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Bizman was paid ₹1cr to get nod for hoarding: SIT

The SIT probing the Ghatkopar crash told a court that investigations have found Ego Media paid Arshad Khan, an accused and business partner of suspended IPS officer Quaiser Khalid's wife, ₹1cr to get the hoarding approved. A lookout circular has been issued against him. It also told the court hearing his anticipatory bail plea it is probing his business venture with Khalid's wife. **P 2**

Temple-mosque row in Vidisha now

Controversy is brewing around Vijay Surya Mandir in MP's Vidisha, where Hindus seeking to perform puja were barred and told by ASI that the site was 'Bijamandal Mosque'. **P 9**

Crowd takes video as man chokes sis

A Meerut man assaulted and carried his sister (17) to a road and choked her to death over her affair even as people took videos of the murder without trying to rescue the unconscious girl. **P 9**

No non-veg please, asks NCR school

DPs in Noida has sent a circular, requesting parents not to send non-vegetarian food in students' lunch boxes. As it kicked up a row, the principal said it was just a "request". **P 15**

Neeraj adds silver to hockey's back-to-back Olympic bronze

Javelin Gold First Medal For Pak In 32 Years

TIMES AT THE GAMES
ALOK SINHA
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Paris: Star athlete Neeraj Chopra won India's sole silver medal in the Paris Games with a season's best throw of 89.45m in javelin on a day the hockey team had snatched its second successive Olympic bronze.

While Chopra became the first Indian to win an Olympic gold and a silver in athletics, the event was dominated by Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who won gold with a massive throw of 92.97m. He secured Pakistan's first Olympic medal since 1992.

FULL COVERAGE: P 22-25
EDIT: Captain & Goalie; Citizen Vinesh, P 18

Earlier, the hockey team beat Spain 2-1 in the bronze medal match. It turned out to be a scintillating encounter. Spain scored first. India hit back with two quick goals. The 4th quarter saw Spain put relentless pressure. They earned two penalty corners in the 59th minute and two in the last minute. Indians defended with all their might and ensured a win.

Related reports, P 24

INDIA'S 1ST SILVER AT PARIS, NEERAJ'S 2ND OLY MEDAL

Defending champ Neeraj Chopra settled for silver in javelin after Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem killed the contest with a monster throw of 92.97m. He won gold with an Olympic record. This is Pak's first Oly medal in athletics and the 3rd medal ever outside of hockey. Chopra, favoured to win gold, looked a bit off-colour but still secured silver with a throw of 89.45m in his only valid try.



HOCKEY GETS 4TH BRONZE
The 2-1 win against Spain gave India their 4th Olympic bronze in hockey, 2nd in last 2 Games. Overall, they have won 13 hockey medals, including 8 gold & 1 silver. India have bagged hockey medals in two consecutive Olympics after 52 years. Skipper Harmanpreet scored both goals for India against Spain. He finished as top-scorer in the competition with 10 goals.

'No strength to go on': Vinesh bids goodbye to wrestling

Vinesh Phogat, disqualified for being overweight by 100 grams, announced retirement from wrestling on Thursday. In a post, originally in Hindi, Phogat said: "My courage is broken. I don't have any more strength now. Goodbye Wrestling, 2001-2024." Vinesh also moved the Court of Arbitration for Sport against her disqualification. CAS is likely to rule on it in a day or two.

Meanwhile, Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini announced that Vinesh would be given the honour, rewards and facilities meant for Olympic silver medalists. **P 25**

With allies backing, waqf bill tabled, sent to joint parl panel

Pradeep Thakur
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New Delhi: The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, which aims to drastically change the Waqf Act and has attracted resistance from opposition parties and Muslim bodies, was referred to a joint parliamentary committee on Thursday for scrutiny after govt cleared its first stress test in Lok Sabha by getting support of 'secular' NDA allies—TDP and JD(U).

Soon after tabling the bill, it was minority affairs minister Kiren Rijiju who proposed to send the bill for further parliamentary scrutiny despite the majority arrayed in favour of the bill. The draft law seeks to introduce oversight on the powers of Waqf Boards, which in the current scheme of things can declare any property to be a Waqf asset.

SC sets up panel to review nod to U'khand hydel projects

New Delhi: Supreme Court Thursday directed setting up of a high-powered committee of the Cabinet secretary, secretaries of ministries of jal shakti, power and environment & forests along with chief secretary of Uttarakhand to reconsider the expert panel's report recommending approval for 28 hydro power projects, reports Amit Anand Choudhary.

It questioned Centre's decision not to accept the report, and to allow only seven of the projects without gi-

NDA HAS NUMBERS

BJP's allies TDP & JD(U), which are wary of appearing insensitive to Muslim causes, set to guarantee passage of bill in LS once bill is cleared by House panel. TDP (16 MPs) and JD(U) (12) together add 28 MPs to BJP's 240 along with 7 of Shinde-led Sena and 5 of Chirag Paswan's LJP. Govt is comfortably placed in RS too.

eks to introduce oversight on the powers of Waqf Boards, which in the current scheme of things can declare any property to be a Waqf asset.

Bill addresses, P 22

Asst director of ED arrested for taking ₹20L bribe

Assistant director Sandeep Singh has been arrested by CBI while allegedly taking a Rs 20 lakh bribe from a Mumbai jeweller to refrain from arresting his son in a money laundering probe. ED is also investigating Singh and has suspended him. He allegedly claimed to be the probe officer despite having nothing to do with the case. **P 2**

RBI holds repo rate for 9th time in a row at 6.5%

RBI has kept repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the 9th time in a row, citing strong demand and the need to maintain inflation's declining trajectory. At the monetary policy panel meeting, members voted 4:2 for a status quo. Also, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has retained FY25 growth forecast at 7.2% and inflation forecast at 4.5%. **P 19**

Local trials for advanced fgn drugs waived

To expedite their launch, the Centre has decided to waive local trials for drugs and vaccines that are significantly more advanced therapeutically than the current standard of care and are approved in US, UK, Japan, Australia, Canada, and EU. These drugs can be launched directly, subject to approval from CDSCO. **P 9**

Rains Cause Chaos for School & College Students as their Notes Get Soaked & Smudged

The annual monsoon season has once again made its dramatic entrance, causing widespread disruption throughout the city. While the rains bring much-needed relief from the summer heat, they also bring a host of problems, particularly for the city's students. This year, the torrential downpour has wreaked havoc on the notes and study materials of school and college students, leading to frustration and anxiety as they struggle to keep up with their academic commitments.

A Deluge of Problems

With the city's infrastructure struggling to cope with the incessant rains, waterlogged streets and flooded homes have become a common sight. For many students, the commute to and from school or college has become a treacherous journey. However, it is not just the travel that has been affected—the rains have also taken a toll on their

study materials. Many students have reported that their notes, textbooks, and assignments have been damaged or destroyed by water.

"I had kept my notes on the dining table, thinking they would be safe there," said Anjali Mehta, a college student from Andheri. "But the rainwater seeped in through the window and soaked everything. Months of hard work just got washed away in a matter of minutes."

Schools and Colleges Respond

In response to the widespread damage to study materials, schools and colleges across the city are taking measures to support their students. Many institutions have extended deadlines for assignments and are providing digital copies of notes and textbooks wherever possible.

"We understand the challenges our students are facing due to the rains," said school Principal R. Sharma. "We are encouraging them to use online resources and are offering additional support to ensure their academic progress is not hindered."

Community Support

Parents, teachers, and community members are also stepping up to help students recover from the loss of their study materials. Social media platforms are flooded with posts offering help, with people sharing digital notes and textbooks, and organizing study groups to help those affected.

"We have formed a neighbourhood study group where we share notes and help each other with assignments," said Priya Deshmukh, a high school student. "It's comforting to know that we are not alone in this and that we can rely on each other during these tough times."

Looking Ahead

While the rains are expected to continue for several more weeks, the spirit of resilience and people of the city remains strong. Students are finding ways to adapt and overcome the challenges posed by the monsoon, demonstrating that even in the face of adversity, the pursuit of education remains unwavering. As we navigate this monsoon season, the

experiences of the city's students highlight the importance of preparedness and community support in mitigating the impact of natural events on everyday life. For now, the city's students will continue to brave the rains, armed with umbrellas, plastic covers, and a determination to keep their academic dreams afloat.

No More Smudged Notes! Nataraj Gelix Gel Pen Revolutionizes Note-taking for Students

In the fast-paced world of academia, where every word counts and clarity is the key, Nataraj Gelix pens have emerged as the ultimate game-changer for students across the globe. With their innovative design and advanced ink technology, these pens are setting a new standard in note-taking

excellence, ensuring that smudged notes are now a thing of the past. Gelix pens, crafted by the renowned stationery brand Nataraj, boast a unique feature that distinguishes them from conventional writing instruments: waterproof ink.

This revolutionary ink formula dries almost instantly upon contact with paper, forming a protective barrier that prevents smudging, even when exposed to water or moisture. For students who frequently find themselves caught in unexpected rain showers or hastily jotting down notes during a coffee spill, Gelix pens offer peace of mind and unparalleled reliability. "I used to worry about my notes getting ruined during rainy days or when I accidentally spilled water on my desk," shares Priya Sharma, a third-year student at a local university. "Since switching to Nataraj Gelix pens, I haven't had to re-write a single page due to smudges. It's made my study sessions much more efficient." The ergonomic design of Gelix pens ensures a comfortable writing experience, making them ideal for marathon study sessions and last-minute exam preparations.

The pen glides effortlessly across the page, delivering crisp, clear lines that enhance readability and comprehension. Whether annotating textbooks, brainstorming ideas in a lecture, or preparing comprehensive study guides, students can rely on Gelix pen to deliver consistent performance and flawless results.

"Nataraj Gelix pens have become an essential part of our academic toolkit," remarks Professor Rahul Khanna, who teaches economics at a prestigious college. "They not only help students stay organized and focused but also reflect their commitment to excellence in their academic pursuits."

In conclusion, Nataraj Gelix pens have redefined note-taking standards with their waterproof ink and the smudge-free performance, making them an indispensable tool for students striving for the excellence in their academic journey.

Nataraj Gelix Gel Pen: A Must-Have for Exam Season

As exam season approaches, students across the country are gearing up for long hours of study and intense preparation. While textbooks, notes, and practice papers are essential, there's one tool that is becoming

an indispensable part of every student's arsenal—the Nataraj Gelix gel pen. With its sleek design, smooth writing experience, and most notably, its waterproof ink, the Nataraj Gelix gel pen is quickly becoming the go-to choice for students aiming for top marks.

Only thing that doesn't get washed away by rains.



BMC plans to shift cattle sheds to Palghar, dairy owners fear closure

Richa Pinto and Bella Jaisinghani | TNN

Mumbai: The BMC plans to issue notices to the 263 cattle sheds in Mumbai in a bid to enforce existing rules and make the city cattle free. Dairy owners in the buffalo milk business, however, fear they will have to shut shop if they are asked to relocate to Palghar, as per the plan.

The city has 263 cattle sheds of which 59 are licensed. These sheds have a total 9,959 cattle housed in them. Officials said ward officers are likely to issue the notices. A BMC official said the state animal husbandry department has approached them to

TAKING THE BULL BY THE HORNS

Total cattle sheds: 263
Total number of cattle: 9,959

Top 5 wards with maximum cattle sheds:

P East (Kurar, Dindoshi): 34 | **P South** (Goregaon): 32 | **K East** (Jogeshwari, Andheri East): 27 | **R South** (Kandivali): 24 | **N** (Ghatkopar): 23



Govt action Under sub-section (1) of section 10 of Maharashtra Keeping and Movement of Cattle in Urban Areas (Control) Act, 1976, the Govt barred entry of cattle in Mumbai back in 2006. However, the rule has never been fully enforced

assist in removing cattle sheds from Mumbai and re-habilitate them at Dapchari in Palghar.

"After the animal husbandry department approached the BMC, a survey was done to ascertain the number of cattle sheds in Mumbai. Most are on collector land while some are on private land. However, cattle sheds in Aarey Colony would be exempted from this," said a BMC official. He added that in consultation with the legal department a notice is being drafted as there has been resistance from cattle sheds against the move in the past.

The Govt of Maharashtra has already barred entry of cattle in Mumbai city under the Maharashtra Keeping and Movement of Cattle in Urban Areas (Control) Act,

1976, but the rule has never been enforced. The act also provides for licensing and regulation, but many cattle sheds in the city are unlicensed.

Civic data shows that of the 263 cattle sheds, the maximum—32—are in P South ward which includes Goregaon. All 32 are licensed. Total number of cattle in these sheds is 2,224. In addition, areas of P East which includes Dindoshi and Kurar in Malad, have 28 unlicensed and six licensed sheds. Other wards with cattle sheds include R South which includes Kandivali with 24 unlicensed sheds and R Central (Borivali) with 13 sheds.

Dairy owners who own these sheds say they will be forced to shut shop if they are relocated outside Mumbai. Dapchari in Dahanu taluka of Palghar is nearly four hours from Mumbai. Tribhuvan Sharma who owns a shed in Goregaon East said BMC enumerators surveyed his establishment a few days ago. "It will be a big blow to us if we are relocated to Palghar. We'll have to close down. How can we despatch fresh milk to regular customers in Mumbai? It involves three hours travel, plus packaging and logistics will take an hour or two. Will milk remain fresh for five hours without refrigeration? Already, given the

high cost of buffalo milk (Rs 95-100 per litre), we have only a few loyal customers left," he said.

Refrigeration, storage and vans will be required to transport milk to Mumbai, but that will call for investments which dairy owners say is impractical given the scale of their business. Sharma said there were robust cattle sheds operating in Aarey Milk Colony. "Why do the authorities not relocate us there? They can allot space on lease on rental basis," he said. The Bombay Milk Producers Association has approached the BMC for a resolution. Its president C K Singh said, "There was a time when,

excluding Aarey Milk Colony, there were 90,000 buffaloes in Mumbai. Now there are barely 9,000. If the govt does want to shift them out, they should install proper units and infrastructure at the new site so that dairies do not suffer loss of business."

Singh said, "Dairy business is family-run. Now as joint families give way to nuclear families, the younger generation is not interested in continuing. They will prefer to continue living in their chawl room in Parel even if they are offered a one-room flat in Virar. Mumbai is accessible, our customers are fixed — outside we will face many challenges."

Airfares soar as I-Day weekend beckons tourists and pilgrims

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: With the forthcoming weekend nestled between Independence Day and Raksha Bandhan, the extended holiday prospect has surged the demand for travel from Mumbai to leisure and religious tourism destinations such as Goa, Leh, Jodhpur, Mysore, Ayodhya, and Tirupati, as evidenced by elevated airfares, particularly for morning flights on August 15. Conversely, airfares have plummeted to certain locations like Kozhikode, the nearest airport to Wayanad, Srinagar, and destinations in the Northeast.

"Return fares from Mumbai to Srinagar for August 15 travel are presently priced between Rs 10,000 and Rs 12,000, which is relatively low," remarked an airline official. "In comparison, return fares on the same route for Diwali travel hover around Rs 25,000."

The catastrophic landslide in Wayanad on July 30 seems to have affected travel to the hills. The most economical return ticket on non-stop flights from Mumbai to Kozhikode was priced at Rs 13,000. In contrast, the lowest return fares from Mumbai to Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram were priced at Rs 20,000 and Rs 17,000, respectively, on Wednesday. "From July 31 to August 4, there was a 34.3% decline in flight bookings to Kozhikode (nearest airport) compared to the average bookings received on similar days over the preceding three weeks," stated a Cleartrip spokesperson.

Destinations in the Northeast that typically witness a surge in demand from September onwards are also priced low for travel from Mumbai during the August 15 weekend. The most economical round-trip ticket on non-stop flights to Kolkata, Bagdogra,

MUM-GOA CHEAPEST RETURN FARE ₹16,000

SPIRITUAL YATRA ON A HIGH

Route	Flight Type	Cheapest return fare (₹)
Mumbai to Ayodhya	Direct	33,000
Mumbai to Tirupati	Via Hyderabad	24,000
Mumbai to Gaya	Via Kolkata	20,000
Mumbai to Amritsar	Direct	20,000
Mumbai to Amritsar	Via Delhi	14,000

FARES ON MORNING FLIGHTS UP

August 15 morning flights are in high demand, as anticipated, so the most economical fares are all for evening flights

Route	Time	Fare
Mumbai to Leh via Delhi	9:00 pm	6,000
Mumbai to Leh via Delhi	7:20 am	16,000
Mumbai to Leh via Delhi	1:30 am	11,300
Mumbai to Delhi	9:00 pm	4,000
Mumbai to Delhi	Morning	14,000

Return airfares

Mumbai to Bengaluru	11,000
Mumbai to Chennai	9,500
Mumbai to Hyderabad	7,500

All evening time



CHEAPEST AIRFARES On non-stop return flights from Mumbai

Goa	16,000
Madurai	23,500
Jodhpur	23,800
Mysore	33,500*
Dehradun	14,000

*Via Hyderabad, about a five-hour journey



With multiple festivals/bank holidays in August, travel hungry Indians are making the most of the opportunity and displaying high interest for short driveable trips, and weekend and extended weekend getaways — Rajeev Kale | THOMAS COOK (INDIA) LTD

and Guwahati started at Rs 13,400, Rs 17,000, and Rs 15,000, respectively. During the Navratri festive season, winter, and summer months, that would be the cost of a one-way fare when booked a week in advance.

Commenting on overall bookings for the August 15 weekend, the Cleartrip spo-

kesperson mentioned that they had received over 15,000 air bookings, marking a 37% increase compared to a typical weekend. Alok Bajpai of ixigo said they had observed a 40-50% year-over-year increase in flight bookings for travel between August 14-20. "Domestic destinations like Dehradun, Mumbai, and Goa

have seen an average 40-45% year-on-year (YoY) growth in bookings and searches. The average fares for the upcoming weekend are trending 25-30% higher, driven by demand," Bajpai said. "Popular international spots like Bali, Thailand, Kuwait, and Singapore have seen a 60-70% YoY increase in bookings."

SIT for razing of homes in Powai? HC to decide

Rosy Sequeira | timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Bombay high court on Thursday said it will decide whether to constitute a special investigation team (SIT) to probe the Jun 6 demolition at Jai Bhim Nagar, Powai, Andheri (east). It may pass an order on Friday.

"We don't want to delay any further. Investigation has to start," said Justice Revati Mohite-Dere and Prithviraj Chavan. The petition was by 28 residents seeking an FIR against Powai police, BMC officials and developer Hiranandani under IPC, including for voluntarily causing hurt and house trespass.

Petitioners' advocate Subhash Jha said 800 hutments were ransacked. "Police personnel, BMC officials, and bouncers of the builder, all in connivance and acting collectively, took the law into their own hands. Residents sitting in silent protest were mercilessly assaulted with serious injuries on their heads and bodies. Women and children were not spared," he said.

Jha said BMC claimed the State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) had ordered the demolition. However, the complaint was by a person "set up by the builder". Advocate Swaraj Jad-



Hutments were razed at Jai Bhim Nagar, Powai, Andheri (E), on Jun 6

hav, for six residents, said BMC had said it is private land. Later it said if SHRC orders it and despite the policy against demolition in monsoon, it will do it.

Public prosecutor Hiten Venegavkar said police bandobast was given on BMC's request that cited the SHRC order. The judges asked if SHRC had directed the demolition, adding: "There is no positive order asking for demolition." BMC's advocate Poornima Kantharia said "it is evident when we read all the orders together".

The judges questioned the haste to demolish despite the GR against demolition in monsoon. Kantharia said the GR refers to exceptional cases. "When there are 100 hutments, will it not be an exception?" asked Justice Mo-

hite-Dere. The judges asked if police accept requests for bandobast at face value. "When a court order is there, police will not go into its correctness," said Venegavkar. The judges said police had to see if there is a direction for demolition. "It is the BMC who set the criminal law in motion and the police took action believing it to be true," said Justice Mohite-Dere.

The judges said they will also consider appointing a senior officer to conduct the probe under supervision of an additional CP. Jha suggested that since police and BMC personnel are involved, there must be an SIT and HC monitor this case. "We will monitor. We will not dispose of the petition," said Justice Mohite-Dere.

Sion police slap MCOCA on 9 for robbing owner of Cafe Mysore

Mumbai: Sion police have invoked the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organized Crime Act (MCOCA) against the nine accused, including two policemen — one of them retired — and prime suspect Premchand Jaiswal, in connection with the robbery of Rs 72 lakh from Cafe Mysore owner Naresh Nayak's Matunga residence.

Police said all nine accused will be produced before the special MCOCA court on Friday for their custody.

On May 13, the accused, posing as crime branch and police officers, conducted a "search" at Nayak's residence claiming that they had information that he had stashed Rs 17 crore, and took Rs 72 lakh.

"We have found that all the accused, including the cafe's former employee Vasant Nayak, had connived, formed a syndicate and carried out the robbery. Two of them, including Jaiswal, have previous chargesheets and the gang had executed the robbery for pecuniary gains, thus fulfilling the requirements for invoking MCOCA," said a police officer. Nayak had allegedly told police that he had connived with Jaiswal as he wanted to take revenge on his employer for sacking him. — SAhmed Ali

CBI arrests assistant director of ED for accepting ₹20 lakh bribe

Rajshekhhar Jha | timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The CBI has arrested an assistant director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with an alleged bribery case. The accused, identified as Sandeep Singh, was apprehended while accepting a bribe of Rs 20 lakh, said the agency.

Subsequent to the CBI raid, the ED initiated a money laundering inquiry against its officer and registered a case against him. The CBI and ED had jointly raided the officer's office and home.

Singh was placed under suspension and was being repatriated to his parent department from the ED. Singh, who was attached to the headquarters investigative unit (HIU-II) of the agency in Delhi, was allegedly trying to extort money from a jeweller

who was under investigation by the ED.

The inquiry found that Singh was not even the investigating officer in the case in which he was caught taking the bribe.

"He was requisitioned for the limited purpose of conducting the search at the target premises. However, Singh represented himself as the investigating officer and allegedly accepted the bribe for favouring the accused, though he was in no way connected with the case being investigated," the CBI said.

The jeweller filed a complaint with the CBI, prompting the agency to initiate an investigation. CBI teams placed Singh's phone under surveillance and gathered evidence of the alleged bribery before carrying out a trap

operation.

Singh was caught by the CBI in Delhi around 11.30 pm on Aug 7 along with Rs 20 lakh in cash, which he had allegedly extorted from an individual under investigation by ED. "A handwritten complaint, dated Aug 6, was submitted by one Vipul Harish Thakkar, levelling allegations against Sandeep Singh, assistant director, and Alok Kumar Pankaj, enforcement officer (EO), ED HQ, investigation unit-1, New Delhi. Verification of the complaint, conducted in the presence of independent witnesses, prima facie unveiled an act of criminal conspiracy allegedly orchestrated by Singh in collusion with unidentified accomplices," the CBI FIR said.

"The alleged motive was to extract an undue pecuniary advantage amounting to Rs 20 lakh from the complainant through an intermediary in exchange for refraining from arresting the complainant's son, Nihar Thakkar, who is currently under investigation by ED," the FIR said. "The aforementioned facts, prima facie, constitute sufficient grounds to establish the commission of a cognisable offence, punishable under Section 61 (2) (a) BNS, 2023, and Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018), against Sandeep Singh and other yet-to-be-identified individuals. Consequently, a formal case has been registered against the named accused and their unknown associates, and the matter has been entrusted to Arun Bhaskar, DSP, for a thorough investigation and submission of a detailed report," the FIR said.

Ghatkopar hoarding owner paid ₹1 cr for approval: SIT to court

Man Who Got Money Was Partner Of IPS Officer's Wife

Ahmed Ali | timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Investigations have showed that Govandi businessman Arshad Khan, an accused in the May 13 Ghatkopar hoarding collapse case, had been paid Rs 1 crore by Ego Media Pvt Ltd to get the billboard approved, the Special Investigation Team (SIT) informed the sessions court hearing Khan's pre-arrest bail plea on Thursday. The court has reserved its order for Aug 12, even as a lookout circular has been issued against Khan.

SIT also mentioned that a probe is on into Khan's business venture, Mahapara Lucknowi Garments, in which suspended IPS officer Quaiser Khalid's wife Sumanna is a partner.

Ego Media had erected the 140x140 sq ft hoarding on GRP land in Ghatkopar which collapsed due to strong winds on May 13, killing 17 people. Police have so far arrested Ego Media Pvt Ltd director Bhavesh Bhide, former director Janhvi Marathe, structural engineer Manoj Sanghu and civil contractor Sagar Kumbhar in the case.

Last week, Khan, who is now absconding, had moved sessions court through his lawyer Ranjit Patil seeking anticipatory bail.

SIT claimed that Khan had taken more than Rs 1 crore



The hoarding collapsed in Ghatkopar on May 13, killing 17 people

from Bhide and Marathe. SIT said they need Khan's custodial interrogation as they have prima facie evidence to show his involvement in the erection of the hoarding with the co-accused. It has also transpired that Khan was in constant touch with Bhide, and hence she should not be granted anticipatory bail, SIT urged the court. The police report further said that scrutiny of bank statements of Ego Media and Guju Advs — the firm's former name — showed that Khan had received Rs 84 lakh between July 2021 and Dec 2023. "The money was transferred into 18 different bank accounts and the account holders withdrew it and gave it to Khan. The account holders have given statements that they have nothing

to do with Ego Media or Guju Advs. However, it has transpired that all these account holders are known to Khan, who resides in the vicinity," said the SIT report, adding that preliminary enquiries with Khan had not yielded any satisfactory answers.

Some of the money was also transferred to Khan's two relatives, who too did not give justifications in this regard, said SIT. Khan, in his earlier questioning, had said he supplied branded goods and spectacles to Bhide and received the money for it. The report further stated that police had summoned Khan again on July 21 and July 22, but he did not turn up. His wife Nazma told police that he was unwell and was out of town for treatment.

Labourer falls into manhole he opened for cleaning, dies

Richa Pinto | timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Sunil Wakode (35), a labourer who had opened a BMC manhole in Borivali (West) to clean it without taking the civic body's permission fell into it and died on Thursday evening. Borivali police said they were in the process of registering an FIR in the case.

The manager of a restaurant at Shimpoli in Borivali (West) had privately called two labourers, Wakode and Ravindra Matekar (30), to clean its drainage chamber. They cleaned the chamber and proceeded to open the manhole of a drain running along a road without BMC's permission. Wakode fell into the manhole. The fire brigade was immediately informed. He was brought out at 5.15pm and rushed to Babasaheb Ambedkar Hospital in Kandivli where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

The manhole comes under BMC's sewerage department. A civic official said a probe is underway to ascertain what went wrong. "Permission should have been taken," said the official.

Earlier on March 21, three of a family — Suraj Kevat (18), brother Vikas (22) and father Ram (45) — had fallen in a septic tank and died.

Poonawalla buys 30k-sq-ft mansion in Cuffe Parade

Mumbai: A cryptic announcement by Pune-based industrialist Yohan Poonawalla and his wife Michelle on Thursday about a property acquisition in south Mumbai has set tongues wagging in the city's real estate market.

A spokesperson representing the couple said they purchased "a mansion standing on its own grounds in the most coveted and exclusive area of Cuffe Parade in south Mumbai. The standalone property, spanning approximately 30,000 square feet, joins a prestigious collection of mansions in the area that are typically priced between Rs 400 crore and Rs 750 crore."

Despite persistent queries from TOI, the spokesperson

refused to divulge the name of the mansion the Poonawallas bought. However, sources in the property market speculated that it could be the early 20th century heritage property Taraporewala Mansion where the writer Mulk Raj Anand once lived. Sources said the ground-plus-three-storey property was on sale for several years but added its price could be in the range of Rs 100 crore to Rs 150 crore only.

"MYP Design Studio, under Michelle Poonawalla's creative helm, will orchestrate the transformation of this architectural gem into the opulent Poonawalla Mansion, the couple's secondary residence, their primary home being Poonawalla House in Pune. This

project marks a new chapter in the couple's illustrious journey, promising a harmonious blend of historic grandeur and contemporary luxury," said a press release. The couple plans to showcase Michelle's art collection from renowned artists as well as her own art and oil. It will also house Yohan Poonawalla's automobile collection.

In 2015, Yohan's cousin, Adar Poonawalla, successfully bid for the sprawling US consulate property at Breach Candy for Rs 750 crore. However, Adar has been unable to move into the property as the Indian govt has so far refused permission for the sale of the two-acre, sea-facing mansion built by the Maharaja of Wankner in the late 1930s. TNN

College girl hurt as ceiling fan falls on her

Mumbai: A ceiling fan suddenly fell during a lecture at Ramnarain Ruia College in Matunga on Wednesday morning. A student was injured on hand. The attendance was skeletal as the incident occurred during the MA Philosophy class. Satish Ghag, father of the injured student, Ananya, said, "She was fortunate and the fan missed her by just a few inches. My daughter informed me that the lecture continued even after the incident." Anushree Lokur, the principal of the college said, "We regularly inspect the classroom infrastructure. Following this incident, we have decided to replace all the old fans to ensure safety." TNN

Traffic police issue diversions to decongest choked-up BKC

Nitasha Natu & Somit Sen | TNN

Mumbai: With an increase in traffic congestion at Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC), chiefly due to the closure of Sion railway overbridge, traffic police have issued diversions and regulated parking/halting. On Wednesday, they held meetings with various stakeholders about temporary diversions put in place for motorists (see graphic).

"The entrances to some parking lots are located directly on key roads. This has been resulting in a backlog of vehicles. We have instructed that a holding area be created away from the road," said a senior traffic police officer.

Specific locations have been assigned for private buses/company buses to halt for dropping off passengers/company employees, away from congested routes. "Employees may have to walk 100-150m to reach their offices; we have sought their cooperation. We have also suggested companies to have staggered work timings," said an officer.

The ongoing Metro 3 construction has also been a cause of snarl-ups. "Wherever work on the ground is done, contractors have been asked to push barricades inside

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES FOR MOTORISTS

At BKC, temporary diversions issued

➤ Traffic coming from MMRDA office-Jio World- to take left turn at Family Court Jn, then U-turn at MMRDA Jn to reach BKC Road towards NSE junction, Bharat Nagar and BKC

➤ From BKC connector via Al Quraish Road, take right turn at NSE Jn-Bharat Nagar Jn, then left turn at NABARD Jn & head to destination via Bharat Nagar Road to Valmiki Nagar and Kherwadi

➤ From BKC connector bridge and NSE Jn take right turn at One BKC, left turn at Canara Bank Jn to



Avenue 3 to Jio World Convention Centre and American Consulate Junction and head towards BKC

➤ As traffic from Jio World Convention Centre, American Consulate, Parinee Crescenzo, Kautilya Bhavan via Street 3 and Avenue 1 towards NSE Jn-Family Court will be restricted at ONGC bldg Monday to Friday from 8am-11am and 4pm-9pm, take U-turn at ONGC bldg, ply on Avenue 3, take left turn at American Consulate and head to destination via Ambani Square

➤ Travel buses from BKC Road to not take left turn at NSE Jn, Bharat Nagar Jn, NABARD Jn and Diamond Jn, will instead take right turn at Platina Jn and head towards BKC

and create space for vehicular traffic," said an officer.

Joint action by the city police and transport department has been initiated against errant autorickshaw drivers outside Bandra and Kurla stations and BKC.

Signboards displaying rates for shared auto rides have been put up at various locations.

Between Jan and July, over 55,000 challans were issued against auto drivers in Bandra, Kurla and BKC by the traffic police for all violations.

Nearly half of these challans pertain to refusal to ply passengers. "We have asked the transport department to consider this record while renewing permits for autos," said joint commissioner, traffic, Anil Kumbhare.

Shikha Dey, a regular commuter in Bandra East, said, "A section of autos parked outside stations have a cartel and they refuse to ferry us to our destinations. They want to charge exorbitant fares and target gullible commuters."

Sources said there were 33 complaints of rude behaviour and 35 complaints of inflated fares or rigged meters recorded with the Andheri RTO pertaining to autos plying in Bandra East in July alone. "We encourage citizens to approach enforcement agencies for redressal of auto-related complaints. They can also text us on WhatsApp and we will take action," said Anil Patil from Andheri RTO. To report errant auto drivers, call Wadala RTO on 9152240303 or email on mh03autotaxicomplaint@gmail.com; call Andheri RTO on 9920240202 or email on mh02autotaxicomplaint@gmail.com; and call Borivli RTO on 8591944747 or email on mh47autotaxicomplaint@gmail.com.

Banyan tree cut, FIR on developer's associates

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A case has been registered at Dadar police station against unidentified persons associated with a developer for allegedly cutting down a fully grown banyan tree at a redevelopment site in Mahim.

According to the police complaint which has been lodged by an official from the municipal corporation's gardens department, unidentified persons allegedly connected to Rajlaxmi Developers "have killed" taken away the banyan tree [located at a site] in a redevelopment project carried out by Rajlaxmi Developers at Kashinath Dhuru Road in Dadar.

The developer had previously requested permission to remove and relocate four trees from the plot, officials said, adding that on inspection, officials however, found that a banyan was missing from the site.

The complaint has been lodged under the Maharashtra (Urban Areas) Protection and Preservation of Trees Act, meant to safeguard trees in urban areas of the state. —S Ahmed Ali

'India passport' for Spain residency: Nepal man caught

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Mumbai: Santosh Aryal (41), a citizen of Nepal, was apprehended by immigration officials at Mumbai international airport on Wednesday—three years after he migrated to Spain and acquired a Spanish residence permit there allegedly using a fraudulent Indian passport.

The authorities discovered that Aryal's Indian passport lacked the requisite immigration stamp for his departure to Spain in 2021. During his interrogation, they learned that Aryal had fraudulently obtained Aadhaar, PAN and voter's ID cards, while residing in Goregaon for nearly two decades, which he subsequently used to procure an Indian passport in 2021.

Aryal traversed through at least four countries routes to reach Spain and then managed to secure a Spanish residence permit.

Sahar police are currently investigating the agent who assisted Aryal in obtaining the fraudulent identity cards that facilitated his acquisition of an Indian passport.

Police said Aryal, who did not use the Indian passport for his travel, first returned to Nepal and then embarked on a circuitous route to reach Spain.

From Nepal, he went to Bangladesh, then Turkmenistan

and Italy before finally arriving in Spain. Upon reaching his destination, he destroyed his Nepalese passport. However, he was oblivious to the fact that using an Indian passport without an immigration check-out stamp for his journey from Barcelona to Paris and then Mumbai would lead to his apprehension.

Special branch police constable V D Mangesh (43) lodged a complaint stating that suspicions were aroused when Aryal presented an Indian passport devoid of a check-out stamp for immigration.

During his questioning by immigration wing in-charge Arun Gopu, Aryal reportedly disclosed that he ran an eatery in Goregaon for two decades following his arrival in Mumbai.

The Covid-19 pandemic had adversely affected his business, prompting his relatives to encourage him to migrate to Europe for better prospects. They also assisted him in fraudulently obtaining an Indian passport.

Aryal showed the immigration officials photographs of his Nepalese passport, driving licence, Nepalese national ID card, Spanish residence card, Indian voter ID, and boarding passes for his flights from Barcelona to Paris and Paris to Mumbai, all of which were subsequently seized by the authorities.

SC to hear hijab ban & NEET-PG pleas today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Supreme Court will on Friday hear an appeal by some Muslim women students challenging a Bombay high court order upholding the ban on hijab in a Chembur college even as the validity of a similar restriction in Karnataka educational institutions remains pending before a larger bench since the split verdict of a two-judge bench in Oct 2022.

The petition, jointly filed by 3 Muslim girl students — Nazneen Abdul Qayyum Chaudhary, Nazreen Bano Mohd Tanzim Shaikh and Nazreen Mazhar Ansari — is listed on Friday before a bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar. Respondent Chembur Trombay Education Society has already filed a caveat to avoid any ex-parte order by SC. The petition was mentioned before SC by advocate Abiha Zaidi, who told a bench headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud that the petitioners need expeditious decision as otherwise they would not be able to appear in the examination since the college, where they are studying, has banned them from wearing hijab inside its premises. The CJI agreed to list the matter on Friday.

The CJI-led bench also agreed to hear on Friday a petition seeking postponement of NEET-PG exam.

20-COACH VANDE BHARAT NOSES AHEAD FOR TRIAL RUN AMID INCREASING DEMAND

This Friday, a 20-coach Vande Bharat train will undergo a trial run on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route, aiming to reach speeds of 130 kmph. If the test is successful, passengers on this popular route could soon experience faster and more spacious travel, as Western Railway considers introducing this longer train for regular service. Manthan K Mehta reports

WHY 20 COACHES

Vande Bharat Express is highly popular on this route, with occupancy rates ranging from 138% to 148%. The railways may replace one of the two Vande Bharat services with a 20-coach train

WHY TRIAL RUN

➤ According to railway board norms, new trials must be conducted if the number of coaches increases
➤ Since the current Vande Bharat trains have 16 coaches, a fresh trial is required if a 20-coach version is to be deployed

WHAT WILL BE TESTED

The trial will include a confirmatory oscillograph car run (COCR) of the instrumented coaches at 130 kmph. This test will assess various factors, including track parameters, signaling aspects, traction distribution equipment and the fitness of locomotive and coaches



VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

The first service between Mumbai Central and Gandhinagar was launched on Oct 1, 2022

The second, operating between Mumbai Central and Ahmedabad, began service on March 8, 2023

Number of coaches: 16 (Mumbai Central and Gandhinagar), 16 (Mumbai Central and Ahmedabad)

Distance (in Km): 522 (Mumbai Central and Gandhinagar), 491 (Mumbai Central and Ahmedabad)

Time taken: 6 hours, 15 minutes (Mumbai Central and Gandhinagar), 5 hours, 15 minutes (Mumbai Central and Ahmedabad)

MUMBAI-AHMEDABAD ROUTE

Passengers: 3.2 lakh per month

Trains: 10

16-coach train capacity: 1,128 passengers

20-coach train capacity: 1,410 passengers



After 'unattended' hosp staffer dies, kin vandalise premises, 3 doctors suspended

Anushka Puroo

Mumbai: After a hospital staffer with a head injury died allegedly because he was left unattended for three hours at state-run St George's Hospital near CSMT, his relatives created a ruckus and vandalised the casualty department on Wednesday night.

The state govt on Thursday suspended three doctors—two resident medical officers and the chief medical officer—and set up a three-member committee to investigate the family's allegation. "The committee will submit its report in eight days when further action will be taken," said a senior official of the department of medical education (DMER), which oversees state medical colleges.

According to relatives and protesting staff of St George's Hospital, Anish Kailash Chauhan (34), who worked as a helper in the surgery department of St George's Hospital, had taken a five-day leave from work due to an eye infection. On Wednesday, he went to JJ Hospital, Byculla, for a fitness test, a requirement for him to resume his duties at St George's Hospital. JJ doctors had asked Chauhan to fast for the day to prepare for the tests.



Deceased Anish Chauhan's brother, Kalpesh, said he was not attended to for three hours

After returning home, Chauhan fainted, suffering a head injury in the process. Despite the injury, his family members said he had lunch, drank juice and then slept. Around 5pm, he felt unwell and was taken to St George's Hospital. His brother, Kalpesh Chauhan, said he was left unattended for around three hours though he was a staffer. "There were no senior doctors available. There were only resident doctors. They kept directing us from one counter to another, and his condition kept worsening," he alleged, adding senior doctors reside in the hospital complex but none was available. "They left my brother in the hands of young doctors to die."

However, hospital authorities contested the family's claims, stating doctors checked on Anish within 20 minutes of his arrival. "He didn't want to be admitted and insisted on leaving when our doctors advised

him to get the wound stitched," said St George's Hospital superintendent Dr Vinayak Sawardekar. He was first taken for an X-ray and en route to a CT scan he suffered an epileptic fit. Despite efforts, he was declared dead at 8.50pm. The post-mortem report is awaited. After his death, the Chauhan family, along with neighbours, vandalised the premises.

Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar, who visited the hospital on Wednesday night, said, "I have spoken to medical education minister Hasan Mushtaq and asked for a report on the incident in one week." He said there are many doctors posted at St George's Hospital for 10 to 20 years. "This is the reason they are not performing and the hospital is in such bad shape. I have directed that all these doctors be transferred immediately," he added.

that the pin was lodged in the lower lobe of the left lung." She was immediately taken up for emergency bronchoscopic removal of a foreign body. "This was challenging as a child's airways are small. Moreover, in this case, the pin's sharp end was embedded in the wall of the airways of the lung," he said. The pin was removed after a 50-minute procedure and the child was discharged the same day.

Aspiration of foreign bodies into the lung is uncommon as compared to ingestion into the food pipe. "We commonly see coins as a foreign body in the airways in the paediatric age group," said a doctor from the hospital. He added that accidental aspiration and ingestion of pins is seen more in women as they have a habit of holding the pin in their mouth while adjusting their dress.

13-yr-old gulps pin clenched in teeth to wear scarf, 2-inch metal found in lung

Vijay.Singh@timesofindia.com

Navi Mumbai: A 13-year-old girl from Rajapur, Ratnagiri, narrowly escaped fatality after accidentally swallowing a pin. Doctors here retrieved the pin, ensuring its sharp end doesn't puncture the lung lobe. A team headed by Dr Shahid Patel, a consultant pulmonologist, carried out a flexible bronchoscopy to retrieve the pin from her lung.

Kriti Kumar (name changed), a school-going girl, ingested the pin by mistake while holding it in her mouth

to wear her scarf recently. She was immediately taken to a hospital in Ratnagiri, where she underwent an endoscopic procedure to check if the pin was in the stomach. However, it could not be seen, raising suspicion that the pin was in the lungs. As the patient wasn't in any major distress, her parents brought her to Medicover Hospital, Kharghar, about 350 km away, on Jul 21.

Pulmonologist Dr Shahid Patel said, "The child came in an emergency, but she was stable and her X-ray disclosed

that the pin was lodged in the lower lobe of the left lung." She was immediately taken up for emergency bronchoscopic removal of a foreign body. "This was challenging as a child's airways are small. Moreover, in this case, the pin's sharp end was embedded in the wall of the airways of the lung," he said. The pin was removed after a 50-minute procedure and the child was discharged the same day.

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into the food pipe. "We commonly see coins as a foreign body in the airways in the paediatric age group," said a doctor from the hospital. He added that accidental aspiration and ingestion of pins is seen more in women as they have a habit of holding the pin in their mouth while adjusting their dress. The child's father said, "When our child accidentally ingested a pin, we panicked. But doctors removed the pin while ensuring that her lungs and surrounding organs remained unharmed."

Two female TCs assaulted: FIR against teacher

Mumbai: An FIR was registered against a 20-year-old school teacher for allegedly assaulting two female ticket checkers (TC) at Ghatkopar railway station on Wednesday, following an altercation.

The TCs had told the accused that her ticket was from a day earlier, which effectively meant she was ticketless. The accused insisted she had bought the ticket the same day. The accused alleged that despite paying a fine, she was not given a receipt. The incident occurred on Wednesday afternoon when the accused was travelling from Vikhroli to Parel in a CSMT-bound local with her colleagues. TNN

Police arrest owner of pet dog that fell on girl from 5th floor, killed her

Thane: Two days after a five-year-old girl, Sana Shaikh, died after a pet Labrador fell on her from the fifth-floor terrace of her building, Mumbai police arrested the pet owner Zaher Sayed (24). Senior inspector Anil Shinde confirmed that the case was registered late on Thursday after the girl's parents filed a complaint.

Sayed has been booked under Section 105 for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and Section 291 for negli-

gent conduct with respect to animals of the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita. "We had taken a thorough legal review of the incident. Accordingly, Sayed is charged as the dog was in his custody and the negligence led to the death of the girl," said a senior police official.

On Tuesday, around 4.30pm, Sana and her mother stepped out of Chirag Mansion A-Wing to exchange a packet of diapers at a shop when the dog fell on the girl from the B-

Wing terrace, injuring her. The autopsy report confirmed that she died due to excessive bleeding from head injuries.

Police said they are trying to ascertain how the dog fell from the terrace. They are also verifying if Sayed, who allegedly keeps several dogs on the terrace, had a pet licence from the civic body. The Labrador, which suffered multiple fractures, is recuperating at a rescue centre. Its condition is serious, said activist Muzna S. TNN

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Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab



Hsg societies to host 1,165 voter booths for state poll

Pune: For the assembly election in Oct or Nov, the state will have a total of 1,165 polling booths set up in housing societies and high-rise buildings.

These societies are primarily in Mumbai city, Mumbai suburbs, Thane and Pune, shows data shared by election officials after the release of the draft electoral roll on Wednesday.

With the Election Commission of India (ECI) emphasising the need for more such booths to address urban voter apathy, district collectors had reached out to housing federations, urging societies to come forward for the initiative.

The response from urban areas was positive, with 492 polling booths to be set up in Mumbai suburban, 337 in Thane, 256 in Mumbai city and 55 in Pune district.

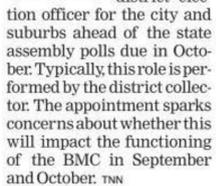
State election officials said the response has been much better than the Lok Sabha elections, where only around 150 housing societies had polling booths.

"In coordination with housing societies and federations, we have readied the list and there is good response from housing federations across the state to allow polling stations. ECI had stressed on polling booths in societies to improve voter turnout," chief electoral officer S Chockalingam said.

