

# THE TIMES OF INDIA

PRICE ₹ 8.00 ALONG WITH THE ECONOMIC TIMES OR MAHARASHTRA TIMES \*

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER | To subscribe call 1800 1200 004 or visit subscribe.timesofindia.com



**US VP Kamala Harris says she intends to earn & win Democratic Party nomination for presidency even after endorsement by Prez Biden. Former speaker Nancy Pelosi too declares support for Harris to replace Biden in Nov election P 11**

**Billionaire Elon Musk and venture capitalist Vinod Khosla slug it out over Trump's candidature. Khosla says Trump has 'no values, lies, cheats, rapes, demeans women', and 'hates immigrants' like him. Musk says Trump 'doesn't hate you. Meet him...' P 11**

**A Bangladeshi student group that is leading demonstrations that have spiralled into deadly violence suspends protests for 48 hrs, with its head saying they do not want reform 'at the expense of so much blood' P 11**

**Mumbai court says there is prima facie evidence on record, accepts MCOCA charges slapped on 5 accused in the firing at Salman Khan's Bandra home in April P 2**



## Soldier, civilian wounded in Rajouri attack

A soldier and a civilian were wounded when terrorists simultaneously attacked the house of a civilian Shaurya Chakra awardee and an adjacent security post in J&K's Rajouri Monday, barely 24 hours after Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi's visit to flashpoint Jammu. Instant retaliation by the Army forced the terrorists to retreat, official sources said. **P 6**

## Mum gets 50% excess July rains

At 1,408mm, July rainfall in Mumbai, which has seen heavy showers over the last couple of weeks, was 48% in excess of the month's average quota of 855mm. The highest recorded July rains is 1,771mm in 2023. **P 3**

## Ex-soldier kills 6 kin over property

A retired soldier allegedly axed to death his mother, brother, sister-in-law and their 3 kids over a property dispute in Punjab's Ambala district late Sunday. He has been arrested with six members of his family. **TNN**

## Ala! Govinda premier league

CM Shinde has announced the Pro Govinda League, which will see IPL-style bidding for players from wealthy franchises. Thirty-two teams will battle it out in the pre-qualifiers, with 16 qualifying for the main event. **P 5**

**PLUS 4 PAGES BOMBAY TIMES**  
The Times of India is also available as a standalone copy for Rs 5.00  
\*The TOI Combo offer and Bombay Times Supplement are available in Mumbai, Thane and Raigad districts while Education Times will be circulated in Mumbai Metro Region only.  
**Times Interact | P 6 & 8**

# SC seeks IT's expert help on NEET-UG physics question

## Four Marks At Stake May Alter Test Rankings

Dhananjay Mahapatra @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday sought help from experts in IIT-Delhi to determine which of the two answers approved by National Testing Agency to an elementary question on atomic theory is to be deemed correct, even as it told petitioners that they were yet

**► All NTA staff on contract or outsourced, P 9**

to provide evidence to support their allegation that the sanctity of the entire NEET-UG 2024 had been compromised.

With a single mark's difference leading to variance of several notches in the rankings of over 13 lakh students vying

## Maratha protest: Students get SEBC cert relief

In a move to appease the aggrieved Maratha community ahead of the assembly polls, the state gov't has given students joining professional courses under SEBC quota a grace period

**► Pawar meets Eknath Shinde on reservation, P 5**

of six months to submit their caste validity certificates. The decision comes in the wake of Manoj Jarange resuming his hunger strike, demanding the implementation of the Maratha community's demands. **P 2**

## 'SUBMIT OPINION BY NOON TODAY'

**► An MCQ on atomic theory had 2 statements and candidates were asked which of the 2, both or neither was the correct answer**

**► Petitioner tells SC one statement is correct as per new NCERT course and other was also held to be right as per books prescribed prior to 2019**

**► SG Tushar Mehta says over 9 lakh students chose correct option as per new syllabus and 4.2 lakh chose answer deemed**

correct as per old textbooks. NTA gave marks to both

**► The petitioner, who scored 715/720 marks, didn't attempt this question as options were 'ambiguous'. Demands either the question be scrapped or marks be given only for correct answer**

**► SC asks IIT Delhi to form 3-member panel to decide on which answer is correct and give its opinion preferably by noon on Tuesday**

**► Will NEET merit list change a third time? P 9**

for MBBS admissions, the SC's decision to enlist experts from IIT could reshuffle the order of successful candidates.

Raising the issue, advocate Suriti Chowdhury told SC that for a question on atomic theory, the NEET-UG exam

**► Rajasthan SOG questions cheating case suspect, P 9**

paper had provided two statements: "a) Atoms are electrically neutral as they contain equal number of positive and negative charges; and b) Atoms of each element are stable and emit their characteristic spectrum". The stu-

## After TN, K'taka cabinet moves to pull out of NEET

Karnataka cabinet has passed a resolution asking the Centre to scrap NEET for state-specific assessments for admissions to medical colleges. It will be tabled in the assembly Tuesday or Wednesday. If cleared, Karnataka will become the second state after TN to pass such a resolution. The state plans to reintroduce the old system of admissions to engineering and medical colleges through a common test. **P 9**

dents had to choose from four options: (1) statement 'a' is correct; (2) statement 'b' is correct; (3) statement 'a' and 'b' are correct; and (4) both are wrong.

**► 'Where's the proof?', P 8**

## Govt rules out Bihar spl status sought by JD(U)

BJP-led central gov't has ruled out special category status for Bihar, turning down the demand of ally JD(U), a decision which will have implications for a similar demand from another ally, TDP, for Andhra Pradesh.

The stand was conveyed by junior finance minister Pankaj Chaudhary in a written reply to JD(U) MP Rampreet Mandal. Calling "special category" a Planning Commission term, Shambhavi Choudhary of LJP said states have benefited from special packages instead. **P 9**

**► Cong seeks resignation, P 8**

# Survey upbeat on economy, backs more freedom for biz

## Flags Climate Change, AI As Challenges

TEAM TOI

Five years ago, when Nir-mala Sitharaman took over as finance minister, she appeared uncertain amid criticism of waning growth, resulting in a series of post-Budget announcements, including a massive cut in corporate tax. As she presents a record seventh straight budget, the Modi's gov't report card presented an economy which is on a strong footing - projecting 6.5-7% growth this year - with robust public finances, high tax collections and improved quality of spending.

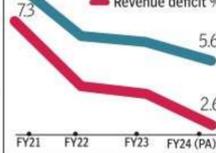
The contrast could not have been sharper and has been laid out vividly in the Economic Survey 2023-24 tabled in Parliament on Monday.

It did flag the challenges -

## ECONOMY IS GROWING AT A HEALTHY RATE...



## ...AND GOVT'S DEFICIT HAS BEEN FALLING...



“Licensing, inspection & compliance requirements that all levels of gov't continue to impose on businesses is an onerous burden. Relative to history, the burden has lightened. Relative to where it ought to be, it's still a lot heavier -Eco Survey

## 'Must create 78.5L jobs a year till 2030'

India needs to generate 78.5 lakh jobs a year on average until 2030 in the non-farm sector to cater to the rising workforce, the Economic Survey estimated, urging the private sector to contribute. **P 14**

from the geopolitical situation resulting in greater protectionism, to climate change and impact of AI - but sounded more comfortable with

## Quality, timely data must, says Survey

Economic Survey has said statistics ministry must be equipped to produce and integrate data with the desired quality and timelines, for formulating policy and timely decision-making. **P 14**

the inflation trajectory. It also underlined the need of "letting go for good governance".

**► 'Viksit Bharat', P 8**

## 'Drunk' techie rams Audi into autos, leaves 4 injured

Mumbai: A 45-year-old software engineer, who is suspected to have been driving under the influence of alcohol, crashed his Audi into an auto, which then hit another rickshaw, on the Eastern Express Highway in Mulund in the early hours of Monday, leaving 4 people in hospital with fractures. Two of the injured are auto drivers and the other two their passengers.

The driver, Vijay Gore, has been arrested and charged under BNS sections for rash

and negligent driving, and under the Motor Vehicle Act, reports Anushka Puroo. Police said the preliminary breathalyzer tests suggest Gore was under the influence of alcohol, but his blood sample has been sent to Forensic Science Lab for confirmation.

The crash comes just weeks after an allegedly inebriated Mihir Shah (24) rammed his BMW into a scooter in Worli, killing a woman.

**► 'Admitted to drinking', P 2**

## Illegal taint on cell tower that fell on house

Amid heavy rain, a cell-phone tower collapsed at Ramabai Ambedkar Nagar in Bhandup (W), damaging a house that was unoccupied at the time. BMC officials had to cut it up and vacate 8 hutments to ensure safety. Ward officials were unsure if the tower was put up with permission and the necessary safeguards. "If it was illegal, the ward should have carried out action against it," said a BMC official. **P 2**

# HSBC India wins Euromoney Best International Bank Award.

The second best award.



The first as always is your trust in us.

Wealth & Personal Banking | Global Commercial Banking | Global Banking & Markets



Opening up a world of opportunity

# 'Techie admitted to consuming alcohol & losing control of car'

Anushka Puro

Mumbai: The blood samples of software engineer Vijay Gore, who crashed his Audi into an autorickshaw, which then hit another autorickshaw, in Mulund in the early hours of Monday, have been sent for forensic tests to confirm for alcohol presence and the report is expected in a day or two. Four people were injured in the incident.

During preliminary inquiries, Gore reportedly admitted to police to having consumed alcohol in Bhandup and, under its influence, losing control of the vehicle, which resulted in the collision. He claimed to have fled the scene over fear of being lynched by the public, police sources said.

The Audi collided with the auto driven by Santosh Walekar (59), a resident of Dumping Road in Mulund (West), which hit the other auto driven by Vivek Jaiswal (26), a resident of Ashok Nagar, Mulund (West). Both autos had one passenger each. While one of the two passengers, Hanumant Chavan (57), suffered a fracture to a leg, the other, Prakash Jadhav (46), fractured a wrist and a leg. Jadhav, who is the complainant in the case, is a resident of Shivaji Nagar in Thane; he was in the auto driven by Walekar. Chavan, a Mulund resident who works in the railways, was travelling in Jaiswal's vehicle.

Both Chavan and Walekar were thrown several feet away on impact and the autos were damaged, said the police.

Details of the injuries suffered by the two auto drivers were not disclosed at the time of going to press.

The accident occurred around 6:30am near the dumping ground at Mulund Check Naka. Gore fled to his Mulund home, leaving his mobile phone in the car, but found his door locked as his wife had left for work. He then took a train to Kanjurmarg to his sister's residence. Within an hour of the accident, police reached Kanjurmarg and arrested him. The Audi has been seized by the police.

It may be recalled that on the morning of July 7, Mihir Shah (24), son of a Shiv Sena functionary, Rajesh Shah, had rammed his BMW into a scooter in Worli. Mihir was allegedly drunk at the time of the accident. His family driver Rishiraj Bidawat (30) was seated next to him at the time of the accident. A couple, Pradip Nakhwa (50) and his wife Kaveri (45), who were riding on the scooter fell on the bonnet of the BMW. While Pradip fell from the wheel and she was dragged for more than 1.5 km. Police said Mihir had bought beer and consumed it and had also visited a Juhu pub.

## HIS BLOOD SAMPLES SENT FOR FORENSIC TESTS

**Past cases of drunk driving in the city which led to fatalities**

**March 9, 2023** | A 3-year-old girl died after a car driven by allegedly inebriated senior corporate executive, Vishwas Attevar (54), hit her at BKC

**March 19, 2023** | Software company CEO Rajalaxmi Ramakrishnan (58) jogging on Worli Sea Face was killed after a car steered by allegedly inebriated 24-year-old motorist, Sumer Merchant, rammed into her



Audi (above) and one of the two autos (below) involved in Monday's accident



steered by allegedly inebriated 24-year-old motorist, Sumer Merchant, rammed into her

**July 7, 2024** | Mihir Shah (24), son of Shiv Sena functionary Rajesh Shah, rammed his BMW into a scooter in Worli. Mihir was allegedly drunk at the time of the accident. His family driver Rishiraj Bidawat (30) was seated next to Mihir at the time of the accident. A couple, Pradip Nakhwa (50) and his wife Kaveri (45), who were riding on the scooter, fell on the car's bonnet. While Pradip fell from the bonnet to the ground, Kaveri's saree got stuck in the wheel and she was dragged for more than 1.5 km till Worli Sea Face. The two accused then fled. A police team rushed Kaveri to Nair Hospital where she was declared dead. The two accused are currently in judicial custody

Motor Vehicle Act sections, including for rash and negligent driving, and endangering life or personal safety of others



**Sections applied in Monday's Mulund accident**  
 > BNS Act sections, including 281, which pertains to rash driving or riding on a public way; prescribes imprisonment for up to six months or up to ₹1,000 fine or both  
 > Motor Vehicle Act sections, including for rash and negligent driving, and endangering life or personal safety of others  
 "The Audi which was speeding hit one autorickshaw, which in turn hit another auto. Seeing the impact of the accident, the driver fled the scene, leaving his mobile phone in the car — Ajay Joshi | SENIOR INSPECTOR, MULUND POLICE STATION

# 23 FIRs over drunk driving lodged in 1st 6 months of '24

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Traffic police registered 23 first information reports (FIRs) and charged 3,773 individuals under local Acts for drunk driving in the first six months of this year, a senior traffic official told TOI on Monday, after the city recorded the second case of drunk driving in a month. A traffic police report on drunk driving showed that fines amounting to Rs 1.7 crore were levied in the first half of 2024. By comparison, three FIRs under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 2,883 cases under local laws were registered against drunk drivers in the entire 2023, resulting in fines of Rs 1.68 crore. "This shows that our drives against drunk driving are effective. If you carry out a drive at the same place, people will change their route. This is the reason why

we keep changing the drive location. This has resulted in the highest registration of FIRs in the first six months of this year against three in the entire 2023," said the officer. Latest available data from the state traffic department stated that drunk driving resulted in 126 fatal crashes in Maharashtra in 2022, claiming 133 lives. A police officer said the enforcement was intensified following the Pune Porsche case, in which two died. "Traffic police across Maharashtra were on the alert after the Pune Porsche case," said a senior officer. "In Mumbai, we have been carrying out joint checks with assistance from the local police," the officer added. Checks are conducted more frequently during late hours and on weekends when the volume of traffic on roads is lower.

Meanwhile, activists have questioned the effectiveness of police's deterrence measures and alleged inadequate drunk driving enforcement on city roads. Activist Anil Galgali expressed concerns over the "apparent" lack of police presence in conducting drunk driving checks, which he believes has led to motorists behaving recklessly and pressing the accelerator after consuming alcohol. "Police should increase the frequency of drunk driving action," said Galgali. Activist Jeetendra Ghadge commended the efforts made by Mumbai police in implementing the naka bandi programme to prevent drunk driving. However, he said it appears to be falling short of its intended purpose, as drunk drivers have become skilled at avoiding the roads where naka bandis are set up.

# Warship lying on its side, sailor may have gone missing during escape bid

Rajat Pandit & V Narayan | TNN

New Delhi/Mumbai: Front-line frigate INS Brahmaputra began "listing" (when a ship takes in water and tilts to one side) to the port side from water pumped into the vessel during firefighting operations at the naval dockyard in Mumbai Monday afternoon.

A major blaze had erupted on board Sunday evening and the fire was brought under control by the warship's crew with the assistance of firefighters from the dockyard, which was followed by "sanitisation checks" for any residual risks. A junior sailor is missing.

"Despite all efforts, the warship could not be brought to the upright position. The ship continued to list further alongside her berth and is resting on one side," an officer said.



A board of inquiry has been ordered into the INS Brahmaputra mishap

The sailor probably went missing during an attempt to jump off the listing ship. After Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi briefed defence minister Rajnath Singh about the mishap, an official said, "The minister prayed for the safety of the missing sailor. He also directed the Navy chief to take appropriate action." A board of inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the entire sequence of events and the reasons for the mishap.

INS Brahmaputra, which was commissioned in April 2000 after being built by defence shipyard Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd at Kolkata, was undergoing a refit at the naval dockyard when the fire broke out.

Another Brahmaputra-class frigate, INS Betwa, had slipped from her dock blocks, tilted and then crashed flat on her port side while being undocked during a maintenance refit at the Mumbai naval dockyard on Dec 5, 2016. It had

taken a herculean effort to make INS Betwa operational again with international salvage experts' help for Rs 20 crore.

The Navy had been hit by a string of accidents—almost 40 of them—from 2007 to 2016. In Feb 2014, then Navy chief Admiral D K Joshi had owned "moral responsibility" and resigned after two serious accidents on board two submarines—INS Sindhurakshak and INS Sindhuratna—killed five officers and 15 sailors.

Reports by the comptroller and auditor general of India, incidentally, have punched several holes into the management of refits of warships that take place in the two naval dockyards at Mumbai and Visakhapatnam and three naval ship repair yards at Port Blair, Kochi and Karwar.

# Enough prima facie proof to proceed against accused in Salman case: Court

Rebecca Samervel | timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Observing that there is ample prima facie evidence on record to proceed against the accused, a special MCOCA court on Monday took cognisance of the chargesheet in the Salman Khan firing case.

On April 14, a motorcycleist and a pillion rider discharged several rounds at the balcony of Khan's Bandra home and absconded. "After perusing the chargesheet and accompanying documents, including the sanction, it is evident that there is adequate prima facie material on record for proceeding against accused no. 1 to 6 for the offences," the judge said. The accused were charged under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, along with offences under IPC for attempted murder, as well as Arms Act and Bombay Police Act.

Police submitted the 1,736-page chargesheet earlier this month against five alleged aides of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi—Vikas Gupta, Sagar Pal, Harpal Singh alias Harry, Rafiq Choudhary and Sanamukherjee Bishnoi. Another accused, Anuj Thapan, allegedly died by suicide inside a police lockup on May 1.

The MCOCA court will hear the matter on Aug 5, and will entertain arguments on a plea for Sonukumar's transfer to Talaja jail. The chargesheet alleged that under the guise of seeking revenge on Khan for hunting a blackbuck, Lawrence, who is in Sabarmati jail, aimed to establish his supremacy in Mumbai, particularly over the film industry. Earlier, Navi Mumbai police had filed a chargesheet in a Panel court against five gang members in a separate case. Police claim to possess

substantial proof, including digital, technical and circumstantial evidence, along with 46 witnesses. Khan and his brother, Arbaaz Khan, have testified and provided statements against Lawrence, expressing fears about the safety of their loved ones.

Within 24 hours of the firing, police had caught Gupta and Pal from Bhuj in Gujarat. During their interrogation, they revealed that they had been hired by Lawrence's gang solely to fire outside Khan's residence and instil fear, and that the gangster sought to gain publicity through the incident to facilitate his extortion racket.

# Harassment charges on own kin not cruelty: HC

Mumbai: Allegations of ill-treatment by a man against his own family members do not fall under the ambit of cruelty against a woman in her matrimonial home, Bombay High Court (HC) has said.

HC made the observation in an order of Jul 18, a copy of which was made available Monday, while quashing a 2013 FIR lodged by a woman against her parents-in-law, brother and sisters-in-law — residents of Mumbai — alleging cruelty and harassment.

A division bench, in the order, noted that peculiarly the woman did not make any allegation against her husband, and described the entire case as nothing but "complete abuse of process of law" and IPC section related to cruelty to women in matrimonial home. The bench of Justices A S Gadkari and Neela Gokhale maintained the FIR was a "proxy litigation" lodged by the man through his wife against his family to settle a property dispute. The court noted this was a "peculiar case" where the woman has accused her in-laws of committing an offence under section 498A of IPC without a single allegation against her husband. ¶¶

# 'Illegal' cell tower crashes on home in Bhandup slum

Pic: Sanjay Hadkar

## STRUCTURAL STABILITY CERT FOR BUILDING A MUST

Telecom towers have been given infrastructure status by Govt of India. Hence, all benefits applicable to the infrastructure industry apply to them as well. Still, there are rules that are specific to telecom towers



The cell phone tower that collapsed in a Bhandup (West) slum on Sunday

CONDITIONS FOR CELL TOWER INSTALLATION

### CLEARANCES

- Certification & license** | From Department of Telecommunications (DoT)
- Technical clearance** | From Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation (SCAFA), Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC)
- Other clearances** | From Fire Department for high-rise buildings, building owner's/tenants' NOC, State Environment & Forest Department for protected forest areas, local body NOC for site renewal

**GENERAL RULES**  
 > Specification of location, height, weight, and nature (whether ground or rooftop installation, pole or wall-mounted, number of antennae)

> Structural stability certificate mandatory for the tower structure and the building

**Radiation limit** | General public areas around tower should be within safe electromagnetic radiation exposure limit

"The height of the antenna (ie, height of building plus height of tower) should be as per submitted specifications and should not violate the directions and the limit prescribed by the appropriate authority in this regard — MAHARASHTRA TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE GUIDELINES FOR URBAN LOCAL BODIES 2022

# Maratha stir: SEBC students get 6 more mths for caste cert

Priyanka Kakodkar | timesofindia.com

Mumbai: In a significant move to appease the Maratha community ahead of the assembly polls, the state govt has decided to extend the deadline for submitting caste validity certificates for students admitted under the socially and economically backward caste (SEBC) quota in professional courses for 2024-25. The decision comes in the wake of Maratha activist Manoj Jarange resuming his hunger strike, demanding the implementation of the community's demands.

According to the new directive, students seeking admission to medical, engineering and other professional courses under the SEBC quota will now have a grace period of six months from the date of application to submit their caste validity certificates. With the extension, the state govt aims to alleviate the concerns raised by the Maratha community regarding delays in obtaining the necessary documentation.

The SEBC quota bill,

which was passed in the assembly in Feb, provides 10% reservation for the Maratha community in govt jobs and education. However, the quota's implementation has been met with challenges, as many members of the community have reported difficulties in obtaining caste validity certificates in a timely manner.

The Shinde govt, which faced a backlash from the Maratha community during the Lok Sabha polls, is grappling with the issue as the state elections are set to be held in Oct. Jarange resumed his hunger strike on July 20, pressuring the govt to fulfil the community's demands. The bill passed in Feb marked the third attempt in a decade to provide reservation for the Maratha community and was introduced during the height of Jarange's agitation.

The bill was based on the findings of the Maharashtra State Backward Class Commission, which established the "social and educational backwardness of the Maratha community" through a comprehensive survey.

# Diamantaire dies by suicide in the sea off Gateway

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A diamantaire, Sanjay Shah (65), allegedly died by suicide by jumping into the sea near the Gateway of India on Sunday. The police said they learnt from Shah's family that he had suffered losses in his business and was under depression.

Shah's firm was facing a loss of Rs 97 crore. The four partners were brothers and had discussed the details of the final settlement amount with all of Shah's creditors, from whom his firm had purchased diamond stocks.

"The diamond industry works on long-term credit and trust. We acknowledge that times have been tough, and we sympathised with Sanjaybhai and were okay to receive 45% back as a full and final settlement," an industry insider said.

Police sources said Shah, who lived in Mahalaxmi, left his residence on Sunday morning, saying he was going for a morning walk. He took a taxi to the sea link, going over it twice and asking the driver to stop, saying he wanted to dispose of some puja flowers.

The driver refused, saying the police would fine him.

Shah then asked to be taken him to the Gateway, where he allegedly jumped into the sea at 9.30 am. The police control room received a call, and a team reached the spot. Fire brigade personnel also arrived. A rope was tied to pull Shah out. He was declared dead before admission to the hospital where he was taken. A police officer said the taxi driver had parked his vehicle after dropping Shah. He informed the police about the entire journey.

Shah's family, who were looking for him, reached Colaba and met police officials. Shah had his diamond business office in the Bharat Diamond Bourse at the BKC, and others in the business said his 50-year-old firm had been going through troublesome times for three years.

For help, distressed persons may call MPOWER Mental Health Helpline on 1800-120-820050, Vandrevalla Foundation on 9999666555, I-Call (TISS) on 9152987821 (Monday to Saturday, 10 am to 8 pm), and Samaritans Mumbai on 8422984528 and 8422984529.

# 14-day judicial custody for Khedkar mom

Pune: A magisterial court in Paud on Monday rejected the bail plea of Manorama Khedkar, mother of controversial IAS probationary officer Puja Khedkar, in an attempted murder, rioting, threatening and Arms Act violation case. Earlier in the day, the court ordered her remand in magisterial custody for 14 days as the police did not press for extension of police custody. On July 12, the police had registered a case against Manorama, her husband, Dilip, and five others after a video showing her waving a licensed firearm at some farmers during an argument on June 5, 2023. — Asseem Shaikh

Sanjeev Devasia & Chittaranjan Tembhekar | TNN

Mumbai: A part of a house was damaged after a cell phone tower collapsed at Ramabai Ambedkar Nagar in Bhandup (West) on Sunday. There were not any casualties as nobody was present in the house at the time of the incident. BMC officials said the wall of the structure supporting the tower, which housed a hillside shop as well, collapsed taking the tower down with it. BMC shifted the residents of eight nearby homes as a precautionary measure, and cut down the collapsed tower's supporting frame.

Ward officials were not sure if the tower was put up with permission. They sought details from BMC's building permission (BP) department, whose officials said they are looking into records. They said the tower might have been erected without the department's permission, as the structure was in a slum settlement. "It is the job of ward officials

to keep a check on illegal structures, including cell phone towers. If the structure was illegal, the ward should have carried out action against it," said a BP official. BJP's Kirit Somaiya has written to the civic audit, demanding a structural audit of all phone towers within BMC's jurisdiction. An official said BMC would seek demolition charges from the service provider to which the Ramabai Ambedkar Nagar tower belonged.

For permitting a cell phone tower, BMC seeks a structural stability report of the building and also if it has an occupancy certificate. An NOC from the building's owner too is required. "We also seek a SCAFA (Standing Advisory Committee on Frequency Allocation) clearance from the telecom department. This takes into account all radiation-related issues and even the permissible height of the structure, taking into account local height restrictions, such as for the airport. The permissible height is mentioned in the clearance," said a BMC official.

"It is unlikely that we may have given any permission for the Bhandup structure, as it was in a slum area. There could be a possibility that they may have applied online and we may have instructed them to submit certain documents, which they did not and just went ahead and erected the tower."

Achintya Mukherjee of the Bombay Telephone Users' Association highlighted the lack of proper study of winds across Mumbai. He also emphasized the need to check if civil engineering standards, especially tower foundations, were compromised. "Given that other towers already erected in Mumbai were not impacted, gusty winds were not of the speed that could be the principal reason for the collapse. From the angle of the collapse, it is likely that the soil and concrete base were not up to the standards that the structural foundation required." A concerned citizen, Prakash Munshi, pointed out that cell tower installations done in a hurry by service providers cause such mishaps.

## OPENED JUST A YEAR AGO, POTHoles CROp UP ON SCLR EXTENSION



Inaugurated just a year ago, the Santacruz-Chembur Link Road (SCLR) extension has already been plagued by potholes this monsoon. The subpar quality of construction of this elevated east-west corridor has tarnished the credibility of Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) and put contractor J Kumar Infra's work under the lens. The flyover had faced similar issues in June 2023, with photographs and videos of potholes going viral on social media. MMRDA had undertaken repairs of the flyover at that time. **TNN**

## 2 balcony crash incidents in one day; boy injured

**Mumbai / Thane:** An 11-year-old boy suffered injuries after a portion of the third-floor balcony of a ground-plus-five-storey building in Gowlia Tank came crashing down on Monday. Shivam Shah was admitted to Bombay hospital; his condition is said to be stable.

In Thane, a two-storey building in Naupada area was vacated after a portion of a first-floor balcony collapsed at noon. In another incident, a 20ft-long retaining wall of a nullah near Korum gave away as Thane recorded around 55mm of rainfall since midnight. No one was injured in both incidents.

Officials said Sankalp building was classified in the 'C2B' category, which mandated repairs without evacuation. "But after analysing its present condition, the seven families, along with two shops on the ground floor, were evacuated, and water and power supply was disconnected," said Yasin Tadvir, in-charge, Thane regional disaster management cell. TMC has urged residents of 'C1' category buildings, which are deemed extremely dangerous and unfit for habitation, to evacuate the premises during monsoon. There are 96 such structures of which 20 are still occupied. — **Manoj Badgeri**

## Part of Mahim bldg collapses; no one injured

**Mumbai:** A portion of Botwala building on Sitladevi Road in Mahim collapsed on Monday morning. No one was hurt in the incident, said police, adding that the building was partially occupied and undergoing redevelopment under the cluster development scheme. Police sources said Mhada had finalised the certification process and distributed the certified tenant list to the tenants and occupants. The process of acquiring a letter of intent is underway, they added. **TNN**

## Heavy rain causes 24-hour outage in Navi Mum areas

**Navi Mumbai:** Parts of Navi Mumbai experienced severe power outages on Sunday and Monday due to heavy rainfall, causing transformers, feeder boxes, and underground cables to malfunction. Residents in areas such as Rabale, Airoli, Digha, Ghansoli, and Turbhe faced prolonged power cuts, some lasting up to 24 hours, starting from Saturday night.

Thousands of consumers were inconvenienced with frequent power cuts, compounded by heavy rainfall across the city. MSEDCL officials said multiple problems cropped up with the heavy downpour. According to authorities, supply was restored in all problem areas by 1:30pm on Monday. Gaurav Patil from Ghansoli said, "Power went off on Saturday night and was only restored on Sunday night, after 24 hours. Our weekend was tossed. Due to water supply disruption following frequent power cut, we relied on outside food for two days. Children and elderly members in the family had a harrowing time. This was the longest disruption in power supply in recent times." Sameer Tupe from Airoli also expressed his frustration, stating, "We felt the pinch of intermittent disruption in supply for more than 24 hours."

