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Mumbai special court rejects Abu Salem's plea not to be transferred from Taloja jail. Salem fears plot to kill him by shifting to another prison as his release from jail is near P 6

EU regulators charge Microsoft with breaking antitrust rules by bundling its Teams video conferencing & collaboration software with other productivity tools Page Opp

Kenyan police opened fire on protesters trying to storm Parliament, killing at least 5, even as parts of the building were set ablaze as lawmakers inside passed legislation to raise taxes Page Opp

US defence secy Lloyd Austin meets Israeli counterpart Yoav Gallant, warns a conflict between Israel and Hezbollah could spark a regional war and urges a diplomatic solution Page Opp



Speaker poll after 5 decades: NDA's Birla vs Cong's Suresh

Govt Rejects Oppn Demand For Post Of Deputy Speaker

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New Delhi: In the first trial of strength for the newly-elected Modi govt, opposition on Tuesday decided to field its candidate K Suresh against NDA's nominee Om Birla for the post of Lok Sabha Speaker.

The contest, which had looked likely, became inevitable after govt rebuffed the opposition's demand for the post of deputy speaker as a precondition for facilitating a consensus. Govt refused to accept the demand, saying the issue of deputy speaker could be negotiated later.

Though this will be only the fourth time—and the first in nearly 50 years—when a Speaker will not be elected by consensus, Wednesday's contest is in line with the intense acrimony that marked the LS

HOUSE NUMBERS FAVOUR NDA



Motion proposing name of Speaker can be adopted by a voice vote. If oppn insists on a division of votes, paper slips will be distributed to MPs to vote since seats have not been allocated to the new MPs for the electronic display system

EMERGENCY MINDSET STILL ALIVE IN CONGRESS: MODI, P 14

campaign and has persisted. The post was contested in 1952, the first LS, in 1967 and 1976. With NDA having an official strength of 293 in the 543-strong House, the stage is set for Birla, third-term MP from Kota, to get a second term as Speaker. He will be the fifth person after M A Ayyangar, G S Dhilon, Balram Jakhar and GMC Balayogi to hold the office two times in a row. Only Jakhar

TMC to clarify its stand today

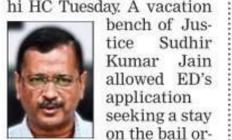
Trinamool said Tuesday Congress had not consulted it before declaring a contestant for speaker. By evening, the party sent two netas to an INDIA bloc meeting and sources said Rahul Gandhi had spoken to Mamata Banerjee. TMC said it would communicate its decision on backing K Suresh by 9am Wednesday. P 14

MPs make a point with slogans

Oath-taking by MPs on the second day was accompanied by slogans. Several BJP MPs chanted "Jai Shri Ram", while opposition MPs did so as Faizabad MP Awadhesh Prasad was sworn in. Bareilly's BJP MP Chhatrapal Gangwar said "Jai Hindu Rashtra". There were chants of "Jai Bheem" and "Jai Shivaji" too. P 16

HC allows ED plea, stays bail by lower court to Delhi CM

New Delhi: A city court's order granting bail to CM Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case was stayed by Delhi HC Tuesday. A vacation bench of Justice Sudhir Kumar Jain allowed ED's application seeking a stay on the bail order. HC said vacation judge Niyay Bindu had passed the order without going through ED's entire material on record, which reflected "perversity".



The high court bench said it couldn't comprehend how the trial court says in para 16 of the order that it was not possible to go through thousands of pages of documents filed by the respective parties but in para 36 asserts that relevant arguments and contentions raised on behalf of the parties have been dealt with. Vineet Upadhyay reports.

Porsche crash: HC says teen's remand illegal, orders release

'Sympathies For Victims, But Law Is Objective'

Swati.Deshpande@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The continuation of the minor accused in the Pune Porsche case in an observation home is absolutely illegal, Bombay HC held on Tuesday, directing his release. The HC directed the home to release the minor on bail with his custody not to be with any grandparent. "We are bound by law, the aims and objectives of the Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Act, and must treat him as any child in conflict with law (CCL), despite the seriousness or heinousness of the crime," said a two-judge bench of Justices Bharati Dangre and Manjus-

'MUST SEE HIM AS ANY JUVENILE UNDER LAW'

May 19 | Porsche crashes and kills 2 techies in Pune, teenage driver held

Boy (then 17 yrs, 8 mths) booked; JJB grants conditional bail, directs him to write 300-word essay on the accident

May 22 | Police file plea before the JJB seeking to treat him as adult. Plea pending for hearing

JJB sends him to observation home

ha Deshpande. The teenager was allegedly speeding in his luxury car in an intoxicated state on May 19 when it crashed into a bike, killing two software engineers. The Juvenile Justice Board had, while granting bail to the minor on May 19, ordered that he be handed over to the grandparents' custody af-

ter his grandfather gave an undertaking. HC said he could be handed over to the care of his aunt who filed a habeas corpus plea in HC for his release alleging illegal detention. The aunt lives in New Delhi. After HC's order, the juvenile justice board ordered his release Tuesday night.

Billboard tragedy: IPS officer suspended for irregularities

Ahmed.Ali@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Maharashtra govt on Tuesday suspended IPS officer Quaiser Khalid for alleged irregularities in granting approval for the hoarding that crashed in Ghatkopar on May 13, killing 17 people and injuring over 70 others.

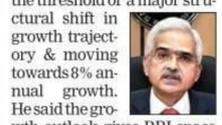
Khalid was the Government Railway Police (GRP) commissioner in the city when he allowed Ego Media Pvt Ltd to erect the hoarding. After the crash, he was issued a showcause notice. Khalid was posted as additional DGP, Protection of Civil Rights, at present. "Govt has decided to initiate disciplinary proceedin-

gs against Quaiser Khalid... in respect of administrative lapses and irregularities in sanctioning the hoarding, on his own, without approval of the DGP office and in respect of the misuse of powers by allowing massive hoarding size of 120x140 ft deviating from the approved norms as pointed out in the DGP report. It is necessary and desirable to place Khalid under suspension in accordance with provisions of Rule 3 (1) of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) Rules 1969," said the order issued by Venkatesh Bhat, joint secretary.

Multiple lapses, P 2

Moving towards 8% growth, focus on inflation: Das

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has said India is at the threshold of a major structural shift in growth trajectory & moving towards 8% annual growth. He said the growth outlook gives RBI space to single-mindedly focus on inflation. The message rules out interest rate cut. TNN P 17



Trio booked for breaking steps of Banganga tank

A day after a civic contractor damaged the steps of the centuries-old Banganga tank in Walkeshwar during desilting work, an FIR was filed against 3 persons affiliated with Savani Heritage Conservation. Workers rode an excavator over the steps, ripping apart a section of the grey stones that were laid 10-15 years ago. TNN P 4

'Not cashless? 68% borrowed before payback'

Up to 68% claimants who used the reimbursement method for health insurance did not have enough liquid savings to pay up and had to borrow or use long-term savings, found a survey. It reiterated the importance of increasing cashless claims as IRDAI has suggested, said an industry veteran. TNN P 17

Those keen to return welcome: Sharad Pawar

Amid buzz that several Ajit Pawar NCP legislators were keen to return, Sharad Pawar said on Tuesday he has kept the door open for them to come back if they can help strengthen his party. The statement came on a day former Union MoS Suryakanta Patil joined NCP (SP) from BJP. P 5

Muslim cemetery planned in Marol to be shifted out

BMC has told Bombay HC it will shift the proposed Muslim cemetery at Prajapur in Andheri's Marol to another place. Shri Leva Patidar Bajrang Satsang Mandal, in its plea, had urged HC to restrain BMC from passing any plan on the land to be used as burial ground as it was reserved for a hospital. P 3

State plans own Laadli Behna

With an eye on assembly polls, state govt is planning to introduce a scheme on the lines of MP's Laadli Behna, and provide Rs 1,500/month to poor women between 21 and 60 years. P 2

Sr J&K HC lawyer held over murder

Former president of J&K HC Bar Association Mi-an Abdul Qayoom Bhat was arrested on Tuesday over the murder of a lawyer, Babar Qadri, in an attack by terrorists in 2020. P 7

Sr Akali netas ask Sukhbir to quit

After LS rout, senior netas urged Sukhbir Singh Badal to hand over SAD reins to someone "who can balance religion and politics". P 7

In his first constitutional post, Rahul to be LS leader of oppn

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New Delhi: Rahul Gandhi will be leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, in a major leg-up for the Gandhi seion in his parliamentary responsibilities which is widely viewed as laying the ground for an aggressive and confrontational face-off with dominant BJP. The expectation that politics in coming days will be a 'Modi vs Rahul' duel got another fillip by the fact that as LoP—the first constitutional position he will hold—Rahul is likely to be chairman of the all-important Public Accounts Committee that has the primary function of examining CAG reports, and can also seek probes from the govt. The panel, though with govt



'Jai Hind, Jai Samvidhan', Gandhi said after taking oath as MP

majority which decides issues by vote, has proved to be testy for many regimes. Besides, he would also be a member of various collegiums comprising the PM and CJ or

govt nominees for selection of chiefs of important investigation and transparency agencies—CBI, Lokpal, CVC, CEC/Election Commissioners and CIC.

In a late evening announcement, AICC general secretary K C Venugopal said Congress parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi has written to pro tem speaker Bhartruhari Mahtab and allow his return home to Australia. He's due to be sentenced to 62 months served at a hearing in the US territory of Saipan in the Pacific. Assange, 52, has

agreed to plead guilty to one criminal count of conspiring to obtain and disclose classified US defence papers. He has spent over 5 years in a British jail and 7 in the Ecuadorian embassy in London. Page Opp

After 12 years, Assange set to be a free man

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange will plead guilty on Wednesday to violating US Espionage law, in a deal that will set him free after a 14-year British legal odyssey and allow his return home to Australia. He's due to be sentenced to 62 months served at a hearing in the US territory of Saipan in the Pacific. Assange, 52, has

What Assange Freed, P 18

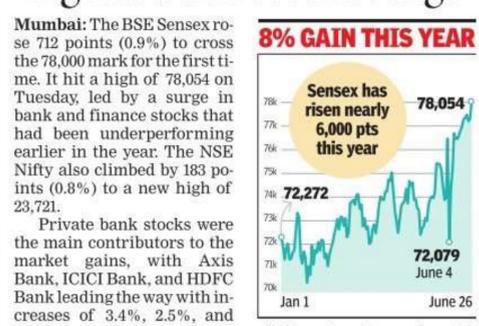
agreed to plead guilty to one criminal count of conspiring to obtain and disclose classified US defence papers. He has spent over 5 years in a British jail and 7 in the Ecuadorian embassy in London. Page Opp

At 1MT, gold haul at city airport up 73% last fiscal

Mumbai: Gold seems to have gained a heightened shine for smugglers, as indicated by the 73% rise in the quantity of seizures made at Mumbai airport last financial year. Authorities recovered 1,034kg of gold worth at least Rs 550 crore (price calculated according to various purities of the seized precious metal) in 2023-24 compared to the 597 kg seized in 2022-23, reports S Ahmed Ali. With gold prices crossing Rs 70,000 per 10 gram a few months ago, the profit from smuggling has risen substantially while the input costs for smugglers remain low. "There are several youngsters who are willing to carry the contraband for a mere Rs 10,000, plus a foreign trip and a small shopping voucher," a customs official said. A customs commissioner said smugglers were finding innovative places to hide gold.

50% evade detection, P 2

Sensex breaches 78k mark for 1st time, Nifty at record high as bank stocks surge



Mumbai: The BSE Sensex rose 712 points (0.9%) to cross the 78,000 mark for the first time. It hit a high of 78,054 on Tuesday, led by a surge in bank and finance stocks that had been underperforming earlier in the year. The NSE Nifty also climbed by 183 points (0.8%) to a new high of 23,721. Private bank stocks were the main contributors to the market gains, with Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank leading the way with increases of 3.4%, 2.5%, and 2.3%, respectively. SBI and Bajaj Finance also saw close to 1% gains. The rally in HDFC Bank was triggered by a multinational brokerage firm upgrading the stock. ICICI Bank achieved a new high with its market cap crossing \$100 billion for the first time. Commenting on the market performance, Karthick Jonagadla, Manager and Founder

Sensex driven by..., P 17

Hyderabad juvenile homes churn out sports champs

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Hyderabad: At 15, a juvenile offender. At 17, a state-level carrom champion. Two years at a govt-run children's shelter in Hyderabad's Chanchalguda gave young Aakash (all names changed) more than just a clean break in life and on the carrom board—it showed how resilience, mentorship and a quest for personal growth can lead to unexpected victories. At the Chanchalguda home, Aakash was among 60 rescued and rehabilitated children between 13 and 18 to receive professional sports coaching. Around 200 teenagers housed in five such homes in Hyderabad are being trained in



Several juveniles have competed in state and national tournaments

City woman abuses flight crew, booked

Mumbai: Ghatkopar homemaker Bandana Mishra (40) was declared an unruly passenger by the captain of an IndiGo flight from Varanasi to the city on Monday night after an hour-long mid-air drama when she allegedly kept abusing the crew, reports V Narayan. Upon landing in the city, Mishra was handed over to airport police station at 1.30 am Tuesday. She was allowed to leave after being served a notice and booked under Sec 336 (act endangering life or personal safety of others) of IPC and various sections of Aircraft Rules.

Delay in departure, P 6

TIMES ascent

Sports Stars' Lessons For Corporates

Full story | P 15

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Times Interact | P 8, 10, 12

THE FANTASTIC 4

India, Afghanistan, South Africa and England—the four survivors of the Super 8 have finally been spotted. This has been a rare, collector's edition of a T20 World Cup where the ball, for once, has mostly dominated the bat. We have also witnessed a clutch of humdingers, and it's likely more nerve-racking encounters are in store in the two semifinals on Thursday

INDIA VS ENGLAND June 27, 8pm IST Venue: Providence, Guyana Chances Of Rain: 88% (No Reserve Day)

In case of washout, India goes to final for getting higher rank in Super 8

HEAD TO HEAD: India has won 12, or 52%, of 23 T20 games. In T20 WC, both teams have won 2 matches each out of 4, though the last meeting in 2022 saw England hammering India by 10 wickets

INDIA (World No. 1)

Formbook: Red hot. Undefeated. Won every group game, barring an abandoned match against Canada. Waltzed past Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Australia in Super 8

Positives: Unplayable paceman Bumrah and wicket-scalping 'chinaman' Kuldeep Yadav. Batter-skipper Rohit Sharma in six-hitting form. Pandya's return to runs (avg 58, team's highest) and wickets (8) has added depth and value to the unit. Will enjoy crowd support

Concerns: Kohli's run shortage. Lack of form of all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja. Dube's inability to up the tempo (strike rate 107). Arshdeep taking wickets (15) but shows lack of control under pressure. Casual running-between-wickets by middle order

Crucial Question: Can this team replace pressure for pleasure in a knockout game? Can it avenge the thrashing at Melbourne in 2022?

Hot Star: Jasprit Bumrah, the complete fast bowler. 11 wickets. Avg 8.5. Economy rate 4.1. Too good, too much

ENGLAND (World No. 3 & defending champions)

Formbook: Blow hot, blow cold. Captain Jos Buttler's team has been ruthless against lesser sides but lost to Australia (group stage) & South Africa (Super 8)

Positives: Supreme belief in their all-attack approach. Match-winning and fearsome opening pair of Buttler and Phil Salt. Bats deep. Variety and depth in bowling. Speed gun Jofra Archer among wickets (9). Leg-spinner Adil Rashid is the trump card

Concerns: Australia showed England's bowling can be clobbered; S Africa proved its batters can be checkmated. Absence of wickets for T20 specialist pacer Reece Topley

Crucial Question: Do they have an answer to the contrasting magic of Bumrah and Kuldeep?

Hot Star: Harry Brook. Adds firepower to the middle order. Has been dismissed only once so far; average 120, strike rate 164



THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT JUNE 25: This day 41 yrs ago, Kapil's Devils had pulled off a historic win at Lord's. On Tuesday, Afghanistan made history by beating B'desh to enter its first-ever World Cup semis, sparking jubilant scenes across the country and among diaspora members

South Africa (World No. 5) vs Afghanistan (World No. 10)

Time: June 27, 6am IST Venue: Tarouba, Trinidad & Tobago

Chances Of Rain: 37% (There is a reserve day)

Head To Head: The two teams have faced off on 2 occasions, both in World Cups. South Africa leads 2-0

Formbook: Afghanistan defeated New Zealand (group game) and Australia (Super 8). South Africa, the unbeaten team so far apart from India, has won several tight encounters to underline that this team has shrugged off the tag of 'chokers'

Key Players: For Afghanistan, keeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz. Captain Rashid Khan's bowling unit, especially pacers Fazalhaq Farooqi & Naveen-ul-Haq, are among the most effective. For South Africa, opener Quinton de Kock, keeper-batter Klaassen & pacemen Kagiso Rabada & Nortje. Spinner Tabraiz Shamsi is the dark horse

Statistics: Rajesh Kumar FULL COVERAGE: P 21

'Over 50% of gold smugglers evade detection at airport'

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Mumbai: The city airport has seen a 73% increase in gold seizures in FY24. A customs commissioner, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said smugglers were increasingly engaging the services of foreigners, particularly Sudan, Nigeria and Thai nationals, most of them women.

Another official said the smuggling syndicates were constantly looking for people from poor countries who were willing to take the risk.

"More than 40% to 50% smugglers escape with the contraband, and those caught may be just the tip of the smuggling iceberg," the official said.

The international airport in the city has always been a favourite of gold smugglers, and central agencies like the customs and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) have ramped up their drives at the airport in recent months.

In 2023-24, the air customs in the city recorded 1,809 cases of gold seizure. The agency uncovered cases of gold smuggling involving ingenious methods, from disguising gold as everyday items like shampoo and lotion to more unusual items like bicycle parts hidden within the frame. DRI and Enforcement Directorate (ED) officers have found passengers hiding gold in chewing-gum packets, sewing machines, wheelchair frames and suitcase liners.

Other ways of concealing gold ranged from disguising it as juice powder and pancake powder, hiding it within plastic plates and vacuum cleaners, and keeping it between cardboard sheets of toy boxes, roti-making machines and hair dryers. Bras, wigs, baby powder containers and even diapers are also used to hide gold.

Smugglers often melt the gold into seed-shaped chips to hide these in dates or cap-

CITY A BIG MARKET, HUB OF SYNDICATES

REASONS FOR RISE IN SMUGGLING

- Govt in July 2022 raised import duty on gold from 7.5% to 12.5% to check rising imports
- With an additional 3% GST, consumers pay 18.45% tax on refined gold
- If gold price is considered to be ₹72,000 per 10 grams, smuggling in the same quantity brings down the cost to between ₹58,000 & ₹60,000

UP TO 20% OF GOLD ENTERING COUNTRY IS SMUGGLED IN

- It is estimated that up to a fifth of the total volume of gold entering the country arrives through illicit channels
- India imports between 800 tonnes and 900 tonnes — a tonne is 1,000 kg — of gold a year, while consumption is 1,000 tonnes
- This suggests that between 100 tonnes and 200 tonnes is smuggled into the country every year
- The World Gold Council estimates 75% of smuggled gold comes in by air



sules, or grind the precious metal into granules to be mixed with other metals. Sometimes, it is fashioned into gold belt buckles and torch batteries and concealed in bags and clothes. Authoriti-



City is a transit hub for gold smugglers as there is a big market here. Several syndicates operate here, including some big-time jewellers, who finance the racketeers

The state, West Bengal, Delhi, and Tamil Nadu account for most of the gold smuggling into the country

Data shared by the ministry of finance showed that in the last three financial

HOW IT IS DONE

- Officials say some people working at the airport are complicit in the smuggling activity, including employees of retail shops and contractors. They are handed the contraband by passengers who have smuggled it in
- People willing to make some money by smuggling are sent on sponsored trips to Gulf countries. They are made to hide up to 5 kg of gold in various parts of their luggage while returning. Often

they hide gold in flight toilets or under seats and wait till that flight is diverted to domestic routes to recover the contraband

Gold is often hidden in items that are shown as imported

DRI has found gold is also smuggled in by land and sea. It is brought into the North-East from abroad and pushed further inside country by courier or in buses and trains. It is brought into Tamil Nadu by smugglers on fishing boats

In pre-poll move, govt may introduce ₹1,500/month grant for women in state

Priyanka.Kakodkar @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: With an eye on the state assembly polls which are just three months away, state govt is considering introducing a subsidy for women, along the lines of the Ladli Behna scheme in Madhya Pradesh, which proved to be a game-changer that helped BJP return to power in the state in 2023.

Maharashtra's scheme, which may be introduced in the budget session of the state assembly which begins later this week, aims to provide Rs 1,500 per month to improve

riched women between the age of 21 and 60.

The state budget which will be tabled in the assembly is expected to provide an array of sops for different sections of society since it is the last budget before the polls.

With the voter turnout of women rising, state govts and political parties have been wooing this vote bank. According to the Election Commission of India, male voters had a marginally higher turnout (65.80%) than female voters (65.78%) in the Lok Sabha polls this year.

In 2023, the Eknath Shinde-led govt had introduced

the Lek Ladki scheme in the state budget. This was aimed at encouraging families with yellow and orange ration cards to educate their daughters.

The Lek Ladki scheme provides Rs 98,000 to be released in different phases: Rs 5,000 at birth, Rs 6,000 when she is admitted to class 1, Rs 7,000 when she takes admission in class 6, Rs 8,000 when she is admitted to class 11 and Rs 75,000 when she turns 18.

The 2023-24 budget had also announced a 50% travel concession for women on state transport buses. In March 2024, the Shinde government

unveiled a women's policy — the fourth in the state so far. It focused on eight objectives including health, education, ending gender-based violence and encouraging the political participation of women.

In 2021, the state assembly had passed the Shakti Criminal Laws (Maharashtra Amendment) (Act). It became the second state in India after Andhra Pradesh to approve death penalty for rape and gangrape.

In the 2021-22 state budget, govt had announced a 1% stamp duty concession for women if the property was registered in their name.

Teachers threaten to go on strike

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Mumbai: Unaided and partially aided school teachers across the state have threatened strike from Thursday, if their demands are not fulfilled. Their demands include releasing grants in phases, old pension scheme, raising the retirement age from 58 to 60, among others. Teaching and non-teaching staff of unaided schools and junior colleges have been demanding 100% government aid.

Following protest by teachers, the govt in 2019 announced up to 60% financial aid to benefit over 63,000 teachers. Representatives of the Maharashtra unaided and partially aided schools action committee on June 21 met CM Eknath Shinde urging him to release the promised grants. The representatives said they will sit on an indefinite strike from June 27 if their demands are not fulfilled. Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate from Mumbai graduate constituency Anil Parab accused Shinde of violating the election code of conduct if he has made any promises to the teachers representatives. TNN

3.8k drunk driving cases in city in 6 months of '24, against 2.9k in '23

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Mumbai: More action was taken against drunk drivers in Mumbai in the first six months of this year compared to the entire last year. The traffic department got 23 cases registered under IPC and over 3,700 under local laws between Jan to June 20, this year, and fines up to Rs 1.70 crore were levied.

In contrast, three IPC FIRs and 2,883 cases under local laws were registered against drunk drivers in 2023. Sources said enforcement was ramped up in the aftermath of the Pune Porsche case, where an allegedly inebriated minor behind the wheels of his father's car left two people dead in a road crash.

"Traffic police are on alert after the Pune Porsche case," said a senior Mumbai traffic police officer. "In Mumbai, we have been carrying out joint checks with the assistance from local police," he added. Checks are more frequent at late hours and on weekends when the volume

CRACKDOWN UP POST-PORSCHE CASE



of traffic on roads is lower. Transport activist AV Shenoy said consistent enforcement throughout the year is crucial, and not sporadic action. "Typically, crackdowns are carried out by the traffic department around events like New Year's Eve festivities or following major road crashes which is not sufficient," pointed out another activist.

In March last year, a three-year-old girl died after an inebriated senior corporate executive, Vishwas Attevar, crashed his car into her at BKC. In the same month, a software firm CEO jogging at Worli Seaface was killed after a car steered by an inebriated 24-year-old motorist, Sumer Merchant, rammed into her. Both cases are yet to go to trial. More recently, an inebriated motorist was booked after he rammed his SUV into a woman and an on-duty policeman on a busy Khar road, leaving them injured.

Bizman hires goon to clear encroachment, his plan backfires

Ahmed.Ali@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: In an unexpected turn of events, a Gujarat man's attempt to remove an illegal hooch factory from his property by hiring a criminal for the job backfired. Although the goon succeeded in eliminating the unauthorized encroachment, he later demanded an extortion payment of Rs 6 lakh from the very person who had engaged

his services. When the complainant refused to pay, the goon and his associates armed themselves with illegal weapons and used Google Maps to track him down in Mumbai.

This incident highlights the potential dangers of involving criminal elements, even when the intention is to correct wrongdoing.

Santacruz police arrested two gang members — Shiv-

bha Gadhvi and Imram Rauma — and are now searching for their mentors, Balwant Jadeja and his cousin Ashok Jadeja. Both Jadejas have a history of assault and attempted murder charges in Gujarat.

The victim, Mahesh Gami, a resident of Khotwadi in Santacruz West, runs a garment trading business in Mumbai and owns substantial ancestral properties in

Kutch, Gujarat. Gami informed police that an illegal hooch factory operated by a notorious individual, Mansingh Koli, was adjacent to their fields in Kutch, causing problems to family members, particularly the women. "In November 2023, a friend suggested him to meet Balwant Jadeja, who could handle Koli," said an officer. Balwant told Mahesh that he would have to pay Rs 30,000 to him

and Rs 30,000 to the police to remove the hooch factory permanently, to which Mahesh agreed. In 4-5 days, Rapar police in Kutch demolished the illegal hooch factory.

However, in December 2023, while at his Santacruz home, Mahesh received a call from Jadeja demanding an additional Rs 5 lakh. "I paid him Rs 3 lakh online, but Jadeja kept demanding more. When I refused to pay, he start-

ed threatening me," Mahesh told TOI.

Later, on March 11, Jadeja called Mahesh and claimed he had tracked him using GPS and was sending two people to kill him in Santacruz.

On March 16, Jadeja made a video call, handed the phone to Mahesh's father in their native place, and threatened to kill his father if he failed to pay Rs 5 lakh. Again, on March 20, Jadeja called,

saying had sent Gadhvi and Rauma to Mumbai to either shoot or cause a fracture to Mahesh.

On May 15, Mahesh was on his way to his native place when Jadeja and his men caught him and assaulted him, asking him to withdraw his FIR. This did not deter Mahesh, and he registered another FIR against Jadeja with Gujarat police for assault.

Mysore Cafe robbery: Cops nab kingpin in Delhi; 10 held

Mumbai: Premchand Jaiswal, the prime suspect in the robbery at the residence of Cafe Mysore owner Naresh Nayak, on May 13, was apprehended by the Sion police in Delhi on Monday. With Jaiswal's arrest the number of arrests in the case has touched 10. Police said Jaiswal, who appears to be the kingpin, shuffled between various locations in Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Rajasthan before being caught in Delhi on Monday. The police stated that Jaiswal allegedly orchestrated the robbery at Nayak's home with the assistance of others, including two Mumbai police constables, but did not directly participate in the heist.

On May 13, the others accused arrived at Nayak's residence in a police jeep, impersonating Mumbai Crime Branch officials. They claimed to have information about Rs 17 crore being stored in the house for use during the Lok Sabha elections, and conducted a search. They fled with Rs 70 lakh in cash and four gold coins. After tracing the jeep used in the crime, the Sion police arrested nine individuals accused of posing as crime branch officials and conducting the raid. — SAhmed.Ali

Multiple lapses by IPS officer named in Ghatkopar hoarding collapse probe report

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Mumbai: After the collapse of a massive hoarding on a petrol pump at Ghatkopar killed 17 persons in May, GRP, in a report to the state home department, had mentioned about lapses on the part of IPS officer Quaiser Khalid, who headed Government Railway Police (GRP) in the city at that time, in sanctioning it, sources said. "The conduct of BMC, Khalid and Ego Media was questionable," an officer said.

State director general of police (DGP) Rashmi Shukla had issued a show-cause notice to Khalid asking him to explain why he allowed the hoarding without an approval from the DGP office.



The hoarding crashed on May 13

Khalid was transferred to Protection of Civil Rights on Dec 16, 2022 (Friday), however, he signed the papers granting approval for the hoarding on Dec 18 (Sunday) and put up the noting on Monday, when he handed over the charge of GRP commissioner to Ravindra Shishve. Usually, once a transfer

order is issued, an officer is not supposed to take any major decision especially that has monetary implications. Khalid will also have to explain why he allowed the oversize of the hoarding, when BMC had given permission only for 80x80ft.

Khalid also illegally altered the hoarding contract from 10 years to 30 years to Ego Media. He justified it saying that construction of RCC structure for the huge hoarding was very high.

An official said they are likely to record Khalid's statement after completing all formalities.

The special investigation team (SIT), which is probing the hoarding collapse, has also found that Ego Media had

sent Rs 46.6 lakhs to 10 unknown bank accounts on behalf of Arshad Khan, a partner in Khalid's wife's company. Police have not yet found her involvement in the case.

Police have already arrested Ego Media director Bhavesh Bhide, former director Janhvi Marathe, structural engineer Manoj Sanghu and civil contractor Sagar Kumbhar in the hoarding collapse case.

Earlier, Khalid had told TOI that the records will speak for themselves and claimed that he is being unfairly targeted. He clarified that he had only approved the change of the hoarding operator to ensure that the railway police welfare received a substantial revenue.

'TIME TO REST ON YOUR OARS'



With the monsoon setting in, marking the start of the fish breeding season, fishermen anchor their boats in Uttan creek, Bhayandar. The fishing season will resume on Narali Poornima

From owning 1 car to 400, cabbie races to new dream

Somit.Sen@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Ashfaque Chunawala is proof that courage, determination, hard work and financial discipline can turn your life around. From earning a modest monthly salary of Rs 1,500 in 2004 by stacking the shelves of a retail store to owning a fleet of 400 cabs with an annual turnover of Rs 36 crore, the 37-year-old Oshiwara resident is only hungry for more — he wants to expand his fleet to 500 soon.

Chunawala had to drop out after Class X to support his family and found a job in 2004 with a retail store as an attendant. But his ambitions pushed him to try newer things. For close to 10 years, he kept switching to jobs in search of better opportunities



Chunawala wants to add 100 more cabs

and eventually became the manager of an apparel and skincare store. He still couldn't shake off the feeling,

though, that he was meant to do more. But while his instincts egged him on to aim higher, he found himself drowning in financial debts.

His luck turned in 2013 after he came across an advertisement of a newly launched ride-hailing app that was quickly gaining popularity and offered flexible earning opportunities. He joined the platform as a part-time driver, secured a cheap and small car through the company's special programme, got behind its wheel, and never looked back.

Chunawala balanced both his jobs initially — driving for a few hours from 7am, then heading to the store and driving again for some time at night. As his earnings grew — he made Rs 35,000 from the store and Rs

15,000 a month as a driver — he worked on building his savings.

His path to success was also laid by his sister, who helped him buy a second car. With the increased earnings from both the cars, he recognised the need to expand and applied for a bank of Rs 10 lakh to buy three more cars. After his loan got sanctioned, he hired more drivers.

It was at this stage that Chunawala showed that he's cut from a different cloth. Instead of being content with his already improved prospects, he kept a small sum from his earnings after paying his loan EMIs and invested the rest. He used the deposits, along with fresh bank loans, to buy more cars, eventually building a 400-strong fleet over time.

He told TOI that his fleet provides employment and stability to many families. "I also strive to empower drivers to pursue their dreams unhindered by financial constraints."

But it wasn't a smooth ride. He faced multiple setbacks — from employees deserting him and promoting toxicity at work to his toughest trial during the first lockdown triggered by Covid-19 that brought business to a screeching halt.

Chunawala, who will soon be facilitated by the ride-sharing app, Uber, with which he is still affiliated, as a top first-generation entrepreneur, said his drivers are put through an intensive training for 15-30 days, where they are sensitised about appropriate behaviour and expectations.

25-ft whale carcass washes ashore at Arnala beach

Mumbai: The carcass of an adult whale washed ashore at Arnala beach in Virar on Monday. It took over 20 hours to complete the final disposition of the animal. Fishermen who spotted the carcass, measuring around 25-foot-long said that the cetacean may have been injured in a hit by a vessel — boat or ship — two to three days before it's body washed ashore as it had started decomposing. The carcass would have washed ashore during high tide, said fishermen. They informed the Arnala police who along with forest officials reached the spot. As news of the whale spread, people from surrounding villages reached the beach to have a glimpse of the animal and most shot pictures. Residents of Arnala Fort urged the district administration to carry out the burial as the stink from the carcass was spreading around. Photographs of the carcass were taken by forest officials and the tissues were sent for forensic analysis before the burial procedure was undertaken. A forest official said as is the practice beach burial is undertaken to dispose the carcass. TNN

HC pulls up state on delay in call on shifting of Worli Dairy

Union Says No Hearing For 1.5 Yrs; State Assures Decision By July-End

Rosy.Sequeira@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Bombay high court on Tuesday rapped the state government over its delay in taking a decision on the representation by a trade union against shifting of Worli Dairy to Aarey Milk Colony, Goregaon.

"How long do you take to hear such representations? A year and half? Should we issue contempt notice?" asked Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar.

They were hearing a contempt petition by Rashtriya Shramik Aghadi that alleged wilful and intentional disobedience of HC's Jan 5, 2023 order. The union, in a PIL, had challenged March/May 2022 government resolutions (GR) issued by the Revenue and Forest Department to hand over 10 acres of land, a sea-facing property, to the Urban Development Department to develop an international tourist center and aquarium.

The GRs were withdrawn. A new GR in Feb 2022 set up a committee to consider how the land would be used. On Jan 5, 2023, HC directed the committee to decide on the union's representation.

The contempt petition said immediately on Jan 16, 2023, the union made a detailed representation to the



Court was hearing plea by a trade union alleging wilful disobedience of HC order

committee, and subsequently, sent reminders and even legal/contempt notices asking what steps have been taken after HC's order. The union said HC's order "remains only on paper" and urged HC to step in.

Advocates Uday Warunjikar and Sumit Kate, for the union, said the deputy CM heads the committee as its chairman. The state's advocate sought time saying the file is submitted before the deputy CM.

The judges said such a plea cannot be accepted as the decision is supposed to be taken by the committee that includes the DyCM, four ministers and three secretaries. "The principal secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and

Milk Development being its member secretary, no explanation can be said to be satisfactory for such a delay of more than one and half year in taking the decision which the committee was required to take in terms of the order dated January 5, 2023," they added.

The judges noted that HC "had not expressed any opinion on the issue" but rather found it appropriate to direct the committee to take decision on merits, in accordance with law and in terms of government policy. "We cannot appreciate such a delay..." they added. Government pleader Priyabhushan Kakade later informed that a decision will be taken by July-end.

32-year-old woman strangled by lover in Virar

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Mumbai: A 32-year-old married woman Dhanashree Ambadkar was allegedly strangled to death by her married boyfriend in her Virar (east) home on Monday. The incident took place when the accused Shekhar Kadam, a 33-year-old auto rickshaw driver, visited the victim's house in the afternoon while her husband was at work and their two daughters were in school. According to the Virar police, Kadam came out screaming from the house in Sainath Apartment, Phoolpada, and alerted the neighbours, claiming that Dhanashree had collapsed and fallen unconscious around 5.45pm. With the help of the neighbours, Kadam rushed her to the hospital, where she was declared dead. The doctors suspected that Dhanashree

had been strangled and informed the police, who initially detained Kadam for questioning.

During the investigation, the victim's husband Rupesh revealed to the police that he was aware of his wife's affair with Kadam and suspected him of having killed her. Rupesh told the police about having warned his wife to end the relationship with Kadam. Dhanashree is believed to have told Kadam about it, following which the latter even threatened her on May 19. Rupesh had then filed a non-cognisable offence against Kadam at the Virar police station.

Rupesh told the police that on Monday around 12.15 pm, Dhanashree called him on cell phone and asked him to come on urgently. She did not give any reason. Rupesh, who works as a salesperson in a private firm, could not leave his office at that point.

In the evening at around 5.45 pm, he received a call from a neighbour informing that Dhanashree was unconscious and needed to be taken to the hospital. Rupesh was then not aware that Kadam was in the house. The police are currently investigating the motive behind the murder. Kadam, who is married and has a daughter, lives in the same locality.

BMC says it will shift Muslim cemetery proposed at Marol

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Mumbai: BMC on Tuesday told Bombay high court that it will shift the proposed Muslim cemetery at Prajapur village, Marol, Andheri (E) to another place to avoid a clash of interests as there is a temple adjacent to it.

Justices Mahesh Sonak and Kamal Khata were hearing a plea by a Sunni Muslim trust to vacate an Oct 27, 2020 status quo order on the 2,500 sq m site so that it can be used for burials. The Anjuman Taleem Ul-Quran Sunni Taha Masjid had sought dismissal of a petition by Shri Leva Patidar Bajrang Satsang Mandal that had claimed possession since 1925 of the adjacent land on which

there are two temples and a welfare centre. The Mandal said the land was reserved for a hospital.

The Masjid said since Aug 2014 it has managed the burial ground as caretaker under an annual agreement with BMC. Due to HC's status quo order, its agreement was not renewed and no permission was given to bury bodies. BMC's Feb 2023 reply said the Masjid's renewal application was rejected in view of HC's Nov 10, 2020 order that the "land shall not be used as a burial ground/cemetery." As the disputed land is excluded from the development plan 2034, it "can be put to use as a cemetery only after sanction of the state government." It informed that the

state urban development department (UDD) had transferred the land to BMC to develop a Muslim cemetery.

BMC's advocate Kaushik Mhatre informed that "the issue is almost resolved." Referring to the UDD's Feb 2023 letter on shifting the cemetery to an alternate site, Mhatre said in order to avoid a clash of interests as there's a mandir adjacent to the proposed cemetery, a decision was taken for shifting the burial ground to another place. He sought time to place BMC's decision on record. The judges said once BMC files its affidavit on its decision, liberty can be granted to a party aggrieved by such decision, to question it in accordance with law.

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5	C-9	Sector-12	10400	1,03,89,91,200/-
6	C-10	Sector-12	10400	1,03,89,91,200/-
7	C-11	Sector-12	10400	1,03,89,91,200/-
8	C-12	Sector-12	10400	1,03,89,91,200/-
9	C-4	Delta-1	3600	35,96,50,800/-
10	C-5	Delta-1	4800	47,95,34,400/-
11	C-8	Delta-1	3600	35,96,50,800/-
12	C-01	Sector-1	7845	71,24,90,745/-

Document Download Starts 26-06-2024 | 3:00 PM

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Vasai murder accused not orphan: Cops

Mumbai: The 29-year-old accused, Rohit Yadav, who allegedly killed his 22-year-old girlfriend Aarti Yadav in broad daylight on June 18, is believed to have lied to the victim and her family about being an orphan. He had claimed to be an orphan from Haryana who lost his parents and sister over a decade ago before coming to Mumbai. However, the Vasai police investigating the case have discovered that Yadav is actually from a village in UP, where his parents still reside. It has also come to light that while his first name is indeed Rohit, he had lied about his surname, which is actually 'Pal'. His claim of being an orphan was one of the reasons why Aarti was hesitant to end the relationship, despite it turning sour a month ago, police said. **TNN**

Jet founder moves HC for bail extension

Mumbai: Citing his wife's recent death and his poor health, Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal (75) approached the Bombay High Court on Tuesday, seeking an extension of the two-month interim medical bail that was granted to him earlier. The plea states that his medical condition remains critical. The HC said he must approach the same bench who had granted him bail on medical grounds. He was arrested in connection with a money laundering case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate. His bail extension plea filed on June 19 said that his medical condition continued to remain poor. Goyal's wife, Anita, passed away on May 16. Goyal himself had undergone treatment at the Sir H N Reliance Foundation Hospital. **TNN**

Man found hanging in friend's flat

Mumbai: A 49-year-old man visiting his female friend at her home in Goregaon West was found dead at her apartment late on Monday. The woman told the police that she had found him hanging from the ceiling fan and that she and her neighbour were trying to bring his body down, when it fell on the floor. Goregaon police have recorded an accidental death record for now and are awaiting a post-mortem report which will conclude the cause of death.

RR Yadav, the deceased, had a PhD and was employed with a multinational pharmaceutical company. He lived in Dombivli. He used to frequently visit his friend at Goregaon. Around 10.30pm on Monday, the society's office-bearers were informed by a resident about the incident. **TNN**

After outrage, trio booked for razing Banganga steps relaid a decade ago

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Pics: S. Shanthi Kumar

Mumbai: Malabar Hill police on Tuesday filed an FIR against three persons affiliated with Savani Heritage Conservation, the company that damaged the steps of the historic Banganga tank in Walkeshwar the day before, following a complaint from BMC's D ward. Contractor Ram Savani was issued a show-cause notice for having used an excavator to undertake the desilting work on the premises, rather than doing it manually. The civic body claimed that the damaged stairs were replaced "within a few hours".

Heritage activists and citizens were shocked and upset at the mindless destruction of the steps of the holy tank on Monday. Savani Heritage, which was deputed only to desilt the tank, rode an excavator over the steps, ripping apart a section of the grey stones that were laid around 10-15 years ago. The original red-yellow carved steps had already been excavated in a previous "restoration" exercise by the state archaeology department that began in 2008.

The FIR has been registered against Savani, the site supervisor and the excavator driver under Section 336 of the Indian Penal Code (act endangering life or personal safety of others), which attracts a jail term of up to three months and/or a fine of Rs 250.

Savani did not respond to TOI's phone calls and messages seeking comment.