State housing federation members said they had sent out mails and reached out to many housing societies after the Lok Sabha poll, and many housing societies had agreed to allow the polling booths in societies. One of the housing societies that had allowed polling booths during the Lok Sabha election said that while the initiative was good the election officials must ensure that all the voters from the housing complex were attached to the polling booth within the campus. — Nisha Nambiar

Gagrani named dist poll officer

Mumbai: The Election Commission of India has appointed BMC chief Bhushan Gagrani as the district election officer for the city and suburbs ahead of the state assembly polls due in October. Typically, this role is performed by the district collector. The appointment sparks concerns about whether this will impact the functioning of the BMC in September and October. TNN



'Har Ghar Tiranga' to kick off today

Mumbai: A state-level campaign, Har Ghar Tiranga, will be launched on Friday at August Kranti Maidan in the presence of chief minister and deputy chief ministers. The drive, to be conducted nationwide from August 9 to 15, aims to encourage citizens to hoist the national flag on their homes as a symbol of independence.

BMC has urged all Mumbai residents to participate enthusiastically in this campaign. — Richa Pinto

Nephew of ex-BJP MP joins Cong

Mumbai: In a major set back for the BJP, nephew of veteran BJP leader and former MP Datta Meghe, Abhyuday, on Thursday joined Congress in the presence of MPCC president Nana Patole, along with former Bhiwandi mayor Vilas Patil. TNN

2 held by ACB get police custody

Mumbai: Two touts who had been arrested by Anti-Corruption Bureau officials while allegedly accepting Rs 75 lakh "on behalf of an executive engineer of BMC K East Ward, Mandar Ashok Tari", have been sent to police custody.

Police said the two accused, Mohammed Shehzaad Saha (33) and Pratik Pise (35), have been remanded in custody till Aug 12. Tari has remained absconding. His house search didn't yield anything. ACB officials said they are probing the role of other BMC officials. TNN

Ajit Pawar starts off on yatra, uncle's camp to follow today

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Nashik/Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Launching his party's state-wide Jansanman Yatra, NCP chief and deputy CM Ajit Pawar said on Thursday that the yatra was aimed at countering the "false narrative" being spread against govt schemes, including the Ladki Bahin Yojana.

On a day's visit to the district, he told the gathering how the govt was working for uplift of citizens. "In the Lok Sabha, the opposition created a false narrative that we were going to change the Constitution, which was never the case. Now, they are saying Mazhi Ladki Bahin Yojana and other schemes announced during the budget were fake. We have planned various schemes, including Ladki Bahin Yojana, waiver of energy bills for farmers, stipend for youths doing internships with companies, and free education for girl students, and these will continue till the time we are in office," he said.

The rival NCP (SP) will



Deputy CM Ajit Pawar at Nashik's Kalaram mandir on Thursday

kickstart its own Shiv Swarajya Yatra from Shivneri fort at Junnar in Pune district on Friday. The party will cover six districts in the state, including four in Marathwada, through the rally aimed at strengthening its base ahead of the assembly polls.

Ajit Pawar said that his yatra was intended for a dialogue with women of all ages, to help them understand what the govt was doing and "seek their blessings for elections" to ensure that the present govt continues to run the scheme in the future too.

Asked by reporters about Uddhav Thackeray's visit to New Delhi, Ajit Pawar said voters were closely watching what he was doing. "People are watching, and they know who is doing what. I have nothing to comment on them," he said.

Ajit Pawar also said the govt was keen on ensuring that water woes of the region come to an end and hence decided to tap west-flowing water into the Arabian Sea and divert it to Godavari and other basins using Nar Par water diversion scheme.

Finalise seat-sharing formula this month: Uddhav to MVA

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Mumbai: On the third and final day of his New Delhi visit, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray met Congress parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi at her residence. Earlier in the day, he met Vice-President Jagdeep Dhakhar, wife of Delhi CM Sunita Kejriwal, and senior lawyer and MP Kapil Sibal who is appearing in the Supreme Court (SC) for the Sena (UBT) in the MLAs' disqualification case.

Uddhav also met NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar and Congress MP Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj late on Tuesday after meeting leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. During Uddhav's meeting with Pawar and Congress MP K C Venugopal, he brought up the point, which MVA is coming around to, that its seat-sharing formula for the assembly polls should be finalised by the end of August and not when the polls loom closer. The MVA's manifesto and jo-

MVA survey says it'll win 165 seats, Mahayuti ahead in city

Pune: MVA would get around 165 seats in the state and Mahayuti partners would be in an advantageous position in Mumbai, Konkan and north Maharashtra, a survey conducted by the opposition alliance partners about three months before the assembly polls has suggested. "We won 31 out of 48 seats in Maharashtra in the Lok Sabha polls. It is around 65% of the total seats. Ideally, we would like to maintain the same average in the assembly elections, which would get us around 188 seats. Our preliminary assessment suggests we will be winning around 165 seats. It is a good number, but still we would like to improve the tally," a Congress functionary told TOI. According to MVA members, the alliance has an upper hand in Nagpur, Amravati, Marathwada and western Maharashtra regions. "Among the alliance partners, Congress will perform better in Nagpur and Amravati regions. Marathwada also looks favourable for the alliance, where Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) have good support. In western Maharashtra, the alliance is dependent on NCP (SP)," a former cabinet minister said. — Anurag Bende

int campaign strategy were also discussed.

Uddhav, it is learnt, has also conveyed to the Congress that the seat-sharing formula must be based on winnability and finalised after detailed talks. He has also hinted that he was open to being the CM face of the MVA if the partners agreed to endorse his na-

me. However, it is said that the MVA will not declare any CM face ahead of the polls and the CM will be picked only after the poll results. Uddhav's wife Rashmi Thackeray and son Aaditya were present when he met Sonia, and Sena (UBT) functionaries said "it was a family meeting and not just a political meeting." Sen-

na (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut was also present.

Political observers said Uddhav's meeting with Sonia was important as neither Sharad Pawar nor any state Congress functionaries were present. "This shows Uddhav has cemented his relationship with the Gandhi family and established a direct line in case seat-sharing talks hit any hurdle. This personal bonding will also have a big political impact on party functionaries and grassroots cadre," an observer said.

Aaditya said in a post on X, "This morning, Uddhav Thackeray ji called on Smt. Sunita Kejriwal ji. We are all united in fighting against forces that want to destroy the fabric of Bharat, that is India. The central agencies are targeting Arvind Kejriwal ji because the BJP fears him. Our fight to protect the Constitution and democracy continues." Meanwhile, Congress functionaries led by AICC general secretary Ramesh Chennithala and MPCC president Nana Patole will tour Vidarbha and Marathwada from Aug 10 to 14.

Electoral roll count nears 9.4 cr in state; more females in 4 districts

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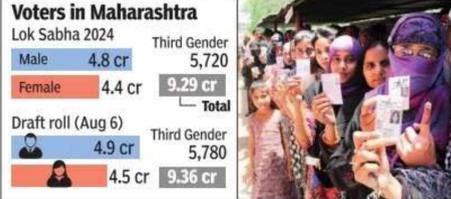
Mumbai: The state has almost 9.4 crore voters, according to the latest draft electoral roll. It is a rise of 7.3 lakh voters since the last revision of the electoral roll before the Lok Sabha election in Apr.

The rise in female voters is higher than men in the period. The number of female voters rose by 3.9 lakh while the number of male voters increased by 3.4 lakh from Apr to Aug, shows the data.

Total number of male voters still remains higher than female voters. The number of male voters is 4.9 crore compared to 4.5 crore female voters.

The rise in female voters reflects the national trend and explains why the Mahayuti goes is focusing on women ahead of the assembly election scheduled around Oct. The Mukhya Mantri Mahi Ladki Bahin Yojana will provide a stipend of Rs 1,500 per month to underprivileged women. The Mukhya Mantri Annapurna Yojana will provide three free cylinders annually to women from underprivileged homes. The state is also funding the higher education of girls from the OBC and EWS sections. All these schemes were announced in June, in the last budget of the Maha-

RISE OF 7 LAKH SINCE LS ELECTION



District	Male voters	Female voters	Difference
Nandurbar (North Maha)	6,39,783	6,42,537	2,754
Gondia (Vidarbha)	5,44,112	5,54,992	10,880
Ratnagiri (Konkan)	6,34,819	6,77,066	42,247
Sindhudurg (Konkan)	3,32,698	3,34,352	1,654

yuti govt before the election. 6,937 male voters compared to women.

The number of women voters outnumber male voters in four districts, shows the data. In the Konkan, the district of Ratnagiri has 42,247 more female voters while adjoining Sindhudurg has 1,654 more female voters than male voters.

The tribal district of Nandurbar has 2,754 more female voters than male. The tribal district of Gondia has 10,880 more female voters.

Bhandara district, which adjoins Gondia, may soon join the club with only 1,583 more male voters than female. In Gadchiroli, too, there are only

State asks for easier voter name search

Pune: Amid rising complaints from voters about the difficulty in searching for their names and polling booth information on the voter helpline app, the state election office has reached out to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to consider implementing changes to address the issue ahead of the assembly election.

Election officials said the ECI technical team would be working on resolving the problem before the poll. Many citizen groups also communicated the issue to district collectors, and it was conveyed to the ECI.

"Voters who have been registered 10-12 years back often struggle to instantly find their names on the voter helpline app, as most of their Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPICs) are not linked to their mobile numbers," an election official said. "The ECI's IT team is working on it and it should be addressed ahead of the polls."

The state has urged the ECI to make the voter name search functionality more user-friendly on the app. — Nisha Nambiar

GANESHA READIES FOR HIS ANNUAL VISIT



With the onset of Ganeshotsav barely a month away (Sept 7), sculptors and artists are at the peak of their creativity. The expansive Central Railway workshop in Parel turns into a Ganeshha retreat during the festive season as moortikars rent space to execute multiple orders. Craftsmen are busy giving finishing touches to big idols as mandals prepare to take delivery on the weekend beginning Aug 10-11. High-profile mandals that install large Ganeshas are preparing to lead home their idols early in order to prepare the interior decoration. Meanwhile, medium and small sized idols are getting their paint job complete

HC won't stop vending committee poll, says BMC has begun process

Number Of Vendors Down From 1.28 Lakh To 22,000, Says Petition

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Bombay high court on Thursday refused to stay elections to the town vending committees that will regulate hawking and related matters in the city.

Justices Mahesh Sonak and Kamal Khata were hearing petitions by three unions, seeking a stay of the elections to be held on August 29. The filing of nominations is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday.

The petition said that the list of registered street vendors had reduced to 22,000 from over 1.28 lakh vendors surveyed in 2014. This was in contravention of Section 3 (survey of street vendors) of

the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. The electoral list does not consist of all the surveyed street vendors along with those street vendors who took loans under the PM SVANidhi scheme, a micro-credit facility for street vendors.

The petitioners' advocate said that the state govt had asked BMC to undertake a fresh survey of vendors, which is also the mandate under Section 3. Also, if the electoral list is not properly displayed, then it will adversely affect all other vendors who were identified in the 2014 survey.

The judges said that as BMC has commenced the election process, they cannot stay the elections. They directed the municipal corporation and the state govt to file their replies.

In a related development, former MP Sanjay Nirupam met municipal commissioner Bhushan Gagrani on Thursday. BMC had recently announced dates for election to the town vending committee.

Nirupam questioned the BMC over the number of eligible hawkers declared by the civic body, which is purportedly about 32,000. He pointed out that a loan up to Rs

10,000 had been given to over a lakh hawkers. "Under the PM Svanidhi scheme, loans up to Rs 10,000 were given to over one lakh hawkers, then how are only 32,000 eligible? We are not here to protect illegal hawkers, but legal ones need to be protected. BMC is quick to designate areas as 'no-hawking' zones; but where are the hawking zones? These should be earmarked," he said, criticising BMC for targeting legal hawkers while cracking down on illegal ones.

Former corporator Makrand Narvekar of BJP said BMC must invite new applications for appointment of NGOs, ALMs, citizen groups to the committee.

Fear of triggering landslides forces Cidco to halt razing structures on Belapur hill

Navi Mumbai: The City and Industrial Development Corporation (Cidco) has stopped demolition of illegal religious structures on the Belapur hill slope, fearing landslides amid the ongoing monsoon season.

Earlier, demolition of 30 religious structures had been undertaken after the Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission (MSHRC) took suo motu notice of the media reports, indicating landslide dangers on the hill, thereby threatening lives and properties on and below the hill.

Cidco had served notices to 30 illegal structures covering over 3.2 lakh square feet on the hill — equivalent to the carpet area of some 400 flats of one BHK size — information obtained under the RTI Act revealed.

The MSHRC served notices on the state govt as well as Cidco and Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) to explain their position.

"With so many structures on the loose slopes, we fear another Wyanad type tragedy as the illegal construction has also wiped out many trees which hold the soil," NatConnect Foundation director and green activist BN Kumar said.

Meanwhile, Cidco, with the help of over 100 policemen, started demolition, but called it off after breaking parts of two structures as the soil started giving in during downpour. "It is risky as the heavy machinery that brings down the structures can also cause landslides," an official remarked. — Vijay Singh

In massive drive, NMMC razes 211 illegal hoardings

Navi Mumbai: After facing flak for its inaction on illegal hoardings, the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC), in a massive drive, brought down as many as 211 unauthorised banners across the city in the last couple of days. NMMC commissioner Kailas Shinde has, in fact, given a free hand to the anti-encroachment department of the civic body to clear defacement at the earliest.

Shinde said hoardings placed sans permission are defiling the city and action is being taken to prevent it. "As many as 29 banners were brought down in Belapur, 40 in Nerul, 10 in Vashi, 28 in Turbhe, and 18 in Koparkhane," he said. — BB Nayak

Shinde said hoardings placed sans permission are defiling the city and action is being taken to prevent it. "As many as 29 banners were brought down in Belapur, 40 in Nerul, 10 in Vashi, 28 in Turbhe, and 18 in Koparkhane," he said. — BB Nayak

Cops book 30 for blocking rd after 1 killed in accident

Thane: Police have registered an FIR against at least 30 persons for allegedly blocking a road after an accident, in which an auto-rickshaw occupant died and another person was injured.

At around 7.15am on Wednesday, a trailer proceeding on GTI Road in Nhava Sheva area hit an auto-rickshaw. Two occupants of the rickshaw were injured and one of them, Bharat Rama Thakur (52), died. Later, 30 persons from nearby villages staged a 'rasta roko', demanding the culprit be handed over to them else they won't take the victim's body. Police have detained and booked trailer driver Amjad Rafique Khan. TNN

24 hours after he jumped into DPS lake, police yet to find 'killer' boyfriend's body

George Mendonca

Navi Mumbai: Twenty-four hours after Swastik Patil (21) jumped into Nerul's DPS lake after he allegedly strangled his 19-year-old girlfriend Bhavika More, there is still no sign of his body. Fishermen had seen Patil jump into the lake and then discovered More's body in the mangroves nearby on Wednesday.

Satish Kadam, senior inspector of NRI coastal police station, said cops on speedboats navigated the lake to find Patil's body but in vain. "We have communicated with our counterparts in Thane and Raigad police jurisdictions in case



Navi Mumbai police have been looking for 21-year-old Swastik Patil's body

Patil's body is washed ashore in those areas," he said. DCP (Zone 1) Pankaj Dahane said,

"Our probe has revealed that the murder suspect worked at a medical store in Panvel. He was in a relationship with More, who was pursuing her graduation. Two months ago, Patil severed ties with her. Recently, he contacted her to resume their relationship but she refused. Hence, he called her for a meeting. Probably following an argument, Patil strangled her with his hands and then jumped into the lake." DCP Dahane said as the lake flows towards Alibaug district, it is possible that Patil's body might be washed ashore at Alibaug beach. "Hence, Raigad police are cooperating by keeping a vigil at the shores of all beaches there," he added.

Art initiative to revitalise 29 suburban railway stns

Mumbai: A major public art initiative aimed at revitalising Mumbai's suburban rail network is set to debut this October. Spearheaded by a non-governmental organisation, the project, titled "Hamara Station Hamari Shaan" (HSHS), aims to transform 29 suburban railway stations across the Western Railway (WR) and Central Railway (CR) networks, with the involvement of over 20,000 volunteers.

HSHS is billed as India's largest citizen-led public art initiative. It will cover 16 WR stations (from Churchgate to Dahisar) and 13 CR and Harbour Line stations (from CST to Kalyan).

In the past 20 days, Project Mumbai's teams, in collaboration with railway officials, have mapped paintable areas, measured locations, and begun designing art tailored to each site. The designs will feature local art, cultural elements, and vibrant colours.

"HSHS will transform into a cultural hub from September when hundreds of citizens—school children, corporate employees, and social welfare organisations—come together to beautify their city and foster a sense of ownership in their neighbourhoods," said Shishir Joshi, Founder and CEO of Project Mumbai.

To encourage widespread participation, Project Mumbai has established WhatsApp groups for each station, allowing residents to join efforts near them.

—Manthan K Mehta

Guj bizman held in GST refund scam

Mumbai: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) probing the Rs 175-crore GST refund scam on Wednesday arrested a Gujarat-based businessman who allegedly received nearly Rs 39.1 crore and aided and abetted the accused in siphoning the money. Anil Runthala (43), proprietor of Runthala Enterprises, is the fifth arrest in the case after a sales tax officer, a Customs clearing agent and two others.

Act against illegal parking at 2 Dadar taxi stands: HC

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Mumbai: Bombay High Court on Thursday said traffic police and regional transport authority (RTA) must take action against illegal vehicles parked at the taxi stands outside Dadar Post Office on the Ambedkar Road and near Kohinor Mills on the opposite side.

"Be strict," said Justices K R Shriram and Jitendra Jain. They were hearing a 2018 petition by the Mumbai Pune Taxi Owners' Association to allow them to continue to park under the Dadar flyover. It was discontinued following the HC's June 2017 order to BMC to stop pay and park facilities under flyovers.

The RTO, Tardeo, in its Aug 1 reply, said it had in Jan 2023 notified parking space for 20 taxis outside Dadar Post Office and 40 taxis in



Taxi owners had petitioned the court against unauthorised parking

front of Kohinor Mills. But the Association, in its Aug 7 rejoinder, said only 10 cabs are allowed outside the PO in the taxi stand. It is facing the same problem near Kohinor Mills because of Asiad buses and illegal taxi operators. Despite regular complaints to the traffic police and RTA, except taking "some cosmetic action and doing lip service," nothing concrete was done.

Since it had become difficult to park their taxis at the allotted space near Kohinor Mills, the Association had suggested parking below the Dadar TT flyover.

However, they were removed by the BMC. The Association said as the taxi stand at Kohinor Mills still exists, the traffic authorities are duty-bound under the Maharashtra Motor Vehicles Act and Rules to safeguard their rights and get the stand cleared for parking their 40 vehicles. If it cannot be done, then they should be "allowed to park in the lanes between Don Bosco School and UDCT at Wadala."

The Association's advocate Yatin Shah said if they are allowed to park near Kohinor Mills by removing the illegal taxi operators, it would suffice. The judges recorded the statement of the state's advocate Jyoti Chavan that "if there are illegal vehicles parked, they will be towed."

Also, she will "give a concrete proposal to the court as to how the problem of the petitioner shall be solved" on Aug 29.

Experts: Ghatkopar couple may have died due to gas leakage

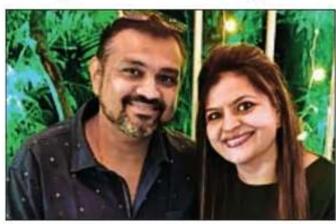
Ahmed,Ali@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Fifteen months after the mysterious death of a Ghatkopar couple on Holi day in 2023, police have received the final cause of death: Suffocation. However, as there is no explanation on what led to suffocation, Pant Nagar police have written to the department of post-mortem at Rajawadi Hospital in Ghatkopar for further clarification.

On March 8, 2023, the bodies of Deepak Shah (44) and his wife Tina (38) were found in the bathroom of their rented apartment in Kukreja Palace building on Vallabh Baug Lane with the shower still on. The couple returned home the previous day at 4.30pm after celebrating Holi with friends at Vile Parle. The post-mortem report stated that the couple died soon after, but their bodies were discovered the next day when the maid reported for work.

It is learnt that early this week, Rajawadi Hospital's post-mortem department sent the much-awaited final cause of the couple's death to Pant Nagar police station that stated: "Death may be due to suffocation." Police have reverted to the doctors, asking for the cause for suffocation—whether it was a gas leak from the geyser or inhalation of carbon monoxide?

Independent experts said the final report supports the theory that the couple may have died due to gas leakage. Earlier, Mahanagar



Deepak and Tina Shah were found dead in the bathroom of their Ghatkopar flat on March 8, 2023

Gas Ltd experts, who visited the scene of the incident and examined the couple's flat, had ruled out any gas leakage from the geyser.

The couple's viscera, stomach wash, blood sample and vomit found next to their bodies were sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) for an in-depth forensic examination. FSL, which examined the viscera, handed over its report to Rajawadi Hospital's post-mortem department in Nov 2023.

Both the FSL and a histopathologist had initially ruled out poisoning. The delay in establishing a definitive cause of death has prolonged the anguish of the family and friends of the deceased couple.

This was Deepak's second marriage after he divorced his first wife with whom he had two children.

State project to keep kids safe online

Mumbai: The state will soon introduce the 'Safe Web for Children' project for school students. The project is aimed at preventing online sexual exploitation of children.

Launching the initiative, school education minister Deepak Kesarkar on Wednesday spoke about creating a safe environment for children, both in schools and in their homes. He said that children need to be safeguarded from online crimes and abuses. The project will be implemented along with State Child Rights Protection Commission and NGO Child Fund India. It aims to educate children about online security.

Kesarkar said that the education department will soon issue guidelines on how schools need to address the issue of social media usage among children. Since the Covid pandemic, more children have access to mobiles and cases of them being exploited online are on the rise, said an official. He said that schools may be urged to conduct regular sessions on cyber crimes.

Suitcase murder: Wife of deaf-mute deceased arrested

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Mumbai: After arresting two men for allegedly killing a 30-year-old Santacruz resident with hearing and speech impairment and stuffing his body in a suitcase, Pydhonie police on Wednesday arrested the victim's wife.

Police claimed that Rukhsana Shaikh (29) had an extramarital affair with arrested accused Jay Chawda for over a year. The duo allegedly conspired to murder her husband Arshad, and roped in Shivjit Singh (33), an alleged drug addict with multiple assault cases registered against him in Ulhasnagar. All three accused are also hearing and speech impaired.

On Thursday, Rukhsana (29) was produced before a court, which remanded her in police custody till Aug 12.

The murder came to light on Sunday when railway police detained Chawda with a suitcase at Dadar railway station. Blood was seeping from it. On opening it, they were shocked to find a man's body, later identified as that of Arshad's. While Chawda was caught, Shivjit managed to flee. He was later arrested.

Police said on Sunday, Chawda invited Shaikh and Shivjit to his flat for a party. After having alcohol, they stripped Shaikh and beat him

up. Police claimed that while Shivjit was strangling Arshad with a rope and hitting him with a hammer, Chawda made a video call to his friend Jagpalpreet Singh, who lives overseas, and showed him the brutal assault.

Police said they are collecting information about Jagpalpreet (50), who allegedly shared the video call on social media. Police are likely to issue a lookout circular notice against Jagpalpreet, who is originally from Punjab and holds a Belgium passport.

Police are also probing a WhatsApp group of hearing and speech impaired persons, including the accused.

An investigator said after the murder, Rukhsana, called up Chawda asking if the "work was done". Chawda video-called Rukhsana and showed Arshad's body lying on the floor, said sources. Police have learnt that Arshad allegedly assaulted Chawda over some issue six months ago and shot a video of it. Chawda also wanted to avenge it. "The woman was aware that her husband would be killed," said a police source, adding that Rukhsana and Chawda conspired a couple of times to kill Shaikh via video calls. Police have added destruction of evidence charges in the case and are looking into the bank accounts of the accused.

Court accepts ACB closure report in SoBo bizman case

Mumbai: A special court accepted the Anti-Corruption Bureau's (ACB) closure report on Wednesday submitted in the corruption case registered against south Mumbai businessman Jitendra Navlani under the Prevention of Corruption Act in 2022.

It was alleged that Navlani, on behalf of certain Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials, had collected nearly Rs 59 crore between 2015 and 2021 in his own name as well as in the form of secured loans and consultancy fees through shell companies.

ACB's 2023 closure report said their probe did not reveal any involvement of Navlani or any ED officials.

"During the investigation conducted as per the complaint, the accused Jitendra Navlani received a total of Rs 46.96 crores through 38 private companies during the financial years 2015 to 2021 in his personal and company bank accounts. However, the investigation revealed that these transactions were regular business dealings between these 39 private companies and Jitendra Navlani. Therefore, no evidence was found to suggest that Jitendra Navlani misused his position or influence to obtain these funds illegally," ACB said in its report. ACB urged the court to accept the C-Summary report based on the probe. **TNN**

USE BETTER TECHNIQUES FOR POTHOLES, CURB HEAVY VEHICLES AT JNPT AT PEAK HOUR: CM



Pothole on BKC road

Public agencies in charge of maintaining highways have been instructed by chief minister Eknath Shinde to make use of "advanced" techniques to fix potholes on highways and other roads leading to Mumbai, especially on "severely damaged" stretches to help mitigate vehicular congestion caused due to poor road conditions. During a review meeting on Thursday, Shinde made the decision in response to complaints about commuting difficulty faced by motorists, said an official. The chief minister has also directed authorities to prohibit movement of heavy vehicles to and from JNPT during peak hours. In Mumbai city, specifically, BMC has received nearly 6,000 pothole-related complaints from motorists during the monsoon season over the past couple of months. Civic officials said they are taking advantage of the current dry spell to fill potholes for which complaints have been received **TNN**

Mahadev app case: City police make 3rd arrest

Mumbai: A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of city crime branch on Thursday arrested Biharat Chaudhary in the Rs 15,000-crore Mahadev betting app scam case. This is the third arrest in the case after Dixit Kothari and actor-influencer Sahil Khan.

"Chaudhary, who was in Dubai for four to five years, was responsible for analysing and resolving technical issues related to apps similar to Mahadev app. A lookout circular was issued against him," said an officer. On July 23, Gujarat Police arrested Chaudhary upon his arrival at the airport in connection with a similar case. After his police custody ended, Mumbai crime branch took his custody and arrested him. On Thursday, Chaudhary was produced before a local court which remanded him in five-day police custody.

In 2023, following a court order, Matunga police registered a case against 32 people based on a complaint that got suffered a loss of Rs 15,000 crore due to Mahadev betting app and similar platforms. —S Ahmed Ali

SRA collected ₹700cr from bldrs in rent for slum dwellers till July

Clara,Lewis@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) collected more than Rs 700 crore in rent from developers to be paid to slum dwellers of slums taken up for redevelopment between Aug 2023 and July 2024. SRA officials said the amount was collected in the case of 192 slum redevelopment projects and will be distributed among 17,992 slum households as rent for three years.

In Aug last year, SRA issued a circular which stated that developers will deposit advance rent for two years and post-dated rent cheques for the remaining period before the plans are processed. It stated unless dues are cleared, no new proposal from a builder would be accepted.

The SRA circular came following a PIL by advocate Vijendra Rai regarding non-payment of rent by developers and SRA inaction. Rai told the TOI that SRA has come up with numerous circulars detailing how a scheme is to be implemented. A proper implementation of rules is required.

"SRA circular 153 states when a builder takes up a rehab project, then initially the first year's rent is to be paid upfront. Before the year ends, rent for the second year with a 5% increase is to be paid and similarly for the third year," he said. Rai added SRA needs to ensure schemes get off the ground, citing the case of Hanuman Nagar on Carter Road, Bandra, where the rehab scheme was approved in 1998 but so far even the plinth has not been put. "The SRA is supposed to get flats for project-affected persons through these slum schemes, which are to be used for various infrastructure projects in the city, but the authority is not bothered about ensuring it gets these flats either. It is supposed to charge Rs 5,000 per flat per month for delay. Who is implementing circular 190," he asked.

Man slips on oil at home, dies

Thane: A 58-year-old man, Madhusudhan Gundu, died of injuries after slipping on oil in his Bhiwandi house on Tuesday. Police said Gundu was taken to hospital but was declared dead on arrival by doctors. An accidental death case has been filed. **PTI**

A twisted tale of kidnapping gone wrong done right

CINEMA OF THE WEEK

Aliya Basu Gayab Hai (Thriller) ★★★★★
Cast: Vinay Pathak, Raima Sen, Salim Diwan
Direction: Preeti Singh
Duration: 1 hour 43 minutes
Language: Hindi (A)

■ *Aliya Basu (Raima Sen), a daughter of a wealthy businessman, finds herself kidnapped by two goons. But what starts as a simple case of kidnapping for ransom, soon turns into a diabolical game of greed and betrayal.*

This twisted thriller revolves around just three characters whose actions define their fate. Vikram Singh (Vinay Pathak) and Deepak Kumar (Salim Diwan) hatch what they think is a fool-proof plan. They abduct Aliya Basu, the daughter of a rich business tycoon and take her to an undisclosed location, hoping to get a hefty ransom for her release. But do they really know who Aliya is beyond her last name? Clearly, it's a hurriedly put together plan and the men are in for a rude surprise. Revealing anything more than this about the plot would be equal to giving away the spoilers.

Let's just say director Preeti Singh and writers J Blakeson and Gibran Noorani lace a seemingly straightforward story with unexpected twists and turns that are also unpredictable. And that remains the biggest



highlight of this modest budget thriller that often leaves its viewer guessing about what will happen next. While the story is restricted between just three central characters, it ends up exploring a range of possibilities between them. Singh keeps her cards close to her chest till the very end unraveling the layers, with one twist at a time.

Vinay Pathak as the more dominant bad guy and the mastermind of the crime does most of the heavy lifting. The actor, who is known for his effortless comic timing, is equally good here

as a dangerous kidnapper, who isn't sure of what he is capable of. Raima Sen is convincing and effective in her role of a beleaguered woman trapped in a very uncomfortable situation. But the actress does rise to the occasion when it comes to showing the strength of her character. Salim Diwan, with all the shades of his character had a huge scope to perform. However, the actor doesn't go beyond a few expressions to convey the range of his character. Surprisingly, it works in his favor as his character is a mix of gullibility and danger. While the entire film revolves around the kidnapping of Aliya Basu, a little more contextual fleshing out with some backstory of each character would help the audience connect better with the overall premise. The background score complements the proceedings while the lack of any unnecessary detours like songs helps maintain the pace of this taut thriller.

Aliya Basu Gayab Hai may not revolutionise the thriller genre, but it certainly knows how to play its cards right. With a tight plot, unexpected twists, and strong performances, the film keeps you on the edge of your seat minus the unnecessary theatrics or bloodshed. It's a smart, suspenseful ride that proves even a modestly scaled thriller can pack a punch.

—Ronak Kotecha

To review any movie and check show timings, visit [etimes.in](https://www.etimes.in)

It Ends with Us (Drama, Romance)

★★★★★
Cast: Blake Lively, Justin Baldoni, Brandon Sklenar, Hasan Minhaj, Jenny Slate
Direction: Justin Baldoni
Duration: 2 hours 10 minutes
Language: English (A)

■ *Based on Colleen Hoover's bestseller, the love triangle drama follows florist Lily Bloom (Blake Lively), as she embarks on a new life journey in Boston to get over a lingering past trauma. A chance encounter with the charming Ryle Kincaid (Justin Baldoni) makes her optimistic about love and happiness but there's more to him than meets the eye.*

While grappling with her new life, she stumbles upon her first love, Atlas Corrigan (Brandon Sklenar) and childhood memories come rushing back. Some precious, some best left forgotten. Making choices lie at the heart of this tale. As the story oscillates between past and present, you discover the life that Lily envisions for herself and the life she wants to leave behind. You don't need to be Sherlock to guess what



'It' stands for in the title. The buck stops with you. You can put an end to generational trauma when you decide to not tolerate the disrespect that's normalised in the family. No matter how passionate the love, domestic violence should be off limits and a deal breaker. Anubhav Sinha's Hindi film *Thappad* drove this point home.

Actor-director Justin Baldoni makes a faithful adaptation that's melancholic,

triggering, empowering, sexy and reflective. Despite the predictable story, events unfold like a slow burn thriller. Good-looking men are often tactfully used in cinema to show a mirror to our bias towards outer beauty. Women lusting for *You's* Penn Badgley being an ideal example. Baldoni smartly navigates and explores this aspect, never forgiving or trivialising the violence, nor misinterpreting it as passion but it all feels a tad soapy. This is emotionally heavy and certainly not a breezy watch.

Blake Lively anchors this film and sadly falls short of doing justice to the most important character—Lily. A story this layered, deserved a much stronger actor who doesn't wander around like a spectator in their own story. Despite her gorgeous lively presence, she is extremely limited as an actor and that strips the film of its depth. It all feels a tad superficial because her performance is unable to evoke deep emotions, empathy or strength. The gaze feels like it's a bit too obsessed with Blake's beauty than her ability to bring a character to life. If you don't look for relatability, you won't mind watching this one more for the glamour than the substance.

—Renuka Vyavahare



झारखण्ड आदिवासी महोत्सव 2024

मुख्य आकर्षण

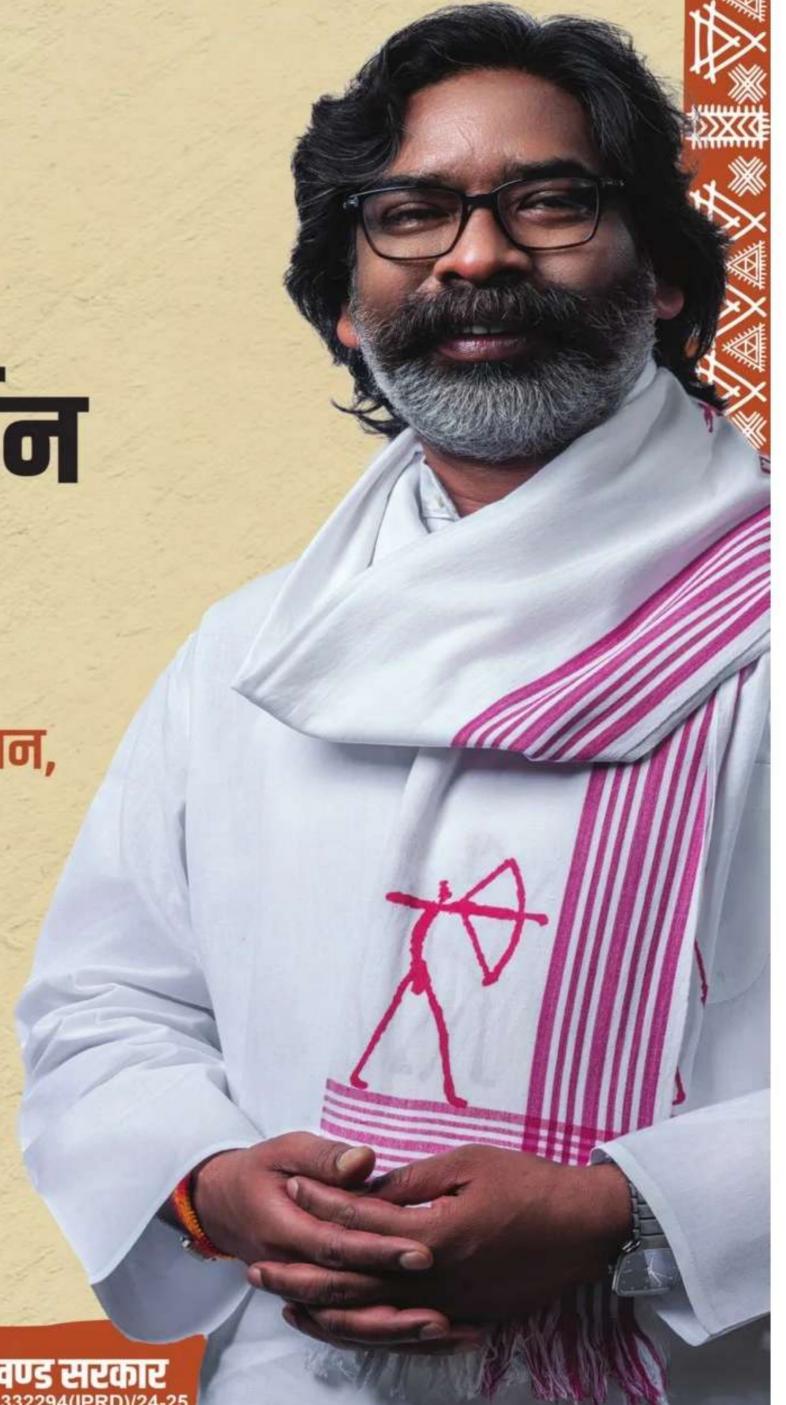
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ACCOUNTS

ACCOUNTANT

Accountant, Male, at Bhiwandi, Boom+CA Inter, exp 10/15 yrs for Mfg Co knowing Tally, GST returns finalization, admin Res at Thane to Kalyan Mail to aswanism@gmail.com

TO BOOK AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: ABHIJEET MISHRA 7710888884

NOVENA IN HONOUR OF ST. JUDE
(Say this prayer on 9 consecutive days)

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. O Lord Jesus Christ, who when on earth did with a strong cry and tears, offer up prayers and supplications to the Father, receive the offering of this Novena, during which we desire to join our prayers to yours for these intentions.

(Here mention the favours you desire).

We make this offering through Mary, your Mother and our Mother, and through St. Jude Thaddeus, your beloved cousin, for he is the helper in difficult cases. For their sake, accept our prayer and render it fruitful. Amen.

1. O glorious apostle, St. Jude Thaddeus, patron of the desperate cases who chosen by God to give testimony of the true faith, suffered all kinds of tortures and, in the end, gave your life rather than deny it; obtain for us a faith strong as yours, and like you, make us ever ready to confess it with joy, so that we will die rather than deny it.
- (Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.....)
2. O faithful apostle, St. Jude Thaddeus, beloved cousin of our Saviour, by the admirable courage with which you sacrificed your life, sooner than fail in your fidelity to the true faith and the true God, obtain for us the grace to be always faithful to God and to the Church, in all our duties, so as to merit a share of glory in heaven.
- (Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.....)
3. O fervent apostle, St. Jude Thaddeus, whose only desire was to please God in all things, obtain for us the same desire that inflamed with the same fervour, we may spend all our life in working out our salvation, so that purified by the fire of tribulation, we may be entitled to an eternal crown of glory in the Kingdom of God. Amen.
- (Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory.....)
- V. Pray for us O glorious St. Jude
- R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

O God, who through your blessed apostle St. Jude, has brought us into the knowledge of your name, grant that we may celebrate his eternal glory by making progress in virtue; and by perpetuating his glory we may advance in sanctity through Christ our Lord. Amen.

(THIS NOVENA HAS NEVER FAILED EITHER PUBLISH THIS NOVENA OR DO A SIMILAR ACT IN THANKSGIVING WHEN YOUR REQUEST IS GRANTED) inserted by Meryn Roy

auto

PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

MERCEDES



15.50 LAKHS, Mercedes E200, Good Condition, 2014, 59,900 kms., Palladium Silver, First Owner - 982111473

shopping

CLOCKS AND WATCHES



WE BUY Used Watches: Rolex, Omega, Tudor, AP, Cartier, Patek Philippe, Chopard, Breguet, Call: Tahir : 9619634874.

KENNELS & PETS

SIAMESE Cats, healthy pair with one month old 5 kittens for sale. Contact 9594925792. Whatsapp number pics available.

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I (Old name) Shankar Punjabi s/o late Lachmandas, residing at Flat No. 103, Block D-18, MIG Flats, Domlur, Bangalore-560071, have changed My name from (old name) Shankar Punjabi, to (new name) Shankar, vide Affidavit dated 17-8-2023 Sworn before Notary Narendran, Bangalore.

I, Jasleen Kaur Luthra D/O Gurmohan Singh R/O Sector 69 S.A.S Nagar, Punjab have changed my name from Jasleen Kaur to Jasleen Kaur Luthra for all future purposes.

TO ADVERTISE IN THIS SECTION CALL JITESH DOMINIC: 9867407521

tender & notices

NOTICES

I, Leslie Titus Fernandes has bequeathed Flat No 204, at Sarkar Corner Co-op Housing Society Ltd, Veera Desai Road, Andheri (West), Mumbai 400 038 from my late brother Mr. Lionel Gerald Fernandes. If anyone has any objection in transfer of shares of above said flat in my name, he or she should inform in writing with valid documents to Hon. Secretary, Sarkar Corner CHS Ltd., situated at Veera Desai Road, Andheri (West), Mumbai 400058 within 15 days from the date of this advertisement.

TENDERS

REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed bids are invited from Reputed Builders / Developers for the Proposed Redevelopment under Reg 33(19) of DCPR 2034, New Diamond Industrial Premises CSL 303/308, Off. Aarey Road, Vishweshwar Nagar, Goregaon East, Mumbai - 400063

PROJECT DETAILS

- Gross Plot area 1560.21 sq. Mtrs. As per BMC plan.
- As per Physical survey 1042 Sq. Mtrs.
- Existing Members area 940.63 Sq. Mtrs. Approximately
- No of Units 34
- Plot is bearing CTS No. 67/A/ 1/1of Dindoshi.
- 13 Zone - Conversation from I3 to C

LOCATION HIGHLIGHT

The property is located near Aarey Metro Station.

COLLECTION OF DOCUMENTS

Interested Bidders can collect the Tender Documents from PMC's office from **DI.09.08.2024** onwards between 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Monday to Saturday). Tender cost Rs.11,800 (Non-Refundable) to be paid by Cash, DD or Pay order in favour of "TOUGHCONS NIRMAN PVT. LD." with request letter on Developer's Letter head. Last date of submission of Tender- **DI.30.08.2024**

PMC



1st Floor, Bhagwant Niwas, Naik Wadi, Opp. Vishwa Kripa Hospital, Goregaon East, Mumbai 400063.
+91 93721 95663
Email: tender.tnpl@gmail.com
Society reserves all rights to accept/reject any/all offer(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever

TO BOOK AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: ABHIJEET MISHRA 7710888884

REDEVELOPMENT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed & resourceful Developers for Redevelopment Works of **RAM LAXMAN KUTIR CHS. LTD.** CTS NO. 489A, 489/1, 489/2, 489/3 & 491, SITUATED AT PLOT NO. 212/D, AZAD LANE, OFF. S.V. ROAD, ANDHERI (WEST), MUMBAI-400058.

As per P.R. Cards Plot area 5099.10sq. Mtrs, As per Conveyance Deed, Plot Area 5324.60 Sq.Mtrs, As per Physical Survey, Plot Area 5324.60 Sq.Mtrs

A set of blank Tender form is available at SOCIETY office, from 09/08/2024 to 23/08/2024 from Monday to Saturday between 1.00PM to 5.00PM.

Last date for Tender Submission at society office is 06/09/2024 between 1.00 PM to 5.00PM.

PMC: S.PCONSULTING ENGINEERS PVT.LTD. MUMBAI- 400058.

PMC MAIL ID: info@speepmc.co.in
PMC CONTACT NO. 022-49790531
Society mail id:- ramlaxmankutir@gmail.com

Tender Cost : Rs.25,000/- (Non Refundable) by DEMAND DRAFT/PAY ORDER in favour of Society

Society reserves right to accept, reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform all the parties and concerned that the Public Notice published on 27th July 2024 by Nav Siddharth Nagar M.I.G Colony Co-op. Housing Societies Union Limited, Siddharth Nagar, Road No. 2, Goregaon (West), Mumbai - 400 104 is unilateral, illegal and void. By the said public Notice the said Union has invited Tender for Joint redevelopment scheme, Regulation No. 33(15) of DCPR 2034 of properties of 11 MHADA Societies bearing M.I.G. Building No. 17 to 47 of MAHDA Siddharth Nagar Layout of 248 Residential Units with proportionate layout members Prorata FSI Benefits.

The Public at large is informed by this Notice that we M/s. Shivam Development Corporation, Goregaon West Mumbai - 400104 are having valid and subsisting registered Development agreement and Irrevocable Power of attorney with i) New Siddharth Nagar Shree Laxmi Co-operative Housing Society Limited (Building No. 45 to 47- 24 Members), ii) Shanti Doot Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd (Building No. 19 and 20- 16 Members), iii) Siddharth Nagar Nalanda Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd. (Building No. 37, 38 and 41, 42 - 32 Members) and Development agreement and Irrevocable Power of attorney with iv) Goregaon Ankur Co-Op. Housing Society Ltd. (Building Nos. 29 to 31- 24 Members) of the said layout. The development agreement and Irrevocable Power of Attorney with these societies are registered/legal documents and have not been cancelled by any court of law and are still binding upon the societies.

Further, M/s. Shivam Development Corporation also has Legal, valid and subsisting agreements with the 58 individual members from other 6 societies of the said layout for consent to redevelopment.

M/s. Shivam Development Corporation is in process of taking appropriate legal proceeding against the Union/ Society for issuance of Unilateral Notice dated 27th July 2024 and calling for Tender for joint redevelopment of 11 societies.

M/s. Shivam Development Corporation still has legal and subsisting rights in the property stated in Public Notice dated 27th July 2024. All concerned are therefore requested to take notice of the same.

