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6 killed, 22 hurt as truck rams into bus in Jalna

Six people were killed and 22 injured when a truck trying to overtake a vehicle on the Beed-Jalna road collided with an ST bus in Ambur tehsil of Jalna on Friday. The condition of some of the injured is critical. Police said it appeared that the driver of the Beed-bound truck lost control and hit the bus coming from the opposite direction. **Flap Opp**

Didi, Soren talk, WB lifts J'khand border blockade

Bengal lifted its border blockade against Jharkhand at 6.30pm Friday, opening the floodgates for traffic that had been stalled for 20 hours after CM Mamata Banerjee had sealed the border accusing DVC of "flooding Bengal to save Jharkhand". The breakthrough came after she talked it out with her ally and counterpart Hemant Soren. **P 16**

Sinkhole swallows Pune tanker, bike

A Pune sanitation department tanker and a bike fell into a 10ft-deep sinkhole opened up at a post office at Belgaon Chowk in Budhwar Peth Friday. The tanker driver escaped unhurt. **P 12**

Manipur flags intel on Myanmar influx

Manipur CM's office has forwarded to police a purported intelligence alert about an influx of 900-odd tribal militants from Myanmar as part of a mission to launch attacks on villages in Imphal valley around Sept 28. **P 7**

Bus cleaner held for 'wrong' touch

A bus cleaner, in his sixties, was arrested by the Samta Nagar police Thursday for allegedly inappropriately touching an underage female student inside a school bus. The incident occurred on the bus on Monday. **P 3**

4 BSF men, jawan die in J&K mishaps

Four BSF personnel were killed and over two dozen injured as a bus carrying 36 of them for poll duty fell into a gorge in Budgam district. In Kathua, a soldier died and five were injured in a similar gorge fall in Billaer. **TNN**

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Times Interact | P 8, 10 & 12

After 'worst 1st class' flight from US, AI refunds flyer

New Delhi: Air India has issued a refund to a passenger who had the "worst first class" experience on a Chicago-Delhi flight that cost him \$6,300 (Rs 5.3 lakh) for a one-way ride. The seats and carpet were extremely dirty and had stain marks; its inflight entertainment (IFE) didn't work during the 15-hour flight; and "30%" of the food options on the menu weren't available, according to Anip Patel. Founder of a Chicago-based VC firm CaPatel Investments, Patel shot a video of his harrowing experience and posted it on Instagram. The video went viral, garnering thousands of views. Complaints like these have

Bombay HC strikes down Centre's fact check unit

'Unconstitutional, Against Free Speech, Equality'

Swati.Deshpande @timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Describing it as an infringement on the right to equality and freedom of speech, Bombay high court on Friday quashed the amended Information Technology rules enabling the Centre to set up its own Fact Check Unit (FCU) and flag social media content about its functioning as 'fake, false or misleading'.

Holding the FCU to be unconstitutional, Justice A S Chandurkar of the HC—who served as 'tie-breaker judge' after a division bench in Jan delivered a split verdict—described the expression, 'fake, false and misleading' as 'vague and overbroad'.

"The FCU in a sense is an arbiter in its own cause," said Justice Chandurkar, echoing

FCU AN ARBITER IN ITS OWN CAUSE: JUDGE

Rules introduced by amending IT Act permits Fact Check Unit (FCU) to flag as 'fake, false, or misleading' content on social media/online about business of govt
In this case, as central govt itself is aggrieved by 'fake, false and misleading' news, FCU will be an arbiter in govt's own cause, judge observes

Since the amended Rule attempts to identify 'information' (on) business of the central govt as fake or false or misleading by the FCU, it is necessary the said expressions are either defined or explained to give an idea of what could be termed to be fake or false or misleading

the view of Justice Patel who had on Jan 31, 2024, struck down the rule as unconstitutional for its vagueness and disproportionality (see box).

Justice Chandurkar said the FCU rule would have "a chilling effect" on individuals as well as intermediaries; the new rule could have led to loss of 'safe harbour' against

► 'Not State's job', P 16

Sensex scales 84k for 1st time on global rally

Sensex scaled the 84,000-point level for the first time on Friday as foreign institutional buying, following a global rally sparked by the US Federal Reserve's rate cut, drove key indices to new peaks. After hitting an intraday high of 84,694, the index closed at 84,544, a new mark.

► RBI flags volatility risks in markets, P 19

Nifty mirrored the trend, ending at a record 25,791, with an intraday peak of 25,849. Foreign institutional investors made net purchases of Rs 14,064 crore, while domestic institutions sold stocks worth Rs 4,427 crore.

The influx of foreign capital also supported the rupee, which closed at 83.56 against the dollar on Friday, up from 83.66. **TNN P 19**

SC to Centre: Where & why are names okayed by collegium for HCs stuck?

Dhananjay.Mahapatra @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Reigniting its tussle with the Centre for quick implementation of collegium resolutions on appointment of HC judges, Supreme Court Friday asked the latter to explain "why some of the names recommended (for judgeship) are pending and at which level".

Kapil Sibal, appearing for Jharkhand govt, which has filed a contempt petition for delay in implementing collegium recommendation for appointment of the last two chief justices for the state, alleged the Centre either "delays or maintains a stoic silence" on appointment of judges.

While dealing with a PIL for laying down a timeline for

Collegium is not a search committee. It has a certain status in the constitutional fabric

AG, you tell us by next week the status of pending names recommended by collegium. Ultimately, the idea is not to unearth skeletons in the cupboard but to move forward, so that the business of governance proceeds

—SC BENCH HEADED BY CJI

govt to implement collegium recommendations, a bench led by CJJD Y Chandrachud said, "Names for appointment as chief justices of various HCs are expected to be notified soon. Let us wait till next week."

► 'Not a search panel', P 12

CR seeks hike in penalties for ticketless travel

Central Railway's Mumbai division has sought an increase in penalty for ticketless and unauthorised travel, pointing out that the last revision—from Rs 50 to Rs 250—was made in 2004, reports Manthan K Mehta.

► Ticket checker attacked with hockey stick, P 4

Among other reasons, it said inflation had diminished the deterrent effect of the Rs 250 fine and legal passengers were being inconvenienced. During the 2023-24 fiscal year, CR raked in Rs 115cr from 20.6 lakh cases of ticketless/irregular travel and unbooked luggage, while WR collected Rs 46cr. **P 4**

State Cong chief plays down CM claim even as Sena (UBT) smarts about 'big bro' attitude

Mumbai: Congress MLA Balasaheb Thorat's statement that the new state CM would be from Congress was on Friday sharply contested by MPCC president Nana Patole and Sena (UBT) RS member Sanjay Raut, reports Chaitanya Marpakwar.

While Patole said the next CM would be from the MVA and a decision would be taken after the elections, Raut said Thorat's claim was wrong and warned Congress that if it thinks it is the "big brother" in the alliance because it got more seats

in the Lok Sabha polls, it should realise how much Shiv Sena (UBT) contributed to it.

At a Congress workers' rally Thursday, Thorat had said the party would emerge as the single largest party in the state polls and the next CM would be from Congress.

Patole said, "Apparently, Thorat wanted to say the next CM will be from MVA. The policy of MVA is clear; no decision has been taken, it will be taken after the elections. The Congress high command will play a crucial role in the selection of the new CM."

► 'Gave Cong 3 LS seats', P 5

GMLR tunnels moved 600m to bypass tribal hamlet

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Mumbai: The alignment of the proposed twin tunnels for Goregaon-Mulund Link Road (GMLR) has been moved 600 metres from the original path under Sanjay Gandhi National Park, ensuring that the tribal hamlet of Habalepada will remain intact. But the shift will come at a cost of Rs 250 crore, to be added to the GMLR project's original estimate of Rs 6,301 crore.

"The earlier tunnel route would have required relocating a few households in Habalepada. With the change, the tunnels will pass underneath the hamlet, and no family will be displaced," additional civic chief Abhijit Bangar said.



Shifting the twin tunnels will hike the project cost by ₹250 crore

"It is encouraging that the BMC has acknowledged the rights of the indigenous communities and adjusted the project accordingly," said Aarey conservation activist Amrita Bhattacharjee, who played a pivotal role in organising the tribals to fight for their rights.

► Deeper boring, P 5

SC slams CBI for calling Bengal courts 'hostile'

CBI's complaint that it is having to contend with hostility in the courts in West Bengal drew sharp reaction from the Supreme Court, which pulled up the agency Friday for casting aspersions on the judiciary by branding all courts in the state as hostile. The agency was pressing for the transfer of trial in 42 cases of post-assembly election violence out of Bengal to another state, but the SC bench took exception to the finger-pointing and said it was contemptuous, for which action could be taken against the officer involved in filing the plea. **Dhananjay Mahapatra reports. Flap Opp**

Kavitha bail jibe: Revanth let off by SC after apology

Stressing that the executive, legislature and judiciary must respect each other and not cross the line while criticising, SC on Friday dropped proceedings against Telangana CM

Revanth Reddy for his contemptuous remark on its order granting bail to BRS leader K Kavitha in the Delhi excise case after he tendered an apology. Stating fair criticism was welcome, it, however, cautioned constitutional functionaries to be responsible while passing comments on court proceedings. **TNN P 13**



Naidu seeks report on Tirupati laddus; don't politicise: Jagan

Srikanth Aluri & Sandeep Raghavan | TNN

Vijayawada/Tirupati: The TDP-led govt in Andhra Pradesh on Friday sought a detailed report from Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) on the alleged use of adulterated ghee in the preparation of laddu prasadam at Tirumala temple even as a full-scale war of words broke out between chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his predecessor YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on

► Have spoken to Naidu, sought report: Nadda, P 22

this sensitive religious issue. Attacking Reddy at a public meeting in Prakasam district, Naidu said, "People are saying their sentiments were hurt (following allegations of presence of animal fat in Ti-

WAR OF WORDS

People are saying their sentiments were hurt (following allegations of presence of animal fat in Tirupati laddus). When sentiments are hurt, should I spare them (culpits)?

—CM Chandrababu Naidu

Online tenders floated every six months. Stock accepted only after all 3 samples cleared quality test... Naidu was at helm on July 12 & report was received nearly 2 months ago. Why did he stay silent?

—Ex-CM Jagan Reddy

rupati laddus). When the sentiments were hurt, should I spare them (culpits) when unpardonable mistakes were committed?"

► 'Why mum for 2mths?', P 16

Kerala-born Norwegian linked to pager blasts?

Rinson Jose, 37, from Kerala's Wayanad who briefly trained for the clergy before migrating to Norway has emerged as an alleged link in the pager blasts that killed 12 in Lebanon. Norta Global Ltd, a 'tech firm' based in Sofia, Bulgaria, allegedly owned by Jose, is being probed by international security agencies following reports linking it to the sale of the pagers. **Flap Opp**

Israeli airstrike kills 12 in Beirut

In its deadliest airstrike on Lebanon in years, Israel said it killed a senior Hezbollah commander in Beirut while Lebanese authorities reported at least 12 people dead and dozens wounded. Hours earlier, Hezbollah pounded north Israel with 140 rockets. **P 17**

Stuck in Lebanon for 23 yrs, Punjab man back home

A man from Punjab returned from Lebanon after 23 years—18 of those years spent stranded in that volatile country—because he had lost his passport there in 2006 and all subsequent attempts to return home failed, reports IP Singh. By the time he got home, one of the two little sons he had left behind had a son of his own.

Gurtej Singh, of Matwar village in Ludhiana district, managed to return to India and was reunited with his family after RS member Baba Balbir Singh Seehewal took up his case with the MEA, which then facilitated his return. **P 7**

At event, 5 TISS students protest Dalit's benching

Five students from TISS marked their dissent over the suspension of Dalit research scholar Ramadas K S and the lack of job security for staffers at the convocation ceremony Friday by holding up placards while collecting their certificates. While the students claimed their protest was peaceful, Arghya Das, former president of Progressive Students' Forum, was forcibly taken off the stage by the institute's security personnel and his degree certificate was taken away, alleged the students in a statement, demanding its immediate return. **Yogita Rao reports, P 4**

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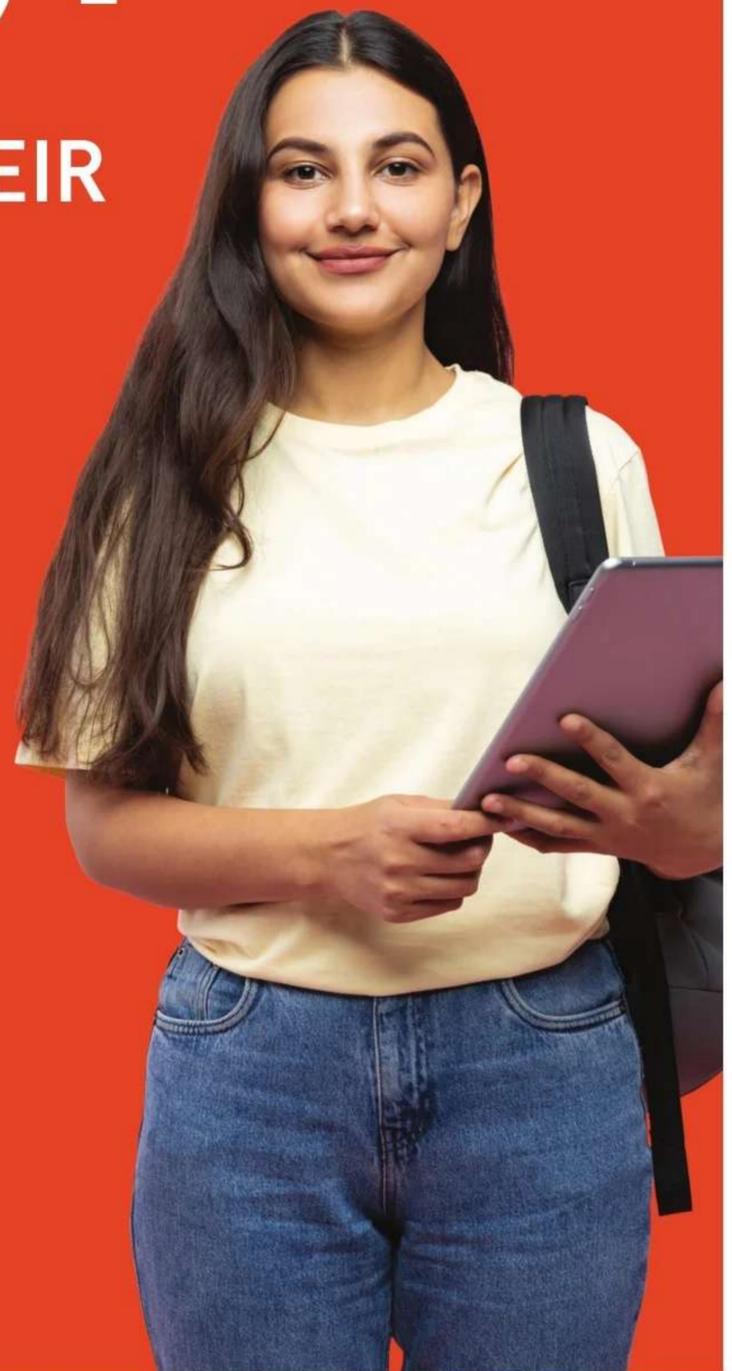
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Cong & UBT Sena to fight 100 seats each, NCP (SP) 80: Neta

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Mumbai: If a senior leader of the NCP (Sharad Pawar) is to be believed, the Congress and UBT Shiv Sena will contest 100 seats each, NCP (SP) will contest 80, while eight seats will be left for smaller parties for the assembly polls as part of the MVA seat-sharing formula. According to reports, the Congress had earlier staked claim on 140 seats, but now it appears it has reduced its demand.

MVA leaders - MPCC president Nana Patole, Congress legislature party leader Balasaheb Thorat, Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Sanjay Raut and NCP (SP)'s Jayant Patil and Jeetendra Ahwad met on Friday to discuss the seat-sharing formula for the ensuing elections. "We expect to draft the seat-sharing formula amicably, there is no dispute at all. So far, we have taken a decision on 70 percent of the seats, and it is expected that a decision on the remaining seats will be taken within a few days," the NCP (SP) leader said.

The NCP (SP) leader said that barring the Vidarbha region, basic discussion on seats in Marathwada, north Maharashtra, Konkan and Western Maharashtra is complete.

MVA leaders expect that it will not be difficult for the alliance to dislodge the Ek-nath Shinde-led Mahayuti govt owing to what MVA calls its failure on all fronts. The Mahayuti is banking on the Ladki Bahin scheme to lure voters.

Don't make speeches that rile voters, says Bhujbal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nashik: After deputy chief minister and NCP chief Ajit Pawar expressed unhappiness with statements about the minority community made by BJP MLA Nitesh Rane, NCP cabinet minister Chhagan Bhujbal on Friday said politicians from coalition partners in the Mahayuti must refrain from making statements that could damage prospects of their candidates in the assembly polls.

An MLC of the NCP, Satish Chavan, also wrote to deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis on Friday demanding action against Nitesh Rane for his provocative statements against minorities. In his letter to Fadnavis, Chavan alleged that Nitesh Rane was creating a rift between communities with his statements. Bhujbal reminded Mahayuti politicians that several of their candidates had won previous elections when voters from different communities chose them, so leaders must not make speeches that cut down the number of their voters.

"Functionaries and leaders of parties in Mahayuti must take precautions their speeches do not affect Mahayuti voters," he said. "Nitesh Rane, Narayan Rane, Ajit Pawar, CM Ek-nath Shinde and BJP all want Mahayuti back in power. We should be careful about what we speak," he said. (With inputs from agencies)

As govt sows seeds of higher export in poll season, onion rises to ₹60/kg

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Mumbai: The retail rate of onion has risen to Rs 55-60 per kg in city markets, causing anxiety among households. The spiralling cost of the household staple is adding to the burden already imposed by expensive edible oil, tomato, potato and greens, including coriander and fenugreek, apart from pulses, the rates of which have all risen in past weeks.

The Centre recently decreased export duty on onion from 40% to 20% and removed the minimum export price, and traders surmised

'Lack Of Sunlight, Ventilation In Rehab Bldgs Could Cause Health Issues'

Residents of 'vertical slums' better off on the ground: HC

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Mumbai: Expressing concern over "vertical slums", Bombay high court said lack of sunlight and ventilation in some rehabilitation buildings under the slum schemes in the city could lead to health issues, and the shanty inhabitants "are better off on the ground".

"We ought not to tolerate vertical slums... We are really worried for the city," a division bench of Justices Girish Kulkarni and Somasekar Sundaresan remarked orally on Friday while hearing a PIL to assess the effectiveness of the Maharashtra Slum Act of 1971.

After a July 30 Supreme Court order, HC tasked itself suo motu to undertake a performance audit of the law, which senior counsel Darius Khambata, as amicus curiae, said would finally benefit not just slum dwellers, but the city and all its inhabitants.

"It is so difficult to safeguard public land. In one matter, where senior advocate Gayat-

ri Singh is appearing for slum dwellers, acres and acres of mangrove land had slums on it. There will now be rehabilitation and buildings on it," said Justice Kulkarni, as a host of lawyers made suggestions based on the seven parameters that Supreme Court had laid down to look at the slum Act, which for over decades has governed how Mumbai's more than 60% population squatting in shanties get free homes in buildings.

Senior counsel Pravin Samdani said, "Slums are formed daily. Why is there no action to stop new slums?" Justice Kulkarni agreed, and asked, "how to curb the proliferation of new slums? Why should there be a bonanza [free housing] for eligible slum dwellers? Look at Sanjay Gandhi National Park. There are encroachments there too. We are giving you examples."

When senior counsel Navroz Seervai showed images of rehab buildings standing very close to each other, Justice Kulkarni remarked how it was

akin to "vertical slums", affecting residents' fundamental right to life which authorities ought to address. State advocate general Birendra Saraf pointed it may be an "aberration" and he could also show photographs of rehab buildings that were far apart with adequate sunlight and ventilation.

One suggestion said, "Give those migrating for work, low-cost rental housing. Let there be a housing pool that remains with the state." He also spoke of how it was builders going to slums to effect a redevelopment, not vice versa, and how builders then fail to pay transit rent to slum dwellers pending construction.

Khambata said slum dwellers sell their free homes at market rates; they should at best be allowed to sell at a cost. He also cited how a provision of law, which empowers Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA) to take over a project if the builder doesn't deliver, is rarely resorted to and builders keep changing for 15-20 years. Justice Kulkarni said: "There

are methods a builder finds to stay on a particular plot."

On comparisons being made with Singapore, Saraf said the ground and social realities of Mumbai and India cannot be lost sight of. He said the state and SRA have taken initiatives in recent times to ensure slum rehabilitation expeditiously and effectively. But the state welcomes any suggestions which will help the process.

Justice Kulkarni said the aim should be to strive towards the ideal situation, to tackle the issue ground up, and build a state housing pool. The AG said that "a drone survey is being carried out," to map slums. Khambata, a former AG, said the situation at times is "like Alice in Wonderland. Curiouser and curiouser. Next to the new airport, it already looks like shanty towns are coming up..." HC sought suggestions, including on legal reforms and allied issues in addition to the seven flagged by Supreme Court, be sent to a nodal advocate Samit Shukla and posted the matter next month.

Fatal mishap on coastal rd: Diamond trader held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Worli police on Monday arrested a diamond trader after he allegedly crashed a BMW into a labourer at the Coastal Road near Worli Doodh Dairy.

The injured worker was rushed to hospital, where he was declared dead before admission. Pintukumar Thakur, 36, who works as a welder for the Coastal Road project, lodged the FIR. The deceased, Kashmir Misa Singh, also used to work for the Coastal Road project as a wireman. This

Man ends life on sea link

Mumbai: The body of a 26-year-old taxi driver, who jumped into water from the Bandra-Worli Sea Link in the wee hours of Friday, was found in the sea near Dadar. He was identified as Altaf Mohammed Hussain, a Gvandi resident.

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was the first accident in which a man was killed on the Coastal Road.

Thakur told the police that the workers were at work, and at around 7 pm, Singh was standing on the northbound side of the road. He said that they heard a loud sound and rushed to the spot. They found a parked blue BMW by the roadside, and Singh was lying on the road. An ambulance was called and Singh was rushed to Bhatia Hospital, where he was declared dead before admission.

The police arrived at the spot and took the BMW driver, Rahil Mehta, into custody. Mehta, who runs a jewellery designing firm along with his father in South Mumbai, was arrested for causing death by negligence and rash driving. He was granted bail on Tuesday.

Coastal road now open 17 hrs a day and on weekends too

BMC Extends Traffic Timings Of Northbound Carriageway By 1 Hour

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Mumbai: From Saturday, traffic hours on the northbound carriageway of the Mumbai Coastal Road will be extended by an hour, from 7am to midnight instead of 7am-11pm, and will be open on weekends too, BMC announced on Friday. With the new timings, motorists will be able to access the coastal road from Marine Drive for 17 hours in a day, all seven days of the week.

The southbound section of the road is also open for motorists every day from 7am-12am, barring closure at Bindumadhav Thackeray Chowk in Worli on weekends. During Ganeshotsav, the coastal road was kept open 24x7 from Sept 6 to 18, ensuring smooth travel for motorists. It has now been decided that the southbound route



During the Ganpati festival, the coastal road was open for traffic 24x7

from Bindumadhav Thackeray Chowk, Rajni Patel Chowk (Lotus Junction), and Amarsons Garden to Marine Drive, as well as the northbound route from Marine Drive, Haji Ali, and Rajni Patel Chowk (Lotus Junction) to Bandra-Worli Sea Link will be open for traffic on all days of the week from 7am to 12am, said BMC officials.

The speed limit on vehicles on the straight road is 80km, in the tunnel 60km, and at the turning point 40km. Traffic police have restricted entry for all heavy vehicles, trailers, mixers, tractors, heavy goods vehicles excluding

BEST and ST buses and passenger-carrying vehicles, goods carrier vehicles, two-wheelers, cycles, three-wheelers, animal-drawn carts, handcarts, and pedestrians. A notification by the additional commissioner of police stated that legal action will be taken against motorists and passengers who stop their vehicles on the coastal road to take pictures and videos.

Since March, the coastal road has been opened up in phases as 92% of the works have been completed. On March 11, the southbound carriageway was opened; on June 10, the northbound carriageway was opened up to Haji Ali; on July 11, the road from Haji Ali to Worli was opened; and on Sept 12, the southbound arm of the bowstring arch bridge connecting coastal road and sea link was opened.

Graduate constituency election for senate put off a second time

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Mumbai: The University of Mumbai senate election for the graduate constituency has been indefinitely postponed for the second time in 13 months following a govt directive. The elections were scheduled to take place on Sunday.

A govt resolution issued on Friday mentioned that concerns had been raised by former students of the IIT Bombay and the Institute of Chemical Technology, Matunga, about the extremely low voter enrolment, prompting the govt to set up a one-member committee to look into it.

The committee, under former Bombay high court judge K L Wadane, will also look into the legality of allowing graduates from private universities in the MU's jurisdiction, as well as other graduates living in the area for a long time, to be members of the varsity senate.

In Aug last year, the list with 90,000 voters was scrapped after allegations from BJP MLA Ashish Shelar. In



Concerns have been raised about having only 13,406 names on voter list

the fresh registration process, only 13,406 graduates were eligible to vote. This is the lowest registration in the last four election cycles. The election was postponed last year too. The university's last full senate dissolved in Aug 2022 after its term came to an end, and the seats in the graduates' constituency have been lying vacant since then. There are 10 seats in the graduates' constituency, and in the last election, all the seats were won by Yuva Sena candidates.

Adv Siddharth Ingle, president of the Maharashtra Students Union (MASU), also filed a petition in the Bombay high court challenging the senate election, claiming that the process was flawed and politically motivated. Ingle claimed that the elections were "political party oriented" rather than focused on student interests. The petition mentioned that the sharp decline in voter registration was indicative of deeper issues within the election process.

The decision to postpone the election met with severe criticism from opposition parties. In a post on X, NCP (SP) mentioned that the senate election had been postponed not once, but twice, and that too, two days before the election. "Maharashtra has never seen a ruling party so scared of elections," it said.

Yuva Sena president Aaditya Thackeray also took to X: "The cancellation of the MU senate election for graduates only shows how scared the BJP and illegal CM are of the Yuva Sena - a youth organisation." Yuva Sena's Pradeep Sawant claimed that IIT Bombay alumni had nothing to do with the MU election and the govt had been making excuses to cancel the election.

ABVP's Sankalp Phaladse said the postponement the death of democracy and the university's inability to hold elections smoothly an insult to graduates. The ABVP alleged the election was cancelled as the CM's office and his party were not contesting.

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School bus cleaner held for inappropriate touch

Mumbai: A bus cleaner, in his sixties, was arrested by the Santa Nagar police on Thursday for allegedly inappropriately touching an underage female student inside a school bus. The incident occurred on Monday while the student was travelling home by the bus.

The girl confided in her mother who approached the school management. The school authorities complained to police. The accused was taken into custody soon after the complaint was lodged on Thursday. He was booked under the Pocco Act.

In a separate case, the watchman of a housing society was arrested by the Charkop police for inappropriately touching and kissing a teen-

nage girl in the society lift. Police said the incident occurred on Wednesday when the duo was inside the lift. Police said the girl was returning home from a provision store after purchasing groceries. Soon after she entered the lift, the watchman followed her under the pretext of talking to her.

The 17-year-old victim was terrified after the incident and complained to her parents, who approached the police. A case was lodged under the Pocco Act. The watchman slipped out of the society and left the city after learning of an FIR being lodged by the police. A special team was formed to look for him. He was tracked down to Virar and arrested on Friday. TNN

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Med edu dept nod for ₹90cr for project on e-library

Malathy.Jyer@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The state medical education department has announced Rs 90 crore for its e-library project that will allow medical students enrolled in its 25 medical colleges and three dental colleges to access textbooks and research papers on their computers, phones or tablets.

"Considering the increasing number of govt medical colleges and students in the state, it is necessary to provide advanced and innovative education methods to the relevant institutions and its students. Considering the increasing cost of many textbooks, general books, magazines, research papers, materials related to the medical field and related fields, there are difficulties in making these materials available in the respective colleges," said an official.

Moreover, these colleges don't have enough of the printed books available for all students at the same time. "With the e-digital library, faculty and students of govt colleges will have access to medical materials easily on mobiles and tablets. Updated versions of the books and educational materials will be automatically available," he said. A notification said that the tendering process should have multiple players and not require any new construction or electrical work.

12-yr-old boy's sister unhurt

Sandeep Takke



Mumbai: Vicky Kanojia, a 12-year-old student of Seth Gopalji Hemraj School, was crushed under the rear wheel of a truck in Borivli's Carter Road No. 3 on Friday. Vicky's father is engaged in air-conditioner maintenance. Police said the road is around 12-15 ft wide and in a busy neighbourhood and passersby, acting quickly, caught the truck driver and called up the police control room. Police then informed the boy's family. Vicky was rushed to civic-run Babasaheb Ambedkar Hospital in Kandivli where he was pronounced dead. His sister was unhurt. **TNN**

WEATHER

Colaba Santacruz
32.3° / 31.9° / 26.3° 25°

Sunrise: Sunday, 06:29 hrs
Sunset: Saturday, 18:31
Forecast: Partly cloudy sky with possibility of light rain/thundershowers in city and suburbs.
Maximum / Minimum temperatures likely to be around 30°C and 26°C
Relative humidity: Colaba 71%, Santacruz 69%

CR seeks hike in ticketless travel penalty; last revision 20 yrs ago

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Mumbai: The Mumbai division of Central Railway (CR) has called for an increase in the penalty imposed on ticketless and unauthorised travellers, as the last revision was made nearly 20 years ago, in 2004.

During the fiscal year 2023-24, Central Railway (CR) earned Rs 115 crore from 20.56 lakh cases of ticketless or irregular travel and unbooked luggage. Western Railway (WR) collected Rs 46 crore from 9.62 lakh such cases.

In a letter dated Sept 9, senior divisional commercial manager (works) B Arun Kumar requested the chief commercial manager (passenger services) of CR to approach the Railway Board for an increase in the minimum penalty for ticketless and irregular travel. The Mumbai division pointed out that the penalty rates have remained unchanged since 2004 when they were raised from Rs 50 to Rs 250. The letter emphasised that despite significant upgrades in stations and services, including the introduction of premium trains such as Vande Bharat, Tejas Express, and AC locals, the penalty structure has not been revised in the last 20 years. However, the minimum penalty remains unchanged.

It also stressed that inflation has diminished the deterrent effect of the Rs 250 penalty, particularly in the suburban sections. The rise in ticketless passengers has posed challenges, especially for those travelling in AC locals during the night, as overcrowding often inconveniences passengers who pay up to five times the regular fare.



The penalty for ticketless travel was hiked to Rs 250 from Rs 50 in 2004

Ticket checker attacked with hockey stick, hurt

Mumbai: A 29-year-old train ticket examiner (TTE), Vijay Kumar Pandit, was assaulted with a hockey stick by a passenger for penalising him for travelling in first class with a second-class ticket on Western Railway's suburban train on Sept 19. The assault occurred at Nalasopara station on Thursday morning, leaving Pandit with injuries below his ears.

In a statement to the police, Pandit recounted, "The passenger was travelling in the first-class compartment of a Virar local. As soon as he alighted from the train, I asked for his ticket. He presented a second-class ticket, for

which I imposed a penalty of Rs 345. However, he claimed to have only Rs 210 on him, so I charged a reduced fine of Rs 150." After issuing the receipt, Pandit was on his way to his office when the passenger, who was later identified as Rahul, struck him from behind with a hockey stick, with one blow landing near his ear, causing bleeding. The attacker fled the scene immediately. Pandit's colleagues rushed to his aid and took him to a local hospital in Nalasopara for treatment. The TTE has lodged an FIR against the accused at Vasai Govt Railway Police. —**Manthan K Mehta**

Youth held for stabbing BEST bus conductor

Mumbai: A 22-year-old man attacked an on-duty conductor of a BEST bus with a knife and tried to snatch his bag containing fare collection in Mumbai, police said on Friday.

The incident, in which conductor Ashok Dagale (44) suffered grievous injuries in multiple attacks, took place at Dharavi on Thursday night and the accused, Shaban Khan, was apprehended within four hours of the attack, an official said.

Khan entered the BEST bus between 9.05 pm and 9.20 pm at Dharavi when it was going towards Vikhroli from Pdyhonie. **TNN**

High court quizzes state govt on Nirbhaya Fund utilisation

Court Hears Plea By Mom Of 3-Yr-Old Survivor, Seeks Number Of Beneficiaries

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Mumbai: Bombay High Court on Friday directed the State govt to reveal how it had utilised the Nirbhaya Fund allotted by the Central govt to enhance safety and security of women. The Fund was announced in the July 2013 budget following the 2012 Delhi gang rape. "We want to know how much... was given to each victim," said Justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Prithviraj Chavan. They were hearing a petition by the mother of a 3-year-old, who was sexually assaulted by her 15-year-old neighbour in Sakinaka, Andheri (E). The incident happened around the same time as the sexual assault on two minors in a Badlapur school.

On Thursday, the State in-

formed that Rs 3 lakh has been awarded under the Manodhairya scheme to the survivor. The judges enquired with public prosecutor Hiten Venegavkar about the Nirbhaya Fund and "whether that amount can also be utilised." They said a "secretary level officer" must file an affidavit giving details about the Fund, its disbursement to survivors, and mode of disbursement.

Venegavkar said on Aug 29 the survivor in this case was produced before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). On Aug 30, after an inquiry, the CWC held that the mother was a fit person and given her daughter's custody. Venegavkar informed that a support person was also appointed from NGO Majlis to help the survivor. The judges

said a support person will play the role of mediator for ensuring medical, legal assistance, etc. They also sought to know about counselling for her and her parents. "...file an affidavit about what you will do in every POCSE case," said Justice Revati Mohite-Dere. Venegavkar told the court about the State Protection of Child Rights. To the judges' query, he said it is functional and inquires into violations of child rights and other matters. "What has the Commission done? Is it just on paper? Whether it has actually done anything for children? Otherwise, it is for a cosmetic purpose," said Justice Mohite-Dere. The judges sought a reply on how many

meetings the Commission had held and the steps taken.

On Thursday, the State informed that the survivor's statement was recorded on Sept 6 by the magistrate. Regarding the delay, the magistrate denied receiving a request from the police. The judges were shown a request made by the police and the magistrate's letter assigning monthly dates for the recording of statements.

The judge directed that no sooner a rape and sexual assault FIR is registered, the police must make a request to the magistrate within 3-4 days. Thereafter, the magistrate shall record a survivor's statement within 4 days. The judges adjourned the hearing for a month. They allowed the mother to mention the matter on Tuesday if by then the compensation amount is not received.

5 protest against research scholar suspension at TISS convocation

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Mumbai: Five students from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) marked their dissent over the suspension of Dalit research scholar Ramadas K S and the lack of job security for over 100 teaching and non-teaching staffers during the institute's 84th convocation ceremony held on Friday. These students went on the dais, collected their certificates, and held placards saying, 'Revoke suspension of Ramadas' and 'Ensure job security for teachers and staff'.

While the students claimed that their protest was peaceful, Arghya Das, former president of Progressive Students' Forum, was forcibly taken off the stage by the institute's security personnel and his degree certificate was taken away, alleged the students in a statement. This incident happened around 7pm. All five students were master's students from different schools and centres at the institute. Das, whose certificate was ta-



One of the students who held up a placard after collecting his cert

ken away, was from women's studies.

One of the students said that the issue of Ramadas's suspension is pending in court and TISS has also not taken any active measures to resolve it. "We did not want people to forget about it and therefore, we held a placard for two seconds during the convocation. The protest did not even involve any sloganeering. How can the institute hold back the certificate of a student, when he has no dues, no

pending documents and he has proven himself worthy of the degree? It is unjust," said the student, adding that they deeply value their education at TISS.

Ramadas was suspended for participating in a protest in Delhi and for urging people to watch an award-winning documentary. The students claimed that the Dalit research scholar has been denied education for 156 days due to the arbitrary suspension. They also pointed out that there is no clarity on the retention of jobs for the 115 teaching and non-teaching staffers after Dec 31.

The students have asked the TISS administration to return the degree certificate to Das immediately. An institute official was not available for comment on the issue. At the time of going to the press, the certificate was not returned to Das. Around 2,600 students and scholars from Mumbai and Tuljapur campuses received their degrees at the ceremony.

Chief secy being pressured to quit: Oppn leader Danve

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Mumbai: Shiv Sena (UBT) MLC and leader of the opposition Ambadas Danve has written to governor C P Radhakrishnan alleging that there was pressure on chief secretary Sujata Saunik to resign.

Danve said the govt threatened to take bogus action against her husband, former chief secretary Manoj Saunik, if Saunik did not step down.

Danve urged Radhakrishnan to direct the govt to ensure transparency in postings. He said there was a sense of fear in the Saunik family.

Danve said women officers like Idzes Kundan and V Radha, too, had been sidelined because they were

upright and straightforward.

Last month, Shiv Sena (UBT) MLA Aaditya Thackeray had alleged that there was pressure on Saunik to step down to make way for a favourable official. He said there was a lot of pressure from the Shiv Sena-BJP govt on Saunik to voluntarily step down and head the state election commission (SEC).

In his letter to Radhakrishnan, Danve said: "Similarly, V Radha and A Kundan, who are against the policies of the state govt, have been transferred from high-priority departments to low-priority departments. Therefore, it has come to my notice that there has been a feeling of dissatisfaction towards the state govt among the IAS officers. This matter is serious. So it is

requested that you immediately investigate the matter and direct the state govt to take appropriate measures to avoid political interference in the work of administration and to keep the administrative system of Maharashtra state transparent and neutral."

Saunik took charge in June, becoming the first woman in the 64-year history of the state to hold the position. She was expected to serve a one-year term before retiring in June next year. She succeeded Nitin Kareer, who retired on June 30. A 1987 batch IAS officer, she brings over thirty years of expertise in public policy and governance across healthcare, finance, education, disaster management and peacekeeping.

Gogawale named ST chairperson

Mumbai: The state govt on Friday appointed Shiv Sena MLA Bharat Gogawale as the chairperson of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) with a ministerial rank.

TOI had on Wednesday reported that Gogawale was likely to be appointed MSRTC chairperson.

Gogawale is the fourth Sena man to be appointed as head of a state-run corporation or commission this week. Earlier this week, in an effort to placate Sena MLAs who were not made ministers and former MPs whose tickets were withdrawn for LS poll, the govt announced appointments to state-run corporations and boards. —**Chaitanya Marpakwar**

Let Maharashtra roads be free of potholes, says SC

New Delhi: Supreme Court Friday dismissed a petition by an association against Maharashtra chief minister alleging that the policy for award of road construction contracts has been tweaked by the state govt to completely shut out small contractors from filing bids for such projects.

Appearing for Maharashtra State Contractor's Association, senior advocate K Parameshwar told a bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra that the state's Aug 2017 policy revised the rules for award of contracts worth Rs 1.5 crore.

A month later, another circular was issued clarifying that road construction work contracts shall be clubbed only if projects are on contiguous length of road and that distinctly separate projects on non-contiguous roads would be awarded separately. However, the state clubbed all road project works together, the counsel argued.

The bench said, "This is purely in the executive policy domain. There is no vested right with contractors to get project contracts. Let there be roads without potholes in Maharashtra". It dismissed the petition. **TNN**

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Shakti Upadhyay
Head of Marketing & PR, Kia Motor India

Kamala Mills fire: Defective electric circuit, says report

Mumbai: An investigation report by the fire brigade into a blaze at a commercial building in Kamala Mills Compound on Sept 6 has concluded that a defective electrical circuit on the first floor caused the fire.