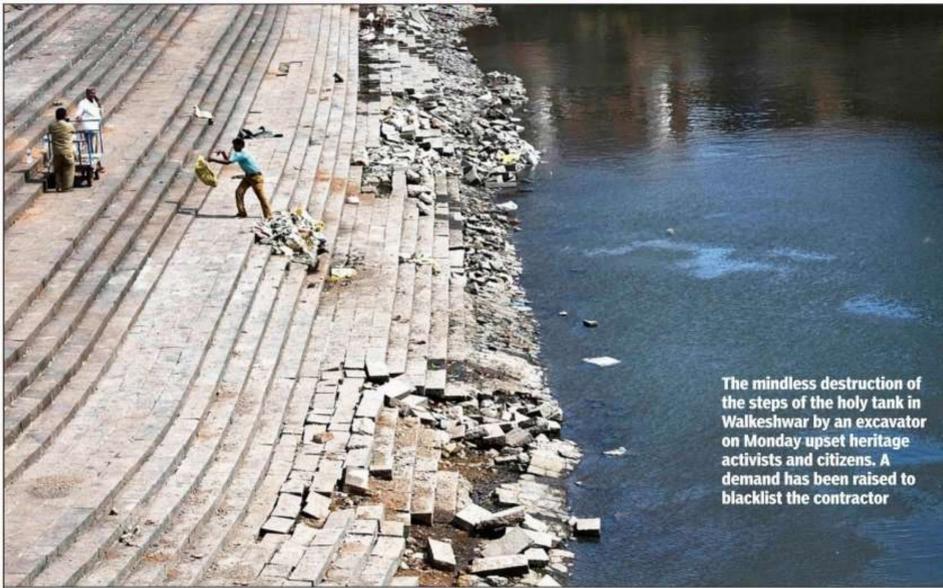
Officials of Gaud Saraswat Brahmin Temple Trust, which own the private plot, witnessed the damage, alerted the archaeology department and BMC and got them to halt the work. Rutvik Aurangabadkar, the trust's projects CEO, said, "We were shocked to see the steps broken by the contractor's heavy machinery. The desilting task was to be done manually, not using JCBs and excavators."

Aurangabadkar said restoration work had been ongoing for the past few years. He said, "We have planned it so meticulously and appointed consulting architect Shashi Prabhu and conservation architect Vikas Dilawari for their expert guidance. But issuing the tender, awarding the contract and granting the work order are up to BMC. It is so unfortunate that a contractor's mistake has hampered our efforts."

Local MLA and state cabinet minister Mangal Prabhakar visited the spot along with civic and police officers on Tuesday. He said, "I have spoken with police commissioner [Vivek Phansalkar] to lodge an FIR." Lodha demanded that the contractor be blacklisted and said repair work of the damaged steps "will be completed in the next 72 hours". He said a BMC committee will be formed to present its report within 15 days, and a local committee will be appointed to monitor the restoration work and ensure that such incidents do not recur.

AAP alleged that Lodha was "eyeing Banganga complex for real estate and the destruction of the steps is part

WAS TO BE DESILTED MANUALLY: TEMPLE TRUST



The mindless destruction of the steps of the holy tank in Walkeshwar by an excavator on Monday upset heritage activists and citizens. A demand has been raised to blacklist the contractor

Past instances of damage to tank

June 2008: The then director of the state archaeology dept, R N Hegde, ordered the replacement of the historic, naturally misshapen, yellow-red carved steps—upon which generations of devout Hindus have prayed for the salvation of their ancestors' souls—with new grey polished stone. The move evoked outrage among citizens and activists

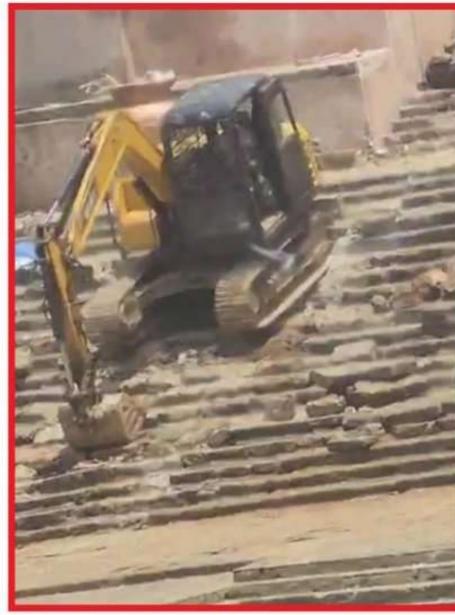
steps yet again. Residents alleged that the unloading of heavy material along Banganga tank, besides construction of a temporary tin shed, damaged the site extensively. "We issued the work orders to start the restoration. Our supervisors will ensure that there is no damage to the heritage structure," E V Patil, the then conservation head at the state archaeology department, had said

May 2015: Civic contractors conducting another round of restoration work damaged the



of a bigger conspiracy by BJP to exploit the real estate potential". AAP's Mumbai unit president Preeti Sharma Menon accused BJP of being "anti-Mumbai and anti-Hindu". "The demolition of Banganga tank's steps is simply unacceptable and it is also a criminal offence. This episode

speaks volumes," she said. Heritage activist Anita Garware of Indian Heritage Society, which organised a music festival at the site for years, said, "This is totally sacrilegious to a protected monument. Great efforts to save Banganga tank were started in 1991 by a committee under



22 temples in precinct

The 143m x 57m tank was built in 13th-14th century. Over the years, 22 temples for various deities have come up in the precinct

This is private property owned by GSB Temple Trust, but since it is a heritage site, permissions are required from state archaeology dept & BMC for functions, repairs and restoration

The legend goes that Lord Ram's 'baan' (arrow) caused freshwater spring to burst forth from the ground, lending the site its name

During Sarva Pitra Amavasya in Sept, those who can't travel to Varanasi to perform 'shraddh' do so at Banganga. The annual aarti on Tripurari Purnima draws nearly 15,000 devotees

1987

Year it was declared a protected monument and subsequently awarded BMC's grade-1 heritage tag

the chairmanship of the then municipal commissioner. The tank was cleaned manually every year before the music festival and not a single nail was allowed to be hammered into the ancient stones. Now this destruction, under the guise of restoration, is extremely painful. It must be stopped immediately and those responsible [for the damage] must be severely punished."

Banganga is a holy site where thousands of people gather to make offerings to their ancestors. It is the habitat of vast shoals of fish that unfortunately die by pollution annually.

At 5.3%, water stock lowest in 5 yrs; will last till July 31: BMC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The city's total water stock dipped to nearly 5.3% on Tuesday — the lowest level recorded in the last five years.

With rains yet to pick up pace and BMC already dipping into the reserve stock, with govt approval, and imposing a 10% water cut, it assured Mumbaikars that the current stock in the seven lakes — 76,602 million litres, along with reserve stock — should suffice till July 31.

On Tuesday, the usable water stock in the seven catchment area lakes stood at nearly 76,602 million litres or 5.3% of the total annual required quantum of 14.47 lakh million litres. It was around 93,972 million litres (6.5%) on the same day last year and 1.4 lakh million litres (9.6%) on June 25, 2022.

On June 27, 2019, BMC had recorded water stock at 71,574 million litres (nearly 5%), but had not dipped into the reserve stock.

Appealing to citizens to use water judiciously, additional municipal commissioner Abhijit Bhargar said, "We are closely monitoring the situation. We have water to fulfill the city's demand until July 31. There is no change in the existing situation (withdrawing water cut or increasing it)."

Water stock in the seven lakes has officially been around 5% since the last two weeks as Mumbai's ongoing supply is from the lakes' reserve water stock. State govt has permitted BMC to use nearly 1.4 lakh MLD from Bhatsa and 91,130 MLD of water from Upper Vaitarna.

Moreover, Mumbai has no alternative water resource, and its wastewater recycling and desalination plan will still take years to

'Expect heavy to moderate rain in 2 days'

Mumbai experienced hot and humid conditions on Tuesday, even as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted heavy to moderate rainfall for the city and its surrounding areas for the next two to four days.

Santacruz recorded a maximum day temperature of 36.4°C, 5° above normal, with relative humidity of 73% at 8.30am, which dropped to 63% by 5.30pm. Rainfall recorded in IMD's Santacruz observatory was 0.2mm. Colaba was hot at 33.2°C with a relative humidity of 82% in the morning, which dropped by 9% in the evening. Minimum temperatures at both Colaba and Santacruz observatories stayed at 26°C.

IMD officials said the city is likely to get heavy rains in isolated places on Wednesday and Thursday.

By Friday, rainfall will be moderate. Both Dahanu and Panvel experienced a hot Tuesday with day temperatures at 34°C. For Raigad, IMD issued an orange alert for Thursday and Friday with chances of heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places. **TNN**

materialise.

BMC supplies around 3,800 million litres of water daily to Mumbai. The maximum percentage of potable water is supplied by Bhatsa (48%). Upper Vaitarna provides for 16% of the water needs, Middle Vaitarna 12%, Modak Sagar or Lower Vaitarna 11%, and Tansa 10%. Tulsi and Vihar lakes, located inside Sanjay Gandhi National Park, provide for a total 2%.

Train speed up, Tilak Nagar-Panvel trip to be shorter by 5 mins

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Mumbai: Central Railway (CR) has increased the speed of trains running on Harbour line from 80kmph to 95kmph between Tilak Nagar and Panvel. This change, implemented from Tuesday following a notification issued on June 3, aims to save up to 5 minutes in travel time and improve punctuality.

CR operates 188 services between CSMT-Panvel and 79 between CSMT-Belapur. It takes 80 minutes to travel between CSMT-Panvel and 65 minutes between CSMT-Belapur. Although an initial proposal suggested increasing the speed to 105kmph, approval was granted for a maximum of 95kmph due to safety concerns. CR's chief PRO Swapnil Nila said, "We have begun implementing new speed limits from Tuesday."

A CR official explained, "The braking distance at 105kmph was insufficient to maintain a safe gap between two trains. Therefore, it was decided to limit the speed to 95kmph." To sup-

port the increased speed, CR undertook strengthening of the tracks and necessary modifications to the Overhead Equipment.

The speed increase does not apply to CSMT-Tilak Nagar section because the short distances between stations prevent trains from reaching top speed before needing to slow down. Additionally, slum areas along the tracks between Tilak Nagar and Wadala pose significant trespassing risks. The presence of multiple level crossing gates on the Chunabhatti-Kurla-Tilak Nagar stretch further complicates speed enhancements.

Many commuters have suggested that fencing the stretch between Kuria and Mankhurd could improve speed on this section. Currently, trains on Harbour line take 33 minutes to travel between Kuria and CSMT, compared to 30 minutes via the Main line, despite both routes covering the same distance. Panvel resident Rajesh Naik said, "CR needs to run more trains to Panvel if the saved time creates additional paths."

'Celebrity thief' nabbed hrs after house break-in

V.Narayan@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Police arrested a "celebrity thief", identified as Vijay Jadhav alias Batla, within six hours of burglary at the house of Hiren Joshi, the grandson of late Kamghar Utkarsha Sabha leader Gulab Joshi, in Vile Parle (East).

The burglary occurred between June 21 and 22 when Hiren and his family were on a trip to Goa. Jadhav allegedly stole Rs 1.5 lakh in cash, and gold, diamond and silver ornaments worth Rs 43.75 lakh. Police have recovered the entire stolen cash and goods.

The theft was discovered by family caretaker, Shivaji Bharti, who informed Hiren's father, Mahesh (71). The police identi-

fied Jadhav with the help of CCTV footage, with a constable recognising him by his walking style, said a police officer from Vile Parle police station.

Jadhav, known as a "celebrity thief" in police circles had committed 16 similar offences, mostly targeting the homes of Bollywood actors in the western suburbs, the officer said. The police, however, did not reveal the names of the celebrities allegedly targeted by Jadhav. There are cases against him in Juhu and Vile Parle police stations apart from other police stations.

According to the police, Jadhav's modus operandi involved targeting houses without safety grilles and entering through sliding windows.

Pfizer India's KNOW Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) campaign bags prestigious GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS™ title for largest online video album of people reciting an oath/pledge!

Pfizer India achieves the coveted Guinness World Records™ title for its meaningful efforts to raise nationwide awareness in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR), in partnership with healthcare professionals across the country

According to the World Health Organisation, AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites stop responding to antimicrobial medicines. This resistance renders antibiotics, which are traditionally used to address common infections, no longer effective. This phenomenon is expected to worsen over time and lead to prolonged illness, heightened healthcare costs, and an astounding number of global deaths annually—possibly 10 million by

KNOW
Antimicrobial Resistance

2050, indicating an urgent need for action. Promoting the responsible use of treatment options involving antimicrobial products includes encouraging people to follow the recommended medication schedule, dosage, and treatment duration. This is vital to address this growing public health threat.

TACKLING AMR BY SETTING BENCHMARKS
Taking the lead to slow down this health crisis, Pfizer has been taking various steps and several proactive measures. One such initiative that the company is spearheading is the 'KNOW AMR' campaign, which aims at strategically addressing this problem through awareness and education.

The campaign also featured the #PledgeWithPfizer initiative, urging healthcare professionals and the public to take a pledge in the fight against AMR. This broke the Guinness World Records™ title for the largest online video album of people reciting an oath/pledge, amassing a whopping total of 11,251 oaths recited. This phenomenal feat saw doctors, nurses, pharmacists, paramedic staff, other healthcare workers, and the public come together to commit their support to act responsibly and do their bit in the war against AMR.



(L-R) Akshata Mane, Speciality Care Medical Lead; Amol Ghadge, Country Brand Lead, Hospitals; Shilpa Pradhan, Category Head, Speciality Care at Pfizer India; Swapnil Dangarikar, Senior Adjudicator, Guinness World Records™; Meenakshi Nevatia, Country President and Managing Director and Sharanya Suresh, Country Brand Manager – Digital Marketing at Pfizer India

Meenakshi Nevatia, Country President and Managing Director, Pfizer India, says, "It's a great moment for us to be acknowledged for our efforts in this important campaign because these external recognitions can make a difference and help us reach a greater audience with our message. AMR is a silent pandemic that is killing people and can be curbed by following the right stewardship practices. We have a massive responsibility, and we rec-

ognise that there is an urgent need to create awareness through education. Our efforts have resulted in 11,251 healthcare professionals and members of the public taking a video pledge, which indicates not

only a very high level of engagement, but also resonance. Even if each one of them takes just one step to prevent AMR, imagine how many lives will be saved.

Pfizer India is deeply committed to spearheading several such causes which impact the healthcare ecosystem in India at large. The campaign also encouraged experts to share their insights to slow down AMR, which was featured across online channels and many hospitals nationwide. This has reached several million doctors, nurses, paramedic staff and public across the country—a remarkable accomplishment by itself. Shilpa Pradhan, Category Head, Specialty

Care, Pfizer India, elucidates, "Our critical care division, which is responsible for anti-infectives in the ICU setup, has been driving efforts to reduce the burden of AMR which directly impacts critically ill patients. We have not only been paving the way for breakthroughs and introducing new products, but also driving meaningful programmes and solutions to promote good antimicrobial stewardship practices to help save patient lives. We work with multiple stakeholders across the healthcare ecosystem—including doctors, hospitals, paramedics and nursing staff, and hospital management—to drive awareness and create meaningful impact."

The #PledgeWithPfizer initiative, which earned a Guinness World Records™ title, stands as a testament to the fact that tackling AMR requires the efforts and involvement of multiple stakeholders. It united not only healthcare professionals but also Indian citi-

zens, encouraging them to come forward and support the cause.

As part of Pfizer's mission to raise public awareness, it also held two webinars last year—Understanding the rising need to prevent hospital acquired infections and 'Tackling the double-edged sword sepsis and AMR: The next steps'. These saw many prominent doctors engage and share their views on

Pfizer

the need for improved antimicrobial stewardship practices and greater awareness in hospitals and among the medical fraternity.

By focusing on empowering healthcare practitioners and the public with critical information on the need to curb AMR, Pfizer is committed to helping India address this looming public health challenge.

Door open for legislators to return, hints Pawar Sr

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Mumbai: Amid speculation that several legislators of the Ajit Pawar-led NCP may be keen to return to the NCP (SP), Sharad Pawar indicated on Tuesday that he had kept the door open for those who wished to come back. He said at a press meet that those legislators who would help strengthen the organization would be taken in, but only after he had consulted party leaders and workers.

"I am prepared to welcome those legislators who will help us strengthen and im-

After opponent's taunt in polls, Lanke takes oath in English

Nashik: NCP (SP) MP from Ahmednagar Nilesh Lanke (44) on Tuesday took oath in English as member of the 18th Lok Sabha. His selection of language assumes significance as BJP's Sujay Vikhe Patil, his opponent in the LS polls — had during the election campaign accused him of not being able to speak either in English or Hindi. Lanke, who had quit the Ajit Pawar faction of NCP in the run-up to the polls and joined Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP), defeated Sujay by over 28,000 votes. A graduate in arts, he read the oath in English slowly but flawlessly. As he completed the reading of the oath, Lanke got an ovation from a section of the MPs present in the House. — **Ranjan Dasgupta**

prove the image of the organization. In fact, there is absolutely no dispute (about

this). However, there are many who have taken huge benefits and caused damage to the

party. In such cases, I will have to consider the views of all the office-bearers, and their opinion will have to be honored. There can't be a general decision," Pawar said.

Pawar's grandnephew Rohit Pawar had recently said that a "mass exodus" from the Ajit Pawar camp was on the cards in the wake of its debacle in the Lok Sabha elections. Ajit Pawar's wife Sunita was defeated from the Baramati Lok Sabha constituency, and out of the total four seats contested by the NCP, it won only one, with state NCP president Sunil Tatkare getting elected from Raigad.

A Pawar Sr team functionary said, "Sharad Pawar is not against admission of NCP legislators, the condition is that they should not damage the image of the party. It (readmission) will be on a case-to-case basis."

On the election of Lok Sabha Speaker, Pawar said the matter was discussed at length at the INDIA bloc meeting, and the general view was that if the ruling party is kept on the post, the post of deputy speaker should be allotted to the opposition. That, in fact, was the convention, he said. "In my opinion, the election of the Speaker should

be unopposed and the post of deputy speaker should be given to opposition," he noted.

On the ongoing OBC vs Maratha controversy in the state, Pawar said that there should not be any compromise on social unity. There should be no dispute between the two communities and any dispute should be resolved amicably, he added.

"It is unfortunate that certain incidents have taken place in Beed, which has a long history of the freedom struggle. Consensus should be built for resolving the issue," he said.



Spat in Maha BJP over poll drubbing 'analysis'

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Mumbai: The BJP in Maharashtra found itself in turmoil with an online analysis of reasons for its poor performance in the state in the Lok Sabha elections leading to a war of words on social media between party leaders and workers.

The slugfest started after Shweta Shalini, overseeing the party's social media coverage, issued a legal notice to senior journalist and right-wing influencer Bhau Torsekar for criticism of the BJP social media cell and posted the notice on X. Torsekar did an analysis of the LS elections and the reasons for the party's debacle in the state on his online channel, where he criticised the social media cell for its inefficiency and alleged corruption in handling of funds.

Shalini immediately sent him a legal notice for defamation. This led to an uproar on social media. Party sympathisers and workers tweeted condemning the issuing of the legal notice. @PuneKar_Talks posted on X, "If those working for the party without expecting a single rupee in remuneration are issued notices then it is condemnable." @someskolge's post read, "Is the legal notice a constitutional and legitimate way to express anger/anguish?... Had you discussed this matter with senior leaders before initiating a legal fight?"

A lawyer and BJP worker Vivekanand Gupta offered his

Shops, restaurants selling drugs will be bulldozed, says Shinde

Mumbai: After the arrest of 8 persons following Sunday's raid in Pune, CM Eknath Shinde said those involved in drug trafficking will be put in jail and restaurants and hotels found involved will be demolished with bulldozers. Shinde said that in areas like Mira Bhayander, Thane, Mumbai and Nashik and all over Maharashtra, hubs of drugs will be demolished with bulldozers. He said his govt will not spare anyone who tries to protect such people and establishments. "I have told Pune CP to destroy the business of selling drugs," he said. Dy CM Devendra Fadnis, who holds the home portfolio, said the opposition must not politicise the drugs issue else he would expose what was happening on the drugs matter during their 2.5-year tenure. **TNN**

legal services at Re 1 to defend Torsekar: "If constructive criticism is taken as defamation and that too against a senior journalist and party supporter I stand with all supporters," read his post on X.

Leaders swiftly stepped in and directed Shalini to withdraw her legal notice to Torsekar. In her post on X, Shalini said, "I sent you a notice of defamation against personal name calling on the basis of false commercial accusations of extremely serious nature challenging my integrity. Just for your information I had no authority to give any advertising, promotion or any kind of vendor management responsibility in Lok Sabha election 2024 so it is not possible to help anyone especially people from opposition groups."

BJP state president Chandrashekhar Bawankule said the allegations of corruption we-

re false. "The entire media expenses were centrally managed. We gave no advertisements so no money was spent by the state BJP. There were no orders placed, only the material provided by the Centre was distributed. The legal notice should not have been given. It was wrong. However, we shall hold an inquiry to know who from within the party has been spreading false information," he said.

Bawankule in recent meetings with MLAs had admitted the party fell short on social media to counter the opposition's false narrative especially on the Constitution being changed. "We had set up 288 war rooms covering all assembly constituencies. The social media cell projected PM Modi successfully but failed to counter local narratives that cropped in an assembly or Lok Sabha constituency," he said.

Former MP who had left Pawar back from the BJP



Sharad Pawar welcomed Suryakanta Patil back at a press conference in Mumbai on Tuesday

Mumbai: A day after quitting BJP, former Union minister of state and former four-term MP Suryakanta Patil on Tuesday joined the NCP (SP) in the presence of party president Sharad Pawar.

"After quitting NCP more than a decade ago, I realized that it was a blunder to join BJP. Out of frustration and anger, I resigned from NCP, but for the last 10 years, I was confined to my home. When I decided to join BJP, Sharad Pawar had told me it would be difficult for me to survive in the BJP owing to its different ideology. Now I am back home, and I am prepared to undertake any task for strengthening the hands of Sharad Pawar," Patil said.

In her speech, Patil recalled her long association with Pawar and how, as a "fatherly figure," he was instrumental in shaping her political career both as a legislator, MP and Union minister. "In BJP I had absolutely no work, I took care of my grandsons and undertook new experiments in agriculture," she said.

Patil's decision to quit BJP assumes importance amid reports that it may have an impact on prospects of BJP nominees in the Marathwada region in the assembly elections. Once a firebrand leader, Patil has a lot of influence in Nanded, Parbhani, Hingoli and Jalna districts. Her ambition was to contest the Lok Sabha elections from Hingoli,

but when she was denied nomination, she decided to quit the BJP. Seventy-five-year-old Suryakanta Patil began her career in the Jan Sangh in 1970 and she later joined the Congress. She was first elected to the legislative assembly from Hadgaon in 1980. She was nominated to Rajya Sabha in 1986, while in 1991, 1998 and 2004, she was elected to the Lok Sabha. In 2004, she joined NCP and unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha polls, while in 2014, she joined the BJP. Sharad Pawar said that though she had joined BJP, he was sure that her heart was in the NCP and that the day was not far off when she would return to the party fold.

— **Prafulla Marpakwar**

'Tutari' cost us LS seats, delete it: NCP (SP) to EC

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Mumbai: Two months after its plea was rejected by the Election Commission, the NCP (SP) has filed a fresh petition before it asking it to immediately debar the free symbol 'trumpet' for the assembly elections on the ground that it is deceptively similar to the symbol of a man blowing the trumpet allotted to the Sharad Pawar-led outfit.

State NCP president Jayant Patil said since its earlier plea was rejected by the EC, a fresh petition has been filed with the hope that in view of the outcome of the Lok Sabha elections and the "massive" disadvantage caused to NCP (SP) owing to similar symbols, the EC would consider the plea. "Otherwise, we will follow the laid-down judicial process to secure justice," Patil said.

In response to NCP (SP)'s April 12 plea, the EC had said that the two symbols — trumpet and man blowing trumpet — were sufficiently distinct and did not pose risk of voter confusion.

NCP (SP)'s counsel Pranjali Agarwal submitted to EC, "We outrightly deny the assessment that the allocation of the trumpet symbol from the free election symbol list to independent candidates is

appropriate. On the contrary, the results of the Lok Sabha elections show that the similarity of both trumpet symbol and the reserved man blowing trumpet symbol has indeed caused confusion in the minds of the voters and this undermined the fairness and integrity of the electoral process and caused grave injustice to the party."

The NCP (SP) claimed that in nine LS seats, it has lost 4.1 lakh votes due to the confusion created by the symbol. In Dindori Lok Sabha constituency, it has said, independent candidate Babu Bhagare, who was allotted the trumpet symbol, got 1.03 lakh votes, while NCP (SP)'s official candidate Bhaskar Bhagare polled 5.77 lakh votes. Here the independent candidate's name is almost identical to that of the party's official nominee, the NCP (SP) stated. In Satara constituency, the party said, independent candidate Sanjay Gade secured 37,062 votes, while the NCP (SP) candidate polled 5.71 lakh votes and lost by a margin of 32,771 votes, less than the votes lost to the independent candidate. In Raver, Bhiwandi, Baramati, Shirur, Ahmednagar, Beed and Madha, independents who were allotted the trumpet symbol secured a huge number of votes, it said.

AICC president moves to douse fire over party's city unit chief

Mumbai: After a discord over Varsha Gaikwad leading the city unit chief, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday asked Maharashtra observer Ramesh Chennithala to interact with warring factions within Mumbai Congress and resolve the dispute.

According to a senior Congress leader, Chennithala has been asked to visit Mumbai on July 4, and hold talks with both pro-Varsha Gaikwad and anti-Varsha Gaikwad factions. Earlier in the day, a section of Mumbai Congress leaders, comprising Rajya Sabha MP Chandrakant Handore, Mumbai Congress working president Chansingh Sapra, former minister Nasim Khan, Bhaji Jagtap, Madhu Chavan and Bhushan Patil called on Kharge to press their demand for the removal of Gaikwad. Kharge was non-committal on her removal.

Their contention was that Gaikwad does not take Mumbai Congress leaders into confidence and takes unilateral decision, as such, it will be difficult for the party to contest the ensuing assembly elections. They pointed out that even during the Lok Sabha campaign, there was no strategy for the party. Gaikwad camp activists felt that she is being targeted in view of MVA's huge success in Mumbai. While she herself was elected by defeating leading criminal lawyer Ujwal Nikam and ensured victory of a few MVA nominees.

— **Prafulla Marpakwar**

Woman found dead, FIR lodged

Thane: An unidentified person strangled to death a 30-year-old woman and dumped her body on a hillock at Ambarnath, police said on Tuesday. The body of the woman was found in the bushes in Kalkole village on June 19, following which a case of accidental death was registered, senior inspector of Shivaji Nagar police station (Ulhasnagar division) Ashok Bhagat said. The case is being probed. **PTI**

MVA govt ignored Marathis: Sena & BJP on housing quota

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Mumbai: BJP and Shiv Sena have slammed Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC Anil Parab's private member's bill seeking 50% quota for Marathi speakers in new residential buildings in the city.

Mumbai BJP chief Ashish Shelar asked why the erstwhile MVA govt couldn't tell builders to reserve 50% houses for Marathi people when it waived 50% premium for them. "After 25 years in power in BMC, what did they do for Marathi people's housing? Shelar said. "Sena (UBT) has remembered the Marathi man's now."

Sena MLC Manisha Kayande echoed Shelar, adding that the reservation demand is a ploy to "extort" builders under the guise of Marathi people's welfare. "It is only because Marathi vot-

ers in the Lok Sabha elections showed a thumbs down to Sena (UBT) that they are now suddenly showing a love for Marathi people. But in the graduate elections, the voters will not fall prey to this fallacy. Is the purpose of Sena (UBT) to blackmail builders, pressure them and collect extortion [money] before the legislative council elections?" she said.

"When Matoshree-2 was constructed during the tenure of the MVA govt, they did not remember Marathi people. The public knows that hundreds of Marathi families are on the streets because of the huge financial scam in [Goregaon's] Patra Chawl's redevelopment," Kayande said. "Anil Parab is a legal scholar. He should explain under which law 50% housing will be reserved for Marathi people. The Shinde govt is committed to providing 100%

houses to Marathi people in redevelopment projects."

Meanwhile, a day before the legislative council elections, BJP's Mumbai graduate constituency candidate Kiran Shelar, who is pitted against Parab, said that he will focus on organising annual job fairs in each assembly constituency in Mumbai. "I will push for increasing the number of skill development courses and organise training camps for it for Mumbaiers who wish to work from home. Register and conserve heritage trees, and make their status updates accessible to the public through QR codes; creation of an independent e-portal for active participation of citizens in city management of Mumbai; and demanding strategic planning for investment security are some of the issues that I have promised to take up and fulfil," he said.

'Suspend PWD officials in fund diversion case'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The opposition has demanded suspension of PWD officials from the Mumbai Presidency Division who it said diverted funds meant for paying utility bills at ministers' bungalows to pay contractors for repairs and maintenance of the bungalows. Leader of the opposition in the legislative council Ambadas Danve of the Shiv Sena (UBT) said the engineers and officials responsible should be suspended pending inquiry. He sought a high-level inquiry.

Samajwadi Party MLA Rais Shaikh said the inquiry must go deep to reveal the extent of illegal fund diversion as the Rs 26 crore currently known to have been diverted was only the tip of the iceberg.

According to officials, the PWD gave Rs 26 crore to private contractors for maintain-

ance and repair work done at ministers' bungalows from funds released solely to pay water and power bills at these residences. Money was paid from funds totalling Rs 52 crore, which was sanctioned solely for the payment of electricity and water charges at 36 government bungalows from March 2017 to March 2023.

"This kind of fund diversion shows the massive collusion between contractors and PWD engineers and officials. The state govt must suspend the engineers of the PWD's Mumbai Presidency Division and then carry forward the inquiry. Unless the officials are suspended no enquiry will have any meaning. I will take up the issue in the upcoming monsoon session of the state legislature. Spending on ministerial bungalows is nothing but a scam," Danve said.

Shaikh said all the funds spent by PWD on repairs and

maintenance of ministerial bungalows must be audited by a third party. "Most of the repairs and renovations are fake and the bills are all artificially inflated. The PWD's Mumbai Presidency Division seems to have become a hub of corruption, cost escalation and shoddy work," Shaikh said.

Officials said around Rs 6.2 crore was released for the water and electricity bills of Varsha, the CM's residence, in the last six years. They said Rs 2.37 crore of it was given to contractors doing maintenance and repair works. While Rs 2.76 crore was given for Dy CM's Sagar residence, Rs 1.47 crore of it was given to contractors for maintenance and repair works.

NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule posted X: "Gross financial mismanagement and abuse of power by the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra."

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Mini schoolbus crashes into medical store

Mumbai: The driver of a vacant mini school bus crashed into a medical store before the vehicle turned turtle at Poonam Sagar complex in Mira Road on Monday night. No one was injured, and the medical shop owner had a miraculous escape. The driver Abdul Kalam (22) was caught by locals and handed over to the Naya Nagar police. The incident took place at around 8.45 pm. Sunil Gupta was on the counter of his Poonam Sagar medical shop when the bus dashed into two parked vehicles before ramming into the shop. **TNN**

Disproportionate assets FIR against ex-corporator, kin

Thane: The Thane unit of Anti-Corruption Bureau on Monday registered a case against former co-opted corporator of Bhiwandi-Nizampur Municipal Corporation, Siddheshwar Kamurti, his wife and three sons for allegedly amassing disproportionate assets (DA).

A probe into Kamurti's income during his tenure as corporator from 1985 to Oct 2021 found that he and his family members allegedly had unaccounted wealth of over Rs 2.1 crore, which was 29% more than their total income, said a police officer. — **Nishikant Karlikar**

ACB arrests ex-land surveyor for ₹13L unaccounted assets

Navi Mumbai: The Raigad unit of Anti-Corruption Bureau on Monday arrested a former surveyor in Karjat land records department, Balaji Raut (34), after a probe found that he allegedly amassed assets worth Rs 13 lakh disproportionate to his known source of income during his govt service from Dec 2013 till July 2022.

The open inquiry was initiated against Raut after he was caught while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 25,000 from a complainant last July. — **George Mendonca**

A MUSTERING OF PRETTY PINKS

KK Choudhary



Pink storks make their presence felt at a holding pond behind the NMMC head office, Belapur, on Tuesday

CM: Don't force farmers to provide CIBIL score

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Mumbai: Chief minister Eknath Shinde, while speaking at the 163rd meeting of the state-level Bankers' Committee on Tuesday, said that farmers should not be forced to provide their CIBIL score while applying for crop loans.

Credit score, commonly referred to as CIBIL score, is a measure of one's ability to borrow from banks and NBFCs and financial institutions.

Officials said it was decided at the meeting that priority should be given to strengthening the district cooperative banks and primary agricultural credit institutions in the state. "The annual credit plan of the state for the year 2024-25 of around Rs 41 lakh crore presented by the committee was approved. It was also directed that coordinating officers from RBI and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) should be sent for the district-level bank advisory committee meeting," said an official.

"Agriculture is the

Shinde directs officials to complete compensation distribution by June 30

Chief minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday directed officials to complete distribution of compensation to farmers by June 30. "Farmers should be given help on time. District administration must immediately implement the decisions taken by the regional authorities for the farmers. The agriculture department should take strict action against the sellers who link fertilisers and seeds," CM Shinde said at a meeting to take stock of kharif crops. He also instructed the officials to pay special attention to the talukas and districts where the rainfall is less than 25%. "Strict action should be taken against bogus seed companies," CM Shinde said. **TNN**

strength of Maharashtra. Therefore, the government stands firmly behind the farmers. Banks should also support farmers in times of trouble. Banks should get involved in giving crop loans to small and marginal farmers. For that we have helped twice the NDRF criteria for the farmers in crisis, we have also increased the hectare limit and given crop insurance for one rupee. Unfortunately, due to the vagaries of nature, the farmers continue to suffer. In such a case, we as the government have stood firmly behind the farmer. If the banks do not support the farmers financial

ly during the crisis, they have to raise money in other ways. This is why people resort to extreme steps such as suicide. We all will live only if the farmer lives," CM Shinde said.

He said giving financial assistance to small and marginal landholding farmers should not be taken lightly. Shinde said Union cooperatives minister Amit Shah has laid out a strategy to strengthen farmers and the cooperative sector by creating the cooperatives ministry. Banks should make efforts to strengthen these institutions for the benefit and welfare of farmers, the CM said.

Cops suspect 29-min delay in departure angered flyer

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Mumbai: Ghatkopar woman Bandana Mishra has been booked for allegedly abusing the crew of an IndiGo flight on Monday. The DGCA and the airline will decide on the action to be taken against the unruly passenger, if any, such as placing her on a no-fly list.

The police said Mishra calmed down 10 minutes before the flight landed and apologised to the crew. They said the reason for Mishra's behavior was unclear but they suspect it was triggered by the 29-minute delay in taking off from Varanasi.

The complaint filed by crew member Sonal Jadhav (34) said Mishra stepped out of the front-end lavatory and began hurling abuses at the crew 15 minutes after the flight took off with 175 passengers at 10.39 pm. She allegedly abused every the captain, leading to the issuance of oral and written warnings, said the police.

"Mishra has to be present before the court at the time of filing of the chargesheet," senior inspector Madhukar Sanap said.

An officer said even passengers seated near Mishra signed complaint forms given to them by the crew. "Mishra ordered for water and started saying it's of low quality. She continued saying 'give excuses to other passengers, don't fool around with me' and kept abusing others during the entire journey. Even passengers seated next to her were annoyed with her," said the officer.

Another police officer said the woman threatened the captain, saying he would face consequences on landing in the city.

Mishra was booked under the Section 22 (assault and other acts of interference against a crew member), Section 23 (assault and other acts endangering safety or jeopardising good order and discipline), and Section 29 (acts likely to imperil safety of aircraft) of the Aircraft Rules 1937.

Aaditya: BMC must support BEST to avoid bus fare hike

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Mumbai: Former minister and Yuva Sena chief Aaditya Thackeray on Tuesday wrote to BMC, requesting it to support the cash-strapped BEST to avoid any fare hike burden on commuters.

In a tweet that had the letter tagged to it, Thackeray said: "If the BMC can be made to support MMRDA, why not BEST? A financial support from the civic corporation would ensure no fare hike, salaries and pensions are paid on time and the fleet number maintained and expanded."

His letter said: "We (Shiv Sena UBT) had made the BEST most popular with more routes, fleet expansion, flat and most affordable fares in the world and moving towards profitability by pro-

posing to bring in 10,000 electric buses. The BJP regime is ruining our Mumbai and finishing its true lifeline — the BEST. We will fight against the anti-Mumbai BJP."

When contacted, a senior BMC official, on Tuesday evening, said: "We are providing financial assistance to BEST. A budgetary provision has been made for Rs 800 crore for the transport body in the civic budget. Rs 200 crore was disbursed to BEST recently. Whatever provision has been made by the municipal commissioner will be disbursed periodically."

A senior BEST official, requesting anonymity, said that there was no decision to hike fares, but it was "true" that the transport body was incurring huge accumulated losses, and needed financial support."

Abu Salem's petition against transfer from Taloja jail rejected

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Mumbai: A special court on Tuesday rejected 1993 Bombay serial bomb blasts convict Abu Salem's plea not to be transferred from Taloja jail. Salem had moved court expressing fears for his life and cited depression. Salem sought direction to Taloja central jail superintendent to not transfer him to another prison facility. "The IG (Prison), Maharashtra state, Pune shall issue appropriate directions to the superintendent, central prison, Taloja to ensure safety and security of the accused Abu Salem... while shifting, transferring... the accused to central prison, Nashik," the judge said. The judge also said that the IG should take periodical review of the

safety of the accused and submit a review report once in four months. "Any inaction or lapses on the part of superintendents, central prison Taloja and central prison, Nashik Road ensuring safety and security of the accused will be dealt with strictly," the judge said.

After Salem's lawyer moved a plea seeking time to file an appeal in the Bombay high court, the judge said that the order is not to be implemented until July 3.

Salem, who has been in jail since his extradition from Portugal 19 years ago, apprehended that as his release from the jail is near, a conspiracy is being planned to kill him by transferring him to other prisons where there is a threat to his life. Salem also cited two previous attacks on him.

Govt panel to fix price of H1N1 test in pvt lab

Mumbai: The state government has set up a high-level committee to fix the price of the diagnostic test for H1N1, a type of influenza A virus, in private laboratories. The test is conducted for free in the 41 government laboratories, but many patients continue to pay over Rs 4,000 in private laboratories for the test.

A flu panel of tests can cost over Rs 6,000, depending on the number of viruses tested. It is to remove this disparity that the government announced on Monday about the setting up of a new committee comprising senior health officers from the state and Mumbai.

The government order said, "The rate of H1N1 test varies widely among different private laboratories and private hospitals in different cities across the state. Accordingly, there is a need to limit the rate of influenza testing in private laboratories."

A senior state health department official said that although 432 H1N1 cases and 15 related deaths were reported this year so far, the number could climb in the coming months. While the state registered 1,231 H1N1 cases and 32 deaths in 2023, the viral infection wreaked havoc in 2022 when 3714 cases and 215 deaths were registered.

This committee, to be headed by the commissioner of the state health department, will hold regular meetings and guide private hospitals on standard treatment protocols. **TNN**

Youth jumps off building, dies

Mumbai: A 19-year-old youth jumped to his death from an SRA multi-storied building at Kandivli West. Police said Pratham Naik had an argument with his parents as he had not gone for his job at a pizza outlet. Police are probing if the reason for the drastic step. **TNN**

MISSING
Thampanoor Police Station Cr. 551/2024
U/s 57(1)A KP Act.
Shanraj, Age-14, Jagirbasti, Bhojpur (P.O.), Kodaladaha, Dist: Uttar Dinajpur, West Bengal, about 150 CM tall, White & Slender, has been missing. If any information about the child, report to the following Phone Numbers.
1) Thampanoor Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram City, Kerala State: 0471-2326543
2) ISHO: 9497987013 3) SI: 9497980046
RO No: 270/F2/2024/13PRD

SMIP
Tender No. SMPK/KDS/CIV/T/2854/36, dated 24.06.2024 is invited for "Construction of 29 nos. steel structures for new Anchoring Transit Marks, repairing of 18 nos. existing columns & masts and other allied works at various locations at the left bank and right bank of the River Hooghly in connection with Night Navigation from Diamond Harbour to Kolkata".
Estimated Cost : Rs. 1,61,92,732.50
Pre-bid Meeting : 28.06.2024 at 11:00 am at the office of Chief Engineer
Last Date of Submission : 02.07.2024 up to 15:00 hrs.
For details, please visit www.smporkolkata.shipping.gov.in and <https://kop.envidia.in>

SHRI VILE PARLE KELAVANI MANDAL
SVKM's NMIMS New Building, 10th Floor, V. L. Mehta Road, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai 400 056

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE MEMBERS OF SHRI VILE PARLE KELAVANI MANDAL (SVKM) are hereby informed that SVKM in its Managing Committee Meeting held on 18th May 2023 resolved to issue Membership Identity Card (MIC) to its Members and to make the production of Membership Identity Card mandatory, on completion of process of issue of MIC, for attending the General Body meeting and other meetings of SVKM and for casting votes at the election of the Managing Committee and the Trustees of SVKM and to exercise any rights and/or avail of any benefits by the members.

SVKM has sent individual Letter alongwith Membership Identity Card Form to all the members by Registered Post A.D. at the last known address requesting them to submit the Membership Identity Card Form duly filled in alongwith two recent coloured passport size photographs with white background and self-attested copy of PAN Card and Aadhar Card.

SVKM has also issued a Public Notice in "Times of India" (English Newspaper) on 18th July 2023; "Mumbai Samachar" (Gujarati Newspaper) on 18th July 2023 and "Maharashtra Times" (Marathi Newspaper) on 18th July 2023 informing the Members about issuance of Membership Identity Cards and the procedure to be complied for the same.

SVKM has also sent a Reminder to its Members who have defaulted in submitting the Membership Identity Card Form requesting them to do the needful within fifteen (15) days from the date thereof.

Members who have not yet submitted their Membership Identity Card Form are once again requested to submit the Membership Identity Card Form duly filled in which can also be downloaded from SVKM's website <https://svkm.ac.in> and submit the same alongwith two recent coloured passport size photographs with white background and self-attested copy of PAN Card and Aadhar Card to SVKM at its address within fifteen (15) days from the date of the publication of this Notice.

