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Wrestler Vinesh Phogat is expected to return to Delhi from Paris Oly village on Tuesday, the same day ad hoc division of CAS will announce its decision on her plea that she be given a silver medal P 17

An 11-year-old girl and her mother stabbed at the busy Leicester Square in central London. Police arrest the attacker, say there is no indication that stabbing is terror-related P 16

US defence secretary Lloyd Austin has ordered deployment of a guided missile submarine to West Asia, says Pentagon, as the region braces for possible attacks by Iran & allies after killing of Hamas and Hezbollah senior members P 16

Ex-ISI chief Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (retd) has been taken into military custody & field court martial proceedings initiated against him over allegations of corruption & misuse of authority, says Pak army's media wing P 16



Maoist IED kills 6th civilian this yr

In the 6th civilian death — 13 of them kids — caused by Maoist IED explosions in Bastar this year, a 27-year-old tribal woman out grazing cattle was killed in Sukma on Sunday. P 9

HSC, SSC exams to be held earlier

The MSBSHSE has announced that 2025 SSC and HSC exams will be conducted earlier than usual. While HSC exams will start Feb 11 & end March 18, SSC will begin Feb 21 and end March 17. P 3

Lifer kills guard, flees from hosp

A prisoner serving a life term for rape-murder escaped from a hospital, where he was being treated for a leg injury, in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh after killing the cop guarding him. P 11

Rajkot fire chief held for ₹1.8L bribe

Just 45 days after he took charge from his tainted predecessor, the ACB Monday caught red-handed the in-charge chief fire officer for accepting Rs 1.8 lakh bribe to grant an NOC. P 9

Rapist who jumped parole for 7yrs dies

Biti Mohanty, who jumped parole for 7 years after his conviction in the 2006 rape of a German in Rajasthan, died in Bhubaneswar on Monday of stomach cancer. P 11

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Times Interact | P 8 & 10

Nationwide strike over Kol rape, city docs join today

Emergency Ops Won't Be Hit; State Assures Security

Govt hospitals in several parts of the country experienced disruptions in outpatient services and routine surgeries Monday as resident doctors launched an indefinite protest against the rape and murder of a young doctor at R G Kar Medical College and

► Edit Page: How Unsafe Are Our Hospitals
► Finish probe by Sun, Mamata tells police, P 13

Hospital in Kolkata. The protest highlighted the growing outrage within the medical community over the gruesome incident and the perceived inadequacies in probing it. In Maharashtra, roughly

OFFICER CLAIMED SUICIDE BY DOC

► Police have summoned an assistant superintendent who had allegedly called slain PG trainee doctor's family and informed them that their daughter had 'died by suicide'

► Doc's father had said Sunday the officer was the first to call them Aug 9, the day the trainee doctor was found dead in hosp

► Family also claimed that their 31-year-old daughter



Doctors protest outside R G Kar Hosp in Kolkata on Monday

had been under 'mental pressure' and that they suspected an 'insider role'

► PRINCIPAL QUILTS, POSTED IN ANOTHER MED COLLEGE IN HRS, P 13

8,000 resident doctors from various public hospitals, including eight in Mumbai, will halt all services except emergency care from Tuesday. Amid the nationwide protest, Maharashtra medical education department said it has conducted a "security audit" of each of its medical schools. "Recommendations (after the audit by police) about extra security and CCTVs have already been shared with the Maharashtra Security Force, which will do the needful," state medical education commissioner Rajeev Nitkar said (P 2).

► Independent probe, P 13

Hasina's prolonged stay in India won't hurt our ties with Delhi: Bangladesh

AKM Moinuddin & Sachin Parashar

Dhaka/New Delhi: Bangladesh's ties with India under the stewardship of the new interim govt in Dhaka won't be affected even if deposed PM Sheikh Hasina remains New Delhi's guest for an extended period of time, foreign affairs adviser Md Touhid Hossain said Monday. His remarks can give the beleaguered Awami League chief some breathing space and be seen as reassuring for India.

Hasina was initially understood to have sought refuge in India "only for the moment".

Quitting of officials close to Hasina legal: Yunus

Muhammad Yunus, head of Bangladesh's interim govt, said Monday the high-profile resignations of authorities close to Sheikh Hasina are legal after student leaders issued ultimatums for them to quit. "Legally ... all steps were taken," Yunus said. The country's chief justice, five justices and central bank governor have all resigned in the past few days. Yunus also said the country had experienced a "student-led revolution", adding, "I respect you (students). I admire you". On Tuesday, Yunus will hold a meeting with representatives of minority communities following attacks, especially against Hindus. P 16

"Bilateral relations are a much larger issue. Friendship is based on mutual interest," Hossain said. "We will always strive to maintain our good relations (with India)," he

said after meeting foreign diplomats in Dhaka to brief them about the situation and efforts to restore law and order.

► Religious violence, P 16

Retail inflation in July at 5-yr low of 3.5%

Led by a moderation in prices of vegetables, fruits and spices and the impact of a statistical high-base effect, retail inflation in India softened to 3.5% — a near 5-year low — in July, bringing much-needed relief from stubborn price pressures witnessed in the past few months.

The retail inflation data was released by the National Statistical office (NSO) on Monday.

Separate data showed industrial output growth, as measured by Index of Industrial Production (IIP), moderated to a 5-month low of 4.2% in June from the 7-month high of 6.2% as manufacturing sector slowed, while mining recorded a double digit expansion during the month. TNN P 15

Sena, NCP votes didn't transfer to BJP, says Fadnavis

Shiv Sena and NCP could not transfer their votes to BJP to the extent anticipated, deputy CM Fadnavis has said on the Mahayuti's poor show in the Lok Sabha polls. Further, he said, with BJP having fought NCP for years, it was difficult for it to transfer its votes to its newly ally. "We

► EDIT: Factor of Four
► Pawar for all-party meet on quota, CM hits back, P 5
► Ajit: NCP will ensure no injustice on waqf issue, P 5

had only considered a limited transfer, but even that did not happen," he said. Asserting that seat-sharing for the assembly polls will be based on each party's strengths/ limitations, he said BJP is likely to fight as many seats as it did the last time (162). TNN P 5

Govt to bring fresh broadcast bill draft after consultations

Deadline For Suggestions Pushed To Oct 15

New Delhi: The information and broadcasting ministry Monday extended the deadline for comments and suggestions on the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill till Oct 15 and said it would issue a revised draft based on consultations that began last Nov.

The statement from the ministry, posted on its X handle, on the contentious set of proposals came amid reports that the draft was being withdrawn and that it had asked all stakeholders to return physical copies given to them between July 24 and 25.

Sources in the ministry denied any such move and said there would be further con-

1ST DRAFT CAME IN NOV

Ministry is holding a series of consultations with stakeholders on draft bill. Additional time is being provided to solicit comments till Oct 15, 2024. Fresh draft will be published after detailed consultations

► A draft was first placed for comments last Nov

► Bill aims to overhaul rules governing broadcasting services. Has raised concerns over treating independent news creators as broadcasters

► I&B ministry on X

consultations on the bill. The draft was placed for comments last Nov and multiple suggestions were received from stakeholders, including associations, the ministry said, adding that a series of consultations was being held. TNN

► Ind news creators, P 10

Bharti acquires 24.5% of UK's BT Grp in \$4bn deal

New Delhi: Bharti Global, the international investment arm of Bharti Enterprises, on Monday announced the acquisition of a 24.5% stake in iconic BT Group plc from Altice UK, which will make it the largest shareholder in the company that once owned 21% in Bharti Airtel.

Bharti has already acquired 9.9% in the UK's top fixed and mobile communications provider through a market deal. Based on BT's current market value, the entire transaction — which is subject to regulatory approvals, including security clearance — is estimated at \$4 billion. The deal adds

FULL CIRCLE

► Once BT deal transaction is complete, Bharti will own a bigger stake than Deutsche Telekom's 12%

► Bharti's BT deal is its 1st big foray into a developed country market. Ironically, BT Grp once owned 21% in Bharti Airtel

to the list of marquee British firms and brands acquired by Indian entities, including Jaguar Land Rover, Corus and Tety by Tata, BSA by Mahindra Group and Hamleys by Reliance Brands. TNN

► 'Long-term investors', P 15

RSS-BJP netas in 5-hr huddle over selection of party prez

New Delhi: Senior BJP members have held detailed consultations on the party's future course and who should succeed J P Nadda whose extended tenure as president has also ended, reports Akhilesh Singh.

Although details of the five-hour meeting held at the residence of defence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday were not available, sources said there was a thorough discussion on who should be the next working president or the full-time president in view of the looming assembly polls.

Besides Singh, home minister Amit Shah and BJP general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh attended the deliberations. RSS was represented by its number two, general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale, and joint general secretary Arun Kumar.

► Woman or OBC face? P 10

7 dead as fight sparks stampede at Bihar temple

Seven people, 6 of them women, were killed and 16 others injured in a stampede at Baba Siddheshwar Nath temple in Bihar's Jehanabad on Monday. A fight between a flower vendor and a group of

► 6 kanwariyas run over by SUV in Bagdogra, P 7

kanwariyas is said to have led to the tragedy as large crowds had turned up at the Shiva shrine on the 4th Monday of Shravan, considered auspicious. People at the front started moving back after the clash, leading to a stampede on a staircase, a cop said. TNN P 7

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IITB reclaims third spot, TISS up to 98, but MU out of top 100

Yogita Rao & Hemali Chhappia | TNN

Mumbai: IIT Bombay has returned to the number three position in the country in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), after slipping to fourth last year. While Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) has climbed to the 98th place from the 151-200 band, Mumbai University has dropped out of the top 100 institutions. The university, which was ranked 96 last year, now falls in the 101-150 band. Mumbai's St Xavier's College, which had fallen out of the top 100 in the colleges' category, has made a strong comeback with an 89th rank.

For IITB, an improvement in research, following processes, and working towards constant improvement has paid off. Several factors have led to improvement of rank. "We are taking our research to industry. We are taking our research to society," said the institute's director Shireesh Kedare. Under what added to the overall rank three is the untold story of the fact that the institute ranks number one in innovation, a leap from last year's rank of seven. TOI had recently reported that the number of patents—421—granted at the institute increased 160% in 2023-24 and was the highest ever in any financial year. While the Powai institute improved its ranking hugely on the innovation front, it has maintained its position at number 4 for its thriving research culture.

NITIE, which has entered as IIM Mumbai for the first time in the NIRF, has bagged the sixth position in the management category in the country from seven last year. Director Manoj Tiwari said the IIM tag has helped. The team led by the chairman and director brought major improvements in the industry connect, research and professional practices, he said, adding placements have seen an uptick too.

Of the 79 city colleges that participated in the ranking process, St Xavier's is the only one to make it to the top 100. "Our conscious efforts for improving and supporting research have helped us do better in research and professional practice (from a score of 20.74 to 30.15). The college's graduate outcomes are also better. The implementation of the

ST XAVIER'S UP TO 89, IIM MUM 6 IN MGMT: NIRF

Performance of Mumbai institutes/universities in NIRF 2024		
Institute	Overall rank	
	2023	2024
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	4	3
Homi Bhabha National Institute	30	27
Institute of Chemical Technology	41	56
SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies	88	84
Tata Institute of Social Sciences	151-200	98
Mumbai University	96	101-150 band



Universities category		
Institute	Rank	
	2023	2024
Homi Bhabha National Institute	17	16
Institute of Chemical Technology	23	35
SVKM's NMIMS	47	49
Tata Institute of Social Sciences	98	58
Mumbai University	56	61

Top colleges		
St Xavier's College (Rank)		
Institute	Rank	
	2023	2024
101-150 band		89

Top research institutes		
Institute	Rank	
	2023	2024
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	4	4
Homi Bhabha National Institute	15	6
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research	10	12
Institute of Chemical Technology	37	40

Engineering		
Institute	Rank	
	2023	2024
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	3	3
Institute of Chemical Technology	24	41

Management		
Institute	Rank	
	2023	2024
IIM Mumbai (earlier NITIE)	7	6
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	10	10
SP Jain Institute of Management & Research	20	20
SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies	21	21
K J Somaiya Institute of Management Studies and Research	45	63
L N Welingkar Institute of Management Development and Research	73	84

Pharmacy		
Institute	Rank	
	2023	2024
Institute of Chemical Technology	5	5
SVKM's Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies	11	10
SVKM's Dr Bhanuben Nanavati College of Pharmacy	38	39
Bombay College of Pharmacy	55	73
KM Kundnani College of Pharmacy	91	97

National Education Policy 2020 and the new courses has helped us improve the perception score," said principal Rajendra Shinde, adding credit goes to the management, faculty, students and alumni.

While some of these leading institutions have seen their ranks improve in this NIRF edition, the Institute of Chemical Technology (ICT) suffered a setback in all categories, except among pharmacy colleges, where it retained the fifth spot. "I have been analysing this and the grouping of two new campuses to our main campus has affected our rank, we feel. Also, many of our re-

owned faculty have retired or superannuated and 26 new faculty have joined. While they are all competent and working on new research, we may take a hit for a short while. But we will rise soon as the first batch graduates and the new faculty members' research starts getting added to the overall numbers," said vice chancellor Aniruddha Pandit.

This year too, 11 institutions from Maharashtra made it to the top 100, five of which are from Mumbai. MU's rank in the overall category has been sliding for the last two years. In a new category for the state's public universities, MU is

ranked 18. An MU official said several vacant teaching positions could have affected the rank. "The current ranking is based on 2022-23 data and MU has seen major improvements in 2023-24 in all parameters, which will lift its performance next year," he said. Among other city institutions, Homi Bhabha National Institute's rank improved in all categories. While no medical college from the city made it to the top 50, Govt Dental College (Mumbai) and Nair Dental Hospital bagged 25th and 28th ranks. Among law colleges, Maharashtra National Law University, Mumbai, ranked 31.

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8,000 state resident docs to join strike after Kolkata rape-murder

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Roughly 8,000 resident doctors from various public hospitals across the state will halt work — except for emergency duty — from Tuesday to express solidarity with the residents of RG Kar Medical College, Kolkata, said office-bearers of the Maharashtra State Association of Resident Doctors (MARD) on Monday.

The MARD action follows a nationwide strike call by the Federation of Resident Doctors Association (FORDA) earlier in the day demanding justice for the trainee doctor who was raped and murdered at the Kolkata hospital.

In the city, work at four BMC-run medical colleges, KEM Hospital in Parel, Sion Hospital, Nair Hospital near Mumbai Central and Cooper Hospital in Juhu, and four state-run hospitals, JJ Hospital in Byculla and Cama, St George's and GT Hospital near CSMT, will be affected as a result of the strike. All the respective deans and medical superintendents have sent mails to the staff about all leaves being cancelled.

Senior medical teachers, lecturers and bonded candidates in these medical colleges will manage the hospital.

"All elective surgeries have been put on hold for now. Our out-patient departments will continue to work. Moreover,



JJ Hospital doctors wear black ribbons at a candlelight march on Monday

resident doctors will attend casualty and ICU duties," KEM Hospital dean Dr Sangeeta Ravat said.

A medical teacher from the JJ Group of Hospitals said, "The work won't get too affected in the first two to three days, but there could be issues as elective surgeries pile up thereafter."

The resident doctors conducted candlelight marches at their colleges in the evening. Earlier in the day, their intimation letter about the strike said, "In solid-

arity with our colleagues, we support the nation-wide halting of elective services which will include OPDs, elective OTs, ward duties, lab services, and academic duties starting from 9 am on Tuesday."

MARD-Maharashtra secretary general Dr Aditi Kanade said the strike was called to focus attention on the security issues of doctors. MARD-Maharashtra has asked for an "immediate, impartial, and transparent" investigation of the Kolkata crime by central agencies.

Hospitals will get security guards as suggested by police audit: State

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: At a time when resident doctors at public hospitals across the country have raised the issue of workplace security after a doctor's rape and murder in Kolkata, the state medical education department on Monday said that it had conducted a "security audit" of each of its medical schools.

"The security audit was carried out by the Maharashtra police and the recommendations about extra security and CCTVs have already been shared with the Maharashtra Security Force, which will do the needful," state medical education commissioner Rajeev Nivalkar said.

The DMER oversees 18 medical colleges across the state, besides some other colleges that are coming up.

The security upgrade was the main point of discussion at a meeting called by the DMER in the morning. It was

Station security personnel on all floors: Female docs

Mumbai: A group of female urologists has, in an open letter, demanded that security personnel should be stationed on every floor of hospitals and must take rounds.

They said women doctors "walking alone in dark areas in large medical campuses while on duty" face a risk. Security measures could help reduce the risk, said Dr Sujata Patwardhan, head of the urology department of KEM Hospital in Parel, and other doctors. The doctors suggested that women security personnel should be employed. "Female doctors should be provided duty rooms within the building and if their duty covers speciality blocks, security should be available to escort them from one building to another if the hospital campus is large (this is a regular practice in western countries for all female staff)," the letter said. TNN

attended by health officials and representatives of the Maharashtra State Association of Resident Doctors (MARD).

"It has been decided that the number of guards posted in areas where post-graduate students or resident doctors work should be increased," a JJ Hospital doctor said.

Security outside hostels and quarters for female students will be increased.

On Saturday, the dean of the JJ Group of Hospitals, Dr Pallavi Saple, had sent a letter to medical superintendents of the various state-run health institutes in the city to immediately inspect the on-call ro-

oms of resident doctors. "If the security officials mention any improvements during the inspection, the same should be submitted in a report to the office by Monday," the dean's letter said.

MARD representatives said they raised the issue of non-functional CCTVs. "It's not only important to install CCTV cameras, but to ensure they are functional as well," a MARD representative said.

He said MARD will also submit its suggestions for CCTV installations.

MARD representatives in their strike-intimation letter said they wanted "better security measures, including fully functional CCTVs and well-equipped guards for better safety of healthcare workers".

The students demanded good hostels as well as proper on-call rooms. At some medical colleges such as JJ Hospital, there are special on-call rooms for male and female residents.

Mum-Nashik h'way widening to take six more months

Manoj Badgeri@timesofindia.com

Thane: The long-anticipated widening of the crucial Mumbai-Nashik highway within the Thane district is expected to take additional six months, as the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) is in the final stages of requesting an extension from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), officials said.

The MSRDC, which is undertaking the widening work of the highway between Vadape in Bhiwandi and Majiwada in Thane city, has attributed the apparent deceleration in construction to weather conditions and delays caused by obtaining last-minute approvals from the forest department for specific sections, resulting in missing the Sept 2024 deadline. The matter of seeking an extension was discussed prior to the presentation before deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar

recently, officials mentioned.

The over 120km-long Nashik highway, owned and managed by the NHAI, is one of the most heavily trafficked highways connecting north Maharashtra with Mumbai and Thane. The construction of the four-lane, 23km-long stretch between Majiwada and Vadape was entrusted to a consortium led by MEP for expansion into 12 lanes following an announcement by union minister Nitin Gadkari in 2019. However, after the company was unable to proceed with the works, the MSRDC assumed responsibility for the nearly Rs 1,200 crore project. "We took over the project work in 2021 and have completed nearly 60% of the widening works between Vadape and Thane. We were scheduled to complete the works by next month, but we encountered delays due to some pending forest clearances required along the route," said a senior MSRDC official.

7 thrash man for 'overhearing chat' in Borivli

Mumbai: A 33-year-old stockbroker filed a complaint against seven men for beating him up while he was looking for an auto in Borivli early on Sunday. He said the accused were speaking in raised voices and misunderstood that he was overhearing their conversation. MHB Colony Police registered a case of rioting.

The complainant had gone out with his friends for drinks late on Saturday. Around 4.40am on Sunday, he was looking for an auto after all his friends had left. He noticed a car and two motorcycles pull up, with seven men and a woman, who were talking loudly. One of them asked the complainant why he was staring at them. He said he was not concerned with their matter. At this, the group began to hurl abuses at him and rained blows.

The man said he fell to the ground but managed to take their photos. The accused then fled. The woman was not involved in the assault, police said. TNN

CR plans new Mum-Pune lines to cut travel time by 30 mins, add 10 trains

Manthank.Mehta@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Central Railway has identified two routes for laying additional tracks between Mumbai and Pune, expected to reduce travel time by half an hour and allow for at least 10 more services. A feasibility report will determine the optimal alignment, considering factors like cost and terrain.

The original line was completed in 1863, after 10 years of work. "The proposed tracks will be to the east of the existing tracks and will bypass Lonavala," said a senior CR official. The current alignment features a steep gradient of 1/37, requiring additional locomotives. "The new alignments will have gentler gradients," the official said. With the reduced gradient, trains will be able to travel at speeds of up to 110 kmph. "Once the Kalyan yard work is completed and the new platforms at Panvel and LTT are operational, CR will be able to increase the number of trains by 10," the official said.

1ST LINE OPENED IN 1863 AFTER 10 YRS OF WORK

The idea of connecting Mumbai (then Bombay) with Pune was conceived during British rule to facilitate trade and passenger movement. The Great Indian Peninsula Railway (GIPR) was formed to serve the purpose

EXISTING ROUTE
Karjat to Lonavala
Length: 21 km
Gradient: 1/37

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES
1 Karjat to Kamshet
Length: 44 km
Gradient: 1/80
Cost: ₹10,200 cr

2 Karjat to Talegaon
Length: 67 km
Gradient: 1/100
Cost: ₹16,000 cr

ADVANTAGES OF PROPOSED ROUTES
• A gradient of 1/100 or 1/80 is less steep than the current 1/37, which will allow trains to maintain higher speeds with less effort, resulting in more efficient operations, reduced travel time, and the elimination of the need for additional locomotives, improving overall performance and cost-effectiveness

How time will be saved:
• Currently, a banker locomotive is attached to the rear or front of the train to provide additional power on steep gradients, a process that takes at least 10 minutes. On the proposed routes, gentler inclines would mean no banker is required, saving time. Also, the routes will allow for speeds of up to 110 kmph, compared to the current 60 kmph limit on the ghat section



Uran murder: Police find victim's phone

Navi Mumbai: The Uran police, probing the murder case of 20-year-old Yashashri Shinde, have found her mobile phone in the bushes near the railway tracks near Ranjanpada in Uran taluka on Sunday. The police have claimed that it is vital evidence against the murder accused, Daud Shaikh (24), who was arrested one week after Shinde's body was found on July 25. Shinde's mobile has been sent to the forensic laboratory to retrieve the text messages and voice calls between Shaikh and Shinde.

Rajendra Kote, senior inspector of Uran, informed that after committing the crime, Shaikh, while travelling on the train to reach Panvel to escape to his hometown in Gulbarga, Karnataka, had thrown Shinde's mobile from the train to destroy technical evidence. "Subsequently, we obtained the call data record (CDR) of Shinde's mobile and the last location. Using technical expertise and with the help of cyber police, we tracked her mobile," he said. — George Mendonca

Chocolate — the universal passport which has no barriers

Dr Hemant Thacker

The single most ubiquitous symbol of celebration, festivity, affection and relationship, one which is universally accepted and acknowledged among all race groups and cultures, is 'chocolate'. This brownish, mud-coloured token is a favourite across all age groups — whether little 'gattu' or 'nannu-dadu', a small bite is still savoured across the board.

It's time to now put this under the medical microscope. Chocolate is the solid bar made by combining cocoa liquor

with cocoa butter and varying quantities of sugar or sweetening agents. The cacao beans from the Theobroma cacao tree provide the basis and the terms cacao and cocoa are often used synonymously.

Cacao products, especially the unsweetened and unprocessed powder and nibs, are excellent sources of several minerals like iron, selenium, chromium, magnesium, manganese, et cetera. The medicinal benefit is imparted by the high concentration of flavanols (beneficial plant compounds), which have antioxidant, heart-protective, anti-

cancer benefits, besides other positives.

Notably, cacao products contain tryptophan, an amino acid that the body uses to make serotonin, a compound that produces brain relaxation. Notwithstanding all this, chocolate is high in calories, especially because of the saturated fats and sugar content. Of course, you can partially circumvent this by choosing dark chocolate (containing at least 70% cacao) and alternately sweetened cacao products to minimise the caloric gain and



avoid dental decay. Really, the difference between cacao (bitter) and cocoa that you love and have grown upon, is in the stage of processing. After the harvesting of cacao pods they undergo fermenting, drying, roasting, extracting and finally grinding to make cacao powder (the cocoa butter is separated from the cocoa liquor to finally grind).

What comes to you beautifully wrapped and what you place in your mouth is a mixture of liquor and butter in different proportions. Cacao is bitter and when additives are added and processed, the medicinal value dwindles but the bitter taste too disappears.

Innovations of today use honey with high cacao content to retain the flavonoids and health attributes without taking away from the taste.

In fact, research has shown that chocolates existed in 400 AD and after a systematic electronic database search using several sites of available data since then, the positive effect of cacao on triglycerides was remarkably favourable. The collection of data

from Kuna Indians in Panama, who had a history of regular consumption of cocoa (3 cups of 10 oz of daily beverage), showed a low incidence of hypertension and cardiovascular disease. However, when these very Indians migrated and went elsewhere this benefit dropped probably because of low consumption.

Taking a leaf out of this, newer innovations have started adding ashwagandha, turmeric, beetroot and other nutraceuticals, while maintaining a high standard of cocoa purity, to their chocolates, thus 'having the cake and eat-

ing it too'. Modern manufacturers want you to eat chocolate the way we were years ago, with no remorse or guilt after the munch, like children. I recently picked up a brand that had these ayurvedic additives along with flavours of rose and cardamom, which made the binge interesting, therapeutic and less guilty, whilst satisfying the taste buds.

So the adage that chocolates are for children can now also wear a pharmacy garb and still adorn the dessert hat. Cocoa in any form, whether beverage, nibs or even be-

ans, in moderate proportions can and does provide benefit whilst not taking away the pleasure. If Audrey Hepburn in 'My Fair Lady' wanted 'lots of chocolates' for many reasons, only 100 gm of 'Chandu Chocolate Champion' can give you the gold thread in health benefits from natural sources, whilst sweetening your palate.

(Dr Hemant Thacker is a Consultant Physician & CardioMetabolic Specialist practising in Mumbai and affiliated to TOI. Email: dochpt@gmail.com)

HSC & SSC exams to be held earlier than usual

Mumbai: The Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education has announced that SSC and HSC exams for 2025 will be conducted earlier than usual. The board has given schools time till Aug 23 to provide feedback and raise any concerns regarding the exam dates. This marks the earliest announcement of exam dates by the board, as the dates for the 2024 exams were released in Nov.

According to the schedule, HSC theory exams will start on Feb 11 and end on March 18. In a departure from previous years, HSC practical exams will commence in Jan, running from Jan 24 to Feb 10. SSC theory exams will begin on Feb 21 and conclude on March 17, with practical and oral exams scheduled between Feb 3 and 20.

The board officials stated the early exams will benefit HSC students in their preparation for competitive exams. For SSC students, the early exams and result declaration will expedite the First Year Junior College admissions. SSC 2024 exams were held from March 1 to 14, and the HSC 2024 exams took place from Feb 21 to March 9.

Meanwhile, the online filling of Form-17 for students taking SSC and HSC exams as private candidates in Feb-Mar 2025 begins from Tuesday, Aug 13. Form-17 will be available from Aug 13 to Sept 30. Fees for SSC students is Rs 1,100 while HSC students appearing privately will have to pay a fee of Rs 700.

TNN

SILVER TOUCH FOR CSMT WALL OF FAME



Artist Neeraj Singh paints a picture of Olympic Games javelin silver winner Neeraj Chopra on a CSMT wall

G'kopar crash accused colluded with GRP & BMC officials: SIT

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Mumbai: The accused colluded with GRP and civic officials and illegally erected the Ghatkopar hoarding that claimed 17 lives after it crashed on a petrol pump on May 13, the special investigation team (SIT) has told a court.

The prosecution alleged that the illegal hoarding was erected in this manner to ensure that more money could be earned. The court was hearing the bail plea of Jhanvi Marathe, a former director of Ego Media Pvt Ltd that erected the hoarding. Public prosecutor Iqbal Solkar said despite being aware of the need for permission from BMC, the ac-

cused, in collusion with GRP and civic officials, illegally erected the hoarding.

Solkar said Marathe was aware that the land belongs to govt and that permission would be required from the civic authorities. It would not be possible to erect such a large hoarding without complicity, he said. Marathe and arrested accused Bhavesh Bhide, Ego Media's director, colluded with the GRP commissionerate as well as BMC officials and showed the space as railway land, said the SIT in its reply. It said by doing this, they pretended there was no need to get BMC's permission.

The reply said in 2020, Marathe, along with Bhide, participated in a tender for a hoar-

ding in Ghatkopar East published by the railway police commissionerate, Mumbai, on the govt website. "At that time, a condition was mentioned that permission from BMC was necessary... While filling the tender for the hoarding, Marathe signed the agreement and mentioned that she accepted the terms and conditions of the tender. This proves that the accused was aware of the need for permission from the municipal corporation, but in collusion with other accused and officials of BMC and GRP, a huge hoarding was erected," it said.

It said during investigations, it was found that Marathe and Bhide paid a large sum from their bank account to private individual, Arshad

Khan, who had worked to get permission from GRP for the gigantic hoarding. Khan, a Govandi businessman who filed an anticipatory bail plea before the same court, was allegedly paid Rs 1 crore by Ego Media to get the billboard approved. The prosecution had submitted this while opposing his plea. A lookout circular has been issued against Khan, who is absconding. It was also submitted 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.

Structural engineer Manoj Sanghu and civil contractor Sagar Kumbhar were also arrested and let out on bail.

13-yr-old found hanging, note recovered at home says 'teased by teacher & student'

Pradeep Gupta

Kalyan: A 13-year-old boy was found hanging at his home in Kalyan on Sunday. A note purportedly written by the boy states that a teacher and a boy studying at his school had 'instigated' him to 'commit suicide'. The note mentions that the teacher and the other student used to tease him, prompting him to take the step. The school said it has sacked the teacher.

The boy, Vignesh Patra, was a student of class 8. On Sunday, he was alone at home; his parents and sister had

stepped out. When the father got home around 7 pm, he knocked on the door, but got no response. That's when he peeped inside through a window and saw the boy hanging, the police said.

The father, with the help of neighbours, broke open the door and they also informed the police. The boy was rushed to hospital, where doctors declared him 'brought dead'.

During enquiry, a note was found in the house. The note blames a teacher from the school and a student for taking the extreme step, said

the police.

The police have registered an accidental death for now. A senior police officer said that the note does not provide any details about the alleged harassment.

The police said that they would record statements of the boy's parents, students from his class, and teachers to get details about the "harassment". Vignesh has said he was facing, before initiating any further action.

Those who knew Vignesh expressed shock at the news of his death, saying he was very cheerful by nature.

The boy's father has demanded strict action against "those responsible for his son's death".

The school management

said on Monday morning that the school teacher had been sacked after they learnt about the incident. Following this, the teacher's family members approached the school, defending the daughter, stating that she had not harassed the student.

A member of the school administration told TOI, "We are deeply saddened by the incident... we have told the teacher to leave."

Helpline for Suicide Prevention: *MPower Mental Health 1800-120-820050
*Vandrewala Foundation / 9999666555

*I-Call (TISS) / 9152987821 (Mon-Sat 10am-8pm)

Man murdered over rickshaw fare of ₹25 by co-pax; 1 held

Mumbai: A minor disagreement over a Rs 25 auto-rickshaw fare led to a confrontation, resulting in the death of 24-year-old man, Muslim Chakkan Ali, a garment factory worker. The incident occurred around 1:30am near Palace Residency Bar on LBS Road, Kurla. According to the police, the altercation began when the deceased asked his co-passenger, Saif Zahid Ali, to pay the fare. Saif refused, insisting that Muslim should cover the cost. The dispute quickly escalated into a physical fight, during which the deceased sustained a fatal injury to his forehead. "CCTV footage from the scene confirmed the scuffle between the two men," said Datta Nalawade, DCP, Crime Branch. Saif Zahid Ali, who attempted to flee to Uttar Pradesh after the incident, was apprehended at Kalyan Railway Station. Initially, an Accidental Death Report was registered at Kurla Police Station, but authorities are now expected to upgrade the charges to murder. TNN

SpiceJet: Flights to and from Mumbai operating as usual

Mumbai: Mumbai airport and SpiceJet had a confrontation on social media on Monday over the latter's outstanding dues. The altercation commenced when the airport posted a passenger advisory on X declaring that SpiceJet's flight operations out of Mumbai will be "temporarily disrupted" from Aug 13 midnight. Mumbai airport posted it on its official X handle @CSMIA. Official but subsequently deleted it. In the interim, SpiceJet issued a statement affirming that flight operations to and from Mumbai will operate as usual.

The X post by Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), which was later deleted, stated: "Mumbai airport is collaborating with the airline to address the situation to minimize inconvenience to passengers. Passengers are advised to connect with the SpiceJet helpdesk or call centre on the status of their flights." Later in the evening, SpiceJet, in a statement, said: "The passenger advisory issued by MIAL has been withdrawn. Our flight operations in and out of Mumbai are operating normally. SpiceJet and MIAL have worked collaboratively to swiftly resolve a minor financial matter." Sources indicated the airport has taken the step over dues owed by the airline in the form of parking charges, rentals, etc.

SpiceJet, which has been grappling with financial woes, has been in the news for delayed salaries, this time, for July. In an Aug 9 letter to its employees, the airline wrote: "I do understand we are all very apprehensive regarding the salary payouts. In fact, we have flawed and delayed the salaries this month beyond expectations. The salaries, as assured, were to be released yesterday; however, with some pressing operational financial commitments, the same was not feasible." TNN

Sirf chutti mat manao

15th August aane wala hai yaar!

16th August ki chutti lene ke bahane honge hazaar?

Sar mein dard, ya zukham, ohho, food poisoning ho gayi hai sir, hospital mein kar raha hoon aaram.

Accha hai ki yeh sirf bahane hain, kyunki hospital bills se shayad aap anjaane hain. Agar hoti yeh sacch-mucch ki bimariyan, jhatt se loot kar le jaati, aapki saari kamaiyan.

2024 mein reh kar bhi, bann jaate aap bimariyon ke ghulam. Isliye karo real freedom ka aaj hee ailaan.