According to the report, a copy of which is with the TOI, considering the circumstantial evidence, the statement of witnesses, observation, and inspection, the cause of the fire was found to be a "defective electric circuit." Sparks from defective wiring of an outdoor air conditioner compressor on the first floor came in contact with combustible material such as a sheet, electric cables, etc. The first floor is occupied by Protean eGov Technologies Ltd.

The early morning blaze ripped through the high-rise at Kamala Mills Compound in Lower Parel, damaging a large part of

the glass facade. The blaze started at 6.29 am and was extinguished five hours later by 11.54 am. No casualties were reported.

The report said the fire spread to an outdoor AC compressor on the first floor; electric wiring, cables and panels, plumbing lines in the plumbing shaft from the first floor to the 14th floor; electric equipment, wooden furniture, false ceiling, window glass panels, glass facade, office files, on the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th floors on the north-east side of the building in wing A.

The report identified factors contributing to the fire's spread, including that it went unnoticed by occupants, the public and security personnel in the early stages, as it occurred in the morning. High wind velocity further accelerated its spread, the report concluded. **TNN**

6 hurt in Palghar chemical unit fire

Palghar: Six workers were injured, three of them critically, in a fire at a chemical unit in Tarapur industrial estate in Palghar district on Friday. The fire broke out at 12 noon in a section of the factory. **TNN**

GMLR cost hike due to deeper boring caused by realignment

Clara.Lewis@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The realignment of the proposed twin tunnels for Goregaon-Mulund Link Road (GMLR) has brought immense relief to the residents of Habalepada. "It's great news for us that our homes and fields are safe," said Dinesh Habale, a local, though he noted that they have yet to receive formal communication from BMC.

The decision to alter the alignment was made during a meeting last month with newly elected Mumbai Northwest MP Ravindra Waikar, who, like Aarey conservation activist Amrita Bhattacharjee, advocated for the change. "At the meeting, I insisted that if the alignment could be adjusted to save the hamlet, it must be done," Waikar said.

On the cost escalation, Bangar explained BMC is employing two construction methods: the cut and cover technique and a tunnel boring machine (TBM). "Due to the shift in alignment, we will need to dig deeper, increasing the TBM's required length by 600 metres, leading to the added cost." He said tunnel construction is expected to take four years, with work set to begin after the monsoon.

Expressing hope that future infrastructure projects would consider environmental preservation, Bhattacharjee said, "We hope project proponents will make optimal use of design expertise to prevent the destruction of natural ecosystems and the habitats of indigenous communities and wildlife in the execution of infrastructure projects."

Armed with evidence, Bhattacharjee guided the tribals in demanding the formation of a ward sabha under the Forest Conservation Act to decide on the potential acquisition of their land for the GMLR twin tunnels project. In August this year, tribals from across Aarey Colony united in a large procession to protest against the forced evictions tied to the GMLR project. The protests, along with formal objections, have had a conclusive impact.

'COLLECTIVE EFFORT LED TO VICTORY FOR TRIBALS'

THE PROJECT

The Goregaon-Mulund Link Road (GMLR) is an east-west connector that includes twin tunnels passing beneath the Sanjay Gandhi National Park

Construction of tunnels
Set to begin post-monsoon and will take four years to complete

12.2km Total length of GMLR
4.7km Length of tunnel stretch

ALIGNMENT TWEAK

Initially, the tunnels were planned to pass through Habalepada, a tribal hamlet in Film City, Goregaon, which would have displaced the local community

Strong opposition from the tribals, with support from Aarey conservation activist Amrita Bhattacharjee, helped organize resistance against the displacement and the impact on their way of life

These voices were joined in by Ravindra Waikar, newly elected MP from Mumbai North West, whose constituency includes Aarey Colony. He called for a meeting with the BMC and demanded a shift in the tunnel location



600metres

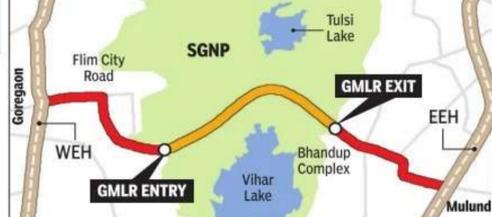
Distance by which the tunnel shaft will be moved east of its original position, avoiding the need to relocate the hamlet

₹250cr Increase in project cost because of the shift
₹6,301cr Original project cost

The collective efforts of various sections of society, alongside the indigenous community, have led to this victory for the people of Habalepada. Senior advocate Gayatri Singh, Adivasi rights activist Tushar Dash, and activists Indavi Tulpule and Brian Lobo provided invaluable guidance in the fight to protect the homes and lands of the tribals

Oct 2028 Expected month of completion of tunnel construction

Amrita Bhattacharjee | AAREY CONSERVATION ACTIVIST



Tribal win for forest land rights powered by 'Save Aarey' activist

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Mumbai: In 2015, the state issued a govt resolution (GR) allowing tribals living in urban forest areas to file land claims under the Forest Rights Act, 2006. Amrita Bhattacharjee, an Aarey conservation activist, actively worked to raise awareness of this little-known GR among tribals, visiting hamlets across the region.

By Dec 2019, many tribals had submitted land claims to

the collector's office, including residents of Habalepada in Film City. When these residents received eviction notices from the Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA), they sought Bhattacharjee's assistance. She helped them file objections, arguing that as tribals, they could not be classified as slum dwellers.

In 2023, when Film City authorities attempted to forcibly evict the tribals, Bhattacharjee supported them in filing complaints with the state

tribal department. After an investigation, the department confirmed that the tribals, who had lived there for generations, were being unjustly harassed.

Bhattacharjee also encouraged the educated youth of the village to obtain maps and documents through the Right to Information Act from Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) and BMC authorities. These documents confirmed that Habalepada was indeed forest land.

1 killed, 3 hurt on E-way after SUV crashes into truck

Navi Mumbai: One person died and three were injured after the Volkswagen SUV in which they were travelling towards Pune on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway crashed into a truck while the SUV driver was overtaking the truck from the left side near Bhatan tunnel in Panvel taluka on Friday around 4 am. Of the three injured, one is the truck driver.

The impact of the crash was so severe that the car veered to the extreme left of the highway and crashed into the peripheral metal railing, killing the person seated next to the SUV driver. The SUV driver and his other friend seated in the rear seat sustained injuries.

As the SUV crashed into the truck's left side, the trucker applied sudden brakes to prevent ramming into a tanker ahead of it, but to no avail. The truck the tanker's rear end and toppled sideways, said Anil Patil, inspector, Panvel taluka police station. An FIR was registered against the accused SUV driver, identified as Akshay Patil (23), a resident of Jalna.

'Sahyadri' booking: German tourist is cheated of ₹9,000

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Mumbai: A 50-year-old German national, who tried booking a hotel room, was cheated by cybercriminals of Rs 9,270. The complainant, while searching online for hotels in Mumbai, found a website in the name of Sahyadri state guest house and contacted the number given on it. He was told to make an online payment. When he reached Sahyadri guest house in Malabar Hill, he found that there was no private hotel with this name. He then lodged a police complaint. A senior police officer said that the website was fake.

The complainant, Tristan Bake, lodged an FIR with the Malabar Hill police against the cyber fraudsters on September 16. He told the police that he holds a PhD in Physics and is also an international tourist guide. As per his statement to the police, he came to India in April this year and for the last three months, he was staying in Goa. He told



the police that on Sept 15, he was searching online for hotels in Mumbai for three days before flying out. A man who identified himself as Abhishek from Sahyadri guest house told the complainant that he would have to book the room online. Abhishek sent a bank account and IFSC code and asked the complainant to pay Rs 4,500.

The complainant made the payment. Abhishek then again asked him to pay the amount with 6% GST, saying once the payment is made, he would return Rs 4,500. The complainant made the payment of Rs 4,770.

Threats to Rahul: Cong netas meet CP, demand action

Mumbai: A Mumbai Congress delegation on Friday met city police chief Vivek Phansalkar and demanded the arrest of BJP MP Anil Bonde and Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad for their controversial remarks against Rahul Gandhi.

Bonde, a Rajya Sabha member, and Gaikwad, who represents the Buldhana assembly constituency, kicked up a row with their remarks against Rahul earlier this week. While Gaikwad announced a Rs 11 lakh reward for anyone who cuts Gandhi's tongue for his remarks over reservation, Bonde said Rahul's tongue should be singed.

During his recent visit to the US, Rahul told students at Georgetown University that Congress would think of scrapping reservation when "India is a fair place," which he said is not the case right now.

The Congress delegation led by the party's Mumbai unit chief Varsha Gaikwad met Phansalkar and demanded registration of criminal cases.

Cong a party of tukde-tukde gang and urban Naxals, hates Ganpati puja: Modi

Vaibhav.Ganjanpure@timesofindia.com

Wardha: Blowing the bugle for the Maharashtra assembly elections from Mahatma Gandhi's karmabhoomi, Wardha, PM Narendra Modi on Friday unleashed a blistering attack on Congress, branding it the "most corrupt party in India's history run by a corrupt royal family".

Addressing a big crowd on the first anniversary of the Centre's 'PM Vishwakarma Yojana', Modi painted Congress as a party driven by "urban Naxals and the tukde-tukde gang", accusing it of appeasement politics and undermining Hindu traditions.

Modi accused the Congress of opposing Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations and of being anti-Hindu and disconnected from India's cultural fabric. "Congress and its allies hate Ganesh puja," Modi claimed, recalling an event he attended at Chief Justice of India Dhananjay Chandrachud's home, where he said Congress members opposed the festival.

He alleged that under the Congress-led govt in Karnataka, those who celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi were arrested and Ganesh idols were stashed and transported in police vans. The PM reminded the crowd that Lokmanya Tilak introduced the Ganesh festival in the pre-Independence era to unite people and criticised Congress for undermining this tradition.

"When the whole of Maha-



PM Modi with CM Eknath Shinde & DCMs Devendra Fadnis & Ajit Pawar

Amit Shah on two-day tour of state next wk to interact with BJP workers

Nagpur: Union home minister Amit Shah will be on a two-day visit of Maharashtra from Sept 24 to interact with BJP workers ahead of assembly elections, BJP state unit chief Chandrasekhar Bawankule said on Friday. Shah will interact with party functionaries in Nagpur and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on the first day of his tour, and then visit Nashik and Kolhapur on Sept 25, Bawankule said. His guidance will energise party workers and ensure Mahayuti retains power, he added.

ashtra was celebrating Ganesh Chaturthi, the idol of Ganesh was kept in a police van in Karnataka. Even as the entire country was hurt, Congress allies (including Shiv Sena UBT and NCP) led by Sharad Pawar were mum," Modi said, highlighting what he called appeasement politics by Congress at the expense of Hindu traditions.

In an indirect reference to Rahul Gandhi, Modi criticised those who make "anti-India

statements" on foreign soil and tarnish India's cultural heritage. His comments were part of a broader attack on the Congress policies, which he argued had betrayed farmers, disrespected national traditions and endangered the country's unity. Modi extended his criticism to the former MVA govt led by Uddhav Thackeray. He blamed MVA for the plight of the state's cotton farmers, accusing it of pushing farmers into debt.

Gave Cong 3 LS seats we could've easily won: Raut

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Mumbai: Coming out against claims by Congress' Balasaheb Thorat on the next state CM from Congress, Sena UBT leader Sanjay Raut said that at a juncture when no decision has been taken, it is wrong on the part of the CLP leader to stake claim to the CM's post. He said, "There are three major parties in the MVA, we will fight the elections together. If one is making claims of being a younger brother, elder brother or beloved brother, they will know the real picture in Maharashtra in the future. The stand of senior leaders of the Congress is clear. Congress got a few more seats in the Lok Sabha. But if they feel that because of this they are big brothers now, they should realise how much Shiv Sena (UBT) has contributed in increasing



(Above) Sanjay Raut, Nana Patole & (left) Balasaheb Thorat

their seats. They must study this," he said.

He added, "Congress's Ramesh Chennithala has said that in MVA, there is no younger or bigger brother. We gave the Kolhapur seat to Congress which we would have won. Ramtek too we gave them, Amravati was our stronghold and they won. So they won these seats because of Sena (UBT). If they have forgotten this, this is not right."

Patole, however, took a dig at Raut, saying one should not too listen to Raut too much.

Raut further said, "All three parties will jointly contest assembly elections. Seat allocation for Lok Sabha elections was very easy. Because then we were thinking of only 48 seats. But now we have to allocate 288 seats for the assembly elections. There are three major parties in MVA. We also have smaller allies and our stand is to accommodate all of them. MVA's senior functionaries Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray and Nana Patole, all will try to include our allies in MVA and we will succeed in that. The Third Front is always created to help the ruling party. So this is being done only to divide opposition votes."

A week ago, Sharad Pawar had said any decision on the CM's post would be taken jointly by parties in the MVA.

A TOUCH OF COLOUR



An artist paints an idol of Goddess Ambe at his workshop in Thane, ahead of Navratri festival

Jairam: What steps did govt take to stop farm suicides?

Mumbai: AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh on Friday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to explain to the people of Maharashtra the steps taken by his govt to halt farmer suicides in the state, particularly in the Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. Modi was in Wardha on Friday. Incidentally, the highest number of farmers' suicides were registered in Wardha district in 2023.

Further, Ramesh asked Modi why the Forest Rights Act was not implemented in Maharashtra and whom he would choose between Mahatma Gandhi and Nathuram Godse.

Ramesh said that according to official records of the state govt, on an average, seven farmers have been ending their lives every day. Between Jan and Oct 2023, 2,366 farmers died by suicide owing to unprecedented drought in several parts of the state. However, adequate financial assistance was not provided to them, he said. Loans were waived in several cases; however, owing to technical glitches in software, 6.56 lakh farmers could not secure the benefit of the loan waiver scheme, he added. It was assured that crop insurance claims would be settled within 30 days, but the assurance has remained on paper, Ramesh said.

Reacting to the PM's speech in Wardha, former cabinet minister and veteran Congressman Nitin Raut said, "What Modi said has nothing to do with facts. People of Maharashtra are fed up with the Mahayuti govt, which is like a dictatorship. Corruption and crime have peaked, there's no fear of law." - Prafulla Marpakwar

Bro-in-law of Ashok Chavan, an ex-MP, goes back to Cong

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Mumbai: In a setback to the BJP and particularly to BJP Rajya Sabha member and former chief minister Ashok Chavan, his brother-in-law and former MP Bhaskar Patil-Khatgaonkar rejoined the Congress in the presence of MPCC president Nana Patole and former minister Amit Deshmukh.

When Ashok Chavan joined the BJP, Khatgaonkar, former legislator Omprakash Gokarna and several prominent Congress leaders had quit the party and joined BJP. On Friday, not only Khatgaonkar but his daughter-in-law Meenal Khatgaonkar, Gokarna, and other prominent BJP leaders from the Marathwada region rejoined Congress, saying they have faith in the leadership of Rahul Gandhi. Khatgaonkar, who has been a three-term member of the Lok Sabha, legislative assembly, and former minister of state, is likely to contest the Nanded Lok Sabha by-election necessitated by the death of Vasant Chavan. He said that ever since he joined the BJP, he was not happy as he was nowhere in the party. Both Patole and Amit Deshmukh persuaded him to rejoin the Congress, he said.

34,000 grouses on ECI site, most about wait for voter card

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Pune: The Election Commission of India (ECI) grievance portal has received 34,026 complaints from the state since the Lok Sabha poll results, election officials said. Most complaints are about voters not receiving their voter ID cards by post.

Other common issues include names missing from voter lists and rejected applications.

Officials said 31,500 complaints have been resolved at the district level from June 6 to Sept 20. With the assembly election coming up, election authorities are monitoring the complaint system closely.

"We have classified the complaints and it was found that the maximum compla-



ECI staff members demonstrate the use of EVMs near Byculla station

ints were about the physical delivery of voter ID cards. While the election cards are generated online, the physical delivery is done after the

printing and through the post office. There were some complaints about delay in postal delivery and so such complaints have figured the

Number of polling stations in city increases to 10,111

Mumbai: The total number of polling stations designated for the upcoming assembly election in the area under BMC jurisdiction is 10,111. The number increased by 218 compared to the number of polling stations during the Lok Sabha election. Officials attributed it to planning and rationalisation.

The polling stations have been rationalised to facilitate smooth voting. The average number of voters per polling station, which previously stood at 1,500, has now been reduced to 1,200 per booth. Polling has been decentralised whenever required.

There were 2,509 polling stations in the city and 7,384 in the suburbs. These numbers rose to 2,537 and 7,374, respectively.

The administration initiated an awareness campaign named 'Know Your Polling Station'. Officials will visit homes of voters to provide details about changes. Registered voters will receive information through letters and the media.

highest in our list," an election official said.

Other complaints include issues of names in the electoral roll, voter slips not received

after election, and issues with IT applications. Issues of election expenditure and political parties too were raised in the grievance

portal.

Recently, after the summary revision drive, the state stated that 9.5 crore voters were registered and the new registrations would continue till 10 days before the last day of nomination after the election is announced.

The officials said the complaints are immediately redressed at the district level.

During the Lok Sabha election, the state had filed over 14,000 complaints, the highest in the country. During LS poll, the highest number of complaints came from the district, followed by Mumbai suburbs, Thane, and Hingoli. During the LS election, the highest complaints were from those who did not receive voter ID cards, followed by delay in correction of voter ID cards and applica-

tions related to new voter ID cards.

Similar complaints have been raised in these four months too, said officials.

Citizen groups want an improved voter search feature on the portal to make it easier to check names ahead of the announcement of polls. "The ECI is working on software and it would help citizens for easier search facilities," an official said.

Many citizens from Pune and other metro cities had written to the ECI regarding missing names. The district collector's office called these individuals to re-register ahead of the assembly poll, said officials. For voters who have not received the voter card, the period from voter registration to receiving the card is about 45 days.

Stir against Navi Mum Coastal road on Sunday

Navi Mumbai: Locals who are upset with Cidco's proposed Kharghar-Nerul coastal road in Navi Mumbai have planned a human chain protest on Sunday morning at CBD Belapur. The coastal road, which will pass through Sector-15 of CBD Belapur that was developed with the dense green corridor under NMMC's one-time planning prior to Covid pandemic, will disturb the peace and environment, said former civic body standing committee chairperson Netra Shirke. She has sought police permission for the human chain along the joggers' track at sector-15, CBD-Belapur where hundreds of locals and environmentalists are expected to participate.

'Cidco aspires to convert leasehold land into freehold'

Navi Mumbai: Sanjay Shirsat, the newly appointed chairman of City and Industrial Development Corporation (Cidco) and Shiv Sena MLA from Aurangabad (W), said Cidco's aspiration is to convert leasehold land under its jurisdiction into freehold. He emphasised that this issue is not confined to Navi Mumbai, but extends across the state. Under the existing leasehold policy, land acquired for city development across Maharashtra is allotted to lessees for a period of 60 years, with Cidco retaining ownership rights. Cidco holds the 7/12 extract (ownership document) for Navi Mumbai. — **BB Nayak**

Ex-maid flaunts stolen jewellery on Insta, booked

Mumbai: A Khar homemaker reported a theft of five diamond rings and diamond earrings valued at Rs 8 lakh on Thursday, after noticing her former domestic help wearing them on Instagram.

Khar police have booked Sanjana Gujjar, who worked at Nandita Thakkar's flat for a week till her regular maid returned from leave. Thakkar had kept the jewellery in the cupboard safe after attending a function on Dec 16, 2022. "On Feb 19, 2023, when I opened the safe, they were missing." On Sept 10, she noticed Gujjar flaunting one of the rings on Instagram and filed a police complaint. **TNN**

CREDAI-MCHI to host redevpt expo on Sept 28

Mumbai: CREDAI-MCHI, a real estate advocacy group, will hold the first-ever 'Ease of Doing Redevelopment' exhibition at BKC on Sept 28. CREDAI-MCHI president Dominic Rommel said over 700 societies have registered for the expo, which will enable them to interact with 40 developers offering redevelopment. "Often, residents... know about 5 developers. This exhibition will provide them access to more developers," said Dhaval Ajmera, secretary, CREDAI-MCHI. **TNN**

Eye on polls, state to open MSP centres for soybean in 10 days

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Mumbai: The Mahayuti govt which faced the ire of farmers during the Lok Sabha polls is trying to control the fall-out of the crash in soybean crop prices, ahead of the assembly polls. Soybean is one of the state's key cash crops and is grown mainly in Marathwada and parts of Vidarbha.

With the Centre allowing Maharashtra, Karnataka and MP to procure soybean at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 4,892 per quintal, the govt says purchase centres

will open in the next ten days. "I have directed that the centres be opened in ten days in areas where soybean is grown. We will procure around 18 lakh tons," said state agriculture minister Dhananjay Munde.

The cultivation area of soybean has grown by 1 lakh hectares over last year in Maharashtra. "The production of soybean is expected to be 6-7 lakh tons more than last year. The area of cultivation has risen from 50 lakh hectares to 51 lakh hectares," said director agriculture Vinay Kumar Awate. This has been accom-

panied by a crash in prices. Market prices for the oilseed are around Rs 4,500 per quintal, which is lower than the MSP. The reason is the fall in international prices in the US, Argentina and Brazil and the low customs duty on edible oils which resulted in their unrestricted import.

With rising anger among farmers over soybean prices, the Centre allowed soybean procurement at the MSP of Rs 4,892 per quintal and also increased the import duty on crude soybean, sunflower and palm oil to reduce their supply to the domestic market. In

addition, the state has provided a subsidy of Rs 5,000 per hectare for cotton and soybean farmers for the year 2023-24, capped at 2 hectares. "So far, the govt has cleared the applications of 46 lakh farmers for Rs 2,000 crore subsidies. We are in the process of doing the e-kyc and aadhaar linkages of another 20 lakh accounts," said Munde.

The Mahayuti won only 17 of 48 Lok Sabha seats in the 2024 polls. It won only one of eight seats in Marathwada and four of 10 in Vidarbha, regions where soybean and cotton are grown.

₹918cr flyover plan for GMLR may face another cost hike

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Mumbai: The BMC's Rs 918-crore plan to construct two flyovers connected to the Ghatkopar-Mankhurd Link Road (GMLR) could face further cost escalation with the potential addition of a new arm leading to Maharashtra Nagar. While this additional flyover arm is not yet included in the current tender, officials are awaiting the necessary approvals. The project already exceeds the cost of the GMLR, which opened just three years ago and cost over Rs 500 crore.

A BMC official explained that the current proposal includes the construction of Arm-1 and Arm-2 flyovers at T Junction on the Sion-Panvel Highway, Maharashtra Nagar, in M/E Ward. However, an additional arm towards Maharashtra Nagar is also being considered, pending railway permissions. "This arm is not yet part of the project scope and will be added once we ob-

tain the required permissions," the official stated.

Arm-1 of the proposed flyover from GMLR is planned to lead towards Vashi, while Arm-2 will connect Vashi to the GMLR. Ravi Raja, former opposition leader in the BMC, criticized the timing of the new flyover proposal, arguing that it reflects poor planning during the GMLR's construction. "If the need for these two flyovers arises just three years after the GMLR was built, it shows a lack of foresight," he said.

Faiyaz Alam Shaikh, president of the New Sangam Welfare Society NGO in Govandi, expressed concerns about ongoing traffic issues. "We have to fully benefit from the GMLR, which opened in 2021," he said. "Heavy vehicles still use the road below the flyover, particularly during late-night hours, causing regular congestion at the Baiganwadi and Shivaji Nagar signals."

COPS HELP WOMAN DELIVER BABY ON ROAD



City police commissioner Vivek Phansalkar, in a post on X on Friday, appreciated Dongri police station's Nirbhaya squad for helping a woman in labour pain. Phansalkar said the Nirbhaya squad, while patrolling, found the 45-year-old woman lying on the road near Char Null Junction in Dongri. "The team immediately collected nearby banners, covered her, and with the help of another lady, helped her deliver a baby boy. Since the lady was bleeding and the ambulance would take a while, the officials took utmost precaution and brought the mother and child to J J Hospital for treatment in their patrolling van. Both mother and son are in good health," the post said. **TNN**

Actor files ₹17L cheating plaint against producer

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Actor and director Deepak Tijori lodged a complaint with the Amboli police on Sept 17, claiming that a film producer had cheated him of Rs 17.5 lakh. The producer allegedly had assured Tijori that he would organise the shooting of his delayed film 'Tippisy' in London.

According to the police, the actor transferred a total of Rs. 17.5 lakh, which included the agreed-upon amount and GST, to the producer's account on March 3, 2020. The police are investigating the case, but no arrests have been made yet.

Now, schools with 100 students eligible for full-time headmasters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In a significant relief for school principals, the state govt has withdrawn its March directive that denied headmasters to schools with less than 135 students. The govt has reverted to the previous threshold, requiring schools to have a minimum of 100 students to be eligible for a full-time principal.

The govt's earlier directives on staffing patterns had led to widespread protests and uproar among teachers and school heads, with concerns that over 25,000 schools in the state would be left without a principal. However, on Thursday, the state issued a govt resolution modifying its previous order on principals, while all other directives from the March circular remain in effect. The March directives aim to appoint teachers in govt and aided scho-

ols based on student strength.

According to the new staffing pattern, schools with less than 20 students will be allocated one full-time teacher and a retired teacher if necessary. The revised guidelines do not allow separate teachers for classes 3, 4, and 5, and the sanctioned posts will depend on the number of students (20 or more). For classes 6 to 8, a minimum of 60 students is required to secure three teachers, one each for languages, social science, and science and mathematics, as opposed to the earlier threshold of 35 students. Similarly, for classes 9 and 10, a school must have a minimum of 40 students to be allocated three teachers.

Teachers have argued that the new staffing pattern violates the pupil-teacher ratio prescribed under the Right to Education Act.

BMC sends milk producers' plea for rehab in Aarey to dairy chief

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Mumbai: The BMC has written to the dairy commissioner about the concerns raised by the Mumbai Milk Producers Welfare Association and said that it is within the commissioner's authority to decide whether to accommodate the producers in Aarey colony.

The association had written to the BMC saying that relocating them to Dapachari in Palghar would dent their

business. It noted that fewer than 10,000 animals — currently available in Mumbai jurisdiction — can be housed in Aarey. They said that the state had excluded Aarey Colony from restricted areas, further supporting their request for accommodation.

The BMC had plans to issue a notice to the 264 cattle sheds in the city to make the city cattle-free. It conducted a survey to ascertain the number of cattle sheds.

Most of these cattle sheds

are on collector's land while some are also on private land. The action by authorities is in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of Section 10 of the Maharashtra Cattle in Urban Areas (Control) Act, 1976. With effect from the July 1, 2006, the entire area of the city up to Mahim creek and Sion and the entire area of the suburban district, being urban area, was prohibited for the purposes of the act.

Triple murder: Wife of main accused held

Mumbai: The police have arrested the wife of the main accused, Arif Ali, from UP in the Palghar triple murder of a senior couple and their differently-abled daughter last month.

The highly decomposed bodies of Kanchan (72), Mukund Rathod (75), and Sangeta (52) were discovered in their Neharoli village residence in Palghar's Wada by their son. Their tenant Ali, his wife Saibah, and children were missing. **TNN**

Lalbaghcha Raja nets ₹5.6cr cash, GSB gets ₹11.5cr

Mumbai: Two big Ganeshotsav mandals in the city have reported robust earnings this season.

Lalbaghcha Raja treasurer Mangesh Dalvi on Friday issued collection figures so far: "The total cash amount received from Sept 7-20 is Rs 5.65 crore. And the mandal has received 4.15 kg of gold and 64.3 kg silver from Sept 8-20," he said.

Amit Pai, chairman of the city's richest Ganeshotsav mandal, GSB Seva Mandal at King's Circle, informed that their "total receipt collection is Rs 11.5 crore, along with 30kg silver". **TNN**

10 held for aiding cheaters in police examination case

Navi Mumbai: After the police arrested six candidates for possessing electronic devices that were inserted in their ear and dress for copying during the constable recruitment written exam at Alibaba and Pen centres in Aug, they have arrested 10 more people for helping the candidates by providing them the communication devices. Raigad SP Somnath Charge said the 10 aides were arrested from Jalna, Beed, Nanded, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar and Latur. These included two women.

— George Mendonca

Auto driver held for killing sibling in Palghar dist

Mumbai: A 28-year-old auto driver, Aakash Lohar, has been arrested for allegedly killing his 19-year-old brother, Shivam, in Vikramgad in Palghar district on Sept 1.

Aakash told the Vikramgad police that Shivam was an alcoholic and unemployed. He used to commit thefts to fund his drinks. When he did not get the money, Shivam would beat his parents. Aakash, who stayed and worked in Vasai, claimed he was fed up with his brother's harassment. **TNN**

Man arrested for raping wife of neighbour

Thane: Police have arrested a man for allegedly raping his neighbour's wife, aged around 30 years, by tying her after forcibly entering her house at Bhayandar.

The crime took place in front of the victim's toddler daughter late Saturday night, he said. "Around 11 pm on Saturday, the accused forced his way into the house of the victim. The woman and her three-year-old daughter were present there. After that, he tied the woman's hands and legs with a 'dupatta' and sexually assaulted her," the official of Bhayandar police station said. **TNN**

Man crossing LBS Marg killed in hit-and-run

Mumbai: A 46-year-old man, Dawood Manzoor Khan, crossing LBS Marg at Vikhroli was killed in a hit-and-run incident on Thursday, around 4pm.

Passersby rushed him to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared him dead. They also informed his family about the accident.

Khan, was a resident of Nityanand Nagar in Ghatkopar. Parksite police have launched a hunt for the yet-to-be-identified vehicle that hit Khan. **TNN**

Borivli man held for importing drugs via post

Mumbai: The special postal investigation branch (SPIB) branch of Customs arrested a Borivli resident, Brendon Segura, for allegedly importing 122gm of amphetamine through postal services. SPIB intercepted a parcel at the foreign postal office and found the contraband. They sent a dummy parcel to his residence at Mariana Colony, and when he accepted it, nabbed him. He admitted to having smuggled the contraband on behalf of his friend Delin D'souza, who had allegedly imported 2kg of weed last week, said sources. **TNN**

CINEMA OF THE WEEK

Yudhra (Action thriller) ★★★
Cast: Siddhant Chaturvedi, Raghav Juyal, Raj Arjun, Ram Kapoor, Malavika Mohanan, Gajraj Rao
Direction: Ravi Udyawar
Duration: 2 hours 21 minutes
Language: Hindi (UA)

■ A tragic past turns Yudhra (Siddhant Chaturvedi) into an eccentric young man with anger issues. He finds momentary solace in childhood sweetheart, Nikhat (Malavika Mohanan) but gets embroiled in the criminal activities of a drug cartel that leads him to a shocking truth.

Siddhant Chaturvedi (as Yudhra) amps up his inner MC Sher to portray a hothead battling daddy issues and strange love for lizards. He gets triggered at the drop of a hat but has his heart in the right place. As an out-and-out mercurial action hero, he pulls off the angry young man with a twist convincingly despite his innocent baby face. He may not look menacing but packs a punch.

Yudhra finds ruthless adversaries in drug lord Firoz (Raj Arjun) and his son Shafiq (Raghav Juyal). The former hams a bit but Raghav has quickly emerged as one of the most interesting antagonists in recent times. On the heels of violent action thriller *Kill* comes yet another striking performance from the dancer-turned-actor who knows how to



play the freak. Ram Kapoor plays a suspicious cop and Gajraj Rao, Yudhra's father.

The cutting-edge action serves as the film's backbone and its biggest asset. The music score featuring Malavika, Siddhant and Raghav is one of the finest action scenes in a Bollywood movie. The bicycle parkour scene is nerve-racking too. Action director Nick Powell, known for his work in *Gladiator*, has worked on the movie and the action choreography keeps you on tenterhooks for a reason. It is intense, gripping and integral to storytelling. The film is technically sound. You appreciate the neurotic world-building

and the unique background score, but the story lacks emotional left.

Though the posters may mislead you into believing that this is an old-school crime drama (belonging to the *Vaastav* era), *Yudhra* is far from that. It is contemporary in nature. You wish it had the compelling structure of its predecessors where the angry young man had a cause to rebel. Even with aimless anger, a film can find its footing and *Yudhra* shows ample promise but doesn't quite capitalize on its intentional *sankiness* (insanity). The first half builds momentum and creates an anticipation of a solid twist, but the second half douses its own fire before things could get all heated. The film never reaches the tipping point despite showing promise and that's frustrating.

Director Ravi Udyawar uses action and violence as cinematic language to give you that rage room effect. The style and stunts are on point, but the story meanders. Characters are skillfully created, and their swagger ensures there's not a single dull moment. Siddhant and Malavika look great but lack the chemistry required to establish their connect.

Be it *Bloody Daddy*, *Kill* and now *Yudhra*. It's interesting to see Bollywood going full throttle in action. But action doesn't need to be devoid of emotions.

— Renuka Vyavahare

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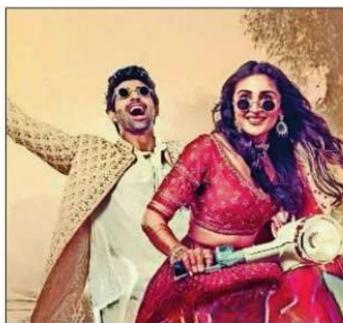
Kahan Shuru Kahan Khatam (Romantic, Comedy) ★★★

Cast: Dhvani Bhanushali, Aashim Gulati, Supriya Pilgaonkar, Rakesh Bedi, Sonali Sachdev, Rajesh Sharma, Vikram Kochhar, Himanshu Kohli
Direction: Saurabh Dasgupta
Duration: 1 hour 46 minutes
Language: Hindi (UA)

■ Bride-to-be Meera runs away from her own wedding, and the chaos begins when Krish, an uninvited guest, is wrongly assumed to be the reason behind her escape. This misunderstanding fuels comedic moments and emotional tension.

In an era where love stories are often overcomplicated, *Kahan Shuru Kahan Khatam* (KSKK), directed by Saurabh Dasgupta, stands out for its simplicity. The story follows Meera (Dhvani Bhanushali), who returns from Australia only to be pushed into an arranged marriage by her father, Sumer Singh Chaudhary (Rajesh Sharma), a political figure with a criminal edge. Unhappy with her situation, Meera decides to run away. Krish (Aashim Gulati), a wedding crasher, is caught in the crossfire when Meera's family mistakenly assumes he is her accomplice.

The film's first half is packed with entertaining sequences, as Meera and Krish find



themselves on the run, giving the film plenty of comedic moments. One of the scenes is when a drone, operated by Meera's brothers Gautam (Vikram Kochhar) and Gambhir (Himanshu Kohli), relentlessly tracks Krish, adding to the chaos. The sight of Meera and Krish still dressed in wedding attire, leading everyone to believe they're married, fuels further confusion.

Saurabh Dasgupta, in his directorial debut, shows potential by capturing the lighthearted tone of the first half. However, the film loses momentum after the interval when Krish's family, living in Barsana, is introduced. Despite the warmth and charm of his parents (played by

Rakesh Bedi and Supriya Pilgaonkar), the pacing slows down significantly, and the climax lacks the intensity needed to deliver an emotional punch.

Written by Laxman Utekar and Rishi Virmani, the screenplay touches on themes of gender equality and how women's voices are often stifled. Indian pop singer Dhvani Bhanushali delivers an impressive acting debut, bringing fresh energy to the screen. However, her character lacks the depth required to fully explore the film's themes of gender struggles. Aashim Gulati is convincing in Krish's role, but the romantic chemistry between him and Bhanushali feels underdeveloped. As parents, Rakesh Bedi and Supriya Pilgaonkar, Rajesh Sharma and Sonali Sachdev play their parts well. The supporting cast, especially Vikram Kochhar and Himanshu Kohli as Meera's brothers, add to the comedic banter.

The soundtrack is largely passable, with the exceptions of the reprised version of *Ajeeb Daastaan Hai Ye* in the credits and *Ek Ladki Bheegi Bhaagi Si* in the background, which add a nostalgic touch but don't quite elevate the film's emotional arc.

Overall, *KSKK* is a lighthearted, moral-driven film that works well as a one-time watch, particularly for Gen Z audiences. While it has its moments of charm and humor, it ultimately lacks the emotional depth and narrative impact to make a lasting impression.

— Archika Khurana

Never Let Go (Horror, Suspense) ★★★

Cast: Halle Berry, Percy Daggs IV, Anthony B Jenkins
Direction: Alexandre Aja
Duration: 1 hour 42 minutes
Language: English (A)

■ When an unstoppable evil force overpowers the world, a mother and her twin sons seek refuge in their sacred home deep in the woods. They're protected by ropes they must never let go. When one of the boys turns sceptical, the trio fights to survive.

The woods in *Never Let Go* are dreadful, dark, and deep. An unnamed mother (Halle Berry) and her sons, Nolan (Percy Daggs IV) and Sammul (Anthony B Jenkins), live there in an isolated cabin, harrowed by the constant threat of starvation and the encroaching darkness. Their mother has convinced the boys that the outside world is a wasteland overrun by an omnipresent malevolent spirit. However, as Nolan begins to question their isolation, a chilling tension emerges, testing the once-harmonious bond between the trio.

Director Alexandre Aja and writers Kevin Coughlin and Ryan Grassy craft a tense, suspenseful narrative that explores the blurred lines between reality and paranoia. Maxime Alexandre's atmospheric cinematography, the eerie forest and the grotesque creatures inhabiting it are both terrifying and mesmerising. Rob's haunting score further makes this suspenseful horror a visceral experience.



The tension is palpable as the family grapples with the constant threat of invasion and the possibility of betrayal.

As the narrative unfolds, the audience is left wondering: is the sinister presence real or a product of the mother's paranoid delusion? The movie presents both possibilities but lacks the conviction to be on one side. The intrigue is effectively built, with ample jump scares and unnerving scenes, but the slow pace detracts from the overall impact. Themes of folklore, fairy tales, and shared psychosis are touched upon but left underexplored.

The story is a metaphor for the evil that men do and the destructive nature of humanity's darker impulses, which threaten to erase civilisation's last vestiges of compassion. While *Never Let Go* boasts unexpected twists, they fail to deliver a knockout punch, leaving the viewer wanting more.

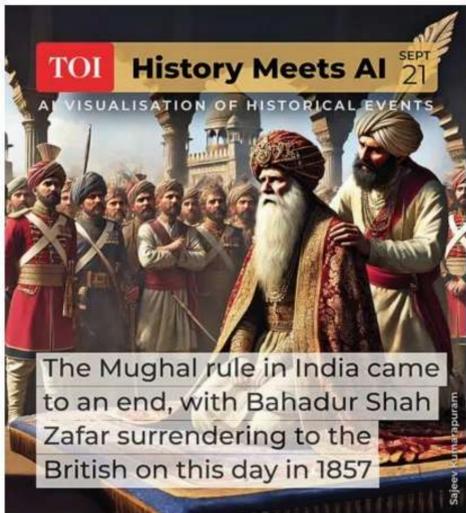
Despite narrative shortcomings, the performances are standouts. Halle Berry, Percy Daggs IV, and Anthony B Jenkins deliver powerful portrayals of the complexities of fear, doubt, and survival versus loyalty. *Never Let Go* is a gripping and disturbing film with a chilling atmosphere. However, the narrative falls short of fully realising its potential. As a one-time watch, genre fans may enjoy the stellar haunting visuals and the occasional jump scares.