Post scrutiny, Membership Identity Card will be issued.

Dated this 26th day of June, 2024

Yours faithfully,

For and on behalf of Shri Vile Parle Kelavani Mandal

(Dr. Jayant P. Gandhi)
Hon. Secretary

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Vidya Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Meera, Dehradun-248002
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675 Tel. No. 0135-2642711

E-TENDER NOTICE
Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender for "Augmentation of transformer capacity from 55 MVA (2x20 MVA + 3x5 MVA) to 85 MVA (2x20 MVA + 3x15 MVA) at 132 kV Substation Bhowali against tender specification No. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-I/SS-03/2024-25". The last date of submission of e-bid is 27.07.2024 upto 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit e-tender website www.uptkulenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2024_PTCU1_72591_1) and for e-tender notice our website www.ptcul.org. For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000 Superintending Engineer (C&P-I) RO No. 1059/HQ/PTCUL Dated 24.06.2024 "Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission
Vidya Nijamak Bhawan, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226010
Ph: 0522-2720426, Fax: 0522-2720423, E-mail: secretary@uperc.org.

Reference No.: UPERC/D(D)/2024/461 Dated: 25 June, 2024

E-TENDER NOTICE

CORRIGENDUM/ EXTENSION OF INVITATION FOR CONSULTANCY PROPOSAL
Uttar Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission (UPERC) had invited proposals for Engagement of consultant for assisting the Commission on day to day basis in regulatory and other matters (on QCBS basis) on 10.06.2024.

For above assignment the description of tasks, terms & conditions, proposal submission procedure, etc. are provided in the 'Terms of Reference' (TOR) and 'Contract Agreement' in E-Tender Reference No. E-T-01/UPERC/2024-25. The Commission has received representation based on which the corrigendum has been issued. The Tender documents and the corrigendum can be downloaded from E-procurement portal <https://etender.up.nic.in/>.

The Due date and Time for submission of bid has been extended to 18:55 Hrs. of 18th July 2024. The tenders will be opened before the bidders present at 16:00 Hrs. of 19th July 2024. **Secretary**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that, at the instruction of our client, we are investigating the title of **ECAP EQUITIES LIMITED** (formerly known as Edel Land Limited), a public limited company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 and having its registered office at Tower 3, Wing B, Kohinoor City Mall, Kohinoor City, Kiroi Road, Kuria (West), Mumbai 400070, to the lands described in the Schedule hereunder written ("the said Land") along with the structures standing thereon ("the said Property").

All persons having or claiming any share, right, title, estate or interest by way of sale, transfer, development right, exchange, assignment, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, leave and license, license, care-taker basis, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, charge, maintenance, easement, trust, will, bequest, beneficiary/ies, possession, release, relinquishment or by way of any other method through any agreement, deed, document, writing, conveyance deed, development agreement, memorandum of understanding, letter of intent, devise, bequest, succession, family arrangement / settlement, litigation, decree or court order of any court of Law, contracts/agreements, or FSI consumption or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever or of whatsoever nature with respect to the said Property or any part thereof and / or otherwise howsoever, are hereby required to make the same known, in writing, along with certified copies of the documents evidencing the same to the undersigned at their address at **N. M. Wadia Building, 2nd Floor, 123, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Mumbai - 400 001** within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which it will be deemed that no such claim, right, title, estate or interest exists and the same shall be discarded, treated as waived and abandoned, and not binding upon our client.

THE SCHEDULE REFERRED HEREINAFOVE

(The said Land)
All those pieces and parcels of non-agricultural land collectively admeasuring 20,600 square meters and bearing Gat Nos. 453, 454/1, 454/2, 461, 463, 464 and 465 of Village Zirad, situate, lying and being at Taluka Ailbaug and District Raigad and bounded as follows:

On or towards the North : By land bearing Gat Nos. 460, 455, 452 and 451 of Village Zirad;
On or towards the South : By land bearing Gat Nos. 462, 467, 466 and 467 of Village Zirad;
On or towards the East : By land bearing Gat Nos. 451 and 423 of Village Zirad; and
On or towards the West : Partially by Road and partially by land bearing Gat Nos. 455, 462 and 471 of Village Zirad.
Dated this 26th day of June, 2024.

For Wadia Ghandy & Co.
(Nitesh Ranavat)
Partner

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS
TIRUPATI
e-AUCTION NOTIFICATION TENDER
e-Auction for Sale of Press Jelly, Office Sweeping / records etc., (As-it-is where-it-is condition) in TTD Press. For Tender Notice & Details, Please see the Auction ID: 23595. Roc.No.P2/36/Press/2014. Please log on the website <http://www.tirumala.org> and <https://konugolu.ap.gov.in>. For further details contact: 0877-2264292.
TTD-40021(31)/2024-PRO SEC (Adv. No. 45), Date : 25.06.2024 Sd/- Executive Officer

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
No. 1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560079, Phone: +91-80-29619801 Email: md.kmscsl@gmail.com
No: KMSMCDRUGS/TND/NCND/STROKE & STEMI MANAGEMENT/05/2024-25 Dated: 24.06.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: 1. Tender Notification No: KMSMCDRUGS/TND/NCND/STROKE & STEMI MANAGEMENT/ 05/2024-25, Dated: 24.06.2024 (IND-0119).

Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

1. Tender for the supply of Inj. Alteplase and Inj. Tenecteplase under STROKE & STEMI Project 2024-25 (IND-0119).
Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 24.06.2024. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/- Managing Director, KMSMCD, Bengaluru.

Prayagraj Smart City Ltd.
1, Sarojini Naidu Marg, New Building
Nagar Nigam Campus,
Prayagraj-211001 Uttar Pradesh

Notice Inviting Tender

Notice Inviting Tender on behalf of Prayagraj Smart City Limited, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh for the work:

- Construction of Senior Care Centre including Operation & Maintenance 2 year in Prayagraj under Smart City Mission
- Development of Waste to Wonder at Shaheed wall near GST Bhawan in Prayagraj under Smart City Mission

Online Bids are invited for the above-mentioned work from 26.06.2024 onwards. For more details, please visit the website at <http://www.etender.up.nic.in>.

(Sanjay Kumar Rath)
Mission Manager (General)
Prayagraj Smart City Limited

WESTERN RAILWAY - RATLAM DIVISION
W/623/NIT/1 E-TENDERING NOTICE Date 21.06.2024

The Divisional Railway Manager (WA) RATLAM for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through e-tender on website www.reps.gov.in in the details as under -

Sr. No.	E-tender No. & Name of Work	Approx. Value ₹	EMD in ₹	Completion Period
1	RTM-2024-25-62 Ratlam-Khandwa section: Construction of Subway (RUB) in lieu of L.C No. 240(Km: 482/14-15) by inserting relieving girder and laying the box(es) by pushing the box below the relieving girder.	7,59,04,075.07	5,29,500.00	08 Months

Approx. Quantity: As per tender schedule.
Similar type of work: Construction of any type of rail bridge under a running railway line.

Cost of Tender Form Rs. : Nil. Date of uploading on website : 21.06.2024. Date of opening & time : 18.07.2024. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available at Website www.reps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (WA) Ratlam Division, Western Railway
AK/5/1/108
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CAUTION NOTICE

The public in general is hereby informed that **SUPREME BUNGALOWS PVT. LTD.** and **SUPREME LAKEVIEW BUNGALOWS PVT. LTD.** along with Co-Borrower(s) had availed financial facility(ies) from Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited ("IHFL") vide Loan Account No(s). S000240426, S000240594 & S00240998, which have been assigned to Indiabulls Asset Reconstruction Company Limited ("IBARCL") and which have further been assigned to Assets Care and Reconstruction Enterprise Limited ("Secured Creditor") and the Property consisting of UNDIVIDED LAND/PROPERTIES ADMEASURING ABOUT 52699.32 SQUARE METERS OUT OF TOTAL LAND ADMEASURING 1,28,494.10 SQUARE METERS SITUATED AT OLD SURVEY NOS. 131 AND 132 CORRESPONDING TO CTS NO. 27, OLD SURVEY NO. 141 (PART) CORRESPONDING TO CTS NO. 23A, OLD SURVEY NO. 151 (PART) CORRESPONDING TO CTS NO. 26A SITUATED IN VILLAGE POWAI, TALUKA KURLA, MUMBAI - 400076, MAHARASHTRA ("Property") is mortgaged and in favour of the Secured Creditor towards the financial facility(ies) availed. That the Secured Creditor has the first charge over the Property and has taken Symbolic Possession of the same. The Secured Creditor has the right to transfer/sale the Property for realization of its dues and any other charge claimed by any other lender/person shall be charge subservient to the Secured Creditor.

Please note that anyone dealing with the Property including alienation, transfer, sale, lease, acquisition of any right, title or interest by any person, in any manner whatsoever, is prohibited under the applicable laws and the same shall be subject to the prior charge of the Secured Creditor. Any person contravening to the above, shall be doing it at his/her own risk and peril and consequences as such transfer, sale, lease, acquisition of any right, title or interest etc. would be in contravention of the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act, 1982 and Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 ("Act") and the same is punishable offence under Section 29 of the Act.

For Assets Care and Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd. Acting in its capacity as Trustee of ACRE 102 Trust Authorized Officer

Place : MUMBAI

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

Advertisement No. PGR/RC/2024/042-043/1976 Dated: 25.06.2024

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS
The Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh invites applications on prescribed form from Indian Citizens for 121 vacant posts of Assistant Professors through direct recruitment on regular basis in different specialties for PGIMER, Chandigarh as per schedule below:-

Start date for generation of Challan form for fee deposit and online payment of fees	25.06.2024
Closing date for challan generation for fee deposit	10.07.2024
Last date of deposit of application fee in the Bank	12.07.2024
Last date for receipt of hard copy of application in the office of the Administrative Officer (Recruitment Cell), PGIMER, Sector-12, Chandigarh 160012	15.07.2024 Till 04:00 PM

The interested candidates may Log on to the Institute website i.e. www.pgimer.edu.in (recruitment link at home page) for detailed information viz. application form, fee, age, pay-scale, eligibility, qualifications and experience etc. The number of posts (including reserved vacancies) are subject to variation at the discretion of Competent Authority. **DIRECTOR**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.CEEI(T&P)/SEE2/EET12N/2024-25/1884-89 Date: 25.06.2024

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids through Karnataka Public Procurement portal against the following enquiry as detailed below:

Enquiry Number and Description

Bid Enquiry no. KPTCL/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT905 for Design, manufacture, testing, supply and installation/ demonstration of 01 No. of 66/11kV, 1X20MVA capacity GIS/Hybrid switchgear Mobile compact Sub-station (MCS) for KPTCL.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 01.07.2024 @ 15:00hrs. Last date & time for receipt of Bids is 22.07.2024 @ 15:00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

Revolt in SAD: Netas ask Badal to quit, loyalists slam 'BJP plot'

Dissidents Plan 'Save Party' Drive On July 1

IP Singh | TNN

Jalandhar/Chandigarh: Revolt erupted in Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) on Tuesday, just 20 days after its rout in Lok Sabha polls in Punjab, with a sizeable section of senior netas urging party chief Sukhbir Singh Badal to hand over the reins, in the spirit of "tyag" (sacrifice), to someone "who can maintain a balance between religion and politics".

The faction loyal to Badal hit back with district presidents and constituency in-charge passing a resolution expressing "full faith" in his leadership and strongly condemning "deep rooted conspiracies by BJP" to divide and



Senior SAD functionaries at a meeting in Jalandhar on Tuesday

weaken the party by using central agencies and "some selfish and opportunistic elements". At a meeting at party's headquarters in Chandigarh, Badal said, "I cannot allow SAD to become a puppet of anti-Panth designs. Those ready to betray Panth, Punjab, farmers and the deprived sections of the people are free to follow their course."

A significant section of SAD's core vote base — the Sikhs — have turned against

the party since Bargari sacrilege and Behbal Kalan police firing in 2015 during SAD-BJP govt. The slide has continued in successive elections and by-polls since 2017: in recent Lok Sabha polls, SAD won just one of the 13 seats in Punjab.

After a five-hour-long meeting in Jalandhar, the faction opposed to Badal announced the launch of 'SAD Bachao Lehar' (Save SAD Movement) from the Akal Takht on July 1. During this campaign, SAD

will contact sympathisers of the Panth, intellectuals, well-meaning pro-Punjab people and saints to seek their suggestions to save the party.

Senior SAD member Prem Singh Chandumajra said: "We have appealed to Sukhbir Singh Badal to respect and accept the sentiments of workers and people and hand over party's leadership." He said it was decided that the entire leadership that had "either participated in wrongdoings or stayed silent will appear at the Akal Takht to express regret and seek forgiveness in writing. We shall also perform Ardas to seek strength from the Guru to save us from such blunders in the future".

A total 33 out of the existing 35 district presidents and 96 of the existing 105 constituency in-charge lauded Badal's leadership in two resolutions passed at the meeting chaired by Badal.

City architect held after clip of 'drug use' in Pune bar toilet

Pune: Police in Pune on Tuesday arrested an architect from Goregaon (East) and a software engineer from Mundhwa after identifying them as the two men seen in a viral video clip consuming some substance at Liquid Leisure Lounge (L3) bar during an illegal party on Sunday, reports Gitesh Shelke.

Senior inspector Chandrashekhar Sawant identified the duo as Nitin Thombre (34), the architect, and Karan Mishra (34), who are friends. The bar was raided on Sunday afternoon amid allegations of drug use at the party that went on till 4.30am in violation of 1.30am closing time. Dust and powder swabs collected from the bar have been sent to forensic experts for a chemical analysis. A group of 40 to 50 revelers — mostly IT and private firm employees and regular party-goers — in the 22-35 age group participated in a late-night 'after party' though police probe revealed that the duo were not part of this group. Before reaching L3, the group had partied in a pub at Hadapsar.

Pune police commissioner Amitesh Kumar said, "As of now, we can say that Thombre brought the contraband to Pune. Thombre, Mishra and one more person entered the bar's washroom to divide the substance into three parts for consumption. When our team reached Thombre's Mumbai home, we found a five-gram powder in his possession. It's similar to MD and is being verified by forensic experts."

Ex-chief of J&K Bar Assn held for killing of lawyer by ultras

Saleem.Pandit | timesgroup.com

Srinagar: Former president of J&K HC Bar Association Mian Abdul Qayoom Bhat was on Tuesday arrested for a conspiracy leading to the fatal terrorist attack on lawyer Babar Qadri in 2020. Bhat, who is now in his late 70s, had authored the constitution of Hurriyat Conference's Syed Ali Shah Geelani faction in 1993. His son-in-law Javed Iqbal Wani is a serving HC judge.

A separatist, Bhat has been in and out of jail several times. He was arrested in 1990 under Public Safety Act and jailed till 1992. He was again arrested for brief periods twice, in 2008 and 2010, for organising protests in the Valley. He was arrested on August 5, 2019 — the day Article 370 was nullified — under PSA and released only in 2021 after he gave a bond for not indulging in separatist activities.

Qadri was a long-time rival in the bar who had challenged Bhat's stranglehold on the association, alleging the latter held his post for years by manipulating its polls. Bhat was booked under IPC Section 302 (murder) as well as Unlawful Activities Prevention Act provisions. Qadri was shot dead at his Srinagar home in Sept 2020 by two terrorists



A separatist, Bhat has been in and out of jail several times. He had authored the constitution of Hurriyat Conference's Syed Ali Shah Geelani faction

posing as clients. Days before his murder, Qadri, a well-known HC lawyer and TV panellist on rights issues, had posted a video alleging how Bhat had rigged bar elections. Before that, Qadri had narrowly survived an assassination bid in 2018. His family had links to Jamaat-e-Islami.

Hours after Bhat's arrest, Srinagar district magistrate issued an order putting on hold J&K HC Bar Association elections scheduled for June 27. The administration has imposed section 144 in lower court premises in Srinagar.

Bhat was known for his close association with pro-Pakistan separatist leader Geelani, and was involved in bringing together around 23 outfits, including the bar association, under the Hurriyat umbrella.

Drunk Uttarakhand officer mows down woman, 2 nieces

Dehradun: A woman, 36, and her two nieces, aged 7 and 10, were killed after they were hit by a car driven by an additional block development officer (BDO) of Jakhnidhar in Tehri Garhwal on Monday evening.

"The accused, Devi Prasad Chamoli, was arrested and taken to the hospital for medical examination where it was found that he was drunk," said the police. The victims were identified as Reena Negi and her nieces, Agrima (10) and Anvita (7). Negi's daughter, Aradhya, who was also present at the time of the incident, is undergoing treatment for critical injuries. TNN

FIR against 2 UP cops for 'driving bros to suicide'

Agra: UP Police, on order from CM Yogi Adityanath's office, filed an FIR against sub-inspector Hariom Agnihotri and Sadebad SHO Mukesh Kumar for abetment of suicide of two brothers in Agra. The cops were accused of custodial torture.

Farmer Sanjay Singh (45), in his suicide note, said they harassed them even after taking a bribe of Rs 1 lakh. His brother Pramod, in his note, said he had nothing to do with elopement of Sanjay's brother-in-law with a minor girl. While Sanjay died on Saturday, Pramod died on Monday. Agra police had refused to lodge an FIR a day after Sanjay's death. TNN

'Serial bride' tests HIV+ve, 2 states mount 'groom' hunt

3 Men She Had 'Married' Have Tested Positive

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Meerut/Udhham Singh Nagar: A woman, who acted as a "serial bride" to decamp with cash and valuables after "marriage" to unsuspecting men, was arrested by UP police on May 6 and sent to Muzaffarnagar jail along with six members of her gang operating in parts of UP and Uttarakhand. Subsequently upon medical examination in prison, she was found to be HIV positive. The revelation has put health department officials of both the states in a fix. They are now desperately hunting for

"grooms" she'd been with. Three of them are already HIV positive.

Police said the woman (in her 20s) was part of a criminal gang which specialised in arranging "marriages" with local men. Other members would pose as the bride's relatives to avoid suspicion. After several cases were reported from parts of UP and Uttarakhand, seven members of the gang, including the woman and her mother, were held and sent to a jail in Muzaffarnagar.

Jail superintendent in Muzaffarnagar, Sitaram Sharma, said on Tuesday,

"Once in jail, her medical examination was conducted and her HIV-positive status was confirmed. Ever since, her antiretroviral therapy (ART) treatment has been going on." During the arrest, the woman had revealed she had "married" five times, including three men from Uttarakhand. But police suspect there are more cases.

The health department in Uttarakhand confirmed that "three men...within the state are HIV positive". A department source in Muzaffarnagar the woman was being counselled to reveal more names if any.

Goa to allow booze sale near schools, places of worship

Panaji: In a major tweak to excise laws, Goa gov't will allow new bars and liquor stores to operate within 100m of educational or religious institutes, but the licence will cost twice as much. Although the relaxation still doesn't give the excise department a free hand to issue licences in these areas — which were earlier excluded — the measure has surprised many. Apart from the double licence fee, the excise commissioner will have to get govt approval before allowing an application.

An official said the move was aimed at shoring up the state's coffers. To meet its growing expenditure, the govt has been hiking an assortment of fees and taxes. TNN

TOI History Meets AI JUNE 26

AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone,' the first novel in JK Rowling's hit series, came out on this day in 1997

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

Domestic violence down, women have greater say in decisions

Women Empowerment and Gender Violence

Category	2005-06	2015-16
Married women who participate in household decisions	84.0	88.7
Married women who have experienced spousal violence	31.1	29.3

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Plot No. 337, Sewri Wadala Estate, Major R. Parameshwaran Marg, Wadala, Mumbai 400031. Phone: 2418 0390

MINORITY COLLEGE
APPLICATION ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25

UNAIDED

Sr. No.	Cadre	Subject	Total No. of Posts	Posts Reserved for
1	Asst. Prof.	Accountancy	5	05-Open
2	Asst. Prof.	Commerce	3	03-Open
3	Asst. Prof.	Economics	1	01-Open
4	Asst. Prof.	Law	1	01-Open
5	Asst. Prof.	Business Communication	1	01-Open
6	Asst. Prof.	Information Technology	6	06-Open
7	Asst. Prof.	Computer Science	5	05-Open
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PRT: Graduates with B.Ed. / D.Ed. (Marathi, Social Studies, P.E., Hindi, English, Maths, Science, Computer)
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21 yrs after Dalit custody death, 3 cops get 10-yr jail

Lucknow: Twenty-one years after a Dalit suspect hanged himself in police custody, an SC/ST court in UP's Sitapur has convicted three constables for abetment to suicide and illegal detention, sentencing them to 10 years. Kesari Nandan Patel, Siyaram Yadav and Suresh Singh were taken into custody and sent to jail after special judge Mohammad Shafiq delivered the verdict on Monday. **TNN**

2nd Maha ZP teacher held in NEET leak case

Mohammed Akhif
@timesgroup.com

Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar: Another zilla parishad (ZP) teacher was nabbed on Tuesday by Latur police in the NEET paper leak case, following the arrest of a ZP school headmaster on Monday.

The second arrested accused, a ZP teacher—Santosh Jadhav—was produced before the court and remanded in police custody till July 2. ZP school headmaster, Jaleel Khan Pathan, was the first to be arrested in the paper leak case.

Latur SP Somay Munde refused to comment on the developments related to the case. However, police sources said a search is on for an ITI instructor who too is wanted in the case. Investigations so far have revealed that the two ZP teachers targeted NEET aspirants and their families, offering help to clear the exam in exchange for money. They allegedly passed on copies of the aspirants' hall tickets and cash to the Delhi-based suspect, Gangadhar Gunde, through the ITI instructor.

"We have prima facie established this from WhatsApp chats recovered from the three seized

cellphones. The exact number of aspirants/parents contacted, and the overall quantum of money collected is being ascertained as we have called all parents whose names have been found so far, to record their statements," a senior police officer said.

Gangadhar Gunde, the Delhi-based suspect, hails from Marathwada and police are investigating how and when he came in contact with the ITI instructor, the officer said.

id. "For taking the probe forward and to unearth the entire racket, we need to arrest the ITI instructor and Gunde at the earliest," said an officer heading one of the teams out to nab the suspects.

Analysis by police has revealed that this Delhi-based suspect had visited Parbhani and Hingoli districts in Marathwada in the past year. The investigators also found photos of several public exam hall tickets on the cellphones of the suspects. These include hall tickets for recruitment exams for Maharashtra health department and teacher, gram sevak, talati, ZP health assistant exams among others.

► **Related reports, P 12**

Nagpur airport gets 2nd bomb threat in 24 hours

Nagpur: The Nagpur airport received a second bomb threat email within 24 hours on Tuesday and fourth in three months, report Shishir Arya & Soomitra Bose. On Monday, Nagpur airport received a similar email about a bomb being placed in one of the airport's washrooms. The earlier three emails on April 29, June 18 and June 24 were sent to most of the airports across the country, but the threat email on Tuesday was specifically delivered to senior director of Nagpur's Dr Babasaheb International Airport. Teams of Bomb Detection and Disposal Squads of both Central Industrial Security Force and police searched the airport premises. But the threat turned out to be a hoax.

The one line email received from the dark web reads 'there is a lead azide bomb in the bathroom'. The email came from—nomen nesico mailtonobdy@dzum.com)—in the morning hours.

Elephant electrocuted in U'khand

Rudrapur: An elephant (15) died after coming in contact with a low-hanging, high-tension power line in Uttarakhand's Udhm Singh Nagar, on Tuesday. **TNN**

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GOVT. CERTIFICATE COURSE ON POSH LAW
(The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace) Prevention, Prohibition & Redressal ACT 2013

Course Duration: 2 Days (ONLINE) Date: 28 & 30 June 2024
Time: 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Course Content: About POSH, POSH Act 2013, History and Current state, Acts with supports SH, Includes Vishakha guidelines, Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act (2013), Qualifiers of Sexual Harassment, Terminologies- Aggrieved Women, Extended Workplace, Employer, Internal & Local Committee, Employers Obligation, Dealing with false Malicious Complaint, Penalties, IPC Provisions, Case Studies, Do and don'ts of Women at Work Many Topics.

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

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School of Management Studies (Total Seats=07)	Management Education -07
School of Creative Education and Liberal Arts (Total Seats=15)	Curriculum Development and Assessment Education-04 Media Research & Development Education-03 Technical Vocational Education & Research-08

• Reservations as per applicable Gol norms.
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Director

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, नागपुर, महाराष्ट्र
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Plot No. 2, Sector - 20, MIHAN, Nagpur, Pin: 441108, <https://aiimsnagpur.edu.in>

Advrt. No. AIIMS/NGP/Admin I/Faculty/2024/02/01 Dated: 26/06/2024

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECRUITMENT TO THE POSTS OF FACULTY (GROUP-A) ON DIRECT RECRUITMENT IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF AIIMS NAGPUR

AIIMS Nagpur, established under PMSSY with objectives of improving regional imbalances in the availability of affordable/ reliable tertiary healthcare services and also to augment facilities for quality medical education in the country. The Institute has started functioning from session 2018-19. It is envisioned to develop into an institute with highest standards of teaching, training and research.

In this regard, applications are invited by the Executive Director, AIIMS, Nagpur from Indian nationals/persons registered as Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholder under Section 7A of the Citizenship Act, 1955 for the following faculty posts on regular basis required for AIIMS, Nagpur:

Sr. No	Subject	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
1	General Surgery	-	01 (OBC)
2	Lecturer in Nursing	-	02 (UR)
3	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	01 (UR)	-
4	Radiotherapy	-	01 (OBC)
5	Radio-diagnosis	-	01 (UR)
Total		01	05

Note: 1. The format of application and details of the age limit, essential qualification and experience, pay scales, etc., and the pre-payment link for application fee are available at <https://aiimsnagpur.edu.in>. The aspiring applicants satisfying the eligibility criteria in all respect must submit their application through the Google link by 22-07-2024 and by Speed/Registered post to the address - The Executive Director, AIIMS Nagpur, Administrative Block, Plot No. 2, Sector - 20, MIHAN, Nagpur, Maharashtra, Pin-441108 by 29-07-2024.

Executive Director, AIIMS, Nagpur

EDUCATION REVIEW @ MADHYA PRADESH

A New Era of Learning and Innovation

With state-of-the-art infrastructure, innovative liberal education models, and strategic industry partnerships, Madhya Pradesh is becoming a leader in education, attracting young learners, and setting new standards in higher education and research



Aditi.Puranik@timesgroup.com

Madhya Pradesh, once viewed as a state trailing in educational progress, is now rapidly emerging as a beacon of innovation and excellence in higher education. This remarkable transformation is fuelled by state-of-the-art infrastructure, a progressive focus on liberal education, and dynamic industry-academia collaborations. With cutting-edge technology seamlessly integrated into teaching and administration, and prestigious institutions such as IIT and IIM leading the way, the state is setting new benchmarks. Madhya Pradesh's forward-thinking approach is not only attracting students and scholars from across the globe but also establishing the state as a hub for world-class education and research.

MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE BOOSTING MP'S GLOBAL EDUCATION

A pivotal factor in Madhya Pradesh's educational renaissance is its substantial investment in advanced infrastructure. This strate-

gic focus on modern facilities is transforming the state's educational landscape, fostering an environment conducive to high-quality learning and groundbreaking research. Dr Archana Kirti Choudhary, principal of IPS Academy, Institute of Engineering and Science, underscores the significance of these developments: "Hi-tech laboratories and state-of-the-art facilities with modern instruments are essential for meeting global education challenges. These advancements not only elevate educational standards but also offer students opportunities to pursue international-level education. The cutting-edge facilities and laboratories, capable of conducting research and innovation on complex topics like micro-physics, are attracting scholars from around the world to collaborate and share knowledge in Madhya Pradesh."

FOSTERING PASSION-DRIVEN LEARNING
Madhya Pradesh is revolutionising its educational landscape by embracing a liberal education model to counter the limitations of traditional education, which often relies on rote learning and external pressures. In this transformative shift, Er. Sanjeev Agrawal, chancellor of Sage University Indore & Bhopal, highlights that many students' educational choices are frequently influenced by peer pressure and societal expectations rather than their true interests. He asserts, "In Madhya Pradesh, liberal education is fostering creativity, adaptability, and a love for lifelong learning, ensuring that students are not only knowledgeable but also prepared to navigate and thrive in an ever-changing global landscape."

MP'S EDUCATIONAL-INDUSTRIAL SYNERGY
In Madhya Pradesh, the strengthening of

industry-academia collaborations is a key element of the state's educational transformation. These partnerships align academic curricula with industry requirements, ensuring students are job-ready upon graduation.

Dr Davish Jain, chancellor of Prestige University, highlights their importance by stating, "Partnerships between industry and academia help graduates transition into future jobs by bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical skills. This approach not only improves job prospects but also significantly boosts

the state's education sector, making Madhya Pradesh a prime destination for higher education and career development."

A RISING HUB FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Madhya Pradesh is rapidly emerging as a leading center for higher education in India, attracting attention from scholars and institutions worldwide. Crediting this boom to technology, Dr. Upinder Dhar, vice chancellor of Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, shares, "Technology is now seamlessly integrated across all teaching and administra-

tion disciplines in Madhya Pradesh. This enhances understanding and improves the teacher-learner interface. With AI incorporated into engineering, medical sciences, and pharmacy, the state is pioneering innovative educational experiences and elevating its educational standards."

Highlighting the state's promising future in the education sector, he adds, "The future prospects for Madhya Pradesh's education sector are exceptionally promising. With prestigious institutions like IIT and IIM in Indore, along with CAT and DAVV being counted among the best

public universities, the state boasts a robust educational infrastructure. Additionally, a significant number of private universities are present, and numerous world-class

institutions are looking to establish their presence in Madhya Pradesh, further solidifying its reputation as a burgeoning hub for higher education."

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Mehul K Vora S/o Kirit S Vora R/o 520B Narayan Niwas, R.P. Masani Road, Matunga - East, Mumbai 400019 have changed my name from Mehul K Vora to MEHUL K VORA for all future purpose

I Rajesh kumar Sinha S/o Shyam Shankar Prasad R/o W8 1608, Lodha Amara kolshet, Thane, have changed the name of my daughter from Twisha to Twisha Raj Sinha for all future purposes.

I Sapna spouse of 14475298A Ex Hav Dipak Kashirama More resident of Tambad Bhuvan, VIII PO/Tej- Poladpur, Dist- Raigad, State- Maharashtra PIN- 402303 have changed my name from Sapna to Sapana Dipak More and date of birth 05 Jan 1968 to 06 Jan 1966 vide affidavit No - 2453041861268800604976 dated 21 Jun 2024.

tender & notices

TENDERS

REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE

Expression of Interest is invited for Redevelopment of **Raj Satyam CHS Ltd**, Shiv Vallabh Road, Ashokvan, Dahisar (E), MUMBAI - 400 068, situated on Plot bearing CTS No 2498A of Dahisar. The Plot area, as per Property Card is about 5,709.50 sq mts & as per previous BMC occupation drawing is about 5,725 sq.mt. The said plot is accessible from Shiv Vallabh Road having width 18.30 mtr. There are 170 members in the society, consuming about 6,532 sq mts carpet area. Pre-qualification criteria shall be:

- 1) Minimum 1 residential project completed with full occupation certificate on Gross plot area of 3,500 sq. mts or more, completed in last 7 years, in BMC / Navi Mumbai / Thane- Municipal limits
- 2) Net worth of Rs. 35 Cr or collective turnover of Rs. 350 Cr in last 7 years

It will be bidder's responsibility to check / fulfil the pre qualification criteria. Interested bidders can send Expression of Interest in their letterhead by email, from 26/06/2024 to 26/07/2024 between 11.00 am to 6.00 pm at society's office of **RAJ SATYAM CHS LTD**, on address MENTIONED above, along with **Non refundable** tender processing charges of Rs. 11,000/- and **refundable** EMD of Rs. 2,00,000/- both, in favour of the society and by **PAY ORDERS ONLY**. The Society reserves the right to accept or reject any of all proposals without assigning any reason whatsoever.

PMC's Office, Kapil Bakshi Architects & P&C 21, 2nd Floor, Kalpataru Avenue, Opp ESIS Hospital, Akurfi Road, Kandivali (E), Mumbai 400 101. Ph - 89280 69931. Email: admin@kapilbakshi.in kapilbakshi@yahoo.com

Architect / PMC Dilip Sanghvi Consultants 101, Sri Saldham, 90 Feet Road, Vikrant Circle, Ghatkopar E, Mumbai-400077. +91 91676 49099 (Sagar) dilipsanghvi@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are invited from Reputed & Experienced Contractors for Terrace Level Civil, Structural Repairs and Waterproofing Works of **Green Meadows Building No.5/6 CHSL** Lokhandwala Township, Kandivali(E), Mumbai-400101. A set of blank Tender Document is available From 27/06/24 to 4/07/24 at **Consultant's Office** From 10.30 a.m. To 05.30 p.m. (On working days). Tender Cost : Rs.2,500/- (Cash-Non Refundable) **STRUT CONSULTANTS PVT. LTD.** Shree Ganesh Society, 297/2360, Mollai Nagar No.2, M.G. Road, Goregaon (W), Mumbai - 400 104. Contact: 9004285688

PUBLIC NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that **Aasan Corporate Solutions Private Limited**, a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 having its registered office address at 4th Floor, Piramal Tower Annex, Ganpatrao Kadam Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai - 400013, are intending to sell and our clients are intending to purchase the property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written (hereinafter referred to as "said Property") free from all encumbrances. Any persons having or claiming any estate, right, title, interest, benefit, claim or demand whatsoever in or to the Property or any part thereof and/or any of the title deeds, or records, in respect thereof, whether by way of or in the nature of sale, transfer, assignment, allotment, exchange, gift, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, license, possession, use, occupation, development rights, caretaker rights, covenant, FSI/TDR consumption, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, inheritance, bequest, legacy, succession, family arrangement/settlement, will, testamentary instrument, probate, letters of administration, easement, maintenance, encumbrance, decree or any order of any court of law, or under any litigation, contract or agreement or understanding, or otherwise however, are hereby called upon to intimate and make the same known, in writing, to the undersigned having address at Office No. 7, 2nd Floor, Nagin Mahal, Plot-82, Veer Nariman Road, Churchgate, Mumbai - 400020, together with notariarily certified true copies of relevant documentary proof in support thereof, within **15 (Fifteen) days** from the publication of this notice, failing which such right, title, interest, benefit, claim, or demand, if any, will be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned and the transaction shall be completed without any reference thereto.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY Residential Unit, viz., Residential Flat No.1202, measuring 254.09 sq. m. carpet area and Enclosed / Excess Balcony of 24.15 sq. m. and Usable Area (Deck, Dry Balcony, Flower Bed) of 42.52 sq. m. (which are part of Floor Space Index) aggregating to total area of 323.76 sq. m. on 12th Floor in Wing A of building known as 'Signia Pearl' in Signia Pearl Co-operative Housing Society Limited situated at G Block, CTS No 4207, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400051 together with the right to enjoy 02 car parking spaces (bearing car parking nos. B2 sect D17 & B2 sect D18) in Basement 2 of the said building and the proportionate share in the common areas, amenities & facilities of the said building being constructed on amalgamated plots bearing Nos. R1-1, R1-2, R1-3 & R1-4 in "G" Block of Bandra-Kurla Complex, forming part of CTS No. 4207 of village Koli Kalyan, Taluka Andheri, District Bombay Suburban and bounded as follows:

On or towards the North: 30.00 m wide road
On or towards the South: 12.00 m wide road
On or towards the East: Plot No. R-1-2
On or towards the West: Junction of 12.00 & 30.00 meter wide roads
together with all right, title and beneficial interest in 20 (Twenty) fully paid shares of Rs.100/- each, bearing Distinctive Nos.64 to 66 (both inclusive), comprised in Share Certificate No.53 (Member's Register No.53) dated 4th September 2020, issued by Signia Pearl Co-operative Housing Society Limited (Registration No. MUM/WHE/HS/G(TC)/1612/2020-21) a Society registered under the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960.

Dated this 26th day of June 2024
For ANM Global Inc. Hemangi Abhyankar Advocate & Solicitor

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my Client is in the process of Purchasing the Unit No 17 measuring 1951 sq.ft. and the storage Unit No. 17 on the 1st basement measuring 3353 sq.ft. PALM BEACH GALLERIA, Phase 2, Sector 19D, VASHI, NAVI MUMBAI - 400703. Any persons having any or claiming any right in the said Unit No 17 measuring 1951 sq.ft. and the storage Unit No. 17 on the 1st basement measuring 3353 sq.ft. PALM BEACH GALLERIA, Phase 2, Sector 19D, VASHI, NAVI MUMBAI-400703 by way of tenancy, sale, gift, lease, inheritance exchange, Mortgage, Charge, Lien, trust, possession, easement, attachment or otherwise or on the basis of being in possession of the aforesaid Original deeds is hereby required to make the same known together with substantiating Documents to the undersigned at **ANOO MEHTA, ADVOCATE** Plot No. 179, SHAKTI NIWAS, GROUND FLOOR, SIR. BHALCHANDRA ROAD, HINDU COLONY, DADAR EAST, MUMBAI - 400014 in writing within 15 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim, if any, shall be considered as waived. **ANOO MEHTA** Date: 26.06.2024 ADVOCATE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general that my clients desire to purchase the Residential Bungalow A-2 (Row House) (hereinafter referred to as "the said Bungalow") and more particularly described in the schedule hereunder and are in negotiation with Smt. Kamia Kuman Labh Singh Bapna to purchase all her rights, title, and interest in the said Bungalow free from all encumbrances, litigations, mortgages, and claims of whatsoever nature and with clear title marketable free of any registered lease agreement dated 24.08.1979 bearing registration No. S-2102/1212 the original copy of the same is untraceable and a search has been initiated for the same.

Smt. Kamia Kuman Bapna has granted to my clients the said society was previously known as Raj Kunj Chs Ltd. and had then issued old share certificate No. 02 to Lt. Shri Labh Singh Bapna on 02.10.1979. Later the name of the society for the Bungalow owners was changed to Raj Kunj (Row House) Co-operative Housing Society Ltd. and later they issued new share certificates to the bungalow owners. She is the member of Raj Kunj (Row House) Co-operative Housing Society Ltd. (hereinafter stated as "the said society") and holding share certificate bearing no. 37 dated 12.03.2017 issued in her name by the said society. The said husband Lt. Shri Labh Singh Bapna died intestate on 17.09.2006 and the seller has further represented to my clients that she has executed a registered Release Deed dated 18.06.2024 bearing no. KRL-5-1635-2024 registered with Registrar Of Assurances at Kurla-5 between all the legal heirs of Lt. Shri Labh Singh Bapna releasing and relinquishing all her rights, title, interest, entitlement to her as per the Hindu Succession Act as legal heirs of Lt. Shri Labh Singh Bapna in respect of the said Bungalow in favour of Smt. Kamia Kuman Labh Singh Bapna making her the 100% exclusive owner of the said bungalow.

Any person or persons (which means includes individuals, Firms, Companies, Association of person statutory bodies) entities or any other authorities, or otherwise however, claiming any right, title, interest, claim, demand or objection in respect of the said Bungalow mentioned in the Schedule hereunder written or any part thereof, whether by way of ownership, sale, exchange, transfer, lease, sub-lease, mortgage, gift, tenancy, lease, license, trust, inheritance, possession, hypothecation, charge, lien, easement, litigation, disputes of whatsoever nature and of otherwise any other rights or interests of whatsoever nature, are hereby called upon to make the same known in writing to the undersigned address, within 15 days from the date of publication hereof with documentary proof/evidence or Court Orders thereof for any such purported claim/objection. If any such claim or demand shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents and purposes, if no claim or objection is received as mentioned hereinabove, then my clients are free to proceed with the purchase without any reference to any such claim or interest which shall be deemed to be waived for all intents and purposes.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO Residential Bungalow No. A-2 (Row House) in the society known as Raj Kunj (Row House) Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., being situated near Dongre park, Near R.C.F. Colony, Wadhvani Village, Chembur, Mumbai-400 074; consisting of Ground +1 floor, area of plot of land measuring 260.15 sq. mts. Or thereabout bearing survey no. 46A, 477, 483, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, C.T.S. No. 207 of village Wadhvani, Taluka -Kurla in Municipal M-East ward, lying and situated in the Registration District & Sub-District of Mumbai Suburban. Date: 25-06-2024 Place: Mumbai

Sd/- Adv. Kinjal Shah Advocate High Court Bombay Address: 14, Godavari Chambers, Adukia Lane, Abv. Kakubhai Optics, Kandivali (West), Mumbai -67 Email: adv.kinjal@gmail.com Phn: +91 9082925622

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that my Client is in the process of Purchasing the Unit No 17 measuring 1951 sq.ft. and the storage Unit No. 17 on the 1st basement measuring 3353 sq.ft. PALM BEACH GALLERIA, Phase 2, Sector 19D, VASHI, NAVI MUMBAI - 400703. Any persons having any or claiming any right in the said Unit No 17 measuring 1951 sq.ft. and the storage Unit No. 17 on the 1st basement measuring 3353 sq.ft. PALM BEACH GALLERIA, Phase 2, Sector 19D, VASHI, NAVI MUMBAI-400703 by way of tenancy, sale, gift, lease, inheritance exchange, Mortgage, Charge, Lien, trust, possession, easement, attachment or otherwise or on the basis of being in possession of the aforesaid Original deeds is hereby required to make the same known together with substantiating Documents to the undersigned at **ANOO MEHTA, ADVOCATE** Plot No. 179, SHAKTI NIWAS, GROUND FLOOR, SIR. BHALCHANDRA ROAD, HINDU COLONY, DADAR EAST, MUMBAI - 400014 in writing within 15 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim, if any, shall be considered as waived. **ANOO MEHTA** Date: 26.06.2024 ADVOCATE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general that my clients desire to purchase the Residential Bungalow A-2 (Row House) (hereinafter referred to as "the said Bungalow") and more particularly described in the schedule hereunder and are in negotiation with Smt. Kamia Kuman Labh Singh Bapna to purchase all her rights, title, and interest in the said Bungalow free from all encumbrances, litigations, mortgages, and claims of whatsoever nature and with clear title marketable free of any registered lease agreement dated 24.08.1979 bearing registration No. S-2102/1212 the original copy of the same is untraceable and a search has been initiated for the same.