Iss Independence Day, sirf chutti mat manao, Health Insurance ke saath, real azaadi ki taraf ek thos kadam badhao. Khud ko financial freedom dilao. Iss 15th August ki chuttiyon mein sirf chutti mat manao.



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Body in suitcase: Court extends custody of trio

Mumbai: Arshad Shaikh, a Santacruz resident, was allegedly murdered by two men, Jay Chawda (32) and Shivjit Singh (33), on Aug 4 at Chawda's Pydhonie residence. The police had arrested Shaikh's wife Rukhsana too. A court extended their custody to Aug 16. One of the suspects in the murder was upset that the deceased had shared a video of his girlfriend on social media, police said. A police source said that Shaikh had allegedly shared a video of another suspect Jagalpreet Singh's girlfriend on social media, and cops are also probing this angle.

Jagalpreet, who is originally from Punjab, holds a Belgian passport. A police team has gone to Punjab for the probe. TNN

HC calls in Sion hosp medical officer over negligence plea in baby, mom's deaths

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Mumbai: Bombay High Court on Monday sought the presence of a senior medical officer of the BMC-run LTMG Hospital, Sion, on a petition by a man who alleged medical negligence in the deaths of his newborn child during delivery and his wife a couple of hours later.

The delivery had taken place at Sushma Swaraj Maternity Home (SSMH) at Bhandup (West) using flashlights of mobile phones due to a power failure. The wife, in a critical condition, was transferred to Sion Hospital where she died.

Khusruddin Ansari (34) had moved HC seeking her entire medical record from ad-

mission till her death. He urged that Bhandup police "carry out a thorough and time-bound investigation" into the deaths of his wife and child. He has sought compensation towards the "wrongful loss" of their lives.

Ansari and Shaheedunissa (26) were married in May 2023. Her initial prenatal check-up was at the 50-bed Savitribai Phule Maternity Home, which shut for repairs. She was referred to the 10-bed SSMH for the rest of her pregnancy. Ansari's petition stated, "It was routinely recorded that the mother and foetus remained healthy throughout the pregnancy".

On April 29, Shaheedunissa went into labour and was brought to SSMH around 8.20am. Only at 10.30pm was

she taken into the operation theatre. There was a power failure. Since morning, there were five to six such instances. There were no inverters, generators, among other things. Ansari was called inside and told that a baby was delivered but hadn't cried. Then, 10 minutes later, around 11pm, the baby was declared dead. Shaheedunissa was transferred to Sion Hospital where she was declared dead at 1.30am.

On May 22, Ansari requested SSMH and Sion Hospital for medical records of procedures conducted on his wife. His multiple requests to the hospital, and even Bhandup police, were in vain. His petition said as per medical ethics regulation, medical records have to be produced within 72 hours of request.

Before Justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Prithviraj Chavan, senior advocate Gayatri Singh and advocate Swaraj Jadhav said after keeping Ansari's wife in labour for several hours, without consent, an episiotomy was performed. The doctors then said a C-section had to be performed because of excess bleeding. Singh said as there were no wheelchairs or stretchers, Shaheedunissa had to walk to the OT and from there to the ambulance.

The judges noted that Shaheedunissa's postmortem report did not state from where she was brought to Sion Hospital. Therefore, they directed a medical officer to remain present on Wednesday. Also, the senior police inspector of Bhandup police station.

Laundering case: ED seizes ₹1.2cr

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Mumbai: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) seized assets worth Rs 1.2 crore in a money laundering case connected to the Dnyanaraddha Multistate Co-operative Society Ltd (DMCSL) fraud case after conducting searches in Navi Mumbai, Pune, Bed, and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. DMCSL, controlled by Suresh Kute and Yashvant Kulkarni, had cheated Rs 168 crore from investors after floating various deposit schemes, promising higher interest and siphoning off the money, alleged the ED. The ED money laundering case is based on multiple FIRs registered against DMCSL and its promoters in different parts of the state.

Motorman, guard of CR local save life of injured commuter

Thane: A Central Railway motorman and the train manager (guard) piloting a suburban local proved to be the saviours for an injured railway accident victim as they momentarily halted their morning peak hour local train and escorted the semi-conscious man to the nearest station, on Monday morning, officials said.

The incident was reported around 9.08am between Kopar and Diva on the Up slow line. While the identity of the motorman remained undisclosed, the guard has been identified as Sanjay Gupta, according to officials. "The injured, identified as R Pendurkar, works as a security guard in Dombivli and had boarded a slow local on

his way home to Diva. However, as the train was approaching Diva, the victim, who could possibly be travelling on the footboard, lost balance and fell off the train. He sustained injuries to his head and was in a semi-conscious state when the motorman of the Dadar-bound slow local (DTL-2) spotted him. The motorman alerted the guard and halted the train and lift the injured person off the tracks," said a police officer. The staff then informed the railway helpline, which ensured the victim was promptly escorted from the next station Diva to a nearby hospital and later to the Kalwa hospital, where doctors recommended him to be shifted to Sion hospital. —Manoj Badgeri

MORNING RUSH



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'No gap' between flyover, Metro line? Viral video sparks concern

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Mumbai: On Sunday, a video of an 800-metre under-construction bridge at Malad's Mith Chowky junction went viral. The Rs 45-crore project was captioned: "Another architectural blunder in the making in Mumbai. This... flyover at Malad Marve Road appears to abruptly end at the metro line on New Link Road. Is there any way a vehicle or even a person could pass under the metro line?" The narrow gap between the bridge and the overhead Metro 2A seen in the video, shared by the X handle @Mumbaikhabar9, sparked concerns of a possible infrastructure mistake similar to the infamous misalignment of Gokhale Bridge in Andheri.

When TOI approached BMC with the Malad video, officials assured that the flyover was still under construction and will be lowered from its current position once completed. "The structure is currently supported on wooden logs to allow work to be carried out below it. Once the girders are launched, there will be a clear height of 3.5 metres from the Metro line to the flyover. It is intended for light motor vehicles, with height bar-

riers on both sides to ease traffic congestion at Mith Chowky," explained an official. The clarification was carried by the X handle as well.

Malad MLA Aslam Shaikh said the bridge is in the final stages of construction, with one section expected to open within two months. "I have visited the site multiple times in recent months to ensure that work is progressing. A penalty has been imposed on the contractor for slow pace of work," he said.

Former Malad corporator Vinod Mishra pointed out that construction work has caused traffic congestion. "For those traveling from areas like Manor, Madh and Malwani to Malad railway station, this is the only route. Because of ongoing work, the carriageway has narrowed, leading to jams," he said.

Its eastern arm originates from Girihar Park Bridge, passing above Malad Creek, and extending over the traffic junction. The western landing will be near St Joseph's School. Another arm will extend southwards from the main carriageway, forming a T-shaped structure. This arm will lead to Link Road, letting motorists drive towards Infiniti Mall and Andheri.



No panchnama in molestation case, HC seeks top cop's reply

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Mumbai: Bombay high court has frowned at the state govt's claim of taking crimes against women seriously while noting that Dindoshi police had in a case of molestation of a woman failed to draw a panchnama of the seizure of her clothes. It has directed the Mumbai police commissioner to personally file a reply.

"Prima facie, it appears to us that the investigation of the present crime is not commensurate with the claim generally made by the state administration that offences against women are being viewed seriously and investigated promptly," said a bench of

Justices Ajay Gadkari and Neela Gokhale on Aug 1.

The accused, a govt employee, urged the quashing of the March 22, 2023, FIR filed under IPC sections, including 354 (assault or criminal force to a woman with intent to outrage her modesty). The complainant, a doctor, alleged that as secretary of a cooperative housing society next to a chawl where her father has a room, the accused had harassed her family. On March 21, 2023, when she went to question why he had beaten up her father, he also thrashed her, she said.

The prosecutor said the chargesheet was filed on June 12. Asked to show the seizure panchnama of the complainant's clothes, poli-

ce sub-inspector Umaji Kadam, the investigating officer (IO), said it was not drawn. The judges said the complainant had categorically stated that the accused had touched her inappropriately and torn her clothes.

"It is the reason Section 354 of IPC is applied to the present crime," the court said. "Non-effecting the seizure of clothes panchnama of the victim is a fundamental lacuna in the investigation."

Kadam was unable to state why he proceeded to file a chargesheet without a panchnama of the complainant's clothes. The judges said the "panchnama was the most important document in the chargesheet to corroborate the version of the vic-

tim, whether her clothes were, in fact, torn or not". The IO gave no reason in the case diary for non-recording of the panchnama "though the victim had been to the police station immediately after the alleged assault on her".

"It prima facie appears to us that either the investigating officer is oblivious about the basic tenets of investigation or has deliberately kept lacuna in it to allure it to the benefit of the accused," said HC. The judges "expect" the police commissioner to "go through the record of investigation minutely and if he forms the same opinion as we have formed... to adopt appropriate remedial measures under the law against all concerned".

Girder for Gokhale bridge south arm to be assembled by next wk
Official Divested Of Charge Over Delay

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Mumbai: BMC aims to complete the assembly of the girder for the southern arm of Gokhale bridge in Andheri by Aug 23. The girder's installation is expected to take 60 days after the railway approves blocks. Once the girder is launched, the bridge's railway portion will be surfaced, which is expected to be completed by Nov 14. BMC expects to open the arm by May 2025.

Meanwhile, the BMC executive engineer who was handling the bridge work has been divested of the charge and has been served a notice asking why further action shouldn't be taken against him for delaying the work. The official was served a show-cause notice earlier, too, along with the contractor.

An assistant engineer has been brought in place of the executive engineer to oversee the work. "A post of an assistant engineer was vacant. Therefore, an assistant engineer, who had worked earlier on the Gokhale bridge, has been

brought in. He will also hold the additional charge of the executive engineer who has been divested of the charge. It is not that the executive engineer was inefficient; the charge required a lot of coordination," said a BMC official.

The official said the rail blocks for the girder installation can be for one to two hours per night. "We have accounted for 60 days as the maximum period for the installation. We may be able to finish the work in 45 days. Once the installation is done, the concrete surfacing of the railway portion will be carried out. The rest of the surfacing, that is asphaltting or laying of dense bituminous macadam, will have to be carried out together with the surfacing of the approach roads to the bridge; it cannot be done separately. Prior to the surfacing of the railway portion, Rail India Technical and Economic Service officials will undertake checks and many of the works can be carried out only during a dry spell, said another BMC official.

The bridge's northern arm was opened on Feb 26.

Drug queen, aide duped bizman of ₹2cr: Chargesheet

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Mumbai: Pune-based businessman Parshuram Munde connived with drug queen Shashikala, alias Baby Patankar, to open a fictitious gold bullion company with the intention of cheating Worli-based businessman Kirit Chauhan and siphoned off around Rs 2 cr, says chargesheet submitted by the Mumbai police.

The duo induced Chauhan into buying gold at less than the market price, showed him 3 kg of gold at Worli, accepted Rs 1.27 crore and then came up with a fresh condition of upping the quantity to 5 kg. Thus, they made him pay Rs 70 lakh, and duped him, states the chargesheet.

Patankar, in her statement, has refuted the allegations. Police said they will continue the probe under the amended BNS section.

Shashikala 'Baby' Patankar, a mephedrone peddler, was arrested in 2015. Patankar, who had started off by trading in marijuana and brown sugar in Mumbai before shifting to MD, is believed to have amassed huge property and valuables through drug peddling and invested in

real estate in upscale Worli, Lonavala, and Pune.

The police have relied on call detail reports, CCTV footage, attached statements of more than 10 witnesses, including two common friends of Chauhan and the accused, RTGS and bank statements besides other material.

Chauhan, proprietor of Runicha Freight Forward, lodged a complaint in Apr 2023 at Worli police station against Munde and Patankar. The case was transferred to the crime branch, which had in the past handled the Patankar drug case. In Oct 2021, Chauhan had met Munde who told him that he buys gold wholesale from Customs department auctions and then sells it. Last October, Munde called Chauhan to Worli and introduced Patankar, claiming that she had 5 kg of gold for sale. Patankar showed Chauhan 6.5 kg of gold bars and 15 gold biscuits, each of 100 gm. Patankar collected Rs 70 lakh for more gold, but never delivered, police said.

The Rs 1.27 cr went to a company belonging to Munde and his wife. Munde transferred the amount to other accounts and siphoned it off.

Govt gives push to SRA project stuck for 20 yrs

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Mumbai: Stuck for 20 years, a prime Slum Redevelopment Authority (SRA) project in Andheri (West) has got a push as the state govt has ordered preparation of a fresh list of eligible slum-dwellers and their fresh biometric survey. The SRA has terminated the work given to the developer appointed for Basera SRA CHS under Section 13(2) of the Maharashtra Slum Areas Act.

Officials said the developer had prepared Annexure II (list of eligible slum-dwellers) and submitted a list of 766 eligible slum-dwellers to the SRA. "However, the project could not progress due to local opposition to Annexure II and other issues. A state govt report highlighted various anomalies in previous surveys such as the presence of deceased persons, transactions involving the purchase and sale of properties and bogus names, as well as information about demolished houses. The SRA issued an order in July 2024 declaring the scheme void-ab-initio or illegal from the beginning," said local BJP MLA Ameet Satam.

The SRA order states, "Respondent Ms EM-EL Ashok Enterprises is hereby

terminated as developer in respect of Basera SRA CHS under Section 13(2) of Maharashtra Slum Areas Act, 1971. Basera SRA CHS is at liberty to appoint a new developer of its choice in accordance with rules, regulations and policy of SRA."

Satam said there were significant anomalies in Annexure II of the Basera SRA CHS. "There was a huge disparity between the slum-dwellers listed in Annexure II and those living at the location. A large number of bogus names were added, so the govt has agreed not to implement the scheme based on the old Annexure II," he said.

In 2019, residents approached Satam with complaints about irregularities in eligibility for the Basera SRA scheme. "Subsequently, I raised the issue in the legislative assembly and with the SRA and followed up vigorously. Following my demands, a fresh biometric survey was conducted in Nov 2019, and its report was published in March 2020. The report highlighted various anomalies," he said.

After Satam raised the issue, deputy chief minister and then housing minister Devendra Fadnis announced scrapping of the old Annexure II as a special case.

HC stays order allowing Indrani to travel abroad

Mumbai: Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted an ad-interim stay on a special court order permitting former media executive Indrani Mukerjea, who is accused of killing her daughter Sheena Bora in 2012 and is currently out on bail, to travel to Europe.

A single bench of Justice S V Kotwal said the plea filed by the CBI against the special court order shall be heard on July 29 before the regular bench of Justice S C Chandak. Justice Chandak was unavailable on Tuesday. The CBI had sought an urgent hearing

of the plea before the alternate bench of Justice Kotwal. Justice Kotwal, however, said it would be better if the regular bench heard the plea. "Until then, ad-interim relief granted (stay on the special court order)," the court said.

Indrani's advocate, Ranjeet Sangle, told the court that she did not have her passport with her. A special CBI court on July 19 allowed Indrani Mukerjea to travel once to Europe (Spain and the UK) for ten days between intermittent periods for the next three months. PTI

63-year-old woman's organs help save lives of 3

Mumbai: A 63-year-old woman's family donated her organs and saved three lives after she was declared brain dead on August 10, according to the Zonal Transplant Coordination Centre-Mumbai (ZTCC). This is the 34th deceased donation in the city this year as compared to 50 in 2023.

The family donated her kidneys and liver, as well as tissues and corneas. The donor, Sulochana Dabhade from Kalyan, had a history of hypertension and suffered an intracranial bleed on Aug 7.

She was initially treated at a local hospital in Kalyan, but as her condition worsened, she was transferred to GHC Hospitals, Mumbai, on Aug 10. However, doctors found she had irreversible brain damage and counselled the family to donate her organs.

As the donor's brother had undergone a kidney transplant a few months back, the family was aware of the problems of patients with end-stage organ failure and decided to donate her organs. TNW

SAVING THE GENTLE GIANTS

Pics: Sanjay Hadkar, Shailesh Jadhav



A wooden installation (top) and Anarkali, a 62-year-old jumbo, turn top attractions at Byculla zoo on World Elephant Day. Visitors were made aware of the threats to elephant habitats. India is home to almost half the world's elephant population, but nearly 200 died in train collisions from 2010-20, averaging 20 deaths each year. Most of the rail tracks cut through many of the 150 elephant corridors, as per Wildlife SOS, a conservation group

Auto union to move court unless 'govt honours promise' of ₹2 increase in fare

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Mumbai: The union of autorickshaw drivers plans to approach Bombay high court demanding a long-pending fare hike of Rs 2 — from a minimum of Rs 23 to Rs 25. On Monday, Mumbai Rickshawmen's Union leader Thampy Kurien accused the government of delaying the fare hike for two years, despite promises made before the general election.

Auto drivers' frustration has been compounded by a recent increase in CNG prices

and the rising cost of living, which have significantly increased their operational costs. According to the Khata panel formula used by the govt to calculate fares, the rates should rise by more than Rs 2. But union leaders have said they would be satisfied with just a Rs 2 increase.

An auto union activist said the previous fare hike in October 2022 — from Rs 21 to Rs 23 — was inadequate to cover rising expenses amid inflation, calling it "not a fair deal".

Senior transport officials were unavailable for com-

ment. Sources indicated that any fare hike proposal must first be presented to the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Transport Authority, chaired by the transport secretary, which ultimately decides on fare increases for autos and taxis in Mumbai.

The price of CNG was raised in MMR in July. Mahanagar Gas Limited announced a Rs 1.5 per kg increase, setting the retail price at Rs 75 per kg. Many public transport vehicles, including autos, rely on CNG. The union has also called for auto owners to be given

the option to switch to electric autos when re-registering vehicles, as 300 autos are scrapped each month (after reaching a 16-year lifespan limit). An activist suggested that the government should establish infrastructure for vehicle charging or battery swapping facilities to encourage the adoption of electric autos.

The union further demanded a freeze on new autorickshaw permits, arguing that the current number of 2.6 lakh autos is overcrowding city roads and reducing the earnings of existing drivers.

Suicide in train: Wife lodges abetment complaint against 5

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: After a 35-year-old man accused of molestation died by suicide in the toilet of Nandigram Express, his wife lodged a complaint of abetment against five people, including the woman who made the accusation. Dadar GRP lodged an FIR on Aug 10. Among the accused is a former corporator.

Babasaheb Sable, the deceased, was a labourer. He lived in the eastern suburbs with his wife and four children. On July 21, a woman residing in his neighbourhood lodged a complaint of molestation against him at the Ghatkopar police station. Sable's wife, however, denied the allegation.

After the FIR was registered by Ghatkopar police, Sable was scared of getting arrested and moved to his hometown in Parbhani.

In his absence, policemen

in civvies visited his house and inquired about his whereabouts. According to Sable's wife's statement, the woman who had accused him of molestation, her husband, and two of her relatives visited her home a few times and threatened to beat him up once he returned. A former corporator from the area also landed up to inquire about her husband, Sable's wife said.

Sable and his wife spoke over the phone on Aug 7. She told him not to worry and return home. He boarded the Nandigram Express but hanged himself in the toilet. His body was discovered when the train reached Dadar station on August 9. Police traced his family after finding a diary containing a few phone numbers on him.

Dadar GRP officials said they are making inquiries and have not made any arrests so far.

Woman loses ₹2.6L to cyber cheats who promised her help in filing ITR

Mumbai: A fashion designer allegedly fell victim to a cyber fraud, losing Rs 2.62 lakh to a scammer who impersonated a bank employee offering assistance in filing her income tax returns (ITR). The Vile Parle police registered an FIR on Sunday. In a bid to approach the income tax department for help, the 43-year-old dialled a number found after Google search but the call failed. She then received a call from someone claiming to be an executive from her bank. The caller managed to gain remote access to her mobile phone and carried out fraudulent transactions. TNW

Sule wants spl session for Maratha reservation

Mumbai: NCP (SP) working president and MP Supriya Sule on Monday urged CM Eknath Shinde to convene a special session of the legislature to resolve the Maratha reservation issue. She also expressed shock and surprise over the income tax notices to her husband.

"Whenever I speak against the govt in the Lok Sabha, immediately income tax dept sends a notice to my husband Sadanand Sule. Notices are identical, only the dates are changed," she said.

Expressing concern over hacking of her cellphone, Sule said it was high time that everyone took digital security seriously. She also expressed displeasure over the attack on the convoy of Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray, NCP politician Amol Mitkari, MNS leader Raj Thackeray and NCP (SP) politician Jeetendra Awhad.

Sule said that while the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena has taken a firm stand for the Maratha reservation, the Ajit Pawar group has remained silent. "I feel a special session of the state legislature should be convened to discuss the Maratha reservation issue. Pass a resolution and submit it to the central govt, since the entire reservation issue will require approval of the central govt," Sule said.

— Prafulla Marpakwar

NGO for Dhangar community gets plot in Kharghar

Mumbai: A one-acre plot in Sector 5 of Kharghar in Navi Mumbai, owned by CIDCO, has been awarded to the NGO Abhinav Samaj Foundation for the Dhangar (shepherd) community.

The plot has been allotted to the Dhangar community through the Other Backward Classes dept without inviting public bids as an exception, said the GR. The allotment follows an approval by the state cabinet in March this year. — Clara Lewis

Vote transfer from Sena & NCP to BJP not as expected: Dy CM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Vote for MVA is vote for blocking Ladki Bahin: BJP

Mumbai: The CM Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and the NCP led by Ajit Pawar could not transfer their votes to the BJP to the extent anticipated during the Lok Sabha elections, said Dy CM Devendra Fadnavis on Monday while speaking about the Mahayuti's poor performance. He further said the BJP could not transfer as much of its votes to Ajit Pawar's party as it did to Shinde's Sena.

In an interview to an online news channel, Fadnavis said, "We had estimated that we (BJP) have a certain number of votes and along with the Shiv Sena and NCP votes, we should reach a certain number. It happened to some extent, but these two parties being new, they had limited capacity to transfer their votes to the BJP. On the other hand, the BJP transferred 90% of its votes to the two parties," he said, adding that in the assembly polls the picture would be different as people

have realised the formations. He said it was difficult for the BJP to transfer its votes to NCP as they had fought against each other for years. "We had only considered a limited transfer, but even that did not happen," he said.

On the BJP's poor performance in the Lok Sabha polls in the state, winning only nine seats as against 23 in the

previous elections, and its impact on seat-sharing for the assembly elections, Fadnavis said the BJP's overall vote percentage has remained unchanged.

"If you do the Lok Sabha poll analysis, we secured 43.6% of the votes, they (MVA) got 43.9%, and there are 12 seats which we lost by less than 3%. There is a typi-

cal pattern to the loss - in 5 assembly seats we are ahead and in one we fall back and lose the seat. This has happened in Dhule, Amravati, Bhiwandi, Mumbai North-East, Mumbai South-Central... This cannot be replicated in assembly elections. Our overall voting percentage has remained unchanged and so we will contest around the same number of seats as in the last elections (162)," he said.

He said seat-sharing will be based on each party's strength and limitations. "Our meetings have started and our direction has also been decided. There will be hard negotiations on certain seats, but this time it will be less because we have realised that in the LS polls, the hard bargaining on certain seats had its repercussions on those seats and (with) late declaration (of candidates) we could see we were losing the seat," he said.

He brushed aside the revival of the Congress in Vidarbha and Marathwada, calling it a "swelling."

GHAR-GHAR TIRANGA FOR BYCULLA



BMC workers gear up to distribute the Tricolour in 'B' municipal ward, Byculla, as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' initiative to encourage residents to display the national flag at their homes on Independence Day

Mushrif name for Kagal poll ruffles local BJP feathers

Kolhapur: NCP president and deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar's announcement on Sunday that minister Hasan Mushrif will be the official Mahayuti candidate for the assembly election from the Kagal constituency has ruffled feathers within the ranks of the BJP in the district.

The announcement of Mushrif's candidacy by Pawar has given a clear indication to BJP politicians, especially to the district president of BJP, Samarjeetsinh Ghatage, to explore different options.

Ghatage was unlucky in the 2019 assembly election when the seat was left for Sena and he had contested as an independent. He ended up second with 88,000 votes.

After NCP joined the Mahayuti govt and Mushrif was made district guardian minister, Ghatage registered his objection with the state BJP. He has since then been claiming that he will be the BJP candidate for the assembly election. Mushrif has declared that the upcoming election will be his last. — Abhijeet Patil

'NCP is secular, will ensure no injustice done on Waqf issue'

Ranjan Dasgupta
@timesofindia.com

Nashik: Talking about the Waqf (amendment) bill, deputy CM Ajit Pawar on Monday said his party will make sure "no injustice" is done to the minority community and the Waqf boards. Ajit Pawar, who was in Malegaon for his Jansamwad yatra, said the bill has been sent to the joint parliament committee.

"This bill is related to land issues. We will speak to the minority community if they are opposed to some provisions. As president of NCP, I want to assure the minority community our party will go all out to ensure provisions are not detrimental either to the minority community or to Waqf boards," he said. He said if required, he would speak to CMs of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh as well as CM Eknath Shinde and Union minister Chirag Paswan. "Like us, they too are a part of NDA... NCP firmly believes in secularism," he added.

Ajit Pawar also said the

MVA govt tried to frame me: CM

Mumbai: CM Eknath Shinde claimed an attempt was made to frame him in a false case during the tenure of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) govt. Shinde said he will reveal more details at the right time. He made the statement after former Mumbai top cop Param Bir Singh claimed that not just opposition party functionaries of the BJP like Devendra Fadnavis, the MVA govt had also asked him to frame Shinde, who was cabinet minister in the MVA govt.

state intelligence department had warned of a threat to his life. "When I landed in Kolhapur, the local district and police officials briefed me. They advised me to avoid crowded places. But I am undeterred," he said. Meanwhile, Shiv Sena MP Sandipan Bhumre too stressed on a consensus and on taking the Muslim community into confidence before amending the Waqf Act.

Pawar urges CM to hold all-party meet on quota row, Shinde says you skipped it

Anurag Bende
@timesofindia.com

Pune: NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar urged chief minister Eknath Shinde to announce an all-party meeting to resolve the Maratha-OBC reservation conflict hours after Maratha Kranti Thok Morcha's agitation outside his residence in Pune on Monday.

As both communities have hardened their stands over reservation, Pawar said, "It is the responsibility of each one of us to maintain social harmony. I had discussed the matter with the chief minister in the past. Today, I urge him to call for an all-party meeting to find a solution."

Shinde, reacting to Pawar's suggestion told mediapersons in Nanded, that they had conveyed an all-party

Jarange calls protests against Pawar 'a plot by DCM Fadnavis'

Pune: Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange distanced himself from the agitation launched by Maratha Kranti Thok Morcha outside NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar's residence in Pune on Monday. Instead, he accused Dy CM Devendra Fadnavis of creating a divide in the Maratha community to weaken the agitation. He claimed the protest outside Pawar's and other politicians' houses is at the behest of Fadnavis and BJP MLC Pravin Darekar. He said, "Fadnavis and Darekar are sending such groups to project a division in us. I will not let my community be divided as long as I am involved in the agitation to get reservation for Marathas." — Anurag Bende

meeting last month on the quota issue which Pawar skipped. "We will still do whatever is needed to maintain peace in the state," he added.

After meeting members of the Morcha, Pawar told mediapersons in Pune, "It is not the time to blame each other. The need of the hour is to resolve the issue on priori-

ty for which everyone needs to come together. If the chief minister calls for an all-party meeting, we (the opposition) will be present. I suggest Manoj Jarange and OBC activists also be invited to the meeting so that we can come to a consensus."

The NCP (SCP) chief claimed that the state govt will have to take up the reser-

ATTENTION

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RECOMMENDATION FOR STAKEHOLDERS:

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Traffic police crackdown on e-bike riders

Mumbai: After receiving repeated complaints from road users, the Mumbai traffic police initiated a crackdown on e-bike riders, particularly food delivery app riders, for violating various traffic rules. The traffic police took action under Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita against 221 e-bike riders and seized 290 e-bikes during a special drive from Aug 9 to Aug 11. Besides this, the police also challaned 272 e-bikes for driving in the wrong direction, 491 for jumping signals, 252 for violating no-entry, and booked 161 riders under Local Acts—totalling 1176 riders. A sum of Rs 1.63 lakh was recovered in fines from these 1,176 offenders. The traffic police will be communicating with food app services and ask them what they plan to do to mitigate the situation. **TNN**

Woman held for ₹35 lakh fraud

Mumbai: A woman was arrested by the Malad police for cheating a homemaker, her husband, and their friends of Rs 35.6 lakh, after promising them good returns on investments. The accused claimed she ran a supermarket and garments business. **TNN**

Shinde launches projects aided by World Bank

Priyanka Kakodkar
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Chief minister Eknath Shinde on Monday launched the Institutional Capacity Building Project, a \$188 million programme with the help of the World Bank, to promote district-level development in the state. He also launched the Maharashtra Resilient Development Program to control the flood situation in the Krishna Bhima basin, especially in Kolhapur and Sangli districts (\$400 million aid from the World Bank). This was done at a meeting of the think tank Maharashtra Institution for Transformation (MITRA), chaired by Shinde.

Shinde said that the state govt has given revised administrative approval to 123 irrigation projects and is making all efforts for the completion of these projects, which will ultimately benefit farmers in Maharashtra.

The Institutional Capacity Building Project was launched to promote district-level development recommen-

ded by the Maharashtra Economic Development Advisory Council.

With this, the districts will be made the focus of development and income growth. The Maharashtra government will get funds worth Rs 1,562 crore from the World Bank for this project, the chief minister said.

The Maharashtra Resilient Development Program will be implemented with the help of the World Bank to control the flood situation in the Krishna Bhima basin, especially in the districts of Kolhapur and Sangli. The project is worth Rs 3,200 crore, out of which financial assistance of Rs 2,240 crore will be available from the World Bank.

The Chief Minister's Office, in a release that was issued, said that during the MITRA meeting on Monday, a detailed discussion took place on increasing the state's growth rate to 17.55 per cent by 2028 and also of investment to 37 per cent of the gross state domestic product.

IMD predicts moderate rain till Friday, lakes 93% full

Mumbai: Heavy rain for Mumbai and adjoining areas seems to have taken a break for now as the IMD has forecast only moderate rainfall till Friday.

The total stock in the seven lakes supply water to the city on Monday stood at 13.39 lakh million litres, which is 92.6% of the required quantum. By Sept 30, the total stock is expected to be 14.47 lakh million litres.

In its five-day forecast from Aug 12-16, the IMD has said that only moderate rain is very likely, with a green alert in place.

After intense rainfall on many days in July, the first fortnight of this month has been comparatively dry. The total rainfall recorded so far this season by the IMD's Colaba and Santacruz observatories has been 2,032mm and 2,237.4mm, respectively. Of this, the Santacruz station recorded 347mm in June and 1,702mm in July. It has recorded 188mm so far this month.

Day temperatures in the city on Monday hovered at 30°C. The maximum temperatures recorded by the Colaba and Santacruz observatories were 30.5°C and 30.7°C, respectively.

Woman claims her father with urine bag asked to leave hospital canteen

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A woman has claimed that her father, a spinal injury patient with a urine bag, was asked to leave the canteen at BMC-run KEM Hospital in Parel.

In a social media message on Monday, Badlapur resident Gayatri Kadam said she had taken her father to KEM Hospital on Saturday (August 10) ahead of a surgery for kidney stone removal.

"My father underwent a

spine surgery six months back and as he had issues thereafter, he needs a urine bag," she said.

As her father was hungry, she took him to the KEM Hospital canteen. "Our order was taken, but five minutes later, the manager said patients with urine bags are not allowed here. My father felt so humiliated that he walked out," said Kadam, who wrote a complaint to the dean. "They have put boards saying 'no outside food allowed' and 'no

smoking', so I told the manager that they should put out a similar board about patients with urine bags," she said.

When contacted, KEM Hospital dean Dr Saangeeta Ravat said there are no instructions to keep out patients with urine bags. "All patients are allowed in our canteen. I will conduct an enquiry and take necessary action," she said, adding that she has spoken to the patient's daughter and assured her of necessary action.

Thackeray met graft-accused businessman in Delhi: Nirupam

Mumbai: Sanjay Nirupam

of the Shiv Sena on Monday alleged that Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray met one of the Gupta brothers accused of corruption in South Africa during his visit to Delhi last week.

Nirupam said the meeting took place at Shiv Sena (UBT) Raja Sabha member Sanjay Raut's residence in the national capital on August 7, where one of the brothers arrived in a "black luxury car".

Nirupam did not specify which of the brothers Thackeray met during his Delhi visit. The three Gupta brothers, Ajay, Rajesh, and Atul, have business interests in several sectors. They are accused of corruption in South Africa.

Reacting to the allegation made by Nirupam, Raut said, "I am not aware of this. Need to check who met (whom)." **TNN**

B'desh man tries to fly with fake passport, held

V.Narayan@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: A 25-year-old Bangladeshi man was nabbed at Mumbai airport on Sunday while trying to fly to Saudi Arabia with an Indian passport he had obtained 10 years ago. He was caught after suspicious immigration officials tried to engage him in a conversation in Marathi, but he failed to respond satisfactorily. They also found an international messaging app on his phone that is banned in India.

As per a complaint filed by junior immigration officer C/D Bharat, not only had Mohammed Asman Biswas flown to Saudi Arabia in 2022 and 2023 but had also renewed his passport at the Indian embassy in Riyadh. Biswas said he illegally entered India and settled in Kolkata at the age of 13. Two years later, he moved to Pune and while working as a labourer, he procured an Indian passport using Aadhaar, PAN and voter ID cards, said a Sahar police officer.