— Dhaval Roy



KARNATAKA CM SIDDA HINTS AT ORDERING PROBE INTO LAND CASE INVOLVING EX-CMs HDK & BSY

SANCTION TO PROSECUTE EX-RLY MINISTER LALU IN LAND-FOR-JOBS SCAM OBTAINED: CBI TO COURT | 13



TOI History Meets AI
A VISUALISATION OF HISTORICAL EVENTS
The Mughal rule in India came to an end, with Bahadur Shah Zafar surrendering to the British on this day in 1857

Stuck in Lebanon after losing passport, Punjab man back after 23 yrs

IP.Singh@timesofindia.com

Jalandhar: A man from Punjab returned from Lebanon after 23 years — 18 of those years spent stranded in that volatile country — because he had lost his passport there in 2006 and all attempts to return home failed. By the time he got home, one of the two little sons he had left behind had a son of his own.

Gurtej Singh, of Mattewara village in Ludhiana district, managed to return to India and was reunited with his family after Rajya Sabha member Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal took up his case with the ministry of external affairs, which then facilitated his return. Other men from his and neighbouring villa-



Gurtej Singh (left) with Rajya Sabha MP Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal in Sultanpur Lodhi, Punjab, on Friday

ges, who had gone with him to Lebanon in 2001, returned in 2006, but he could not. Gurtej, who belongs to the Mazhabi Sikh community, returned to his village on Sept 6 after having left in 2001. The entire village celebrated his return.

Gurtej's elder son, Munish, was a little boy when his father left home. Today he, too, has a young son. In the 23 years that he was away, Gurtej lost his father and brother. His younger son, Devinder Singh, now in his mid-twenties, is yet to get married. He insisted he would wed only on his father's return.

"I was working in a factory making coats and sweaters in Ludhiana but was finding it very difficult to sustain the family. I thought of moving abroad and somehow arranged Rs 1 lakh, demanded by a travel agent. I wanted to give a better future to my two sons. Initially I was flown to Jordan, from where I was sneaked into Syria, and then to Lebanon. In 2006, I lost my passport

and then all my attempts to return failed. I was working there in the fields, and it was frightening due to the long conflict in the region," Gurtej recalled as he met Baba Seechewal along with his family at Sultanpur Lodhi on Friday.

Baba Seechewal told TOI that Gurtej had been making rounds of the Indian embassy in Lebanon, but every time embassy officials would ask him to get some proof. "Back home his family sought help from the Regional Passport Office, Chandigarh, but failed to get a copy of the record of his lost passport from there. This continued for years." The Rajya Sabha MP said the Chandigarh passport office was slow to react after his team contacted them.

"They picked up pace only after CBI, in Feb, arrested the Jalandhar regional passport officer, against whom I had written to the external affairs minister, in a corruption case. Had the officials shown some sensitivity, Gurtej could have been reunited with the family quite a few years ago," said Baba Seechewal.

Due to his constant failure to get a passport, Gurtej said he had given up hope of ever reuniting with his family and thanked Seechewal for his intervention after his family approached him. "It still feels like a dream," said Gurtej, his eyes welling up again and again. His wife, Kamaljit Kaur, also had tears in her eyes as she narrated her long wait for her husband's return.

J'khand excise job test toll hits 15

A 28-year-old candidate taking part on the last day of the excise constable physical efficiency test at the Giridih centre in Jharkhand, died on Friday, taking the death toll in the exercise to 15. At least 18 other candidates from various centres across the state were hospitalised after suffering from exhaustion and other ailments, report **Sanjay Sahay & Divy Khare**. Deceased candidate Viranchi Rai's family claimed he died due to negligence. His cousin Chandan Rai said, "He was brought to the sadar hospital where the doctor declared him dead. The facility at the test centre was not adequate." Giridih civil and police administration refuted the allegations. Additional director general of police (HQ) R K Mallick said that the deceased had nearly completed the race well within the stipulated one-hour period but collapsed at the 41st minute when he was just 150 m away from the finishing line.

STATISTICS A slice of life in numbers

How well have these countries managed to tame inflation?

Rising prices is a major worry for policy-makers. Inflation targeting is, therefore, an essential part of monetary policy of most modern economies. This is how the major economies have done so far



3 youths drug & abduct Dalit girl (13), rape her in moving car in UP

Agra: Three youths abducted a 13-year-old Dalit girl after offering her water laced with some intoxicating substance and took turns to rape her inside a moving van, while she was in a semi-conscious state. The incident took place in Mathura, UP, on Thursday, reports **Deepak Lavania**.

They dumped the gangrape survivor under a flyover and fled. When the girl regained consciousness, she reached home and told her parents about her ordeal and complained of severe stomach ache. The family got her admitted to a private hospital, where doctors confirmed rape, following which her father approached police.

A case has been registered at Chhata police station against the three accused, who are on the run, police said on Friday, adding that two of the accused have been identified.

Superintendent of police (rural) Trigun Bisen said medical examination of the girl was conducted at a government hospital on Friday, and that her statement would be recorded before a magistrate on Saturday.

Manipur flags 'intel' on influx of 900 tribal rebels from Myanmar

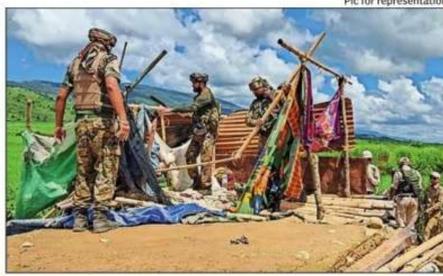
'All Trained In Use Of Drones & Projectiles'

Prabin.Kalita
@timesofindia.com

Guwahati: Manipur CM N Biren Singh's office has forwarded to police a purported intelligence alert about an influx of 900-odd tribal militants from Myanmar — all newly trained in the use of drones, projectiles and missiles as part of a mission to launch coordinated attacks on villages in Imphal valley around Sept 28.

Kuldip Singh, security adviser to the BJP-led govt, said on Friday that "until this intelligence input is proved wrong, we believe it is 100% correct and prepare for that".

"If it does not come true, either it didn't happen or our efforts didn't let it happen. Either way, you cannot take it lightly," said the CRPF ex-director general on



The Sept 16 alert from the CMO states that the rebels 'are reportedly grouped in units of 30 members each and currently scattered on the periphery, and expected to launch multiple coordinated attacks' on villages in the Imphal valley around Sept 28

deputation to Manipur since the ethnic conflict flared up in mid-2023.

The Sept 16 alert from the CMO states that tribal militants "are reportedly grouped in units of 30 members each and currently scattered on the periphery, and expected to launch multiple coordinated attacks".

The security adviser said that all districts and border units of Manipur Police and Assam Rifles were on

maximum alert.

A meeting of the strategic operations group took place in the chief secretary's conference hall on Sept 18. Singh said the planned measures had been communicated to the relevant agencies with a directive that any movement of militants be "nipped in the bud".

The districts on high alert are Churachandpur, Tengnoupal, Ukhrul, Kamjong and Pherzawl.

Assam sizzles at 40°C+ during monsoon, school hours curtailed

Guwahati: Daytime temperatures from IMD-run automatic weather stations (AWS) in Assam recorded above 40 degrees Celsius in 17 locations across 13 districts on Friday, forcing authorities to cut down school timings as weather experts blamed the freaky weather to a haphazard monsoon, reports **Prabin Kalita**.

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), maximum temperatures have increased by 5 to 6 degrees Celsius above the normal over the last few days. This spike is primarily due to insufficient precipitation and is predicted to remain unchanged in the coming days, it said.

In Kamrup metropolitan district, which includes Guwahati, an AWS recorded 45.9 degrees Celsius at Gauhati University and 40.7 degrees Celsius within the city. These and other AWS data were "moderated" by IMD to below 40 degrees C. The record for the highest day temperature in Guwahati since 1951 is 40.6 degree C recorded on April 24, 2014. Schools have been asked to advise students not to wear waistcoats or ties.

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Sl. No.	Buses Type	Tender No.	Availability & e-submission of e-Tender	Pre-Bid Meeting	Opening of e-Tender
1	High End luxury 12-M Nos. 100	2422MT/2024-49MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	03.10.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
2	AC Sleeper 12-M Nos. 39	2423MT/2024-50MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	01.10.2024 At 15:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 Hrs.
3	Non AC Sleeper 12-M Nos. 51	2424MT/2024-51MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	01.10.2024 At 15:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
4	AC Mid Segment 2x2 12M Nos. 197	2425MT/2024-52MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	01.10.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
5	AC Mid Segment 2x3 Nos. 72 10M	2426MT/2024-53MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	01.10.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
6	Ord. 11 Meter 6 Cylinders-Nos. 1297 Bus Body	2427MT/2024-55MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	30.09.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
7	Ordinary 10 Meter 4 Cylinders 2x3 -50 Seater-445	2428MT/2024-56MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	30.09.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
8	Ord. 9 Meter-827	2429MT/2024-57MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	30.09.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
9	80 Nos., CNG-2x3 -11M Bus Body	2430MT/2024-59MT/2024 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	30.09.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM
10	42 Nos. Store Truck	2431MT/2024-13MT/2023 DT. 20.09.2024	21.09.2024 to 14.10.2024 At 15:00 PM	30.09.2024 At 12:00 Hrs.	14.10.2024 At 16:00 PM

All e-Tenders of U.P.S.R.T.C. shall be available on the website of Govt. e-portal etender.up.nic.in. Detailed Bill of quantity, eligibility for participating in tender, other terms and conditions of the tender and calendar/timing of the tender may be seen on Govt. e-portal etender.up.nic.in.

Please do visit etender.up.nic.in from time to time before last date of submission of tender for any possible amendment/corrigendum/addendum. Any amendment/corrigendum/addendum will only be published in e-portal etender.up.nic.in.

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and finally bought a ready-to-move-in apartment almost twice the size of his previous one in a new project. He adds, "Although the purchase was on the higher side of our budget, we were satisfied with it. It's near our former locality, where our relatives and loved ones reside. This helped us stay connected to our community while enhancing our lifestyle and bringing us closer to the nearest metro station—thus meeting all the expectations."

STATUS STATEMENT
Besides practical needs, property investment is closely intertwined with

for individuals to purchase a home is the desire for security, stability, and social status. Homeownership is seen as a symbol of success and a reflection of one's character, with society often judging our stability and credibility based on our residence. This, among other factors, drives many to invest in a home, notwithstanding the challenges of the competitive real estate market.

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There's no place like home

A home isn't just a place to live, it's a reflection of personal dreams and goals. Here's why this asset continues to reign over people's portfolios and hearts

pharmaceutical professional based in Borivali, and his wife eyed a bigger home. "The intention was to not only accommo-



Powai, where he has lived on rent for most of his 15-year stay in the city. "In Mumbai, a 2-BHK rental cost me Rs 60,000 on aver-

date the needs of our growing family but also experience greener and more open areas," he shares.

Desai worked assiduously for five years to sort out the finances

the desire to bolster our self-worth. While renting has grown in popularity, owning a home is still an incomparable marker of one's social standing. Ashok Chhajjar, chairman and managing director, Arihant Superstructures Ltd., observes, "The primary motivator

MEANS TO FINANCIAL SECURITY
A fully paid-up home in Mumbai means reduced monthly expenses in the future, making it a crucial aspect of long-term financial planning and security, highlights Chhajjar. It was this realisation that led Paresch Sarjani to home-buying. The principal business analyst has invested in an under-construction project in

age. However, in a dual-income household like mine, one can arrive at a solid figure for an EMI and save for a down payment by shelling out an additional amount of Rs 50,000 every month, thus creating a lifelong asset," he details. Between 2019 and 2024, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) saw average residential prices appreciate by 48 per cent. Given this, Sarjani regrets not booking a flat a few years ago. "I

was apprehensive about meeting the EMIs; however, I didn't consider that my salary would increase over time. Hence, the earlier you invest, the better. After all, inflation, rental rates, and property prices will continue to rise," he opines, but believes renting provides better financial flexibility. So, keeping your practical, emotional, and financial needs in mind, make a sound home-buying decision.

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As our most prized possessions, homes become invaluable sanctuaries and observers of our triumphs and hardships. Most of us earmark our savings and hopes for a better life to a property purchase. But what inspires individuals to embark on a homeownership journey despite its many challenges? Let's find out.

AIMING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW
In a city like Mumbai, a new home is often a bid for more space. And so, three years after getting married, Vikrant Desai, a

firm or individual, here's what you must consider:

BE UPFRONT ABOUT COSTS
Homeowners must equip themselves with the insights to collaborate seamlessly with the chosen professionals. Sana Jhamb, a PR professional, says, "In my experience, a clear budget is crucial. This helps my designer understand what's feasible within the financial

Partner with the right professional for your space

Learn how to effectively collaborate with an interior designer and bring your vision to life while managing expenses, timelines, and personal preferences

constraints and ensures my expectations align with reality." While some professionals



charge a per-square-foot rate, others can bill you for different services separately. Hence, transparency in cost is of utmost importance.

Khosla also reveals that a designer's industry connections provide invaluable advantages. "Their established network of reliable vendors, contractors, and other design professionals can help you find suitable materials at competitive prices. This promotes project efficiency,

saving you valuable time and resources." Nevertheless, compare the cost and rates with other independent suppliers to ascertain what's more suitable for your wallet.

TIME (AND TRUST) ARE OF THE ESSENCE
Whether you're renovating your home or readying your new abode in time for possession, set a realistic timeline to avoid disappointments. Karishma Mathur, a career

counsellor, recalls her experience wherein she had to switch to a different design firm due to continuous hold-ups in her home upgrades. She describes, "The former company took days to get back with solutions; it was hard to connect with the expert on many occasions. Hence, I hired a different firm, requested testimonials, and wished to see their other projects before finalising them." Researching a designer's back-

ground and former projects is also vital for building trust. "You must feel confident in their abilities and expertise, allowing for better decision-making," expresses Jhamb.

TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS
Tahaer Zoyab, the founder of Triple O Studio, affirms that the prime job of a designer is to cater to your preferences and aesthetic sensibilities. "Rather than taking online trends and retrofitting them into spaces, their portfolio of former projects should display an adeptness at comprehending the client's needs and aspirations to create a harmonious living space. More importantly, the professional must respect your unique tastes, offering suggestions that align with them without imposing any ideas," states Zoyab. Overall, your chosen designer must be a good listener. Likewise, homeowners must remain flexible, open to recommendations, and accept when an idea isn't working. Jhamb also finds it important to consider practical aspects such as the

functionality of the space. "Are there specific needs or challenges that should be addressed? Highlighting these requirements helps the professional tailor their proposals accordingly," she notes.

Lastly, if you have any design or layout references, keep them ready, and precisely convey your vision to the designer. Effective communication is bound to reap a successful outcome.

Saundarya Jain @timesofindia.com

Interior designers help translate your mood board into a reality. "Acting as your trusted advisors, they work closely with you and offer expertise encompassing material selection, furniture layout, and overall design so that you can make informed decisions," asserts Devika



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12 years after arrest, HC bail for 2012 Pune serial blasts accused

Memon Claimed Breach Of Right To Speedy Trial

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Bombay high court on Friday granted bail to Munib Memon, an accused in the 2012 Pune's Jangli Maharaj Road serial blasts, on a bail bond of Rs 1 lakh with one or two sureties of like amount. Memon, through his advocate Mubin Solkar, sought bail on the ground of prolonged incarceration and pre-trial detention of more than 12 years, and violation of his fundamental right to a speedy trial under Article 21 of the Constitution. He was arrested in 2012.



The bicycle on which a bomb was found planted on Jangli Maharaj road in Pune on Aug 1, 2012. The bomb was defused

Solkar said the trial was moving slowly and therefore the principle of "bail is rule and jail is exception" applied even to special anti-terror laws like UAPA, and there-

fore his client was entitled to bail on account of his prolonged incarceration, which itself amounted to punishment without trial. The public prosecutor

submitted that the earlier bail application of the accused had already been rejected by the high court and therefore a long period of custody cannot be a ground to grant him bail as the charges against him were serious.

Earlier in 2022, observing that prima facie, there were no reasonable grounds for believing that the appellant was not guilty of the charges, and that the claims against him seemed true, the high court had rejected Memon's bail plea on merits.

The explosions at Pune's Jangli Maharaj Road on Aug 1, 2012, had taken place within minutes, injuring one person; and an unexploded bomb was also defused. The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad arrested eight men including Memon.

Lone convict in 2010 German Bakery blast case gets 45-day parole

Asseem.Shaikh@timesofindia.com

Pune: Nashik central prison on Friday released Mirza Himayat Baig, the lone convict in the 2010 German Bakery blast in Pune, on a 45-day parole. Baig was released 14 days after the Nashik divisional commissioner granted him parole on Sept 6. His release was held up as he had to fulfil parole conditions.

On Sept 3, Bombay HC, while setting aside the divisional commissioner's communication of July 31 rejecting Baig's parole application, criticised the latter for not considering its judgment acquitting Baig of terrorism charges in 2016. The court then gave a week's time to the divisional commissioner to decide on Baig's parole application.

Nashik prison superintendent Aruna Muktrao told TOI on Friday, "Baig's brother, Tariq, completed the parole formalities, including furnishing of two sureties, a cash security of Rs 15,000 and giving names, addresses and contact details of sureties following which he was released. Another condition mandates Baig to report daily to the Shivajinagar police station, which is nearest to his home in Beed."

"The parole order excludes travelling time from jail to Beed and vice-versa. Baig will have to return to jail to serve the remainder of his life sentence after completion of 45 days," Muktrao added.

Government of India, Ministry of Railways

Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs)

CENTRALISED EMPLOYMENT NOTICE (CEN) No. 06/2024

Recruitment for Various Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under Graduate)

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for various categories of posts given in the table below. The last date of submission of application is 20.10.2024. Applications complete in all respects must be submitted ONLINE ONLY.

Opening date of Application : 21-09-2024
Closing date for submission of Application : 20-10-2024 23:59 PM

Name of the Post	Pay level as per 7th CPC	Initial pay (Rs.)	Medical standard	Age (as on 01.01.2025)*	Total tentative vacancies (All RRBs)
Commercial Cum Ticket Clerk	Level-3	21700	See Annexure A in the detailed CEN	18 - 33 years	2022
Accounts Clerk Cum Typist, Junior Clerk cum Typist & Trains Clerk	Level-2	19900	See Annexure A in the detailed CEN	18 - 33 years	1423
Total (All RRBs) :					3445

*This includes a relaxation of 3 years in age beyond the prescribed age limit as a one-time measure due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

For further details, please refer to the detailed Centralized Employment Notice (CEN) No. 06/2024 available on the official websites of all participating Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) listed below.

RRB	Website address	RRB	Website address
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Bengaluru	www.rrbnc.gov.in	Mumbai	www.rrbmumbai.gov.in
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Bhubaneswar	www.rrbbs.gov.in	Patna	www.rrbpatna.gov.in
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Chandigarh	www.rrbcdg.gov.in	Ranchi	www.rrbanchi.gov.in
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Jammu-Srinagar	www.rrbjammu.nic.in	***	****

This notification is purely indicative in nature. Candidates are required to go through the detailed CEN 06/2024 to ascertain their eligibility before applying through ONLINE mode. Any Corrigendum/addendum/important Notice related to the aforesaid recruitment shall be issued time to time on the above websites of RRBs only.

No. RRB/ADI/Adv/CEN-06/2024
Date : 21.09.2024

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Commissionerate of Health, Medical Services and Medical Education (ME)
GMERS Medical College, Library Department
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ADVERTISEMENT FOR 11 MONTHS CONTRACTUAL APPOINTMENT

Walk in Interviews will be held for the posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in various subjects in Govt. Medical Colleges & attached institutions for 11 months contractual appointment on Fix pay basis. Interview will be conducted for the advertised vacant posts only. All eligible candidates have to appear personally along with requisite certificates as per scheduled date for the concerned subject. Interested candidates are advised to check the vacancy & other details on website before appearing in Interview. Subject wise Walk in Interview will be held on 25.09.2024 other details are available on website: www.gujhealth.gujarat.gov.in on or before 24.09.2024

Commissioner (Health)
INF/1066/24-25

FILLING UP POST OF FACILITY LADY MANAGER SAGARIKA SAINIK ARAMGRAH, COLABA, MUMBAI

Wanted Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up the following posts:-

(a) Facility Lady Manager for Sagarika Sainik Aramgrah in Colaba, Mumbai.

Requirement Age: 35 to 50 years, Medically Fit.

Education: Graduate from recognised University, previous experience as Manager or equivalent desirable with good communication and inter personal skills. Preference to ESM Military Widows (Veer Nari)/Dependents of Def Pers.

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Contact (OIC Sagarika): 2220822598 / 6005737023 Send Application and scanned documents - sagarikaaccn@gmail.com by 23 Sep 2024.

Interview on 27 Sep 2024 in the Sagarika Premises.

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) - Third Call (Very Short-Term Notice)

Prayagraj Smart City Limited
New Building (East), Nagar Nigam Campus, 1, Sarojini Naidu Marg, Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh 211001

Notice Inviting Tender on behalf of Prayagraj Smart City Limited, Prayagraj Uttar Pradesh for the following works:
"Construction of Senior Citizen Care Centre Includes O&M for 2 years in Prayagraj City (UP) Under Smart City Mission".

Online Bid is invited for the above-mentioned work. For more details, please visit the website at <http://www.etender.up.nic.in> on 21.09.2024 at 5:00pm.

Mission Manager (General)
Prayagraj Smart City Limited

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

Tender Notice No.: PCHM/GEN/TP/2024/34, Dated : 20.09.2024, TENDER FOR "E" PROCUREMENT SYSTEM, The Principal Chief Materials Manager, South Eastern Railway, Hd. Qrs. Office (5th Floor), New Administrative Building, 11, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700043 for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-tenders which have been uploaded on website www.irops.gov.in as follows. All the tenders will be closed at 14.00 hrs. SI. No., Tender No., Due Date, Brief Description, Quantity & EMD are as follows: 1. 38241545A, 30.09.2024, Modified Key for Brake Shoe 134240 Nos., ₹ 1,20,390/-, 2. 38241567, 09.01.2025, Pressure Transformer Type-DU 111 A for KEO design distributor valve, 440 Nos., ₹ 1,19,420/-, 3. 56245123, 07.10.2024, Running Contract for Route, Shunt and Calling on LED signal lighting, 9000 Nos., ₹ 11,30,820/-, 4. 33245014, 03.10.2024, Bogie Frame for LHB Coaches, 120 Nos., ₹ 7,02,540/-, 5. 33243291A, 14.10.2024, Sliding Door RH & LH of Luggage Room of Power Car Coach, 40 Set, ₹ 1,19,960/-, 6. 65235039D, 04.10.2024, EOT Crane 15 Ton Capacity, 05 Nos., ₹ 4,62,530/-, 7. 40235017, 15.10.2024, 150 Sq. mm (Yellow, Red, Blue) Thin Walled Flexible Elastomeric Cable with Copper Conductor etc. 9000 Mtr., ₹ 3,02,620/-, 8. 45233203C, 04.10.2024, Hermetically sealed scroll compressor for RMPU Coaches etc. 285 Nos., ₹ 2,36,920/-, 9. IG245128A, 22.10.2024, Hi Mast Lighting Tower for large area with LED Flood light system, 25 Nos., ₹ 2,24,500/-, 10. 29245017, 17.10.2024, Roof mounted air conditioning system, 190 Nos., ₹ 8,51,920/-, 11. 38243048A, 17.10.2024, High capacity Draft Gear Pad etc. 28940 Nos., ₹ 4,90,380/-

Interested tenderers may visit website www.irops.gov.in for full details/description/specification of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these items will be accepted. N.B.: Prospective Bidders may regularly visit www.irops.gov.in to participate in all other tenders & any Corrigendum published thereafter.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/Garden Reach

DHARAVI REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT SLUM REHABILITATION AUTHORITY
5th Floor, Grihanirman Bhavan, Kаланagar, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400051

NOTICE

Under Section 37(1B) of the Maharashtra Regional & Town Planning Act, 1966 Regarding proposed modifications in Regulation 33(9)(A) and 33(10)(A) of the Development Control and Promotion Regulations -2034
No. SRA/DRP/TP/File No.6-VI/1142/ 2024, dated: 20/09/2024.

Whereas, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub Section (1) of Section 31 of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning Act, 1966 (hereinafter referred to as "the said Act"), the State Government vide Notification No. TPB-4317/629/CR-118/2017/DP/UD-11, Dated 08/05/2018 (hereinafter referred to as "the said Notification") has accorded sanction to the Draft Development Plan-2034 of Greater Mumbai along with the Development Control and Promotion Regulations-2034 for Greater Mumbai (hereinafter referred to as "the said Regulations") with modifications shown in SCHEDULE-A appended to the said Notification. And whereas, Government has issued corrigendum of even number dated 22/06/2018 as per which the said Regulation has come into force from 1/09/2018 and whereas, thereafter Government has issued a Corrigendum and Addendum of even number dated 29/06/2018 to the said Notification, which is published in Government Gazette dated 30/06/2018;

Whereas, the Government of Maharashtra vide Notification dated 21/09/2018 has sanctioned EP-1 to EP-168 (Excluding certain EP and provisions which were kept in abeyance) in the Development Control and Promotion Regulations-2034;

Whereas, the Government of Maharashtra vide Notification dated 12/11/2018 has issued corrigendum in respect of some typographical errors and mistakes and also to clarify and co-relate certain provisions of sanctioned DCPR for its proper interpretation;

Whereas, Regulation 33(9)(A) of the said Regulations pertains to Regulation for Dharavi Notified Area (hereinafter referred to as "DNA") wherein provision for Urban Renewal Scheme under Dharavi Redevelopment Project (hereinafter referred to as "DRP") is inserted;

Whereas, Regulation 33(10)(A) of the said Regulations pertains to provision of Slum Rehabilitation Scheme within Dharavi Notified Area for Dharavi Redevelopment Project;

Whereas, the Government of Maharashtra vide Notification of Housing and Special Assistance Department No. SRA-1095/CR-37/Housing Cell, dated 16/12/1995 has appointed "Slum Rehabilitation Authority" (hereinafter referred to as "the said authority") under the provisions of section 3-A of the Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) Act, 1971;

Whereas, Government Resolution of Housing Department No. ZoPuYo/2003/Pra.Kra.189/ZoPaSu-1A, dated 04/02/2004 has decided to proceed with Dharavi Redevelopment Project (DRP) as comprehensive integrated development based on the concept of sectoral plan and therefore for the said area Slum Rehabilitation Authority shall be declared as Special Planning Authority;

Whereas, the State Government in Urban Development Department vide notification no. TPB 4304/322/CR-56/04/UD-11, dated 09/03/2005 has appointed Slum Rehabilitation Authority as the Special Planning Authority for the planning and development of Dharavi area, namely Sector 1 to 4, more specifically defined in the Schedule therein, under sub-section (1B) of Section 40 of the said Act;

Whereas, the State Government in Urban Development Department vide notification no. TPB 4308/3499/CR-83/09/UD-11, dated 25/06/2009 has appointed Slum Rehabilitation Authority as the Special Planning Authority for the planning and development of Dharavi area, namely Sector 5, more specifically defined in the Schedule therein, under sub-section (1B) of Section 40 of the said Act;

Whereas, the State Government in Urban Development Department vide notification no. TPB 4323/UOR-7/CR-18/2023/UD-11, dated 07/02/2023 has appointed Slum Rehabilitation Authority as the Special Planning Authority for the planning and development of railway land within Dharavi Notified Area and also to include the adjoining railway land within Dharavi Notified Area, more specifically defined in the Schedule therein, under sub-section (1B) of Section 40 of the said Act;

Whereas, Government in Housing Department by Government Resolution dated 11/09/2007 having resolution Number ZoPuYo-2007 / Pr.Kr.54/ZoPaSu-1A has declared Dharavi Redevelopment Project as a "Vital Public Purpose Project";

Whereas, Committee of Secretaries (CoS) in their meeting dated 21/04/2018 and 19/05/2018 approved to implement Dharavi Redevelopment Project by combining all sectors as a single sector through Special Purpose Vehicle Company model by appointment of a single Lead Partner of SPV Company and also finalized bid parameters, various concessions to be given etc. The CoS Committee further directed to seek the approval of the Cabinet;

Whereas, in the Cabinet Meeting dated 16/10/2018, the Cabinet took note of the earlier two unsuccessful tender attempts despite multiple modifications of the tender conditions and complexity in the development of Dharavi such as height restrictions due to proximity to Airport, high density of slums, issues of non-eligibility of slum dwellers, excluded areas in the project, mixture of slum and renewal tenements, private land, industrial and commercial structures, etc. and hence has decided that there is a need for integrated planned development of Dharavi Redevelopment Project area. Based on which, Cabinet took the decision to declare the Dharavi Redevelopment Project as a "Special Project" for integrated redevelopment of Dharavi Redevelopment Project through Special Purpose Vehicle Company (wherein Slum Rehabilitation Authority will hold initially 20% equity), and decided to give various concessions for the project for its successful implementation and finalized the project framework and approved the draft tender documents; And whereas accordingly, Government in the Housing Department has issued Government Resolution No. DhaPuPra-2018/Pr.Kr. 90/ZoPaSu, dated 05/11/2018;

Whereas, the Cabinet in its meeting dated 21/09/2022 and Cos Committee in its meeting dated 23/09/2022, decided to provide additional concessions to the project along with modifications in the project framework, approved the draft of the State Support Agreement and approved the tender documents for fresh tender process with inclusion of railway land; And whereas accordingly, Government in the Housing Department has issued Government Resolution No. DhaPuPra-2022/Pra.Kra.87/ZoPaSu, dated 28/09/2022;

Whereas, based on the Government Resolution dated 28/09/2022, the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra has signed the State Support Agreement on 11/11/2022 with Dharavi Redevelopment Project/Slum Rehabilitation Authority and has ensured that no modifications will be carried out to the Government Resolution dated 05/11/2018 and 28/09/2022 that adversely affects the performance of the Special Purpose Vehicle Company and assured that necessary Government notifications will be issued before finalization of the integrated master plan;

Whereas, as per the Government Resolution dated 05/11/2018 and 28/09/2022, on 01/10/2022 Dharavi Redevelopment Project/Slum Rehabilitation Authority have invited tenders for selection of Lead Partner for implementation of Dharavi Redevelopment Project through SPV Company. Upon technical and financial

scrutiny of the bids received, the Evaluation Report of eligible bidders has been submitted before CoS to take appropriate decision regarding bid approval. CoS in its meeting dated 15/12/2022 has approved the Evaluation Report and directed to submit the Evaluation Report to Cabinet for final approval. Accordingly, the Evaluation Report and decisions made in CoS meeting has been submitted to the Cabinet in its meeting dated 22/12/2022 for approval. Cabinet in its meeting has approved the highest bid. Directions from the Government for appointment of highest bidder have been received vide Government Resolution of Housing Department No. DhaPuPra-2022/ Pra.Kra.123/ ZoPaSu, dated 13/07/2023. Accordingly, Letter of Award has been issued to successful bidder on 17/07/2023;

Whereas, by Government Resolution of the Housing Department dated 28/09/2022, it has been resolved that the land acquired by the SPV Company outside Dharavi Notified Area for Affordable Rental Housing Schemes shall also be considered as Dharavi Notified Area and Dharavi Redevelopment Project area; and all the concessions applicable under the Government Resolution dated 05/11/2018 and the GR dated 28/09/2022 for redevelopment under 33(9)(A) and 33(10)(A) shall also be applicable to the Affordable Rental Housing Scheme;

Whereas, based on the decisions taken in the Government Resolutions dated 05/11/2018 and 28/09/2022, and as per the decisions taken by the CoS in their meeting on 20/08/2024 and directions given by the Urban Development Department through Housing Department by the letters dated 21/05/2024 (waiver of Staircase Premium) and 29/08/2024 (waiver of premium on relaxation in open space in front of building(s)) of the Housing Department for taking necessary actions to modify the Regulation 33(9)(A) and 33(10)(A) of the Development Control and Promotion Regulations-2034, Dharavi Redevelopment Project/Slum Rehabilitation Authority deems it necessary to modify the Regulation 33(9)(A) and 33(10)(A) of the Development Control and Promotion Regulations - 2034, as specifically described in the Schedule given below (herein after referred to as "the proposed modifications");

Now, therefore, in consonance with the provisions of sub-section (1B) of Section 37 of the said act and based on the Government Resolutions dated 05/11/2018 and 28/09/2022 and directions given by the Committee of Secretaries on 29/08/2024 and directives issued by Housing Department vide letter dated 21/05/2024 and 29/08/2024, the said Authority invites objections/ suggestions from the public on the proposed modifications within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice in the Official Gazette;

Copies of the proposed modifications are available for inspection in the office of the said Authority for information and also in office of the Deputy Director of Town Planning, Greater Mumbai ENSA hutments, E-Block, Azad Maidan, Mahapalka Marg, Mumbai 400 001, the Chief Engineer, Development Plan, Brihan Mumbai Municipal Corporation, 4th Floor, Head office, Mumbai, the Additional Collector (Encroachment), Old Custom House, Fort, Mumbai 400 023, The Collector, Mumbai Island City, Old Custom House, Fort, Mumbai 400 023. The proposed modifications are also published on website of the said Authority at <https://sra.gov.in>

Any objections/ suggestions in respect of the proposed modifications mentioned in the Schedule given below may be forwarded, before the expiry of one month from the date of publication of this Notice in the Maharashtra Government Gazette, to the Chief Executive Officer & Officer on Special Duty, Dharavi Redevelopment Project/Slum Rehabilitation Authority, having his office at 5th Floor, Grihanirman Bhavan, Kаланagar, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400051. Objections/suggestions received after the prescribed period of 30 days, will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE

Regulation No.	Existing provision	Proposed provision
Regulation 33(9)(A)(17)	Relaxation in building and other requirements for the Urban Renewal development shall be as per the provisions laid down under clause no. 6.1 to 6.17 of Regulation No. 33(10)(A).	Relaxation in building and other requirements for the Urban Renewal development shall be as per the provisions laid down under clause no. 6.1 to 6.17 / 6.18 of Regulation No. 33(10)(A).
Regulation 33(10)(A)(6)(6.14)	Premium shall not be charged for exclusion of staircase and lift-well etc. as covered under the provisions of DCR 31(1) rehabilitation component.	(a) Premium shall not be charged for exclusion of staircase and lift-well etc. as covered under the provisions of DCR 31(1) for rehabilitation component. (b) Premium shall not be Charged for exclusion of staircase as covered under the provisions of DCR 31(1) for sale component.
Regulation 33(10)(A)(6)(6.16)	Relaxations for the free sale component - Relaxation contained in sub-regulation No. 6.6, 6.7, 6.11, 6.12, 6.13 above, other necessary relaxation shall be given to the free sale components for deficient area on payment of premium at the 2.5% rate of ASR for open land (for FSI 1) or 10% of normal premium whichever is more.	Relaxations for the free sale component - Relaxation contained in sub-regulation No. 6.6, 6.7, 6.11, 6.12, 6.13 above, other necessary relaxation shall be given to the free sale components for deficient area on payment of premium at the 2.5% rate of ASR for open land (for FSI 1) or 10% of normal premium whichever is more.
Insert new provision 6.18 in Regulation 33(10)(A)(6)	-	Notwithstanding anything mentioned in clause 6.15, 6.16 and 6.17, in specific cases where a clearly demonstrable hardship is caused, the CEO & OSD may for reasons to be recorded in writing, by special permission permit relaxations in Open Spaces in front of the building(s) for deficient area without charging premium, provided that the relaxation will not affect the health safety, fire safety, structural safety and public safety of the inhabitants of the building and the neighborhood.

Sd/-
(S.V.R. Srinivas, IAS)
Chief Executive Officer and Officer on Special Duty
Dharavi Redevelopment Project
Slum Rehabilitation Authority

Date : 20/09/2024
Place : Mumbai

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I, Sreekrishnan K. Sreekrishnan Ananthanarayanan S/o Ananthanarayanan Kumarapuram and R/o A2-304, Shankara Colony, P. S. Lokhande Marg, Opposite Indian Oil Nagar, Govandi, Mumbai - 400 043 have changed my name to Sreekrishnan Kumarapuram for all purposes.

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tender & notices

TENDERS SCHEDULE REFERRED TO HEREINABOVE [Description of the Premises] 5 (five) fully paid up shares of Rs. 50/- (Rupees Fifty only) each aggregating to Rs. 250/- (Rupees Two Hundred and Fifty only) bearing distinctive nos. 186 to 190 (both inclusive) represented by a Share Certificate bearing no. 34 dated 15th October, 2010 issued by the Silver Arch Co-operative Housing Society Limited, registered under the Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960 under serial no. MUM/WD/HSG/TC/8975 together with the beneficial right, title, share and interest to possess, use and occupy Flat No. 172 admeasuring 2,820 square feet carpet area, located on the 17th floor (19th level) alongwith 2 (Two) Car Parking Spaces bearing nos. 81 and 82 on the L-1 floor of the building known as 'Silver Arch' comprising of Basement, Ground and 24 (Twenty Four) upper floors, situate on a portion of land admeasuring 28,627 square meters (as per title deeds) and 26,015 square meters (as per Property Register Card) forming part of all that piece and parcel of land admeasuring 37,835.5 square meters in aggregate and bearing Cadastral Survey No. 356 situate, lying and being at 66 Nepean Sea Road, Malabar Hill, Mumbai - 400006, Malabar and Cumballa Hill Division, Municipal Ward - D Ward. Date: 21.09.2024

For Veritas Legal Advocates and Solicitors Sd/- Vineet Nalawalla Partner objections@veritaslegal.in Forbes Building, 1st Floor Charanji Rai Marg Fort, Mumbai 400001

TENDER NOTICE Sealed envelopes are invited from qualified and reputed bidders for Badminton Court flooring (supply and installation) at Greens Apex. RFP Start Date: 21/09/2024, 11:00 am Last Date Submission: 06/10/2024, 06:00 pm RFP Document To be collected From Society Off. on submission of Rs. 2000/- Non-Refundable in Cash/IDD Favouring "Greens Apex Co-op. Housing Association Ltd" GREENS APEX CO-OP. HSG. ASSOCIATION LTD. (P) Invites to be collected at: P3, Runwal Greens, Mulund Goregaon Link Rd., Bhandup (w), Mumbai - 400 078. Contact Person: FMS Head +91937703183 fmshead.greensapex@gmail.com secretary.greensapex@gmail.com president.greensapex@gmail.com

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CAUTION NOTICE

Public at large are hereby informed that our clients (1) IBRAHIM AHMED MANIYAR, Leicester, LE5 4LA, United Kingdom (2) GULAM HASSAN AHMED MANIYAR, residing at 29, Purwell Hall Road, Bailey, West Yorkshire, WF1

Shivaji never destroyed places of worship of other religions: Gadkari

► From P 1

He added there could be a difference of opinion, but it should not lead to personal differences. "In a democracy, our opinions may differ, but we still have to respect another's opinion. Everyone is expected to follow it in democracy," he said.



Social disparity in the country is worrisome, said Nitin Gadkari

Gadkari batted for unity in diversity and said the country will not progress unless we get over inequality in society. He said, "The fundamental spirit of the Gita, the Quran, and the Bible is the same. It is an individual's choice how to offer prayers to his or her God. Just as we have freedom of speech, we have freedom of religion. We must rise above all such differences and work together."