Smt. Kamia Kuman Bapna has granted to my clients the said society was previously known as Raj Kunj Chs Ltd. and had then issued old share certificate No. 02 to Lt. Shri Labh Singh Bapna on 02.10.1979. Later the name of the society for the Bungalow owners was changed to Raj Kunj (Row House) Co-operative Housing Society Ltd. and later they issued new share certificates to the bungalow owners. She is the member of Raj Kunj (Row House) Co-operative Housing Society Ltd. (hereinafter stated as "the said society") and holding share certificate bearing no. 37 dated 12.03.2017 issued in her name by the said society. The said husband Lt. Shri Labh Singh Bapna died intestate on 17.09.2006 and the seller has further represented to my clients that she has executed a registered Release Deed dated 18.06.2024 bearing no. KRL-5-1635-2024 registered with Registrar Of Assurances at Kurla-5 between all the legal heirs of Lt. Shri Labh Singh Bapna releasing and relinquishing all her rights, title, interest, entitlement to her as per the Hindu Succession Act as legal heirs of Lt. Shri Labh Singh Bapna in respect of the said Bungalow in favour of Smt. Kamia Kuman Labh Singh Bapna making her the 100% exclusive owner of the said bungalow.

Any person or persons (which means includes individuals, Firms, Companies, Association of person statutory bodies) entities or any other authorities, or otherwise however, claiming any right, title, interest, claim, demand or objection in respect of the said Bungalow mentioned in the Schedule hereunder written or any part thereof, whether by way of ownership, sale, exchange, transfer, lease, sub-lease, mortgage, gift, tenancy, lease, license, trust, inheritance, possession, hypothecation, charge, lien, easement, litigation, disputes of whatsoever nature and of otherwise any other rights or interests of whatsoever nature, are hereby called upon to make the same known in writing to the undersigned address, within 15 days from the date of publication hereof with documentary proof/evidence or Court Orders thereof for any such purported claim/objection. If any such claim or demand shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents and purposes, if no claim or objection is received as mentioned hereinabove, then my clients are free to proceed with the purchase without any reference to any such claim or interest which shall be deemed to be waived for all intents and purposes.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO Residential Bungalow No. A-2 (Row House) in the society known as Raj Kunj (Row House) Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., being situated near Dongre park, Near R.C.F. Colony, Wadhvani Village, Chembur, Mumbai-400 074; consisting of Ground +1 floor, area of plot of land measuring 260.15 sq. mts. Or thereabout bearing survey no. 46A, 477, 483, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, C.T.S. No. 207 of village Wadhvani, Taluka -Kurla in Municipal M-East ward, lying and situated in the Registration District & Sub-District of Mumbai Suburban. Date: 25-06-2024 Place: Mumbai

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Porsche accused is a child, we won't be swayed by uproar: HC

Says JJB Passed 3 Remand Orders Sans Jurisdiction

Swati.Deshpande
@timesgroup.com



The teen was allegedly speeding in his car in an intoxicated state on May 19 when it crashed into a bike, killing two techies

Mumbai: "It is our bounden duty to prioritise justice above everything else, and definitely, we are not swayed away by the uproar created upon the occurrence of the ghastly mishap," said Justice Bharti Dangre and Manjusha Deshpande of Bombay HC while releasing a minor accused in the Pune Porsche case.

The reason for the release, they said, was that the three distinct orders passed by the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) in Pune remanding him to custody were without jurisdiction. The 34-page order penned by Justice Dangre said the JJB passed orders "in an absolutely mechanical manner without considering the most significant and pivotal fact that the CCL (child in conflict with law) continues to be on bail..."

The 17-year-old's aunt, apart from a habeas corpus plea for his release alleging illegal detention, had sought quashing of the JJB's 'illegal' remand orders. The HC, flin-

ching at the "manner in which police handled the case and JJB passed orders", said it "must clearly express" that it was a fit case to release the minor and quash the remand orders. "The law is clear: Apprehension, detention, prosecution, penalising, rehabilitation, adoption, re-integration and restoration of a child in need of care is governed by the Juvenile Justice Act. Its provisions take precedence," said the HC.

"The outcry, as a knee-jerk reaction to the accident, resulting into a clarion call to look at the action, not, age of accused, will have to be overlooked upon assimilating that the CCL is a child under the JJ Act, ...and regardless of his crime, he must receive the same treatment, which every other child in conflict with law is entitled to, it said.

Police to wait for JJB order on plea to try minor as adult

Following the Bombay HC order, the JJB on Tuesday night ordered the release of the 17-year-old involved in the May 19 Porsche Taycan car crash in Pune from the observation home and handed over his custody to his paternal aunt.

A senior Pune police officer told TOI, "We will now wait for the JJB's order on our application filed on May 22 seeking the teenager's trial as an adult on the grounds that the incident falls under a heinous crime. The plea is pending final disposal." The teenager's lawyer Prashant Patil said the boy will live with his aunt in Pune. **TNN**

"We have all sympathies for the victim and their families but as a Court of Law, we are bound to implement the law as it stands. Law stands, irrespective of whether it entails any hardship. (Its) must be applied equally to all and shall treat everyone equally, as the dominant approach of the doctrine of equality is equal justice, which would encompass equal protection of law," Justice Dangre wrote.

Understand my pain, urges dead techie's mom

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jabalpur: Mamta Kosta, whose daughter Ashwini was one of the two techies killed in the Pune Porsche crash on May 19, was distraught after learning of the Bombay HC order. While affirming that she has full faith in the judiciary, the bereaved mother urged judges to empathise with her agony.

"I was shocked to see the news. I have full faith in the judiciary. They must have made the decision after careful consideration. However, I request the judges to understand the pain of a mother who has lost her daughter. Punishment should be given accordingly so that the public can trust the judicial system," Mamta said.

Ashwini's father Suresh Kosta, who is still in Maharashtra, told TOI over the phone: "I have not read the high court's decision yet, so I can't say anything. CM Ek-nath Shinde, who had called us to meet, has taken the matter seriously and assured us of appropriate action."

INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University, Govt. of India)
Visakhapatnam Campus, Vangali, Sabbavaram Mandal
VISAKHAPATNAM - 531035.

Admission Notification for Lateral Entry Scheme (2024-2025)
IMU Visakhapatnam Campus invites applications from eligible candidates for Admission into lateral entry in second year B Tech (Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering) and B Tech (Naval Architecture and Ship Building)
For details please see website: www.imuv.edu.in / www.imu.edu.in
DIRECTOR

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (NAAC)
(An Autonomous Institution of the University Grants Commission)
PB. No. 1075, Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru-560072.

Advertisement No. 02/NAAC/Admin/Rect/2024 Dt: 26/06/2024

VACANCY CIRCULAR

The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) invites applications for Recruitment for the posts of Deputy Adviser (Deputation) and Assistant Adviser (Deputation) from Central/State Govt. Institutions. The details can be obtained from NAAC website www.naac.gov.in. The last date for submitting application is 16/08/2024.

Sd/- Administrative officer, NAAC, Bengaluru

ODISHA COAL AND POWER LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF ODISHA COMPANY)
Zone-A, Fourth Floor, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur
Bhubaneswar-751023, Odisha. E-mail: hrd@ocpl.org.in

Advertisement No: OCPL/HR/2024/01 Date: 26/06/2024
Odisha Coal and Power Limited (OCPL), A Government of Odisha company, is in the field of Coal Mining. OCPL intends to recruit dynamic and competent professionals in the below mentioned positions:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post / Grade & IDA Pay Scale	Number of Posts (Reserved for*)
1.	General Manager (Finance) E8 in MBS grade (Negotiable)	01 (UR)
2.	General Manager (Mines) E8 in MBS grade (Negotiable)	01 (UR)
3.	Dy. General Manager (Electrical) E6 / (Rs.94,900/- to 2,10,500/-)	01 (UR)
4.	Sr. Manager (Civil) E5 / (Rs.78,800/- to Rs.2,09,200/-)	01 (UR)
5.	Manager (Survey) E4 / (Rs.73,300/- to Rs.2,06,100/-)	01 (UR)
6.	Manager (Planning) E4 / (Rs.73,300/- to Rs.2,06,100/-)	01 (UR)
7.	Dy. Manager (Security & Traffic) E1 / (Rs.67,700/- to Rs.2,08,700/-)	01 (UR)
8.	Sr. Asst. Manager (CSR) E1 / (Rs.67,700/- to Rs.2,08,700/-)	01 (UR)
9.	Asst. Manager (Mining) E1 / (Rs.56,100/- to Rs.1,77,500/-)	03 (ST:01, SC:01, UR:01)
10.	Asst. Manager (Chemistry) E1 / (Rs.56,100/- to Rs.1,77,500/-)	01 (ST:01)
11.	Asst. Manager (Survey) E1 / (Rs.56,100/- to Rs.1,77,500/-)	02 (SC:01, UR:01)
12.	Asst. Manager (Mechanical) E1 / (Rs.56,100/- to Rs.1,77,500/-)	01 (UR)
13.	Asst. Manager (Administration) E1 / (Rs.56,100/- to Rs.1,77,500/-)	01 (UR)
14.	Asst. Manager (Forest & Environment) E1 / (Rs.56,100/- to Rs.1,77,500/-)	01 (UR)
15.	Asst. Manager (Civil) E1 / (Rs.56,100/- to Rs.1,77,500/-)	01 (UR)
16.	Overman S2 / (Rs.35,400/- to Rs.1,12,400/-)	04 (ST:01, SC:01, UR:02)

For detailed advertisement, eligibility, pay scale & procedure to apply, please visit our website www.ocpl.org.in.
Last date for submission of online application: 5:00 PM of 16.07.2024
Corrigendum, if any, will be published in our website only.
Dy. General Manager (HR)

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU MEMORIAL FUND
TEEN MURTI HOUSE, NEW DELHI - 110011

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES
Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Fund, Teen Murti House, New Delhi-110011 invites applications for Jawaharlal Nehru Scholarships for Doctoral Studies for the year 2024. Eighteen scholarships (UR-6/SC-3/ST-1/OBC-5/EWS-2/PwD-1) will be offered to Indian Nationals and two scholarships to Nationals of other Asian countries for Ph.D. studies in India from 1 April 2025 for up to 2 years. The subjects covered are: Indian History & Civilization, Sociology, Comparative Studies in Religion & Culture, Ecology & Environment and Economics. Application forms can be downloaded from our website or obtained from the JNMF office. Duly filled in forms should reach the JNMF office latest by 31 August 2024. Further details such as stipend and other terms and conditions will be available in the Information Sheet in our website: www.jnfmf.in; Email: jnfmf1964@gmail.com
Administrative Secretary

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA
GATI SHAKTI VISHWAVIDYALAYA
(A Central University under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India)
Lalbaug, Vadodara, Gujarat 390004

GSV/REG/ADM/FP/RECTT/01 Date : 25.06.2024
EXTENSION OF LAST DATE FO APPLICATION TO FACULTY POSITIONS
Ref: Advt. No. GSV/REG/ADM/FP/RECTT/01 dated 21.05.2024 (published in all major newspapers across India)
The closing date for submission of online application has been extended to 31.07.2024 (earlier 30.06.2024). All other requirements for the various positions as advertised remain unchanged. For details and to apply, please visit <https://gsv.ac.in/careers/>.
Follow us on: twitter.com/gsv_vadodara

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AUTHORITY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
5th Floor, TICEL Park, Taramani, CHENNAI - 600113.
(Autonomous & Statutory Body under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change)

CORRIGENDUM

The last date for applying for the post of Private Secretary to Secretary - One Post - Group "B" on Deputation basis published in the Employment News dated 18-24 May 2024 has been extended up to 17th July 2024, 17.30 hrs (Wednesday).
All other Terms & Conditions remain unchanged. For detailed advertisement and application format, please refer to NBA website: www.nbaindia.org
Sd/-
Administrative Officer, NBA

National Highways Authority of India
(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)

भारती सूचना/RECRUITMENT NOTICE

भारत सरकार, प्रतिनियुक्ति के आधार पर निम्नलिखित पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है:-
NHAI invites applications for recruitment to the following post on Deputation basis:-

Name of the posts	No. of Posts	Pay Scale
प्रबंधक (विधि) Manager (Legal)	04	पीबी-3 (रु. 15600-39100) + ग्रेड पे रु. 6600/- (7वें सीपीसी के अनुसार पे मैट्रिक्स में लेवल 11 के समकक्ष) PB-3 (Rs. 15600-39100) with Grade Pay Rs. 6600/- (equivalent to Level 11 of the Pay Matrix as per 7 th CPC).

* Number of posts may increase / decrease.
2. भारत सरकार की वेबसाइट (www.nhai.gov.in) पर उपलब्ध विस्तृत विज्ञापन में दी गई प्रक्रिया के अनुसार आवेदन दिनांक 26.07.2024 (सायं 6:00 बजे) तक ऑनलाइन आवेदन जमा करना सुनिश्चित करें।
The applicant is required to ensure submission of online application as per the procedure indicated in the detailed advertisement, available on NHAI website (www.nhai.gov.in), by 26.07.2024 (upto 6:00 PM).
3. योग्यता मानक एवं अन्य शर्तों से संबंधित विवरण भारत सरकार की वेबसाइट पर देखे जा सकते हैं। Details of eligibility criteria and other conditions may be accessed on NHAI website.
4. इस विज्ञापन के संबंध में शुद्धिपत्र/अनुशेष/निरस्तरीकरण, यदि कोई होगा तो, उसे केवल भारत सरकार की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा। Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation to this advertisement, if any, shall be published on NHAI website only.
BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM

To Tender Notice: BCT/24-25/95 dtd.19.06.2023 DOP 16.07.2024. EMD may be read as: Rs.1,24,600.00/- EMD as per Tender Notice: Rs.12,500.00/- remaining all other conditions of Tender remains unchanged.
Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRail

South East Central Railway
Tender Notice for Miscellaneous Work

Srl. No. (1) E-Tender No.DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-21-24-25, Date: 13/06/2024.
Work: Execution of P.Way zonal works under the jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Champa of Bilaspur Division. Tender Value (In Rs.): 1,20,00,000/-, EMD (In Rs.): 2,10,000/-, Completion Period: Upto 30/06/2025.

Srl. No. (2) E-Tender No.DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-22-23-24, Date: 13/06/2024.
Work: Execution of P.Way zonal works under the jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Baradwar of Bilaspur Division. Tender Value (In Rs.): 1,20,00,000/-, EMD (In Rs.): 2,10,000/-, Completion Period: Upto 30/06/2025.

Srl. No. (3) E-Tender No.DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-23-23-24, Date: 13/06/2024.
Work: Execution of P.Way zonal works under the jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Raigarh of Bilaspur Division. Tender Value (In Rs.): 1,20,00,000/-, EMD (In Rs.): 2,10,000/-, Completion Period: Upto 30/06/2025.

Srl. No. (4) E-Tender No.DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-24-24-25, Date: 13/06/2024.
Work: Execution of P.Way zonal works under the jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Raigarh of Bilaspur Division. Tender Value (In Rs.): 1,20,00,000/-, EMD (In Rs.): 2,10,000/-, Completion Period: Upto 30/06/2025.

Srl. No. (5) E-Tender No.DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-25-24-25, Date: 05/06/2023.
Work: Execution of P.Way zonal works under the jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Himgir of Bilaspur Division. Tender Value (In Rs.): 1,20,00,000/-, EMD (In Rs.): 2,10,000/-, Completion Period: Upto 30/06/2025.

Srl. No. (6) E-Tender No.DRM-ENGG-BSP-T-26-24-25, Date: 13/06/2024.
Work: Execution of P.Way zonal works under the jurisdiction of Sr. Section Engineer (P.Way)/Brajnagar of Bilaspur Division. Tender Value (In Rs.): 1,20,00,000/-, EMD (In Rs.): 2,10,000/-, Completion Period: Upto 30/06/2025.

Start date of Submission of Tender: 26-06-2024, Last date of Submission of Tender: Upto 11.00 hrs. on 10-07-2024. The complete information of above e-Tender. Notices is available over websites <https://www.ireps.gov.in> Bids other than e-bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders.
Divl. Railway Manager (Engg.)
CPR/10/100
S.E.C.Railway, Bilaspur
South East Central Railway

On the Occasion of Wedding Presenting

New Crafts
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Tender Inviting for Engaging an expert Agency/Consultant for Storage of Rabi 2024 Onions Procured for PSF Buffer
Last date of submission of Tender extended upto 30.06.2024 (Sunday).
For more details Visit: <https://nccf-india.com>.
Sd/
In-charge (P&A)

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Engineer (CON)/O, South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-tender for the following work. Following tender has been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in. The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date. e-Tender Notice No.: 4425-GR-CE-01-49-2024, Date: 25.06.2024. Brief Description of works: Construction of Fire fighting system in newly constructed 151 units Type-II & 08 units Type-III (G+8) staff quarters at Ranchi & Hatia in Ranchi Division of South Eastern Railway. Approx. Cost: ₹ 0.81 Crore. Bid Security: ₹ 1,63,000. Completion Period: 6 months. Closing Date: 16.07.2024. Interested tenders may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for this item will be accepted. N.B: Prospective bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to participate in all other tenders. (PR-305)

L-05

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT DIRECTORATE OF AGRICULTURE & FOOD PRODUCTION, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Engagement of Community Based Organisations at Block Level under "Promotion of indigenous aromatic and non-aromatic paddy with export potential/local market" 2024-25 of Govt. of Odisha

Expression of Interest is invited by the Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha, Bhubaneswar from the experienced and interested organizations for engagement as Community Based Organization for newly allotted blocks of Angul, Dhenkanal, Gajapati, Malkangiri, Mayurbhanj, Nabarangpur, Sambalpur, Koraput, Keonjhar, Nuapada & Sundargarh districts under "Promotion of indigenous aromatic and non-aromatic paddy with export potential/local market" 2024-25. Interested organizations/agencies are requested to submit the Eoi in sealed envelope super scribed as **Application for engagement as Community Based Organisations at Block Level under "Promotion of indigenous aromatic and non-aromatic paddy with export potential/local market" 2024-25 of ----- district** as per enclosed application format by registered/Speed post. Proposals in E-Mail would not be entertained in this regard. The EOI should be addressed to the Office of the Chief District Agriculture Officer (District name) from the above mentioned districts. Last date for receipt of Eoi is **8th July 2024 up to 1:00 PM** and the same shall be opened on the same day at 3.30PM in presence of authorized signatory and representatives. The application form and detail terms & conditions are available in the official website of www.agrisnetodisha.ori.nic.in & www.agriodisha.gov.in.

The authority shall not be responsible for any sort of postal delay and the Eoi received beyond scheduled date and time shall not be entertained and out right to be rejected. The authority reserves the right to cancel/reject any or all the EOI without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha
OIPR-01510/11/0001/24-25

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TIMES inter act

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that, under the instructions of our client, we are investigating the ownership, right, title and interest of (1) **Lapidare Trading Private Limited** (CIN U51900MH1995PT091916), (2) **Anney Trading Private Limited** (CIN U51900MH1995PT091948), (3) **Varsoli Trading Private Limited** (CIN U51900MH1995PT091907), (4) **Novotel Trading Private Limited** (CIN U51900MH1995PT091908), (5) **Courcheval Trading Private Limited** (CIN U51900MH1995PT091935), (6) **Ottokar Trading Private Limited** (CIN U51900MH1995PT091974), (7) **Artaud Trading Private Limited** (CIN U51900MH1995PT091761), (8) **Chantaco Trading Private Limited** (CIN U51900MH1995PT091760), and (9) **Castaflore Trading Private Limited** (CIN U51900MH1995PT091795), all having their registered office at Vaswani Gardens, 25-Sobani Rd., Cuffe Parade, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, 400 005, and incorporated under the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956 and deemed to be existing under the Companies Act, 2013 (collectively "Owners") to the land together with the building standing thereon described in the Schedule hereunder written (collectively "Property").

All persons having any claim and/or demand and/or objection against / upon / in respect of the Property or any portion thereof in respect of right / title / interest of the Owners in the Property or any portion thereof, individually or collectively, by way of mortgage, encumbrance, sale, agreement for sale, transfer, assignment, lease, agreement to lease, sub-lease, agreement to sub-lease, tenancy, license, sub-license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, lis-pendens, exchange, share, beneficial interest, possession, release, relinquishment, partition, power of attorney, will, bequest, inheritance, FSI, development rights, family arrangement / settlement, possession, allotment, order or decree or direction of any court or any other statutory or adjudicating authority or by way or any other method or otherwise howsoever ("Claims"), are hereby required to make the same known in writing to Khaitan & Co. Advocates at One, Wadi Centre, Tower 1, 13th floor, Senapati Bapat Marg, Elphinstone Road, Mumbai 400 013 also with a copy addressed over email at mumbai@khaitanco.com (marked to the attention of Mr Harsh Parikh) along with copies of necessary supporting documents within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which it will be deemed that no such claim, right, title, or interest exists in respect of the Property and same shall be treated as waived or abandoned and no binding upon the Owners and/or our client.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that on 8th June, 2024 we have published the paper notice in the daily newspaper i.e. TIMES OF INDIA, and MAHARASHTRA TIMES with regard to the property mentioned hereinunder. In the said notice, the area of Survey no. 259/1 was enormously mentioned as 7870.00 sq.mtrs. Instead of 1747.00 sq.mtrs. Therefore, we hereby rectify the area of said survey no. 259/1 through this public notice which will supersede the earlier public notice dated 8th June, 2024 in respect of this survey no.

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that we are in investigation the title of the owners (i) **Chandrabai Kabir Patil**, and (ii) **Pushpa Pramod Patil** (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Owners") to the property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written ("the said Property") for the development and acquisition of all the right, title and interest of the Owners in respect of the said Property with a clear and marketable title free from all encumbrances and claims by my client.

All persons having any direct or indirect claim, objection, demand, share, right, title, interest and/or benefit in respect of or against the said Property or any part/portion thereof including against the Owners in respect of the said Property or any part/portion thereof including by way of sale, transfer, assignment, conveyance, exchange, right, title, interest, share, benefit, lease, sublease, tenancy, sub-tenancy, license, lien, mortgage, charge, encumbrance, occupation, care-taker basis, covenant, trust, easement, gift, inheritance, bequest, maintenance, possession, development rights, right of way, reservation, family arrangement/settlement, agreement, lis-pendens, decree or order of any Court of Law, partnership or allotment or otherwise howsoever and of whatsoever nature are hereby requested to give notice thereof in writing, along with documentary evidence, to the following address within 14 (fourteen) days from the date hereof, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived, released, relinquished and/or abandoned.

THE SCHEDULE REFERRED TO HEREINABOVE
(Description of the said Property) All that pieces and parcels of land bearing Survey no. 259/1, purchase area 1747.00 sq. mtrs. out of the total area 7870.00 sq. mtrs, situated at Village Kavesar, Taluka Thane, in the District and Sub-District of Thane within the jurisdiction of Thane Municipal Corporation, Thane (W).

Dated this 26th day of June 2024
Sd/- Adv. Ganesh Dumbre
A-221, 1st floor, Vashi Plaza, Sector 17, Vashi, Navi Mumbai
Email : adv.dumbre8@gmail.com
Mob. : 8097778854 / 9867985879

services

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PROFESSIONAL accountants for GST, TDS, IT, Returns, Audits, Assessments & Appeals. Contact : snrassociates02@gmail.com, 9152293272

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DEATH ANNIVERSARY

4th Death Anniversary IN REMEMBRANCE

Mrs. Shailaja Balakrishnan
26TH JUNE 2024
Yet another year -without your presence Memories of happy times spent together we will always treasure May you always be happy - where ever you are Love you always - Mom
MEENA & NAVIN

RADHA SOAMI


In Loving Memory of Sona Kulchandani
30th January 1967 to 24th June 2024
Daughter of Late Mr. Parshottamdas & Late Mrs. Geeta Kulchandani
Sister of Kishore, Suresh, Late Prakash, Varkha & Karan.
Prayer Meet on Wednesday, 26th June, 2024. 5:00pm to 6:00pm. At Hiravati Hall, Stree Mandal, Santacruz (West).
In Grief:
Kulchandani Family
Dewani Family
Ramchandani Family
Lalchandani Family.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS


With profound grief we share that
Aruna Gabhawala
Beloved wife and mother left for her heavenly abode on June 24, 2024
Prayer meeting
Thursday June 27, 2024 5.30pm to 7pm
Venue : Hall of Culture Nehru Centre Annie Besant Road Worli, Mumbai 400018
Chandrakant Gabhawala & family
No condolences at home

PRAYER MEETING

The Pillar of our lives and heartbeat of our family has ascended to her heavenly abode.



Smt. Meena Dilipkumar Shroff
9/6/1939 - 24/6/2024
Wife of Late Dilipkumar Natwarlal Shroff
Mother of Vibha, Seema & Kaushal
Mother-in-Law of Ambrish Zaveri & Reepa Shroff
Grandmother of Harshvardhan, Deyaan & Diva
Daughter of Late Smt. Sunaina & Late Ramanlal Tolat
Prayer Meeting
Thursday, 27th June 2024
From 5 to 7 pm
Venue: Garware Sabhagraha (FPH), 5th Floor, PH Bldg, Lala Lajpatrai Marg, Haji Ali, Mumbai 400034.
Entry from sea side Valet parking available
<https://ads.timesgroup.com>

SAD DEMISE

"FROM JOY I CAME, FOR JOY I LIVE, IN SACRED JOY I MELT"

With heartfelt grief we inform the untimely demise of
Me Vijay Asrani
21 June, 1979-23 June, 2024
Son of **Srichand & Veena Asrani**
Chautha on : 26.06.2024 (Wednesday)
Time : 5:30 PM to 6:00 PM
Venue : Khatwari Darbar, Linking Road, Khar West
Grief Stricken **Asrani and Shah families**
You will be in our hearts... always and forever

SAD DEMISE


Dr. PRATIMA KODKANI
24th June 2024
I GAVE THE BEST THAT I COULD, THE WAY THAT I COULD & FOR ALL THOSE THAT I COULD
It is with great sadness that we announce the demise of our loving mother.
We love you and will always miss your presence. You have taught us to never give up and live life to the fullest.
Dr. Pranjal Sharad Kodkani (Son)
Mrs. Arathi Pranjal Kodkani
Laerya Pranjal Kodkani
(Late) Abhijeet Sharad Kodkani
Family and Friends

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मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते संगोऽस्त्वकर्मणि।।

In everlasting memory of
Lala Banshi Dhar
(March 7, 1930 to June 26, 2004)
A fountainhead of knowledge and always a source of inspiration, he has left behind a rich harvest of memories to cherish, honour and emulate.
In reverence & remembrance
All members of
DCM Shriram Industries Group

Exam panel gets moving with eye on 'tamper-proof' system

Isro Ex-Chief-Led Body To Consult Parents, Students

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com



TIME FOR REFORMS

New Delhi: Education ministry's seven-member panel on examination reforms will engage with parents and students to understand their concerns and challenges regarding the examination process, amid ongoing controversies over alleged irregularities in competitive exams National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) and University Grants Commission's National Eligibility Test (NET), officials said.

free system that reduces stress for students while providing adequate flexibility. While NEET-UG is under scanner for paper leak and other irregularities, UGC-NET question papers were traced on the "darknet", leading to its cancellation. The panel, led by former ISRO chief R Radhakrishnan, in its first meeting on Monday, also discussed cybersecurity issues and the challenges posed by the darknet.

JEE-style online format for future exams likely

Manash.Gohain
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Govt indicated it is considering a move towards a more stress-free, multi-session, multiple-times-a-year computer-based test format for future exams, similar to the Joint Entrance Examination-Main (JEE-Main), which was successfully offered four times during the Covid pandemic.

the US. The seven-member panel too briefly discussed the mode of exams—computer-based and pen-paper on Monday—and will deliberate on it in detail. Earlier on Sunday, Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan hinted at a potential overhaul of the exam process. "India needs a flexible and less stressful exam system like the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test), the admission test for colleges in the US." Govt sources indicated that following the recommendations of the panel, new discussions with ETS and other global bodies are likely to take place to explore potential tie ups.

Medico caught trying to write NEET as proxy

Kshitzit@timesgroup.com

Patna: An AIIMS-Jodhpur student paid to be a proxy for a NEET-UG examinee got caught during biometric attendance at a centre in Bihar's Muzaffarpur minutes before the May 5 test, but was allegedly allowed to go after submitting a written apology to the authorities, new findings in the ongoing paper-leak probe reveal.

ing away from home since, police said. In his apology, he has confessed to impersonating the son of a doctor who owns a hospital in Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj in exchange for Rs 4 lakh. The AIIMS student said he met Dr Rajesh Prasad Pandey, who allegedly wanted a proxy for his son, in Kota, Rajasthan.

Coordinator denies leak from Hazaribag

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hazaribag: The Hazaribag coordinator of five NEET-UG exam centres in the town, Eshshanul Hasan, on Tuesday denied charges of tampering with question papers or of leaking them from the five facilities.

of the five examination centres which media reports said had leaked papers — said a gang, and the courier company that transported the papers, could be involved in the leak. Talking to media persons here, Hasan said the question papers for the May 5 examination in Hazaribag were received by superintendents of the five examination centres — DAV Public School, St Xavier's School, Holy Cross High School, Vivekananda Central School and Oasis School — at 1.15pm in sealed and locked steel boxes from the State Bank of India branch where they were kept in the locker.

Although the breach at the examination centre in DAV School, Malighat, was never officially reported, an FIR was registered at Mithanpura police station in Muzaffarpur the same day after station house officer (SHO) Ram Krishna Paramhans Kumar received information regarding this from an undisclosed source.

"I come from a poor family. I was promised Rs 4 lakh, which is why I agreed to write the exam on someone else's behalf," he wrote. The examinee's admit card featured a picture of the third-year MBBS student. Police quoted an official of the exam centre as saying that the young man had been asked to wait outside after he wrote an apology while the authorities decided what to do next. He allegedly sneaked out and couldn't be traced.

SUGGESTS ROLE OF GANG, COURIER CO

Hasan, who is also principal of Oasis School—one of the five examination centres which media reports said had leaked papers — said a gang, and the courier company that transported the papers, could be involved in the leak. Talking to media persons here, Hasan said the question papers for the May 5 examination in Hazaribag were received by superintendents of the five exam-

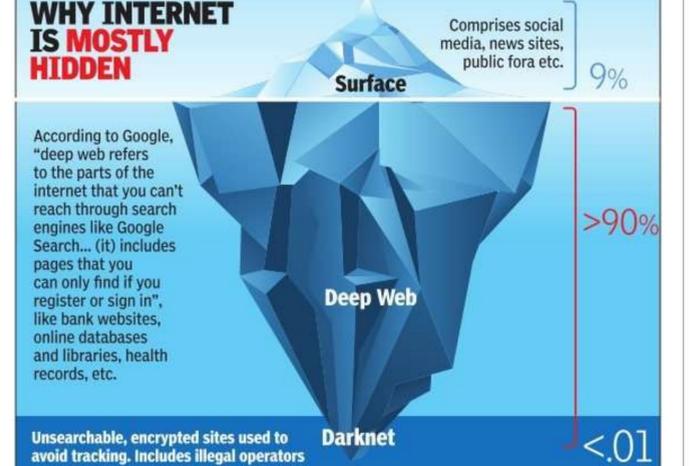
which should have reached the locker of the SBI branch on May 4, were lying in the courier office in Hazaribag town overnight and were taken to the bank in e-rickshaws only on the examination morning on May 5. The boxes, which had two digital locks each, were opened after they reached the examination centres from the bank by National Testing Agency (NTA) officers in front of superintendents, assigned observers and 24 student examinee representatives before the start of the examination, he said.

When NEET met darknet, the web you may not know about

It's A Haven For Crusaders And Crooks Looking To Cover Their Tracks. For NTA Officials Grappling With Paper-Leak Crisis, It's Become A Big Headache

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

When you use a web browser — Google, Bing, Firefox, Safari — to go online, you are surfing what can be called the 'surface' web. This is mainly the internet made up of sites that use the domain name system, or DNS, which converts intelligible hostnames, like google.com, into internet protocol (IP) addresses (mostly numbers or alphanumeric code). These sites are searchable by a browser, which indexes their content to be able to return relevant results when you type in keywords.



According to Google, "the deep web includes 90% of the internet, while the dark web likely includes less than 0.01%".

visitors to it through layers of encryption. That makes it nearly impossible to trace the country from where such a site is being operated. There are other similar software, like I2P.

additional security, and 27.1% use it out of curiosity about the dark web".

What Makes Darknet 'Dark'?

What really sets darknet apart from the deep web is the mode of accessing it, with anonymity being key. A darknet site implies that it is not indexed and is accessible only through specialised software. The commonly used network for accessing darknet is Tor, short for "The Onion Router". This browser, which can be downloaded for free, was developed by US military as a means to enable secure communication among the American intelligence community.

Who Uses The Darknet?

The anonymity and untraceability of sites and activity on the darknet means that it is the go-to tool for anybody who wants to hide their identity from regulators and authorities. This includes whistleblowers and activists living under repressive regimes but also criminals offering illegal services on the internet. It was reported that the paper for the UGC-NET exam, which has been scrapped, was leaked on the darknet for Rs 6 lakh.

Is It Legal, Safe To Use?

While darknet browsers are not illegal in many countries, including India, their use implies a desire to hide one's tracks. So, even if it is for accessing a social media website, if it is blocked under a certain jurisdiction, one may fall afoul of govt authorities. Again, many of the websites on the darknet may themselves be banned for hosting illegal content, accessing which can land one in trouble.

It hides details of sites visited and online activity by routing traffic through multiple layers (hence, the 'onion' in its name). Tor also allows hosting of web pages using the .onion domain name. This domain name, just like the browser, enables anonymity for websites and servers, protecting the identity of both the website and

Interestingly, the likes of Facebook, too, have a .onion website to enable people to browse it in countries (for instance, China) where its access is blocked. According to Norton, the maker of antivirus software, "as many as 70.8% of users claim to use the Tor browser for anonymity, 62.3% said they use it for

As Kaspersky, another antivirus maker, points out, "there is a clear danger of becoming govt target for simply visiting a dark website" as that raises questions about the purpose of covering one's online tracks. Also, darknet activity may not be as untraceable as one would like to think. While "illegal drug marketplaces like the Silk Road have been hijacked for police surveillance", experts say that despite "multiple layers on Tor, your ISP can still see that you're connected".

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TOI Explains

Modi likely to visit Russia in July

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi is likely to visit Moscow next month for India-Russia annual summit, the highest institutionalised dialogue mechanism between the two countries. While an official announcement is awaited, both sides are exploring dates in the second week of July for the proposed day-long visit. July 9 is one of the dates being considered. If the visit happens, and with no other foreign visit scheduled for the PM in the next few weeks, it may also turn out to be Modi's first bil-

ateral visit since returning as PM for third term this month. Previously, he has chosen to visit countries in the neighbourhood after assuming office. The visit will take place days after SCO summit in Astana, which Modi has decided to skip this time. It will also be his first visit to the country since Russia invaded Ukraine in Feb 2022. Modi, in fact, last visited Russia in 2019. The PM is expected to visit Russia again later this year for BRICS summit. An aide of Russian President Vladimir Putin was quoted as saying on Tuesday that preparations are on for the visit.



EAM meets new China envoy, discusses 'stabilisation' of ties

New Delhi: Amid strained bilateral ties, foreign minister S Jaishankar had his first official meeting with new Chinese ambassador Xu Feihong. Later, in a post on X, the minister said he discussed with Xu the bilateral relationship and "our common interest in its stabilisation and progress". Xu later said they exchanged views on China-India relations and other issues of common interest. "Thanks for his best wishes. Look forward to working with the Indian side to push forward the development of China-India relations towards the right direction," said the ambassador. Official sources said this was a courtesy meeting which the minister usually has with newly appointed envoys. India and China remain locked in a border dispute in eastern Ladakh that has now entered its fifth year. Even after 21 rounds of military and 15 rounds of diplomatic talks, the process of military disengagement is yet to be completed. **TNN**

WESTERN RAILWAY TO RUN SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN MUMBAI CENTRAL ↔ AMRITSAR

TRAIN NO.	ORIGINATING STATION & DESTINATION	DATE OF SERVICE	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
09009	Mumbai Central - Amritsar	27.06.2024	23.30 hrs (Thursday)	10.30 hrs (Saturday)
09010	Amritsar - Mumbai Central	29.06.2024	15.00 hrs (Saturday)	23.55 hrs (Next day)

Halts: Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, Mahesana, Palanpur, Abu Road, Marwar, Ajmer, Jaipur, Alwar, Rewari, Rohtak, Jind, Jakhal, Dhuri, Ludhiana, Jalandhar Cantt. & Beas, station in both directions.

Composition: AC 3-Tier, Sleeper Class & General Second Class coaches.

For detailed information regarding Timing, Halts and Composition, passengers may please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

The Booking of Train No. 09009 will open from 26/06/2024 at all PRS counters & on IRCTC website. Above train will run as Special Train on Special Fare.



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CENTRAL RAILWAY
SUPPLY, INSTALLATION, TESTING & VARIOUS OTHER WORKS

Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), 1st Floor, Parcel Office Building, Near P.F. No. 13, Central Railway, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai - 400 001, for and on behalf of The President of India Invites One E-Tender (Open Tender) from the reputed contractors. **Name of Work:** "Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Integrated Security System Consisting of IP Based Video Surveillance System at Six Railway Stations of Mumbai Division Namely: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Dadar, Kuria, Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Thane and Kalyan of Central Railway and AMC for Five Years After Expiry of Warranty Period of Three Years". **Approximate Cost:** ₹ 27,91,59,762/-, **EMD:** ₹ 15,45,800/-. **Date & Time of Closing:** 15.00 hrs. on 30/07/2024. **Validity:** 90 Days. **Completion Period:** 12 Months. Complete details of tenders with Corrigendum are available at Indian Railway official website www.ireps.gov.in. The complete tender documents can be downloaded from the website. The complete details of tenders are also available in the "Notice Board" of the Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)'s Office, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai - 400 001. **This tender complies with Public Procurement Policy Order 2017 dated 15/06/2017.** Open E-Tender Notice No.: CR-BB-TELE-2024-29

अपने जानवरों को रेल लाइन से दूर रखें

MPIDC MADHYA PRADESH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(Government of M.P. Undertaking)
SECRETARIAT FOR SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM

21, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462011, M.P. (India), Tel.: (91) 0755-2571830, 2575618, 3523555, 3523505
E-mail: helpdesk@mpidc.co.in, Website: www.invest.mp.gov.in, (CIN : U51102MP1977SGC001392)
No.52/MPIDC/LM/II RO/FCFS/01 Date : 26.06.2024

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR ALLOTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL AND WAREHOUSING PLOTS THROUGH E-BIDDING

Department of Industrial Policy and Investment Promotion (DIPIP), Government of Madhya Pradesh through MP Industrial Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of M.P. Undertaking) is issuing notice for allotment of available industrial & Warehousing plots in industrial area at Bhopal, Sehore, Rajgarh, Narmadapuram, Indore, Bhind, Burhanpur, Chhindwara, Dhar, Jabalpur, Khandwa, Khargone, Mandla, Neemuch, Niwari, Ratlam, Rewa, Sagar, Satna, Singrauli, Morena & Ujjain District on **First Come- First Serve Basis from 28.06.2024 11:00 AM Onwards**. Interested Investors may register themselves on <https://invest.mp.gov.in> portal & submit online application.

The important conditions for allotment of the plots are as follows-

- The allotment of industrial plots will be governed by the provisions of "Madhya Pradesh State Industrial Land and Building Management Rules 2019 (as amended 2022)".
- The application fee for each plot will be Rs 5000/- and GST amount will be payable separately. Application fee is non-refundable (Rule 11(ii)).
- In addition to the application fee, 25 % advance land premium amount of the prevailing rate on the date of application for the applied Plot will have to be deposited online, which will be adjustable at the time of allotment. (Rule 11(v)).
- Aadhar based E-sign is required for booking. So, please apply after e-signing through OTP received on the mobile number linked with aadhar.
- Detailed information about rules, procedure and plots etc. can also be viewed on MPIDC website - <https://invest.mp.gov.in/>.

M.P. Madhyam/115052/2024 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MANAGING DIRECTOR

KERALA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Invitation for Expression of Interest Franchise Team Rights T20 Premier League

Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited from reputed companies/firms for acquiring team franchise rights in the T20 Premier League organised by Kerala Cricket Association. The EOI documents along with application forms will be available from 26th June 2024, 5 pm onwards from the Office of Hon.Secretary, Kerala Cricket Association, Thycad, Thiruvananthapuram / through email on submission of bid fee.