Edu dept launches helpline no. for tuition fee waiver

Mumbai: The state's higher and technical education department has launched a helpline number to resolve problems related to the tuition fee waiver scheme recently launched for all girls pursuing professional courses and whose family income is less than Rs 8 lakh. Higher education minister Chandrakant Patil has appealed to all students to seek help. Students can contact 0796134440, 07969134441 and at helpdesk.maharashtraecet.org on working days from 9 am to 6 pm if they are facing any problems, said Patil. **TNN**

U.P. State Road Transport Corporation
Parivahan Bhavan, Tehri Kothi, 6 M.G. Marg, Lucknow-226001 (U.P.)
E-Tender No.: 2095 MT/2024-18 MT/2024 Dated: 12.08.2024

TENDER NOTICE

UPSTRTC is inviting E-tender from eligible Bus Body Fabricators for Fabrication of Ordinary Bus Bodies on Diesel Passenger chassis BS-VI Norms. Interested parties are requested to participate in the above E-Tenders separately as per schedule calendar given below. E-Tender Document can be downloaded from Government e-portal etender.up.nic.in and other terms & conditions can be obtained from there. For any addendum and corrigendum please visit on etender.up.nic.in

1. E-Tender Document will remain available on government e-portal etender.up.nic.in	13.08.2024 to 03.09.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.
2. Pre bid Conference	21.08.2024 at 12:00 Hrs.
3. Last Date of e-submission of Form (Technical/Financial)	03.09.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.
4. E-Tenders Technical Bid Opening on	03.09.2024 at 16:00 Hrs.

Chief General Manager (Tech.)

Centre for Railway Information Systems
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021
Tel.: 24106717, 24104525

Sub: Expression of Interest (EOI) for Enterprise Data Warehouse/ Lake of CRIS solution.

Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from OEM/Vendors available in the industry, seeking solution for Enterprise Data Warehouse/Lake with tools like (ETL, Data Ingestion, Data Modeling, Data Governance- Catalog & Metadata, ITSM, Data Streaming, ML Ops, Plug-in for AI/ML etc.) to design, develop and implement on premise (CRIS Cloud) Enterprise Data Warehouse/Lake of CRIS. It will be a repository of data for all CRIS Project for analysis purpose. The estimated size of data will be 130 TB expandable to 200 TB. Interested agencies having relevant work experience may submit their EOI by 15:00hrs of 21.08.2024 to CRIS through mail at edwl@cris.org.in with details as listed below:

- 1.Name of the organisation
- 2.Address
- 3.Contact person
- 4.Contact no.
- 5.Email id
- 6.Registered in India since 7.Where started up: Yes/No
8. Relevant experience for the solution (no. of years)
- 9.Implementations in India
- 10.Any other relevant details.

The meeting of the stakeholders w.r.t. EOI is being organized at Conference Hall, 3rd Floor, CRIS TPI Building, 4-A, Ring Road, I.P. Estate, near ITO, New Delhi on 22.08.2024 at 15:00hrs.

Managing Director/CRIS

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
VIDYUT SOUDHA:VIJAYAWADA

NIT No.:610001651

APGENCO invites Online tenders for "Outsourcing the services for Maintenance and Up keeping works pertaining to Civil Operation Division/MHE(U)/Jalapur and O&M division, Machkund for the period from 01.09.2024 (or from actual date of commencement of the work) to 31.03.2026"

Bid Start date & time: 09.08.2024 at 05:30 PM
Bid Submission closing date & time: 23.08.2024 at 3:00 PM

For further details visit <https://etender.apgenco.gov.in>
Phone (08864-294192)

Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER (O&M)/SHEs

DIPR No.3115PP/CL/ADVT/11/2024-22 Dt.12/08/2024

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

OPEN E-TENDER (SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM) INVITATION NOTICE

Name of Work: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of 25 KV, 50 Hz, Single phase, Traction Overhead Equipment for construction of 4 lane Road Over Bridge (ROB) at Rawanford, Madgaon in the state of GOA. **Notice No: KR/CO/EL/ROB-RE/17/24 Dt: 13/08/2024. Completion Period: 6 (Six) Months. Estimated Cost: ₹ 2,06,28,714/- excluding GST. Bid Security: ₹ 2,53,200/- Last Date & time for Online Submission of Tender: 03/09/2024 up to 15.00 Hrs. Opening of Tender: On 03/09/2024 at 13:30 Hrs. Amendments / Corrigendum if any, would be uploaded on IREPS website only. Submission of Tender Documents:** Through IREPS. Manual Tender Documents shall not be accepted.

Government of Goa
Directorate of Mines Geology
Institute Menezes Braganza, Panaji-Goa
Website: www.dmg.goa.gov.in e-mail: auction-dmg@goa.gov.in
No.DMG/28/Auction-Cell/3rd NIT/2023/ Date: 12/08/2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease of Iron ore"

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10(B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 notified thereunder, as amended from time to time notified thereunder, the Government of Goa has identified 03 (Three) Mineral Blocks of iron ore mineral for electronic auction and hereby invites tenders for the purposes of grant of Mining Lease.

Accordingly, financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format from eligible bidders.

Eligibility conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Detailed Tender Documents along with timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process for the mineral blocks are available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Limited: (<https://www.mstc.commerce.com/auctionhome/mcln/index.jsp>) Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above website. On successful registration, eligible bidders will obtain login ID and password necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summary are available free of cost on the website of MSTC Limited.

Last date for purchase of Tender Document after payment of tender fee on website of e-auction platform provider is Tuesday, September 24, 2024 on or before 17:00 hours (Indian Standard Time) and the last date for submission of the bid is Friday, October 04, 2024 on or before 17:00 hours (Indian Standard Time).

Sr. No	Name of the Block	Mineral	District	#Price of Tender Document
1	Block X-Onda Mineral Block	Iron Ore	North Goa	5,00,000.00
2	Block XI- Curpem- Sulcorna Mineral Block	Iron Ore	South Goa	5,00,000.00
3	Block XII- Codli Mineral Block	Iron Ore	South Goa	5,00,000.00

The Price of Tender Document for mineral block is exclusive of GST, GST is payable under Reverse Charge Mechanism.
DI/ADVT/609/2024

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Engineer (CONJ), South Eastern Railway, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites E-tender for the following work:

Following Tender has been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in. The tender will be closed at 12.00 hrs. on due date.

e-Tender Notice No.: 4419-GRC-CE-C-1-39-2023, Date: 10.08.2024, Brief Description of work: Supply & plantation in Railway Land along the Track within Railway Boundary, wherever Adequate Land width is available in connection with the Hatia-Bondamunda doubling project under jurisdiction of Dy. Chief Engineer (Con), Ranchi, South Eastern Railway. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 2.28 Crore. **Bid Security:** ₹ 2,64,000. **Completion Period:** 6 months. **Maintenance period:** 36 months. **Closing Date:** 03.09.2024. Interested tenders may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details/ description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this item will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to participate in all other tenders. (PR-473)

UT ADMINISTRATION OF DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU
Department of Consumer Affairs, Food & Civil Supplies, Silvassa - 396230

e-Tender Notice (Online Tender)
No. F&CS/DNH/Transportation/2024-25/687 Date: 05/08/2024
Director-cum-Dy Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs, Food & Civil Supply, D&NH and DD invites on-line tenders from the eligible and interested Transport Contractors through the website <https://dnh.tenders.gov.in/nicssp/app> for transportation of food grains for the Financial Year 2024-25

eTender ID No.	2024 UTDNH 7173_1
Tender Fee (Non-Refundable)	2,000/-
EMID	4,66,000/-
Online Tender download start date & time	05/08/2024 From 02:00 P.M.
Online Tender download end date & time	16/08/2024 upto 03:00 P.M.
Opening of tender date & time	16/08/2024 at 04:00 P.M.

Office Address: Department of Consumer Affairs, Food & Civil Supplies Silvassa - 396230

Sd/- (AMIT KUMAR)
Director-cum-Dy. Secretary
Department of Consumer Affairs Food & Civil Supply, D&NH and DD, Silvassa
IP/DMN/2/5/2024-2025/516 Dtd. 12/08/2024

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate identity Number : U40109PB2010SCG033813
Website : www.pspcl.in
(Phone No. 01881-275289) E-mail: se-hq-gsstp-ropar@pspcpl.in

E-Tender Enquiry No. 548/P-2/EMPW-12757 Dated 05.08.2024
Dy. Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Purchase Cell-2) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2024_POWER_124926_1 for Maintenance of Switchyard & Transformer Yard Areas (22 Acres Approximately) at 220KV Sub-Station, 66KV Sub-Station, GGSSTP, 2x850KV Micro hydro Project and transformer Yard Areas of 4x210 MW Units, GGSSTP, Rupnagar.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 08.08.2024 onwards.

Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
RTP-8624, DPR/PS: 76155/12/287/2023/36607

Government of Maharashtra
Swachh Maharashtra Mission (U)
Urban Development Department
4th Floor, Apeejay House, Dinshaw Vacha Rd, Churchgate, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400020
Adv. No: SMM/Adv/828/2024 Date: 13/08/2024

Tender Notice
Mission Directorate, Swachh Maharashtra Mission invites online tenders from reputed and experienced firms to participate in bidding for the below-mentioned RFPs.

Name of RFPs	RFP No.	Bid Security	Cost of Document	Period of Completion	Date of Publishing RFP	Bid Due Date
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Agency for Capacity Building (CB) activities at Municipal Corporations under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 Maharashtra	RFP No: SMM/2024/CBM Corp/826	INR 20,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Lakh only).	Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) Inclusive of GST.	Twelve (12) Months	13/08/2024 11:00 hrs	03/09/2024 15:00 hrs

Name of RFPs	RFP No.	Estimated Project Cost	Bid Security	Cost of Document	Period of Completion	Date of Publishing RFP	Bid Due Date
Request for Proposal (RFP) For "Procurement of Tractors for Carriage of Municipal Solid Waste Under Solid Waste Management for ULBs in the Maharashtra State"	SMM/C&T/827/2024	INR 7.58 Cr.	Rs 3,50,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh and Fifty Thousand Only)	INR 2,500/- (Inclusive of GST)	Three (3) Months	13/08/2024 11:00 hrs	28/08/2024 15:00 hrs

The complete bidding process will be online (e-tendering). Tender documents can be downloaded from the website <http://mahatenders.gov.in> from 13/08/2024 11:00 hrs. Bids can be submitted online in the e-tendering portal www.mahatenders.gov.in as per above bid schedule. All the notifications regarding this tender notice hereafter will be published online on the website <http://mahatenders.gov.in>.

Sd/- Mission Directorate, Maharashtra Urban Development Mission, Swachh Maharashtra Mission

DCIPR/2024-2025/1887

Umed - Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM)
Advertisement for Empanelment of State Resource Persons (SRPs)

The Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM) is currently implementing the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM). Applications are invited from eligible and interested candidates for the empanelment of State Resource Persons (SRPs) for various training programs conducted under this Mission. State Resource Persons (SRPs) will be invited for training program as per the requirements of the Mission.

Sr. No.	Subject	Required Number of SRPs
1	Social Inclusion and Institution Building	10
2	Gender	10
3	Capacity Building	10
4	Financial Inclusion	10
5	Digital Financial Literacy	04
6	Marketing	15
7	Livelihoods	10
8	Livelihoods (Organic Framing)	05
9	Livelihoods (Sustainable Agriculture)	05
10	Livelihoods (Livestock)	05
11	Livelihoods (Non-Farm)	10
12	Livelihoods (NTFP)	05
13	Livelihoods (Value Chain)	10
14	Convergences	05
15	Monitoring and Evaluation	05
16	Human Resource Management	05
17	Finance and Account Management	05
18	Model Cluster Level Federation (MCLF)	245
19	Knowledge Management & Communication	05
20	Business Plan Development for FPO/PE/CLF/VOP/G	05
21	Community Based Organisation (CBO) and Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) Management	10

Interested candidates are requested to send their online application form along with necessary document on www.umed.in by 30th September 2024 till 11.59pm. To review eligibility criteria, age and other details please visit above website. Depending on Mission requirements, the CEO, MSRLM, reserves the right to change/modify term & conditions and cancel the State Resource Persons (SRPs) empanelment process without prior notice. Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission

MAHAGENCO E-TENDER NOTICE
Maharashtra State Power Corporation Ltd.

Tender Specification No. CE/C-III/CSTPS/RFX No. 3000050919/2024-25.
Name Of Work: Providing, supplying, laying and commissioning of 1600mm dia. M.S. pipe by replacement of existing PSC raw water line from Eral dam to reservoir at CSTPS, Chandrapur.

Estimated Cost: Rs. 98,00,54,576/- (Excluding GST)	Time Limit: 18 Months
Sale Date: 13.08.2024 at 11:00 Hrs to 02.09.2024 upto 17:00 Hrs.	Tender Fee: Rs. 10,00,00/- + GST
Prebid Meeting: 03.09.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.	E.M.D.: Rs. 98,00,600/-
Date of Submission: 06.09.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.	

Contact Person: Superintendent Engineer (C), O/o. Chief Engineer (Civil)-III, M.S.P.G. Co. Ltd., Mumbai. Fax: (022) 26581469 Tel.No.022-26474211, extn. 2590, 26472131. E-MAIL ID: cgmcivil3@mahagenco.in

For further details visit our Website: <https://eprocurement.mahagenco.in>
Agencies are requested to register themselves for this and future E-Tenders.

INDIAN RAILWAYS PATIALA LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
PATIALA - 147003
Tel.: 0175-2396000, 2396001, Fax: 0175-2306413

NOTICE INVITING ELECTRONIC TENDERS
On behalf of President of India Principal Chief Materials Manager/PLW/Patiala invites tenders in electronic form for following items:

e-Tender Notice No.20 ET/2024-25

S	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender closing date
1	12245054	Three Chip High Definition Laproscopic Camera (CMOS) and Cosole	01 Set	02.09.2024
2	02241782	Impregnating (Solventless) Varnish	7608 Kgs	18.09.2024*
3	02241626	Polymide Paper Nomex	881.70 Kgs	12.09.2024
4	12241347	Lubricant Grease for Traction Motor Bearing	4375 Kgs	20.09.2024**
5	21241243A	Two Types of Insulator	2490 Nos. 2790 Nos.	29.08.2024**
6	21241384	Developmental Tender for High Reach Pantograph	20 Nos.	06.09.2024
7	21241238A	Set of Bus Bar WAP-7	127 Sets	04.09.2024**

B) e-Reverse Auction Notice No. 17 e-RA/2024-25

SN	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender closing date
1	02241441A	Bearing Shield	2196 Nos.	27.08.2024
2	02241156	Traction Engine & Electrics Kit for DETC	108 Sets	30.08.2024
3	21241318A	Main Transformer 7775 KVA	118 Nos.	02.09.2024**

Tender closing time (A & B) 15:00 Hrs.

Item marked with * is reserved for procurement from RDSO approved Firms. Item marked with ** is reserved for procurement from CLW approved Firms

The prospective tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in> or <http://www.plw.indianrailways.gov.in> for detailed description of items & other terms and conditions of tender document. Please note that tenders can submit their quotations only through <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

SD/-
REGISTRAR
OIPR-11059/11/001124-25

Government of Assam AFD financed
Assam Project on Forest & Biodiversity Conservation- Phase II
Assam Project on Forest & Biodiversity Conservation Society (APFBCS)
Aranya Bhawan, Panjabari, Guwahati- 781037
Website: apfbcn.org; Email: pd.pmu.apfbc@nic.in; pd@apfbcn.in
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
INTERNATIONAL PROCUREMENT COMPETITION (IPC)

IFB No. APFBC/PMU/Phase-II/Cloud Services/2024/3507, Dated Guwahati the 10th August 2024.
Contract Title: PROCUREMENT OF CLOUD HOSTING SERVICES FOR THE ASSAM PROJECT ON FOREST AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION-PHASE II.

The Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation Society (APFBCS) has received funds from Agence Francaise de Developpement ("AFD") towards the cost of "Assam Project on Forest and Biodiversity Conservation-Phase II". The Project Director, APFBCS invites Bids from eligible bidders for the supply of cloud services for hosting of Forest Management Information system integrated with Geospatial applications and mobile apps under the project. Hard copy of the Bidding document may be purchased in the manner specified on the website of APFBCS or the Bidding document may be downloaded free of cost from the website of APFBCS visit www.apfbcn.org from 11th August 2024 to 10th September 2024. Detailed IFB Notice may be seen on the website of APFBCS.

1. Last date and time of submission of Bid 10th September 2024 (14.00 hrs-IST)
2. Date and time of opening of Bid 10th September 2024 (14.15 hrs-IST)

Sd/-
Project Director
PMU, APFBC Society

Janasanyog/CF/1023/24/13-Aug-24

Government of Odisha
Skill Development and Technical Education Department
Directorate of Technical Education & Training, Odisha
At-Killamaidan, PO-Buxibazar, Cuttack-753001
Phone No-0671 2301061, e-mail: dtetorissa@gmail.com

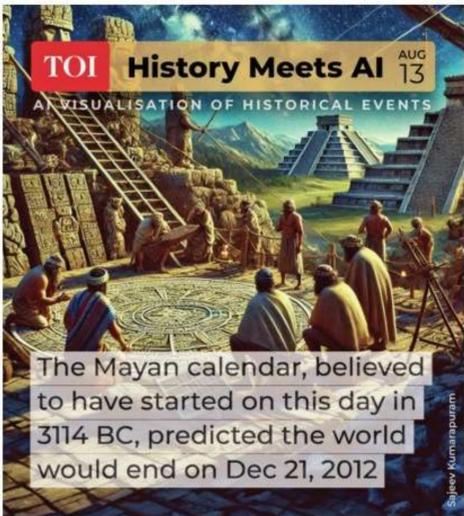
NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
To setup Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Mining with Drone Survey at Govt. Polytechnic, Deogarh under OMBADC districts of Odisha.
NIT No. DTET/2024-25/ 11928 Date: 12.08.2024

Directorate of Technical Education and Training, Odisha (DTE&T) invites Request for Proposals (RFP) to setup "Centre of Excellence in Mining with Drone Survey at Govt. Polytechnic, Deogarh under OMBADC districts of Odisha". The firms, those having experience in similar work can submit their Technical and Commercial proposals. The RFP document comprising of Eligibility Criteria, Instruction to Bidders, Scope of Work etc. can be downloaded from DTE&T website (www.dtet.odisha.gov.in) from



EX-ODISHA CM PATNAIK WRITES TO SCIENCE MINISTER TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR UNESCO KALINGA PRIZE

'WE CAN'T INTERFERE IN BANGLADESH'S INTERNAL MATTERS,' SHATRUGHAN BACKS CONG SILENCE



TOI History Meets AI AUG 13
A VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS

The Mayan calendar, believed to have started on this day in 3114 BC, predicted the world would end on Dec 21, 2012

'Vendor-kanwariya clash' at Bihar temple causes stampede, 7 dead

6 Women Among Deceased, 16 Hurt In Jehanabad

Sheezan.Nezami @timesofindia.com

Patna: At least seven people, including six women, were killed on Monday and 16 others injured in a stampede at Baba Siddheshwar Nath Temple in Bihar's Jehanabad district.

Locals said a clash between a flower vendor and a group of kanwariyas near the Shiva temple located on Barabar Hills sparked the stampede a little past midnight amid large crowds on Shrawan's fourth Somvati (Monday), considered among the most auspicious in the month.

"The vendor fled after the stampede. Police have launched a manhunt," Jehanabad



CM Nitish Kumar announced ex gratia of Rs 4L for kin of deceased

DM Alankrita Pandey said.

According to SP Arvind Pratap Singh, people at the front started moving back after the clash, leading to a stampede on a staircase where many of them fell. "Most of the victims were in their 30s and 40s," the SP said.

The DM denied allegations of police lathicharge. "The temple sees a massive turnout of 50,000 to 1 lakh de-

votes on Somvati. We allow batches of 5,000 devotees at a time. All precautions were in place," Pandey said.

Local RJD MLA Kumar Krishna Mohan alleged that enough police had not been deployed. "The situation could have been contained with just injuries, not deaths," he said.

He called for oxygen cylinders to be provided at large gatherings.

SUV mows down 6 pilgrims in Bengal

A group of kanwariyas was knocked down by a speeding SUV near Bagdogra on NH-31 early Monday, killing six of them, including three of a family. Seven others were injured in the accident and were admitted to hospital. Two other devotees had a miraculous escape. TNN

Truck crushes biker, 5 kanwariyas in Assam

A single truck was involved in serial crashes in Assam on Monday, first crushing a biker to death and then mowing down five kanwariyas a few metres away. The devotees had just offered prayers at a Shiva temple along the national highway and were about to leave. TNN

By 2036, population to hit 152.2cr, sex ratio to improve to 952: Govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: By 2036, India's population is expected to reach 152.2 crore, with a slightly improved female percentage of 48.8% compared to 48.5% in 2011, a report published by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI) showed on Monday.

The report — "Women and Men in India 2023" — projects that proportion of individuals under 15 years of age will decrease from 2011 to 2036, likely due to declining fertility rates. In contrast, the proportion of population aged 60 years and above is anticipated to substantially increase during this period.

India's population in 2036 is expected to comprise more females compared to 2011, as reflected in the sex ratio which is projected to increase from 943 (per 1,000 males) in 2011 to 952 by 2036, highlighting a positive trend in gender equality, said the report.

The report attempts to bring a comprehensive view of situation of women and men in India and provides data on a range of topics such as population, education, health, participation in economy and in decision making. It presents data disaggregated



The proportion of individuals under 15 years of age will decrease from 2011 to 2036, likely due to declining fertility rates, the report stated

by gender, urban-rural divide, and geographical region, which helps understand disparities between different groups of women and men. It includes key indicators as derived from official data of different ministries, departments and organisations.

"Gender statistics play a crucial role in promoting and measuring equality. They provide benchmarks for progress, making visible similarities and differences between men and women," it said.

The report said that from 2016 to 2020, age-specific fertility rate in age group of 20-24 and 25-29 has reduced from 135.4 and 166.0 to 113.6 and 139.6, respectively. Whereas in 35-39 age group it has increased from 32.7 to 35.6.

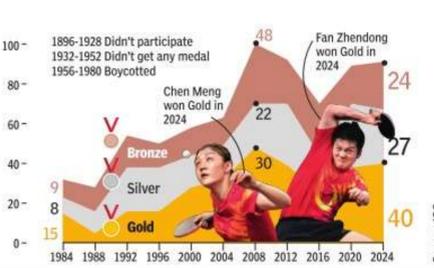
Raid unearths DA of over ₹16cr in Odisha retd engineer's possession

The vigilance wing of Odisha govt on Monday unearthed movable and immovable properties worth more than Rs 16 crore in the possession of Tara Prasad Mishra, who retired as chief engineer (roads and buildings), reports **Riyan Ramanath**. The properties, which are disproportionate to his known sources of income, include gold ornaments weighing 2.5kg, two high-end luxury cars, 10 high-value flats, seven plots, and premium brand watches. Of the two cars, one is worth Rs 1.5 crore. These were discovered following simultaneous raids at nine places owned by Mishra, mostly in Bhubaneswar. Most of these assets are in the names of Mishra and his family members. It also came to light during the raids that Mishra has spent Rs 80 lakh from benami accounts on his daughter's education.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers Atul Thakur

China's Olympics Dominance

Although China dominates the recent Olympics, its overall tally of 727 medals is lower than those of the USA (2,772), Germany (1,294) and GB (983). Amid civil war and Japanese occupation, China first participated in 1932. In the next 3 editions, it couldn't win a medal. Because of a dispute with IOC over Taiwan, China withdrew from the next 6 games and didn't participate in the Moscow Games



Two charred to death as trucks collide on h'way

Kolhapur: Two truck drivers died after their vehicles collided on Satara-Lonand-Pune highway near Wagholi village in Koregaon tehsil around 3.30am on Monday.

Police said one of the trucks was owned by a transporter firm from Kolhapur district and was on its way to Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar. The other truck, carrying tiles from Madhya Pradesh, was headed for Satara.

The driver of the truck from MP was charred as the vehicle caught fire. The other truck driver succumbed to his injuries at a hospital. "The collision occurred as the truck from MP was on the wrong side," said assistant inspector A D Mane of Wathar police station. TNN

India, Russia eye ₹10,500-crore N-fuel deal, local production

Sanjay.Dutta@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: India and Russia are working on a deal worth about Rs 10,500 crore for the supply of nuclear fuel and core components to the Kudankulam nuclear power plant's two new units coming up with Moscow's help, people in the know said.

The deal envisages Russian nuclear fuel company TVEL JSC supplying to the department of atomic energy the initial loads and subsequent five reloads for units 3 and 4 of the Kudankulam N-power project along with control rods and fuel assembly inspection tool set from 2025 to 2033.

The people cited above said New Delhi is also looking



POWER PLAY

at the possibility of forming a joint venture with Rosatom, the state-run parent of TVEL, for manufacturing the nuclear fuel for the plant in India — which will be a boost for India's nuclear capability.

The Kudankulam nuclear power project is located 650 km south of Chennai, in the Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. It is based on the Russian pressurised heavy water

reactor technology. It will be the largest nuclear power project in the country with a capacity of 6,000 MW once all the six units are completed. Currently, two units with a cumulative capacity of 2 GW are operational.

India currently has nuclear power capacity of 7 GW (gigawatts) and plans to nearly double it to 13 GW by 2029 as part of clean energy transition plans. India and Russia last year signed an agreement on the construction of the last two units of the Kudankulam project. TVEL provides nuclear fuel to 76 energy reactors in Russia and 14 countries of Europe and Asia, helping these installations to produce more than 400 billion units of electricity annually.

Why no childcare leave for single fathers? Calcutta HC asks govt

Kolkata: Calcutta high court on Monday directed West Bengal govt to decide whether to extend childcare — on par with women — to an employee who is a single father, saying a father was equally responsible for raising his children as much as a mother would be, reports **Srishti Lakhotia**.

Under state govt policy, male employees are allowed only 30 days' leave on account

of their kids (under paternity leave), while women are entitled to 730 days (under childcare leave).

Justice Amrita Sinha was hearing a petition by Md Abu Raihan, a teacher at a govt-aided school in North 24 Parganas, whose wife died in Dec 2023, making him the primary caregiver of their two children. He moved court after he was allowed only 30 days' leave to look after them.




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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that under instructions of our client, we are investigating the title of ROYSTON JOEL LASRADO alias ROYSTON JOEL LASRADO SHENOY and MERWIN RITA LASRADO, both residing at 2A Millawa Avenue, Freville 5063 Adelaide, South Australia, Australia to the property more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written (hereinafter referred to as "the Property") in connection with the proposed sale thereof, subject to the approval of the Salsette Catholic Co-operative Housing Society Ltd., to our client, free from all encumbrances and liens, and with vacant possession.

All persons having any claim in respect of the Property (or any portion thereof) whether by way of allotment, sale, transfer, assignment, mortgage, charge, gift, trust, inheritance, possession, lease, sub-lease, lien, license, tenancy, maintenance, easement, exchange or otherwise whatsoever, are hereby required to make the same known in writing, together with copies of supporting documents, to the undersigned at their office at 401 & 402, 4th floor, Mahkha Chambers, 196, Turner Road, Bandra (West), Mumbai - 400 050, within 14 (fourteen) days from the date of publication hereof, failing which such claims or objections, if any, will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned, and the transaction will be completed without reference thereto.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY

5 (five) fully paid-up shares of the face value of Rs. 50/- each bearing Distinctive Nos. 01 to 05 (both inclusive) comprised in Share Certificate bearing No. 01 dated 5th February 2010 issued by the Cornelia Residency Co-operative Housing Society Limited, together with the residential premises being Flat No. 101 admeasuring 750 square feet of carpet area on the first floor of the building known as "Cornelia Residency" standing on the leasehold land being Plot No. 100 in the Estate Plan of the Salsette Catholic Co-operative Housing Society Limited and bearing CTS No. 449 of C-Ward, CTS Bandra situated at St. Leo's Road, Bandra (West), Mumbai - 400 050.

For Pradhan & Rao
Advocates and Solicitors
Aloke V. Rao, Partner
Dated this 13th day of August 2024.

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given to all that **SDC Infrastructure Private Limited** is redeveloping the property of **Cassias Co-operative Housing Society Ltd.** being Final Plot Nos. 21 & 22 of Town Planning Scheme Bandra No. IV bearing CTS Nos. F/981, F/983, F/984 and F/985 of Revenue Village Bandra, being lying and situate at Dr. Ambedkar Road, Bandra (West), Mumbai - 400 050 (Said Land) in accordance with Development Agreement dated 10th October, 2018.

As per duly stamped and registered Agreement dated 17th November, 2023, the said SDC Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd. agreed to construct four flats out of the total Built up in the Redeveloped Building for the said Rajlaxmi Properties Pvt. Ltd.

The said Rajlaxmi Properties Pvt. Ltd. with the consent and confirmation of **SDC Infrastructure Private Limited** has agreed to sell one Residential Flat No. 2201 along with (2) Two covered car parking spaces in the basement Podium (Said Property), more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written, free from all encumbrances to our clients. Any persons having any claims in respect of the said Property or any part thereof by way of sale, inheritance, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, trust, lis-pendens, maintenance, possession, easement, or otherwise whatsoever is requested to make the same known to undersigned at address mentioned below, along with necessary documents to substantiate such claims, within 14 (fourteen) days, from the publication of this notice, failing which the claims, if any, not lodged within said stipulated period shall be considered as willfully abandoned, waived and given away by said persons.

The 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 (part) admeasuring 161.50 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 3/1 admeasuring approximately 750 square feet standing on the Land. The land comprised in the Property is bounded as follows:

On or towards the North: 6.10 square meters side road
On or towards the South: Building No 48 and T No 312
On or towards the East: 24.38 square meters side road
On or towards the West: Building No 49
Dated this 13th day of August 2024
For Khaitan & Co. Sd/- Harsh Parikh Partner

The Schedule (The Said Property)

Flat No. 2201 admeasuring 115.25 square meters (carpet area) equivalent to 124.05 square feet with balcony area admeasuring 4.50 square meters equivalent to 48.44 square feet and additional area admeasuring 2.21 square meters equivalent to 23.79 square feet on the 2nd floor of the building known as "Cassias" constructed on Final Plot Nos. 21 & 22 of Town Planning Scheme Bandra No. IV bearing CTS Nos. F/981, F/983, F/984 and F/985 of Village Bandra, situated at Dr. Ambedkar Road, Bandra (West), Mumbai 400050 together with 2 covered car parking spaces in the basement Podium of the said Building. Dated this 13th day of August, 2024
K. K. RAMANI & Associates (Advocates)
118, Ramani Villa, 1st Road, T.P.S. IV, Bandra (W), Mumbai - 400 050

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4	3 RD FLOOR+MEZZ	16907
TOTAL		61892

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VILE-PARLE (West), Station Road, New Building 1100 Fully Furnished OFFICE Available With Parking on Rental Basis. Call: 9821665900 / 9821211128

NARIMAN Point Ownership Office For sale or rent Maker Chamber V, 7th floor, Area 460 carpet, Seaview Rent- 110000 Sale- 2.33 cr. Owner 8369633370

Available for sale/lease Om Heera Panna Mall Oshiwara, 4000 Carpet plus 2500 Terrace, 14 ft. Ht. Owner- 9930986367

INDUSTRIAL PREMISES For immediate sale in MIDC Satapur Nashik. plot 2040 sq.mtr. Factory building 14000 sq.ft. 50 HP Crane facility. M- 09423174182.

E-AUCTION NOTICE E-Auction forms are invited for disposal of "Offspec" PTA Stock Salvage packed in 349 Jumbo Bags Approx. (48.54 MT) to be sold on Per MT basis and 'As is Where is' basis, lying at M/s. MCPJ Pvt. Ltd. Vill & P.O. Bhuniarachak Via: Sutahata (Haldia) Dist: Purba Midnapore, West Bengal - 721635 Contact: Mr. Raju Lodh - 8584850111, Mr. Kushal Mazumder - 99330 23331 Mr. Subrata Ray - 62922 39298. Inspection can be done 27/08/2024 with prior appointment. Date of E auction is 28/08/2024 from 02 PM onwards E auction Form with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to be submitted latest by 27/08/2024 up to 6 PM at the auctioneer's address. E-Auction Portal is <https://thesalvagebids.com>, visit and register yourself. For inquiries please contact:- Amit Gupta - 91 850801000 Adama Goel - 8199911011 Sakshi Kataria - 9306911655 The Salvage Bids, 273, Tagore Park, Behind Canara Bank, Near Model Town, Delhi - 110009

INDUSTRIAL Premises for immediate sale in MIDC Satapur Nashik. plot 2040 sq.mtr. Factory building 14000 sq.ft. 50 HP Crane facility. M- 09423174182.

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MS AAA CORP EXIM INDIA PVT. LTD. Survey No. 265B, Village Kalamgaon, Taluka, Shahapur, Dist. Thane Maharashtra - 421601 BIDDING NO.2024-25/03/P&M

The Competent Authority invites E-bids for disposal of Fire Affected machinery and building salvage which had been damaged due to fire i.e. (fire) affected on 'As is where is' basis.

The interested bidders are advised to visit the www.justauction.in The details of the E-bidding including list of items, approximate quantity available for disposal and its pictures are displayed on the website.

Contact Person: Mr. Darshan Vora of M/s AAA Corp Exim India Pvt. Ltd. Contact No. : 9930668339 Contact No. 7011489391 Jyoti (Surveyor office)

Inspection of fire affected machinery & building can be done from 14th August 2024 to 23th August 2024 between 10.00 AM TO 04.00 PM E-bidding will be conducted on 24th August 2024 at 03.00 PM to 04.00 PM hours For Machinery & at 04.00 PM to 05.00 PM, hours for Building. hours for Building. To place your bid: For Machinery - <https://shorturl.at/HrMki> For Building - <https://shorturl.at/E8uaj> No manual offers will be accepted against E-bidding Directly.

M/S AAA CORP EXIM INDIA PVT. LTD. Directly.

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- WORLI compact 3 BHK** - 1050' carpet, 2 open parking @ 6 Cr. Breach Candy - 2 min to Derasar spacious 2 BHK - SR - 1150' old carpet 1 open parking @ 7.25 Cr 9920055511
- AT CUFFE PARADE 2 1/2** Bedroom Hall Flat AT PERSEPOLIS, Higher Floor Parking C Contact 9967633868 / 9322640065
- TEEN-BATTI** Doongersh Road 92C0' Carpet 2BHK Superb Sea View, Higher floor, 2 covered Parking 6.25 cr. Veg Society, Sole Agent 9819569688
- ALTAMOUNT** - 3000' 4 BHK : 3 Parkings, A Grade - 23.50 Cr. World One : Higher Floor, Furnished 4 BHK - 3 Parkings, 15 Cr. "Aarav" 9821231619
- BREACH-CANDY** : Expat Condition : Lease Available 3 and 4 BHK 2000 carpet' Parking - Seaview. Call : "Kishore Alreja" 9820455949
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- MAHIM** BAY View , 4 BHK for Sale , last option on hghr flr. Front side, Gated Community, opp the upcoming coastal Rd. BKP 9820303062 / 9821018184
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- JUHU** : Prime Location Commercial Space on Rent - 2100' carpet. Ideal for office / designer boutiques / doctors / corporates. Contact : 9930733366
- FOR SALE:** Office in PLENENZA Bldg, Linking Rd. Bandra W. 354 sq ft, S/E, Ideal for CA/ Dr. Price: 2.35 Cr. Sanjay Rabeja 9132038480 / 9152038481 / 9820992051
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INDUSTRIAL PREMISES For immediate sale in MIDC Satapur Nashik. plot 2040 sq.mtr. Factory building 14000 sq.ft. 50 HP Crane facility. M- 09423174182.