The minister cited Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and said, "There cannot be a bigger example of a secular personality than Shivaji Maharaj. He

never destroyed places of worship of other religions. If we want our nation to become 'Vishwaguru' (educator of the world), we should take the path of social harmony."

He said social disparity in the country is worrisome and people must realise a person's stature does not depend on caste, language, religion or sex. "His ability determines it. Till we eradicate untouchability and class differences, we cannot say that we have progressed," he said.

Cases filed against 350 for Dhule, Nandurbar clashes

Nashik: The police administration of Nandurbar and Dhule have registered cases against 250 and 100 people, respectively, following Thursday's clashes at both locations, reports Santosh Sonawane.

While the Nandurbar police have detained 55 people, they have ascertained the identity of 54 others. The process of identifying the other accused involved in the clash is ongoing. The Dhule police also said they have detained 20 people and the process of detaining more is underway.

Nandurbar city and Dondaicha, which are 40km apart, witnessed group clashes on Thursday. The incidents left many people injured.

BARC Hospital Anushaktinagar, Mumbai

Walk-in-interview for Staff Nurse (Locum) will be conducted at BARC Hospital on Friday 27/09/2024
Reporting time: - 08.30hrs to 09.30hrs
For details please visit BARC Website at www.barc.gov.in

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE MATERIAL ORGANISATION MI ROOM, LBS MARG, GHATKOPAR (WEST), MUMBAI - 400086 HIRING OF SERVICES ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS FOR MI ROOM, MO (MBI)

1. The Material Superintendent, Mumbai, invites Bio-data for Hiring of services for the under mentioned post at MI Room, MO (MBI) on **Contractual Basis** for a period of one year. Interested personal may forward their application to Medical Officer-in-Charge MI Room, Material Organisation (Mumbai), Naval Store Depot, Ghatkopar (W), Mumbai, Pin - 400 086, by **27 Sep 24**. For details contact 022-25043631/ 8422806237.
2. Details are as follows.

SL	POST	VACANCY	QUALIFICATION	EXPERIENCE	SALARY
1.	Full Time Medical Officer	01	MBBS	Minimum 01 year General Medical Practice	75,000/- per month

CBC 10702/11/0051/2425

Woman 'asked' to not testify against criminal, her brother beaten to death

Kanpur: A 30-year-old man, whose sister was a witness in a case against notorious history-sheeter who is out on bail, was brutally beaten to death in a busy street in Shastri Chowk area of Kanpur, UP, on Friday.

The brutal attack on the victim, a professional drummer, was carried out by a group of men, allegedly at the behest of the history-sheeter who had been pressuring the deceased's

sister to refrain from testifying in the case against him, said police sources. According to the deceased's sister, the accused was released on bail 15 days back. A purported video of the attack has gone viral on social media. According to sources, the attack took place while the victim, along with his sister, was returning home after lodging a complaint against the criminal. **TNN**



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Advertisement NO. 87/2024
Government of India
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in
Yantra India Limited (YIL)
Last date of submission of application by applicants is by **15.00 hours on 15th October, 2024**
Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by **15.00 hours on 24th October, 2024**
For details login to website <https://pesb.gov.in>

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Notice inviting Electronic Tenders
On behalf of President of India Principal Chief Materials Manager/PLW/Patiala invites tenders in electronic form for following items:
A) e-Tender Notice No. 26 ET/2024-25

SN	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender closing date
1	01241472	FRP Window Assembly	2120 Nos.	14.10.2024
2	01241509	Set of Seats & berths	97 Sets	22.10.2024
3	02241647	Winding Wire	16577 Kgs	01.11.2024*
4	02241755	Stripped Stator	100 Nos.	11.11.2024
5	12241805	Roof Ceiling Panel	890 Nos.	14.10.2024
6	02241627	ZR CU Punching Type Resistance Ring Scheme-II	183 Nos.	08.11.2024*
7	02242158	Labyrinth Sealing Ring	100 Nos.	15.10.2024

B) e-Reverse Auction Notice No. 20 e-RA/2024-25

SN	Tender No.	Description	Qty.	Tender closing date
1	02242155A	Supply, Installation and commissioning of Netra Instrumentation System	03 Sets	06.11.2024
2	02241659A	Transmitter Wheel	1950 Nos.	14.10.2024

Tender closing Time (A&B) 15:00 Hrs.
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 tenderers can submit their quotations only through <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 2952/2024

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E-mail : chief@msrdc.in Website : www.msrdc.in
E-Tender Portal : <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

E-QUOTATION NOTICE
Name of Work - Invitation for E-Quotation from NHAI pre-qualified Bidders for collection of toll at 26 toll stations along Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samrudhhi Mahamarg for a period of 3 months on actual monthly total toll collection charges basis.
NMSCEL invites E-quotation from eligible bidders for appointment as operator for collection of toll at 26 toll stations along Hindu Hrudaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samrudhhi Mahamarg. Bidders may obtain further information from the office of NMSCEL, Bandra (W), Mumbai.
• The E-quotation document can be viewed / downloaded through e-tendering portal, <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from 20.09.2024 at 17.00 hrs. to 26.09.2024 till 11.00 hrs.
• Sale - From 20.09.2024 at 17.00 hrs to 26.09.2024 till 11.00 hrs.
• Physical submission - 27.09.2024 till 11.00 hrs.
• Opening - 27.09.2024 at 11.00 hrs.
• All the details regarding sites, Bid Security and other terms and conditions etc., guidelines to download the E-quotation and online submission of bids, can be downloaded from <https://mahatenders.gov.in>
• The last date of submission 26.09.2024 at 11.00 hrs.
• Right to accept or reject any or all the offers or cancel the E-quotation process without assigning any reason whatsoever is reserved with NMSCEL.
Managing Director NMSCEL, Mumbai

Aircraft carrier INS Vikrant joins western fleet

Mumbai: The country's indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant joined the western naval fleet, in a significant enhancement to maritime power in the Arabian Sea, the Navy said on Friday. With this, the Navy has two aircraft carriers—INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya—on its western front. Both aircraft carriers are in Karwar, Karnataka, an official said.

"#INSVikrant, India's indigenous aircraft carrier, joined the @IN_WesternFleet, in a significant enhancement to the maritime power and reach of the #IndianNavy's 'Sword Arm'. The Carrier Battle Group led by @IN_Vikramaditya inducted @IN_R11Vikrant with a multi domain exercise and twin Carrier fighter operations in the Arabian Sea," the Western Naval Command said in a post on X. #IN

Not taking Ernst & Young to court, says dead CA's father

Chairman Of EY Denies Death Due To Work Stress

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: After labour ministry initiated probe into the tragic death of Ernst & Young (EY) India employee Anna Sebastian Perayil, her father, Sibi Joseph clarified that the family is not pursuing legal action against EY. "She cleared her CA in Feb this year and in March joined the firm. We used to speak to her every day and her major grouse was extreme work pressure. She was engaged in an audit of Bajaj Auto.



The family of Anna Sebastian Perayil, a 26-year-old employee of EY India, alleged she died on July 20 due to 'work-related stress'

Most of the days she used to work till 12.30 in the night and get back to her paying accommodation by 1.30am," Joseph told news agency IANS.

The family alleged that Anna was under work stress and had

not maintained a proper diet due to her demanding work schedule.

Her death triggered an uproar after a lengthy letter by Anna's mother, Anita Augustine, to EY chairman Rajiv Memani went viral on social media on Wednesday. Augustine voiced her concerns regarding the excessive workload placed on her daughter, a newcomer to the company, which indicated that Anna ultimately succumbed to work-related stress. Anna had joined the company in March, after completing CA, and passed away on July 20.

Late Thursday, Memani took to LinkedIn to express his regret for being unable to attend Anna's funeral, describing it as uncharacteristic of the firm's culture. "I

truly regret the fact that we missed being present at Anna's funeral. This is completely alien to our culture. It has never happened before; it will never happen again." Memani, however, said that Anna's death was not a result of work pressure and that all EY employees are assigned equal workloads.

Former HCL CEO Vineet Nayar took to LinkedIn to say that across industries, young employees are overworked under the guise of "training" or "preparation for the real world." Although hard work is essential, extreme hours should not become standard.

WHO links long working hours to a 35% increased risk of stroke and a 17% higher risk of heart disease.

Adorable Amma of Malayalam cinema, Kaviyoor Ponnamma, dead

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kochi: Veteran Malayalam actor **Kaviyoor Ponnamma** (80), who donned the mother's role in most of her films, died at a private hospital in Kochi on Friday evening. She had been under treatment for cancer since May last year and was in a critical condition for the past week. Hospital authorities said she had stage-4 cancer when diagnosed. "She was admitted on Sept 3 for further tests and treatment, but her situation worsened," its bulletin said. She breathed her last around 5.30pm.



Her mortal remains will be kept at Kalamassery municipal town hall from 9am to 12pm Saturday for the public to pay homage. The funeral will be held on her house premises in Aluva around 4pm. Ponnamma had acted in around 700 movies in her career spanning more than six decades. Born in Kaviyoor, Pathanamthitta, in 1945 to TP Damodaran and Gouri, she started her career as a singer with 'Pratibha Arts' theatre group at age 14. She was a disciple of popular musicians RLP Varma and Vechoor S Harihara Subramanya Aiyer.

She started her acting career with 'Mooladhana' drama by Thoppil Bhasi in the 1950s. Her debut in movies came in 'Sreeramapattabhishekam' (1965).

Punjab owes pvt hosps ₹600cr in Ayushman dues

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Union health minister J P Nadda on Friday asked the Punjab govt to clear the dues of private hospitals in the state.

Many private hospitals have halted cashless treatment under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) over unpaid dues which, reports suggest, amount to Rs 600 crore approximately.

AB-PMJAY is the world's largest publicly funded health assurance scheme under which the poor get a health cover of Rs 5 lakh per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation. The

Govt's UWIN app, meant to record vaccinations, to launch next mth

UWIN app, a platform developed by govt to capture vaccination of all pregnant women and children under Universal Immunisation Programme, will be launched by PM Narendra Modi next month. Health minister J P Nadda said limited trial of the app has been completed. It can be used to fix appointments, maintain a record and download certificates of vaccination, he said, adding, "It has been developed for full digitisation of vaccination services for complete vaccination record of pregnant women and children." #TN

annual premium per beneficiary for the health cover is Rs 1,102 currently, including Rs 50 administrative charges. Of this, 60% is paid by the Centre, while the rest 40% is paid by the states.

Nadda said AB-PMJAY was conceptualised to aid the economically backward families with ensured medical cover, and today, due to the mismanagement of the state govt, under AAP in Punjab, people have lost access to free healthcare.

"I urge CM Mann to clear the dues of the hospitals as soon as possible, for there are many families, especially our hardworking farmers, benefitting under the Ayushman Bharat programme. Instead of cheering on the party unit in Delhi, it would suit CM Mann to concentrate on the dwindling state of affairs in Punjab," Nadda said.

10 ft under: Pune civic tanker falls into sinkhole as ground caves in

Asseem Shaikh & Prasad Kulkarni | TNN

Pune: A PMC sanitation department's sewage suction tanker and a motorcycle fell in after a 10ft-deep sinkhole opened in the parking area of the City Post Office at Belbag Chowk in Budhwar Peth around 3.30pm on Friday.

The driver of the jetting machine tanker, used to clean drainage lines, jumped out of the vehicle and escaped unhurt. Pune municipal corporation (PMC) officials are ascertaining what may have caused the sinkhole to open amid speculation about an underground Metro line near the site.

MahaMetro officials, however, have ruled out any likelihood of the under-



THAT SINKING FEELING

ground metro rail causing the sinkhole.

Hemant Sonawane, executive director at MahaMetro, said, "The alignment

of the Metro's underground tunnel and underground station is away from the place of the mishap. The work of tunnelling was completed in the area almost two years ago. The alignment of the tunnel is around 60ft below the ground level. We cannot see any direct connection of Metro work with the incident. Our team is conducting further inspection and checks."

A senior post official said the post office was built by the British in 1925. "The Peshwas had laid an underground water pipeline from Katraj Lake to supply drinking water to Peth areas. The pipeline passes through the city post office but we had never doubted that the parking premises would develop a sinkhole after

we called PMC to clean the choked drainage system at the post office. The area place where the sinkhole opened up is used for parking two-wheelers," said the official, requesting anonymity.

City fire brigade chief Devendra Potphode told TOI, "The tanker weighing 20 tonnes reversed and sank into the 10ft sinkhole. The civic administration pressed into service two cranes of 15 tonnes each to pull out the tanker and the motorcycle belonging to a postman. PMC engineers have inspected the site to identify the cause behind the incident." PMC's road department senior officer Sahbrao Dandge said the property does not come under the purview of the civic department because it is not a public road.

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tender & notices

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LOI is invited from interested **PMC-developers** for Redevelopment of our bldg. plot No.149/156, Area-2853 Sq. Mtr. **Garodia Nagar, Ghatkopar East** Send email to Secretary vickyjoshi19@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that under instructions from our client we are investigating the title of **MR. SURENDER KUMAR JINDAL** in respect of Office No.1503, on the 15th floor of "MAKER CHAMBER V" situated at 221, Nariman Point, Mumbai and the Shares held by him in **Maker Chamber V Premises Co-operative Society Ltd.** (hereinafter referred to as "the said Office Premises") and more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written.

वकील - आर. डी. केवट वसई पेथील श्रीमती. आर. एन. खान, सह दिवाणी न्यायाधीश, क. सर प्राचे न्यायालयत जाहीर नोटीस रे.सु. नं. ६३/२०१३ निचामी क्र. ६५ पुढील तारीख: ०१/१०/२०२४ हरिहरम पाल विरुद्ध कमल किशोर गुप्ता ...प्रतिवादी प्रति. प्रतिवादी क्र. १ श्री. कमल किशोर गुप्ता, रा. प्रो. मे. स्ट्रीट रोडिंग मील, ऑफ महाराष्ट्र २०४, कोल्हापूर बंदर दारखाना २ रे.सु. नं. ६३/२०१३ प्रतिवादी क्र. २ श्री. शिवानंद कामु मेटकरी, रा. रूम नं. ७, चिवाजी नगर, प्लॉट नं. ३, गोवंदी, मुंबई ज्या अर्थात सदरचे वादी यांनी मे. सह दिवाणी न्यायाधीश क. सर वसई यांच्या न्यायालयत दाखल निमित्त दिवाणी दावा क्र. ६३/२०१३ दाखल केला आहे. याअर्थात असे जाहीर करण्यात येते की, सदर न्यायप्रसंगी दिवाणी दावा मध्ये, उपनिर्दिष्ट प्रतिवादी यांचावक प्रत्यक्ष सहाय्य नोंदीसही बनवावणी झालेली नसल्यामुळे ही जाहीर नोटीस प्रसिध्द करित आहेत. तरी सदर प्रतिवादी अगर यांचे प्रतिनिधींनी त्यांची बाजू मांडण्यासाठी ही नोटीस प्रसिध्द झाल्यापासून ३० दिवसांच्या आत किंवा दिनांक ०९ मार्च २०२४ पर्यंत उपनिर्दिष्ट प्रकरणी सामील होऊन आपले लेखी म्हणणे नोंदवावे आणि तसेच या लेखावरून असे कळविण्यात येते की सदर मुद्दतीत आपले लेखी म्हणणे न आल्यास न्यायालय वादीचे म्हणणे देऊन प्रस्तुतच्या अर्जात निकाल देण्यात येईल याची संवैधानिक नोंद घ्यावी. आज दिनांक २२ मार्च २०२४ रोजी मद्रास सहीने न न्यायालयाच्या शिष्यांनीची दिते. हुकुमवान, सह, अधिकांक, क.सर, वसई सह दिवाणी न्यायालय, क.सर, वसई

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE that my client is negotiating for purchase of property more particularly described in the schedule hereunder written belonging to **Mr. Shrikrishna @ Anand Vishwanath Limaye and Mrs. Radhika Shrikrishna Limaye.** All persons having any claim, right, title and interest in respect of property described in schedule hereunder written by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (save and except Sarawat bank), gift, trust, charge, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, lien or otherwise of whatsoever nature are hereby requested to make the same known in writing to the undersigned having their office at 1 & 2, Riddhi Siddhi Apartments, Opp. Gurukul School, Behind Punjab National Bank, Tilak Road, Ghatkopar (East), Mumbai - 400 077, within 14 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim of such person will be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned or given up and the same shall not be entertained thereafter, and my client will proceed for the Agreement. The Schedule Above Referred To: Industrial Unit No. 003 admeasuring 1545 sq.ft. (Carpet) Area, on Ground Floor, in the building known "India Printing House" of Akshar Mudrak Limited, lying and being situated at G. D. Ambedkar Marg, Wadala, Mumbai - 400 031 of the registration District and Sub District of Mumbai City bearing Cadastral Survey No. 956 and 952 (Plot No. 42) of Scheme 57 of Sewri (Wadala South) Of Dadar Naigaon Division, Mumbai, dated 21st day of September 2024. **NILESH JOSHI** Advocate, High Court.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE that my client has agreed to purchase and acquire **Flat No. 5703, admeasuring 896.00 Sq. ft. carpet, on the 5th Floor, along with 2 Car Parking Space, in the building known as "Nathani Heights" Constructed by Nathani Parekh Constructions Pvt. Ltd. lying and being situated at Dr. D. B. Marg, Mumbai Central Mumbai 400 008, within the Registration District and Sub-District of Mumbai bearing Cadastral Survey No. 1/332 of Tardeo Division from (1) MRS. SANGEETA JETHALAL PUROHIT and (2) MR. JETHALAL LAXMAN PUROHIT.** All persons having any claim, right, title and interest in respect of the above mentioned Flat and/or any other abovementioned title, deed or any other manner by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (save and except Central Bank of India), gift, trust, charge, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, lien, or otherwise of whatsoever nature are hereby requested to make the same known in writing to the undersigned having their office at 1 & 2, Riddhi Siddhi Apartments, Opp. Gurukul School, Behind Punjab National Bank, Tilak Road, Ghatkopar (East), Mumbai - 400 077, within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim of such person will be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned or given up and the same shall not be entertained thereafter. Bombay, dated 21st day of September, 2024. **(NILESH JOSHI)** Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE THIS IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC that the 7/12 extract of the N.A land bearing Survey No. 105, Hissa No. 1, admeasuring H-R-10,00.00 Sq. Mtrs. assessed at Rs. 100.00 Paisa, situated at Village: Agashi, Taluka: Vasai. District: Palghar. Which is owned by my Client MRS. JYOTSNA JANARDAN VAIDYA and MRS. JUHI VIKAS VARTAK, and it's purchased through the said conveyance deed and other Legal papers. Now the 7/12 extract of the above mentioned land contains the name of my client i.e. MRS. JYOTSNA JANARDAN VAIDYA and MRS. JUHI VIKAS VARTAK, and consequently our client, **MRS. JYOTSNA JANARDAN VAIDYA And MRS. JUHI VIKAS VARTAK,** are the lawful owner of the Said Land. However, if any person has any kind of claim, right, interest, authority they should submit their written objection within 14 days from which the Notice is published and the should report it to the below mentioned address. Otherwise, it would be assumed that there are no rights, interests and if there is any it would be deemed to have given up and will be certified as such. **FOR MAHA LAW ASSOCIATES, Adv. Dr. Mahendra Madhukar Padhye, B.A., LL.B., MBA, Ph.D. D.LIT Advocate & Notary, Add: B/105-108, Sakai Devi Apt., Near Railway Bridge, Opp. Sainidhi Hotel, Virar (East), Taluka: Vasai, District: Palghar - 401 305.**

9th Death Anniversary **MARKA** **In Loving memory of** **Shri Devkumar Kanodia** 30.11.1943-19.09.2024 **Prayer Meeting: Sunday 22nd Sep, 4:30-6pm** Venue: Maheshwari Bhavan, Oshiwara, Andheri (W). Deeply mourned by: **Uma Kanodia, Rachna & Sameer, Vinita & Girish, Neha & Arun & Kanodia Family**

1st Death Anniversary **DEATH ANNIVERSARY** **CHAUTHA-UTHAMNA** **CHAUTHA** **REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES** **12th Death Anniversary** **LATE MR. OM PRAKASH VIG** 30-04-1930 - 21-09-2012 **MISS YOU DAD IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE** Fondly Remembered By Loving family

CHAUTHA **REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES** **12th Death Anniversary** **LATE MR. OM PRAKASH VIG** 30-04-1930 - 21-09-2012 **MISS YOU DAD IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE** Fondly Remembered By Loving family

UTTARAKRIYA & VAIKUNTA SAMARADHANE **Smt. Leelavathi Annaya Shetty** (Wife of Late Annaya K. Shetty, Anna Leela Group of Hotels, Mumbai) **UTTARAKRIYA** Will be held on Saturday 21.09.2024 on 12.00 noon at Pejwar Math, Near Yoga Institute, Prabhat Colony, Santacruz (E), Mumbai - 400 055. **VAIKUNTA SAMARADHANE** Will be held on Wednesday 25.09.2024 on 11.30 a.m. at Swami Muktananda Sabhagriha, Buntara Bhavan, Kurla (E) - 400 070. **Deeply Mourned & Memorialized By** Shobha, Sudhir Jyotsna Sujata Ravindra, Sudhakar, Mena Aditya, Ashwaththa, Shubra, Krish, Miloshi, Rayansh Diya, Sharvari, Family & Friends Heroor Padumane Daramma Nilaya Family & Yermal Hosamane Kamala Nivasa Family

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'Collegium not a search committee, has status in constitutional fabric'

From P 1

A bench led by Justice Sanjay K Kaul had, for a year prior to his retirement in Dec last year, kept the heat on the Centre to expedite appointment of persons recommended by SC collegium for HC judgeship and criticised the govt's "pick and choose" approach.

While seeking status of pendency of collegium recommended names, SC bench reminded govt on Friday that "Collegium is not a search committee. It has a certain status in the constitutional fabric. In case of a search committee's recommendation, there is an absolute discretion (with govt) whether to accept the names or not."

Attorney general R Venkataramani said he was not sure to what extent the court could enter into a deliberation on this contentious issue. The bench said, "AG, you tell us by next week the status of pending names recommended by the collegium."

Advocate Prashant Bhushan said those collegium resolutions reiterating names for appointment as HC judges, after rejecting the govt's objections, must be given effect immediately. He said over a dozen reiterated names, including that of senior advocate Saurav Kirpal, by the collegium is not acted upon by the govt for years.

"Often govt sits over initial recommendations for years," Bhushan said, adding if a name remains pending for six weeks without govt spelling out objections, then it should be deemed to have been accepted. Under Memorandum of Procedure for appointment of judges, govt has no option but appoint collegium reiterated names.

The bench said, "AG, we will keep the matter after some time as some of the appointments are in the pipeline. We are expecting the chief justices' appointments to come through soon. If AG can prepare a tabular chart specifying the names which have been reiterated by the collegium and explain the difficulties in appointing them. Please specify the names which are reiterated, why they are pending and at which level."

Venkataramani reiterated his serious reservations about maintainability of the writ petitions seeking appointment of some names recommended by the collegium.

SC seeks AG & SG help on norms, posts next hearing on Wednesday

From P 1

The bench sought the assistance of attorney general R Venkataramani and solicitor general Tushar Mehta in laying down guidelines and taking the suo motu proceedings to its logical end.

In its order, the CJI-led bench said, "The attention of the court has been drawn to media reports pertaining to certain comments which have been made by a judge of Karnataka HC, Justice V Srishananda, during the conduct of judicial proceedings.

"We have requested the AG and SG to assist this court. At this stage, we request the registrar general of the HC of Karnataka to submit a report to this court after seeking administrative directions from Chief Justice N V Anjaria in regard to the subject matter. This exercise may be carried out in the next two days and a report be submitted to the secretary general."

The bench posted the matter for further hearing on Wednesday. Talkative judges, though few, are not a recent phenomenon in the SC and HCs. Before the advent of social media, such judges escaped today's criticism because of their contempt of court powers.

With hearings in SC and HCs going live after the Covid pandemic, comments of judges—especially the ones which appear to veer out of control, are colourful and sound like scolds, acquire virality on social media—become matter of public scrutiny.

HC slams med body for outdated curriculum on gender & sexuality

Takes Exception To Term 'Gender Identity Disorder'

Sureshkumar.K@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Madras high court has censured the National Medical Commission (NMC) for coming up with a medical curriculum on gender and sexuality with content that is outdated and inaccurate.

Though the draft was withdrawn and a fresh guideline issued, Justice N Anand Venkatesh said, "even in the fresh guidelines, only certain issues were



NOT MINCING WORDS

addressed and there were lots of areas where concerns were raised. Apart from the other issues that have been flagged, this court is more concerned with the usage of the term 'gender identity disorder'." Pointing out that it fell under

This court has been urging that there is no psychological disorder involved in a person belonging to the LGBTQIA+ community and such a mistaken understanding must be corrected by making changes in curriculum

Justice Anand Venkatesh | MADRAS HC

standing must be corrected by making appropriate changes in the curriculum," the judge said.

Unfortunately, once again the word 'disorder' has found its place even in the new curriculum and it has to be immediately removed, the court added.

Insofar as the incorporation of the conversion therapy as a professional misconduct in the relevant regulation, the court said, "A decision has already been taken for incorporation of conversion therapy as a professional misconduct."

The issue pertains to a series of directions passed by the court on a habeas corpus plea moved by an LGBT couple who were harassed by their parents and cops.

SC's YouTube channel hacked, crypto takes over

New Delhi: Supreme Court's YouTube channel was hacked on Friday and showing videos promoting a cryptocurrency developed by US-based company Ripple Labs.



Ripple Responds To The SEC's \$2 Billion Fine! XRP PRICE PREDICTION" is currently live on the hacked channel.

"This is to inform all concerned that YouTube channel of SC has been taken down. The services on YouTube channel will be resumed shortly," a notice posted on apex court website said. The apex court has been using YouTube to stream live hearings of cases listed before constitution benches and matters involving public interest.

'Trial courts often act only to avoid HC action'

Prayagraj: Allahabad high court has observed that trial court judges often convict accused individuals who should be acquitted, solely to avoid facing action from the high court in criminal appeals, reports Rajesh Kumar Pandey.

While making this observation on Sept 12, a division bench comprising Justices Siddharth and SQH Rizvi noted that the show-cause notice issued in 2010 by a single judge bench of the high court to the then district judge of Allahgarh for acquitting an accused in a dowry death case was not correct.

SC junks PIL on anti-defection law expansion

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday said it cannot issue a direction to bring unelected politicians or individuals under the ambit of anti-defection law to bar them from changing loyalty from one party to the other.

Refusing to entertain a PIL challenging the validity of Tenth Schedule, which in the alternative argued for extension of anti-defection law to one and all,

a bench headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud said a constitution bench of the SC had upheld the validity of Tenth Schedule in Kihoto Hollohan in 1992.

The CJI said the Constitution guarantees freedom of choice and expression to every citizen. TNN

Telangana CM apologises for his remark on Kavitha's bail; court drops proceedings

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Underscoring that the three organs of governance—executive, legislature and judiciary—must respect each other and not transgress their limits while criticising, Supreme Court on Friday dropped proceedings against



Telangana CM Revanth Reddy for his contemptuous remark against its or-

der granting bail to BRS leader K Kavitha in the Delhi excise scam case and let him off after he tendered an apology.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan cautioned all constitutional functionaries to be alert and responsible while passing comments on court proceedings but at the same time made it clear that any fair criticism was welcome. It had taken strong exception to Reddy's statement that "there is also talk that Kavitha got bail because of the deal between BRS and BJP" and

had sought explanation from him for casting aspersions on court proceedings. Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the CM, told the bench that Reddy had apologised twice and the proceedings should be dropped.

"Noting the apology, we close the matter and do not wish to proceed further. We put in a word of caution that all constitutional functionaries, be it the executive, legislature or the judiciary, should perform their constitutional duties within their respective wings," the bench said.

Got sanction to prosecute Lalu, CBI tells court

Patna: CBI on Friday informed a Delhi court that it had obtained requisite sanctions from authorities to prosecute former railway minister Lalu Prasad in a corruption case related to the alleged land-for-jobs scam, reports Madan Kumar. The central agency submitted the sanction letter to special judge Vishal Gogne at the Rouse Avenue court. The sanction is required as the graft allegations are linked to Lalu's term as railway minister in UPA-I govt from 2004 to 2009.

The move came two days after the same court summoned Lalu and his sons, former Bihar minister Tej Pratap Yadav and ex-deputy chief minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, and five others in a money laundering case filed by Enforcement Directorate linked the land-for-jobs scam.

K'taka HC asks couple seeking divorce to take spiritual guru's help to save marriage

Chamaraj Savadi | TNN

Koppal: Karnataka high court's Dharwad bench has advised a married couple seeking divorce to try and resolve their differences by approaching a spiritual guru for mediation in this case. Sri Gavisiddheshwara Swamiji of Gavi Mutt, Koppal, whom Justice Krishna S Dixit compared to Swami Vivekananda.

A video circulating on social media shows Justice Dixit purportedly offering this bit of advi-

ce after learning that the couple had already consulted a specialist for "psychological issues".

"Problems are common in any marriage. However, it is not right for a couple to separate by focusing [only] on [these] issues," the judge said.

"The road is not straight up. There will be twists and turns. We take care of all of those and proceed carefully. So is family. There are disagreements and resentments, [but] you must go beyond that and get along with each

other." Based on the court's advice to seek spiritual intervention, the husband said he would like to meet Siddalingeshwar Swamiji in Gadag. His estranged wife made known her preference for Sri Gavisiddheshwara Swamiji. Justice Dixit endorsed the latter choice and ordered that Shri Gavisiddheshwara Swamiji be intimated about the case via post and email. He directed the couple to meet the pontiff in Koppal this Sunday. Swamiji's assistant, Sharana Shettar, told TOI the mutt was aware of the court's directive.

HC nixes former mantri's bail plea in gangrape case

Lucknow: The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad HC refused to grant bail to former cabinet minister Gayatri Prasad Prajapati in a gangrape and Pocco case. Along with Gayatri, the court has also rejected the bail pleas of co-convicts Ashish Kumar Shukla and Ashok Tiwari. The court has also said that the case should be listed for final hearing before the bench concerned.

A bench of Justices Vivek Chaudhary and Mohd. Faiz Alam Khan passed the order on the bail applications filed along with the appeals of convicts Gayatri, Ashish and Ashok. After hearing the arguments of both the parties, the court had reserved its order on Sept 10. TNN

'Witnesses in pathetic state': SC seeks probe in false case against Katara killing witness

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Observing that the condition of witnesses, considered to be the eyes and ears of justice, was pathetic in the Indian legal system and they were subjected to harassment by high-profile accused, Supreme Court on

Friday directed CBI to probe the false case registered against Ajay Katara, the star witness in Nitish Katara murder case, when it came to light that the petitioner in whose name the case was filed had nothing to do with it.

A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma said brazen at-

tempts were made to falsely implicate Ajay Katara by filing a false case in the name of Bhagwan Singh in Allahabad HC and the SC. "Witnesses are threatened, coerced by using force and lured by monetary considerations, at the instances of those who are in power, their henchmen and hirelings," SC said.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
CORRIGENDUM
No. PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/CORRIGENDUM/24/22 Dated: 16.09.2024. The following Corrigendum of E-Tender is for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/likely suppliers are requested to look up the website www.ireps.gov.in. These are E-Tenders; manual offers bid for these tenders will not be accepted under any circumstances, only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website. Sl. No.: 01]. Tender Notice no.: Sl No 267 of PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/24/49 Dated: 05/08/24. Tender No.: 14242951A. Tender Opening Date: Tender Opening Date is to be read as "27/09/24" instead of existing entry.
PR6/638 PCMM/CLW/HWH/RAH
Like us on: www.facebook.com/clwrailways

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER
Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), Chakradharpur acting For & On behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders against Open Tender. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Sl. No. Tender Notice No. & Name of work are as follows: (1) CKP-CENTRAL-24-25-24. (i) Upgradation/Modernization of infrastructure of existing goods shed at Patasahi. (ii) Patasahi: Construction of additional loading/unloading line with related modification of yard. Tender Value: ₹ 20,71,83,536.78. EMD: ₹ 11,85,900.- (2) CKP-CENTRAL-24-25-25. Rubberized of Level Crossing Gate Surface in Heavy Busy LC gates (16 Nos.) in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/Central/Chakradharpur. Tender Value: ₹ 5,16,12,219.10. EMD: ₹ 4,08,100.- (3) CKP-CENTRAL-24-25-26. Rockfall Protection and Slope Stabilization and mitigation work at approach of tunnel between MXW-PST UP, DN & 3rd Line under the jurisdiction of ADEN/West/CKP. Tender Value: ₹ 17,53,91,188.95. EMD: ₹ 10,27,000.-. Cost of Tender form: ₹ 0 for each. Date of opening: 14.10.2024 for Sl. No. 1 & 18.10.2024 for Sl. No. 2 & 3 each. The tender can be viewed at Website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. The tenderer/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered under on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer/bidder can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tendering. Note: e-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all tenderers. (Authority-Rly. Bd.'s letter No. 2020/CE-1/CT3E/GCC/Policy.dtd. 16.07.2020). (PR-629)

BRIHANMUMBAI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E-TENDER NOTICE
DEPARTMENT: WATER SUPPLY PROJECT DEPARTMENT
SUB DIVISION: Dy.Ch.E.(WSP) MV-II
TENDER REF. NO.: MGC/F/4339 dtd. 20.09.2024
TENDER ID: 2024_MCGM_1088660-1
SUBJECT: Design, Build, Operate and Construction of 455 MLD capacity Pumping Station and Construction of new Pick Up weir with Gates at village Pise in Tal. Bhiwandi.
SALE OF e-tender: Document download/Sale Start Date: 20.09.2024 from 5:45 pm. Document download/Sale End Date: 10.10.2024 up to 2:00 pm.
WEB SITE: www.mahatenders.gov.in.
CONTACT PERSON: Sudhakar Hande 9869032069 E.E.(WSP)MV-II
E-Mail: eec2civil01.wsp@mcgm.gov.in / pw.3bps2024@gmail.com
PRO/1350/ADV/2024-25
Avoid self medication
Sd/- Chief Engineer (W.S.P.)

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/70 -2024-25
The due Date and Time of submission and opening of following SRM e-tender is extended as follows:
Tender No. & Description of Material: SP/T-0640/0924 [3rd Call] [RFX No.7000033320] (Two Bid System). Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs): 2589.42 Lakhs. Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender: 27.09.2024 Up to 17:00 Hrs. at 17:15 Hrs.
SITC of capacitor banks of voltage ratings of 11kV, 22kV & 33kV - 350 MVAR in Phase-VI [6.3] at various EHV substations under Pune zone. Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs): 25000.00. Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender: 27.09.2024 Up to 17:00 Hrs. at 17:15 Hrs.
Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C) No.022-69852711/ Cell No.8329909813. Email: eegrp6@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in. For further details visit our website <http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in>. Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (P&C)

WESTERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM
To Tender Notice No: EL-TRD-W-118-24-25-8 dated 20.09.2024. Date of opening has been revised from 20.09.2024 (15.30 hrs.) to 11.10.2024 (15.30 hrs.) remaining all other conditions of Tender remains unchanged. 0566
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MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/71-2024-25
The due Date and Time of submission and opening of following SRM e-tender is extended as follows:
Tender No. & Description of Material: SP/T-0642/0924[3rd Call] [RFX No.7000033471] (Two Bid System) SITC of capacitor banks with GIS bays of voltage ratings of 22kV, 33kV & 220kV-270 MVAR in Phase-VI [6.7] at various EHV substations under Pune & Vashi Zone. Estimated Amount (in Rs. Lakhs): 6619.28 Lakhs. Tender Fee (in Rs.): 25000.00. Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender: 04.10.2024 Up to 17:00 Hrs. at 17:15Hrs.
Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C) No.022-69852711/ Cell No.8329909813. Email: eegrp6@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in. For further details visit our website <http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in>. Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (P&C)

बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिका
सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग
सुधारित जाहिरात
क्र. एमपीआर/८३४८ दि. २०.०९.२०२४
महानगरपालिका आयुक्त यांच्या मंजूरी क्र. एमजीसी/एफ/४३२६ दि. १६.०९.२०२४ नुसार बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिकेतील विविध खात्याच्या आस्थापनेवरील गट-क मधील कार्यकारी सहायक (पूर्वीचे पदनाम: लिपिक) या संवर्गातील १८४६ रिक्त पदे सरळसेवेने भरण्यासाठी क्र. एमपीआर/७८१४ दि. १४.०८.२०२४ अन्वये दि. २०.०८.२०२४ रोजी सार्वजनिक वृत्तपत्रांत व बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिकेच्या संकेतस्थळावर प्रसारित करण्यात आलेली जाहिरात रद्द करून कार्यकारी सहायक (पूर्वीचे पदनाम: लिपिक) संवर्गातील १८४६ रिक्त पदे सरळसेवेने भरण्यासाठी नव्याने जाहिरात प्रसारित करण्यात येत आहे.
बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिकेतील विविध खात्याच्या आस्थापनेवरील गट क मधील रु. २५,५००-८१,९०० (Pay Matrix-M15) अधिक अनुज्ञेय भत्ते या सुधारित वेतन श्रेणीतील कार्यकारी सहायक (पूर्वीचे पदनाम: लिपिक) या संवर्गातील खालील तक्त्यात नमूद केलेली १८४६ रिक्त पदे सरळसेवेने भरण्यासाठी, सदर पदासाठी आवश्यक असलेली अर्हता / पात्रता धारण करीत असलेल्या पात्र व इच्छुक उमेदवारांकडून ऑनलाईन पद्धतीने अर्ज मागविण्यात येत आहेत.
दि. २०.०८.२०२४ रोजी सार्वजनिक वृत्तपत्रांत व बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिकेच्या संकेतस्थळावर प्रसारित करण्यात आलेल्या जाहिरातीच्या अनुषंगाने दि. २०.०८.२०२४ ते दि. ०९.०९.२०२४ पर्यंतच्या कालावधीत कार्यकारी सहायक (पूर्वीचे पदनाम: लिपिक) पदासाठी परीक्षा शुल्क भरून ऑनलाईन अर्ज सादर केलेल्या उमेदवारांची पुनः श्व अर्ज करण्याची आवश्यकता नाही.
बृहन्मुंबई महानगरपालिकेच्या <https://portal.mcgm.gov.in/> for prospects/Careers-All/Recruitment/Chief Personnel Officer या संकेतस्थळावर सदरची संपूर्ण जाहिरात, अटी व शर्तीसह प्रसिद्ध करण्यात येत आहे. सदर जाहिरात दि. २१.०९.२०२४ ते दि. ११.१०.२०२४ या कालावधीकरीता संकेतस्थळावर उपलब्ध राहील. संकेतस्थळावरील जाहिरातीला अनुसरून सदर पदासाठीची विहित अर्हता व अटीची पूर्तता करणाऱ्या पात्र व इच्छुक उमेदवारांनी वर नमूद केलेल्या संकेतस्थळावर भेट देऊन, जाहिरातीसोबत जोडलेल्या मार्गदर्शक सूचनांचे काटेकोरपणे पालन करून, विहित नमुन्यातील ऑनलाईन अर्ज, ऑनलाईन पद्धतीने, विहित वेळेत सादर करावा. उमेदवारांने संपूर्ण अर्ज भरल्यानंतर अर्जाची फ्रिंट काढून स्वतःजवळ ठेवावी. उमेदवारांच्या मार्गदर्शनाथे कॉलसेंटर, भ्रमणध्वनी क्रमांक: ९५९३२५३३३३ सकाळी १०.०० ते सायंकाळी ०५.०० या वेळेत (दुपारी ०९.३० ते ०२.३० जेवणाची वेळ), सोमवार ते शनिवार उपलब्ध असेल.
उपलब्ध रिक्त पदांचा तसेच सामाजिक व समांतर आरक्षणान्वये भरण्याची शक्यता असू शकते.
(१) सामाजिक आरक्षणांतर्गत भरण्याची रिक्त पदे
(२) समांतर आरक्षणांतर्गत भरण्याची रिक्त पदे
तपशील
अजा अज विजा भज मज पज विमाप्र इमाव आ.दु.म. सा.शै. खुला/अराखीव एकूण
भरण्याची पदे १४२ १५० ४९ ५४ ३९ ३८ ४६ ४५२ १८५ १८५ ५०६ १८४६
(२) समांतर आरक्षणांतर्गत भरण्याची रिक्त पदे
तपशील
अजा अज विजा भज मज पज विमाप्र इमाव आ.दु.म. सा.शै. खुला एकूण
सर्वसाधारण ४७ ४८ १७ १८ १२ १२ १५ १४८ ६० ६० १६७ ६०४
महिला ३०% ४३ ४५ १५ १६ १२ ११ १४ १३६ ५६ ५६ १५२ ५५६
माजी सैनिक १५% २९ २३ ७ ८ ६ ६ ७ ६८ २८ २८ ७६ २७८
प्रकल्पग्रस्त ५% ७ ८ २ ३ २ २ २ २३ ९ ९ २५ ९२
भूकंपग्रस्त २% ३ ३ १ १ १ १ १ ४ ४ १० ३८
खेळाडू ५% ७ ८ २ ३ २ २ २ २३ ९ ९ २५ ९२
अंशकालीन पदवीधर (सुशिक्षित बेरोजगार) १०% १४ १५ ५ ५ ४ ४ ५ ४५ १९ १९ ५१ १८६
एकूण १४२ १५० ४९ ५४ ३९ ३८ ४६ ४५२ १८५ १८५ ५०६ १८४६
अनाथ मुलांसाठी (१%) १८ पदे आरक्षित होत आहेत.
परिपत्रक क्र. एमबीसी/९४७६ दि. २६.०८.२०२३ सोबतचा महाराष्ट्र शासन, महिला व बाल विकास विभाग, शासन निर्णय क्र. अनाथ-२०२२/प्र.क्र.१२२/का-०३ दि. ०६.०८.२०२३ अन्वये प्राप्त निर्देशानुसार, १८ पदांपैकी संस्थात्मक प्रवर्गाकरिता-०७ पदे व संस्थाबाह्य प्रवर्गाकरिता-०९ पदे आरक्षित होत आहेत.
दिव्यांगांसाठी (४%) ७३.८४ = पूर्णांकित ७३ पदे आरक्षित होत आहेत (अ-१९, ब-१९, क-१८, ड/ई-१८)
*अधिसंख्य पदावर सेवा वर्ग करण्यात आलेली कार्यकारी सहाय्यक (पूर्वीचे पदनाम : लिपिक) व तत्सम संवर्गातील १५ पदे (अज-१०, विमाप्र-०५) भरण्याकरिता एकूण रिक्त पदांमध्ये समाविष्ट आहेत.
PRO/1351/ADV/2024-25
जलजय आजार टाळण्यासाठी पाणी गाळून व उकळून प्यावे.
सही/- प्रमुख कर्मचारी अधिकारी सामान्य प्रशासन विभाग

Women turnout exceeds that of men in six J&K constituencies that went to polls in Ph 1

Trend Noted In 5 Jammu Seats & 1 In Kashmir

Bharti Jain@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The turnout of women voters exceeded that of men in six of the 24 J&K constituencies that went to polls on Wednesday, with Jammu division leading the way with five of its eight constituencies having witnessed higher participation by female electors.