For more details visit : <https://www.keralacricketaassociation.com/tender/quotation>

UPSIDA U.P. State Industrial Development Authority
UPSIDA Complex- A-11/4, Lakhnampur, Kanpur-208024

Corrigendum

Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) has extended the deadline for submission of Expression of Interest (EOI) for empanelment of reputed agencies for Event Management and Media Management. Interested agencies are requested to take note that the deadline for submission of EOI documents has been extended to 10th July 2024, 1700 Hrs. The modified EOI for both Event Management and Media Management documents can be downloaded from the official UPSIDA website at www.onlineupsida.com Nodal Officer Business Promotion and Publicity Cell

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

Letter No: 539 E-Tender Cancellation Notice Date: 25/06/2024

Due to unavoidable reason Tender number 01/EE/PCM/Dhalipur/2024-25 invited by the Office of the Executive Engineer, Project Civil Maintenance-Dhalipur, which is related to the work of "Refurbishment of bridge Dhalipur, Dehradun" is hereby canceled. View tender cancellation notice on e-procurement portal <http://ukttenders.gov.in> Executive Engineer

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY DELHI
(Established by the Govt. of NCT Delhi)

CORRIGENDUM

No. AUD/07/Acad./2024 Dated: 18.06.2024

Refer university advertisement No. AUD/07/Acad./2024 dated 14.03.2024 regarding recruitment of various teaching positions on regular basis. The last date for submitting online application was extended vide notification dated 05.04.2024, 30.04.2024, 08.05.2024 and 27.05.2024. In continuation of these extensions, the corrigendum dated 07.06.2024 regarding reservation for persons with disabilities and corrigendum dated 13.06.2024 regarding essential qualification and experience for the post of Assistant Professor in Liberal Discipline and Pedagogy - Hindi Communicative Skill (OBC - 01) had been issued. Accordingly, date of submission of online application for various teaching posts is extended till 28.06.2024 (up to 23:59 hrs) and for receiving hard copy of application form is extended till 01.07.2024 (up to 17:30 hrs). Regarding qualifications and other details, please visit University website <https://aud.delhi.gov.in/recruitment-various-teaching-posts-aud07acad2024>

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0103/24-25 REGISTRAR
Lothian Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi - 110 006, Email: hr@aud.ac.in

Directorate of Higher Education, Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

E-TENDER NOTICE

Department	Chief Engineer (Water Supply Project)
Sub Division	Dy. Ch.E. (WSP) MV-II
Tender Reference No.	MGC/F/3608 dtd 25.06.2024
Tender ID	2024_MCGM_1044856_1
Subject	Design and construction of Tertiary Treated Water conveyance Tunnel from Ghatkopar WWTF to Bhandup WWTF and further upto Bhandup Complex - Package I
Sale of E-tender	Document download /Sale Start Date: 25/06/2024 from 05:00 pm Document download /Sale End Date: 16/07/2024 up to 01:00 pm Bid Submission End date: 16/07/2024 up to 01.00 pm
Website	https://mahatenders.gov.in
Contact Persons Name and Contact No.	Shri Sudhakar Hande, E.E. (WSP) - 9869113088.
E-mail	eec2civil01.wsp@mcgm.gov.in

PRO/303/ADV/2024-25 Sd/- Chief Engineer (Water Supply Project)
Avoid Self medication

TIMES impact

RIGHT PLACE. RIGHT TIME. RIGHT AUDIENCE. TICK OFF ALL YOUR BUSINESS OBJECTIVES.

Grow your business multifold with our exclusive print and digital solutions.

Register now for our free seminar. Call: 1800 3096 208 or visit: toirsvp.com/2 Date: 27th - 29th June Venue: Hotel Leela, Andheri East, Mumbai

THE TIMES OF INDIA THE ECONOMIC TIMES महाराष्ट्र टाइम्स NBT नवभारत टाइम्स BombayTimes

Cong still driven by mindset that imposed Emergency: PM

Shah Says Indira Imposed It, Rajiv Defended It

Akhilesh.Singh
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi escalated his attack on Congress over imposition of the Emergency by Indira Gandhi and said the opposition party was still driven by the same mindset that responded to dissent by suspending democracy 49 years ago.

In a series of posts on social media to mark the 49th anniversary of Indira Gandhi's momentous decision, Modi took a swipe at Congress's "save democracy" campaign and said, "Those who imposed Emergency have no right to profess their love for our Constitution. These are the same people who have im-



BJP state units across the country observed 'black day' on Tuesday to mark the 49th anniversary of Emergency imposition on June 25, 1975

posed Article 356 on innumerable occasions, got a bill to destroy press freedom, destroyed federalism and violated every aspect of the Constitution." He said, "They hide their disdain for the Constitution through their tokenism but people of India have seen through their antics and that is why they have rejected them time and again."

He said the "dark days" are a reminder of how Congress subverted basic freedoms and trampled over the Constitution. Home minister Amit Shah said Rahul Gandhi had forgotten that his grandmother imposed Emergency and his father, Rajiv Gandhi, on July 23, 1985, tried to justify this horrific episode in Lok Sabha with much pride.

Indira was ready to fly out of country, claims Annamalai

BJP's Tamil Nadu unit president K Annamalai said on Tuesday that Indira Gandhi had decided to fly out of the country after the Emergency ended in 1977. Annamalai said, "After the end of Emergency, Indira Gandhi thought that the entire Gandhi family would be thrashed by the people of the country and so asked her son Rajiv Gandhi to get a special flight ready for them in Mumbai to fly out of the country. But Morarji Desai, after coming to power in 1978, assured her that the people of the country will forgive her and there will be no threat to her life." Annamalai said there was repression all around during Emergency as 1.14 lakh people were arrested in 21 months, from 1975 to 1977. **TNN**

TMC unhappy with Cong but likely to back Speaker pick

Mohua.Chatterjee
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Amid post-poll bonhomie, Trinamool Congress struck the first discordant note in the INDIA bloc by expressing unhappiness at Congress not consulting it before declaring a contestant against Om Birla for Lok Sabha Speaker's post.

The party was, however, mollified enough by Tuesday evening and two of its representatives — Kalyan Banerjee (LS) and Derek O'Brien (RS) — attended a meeting of INDIA bloc leaders at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's residence to discuss the Speaker's election. TMC said it would communicate its decision on backing Suresh by 9 am on Wednesday amid indications that it is likely to extend support.

According to sources, Rahul Gandhi spoke to TMC chief Mamata Banerjee on Abhishek Banerjee's phone around 5 pm, helping cool matters.

Earlier in the day, TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee had said his party was not consulted on fielding Suresh, adding that Mamata Banerjee would take a decision on backing him after meeting the party's newly-elected MPs. "No one contacted us. There have been no talks, unfortunately, this has been a unilateral decision," Abhishek told the media. TMC had not signed Suresh nomination papers.

Even if TMC ends up supporting Suresh, Mamata was clearly unhappy at Congress taking a unilateral decision on behalf of INDIA bloc and ensured that the displeasure was communicated to the Congress leadership. Later in the day, Rahul and Abhishek were spotted chatting inside the LS chamber.

Cong may demand vote division only if TMC offers support

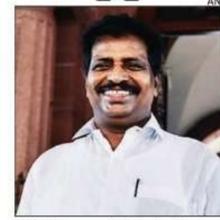
Subodh.Ghildiyal
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: K Suresh, a Dalit MP of Congress and the senior-most MP in LS, filed nomination for the Speaker's post, forcing an election to the top chair after the opposition protested the deputy Speaker's post to the opposition.

Suresh will cross swords with Om Birla, who is NDA nominee for the post, with the poll scheduled for Wednesday. The opposition had announced it was ready for a consensus on Speaker if the government respected parliamentary conventions and gave the deputy's chair to the rival camp.

Suresh has been the focus of a controversy in recent days, after govt "overlooked" him for pro tem Speaker's post and appointed BJP MP Bhartruhari Mahant instead. INDIA bloc allies met at Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge's residence late Tuesday, where they emphasised the need to convey a strong message to govt. While opposition has fielded a candidate as a "mark of protest", it may seek a division of votes only if TMC, which has alleged non-consultation, assures support on Wednesday.

Govt interlocutor and defence minister Rajnath Singh spoke to Kharge late Monday to seek support, but refused to assure him on deputy's post. Congress said govt offer that "support us for Speaker now and we will discuss deputy Speaker later" wasn't acceptable in view of "Modi's track record". Congress said Modi ran 17th LS without a deputy speaker and gave it to BJP's "covert ally" in 16th LS, while the post went to an opposition MP under Manmohan Singh, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and P V Narasimha Rao.



INDIA bloc candidate for the post of LS Speaker K Suresh

At odds with Kerala netas, but in sync with high command

Kodikkunil Suresh, an eight-time Congress MP from Kerala, has always been at odds with the party's state brass. Yet, his strategic alignment with the "high command" has consistently allowed him to get his way. Now, contesting as the opposition INDIA bloc's candidate for Lok Sabha Speaker could well be the high point of his long political career. Born in 1962, he began his political career in 1975 as unit president of Congress-affiliated Kerala Students Union at Lekshmi Vilasam High School in Pothencode. He later obtained an LLB. In 1987K Karunakaran selected Suresh to contest Adoor LS constituency. He won his first parliamentary election in 1989 and has been a member of LS since, winning eight out of ten contests — facing defeats in 1998 and 2004. Adoor constituency was later renamed Mavelikkara. In 2009, Kerala HC annulled his election over allegations of using a fake certificate to claim reserved community status. However, SC later ruled in his favour, affirming his membership in the Pulaya community. **TNN**

Modi remained incognito for entire duration of Emergency

Akhilesh.Singh
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: As a young RSS full-timer, Narendra Modi remained incognito for the entire Emergency phase, utilising it as an opportunity to work with leaders and organisations across the political spectrum which exposed him to diverse ideologies and viewpoints.

Like other satyagrahis, he adopted various disguises to evade detection. "His disguises were so effective that even long-time acquaintances failed to recognise him. He dressed as a swami-



IN DISGUISE: PM Modi seen in a turban during the Emergency

ji in saffron attire and even as a Sikh wearing a turban.

On one occasion, he deceived authorities in a jail to deliver an important document," the archives handles related to Modi on social media recalled.

After Emergency was lifted in 1977, Modi's activism and leadership during that tumultuous period started to gain recognition. The same year, he was invited to Mumbai to participate in a discussion on the youth's resistance efforts during Emergency.

In recognition of his organisational work, Modi was appointed the 'sambhag pracharak' (regional organiser) of south and central Gujarat. He was also entrusted with the important task of preparing official articles of the RSS during Emergency.

Cong had held both speaker & deputy posts: BJP

Akhilesh.Singh
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: BJP on Tuesday came out with a list of deputy speakers being nominated from the same party as that of the speaker in Lok Sabha as well as state assemblies to disapprove of Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's claim that there was a convention of deputy speaker's post being spared for the opposition.

"It is utterly shameful that Congress is imposing an election for the exalted position of

speaker which is above and beyond partisan politics," BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala said in a post on X and also shared instances when the two posts were held by the same party.

CITES NEHRU AND INDIRA GANDHI ERA

"Rahul Gandhi says convention is that deputy speaker should be in opposition and this was a pre-condition imposed for supporting the speaker. Such a condition is shameful," the BJP function-

nary said and added, "But did his own family follow this convention he speaks of?"

When Jawaharlal Nehru was PM, Manmohan Singh Ayyangar (1952-1956), Hukam Singh (1956-1962) and S V

Krishnamoorthy Rao (1962-67) were deputy speakers, all from Congress while speakers were also from the same party. During Indira Gandhi's tenure as PM, R K Khadilkar from Congress was deputy speaker from 1967-1969, Poonawala said.

He also shared details of states governed by Congress

and its allies where both the posts were held by the same party. In West Bengal, TMC's Biman Banerjee is the speaker and his party colleague Ashish Banerjee is the deputy speaker. In Tamil Nadu, DMK's M Appavu and K Pit-chandi are speaker and deputy speaker respectively. In Karnataka, Congress's U T Khader Fared is the speaker and RMLamani is the deputy speaker. In Kerala, LDF's A N Shamsheer (CPM) is speaker and Chittayam Gopakumar is deputy speaker. The deputy speaker's post is vacant in Congress-governed Telangana and Jharkhand, where the party is a junior ally of JMM.

MAJESTIC ENTRY



ADIVASI PRIDE: Embodying the spirit of tradition, Bharat Adivasi Party MP Rajkumar Roat made a grand entrance to the 18th Lok Sabha atop a majestic camel, turning heads and celebrating cultural heritage

Honour wishes of CWC on LOP post, Kharge urges Rahul

Subodh.Ghildiyal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The decision to name Rahul Gandhi as leader of opposition in Lok Sabha lifted the suspense on the issue that has been agitating minds in Congress since results of the 2024 elections were declared, and especially after Congress Working Committee on June 9 passed a resolution urging Rahul to take up the position.

In the meeting, Kharge had personally pushed the issue by telling Rahul that he was anyway playing the key role of mediation and coordination, and had gained the desired experience to take up the formal post. Besides, he had urged Rahul to honour the wishes of the party. Congress believes Rahul can take up the post with a focused targeting of the apex body of govt on issues of governance.

The appointment comes in the wake of Congress being in high spirits despite losing the third consecutive election to the Modi-led BJP, encouraged by the fact that it has revived in key regions of the country and performed admirably despite the adverse circumstances of extreme polarisation, funds crunch, pressure from agencies and sidelining in media under the BJP dispensation. Besides, the strong showing and unity of INDIA bloc has raised the prospect of a spirited fightback in the future.

As the head of a rejuvenated opposition led by a strong Congress strength, the party believes Rahul can take on Modi with a focused targeting of govt on issues of governance. The Congress leader is credited with taking on BJP at a time when regional parties were cagey about its blowback. He also put "communalism" back on centre stage in the face of popular belief that it would repel Hindu voters—as headlined by his two country-wide yatras. His aggressive credentials have raised hopes in the party rank and file, and is also believed to have rubbed off on some allies. Rahul himself said so at a press conference last week, when he remarked, "Earlier, only Congress was not scared of Modi, now other parties are also not scared of him."

A-70

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
CENTRAL MINOR IRRIGATION CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
Phone/Fax (0674)2540559 cmic.bbsr@gmail.com
No. 1046 Dt. 20.06.2024

1st Corrigendum to e-procurement Tender Call Notice No. ACECMIC-01/2024-25
It is to notify that the following changes have been made for the tender invited vide tender call notice no. ACECMIC-01/2024-25

Description	Earlier scheduled date and time	Modified scheduled date and time
Date and Time of availability of Bid Documents and Receipt of Bid Cost on online Payment mode in Portal	From 26.06.2024 (10.00 Hrs) to 17.07.2024 (17.30Hrs) in website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)	From 12.07.2024 (10.00 Hrs) to 4.08.2024 (17.30 Hrs) in website (www.tendersodisha.gov.in)
Last Date/Time for receipt of Bids in the Portal	17.07.2024 (Upto 17.30 Hrs.) through online only.	4.08.2024 (Up to 17.30 Hrs) through online only
Date of Opening of Technical Bid	11.00 Hrs Onwards on 18.07.2024 in the O/o-Additional Chief Engineer, Central M.I. Circle, Bhubaneswar	11.00 Hrs onwards on 5.08.2024 in the O/o-Additional Chief Engineer, Central M.I. Circle, Bhubaneswar

All other terms and conditions of the above tender call notice will remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer
Central MI Circle, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-32047/11/0003/24-25

BIHAR MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking)
2nd & 3rd Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Patna-800014

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Re-tender for Empanelment of Agencies for supply of Stationary (Only through E-Tender on Website: - <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)
Re-tender No.-BMSIC/10035/04-2023/03

- Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited (BMSICL) intends to empanel agencies for supply of stationary items to its Patna Head Office.
- BMSICL invites e-bids in this regard from interested Agencies. Detailed tender document containing eligibility criteria, details of EMD, tender fees and other terms & conditions are available on the website <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>.
- To participate in E-Tender the bidder has to be registered with E-Tendering service provider. For this, help desk - mjunction services limited, RI complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, khajpura, Ashiana Road, P.S- Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014, Toll Free No-18005726571, Email-ID: <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> can be approached.
- Schedule of Tender:**

Tender Reference No.	BMSIC/10035/04-23/03
Bid Submission Start Date	From 28.06.2024, 11:00 AM on https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Place	On 02.07.2024, 03:00 PM in 3 rd Floor Conference Hall of BMSICL, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Bihar, Patna.
Bid Submission Last Date	Up to 22.07.2024, 05:00 PM on https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in
Last date and time for submission of EMD (Only in the form of BG) in hard copy (Offline mode) & tender document	Up to 23.07.2024, 03:00 PM in the office of BMSICL, Patna (2 nd & 3 rd Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Bihar, Patna.)
Opening of Technical Bid	23.07.2024, 03:30 PM on the e-proc2 Portal
Tender Fees (Including GST)	Rs. 11800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) Non-refundable (Only Online mode on eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
Bid Processing Fee	Rs 590/- (Five hundred ninety only) Non-refundable (Only Online mode on eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

- For any further clarification, regarding the contents of the tender document, bidders can call on 9471006251 during office hours.
- All further, notifications/amendments/Corrigendum/Addendum (if any), shall be posted on <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> No separate communication shall be made to individual bidders.

For further details please visit : www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar GM/Admn
PR-002491 (B & C) 2024-25 BMSICL

नर्सो से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

Government of Maharashtra
Tribal Development Department
Tribal Research and Training Institute, Pune
<http://trti.maharashtra.gov.in>

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Empanelment of reputed private professional coaching Institutes to provide the Non-Residential coaching to interested and eligible Maharashtra State candidates For MPSC Non-Gazetted Group 'B' and Group 'C' Services Examination for the target group of BARTI and MAHAJYOTI and Group C Services Examination for the target group of TRTI.

TRTI, BARTI and MAHAJYOTI are registered autonomous organization working under the Government of Maharashtra. It implements various projects and schemes for the economic and social development of their beneficiary groups and also various competitive examination pre-training programs are conducted for the youth.

A comprehensive policy has been decided by the Government of Maharashtra for providing pre coaching of Competitive Examination Scheme. The reputed private professional coaching institutes of the state will be selected through E-Tendering process to provide pre-examination competitive training for the MPSC Non-Gazetted Group 'B' and Group 'C' Services Examination for the target group of BARTI and MAHAJYOTI and Group C Services Examination for the target group of TRTI.

For this, 'Expression of Interest' (EOI) is being invited from the interested and eligible reputed private professional coaching Institutes. Regarding to tender set, complete details about the scheme, eligibility of the service provider organization and eligibility criteria etc is available on official website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> and interested training institutes should submit their proposals only online. For more information about the scheme visit the official website <http://trti.maharashtra.gov.in>.

The Competitive Pre Examination training implementation and Monitoring committee shall have final authority to select or reject service provider coaching institute based on their eligibility criteria.

- Tender Publication Date: 26.06.2024
- Tender Pre-Bid Meeting Date: 08.07.2024
- Tender Submission Last Date: 18.07.2024
- Tender Opening Date: 19.07.2024

Sd/-
(Dr. Rajendra Bharud, I.A.S.) Commissioner,
TRTI and Chairperson, Competitive Pre - Examination Training Implementation & Monitoring Committee.

DGIPR 2024-25/441

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute, Ranchi
Department of Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste, Minorities and OBC Welfare Ranchi-834008
Phone No. 0651-2551824, E-mail: - trtdirector@trti.gov.in; dir-triran@trti.gov.in

Ref no. 992 Ranchi, Dated: 25.06.2024
Re-Expression of Interest

Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Ranchi invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Universities (all Colleges)/ Department of Universities/ Government Institutes/ Recognized Research Institutes for undertaking a Research Project of TRI, Ranchi during the financial year 2023-24.

Topic: A Study on Dedhujari Language

Interested agencies are hereby requested to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) duly forwarded by Director of the Institutes/ Registrar of Universities/ Head of Departments (applicable to Universities (all Colleges)/Department of Universities only) along with technical EOI giving relevant details of the organization/ Institute/ University necessary for evaluating the competencies on or before 12 July 2024. The project cost should be all inclusive (inclusive of all requisite statutory taxes, if applicable) and not open ended.

The intending agencies may submit their EOI in sealed envelope on or before the due date. Technical proposal should be sealed in a separate envelope clearly marked in BOLD A TECHNICAL PROPOSAL FOR "A Study on Dedhujari Language" mentioned on the top of the envelope. These envelopes are to be addressed to the Director, Dr. Ramdayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute (TRI), Morabadi, Ranchi-834008. TRI will not be responsible for delay in transits or damages or loss of proposal document sent by post.

Only those agencies which fulfill technical criteria will be considered for presentation of project.

Terms of Reference (ToR) and other details can be obtained from the office of the TRI on any working day during office hours through the nodal officer (Mr. Vikas Dubey) and the same can also be downloaded from the Institute's website www.trijharkhand.in under tender/notice section.

TRI, Ranchi reserves all rights to accept or reject all or any of the EOI's at any stage without assigning any reasons. TRI, Ranchi also reserves the right to engage/empanel one or more agencies depending on requirements.

PR 327672 (Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department) 24-25 (D)

Sd/-
Deputy Director



Sports' Lessons For Bosses

Biz is the ultimate sport and elite execs have at times been compared to top-performing sports stars. Besides the mental makeup, commitment and a desire to perform at the highest levels and continuous learning are key to both...

By Uday Chawla

Here are some lessons from the field that business leaders could use for a winning attitude:

Discipline and Work Ethic: Star sportsmen exhibit unwavering discipline and work ethic. They follow rigorous training schedules, maintain healthy lifestyles, and consistently strive for excellence. Business executives can learn from this by prioritising consistency, setting clear goals, and adhering to routines.

Consistent Effort: Athletes also track their performance metrics meticulously. Whether it's speed, accuracy, or endurance, they constantly measure and improve. Similarly, executives can adopt a data-driven approach—and regularly assess key performance indicators to make informed decisions based on data.

Teamwork: Athletes understand the importance of collaboration. They rely on their teammates, communicate effectively, and work together to achieve common objectives. The best leaders foster a collaborative environment, encourage cross-functional teams, open communication, and shared goals.

Leadership & Motivation: Captains and star players lead by example. They inspire their teams, boost morale, and maintain a positive attitude. Executives can learn to motivate their teams in a similar manner. Even when sports stars face setbacks, injuries, and defeats, they manage to bounce back, evolve their strategies, and keep pushing forward—a trait that executives need to readily embrace in the form of resilience.

Handling Pressure: Sports-persons perform under immense pressure by managing stress and staying focused so that they prioritise physical and mental health. They understand that peak performance requires a healthy body



and mind. Executives, when faced with high-pressure situations, can find a winning formula in stress management techniques and maintaining composure to achieve success.

Competitive World: The best sportsmen are constantly analysing their competition for their strengths, weaknesses, and strategies. The same rules apply in the business world, just that the pitches are different. Sportsmen constantly refine their

skills. Executives, too, must carve out time to keep their skill sets refreshed through continued learning. Sports teaches lessons that transcend the boundaries of the playing field. The very same lessons that allow some of the world's best athletes to consistently give it their best shot can help business leaders forge ahead in corporate India's corridors as well.

(The writer is managing partner, Transearch India)

GUJARAT METRO RAIL CORPORATION (GMRC) LIMITED
(SPV of Govt. of India and Govt. of Gujarat)
Block No.1, First Floor, Karmayogi Bhavan, Sector 10/A, Gandhinagar, 382010, Gujarat. (CIN): U60200GJ2010SGC059407

Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation (GMRC) Limited, is a SPV by Government of India and Government of Gujarat, entrusted with the responsibility of implementation of Metro Rail Projects in Gujarat and its Operations & Maintenance.

GMRC invites applications from qualified and experienced candidates for the post of **General Manager (Operations & Maintenance)**. The posts / appointment will be on contract / deputation / post-superannuation basis. Please visit career section of our website www.gujaratmetrorail.com. Last date for submission of application is **6th July, 2024**.

DHARMSINH DESAI UNIVERSITY
Nadiad, Gujarat
NAAC ACCREDITED GRADE 'A'

Dr. N. D. Desai Faculty of Medical Science and Research

Applications are invited for the following post:

- Professor:** Orthopaedics
- Associate Professor:** Dermatology, Radiology, Biochemistry Pharmacology (MD)
- Assistant Professor:** Anatomy, Forensic Medicine, Biochemistry (MD), Pharmacology (MD)
- Senior Resident (M.D./M.S.):** Anatomy, Biochemistry (MD), Pharmacology (MD), Physiology, Forensic Medicine, Community Medicine, Microbiology (MD), Gen. Surgery, OBGY, Orthopaedics

Eligibility Criteria: As per NMC-TEQ guideline

Interested candidates can apply online on www.medical.ddu.ac.in

Date: 26.06.2024
Place: Nadiad
Dr. H. M. Desai
Vice Chancellor

SMT. K. L. TIWARI COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE
Smt. Kanti L. Tiwari Education Society's
Survey No. - 248/1 & 248/2, RIS Building, Kankaria Park, Mira Road (E), Dist. - Thane - 401107.
(UGC Recognition under sec 2(F) of the UGC Act 1956. Approved by Council of Architecture, New Delhi & UGC, Maharashtra State & Affiliated to University of Mumbai (UFC Code No. AH 33A) (Hindi Linguistic Minority Institution) (Hindi Linguistic Minority)

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25.

UNAIDED

Sr. No.	Cadre	Subject	TOTAL NO. OF POSTS	Category
1.	Professor	---	01	01-Open
2.	Associate Professor	Architecture	01	01-Open
3.	Assistant Professor	Architecture	03	03-Open

- The above posts are open to all; however, candidates from any category can apply for the post.
- Reservation for women will be as per University Circular No. BCC/16/74/1998 dated 10th March, 1998. 4% reservation shall be for the persons with disability as per University Circular No. Special Cell/ICC/2019-20/05 dated 05th July, 2019.
- Candidates having knowledge of Marathi will be preferred.
- The Educational qualification, Experience & pay-scale for the post of Professor, Associate Professor & Assistant Professor are as prescribed by the CDA & University of Mumbai from time to time.
- Please refer University Circular No. 40/1998 / 10/1998 / 11/2000-2002 / 12/2002-2004 / 13/2004-2007 / 14/2007-2009 / 15/2009-2011 / 16/2011-2013 / 17/2013-2015 / 18/2015-2017 / 19/2017-2019 / 20/2019-2021 / 21/2021-2023 / 22/2023-2025 for qualifications and experience at the time of interview.
- Candidates who are already employed must send their application through proper channel. Applicants are required to account for breaks, if any in their academic career.
- Application with full details should reach the SECRETARY, Shree Rahul Educational Society's, SMT. K. L. TIWARI COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, RIS Building, Shree L. R. Tiwari Educational Campus, Kankaria Park, Mira Road (E), Thane - 401107 OR email - careers.hel@rahuleducation.com within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.
- This is University approved advertisement.

Ph: 1800 210 1002
Email: careers.hel@rahuleducation.com

NATIONAL HOUSING BANK
(Statutory Body under Govt. of India)

The National Housing Bank, apex institution for housing finance in the country, invites applications for the following posts from eligible and enthusiastic persons on regular and contract basis:

Advt. No. - NHB/HRMD/Recruitment/2023-24/03

Regular Positions	Scale	SC	ST	OBC-NCL ^A	EWS	UR	Total
General Manager (Project Finance)	VII	-	-	-	-	1	1
Assistant General Manager (Credit)	V	1	-	-	-	-	1
Deputy Manager (Credit)	II	1	-	2	-	-	3
Assistant Manager (Generalist)	I	4	-	5	3	6	18*
Total		6	-	7	3	7	23

Re-Advertised Contractual Positions	Contract Period	SC	ST	OBC-NCL ^A	EWS	UR	Total
Chief Economist (on contract/deputation)	3 Years	-	-	-	-	1	1
Application Developer	3 Years	-	-	-	-	1	1
Senior Project Finance Officer	3 Years	1	1	5	2	1	10
Project Finance Officer	3 Years	1	1	3	2	5	12
Protocol Officer (Delhi)	3 Years	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total		2	2	8	4	9	25

*Includes 01 post for PwBD (VI)
Applicants may also apply for the position of Chief Economist on deputation.
For detailed advertisement, please visit Bank's website www.nhb.org.in
Online registrations start from 29.06.2024. Last Date for receiving applications is 19.07.2024.

Head Office: Core 5A, 3rd-5th Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003 | Regional Office: Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow, Jaipur, Chandigarh, Raipur, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Thiruvananthapuram & Patna.

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
*Khanij Bhavan, 10-3-311/A, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500028
CIN: L13100TG1958G001674

Employment Notification No.02/2024 Dated: 19.06.2024
NMDC Ltd., a Navaratna Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Steel, Government of India, a multi-locational, multi-product, and consistently profit-making Mining and Mineral Exploration Organization is in the process of expansion and diversification activities both in India and abroad. NMDC is in process of recruitment of following posts through ICMAI.

Sl. No	Post	No. of Posts
1.	Executive Trainee (Finance)	06
2.	Executive Trainee (Commercial)	06

For further details interested candidates may visit ICMAI website www.icmai.co.in

DGM (Personnel)

IIM MUMBAI
भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान मुंबई
Indian Institute of Management Mumbai
(Ministry of Education, Government of India)

Advt. No. Admn/Rec/2024/31 Dated: 21 June 2024

IIM Mumbai invites online applications from eligible candidates for following positions (as per 7th CPC)

- Senior Executive Officer (HR & Admin) - Level 12
- Senior Executive Officer (Finance & Accounts) - Level 12
- Secretary to Director - Level 8

For detailed advertisement, please visit <https://iimmbombay.ac.in/careers>

Chief Administrative Officer

JAI HIND COLLEGE AUTONOMOUS
23-24, Backbay Reclamation, 'A' Road, Churchgate, Mumbai 400020
MINORITY

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING POST FROM THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025

AIDED

Sr. No	Cadre	Subject	Total No. of Post	Category
1.	Assistant Professor	Economics	01	01 - Open

The above post is open to all, however candidates from any category can apply for the post.

Reservation for women & disabled persons will be as per University Circular No. BCC/16/74/1998 dated 10th March 1998. 4% reservation shall be for the persons with disability as per University Circular No Special Cell/ICC/2019-20/05 dated 5th July 2019.

Candidates having knowledge of Marathi will be preferred.

*Qualification, Pay Scales and other requirement are as prescribed by the UGC Notification dated 18th July 2018, Government of Maharashtra Resolution No. Misc-2018/C.R.56/18/UNI-1, dated 8th March 2019 and University Circular No TAAS/(CT)/ICD/2018-19/1241, dated 26th March 2019 and revised from time to time. The Government Resolution & Circular are available on the website mu.ac.in

Applicants who are already employed must send their application through proper channel. Applicants are required to account for breaks, if any in their academic career.

Application with full details should reach the PRINCIPAL, JAI HIND COLLEGE, 23-24 Backbay Reclamation, A-Road, Churchgate, Mumbai - 400 020 and format of it is available on college website: www.jaihindcollege.com within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. This is University approved advertisement.

Sd/-
PRINCIPAL

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान विशाखपट्टणम
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT
VISAKHAPATNAM

Recruitment of Teaching & Non-Teaching Staff

- No. IIMV/01/F/2024 dated 26-06-2024
For faculty positions on regular basis - rolling advertisement
The cut-off date for submitting applications for rolling advertisements is 24-07-2024. Applications submitted later will be considered for next cycle.
- No. IIMV/HR/RECTT./NTS-R/01/2024 dated 26-06-2024
For positions: Superintending Engineer, Administrative Officer, Assistant Administrative Officer, Senior Superintendent, Accountant, Junior Technical Superintendent (Systems) and Junior Superintendents on regular basis

Last date for submitting applications for notification No. 2 is 24/07/2024 17:00 Hrs
Please visit www.iimv.ac.in/careers for details and applying.
Chief Administrative Officer (HR)

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Gmmco Ltd a 5800 crore Company with core competency in marketing and support of heavy Equipment and Engines is a part of the CK Birla Group of Companies. Gmmco the Caterpillar Dealer for West, Central and Southern India, is responsible for Marketing and Support of Construction, Mining, Road Construction Machinery and Gensets / Engines. Gmmco is looking for the following performance focused professionals to take it forward in realizing its ambitious growth plans.

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Please send in your resume within 10 days to;
benefitshreeba.b@gmmcoindia.com, or
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Indian Institute of Management Jammu
Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG)

Vacancy

The "Centre for Innovation and Transformation in Governance (CITaG)" has been established at Indian Institute of Management Jammu by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir by integrating the State Institute of Transformation, NITI Aayog, Government of India; PPP Cell-funded by Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India; and Future Ready Governance - an initiative of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. IIM Jammu is the Nodal Knowledge Partner as well as implementing body to steer the initiative.

Applications are invited for the following positions on contract for a maximum period of two years:

- Team Leader:** 1 Post (Upper Age: 65 years, Emolument: Rs. 2 Lakhs pm)
- Specialists:** 7 Posts (Upper Age: 60 years, Emolument: Rs. 1.5 Lakhs pm) (Procurement & PPP (Contract Management / Concessional Agreement), Public Finance & Economics, Agriculture and allied sectors, Export Promotion & Value Chain development, Entrepreneurship-Livelihood, Skill Development and Credit linkage expert, Urban Development - Town Planning, Tourism)
- Young Professionals:** 8 Posts (Contractual) (Upper Age: 45 years, Emolument: Rs. 50,000 pm)

For details, Application Form and any update, please logon to our website www.iimj.ac.in. Last date for submission of online application is 16th July 2024. Application in Hard Copy will NOT be accepted.

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान इंदौर
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT INDORE
Prabandh Shikhar, Rau-Pithampur Road, Indore-453556 (M.P.)

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION NO. 1/2024

IIM Indore invites online applications for the post of Chief Officer Learning Centre, Chief Officer Finance and Accounts, Chief Officer Engineering and other Non-Teaching Positions

For complete details and a Hindi version, please visit careers section on our website <https://www.iimidr.ac.in/careers/>

Last date to submit online application: 15.07.2024

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Indian Education Society
Raja Shivaji Vidyasankul, Hindu Colony, Dadar (East), Mumbai - 400014.
Tel: 022 - 2419 9557, Mobile No.: 9653219177

Indian Education Society, a 100-year-old public charitable trust, having several educational institutions located in and around Mumbai. Applications are invited for the following positions for IES's Management College and Research Centre (located at Bandra Reclamation Mumbai), one of the premier Business Schools established in 1998, which is committed to academic excellence and is well poised for growth in coming years. For further details, please refer to college website :- www.mccr.ies.edu

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान शिल्लोंग
Indian Institute of Management Shillong
No. B1-2301/2/2024-ADMN/3185 Dated: 19 June 2024

INVITATION FOR FACULTY POSITIONS
Special Drive for SC, ST, NC-OBC and PwD

Online Applications are invited for Faculty Positions in different Academic Areas. Prospective applicants are encouraged to apply. For more details, please visit our website: <https://www.iimshillong.ac.in/careers/>

Last date of submission of Online Applications: 25 July 2024

CAO, IIM Shillong

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- Network Engineer
- HR Executive
- Asst. Internal Control (Accounts)
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- Accountant
- Accounts Assistant

For details of Job Responsibilities, required qualifications and experience, please visit our website www.svkm.ac.in. Interested candidates can visit our website "Careers" tab at www.svkm.ac.in and fill in the application form with updated resume within 10 days from the date of release of this advertisement.

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Chief Executive Officer

FACULTY POSITIONS
for those who believe that the teachers are institution builders

- Professor (Finance / Digital Marketing / Operations) (Code TFPF) - Preferable age between 40 to 45
- Associate Professor (Marketing/ HR / Finance / Business Analytics, General Management / Operations) (Code TFPB) - Preferable age between 35 to 40
- Assistant Professor - (Finance / Business Analytics / HR / Operations / Pharma / Digital Marketing) (Code TFPA) - Preferable age between 30 to 35

Credentials:

- Candidate should be qualified as per AICTE Gazette Notification dated March 2019 with excellent academic and research records from premier Institute / University
- Candidate should be able to handle the entire work related to the Department and should coordinate with all the faculty members and will be involved in research work, academic activities, events and other programmes.

FULL TIME NON-TEACHING POSITIONS

Placement Manager (Code NTPM): Candidate should be B.COM / MBA in Marketing / HR having minimum of 10 years' experience in handling the placements of MBA students from a reputed institute. Candidate should have good rapport with the industry in and around Mumbai.

Placement Executive (Code NTPB): Candidate should be B.COM with a minimum of 3/5 years of relevant experience in handling the placement of MBA students.

Admin. Coordinator (Code NTA): Candidate should be B.COM with a minimum of 5 years of experience in handling office work. Proficiency in use of MS OFFICE is essential. The job involves self-correspondence, maintenance of various documents and files, attending to Directors' Calls and emails. Should be able to coordinate with the various Functional Heads/faculty and other sections of the College.

Interested candidates should apply within 15 days from the date of publication of this advertisement to careers@ies.edu to The Honorary Secretary & CEO, IES, with resume and copy of photograph. Ref. code of the post applied must be mentioned in the subject line of the e-mail.

Salary: No constraint for highly deserving candidate.
NOTE: TA/DA will not be applicable for the Interview.

ONGC Foundation
ONGC Foundation is looking for Chief Executive Officer (CEO) / COO
Advt. No. 2/2024

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), a "Maharatna" Public Sector Enterprise, is the largest E&P Company in India, contributing around 68% to India's domestic production of crude oil and natural gas. ONGC as a leading Maharatna of the nation has set a benchmark continuously for the last two years by achieving 100% utilization of CSR budget which has been to the tune of over Rs 500 Crore each year. This reflects ONGC's commitment as a responsible Corporate Citizen of giving back to the society in equal measure.

With the vision of impacting and socially transforming the lives of the underprivileged, ONGC created a trust under the Indian Trusts Act 1882 named **ONGC Foundation**, with the objective to undertake, augment and facilitate activities, initiatives and projects relating to corporate social responsibility. Details are available at <https://www.ongcfoundation.org>

ONGC Foundation is looking for experienced Executive to join as Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/ COO who will report to Board of Trustees of ONGC Foundation.

The details of the posts, methods of applying, eligibility criteria etc. are available in Advt. No. 02/2024, posted at ONGC Foundation website www.ongcfoundation.org. Interested and eligible candidates are requested to visit the mentioned website for detailed information and online registration of application.

Oaths, cheers & jeers steal the show on Day 2 of Parl

Jai Shri Ram, Hail Palestine Stir LS Row

Subodh Ghildiyal @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: It was the day of religious invocations and storms in the teacup on the second day of MPs oath-taking in Lok Sabha. The repeated chants of Jai Shri Ram from BJP triggered much mirth as SP's showcasing of its MP representing Ayodhya (Faizabad), a sore defeat for BJP, checked the enthusiasm in the governing camp.

Even as it dominated the proceedings through the day, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi's hailing of Palestine after the oath triggered belated protests from BJP, leading to a minor disturbance. BJP's Chhatrapal Gangwar from Bareilly said "Jai Hindu Rashtra", which stoked protests from the opposition that called it "against the Constitution".

The oath by Owaisi, who also used an Islamic war cry, was over and he was firmly ensconced in his seat with the proceedings smoothly underway, before Shobha Karandlaje questioned the invocation of Palestine. She was joined by colleague Ek-

WHO SAID WHAT

From Jai Shri Ram To Jai Samvidhan to Jai Palestine, slogans echo during 2nd day of oath-taking

► Congress member **Rahul Gandhi** and Samajwadi Party president **Akhilesh Yadav** took their oaths while holding copies of the Constitution. The Rae Bareilly MP concluded with 'Jai Hind, Jai Samvidhan'

► AIMIM's **Asaduddin Owaisi**, elected for his fifth term from Hyderabad, took his oath in Urdu, reciting a prayer beforehand. He hailed Telangana and BR Ambedkar, while also raising AIMIM's slogan for Muslims. He concluded with 'Jai Palestine'

► BJP MP from Bareilly **Chhatrapal Singh Gangwar** was seen chanting 'Jai Hindu Rashtra, Jai Bharat'

► BJP MP from Meerut **Arun Govil** took his oath in Sanskrit and ended it with 'Jai Shri Ram, Jai Bharat'

► BJP member and Mathura MP **Hema Malini** began her oath with 'Radhe Radhe' and ended it with 'Jai Shri Krishna, Jai Shri Radha Raman Ji, Jai Bharat Mata Ki'

nath Shinde and C M Ramesh. Owaisi stood his ground. But the Chair, Radha Mohan Singh, clarified only the oath was going on record, urging members to not create any disturbance.

Interestingly, when Owaisi's name was called and he was proceeding to the podium, BJP benches raised Jai Shri Ram and Bharat Mata Ki Jai slogans, as if to tease him. Later, when Arun Govil of BJP raised Jai Shri Ram, SP's Dharmendra Yadav asked why BJP was not objecting to it, and he was joined by others. Then, Dharmendra loudly shouted "Jai Awadhesh" and the Faizabad MP, as if on cue, stood up

with raised folded hands in mock acknowledgement of the assembly—triggering laughter all around.

The to and fro continued. The icing on opposition's cake was when Awadhesh Prasad's name was called. This time, the opposition benches broke into "Jai Shri Ram", and the BJP side was mum.

The plea for help for troubled regions attracted attention too. The oaths of Alfred Ken-Ngam Arthur and Bimol Akoijam, MPs from Manipur, led to cheers of "Manipur, Manipur" from Congress and other opposition members, with the MPs themselves seeking "justice for Manipur".

Constitution in hand, Akhilesh, Rahul & others make a point

New Delhi: Rahul Gandhi took oath as MP from Rae Bareilly, immediately followed by Kishori Lal Sharma from Amethi, and Akhilesh Yadav from Kannauj, as the triumphant INDIA bloc in Uttar Pradesh of SP and Congress cornered the focus on the day which rounded off the formality of swearing-in the newly elected members to the Lok Sabha, reports Subodh Ghildiyal.

As 43 members of UP, 40 from Tamil Nadu, 31 of Maharashtra, 8 from Telangana, and 10 from Punjab belonging to the opposition took oath, the waving of the Constitution, in covers red, white and blue, as a mark of protest against Modi govt firmly held centre stage.

Rahul, Akhilesh and Sharma drew loud cheers. Akhilesh's wife Dimple Yadav, too, was greeted with cheers, as did Kanimozhi of DMK and Supriya Sule of NCP (SCP). Screen queen of yesteryears Hema Malini cornered some limelight too, and representing Mathura, she chanted "radhe radhe".

HC: Not 'enemy' just because he worked in Pak

Kochi: A Kerala high court bench of Justice Viju Abraham has ruled that merely because a man went to Pakistan in search of a job and worked there briefly does not classify him as an "enemy" under the Defence of India Rules.

The court was considering a petition by Ummar Koya of Malappuram seeking a declaration that his father's property could not be subjected to provisions of the Enemy Property Act of 1968. Koya, a senior citizen retired from the Kerala police service, stated that his father Kunji Koya went to Karachi, Pakistan, in 1953 in search of employment and worked as a helper in a hotel there for a short period. Later, he returned to India and passed away at the age of 93 in Parappanangadi, Malappuram, in 1995. TNN

Biz as unusual: IIM Kozhikode has a 60% female cohort in '24

Hemali.Chhaphia@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: At a time when management institutes across the world are trying to bring gender parity in male-dominated classrooms of business education, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode has admitted almost 60% female students in its flagship postgraduate programme in management.

In the cohort of 2024, IIM Kozhikode has 290 female students compared to 201 male students, thus overturning the gender equation on campus that had admitted 285 male students and 207 females last year. Meanwhile, IIM Raipur came close to the half-mark this year by admitting 45% female students—the number will be finalised only by July 1.