MSEDCL officials said their field engineers worked to identify and repair the issues, with the major problem originating from the Kalwa dispatch station. They had to divert the supply and repair the line to restore power to the affected areas. — **BB Nayak**

## New drain makes key Bandra rd flood-free for 1st time in yrs

**Richa Pinto@timesofindia.com**

**Mumbai:** For the first time in many monsoons, it's not rainwater but praises flooding St Paul's Road in Bandra. The road did not get waterlogged this time, despite heavy spells of rain, thanks to the laying of a stormwater drain by BMC that lasted two years.

This 500m-long road is one of the main connectors to Bandra West from Bandra-Worli Sea Link.

Dr Russell Pinto, a ground floor resident of a building on a road that connects to St Paul's Road, said the stretch used to see acute flooding in the past. "There were days when we had to download the high tide timings and be well aware that if it rained heavily at the same time, the area would get flooded," he said. He said civic authorities tested certain measures over the years, but nothing offered a permanent solution to waterlogging. "What finally helped was when the then additional municipal commissioner vi-

## Mum surpasses average July rainfall quota by nearly 50%

**Richa Pinto@timesofindia.com**

**Mumbai:** At 1,408mm, July rainfall was 48% in excess of the month's average quota of 855mm, thanks to the prolonged wet spell in the city.

Over the past two weeks, Mumbai has witnessed several triple-digit rainfall days, much needed after the rain deficit in June. And with over a week left for the month to end, experts expect July rainfall to breach the 1,500mm-mark.

The highest recorded July rainfall was 1,771mm in 2023. Torrential rain lashed the city in the 24-hour period en-

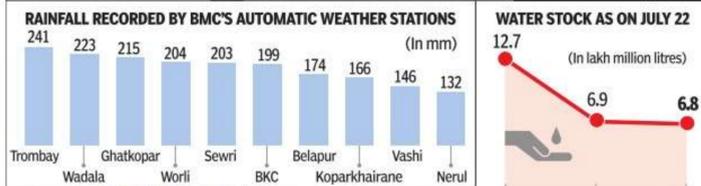
## Vihar, Tansa close to overflow mark

The total water stock in the 7 lakes recorded a 4% rise in 24 hours. According to BMC data, the water stock stood at 6.8 lakh million litres or 47.3% of the combined required quantum of 14.47 lakh million litres on Monday, as against Sunday's 6.3 lakh million litres or 43.4%. Vihar and Tansa lakes are 1m away from the overflow mark. On Monday, Vihar's water level stood at 79.2m; its full supply level is 80.1m, and Tansa's water level is 127.4m; its full supply level is 128.6m. **TNN**

ding Monday 8:30am, with many areas recording over 200mm of rainfall. Trombay received 241mm rain, Wadala 223mm, Ghatkopar 215mm, Worli 204mm, Sewri 203mm, and BKC 199mm, as per BMC's automatic weather stations which record localised data. Navi Mumbai also saw intense rain activity with Belapur recording 174mm of rain, Koparkhairane 166mm, Vashi 146mm, and Nerul 132mm.

Between Sunday 8:30am and Monday 8:30am, IMD's Santacruz and Colaba observatories recorded 176mm and 71.2mm rain, respectively.

## CITY LOGS 76% OF SEASON'S RAIN REQUIREMENT



Thereafter, rain intensity reduced as the Colaba and Santacruz stations recorded 35mm and 18.6mm rain in the nine-hour period ending Monday 5:30pm. For Tuesday, IMD has issued a 'yellow' alert indicating heavy rainfall for Mumbai, Thane, and Palghar. For Wednesday, there's an 'orange' alert indicating heavy to very heavy rainfall for Mumbai, Thane, and Palghar. There's a red alert for Raigad, indicating extremely heavy rainfall. According to IMD, the current wet spell is due to multiple favourable weather conditions. "A low-pressure area over north Chhattisgarh and neighborhood now lies over east Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh... There is also a cyclonic circulation over northeast Arabian Sea adjoining Kutch," it stated.

## Maha's monsoon mayhem: 3 dead, 1 missing in floods

**TIMES NEWS NETWORK**

**Mumbai:** Three people died and one person went missing after being swept away in flood waters amid torrential rains across Maharashtra on Sunday and Monday.

Since the commencement of monsoon, there have been 86 deaths in the state and 131 people have been reported injured, govt data shows. Thus far, 241 individuals have been evacuated. Of the 86 rain-related fatalities in the state, the highest numbers were reported from Nagpur (8), Mumbai (7), and Latur (7).

In the last 24 hours, Maharashtra has received 28mm of precipitation. The progressive rainfall since June is

545.1mm, which is 123.2% of the average rainfall. Three districts — Bhandara and Gondia in Vidarbha and Palghar near Mumbai — received exceptionally heavy rainfall, which was more than 204.5 mm in a 24-hour period. Among the 15 districts that received very heavy rainfall between 115.6mm and 204.4mm were Raigad in Konkan, Kolhapur and Pune in Western Maharashtra, and Gadchiroli, Nagpur, and Chandrapur in the Vidarbha region. Several districts received rainfall that is significantly higher than the average, including Solapur (191% of normal), Beed (161% of normal), Sangli (171.5% of normal), Dharashiv (164.3%

of normal), and Ahmednagar (160% of normal).

Live storage in the state's dams is now at 39% of capacity compared to 43.6% at this time last year. In the arid region of Marathwada, dam water storage is only at 12% of capacity compared to 30.3% at this time last year. In North Maharashtra, dam water storage is at 28.3% of capacity compared to 40.7% last year. In western Maharashtra, dam water storage is at 43.3% of capacity, which is higher than 37.3% last year.

As a result of the heavy downpour, NDRF teams have been stationed at Palghar, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara, and Sindhudurg.

## CR services hit by signal, train engine failures

**Pradeep Gupta**

**Kalyan:** Central Railway's suburban services were disrupted twice on Monday following a signal failure at Kalyan station in the morning and engine failure of an outstation train near Thakurli railway station in the afternoon.

Following torrential rainfall, waterlogging was reported on the tracks at Kalyan station on Monday 7:30am at platform numbers 1 and 1A, which led to the signal failure, said CR officials.

Passengers, mostly office-goers, were inconvenienced as trains were delayed by 15-20 minutes during the peak morning hours. Crowds grew at Kalyan, Dombivli, and Diva stations as CR took more than an hour to fix the problem. Normal operations by 8:40 am

Even as the situation was returning to normal, the Mau-Lokmanya Tilak Express train developed a technical glitch and halted near Thakurli station around 2pm. Suburban trains were delayed as CR's technical team took nearly an hour to resolve the issue. A CR official said that local train passengers were not severely affected as the incident took place during non-peak hours.

## Four hurt in wall, balcony collapse

**Mumbai:** Four people were injured in two separate incidents of wall and balcony collapse on Monday. A part of a wall of an under-construction building collapsed on an adjoining house at Patra Chawl, Dharavi, at around 7:30pm, injuring three, including two children.

One of the children is Kiyansh Patwal, a nine-month-old baby, and the other, Manpreet Singh, is a five-year-old.

Meanwhile, at Napean Sea Road's Patel compound, an 11-year-old was hurt after a part of a balcony of a five-storey structure came crashing down. **TNN**

## Eight on a trek to Panvel hillock lose way, rescued

**Navi Mumbai:** At least eight persons were rescued after a 3-hour long operation at a forest area with hillocks on the outskirts of Panvel on Sunday. Three separate teams were formed by the Panvel city police for the operation. The rescued persons, all from Nerul, had gone for a trek to Paach Per hillock in the morning. The families of Jay Pawar and his friends missed the return path due to fog and poor mobile network after trekking from the base at Nandgaon village.

Police said the group comprised four minors and four adults. The minors are aged between 10 and 12 years. Police inspector Pravin Bhagat said, "They entered deep into the forest under fog and lost their way." — **Umesh Parida**

## FYJC cutoffs surge across streams in admission Round 3

**Sandhya Nair@timesofindia.com**

**Mumbai:** The third general merit list declared on Monday, witnessed a significant upward trend in First Year Junior College (FYJC) cut-offs across arts, commerce, and science streams. The increase was as high as four percent, with top-tier colleges admitting students with higher scores compared to the previous rounds.

St Xavier's college, a popular choice for the Arts stream, closed at 97.2% in the third round, with a merit rank (allotted based on scores and applications after each round) of 46 securing a seat. The arts cut-offs in the first and second rounds were 93.4% and 92.8%, respectively. Vaze college's arts cut-off rose by 4.2% to 92.2%, while colleges like KC, Ruparel, Mithibai, and St Andrews also experienced a rise of over two percent. The arts stream saw a total of 4,332 students being allotted seats.

Commerce remained the most sought-after stream, with HR and NM attracting top scorers. HR secured a merit rank of 6 with a score of 98.8%, and the cut-off closed at 97.2% — 4.8% higher than the second round. NM also got a merit rank of 7 with a score of 98.8%, and the cut-off closed at 95%,

2.7% more than the previous round. Science colleges across the city have attracted students scoring in the 90s. Ruia college's cut-off was 95.4%, up by 3% from the previous round. Vaze college's cut-off rose by 4.2% to 96.2%, and Sathaye college's science cut-off closed at 91.8%.

Of the 1.53 lakh students eligible for admission in the third round, 53,054 have been allotted seats. The 15,812 students who secured their most preferred colleges must take admission by July 24. Although admissions began in June, over half of registered students have not yet taken admission. A special round of admissions will be conducted later, and principals believe that some top scorers will wait for this round when more seats, including minority ones, are added. So far over 5,000 quota seats, including in-house and management, have been surrendered for general category admissions. There are over 81,000 minority quota seats which can be surrendered after the end of round 3. While new admissions continue, registered students have been advised by principals to look up previous year's cut-offs and update their college choices to improve chances of getting seats.

## COMMERCE MOST-OPTED STREAM

FYJC 2024 THIRD GENERAL MERIT LIST (ROUND 3)			Seats allotted		
Seats available	Eligible students		Eligible students	Seats allotted	
1,70,860	1,53,888		1,53,888	53,054	
ARTS (%)		COMMERCE (%)		SCIENCE (%)	
College	3rd list	College	3rd list	College	3rd list
St.Xaviers	97.2	HR	97.2	Ruia	95.4
Ruia	93.4	Podar	92	Vaze	96.2
Jaihind	92.2	Jaihind	92	St Xaviers	92
Vaze	92.2	Vaze	92.6	Ruparel	92.4
KC	87.8	KC	91.8	KC	87.6
Ruparel	87	Mithibai	91.4	Jaihind	88.4
Mithibai	90.4	Ruparel	90.2	Mithibai	89.2
St Andrews	78.6	NM	95	Sathaye	91.8

No. of students who got their top 5 preferences		
up to 10 preferences allowed	Upload required documents and proceed for admission that ends on July 24 at 6pm	be started with the approval of the Vocational Education Dept
<b>Round 3</b>	Minority quota seats can be surrendered after end of Round 3	Special Round 1 to be held, dates to be announced
1st	15,812	Admission process for dual subjects for admitted students will
2nd	8,433	
3rd	7,093	
4th	5,994	
5th	4,795	

## Kin awarded ₹33 lakh for 2017 fatal mishap

**Thane:** The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) in Thane has awarded a compensation of Rs. 32.83 lakh to five family members of a 28-year-old trader from Mumbai who lost his life in a road accident in 2017.

The claimants — the deceased's 29-year-old widow, his parents, and two minor siblings — pleaded the tribunal, emphasizing that trader's untimely demise had cast an ominous gloom on their family as he was the sole breadwinner. The counsel, representing the petitioners, told the tribunal that the deceased owned a thriving business dealing in the purchase and sale of cardboard boxes and scrap, with an office situated at Mankoli Naka, Bhiwandi. On Jan 29, 2017, at around 5:30 pm, while the trader was riding his motorcycle on Dapoda Road, he was violently struck by a rashly and negligently driven tempo coming from the opposite direction. The collision resulted in an accident, inflicting severe injuries that tragically claimed his life. The tribunal was informed that the deceased earned between Rs. 40,000 and Rs. 50,000 per month. The tempo owner failed to appear before the tribunal, resulting in an ex-parte order against him, while the insurance company, represented by a counsel, contested the claim. The tribunal's chairman, S B Agrawal, ordered the two respondents — the owner of the offending tempo and New India Assurance Co Ltd. — to jointly and severally pay the compensation. — **Nishikant Karlikar**



## Shipping firm manager loses ₹9L in crypto currency fraud

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** A finance manager with a shipping company lodged a police complaint after being cheated of Rs 9 lakh by an individual who offered to purchase cryptocurrency from him. While the complainant transferred the cryptocurrency to the accused, he never got paid for it.

Bangur Nagar police have registered an FIR and are probing the matter further. The complainant told the police that he has been trading in cryptocurrency since 2020 and has an account with a cryptocurrency exchange.

On Dec 27, 2021, he purchased a cryptocurrency, Tether, for Rs 8.78 lakh. As time passed, the value of the cryptocurrency increased to Rs 9 lakh. The complainant then decided to sell it. He put up a post on the cryptocurrency exchange about his intention to sell. He was contacted by one Vaibhav Sumra online, and they exchanged phone numbers.

Sumra asked the complainant to transfer the cryptocurrency to the former's crypto wallet and promised to pay the money by bank transfer. The complainant trusted him and transferred the cryptocurrency but never received any money, according to the complaint.

Sumra either evaded the complainant's calls or claimed to be facing financial difficulties.

The complainant eventually approached the police with a complaint, and an FIR was registered by the Bangur Nagar police on July 20.

## Man assaults lawyer; police complaint filed

**Mumbai:** A lawyer filed a police complaint after being assaulted by a man whom he had forbidden from sleeping outside his shop. The incident took place in Malad on Sunday.

The lawyer told the police that his office is located near Sainath subway. He had parked his motorcycle outside his shop and left for Andheri by train for work. When he returned around 4:30 pm, he noticed that one Gulab Shaikh, 45, was sleeping on a bench outside his shop.

The lawyer asked Shaikh not to sleep there, which led to an argument between them. Shaikh allegedly used expletives and later assaulted the lawyer with an iron pipe on his back. He also threw a stone at the lawyer's motorcycle before leaving, according to the complaint. Some of those present at the spot took him to hospital for treatment. **TNN**

## Stinky affair: Rly staffers protest



Stench from dead rats and filth inside motor-man's lobby has forced the entire running staff at CSMT to protest and sit at the station. The staff has alleged offices have not been cleaned for a while. **TNN**

# Fear of backlash grips NCP after Shah's Pawar remark

Anurag Bende  
@timesofindia.com

**Pune:** NCP politicians have found themselves in a spot after union home minister Amit Shah of the BJP called NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar the "ringleader of corruption in politics" on Sunday at a party meet in Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Some politicians expressed alarm over the statement, fearing that it would affect their assembly poll prospects.

Despite the party splitting in June last year and most of the MLAs joining the Ajit Pawar camp, many still respect the elder Pawar. Many feel that any adverse comment about him may cause problems for them in the state assembly election that is likely in October.

Former MLA Vilas Lande, who is with Ajit Pawar's NCP, warned that Shah's statement could harm the Mahayuti in the assembly poll. "During the Lok Sabha



Ajit Pawar parted ways with Sharad Pawar to join Mahayuti last year

poll, Prime Minister Narendra Modi referred to Sharad Pawar as 'bhatakti aatma,' and Mahayuti faced the consequences. Now, Shah has made a similar statement against Pawarsaheb in Pune, which is completely wrong. The BJP should rectify its mistake in time or it will cause damage to the alliance in the assembly poll," he said.

Pimpri MLA Anna Bansode, a staunch Ajit Pawar loyalist, criticised Shah for his remarks. "We have the utmost respect for Pawarsaheb. He is a national leader. PM Modi once called him his political guru. Unfortunately, Shah made such a statement against Pawar," he said.

During the BJP state-level convention in Pune on

Sunday, Shah came down heavily on Pawar. Soon after his comments, the NCP (SP) reacted sharply.

Party working president, Pawar's daughter Supriya Sule, said: "It is the same party and govt which Amit Shah represents that has honoured Sharad Pawar with Padma Vibhushan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Baramati twice and praised Pawar for his development work."

Ajit Pawar responded with no comment on Shah's utterances on Monday.

A day earlier, NCP cabinet minister Dhananjay Munde said Shah would not have made the statement without a base to it. After facing flak, Munde on Monday clarified that his statement was his personal view and not the party stand.

Some NCP MLAs feel Shah's statement may help the BJP and Shiv Sena but will harm their party as many voters respect Sharad Pawar.

# Sharad Pawar and Shinde discuss reservation row

Prafulla Marpakwar  
@timesofindia.com



CM Eknath Shinde and NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Monday

**Mumbai:** NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar has had a brief meeting with chief minister Eknath Shinde to discuss the Maratha-OBC reservation dispute. Elsewhere, MPCC president Nana Patole blamed the Mahayuti govt for its failure to resolve the dispute.

Shinde and Pawar discussed the hunger strike started by Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange, it was learnt.

The opposition had boycotted an all-party meeting convened by Shinde to discuss reservations on July 9. The opposition contention was that instead of convening an all-party meeting, Shinde should make a statement on the present status of Maratha reservation and say whether it was prepared to carve it out from the reservation for the OBCs.

At the time, NCP politician Chhagan Bhujbal had met Pawar and urged him to step in to resolve the Maratha-OBC reservation dispute.

It is learnt that in their me-

eting, Shinde explained to Sharad Pawar the status of reservation and steps taken by his govt to resolve the dispute raised by Jarange. Shinde said he would convene a new meeting of opposition politicians to resolve the dispute. It is learnt that there was consensus on resolving the dispute without changing OBC reservation.

MPCC chief Patole blamed Dy CM Devendra Fadnis for the Maratha reservation controversy. "In 2014, the then CM Prithviraj Chavan had gran-

ted quota to Marathas. When Fadnis took over the reins, he failed to take corrective action. He failed to convert the ordinance into an act. As a result, Marathas lost the reservation. When Fadnis assumed power in 2014, he had assured reservation to Marathas, Dhargar and Halba communities. Now it is his responsibility to implement his assurance. Now he can't blame the opposition for the fiasco," he said.

► Jarange and Hake, P6

# Shah member of Jinnah fan club: Raut

Chaitanya Marpakwar & Prafulla Marpakwar | TNN

**Mumbai:** Union home minister Amit Shah and other BJP politicians were members of the Jinnah fan club, said Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Monday.

Shah had called Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray a member of the Aurangzeb fan club and NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar the ringleader of the corrupt in Pune on Sunday.

MPCC chief Nana Patole and NCP (SP) working presi-

dent Supriya Sule separately attacked Shah for the Pawar remarks he made at the BJP state-level convention.

"We never went to Jinnah's grave in Pakistan and offered flowers or ate Nawaz Sharif's birthday cake in Pakistan," Raut said. "Basically, there is nothing wrong in taking the side of nationalist Muslims in the country."

On the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Shah had said his arrogance would be crushed once BJP won the state, Jharkhand and Haryana as-

sembly elections.

Raut called the BJP a "machine of lies". "We don't win elections by scamming EVMs, election bonds, and (misusing) ED-CBI," he said.

He said Dy CM Devendra Fadnis in Pune said MVA politicians should be "knocked down". "What language is this? It is unfortunate that the home minister of the state uses the language of a goon," he said.

Patole said it was the BJP-led govt at the Centre that conferred the Padma Vibhushan award on Pawar in

2017. "Now suddenly he has become ringleader of corruption. The real ringleader is none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself," he said.

Sule said Amit Shah's meeting in Pune had Ashok Chavan sitting behind him. "We never said Chavan is corruption, it was the BJP which levelled the charges of corruption. His name figured in the document presented in Parliament. Now most of the dirty dozens are members of the union or state cabinet," she said.

## Man assaults lawyer; police complaint filed

**Mumbai:** A lawyer filed a police complaint after being assaulted by a man whom he had forbidden from sleeping outside his shop. The incident took place in Malad on Sunday.

The lawyer told the police that his office is located near Sainath subway. He had parked his motorcycle outside his shop and left for Andheri by train for work. When he returned around 4:30 pm, he noticed that one Gulab Shaikh, 45, was sleeping on a bench outside his shop.

The lawyer asked Shaikh not to sleep there, which led to an argument between them. Shaikh allegedly used expletives and later assaulted the lawyer with an iron pipe on his back. He also threw a stone at the lawyer's motorcycle before leaving, according to the complaint. Some of those present at the spot took him to hospital for treatment. **TNN**

## Stinky affair: Rly staffers protest



Stench from dead rats and filth inside motor-man's lobby has forced the entire running staff at CSMT to protest and sit at the station. The staff has alleged offices have not been cleaned for a while. **TNN**

## ALL HANDS ON DECK



A young boy helps his family put the finishing touches on a Ganesh idol at a shop in Ghatkopar

# NEP rolled out but paucity of full-timers worries profs

**Mumbai:** Even as the state has implemented National Education Policy (NEP) in all colleges from this year, teachers have voiced concern over many of their colleagues in aided colleges being hired on clock-hour basis (CHB).

At a media interaction, Maharashtra Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisation (MFUCTO) said over 50% of teachers in the aided sections are hired on CHB, as these positions have been vacant for long. The organisation has announced a state-wide agitation against the govt's failure to fill vacant positions. They said the state has

reached 'an undesirable student-teacher ratio' due to the government's non-recruitment policy.

Although the govt recently issued no-objection certificates for teachers' appointment in over 3,600 posts, these will fill only a fraction of the vacancies accumulated over the years, said SP Lawande, president of MFUCTO, adding that this process too was started in 2018. He said the organisation will raise the issue with all authorities and political parties until they find a solution. The teachers said while the approved posts in the state are close to 68,000, it is managed with about 18,000 full-time teachers.

CS Kulkarni, general secretary, Bombay University and College Teachers' Union (BUCTU), said UGC insists on filling 90% of teaching positions. However, in some colleges, number of CHB teachers is as high as 70%. He said it is unconstitutional and goes against norms of the apex regulatory body. "How will the college offer multiple choice for students under NEP when there are not enough full-time teachers for all subjects?" he asked. He pointed out that in some colleges, subjects like Business Economics have over 600-700 students opting for them, but there are only a few teachers on rolls. **TNN**

## Raincoat leads to 25-min train delay; FIR filed against youth

**Mumbai:** The Railway Protection Force (RPF) filed an FIR against a 19-year-old college student after a raincoat he had thrown towards his friend landed on the overhead wire at Churchgate railway station, causing a 25-minute delay in services. The youngster was produced before a railway court and fined Rs 2,000 before being released. The incident occurred around 3:10 pm on Monday.

The RPF received information that a piece of cloth was hanging from the overhead wire on track no. 2. Upon arriving at the location, they found a crowd of passengers gathered. It turned out that the college student, a resident of Tardeo, had attempted to pass his raincoat to a friend. He threw the raincoat from platform no. 3, where he was standing, to platform no. 2, where his friend was standing. However, the raincoat instead got stuck on the overhead wire instead.

Trains were delayed from 3:10 to 3:35 pm as authorities made efforts to remove the raincoat without anyone getting injured. The youngster was booked under provisions of the Indian Railways Act. **TNN**



Cops trying to remove raincoat

## 4-year-old boy dies after falling into open nullah

**Mumbai:** A four-year-old boy fell into an uncovered nullah in Indira Nagar, Vile Parle (West) on Sunday. The boy, Harshal Chavan, was playing outside his hutment when the tragedy occurred. Harshal was rescued after eyewitnesses informed his parents, who work as daily-wagers. He was taken to Cooper Hospital for treatment. Quoting doctors, Juhu police said Harshal was responding to treatment well until Monday afternoon when he developed breathing difficulties and died. **TNN**

## Man's body found floating in sea at Versova beach

**Mumbai:** The body of an unidentified male, estimated to be around 35 years old, was found floating in the sea at Versova beach on Monday. According to a Versova police officer, the corpse had been floating for an undetermined period of time before eventually reaching the shore at 11 am. The body was retrieved with the assistance of a lifeguard and the law enforcement personnel, and subsequently transported to Cooper Hospital for a post-mortem examination. **TNN**

# Franchisees acquire govinda teams as dahi handi goes IPL way

Bella Jaisinghani  
@timesofindia.com

**Mumbai:** The stakes have risen at the annual Pro Govinda Dahi Handi competition that is backed by the Maharashtra government. This year, wealthy franchisees are acquiring govinda teams, much like bidders do for individual players in IPL. The difference is that an entire govinda pathak involving scores of players will be hired, not select members.

Chief minister Eknath Shinde made the announcement of the Pro Govinda League 2024 Monday.

Thirty-two govinda teams have registered for the pre-qualifiers that will be held in Thane Jul 27-28. The final



Pro Govinda League 2024 pre-qualifiers will be held in Thane Jul 27-28

shortlisted 16 teams will participate in the main event at Dome SVP Stadium in Worli Aug 18.

Shinde said, "Dahi handi

embodies Maharashtra's rich traditions, bringing communities together. The Pro Govinda competition will help promote this tradition nation-

wide and encourage players for maximum participation."

Purvash Sarnaik, son of Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik who is the founder chairman of the Pro Govinda League, is president of the league. He said, "It was my dream to transform dahi handi into a brand that is recognised nationwide, like the Pro Kabaddi League. We have combined IPL and Pro Kabaddi in this Pro Govinda League."

Purvash said, "Already 12 franchisees have acquired teams. The govinda groups will wear team jerseys and will be known by their new names, say Thane Tigers or Mumbai United, with their old names like Jai Jawan or United Kokan Nagar used as a suffix. We have sig-

ned formal contracts. Each govinda group will receive a handsome fee running into lakhs of rupees and the prize money is substantial too. The CM will announce the amount."

Ten years ago in 2014, obituaries began to be written to dahi handi after a Bombay High Court order restricted the participation of children and imposed curbs on the height of the human pyramid. A series of appeals up to the Supreme Court followed, which ultimately harnessed the sport into a set of reasonable guidelines and rules.

The turnaround is visible. Organisers say safety norms are followed, injuries have reduced, and the participation of small children is an aberration

rather than a norm.

A senior functionary of the Dahi Handi Samanvay Samiti who did not wish to be named said, "The entry of franchisees is welcome. Financial support will not only help govindas on the day of the festival, it will aid the various social and charitable works they do through the year. Spectators nationwide who wonder why these 'scruffy, barefoot boys' form the human pyramid will begin to recognise the effort and practice that goes in."

Leading govinda groups like Shiv Sai Krida Mandal, Jai Jawan, Kokan Nagar, Om Sai Mauli, Om Sai Seva and Hindu Ekta have signed up for Pro Govinda 2024.

**MILK'S WHOLESOME NUTRIENTS MAKES IT NATURE'S ENERGY DRINK**

Amul Milk AMUL DOODH PEETA HAI INDIA

**CIDCO WE MAKE CITIES**

**NOTICE INVITING BID**

Integrated Infrastructure Development of 20M & above wide Roads, Construction of Various Major & Minor Structures (Viz Flyover, Minor Bridges, VUPS, PUPS etc.) And Allied Electrical Works (Street Light) in TPS - 8, 9 and TPS-12 under NAINA Project.

CIDCO of Maharashtra Limited through the process of E-tendering invites "ON LINE" Item Rate Percentage Bids in two bid system (Part-I Technical Bid & Part-II Commercial Bid) from experienced prospective bidders fulfilling the mandatory eligibility criteria and scoring minimum qualifying marks of 75 in the Technical bid evaluation, comprising of total 100 marks as per Annexure-I, registered with CIDCO Ltd. or with Central Govt., or with State Govt. of Maharashtra and its undertakings in appropriate class & Category, who have completed work of similar nature as defined below for the work mentioned below:

1) Name of Work: Integrated Infrastructure Development of 20M & above wide Roads, Construction of Various Major & Minor Structures (Viz Flyover, Minor Bridges, VUPS, PUPS etc.) And Allied Electrical Works (Street Light) in TPS - 8, 9 and TPS-12 under NAINA Project. 2) C.A. No.: 01/CIDCO/EE/(NAINA-I)/2024-25 3) Cost put to the Bid: ₹1908,83,17,416.79 (excluding GST) ₹1881,71,70,287.45 (Biddable Part + ₹27,11,47,129.34 Non-Biddable) 4) E.M.D.: ₹19,09,00,000.00 5) Registration Class: Class - IA (Without Limit)-(Civil) 6) Completion Period: 1825 One Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Five Days (including Monsoon) 7) Tender Processing Fee: ₹70,800.00/- (including 18% GST (Non-Refundable))

Bid Document along with bidding programme will be available on the website mahatenders.gov.in from 23/07/2024 at 17.01 Hrs.

Superintending Engineer (NAINA)

CIN - U99999 MH 1970 SGC-014574 www.cidco.maharashtra.gov.in CIDCO/PR/115/2024-25



INDIAN English Newspaper

Deccan Chronicle,  
 Economics times,  
 Times of India,  
 Mirror  
 Financial Express,  
 Hans india,  
 Indian Express,  
 New Indian Express NIE  
 The Hindu,  
 Mint, Newspaper  
 Business standard,  
 Business Line  
 , States Man  
 , Tribune, Newspaper  
 pioneer Newspaper  
 millennium Post Newspaper  
 Hitavada Newspaper  
 The Daily Guardian,  
 The Telegraph  
 Eastern Chronicle  
 The Goan  
 First India  
 Free Press Journal  
 Mid day English Gujarati  
 Maharashtra time  
 And also editorials of all English newspapers.  
 Etc.....