E-AUCTION NOTICE E-Auction forms are invited for disposal of "Offspec" PTA Stock Salvage packed in 349 Jumbo Bags Approx. (48.54 MT) to be sold on Per MT basis and 'As is Where is' basis, lying at M/s. MCPJ Pvt. Ltd. Vill & P.O. Bhuniarachak Via: Sutahata (Haldia) Dist: Purba Midnapore, West Bengal - 721635 Contact: Mr. Raju Lodh - 8584850111, Mr. Kushal Mazumder - 99330 23331 Mr. Subrata Ray - 62922 39298. Inspection can be done 27/08/2024 with prior appointment. Date of E auction is 28/08/2024 from 02 PM onwards E auction Form with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to be submitted latest by 27/08/2024 up to 6 PM at the auctioneer's address. E-Auction Portal is <https://thesalvagebids.com>, visit and register yourself. For inquiries please contact:- Amit Gupta - 91 850801000 Adama Goel - 8199911011 Sakshi Kataria - 9306911655 The Salvage Bids, 273, Tagore Park, Behind Canara Bank, Near Model Town, Delhi - 110009

INDUSTRIAL Premises for immediate sale in MIDC Satapur Nashik. plot 2040 sq.mtr. Factory building 14000 sq.ft. 50 HP Crane facility. M- 09423174182.

Grade 'A' Industrial / Warehouse Shed on Lease 50,000 to 5,00,000 Sq.Ft.

Ready To Occupy Under Construction BTS Shed Location @ Pune : Chakan - Industrial Park Talegaon - Industrial Park Pirangut - Industrial Park

MS AAA CORP EXIM INDIA PVT. LTD. Survey No. 265B, Village Kalamgaon, Taluka, Shahapur, Dist. Thane Maharashtra - 421601 BIDDING NO.2024-25/03/P&M

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Contact Person: Mr. Darshan Vora of M/s AAA Corp Exim India Pvt. Ltd. Contact No. : 9930668339 Contact No. 7011489391 Jyoti (Surveyor office)

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TEEN-BATTI Doongersh Road 92C0' Carpet 2BHK Superb Sea View, Higher floor, 2 covered Parking 6.25 cr. Veg Society, Sole Agent 9819569688

ALTAMOUNT - 3000' 4 BHK : 3 Parkings,

Vaccine adverse effects case: HC relief for Serum Institute CEOs

Nagpur: The Nagpur bench of Bombay HC on Monday granted a reprieve to Serum Institute of India (SII) CEOs Adar and Cyrus Poonawalla in a case about the alleged adverse effects of Covishield vaccine. Justice Govinda Sana issued a stay on a lower court's order of Aug 2, which had directed the framing of charges against the Poonawallas for allegedly submitting false and misleading affidavits. The HC adjourned the hearing until Aug 19, following request from senior counsel Anand Jaiswal, who was assisted by Ritesh Badhe, representing the Poonawallas, reports Vaibhav Ganjapure.

The original order stemmed from an application by senior journalist Prakash Pohare, who accused the SII directors of various offences.

Khedkar gets HC protection from arrest till Aug 21

Notice To Delhi Police, UPSC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Delhi high court on Monday granted interim protection from arrest till Aug 21 to former IAS probationer Pujja Khedkar, accused of cheating and wrongly availing OBC and disability quota benefits to join the service.

Justice Subramonium Prasad, while granting relief, issued notices to Delhi Police and the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on her anticipatory bail plea.

"...the court is of the opinion that the petitioner be not arrested till the next date of hearing," HC said, adding that Khedkar shall cooperate with the

investigation. It listed the case for further hearing on Aug 21.

During the hearing, the HC asked the police and UPSC to explain why her custody is required in the case when allegations are of "false representation" in a document.

"Why do you need her custody? The case appears to be of false representation by her in her form... Where is the question of anybody else being involved?" the court remarked. It noted that while the trial court had dealt with the alleged offence, it did not say anything on why she is not entitled to anticipatory bail. The UPSC counsel said Khedkar was "not an ordinary person" but a "mastermind" who was "influential and manipulative" even if she is not part of the system.

Tribal woman killed in Maoist blast in Sukma

Raipur: A tribal woman (27) was killed in a Maoist IED explosion in Chhattisgarh's Sukma on Sunday, a day after insurgents had apologised for the death of two minors in blasts. Six civilians—three of them kids—have been killed and nine injured in IED blasts in Bastar division this year. The actual toll may be higher as villagers are too afraid to report such cases to cops. TNN

Another Rajkot fire dept officer caught for graft

Rajkot: In yet another blot on Rajkot Municipal Corporation's (RMC) graft-tainted fire department, ACB on Monday caught in-charge chief fire officer while accepting Rs 1.8 lakh bribe to grant NOC for fitting fire-fighting equipment. Anil Maru had demanded Rs 3 lakh. He had taken charge 45 days ago following then chief officer Ilesh Kher and deputy Bhikha Theba's arrest. TNN

Engg student raped by senior in moving car

A final-year engineering student at a college affiliated with Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar University was allegedly abducted and raped in a moving car near an intersection on Agra-Delhi highway by a former student of same college, police said on Monday. A manhunt has been launched to nab the suspect. TNN

Advertisement No. 11/2024
Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of
Director (Operations)
in
Gliders India Limited (GIL)
Last date of submission of application by applicants is
06th September, 2024 (by 3:00 PM)
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is
17th September, 2024 (by 3:00 PM)
For details login to website
<https://pesb.gov.in>

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ONGC Limited invites e-bids as per details given below:-
Tender No: ZV8JC24007 for "Setting up of Captive ISTS-Connected, Co-located Wind-Solar Hybrid Power Projects with a Capacity 1000MW (500MW Solar + 500MW Wind) On Lumpsum Turnkey (LSTK) Basis anywhere in India, with Comprehensive Operation & Maintenance (O&M) for Ten (10) Years"
Details will be available in e-procurement portal for Central Public procurement portal <https://etenders.gov.in>
Any other addendum/corrigendum to this tender enquiry including change in dates, if any, will be published on the above portal only.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COOPERATIVE TRAINING (NCCT)
(An Autonomous Society Promoted by Ministry of Cooperation, Govt. of India)
3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg,
Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
Announcement for Extension of date for submission of applications.
This has reference to the advertisement dated 14.07.2024 for filling up one post of Director, VAMNICOM Pune on contract basis initially for a period of 3 years. The last date for submission of applications has now been extended to 22.08.2024 (midnight). For more details please log on to NCCT website <https://ncct.ac.in>
Deputy Director (Pers.), NCCT, New Delhi

CORRIGENDUM
Assam Skill University Project (ASUP)
In continuation of the Assam Skill University Project advertisement ref., No ASDM/ASUP/33/2022, the management has partially revised the ToR for the post of Senior Skill Manager, Procurement Executive and Communication Executive. Accordingly, interested applicants are requested to visit the ASU Website, <https://asu.ac.in> for detail corrigendum.
Further the last date of submission of application is extended till 20.08.2024, up to 5 p.m.
Ref No. ASDM/ASUP/33/2022 CEO, Assam Skill University Project
Janasanyogi/DF/768/24/13-Aug-24

CENTRAL RAILWAY
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR THE POST OF DENTAL SURGEON
Walk-in-interview will be held to engage 01 (one) Part time Dental Surgeon on Contract basis for Six Hours from Open Market for a period of one year or less from the date of contract, which can be renewed as a fresh contract on year to year basis, not extendable beyond 12 terms or till attaining the age of 65 years whichever is earlier.
Please visit for detailed notification published on website - www.cr.indianrailways.gov.in > About Us > Head Quarter > Personnel > Recruitment > Part Time Dental Surgeon (06.00 hours) - 02 of 2024.
330
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Locations/Selection guidelines uploaded in the website should be referred for details regarding the advertisement. There is no application fee. Applications and all enclosures/attachments completed in all respects must be submitted online before 23:59 hours on date: 12th September 2024 (the last date of application submission).
Any addendum/corrigendum will be posted on the website.

CENTRE FOR RAILWAY INFORMATION SYSTEMS
CRIS
Chanakypuri, New Delhi-110021
Tender No. 01245256 Subject: Supply of Software Subscription and Support of Radhat products and OEM Man Days as per Schedule of Requirement. Date of Closing: 04.09.2024 (Wednesday) at 15:30 hrs. Tender Documents can be downloaded from website www.irps.gov.in. For future modification/extensions pl. see www.irps.gov.in

CENTRAL RAILWAY
REPLACEMENT OF AGED AFTCS WITH MSDAC'S
TENDER NOTICE NO. CR/BB/S&T/East/2024/39
Divisional Railway Manager (S&T), 1st Floor, Parcel Office Building, above P.F.No.14 & 15, Central Railway, Mumbai CST-400 001, for and on behalf of the President of India invites Single tenders from the reputed contractors. The time, date and submission of tender up to 15:00 Hrs on 30.08.2024 and will be opened at 15:15 Hrs on the same day. Name of work: Replacement of aged AFTCS with MSDAC's in section of Sr DSTE East, Mumbai Division, Central Railway. Approximate Cost: Rs. 13.72/- Crore. EMD: Rs. 836300/- Date of Opening: 30.08.2024. Validity: 60 day. Completion Period: 12 Months. This tender complies with Public Procurement Policy (Make in India) Order 2017, dated 15/06/2017. Complete details of tenders are available at Central Railway, Official website www.irps.gov.in. The complete tender documents can be downloaded from the website. The complete details of tenders are also available in the "Notice Board" of the Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)'s Office, Mumbai CST. 328
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BIHAR IT POLICY 2024
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Or
Interest Subvention Subsidy - 10% Interest Subvention up to 50% of project cost or ₹40 Crore whichever is lower, for 5 years
- 50%** Lease Rental Subsidy - 50 % subsidy of the lease rental amount for 5 years
- 25%** Energy Bill Subsidy - Annual reimbursement of 25% of Energy Bill for 5 years
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Extract of Statement of Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter ended 30th June 2024

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended			Year Ended
		30 th June 2024 (Unaudited)	31 st March 2024 (Audited)	30 th June 2023 (Unaudited)	31 st March 2024 (Audited)
(I)	Revenue From Operations	67,656.33	64,731.16	66,738.76	2,66,445.84
(II)	Net Profit for the period (before Tax and Exceptional items)	15,768.31	17,173.21	15,512.77	64,121.04
(III)	Net Profit for the period before Tax (after Exceptional items)	15,768.31	17,173.21	15,512.77	64,121.04
(IV)	Net Profit for the period after Tax (after Exceptional items)	15,768.31	17,173.21	15,512.77	64,121.04
(V)	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [comprising Profit for the period after tax and Other Comprehensive Income after tax]	15,891.43	17,290.87	15,581.38	64,524.82
(VI)	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Rs. 10/- Per Share)	1,30,685.06	1,30,685.06	1,30,685.06	1,30,685.06
(VII)	Other Equity Excluding Revaluation Reserves as per balance sheet	3,77,037.04	3,61,100.61	3,31,698.13	3,61,100.61
(VIII)	Net Worth	5,07,722.10	4,91,785.67	4,62,383.19	4,91,785.67
(IX)	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	40,70,310.55	41,20,321.01	41,00,999.03	41,20,321.01
(X)	Debt Equity Ratio	8.02	8.38	8.87	8.38
(XI)	Earning Per Share (of Rs. 10 each)				
	- Basic (Rs.)	1.21	1.32	1.19	4.91
	- Diluted (Rs.)	1.21	1.32	1.19	4.91

Notes:
1 The above financial results have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved and taken on record by the Board of Directors at their respective meeting held on 12th August 2024.
2 The above is an extract of the detailed format for the quarter ended 30th June 2024 financial results filed with the stock exchange under Regulation 33 & Regulation 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the quarter ended 30 June 2024 financial results is available on the website of the stock exchanges (www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com) and the website of the Company (<https://irfc.co.in>).
3 Previous periods figures have been regrouped/rearranged wherever considered necessary.
4 Shareholders holding shares in dematerialized mode are requested to update their records such as tax residential status, and permanent account number (PAN), mobile numbers and other details with the relevant depositories through their depository participants. Shareholders holding shares in physical mode are requested to furnish details to the Company's Registrar and Share Transfer Agent, M/s Beetal Financial & Computer Services (P) Ltd at irfc@beetalfinancial.com. Member(s) are also requested to register/update their E-mail ID with company at investors@irfc.co.in/Depository participants/Company's Registrar & Share Transfer Agent at irfc@beetalfinancial.com which will be used for sending official documents through e-mail in future.
5 Shareholders are requested to claim their unpaid/unclaimed dividend, if any by writing to Company at its Registered Office or email at investors@irfc.co.in or to R&TA of the Company at irfcinvestors@beetalmail.com. Dividends if not encashed for a consecutive period of seven (7) years lying with the Companies unpaid dividend accounts, are liable to be transferred to the Investor Education and Protection Fund ("IEPF") along with the shares in respect of such unclaimed dividends.

Place: New Delhi
Date: 12th August 2024
Sd/-
(Usha Venugopal)
Chairman and Managing Director (Addnl. Charge) and CEO
DRN: 10725298

Important Notice: Investors are requested to take note of dispute resolution mechanism i.e., firstly with the Company/RTA, in case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution provided by the Company/RTA then on SCORES platform at www.scores.gov.in, after exhausting these options if the investor is still not satisfied then on common Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) Portal at <https://smartodr.in/login>. Alternatively, the investor can initiate dispute resolution through the ODR Portal if the grievance lodged with the concerned Market Participant was not satisfactorily resolved or at any stage of the subsequent escalations mentioned above (prior to or at the end of such escalation/s). Investors may refer to the modalities and operational guidelines of the ODR Portal as provided in the SEBI Master Circular No. SEBI/HO/OIAE/OIAE_IAD-1/P/CIR/2023/145.

BJP, Cong Continue To Trade Charges Over Hindenburg's Sebi Claims

Soros-backed oppn plot to destabilise India, says BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP on Monday slammed Congress and other opposition parties for endorsing short-seller Hindenburg's attack on Sebi and questioning resilience of Indian stock market.

"After being rebuffed by the people of India, Congress party, its allies and the toolkit gang have conspired to usher in economic anarchy in India. Hindenburg report is released on Saturday, there is uproar on Sunday so the capital market is destabilised on Monday," senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said.

He said Congress and other opposition parties were trying to destabilise the country at the behest of Hindenburg, which has Soros as its main investor.



File photo of the Bombay Stock Exchange building in Mumbai

burg, which has Soros as its main investor. Emphasising that the currency speculator, who has been funding protests in different parts of the world, Prasad said, "Whose investment is there in Hindenburg? Do you know this

gentleman George Soros who regularly runs propaganda against India... He is the main investor." The attack was amplified by Union ministers Jyotiraditya Scindia and Giriraj Singh. What further elevated the mood was Rahul Gand-

hi's post on X about "significant risk in Indian market" in view of Hindenburg's charge of nexus between the market regulator and Adani group.

Party circles, surprised by Rahul's comment, interpreted it as part of "plot" to create chaos and happily pointed out that Sensex's resilience on Monday showed investors rebuffed "opposition's tactic".

BJP social media head Amit Malviya drew attention to Rahul's assets as disclosed in poll nomination papers. "If he is so convinced about the compromised nature of our markets, why is he personally invested? He holds 43% of his total declared assets in Indian stock market. That's a lot of faith. As on March 15, 2024, he owned shares worth Rs 4.3 crore, held mutual funds totalling up to Rs 3.8 crore and had invested Rs 15 lakh in gold bonds," Malviya said.

SC slams UP CM secretariat for delay in deciding on remission plea

New Delhi: Taking exception to Uttar Pradesh chief minister secretariat not accepting and processing a file for premature release of a prisoner on grounds that the model code of conduct was in force during general elections, the Supreme Court on Monday sought to know the name of the officer who was responsible as it had specifically ordered that model code of conduct is not a hindrance in taking the decision, reports Amit Anand Choudhary.

The court had on April 10 asked UP to consider a permanent remission plea of a life term convict who had already spent more than 14 years in jail and granted it six weeks' time. The matter came up for hearing after 12 weeks on July 7 but the state again sought time of two weeks. The court granted it time with a warning that contempt of court proceedings would be initiated in case of non-compliance.

The apex court noted that it was not the first instance where there had been delay in taking decision on premature release of prisoners. In other cases also the court had said that such approach of the govt was not acceptable.

Woman or OBC face? Speculation rife over new BJP president

From P 1

The meeting, a periodic interaction between the netas, came ahead of a crucial coordination meeting of RSS in Palakkad, Kerala, from Aug 31 to Sep 2.

Sources said the senior BJP and RSS functionaries also discussed other issues, including attacks on Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh, an issue on which the saffron fountainhead has expressed concern and the PM has also asked the interim govt to ensure safety of Hindus in the neighbouring country.

Sources said that "RSS consent" will be crucial to nominate the next party president for which the process should have started by now as Nadda is also

holding charge of the ministries of health and chemicals & fertilisers in the Modi cabinet.

As a large number of functionaries, who had long stints in crucial party posts, have been inducted into the Union govt, the party and RSS decision-makers are said to be exploring someone from a "grassroots politics" background for the next BJP chief. There is also speculation that the next party president could be a woman or an OBC. BJP has never had a woman president and passing the baton to a woman is said to be an ideal call in view of the implementation of women's quota in Parliament and state assemblies likely before Lok Sabha polls in 2029.

PM Modi lauds community steps to protect jumbos

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on World Elephant Day on Monday emphasised the importance of community efforts to protect elephants and underlined his govt's commitment to ensure secure habitat for jumbos.



World Elephant Day is an occasion to appreciate the wide range of community efforts to protect elephants. We reaffirm our commitment to ensuring a conducive habitat for them. In India, elephants are linked to our culture and history, too. It's gladdening that over the last few years, their numbers have been on the rise," PM said on X.

The country has nearly 30,000 wild elephants and about 3,600 captive ones. TNN

Sonia condoles death of ex-EAM Natwar Singh

New Delhi: Congress Parliamentary Party head Sonia Gandhi on Monday condoled the demise of former external affairs minister Natwar Singh saying he made "important contributions to national affairs" and that he will be missed by "a wide circle of friends".



In a letter to Singh's wife Heminder Kumari, Gandhi said, "He has been your life's companion and losing him must be painful for you." Referring to Singh, she said that "he had a full life with diverse interests. He was active in many spheres and made important contributions to national affairs... I send my sincere condolences to you and your family," Gandhi said. TNN

Cong seeks Sebi chief's ouster, Adani probe

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress on Monday demanded the resignation of Sebi chairperson Madhabi Buch and urged the Supreme Court to transfer the Adani probe to CBI or a special investigation team "given the likelihood of Sebi's compromise".

Reiterating its demand that a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) be convened without delay to probe full extent of the scam, Congress leaders threatened to launch a nationwide stir with INDIA bloc parties if its JPC demand was not met. The party rejected BJP's

allegation that Congress and its leader Rahul Gandhi were trying to create "economic anarchy in the country and destabilise the market". Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh told TOI it was "not worth responding to such pathetically puerile posturing".

Congress on Sunday said that Sebi had sought to project an "image of hyperactivity" by citing the large number of summons issued, letters and emails sent out and documents examined. Ramesh described these as tactics to divert attention. Pointing out that the SC

had directed Sebi in March last year to "expeditiously conclude the investigation", the party said, "The fact is that Sebi's seeming inability to close two of its 24 investigations delayed publication of its findings for over a year."

Ramesh alleged that "this delay conveniently allowed the prime minister to navigate an entire general election without addressing his role in facilitating his close friend's illicit activities".

"The illusion that the Sebi chairperson and her husband had separated their finances has been shattered by the revelation that after joining Sebi, she transacted in the fund

from her personal email account on Feb 25, 2018," Ramesh claimed. "Clearly, no institution is sacrosanct in Amrit Kaal. Did the Sebi chairperson recuse herself from Adani investigations?" he asked.

Party general secretary K C Venugopal said, "PM's silence on the matter amounts to destruction of credibility. Don't try to threaten Rahul Gandhi with an ED notice."

Congress's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Goel added, "It's now clear that this decision was taken to save the govt from answering the INDIA bloc's demand for a JPC to probe the Sebi-Adani relationship."

Independent news creators a concern

From P 1

The proposed legislation, aimed to overhaul the regulations framework governing broadcasting services in India, has raised concerns over treating independent news creators as broadcasters. Originally, the remit was to be limited to OTT platforms and digital news, but it was later expanded to include social media accounts as well, reports said.

Prabin.Kalita @timesofindia.com

Guwahati: Union govt has directed Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur to accelerate efforts in fencing their sections of the India-Myanmar border to prevent illegal immigration, militant activity, and drug trafficking through the porous boundary. The fencing move is also viewed as crucial for internal security and maintaining demographic integrity.

The 1,643-km international border is shared by Arunachal (520km), Nagaland (215), Manipur (398), and Mizoram (510). Currently, only 10km of the border in Manipur is fenced. In Feb, Union home minister Amit Shah announced plans for fencing the entire border, leading to protests in Mizoram and Nagaland. The recent directive from the Centre excludes Nagaland and Mizoram due to their opposition. "Two pilot projects of fencing through a hybrid surveillance system are under execution. They will fence a stretch of 1km each in Arunachal and Manipur," Shah had said.

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OUR BELOVED CA Rajnikant Chokshi Founding Partner Chokshi & Chokshi LLP Past Chairman WIRC of ICAI Chairman Shree Gandevi Lad Unnati Fund 17.3.1941 - 12.8.2024 Prayer Meeting on 13th August 2024 - Tuesday Sophia Bhabha Hall, Breach Candy, Mumbai 5:00pm - 7:30pm Fondly Remembered & Cherished By Ananta Chokshi CA Kanu & Raksha Chokshi CA (Dr.) Mitil & CA Nandita, CA Sapna & CA Sandeep CA Hardik, Kirati & Shamit Vilasben, Ushaben, Jayuben, Saryuben & Dhartiaben CA Priyanshi, CA Parsh, Harit, Sharvil, Naisha, Riana Chandanben Shantilal Tapidas Chokshi Parivar Vidyanben Dhiraajlal Chunilal Marfatia Parivar Team of Chokshi & Chokshi LLP

A woman who was creative, empathetic and had a heart of gold. Celebrating the life of Rachita Kapur Date: Wednesday 14.08.2024 Time: 5.30pm - 6.30pm Venue: Jai Hind College, A Road, Churchgate, Mumbai Wife of Mr. Ajay Kapur Mother of: Akshay, Ishaan and Aashna Daughter of: Shiv Parkash Sister of: Benu Parkash Sister in Law of: Pami - Lalit, Vikram - Ritu, Venita - Sandro

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCES Happy 100th Birthday Aleyamma Kurian, Sion 13.08.1924 - 06.04.2005 She lived a life filled with purpose, love, & compassion. Her kindness & generosity touched many, & her spirit continues to inspire us. Though she is no longer with us, her legacy lives on in our hearts, guiding us each day. We miss you, Mom. Abrahams, Ninans, Kurians & Varghese

6th DEATH ANNIVERSARY In Loving Memory of ARNOLD ADOLF CASTELINO You will always be in our hearts and our prayers, we miss you and fondly remember you in every moment of our life. From Mom, Dad, Brother, Relatives & Friends.

CALLED TO GLORY Romans 14:8: "Therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." Cheryl Fernandes Aged 65 years, Beloved wife of late Dr. Edrich Fernandes; Mother of Nisha/Jerry and Nathan/Melinda; Grandmother of Isabella and Benjamin. Beloved Sister of Luke, Yvonne, and Jennifer. Funeral leaves from 11 Rockdale 2, 38 B Rebbelo, Bandra (W). Service and Burial: Today, 4 PM at Teachers Colony, Christian Cemetry, Bandra (E).

SAD DEMISE Harshvardhan Shah 13 August 1977 10th August 2024 With profound grief and sorrow we regret to announce the sad demise of our beloved Mr. Harshvardhan Kiran Shah, son of Mrs. Haku Sakarchand Shah. Address: 5, Green Fields, 134-Maharshi Karve Marg, Opp. Oval Maidan Mumbai- 400 020.

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|| जय स्वामीनारायण || Harshad (Raja Bhai) Lohana Aug 20, 1941 - Aug 9, 2024 Founder MD - Alert Packaging House Erstwhile Hon. Secy & Treasurer - BMPA We Gather, in Prayer, for his Graceful Passage Prarthana Sabha AUG 13 | 5PM - 7PM Hall Of Culture - Nehru Planetarium Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Mumbai 400018 Forever cherished by Ela (Wife) Anoopama & Brijesh (Daughter in Law & Son) Our Lohana, Ramji-Ebjee, Curumsey Damji, Thakkar, Kamat, Castelino, Kapoor, Dwivedi Parivaars Our Soul Families of Samir A Nerurkar, Dr. Vikrant Shah, Rajeev Khandelwal, Hamin Balapora, Sumit Surve, Vikram Abrol. SWAMINARAYAN GURUKUL PARIVAR SAMIRA HABITATS, ALERT PACKAGING HOUSE

~ In loving memory ~ DR. K.V. CHAUBAL Passed away peacefully on 11th August 2024 ~ Fondly Remembered By ~ Mrs. Mandakini Chaubal Shree, Jyoti, Himanee Sudhesh, Shashank Nitish & Girija Sumedh & Fatema Neha, Neel NO CONDOLENCE VISITS PLEASE

DEATH ANNIVERSARY 1st Death Anniversary In loving memory of CLARA ABRANCHES 11.11.1944 - 13.08.2023 You will forever remain alive in our hearts and memories. Your loving daughters and grand daughters

SAD DEMISE With profound grief We inform about the Sad Demise of Mr. Bhagwan K Ramchandani on 12th August 2024. Marka ceremony will be held at Khatwari Darbar, Khar West on 14th August 2024 from 5.30 - 8.00 pm Rani, Gautam, Manan Ramchandani and Vanita & Jani Mirchandani

SAD DEMISE DR ZULICA MARIA BARRETTO With deep sorrow in our hearts we regret to announce the sad demise of Dr. Zulica Maria Barretto (aka Fernandes Lobo), Wife of Leslie Barretto, late Francis Fernandes, late Thomas Lobo. Mother of Glenn/Melanie, Elroy/Eroica, Deborah/ Suresh and Tamara/Jon who died at her residence on 11-8-24. A self-made woman who struggled her way up by hard work, honesty and integrity always remembered for her compassion and empathy. Her style was sharp and witty, original, energetic and generously warm in hospitality. Funeral details: Mass at Mount Carmel Church at 4 pm on 13.08.2024 followed by Burial at St Andrews Church Bandra. Live Streaming link https://www.youtube.com/live/yVj02K8917si=wD9Q5jmgso3no

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Outages, water crunch hit HP as rain refuses to abate, 2 die

Vehicle With 12 Washed Away, 1 Person Rescued

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kullu: Around 197 roads were closed, many areas plunged into darkness, and water supply schemes hit in Himachal Pradesh on Monday, as rains continue to lash the state through the day.

A woman (26) and her nine-year-old nephew were killed after they were hit by boulders in Prautha village of Chamba district on Monday.

According to state emergency operation centre, hea-



LIFE DERAILED: A waterlogged road in Jaipur on Monday

vy rain and landslides forced 66 roads to stay closed in Shimla district, 58 in Sirmaur, 33 in Mandi, 26 in Kullu, five in Lahaul-Spiti, apart from some in Kinnaur. As many as 211 distribution transformers regions were disrupted on Monday and 143 water supply schemes were

affected across the state.

Chandigarh-Manali highway was reopened at 9 Mile in Mandi, but only one-way traffic was allowed. Apurv Devgan, deputy commissioner of Mandi, said keeping highway open at 9 Mile became a challenge.

Meanwhile, an SUV with

20 dead in rain-linked cases in Raj since Sun

Incessant showers, especially in Jaipur and Bharatpur divisions, have caused 20 deaths in rain-related mishaps in Rajasthan since Sunday. Rescue teams are working round the clock to evacuate people from flooded areas and provide them with food, water and medical aid. State govt has appealed to people to avoid venturing out. **TNN**

12 on-board was washed away on A-Punjab border in flash flood on Sunday. While nine bodies were recovered, one person was rescued and two are still missing.

Video of woman scrubbing pistols leads to arms bust

Bhopal: A social media video of a woman scrubbing country-made pistols in soap and water has led to a major fire-arms bust, barely 18km from Morena district headquarters in Madhya Pradesh. Police raided a house in Ganeshpura village and arrested the woman's husband and father-in-law. A large cache of illegal pistols and semi-finished fire-arms was seized.

Police verified the video, identified the woman and raided the house Friday night. The woman's husband, Shakti Kapoor Sakhwar, and father-in-law, Biharilal, were captured while trying to escape. The raid led to the seizure of several pistols of 315 and 32-bore from Shakti. Materials and machinery used for producing weapons were found in the house. **TNN**

Odisha ex-DG's son, guilty of raping German woman, dies of cancer

Riyan.Ramanath
@timesofindia.com

Bhubaneswar: Bitihotra Mohanty, who was convicted for raping a German woman in Alwar, Rajasthan, in 2006, died at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar on Monday.

Son of former Odisha DG Bidya Bhusan Mohanty, the 41-year-old Biti was undergoing treatment for stomach cancer.

Biti had been granted bail by Supreme Court on Mar 31, 2017, in connection with the rape case. But on June 5 this year, he was asked to surrender before the police. His cancer was diagnosed on Oct 3 last year.

"Bitihotra was under treatment for cancer. He had

received chemotherapy and was being monitored. While undergoing treatment, he died on Sunday night," said AIIMS-Bhubaneswar superintendent Dilip Parida.

Biti, then 25, was sentenced to seven years in jail by a fast-track court in Alwar. Biti had been granted a 14-day parole in Nov 2006. But he jumped parole and was absconding till he was re-arrested from Kerala's Kanur in Mar 2013, where he had got a job in a bank under a fake identity as Raghav Rajan. By producing fake documents, he had managed to appear for an examination and secured the job. In May, the SC rejected Biti's plea for early release and asked him to surrender in Cuttack.

'US woman tied to tree suffered financial crisis'

Navi Mumbai: US national found chained to a tree in Sindhudurg last month is unmarried, and did not have a job here, her brother has told Sindhudurg police. Her mother used to send her money but stopped around six months ago, he added.

Lalita Kai (49), who has been staying in India for the past 10 years and is said to be suffering from mental health issues, will be at Ratnagiri mental hospital for two more weeks.

Ratnagiri mental hospital superintendent Dr Sanghamitra Phule said, "Her visa expired around Feb 2024. Her mother stopped sending money. She was suffering from hallucinations and depression. Financial crisis paired with unemployment and expired visa aggravated her problems." Phule added that a duplicate passport is being obtained for her. **TNN**

'No Maha prison allows solitary confinement'

Mumbai: State govt on Monday informed Bombay high court that as per law, no prison in Maharashtra follows the system of solitary confinement, but prisoners convicted of heinous crimes were kept separately from others.

Public prosecutor Hiten Venegaonkar told a division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Prithviraj Chavan that persons convicted for heinous offences, such as bomb blasts and so on, were separated from other inmates. Venegaonkar said there is a distinction between solitary confinement and kept separately from other convicts. **PTI**

Convict kills guard, escapes Hazaribag hosp

Hazaribag: A prisoner serving life imprisonment for murder and rape escaped from Sheikh Bikhari Medical College and Hospital in Hazaribag, Jharkhand, after killing the cop who was deployed to guard him early Sunday. Shahid Ansari from Chas-nala in Dhanbad, was undergoing treatment at the hospital for an injured leg. SP Arvind Kumar Singh has alerted police stations in Dhanbad, Hazaribag and Giridih districts to track Ansari's escape route. Raids are on to locate the fugitive. **TNN**

SC warns of action if healthcare professions law not implemented

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday set a two-month deadline for Union and state govt to establish national commission and state councils under National Commission for Allied and Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) Act, 2021 and said failure would force the court to take coercive action.

The SC bench took the Centre to task for not filing its affidavit in response to its Sep 22, 2023 notice on a PIL filed by Joint Forum of Medical Technologists of India. Additional solicitor general Vikramjit Banerje-

SC rejects lawyer's challenge to tax assessment of funds received from US

In a setback to advocate Ritwick Dutta of Lawyers Initiative for Environment (LIFE), the SC on Monday dismissed his challenge to income tax assessment of funds received from US-based 'EarthJustice', which were camouflaged as legal fees but used for opposing thermal power plant projects in India. "Funds made available by EarthJustice are apparently being used for objects other than the approved objects of LIFE and for activities such as for litigation against coal power plants in India," the I-T department told the court. **TNN**

e's request for two weeks to file response was brushed aside by the court.

The bench said mushrooming of institutions providing courses in allied and healthcare aspects of medical treatment is worrisome

and absence of a regulatory body, despite the enactment of parliamentary law, was even more inexplicable. "Both the Union and state govs have failed to discharge their duties," the bench recorded in its order.

Rape accused can't be behind bars without trial progress: HC

Vaibhav.Ganajure@timesofindia.com

Nagpur: Bombay high court's Nagpur bench stated that constitutional protection under Article 21—right to speedy trial—apply uniformly to all accused, irrespective of gravity of the charge. The court's reiteration of the principle came while granting bail to Dattatray Shejole, accused of kidnapping and raping a minor, citing inordinate delay in trial.