Mumbai, dated this 9th August 2024
Sd/-
For M/s. Shivam Development Corporation, Partner.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am investigating the title on behalf of my clients in respect of the property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written: Any person/s having or claiming any right, title, interest claim and demand whatsoever into or upon or in respect of the property described in the schedule hereunder written by way of inheritance, gift, bequest towards charges, mortgage, sale, lease, lien, otherwise howsoever is and are hereby required to make the same known in writing to the undersigned within 14 days from the date hereof at the expiration of such period it shall be presumed that such person or persons claiming or having any such claim right, title and interest shall be deemed to have waived the same.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO
All that piece or parcel of the Pension Tax Tenure land or ground since redeemed with the message, tenement or dwelling house standing thereon known as "Shankar Bhavan", situate lying and being on South side of Haldankar Bridge (French Bridge), A.R. Rangnekar Marg, Mumbai - 400 007, in the Registration Sub District of Bombay in the Island of Bombay containing by admeasurement 443.15 Sq. Meters or thereabouts and registered in the Books of the Collector of Land Revenue under New No. PART B/940, B & C/35, Revenue under Laughtons Survey No. Part 3/8001, 6/8002 and Cadastral Survey No. 3/1564 of Girgaon Division and in the Books of Assessor and the Collector of Municipal rates and taxes under "D" Ward No. 2555 and Street No. 1B. **MRS. MANISHA KAPADIA** Advocate High Court, GOVIND BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 140, PRINCESS STREET, MUMBAI 400 002

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that an investigating unencumbered title of my clients Mahesh Parbat Verat and Parbat Bhachu Verat joint owners in respect of Shop No. 24, Evershine No. 11 CHS Ltd, J.P. Road, Andheri (West), Mumbai - 400 053, have lost original agreement executed in 1977 - 78 between M/s. Super Builders in favour of T.H. Siamwala and F. T. Siamwala and agreement dated 11/04/1983 executed between T.H. Siamwala and F. T. Siamwala in favour of Satiyadevi Kanodia and Vinodkumar Singhania and the same is not traceable and Lost Report No. 67034 of 2024 assigned within 14 DAYS from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it will be presumed that there do not exist any claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived, surrendered and abandoned and my clients shall proceed with mortgage formalities with Financial Institution in respect of the above said Shop. Dated: 09/08/2024 Place: Mumbai

PUBLIC NOTICE

I am investigating the title on behalf of my clients in respect of the property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written: Any person/s having or claiming any right, title, interest claim and demand whatsoever into or upon or in respect of the property described in the schedule hereunder written by way of inheritance, gift, bequest towards charges, mortgage, sale, lease, lien, otherwise howsoever is and are hereby required to make the same known in writing to the undersigned within 14 days from the date hereof at the expiration of such period it shall be presumed that such person or persons claiming or having any such claim right, title and interest shall be deemed to have waived the same.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO
All that piece or parcel of the Pension Tax Tenure land or ground since redeemed with the message, tenement or dwelling house standing thereon known as "Shankar Bhavan", situate lying and being on South side of Haldankar Bridge (French Bridge), A.R. Rangnekar Marg, Mumbai - 400 007, in the Registration Sub District of Bombay in the Island of Bombay containing by admeasurement 443.15 Sq. Meters or thereabouts and registered in the Books of the Collector of Land Revenue under New No. PART B/940, B & C/35, Revenue under Laughtons Survey No. Part 3/8001, 6/8002 and Cadastral Survey No. 3/1564 of Girgaon Division and in the Books of Assessor and the Collector of Municipal rates and taxes under "D" Ward No. 2555 and Street No. 1B. **MRS. MANISHA KAPADIA** Advocate High Court, GOVIND BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 140, PRINCESS STREET, MUMBAI 400 002

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TO

Centre waives local trials for advanced foreign drugs, vax

Move Will Allow Speedy Access To Cancer Drugs

Durgesh Nandan Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: In a move that could help expedite launch of cutting-edge therapies in India, govt has decided to waive local trials for drugs and vaccines that are significantly more advanced therapeutically than the current standard of care and are approved in the USA, UK, Japan, Australia, Canada, and the European Union (EU). These drugs can be launched in the Indian market directly, subject to approval from CDSCO, country's top drug regulatory body.

Govt has issued an executive order on this, a copy of which is with TOI. The order suggests that same waiver (from local trial) will also be accorded to drugs for rare diseases, gene and cellular therapy products, new drugs used in pandemic situations, and new drugs used for special de-



A top health ministry official said potential differences in safety and efficacy of drugs affect 0.1 to 0.2% of the population

fence purpose that are approved in the six countries/regions.

The USA, UK, Japan, Australia, Canada and EU have strong regulatory mechanisms for drug approval. Local trials were required in most cases until now, among other reasons, to rule out any potential difference in safety and efficacy of drugs on Indian population. A top health ministry official said such differences can affect 0.1 to 0.2% of the population. "For that, we did not want to deprive rest of the patients/population who may be needing those medicines, hence this decision," the official said.

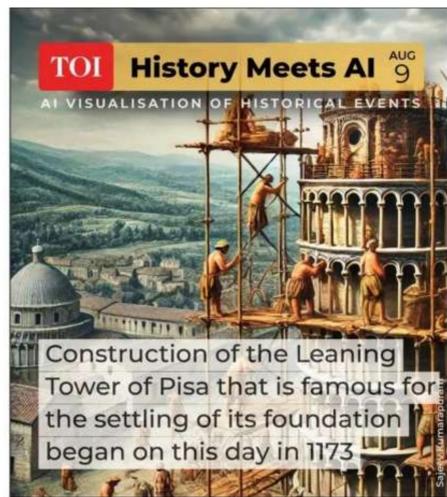
"There have been multiple instances in the past when reputed firms postponed or faced delays in launch of a new drug that are already approved in major markets such as EU because they couldn't undertake or complete local trials. The govt order will do away with this need," he further said.

One of the examples of drug categories that may benefit from govt decision is Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, also referred to as CART-Cell Therapy, that are already approved in the US for treating leukaemia. They might get speedy approval for use in India as well. CART-Cell

therapy is a type of treatment in which a patient's T cells (a type of immune system cell) are changed in laboratory so they will attack cancer cells.

Sacituzumab govitecan, a drug used to treat breast cancer that has spread in the body, isn't available in India currently. With this new govt policy, this drug may soon find a way into Indian market. Dr P Raghu Ram, founding director of Hyderabad-based KIMS — Ushalakshmi Centre for Breast Cancer Diseases, said,

Dr Pooja Sharma, project lead, patient advocates for Clinical Research (PACER), said, "Implementation of rule 101 that offers waiver from trial for certain drugs that are already approved in the USA, UK and Japan is a welcome move for access to care for Indian patients as it allows drugs from robust and regulated markets to come to India without tedium of local Indian trials (which can take some years). She added that this will not mean any increased risk because the regulator will ensure post marketing monitoring through surveillance and post marketing clinical trials.



TOI History Meets AI AUG 9 AI VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

Construction of the Leaning Tower of Pisa that is famous for the settling of its foundation began on this day in 1173

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers Richa Gandhi

US' scorching record at the Summer Games

US has been the dominant force at the Summer Olympics with the highest overall medal count. Since the inaugural Games in 1896, American athletes have won 2,646 medals, including 1,067 gold. The erstwhile USSR, Germany (including East & West previously), Great Britain, and France are the other countries in the top 5

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
US	1,067	838	741	2,646
USSR*	721	677	770	2,168
Germany	441	455	492	1,388
Great Britain	285	318	315	918
France	224	255	276	755

Summer Olympic Medal Tally 1896-2020
1 2,646
*USSR includes all the countries that were part of the Soviet Union Source: IOC

Odisha plans to set up India's 1st univ for visually impaired

Hemanta Pradhan
@timesofindia.com

Bhubaneswar: India's first international university for the visually impaired will come up in Odisha, providing education and technical courses, officials said on Thursday.

India has over 50 lakh visually impaired people and Odisha is home to over 5.21 lakh. "We need a comprehensive and exclusive university for them to cater to their education and training needs," said Sannyashai Be-

hera, a visually impaired deputy secretary of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (SSEPD) department.

Named after Bhima Bhoi, a visually impaired poet and 19th century social reformer, the university will have a centre of excellence on technology, besides schools for higher education.

A delegation from Japan's University of Tsukuba, a famous special school for the visually impaired, met SSEPD officials on Thursday.

'Jai Hind' will replace 'good morning' in Haryana schools

Munieshwer Sagar
@timesofindia.com

Chandigarh: From the coming Independence Day, daily greetings in Haryana schools will acquire a patriotic flavour. Instead of "Good Morning", students will greet each other and their teachers with "Jai Hind".

The directorate of school education has issued instructions to all education officers at district and block levels, principals and headmasters to replace "Good

Morning" with "Jai Hind" from Aug 15. State govt has decided to replace the greeting to "inculcate a deep sense of patriotism and national pride" in students.

FROM AUGUST 15

"Before hoisting of the national flag on Independence Day, the instructions should be implemented," the department emphasised, adding that greeting each other with "Jai Hind" will ensure "the students are inspired

every day with the spirit of national unity and respect for the rich history of our country". The department reasoned that the new greeting will also promote discipline, traditional values and unity among students, and will remind them daily "of their identity as Indians and their potential contribution to the future of the country".

Respect for the nation will increase if the students use "Jai Hind" as their daily greeting, the department further said.

MP official refuses to open temple for puja as ASI calls it mosque

P.Naveen@timesofindia.com

Bhopal: After Bhojshala, a new controversy has emerged in Madhya Pradesh, this time around the ancient Vijay Surya Mandir in MP's Vidisha that is managed by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Pictures of this temple had gone viral some time ago for its uncanny resemblance to the new Parliament building.

For decades, Hindu devotees have observed religious rituals outside the site on Nag Panchami. This year, however, Hindu groups sought permission to enter the premises and hold puja on August 9.

District collector Buddesh Vaishya forwarded their request to ASI, which responded by citing a 1951 gazette notification categorizing the site as 'Bijamandal Mosque'. The collector then denied permission for worship, sparking outrage among Hindu groups.

They oppose ASI's classification of the site as a mosque, asserting that it has been a place of Hindu worship since 1972.

The Vijay Surya Mandir / Bijamandal mosque site — around 60km from Bhopal and barely 10km from Sanchi Stupa — has had a tumultuous history. The ASI-Bhopal circle website says the mosque was constructed on ruins of a Hin-



Pictures of the temple in Vidisha had recently gone viral for its uncanny resemblance to the new Parliament building

du Temple, and one of the inscriptions found on the pillar says it was a temple of Goddess Charchika.

It is believed to have been built in the 11th-12th Century to honour the Sun God. The temple suffered significant damage during Mughal rule, particularly under the reign of Aurangzeb. However, under Maratha rule, the mosque was relocated, and the site fell into disrepair, say locals.

In 1934, the discovery of the temple ruins sparked a movement, led by Hindu Mahasabha, for its preservation. Since then, the temple has been opened for worship only once a year, on Nag Panchami. To address tensions in 1965, the then chief minister, Dwarka Prasad Mishra, established a separate Idgah for Muslims. Muslim representatives refrained from speaking to media.

As bystanders film, UP man chokes minor sister to death

Meerut: A 26-year-old man allegedly choked his 17-year-old sister to death in full public view in Meerut, as villagers, stopping to witness the crime, made videos of the incident until she was dead, reports Krishna Chaudhary. According to cops, the accused was allegedly infuriated by his sister's wish to marry her paramour from another religion which led him to commit the crime.

SP (Meerut rural) Kamlesh Bahadur said, "We've arrested the accused, Mohd Haseen, who strangled his sister follo-

INTER-RELIGION LOVE

wing a heated altercation at home. An FIR was registered against him under BNS section 103 (murder), among others, following a complaint."

SHO (Incholi), Yogendra Singh, added, "The victim was in a relationship with a man from a different community, much to the unhappiness of her family. In March, she had eloped with him. Her family filed a complaint, claiming that he had kidnapped the minor. Police later tracked them down, and the 'lover' was sent to jail on abduction charges." Singh further said, "A few days ago, the lover secured bail. In the meantime, the girl started talking to him again. On Wednesday, the siblings had an argument as the minor tried to go to her lover's place."



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tender & notices
PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that our Client intends to acquire, by purchase from Mr. Shabbir Taher Muchhala and Mrs. Sarah Shabbir Muchhala (the Owners), the premises more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written (the Premises). The Owners have represented to our client that they are well and sufficiently entitled to the Premises, free from all encumbrances of any nature whatsoever.

All person(s) having any claim or demand in respect of or against the right, title or interest of the Owners to the Premises or any part thereof, whether by way of inheritance, possession, assignment, gift, lease, leave and license, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, sale, transfer, mortgage, hypothecation, pledge, exchange, encumbrance, loans, advances, settlement of debt, family arrangement/settlement, bequest, succession, injunction or under any decree, order or award by any court of law, tribunal, revenue or statutory authority or arbitration or under any agreement and/or conveyance, license (either agitated in any litigation or otherwise), contracts / memorandum of understandings, letter of intent/ heads of terms, development rights, partnership, right of way, its pends, reservation, power of attorney, option, right of first refusal, preemption or any liability or any commitment or any claim or demand which is adverse to or inconsistent with the right, title or interest of the Owners or even otherwise any other right, title, demand, claim or interest whatsoever to or in respect of or concerning the Premises, are hereby required to make the same known in writing, to us at the address mentioned below within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication hereof together with copies of all documents on the basis of which such claims, demands or rights are being made or agitated.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

40 (forty) shares of the face value of Rs. 50/- (Rupees Fifty Only) each, bearing distinctive nos. 0361 to 0400 (both inclusive) represented by Share Certificate nos. 19 and 20 issued by The Reserve by Runwal Co-Operative Housing Society Limited along with right to use, occupy, possess and enjoy the residential premises being apartment nos. (i) 1901 on the 19th floor; and (ii) 2001 on the 20th floor, both individually measuring approximately 1865.9 square feet carpet area equivalent to 173.34 square meters carpet area in Wing A together with the right to use 6 car parking spaces (i.e. Nos. 21, 22, 23, 54, 55, and 56 on the Basement-1 Level) in the project known as "The Reserve" constructed on all that piece and parcel of land or ground situate at Lower Parel Division, at Haines Road, in the City and Registration Sub-District of Bombay Collector's New Nos. 12200 and 12162, Laughton's Survey Nos. 1/3139, 2/3139, and 1-2/3139 and Cadastral Survey No. 2/136 of the Lower Parel Division in all measuring 7394.06 square meters together with structures standing thereon in the Registration District and Sub-District of Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban. Dated this 9th day of August, 2024.

Sd/-
Ms. Anuja Kedia
Senior Partner
Messrs. Parinam Law Associates,
4th floor, Express Towers,
Nariman Point,
Mumbai 400021

To advertise in this section call
JITESH 9867407521

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that we are, under our clients' instructions, investigating the title of DARVESH PROPERTIES PRIVATE LIMITED, holding CIN U70100MH1988PTC049050, having its registered address at 501, Darvesh Chambers, S.V. Road, Khar (West), Mumbai 400 052 ("Darvesh"), to the property more particularly described in the First Schedule below (the "Property").

Our clients have been represented as follows:-

1) VISTRA ITCL INDIA LIMITED [previously named "IL&FS Trust Company Limited"], holding CIN U66020MH1995PLC095507, having its registered address at The IL & FS Finance Centre, Plot C-22, G Block, 7th Floor, Bandra Kuria Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai 400051 ("Vistra"), have a charge over the Property as per a Deed of Trust Deed dated 24th July 2018 executed between Darvesh (as the "Company" therein), Darvesh Infrastructure Private Limited (as the "Co-Obligor" therein), Usman Abubaker Darvesh, Maheeb Usman Darvesh, Naadeem Usman Darvesh (collectively as the "Promoters" therein) and the said Vistra (as the "Debenture Trustee" therein) (registered under Serial No. BDR-15/3742 of 2018). As per the said Deed of Trust Deed, Darvesh created an English mortgage (without possession) in respect of, inter-alia, the Property in favour of the said Vistra (acting in its capacity of Debenture Trustee in trust and for the benefit of Nippon Life India AIF Management Limited, holding CIN U74999MH2000PLC127497 ("Nippon Life India").

2) (i) Westin Infra World Private Limited (holding CIN U70109MH2021PTC361824, having its registered address at G-3, Gold Crown CHSL, 2, J.P. Road, Picnic Cottage, Versova, Andheri (W), Mumbai 400061 ("Westin Infra"), and (ii) Daxor Commercial Trade Private Limited (holding CIN U51909GJ2019PTC106206, having its registered address at M-5, 10/79, Shastri Nagar, Ahmedabad 380013) ("Daxor Commercial"), have been appointed as development managers inter-alia in respect of the project being undertaken on the said Property, as per a Development Management Agreement dated 14th Dec 2022 executed between (i) the said Darvesh (therein referred to as "Darvesh/Developer/Issuer") (ii) the said Westin Infra (therein also referred to as "Westin Infra"), (iii) the said Daxor Commercial (therein also referred to as "Daxor Commercial"), and (iv) Darvesh Infrastructure Private Limited (holding CIN U70100MH1988PTC048293 having its registered address at 401, Darvesh Chambers 743, P.D. Hinduja Road, Khar West, Mumbai - 400052) (therein referred to as "Darvesh Infrastructure" / "Existing Corporate Guarantor"), and (v) Mr. Usman Abubaker Darvesh (therein referred to as "Promoter 1"), Mr. Maheeb Usman Darvesh (therein referred to as "Promoter 2"), Mr. Manish Rach (therein referred to as "Promoter 3"), Mr. Asif Hingwala (therein referred to as "Promoter 4"), Mr. Sandeep Kothari (therein referred to as "Promoter 5"), and the said Vistra (therein referred to as the "Debenture Trustee").

3) The said Darvesh, Vistra, Westin Infra and Daxor Commercial have lost/misplaced the original documents relating to the title of the Property, a list whereof is mentioned in the Second Schedule below, and that the same have not been pledged or offered as security to any third party.

4) No third-party rights of any nature whatsoever have been created by Darvesh and/or Vistra and/or Westin Infra and/or Daxor Commercial and/or Nippon Life India, in respect of the unfinished structures under construction on the Property or in respect of any of the flat/premises in the structures and/or generally in respect of the Property or any part thereof, nor any finance raised on the security thereof.

Any person in possession of any of the original title documents of the Property listed in the Second Schedule below or any person having any rights, title, interest, demand or any claims in or to the Property described in the First Schedule hereto or any part thereof, by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, lease, sub-lease, development rights, tenancy, sub-tenancy, license, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, encumbrance, covenant, trust, pre-emption, agreement, lis

pendens, settlement, decree or order of any court, business arrangement or otherwise whatsoever is hereby required to make the same known in writing, along with scanned copies of documents supporting their claim, to the undersigned at their office at WADIA GHANDY & CO., N.M. WADIA BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR, 123, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD, FORT, MUMBAI - 400 001, with a copy marked to gaurav.gopal@wadiaghandy.com in within fourteen (14) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which claims or objections, if any, will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

(Description of Property)

Freehold land bearing C.T.S. No. C/1255/A of Village Bandra, measuring 379.75 square meters (after setback), with the building (partly constructed) standing thereon situated Off Carter Road, Bandra (West), Mumbai 400 050, and bounded as follows:-
ON or towards the North : by CTS 1253, 1254 & 1256;
ON or towards the South : by Road;
ON or towards the East : by CTS 1256;
ON or towards the West : by CTS 1254.

THE SECOND SCHEDULE

(List of original documents misplaced)

1. Indenture of Conveyance dated 20th July 2005 executed by Joseph Dominic Philip Pereira of the One Part and Pranay Construction Private Limited of the Other Part and registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. BDR-15/446 of 2005;
2. Indenture of Rectification dated 22nd August 2005 executed by Joseph Dominic Philip Pereira of the One Part and Pranay Construction Private Limited of the Other Part and registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. BDR-15/446 of 2005;
3. Indenture of Conveyance dated 16th July 2010 executed by (1) Mrs. Elyna Benita Pereira, (2) Mr. Gerard Otto Pereira and (3) Ms. Charmaine Ann Pereira of the One Part and Darvesh Properties Private Limited of the Other Part and registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. BDR-1/8163 of 2010;
4. Power of Attorney dated 16th July 2010 executed by (1) Mrs. Elyna Benita Pereira, (2) Mr. Gerard Otto Pereira and (3) Ms. Charmaine Ann Pereira in favour of Darvesh Properties Private Limited and registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. BDR-1/8163 of 2010;

5. Indenture of Conveyance dated 16th July 2010 executed by (1) Mrs. Evelyn Anne Pereira and (2) Mrs. June Anand Parmeswaran of the One Part and Darvesh Properties Private Limited of the Other Part and registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. BDR-1/8163 of 2010;
6. Power of Attorney dated 16th July 2010 executed by (1) Mrs. Evelyn Anne Pereira and (2) Mrs. June Anand Parmeswaran in favour of Darvesh Properties Private Limited and registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. BDR-1/8163 of 2010;

7. Indenture of Conveyance dated 16th July 2010 executed by (1) Mrs. Tresa Alphonso Swami alias Keki Wadiya, (2) Mr. Joseph Percy Pereira, (3) Mrs. Philomena Naronha, (4) Ms. Rosy Kunju Joganon, (5) Mr. Blaise Percy Pereira and (6) Mr. Rogers alias Rajesh Percy Pereira of the One Part and Darvesh Properties Private Limited of the Other Part and registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. BDR-1/8164 of 2010;

8. Power of Attorney dated 16th July 2010 executed by (1) Mrs. Tresa Alphonso Swami alias Keki Wadiya, (2) Mr. Joseph Percy Pereira, (3) Mrs. Philomena Naronha, (4) Ms. Rosy Kunju Joganon, (5) Mr. Blaise Percy Pereira and (6) Mr. Rogers alias Rajesh Percy Pereira in favour of Darvesh Properties Private Limited and registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. BDR-1/8164 of 2010;

9. Indenture of Conveyance dated 16th July 2010 executed by (1) Mrs. Tresa Alphonso Swami alias Keki Wadiya, (2) Mr. Joseph Percy Pereira, (3) Mrs. Philomena Naronha, (4) Ms. Rosy Kunju Joganon, (5) Mr. Blaise Percy Pereira and (6) Mr. Rogers alias Rajesh Percy Pereira in favour of Darvesh Properties Private Limited and registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. BDR-1/8164 of 2010;

10. Indenture of Mortgage dated 30th January 2015 executed between the

Company and Indiabulls and registered with the office of Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. BDR-4/768/2015.

11. Deed of Re-conveyance dated 18th November 2015 executed by and between, Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited and Darvesh Properties Private Limited and registered with the Office of Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. AND-4/9493/2015.

12. Indenture of Mortgage dated November 20, 2015 executed between the Company and the IL&FS Trust Company Limited and registered with the Office of Sub-Registrar of Assurances at Bandra under Serial No. BDR-4/8818/2015.

13. Indenture Bond dated 29th June 2017 issued by Darvesh Properties Private Limited and registered with the Office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. AND-3/6404/2017.

14. Deed of Re-conveyance dated 30th March 2017 executed between Vistra ITCL India Limited and the Company and registered with the office of sub-registrar of assurance under Serial No. AND-2/2337 of 2017;

15. Indemnity Bond dated 29th June 2017 executed by the Company and registered with the office of Sub-registrar of Assurance under Serial No. AND-3/6404 of 2017;

16. Deed of Mortgage dated 24th July 2018 executed between the Company and others and Vistra ITCL India Limited and registered with the office of Sub-registrar of Assurance under Serial No. AND-4/4603 of 2020.

Dated this 9th day of August 2024.

For M/s. Wadia Ghandy & Co.
Mr. Gaurav Gopal
(Partner)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO PUBLIC AT LARGE THAT on the instruction of my client who intends to purchase the said property, I am investigating the title of the Property described in schedule. Any person(s), Firm, Company, Bank, Financial Institutions and/or anybody having any share, right, title, benefit, interest, claim, objections and/or demand in respect of the Property described here in below or any part thereof by way of sale, deposit of title deeds, beneficial interest, exchange, security, assignment, mortgage, hypothecation, charge, lien, gift, trust, inheritance, easement, memorandum of understanding, maintenance, caretaker base, lease sub-lease, possession, tenancy Occupation except the aforesaid, release through any agreement, writing contracts/agreements, decree or court order of any court of law or otherwise any other rights whatsoever, howsoever or otherwise are therefore requested to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing within 15 days hereof with all supporting documents, if any, otherwise it will be presumed that there is no such outstanding claim or demand or any right, title or interest in respect of the said property and my client shall proceed to complete the transaction in respect of the below immovable accordingly mentioned property and any claim, right, title, interest or demand of anyone, not intimated to the undersigned as aforesaid, shall be deemed to have been waived, abandoned, given up and released. If any claim received after notice period, will not be considered or entertained and my client will proceed in the matter and complete the transaction, which please note.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Property)

All that piece and parcel of contiguous land forming part of forming part of the CTS Nos. 647 Survey No. 341 measuring 206.15 square meters lying, being and situated in the Gandhi Nagar Layout of MHADA, Bandra East Village, Mumbai Suburban District, H/E Ward, Bandra, Mumbai along with the office building No. 3/2 standing on the Land. The land comprised in the Property is bounded as follows:

On or towards the North: T No 1 and Road
On or towards the South: Building No 48
On or towards the East: 24.38 square meters wide road
On or towards the West: Building No 49

Dated this 9th day of August 2024

For Khaitan & Co
Sd/-
Harsh Parikh
Partner

Sd/-
ADV. DIKSHITA GUPTA
Advocate for
Intending Purchaser
Office no. 35-36, 1st Floor,
Cine Wonder Mall,
Kapurbawadi Thane (w)
400610 Ph. 022 25894111
Cont. 9004389001

TO BOOK AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL:
ABHIJEET MISHRA 7710888884

TO BOOK AN ADVERTISEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL:
ABHIJEET MISHRA 7710888884

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that, we are investigating the title of (i) MRS. SUNITA MALOJIRAO CHAVAN; (ii) DR. RANJIT MALOJIRAO CHAVAN; (iii) SAU JAYASHRI / GAURI SHEKHAR VICHARE; and (iv) URMILA SHAHESH DESHMUKH, all heirs of Late Mr. Malojirao Chavan and adult Indian inhabitants, having their address at building No. 3/2, Gandhi Nagar, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051 (collectively "Owners"), to the property comprising of land and building more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written ("Property"), as the Owners propose to redevelop the Property through our clients.

The land forming part of the Property measuring 206.15 square meters was leased by the Maharashtra Housing and Development Board ("MHADA") to the Late Mr. Malojirao Chavan under an Indenture of Lease dated 18 November 1997, which was registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. PBDR-1/1060/1997. The office building No. 3/2 standing on the land, has been sold and conveyed to the Late Mr. Malojirao Chavan under a Sale Deed dated 18 November 1997, which was registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. PBDR-1/1062/1997. The Owners are the sole surviving heirs of Late Mr. Malojirao Chavan.

All persons having any share, claim, right, title interest or demand whatsoever into, upon or in respect of the right, title or interest of the Owners to the Property or any part or portion thereof including by way of sale, share, conveyance, acquisition, requisition, right of development, right to utilize the Property, potential, FSI consumption, partition, transfer, exchange, assignment, mortgage, agreement for sale, lease, relinquishment, power of attorney, guarantee, charge, gift, trust, maintenance, inheritance, claim, possession, let, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, license, sub-license, easement, devise, Will, bequest, family arrangement / settlement, allotment, encumbrance, covenant or beneficial right / interest under any trust, right of prescription or preemption or under any agreement / writing / document or other disposition or under any decree, order or award passed by any court or tribunal or authority or otherwise claiming howsoever including by operation of law ("Claims"), are hereby required to make the same known in writing to Khaitan & Co, Advocates, at One World Centre, 13th Floor, Tower 1C, 841 Senapati Bapat Marg, Mumbai - 400 013 also with a copy addressed over email at mumbai@khaitan.co (marked to the attention of Mr. Harsh Parikh), along with copies of necessary supporting documents, within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which it would be deemed that the claimant(s) has / have relinquished such Claims and that no such Claims, right, title, estate or interest exist and same shall be treated as waived or abandoned and/or not binding upon the Owners and/or our clients and the Owners shall be free to complete the redevelopment of the Property, without any reference or recourse to such Claims.

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(Description of the Property)

All that piece and parcel of contiguous land forming part of forming part of the CTS Nos. 647 Survey No. 341 measuring 206.15 square meters lying, being and situated in the Gandhi Nagar Layout of MHADA, Bandra East Village, Mumbai Suburban District, H/E Ward, Bandra, Mumbai along with the office building No. 3/2 standing on the Land. The land comprised in the Property is bounded as follows:

On or towards the North: T No 1 and Road
On or towards the South: Building No 48
On or towards the East: 24.38 square meters wide road
On or towards the West: Building No 49

Dated this 9th day of August 2024

For Khaitan & Co
Sd/-
Harsh Parikh
Partner

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Dated this 9th day of August 2024

For Khaitan & Co
Sd/-
Harsh Parikh
Partner

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NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that, we are investigating the title of (i) MRS. SUNITA MALOJIRAO CHAVAN; (ii) DR. RANJIT MALOJIRAO CHAVAN; (iii) SAU JAYASHRI / GAURI SHEKHAR VICHARE; and (iv) URMILA SHAHESH DESHMUKH, all heirs of Late Mr. Malojirao Chavan and adult Indian inhabitants, having their address at building No. 3/2, Gandhi Nagar, Bandra (E), Mumbai - 400 051 (collectively "Owners"), to the property comprising of land and building more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written ("Property"), as the Owners propose to redevelop the Property through our clients.

The land forming part of the Property measuring 206.15 square meters was leased by the Maharashtra Housing and Development Board ("MHADA") to the Late Mr. Malojirao Chavan under an Indenture of Lease dated 18 November 1997, which was registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. PBDR-1/1060/1997. The office building No. 3/2 standing on the land, has been sold and conveyed to the Late Mr. Malojirao Chavan under a Sale Deed dated 18 November 1997, which was registered with the office of the Sub-Registrar of Assurances under Serial No. PBDR-1/1062/1997. The Owners are the sole surviving heirs of Late Mr. Malojirao Chavan.

All persons having any share, claim, right, title interest or demand whatsoever into, upon or in respect of the right, title or interest of the Owners to the Property or any part or portion thereof including by way of sale, share, conveyance, acquisition, requisition, right of development, right to utilize the Property, potential, FSI consumption, partition, transfer, exchange, assignment, mortgage, agreement for sale, lease, relinquishment, power of attorney, guarantee, charge, gift, trust, maintenance, inheritance, claim, possession, let, lease, sub-lease, tenancy, license, sub-license, easement, devise, Will, bequest, family arrangement / settlement, allotment, encumbrance, covenant or beneficial right / interest under any trust, right of prescription or preemption or under any agreement / writing / document or other disposition or under any decree, order or award passed by any court or tribunal or authority or otherwise claiming howsoever including by operation of law ("Claims"), are hereby required to make the same known in writing to Khaitan & Co, Advocates, at One World Centre, 13th Floor, Tower 1C, 841 Senapati Bapat Marg, Mumbai - 400 013 also with a copy addressed over email at mumbai@khaitan.co (marked to the attention of Mr. Harsh Parikh), along with copies of necessary supporting documents, within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which it would be deemed that the

FIR filed 3 yrs after man's death, HC calls out 'ghost'

Police Duly 'Recorded' His Statement Too

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: Fools rush in where angels fear to tread. "Ghosts" seem to prowl Uttar Pradesh police files when the complainant was dead three years before the FIR's filing, Allahabad high court observed on Thursday in one such bizarre matter.

The paranormal parable did not end there in the cheating case filed with Kushinagar police. The investigating officer has been shown duly "recording" the statement of the dead man and has even filed a chargesheet against the accused.

Justice Saurabh Shyam Shamsery was left more baffled when the files showed the complainant had even signed the vakalatnama (affidavit) "on Dec 19, 2023" when he had died in 2011. The FIR was lodged in 2014. "It appears that all the proceedings are undertaken by a ghost," Justice Saurabh Shyam Shamsery said, unable to take the surreal saga any more during a hearing on Aug 6.

The HC quashed the proceedings and ordered the Kushinagar SP to probe the investigating officer (IO's)



Getty Images/Stockphoto
PARANORMAL PROCEEDINGS: 'It appears that all proceedings are undertaken by a ghost,' said Allahabad high court

conduct in the case.

"It is very strange that a dead person has not only lodged an FIR but has recorded his statement before investigating officer (IO) and, thereafter, a vakalatnama has also been filed on behalf of him," Justice Shamsery said.

The FIR was filed at Kotwali Hata police station of Kushinagar in 2014. Shabd Prakash, the complainant mentioned, had died on Dec 19, 2011. This was corroborated by his official records, including the death certificate, and testimonies of his wife.

It remains a mystery how the IO recorded Prakash's statement as if he was alive and capable of participating in the proceedings, and later filed a chargesheet on Nov 23, 2014, naming him as a prosecution witness.

Girl's testimony nails UP dad in mother's killing

Lucknow: Concluding a murder trial within a year, a court in UP's Sultanpur held a man, 37, guilty of killing his wife after his daughter gave a statement against him, reports Pathikrit Chakraborty.

The man allegedly strangled his wife to death inside their SUV when they were travelling on Purvanchal Expressway on Aug 13, 2023. He was about to douse his 12-year-old daughter and five-year-old son in petrol and set them ablaze when a police patrol spotted them. A police team broke open SUV's windows and arrested the man.

Later, the children narrated the entire sequence to police. The girl's statement in court played a crucial role in proving the man's guilt. The police chargesheet states that the man was frustrated and had an "inferiority complex" as his wife had a huge fan following on Instagram. She had blocked him on this account and remained glued to the platform even at odd hours.

Woman, 2 others get 20-yr RI for '16 kidnap-gangrape of Dalit teen

Amroha: An additional district and sessions judge sentenced a man to life imprisonment and two others, including a woman, to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment under SC/ ST Act for their involvement in kidnapping and gangrape of a Dalit girl in 2016 in a village in UP's Amroha Dehat. The court also imposed a collective fine of Rs 1.2 lakh on the three convicts.

The incident took place on July 10, 2016, when the main convict, accompanied by a neighbour, visited the girl's (then 19) house on pretext of asking for water and kidnapped her. They took her to a sugarcane field near Kailasa border and threatened her with knife and gun. Next morning the woman held her hostage at her house and arranged to sell her. — Harveer Dabas

Teacher gets 20-yr jail for abusing 12 students

Jaipur: A Pocos court in Rajasthan on Thursday sentenced a school teacher to 20 years in jail after convicting him in a case of sexual abuse of 12 students. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 81,000.

he summoned academically weak students to his room at night under the pretext of extra classes and sodomized them multiple times, the case file said. The crime came to light during a parent-teacher meeting at the school on Dec 7, 2019. TNN

h-06
ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION - 2024 (OJEE - 2024)
PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING OJEE WEB COUNSELLING FOR 2024-25

No: OJEE/375 Date: 08.08.2024

This is for the information of all concerned that OJEE Web-Based Counselling Process for Integrated MBA and Pending process for LE Pharmacy is going to start from 9th August, 2024 (Friday).

Interested candidates having valid OJEE 2024 Rank (OJEE conducted during May, 2024) are advised to visit OJEE websites (www.ojee.nic.in/ / www.odishajee.com) and see the detailed Counselling Schedule and the process for these courses.

They are further advised to carefully go through the documents, "Counselling Brochure" and "Step-by-Step Procedure", available in the website to get other detailed information about the entire counselling process. The process of Integrated MBA will be as per the schedule only.

Sd/-
Chairman, OJEE ODISHA
OIPR-44026/11/0006/24-25

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We would be glad to hear from our customers on any queries or complaints that they may have with our service. We invite our customers to call us on 121 for general information and queries, and on 198 for service requests and complaints.

If any customer is not satisfied with the resolution provided for the complaint filed, he/she may choose to file an appeal with the Appellate Authority through any of the modes mentioned in the table below, or by simply calling 198 along with the details of the complaint (Service Request No.).

	For mobile customers	For fixedline and broadband customers
General Information Number	121 or 9892012345 (postpaid) 121 or 9892098920 (prepaid)	121 or 022-44444121
Consumer Care Number	198 or 9892012345 (postpaid) 198 or 9892098920 (prepaid)	198 or 022-44444198
E-mail	121@airtel.com	
Website	www.airtel.in	
Name	Shamal Dhairyawan	
Contact number	9987244865	022-40030143
E-mail	appellate.mumbai@airtel.com	appellate.west@airtel.com
Address	Bharti Airtel Ltd., 7th Floor, Interface Building No. 7, Link Road, Malad West, Mumbai - 400064	

To register a new complaint <https://www.airtel.in/contact-us>
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121 IVR and 198 are toll-free number. Advisor assistance at 121 is chargeable at 50p/3 mins for mobile (prepaid). Please allow the Appellate Authority 39 days to provide a solution.
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To start mobile internet services, SMS START to 1925 (Toll Free) or Call 1925.
To deactivate SMS STOP to 1925 or Call 1925.
*Applicable only in Mumbai.

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest
(RIL/E&P/EOI/2024/01)
(Under International Competitive Bidding)

Reliance is India's largest private sector company, with a consolidated revenue of ₹ 10,00,122 crore (US\$ 119.9 billion), cash profit of ₹ 1,41,969 crore (US\$ 17.0 billion) and net profit of ₹ 79,020 crore (US\$ 9.5 billion) for the year ended March 31, 2024. Reliance's activities span hydrocarbon exploration and production, petroleum refining and marketing, petrochemicals, advanced materials and composites, renewables (solar and hydrogen), retail and digital services. Currently ranked 86th, Reliance is the largest private sector company from India to be featured in Fortune's Global 500 list of 'World's Largest Companies' for 2024.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), as operator, on behalf of itself & its co-venturer BP Exploration (Alpha) Limited invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced Contractors/ Vendors for following categories, for Deep-water Block No. KG-DWN-98/3 (KG-D6) in East coast of India:

Category Number	Category Description
OAM/KGD6/2024/1	Equipment, Materials & Services (incl. Administrative related services) for Operation and Maintenance of Onshore & Offshore facilities including FPSO

Interested Contractors/Vendors are requested to visit our website www.ril.com (eB2B Suppliers> E&P Notices for EOI) for further details on the above and submit their EOI through e-mail on deveoirresponse.eandp@ril.com, on or before **30 August 2024**. Subject of the mail should mention "RIL/E&P/EOI/2024/01" along with category number. For documents size beyond 10 MB, Contractors/Vendors should request RIL through e-mail to provide FTP link for uploading EOI documents.

Address for Communication
Chief – Supply Chain Management,
Reliance Industries Limited, Petroleum Business (E&P),
Reliance Corporate Park (RCP),
Building No 11, 'A' Wing, Second Floor,
Thane-Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai - 400 701, India.
Email: deveoirresponse.eandp@ril.com
CIN: L17110MH1973PLC019786

Reliance Industries Limited
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CENTRAL RAILWAY
WALK-IN INTERVIEW POST OF TEACHER

Walk-in interview in Teaching (Category Notification for Filling - up the posts in Teachers Category on contract basis in Central Railway, Secondary School (E.M.) & Jr. College Kalyan. Total (01) One post of Contract Teacher are to be engaged on Contract basis in Central Railway, Secondary School (E.M.) & Jr. College, Kalyan. This scheme will be valid for a maximum period 200 working days and a minimum period of 7 working days or availability of a regularly selected candidate whichever is earliest and subject to any instruction issued from time to time.

Schedule of Walk-in Interview:
Interview Schedule: 23.08.2024, Time: 10.00 A.M to 13.00 P.M. Post of Interview: Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT) English, Venue: In the chamber of Principal Central Railway Sec (EM) School & Jr College Kalyan. Note: For further detail please notice board of Central Railway Secondary School Kalyan or visit the following website-
1) www.cr.indianrailways.gov.in
→ About us → Division → Mumbai → Personnel.
4) www.cr.indianrailways.gov.in
→ News & Recruitment → Notifications.

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Institute level Quota (20%) + Vacancies, if any, after CAP	Submission of FREE online application form (available on Institute's website) up to 20 August 2024 for Institute Level Round.

► **Direct Second Year Engineering (D.S.E.)** ☎ 961 902 6235

Seats (D.S.E)	Activity
Vacancies, if any, after CAP	Submission of FREE online application form (available on Institute's website) upto CAP Round III of State CET Cell, Government of Maharashtra.

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• No application/processing fee.
• Online application form shall remain open upto cut-off date of admissions, for submitting the application for future vacancies, if any.
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NOTICE FOR THE ATTENTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY
FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (POST LISTING) AND INFORMATION ON E-VOTING

Notice convening the First Annual General Meeting (Post Listing) ("AGM") of the Company, scheduled to be held in compliance with applicable circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the Securities and Exchange Board of India, through Video Conferencing ("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM") on **Friday, August 30, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. (IST)**, and the standalone and consolidated audited financial statements for the financial year 2023-24, along with Board's Report, Auditors' Report and other documents required to be attached thereto, have been sent on **Thursday, August 8, 2024**, electronically, to the members of the Company. The Notice of the AGM and the aforesaid documents are available on the Company's website at www.jfs.in and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, that is, BSE Limited ("BSE") and National Stock Exchange of India Limited ("NSE") at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com, respectively, and on the website of Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent, KFin Technologies Limited ("KFinTech"), at <https://evoting.kfintech.com>.

The documents referred to in the Notice of the AGM are available for inspection electronically by the members from the date of circulation of the Notice of the AGM. Members seeking to inspect such documents can send an e-mail to jfs.agm@jfs.in.

Remote e-voting and e-voting at the AGM:

The Company is providing to its members, facility to exercise their right to vote on resolutions proposed to be passed at AGM by electronic means ("e-voting"). Members may cast their votes remotely on the dates mentioned herein below ("remote e-voting"). The Company has engaged the services of KFinTech as the agency to provide e-voting facility.

Information and instructions comprising manner of voting, including voting remotely by members holding shares in dematerialised mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email address has been provided in the Notice of the AGM. The manner in which (a) persons who become members of the Company after despatch of the Notice of the AGM and holding shares as on the Cut-off Date (mentioned herein); and (b) members who have forgotten the User ID and Password can obtain / generate the User ID and Password, has also been provided in the Notice of the AGM.

The remote e-voting facility will be available during the following voting period:
Commencement of remote e-voting: **1:00 p.m. IST on Sunday, August 25, 2024**
End of remote e-voting: **5:00 p.m. IST on Thursday, August 29, 2024**

The remote e-voting will not be allowed beyond the aforesaid date and time and the remote e-voting module shall be forthwith disabled by KFinTech upon expiry of the aforesaid period.

Members attending the AGM who have not cast vote(s) by remote e-voting will be able to vote electronically ("Insta Poll") at the AGM.

A person, whose name is recorded in the register of members / register of beneficial owners as on the Cut-off Date, that is, Friday, August 23, 2024 only shall be entitled to avail the facility of remote e-voting or for voting through Insta Poll.

Manner of registering / updating e-mail address:

a) Members holding shares in physical mode, who have not registered / updated their e-mail address with the Company, are requested to register / update their e-mail address by submitting Form ISR-1 (available on the website of the Company at www.jfs.in) duly filled and signed along with requisite supporting documents to KFinTech at Selenium Tower B, Plot 31&32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad 500 032.

b) Members holding shares in dematerialised mode, who have not registered / updated their e-mail address, are requested to register / update their e-mail address with the Depository Participant(s) where they maintain their demat accounts.

In case of any query pertaining to e-voting, members may refer to the "Help" and "FAQs" sections / E-voting user manual available through a dropdown menu in the "Downloads" section of KFinTech's website for e-voting: <https://evoting.kfintech.com>.

Members are requested to note the following contact details for addressing queries / grievances relating to e-voting, if any:
Shri V. Balakrishnan, Vice President
KFin Technologies Limited
Selenium Tower B, Plot No. 31&32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Hyderabad - 500 032
E-mail: evoting.jfs@kfintech.com
Toll-free No.: 1800 309 4001 (from 9:00 a.m. (IST) to 6:00 p.m. (IST) on all working days)

Joining the AGM through VC / OAVM:

Members will be able to attend the AGM through VC / OAVM, through JioMeet, at <https://t.jio/v/jfsagm>. The information about login credentials to be used and the steps to be followed for attending the AGM are explained in Note no. 9 of the Notice of the AGM. Members who have cast their vote(s) by remote e-voting may also attend the AGM but shall not be entitled to cast their vote(s) again at the AGM.

By order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Mohana V
Group Company Secretary and Compliance Officer

Place: Mumbai
Date: August 9, 2024

www.jfs.in

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Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

Soon, Narmada cruise from Nandurbar to Statue of Unity

State Expects ₹1 Lakh-Cr Investments Over 10 Years, Aims To Create 18 Lakh Jobs

Chittaranjan Tembhekar
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: In a significant move to boost tourism and hospitality industries, state govt has offered incentives worth Rs 1,666 crore this fiscal and similar amount over the next 10 years to attract Rs 1 lakh crore investments. The estimate suggests the new tourism policy, announced last week, has the potential of generating direct and indirect employment for 18 lakh people over a decade.

The policy has river cruising as central theme, with Nandurbar-Statue of Unity being the leading route, besides creating new ports along Konkan coast. Vashisti river in Nashik, along with major water bodies across the state, have been opened for cruise tourism.

