last several months, beating both Argentina and Brazil in World Cup qualifiers.

Those results have sparked hope of a record 16th continental crown for "La Celeste" but Bielsa said they were taking it one game at a time.



ON FULL TILT: Uruguay's Federico Valverde (No.15) fights for the ball with Panama's goalkeeper Orlando Mosquera in Miami on Sunday

"When it comes to Uruguay's aspirations, we will see that and build it match by match," he said.

"My expectation is that each match will increasingly help us to improve on our level. Uruguay have players of a very good level and we need to see if I can build with those players." Uruguay dominated the opening 45 minutes as they pressed and harried Panama but their energy levels appeared to drop in the second half.

Panama looked likely to grab an equaliser after the break and Uruguay only regained control after Darwin Nunez's goal in the 85th minute. "The first half gave us the edge over our opponent. We should

have scored more," Bielsa said. "In the second half, there were 15 minutes where we performed very poorly. They dominated the ball during that time and they created opportunities where we were only leading by one goal and if they had scored, it would have been complicated for us."

"We missed five goals and we scored one in the first half and then we missed five and scored two in the second half."

Uruguay next face Bolivia in New Jersey on Thursday. Seeking a record 16th Copa America title, Uruguay dominated with 20 shots, including seven on target. Amir Murillo scored late into stoppage time for Panama.

PULISIC SCORES, ASSISTS TO LEAD USA TO VICTORY OVER BOLIVIA

Arlington: Christian Pulisic scored one goal and set up another as the United States launched their Copa America campaign with a clinical 2-0 Group C victory over Bolivia on Sunday.

US captain Pulisic curled in a superb early goal before teeing up a second for striker Folarin Balogun just before half-time at the AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

That two-goal salvo was enough to secure a vital three points for Gregg Berhalter's side. Pulisic was clearly in no mood to let the South Americans improve that record of futility, firing the hosts into the lead after only three minutes. AGENCIES

T20 WORLD CUP

"A LOT OF RELIEF TO GET THROUGH TO THE SEMIFINAL. NOT GOING TO BE BRAINWASHED BY THAT. WE WOULD HAVE LIKED TO BE MORE CONVINCING WITH BAT IN HAND. THE WICKET PLAYED NICELY AFTER THE RAIN BREAK."

—Aiden Markram | SA SKIPPER



ROHIT SPECIAL SPOOKS OZ

Skipper's Blazing 92 Helps India Win By 24 Runs, Set Up Semis Date With England

TIMES IN THE CARIBBEAN
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St. Lucia: There's an active volcano in a small town called Soufriere, about 55 kilometres away from where India were playing Australia on Monday. The fumes that emanate from the eye of the volcano gives one the feeling that the mountains are angry. It seemed that everyone with India in their hearts at the Darren Sammy International Stadium here on Monday were physical representations of that volcano. No one had forgotten Ahmedabad, Nov 19 — the day Australia snatched the ODI World Cup from India last year — and it was payback time.

Now, India will play England in the semifinal on the spinner-friendly Guyana track on Thursday while Australia's fate isn't in their hands: they are out if Afghanistan beat Bangladesh, or if Bangladesh win big. The architect of India's win was 'Hitman' Rohit Sharma himself. His mood on Monday was something similar to what it was in Ahmedabad in the World Cup final. But his innings had been cut short by an outstanding catch by Travis Head.

Here in St. Lucia, there wasn't any such otherworldly activity that could stop Rohit as he played the innings of the World Cup so far. It was Rohit's 92 off 41 balls that was the cornerstone of India's 205-5 which left the Aussies stunned once they had put India in. After Virat Kohli (0) failed once again, it was a complete Rohit show for the next 10 overs or so. It started with the first ball of the third over by Mitchell Starc which the left-arm pacer tried to bowl full and Rohit's slash over cover went for a six.

Rohit smashed four sixes and a four in that over which yielded 29 and swung the momentum in India's favour. Rohit didn't care who the bowler was,

he just knew he had to go after him. Anything in his hitting range was going over the top while those dropped short were pulled with power. It was Rohit's uncluttered mindset that was that was central to this onslaught.

The dominance of Rohit was highlighted by the fact that India were 52-1 in the sixth over when he reached his 50. An innings of this quality deserved a century as a topping, but Starc, coming back for his second spell, finally landed a yorker that hit the inside edge of Rohit's bat and knocked the stumps over.

When Rohit was dismissed in 11.2 overs, the score was 127. After that, off the 52 balls, India managed 78, which proves that run-scoring probably wasn't as easy as Rohit made it seem. Still, India managed a score which was big enough.

The Aussies, though, tried with Head (76 off 43 balls) taking life in his hands and going after the Indian bowling. There were periods during their chase when it seemed that the target was actu-

19 Balls taken by **ROHIT** to race to his fifty — the seventh quickest in the history of T20 World Cup. Among the Indians, his fifty is the third fastest behind Yuvraj Singh's world-record 12-ball fifty vs England at Durban on Sep 19, 2007 and KL Rahul's 18-ball fifty vs Scotland at Dubai (DICS) on Nov.5, 2021.

ally achievable.

But somewhere in the middle, left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav (2-24) bowled an outstanding spell that halted the Aussies in their tracks. He was assisted by a brilliant one-handed catch at deep square-leg by Axar Patel to dismiss Aussie No. 3 Mitchell Marsh, which was one of the turning points of the game.

Still, there was a Head to deal with, but with wickets falling at the other end, you could gauge that the swashbuckler was getting impatient. Coming back for his second spell, he induced an edge off Head and it was fitting that Rohit completed a skier. The rest was a formality.

SMASH HIT: Rohit Sharma was in full flow during his 92 vs Australia

THE FIFTIES AND HUNDREDS DON'T MATTER, I WANTED TO BAT WITH THE SAME TEMPO AND CARRY ON. YOU WANT TO MAKE THE BOWLERS THINK WHERE THE NEXT SHOT IS COMING" — Rohit Sharma



92 RUNS
41 BALLS
7 4S
8 6S

8 Rohit Sharma has become the first captain to hit eight sixes in an innings in T20 World Cup, eclipsing the seven each hit by Chris Gayle and Jos Buttler. Rohit also has become the first batter to hit five sixes within the powerplay in a T20 international.

SCOREBOARD

India: Rohit Sharma b Starc 92, Virat Kohli c David b Hazlewood 0, Rishabh Pant c Hazlewood b Stoinis 15, Suryakumar Yadav c Wade b Starc 31, Shivam Dube c Warner b Stoinis 28, Hardik Pandya not out 27, Ravindra Jadeja not out 9. **Extras** (lb 1, w 2) 3. **Total** (for five wickets, 20 overs), 205.
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-93, 3-127, 4-159, 5-194.
Bowling: Mitchell Starc 4-0-45-2, Josh Hazlewood 4-0-14-1, Pat Cummins 4-0-48-0, Adam Zampa 4-0-41-0, Marcus Stoinis 4-0-56-2.
Australia: David Warner c Yadav b Arshdeep Singh 6, Travis Head c Sharma b Bumrah 76, Mitchell Marsh (c) c Patel b Kuldeep Yadav 37, Glenn Maxwell b Kuldeep Yadav 20, Marcus Stoinis c Pandya b Patel 2, Tim David c Bumrah b Arshdeep Singh 15, Matthew Wade c Kuldeep Yadav b Arshdeep Singh 11, Pat Cummins not out 11, Mitchell Starc not out 4.
Extras (b 5, lb 1, w 3) 9. **Total** (for seven wickets, 20 overs) 181.
Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-87, 3-128, 4-135, 5-150, 6-153, 7-166.
Bowling: Arshdeep Singh 4-0-37-3, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-29-1, Axar Patel 3-0-21-1, Hardik Pandya 4-0-47-0, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-24-2, Ravindra Jadeja 1-0-17-0.
Result: India won by 24 runs.
Player-of-the-Match: Rohit Sharma.

203 Number of sixes in 149 innings hit by Rohit Sharma to become the first batter to complete a double century of sixes in T20is — 103 in 60 innings as captain and 100 in 89 innings when not captain.



South African chinaman Tabraiz Shamsi's three-wicket burst crippled the West Indies in the middle overs at North Sound

No choke, just clutch as SA pip Windies to SF

North Sound (Antigua): South Africa's golden generation of white-ball cricketers took a big step towards erasing the "eternal chokers" tag by keeping their composure to enter the semifinals of the T20 World Cup, beating a formidable West Indies by three wickets in a thrilling rain-truncated Super 8s game here.

After part-time magician and full-time wrist spinner Tabraiz Shamsi (3/27), along with his slow bowling colleagues Keshav Maharaj (1/24) and skipper Aiden Markram (1/28), restricted West Indies to a manageable 135 for 8. South Africa achieved the revised target of 123 with five balls to spare.

The Proteas were 15/2 in two overs when rain disrupted proceedings. With this win, South Africa topped Group 1 followed by defending champions England as the second semifinalist from it. Tristan Stubbs (29 off 27 balls), one of the most talked-about among young T20 batters, set up the chase in company of Heinrich Klaassen (22 off 10 balls) for the South Africans.

But it was Marco Jansen (21 not out off 14 balls), who hit a beautiful six down the ground off the first ball of the 17th over bowled by left-arm pacer Obed McCoy to seal the deal. Equally praiseworthy was Kagiso Rabada's copybook cover drive off Roston Chase when South Africa required 9 off 7 balls.

It was an unfair rain-rule in the 1992 ODI World Cup that saw South Africa bow out of the semi-finals against England and often the Proteas found ways to lose important games of cricket. But on Sunday night in North Sound, the one-hour rain delay did a world of good for their batters as the pitch suddenly became better for batting with the ball skidding and coming on easily.

Group 1					
Teams	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
Ind (Q)	3	3	0	2.017	6
AUS	3	1	2	-0.331	2
AF	2	1	1	-0.650	2
BAN	2	0	2	-2.489	0
Group 2					
Teams	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
SA (Q)	3	3	0	0.599	6
Eng (Q)	3	2	1	1.992	4
WI	3	1	2	0.963	2
USA	3	0	3	-3.906	0

7 South Africa, with seven successive wins, have become the first team to register seven victories in a T20 WC competition, surpassing the six each by Sri Lanka (2009), Australia (2010 & 2021-22).

3/27 Tabraiz Shamsi has produced his best bowling performance vs West Indies in T20is, eclipsing the 2-13 (twice) — both times at St. George's on June 29 & July 1, 2021.

62 Number of sixes hit by West Indian batters in seven matches — a record by a team in a T20 World Cup competition, going past the 57 sixes in seven matches by Australia in 2010.

In hindsight, the 57 dot balls West Indies faced proved to be costly for the hosts as the innings just stalled in the middle overs. AGENCIES

Brief scores: West Indies 135/8 in 20 overs (Roston Chase 52, Kyle Mayers 35; Tabraiz Shamsi 3/27) **lost to South Africa 124/7 in 16.1 overs** (Tristan Stubbs 29; Roston Chase 3/12, Andre Russell 2/19).