"At IIM Kozhikode, we take immense pride in being a pioneer in promoting gender diversity among Indian B-Schools. This year...we have yet again achieved a significant milestone with close to 60% female students, highest ever in our history," said professor Debashis Chatterjee, director of the institute.

For one year, in 2019, it had set aside 60 supernumerary seats for women, but now, there is no reservation for them.

On the academic diversity front, the latest IIM Kozhikode batch comprises 58% students from non-engineering background with entrants from diverse backgrounds like sciences, humanities, arts, commerce, me-

GENDER EQUATION OVERTURNING?

Students in flagship PG programme in mgmt (in %)

Institute	2023		2024	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
IIM-Kozhikode	285	207	201	290
IIM-Ahmedabad	315	93	304	100
IIM-Udaipur	220	114	261	123
*IIM-Indore	285	202	352	135
*IIM-Raipur	155	233	184	130
IIM-Lucknow	NA	NA	326	187

Source: Data collected from each IIM by TOI; * nos. to be finalised by next week

tical (MBBS) and chartered accountants. While 67% of the batch comes with work experience, 45 students represent the home state of Kerala.

Many IIMs, like Ahmedabad, have come close to admitting 30% women this year (see table). At IIM Ahmedabad, of 404 students from a diverse educational, professional, socio-economic and gender backgrounds in the PGP class of 2024-26, about 25% are female students, as compared to about 23% last year. About 39% of the batch comprises students from non-engineering disciplines and 61% from engineering. The new batch of PGP consists of 29% freshers and 71% experienced candidates having a range of skills and work experience in sectors such as consulting, banking and financial services, public sector units, pharmaceuticals/healthcare, and informa-

tion technology. IIMs of Indore, Raipur and Lucknow provided the most recent data available, which may see some small changes when the final numbers are collated.

Ashok Banerjee, director of IIM Udaipur, said the newly revised curriculum tailored for this batch aims to provide a unique and transformative educational experience. IIM Raipur has admitted 131 male and 52 female engineers; the other 78 women are non-engineers.

IIM Indore director Himanshu Rai said though admissions are still on, the current figures of the 2024-26 PGP batch mark a significant milestone towards greater diversity and inclusivity at the institute. "Notably, the percentage of non-engineering students has risen to nearly 41.5%... Thus, even the number of non-engineering females has increased, as per the figures available," he added.

TIMES ascent

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Ph:25531461-70 Extn:487 Fax: 25532153/25535941
E-mail: career@kioclltd.in, www.kioclltd.in

Advt.No.HR/02/679 Date: 26.06.2024

KIOCL Limited, Schedule 'A' Miniratna CPSE, 100% EOU, having its Pelletization Complex and Blast Furnace Unit at Mangaluru and Corporate Office at Bengaluru, invites applications for the following post:

NAME OF POST/GRADE	NO. OF POSTS
Company Secretary /E5	01

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Applications to be submitted online only
The last date for submission of online application is 25.07.2024 Corrigendum, if any, would be published in our website only

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6th Floor, Plate - B, NBCC Office, Block Tower - 2, East Kirti Nagar, New Delhi - 110023 | CIN No. U40106DL2011G01225263

Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd. (SECI) is a CPSE under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy invites applications for the positions of Consultants in various disciplines as below:

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- SR. CONSULTANT (Personnel & Administration)**
- SR. CONSULTANT (Merchant Power)**

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- In case of posting in Site Office of SECI, SECI will provide suitable Bachelor Accommodation.
- Reimbursement towards Conveyance upto monthly ceiling of ₹ 12000/-.
- In case of outward official tour, SECI will pay TA/DA equivalent to E-6 Grade Officer.
- The Consultant shall be eligible for 1 day leave for each completed month of service.

For further detailed Notification please visit our website www.seci.co.in 'Career' section. Last date of receipt of application is 24.07.2024.

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Mesra, Ranchi - 835215

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Adv. No. GO/RECT/2024-25/FAC-1/JUNE

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- Position: Professor of Practise in Architecture**
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- Position: Computer Lab Assistant (Experience in Graphic Design/ Python/ C/C++/Latex/IOT)**

Please visit the website for details: www.bitmesra.ac.in Last Date of submitting online application: 15th July, 2024

Bal Bharati PUBLIC SCHOOL Gadarwara
(An institution of the Child Education Society (Regd.) Delhi)
Senior Secondary School Affiliated with CBSE, New Delhi
NTPC-Gadarwara, Distt. Narsinghpur, Madhya Pradesh - 487770
Website: bbpsgadarwara.balbhari.org

REQUIRES

PRINCIPAL
Self Motivated, Goal Oriented, Experienced Academician with necessary qualification & administrative experience as per CBSE guidelines.

The application form to be downloaded from School Website: bbpsgadarwara.balbhari.org and should be mailed to The Secretary/ Manager at arvindbhatia@balbhari.org within 10 days of advertisement.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN RECPDCL
Advt. No. RECPDCL/HR/Regular Rec/2024/01

S. No.	Name of the post/ Grade & IDA scale of pay (w.e.f. 01.01.2017)	Number of posts (Reserved for)
Engineering Discipline		
1.	Deputy Manager (Engineering)/ E-4/ ₹ 70,000-2,00,000	04 (UR:03, OBC-NCL:01)
2.	Officer (Engineering)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	10 (UR:06, OBC-NCL:02, SC:01, EWS:01)
Finance & Accounts (F&A) Discipline		
3.	Deputy Manager (F&A)/ E-4/ ₹ 70,000-2,00,000	01 (UR)
4.	Officer (F&A)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
Human Resource (HR) Discipline		
5.	Deputy Manager (HR)/ E-4/ ₹ 70,000-2,00,000	01 (UR)
6.	Officer (HR)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
Information Technology (IT) Discipline		
7.	Deputy Manager (IT)/ E-4/ ₹ 70,000-2,00,000	01 (UR)
8.	Officer (IT)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
Company Secretary (CS) Discipline		
9.	Deputy Manager (CS)/ E-4/ ₹ 70,000-2,00,000	01 (UR)
10.	Officer (CS)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
Law Discipline		
11.	Deputy Manager (Law)/ E-4/ ₹ 70,000-2,00,000	01 (UR)
12.	Officer (Law)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)
Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Discipline		
13.	Officer (CSR)/ E-2/ ₹ 50,000-1,60,000	01 (UR)

Legend: UR: Unreserved; OBC-NCL: Other Backward Classes - Non-Creamy Layer; SC: Scheduled Caste; ST: Scheduled Tribe; EWS: Economically Weaker Section. Those interested should visit 'Careers tab' on www.recpdcl.in for further details regarding age, qualification, experience, reservation etc. and for applying. Last date for receipt of online application is 25.07.2024 by 6:00 pm.

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Email: co@recpdcl.in, Website-www.recpdcl.in

ATUL BIHARI VAJPAYEE
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Morena Link Road, Gwalior

Advt. No. 01/2024 Dated : 21.06.2024

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Registrar

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Kakryal, Katra - 182320 (UT of J&K)
Website : www.smvdu.ac.in

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Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) University seeks nominations of well qualified and experienced Persons for the position of Professor "BHARTI ARIAN CHAIR, SMVDU UNIVERSITY", for R&D work in the field of Wireless Communication.

Detailed advertisement is available on University Website i.e. www.smvdu.ac.in. The last date for receipt of nomination form complete in all respects is 11th July 2024.

Note : The candidates, who have applied earlier in response to our advertisement dated May 30, 2024, need not apply again.

No. SMVDU/Adm./Estt./24/1121
Dated: 24th June 2024

Sd/- Registrar

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National Highways Infra Trust (NHIT) on behalf of its SPVs is looking to hire professionals, ideally from the road sector, for various positions under F&A, Toll Operations, O&M, HR, Procurement etc. to be based at project sites and office locations across India. Interested candidates may please visit <https://nhit.co.in/> and the official LinkedIn Page of NHIT for more details.

The last date for submission of application is July 10, 2024.

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PRODUCTION DEPT : CCR OPERATOR - KILN / PRE GRINDER / RAW MILLS / PROCESS FORMAN - KILN/ CM & PG / PREHEATER ATTENDANT - KILN
SAFETY DEPT : SAFETY OFFICER / SECURITY GUARD
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STORES DEPT : STORE HELPER / STORE TECHNICAL ASST.
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Sensex Surges Nearly 6,000 Pts Since Election Low

The sensex saw sharp fall on election results day, but it is up nearly 6,000 points or 8.3% since June 4. The BSE midcap index has surged 13% in the same period. Investor wealth is near its peak at ₹441 lakh crore, up by ₹40 lakh crore since June 4

Sensex
8.3%

BSE GROUP A GAINERS

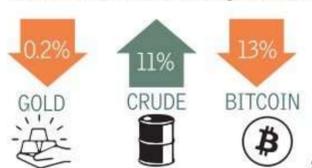


THE TIMES OF INDIA, MUMBAI | WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024

LOSERS



Gold Prices Have Barely Moved...



Source: Refinitiv, ETIG

Water crisis may hit sovereign credit health: Moody's

New Delhi: Moody's on Tuesday said India's growing water shortage can disrupt farm and industry sectors and is detrimental to the credit health of the sovereign as rising food inflation and decline in income may spark social unrest. The water stress is worsening because of an acceleration of climate change, which is causing extreme climate, Moody's said. AGENCIES



UltraTech revises its offer for UAE-based co

New Delhi: Almost a month after making an offer to acquire 31.6% in UAE-based RAKWCT, Aditya Birla group firm UltraTech Cement on Tuesday said it has revised the deal to 25% stake. AGENCIES

Realty co Sattva lines up ₹14k cr investment

Bengaluru: Real estate firm Sattva plans to invest up to Rs 14,000 crore in the next few years across commercial, residential, and hotel projects. The company is in discussions with Blackstone over creating a REIT. TNN

Chennai's Rocketlane raises \$24mn in AI push

Chennai: Software service firm Rocketlane has raised \$24 million in Series B funding round, co-led by BVC, Matrix Partners India, and Nexus Venture Partners. The total funds raised stand at \$45 million. TNN

Maruti Ispat to invest ₹2k cr to boost mfg

Hyderabad: Maruti Ispat & Pipes, one of the largest secondary steel makers in south India, plans to invest Rs 2,000 crore in expanding capacities by 6 lakh metric tonnes per annum over the next five years. TNN

Adani CFO: Sebi notices procedural

Ahmedabad: Adani group CFO on Tuesday termed Sebi notices to some of its listed companies as procedural and trivial, adding that the conglomerate was compliant with regulations. Seven firms got notices for alleged violation of related party deals. AGENCIES

figure it out

3.6% of monthly consumption spending is on meat, fish & egg in urban India, Nagaland (12.2%) spends the most and Rajasthan (0.9%) the least



Source: HCES-2022-23

Moving towards 8% growth, RBI to focus on inflation: Das

RBI Guv's Statement Rules Out Rate Cuts In Near Term

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said that the country is at the threshold of a major structural shift in its growth trajectory and is moving towards an annual growth of 8% in a sustained manner. He said that such a growth outlook gives RBI the space to 'single-mindedly and unambiguously' focus on inflation.

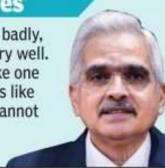
While Das's economic outlook is the most optimistic it has been in recent years, the message — coming on the back of a cautionary observation on credit growth outpacing deposits — rules out any near-term interest rate reduction.

Das also said that the central bank's nowcasting team is projecting that growth in Q1FY25 could be higher than the 7.3% projected by the monetary policy committee. Supporting the higher growth forecast was the continuation of the Q4FY24 growth momentum in Q1FY25, a pick up

'No Room For Wrong Moves'

“In cricket, you play one shot very badly, but you can play the next shot very well. But chess is one game where if you make one wrong move, you can lose the game. It is like that in the battle against inflation. We cannot afford to make any wrong move.”

Shaktikanta Das | GOVERNOR, RBI



in rural consumption, favourable monsoon and a rise in external demand.

On inflation, Das said that after spiking in the wake of the Ukraine war, inflation in India has improved from 7.8% in April 2022 to 4.7% in May this year, thanks to measures taken by RBI and govt.

He said maintaining a 4% inflation target is crucial as this level supports a healthier economy and financial system. “But inflation is moderating at a slow pace. We are still at 4.7%, within striking distance of 5%. One severe weather event and vegetable prices may go up and we will be at 5%. So, we must navigate our path towards the 4%

inflation target with clear and unambiguous focus and commitment to bring down the inflation to 4%. There cannot be any wavering; there cannot be any distractions at this stage,” said Das.

Das likened RBI's current inflation battle to a game of chess in which there can be no wrong moves. “In cricket, you play one shot very badly, but you can play the next shot very well. But chess is one game where if you make one wrong move, you can lose the game. It is like that in the battle against inflation. We cannot afford to make any wrong move,” said Das.

Pointing out the 8.3% average growth in the last

three financial years, Das said that last year, India contributed 18.5% to global growth, with the IMF projecting a further increase. He said that the growth was driven by structural reform, which included GST, bankruptcy laws, and a flexible inflation-targeting regime under the RBI's monetary policy.

Das expressed confidence about achieving 7.2% growth this year despite facing risks such as weather events, geopolitical conflicts, global trade fragmentation, and financial sector volatility. On the positive side, global growth is improving, with the IMF projecting a 3.2% increase for this year and the next. On the debate over which sector should drive growth, Das said that India's growth story must be multi-sectoral, driven by manufacturing, services, agriculture, and exports. “As a large economy, it cannot rely on a single sector for growth. The growth story has to be sustained by multiple sectors,” said Das.

Global tyre makers to invest for mfg in India

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Global tyre makers Michelin, Bridgestone and Goodyear have lined up manufacturing investments for India, with Yokohama and Birla Tyre may join in to take advantage of a govt scheme that links imports to investment.

While the amount involved could be in the region of Rs 3,000 crore it is seen as a beginning after the Centre put curbs on imports in a bid to spur domestic investments. The investments are expected to result in the creation of a few hundred jobs with Yokohama, which is yet to announce its investment plans, expected to be the biggest investor with a plant in Haryana, where nearly half the workforce will include women.

The scheme by the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has linked imports to investment in capacity

Eyeing Policy Benefits

- Govt has put curbs on tyre imports in an attempt to push domestic investments
- Investments are expected to create jobs
- Yokohama may emerge as the biggest investor with a plant in Haryana
- Others include Michelin, Bridgestone and Goodyear

creation. The check on tyre imports, which was among the first set of items to face licensing requirements, had resulted in foreign companies complaining of difficulties in shipping tyres, with the high-end ones hit the hardest. The scheme will help fill the gap even as import norms have now stabilised.

“We are seeing the results of the steps we have taken and we are expecting more companies to come

and make in India,” said a senior official.

The development is seen as a positive sign for the electric vehicle policy, where govt is seeking to allow lower duty imports for a limited period if a company invests in a local manufacturing facility and sources components.

The Modi govt has been courting the likes of Elon Musk's Tesla to invest in the country, hoping to create jobs and speed up the transition to EVs. While Musk was expected in India, he cancelled his trip at the last moment, citing other engagements.

While govt officials are still hopeful of Musk coming to India, other players such as Vinfast, are poised to take advantage of the new policy although they are suggesting certain tweaks. The heavy industries department is working with stakeholders to put together the guidelines before inviting bids over the next few months.

Telcos place ₹11k cr bids for spectrum

New Delhi: The auction of radio waves used for mobile services saw a muted opening on Tuesday, with five rounds attracting bids worth about Rs 11,000 crore from telecom companies.

Govt has put over 10,500MHz spectrum in eight frequency bands — 800MHz, 900MHz, 1,800MHz, 2,100MHz, 2,300MHz, 2,500MHz, 3,300MHz and 26GHz, valued at Rs 96,238 crore at base price, for auction.

Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea (VIL) are vying for the radio waves crucial for high-speed 5G mobile services in these auctions, which are being held after a gap of nearly two years.

As per the day one spectrum auction report issued by the Department of Telecom, bidding took place mainly in the 900 and 1800 Mhz bands. The operator also placed bids for the 2100 Mhz band spectrum in three circles. AGENCIES

Digit's tool to check gadgets' AI capability

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Times Network, which recently acquired Digit, has commemorated the magazine's 23rd anniversary with the launch of an AI offering, Digit's AI-Q (AI Quotient).

Digit's AI-Q evaluates AI capabilities of various devices including smartphones, laptops and TV sets, enabling users to understand the AI specifications. It is derived from an extensive testing process, which covers various aspects. The benchmarking process examines over 180 different aspects of AI performance, including speed, accuracy and initialisation time, ensuring a thorough and holistic evaluation, said a statement by Times Network.

Cash less... Health cover users borrow to pay bills

Reimbursement Claims: 2 In 3 Policyholders Unable To Cover Medical Costs, Finds Survey

Mayur.Shetty@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Many health insurance policyholders who get their claims settled through reimbursement from insurance companies are end up borrowing money or dipping into their long-term savings to cover medical expenses.

According to a survey of policyholders, 68% of claimants who used the reimbursement method did not have enough liquid savings to pay medical bills. The incidence of borrowing increased when treatment costs exceeded Rs 1 lakh, with the trend being more pronounced in smaller towns.

“The study reiterates the importance of increasing the proportion of cashless claims in line with Irdai's recent initiatives... It is also critical to note that approximately 70% of respondents said that they would have either needed financial assistance or drawn upon their investments if cashless claims had not been available,” said PolicyBazaar CEO Sarbvir Singh.

While cashless treatment is the preferred option among policyholders, many are unable to access the same with their chosen healthcare providers. Even after increased insurance coverage, about 47% of health costs in India are still paid out-of-pocket — significantly higher than the global average of 18%.

The survey also found that 89% of respondents

who received cashless claims were satisfied, compared to 79% of those who received reimbursements. Dissatisfaction was higher among reimbursement claimants (12%) than cashless claimants (4%).

cyBazaar, aiming to assess policyholders' satisfaction with the claim process.

Of the total claimants, 94% had their claims approved, with a higher approval rate of 97% for those who had purchased policies onli-

REIMBURSEMENT METHOD TAKES TOLL

- About 47% of health costs in India are paid out-of-pocket — higher than the global average of 18%
- Cashless treatment is the preferred option among policyholders, but many are unable to access it with their chosen providers
- 68% of claimants who used the reimbursement method did not have enough liquid savings to pay medical bills

The incidence of borrowing increased when treatment costs exceeded ₹1 lakh, with the trend being more pronounced in small towns

According to a survey by PolicyBazaar, dissatisfaction was higher among reimbursement claimants (12%) than cashless claimants (4%)

Moreover, the average wait time for approval after doctor discharge in the cashless category was 3.8 hours, but 6% of claimants were dissatisfied due to the wait time exceeding 8.5 hours. Under new health insurance guidelines, insurers must clear applications for cashless treatment within one hour and settle claims for discharge within three hours. A key reason for delays in settlement after the discharge was insurers calling for supplementary information, leaving attendants to navigate the complexities of the process.

The findings are part of a study based on a face-to-face survey of 2,128 insurance claimants conducted by Poli-

ne. Overall, 86% of claimants expressed satisfaction with the process. Among the 6% of claims that were rejected, half of them were due to non-disclosure of pre-existing or uncovered diseases, often attributed to a lack of awareness. The integration of online platforms has reduced the rejection rate from an average of 6% to 2.5%.

The survey also revealed the highest average claim size is in the South at a little over Rs 2 lakh, surpassing the metro average of Rs 1.6 lakh. By age group, the 56-65 bracket has an average claim size of Rs 2.1 lakh, compared to Rs 1.3 lakh for the 18-35 cohort.

Ambuja & other promoter of cement co Sanghi to sell 4%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Sanghi Industries' promoters Ambuja Cements and Ravi Sanghi will sell about 4% of the building materials maker through the offer-for-sale route.

The floor price for the OFS has been set at Rs 90 apiece. The shares of Sanghi Industries closed at Rs 102 apiece on the BSE on Tuesday. The OFS will open on June 26 for non-retail investors and on June 27 for retail investors on the stock exchanges. The OFS is being undertaken to achieve the minimum public shareholding of Sanghi Industries, the company said.

Ambuja Cements will sell nearly 2.4% or 60.9 lakh shares of Sanghi Industries while Ravi Sanghi will sell about 1.2% or 30 lakh shares of the company. As of March 31, promoters held 79% of the Saurashtra-based cement maker. After the conclusion of the OFS, promoters will hold 75% of Sanghi Industries, in line with Sebi's rule of having at least 25% equity in free-float.

In March, the promo-

Amara Raja stock hits 52-wk peak

New Delhi: Shares of Amara Raja Energy & Mobility ended over 19% higher on Tuesday after its wholly-owned arm Amara Raja Advanced Cell Technologies signed a licensing agreement with GIB EnergyX Slovakia for lithium-ion cells technology.

The stock soared 20% to hit the 52-week high of Rs 1,655 during the day on the BSE. It later ended at Rs 1,647, up 19.4%. AGENCIES

ters offloaded 2% of Sanghi Industries in the open market for Rs 258 apiece. In Aug 2023, Ambuja Cements — owned by Gautam Adani and family — bought a majority stake in Sanghi Industries from Ravi Sanghi for an enterprise value of Rs 5,000 crore. Incorporated in June 1985, Sanghi Industries has a manufacturing facility in Gujarat's Kutch region — it is the country's largest single-location cement and clinker unit.

Sebi revises norms for exchanges

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi on Tuesday revised its oversight framework for stock exchanges and other market infrastructure institutions (MIIs), defining the structure and responsibilities of various statutory committees to enhance governance.

These guidelines are on the recommendations of Sebi's committee on strengthening governance of MIIs, according to a circular issued by the markets regulator. Statutory committees of MIIs can be divided into different categories, such as functional, oversight and investment.

Functional committees are the member committee, nomination and remuneration committee, oversight committees, standing committee on technology regulatory oversight committee, and risk management committee and investment committee.

On the composition of panels, Sebi said such committees should include key management personnel (KMP), non-independent directors, independent external professionals, and public interest directors. Each committee must be chaired by a PID with relevant expertise. Further, PIDs must form at least half of the committee members. AGENCIES

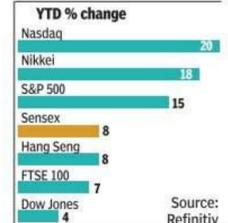
Sensex surge 'driven by both foreign, domestic fund buying'

► From P 1

Karthick Jonagadla, Manager and Founder of Quantace Research, said, “Sensex crossing the 78,000 mark reflects the strong cash buying activity in the market, driven by substantial investments from both FIIs and DIIs.” This was supported by a rise in mutual fund systematic investment plan contributions, which have increased to Rs 20,904 crore — a seven-fold increase since FY 2016-2017.

In the forex market, the rupee slightly rose by 0.03% against the US dollar, reaching 83.43 per dollar; boosted by expectations of foreign investments in domestic debt, which will soon be added to the JP Morgan index, and by news of a current account surplus in Q4FY24.

NASDAQ, NIKKEI TOP GAINERS THIS YEAR



capital markets. Foreign investors have been net buyers in index futures in the last seven trading sessions. Traders attribute the market's upward movement to positive macroeconomic indicators such as current account and business activity improvements in manufacturing and services, as well as optimism about ongoing government reforms outlined in its first 100 days agenda.

Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Securities, mentioned, “Amidst moderate consolidations and sector rotations, the market is moving upwards due to expectations from the upcoming Budget. Additionally, the progress of the monsoon is being watched for insights into the consumption outlook.”

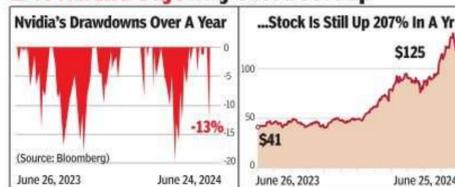
After \$430bn rout, Nvidia shares take a breather

Nvidia shares showed signs of steadying after a \$430-billion selloff sent traders searching for signals as to where the bottom may be. The stock rose as much as 5% on Tuesday, set to snap a three-day rout that had pushed it into a technical correction — when a stock drops 10% or more from a recent peak — for the first time since April.

While the rout displayed some concerning signals, analysts are focusing on the stock's longer-term trend.

“This is just how Nvidia trades,” an analyst said. Among Nvidia selloffs of this scale, the stock tends to rebound on the fourth day — which would be today — about 63% of the time, according to

13% Fall In 3 Days May Just Be A Blip



Daniel O'Regan, MD of equity trading at Mizuho Securities. While technical analysis for insight in historic trading patterns isn't precise, it can provide a useful road map for investors.

Nvidia has soared this year amid unrelenting demand for its chips that dominate the

market for artificial intelligence computing. The latest leg of the advance saw the stock rise 43% from its May 22 earnings report and stock split announcement to the June 18 peak when it closed with a market value of \$3.34 trillion, topping Microsoft. Nvidia is still up 144% this year.

High options activity was often cited as one of the main reasons for the stock's climb: market makers in the contracts had to constantly hedge their positions by trading the stock as it moved higher in what is called a gamma squeeze. That pressure may be easing following the correction.

Buff Dormeier, chief technical analyst at Kingsview Partners, sees short-term support around the \$115 level. That's near a key Fibonacci retracement level, a tool used by technical analysts to identify support or resistance lines for stocks and other assets. The 38.2% retracement from the stock's intraday low in April to its record high last week is about 2% below Monday's

closing price.

Analysts such as Dormeier believe the long-term uptrend remains intact for Nvidia, but they're keeping an eye on the \$100 level.

“For a stock in an uptrend like Nvidia, breaching that first level of support wouldn't be a concern,” said Bruce Zarro, chief technical strategist at Granite Wealth Management. A drop below \$100, however, would be, he said.

“That may not have long-term implications, but it would signal that you should be patient, especially in a period where the market is likely to be volatile and have a downward bias as we await the election and the Fed weighing in on rates.” BLOOMBERG



CONTRAPUNTO

I'm sticking to the script, I'm putting that organic feeling back in the game.

KENDRICK LAMAR

Khela Hobe Na

Mamata tore into her own govt because she knows voters can throw any party out

It's unusual for a CM to upbraid the party organisation, top to bottom, sparing no one. That three-time Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee held forth for a record 70 minutes, critiquing municipalities on upkeep and maintenance, ministers, MLAs, partymen and senior bureaucrats on graft and extortion, was a rare event, even for her. Her lecture failed to mention some TMC bigwigs close to her, alleged to be among Bengal's most corrupt, but her sweeping indictment perhaps was also a case of *kahin pe nigaahein, kahin pe nishana*? Whichever way it's sliced or diced, it's instructive to ask why mercurial Didi lit into her own govt. And why now?

In top form | The answer to both is Mamata yet again demonstrating political acumen. The Trinamool chief is at the top of her game. In both LS and assembly polls since 2017, TMC has proved wrong every poll punditry, all of which routinely predict a "close contest". Even ahead of this year's high stakes LS election, Didi – despite being an ally – played cat and mouse with INDIA bloc, refusing to even consider *not* fielding her own candidates on any of the state's 42 seats. She won the gamble to return 29 MPs to Parliament, up from 22 in 2019. BJP crashed to 12, down 6 seats, overturning all poll predictions. BJP replaced CPM as main opposition in 2021 assembly election, with 77 MLAs. But TMC was far ahead with 215 seats in the 294-seat assembly – notably in its third term.

What tomorrow holds | Yet Mamata knows electoral victories are no slam dunk, when popular discontent is as deep, wide and serious as in Bengal today. The 69-year-old knows it's a self-goal to ignore the overhang on governance of entrenched political violence, extortion rackets, everyday crush of corrupt contractors. Political excesses of consecutive Left govts are what Mamata battled effectively – so much so that CPM's vote, the anti-TMC vote, has almost totally shifted to BJP. Her decision to overhaul the state's bidding process can mean upheaval for institutionalised corruption – risking your own party's ire is a game you play only when you dominate the field, as Mamata does now.

To Mamata's credit, she displayed publicly that she is not disconnected from the discontent. That is the politics that drove the authoritative dressing-down her govt received. She knows voters love just one management style – shape up or ship out.



Warring. Worrying Bibi

Netanyahu now setting his sights on Hezbollah is bad for West Asia. He has severely hurt Brand Israel

Netanyahu continues to play with Israeli lives. After announcing the "intense phase" of the Israeli operation in Gaza is winding down, he now looks set to send more troops to the Lebanon border to fight Hezbollah. This, potentially, can be an unmitigated disaster. It won't help Israel's security. It may directly drag Iran into the conflict and lead to a wider conflagration. But Netanyahu now seems to want perpetual conflict to stay in power.

Hezbollah not Hamas | This Lebanon-based Shia militia group is far superior to Hamas in military strength. Its range of short-range rockets and missiles can pose problems for Israeli defences. In fact, since the Gaza conflict began on Oct 7 last year, Hezbollah's strikes into northern Israel have forced tens of thousands of Israelis to evacuate towns along that border. The last time the two sides had a full-scale war in 2006, there were heavy casualties on both sides and Israel failed to destroy Hezbollah's military capabilities. Hezbollah is far stronger today.

Netanyahu's cussedness | Hezbollah says it will stop firing into Israel once there's a ceasefire in Gaza. But Netanyahu continues to assert that the war in Gaza won't end until Hamas is eliminated. However, Israel's military has said Hamas as an ideology can't be defeated. Meanwhile, families of Israeli hostages in Gaza want a hostage deal. And US certainly doesn't want an Israel-Hezbollah war. But Netanyahu isn't listening.

Image bruised & battered | Long known as the only genuine democracy in West Asia and a tech powerhouse, Israel's reputation today lies in tatters. Netanyahu's actions have jeopardised Israel's fledgling relations with regional Arab nations, undermined its economy, and turned Israelis against their own govt. His determination to hold on to power has given Israel its worst PR moment. But King Bibi still thinks he can get away with it all.



Liberal paradox

Those who uphold freedom of speech, even for those they disagree with, can tie themselves up in knots

Jug Suraiya



Doing the rounds on social media is a debate between a conservative and a liberal, expressing diametrically opposing views. The conservative extols what she sees as the benefits of the British Empire to its colonies, such as the bringing of railways to India.

The liberal argues that the British brought the railways to India not to benefit Indians, but to facilitate military deployment in the event of a repeat of the 1857 uprising. He also highlights the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, and the man-made Bengal famine of 1943 which resulted in the starvation deaths of millions, and for which no apology, let alone any form of reparation, has been made.

However, no matter how deeply he disagrees he cannot, because of his liberal standpoint, deny his opponent the right to hold and express her opinions.

This is the paradox of the liberal. An outspoken conservative can give vent to views that are patently intolerant, and objectionable to those who take exception to such ideas and attitudes, but nonetheless can't deny their espousal.

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it, is a quote attributed to Voltaire, and is a cornerstone of liberal ideology.

Liberals are enjoined to speak out against anything which is deemed to be prejudicial in terms of gender, or religion, or social or political orientation. They are compelled not only to oppose what they see as intolerance in any form but must publicly do so, because silence implies consent, and to be silent in the face of bigotry is to acquiesce in it.

At the same time liberals must not only grant their ideological adversaries the right to broadcast their creed, but must also endorse their entitlement to do so under the rubric of freedom of expression, as long as it does not violate the laws of the land or incite violence.

Caught between opposing the illiberal, yet supporting its advocacy, liberals can find themselves tied up in a knot of Gordian dimension which even Alexander would be unable to cut.

WHAT ASSANGE FREED

Some see the digital fourth estate he pioneered as anarchic. But the real WikiLeaks lesson is citizens must know how their govts make decisions that affect their lives

Apar Gupta



Julian Assange's release after years of captivity invites us to reflect on the legacy of WikiLeaks. As the editor-in-chief and spokesperson of WikiLeaks, he became a household name, emblematic of the fight for radical transparency.

His work highlights the need for citizens to understand how govts and corporations make decisions that affect ordinary people's lives. WikiLeaks, which began in 2006, helps us understand our present information disorder and the weakening civic trust in democratically elected govts.

Assange and WikiLeaks have fundamentally altered the dynamics between the press and the powerful, pioneering a bold vision of the digital fourth estate. While some view this as a beacon of progress, others see it as teetering on the edge of anarchy and challenging traditional norms of journalism.

Challenge US on state torture etc | Though WikiLeaks has a global charter, its principal impact has emerged from focusing on US, the world's most powerful country.

In April 2010, WikiLeaks truly shook the global stage. The release of the "Collateral Murder" video, showing US Apache helicopters killing twelve individuals in Iraq, including two Reuters employees, marked the beginning of a series of disclosures that revealed the realpolitik actions of US govt.

Notably, these disclosures were made only after US govt denied access to Reuters. These releases followed the Afghan and Iraq War logs from earlier that year, all believed to have been sourced from US army intelligence analyst PFC Bradley Manning, which evidenced the use of state torture.

Challenge the 'sensitivity' of India's elite | This was only a prelude to "Cablegate" when, in Nov 2010, WikiLeaks began releasing 251,287 classified diplomatic cables sent to the US state department by 274 of its consulates, embassies, and diplomatic missions worldwide. This media maelstrom provided direct insight not only into the imperial instincts of US govt but also the

motivations of our own power elite.

It laid bare unvarnished commentary on Modi and Rahul, India's foreign relations, and reports on interactions with our politicians, including their candid assessments on issues of Hindu nationalism, Naxalism, and terrorism. Given their sensitivity, WikiLeaks collaborated with major news organisations like El Pais, Le Monde, Der Spiegel, The Guardian, and The New York Times to ensure careful analysis and redaction.

transparency. The subsequent prosecution of Assange by US govt, resulting in a restriction on his liberty for more than a decade, starkly reveals this hypocrisy as much as it is an attack on whistleblowers and press freedom.

As a counterblast to the disclosures, US govt prosecuted him under the Espionage Act and Computer Fraud and Abuse Act and sought his extradition. During this same period, US championed the internet as a tool to topple oppressive regimes but found it difficult to accept the use of the same tool when it undermined its own interests.

In Oct, 2021 a broad coalition of rights organisations through an open letter urged US govt to drop these proceedings: "A precedent created by prosecuting Assange could be used against publishers and journalists alike, chilling their work and undermining freedom of the press."

Finally, US has offered Assange a plea deal. As WikiLeaks' X account announced, after five years of imprisonment in a high-security prison in south London, "Julian Assange is free."

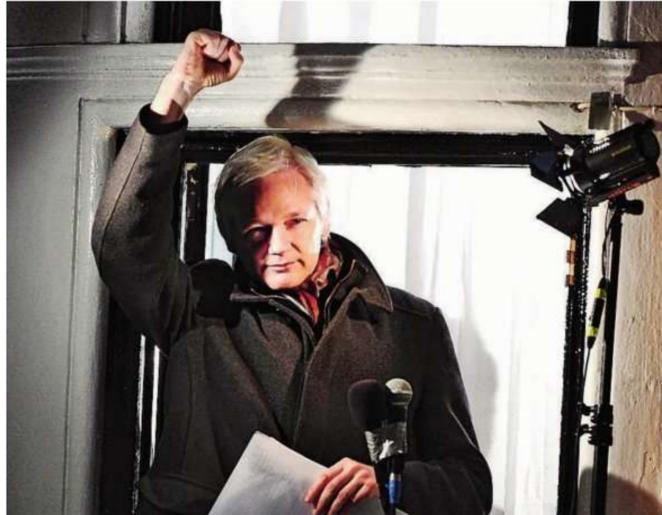
Question how GOI provides data | While WikiLeaks' contribution may, in time, be compared to historic archives that have shaped modern history, we must not read Assange's release as an obituary but as a principled need to fight for transparency.

For us in India, Assange's release after concessions made by US govt must draw attention not only to what WikiLeaks contained but also to the present. It must prompt questions about how our own govt provides data and makes proactive disclosures. How do we treat our own whistleblowers?

Over time, there has been a growing secrecy and centralisation of power by our elected officials. Recent changes and operational issues have handicapped transparency under the Right to Information Act, 2005. Special executive instructions, such as for website blocking, make orders secret.

While unpleasant, Assange used the internet to model a new form of whistleblowing and confront the brutish nature of state power. We must not only debate what Assange did, but also draw the right lessons from it.

The writer is an advocate and co-founder of the Internet Freedom Foundation



File Photo

Protect whistleblowers, protect press | This radical form of transparency led to charges of terrorism, with Assange being termed "Public Enemy No. 1" by many US politicians. Even many press commentators at the time viewed it as upsetting the traditional norms of journalism, premised on issues of accuracy and verifiability.

It is important to remember, at such points, the value of a whistleblower in any society. Whistleblowing might expose the lurid details of the personal lives of the rich and powerful, but it serves an important function in breaking cosy, self-serving coalitions.

Question the secrecy of power | Often, democratic institutions and private corporations claim commitment to oversight and justice but choose opacity over

'No EVM can be hacked. An embedded programme fused on the processor can't be changed from outside'

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is the developer of EVMs in India. Its former R&D director Col (retired) HS Shankar led the team that produced the first 1.5L units used in 1990. EVM credibility has been questioned ever since and through each iteration. Currently CMD, Alpha Design Technologies, Shankar takes Chethan Kumar through the tech's journey:

● **What's the story behind switching from ballot paper to EVMs?**

In the 1980s, then CEC Peri Shastry studied poll processes globally. He proposed automating India's ballot paper process, while retaining the procedure. Col GK Rao, then R&D director at BEL, had a rudimentary EVM successfully tested in BEL's trade union elections. BEL then developed semi-production EVM models – about 100 units were used in Kerala polls, 1986.

In 1988, Rajiv Gandhi called for a demonstration. In attendance were Shastry, defence minister KC Pant, and a BEL team that included me as project head.

Gandhi had concerns about rigging, ballot stuffing and booth capturing. He suggested introducing a time gap between each button press on the Ballot Unit (BU) to limit the number of votes that could be rapidly cast – so that no more than two votes could be polled per minute. This modification was carried out. Gandhi's practical input to prevent misuse was crucial in making EVMs a secure and reliable voting system.

● **What was the initial opposition reaction?**

Opposition parties alleged Congress wanted to 'rig' elections via EVMs. VP Singh and George Fernandes called for a demo, claiming any software controlled equipment can be meddled with. That whichever button voters pressed on BU, it was all 'programmed' to automatically shift votes to Congress candidates.

● **What was Rajiv Gandhi's response?**

He set up a high-level team headed by LK Advani to

study these objections and recommend solutions. Experts from IITs, IETE, and DRDO, were tasked with attempting to "tamper" with EVMs within five days, to establish if these could be rigged/manipulated.

At IIT Delhi, Prof PV Indiresan led a team of four PhD scholars and experts who worked round the clock for five days, using high-end equipment and simulators. Despite their best efforts and Indiresan's assertion that any electronic device can be hacked, they couldn't tamper with EVMs. After this failed attempt, production and supply of indigenous EVMs went smoothly.

● **Has anything changed since and can EVMs be hacked now?**

No! But even if we, for a moment, give credence to those claiming the machines can be tampered with, there is another argument against EVMs' vulnerability. It's hard to manipulate machines on such a large scale. For instance, how many machines does one have to manipulate in order to rig an assembly election? It is basic maths.

Say mean electoral win/loss margin in an assembly election is 5,000 votes. Each EVM can hold up to 3,000 votes. However, the number of voters in a booth is generally around 1,200. Let's say 50% of these, that is 600, are manipulated to go in favour of a certain party. To manipulate 5,000 votes, one would have to manipulate a maximum of 9 machines. Also remember each vote added to someone is also one vote deducted from someone. So, to alter the result, one has to manipulate five

machines for 50% votes.

● **So, if EVMs are hacked, 50% manipulation at 3% of booths can subvert process integrity?**

Not a single EVM can be hacked. An embedded programme fused on the processor simply cannot be changed from outside. It's like claiming the encryption algorithm on STARS-V (army's basic communication system) can be changed from outside or through external wires/cables.

How can anyone change a software programme without knowing the programme? If any expert wants to try his hand, he can visit me – I'll give a printed circuit board with an embedded programme fused on the chip (not of EVM, but equivalent processor card) and will ask him to change it in my presence, or with experts.

● **EVMs use 'non-writable microprocessors'. What exactly does that mean?**

A non-writable microprocessor is a simple microchip. The writing pin is physically disabled. The processor has ROM (read only memory) and not 'Read & Write' version. Hence, the "core" programme based on high-level encrypted algorithm is embedded/fused – can't be changed.

● **Argument is there are ways to write over such chips...**

No. It's impossible to manipulate input or programme through BU to CU (control unit) via cables. The 64-pin IC (integrated circuit) is soldered on CU-PCB by wave soldering process. It cannot be accessed directly through cables.

Also, the argument that a microchip on the wire can manipulate input to get a desired output *without* touching BU or CU doesn't hold. I will reiterate it for those who keep asking if EVMs can be hacked through outside networks. No, simply because an EVM, including VVPAT, isn't connected to the internet or any wireless network.



File Photo

Calvin & Hobbes



Meditation Could Be An Antidote To Drugs

Osho

If a person is addicted to drugs, the problem is not the drugs; the problem is why he is addicted to drugs – because life gives no joy, life is so empty, so meaningless. Drugs make at least a few hours colourful and psychedelic; there is great joy. One forgets this whole madhouse, this world.

You cannot tell them, "We will teach you meditation only if you drop all these things first." They cannot drop them. You have to be more compassionate to them... You teach them meditation.

Meditation will help them to drop drugs, not vice versa. Meditation can give them better experiences, far superior, and real. Drugs are only giving them hallucinations. And when somebody has to choose between a dream and

a reality – and a reality which is far more golden and far more beautiful than the dream – I don't think anybody is going to choose the dream. But first let him have something else to choose, to fall upon.

He was empty; he was disgusted with his whole life. Drugs have supported him; they are killing him, they are destroying him, but they have at least shown him beautiful dreams. Life cannot give any beautiful dreams; the politicians, the priests, the pedagogues altogether have made life so ugly, so difficult to live, so worthless, that any intelligent person is bound to find something or other. And meditation is not for sale – there are no meditation dealers from whom you can

get an injection. You will have to learn it, that is the difficulty. You will have to go through a certain discipline.

So tell them, "Whatever you are doing is absolutely accepted. You are doing it not without reason, so continue it. We will give you a better drug which is not chemical. We will give you meditation; try it." And you will be surprised, the people who have been on drugs can enter into meditation more easily than other people...