Justice Urmila Joshi-Phalke, who presided over the case, emphasised that if the govt or prosecuting agency, including the judiciary, cannot ensu-

re the fundamental right to a speedy trial as mandated by Article 21 of the Constitution, they should not oppose bail pleas merely on grounds of seriousness of the crime. "Article 21 applies irrespective of the nature of the crime," she asserted.

'ART 21 APPLIES EQUALLY'

Shejole's counsel argued that his client had been detained for nearly two years without progress in trial. The HC had earlier granted liberty to Shejole to file for bail if trial did not commence within six months.

Can't constrict accused by barring them from moving HC, SC told

From P 1

The three-judge benches of the SC in their judgments of 2014 and 2017 had said if any accused wanted to challenge an order of the trial court, then they would have to move the SC directly. In doing so, the SC had followed an earlier judgment that had cancelled illegal allocation of 2G spectrum to private parties on a first-come-first-served basis.

The intent of the court was to prevent accused in both 2G scam and coal scam from impeding the trial process by moving the HC and had kept only the forum of SC open for them.

Appearing for some accused, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi said the right of the accused, who are presumed innocent till pronounced guilty, could not be constricted by barring them from moving the jurisdictional HC under Section 482 of Criminal Procedure Code to appeal against or-



ders of the trial court. Though the SC had taken care to stop accused from delaying trial by moving the top court, the stay it granted on April 1, 2015, to the summons issued by a trial court to former PM Manmohan Singh in the alleged irregular allocation of Talabira-II coal block in Odisha to Hindalco in 2005 has not come up for hearing even once. On April 1, 2015, the SC had stayed the summons and admitted the appeals filed by Singh and five other accused.

The SC had said, "Since certain important substantial questions of law as well as constitutional validity of Section 13(1)(d)(iii) of Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 are raised in the petitions, we are of the view that these matters require examination." SC had also stayed further proceedings in the case before the trial court.

The bench posted the matter for further hearing on Aug 19.

Thinktank slams attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh

Mumbai: City-based think-tank Indian Muslims for Secular Democracy (IMSD) has condemned attacks on life and property of Bangladeshis Hindus, reports Mohammed Wajihuddin. In a statement, IMSD convenor Javed Anand and over 50 other eminent citizens including lyricist Javed Akhtar, actor-activist Shabana Azmi, and filmmaker Anand Patwardhan have slammed the targeting of minorities.

"In the anarchic situa-

tion that prevails in the country, fearing for their lives, a large number of Hindus living close to border have been attempting to cross over to India, leaving behind their homes, businesses, and motherland," they said.

"The attack on temples, Hindu homes and businesses, and targeting of Rahul Ananda's secular musical space is a clear indication that some fanatical Islamist groups are pursuing their own intolerant agenda," the release said.

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Time: 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM
Course Content: Project Management Basics, Project Integration Management, Project Time Management, Project Scope Management, Project Cost Management, Project Risk Management, Project Quality Management, Project Procurement Management, Project Communications Management, Project Stakeholder Management, Professional Responsibilities. More Topic.
Fees: Rs. 3,000/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)
FREE PAYMENT ONLY IN MSME TDC CDGI ACCOUNT
Coordinator: 8603769900, 9818528498
Government of India certificate will be awarded

CENTRE FOR RAILWAY INFORMATION SYSTEMS
Chanakya Park, New Delhi - 110021
Industry Consultation for CCTV systems in Rolling Stock of IR-Locomotives (CVRS with RDAS), Coaches (CCTVSS) & EMU/MEMU. Industry Consultation Meeting on CCTV systems in Rolling Stock of Indian Railway-Locomotives (CVRS with RDAS), Coaches (CCTVSS) & EMU/MEMU is being convened at CRIS. The meeting will take place at Railway Club, SP Marg, New Delhi on 20th August 2024 (Tuesday) at 11.00 am. The discussion will be focused on the following items:-
1. Security auditing & testing of Camera by STOC in compliance with Gazette Notification dated 6 March, 2024 issued by MPT.
2. Comprehensive Security auditing & testing of NVR/VRU and RDAS.
3. Technical specifications/requirements for CCTV surveillance system.
4. Any other issues to be highlighted by OEMs of CCTV camera/NVR. OEMs of CCTV Surveillance system are hereby invited to participate in the above meeting.
CRIS/New Delhi

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TUBERCULOSIS AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES
(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Sri Aurobindo Marg, Near Qutab Minar, New Delhi-110030
No. : I/12396/2024 Dated : 12.08.2024
SHOW CAUSE NOTICE
1. **WHEREAS**, Mohd. Iqbal Wani, S/o Sh. Manzoor Ahmad Wani, resident of New Colony Kanihama, Tehsil Beerwa, Dist. Budgam, P/O Magam, State - Jammu & Kashmir - 193401, while working as HMTS Sanitation in this Institute, is absent from his duty since 17.12.2018 without any prior information/permission.
2. **AND WHEREAS**, an Inquiry under Rule 14 of the Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1965 was instituted against Mohd. Iqbal Wani, HMTS Sanitation and Sh. Vijay Bhatt was appointed as Inquiry Authority vide office order No. Adm.2/2019/HMTS(S)-98/2527-2528 dated 24.07.2019. The Inquiry was completed and Inquiry Authority had submitted his report on 01.12.2022.
3. **AND WHEREAS**, on a careful consideration of the Inquiry Report, the Disciplinary Authority has provisionally come to the conclusion that Mohd. Iqbal Wani, HMTS Sanitation, is not a fit person to be retained in service and accordingly proposes to impose on him the penalty of "Termination of Service" under Rule 11 of CCS (CCA) conduct Rules, 1965.
4. **AND WHEREAS**, a show cause notice No.2016 dated 10.12.2022, Reminder Show Cause Notice No.I/7428/2023 dated 11.01.2023 and Reminder Show Cause Notice No.I/9457 dated 21.09.2023 were sent by post at his known address calling upon him to submit his defense, if any, in writing against the penalty proposed. However, no reply to the said show cause Notice has been received till date.
5. **NOW THEREFORE**, Mohd. Iqbal Wani, HMTS Sanitation is hereby given a last opportunity of making representation on the penalty proposed above. Any representation which he may wish to make against the penalty proposed will be considered by the Disciplinary Authority. Such a representation, if any, should be made in writing and submitted to reach the Disciplinary Authority not later than **Ten Days** from the date of publication of this Notice.
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Eminent Nagar, Agra - 202006 (E.P.)
Export-Import Management & Procedures
Course Contents: Export & Import Procedures, Foreign Trade Policy and Procedures, The Documents in Export & Import, Terms of Payment including Letter of Credit, Export Promotion Councils role, Marine Insurance, Credit risk coverage by ECGC, Shipping line and customs, Customs Duty Calculation, INCOTERMS, Warehousing, Port, Freight Calculation, Incentives related to Exports.
Date: 19,20,21,22,23rd Aug 24
Time: 06.00 P.M. - 09.00 P.M.
Fees: 3540/- (Inclusive of GST)
5 Days (week-days) Online Training Program
For more Details: 9600776611, 8667359360, 7358887633
E-Certificate will be Awarded

A TIMES INTERNET INITIATIVE
ET THE ECONOMIC TIMES RAJASTHAN BUSINESS SUMMIT & AWARDS
DECODING OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEXT DECADE
5-6 SEPTEMBER 2024 MARRIOTT HOTEL, JAIPUR
ESTEMED SPEAKERS
Indra Dev Narayan, Chairman and Managing Director, Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.
P R Sharma, Chief Executive Officer, Rajasthan Exports Promotion Council
CA Anil Agrawal, Managing Director, NAV India
P R Jaishankar, Managing Director, IIFCL
Sushma Rawat, Director, Exploration, ONGC Ltd.
Kanika Kalra, Director & Head, Jaipur, Bureau of Indian Standards
Uttam Lal, Director, Exploration, NHPC Ltd.
Ashok Kumar Pandey, General Manager, SIDBI
Anand Rathi, Founder and Group Chairman, Anand Rathi Group
Maharaj Kumar Sahib Lakshyaraj Singhji Mewar, Executive Director, Historic Resort Hotels Pvt. Ltd.
Rupinder Brar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India
M.Nagaraju, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India
Rohit Kansal, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
Anurag Bhushan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India
Sanket S Bhondve, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & IT, Govt. of India
Dr Manashvi Kumar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
Kiran Gopal Vaska, Joint Secretary, NHA, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
Ateesh Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India
Ashok Patni, State Convener & Vice Chairman, NAREDCO Rajasthan
Gopal Prasad Gupta, Chairman, CREDAI Rajasthan
Mehul Maheshwari, Managing Director, Upasna Group
Nand Kishore Gupta, Chairman, Mangalam Group
Prof Ashok Banerjee, Director, IIM Udaipur
Dr. Prafulla Agnihotri, Director, IIM Sirmaur
Prof. R. Nagarajan, IIM Amritsar
Dr. Ashok Gupta, Chancellor, IIS (Deemed to be University), Jaipur
Vineeta Rohera, Vice President, Gandhinagar University, Gandhinagar, Jaipur
Prof. Rahul Banerjee, Director, The LNM Institute of Information Technology, Jaipur
For More Information, Scan the QR code or visit www.b2b.economictimes.indiatimes.com/business-summit-rajasthan
For More Details: Call +91 7340387982 | kartik.sharma@timesinternet.in Call +91 9911306303 | gaurav.arora@timesinternet.in

TRAIN OF
EVENTS

1922 | Violence in Chauri Chaura, Gorakhpur, on Feb 4, forces Mahatma Gandhi to call off the Non-Cooperation Movement. Ramprasad Bismil opposes Gandhi at Congress's convention in Gaya (Bihar) in Dec. Bismil meets Sachindra Nath Sanyal to float Hindustan Republican Army



1923 | First meeting of HRA held in Kanpur

Oct 1924 | National convention of HRA held. Members embrace forced contribution formula to fund activities and operations

Aug 7, 1925 | Group reaches Lucknow, puts up at Chhedilal Dharamshala

Aug 8, 1925 | First attempt to execute plan fails. Team returns to base



Aug 10, 1925 | Kakori Action makes headlines



Sep 26, 1925 | First arrest made



April 6, 1927 | Judgment pronounced. Members lodged in different jails



Dec 17, 1927 | Rajendranath Lahiri hanged

Dec 19, 1927 | Bismil, Roshan Singh & Ashfaqullah hanged

April-June 1927 | Many revolutionaries proceed on hunger strike; demand they should be treated as 'political prisoners'

Feb 27, 1931 | Chandrashekhar Azad shoots self

Design: Anant Pal

A TRAIN HOLD-UP THAT TURNED
WHEELS OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE

Shailvee.Sharda@timesofindia.com

It was in the first week of Aug, exactly 99 years ago, when a group of 10 young men checked into Chhedilal Dharamshala in Aminabad, Lucknow, with a plan up their sleeves. They reached Charbagh railway station for a final recce and then returned to their base.

On Aug 8, they reached the Kakori station on foot but as soon as they reached the platform, they saw the 8 Down train zipping away.

Some of them argued in sheer disbelief that it was "not their train", even one of them saying, "A train in India could not be so regular".

However, a smarter one rushed to the platform reception and broke the bad news that it was their train, leaving the members sulking. They were late by 10 minutes.

Team leader Ram Prasad Bismil was quick to realise that the task in their hand was too different from the regular village hold-ups they were used to and required precision and synchronization to a degree of which the group was not fully capable. They retreated to their base and improvised the plan.

The next day (Aug 9), they decided to take no chances and left Lucknow to reach the previous station and boarded the train.

On Day 1, they missed the train by 10 minutes and had to abort their plan. On Day 2, they decided not to take chances. TOI takes you down memory lane to a historic event that took place 99 years ago



HEROES ALL: Revolutionaries involved in Kakori Train Action (from 1-17) Jogeshchandra Chatterjee, Premkrishna Khanna, Mukundilal, Vishnusharan Dublish, Sureshchandra Bhattacharya, Ramkrishna Khatri, Manmathnath Gupta, Rajkumar Sinha, Thakur Roshan Singh, Ram Prasad Bismil, Rajendranath Lahiri, Govindcharan Kar, Ramdulare Trivedi, Ramnath Pandey, Sachindranath Sanyal, Bhupendranath Sanyal and Pranvesh Kumar Chatterjee

rushed towards the engine while another headed to overpower the guard and take charge of the railway treasury. Carrying Germany-made Mauser pistols, they were quick to overpower the guard who was made to lie down on his belly. Two men stood on each side of the railway line while another group pushed out the heavy iron safe carrying railway collections from the stations on the route. Two of them who carried a huge hammer and chisel got into action on the safe.

Passengers were being told in Hindustani that the men did not intend to harm them and that they were only after govt property. They were asked neither to come out of the carriages nor to protrude their necks from inside the compartments. From time to time, bullets were sent flying to ensure cooperation from passengers.

Everything was progressing as planned. After some time, the men trying to break open the safe felt the need for a bigger hammer. Fearing

that the plan would be foiled if the safe did not open, the well-built Ashfaq handed over the Mauser to his young fellow Manmathnath. He took up the hammer and began to work with full force. Just at this time, when they imagined success was round the corner, the rumbling of an approaching train was heard. The headlight of the other train left them with questions... Could they have got the news of a train hold-up? Has there been foul play or betrayal? What if it was a military train?

The possibilities left them chilled to the marrow. A few minutes later, commitment to the cause took over and all decided to face what may come. Ram Prasad came close to the point of action and said it could be the usual Punjab Mail passing by.

He told Ashfaq and others to drop the hammer for a while and told others to conceal their weapons and lie low. With the terrific speed of the train and its deafening clackety clack, the group's bad dream had passed by. The rumbling of the train grew

fainter while Ashfaq's patient clang captured the air.

Soon, a big hole had been made in the armour of the safe. They took the bags and collected them on a bed sheet. The operation was over and orders for retreat were given. To mislead the passengers, including some British Military officers, the group dispersed in a manner to give the impression of running away from Lucknow, but they detoured and entered the city from the overcrowded Chowk market. On the way to Lucknow, they had taken cash and thrown the bags in ditches filled with rainwater. In Lucknow, the booty was kept at a safe place known only to Ram Prasad. The weapons also went to prearranged concealing places.

Thereafter, the group disintegrated. Some went to hideouts and others lay low in common places like parks. At dawn, newspaper hawkers were heard announcing on the top of their voices - 'Sensational Train Hold-Up at Kakori' - confirming the success of their nationalist effort.

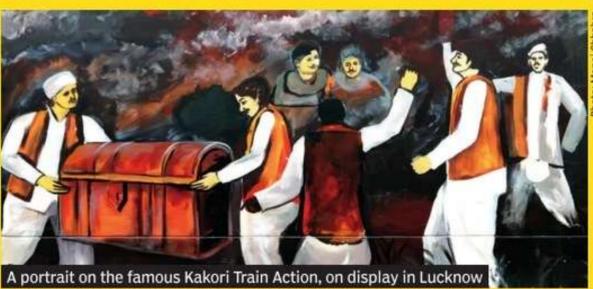


WITNESS TO HISTORY: Railway station at Kakori near Lucknow

Note: Stories are based on descriptions of the event given in: **They Lived Dangerously - Reminiscences of a Revolutionary** by Manmathnath Gupta
Kakori Case Diary references (courtesy: UP State Archives)
Ram Prasad Bismil's autobiography

Three of them - Ashfaqullah Khan, Rajendranath Lahiri and Bakshi - took second class tickets and the remaining including Ram Prasad Bismil, Chandrashekhar Azad, Mukundilal, Murarilal, Kundanlal, Banwarilal and Manmathnath Gupta, travelled third and spread over the entire train.

According to the plan, those in the second class pulled the chain. The abrupt stoppage led to some commotion. The members jumped out to execute the plan. One of them

Fulcrums & Facets Of
Kakori Train Action

A portrait on the famous Kakori Train Action, on display in Lucknow

In the first decade of the 20th century, nationalist movement in India developed two factions - moderates and extremists. While the moderates followed the method of persuasion, extremists believed in reclaiming the nation even by force. Preferred to be known as revolutionaries, the extremists pushed their cause under the banner of Anushilan Samiti (established in 1902 by Satish Chandra Bose and Barrister Pramathanath Mitra in Kolkata). On the face of it, the Samiti was an organization of youth, but in reality it nurtured radical thoughts in utmost secrecy. In 1915, Mahatma Gandhi returned to India and five years later launched the non-cooperation movement which drew people from diverse walks of life. But then the course changed. *Shailvee Sharda* traces the journey of the historic event.

CHAURI CHAURA TRAMPLES CAUSE

This mass movement, launched by Mahatma Gandhi on Aug 1, 1920, for right to self-governance evoked massive response from people. However, Gandhi decided to call it off following an attack on a police station in Chauri Chaura in Gorakhpur (Feb 1922) in which 22 policemen were burnt alive.

Many revolutionaries involved in the Kakori Train Action, who were also a part of Gandhi's movement, started losing faith in non-violent methods. Ram Prasad Bismil and his associates had even opposed Gandhi during the Gaya Congress meeting of 1922.

CHARTING REVOLUTIONARY PATH

Bismil decided to form a revolutionary organisation which later came to be known as Hindustan Republican Association (also Hindustan Republican Army) which sought to overthrow the British rule through armed struggle. Bismil met Sachindranath Sanyal (veteran of Anushilan Samiti) in Allahabad and decided to form HRA. Soon, a pamphlet titled 'Revolutionary', drafted by Bismil was published which laid out the goals and the philosophy of the association.

THE CHALLENGES

Manmathnath Gupta, a revolutionary who later wrote a first-hand account of the times in HRA in a book, 'They Lived Dangerously - Reminiscences of a Revolutionary' touched upon the organisation's need for funds to fuel its work. "Within a few months, the party had grown into a huge organisation and it required money to feed various lifestyles. Whole-time workers - professional revolutionaries - had to be supported by the party," he wrote opening the chapter (number 12) 'Forced Contributions'.

"Besides the funds required for the up-

keep of the whole-time revolutionaries, the party had other important items of expenditure. The travel of emissaries entailed a good deal of money. The party often used messengers for important communication because it was known that the letters were being censored. Books and pamphlets bought or published by the party cost a lot. The greatest item was of course buying arms through national and international smugglers. As there was no war going on, now we could not expect donations of arms from foreign powers (such as German friends)," he wrote.

FORCED CONTRIBUTIONS

For funds, revolutionaries resorted to 'forced contributions' which was a sophisticated term for 'dacoities for funds and absconding for avoidance of arrests' to fuel the movement. In Gupta's words: "It was proposed to bring into use the method known as forced contributions in the jargon of Irish and Indian revolutionaries. Forced contribution as a method had been practiced by revolutionaries of Bengal long ago. Force contribution implies that a moneyed man, unwilling to contribute to party funds is made to contribute by force. In plain English, it means robbing but with a purpose such as in wars killing is done with a purpose. I did not like the word forced. Anyway the constitution of the party said that the method would be used to finance the party."

GOING BIG

Over time, the group felt the need to conduct bigger hold-ups involving banks or trains.

Barring Ashfaqullah, all others were in union. Thus, the seeds of Train-8 hold up were sown. Ultimately the project fructified.

WHAT BRITISH RECORDS SAY

According to the chargesheet lodged by the British police, the then station master at Charbagh railway station informed the Charbagh police station about the robbery in the 8 down train. "The train known as 8 down train from Hardoi to Lucknow had been stopped between Alamnagar and Kakori by the pulling of the communication cord and that dacoits had removed the cash safe from the train, broken it open and abstracted the cash and that they had fired guns during the dacoity," the chargesheet read. "The 8 down train was due to arrive at Charbagh at 7.45pm but arrived on Aug 9, 1925, at 8.37 pm.

The state master met the train and found that the safe which had contained all the cash receipts from all railway stations from Jatghar to Kakori excluding those at which there is a government treasury amounting all together to Rs 4,679 1/6 was missing," the charge sheet read.

A special train was sent to the scene of dacoity. Two sub-inspectors, Sajjad Ali and Khurshed Ali Khan, with constables, and one Syed Jan, the brother-in-law of a man Ahmad Ali who was missing when the train arrived at Lucknow, returned by this train to Kakori. They found the empty safe and the dead body of Ahmad Ali lying beside the line about a mile from Kakori station in the direction of Alamnagar.

In his book, Manmathnath - who par-

ticipated in the action - recalled that he was taken aback by newspaper reports claiming that three passengers, including one European, were killed in Kakori Action. "Later, the report was proved to be false. No Englishman was killed. An Indian passenger was killed. Despite the warnings, one passenger Ahmed Ali had come out of his compartment to see if his newly wed bride was safe and was killed by flying bullets," wrote Gupta.

THE INVESTIGATION

The incident challenged the British might and its handling had to be exemplary. On Aug 14, an investigation into the case was launched. One RA Horton - who at that time was assistant to the deputy inspector general, investigation branch, criminal investigation department - was made in charge of the investigation. Horton stated in evidence that he formed the idea that the dacoity was the work of revolutionaries from the manner of its commission, the speech, appearance and clothing, and the kind of weapons used by them.

ARRESTS, TRIAL & PUNISHMENT

According to records, at least 40 people were arrested from different parts of UP between Sep 1925 and Jan 1926. While Manmathnath Gupta, Ram Dulare Trivedi and Govind Charan Kar were the first ones to be nabbed on Sep 26, 1925, Mukundilal was the last one to be picked on Jan 19, 1926. The police had declared Ashfaqullah and Chandrashekhar Azad as absconders. While Ashfaq was arrested on Dec 7, 1926, Azad ended his life in an encounter with the British police officer in Allahabad.

Legal defence for the arrested revolutionaries was provided by Govind Ballabh Pant, Mohan Lal Saxena, Chandra Bhanu Gupta, Ajit Prasad Jain, Gopi Nath Srivastava, RM Bahadurji, BK Chaudhury and Kripa Shankar Hajela.

The cause of Kakori revolutionaries was upheld and supported by the likes of Motilal Nehru, Madan Mohan Malaviya, Muhammad Ali Jinnah, Lala Lajpat Rai, Jawaharlal Nehru, Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi, Shiv Prasad Gupta, Shri Prakash and Acharya Narendra Dev. After the trial, the judge pronounced death sentence to Ram Prasad Bismil, Rajendranath Lahiri, Roshan Singh and Ashfaqullah besides sending Sachindranath Sanyal to life imprisonment (later sent to Port Blair Cellular Jail) and giving jail terms ranging from 14 years to five years. On Dec 17, 1927, Lahiri was hanged while the others were hanged on Dec 19, 1927.

MEN ON MISSION

THE PATRON | Sachindranath Sanyal

Born | April 3, 1890 Native | Varanasi, UP



A follower of Anushilan Samiti, he founded its Patna chapter in 1913. He was an associate of Rash Behari Bose - a key participant of the Ghadar Party. In 1912, the names of Bose and Sanyal figured in the case of attack on Viceroy Harding. He was sent to Port Blair Cellular Jail for anti-British activities. Upon his return in 1922, Sanyal and Bismil came together to form HRA. In Kakori Action, he was sent to Naini jail. In 1937, he came out and resumed revolutionary work. Later, was sent to Gorakhpur jail where he died

THE MASTERMIND | Ram Prasad Bismil

Born | June 11, 1897 Native | Shahjahanpur, UP



A student of Genda Lal Dixit - the 'Drona' of freedom fighters - Ram Prasad Bismil was named in the Mainpuri Case of 1918 which is believed to have served as the base for Kakori Train Action. In 1923, Bismil was named dist organiser of HRA. In this way, he was the mastermind of the case. He was also an author and poet who wrote with pen names 'Ram', 'Agyat' and 'Bismil'. He was arrested on Sep 26, 1925, and was executed on Dec 19, 1927, in Gorakhpur Jail when he was just 30

THE HERO | Ashfaqullah Khan

Born | Oct 22, 1900 Native | Shahjahanpur, UP



Joined freedom movement in 1918. Later, he came in touch with Ram Prasad Bismil. He was a poet who wrote with pseudonym 'Hasrat'. During Kakori Action, when Lahiri halted the train, Ashfaq, Bismil, and Azad entered the train and overpowered the guard to loot British treasury bags (containing approximately Rs 4,600) and escaped to Lucknow. He remained at large for over a year and fled to Nepal only to return to Kanpur. Arrested in Dec 1926, he was lodged in Faizabad Jail and sentenced to death when he was 27

THE FACILITATOR | Rajendranath Lahiri

Born | June 29, 1901 Native | Lahiri Mohanpur, Pabna district, Bengal



Lahiri pulled the chain of the passenger train to execute the act. His father and elder brother were also associated with Anushilan Samiti of Bengal. He studied history at BHU where he came in touch with Sachindranath Sanyal, co-founder of HRA. He was an expert bombmaker. Jailer of Gonda jail asked Lahiri as to why he exercised when the death was a few days away. Lahiri, then 26, said he could not change his routine for fear of death. Annoyed by the 'audacity', the jailer hanged him two days before the assigned date

THE FLAGBEARER | Chandrashekhar Azad

Born | July 23, 1906 Native | Unnao, UP



He was just 15 when he joined Non-Cooperation Movement. He also went to jail for it but after the movement was called off, he joined HRA. After Kakori Action, Azad remained elusive. After the death of main functionaries of the HRA, he kept his organisation's flag high and also reorganized it as HSRA and joined the plan to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai, undertaken by Bhagat Singh and others. He shot himself during an encounter with a British officer in Allahabad

INCIDENTAL ACCOMPLICE | Thakur Roshan Singh

Born | Jan 22, 1892 Native | Shahjahanpur, UP



Born in a Thakur family, Roshan Singh actively participated in Non-Cooperation Movement of 1921-22 and went to jail. After his release from Bareilly central jail, he joined HRA in 1924. Though it is said that he did not take part in the Kakori Action, he helped in the execution of the case. According to records, he was involved in the Bamrauli dacoity in Dec 1924 and the British officials used the Kakori case to nab him. The fact that he made the supreme sacrifice for the nation remains unchallenged. He was hanged in Allahabad Jail at 35

OTHERS ON BOARD

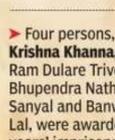
Three revolutionaries were awarded life imprisonment. One of them was **Sachindranath Bakshi**, a founding member of HRA. He got associated with Varanasi chapter of Anushilan Samiti in 1922



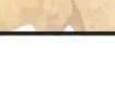
Born in Varanasi, **Manmathnath Gupta** was 13 when he joined HRA. He was just 14 when convicted in Kakori case and was jailed for 14 years. After his release, he started writing against the British



Five revolutionaries - **Ram Krishna Khatri** of Lucknow, **Jogesh Chandra Chatterjee**, **Raj Kumar Sinha**, **Suresh Chandra Bhattacharya**, and **Vishnu Sharan Dubalish** - were sent to jail for 10 years



Four persons, **Prem Krishna Khanna**, **Ram Dulare Trivedi**, **Bhupendra Nath Sanyal** and **Banwarilal**, were awarded five years' imprisonment



Govind Charan Kar had come especially to execute the conspiracy. A member of HRA, he was arrested on Sep 26, 1925

Mukundi Lal, a native of Etawah, was in the team which conducted the loot. He was arrested in Varanasi on Jan 17, 1926 and was lodged in Bareilly jail

Har Govind, Sachindranath Biswas and **Damodar Swarup** were arrested and later released



Ramnath Pandey and **Pranvesh Kumar Chatterjee** were jailed for four and three years, respectively



Probe rape-murder by Sun or case goes to CBI: Didi to cops

But Says Agency Success Rate Low In Bengal

Sanjib Chakraborty & Tamaghna Banerjee | TNN

Kolkata: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Monday told Kolkata Police to wind up investigations into the rape and murder of a PG trainee doctor at the state-run RG Kar Hospital by Sunday, failing which the probe would be handed over to CBI.

Mamata gave the ultimatum after meeting the 31-year-old doctor's parents at their home amid widespread protests in Bengal and elsewhere over the murder on Aug 9 and two days after a police volunteer, Sanjay Roy (35), was arrested in the case.

Speaking after the 45-minute interaction with the family, the CM referred to their suspicions about an "insider role".

"There were nurses and

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



others around. I still do not understand how this incident took place. The parents have told me that they suspect the involvement of an insider. I have told the police

that if there is any suspicion against anyone—be it the doctor's friends or the first caller (who informed the family of the incident)—they should be questioned,"

the CM said. She expressed shock at the "brutality" of the murder, repeating her promise to seek capital punishment in the case.

Indicating her willingness for a possible CBI probe, Mamata couched it with a reminder about the central agency's alleged lack of success in taking big Bengal cases to their logical conclusion. "I do not have any issue with a CBI takeover (of the case) but their success rate is low," the CM said, reeling off some cases including one related to Tagore's Nobel medal theft (2007).

Kolkata Police chief Vineet Goyal, who was with the CM when she met the doctor's family, expressed confidence the probe would be wrapped up "in the next few days". "We can make more arrests if needed and, even after that if the family is not satisfied (with the police probe), then whatever Madam (Mamata) has said will happen," Goyal said. Amid escalating protests Goyal appealed for information.

On Thursday night, the mutilated body of a 31-year-old doctor was found in the seminar hall of RG Kar Medical College & Hospital. The initial autopsy report stated that the victim was bleeding from her eyes, mouth and private parts.

Dr Jangra said the incident is horrifying and as dastardly as the Nirbhaya incident of 2012. "We will continue our protests and even escalate it further if an independent inquiry, preferably by CBI, and law to make hospital campuses more secure isn't ensured," the Faima founder said.

In Kolkata, the strike by junior doctors continued to affect the functioning of govt hospitals across the city, causing significant disruptions to patient care. There seems to be no immediate relief for patients in sight as the governing bodies of all state medical colleges, who met at the RG Kar campus on Monday evening, decided to carry on with the agitation.

According to the Federation of Resident Doctors Association, during the indefinite strike, all outpatient departments and operation theatres will remain shut. Emergency services, however, will continue, it added.

Meanwhile, Indian Medical Association has shot-off a letter to Union health minister JP Nadda seeking urgent action to make hospital premises safe. It said hospitals should be declared safe zones, like airports.

Docs demand independent probe, law for safe hosps

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Govt hospitals in Delhi and Kolkata were most affected by disruptions as the two cities emerged as the epicentre of the protest over the rape and murder of a young doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

A spokesperson of the Federation of All India Medical Association (Faima) told TOI that more hospitals are likely to join the protests and suspend OPD and elective surgeries from Tuesday to demand CBI inquiry into the incident and urgent implementation of a central law to prevent violence against healthcare workers. "Resident doctors from states like Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand and Gujarat among others will join the protest from Tuesday onwards," said Faima founder Dr Manish Jangra.

On Thursday night, the mutilated body of a 31-year-old doctor was found in the seminar hall of RG Kar Medical College & Hospital. The initial autopsy report stated that the victim was bleeding from her eyes, mouth and private parts.

Dr Jangra said the incident is horrifying and as dastardly as the Nirbhaya incident of 2012. "We will continue our protests and even escalate it further if an independent inquiry, preferably by CBI, and law to make hospital campuses more secure isn't ensured," the Faima founder said.

In Kolkata, the strike by junior doctors continued to affect the functioning of govt hospitals across the city, causing significant disruptions to patient care. There seems to be no immediate relief for patients in sight as the governing bodies of all state medical colleges, who met at the RG Kar campus on Monday evening, decided to carry on with the agitation.

According to the Federation of Resident Doctors Association, during the indefinite strike, all outpatient departments and operation theatres will remain shut. Emergency services, however, will continue, it added.

Meanwhile, Indian Medical Association has shot-off a letter to Union health minister JP Nadda seeking urgent action to make hospital premises safe. It said hospitals should be declared safe zones, like airports.

RG Kar principal quits, posted at another college within 4 hrs

Sumati.Yengkhom @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Sandip Ghosh, principal of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, resigned on Monday after three days of protests by junior doctors and students accusing him of covering up the rape-murder of a postgraduate student at the institution. However, Ghosh was reassigned as the principal of Calcutta National Medical College (CNMC) within four hours of his resignation, sparking further unrest among students.

Suhrita Paul, former vice-chancellor of West Bengal University of Health Sciences, was appointed as the new principal of RG Kar. Paul had been serving as an officer on

special duty at Swasthya Bhawan until Monday.

"My resignation was desired by the students. I felt this was the wish of the entire state. I hope now the students and junior doctors will return to

REMOVE FROM GOVT SERVICE: PROTESTERS

work," Ghosh said, announcing his resignation. "Not only am I resigning from the principal position, but also resigning from my professorship. I am leaving my job." However, sources in the Bengal health department said efforts were made until the last minute to keep Ghosh in his position. His resignation from the medical education service was ultimately not ac-

cepted, and by evening, he was appointed principal of CNMC, replacing Ajay Ray, who was reassigned as an OSD at Swasthya Bhawan.

The protests against Ghosh began on Friday, with students and junior doctors demanding his immediate removal. They insisted that he not be given any administrative role in any medical college.

Ghosh's reappointment has intensified calls from several doctors' organisations for his removal from govt service altogether. Oncologist Saurav Datta, speaking at a press conference of Indian Medical Association's Bengal chapter, urged Mamata Banerjee to ensure Ghosh does not hold any administrative roles in medical colleges.

'Mothermonials': Going Beyond Fair and Tall

Yashaswini.Sri @timesofindia.com

In a refreshing twist on traditional matrimonial ads, the "Mothermonials" initiative launched on July 28, has sparked a wave of heartwarming stories that celebrate brides for their authentic selves. This AI-powered platform encourages mothers and families to craft personalised ads that go beyond superficial attributes, focusing instead on personalities, achievements, and ambitions.

The response has been overwhelming, with thousands of testimonies/entries flooding the website. These ads stand out for their creativity and honesty, offering a glimpse into the true essence of the women they describe.

Take Nikki Dimri's family, who playfully warns: "This ad may cause uncontrollable laughter and spontaneous adventure! Meet Nikki Dimri — a humble do-gooder with a heart for animals and a knack for baking. A stargazing daydreamer who excels at bargains, she'll charm you with her free spirit & captivating stories." Pallavi Mehta, 20, says:

"We've climbed Mt Everest, sent Chandrayaan to Moon and even have apps to remind us to drink water. So much has changed over the years and yet the matrimonial ads still remain the same, if the questions are not changing, why not change the answers."