Other than a capital investment incentive of 15-20% or Rs 15-20 crore, whichever is lesser, the state has also offered 50% to 100% exemption on SGST, electricity duty, electricity tariff and stamp duty, depending upon the project's eligibility period ranging from five years to 15 years. "Over and above, 5% interest subvention on loans, viability gap funding, and

tax rebates are other attractions for aspiring project developers in the tourism and hospitality sectors. In case of smaller projects like caravan, adventure, beach shacks, agro, or ecotourism, minimum eligibility period to attract concessions has been kept at lowest three years," the policy says.

The hotel industry in the state has welcomed the policy. "This progressive framework, aimed at positioning Maharashtra as premier global tourist destination, is a game-changer for our industry. Additional FSI, relaxed building restrictions to expedite projects, capital subsidies, SGST reimbursement, electricity duty exemptions, and interest subventions on loans are some of the key requirements of the industry and we believe, once implemented, will be a big boon to state's tourism and hospitality sector," said Pradeep Shetty, president, HRAWI, which represents star hotels, premium restaurants and resorts in the western region.

Previous budgetary and institutional provisions have made Maharashtra the fifth most visited state in India with 15.50 crore annual visitors. The new policy is expected to double the

number of visitors to 31 crore. The state planning department has already set a target of 1 trillion US dollars for economic development of the state, and the tourism sector has a critical contribution to play by attracting investments and providing direct and indirect employment opportunities.

As part of the vision, the state has announced the development of 50 sustainable special tourism destinations across the state to help generate jobs for the local population. The major themes that have been identified for tourism under the programme include: (i) Culture and Heritage (ii) Spiritual Tourism (iii) Adventure Tourism (iv) Eco-Tourism (v) Wellness Tourism (vi) MICE Tourism (vii) Rural Tourism

(viii) Beach Tourism (ix) Cruises—Ocean & Inland tourism, and (x) Niche Tourism. "River cruise tourism is an emerging niche within the broader cruise industry, and Maharashtra, with its network of rivers, has the potential to develop this segment further. Maharashtra is home to several rivers, including Narmada, Godavari, Vashisti, Savitri, Krishna and Tapi. Passengers can explore local villages, historical sites, and experience traditional Maharashtrian hospitality, cuisine and arts along the riverbanks. The state's rivers flow through diverse landscapes, including wildlife sanctuaries. River cruises can offer ecotourism opportunities, like bird watching, nature walks and visits to conservation areas. The riverine regions of Maharashtra are known for agriculture, and river cruises can integrate agritourism. Unlike sea cruises that may be seasonal due to monsoons, river cruises can potentially operate year-round, weather permitting," the policy stated.

high influx of tourists and deploying Tourism Mitra officers, providing essential information to tourists and visitors on law, customs, culture, and attractions in the vicinity, assisting in ensuring sustainable (eco-friendly) practices, offering security to women, and monitoring adventure activities for safety.

Besides bringing in technical know-how, managerial, and organisational skills through private sector, the policy aims at doubling tourist inflow by developing destinations and tourist infrastructure and encouraging tour operators. MICE (meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions) and destination wedding operators are largely being aimed at through the policy.

Seeking private participation to offer world-class services by developing residential tourism sector to attract international tourists and thus create a complementary environment for the state's revenue is the target, suggests the policy that emphasises enhancing innovation, productivity, and the sector's competitiveness through the use of digital technologies and new tourism products and services.

MAHA SETS SAIL TO BECOME 'TOP TOURIST SPOT'

Inclusion of state's Sardar Sarovar portion from Nandurbar (Toranmal base) to Statue of Unity in ongoing luxury river cruise project between Gujarat and MP

Inclusion of Vashisti river for budget river and local ferry cruises

Inland water bodies, i.e. dams of Konkan, Nashik,

Pune, and Nagpur divisions, can be developed as major tourist attractions, with small- & medium-sized budget cruises, floating houseboats, etc.

State plans tourism jetty in Ratnagiri, Raigad & Thane districts. Locations identified are Veldur, Kashid, Arnala fort, Janjira fort, Padmadurg, Suvarnadurg, Underi and Durgadi

Rural, experiential, agri, spiritual, caravan, eco-friendly are some of major tourism themes, with aim at creating alternative livelihood opportunities for local community

Mandatory regulations at tourism zones



No use of single-use plastics or styrofoam/thermocool cutleries, etc. Penalties for violations

Drinking water/vending machines, public conveniences, waste disposal bins in every 2,000 sqm area

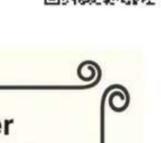
Control room with CCTV coverage of major tourist spots and for sports/

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Ninety-three years since Dadu's birth, A life of vision, hard work, and mirth, Our family's patriarch, strong and true, With a heart so large, in all he'd pursue.

Kind yet fierce, a guiding light, In his presence, the world felt right, A pioneer spirit, bold and free, He blazed new trails for us to see.

Dadu, in memories, you still stand tall, Your wisdom and love, we cherish all, Happy birthday to you, our guiding star, In our hearts, you'll never be far.

- Memories by Shwetambara Shroff Chopra

SHARDUL SHROFF & FAMILY

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

IN LOVING MEMORY



Reshma/Judith Sudhakar Hegde
09-08-2024

It's disheartening to lose the wind below your wings, but you pacify yourself because she is your very own angel in heaven. The angel watching over us from above.

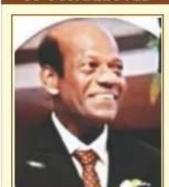
25 years have gone by but your love still warms our hearts.

Love, Hegde & Mendonsa Family

TO PLACE AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: JAI SARSAR 9867505472 <https://ads.timesgroup.com>

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN LOVING MEMORY OF OUR BELOVED



Mr. Johnny Raphael (Age 74)

We regret to announce the passing away of Mr. Johnny Raphael, husband of Diana, father of Varun / Monitha, brother of Mary, Elizabeth, Jessie & Gracy, on 8.8.2024. Funeral Mass at 11 am on 9.8.2024, in OLPS Church, Chembur, followed by burial in OLPS Cemetery.

Body will be at residence - 4/13, Assisi Nagar, P.L.Lokhande Marg, Chembur, Mumbai - 400043 - from 8 am to 10 am.

SAD DEMISE

With profound grief we inform you about the sad demise of



Teles Jose Fernandes

05/01/1955 - 08/08/2024

Funeral on 09/08/24, 4:00pm at St. Joseph's Church, Vikhroli (W), Mumbai.

TO BOOK AN ANNOUNCEMENT IN THIS SECTION CALL: JAI SARSAR 9867505472 <https://ads.timesgroup.com>

In honour of our mother and her legacy of peace, joy and philanthropy.



Sushila Sevantilal Kapashi

(27-01-1938 to 07-08-2024)

Prayer Meeting

Date: Friday 9th August, 2024

Time: 6 pm to 7 pm

Place: Sophia College Auditorium Breach Candy, Mumbai

Will always be loved by

Mona & Snehal - Paresh & Nandini
Mansi & Sushil - Riaha & Akshat - Karan - Neil Niam - Diya
Late Indubhai & Nitina
Sejal & Roopesh - Nimish & Bhakti
Dev - Veer - Saamya
Snehlata Bipin Shah

Kapashi & Shah Families

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Remembering our Founder



Suresh Amarchand Shroff

(August 9, 1931 - October 13, 1994)

- Work is man's anthem to life -

It is his poetry. His literature. His philosophy.

It is work that keeps man going.

It is work that makes him aspire.

Work is man's legacy to the future.

Work is his prayer.



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TIMES Personal

THANKSGIVING

THANK you St. Jude for answering my prayers and always blessing me & my family. Mullicks

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Happy Birthday to



9 August

Shri. Rajhans Singh

Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council

From :
Julius John, Alexander Dsuza, Robert Teixeira, Windi Lamos

Hry babu accused of rigging his civil exam results appointed to staff selection panel

His Marks Were Hiked, Sans Which He Wouldn't Have Been Eligible For Interview: Probe

Ajay.Sura@timesofindia.com

Chandigarh: BJP govt in Haryana on Wednesday posted Vatsal Vashisht, an officer chargesheeted in 2001-batch Haryana Civil Service (HCS) hiring scam, as officer on special duty (OSD) in Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC).

HSSC is one of the recruitment agencies of the state to select Group C and D employees. The order, handing over the charge to Vashisht

— who is at present serving as secretary of Haryana Right to Service Commission—was issued by the Haryana chief secretary. As per the order, he has been posted as OSD in HSSC in addition to his present duty. In July 2023, the state vigilance bureau (now called ACB), had submitted a challan against Vashisht along with other HCS officers before a Hisar court in connection with the alleged scam.

According to the ACB chargesheet, Vashisht, who was selected to the HCS (executive branch), was given 507 marks out of 750 in the written exam and 92 out of 100 in the interview (total 599 out of 850).

The investigation by ACB had revealed that in the English and English essay exam, 29 extra marks had been awarded to Vashisht by examiner JC Kappan by cutting/overwriting. Similarly, in History of India, nine extra marks had been awarded to him by examiner Ma-

heswary Prasad.

Thus, his marks were increased by 38, without which he would not have been eligible to appear for interview and would not have been selected to any post, as the cut-off for the interview was 489, according to the probe. Several other HCS officers along with Vashisht were chargesheeted in this case in July last year. With assembly polls in Haryana due in Oct, HSSC has fast-tracked selection on various posts.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNICAL TEACHERS TRAINING AND RESEARCH
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(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

Advertisement No. NITTR/Academic Cell/239/2024

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1. Civil Engineering (Construction Technology and Management)
2. Electrical Engineering (Instrumentation & Control)
3. Electronics and Communication Engineering (VLSI Design)
4. Mechanical Engineering (Manufacturing Technology)

All the above programmes are approved by AICTE, New Delhi Prospectus/Brochure-2024 containing details about Eligibility, Programme Structure, Reservation Policy, Application Format etc. can be downloaded from institute website: www.nittrchd.ac.in. Last Date of Receipt of Applications by email at me.admissions@nittrchd.ac.in is 26th August, 2024 by 5.00 PM

DIRECTOR

16-year-old Raigad boy 'shoots self' with father's licenced rifle

George Mendonca

Navi Mumbai: A 16-year-old boy died after he allegedly shot himself in the head with his father's licenced rifle at his residence in Mahad, Raigad district, on Thursday afternoon. Prima facie, an accidental death case has been registered at Mahad City police station.

Police said the deceased has been identified as Suyash Nagarkar, who was a Class 10 student.

The boy's father Sunil Nagarkar is a goldsmith who operates a store from the ground floor of a three-storey building owned by him and his two brothers. Around 12.30pm, while Nagarkar and his wife were at the shop, their son Suyash shot himself in the head.

Upon hearing the firing

shot, the couple rushed upstairs and found Suyash lying in a pool of blood. The rifle was found next to him. He was rushed to a hospital, where he was declared brought dead.

Raigad SP Somnath Gharge said, "During Lok Sabha elections, Nagarkar had deposited his licenced rifle with Raigad police.

DAD: WAS DISTURBED SINCE PAST FEW DAYS

But it was returned after elections got over."

"Nagarkar claimed his son was visibly disturbed over the past few days. According to circumstantial evidence, we have registered an accidental death case and will further investigate the matter to find out why he took such a drastic step," he added.

3 schoolkids bring knife to 'attack' teacher, held

Madurai: Police on Thursday apprehended three Class XII students of a govt school in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district after they brought a knife to school allegedly to attack a teacher for giving them low marks in an exam. They were produced before juvenile justice board and sent to govt observation home. Police detained the students and seized the knife after the teacher alerted them about the threat he faced. TNN

Man brutalises wife after fight, held as she dies

Agra: Doctors in Firozabad came across a case of brutality by a man on her wife after they learnt in her autopsy report that she was tortured, beaten, and had bite marks all over her body. She even had an 8-inch rolling pin inserted in her private parts.

The incident took place on Monday when accused (30), a labourer from Etawah, came home drunk. He had an argument with his wife (28) and it turned ugly. He started beating her after tying her limbs. Next day, locals informed her family and she was admitted to trauma centre in Firozabad, where doctors declared her dead due to "severe head injury". The accused has been arrested. The two were married for 10 years and have a son (2). — Deepak Lavania

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Date: 09-08-2024
Place: Mumbai

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General Manager (IMD)

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Name of the Holder	Folio No.	No. of Shares (Rs. 1/- Lv)	Certificate No. (s)	Distinctive No.(s)
Late Mr. Kedamath Bhargava	HLL1100302 HLL1123515	4110 930	5355538 5047308	42286721 to 42290830 44243201 to 44244130

Sd/-
Mr. Hemant Bhargava
Legal Heir of Late Shri Kedamath Bhargava

Place: Mumbai
Date: 9-8-2024

IISER INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH BERHAMPUR
An Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

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Short advertisement for recruitment of faculty position on direct recruitment

No: IISERBPR/DOFA/2024/2 Dated: 08.08.2024

Opening date for submission of application: 1000 hrs. of August 12, 2024
Closing date of submission of application: 1700 hrs. of September 11, 2024
Crucial date for calculation of age/qualification/experience: September 11, 2024

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Berhampur is a premier autonomous institution of National Importance established by the Ministry of Education (MoE), Govt. of India (GoI) for promotion of high-quality science education and research in the country. IISER Berhampur was set up as the 7th IISER by Govt. of India in 2016 under NITSER Act, 2007. The Institute invites applications through online from eligible candidates for the following positions:-

The details of the posts are as under:

S. No.	Position	Department	Vacancy with category	Area of Specialization
1	Professor	Chemical Sciences	01 (UR)	Synthetic Organic Chemistry, Bio-organic Chemistry
2	Assistant Professor-G-1	Earth & Environmental Sciences **	02 (UR-1, SC-1)	Environmental Chemistry, Hydrogeology, Geochemistry, Structural Geology, Economic Geology
3	Assistant Professor-G-1	Computer Sciences	01 (OBC(NCL))	Environmental Chemistry, Hydrogeology, Geochemistry, Structural Geology, Economic Geology
4	Assistant Professor-G-1	Biological Sciences	01 (ST)	Immunology, Ecological Sciences, Structural Biology, Animal Physiology, Neuro Biology.

** Applicants who have Ph.D. in Geological Sciences or PhD in Chemistry and related areas having appropriate experience may apply for environmental chemistry specialization.

Horizontal reservation of prescribed 4% for PwD candidates as per the relevant Act & instructions of the Govt. of India as applicable are to be made.

Note: Please visit Institute website www.iiserpr.ac.in for submission of application and full text of the advertisement for all other details regarding educational qualification, experiences and other eligibility criteria. The detail advertisement as posted on our website will regulate the recruitment of the above posts.

Registrar

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR)
Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001

Advt. No. 02/2024

CSIR invites applications/nominations from eminent scientists/technologists for the position of Distinguished Scientists in Pay Level 16 (Rs. 2,05,400- 2,24,400) of Pay Matrix.

For eligibility criteria and other conditions, please see the detailed/complete advertisement No. 02/2024 on CSIR website www.csir.res.in. Applications/nominations may be sent alongwith complete bio-data and list of publications/patents etc. through email at drc@csir.res.in or by post to Director Recruitment Cell, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001 on or before 31.08.2024.

CBC 36202/11/0006/2425

AIIMS- Central Armed Police Forces Institute of Medical Sciences Center (AIIMS-CAPFIMS Center), Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068
Advertisement Notice No.- SR-AIIMS (CAPFIMS) / 2024

Date: 29.07.2024

Recruitment to the post of Senior Residents for AIIMS-CAPFIMS Center, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068

Online applications are invited from Indian Citizens as per Govt. of India Residency Scheme, for the tenure posts of Senior Residents for a maximum period upto 3 years for AIIMS-CAPFIMS Center, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. The details are given below:

Date for Online Registration of applications	
Registration Opens on	29th July, 2024
Registration Closes on	12th August, 2024 (upto 5:00 p.m.)
Date of CBT Examination (Stage-I)	25th August, 2024 (Sunday) in Delhi/NCR
Duration & Timing of Exam	1½ hr. (10:00 AM to 11:30 AM)
Result of Stage-I CBT Examination	28th August, 2024
Date of Interview (Stage-II)	31st August, 2024
Final Result & Joining	1st week of September, 2024

Important: For detailed information etc. please visit the website www.aiimsexams.ac.in. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will be uploaded on the website only.

Sd/-
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CBC 17112/11/0026/2425

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Established by an Act of the Parliament in 2008

Advt. No. IMU-HQ/R/NT/2024/01 Dated : 09.08.2024

Advertisement for Recruitment of Non-Teaching Posts

The Indian Maritime University invites applications from eligible and interested candidates for the following posts on Direct Recruitment basis. Interested candidates may apply through online from the link available at <https://www.imu.edu.in/imunew/recruitment>. The details are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Post Code	Posts	No. of Posts	Mode of Recruitment	Reservation	Horizontal Reservation	Pay as per 7th CPC
1	NT-01	Assistant	15	Direct Recruitment	UR-7, OBC-NCL-4, SC-2, ST-1, EWS-1	a. Ex-servicemen - 03 posts b. PwD - 01 post (Blindness and low vision / Deaf and Hard of Hearing)	Pay Matrix Level-4 of 7th CPC
2	NT-02	Assistant (Finance)	12		UR-9, SC-2, EWS-1		

Indicative place of posting: The vacancies are at HQ, Chennai and at other Campuses- Mumbai, Kolkata, Vizag, Kochi and Chennai.

The vacancies stated above are tentative and are subject to change. IMU reserves the right not to fill up any of the posts advertised (or) cancel the recruitment at any stage.

For further details regarding eligibility criteria: Age, Educational Qualifications, Experience, etc., please visit <https://www.imu.edu.in/imunew/recruitment>

Important dates:
Opening date for submission of online application: 09.08.2024
Closing date for submission of online application: 30.08.2024

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Oppn crossing all limits, says irate Dhankhar, leaves House

Not Allowed To Raise Phogat Issue, Oppn Walks Out Of House

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The fraught relationship between Rajya Sabha chairperson and the opposition came to the fore once again on Thursday, with Jagdeep Dhankhar leaving the House for some time after an uproar and walkout by MPs not allowed to raise wrestler Vinesh Phogat's disqualification from the Olympics.

Accusing the opposition parties of "always challenging" him, Dhankhar said they were "crossing all limits" to create "anarchy" in the House and disrespecting the prestige of the Chair. Cautioning Derek O'Brien in particular for "shouting at the Chair", he said the Trinamool neta would next time be "shown the door".

Leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge sought to raise Phogat's disqualification, wanting to know "who is behind it", as soon as proceedings began after tabling of the listed papers on Thursday. Dhankhar, however, disallowed it. He then told O'Brien, who was up on his feet, that his conduct



Dhankhar leaves the House on Thursday after accusing the opposition of disrespecting the prestige of the Chair

was unbecoming. "You (O'Brien) are shouting at the Chair. Your conduct is ugliest in the House. I condemn your actions. Next time I will show you the door," he said.

Opposition parties then staged a walkout. "We have seen the dark days... the ugliest phase of democracy during Emergency... It starts with a challenge to Parliamentary institutions," Dhankhar said. "They (opposition parties) think they are the only ones whose hearts are bleeding. The entire nation, from

the President to the PM to myself and others, is feeling the pain because of our girl (Phogat)," he said, adding the opposition's bid to "politicise" and "monetise" the matter was the "greatest disrespect" to the wrestler herself.

Leader of the House J P Nadda also condemned the opposition's disrespect for the Chair and democratic traditions, saying it simply did not have "solid" issues to discuss. The entire country is behind Phogat, who was described as "champion of champions"

even by PM Modi, he added.

Expressing anguish that he was not getting the desired support from the opposition to run the House despite his making all efforts, Dhankhar said, "They are not challenging me. They are challenging the chairperson's post... they think that the person who is sitting on this Chair is not capable."

"I am not running away from the oath. But what I have seen today, the way a member has behaved, the way the opposition bench has behaved, I am not finding myself in a position to sit here for some time," Dhankhar said, adding he was leaving the House "with a heavy heart".

Deputy chairperson Harivansh then chaired the zero hour proceedings. Returning to the Chair around mid-way into the question hour, Dhankhar said, "I left my seat to introspect. Having witnessed (the scene)... which I found was unprecedented, and indigestible." He announced he has called a meeting of floor leaders at 1.30 PM to discuss the matter.

1,734 sq km of forests lost to devpt activities in 10 yrs: Govt

New Delhi: Govt Thursday informed RS that nearly 1,734 sq km of forest area has been lost in the country in the last 10 years due to development activities but land has also been acquired for compensatory afforestation during the period and the overall forest cover has increased by around 21,762 sq km in 2021 compared to 2011.

Data shared by environment minister Bhupendra Yadav shows that highest diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes during 2014 and 2024 was reported from MP, followed by Odisha, Telangana, Gujarat & Arunachal Pradesh. "Whenever Centre accords approval for use of forest land for non-forestry purposes, cost of compensatory afforestation and net present value of the land is realised from user agency as per the norms. Moreover, additional mitigation measures such as soil and moisture conservation works, catchment area treatment plans and wildlife management plans, are also stipulated as per the requirement," Yadav added.

Lalu meets widow of Shahabuddin in bid to mend ties

Patna: RJD chief Lalu Prasad held a closed-door meeting with Hena Shahab, widow of former Siwan don Mohammad Shahabuddin, Wednesday evening, reports Manoj Chaurasia. The meeting is seen as a desperate effort by RJD leadership to mend frayed relations and secure her support ahead of 2025 assembly polls, focusing on the Muslim vote in Bihar.

RJD's performance was lacklustre in the recent LS elections, partly due to discontent among minority voters. Muslims make up approximately 17% of the state's population.

Sources said Lalu, accompanied by his younger son Tejashwi, visited party MLC Binod Jaiswal's residence for a private meeting with Shahab. The discussions, lasting over an hour, focused on persuading her to join the party ahead of the assembly elections.

Speaker's rights curtailed, says Akhilesh, draws Shah's attack

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Home minister Amit Shah Thursday objected to remarks made by Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, who claimed that the rights of the Lok Sabha Speaker are being curtailed.

"This is an insult to the Chair. The rights of the Speaker do not belong to the opposition only, but to the whole House. Don't speak in a roundabout way. You are not the protector of the Speaker's rights," Shah said.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also asked Akhilesh Yadav to refrain from commenting about the Chair. Shah's reaction came in response to Yadav alleging that the rights of the Speaker are being curtailed and the opposition would have to fight for him. The Kannauj MP was addressing LS during the debate on Waqf (Amendment) Bill when he



Amit Shah and SP chief Akhilesh Yadav in Lok Sabha on Thursday

said, "Your rights and our rights are being curtailed. I had told you that you are the judge of democracy. I have heard that some of your rights are being snatched and we'd have to fight for you."

Birla later told Yadav that he and other members of the House must not comment on the Chair. "I expect that no personal remarks are made on the Chair," he said.

Opposing the legislation, Yadav said it has been

introduced as part of a well-thought-out politics. "When there is a democratic process for election, why nominate people? No person from outside the community is part of other religious bodies. What is the point of including non-Muslims in Waqf bodies?" he said.

Yadav added that BJP has brought this legislation to appease some hardline supporters after its setback in the Lok Sabha election.

Is PMLA review plea 'appeal in disguise'? SC to examine

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Supreme Court, while fixing a batch of petitions seeking review of its 2022 order on validity of various provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, has observed whether review petition is an appeal in disguise.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, C T Ravikumar and Ujjal Bhuyan asked whether review proceedings would partake the character of an appeal even if a judgment was "gravely erred". "Can this partake character of appeal? It is to be seen," the bench said.

The issue is of significance because of limited jurisdiction of review hearing which can be entertained only in case of error in verdict.

The petitioners are seeking re-examination of the apex court's July 27, 2022, order which upheld the stringent regime prescribed for

money laundering offences and vast powers enjoyed by the Enforcement Directorate, allowing the agency to arrest people and conduct search and seizure even when no complaint has been filed, making statements made before the agency admissible in court while also putting the burden on the accused to prove his innocence.

Interestingly, within a month of the order, the

VERDICT SCRUTINY

court decided to re-examine the verdict and issued notice to the central government in Aug 2022. It said "at least two of the issues raised in the instant petition require consideration".

In a shot in the arm for the anti-money laundering agency, a bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari and C T Ravikumar had validated the twin bail conditions as per

which the accused could be granted bail only if there were reasonable grounds for the court to believe that he was not guilty and was unlikely to commit an offence while on bail.

The provisions, which set the bar for bail very high in PMLA cases, was declared invalid by a two-judge SC bench in 2017 on the ground of being discriminatory but was reintroduced in the law a year later. In the 2022 order, however, a 3-judge bench court justified the twin conditions by saying they were also part of other laws which had stood the test of time and constitutional validity.

The court had also said that it was not mandatory for ED to provide a copy of Enforcement Case Information Report, the equivalent of FIR in PMLA cases, to the accused, and it was enough if ED disclosed the grounds of arrest at the time of arrest.

Dist judges retiring as HC judges get ₹15k-25k as pension. How will they survive, asks CJI

Dhananjay Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed grave concern over the pittance of pension—between Rs 15,000 and Rs 25,000—received by retired HC judges, who were appointed as HC judges after spending their entire life in the district judiciary.

These concerns were expressed by a bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud, and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra after amicus curiae K Parameshwar sought early resolution of the issues relating to pensions of district judges, who get appointed as HC judges. The amicus had been advocating upward revision of the pension commensurate with the dignity of district judges.



MATTER OF DIGNITY

With both attorney general R Venkataramani and solicitor general Tushar Mehta present before the bench, CJI Chandrachud made an impassioned request to the top law officers to use their good offices for a satisfactory resolution of the vexed issue.

When the AG said the govt

needed some time to ponder over the issue which has multiple dimensions including huge financial burden, the CJI said, "I see your predicament. But look at the persons from district judiciary who after being appointed as HC judges have a tenure of less than four to five years. They get a pension of Rs 15-25,000. Their tenure in the district judiciary is not counted. We have a slew of petitions by such retired HC judges."

"To get a pension of Rs 15-25,000 after spending the entire life in the judiciary is no social security for them. Look at the profile of such retired HC judges. They, except a few who can be counted on

fingertips, do not return to practice nor do arbitration work after retirement. My earnest appeal to both of you (AG and SG) to sit down with the concerned officials (of the ministry) and examine the issue to arrive at a reasonable solution," the CJI said.

Though the AG reiterated that the issue involves multiple aspects, the SG said he and the AG would surely examine the issues involved regarding the pension. The CJI said, "We do understand the financial implications. But as the Supreme Court, we must also discharge our duties as the guardian of the judiciary," he said and posted the matter for hearing on Aug 27.

Will be tough to cooperate with India if it helps our enemy Hasina: BNP

Mohua Chatterjee
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the main rival of Sheikh Hasina's Awami League party, is clearly unhappy with India hosting the ousted Prime Minister after she fled Dhaka and arrived here on Monday.

Veteran BNP functionary Gayeshwar Roy, who was a minister in the BNP-led govt in 1991, and is a member of the party's standing committee, its highest decision-making forum, told TOI from Dhaka, "BNP believes Bangladesh and India must have mutual cooperation... Indian govt will have to understand and behave in a manner which follows that spirit. But if you help our enemy then it becomes difficult for that mutual cooperation to be honoured. Our former foreign minister (in the Hasina govt) said here before the last elections that India will help Sheikh Hasina's return to office. Sheikh Hasina's liability is being borne by India... Indian and Bangladesh people don't have issues with each other. But should India promote one party and not the entire country?" Roy was replying to questions that BNP is perceived to have anti-India bias.

Asked about reports of alleged attacks on Hindus and the perception about BNP being anti-minority, Roy said, "A perception has been created that BNP is anti-Hindu. BNP is made up of people from different communities



Functionaries of Students Against Discrimination take the oath of office as Bangladesh's new interim govt was sworn in on Thursday

in Bangladesh and stands for all religions. I have been a minister in this party's regime and am ranked high enough in the BNP's highest decision-making forum. BNP is a nationalist party but we believe in the individual rights of all communities."

"When I was a minister in 1991, I started the system of donations for Durga Pujas and no govt after that has stopped the policy; it is still on. It is our party's govt that did it," he added. On the concern about terrorist elements targeting India using Bangladesh, Roy said, "It is a perception again. Not the truth. India has helped in getting our Independence... We are a smaller country, we need India for many things including medical facilities, many other goods for our people, but the revenue that India earns from Bangladesh is on these accounts are also

not a small amount," he said.

Asked about BNP's equation with Jamaat-e-Islami, Roy made it clear "it's not an ideological relationship. It is tactical support, which has to do with electoral politics."

"Awami League was in an official alliance with the Jamaat. From 2018 to 2024 we (BNP) had no relations with the Jamaat. There was Left, there was right, but there was no Jamaat with us. Sheikh Hasina took the Jamaat on board. Later she created Hefazat-e-Islam group to counter Jamaat. Today the same Hefazat is on the streets against Awami League. Jamaat believes in elections," he said.

On the new interim govt formation process, Roy said "since the students wanted Dr Mohammad Yunus as the leader and a non-political govt as an interim arrangement, BNP did not suggest any names from the party".

Biren says Delhi agencies trying to reimpose Afspa in valley

Prabin Kalita
@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: Manipur CM N Biren Singh Thursday informed the legislative assembly that various central agencies were pushing for reimposing Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, in the valley districts of the state since violence broke out in May 2023.

Responding to a call attention motion on "the long-standing demand" for removal of Afspa from Manipur moved by Naga People's Front's Leishu Keishing, the CM said agencies were pressing for Afspa's reimposition "due to the evolving situation in valley districts".

"We were at a point of demanding Afspa's removal from the hill districts, but I was questioned whether the situation in valley could be managed," Biren said, adding, "There is significant pressure for reimposition of Afspa in the valley".

The CM said he explained to the agencies that the unrest was a result of emotional responses to the violence and assured that he would address the situation gradually. On the difficulties brought about by Afspa, Biren stressed the need for a compassionate relook at its imposition. He also highlighted his long-standing resistance to Afspa, both in his capacity as a scribe and as a public figure.

Wanted bizman baffles agencies by filing for relief in J&K court

Bharti Jain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: A writ petition was filed in the J&K high court last week by ex-president of Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KCCI) Mubeen Shah seeking quashing of an FIR filed against him in 2020 for making threatening social media posts against non-locals settled in Kashmir. Shah has been on radar of the Indian security agencies for allegedly instigating violent protests in 2016 against the killing of terrorist Burhan Wani and was detained under PSA after the nullification of Article 370 in J&K, before relocating to Turkey soon after his release.

The agencies and J&K police — baffled how Mubeen, who hails from Buchwara, Srinagar and is currently living in Malaysia, managed to seek relief from the court while being ensconced in foreign country with a lookout circular issued against him — are now verifying how the advocates are in touch with him and how he has signed the vakalatnama.

'Safe but don't know for how long. We keep crying in fear'

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: Reports of targeted attacks on religious and ethnic minorities have sparked fear among Hindus in Bangladesh, with many saying Thursday they feel safe for now but are uncertain about how long this will last despite calls by Nobel laureate and interim govt head Muhammad Yunus, alongside student leaders, to restore peace in the nation.

A teacher who graduated from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology expressed his anguish. "I was never involved in politics. No one in our family is involved in politics. But we have much love and respect for our nation's founding father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. How could you do that? My eyes are filled with tears," he said. For safety reasons, he chose not to disclose his name or location.

A Hindu architect shared stories of suffering coming in from relatives. "We're safe, but don't know how long we will remain safe. We keep crying in fear of attacks," he said, revealing that an aunt's house had been attacked. He expressed reservations about the situation improving: "We can't stand up. I have doubts."

He lamented the destruction at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi in Dhaka and the defacement of Bangabandhu's murals and statues. "It hurts me. I feel heartbroken. I never thought such things would happen.



Indian workers stranded in Bangladesh return via Tripura on Wednesday

Students form QRTs to 'protect' minorities

Amid reports of attacks on minorities, some students have formed quick reaction teams (QRT) to address 'SOS' calls, reports Kalyan Das. The step was taken on a call given by sociology student Nahid Islam, one of the leaders of the uprising. "Bangladesh is for everyone. It is the foremost duty of us, students, to ensure nobody is harmed," said Islam addressing a gathering in the capital.

My friends abroad used to appreciate Bangladesh and its massive development." Another minority community person, a govt employee, said his family and relatives were safe but traumatised & living in fear. Regarding expectations from interim govt, they urged patience but emphasised the need for "iron-clad" protection for minorities in the meantime.

Cultural activists also voiced their concerns, demanding security and justice. Popular folk singer and cultural activist Rahul Ananda's 140-year-old rented house in Dhaka was vandalised and set ablaze Aug 5. In response, artists and activists gathered under the banner "Shilpa, Sthapana O Shilpangan Dhongsher Biruddhe Obosthan"

(Stand Against Destruction of Art, Architecture, and Cultural Spaces) & held a protest rally. Transparency International Bangladesh condemned the attacks on homes, places of worship, and businesses belonging to minorities. "It is disheartening and disappointing that we have to demand protection of religious minorities and state assets amidst the unprecedented victorious moment of the movement where hundreds shed blood to demand equality, harmony, and equal rights of everyone," TIB executive director Iftekhar Zaman said.

European Union's heads of mission in Dhaka also expressed concern about the attacks on places of worship and members of religious, ethnic, and other minorities.

Cong institutes performance review system for its LS MPs

Subodh Ghildiyal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Putting stress on performance and participation in Parliament, Congress is learnt to have instituted a system to assess its LS MPs. It has told members that a keen eye is being kept on them and they should live up to the expectations of their large support base that elected them.

LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi chaired a meeting of party MPs Thursday in which they were informed about the performance assessment, which places premium on their showing in the House.

The party management is said to have told the members that they should attend and participate in the proceedings, raising issues, pushing back against the govt where required, and speak effectively. It was conveyed that their performance was being monitored and those who make effective speeches will be given more opportunities in future.

Interestingly, the Gandhi scion asked members' views

MP Congress gets roasted over '11-6' notice

Bhopal: A "working hours" board was put up at the entrance of the state Congress office Thursday, and soon became the target of a barrage of sarcasm and criticism from BJP. The notice, in bold red letters in Hindi, said, "PCC office working hours from 11 till 6. Sunday closed." Such a notice was unheard of in any political office in the state. And the barbs came thick and fast. State BJP spokesman Narendran Saluja tweeted, "Jitu Patwari's MP Congress will now be run according to corporate culture."

A Congress neta said the board was installed for employees in the state office and not office-bearers or party functionaries. TNN

on the speeches they thought were impactful. When some names were offered, he looked into his personal list and said that their names matched. A special mention was made about former Punjab chief minister Charanjit Channi. Jharkhand MP Sukhdeo Bhagat, the two Manipur MPs Arthur Alfred and Bimol Akoijam, and Punjab member Raja Warring, besides a couple of other MPs.

Sources said the MPs were given instructions to stay close to people and raise their concerns in the House. Given that a large part of Congress contingent are first term MPs, the members were encour-

aged that they have the talent and should not worry about mistakes, adding that they would be guided as required.

"Rahul Gandhi has created a structure where performance is being assessed. Members have to participate and perform. Every MP has been voted by a constituency of 18-20 lakh voters, they should not hesitate," a functionary said.

Sources said given the system put in place, all members are being given a chance to speak, and 80 MPs have already participated once since the inaugural session when an elaborate debate was held on the motion of thanks to the President's joint address.

No non-veg for lunch, says Noida school, stirs up row

Gets Flak From Parents Over 'Interference'

Ayantika.Pal@timesofindia.com

Noida: A private school has sent parents a circular that cites "health and hygiene, and respect and inclusivity" to request them not to send non-vegetarian food in students' lunch boxes.

The circular, sent on Wednesday to parents by Delhi Public School in Sector 132, drew criticism from parents and students for its "interference" with dietary practices and also the logic it gives to discourage one kind of food.

"We are writing to respectfully request that students do not bring non-vegetarian food items to school..." the circular says.

It cites "two key considerations". The first—under the subhead 'Health and Safety', says that non-vegetarian food may get spoiled "when cooked in the morning for lunchtime consumption" and "can pose serious health risks if not stored and handled properly". The second subhead—'Inclusivity and Respect'—underlines that the school "values diversity

and promotes a culture of 'inclusivity' but goes on to add that by "maintaining a vegetarian food environment, all students feel respected".

Parents said they did not understand the connection the circular makes between respect and non-veg food, besides overlooking the fact that any food can go bad when cooked in the morning and consumed late in the day, sto-

lue. If they do not eat protein-rich food such as eggs, then how will they get all the nutrients," she asked.

But there were some who supported the school and said "education institutes are like temples for children". "Eating non-vegetarian food is not advisable in that. And a majority of students here are vegetarian. That's why it is a good step," a parent said.

The school circular cites 'hygiene and respect' to request parents not to send non-vegetarian food. Many parents said they did not understand the connection drawn between respect and non-veg food

On Thursday, some students said they don't mind eating vegetarian food on some days, but that's out of choice and not by compulsion. "I respect the concerns of my friends who are vegetarian, and while eating, I maintain a distance from them," said a student of a senior class at DPS.

DPS principal Supriti Chauhan said the circular was just a "request". She added that it is "not a diktat" and "we issue such a circular every year... There is no ban, no directive, no advisory... only a respectful request".

Education department officials said parents could file a complaint if they objected to the circular.

Dhule tourist dies after falling into fog-covered valley in Nandurbar

Nashik: A youth visiting the Toranmal hill station in Nandurbar with his friends died after falling into a deep valley on Sunday.

Bharat Pavra, a 21-year-old resident of Borpani village in Dhule's Shirpur taluka, had come to Toranmal on Aug 4 and had gone missing in the

evening. The Mhaswad police, who have registered a case of accidental death, said Pavra probably lost his way in thick fog and might have fallen into the valley.

"Pavra, along with his friends, came to the valley on Sunday morning. As the group was preparing to leave

in the evening, Pavra's friends realised that he was missing. They searched for him, but they failed. They then took the help of the local residents," said assistant police inspector Rajan More. The police added that the search operation had

to be stopped at night. As the fog was still thick on Monday morning and visibility poor, the search was not successful. Pavra's body was finally spotted—in a valley about 1,000ft from the edge—by local villagers on Tuesday afternoon. TNN

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that we are investigating the rights, title and interest of Chirag Singal ("Owner") to his Flat No. 704 admeasuring 4,403.90 square feet carpet area situated on the seventh floor of Wing "B" ("Flat") together with the right to use 4 (four) car parking spaces ("Car Parking Spaces") in the building known as "Signature Island" ("Building") constructed on all those piece and parcel of leasehold land forming part of CTS No. 4207 of Village Kole Kalyan, Taluka Andheri, District Bombay - Suburban together with the right to use and enjoy in common with other purchasers of the said Building all the common areas and facilities pertaining to the said Building. The Flat and the Car Parking Spaces are hereinafter collectively referred to as "the said Premises" and are more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written.

We have been instructed by our client to investigate the title of Owner to the said Premises.

ALL persons having or claiming any estate, right, title, interest or demand whatsoever to or in respect of the said Premises or any part thereof whether by way of sale, transfer, assignment, allotment, mortgage, lease, sub-lease, charge, lien, tenancy, sub-tenancy, license, gift, inheritance, maintenance, encumbrance, occupation, possession, demise, bequest, easement, trust, muniment, covenant, release, relinquishment, family arrangement or any other method through any agreement, deed, document, writing, conveyance deed, devise, bequest, succession, litigation, decree or order of Court of Law or Tribunal or any statutory authority or otherwise howsoever, are required to make the same known in writing along with relevant documentary proof in that regard to the undersigned at their office at **WADIA GHANDY & CO., N.M. WADIA BUILDING, 2ND FLOOR, 123, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD, FORT, MUMBAI - 400 001**, with a copy marked to **gaurav.gopal@wadiaghandy.com** within a period of 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which any such share, right, title, benefit, interest, claim, objection and/or demand shall be disregarded and shall be deemed to have been waived off and/or abandoned.

THE SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO:
(Description of the Flat)

Flat No. 704 admeasuring 4,403.90 square feet carpet area located on the seventh floor, Wing B of the building known as "Signature Island" constructed on all those piece and parcel of leasehold land forming part of CTS No. 4207 of Village Kole Kalyan, Taluka Andheri, District Bombay.

Dated this 9th day of August 2024.

For M/s. Wadia Ghandy & Co.
Mr. Gaurav Gopal
(Partner)

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in Mobile No. 96461-22067

E-Tender Enq. No. 550/P-1/EMPW-12752 dated 07.08.24
Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_125092_1 for the work of operation of D.M. Water Treatment plants and Chemical Dosing system of Stage-II and III of GGSSTP, Rupnagar, as per scope of work. For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 07.08.24/11.00 AM onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
BTP-8324, DPR/Pr. 76155/12/2266/2023/36508

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
MSETCL invites online bids (E-Tender) for following

S.N	Tender No. & Description
1	RFx. No. 7000032649; Work of Supply, Civil and ETC (excluding supply of T/F) for scheme of Augmentation of transformers at 132kV Hingna-I and 132kV Bharsingi S/Stn under Nagpur Zone. EMD Rs. 149294/- & Tender Fees: Rs. 5000/- (GST extra)
2	RFx. No. 7000032661; Work of Supply, Civil and ETC (excluding supply of T/F) for scheme of Augmentation of transformers at 132kV Hingna-II and 220kV Kaulawada S/Stn under Nagpur Zone. EMD Rs. 169901/- & Tender Fees: Rs. 5000/- (GST extra)

Tenders Available at : <https://srm.tender.mahatransco.in>; Due date for online submission upto: 16.08.2024, 11:00 Hrs; Tender Opening 16.08.2024, 12:00 Hrs if possible

Chief Engineer, EHV PC O&M Zone Nagpur.

MLA Kadu slaps firm staffer over faulty e-rick given to disabled

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Prahar Janshakti Party chief and MLA Bachchu Kadu on Thursday slapped an employee of a company responsible for providing e-rickshaws to people with disabilities, reports Mohammed Akhef. Govt had distributed these e-rickshaws for free, but many of them started malfunctioning, prompting complaints from the recipients to Kadu.

Kadu summoned a company official to the Subhadari guest house in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar city. The official failed to provide satisfactory answers regarding the e-rickshaws, which angered Kadu, leading him to slap the employee. The incident was caught on camera.

Speaking to reporters, Kadu explained that people with disabilities had received these e-rickshaws after 50 years, but the vehicles were flawed. There was problem with the balance of the vehicles.

SC to deliver verdict on Sisodia's bail plea in excise case today

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Supreme Court will deliver its verdict on Friday on AAP leader Manish Sisodia's bail plea in corruption and money laundering cases in connection with Delhi excise policy.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan had reserved its order on Aug 6 when senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Sisodia, said he should be granted bail as per SC's earlier order in which it had said if the trial was delayed, he could seek bail. Referring to the Oct 30 order, Singhvi said trial was yet to begin in the case.

Additional solicitor general S V Raju, appearing for CBI and ED, however, had blamed Sisodia for the delay in trial.

CBI case: Delhi CM's custody now till Aug 20

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Thursday extended the judicial custody of CM Arvind Kejriwal till Aug 20 in a corruption case registered by CBI in alleged scam in the formulation and implementation of the now-scrapped Delhi excise policy 2021-22.

The court may consider a supplementary chargesheet filed by the CBI against Kejriwal in the case on Aug 12.

On July 29, the CBI concluded its investigation in the alleged scam and filed its final chargesheet against Kejriwal and others. Prior to this, the agency had submitted one main chargesheet and four supplementary chargesheets in the case. TNN

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public at large that we are investigating the title of West Coast Co-operative Housing Society Limited, a co-operative housing society registered under the provisions of the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960, bearing Registration No. BOM/HSG/1172 of 1966 dated 19th April 1966, and having its address at Survey No. 121/5, J.P. Road, "Avinash", 7 Bungalows, Andheri (West), Mumbai 400053, to the property as more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written ("said Property").

Any persons/entities having or claiming to have any share, right, title, estate, interest, benefit, claim, objection and/or demand, in respect of the said Property or any part thereof or the FSI/TDR of the said Property and/or in respect of the original title deeds/documents pertaining to the said Property, whether by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, allotment, charge, encumbrance, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, license, mortgage (equitable or otherwise), inheritance, occupation, possession, gift, demise, lien, maintenance, bequest, easement, trust, muniment, covenant, possession, release, relinquishment, or any other method through any agreement, deed, document, writing, conveyance deed, devise, bequest, succession, family arrangement / settlement, litigation, decree or order of any Court of Law or Tribunal or revenue or statutory authority or arbitration, contracts / agreements, development rights, otherwise howsoever of any nature whatsoever, are hereby required to give notice thereof in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at our office at **2ND FLOOR, N.M. WADIA BUILDING, 123, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD, FORT, MUMBAI - 400001** along with a copy/email marked to **gaurav.gopal@wadiaghandy.com**, within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which, any such share, right, title, benefit, interest, claim, objection and/or demand, whatsoever, shall be disregarded and shall be deemed to have been waived off and/or abandoned for all intents and purposes.

THE SCHEDULE REFERRED HEREIN ABOVE:
(Description of the said Property)

All that piece and parcel of land admeasuring approximately 6070.08 square meters (equivalent to 7260 square yards) bearing Survey No. 121/5 and corresponding CTS No. 1176 (Part) of Village Versova, Taluka Andheri in the Registration Sub-District of Mumbai Suburban and lying being and situate at 121/5, J.P. Road, "Avinash", 7 Bungalows, Andheri (West), Mumbai 400053, together with a building standing thereon known as "Avinash" comprising of 2 (two) wings, each consisting of Ground + 14 (fourteen) upper floors, comprising of 84 (Eighty Four) residential flats and 12 (twelve) commercial shops/units and bounded as follows:

On or towards North : By land bearing S. No. 37 and 162 of Village Versova;
On or towards South : By J.P. Road i.e. Andheri Versova Road;
On or towards East : By the boundary of Village Ambivali;
On or towards West : By land bearing S. No. 87 of village Versova.