Only one of Kashmir Valley's 16 ACs covered in Phase 1 — Kokernag (ST) — witnessed higher polling by its women voters as compared to male voters. Overall, J&K clocked nearly 61.4% polling in the first phase, as per final EVM turnout figures released by the Election Commission on Friday. This is higher than 60% turnout recorded in the corresponding districts in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the 50.3% polling in 2014 assembly polls.

At 63.7%, male voter turnout in Phase 1 of J&K poll



MAKING A MARK: At 63.7%, male voter turnout in Phase 1 was almost 5.2 percentage points higher than women's polling percentage (58.9%)

was almost 5.2 percentage points higher than women's polling percentage (58.9%). The polling percentage for third gender voters was 40%. Interestingly, the overall polling percentage among women in 2014 J&K assembly poll (66.3%) was higher than that of male voters (64.9%) by 1.4 percentage points.

The trend was however reversed in the Lok Sabha elections this year, with 60.7% male voter turnout across J&K as compared to 56.4% women's turnout.

As per the assembly constituency (AC)-wise EVM turnout data for Phase 1, Indermal AC in Kishtwar district of Jammu region recorded



the highest polling at 82.2%, followed by Kishtwar AC (78.2%) and Doda West AC (76%). Among the 16 constituencies of Kashmir Valley that voted on Wednesday, Pa-

Turnout rise shows mainstreaming of democracy: BJP

BJP on Friday celebrated the jump in poll percentage in the first phase of assembly polls in Jammu & Kashmir with party leaders terming it as evidence of democracy being mainstreamed in the state that was once notorious for abysmally poor turnouts and boycott calls, reports Akhilesh Singh. "It is heartening to see the transformation in the region, where fear has been replaced by hope. The people are embracing democracy with open arms," said Union minister and an MP from Udhampur Jitendra Singh, highlighting the active participation of citizens in the electoral process.

There was a massive turnout for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally in Srinagar and Katra on Thursday. Although the party is not expecting any gains in the Valley region, it is hopeful of repeating its performance in Jammu region and influence the formation of the next govt in alliance with smaller parties.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inspired a resurgence of democratic aspiration, which has gone dormant. What we witnessed today is the true mainstreaming of democracy in Jammu & Kashmir," added Singh. BJP's national media head and Lok Sabha MP, Anil Baluni said, "These gestures only illustrate the deep bond and respect the people of Jammu and Kashmir have for Modi ji, who they regard as a father figure. Today, there is a renewed spirit of optimism, and the narrative in Jammu and Kashmir is changing."



Subodh Ghildiyal
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Ganderbal (Kashmir): His flowing beard evokes a picture of piety and his humble tone of a decent young man. His cakes and pastries suggest a passion to bake. But his lament runs a dagger deep through the heart.

Aamir Nazir (29) is an engineer from Kashmir University, a 2020 graduate, who is making a living by selling tea and snacks on a highway passing through the "Ganderbal garage" area. He banks on good local traffic and booming tourism to Somnarg. "I am still doing something. I was an average student. But even the toppers of my batch are without jobs," he said. And to underline, Aamir is vocal about Article 370.

Special status for J&K, under whose shadow is unfolding the 2024 assembly election, evokes strong emotions. But for youngsters like Aamir, the junked provision is as utilitarian as a livelihood question. "Article 370 reserved jobs and land for us. It's important for my generation," he reasoned.

Throughout the region, the anger over nullification of Article 370 has triggered the people to rush to voting booths in hordes. But it is also a sentiment that connects with the cry for jobs and incomes echoing from Anantnag to Srinagar to Ganderbal.

Aamir claims he cannot compete with engineering graduates from Delhi and that posts advertised in J&K are attracting those settling in Jammu. He insists it's true. The fate of Article 370 has appeared sealed over the past five years.

However, along highways and in cities and towns of Kashmir, there is no dearth of those who claim that "protection of jobs and land exist in many states like Himachal Pradesh and Jharkhand".

There are sharp concerns about the cultural dimensions of existence sans the special status but people are also eagerly hoping that a



Women at a polling station in Pulwama during 1st phase of state election on Wednesday

new govt will help the youth stand on their feet.

Amid discussions over the fate of National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah, Mohd Sultan, who heads a 'transport union' in Ganderbal, said, "The job scene is bad. Educated are without work. And, prices are high. Life is very difficult."

Desperate for an elected govt for the past six years and facing routine difficulties, people in villages and towns alike are waiting for installation of local MLAs whom they can approach with their problems. It will be interesting to see what MLAs, ministers and govt would face post Oct 8, given mounting grievances over jobs, electricity, roads, jailed youth, schools etc.

"We want our govt and MLAs. That is the reason why voting will be high," said Sultan, seconded by Abdul Qadar and Mohd Yaseen. It is a view expressed by Mohd Saleem in Bijbehara and Tahir in Srinagar as well. High voting in Kashmir has a reason, and it is the desperation for an open door of an elected representative where the residents can go and plead with hope, and leave with optimism, true or misplaced.

"I worked as a delivery boy for one and a half years and saved Rs 60,000 to start this shop," Aamir said, carrying a tray of fresh pastries.

Call it the swelling pride of a trier, or wrenching regret of a failure.

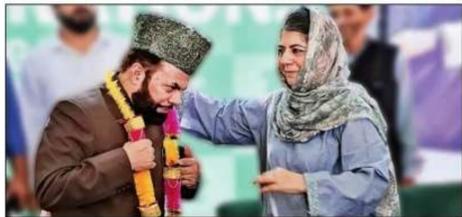
Over two dozen secessionists join assembly polls in J&K

Saleem Pandit
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Srinagar: At least 25 former militants, separatists, and members of the banned Jamaat-e-Islami, and their relatives are running as independent candidates or on party tickets in J&K's first assembly elections in a decade. This marks a notable shift towards mainstream political participation, moving away from the separatist boycotts that have dominated polls during three decades of militancy.

The list of candidates includes prominent former separatists such as Zaffar Habib Dar, Syed Saleem Geelani, Javid Hubbi, and Aga Muntazir Mehdi.

Zaffar is running as a candidate for J&K Apni Party. He sees participation in the de-



Former Hurriyat member Syed Saleem Geelani joined PDP in presence of party chief Mehbooba Mufti on Sept 1

mocratic process as the key to resolving the issues in an altered scenario since the abrogation of Article 370 in Aug 2019 and the bifurcation of the region into Union Territories — J&K and Ladakh.

"We can solve problems only through the electoral process. Everyone should participate in the electoral

process by casting their vote," Dar said.

JKLF ex-commander Farooq Ahmad Dar are among those running. Dar, also known as Saifullah Farooq, is running on a Samajwadi Party ticket from Habba Kadal constituency. Farooq, who was among the first militants in 1989 and crossed over to

PoK for arms training, now regrets his decision. "That time everyone picked up the gun. We were misguided by Pakistan agents in Kashmir," Dar said.

After a year of militancy, he surrendered to police and spent nearly five years in jail. Farooq, who ran in the 2019 municipal elections on a BJP ticket, is now appealing to voters, emphasising his opposition to Pakistan's interference in Kashmir.

The Jamaat has strategically fielded independent candidates in about 15 constituencies, including Pulwama, Kulgam, Zainapora, and Devsar in south Kashmir, and Beerwah, Langate, Bandipora, Baramulla, Sopore, and Rafiabad in the north. Notable candidates include Talat Majid, Sayaar Ahmad, and

Hafiz Mohammad.

The Jamaat participated in elections until 1987. It had Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani serve as an MLA for three terms before the assembly was dissolved in 1990 because of militancy.

Former member Sayaar Ahmad reflected on the organisation's long absence from electoral politics. "We never called a poll boycott. We stayed away from elections as there was rigging in the 1987 assembly elections in which Jamaat-e-Islami candidates were also contesting," Ahmad said, asserting that participation in elections is now seen as the only way to address the region's long-standing issues.

The former militants and separatists have banded together to form a political group named Tahreek-e-Awam

to contest the ongoing polls.

According to sources, the decision by these former separatists was influenced by the success of Abdul Rashid Sheikh, better known as Engineer Rashid, who defeated National Conference vice president Omar Abdullah and People's Conference president Sajad Gani Lone in Baramulla in Lok Sabha polls despite being imprisoned.

Rashid managed to secure more than 4.7 lakh votes, largely attributed to sympathy and Kashmiri sentiment. Members of Tahreek-e-Awam see an opportunity in this wave of sentiment and aim to replicate Rashid's success, sources said. Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party, though not officially recognised, has also announced independent candidates for elections.

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BANDRA EAST SEAVIEW, (Adani), Higher floor, 3 & 3 1/2 bhk & Lavish 4bhk (lokhandwala), Penthouse + terrace, (7 bungalow), Sale 9967666177

BANDRA EAST 2BHK Flat-resale (670sq.ft, Cpt.)13th Flr, B Wing, Prumukh Heights Off Vera Desai Rd. Finalize lower than mkt price. 98204940324

BANDRA EAST SUNTECK, Near Soffitel Hotel @ BKC 4BHK 3800 CA 4 CP Newly Done up well Furnished apartment on LESAE, Elite & Corporate neighborhood Amenities BKP 982030362 / 9821018184

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BANDRA EAST

DR.BHUBANESWAR BOROAH CANCER INSTITUTE
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed agencies / authorized dealer having a well-established set up in India with good services background for the "Supply of Smart Card" on rate contract for a period of 02 (two) years and extendable subject to satisfactory performance and mutual agreement against NIT (CPPP) NO. 2024 TMC 826281_1 dated 19th September 2024 at Dr. B. Boroah Cancer Institute, Guwahati-16. Detail Tender may kindly be downloaded from CPP Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> (Tender ID 2024_826281_1) dated 19th Sept. 2024.

Chief Administrative Officer

U.T ADMINISTRATION OF DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU

Public Works Department - Daman
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Regarding supply and installation of the traffic signal system at various junctions at Daman. (3rd Call).

Tender ID No. : 2024_DAMAN_3708_1

Pre bid meeting date: 23/09/2024
Last date of download : 30/09/2024
Last date of hard copy submission : 30/09/2024
Bid opening date: 30/09/2024

Executive Engineer, P.W.D., W.D.-I, Moti Daman
No. IP/DMN/25/2024/25/683 dtd. 20.9.24

MPIDC M.P. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(Government of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)
SECRETARIAT FOR SINGLE WINDOW SYSTEM
CIN : U51102MP1977SGC001392

21, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462011 M.P. (India)
Tel. : (91) 755-2571830, 2575618, 3523555, 3523505
E-mail : helpdesk@mpidc.co.in, Website : www.invest.mp.gov.in
N.I.T. No. MPIDC/Tech-RFP/2024/175 Date : 20.09.2024

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (MPIDC Ltd.) invites offers from interested consultants with proven capabilities and demonstrated performance to express their interest to participate in the competitive bidding for "Request for Proposal for Setting up of Project Management Unit (PMU) for Industrial Development Projects at MPIDC".

The Tender documents can be downloaded from the e-procurement Portal- <https://mptenders.gov.in>-MPIDC HO. M.P. Madhyam/116512/2024

CHIEF ENGINEER

WESTERN RAILWAY ELECTRICAL WORK

Sr.DEE/TRD/BL Invites E-Tender Notice No. EL/TRD-W/18-24-25-6-R dated 17.09.2024 Name of Work: Outsourcing of Power Supply Installation (PSI) and Non-Power block Overhead Equipment (OHE) maintenance activities of Udhna-Jalgaon section of Mumbai Division. Advertised Value: ₹3,30,33,978/- Earnest Money: ₹3,15,200/- Date & Time of Submission: till 18.10.2024, 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening: on 18.10.2024 at 15.30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.reps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered. 0553

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRail](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRail)

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing
Expression of Interest (EoI)

C-DAC invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from Indian companies for Selection of Industry Partner for Implementation, Training, Fleet Management and Maintenance of the C-DAC ERSS solution. For details visit www.cdac.in

WESTERN RAILWAY ELECTRICAL WORK

Sr.DEE/TRD/BL Invites E-Tender Notice No. EL/TRD-W/18-24-25-6-R dated 17.09.2024 Name of Work: Outsourcing of Power Supply Installation (PSI) and Non-Power block Overhead Equipment (OHE) maintenance activities of Virar-Surat section of Mumbai Division. Advertised Value: ₹2,81,92,031/- Earnest Money: ₹2,91,000/- Date & Time of Submission: till 18.10.2024, 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening: on 18.10.2024 at 15.30 hrs. For further details please visit our website www.reps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered. 0552

Like us on: [facebook.com/WesternRail](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRail)

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

No. DNR/S&T/Sig/2024/17 Danapur, dtd. 19.09.2024

Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom), East Central Railway, Danapur Division, for and on behalf of President of India invites tenders on web portal www.reps.gov.in for the following work:-

- Name of work with its location: Provision of Multi Section Digital Axle Counter (MSDAC) with dual detection at JAJ Yard under Danapur Division.
- Approximate cost of work : Rs. 7894972.51.
- Bid Security: Rs. 544800.00.
- Last Date & Time of Submission: Up to 12.00 hrs. on 10.10.2024.
- Opening of tender: 12.30 hrs. on 10.10.2024.
- Website Particulars where detail of the work and criteria can be seen: www.reps.gov.in.
- Address of the office from where detail information can be obtained: Sr. Divl. Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, East Central Railway, Danapur.

Note: Any Corrigendum if required will be uploaded on above website before 14 days.

Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer
East Central Railway, Danapur
PR/01162/DNR/S&T/24-25/36

B-305 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-Roads-II/03/2024-25

1. The Chief Engineer (Roads-II), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system through ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Roadwork as mentioned below :

- Nature of work : Road works
- No. of work : 1 No.
- Tender Paper cost : Rs.10,000.00
- Class of Contractor : Special Class/Super Class
- Available of bid document the : From 10.00 A.M. of 24.09.2024 to 5.30 PM of 15.10.2024 website
- Date of opening of Bid : Dt.17.10.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Roads-II),
Odisha
OIPR-34111/11/0006/24-25

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.
General Block, Sunehya Bhawan, Tikri Marg, Jaipur - 302002
Phone No: 0141-2223887, 2226045, Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in
CIN:U42422RJ2011SGC038067, E-mail : edprocure@rmsc.gov.in

No. : F-(8) /RMSCE/PM/17/2024-25/NIB-849/712 Dated :- 20/09/2024

NOTICE INVITING BID

Bids for Item Transcutaneous Bilirubinometer. are invited from interested bidders up to 17.10.2024: 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state; and <http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in>. UBN No. : MSC2425GLR000034
Raj.Samwad/C/24/5429 Executive Director (EPM)

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office : PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in Contact No. 96461-18773

TENDER ENQUIRY No. : QQ-2354/PO-P

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 80,200 Nos. 9 Mtr. long PCC Poles as per PSPCL specification no. QQ-2354/ PSPCL/PO-P. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 22.09.2024 onwards.

NOTE : Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C/27024, DPR/Pb. : 76155/12/347/2023/37907

UTI Infrastructure Technology And Services Limited
(A Government of India Company)

UTIITSL invites online Bids through GeM portal for selection of Bidders / Vendors / Agencies / Entities for Supply of Housekeeping Manpower Services to UTIITSL.

For details and bidding through GeM portal, please log on to: <https://gem.gov.in>

Bid for Supply of Manpower for Providing Housekeeping Services at Corporate Office Belapur Navi Mumbai (GeM Bid Number : GEM/2024/B/5417872).

All in general are requested to visit website <https://www.utiitsl.com> and <https://www.gem.gov.in> regularly for details and free download of all the tender documents / RFP with terms and conditions.

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 96461 47777)

TENDER ENQUIRY No. TSQ-1159/TD-I

Dy. CE/TL (Design), B-1 Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for carrying out survey, design, fabrication, testing, supply, laying of foundation, erection of 66 KV monopole structures along with cross arms on Turkey basis. Stringing and sagging of conductor and Earthwire (Porcelain insulators, Conductor and Earthwire along with all accessories for conductor and Earthwire will be supplied by PSPCL at its own cost) and commissioning of 66 KV monopole line as per detailed scope mentioned in Part-6 of tender specification no. TSQ-1159. For detailed NIT and Tender Specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 23.09.2024 from 11:00 AM onwards.

Note : Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C/27324, DPR/Pb. : 76155/12/3480/2023/37913

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813;
website : www.pspcl.in; Contact No. : 96461-19383, 96461-11036
e-tendering portal : <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Tender Enquiry No. QQ-253/PO-C Date: 20.09.2024

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor Multistory Building, The Mall Road, Patiala, invites E-tender for procurement of 20 MT ISI Marked Polypropylene yellow coloured rope, 3 strand, Hawser Laid, conforming to IS:5175-1992 (with latest amendments) and PSPCL Specification QQ-253 for 10mm, 16mm & 20mm sizes.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 24.09.2024 from 12:30 PM onwards.

Note : Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C/71924, DPR/Pb. : 76155/12/3476/2023/37890

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identification Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact No. : 96461-18774)

Online Tender Notice - 3060 (RVU2425WLB01110)

E-tenders are invited for work Annual Rate Contract for transportation of pond/mound ash from Ash Dyke of STPS, RVUN, STPS to various locations of user agency(s), within 300 KMs. Tender details are available on websites <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvun1 and www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.
Raj.Samwad/C/24/5450 RVUN/PR-4057 Addl. Chief Engineer (O&M)

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise) Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC002075
"Vidyut Bhawan" Near ISBT, Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002 Tel. No. 9135-2642711

E-TENDER NOTICE

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender for "Construction of 220/33 kV GIS Substation, Banbasa, Tanakpur" against tender specification no. PICUL/E-Tender/C&P-I/SS-10/2024-25. The last date submission of e-bid is upto 24.10.2024 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit e-bid website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2024_PTCU1_75027_1) and for e-tender notice our website www.ptcui.org

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000, Letter No. 1691/HQ/PTCUI/Date: 19.09.2024 Superintending Engineer (C&P-I)
"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

RFP. No. GCSC/UDF/DTA/2024-25/85

Gujarat Council of Science City
Science City Road, Ahmedabad -380060
Phone: 91-7929703122
Mail: scityahmedabad@gmail.com /
Web- <https://sciencecity.gujarat.gov.in>

GCSC invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Design and Technical Agency (DTA) for Development of "Unleashing the Digital Future Gallery" at Science City, Ahmedabad. Details of the above-mentioned RFP can be downloaded from, <https://sciencecity.gujarat.gov.in> and <https://www.tender.nprocure.com>. Interested Parties may read and download RFP documents.

The last date for the submission of the RFP is 10-10-2024 (online) up to 6:00 PM and the last date for submission of a hard copy of the RFP document is 15-10-2024 up to 6:00 PM.

Executive Director
INF-ABD-849-2024

Date 20-09-2024

B-305 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-Roads-II/03/2024-25

1. The Chief Engineer (Roads-II), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system through ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Roadwork as mentioned below :

- Nature of work : Road works
- No. of work : 1 No.
- Tender Paper cost : Rs.10,000.00
- Class of Contractor : Special Class/Super Class
- Available of bid document the : From 10.00 A.M. of 24.09.2024 to 5.30 PM of 15.10.2024 website
- Date of opening of Bid : Dt.17.10.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Roads-II),
Odisha
OIPR-34111/11/0006/24-25

O-294 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL
Tender Call Notice for Building work in Odisha
Bid Identification No. Building Online AGL-09/2024-25
Dt. 19/9/2024

No. 2409/1

- Name of the work : Building work
- Total No. of work : 1 No.
- Estimated cost : Rs.175.40 Lakh Approx.
- Class of Contractor : 'B' & 'A' Class
- Period of completion : 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months
- Other details.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Building-Online AGL-09/24-25	25.09.24 at 10.00 A.M	09.10.24 up to 5.00 P.M	08.10.24 up to 1.00 P.M	14.10.24 at 11.00 A.M	Will be finished later on

(1) For detailed Notice inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Angul
OIPR-25180/11/0001/24-25

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.
General Block, Sunehya Bhawan, Tikri Marg, Jaipur - 302002
Phone No: 0141-2223887, 2226045, Website: www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in
CIN:U42422RJ2011SGC038067, E-mail : edprocure@rmsc.gov.in

No. F02178/RMSCL/Proc/585 (MD)/NIB-14/2024/3916 Dated :- 20.09.2024

Corrigendum - III in NIB-14/2024

In Reference to NIB No. 14/2024 Dated - 25.07.2024 UBN No. MSC2425GLOB00024 Corrigendum-III is issued for inclusion in the bid document. All details may be seen on www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in & [www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in](http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in).
Raj.Samwad/C/24/5457 Executive Director (Proc.)

TELANGANA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
No. P501(CJ)/e-auction/1/2024-25 Dt. 19.09.2024

E-AUCTION OF SCRAP VEHICLES/BUS BODIES/MATERIALS/TYRES/TYRE MATERIAL etc. available at Karimnagar and HZ/Uppal on AS IS WHERE IS BASIS will be conducted on following dates:
KARIMNAGAR: 03.10.2024 HZ/Uppal: 09.10.2024

The e-auction will be conducted by M/s NDCX eMarkets Ltd., Hyderabad. The intending bidders may visit www.neml.in for further details. Telephone Nos. 8121156977 & 7569819838. For details please visit above website and TGSRCT website <https://tgsrct.telangana.gov.in> (Tenders). Sd/-
DIPR R.O. No. : 418-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25 CHIEF CONTROLLER OF STORES

UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Doshi Building, Saharanpur Road, P.O. Kuthan, Dehradun Pincode 248015 Email: ucadadon@gmail.com
No. 2159/UCADA/2024 Date: 20/09/2024

ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from Indian nationals with full particulars for the following Post on Contract Basis in the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) Government of Uttarakhand:-

S.No.	Post Name	Vacancy	Remarks
1.	SKAB-200 Aircraft Sr. AME (Cat-B1)	01	On Contract Basis
2.	Quality Inspector	01	On Contract Basis
3.	Foreman	01	On Contract Basis
4.	Procurement Expert	01	On Contract Basis

Application should reach UCADA, through E-mail ucadadon@gmail.com till 5:00 P.M of 28.09.2024.
The relevant details are available on our website www.ucada.in, UCADA

KRIBHCO Green Energy Pvt. Ltd. (KGEPL)
Corporate Office, Noida, Uttar Pradesh
(100% owned subsidiary of KRIBHCO)
Tel: 0120-2543762

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

KGEPL invites bids from experienced bidders for construction of Plant Shed, Pipe rake, Plant internal Structural Work and Pipelines including supply of required materials as per the approved design for CO2 (Carbon Dioxide) Plant and auxiliaries for M/s. Kribhco Green Energy Pvt. Ltd. at Nellore, Andhra Pradesh and Hazira, Scope of work covers Plant Shed, Pipe rake, Plant internal Structural Work and Pipelines including supply of required materials etc. as per process requirements of Bio Ethanol Project located at KGEPL-Sarvepalli Bit-II (Village), Venkatchalam Mandal, Industrial Area Sarvepalli, SPSR Nellore, Andhra Pradesh-524321 and KGEPL-Hazira Road, KRIBHCO Nagar, Limia, Surat-Gujarat-394515

Interested bidders can download RFQ from web site <https://www.kribhco.net/> till -27th Sep-2024 at 16.30 Hrs.

Last date of submission of the Bid: 17.00 Hrs on-27th Sep-2024
RFQ No: KGEPL/PL/004 Chief Financial Officer, rvnkat@kribhco.net

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajapeta Division, BBMP Anganawadi Centre, 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road, Bengaluru-18
No: EE/CMP/Tend/E-PROC/07(Call-2)/2024-25 Dated: 19.09.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

TWO COVER SYSTEM (Standard Tender Document KW -4)
(Through GOK KPP Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> only)

The Executive Engineer, Chamarajapeta Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractor registered in KPWD/BBMP registered in KPWD/CPWD /Railways/MES/National Highways or any State Government Organizations class-1 contractor for the work mentioned in the statement below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1.	Comprehensive Development of Roads, Drains, Culverts, Footpaths and other works at 1. Chamarajapeta Division Jurisdiction. (3 works)

Amount: ₹.1000.00 Lakhs EMD: 10.00 Lakh (Rs.1.00 Lakh Online plus remaining balance BG/FDR)

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded in the KPP Portal of Government of Karnataka from 20.09.2024 onwards. (2) Tender must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before 30.09.2024 upto 3:00 pm. (3) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders is 30.09.2024 upto 3:00 pm. (4) Opening of Technical Bid Document for Two Cover is 01.10.2024 at 4:00 pm. (5) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 26.09.2024 at 4:00 pm in the Office of the Chief Engineer (West) Bashyam Park, Sheshadripuram, Bengaluru. (6) Opening of Financial bid document is 03.10.2024 at 2:00 pm (If Possible)
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajapeta Division

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commissionerate of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru - 560001

No.: DDA(FM&M)/RFP/Drone/2024-25 Date: 19.09.2024

SHORT TERM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTIFICATION

The Department of Agriculture invites Short Term Request for Proposals (RFP) from OEM / Manufacturers for supply of Kisan Drones to farmers under Departmental subsidy Programmes and CHSC Centers. The interested OEM / Manufacturers who are interested to participate in this RFP can submit their proposals through e-Procurement platform <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

The interested OEM of Kisan Drones / Manufacturers can download the RIP document through e-Procurement platform free of cost by payment of applicable e-Procurement processing fees and the EMD amount as fixed by the Department. Applications for RFP can be downloaded from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 20.09.2024 to 07.10.2024. The last date for submission of proposals in e-Procurement platform is 07.10.2024 at 4:30 p.m. The Technical proposals will be opened on 09.10.2024 at 11:00 a.m. in Samruddhi VC Hall, Commissionerate of agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001.

The Hard copies (Physical Deposition) of the Technical and Financial Proposals along with other relevant documents uploaded in the e-Procurement portal will be received at the Office of the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Farm Mechanization & Micro irrigation), Department of Agriculture, Seshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001 upto 4:30 p.m., on Dt: 08.10.2024.

The interested Manufacturers / OEM have to register at the e-procurement cell, Centre for e-Governance, 4th Floor, Sri Arvinda Bhawan, Mythic Society Compound, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001 and obtain the DSC key or e-token (Helpdesk: +91 80 46010000, +91 80 68948777).

NOTE: e-Procurement processing fee is non-refundable and Tender documents are non transferable.
Sd/-, Director of Agriculture and Tender Inviting Authority
DIPR/C/PLC/2074/2024-25

B-305 GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-Roads-II/03/2024-25

1. The Chief Engineer (Roads-II), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system through ONLINE MODE form eligible contractors for Roadwork as mentioned below :

- Nature of work : Road works
- No. of work : 1 No.
- Tender Paper cost : Rs.10,000.00
- Class of Contractor : Special Class/Super Class
- Available of bid document the : From 10.00 A.M. of 24.09.2024 to 5.30 PM of 15.10.2024 website
- Date of opening of Bid : Dt.17.10.2024 at 11.30 A.M.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Roads-II),
Odisha
OIPR-34111/11/0006/24-25

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 96461 47777)

TENDER ENQUIRY No. TSQ-1157/TD-I

Dy. CE/TL (Design), PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for the procurement of ACSR Panther for the 66KV works to be carried out under RDSS in departmental mode, as per PSPCL Specification No. TSQ-1157/TD-I. For detailed NIT and Bidding Document, please refer to <https://gem.gov.in> (GeM Portal) from 07.09.2024 (11:00AM onwards).

Note : Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://gem.gov.in> (GeM Portal).
C-72124, DPR/Pb. : 76155/12/3478/2023/37910

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF, ENGINEER PWD ZON E KOTA

No. 1347 NIT No. 07/2024-25 Date 16.9.2024
Notice Inviting Bid
NIB No. PWD2425A1619

Bids for works District Jhalawar Kolana Airport in Aprone Taxiway & Drainage year 2024-25 in PWD Zone Kota (2 Nos works) are invited from interested bidders upto 6.00 pm, 16.10.2024 Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the Rajasthan and <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in> website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 2147.00 lacs.

U.B.N.No. Sd/-
1. PWD2425WLB05834 (A.K. Sahu)
2. PWD2425WLB05835 Addl. Chief Engineer
DIPRC/828/2024 PWD Zone Kota

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Vidyut Bhawan" Near ISBT, Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC002075, Tel. Fax no. 9135-2642711

E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-I

The pre-bid clarifications and Annexure-A of TOR of the E-Tender for "Construction of 400KV GIS Switching Substation Pipalkoti" against Tender Specification no. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/SS-08/2024-25 has been uploaded on e-tender website. For more details please visit the e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2024_PTCU4_74828_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website www.ptcul.org. All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000
Ro No. 1698/HQ/PTCUL DATED 20.09.2024 Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)
"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact Number 96461 47777)

TENDER ENQUIRY No. TSQ-1158/TD-I

Dy. CE/TL (Design), PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for the procurement of ACSR Zebra for the 66KV works to be carried out under RDSS in departmental mode, as per PSPCL Specification No. TSQ-1158/TD-I. For detailed NIT and Bidding Document, please refer to <https://gem.gov.in> (GeM Portal) from 18.09.2024 (11:00AM onwards).

Note : Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://gem.gov.in> (GeM Portal).
C-72224, DPR/Pb. : 76155/12/3479/2023/37911

Prayagraj Municipal Corporation
Letter No. 217/STCE/2024 Date: 19.9.2024

Notice Inviting Tender

Prayagraj Municipal Corporation invites bids for the CM-GRIDS Phase-I projects. The tender documents will be available on the E-Tendering portal starting from 30-09-2024 at 03:00 PM, and interested firms must ensure their tender documents are uploaded on 30-09-2024. The technical bid opening is slated for the 30-09-2024 at 04:00 PM. Any updates, corrigendum, or additional information regarding the tender will be communicated via the website/E-tendering portal at [http://et](http://etender.up.nic.in)

'Animals have endured domestication to imperialism — no species is truly 'wild' today'

Harriet Ritvo is Arthur J. Conner Professor Emeritus of History at MIT. Speaking to Srijana Mitra Das at Times Evoke, she discusses the past — and present — of animals:

Photos: Getty Images & iStock

Why do we need to study the history of animals?

History is as complicated as the present — the things we consider important today have been so in the past as well. Over time, history has been expanding its acknowledgement of the role different people played in the past — this also means acknowledging the role of other animals. That doesn't only mean what we humans have done to them but the reciprocal effects animals have had on us. Studying their history is part of getting a more complete understanding of the past — and a more open-minded view of the present.

What have been some decisive turning points in human-animal relations?

The biggest one which happened between 5,000 and 10,000 years ago was animal domestication — this was intertwined with people settling down, becoming farmers and human populations increasing. This began a systematic transformation of our environment. The domestication of the dog had happened earlier but our livestock, mammals and birds were all domesticated in that period.

That moment had profound social and economic consequences for humans — it also transformed the lives of animals, both physically and psychologically. There began a strong selection process among big animals like cattle for individuals who could be easily controlled physically and were also not inclined to attack humans,



HORSE POWER: Made to labour for us



WILD THING? A million species face human-caused extinction now — even the remote polar bear finds sea ice, its food source, melting with global warming

including in emotional ways. So, while most domestic animals could breed with their wild relatives today, their behaviour is quite different from those who are untamed.

Why did humans domesticate animals purely as pets?

That is very hard to say since the archaeological evidence we have does not show us much about the emotional relationships people developed with their animals. Some ties were about collaborative labour, like with plough animals. Some were relationships involving guarding, like with dogs. I find it hard to imagine though that there wasn't some degree of friendship — hopefully, in both directions — between humans and animals.

In history, pets were first considered a luxury — having a pet was something people of privilege tended to do. If you look at European paintings from, say, the Renaissance period, you often see a dog or a cat sitting with the upper-class person whose portrait is being painted. Having an animal just for pleasure was something people of more modest means started to do around the end of the 19th century.

What were some uses of animals in spreading imperialism?

In settler colonies like North America, animals were part of an assemblage, which includes domestic plants, that expedited the transformation of the environment to make this suitable for European-style farming. This meant these animals competed with indigenous species, including herbivores like deer, and indigenous carnivores like wolves or mountain lions which were seen as a threat to imported livestock — this encouraged the destruction of those wild animals. In East Africa, livestock introduced from Europe brought diseases with them which transmitted to and harmed local animals. Another way imperialism expressed itself was in the animals used in sports hunting while the incorporation of information about animals indigenous to one part of the world was integral to the totalising European knowledge agenda.

What do you include in what you term your 'anti-imperial bestiary'?

In that particular piece of writing, I discussed the quagga — this was a kind of zebra which went

extinct both in the wild and captivity in the late 19th century. It wasn't hunted much as it wasn't the most spectacular-looking of zebras — it didn't have very dramatic stripes. However, it competed with livestock for feed and was also killed as food, not for European settlers but their African labourers. Quaggas were wild animals which had been numerous early in the 19th century — and suddenly began to disappear. This was similar to the vanishing of the passenger pigeon in North America and the near extinction of the American bison. The quagga was an unspectacular victim of imperial economics. It was also an important signal — the quagga was part of what convinced many people about animals being driven to extinction. They knew this about species like the dodo, confined to a small island and not very numerous. But the idea that species which had been numerous and widespread in terms of their territory could disappear so suddenly made people think differently about the impacts of imperial transformation on environments.

Are there still animals on Earth whom we could call 'wild'?

There are some animals who, from their own perspective, could be called 'wild' in that they choose to live without interacting with people. However, there aren't animals today who are 'wild' as in their lives being unmodified by human activity — even animals in the Arctic and Antarctic are feeling the impacts of climate change. To say an animal is wild on its terms is different from an animal living a life impacted by human beings.



FLOCK TO FORK: Crops need livestock

READERS WRITE

Dear Times Evoke,

I'm 14 years old and I love reading TE because of its amazing pictures and all the knowledge! My father is a paraglider and now, after reading TE on wings (14th September), I can see how humans learnt to fly by observing the cool flight of insects, birds and animals. Thank you for a fabulous page!

— Avni Kaklasaria, Bengaluru

I greatly like TE's articles. These are so knowledgeable and well-researched. The beautiful page on wings was stunning — it was amazing to read how the wings of huge pterosaurs and tiny bees differ but they both produce thrust and lift. Such articles are truly very meaningful. Keep it up and my best wishes for TE!

— Rekha Mishra, Delhi

It was very enriching to read about flying creatures and their wings! As TE said, many of these beings are truly nature's farmers. It was also amazing to learn there are so many 'frequent flyers' like flying fish and lemurs. A thousand thanks for this valuable page, TE!

— Mousumi Ghosh, Kolkata

It was fascinating to learn bird anatomy has remained largely unchanged for millions of years. The TE line, 'A birdwing today is actually a living fossil' left such a lasting impression. Captivating information, TE!

— R. Sreestuti, Hyderabad

Today's TE truly felt like attending a live lecture by Dr Longrich! I was so surprised to know birds are successors of dinosaurs! Reading about wings made me dig up more about fossils on the internet. I will be eagerly awaiting the next TE. Thank you, TE!

— Anant Jain, Surat

Share your thoughts at: timesevolve@timesofindia.com
Read Times Evoke online at: www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/times-evolve

Didi talks to Soren, lifts J'khand border blockade after 20 hrs

In Letter To PM, Threatens To Snap DVC Ties

Mohammad Asif, Anil Ashutosh & Dhritiman Ray | TNN

Kulti/Dhanbad/Ranchi: Bengal lifted its border blockade against Jharkhand around 6.30pm Friday, opening the floodgates for stalled traffic that stretched up to 30km at some places during the 20-hour face-off triggered by CM Mamata Banerjee accusing Damodar Valley Corporation of "flooding Bengal to save Jharkhand".

The deadlock involving the two states governed by INDIA bloc allies TMC and JMM was broken by Mamata and her Jharkhand counterpart Hemant Soren having a series of telephonic discussions through the day, sources said.