© Also avialble Hindi, Andhra Pradesh language papers  
 Bengali: |  
 Tamil: |  
 Marathi:  
 Kannada  
 Mumbai samachar  
 Sandesh news paper  
 gujrati samachar  
 The Goan  
 International Magazine  
 International Newspaper  
 Gujrati Marathi newspaper  
 Urdu Newspaper  
 Telangana kannada, Malayalam, Tamil Telug

International newspaper

The Economist  
 The Financial Times  
 The Observer  
 The Guardian  
 The Daily Telegraph  
 Daily Express  
 Daily Record  
 Daily Mirror  
 Daily Mail  
 The Globa Mail  
 The Sun  
 The Times  
 The Independent  
 The Cricket Paper  
 The New York Times  
 The Wall Street Journal  
 USA Today  
 The Washington Post  
 The Washington Times  
 New York Post  
 Los Angeles Times  
 Chicago Tribune  
 San Francisco Chronicle  
 The Boston Globe  
 u Le Monde  
 UAE Gulf News  
 El Pais  
 Corriere Della Sera  
 Pakistan  
 Aarb News  
 Qatar - Gulf Times  
 Kuwait - Kuwait Times  
 Oman - Observer  
 UAE - Gulf News

 [Click Here To Join our Telegram Channel](#)





## JOIN OUR TELEGRAM GROUP

[www.bitcherry.io](http://www.bitcherry.io)

<https://t.me/sharewithpride>

All International and Magazines Indian magazines

All Magazine Hindi English international magazine

You can get all the details by joining our Telegram group.

[https://t.me/Magazine\\_8890050582](https://t.me/Magazine_8890050582)

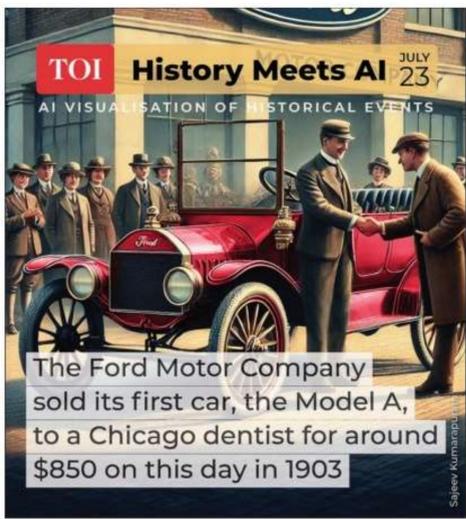


**Click Here To Join our Telegram Channel**



**IND WHO LOST FROM KHADOOR SAHIB CONTESTS AMRITPAL'S WIN IN HC, SAYS 'HE CONCEALED INFO'**

**FEW PEOPLE IN BOTH INDIA & PAK DON'T WANT PEACE: FAROOQ ABDULLAH ON TERROR ATTACKS IN JAMMU**



**TOI History Meets AI** JULY 23  
AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

**The Ford Motor Company sold its first car, the Model A, to a Chicago dentist for around \$850 on this day in 1903**

## Terrorists attack home of Shaurya Chakra winner, jawan injured

**Sanjay Khajuria | TNN**

**J&K bans JeM video misusing Saif's pic**

**J**&K Police issued an advisory cautioning citizens against sharing a "propaganda video" created by terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), misusing a picture of actor Saif Ali Khan and a poster of his film Phantom. "Posting and forwarding such content is an offence under sections 13 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act," the advisory states. TNN

**Jammu:** A soldier and a civilian were wounded when terrorists simultaneously attacked the house of a civilian Shaurya Chakra awardee and an adjacent security post in Gundah village of Budhal in J&K's Rajouri around 3.10am Monday, barely 24 hours after Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi's stocktaking visit to flashpoint Jammu. Instant retaliation by the Army forced the terrorists to retreat, official sources said.

The attack was the second pre-dawn terrorist strike on a security camp in Jammu division in less than a week. Two soldiers were wounded last Thursday when armed men attacked a camp in Doda, the epicentre of J&K's latest spurt of terrorism-linked violence, including the July 15 shootout in which four Rashtriya Rifles personnel were killed.

Monday's attack on the house of Parshotam Kumar, the Rajouri Village Defence Guard member who received a gallantry medal this year, was carried out by a group of terrorists who apparently split into two groups, with one of them targeting the security post.

## B'luru police slap FIR on 2 ED officials for 'bid to frame CM'

**Plaint By State Official Gives Tribal Fund Scam New Turn**

**Santoshkumar.B**  
@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** The tribal fund scam in Karnataka took a new turn on Monday as Bengaluru Police registered an FIR against two top Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials based on a complaint filed by a social welfare department official accusing ED officials of pressuring him to implicate the chief minister, finance department and former minister B Nagendra in the tribal fund scam.



The official said that he was pressured to implicate CM Siddaramaiah the tribal fund scam. Additional director Kalesh B stated in his complaint that the ED had summoned him over the phone on July 16 for investigations into the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation.

Kalesh stated: "I appeared before ED assistant director Muruli Kannan, who asked me 17 questions. I answered all the questions except three, for which I sought time as I had to source documents and check with my subordinates. Kannan agreed and asked me to appear before him for questioning at 2pm on July 18." Kalesh alleged that ED official Muruli Kannan did not give any endorsement for his statements.

"However, he started to ask questions orally. He told me that transferring the corporation fund to the MG Road branch was wrong. So I clarified to him that I had transferred the money according to the govt order on March 25, and the illegal transfer of the fund was done on March 5. I did not commit any mistake. After my clarification, he threatened to arrest me, saying I would not get bail for two years," Kalesh stated in the complaint.

He claimed that Kannan assured him that ED would help him if he confessed that there was instruction from former minister Nagendra and the finance department (FD). Kalesh added that Kannan sent him to Mittal, an IRS officer in ED office.

"Mittal abused and pressured me (to make statements against the CM and Nagendra)," Kalesh said in his complaint. Wilson Garden police registered a case under the BNS for criminal intimidation, intentional insult, and criminal liability when two or more individuals act with common intention. They mentioned Mittal as accused No. 1 and Muruli Kannan as accused No. 2 in the FIR.

## Assam cash-for-job scam: APSC ex-chief among 32 convicted

**Mukut.Das@timesofindia.com**

**Guwahati:** A former chairperson of the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) and 29 agricultural development officers appointed during his stint were among 32 people convicted Monday by a special court in a 2014 cash-for-job scam that was under investigation for eight years. Special Judge Dipak Thakuria acquitted 11 people, seven of them officers whose appointments were under a cloud.

The court held ex-APSC chief Rakesh Kumar Paul, two former members of the commission—Samedur Rahman and Basanta Kumar Doley—and the 29 officers who bribed their way to govt jobs guilty of cheating, criminal conspiracy and forgery under sections of IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Special judge Thakuria said Paul violated Assam Agriculture Service Rules, 1980, by judiciously awarding marks to the beneficiary candidates for "additional qualification and experience". "The convicted APSC trio also did not allow the principal controller of examinations to perform his duty. In the name of selecting right candidates, they (commission) did what they liked and chose favoured candidates. The interview process was a mockery of procedure," Thakuria said.

Twenty-nine agricultural development officers appointed during Paul's stint, some seen above in court on Monday, were among those convicted.

Agriculture Service Rules, 1980, by judiciously awarding marks to the beneficiary candidates for "additional qualification and experience". "The convicted APSC trio also did not allow the principal controller of examinations to perform his duty. In the name of selecting right candidates, they (commission) did what they liked and chose favoured candidates. The interview process was a mockery of procedure," Thakuria said.

## 4 TMC MLAs to be administered oath by Speaker

**Kolkata:** Amid the ongoing stand-off with Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose over swearing-in of newly elected TMC MLAs, the state assembly's business advisory committee on Monday decided that four MLAs, who won the by-polls held on July 10, would be administered oath of office by speaker Biman Banerjee on Tuesday.

The four MLAs to be sworn in on Tuesday include Supti Pandey, Mukutmani Adhikari, Krishna Kalyani and Madhuparna Thakur, reports Debashis Konar & Krishnendu Bandyopadhyay. Bose wrote to Banerjee reminding him of Article 193, which penalises MLAs who have not been administered oath by the governor or his representatives with a fine of Rs 500 every day they attend assembly. TNN

## 'Modi & Shah are elites, they don't care for poor'

**Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar:** On the third day of his indefinite hunger strike, Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange said home minister Amit Shah and PM Narendra Modi are elites who are least concerned about the poor.

He expressed anguish over Shah's failure to take up the issue of the Maratha reservation during his visit to Pune on Sunday. He also criticised Modi for not uttering a single word on Maratha reservation issue during his Shirdi visit as well as campaign for LS polls.

Jarange said: "They (Modi and Shah) are too big to pay attention to demands of the poor. They don't have time for the poor. Only after their cart turns upside down (in assembly polls), will they realise their folly. Such elite people don't need poor people." —**Ad Akhef**

## SC grants regular bail to ex-mantri's son in Kheri case

**New Delhi:** Supreme Court on Monday granted bail to Ashish Mishra, who had been on interim bail in the Lakhimpur Kheri (Uttar Pradesh) violence case related to the mowing down of five persons in Oct 2021.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan modified the earlier order of the court and made the interim bail order absolute. Mishra, son of former Union minister Ajay Mishra, was granted interim bail last year in Jan.

The SC, which had barred Ashish Mishra from visiting the state, allowed him to stay in Lucknow after his lawyer told the court that his father was no longer a minister or member of Parliament. The bench directed the trial court to expedite the proceedings and deliver the verdict. TNN

## HC cites 'error', recalls its child-porn judgment

**Vasantha.Kumar**  
@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** Stating that "fallibility is not alien to the functions" of judges and "to immortalize an error is no heroism", Karnataka high court has recalled its own order in a child-porn case, paving way for continuation of probe against a person caught watching child porn on a website.

After recalling the order, Justice M Nagaprasanna held a fresh hearing of the petition on Friday and passed an order, observing that investigation against petitioner, M Inayathulla, should continue as Section 67B (b) of Information Technology Act opens a prosecution against a person who browses child pornographic material.

**Khalid's bail: Judge recuses self from case**

**Umar Khalid's** bail plea was renotified for July 24 after one of the judges recused self from the matter. Justice Amit Sharma recused himself from hearing Khalid's plea in a UAPA case related to the alleged conspiracy behind the Feb 2020 riots. "List before another bench, of which Justice Sharma is not a member, on July 24," court said. TNN

**TIMES TRIBUTE** PAYING HOMAGE TO THE DEPARTED SOUL

To book your ad Logon to: [ads.timesgroup.com](https://ads.timesgroup.com) or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free)

**SAD DEMISE**

**ASHABEN GUJARATHI**  
12-08-1948 20-07-2024

A loving mother, devoted daughter, thoughtful sister, doting aunt and a dependable friend. She was a generous and large hearted person whose zest for life will be remembered by all who knew her.

Daughter of Late Veenaben and Late Arvindlal Vakil

Deeply Mourned by:  
**GAYATRI GUJARATHI**

Late Parul & Late Abhay Vakil | Dipika & Late Amar Vakil  
Nehal Vakil | Amrita Vakil  
Bhairavi Vakil | Ragini & Varun Vakil  
Vivek Vakil | Hrishav and Nyra

Choksi and Dani Family

\* Prarthana Sabha \*  
On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2024 from 5 pm to 7 pm  
At Hall of Culture, Ground Floor, Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai - 400018.

**SAD DEMISE**

**BRENDAN CONAN PEREIRA**  
23-11-1928 to 21-07-2024  
(Co-founder of Chaitra Advertising, now Leo Burnett)

A person full of life, yet very humble, A man of few words, yet full of action, Generous and God-loving, Suave & stylish, Loved colour & his ponytail, Advertising his first love, Made wonderful friends & memories through Tennis & Golf, Hale & hearty, healthy & strong, didn't trouble anyone at all. Peaceful in life, peaceful in death, Jesus has created a special space for him up there. It's hard to let go, but go he must, to our Saviour & Lord, who has been his recourse. We are grateful to the Almighty for the time we had with him. Brendan's was a life well lived and loved. Our loss is heaven's gain...stay blessed dearest Brendan, you will be dearly missed.

Beloved HUSBAND of THERESE for almost 70 years  
DAD to IAN / RUFINA (FERNANDES), MARYAN / LATE PAUL APPELYARD, LEON / MARGARET, GILLIAN / ELMAR HOLLENSTEIN  
GRANDPA to LATE BRENDAN APPELYARD, YOHHAN PEREIRA, SEAN / BELINDA APPELYARD, ANTHEA (FERNANDES) / PRAYAG BAGDE  
GREAT GRANDPA to JACKSON APPELYARD

Viewing and Funeral at Cathedral of the Holy Name, Wodehouse Road on Wednesday 24th July 2024, 2.30 pm: Viewing and last respects, 3.30 pm: Funeral Service & Mass Followed by Cremation at Worli Crematorium, E Moses Road, Opp Four Seasons Hotel at 5.30 pm approx. Funeral will be live streamed [https://youtube.com/live/1\\_TroGzKDCs?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/1_TroGzKDCs?feature=share)

**SAD DEMISE**

**MRS. SOSAMMA ABRAHAM (MUKKARNATHU)**  
w/o Late Mr. A. P. Mathew  
Left for her heavenly abode on 21/07/2024

Deeply saddened to let you know about the passing of our dearest Papa/ Aha/ Baba, Ramesh Kulkarni, husband of Late Shubha Kulkarni on 21st July 2024

1930 - 2024  
Lovingly remembered by  
Vedantini, Vandana, Vidhut, Uday, Anuja, Robert, Atul, Salil, Rajas, Ashdeen, Tarini, Arnav, Naomi, Rehan, Ayra, Vihaan, Zoe & Zaara

No condolences please

**SAD DEMISE**

**GEORGE ELIAS MENDONCA**  
7<sup>th</sup> Sept 1937 - 21<sup>st</sup> July 2024  
Ex. Burroughs Wellcome

Has departed to his heavenly abode Peacefully. Beloved Husband of Mary Peter / Rehbar Grandfather of Samairah / Daraius Susanna & Hazel. Great Grand son Josiah. Funeral Services will be held at 11.00 am at the Bethel Marthoma Church Malad followed by burial at Charkop Christian Cemetery Marve Road, Malad (W) @ 12.00 noon on 23/07/2024. Resi.: C3/11 Navy Colony, Malad (W). PH: 95948 0552

**SAD DEMISE**

**Capt Rajesh T. Joseph**  
Aged 70 years Has departed to his heavenly abode on 19/07/24. S/o (late) Dr. K Thomas Joseph & (late) Sophie Joseph H/o Diana Joseph F/o Reuben and Wilbur Joseph B/o Santosh Joseph

Viewing on 23/07/24 at 3:30 pm in Sacred Heart Church, Vashi. Funeral mass at 4:00 pm Sacred Heart Vashi and burial at Kopri Gaon cemetery.

**SAD DEMISE**

**ADV. S. N. INAMDAR**  
Tax consultant and designated Senior Counsel Bombay High Court passed away after a brief illness on 18th July 24. His legacy in the legal and corporate world will be remembered and honoured by all those who knew him.

DEEPLY MOURNED BY Lalakari Inamdar and Kaushal, Vishal, Suchitra and Anurag

Condolence Meeting Park Club Ltd, Shivaji Park, Dadar West 28th July 10 AM to 12 Noon

**MARKA**

**MARKA PAGDI**  
06.05.1945 - 18.07.2024

**Shri Meghraj Otandas Talreja**  
08/11/1924 - 20/07/2024  
B/o Arjandas & Mohandas Talreja H/o Smt. Kaushalya Talreja F/o Prakash Talreja, Rakhi Banshi & Shobha Aisinghani Father-in-law of Hareesh Gurmukhdas Aisinghani

MARKA PAGDI will be held on Tuesday, 23 July 2024 at Shiv Mandir, Kopri Colony, Thane East. Timing: 4:00 pm to 4:30 pm —Fondly Remembered by— Prakash & Shobha Talreja Rakhi Banshi Shobha & Hareesh Aisinghani Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren of the Talreja family

**TO PLACE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: JAI SARSAR 9867505472**

**TO BOOK AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: JAI SARSAR 9867505472**

**TO PLACE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: JAI SARSAR 9867505472**

**TO BOOK AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: JAI SARSAR 9867505472**

**Swg. Shri. Vijay Khandelwal**  
(20-May-1953 to 23-July-2014)  
Son of Swg. Shri. Kapoorchand & Smt. Rajdulari Khandelwal Husband of Swg. Smt. Asha Khandelwal

न जयन्ते विम्वे वा कदापि नान्ये भूत्वा भविता वा न भूयः  
अजो निर्यतः साक्षरौतरे प्रयुजो न हन्यते हुन्यमाने खरिरे ।।

The soul is neither born, nor does it ever die; nor having once existed, does it ever cease to be. The soul is without birth, eternal, immortal, and ageless. It is not destroyed when the body is destroyed. —Bhagavad Gita (Ch. 2 -Text 20)

Lovingly Remembered and Deeply Missed By - Megha - Gajender & Harsha - Ankit

**vijaylax**



mahindra<sup>Rise</sup>

Fast Forward»  
*To the big league.*



Fully loaded AX7 at ₹ **19.49 Lakh\***

Dual 26.03 cm HD Superscreen | Level-2 ADAS

Panoramic Skyroof™ | Amazon Alexa Built-in | 6 Airbags

Leatherette Seats | 6-way Powered Driver Seat

Driver Drowsiness Detection | Adaptive Cruise Control



BOOK NOW

[WWW.AUTO.MAHINDRA.COM/SUV/XUV700](http://WWW.AUTO.MAHINDRA.COM/SUV/XUV700)  
TOLL FREE NUMBER: 1800 267 9929

XUV700

\*TSC apply. Price indicated is an Ex-showroom (All-India) price of XUV700 AX7 MT Petrol variant. This offer starts from 1st July 2024 and is valid till 31st October 2024 or till the stock lasts, whichever is earlier. Features shown may vary depending on the variant.

# TIMES interact

Connecting People, Connecting Needs.

To book your ad

Logon to: [ads.timesgroup.com](https://ads.timesgroup.com)  
or Call: 18001205474 (Toll Free)



**business**

**BUSINESS OFFERS**

**LICENSED** Electrical contractor for Industrial, Commercial & Residential Electrical works Liasioning ADANI BEST MSEDCL & PWD 9819642641 kamalrjhwan@gmaill.com www.transengineers.in

**REQUIRED INVESTORS / PARTNERS** for Pre Approval Redevelopment Projects : ROI : upto 1 : 5 in 3 to 4 years. For more call on : 9136232435

**LOANS**

**GANPATI FINANCE**  
Call us at: 7428840122, 9561995974  
**5 LAKHS TO 500 CR.**  
Personal/Property/Business/Project/Home Loan.  
Interest @ 4% P.A. Special Offer. Agents Welcome.

**FINANCE** against only Property, Builder and Developer, Industrial Estate and Project Finance  
Contact : 9699999914.

**MACHINERY & TOOLS**

**SALE** 5.2 MW Extraction cum condensing turbine. Make:Maxwatt Gear box triveni make 505 Woodward governor with T&P control panel.AVR panel and tube oil system. Contact : Kishor Chaudhari Mobile: 09967591501 Tel:02222-280641 / 280371

**jobs**

**SITUATION VACANT**

**OTHER VACANCIES**

**RETIRED PERSONS**

**Corporate 2nd career for**

**Retires, Housewives, Professionals, No selling policies, WFH, Good Salary. 9872542217**

**PART/FULL** Time Job for Retired / VRS/ Edu. H/wives in Govt. Recognized Co. Opp. to get Salary+PF+ Medclaim. Age: 40+. Sujata: 93729 51938

**RESTART 2ND-CAREER** - Retired/ Sr. Officers/ Bankers/ NRI/ VRS/ Salary + Incentives with your Talent & Skills. Age: 50+. Call : 98694 85101

**EXCELLENT** Opportunity for Retired / VRS / Bankers / NRI/ House wives. Fix Salary, PF, Incentive, Promotions, Medical etc. Call: 98209 27252

**SITUATION VACANT**

**REQUIRED** Marketing - Back Office, Borivali East, S/b Graduate & Computer Literate with Good Speaking skills (English & Hindi). E mail: group hr @ Leebogroup.com

**real estate**

**MUMBAI PROPERTIES**

**BEYOND VIRAR**

**BOISAR** Near Main Rd New Bldg 2BHK Fully Furnished 522 carpet 4th Flr. 1 carparking CCTV, Video Telephone Door, Lift, Garden Children Sr Citizens. Area Gated Community. Security Nr Tata Colony smart bazar demart, Bullet Train stn. School, College. Hospital, Petrol pump, ATM, Resort Beaches 8424002919.

**CHEMBUR**

**AVAILABLE** large 2bhk flat for sale at aara on ghata road behind old school, Chembur. Cpt area: 720 sqft. One car park. whatsapp owner 9820023324

**JUHU**

**GARDEN** Home/Juhu Beach High Ceilings/ Hill Station Feel Greenery / Birds / Butterflies / 7000 Usable Carpet / 29 Cr +/- SIPPY HOUSING 737371203

**4BHK** 2200 ft two lovely terraces 1000 carpet each super deal westerly see now vacant ready to shift broker welcome BKP 9820303062 / 9821018184

**DISTRESS** sale 5 BHK, Nr Mithibai, @ Juhu. Carpet area 2000 Usable Area 2400 , 10cr final Brokers excuse Call 9395929159 / 9870001222

**SOUTH MUMBAI**

**KANDIVALI WEST**

**KANDIVALI** (w) Sale 3 BHK 1026 carpet Swimming Pool, Gym, Steam Room, Walking Track, Kids Play Area, Sit Outs, Elders Area, Cafeteria, Podium Parking, Garden, Rly Stn 5 Minutes Jain Temple, Haveli, all utilities around all 22 Flrs complete, Internal Tiling & Electricity going on [Complete till 14th Flr]. Soft pos'n oct 24 Ready pos'n dec 24 Parties Directly Call: MOBILE: 99220 21298

**RUSTOMJEE-CROWN**

Palatial Living sea link views 7 star amenities New inventory. Investors stock 3.4 bhk 9.25 cr 14.5 cr - Rera - P5190000268 By appointment only - 865641895

**PUSHPA-BHAVAN**

Colaba 1BHK 530', 5th flr @ 2.6 Cr. Neg. Keys with us - For inspections 'Mahesh Rohra' - Sejal Gohil 7021096128 Yash Nema 9833246401 (Agents)

**RUSTOMJEE-CROWN**

Prabhadevi Xtra ordinary large 4 bhk on ready, sky Mansions, 55 flr +2100+cp+1.75 cr + taxes, +91 86556 41895 Limited units.

**WALKESHWAR-2000'**

Furnished 4bhk+SRT with Servings, Garage-Open Prkge, Playarea for kids, Rent 3.5L. Also for sale. Dhiren 9819569898

**WORLI**

**WORLI** Large 5BHK + Balcony, 4545 cpf, sea/view +4 park, spot possession Attractive Price, for more details & Luxury Apartments. 9987505593

**ANDHERI EAST**

**FLAT** for sale 3 BHK usable cpf 800 sqft, parking at chakala Andheri (E) Walking distance from metro station, whatsapp owner 98200 23324

**ANDHERI WEST**

**ANDHERI-W** 3BHK For Rent, Sundervan Complex, 1200 sq.ft. Furnished, 1.35 L., 2 Parking Call: 'Premier Estates' 7710008968

**VERSOVA**, ROW HOUSE For Sale - 1500 sq.ft. + Garden + Pst Terrace 7.50 Crs. Covered Parking Call: 'Premier Estates' 77100 08968

**4-BUNGALOWS**, 4 BHK, FOR - SALE DUPLEX, 2000 sq.ft. + Pvt Terrace, 3 Parking, 8.90 Crs. Call: 'Premier Estates' 7710008968

**IF you want to buy/sell/rent** & redevelopment specialist prime location in Mumbai you should. Cont. 8220303672 www.harekrishnarealty.com

**BANDRA WEST**

**BANDRA-W-2000-AREA** 10 cr 4 bhk ser room loo bec OC brand new finished vastu cr lifts super location 4 side open cont. 9819673092 / 9821123092

**BORIVALI WEST**

**BORIVALI** - West Gautam Nagar, TPS Road Mumbai 40002 Carpet 400 and 404 sq. ft 1 BHK. FOR SALE Nearing Possession 85308 99162

**GOREGAON WEST**

**GOREGAON (W)**

**2 BHK** Rs. 1.74 cr  
**2.5 BHK** Rs. 2.11 cr  
**3 BHK** Rs. 2.45 cr  
**9324154194**

**FOR SALE/Lease** office space at Andheri E, MIDC 4000-15000 Sq Ft Good deal Excellent location with prime Cont. Karmaliys Realty: 9833847822

**KANDIVALI WEST**

**KANDIVALI WEST**

**INVESTOR'S** delight, avail 7500 sqft with double height Nr. Balaji studios Andheri (W) @27k only many investment options. 9967666177

**GHATKOPAR (EAST)-NEAR-STEIN/METRO/EXP/HWAY**

3-Minutes Pantnagar, 675'-450'-225'-A-C-Offices, Rent/Lease - Owner-8699 52403

**ANDHERI** (W) Behind Balaji

Telefilms of Veera Desai Rd, ready Poss Office 735 or 1525 sq ft Bldg with Glass frontage. Reas. Price. 981994191 / 4002070 / 800

**AT-DADAR(WEST)**

Preleased Pagdi Commercial Premises for Sale on 1st floor, Carpet Area 1050 sqft., Rs. 4.75 cr. Call Owner: 88790 68862

**CHEMBUR**, Prime Shop on

Lease, 550 Sq ft. Roopam Estate Agency, Jeetu Chhabria, 9820182285, Buy Sell Lease, www.chemburproperties.com

**THANE** (W) Nr. Three Perol

Pump, Manas Residency, 2511' carpet, Commercial Office on Rent @ 150. Sell @ 400000+. Ready Possession 9082069998

**BKC-INS-TOWERS**

Approx. 3,000-SQFT Carpet, Along With 4-Car Parks. Available On Leave & License. For Details Call : 98209 00904 / 92235 44084

**GOLDEN** opportunity to own

375 sq. ft. Carpet Shop / Office on 2nd Floor Road facing in Link Squares Mall, Linking Road, Bandra, 2.5 cr. Non-negotiable. Brokers excuse. Call -7977521114

**FORK** -Overlooking Indra

Dock- Newly renovated Barshell offices Area 2200 - 999-700 (200 fully furnished with Cabin) On Leave license-ownership - Pughore. Owner Purshtottam (WhatsApp 9322247295) 9322247296 Mehta 9322247260

**SHOP** for Sale at G V Scheme

1 & 1 Mulund East 490 sq.ft carpet ready possession with OC. Contact Akash - 9802294556 (Broker Excuse)

**FORK** -Overlooking Indra

Dock- Newly renovated Barshell offices Area 2200 - 999-700 (200 fully furnished with Cabin) On Leave license-ownership - Pughore. Owner Purshtottam (WhatsApp 9322247295) 9322247296 Mehta 9322247260

**20 Acres** Land for sale 13 km

from Ayodhya & 16.5 km from Three Ram Mandir and 15 km from Airport. Rate reduced 1.40 Cr per acres @ 9415048106

**ACCOMMODATION WANTED**

**WANT** to buy 1 or 2 BHK Flat at Patrakar, Kala Nagar, Bandra East/BKC, Dadar East, Matunga, Kings Circle. Ph: Mahesh: 9821610898.

**ESTATE & PROPERTIES**

**NEEDED ON OUTRIGHT/LONG LEASE**

**VACANT LAND/ LAND WITH BUILDING FOR SCHOOL** 0.5-2 ACRES, 1 LAC SQ. FT. BUA POTENTIAL KALYAN, DOMBIVALI, BHIWANDI AMBERNATH, BADLAPUR, TITWALA, THANE. WITH ADJACENT PG, WIDE ROAD IN/ AROUND RESIDENTIAL AREA CLIENT : GREEN ACRES ACADEMY HARSHAD - 9325712304

**PROPERTY ANCILLARIES**

**COMMERCIAL PREMISES**

**GOREGAON** (W) S. V. Road DLH Park, Commercial Office 4500' Carpet with 5 Car Parking For Sale / Rent. 'Owner' 9821025218

**FOR Sale/Lease** office space at Andheri E, MIDC 4000-15000 Sq Ft Good deal Excellent location with prime Cont. Karmaliys Realty: 9833847822

**INVESTOR'S** delight, avail 7500 sqft with double height Nr. Balaji studios Andheri (W) @27k only many investment options. 9967666177

**GHATKOPAR (EAST)-NEAR-STEIN/METRO/EXP/HWAY**

3-Minutes Pantnagar, 675'-450'-225'-A-C-Offices, Rent/Lease - Owner-8699 52403

**ANDHERI** (W) Behind Balaji

Telefilms of Veera Desai Rd, ready Poss Office 735 or 1525 sq ft Bldg with Glass frontage. Reas. Price. 981994191 / 4002070 / 800

**AT-DADAR(WEST)**

Preleased Pagdi Commercial Premises for Sale on 1st floor, Carpet Area 1050 sqft., Rs. 4.75 cr. Call Owner: 88790 68862

**CHEMBUR**, Prime Shop on

Lease, 550 Sq ft. Roopam Estate Agency, Jeetu Chhabria, 9820182285, Buy Sell Lease, www.chemburproperties.com

**THANE** (W) Nr. Three Perol

Pump, Manas Residency, 2511' carpet, Commercial Office on Rent @ 150. Sell @ 400000+. Ready Possession 9082069998

**BKC-INS-TOWERS**

Approx. 3,000-SQFT Carpet, Along With 4-Car Parks. Available On Leave & License. For Details Call : 98209 00904 / 92235 44084

**GOLDEN** opportunity to own

375 sq. ft. Carpet Shop / Office on 2nd Floor Road facing in Link Squares Mall, Linking Road, Bandra, 2.5 cr. Non-negotiable. Brokers excuse. Call -7977521114

**FORK** -Overlooking Indra

Dock- Newly renovated Barshell offices Area 2200 - 999-700 (200 fully furnished with Cabin) On Leave license-ownership - Pughore. Owner Purshtottam (WhatsApp 9322247295) 9322247296 Mehta 9322247260

**SHOP** for Sale at G V Scheme

1 & 1 Mulund East 490 sq.ft carpet ready possession with OC. Contact Akash - 9802294556 (Broker Excuse)

**FORK** -Overlooking Indra

Dock- Newly renovated Barshell offices Area 2200 - 999-700 (200 fully furnished with Cabin) On Leave license-ownership - Pughore. Owner Purshtottam (WhatsApp 9322247295) 9322247296 Mehta 9322247260

**20 Acres** Land for sale 13 km

from Ayodhya & 16.5 km from Three Ram Mandir and 15 km from Airport. Rate reduced 1.40 Cr per acres @ 9415048106

**tender & notices**

**TENDERS**

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed Offers are invited from reputed, experienced and financially sound developers for the Redevelopment of Housing society **GARDEN LOVE CHS. LTD.** (Reg.No. BOM/WR/HSG/TC/9331/96-97). Plot bearing C.T.S. No. 2225 on Eksar village, Borivali (West), Mumbai-400091.