Dated this 9th day of August 2024.

For M/s. Wadia Ghandy & Co.
Mr. Gaurav Gopal
(Partner)

TENDER NOTICE
Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Gujarat,
Abhilekhagaar Bhavan, Sector-17, Gandhinagar

Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Gujarat invites interested Bidders to participate in the bidding process for the following works:

"Selection of Construction and Maintenance Agency on DBOT Basis for Devayat Bodar Memorial at Uparkot Fort, Junagadh Gujarat."

Please note that the Bid Documents can be downloaded from the website <https://tender.nprocure.com> from 09th August 2024. Further the last date of submission of the Online Bid is 30th August 2024 by 18:00 hrs. The last date for submission of hard copies of the documents is 31st August 2024 by 18:00 hrs. Evaluation of Preliminary Qualification criteria will be announced later. For further detail please contact 079-23256730/40.

Director, Directorate of Archaeology & Museums
INF/725/24-25

In the High Court of Judicature for Rajasthan at Jodhpur
D.B. Special Appeal (Writ) No. 32/2024
in
S.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 11242/2023

Appellants :- Jd.V.V.N.L. & Ors. **VERSUS** Respondents :- Bhansali Dyeing & Ors.

That this appeal has been filed against common judgement dated 09/11/2023 passed by the Hon'ble High Court, at Jodhpur in S.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 11242/2023 titled Bhansali Dyeing Vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors. and 411 connected writ petitions.

That the Hon'ble Court vide order dated 23/07/2024 has directed publication of the present notice so as to enable any of the writ petitioners whose writ petition came to be decided vide order dated 09/11/2023 passed by the Hon'ble High Court, at Jodhpur in S.B. Civil Writ Petition No. 11242/2023 titled Bhansali Dyeing Vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors. and 411 connected matters to join the present appeal in case such writ petitioners decide to do so.

Notice is hereby given to all the parties who were writ petitioners in 411 writ petitions decided along with the S.B. Writ Petition No. 11242/2023 titled bhansali Dyeing Vs. State of Rajasthan & Ors. to join the present appeal in case any such writ petitioners intend to do so.

Any writ petitioner intending to join may appear in person or through Advocate in the court on 03/09/2024. Given under my hand the seal of this 07 day of 08/2024.

Seal
Raj.Samwadi/C/24/3510
Registrar
Rajasthan High Court

India calls for restraint & de-escalation in West Asia

The situation in West Asia is of extreme concern to India, govt said citing that there are around 3,000 Indian nationals in Lebanon and 10,000 people in Iran. It also called for restraint and de-escalation.

"Our embassy is there. They have issued advisories for people to be cautious; and given the situation, we would continue to call for de-escalation and call for restraint because that is the need of the hour," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal. West Asia is reeling under increasing tensions since the killing of Hamas' Ismail Haniyeh last week. TNN

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AGARTALA
Agartala, Tripura, India, Pin - 799046
Website: <http://www.nita.ac.in>

No. F.NITA.2(472-Estt)/2017/944 Dated: 06/08/2024
RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

NIT Agartala invites applications from Indian Nationals to fill the vacant positions of **Assistant Professors (Grade-I & II)**. This is an extension update to the recruitment notice for Assistant Professor vacancies at NIT Agartala, vide reference Nos. F.NITA.2(521-Estt)/2022/Vol III/734, dated 22/04/2022 & No. F.NITA.2(545-Estt)/2022/6445, dated 07/12/2022.

Closing date for online application : **30.08.2024**.
For details please visit Institute website www.nita.ac.in.
Sd/- REGISTRAR

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RECRUITMENT

Can Fin Homes Limited (CFHL) is a listed Housing Finance Company, incorporated under Companies Act 1956, registered with National Housing Bank and regulated by Reserve Bank of India. The Company is looking for recruitment of Chief Information Officer on Contract/Regular Basis.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

For further details regarding eligibility criteria, terms & conditions etc., please visit Company's website www.canfinhomes.com

Interested candidates can apply online.
Last date for receipt of application - 19/08/2024
The Company reserves the right of selection of candidates.
Sd/-
General Manager

Date: 08/08/2024

Government of Maharashtra
Department of School Education & Sports

Education Improvement Initiatives - Phase II
Organised by Department of School Education

Inauguration Ceremony
A People oriented Project that directly provides employment opportunities to the youth of Maharashtra having specific skills required in Baden-Württemberg state in Germany to eventually help them raise their standard of living.

Presided by **Shri. C. P. Radhakrishnan**, Governor Maharashtra State
At the Hands of **Shri. Eknath Shinde**, Chief Minister Maharashtra State

Chief Guests: **Shri. Devendra Fadnavis**, Dy. Chief Minister Maharashtra State
Shri. Ajit Pawar, Dy. Chief Minister Maharashtra State

Time & Venue :-
Friday, 9th August 2024 at 3:00 pm.
At Darbar Hall, Rajbhavan, Malabar Hill, Mumbai

In the august presence of:

Shri. Chandrakant Patil, Minister, Higher & Technical Education, Textile & Parliamentary Affairs, Maharashtra State
Shri. Sudhir Mungantiwar, Minister, Forest, Cultural Affairs & Fisheries, Maharashtra State
Shri. Girish Mahajan, Minister, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Tourism, Maharashtra State
Shri. Hasan Mushrif, Minister, Medical Education Maharashtra State
Shri. Dhananjay Munde, Minister, Agriculture Maharashtra State

Shri. Uday Samant, Minister, Industries Maharashtra State
Shri. Suresh Khade, Minister, Labour Maharashtra State
Shri. Mangalprabhat Lodha, Minister, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Maharashtra State and Guardian Minister, Mumbai Suburbans

Invited by **I. A. Kundan, IAS**
Principal Secretary, Department of School Education & Sports

R. Vimala, IAS, State Project Director, Maharashtra Primary Education Council
Suraj Mandhare, IAS, Commissioner (Education)
Rahul Rekhwar, IAS, Director, State Educational Research & Training Council

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श्री. दीपक केशरकर, Minister, School Education
श्री. देवेंद्रा फडनविस, Dy. Chief Minister
श्री. ए.कनाथ शिंदे, Chief Minister
श्री. अजित पावार, Dy. Chief Minister
श्री. मंगलप्रभात लोढा, Minister, Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Innovation

4 holes in tiger skull raise poaching concerns in MP

Autopsy Indicates Gunshot Wounds; More Tests Likely

P.Naveen@timesofindia.com

Bhopal: The MP forest department is aflutter after initial post-mortem of a tiger revealed four holes in its skull, indicating gunshot injuries. The skull has been sent for ballistics tests.

The carcass was found on July 14 in Ratapani wildlife sanctuary near Obedullaganj, around 25km from Bhopal. Three of its paws and three canines were missing. The skull was found the next day, and immediately there was suspicion it had been shot by poachers.

On July 20, two suspects—Nafeez and Shakeel—were arrested from the nearby Murar village and two guns were seized from them. They have not been charged with the tiger's death yet.



The carcass was found on July 14 in Ratapani wildlife sanctuary

An analysis of the tiger's wounds revealed multiple 'penetrating head traumas': one on the left nasal bone measuring 12mm x 5mm, another on the right orbit with a diameter of 5mm, and a third on the right lacrimal bone (eye socket) with a diameter of 3.2mm. There was also a 'linear trauma' measuring 3mm in length. "We cannot say anything until the forensic report arrives. If the bal-

istics report confirms our suspicions, we will take the suspects on remand for further questioning," said a forest officer involved in the investigation.

He said metal detectors were used both at the site where the carcass was found and during autopsy to search for bullets or pellets but nothing was found. "Even if the tiger was shot, we don't have any evidence as of now. The carcass had also been compromised by rainwater, complicating the investigation," he added.

Officials believe this case needs a multi-agency probe, including involvement of intelligence units. Forest officials suspect many people in Murar village have firearms and other illegal weapons. Investigators uncovered WhatsApp messages suggesting suspects Nafeez and Shakeel were hunting animals in the area. Murar, 2km from the forest, is the focus of an extensive investigation led by the Special Tiger Strike Force.

Deadly bijlee: Why lightning is becoming a big killer in India

Hotter summers combined with heavy rain lead to rise in strikes while lack of awareness makes the poor more vulnerable

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

In June last year, as strong winds started blowing in Jamtoli village, which is in Gumla district about three hours from Ranchi, 10-year-old Deepak Sahu's eyes lit up. "Mangoes!" he thought, as he clambered on his bicycle. He was joined by an equally enthusiastic 14-year-old Savita and some other friends in anticipation of a feast.

But as the group pedalled down the dirt track towards the mango orchards, not only did the rain become heavier but a storm accompanied with lightning began. "Deepak and Savita were scared and took shelter under a tree while the rest ran back to the village for safety," Rajesh Sahu, Deepak's uncle recalls. The decision proved to be catastrophic.

Some districts have installed low-cost lightning conductors made with second-hand bicycle wheel rims, bamboo and metallic wires on top of buildings. States like Odisha, UP and WB have also announced plans to plant palm trees that act as a barrier to lightning

When the storm ended, villagers set out in search. Deepak and Savita, who had been struck by lightning, were rushed to the nearby hospital, but it was too late. Even a year later, Jamtoli continues to reel under the loss. Even worse, residents continue to be unaware that taking shelter under trees during lightning can be fatal.

Officials say that Gumla district alone recorded 30 deaths by lightning in 2023. This is not an isolated example of one district in Jharkhand. Thousands of people, especially in central and east India, die in lightning strikes every year. According to NCRB data, out of 8,060 accidental deaths in India attributable to forces of nature like flood, earthquake, tsunami, about 36% or 2,886 deaths were due to lightning in 2022, up from 1,165 deaths in 1967.

In novels and Hindi movies, lightning or 'bijlee' is romanticised and used to describe love at first sight. But in real life, strikes are becoming deadlier. Col Sanjay Srivastava (retd), principal scientist-cum-convener of the Lightning Resilient India Campaign, says climate change is behind the rise in lightning strikes as heat and moisture are two basic ingredients for thunderstorms. "This is aggravated by deforestation, depletion in water bodies, urbanisation, rise in aerosol levels due to pollution, rampant mining, industrialisation, among other factors," he adds.

Incidentally, analysis of lightning deaths over two decades shows that



Top 5 States With Most Deaths By Lightning

State	Deaths
MP	496
Bihar	329
Odisha	316
UP	301
Jharkhand	267

Total lightning deaths in 2022: 2,886
Source: NCRB

they are more likely to occur in the afternoon. Almost 88% of fatalities are reported from seven states including MP, UP, Bihar and Odisha. The reason is frequency of strikes and density of population. Also, lightning victims belong to the rural population (96%), mostly farmers, cattle grazers, and jungle hunters.

Like Arti and her 15-year-old daughter Ananya from UP's Bharatpur village, who were preparing the land for sowing in July amid the busy paddy season when it started raining heavily. Arti's husband Mahendra Mishra, who was working on another field, rushed home and waited for them. "When they did not return for some time, my nephew and I went out to search. We found their bodies near the field. They had been struck by lightning," he says in tears. Besides population density, research by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology suggests that topography makes certain areas more vulnerable to lightning strikes. Jharkhand, for instance, is close to Bay of Bengal and located in the Chhota Nagpur Plateau with an undulating landscape and tropical forests, while in Odisha open casting mining and industrialisation could impact the increase in strikes. This plays a vital role in creating weather variability. Srivastava, who is also chairman of the Climate Resilient Observing-Systems Promotion Council (CROPS) says.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT

In MP, where at least 80 people have been killed by lightning in July this year, it is a combination of an extremely hot summer followed by a heavy monsoon that often leads to a surge in lightning strikes. "If land gets hotter due to an excessively hot summer, and monsoon rain comes in contact with the baking earth, heat is transferred and lightning strikes begin within half an hour to three hours," says a weather expert. The maximum deaths, 35, occurred in Jabalpur division, which has been tagged a 'severe lightning vulnerable zone', followed by Shahdol and Sagar divisions. Senior Met scientist (Bhopal circle) Ved Prakash Singh says that when south-easterly winds hit the Satpura Range, strong clouds develop due to local orographic (hill, mountain) factors, triggering a blaze of lightning strikes.

Former IMD director general K J Ramesh says global warming has an indirect bearing on lightning strikes

as it impacts rain-bearing systems. "There is more lightning in August and September as these are months of heavy rain," he explains.

APPS AND JUGAAD

However, deaths are completely preventable with awareness and lightning protection measures, say experts. The govt had launched a mobile application called Damini in 2020 developed by IITM-Pune. The app monitors lightning activity and sends out GPS alerts in a 40 km radius. Precautions are also listed in the app.

Some districts have installed low-cost conductors made with second-hand bicycle wheel rims, bamboo and metallic wires. The rim is fixed on the top of a bamboo pole atop buildings acting as the lightning rod.

States like Odisha, UP and West Bengal have also announced plans to plant palm trees that act as a barrier to lightning. Satyabrata Sahu, Odisha's additional chief secretary of the revenue and disaster management department, disabled palm trees as natural lightning arresters. "That's why we have put restrictions on felling these trees. The govt will spend around Rs 20 crore for the plantation of 19 lakh palm trees this year. We are also discussing with IIT to develop an early warning system," he added.

Awareness campaigns in local languages and community meetings are held periodically to inform people about safe practices like using a 'pucca' building as a shelter rather than a tree or staying out in the open.

But there is a long road to travel before deaths can be stopped completely. For one, the govt is yet to declare it a natural disaster and focus manpower and resources in awareness generation. The other is a largely unlettered rural population with little or no access to smartphones, let alone apps and other information services.

"Most people tend to panic and forget the advice we give them," says Daya Shankar Mishra, from Jharkhand's Jamshepur who works with the Lightning Resilient India Campaign.

Reporting by Himanshi Dhawan in Delhi, Ankur Sirothia in Bhopal, Hemanta Pradhan in Bhubaneswar, Rajiv Mani in Prayagraj, BK Mishra, CS Jha Azad & Alok Chamarla in Bihar, KA Gupta & ASRP Mukesh in Jharkhand

₹35L newsprint set ablaze in Manipur

Guwahati: Unknown miscreants burned down newsprint worth Rs 35 lakh bound for an Imphal-based media house in Manipur's Kangpokpi district late Wednesday. All Manipur Working Journalists' Union and Editors' Guild Manipur condemned the arson and declared no news publication across print and electronic media platforms on Friday. TNN

KRIBHCO
Cooperative and beyond...

Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited
152, Maker Chambers-III, 223, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400 021

TENDER

KRIBHCO invites tenders for sale of its 05 numbers flats situated at Powai Lake View Apartment C.H.S. Ltd. & Powai Cosmopolitan C.H.S. Ltd. off Adi Shankaracharya Marg, Ram baug, Powai, Mumbai-400076 on "As is where is basis".
For details please log on to our website <http://www.krishco.net> under Tender Section.

Methane-eating bacteria found in rice fields, ghats

Swati Shinde Gole | TNN

Pune: Agharkar Research Institute scientists led by Mohini Rahalkar have discovered India's first methane-eating bacteria, methanotrophs, from rice fields and wetlands of Western Ghats and Vetal Tekdi in Pune.

Methanotrophs are natural methane mitigating agents present in environments where methane and oxygen both are available. Methane has 26 times more global warming potential compared to carbon dioxide.

The new genus and species, called Methylococcus oryzae, is oval and elongated and hence named 'methane-eating cucumbers' by ARI scientists. When added to transplanted paddy of high-yielding Indrayani variety,

methanotroph promoted early flowering and increased grain yield.

Rahalkar said, "These methane species are natural and indigenous to India and can help tackle climate challenges. While the world is experiencing global warming

CAN HELP TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

and climate change, there are some diligent micro-organisms in this world, doing their job perfectly in mitigating the ill effects of it."

The scientists took six years to identify the genus and 10 years to study it. The study, published in Indian Journal of Microbiology, found that no strains of this species have been reported or cultured from any other nation.

Notice for Inviting Tender (NIT)

DIF/HR/2024/2032 Bhopal, Date: 08/08/2024

Selection of Agency for Providing Support Consultant for Directorate of Institutional Finance, Government of Madhya Pradesh

For detailed scope of work and other terms and conditions, please refer to the tender document available at <https://mptenders.gov.in>. Interested Agencies who qualify per the criteria mentioned in the tender document, may submit their proposals online through the <https://mptenders.gov.in> only latest by 03/09/2024 till 03:00 PM.

Any update, corrigendum, addendum, etc. shall be made available only at the MP Tenders portal.

Sd/-
(Commissioner)
DIF, BHOPAL

G-14768/24

MINERAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
DIRECTORATE OF GEOLOGY AND MINING, MADHYA PRADESH
29- A Khanji Bhawan, Arera Hills Bhopal Phone and fax 0755-2551795
Email:geology.dgm@mp.gov.in

No-8599/Auction-13/Geology/F.No.-13/2024-25 August 08, 2024

Notice Inviting Tender

Government of Madhya Pradesh in exercise of the powers conferred by Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015, invites tender from the eligible bidders for the e-auction of major minerals in the state. Eligibility conditions, timelines, terms, and conditions etc. for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited (<https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp>) from August 09, 2024.

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above e-auction portal. The bidders can participate in the bidding only after online purchase of the Tender Document on payment of the Tender fee from the above e-auction portal. Any revision, clarifications, addendum, corrigendum, time extensions, etc. to the tender document will be hosted on the above e-auction portal only and no separate notifications shall be issued in the press. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summaries are available free of cost on the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited website (<https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp>).

The block specific Tender documents are available for purchase on the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited (<https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp>). The pre-bid conference would be organised in hybrid mode on Thursday, August 29, 2024. The venue, time and link for virtual mode shall be notified separately on the MSTC portal. Last date for purchase of Tender Document, on the e-auction platform is **Monday, 16 September, 2024**, and the last date for submission of the bid is **Monday, 23 September, 2024**, on or before 17:00 hours (IST). The bidders shall note that financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format.

Sr. No.	Name of the Block	District	Mineral	MU/CL	Price of Tender Document without GST (in Rs.)
First Attempt Blocks					
1	Pipariya Dyandas Limestone Block	Damoh	Limestone	ML	5,00,000
2	Dedi B Limestone Block	Dhar	Limestone	ML	5,00,000
3	Naganwat Badi & Choti (Block-D) Manganese Block*	Jhabua	Manganese Ore	CL	25,000
4	Kauhari Diamond Block	Satna & Panna	Diamond	CL	5,00,000
5	Bagda-Sawarsa Basemetal Block	Dewas	Basemetal	CL	5,00,000
6	Jalda (S.E.) Bauxite and Aluminous Laterite Block	Dindori	Bauxite & Aluminous Laterite	CL	2,00,000
7	Tantar Bauxite and Aluminous Laterite Block	Dindori	Bauxite & Aluminous Laterite	CL	5,00,000
8	Gaganwada Agarwara Limestone Block	Khargone	Limestone	CL	5,00,000
Second Attempt					
9	Papra Kokahansar Diamond Block*	Satna	Diamond	CL	5,00,000
10	Khari Takari Limestone Block	Dhar	Limestone	CL	5,00,000
11	Nandiyal Aganwara Manganese Block	Khargone	Manganese Ore	CL	5,00,000
12	Chuli-Barora Limestone Block	Sidhi	Limestone	CL	25,000
13	Parihasi Basemetal Block	Singrauli	Basemetal	CL	5,00,000
14	Baranjh-Pakkatola Bauxite Block	Anuppur	Bauxite	CL	5,00,000
15	Byodihar Gold and Basemetal Block	Singrauli	Gold & Basemetal	CL	5,00,000

Note: * Mineral Blocks being put up for auction in accordance with section 10A2D of the Act

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Geology and Mining
Madhya Pradesh

G-14769/24

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No-B-IV-H (H&D)-119/2023 Lr. No.- 31664 Bhubaneswar, the 7th Aug., 2024
Invitation for Bids
Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 05/2024-25

1. The Chief Engineer, Buildings, Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works, (1) Construction of Trauma Care Unit and New SDH Building at Rairakhol, Sambalpur, (2) Construction of CHC Building at Berhampur in Cuttack District, (3) Construction of CHC Building at Bindhanima in Cuttack District, (4) Construction of CHC Building at Kanpur in Cuttack District, (5) Construction of CHC Building at Kodola in the district of Ganjam, (6) Construction of CHC Building at Patrapur in Ganjam, (7) Construction of CHC Building at Khalikote in Ganjam, (8) Construction of 50 Bedded Critical Care Block at MC&H Balasore, Odisha as detailed below.

2. Nature of work	Building works
3. No. of work	08 Nos.
4. Bid Cost	Rs. 10,000/- (each)
5. Class of Contractor	'A' / Special / Super Class
6. Availability of Bid Documents in the website	From dt. 20.08.2024 to 17.00 Hours of dt. 05.09.2024.
7. Date of Opening of Bid	dt. 06.09.2024 at 11:30 AM.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.	

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Buildings),
Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-34117/110013/24-25

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

e-Tender Notice

DEPARTMENT	WATER SUPPLY PROJECT DEPARTMENT
SUB DIVISION	Dy.Ch.E.(WSP) MV-II
TENDER REF. NO.	MGC/FI 3958 dtd. 08/08/2024
TENDER ID	2024_MCGM_1067167_1
SUBJECT	Design and Construction of Tertiary Treated Water Conveyance Tunnel from Dharavi WWTF to Ghatkopar WWTF
SALE OF e-tender	Document download/Sale Start Date :- 08/08/2024 from 6:00 pm Document download/Sale End Date:- 28/08/2024 up to 1:00 pm
WEB SITE	www.mahatenders.gov.in
CONTACT PERSON	Sudhakar Hande 9869032069 E.E.(WSP) MV-II
E-Mail	eec2civii01.wsp@mcmgm.gov.in dtgtunnel2024@gmail.com

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (W.S.P.)

PRO/ 882/ADV/2024-25
जलजन्य आजार टाकण्यासाठी पाणी गाळून व उकळून प्यावे

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 05-08-2024 to 07-08-2024
Stationery Department

Tender ID: 2024 STY 684449 1 * Controller of Stationery (I/c) * Supply of Maplitho Paper 70 gsm 76 cm Reel * Closing Date: 30-Aug-2024 * PAC: Rs12600000

Visit <https://tenders.kerala.gov.in> for more details.
Ro.No:05-07/Aug/2024/PRD(N)10

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, SAWAI MAN SINGH HOSPITAL, JAIPUR
(Sawai Man Singh Road, Tonk Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302 001)
(Phone 0141-2518308, 0141 2565647, Email: ms.smshospital@gmail.com)
No.1566/Store/SMS/MH/2024 Jaipur dated, the 31/7/24

Notice Inviting Bid

Bids for two years rate contract for procurement of Biochemistry Reagents and Kits are invited from interested bidders up to 05.9.24 at 5.00 PM. Other particulars of bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://procproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state.

Sd/-
Medical Superintendent
S.M.S. Hospital, Jaipur

DIPR/C/7043/2024

KOLHAPUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, KOLHAPUR
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
TENDER NOTICE NO. 29

Online tenders through E-Tendering system are invited from contractors for Proposed Infrastructure development for 100 E Buses at KMT workshop for Kolhapur Municipal Corporation, Kolhapur, 416002 Dist. Kolhapur, Maharashtra. The detailed tender notice can be downloaded from the e-tendering website www.mahatenders.gov.in. Date of tender submission from 09/08/2024 09.30 AM to 16/08/2024 at 3.30 PM. Tender Opening Date 20/08/2024 at 4.00 pm.
Date 08/08/2024

Sd/-
City Engineer
Kolhapur Municipal Corporation

Mumbai Housing And Area Development Board
(Unit of MHADA)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that Mumbai Housing & Area Development Board, MHADA is not a part of the Public Notice dt. 02/03/2024 for invitation of tender for redevelopment of land admeasuring 36282.84 sq. mtr. which was published in Times of India, Maharashtra Times & Loksatta etc.

The said Notice has been issued by Gorai Road, MHB Colony, Co.Op. HSC Society's Association. The MHADA Land at CTS No. 240, Old MHB Colony, Borivali (West), Mumbai pertaining to building No. 15 (Which is demolished) is not a part of the above mentioned public notice advertisement dated 02/03/2024.

It is hereby informed that the said layout plan has been cancelled. Any Person / Corporate / Builder / Developer / Contractor / Architect / Government Corporations etc. including its officials dealing with the said association in connection with the advertisement dt. 02/03/2024 shall be doing it at their own risk / cost and MHADA shall not be responsible for the same. Any civil or criminal consequence which may arise will be the sole responsibility of the person who deals with the said redevelopment.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Borivali Division, Mumbai Board

CPRO/A/569

Eyeing ₹90L FD, Kerala bank manager gets retd engineer killed in hit-&-run

Kollam: An 82-year-old retired BSNL engineer in Kerala's Kollam was killed this May in a hit-and-run accident, which police now claim was orchestrated by the manager of a private local bank where the deceased had an FD of Rs 90 lakh. Manager Saritha (45) and four others have been arrested.

hatched the plot thinking no one would come to claim the FD if he died. Pappachan had earlier questioned Sa-

ARRESTED WITH 4 OTHERS

ritha about an unauthorised withdrawal of Rs 40 lakh from his deposit. Saritha had assured to resolve the issue soon. She later plotted the murder and hired the others, police said. TNN

सिंचाई विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश केन्द्रीय सज्जा एवं भण्डार आपूर्ति मण्डल-2, गंगा सिंचाई भवन, तेलीबाग, लखनऊ GeM BID NOTICE

सिंचाई विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश के अन्तर्गत अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय सज्जा एवं भण्डार आपूर्ति मण्डल-2, लखनऊ द्वारा विभिन्न परियोजनाओं हेतु आइएसओआई0 मार्क, अन्प्लास्टिक्साइड पीओवी0सी0 हाइड 160 मि.मी./200 मि.मी. नामिलन ब्यास, क्लास-1, 2.5 कि.ग्रा./से.मी. प्रेशर रेटिंग के क्रय हेतु जेम पोर्टल बिड संख्या-GEM/2024/B/5242349 दिनांक 03.08.2024, दिनांक 06.08.2024 को जेम पोर्टल पर अपलोड की गयी हैं, जिसमें प्रतिभाग करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 19.08.2024 अपरान्ह 15.00 बजे है। सामग्री के क्रय प्रबन्ध हेतु तकनीकी व अन्य शर्तें जेम पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध हैं।

किसी प्रकार के तकनीकी कारणों से जेम पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड न होने पर अधोहस्ताक्षरी की कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी। किसी अपरिहार्य परिस्थिति में निविदा निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता,
केन्द्रीय सज्जा एवं भण्डार आपूर्ति मण्डल-2,
लखनऊ

UPID-218199/07.08.2024 www.upgov.nic.in

CAD-792 NOTICE INVITING BID Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)

In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar -751 001
Tel.: (0674) 2380950, Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: drugs-osmcl@gov.in
Letter No. 5581 Date: 07.08.2024

Bid Ref. No.: OSMCL/2024-25/ OTH-DHS-I/06 Date: 08/08/2024

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Insecticides and Larvicides as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	08/08/2024, 3 PM
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id-drugs-osmcl@gov.in	14/08/2024, 3 PM
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time: 03/09/2024, 6.00 PM End Date & Time: 03/09/2024, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee and EMD amount as per section-IV of tender document	Start Date & Time: 04/09/2024, 10 AM End Date & Time: 11/09/2024, 11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	11/09/2024, 11:30 AM
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof. All notice will be published in the OSMCL website www.osmcl.nic.in. Hence the bidders are requested to visit OSMCL website www.osmcl.nic.in time to time for any published notice against the tender.

Sd/-
Managing Director
OSMCL Ltd., Odisha
OIPR-1011211/0006/24-25

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED (A Government of India Undertaking) NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Principal Chief Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., invites Open Tender in Single bid system through E-Tendering on IREPS portal from eligible contractors for the following work: Name of Work: Supplying and stacking of 50 mm size Pakur variety machine crushed track ballast for Jayanagar (India) to Kurha (Nepal) Railway section. Tender Notice No.: KR-W-1-58-2024-14. Estimated Cost: Rs. 1,60,89,904/- excluding GST. Closing Date/Time: 23.08.2024 up to 15:00 hrs for submission of online Offers/Bids. Completion period: Three months including monsoon. Manual offers shall not be accepted. Please visit <https://ireps.gov.in> website for details / participation. Corrigendum / addendum will be hosted in this website only.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001 Corporate Identity No. : U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact number 9646122219)

Tender Enquiry No. QW-326/PO-W Dated 08.08.2024
Chief Engineer/Stores & Workshops Organization, Sarabha Nagar, PSPCL, Ludhiana, invites E-tender of 93000 no. Stay Sets manufactured from M.S. Round 16mm and M.S. Channel 75x40mm (L/W) conforming to IS: 2062/1992 (with latest editions) Grade-A quality along with MS Plate 3x100x100mm and sectional details as per IS: 1732/1989 for M.S. Round and as per IS: 808/1989 for M.S. Channel with Red Oxide Primer. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 08.08.2024 from 2.00 pm onwards.
NOTE:- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560079. Phone: 91-80-29619801 Email: md.kmsc@gmail.com

No.HFW/KSMSCL/EQPT/KSAPS/BSE/TND/11/2024-25(IND-0156) Date: 07-08-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: 1) Tender Notification No: HFW/KSMSCL/EQPT/KSAPS/BSE/TND/11/2024-25 (IND-0156), Date: 07.08.2024.
Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tenders:
1) Tender for Supply of Blood Storage Equipments Under Karnataka State Aids Prevention Society Programme.
The tenderers who have registered under e-Procurement department may participate through e-tendering system.
Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 07-08-2024. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tender. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.
Sd/- Managing Director
KSMSCL, Bengaluru.

CENTRAL RAILWAY NOTICE OF E-AUCTION

Mumbai Division, Central Railway has called for e-auction leasing of below assets on www.ireps.gov.in through e-auction leasing module. The interested bidder are required to get registered in e-auction leasing module and all necessary document to be uploaded prior to the e-auction. For further details the interested bidders are requested to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in to know the details of E-Auction mentioned below:

S. N.	Category	Sub-Category	Auction Start
1	On station premises (Non Digital)	Mobile Assets (Int. & Ext. Both)	09.08.2024, 23.08.2024 13.08.2024, 20.08.2024 12.08.2024, 21.08.2024 16.08.2024
2	ATM	ATM at ULNR-6	16.08.2024
3	Parking	Mixed	14.08.2024, 16.08.2024
4	Parcel	SLR and SLR LHB 22865F1	09.08.2024, 12.08.2024 19.08.2024, 21.08.2024, 22.08.2024
5	Pay & Use	Pay & use	14.08.2024, 16.08.2024
6	Other NFR	Waiting room TNA, 2CSMT, Roha, PNVL, KYN	22.08.2024
7	Other NFR	Parcel Scanner	23.08.2024

Further Addendum /corrigendum, withdrawal of lot/catalogue, change in date, time extension, clarification etc. if any, in connection with the subject auctions, will only be uploaded in the website. Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated. DE-317

खतनाक व विस्फोटक सामान के साथ यात्रा करना दंडनीय अपराध है

Man collecting wild mushrooms crushed to death by elephants in UP tiger reserve

Bareilly: A man who entered Dudhwa Tiger Reserve forest in UP to collect wild mushrooms was killed by a herd of elephants. Shiv Bhagwan had gone into the forest on Tuesday but did not return. Forest officials launched a search on Wednesday after being informed by his family. An official said prima facie, it appears to be an "accidental attack". TNN

KK-113
ODISHA UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH
Techno Campus, Ghatikia, P.O. - Mahalaxmi Vihar
BHUBANESWAR-751029 ODISHA, INDIA
Advt. No OTR/DC/2024-25/03, Dated 06.08.2024
E-TENDER CALL NOTICE FOR SETTING UP A
"CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON DIGITAL MANUFACTURING"
Tenders are invited from the reputed registered agencies / OEMs for setting up a "Centre of Excellence on Digital Manufacturing" for Skill Development, Research & Consultancy at OJTRA, Bhubaneswar. Details regarding the eligibility criteria, terms and conditions and formats for submission of tender may be downloaded from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The last date and time of submission of E-Tender documents through online mode is 05.09.2024 up to 6.00 P.M. The undersigned reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason thereof.
Sd/-
REGISTRAR
OIPR-16009/11/0029/24-25

CAD-797
INTEGRATED TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, PANPOSH
Tel.No.- 0661-2501011, Fax - 2501011, e-mail- itdapan@nic.in
No.1922/ Date : 08.08.2024
E-Tender Notice Bid Identification No. ITDAPAN-01/2024-25
The Project Administrator, ITDA, Panposh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in online mode for Construction of the work detailed below.
1. Number of works : 03 (Three)
2. Nature of work : Civil Construction work
3. Class of Contractor : B & A, D & C
4. Period of completion : 6 (Six) and 11 (Eleven) calendar months
5. Estimated cost : Rs. 15,09,665/- & Rs. 2,83,35,730/-
6. Date & time of online availability of details of this notice and the Tender Documents : 09.08.2024 to 02.09.2024 upto 5.00 PM. in the Site www.tendersodisha.gov.in and in the office of the P.A., ITDA, Panposh (on working days).
7. Last date of receipt of online Bid : 02.09.2024 upto 5.00 PM.
8. Mode of submission of Tender documents : The documents should be uploaded through online.
9. The date of opening of Bids received on-line : 03.09.2024 at 11.00 am in the office of the P.A., ITDA, Panposh.
10. Designation and address of the authority inviting Bids : Project Administrator, ITDA, Panposh.
The bidders have to participate through online bidding only.
Sd/-
Project Administrator,
ITDA, Panposh.
OIPR-19056/11/0003/24-25

सिंचाई विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश
केन्द्रीय सज्जा एवं भण्डार आपूर्ति मण्डल-2,
गंगा सिंचाई भवन, तेलीबाग,
लखनऊ
GEM BID NOTICE
सिंचाई विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश के अन्तर्गत अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, केन्द्रीय सज्जा एवं भण्डार आपूर्ति मण्डल-2, लखनऊ द्वारा विभिन्न परियोजनाओं के अन्तर्गत राजकीय नलकूपों के प्रयोगार्थ विभागीय तकनीकी मानकों के अनुरूप स्विच फ्यूज यूनिट 100एमएम/200 एमएम (टी0पी0 स्विच) के क्रय हेतु जेम पोर्टल बिड संख्या-GEM/2024/B/5155474, दिनांक 06.08.2024 को जेम पोर्टल पर अपलोड की गयी हैं, जिसमें प्रतिभाग करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 24.08.2024 अपरान्ह 15:00 बजे है। सामग्री के क्रय प्रबन्ध हेतु तकनीकी व अन्य शर्तें जेम पोर्टल पर उपलब्ध हैं।
किसी प्रकार के तकनीकी कारणों से जेम पोर्टल पर निविदा अपलोड न होने पर अधोहस्ताक्षरी की कोई जिम्मेदारी नहीं होगी। किसी अपरिहार्य परिस्थिति में निविदा निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा।
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
केन्द्रीय सज्जा एवं भण्डार आपूर्ति मण्डल-2,
लखनऊ
UPID 218179 at 07.08.2024,
www.upgov.nic.in

IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED
NAVRATNA COMPANY
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Website: www.ircon.org CIN: L45303DL1976GO008171
e-Procurement Notice
e-Tender No.: IRCON/2024/GR/PE/TENDER/24-25/Geva-Pendra/BSP-66 Dated: 08.08.2024
e-Tender for and on behalf of Chhattisgarh East-West Railway Limited (CEWRL) is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Construction of Bridge No. 1C, 2C, 2D, 3C, 15C, 15D, 20B and 16 for connectivity of Junadith Augmentation work & Dipka Siding to CEWRL Main Line in connection with the construction of New BG Electrified Double Railway Line for Chhattisgarh East West Rail Corridor from Geva Road (Km 0) to Pendra Road (Km 135) in the state of Chhattisgarh over South East Central Railway".
Estimated Cost of the work ₹ 27,27,51,200.33/-
Last Date & Time of Bid Submission 29.08.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs. (IST)
For further details, visit website <https://tenders.gov.in> or procurements@ircon.org. If any, would be hosted only on the website.
1st Floor, The ARK Link Road, Opposite Zudio, Biliapur, Chhattisgarh-495001

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Vidut Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675, Tel. No.: 0135-2642711
E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-1
The pre-bid clarifications of the E-Tender for "Appointment of consulting firm for Advisory support of Consultant for preparation and filing of Tariff Petition for the control period FY 2024-25 to FY 2028-29 for Deemed ISTS elements of PTCUL" against Tender Specification No. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/ARR-05/2024-25 has been uploaded on e-tender website and the last date of submission of the e-tender is extended upto 23.08.2024 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit the e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2024_PTCU4_73893_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website www.ptcul.org. All other terms and conditions shall remain same.
For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8998990000
RO 1425/HQP/PTCUL Date : 07.08.2024 Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)
"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MUMBAI
1st floor, Terminal 1, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Santacruz (E), Mumbai - 400 099.
INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN BIDDING PROCESS FOR NON-AERO CONCESSIONS AT CSMI AIRPORT
Mumbai International Airport Limited ("MIAL") invites parties to participate in the competitive bidding process for Passenger Services Concessions at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport ("CSMIA"), Mumbai.
Parties are requested to visit the website: (<https://csmia.adaniairports.com/>) Business -> Tenders) to download the application form for purchase of RFP documents
Please check the website for the deadline for submission of Application.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
No. : COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162, Date: 06/08/2024.
The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in.
Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in -> login -> E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631.
Office Address: Office of the PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan, Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Quantity; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST) are as follows: [1]; 75243799; Supply and Installation of Waterless urinal for 3-Phase electric locomotives as per RDSO Specification No./FRS No.: RDSO/2023/ELFRS/0034 (Rev. '0') issued in February-2023. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 250.00 Numbers; ₹ 15,22,790.00; 28/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [2]; 75243844; Hex Head Bolt for Side-Buffer for WAG-9HC Loco M27 x 200/134 x 3P to IS : 1364 (Part-1) : 2002, Product Grade "B" Zn. Plated Specn. MATTL-STEEL Property Class 10.9 as per IS : 1364 (Part-1) : 2002. Technical supply Condition as per IS : 1367 (Part-3): 2002. (Each set of is a Loco set consisting of 16 Nos. as per Set details attached). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 887.00 Set; ₹ 0.00; 30/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. [3]; 75243831; Saddle Light Staff for WAG-9HC (As per set details attached). [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 887.00 Set; ₹ 0.00; 30/09/2024 at 11:00 AM. [4]; 75243748; Axle Box Bearing [CRU-150] for WAG-9HC Loco as per Drg. No.: 1209-01.311-061, Alt.-1. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]; 10427.00 Numbers; ₹ 20,00,000.00; 30/08/2024 at 11:00 AM. PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan [PR4/572]
Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
MSETCL invites online bids (E-Tender) for following
S.N, Tender No. & Description
1 RFX. No. 7000032648; Work of Supply, Civil and ETC (excluding supply of T/F) for Augmentation of transformers at 132KV Besa S/Stn under Nagpur Zone. EMD Rs. 322878/- & Tender Fees: Rs. 5000/- (GST extra)
2 RFX. No. 7000032647; Work of Supply, Civil and ETC (excluding supply of T/F) for Augmentation of transformers at 132KV Pardi S/Stn under Nagpur Zone. EMD Rs. 290589/- & Tender Fees: Rs. 5000/- (GST extra)
3 RFX. No. 7000032646; Work of Supply, Civil and ETC (excluding supply of T/F) for Augmentation of transformers at 132KV Mankapur S/Stn under Nagpur Zone. EMD Rs. 187978/- & Tender Fees: Rs. 5000/- (GST extra)
Tenders Available at : <https://smretender.mahatransco.in>; Due date for online submission upto: 16.08.2024, 11:00 Hrs; Tender Opening 16.08.2024, 12:00 Hrs if possible
-sd-
Chief Engineer EHV PC O&M Zone Nagpur.

Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC)
Market Department
e-Tender Notice (On line) No.
MEDICAL OFFICE OF HEALTH/PHD/MARKET/01/2024-25 (1st Attempt)
Tenders are invited for MARKET DEPARTMENT to download the document of above mentioned tender and for more details, log on to web site <http://smctender.nprocure.com>
1. NAME OF DEPARTMENT MARKET DEPARTMENT
2. NO OF TENDER 01
3. ESTIMATED COST OF TENDER RS.15.00 LAKHS
The detail tender notice will be made available at above address and on website www.suratmunicipal.gov.in.
No. PRO/119/2024-25 Medical Officer of Health
Dated: 07/08/2024 Surat Municipal Corporation.

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Unit - 1 : Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines)
Unit - 2 : Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy District, Tamil Nadu, Ph.: 04332 - 261600
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS
Tender No. Scope of work Due date
242513 002653 Supply, Erection and Commissioning of Wet Line Based Flue Gas Desulphurisation System for 1 X 125 TPH AFBC Boiler under RSPSF2 at TNPL Unit-I. 09.09.2024
242513 002591 TNPL Copier A-4-70 GSM & A-4-80 GSM 10 Reams Carton Lid and Tray 22.08.2024
242513 002592 Procurement of Sodium Sulphate for Unit - I 22.08.2024
242513 002608 Procurement of CS Pipe, Solf Flanges & Elbows. 22.08.2024
242523 001640 Cross Linker for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II. 26.08.2024
242523 001641 ASA Sizing Chemical for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II. 27.08.2024
242523 001642 To Run Oxidizing Biocide Program including bolout on package cost basis for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit-II. 24.08.2024
242513002653 - pmd@tnpl.co.in
242513002591 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in
242513002592 - purchase.rawmat@tnpl.co.in
242513002608 - purchase.enggspares@tnpl.co.in
242523001640, 1641, 1642 - purchaseserm.u2@tnpl.co.in
Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. Detailed requirements, Period, Terms & conditions, Tender fee, EMD, etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from website: <https://tenders.gov.in/nicgep/app>
DIPR/2854/Tender/2024 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
CIN - L23220MH1952GOI008931
Regd. Office: Bharat Bhavan, 4 & 6 Currimbhoy Road, Ballard Estate, Mumbai 400 001, Tel: 022- 2271 3000 / 4000,
Email: info@bharatpetroleum.in, Website: www.bharatpetroleum.in

NOTICE OF 71st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
1. Notice is hereby given that 71st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Members of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (the Company) will be held on Friday, 30th August, 2024 at 10.30 hrs IST through Video Conferencing (VC) / Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) to transact the business as mentioned in the AGM Notice, in compliance with all applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (the Act) and the rules made thereunder and Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 read with various circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) and by SEBI (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Circulars"). Members will be able to attend the AGM through VC / OAVM or view live webcast at www.evoting.nsdl.com.
2. As per the aforesaid MCA and SEBI circulars, electronic copy of the AGM Notice & the Explanatory Statement thereto, included as a part of the Annual Report of the Company for the Financial Year 2023-24, has been sent through electronic mode on Thursday, 8th August 2024 to all those Members whose email IDs are registered with the Company and/or Depositories. The Annual Report for the Financial Year 2023-24, including the AGM Notice, is also available on the Company's website at www.bharatpetroleum.in, on the website of National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) at www.evoting.nsdl.com and on the website of the Stock Exchanges, i.e. BSE Limited and National Stock Exchange of India Limited at www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com respectively.
3. Since the present AGM is being held through VC / OAVM pursuant to the MCA Circulars, the facility to appoint proxies by the members will not be available.
INSTRUCTIONS FOR REMOTE E-VOTING AND E-VOTING DURING AGM
4. Members are being provided with the facility to cast their votes on all Resolutions as set forth in the Notice convening AGM using electronic voting system (e-voting). The Company has engaged the services of NSDL to provide e-voting facility. Members may cast their votes remotely, using the electronic voting system on the dates mentioned below. Further, the facility for voting through electronic voting system will also be made available at the AGM and members attending the AGM through VC / OAVM who have not cast their vote(s) by remote e-voting and are otherwise not barred from doing so, will be eligible to vote at the AGM. The members who have cast their votes by remote e-voting prior to the AGM may also attend / participate in the AGM through VC / OAVM but shall not be able to cast their votes again. The voting rights of members shall be in proportion to the equity shares held by them (in physical or dematerialized mode), in the paid-up equity share capital of the Company as on Friday, 23rd August, 2024 (cut-off date). Member whose name is appearing in the register of members or in the register of beneficial owners maintained by the depositories as on the cut-off date only can vote at the AGM or by remote e-voting.
5. The remote e-voting period commences on Sunday, 25th August, 2024 at 9.00 am and will end on Thursday, 29th August, 2024 at 5.00 pm. Remote e-voting shall not be allowed beyond 5.00 pm on Thursday, 29th August, 2024. During this period, the members may cast their vote electronically. The remote e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL thereafter. Once the votes on a Resolutions have been cast by the member, the member shall not be allowed to change it subsequently.
6. The manner of remote e-voting and e-voting at the AGM by members holding shares in dematerialized mode, physical mode and for members who have not registered their email addresses is provided in the Notice of the AGM. The information on the manner of registering / updating email addresses is also provided in the Notice of the AGM, which is available on the Company's website on the following link: <https://www.bharatpetroleum.in/bharat-petroleum-for/investors/Financial-Performance/Annual-Reports.aspx>
7. Any person, who acquires shares of the Company and becomes a member of the Company after the Notice has been sent electronically by the Company and holds shares as on the cut-off date i.e. Friday, 23rd August, 2024, may obtain the User ID and Password by sending a request to evoting@nsdl.com or bpcl@dsrc-icid.in. However, if he / she is already registered with NSDL for remote e-voting, then he / she can use his / her existing User ID and Password for casting the votes.
8. In case of any queries / grievances pertaining to facilities for e-voting, members may refer to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and the e-voting user manual available under download section on www.evoting.nsdl.com or 022-48867000 or send a request to NSDL at evoting@nsdl.com to Ms. Pallavi Mhatre, Manager, NSDL, 4th Floor, 'A' Wing, Trade World, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg, Lower Parel, Mumbai 400013.
9. Members are requested to carefully read all the Notes set out in the Notice of the AGM and in particular, instructions for joining the AGM, manner of casting vote through remote e-voting or through e-voting during the AGM.
For Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
Sd/-
(V. Kala)
Company Secretary

Western Railway - Ratlam Division
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT : E-TENDERING NOTICE
No. : W/623/5/1/NIT, Date : 05.08.2024
The Divisional Railway Manager (WA) RATLAM for and on behalf of the President of India invites "Open Tender" through e-tender on website www.ireps.gov.in the details are as under :-
Sr. No. : 1, E-Tender No. : RTM-2024-25-72, Name of Work : Sehore Station - Providing approach road, goods office room, widening of goods platform, cover shed on goods platform, drain, ladies rest room with wash room etc. work including with electrical work in connection with development of goods shed with various amenities at. Approx Value : ₹ 16,50,38,898.41, Earnest Money to be deposited in Rs : ₹ 9,75,200.00, Completion period : 18 Months, Similar Type of Work : Any Steel Fabrication Work, Date of uploading on website : 05.08.2024, Date of Opening of Tender : 09.09.2024. Sr. No. : 2, E-Tender No. : RTM-2024-25-77, Name of Work : Maksi - Bhopal Section - Annual repair and Maintenance of bridges in ADEN Sehore Section. (For Two Year), Approx Value : ₹ 1,69,24,800.00, Earnest Money to be deposited in Rs : ₹ 2,34,700.00, Completion period : 24 Months, Similar Type of Work : Any Civil Engineering work, Date of uploading on website : 05.08.2024, Date of Opening of Tender : 09.09.2024. Detailed tender notice, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions are available at website www.ireps.gov.in. Cost of tender form is NIL.
Divisional Railway Manager (WA)
Ratlam Division, WR
ADM/51/172
हम लाइक करे | Facebook.com/WesternRly

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/24/49 Dated: 05.08.2024 PCMM/CLW/HWH on behalf of the Indian Railways invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the following. The following E-Tender/s is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospectively/likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in for detailed instructions please. These are E-Tenders; only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Quantity; Due On; Tender Cost as follows: [263]; 14242520A; i) Spring Loaded Switch-2; ii) Spring Loaded Switch For Pantograph/VCB/Hotel Load; iii) Spring Loaded Switch For Head Light Intensity; iv) Spring Loaded Switch For Compressor. All above to CLW Spec. No. CLW/ES/3/0075/B. [Quantity Tolerance (+/-) : 5% percentage, Item Category: Normal, Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; As Per Tender/ Documents; 24/08/2024; ₹.00. [267]; 14242951A; CABACTIVATING KEY SWITCH TO CLW SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/0074. [Quantity Tolerance (+/-) : 5% %age, Item Category: Normal, Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; As Per Tender/ Documents; 03/10/2024; ₹.00. [268]; 14242589A; SOCKET HAND LAMP TO CLW SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/0082. [Quantity Tolerance (+/-) : 5% %age, Item Category: Normal, Total PO value variation Permitted: Max 8 lacs]; As Per Tender/ Documents; 2



CONTRAPUNTO

A man will commit almost any wrong only to build a great, gloomy, dark-chambered mansion, for himself to die in, and for his posterity to be miserable in

—NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

Citizen Vinesh

Rarely does a rare sportsperson become a star without winning. And her story is not over

To the podium finishers, belong the laurels. But then there is Vinesh Phogat. Goldless, medalless, she has got India buzzing like the bee's knees. The public gaze on her life story is not new. It intensified as she stormed into the Olympic wrestling final, the first Indian woman to do so. Then grew upon her weighted disqualification. Instead of dimming her story arc, her losses have had a habit of lifting it higher. Will this pattern endure?