TRYING TO GET A BIGGER PLAYER POOL IN THE US: ANDERSON

Bridgetown (Barbados): Their fairytale run was cut short by the "Big Boys" but USA batter Corey Anderson says his assorted team is signing off from the T20 World Cup here with his head held high and "heaps of learnings".
"I mean sky's the limit really...the last few years there's always been whispers around what's happening in America with cricket...hopefully in years to come as well, we can kind of grow that," Anderson, who is from New Zealand and even played 93 games for that country before shifting base to the USA, said following their campaign-ending loss to England on Sunday. AGENCIES



COREY ANDERSON

Party is over for WI fans but skipper Powell urges them to not turn away

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St. Lucia: Travelling through the West Indies for the last few days, one felt there was a sense of hope developing among those who still care for cricket in this part of the world.

Be it in conversations with the cab driver or a new acquaintance in the roadside bar or the fisherman taking you out for a boat ride on the Caribbean sea, everyone felt there was a chance for the West Indies. It wasn't exactly a chest-thumping super-confidence that the world is all theirs, but a ray of hope that this World Cup might be the start of a cricketing revival in the region.

However, that wasn't to be. West Indies flattered for a while, only to deceive at the end in a virtual quarterfinal with South Africa in the Super 8 clash. Gregory, a man in his 40s donning a Barcelona shirt in a small town called Soufriere, near the active volcano in the Piton Mountains in St. Lucia says: "It's hard times man, my football team (Barcelona) isn't the team I knew anymore. Was hoping West Indies will play you guys in the semis or final, that's also not happening."

Cricket in the West Indies has been in perpetual decline over the last two decades. The national team doesn't win enough to get the GenNext hooked to it. Being unable to qualify for the ODI World Cup last year was the nadir.



The Windies fans were hopeful of the team making the knockout stages of a home World Cup

Still, you can feel a genuine love for the sport. In the roadside bars during the famous Friday street party in St. Lucia, it was cricket that was being played on the TVs as Indian fans mingled in with the locals, shaking their leg to some reggae beats.

Dileep, a chartered accountant in his 70s from Guyana who now lives in Canada, had flown down with his family for a vacation that included cricket in this lovely island country. "My favourite was Roy Fredericks. The way that little man used to play Dennis Lillee, my god...we don't have such guys anymore. Still, we don't give up hope. That's why we still take time off from our schedules to come and watch cricket." Dileep, in his 70s, says, buying a fresh round of beer for "a new friend".

The locals in St. Lucia were slightly more expectant because the current

West Indies team is being coached by a local boy Darren Sammy, the only St. Lucian who also led the country. "His house is just around the team. We all feel proud of him. There's a sports school, too, nearby where he has put in some effort. Just wanted his team to do well." Terrol, who runs a bed and breakfast by Rodney Bay, said the other day.

A meaningful performance in this T20 World Cup would probably have reignited the passion among the youth who have more in life "that rooting for a losing team". But during the course of this World Cup, West Indies did show glimpses and skipper Rowman Powell urged the fans not to turn their backs despite the soul-crunching defeat.

"We are disappointed because we thought we had the personnel within our room to actually win a home World Cup. But having said that we have played good cricket, we have entertained them in patches, and it's just for them to keep on supporting us. How important the support is in whatever you do, so, I would implore them to just keep on working with us, keep on supporting us over the last 12 months," Powell said, mentioning that for the first time West Indies have been ranked No. 3 in T20s in the world.

But is it enough to keep the fans who need that sense of a victory to keep them going after a hard day's work? We will see...

Shamsi hits out at 'ridiculous' criticism by former players

South Africa leg-spinner Tabraiz Shamsi lambasted his team's "ridiculous" critics after the Proteas won another T20 World Cup nail-biter to reach the semifinals. Shamsi claimed 3-27 in Sunday's three-wicket win over two-time champions West Indies as South Africa chalked up a seventh win in seven games at the tournament.

The 34-year-old took the wickets of dangerous opener Kyle Mayers and top-scoring Roston Chase in his four overs. Four days earlier, he had conceded 50 runs on the same ground as the United States threatened a shock victory and he was dropped for the victory over England.

"In the previous game I bowled later in the innings and I went for 50 and there were certain critics coming out from the woodwork, speaking about pressure and how I can't handle pressure," said Shamsi.

"I think in a quarter-final match I hope that was enough pressure for me to respond to."

Shamsi said he was dismayed by the criticism he and his team have faced in their campaign. "It's just a little bit ridiculous when it's ex-players," said Shamsi.

"When they were on the field they did the same things. As cricketers we know sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't." AGENCIES

Afghan fans over the moon after historic win vs Oz

Kabul: Beleaguered Afghans were riding high Monday after a historic weekend T20 World Cup victory over Australia spread a rare mood of euphoria across the country. "With every ball, every run, every boundary, every wicket, I wasn't able to hold my emotions," said university student Zamir Afghan in the capital Kabul. "It was very early morning, but I was jumping, screaming, I was not able to contain myself," the 20-year-old said. "I couldn't stop my tears."

"Afghanistan as a nation has suffered

a lot, such moments are rare for us," said Afghan. Whilst cricket is hugely popular in Afghanistan, the match over 11,000 kilometres (7,000 miles) away in Arnos Vale on the Caribbean island of St Vincent, took place around dawn local time.

Though the last ball was bowled around 8:30 am on Sunday, many diehard fans had been awake to witness the win. In eastern Khost city, around 1,000 raucous cricket fans gathered to bask in the glow of fireworks early on Sunday morning in half

an hour of revelry swiftly broken up by Taliban security forces.

An uncowed smaller crowd came together again at night, clapping as they lit off more pyrotechnics. Since the Taliban took over in August 2021 and introduced an austere vision of Islam, scenes of public jubilation have been rare. "Such moments are special for everyone," said 18-year-old fruit shop worker Saddam Saleh. "Beating mighty Australia is not something small."

Afghanistan has been isolated since the

withdrawal of foreign forces and the collapse of the US-backed government, with diplomats wary of engaging with Taliban rulers. The isolation has spilled into the world of sport. Cricket Australia has withdrawn from bilateral series because of the "deterioration in human rights" for women and girls in Afghanistan.

"The Afghanistan national team responded to their disrespect on the pitch," said 32-year-old Shahid, who goes by only one name. "No one should ever underestimate the greatness of Afghanistan." AFP

England spinner Bashir concedes 38 runs in an over

Worcester: England spinner Shoaib Bashir made unwanted history on Monday when he conceded 38 runs in a single over in an English county championship match. Playing for Worcestershire, Bashir was hit for five straight sixes by Surrey's Dan Lawrence. The sixth ball was fired down the leg and went for five wides. Bashir then bowled a no ball for which the penalty is two runs and Lawrence took a single before Bashir finished with a dot ball. AFP

Gill to lead young Indian squad for Zim tour

Riyan first from northeast to get call-up, Mumbai's Deshpande included

New Delhi: Dashing Assam batter Riyan Parag on Monday became the first player from northeast to get an India call-up in the new-look T20 squad led by Shubman Gill for next month's five-match series against Zimbabwe which will not feature any of the senior stars.

The series starting July 6 will be held entirely in Harare.

Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Ja-



The average age of Shubman Gill-led squad for Zimbabwe series is around 25

deja have been rested. Even the likes of Shivam Dube, Arshdeep Singh and Kuldeep Yadav have been given a break. It is believed that the selectors want to broaden the pool of players looking at the 2026 T20 World Cup.

Parag was rewarded for his stellar outing with Rajasthan Royals during which he scored 573 runs. Joining him from the Royals' camp was his franchise captain Sanju Samson and Dhruv Jurel as the two wicketkeepers in the side.

Punjab skipper Abhishek Sharma, who had a mind-blowing IPL for the Sunrisers Hyderabad and his franchise teammate Nitish Kumar Reddy from Andhra Pradesh are among the three rookies in the squad of 15 where only pacer Mukesh Kumar is on the wrong side of 30s. The average age of the squad is roughly around 25.

Mumbai pacer Tusshar Deshpande, who has had a decent outing

with the Chennai Super Kings over the last couple of years, was included as well. Gill, who led Gujarat Titans this IPL season, was unlucky to miss out on a T20 World Cup berth. But for the Zimbabwe tour, the selectors have included all the standbys—Gill, Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed and Rinku Singh along with Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal. In case of Yuzvendra Chahal, selectors felt that playing him won't serve any purpose. **PTI Squad:** Shubman Gill (captain), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Abhishek Sharma, Rinku Singh, Sanju Samson (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Nitish Reddy, Riyan Parag, Washington Sundar, Rav Bishnoi, Avesh Khan, Khaleel Ahmed, Mukesh Kumar, Tusshar Deshpande.

Vizag lad Nitish over the moon with maiden call-up

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Hyderabad: Nitish Kumar Reddy, who was adjudged Emerging Player of the Year in the 2024 IPL, was over the moon after being named in the Indian side for the T20 series against Zimbabwe. Speaking to TOI, Nitish said: "I am very happy. I was not expecting to get selected so early. It's my dream to play

for the country and to be able to make it so quickly makes it sweet."

The 21-year-old from Visakhapatnam said IPL success fast-tracked him to the Indian team. "I came to know a few minutes ago. After my performance in IPL, I thought of my dream. To be able to realise it is unbelievable."

Nitish scored 303 runs in 13 matches for SRH with an impressive strike rate of 142.92 to showcase his prowess with the bat. But he is keen to perform the role of an all-rounder.

SNAPSHOTS

11-member team for Asian squash

An 11-member squad will represent India at the 31st Asian Junior Individual Squash Championships in Islamabad beginning on Tuesday. Nine of the players are seeded in the top-10 in their respective age-group categories in the five-day meet. **PTI**

India squad (with seedings): Boys U-17: 6-Yusha Nafees, U-15: 2-Shiven Agarwal, Lokesh Subramani; **U-13:** Dhruv Bopana. **Girls U-19:** 5-Nirupama Dubey, 8-Shameena Riaz; **U-17:** 6-Unnati Tripathi; **U-15:** 8-Anika Dubey, 9-Diva Shah; **U-13:** 2-Aadya Budhia; 4-Goushika M.

MCA SGM on Jul 23 to elect interim president: The Mumbai Cricket Association will conduct the election of its interim president, following the untimely demise of its president Amol Kale, at a Special General Meeting (SGM) on Jul 23 at the Wankhede Stadium, MCA secretary Ajinkya Naik mentioned in a notice to the members of the association on Monday, reports **Gaurav Gupta**.