Mamata wrote to PM Modi, seeking his intervention in stopping flooding in Bengal because of water release by DVC. She said Bengal would "disengage entirely" from the PSU and its projects in the state if the Centre acted unilaterally.

Union jal shakti minister C R Paatil disputed the CM's allegation, saying decisions pertaining to release of water from the Maithon and Panchet

dams in Jharkhand during heavy rain were always made by a committee that included representatives of Bengal.

Paatil said it was on Bengal's request DVC agreed to cut water release by 50% between Sept 14 and 17. Heavy rainfall on Sept 16-17 made it imperative to scale up water release "to avoid a catastrophic impact on south Bengal due to possible dam failures", Paatil said.

He pointed out that water release was limited to 2.5 lakh cusecs, while the inflow to these dams was 4.2 lakh cusecs. More than 1,000sq km across 11 districts of south Bengal are battling floods, with around five million people affected. Casualties over the past week stand at 26.

"The stalemate has ended. Movement of commercial vehicles into West Bengal has begun through all the interstate border points, including Jharkhand and Dhanbad," Jharkhand home secretary Vandana Dadel told TOI.

After Bengal Police barred trucks and other commercial vehicles from Jharkhand, JMM termed it a move "made in haste and unreasonable".

A group of CPI(ML) workers blocked the Jharkhand-bound road near the Maithon border Friday, complicating the situation. BJP's Kulti MLA Ajay Podder visited Durdaha checkpoint and asked police to show the govt order to seal the border. He and his supporters were briefly involved in an altercation with the cops.

Gunfight in J&K as holed-up ultras fire at security forces

Jammu: An encounter broke out between security forces and terrorists in J&K's Reasi district Friday evening, reports Sanjay Khajuria. The fire exchange continued intermittently till the time of going to press.

A joint operation was launched around 1pm in Reasi's Shikari area under Chasana PS, based on intelli-

gence inputs about the presence of terrorists there, Jammu ADGP Anand Jain said.

Contact was established after holed-up terrorists fired at the search party, triggering a gunfight. A few rounds were fired from each side, following which security forces cordoned off the area. "Reinforcements were rushed to the site," said a police officer.

It's not State's job to ensure citizens don't get fake & false info, says judge

► From P 1

Under the right to freedom of speech and expression, there is no further 'right to the truth', nor is it the responsibility of the State to ensure that citizens are entitled only to information that is not fake or false or misleading as identified by the FCU," the HC said.

The judge also said there was no rationale to undertake an exercise in determining whether information related to the business of the Central government is either fake or false or misleading when in digital form, but not doing the same when such information is in print.

Justice Chandurkar in a 99-page opinion accepted all major contentions raised by comedian Kunal Kamra and others who challenged its constitutional validity, citing its "chilling effect" on fundamental rights. The judge said he agreed with arguments put forward by senior counsel Arvind Datar and advocates Shadan Farasat and Gautam Bhatia that the rule violated Article 14 (right to equality), Article 19 (1) (a) (freedom of speech), and Article 19(1)(g) (freedom of trade) of the Constitution.

The third judge's ruling renders a majority view against the FCU by 2:1. The judgment to strike down the rule will be formally pronounced soon by a two-judge bench assigned the roster, one of the judges being Justice Gokhale.

The FCU was brought into play in April 2023 through an amendment to rules for intermediaries under the Information Technology Act of 2000. The Centre introduced it as a mechanism to flag 'fake, false or misleading' digital content concerning the 'business' or functioning of the Centre.

RULE VIOLATES RIGHT TO EQUALITY: HC

What was challenged
Constitutionality of Rule 3 (1) (b) (V) of Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code Rules, amended in March-April 2023, under IT Act

What the rule says
► It permits central govt to establish an FCU to flag as "false, fake or misleading" content on social media relating to its executive actions or working

► The intermediary—social media platform—must inform its rules to users

► It must make efforts to ensure 'others do not host, display, upload, modify, publish, transmit, store, update or share any information that deceives or



misleads the addressee about the origin of the message or intentionally communicates any misinformation or post flagged by FCU

► In case of default, intermediaries to lose 'safe harbour' immunity against legal proceedings

Who challenged the rule

Standup comic Kunal Kamra, Editors Guild of India, Association of Indian Magazines, News Broadcasters and Digital Association

misleading' content related to the Centre's working.

Justice Chandurkar said the restrictions imposed by the rule failed the proportionality test "especially when it seeks to abridge fundamental rights, (to free speech and trade)." He held, "Rule 3(1)(b)(v) seeks to restrict the fundamental right... by seeking to place restrictions" that do not align with Article 19(2) (reasonable restrictions). It is "impermissible through the mode of delegated legislation," held Justice Chandurkar.

"The Editors Guild of India is justified in its grievance that it is concerned with both, the print media as well as digital platforms. There is thus an infringement of the right guaranteed under Article 19(1)(g) (freedom of trade)," said the third judge.

PM disburses loans to 75k artisans, lays textile park foundation

Nagpur: PM Narendra Modi digitally disbursed loans to 75,000 artisans under Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana, reports Shishir Arya.

He announced loans of over Rs 1,400 crore have been granted under the scheme

within a year. Addressing a function at Wardha to mark the first anniversary of the Vishwakarma Yojana, Modi stressed the event also coincides with Mahatma Gandhi's campaign against untouchability in 1932. Eighteen bene-

ficiaries belonging to different states were handed out the loan by Modi.

He also laid the foundation of the PM mega integrated textile region and apparel textile park in Amravati. The PM said the park will draw invest-

ments of Rs 10,000 crore and create over a lakh jobs. The textile park at Amravati, which is among the seven such facilities in the country, will go a long way in reviving the lost glory of the country's textile business, he added.

Bittu raps Cong as MLA offers reward for his beheading

New Delhi: Union minister Ravneet Singh Bittu on Friday reacted to comments made by a Congress MLA in Telangana, who offered land as a reward for anyone who beheaded him. Bittu stated on X, "1984 to 2024, Congress hasn't changed. They sought Sikh blood then, and they seek it today as well. Kharge ji Mohabbat ki Dukan?"

The controversy began when Vedma Bojju, Congress MLA from Khanapur in Nirmal district, reportedly announced he would give away 1.3 acres of land to anyone who kills Union minister Bittu. This statement followed Bittu's remarks referring to Rahul Gandhi as the "number one terrorist."

Telangana BJP condemned Bojju's comments through a social media post. They said, "Such dangerous provocations and criminal incitement have become disturbingly normalised."

Times Now lines up spl coverage for Haryana & J&K elections

As the electoral battle intensifies in the Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana assembly elections, Times Now has lined up extensive programming under 'MANDATE 2024'. These will include 'Poll Pulse', featuring live on-ground reports on weekdays; 'National Debate', which will delve into the key issues shaping India's political landscape on Saturdays, and 'Inside', which will offer a deep dive into the evolving political landscape of J&K and Haryana ahead of the assembly elections on Saturdays.

With the end of the polling phase, Times Now will present the exit polls. On Counting Day, it will deliver minute-by-minute updates as votes are tallied, combining real-time data, on-the-ground reports, and expert commentary, offering viewers outcomes of high-stakes elections in Haryana and J&K. TNN

Jagan: Why did Naidu stay mum on laddus for 2 mths?

► From P 1

Breaking his silence on the controversy, Reddy accused the TDP chief of using the "faith of millions of devotees across the world to cover up the failures of his govt in the last 100 days". Reddy said Naidu was levelling accusation on basis of test reports of raw material stocks that were rejected and added that he would write to the CJI and PM Modi to seek a high-level probe into the allegations.

At a high-level meeting at the secretariat to discuss the quality issues, Naidu directed TTD executive officer (EO) J Shyamala Rao to submit a comprehensive report by the evening on the alleged use of impure materials in laddu preparation at Tirupati during the previous regime. He announced after the meeting that measures to preserve the sanctity of Tirumala would be taken after consultations with TTD's Agama, Vedic and Dharmic councils, which deal with the temple's architecture, rituals and religious

issues, respectively.

Denying charges against his govt, Reddy said the samples of the "so-called adulterated stock" were taken on July 12 and the test report was received on July 23. "Naidu was at the helm on July 12 and the report was received nearly two months ago. Why did he stay silent for two months and is now talking about it after his govt completed 100 days?" Jagan said.

TIRUPATI ROW

However, Naidu said the contractor that was supplying ghee for making prasadam in July this year had been supplying it for the last five years. He said there were reports of the quality of prasadam deteriorating in the last five years and the supplier was blacklisted after test reports in July confirmed adulteration.

Reddy said rejection of stocks is very common whenever a particular lot failed the tests. "Once a stock is rejected, it is not used in

making prasadams. How can Naidu make such grave allegations that adulterated stock was used in the making of the prasadams?" He said TTD has been procuring stocks through open tenders called through an online system for several decades.

In Tirumala, TTD EO said the temple trust will henceforth adopt a zero-tolerance policy against substandard raw material. He said following a spike in complaints, Naidu had directed him to initiate measures to 'revive' their quality, taste, texture and aroma. "After CM's instructions, a committee with scientists and dairy farming experts was constituted and based on their recommendations, we began our investigation," Rao said. "After the lab reports confirmed the presence of fish oil, lard (pig fat), palm oil and beef tallow in four ghee samples, we initiated measures to blacklist the contractor and returned his stocks. Penal and legal proceedings have also been initiated," the EO said.

Everything was 'ripped, ruined' in first class on AI US flight: Patel

► From P 1

On many international sectors, especially the US, AI is the only non-stop option for flyers who pay lakhs (up to Rs 16 lakh for return first class fare) to fly these monopoly routes.

The Tatas-owned AI has been issuing refunds to passengers of some flights in recent months delayed by many hours or even days. Now it has started issuing refunds for broken seats too, as with this latest case.

"I recently endured a 15-hour non-stop flight from Chicago to Delhi, and it was far from pleasant. I had heard negative things about Air India in the past, but I was hoping the recent changes under new management would improve experience. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case... IFE was down the entire flight. First class was in poor

condition—unclean, with leftover food and trash still in the cabin and everything looked worn out or broken. It was a pretty frustrating experience overall. Be aware if you're flying with them," Patel said on Instagram.

According to Patel, everything was "ripped, ruined". "Meal service was first come first served for the four passengers in first class. I understand regular wear and tear. But this was next level. I did not file any complaint with Air India but through social media they saw this video. They called me and refunded my entire flight (fare)... they did make it right and it's worth noting," Patel said.

Comments were sought from AI on this most recent refund and reply awaited till the time of going to press. A passenger posted on X from handle @HumeraPathan on Sept 19 about another

poor experience. "Terrible experience on Air India Mumbai-Newark (New York) flight. Broken tray, reading lights continuously blinking and no entertainment system on a 16-hour (flight). All this when AI is charging the highest fare for this sector," @HumeraPathan wrote.

This Monday (Sept 16), AI finally started implementing its \$400-million revamp programme for 27 Airbus A320neos and 40 widebody Boeing (777 and 787) aircraft. In a phased manner, first the Airbus and then the Boeing planes will get new seats, carpets, curtains, upholstery and modern cabins. Upgradation of the full narrowbody fleet is expected by mid-2025, followed by widebody aircraft.

This means passengers who fly long-hauls on AI's old planes, still have a long way before they can be assured of a decent onboard experience.



SEAN 'DIDDY' COMBS PLACED ON SUICIDE WATCH WHILE AWAITING TRIAL IN SEX CRIMES CASE, SAY REPORTS

LADY GAGA REVEALS WHY SHE NEVER DENIED EARLY RUMOURS SHE WAS A MAN: 'I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE A VICTIM & THOUGHT IT WAS FUNNY'



Israel's 'targeted strike kills' Hezbollah ops chief in Beirut

10 Other Commanders Killed, Were Planning Oct 7-Like Attack In North: Israeli Army



An injured man is evacuated from the site of Israeli air strikes in the southern suburbs of Beirut in Lebanon on Friday as a crowd gathers around. Hezbollah launched more than 140 rockets into Israel on Friday. Israel said its air defences had intercepted some of the rockets and others fell in unpopulated areas.

Beirut/Jerusalem: Israel launched a "targeted strike" that killed a top Hezbollah military official in a densely populated southern Beirut neighbourhood on Friday, the Israeli army said. It was the deadliest such attack on Lebanon's capital in years, with Lebanese health authorities reporting at least 12 people killed and 66 others wounded in the attack. The Israeli military's chief spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, said Ibrahim Aqil, a commander of Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force, was killed along with 10 other Hezbollah operatives. He did not elaborate on the identities of the other commanders allegedly killed. The Israeli military said Aqil had been head of Hezbollah operations since 2004 and was responsible for a plan to launch a raid on northern Israel, similar to the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7 that triggered the war in Gaza. "The Hezbollah commanders we eliminated today had

been planning their 'October 7th' on the Northern border for years," Israeli army chief General Herzli Halevi said. Yet to comment on his death, a Hezbollah official, however, confirmed Aqil was supposed to be in the building that was hit but gave no further information. Friday's airstrike hit during rush hour, as people were leaving work and children heading home from school. The strike inflicted another blow on Hezbollah after the group suffered an unprecedented attack in which pagers and walkie-talkies used by its members exploded, killing 37 people and wounding thousands. That attack was widely believed to have been carried out by Israel, which neither confirmed or denied its involvement. A White House spokesman said he was not aware of any Israeli notification to the US before the Beirut strike. "War is not inevitable, and we're going to continue to do everything we can to try to prevent it." AGENCIES

\$7m bounty on head, slain commander was wanted for 1983 US embassy blast

Beirut: Ibrahim Aqil, the Hezbollah operations commander killed in an Israeli strike on Friday, had a \$7 million bounty on his head for two 1983 Beirut truck bombings that killed more than 300 people at the American embassy and a US Marines barracks. Believed to be in his 60s, Aqil, who has also used the aliases Tahsin and Abdelqader, was the second member of Hezbollah's top military body, Jihad Council, to be killed in two months after an Israeli strike in the same area targeted Fuad Shukur in July. Over the past two decades, Israel has slowly killed many of the Jihad Council's members, who are some of Hezbollah's top advisers. Like Shukur, Aqil is a veteran of Hezbollah, which was founded by Iran's Revolutiona-

ry Guards in the early 1980s to battle Israeli forces that had invaded and occupied Lebanon. The US accuses him of a role in the Beirut truck bombings at the American embassy in April 1983, which killed 63 people, and a US Marine barracks six months later that killed 241 people. It further accused him of directing the abduction of American and German hostages in Lebanon and listed him as a specially designated global terrorist in 2019. When Shukur was killed, it was seen as the heaviest blow to its command structure since the 2008 killing of Imad Mughniyeh, remembered by Hezbollah as a legendary commander. Aqil, whose bounty was set by the US at an even higher value than that of Shukur's, may prove a similar blow. REUTERS

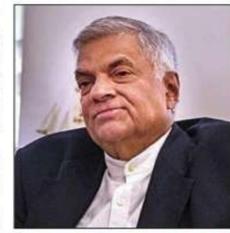


Ibrahim Aqil

'We don't see BRI as a threat to India as far as what we are doing'

As Sri Lanka votes in presidential poll today, interim prez Ranil Wickremesinghe spoke to Padma Rao Sundarji on a range of issues. Excerpts:

Marxist-Leninist Anura Kumara Dissanayake (AKD), represents 'revolution from the bottom', you represent 'continuity', and Sajith Premadasa represents a mix. What makes you stand apart from the two?
 ■ It is not a question of bottom to top, but about who was willing to take on responsibility in 2022... I took over because the others were unwilling to. I represent the ability to confront challenges and overcome them. They represent the willingness to run away.



TOI INTERVIEW

to be changing anything. We must get all ongoing projects off the ground as fast as possible, to create jobs.

There are many projects and investments by India in Sri Lanka. Analysts say a land bridge is a 'done deal'. Are all these really projects Sri Lanka needs?
 ■ On the land bridge, there are certainly ecological concerns. But India is doing a feasibility study. Until that is done, there won't be much output from Sri Lanka. Still, Sri Lanka and India have to work together on economic issues. The Vision Statement put out by myself and PM Narendra Modi contains references to that. One of the areas we have identified is renewable energy. And since India is willing to buy Sri Lanka's renewable energy, it is natural that some of India's entrepreneurs will want to invest in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka is member of China's BRI. In March 2024, its external debt totalled \$55.4 billion. There have been frequent visits by China's navy in the guise of 'research vessels'. Indian analysts say there are only two reasons: to entrap your country in debt and to establish military presence in the Indian Ocean. How are you going to address these concerns?
 ■ We don't see the BRI as a threat to India as far as what we are doing is concerned. But we have always said even before, that there are security concerns, they should be addressed by us, and that we must discuss with India and decide how to tackle them.

The BRI stands discredited in many countries. In light of the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, can you pull out?
 ■ We don't see a problem with BRI and it won't create a problem for India either.

Earlier this week, AKD said a \$442m wind power project by Adani Green Energy in Mannar and Pooneeryn in northern Sri Lanka will be cancelled if he is elected prez. Are you also taking a second look at it?
 ■ There is an ongoing court case against that project. So we will have to study it at the time the audit is given. Other than that, I don't see any need

Apart from Brics, does any other Indo-Pacific grouping interest Sri Lanka?
 ■ We are in BIMSTEC and we have applied to join the Regional

Comprehensive Economic Partnership. Asia is now becoming an economic bloc. Brics signifies the emergence of a non-western group and we should get involved in it. This is a reality of global politics today.

All the groupings you mention include China. Are you not looking to join others that exclude that country?
 ■ These are not military, but commercial and political organisations. In any case, what's the problem? I mean are we to leave the UN because China is in it? Why, even India is there in Brics along with China, in fact they started it, not us!

The Tamils of north and east Sri Lanka are miffed with you because you promised them a committee, new statutes... but have not delivered. A faction has even floated its own independent Tamil candidate in the presidential poll, for the first time in the history of Sri Lanka
 ■ Their floating a Tamil candidate has more to do with their Tamil parties and not with me.

UNHRC has rolled forward a repeated resolution on 'accountability' for alleged genocide by the Lankan armed forces at the end of the civil war in 2009 and on thousands of 'disappearances' in Sri Lanka. How are you addressing those concerns?
 ■ We have a Truth and Reconciliation Commission law, which will be enacted. We have implemented other mechanisms too. But we have said accountability comes within the framework of Lanka's jurisdictions, and Lankan judges. We have no problems if others want to come in as observers. But the final decision has to be made by our judges.

Will you go into retirement?
 ■ No politician ever retires. As long as people want me, I will continue in one form or another. (Q&A by Padma Rao Sundarji)

'No politician ever retires'

In 2022, the Rajapaksa were ousted from office. Mahinda Rajapaksa now breaks his silence

This election is your son, Namal's political debut. People are saying he won't win. ■ They can say what they like. Namal may be young, but he is an attorney, and has been in parliament since 2019. He has a long political future ahead.



After the chaos of 2022 your entire family was chased out of power. Do you feel your SLPP will be re-elected?
 ■ In these 2 years, I have travelled around the country frequently. There is a groundswell of support for us.

From 2005 right up to 2019, despite corruption and nepotism allegations, you remained popular, largely for having ended the war. So what happened 2 years ago?
 ■ Look, the country was totally devastated after 30 years of civil war. After we defeated LTTE in 2009, we took the country forward. So why were we driven out? Well, that's politics. People vote for you, then they bring you down. Now, they might vote for us yet again. The anger was not against the Rajapaksa family, but the system. But yes... My brother Gotabaya was not a politician, he was a bureaucrat. He made some wrong decisions.

Woman whose firm was linked to exploding pagers 'receives threats, put under Hungary's protection'

Rome: The woman whose company was linked to thousands of pagers that exploded in Lebanon and Syria this week is under the protection of the Hungarian secret services, her mother told AP on Friday. Cristiana Barsony-Arcidiano has not appeared publicly since the deadly simultaneous attack that targeted Hezbollah on Tuesday and that has been widely blamed on Israel. She is listed as the CEO of Budapest-based BAC Consulting, which the Taiwanese trademark holder of the pagers said

Israel probes soldiers throwing bodies off roof

The Israeli military said on Friday it had opened an investigation after videos showed soldiers pushing what appear to be dead bodies off a roof in the occupied West Bank during a raid against Palestinian militants. The videos, which began circulating online Thursday, showed three soldiers on the roof of a building in the town of Qabatiya, dragging, pushing, throwing and in one case kicking what appear to be dead men off the edge. The Israeli military said the incident was serious and was not in keeping with its values. REUTERS

week, first targeting pagers and then walkie-talkies, have killed at least 37 people and wounded more than 3,000. Cristiana Barsony-Arcidiano's company came under scrutiny after Gold Apollo, a Taiwanese firm, said it had authorised BAC Consulting to use its name on the pagers, but that the Hungarian firm was responsible for manufacturing. On Wednesday, a Hungarian government said the pagers delivered to Hezbollah were never in Hungary, and that BAC Consulting merely acted as an intermediary. AP

was responsible for the manufacture of the devices. Her mother, Beatrix Barsony-Arcidiano, told the AP that her daughter had received unspecified threats and "is currently in a safe place protected by the Hungarian secret services". Hungary's national security authorities did not respond to a request for comment. Two days of attacks this

Study: At 2m, Indians lead pool of educated immigrants in US

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

A recent analysis done by the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), a US-based thinktank, revealed that nearly 48% of 'recent' immigrants—those arriving in the US between 2018 and 2022—held a college degree. Thirty-five percent of all immigrant adults (14.1 million people) had a bachelor's degree or higher as of 2022, roughly similar to the 36% of all US-born adults (67.8 million) who graduated college, cites this study by Jeanne Batalova, a senior policy analyst. India led the global pool of educated immigrants, constituting 2 million degree holders, or 14% of the total educated immigrant population. China (including Hong Kong) followed with 1.1 million educated immigrants, making up 7.9% of the total college-educated immigrant population as of 2022. The Philippines and Mexico followed with 7% and 6%, respectively. The analysis relied on data from the US Census Bureau (2022 ACS). Some college-educated immigrants come to the US on

Country	Numbers (as of 2022)	Percentage to total
India	2,038,176	14.4
China (incl HK)	1,118,166	7.9
Philippines	976,626	6.9
Mexico	891,702	6.3
South Korea	552,006	3.9

Total of educated immigrants: 14,154,000 (aged 25 and older)

temporary visas for high-skilled workers and researchers, or as family members of US residents, or as humanitarian migrants, or via other paths. Others obtain their education once they are in the US. The analysis does not reflect the numbers of college-educated immigrants as of 2022 as against the stock in each of the previous years. However, it analyses the number of college-educated immigrants arriving between 2018-2022, this inflow was 1.7 million. Nearly 20% of this inflow was from India. College-educated immigrants are likely to be proficient in English, with 74% reporting speaking only English or speaking English 've-

ry well' in 2022. Highly skilled immigrants are more likely to have advanced degrees than their US-born counterparts. In 2022, 15% of immigrant college graduates held professional or doctoral degrees, compared to 11% of their US-born counterparts. Both groups were roughly equally likely to have a master's degree (30% for the foreign born and 28% for the US born). The top five occupational groups for immigrant college graduates were management (16%), computer and mathematical occupations (13%), health practitioners and technicians (11%), business and financial operations (10%), and education and related occupations (9%).

Pak blasphemy case: Police 'encounter' leaves accused dead

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Police in Pakistan's southern Sindh province shot dead a man accused of blasphemy in an alleged encounter on Thursday, drawing condemnation from the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. The incident took place in Mirpur Khas a day after violent protests were held by certain religious groups against Dr Shahnawaz Kanbar, a resident of Umarkot district, for posting blasphemous content on social media. During the protest, demonstrators set a police mobile van on fire. The situation calmed only after police assured protesters that a case would be registered against the Kanbar. Kanbar went into hiding on Tuesday. Kanbar is the second blasphemy suspect in Pakistan to be shot dead by police in the span of a week. "Dr Shahnawaz Kanbar was killed mistakenly in a shootout with cops who did not know it was him," claimed local police chief Niaz Khoso. After the "encounter", the body was handed over to the family, who brought it to his native village for burial. But there a mob managed to grab the corpse and set it on fire. Earlier, on Sept 11, a police constable had gunned down blasphemy suspect Adul Ali, a hotel owner, inside a police station in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, which expressed "grave concern" over the alleged "extrajudicial killing of two people accused of blasphemy," strongly condemned the deaths.

Trump ratchets up anti-immigrant rhetoric

Says Will Visit Cities Where He Claims 'Haitians Eat Pets' & 'Venezuelan Gangs' Rule

Chidanand Rajhatta | TNN

Washington: Best known as the fictional setting for "The Simpsons" cartoon series even though there are 67 real American towns with the same name, Springfield, Ohio, is bracing for a proposed Donald Trump visit even as he ratchets up his campaign against recent immigrants, saying Democrats are enlisting them to vote in the upcoming presidential elections. So fearful of his visit is the town—already a tinderbox of bomb threats after he spread the canard about immigrants there eating pet dogs and cats—that even its Republican mayor Rob Rue is pleading with him not to come. Ohio's Republican governor, Mike DeWine, has also debunked the story amid growing disquiet in the GOP establishment over Trump and his running mate, JD Vance, taking extreme positions endangering the Republican majority in Congress, which also goes to polls on Nov 5. But with his opponent Ka-



Trump claims Dems are enlisting illegal immigrants to vote for them

mala Harris edging ahead in most polls, Trump is in no mood to retool his campaign now centring on the purported immigrant invasion of America which, he argues, will skew the results of the Nov elections. On Saturday, the former president posted a manipulated video on social media showing Kamala Harris welcoming immigrants streaming across the border and asking them to vote for her. The MAGA (Make America Great Again) supreme has not announced a date for his Springfield visit (he has also said he will go to Aurora, Colorado, where he has falsely said Venezuelan gangs have taken over the city). Despite very little evidence and very few instances of illegal immigrants

included citizens from Japan, Germany, and Italy. Many poll analysts and think tanks have said non-citizen voting is not a big issue and does not alter election results. Trump's grandstanding is ostensibly aimed at casting doubts on the authenticity of the 2024 elections, where the presidential outcome aside (which is decided by the electoral college), he is again expected to suffer an embarrassing loss in terms of popular vote—he lost by nearly three million votes in 2016, and seven million in 2020. About one in 10 US voters (totalling around 24 million) is a foreign-born immigrant who has become a naturalised citizen, and is therefore eligible to vote. Some MAGA radicals have argued that only US-born citizens should be eligible to vote. Incidentally, "The Simpsons" series features a fictional Indian immigrant named Apu Nahasapeemapetilon. He is a naturalised US citizen who runs a corner store in Springfield, and he also has a PhD in computer science.

It is already illegal for non-citizens to vote in US elections. Those who violate the law face prison time and deportation. In fact, a commission appointed by Trump after he lost the popular vote in 2016 to investigate the issue disbanded without identifying a single case of a non-citizen casting a vote, even though US immigration authorities said they indicted 19 foreign nationals for illegal voting. Violators

Kamala basks in star power, but can it power her to White House?

Chidanand Rajhatta | TNN

Washington: If star-power and celebrity endorsement could swing the US prez elections, Kamala Harris may well have it in the bag. Meryl Streep, Julia Roberts and Jennifer Lopez were among the celebrities who pitched for the Democratic candidate in an emotional online event hosted by Oprah Winfrey centering on women's reproductive rights, a lightning rod for female voters in America. Members in the live audience dabbed tears on Thursday as Winfrey introduced the mother of a Georgia woman who died after waiting for medical attention in a state that has banned most abortions. They also gave a standing ovation to a 22-year-old Kentucky woman who said she had been raped and impregnated by her stepfather, and that Trump's support for overturning constitutionally protected abortion rights took away women's freedom. The 90-minute event brought together over 100 online groups, including White Dudes for



HOLLYWOOD'S FAVE: Harris held a star-studded event hosted by talk show legend Oprah Winfrey on Thursday. Stars Jennifer Lopez, Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts beamed in remotely to lavish praise

Harris and Cat Ladies for Kamala, to discuss a range of issues from gun violence to cost of living to immigration. Asked by Streep how she was preparing for the "shenanigans" that would arise, if Trump does not accept poll results, Harris urged people to talk with their friends about misinformation, to protect poll workers and to not be afraid to vote, and said lawyers would be working on the issue too. Bereft of star support save for a couple of little-known singers and actors and a fake wrestler, the Trump campaign

ridiculed the Oprah-Harris event and the Democratic Party as "elitist", but still boasted of a new endorsement—from singer Lady Gaga's father. Trump has become increasingly resentful of celebrity support for Harris, petulantly tweeting "I HATE TAYLOR SWIFT" after the singer endorsed her last week. In a recent video clip posted on X, the actress Jane Fonda, who is now 86, was seen canvassing door-to-door for Harris in Michigan. The Democratic switch from Biden to Harris was triggered by another Hollywood celebrity—George Clooney. None of this is guaranteed to power Harris to the White House although there has been a massive uptick in voter registration among young people after Swift's endorsement. Harris herself has repeatedly urged supporters to take nothing for granted and said she, her side is the "underdog" in the race. Winfrey echoed the sentiment at the event, saying, "We love having you here, but the rah-rah moment is going to end, and then we need to get to work."

In N Carolina, GOP gov candidate hit by 'Black Nazi' claims

Washington: The Republican candidate for governor of North Carolina rebuffed calls Thursday to drop out of the race following a report that he called himself a "Black Nazi" and made other incendiary comments on a porn website message board. A number of Republican officials are reportedly pushing Mark Robinson to drop out, fearing his candidacy could impact the Nov elections. Robinson denounced the report by the CNN cable television network as "salacious tabloid lies". According to CNN, Robinson was active more than a decade ago on the message board of a porn site called "Nude Africa," calling himself a "perv" and a "Black Nazi" and making lewd comments. Robinson, an African American, also attacked civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr, calling him a "commie b****d," CNN said. He also allegedly said on the message board that slavery is "not bad... I would certainly buy a few." Robinson has been dogged by his controversial past comments such as calling the Holocaust "hogwash". AFP

DAILY PLANET

Nintendo sues 'Pokémon with guns' video game over copyright

Japan's Nintendo said Thursday it has filed a lawsuit accusing the developer of a video game jokingly dubbed "Pokémon with guns" of patent infringement. Nintendo and The Pokémon Company are suing Pocket-

pair, the Japan-based studio behind the "Palworld" game that became a viral hit when its prototype was released in Jan. "Palworld"—which sold more than 5 million copies in just three days—features weapon-wielding player avatars and monsters that look similar to the creatures of Nintendo's wildly popular "Pokémon" franchise giving it the nickname "Pokémon with guns".

X goes offline in Brazil after brief return

Elon Musk's X platform went back offline in Brazil Thursday, a day after it resumed service in contravention of a judicial ban, internet providers said. Brazil's SC had earlier in the day ordered X to suspend access to the platform. X was banned last month. X said the return of its service was "inadvertent and temporary".



A thought for today

There are some subjects that can only be tackled in fiction

JOHN LE CARRE

Spooks' People Skills

Tech has supercharged spying. But humint is still key

Booby-trapped devices are nothing new. But even seasoned espionage agencies are shaken and stirred by the weaponisation of supply chains in Lebanon's exploding pager and walkie-talkie attacks. Vulnerability of supply chains – compromising hardware or software at source – has long been flagged in threat assessments, especially when supply chains include rival nations. A terrible successful first, Lebanon attacks were but a demonstration of the extent of harm and synchronicity that can be inbuilt into devices.

It is barely disputed the attack has Mossad's stamp. Satcom, cybertech and advanced surveillance networks have taken the art and science of espionage to levels almost indecipherable for those not fed on a diet of spy thrillers. Even the literature on the genre, of deception and manipulation, infiltration and ciphers, of dead drops and dead men, cyberspies and APTs (advanced persistent threats), has evolved with the changing nature of the world's second oldest profession.

Spying remains mostly boring work, poring over tonnes of info, far removed from the glamour or romance of very early spy tales. If Maugham's Richard Ashenden (1928) was the first secret agent with a touch of reality – the short stories based on Maugham's own experience with British intelligence – real-life accounts of a Kim Philby or Aldrich Ames, of unlikely spy Virginia Hall or legendary Soviet secret agent Richard Sorge, were about ordinary men and women trained for extraordinary circumstances.

But here's the thing. Successful attacks make news, while the novels, stories and reels deal mostly with thwarting plans and attacks. The Lebanon attack, long in the making, came just two weeks before the first anniversary of the Oct 7 Hamas attack – that Israeli intelligence spectacularly missed. All the spook-gadgetry in the world can come to naught if humint can't make sense of the chatter.

Don't Judge

Courts should refuse to hear pleas against creative freedom

Bombay HC was spot on saying creative freedom can't be held hostage to law and order problems. Hearing a case against denial of film certification to *Emergency*, it directed the Censor Board to make a decision by Sep 25. But while this HC got it right, many HCs and other courts have ruled otherwise. This inconsistency doesn't help the cause of freedom of expression. MP HC had issued a notice to the Censor Board on the same movie, for example.

The bigger point is whether courts should be venturing into this domain at all. As SC itself observed in the *Adipurush* case, "everyone is touchy about everything now." By entertaining petitions over "hurt sensibilities" and becoming arbiters of what is kosher, courts end up granting censorship calls legitimacy they shouldn't have. As it is, India has an inglorious record on censorship of films and books over decades. For the longest time, creative output

hasn't had a judicial eye on it in other democracies. Literature classics like *Lady Chatterley's Lover* or *Lolita* were proscribed in some Western countries. But those days are over. They should be over in India, too. For movies, India has a regulator. GOI should reconstitute the censor board appellate tribunal – abolished in 2021 – to hear appeals. Courts should refuse to hear such petitions. They have better things to do – the case backlog is over 50mn.

Why AI Can Harm Us
How We Can Stop It

Harari dips into ancient history to analyse the newest threat

Humans are at once the smartest and the most stupid animals on earth, says Yuval Noah Harari in *Nexus: A Brief History of Information Networks from the Stone Age to AI*. We produce nuclear missiles and algorithms that have the power to destroy us. Why? Because our information networks are predisposed to using power unwisely. Networks bind members, through fiction, fantasy and mass delusion. Nazism and Stalinism were exceptionally powerful but ignorant networks, the book argues.

Tech entrepreneurs often espouse a rosy view of information, suggesting that AI is the key to our pressing challenges. But despite the fact that your smartphone now contains more information than the library of Alexandria, humans have never been closer to annihilating themselves.

Meanwhile, the populist view of information claims there is no truth. Power is the only reality. While this sceptical view has roots in the radical left, it is now echoed by right-wing figures like Trump and Bolsonaro.

The book seeks a middle ground between these two extremes. It explores the nature of information flows in the ancient past and present-day states, from the church and its schisms to rival political systems, and the roles of mythology and bureaucracy.

We have dramatically increased connectivity, between the Stone Age and the Silicon Age – global networks link billions of people through common stories. Stories are an information technology, as are bureaucratic lists and documents. Bureaucracy may oversimplify complex reality, but there's no better way to manage large-scale human networks.

The problem is when networks don't self-correct. A dictatorship, for instance, is a centralised information network that lacks strong self-correcting

mechanisms, while a democracy is a distributed information network that has them. Mass media enables mass democracy, but the 20th century also saw totalitarian regimes that aimed to control every aspect of people's lives and concentrate power with no checks.

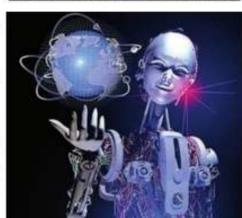
Harari says, with AI, we are creating an "alien inorganic intelligence", argues that this is an entirely new realm, and we only have a small window of time to shape our future.

Will AI favour democratic or totalitarian regimes, will it tend towards truth or order? The book argues that AI is like nothing that's come before, and a new Silicon Curtain may divide humans from unfathomable algorithmic overlords. It could as easily cause catastrophic harm. It can process

information and generate new ideas – it is not a tool, but an agent. Algorithms already make crucial decisions for us and know us better than we know ourselves. They can hack the human operating system, manipulate us with stories. They can surveil us intimately, even getting under our skin and reading our bodily signals. This non-human intelligence has enormous power, but it can also be wrong, misaligned with larger goals. An inter-computer reality could dominate human intersubjective reality.

The book suggests ways to mould tech in a democratic direction, baking in principles of benevolence, decentralisation and mutual openness. Bots that swamp and shape public discourse should be banned, to keep democracies safe. Today, US and China are AI superpowers, and their digital spheres are taking distinct shapes, dividing the world into separate information cocoons. Does international regulation of AI stand a chance?

Creating wiser information networks calls for building human institutions with strong self-correcting mechanisms. This is mundane work, but it matters the most.

mindfield
SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS

Dilemma For Netanyahu, Nasrallah

As Israel-Hezbollah conflict broadens... Can Israelis live through another war after 11 months of Gaza attacks? Can Hezbollah gamble with the future of Lebanon, its own and its chief's fate?

Attila Somfalvi



Columnist based in Tel Aviv

Israel's escalation strategy in this war – on Friday evening, Indian time, Israeli air force carried out strikes in Beirut – is not about the sheer quantity of explosives dropped on Lebanon, but rather about the precision of intelligence and the willingness to carry out pinpoint, lethal operations. This was evident in the elimination of Hezbollah's chief of staff Shukur, in the assassination of Hamas leader Haniyeh in Tehran, and in the destruction of pagers, communication devices, and the targeting of other Hezbollah officials hiding in Beirut's Dahiya district.

In the early months of the war, Israel avoided striking high-ranking Hezbollah leaders, but in recent weeks, that restraint has become irrelevant. Even as these words are being written, officials in the Tel Aviv war room are awaiting updated intelligence on another Israeli airstrike in Dahiya – this time, it appears, aimed at taking out Nasrallah's head of operations.

Israel's focus has shifted. Rather than indiscriminate bombardment, the emphasis is now on decapitating the leadership of Hezbollah, a shift that signals the changing dynamics of the conflict. And as long as the intelligence remains sharp, these strikes will continue to undermine Hezbollah's operational capabilities.

This conflict between Israel and Hezbollah has evolved into one of the most bizarre hostilities on the planet today. For the past 11 months, the two sides have been pummeling each other with every possible means – launching missiles, dropping bombs, deploying drones, engaging in intelligence operations that seem straight out of a

James Bond film (mostly Israel).

Every few days or weeks, almost as if following a scripted plot, someone declares a "red line" has been crossed, threatening an unprecedented, earth-shattering retaliation that will be remembered for generations. Then, after a few days of heightened tension, the "revenge" is carried out. The parties accept the outcome and return to battering one another exactly as they did before the supposed red line was crossed. From all the evidence accumulated over these 11 months of skirmishing, it's clear that neither Hezbollah nor Israel truly wants to escalate into a full-scale war.

This war of attrition, which has

half, Israel has begun to shift course – both in rhetoric and action. While the war in Gaza nears its conclusion, with or without an official declaration, the threats of a northern war have grown increasingly tangible.

This week, Israel revealed – without explicitly admitting it – some of its most extraordinary capabilities, simultaneously neutralising thousands of pagers and communication devices used by Hezbollah operatives. Though Israeli officials declined to comment on this remarkable operation, they see it as having restored Israel's intelligence services to their rightful place among the world's best. Hezbollah's secretary-general Hassan

forces are lurking. That reality is simply untenable. UN Security Council Resolution 1701, passed after the 2006 Lebanon War, has eroded over time, allowing Hezbollah's terrorist forces to establish themselves along Israel's northern border, just metres from the comfortable homes of Israeli citizens. For many years, this arrangement was a modus vivendi that Israelis could live with. After Oct 7, however, this will no longer be tolerated.