"Can you handle a loving leader laced with quirky naps? Here's Pallavi Mehta: a vibrant animal lover whose photography captures moments better than a cat in a lamp. This pottery whiz offers warm hugs, tech-savvy investor insights, and creativity lent with laughter!" Suman Soni, 52, addressing her daughter's prospective partners, says: "Do you thrive on spontaneity and Excel spreadsheets? Suman Soni is your ideal backup dancer. A daydreaming perfectionist who gardens like a boss and games with joy."

These entries encourage matchmakers and suitors to look beyond outdated norms and embrace

the quirks and passions that truly define a person. Mothers, once pressured to conform to societal expectations, are now taking a bold stand for their daughters' individuality.

A survey conducted by Dove in association with TOI reveals that despite changing times, traditional ideals still hold sway with men, when it comes to choosing a life partner. The survey, which gathered responses from 5,766 men, found that: 76.7% consider height an important factor; 76% are drawn to a potential partner's complexion; only 18.6% value shared hobbies and just

Looking for a fair tall girl with an ideal weight of 64 kg? That was not a casting call for a production house but a matrimonial ad in a newspaper. It is unbelievable, yet it is still happening right in front of us to all the women we know and love. Let us not turn a blind eye to these beauty tests.

22.4% look for common values. These findings highlight the ongoing tension between progressive initiatives like "Mothermonials" and lingering societal norms. "Mothermonials", an initiative of Dove in association with TOI has captured the hearts of mothers and daughters across India.

Mamata govt protecting main culprit, says BJP, seeks CBI probe

New Delhi: BJP on Monday demanded CBI inquiry into rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata, alleging that state govt was hindering investigations to protect "real culprit".

"The limit of brutality has been crossed. But will there be a fair investigation? Mamataji, in your govt, we already know what happens to opposition during elections. Will you say the same about misbehaviour with our doctor daughters?" questioned senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad, adding, "We demand CBI probe." Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, "A similar incident took place in Jadavpur a few days ago. Bengal govt will have to take action and it will have to be held accountable." BJP's IT cell head and party's co-in-charge for West Bengal Amit Malviya called it a "sham investigation". TNN

Cops summon hosp official who had declared it 'suicide'

Dwaipayan.Ghosh @timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Kolkata Police have summoned Tuesday an assistant superintendent of RG Kar Hospital who had allegedly called the slain PG trainee doctor's family and informed them that their daughter had "died by suicide".

The doctor's father had said Sunday the assistant superintendent of the chest medicine wing was the first to call them on Aug 9, the day the trainee doctor was found dead in the hospital. The family had also claimed that their 31-year-old daughter had been under "mental pressure" and that they suspected an "insider role". So far, a Kolkata Police civic volunteer, Sanjay Roy (35), has been arrested in the case.

On Monday, the probe



On Monday, the probe was expanded to include hospital staff and doctors with cops saying over 60 people had been questioned so far

was expanded to include hospital staffers and doctors with police sources saying over 60 people had been questioned so far. Seven doctors—four among them who had dined with the victim a little after Thursday-Friday midnight—recorded their statements.

Apart from the four with whom the victim last had dinner before she retired in to the seminar room, three

other doctors had either met the four or spoke to them at length. A delivery boy who had served them the ordered dinner will also be questioned.

Police sources said the police SIT probing the case would go through all of last month's footage from the chest medicine department and call records to ascertain if the victim ever had a spat or argument with anyone.

SC dismisses ED plea challenging Bombay HC order in NDTV case

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday dismissed Enforcement Directorate's plea challenging a Bombay High Court order that allowed New Delhi Television (NDTV) to pursue compounding proceedings for alleged violations of the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) before the Reserve Bank of India.

A bench of Justice Abhay Oka and Justice Augustine George Masih said that there was no need to interfere with the HC's order, which allowed the compounding application to be decided in accordance with law. Compounding refers to the process of voluntarily admitting contravention, pleading guilty and seeking redressal.

HC, in its 2018 order, set aside objections raised to the compounding proceedings by ED, which had earlier flagged the alleged FEMA violations and had issued showcause notices to NDTV. TNN

Dig trench to reach Gyanvapi sanctum sanctorum: Plaintiff

Rajeev.Dikshit @timesofindia.com

Varanasi: The plaintiff in original Kashi Vishwanath-Gyanvapi dispute suit has demanded digging of a trench for additional survey of mosque to reach "sanctum sanctorum of Aadi Vishweshwar temple where a tall Shivaling and artesian well are buried under its central dome".

The litigant, advocate Vijay Shankar Rastogi, in Swamybhu Lord Vishweshwar vs Anjuman Intezamia Masjid (Gyanvapi mosque management committee) case, completed his argument on Monday before a fast-track court (FTC) in support of additional ASI survey of mosque. FTC of civil judge (senior division) Prashant Kumar Singh fixed Aug 21 as next date of hearing and asked AIM to file its reply by then, Rastogi, who is contesting as next friend of deity,

HC adjourns Krishna Janmabhoomi case

Allahabad HC on Monday adjourned hearing in Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Eidgah dispute as some of the distributions of the suits were not exchanged between the two litigant parties. The court had on Aug 1, held that suits are maintainable, rejecting objections of Muslim side and had fixed Aug 12 for framing of issues. On Monday, it was said that pleadings have not been exchanged in some of the suits. On this, HC adjourned hearing till next date, which will be fixed later. TNN

told TOI. "During court-mandated survey in Rakhi Singh and Others vs UP State and Others, ASI had covered only portion on plot 9130 despite the fact that Gyanvapi mosque exists on three plots, 9130, 9131, and 9132," he said. "ASI used ground-pen-

rating radar (GPR) and other modern techniques. However, its radar failed to provide any tangible results, especially about garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum) of the Hindu temple comprising a tall Shivaling and artesian well, which is buried under the floor beneath central dome of mosque," he claimed.

Cellars through which garbhagriha can be accessed are closed with walls, he said, adding that as removing those walls is unsafe for the structure, ASI should reach underground by creating a trench. Water of artesian well still keeps mosque walls wet, said Rastogi. He demanded survey of mosque compound, not covered in ASI probe, like wuzukhana (ablution water tank). "If mosque is superimposed on Hindu temple, what is its age, size, monumental and archaeological design, and which deity was it devoted to," Rastogi's plea seeks to know.

India, Sri Lanka begin 10th edition of 'Mitra Shakti' combat exercise

New Delhi: India and Sri Lanka on Monday kicked off their bilateral combat exercise 'Mitra Shakti' at the Sri Lankan Army training school, with the aim to enhance interoperability and hone skills in counter-insurgency operations.

India is being represented by Rajputana Rifles in the 10th edition of the exercise, set to conclude on Aug 25. The Sri Lanka contingent is from Gajaba Regiment. "The exercise will enhance joint military capability of the two sides to undertake counter-insurgency operations in a sub-conventional scenario in a semi-urban environment," an officer said.

The drills will include response to terrorist action, creation of joint command post and intelligence and surveillance centre, special helicopter operations, and small team insertions and extractions, apart from use of drones and counter-drone systems. TNN

You guys know me as an actor, mother, author and fitness enthusiast. Imagine if people saw me as 5'3" fair woman? It reduces my achievements and hobbies to height, weight & colour. It would be such a massive blow to my confidence. This is what every woman is going through. All thanks to the matrimonial ads that only look at women through these superficial beauty tests.

Soha Ali Khan

Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI)
(Set up under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India)
B-500, Tower - B, 5th Floor, World Trade Centre, Naurajo Nagar, New Delhi - 110029
Telephone: 011-49431800/49431811/49431814/49431823/49431894/49431874
Website: www.janaushadhi.gov.in

e-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF DRUGS ON RATE CONTRACT BASIS FOR TWO YEARS

e-Tender for supply of 67 nos. of DRUGS for "Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP)" are invited by PMBI. Last date and time for submission of online bids against e-Tender no. PMBI/DRUG/RC-219/2024 dated 06/08/2024 for supply of drugs is 30/08/2024 up to 17:00 hours.

For detailed eligibility criteria, terms & conditions of the tender, please visit the websites <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> & <https://janaushadhi.gov.in>.

Sd/-
CEO, PMBI

Centre for Railway Information Systems
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, New Delhi-110021
Tel: 011-24692271, 24692272

Tender No. 01245255
Subject: Supply of Renewal of Software Subscription and Support Renewal of IBM Products and IBM OEM Man Days as per Schedule of Requirement. Date of Closing: 05.09.2024 (Thursday) at 15.30 hrs. Tender Documents can be downloaded from website www.ireps.gov.in. For future modification/ extensions please see www.ireps.gov.in

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH
(CORRIDGENDUM)

Ref: E-Tender Notice No. P/IEP/24-25/91

Following changes are made:-

Sr. No.	Equipment/Item Name	Original Bid/ submission Date	Revised Bid/ Opening Date	Original Bid/ Opening Date	Revised Bid/ Opening Date	Dept. Name
4	Online Examination (Computer Based Test)	13.08.2024	31.08.2024	14.08.2024	02.09.2024	Academic Section

All other details shall remain the same. Professor In-Charge (EP)

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड
(एक महारल कंपनी)

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd www.coalindia.in / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through Gem portal <https://gem.gov.in>."

ASSAM POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of Assam Public Limited Company)

E-Tender

TENDER EVENT NO: Assam Power Distribution Company Ltd/Long/Coal from CIL/24-25/ET/RFQ/89 for purchase of 500 MW Thermal (Coal based) Power on Long Term basis

Start of Event : 09.08.2024 (10:00 Hrs)
Event close Date : 23.09.2024 (15:00 Hrs)
TOE start date : 23.09.2024 (15:30 Hrs)

Bidders need to login to Deep Portal of "www.mstcecommerce.com" website to participate.

Sd/-, Chief General Manager (Commercial & EE)
APDCL, 5th Floor, Bijulee Bhawan, Guwahati, Assam-781001
Please pay your energy bill on time and help us to serve you better!

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identification Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact number 9646117606)

E-Tender Enquiry No: 109/MM-1/BMC-336(B)/O&M/GHTP/2024 dated 09/08/2024

Dy. Chief Engineer, Mechanical Mtc. Circle-I/GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-tender for Capital/Major overhauling of Furnace Pressure Parts, Air Pre-Heaters and Wind Box & Burner System of Unit-2 (210 MW, OEM-BHEL) at GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat on Lump sum rates. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 12/08/2024 from 03:00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

GHTP-46/24, DPR/Pb. : 76155/12/3285/2023/36605

CORRIDGENDUM
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT
MH-EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE SOCIETY, HOSPITAL,
WAGLE ESTATE ROAD NO.33,THANE-400604
(GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA)

TEL No. 20810612/20810622 E-mail Id-thane.esis@gmail.com

ROC no. DGIPR/2024-2025/1808.

Walk in interviews for appointment of Contractual Part Time Specialist/ Medical Officer (11 Months) for Morning & Extended Opd for MH - ESIS Hospital, Thane. Regarding This Advertisement for above mentioned post published on 12.08.2024 News Paper But Terms And Conditions not published in that Advertisement ROC no. DGIPR/2024-2025/1808. So appointment terms and Conditions as below.

Note

- Reservation for various categories will be executed as per Government Rules.
- As per instruction, if the Candidate of the respective category is not available, then the post will be filled in by candidates of any other category in the merit list.
- Candidate should also be in possession of the certificates in the prescribed format in the support of their claim.
- The recruitments are purely on contractual basis and selected candidates will have no claim for regularization of the service in the hospital.
- In case regular candidate joins the appointment of concern faculty will be terminated automatically as per the condition of the contract.
- Selected candidates will have to sign Agreement of Terms & Conditions on Rs.100/-Stamp paper to be purchased by the candidates prior to joining
- The selected candidate will be informed about the joining date on their registered address/E-mail.
- No TA/DA will be admissible for walk in interview or joining the post.
- Other details in regards to Term & condition for the above appointment will be available in the office of the Medical Officer.
- If candidate is willing for full time work accordingly that can be considered & Rs. 1,12,000/- Salary per month as
- The candidate is expected to have basic computer knowledge.
- The duties of Medical Officer will be decided/scheduled by the Medical Superintendent E.S.I.S.Hospital, Thane as & when necessary
- Medical Officer (UG/PG) post will not be considered for completion of bond service.
- Age relaxation for OBC/SC/ST/PWD/Ex-Servicemen will be as per rule.
- In case of selection candidates needs to join duty within 07 days from the date of offer of appointment.
- For candidates: Documents Required (Original & 2 sets of Photocopy)
 - * Matriculation Certificate for Age Proof.
 - * Proof of Educational Qualification.
 - * MMC/MCI Registration Certificates.
 - * Caste certificate/ Caste validity certificate/ Non Creamy Layer Certificate.
 - * Experience Certificate. Two Photographs (PP Size)
- Medical Superintendent, MH ESI Society may increase or decrease or cancel filling up of any or all the post without assign

Sd/- Medical Superintendent
MH-ESI Society Hospital, Thane

DGIPR/2024-2025/1884

99-09

Government of Odisha
Department of Social Security & Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities

No. 6039 /SSEPD
SSEPD-DA6-MISC-0023-2022 Dt.08.08.20234

Expression of Interest for Providing/Managing Services for Recovery Centres for Drug Addicts under Disha Scheme
SSEPD DA6 MISC 0023-2022.

No. 6001 Date : 07.08.2024

The EO aims to select successful agency to act as Programme Implementing Agency (PIA) that will be responsible to provide/manage services as outlined at scope of work. The details of scope of work, eligibility criteria and submission of details can be downloaded from website <http://www.ssepd.gov.in> Last date and time for submission of the EO documents by speed post/ Registered post/courier/ hand in all working days up to Dated. 06.09.2024.

This EO does not entail any commitment on the part of SSEPD Deptt. Govt. of Odisha either financial or otherwise. SSEPD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all without incurring any obligation to inform the affected applicant/s of the grounds. The EO will be evaluated based on the information provided.

Sd/-
Director, SSEPD
OIPR-46001/11/0010/24-25

C-410

WATER CORPORATION OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, WATCO
Ground Floor, Unnati Bhawan Near Satyanagar Fly Over Bridge,
Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha, India
Telefax: +91-674-2391444 • E Mail: ceowatcoodisha@gmail.com
EOI Identification No. CEO, WATCO-06-24/25 Dated : 09.08.2024
WATCO No. 4909 Dated : 09.08.2024

NOTICE INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR FINANCIAL MODULE, ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND OTHER REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR INCORPORATION IN THE BID DOCUMENT OF AREA-XIII OF CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD.

Water Corporation of Odisha (WATCO), a state PSU invites financial module, environment impact assessment Report and the required documents for incorporation in the bid document of Area- XIII of CMWSSB.

The proposal for the above work is invited from the interested firms having their office in Chennai and Bhubaneswar in prescribed format so as to reach to the undersigned on or before 20.08.2024 by 5.00 PM. For detail enquiry, the firms may visit our website www.watcoodisha.in. The management reserves the right to accept / reject the application without assigning any reason therefor.

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer, WATCO
OIPR-13194/11/0011/24-25



A thought for today

I have to do what's right for me & focus on my mental health...not jeopardise my health & well-being. That's why I decided to take a step back

SIMONE BILES (TOKYO 2020)

Factor Of Four

Maharashtra heads for polls with all players battling questions. But the test is sharper for regional parties

The soon-to-be-held state elections in Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand and likely J&K, will witness cut-throat contests no less brutal than Lok Sabha fights. Lok Sabha results were a timely reminder to the political class that no party can bank on past performance and no party, in today's multi-party reality, can fight alone at the national level. State-level issues dominated both campaign and candidate performance. The upshot is, ahead of assembly elections, particularly in Maharashtra, where the stakes are the highest for all parties involved, especially the four regional ones (two Senas, two NCPs), much of everything has muchly been said.

Tricky lotus lines | For BJP, as the single party that is in office in Haryana and majority player in Maharashtra, the stakes are high not only as incumbent, but also in how the party is perceived after the knock it took in LS polls. In Maharashtra, how Mahayuti (Shinde Sena, BJP and NCP), in office, emerged from LS polls is notable. CM Shinde, who lacks a statewide presence, viewed his haul of 6 of 15 seats contested as victory, while Fadnavis, under whom BJP won 9 of 28 seats it contested, offered to resign over the party's tally. Perennial deputy CM Ajit Pawar, who recently lamented over missing out on CM-ship, holds his not being made CM as the factor responsible for his inability to rally all of NCP to his side.



Where's what matters | As Pawar Jr paddles furiously to line up his ducks in a row, the change in balance of power post LS has all three Mahayuti parties claiming credit for a slew of pre-poll measures - dole for men and women, free this and that. There's little, so far, by way of addressing Maharashtra's severe rural crisis, the Maratha quota mess or the jobs question.

Vague party lines | Whether opposition MVA (UBT-Sena, Congress, NCP-SP) will be able to carry to the assembly election gains of its LS performance is also iffy. Congress suffered a jolt when its MLAs cross-voted in biennial polls to 11 seats of the legislative council. Uddhav is yet to articulate his own brand of Sena politics that's removed from Shinde's. Sharad Pawar is reeling in MLAs from nephew's NCP, but not everyone's taking the bait. The drama of party lines and party loyalties remains unresolved for both Senas and NCPs. The Maharashtra contest will be as fascinating as its impact on national politics.

Mind & Body

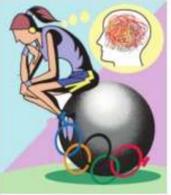
Elite athletes' mental health deserves more attention than it gets. Paris Olympics was a reminder

With curtains coming down on the Paris Olympics, there's much analysis about the performance of Indian athletes. But one aspect of the Games that has changed over the years is the extreme scrutiny of athletes via social media. India's Avinash Sable, who represented the country in the 3000m steeplechase at Paris, recently highlighted social media abuse as having a big impact on athletes' well-being.

All in the mind | Being a high-performance athlete requires considerable mental fortitude. But the mental health aspect of sports is only just getting recognised. The issue came to prominence at the Tokyo Games when US champion gymnast Simone Biles pulled out of multiple events citing a case of 'twisties' - a temporary loss of spatial awareness. For Paris, a psychiatrist and a sports psychologist accompanied the Indian Olympic contingent for the very first time.

Not just about performance | While sports psychologists have been part of training of elite athletes for a while, the focus till now has been on performance enhancement. It's only after the pandemic-hit Tokyo Games that overall mental well-being of athletes became a priority. Plus, stereotypes about that elite athletes aren't supposed to show 'weakness'. Which is why it was refreshing to see Viktor Axelsen, the men's badminton gold medallist at Paris, get emotional and say, "If men cannot cry, what kind of world do we live in?"

The human touch | Just as social-media trolling won't end, athletes too will continue to get impacted by cyber-chatter. Australia's female break-dancer Rachael Gunn was the target of internet mockery over her Paris performance. While she has strongly defended herself, others can easily break. English cricketer Jonathan Trott stepped away from the game over mental health. Another former English batsman Graham Thorpe recently took his own life after struggling with depression. Elite athletes need much more systemic support to ensure their mental well-being.



Bestsellers by machine

So wrote Dahl 70 years ago, so it's happening now

Anupam Srivastava



As redundancy caused by artificial intelligence stares in the face of humanity, the first ones to go will be writers. They deserve this fate, along with their readers.

Roald Dahl's short story, *The Great Automatic Grammatizator*, heralded the end of original writing 70 years ago. In it, books written by a machine became a roaring success even if some were of 'poor quality and not 'respectable'. In the real world, success is all the respect that one needs. The one who wields the power of the pen is not the writer. The columns belong to celebrities and 'important people', with the pieces often written by 'ghostwriters' who are banished to a state of non-existence by the powerful. The bylines are fake, and as hollow as the angst the 'authors' claim to possess and display like their designer clothes.

A visit to the bookstore would further confirm the demise of original writing. The writers 'are departed', and have 'left no addresses', to rephrase Elliot. Beneath fancy covers lie words that are cliched, the turns of phrase forced and insufficient to breathe life into dead prose. Even poetry as *vers libre* is a heap of broken sentences without rhythm or rhyme and indistinguishable from the mass of words littered in the literary purgatory. Plagiarists continue to thrive and, when caught, claim they were 'inspired', while editors reject great books that are sent to them.

The final actors in this tragic drama are readers - essentially OTT devotees who sometimes pick up a book when they cannot watch their favourite show. They are decision-making gods who dip into gossipy tales to keep up, take a break, or turn pages without reading, like lip-syncing singers who hide behind smoke jets, flames and other special effects to remain undisclosed to their audience.

It will be a nemesis of sorts for the world to lose its ability to create original writing since it has disrespected writers and artists for so long. Like everything beautiful, writing must die and be replaced by synthetic and perfect prose and poetry so well that few would notice the difference. In a utilitarian world, the purpose of writing is to inform and self-project, not awaken, reveal, or rouse. AI will take this vestigial aspect of writing out and make it fit for our times.

US Recession? Good News For India

If Fed starts cutting rates, it will increase room for rate cuts here, which are necessary because our economy is still more than a year behind where it would have been if not for the pandemic

Neelkanth Mishra



Over the past two years, consensus on US economy had shifted from anticipating a 'hard landing' (that is, a recession) to a 'soft landing': that inflation would be contained without much of a growth sacrifice. Some observers hailed this as 'immaculate disinflation'.

This has been challenged by recent economic data. Despite a slight fall, unemployment claims are well above the lows of Jan, and new job openings have slowed. In July, the unemployment rate rose to 4.3%, the highest in 3 years, and the ISM manufacturing PMI, an important bellwether, fell to a 9-month low, to a level rarely seen outside recessions.

Recession fears are back: Google Trends shows searches for 'recession' in US are up 9 times since mid-July to the highest in 2 years. A large part of the jump in stock-market volatility can be attributed to other factors, like some unwinding of the Yen carry trade, but recession fears have played a major role. Market expectations of rate cuts by the US Fed have risen significantly, as many believe these will be necessary to moderate the economic slowdown.

In particular, July's labour data triggered the 'Sahm Rule'. Discovered by Claudia Sahm, a former Fed economist, this rule states that a recession is probably underway if the average unemployment rate over the past 3 months has risen by half a percent from its low point over the previous 12 months.

The underlying logic is simple - when unemployment rises by this quantum, it triggers a self-reinforcing cycle; it hurts incomes and therefore consumption, triggering more layoffs, and so on. Over the past half-century, this rule would have correctly predicted all US recessions.

At first glance, such fears seem premature. US economy is slowing but is far from recessionary. It is the only large economy where GDP is above its pre-pandemic path. Nowcast estimates for this quarter's GDP growth in US economy were recently raised to 2.9%, from 2.6% earlier. Consumption remains steady, wage growth on average is above inflation, home prices are still rising, and layoffs have not started yet.

Even after the increase in July, the unemployment rate is still below 'normal'. Further, a large part of the

rise in unemployment has been due to more people joining the workforce (including due to a rise in immigration), with the labour force participation rate the highest this century.

But much of that is backward-looking, and financial markets tend to price in recessions or recoveries several months before they appear. Let alone 'nowcast' estimates, built on a relatively narrow set of

significant part of the growth surprise over the past two years was due to an expansion in the federal fiscal deficit. An increase in fiscal deficit boosts growth, a falling fiscal deficit is a drag on growth, and high but unchanged deficits have no impact on growth.

The fiscal impulse in US was a strong 5% of GDP around this time last year. As the deficit could not rise further, this impulse has slowed sharply to nearly zero this quarter and is likely to be in negative territory in the next few months.

Over the past two years, the pain from higher interest rates in US had been offset by the rise in fiscal deficits. Even if the deficit does not shrink to sustainable levels immediately, the absence of a positive impulse is likely to show up in weaker growth.

For example, a guinea pig (economy) that gets a growth inhibiting injection (higher interest rates) but also a growth enhancing injection (higher fiscal deficit) may not see a change in growth. But when growth boosters are stopped, its growth would slow down.

The Fed is now likely to start cutting interest rates, but a complete rate normalisation will take several quarters at least, and the impact of cuts appears with long and variable lags. Separately, as US fiscal deficits were 'pro-cyclical' (high deficits when growth was already strong), slowing growth would push deficits higher, and thus, despite the Fed's rate cuts, yields on US gov bonds and the cost of borrowing may not fall as much.

In our view, a growth slowdown is likely, but it is too early to call for a precipitous decline. The slowdown should be orderly if monetary easing can reduce the risk of accidents in financial markets. Volatility in the markets, though, is likely to remain elevated, as growth expectations are recalibrated, and upgrades to US growth forecasts are replaced by downgrades.

A US slowdown would affect the Indian economy too, through weaker exports. However, if there are no accidents in financial markets, easier global financial conditions, as the Fed cuts rates and potentially restarts quantitative easing, should provide Indian policymakers room to ease policy. This is necessary because despite strong growth, India's economy is still more than a year behind where it would have been if not for the pandemic.

The writer is Chief Economist, Axis Bank and Head of Global Research, Axis Capital



Volatility in the markets is likely to remain elevated, as growth expectations are recalibrated, upgrades to US growth forecasts are replaced by downgrades

indicators, even reported quarterly GDP growth can see significant revisions. The first estimate for the March 2001 quarter, for example, showed 2.0% growth, but the final one a 1.3% decline, showing that it was the first quarter of a recession.

Such large revisions are not normal, but some cooling of the economy is to be expected. In our view, a

The Kolkata Horror: How Unsafe Are Our Hospitals

A doctor's rape-murder has led to calls for a central law to protect health workers. Many states already have a stringent law in place. And absent in this conversation is the risk faced by women patients

Rema.Nagarajan@timesofindia.com



The rape and murder of a resident doctor, in Kolkata, has put the spotlight on the safety of women in hospitals. Doctors are now protesting across India, asking for a central law to protect healthcare workers, citing rising attacks. However, is it the lack of a specific law that is responsible for attacks on health workers and healthcare facilities?

The petition being circulated by protesting doctors provides an insight into why a law alone might not provide the necessary safety. It cites the case of a nurse who was attacked in Surat, in March 2022, by an emergency ward patient with an iron table and had to get three stitches. "The nurse filed an FIR and the person was booked under the Indian Penal Code 332. But there is no further information on any action taken by the hospital or by the police," states the petition.

If convicted under IPC 332, which deals with violence causing hurt to a public servant from his/her duty, the punishment is imprisonment up to three years and/or fine. It is a cognizable offence, which means the accused can be arrested without a warrant. It is non-bailable and it is non-compoundable (a provision usually applied for heinous crimes), which means that court proceedings will continue even if the victim and the accused reach a settlement privately.

Thus, the law applied was strong. That there was no further info on action taken suggests either inadequate follow-up by the hospital or the usual tardiness of the justice system. Both these problems would persist even with a new central law, as the difficulty seems to be with implementation more than the law itself.

A majority of states have already adopted a law - Medicare Service Persons And Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of violence and damage/loss to property) Act - that punishes violent perpetrators,

with some variations. However, research has shown that even in these states less than 10% of cases pursued under this law reached the court after charges were filed. Would a new law change this?

While the petition talks about safety for all health workers, there isn't a fraction of the outrage against the horror at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital when such attacks target nurses or lower-level hospital staff. There have been several horrific incidents of rape and murder of nurses where the fight for justice has



been left to their families.

In the health system, female nurses are the most vulnerable. They are subject to verbal, physical and sexual abuse by everyone from co-workers to patients and their attendants. They have no special law to protect them. They only have recourse to the general laws protecting all women in the workplace.

Consider a further twist. In four out of five cases of sexual assault in hospitals reported in 2024, the victims were female patients. In the last 10 years, there have been almost two dozen cases reported from

across India of female patients being sexually assaulted in hospitals. Do patients have recourse to a special law to protect them from violence inside the health system?

Is there a special law to protect women subjected to obstetric violence, which includes abusing and slapping a woman in labour, the prevalence of which most doctors would attest to? Is there a special law to protect patients and their families from the financial assault of being overcharged? There isn't. They use the same sections of the law as available to the general population to seek justice within the same sluggish justice system that health workers struggle with.

Patients are probably the least empowered in a health system and they do not have an organised group to protest on their behalf. No lobby has taken to the streets for patients' safety or basic rights. There are plenty of studies on the violence faced by health workers, but hardly any on the violence patients face, often by those supposed to care for them. This asymmetry has a significant effect on the sense of victimhood among health personnel, deflecting it from systemic ills.

Violence against health workers has been documented globally and it is estimated that the likelihood of assaults against health workers is four times greater than that against professionals in general workplaces. Has there been a similar study on whether patients seeking healthcare are more likely to face violence than consumers of any other service? Is there a more vulnerable category in the health system or in any service delivery system than sick patients and their families?

Studies addressing violence in health facilities have identified several risk factors, including understaffed emergency departments, lengthy waiting times for patients, poor quality of healthcare services and of communication. While these factors increase the risk of violence for health workers, they could mean risk of much suffering or even death for patients.

Calvin & Hobbes

HOW MANY BOARDS WOULD THE MONGOLS HOARD, IF THE MONGOL HORDES GOT BORED?



4-12



4-12



Sacredspace

The smallest minority on earth is the individual. Those who deny individual rights cannot claim to be defenders of minorities.

Ayn Rand

Meditation Is All About Dedication And Diligence

Sant Rajinder Singh

People from all parts of the world practise meditation to realise its physical, mental, and emotional benefits. Doctors advise their patients to meditate to help them deal with many physical ailments. Research has shown the role of meditation in slowing down brain waves, which makes us feel calmer and helps with many stress-related illnesses. Meditation involves focusing our attention, which helps with concentration and thus increases our productivity and efficiency in all spheres of life. Many people meditate for emotional gains so they can improve their relationships. We focus on these physical, mental and emotional gains because living at the level of our physical senses, we take ourselves to be our body, mind and emotions.

There is another reason for which we should meditate, and that is for spiritual gains. This is because our true nature is spirit, and the spirit, being a part of God, is everlasting. Thus, any gains experienced at the spiritual level are also everlasting. As such, it is our soul that we should focus on nourishing while we are in this body. We should meditate to realise our true nature and discover our relationship with the Creator. Meditation is a simple process for which we sit still and concentrate within to experience inner treasures. There is a typical problem that people throughout the world have while trying to meditate. That is: how to keep one's attention in meditation without being distracted by thoughts?

Our minds are active and restless and do not like to be still to focus on the wonders within. Distractions from the mind include trying to tell us we have more important things to do than to meditate, engaging us in anger, lust, greed, attachment, and ego through its need to fulfil desires, or making us dwell on the past or anticipate the future.

There are two switches for our attention: one is the switch to be attuned to our soul and the other is to be attuned to our mind. The solution for the thoughts that the mind sends us is to be able to separate what thoughts are of God and the soul, and what thoughts are of the mind. We need to learn to be vigilant when the mind is pulling a trick to distract our attention either in meditation or throughout our day.

When we have a goal that we really want to attain, nothing can stop us from trying to achieve it. Whether we want to win at sports, reach our financial goals, lose weight, or improve our relationships, we spend time working to achieve success. We put in the time and effort. It is the same with meditation. We have within us a gateway to peace, joy, and happiness. However, to access these treasures we need to meditate, by sitting in silence and staying focused to enjoy them.

We need to set our priorities. When we want to study for an exam, we set aside time and focus only on that. Similarly, when we set a time for our meditation, we focus only on meditation for that period. We then allot time for other activities through the rest of the day. This helps us preserve our meditation time only for that purpose.



Qatar Uses Most Energy Per Capita

Qatar had the highest per capita energy consumption in 2023 at 817GJ. Almost all of the country's energy consumption is derived from natural gas, of which the country has abundant reserves

Source: Visual Capitalist

Top Energy Consumers (gigajoules per capita)

817
Qatar

603
Iceland

577
Singapore

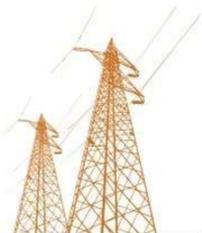
539
UAE

India's Per Capita Consumption Is Just 10% Of That Of The US

277
US

120
China

27
India



Net direct tax collection grows 23% to ₹6.9L cr

New Delhi: Net direct tax collection grew 22.5% to about Rs 6.9 lakh crore as of August 11 this fiscal, driven by personal income tax mop-up, govt data showed on Monday. The mop-up includes personal income tax collection of Rs 4.5 lakh crore and corporate tax collection of Rs 2.2 lakh crore. Securities Transaction Tax (STT) fetched Rs 21,599 crore, while other taxes (which include equalisation levy and gift tax) earned Rs 1,617 crore. AGENCIES



JSW Steel gets nod to invest \$120m in Oz co

New Delhi: JSW Steel said its board has approved a proposal to acquire up to 66.7% economic interest in Australian company M Res NSW HCC for \$120 million. The investment would be made through its wholly-owned subsidiary JSW Steel (Netherlands) BV. AGENCIES

Ola Elec shares surge 20% for 2nd day

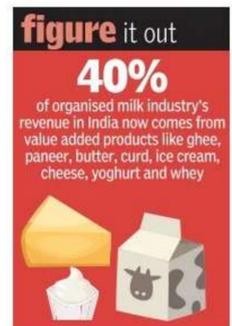
Bengaluru: Ola Electric Mobility's share price rose 20% to close at Rs 109 apiece on Monday reaching the upper circuit limit for the second straight day since its public debut. The IPO was priced at Rs 76 per share. Ola Electric is expected to announce its Q1 results on Wednesday. TNN

HC doesn't admit PIL by Swamy against Axis

Mumbai: The Delhi HC has declined to admit a public interest litigation filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy on the Max Life Insurance deal, Axis Bank said. The court declined to admit the PIL as it did not involve disadvantaged individuals, a key criterion. TNN

Voda Idea Q1 loss narrows to ₹6,432cr

New Delhi: Vodafone Idea on Monday said its loss for the June quarter narrowed to Rs 6,432 crore, mainly on the back of 4G subscriber additions. The telecom firm said it is in midst of expanding 4G coverage and capacity and launching 5G, after the recent fund-raise. AGENCIES



Tighter norms for deposit-taking HFCs

Mumbai: RBI has tightened norms for deposit-taking housing finance companies and brought them on a par with non-banking finance companies. The new norms increase liquidity requirements, restrict deposit mobilisation based on credit rating and restrict branch opening. The revised rules also now allow HFCs to participate in derivatives pertaining to interest rate, currencies, and credit risks. RBI had begun the process of harmonising regulations of HFCs and NBFCs in 2020 and had said that it would progress in a phased manner to avoid disruption.