Aarush, Ananya score hard-fought wins: Aarush Jalan fought from a game down to defeat Saarth Vavle 7-15, 15-14, 15-13 in a boys' U-17 singles first round match of the District Badminton Championship. In another encounter, Ananya Kaddare defeated Saanchi Santi 15-10, 12-15, 15-11 in a girls' U-17 singles first round match. **TNN**

Lyles wins 100m at US trials to qualify for Oly: World 100 metres champion Noah Lyles claimed a measure of redemption by winning the 100m at the US athletics trials on Sunday, booking his ticket to the Paris Olympics. Lyles won in a personal best 9.83 seconds in Eugene, Oregon. **AFP**

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: ICC T20 WC, Afghanistan vs Bangladesh, 6 am (Star Sports)
FOOTBALL: Euro 2024, France vs Poland; Netherlands vs Austria, 9.30 pm; Denmark vs Serbia; England vs Slovenia, 12.30 am Wednesday (Sony Sports)

‘Everyone else was wrong except him’

AIFF Hits Back At Stimac, Says Players Raised Concerns Over Croat's Coaching Style & Tactics

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Panaji: Last week, when the All India Football Federation (AIFF) terminated Igor Stimac's services, the head coach asked team manager Velu Dhalayamani to form a WhatsApp group, comprising all players who had represented the country under the Croat during the last five years. About 100-odd footballers were part of the group. Stimac first posted a farewell message and then the players responded. "I don't want to read out the messages because I'll start crying," the coach told reporters during his last media interaction.

Turns out not every player meant what they said on the group. According to the AIFF, several players had brought their concern regarding Stimac's "coaching style and tactics" to the attention of the federation on multiple occasions, before he was eventually sacked.

"Despite all the support, the coach always sought to deflect blame and according to him everything and everyone else was wrong and responsible for any given situation, except himself," the AIFF said in a statement on Monday, refuting several points that Stimac had made during his press conference last week. "This sentiment was also shared by various players who had brought their concerns regarding Stimac's coaching style and



ALL NOT ON BOARD: Igor Stimac's selection of support staff "was the subject of disquiet among many players", the AIFF has said, in a strong rebuttal of the Croat's claims

tactics to the attention of the AIFF on multiple occasions. His selection of support staff had also gone unquestioned and was the subject of disquiet among many players." The AIFF also said they were shocked to note Stimac's dependence on an astrologer to determine player's call ups and team selections.

In its defence for sacking Stimac with immediate effect last week, AIFF said the coach's conduct left a lot to be desired. The charges include making misleading claims about the GPS vests — lost by the airline in transit during team's travel — and misrepresenting facts to gain sympathy from other nation's coaches at the reputational cost of India. The AIFF also claimed that three days prior to the all-important World Cup qualifier against Kuwait in Kolkata, it received a legal notice from Stimac's lawyer alleging that the AIFF had breached his

contract by allegedly misquoting him in a press release made in September 2023, when he had thanked those who made the release of players for the Asian Games possible.

"It appears that Stimac was more concerned about finding specious reasons to end his coaching stint in a manner favourable to himself rather than focusing on the team's preparations for perhaps the most important match in the Indian national team's recent history," said the AIFF. Stimac's public statements that he underwent heart surgery during his engagement with the AIFF didn't go down well with the federation. "He irresponsibly blamed the AIFF for causing his heart ailment, attempting to deflect the serious matter of his not having been medically fit to render coaching services and his failure to formally disclose the same to the federation."

BCCI to review domestic cricket revamp after 1 year

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Mumbai: The BCCI will review certain changes, like removing the zonal system in the Duleep Trophy, and doing away with toss in the Col CK Nayudu Trophy (for under-23), for the 2024-25 domestic season, next year, BCCI secretary assured state association representatives at an informal meeting, largely around a discussion on domestic cricket revamp, with the office-bearers at the BCCI HQ on Monday.

TOI had exclusively reported about the meeting in its June 22 edition. "Honorary secretary had sought feedback on the new domestic structure planned for the 2024-25 season.

This new structure, implemented on the recommendations of NCA head of cricket VVS Laxman, Team India (senior men) head Coach Rahul Dravid, and chairman of the senior selection committee Ajit Agarkar, will be reviewed after one year," the BCCI said in a statement.

Based on the recommendations of this special committee, the BCCI has decided that, as has happened earlier, the national selectors would pick four teams for the Duleep Trophy. However, it's learnt that a few state associations expressed reservations about this format and want the zonal system back for the red-ball tournament. "A few state units pointed out that their selectors have a better idea

about the talent of a cricketer from their region, rather than a national selector. It was emphasized that state unit selectors should be involved in at least the Duleep Trophy selection," a source told this paper.

It's learnt that the BCCI urged the state units to provide more remuneration to their players, along the lines of the Mumbai Cricket Association, which has decided to give its players as much match fees as BCCI gives to them for the Ranji Trophy.

Shah also updated the members on the development of the new Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru and the establishment of indoor academies in the North-Eastern states, Patna, and Jammu & Kashmir."

India's Oly trip to cost ₹33.68cr

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New Delhi: Indian contingent's trip to the Paris Olympics will cost the exchequer Rs 33.68 crore — more than double of what was spent from the govt's coffers during the Tokyo Games in 2021. The Games will run from July 26 to August 11.

TOI has learnt that the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has worked out a detailed budget estimate for the Paris Games and the amount to be spent on the travel, accommodation, equipment and logistics needs of athletes, support staff and the govt and IOA delegates would be around Rs 33 crore.

For Tokyo, the govt had spent Rs 13.13 crore. The budget has been prepared considering the size of India's contingent, which will have 195 members.

A total of Rs 14 crore has been earmarked for athlete-related activities, including reward money for sportspersons and teams winning medals for the country. A significant part

of the overall budget, comprising Rs 12 crore, would be borne by the sports ministry.

The airfare (195 persons) alone will cost Rs 3.41 crore, while Rs 2.04 crore (@\$50 for 25 days on 195 persons) will be spent on out-of-pocket allowance. A huge amount — Rs 18.90 crore — will be spent on delegates and IOA's executive committee (EC) members and headquarter officials. Significantly, the TA/DA paid to EC members will alone cost Rs 8.4 crore.

IOA has a 12-member EC, including president P T Usha, senior vice-president Ajay H Patel and treasurer Sahdev Yadav, among others. Rs 1.2 crore will be spent on EC members' visits to ceremonies and on their match tickets.

The budget estimate for Paris has led to another round of showdown between Usha and EC members.

After Usha shared the Paris budget with the EC members and sought their concurrence, Yadav wrote a letter demanding convening of an urgent EC meeting.

ARCHERS SECURE TEAM QUOTAS FOR OLYMPICS

Kolkata: As expected, India secured both men's and women's team quota places in archery for the Paris Olympics based on the updated world rankings on Monday. India topped the rankings among the non-qualified nations after the World Cup Stage III, the last international event before the Games, in both sections to seal their team quotas of three places each. India will, thus, be eligible to compete in all the five medal events in Paris — men's and women's team, individual and mixed categories.

Dhiraj Bommadevara and Bhajan Kaur previously earned individual quota places but India failed to win team quota places in the qualifier events.

In the men's section, India and China made the cut, while in the women's section Indonesia was the second nation to secure the team quotas through rankings. Forty-year-old Army veteran Tarundeep Rai, who made his Olympic debut at Athens 2004, will make his fourth Games appearance. The same is for former world No. 1 Deepika Kumari who will compete in her fourth Olympics on the trot. **TNN**

INDIA SQUAD
Men: Tarundeep Rai, Dhiraj Bommadevara and Pravin Jadhav.
Women: Deepika Kumari, Bhajan Kaur and Anika Bhakat.

Aditi ends T-25, Yang triumphs

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Sammamish (USA): Despite getting off to a dismal start — five bogeys in seven holes — on the final day, Aditi Ashok limited the damage with a fine rearguard action on the back nine to finish tied 35th at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship here on Sunday.

The 26-year-old Indian ace shot a closing two-over 74 on a blustery day that saw just 10 golfers manage sub-par scores. Amy Yang was one of

them. The South Korean shot a gritty one-under 71 under testing conditions to capture her first Major crown.

Yang, 34, finished with a four-day total of seven-under 281 for a three-shot victory over the trio of Lilia Vu (71), Korea's Jin Young Ko (71) and Miyu Yamashita (73) of Japan. "I'm lost for

words right now," said an emotional Yang after the triumph. "It's all the hard work our team did together, and I'm grateful for all that. "I always wanted to win a

Major, and I came close several times. I started doubting myself if I was ever going to win one before I retire," said Yang, who pocketed \$1.56 million for her effort this week. "I'm so grateful and very happy to win a Major."

Aditi too was happy with the splendid recovery on the back nine. "I played well overall. It was not a great week, but it was not a bad week either," the Asian Games silver medalist told **TOI**. With her hitting a trifle patch, Aditi dropped too many shots on the first nine. A 10th tee start-

er, the Bengalurean bogeyed the opening hole, a result of a wrong club selection. Although she picked up a shot on the next hole, she bogeyed on the 12th, 14th, 15th after being on the wrong side of the undulating greens. She hit the water on the par-317th to drop another shot.

Final scores (after 72 holes): 281: Amy Yang (Kor, 70, 68, 71); 284: Lilia Vu (US, 75, 70, 68, 71); Jin Young Ko (Kor, 72, 68, 73, 71); Miyu Yamashita (Jpn, 71, 70, 70, 73); 285: Ally Ewing (US, 72, 70, 72, 71); Lauren Hartlage (US, 73, 69, 69, 74); 286: Mao Saigo (Jpn, 70, 76, 73, 67); Hinako Shibuno (Jpn, 70, 70, 73); 295: Aditi Ashok (Ind, 72, 77, 72, 74, T-35).

TIMES NATION

‘Mistaken’ delivery by J’khand firm tied to Bihar NEET leak?

CBI Starts Probe In Patna, Another Team In Godhra

TNN & Agencies

Patna/Vadodara: CBI began its investigation into the alleged irregularities in NEET-UG in Patna on Monday, with two officials visiting the office of economic offences unit (EOU) of Bihar police.

Sources said CBI questioned Chandra Kishore Yadav, father of Sonu Kumar, a student suspected to be involved in the alleged NEET-UG paper leak, at the EOU office. "CBI officers are collecting evidence related to the case from EOU. Evidence collected by EOU during the course of investigation includes pieces of the burnt question paper re-



Media outside Economic Offences Unit office in Patna on Monday

covered from a house in Patna, cellphones of those arrested, SIM cards, laptops, post-dated cheques, and reference question papers provided by National Testing Agency (NTA)," an EOU officer said.

"All those arrested are in judicial custody in Patna, and the CBI team might take them

NEET PG exam date likely this week

The next date for conduct of NEET PG is likely to be announced this week. NEET-PG was postponed on Saturday, less than 12 hours before it was scheduled to be held. National Board of Examination (NBE) president Dr Abhijit Sheth told **TOI** that they are working closely to ensure that the exam happens soon. "We should be able to decide the exam date by this week," Dr Sheth said. **TNN**

to Delhi for detailed interrogation by obtaining transit remand. A disproportionate assets case may be registered against the arrested accused, Sikander Prasad Yadvendu, a junior engineer in Danapur Town Council," the officer said. Yadvendu, originally from Samastipur, has been

identified as the prime suspect in the case.

Meanwhile, according to EOU sources, the serial code of the charred question paper remnants corresponded to an exam centre in Hazaribagh in Jharkhand. Suspicion fell upon a courier company operating in Jharkhand. The courier company had entrusted nine packets of question papers to a transport company, which was responsible for delivering them to strongrooms in two public sector banks.