**REDEVELOPMENT NOTICE**

**REDEVELOPMENT NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from Reputed and Experienced Builders/Developers for proposed Redevelopment of **SHREE RAM BHAVAN CHS LTD.**, Janakalyan Nagar, Opp. St. Jude's High School, Malad (W) Mumbai - 95.

**REDEVELOPMENT NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from Reputed and Experienced Builders/Developers for proposed Redevelopment of **SHREE RAM BHAVAN CHS LTD.**, Janakalyan Nagar, Opp. St. Jude's High School, Malad (W) Mumbai - 95.

**REDEVELOPMENT NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from Reputed and Experienced Builders/Developers for proposed Redevelopment of **SHREE RAM BHAVAN CHS LTD.**, Janakalyan Nagar, Opp. St. Jude's High School, Malad (W) Mumbai - 95.

**REDEVELOPMENT NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from Reputed and Experienced Builders/Developers for proposed Redevelopment of **SHREE RAM BHAVAN CHS LTD.**, Janakalyan Nagar, Opp. St. Jude's High School, Malad (W) Mumbai - 95.

**REDEVELOPMENT NOTICE**

Sealed Tenders are invited from Reputed and Experienced Builders/Developers for proposed Redevelopment of **SHREE RAM BHAVAN CHS LTD.**, Janakalyan Nagar, Opp. St. Jude's High School, Malad (W) Mumbai - 95.

**REDEVELOPMENT NOTICE**

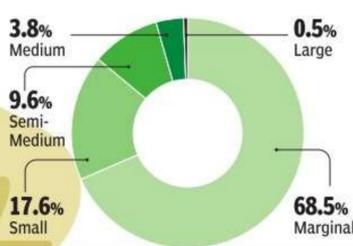
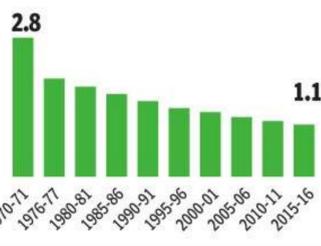
Sealed Tenders are invited from Reputed and Experienced Builders/Developers for proposed Redevelopment of **SHREE RAM BHAVAN CHS LTD.**, Janakalyan Nagar, Opp. St. Jude's High School, Malad (W) Mumbai - 95.

**REDEVELOPMENT NOTICE**

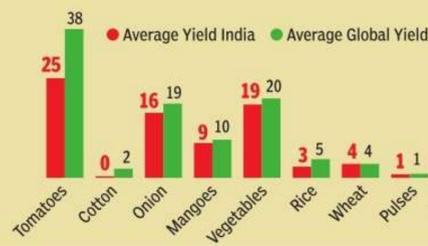


SEEDING  
GROWTH

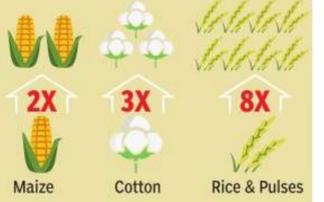
## Land Consolidation Is A Key To Boosting Agricultural Yields

Number of Holdings operated in India as per  
Agriculture Census 2015-16Average size (in hectare) of operational  
holdings as per different Agriculture Censuses

## Maximizing Yields To Boost India's Agricultural Potential

Average yield comparison for major agricultural  
products (2021-22), tons/hectare

Raising yields would boost production



Source: Agriculture Statistics at a Glance- 2022, Dept. of Agriculture and Family Welfare for India Average yields; FAO for Global Yields

## FM's roadmap: Keep options open for futures in agri mkt

Reversing Export Bans, More Pvt Investment Among Proposals

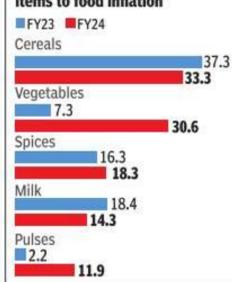
TEAM TOI

New Delhi: The Economic Survey on Monday emphasised on the pressing need for comprehensive reforms in India's agricultural sector and recommended five policy points to ensure that the markets function in the interest of the farmer. It also pitched for striking a delicate balance between incentivising farmers to increase production and keeping food prices within acceptable limits, and suggested addressing the issue of land fragmentation.

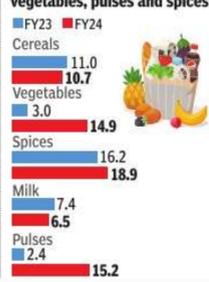
Elaborating on five policy recommendations, the survey, tabled by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Parliament, suggested not opting to ban 'futures or options' at the first sign of price spikes. Other

## INFLATION MENU CARD

Contribution (%) of food items to food inflation



Elevated inflation rate (%) in vegetables, pulses and spices



four suggestions include invoking export bans only under exceptional circumstances, re-examining the inflation-targeting framework, increasing

the total net irrigated area, and making farming consistent with climate considerations.

It said the agri sector requires structural transforma-

tion due to challenges of water scarcity and climate change. The survey called for enhancing private sector investment in agriculture saying it is vital for impetus. It said investments in production methods, marketing infrastructure, technology and reduction in post-harvest losses need to be scaled up.

Chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran in the preface to the survey highlighted the need for policy re-orientation despite existing subsidies and support measures. The survey noted that the sector provides livelihood support to 42.3% of the population and has a share of 18.2% in GDP at current prices. The sector has seen average annual growth rate of 4.1% at constant prices over last five years.

## 'Go digital to put infra projects in fast lane'

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: With land acquisition issues delaying infrastructure projects, particularly highways, airports and power, the Economic Survey has called for faster onboarding of digital land records and obtaining clearances.

The report highlights that despite the large build-up of connectivity infrastructure and energy-related assets, both sectors are hit by delays in land acquisition. The govt is tackling it by focusing on developing access-controlled NHs and upgrading existing ones. "Implementing single-window clearances is crucial for enhancing roadway services' efficiency and effectiveness in India's transportation network," it said.

The report also said that India needs more private participation in building infrastructure, along with more data about investments and assets in the sector, instead of relying on public expenditure. Private sector participation is not forthcoming to the extent desired, it says.

"For India to continue building quality infrastructure, a higher level of private sector financing and resource mobilisation from new sources will be crucial. Facilitating this would not only require policy and institutional support from the Centre, but state and local govts would have to play an equally important role," the survey said.

## Blatant lies on poverty: Cong attacks govt on Survey

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: Congress on Monday said that the Economic Survey presents an "illusion" and that India's economy is "at its most precarious" in years.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge hit out at PM Narendra Modi, posting on X, "You were lamenting today about being 'throttled for two-and-a-half hours', but the truth is that your govt has crushed the aspirations of 140 crore Indians in 10 years! The Economic Survey tells a blatant lie by claiming that poverty has almost been eradicated. The truth is that the gap between rich and poor is highest in 100 years." Kharge also highlighted unemployment as a serious concern.

Deputy leader of opposition in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, said the Economic Survey is an "example of the illusion that everything is fine". "The PM is always concerned about himself, when the fact is that the common man, students, poor, labourers are being strangled by this govt."

Congress will raise farm issues, joblessness, Agniveer, the advisory on Kanwar Yatra, NEET exams and Manipur violence in Parliament.

## Richer states like TN, Kerala corner more NREGS funds

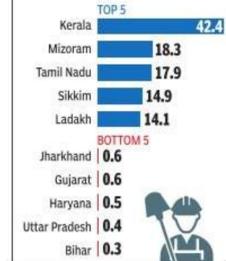
TEAM TOI

New Delhi: The Economic Survey has questioned the conclusions that higher work generation and fund use under the job scheme implies rural distress, arguing that if it was so, then poorer states with higher unemployment should be leading the performance in MGNREGS as against the fact that richer states have a better record of tapping the scheme. The survey raised the possibility that there may be a correlation between MGNREGS fund usage and reduced unemployment, in what appears to argue that the job scheme is mitigating joblessness.

The survey stated that in 2023-24, Tamil Nadu, which

## HAVES &amp; NOTS

Ratio of proportion of MGNREGS fund released to states and proportion of poor population



has less than 1% of country's poor population, accounted for 15% of MGNREGS funds released, while Kerala with

just 0.1% of poor population used 4% of MGNREGS funds. TN and Kerala together generated 51 crore persondays of work.

In contrast, Bihar and UP with 45% of poor population accounted for only 17% of the scheme's funds and generated 53 crore persondays of work. "The survey further added that "states with highest rural unemployment rates did not necessarily use the most MGNREGS funds."

The survey also noted that irregularities and leakages also result in higher fund usage, and the funds do not reach the intended beneficiaries, which makes "demand an unreliable distress indicator". It said Rs 935 crore over four years was found to have been misappropriated, as per social audit units.

## Climate change fight smart tactic in geopolitics

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: An active role in fighting climate change also makes for good geopolitics.

This is what the Economic Survey says, pointing out that by helping small island nations, most vulnerable to climate change, building disaster resilient infrastructure is helping India build a network of allies in the Indo Pacific region, where China has increasingly been aggressive and expanding.

India's contributions through its International Solar Alliance (ISA), Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), creation of LeadIT, Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS), and Big Cat Alliance are significant, the survey said.

The India-headquartered International Solar Alliance (ISA), an inter-governmental body of 110 countries, has the potential of unlocking \$1 trillion of investments by 2030, creating a market system to tap the benefits of solar power. The ISA is an Indian initiative, launched in 2017.

India's quest for global leadership roles also saw the launch of New Delhi-based CDRI, which works for sharing of expertise to build disaster resilient infrastructure across the globe. CDRI was launched by PM Narendra Modi in 2019 at the UN climate summit in New York and has 33 countries, multilateral banks, UN agencies and many international financial institutions as its members.

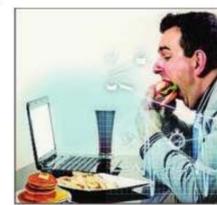
Recently, CDRI invited proposals for funding of \$8 million to develop resilient infrastructure as part of its Infrastructure for Resilient Island States Programme (IRIS), which has financial commitments of \$40 million from Australia, the European Union, India and the UK.

## Obesity, fatty foods threat to healthy &amp; wealthy India

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: Excessive use of social media, screen time, sedentary habits, and unhealthy food don't just raise the risk of non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, heart diseases and certain types of cancer. The Economic Survey 2023-24 has warned that the lethal mix of these lifestyle-related factors that is highly prevalent among India's working-age population also poses a threat to the country's economic potential.

"For India's working-age population to be gainfully employed, they need skills and good health," the survey says, adding that the private sector has made substantial contributions to this toxic mix of habits.



LIFESTYLE REBOOT

The survey recommends Indian businesses embrace traditional lifestyle and recipes. "India's traditional lifestyle, food and recipes have shown how to live healthily and in harmony with nature and the environment...it makes commercial sense for Indian businesses to...embrace them," the survey says.

Nearly 56% of the disease

burden in India is due to unhealthy diets, according to the latest dietary guidelines for Indians published by the Indian Council for Medical Research. The survey cites this data and says a surge in the consumption of highly processed foods laden with sugars and fat, coupled with reduced physical activity and limited access to diverse foods, may add to the crisis as it would exacerbate micronutrient deficiencies and overweight/obesity problems.

Excess weight and obesity, two common lifestyle problems that plague nearly 17% of India's population, are costing the country 1.02% of its GDP, the World Obesity Federation and the RTI International had said in a report published in BMJ Global Health in 2022.

## Just skill it: Incentivise job creation to meet global needs

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: The Economic Survey 2023-24 highlighted the need to equip India's workforce with employable skills and knowledge to meet the demands of the global labour market.

With only 4.4% of the young workforce formally skilled, the survey suggested linking skill development initiatives with Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) and employment-linked incentive schemes in high-growth potential sectors such as toys, apparels, tourism, logistics, and textiles. This approach would facilitate the upgrading of skills as production moves up the value chain.

Currently, the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme is available for 14 sectors. Industry bodies have



HIRING SQUAD

been demanding introduction of an employment-linked incentive scheme to promote job creation in the economy, in the face of a growing young population amidst concerns about joblessness growth.

The survey emphasised the importance of maximising the outcomes from skill-linked initiatives by promoting convergence and utilising synergies with other employ-

ment-centric programmes. The govt is actively partnering with the industry to enhance skilling and employability, ensuring that job and entrepreneurial opportunities align with the aspirations and abilities of youth.

"Measures are being taken by govt to translate India's demographic dividend into a productivity dividend by enabling job and entrepreneurial opportunities that are in sync with the aspirations and abilities of India's youth. It is partnering with the industry to enhance skilling with employability," said the Survey.

By linking skill development with PLI schemes and employment-linked incentive schemes in high-growth sectors, the govt aims to support the upgrading of skills as production advances along the value chain.

## Rubbing the wrong way: Toilet paper doesn't wash with planners

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: The Economic Survey focuses on the excessive use of toilet paper by the West and the need for a behavioural change.

"The entire developed world uses toilet paper made of 'virgin wood' for the most regular body activity, every single day, multiple times over. Making one single roll of toilet paper uses 1.5 pounds of wood, 37 gallons of water and 1.3kwh of electricity," the survey quotes a report.

It suggests that advanced countries learn from some of the poor and developing nations in Asia where they have adopted a more nature friend-



DUMP IT

ly lifestyle when it comes to maintaining basic hygiene.

"Many Asian countries provide valuable lessons around these, yet their non-capitalist strategies often re-

main excluded from mainstream discussions because behavioural and lifestyle change seems to be more difficult than climate change," the published report said.

It also points out how the developed world is reluctant to focus on the impact of their 'consumption-oriented lifestyle'. Growing red meat for consumption in these countries, which has a large impact on climate change, is one example. The OECD Environmental Policies and Individual Behaviour Change survey of 2022 said that 43% of respondents reported regular consumption of red meat and showed resistance to change this lifestyle.

## No more red cards for 'motherhood penalty'

TEAM TOI

New Delhi: The Economic Survey calls for strategic reforms to create a robust care economy in India to not only address the expected rise in demand for such services but also address the challenge of 'motherhood penalty'.

Childbearing and childcare is found to have a significant financial impact on women's careers. "Motherhood penalty" shows up as a drop in 'female labour force participation rate' during child-bearing years and resultant loss of income.

"The economic value of developing a care sector is two-fold—increasing female labour force participation rate and promoting a promising sector for output and job



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

creation," the survey said. According to the Indian Labour Organisation (ILO), the care sector is one of the fastest-growing sectors globally, and investments in care

services sector are estimated to generate 475 million jobs globally by 2030.

In India, direct public investment equivalent to 2% of GDP has the potential to gen-

erate around 11 million jobs, nearly 70% of which will go to women.

According to the ILO, care work consists of activities involved in meeting the physical, psychological, and emotional needs of adults and children, old and young, frail and able-bodied.

"India's care needs are slated to expand significantly in the next 25 years, as an ageing population follows demographic transition while the population of children stays relatively sizeable. Thus compared to 50.7 crore persons in 2022, the country would need to care for 64.7 crore persons in 2050," the survey said.

The report asserted that the additional requirements for care would be further up-scaled as more women partici-

pate in paid work with prevalence of nuclear families increasing.

In a section on social and economic empowerment of women, the survey calls for measures to enhance asset ownership among women and normalising female property rights. "For development to be led by women, it will also have to be 'owned' by them," the report said.

On financial inclusion, it has pointed out that the PM Jan Dhan Yojana has facilitated the opening of 52.3 crore bank accounts, of which around 56% of account holders are women, as of May 2024. This is accompanied by a rise in average deposits by nearly four times, from Rs 1,065 in March 2015 to Rs 4,398 in May 2024.



**'HER LUCKY NO. 13' NOT SO LUCKY! TAYLOR SWIFT'S 12-WEEK REIGN ON US BILLBOARD 200 ENDS AS EMINEM DETHRONES HER FROM TOP SPOT**

**RYAN REYNOLDS REVEALS HE GAVE UP SALARY FOR 'DEADPOOL' TO COVER SCREENWRITERS FEES: 'WANTED CO-WRITERS TO BE ON SET'**



## Kamala Vows To 'Earn' Prez Race Spot

**Bigwigs Like Clintons And Pelosi Back Her, But Some Dems Suggest Open Convention**

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US vice-president Kamala Harris said Sunday that she intends to earn and win the Democratic Party nomination for the presidency even after endorsement by Prez Joe Biden and other key figures in the party, amid indications there could be at least one other marginal challenge.

"I am honoured to have the president's endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination. I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party — and unite our nation — to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda," Harris said in a statement, hours after turbulent developments in the Democratic Party led to Prez Biden bowing out of the 2024 presidential election under pressure.

On Monday, Harris paid tribute to Biden at an event for college athletes at the White House, her first public appearance since he dropped out, saying he had "already surpassed the legacy of most presidents who have served two terms in office."

"I am first-hand witness

that every day our president, Joe Biden, fights for the American people, and we are deeply grateful for his service to our nation," Harris said. Biden had originally planned to speak at the event, but remained in Delaware recovering from Covid. Harris subbing in for Biden offered a well-timed glimpse of what she could be like in the job of prez should she win in Nov.

Several Democratic veterans and lawmakers, notably Hillary and Bill Clinton, former House speaker Nancy Pelosi, senator Elizabeth Warren and congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC), backed Harris, with the mainstream in the party appearing to close ranks behind her.

But key party grandee, former US prez Barack Obama, did not directly endorse her, although he has been a close ally. It appears he would like her to go through the nomination process and win the support of majority of delegates, which also is the route she prefers. Obama conspicuously withheld endorsing Harris, instead alluding to the possibility of an open convention. He expressed



**HOLDOUT?** Kamala Harris (L) with Joe Biden and Barack Obama

### Why Obama hasn't endorsed Harris

Many of the marquee names in Democratic politics began quickly lining up behind Kamala Harris on Sunday, but one towering presence was conspicuously absent: Barack Obama. The former prez has not yet endorsed Harris; in fact, he did not mention her once in his tribute to Prez Joe Biden. "I have extraordinary confidence that the leaders of our party will be able to create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges," he wrote in the post. Republicans interpreted that as a snub. But people close to Obama, who has positioned himself as an impartial elder statesman above intraparty machinations, said not to read too much into it. Endorsing too early now would fuel criticism that Harris' nomination was a coronation, they said. But there are other more personal considerations. Biden is a deeply proud ally, and he has never fully forgiven Obama for quietly backing Hillary Clinton in the 2016 campaign. Nor was Biden pleased when Obama told him that he should consider sitting out 2020, too, people in his circle have said. Obama wanted Sunday to be about Biden, a celebration of his accomplishments, an ex-White House official said.

Confidence in Democratic leaders' ability to "create a process from which an outstanding nominee emerges". One direct challenge to her prospective candidacy came fr-

### Who will be Harris' running mate to take on Vance?

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Attention has quickly turned to who Kamala Harris will choose as her running mate in US prez election. At least six governors of Democrat-run states, couple of lawmakers, and cabinet officials are on the shortlist being floated by party activists and supporters.

Among them are governors of Michigan (Gretchen Whitmer), Pennsylvania (Josh Shapiro) and North Carolina (Roy Cooper), all battleground states which they could help deliver to Harris to reach the 270 electoral votes needed to win the White House. Last week, Trump named headline Republican senator JD Vance, 39, to serve as his vice-presidential running mate.

Also in the mix are California governor Gavin Newsom, Harris' contemporary from that state; Illinois governor JD Pritzker; and Andy Beshear, Democratic governor of Kentucky, a solidly Republican state. But since Democrats are not expected to lose California and Illinois, or win Kentucky, they are considered outside possibilities, as also Michigan's Gretchen Whitmer, since having two women on a ticket in a country that has never elected a woman sounds inconceivable.

For the similar reason, another name making the rounds, transportation secretary Pete Buttigieg is also an outlier: the US is seen as not ready for a ticket with a black-Asian woman for presidency and a gay, midwestern man for vice-prez.

Of course, some feminists and fantasists throw in Hillary Clinton, Michelle Obama and Oprah Winfrey into the mix, but no serious political pundit entertains that prospect.

## GOP trying to run Biden out of office, which would put Kamala in WH now

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Democrats may have bundled US Prez Joe Biden out of the nomination process for the 2024 presidential elections but Republicans are now trying to run him out of office — a prospect that would put Kamala Harris in the Oval Office even before she has been nominated for the race or formally elected to the White House.

Hours after Biden bowed out of the 2024 race, former prez Donald Trump himself led the charge to oust Biden, saying, "If he can't run for office, he can't run our country!!!"

Regardless of his dropping out of the race, Biden is constitutionally mandated to stay in office as president till Jan 2025, when a newly elected prez will take over.

Trump also showed what was transparently phony empathy for Biden, saying the Democratic party "stole the race from Biden after he won it in the primaries," while at the same time trashing the prez, saying he is "going to wake up and forget that he dropped out of the race today!!" "Biden never had Covid. He is a threat to Democracy!" Trump wrote on "Truth Social" as more trash talk threatened to engulf the political process already mired in mistrust and misinformation.

Republicans are also reported to be planning to mount a legal challenge questioning the validity of the Biden campaign handing over finances and campaign infrastructure to Harris. The matter could end up before the six-member Federal Election Commission panel that is evenly split between Republicans and Democrats, and if they help to party line, it could further end up in courts, raising visions of the kind of



Hours after Biden bowed out, Trump said, 'If he can't run for office, he can't run our country!!!'

gridlock that occurred during the 2000 elections involving George Bush and Al Gore.

Regardless, the Harris campaign is now sending out emails with a "Harris for President" logo, soliciting campaign contributions. On Sunday, the campaign raised almost \$50 million, making it the single

### On Sunday, the Harris campaign raised almost \$50m, close to the nearly \$53m that Trump raised in the 24 hours following his criminal conviction

biggest day for online Democratic contributions since the 2020 election. It was close to the nearly \$53 million that Trump raised in the 24 hours following his criminal conviction. The rapid rise in donations indicated that the rank and file of the Democratic Party was coalescing solidly behind Harris.

Meanwhile, Biden's decision to bail out of the race, it is now emerging, was based on diminishing poll numbers rather than any word from "Lord Almighty" which he said would cause him to quit the race. Internal surveys showed him losing in almost every battleground state, making a victory almost impossible, even as big donors began to withhold contributions.

### Musk and Khosla argue over Trump's GOP candidature

New York: Tech billionaire Elon Musk and Indian-American venture capitalist Vinod Khosla were engaged in a war of words on Monday over Republican Donald Trump's candidature for the US presidency.

In a post on X, Khosla said it is hard for him to support someone like Trump, who has "no values, lies, cheats, rapes, demeans women", and "hates immigrants" like him. "He may cut my taxes or reduce some regulation but that is no reason to accept depravity in his personal values. Do you want prez who will set back climate by a decade in his first year?" he asked.

Replying to his post, Musk said Trump "doesn't hate you. In fact, I think he likes you. Meet him and find out for yourself". The Tesla CEO said he is not suggesting that Trump is without flaws, but there should be an administration that is more likely to be meritocratic and promote individual freedoms.

Khosla in his reply said he agreed with that, "but abandon climate and drill baby drill! Be MAGA (Make America Great Again) and abandon Nato and American leadership and moral authority?". The top Silicon Valley investor added: "I was a socially liberal registered fiscal Republican till climate made me switch to Independent."

In support of Trump, Musk said civilisation will continue to need oil and gas. "I don't think we should demonise an industry that is essential for humanity... Sustainable energy production and consumption is growing very rapidly and is tracking to exceed the use of hydrocarbon fuels. That will happen no matter what Trump does."

## WILL KAMALA MAKE HISTORY AGAIN?

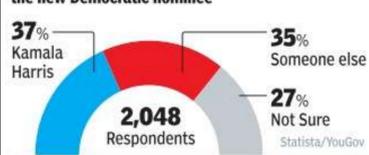
**Kamala Harris, the daughter of an Indian mother and a Jamaican father, is a barrier-breaking prez candidate. Now, she is likely to become the first black woman, and first person of South Asian descent to head a major party's presidential ticket**

Records to her credit...

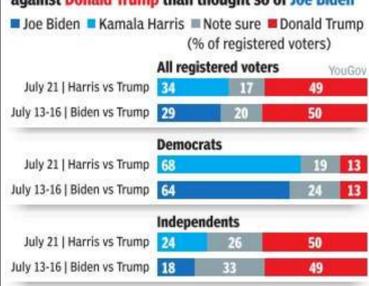
**1st woman** and 1st person of colour to be vice-prez  
**1st woman**, and 1st black to serve as California attorney general

In 2016, she became only the second African-American woman to serve in the US senate

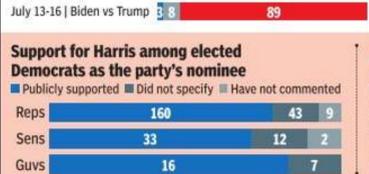
Public opinion on who should be the new Democratic nominee



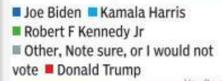
More registered voters expect Kamala Harris to win against Donald Trump than thought so of Joe Biden



Support for Harris among elected Democrats as the party's nominee



Donald Trump polls slightly better against Kamala Harris than he does against Joe Biden

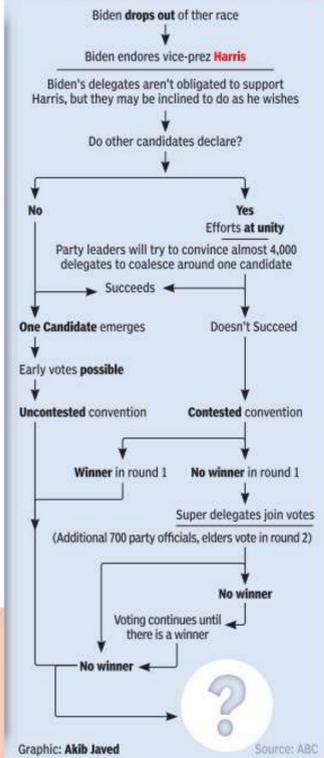


Note: Harris wasn't a choice on the Biden question, and Biden wasn't on the Harris question



Big names among Dems who have not yet endorsed Harris...

Former Prez Barack Obama, Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer, House minority leader Hakeem Jeffries, Ex-speaker Nancy Pelosi backed Harris late on Monday



## Americans face deluge of trash talk and conspiracy theories in election season

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: A tsunami of trash talk and conspiracy theories is raining down on Americans as MAGA maniacs and radical left loonies are duking it out on social media over their respective leaders' character and merit. The exit of Prez Joe Biden from the 2024 race for the White House and the promotion of Kamala Harris as the prospective Democratic nominee has unleashed a furious assault on everything from her character to her mannerisms.

Trump himself has led the way, gibing about the way she laughs and calling her crazy. "I call her laughing Kamala. You can tell a lot by a laugh. She's crazy. She's nuts," Trump told a rally in Michigan in a meandering speech that led liberal trolls to joke that bats in the animal kingdom were going "Trump-shit crazy" (a play on the expression "batshit crazy").

MAGA activists backed up Trump's jibe by posting an edited mash-up of Harris laughing on different occasions in different settings, and worse, impugning her character by tal-



**THE 'COCONUT TREE' MEME**

A clip of Kamala Harris from a May 2023 speech quoting her mother often saying, "You think you just fell out of a coconut tree?", has been viral since Prez Biden's disastrous June 27 debate. Harris' supporters, also known as the "KHive", have been using the coconut tree emoji as the unofficial campaign icon to push for her candidacy as US prez — king up a purported affair she had some 30 years ago.

Conspiracy theories are also proliferating by the minute. They range from Biden's statement on quitting the race not being on an official letterhead and the signature on it not matching his usual signature (and therefore suspicious), to the familiar birther theory about Harris being born outside the US or being an offspring of foreign student, and therefore not eligible to run for White House.