Thus, Israel must achieve a decisive outcome – whether through diplomatic channels or by unleashing its formidable firepower. Yet, unlike Gaza, Hezbollah presents an entirely different challenge: more painful, more threatening, more heavily armed, more determined, and far more supported by Iran.

While Lebanon would burn, and Israel could potentially send the country back centuries in time, the cost to Israel would also be steep. Hezbollah has amassed more than 100,000 missiles and rockets over the years, along with drones and advanced weaponry, capable of wreaking havoc on Israeli cities – despite Israel's exceptional air defence systems.

Are we on the brink of a broader war? It remains unclear. Both Israel and Hezbollah know that neither would emerge from such a conflict unscathed. The costs would be immense. Yet Israel understands that the current threatening reality cannot continue. No sane nation would tolerate threats of this nature on its borders, and no sovereign state can exist with terrorists and missiles looming at its fence.

The question now is whether Hassan Nasrallah will take the hint from Israel's intelligence operations this week or gamble with Lebanon, his organisation, and perhaps even himself. For Israel, the question is whether its people, after 11 months of war, have the resilience to face a prolonged and unpredictable battle with an enemy that has been preparing for this very moment for decades.



displaced tens of thousands of Israelis from their homes in the north and emptied villages in southern Lebanon, seemed until recently to be an acceptable status quo for both sides.

Both recognise that their clash is inevitable, but neither side desires it. Each side, for its domestic audience, has spun a narrative: Hezbollah clings to its resistance as long as Israel operates in Gaza, while Israel broadcasts its focus on Gaza, signalling that it would prefer not to open a second front in the north.

However, this charade appears to be reaching its limit. In the past week and a

Nasrallah was forced to deliver a lengthy, dramatic speech filled with threats and curses, once again accusing Israel of crossing red lines.

Just days ago, Israel's war cabinet defined a new objective, one that had not been part of the initial goals of 'Operation Iron Swords': to return tens of thousands of Israelis to their homes in the north. To achieve this, Israel knows it must push Hezbollah back from the border.

No Israeli will return home after Oct 7 knowing that mere metres from their doorstep, Hezbollah's elite Radwan

Can Sri Lanka Really Afford A Regime Change?

The island nation votes today. Wickremesinghe stabilised the country after 2022's turmoil. But Lankans almost always vote out incumbents. Doing so this time, though, is inviting trouble

Padma Rao Sundarji



Columnist based in Sri Lanka

From grey to pink, orange to silver: Sri Lanka's skies shift hues all day. Over the past 15 years, its citizens, too, have repeatedly sought new political alternatives. So, will the presidential election today see yet another "vote for change"?

In 2009, former president Mahinda Rajapaksa, revered for ending the 30-year-long separatist war in which 120,000 people were killed, sailed home to a second term. There followed a period of rapid development and reconstruction. But corruption and nepotism mounted, China laid its first debt-traps and the Rajapaksa family fell from grace.

In 2015, despite all else, there was relative prosperity. But the 'people's voice' – a term heard frequently in Sri Lanka right now – rose again and elected as president Maithripala Sirisena who promised 'good governance'. Barely two years later, his star waned. Sirisena had not undertaken constitutional reforms, there was a shortage of cash. MPs received additional perks, while unemployment, taxes and prices shot up. When 269 people were killed and 500 injured in ISIS terror attacks on Easter Day 2019, it proved the last straw.

The 'people's voice' dumped Sirisena and brought back the terrorist-vanquishing Rajapaksas. This time, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Mahinda's younger brother (defence secretary at the time of LTTE's defeat), was elected president. Mahinda became PM and various Rajapaksas settled into other exalted posts.

By 2022, that second honeymoon had ended. Sri Lanka's economy collapsed completely. External loans had mounted, there was no foreign exchange to pay them off. The terror attacks and then the pandemic had dealt a blow to tourism, a revenue-earning mainstay. Gotabaya's total ban on chemical fertilisers destroyed Sri Lanka's export of tea, the Ukraine war caused a shortage of grain. There was no cooking gas and no petrol, even as ships laden with both, waited in the harbour to be paid first.

Protests spilled onto the streets and gov't responded with brute force. Anger turned into loot and arson,

Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned and Ranil Wickremesinghe was named interim PM. Gotabaya, too, stepped down and fled the country. Sri Lanka was rendered headless.

At the time, opposition leader Sajith Premadasa and Leninist-Marxist MP, Anura Kumara Dissanayake – who are both contesting today's presidential poll – had led thunderous demonstrations against the Rajapaksas. And yet, both declined the unenviable job at the helm of a broke and furious nation. It was left to Wickremesinghe, then 73, to take over as interim president.

Two years later, lavish weddings are in full swing, families are shooting the ocean breeze on the Galle Face



Green, tall hotel towers are ablaze with fairy lights, there is full occupancy. To anyone who witnessed the desperate scenes of grandmothers hauling gas cylinders forward, inch by inch, to keep their place in snaking queues during the 2022 crisis, Sri Lanka seems to have turned the corner.

And it is Wickremesinghe, an erstwhile foreign minister, opposition leader, and prime minister multiple times, who is behind that gradual revival. In the last two

years, the experienced politician has persuaded international donors to restructure external debt and ease pressure on Sri Lanka's coffers. He has cut public spending, raised taxes and controlled lending rates and inflation.

And yet, Sri Lanka's affluent chatterati – many of whom reside abroad – love to deride him as 'The Establishment'. In fashionable cafes at the Dutch Hospital shopping centre, they swear allegiance to either Dissanayake – known as "AKD" – or the LSE graduate Premadasa before anyone who cares to listen. As for Namal Rajapaksa, 38, Mahinda's son who is also contesting with vigour, they have nothing but scorn. "Woke" Sri Lankans also champion the 'Tamil Cause' vociferously but draw a blank when asked the name (Pakkiaselvam Ariyanethiran) of the first Tamil in their country's history to contest a presidential poll (this time).

Opinion polls have registered an upswing for Ranil Wickremesinghe, but still place AKD and Sajith Premadasa in the lead. "AKD represents the revolution, Premadasa the change and Wickremesinghe stands for stability," says leading activist Jehan Perera. "Remember: there's still a substantial percentage of undecided voters."

India played a leading role in helping ease Sri Lanka's crisis and many Sri Lankans acknowledge that help. South Block seems confident and unconcerned about who will win. But other than AKD playing to the gallery about how he will cancel a 'corrupt' wind power project awarded to Adani group, neither he nor Premadasa has clearly spelled out how they intend to address India's trade interests in Sri Lanka, and its security concerns over Chinese naval forays into Sri Lankan waters.

So, will Sri Lankans settle for the continuity that Wickremesinghe represents? Or bring in untested candidates at this very crucial time in the country's history, merely because they promise 'change'?

Ranil Wickremesinghe's election symbol is, aptly, a blue cooking gas cylinder. In response to a question by a local newspaper on what's at stake in today's poll, the seasoned politician sounded clear:

"The future of Sri Lanka, nothing else," he said. The writer is a foreign correspondent and author of Sri Lanka: The New Country

Calvin & Hobbes



Are Homo Sapiens Worth Saving?

Sonal Srivastava

Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh said in a statement on Climate Change for the United Nations that all civilisations are impermanent and must come to an end one day. "But if we continue on our current course, there's no doubt that our civilisation will be destroyed sooner than we think. The Earth may need millions of years to heal, to retrieve her balance and restore her beauty. She will be able to recover, but humans and many other species will disappear until the Earth can generate conditions to bring us forth again in new forms."

According to the World Economic Forum, billions of animals are slaughtered for food every year. One of the reasons for increasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is the rearing of livestock for human consumption. Add to that deforestation, wars, massive

and whaling activities in the oceans, and other human activities that impact millions of different species and expedite the extinction of some.

The seeds of the Sixth Extinction may have been sown by modern Western philosopher René Descartes' argument that animals lack self-awareness, or emotions. His proposition – Cogito ergo sum, I think therefore I am – may have established humans' perceived superiority over other species and may have even unintentionally contributed to rationalising mechanised meat production as the Industrial Revolution powered the world.

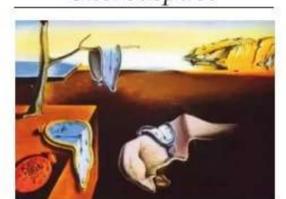
Details of the sixth extinction may be disturbing. In the realm of environmental ethics and philosophy, there are discussions on how human actions impact other species and ecosystems

and how different species might be praying for human extinction. This brings us to the question of whether humans are worth saving. What is the point of saving a person who causes suffering by eating the flesh of other animals or destroys their habitat to serve his ends?

Movements such as the Voluntary Human Extinction Movement, VHEMT, has been advocating voluntary extinction of humanity by choosing not to reproduce, furthering the proposition that the cessation of human existence would prevent the degradation of the Earth's ecosystems.

Imagine grey wolves, Arctic foxes, hippopotamuses, rhinoceroses, cheetahs, tigers and lions roaming without a worry in urban concrete jungles in cities such as New York, London, Paris, New Delhi, Tokyo and Beijing.

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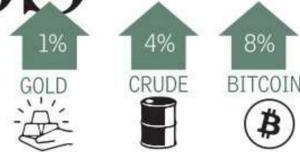


THE SPEAKING TREE

D-St Upbeat On Hopes Of US Eco Achieving A 'Soft Landing'

Indian markets rally gained further momentum after the US Fed's 50 bps rate cut in the week. The move sparked hopes of the US economy achieving a soft landing — a scenario where inflation cools without triggering a recession

Sensex
2%



136%
Bajaj Housing Finance, which had a recordbreaking IPO last week, more than doubled investors' money on listing

Source: Refinitiv, ETG, Reuters

Nike replaces CEO with veteran exec Hill in revival bid

Nike ousted beleaguered CEO John Donahoe, bringing longtime executive Elliott Hill out of retirement in a bid to return the struggling athletic brand to its glory days. Hill, 60, originally joined Nike in 1988 and served as president of consumer and marketplace before he retired in 2020. He will take over on Oct 14. Donahoe, 64, will retire and remain an adviser through Jan. Nike shares jumped 7% in New York trading on Friday morning, while chief rivals Adidas and Puma fell in Germany. **BLOOMBERG**

IT cos returning to campuses after gap year

Veena.Mani@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: IT companies are resuming their campus recruitment drives after a nearly year-long hiatus amid signs of revival in business. IT firms are tapping into these colleges for skilled programmers and digital specialists who command salaries in the range of Rs 6 to 9 lakh, rather than entry-level roles where salaries are much lower.

Companies such as IBM, Infosys, TCS, and LTIMindtree have visited campuses for an initial phase of placements, which began in July. While TCS has said it will hire 40,000

Focus On Skills, Not Entry Level Roles

IT firms are looking for talent in the areas of cloud, analytics, data, and AI, who command ₹6-9 lakh salaries, rather than entry-level roles where salaries are lower

Hiring Plans This Fiscal

TCS | 40k freshers
Infosys | 15k to 20k
Wipro | 10k to 12k

freshers, Infosys has planned to recruit 15,000 to 20,000 fresh graduates from colleges and through off-campus drives. In FY24, Infosys had 11,900 campus recruits in the 2023-24 financial year, a 76% drop compared to the 50,000 freshers it hired in the year-ago period.

"After a break of one year, we will return to the campuses with which we have partners-

hips. Additionally, we will look at off-campus hiring to onboard the same number for next year as well," Wipro HR head Saurabh Govil said.

Wipro said it's returning to campuses after four quarters. It plans to hire 10,000 to 12,000 freshers in the current financial year. Govil said 3,000 freshers were onboarded in the June quarter, and it would finish

the backlog of the previous years in the next few quarters.

The employment outlook for recent engineering graduates is showing signs of improvement. Beyond bulk hiring of engineers, IT firms are keen to onboard digital talent and domain specialists in the areas of cloud, analytics, data, and AI.

Additionally, the selection process has become more rigorous compared to previous years. Shailendra Vidhate, training and placement officer at the engineering college of the NMIMS group, said the cut-off to sit for the placement season has risen to 70% from 60% last year.

Ashok Mittal, chancellor of Lovely Professional University, said that there's an uptick in the number of people recruited this time around — about 1,350 so far this year compared to 600 people during the same period last year. Companies are increasingly looking beyond traditional coding tests when evaluating potential hires. Instead, they are examining candidates' social media profiles and considering certifications they have earned. This shift in hiring practices reflects a desire to gain a more comprehensive understanding of each applicant's skills and background.

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Sensex crosses 84k mark 1st time on FPI flow, Fed rate cut

Nifty Mirrors Trend With 1.5% Rise, Ends At Record 25,791 Pts

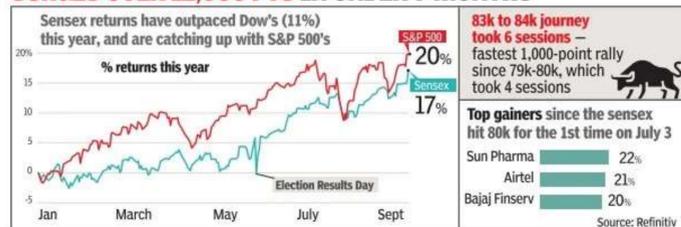
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Sensex crossed the 84,000 mark for the first time on Friday as foreign institutional buying, following a global rally triggered by the US Fed's aggressive rate cut, drove key indices to record-highs. The momentum — combined with India's increased weightage in global indices as well as volatility from F&O expiry — boosted trading activity.

The Sensex touched an intraday high of 84,694, before ending at a record 84,544 — up 1.6% from Thursday's close. Nifty mirrored this trend, rising 1.5% to end at a record 25,791, with an intraday peak of 25,849. The market has scaled new highs with regularity as investors, including retail, have flocked to stocks chasing high returns.

Foreign institutional investors made net purchases of Rs 14,064 crore, while domestic institutions sold stocks worth Rs 4,427 crore. The influx of foreign capital also supported the rupee, which closed at 83.56 against the dollar, up from 83.66. Ear-

SURGES OVER 12,000 PTS IN UNDER 9 MONTHS



lier in the session, the rupee had reached a two-month high of 83.49, recording a nearly 0.4% weekly gain to mark its strongest rise so far this year. Lower interest rates in the US have made emerging markets like India more attractive to foreign investors, leading to increased portfolio inflows. After a moderation in Aug, foreign investments have surged in Sept, with inflows on track to reach a six-month high.

All major sectoral indices ended the day in the green, with auto, energy, banking, FMCG, and metals leading the way — each gaining between 1.3%. Broader markets parti-

cipated in the rally as well, with the Nifty Midcap 100 index closing 1.4% higher and the Nifty Smallcap 100 gaining nearly 1%. Among stocks, Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, ICICI Bank, L&T, Bharti Airtel, and Nestle saw significant upward movement.

Vinod Nair of Geojit Financial Services said, "The Indian market has joined the rally following the 50 basis points Fed rate cut and super accommodative monetary policy. This is expected to bring positivity to the economy and foreign inflows in the short-to-medium term as the global economy remains robust." He noted that interest

rate-sensitive sectors like auto and finance were experiencing notable traction.

In Asia, the S&P Asia Index rose 2.4% on Friday, with Japan's Nikkei 225 up 1.5% and Hong Kong's Hang Seng gaining 1.4%. Domestic institutional and retail investors have remained bullish, with domestic institutional investors purchasing shares worth Rs 3.2 lakh crore since the beginning of 2024. Mutual funds have continued to be net buyers, bolstered by record-high contributions through SIPs, which have touched records for 14 consecutive months, reflecting retail investors' confidence.

Samsung threatens pay cut, termination

Says Strike Has Hit Production, Union Says Will Continue Protest Till Demands Are Met

Vaitheeswaran.B@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Samsung Electronics India on Friday warned employees of pay cuts and termination of service if they did not end their strike and report for duty within four days. The Chennai factory's operations have been "severely hindered" by the strike, the company said.

The company has sought an explanation in writing from employees on why an eight-day pay cut should not be imposed on them and why they cannot be sacked within seven days if they did not report to duty within four days. It said the strike is in violation of the Industrial Disputes Act and the company's standing orders. Samsung also warned of legal action against those who prevent workers who wished to from working. Employees and labour representatives TOI spoke to confirmed the company had sent such notices.

Hundreds of workers at the Samsung consumer elec-

'Better Working Conditions, Hike'

Hundreds of workers at Samsung's Sunguvarchattam plant have been on strike since Sept 9, demanding wage revision as well as better working conditions

On Friday, the co warned employees of pay cuts and termination of service if they didn't end the strike and report for duty within 4 days

It also warned of legal action against those preventing others who wished to from working

Union president has said "it is up to the courts to decide whether the strike is illegal"

The issue escalated on Thursday as Samsung sued protesting workers, while the workers' union is considering legal action against the co

tronics plant at Sunguvarchattam near Chennai have been on strike since Sept 9, demanding wage revision and better working conditions. This has impacted production at the facility, which contributes a third of Samsung's \$12 billion annual revenue in the country.

E Muthukumar, president of the union, said, "Samsung maintained there was no impact on the production, but the notices are contradictory to it. It is up to the courts to decide whether the strike is illegal. The employ-

ees will continue to strike." Samsung, in a statement, said, "We have informed our policy to our workers based on relevant laws and regulations, and urged them to return to work immediately. The safety and well-being of our workers is a priority. We remain committed to resolving this issue."

The issue escalated on Thursday as the company sued protesting workers, while the workers' union is considering legal action against the company in the Madras high court.

Adani Total Gas gets \$375mn from lenders

New Delhi: Adani Total Gas on Friday said it has secured \$375 million funding from global lenders for expansion of its business. Five lenders participated in the financing — BNP Paribas, DBS Bank, Mizuho Bank, MUFG Bank, & Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. **AGENCIES**

NHAI bids out corridor to raise ₹6,661 crore

New Delhi: The NHAI on Friday bid out the completed 251km Hyderabad-Nagpur corridor in Telangana to raise Rs 6,661 crore under its asset monetisation programme. The project has been awarded to Highway Infrastructure Trust. **TNN**

figure it out

Nearly 71MW
IT capacity was added across India's eight major cities in first half of 2024 as footprint of data centres moved to tier-2 and -3 cities



'Russian roulette' in mkts, RBI flags volatility risks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI has warned of a 'Russian roulette' scenario as market expectations regarding central banks are reset. The regulator noted significant volatility risks, given that markets experience wild swings with each new data release, in its State of the Economy report.

The US jobs data in Aug had caused a market downturn, only for it to rebound later. Subsequently, a manufacturing report in Sept triggered another selloff in US stocks, which then spread to Asian and European markets. In India, while IPO activity remains strong, there are concerns about promoters selling off holdings at high prices, especially in the SME segment.

"As markets recalibrate their expectations of central banks pivoting from divergence to convergence, a Russian roulette seems to be playing out. Every incoming data dispels the gathering good feeling of a soft landing and sparks fears of a thudding

end to disinflationary monetary policy pathways," the report, authored by RBI staff and led by deputy governor Michael Patra, said. Despite these fluctuations, the report observes that markets have shown resilience, recovering quickly without significant exchange rate movements or liquidity issues. Interestingly, on the day the report was released, markets rose again following a US Federal Reserve rate cut.

STATE OF ECO

The report notes that investors will focus on a select group of emerging economies that benefit from favourable global trade trends, a strong US dollar, economic reforms, and political changes. Additionally, RBI staff has taken a firmer stance on food inflation, pointing out that while headline inflation has moderated, food price volatility remains a risk. The report anticipates higher inflation numbers this month due to an unfavourable base effect. "The pace of disinflation is frequently interrup-

ted by volatile and elevated food inflation. It is the headline inflation that matters, with food inflation accounting for 46% of the overall figure," it emphasises.

While chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran has suggested excluding food prices from inflation targets, RBI maintains that they are crucial to understanding Indian prices. The report projects GDP growth for FY24 at 7.3% — up from the 7.2% forecast in Aug. "The in-house dynamic stochastic general equilibrium model projects GDP growth at 7.3% (YoY) and headline CPI inflation at 4.6% (YoY) during 2024-25," it states.

Other macro data indicates that household consumption is expected to grow faster in Q2 as inflation eases, supported by a revival in rural demand. The widening trade deficit and an increase in overseas travel by Indians are likely to shift the current account balance from a small surplus in early 2024 to a deficit of 1.1-1.2% of GDP in the first half of 2024-25.

ICAI seeks pause on change in key audit rule

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on Friday asked regulator National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) to pause the proposed changes in the auditing standard SA 600 related to group audits, possibly setting the stage for a confrontation.

In a statement, ICAI argued that the move by NFRA came as a surprise and sought more time for comprehensive review and discussions with all stakeholders. Sources countered ICAI's claim, saying that the issue has been pending since 2009 and NFRA has been raising the matter periodically, starting with 2020, which was followed by another request in 2021. Even in April 2024, the issue was flagged to ICAI, which had sought time to study the proposal, said a source, adding that for 15 years, the agency was in "permanent pause mode" on the issue.

"The ICAI Council, in its meeting held on Sept 17, 2024, expressed its view that while the current SA 600 has been effective and has stood the test of time, there is room for further review and strengthening to better serve public interest. The Council has tasked the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board with this review and start the process of reviewing the standard for exposure as has been the practice in ICAI," the agency, which regulates bulk of the auditors in the country, said, adding that NFRA's consultation paper was issued on the same day as the council meeting. It said it will send inputs after consultation process is completed.

The NFRA paper, sources said, has addressed several of the issues that were flagged by ICAI. NFRA, which was set up after enactment of Companies Act 2013, was not notified for several years, with govt blaming it on intense lobbying by ICAI.

Sebi: Cases where Buch recused herself not 'readily available'

New Delhi: The cases where Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch recused herself due to potential conflict of interest are not "readily" available and collating them would "disproportionately divert" its resources, the market regulator said in response to an RTI application on Friday.

RTI REPLY

In the response furnished to transparency activist Commodore Lokesh Batra (retd), the regulator also refused to provide copies of Buch's declarations to govt and the Sebi Board on the financial assets and equities held by her and her family members on the grounds of these being "personal information" and that their disclosure may "endanger" personal safety.

It also denied disclosing the dates on which the disclosures were made. The Sebi Central Public Informa-

tion Officer used the grounds of "personal information" and "safety" to deny copy of those declarations.

"Since the information sought does not pertain to you and the same relates to personal information, the disclosure of which has no relationship to any public activity or interest and may cause unwarranted invasion into the privacy of the individual and may also endanger the life or physical safety of the person(s). The same is, therefore exempt in terms of Section 8(1)(g) and 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act, 2005," the RTI response said. "Further, the information on cases where Madhabi Puri Buch recused herself due to potential conflicts of interest during her tenure is not readily available and collating the same will lead to disproportionately diverting the resources of the public authority in terms of Section 7(9) of the RTI Act," it said. **AGENCIES**

No immediate legal view on SC's telecom AGR call: Govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The govt will not take any suo motu legal opinion on the financial crisis for Vodafone Idea and Bharti Airtel after dismissal of a curative petition by the Supreme Court on the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) matter. Any view will be initiated only after a plea by the telcos, sources have said.

"There is no need for a legal view as yet, as the decision of a curative petition broadly means closure of a case," the source said. This comes even as Vodafone Idea has announced a conference call with investors and analysts on September 23 to provide "an update on recent developments".

Asked whether some other relief measures can be considered to bail out the companies, the sources said, "This can happen once we receive a request to this effect from the companies. So far, there is no such correspondence that we have received."

Physics Wallah raises \$210mn, sees valuation jump 3x to \$2.8bn in 2 yrs

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Bengaluru: Even as some edtech majors are going through a boom and bust cycle, edtech unicorn Physics Wallah has secured \$210 million in a funding round led by India-focused hedge fund Hornbill Capital.

The funding round has valued the company at \$2.8 billion, a nearly 3x jump from its previous valuation of \$1.1 billion in 2022. Physics Wallah's funding round, which saw participation by Lightspeed Venture Partners, GSV, and WestBridge

Amid Edtech Gloom

The funding comes amid a tough period for edtech industry, with Byju's facing insolvency & others exploring ways to revive biz

Capital, comes amid a challenging period for the edtech industry, with companies like Byju's facing insolvency proceedings and others exploring offline strategies to revive their businesses.

The funds will be deployed to scale operations, with a focus on consolidation in the education market. Even after

the fund-raise, founders Alakh Pandey and Prateek Maheshwari have retained an 85% equity share in the company.

Maheshwari expressed confidence in the company's growth, said, "This comes on the back of strong sustainable year-on-year growth — FY25 is going to be the year of largest absolute ebitda profitability for the PW Group. There are no good or bad markets but only good or bad stories — and ours is a great impact story."

Physics Wallah has grown from a YouTube channel launched in 2014 to a company with over 55 lakh paid

students. It was founded in 2020. The company is creating a hybrid education ecosystem by setting up offline and hybrid centres in 105 cities across India, offering Gurukulam schools, test preparation, skilling, higher education, and study abroad programmes on its platform.

To support its growth and new initiatives, Physics Wallah plans to hire an additional 1,000 employees across marketing, sales, technology, and business development domains. The company's workforce currently stands at around 1,500.



₹2.5/km as rental for battery

MG slashes Comet's price by ₹2L to ₹5L with battery rental model

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New Delhi: The price war is escalating in electric vehicles market, with JSW MG Motor setting an aggressive Rs 5 lakh (ex-showroom-Delhi) entry threshold for the zero-emission mobility segment.

Led by its battery rental model where customers only pay for the vehicle with running cost being charged on a per km battery usage basis, the Comet mini electric is now available for an entry price of Rs 5 lakh, which is Rs 2 lakh lower than its current price. MG said that those opting for the Comet's new pri-

ce is priced at Rs 8 lakh.

"We believe that this unique initiative of giving Battery-as-a-Service (BaaS) will boost the adoption of zero-emission cars in the country. We have created a platform for easy ownership, making our EVs more accessible than ever," Sattinder Singh Bajwa, chief commercial officer of JSW MG Motor, said. The company had started the battery rental model with the launch of the Windsor electric SUV that carries an entry price of Rs 10 lakh, with a charge of Rs 3.5 per km of run. The Comet EV promises a range of 230 kms on a single charge.

SNAPSHOTS

Eng to play in
Multan, Pindi

Multan and Rawalpindi will be the venues for three-Test series between Pakistan and England, the Pakistan Cricket Board announced on Friday. While Multan will host the first two Tests of the series with the opening game scheduled for Oct 7-11, followed by second one from Oct 15-19, the final Test will be held in Rawalpindi from Oct 24-28. PTI

Swiatek withdraws
from China Open:

World No. 1 Iga Swiatek has pulled out of the China Open for personal reasons, the five-time Grand Slam champion said on Friday. "I'm very sorry as I had an amazing time winning this tournament last year and was really looking forward to being back there," she said. REUTERS

Raducanu forced to
wait:

The Korea Open quarterfinal between Russian top seed Daria Kasatkina and former US Open champion Emma Raducanu was pushed back a day after play was washed out by heavy rain on Friday. Now it is likely to happen on Saturday. AFP

Entries for Harris, Giles
Shields open:

The entries for the inter-school cricket tournament - Harris Shield (boys U-16), Giles Shield (Boys U-14) and Manoramaben Apte Trophy (Girls U-16) - are open and can be submitted online till 6pm on Oct 10. TNN

ACTION TODAY

AUTO: Singapore F1 GP: 6.30pm (Fancode)
BADMINTON: China Open: 7.30am & 2.30pm (JioCinema)
CHESS: Olympiad: 6.30pm (chessolympiad2024fide; Youtube)
CRICKET: India vs Bangladesh 1st Test Day 3, 9.30am (JioCinema); Duleep Trophy: Day 2, 9.30am (JioCinema); SL vs NZ 1st Test 10am (Sony); Eng vs Aus 2nd ODI 3.30pm (Sony)
FOOTBALL: ISL: 5pm & 7.30pm (JioCinema); EPL: 5pm, 7.30am & 10pm (Star)
TENNIS: Laver Cup: 4pm & 10pm (Sony Sports)

Vantika saves the day for India

Scores Crucial Win
After Vaishali's Loss
On Top Board, Helps
Team Hold USA

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The top seeded India women slipped again. Though Vantika Agrawal's face-saving win against Irina Krush of USA in a topsy-turvy game helped India hold seventh seeds USA to a 2-2 draw, they have to win the last two rounds to keep the aspirations of gold medal alive. That appears to be a huge task at the moment considering Team India's slipping form in the last two rounds after having taking sole lead.

The men are in a comparatively better position because even a win or draw could clinch the issue for them.

On a day of grudge matchups for India - the women had lost to USA in the last Olympiad and men were held by Uzbekistan in the penultimate round then - Vaishali lost on the top board and the men were about to make it 2-2 with Arjun's game still unfinished at the time of going to press.

Though R Praggnanandhaa is playing below-par by his high standards, he can take credit for India's satisfactory show against the defending champions and fourth seeds. Pragg, playing with black pieces, came up with effective answers against Javokhir Sindarov's prepared line in the Paulsen attack on



ALL CONCENTRATION: Vantika Agrawal sizes up the board during the game against Alice Lee in the ninth round of Chess Olympiad

the second board for a much-valued draw after 36 moves. However, when pushed to the top board after resting off-colour Harika, Pragg's sister GM R Vaishali (2498) failed to rise to the occasion and lost to Gulrukhbegim Tokhirjonova (Elo 2380) in the women's section. After Divya Deshmukh and Tania Sachdev's drawn games, followed by Vaishali's defeat, Vantika Agrawal held her nerve for an invaluable win with black pieces against Alice Lee and levelled the tie.

I expected them to try to get a risk-free game. But I did not expect them to force a draw. It seemed like a defensive strategy to use white for a draw." -Vidit Gujrathi | TEAM INDIA

Men locked in tense tussle

In the men's clash, D Gukesh-Nodirbek Abdusattorov and Jakhongir Vakhidov-Vidit Gujrathi match-ups ended in a draw. "Do we sense the evil hand of Big Vlad," Anand asked jokingly about Sindarov's position against Pragg. Big Vlad - Russia's Vladimir Kramnik - is captaining Uzbekistan. Russia as a team is

banned due to the country's invasion of Ukraine. Kramnik was quite active in the match against India. The brain behind the decision to rest Nodirbek Yakkubov (Elo 2666) from the second board seemed to be his. For Yakkubov's replacement, Jakhongir Vakhidov (2571), is deemed as a weaker player and Indians were taken by surprise. The stunner of the day was provided by Vladimir Fedoseev of Slovenia who defeated Norway's world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen with black. The last position was crazy (rook, pawn vs rook and two pawns) with all black pieces on white's half of the board and vice-versa.

Women lose tempo
as Harika struggles

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Greatest strength can also be the greatest short-coming and vice-versa. Indian women's team is finding that out in a hard way as far as D Harika's performance at the ongoing Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary is concerned.

Harika, 33, has scored only three points in seven games, having suffered three defeats. Besides, she was winless in the last four rounds. Still, it was a bit of a surprise that she was missing the ninth round clash

against the USA on Friday. Harika is not even among the top15 performers (in terms of rating performance) on the top board in the tournament. While the girls on the top board from Poland, China, Armenia and Switzerland have come up with an Elo performance of 2500-plus, Harika is at 2364.

Harika's teammates, far less experienced players Divya Deshmukh (7/8) and Vantika Agrawal (5/6), have punched above their weight on their debut with the 'A' team. In the process, they have remained undefeated.

The youth is generally fearless, the veterans are not.

It cannot be good for the morale of the team and the youngsters that the top two players of the team (the second being R Vaishali) are not performing up to the mark. Harika, time and again, has displayed her vulnerability in tense situations - multiple failures to win knockout World Cup despite being in better positions in many of the games is a case in point.

Harika is seen as a stable player and an asset on the top board. After all, she is among the only

three Indian women having a GM title. However, there was always a question mark about her ability to come up with an impressive show in the Swiss League tournaments - the Olympiad is played in this format.

In the absence of women-only Swiss League tournaments, Harika played the Sharjah Masters but quit after six of nine rounds after losing three and drawing three games against men. Harika was advised to rest before the last round of the last Olympiad. India lost to the USA and the gold slipped away from them.

YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS!

Getty Images



YESTERDAY, ONCE MORE: Yannick Noah (from left), Bjorn Borg, captain of Team Europe, Roger Federer and John McEnroe, captain of Team World, during the opening night gala of the 2024 Laver Cup at WECC in Berlin on Thursday. Team World took the lead when Francisco Cerundolo defeated Casper Ruud of Team Europe 6-4, 6-4 in the day's first singles. But Stefanos Tsitsipas restored parity for Europe with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Thanasi Kokkinakis

Chess Olympiad
trophy goes missing

Chennai: An "embarrassed" All India Chess Federation (AICF) has filed a police complaint after a Chess Olympiad trophy its team won in the last edition of the tournament at home went missing from its office, forcing the sports body to arrange for a replica of the prized possession and tender an apology.

It is a rolling trophy, and the incident came at a time when the Indian men's team is closing in on the gold medal in the ongoing 45th edition of

the Olympiad at Budapest.

AICF sources confirmed that the Gaprindashvili Trophy, given to the team with the best overall performance across open and women's divisions, has gone missing. India was the last holder of the trophy, having won it here in 2022.

AICF vice-president Anil Kumar Raizada told PTI that the trophy has been missing for over a month and it came, after the Fide had asked for the trophy to be brought to Budapest. PTI

Dubois, Joshua primed for Wembley showdown

London: Britain's Anthony Joshua and Daniel Dubois left the hype to their promoters as they met in a low-key press conference ahead of Saturday's IBF world heavyweight title fight at Wembley Stadium.

The job of selling the fight was already done, with a British post-World War 2 record crowd of 96,000 expected to attend. Convincing fight fans that Joshua would command comparisons with Muhammad Ali, Lennox Lewis, Evander Holyfield and Vitali Klitschko if he were to become a three-times heavyweight champion might be a taller order.

Neither boxer is prone to trash talk, with Dubois no great conversa-



READY TO RUMBLE: Anthony Joshua (left) and Daniel Dubois face off during a press conference in London

tionalist either, and both big men kept things simple in the Great Hall of central London's historic Guildhall

on Thursday. "I need to retain it and hold onto it. So yes, it's a great thing to have, but now I need to legitimize myself by winning this fight. So now I'm ready to go to war. I'm ready for a fight," said Dubois, who has won 21 of his 23 pro bouts. "It's a resurrection story of my career," added the 27-year-old, who won the interim belt in June and is technically the defending IBF champion after Ukraine's Oleksandr Usyk shed the title.

Usyk, who fights Britain's Tyson Fury in a Dec. 21 rematch in Saudi Arabia for the WBC, WBA and WBO belts, has beaten Joshua twice and Dubois once. "I'm in supreme condition, both physically and also men-

tally. So yeah, it's good to be back. And I've been watching some of the old fights as well, just adding some fuel to the fire," said Joshua, with 28 wins from 31 fights. "Ready to rumble - reminding myself what I can do, what I'm capable of," added the 34-year-old, who lost to Usyk at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium in September 2021 and then in Jeddah in August 2022.

Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn had told Sky Sports television a day earlier that his man wanted to win "more than any fight he has ever been involved with." "He will always talk about performance matters, not legacy and not the belts. I'm not buying that this time," he added. REUTERS

Malvika's run ends in quarters

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Nagpur: Malvika Bansod's remarkable journey in the China Open Super 1,000 badminton tournament ended in the quarterfinals after the promising Nagpur shuttle went down against two-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi on Friday.

Despite Malvika's positive start against Japan's fourth-seeded opponent, the 43rd-ranked Indian struggled to maintain her momentum after the world No.5 Yamagu-

chi reeled off six consecutive points midway through the first game. Malvika ultimately lost the first game 21-10.

Undeterred, Malvika exhibited tremendous grit and determination in the second game, engaging in a fierce battle that saw her making a late comeback with four straight points and bringing the scores close at 15-19.

However, the seasoned Yamaguchi demonstrated her tactical acumen, varying her strokes to turn the tide in her favour, ultimately clinching the game 21-16.

Verstappen fined for
using swear word

Singapore: Formula 1 champion Max Verstappen was punished Friday for swearing in a news conference in which he argued against greater restrictions on drivers swearing. Stewards ruling for the sport's governing body, the FIA, decided Verstappen should "accomplish some work of public interest." Exactly what that involves is to be agreed with the FIA.

FORMULA ONE

Speaking ahead of Sunday's Singapore Grand Prix, Verstappen used an expletive Thursday to describe his car's performance in qualifying at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix the week before.

The stewards' ruling Friday said the Dutch driver argued the word was "ordinary in speech as he learned it, English not being his native language." The stewards said that Verstappen was a role model and should be "mindful when speaking in public forums". At the same news conference, Verstappen argued against "putting bans on drivers" for swearing. He said airing drivers' radio messages during races if they included swearing was a question for broadcasters.

"In other sports you don't run around with a mic at-



Max Verstappen's language was not up to the mark during the press conference

tached to you. I think a lot of people say a lot of bad things when they are full of adrenaline in other sports, it just doesn't get picked up," he said.

Hamilton says comments
have racial elements

Lewis Hamilton said Thursday there was a "racial element" to FIA president Mohammed Ben Sulayem's recent comments regarding drivers swearing during Formula 1 races. In an interview with motorsport.com, Ben Sulayem said "we have to differentiate between our sport - motorsport - and rap music" when referring to drivers having a responsibility to stop swearing on the radio.

"We're not rappers, you know," Ben Sulayem said.

"If you think about it, most rappers are Black. So it says, 'We are not like them.' So I think those are the wrong choice of words and there is a racial element there." AGENCIES

Dhanush bags bronze
in junior world meet

Leon: Indian lifter Loganathan Dhanush on Friday claimed the bronze medal in the 55 kg weight category at the IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships. This achievement marks the first-ever medal

WEIGHTLIFTING

for an Indian male athlete in the Junior event.

The 17-year-old lifted a total of 231 kg, also securing a bronze in the snatch event with 107 kg. Interestingly, Dhanush competed in Group B, and sat through the Group A session.

The lifters with the highest entry weights are placed in Group A, followed by B and so on. "I got more and more nervous as it went on, but I never thought I would win a medal," Dhanush told IWF. He finished 13th in the clean and jerk section with a best effort of 124kg.

K. Duong of Vietnam took the gold with a total of 253 kg, while Tomari Kotaro of Japan earned silver with 247 kg. In women's competition, Payal finished 6th in the 45 kg weight category with a total lift of 150 kg. A total of nine Indian athletes are participating in the event. PTI

SEIZING THE
SPOTLIGHT

Paris: Shortly after lighting up the European Championship, two of the world's most exciting young players shone on club football's biggest stage. With mixed fortunes, however.

Teenager Lamine Yamal's goal couldn't prevent 10-man Barcelona from falling to a 2-1 defeat at Monaco on Thursday in the Champions League - ending the Spanish club's perfect start to the season. Meanwhile, it took Florian Wirtz less than five minutes to score his first Champions League goal on his debut in Europe's elite club competition. Wirtz also netted another as Bayer Leverkusen romped to a 4-0 win at Feyenoord.

"I was really looking forward to this game for the last few days already, and that's how I approached the game too. I think, however, it was like that for everyone," Wirtz said. "I didn't count on finishing with two goals, but I had two chances and I just used them both. And then you can just build on that and I can just try to take my chances in every game."

Leverkusen lost in the Europa League final in May, their only defeat in a remarkable season that saw them win the Bundesliga and German Cup.