However, on May 3, just two days prior to the examination, the transport company's vehicle mistakenly delivered the nine packets to a sub-centre of the courier company in the Oreya area of Hazaribagh, rather than to the intended banks, said sources.

A CBI team also reached Godhra to begin the probe into the alleged NEET case there.

‘Nothing incriminating’ found, UP police exam leak accused gets bail

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: Allahabad high court has granted bail to an accused in the UP Police examination paper leak case, observing that nothing incriminating was recovered from him.

While granting bail to Monu Sharma alias Monu Pandit, Justice Sameer Jain observed that nothing incriminating was recovered from him and that co-accused Monu Kumar and Rajneesh Ranjan, who were also apprehen-

Mastermind of J&K SI exam paper leak held

Enforcement Directorate (ED)'s Jammu wing has arrested Yatin Yadav, the alleged mastermind of J&K Service Selection Board (JKSSB) Sub-Inspector Recruitment Exam-2022 paper leak case, in an ongoing money laundering probe, officials said Monday. The examination was conducted on March 27, 2022, and the selected list of 1,200 candidates was cancelled following allegations of paper leak and malpractice. CBI, which was handed over the case, filed a chargesheet against 33 accused, including Yadav from Haryana, in Nov 2022, reports Sanjay Khajuria.

ded along with the applicant, have already been released on bail by the high court. The applicant was held earlier this year for allegedly trying to manipulate a police constable examination and leaking question papers.

Monu Pandit was booked under sections 420 (cheating) and other sections of Indian Penal Code (IPC) in a case registered at Nawab police station of Jhansi district on the allegations of leaking the question paper of the written Uttar Pradesh constable recruitment and promotion examination (scheduled for Feb 17 and 18 this year).

The candidates who appeared for the exam alleged that the paper was available at a price between Rs 50,000 and

Rs 2 lakh. It was also alleged that many of the candidates had obtained the paper 8-12 hours before the exam.

Though in its order of June 18, the court considered the applicant's criminal history involving four other cases, it noted that he had been granted bail in all of them, all the alleged offences are triable by a first class magistrate and the applicant has been in jail since April 5, 2024 and thus he was found entitled to be released on bail.

In Dec 2023, the UP govt announced 60,244 openings for police constable positions, the entry-level roles within the state police force.

Over 48 lakh aspirants filed the form to appear in the written test, which took place at over 2,300 centres across 75 districts of UP. The UP govt cancelled the examination after allegations of paper leaks.

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Tommy Paul outguns Lorenzo Musetti to lift the pre-Wimbledon Queen's Club crown 6-1, 7-6 (8). His third ATP title also helps him become the new American No. 1

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ALLIED BLENDERS AND DISTILLERS LIMITED

Our Company was incorporated as 'You and Me Properties Private Limited', pursuant to a certificate of incorporation dated October 8, 2008, issued by the RoC. The name of our Company was changed to 'Moonlight Blenders and Distillers Private Limited', and a fresh certificate of incorporation dated July 22, 2009 was issued by the RoC. Pursuant to a scheme of amalgamation between Allied Blenders and Distillers Private Limited, Our Own Properties Private Limited and our Company, the erstwhile name of which was Moonlight Blenders and Distillers Private Limited, dated April 1, 2009, and an order of the Bombay High Court dated February 5, 2010, the entire business undertakings of Allied Blenders and Distillers Private Limited and Our Own Properties Private Limited were transferred to our Company the erstwhile name of which was Moonlight Blenders and Distillers Private Limited. Consequently, the name of our Company was changed to 'Allied Blenders and Distillers Private Limited', and a fresh certificate of incorporation dated April 30, 2010, was issued by the RoC. Subsequently, pursuant to a resolution of our Board dated June 2, 2022 and a resolution of our Shareholders dated June 4, 2022, our Company was converted from a private company to a public company and consequently, our name was changed from 'Allied Blenders and Distillers Private Limited' to 'Allied Blenders and Distillers Limited', and a fresh certificate of incorporation under the Companies Act, 2013 was issued upon a change in name by the RoC on June 8, 2022.

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OUR PROMOTERS: KISHORE RAJARAM CHHABRIA, BINA KISHORE CHHABRIA, RESHAM CHHABRIA JEETENDRA HEMDEV, BINA CHHABRIA ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED, BKC ENTERPRISES PRIVATE LIMITED, ORIENTAL RADIOS PRIVATE LIMITED AND OFFICER'S CHOICE SPIRITS PRIVATE LIMITED

INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 2 EACH ("EQUITY SHARES") OF OUR COMPANY FOR CASH AT A PRICE OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE (INCLUDING A SHARE PREMIUM OF ₹ [●] PER EQUITY SHARE) ("OFFER PRICE") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 15,000 MILLION ("OFFER"). THE OFFER COMPRISES A FRESH ISSUE OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 2 EACH BY OUR COMPANY AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 10,000 MILLION ("FRESH ISSUE") AND AN OFFER FOR SALE OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 2 EACH ("OFFERED SHARES") AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 5,000 MILLION COMPRISING OF [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 2 EACH BY BINA KISHORE CHHABRIA AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 3,750 MILLION AND [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 2 EACH BY RESHAM CHHABRIA JEETENDRA HEMDEV AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 1,250 MILLION (THE "SELLING SHAREHOLDERS" AND SUCH OFFER FOR SALE OF EQUITY SHARES BY THE SELLING SHAREHOLDERS, THE "OFFER FOR SALE"). THE OFFER INCLUDES A RESERVATION OF UP TO [●] EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 2 EACH AGGREGATING UP TO ₹ 30 MILLION (CONSTITUTING UP TO [●] OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL), FOR SUBSCRIPTION BY ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE(S) (THE "EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION"). OUR COMPANY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS ("BRLMS"), MAY OFFER A DISCOUNT OF UP TO ₹ [●] TO THE OFFER PRICE TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE(S) BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION ("EMPLOYEE DISCOUNT"), SUBJECT TO NECESSARY APPROVALS, AS MAY BE REQUIRED. THE OFFER LESS THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION IS HERINAFTER REFERRED TO AS "NET OFFER". THE OFFER AND NET OFFER SHALL CONSTITUTE [●] AND [●], RESPECTIVELY, OF THE POST-OFFER PAID-UP EQUITY SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY. THE OFFER PRICE IS [●] TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES.

DETAILS OF THE OFFER FOR SALE BY PROMOTER(S) AND THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION PER EQUITY SHARE

Name of the Selling Shareholder	Type	Number of Equity Shares being offered / amount	WACA (in ₹) per Equity Share*
Bina Kishore Chhabria	Promoter	Up to [●] Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 2 each, aggregating up to ₹3,750 million	0.03
Resham Chhabria Jeetendra Hemdev	Promoter	Up to [●] Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 2 each, aggregating up to ₹1,250 million	0.05

*As certified by S D T & Co, the Independent Chartered Accountant pursuant to its certificate dated June 18, 2024.

We are an Indian-owned Indian-made foreign liquor ("IMFL") company and our product range includes five main categories of IMFL, i.e., whisky, brandy, rum, vodka and gin. We derive almost all of our revenue from contracts with customer – Sale of goods (IMFL) from the sale of our whisky products.

The Offer is being made through the Book Building Process in accordance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations.

• QIB Portion: Not more than 50% of the Net Offer • Non-Institutional Portion: Not less than 15% of the Net Offer

• Retail Portion: Not less than 35% of the Net Offer • Employee Reservation Portion: Up to [●] Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 2 each aggregating up to ₹30 million

PRICE BAND: ₹267 TO ₹281 PER EQUITY SHARE OF FACE VALUE OF ₹2 EACH

THE FLOOR PRICE IS 133.50 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES AND THE CAP PRICE IS 140.50 TIMES THE FACE VALUE OF THE EQUITY SHARES

BIDS CAN BE MADE FOR A MINIMUM OF 53 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 2 EACH AND IN MULTIPLES OF 53 EQUITY SHARES OF FACE VALUE OF ₹ 2 EACH THEREAFTER

A DISCOUNT OF ₹ 26 PER EQUITY SHARE IS BEING OFFERED TO ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES BIDDING IN THE EMPLOYEE RESERVATION PORTION

THE PRICE/EARNINGS RATIO BASED ON DILUTED EPS FOR 2023 FOR THE ISSUER AT THE UPPER END OF THE PRICE BAND

IS AS HIGH AS 4014.29 TIMES AS COMPARED TO THE AVERAGE INDUSTRY PEER GROUP PE RATIO OF 62.10 TIMES.

AVERAGE COST OF ACQUISITION OF EQUITY SHARES FOR THE SELLING SHAREHOLDERS IN IPO IS ₹0.03

WEIGHTED AVERAGE RETURN ON NET WORTH FOR LAST THREE FULL FINANCIAL YEARS IS 0.43%

Potential Bidders may note the following:

This is in furtherance to the draft red herring prospectus of our Company dated January 15, 2024 ("DRHP"), filed with the Securities and Exchange Board of India, and with reference to the directive dated July 4, 2023, issued through an e-mail from the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Pursuant to a gift on March 7, 2024 from Neesha Kishore Chhabria, one of the member of our Promoter Group, Kishore Rajaram Chhabria and Bina Kishore Chhabria, certain of our Promoters, have acquired certain Equity Shares, as set out below in the advertisement and for more details please refer page 134 of the red herring prospectus dated June 18, 2024 ("RHP").

In accordance with the recommendation of Independent Directors of our Company, pursuant to their resolution dated June 19, 2024, the above provided price band is justified based on quantitative factors/ KPIs disclosed in the "Basis for Offer Price" section on pages 155-164 of the RHP vis-a-vis the weighted average cost of acquisition ("WACA") of primary and secondary transaction(s), as applicable, disclosed in the "Basis for Offer Price" section on pages 155-164 of the RHP and provided below in this advertisement.

In making an investment decision, potential investors must only rely on the information included in the RHP and the terms of the Offer, including the risks involved and not rely on any other external sources of information about the Offer available in any manner.