Activists on both sides also duked it out on her identity — on whether she is African-American or Indian-American, and which heritage she embraces or avoids. Harris is Jamaican-American (from her dad's side) and Indian-American (from her mom's side), and therefore she's black-brown, not strictly African-American in the conventional sense.

She often identifies herself as black but also embraces Indian heritage from her maternal side, growing up closer to her mother, who brought her up as a single mom after her parents divorced when she was six. Trolls also feasted on edited mash-ups of Harris' "rambling word salad", with one right-wing outlet suggesting it "may be a symptom of a little-known but common psychological condition called logorrhoea — also known as verbal diarrhoea".

To be fair, liberal trolls have confected similar mash-ups of Trump (who suffers even more from a similar condition), including parodying his scowls, jowls, and other facial contortions. AI tools are further helping wreak havoc.

## B'desh protests halted, govt gets 48 hrs to meet demands, including apology from PM

Dhaka: Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina blamed her political opponents for deadly violence that swept the country during recent student-led protests against quotas in govt jobs. Her comments came a day after the Supreme Court agreed to scrap most quotas in a ruling on Sunday. Hospital data showed at least 147 people were killed.

"When arson terrorism started, the protesting students said they were not involved in it," Hasina said. "We were forced to impose a curfew to protect the lives and property of the citizens," she said. "We will lift the curfew whenever the situation gets better." Hasina blamed the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami party and its student wing for the violence. The parties did not respond to requests for comment.

The streets appeared calm in Dhaka on Monday. Late on Sunday, protesters gave the govt 48 hours to meet new demands, but most appeared to be obeying the curfew Monday. Tanks were seen stationed at sever-



Bangladesh military patrol the streets in Dhaka on Monday. Internet & mobile data services are still down

al places in Dhaka. There were no reports of violence in the country, officials said. The new demands from protesters included a public apology from Hasina for the violence, restoration of internet connections and reopening of campuses. The Anti-Discrimination Student Movement also called for the resignation of some ministers and university officials and the dismissal of police officers deployed in the areas where students were killed. "We are giving an ultimatum to the govt to fulfil our eight-point demand within 48 hours," one of the Movement's leaders, Hasnat Abdullah, said. He did not say what would happen if the govt did not meet the demands. REUTERS

## Anti-terror efforts being made controversial by political mafia: Pak army

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: The Pakistan army accused its critics of "politicising" its anti-terrorism efforts, including a new military operation, to the detriment of national interests following the arrest on Monday of Raouf Hasan, information secretary of PTI, headed by jailed former PM Imran Khan. The army said the party information secretary was in charge of PTI's digital media cell which, it alleged, was involved in running anti-state propaganda. Last month PM Shehbaz Sharif had approved a military offensive to counter a spike in terrorist attacks across Pakistan, particularly in volatile NW Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and SW Balochistan provinces, but the idea was criticised by opposition parties, particularly PTI and the rights group Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM). They termed it a ploy against Pashtuns to earn dollars from big powers and exploit resources.

Addressing a presser in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, the military's spokesperson, Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, asked, "Why did a mafia, a political mafia, and an illegal mafia say that they would not let this campaign (Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, or Resolve for Stability) happen?" He added that opponents of the offensive had tried to make it "controversial" and paint it as a purely military operation in which thousands of people would be displaced. He did not name any party or group but called the army's critics "political and illegal mafias", an apparent reference to PTI and PTM. Lt Gen Chaudhry said they were using "fake news and propaganda" to spread lies about the army. "This is digital terrorism," he said. The party posted on X, saying: "It's absolutely shameful how Islamabad police continues to completely mock and disregard every law in this country. Law of the jungle is reigning over Pakistan!"

## US Secret Service boss says attack on Trump major failure, but rejects calls to resign

Washington: Secret Service director Kimberly Cheatle said Monday that her agency failed in its mission to protect ex-prez Donald Trump during a highly contentious congressional hearing with lawmakers of both major political parties demanding she resign over security failures that allowed a gunman to scale a roof and open fire at a campaign rally.

In her first hearing over the July 13 assassination attempt, Cheatle repeatedly angered lawmakers by evading questions, citing ongoing investigations. She called the attempt on Trump's life the Secret Service's "most significant operational failure" in decades. Cheatle acknowledged that the Secret Service was told about a suspicious person "between two and five times" before the shooting. She also revealed that the roof from which the shooter fired had been identified as a potential vulnerability days before the rally. Cheatle said she apologised to Trump in a phone call after the rally. Despi-

te the failures, Cheatle, who has spent nearly three decades at the Secret Service, remained defiant that she was the "right person" to lead the agency.

Cheatle acknowledged that the shooter, Thomas Matthew Crooks, had been seen by local law enforcement before the shooting with a rangefinder, a small device resembling binoculars. She said the Secret Service would have paused the rally if agents had been told there was an "actual threat", but she said there's a difference between someone identified as suspicious and someone identified as a true threat.

Asked about why there were no agents on the roof, Cheatle said she is still waiting for the investigation to play out, prompting outbursts. The Secret Service has acknowledged it denied some requests by Trump's campaign for increased security at his events in the years before the assassination bid. But Cheatle said that there were "no assets denied" for the rally. AP

## AROUND THE WORLD



**ADRENALINE RUSH:** A person swings 120m above ground at Berlin's Alexanderplatz. The attraction is said to be Europe's highest swing

### Who's smiling now? Nirvana, Marc Jacobs settle logo lawsuit

Oh, that lawsuit Nirvana filed against the fashion line Marc Jacobs for using its smiley face logo without permission? Nevermind. After more than a half-decade of litigation, the sides have agreed to settle. The corporate entity representing Nirvana sued Marc Jacobs in 2018 after the fashion line announced it would release a "Bootleg Redux Grunge" collection of clothing that featured a smiley face logo the lawsuit called "virtually identical to Nirvana's copyrighted image". Nirvana's smiley face has an uneven head, X's for eyes and a wavy smile with a tongue sticking out on the right side of its face. Marc Jacobs' smiley face, which was part of both clothing designs and general marketing promotion for the collection, looks the same but swaps in an "M" and "J" for the X's. The rock band has used its smiley face logo since the early 1990s. The yellow-on-black styling of the logo and the typeface used on the shirts were also too similar to Nirvana's recognizable designs, the band's lawyers argued. In response, Marc Jacobs pursued a counterclaim alleging that the band had not filed proper copyright registration for the logo and questioning its lawyer's story that Nirvana frontman Kurt Cobain had drawn it. The terms of the settlement have not been disclosed in court documents.



**A thought for today**

To do the useful thing, to say the courageous thing, to contemplate the beautiful thing; that is enough for one man's life

TS ELIOT

# Biden/Caesar

How an American president has played out a classical tragedy, palace coup included

Every tragedy falls into two parts, a complication is followed by an unraveling or a denouement. Aristotle said this 23 centuries ago. The 46th American president is living this now. The Biden-Trump debate was watched by 51mn Americans on TV alone. In Biden's telling, he just had a bad night. For too many others, it meant that he would for sure have a super bad election day. And it isn't just Americans who have been weighing in on the matter. First, because of how consequential this election is for the world. Second, because its theatricality is riveting. Global interest has only intensified after the failed assassination of Trump. So, when Biden stepped down from his re-election bid this weekend, the denouement of the political crisis triggered by his debate performance, it sure vibed like classical tragedy: Beware the Ides of July.

The classical tragic hero, "highly renowned and prosperous", is not downed by vice or depravity, but by some error or frailty. This, too, describes Biden's situation well - he was brought down by nothing but "biological dynamics". A sitting American president dropping out of the race so late in the election cycle, is historic. It's really an unprecedented offering for "party and the country".



Republicans, of course, have a darker spin on his fate. That it is something like a palace coup. But talk of Biden being Julius Caesared is actually bipartisan. There are Democratic voices that are uncomfortable with the way in which long-time supporters and donors stepped away from Biden in recent weeks. When Shakespeare's Caesar went down with, "Et tu, Brute?", Antony called it "the most unkindest cut of all". This is echoed by some Democrats, who accuse Obama and Pelosi, who did not stage their disaffection publicly, of brutal betrayal. The theatre was all the more riveting because Biden didn't move towards denouement meekly. He resisted for days. So did his loyalists. There was no better demonstration of this than his continuing to claim until hours before he quit the race that, Hollywoodised American style, "I'm the guy."

So, yes, Biden has walked into what he and his cohort see as early, unwanted and unwarranted retirement. His critics in America's liberal establishment, in and outside the Democratic party, reckon he left it too late. But even if those critics are right, in this epic political drama, Biden is a bit of a tragic hero.

# LOTUS FIGHTS TO BE POTUS

The battle for America's soul will be fought between Kamala Harris, who represents a changing country, and Donald Trump, who pushes a quasi-isolationist agenda

Chidanand Rajghatta



A week is a long time in politics, a British politician once said, but he was speaking well before the arrival of the internet and the age of social media, when even 24 hours is now an eternity. How things have changed in the hours after Biden bowed out - or was hustled out - of the US presidential election race, endorsing his VP Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee.

Suddenly, she is poised to fight the oldest nominee for president in US history. It's not Biden's senility or infirmity in question now. It's Trump's age (78), fitness, and mental acuity. The tables have turned.

Trump and his MAGA constituency's immediate response to the development has been to resume and ramp up attacks on a person they see as an interloper. The crazies are crawling out of the woodwork, over-running moderate Republicans legitimately opposing Kamala on political and ideological grounds.

Birther conspiracies have taken on new life. Far-right maggots festering with resentment at a black-brown woman taking on white supremacy among other issues are questioning her eligibility to run for White House because she is an "anchor baby" - born to parents when they were foreign students in US. Typical of their ignorance, they're unaware that parental status is irrelevant; she was born in America and that's what matters.

Expect more such attacks and vilification in the coming days in a deeply polarised country, including edited mishmash of her word salads (still not a patch on Trump's actual blather) and sexist denigration of the way she dresses, moves and laughs. Patriarchy and misogyny still rule in conservative America, illustrated by the continuing

efforts by old white men to regulate the uterus of women, but who resist regulation of deadly assault weapons.

Kamala may or may not be the right answer to America's problems, but she has every right to have a fair shot at White House.



They will make it hard for her. A country that hasn't elected a woman to Oval Office in 248 years, and whose old white guard denied the presidency to a white woman (Hillary Clinton) through electoral college caprice (even though she won 3mn more popular votes than the winner in 2016) is hardly likely to entertain the prospect of a black-brown woman in White House. Her getting within a heartbeat of the presidency was enough to trigger them.

How does all this matter to the world and specifically to India? For all its flaws, US still remains the shining city on the hill, a political, social, and economic trendsetter. The fallout of what happens in America will affect not just the global order, but domestic politics everywhere. Any diminution of democracy and move

towards authoritarianism will delight demagogues and dictators all over the world.

Indians tend to see Kamala, or any other foreign leader of Indian origin for that matter, mainly through diasporic lens, expecting their ethnicity to supersede their nationality. By now it's reasonably established that any "desi-ness" in such leaders - be it Rishi Sunak or Kamala - is secondary and subservient to their national loyalty, as it should be.

Simply put, or oversimplified, Trump may be an existential threat to US and its democracy, but he is, in one sense, good for India because he is transactional, and lately, New Delhi is good at this *dhandu* (business). He is easily won over by flattery. There will be no pious lectures on human rights and his anti-minority majoritarianism sits well with the current dominant mood in India.

In his first term, someone suggested that all New Delhi had to do to appease him was buy for its police forces plenty of Harley-Davidson motorcycles, of which he was a big votary. India did better; it hosted a public rally that massaged his ego. His jettisoning of an Atlanticist outlook, his prospective diminution of Nato, and his more agreeable engagement with Russia (at the risk of being branded Putin's puppet) while seeking to counter China, will also be pleasing to New Delhi. Trump sees India in favourable terms, much more than Kamala. Small wonder he has growing support in India.

In any case, even an improbable Kamala victory will be questioned, challenged, and possibly overturned. A preview of the methods was demonstrated on

Jan 6, 2021 when the loser tried to usurp power through violence and intimidation trending to insurrection. The stage has already been set and the acoustics tested for a repeat performance. Trump has, in effect, said only a result that shows him winning will be valid. An outcome where he loses can only be because there was cheating and the election was stolen.

So, domestically, the battle for the soul of America that Biden often spoke about has now truly been joined. On the one side stands an old white misogynist speaking in racist undertones who promises to "Make America Great Once Again" with a quasi-isolationist agenda, while making it grate in the four years he was in office. On the other side will likely be a candidate, far from perfect, but more representative of a socially and demographically changing America that will want to remain agreeably engaged with the world. It will be a compelling, tense, and possibly brutal few weeks ahead.

So strap on your seat belts. It's going to be a wild ride till Election Day on Nov 5 and perhaps even after. The pilot in the cockpit has passed out, and the co-pilot and a pilot who was cashiered in 2020 will be making a grab for the controls. There's no telling who will land the plane, how, and in what condition.



## Cooking It Just Right

SC order banning display of names at eateries along Kanwar route removes a govt-created blot

The Supreme Court's interim order putting a pause on UP, Uttarakhand and MP govt directives - for food stalls, shacks and eateries along the route of Shiv bhakts' annual trek, 'kanwar yatra', to display their names and their staff's - is a relief for both proprietor and pilgrim. States were wrong to enforce, with gusto and precision, such a measure. As SC said, food laws require that menus be displayed, and food be correctly labelled. People, petitioners argued, visit restaurants basis the menu, not who's serving or cooking - which directly feeds into politics of "untouchability". Thus, the case stood on the trinity of, SC said, "safety, standard and secularism".



**Livelihood hit** | The measure had a chilling effect with restaurants forced to ask Muslim employees to stand down during the yatra. The workers, largely pasmanda, would thus lose wages, and proprietors, their workers. The kanwar yatra has been the busiest season for decades for these eateries, fruit sellers and food stalls on the 240km odd route with multiple paths, catering to hungry, thirsty, exhausted walkers. The non-compliant would have had to cough up fines. The choice then was between a fine and the possibility of economic boycott. It was unconscionable for states to roll out such a targeted measure that hits livelihoods of certain sections during a certain festival along a certain route - Muslims along UP's districts, and OBC/Dalit-concentrated pockets in districts from UP into Uttarakhand.

**Introducing a fault** | Any rationale was missing from the word go. Unsurprisingly, directives drew new fault lines. Several kanwars too criticised the directive. There's, after all, also the matter of choice. Peer pressure is big in community activity such as this. If a kanwar were to patronise a restaurant against his group's choice, it might destroy camaraderie within kanwar groups. SC's order rightly brings pause. But these govt directives should be altogether nixed. They speak to poor governance, and poorer politics.

## Why La Roja Shines, In White, Black & Brown

That Spain's a major sporting power goes back to 1992 Barcelona Olympics. But immigration is changing the country. Its stars are not all white, whether the far-right likes it or not

Javier Dale



Columnist based in Barcelona

July 14, 2024 will be a date to remember in Spain. Carlos Alcaraz's victory in Wimbledon and the unexpected success of the Spanish squad at the Euros were something more than a breath of fresh air. They also had a message for the world and to Spain itself as a nation.

"I'm Spanish, what do you want me to win?", a successful catchphrase of the early 2010s, got back into circulation on social media. The two victories have also shown Spain as a changing country finding its way to be, while the far-right rises in the Western world.

The two wins' accurate comparison is neither with the 2010 Fifa World Cup, nor Nadal's long run in tennis. Instead, we have to go back 32 years to the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. That was not only a sports success. It was a public demonstration that Spain isn't only about bulls and paella, and that Spaniards aren't short, big-bellied, lazy people, but modern, free, arty and talented citizens of a likeable country.

How did that happen? Was there a sudden explosion of talent? If anything, there was a sudden explosion of method.

Before 1992, sports success in Spain was the result of individual effort. But in 1987, after Barcelona was nominated to host the Olympics, a plan was put in place. Program ADO, a non-profit govt-based institution, gave young sports talents the opportunity to worry about nothing but their careers. Funded with public and private resources, it gave amateur athletes the tools for success: from scholarships that, de facto, equalised their economic situation to that of professional athletes, to medical, psychological and structural aides like CARs (high performance centres). Alcaraz

was trained in former tennis player Juan Carlos Ferrero's academy shaped as a CAR.

Plus, the end of Cold War also brought unexpected assets. Coaches and trainers of the former red bloc could move to Spain to add a key element: technique and expertise.

Those were the facts behind Spain's 1992 success. Not just effort, but method; not just talent, but hard work; not just individuals, but a national goal birthed

per capita in the Eurozone. But the debt crisis broke some basic rules of the welfare state: public expenses for those in need had to be cut. A suddenly impoverished country became the breeding ground for a new kind of far-right, not based in Franco's fascist dictatorship nostalgia, but in a nationalistic, racist endeavour that has seduced thousands of youngsters.

The far-right rise clashed with an undeniable fact - that Spaniards were moving to other countries, fertility (1.16 child per woman) and birth (6.7%) rates were falling, and immigration had become a need. For Spain, and much of Europe, rise of nationalism is based on the vote of a frightened middle class that fears impoverishment without being poor. This comes with the usual fake news that sets crimes as a consequence of immigrants and illegal aliens, a lie that's been repeatedly debunked by official data.

Although the sports method remains unchanged, immigration is changing the skin of Spain. Success has made Spanish sportsmen and sportswomen a valuable - though not always affordable - good for Spanish professional teams. Only three of the 23 players (13%) that won the World Cup in 2010 played for foreign teams. In 2024, this percentage has risen to 26.9%. And some of them, such as Rodri, Fabian and Dani Olmo, have short or no experience in Spanish domestic tournaments; they're migrants themselves.

As it happened in 1992, the response to the existential debate of what we Spaniards are comes from the pitch. Young footballers Lamine Yamal (17) and Nico Williams (22) set the bar; a 17-year-old minor son of migrants and the son of an illegal alien now represent the possibility of a future against racism and warped nostalgia. Spanish society has to choose now. Between its past and its future. Between its angels and its demons.



by public-private joint ventures. Since 1992 until the 2022 Beijing Winter Games, Spanish sportsmen and sportswomen have won 144 summer and winter Olympic medals. From 1896 to 1988, they had won just 27 medals, a number that was almost equalled during the Barcelona Games alone, with 22 medals.

While sports grew in Spain, the country was growing too. During the 1990s and early 2000s, its economy and quality of life saw unprecedented growth. Just before the 2010 debt crisis, it had the 3rd highest GDP

## Calvin & Hobbes



## Sacredspace

Be not the slave of your own past - plunge into the sublime seas, dive deep, and swim far, so you shall come back with new self-respect, with new power, and with an advanced experience...

Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Attention recession

We now read tweets not books, watch reels not movies

Arnab Ray



What's going to kill humanity, even before rising oceans and climate change, is our collective inability to concentrate. Tests became ODIs, ODIs became T20s, long-form magazine articles became blogs, which became tweets, movies became videos became reels, news became debates, and debates devolved into 10-second verbal volleys that became background noise at dinner.

Politics, all over the world, has been drained clean of nuance to be replaced by hype and emotion that target one at the moment and no more. People no longer read books - that's why bookshops now sell more computer games and greeting cards. The collective reservoirs of human dopamine have been depleted, our focus gone, thanks to user-interface designs of social media companies that make us go back to our phones every few seconds, like rats on a wheel, in search of a reward that will never come.

And if I have to see the destruction of civilisation, I only need to look in the mirror: Where once I could consume one massive tome after another, curled up in my bed, I now struggle to make it past two pages without taking a look at my phone. Once upon a time, watching a movie instead of reading a book made me feel as if I had cheated on the world. Now, I cannot watch a film either in one go. I have to pause every now and then and watch a reel, and then one reel leads to another. At some point, I cannot even concentrate on that. Diversion needs a diversion, and I get back to my movie. But not for long. I sleep. And then I wake up and start doom-scrolling through my phone.

It's even worse that I am an author. Every hundred words I write, I need to go to another tab to listen to another song, change my playlist, read a tweet, and write a few before I come back to writing the following sentence. A live conversation with a person sitting opposite me is not enough; I need to look down at my phone, prioritise the message of a college friend I never ever liked, and exchange a stream of texts till I forget that thread, too. The worst of all is that I do not know why I do this while being conscious that I am doing it. I guess I am possessed, just like the rest of you.

## Absence Of Doership Promotes Inner Peace

Vijay Vancheswar

The core teaching of Ramana Maharshi focuses on dissolving one's sense of individual volition or doership, *karitva* in Sanskrit. The sage mentions that the biggest mental tapas is to subsume one's sense of control and doership. This can be sought either through the path of bhakti, an unconditional acceptance of the will of a higher power, or through the path of jnan, a persistent inquiry into the source of one's thoughts to identify who we are - the query 'Who am I?' According to the sage, all other spiritual paths lead and end only in this quest. The saying 'Not a leaf moves except by His will' expresses this and finds resonance in all faiths. 'Thy Will Be Done' in Christianity and the Urdu phrase 'Manzur-e-Khuda' in Islam imply that acceptance of the will of the

Divine is an essential prerequisite for one's peace and spiritual progress.

What we all unconsciously seek in life is peace. Conflict arises from not meeting our expected outcomes. The singular cause of this distress is our sense of control and volition. The Bhagwad Gita provides a solution: we have the right to actions but not the results. Outcomes are never in our control. Sometimes, great efforts do not produce expected outcomes; at other times, surprisingly pleasing outcomes are attained unexpectedly. However, our persistent and innate nature triggers us to ascribe all our successes primarily to our efforts. In his book *The Tyranny of Merit*, Michael Sandel points out that for all our striving, we are not self-made and self-sufficient. A lively sense of the

contingency of our lot can inspire a certain humility, enabling us to accept that, 'There, but for the grace of God, or the accident of birth, or the mystery of fate, go I'. The wisdom of this understanding humbles us and changes our attitude to life for the better.

Far from advocating inaction, an absence of doership promotes non-action, a positive trait that focuses on being in the moment. Ramana Maharshi explains this by distinguishing freedom from free will and ego from egoism. Freedom, as Ramana says, is our birthright. We are ever free, more so as we persevere to associate with our true nature or Self. Our sense of illusory free will provokes disharmony, more so when outcomes and expectations are not met. Ramana also distinguishes ego and egoism. A

sage's ego resembles that of a burnt rope, appearing to be independent but incapable of assigning volition to itself, exuding peace and divinity. He likens this to the state of 'wakeful sleep', meaning awake to what happens but without a sense of involvement. Children until around three years old are in this blissful state, with the difference that they are unaware of their innate divinity. Translating this from an intellectual understanding to living by it daily demands reflection and validation of events we experience. As we reflect on the everyday events and actions that we experience and ascribe ownership to, we realise that in almost all cases, our actions involve a thought, a call or an accidental meeting, over none of which we exercise control. Acknowledging this will, over time, help us reduce our entanglement with the sense of doership.



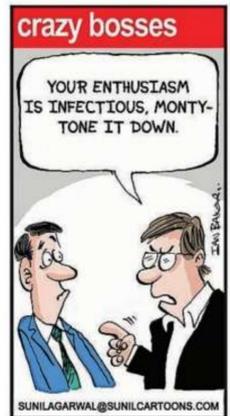


**GLOBAL BENCHMARK**



**Biden exit effect: Wall Street picks up after selloff**

Wall Street rose on Monday, regaining some ground after the previous week's declines as investors assessed the odds of a second term for Republican nominee Donald Trump in the Nov election after President Joe Biden withdrew from the race. Biden said on Sunday he was opting out and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris's candidature. Online betting site PredictIT showed pricing for a Donald Trump victory slipped 4 cents to 60 cents, while climbing 12 cents to 39 cents for a Harris win. REUTERS



**Oil extends fall, sees biggest drop since June**

Oil extended its recent slide as investors weighed the fallout from US President Joe Biden's decision not to seek reelection. Brent slipped under \$82 a barrel after slumping by almost 3% on Friday, the biggest drop since June. BLOOMBERG

**CrowdStrike short sellers gain \$461mn**

Short sellers piling into bets against CrowdStrike Holdings were rewarded on Friday when a botched software update from the firm sparked a global IT outage and sent shares plunging to their worst day since Nov 2022. BLOOMBERG

**PhonePe, Google Pay cede online share**

PhonePe and Google Pay saw a marginal decline in their share of total transactions processed through UPI in June as smaller players gained traction. PhonePe's share in total UPI transactions dropped to 48.4% from 48.7% in May. BLOOMBERG

**BoE plans expanded repo facilities**

London: The Bank of England said on Monday that banks should get ready to make greater use of its repo facilities as it sells down its govt bond holdings and plans a major expansion of its current six-month repo operation. REUTERS



**Mid & small-cap indices double since last Budget**

Sensex Up 21,000 Pts Or 31%, Market Cap Surges By \$2Tn

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Since finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's fifth Budget on Feb 1, 2023, Indian investors have become richer by a staggering Rs 174 lakh crore — translating to about \$2.1 trillion at the current rupee-dollar rate. In the same time, the Sensex has risen 31% (nearly 21k points) while Nifty has outperformed its more popular peer with a return of 39%, stock exchange data showed.

Gains in the Sensex and Nifty, however, fade when compared to the returns in mid and small-caps. While BSE's Midcap index rose 92% — nearly doubling investors' money — the small-cap index was slightly behind at a 90% gain. The rise in these indices during the last 18-plus months came on the back of strong buying by both foreign and domestic investors. Mutual funds had net invested Rs 3.4 lakh crore in the equity market,

**ALL QUIET ON D-ST ON BUDGET DAY EVE**



while FPIs net bought stocks worth Rs 2.1 lakh crore, official data showed. The turnaround in the fortunes of the Indian market since Feb 2023 is remarkable if we look at how the global economy and markets have traded during the same period. Despite fears of rising inflation in the US and the EU, govt and RBI

rates also didn't rise much. Among the highlights of the Indian market was the crash in Adani group shares just around last Budget. After US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research published a damning report on the group on Jan 24, 2023, in about five weeks, the group's total market value crashed by nearly 65% — from Rs 19.2 lakh crore to about Rs 6.5 lakh crore. Since then, the group has recouped most losses and Sebi didn't find any proof backing Hindenburg's allegations of corporate malfeasance by the Indian conglomerate.

The market also discounted the Lok Sabha poll results that saw the BJP's total seats fall from their number five years ago. Even as markets took a tumble as a knee-jerk reaction, they soon recovered to take the Sensex over the 80K mark — which is seen as a major psychological milestone for Dalal Street.

**RBI cites Windows outage to flag single vendor risks**

Dependence On Third-Parties For Critical Services Can Create Vendor Lock-In Situations: Dy Guv Rao

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI's deputy governor M Rajeshwar Rao cited last week's global Windows outage to highlight the risks of outsourcing and relying on a single vendor for critical services. He also pulled up lenders for partnering digital platforms that do not provide redressal mechanism.

"Last Friday's (incident) essentially reflects the kind of risks which I'm talking about. Third-party dependencies and digital outsourcing have become integral to the operations of financial service entities consequent to the rapidly evolving technology," the deputy governor said in a speech at a BFSI summit organised by ratings agency CareEdge on Monday.

Rao said that dependence on third parties can create vendor lock-in situations where regulated entities become reliant or captured by

a single vendor of critical services. "This lack of vendor diversification can increase dependency risks and limit the flexibility of the entities to adapt to changing market conditions," he added. Rao said that despite regulatory efforts, some entities fall

the kind of mechanism which we thought they would be having," he said.

Rao also stressed the importance of transparency and effective mechanisms for handling customer complaints. This includes addressing issues such as hidden fees and aggressive sales tactics.



short in customer service and transparency, which impacts trust and satisfaction. "Guidelines mandate that regulated entities should ensure that the lending service providers engaged by them have suitable grievance redressal mechanisms on their website or apps. A recent study undertaken by us has found that not all of these lending service providers or apps have

noted the critical importance of assurance functions — risk management, compliance, and internal audit — in identifying and managing risks to sustain financial growth. Rao said that RBI supports a hybrid regulatory approach, combining activity and entity-based regulations to adapt swiftly to changes in the sector while maintaining robust risk management.

**SITHARAMAN'S A-TEAM FOR 7TH B-DAY**



ALL SET FOR BUDGET DAY: FM Nirmala Sitharaman and her deputy Pankaj Chaudhary with top finance ministry officials in her North Block office on Monday. (Standing L-R) CBIC chairman Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra, DIPAM secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey, finance secretary TV Somanathan, economic affairs secretary Ajay Seth, financial services secretary Vivek Joshi, CEA V Anantha Nageswaran and CDBT chairman Ravi Agarwal

**Former Kotak Bank joint MD Manian to be Federal Bank chief**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI has approved the appointment of Krishnan Venkat Subramanian as the new managing director and CEO of Federal Bank. The appointment is effective from Sept 23, 2024 following the conclusion of the current MD and CEO Shyam Srinivasan's term on Sept 22, 2024.

KVS Manian, who served as joint MD at Kotak Mahindra Bank until April 30, 2024, will bring extensive experience in corporate banking, commercial banking, private banking, and asset reconstruction to his new role, the bank said. During his tenure at Kotak, Manian was instrumental in advancing the bank's technology and transaction banking capabilities, overseeing investment banking and institutional equities, and maintaining leadership positions in these sectors. His prior roles include heading Consumer Bank and contributing significantly to its establishment from 2008-14.

Manian holds an electrical engineering degree from the IIT (BHU) in Varanasi, a postgraduate degree in financial management from Jammalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies in Mumbai, and is a cost and works accountant. His move to Federal Bank comes after a 29-year tenure at Kotak Mahindra Bank, where he was considered a candidate to succeed Uday Kotak as CEO.