Of course, it is routine to lose in sports. Most Olympians will lose in Paris too. There are Indians who will return having been in painful touching distance of bronze. In archery, shooting, badminton, weightlifting. Maybe Vinesh's had more than her fair share of injuries. But the hits to her elbows and knees are only one part of what's riveting about her biography. What's made this Olympian stand out in India, is the battle she has fought outside the ring, and not for herself either. In the fight against sexual harassment, the odds are far more leaden. Many Indians cannot imagine themselves taking on such odds, anymore than an Olympic challenge. But they can appreciate the courage of someone who takes on both, with a kind of reckless heroism. It is also an inspiration for others to climb their own hills.

Conspiracy theories that have grown around her disqualification do suffer from ignorance, about wrestling's rules. This is a country where most sports conversation is about cricket, after all. But the doubting is also related to the institutional response to the wrestlers' anti-sexual-harassment protests, how harshly police were set upon them. There was even opacity in the processes where Vinesh had to transition from the 53kg to 50kg class. That the sports minister has given Parliament details about how much money govt has spent on her training and an MP translated her disqualification into a "lesson for all of us" to keep our weight in check, are scrambling responses to an antsy public sphere.

The power of this story is indivisible from how Vinesh looks and her words. Whether it is protesting, attacking, celebrating, healing, her images have ineffable pull. But so does the tweet announcing her retirement, or how she flayed Indian society for normalising sexual abuse and harassment. It is reminiscent of Muhammad Ali's eloquence: "You my opposer when I want equality." But like him, her decriers are also legion. They will have a say in shaping her story too. The fight is on.



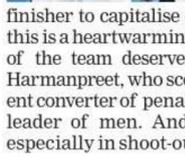
Captain & Goalie

Harmanpreet & Sreejesh best exemplified the spirit of our bronze-winning hockey team

Forty-four years ago in Moscow, India had prevailed over Spain 4-3 in a nerve-jangling final to claim its eighth Olympic gold. The two sides were contesting for a different metal in Paris yesterday. But nothing seemed to have changed. The intensity, the nerves, the desperation — everything was evident once more as Harmanpreet Singh-led India won 2-1 in another pulse-pounding game. For the second time in a row, India has won the bronze in the Olympics, and this one couldn't have come at a more opportune time.

In the past few days, India has endured a string of misses and misfortunes. In Paris, there have been more fourth-spot finishes than ever before, not to forget the tragic disqualification of wrestler Vinesh Phogat, a national heartbreak. The bronze, coming after a week without medals, will bring a degree of joy to millions invested in the national sport.

Teamwork was the key to India's victory. In every match, every member played his heart out. Defeating Great Britain, despite playing with 10 men for the larger part of the game, says a lot about the team's commitment. Overpowering Australia for the first time in Olympics since 1972 showed they had gotten over a major mental block. Had they converted their chances and displayed more self-belief, India might have even defeated Germany in the semis. What the team lacked was a quality finisher to capitalise on the umpteenth field goal chances. Nonetheless this is a heartwarming success story that must be relished. Two pillars of the team deserve special mention: Harmanpreet and Sreejesh. Harmanpreet, who scored 10 of the team's 15 goals, wasn't just an efficient converter of penalty corners and a solid defender, but also a true leader of men. And custodian Sreejesh's heroics in all games, especially in shoot-outs, will always be missed but never forgotten.



Let's fake it

If everything and everyone becomes spurious the bogus becomes the bona fide

Jug Suraiya



Employees of an accredited university in Rajasthan have reportedly hit upon a money-making scheme by handing out fake degrees to students in return for cash.

If this lucrative business catches on, and other institutions follow suit, it might lead to a scenario as envisioned in Second Opinion.

Rajesh is an up-and-coming executive in an MNC. The time comes when he has to go for a medical check-up with the company doctor, the result of which will determine whether his annual contract with the organisation will be extended. Rajesh undergoes his tests and the results show that he's failed to meet the required parameters for him to remain in the company's employ.

Desperate, Rajesh asks the doctor to change the report from negative to positive, for a monetary compensation. The medic complies and Rajesh hands in the falsified report to the company's CEO to get a job extension.

However, after a while, Rajesh's conscience begins to bother him and he returns to the doctor and asks for the earlier, negative report to submit to the CEO.

The doctor hands the negative report to Rajesh and says, Here you are, but they're both the same, you know. Confused, Rajesh asks, How can both be the same when the first is real and the second is a fake?

Smiling reassuringly, the doctor explains: The reports are the same because they're both fakes. They're both fakes because I'm a fake. I'm not a real doctor but a fake doctor, having bought my fake doctor's degree from a fake medical college.

Bemused by this revelation, Rajesh goes to the CEO and confesses that the medical report he's submitted was a fake of another report which was also a fake. Not to worry, says the CEO. You see, I'm also a fake, a fake CEO who landed this job on a fake MBA degree.

What a coincidence, says Rajesh. I got my job thanks to a fake diploma from a fake online training institute!

The moral of the story being that if everyone and everything is fake then the fake becomes the real. And vice versa.

HOUSE THAT FAIR?

Reinstating indexation option only for pre-budget real estate sales doesn't help those selling later. Middle class will be hit. Home ownership is not like other assets

Indranil Sen Gupta



The govt's decision to withdraw budget's proposed increase in long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on real estate must be welcomed. But, as the move is limited to property deals executed before budget day (July 23), transactions after that cut-off date will invite higher tax liability than before. And therein lies the rub.

In India, real estate is special, as it constitutes a large part of household wealth. Given a limited equity culture, property is seen as a hedge against inflation, in terms of both capital value and rentals. While it would be ideal to tax all asset classes at the same rate, which was the logic behind the budgetary proposal, there is no gainsaying that a one-size-fits-all policy does not always work in our complex world. Societies often have relative preferences for particular assets based on social mores that cannot be ignored when it comes to taxation.

Beyond the psychological comfort of having a roof over one's head, property is seen as a hedge against inflation, whether in terms of capital value or rental yield

How it will work | With govt now offering sellers a choice between the old and new regimes, Delhi will apply the lower of the two tax liabilities for properties purchased before July 23. Suppose one had bought a property for ₹100 in 2002 and sold it for ₹400 now. Under the old regime, the seller could claim inflation indexation of 3.63 times from 2001-02. The capital gains levied would broadly work out to ₹7.4, as it would be imposed at 20% on the ₹37 inflation-adjusted capital gains. Under the new regime, the tax liability would rise to ₹37.5, ie, at 12.5% of the entire capital gains of ₹300, with indexation done away with.

It's a relief that the budget's tax proposal for immovable property is not going to be implemented retrospectively. As real estate is likely the single largest investment most Indians make, it is important to provide stable tax rules that ensure clear risk-adjusted rates of return.

Future deals less rewarding | Yet, with indexation benefits no longer available for prospective deals, the new tax regime will impact the public's dream of home ownership by raising the capital gains tax outgo. It is only for periods of a big jump in home prices along with very low inflation that the new tax regime would be similar to, or lower than the old one. Given that property prices typically jump like that once in years, the new capital gains tax liability will exceed that under the old regime over longer periods.

This also begs the question, will raising taxable capital gains not encourage transactions in cash? Authorities will surely have to block evasion by raising official property rates. Property tax rates may also need to be adjusted to avoid additional burden on those not selling.

Capital gains tax objectives | So, why does something like this happen? Capital gains taxation swings between equalisation across asset classes to provide a level-playing field and enabling state incentives/support for investment

a particular asset. The first choice is based on the apprehension that discretion in capital gains taxation, in particular, can favour a group, possibly for some consideration for rentier income. But there's a lot to be said about the second preference, as one size does not really fit all cases in our complex world. There is good reason for govt to support investment in certain assets for some economic, or even, social purpose. In any case, residential investment by the public is a key driver of growth.

What sets really apart | So, what's so special about real estate? *Roti, kapda aur makaan* (bread, clothing and housing) is surely the Indian dream. Beyond the psychological comfort of having a roof over one's head, property is seen as a hedge against inflation, whether in terms of capital value or rental yield. Till the 1970s, the Indian middle class aspired to build a 2-3 storey house that provided a place to live, a rental income to get by and capital appreciation to tide over the rainy day. With urbanisation pressure leading to the emergence of apartment living, middle class Indians often try to buy multiple flats to replicate the same model.

Should we encourage the public to limit property's utility to a place to stay and shift their balance net worth to financial assets? Not necessarily. Property has returned 9-10% a year, including for rental yield in the past 18 years. This outstrips the 6-7% bank fixed deposit rates. Equities yield a higher return of pre-tax 12-14% but not without risks. Just as importantly, it is hardly feasible for many Indians to invest in stock markets, especially in old age, as financial literacy is still quite limited.

In any case, residential housing investment is as powerful a driver of growth as any financial asset. Its forward linkages to multiple sectors such as cement, steel, chemicals, paints, etc often translate into a higher employment potential. Thus, unlike gold, there is no macro imperative to push homeowners towards financial assets for the sake of economic growth.

The writer is professor of practice of economics at Shiv Nadar University. Views are personal



'Live Up To What Parliamentary Stands For'

Lok Sabha Speaker writes on the criticality of discipline and decorum in legislatures, for both proper conduct of business and health of democracy

Om Birla



Legislatures have a sacrosanct responsibility of oversight, law making and ensuring financial accountability. Over the decades, there has been a manifold increase in roles and responsibilities of legislatures, especially in a developing country like ours. Ensuring discipline and decorum in legislatures has assumed critical importance for orderly and seamless conduct of business of the House and for virtuous outcomes and success of our parliamentary democracy.

When disruption in legislatures becomes a regular feature, it not only results in loss of taxpayer money, but also projects a negative image of legislatures, which can lead to erosion of faith in these institutions. Lack of discipline and decorum in legislatures cannot augur well for the health of our parliamentary democracy.

The All India Presiding Officers' Conference (AIPOC), apex body of presiding officers of legislatures in the country, has played an important role in the evolution of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in our legislatures. Through dialogue and discussion, it has come up with solutions to complex problems.

At a Nov 2001 conference, AIPOC deliberated on discipline and decorum in Parliament and state and UT legislatures. A resolution and a code of conduct for members were unanimously adopted. In 2000, with AIPOC's efforts, an ad hoc Ethics Committee was constituted, which became a permanent standing committee of Lok Sabha in 2015. Its recommendations have a significant bearing on conduct of members.

Parliamentary decorum encompasses a set of rules, conventions, and etiquette governing behaviour of members within the legislative chamber. Key aspects

relate to respect for the chair and fellow members; relevance of speeches and questions to matter under discussion; orderly conduct; refraining from interrupting other members, creating commotion, or engaging in other disruptive behaviour. Members should use appropriate and dignified language in the House.

Rules and standards of conduct for Lok Sabha members are provided in Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, directions issued by Speaker under Rules of Procedure, and rulings from the Chair. The Handbook for Members and Practice & Procedure of Parliament serve as guides on desirable conduct. Members are expected to be well conversant with these

effective and constructive utilisation of time allocated for legislative and other businesses of the House.

The Lok Sabha Speaker is entrusted by the Constitution, rules of procedure and conduct of business, and by parliamentary tradition, with wide-ranging powers and responsibilities. Speaker is not only looked upon as moderator and facilitator of sittings, but also vested with authority to help frame sound rules and promote practices, customs and conventions that create a healthy parliamentary culture.

Given his wide and onerous responsibilities, Speaker is also vested by Lok Sabha with disciplinary powers. Maintenance of discipline and decorum in the House is a delicate duty.

For instance, Speaker can intervene when a member makes an unwarranted or defamatory remark by asking him/her to withdraw the offending remark and even order its expunction. Speaker may also order a member guilty of disorderly conduct to withdraw from the House and name a member for suspension if such member disregards or questions the Chair's authority and persists in obstructing proceedings.

In no situation should the authority of the Chair be questioned or his/her instructions disregarded. Speaker is final arbiter of all questions arising in the legislature's precincts. Members should regard the Chair not as an individual but as a supreme institution, a living embodiment of the authority of Parliament.

Elected members are looked up to by people of this country, especially youth, as their role models. Therefore, the conduct of legislators should be dignified, orderly, exemplary and beyond reproach. Upholding parliamentary decorum is critical for the edifice of parliamentary democracy and its supreme democratic institution. Parliamentarians and legislators are, thus, bound by the spirit of the Constitution to maintain high standards of conduct in the houses of legislature.

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace



How can you prove whether at this moment we are sleeping, and all our thoughts are a dream; or whether we are awake, and talking to one another in the waking state?

Plato

Politics And Ethics Must Be Welded Into A Unit

Sumit Paul

Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men," the historian and moralist, who was otherwise known as Acton, expressed this opinion in a letter to Bishop Mandell Creighton in 1887.

What's happening in Bangladesh is the quintessence of what Acton observed more than a century ago. Despotism is always accompanied by corruption of morality and a sharp decline in ethics. But we tend to explain these observations only in the context of politics and political power, thus limiting the scope and ambit of power. Power in any field has a debilitating influence on the person who wields it and those who are at the receiving end of it.

Humans are hungry for 3Ps: Power, pelf and popularity. Since joining

politics gets you these 3Ps quickly and on a silver platter that, politics and absolute power often go hand in hand. Politics, everywhere and in all eras, has been a rather murky sphere.

Plato's political philosophy argues that in a system, in which everyone has a right to rule, all sorts of selfish politicians who care nothing for the people but are only motivated by their own personal desires can attain power. Power, particularly political power, is highly seductive. Politicians might suffer from Fiefdom Syndrome and also from a sort of pontificating superiority complex, which can be so overwhelming that they cannot part with it. The unbridled power enjoyed by the influential folks is so addictive that they want to perpetuate it despite having a lurking doubt that one day it

might be snatched from them.

Power and politics have a flame and a moth connection. A moth is well aware that the flame will consume it. Yet, it cannot hold itself back from drawing to it and getting burnt to ashes. Likewise, politicians are aware that political power will eventually be their undoing. Power that gets you instant popularity and pelf cannot be done away with so easily. That's the reason politicians are so fond of defending their enviable positions. British PM Herbert Henry Asquith would say that totality of anything could be dangerous. Though there's no denying that there have been morally upright politicians in all countries and ages who stuck to exalted human values, they have been few and far between.

When the public challenges dubious

politicians and their reigns, widespread chaos is a natural outcome. Political chaos invariably gets with religious frenzy in modern times because politics and religion get along very well. We mustn't forget that in the past 10 years in Bangladesh, murders of atheists and rationalists by the fanatics were given Nelson's eye by the just-topped govt.

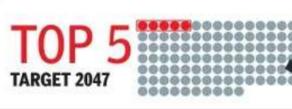
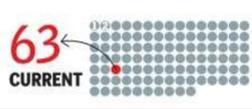
Politicians nurture religionists and ultimately get the boot by the latter. Religion is a tool for all the politicians. The unfortunate happenings in Bangladesh should serve as lessons to all politicians that the state and faith must never be mixed up. What we can learn from the mayhem and coup in Bangladesh is that a politician can be hoisted with his own petard, and following unethical ways will sooner or later boomerang. Politics and ethics may appear to be poles asunder, but they can be welded into a scrupulous unit for the survival of a democracy.



THE SPEAKING TREE

As India aims to be a developed nation by 2047, where will the country be placed in terms of ease of doing business compared to peers

Source: Ministries



Vedanta puts \$2.5bn steel business sale on hold: Report

Vedanta has put a plan to sell its steel business on hold after a \$1 billion share sale gave the company more breathing room with its finances, and as environmental and regulatory concerns deter potential bidders, reports Bloomberg. Vedanta has been working on a sale of the business, which includes iron-ore and manganese mines, to raise about \$2.5 billion to help reduce the group's debt load. Vedanta's fundraise last month has eased some debt pressure. **BLOOMBERG**



Leather target: \$50bn exports by 2030

New Delhi: Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday asked the leather and footwear industry to target \$50 billion in exports by 2030. He also asked the industry to take advantage of various free trade agreements and focus tapping global markets. **AGENCIES**

Biocon Q1 profit up 6x at ₹660cr

New Delhi: Biotechnology firm Biocon on Thursday said its consolidated profit after tax rose over six-fold to Rs 660 crore in the first quarter ended June 2024, on account of a one-time gain from the collaboration between Biocon Biologics and Eris Lifesciences. **AGENCIES**

StanC exits Protean eGov Tech, sells stake

New Delhi: Standard Chartered Bank has exited Protean eGov Technologies by selling its entire 3.1% stake for Rs 225 crore through an open market transaction. Protean eGov is one of the key IT-enabled solution companies in India. **AGENCIES**

figure it out

₹3 lakh cr worth of textiles and apparels, including handicrafts, were exported in FY24, up by 1%



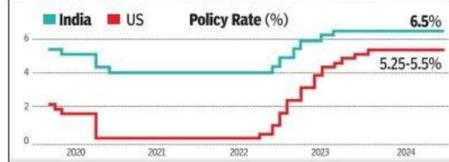
RBI holds repo rate for 9th time in a row at 6.5%
Says Need To Maintain Inflation's Declining Trajectory

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI on Thursday decided to keep policy rates on hold for the ninth consecutive time, citing strong demand and the need to maintain inflation's declining trajectory. The central bank said that there is a need to remain vigilant amid the backdrop of "large and persistent" supply side shocks in food items.

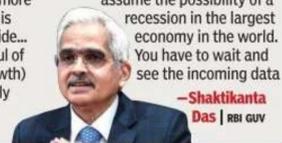
The six-member monetary policy committee voted 4:2 to keep the repo rate — the rate at which the central banks lends to banks — at 6.5% and to continue focusing on withdrawing accommodation to align inflation with the target while supporting growth. "Growth remains resilient, inflation has been trending downward and we have made progress in achieving price stability; but we have more distance to cover. The progress towards our goal of price stability has been uneven

'It's For Banks To Decide On Deposit Rates'



On Slow Deposit Growth...
I am not suggesting that people should not go for equity markets and put more deposits in the banks. It is left to the people to decide... Banks need to be mindful of this (slower deposit growth) because it can potentially create some structural challenges...

On US Recession Fears...
Based on a month's unemployment data you cannot assume the possibility of a recession in the largest economy in the world. You have to wait and see the incoming data



due to large and persistent supply side shocks, especially in food items. We need to remain vigilant to ensure that inflation moves sustainably towards the target, while supporting growth. This approach would be net positive for sustained high growth," Das said in a statement after the meeting of the monetary policy committee. Although the policy maintained a status quo in main-

of action, many read the governor's statement as hawkish. Particularly his comments cautioning banks on growing credit faster than deposits. Das asked banks to beef up household deposit mobilisation by leveraging their branch network and through innovative service offerings. Das retained the growth forecast for FY25 at 7.2% but cut down the forecast for QFY25 to 7.1% from 7.3% earlier due to updated information on high-frequency indicators, which show lower than anticipated corporate profitability, general government expenditure and core industries output. The governor also retained the inflation forecast for FY25 at 4.5% even as he tweaked quarterly forecasts.

According to RBI, the slowdown in deposits is partly because of a winding down of precautionary savings that households have built up during Covid when avenues were limited.

RBI gov cautions against gold, home loan top-ups

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has cautioned lenders against aggressively growing personal loans by offering top-ups on existing home and gold loans. The governor said that some entities are not adhering to regulatory limits on some loans which risked being used for speculative purposes.

Das warned that the banking system could hit by structural liquidity issues if bank deposits continue to trail loan growth. "Alternative investment avenues are becoming more attractive to retail customers and banks are facing challenges on the funding front with bank deposits trailing loan growth. As a result, banks are taking greater recourse to short-term non-retail deposits and other instruments of liability to meet the incremental credit demand," said Das.

The governor said that "banks must focus on mobili-

Consumer Optimism Weakens: Survey

One-year ahead expectations compared with current situation

	May-24	Jul-24	Change
Economic situation	33.5	26.1	↓
Employment	34.3	26.8	↓
Price level	-68.4	-74.3	↓
Income	50.7	49.1	↓
Spending	73.9	75.6	↑
Consumer Confidence Index	124.8	120.7	↓

sation of household financial savings through innovative products and service offerings by leveraging their branch network".

Das's comments on personal loans and concerns on credit growth outstripping deposit comes at a time when personal loans have emerged the fastest growing segment, rising 25% year-on-year to 54.8 lakh crore as of June-end. Within this, housing is

growing at 36% (18.2% excluding HDFC merger impact). Unsecured personal loans grew 15% year-on-year as of end-June 2024. Das cautioned banks against high growth in certain segments of personal loans particularly those used for consumption purposes. He called upon lenders to assess and calibrate their underwriting standards as well as post-sanction monitoring of loans.

financial responsibilities, and this new feature will help them manage their finances more efficiently," said Dilip Modi, founder Spice Money. On payments, Das also announced continuous clearing of cheques under the truncation system in place of the present batch processing. Das said that this will increase efficiency of cheque clearing and improve ease of doing business as it can lead to same day clearing of cheques. Consumers will soon find it easier to identify legitimate lending apps. RBI is creating a public repository of digital lending apps associated with RBI-regulated entities.

DELEGATED PAYMENTS

ments across the country," said Shaktikanta Das. The new feature has captured the imagination of fintech players who see new use cases ranging from businessmen delegating payments to employees, to parents carving out spending limits for kids or children managing payments for senior citizen parents. "The potential impact of this development is particularly significant for rural communities where access to banking facilities can be limited. Families often share

Sensex drops 582 pts on global mkt weakness

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Volatility on Dalal Street continued on Thursday with a negative bias despite RBI maintaining a status quo on rates as weakness in global markets affected sentiment in the domestic market.

At close of the day's trading, the sensx was down 582 points at 78,886 points with Infosys, Reliance Industries and L&T impacting the index the most. On the NSE, the broader Nifty lost 181 points to close at 24,117 points.

Foreign funds remained net sellers in the stock market for the fifth consecutive session while domestic funds were net buyers, data from BSE and CDSL showed.

According to Ajit Mishra of Religare Broking, Indian markets struggled to maintain Wednesday's recovery, ending over half a percent lower due to weak global cues. After an initial dip, markets witnessed volatility and closed near the day's low. "The ongoing global uncertainty is making market participants cautious, and short-term relief seems unlikely," Mishra wrote in a note to investors.

Among the 30 sensx stocks, 23 closed lower.

Rupee dips by 2p to close at 83.97/\$

Mumbai: The rupee consolidated in a narrow range and settled for the day lower by 2 paise at 83.97 against US dollar on Thursday, after RBI kept the benchmark interest rate and stance unchanged for the ninth straight policy meeting.

Forex traders said weak domestic markets, surge in crude oil prices and foreign fund outflows weighed on the rupee. However, a decline in the US dollar index prevented the local unit from declining sharply. **AGENCIES**

LIC looks to acquire health insurance co
CEO Mohanty Says Co Plans Acquisition This Fiscal To Foray Into Health Business

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: LIC plans to take the acquisition route to get into the health insurance business, said MD & CEO Siddhartha Mohanty.

During the announcement of the company's financial results for the first quarter, Mohanty said that the company is looking at an acquisition during the current financial year. "Rather than set up a vertical for insurance, we felt that we can acquire a company which will allow us to start selling health insurance across the country," said Mohanty.

LIC has over 14.1 lakh agents, which is among the largest agency force among insurance companies worldwide. According to sources, most of the corporation's agents are already distributing health insurance for other private companies as regulations permit an agent to work for life and non-life companies. These agents are expected to switch to selling LIC products.

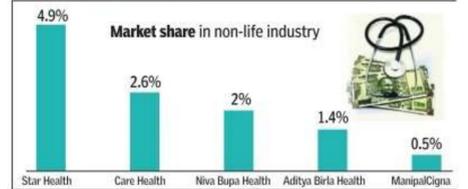
Industry sources said that health insurance is increasingly becoming a 'pull' product, with many young buyers actively seeking coverage. This presents an opportunity for agents to engage with potential customers.

Therefore, the availability of health insurance is expected to benefit the life insurance business as well.

At present, there are five established standalone health insurance companies — Star Health & Allied Insurance, Niva Bupa, Aditya Birla Health Insurance, Care Health Insurance and ManipalCigna Healthshare, while it dominated the group business with a 76.6% share.

Total premium income for the quarter increased by 15.7% to Rs 1,13,770 crore, compared to Rs 98,363 crore in the same quarter last year. The individual business premium grew by 7.04% to Rs 67,192 crore, while the group

5 ESTABLISHED HEALTH INSURERS



business premium rose by 30.9% to Rs 46,578 crore. The value of new business for the quarter grew by 23.7% to Rs 1,610 crore, and the VNB margin improved by 20 basis points to 13.9%. LIC's assets under management increased by 16.2% year-over-year, reaching Rs 54 lakh crore. Additionally, LIC's solvency ratio improved to 2, up from 1.9 in the previous year. The overall expense ratio decreased by 98 basis points to 11.9%, reflecting improved operational efficiency.

alth Insurance. The regulator has also recently granted permission to two other health insurers — Galaxy Health and Narayana Health.

LIC on Thursday reported a 9.6% increase in net profit for the June quarter, reaching Rs 10,461 crore compared to Rs 9,544 crore in the same period last year.

The corporation's market share of first year premium income rose to 64%, up from 61.4% year-over-year. In the individual business segment, LIC held a 39.3% mar-

At 3.8%, FMCG growth in June qtr slowest in a year
Muted Demand In Rural & Urban Mkts: Study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Demand for soaps, hair oil, shampoo, packaged atta and other FMCG products remained muted in the June quarter with the slowdown more pronounced in urban markets.

The FMCG industry recorded a volume growth of 3.8% during the quarter, the lowest in over a year, data released by NielsenIQ on Thursday showed. This compares with a volume growth of 7.5% the sector had seen in the year-ago quarter and 6.5% in the preceding (March) quarter.

NielsenIQ India's head of customer success Roosevelt Dsouza attributed the deceleration in volumes largely to macroeconomic headwinds. "Our hypothesis is that unemployment is rising, highest in (month) June 2024," said analysts at NielsenIQ.

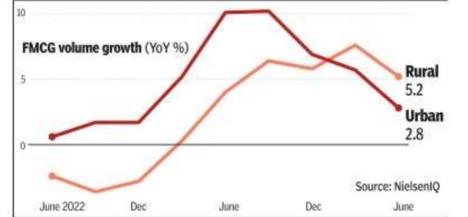
While rural volume growth continues to outpace the growth in urban areas, both regions experienced softer consumption in the quarter. Urban volume growth declined to 2.8% in the June quarter from 5.7% in the March quarter.

Rural consumption growth at 5.2% in the April-June period is lower than the 7.6% growth it recorded in the previous quarter. Consumption of staples like packaged salt, packaged at-

ta, palm oil as well as personal care and home care categories took a hit across both markets as consumers tightened purse strings. In rural regions, high contributing

decent monsoons and start of festivities later this month should further help rural consumption. FMCG companies, which have been grappling with te-

CONSUMPTION DIVERGENCE



categories like laundry and utensil cleaners within homecare witnessed slow consumption, NielsenIQ said. Value growth for the industry stood at 4% in the June quarter, lower than 12.2% in the year-ago period and 6.6% in the previous quarter.

Rural consumption still fared better than its urban counterparts because of the price cuts that several companies took in the earlier quarters to fuel demand in rural regions. Also, firms like Dabur and Nestle have been heavily expanding their rural coverage, bringing more people within the fold of branded consumption, said independent consultant Akshay D'souza, adding that

pid growth largely on the back of rural slowdown, have been betting on good monsoons to spur demand.

Volume growth in the food category stood at 2.4% in the June quarter compared to 4.8% in the Jan-March period. In the non-food segment, volume growth was at 7.6% in the quarter, a drop from 11.1% in the March quarter with the decline steeper in urban. India's largest consumer goods company HUL had last month said that while on a two-year CAGR (compound annual growth rate) basis, urban is still growing ahead of rural, growth in rural has started to pick up with the regions outpacing urban in the last couple of months.

'India's 3 richest families together worth S'pore GDP'
Combined Wealth At \$460Bn, Ambanis Top List With \$309Bn Value: Study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: At \$460 billion, business interests of the country's three wealthiest families' put together are worth as much as Singapore's GDP.

With Rs 25.8 lakh crore (\$309 billion), Ambani family ranks first in the Barclays Private Clients Hurun India most valuable family businesses list. They are followed by the Bajaj family, headed by Niraj Bajaj, which comes second with Rs 7.1 lakh crore, while the Kumar Mangalam Birla-headed Birla family ranks third with Rs 5.4 lakh crore.

The list does not include Adani family as they are first-

124 BIZ FAMILIES WORTH OVER \$1BN



Adani family (₹15.4L cr) has not been included in the Barclays Private Clients Hurun India most valuable family businesses list as they are first-generation entrepreneurs

generation entrepreneurs. The first-generation entrepreneurs list is led by Adanis — their business interests are valued at Rs 15.4 lakh crore, followed by Poonawalla family, who manage the Serum

Institute of India, valued at Rs 2.4 lakh crore. The Divi family, overseeing Divi's Laboratories, stands third with a valuation of Rs 91,200 crore.

Business families in the 2024 list control a total value

of \$1.3 trillion, exceeding the combined GDP of Switzerland and the UAE. To qualify for the list, a family business must have a minimum value of Rs 2,700 crore. In total, 124 families on the list have a net worth of at least \$1 billion.

In terms of share price growth since inheritance, the Benu Bangur family leads with a 571-fold increase, followed by the Taparia family with a 387-fold growth, and the Dharmal Agarwal family with a 316-fold rise. Additionally, 75% of the companies on the list are publicly traded.

Haldiram Snacks is the most valuable unlisted company in India, with a valuation of Rs 63,000 crore. The

list also notes that 15 companies are led by women, while 53 are managed by professional CEOs. Of the companies featured, 85% sell physical products, with 53% being consumer-facing and 47% focused on B2B services.

The Gadgil family, with their six-generation-old jewellery business PN Gadgil & Sons valued at Rs 3,900 crore, and the Wadia Group, led by Nusli Wadia and valued at Rs 1,28,900 crore, top the list of long-standing family businesses. The Burman family, with their FMCG company Dabur India, and the Shriram family, who established DCM Shriram, have both been in business for five generations.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A US court has rejected a plea by Byju's overseas lenders through which they sought to block the settlement between the troubled startup and cricket governing body BCCI, approved by an Indian court. The Delaware Bankruptcy Court refused to interfere with proceedings in another country's judicial system. The settlement between BCCI and Byju's which was approved by the Chennai bench of NCLAT last week, related to a dispute over non-payment of Rs 159 crore in dues that Byju's owed to the cricket governing body. The NCLAT order effectively

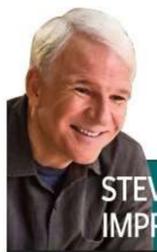
quashed insolvency proceedings against Byju's, putting the company back under the control of founder and CEO Byju Raveendran.

In a statement, Byju's said that the US court's decision recognised that granting lenders the requested relief would be an extraordinary and unjustified move.

"The Delaware Bankruptcy Court's decision effectively puts an end to Glas' (Glas Trust Company) represented the foreign lenders) attempts to forum shop. Glas had tried and failed to settle the settlement between BCCI and one of the promoters of Byju's before the NCLAT in India, prompting them to approach

the Delaware Court for the same relief. In its latest order, the Delaware Court had upheld the principle of comity and thwarted Glas' attempt to usurp the jurisdiction of the Indian courts," said Rishabh Gupta, legal counsel for Byju's.

Raveendran's brother and company board member Riju Ravindran used his personal funds raised through the sale of his shares in Byju's parent Think & Learn (between May 2015-January 2022) and liquidation of his personal assets in India to clear BCCI's dues. Byju's lenders had argued in NCLAT that the payment of operational creditor (BCCI) over financial creditors violates the provisions of the IBC code.



STEVE MARTIN DECLINES TO PLAY TIM WALZ ON 'SNL', SAYS 'NOT AN IMPRESSIONIST': 'PICKED BECAUSE I HAVE GRAY HAIR AND GLASSES'

CATE BLANCHETT SAYS 'NO ONE GOT PAID ANYTHING' TO FILM 'LOTR', A BLOCKBUSTER: 'I BASICALLY GOT FREE SANDWICHES'



Bangladesh has got independence for second time, must protect it: Yunus

Nahid Islam & Asif Mahmud, Leaders Of Student Protests, In Caretaker Govt

AKM Moinuddin
Dhaka: Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus took the oath of office as head of Bangladesh's interim government on Thursday. Prez Mohammed Shahabuddin also administered oath to 13 members of the advisory council, which includes key organisers of Anti-Discrimination Student Movement — M Nahid Islam and Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan. In their mid-20s, the two led the protests that resulted in the fall of Sheikh Hasina's govt.

The council includes women's rights activist Farida Akhtar, professor of Islamic history and Hefazat-e-Islam's deputy chief AFM Khalid Hossain, Grameen Telecom trustee Nurjahan Begum, freedom fighters Sharmeen Murshid and Farooq-e-Azam, Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board chairman Supradip Chakma, National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital's psychiatry professor Bidhan Ranjan Roy, and former foreign secretary Tuhid Hossain.

Also serving are Bangladesh Bank's former governor Salehuddin Ahmed, Dhaka University professor Asif Nazrul, human rights activist Adilur Rahman Khan, ex-attorney general AF Hassan Arif, Bangladesh environmental lawyers association chief executive Syeda Rizwa

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL

PAKISTAN DIALS BANGLADESH



na Hasan, and former election commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hossain.

Roy, Chakma, and Farooq e Azam, a naval commando awarded the Bir Pratik for bravery in the 1971 independence war, could not take the oath as they were outside Dhaka.

Yunus, who had been in Paris for the Olympic Games, returned to Dhaka on Thursday via Dubai, where he was gree-

public: "If you have faith in me and trust me, then ensure that there will be no attack anywhere in the country. This is our first responsibility. If I can't do it and you do not listen to me, I don't have any utility here."

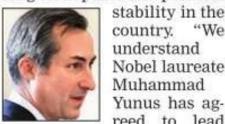
Bangladesh has been rocked by deadly unrest in recent weeks. At least 232 people have been killed in Bangladesh in violence that erupted following the fall of Hasina govt Monday, taking the death toll to 560 since anti-quota protests first started in mid-July. Following the fall of Hasina's govt, several police stations were attacked, forcing officers to evacuate due to the threat of further violence. In response to Yunus's call, police returned to work Thursday.

Yunus expressed gratitude to the youth behind the movement, underscoring the need to save the country from violence and move forward on the path shown by the students. "The student protesters had saved the country, he said, adding: "Whatever path our students show us, we will move ahead with that." Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Khaleda Zia expressed optimism that Yunus will successfully lead interim govt. The optimism stems from Yunus's successful anti-poverty campaign through the Grameen Bank, which has been replicated across continents.

Ready to work with Bangla interim govt: US

AKM Moinuddin

Dhaka: The US on Thursday expressed its readiness to collaborate with the interim govt in Bangladesh, which it believes will be crucial in fostering long-term peace and political stability in the country. "We understand Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has agreed to lead Bangladesh's interim govt. We stand ready to work with the interim government," US state department spokesperson **Matthew Miller** said in Washington DC.



He emphasised the importance of democratic principles. "As you heard the secretary (Antony Blinken) say yesterday, any decisions that the interim govt makes should respect democratic principles, rule of law, and the will of the Bangladeshi people," Miller said.

The US also voiced concern over reports of attacks, deaths, and human rights abuses in recent weeks. "We urge all parties to refrain from further violence. We call for full accountability of all perpetrators of violence," the spokesperson said.

'Stolen valour': A battle rages over military records of Walz & Vance

JD Says Kamala's Veep Pick Quit Nat'l Guard To Avoid Iraq Posting; Dem Supporters Mock His Own Non-Combat Media Relations Role

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Circular fire has erupted in the US political arena over military service of its vice-presz candidates, with both Democrats and Republicans accusing their opposition nominees of "stolen valor".

It all began when Republican veep candidate JD Vance's resume listed his military service, including a deployment in Iraq, burnishing a ticket where its presidential nominee Donald Trump is said to have skipped enlistment pleading bone spur problems. When Democrats announced Minnesota governor Tim Walz as their veep candidate, he and his supporters talked up his 25 years with the National Guard, the US reserve military force.

That's when the verbal firefight began. "As a marine who served his country in uniform, I went to Iraq honorably when asked. When Tim Walz was asked... he dropped out of the army and allowed his unit to go without him," Vance lashed out. "What's bothersome about Tim Walz is this stolen valor garbage. Do not pretend to be something that you're not."

Cue for Walz supporters to dig into Vance's deployment, which showed that much of his service in the Marine Corps, including six months in Iraq, was as a media relations officer. "Talk about Stolen Valor. JD Vance was a combat correspondent who created Marine press releases and spent his 6 months in Iraq, in a NON COMBAT role, babysitting journalists," one critic wrote.

Vance supporters in turn accused Walz of misrepresenting his service to suggest he had been deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan in active combat,



COMBATING MACHOISM: JD Vance was on active duty with the Marine Corps from 2003 to 2007 during the Iraq War, but did not serve as a frontline combatant.



(Right) Tim Walz served a total of 24 years in various units and jobs in the Army National Guard before retiring in 2005

'Speaking now': Harris shuts down disrupters

When a group of pro-Palestinian protesters first interrupted V-P Kamala Harris at a rally in Detroit on Wednesday, she smiled, with a gentle corrective. "I am speaking now." But as the disruption continued, her patience ran thin. "You know what?" she said, with the sudden force and resolve of a parent in the driver's seat who has had it. "If you want Trump to win, then say that. Otherwise, I'm speaking." As the crowd roared, Harris stayed silent, jaw set, eyes fixed. The stare-down was the latest reminder of how Harris has been able, with an almost theatrical flair, to turn efforts to undermine and rattle her into her own political weapons. She also takes particular umbrage at being interrupted. During 2020 debate with then-VP Mike Pence, she objected to his repeated bids to cut into her responses. Her left hand went up, palm facing Pence. "Mr. Vice President, I am speaking. I am speaking," she said. When it happened again, she smiled at him: "Mr. V-P, I am speaking." NYT

producing clips of veterans confronting his staff on the matter when he was running for Congress. Walz supporters say he had quit National Guard to run for office before the deployment was announced and he never directly claimed to have been in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Military service is a big deal in the US. Two-thirds of presidents — 31 out of 46 by one estimate — have served in the military in some capacity. The salience of military service has decreased in recent years. Four of last five presidents, Clinton, Obama, Trump, and Biden, did not serve in the military. The last prez to do so was George W. Bush who had a sketchy stint with the Air National Guard. Like Vance and Walz, he too appeared to be a reluctant serviceman, writing in his memoir that he was willing to serve his country but preferred to do so as a combat pilot rather than "an infantryman wading across a paddy field". Political scientists say voters are now comfortable with electing people who haven't served in the military. Some of this, they surmise, has to do with the decline in the importance of foreign policy, particularly for MAGA voters whose "America First" approach disdains fighting wars abroad.

Zero tolerance for anyone spreading anarchy, warns Pak army chief

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Pakistan army chief General Asim Munir said Thursday that the act of spreading anarchy in the country was the "greatest sin", alluding to the turmoil in Bangladesh that led to ex-PM Sheikh Hasina resigning and fleeing the country. "If anyone tries to spread chaos in Pakistan, by God, we (army) will stand against them," General Munir said at a national convention. "Whoever doesn't adhere to the Shariah (Islamic law) and the Constitution, we don't consider them Pakistanis."

He also took a jibe at India, wondering aloud where were "those who used to say that they drowned the two-nation theory in the Bay of Bengal". "No power in the world can harm Pakistan because it was created to last, and it will exist till eternity," the military chief declared.

He blamed mostly social media for instances of anarchy in the region, suggesting further curbs could be clamped as online campaigns criticising Pakistan's powerful military gain traction. Munir termed Kashmir an "incomplete agenda" involving Pakistan and India.

UK aid agency office in B'desh ransacked

Naomi Canton

London: The regional office of a Catholic relief organisation in Bangladesh has been stormed and ransacked by a mob which is now illegally trespassing in its compound. The Khulna office of Caritas Bangladesh was stormed on Tuesday amid the breakdown of law and order that gripped Bangladesh following the resignation of former PM Sheikh Hasina. Catholic aid agencies, Catholic Agency For Overseas Development, partners with Caritas Bangladesh to deliver agricultural projects.

Phil Talman, programme coordinator for Bangladesh at London-based CAFOD, told TOI: "About 40 to 50 people attacked the compound and the office. They wrecked and looted the place and some stayed, occupying the land looking like they are not going to move. It seems as if they want to claim the land. None of the staff was hurt." He said no police came and the staff, many of whom are Christian, had a narrow escape. He added they have not gone back yet as the trespassers haven't left yet.

Ready to join politics, I'm already at forefront: Hasina's son

'Mom Not Seeking Asylum In Any Country, Will Return To B'desh When Polls Declared'

Rohit Khanna | timesofindia.com

As attacks on Awami League leaders continued in Bangladesh, Sajeb Wazed Joy, son of former PM Sheikh Hasina, said he is ready to enter politics. Joy had earlier said he had no intention of joining politics.