RISKS TO INVESTORS:

- Significant dependence on one product for our sales, i.e., Whisky:** We are substantially dependent on the sales of our whisky products which generated 97.58%, 96.90%, and 95.38% our revenue from operations in Fiscal 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 95.76% and 94.33%, respectively, of our revenue from operations for the nine months ended December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023.
- Fluctuations in Profits:** We have experienced volatile fluctuations in our restated profit after tax for the year/period and PAT Margin in the past.
Please refer following table for details in relation to periods indicated:

Particulars	As of and for the Years ended March 31,			As of and for the nine months ended December 31, 2022	As of and for the nine months ended December 31, 2023
	2021	2022	2023		
	(₹ million, except percentages)				
Restated Profit after tax for the year/period	25.08	14.76	16.01	28.81	42.29
PAT Margin	0.11%	0.05%	0.05%	0.12%	0.17%
- Product Concentration Risk:** We are significantly dependent on the sale of our whisky products under the Officer's Choice brand which constituted 83.76%, 82.29%, 75.85%, 76.78% and 73.02% of our total sales volume in Fiscal, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and nine months ended December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023.
- Geographical Concentration Risk:** We depend on sales of our products in India, in particular the States of West Bengal, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, which contributed 51.41%, 49.74%, 38.85%, 39.53%, and 41.70% to our revenue from contracts with customer – Sale of goods (IMFL) during Fiscal 2021, 2022 and 2023 and nine months ended December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023.
- Regulatory Action:** SEBI has in the past taken action against one of our Promoters, Kishore Rajaram Chhabria for non-compliance with listing agreement and applicable Takeover Regulations and the matter was eventually settled by way of Supreme Court order dated March 7, 2005.
- Customer Concentration:** Our business is dependent on the sale of our products to key customers. Our top 1 customer contributed 19.71%, 17.40%, 16.25%, 16.21%, 17.57% of our revenue from contracts with customer – sale of goods (IMFL) while our top 5 customers contributed 53.83%, 52.86%, 41.81%, 41.59% and 43.59% of our revenue from contracts with customer – sale of goods (IMFL) for Fiscal 2021, 2022, 2023 and nine months ended December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023, respectively.
- Sales concentration to various state-Government controlled agencies:** A significant portion of our sales are to various state-Government controlled agencies which contributed 54.06%, 54.28%, 47.14%, 46.32% and 47.68% of our total revenue from contracts with customer – sale of goods (IMFL) in Fiscal 2021, 2022, 2023 and nine months ended December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023, respectively.
- Competition Risk:** The IMFL industry is highly competitive in India, with our main competitors being United Spirits Limited, Pernod Ricard India Private Limited, Radico Khaitan Limited, John Distilleries, Tilak Nagar Industries, Jagatjit Industries and Globus Spirits. (Source: Technopak Report) Increasing competition in the IMFL industry may create certain pressures that may adversely affect our business, prospects, results of operations, cash flows and financial condition.
- Dependence on third-party bottling facilities:** During Fiscal 2021, 2022 and 2023 and nine months ended December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023, our Net Revenue from Operations from third party bottling facilities was 27.68%, 19.89%, 21.96%, 21.50% and 21.52%, respectively.
- High tax component:** An increase in taxes rate or a change in the tax calculation method may cause us to increase the price of our products, resulting in lower volume of consumption and, therefore, cause a decrease in revenue from operations. As we are a manufacturer of alcoholic products, we are subject to excise duty in India levied by various state governments. During Fiscal 2021, 2022 and 2023 and nine months ended December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023, excise duty paid by us represented 63.18%, 62.68%, 55.72%, 55.92% and 56.69% of our revenue from operations.
- Delays in payment of Statutory Dues:** There have been delays in payment of statutory dues on account of which we have paid interest on delay in payment of statutory dues of ₹ 92.86 million, ₹ 212.58 million, ₹ 333.30 million, ₹ 234.14 million and ₹ 311.61 million, respectively in Fiscal 2021, 2022 and 2023 and nine months ended December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023.
- Dependence on one central distillery for significant portion of total distillation capacity:** We have one distillery located in Rangapur, Telangana. Our business is highly dependent on our distillery at Rangapur, Telangana, which currently represents a significant portion of our total distillation capacity for our products. Our distillery was operational for 203 days, 303 days, 294 days, 224 days and 230 days, respectively, during Fiscal 2021, 2022 and 2023, and in the nine months ended December 31, 2022 and December 31, 2023.
- Unsecured loans availed:** Our Company and certain of our Subsidiaries have availed unsecured loans. As of March 31, 2024, unsecured loans availed by our Company and Subsidiaries

Continued on next page...

...continued from previous page.

amounted to ₹ 354.03 million. Such loans may not be repayable in accordance with any agreed repayment schedule and may be recalled by the lender at any time. In the event that the lender seeks repayment of any such unsecured loan, our Company would need to find alternative sources of financing, which may not be available on commercially reasonable terms, or at all.

14. **Regulatory Risk:** Our operations are subject to various Government excise, environmental laws and workplace regulations, including laws and regulations. Further, the sale of alcohol is prohibited in certain States. The sale of alcohol is also prohibited in certain States. There are also inspections by various regulatory authorities like Excise Boards, Factory Inspectors, Boiler Inspectors, Legal Metrology and Pollution Control Board on a regular basis. The failure to pass these inspections, or any other violation of, current and future laws or regulations could require material expenditures by us or otherwise have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition, results of operations and prospects.

15. **Varying tax structures:** Prices of alcoholic beverages in India is controlled by respective State governments with varying tax structures leading to high variation in prices across States. Each State has its own formula of deciding the prices of alco-beverage products. Accordingly, our ability to increase the selling price of our products is limited and we may not be in a position to unilaterally increase the selling price of our products.

16. **Restriction or elimination of import duty:** Currently, any import of alco-beverages including whisky is liable to pay customs duty of 150%. This is applicable on finished products like scotch whisky bottled in country of origin or bulk scotch whisky imported for bottling in India as well as intermediate products like undenatured ethyl alcohol which may be used for blending with production in India. (Source: Technopak Report) A decrease in or elimination of import rate may cause multinational companies to compete with us which may have higher appeal to the consumers and cause a negative effect on the demand of our products.

17. **High Price to Earnings ratio:** The Price to Earnings ratio based on basic and diluted EPS for Fiscal 2023 at the upper end of the Price band is as high as 4014.29 times as compared to the

Price to Earnings Ratio of average industry peer group PE ratio as on May 30, 2024 is 62.10 times.

18. The average cost of acquisition of Equity Shares held by the Selling Shareholders ranges from ₹0.03 to ₹0.05 per Equity Share, and the Offer Price at upper end of the Price Band is ₹281.

19. Weighted Average Return on Net Worth for Fiscals 2023, 2022 and 2021 is 0.43%.

20. Weighted average cost of acquisition of all shares transacted in the last eighteen months as on the date of the Red Herring Prospectus:

Table with 4 columns: Particulars, Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition (WACA) (in ₹), Cap Price is 'X' times the Weighted Average Cost of Acquisition, Range of acquisition price (Lowest Price-Highest Price (in ₹)). Rows: Last 3 years, Last 18 months, Last 1 year.

As certified by S D T & Co, the Independent Chartered Accountant pursuant to its certificate dated June 18, 2024.

^ Only one Equity Share was transacted at this price.

21. The three BRLMs associated with the Offer have handled 51 public issues in the past three Financial Years, out of which 14 issues closed below the Offer price on the listing date.

Table with 3 columns: Name of the BRLMs, Total Issues, Issues closed below IPO Price on listing date. Rows: ICICI Securities Limited*, Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited)*, ITI Capital Limited*, Common Issues Managed by BRLMs, Total.

*Issues handled where there were no common BRLMs

Details of transaction of shares aggregating up to 1% or more of the paid-up equity share capital of the Company

Table with 10 columns: Sr. No., Date of the transfer, Name of the transferor, Name of the transferee, Relationship of the acquirer, Nature of transfer, Number of Equity Shares transferred, Percentage of pre-offer share capital of the Company (%), Face Value per Equity Share (₹), Transfer price per Equity Share (₹). Rows: 1. March 7, 2024, Neesha Kishore Chhabria, First Holder: Kishore Rajaram Chhabria, Kishore Rajaram Chhabria*, is one of our Promoters, and is also the Chairman and Non-Executive Director on our Board. 2. March 7, 2024, Neesha Kishore Chhabria, Bina Kishore Chhabria, Bina Kishore Chhabria*, is one of our Promoters and is also the Non-Executive Director and Co-Chairperson on our Board.

* Kishore Rajaram Chhabria is the husband of Bina Kishore Chhabria, one of the Promoters, a director in certain Group Companies; the father of Neesha Kishore Chhabria, who is one of the members of the Promoter Group and a director and shareholder of certain Group Companies and a nominee shareholder of our Company in one of our subsidiaries; and the father of Resham Chhabria Jeetendra Hemdev, who is one of the members of the Promoter* and a director and shareholder of certain Group Companies and a nominee shareholder of our Company in one of our subsidiaries, and a director of certain Subsidiaries.

* Bina Kishore Chhabria is the wife of Kishore Rajaram Chhabria, one of the Promoters; a director of certain Subsidiaries; a director of one Group Company and a shareholder of certain Group Companies and a nominee shareholder of our Company in one of our subsidiaries; the mother of Neesha Kishore Chhabria, who is one of the members of the Promoter Group and a director and shareholder of certain Group Companies; and the mother of Resham Chhabria Jeetendra Hemdev, who is one of the members of the Promoter* and a director and shareholder of certain Group Companies and a nominee shareholder of our Company in one of our subsidiaries, and a director of certain Subsidiaries.

BID/ OFFER PROGRAMME

^ UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5:00 pm on the Bid/Offer Closing Date.

An indicative timetable in respect of the Offer is set out below:

Submission of Bids (other than Bids from Anchor Investors):

Table with 2 columns: Bid/ Offer Period (except the Bid/ Offer Closing Date), Bid/ Offer Closing Date*. Rows: Submission and Revision in Bids, Submission of Electronic Applications (Online ASBA through 3-in-1 accounts), Submission of Electronic Applications (Bank ASBA through Online channels like Internet Banking, Mobile Banking and Syndicate ASBA applications made through UPI), Submission of Electronic Applications (Syndicate Non-Retail, Non-Individual Applications), Submission of Physical Applications (Bank ASBA), Submission of Physical Applications (Syndicate Non-Retail, Non-Individual Applications of QIBs and Non-Institutional Investors).

BID/OFFER OPENS TODAY

BID/OFFER CLOSES ON JUNE 27, 2024^

Modification/ Revision/cancellation of Bids

Table with 2 columns: Modification/ Revision/cancellation of Bids, Bid/ Offer Closing Date. Rows: Upward Revision of Bids by QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders categories, Upward or downward Revision of Bids or cancellation of Bids by RBIs.

* UPI mandate end time and date shall be at 5:00 pm on Bid/Offer Closing Date.

^ QIBs and Non-Institutional Bidders can neither revise their bids downwards nor cancel/withdraw their bids.

Post Offer Schedule:

Table with 2 columns: Event, Indicative Date. Rows: Bid/ Offer Closing Date, Finalisation of Basis of Allotment with the Designated Stock Exchange, Initiation of refunds (if any, for Anchor Investors) / unblocking of funds from ASBA Account, Credit of the Equity Shares to demat accounts of Allottees, Commencement of trading of the Equity Shares on the Stock Exchanges.

THE EQUITY SHARES OF OUR COMPANY WILL GET LISTED ON MAIN BOARD PLATFORM OF BSE AND NSE

In case of any revision to the Price Band, the Bid/Offer Period will be extended by at least three additional Working Days after such revision in the Price Band, subject to the Bid/Offer Period not exceeding 10 Working Days. In cases of force majeure, banking strike or similar unforeseen circumstances, our Company and the Selling Shareholders, in consultation with Book Running Lead Managers, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the Bid / Offer Period for a minimum of one Working Day, subject to the Bid / Offer Period not exceeding a total of 10 Working Days. Any revision in the Price Band and the revised Bid/Offer Period, if applicable, will be widely disseminated by notification to the Stock Exchanges, by issuing a public notice, and by indicating the change on the respective websites of the Book Running Lead Managers and at the terminals of the Syndicate Member and by intimation to the Designated Intermediaries and the Sponsor Banks.