Retail inflation falls to near 5-year low of 3.5% in July

At 4.2%, Industrial Output Growth Slows To 5-Mth Low In June

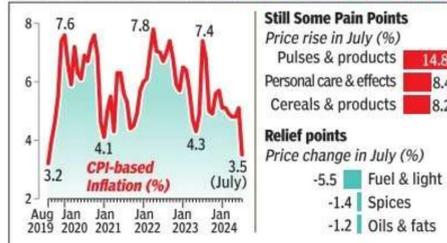
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Retail inflation softened to a near 5-year low in July, led by a moderation in vegetables, fruits and spices and the impact of a statistical high-base effect, bringing much-needed relief from the stubborn price pressures witnessed in the past few months and triggered hopes of a cut in interest rates in the second half of the fiscal year.

Separate data showed industrial output growth, as measured by Index of Industrial Production (IIP), moderated to a five-month low of 4.2% in June from the seven-month high of 6.2% as manufacturing sector slowed, while mining recorded a double digit expansion during the month.

The retail inflation data, which was released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Monday, brought some cheer as price pressures appeared to have eased. Retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), slowed to a 59-month low of 3.5%, lower than the 5.1% in June and below the 7.4% recorded in July

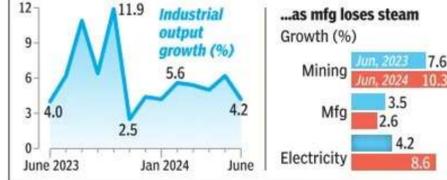
Retail Inflation In RBI's Comfort Zone



Still Some Pain Points
Price rise in July (%)
Pulses & products 14.8
Personal care & effects 8.4
Cereals & products 8.2

Relief points
Price change in July (%)
-5.5 Fuel & light
-1.4 Spices
-1.2 Oils & fats

Industrial output growth moderates in June...



...as mfg loses steam
Growth (%)
Mining Jun, 2023 7.6
Jun, 2024 10.3
Mfg 3.5
2.6
Electricity 4.2
8.6

last year. Rural inflation was at 4.1%, while urban was at nearly 3%. The food price index was at 5.4%, lower than the 9.4% in June.

The food and beverages inflation moderated to a 13-

le prices rose.

"Aided by pick-up in rainfall since early-July 2024, the cumulative sowing of kharif crops exceeded the year-ago level by 1.4% as on Aug 12, 2024. The IMD's expectations of above normal rainfall during Aug-Sept, amidst the likely development of La Nina conditions at end-Aug 2024, augurs well for kharif crops, although we remain watchful of the episodes of heavy rainfall and flooding across some states that could harm the standing crops and impact perishable prices during this period," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ratings agency ICRA.

She said that with all of the 22 essential commodities reporting an easing in their year-on-year inflation rates till Aug 10, as per the department of consumer affairs data relative to July 2024, the food and beverages inflation print should ease further in the ongoing month, dampening the headline retail inflation to 3.4% in Aug 2024. "Nevertheless, the trajectory of perishable prices remains a key monitorable in the near-term," said Nayar.

Sensex shrugs off H'burg charge, Adani stocks dip

Selling in Adani Group Cos Not As Sharp As During Jan-Feb 2023 After First Report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In volatile trades on Monday, the sensex closed a marginal 57-point lower at 79,649 points as investors on Dalal Street mostly discounted US short-seller Hindenburg Research's report that alleged conflict of interest on part of Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch while investigating alleged wrongdoings by Adani Group.

While the latest Hindenburg report didn't have much impact on the broader market, stock prices of some of Adani Group companies witnessed selling on Monday. However, the selling was not as sharp as during Jan-Feb 2023, after the publication of Hindenburg's first report that had alleged serious corporate malfeasance against Adani Group, which the it has denied.

After Hindenburg released its report on Saturday, there was apprehension among investors that the market may react negatively to the report, just like it had done when the first report was published in Jan 2023. However, as some market veterans had reasoned that Hindenburg's second report had no surprise element and hence unlikely to impact investor

sentiment, the markets, after a negative start in the new week, recovered quickly. According to Vinod Nair of Geojit Financial Services, the market's initial trajectory "was eclipsed" by the contro-

Nair said that there are some upside risks to the market, "given firm oil prices and volatility in food inflation". Market players don't see any negative fallout from the Hindenburg report.

Group Mcap Down ₹20K Cr To Under ₹17L Cr

Company	Market cap (₹ cr)	Mcap change (₹ cr)	% change
Adani Ports	3.25L	-6,696	-2
Adani Energy	1.19L	-4,562	-3.7
Adani Ent.	3.59L	-3,967	-1.1
Adani Total Gas	92k	-3,849	-4
Adani Wilmar	48k	-2,073	-4.1
Adani Power	2.66L	-1,755	-0.7
ACC	43k	-683	-1.5
Sanghi Ind.	2,329	-51	-2.1
NDTV	1,308	-42	-3.1
Ambuja	1.57L	862	0.6
Adani Green	2.85L	3,152	1.1

versy generated by Hindenburg's report on Sebi chairperson. "However, the market tried to ignore these noises, taking positive cues from global markets. Moreover, the domestic market is anticipating ease in CPI inflation (came in at a multi-month low after markets closed), which is going to be further supported by a good monsoon."

On Monday, foreign funds were big sellers with a net outflow figure of Rs 4,681 crore, BSE data showed. However, domestic funds were aggressive buyers and recorded a net inflow of Rs 4,478 crore.

On Monday, Adani Wilmar was the worst hit and closed 4.1% down, while flagship Adani Enterprises ended 1.1% lower (see graphic).

Sundram Fasteners's chairman's daughter to trim holding co stake

Preethi Krishna's Move Seen As Step Towards Exiting Family Biz

Reeba.Zachariah @timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Sundram Fasteners's chairman Suresh Krishna's eldest daughter, Preethi Krishna, is planning to sell a part of her stake in the holding company of the auto components maker. The move by US-based Preethi (59), a fourth-gen member of the storied TV Sundram Iyengar clan, is being seen as a step towards exiting the family business.

Preethi's share will be bought by her father, mother Usha Krishna, and two sisters — Arathi Krishna and Arundathi Krishna — consolidating their interests in the holding company: TVS Sundram Fasteners. To finance the transaction, the four will sell Sundram Fasteners shares worth Rs 400 crore to institutional investors

like West Asian funds. Once the share-purchase transaction is concluded, Preethi's stake in the holding company will fall to 14-15% from 20%. Suresh, Usha, Arat-

Preethi's share will be bought by her father, mother and two sisters

hi and Arundathi too currently own 20% each in the holding company, which in turn holds 48% of Sundram Fasteners, which has a market value of Rs 28,000 crore.

Sources said the four family members through TVS Sundram Fasteners will sell 1.5% stake of Sundram Fasteners via a block deal to foreign investors for Rs 400 crore. The share-sale is to finance another transaction between them and Preethi at TVS Sundram Fasteners,

they added. The quartet will buy a part of Preethi's stake in the holding company as she wants to reduce her interest in the unit.

Though Preethi is a director of Sundram Fasteners, she doesn't play an active role in the operations of the Chennai-based company as compared to her two sisters. Arathi (55) is the MD of Sundram Fasteners while Arundathi (50) is the joint MD.

Preethi is settled in the US and her 20% stake in TVS Sundram Fasteners is held through a trust, which is controlled by her husband, Ram Sundaram, a former Goldman Sachs honcho. Emails sent to Ram Sundaram and Suresh Krishna didn't elicit any reply.

At one point in time, Sundram Fasteners was part of the undivided TVS Group. Now the south-based conglom-

erate's diverse units are run by different family members as part of the business separation agreement between them. For instance, Suresh's first cousin Venu Srinivasan controls TVS Motor and Sundaram Clayton.

In a common holding company, which in turn holds a listed entity, the exit of a particular family member becomes tricky as it cannot happen without the consent of all the other shareholders of the holding company. This imposes liquidity concerns for the seller-shareholder, said a lawyer. However, the upside is that the entire shareholding is consolidated in the holding company and therefore, voting rights with respect to the listed entity can be exercised by one common shareholder i.e. the holding company, he said.

Higher returns & secrecy draw rich to offshore funds

Partha.Sinha @timesofindia.com

On Aug 10, US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research released a report that said Sebi chairman Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval had investments in offshore investment funds which were used by Vinod Adani, brother of billionaire Gautam Adani, to invest in



ISLAND INVESTORS

TOI Explains

Adani Group's stocks. Here's an explainer on offshore funds, their structure and tax implications: **What's an offshore fund?** An offshore fund is like a mutual fund that collects money from people and invests the same abroad. Most Indians invest in offshore funds that are based in Cayman Islands, Bermuda and Cyprus, which offer huge advantages. Some funds are also based in finance hubs like Singapore and Mauritius.

Why invest in such funds? These funds offer better returns than traditional invest-

ments, and diversification across asset classes and geographies. Tax havens also provide a high level of secrecy of investments and investors.

How do Indians invest? There are specialised fund houses and wealth managers who help rich Indians invest in such funds. There is no minimum investment amount but usually, each person needs to invest at least \$100,000 in these funds. A resident Indian can invest up to \$250,000 per person per annum through RBI's liberalised remittance scheme route. An NRI can invest money from abroad without any limit.

What are the fees like? Most offshore funds charge fees in the 2-20 or similar models. This has two parts. The initial charge is 2% of the va-

lue of the assets on an annual basis. Then comes the 20% carry. Here, say the fund says it would generate an annual return of 10%. Anything above that 10% rate of return, 20% of that would be charged by the offshore fund, while the balance would remain with the investor. While the 2% annual fee is an industry standard, the 20% carry could vary depending upon the asset class, the investment region, among other factors.

The tax implications? It depends upon the tax status of the investor. Also, on how the returns — capital gains and/or dividend — are taxed in the hands of the investor at his place of residence.

Can an investor influence fund's decision-making? In most pooled funds, in which there is a large number of investors, such influence is not allowed. However, such influence could be used in offshore funds that are investment holding companies in which there's only one investor who could be an individual, an institution or a family office.

CEO pay in IT zooms... at times over 1,000 times median salary

Large IT Cos, Barring IBM, Have Seen Gap Widen Over The Years

Shilpa Phadnis & Veena Mani | TNN

Bengaluru: The disparity between CEO and employee compensation in the IT industry continues to expand. Data from the past five years for select large companies shows that only IBM has seen a narrowing of the gap between CEO pay and the median employee remuneration. Accenture, Infosys, Wipro, and HCL have experienced a widening of this gap, reflecting the sharp increase in CEO compensation and particularly the value of their stock grants.

The issue has received little attention from shareholders in India. Infosys founder NR Narayana Murthy has previously indicated that a fair CEO remuneration would be about 25 to 40 times that of the lowest level employee. But in his own company now, CEO Salil Parekh's compensation is nearly 700 times that of the median remuneration in the company (compared to that of the lowest level employee, it would be significantly more). And that figure has risen sharply since 2019.

Wipro has witnessed a substantial increase in the remuneration of the CEO compared to that of its employees. Former Wipro CEO Thierry Delaporte's compensation was \$20 million, which meant his salary was

DISPARITY: CEO Vs OTHER EMPLOYEES

CEO compensation as multiple of median employee remuneration	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
David Rowland (interim) / Julie Sweet, Accenture CEOs**	298	402	473	653	633	
Virginia Rometty / Arvind Krishna, IBM CEOs	319	354	347	271	312	Follows calendar year
Brian Humphries / Ravi Kumar Cognizant CEOs	514	414	575	571	556	
Rajesh Gopinathan / K Krithivasan, TCS CEOs*	262	214	326	396	427	
Salil Parekh, Infosys CEO*	396	502	689	872	627	677
Abidali Z Neemuchwala / Thierry Delaporte, Wipro CEOs*	689	495	896	1,006	916	1,702
C Vijayakumar, HCL CEO*	Data unavailable			253	707	

*Financial years / **Accenture follows Sept-Aug FY

1,702 times more than that of the median remuneration of Rs 9.8 lakh in the 2023-24 financial year.

Within a single year, the ratio between HCL CEO C Vijayakumar compensation and the median employee remuneration widened to 707 in 2023-24, from 253:1.

Accenture chief executive officer Julie Sweet's compensation in the 2023 fiscal was \$31.5 million, 633 times that of the median salary of an Accenture employee, which was \$49,842. This median salary was actually lower than the \$50,512 in the 2019 fiscal. A report by executive intelligence platform Equilar finds that the median S&P 500 (largest listed companies in the US) employee earned \$81,467 in

2023, a 5.2% increase from 2022. Due to CEO pay increasing at a higher rate than the median employee, the CEO pay ratio increased from 185 in 2022 to 196 in 2023.

The report also noted that stock awards accounted for approximately 70% of total CEO compensation in 2023. The median value of stock awards increased by 10.7% to \$9.4 million in 2023, significantly contributing to the overall rise in total compensation.

In India, disclosure of pay ratios was mandated by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) in 2014. However, the regulations do not specify a computation methodology, allowing companies to use their own discretion in arriving at these numbers. Shri-

ram Subramanian, founder and MD of proxy advisory firm InGovern Research Services, says that over the past 10-15 years, these IT services firms have become large global companies. "Hence talent at senior levels becomes benchmarked to global levels, thus ensuring compensation is also benchmarked to global levels and growing at a rate greater than the rate at which the company grows. However, since the number of entry level employees has increased significantly, the compensation at entry levels has not increased. This is the main reason why the pay ratio will keep increasing. Shareholders are more interested in CEO compensation being largely variable and linked to performance metrics."

Subramanian also noted that the Occupy Wall Street movement in the US in 2008 saw the demand for disclosure of pay ratios. "In the US, labour unions and other organisations use this data for corrective bargaining. In India these numbers have not found significance or usefulness anywhere."

Phil Fersht, chief executive officer of IT research and advisory HFS Research, says that leadership in IT services firms is increasingly becoming a critical differentiating factor, particularly at the CEO level and the CEO's direct reports.

We're long-term investors, not for quick bucks: Mittal

From P 1

Brighter future ahead and they need to be following their strategy, if I may say, even more boldly... We are not in this for making a buck or looking at stock markets up or down. We are long-term telecom investors," Bharti Enterprises chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said during a call, adding that investment offered synergies. Flanked by his son Shrawin, Bharti Global MD, he pitched it as a strategic deal which was in line with strengthening India-UK ties and offered opportunities on AI, 5G and core engineering.



Once the transaction is completed, Bharti will own more stake than Deutsche Telekom's 12%. The deal follows Mexican magnate Carlos Slim's 3.2% acquisition in BT two months ago.

Despite slower growth opportunities, it marks Bharti's big foray into a developed country market with the group having so far focused on Afri-

ca, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Seychelles in addition to the home market. "Growth in Europe and the UK is bound to be much... So, growth is very small, 1-2% a year... But the revenue is pretty large, \$25 billion of current revenues, and \$10 billion in EBITDA... can we create more efficiency, can the free cash flows increase over a period of time..." he said.

Mittal said that his group zeroed in on BT from other options that were on the table and indicated that it may opt for more acquisitions in future. "We got this opportunity to buy a very important block of shares. It is very difficult to buy such stock in the market. It takes a long time and there are uncertainties of pricing... here was a block with a willing seller who moved in to make this offer and we quickly decided to take the same," he said.

Mittal said the stability in the Indian business in recent months, which came after some large investments and intense competition, had given the group "the courage to look

at the opportunity" and the Indian operations will not be impacted in any way by the investment. BT and British authorities welcomed the transaction as did Indian authorities. "...the wheel has come full circle since 1997 when British Telecom acquired a 21% stake in Bharti Airtel. This acquisition is testimony to the growing strength of India as we march towards Viksit Bharat under the inspirational leadership of PM Modi. We thank UK Prime Minister @Keir_Starmer and Foreign Secretary @DavidLammy for their continued support in strengthening business ties between the two countries," commerce & industry minister tweeted.

In the past, stake acquisition in companies such as BT has attracted security concerns in the UK and Goyal's tweet suggested that the British govt may be on board. By Mittal's own admission, the transaction marks a departure from his usual style of being "an operator". Instead, his group is not seeking a board seat, at least for the moment.



HUGH JACKMAN REVEALS HE ATE 6,000 CALORIES A DAY DURING INTENSE TRAINING FOR 'DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE'

PAMELA ANDERSON ADMITS SHE QUIT HOLLYWOOD TO DITCH PLAYBOY IMAGE: 'I'M NOT THAT PERSON ANYMORE'



Bangladesh is experiencing a student-led revolution: Yunus

Says Resignations Of Officials Close To Hasina Legal

Dhaka: Bangladesh was experiencing a "student-led revolution" after the ouster of PM Sheikh Hasina, the country's new interim leader Muhammad Yunus told a group of journalists Sunday night. "This is a revolution, a student-led revolution," the Nobel laureate told a news briefing on Sunday. "There's no doubt about (that) because the business of the whole government collapsed."

Yunus, 84, arrived back in Bangladesh from Paris Thursday after he was called by the student leaders of the protests to steer democratic reforms. "I said, 'I respect you, I admire you. What you have done is absolutely unparalleled,'" he said. "Because you ordered me to do this, I take your order," Yunus said he told them.

Yunus also said that the high-profile resignations of authorities close to Hasina are legal after student leaders who organised protests against Hasina's govt issued ultimatums for them to quit. "Legally... all the steps were taken," Yunus said. The country's chief justice, five justices and central bank governor have all resigned in the past few days.

Yunus said a key priority of the interim govt is to restore the independence of the judiciary. He called former chief justice Obaidul Hassan "just a hangman".

The interim government is expected to announce a new election, but it is not clear when it will be held. AGENCIES



Bangladeshi police resumed duty on Monday, ending a weeklong strike

Army chief: Soldiers to return to barracks as police resume work

Dhaka: Bangladesh's army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman said on Monday that soldiers will return to barracks once the police resume normal operations, as he met and reviewed the security situation with the interim govt head Muhammad Yunus after police officers agreed to call off their strike and return to work.

On Monday, General Zaman said there is improvement in the law and order situation in the country. "If the situation continues to improve, all regular forces will carry out their counter-terrorism operations," he was quoted as saying by the United News of Bangladesh news agency. Underlining that 30 crimes against minority communities have been committed in 20 districts of the country, he called upon the political parties to shun violence and do politics for the people.

According to sources from the chief adviser's office, Yunus expressed his satisfaction

Interim govt chief to meet minority group heads today

Muhammad Yunus will hold a meeting with heads of the country's minority communities in Dhaka Tuesday following continuing attacks and acts of vandalism, especially against Hindus, being reported across the country. Addressing media Monday, Abul Faysz Muhammad Khalid Hossain, an Islamic scholar currently serving as the advisor for religious affairs in the interim govt, said the current establishment believes in communal harmony and condemns the attack on minorities. He promised that miscreants will be punished and a hotline will be launched to report any attack on anyone's home. IANS

Businesses hit by cash supply drought: Report

Businesses in Bangladesh are facing a liquidity crunch as the central bank has capped the withdrawal of cash from banks at 2 lakh taka (approximately Rs 1.4 lakh) amidst uncertainty in the country, a media report said on Monday. The central bank decided this due to security concerns as police are yet to return to work fully. Meanwhile, two central bank deputy governors, Kazi Saidur Rahman & Md Khurshid, and the head of the Financial Intelligence Unit, Masud Biswas, resigned Monday following directives from the interim govt. The bank's adviser Abu Farah Md Nasser also resigned. AGENCIES

Ready for attacks by Iran or its proxies in W Asia as soon as this week: White House

Pentagon Orders Deployment Of Guided Missile Sub To Region

Washington: The US has prepared for what could be significant attacks by Iran or its proxies in West Asia as soon as this week, White House national security spokesperson John Kirby said on Monday.

Kirby said the US had increased its regional force posture and shared Israel's concerns about a possible Iranian-backed attack after Iran and Palestinian Islamist group Hamas accused Israel of carrying out the assassination of a Hamas leader in Tehran last month. "We share the same concerns and expectations that our Israeli counterparts have with respect to potential timing here. Could be this week," Kirby told reporters.

Israel has been braced for a major attack since last month when a missile killed 12 youngsters in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights and Israel responded by killing a senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut. A day after that operation, Haniyeh, the political leader of Hamas, was assassinated in Tehran, drawing Iranian vows of retaliation against Israel.

"We obviously don't want to see Israel have to defend itself against another onslaught, like they did in April. But, if that's what comes at them, we will continue to help them defend themselves," Kirby said.

The Pentagon said on Sunday that defence secretary Lloyd Austin had ordered the de-



CALLS FOR GAZA TRUCE GROW: Int'l pressure mounted Monday for a truce in Gaza, with Britain, France and Germany issuing a joint plea for an end to fighting between Israel and Hamas with 'no further delay'. The call came a day after Hamas urged mediators to implement a truce plan presented by US Prez Joe Biden instead of holding more talks

Israeli min told US a large-scale Iranian attack expected: Report

Washington: Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant told US defence secretary Lloyd Austin on Sunday that Iran was making preparations for a large-scale military attack on Israel, Axios reporter Barak Ravid said in a post on X, citing a source with knowledge of the call. In a statement on Monday, Gallant's ministry confirmed the call took place overnight. It said Gallant and Austin discussed operational and strategic coordination and the Israeli military's readiness in the face of Iranian threats.

On Friday, an Iranian Revolutionary Guards deputy commander was quoted as an-

nouncing the deployment of a submarine to West Asia. While the USS Georgia, a nuclear-powered submarine, was already in the Mediterranean Sea in July, according to a US military post on social media, it was a rare move to publicly an-

Israel PM, def min trade barbs over 'aim' of Gaza war, exposing govt rift

Jerusalem: Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu traded barbs with his defence minister Monday, underscoring the deep internal splits that continue to plague the govt as the war in Gaza risks spilling out into a wider regional conflict.

Following Israeli media reports quoting defence minister Yoav Gallant dismissing Netanyahu's war aim of total victory against Islamist movement Hamas in Gaza as "nonsense", Netanyahu's office put out a statement rebuking Gallant. "When Gallant adopts the anti-Israel narrative, he harms the chances of reaching a hostage deal," the statement said.

It said Israel's war aim remained "total victory", with the elimination of Hamas and the release of the remaining hostages seized by Hamas-led gunmen on Oct 7 last year. "This is the clear directive of PM Netanyahu and the security cabinet, and it obligates everyone — including Gallant," it said. The public reprimand of Gallant, who has repeatedly clashed with Netanyahu and the nationalist-religious parties in his coalition, was the latest episode of internal strife that has persisted since the govt took office in 2022.

Hamas armed wing says one Israeli hostage killed

The spokesperson for Hamas' armed al-Qassam Brigades, Abu Ubaida, said Monday that one Israeli hostage was killed by his guard and two other women captives were seriously wounded in two separate incidents in Gaza. REUTERS

Won't tolerate religious violence, B'desh assures India

Continued from P1

This (Bangladesh objecting to Hasina staying longer in India) is a hypothetical question. There is no reason for that. Why should relations with a particular country be affected if someone stays there?" Hossain said. His statement is seen as reassuring for India as Western countries dither on offering Hasina asylum. BNP has already cautioned India against hosting her indefinitely.

How the interim govt may finally want to deal with Hasina remains open to specu-



Protesters demand accountability and trial against ex-PM Hasina in Dhaka

tion to land here after fleeing, don't come in the way of likely efforts to rebuild its relationship with ex-PM Khaleda Zia's BNP. India has had a rocky past with BNP because of the rivalry between Zia and Hasina.

At his meeting with foreign diplomats, including Indian high commissioner Pranay Kumar Verma, Hossain reiterated that violence against any religious or ethnic group wouldn't be tolerated. The assurance comes amid India demanding that the interim govt ensure safety of minority communities, particularly Hindus. Bangladesh's home adviser

Sakhawat Hossain said the interim govt was contemplating declaring a three-day Durga Puja holiday for Hindus in an apparent outreach to the community. "Durga Puja is their biggest festival... Even if that (his proposal) doesn't happen, there should at least be a two-day holiday. With just a single day off, those with jobs cannot participate," Sakhawat said.

Among those who attended the meeting was Chinese ambassador Yao Wen, who said political change was an internal matter of Bangladesh and it wasn't China's policy to interfere in any country's affairs.

each other of starting a fire on the grounds of Europe's largest and now Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine on Sunday, with both sides reporting no sign of elevated radiation. The UN's IAEA nuclear watchdog, which has a presence at the vast six-reactor facility, said its experts had seen strong, dark smoke coming from the northern area of the plant following multiple explosions.

Russian state news agencies, TASS and RIA, cited the country's nuclear energy company Rosatom as saying the fire was extinguished shortly before midnight Sunday. RIA, citing Rosatom, said a drone attack started the fire at the cooling tower, without providing proof. Ukraine's nuclear power firm Energoatom said one of the cooling towers and other equipment were damaged. REUTERS

Ex-ISI chief Faiz Hameed in military custody: Army

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: A former chief of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence, Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd), has been taken into military custody and field court martial proceedings initiated against him over allegations of corruption and misuse of authority. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), Pakistan army's media wing, said Monday.

This is the first time in the country's history that a court martial has been initiated against a former ISI chief. Hameed, who served as ISI chief from June 2019 to Oct 2021, was widely believed to be close to jailed for-

mer PM Imran Khan's govt.

The arrest, said ISPR, was ordered by Supreme Court on a petition filed by the owner of a private housing society in Islamabad accusing the former spymaster of torturing him and his family, and robbing them of their properties and valuables. Hameed has also been accused of multiple violations of the Pakistan Army Act after retirement.

"Complying with the orders of Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry was undertaken by Pakistan Army to ascertain the correctness of complaints in the Top City (ho-

using society) case made against Lt Gen Faiz Hameed (Retd)," the military said.

The management of Top City had accused Hameed of orchestrating a raid on its offices and residence of its owner, Moez Khan. As per the petition, filed in May 2017, Pakistan Rangers and ISI officials had taken away valuables, including gold and diamond ornaments and money, in connection with a purported terrorism case.

Consequently, according to ISPR, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against Hameed under provisions

of the Pakistan Army Act. "In addition, multiple instances of violation of Pakistan Army Act post-retirement have also been established," ISPR said.

Hameed came into the global spotlight when he was filmed drinking tea in the lobby of a Kabul hotel shortly after Taliban took over Afghanistan in 2021, forcing the former ruler, Ashraf Ghani, to flee. His transfer out of his ISI post had become a bone of contention between Imran and then army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa who ultimately ended in Imran's ouster from office in April 2022. Hameed had sought early retirement from army in Nov 2022.

Putin: Kyiv incursion a bid to stop our offensive but we will carry on

Moscow: President Vladimir Putin said Monday that Ukraine's biggest attack on Russian territory since the start of the war was aimed at improving Kyiv's negotiating position ahead of possible peace talks and at slowing the advance of Russian forces. Ukrainian forces rammed through the Russian border last Tuesday in a surprise attack and swept across parts of Kursk region.

Putin, in his most detailed public remarks on the incursion to date, said Ukraine "with the help of its Western masters" was trying to improve its position ahead of possible talks. He questioned what negotiations there could be with an enemy he accused of firing indiscriminately at Russian civilians and nuclear facilities. "The main task, of course, is for the defence ministry to squeeze out, to knock out the



Putin and Russian Armed Forces chief Valery Gerasimov attend a meeting with security officials

enemy from our territories," Putin said, adding that Russian forces were accelerating their advance along the rest of the 1,000-km main front. "The enemy will certainly receive a worthy response," he added. Putin also said he expected further Ukrainian attempts to destabilise the western border.

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the war was now coming back to Russia. He

said Ukraine's assault was a matter of security for Ukraine and that Kyiv had captured areas from where Russia launched strikes. His top commander, Oleksandr Syrskyi, said Ukraine now controlled 1,000 sq km of Russian territory.

The acting governor of Kursk, Alexei Smirnov, said Ukraine controlled 28 settlements in the region, and the incursion was about 12km deep and 40km wide. In Kursk region alone, 121,000 people had already left or been evacuated and another 59,000 were in the process of being evacuated. In Belgorod region, which borders Kursk, thousands of civilians were also evacuated.

Ukraine forces in Kursk were trying to encircle Sudzha, where Russian natural gas flows into Ukraine, while battles were under way near Korenevo and Martynovka. REUTERS

Ukraine & Russia trade charges over N-plant fire

Moscow and Kyiv accused each other of starting a fire on the grounds of Europe's largest and now Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine on Sunday, with both sides reporting no sign of elevated radiation. The UN's IAEA nuclear watchdog, which has a presence at the vast six-reactor facility, said its experts had seen strong, dark smoke coming from the northern area of the plant following multiple explosions.

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Man held after stabbing in London, 11-year-old in hosp

London: A man stabbed an 11-year-old girl and her mother in London's bustling theatre district Monday before being arrested, police said, adding that there was no indication the attack was terrorism-related.

The attack occurred shortly before noon outside a tea shop



A cop stands guard at the attack scene in London's Leicester Square

in Leicester Square, a magnet for tourists with its shops and theatres. Workers from nearby shops left to the assistance of the victims. Officers arrived within four minutes and arrested the attacker, police said.

The girl was treated at hospital, and her life is not in jeopardy, police said. Her mother, 34, had less serious injuries.

The suspect is 32, and police said that they don't believe he knew the victims. "An urgent investigation is ongoing and detectives are working to establish the details around exactly what happened," Metropolitan Police detective chief superintendent Christina Jessah said.

The stabbing occurred during a recent rise in knife crime in Britain, which is on edge after days of violence as crowds spouting anti-immigrant and Islamophobic slogans clashed with police. The disturbances have been fuelled by right-wing activists who spread misinformation about a mass stabbing that killed three girls at a Taylor Swift-themed event. It was not clear if Monday's attack had any link to the unrest. AP

Trump meltdown over crowd size raises fears of mental decline

Faces Calls to Rejig Strategy As Poll Says Harris Now More Trusted To Handle Eco

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Concerns about Donald Trump's mental state is rising in America after the former president falsely accused his rival Kamala Harris of using artificial intelligence to generate fake photos of crowds at her rallies. There are also growing fears about the future of democracy in the US after Trump used his demonstrably false allegation to demand Harris be disqualified from running for White House because using AI to fake photos constituted "election interference."

Trump's mental fitness erupted on Monday after he endorsed a conspiracy theory by a MAGA follower about "fake crowds" at Harris events, which even Republicans acknowledge have been generating surprising energy and enthusiasm, and which have reportedly rattled the former President.

"Has anyone noticed that Kamala CHEATED at the airport? There was nobody at the plane, and she 'A.I.'d it, and showed a massive 'crowd' of so-called followers, BUT THEY DIDN'T EXIST!" Trump wrote on Truth Social, reposting a fan's theory, alleging, "She's a

CHEATER. She had NOBODY waiting, and the 'crowd' looked like 10,000 people! Same thing is happening with her fake 'crowds' at her speeches."

"This is the way the Democrats win Elections, by CHEATING — And they're even worse at the Ballot Box. She should be disqualified because the creation of a fake image is ELECTION INTERFERENCE. Anyone who does that will cheat at ANYTHING!" Trump added.

Hundreds of Harris followers and independents who attended the airport reception and her rallies responded by posting videos and photos showing crowds at different angles to counter the charge even as political veterans, including Republican stalwarts, cringed



A protest group marches in San Francisco on Sunday

at Trump's meltdown. Many are expressing fears that he is already laying the groundwork to contest a prospective electoral defeat as he did in 2020, his latest salvo coming after he raised doubts about whether Harris' ascent to the nomination replacing Biden is constitutional

by likening it to a "coup." Some of his MAGA followers have also questioned whether Harris is eligible to run for White House — because she was born to foreign students when they were not US citizens and is therefore an "anchor baby."

Even Republicans on the moderate spectrum are aghast at the direction Trump is taking, amid calls for him to be disciplined and on-message to take on an incumbent vice-president with the handicaps that comes with being in office. While many are urging him to recalibrate, other never-Trumpers are saying his current state is reflective of a "mental decline" that comes from being a "malignant narcissist" and a "sociopath." Democrats are also cal-

ling on the media to hold him to the same level of scrutiny as they have held President Biden to.

The turnaround for the worse for Trump, described by a headline that said "frontrunner is now an also-ran," is underscored by a Financial Times poll that says more Americans now trust Harris to handle the US economy than Trump.

Amid panicked calls to recalibrate his campaign and draft new advisors and strategies, Trump will be sitting down for a "live conversation" on Monday night with Elon Musk, now an openly pro-Trump partisan, said the event will be "Entertainment Guaranteed," while the Trump team said it will be the "interview of the century."

DAILY PLANET



A drone view of a park transformed into a replica of Vincent Van Gogh's 'Starry Night', featuring fields of lavender, shrubs, and lakes connected by an array of paths, a project that mirrors the celebrated artwork in a natural setting in Visoko, Bosnia and Herzegovina

In Taliban's Af, shop mannequins are all decked up but they remain faceless

In Afghanistan's capital, shop windows display dazzling ball gowns and three-piece wedding suits — with the face of each mannequin covered. The morality police have asked stores to hide the mannequins' faces and photographs of models, according to a clothes seller in Kabul. "It makes the display ugly," said the 22-year-old, but "doesn't affect sales". When Taliban swept back to power in Aug 2021, it imposed its austere interpretation of Islamic law, including an edict against depicting human faces. "The environment must be Islamic," said the Kabul salesman. Women's dresses come in bright colours, some styles leaving shoulders exposed or with plunging necklines — almost all sparkling with sequins. The dresses are bought to be worn only in private, at gender-segregated weddings or engagement parties. The heads of the mannequins are wrapped in plastic, foil or black bags. The rule is enforced nation-

wide by teams from ministry for the propagation of virtue and prevention of vice. Dressed in long white jackets, they visit Kabul's stores multiple times each week. Customers and sellers seemed unfazed by the eerie, headless figures.

Smoking aircraft forces runway closure in Japan

A report of white smoke coming from a landing Singapore Airlines plane forced a runway at Japan's Narita airport to close temporarily on Monday, officials said, though responders found no signs of fire and no one was injured. The plane was carrying 276 passengers and crew members, local media said. The flight reported the smoke to the airport after landing. Pieces of tyre were found on the runway, the spokesman said, adding that there was no further information to offer about the incident.