Before he becomes addicted to any drug, he starts experiencing tremendous ecstasies within himself. The drug is left far behind. Now he himself can say that it was stupid to go on hanging around the drug; it was giving him only a hallucination, an

illusion. What does it matter if in your dream you become the king of the whole world? In the morning, you wake up in the same wretched hut; then you need more and more of the drug so that you need not wake up. That's how drugs go on killing people.

But anything that is so destructive can be used in a constructive way; it has been used for thousands of years...

Tell them to meditate, and never mention their drugs; just insist on meditation... The drug takes you into hallucinations, opens doors in your inner chemistry and that is the most vulnerable moment. You can meditate easily.

Abridged from *The Last Testament*, Vol 2. Courtesy: Osho International Foundation/ www.osho.com
June 26 is World Drug Day



THE SPEAKING TREE

Sacredspace

To make the fastest progress, Be an absolutely cheerful Hero-warrior And take both victory and failure As parallel experience rivers Leading to the sea Of progress-delight
Sri Chinmoy



TECH I'D LIKE TO SEE

QR TICKS ON FOOD PICKS

Your grocery cart is piled high with packaged and fresh food products. You wish you also had a pro service assuring you that your purchases are safe, healthy, and made sustainably. What if we put AI-assisted QR technology to where the mouth is! A simple QR technology that generates a QR code, which could go on the principal display panel of a pack or on the purchase cart of online marketplaces/offline store shelves, that transparently demystifies, decodes complex labels and, in an instant, verifies the goodness of a product.



Rinka Banerjee | CO-FOUNDER, THINKING FORKS

In a study done by the National Institute of Nutrition and the Indian Council of Medical Research, of the 90% of consumers, across age groups, who read food labels, the majority (81%) looked only for the manufacturing date or expiry/best-before date. Nutrient information on labels is often ignored or unread because most consumers lack nutrition knowledge or find the information too technical. Now, imagine a QR reader right there, which helps by making short work of sifting through the bold and fine print to help make an empowered, informed, and healthy choice!

TIMES TECHIES WEBINAR

Advancing business decision-making with Evolutionary AI



Babak Hodjat | CTO OF AI, COGNIZANT
Risto Miikkulainen | VP OF AI RESEARCH, AND PROFESSOR, UT AUSTIN
Amir Banifatemi | TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION STRATEGIST, AI COMMONS

PLEASE WATCH THIS SPACE FOR INTERESTING INSIGHTS FROM THIS DISCUSSION

Almost Artificial Sunil Agarwal & Ian Baker



How NatWest's India GCC is helping transform the bank

Nearly 30% of the UK bank's global employee base is today in India

Sujit John@timesgroup.com

Punit Sood is the head of India for NatWest Group, one of the biggest banks in the UK. He's been at the bank now for over four years, prior to which he had stints with Citi Technology Services, and JP Morgan Services India. NatWest's India centres across Gurgaon, Chennai and Bengaluru – which provide core technology and operations services – today have over 17,000 employees, close to 30% of the bank's global strength. The leaders of many key functions sit out of India. A lot of this movement of work from the UK has happened over the past few years. And Punit says it wasn't initially easy to convince his headquarters that India could do it.

He recalls it took him 18-20 months to convince his UK bosses that there was no reason to have the final signing off authority on simple matters like an address change or replacement of a damaged debit card sitting in the UK, when the India centres were the ones processing the entire issue, right from the time the customer logs it in. "They said this touches the customer, and so the final signing off must happen in the UK," he says.

The India team persisted. For one of the smaller processes, the team demonstrated their capability to ensure that all metrics around turnaround times were delivered. When that was proved, they did it for more processes.

Today, the global head of what NatWest calls Everyday Banking sits in India. Everyday Banking deals with all the daily issues that come up for a retail bank. "Everyday Banking is a very big thing. It even deals with mortgage customers.



NatWest has 17,000 employees in India, almost a third of its global strength of 59,000. Multiple global roles across technology, data and analytics, and operations are based out of India. Some of them are the heads of Digital Platforms - Wealth CDIO; Core Trading Solutions - Commercial & Institutional CDIO; Physical Channels - Retail DigiX; Regulatory Reporting - Finance, Risk, Audit & Legal Technology; Data Engineering, Digital X Analytics - Data and Analytics; Everyday Banking Operations; Markets Operations; Risk Oversight Lead - India and Functions; and Finance Cost Control

INDIA CENTRE TALKS DIRECTLY WITH UK REGULATORS

Half of the bank's tech and data strength is in India. About a third of our global finance organisation is in India, a third of our financial crime unit, which is a big part of the bank, is here, a third of our fraud function is here. For our investment bank, except for the front-end sales and trading businesses, almost 95% of the middle and back offices are in India. We directly talk to the UK regulators, and they are ok with the accountable executive being in India. That person sits on my leadership table.

Punit Sood | HEAD OF INDIA

We hire engineers with skills in digital, cloud, AI, data. We hire people smart enough to understand what the future would be like. It's good to have a STEM background. But the future will be about smart people who can understand a problem quickly, and find the best technology to solve it. The days of writing thousands of lines of code, or learning a language deeply, that is going.

Dhiraj Anand | HEAD, RETAIL DIGITAL X AND RETAIL BANKING OPERATIONS INDIA

If a mortgage customer comes and says they want to prepay, they have two choices – prepay and reduce the tenure, or prepay and reduce the principal, but keep the tenure the same. We help UK customers with all of such issues," Punit says.

A host of other leadership functions, both in technology and operations, now sit out of India because much of the work around it happens here. This includes the

head of digital platforms, head of core trading solutions, head of physical channels, head of regulatory reporting, and head of data engineering and digital analytics.

Dhiraj Anand is head of retail digital X and retail banking operations in India, focusing on engineering and innovation, and developing digital insights. He says the larger vision is to make NatWest a digital bank. One of his major ini-

tiatives out of India has been to move the bank's contact centre agents in the UK to the AWS platform, allowing the bank to benefit from cloud and SaaS platforms, including using data better. Another big effort is around automating processes. "My role includes all of tech and all of operations for retail banking. Since we have operations teams in India, servicing things like opening of accounts and

handling complaints, I can get tech teams to work with these ops teams to understand what customers want. We are continuously improving processes for account opening, mortgages, handling complaints," he says.

Automation of some of the more complex processes, he says, has resulted in 30-35% reduction in effort and time. "In one of the processes, the (internal) user had to initially refer to almost 50 screens for every request – this has been reduced to five screens," he says.

The India team has led the development of the bank's AI digital assistant called Cora. Cora enables self-service for customers. Last year, Cora handled 10.8 million retail banking conversations (up 400,000 compared to 2022), and almost half of these conversations required no human intervention.

Now, the team is working with colleagues in the UK, and with IBM to develop Cora+, which will allow customers to ask questions and receive responses in a more conversational style. Cora+ will also be able to access information from multiple secure sources that were previously inaccessible through chat alone. India is also working on a unified customer engagement platform, and the first service from that will be a new real-time appointment booking service which is expected to reduce booking times by up to 75%, and is estimated to help unlock about 88,000 hours of employee time.

CROSS-POLLINATION

Punit, who previously also led Nasscom's GCC (global capability centre) council, says what NatWest has done in India, is what other GCCs are increasingly doing. "There's a lot more cross-pollination too now, with newer GCCs learning from existing ones. And they are starting with the intent of building an innovation centre in India (not a back-office operation)," he says.

Integrate data sources to become a sustainable biz

Organisations looking to become sustainable run into some common problems: Firstly, there is often a lack of comprehensive data integration and real time monitoring. Without comprehensive data integration, you cannot accurately track and manage sustainability metrics. Secondly, many organisations struggle with aligning their sustainability goals with their business objectives, leading to a fragmented effort that does not fully leverage potential synergies. If the business objective and sustainability goals do not match, the company will face issues.

Chittaranjan Meher | COUNTRY LEADER, IBM SUSTAINABILITY SOFTWARE BUSINESS UNIT, IBM INDIA/SOUTH ASIA



We have almost 15,000 towers across the country. There were times when every month a technician used to go to examine the towers. Now, because of data, out of 10,000 towers, 8000 don't need that monthly attention anymore. We can move it to six months or even one year. With drones coming in, we are even thinking about doing it once in two years without compromising the reliability of the asset. These decisions can only happen with data that comes through real-time connected solutions.

Satish Talmale | CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, INDIGRID



Akhil George@timesgroup.com

There is enormous pressure on businesses to become sustainable today. Prioritising the bottomline over long-term sustainable practices is no longer tenable and can in fact lead to more environmentally-conscious competitors having an edge. That's what experts in the field told us on a webinar last week.

Achieving a sustainable business model requires a lot of planning and, most importantly, adequate, reliable, real-time data. Getting the right data is by far one of the most common problems businesses face when

critical to collect data in an efficient and sanitised manner so that the data is structured and usable.

"We have operational technology systems like SCADA (computer-based system for gathering and analysing real-time data) and other business platforms wherein data comes through sensors and is automatically fed. And there are a few sets of data that come in through manual input – via iPads or mobile devices."

This integration of disparate data sources allows Indigridd to do amazing things, says Satish – like cutting down fewer



trees. "Vegetation is a big challenge we encounter because if a tree height goes beyond a certain clearance, the power unit for IBM India/South Asia.

"Without comprehensive data integration, you cannot accurately track and manage sustainability metrics. That's why we're helping customers collect data through different sources and integrate it."

Chittaranjan says IBM's Maximo application suite allows businesses to manage their assets more efficiently, predict and prevent breakdowns, and maintain compliance with safety and regulatory guidelines, all by gathering data from the right sources.

Indigridd operates and manages power transmission networks and renewable energy assets throughout India. The company's chief operating of-

line will trip. So, we use drone and satellite-based monitoring to get data and then run image analytics on it, which tells us exactly when a tree will grow to be a problem. It's a scientific method that allows us to cut 100 branches of trees instead of a thousand."

Excellent future career

Chittaranjan says professionals should consider getting into the rapidly growing sustainability sector. "We think this is the decade of sustainability because everybody has done their digital transformation already, the next transformation they are doing is sustainability. The requirement for sustainability professionals is very high," he says.

CAREER LADDER FOR WOMEN

Put on work gloves when needed

Swati Maini

I am a mechanical engineer with a focus on aerospace engineering. During my college years, I completed a 1-year project with Nasa as part of a design-build-fly mission. In the early years of my career, I worked as a design engineer and site engineer in the nuclear power space. After this, I began my entrepreneurial journey in Boston, in the area of ocean energy devices and hydrokinetic turbines. During this journey, I also dabbled in solar energy and industrial water treatment.

I liked creating things | I was constantly questioned on why I don't do a consulting job. However, I liked creating new things that were larger than anything I had seen living in Mumbai and Delhi, so I did not let other people's opinions come in the way and did everything alongside my male counterparts to achieve my goals.

Keep target in mind | Underestimation was another challenge. I've had to prove my mettle in every new work scenario and this has been the greatest challenge for me. My best suggestion to fellow women in STEM is to stay grounded in your knowledge and keep your target in mind at all times. Dressing the part is very important. Whether in the office or on-site, don't hesitate to put on the work gloves when needed.

Find mentors | I would also advise professionals to be assertive – there is no difference in your intelligence compared to a man's and you have to take every day as it comes. Overthinking will only lead to confusion. Mentors are extremely important in your growth journey, find your harshest critics and get them to mentor you. As women, we are tested twice over, so keep yourself abreast with your field-specific knowledge and stay calm as we convince the world of our equality.

Swati Maini is director at Maini Renewables



From curing toothache to helping develop drugs

Veena.Mani@timesgroup.com

Vijaygeeta Raju was a dentist, but after a decade of hectic practice, she felt she must do something else that would allow her more time for herself and her family. So she wrote the Karnataka government's civil service entrance exam.

Since the results' declaration was taking time, Vijaygeeta started studying online courses on the use of technology in the pharma and healthcare sector. She studied pharmacovigilance, the science of identifying, assessing, and preventing adverse effects of medicines and vaccines. She trained in databases like Argus, Sceptre, and Google's GCP. And she got a job in this area with IQVIA (formerly QuintilesIMS), where she had to feed in patient data and produce reports on the efficacy of drugs.

"In hindsight, I was glad I did not sit waiting for the civil services exam

INSPIRATION

results. I would not have been so satisfied with my job if I had taken it because the government would transfer me from time to time. That would have meant staying away from family," Vijaygeeta says.

As it happened, the civil services exam was cancelled because of some malpractice, and even though Vijaygeeta re-appeared for the test and probably would have got a government job, she had by then made up her mind on staying with pharmacovigilance.

She says the journey from being a dentist to a pharmacovigilance officer transformed her from being an introvert and one filled with self-doubt to a more confident, outgoing and risk-taking person.

Work would take her to Belgium

Those doing MBBS could consider a career outside clinical practice. They could take up post-graduate courses in data analytics which will help them get into fields like mine. The pace at which clinical and tech professions are merging, this sort of upskilling is a must.

Vijaygeeta Raju | HEAD, CLINICAL EVALUATION, SIEMENS HEALTHINEERS

where, for the first time, she stayed away from her family and home responsibilities. She went on a solo Europe trip. Around this time, she also learnt Lean Six Sigma and got a project management certification.

Though she does not do any coding, over the years, her job has taught her the basics of coding and AI, which she says helps when she interacts with coders in the process of making devices.

After four years with IQVIA, she had short stints with BioQuest Global Solutions and Cellegence, and then Indegene, where she spent another four years. In 2020, she moved to Siemens Healthineers, where her work today involves telling the technology team if a solution would make a difference to the lives of patients, the clinical outcomes, and how regulators in India would take it. "Knowing how to work with databases has eased the process of not just pulling out structured and unstructured clinical data, but also analysing it in a way that other teams can use it to make devices and drugs more useful to patients," she says.

She gets to leave the office early and spend her evenings with the family. She's now upskilling to understand the structure of large language models and how these models could help build better devices.

BUILDING AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE DEVICES

Social enterprises are using technology for greater good. Here are two that have used AI/ML to develop affordable solutions, and who were part of Nasscom Foundation's incubator programme.

Identifying learning difficulties

10% to 15% of children have some form of learning difficulty like dyslexia. Early identification and right remediation are crucial for the success of these children. The present methods of screening tend to be pen and paper based, and require expertise. Ajit Paul, Justin Jose, and Teena Paul started Giftlolexia with the idea of developing tech-based screening for early identification of the risks of dyslexia in primary school children. It uses an eye tracking device with infrared cameras to capture gaze data while children read age and grade appropriate text on a TV or a smart screen. The data is analysed to extract multiple markers which are processed digitally. Risk of dyslexia is assessed using predictive modelling. The system generates individual risk reports and fluency reports with actionable insights. Giftlolexia also offers teacher training programmes on inclusive classroom strategies.

Ajit says Nasscom Foundation gave them the opportunity to pilot and validate their solution in Malayalam language. "This also helped us to adapt our solution for low resource settings by using a smart screen to project the text instead of the TV, thereby reducing dependency on uninterrupted power supply. Nasscom also improved our



visibility and helped us generate many business leads," he says.

Screening for respiratory diseases

Dr Prashant Patel, Dr Arun Tiwari, and Sunil Kumar Singh's Alveofit was inspired by a compelling study published in a prestigious international journal, highlighting the significant burden of respiratory diseases in India and other developing countries. Prashant and team found that the crux of the problem was the absence of basic screening services. This persuaded them to develop an affordable, user-friendly screening device that

could be utilised anywhere, by anyone, at any time. Their handheld spirometer, integrated with AI, delivers comprehensive reports to both patients and providers for better understanding of lung parameters. "Over the past two years, we've dedicated ourselves to refining our AI model, and the results are staggering – achieving an impressive accuracy rate of 97.2%," Prashant says. Nasscom Foundation, he says, has been instrumental in clinically validating the device, and deploying a pilot.

- Amin Ali



GLOSSARY OF IN-GROUP TERMS USED



ON THIS PAGE

OT SYSTEMS

Operational technology (OT) systems refer to a class of technologies utilised in industrial settings to manage and monitor physical processes and infrastructure. Unlike information technology (IT) systems, which focus on data processing and management, OT systems directly control and oversee machinery, equipment, and operational processes. These systems encompass various components: In industrial environments, OT systems include

control systems such as Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), Distributed Control Systems (DCS), and Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs). These systems manage and regulate processes to ensure optimal performance and safety. OT systems integrate sensors and monitoring devices to gather real-time data from physical assets. These sensors detect parameters like temperature, pressure, flow rates, and other variables.

SPIROMETER

A spirometer is a medical device used to measure the volume of air inspired and expired by the lungs. It's commonly used in pulmonary function tests (PFTs) to assess how well the lungs are functioning. Spirometry can help diagnose various respiratory conditions such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and restrictive lung diseases. During spirometry, the patient breathes into the spirometer through a mouthpiece, and the device measures different lung volumes and capacities, providing valuable information for diagnosing and managing respiratory conditions.

IF IN THE INTERNAL ENVIRONMENT THERE ARE THOSE WHO SPEAK OF THINGS OUTSIDE, IT'S SOMEONE WHO HARMS THE NATIONAL TEAM. I DID MY THESIS (AT THE ITALIAN UNIVERSITY OF FOOTBALL) ON THE 3-5-2. I'LL LET YOU SEE IT LATER, IT'S ONLY NATURAL I SPEAK TO THE PLAYERS."

—ITALY COACH **LUCIANO SPALLETTI** WHEN ASKED IF HIS FORMATION WAS THE RESULT OF A PACT WITH HIS PLAYERS

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
Sco	3	0	1	2	-5	1

GROUP B

TEAMS	P	W	D	L	GD	Pt
Spain*	3	3	0	0	7	9
Italy*	3	1	1	1	0	4
Cro	3	0	2	1	-3	2
Alb	3	0	1	2	-2	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
Aut*	3	2	0	1	2	6
Fra*	3	1	2	0	1	5
Ned*	3	1	1	1	0	4
Pol	3	0	1	2	-3	1

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 Tuesday's matches

TONIGHT'S TUSSELS

Group E

Slovakia vs Romania	9.30pm
Ukraine vs Belgium	9.30pm

Group F

Georgia vs Portugal	12.30am
Czech R vs Turkiye	12.30am

Live on Sony Sports Network

SAGNOL REJECTS TALK OF POLITICAL INTERFERENCE

Gelsenkirchen: Georgia coach Willy Sagnol said only he selects the national side, responding angrily when asked whether forward Budu Zivizvadze's playing time at Euro 2024 had been limited because of his reported criticism of a new law on foreign agents.

Georgia play already-qualified Portugal in their final group game on Wednesday, when victory would secure a place in the last 16. Zivizvadze has played only six minutes at Euro 2024. "I want to take proper decisions based only on football fact," Frenchman Sagnol said.

Turks need a point, Czechs a win and a favour: In the other Group F match, Turkey need a point against the Czech Republic in Hamburg to be sure of reaching the knockout stage. The Czechs need a win and a favour from group-winners Portugal against Georgia. AGENCIES

GEORGIA VS PORTUGAL
Arena AufSchalke

HEAD TO HEAD (1 game)
GEORGIA WON 0

DRAWN 0 **POR WON 1**

FORM GUIDE
GEORGIA
D L W D W
PORTUGAL
W W W L W
(most recent first)

Belgium aim to emerge top of four-way Group E scrap

Work To Be Done Against Ukraine In The First Matchup Between The Countries; Slovakia, Romania Need A Point

Stuttgart: Belgium head into their final Group E game against Ukraine at Euro 2024 looking to grab top spot in a section where all four teams - including Romania and Slovakia - are level on three points. It is the first time in the tournament's history each team in the same group has had the same number of points going into the last round of games.

Belgium brushed off a surprise 1-0 loss to Slovakia in their opening match by beating Romania 2-0 as Kevin De Bruyne delivered a timely masterclass.

There is still work to be done in Stuttgart for Belgium, who saw key members of a golden generation move on after the country's group-stage exit at the 2022 World Cup. Ukraine are playing in their first

followed by some resolute defending. With Spain already in top spot, coach Luis De la Fuente made 10 changes, and the new boys slotted effortlessly into the spotlight.

Their pastel lemon kit might have looked unfamiliar but the stylish playing with purpose was just what Luis De la Fuente has been developing with his "first team". Their 13th-minute goal was a geometric beauty as Aymeric Laporte drilled a crossfield pass to Dani Olmo, who slipped a perfectly weighted through ball that allowed Ferran Torres to sweep it home. REUTERS



FERRAN TORRES

CZECH REP VS TURKEY
Volksparkstadion, Hamburg

HEAD TO HEAD (11 games)
CZE WON 5 **DRAWN 1** **TUR WON 5**

FORM GUIDE
CZECH REP
D L W W W
TURKEY
L W L D L
(most recent first)

SLOVAKIA VS ROMANIA
Frankfurt Arena

HEAD TO HEAD (11 games)
SLOVAKIA WON 2 **DRAWN 4** **ROM WON 5**

FORM GUIDE
SLOVAKIA
L W W W D
ROMANIA
L W D D L
(most recent first)

Super Sub Zaccagni Channels His Inner Del Piero

ITALY TURN BACK CLOCK

Leipzig: Italy might be in the knockout stage but all is far from rosy for the defending champions after Mattia Zaccagni's last-gasp goal against Croatia gave them a last-16 berth.

Luciano Spalletti's team will face Switzerland in Berlin on Saturday, giving them four days to reflect on their unconvincing efforts in Group B, where they finished second and five points behind Spain.

Italy once again failed to live up to the standard of play expected by Spalletti, an attack-minded coach who bemoaned his team's inability to retain possession and create goal-scoring opportunities.

The joyous scenes that followed Zaccagni's leveller in Monday night's thrilling 1-1 draw with Croatia didn't mask the evident issues with new-look Italy who were also taught a footballing lesson by Spain.

"If you don't create, you're not going to score. You could see we were thinking about bringing a result home, without really believing that we needed a win," said Spalletti, "I expect more from my players, because they show it in flashes."

Lazio forward Zaccagni ended up under a pile of blue-shirted bodies as wild celebrations in the stands and on the pitch followed his brilliant leveller in the eighth and final minute of added time in Leipzig.

With almost no time left on the clock Zaccagni was the coolest head in the stadium as he approached Riccardo Calafiori's perfect pass and curled home a stunning finish.

The 29-year-old's first interna-

tional goal came at the end of a hugely entertaining match which looked to have been decided by Luka Modric's 55th minute strike, scored just seconds after Gianluigi Donnarumma saved his penalty.

"I had no idea that it was the last kick of the game when the ball came to me," said a delighted Zaccagni.

"Calafiori gave me such a brilliant ball for a first-time shot that I didn't even think twice about it. Then we went mad and I got battered with them all on top of me!"

Zaccagni's strike takes Italy back to Berlin where they won the World Cup in 2006 and was reminiscent of Alessandro Del Piero's winning goal in the semifinal against Germany.

Italy beat France to win the World Cup, the last hurrah for a golden generation which included Del Piero and Andrea Pirlo, Gianluigi Buffon and Fabio Cannavaro. "Alex (Del Piero) has always been my hero, I had his picture on my bedroom wall when I was a kid," said Zaccagni.

Zaccagni's joy was not mirrored in Spalletti's livid post-match rant in which he accused Italian reporters whom of spitting "venom".

"I inject myself with this venom," said Spalletti, who was angry at his tactics supposedly being leaked pre-match and claimed that "everybody" was trying to get Italy eliminated.

Turmoil often accompanies Italy to major tournaments and the grit shown on Monday is a typical trait of a team which is famed for its battling qualities, particularly in defence. AFP



COPY, PASTE: Mattia Zaccagni (left) scores Italy's last-gasp equaliser against Croatia in Leipzig on Monday, the strike reminiscent of 'idol' Alessandro Del Piero's winner (right) against Germany in Dortmund at the 2006 World Cup

CROATIA 1
Modric 55

ITALY 1
Zaccagni 90+8



'I'd like to play forever, but...'

Leipzig: A standing ovation, man-of-the-match and a record. But Croatia star Luka Modric was in no mood to celebrate, regardless of the accolades, after what could have been his last appearance at a major tournament.

Modric scored against Italy to become the oldest goal-scorer ever at a European Championship. Ultimately it wasn't enough to ensure his team stays in the competition.

Modric, who is 38 years and 289

"WE KEPT BATTLING RIGHT UNTIL THE END BUT FOOTBALL WAS MERCILESS WITH US TONIGHT." —Modric

days old, claimed the opening goal on a rebound, within a minute of having

a penalty saved by Donnarumma.

The previous record was held by Ivica Vastic, who was 38 years, 257 days old when he scored for Austria against Poland at Euro 2008.

Modric received standing ovations from fans when he went off, and was applauded again when he showed up for the post-game news conference.

Modric later said Italy's last-gasp equaliser was "cruel." "We kept battling right until the end but unfortunately football was merciless with us tonight," said Modric. "It was cruel... but that's part and parcel of football."

Modric has played 178 games for Croatia since making his debut at age 20 under Zlatko Kranjcar in 2006. The 2018 Ballon d'Or winner is playing in

his fifth Euro. His goal against Italy took his tally to four goals in 16 games at the tournament. Modric has enjoyed greater success at the World Cup, leading Croatia to the final in 2018, and third place in 2022.

On Monday, one Italian journalist started by telling Modric he was one of the most magnificent players he had ever seen. He said he had no question to ask, just a request for him never to retire from playing. Modric seemed genuinely moved by the kind words.

"I'd like to keep playing forever but there will probably be a time I'll have to hang up my boots," Modric said. "I'll keep playing on, I don't know for how much longer." AGENCIES



IT'S ALL HAPPENING... Austria's Romano Schmid celebrates scoring against Netherlands. (Right) France captain Kylian Mbappe is hemmed in by the Poland defence

Late Sabitzer strike sees Austria top group

Berlin: Marcel Sabitzer scored late for Austria to advance to the knockout stage of the European Championship as group winners with a 3-2 win over the Netherlands on Tuesday.

Austria topped Group D thanks to France drawing with Poland 1-1 in the other game. Both France and the Netherlands were already assured of progress thanks to results in other games.

The Austrians had needed a point to be sure of progress and got off to a great start with Dutch forward Donnyell Malen scoring an own goal in the sixth minute.

First-half substitute Xavi Simons set up Cody Gakpo to equalize two minutes after the break, but Romano Schmid headed Austria back in front in the 59th.

Memphis Depay equalized with a brilliant finish in the 75th, though he had to endure a VAR check as referee Ivan Kruzliak felt he handled the ball. The check found Depay hadn't. But Sabitzer restored Austria's lead two minutes later with a fierce strike from a difficult angle. It proved to be the winner despite a frenetic finale with chances at both ends.

Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman made three changes to the

team that drew against France. He had criticized Simons for not pressing enough in that match and subsequently dropped the young player in favor of Joey Veerman in midfield. Lutsharel Geertruida started for Denzel Dumfries at right-back, and Malen started in place of Jeremie Frimpong, who plays as a wing back for Bayer Leverkusen.

But Koeman's team made a lethargic start in contrast to the busy Austrians, who scored when Malen turned Alexander Prass' cross

inside the left post. Tijjani Reijnders and Malen both missed good chances to equalize. Koeman berated his charges and told his substitutes to warm up. He sent Simons on for Veerman in the 35th.

Simons' entrance gave the Dutch more urgency. Depay saw a header cleared off the line before the break, and Simons set up Gakpo after Florian Grillitsch lost the ball in midfield. Koeman's side maintained its pressure and looked more likely to score until Grillitsch crossed for Schmid to head Austria back in front with his first international goal. Ultimately, the Austrians were more clinical. AP

NETHERLANDS 2
Gakpo 47, Depay 75

AUSTRIA 3
Malen 60g, Schmid 59, Sabitzer 80



Mbappe scores but France held 1-1

Dortmund: Kylian Mbappe, with his mask on, scored from the penalty spot on his return after breaking his nose before France conceded a spot kick by Robert Lewandowski in a 1-1 draw with Poland at the European Championship on Tuesday.

Mbappe removed his protective mask to celebrate in front of France's fans after converting his 56th-minute penalty for his first goal at a European Championship. It wasn't enough to secure his team first place in Group D at Euro 2024, though.

Lewandowski had his penalty saved in the 77th minute by France goalkeeper Mike Maignan, who was adjudged to have come off his line. The Poland striker found the bottom corner with his second attempt, which was similar to his first.

France finished as runner-up to Austria in the group and will play the runner-up in Group E, which could be Belgium, Romania, Slovakia or Ukraine, in the last 16 on July 1.

France are yet to score an

open-play goal at Euro 2024, having beaten Austria 1-0 on an own-goal and then drawn 0-0 with the Netherlands — when Mbappe was missing after breaking his nose against the Austrians.

Mbappe returned to the starting lineup against last-place Poland, which was already eliminated before the match began, and was clearly impaired by wearing a mask that limits his peripheral vision.

He largely kept away from overly physical challenges and didn't compete for the ball in the air. Still, Mbappe remained France's most dangerous attacker and finally got his first goal in six matches at the tournament — taking in four at Euro 2020 and two at Euro 2024 — after Ousmane Dembele was tripped in the area.

Mbappe played the full game, starting as a central striker before ending up on the left wing, in another unconvincing display from France — a two-time European champion and the World Cup runner-up in 2022.

FRANCE 1
Mbappe 56 (p)

POLAND 1
Lewandowski 79 (p)

Brazil still unable to get the best out of Vinicius

HELD TO A 0-0 DRAW BY COSTA RICA

Los Angeles: Brazil's poor performance in their goalless draw against Costa Rica in their Copa America opener on Monday has dampened the enthusiasm surrounding their new manager and a revamped squad headlined by Vinicius Jr. Fans were optimistic that Brazil had turned a corner under Dorival Jr but his side had no answers to Costa Rica's five-man defence in California.

As the clock ticked down and the five-time world champions' frustrations grew, Dorival decided to make his first two substitutions in the 70th minute. His decision to take Vinicius out of the game came as a huge surprise.

Even Brazil talisman Neymar, who is recovering from a serious knee injury but was at the stadium as a fan, could not hide his dismay.

The broadcast showed his reaction in the stands. He was rarely substituted by Real Madrid man-



OFF THE BOIL: Brazil's Vinicius Junior (R) is held back by Jeyland Mitchell of Costa Rica during their Group D match on Monday

ager Carlo Ancelotti. Vinicius is deployed as more of an orthodox forward wide on the left and has scored only three goals in 31 games for Brazil. Dorival's decision to take him off on Monday brought back memories of the 2022 World Cup quarter-finals, when then manager Tite also substituted Vinicius early in the second-half against Croatia, a game Brazil ended up losing on penalties.

On Monday, Vinicius struggled to make an impact from the left wing and exited the game without a shot on target. Dorival said he tried moving Vinicius around before replacing him with 17-year-old forward Endrick. The challenge for Dorival in Brazil's

upcoming games will be finding a way to balance their attack without sacrificing his best player.

Gustavo Alfaro said Costa Rica had been written off before the match had even started. "We were Bruce Willis in 'The Sixth Sense,' where the only one that did not know he was dead was him, right? Well, everyone thought we were dead before the movie started in our case."

Brazil defender Marquinhos said, "Now it's about being honest with ourselves, creating alternatives to create chances, scoring, results are important in this competition, points left at the beginning can complicate things at the end."

Resurgent Rodriguez inspires Colombia to win over Paraguay

Houston: James Rodriguez evoked memories of his breakthrough performance at the 2014 World Cup on Monday after the Colombia midfielder set up both goals in his team's 2-1 win over Paraguay in their Copa America opener.

The Colombia captain was the difference in Monday's Group D game in Houston, Texas and was named Man of the Match.

"I'm very happy, it's important to start well today against a tough opponent like Paraguay," Rodriguez told Caracol Gol.

"We could have done better in the second half, but you correct things better when the team wins, it's much easier that way." AGENCIES

"A LOT OF CREDIT FOR MY WICKETS GOES TO JASPRIT BUMRAH. HE PUTS A LOT OF PRESSURE ON THE BATTERS. HE GIVES THREE OR FOUR RUNS AN OVER SO BATSMEN COME HARD AT ME AND THERE ARE A LOT OF CHANCES OF GETTING WICKETS."

—Arshdeep Singh



FREEDOM SONG ON ROHIT'S LIPS

The Skipper Exorcised The Ghosts Of India's 50-Over World Cup Final Defeat With Inimitable Flamboyance & Smart Game Sense, Taking The Burden Off His Teammates In The Game Against Australia...

TIMES IN THE CARIBBEAN

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St. Lucia: It was the first media interaction with Rohit Sharma in this tournament, on the eve of India's T20 World Cup opener with Ireland in New York. Normally, going into a tournament of this magnitude, you would expect a slightly cagey captain, someone holding his cards to his chest.

In a departure from the trend, though, Rohit seemed extremely frank. It seemed he was tired of carrying the burden of a defeat in the ODI final in Nov last year and was just happy to let himself go. When the captain says right at the beginning of the tournament that "our opening partnership won't change through the tournament while the rest will go up and down as per necessity", you know something has changed in Rohit.

It is this sense of freedom in every step that the Indian captain has exercised over the last one month that paid rich dividends in a game of massive significance for India. It was his 41-ball 92, easily the best innings of this World Cup by any batter, in St. Lucia on Monday that left Australia on the brink of ouster. Afghanistan's subsequent victory over Bangladesh eventually led to Australia's early exit.

It was the 28 that Rohit took off Mitchell Starc in the third over of the game that set the tone for this onslaught. Starc's pace-bowling partner Josh Hazlewood doffed his hat to the effort.

"I've seen Rohit do that a few times now. He's a world-class player, so if you're a bit off your game that can happen. It just looked like he obviously targeted the boundary

with the wind there for a while and then we probably reacted and then he hit a few on the other side as well. He's a class act and you expect him to do that a couple of times through the tournament," Hazlewood said.

Playing without any sense of inhibition is a practised art for some, but for Rohit, it comes naturally. That's what he used to be when he was growing up as a young batter, catching the eye of one and all. Now at the twilight of his career, it is this same flamboyance that makes him look so special when it comes off.

"The idea is to be not just one-dimensional. And that is something that was going through my mind all through. I was thinking to hit the ball everywhere possible. And when you keep an open mind and not think about just playing one shot, you can open up and access all sides of the field," Rohit said.

While run-making wasn't exactly a piece of cake in St. Lucia — the others struggled after Rohit's departure — it was the sheer effortlessness of the skipper's batting that kept the dugout relaxed.

Indian pacer Arshdeep Singh explained how the team feels when

Rohit takes charge the way he did. "We just enjoyed it a lot. When he hits those long sixes, it doesn't feel like he is hitting the ball. He handles the ball with love, yet it goes far," Arshdeep said.

That's the beauty of Rohit, who has been his own man through this World Cup. Happy, relaxed, sharing the odd laugh with people around, spending time with his family once off the field — the pressure-cooker situation of opening and leading India in an ICC tournament hasn't bothered him. And now it's about keeping it going for two more games. The final act of this drama demands a perfect ending.



"I thought, right from over number one, there was a strong breeze blowing across. But they changed their plan, trying to bowl against the breeze. So I had to open up the other side of the field as well. We need to be smart when we play. You've to open up all sides of the field and not be one-dimensional."

—Rohit Sharma

INDIA'S TOP PERFORMERS SO FAR

Batters	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	50	SR	6s
Rohit Sharma	6	6	1	191	92	38.20	2	159.16	13
Rishabh Pant	6	6	1	167	42	33.40	0	132.53	6
Suryakumar Yadav	6	6	1	149	53	29.80	2	139.25	8
Hardik Pandya	6	4	2	116	50*	58	1	145.00	7

Bowlers	M	Wkts	Avg.	Best	4WI	SR	ER
Arshdeep Singh	6	15	11.86	4/9	1	9.60	7.41
Jasprit Bumrah	6	11	8.54	3/7	0	12.54	4.08
Hardik Pandya	6	8	19.62	3/27	0	15.75	7.47
Kuldeep Yadav	3	7	10.71	3/9	0	10.28	6.25

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

SUPER 8s

Teams	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
IND*	3	3	0	2.017	6
AFG*	3	2	1	-0.305	4
AUS	3	1	2	-0.331	2
BAN	3	0	3	-1.709	0

Teams	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
SA*	3	3	0	0.599	6
ENG*	3	2	1	1.992	4
WI	3	1	2	0.963	2
USA	3	0	3	-3.906	0

*Qualified for semis

Clumsy Aussies fluff their lines

ODI, Test Champs Faltered At Crucial Junctures In T20 WC

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St. Lucia: It's not often that Australia are left to cheer for Bangladesh to get a passage into a semifinal of an ICC event. That's what the Test and the ODI world champions had to do for the better part of Monday after being thrashed by India, only to find that their prayers would not be enough.

It was a disappointment that didn't seem likely in the beginning of the tournament — Australia did look one of the most balanced outfits till a point. The first dip came against Scotland in an inconsequential group game that they managed to win but come Afghanistan and India on two completely different pitches, things unravelled very fast for the Aussies.

One of the surprising aspects of the twin losses was the way the Aussies dropped catches at crucial junctures. While a couple of missed chances and a few more lapses in the outfield hurt them badly against Afghanistan, Michell Marsh dropping Hardik Pandya led to India adding about 15 extra runs that proved crucial in the end.

Paceman Josh Hazlewood, who bowled decently against India, tried to explain the lapses, but you could see that he was struggling. "I'm not sure what you could put it down to. The guys are always



GOING, GOING, GONE... Pat Cummins walks off the field after Australia's loss at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Saint Lucia

working as hard as ever on the fielding and training. Here we probably didn't get as many opportunities to work on it because we were always travelling and playing. But yes, it hasn't been good enough for the last few games in particular," Hazlewood said.

The fact that games came back-to-back and a slight dip in intensity over 36 hours was all that was required for Australia to pack their bags and go home. But Hazlewood didn't want to blame it on the format, saying that it ought to be cut-throat at this level.

"It's not sudden death straight off but even South Africa, had they lost one game after winning six in a row, could have been out. That's the nature of T20. You've got to be

on your game every day that you turn up. So yes, it's disappointing," the pacer added.

The third factor that hurt Australia in both the games was their inability to chase it down at the back-end despite reaching positions of some comfort.

While against Afghanistan they needed 41 runs off six overs with five wickets in hand, in the game against India, the asking rate was in the vicinity of 10 in the last 10 with only two wickets down.

Travis Head, who was trying his best to keep Australia alive on Monday, seemed to acknowledge that they lost the match-ups between overs 14-17. "They have some good bowlers, they did well and yes, we couldn't capitalize either," Head said, adding that the "emotions are still pretty raw".

It will remain that way for a while for a team that is used to winning most of the time.

Afghanistan sneak into semis amid high drama

RASHID & CO. PIP BANGLADESH BY 8 RUNS AS AUSSIES ARE ELIMINATED

Kingstown: Afghanistan advanced to their first-ever senior world tournament semifinal with a nerve-jangling eight-run victory over Bangladesh that eliminated mighty Australia. Amid excruciating tension at the Arnos Vale Stadium in St. Vincent, Afghan captain Rashid Khan and seamer Naveen ul Haq were the heroes as Afghanistan battled through three rain stoppages to secure a famous victory under the DLS scoring method that was sealed after 1 am local time. Defending a modest total of 115/5 on a bowler-friendly surface, Rashid finished with figures of 4/23 while Naveen took 4/26 as Bangladesh were dismissed for 105, chasing a revised target of 114 off 19 overs.

An unbeaten 54 from Bangladesh opener Litton Das threatened to deny Afghanistan's fairytale win and earn Australia the last semifinal spot. But pacer Naveen claimed the last two wickets of Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman off consecutive deliveries to trigger delirious Afghan celebrations and leave a disconsolate Das stranded.

"We have worked so hard over the past few years and we were dreaming of this day. It's a surreal experience," said a relieved but delighted Naveen, the man of



FAIRYTALE RUN: Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan (right) celebrates with teammates after dismissing Bangladesh's Rishad Hossain in Kingstown, Saint Vincent

the match. "We always knew they were going to be coming hard at us to try to get the target in 12.1 overs but we stuck to the task."

With India defeating Australia earlier in the day and advancing to the second semifinal against England in Guyana on Thursday, this result assured the Afghans of second spot in the group and eliminated the Aussies and Bangla-

des. Afghanistan will now face South Africa in the first semifinal in Trinidad on Wednesday.

Earlier, leg-spinner Rishad Hossain claimed 3/26 to lead the impressive Bangladeshi bowling effort. Despite another good opening stand — 59 off 10.4 overs — the Afghans failed to capitalise on that platform with top-scorer Rahmanullah Gurbaz's laborious 43

off 55 balls typifying the struggle.

"The belief came when we beat New Zealand," said Afghanistan captain Rashid Khan. "We gave 100% effort to make the people back home proud."

Brief scores: Afghanistan 115/5 (Gurbaz 43, Rishad 3-26) beat Bangladesh 105 (Litton 54*, Rashid 4-23, Naveen 4-26) by 8 runs via the DLS method. AFP

'Oscar, Emmy?' Naib's 'cramping' sparks controversy over delaying tactics

Kingstown: Gulbadin Naib dramatically falling on his back, clutching his thigh after Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott signalled his players to slow things down against Bangladesh caused both amusement and annoyance as former players questioned the genuineness of his discomfort.

Naib, who was fielding in the slip cordon, complained of cramps during the 12th over bowled by spinner Noor Ahmad, after Trott was seen on camera asking his players to slow down as Bangladesh had fallen behind on the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern par score in the rain-hit clash.

The match saw frequent rain interruptions and Bangladesh, at that stage, were 81/7, two runs behind on the DLS par score in a revised chase of 114 in 19 overs.

"The coach sends a message

out to say slow it down, slow it down and the first slip just dives on the ground needlessly. That is unacceptable. Gone off anyway. I get that might have gone off anyway for the rain," said Simon Doull while commenting on air. Zimbabwean commentator Pommie Mbangwa quipped: "Oscar, Emmy?"

Naib was given treatment and was taken off the field by teammate Naveen ul Haq and a support staff as it started raining again and players ran to the dugout. "Kabi khushi kabi gham main huta hai (it happens sometimes when you are happy or when you are sad). Hamstring," Naib posted on X, dotted with laughing emojis.