This Offer is being made through the Book Building Process, in terms of Rule 19(2)(b) of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, as amended ("SCRR") read with Regulation 31 of the SEBI ICDR Regulations and in compliance with Regulation 6(1) of the SEBI ICDR Regulations wherein not more than 50% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Qualified Institutional Buyers ("QIBs"), and such portion, the "QIB Portion", provided that our Company and the Selling Shareholders in consultation with the BRLMs may allocate up to 20% of the QIB Portion to Anchor Investors on a discretionary basis ("Anchor Investor Portion"). One-third of the Anchor Investor Portion shall be reserved for the domestic Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received from the domestic Mutual Funds at or above the Anchor Investor Allocation Price in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations. In the event of under-subscription or non-allocation in the Anchor Investor Portion, the balance Equity Shares shall be added to the QIB Portion (other than the Anchor Investor Portion) (the "Net QIB Portion"). Further, 5% of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to Mutual Funds only, and the remainder of the Net QIB Portion shall be available for allocation on a proportionate basis to all QIB Bidders, including Mutual Funds, subject to valid Bids being received at or above the Offer Price. Further, not less than 15% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Non-Institutional Bidders, out of which a) one third of such portion shall be reserved for applicants with application size of more than ₹ 0.2 million and up to ₹ 1.0 million and (b) two-third of such portion shall be reserved for applicants with application size of more than ₹ 1.0 million, provided that the unsubscribed portion in either of such sub-categories may be allocated to applicants in the other sub-category of Non-Institutional Bidders and not less than 35% of the Net Offer shall be available for allocation to Retail Individual Bidders in accordance with the SEBI ICDR Regulations, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Offer Price. Furthermore, up to [•] Equity Shares aggregating up to ₹30 million will be available for allocation to Eligible Employees, subject to valid Bids being received from them at or above the Issue Price (net of Employee Discount, if any, as applicable for the Employee Reservation Portion). All Bidders, other than Anchor Investors, are required to participate in the Offer by mandatorily utilising the Application Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") process by providing details of their respective ASBA Account (as defined hereinafter) and UPI ID in case of UPI Bidders using the UPI Mechanism, as applicable, pursuant to which their corresponding Bid Amounts will be blocked by the Self Certified Syndicate Banks ("SCSBs") or by the Sponsor Banks under the UPI Mechanism, as the case may be, to the extent of respective Bid Amounts. Anchor investors are not permitted to participate in the Offer through the ASBA process. For further details, see "Offer Procedure" on page 545 of the RHP.

Bidders/Applicants should ensure that DP ID, PAN and the Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through UPI Mechanism) are correctly filled in the Bid cum Application Form. The DP ID, PAN and Client ID provided in the Bid cum Application Form should match with the DP ID, PAN, Client ID and UPI ID available (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI Mechanism) in the Depository database, otherwise, the Bid cum Application Form is liable to be rejected. Bidders/Applicants should ensure that the beneficiary account provided in the Bid cum Application Form is active. Bidders/Applicants should note that on the basis of the PAN, DP ID, Client ID and UPI ID (for UPI Bidders bidding through the UPI Mechanism) as provided in the Bid cum Application Form, the Bidder/Applicant may be deemed to have authorized the Depositories to provide to the Registrar to the Offer, any requested Demographic Details of the Bidder/Applicant as available on the records of the depositories. Investors must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with the notification issued by Central Board of Direct Taxes notification dated February 13, 2020 and read with press releases dated June 25, 2021, read with press release dated September 17, 2021 and CBDT circular no.7 of 2022, dated March 30, 2022 read with press release dated March 28, 2023 and any subsequent press releases in this regard.

CONTENTS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF OUR COMPANY AS REGARDS ITS OBJECTS: For information on the main objects of our Company, investors are requested to see "History and Certain Corporate Matters" beginning on page 280 of the RHP. The Memorandum of Association of our Company is a material document for inspection in relation to the Offer. For further details, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" beginning on page 651 of the RHP.

LIABILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF OUR COMPANY: Limited by shares.

AMOUNT OF SHARE CAPITAL OF OUR COMPANY AND CAPITAL STRUCTURE: As on the date of the RHP, the authorised share capital of our Company is ₹ 724,300,000 divided into 362,150,000 Equity Shares of face value of ₹2 each. The issued, subscribed and paid-up Equity share capital of our Company is ₹ 488,227,330 divided into 244,113,665 Equity Shares of face value of ₹ 2 each. For details of the capital structure of our Company, see "Capital Structure" beginning on page 123 of the RHP.

NAMES OF THE INITIAL SIGNATORIES TO THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF OUR COMPANY AND THE NUMBER OF EQUITY SHARES SUBSCRIBED BY THEM: The names of the initial signatories of the Memorandum of Association of our Company along with their allotment are: Allotment of 5,000 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each to Ajay Malpani and 5,000 equity shares of face value of ₹ 10 each to Vidhyavati Malpani. For details of the share capital history and capital structure of our Company see "Capital Structure" beginning on page 123 of the RHP.

LISTING: The Equity Shares, once offered through the Red Herring Prospectus are proposed to be listed on the Stock Exchanges. Our Company has received 'in-principle' approvals from the BSE and the NSE for listing the Equity Shares pursuant to letters, each dated March 28, 2024, respectively. For the purposes of the Offer, the Designated Stock Exchange shall be NSE. A copy of the Red Herring Prospectus and the Prospectus shall be filed with the RoC in accordance with Sections 26(4) and 32 of the Companies Act, 2013. For further details of the material contracts and documents available for inspection from the date of the Red Herring Prospectus until the Bid/ Offer Closing Date, see "Material Contracts and Documents for Inspection" on page 651 of the RHP.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA ("SEBI"): SEBI only gives its observations on the offer documents and this does not constitute approval of either the Offer or the specified securities stated in the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 519 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of SEBI.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF BSE: It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by BSE Limited should not in any way be deemed or construed that the RHP has been cleared or approved by BSE Limited nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the RHP. The investors are advised to refer to the page 522 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of BSE.

DISCLAIMER CLAUSE OF NSE (the Designated Stock Exchange): It is to be distinctly understood that the permission given by NSE should not in any way be deemed or construed that the Offer Document has been cleared or approved by NSE nor does it certify the correctness or completeness of any of the contents of the Offer Document. The investors are advised to refer to page 522-523 of the RHP for the full text of the disclaimer clause of NSE.

GENERAL RISKS: Investments in equity and equity-related securities involve a degree of risk and investors should not invest any funds in the Offer unless they can afford to take the risk of losing their entire investment. Investors are advised to read the risk factors carefully before taking an investment decision in the Offer. For taking an investment decision, investors must rely on their own examination of our Company and the Offer, including the risks involved. The Equity Shares in the Offer have not been recommended or approved by the SEBI, nor does SEBI guarantee the accuracy or adequacy of the contents of the Red Herring Prospectus. Specific attention of the investors is invited to "Risk Factors" on page 34 of the RHP.

ASBA* Simple, Safe, Smart way of Application!!!

*Applications Supported by Blocked Amount ("ASBA") is a better way of applying to offers by simply blocking the fund in the bank account. For further details, check section on ASBA.

Mandatory in public issues. No cheque will be accepted.



UPI-Now available in ASBA for Retail Individual Investors and Non Institutional Investor applying in public issues where the application amount is up to ₹ 500,000, applying through Registered Brokers, Syndicate, CDPs & RTAs. Retail Individual Investors and Non-Institutional Investors also have the option to submit the application directly to the ASBA Bank (SCSBs) or to use the facility of linked online trading, demat and bank account. Investors are required to ensure that the bank account used for bidding is linked to their PAN. Bidders must ensure that their PAN is linked with Aadhaar and are in compliance with CBDT notification dated February 13, 2020 and press release dated June 25, 2021 and read with press release dated September 17, 2021, CBDT Circular No. 7 of 2022 dated March 30, 2022 read with the press release dated March 28, 2023.

ASBA has to be available by all the investors except Anchor Investors. UPI may be availed by (i) Retail Individual Bidders in the Retail Portion; (ii) Non-Institutional Bidders with an application size of up to ₹ 500,000 in the Non-Institutional Portion. For details on the ASBA and UPI process, please refer to the details given in the Bid Cum Application Form and abridged prospectus and also please refer to the section "Offer Procedure" on page 545 of the RHP. The process is also available on the website of Association of Investment Bankers of India ("AIBI") and Stock Exchanges and in the General Information Document. The Bid Cum Application Form and the Abridged Prospectus can be downloaded from the websites of BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE"), and together with BSE, the "Stock Exchange" and can be obtained from the list of banks that is displayed on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFPI=yes&ntmid=35 and https://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/other/OtherAction.do?doRecognisedFPI=yes&ntmid=43, respectively as updated from time to time. For the list of UPI apps and banks live on IPO, please refer to the link: www.sebi.gov.in. UPI Bidders Bidding using the UPI Mechanism may apply through the SCSBs and mobile applications whose names appear on the website of SEBI, as updated from time to time. ICICI Bank Limited and Axis Bank Limited have been appointed as the Sponsor Banks for the Offer, in accordance with the requirements of SEBI circular dated November 1, 2018 as amended. For Offer related queries, please contact the Book Running Lead Managers ("BRLMs") on their respective email IDs as mentioned below. For UPI related queries, investors can contact NPCI at the toll free number: 18001201740 and mail id: ipo.upi@npci.org.in.

BOOK RUNNING LEAD MANAGERS

Logos and details for ICICI Securities Limited, Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited), and ITI Capital Limited (A part of The Investment Trust of India Limited Group).

REGISTRAR TO THE OFFER

Logo and details for LINK Intime Private Limited.

COMPANY SECRETARY AND COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Details for Ritesh Rammikial Shah, ALLIED BLENDEES AND DISTILLERS LIMITED.

AVAILABILITY OF THE RHP: Investors are advised to refer to the RHP and the "Risk Factors" beginning on page 34 of the RHP before applying in the Offer. A copy of the RHP is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in and is available on the websites of the BRLMs, ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited) at www.nuvama.com and ITI Capital Limited (A part of The Investment Trust of India Limited Group) at www.iticapital.in, respectively, the website of the Company, Allied Blenders and Distillers Limited at www.abdindia.com and the websites of the Stock Exchanges, for BSE at www.bseindia.com and for NSE Limited at www.nseindia.com.

AVAILABILITY OF BID CUM APPLICATION FORM: Bid cum Application Form can be obtained from the Registered Office of our Company, ALLIED BLENDEES AND DISTILLERS LIMITED. Telephone: +91 22 67779777. BRLMs: ICICI Securities Limited, Tel: +91 22 6807 7100; Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited), Telephone: +91 22 4009 4400 and ITI Capital Limited (A part of The Investment Trust of India Limited Group), Telephone: +91 22 6911 3300 and Syndicate Member: Antique Stock Broking Limited, Telephone: +91 22 6911 3300 and Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited), Telephone: +91 22 4009 4400 and at selected locations of Sub-Syndicate Members (as given below), Registered Brokers, SCSBs, Designated RTA Locations and Designated CDP Locations for participating in the Offer. Bid cum Application Forms will also be available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and at all the Designated Branches of SCSBs, the list of which is available on the websites of the Stock Exchanges and SEBI.