AROUND THE WORLD
With a record 22 Oscars from 59 nominations, Walt Disney holds the most Academy Awards ever
The Times of India is the world's largest-selling English daily



"These were sensational Olympic Games from start to finish. Or dare I say: Sensational Games! Dear French friends, you have fallen in love with the Olympic Games. And we have fallen in love with all of you."



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Tom Cruise Sprinkles Stardust On Dazzling Closing Ceremony As France Celebrates Successful Staging Of The Olympics

MISSION POSSIBLE!

Paris: France bid a reluctant farewell on Monday to an "enchanted" fortnight of Olympic sport as athletes headed home from Paris praising a dazzling edition of the Games that has breathed new life into the biggest show on earth.

Hollywood star Tom Cruise delivered stardust at the closing ceremony on Sunday evening — and a link with the next Games in Los Angeles — by abseiling into the national stadium.

The 'Mission Impossible' star descended on a wire in front of 71,500 spectators, grabbed the Olympic flag and jumped onto a motorbike, to the delight of thousands of dancing athletes and awe-struck fans.

The final act of the Paris Olympics brought relief that an event foreshadowed by worries about terror attacks, strikes or protests had passed off with barely a hitch. But there was also sadness that two weeks of high-spirited celebration had come to an end.

"Keep the flame alive," urged the front-page headline of France's biggest sports newspaper, *L'Equipe*, which featured new

national swimming hero Leon Marchand and urged French people to maintain the spirit "of this enchanted fortnight".

At the Athletes' Village in northern Paris, bleary-eyed athletes were packing their bags after a late night, with the French capital's two main airports braced for a huge influx of travellers and sports equipment.

Magda Skarbonkiewicz, a Team USA fencer, said she would return home filled with memories of competing inside the Grand Palais, one of the historic venues used around the French capital.

"It's such an iconic venue and just nothing like I've ever seen before," she said. "It's amazing to see so many people care about fencing the way the French people do."

During Sunday night's closing ceremony, which stressed the Olympics' core message of peace and cooperation, International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach had praised the Paris Games for being "sport at its best".

Observers had seen Paris 2024 as essential for the Olympics brand as a whole,

coming after a Covid-affected edition in Tokyo and a corruption-tainted version in Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Around 9,000 athletes flooded into the Stade de France on Sunday night for a show that featured music from French electro act Air, guitar band Phoenix, Belgian singer Ange and the Cambodian rapper VannDa.

"We knew you would be brilliant, but you were magic," Paris 2024 organising chief Tony Estanguet told the crowd during a triumphalist speech. He said the Games had transformed "a nation of implacable complainers" into "unbridled supporters who don't want to stop singing".

Much of the media commentary has focused on the uplifting impact of the Games on the generally morose national mood. Just weeks before the Olympics, snap elections called by President Emmanuel Macron delivered a hung parliament and a historic number of seats for the far-right National Rally party.

"The Paris Games offered the capital and the entire country more than two weeks of fervour and happiness that were so unexpected and appreciated given that they came after a political period dominated by the sad passions of decline and xenophobia," said an editorial in *Le Monde*.

"For 17 days the stereotype of the in-

different, grumpy Frenchman went missing," wrote sports writer Owen Slot in the *Times* newspaper, adding that Paris had "made the Olympic Games look more beautiful than ever before".

The closing spectacle marked the beginning of the four-year countdown to the LA Games, and American gymnastics icon Simone Biles joined Los Angeles mayor Karen Bass as the Olympic flag was formally handed over.

The ceremony followed 17 days of drama-filled sporting action lit up by Biles, American sprinter Noah Lyles, Pakistan's javelin king Arshad Nadeem and casual Turkish shooter Yusuf Dikec, who has become an Internet sensation.

They also featured a damaging gender row about two female boxers, Imane Khelif of Algeria and Taiwan's Lin Yu-ting, who both went on to win gold.

The last day of sporting action saw the United States pip China for top spot in the battle for medals after the US women's basketball team squeezed past France 67-66 to clinch the last gold of the Games.

The win — the eighth consecutive Olympic women's basketball title won by the USA — ensured the Americans finished level with China on 40 golds each. The USA however finished on top of the overall medal table with a total of 126 medals, with China in second place on 91. AFP

Diving champ Daley feels it's 'right time' to retire

London: Former Olympic gold medallist Tom Daley said on Monday it was the "right time" to retire as Britain's most successful diver walked away from the sport following the Paris Games.

Daley, who won five Olympic medals during his decorated career, revealed the decision to call time on the sport during an interview with *Vogue*. The 30-year-old bowed out after winning silver in the Olympic men's synchronised 10m platform in France, having clinched gold in the same event at the Tokyo Games.

"I have to make the decision at some point, and it feels like the right time. It's the right time to call it a day," Daley said.

Daley emerged as the star of British diving after first competing at the Olympics in the 2008 Beijing Games aged just 14. He won bronze at the 2012 Olympics in London in the 10m platform, as well as bronze in the men's synchronised 10m platform in Rio 2016.

Daley had effectively retired after his gold medal success in Tokyo, before deciding to return for a fifth Olympics in



order to compete in front of his two children. He decided ahead of the event that he would stop diving competitively once he stepped out of the pool in Paris.

"It feels very, very surreal. I felt so incredibly nervous going into this, knowing it was my last Olympics," he said. "There was a lot of pressure and expectations. I was eager for it to be done. It was emotional at the end." AFP

IRISH OLYMPIAN WIFFEN HOSPITALISED AFTER SEINE SWIM

Paris: Irish double medal-winning Olympian Daniel Wiffen said on Monday he had "rushed" to hospital in Paris with a stomach bug two days after taking part in the marathon swimming in the Seine river. The 800m swimming champion and 1500m bronze medallist was meant to be carrying the Irish flag during Sunday's closing ceremony, but did not appear.

"I'm incredibly disappointed," Wiffen wrote on X. "I rushed to hospital as I was very unwell with a bug that I am being treated for." Wiffen took part in the men's 10km marathon swim. He did not link his illness to the water quality. AFP

Off-beat stories

In every Summer Games, many unique sports make it to the programme. Paris also had several fringe disciplines which added their own flavour and colour to the Games. Hindol Basu gives you the lowdown...

SKATEBOARDING

Skateboarding made its debut appearance at the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. There are two different skateboarding disciplines at the Olympics: park and street. With male and female categories open for both disciplines, there are a total of four skateboarding events at the Games. Park skateboarding takes place on a varied course combining bowls and bends, to help the athletes gather speed and perform tricks mid-air. In the park events, athletes compete in three 45-second runs and are judged on their ability to use the surfaces to gain height and perform a wide range of tricks in preliminary rounds and finals. The street competition takes place on a 'street-like' course with stairs, handrails and other obstacles to resemble the urban environments where skateboarding started out. Street competitions see athletes compete in two 45-second runs, performing just five tricks per run in a competition of preliminary rounds and finals.



SURFING

Surfing made it onto the Olympic programme for the Tokyo 2020 Games and made a return to Paris 2024. The picturesque surfing spot of Teahupo'o in Tahiti was venue for the surfing competition. Surfers perform manoeuvres and tricks on a wave that are scored by five judges based on the

variety, type and difficulty of the tricks. Surfers are also judged on their speed, power and flow (the way in which a surfer seamlessly connects their moves from one to the next). Shortboards are the surfboards of choice for the Olympics. Smaller than longboards, shortboards are faster and more manoeuvrable.



MOUNTAIN BIKING

Mountain bike made its Olympic debut at the Atlanta 1996 Olympics with individual races for men and women. French and Swiss athletes have regularly finished on the Olympic podium, combining for 16 of the 42 medals awarded in the discipline. The sport at the Olympics involves two cross-country mountain bike events: one for women and one for men. Riders set off from the same starting line and contest multiple laps around a loop on mountainous, rough terrain that tests their technique, endurance, and stamina. Races feature a mass start and, in general, multiple laps. Riders take one to two hours to complete an intense course full of twists and turns, covering tens of kilometres during the event.



SPORT CLIMBING

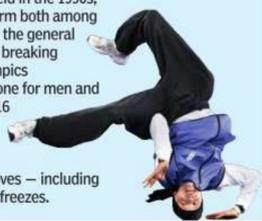
Climbing also debuted at the Tokyo Games. Climbing's addition, along with skateboarding and surfing, was part of a movement to expand the programme to include more urban sports. Climbing is broken down into three disciplines: bouldering, speed and lead. Bouldering: Athletes ascend a 4.5-metre wall without ropes in a limited period of time and in the fewest attempts possible. Lead: Climbers go as high as they can on a 15-metre wall in six minutes in a single attempt. Speed: A race against the clock, climbers scale a 15-metre wall with a five-degree incline.

3X3 BASKETBALL

Considered to be the number one urban sport in the world, 3X3 basketball has its roots in street basketball — a creative variation of the indoor game with a less formal structure. Evolving from outdoor courts to the Olympics, 3X3 basketball has been structured over the years by the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), the governing body responsible for developing basketball. 3X3 basketball is played on one half of a basketball court where two teams of three players compete. Both teams attack and defend the same hoop, depending on who has possession of the ball. The winner is the team with the highest score at the end of 10 minutes or the first team to reach 21 points. The three-point line in conventional basketball serves as the two-point line in 3X3 basketball, with shots made outside the line earning two points and those inside it one. It was at the 2020 Olympics that the first-ever 3X3 Olympic titles were won.

BREAKING

Breaking is an urban dance style that originated in the United States in the 1970s. With roots in hip-hop culture, breaking first took form in the lively block parties in the Bronx borough of New York, and is characterized by acrobatic movements, stylised footwork, and the key role played by the DJ and the MC (master of ceremonies) during battles. International competitions were first held in the 1990s, popularising the dance form both among hip-hop communities and the general public along the way. The breaking competition at Paris Olympics comprises two events — one for men and one for women — where 16 boys and 16 girls faced off in solo battles. Athletes used a combination of power moves — including windmills, the 6-step and freezes.



HERO MODE: Tom Cruise (clockwise from left) rides a bike after being lowered on to the Stade de France; the Golden Voyager adds sheen; the Olympic rings and fireworks light up the Paris sky

Memories of a lifetime for Manu and Reetika

TIMES AT THE GAMES

BIJU.BABUCYRIAC@timesofindia.com

Paris: Manu Bhaker fuelled India's hopes at the Olympic Games by bagging two bronze medals, so it was only fitting that the youngster came back from Delhi to carry the flag along with bronze winner and retiring hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh as the curtains came at the stroke of midnight here at the Stade de France.

Manu, who won third place in women's 10m air pistol and team events and narrowly missed another third place in the women's 25 pistol final, enjoyed every moment of the three-hour long spectacle in front of more than 71,500 spectators, who filled the stands hours in advance for the program, that started with a musical performance followed by the entry of flagbearers from 205 delegations.

Sreejesh and Manu walked in dressed in the official team colours with 'India' glittering in golden bold letters on the back as loud applause rang from the hundreds of Indians who had taken their seat for the closing ceremony. "It was an unforgettable moment and I'll always cherish this day," Bhaker said. "The 22-year-old added that it was "such a great honour to carry the national flag".

Manu's only disappointment was that she couldn't capture some of the treasured moments on her mobile phone. "Manu lost her phone when she returned to Delhi. She put it in airplane mode and left it on her seat and forgot to take it with her after landing in Delhi. It was a big loss as it was the same phone that was gifted to her by the official sponsor at the Tokyo Games," sources told TOI. "A complaint was lodged with the carrier and we searched in the lost-and-found items. But Manu's mobile was not there," sources added.

Sreejesh, meanwhile, had no such problems and he was seen clicking away after



STAR STRUCK: Wrestler Reetika Hooda poses with Cuban legend Mijain Lopez

they took turns to wave the national flag. Wrestler Reetika Hooda was among the lucky few in the Indian contingent who got to stay back to be part of the closing ceremony. "I felt very good to represent my country in front of such a large audience. It was a bitter sad moment for me as I missed out on a medal," said Reetika, the first Indian wrestler to qualify in the women's heavy-weight category.

For Reetika, the big moment was not to watch Hollywood star Tom Cruise take the Games flag to Los Angeles but to meet and greet Cuban wrestling legend Mijain Lopez. Lopez won his first gold at Beijing in 2008 and he retired here after winning his fifth straight gold in the men's Greco Roman 130-kg category. "I'm not even a big fan of Bollywood, so Hollywood is very far," she said with a smile. "But to meet and pose for a picture with Lopez sir was a priceless moment," she told TOI.

SNAPSHOTS

Decent draw for Pragg despite five blacks

R Pragganandhaa has been handed a decent draw at the St. Louis Rapid and Blitz tournament with the Indian Grandmaster set to begin his campaign with black pieces against Levon Aronian of United States. With white pieces against the French duo of Maxime Vachier-Lagrave and Alireza Firouzja, Grand chess tour leader Fabiano Caruana of United States and Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan, the Indian has a good opportunity to improve from his current third rank on the tour. PTI

Ben Stokes in doubt for Sri Lanka Test series

England captain Ben Stokes is in doubt for his side's three-match Test series against Sri Lanka after he suffered a suspected hamstring injury while playing in a domestic match on Sunday. Stokes pulled up sore when attempting a quick single while playing for the Northern Superchargers against the Manchester Originals in England's The Hundred. ANI

Bangladesh team departs for Test series with Pak

The Bangladesh cricket team left for Pakistan on Monday for the two-match Test series, starting in Rawalpindi on August 21.

Squad: Najmul Hossain Shanto (c), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Zakir Hasan, Shadman Islam, Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Kumar Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan, Nahid Rana, Shoriful Islam, Hasan Mahmud, Taskin Ahmed and Syed Khaled Ahmed. IANS

NZ coach Stead to manage pacers' workloads

Tim Southee will captain New Zealand's 15-man squad for their trip to face Afghanistan and Sri Lanka next month but may not play in all three Tests with head coach Gary Stead keen to manage workloads in conditions. REUTERS

Sreeja ruled out of UTT due to stress fracture

Indian table tennis star Sreeja Akula has been ruled out of the upcoming season of the Ultimate Table Tennis due to a stress fracture. The two-time national champion Sreeja was slated to play for Jaipur Patriots but in a statement released on Monday, the 26-year-old informed that she will need a recuperating period of six weeks. PTI

Khar Gym's Kakad has a successful day

Khar Gymkhana's Sahil Kakad won both his senior billiards and snooker first round matches of the Western India Billiards and Snooker Championships. Kakad fought back to overcome Shakir Qureshi of Mumbai 4-3 (24-66, 57-4, 59-35, 49-66, 55-24, 63-65, and 53-39). Earlier, he defeated Selven Samuel 337-238 in Billiards. TNN

ACTION TODAY

FOOTBALL: Durand Cup: Mohammedan SC vs Indian Navy, 4 pm; Rangdajied vs Nepal Army, 7 pm (Sony)
TENNIS: ATP Toronto final, 5 am (Sony)

A LIFE CUT SHORT

Depressed Thorpe Battled Anxiety And Took His Own Life, Reveals Wife Amanda

London: Former England cricketer Graham Thorpe took his own life after a struggle with depression and anxiety fuelled by his failing health in the last two years, his wife Amanda has revealed. The 55-year-old passed away on August 5. Thorpe's demise was announced by the England and Wales Cricket Board and now his wife has revealed in an interview to former England captain Michael Atherton that he had a long mental and physical battle with himself before he took his own life.

"Despite having a wife and two daughters whom he loved and who loved him, he did not get better," Thorpe's wife was quoted as saying by *The Times*. "He was so unwell in recent times and he really did believe that we would be better off without him and we are devastated that he acted on that and took his own life."

A ceremony was held before the start of a match between the Farnham Cricket Club and the Chipstead Cricket Club last Saturday in memory of Thorpe, which was attended by his wife and their daughters Kitty (22) and Emma (19). "For the past couple of years, Graham had been suffering from major depression and anxiety. This led him to make a serious attempt on his life in May 2022, which resulted in a prolonged stay in an intensive care unit," she said.

His wife revealed that despite his work assignments, Thorpe continued to suffer. "Despite glimpses of hope and of the old Graham, he continued to suffer from depression and anxiety, which at times got very severe. We supported him as a family and he tried many, many treatments but unfortunately none of them really seemed to work," she said.

The report added that the family is now considering starting a foundation in his name.



SAD END: Being removed from the England coaching set up in 2022 after losing the Ashes 4-0, triggered Thorpe's bouts of depression

PLAYERS WHO DIED BY SUICIDE

- David Bairstow (England), 1998.
- Aubrey Faulkner (South Africa), 1930.
- Jack Iverson (Australia), 1973.
- Harold Gimblett (England), 1978.
- VB Chandrashekar (India), 2019.

Despite having a wife and two daughters whom he loved and who loved him, he did not get better. He was so unwell in recent times, he really believed that we would be better off without him and we are devastated that he acted on that and took his own life."

—Amanda Thorpe

Thorpe's daughter Kitty said he was "not the same person" after a point and that he "could not see a way out". "He had loved life and he loved us but he just couldn't see a way out. It was heartbreaking to see how withdrawn he had become," she said.

"It was strange to see this person trapped

in the body of Dad. That's why we've been so happy that the many reflections have been about his life before this illness took over. I am glad that's how everyone does remember him, rightly so, as the complete character he was," Kitty added. PTI

Atletico sign Argentinian striker Alvarez from City in 85m Euro deal

Atletico Madrid signed striker Julian Alvarez from Manchester City on Monday in a deal reported to be worth up to 85 million euros (\$93 million).

"The club has reached an agreement with Manchester City for the transfer of the Argentinian forward, who has signed a contract for the next six seasons," said Atletico in a statement. Spanish reports say Atletico will pay 75 million euros for the forward, with potentially 10 million more in bonuses.

The 24-year-old arrived at City for just £14 million (16 million euros) in January 2022 from River Plate, win-



Getty Images

ning two Premier League trophies and the Champions League among other silverware.

Alvarez also helped Argentina lift the World Cup in 2022 and the Copa America in 2021 and 2024.

Spurs midfielder Bissouma says sorry after laughing gas video

Tottenham midfielder Yves Bissouma apologised and admitted he showed a "severe lack of judgement" after he was recorded inhaling nitrous oxide. Bissouma posted a social media video on Saturday in which he was seen inhaling from a balloon containing the Class C drug known as laughing gas. Mali international Bissouma, 27, is set to face an internal club investigation and could face punishment.

Nitrous oxide possession for recreational use has been a criminal offence in Great Britain since 2023 and can even result in a prison sentence. AGENCIES

ATHANAZE SECURES DRAW FOR WINDIES

Port-of-Spain: Alick Athanaze played a key role in ensuring a draw for the West Indies against South Africa on the final day of the rain-affected first Test at Queen's Park Oval on Sunday.

Set 298 for victory after the Proteas declared their second innings at 173 for three, Athanaze's 92 and a fifth-wicket partnership of 65 with Jason Holder (31*) guided the hosts to safety. AGENCIES

Brief Scores: South Africa 357 and 173-3 declared (Tristan Stubbs 68, Tony de Zorzi 45) drew with West Indies 233 and 201-5 (Alick Athanaze 92, Keacy Carty 31, Jason Holder 31 not out; Keshav Maharaj 4-88).

Top stars to play Rd 1 of Duleep Trophy

Rahul, Jadeja, Surya & Axar To Be In Action; No Clarity Yet On Kohli, Rohit And Bumrah's Participation

Manuja.Veerappa
@timesofindia.com



BACK TO THE GRIND: KL Rahul (left) and Ravindra Jadeja

Bengaluru: The Duleep Trophy, once a showcase event on the domestic calendar, has over the years lost its sheen. The red-ball contest that began in the 1961-62 season has undergone a lot of changes, going from a five-zone tournament to a competition with teams chosen by BCCI selectors to a pink-ball contest. This season, the tournament is set to regain some of its lost lustre with the domestic season opener set to feature the cream of Indian cricket.

With 10 Tests scheduled over the next four months, starting with a two-Test series against Bangladesh next month, the regulars and those returning from injuries will test their form in the tournament beginning on September 5. Among those who are expected to be part of the four teams — India A, B, C and D — are Suryakumar Yadav, KL Rahul, Axar Patel, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja.

There is no clarity on the participation of Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli. Both haven't played a red-ball domestic competition in a long time. While Kohli last featured in a Ranji Trophy match for Delhi against Uttar Pradesh in 2012, Rohit hasn't played after turning up for the Gautam Gambhir-led India Blue in the 2015-16 edition of the Duleep Trophy. Pacer Jasprit Bumrah is expected to give it a miss along with R Ashwin, while Mohd Shami's participation is subject to him clearing fitness tests.

The return of the big guns is in line with BCCI's new outline, which mandates all India team regulars to play domestic cricket when not on national duty.

1st MATCH IN BENGALURU
In anticipation of their participation of the opening round has been moved from Anantapur to Bengaluru. Originally, the Rural Development Trust Stadium and ACA ADCA ground in Anantapur were set to host all the matches.

Last week, the Karnataka State Cricket Association was sounded out by the BCCI to prepare to host one match. One of the primary reasons cited was the logistic issues in Anantapur, which does not have an airport. Bengaluru (215km) and Vijaynagar airport in Ballari (135km) are the nearest airports.

If the Indian team regulars decide to play, the BCCI does not want to put them through the travel rigmarole. Confirming the shift to M Chinnaswamy stadium, KSCA president Raghuram Bhat, told TOI. "We were alerted by the BCCI last week and we have confirmed our willingness to host one match starting on September 5."

NEPAL TEAM IN NCA
The Nepal team arrived in Bengaluru on Monday to begin a two-week training programme at the National Cricket Academy here.

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Mkts shrug off Hindenburg row as Cong, BJP slug it out

Adani Group Stocks Largely Unaffected

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid a political slugfest over the latest Hindenburg report, Dalal Street discounted the short-seller's charges against Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval

FULL COVERAGE: P 10, 15

Buch and their alleged links with the Adani fund probe, closing 57 points lower in volatile trade.

Unlike Jan 2023, when the report on Adani group severely

Recent revelations raise disturbing questions about Sebi integrity and conduct in investigating the Adani mega scam... At a minimum, the Sebi chairperson must resign to restore the regulator's integrity. The illusion that Sebi chairperson and her husband had separated their finances lies shattered by the revelation that after joining Sebi, she transacted in the fund from her personal email account on Feb 25, 2018. Clearly, no institution is sacrosanct in Amrit Kaal

—Jairam Ramesh | Cong

After being rebuffed by people of India, Congress, its allies and toolkit gang have conspired to usher in economic anarchy in India. Hindenburg report is released on Saturday, there's uproar on Sunday so that market is destabilised on Monday

Do you know this gentleman, George Soros, who runs propaganda against India?... He is the main investor (in Hindenburg). In their pathological hatred for Modi, Congress has developed hatred for India itself

—Ravi Shankar Prasad | BJP

diate resignation.

BJP hit out at the opposition for endorsing the short-seller's attack and alleged that it was part of a plan to destabilise India backed by controversial currency speculator George Soros.

Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and Giriraj Singh too joined in.

"This is a gang to defame the country, Rahul (Gandhi) and Jairam Ramesh. Hindenburg defames us. We will not tolerate this insult to the nation. Now, strictest action will be taken against Hindenburg," Singh said.

From the other side, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh claimed that "clearly, no institution was sacrosanct in Amrit Kaal".

rely eroded the conglomerate's market cap, on Monday, the group's shares lost between 0.7% (Adani Power) and 4.1% (Adani Wilmar). But three days after it was

released, Congress used the report to attack the govt and reiterated its demand for a JPC probe. It also threatened to launch a nationwide stir while seeking Buch's immediate resignation.

IIT-M INDIA'S BEST, IIT-B AT NO. 3: NIRF

OVERALL	2024	UNIVERSITY
IIT-Madras	1	IISc, Bengaluru
IISc, Bangalore	2	JNU
IIT-Bombay	3	Jamia Millia Islamia
IIT-Delhi	4	Manipal Academy, Manipal
IIT-Kanpur	5	Banaras Hindu University
IIT-Kharagpur	6	University of Delhi
AIIMS, Delhi	7	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
IIT-Roorkee	8	Aligarh Muslim University
IIT-Guwahati	9	Jadavpur University
JNU	10	Vellore Institute of Technology
Homi Bhabha National Institute 16		
TISS 58		
Inside Flap, P 2		
Management		
IIM Ahmedabad	1	
IIM Bangalore	2	
IIM Kozhikode	3	
IIM Mumbai	6	
State Public Univ		
Anna Univ, Chennai	1	
Jadavpur Univ, Kolkata	2	
Savitribai Phule Pune Univ	3	
Engineering		
IIT-Madras 1	IIT-Bombay 3	
IIT-Delhi 2	ICT 41	

ED seeks SC clarity on its bar on HCs from hearing pleas in coal scam cases

New Delhi: A decade after Supreme Court cancelled illegal allotment of coal blocks, mostly by the UPA govt, ED Monday sought clarity from the apex court on its decision barring HCs from entertaining accused's appeals against trial court decisions, reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.

Additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati told an SC bench that two 3-judge benches, in their rulings of July 2014 and July 2017, had barred accused from moving HCs against proceedings before the special CBI judge to expedite the trial. Bhati then drew the court's attention to two orders passed by a two-judge SC bench asking coal scam accu-

IN THE COURTS

- > SC warns Centre and state govt, sets 2-mth deadline to implement allied & healthcare professions Act | P 11
- > SC junks PIL on UGC-NET, says won't interfere with exam schedule | Inside Flap
- > Delhi HC grants protection from arrest till Aug 21 to ex-IAS probationer Puja Khedkar | P 9
- > Bombay HC bench stays case against Poonawallas in vax adverse effects case | P 9

sed to move the jurisdictional HC for relief, while refusing to entertain their pleas.

► 'Can't constrict accused', P 11

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IIT-M and IISc retain top NIRF slots; Hindu springs surprise

DU Jumps To 6th From 11th Position In Univ Category

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New Delhi: Indian Institute of Technology-Madras continues to shine in the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF), securing the top spot in both the overall and engineering categories for the sixth and ninth consecutive years, respectively. Similarly, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore retains its position as the best university for the ninth year in a row.

However, in a surprising turn, Hindu College has unseated Miranda House, ending its seven-year streak as the top college. St Stephen's College, after a two-year absence from the top 10, has made a comeback, sharing the third position with Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Centenary College, West Bengal.

NIRF, launched by the education ministry in 2015, outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country. The parameters broadly cover "Teaching, Learning and Resources," "Research and Professional Practices," "Graduation Outcomes," "Outreach and Inclusivity," and "Perception".

In NIRF 2024, IITs and IISc continue to dominate across various categories, much like

DEGREES OF EXCELLENCE

NEW CATEGORIES			
State Public University	2024		
Anna University, Chennai	1		
Jadavpur University, Kolkata	2		
Savitribai Phule Pune University	3		
OPEN UNIVERSITIES		Skill Universities	
IGNOU, Delhi	1	Symbiosis Skills & Prof University, Pune	1
Netaji Subhash Open University, Kolkata	2	Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Palwal	2
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open Univ, Ahmedabad	3	Bhartiya Skill Devpt University, Jaipur	3

they do in global rankings. IIT-Bombay has been ranked as the top institute for innovation, while IISc Bangalore leads in research.

The overall category, a core component of the India rankings, is overwhelmingly dominated by IITs. Eight of the top 10 institutions are IITs, with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi at seventh place and JNU at tenth. Notably, there has been minimal change in the top 10 over the past five years, except for AIIMS entering and BHU dropping out in 2022.

While IIT-Madras, IISc, and IIT-Bombay claim the top three spots in the overall category, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, ranked 11th, is the highest-ranked private university. Seven private universities feature in the top 25 of this category.

The ninth edition of NIRF was released on Monday. The number of higher

education institutions participating rose from 3,565 in 2016 to 10,845 in 2024. The rankings now encompass 16 categories and subject domains, up from four in 2016. NIRF assesses institutions based on five broad parameters: teaching, learning and resources; research and professional practice; graduation outcomes; outreach and inclusivity; and perception.

In the university category, DU made significant progress, jumping from 11th to 6th place. DU also has six colleges in the top 10 and 26 in the top 100. IISc, JNU, and Jamia Millia Islamia are the top three universities. Three private institutions — Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, and Vellore Institute of Technology — are among the top 10, with nine private universities in the top 20 overall.

Siksha 'O' Anusandhan, Bhubaneswar, improved its ranking to 14th in the univer-

sity category and made it into the top 25 overall, emerging as the top ranked HEI in Odisha. It also retained its position in the top 10 dental sciences institutions in the country, ranked 9th nationally.

Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan, while releasing the rankings, said that knowing the quality, performance and strengths of an academic institution "is a right of students and parents. Therefore, all the 58,000 HEIs in the country must come under the ranking and rating framework".

The ranking report noted that most research activity is concentrated within the top 100 institutions across various categories, though it also pointed out that many general degree colleges are increasingly active in research and publications. However, it highlighted a significant challenge: the majority of faculty with doctoral qualifications are concentrated in these top institutions, leaving others at a disadvantage. The report underscored the critical role that mentorship during doctoral training plays in preparing faculty for teaching careers in higher education.

In the college category, 63 of the top 100 institutions are from Tamil Nadu (37) and Delhi (26). Nine IITs are in the top ten list for engineering colleges with IIT-Madras being at the top for the ninth consecutive year in the category. IIT-Delhi and IIT-Bombay also retained their second and third spot respectively. NIT-Tiruchirappalli is the only non-IIT in the top ten list.

SC junks PIL seeking probe into UGC-NET cancellation

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New Delhi: Pan-India examinations have of late been witnessing an uncanny trend of getting vetted by the SC, which on Monday refused to entertain a PIL seeking a probe into hurried cancellation of UGC-NET on June 19 following certain social media messages about question paper leak.

A PIL petitioner through senior advocate Devashish Bharka told a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra that the CBI has now given a report that the social media messages about alleged leakage of question paper were fake ones. "UGC did not even check the veracity of the claims and hurriedly cancelled the Jun 18 test a day later," he said.

The CJ-led bench said nearly 9 lakh students are appearing for the UGC-NET examination. "We are not in a perfect world. If we entertain this petition, it will result in utter chaos and create uncertainties for 9 lakh candidates. Sometimes, we (the courts) should exercise restraint. We are just 10 days away from the exam. Candidates must have prepared hard to appear in the examination," the bench said.

Refusing to intervene with the UGC-NET examination, now scheduled for Aug 21, for determining the eligibility of candidates for 'assistant professor' as well as 'junior research fellowship and assistant professor' in universities, the bench said the govt might have decided to cancel the UGC-NET exam on June 19 as at that time it was facing the controversy over alleged question paper leak in NEET-UG and did not want to give rise to another controversy.

ON GUARD AHEAD OF I-DAY



Ahead of Independence Day, Army carries out a security check near the Line of Control in J&K's Rajouri district on Monday even as police arrested eight suspected associates of terrorists for their alleged involvement in providing logistical support in the recent attacks in the Kathua-Bani-Kishtwar belt, including the ambush on an Army patrol in the remote Machedi forest on July 8 that killed five soldiers

'Dead for a decade', UP teacher found doing maths at Petrapole

Sanjib Chakraborty | TNN

Petrapole: The tense Indo-Bangla Petrapole border in North 24-Parganas, where both Bangladeshi and Indian citizens have gathered due to the current turmoil in the neighbouring country, was scene of an unusual event recently.

Last week, locals found a man in his early 40s in ragged clothes solving mathematical problems with a stick on wet soil under a tree near Petrapole Bazar. Locals alerted police, given the situation. Upon probe, police found that the man, who seemed disoriented, was one Amit Kumar Prasad, a mathematics teacher from UP's Gorakhpur, who has been missing for over a decade.

Local police, with the help of Ham radio enthusiasts, reunited Prasad with his family on Monday. His father, Gama Prasad, came to the Petrapole Police Station with his



BSF personnel at Petrapole border

relatives from Bargo in Gorakhpur on Monday, marking an end to years of search for him. Family members said Prasad used to teach maths at a school in their home town for several years before he went missing.

Gama Prasad said: "Besides teaching students at the school, my son taught mathematics to more than 250 students from poor families in at least five neighbouring villages — free of cost. His love for mathematics began during childhood

and he started teaching early. Later, he suffered from a mental ailment and went missing. We looked for him for years, all in vain. We never expected to see him alive after so many years."

Parimal Roy, a Ham radio operator, told TOI: "Locals found him solving some mathematical equations on wet soil. When they asked him for his identity, he didn't reply and went further away to the riverbank and continued solving equations. He told them to leave him alone, in Hindi, after they persisted in questioning him, at which they informed the police."

Ambarish Nag Biswas, secretary of West Bengal Radio Club, told TOI: "Police contacted us to help locate Prasad's family. I spoke to the man and circulated his photo in the network of Ham radio operators across India to start a search for his family. Later, we got in touch with his father."

At 41L, Jan-May foreign tourist arrivals up 9%

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New Delhi: Between January to May this year, 40.7 lakh foreign tourists have visited the country as compared to 37.3 lakh during the same period last year, registering a growth of 9.1%. Foreign exchange earnings for the same period till May were Rs 1.1 lakh crore as compared to Rs 88,441 crore last year, registering a growth of nearly 22.5%.

The data was shared by govt in response to a written question in Lok Sabha during the monsoon session of Parliament. The govt has also shared findings of a study to assess the impact of the pandemic on the tourism sector at the peak of the pandemic and the measures tak-



Foreign exchange earning for Jan-May was Rs 1.1 lakh crore as compared to Rs 88,441 crore last year, up nearly 22.5%

ing the same period were Rs 17,762 crore as compared to Rs 17,206 crore in May 2023 registering a growth of 3.2%.

He said the trend highlighted indicate a positive impact on the overall economic growth and development of the tourism sector in the country. "The data shows

a consistent increase in FTAs and (FEEs) suggesting a robust and expanding tourism industry," he said.

The minister also shared data for the last three years that shows that while in pandemic year 2021 the number of foreign tourist visitors to India stood at 10.5 lakh it shot up to 85.9 lakh in 2022 and provisional data for 2023 shows that over 1.9 crore foreign visitors came to India.

The minister went on to list the steps that the govt took to rejuvenate the tourism and hospitality sector ranging from a loan scheme to support tour operators, travel agents, tourist transport operators to launching 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative to encourage citizens to travel within the country."

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