This was in response to a tongue-in-cheek post by India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. "Red card for Gulbadin Naib," Ashwin had said. Former New Zealand cricketer and commentator Ian Smith said: "I've a dodgy knee for the last six months, I am gonna see Gulbadin Naib's doctor straight after the game. He's the eighth wonder of the world right now." PTI



NOT-SO-DUMB CHARADE? With a rain break imminent, Afghan coach Trott (on top) gestures to slow down proceedings. Immediately after, Naib (above; at slip) falls clutching his thigh

"He had some cramp. I don't know what happened. I don't know what's going on in social media. The rain came and we went off. It's not something (that) made a massive difference. We came back (to play)."

—Rashid Khan

"Kabi khushi kabi gham main huta hai (it happens sometimes when you are happy or when you are sad). Hamstring."

—Gulbadin Naib

Bravo, the man behind Afghan pacers' upswing

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St. Lucia: If you have been following the Afghanistan roller-coaster in the last couple of games, you might have noticed one man taking walks around the ground quietly as the drama kept unfolding.

That man is Dwayne Bravo, the bowling consultant who seems to have made a world of difference to this team. Captain Rashid Khan is a white-ball legend and he doesn't need much coaching.

But it's the pace bowling unit that has stood up tall in this World Cup under pressure and you can clearly see some significant work has gone into it.

While left-arm pacer Fazal-haq Farooqi with 16 wickets is still the highest wicket-taker of the tournament, against Australia in St Vincent it was medium-pacer Gulbadin Naib's 4-20 that

finally won Afghanistan the game. Add to that Naveen-ul-Haq's 4-26 at a crucial juncture against Bangladesh, including the wickets of Taskin Ahmed and Mustafizur Rahman at the end, which had Bravo written all over it.

The subtle changes of pace, the bluff that the short ball is coming and then pushing in a full delivery, the ability to bowl the wide yorker — this is something that Bravo had done all through his career right from the start in mid-2000s. He had won many games for West Indies, and over the last decade, it used to be Bravo's pet project for Chennai Super Kings in the IPL.

The CSK fans can't count the number of games the West Indian had won on his own at the death with his bag of tricks and now when he is retired from IPL, he works in the same way for his franchise as he is doing with the Afghan boys. It's Bravo's understanding of the West Indian condi-



LENDING THE CUTTING EDGE: Afghanistan's bowling consultant Dwayne Bravo (fourth from left) celebrates with the team

tions that he seems to have tried to drill into this team.

There's of course Jonathan Trott, the head coach who does his job with a lot of passion and knows this team inside out, and then there's the Bravo input. Especially for a bowling unit like Afghanistan, that sometimes lacks the experience to kill off games, let alone win it from a tight corner with the ball. It was this inexperience that had brought

about their downfall in Mumbai in the ODI World Cup when Glenn Maxwell had scored 201 not out on one leg as the Aussies thrashed 202 for the eighth wicket.

"You need to have those people who remind you of the things you need to do. In the heat of the game, they forget the things that were planned for a specific batsman and DJ is always there to remind them what we had planned and what we are doing," Rashid said.

Now, Afghanistan will take on South Africa in Bravo's actual home, Trinidad and Tobago, in the semifinal. Bravo knows the conditions inside out.

'We'll have a new WC winner in Afghanistan'

Team's Ex-Coach Lalchand Rajput Hails Performance After Historic Run To Semis

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Mumbai: Afghanistan's historic run into the T20 World Cup semifinal on Tuesday prompted former coach Lalchand Rajput, who has been watching his former team in action closely, to make a bold prediction.

"My gut feeling says that we'll have a new T20 World Cup winner this time, and it will be Afghanistan. If the wicket in Trinidad for the first semifinal is slow, I would rate them as favourites to win against South Africa as they have a fabulous spin attack and the Proteas can be vulnerable against quality spin," Rajput, who was the head coach of Afghanistan from 2017 to 2018, told TOI.

Rajput, who is currently coaching UAE, has also had stints with India and Zimbabwe. A

former India opener who played two Tests and four ODIs, Rajput could see a sharp improvement in Afghanistan's game in the last couple of years. "Before this T20 World Cup began, I had predicted that Afghanistan would upset big teams. They narrowly missed out on a few wins in the 50-over World Cup in India last year, failing to close games out. However, this year, they're playing brilliantly. You can see the intent in their body language. They just want to do well. On the slow, turning wickets of the West Indies, their brilliant bowling is good enough to defend whatever scores their batters put up," the 62-year-old Mumbaier, who was coach of the MS Dhoni-led Indian team that was crowned World T20 champs in the inaugural edition in 2007 in South Africa, said.

As a budding cricketing nation, Afghanistan gained Test status back in 2017 when Rajput was in charge, but former England batsman Jonathan Trott has taken the emerging Asian cricketing power to a new level.

"Trott and Dwayne Bravo (the former West



LALCHAND RAJPUT

Indies allrounder is Afghanistan's bowling coach for this T20 World Cup) have done a brilliant job. The good thing about Afghanistan's players is that they are very keen to learn. They've improved massively from when I was with them.

"Earlier, their batters would just look to smash the ball anyhow, but they have now learnt the art of building an innings. Earlier, their bowling was heavily dependent on their spinners. Now, while they still have great spinners, they've got two very fine fast bowlers in Naveen-ul-Haq and Fazal-haq Farooqi," Rajput analysed.

Afghanistan's 21-run win over Australia at Kingstown in the earlier Super Eight game had left the cricketing world shocked, but Rajput wasn't surprised. "I was sure that this was coming because they had almost beaten Australia in the ODI World Cup in Mumbai, before a Glenn Maxwell special and a few dropped catches saw Australia through," Rajput said.

SNAPSHOTS

EFI confirms Agarwalla's Paris ticket in dressage

Asian Games medallist Anush Agarwalla will participate in the dressage event of the Paris Olympics after pipping Shruti Vora on better average, the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) said on Tuesday. Agarwalla was picked after an evaluation of the recent performances. It will be India's first ever entry in the dressage event of the Olympics. **PTI**

Judoka Maan secures Paris quota for India: Delhi judoka Tulika Maan on Tuesday secured a Paris Olympics quota for India in judo, according to the International Judo Federation's list published on Tuesday where 25-year-old Tulika's name featured in the +78 kg category. **PTI**

Djokovic to play Wimbledon only if fully fit: Novak Djokovic says he will only play at Wimbledon if he is fit enough to "fight for the title" but his recovery from knee surgery is going well. "I'm not here to play a few rounds," he told BBC. **AFP**

Smriti drops to fourth, Harman in ninth place: India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana dropped a rung to fourth spot while skipper Harmanpreet Kaur jumped two places to ninth position in the ICC women's ODI batting rankings issued on Tuesday. Mandhana has 738 rating points while Harmanpreet has 648 points. **PTI**

DLS method inventor Duckworth dies at 84: English statistician and one of the inventors of the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern (DLS) method, Frank Duckworth died on June 21 at the age of 84. **ESPNCricinfo** reported. **PTI**

Real Madrid skipper Nacho set to retire: Real Madrid captain Nacho Fernandez is ending his career with the club less than a month after lifting the Champions League trophy in London. Nacho has won 26 trophies with Madrid. **AP**

Maini finishes 2nd in F2 Spanish Grand Prix: India's Kush Maini enjoyed a good weekend at the F2 Spanish Grand Prix, as he grabbed the second spot in the sprint race. Maini, who drives for Invicta Racing, finished 1.1s behind the winner. **PTI**

Meena overcomes home contender Shaikh: Ajay Meena overcame home contender Jawad Shaikh 10-15, 15-10, 15-8 in a men's singles second round match of the CCI-GMBA Yonex Sunrise District Badminton Championship at the CCI. **TNN**

ACTION TODAY

FOOTBALL: Euro 2024: Slovakia vs Romania; Ukraine vs Belgium 9.30pm; Czechia vs Turkey; Georgia vs Portugal 12.30am Thursday (Sony Sports)

IOA hikes monetary awards for Paris Games medallists

Gold Winner Will Get ₹1Cr, Silver ₹75L And Bronze ₹50L

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Neeraj Chopra will earn a bounty if he is among the medals in Paris

New Delhi: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) will give away a cash award of Rs 1 crore to individual gold medal winners at the Paris Games. The silver medalists will get Rs 75 lakh and bronze medalists Rs 50 lakh, **TOI** has

learnt. The Games will run from July 26 to Aug 11.

These awards will be given over and above what the gov offers to the Olympic medallists in individual categories. According to the gov's scheme for medal

winners, an Olympic champion gets Rs 75 lakh, the silver winner Rs 50 lakh and bronze medallist Rs 30 lakh.

IOA had, for the first time, handed out cash awards in 2018 to the medal winners of the Jakarta-Palembang Asian Games: gold medallist got Rs 5 lakh, silver medallist Rs 3 lakh and bronze winner Rs 2 lakh.

Since then, IOA has been regularly rewarding the athletes. At the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, it had given Rs 75 lakh to the gold medallist, Rs 40 lakh to silver winner and Rs 25 lakh to the bronze medallist.

For the Paris Games, it has announced a significant raise in the

cash prizes. In the case of silver and bronze winners, the award money has been almost doubled.

Medal expectations

The IOA has put its projection count for Paris at 10 individual medals. In an interview with **TOI** recently, IOA president P T Usha had expressed confidence that India would finish with a double-digit medal tally. IOA is expecting Indian athletes to win at least 10 individual medals in Paris and for that, it has earmarked a budget of Rs 7 crore.

IOA has also decided to separately award the country's men's hockey team with a cash prize

since the sport falls in the 'teams' category. In case the hockey team wins gold, it will be given cash prize of Rs 2 crore. For a runners-up position, the team will get Rs 1 crore and for bronze Rs 75 lakh.

Recently World Athletics (WA) had announced a cash prize of \$50,000 (approx. Rs 42 lakh) for each gold medal winner at the Paris Games, a historic step for the Summer Games.

IOA has also earmarked a pocket allowance of \$50 per day for each member of the Indian contingent for their stay in Paris. The allowance has been calculated for 25 days to be spent on 195 members of the country's contingent.

In another first, IOA will provide a cash grant to athletes and support staff going to Paris. The athletes will receive Rs 2 lakh each and the coaching and support staff Rs 1 lakh each.

IOA will also bear the cost of Rs 4.40 lakh on golf bags for the four-member Indian team (Rs 110,000 per member).

IOA will also spend Rs 9 lakh on the boarding and lodging of 4P category athletes and groom of equestrian.

What's on offer: For Men's Hockey Team: Gold: Rs 2 crore; Silver: Rs 1 crore; Bronze: Rs 75 lakh. **What's got offered:** Gold: Rs 75 lakh; Silver Rs 50 lakh; Bronze: Rs 30 lakh.

UNEVENTFUL CLOSURE TO A CONTROVERSIAL CAREER

Warner Finally Exits International Cricket After Oz Tumble Out Of WC

Kingstown: David Warner's 15-year international career came to an anti-climactic end on Tuesday as Australia were dumped out of the T20 World Cup in excruciating fashion. Australia and Warner could only watch on powerless as Afghanistan instead reached the semifinals by beating Bangladesh by a nail-biting eight runs.

The 37-year-old opening batsman had always said the World Cup in the United States and Caribbean would be his farewell to international cricket. He couldn't have imagined going out quite like this.

The combative Warner stood tall at the top of the Australian order ever since his international debut in Jan 2009, and as opening partners came and went. He hangs up his pads as arguably Australia's greatest three-format player. He is the country's leading run-scorer in T20 cricket with 3,277 from 110 games.

Warner exited a glittering 112-Test career in Jan after plundering 8,786 runs at an average of 44.60, with a strike rate of 70.19. His One-day exploits were equally impressive, crumpling 6,932 runs from 161 matches.

Warner was also one of the most consistent slip fielders in the game, whose name was among the first on the team sheet. But for all his exploits on the pitch, Warner

made enemies along the way and will forever be remembered for his key role in a notorious ball-tampering scandal in 2018.

Warner was seen as the chief plotter when Cameron Bancroft used sandpaper to scuff the ball before a crude attempt to conceal the evidence down his trousers during a Test in Cape Town. Along with skipper Steve Smith, Warner was suspended for a year by Cricket Australia, stripped of the vice-captaincy and banned from ever leading the team.

Warner, who will continue to play T20 cricket in leagues around the world and will also be a commentator, admitted this month he would always be tarnished by "Sandpaper-gate".

Warner was always an assertive presence and his involvement in "Sandpaper-gate" was not a surprise to many. In June 2013, he was suspended and fined for punching England's Joe Root in a Birmingham bar on the eve of the Ashes. Two months earlier he was similarly contrite after an ugly Twitter spat with two Australian journalists.

Despite the controversies, he kept bouncing back.

Warner was also a part of the IPL side Sunrisers Hyderabad from 2014 till 2021, and led the franchise to its only title in 2016. He also played for Delhi Capitals. **AFP**



WARNER IN INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

Debut: 2009, in a T20i vs South Africa at Melbourne

	M	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR
Tests	112	8786	335*	44.59	26	37	70.19
ODIs	161	6932	179	45.30	22	33	97.26
T20is	110	3277	100*	33.43	1	28	142.47
ODI WC	29	1527	178	56.55	6	5	101.46
T20 WC	41	984	89*	25.89	0	8	134.24

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

70.19 Strike rate in Tests — the joint-second highest among batters with 8,000 runs or more behind Virender Sehwag's 82.23. Vivian Richards also had strike rate of 70.19

335*

His knock against Pakistan at Adelaide in 2019 is the second highest score by an Oz player in Tests, behind the 380 by Matthew Hayden against Zimbabwe at Perth in 2003.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

(I) put my arm around him. I said, "...just take a moment tonight to sit back by yourself and reflect on what's been an unbelievable career across all three formats for Australia". We know he retired in the summer from Test cricket, but you'll struggle to find a guy that's had as big an impact on all three forms in Australian cricket than David Warner has." —**Ricky Ponting**

Test cricket at a low point in WI: Sarwan

Georgetown: **Ramnaresh Sarwan**, one of the most prolific batters to have played for the West Indies, is leading a comfortable life



after retirement but when one talks him to him about the health of Test cricket in the region, he paints a grim picture, fearful of a talent exodus to the USA.

The unexpected growth of T20 cricket and players' preference for the shorter format has put red-ball cricket on the backburner. First-class teams play as little as five games per season, which Sarwan thinks should be increased to at least 10.

The 44-year-old also lamented the lack of cricket facilities in the region. "Yeah well Test cricket is at a very low point to be honest. Among the games that we are playing again in the Caribbean, I don't think it's sufficient to develop our players but I also think there is this major threat of T20," he said.

With the way the game is going, Sarwan foresees a mass exodus of the Caribbean players to mainland America. "I think having T20 format in the US which is so close to the Caribbean with so many players of course they would have the opportunity now to participate in the short format of the game in the US." **PTI**

Interim bail to Kejriwal not on merit, but for LS polls: HC

► From P 1

Taking note of the trial court's observation that ED's action was "mala fide" as material against Arvind Kejriwal was available with ED in July 2022 but he was called only in Aug 2023 and that the agency had failed to deal with this objection of the Delhi CM, the HC bench said, "The vacation judge... following judicial discipline should not have observed in para 27 of the impugned order that there was mala fide on the part of ED, particularly in light of an observation made in judgment dated 09.04.2024..."

The bench said the coordinate bench of the HC had in that order observed there was absence of any mala fide intention on the part of ED. HC was then dealing with the legality of Kejriwal's arrest. HC said although SC granted leave against that judgment dated April 9, it did not stay its operation.

Responding to the argument by Kejriwal's counsel that his arrest was bad and the April 9 judgment of HC upholding his arrest by ED had also not attained finality, HC said the same is required to be dealt with at the time of consideration of the agency's main petition. The bench added that at this stage, it cannot be said that the arrest and remand of Kejriwal was not in accordance with the law and that his personal liberty was curtailed without following the procedure established by law.

Citing the SC bail order dated May 10, the HC bench said though there is no allegation of misuse of bail, the CM had not been granted interim bail on merit but in the context of the Lok Sabha elections.

The HC also rejected the trial court's finding that unless and until the exercise of tracing the remaining amount of the proceeds of crime, i.e. Rs 60 crore, was completed by ED, Kejriwal cannot remain behind bars without proper evidence against him.

Rijiju: We want speakers to be elected via consensus

All NDA Allies Unanimously Agree On Birla

► From P 1

Defence minister Rajnath Singh held several rounds of discussions with opposition leaders, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, for a consensus over the speaker's choice. However, the opposition insisted on a commitment for the deputy speaker's post going to one of their own. Govt, which had looked uncomfortable with the idea, did not agree to the condition saying the issue should be left for later.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said as per convention, the deputy speaker's post was spared for the opposition, a claim refuted by NDA, which cited multiple instances under Congress



Birla's name was decided unanimously by all NDA parties. After the decision, Birla called on PM Modi who was present in Parliament

regimes of both positions being held by nominees of the treasury benches.

"For the last two days, we have been in contact with main opposition parties, talked to their floor leaders regarding the post of speaker. We want speakers to be elected unopposed and through consensus. We appealed to them to support the speaker candidate but they demanded the deputy

speaker's post. We said it is not right to conduct elections for speaker and deputy speaker posts together. We request them for no election for speaker," parliamentary affairs minister Kiren Rijiju said.

Though only the second fiddle as deputy speaker gets to preside over House proceedings in the absence of the speaker, the holder of the post can strike a discor-

dant note for the gov in a fractious Parliament.

BJP has the entire NDA flock sticking together. In contrast, TMC made public its annoyance with Congress over what it called the unilateral declaration of Suresh's candidature. JD(U) leader and Union minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan' said Birla's name was decided unanimously by all NDA parties. After the decision, Birla called on PM Modi, who was present in Parliament. Later, home minister Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, BJP president J P Nadda and NDA leaders handed over Birla's nomination papers to Lok Sabha secretary general Utpal Kumar Singh.

If the opposition insists on a division during the election on Wednesday, votes will be cast on paper slips as the electronic display system cannot be used because members of the new House are yet to be allotted seats.

Idea was to provide juvenile offenders platform to showcase abilities: Official

► From P 1

In 2022, Akaash had been caught stealing. Like most juveniles sucked into crime, he was clueless about where his life was headed. Children in Need of Care and Protection (CNCP), a pioneering initiative involving state-run juvenile shelters in Hyderabad, helped him find his calling in carrom. "I used to live with my stepmother, who would abuse me every day. I fled home and got into crime. Also, am glad I got caught. Else, my life would never take such a turn," Aakash told **TOI**.

He isn't the only one. Until early 2023, 16-year-old



I've found my target in life, said an inmate who finished 150th among 800 contestants at an archery competition in Gujarat

Ahmed was a child labourer forced to toil in a Maharashtra town. After being rescued, the teenager discovered he had a talent for archery. A year later, he is a national-level archer representing Telangana in his age group.

"I have found my target in life in more ways than one," said Ahmed, who finished 150th among 800 contestants at a recent archery championship in Gujarat.

Archery and basketball coaches training these children say many are so talented that it seems a travesty they weren't discovered earlier. On average, they spend at least three hours daily honing their skills.

"These children, most of whom would not talk to anyone and were prone to getting into fights, are now disciplined, calmer and friendlier. While everyone is encouraged to play, we focus on building teams that can participate in tournaments. The

selection is done through fitness tests and structured screening," said Hema Latha, an archery coach.

Mirza Raza Ali Baig, deputy director of department of correctional services in Telangana, said the idea was to provide juvenile offenders and rescued children a platform to showcase their abilities.

"Some children have picked up photography, coding and 3D printing. Since majority of them come from broken families, this helps them appreciate teamwork, build self-esteem, and fight depression, loneliness and anger," said Arun Daniel Yellamati, founder of Youngstaaan Foundation.

Pune crash: 'Teen already referred to psychologist'

► From P 1

Two people have lost their lives. There was trauma but the child (juvenile in conflict with the law) was also in trauma, give him some time," Justice Dhananjay Bench had orally observed last week while reserving the matter for orders.

Speaking of "rehabilitation and reintegration of the child in conflict with law," the HC on Tuesday said that is "the primary object of the Act" and "he is already referred to a psychologist and is undergoing therapy with a de-addiction centre, and he shall continue participating in such sessions."

Senior counsel Aabid Ponda for the aunt had sought the teen's release, arguing that it was a question of his fundamental right to personal liberty and that the detention in an observation home was impermissible in law once bail was granted but was ordered following "public pressure".

Ponda had argued and raised questions of law and importance of the rule of law and the fundamental right to liberty of citizens. He said the court has to consider whether a child who is released on bail and continues to be on bail could be remanded in an observation home, contending there was an express prohibition in the Juvenile Justice Act to do so.

The HC had during the hearing also asked public prosecutor H S Veneogaonkar under which legal provision the teen had been sent back to the observation home after his release on bail.

The HC said the immediate reaction to the accident, the outcry of the public, and the "clarion call given" led to the prosecution seeking to try him as an adult.

The HC said the teen is under 18 years of age. "His age needs to be considered... CCLs are to be considered differently and not as adults. We allow the habeas corpus and order his release," it said.

Test expenses to be recovered from solver gangs under UP law

► From P 1

Under the new Uttar Pradesh Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Ordinance, 2024, those responsible for paper leaks leading to exam cancellations will have to pay the costs incurred by gov in conducting the exams.

Apart from mandating recovery of exam expenses from solver gangs, the ordinance authorises permanent blacklisting of involved companies and service providers. It also allows for the attachment of properties and imposes stringent bail conditions for the accused. The ordinance covers public service recruitment, regularisation, promotion exams, and entrance exams for degrees, diplomas, and other courses, a govt spokesperson said.

Distributing fake exam

papers and creating bogus employment websites are also punishable under the ordinance, with guilty parties facing a minimum two-year jail term, extending to life imprisonment, and fines of Rs 1 crore.

The move followed controversies surrounding the cancellation of several exams, including NEET-PG and UGC-NET 2024, due to alleged paper leaks. UP govt recently cancelled its police recruitment exams held on Feb 17 and 18, following paper leak allegations, leading to the dismissal of Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment Board chairperson Renuka Mishra. Over 48 lakh candidates had taken this exam. UP govt also cancelled the preliminary exam for review officers and assistant review officers amid similar allegations. Investigations are ongoing.

Blessed by families, Anju 'weds' Kavita in Gurgaon

Ankita.Anand@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: Surrounded by their families and around 80 guests, two women Kavita Tappu and Anju Sharma tied the knot with all the pomp and tradition of rituals at the Chhoti Panchayat Dharamshala in Gurgaon on April 24. Celebrations began with a *haldi* function and went on into the night till *pheras* bound them together for life.

India doesn't legally recognise same-sex marriages, but that didn't deter the couple of four years.

Recently, their wedding photos were circulated wide-

ly on social media, making the two the talk of the town.

Their priest, who was told earlier that it was a marriage of two women, backed out hours before the ceremony, saying that he was injured in an accident. "We had told everyone beforehand that it would be a same-sex wedding. The hall-owners, and the DJ too... Luckily, one of our friends stepped in and convinced two priests to preside over the rituals," Anju said on Tuesday.

In 2020 Kavita, a makeup artist from Haryana, was hired to film Anju, Gurgaon, for her YouTube channel. The two hit it off immediately.

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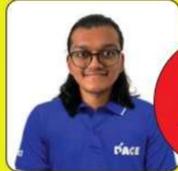
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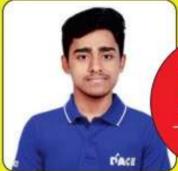
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SEAN PENN SAYS CURRENT 'TIMID & ARTLESS POLICY TOWARD HUMAN IMAGINATION' MEANS HE CAN NO MORE PLAY GAY ROLES LIKE IN 'MILK'



Assange To Plead Guilty To Be Free, Ending Standoff With US

WikiLeaks Founder Likely To Get 5 Yrs' Jail, Term Already Spent Behind Bars

A plane carrying WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange departed Bangkok after refuelling Tuesday, taking him to Saipan to enter a plea deal with the US govt that will free him and resolve the long legal case over the publication of a trove of classified documents. Australian-born Assange left Belmarsh maximum security jail in the early hours of Monday, before being bailed by the London high court and later boarding a flight. The WikiLeaks account on X said Assange was heading toward the capital of the Northern Mariana Islands, a US commonwealth in the Pacific, where he's scheduled to appear in court Wednesday. He's expected to plead guilty to a single Espionage Act charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified national defence information. He is expected to be sentenced to the five years he has already spent in the British prison while fighting extradition to the US, where he was indicted on 17 espionage charges and one charge of computer misuse. The plea deal brings an abrupt conclusion to a criminal case of international intrigue and to the US govt's yearslong pursuit of a publisher whose hugely popular secret-sharing website made him a cause celebre among many press freedom advocates who said he acted as a journalist to expose US military wrongdoing. US prosecutors, in contrast, have asserted that his actions broke law and put the nation's security at risk. WikiLeaks came to prominence in 2010 after it released hundreds of thousands of classified US military documents on Washington's wars in Afghanistan and Iraq along with swaths of diplomatic cables. The trove of more than 700,000 documents included battlefield accounts such as a 2007 video of a US Apache helicopter firing at suspected insurgents in Iraq, killing a dozen people including two Reuters news staff. That video was released in 2010. The plea deal was not entirely unexpected. Prez Biden had been under pressure from Australia to drop the long-running case against Assange. AGENCIES

THE LONG ROAD HOME

2006, WikiLeaks Takes Root | Julian Assange — an Australian editor and publisher — establishes WikiLeaks to help whistleblowers expose hidden information

2010, US Military Files Leaked | WikiLeaks releases almost half a million documents relating to the US wars in Iraq and Afghanistan leaked by Chelsea Manning, an army intel analyst

2012, Legal Troubles Begin | Flees to Ecuador embassy in London to escape extradition to Sweden over 2010 accusations of rape and sexual assault (later dropped), remains there until ejected in 2019

2018, Indicted By US | The US justice dept obtains a sealed grand jury indictment against Assange on a narrow charge of a hacking-related conspiracy

FLIGHT TO A US TERRITORY | In Saipan — capital of Northern Mariana Islands, a US commonwealth in the western Pacific — Assange is expected to appear in court on Wednesday to plead guilty to an Espionage Act charge of conspiring to unlawfully obtain and disseminate classified national defence information



for trying to help Manning **2019, Assange Arrested** | Ecuador revokes his asylum, asks UK police to arrest him for violating bail in rape case. He's sentenced to 50 weeks in jail; US requests his extradition on 18 charges tied to publication of classified documents; faces

up to 175 years in prison **2021-2024, Extradition battle** | In 2021, a British judge blocks Assange's extradition to US citing suicide risk. But in 2022, UK govt orders his extradition to US. His case continues to be tied up in appeals till May 2024



Assange spent \$500k for flight out of UK. His wife suggested it was paid for in debt so they will launch a fundraising drive to pay it off

WHY SAIPAN | Like Guam or Puerto Rico, it is part of the US but not a state. Its 51,000 residents are US citizens but cannot vote in presidential elections. Saipan also hosts US district courts. US prosecutors said Assange chose Saipan due to his opposition to travelling to the mainland US and for its proximity to Australia (roughly 3,000km south of Saipan)

WHAT IS THE PLEA DEAL | Under the terms of the new agreement, US justice department prosecutors will seek a 62-month sentence — which is equal to the amount of time Assange has served in a high-security prison in London while he fought extradition to the US. The plea deal would credit that time served, allowing Assange to immediately return to Australia

Wife elated, says will seek pardon

Julian Assange's wife Stella, a lawyer who has worked on his campaign almost since the start of his legal battles, said she was "elated" that he will be a "free man" but still angry that he had been held for so long. The couple married while he was in jail in London, and they had two kids while he was holed up in the Ecuadorian embassy. She said they would seek a pardon because the acceptance of guilt on espionage charge was a concern for journalists globally. REUTERS

Diplomatic manoeuvres clinched deal: 'Aus PM, Kennedy's daughter, Aukus played role'

Behind closed doors, an Australia-US-UK diplomatic dance opened the way for a plea deal to free WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, analysts and a diplomat previously involved in the case told AFP. US ambassador to Australia Caroline Kennedy — late prez John F. Kennedy's daughter — "has been talking about this in the last few months", said Jared Mondschein of Sydney's US Studies Centre. The tide shifted strongly in Assange's favour after PM Anthony Albanese was elected in 2022 and made his release a priority, said a diplomat who did not want to be named. Albanese has repeatedly called for an end to Assange's legal ordeal, saying: "Enough is enough". The govt had been working "behind the scenes diplomatically" with the US for his release, said Emma Shortis of Australia Institute. "Part of the reason this has happened today is because it was becoming a significant issue for the relationship," she said, notably since London, Washington and Canberra agreed on a N-powered submarine pact, AUKUS. AFP

Kenyans protesting tax hikes set sections of parliament ablaze, several shot dead by police

Nairobi: Police fired on demonstrators trying to storm Kenya's legislature on Tuesday and at least five protesters were shot dead, with sections of the parliament building set ablaze as lawmakers inside passed a bill to raise taxes. In chaotic scenes, protesters overwhelmed police and chased them away in an attempt to storm the parliament compound, with Citizen TV reporting protesters had managed to enter the Senate chamber. Police opened fire after tear gas and water cannon failed to disperse the crowds.



Protesters clash with cops outside the parliament in Nairobi on Tuesday

A Reuters journalist counted the bodies of at least five protesters outside parliament. A paramedic, Vivian Achista, said at least 10 had been shot dead. Another paramedic said over 50 people had been wounded. "We want to shut down parliament and every MP should resign," protester Davis Tafari,

who was trying to enter parliament, said. "We will have a new govt." Kenyan activist Auma Obama, the half-sister of former US Prez Barack Obama, was among protesters tear-gassed during the protests, a CNN interview showed. Police eventually managed to drive the protesters from the

building amid tear gas and the sound of gunfire. The lawmakers were evacuated through underground tunnels, local media reported. Internet services across the country experienced severe disruptions during the police crackdown, internet monitor Netblocks said. Protests also took place in

several other cities and towns across Kenya, with many calling for Prez William Ruto to quit. Parliament has approved the finance bill, moving it through to a third reading by lawmakers. The next step is for it to be sent to the prez for signing. Ruto won an election almost two years ago on a platform of championing Kenya's working poor, but has been caught between the competing demands of lenders such as the IMF and a hard-pressed population. Kenyans have been struggling to cope with several economic shocks caused by Covid-19, the war in Ukraine, two consecutive years of droughts and depreciation of the currency. The finance bill aims to raise an additional \$2.7 billion in taxes as part of a bid to lighten Kenya's heavy debt load, with interest payments alone consuming 37% of annual revenue. REUTERS

Anti-terror drive to be intensified, no new military offensive: Pak PM

Islamabad: Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif clarified in the face of intense opposition criticism on Tuesday that the planned counterterrorism campaign would entail intensifying ongoing intelligence-based operations (IBOs) rather than launching a new, organised military offensive. On Saturday, Sharif had announced plans to launch a full-scale offensive, named "Azm-e-Istehkam (Resolve for Stability)", to eliminate terrorism and extremism. The announcement drew sharp reactions from opposition, with analysts saying that Chinese concerns about attacks on its nationals had likely influenced the decision.

Defence minister Khawaja Asif, meanwhile, said a majority of operations under "Azm-e-Istehkam" will be in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, two volatile provinces bordering Afghanistan. "The operation has no political motive, its sole purpose is to counter terrorism." "We fought two wars under Zia-ul-Haq and Musharruf for US interests. This operation, however, is being conducted on our own terms, not at the behest of China or anyone else," he said, assuring there would be no evacuations.

Israeli SC orders army to draft ultra-Orthodox men, rattling Bibi govt

Jerusalem: Israel's Supreme Court Tuesday ruled unanimously that the military must begin drafting ultra-Orthodox men for compulsory service, a landmark decision that could lead to the collapse of PM Netanyahu's governing coalition as Israel continues to wage war in Gaza. The ruling effectively puts an end to a decades-old system that granted ultra-Orthodox men broad exemptions from military service while maintaining mandatory enlistment for the country's secular Jewish majority. The arrangement, deemed discriminatory by critics, has created a deep chasm in Israel's Jewish majority over who should shoulder the burden of protecting the country.

The court struck down a law that codified exemptions in 2017, but repeated court extensions and govt delaying tactics over a replacement dragged out a resolution for years. The court ruled that in the absence of a law, Israel's compulsory military service applies to the ultra-Orthodox like any other citizen. Politically powerful ultra-Orthodox parties, key partners in Netanyahu's governing coalition, oppose any



change to the current system. If the exemptions are ended, they could bolt the coalition, causing the govt to collapse and likely leading to new elections. In the current environment, Netanyahu could have a hard time delaying the matter any further or passing laws to restore the exemptions. During arguments, govt lawyers told the court that forcing ultra-Orthodox men to enlist would "tear Israeli society apart."

A statement from Netanyahu's Likud party criticised the ruling, saying a bill in parliament backed by the Israeli leader would address the draft issue. Critics say it falls short of Israel's wartime needs. In its ruling, the court found that the state was carrying out "invalid selective enforcement, which represents a serious violation of the rule of law, and the principle according to which all individuals are equal before the law." The ruling of Israel's highest court must be followed, and the military is expected to begin doing so once it forms a plan for how to draft thousands of members of a population that's deeply opposed to service. The army had no immediate comment. AP

Conservatives seize stronghold from Trudeau's party in by-poll

Toronto: Canadian PM Trudeau's Liberal party has suffered a major upset in a special election for a Toronto district it has held for three decades, raising doubts about Trudeau's leadership ahead of next year's general election.

Elections Canada reported Tuesday that opposition Conservative candidate Don Stewart won the Toronto-St Paul's district by almost 600 votes, 42.1% over the Liberal candidate's 40.5% with all 192 polling stations reporting results of Monday's voting. The Liberals had held Toronto-St Paul's since 1993. It is one of 338 seats in Canada's House of Commons. Losing in Canada's largest city, a traditional Liberal stronghold, does not bode well for Trudeau ahead of the election expected in the fall of 2025. Trudeau has said he intends to lead the party into the next election. The Trudeau Liberals have been in power since 2015 but are trailing badly in the polls amid concerns over the cost of living. Opposition Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre demanded that the PM call a snap election after what he described as a "shocking upset." "Here is the verdict: Trudeau can't go on like this," Poilievre said on X. AP

Zelensky ousts top gen accused of causing excessive troop casualties

Ukraine Prez Zelensky removed one of his top generals from his post Monday amid public criticism that the commander's decisions had led to excessive casualties.

The dismissal of the general, Yuriy Sodal, as commander of the Joint Forces of the Armed Forces, was a clear indication that the discord that had riddled the army since Zelensky replaced his commanding general, Valery Zaluzhny, with Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi in Feb, continued to threaten military cohesion. Zelensky announced that he was replacing Sodal with Brig Gen Andrii Hnatchov. Sodal was appointed by General Syrskyi as part of a broader shake-up in Feb, and Zelensky did not say why he had dismissed the commander or what position he would now hold. But the president's announcement came after Bohdan Krotevych, chief of staff of the Azov brigade — a regiment of the Ukrainian National Guard — wrote a letter to the State Bureau of Investigation calling for an investigation into the general's conduct. Then, just hours before the general's dismissal, Krotevych posted an unusually blunt and scathing open letter on social media, implicitly accusing the general of, through his poor leadership, "killing more Ukrainian soldiers than any Russian general." While Krotevych did not name Sodal directly in the public letter, he suggested that all of Ukraine's forces knew to whom he was referring. "Everyone in the military understands because 99% of the military hate him for what he does," he wrote. NYT

EU charges MS with antitrust violations over Teams bundling

Accused Of Stifling Competition By Packaging App With Word, Excel

European Union regulators on Tuesday charged Microsoft with breaking antitrust rules by bundling its Teams video conferencing and collaboration software with a suite of other productivity tools, giving it an unfair advantage over rivals. Regulators said Microsoft's packaging of Teams with other well-established software tools in Office 365 and Microsoft 365, which includes programs like Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook, amounted to an illegal abuse of market dominance that rival companies like Zoom and Slack could not match. Regulators said businesses essentially had little choice but to take Teams if they wanted other software made by Microsoft.



On Monday, EU regulators accused Apple of violating competition rules because of its App Store policies

The charges are just the latest in a barrage of announcements by the EU in recent months in its effort to crack down on the world's largest tech platforms. On Monday, regulators accused Apple of violating competition rules because of its App Store policies. Amazon, Google, Meta, TikTok and X are also facing investigations.

The Microsoft case has its roots in Covid-19 pandemic, when videoconferencing and collaboration tools like Zoom, Slack and Teams became essential for remote workforces. In 2020, Slack complained to regulators that Microsoft's bundling of Teams with other productivity software was anti-competitive. EU regulators said Microsoft had an unfair "distribution advantage" by not giving customers a choice of whether to buy Teams when

purchasing other software. "The conduct may have prevented Teams' rivals from competing, and in turn innovating," the European Commission, the EU's executive branch conducting the probe, said. The charges brought on Tuesday are one step in a long process. Microsoft can now respond to the complaint, but if the two sides do not reach an agreement, the company could face a fine of up to 10% of its annual global revenue. The case has parallels to the antitrust charges brought decades ago by US justice department against Microsoft for bundling Internet Explorer inside its Windows operating system, a case that was eventually resolved.

On Tuesday, Microsoft said it had taken steps to resolve the dispute. Last year, it agreed to sell Teams separately from Office products. The European Commission said it was "insufficient" and sought more steps, without specifying what. AP

China lunar probe back on Earth with world's 1st samples from far side of the moon

Beijing: China's Chang'e 6 probe returned on Earth Tuesday with rock and soil samples from the little-explored far side of the moon in a global first. The probe landed in northern China on Tuesday afternoon in the Inner Mongolian region. "I now declare that the Chang'e 6 Lunar Exploration



Chinese scientists anticipate the returned samples will include 2.5 million-year-old volcanic rock and other material that scientists hope will answer questions about geographic differences on the moon's two sides

Mission achieved complete success," Zhang Kejian, Director of the China National Space Administration said shortly in a televised news conference after the landing. Chinese scientists anticipate the returned samples will include 2.5 million-year-old volcanic rock and other material that scientists hope will answer questions about geographic differences on the moon's two sides.

The near side is what is seen from Earth, and the far side faces outer space. The far side is also known to have mountains and impact craters, contrasting with the relatively flat expanses visible on the near side. While past US and Soviet missions have collected samples from the moon's near side, the Chinese mission was the first that has collected samples from the far side.

China's leader Xi Jinping sent a message of congratulations to the Chang'e team, saying that it was a "landmark achievement". The probe left earth on May 3, and its journey lasted 53 days. The probe has drilled into the core and scooped rocks from the surface. AP

AROUND THE WORLD



HEALING NOTES: A Ukrainian serviceman plays a piano in a damaged building on the frontline town of Chasiv Yar in Donetsk region

In world 1st, Finland to give anti-bird flu vaccine to humans

Finland plans to offer preemptive bird flu vaccination as soon as next week to some workers with exposure to animals, health authorities said Tuesday, making it the first country in the world to do so. The Nordic country has bought vaccines for 10,000 people, each consisting of two injections, from Australian manufacturer CSL Seqirus. The H5N1 strain of bird flu has killed or caused the culling of hundreds of millions of poultry globally in recent years and has increasingly been spreading to mammals and, in some cases, also to humans. Finland has not detected the virus in humans. However, the country is eager to roll out vaccinations given transmission risks posed by its fur farms. Widespread outbreaks of bird flu among mink and foxes at Finland's mostly open-air fur farms led to the culling last year of some 485,000 animals.

Warner Records sued artificial intelligence companies Suno and Udio on Monday, accusing them of committing mass copyright infringement by using the labels' recordings to train music-generating AI systems. The companies copied music without permission to teach their systems to create music that will "directly compete with, cheapen, and ultimately drown out" human artists' work, as per the lawsuits. The complaints said Suno and Udio users have been able to recreate elements of songs, including Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" and James Brown's "I Got You" and could generate vocals that are "indistinguishable" from musicians such as Michael Jackson, Bruce Springsteen and ABBA.

'Pirates of the Caribbean' actor dies in shark attack Professional surfer, lifeguard and actor Tamayo Perry, 49, was killed by shark while surfing near the north shore of the Hawaiian island of Oahu on Sunday. He achieved fame appearing in the surfing film 'Blue Crush' in 2002, 'Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides' in 2011 and the TV series 'Hawaii Five-0' in 2011.

US surgeon general declares gun violence a public health emergency

Washington: The US surgeon general on Tuesday declared gun violence a public health crisis, driven by the fast-growing number of injuries and deaths involving firearms in the country. The advisory issued by Vivek Murthy, the nation's top doctor, came as the US grappled with another weekend marked by mass shootings that left dozens of people dead or wounded. "America should be a place where all of us can go to school, work, supermarket, house of worship, without having to worry that that's going to put

our life at risk," he told AP. To drive down gun deaths, Murthy calls on the US to ban automatic rifles, introduce universal background checks for purchasing guns, regulate the industry, pass laws that would restrict their use in public spaces and penalise people who fail to safely store their weapons. None of those suggestions can be implemented nationwide without legislation passed by Congress, which typically recoils at gun control measures. Some state legislatures, however, have enacted or may co-



Vivek Murthy's advisory is likely to incense Republicans & gun lobby

consider some of the surgeon general's proposals. Murthy said there is "broad agreement" that gun violence is a problem, citing a poll last year that found most Americans worry at least sometimes that a loved one might be injured by a firearm. His advisory will certainly incense Republican lawmakers, most of whom opposed Murthy's confirmation — twice — to the job over his statements on gun violence. Murthy has published warnings about troubling health trends, including social media use and loneliness. He's stayed away from issuing a similar advisory about gun violence since his 2014 confirmation as surgeon general was stalled and nearly derailed by firearm lobby and Republicans. He ended up promising the Senate that he did "not intend to use my office as a bully pulpit on gun control." But he has faced mounting pressure from some doctors and advocacy groups to speak out more. "It is now time for us to take this issue out of the realm of politics and put it in the realm of public health, the way we did with smoking more than a half century ago," Murthy said. A 1964 report from the surgeon general that raised awareness about the dangers of smoking is largely credited with snubbing out tobacco use. AP

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