**Baba Kalyani's niece & nephew look to settle family assets matter**

Reeba.Zachariah@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Bharat Forge chairman Baba Kalyani's nephew Sameer Hiremath and niece Pallavi Swadi are looking to settle a dispute over a multi-billion dollar estate with their uncle through a court-monitored mediation process.

Sameer and Pallavi — grandchildren of forging industry pioneer Neelkanth Kalyani — had moved Pune civil court against their uncle Baba Kalyani in March, seeking division of family assets. They had demanded one-ninth of the family estate including stakes in Bharat Forge and Kalyani Steel as their share. Sameer and Pallavi are children of Baba's sister Sugandha Hiremath, who is also the co-promoter of Hikal, a pharmaceuticals and chemicals company. Separately, Sugandha is in an ownership dispute with Baba over Hikal.

The court on Monday asked the two parties to look at settling their dispute through mediation after Sameer and Pallavi tabled the mediation option before the judicial forum. The siblings told the court that they were willing to mediate with their uncle as they were deeply anguished by mudslinging in court.

If Baba agrees to the mediation, then from such date for a period of 60 days the matter will stand adjourned, people familiar with the case said. If mediation fails, the mediator will file a failure report and the dispute will continue at the Pune court.

A Kalyani Group spokesperson said: Having filed a frivolous suit before the Pune local court seeking partition of alleged properties of Kalyani family HUF, both Sameer Hiremath and Pallavi Swadi have now sought permission of the court to permit mediation of the dispute. The proposal to mediate in the pending dispute itself demonstrates that both have no cause of action in filing the partition suit. Both petitioners

**Group's Listed Cos Are Worth Over ₹5K Cr**

THE BACKSTORY

- Sameer Hiremath and Pallavi Swadi, the nephew and niece of Kalyani Group chairman Baba Kalyani, have said that Kalyani family assets were created because of the efforts of their great grandfather Annapa
- The duo sought a division of family assets in March this year
- They had attached a list of family assets along with the suit. They also wanted other family members to disclose acquisitions over the years using family funds

have been indulging in making malicious attempts to defame certain named family members, the spokesperson said.

On Monday, Sameer and Pallavi produced documents that showed the existence of the ANK HUF and the assets that were under its management. Baba had earlier denied the existence of any such HUF and had said that Sameer and Pallavi had no right in the wealth of any Kalyani family HUF since they and Kalyani do not have any common "male" ancestor. The siblings, however, argued that they became coparceners in their own right in the Kalyani family HUF upon the introduction of the amended Section 6 of the Hindu Succession Act 1956, in the year 2005.

In their rejoinder filed on Monday, the siblings said that the wealth was created by their great grandfather, ANK, which led to the growth of the Kalyani family. "Since all these businesses commenced and the investments were made from the said nucleus, all these businesses and investments constituted the properties of the joint family," the duo said in their rejoinder.

**Under pressure from IT cos to allow 14hr work days: K'taka min**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka labour minister Santosh Lad on Monday said that the state govt is under pressure from the IT industry to introduce legislation allowing software professionals to work up to 14 hours a day. He, however, clarified that no final decision has been made as govt is still evaluating the proposal and seeking a thorough debate on the issue.

"The Bill has come to us because of pressure from the IT industry. It is not the IT minister (Priyank Kharge) himself who has come up with this idea but all stakeholders. That's why it has come to us (labour department). I want all major stakeholders to debate this and share their opinions. Based on the feedback, we, as a department, will look into the issue and take it forward," Lad said.

**HCLTech's policy linking 'work from office' with leaves 'draconian': IT union**

Bengaluru: IT Employees' union Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES) has criticised HCLTech's policy that links work from home with employee leaves, calling it 'draconian'.

According to the union, the policy requiring employees to work from office for 12 days a month to be eligible for leaves is contrary to the work-life balance concept. Reports suggested that HCLTech has started informing certain teams about this policy. TNN

Regarding concerns about the potential impact on IT employees' personal and social lives, Lad said, "Let IT companies, owners, and directors come forward and discuss whether it is necessary or not. Later, we will take a call."

The state BJP has also slammed the Congress govt, arguing that it should focus on underperforming sectors rather than imposing new policies on the thriving IT industry. "Siddaramaiah's govt itself is in sleeping mode but he plans to propose a bill that will force the IT sector to work for 14 work hours a day, 70 hours a week," Karnataka BJP president BY Vijayendra wrote on X.

Govt sources declined to provide details of the Bill being proposed. However, IT industry association Nasscom said categorically that they fully support the 48-hour workweek across the country.

**CCI sends queries to Reliance, Disney on \$8.5bn merger deal**

New Delhi: Antitrust body CCI has asked Reliance Industries and Walt Disney around 100 questions linked to their \$8.5 billion India media assets merger, including details on sports rights as it heightens its scrutiny of the deal, two sources told Reuters.

Antitrust experts had warned that the Reliance and Disney deal, which was announced in Feb, could face intense scrutiny as it will create India's biggest entertainment player with 120 TV channels and two streaming services. The companies will also together own lucrative rights for cricket — India's most popular sport. In a confidential submission to CCI in May, the companies said their merger would not hurt the competition, and argued that cricket rights will expire in 2027 and 2028 and allow bidding by rivals, and advertisers can target cricket-watching consumers on many rival platforms including YouTube, Reuters reported in May. REUTERS

**Doting Gen Z 'parents' drive pet care market**

Nandini.Sengupta@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Powered by millennial and Gen Z pet owners' search for out-of-the-box products and services for their pets, India's pet care market is all set to jump from \$1 billion in 2022 to \$2.5 billion by 2025 — a CAGR of more than 15%. Pet care marketers say the focus is moving away from the conventional pet food segment to a more varied bouquet of offerings.

Shashank Sinha, CEO, Drools Pet Food said, "While pet food is still 65% of the market, the categories of supplements, treats, toys, accessories and bowls are increasing which aligns with the trend observed in mature pet care markets like the US and Europe."

**Food Biz Key, Accessories Catching Up**

- India's petcare industry is expected to go from \$1bn in 2022 to \$2.5bn in 2025
- The market is growing at a CAGR of more than 15%
- While pet food holds 65% share, other categories like accessories, cosmetics, collars and bowls are growing fast
- By 2025, 1 in 3 pet parents will be millennial or Gen Z
- In metros, pet families spend ₹3,000-5,000 per month on petcare
- About 35% of petcare market will shift online in a few years



ny of whom adopted their furry friend during the pandemic — are younger, tech-savvier, and far more invested in looking for specialised solutions and services for their pet care needs.

Rashi Narang, founder & CEO of Heads Up For Tails, said, "If we've learnt anything from

the pandemic, it's the power of the pet which also supercharged growth of the pet care e-commerce market." She added that the growth curve is thanks to "digitally savvy millennials and Gen Zs who will account for one in three pet parents by 2025". According to Sinha, India is expected to

see its e-commerce share reach 35% within the next few years. For the pet care market, that has meant a sudden spurt in investor interest. Between 2021-22, the industry attracted investments totalling \$77 million, as reported by Venture Intelligence. Already, several pet care startups are offering everything from pet cosmetics to tech-enabled smart collars and pet tracking devices. Take the IIT-Madras incubated Vetinstat Healthcare, which offers devices to track pets' vital statistics. Its founder Vani Aiyar said, "Pet parents today have seen technology deliver across multiple segments like food, banking, travel and health, so they are keen to look at new ideas and new methods of pet care too."

Bangalore-based veterinarian Archith Sridhar specialises in regenerative medicine through

his company Animalia Biogenesis. "We focus on treating severe injuries, arthritis, and kidney issues using stem cells and platelets without side effects of conventional treatments," he said.

However, this growing trend of paw-parenting is largely a metro phenomenon. According to Sinha of Drools, "Cities such as Bengaluru and Hyderabad have emerged as prominent markets... Monthly expenses of Rs 5,000 or more on pets are becoming increasingly common, with the average expenditure in Bengaluru estimated at Rs 3,000 per month."

Pet parents are also networking using social media and frequently shares tips and complaints. Heads Up For Tails, Narang added, collaborates with these communities along with NGOs, influencers and pet activists to "encourage conversations".

Wednesday, July 24, 5pm to 6pm  
Event page link: <https://bit.ly/techieswebinar165>

**TIMES TECHIES WEBINAR**  
Topic: The rise of the GCC ecosystem

**TIMES TECHIES WEBINARS**  
Session partner: **Optum**

Uma Ratnam Krishnan  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, OPTUM INDIA

Prashray Kala  
PARTNER, EVEREST GROUP

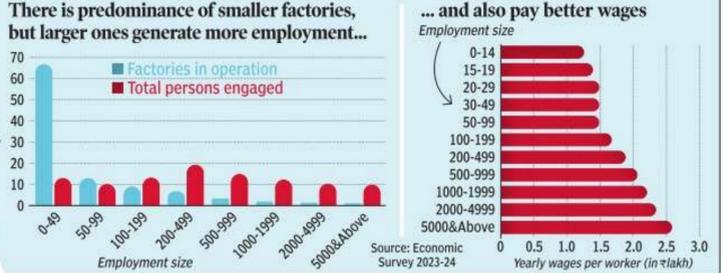
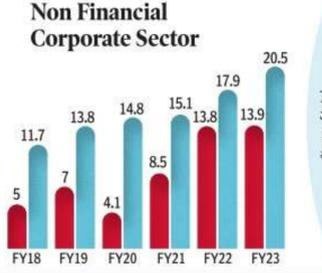
**Cash reserves relief can help tackle deposit woes: SBI MD**

Mumbai: Lowering the cash deposit/reserve ratio (CRR) or the proportion of deposits banks are mandatorily required to park with RBI will help the lenders facing low deposit growth, SBI managing director Ashwini Kumar Tewari said on Monday. Talks for such a cut are on, he told reporters here, clarifying that the country's largest lender does not need such a reduction as it is well placed on the liquidity front. There has not been any formal request for a CRR

cut made either, he added. Tewari said, "We have to look at various avenues for helping tide over the challenge posed by lower deposit growth." He specifically mentioned a request to get bank deposits at par with capital market investments while referring to CRR and SLR. On whether the bank has sought a CRR cut, he said, "We have not sought any formal dispensation, but it is a conversation we continue to have." AGENCIES

### Employment & Wage Gap

With robust balance sheets at their disposal, the private sector must step up hiring and ensure higher compensation to workers. While employment in organised manufacturing is above pre-Covid levels, there is lot of distance to travel



## Domestic Drivers To Support Growth Amid Caution On AI, Market Speculation And Mis-Selling Of Financial Products

# AI casts huge uncertainty on jobs

## India Inc Should Plan To Augment Labour Rather Than Displace Workers

# Check Chinese imports, encourage investments

## Boosting FDI Flows Can Reduce Trade Deficit, Integrate Local Cos With Global Value Chains

TEAM TOI

The advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) casts a "huge pall of uncertainty" when it comes to jobs, considering its impact on workers across all skill levels — low, semi and high, says the Economic Survey. "The biggest disruption for the future of work is the accelerated growth in AI, which is poised to revolutionise the global economy. India would not remain immune to this transformation."

Taking a note of the growing concerns around impact of AI on employment, the survey said technological leap has potential to disrupt growth and thus it requires a concerted effort among Centre, states and even corporates to minimise disruptions.

### MAY REDUCE PRODUCTIVITY

**Short term challenge** | Generative AI could slow BPO sector growth, affecting customer service

**Productivity impact** | However, AI's emergence might reduce annual productivity growth by approximately 0.3 percentage points in coming years

**Long term potential** | Broader AI adoption could lead to significant improvements in healthcare and education, enhancing human capital



"These will create barriers and hurdles to sustained high growth rates for India in the coming years and decades."

To protect jobs, there is a need to quickly adapt to advancements. "With AI taking roots in several spheres of economic activity, job market must adapt, while steering the technological choices towards collective welfare is key."

It said while AI has a considerable potential for boosting productivity, it can also "disrupt employment" in certain sectors. "As AI systems continue to get smarter and adoption increases, the future of work will be reshaped... Routine tasks, including customer service, will likely witness a high degree of automation, creative sectors will see extensive usage of AI tools for image and video creation, personalised AI tutors can reshape education and sectors like healthcare can witness accelerated drug discovery."

The survey also said India's services exports, primarily the BPO sector, could be badly hit due to the advent of AI, and thus companies should devise strategies to tackle the reversal. "Next wave of technological evolution might bring the curtains down on boom in telecom and rise of internet facilitated BPOs. In this milieu, the corporate sector has a responsibility, as much to itself as it is to society, to think harder about ways AI will augment

labour rather than displace workers." On impact of AI in the services sector, the survey said studies suggest it is likely to "restrain the growth opportunities for business services progressively" and, therefore, poses a challenge to long-term sustainability and job creation.

The survey, however, noted that even while posing challenges to jobs, AI will emerge as an opportunity to create employment. "... India is an attractive destination for AI investment due to its relatively low operating costs and world's second-largest pool of highly skilled AI, machine learning, and big data workers." India — with its vast demographic dividend and a very young population — is "uniquely situated" as AI poses both risks and opportunity.

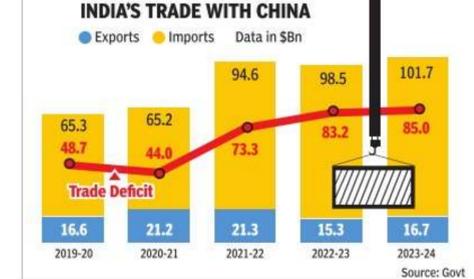
TEAM TOI

Discourage Chinese goods but encourage Chinese capital. This is the twin track approach laid out by the Economic Survey to deal with what it calls the China Conundrum. In a policy prescription aimed at taking advantage of China Plus One strategy, the document suggested a policy rethink, arguing that FDI from India's neighbour will help domestic companies integrate with the global value chain besides checking the widening trade deficit.

"...to boost Indian manufacturing and plug India into the global supply chain, it is inevitable that India plugs itself into China's supply chain. Whether we do so by relying solely on imports or partially through Chinese investments is a choice that India has to make," it said.

Pointing to a recent research note, which cautioned against the risk of coercion due to Chinese dominance in certain segments, the Survey advocated "striking a right balance between importing goods and importing capital" from China. The report had cited how Brazil, Turkey and some European nations had

### Imports Rise, Exports Stagnate



raised import duty on electric vehicles, but courted investment from China.

"India has a similar decision to make, given its large bilateral trade deficit with China. It makes India vulnerable to potential abrupt supply disruptions. Replacing some well-chosen imports with investments from China raises the prospect of creating domestic know-how down the road. It may have other risks, but as with many other matters, we don't live in a first-best world. We have to choose between second and third-best choices," it said. Following Covid outbreak, India too had imposed checks on FDI from neighbouring countries, a move meant to target Chinese companies. It followed it up with import and public procurement curbs, while banning several apps, including Tik Tok, after tension escalated in Ladakh.

Survey argued imports from China are so cheap that "no amount of tariff can reduce their price competitiveness". It cautioned against Chinese goods slipping in through third countries, without getting noticed. Beijing too has responded by blocking India's access to solar parts after gov't launched an anti-dumping probe.

# India must labour to generate 78.5L non-farm jobs every year

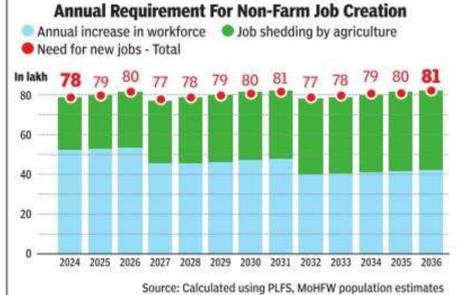
TEAM TOI

The Indian economy needs to generate an average of nearly 78.5 lakh jobs annually until 2030 in the non-farm sector to cater to the rising workforce, the survey has estimated.

It said that to meet the demand of 78.5 lakh jobs in the non-farm sector per year, there is scope to supplement the existing schemes of production linked incentive (60 lakh employment generation over 5 years), MITRA textile scheme (20 lakh employment generation), MUDRA, and others while boosting their implementation.

The survey said that state govts can grease the wheels of hiring by businesses by easing the compliance burden and reforming laws on land, etc. to suit the priorities

### EMPLOYMENT MATRIX



of development. It said the jobs are created in the private sector and India's corporate sector has never had it so good as now, with profitability at a 15-year high in FY24. Profits had quadrupled between FY20 and FY23.

"Businesses have an obligation to themselves to strike the right balance between deployment of capital and deployment of labour. As important, capital and labour

shares of income have to be fair," said the survey.

"In their fascination for AI and fear of erosion of competitiveness, businesses have to bear in mind their responsibility for employment generation and the consequent impact on social stability," it added.

Calling for a rebalancing of labour regulations for generating employment, the survey said current labour regulations have unintended adverse repercussions for the general workforce, and women specifically.

The report showed that a comparison with other countries reveals that India's stricter overtime wage regulations are potentially hindering the growth of the manufacturing sector by driving production to nations with lower overtime costs.

# Social security should keep pace with gig eco growth

TEAM TOI

India's gig workforce is expected to expand to 23.5 million by 2029-30, forming an estimated 6.7% of the non-agricultural workforce or 4.1% of total livelihood in the country, which calls for creation of effective social security initiatives for the segment. The gig economy covers online platform workers, freelancers, on-call workers and creative tech talent. Growing consumer adoption of digital services in India has fuelled the growth of the gig economy

### GCCs pushing creation of jobs

India's global capability centres (GCCs) have become new growth engine, accelerating the country's economic growth and job creation. The rapid expansion of GCCs has bolstered India's IT services exports, providing a significant boost to the industry.

By 2030, GCCs are projected to contribute a total revenue of \$121 billion, which is approximately 3.5% of India's GDP. Out of this, \$102 billion will represent export earnings. Revenue from GCCs has more than doubled to \$46 billion in 2022-23 from \$19.4 billion in the 2014-15, growing at a compound annual growth rate of 11.4%.

with internet companies deploying a wider delivery fleet on the ground to cater to the rising demand.

"The new Labour Codes now provide social security benefits to gig and platform workers via a social security fund, financed by contributions from the central and state govts, aggregators, CSR etc. Additionally, definition of inter-state migrant labour has been simplified," the survey said.

# Gap between 2 NPA cycles should rise

TEAM TOI

The banking industry has been urged to lengthen the gap between two cycles of NPAs. Govt's economic report card has also said that corporate shift to capital market for funding is a positive development in this regard.

These observations come at a time when the asset quality of scheduled commercial banks has improved, with gross NPAs ratio decreasing to 2.8% in March 2024, which is a 12-year low. "Indian financial sector is at a turnpike moment. The dominance of banking support to credit is being reduced and role of capital markets is rising. For a country that aspires to be a developed nation by 2047, this is a long-awaited and welcome development.

# No longer an aberration, mis-selling 'too rampant'

TEAM TOI

The Economic Survey has highlighted the malaise of mis-selling in banks and financial services and has said that it is 'too rampant' to be dismissed as an aberration of a few over-enthusiastic sales personnel.

"Acknowledgement of mis-selling and misrepresentation and compensating for consequential losses is a good business practice enjoined upon stockbroking, fund management, banking and insurance firms," it said.

This is the first time a govt agency is acknowledging mis-selling as a systemic problem. Previously, regulators viewed mis-selling as isolated instances of misconduct.

The reason why financial institutions get away with mis-selling is that there is no punitive penalties for consequential loss and at best the victims get their money back after they approach the ombudsman, say consumer activists.

"Identifying and correcting mis-selling and misrepresentation and compensating for losses are non-negotiable practices for sectors like banking, insurance and fund management. Stakeholders need to unite in efforts to bring the consumer and the industry on same page to build better trust and transparency between them," said Sarbvir Singh, joint group CEO, PB Fintech. He added that with tech advancement and rise of AI and ML, it has become a lot easier for the industry to detect and prevent fraud in early stages.

### SYSTEMIC PROBLEM

Addressing mis-selling, the survey also raises the issue of regulatory turf. While the insurance regulator recognises banks as corporate agents, banks are regulated by RBI. Similarly, insurance companies offer unit-linked insurance plans (Ulipis), promising market returns. Stock markets are regulated by Sebi. In the past, Sebi's attempt to clamp down on returns promised by Ulipis had resulted in a turf war, where finance ministry had to intervene.

# Fear of losing control helps debt recovery

TEAM TOI

Introduction of insolvency code has changed behaviour of borrowers, with over Rs 10 lakh crore worth of defaults being resolved in pre-admission stage of insolvency proceedings. Borrowers' fear of losing control of their businesses after admission to insolvency prompts them to work towards resolving debt.

"A notable fact is Rs 10.2 lakh crore of underlying defaults were addressed at pre-admission stage. This change in debtor behaviour has been a big boon for banks and other lending institutions. The code has created an optimal incentive-disincentive mix to facilitate above-board and transparent dealings in creditor-debtor relations."

# Speculation alert on high retail trade

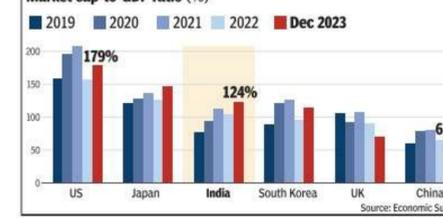
TEAM TOI

The Eco Survey sounded a cautionary note about huge surge in number of retail investors, who may be coming to the market in search of higher returns and possibility of heightened speculation. It also warned against a runaway stock market with India's market capital-to-GDP ratio at 124% in Dec 2023, the fifth highest in the world. It was 77% in Dec 2019. This indicator says if market cap of a country is growing faster than its economy, it's time to be cautious.

The survey also warned about excessive retail participating in derivatives trading. It said financialisation of economies is a welcome move but in several developed nations, this move has not ended well, with the most recent example being the global financial crisis of 2008.

Companies in BFSI space have been asked to keep interests of the consumers in mind and improve service quality through fair selling, disclosure, transparency, reliability and responsiveness. "Significant increase in retail investors in stock market calls for careful consideration. This is crucial because

### Buffett's Indicator Calls For Caution



possibility of overconfidence leading to speculation and the expectation of even greater returns, which might not align with real market conditions is a serious concern."

"For a developing economy such as India, the financial sector needs to support the banking sector and fill the gap in capital required for economy's growth," the survey said. Recently, RBI governor said since investors are increasingly investing their funds in mutual funds (most of which in turn invest in stock market), banks are finding it tough to mobilise funds through fixed deposits. Till a few years ago this was not the case.

"(The) financial sector should expand at a pace that is in lockstep with economic growth. In particular, India can ill-afford the economy's over-financialisation at its current development stage."

"Market capitalisation to GDP ratio is not necessarily a sign of economic advancement or sophistication. Financial assets are claims on real goods and services. If equity market claims on the real economy are excessive, it is a harbinger of market instability rather than market resilience."

# Govt sees 6.5-7% growth in FY25, agencies more upbeat

TEAM TOI

India's economy is estimated to grow by 6.5-7% in 2024-25, says Economic Survey, acknowledging that it is conservative, given the fact that market expectations are on the higher side.

The estimate is lower than RBI's projection of 7.2% growth for the current financial year. Several agencies, including IMF, have raised the country's GDP estimates sharply after better than expected expansion of 8.2% in 2023-24. IMF now expects the economy to grow by 7% in 2024-25.

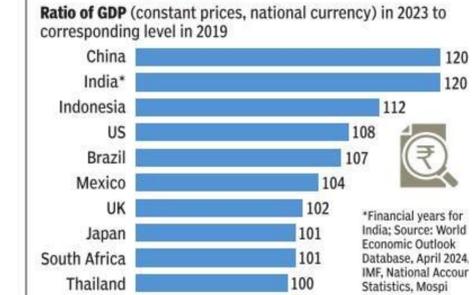
The survey said domestic growth drivers have supported economic growth in FY24, despite uncertain global economic performance. It also said improved balance sheets will help the private sector cater to strong investment demand.

"A note of caution is warranted here. Private capital formation after good growth in last three years may turn slightly more cautious because of fears of cheaper imports from countries that have excess capacity." The survey listed several risks to growth, including geopolitical situation, weather related shocks and supply chain disruptions.

It said Indian economy recovered swiftly from pandemic, with real GDP in FY24 being 20% higher than the pre-Covid FY20 level. "Overall, Indian economy looks forward to FY25 optimistically, anticipating broad-based and inclusive growth."

The survey says short-term inflation outlook for India is benign but listed several options that could be considered from angle of long-term

### LEADING THE PACK



price stability. It called for focused efforts to increase the production of major oilseeds, such as sunflower and rapeseed, mustard, and explore the potential of non-conventional oils, such as rice bran oil and corn oil. "The possibility of expanding scope of national mission on edible oils beyond palm oil to other major oilseeds is worth an examination."

More efforts are needed to expand area under pulses, particularly lentils, tur, and urad in more districts and rice-fallow areas.

# Timely, quality data must to improve policy actions

TEAM TOI

Govt's economic report card has called for strengthening the statistical system and said the statistics ministry needs to be equipped fully to produce and integrate all required data with desired quality, regularity and timeliness.

It also said quality and timeliness of administrative and transactional data of the ministries must be brought to levels that facilitate timely course corrections against the backdrop of target of making India a developed nation by 2047.

The need to shore up the statistical system with good data producing capability is also required for formulating policies and timely decision-making to address societal challenges and promoting inclusive growth. In recent years, the quality of

govt data has triggered a debate and there have been calls for an overhaul of data collection and dissemination systems in the country.

The report has highlighted the need to update the base year of important indicators, such as GDP, CPI and IIP to the most recent feasible year at the earliest. It said ministry has undertaken an exercise to change base year of CPI from 2012 to 2024 and has set up an advisory committee on National Accounts Statistics to decide on base year for GDP.

It also flagged the need for high-frequency collection of price monitoring data for essential food items and link them in a way that build-up of prices at each stage from farm gate to the consumer is quantifiable and monitorable. The suggestion comes against the backdrop of stubborn food inflation and the impact of weather related events on vegetable and other products and price spikes, which have confronted policymakers.

The survey has also suggested that if the granular GST data of over 1.3 crore entries is made available, it has potential to analyse the health of businesses, screen applications, provide support for cash flow-based lending and understand the economics of different geographies deeply. It has also called for a regular mechanism to aggregate financial flows to infrastructure and physical progress — sectorally and geographically differentiated — achieved in different infrastructure sectors, at least on an annual basis.

On the infrastructure sector, the report has mentioned that existing databases fall short on assessing the demand for infrastructure and tracking the utilisation of facilities built in the sub-sectors.



"If someone told me that I should walk in as flagbearer, it would mean even more to me, to be honest (than winning gold). Leading an entire nation into the Olympics is simply the greatest honour an athlete can receive."

ALEXANDER ZVEREV  
GERMAN TENNIS STAR

# SREEJESH'S LAST HURRAH

India's Top Hockey Goalkeeper To Retire After Paris Olympics

Manuja.Veerappa@timesofindia.com

**Bengaluru:** In 2002, a gawky youngster in a netted sleeveless vest and *veshti* joined the country's junior hockey team. He seemed out of place among the boisterous group, his troubles compounded by his language skills, or the lack of them.

He couldn't speak in any language other than Malayalam, his mother tongue. The lanky youngster was mocked by his peers for his appearance — his primitive goalkeeping pads were secured by a rope — and lack of social skills. Although the youngster was close to realising his dream of making it to the Indian team, he yearned for the comfort of his home in Pallikkara, Ernakulam district, Kerala. Every time he decided to pack his bags, he would be reminded of his family's sacrifices. His father, PV Raveendran, a man of modest means but big dreams for his two sons, sold a cow to buy him his first goalkeeping kit.

The youngster would block out the bullying and humiliation and focus on his dreams. On Monday, wearing his first-ever jersey at the Olympic Village in Paris, Parattu Raveendran Sreejesh announced to the world that Paris would be his last dance.

While the announcement was in the offing for a while, when it did materialise, it marked the beginning of the end of one of the most stirring careers in modern Indian hockey. The 36-year-old has been the wall of Indian hockey for over a decade-and-a-half. Sreejesh is among the very special players to have taken the field for India. His agility and game awareness are his primary strengths and being an ever-dependable team man with the ability to soak up pressure only enhanced his reputation. The call-ups from the Indian junior to the senior team was delayed, but since his international debut in 2006, he has made the opportunities count and has been a crucial cog in many landmark Indian victories, including the bronze medal at the Tokyo Games.

On Monday, overcome by emotions, Sreejesh, eloquent on and off the field, was lost for words. "It was a tough call. I don't



TOKYO, AUG 5, 2021: Sreejesh sits on the goalpost while celebrating India's victory over Germany in the bronze-medal match

know how to put my feelings in words," he said. "Playing hockey is all that I have done in the past 24 years. Post Paris, not going back to playing hockey will be like searching for a path in the dark," he told TOI.

Sreejesh, the FIH best goalkeeper of 2021-22, wanted to set an example to others on the right time to announce retirement. "It was about deciding when the right time was, I believe I've played a crucial role in Indian hockey, and I wanted to finish before I was asked to leave. In Indian hockey, rarely has there been a perfect retirement. I wanted to show youngsters how to say goodbye. There could not have been a better platform than the Olympics." Before making it known to the world, Sreejesh discussed his plans with his family and spoke about it to teammates during their training camp in the Netherlands.