Talking to TOI over phone from his residence in Washington, DC on Thursday, Joy said, "I will do whatever it takes to save the party and its workers. If there is a need for me to join politics, I will not refrain from that. My mother would have retired from politics after the current term. Inevitably any political ambition and was settled in the US. But the developments in Bangladesh in the past few days show that there is a leader-

ship vacuum. I had to get active for the sake of the party and I am at the forefront now."

His statements came after Khaleda Zia was released from house arrest and her son Tariq Rahman, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's acting chairman, is returning to Dhaka.

Speaking on the day that an interim govt led by Nobel Prize winner Md Yunus took charge of Bangladesh, Joy said, "I am sure the Awami League will take part in the election and we might even win. We have the largest supporter base in Bangladesh." Claiming his mother has no plan of seeking asylum in any country, he said, "For the time being, she is in India. She will go back to Bangladesh the

moment the interim govt decides to hold an election in the country. I am thankful to PM Narendra Modi for saving my mother's life at such short notice."

On Thursday, Joy's sister Saima Wazed also made it clear she will continue in her role as the WHO regional director. "Heartbroken with the loss of life in my country Bangladesh that I love. So he-

artbroken that I cannot see and hug my mother during this difficult time. I remain committed to my role as RD WHO," she wrote on X. In a later post, she wrote, "To everyone who has shown concern: as much as I would love to see Ma, I don't want to compromise her whereabouts in any way."



Sajeb Wazed Joy

UK riots halted by communities, police but country remains on alert

London: British police remained on alert on Thursday after a heavy security presence, rapid arrests and displays of unity by people across Britain on Wednesday prevented a repeat of widespread rioting involving racist attacks targeting Muslims and migrants.

After police deployed in force and thousands of anti-racism protesters took to the streets on Wednesday evening, threats of widespread gatherings by far-right anti-immigration groups did not materialise. But the govt said it was still cautious after days of riots triggered by false online posts wrongly identifying the suspected killer of three young girls in a July 29 knife attack in Southport as an Islamist migrant.

Police said a further potential 20 gatherings and three counter-gatherings were planned for Thursday. "We're going to continue the strong policing response, making sure that there are additional police officers ready to respond," interior minister Yvette Cooper told reporters. More than 480 people have



Thousands from anti-racism groups gathered at Walthamstow, north London, following threats to an immigration centre. Others protected mosques and hotels housing migrant asylum seekers

been arrested across the country so far, with nearly 150 charged. Dozens have already been sentenced with cases fast-tracked through the justice system. London Commissioner Mark Rowley, said many of those arrested had criminal backgrounds. For PM Keir Starmer, a former chief prosecutor, it is the first major test of his premiership since winning a July 4 election. Rowley dismissed suggestions the riots were political. "Any suggestion they're patriots, or they've got a cause... is nonsense," Rowley said. "They're criminals."

Several thousand people from anti-racism groups gathered in Walthamstow, north London, on Wednesday following threats to an immigration advice centre there. Others protected mosques and hotels housing asylum seekers that were among other targets. Rowley hailed a "successful" night that had gone "very peacefully" apart from a few criminal incidents.

Footage circulated on X showed a councillor from Starmer's Labour Party at the Walthamstow gathering calling for people to cut the throats of "disgusting Nazi fascists." London police said a man in his 50s had been arrested on suspicion of offences including encouraging murder. Labour said the behaviour was "completely unacceptable" and the man, a councillor in Dartford, Kent, had been suspended from the party.

Starmer, who met with police and community leaders in Birmingham on Thursday, said Wednesday was "much better than expected". No large far-right gatherings were reported Wednesday. REUTERS

Austria cancels Swift gigs after terror plot busted; 3 teens held, planned suicide op, had IS ties

Vienna: An Austrian teenager arrested over an alleged plot to strike a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna planned to carry out a suicide attack that would have caused a "bloodbath" and had vowed loyalty to Islamic State, authorities said on Thursday. The 19-year-old man, who has North Macedonian roots, made a full confession in custody, Austria's general director for public security Franz Ruf said.

He swore allegiance to the IS chief on the internet and had chemicals, machetes and technical devices at his home in the town of Ternitz in preparation for an attack, Ruf added. The suspect was planning a lethal assault among the estimated 20,000 "Swiftie" fans set to gather outside Vienna's Ernst Happel Stadium, said national intelligence head Omar Hajjawi-Pirchner. Two other Austrian youths aged 17 and 15 were detained Wednesday over the reported plot. "The main perpetrator has confessed that he was supposed to carry out a suicide attack with two accomplices," said Austrian Chancellor Karl

Nehammer. "The suspects actually had very specific and detailed plans... to leave a bloodbath in their wake."

Authorities said the main suspect had self-radicalised, transforming his appearance and sharing Islamist propaganda online. He quit his job on July 25, telling people he had "big plans", Ruf said. One neighbour said the suspect had kept to himself and had grown a "Tali-ban beard". The 17-year-old suspect had been given a job with a company a few days ago that was providing services at the stadium, according to security officials. Event organiser said it has cancelled Swift's 3 concerts in Vienna, due to start Thursday.

Swift is scheduled to perform at London's Wembley stadium in five concerts between Aug 15 and 20. London mayor Sadiq Khan said that while he understood Vienna's reasons for cancelling, "We're going to carry on." He said authorities are prepared for shows there following lessons learned from a 2017 attack at an Ariana Grande gig in Manchester that killed 22.



Taylor Swift

Stuck Boeing Starliner astronauts may fly home on SpaceX in '25: Nasa

For weeks, Nasa has downplayed problems experienced by Starliner, a Boeing spacecraft that took two astronauts to the ISS in June. But Wednesday, Nasa officials admitted the issues might be more serious than first thought and that the astronauts might not return on the Boeing vehicle, after all. The agency is exploring a backup option for the astronauts, Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore, to instead hitch a ride back to Earth on a

spacecraft built by Boeing's competitor SpaceX.

The astronauts' stay in orbit, which was to be as short as eight days, could be extended into Feb 2025. The announcement adds more embarrassment for Boeing, an aerospace giant that has billions of dollars of aerospace contracts with the US govt and builds commercial jets that fly all around the world. Nasa and Boeing is had ma-

intained that the crew members who launched with Starliner on its first crewed test flight were not stranded in space. Williams and Wilmore have spent two months aboard the orbital outpost while engineers continue to analyse data about the faulty performance of several of Starliner's thrusters when it approached for docking, as well as several helium leaks.

Boeing's testing so far has shown that four of Starliner's jets had failed in June because they overheated and automatically turned off, while other thrusters re-fired during tests appeared weaker than normal because of some restriction to their propellant. Ground tests in July at the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico have helped reveal that the thrusters' overheating causes a teflon seal to warp, choking propellant tubes for the thrusters and thereby weakening their thrust.



Suni Williams

DAILY PLANET



NEW BANKSY ARTWORK 'STOLEN' IN LONDON: A new Banksy artwork depicting a wolf on a satellite dish in London was removed, possibly stolen, less than an hour after it was unveiled by the elusive street artist on Thursday. The piece was the fourth animal-themed artwork that Banksy had installed across London this week. The wolf silhouette was located on the roof of an empty shop in Peckham. Photos from the scene show a person climbing up a ladder to retrieve the satellite dish while another holds the ladder for them. Further images show an individual walking off with the piece of art

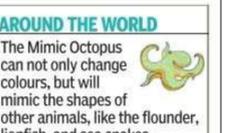
Aus & NZ locked in a battle of tongue in cheek after Maori words are removed

The removal of basic Maori phrases meaning "hello" and "New Zealand" from a Maori lunar new year invitation to an Australian official was not a snub of the Indigenous language by New Zealand's govt, PM Christopher Luxon said Wednesday, seemingly joking that it instead reflected the "incredibly simple" language required when speaking to Australians. New Zealanders enjoy a friendly rivalry with their closest neighbour, often calling Australians stupid. "In my dealings with Australians, it always pays to be incredibly simple and clear and use English," Luxon said. Ripostes between lawmakers across the Tasman have precedent: A New Zealand leader, Rob Muldoon, quipped in 1980s that New Zealanders who migrate to Australia "raise the IQ of both countries". On Thursday, a smiling Australian PM Albanese responded to Luxon with a favourite Australian joke — that no one can understand the NZ accent. "Sometimes though we do

speak a different language and that's when we both think we're speaking English."

Catalan separatist returns to Spain, only to vanish

Police launched a manhunt in Barcelona on Thursday for ex-Catalonia leader and fugitive **Carles Puigdemont**, a celebrated campaigner for Catalan independence who made a sensational return to Spain and an equally sensational getaway from a rally in the city. After finishing his speech, Puigdemont went backstage and vanished. A police hunt created traffic chaos in the city and near the border with France. Catalan police arrested one of their own officers on charges of aiding his getaway, suspecting Puigdemont used the officer's car.



Carles Puigdemont

AROUND THE WORLD
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IS AI RESHAPING THE WORLD?

AI-driven personalisation is key to a more inclusive Web

Currently, the world wide web (www) provides the same experience to everyone. However, as we strive for a more inclusive and accessible future, the Web can evolve to deliver content that aligns with users' cognitive and sensory needs. This transformation is possible with AI's immense potential to provide personalised experiences at a large scale. In an era where software can surpass the human understanding of the Web, transformer-based models can significantly enhance personalisation based on interests and preferences. Envision a future where Web

browsers seamlessly integrate large language models (LLMs) to understand the multisensory needs of each user. For instance, research and anecdotal evidence indicate that neurodivergent individuals prefer to process information through images, diagrams, videos, and minimal text. Similarly, older adults will find webpages with larger fonts, simplified layouts, and minimal navigation to be more accessible and user-friendly. With generative AI, it is possible to adapt webpages to cater to the needs of diverse users. How do we implement this? Web browser providers can embed personal LLMs within their web browsers or use a third-party solution so that their web browsers can understand individual user preferences and their intellectual and sensory preferences.



Mohammed Anzy S | VP ENGINEERING AND MD, GUIDEWIRE INDIA

DATA SCIENCE

Data science is the interdisciplinary field that extracts insights and knowledge from structured and unstructured data. It involves techniques such as statistical analysis, machine learning, and data visualization to uncover patterns, trends, and relationships within large datasets. The goal of data science is to leverage data to solve complex real-world problems, drive decision-making, and generate business value. Data scientists use a combination of technical skills, domain expertise, and analytical thinking to transform raw data into actionable intelligence. By blending mathematics, computer science, and subject-matter knowledge, data science has become an essential discipline for organizations seeking to gain a competitive edge in an increasingly data-driven world.

GLOSSARY OF IN-GROUP TERMS USED

ON THIS PAGE



Data is the new oil, learn to mine it for a resilient career

As companies increasingly rely on data to drive their strategies and operations, the demand for skilled data scientists is expected to soar. Added to this, the government's push for digitalisation is generating massive amounts of data, creating a demand for skilled professionals to analyse and extract actionable insights.



Pankaj Vyas | CEO & MD, SIEMENS TECHNOLOGY & SERVICES

In the past 18 months, Infosys has infused AI into seven work streams within the company

HOW TO BUILD AN AI-FIRST FIRM

Sujit.John@timesofindia.com

Infosys is one of the world's biggest IT services companies, and today it's increasingly trying to develop and sell AI solutions to the world. In the company's latest annual report, chairman Nandan Nilekani writes that as the company works towards that, "We must learn from applying AI to ourselves, be it in creating an AI-first enterprise or in accelerating the massive talent amplification that's now needed."

So, how much has it applied AI to itself? How much of an AI-first company is Infosys today? We spoke to chief technology officer (CTO) Mohammed Rafee Tarafdar to understand this.

Rafee says they started the AI-first journey about 18 months ago, targeting seven work streams. Here we look at the progress and impact in each of those streams.

Software engg, migration, modernisation

Infosys developers today use an off-the-shelf code assistant. Rafee says the company is one of the largest users of Microsoft Copilot. In addition, they developed 12 other code assistants based on specialised AI models. "In areas where nothing was available out of the box, we took largely open-source models and we fine-tuned these using the code and data we had. For example, we built a specialised model for our Fincade banking product, where, let's say we have a UI design, then looking at the UI design, it can automatically generate code end-to-end. We created fine-tuned models for Oracle, SAP implementation, for Cobol modernisation," he says.

In one case, they reduced the model footprint so much that developers could run it using their laptop CPU instead of an expensive cloud resource. Close to five million lines of code have been generated to date using code assistants.

Rafee says the productivity benefit in coding and testing varies between 10 and 30%. "We have also seen it improves code quality sig-

REAL POWER COMES FROM CONFIGURING DIFFERENT MODELS, TOOLS

Challenges, and how to overcome them

Among the biggest challenges in implementing AI is that regulations around responsible AI are still evolving. The regulations are also fragmented - different countries have different AI regulations, and in some countries like the US, different states have regulations. For a global company, how do you make sure that you know you are tracking every single thing? We have had to put a significant amount of effort and time in order to understand what can or cannot be done, what controls need to be put in place.

Secondly, the AI field is evolving very fast. There are new techniques and models that come up every other week. So, some of the choices you make will decide whether they become a challenge or not. At Infosys, we decided early on that we will be poly AI, which means we will not get tied to any one model. That has helped us well because as



Every day brings new advances in large language models from a dizzying set of actors all pushing for greater innovation. These range from very large models which need massive computing infrastructure to small ones that can run locally on the phone. The real power of AI will come from configuring all the different models and tools to get the best solutions. This is not very different from previous generations of technology.

Nandan Nilekani | CHAIRMAN

nificantly by improving testability, reducing vulnerabilities, helping reduce a lot of tech debt," he says.

Internal experience & processes

This involves building AI assistants for different functions - sales or customer facing teams, HR, etc - by pooling the necessary knowledge base and enabling questions to be asked. Sales teams can use these assistants to quickly find the relevant information, such as case studies or past work, to respond to customers. In HR, if someone



Mohammed Rafee Tarafdar (sitting extreme left) with part of his team

soon as a model comes, I can very quickly deploy and test it on our AI cloud, see whether it makes sense, whether the cost based on tokens or otherwise makes sense, and then I can change as required.

Thirdly, the challenge is change management. AI is very probabilistic, it is predicting. When it predicts, a lot of times, you find that for the same question, you

get different responses, or initially when you roll out, the quality of AI predictions or responses is not that great. As an end user, I need to understand that this will not be very good on day one, but as I keep using it, as I keep feeding more information, it will improve over time. Educating and enabling that change is a challenge.

- Mohammed Rafee Tarafdar, CTO

Learning

Infosys's learning platform Lex has been fully GenAI-enabled. It allows the learner to ask questions, and then it probes the learner on her understanding of the concept, and gradually helps build the fundamentals of the concept. It also teaches concepts by providing analogies from other more familiar domains.

Rafee says they have even created over 6,000 content courses using GenAI. "Creating courses used to take us weeks, now it has come down to days," he says.

Making campuses smarter

The company is investing in autonomous tech, and that is currently being used in golf carts in the Bengaluru campus. The self-driven carts take employees from one building to another. It's being piloted on one route now. AI is also being used to forecast demand for water and energy, in order to optimise their consumption. "We also use this technology for predicting equipment failures, like inverters," Rafee says. The forecasts, he says, are very accurate, but since the initiatives are relatively recent, the company is yet to estimate the benefits from them.

Services offered to clients

All the services that Infosys offers its clients - like application development, support, maintenance, BPM - have been reimagined to see how AI can be used to deliver them better. One dimension of this are horizontal functions, like support and maintenance, SAP implementation, and modernization. The second is industry specific. "We have now created over 25 playbooks that already have an AI blueprint that we use to deliver services better," Rafee says

Democratising AI

To accelerate innovation, it was seen to be necessary to democratise AI within the company. So, working with Nvidia, Infosys created its own AI cloud that anybody can use to get access to GPUs. Developers can build apps on it, test it, and launch it. And everything is automated, Rafee says, which means they can do it in days rather than in months.

Responsible AI

Responsible AI practices, Rafee says, are part of everything the company does. The company, he says, has invested in building a lot of tools so that everything that's built is explainable, removes bias, ensures security, ensures no toxicity, and minimises hallucinations. "We are one of the few companies who got certified on the ISO 42001 certification for AI in software management," he says.

Bottlenecks on the road to utopia

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As AI continues to revolutionise the way we live and work, the rapid advancement of these models faces significant bottlenecks. The progress of AI hinges on overcoming challenges in energy consumption, hardware efficiency, and the intricate complexities of scaling models. These barriers are prompting a global race among tech giants, researchers, and governments to find solutions that could shape the future trajectory of this tech.

Insatiable energy demand

One of the most pressing issues is the immense energy required to power AI systems. As models become more sophisticated, they demand exponentially more computational power. For instance, training a state-of-the-art language model like GPT-4 requires megawatts of energy, equivalent to the consumption of a small town. This energy hunger not only raises concerns about sustainability but also limits the accessibility of AI development to organisations with deep pockets. As the world grapples with climate change, the AI industry faces mounting pressure to inno-

vate more energy-efficient algorithms and hardware solutions.

The GPU conundrum

In tandem with energy concerns is the challenge of hardware limitations. The chips that power AI, predominantly GPUs (Graphics Processing Units), are being pushed to their limits. While companies like Nvidia have made strides in developing more powerful chips, the current pace of innovation may not be enough to keep up with the escalating demands of next-generation AI models. The industry still faces a critical need for more powerful, efficient, and scalable hardware solutions.

Data problems galore

The availability and quality of data also present significant challenges to AI advancement. As AI models grow more complex, they require vast amounts of diverse and high-quality data to train effectively. However, acquiring such data is no small feat. Many industries are reluctant to share data due to privacy concerns and regulatory restrictions. This scarcity of accessible data creates a significant bottleneck, limiting the scope and performance of AI models.

ENABLING ENTERPRISES TO CONNECT TO ONDC

Shayak Mazumder, Archana Mazumder, and Angad Singh Ahluwalia's Adya.ai aims to drive ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) adoption among enterprises through their suite of AI-powered applications.

Shayak's career journey is remarkable. Despite qualifying for both IIT and NDA, he chose a career in the Indian Navy, becoming one of the youngest officers specialising in nuclear biological chemical warfare and helicopter operations. After retiring in 2012, he established a chain of budget hotels and restaurants in Goa.

Archana, Shayak's wife, started her career under ad guru Prahlad Kakkar before setting up her own TV ad production house, Roe Creation. Angad began his career in FMCG marketing with MNCs including Heineken Asia Pacific and General Mills Singapore, managing brands like Haagen-Dazs, Guinness, and Heineken.

In 2016, Shayak and Archana together started a platform called Eunimart to accelerate growth for e-commerce players. A market downturn in the US forced the closure of Eunimart in 2023. And that's when the trio decided to start Adya.

Adya.ai's flagship platform, Aatmanirbhar Technology



Adya team

Marketplace (ATMA), helps to streamline the ONDC app creation process. It's a WordPress-like solution. ATMA supports four domains - retail, logistics, education/jobs, and financial services - and provides customisable buyer, seller, grievance management, and financial reconciliation apps. With options for cloud, server, and integration choices, enterprises

can quickly deploy white-labelled, branded apps. ATMA has successfully launched 20 enterprise apps in six months.

"The launch of ATMA AppStudio, in collaboration with Google Cloud Marketplace, will further facilitate innovation and growth by reducing app deployment timeline from 12 months to just 24 hours," says Shayak.

- Shilpa.Phadnis@timesofindia.com

Young professionals in data science should cultivate both technical and analytical competencies. Mastery of programming languages such as Python and R is foundational, while a strong grasp of data interpretation, statistics, and probability is crucial for uncovering meaningful insights. Developing expertise in ML algorithms and the ability to build and validate predictive models are also critical.

Jacob Joseph | VP, DATA SCIENCE, CLEVERTAP

Technical skills aside, it is incumbent that young data science engineers master effective communication skills, critical and strategic thinking, collaboration, and adaptability. With the advancements in AI, technology can assist with technical tasks. But as a data scientist, it is also essential to hone your soft skills like asking the right questions, interpreting insights, and forecasting trends.

Gautam Goenka | VP, SOFTWARE ENGINEERING & SITE HEAD, UPIATH

The exponential growth in available data, coupled with the increasing reliance on data-driven decision-making, fuels demand for skilled professionals who can extract valuable insights. With applications expanding across sectors and a persistent skills gap, AI and Data Science offers a robust career path.

Debdoot Mukherjee | CHIEF DATA SCIENTIST, HEAD OF AI AND DEMAND ENGINEERING, MEESHO

You should master a blend of technical and soft skills. On the technical side, proficiency in programming languages such as Python, R, and SQL is crucial, along with familiarity with data manipulation tools and frameworks like Hadoop, Spark, and SQL databases.

Rajesh Chopra | SENIOR VP, DATA & SERVICES, SOUTH ASIA, MASTERCARD

You should deep dive into ML algorithms and statistical modeling. Data Science is an interdisciplinary field that requires a granular understanding of data, statistics, and the business domain. Understand the nitty-gritty of your domain, deep-dive into core business problems, and then create meaningful narratives of your data.

Boobesh Ramadurai | VP, MARKETING ANALYTICS, LATENT VIEW

AI's rise has heralded a surge in demand for a critical player behind the scenes: the data scientist. That's because the power of AI hinges on data. In the ever-growing sea of information, data scientists act as the indispensable translators, unlocking the secrets hidden within and ensuring AI delivers on its potential.

Industry leaders like Abhinav Nayyar, founder and CEO of Mool.AI, acknowledge the rise of generative AI tools that automate some data analysis tasks. However, he emphasises a crucial shift: data scientists will spend less time on rote analysis and more on identifying the most valuable and actionable insights for businesses. This transition from "artisanal" to "industrialised" data practices demands a new breed of data scientist skilled in scalability and efficiency.

Lakshmana Gnanaprasadam, senior VP at Epsilon India, highlights the key areas of expertise data scientists must now possess. First, data wrangling - before AI can work its magic, data needs to be meticulously identified, curated, and prepared, and data scientists with a deep understanding of an organisation's data landscape are essential. Second, model maintenance - AI models are not "fire and forget" solutions, and data scientists must ensure these models continuously adapt to changing business realities through constant learning and adjustments. Finally, storytelling with data - the ability to translate complex technical insights into clear, actionable messages for non-technical stakeholders is a valuable "data translator" skill.

Chander Damodaran, global CTO at Brillio, paints a broader picture of the future, envisioning a data-driven landscape where AI applications like conversational interfaces and edge intelligence take centre-stage. This, he argues, necessitates

data contracts to ensure the quality and trustworthiness of data used to build AI models. Furthermore, organisations will need to become modular enterprises capable of adapting quickly to changing market dynamics. In this dynamic environment, data scientists with strong problem-solving skills and who continuously learn will be invaluable assets.

What to master

As data science continues to evolve, young engineers must master a blend of technical and soft skills to succeed. Proficiency in programming languages such as Python, R, and SQL is crucial, along with familiarity with data manipulation tools and frameworks like Hadoop, Spark, and SQL databases. "Mastery of machine learning algorithms, statistical analysis, and AI concepts is crucial," emphasises Debdoot Mukherjee, chief data scientist and head of AI and demand engineering at Meesho. "This includes a strong grasp of probability theory, advanced mathematics, and understanding of various deep learning architectures and their real-world applications."

Developing strong analytical skills, business acumen, and the ability to communicate effectively with stakeholders are equally important. "The ability to align data science with business objectives is vital," stresses Mukherjee. "This involves developing a strong metrics orientation, honing data-driven problem-solving skills, and effectively communicating complex insights to non-technical stakeholders to drive actionable outcomes."

Rajesh Chopra, senior vice president of data & services for South Asia at Mastercard, echoes the importance of soft skills: "Beyond technical skills, competencies in project management, analytical thinking, and problem-solving are highly valued. Data scientists should be adept at interpreting complex data, making data-driven decisions, and managing projects efficiently."

SNAPSHOTS

Portugal star
Pepe retires

Portugal veteran Pepe announced on Thursday in a video on social media he was retiring from football aged 41. Pepe joined Portuguese side Maritimo at the age of 18 and went on to play for Porto, Spanish giants Real Madrid and Turkish club Besiktas. AFP

India to host shooting World Cup Final: India will host the cream of world shooting when one of the most prestigious ISSF events, the World Cup Final, is held at the Karni Singh Ranges in New Delhi in October this year. All the medal winners in the 12 individual Olympics shooting events at the Paris have automatically qualified for the WCF along with last year's title winners in Doha. PTI

Mbappe completes first Real training session: Real Madrid's star summer signing Kylian Mbappe took part in his first training session with the Spanish champions on Wednesday. "Day 1. Hala Madrid!" wrote the France captain in a post on X, accompanied with photos of the session. AFP

Senior cueist Sathe exits: Khar Gymkhana's senior cueist SL Sathe, 90, lost to Kolhapur's 55-year-old Anil Kumar 1-4 (21-50, 56-42, 17-73, 27-66, 50-77) in the senior snooker first-round match of the Khar Gymkhana Western India Billiards and Snooker Championships. TNN

Newcastle sign Osula from Sheffield: Newcastle have signed Denmark U-21 striker William Osula from Sheffield United for an undisclosed fee, the Premier League club announced on Thursday. The 21-year-old played 21 times for the Blades in the English top-flight as they were relegated last season. AFP

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: WI vs SA 1st test Day 3 7:30pm (Fancode)

OLYMPICS: 11am onwards (JioCinema, Sports18)

Need to be brave
on challenging
pitches: Rohit

Colombo: India may adopt a 'horses-for-courses' policy after failing to counter the spin-friendly conditions here which led to their first series defeat to Sri Lanka in ODI cricket in 27 years.

A spirited Sri Lanka used conditions to their advantage as their spinners bamboozled the Indian batters here which led to their first series defeat to Sri Lanka in ODI cricket in 27 years.

"I don't see there is a lack of effort in how we want to try and play different shots.

POST MORTEM

You saw some of these guys played reverse sweep, paddle and all that — that is not the nature of their batsmanship," Rohit told the media after his team were shot out for 138 in pursuit of 249 in the third ODI here on Wednesday.

"We have to be very clear with how we want to play and how to keep that momentum towards us, when you play on pitches like this. We fell short now, thrice. We have to let the players know that this is what we want and if we have to be a little different in terms of choosing the personnel, we have to do that, unfortunately. We will try and see how we can be a good team in all conditions," the Indian skipper said.

Rohit said Indian batters



were not "brave enough consistently" and didn't have individual plans in place for dealing with the spin challenge.

"When I say brave, it doesn't mean that the guys were not brave enough. You got to be brave enough consistently. You got to be brave enough on slightly challenging pitches where you are trying to take on the bowlers, trying to play different shots. Again, it all comes down to individual plans," he said.

"Everyone needs to understand that this is my plan and this is how I am going to play. If that pitch suits your plan, good enough. Try and take them on. If it doesn't, then what are the options? Come down the track, push for a single and all those things. The basics of batsmanship on slow pitches."

Talking about Sri Lanka batters, Rohit said: "They were very consistent with their sweeps. They were taking their chances of playing that sweep shot." PTI

SL spinner Jayawickrama charged
for breaching ICC corruption code

Dubai: Sri Lankan spinner Praveen Jayawickrama has been charged with three counts of breaching the ICC anti-corruption code, including failure to report match-fixing approach without delay and disruption of evidence.

The 25-year-old left-arm spinner Jayawickrama allegedly failed to report to the ICC's Anti-Corruption Unit approaches made to him to fix international matches as well as Lanka Premier League games in 2021.

The ICC said on its website on Thursday. "Reportedly, the Sri Lanka bowler was found to have deleted messages related to the approach for conducting corrupt practices."

The player has been given 14 days to respond to the charges starting August 6. PTI

Biles's bravery could remove
stigma around mental health

Samir Parikh, chief mental wellness expert of the Olympics medical team for India, talks to TOI about gymnast's impact

The Simone Biles story is probably one of the biggest stories of mental health advocacy that I would have seen in the last several years. Here is a person who takes a break and comes back after four years to win the gold. I mean, what a story! It's inspiring because she spoke about it.

From a mental health point of view, it is remarkable because of the impact it will have on generations because let's face it. The stigma about mental health still exists. We are allowing ourselves to be swayed into thinking it has gone away thanks to a few influencers and posts on social media. Globally, millions continue to suffer and do not seek intervention thanks to the negative perception of seeking help for mental health.

Second, how many workplaces have a mental health program? When people talk about sports — the common words associated are strong and resilient. There has barely been integration of sport and mental health. And whatever little there has been in the realm of high-performance coaching. Now what is high-performance coaching? Does it include UPSC and NEET coaching? Also, you may very well have a high-performance coach but what if you need therapy and medication?

So performance coaching, mental health conditioning, zoning in, zoning out — these are all important but they don't cover the full spectrum of mental health. The missing part of



Simone Biles

Paris 2024

the piece is actual mental health. I believe the mental health support for athletes needs to be split into parts — performance-coaching, proper mental health support for emotional issues and prevention and self-care.

When a decorated athlete withdraws in the middle of a tournament, imagine the pressure she must have felt. Just like you pull out because of a physical injury this is also an illness.

The fact that the Indian Olympic Committee included a psychologist and a psychiatrist in the medical team is remarkable. I would have never expected it. This opens doors. It's an evolution that will help drill home that seeking help is effective, scientific and makes sure you live up to your potential.

The notion that athletes are immune to depression because of endorphins or happy chemicals is baseless. Athletes are humans. Depression doesn't choose people based on their profession.

—As told to Sharmila Ganesan Ram

Medal winner Kusale gets
hero's welcome in Pune

Tushar.Dutt@timesofindia.com

Pune: Swapnil Kusale got a hero's welcome after his arrival from the Paris Games here on Thursday. Kusale, who had become the first Indian shooter to win an Olympic medal (bronze) in 50m rifle 3 positions event in Paris, was received by thousands of supporters and budding athletes at the Shiv Chhatrapati sports complex in Balewadi. "My dream is not fulfilled yet as I wanted to win gold. I was not satisfied with the bronze when I saw the score after my last shot, but the fact that I finished on the podium made me make peace with the result," Swapnil said after a felicitation programme organised by the Gun For Glory academy.

The Kolhapur shooter said the crowd cheering for him in Chateauroux pushed him to finish among the medals after he slipped to sixth position in the final. "I was down in the final but the crowd sitting behind me were rooting for me. That motivated me a lot and I tried to shoot good scores so that the crowd could cheer louder for me than the other countries' supporters," Kusale added.

Kusale spoke about the sacrifices his parents made in his journey from an aspiring shooter to



SHOOTING STAR: Olympic bronze medallist Swapnil Kusale during a roadshow in Pune

an Olympic medallist. "My parents did so much for my training. They sold our piece of land and took loans but never let me know about these things," he added.

His coach Deepali Deshpande, who was present too, said the medal was a result of Swapnil's discipline and hard work.

"You cannot achieve anything if you don't have discipline. It starts from following the civic rules and etiquette, and the habit of following rules make you excel in sport. Swapnil follows a strict discipline and has regards for rules," she said.

HENRY HOPING
TO CAP DREAM
RUN WITH GOLD

Paris: Thierry Henry admits he doesn't want to wake up from his Olympic dream as his France team look to top off their campaign by winning gold in the men's football final against Spain on Friday. "I think it's going to be difficult waking up. Every night I watch and get goosebumps when I see guys win," the 46-year-old France coach, who won the World Cup and European Championship as a player, said on the eve of the game in Paris.

"When we manage to come together we are a beautiful country, and I think we needed this after all that happened just before the competition."

France came into the Games mired in a political crisis with the far right at one point threatening to win power in legislative elections last month. AFP

Unfit Nadal
pulls out of
US Open

New York: Rafael Nadal, a 22-time Grand Slam champion, will not compete in the US Open, he said Wednesday, with the 38-year-old Spaniard adding he did not feel he could perform at his best. "I don't think I would be able to give my 100% this time," Nadal posted on X, formerly Twitter. Nadal, a four-time US Open champion, said his next event would be at next month's Laver Cup in Berlin.

Missing out on the US Open will mark his sixth absence in the past seven Grand Slam tournaments, the lone exception being his first round ouster at this

15 Number of Grand Slams Nadal has missed due to injury or illness after 2005, the year that saw him pick up the first of his 22 Slams at the French Open.

year's French Open.

"Hi all, writing today to let you guys know that I have decided not to compete at this year's US Open, a place where I have amazing memories," Nadal posted. "I will miss those electric and special night sessions in NYC at Ashe. "Thanks to all my US fans in particular, will miss you all and will see you another time. Best of luck to all for the always amazing US Open!"

Nadal competed in the Paris Olympics at Roland Garros, where he has won 14 French Open singles titles. The Spaniard, who won Olympic singles gold in 2008, lost to eventual champion Novak Djokovic in the second round in singles, and alongside Carlos Alcaraz fell in the doubles quarter-finals. AFP

TIMES NATION

What forced you to only allow
7 hydel projects: SC to CentreASG: Ministries
Differed On
Remaining 21

► From P 1

A bench of Justices B R Gavai, Prashant Kumar Mishra and K V Viswanathan said the expert panel comprised members from various fields and govt did not give any reason for not accepting the report. The bench said it cannot question the decision but can certainly examine the decision-making process.

"You have to satisfy that the report was duly considered and reasons were given to accept or reject the report. What compelled you to only allow seven projects? When an expert committee was appointed on the direction of the court then you have to show reasons for not accepting it," the bench told addi-



The Tapovan Vishnugad Hydropower Plant in Joshimath, one of the seven projects that had been approved

tional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati, who was appearing for the Centre.

Bhati told the bench there were differences of opinion among different ministries — power and environment & forests on one side and jal shakti on the other — and there was consensus on only seven projects due to which they were approved. Besides, she added, these projects were at an advanced stage of construction.

The hydro power projects in the state came under judi-

cial scrutiny after the 2013 floods. Taking suo motu cognisance, SC had banned further construction of all such projects. Taking into account the huge investments made by companies in seven projects, SC had asked the Centre to appoint an expert committee to study the environmental and ecological impact of the projects. The seven projects were Tehri Stage II (on Bhagirathi river), Tapovan Vishnugad (Dhauligangan river), Vish-

nugad Pipalkoti (Alaknanda), Singoli Bhatwari and Phata Buyong (Mandakini), Madhyamaheshwar (Madhyamaheshwar Ganga) and Kaliganga II (Kaliganga).

Opposing the findings of the report, it was submitted by advocate Prashant Bhushan that members of the expert committee which approved the projects were also involved in clearing the projects before the flood disaster. He said that another panel headed by veteran environmentalist Ravi Chopra had blamed dams for exacerbating the 2013 disaster and the court should not give credence to expert panel recommendations for approving the projects, which would further damage the environment.

The court asked the panel of secretaries to consider all aspects and give a hearing to all stakeholders and take a decision within six months. It directed the committee to file minutes of its meeting before the court.

The Waqf Bill sought to regulate the functioning of an organisation and not interfere with the administration of a mosque. Singh also questioned Congress's secular credentials by reminding it about its role in the Sikh riots.

The stand of the two allies, TDP (16 MPs) and JD(U) (12), which together add 28 MPs to BJP's 240 along with seven of Shiv Sena and five of LJP, among others, should guarantee passage of the Bill in LS once it has been examined by the joint parliamentary committee. Govt is comfortably placed in RS, too. While Shrikant Shinde of Shiv Sena spoke strongly in favour of the Bill, the Uddhav Thackeray faction was conspicuous by its silence.

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On suspicion of
theft, 2 tribals
lynched near
Statue of Unity

Vadodara: Two tribal men were allegedly beaten to death by six workers on suspicion of theft at construction site of a "Tribal Museum", near Statue of Unity (SoU) in Gujarat's Narmada district.

The attackers have been arrested over the murders of Jayesh Tadvi and Sanjay Tadvi late Tuesday. "The workers tied Jayesh, a resident of Kevadia, and Sanjay of nearby Gabhan village and thrashed them. Jayesh died on the spot, while Sanjay died of injuries in the govt hospital in Rajpipla," Narmada SP Prashant Sumbe said.

He added, "According to Sanjay Tadvi's dying declaration, he and Jayesh were farm labourers and had entered the construction site at night hoping to steal some metal scrap to sell." Local AAP MLA Chaitar Vasava called a "bandh" in the area on Friday and asked police to produce evidence of the deceased being thieves. Vasava has demanded police name the construction agency owner in the FIR. TNN

Another bridge
crashes in Bihar,
river soil 'eroded'

Patna: A portion of a bridge being built over a stream of Ganga in Bihar's Katihar collapsed on Thursday. No one was harmed, but the cave-in adds to the list of over two dozen bridges that have fallen in the state over past two months, prompting govt to suspend 15 engineers, reports Kshitiz.

The bridge that gave way on Thursday was small and was being constructed by state's rural works department.

"The construction had started recently. It was not the main river, but a stream of the Ganga. There was an increase in the river currents, because of which two pillars of the bridge collapsed," Katihar DM Manish Kumar Meena said. The DM said the pillars were cast around 15 days ago. "The soil beneath them eroded," he said.

Like Gorbachev, Buddhadeb's
redemption came before death

► From P 1

Redemption, though, has followed much quicker than anyone, including Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee himself, expected. His efforts to make Bengal a destination for industrialists and investments may have failed both administratively and politically; but it is a measure of his success that every party in Bengal now swears by industrialisation and make it a point to present itself as an industry-friendly entity wooing investors.

In both his failures and redemption, Bhattacharjee can claim kinship with the original Perestroika man of communism: Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet leader tried to restructure his nation and his party but, ultimately, presided over the USSR's break-up. And, much like Bhattacharjee, Gorbachev found solace in history being much mellow in judging his efforts than the people he once led. And, for both, redemption came before their death.

Bhattacharjee tried to move his state away from the falling returns of subsistence agriculture and use the surplus skilled manpower to build a robust growth path through industries.

He also okayed contract farming and invited private investments in agricultural infrastructure (for processing and packaging farm produce and increasing production). Governments in the state and the centre took all these cues much later.

Bhattacharjee also wanted his party to come out of its over-dependence on the crippling handouts and, instead, create a positive work culture. And, unlike many of his CPM colleagues, Bhattacharjee genuinely strived to break his party's hegemony in educational institutions and public life. In all these, as much as in everything else, his efforts to steer CPM in a different direction may have come too late.

It would, however, be a mistake to measure Bhattacharjee's popularity only by votes. Yes, he lost in his own assembly constituency, Jadavpur, in 2011 when his party lost office. But many credit him — and his election rally in evidently frail health — for his party winning back the

prestigious seat five years later (though it lost Jadavpur again in 2021).

And, in an age when self-aggrandisement is the norm among politicians, he earned respect — if not votes — by going into a retired life fit for both a Bengali bhadralok and a communist apparatchik. Bengal may have voted him out of office but, in that forced retirement, Bengal discovered in him one more of its icons: a frail old man, wearing a pyjama, happy being away from public glare, leading a peaceful, retired life that would be the envy of many richer in wealth.

All this while, he wrote two books — Phire Dekha and Phire Dekha II — where he made some observations on his tenure as CM, the role of the opposition and also the role of the governor. Bhattacharjee, while reflecting on the Singur-Nandigram days leading to the Tatas moving out of Bengal, wrote: "It was an irreparable damage to the state. Sometimes I wonder where I made the mistake. Was it land acquisition itself or was it the process of land acquisition? Was I too soft on the opposition? We will take lessons from that experience."

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PM message to Yunus comes amid
targeted violence against Hindus

► From P 1

India remains committed to working with Bangladesh to fulfil the shared aspirations of both our peoples for peace, security and development," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said.

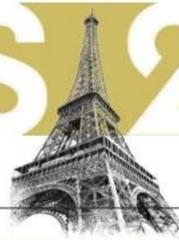
PM's message to Yunus to protect Hindus and other minorities came amid violence which has seen them being targeted and their properties and temples destroyed by mobs. Foreign minister S Jaishankar and his ministry had raised the

campaign against minority communities but Modi went far beyond, making a reference to "Hindus", who have borne the brunt of a systematic campaign of violence that appears to have been organised by known anti-India forces.

Also, unlike in the case of Jaishankar who briefed Parliament in the immediate wake of Sheikh Hasina's resignation and when no govt was in place in Dhaka, Modi's message was aimed at Yunus as the head of the interim govt. Leader of opposition Rahul Gandhi too congratulated Yunus.

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"This event is special because (in our sport) you don't think about finishing second or third, or winning a medal. So our story is a success — let's make it better."

THIERRY HENRY
FRANCE MEN'S FOOTBALL COACH, AHEAD OF FINAL VS SPAIN

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Q-GEL MATTRESS

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NO FINAL FLOURISH, BUT AMAN ON TRACK FOR MEDAL

Wrestler Loses Semifinal To Rio Olympics Silver Medallist, To Fight For Bronze Today

TIMES AT THE GAMES
BIJU.BABUCYRIAC
@timesofindia.com

Paris: Young wrestler Aman Sehrawat raised hopes of a gold medal as he stormed into the semifinals of the men's 57kg freestyle event in style. But he was stopped on his tracks in the semis by vastly experienced Japan's Rei Higuchi at the Champ-de-Mars arena here on Thursday. The defeat, though, won't stop Aman from fighting for the bronze on Friday.

The 21-year-old, the lone Indian wrestler in the men's section, was full of confidence ahead of his evening bout after posting two big wins to race through the pre-quarters and quarterfinals.

In the opening bout of the day, he had Vladimir Egorov of North Macedonia on the backfoot soon. At the end of the first period, the wrestler was leading 6-0 on technical points and it soon became 10-0 in the second period. The victory was awarded to the Indian on technical superiority.

In the quarterfinal, Sehrawat lined up against Albanian Zelimkhan Abakarov and the result was another stunning victory much to the delight of the Indian contingent, who were still in a shock after Vinesh was disqualified for being 100g overweight. This time the verdict was 12-0 in the

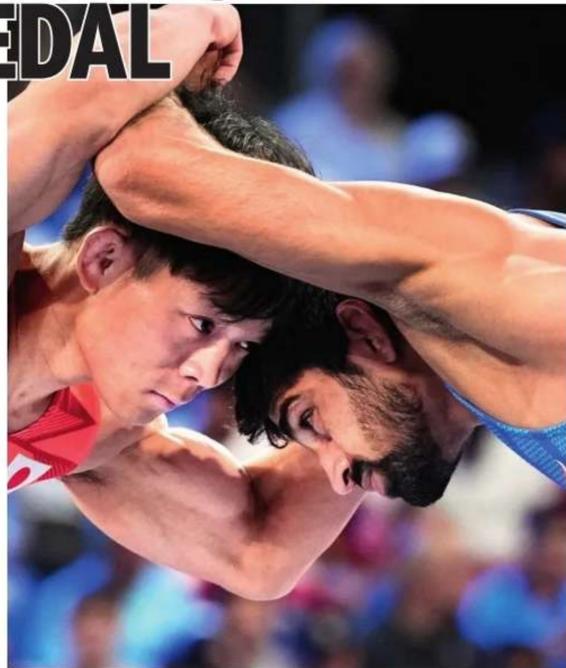
Indian's favour as he rattled up the points over the two periods.

The first period saw an even contest till the Indian took a 3-0 lead. The start of the second period was even more one sided as he reeled off the points pinning down his opponent and turning him over repeatedly. It earned another technical superiority win for Sehrawat.

A former India coach called it an extraordinary performance by the Indian against Abakarov, a former world champion, who was born in Russia but later took Albanian citizenship in 2021. "It was a super fight by Aman. He had lost to Akabarov at the Senior World Championships. It was the qualifying tournament for the Olympics and he had lost 0-10. Today, Aman was in fine form as he took revenge," the coach told TOI after watching the Indian in action. Akbarov contested the last two points awarded to the Indian but the referee was unmoved.

But Sehrawat's fine show came to an end against the Japanese who ensured the Indian's defeat in the first period itself. Sehrawat tried his best but it was not enough to trouble the vastly experienced Higuchi who won the Olympic silver medal at the Rio Games and the World Championship in 2022. "It was a slow bout. Aman lost as he failed to stop any of the attacks by the Japanese," the coach added.

On Friday, Sehrawat will get a chance to clinch a medal when he



WAY TOO GOOD: Japan's Rei Higuchi (left) and Aman Sehrawat fight their 57kg freestyle wrestling semifinal bout on Thursday

takes on Darian Cruz of Puerto Rico for the bronze. Cruz is also an experienced wrestler having won the bronze at the Pan American Games.

Anshu loses in pre-quarters
In the women's 57kg bout, India's Anshu Malik's campaign ended in the

pre-quarters as she lost to USA's Helen Louise Maroulis 2-7. In what was a rematch of the 2021 Worlds final in Oslo, Norway where the Indian settled for the silver, the 32-year-old American, Rio winner and Tokyo bronze medallist, asserted her supremacy in Paris too.

JYOTHI'S CAMPAIGN ENDS, FINISHES 16TH IN 100M HURDLES REPECHAGE ROUND

Paris: Asian Games silver medallist Jyothi Yarraji's Paris Olympics campaign came to end after she finished 16th in the women's 100m hurdles repechage round, here on Thursday. Yarraji clocked 13.17s, to be placed fourth in her heat, behind South Africa's Marione Fourie (12.79), Netherlands' Maayke Tjin-A-Lim (12.87), Viktoria Proster of Slovakia (12.88).

Only the top two hurdlers in each repechage heat advanced to the semifinals. There were a total of three heats and Yarraji was placed in heat 1.