SUB-SYNDICATE MEMBERS: Almondz Global Securities Limited; Anand Rathi Share & Stock Brokers Ltd.; Axis Capital Ltd.; Centrum Broking Limited; Centrum Wealth Management Ltd.; Choice Equity Broking Private Limited; DB(International) Stock Brokers Ltd.; Eureka Stock & Share Broking Services Ltd.; Finwizard Technology Pvt. Ltd.; HDFC Securities

ALLIED BLENDEES AND DISTILLERS LIMITED is proposing, subject to receipt of requisite approvals, market conditions and other considerations, to make an initial public offer of its Equity Shares and has filed a red herring prospectus dated June 18, 2024 with the RoC. The RHP is made available on the website of the SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in as well as on the websites of the BRLMs i.e., ICICI Securities Limited at www.icicisecurities.com, Nuvama Wealth Management Limited (formerly known as Edelweiss Securities Limited) at www.nuvama.com and ITI Capital Limited (A part of The Investment Trust of India Limited Group) at www.iticapital.in, the website of the NSE at www.nseindia.com and the website of the BSE at www.bseindia.com and the website of the Company at www.abdindia.com. Any potential investor should note that investment in equity shares involves a high degree of risk and for details relating to such risks, please see the section titled "Risk Factors" beginning on page 34 of the RHP. Potential investors should not rely on the DRHP for making any investment decision but can only rely on the information included in the Red Herring Prospectus.

The Equity Shares have not been and will not be registered under the Securities Act or any state securities laws in the United States, and unless so registered, and may not be offered or sold outside the United States, except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable U. S. state securities laws. Accordingly, the Equity Shares are being offered and sold outside the United States in offshore transactions in reliance on Regulation S and the applicable laws of each jurisdiction where such offers and sales are made.

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ESCROW COLLECTION BANK AND REFUND BANK: Axis Bank Limited | PUBLIC OFFER BANK: ICICI Bank Limited.

SPONSOR BANKS: ICICI Bank Limited and Axis Bank Limited.

UPI: UPI Bidders can also Bid through UPI Mechanism.

All capitalised terms used herein and not specifically defined shall have the same meaning as ascribed to them in the RHP.

For ALLIED BLENDEES AND DISTILLERS LIMITED On behalf of the Board of Directors Sd/- Ritesh Rammikial Shah Company Secretary & Compliance Officer

Place: Mumbai Date: June 24, 2024



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REMEMBERING AI KANISHKA VICTIMS, PM TRUDEAU SAYS CANADA'S DEADLIEST BOMBING A REMINDER TO UNEQUIVOCALLY CONDEMN TERRORISM 7

NEET 'cheat seat': Ranks zoom after tests from obscure centres

Some Make It To Govt Colleges As Fixers Get Going

Hemali Chhappia | TNN

When medical student Ashalata (name changed) took the NEET-UG for the first time in 2022, her rank was in the six-digit range. Her rank leapt from beyond 2 lakh to 8,000 in her second attempt the following year. At present, the 20-year-old is a student of the BMC-run LTMG Sion Hospital in Mumbai.

► **Edit Page: Neat Solution for NEET**

Another aspirant from 2022 who was ranked beyond 10 lakh now studies in a govt hospital in Mumbai after she secured a rank of around 13,000 in 2023.

Could this 'second-time super lucky' trend among so-

MAHA HEADMASTER ARRESTED

► **Latur zila parishad school headmaster Jaleel Khan Pathan among 4 held.** Sources cite incriminating data found in mobile phones. Parents allegedly paid them money to get wards to pass NEET | P 2

► **CBI teams reach Patna**

and Godhra. In Patna, team collects evidence gathered by Economic Offences Unit, questions a parent | P 16

► **UPSC decides to use facial recognition and AI-based CCTV surveillance** to prevent cheating and impersonation

Rules of new anti-paper leak law notified. Cheaters face up to five years in jail; it's 5-10 years for those involved in organised cheating crimes. Those involved in paper leak, for instance, face up to 10 years in jail and a fine of up to ₹1 crore | **Inside Flap**

me students be explained merely by the renewed effort at preparation for another year, wondered some academics in medical college corridors. They, however, noticed a small change for the second attempt: each had taken it from an obscure centre.

While some took it from a tiny village in Belgaum, others opted for a small town near Patna or other similar places not popular as coaching hubs. This year, a similar scenario

emerged when students from various states opted for Godhra in Gujarat. After one centre there was identified for irregularities, the Gujarat police explained students were asked to fill answers for the questions they knew and leave the rest unanswered.

"The empty answer-sheets were to be filled in by the centre's deputy superintendent during the half-hour gap the supervisors get to pack the papers. The answer key was to be

provided by coaching institutes, who make the key available online after the exam," said Godhra superintendent of police Himanshu Solanki.

A counsellor said the police should investigate how students managed to get allocated to centres that are 'compromised', where examiners help them fill answer sheets.

When candidates fill their NEET application, they are expected to give two cities as options for exam centres. Parent representative and counsellor Sudha Shenoy said, "Before filling the form in Feb, parents had called me about agents who had said they would fill the form for the candidates and that exam centres would be far from cities. They had assured the parents their child would get 'high' rank and demanded Rs 1 lakh as advance and Rs 9 lakh after the results. I had dissuaded the parents from falling into any such trap."

► **List of such students, P 9**

Four airports get bomb hoax mails

Nagpur airport was searched on Monday after it received an emailed bomb threat, its third since April. Airports at Ahmedabad, Hyderabad (Begumpet), and Kalaburgi too got bomb threats, all of which turned out to be hoaxes after thorough and time-consuming searches.

Prof faces probe on ABVP complaint

Vikram University in Ujjain has formed a committee to probe allegations by ABVP that a professor was "propagating Islam". Guest pharmacy professor Anis Sheikh rejected the allegations and said the ruckus was created by a group of students seeking favours. P 9

FIR against 4 for razing graveyard

Four persons, including a municipal councillor, were booked under IPC sections for 'provocation with intent to cause riot' and 'criminal intimidation' after they allegedly razed an "over 100 years old graveyard" in UP. P 7

'Dead' man turns up at own burial

Pittla Yellappa (47), a shepherd from Telangana, returned home when his family was preparing for his last rites, triggering shock and then delight. He said the phone, used to identify the body handed over to his family, was stolen earlier. P 7

Leopard kills 2 of 4 cubs of tigress

A leopard has killed two of the four cubs born to a tigress translocated from Kumaon forests to the western part of Rajaji Tiger Reserve. Reserve staff are searching for the remaining two cubs. The killing occurred nearly 10 days ago. P 10

SC upholds ruling nixing Hry order to grant extra marks to state domiciles

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday upheld the high court order for quashing of Haryana govt's decision to grant 5% additional marks to state domiciles in recruitment to certain posts based on "socio-economic" criteria, calling it a populist measure. It also directed that fresh examinations be conducted for jobs to Group C and D employees.

A bench of Justices A S Oka and Rajesh Bindal rejected a plea of Haryana Staff Selection Commission challenging the Punjab and Haryana HC verdict quashing the state notification granting additional marks to domiciles during Common Entrance Test 2023. Appearing for the commission, AG R Venkataramani pleaded the court there was no need to hold fresh exams. TNN

► **May file review plea, P 8**

UBT bill demands 50% flats in new bldgs for Marathis

Aiming to corner Mahayuti govt in the House months ahead of the state polls, Sena (UBT), reinvigorated after winning 3 of the 4 seats it contested in Mumbai, has drafted a bill seeking 50% reservation for Marathis in new residential buildings in the city. Party MLC Anil Parab has submitted the private member's bill to the legislative council's deputy chairperson for tabling it in the session that starts Thursday. Parab alleged that "multiple instances" of Marathi-speaking people being denied housing under the pretext of food preferences or religion had prompted him to move the bill. reports Chaitanya Marpakwar. P 2

Don't need quota benefits due to our kids: Group of OBC medicos

Mumbai: Dr Rahul Ghule (40) belongs to the nomadic Vanjari community and hails from Marathwada's Dharrashiv. The son of a teacher, he had availed of OBC-Nomadic Tribe quota to get a seat in Mumbai's G S Medical College in 2003.

As the quota war between Maratha and OBC communities simmers in state, Ghule on Monday wrote to CM Eknath Shinde, saying he wants to give up quota benefits due to his family and children. He says he is in a financially secure condition, hence he doesn't want the benefits, reports Priyanka Kakodkar. He claims at least 15 doctors in the state from OBC Medicos Association, which he set up in 2008, also want to give up their quotas and return caste certificates.

► **Should go to needy, P 5**

St Xavier's sets up panel to roll out classes in shifts, make room for new courses

Yogita.Rao@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: St Xavier's College has set up a committee to review options for increasing classes by running them in shifts. The 155-year-old institute in south Mumbai plans to add several courses but is hampered given the space constraints on the premises of the heritage structure.

Running the postgraduate and undergraduate courses or aided and unaided courses in two shifts seem feasible. Currently, most courses at the college start around 7am-8am, including junior and degree sections, while a few PG courses start after noon.

Loyola College in Chennai, for instance, works in two shifts—for aided and unaided

There are so many new courses in the science domain, such as AI and ML, data science and apprenticeship-embedded programmes that we want to explore. We are unable to start these newer courses in the existing capacity... But most of our classrooms remain vacant after 4pm. Therefore, the management thought of making optimal use of the existing space — **Rajendra Shinde** | PRINCIPAL

► College got nod on Monday for 4 PhDs: Physics, Biotechnology, Biochemistry, and Economics courses. Some of Mumbai colleges, too, run the junior college section in the afternoon and degree in the morning.

► **'Will consult staff', P 2**

Didi reads out riot act to TMC mantris, officials

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee, in her sharpest public criticism

till date of her cabinet, party colleagues, police and administrative officials, read out the riot act on Monday, naming and shaming some of them and setting a 10-day deadline for civic bodies to give citizens better services, report Tamaghna Banerjee and Dwaipayan Ghosh. Banerjee's unprecedented public rebuke spared no one; from ministers to bureaucrats everyone came up for scrutiny. "I don't want master-extortionists. I want people's servants," she said. She also announced a key change in the govt tender process. P 7



RAMPAGING ROHIT POWERS INDIA INTO SEMIS



Having lost to Australia in both the World Test Championship final and ODI WC final last year, India extracted a measure of revenge, defeating the Aussies by 24 runs to book a T20 WC semi spot. If Afghanistan beat Bangladesh today, Australia will be knocked out of the World Cup. The Indian victory was set up by skipper Rohit Sharma, who slammed 92 off 41 balls as records tumbled. When Rohit reached 50 off 19, (his fastest T20 half-ton and also the fastest in this WC), India's score was 52/1, a T20 record for lowest total when a batter has hit 50. India's 100 came up in 8.4 overs, their fastest in T20 WCs. Rohit crossed 200 sixes in his career, a T20 record, and also became the highest rungetter in T20is (4,165) | P 15

Senior AAI official found dead dressed as a woman

Aakash Ahuja & Kalyan Das | TNN

Dehradun: A senior Airports Authority official was found dead under suspicious circumstances at his official accommodation at an airport on Monday. TOI is withholding his name.