"I've been telling my family for the past eight years that I plan to retire. This time, when they realised I was serious, they agreed it was the right time. In the Netherlands, during a meeting, I told the team about my plans. I also told them I need their help to make my last outing a memorable one. As I gave it my best one last time, I want them to do the same," said the former India skipper. Coming from a state which doesn't have a hockey culture, Sreejesh, who refers to himself as a 'ottayan' — a lonely tusker — thrived on self-belief. "People thought a player from Kerala wanting to make it big in the Indian team was a lofty dream. Even my parents thought so, but it didn't hamper me." Among Sreejesh's biggest career regrets is not winning the World Cup despite four appearances in the quadrennial showpiece. He now wants nothing more than a medal in Paris.

As I gave it my best one last time, I want them to do the same," said the former India skipper. Coming from a state which doesn't have a hockey culture, Sreejesh, who refers to himself as a 'ottayan' — a lonely tusker — thrived on self-belief. "People thought a player from Kerala wanting to make it big in the Indian team was a lofty dream. Even my parents thought so, but it didn't hamper me." Among Sreejesh's biggest career regrets is not winning the World Cup despite four appearances in the quadrennial showpiece. He now wants nothing more than a medal in Paris.

### KEEPER'S DOSSIER

**Full name:** Parattu Raveendran Sreejesh  
**Born in:** Pallikkara, Kerala  
**Age:** 36  
**Position:** Goalkeeper  
**India junior debut:** 2004  
**India senior debut:** 2006  
**Senior caps:** 328  
**Top Achievements**  
**Olympics:** 2020 Bronze  
**Asian Games:** 2014 Gold, 2018 Bronze, 2022 Gold  
**Asia Cup:** 2013 Silver  
**Champions Trophy:** 2016 & 2018 Silver  
**Asian Champions Trophy:** 2011, 2016, 2018 & 2023 Gold; 2012 Silver  
**Commonwealth Games:** 2014 & 2022 Silver  
**Awards**  
**2014 & 2018 Champions Trophy:** Best goalkeeper  
**2015:** Arjuna Award  
**2017:** Padma Shri  
**2021:** Khel Ratna  
**2021-22:** FIH best goalkeeper

Participating in the Olympics is the ultimate pinnacle of achievement for any sports person. I have been lucky enough to represent India in four editions. I am 36. There are youngsters waiting in the wings, and I reckon it's time they take the mantle from me. And there is no better stage to end your career than the Olympics.

It was in 2004 that my name was tagged with an Indian squad for the first time when I was included in the junior team to tour Australia. After my selection, I was handed the Indian goalkeeper's jersey. I didn't have a mirror in my room and quickly rushed to the washroom. I wore the jersey and looked at myself in the mirror. Time stood still as I saw my name printed on the back of an Indian jersey for the first time. When I came back, I gifted that jersey to my dad, who received it with tears in his eyes.

Our goal is to do better than last time. We have the team to do that. I don't know what to say. All this while, I knew Paris would be my last tournament in Indian colours. It's just been 10 minutes since I announced my retirement decision. Suddenly, I have gone blank. Let me give myself some time and focus on the job ahead."

—PR Sreejesh

(as told to Prasanth Menon)

### SHOOTING LEGEND BINDRA GETS IOC OLYMPIC ORDER

**New Delhi:** Abhinav Bindra has been awarded with Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for his outstanding services to the Olympic Movement. The award ceremony will be held during the 142nd IOC Session in Paris on Aug 10, a day before the closing of the Games.

"It is with great pleasure that I inform you that the IOC executive board has decided to award you with the Olympic Order for your outstanding services to the Olympic movement," the IOC wrote in a letter addressed to Bindra.

The Olympic Order is the highest award of the IOC, given for distinguished contributions to the Olympic Movement. It is awarded to recognize an individual who has illustrated the Olympic ideal, has achieved remarkable merit in the sporting world or has rendered outstanding services to the Olympic cause. PTI



### NADAL UNCOMFORTABLE AHEAD OF GAMES BID

**Bastad (Sweden):** Rafael Nadal will head to the Paris Olympics chasing a third gold medal but admitted his "level was so far from what it should be" after losing in the Bastad clay-court final on Sunday. The 38-year-old Spanish great went down to a straight-sets defeat to Portuguese journeyman Nuno Borges in his first final since capturing a 14th French Open in 2022.

"The level was so far from what it should be. Probably the energy too," said Nadal. "It has been a long week with long matches. Even if my body, I don't have damage, that's important. But mentally and physically, I am not used to playing four days in a row and playing long matches."

Nadal was playing his first tournament since an opening round exit at the French Open in May. He skipped Wimbledon to focus on his clay-court bag of tricks ahead of the Olympics which are being played at Roland Garros, the site of 14 of his 22 Grand Slam triumphs. AFP

### Israeli contingent to get round-the-clock security

**Paris:** Israeli athletes will receive 24-hour protection during the Paris Olympics, France's interior minister said, after a far-left lawmaker said Israel's delegation was not welcome and called for protests against their participation. The Games begin on Friday amid pronounced security concerns at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions over the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. Israel's war against Hamas has become a lightning rod among France's far left, with some critics accusing pro-Palestinian members of antisemitism.

French interior minister Gerald Darmanin said that Israeli athletes would be protected around the clock during the Games, 52 years after the Munich Olympics massacre in which 11 Israelis were killed by Palestinian militants. Darmanin spoke after far-left France Unbowed party lawmaker Thomas Portes was filmed saying Israel's Olympic athletes were not welcome in France. On Monday, foreign minister Stéphane Sejourne said in Brussels, "I want to say on behalf of France, to the Israeli delegation, we welcome you to France for these Games."

### FRANCE IS READY, SAYS MACRON

**Paris:** President Emmanuel Macron said on Monday that France was ready to host the Paris Olympics as he visited the athletes' Village four days before the Games begin. "We are ready and we will be ready throughout the Games," Macron said. "We have been working on these Games for years now and we are at the start of a decisive week which on Friday will see the opening ceremony and then the Olympic which will be held in Paris, 100 years since the last one." He added: "This is the fruit

of an immense amount of work which has profoundly changed the country, in particular the area" of Seine-Saint-Denis, where the Athletes' Village is situated. International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach also visited the Village to the north of the French capital, where thousands of athletes and officials are arriving, with up to 14,500 expected there at the peak of the Games. Macron promised the area would not be forgotten after the Olympics. "I will come back after the Games to see the legacy with you and to see how life has changed." AGENCIES



SCENIC VIEW AT CHAMP DE MARS: The beach volleyball event will be held under the shadow of the Eiffel Tower



AQUAMEN: Divers take part in a training session in Saint-Denis, north of Paris



GEARING UP FOR JAPAN: Naomi Osaka serves during a training session at Roland Garros

### Manu determined to leave Tokyo woes behind

Tushar.Dutt@timesofindia.com

**Pune:** In his autobiography, Abhinav Bindra mentioned the importance of detaching oneself from the result, his gold at Beijing being a strong validation. Much younger in age and experience, but maybe not in determination, Manu Bhaker too has started thinking along the same lines as Bindra did before the 2008 Olympics.

The pistol shooter had a forgettable outing in her first Olympics in Tokyo. Yet, it was difficult for her to forget what unfolded at the Asaka Shooting ranges three years ago. Nonetheless, the Haryana girl gathered her thoughts and corrected mistakes made in Tokyo, including getting

back to her former coach, Jaspal Rana, with whom she had a fallout just weeks before the 2021 Games. Manu, 22, insists she has grown wiser as a person and stronger as a shooter.

"I have very bitter memories of Tokyo. Two years ago, when I used to think about it, I used to wonder why it happened to me and what I did wrong. But as 2023 began, I started connecting the dots. I started understanding how everything turned out the way it did. Also, what I could have done to make the results better. After all those thoughts, I am just not willing to make those mistakes again, no matter what the results

are," Manu told TOI after the Olympic trials in Bhopal in May. "We all must make our peace with situations which are not in our hands. We cannot change the past and can't have control over the future. It took me a long time to make peace with my situation. Once I started doing it, things started falling in place," she said.

Talking about her fallout with Jaspal at a crucial juncture of her preparation for the Tokyo Games, Manu agreed that her performance could have been better with her trusted coach by her side.

Going to Paris, Manu doesn't want to sulk over the past. "When someone close to you dies, you cry

for some days and go about your routine after some time. You realize crying won't bring the person back, but remembering good things about the person would make you cherish the time you had together. I think I had a similar feeling about my Tokyo experience. I was sad for some time but now I think of the good things that happened to me then," she said.

She asserted that she has come to a stage where she now only thinks of giving her best and not about the results. The process of detachment has started, and Bindra would approve. "An athlete's life is kind of a rollercoaster as we face a lot in a short span of our short careers. I have been shooting for over eight years now and now I feel I am prepared for everything."

### German sports campus boosts Paris hopes & dreams

The Sprawling Facility In Saarland, The Most 'French' State In These Parts, Gives Athletes A Taste Of What To Expect At The Games

Siddharth.Saxena@timesofindia.com

**Saarbrücken:** It is wrapping up time here at the SportCampus Saar. The sandbags are being unhooked and towed away, weights dismantled from bars and stowed one atop the other, creating a few hundred little pyramids of their own. The heating of the sauna is being brought down a few notches, the hoops and rings being pulled down in the performance halls, hurdles stacked away, badminton nets rolled away. In the cafeteria, there are unspoken instructions to prepare less quantities of food from now on.

Elsewhere, in the residential quarters, athletes are doing their final last-minute packing, looking around their rooms — which they called 'home' for the past so many weeks — to see if nothing has been left behind. Maybe they will spot a sweaty, old tee, a broken shoe, or a note from family or one to self tell-

ing the person not to give up, not give in and to go forth and conquer. A sure favourite of Indian athletes — Neeraj Chopra has an apartment reserved for him — the sprawling nine-hectare facility will bear a vacant look from this week on as the festooning moves eastward to Paris. It's a good time for the folk that run the facility at Saarbrücken — 100 heads employed — to sit and look back at what they may have helped shape, even if sometimes recollecting the unusual. "There was a request once for a saloon from one of the members of a training team here," remembers Johannes Kopkow, chuckling at the strangest request they encountered over the past months.

Teams arrived from over 27 countries from five continents. At one point, there were 401 guests, the highest, training and acclimatizing for the Olympics in Paris, which is just an hour and 48 min-



MODEL OF EFFICIENCY: The SportCampus Saar (above) offers 'unofficial' residential and training facilities in Saarland, where Brazil (on the right) beat Germany 3-1 in an international volleyball friendly on Sunday

utes away by high-speed train. Or, as Kopkow says, "Just 50 minutes by car and you are in France."

"Saarland is the most French state of Germany," he says, explaining how that proximity is the chief benefit the athletes sought this time. "The weather, the altitude, the cuisine here is so similar to what they will find in France." Returning to barbershop talk,

Kopkow continues, "We found him one in the city, of course, but he would insist that we should accompany him. Strange, but we agreed. But when he met us, he was already clean-shaven! We still cannot understand why he was insisting on a haircut when he had no hair?"

At 41, Kopkow, chief of the SportsCampus, happily reaffirms the old German stereotype of al-



ways needing a mission, to organize and help function like fine machinery. The go-to man, he knows the ins and outs, remembers the little details, even knows those little secrets that visiting athletes know are safe with him. He tells you about that one hour-long phone call Neeraj received from a higher-up at home, when the time came to take a decision on India's flagbearer for the opening ceremony.

The lockdown and the pandemic forced a reinvention of the facility, and Kopkow too. Looking for a new 'mission' after having run one of the biggest sports clubs in the east near Nuremberg, he travelled west here. "We wanted a more local feel to it, so we rechristened it, adding 'Saar' to the title." Expecting a windfall with the Olympics nearing, Team SportCampus got to work, pumping in nearly two million euros over two years to reach this level of expertise. SportCampus banks on a unique funding concept to keep it running. The trust has 42.5% stake in SaarToto, a regional lottery company based

in Saarland, and one-eighth of the revenue from it (nearly 14 million euros annually) goes for the running of SportCampus.

It doesn't come cheap for the visiting athlete. Depending on the facilities and services they avail, an athlete per head could cost their respective countries anything from between euros 100 to 130 per day. Thereafter, it's an all-access facility with minimal or zero presence of policing. "Everything is free to use, in that sense. That is our philosophy," says Kopkow.

But sometimes, they overreach. Nearly two years ago, they found an army of IOC lawyers at their door. Reason? "We had bought a website domain, 'Paris2020.saarland' for training registration purposes. It cost us just 24 euros, but the Paris organisers would not have any of it. We didn't have the legal means to fight so it was changed to 'trainingcamp.saarland'."

The tiny tweak has worked. "The IOC still doesn't recognize us as an official training facility, but see the results," says a satisfied Kopkow, pointing to the bustling activity in the boxing hall, where over a dozen national teams are training. "We are the busiest training facility closest to Paris. We can already see nearly 40 medals floating here in SportCampus."

# 'MY RELATIONSHIP WITH VIRAT IS NOT FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION'

**Ahead Of Team's Departure To SL, New Coach Gambhir Says Rohit & Kohli Have Plenty Of Cricket Still Left In Them**

Nitin.Naik@timesofindia.com

**Mumbai:** The rumour industry had been working overtime ever since it was announced that former opener Gautam Gambhir will be the head coach for India. His firebrand altercations with batting talisman Virat Kohli in the IPL (2013 KKR vs RCB) and 2023 (LSG vs RCB) were probably the reasons for that.

There was more history. Gambhir was dropped from the side in 2016 after the Rajkot Test against England and KL Rahul, who was reportedly still unfit, made a curious return as opener. Incidentally, Kohli was the captain then.

However, on a rainy Monday in Mumbai, it seemed like plenty of water had flown under the bridge. Ahead of the team's departure to Sri Lanka for a six-match white-ball series (three T20s and three ODIs), the gritty former left-handed opener put theories that suggested it will be a difficult dressing room with him and Virat in it, to rest.

"What kind of relationship I share with Virat Kohli, I think it is between two mature individuals. It may be good for TRP, but it's not public," Gambhir said and justified the run-ins with the superstar batter by adding, "On the field, everyone has got the right to fight for their own team, their own jersey, and want to come back in a winning dressing room."

Putting his India hat on, Gambhir further stressed, "But you are representing India and 140 crore Indians now, and I am sure we are going to be on the same page and try and make India proud."

That their relationship was not in cold storage was evident during the 2024 IPL when both met cordially and Kohli, targeting headline seekers, had famously said, "logon ka masala khatam" during an event.

Gambhir was asked if he and Kohli had chatted after he was named coach and he stressed, "How many chats have I had with him, after my announcement or before my announcement, during the games, after the games...sometimes just because we want headlines...it is not important."

But he reiterated the respect he has for the man whom he gave away his Man of the Match award to after Kohli's first international hundred in 2009 in Kolkata. "He is a thorough professional, a world-class athlete, a world-class player. I have huge respect for him as a player and it is going to continue. And hopefully we can work together really well."

Another player, Gambhir will have to work closely with is Rohit Sharma, who has retired from T20s, like Kohli, but will continue to lead India in Tests and ODIs. And he hoped that Rohit and Kohli still have a lot of cricket left in them.

"They have both shown they can deliver on the big stage, be it the T20 World Cup or 50-over World Cup. One thing I can be clear of is that both have a lot of cricket left in them. More importantly, with the Champions Trophy and a big tour of Australia coming up, they would be motivated. If they can keep their fitness, the 2027 ODI World Cup as well."

For the record, Kohli will be 39 in 2027, and Rohit will be 40.



**SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT:** Gautam Gambhir (L) and Ajit Agarkar spoke with candour on Monday

## GAUTI SAYS



**You're representing India and 140 crore Indians now, and I am sure we (he and Virat) are going to be on the same page and try and make India proud."**

**Workload management for someone like Jasprit Bumrah is important. For a batter, if they're in good form, might as well just play all the games."**

**A happy dressing room is a winning dressing room. It is important to give players freedom and not have a relationship of a head coach and a player. The best relationship is one built on trust."**

## Captain should be on the park more often than not: Agarkar

Nitin.Naik@timesofindia.com

**Mumbai:** One of the contentious issues after the team for the T20 series against Sri Lanka was announced was the appointment of Suryakumar Yadav as skipper with Shubman Gill named as his deputy. Hardik Pandya was vice-captain to Rohit Sharma in India's victorious campaign in the T20 World Cup and had a great tournament (144 runs at a strike-rate of 151.57 and 11 wickets at an average of 17.36).

It was expected that Pandya will be the natural successor to Rohit. On Monday, prior to the team's departure to Sri Lanka from Mumbai, Agarkar revealed that Pandya's battles with fitness was the prime reason why the selectors took that call. "The captain should be on the park more often than not," was Agarkar's blunt take on Pandya's demotion. "Why Surya as captain? Because he is one of the deserving candidates," Agarkar stated.

Growing dressing room respect for the dashing Mumbai batter was also another reason revealed by Agarkar: "He's been around the group over the last year, we get feedback from the dressing room a lot. He has a good cricket brain. One of the main issues we discussed was that you want a captain who is likely to play all the games.

We think he is a deserving candidate," Agarkar explained. Agarkar though was also full of praise for Pandya's skillset and said they do not want to burden him with more responsibility.

### Why was Rahul overlooked?

KL Rahul, a player who has led India across formats, was another cricketer one felt, who could be entrusted with the responsibility of captaincy.

"We've got a chance to hit the reset button, and we have got a bit more time to plan. When Hardik got injured, captaincy became a challenge as Rohit wasn't playing T20s. Because he was still around, it made our life easier, and he could come and lead. We don't want that situation going forward where suddenly we have to look around for a captain in case there are injuries or loss of form somewhere. Shubman has shown decent leadership qualities, and we want to try him to get experiences."

Agarkar was asked if the calls to drop players like Sanju Samson (dropped for ODIs despite getting

a hundred in his last outing vs SA in a series-decider), Abhishek Sharma (dropped from T20s despite getting a hundred in Zimbabwe) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (dropped despite impressing in both ODIs and T20s) were justified and whether the players would feel hard-done-by?

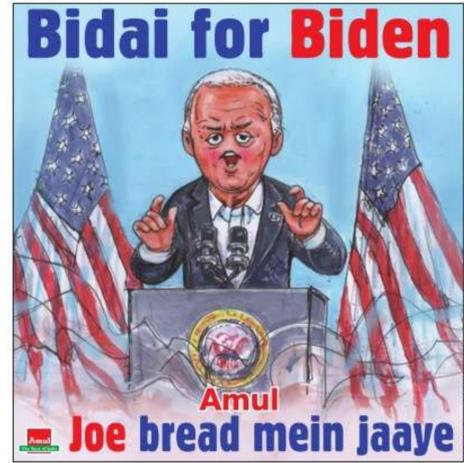
"Every player who is left out feels hard-done-by. Our challenge is to pick only 15. To try and get the best balance possible, someone is likely to miss out. You've got to see who is picked ahead of them (KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer). Are those guys not deserving of their place?" Agarkar asked.

### Jadeja not dropped from ODIs

While there was significant angst at the ouster of Samson and Gaikwad from the ODI team, a constant name across formats was also absent. That of Ravindra Jadeja. "There's a big Test season coming up, where he's likely to feature in a lot of the Tests. I think we should have clarified after the selection that he's not been dropped," admitted Agarkar.

**WE HAVEN'T DISCUSSED SURYA FOR ODIs. SHREYAS IS BACK, KL IS BACK, THEY HAD GREAT WORLD CUPS. RISHAB IS BACK AS WELL. SO THERE IS SOME QUALITY THROUGH THAT MIDDLE ORDER. AT THIS POINT SURYA IS JUST A T20 PLAYER."**

—AJIT AGARKAR | CHAIRMAN OF SELECTORS



## Dravid may return to RR as head coach

Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

**Colombo:** Team India's former head coach **Rahul Dravid** is likely to return to the Rajasthan Royals as the head coach, TOI has learnt.

"Talks are going on between RR and Dravid, and an announcement in this regard is round the corner," a reliable source told this paper.

The 51-year-old has had a long relationship with RR, having been their captain who led them to the Champions League T20 final and IPL playoffs in 2013, before taking on the mentor's role in 2014 & 2015, when they finished third in the IPL.

From 2015, Dravid was associated with the BCCI as the head coach of the India U-19 and India A teams, then the chairman at NCA, before finally taking over the head coach of the senior team from Oct 2021.

It's not clear if the franchise would retain Kumar Sangakkara, who has been the

Royals' director of cricket since 2021 or relieve him after Dravid comes on board.

### Bharucha oversees SL camp

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka are taking the help of an Indian hand to prepare for the white-ball series against India.

Zubin Bharucha, the high-performance director of the Royals, is currently taking a week-long 'batting master class' for Sri Lanka's players in Colombo which ends on Tuesday. Bharucha is known for his rigorous training methods for the batsmen, which have played a key role in the development of Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel.

"I'm assisting Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) coaches in how they are setting up practice—from the academy to the international players," Bharucha told TOI on Monday.

According to a source, it was Sangakkara who "recommended Bharucha name for the special training session".

## INDIA LOOK TO COVER THE BASES

**Dambulla:** Buoyant India will look to extend their winning run and seal a semifinal berth when they face Nepal in their final Group A Women's T20 Asia Cup match on Tuesday.

India registered convincing wins in their first two matches by beating Pakistan and UAE by seven wickets and 78 runs respectively to put one foot in the semifinals.

Minnows Nepal hardly have any time to recover from the thrashing they received at the

hands of Pakistan in their previous outing on Sunday.

While India are primed to enter the last-four, Pakistan improved their net run rate with the comfortable win over Nepal lifting them to the second spot in Group A.

India will, however, not be bothered by how the other teams are doing and will look to sustain the momentum they have gained with two convincing victories heading into the semifinals. **WOMEN'S ASIA CUP**

## SNAPSHOTS

### Randhir set to become first Indian OCA head

Former international shooter and veteran sports administrator Randhir Singh is set to become the first Indian president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) after emerging as the sole candidate for the top post for the Sept 8 elections. Randhir was currently serving as the acting chief of the continental sports apex body. **PTI**

**Nagal bounces back to beat Klein, enters pre-quarterfinals:** India's top singles player Sumit Nagal on Monday fought back from the brink to defeat Slovakia's Lucas Klein in the opening round of the Kitzbuhel Open in Austria. Nagal won 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (3). **PTI**

**England move up three spots in WTC rankings:** England have moved off the bottom of the ICC World Test Championship standings and kept in touch with the competition pacesetters after beating West Indies in the second Test. It also helps England jump up the World Test Championship standings, catapulting them past South Africa, Bangladesh and West Indies into sixth place. **ANI**

**Zverev hopes injury won't affect title chances in Paris:** Reigning Olympic champion Alexander Zverev is hopeful the knee injury he suffered at Wimbledon will not impact his chances of gold in Paris but says it is not yet healed. "To be honest, you know, the risk will stay for the next two, three, four weeks maybe because that's how long the bone heals, and because that's what everybody told me," Zverev said. **REUTERS**

**Verstappen defends 'childish' expletive-filled rant:** Max Verstappen was handed a public rebuke by his own engineer on Sunday when he blamed Red Bull's strategy for finishing a frustrated fifth in Hungary. Verstappen, 26, then remonstrated on team radio and was told not to "be childish" by his race engineer. Verstappen defended his behaviour. "I don't know why people think that you can't be vocal on a radio," he said. **REUTERS**

**Indian junior squash teams lose in quarterfinals:** India's boys and girls lost narrowly in the quarterfinals of the World Junior Squash Championships Team competition in Houston. The sixth-seeded boys lost 2-1 to fourth seed South Korea, the girls were defeated by an identical margin by third seed Malaysia. **PTI**

## ACTION TODAY

**CRICKET:** Women's Asia Cup T20s, Pak vs UAE, 2 pm; India vs Nepal, 6.30 pm (Star Sports)

## Stokes excited after Bashir grabs another five-wkt haul

**London:** Ben Stokes said **Shoaib Bashir** had "showed the world" he belonged in international cricket after the 20-year-old off-spinner bowled England to a series-clinching victory over the West Indies in the second Test at Trent Bridge on Sunday. Bashir took 5-41 as the West Indies collapsed to 143 on the fourth evening, with England triumphing by 241 runs to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in a three-match campaign.

It was Bashir's third five-wicket haul in just five Tests but first in England after he twice achieved the feat on spin-friendly Indian pitches earlier this year.

His latest exploits were all the more impressive given Bashir did not bowl a single ball and was out for a duck during England's innings and 114-run thrashing of the West Indies in the first Test at Lord's. Bashir removed Kirk McKenzie, Kavem Hodge and Alick Athanaze—all top-order batsmen—in quick succession before bowling Jason Holder and last man Shamar Joseph as West Indies, set 385 to win, slumped to 143 all out.

"I think what Bash has done today is to show the world what he can do," said England captain Stokes.

"That wicket hardly offered anything for a spinner throughout the whole Test match and look at what he was able to do today.

"The way in which he can change his pace, produce over-spin and under-spin...I think he showed his full bag of tricks. He's got so much talent and the ceiling is so, so high. He's got an unbelievable desire and a will to get better and learn."

Stokes added: "It's really good for a young guy to come out and put in a performance that wins England a Test match, it's pretty cool for him."

### Boycott back in hospital

England batting great Geoffrey Boycott was on Sunday readmitted to hospital after suffering a setback in his recovery from throat surgery, his family revealing "things have taken a turn for the worse". The 83-year-old was discharged from hospital only on Friday after a successful operation to remove a cancerous tumour. However, he has now developed pneumonia.

"Thank you all for the well wishes, we've been blown away by the sheer number of them," read a statement from the family on Boycott's X account.

"Unfortunately, things have taken a turn for the worse and my father has developed pneumonia and is unable to eat or drink so is back in hospital on oxygen and a feeding tube for the foreseeable."

Boycott had previously been treated for throat cancer in 2002 with chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Boycott is one of a select group of cricketers to have scored 100 first-class hundreds. **AGENCIES**

## Dunlap first golfer to win as amateur, pro in same year

**Truckee (US):** **Nick Dunlap** became the first player in PGA Tour history to win as an amateur and a professional in the same year, rallying for a two-point victory in the Barracuda Championship.

In January at The American Express in La Quinta, the 20-year-old Dunlap—then a sophomore at the University of Alabama—became the eighth amateur to win a tour event and the first in 33 years. He turned professional days later.

"I never thought that I would have my name next to that, but it's definitely an honour," Dunlap said about the amateur-pro double.

"It's been a little tough after AmEx. You kind of lose a little bit of confidence and wonder if you can do it again."

On Sunday at Tahoe Mountain Club, Dunlap took the lead with a 55-foot eagle putt on the par-15th.

Players receive eight points for a double eagle, five for eagle and two for birdie. A point is deducted for bogey and three for double bogey. **AP**

## ICC forms 3-member panel to review conduct of T20 WC

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

**Colombo:** As was widely expected, the International Cricket Council (ICC), soon after the conclusion of its four-day Annual Conference here on Monday, announced that it had formed a three-member committee to "review the delivery" of the T20 World Cup which was co-hosted by the USA and the West Indies last month.

The committee includes three directors-former New Zealand batsman Roger Twose, Lawson Naidoo and Imran Khwaja, who is the deputy chair of the ICC.

### ICC AGM

"The ICC Board confirmed that there will be a review into the delivery of the ICC T20 World Cup," the ICC stated in a release soon after the conclusion of its Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Reportedly, the ICC has incurred losses over \$20m for conducting matches in New York, Florida and Dallas. Apparently, the tournament's expenses for the US leg overshoot the allocated budget by a long margin, something that was pointed out by Pankaj Khimji of Oman.

It was reported that the resignation of two ICC officials was related to the conduct of the World Cup, although a reliable source in the ICC has maintained that both Claire Furlong and Chris Tetley had made up their mind to quit last year itself

but were asked to stay back for the Women's T20 World Cup (Furlong), and the Champions Trophy next year (Tetley).

### No discussion on India's CT show

Meanwhile, TOI understands that there was no discussion on the ICC Champions Trophy, to be held in Pakistan in 2025, or India's participation in the tournament.

### USA, Chile put on notice

In what is certainly a big setback for cricket in the United States just a few days after their national team stunned everyone by beating Pakistan and making it to the T20 World Cup Super 8s, USA Cricket, along with Cricket Chile, has been formally put on notice and given 12 months to comply with ICC's Associate Membership criteria. Apparently, the USAC has been in breach of Associate Members Protocols on two counts—not having a fulltime CEO and not having recognition of the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee.

### Women's T20 WC to have 16 teams

The ICC Board has approved an expansion of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup to 16 teams in 2030, aligning with its ongoing commitment to equity between the men's and women's games. The CEC approved the appointment of ex-Australian pacer Paul Reiffel to the Cricket Committee as the Elite Panel representative.

## Aston Villa seal swoop for Everton medio Onana

**London:** Aston Villa signed Belgium midfielder Amadou Onana from Everton in a deal worth a reported £50 million (\$64 million) on Monday. Onana agreed a five-year contract with Villa, who had been searching for a replacement for Douglas Luiz after the Brazilian's

move to Juventus. The 22-year-old failed to make an impact at Everton after arriving from Lille two years ago. But, after featuring for Belgium at Euro 2024, Onana has been given the chance to revive his Premier League career by Villa boss Unai Emery.

"Aston Villa is delighted to announce the signing of Amadou Onana from Everton," the club said on their website. Capped 17 times by Belgium, Onana made 72 appearances for Everton, scoring



**BIG BUY:** Amadou Onana

four goals. He joins Villa with the club looking forward to their first Champions League campaign since 1983 after last season's fourth-place finish in the Premier League.

**Tottenham star Son's dad accused of verbal abuse**

Tottenham Hotspur star Son Heung-min's father has been accused of verbally abusing a young

player at his football academy in South Korea, according to a police interview transcript given to AFP by a lawyer on Monday.