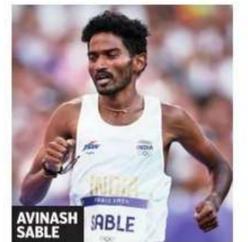
Yarraji, an Asian champion, clocked 13.16s in the first round to rank 35th overall and make the repechage round.

Yarraji holds the Indian record with a timing of 12.78 seconds. She first broke the women's 100m hurdles national record after clocking 13.23s in Cyprus in May 2022 and has improved it several times since then. The current record stands at 12.78s which she achieved in Chengdu, China in August 2023.

The 24-year-old hurdler then matched it at the Motonet GP Jyvaskyla athletics meet in Finland in May 2024, where she missed Paris Olympics qualification mark by just 0.01 seconds. She qualified for the Paris Games on the basis of her ranking. **PH**

Don't ridicule us for not winning: Sable

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Paris: National record holder Avinash Sable, who settled for the 11th place in the men's 3000m steeplechase final, took a swipe at trolls and critics who are ridiculing Indian athletes and felt it will take time for the country's top stars to create a bigger impact on the world stage.

"There are some people who are posting messages on social media against our athletes. I felt bad reading them. The top athletes from our country are here and they are lampooned about their performances. I saw athletes sitting next to me, reading those and then they were going into depression. They are thinking how can you represent your country if you are ridiculed like this. Some people are saying our athletes are coming last among all these athletes competing here, but then we are competing against the world's best and trying hard," Sable said.

"There is no enjoyment for athletes while training abroad. Some people think that we are spending government money and going on a tour and having a gala time. But that is not the case. For the last 4-5 months I kept away from my family and friends and trained and I know how tough it is. You are returning from the ground after midnight and then you are cooking your own food. I was training in

Colorado Springs, USA in Jan and Feb where the temperature was below 0 degrees. We train because of the altitude and facilities there. And also we get the right group of athletes to train for long-distance events.

"If anyone thinks that we are enjoying abroad then let me tell you that there is no enjoyment. No one wants to come here to lose. I request all of you to support our athletes," he said.

'Didn't understand the tactics'

Sable, who had clocked his best time of 8:09.91 in Paris last month, said Wednesday night's race was on till the last lap. "This time I had come fully prepared and had the confidence but I didn't understand their tactics. I was in the lead and then the Ethiopian (Samuel Firewu) took the lead, I thought he was setting the pace but did the opposite and slowed down the race. I didn't get that. Then I thought that at the last kilometre, others would make a move. But no one did and the race was on till the last lap."

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BITTERSWEET SILVER

Neeraj Chopra's Season-Best Not Enough To Defend Javelin Title As Nadeem Settles Issue With Monstrous Second Throw In Final

TIMES AT THE GAMES
ALOK.SINHA@timesofindia.com

Paris: It was hot and humid at the Stade de France on Thursday night. The air was still, and heavy with anticipation. Not the best of conditions for an athlete to give his best. But that would have been the last thing on Neeraj Chopra's mind.

He came here with the tag of the defending javelin throw champion. "It gives you motivation. Helps you focus better on your performance." Just two days ago, Chopra got his second-best throw ever at this arena, 89.94m, during the qualification. "Don't go by this throw. Final alag cheez hai (final is a different thing)," he had said.

It was different. Very different. The Indian, who had topped the qualifications, started with a foul. So did Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, Neeraj's challenger and a friend on the circuit. But that was not a worry for these two sub-continental heroes.

They went top of the chart on their second try. Nadeem set an Olympic re-



NEERAJ CHOPRA

cord with a huge throw of 92.97m. It was a sensational throw, almost unbelievable. The javelin kept soaring and soaring before it fell to a huge roar in the stadium. The earlier record stood at 90.57m. He had just gone way, way ahead of the others.

Neeraj managed 89.45m on his second try to be second on the list, 3.52m behind the Pakistani. He indicated with his right hand that it was not where he wanted to be at. There was a lot of catching up to do, for him and the others.

Nadeem's third throw was around 88m. He looked satisfied as he pumped his fist. He knew he had done his best. Neeraj fouled his third throw. It was a weak one anyway. The Indian usually gets his best throws on his initial tries. Three gone. So, could he improve now? Had Nadeem's throw put extra pressure on him?

The other challengers — Anderson Peters of Grenada, Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic, Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago and Germany's

Julien Weber — were just behind Neeraj after four attempts. In the third spot was Jakub Vadlejch with 88.5m. The script could still change. The gold looked to have been secured by the Pakistani in his safe vault. The competition was in his pocket. It was about the other two medals.

Neeraj fouled his fourth and fifth throws too. Out of five attempts, he had managed just one valid throw. It was very uncharacteristic. He was still second on the list, but there was a throw

left and he could be upstaged.

At this stage, it was Pakistan gold, India silver. Not many would have predicted this before the event. Nadeem is a World Championship silver medallist and has crossed the 90m-mark often in his career. He had chosen this venue, this stage to get a throw he would have often dreamed about.

Neeraj fouled his sixth and final throw too. He raised his hands to thank the crowd. Nadeem then went for his final throw. It again went like the first

MAN FOR THE BIG MOMENTS

Neeraj Chopra's medal-winning throws compared to the nearest rival...

Throw distance in metre

Year	Event	Gold	Silver	Bronze
2024 Paris Olympic 2024		Arshad Nadeem 92.97	Neeraj Chopra 89.45	
2023 Asian Games		Neeraj 88.88	Kishore Jena 87.54	
2023 World Championships		Neeraj 88.17	Nadeem 87.82	
2022 World Championships		Anderson Peters 90.54	Neeraj 88.13	
2020 Tokyo Olympics		Neeraj 87.58	Jakub Vadlejch 86.67	
2018 Asian Games		Neeraj 88.06	Liu Qizhen 82.22	
2018 Commonwealth Games		Neeraj 86.47	Hamish Peacock 82.59	

one, just short at 91.79m. He then went down on his knees to thank God.

Chopra was looking to become the fifth athlete in the history of the Games to defend the men's javelin throw Olympic title. He failed to do that but with the silver here, he has gone a step ahead of other Indian Olympians.

BRONZE FEELS LIKE GOLD!

Determined India Repeat Tokyo Feat, Give Sreejesh A Winning Farewell With Medal After Gutsy 2-1 Win Against Spain

TIMES AT THE GAMES
ALOK.SINHA@timesofindia.com

Paris: It was a roller-coaster last two weeks in Paris, but in the end at Yves du Manoir, everything fell into place. When a shot at gold was lost following a narrow defeat to Germany, things could have fallen apart. But Harmanpreet Singh's boys were not ready to brood. They knew a bronze would mean a lot more than a mere consolation. A hungry Spain was in their way, but India were on a mission.

The bronze victory shows how well India have travelled in the past few years, how good they are. Ten of this bunch were there on the podium in Tokyo. They knew what was needed of them. They knew how to keep emotions in check. They knew how to win it. This team is special.

The Indians celebrated and soon got into a huddle, holding each other tight. Then the victory lap began. They first lifted Sreejesh, playing his farewell match, high in the air. The crowd roared its approval. Sreejesh has been the star performer of this team here, along with skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

When the match began, in the first quarter, Spain made the first attack but were foiled easily. India took time to settle down and were soon running at their rivals. A good chance went begging in the 6th minute. Mandeep Singh raced into the circle from the left and passed to an unmarked Sukhjeet, who hit it out.

In the ninth minute, skipper Harmanpreet Singh's reverse hit from the left of the Spanish circle hit Gurjant Singh on the head, but thankfully there was no serious injury. India attacked towards the end of the quarter in waves, entered the circle but failed to make it count. Surprisingly, both teams failed to earn a penalty corner.

The second quarter started with a blow for India. In the 18th minute, Spain moved inside India's circle, Manpreet fouled Gerard Clapes and the umpire pointed to the penalty stroke spot. Spain's skipper Marc Miralles slotted it past Sreejesh. Spain earned two back-to-back PCs in the 20th minute but were denied by Indian defenders.

The intensity levels had gone up. Spain



DESH KA NAAM DUNIYA PE LEHRA DIYA!

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52 India have bagged medals in two consecutive Olympics after 52 years

13 Total Olympic medals won in hockey (8 gold, 1 silver, 4 bronze)

ACTION REPLAY! Sreejesh (above) sits on the crossbar as Indian team members celebrate their win

Team	Player	Score
INDIA	Harmanpreet Singh 30-pc, 33-pc	2
SPAIN	Marc Miralles 18-ps	1

STATS THE WAY

India	Goals/Shots	Spain
2/10	Goals/Shots	1/15
20	Shooting Efficiency (%)	7
0/4	Field Goals	0/5
2/6	Penalty Corner	0/9
0/0	Penalty Strokes	1/1
49	Possession (%)	51
2	Green Cards	0

INDIANS IN ACTION TODAY
ATHLETICS: Women's 4x400m relay Rd 1 (2.10pm); Men's 4x400m relay Rd 1 (2.35pm)
GOLF: Women's Rd 3: Aditi Ashok, Diksha Dagar (12.30pm onwards)
WRESTLING: Men's 57kg repechage bronze medal match: Aman Sehrawat vs Darian Cruz (Pur) (9.45 pm onwards)

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Golden age of hockey can return: PM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah were among prominent leaders who joined the country-wide celebrations over Indian hockey bronze. PM Modi spoke to the team members on phone and said their back-to-back Olympic medals not only ended the drought of several years but has also ignited hope of the revival of the glorious days of Indian hockey. "You have not only broken the trend of defeats but your performance makes me confident about revival of the golden glory of Indian hockey," said the PM as he spoke to Harmanpreet Singh, whom the PM referred to with his popular nickname 'Sarpanch'.

Modi then spoke to goalkeeper PR Sreejesh, who played a crucial role in India's medal win. PM Modi recalled how 10-member India triumphed over Great Britain in the quarter-final match, a feat, he said, that will be cherished by generations to come and an example for the youngsters. Modi also urged the retiring Sreejesh to contribute in building the team in future. Home minister Shah said that the achievement of the team has raised the pride of the Tricolour.



ONE FINAL TIME! Family members celebrate Sreejesh's feat at his home in Pallikara, on the outskirts of Kochi

'Wanted my son to retire with an Olympic medal'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Olympian Sreejesh Road in Pallikara, a quiet neighbourhood on the outskirts of Kochi, suddenly came to life on Thursday evening. A swarm of relatives, friends, and media personnel had descended on the home of Pallikara's most famous son, PR Sreejesh. They were expecting a second successive bronze medal from the Indian hockey team, and Sreejesh and his

mates didn't disappoint. As the final hooter sounded at the Yves du Manoir in Paris with the scoreline reading 2-1 in India's favour against Spain, the Sreejesh household erupted in joy. Sreejesh's father, P Raveendran, who had to sell his cow to buy the first hockey kit for Sreejesh, stood up with folded hands and in prayers. "I wanted him to retire with an Olympic medal around his neck. That wish has been fulfilled," Raveendran said.

His mother, Ushakumari, wept tears of joy, while his wife, Aneehya, also turned emotional. Anticipating a historic moment, Sreejesh's elder brother, Sreejith, had flown down from Canada with his family to celebrate the occasion. Sreejesh's kids, Anushree and Sriyansh, along with their friends and neighbours, were busy lighting sparklers and bursting crackers. About half an hour after India's win, the moment they were waiting for

arrived as a beaming Sreejesh appeared on a video call. "I couldn't hear what he said. But I am very happy for him. I had presented him a pendant with a hockey stick and a ball before he flew to Paris. He wore it while he played every match. It proved to be a lucky charm," Aneehya told TOI, taking a bit of credit for Sreejesh's achievement.

And now their wait begins, the wait to welcome home the country's hero. "I used to be an aggressive 'keeper and shout at my defenders. But when I became the super senior, I could not do the same to my juniors, so I began talking to my post. "Even after the Argentina match, I asked 'what have you done to me'. So when you take out all your frustrations, it helps you to get back to your normal self." Skipper Harmanpreet said the team will miss their talismanic 'keeper.

TWO OF A KIND: Sreejesh (below) & Harmanpreet

Dutch win gold in shootout
 Meanwhile, the Netherlands beat Germany 3-1 in a shootout after a 1-1 draw in regulation time to win the gold medal in men's hockey, with Duco Telgenkamp firing home the final penalty shot past goalkeeper Jean-Paul Danneberg.

10 Goals scored by skipper Harmanpreet Singh in Paris, the highest by any player

The goalpost was my home for the last 24 years: Sreejesh

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Paris: PR Sreejesh had a few moments of introspection when he sat inside the goal at half time. But at the end of 60 minutes at Yves du Manoir on Thursday, he was on top of the goalpost all over again. It was deja vu — the keeper had relived those winning moments that he had

experienced in Tokyo three years ago. As he stepped down to take off his international hockey pads and passed on the mantle to the next generation — a brilliant chapter in Indian hockey came to an end. "A coach once told me that when you retire people should say 'why' and not 'why not'. Everybody is asking me why now, so I think this is the

right time," Sreejesh said when asked whether he would reconsider this decision. "It (the goalpost) was my home for the last 24 years. And I never lived a life outside that and I didn't know what's going to happen next. During the warm-up I just wanted to recollect all the memories — the day I put on the pads for the first time, the day I entered the Indian camp for the first time back in 2002," Sreejesh added.

"Over the years I changed myself,

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INDIA'S PARIS MARKERS

15	Goals scored
12	Goals conceded during the competition
3	Field goals scores
53	Penalty corners earned
9	Penalty corners converted
3	Goals via penalty strokes

WRESTLE MANIA OVER AFTER HEARTBREAK

Battered Mentally By Her Unfortunate Disqualification, Resilient Vinesh Cannot Get Up One More Time

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New Delhi: Another twist was added to Vinesh Phogat's dramatic story when the wrestler, on Thursday morning, announced her retirement from the sport after a heartbreaking exit from the Paris Olympics.

Vinesh's decision followed her unfortunate disqualification for failing to make the required weight during the weigh-in on Wednesday morning ahead of her women's 50kg gold medal bout against the eventual winner, USA's Sarah Hildebrandt.

Vinesh was on the cusp of scripting history after becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to qualify for the finals of an Olympic. She had a great chance to win an unprecedented gold as she has a better head-to-head record against Hildebrandt. Vinesh had floored Tokyo Olympics champion Yui Susaki of Japan in her opening bout.

However, the 29-year-old was found to be overweight by just over 100 grams during the weigh-in, leading to her disqualification from the event. Taking to social media site 'X', Vinesh wrote: "Mother, wrestling beat me, I lost. Your dream and my courage are all broken. I don't have any more strength now. Goodbye wrestling 2001-2024. I will forever be in your debt." The post was addressed to her mother Premilata.

People will talk about her fearless approach and tactical acumen which fetched the three-time Olympian two World Championships bronze medals, three Commonwealth Games titles and gold at the Asian Games and Asian Championships.

She has been a fighter throughout her storied career despite innumerable setbacks suffered during her journey. At Rio 2016, she was a favourite to finish on the podium but was stretched off the mat writhing in pain after suffering an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tear in her right knee. In Tokyo, she entered the



Abhinav Bindra meets Vinesh at the Village on Thursday

Olympics as the reigning world No. 1 in her 53kg weight division and was the top seed. But a shock defeat to Belarus' Vanesa Kaladzinskaya in the quarters again brought her Olympic dreams crashing down. Vinesh would later reveal her struggles with depression and thoughts of suicide engulfing her mind after the then Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh calling her a 'khotta sikka' upon her return from Tokyo.

Los Angeles 2028 is still far away and Vinesh will be 33 by then. Vinesh is an emotional person and her retirement decision is impulsive. She may return to the mat in future.

Vinesh's uncle and family patriarch, Mahavir Phogat said he will ask the wrestler to reconsider her decision. "She is naturally dejected. The gold medal was hers but she got disqualified. The whole nation is with her and everyone wants her to continue wrestling. She can still make the country proud in Los Angeles. We will try to make her revisit her decision," said Mahavir of her niece.

Former Indian women's wrestling team coach, Vinod Kumar, said he will try to convince her to take the decision back. "I have known Vinesh since childhood. She is not the one who easily gets bogged down by the tough surroundings around her. I know she will come back stronger. She is a champion."

MOTHER, WRESTLING WON AGAINST ME, I LOST. YOUR DREAMS AND MY COURAGE ARE BROKEN. I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO GO ON ANYMORE. GOODBYE WRESTLING 2001-2024. I WILL FOREVER BE INDEBTED TO ALL OF YOU. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
(Translation of Vinesh's note on X, addressing her mother Premilata)



ANTIM STARVED FOR 48 HOURS TO LOSE WEIGHT AHEAD OF BOUT

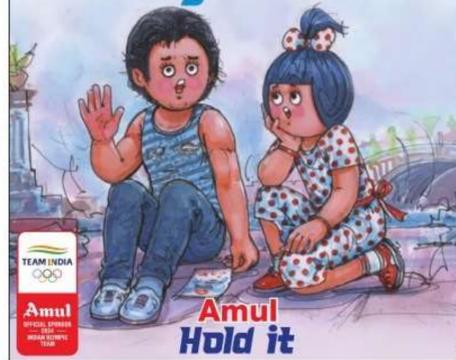
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New Delhi: Barely hours after Vinesh Phogat was disqualified from the Paris Olympics came another shocker for the Indian wrestling camp — Antim Panghal, touted as a probable medal winner in the women's 53kg division, — crashed out after suffering a humiliating 10-0 defeat against Turkey's Zeynep Yetgil in her opening bout on Wednesday.

It has now come to light that Antim starved herself for 48 hours ahead of her bout to pass the weigh-in. Antim didn't eat a morsel of food and had minimum water intake, leaving her body weak and completely dehydrated.

Antim was overweight ahead of her bout and wanted her masseur and dietician, sister Nisha, to manage her meal intake. Since Nisha was staying outside the village as she wasn't part of the official contingent, Antim was virtually left on her own to manage the weight. The starvation left Antim bereft of energy when she took the mat against Yetgil and it was no surprise that she lost tamely.

We won't Phogat you!



ROLLERCOASTER CAREER

BORN IN AUG 1994 IN BALALI, HARYANA.

Was introduced to wrestling at a very young age by her uncle Mahavir Singh Phogat — the father of Geeta and Babita.

GOLD IN CWG: Her first major title came at the 2014 CWG — a gold in the 48kg category.

ACL INJURY IN RIO OLYMPICS: At her first Olympics in 2016, her medal hopes were dashed by an ACL tear in the right knee during the quarterfinals. It took her five months to recover after surgery.

GOLD RUSH: Fully recovered, she grabbed golds at 2018 Commonwealth Games and Asian Games respectively in the 50kg category.

MOVING UP A CATEGORY: Moved to the 53kg category and won her maiden bronze at 2019 Worlds.

TOKYO GAMES LOSS: At the Tokyo Olympics, she was the top seed but lost in the second round.

HARDSHIPS
After that she went through many hardships. WFI suspended her for refusing to train with teammates and not wearing an official Indian kit at the Olympics.
Soon after the suspension, she revealed two reasons for her below-par show at the Olympics. First one was the concussion she suffered in

MEDAL HAUL

World Championships: Bronze in 2019, 2022

Asian Games: Bronze in 2014, Gold in 2018

Commonwealth Games: Gold in 2014, 2018, 2022

2017. It always came back whenever her head struck on anything. Second was going through depression in 2019 and how it led to many sleepless nights.
Suffered an elbow injury during the 2021 Worlds trials but returned to action in 2022 and clinched bronze at the Worlds and gold at Commonwealth Games.
Her 2023 Asian Games preparations are interrupted by an elbow surgery. After recovery, her Asian Games hopes are dashed by a knee injury she suffered during training and requires surgery.

THE PROTEST

In 2023, she also became the face of the protest against alleged sexual harassment by the then WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh against women's wrestlers.

HISTORY AND THEN DISAPPOINTMENT

Became the first woman wrestler to enter Olympics final but on the cusp of history, she was disqualified from competing in the final of the 50kg freestyle final for being just 100 grams overweight.

Did Vinesh's support team mishandle weight issue?

Sabi.Hussain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Vinesh Phogat's heart-breaking disqualification from the Paris Olympics hours ahead of her final bout has led to questions regarding what could have gone wrong in her weight management which resulted in India missing out on a possible gold medal.

The chief medical officer (CMO) of the Indian contingent, Dr Dinshaw Pardiwala, informed that her support staff comprising her personal coach from Hungary, Woller Akos, physio Ashwini Jiwan Patil, the nutritionist and the dietician did everything possible to bring Vinesh's weight down to the required level. Still, the wrestling fraternity is asking questions regarding the coaching team's failure to achieve the desired weight before the weigh-in on Wednesday morning.

It's been learnt that her team estimated that Vinesh's weight would hover between 51.5-52kg after her semifinal bout on Tuesday evening, which they could have cut comfortably.

Former India hockey captain Viren Rasquinha, CEO of Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ), the NGO which has been sponsoring and supporting Vinesh since 2018, informed in a statement that one cannot practice weight management in advance as constant weight control for wrestlers puts their health at severe risk and hampers training which is better at an optimum weight as per medical advice.

"Generally, post the morning weigh-in, wrestlers have a recovery meal to regain strength and your weight immediately bounces back by 2-3kgs depending on your regular weight. Vinesh's regular weight is 55kg. On Aug 6 evening after the semis, Vinesh weighed in at 52.7kg. Post the semis, she did not have any water or food and immediately started on the plan for losing weight for the next day's weigh-in which was scheduled for the morning. When Vinesh made weight on Day 1, she had to have a planned recovery meal post weigh-in to regain some strength. Her weight went up due to rehydration. This is also because weight loss is mainly by dehydration. So, the challenge was to lose that 2.7kg by 7:15 am the next morning (about 12 hours). Her semifinal bout got over around 7pm Paris time," Rasquinha said. "Vinesh and the team did everything possible to bring the weight down," added Rasquinha who ruled out any possibility of sabotage.

IOA seeks time to appoint lawyer; CAS hearing rescheduled for Friday
Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has sought more time from the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) to appoint a lawyer in Vinesh Phogat's appeal against her disqualification. The hearing was originally scheduled for Thursday evening Paris time. But upon IOA's request, it has now been rescheduled for 10 am Paris time (1:30 PM IST) Friday.

'Hooda's RS offer a political stunt'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Uncle of Vinesh Phogat, Mahavir Phogat, dismissed Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda's proposal to send Vinesh to Rajya Sabha as a "political stunt" recalling instances where his daughters, wrestlers Babita and Geeta, were denied their due when Hooda served as Haryana CM.

"This is a political stunt. Today, Hooda said that Vinesh should be sent (to the Rajya Sabha), but why was Geeta Phogat not sent to the Rajya Sabha during his gov't?" questioned Mahavir, who pointed out that in the 2010 CWG, Babita won silver, and Geeta clinched the gold, and the Hooda gov't was in power. According to Mahavir, his daughters should have been appointed as DSPs, but the Hooda gov't didn't allow it to happen. "When the CWG were held in 2005 and 2010, Babita Phogat won the silver medal, and Geeta Phogat won the gold medal. She was the first Indian wrestler to win the Commonwealth gold medal. After that, in 2012, Geeta became the first woman wrestler to qualify for the Olympics."

The legal move: The Delhi High Court as it heard a plea filed by Vinesh and fellow wrestlers against the office bearers of the Wrestling Federation of India. After a brief hearing, the HC listed for Sept 12 a petition by Bajrang Punia, Phogat, Sakshi Malik, and her husband Satyawart Kadian challenging the elections held for WFI leadership last year. Appearing for the wrestlers, senior advocate Aparul Mehra asserted that the WFI was being "manned by proxies" and objected to the presence of the current president Sanjay Singh at the Oly Village.

That was not on my bingo card of chaos, says wrestler who was slated to fight Vinesh

American wrestler Sarah Ann Hildebrandt, who won the Olympics 50kg gold medal bout from which Vinesh Phogat was disqualified for being overweight, says she was prepared for chaos on the morning of the summit clash but not the kind that unfolded. "I prepared for chaos, but that was not on my bingo card of chaos," said Hildebrandt, who defeated Cuban Yusneylis Guzman Lopez who replaced Phogat in the final, to claim the coveted gold.

The 30-year-old Hildebrandt did not spot Vinesh at the time of weigh-in and for a while, thought that the Indian had forfeited. "(Vinesh) wasn't at weigh-ins, so I was in my head like, 'Oh my gosh, this might be a possibility.' Then, we get the news that she didn't make weight, and we were under the impression that it was a forfeit. So, there was a lot of celebrating," she recalled.

"It was very strange, like 'Oh my god, I just won the Olympics.' Then an hour later, they were like, 'You did not win the Olympics.' I'm like, 'Oh, this is very weird.' So there had to be a reset. I took a nap, woke up, and it was like a fever dream." PTI

HALL OF FAME

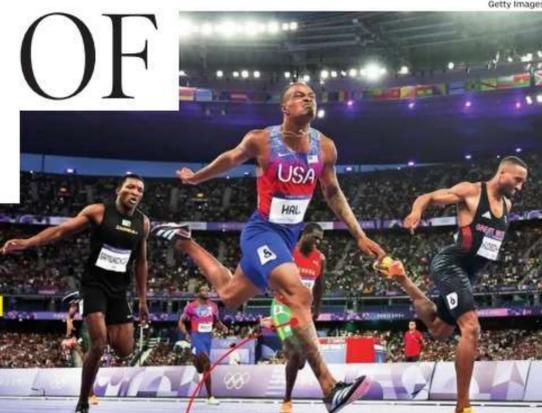
American Quincy Hall produced one of the great Olympic performances to become the fourth fastest man ever in the 400m

Saint-Denis: As the flash of red, white and blue streaked past one sprinter — then the next, then the next — the American man delivering the latest out-of-nowhere comeback on the track said he had one thing going through his mind: "Get home, son! Get home, son!"

Quincy Hall got home in first, then fell to the ground and did snow angels. Just another routine day in a come-from-behind kind of Olympics for the USA Hall reeled in three runners down the stretch of the 400-meter final Wednesday to deliver another heart-stopping win for his country at the Stade de France. He finished in 43.40 seconds, beating Britain's Matthew Hudson-Smith by .04 seconds; they are now the fourth- and fifth-fastest men in history at the distance.

"I've got determination," Hall said. "That's what got me to that line. A lot of hurt, a lot of pain."

Things did not look good for Hall with 100 meters to go. Things looked bad for Hall, a 26-year-old who starred at South Carolina and who breeds



1 Hall is the first American since LaShawn Merritt in 2008 to capture gold in the one-lap race that the country dominated for decades before that. He joins the likes of Michael Johnson, Jeremy Wariner and Lee Evans among the champions the United States has produced in the most tactical sprint on the track programme

them all, then thrust his chest out to beat the Brit. Hall fell to the ground and scissored his arms and legs back and forth — snow angels in 80-degree weather on the bright purple track. "I just wanted to keep doing what my coach told me to do, just keep driving and keep driving and get home," Hall said.

Wilson, 16, in line to be youngest male to compete for US track team

Quincy Wilson is in line to race for the Americans in the men's 4x400 meter relay on Friday, which would make the 16-year-old the youngest male to compete for the U.S. team in Olympic track. The youngest U.S. male in Olympic track was Arthur Newton, who ran the steeplechase in 1904 at age 17. AP

El Bakkali retains steeplechase title as Girma has a bad fall



Saint-Denis: Morocco's Soufiane El Bakkali retained his Olympic 3000m steeplechase title on Wednesday to become just the third Arab to win double gold as world record holder Lamecha Girma suffered a worrying fall.

El Bakkali timed 8min 06.05sec for victory with American Kenneth Rooks taking silver in 8:06.41 and Kenya's Abraham Kibiwot claiming bronze (8:06.47). Ethiopia's Girma was left prone on the track after falling at a hurdle before being eventually stretched off.

Girma was taken to hospital, accord-

2 Moroccan El Bakkali became the second man to successfully defend his Olympic steeplechase title after Volmar Iso-Hollo of Finland last achieved the feat at the 1936 Berlin Games

ing to a source at the Ethiopian athletics federation, but was not undergoing surgery. Girma clipped the third-last hurdle with his knee and plunged head first into the track. After receiving medical treatment, he left the arena on a stretcher with his neck secured by a brace. AFP

A GOOD DAY, MATE! AUSSIE KENNEDY SOARS OVER MOON TO POLE VAULT GOLD

Nina Kennedy bounced off the pole vault mats and punched the air once, twice, three times. She ran over to the Olympic crowd and took another three swings at the air. Aussies in the stands flew the flag, shook green-and-gold banners and held up yellow inflatable kangaroos.

Kennedy didn't know at that stage she would deliver Australia an 18th gold medal at the Paris Games — a national record for the Olympics. That was just the celebration for clearing the height to take the lead.

Kennedy clinched the victory a bit later Wednesday when Tokyo Olympic gold medalist Katie Moon failed to clear 4.95 meters after a three-hour final.

Then the emotions took over. Kennedy raced back to her supporters in the crowd and the tears flowed as she hugged friends, family and discus throw bronze medalist Matthew Denny, who just happened to be walking back after his final to join the group. Then Kennedy sprang back across the track, hopping with delight.

A man in the crowd yelled: "What did you just do?" Well, delivering Australia's fourth gold medal on Day 12 helped surpass the country's previous record total of 17 golds for a Summer Games — set at the 2004 Athens Olympics and in Tokyo three years ago. The Australians moved from 14 to 18 gold medals in about six hours, while most of the country Down Under was sleeping.

"I didn't know that, that is just insane," Kennedy said after being told of the record haul. AP



NINA KENNEDY

MASKED SHOT PUTTER RAVEN STILL MAKING AN IMPACT

Saint-Denis: Who was that masked person? It was Raven Saunders, of course — the theatrical American shot put standout who uses the pronouns they and them and brings their own distinctive style to every meet they attend.

Saunders qualified for the Olympic final Thursday, wearing a full-faced black mask and gold-hued sunglasses. Their hair was dyed neon green on one side and purple on the other. Saunders had gold grills covering their upper and lower teeth, along with long fingernails on their left hand that were bedazzled and in Team USA colours and the letters H-U-L-K. This is Saunders' alter ego once the shot put starts flying. AP

FRENCH RUNNER FINOT PROPOSES TO HER BOYFRIEND WITH AN OLY PIN

Saint-Denis: Rarely has an Olympic pin contained so much love. When French runner Alice Finot got down on one knee and proposed to her boyfriend after her Olympic steeplechase race, she attached a "Love is in Paris" pin on his shirt. "I told myself that if I ran under nine minutes, knowing that nine is my lucky number and that we've been together for nine years, then I would propose," Finot said. Finot finished fourth in 8 minutes, 58.67 seconds and then ran over to the stands where she found her boyfriend, Spanish triathlete Bruno Martinez.



Golden Sharon quenches thirst with Seine water

Paris: Sharon van Rouwendaal paid little heed to concerns about bacterial infections when she drank a bit of Seine water on the way to Olympic gold on Thursday in the women's 10km marathon swim along the famous river in Paris.

The water quality was approved by Games organisers in the early hours to allow the race to go ahead on time, though pollution issues had proved a headache during the triathlon events, with the men's race postponed by 24 hours.

Dutchwoman Van Rouwendaal downed energy drinks dangled from rods over the water during the gruelling six-lap course up and down the Seine but found she needed more refreshment to get past Australian training partner and friend Moesha Johnson.

"I was thirsty at some point. I was like drinking the Seine, so, let's see," the 30-year-old said while cradling a bottle of cola. "I'm fine. I didn't even vomit, normally I vomit out of pain but, yeah, I didn't vomit after the race." AFP



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3	AUS	18	14	11	43
4	FRA	13	18	21	52
5	GBR	13	17	21	51
6	KOR	12	8	7	27
7	JPN	12	7	13	32
8	ITA	10	11	9	30
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Astronauts **Sunita Williams** & Barry Wilmore stuck on ISS till Feb 2025 as Nasa explores option of their return to Earth on SpaceX's Crew-9 mission

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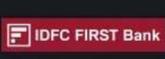
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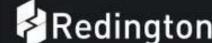


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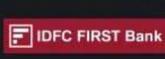
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As Yunus takes oath, Modi presses for safety of Hindus

PM's First Remarks On Targeting Of Minorities Since Hasina's Ouster

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Thursday asked the new regime in Bangladesh to ensure safety of beleaguered Hindus and other minority communities who have been under attack from violent mobs rampaging through the country since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina as PM.

► **DELHI REACHES OUT; UK FGN SECY DIALS JAISHANKAR, INSIDE FLAP**

Modi extended his best wishes to the Nobel Prize-winning economist who took over as head of an interim govt in Bangladesh. "My best wishes to Professor Muhammad Yunus on the assumption of his new responsibilities. We hope for an early return to normalcy, ensuring the safety and protection of Hindus and all other minority communities," the PM said on X, his first remarks since the chaotic resignation of Hasina on Monday.

TWO STUDENT NETAS WHO LED STIR IN COUNCIL OF 17



Muhammad Yunus meets top military officers on returning to Dhaka on Thursday

► Members of council include **M Nahid Islam & Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan**, who played a key role in the student stir. Others are **Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, ex-gov of Bangladesh Bank**, **Syeda Rizwana Hasan, an SC lawyer**, **Farida Akhtar, a rights activist, tribal leader Supradip Chakma, Bidhan Ranjan Roy, a psychiatry prof, & ex-foreign secy M Touhid Hossain**

Modi also conveyed his desire to work with the new regime in Bangladesh, which under Hasina remained sensitive to India's security concerns.

► **PM's message amid violence, P 22**

Yunus slams attack on minorities as 'part of conspiracy'

Dhaka: An interim govt headed by Nobel Peace laureate Muhammad Yunus (84) assumed control in Bangladesh Thursday, with a commitment to ending violence against minorities and guiding the nation towards a better future, reports **AKM Moinuddin**. Yunus, who heads a 17-member council of non-political figures, took the oath of office in Dhaka.

"I will uphold, support, and protect the constitution," Yunus, an economist and banker, declared as he was sworn in

► **Will be tough to cooperate with India if it helps Hasina: BNP, P 14**
► **Ready for politics: Hasina son, P 20**

as chief adviser, a role equivalent to the PM's. Yunus condemned the attacks on minority communities as "part of a conspiracy" and appealed to public to prevent further violence. The army chief, who announced the formation of the interim govt, did not specify its tenure.

► **'Independence for 2nd time', P 20**

Poonawalla buys SoBo mansion

Pune-based industrialist Yohan Poonawalla and his wife Michelle Thursday said they have purchased a 30,000 sqft standalone mansion in Cuffe Parade, where they are typically priced between Rs 400 crore and Rs 750 crore, but didn't divulge specific details. **P 2**

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Times Interact | P 8, 10 & 12

Bengal's last communist CM Buddhadeb dies at 80

Kolkata: Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, the first Left Front CM who wanted to give an industry- and investor-friendly face to Bengal and his party, passed away at 8.20am Thursday at his modest Palm Avenue flat following a cardiac arrest. He was 80 and is survived by wife Meera and son Suchetan.



1944-2024

Bhattacharjee, a man of many contradictions, will above all be remembered for being a communist CM who wa-

nted to take his state to a path of industrial growth without corruption and kickbacks. It was probably inevitable that he would be misunderstood, both as a Marxist at the CPM's headquarters and as an administrator at the govt's HQ. The consequence, too, was inevitable: his 11 years in the CM's office ended with the CPM's spectacular electoral defeat in 2011. **TNN**

► **Redemption in life, P 22**

7.3L more voters register in state in four months

The number of electors in Maharashtra has risen by 7.3 lakh in 4 months to around 9.4cr—nearly 4.9cr male, 4.5cr female—in Aug, shows the latest draft electoral roll ahead of the state polls. It was 9.3cr in the last revision before LS polls in April. The state will have 1,165 polling booths in housing societies and high-rises—over 95% of them in Mumbai region—for the assembly polls, shows data shared by election officials. **P 5**



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Delhi reaches out to new Dhaka regime, talks of people's interest

'B'desh Army Facilitating Safe Passage For Indians'

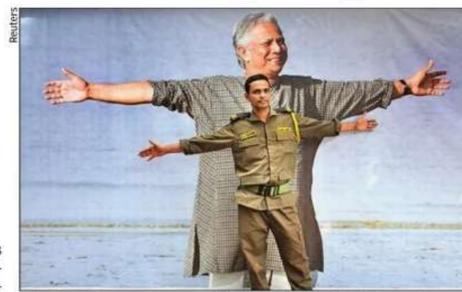
Sachin.Parashar
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: While India has so far, unlike the US, not welcomed the formation of an interim govt in Bangladesh, New Delhi on Thursday showed the first clear sign of reaching out to the new regime in Dhaka as it said the interests of the people of the country are foremost on its mind.

This follows remarks by foreign minister S Jaishankar in Parliament earlier this week that it had repeatedly advised restraint and urged political forces, without naming the Sheikh Hasina govt, to resolve the situation that caused her downfall with dialogue. The remark was seen as a step towards acknowledgement of the anti-Hasina mood in the country. The minister had also said that various actions and decisions to deal with the public agitation only exacerbated the situation. Hasina's excessive use of force against the protesters was said to have hastened her departure.

While discussing the threat to Indian citizens, govt sources also said Thursday that the Indian high commission in Dhaka in coordination with Bangladesh Army was facilitating "safe passage" for Indian nationals to the border.

In its first remarks on the



A bank security guard poses with a photograph of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, who took oath on Thursday to head Bangladesh's interim govt after the ouster of PM Sheikh Hasina

situation in Dhaka after Hasina's exit, ministry of external affairs (MEA) underscored primacy of the people's interests. "The situation is evolving... we'd like to emphasise that as far as Indian govt and people of India are concerned, the interest of the people of Bangladesh is foremost in our minds," said spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

Widely seen as the principal backer of Hasina, and with the former PM still here in the absence of any asylum offer from the West, India has been treading cautiously on the developments in Bangladesh. Unlike the US, India has so far not called for respecting the need to uphold democratic principles or the rule of law.

However, Centre has remained in touch with authorities in Dhaka, including military, to ensure safety of Indian citizens and the minority Hindu community. While recalling the deep concern that Jaishankar expressed for minorities in his statement in

Parliament, the Indian officials also said, "We want to make it very clear that it is the responsibility of every govt to ensure the well-being of its citizens, and we hope for early restoration of law and order in Bangladesh."

According to officials, the Indian mission in Dhaka has facilitated movement of Indians including project personnel across the land borders. "Some of these situations were life threatening," said a source, adding movement of the members/staff of Irocon Khulna, L&T, RITES, Tata Projects, Afcons and Transrail Sirajganj was facilitated through the land border.

"Indian mission has also facilitated consular cases including immigration. Emergency certificates have been issued to Indian nationals to facilitate their travel in emergency cases. It has ensured airlines continue to operate, which serves as a big enabler to ensure that people are not left stranded," said the source.

Amid asylum suspense, UK counterpart calls up EAM

New Delhi: UK foreign secretary David Lammy dialled his counterpart S Jaishankar on Thursday amid the suspense over where Sheikh Hasina, who fled to India from Dhaka on Monday, might be headed, reports Sachin Parashar. Jaishankar said the two discussed the situation in Bangladesh and West Asia.

MEA didn't confirm if India discussed Hasina's asylum with the UK or any other country. In these circumstances, it's unlikely Hasina will be able to leave Delhi in the next few days, if not longer. While she is yet to officially apply for asylum, it's believed she would prefer going to the US or UK. It's not easy for India though to take a decision, given it can't possibly expel Hasina, with whom successive Indian govts have had cordial ties, and allowing her an extended stay may rile the new govt. Media in Dhaka reported Wednesday a call by the local Supreme Court Bar Association for her deportation from India.

The UK's position on Hasina in the past was also vastly different from India's and that has reflected in the way London has reacted to her fall. Lammy said people of Bangladesh deserve a UN-led probe into the events of the past few weeks. Any such probe is certain to delve into Hasina's role.

How a painkiller may have caused lakhs of deaths in India

Diclofenac is toxic for vultures and made them practically extinct in India more than 20 years ago. With vultures gone, dogs and rats multiplied on mountains of rotting carcasses, and the rates of disease and death among humans inched up, a new study claims

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On March 26, 1993, The New York Times published a photograph of an emaciated Sudanese child stalked by a vulture. The child survived, the photograph won a Pulitzer in 1994, and the photographer, Kevin Carter, committed suicide the same year.

Something else happened in '93 that went unnoticed. The patent on a 20-year-old drug expired. This drug was the common painkiller diclofenac, found in products like Volini, Voveran, etc. Until 1993, its supply was controlled by the Swiss pharma firm Ciba-Geigy (now Novartis), but with the patent over, generic production took off. Prices crashed everywhere. In Sri Lanka, for example, generic diclofenac cost Re 1, as against Rs 8 for the brand product in August 1995.

Livestock use starts

It happened in India, too. After all, Indian generic manufacturers were driving down diclofenac's price. The result was that in 1994, veterinary use of diclofenac became common. Farmers started using it to treat "injuries, inflammations and fevers in wounded or sick animals". It made sense because diclofenac was cheap, easily available, and worked in 15 minutes.

Vultures annihilated

But then, something else that nobody had imagined happened. Indian vultures started dying in large numbers. By the time the link between vulture deaths and diclofenac in animal carcasses was discovered, it was too late. India's vulture population was practically annihilated. From almost 40 million in the early 1990s, vultures became rare in the early 2000s.

But that's an old story. Now, a new report by researchers Eyal Frank and Anant Sudarshan claims the loss of vultures indirectly led to hundreds of thousands of human deaths.

\$70bn lost every year

In their paper titled "The Social Costs of Keystone Species Collapse: Evidence From The Decline of Vultures in India", Frank and Sudarshan say: "The functional extinction of vultures... increased human mortality by over 4%."

It might not sound like a huge change, but we are talking about human lives here, not car mileage. If 100,000 people die every year in a country, a 4% change means 4,000 additional deaths. The researchers claim "an average of 104,386 additional deaths a year" between 2000 and 2005. They have also estimated the economic loss to the country from these additional deaths: almost \$70 billion per year.

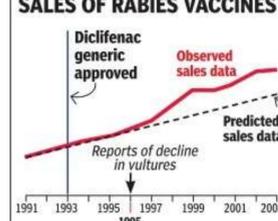
'Keystone' of environment

Humans drove cheetahs to extinction and brought tigers to its verge without suffering serious consequences. So, why did the near-extinction of vultures prove so harmful? The answer to that question lies in the word 'keystone' in the title of Frank and Sudarshan's paper. They describe vultures as a keystone species because "if they are removed, the effects on the ecosystem are potentially large".

That's not an exaggeration. For a moment, go back to Carter's photograph of the Sudanese child. Why was



SALES OF RABIES VACCINES



the vulture waiting for it to die? The answer is: vultures have evolved as scavengers, not predators, although occasionally you hear rumours of them killing livestock.

When it comes to scavenging, they are unmatched. Frank and Sudarshan say a flock of vultures – the precise word is 'committee' – can reduce a 385kg cow carcass to bones in 40 minutes. Dogs and rats also scavenge but they aren't so efficient. They leave behind a lot of flesh on the bones to rot, and dogs spread rabies themselves.

Sanitary flying squad

So, for thousands of years, vultures shouldered the municipal task of scavenging in India's towns and villages. Farmers reared animals, and when the animals died vultures promptly took care of the carcasses. India has always had very large livestock populations – 500 million, per the 2019 livestock census – and the report estimates the 40-odd million vultures in India till 1993 could have consumed meat equivalent to the weight of 27 million cows in a year. That's 10.4 billion kilos of meat.

By removing millions of tonnes of flesh from the environment, vultures not only contained the spread of pathogens but also curbed the numbers of other scavengers like rats and feral dogs, which spread the deadly rabies virus.

As the vulture population melted away

Frank and Sudarshan say 'animal landfills' emerged outside towns and villages. Burying carcasses deep in the ground or incinerating them was expensive, so they were dumped "on the outskirts of population centres across India". Sometimes, the carcasses were dumped in water, or fluids leaching from their rotting bodies flowed into water bodies.

Clear increase in deaths

Frank and Sudarshan carefully examined death rates before and after the decline of vulture populations. For their analysis, they separately studied areas that originally had large vulture populations, and those that didn't. The data showed areas that were unsuitable for vultures used to have marginally higher death rates (1.2 extra deaths per 1,000 people) between 1988 and 1993.

The researchers suggest this might have been because the areas with fewer vultures – cooler and drier places – had a problem of rotting carcasses leading to disease and death.

But when vulture numbers fell dramatically in 1996, the death rate in areas that had always had bigger vulture populations became higher by "0.65 deaths per 1,000 people". By 2005, the gap had increased to 1.4 additional deaths per 1,000 people.

And this "sanitation shock" due to the disappearance of vultures was felt more strongly in urban areas that didn't have vast open spaces to dispose of carcasses. Also, their "significantly higher population density, and network infrastructure such as drains allowing pathogens and waste to spread rapidly" made the situation worse. Frank and Sudarshan say, "We find that urban areas experienced a larger increase in death rates relative to the combined sample."

Stray dog menace

Dog bites and rabies are big problems in India. On July 30, the government informed Parliament that there were 3 million dog bite cases in 2023, and 4.7 million rabies shots were given. Still, 286 people died.

The study suggests India's dog population multiplied when vulture populations declined. The same dead animals that vultures removed meticulously were now available to dogs to devour. And dogs, unlike vultures, breed rapidly.

Frank and Sudarshan cite the spurt in demand for rabies shots after 1996 as evidence of a sharp increase in dog numbers, following the decimation of vulture populations.