The official was found hanging from a ceiling fan dressed in women's clothes, including a maxi, undergarments, bindi, lipstick and bangles. His wife, a teacher, was in Pithoragarh at the time of the incident.

A senior police officer told TOI: "Relatives and colleagues forced open the official's bedroom door to find him hanging. He was taken to a hospital where doctors decla-

'STELLAR RECORD'

► The official was found hanging by a dupatta in bedroom, wearing a maxi, women's underclothes, bindi, bangles & lipstick

► Colleagues and seniors termed him an 'outstanding professional' who was never involved in any misconduct

► Police awaiting autopsy report to learn more about circumstances of death

red him 'dead on arrival'. There was no sign of forced entry in the room, which was locked from inside. There were no signs of physical assault either."

► **Relatives quizzed, P 10**

NEET, NET accused to face stringent new law charges

Anti-Cheating Law Will Apply Although 'Leaks' Predated Notification

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Govt has decided to prosecute those involved in manipulating this year's NEET-UG for medical entrance as well as UGC's NET to become college teachers under the just-notified Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, a decision which would mean that the wrongdoers would invite punishment tougher than what they would have faced under IPC provisions.

Sources in govt said though the alleged leak of NEET-UG and UGC-NET papers predated the notification of the new central law on Saturday, CBI will investigate the offences and charge-sheet the accused under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act which was enacted in Feb in the last session of the previous Lok Sabha. On Monday, ministry of personnel and public grievances and pensions also notified the rules for conduct of public exams by the Centre, which prescribe the procedures for

► **Related reports, P 16**

conducting inquiry and filing of reports against those involved in cheating during public examinations.

This means that students as well as those involved in paper leaks in Bihar and elsewhere will face up to 10 years in jail and a fine of up to Rs 1 crore. Similarly, students who allegedly resorted to unfair means in locations such as Godhra can face a sentence of at least three years along with a fine of Rs 10 lakh.

The law aims to prevent unfair means in public examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection

JAIL, FINE, DISQUALIFICATION... WHAT NEW LAW PROVIDES

Provisions in Rules of The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024

Establishment of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA)	PUNITIVE PROVISIONS
<p>Establishment of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) to prepare norms, standards, and guidelines for conducting computer-based tests to ensure integrity and transparency</p> <p>Mandatory Measures: Strict protocols for the handling and distribution of examination papers to prevent leaks; Use of technology such as encryption and secure transmission methods for exam materials.</p> <p>Preventive Actions: Regular audits and inspections of examination centres; Mandatory training for personnel involved in the examination process on maintaining the security and integrity of exams</p> <p>Grievance Redressal: Establishment of a dedicated mechanism for students and stakeholders to report irregularities and grievances; Timely investigation and resolution</p>	<p>Imprisonment: Individuals found guilty of leaking examination papers or engaging in other unfair means may face imprisonment, duration of which varies based on the severity of the offense</p> <p>Fines: Offenders can be subjected to substantial fines. These fines are intended to act as a financial deterrent against engaging in unfair practices</p> <p>Disqualification: Candidates found guilty of cheating may be disqualified from taking the examination for a specified period.</p> <p>Cancellation of Results: The examination results of candidates found to have engaged in unfair practices can be cancelled.</p> <p>Legal action against aiding entities: Educational institutions, coaching centres, or any other entities found to be complicit in facilitating unfair means can face legal action, including fines and other penalties</p> <p>Technological Safeguards: The Act mandates the implementation of technological safeguards to prevent paper leaks and cheating. This includes secure transmission of examination papers, monitoring of examination centres, and other measures</p> <p>Blacklisting: Individuals or entities repeatedly found guilty of unfair practices can be blacklisted, preventing them from participating in or facilitating future examinations.</p> <p>Reporting and Accountability: Failure to report instances of unfair practices promptly by exam bodies can result in punitive measures against the responsible officials.</p>

Commission (SSC), railways, banking recruitment examinations and National Testing Agency (NTA), among others.

According to the rules, educational institutions, coaching centres, or any other entities found to be complicit in facilitating unfair means can face legal action, including fines and other penalties. Involvement of "coaching centres" in recent irregularities are already being probed.

Coaching institutes and their personnel as well as examination authorities and

service providers can face up to 5 to 10 years in jail.

These measures are significantly tougher than the current regulations for dealing with cheating, forgery, and paper leaks which are punishable with imprisonment of maximum of three years, and will apply to irregularities in exams currently under investigation, like NEET-UG and UGC-NET by CBI. These rules require the National Recruitment Agency (NRA) to establish norms, standards, and guidelines for computer-based tests (CBT), among other responsibilities.

The rules include provisions for "engagement of services of other govt agencies by public examination authority," "preparations of norms, standards and guidelines," and "reporting of incidents of unfair means or offences," among others.

"The National Recruitment Agency, on behalf of central govt, shall in consultation with the stakeholders, prepare norms, standards, and guidelines for the computer-based test mode of examination, which shall be notified by the central govt," the rules state.

Rename state as Keralam: Kerala House

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala assembly on Monday unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to officially change the state's name to "Keralam". The House was passing the resolution the second time as the Union home ministry, which had reviewed the first resolution, had suggested some technical changes.

In the First Schedule of the Constitution the state is listed as Kerala. Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan moved the resolution and it was accepted by both LDF and UDF members. The assembly had on August 9, 2023 passed a similar resolution seeking the change in the First as well as Eighth Schedules of Constitution. The ministry had returned it saying that the change needed to be made only in the First Schedule. **TNN**

Mob lynches man & kin in Assam on suspicion of theft

Dibrugarh: A mob lynched a 28-year-old man and his relative in Assam's Sivasagar on Monday on the suspicion that he had stolen a cellphone, reports **Rajib Dutta**. The mobile was reported stolen from the house of one Jayram Gwala in Phukan Nagar on Sunday night and was untraced till the time of going to press.

Around 6am Monday, Jayram, with locals' help, dragged Palu and his relative Dadu out of their houses, suspecting them of theft. The mob thrashed both men, leaving them with critical injuries.

Cop torture? Man kills self 2 days after bro's suicide

Agra: Fed up with alleged harassment by Hathras police, two brothers from Agra district ended their lives within two days. Pramod Singh, 50, was found hanging from a tree in a field outside the village, a suicide note tied to his hand on Monday, barely 48 hours after his younger brother Sanjay Singh, 45, killed himself in a similar way on Saturday.

Hathras SP Nipun Agarwal has suspended sub-inspector Hariom Agnihotri, named in Pramod's suicide note and sent Sadabad SHO Mukesh Kumar to the police line. **TNN**

Fight For Speaker's Post Hots Up Amid oppn threat of a contest, BJP talks with allies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As the BJP brass moved closer towards picking its choice for Speaker, a confrontation seemed to be brewing with the opposition insisting on the deputy speaker's post and indicating that it would field a candidate for the Speaker's post if govt did not agree to its demand.

BJP began consultations with its allies on NDA's candidate for Speaker a day ahead of nominations for the election scheduled on Wednesday.

There are indications that govt will convey its choice to opposition parties on Tuesday evening — a day before the poll.

INDIA bloc is considering its options and may force a contest although the Speaker has always been elected with consensus. NDA, which enjoys a majority in LS, gave little indication about its choice.

Union minister K Ramohan Naidu (TDP) said that NDA functionaries, including N Chandrababu Naidu, would take a decision on the matter, adding that no final decision had been conveyed to them yet. A leader of another BJP al-



Om Birla at Parliament House on the first day of the first session of the 18th Lok Sabha, in New Delhi on Monday

ly said that the BJP brass has held consultations with him, but declined to discuss the details.

With the theme of continuity marking many of its choices since it returned to office for a third term, there is a view among a section of NDA that Om Birla, Speaker in the previous Lok Sabha, may be nominated again.

However, there was no official word on this.

Congress functionaries said they were waiting for a word from govt as part of consultations that are customary for the Speaker's election. Senior Congress and opposition MPs like K Suresh and N K Premachandran said they were in favour of a consensus.

MP cops nab 9 while ferrying 50 cows to Maha 'for slaughter'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Khargone: Nine people were arrested in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh on Sunday while allegedly trying to transport 50 cows for slaughter in Maharashtra. All of them are from Punjab.

SP Dharamraj Meena told **TOI** the arrests were made following a tip-off. Three of the accused are from Amritsar, five from Gurdaspur and one from Tarn Taran, he said, adding they had travelled about 1,300 km from Punjab before being intercepted on Agra-Mumbai National Highway in the temple town of Maheshwar. Police set up checkpoints on the highway and inspected trucks. "The cows were being transported cruelly in four trucks from Punjab. The accused said they used to travel only at night and rest in a dhaba during the day," Meena said.

The arrested suspects claimed they did not know whom the cows were to be delivered to, and that all they knew was the destination.

6 Nagpur butchers under scanner for cow slaughter

Madhya Pradesh Police have invoked the stringent National Security Act (NSA) against three kittingpins of an inter-state cattle smuggling racket, which also involved six of their close aides from Nagpur. Sources said carcasses of 63 butchered bovines were found on June 19 at five places in Seoni district.

World's oldest ostrich egg gives 1st proof of bird's presence in S India

Prashant.Rupera
@timesgroup.com

Vadodara: A team of archaeologists stumbled upon an ostrich nest that dates back 41,000 years—the oldest found in the world—in Andhra Pradesh.

Archaeologists from the Vadodara-based MS University, and colleagues from Germany, Australia, and the US found this archaeological evidence while investigating a fossil-rich site in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh. The nest was the home of 9-11 ostrich eggs, the researchers said. Typically, an ostrich

nest is 9-10 feet wide and can accommodate 30-40 eggs at a time. Researchers say this finding is crucial in finding out why megafauna (animals weighing more than 40kg) went extinct in India.

The discovery of nearly 3,500 pieces of ostrich eggshells from a patch of 1x1.5 metres is not only the first evidence of the presence of ostrich in south India, it is also the first time that archaeological evidence of a 41,000-year-old ostrich nest has been established.

Megafauna, literally large animals, refers to animals like horses, elephants, cattle, and hippopotamus.

Some of these megafauna became extinct around 40,000 years ago from different parts of the world. "The oldest ostrich eggshell were discovered from the Siwalik Hills on the Indian side of the Himalayas. They date back more than 20 lakh years. Even in peninsular India, the oldest evidence of ostrich eggshells was discovered from Katoti in Rajasthan, which date back to 60,000 years," said Devara Anilkumar, assistant professor at the department of archaeology and ancient history at MSU. He has been working on the project since April 2023.

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