Former footballer Son Woong-jung is a public figure in South Korea and authored a best-selling memoir detailing how he helped his son become one of the best strikers in the English Premier League. But the family of a 12-year-old, identified only as Kim, told police he was the target of foul language just weeks after his enrolment at Son senior's academy in November.

**Fishcake fury cancels match in Norway after VAR protest**

The match in the Norwegian top-flight between Rosenborg BK and Lillestrom was suspended after fans showed their displeasure with the Video Assistant Referee

(VAR) by throwing fishcakes on the field. The protests started from kickoff and after a two-minute bombardment of fishcakes, the referee stopped the match and sent the players to dressing room.

The match was restarted, but protests intensified with tennis balls and smoke bombs thrown onto the field.

The referee abandoned the match around the half-hour mark with the score 0-0.

**Chelsea sign USA defender Wiley from Atlanta Utd**

Chelsea signed teenage United States defender Caleb Wiley from Atlanta United in a deal worth a reported £8.5 million (\$10.9 million) on Monday. Wiley agreed a six-year contract with the Premier League club with the option of a further one-season extension. **AGENCIES**

## Rohan upsets Swarit to move into quarters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Rohan Kejriwal seeded 9/16th produced an outstanding performance to record an upset win against the higher-ranked state mate Swarit Patil seeded 5/8th in a boys' under-15 pre-quarterfinal match of the Bombay Gymkhana Maharashtra State Open All India Squash Tournament.

The Bombay Gymkhana member played with loads of determination to script a well-deserved 11-6, 16-14, 11-4 victory to move into the last eight. In a women's pre-quarterfinal match, top seed Anjali Semwal of Maharashtra staged off a spirited challenge from Rudra Singh also from Maharashtra registering an 11-7, 12-10, 6-11, 11-7 victory.

REGD. NO. TN/Chief PMG/398/2002  
RNI NO. 1547/57 ISSN 0971-8257

Air Charge: Raipur & via Rs 1.00, Chennai, Kochi, Coimbatore, Ennakulam, Trivandrum & via Rs. 2.00, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mangalore, Udupi, Vizag & via Rs. 4.00, Delhi, Kolkata, Patna & via Rs. 5.00  
International Rates Prices (Daily): Oman \$10/Bazas, Singapore \$5  
Published for the proprietors of Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd. by R. Krishnamurthy at the Times of India Building, Dr. D. N. Road, Mumbai-400 001. Tel. No. (022) 6636 3036. Fax: (022) 2773 1144 and printed by Himani (I) The Times of India Suburban Press, Akurdi Road, Western Express Highway, Kurla (E), Mumbai-400 105. Tel. No. (022) 2887 2324, 2887 2830 and (2) The Times of India Print City, Plot No. 4, T.T.C. Industrial Area, Thane Belapur Road, Airoli, Navi Mumbai-400 705. Tel. No. (022) 2769 9999. Fax: (022) 2765 5273. Tel. Nos. Mumbai Response (022) 6636 3036, 2273 3036. Fax: (022) 2273 1144, 2273 9401. E-Mail: [timesofindia@timesgroup.com](mailto:timesofindia@timesgroup.com). Editor (Mumbai Market): Dinesh B. D'Sa - responsible for selection of news under PMS Act & all rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of Publisher is prohibited.



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

PRICE ₹ 8.00 ALONG WITH THE ECONOMIC TIMES OR MAHARASHTRA TIMES\*

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER | To subscribe call 1800 1200 004 or visit subscribe.timesofindia.com

Indian hockey's 'wall', **PR Sreejesh**, to hang up his boots after Paris Oly. The ex-captain & goalie, who was one of the stars of the bronze-winning team in Tokyo, has played 300+ games for India

# SAMSUNG

## Galaxy Z Fold6 Galaxy AI ✨ is here



### Last chance to pre-order at ₹ 79999\*\*

Retail price of Galaxy Z Fold6 (256 GB)	₹ 164999#
Exchange value of old device	₹ 70000~
Upgrade bonus	₹ 15000^
Effective price	₹ 79999**

**0** Down payment | **24** Months no cost EMI\*\*  
Per month EMI ₹ 6542\*\*

+



**Get Galaxy Z Assurance**  
Complete device protection twice in a year, worth ₹ 14999\*



Samsung Finance+™

Offer ends today, July 23, 2024

Please dispose of e-waste and plastic waste responsibly. Customers can WhatsApp on 180057267664 for information on e-waste/plastic waste.

Image simulated for illustrative purpose only. Actual UX/UI may differ. Color subject to availability. Samsung login is required for certain AI features. Samsung does not make any promises, assurances or guarantees as to the accuracy, completeness or reliability of the output provided by AI features. Samsung promotes responsible use of AI features. Offer may be revised or withdrawn. \*\*Offer price shown above is upon pre-order of 1 unit of Galaxy Z Fold6 12GB|256GB, shown inclusive of exchange value of old device and upgrade bonus. Final price at sole discretion of dealer. \*Retail price shown for 1 unit of Galaxy Z Fold6 12GB|256GB. Price is inclusive of taxes. ~Approximate value on exchange of 1 unit of Galaxy Z Fold5 12GB|256GB. Exchange value varies basis model and condition of old device. Exchange at discretion of retailer. ^Upgrade bonus provided by brand at its sole discretion, upon exchange of select smartphones. Upgrade bonus may vary basis the device exchanged. Exchange at the discretion of dealer and exchange value varies basis model and condition of old device. Upgrade bonus and bank cashback cannot be clubbed. \*\*Eligibility of EMI at sole discretion of financiers including those listed on Samsung Finance+ (Financier T&C applies). Samsung disclaims any liabilities thereof. \*\*\*EMI computed on zero down payment, 24 months no cost EMI on the price of ₹ 156999 for 1 unit of Galaxy Z Fold6 12GB|256GB (inclusive of ₹ 8000 bank cashback). Bank cashback provided by HDFC bank at its sole discretion. \*Samsung Care+ T&C apply. 1 unit of Samsung Care+ Accidental Damage & Liquid Damage Plan worth ₹ 14999 available at ₹ 999, only when purchased with Galaxy Z Fold6, subject to pre-order. Customers eligible for 2 claims under Accidental Damage & Liquid Damage Plan within one year of plan activation date, as per the applicable terms of Samsung Care+. Reach out to dealer for more details. All third party logos/brands are trademarks / registered trademarks of the respective brand/company.

samsung.com

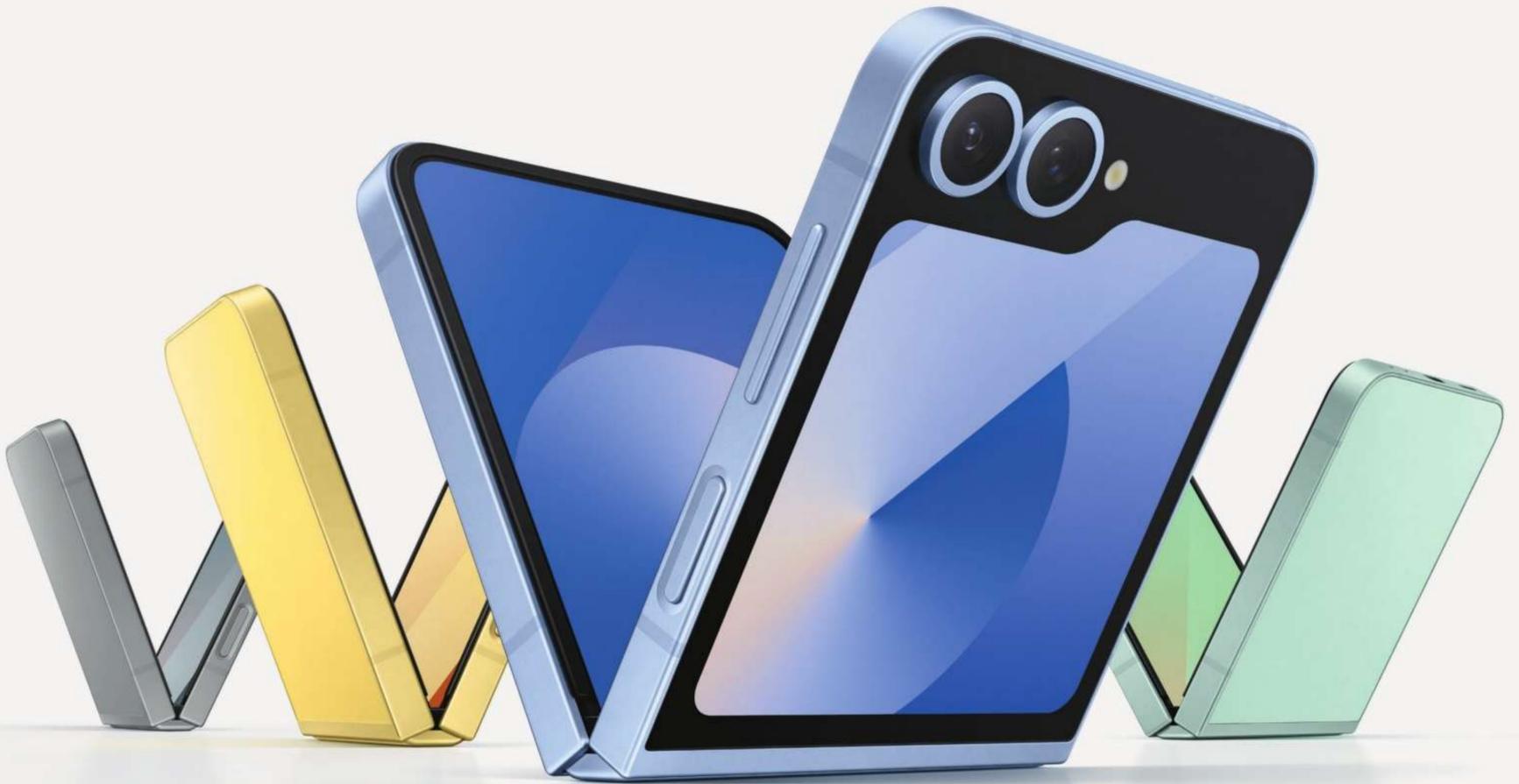
Scan and experience Galaxy AI



Or WhatsApp "Hi" to 9870 494949 to pre-order at Samsung Exclusive Store

# SAMSUNG

## Galaxy Z Flip6 Galaxy AI ✨ is here



New features of  
Galaxy Z Flip6



## Last chance to pre-order at ₹ 47999\*\*

Retail price of Galaxy Z Flip6 (256 GB)	₹ 109999#
Exchange value of old device	₹ 47000~
Upgrade bonus	₹ 15000^
Effective price	₹ 47999**

0 Down payment | 24 Months no cost EMI\*\*  
Per month EMI ₹ 4250~~



Get Galaxy Z Assurance  
Complete device protection twice  
in a year, worth ₹ 9999\*



Samsung Finance+™

Offer ends today, July 23, 2024

samsung.com

Scan and experience  
Galaxy AI



Or WhatsApp "Hi" to  
9870 494949 to pre-order at  
Samsung Exclusive Store

Please dispose of e-waste and plastic waste responsibly. Customers can WhatsApp on 180057267664 for information on e-waste/plastic waste.

Image simulated for illustrative purpose only. Actual UX/UI may differ. Color subject to availability. Flex mode is supported at angles between 75° and 115°. Actual battery performance may vary with different operating conditions and applications. Samsung login is required for certain AI features. Samsung does not make any promises, assurances or guarantees as to the accuracy, completeness or reliability of the output provided by AI features. Samsung promotes responsible use of AI features. Offer may be revised or withdrawn. \*\*Offer price shown above is upon pre-order of 1 unit of Galaxy Z Flip6 12GB|256GB, shown inclusive of exchange value of old device and upgrade bonus. Final price at sole discretion of dealer. #Retail price shown for 1 unit of Galaxy Z Flip6 12GB|256GB. Price is inclusive of taxes. ~Approximate value on exchange of 1 unit of Galaxy Z Flip5 8GB|256GB. Exchange value varies basis model and condition of old device. Exchange at discretion of retailer. ^Upgrade bonus provided by brand at its sole discretion, upon exchange of select smartphones. Upgrade bonus may vary basis the device exchanged. Exchange at the discretion of dealer and exchange value varies basis model and condition of old device. Upgrade bonus and bank cashback cannot be clubbed. \*\*Eligibility of EMI at sole discretion of financiers including those listed on Samsung Finance+ (Financier T&C applies). Samsung disclaims any liabilities thereof. ~EMI computed on zero down payment, 24 months no cost EMI on the price of ₹ 101999 for 1 unit of Galaxy Z Flip6 12GB|256GB (inclusive of ₹ 8000 bank cashback). Bank cashback provided by HDFC bank at its sole discretion. \*Samsung Care+ T&C apply. 1 unit of Samsung Care+ Accidental Damage & Liquid Damage Plan worth ₹ 9999 available at ₹ 999, only when purchased with Galaxy Z Flip6, subject to pre-order. Customers eligible for 2 claims under Accidental Damage & Liquid Damage Plan within one year of plan activation date, as per the applicable terms of Samsung Care+. Reach out to dealer for more details. All third party logos/brands are trademarks of the respective brand/company.



PRICE ₹ 8.00 ALONG WITH THE ECONOMIC TIMES OR MAHARASHTRA TIMES \*

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH VIRAT NOT FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION, SAYS GAMBHIR; REFUSES TO RULE OUT KOHLI & ROHIT FOR 2027 ODI WC 16

**IN THE COURTS**

- > SC grants bail to Ashish, son of ex-Union minister Ajay Mishra, in 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri case, directs trial court to hasten proceedings | P 6
- > Bombay HC lambasts state govt on cops' inability to evict illegal hawkers, wonders if Army has to be called in | P 4
- > HC Judge Amit Sharma recuses from hearing Umar Khalid's bail plea in NE Delhi riots case. He earlier recused from 2019 Jamia violence case and NIA plea seeking death for Yasin Malik | P 6
- > Punjab man gets 3 life terms for murder of wife, sister-in-law and wife's nephew, jailed for 70 yrs | Inside Flap
- > 'Judges also humans, so are fallible,' says K'taka HC as it recalls own order, restores probe against man for watching child porn | P 6
- > JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna, arrested over allegations of unnatural sex, granted conditional bail | Inside Flap
- > Ex-chairman of Assam PSC & 31 others convicted in cash-for-job scam | P 6

# Kanwar yatra: SC stays 'name shop owner' order

**Court: Only Kind Of Food Needs To Be Mentioned**

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday halted UP, Uttarakhand and other state govts from implementing

▶ **EDIT: Cooking It Right**  
their directives to compel shop owners and hawkers along the routes of the kanwar yatra to display their names along with those of staff members and said that only the kind of food they serve should be mentioned.

A bench of Justices Hrishikesh Roy and S V N Bhatti also suo motu impleaded MP govt after it was brought to its



Following SC's order, owners and employees of Muslim-run fruit carts, tea stalls and eateries on the yatra route heaved a sigh of relief | P 9

notice that Ujjain municipal corporation had also passed a similar order against shopkeepers. The court issued notice to UP, MP, Uttarakhand and Delhi govts seeking their response by July 26.

"We deem it appropriate to pass interim order prohibiting the enforcement of the impugned directives. In other words, food sellers (in-

cluding dhaba owners, restaurants, foods and vegetable sellers, hawkers, etc) may be required to display the kind of food that they are serving to the kanwariyas. But they must not be forced to display the name/identity of the owners and the employees," the court ordered.

▶ **'Can't usurp powers', P 9**

## K'taka FIR against two ED officials

The Karnataka tribal fund scam took a new turn as Bengaluru police filed FIR against 2 ED officials based on a state officer's complaint that they were pressuring him to implicate CM Siddaramaiah, finance department and a former minister: P 6

## UP admin razes 11 homes, jails 35

The Bareilly administration started razing 11 houses of people from minority community Monday following the death of a person injured in stone pelting during Muharram, even as 35 people were sent to jail. Inside Flap

## Fire & firefight damage warship, sailor missing

Rajat Pandit & V Narayan | TNN

New Delhi/Mumbai: A frontline Indian frigate, INS Brahmaputra, suffered extensive damage after a major blaze erupted on board and the warship keeled over due to flooding during fire-fighting operations at the naval dockyard in Mumbai on Sunday.

A junior sailor is missing after the mishap, which has once again raised questions on the planning and management of refits at naval dockyards and the "watertight integrity and air-pressure tests" conducted on warships.

"The guided-missile frigate is now resting on one si-



INS Brahmaputra was undergoing a refit at Mumbai dockyard

de on the jetty. It will be extremely difficult to salvage the warship," an officer said. A multi-role 3,850-tonne warship like INS Brahmaputra would easily cost upwards of Rs 6,000 crore.

▶ **Lying on its side, P 2**

## BJP backs end of ban on govt staffers-RSS link

The govt and BJP put up a strong defence of the decision lifting the ban on govt employees' participation in RSS activities, while the saffron fountainhead welcomed the move saying the previous ban was imposed for political reasons.

▶ **It's official: 44-yr-old ban lifted, Inside Flap**

The opposition, however, suggested that the decision was motivated to appease the Sangh. As reported by TOI in its July 22 edition, a notification by the govt to end the ban was issued on July 9. Inside Flap

Limited time offer

**NAYARA**  
ENERGY

**MAHA BACHAT UTSAV**

SAVINGS KI INNINGS

SAVE ₹ 50 ON PETROL

\*On ₹2000/- & above fuelling

Drive more, Save more with Nayara Energy Pumps!

Valid on digital transactions only

\*T & C Apply | Applicable in select outlets. Offer valid till 31st July, 24.

# It's official: 44-year-old ban on govt staffers joining RSS lifted

Imposed In '66, It Was First Lifted In '77, Then Reimposed In '80

Bharti Jain  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** The Centre confirmed Monday that govt employees would no longer be penalised for associating themselves with RSS, ending a prohibition that has been in force since 1966 and which had not been done away with even by previous BJP govts.

As was reported by **TOI** in its July 22 edition, a notification to this effect was issued on July 9, sources said.

The order, which was flagged by Congress to attack govt, may appear to give only a de jure status to the reality of RSS activists occupying senior positions in govt as members of Union cabinet. But its significance is its timing, coming amid a perception in some quarters about Sangh-govt differences. More importantly, it marks another step towards "mainstreaming" of Sangh, which has long faced curbs because of its alleged



The order issued by department of personnel and training, which comes under the charge of PM Modi, for once delinks RSS from Jamaat-e-Islami

Hindu majoritarian agenda. The order issued by DoPT, which comes directly under the charge of PM Narendra Modi, for once delinks RSS from Jamaat-e-Islami.

The first order, issued by the then Congress govt in 1966, had tagged RSS with Jamaat-e-Islami, stating that "govt have (sic) always held the activities of these two organisations to be of such

a nature that participation in them by govt servants would attract the provisions of sub Rule 1 of Rule 5 of Central Civil Services Conduct Rules, 1964". The rule states that no govt servant shall be a member of or be associated with any political party or any organisation which takes part in politics, or shall take part in, subscribe in aid of or assist any politi-

cal movement or activity. Following a ban on RSS after the Emergency clamped by Indira Gandhi govt in 1975, DoPT issued another order on Nov 25 banning RSS, Jamaat-e-Islami, Anand Marg and CPI(M). The ban meant that any person who associates with such organisations could invite up to seven years in jail and/or fine.

Relief for RSS and other organisations, however, came after the Indira govt was dislodged in 1977 by the Janata alliance. A DoPT clarification dated April 23, 1977, stated that consequent upon lifting of the ban on RSS, Jamaat-e-Islami, Anand Marg and CPI(M) etc, the Nov, 1975 OM referred to above relating to the aforesaid organizations may be treated as deleted.

In 1980, however, the Indira regime was back in office and the restrictions on participation of govt employees in RSS and Jamaat-e-Islami activities were back in force.

## BJP, RSS & Union ministers hail govt move, say ban was politically driven

Rahul Refuses Comment, Says, 'I'm Focusing On NEET Right Now'

Akhilesh.Singh  
@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Govt and BJP Monday put up a strong defence of the decision lifting the ban on govt employees' participation in RSS activities, while the saffron fountainhead welcomed the move saying the previous ban was imposed for political reasons. The opposition, however, suggested that the decision was motivated to appease Sangh.

The govt decision is appropriate and strengthens the democratic system of India, said RSS media head Sunil Ambekar in a post on X. "Due to its political interests, the then govt had baselessly banned govt employees from participating in the activities of a constructive organisation like Sangh," he said.

The govt move came against the backdrop of a perception of Sangh-govt differences and a few media reports about incoherence

**Jairam: Babus can come in knickers**

Slamming govt's decision, Cong chief Mallikarjun Kharge claimed PM Modi wants to politicise government offices and employees on an ideological basis. "Sardar Patel banned RSS after Gandhiji's assassination. Modiji has lifted a 1966 ban after 58 years," Kharge said. "The bureaucracy can now come in knickers too, I suppose," added Jairam Ramesh.

between the two in the Lok Sabha polls leading to substantial loss of seats for BJP.

Welcoming the govt move, Union minister Piyush Goyal said opposition parties were only interested in appeasement politics and had displayed a negative attitude towards Hindus. Goyal described RSS as a nationalist organisation whose mem-

**Appeasement, say Mayawati, Akhilesh**

SP chief Mayawati and SP president Akhilesh Yadav Monday said govt's order was a "politically motivated move to appease the organisation" and demanded its withdrawal. "It is meant to do away with the tension between govt and RSS," Mayawati said. "I hope that intervention by SC (in the Kanwar order) will prompt the govt to withdraw orders like 'lifting ban on other practices' as well," Akhilesh said.

bers were full of patriotism.

Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan expressed gratitude to PM Modi, saying, "RSS is not an ordinary organisation, it is a movement for the nation rebuilding..."

Surprisingly, leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi refused to react on the issue unlike his party functionaries Jairam Ra-

mesh and Pawan Khera, who have adopted an aggressive stance. "No no, right now I am focusing on NEET," Rahul said when reporters asked him about the order. Congress's deputy leader in Lok Sabha, Gaurav Gogoi, however, said, "I feel this is a jugalbandi of RSS-BJP. Govt is taking such a decision to end the resentment of Mohan Bhagwat... Today UPSC, NTA are in such a bad state because RSS people are infiltrating every section of the govt."

ADMIM chief and LS MP Asaduddin Owaisi termed the govt decision totally wrong. "The oath of RSS states that it doesn't believe in pluralism, it talks of Hindu nationalism. Do the NDA allies believe in this decision?" he said.

Minister of social justice and empowerment Ramdas Athawales said, "I think it's not right to discuss such things. All parties have employees who support them, and they do their work within limits."

## Migrant worker found living in kennel, Kerala orders probe

**Thiruvananthapuram:** Kerala may be 'God's own country', but for guest workers, it's a dog's life out there. At least, for Shyam Sundar, the expression has been true, quite literally. The 37-year-old migrant worker from Bengal was found living in a kennel, and even paying Rs 500 as monthly rent.

A daily wage, Sundar sought shelter in a kennel on a house compound in Piravom South in Ernakulam district due to financial constraints. As news spread, police visited the spot and took Sundar for a medical checkup. However, cops said no case had been filed against the landowner as the worker said that he preferred to stay in the kennel on his own. Sundar opted for the tiny space as he could not afford the Rs 3,000 monthly rent he was earlier paying for a house nearby.

However, taking note of media reports, state's labour minister Vasudevan Sivan-kutty has sought a report from the labour commissioner.

## BULLDOZERS KEEP ROLLING IN UP & RAJ

### 5 houses flattened, 35 held days after Muharram clash

**Bareilly:** The administration in Bareilly started razing 11 houses of people belonging to minority community Monday following the death of a man injured in stone pelting during Muharram procession last week when members of two communities targeted each other, reports Kanwardeep Singh.

Bulldozers were brought in hours after Tej Ram, 23, succumbed to injuries sustained during the July 18 fracas. Five houses had already been brought down at the time of filing the report, with the action set to continue Tuesday, confirmed police.

This came even as 35 individuals, all Muslims, were sent to jail following the clash. Violence began when antisocial elements disrupted the Muharram procession as it passed by a temple. It sparked a confrontation that escalated into stone-pelting. Videos of the incident circulated on social media added to the tensions, prompting administrative response. Next day, the groups clashed again, resulting in injuries to several. Police filed an FIR for rioting against several members of the minority community.

The wife of one of the jailed accused told **TOI**, "Police have taken one-sided action. No one is interested in our side of the story."

### House of kingpin in police exam paper leak razed

**Jaipur:** Rajasthan authorities demolished illegal structures in Churu town built at the house of Pankaj Bhambhua alias Unique, the alleged kingpin of a 2021 SI exam paper leak on the run since this Feb after joining as forest ranger. The demolition came amid a continuing wider crackdown on cheating rackets in the desert state. The structures pulled down were allegedly constructed by Bhambhua on two plots in Churu's Poonia Colony.

Investigations indicated that Bhambhua hid inside a school in Jaipur's Hasanpura area where he "discreetly priced open envelopes containing the sub inspector test papers with a cutter and stole them before sealing the envelopes with tape", said sources in Rajasthan Police's special operations group that is handling the leak probes. A hunt is on for Bhambhua, also under the scanner in other paper leaks through which he accumulated significant wealth, sources said.

Bhambhua later passed the forest ranger exam and was undergoing training in Alwar. Sources said he would arrive at the training centre in luxury SUVs, raising eyebrows. On Feb 17, just days after he had arrived, he abruptly applied for leave and left.

## 'Parents unlikely to file false molestation report'

**Nagpur:** Dismissing an appeal by a man convicted under the Pocco Act, Nagpur bench of Bombay high court observed that parents are unlikely to jeopardise their survivor daughter's future by falsely reporting a molestation incident even if there is familial animosity involved, reports Vaibhav Ganjapure.

"In such a crime where a girl is involved, an attempt is made to avoid reporting of such a crime, which if done otherwise can bring ignominy to the family. These facts need to be considered while evaluating evidence of a sexual offence," the HC said and

**Suraj Revanna gets bail in two cases**

**J(D)S** MLC Suraj Revanna, who was arrested over allegations of unnatural sex, was granted conditional bail in both the cases registered against him, by a special court in Bengaluru on Monday. Sources said Suraj may be released from the Central Prison, Parappana Agrahara, on Tuesday.

dismissed a petition by Vinod Nichat challenging a sessions court verdict convicting him for molesting a minor.

## U'khand plans to split its aid for slain jawans

Kalyan.Das@timesofindia.com

**Dehradun:** Uttarakhand govt is planning to divide the compensation amount offered by the state to the family of fallen soldiers between the wife and parents. The development has come following a recent row between the wife and mother of Kirti Chakra awardee Captain Anshuman Singh in which his parents alleged that their daughter-in-law took the entire compensation amount provided by govt and left the house without giving them any share.

If the initiative is implemented, Uttarakhand would

become the first state in the country to adopt such a move.

Currently, the state adheres to the "next of kin" rule of the armed forces, which stipulates that the compensation is given entirely to spouse if the fallen soldier was

**WIFE, PARENTS TO GET**

married. If unmarried, the compensation is given to his parents or other dependents.

Ganesh Joshi, state minister of soldier welfare, said, "A meeting on the issue has been held with a few retired officers and the matter has been discussed in detail."



INDIAN English Newspaper

Deccan Chronicle,  
 Economics times,  
 Times of India,  
 Mirror  
 Financial Express,  
 Hans india,  
 Indian Express,  
 New Indian Express NIE  
 The Hindu,  
 Mint, Newspaper  
 Business standard,  
 Business Line  
 , States Man  
 , Tribune, Newspaper  
 pioneer Newspaper  
 millennium Post Newspaper  
 Hitavada Newspaper  
 The Daily Guardian,  
 The Telegraph  
 Eastern Chronicle  
 The Goan  
 First India  
 Free Press Journal  
 Mid day English Gujarati  
 Maharashtra time  
 And also editorials of all English newspapers.  
 Etc.....

© Also avialble Hindi, Andhra Pradesh language papers  
 Bengali: |  
 Tamil: |  
 Marathi:  
 Kannada  
 Mumbai samachar  
 Sandesh news paper  
 gujrati samachar  
 The Goan  
 International Magazine  
 International Newspaper  
 Gujrati Marathi newspaper  
 Urdu Newspaper  
 Telangana kannada, Malayalam, Tamil Telug

International newspaper

The Economist  
 The Financial Times  
 The Observer  
 The Guardian  
 The Daily Telegraph  
 Daily Express  
 Daily Record  
 Daily Mirror  
 Daily Mail  
 The Globa Mail  
 The Sun  
 The Times  
 The Independent  
 The Cricket Paper  
 The New York Times  
 The Wall Street Journal  
 USA Today  
 The Washington Post  
 The Washington Times  
 New York Post  
 Los Angeles Times  
 Chicago Tribune  
 San Francisco Chronicle  
 The Boston Globe  
 u Le Monde  
 UAE Gulf News  
 El Pais  
 Corriere Della Sera  
 Pakistan  
 Aarb News  
 Qatar - Gulf Times  
 Kuwait - Kuwait Times  
 Oman - Observer  
 UAE - Gulf News



**BitCherry**

**JOIN OUR TELEGRAM GROUP**

[www.bitcherry.io](http://www.bitcherry.io)

<https://t.me/sharewithpride>

All International and Magazines Indian magazines

All Magazine Hindi English international magazine

You can get all the details by joining our Telegram group.

[https://t.me/Magazine\\_8890050582](https://t.me/Magazine_8890050582)