Atalanta, who beat Leverkusen four months ago, had a penalty saved in a 0-0 draw with Arsenal at home.

Lamal boasts a number of scoring milestones for Barcelona and for Spain and became the youngest-ever scorer at the European Championship in the summer on the way to helping Spain win the tournament. But his first Champions League goal saw him become the second youngest goalscorer in the competition, behind teammate Ansu Fati, who was 28 days younger when he netted his first goal in December 2019. AP

Young stars Yamal and Wirtz
sparkle but with mixed results

Picture: Reuters



Of course I'm happy about the award & my two goals. But what's more important is that we won as a team. It was also very special for me to finally play in the Champions League." - Florian Wirtz

17y 68d At 17 years and 68 days, Lamine Yamal became the second youngest player ever to score in the Champions League. Yamal is just 4 weeks older than the record holder, his Barcelona teammate Ansu Fati.

RESULTS

Red Star Belgrade 1 lost to
Milson 86) Benfica 2
(Akturkoglu 9, Kokcu 29);
Feyenoord 0 lost to Bayer
Leverkusen 4 (Wirtz 5, 36,

Grimaldo 30, Wellenreuther
44-og); Atalanta 0 drew
with Arsenal 0; Atletico
Madrid 2 (Griezmann 28,
Gimenez 90) bt RB Leipzig
1 (Sesko 4);

Monaco 2 (Aklouchou 16,
Ilenikhena 71) bt Barcelona
1 (Yamal 28); Brest 2 bt
(Magnetti 23, Sima 56)
Sturm Graz 1 (Fernandes
(45+1-og)

'Winning has become an addiction at Manchester City'

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Shaun Wright-Phillips has a favourite adage for life: If you fall from the bike, you get up and ride again. Honest in observations, chipping in with wisecracks, the former winger took time out from his Manchester City Trophy tour to talk to TOI. Excerpts...

Man City during your time and the Man City
of today. Tell us about the turnaround.

It happened gradually. Man City, in my first spell was a sleeping giant. It just didn't have the same backing as the other top clubs. When I rejoined in 2008, the take-over had happened. The new owner and his team have done a magnificent job. I think the biggest point is they didn't just win that first trophy and kind of sit back. It became an addiction.

How was the atmosphere in the blue side of

Manchester when you were playing, and the club wasn't winning enough?

Quite like a roller-coaster ride. Sometimes we'd blow teams out and other times we'd play well and lose. But to beat Alex Ferguson's Man United was difficult. United had that power. When you have the likes of Paul Scholes, David Beckham, Andy Cole, Roy Keane, Wayne Rooney, Michael Owen, you generate formidable power. We couldn't financially get there.

Now we're at par. But now United spend more money than us and it's just not working. We're here to stay. To win four Premier Leagues in a row, it is a summit that no one has ever scaled. In so many ways, United have kind of lost their way. I think if you look at Old Trafford, that was a place everybody was scared to

go to. Now, not so much. And then things like the leaky roof, that's not Old Trafford. It was called a theatre of dreams for a reason. They need to get back there, but it isn't a quick fix.

Can Guardiola be the new Ferguson?

No, I don't think he can. I think Alex Ferguson was a phenomenal manager and a lovely human being, and made football seem completely different during his time. He made that team. He didn't start well but look where he ended up. Then Arsene Wenger comes and changes football completely again, with counter-attacking fast breaks. I remember playing at Highbury and it would take Arsenal three passes to put the ball in the back of the net. And now you've got Pep, who is completely different in his own right. He has influenced football, not just the Premier League, down to the grassroots. Now everybody wants to play out from the back.

You go and watch Sunday league football. Goalkeepers are engaging in passes that didn't exist before. They've all changed and brought something unbelievable to the world of football.

Currently, the fight for European supremacy is between Man City and Real Madrid. Why do Real win more trophies?

Real Madrid isn't the Real that I've seen, say, last seven or eight years ago. (Now) It's a completely different way of playing. Carlo Ancelotti knows how to win football matches. And if you watch them against us in the Champions League last year, Real had individual moments of brilliance. They just keep the ball away from their goal and score when they have a chance. That's how they play - they can be free in the blink of an eye. That is Real Madrid for you. And that's why they win trophies. They don't need to play well to win. They just need a split second of magic, and they have magic all over the pitch.



WRIGHT-PHILLIPS

THOUSANDS
TURN UP AT
FUNERAL OF
SCHILLACIPUNJAB HAND
ODISHA SECOND
STRAIGHT LOSS

Luka Majcen was not there on the field on Friday.

But it was the Slovenian's inspirational presence off the field that was more than enough for Punjab FC to notch up their second win on the trot at the cost of Odisha FC, who suffered their second straight defeat of this Indian Super League season, reports Sourav M.

In the absence of their pivotal captain-forward through a fractured jaw, young Keralaite forwards Nihal Sudheesh (28') and Leon Augustine (89') rose to the occasion to score two clinical goals, as the home side won 2-1 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi. An unfortunate own goal by Punjab goalkeeper Ravi Kumar, following a snap shot by Hugo Boumous, reduced the deficit for the visitors six minutes into second-half added time.

Guardiola tells players to lead
change over workload

London: Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola on Friday urged players to lead the fight for change in the heated debate over the dangers posed by an increased fixture schedule as Bayern Munich manager Vincent Kompany demanded a cap on games. City midfielder Rodri recently suggested players would consider going on strike in a bid to halt the dramatic rise in matches crammed into an already hectic calendar.

"I'm pretty sure that if something is going to change, it must come from the players," he said. "They are the only ones who can change something about the organisation, to take a voice." AFP

Palermo: Thousands of people turned up for the funeral of Italian World Cup hero Salvatore "Totò" Schillaci on Friday. Schillaci died on Wednesday at the age of 59 following a battle with colon cancer. The Italy striker was top scorer at the 1990 World Cup that his country hosted and epitomized a player exceeding expectations on football's biggest stage.

The funeral took place at the main cathedral in Palermo. Schillaci never played for the Sicilian team but he was born and raised in the city, where he also set up a football youth academy after moving back when he retired.

Schillaci's coffin was decorated with an Italy jersey and a Palermo one, as well as with scarves of the various teams he played for - Messina, Juventus and Inter Milan. Schillaci had never scored for Italy before the 1990 World Cup, having previously only played once for the national team. AP



FORMER INDIA COACH VIKRAM RATHOUR JOINS RAJASTHAN ROYALS AS BATTING COACH

WINGER OUSMANE DEMBELE KEEPS GETTING BETTER, SAYS PSG BOSS LUIS ENRIQUE



INDIA EXTEND DOMINANCE

Bumrah & Co. Prove Too Hot To Handle For Bangladesh Batters Who Were Skittled For 149 In 1st Innings; Hosts End Day Two At 81/3 To Take 308-Run Lead And Tighten Their Grip

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Chennai: Midway through the second session at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, a young crop of Bangladeshi journalists got busy in a discussion about the nearest tourist spots around Chennai.

Much like the captain of the Bangladesh team, Najmul Hossain Shanto, this group of scribes had thought, leading into the Test, that Bangladesh could stretch India to five days. By the end of Friday's action in Chennai, it was crystal clear that post lunch on Sunday, they are in for a mini-vacation before the Kanpur Test.

The hint of fight that the Bangladeshi pacers showed on Thursday slowly dissipated into an abject capitulation of the batting unit against an Indian attack which didn't give an inch.

The class of Jasprit Bumrah (4/50) has been way too much to handle for even the best batters in world cricket in recent times, and the brittle Bangladeshi batting lineup merely added a footnote to the long list.

After being bowled out for 149 in their first innings, Bangladesh conceded a lead of 227, which left fans in Chennai with tickets for Saturday's play ecstatic. The party mood was sullied just a bit late in the day by the back-to-back fail-

Friday's instance was the fourth time that all 10 wickets in an innings claimed by India came through catches. The previous three occasions being vs New Zealand at Hyderabad in 1988-89; vs Australia at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, in 2000-01 and vs England at Chennai in 2020-21.

ures of Rohit Sharma (5) and Virat Kohli (17). Kohli, though, had got an inside edge as he missed a flick off off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz to be adjudged leg-before, but strangely he didn't ask for a referral.

At stumps, entertainers Rishabh Pant (12 batting) and Shubman Gill (33 batting) were at the crease, the lead already going to 308 with seven wickets still in play.

While the first half of the morning session didn't go as planned for India with Ravindra Jadeja (86) missing out on a deserved century, the rest of the day was a master-versus- novice mismatch.

That Bumrah would be dangerous was a foregone conclusion, what made it a difficult watch for those who were looking forward to some competition was the lack of application of the Bangladeshi batters.

The procession started in the first session itself when left-hander Shadman Islam shouldered arms to Bumrah bowling around the wicket and was bowled. The bounce and the movement that Bumrah generated from good length accounted for Mushfiqur Rahim, who edged one to slip while the tail was merely cannon fodder.

Akash Deep leaves an impression

While Bumrah was doing what he usually does, it was Bengal pacer Akash Deep's spell that left a mark. It's true that left-handers Zakir Hasan

LEADING FROM FRONT: Jasprit Bumrah took 4/50 as India ran through Bangladesh batting lineup



"We have to put up a good score in the second innings. The pitch is very good for batting, but there is something in it for fast bowlers. If fast bowlers bend their back, they can get wickets."

—Ravindra Jadeja | ON INDIA'S TASK ON DAY 3

and Mominul Haque aren't exactly big-league material, but Akash Deep hit the right length from the word go.

The 27-year-old—who is very much in the reckoning for a berth in the Test squad for the Australia series—got the ball to cut back enough and to dismiss Mominul and Zakir as Bangladesh were reduced to 22-3 before lunch.

Bangladeshi paceman Taskin Ahmed acknowledged that the batting left a lot to be desired. But he felt that the SG ball, too, played its part in the Bangladesh capitulation.

"The Indian players are used to playing with the SG ball. It does quite a bit in the first 10 overs and we probably were unable to adapt. A better performance was expected from our batters," Taskin said.

With the back of the Bangladesh batting well and truly broken in the first session itself, it was on Litton Das and Shakib Al Hasan to stage a comeback. Both have the experience of playing in India and for a while, the duo seemed to give them a bit of hope. But it's their tendency to sweep a little too much against spinners which brought about their downfall.

Jadeja extracted a bit of extra bounce from the red-soil track and Litton produced a top-edge that was taken at deep fine-leg. It was expected that Shakib would look to grind, but his untimely reverse-sweep jumped off the boot into Pant's gloves, making it a walk in the park for India.

INDIAN PACERS WITH 400-PLUS INTERNATIONAL WICKETS

Bowler	M	W	Ave	BB	5WI	10WM	SR
Kapil Dev	356	687	28.83	9/83	24	2	56.6
Zaheer Khan	303	597	31.48	7/87	12	1	48.4
Javagal Srinath	296	551	29.11	8/86	13	1	49
Mohammed Shami	188	448	26.06	7/57	11	0	37.8
Ishant Sharma	199	434	32.35	7/74	11	1	53.3
Jasprit Bumrah	196	401	21.01	6/19	12	0	33.2

After missing out on century, Jadeja targets 300 Test wickets

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Chennai: Amid the euphoria of Ravichandran Ashwin's century, a performance that went slightly under the radar was that of Ravindra Jadeja's. Had the 35-year-old completed his fifth Test century on Friday morning, the spotlight would have been on him, but the new ball and morning dampness got the better of his defence as he fell 14 short of the milestone.

But Jadeja has an ability to take small disappointments in his stride. "Yes, I got out today, but that's part and parcel of the game," Jadeja said with a smile after dismissing the two Bangladesh batters Litton Das and Shakib Al Hasan who looked set in the middle.

The Chennai Super Kings player, who calls the MA Chidambaram Stadium his home, is four short of the 300-wicket mark, a significant milestone for any bowler. "Yes it's a good opportunity for me to get there tomorrow," Jadeja said.

India have won the last 17 Test series at home and it's the Ashwin-Jadeja combo that has played a massive role in the success. While they have won numerous Test matches with the ball, this Chennai Test will probably be remembered for their 199-run batting partnership that destroyed Bangladesh in one-and-a-half sessions. "Jaddu is one cricketer who has evolved so nicely. I always envy him. I have made that amply clear. He is so gifted and talented and has found ways to maximize his potential," Ashwin said.

When they bowl together,

Ashwin is the one who experiments while Jadeja's strength is to keep repeating the same thing for hours. "He keeps it really simple and can repeat it day in, day out. He is just an exceptional cricketer," the 516-wicket man said.

The secret of the Ashwin-Jadeja combo is the fact that they both enjoy each other's success, both with the bat and the ball. Ashwin had said on Thursday how Jadeja helped him as he moved towards his century, but Jadeja feels "Ashwin doesn't need any advice".

"I was just talking to him that we are not going to make errors because the wicket was good and we were batting well. Well played to him, a brilliant knock at his home ground," Jadeja said.

Both are towards the back-end of their careers and have gone through different phases. As Jadeja became India's No. 1 spinner abroad, Ashwin had to come to terms with the fact that it's the left-hander's batting that gave him the advantage.

Ashwin, though, has more Test centuries than Jadeja, but a much-evolved Chennai man acknowledged that he has learnt a lot from his colleague's batting.

"Watching him bat over the last couple of years has given me insight on how I can be better. Both of us have grown together, and have done some special things," Ashwin said.

For the duo, the MA Chidambaram Stadium pitch over the weekend will be a perfect stage to make their Chennai fans happy, probably for one last time in Test cricket.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA 1ST INNINGS (overnight 339/6): Ravindra Jadeja c Das b Ahmed 86, R Ashwin c Shanto b Ahmed 113, Akash Deep c Shanto b Ahmed 17, Jasprit Bumrah c Hasan b Mahmud 7, Mohammed Siraj not out 0; **Extras:** (B18, LB7, NB4, W1) 30; **Total:** (all out in 91.2 overs) 376; **FoW:** 343-7, 367-8, 374-9; **Bowling:** Taskin Ahmed 21-4-55-3, Hasan Mahmud 22-2-4-83-5, Nahid Rana 18-2-82-1, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 21-2-77-1, Shakib Al Hasan 8-0-50-0, Mominul Haque 1-0-4-0

BANGLADESH 1ST INNINGS: Shadman Islam b Bumrah 2, Zakir Hasan b Akash Deep 3, Najmul Hossain Shanto c Kohli b Siraj 20, Mominul Haque b Akash Deep 0, Mushfiqur Rahim c Rahul b Bumrah 8, Shakib Al Hasan c Pant b Jadeja 32, Litton Das c sub (Jurel) b

Jadeja 22, Mehidy Hasan Miraz not out 27, Hasan Mahmud c Kohli b Bumrah 9, Taskin Ahmed b Bumrah 11, Nahid Rana b Siraj 11; **Extras:** (LB2, NB2) 4; **Total:** (all out in 47.1 overs) 149; **FoW:** 2-1, 22-2, 22-3, 36-4, 40-5, 91-6, 92-7, 112-8, 130-9; **Bowling:** Jasprit Bumrah 11-1-50-4, Mohammed Siraj 10.1-1-30-2, Akash Deep 5-0-19-2, R Ashwin 13-4-29-0, Ravindra Jadeja 8-2-19-2

INDIA 2ND INNINGS: Yashasvi Jaiswal c Das b Rana 10, Rohit Sharma c Hasan b Ahmed 5, Shubman Gill batting 33, Virat Kohli lbw b Miraz 17, Rishabh Pant batting 12; **Extras:** (LB4) 4; **Total:** (for three wickets in 23 overs) 81; **FoW:** 15-1, 28-2, 67-3; **Bowling:** Taskin Ahmed 3-0-17-1, Hasan Mahmud 5-1-12-0, Nahid Rana 3-0-12-1, Shakib Al Hasan 6-0-20-0, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 6-0-16-1

1094
Runs scored by opener Yashasvi Jaiswal at an average of 64.35, including three hundreds and five fifties, in 18 innings is the most by an Indian player and the fourth highest by a batter in the first 10 Tests behind Don Bradman (1,446), Everton Weekes (1,125) and George Headley (1,102).



Stats: Rajesh Kumar

5/83
Hasan Mahmud took his second five-wicket haul in Tests. Australia's James Pattinson was the last visiting pacer to record a five-wicket haul at Chepauk—5/96 in 2013.



For the first time in a day's play at Chepauk, Chennai, 17 wickets fell in a Test match.

ALL-ROUND IMPACT: Ravindra Jadeja (centre) celebrates after taking the wicket of Shakib Al Hasan on Friday. He finished with figures of 2/19 besides scoring 86 runs with the bat



MOST WICKETS BY LEFT-ARM SPINNERS IN TESTS

Player	M	Wkts	BB	Ave	ER	SR	5w	10w
Rangana Herath (Sri Lanka)	93	433	9/127	28.07	2.80	60	34	9
Daniel Vettori (New Zealand)	113	362	7/87	34.36	2.59	79.5	20	3
Derek Underwood (England)	86	297	8/51	25.83	2.10	73.6	17	6
Ravindra Jadeja (India)	73	296	7/42	24.03	2.47	58.3	13	2
Bishen Singh Bedi (India)	67	266	7/98	28.71	2.14	80.3	14	1

'Want to play cricket with a smile on face'

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Chennai: Ravichandran Ashwin may be at the fan end of his glorious Test career but the veteran allrounder is still operating at the top of his game.

The 38-year-old has become a bigger force than the one he was a few years ago, not only with his off-spinning guile but his much-improved batsmanship. His fighting yet aggressive ton in the first innings of the opening Test against Bangladesh was further proof that Ashwin is among the top echelon of players in the longest format. So how does he continue to remain at the elite level and excel on the international stage? Ashwin came up with a crisp response.

"I used to be critical (about myself). I had put a lot of pressure on myself and people had put pressure on me. I used to be happy about it. But it is not like that anymore," said Ashwin, whose 113 placed India on top and delighted the home crowd.

"The most important thing for me is to enjoy my cricket. I want to play cricket with a smile on my face. Four or five years ago, I had promised myself that I will not respond to anyone. I had promised myself that I will play for my happiness. I have been maintaining that promise till now," added Ashwin, one of the driving forces behind India's near-invincible home record in Tests over the last 10 years or so.

Ashwin has "embraced" the tough challenges that have come his way. When he walked out to bat on the opening day, India were in the doldrums against a Bangladeshi side brimming with confidence. He took



the task head-on and ensured the visitors had no avenue to mount more pressure. "As a cricketer, the pride is in the performance. You want to win and you play the game for that. I do not enjoy pressure, there is no doubt about it," said Ashwin.

"That is one of the reasons I love playing this sport. It gives you opportunities to respond when you are pushed to a corner. For me, it is about being in the present and using the experience from the past to negotiate hard situations."

Ashwin, a keen learner, is constantly striving for "progress" and pursuing excellence even though age is not on his side. He is doing all of it for the sake of "happiness". "You want to be good and you want to excel. You feel happy at the end of the day (when you perform). Every time I do well, I am in a good, happy state of mind. That is why you get on this journey. You want to excel on the global stage. People are watching you and you feel happy about it."

Easwaran scores ton, Surya disappoints

Anantapur: Sanju Samson completed his 11th first-class hundred before Arshdeep Singh showed his wares with the semi-new ball as India D held sway over India B on the second day. India D scored 349 in 87.3 overs in their first innings while India B were not very comfortably placed at 210/6 when stumps were drawn despite skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran's (116) second hundred of the tournament.

The hundred happens to be Easwaran's 25th in first-class cricket. Suryakumar Yadav, the India T20 captain, who missed the first couple of rounds due to finger injury, didn't last long, managing only five before he was dismissed by the opposition team's best bowler Arshdeep (3/30 in 12 overs).

Samson, who smashed his way to an unbeaten 89 on the opening day, knocked off the required 11 runs as his 106 off 101 deliveries comprised 12 boundaries and three huge sixes. **Brief Scores:** India D 349 in 87.3 overs (Sanju Samson 106, Navdeep Saini 5/74) vs India B 210/6 in 56 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 116, Washington



TOP SHOT: India B skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran scored his second hundred of the tournament

Sundar 39 batting, Arshdeep Singh 3/30.

Avesh, Aaqib give India A upper hand

Pacer Avesh Khan sparked with a gritty unbeaten half-century before taking the prized scalp of Ishan Kishan as India A mounted a strong challenge against India C on Day Two of the Duleep Trophy final-round match here on Friday. The 27-year-old Avesh hammered five fours and four sixes in an unbeaten 68-ball 51 while batting at No. 9, propelling India A to 297.

Chahal shines with successive five-wkt haul for Northants in County Championship

Northampton: Indian leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal worked his magic to grab five wickets in his second successive match as Northamptonshire resisted a Leicestershire fight-back to secure a nine-wicket win in the English County Championship.

Following up on his 4/82 in the first innings, Chahal claimed 5/134—a nine-wicket match haul—as Northants bowled out Leicestershire for 316 to set an easy target of 137 in the Division Two County Championship here on Thursday. Northants romped home in 30.3 overs, losing just the wicket of Gus Miller (11).

Skipper Luke Procter (68 not out) and George Bartlett (54 not out) sealed the chase. **F11**

Lanka seize control against NZ

Galle: Dinesh Chandimal and Dimuth Karunaratne forged a 147-run partnership to propel hosts Sri Lanka to a lead of 202 on Day Three of the first Test against New Zealand on Friday.

Sri Lanka were 237-4 at stumps here on Friday with Angelo Mathews and Dhananjaya de Silva, both batting on 34, to resume in the morning.

Karunaratne (83) was on song, punishing loose deliveries and forcing New Zealand to spread the field to protect the boundaries. Chandimal (61) was more conservative.

"When you play in Galle there is a way I play, and I back that style," Karunaratne said. "Rather than trying to defend, the best way forward is sweeps and reverse sweeps. In the fourth in-



nings, 300 or 350 is a tough target. That's what we want to get to feel safe."

Ajaz Patel broke the deadlock after tea with a ball that spun sharply from outside the rough, catching off-guard the left-handed Karunaratne when the ball snuck

past his attempted sweep. Chandimal was sent back in the next over by rookie pacer William O'Rourke, who tempted him into a flick that went straight into the hands of Tom Latham at leg gully.

The 23-year-old O'Rourke had started strong by dismissing Pathum Nissanka in his second over when the batsman edged a bouncer to a diving Tim Southee at second slip.

His third wicket of the day came courtesy of Kamindu Mendis, who made a century in the first innings but could only manage 13 in the second. **Brief Scores:** SL 305 & 237/4 (Karunaratne 83, Chandimal 61, Dhananjaya 34*, Mathews 34*; O'Rourke 3-37) lead NZ 340 (Latham 70, Mitchell 57; Jayasuriya 4-136) by 202 runs.

HEAD'S CAREER-BEST 154 FASHIONS AUSTRALIA'S CHASE OF 316 VS ENG



TAKE THAT: Opener Travis Head notched up his sixth ODI hundred on Thursday

Nottingham: Travis Head was at his belligerent best in smashing a career-best 154 not out to underpin Australia's chase of 316 to win the first One-Day International against England on Thursday and gain a 13th straight victory in the 50-over format.

It was the left-handed opener's sixth ODI century—and his first since a similarly brutal knock of 137 in Australia's victory over India in the World Cup final 10 months ago.

The tourists needed a big innings from someone after Ben Duckett hit 95 in England's 315 all out at Trent Bridge, a ground known for being a batter's paradise with short boundaries.

England would have hoped for more after being 211-2 after 32 overs, only for Australia's spinners—including part-time slow bowler Marnus Labuschagne (3-39)—to slow down the run rate and take nine wickets in total, many at crucial times. England's final seven wickets fell for 83 runs, with Head even getting involved with two of the wickets.

Head then let rip with the bat, hitting 20 fours and five sixes as Australia stroled to 317-3 and a seven-wicket victory with six overs remaining. **Brief Scores:** England 315 (Duckett 95, Labuschagne 3-39, Zampa 3-49) lost to Australia 317/3 (Head 154*, Labuschagne 77*) by 7 wickets.

Tirupati laddu row rages, Centre seeks report

Suitable Action Will Be Taken, Says Nadda

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Union health minister Jagat Prakash Nadda on Friday said he had spoken to Andhra Pradesh chief minister N Chandrababu Naidu and sought a report on the Tirupati laddu issue.

Nadda said the matter would be examined by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and suitable action taken.

Naidu had earlier said animal fat was used for making Tirupati laddus during the previous Jagan Mohan Reddy government, triggering a massive political row.

TN co: Didn't supply adulterated ghee

Tamil Nadu-based AR Dairy Food Pvt Ltd has refuted charge that it supplied adulterated ghee to Thirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) following allegations that the ghee used to make Tirupati laddu contained animal fat.

Company officials said the ghee supplied by them was tested before despatch and tested by TTD too, adding they have sent all test reports to temple authorities after the row erupted. The company's contribution in the ghee supply is 0.1% of the ghee procured by TTD, an official said.

with YSRCP accusing the CM of indulging in "heinous allegations" for political gains and TDP circulating a lab report to back the claim. Nadda said, "I got to know about the issue through social media. I spoke to Chandrababu Naidu today and asked him to share the available report so that I can examine it. I will also speak to the state regulators and take their views."

"The report will be examined, and suitable action taken within the legal framework and regulations under the FSSAI. The FSSAI will examine it, give a report and then we will act," he added.

Union food minister Prahad Joshi has also called for an investigation into the allegation, which has sparked concern among devotees.



TIRUPATI LADDUS

A Lot Goes Into Making Of Lord Balaji's Mahaprasadam

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams prepares and distributes over 3.5 lakh laddus every day. The process of making and distributing the much in demand laddus is elaborate, with layers of checks at every step to ensure purity of the mahaprasadam is maintained. **Sandeep Raghavan reports**

HOW TIRUPATI LADDU GAINED PROMINENCE

'Srihari' or Tirupati laddu: One of the most venerated 'mahaprasadam' offered to devotees visiting the Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple at Tirumala

Aug 2, 1715: Practice of offering laddus to Lord Venkateswara Swamy at Tirumala temple begins

Spiritual prominence of laddu prasadam increased significantly over the centuries, and by the advent of the 21st century, the 'Tirupati laddu' emerged as an iconic mahaprasadam

2009: TTD obtained patent for Tirupati Laddus under the foodstuff category of geographical indication (GI) tag

₹500 crore: Annual revenue earned by TTD only through sale of laddus

What goes into making Tirupati laddu: Bengal gram, clarified butter (cow ghee), sugar, cashew nuts, raisins, almonds

IN THE KITCHEN



All laddus cooked within the temple kitchen called 'Potu'. TTD opened another boondi potu, next to the main temple complex a few years ago, to cater to additional demand

600 odd: Sri Vaishnavite Brahmins work in the temple kitchen, almost round the clock, to dish out large quantities of laddus

Top priority to ghee procurement as aroma and quality impacts overall quality, taste, texture and shelf life of laddus

Utmost significance given for procurement of raw material used for laddus

GHEE A KEY COMPONENT

16,000kg: Average daily requirement of pure cow ghee for preparation of 3.5 lakh laddus

In recent times, TTD called for tenders for procurement of 35.9 lakh kg ghee for a period of six months

85,000 litre: Capacity of ghee tank set up close to main temple complex

Modern flour mill that can grind up to 15,000kg Bengal gram

PROCUREMENT

TTD procures pure cow ghee with Agmark special grade only. Rates vary between ₹320 to ₹411 per litre

While the previous TTD administration spent anywhere between ₹320-₹410 per kg for ghee, the new administration headed by EO J Syamala Rao decided to shell out ₹475 for top-quality ghee from Karnataka milk federation

FOUR TYPES OF LADDUS

Small or free laddu: Weighs about 25gm, offered to devotees after darshan of Lord Venkateswara Swamy

Proktham: Weighs between 160 and 175 gram, sold at ₹50 each to visiting devotees. TTD also provides one such laddu free to every devotee

Kalyanotsavam laddu: The biggest laddu. Weighs about 700 gram and is offered free to select arjitha seva devotees. Also sold to devotees at ₹250 per laddu

Asthana laddu: For internal distribution. Not for sale

Rahul: Need to protect sanctity of religious sites

New Delhi: Describing reports about defilement of the 'prasad' at Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati as "disturbing", leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said Lord Balaji was a revered deity for millions of devotees in India and across the world and the issue would hurt every devotee and needed to be thoroughly looked into.

"Authorities across India have to protect the sanctity of our religious spaces," he said. Party functionary Pawan Khara said, "If the claims of desecration of the Tirupati laddus are right, of course an enquiry must identify the guilty and strictest possible punishment must be meted out but if the claims are wrong or motivated, then millions of devotees of Tirupati will not forgive those playing with their faith." "Until then, it suits the BJP to allow polarising conspiracy theories to fly thick in the air in election season," Khara added.

'Tirupati laddus were given at Ayodhya event'

Ayodhya: Expressing anguish over reports of alleged presence of animal fat in ghee used to make Tirumala laddus, Ayodhya's Ram Temple chief priest Acharya Satyendra Das on Friday said over three quintals of 'laddu prasadam' from Tirupati were brought to Ayodhya during consecration ceremony of Ram Temple in January this year, reports Arshad Afzaal Khan.

"It is unfortunate that animal fat was mixed in Tirupati laddus. If animal fat was mixed in it, it is unforgivable. Strict action should be taken against such people," Das said. Around one lakh laddus from Tirupati were brought to Ayodhya during the consecration ceremony. These laddus were packed in large boxes and brought by a delegation from Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam. This prasad was distributed among devotees, said Das.



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Engg students among 7 held for scuffle with Army officer, fiancée

Debabrata.Mohapatra @timesofindia.com

Bhubaneswar: Seven people, including students of two engineering colleges, were detained on Friday and questioned in connection with the scuffle involving an Army officer late on Sunday night, which eventually led to his alleged assault and his fiancée's molestation in police custody in Bhubaneswar. "We are questioning them on what led to the scuffle. Efforts are on to identify others involved in the case," a senior police officer said.

"We registered a case at Chandaka police station on Wednesday after the woman's father submitted a memorandum to the police commissioner," the officer added. The detained youths are likely to be arrested and produced in court, police said. The Army officer had alleged in his complaint to the Odisha Crime Branch, which is investigating the case, that a group of 10-12 men in three vehicles had

waylaid and assaulted him and passed lewd remarks on his fiancée.

The detained suspects claimed the Army officer was driving recklessly in the middle of the road, and hurled abuses at them when they overtook the couple's vehicle, which led to the scuffle. "We are verifying their claims," a police officer said. The inspector in-

CM ASSURES ACTION

charge of Bharatpur police station, Dinakrushna Mishra, who is among the five cops suspended over the custodial torture of the couple, faces imminent arrest, the Crime Branch said after interrogating him on Friday.

"We grilled him (Mishra) and a few other staff of the police station as part of our probe. The moment we get evidence, we will arrest the IIC and others," a Crime Branch officer said. CM Mohan Majhi asserted his govt's resolve to take action against the perpetrators.

REGD. NO. TN/Chief PMG/398/2002
RNI NO. 1547/57 ISSN 0971-8257

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Lawyer files plaint with MHA against Jagan, TTD officials and contractor

New Delhi: A Supreme Court lawyer has filed a complaint with the home ministry, as well as with the directors general of police (DGP) of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, against former Andhra CM YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, TTD officials, and a

contractor alleged to have supplied adulterated ghee to the Tirupati Temple.

The advocate said the accused parties are responsible for undermining the religious integrity of the temple through their alleged involvement in the matter. AGENCIES

YSRCP neta seeks judicial probe into row, HC to hear petition on Sept 25

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh HC has agreed to hear a petition filed by senior YSRCP functionary Y V Subba Reddy on Sept 25 over the Tirupati laddu controversy.

Subba Reddy sought to file a lunch motion petition on Friday to unearth the truth

behind the controversy. The court said it will hear the petition on Wednesday. "Let this be investigated by a sitting judge of the high court or let the HC constitute a committee or let it be done by the CBI," said Subba Reddy's counsel P Sudhakar Reddy.

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In chat with Oprah, Democratic candidate **Kamala Harris** talks openly about her gun ownership, says if somebody breaks into her house, 'they're getting shot'

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1ST TEST: BUMRAH (4/50) BECOMES 6TH PACER & 10TH INDIAN TO PICK 400 INT'L WICKETS; INDIA RESTRICT B'DESH TO 149, TAKE 308-RUN LEAD | 21

German Bakery blast convict gets 45-day parole

Mirza Himayat Baig, the lone convict in the 2010 German Bakery blast in Pune, was released from Nashik central prison on a 45-day parole on Friday. The release came 14 days after the Nashik divisional commissioner granted him parole on Sept 6. On Sept 3, Bombay HC, while setting aside the divisional commissioner's July 31 order rejecting Baig's parole plea, had criticised him for not considering its 2016 acquittal of Baig on terrorism charges and gave a week to decide the parole application. **P9**

12 yrs on, HC bail for '12 Pune serial blasts accused

Bombay HC Friday granted bail to Munib Memon, an accused in the 2012 Pune's Jangli Maharaj Road serial blasts. He had sought bail on the grounds of 12 years of prolonged incarceration and pre-trial detention, which is a violation of his fundamental right to a speedy trial under the Constitution. **P9**

German loses ₹9k in booking 'Sahyadri' room

A German hunting for a hotel before visiting Mumbai was duped of Rs 9,270. He landed on a website, 'Sahyadri state guest house', and dialled the number. He was told to make an online payment. When he reached the state guest house in Malabar Hill, he realised he had been duped. **P5**

Gadchiroli doc ferries liquor in ambulance, held

A doctor has been arrested in Maoist-hit Gadchiroli, where prohibition is in force, after the seizure of 10 cartons of desi liquor and 96 bottles of foreign branded liquor worth Rs 50,000 from a govt ambulance. Cops suspect the liquor was stocked at the health centre. The doctor may lose his licence. **Inside Flap**

North-bound coastal rd stretch open 7 days a wk

Traffic will now be allowed on coastal road's north-bound carriageway from 7am to midnight instead of till 11pm at present. Also, the Marine Drive to Haji Ali stretch will be open on weekends too. The southbound section of the road is open for motorists every day from 7am-11pm, barring closure at Bindumadhav Thackeray Chowk on weekends. **P3**

Sebi refuses RTI info on Buch

The cases where Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch recused herself due to potential conflict of interest are not "readily" available & collating them would "disproportionately divert" resources, the regulator said in response to an RTI plea. **P19**

Marital discord: CRPF cop ends life

In the 6th suicide of a security personnel in Chhattisgarh since June, a CRPF cop posted in J&K ended his life on Friday while on leave in Dhamtari. His family said Suresh Sonwani (35) was under a lot of stress as his marriage was falling apart. **TNN**

Dalit, 13, raped by 3 in Mathura

Three youths abducted a 13-year-old Dalit girl after offering her water laced with some intoxicating substance and took turns to rape her inside a moving van while she was in a semi-conscious state in UP's Mathura on Thursday. **P7**

SC objects as HC judge calls part of B'luru 'Pak'

Likely To Frame Norms To Rein In Voluble Judges

Dhananjay.Mahapatra @timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Friday took a dim view of Karnataka high court judge V Srishananda's purported gratuitous reference to a Muslim-majority Bengaluru locality as 'Pakistan', and said it would consider laying down guidelines to keep judges from getting carried away during judicial proceedings and ending up as the butt of ridicule on social media.

CJI D Y Chandrachud took suo motu cognisance of Justice Srishananda's controversial reference to a Bengaluru locality, which trended on social media along with a misogynistic comment aimed at a woman lawyer, and constituted a bench of the top five judges — Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, Surya

IN THE COURTS

> SC rejects plea against CM Shinde for shutting out small contractors, but pleads for 'pothole-free' roads | **P 4**
 > Allahabad HC observes trial court judges often convict 'innocent' individuals solely to avoid facing action from HC in criminal appeals | **P 13**
 > SC directs CBI probe into false case filed against Ajay Katara, star witness in Nitish Katara murder case | **P 13**

> K'taka HC bench advises couple seeking divorce to approach a seer for mediation, judge compares him to Vivekananda | **P 13**
 > CBI tells Delhi court it has sanction to prosecute Lalu in the land-for-jobs case | **P 13**
 > SC's YouTube page paused after it is hacked, shows videos promoting crypto | **P 13**
 > Bombay HC concerned over lack of sunlight in 'vertical slums' in city, says residents better off on the ground | **P 3**

Kant and Hrishikesh Roy—to record SC's displeasure over judges going overboard in their remarks during judicial proceedings. The bench asked the HC registrar general to consult the chief justice and file a report on the unsavoury remarks.

Justice Srishananda was appointed an additional judge of Karnataka HC on May 4, 2020, and was made permanent on Sept 25, 2021.

The bench said with increasing number of people watching live telecast of judicial proceedings, the resultant in-

tense scrutiny on social media required judges to exercise restraint during proceedings to avoid gratuitous or impertinent remarks.

In a bid to preserve the dignity of judiciary and people's faith in it, the bench said it would consider laying down guidelines for smooth conduct of judicial proceedings to help maintain the sanctity of the proceedings and insulate them from being subjected to public ridicule because of a few voluble judges.

► Seeks AG, SG help, **P 12**

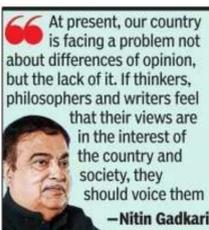
In democracy, person at the helm must tolerate strongest barbs: Gadkari

Anurag.Bende @timesofindia.com

Pune: Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Friday said the real test of our democracy is for the person at the helm of affairs to tolerate the strongest opinion against him and introspect.

He urged thinkers, philosophers and writers to voice their opinions without fear, citing the Constitution which gives everyone the right to freedom of expression.

Speaking in Marathi while addressing an event in Pune's MIT World Peace University on Friday, Gadkari said, "Lokshahichi saglyat mothi pariksha hi asel kiraja viruddha kitih prakhar vi-char mandale tari rajane te sahan kele pahije, tyavar chintan kele pahije." ("The biggest test of democracy is that the king should be able to tolera-



At present, our country is facing a problem not about differences of opinion, but the lack of it. If thinkers, philosophers and writers feel that their views are in the interest of the country and society, they should voice them
 —Nitin Gadkari

te the strongest opinion against him and introspect.)

He also said, "We are called the mother of democracy which stands on the four pillars of legislative, executive, judiciary, and media. Our Constitution specifies the rights and responsibilities of each. The same Constitution allows thinkers to voice their opinions in the national interest without any fear."

► Places of worship, **P 11**

Boy, 12, tries to avoid tempo, comes under truck wheel

Mumbai: A 12-year-old boy walking home from school with his sister was run over by a truck in Borivli East on Friday afternoon.

A student of Seth Gopalji Hemraj School, Vicky Kanodia was in Carter Road No. 3 around 12.30pm when the driver of a mini tempo parked

► 1 killed, 3 injured in Pune Eway accident, **P 5**

on the street started the vehicle. In a bid to avoid the tempo, Vicky moved, and came under the rear wheel of the truck. The truck driver tried to flee, but was caught by passersby and handed over to police. Kasturba Marg police have lodged a case of negligence under Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The boy lived close to the accident spot. **TNN**

► Sister unhurt, **P 4**




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Kerala-born Norwegian citizen linked to Hezbollah pager blasts?

Rajeev.KR@timesofindia.com

Kozhikode: A man from Wayanad who briefly trained for the clergy before migrating to Norway in search of greener pastures has emerged as an alleged link in a sensational sabotage that saw hundreds of pagers explode in Lebanon on Tuesday. The pager blasts, which targeted Hezbollah fighters, killed 12 people, including civilians and a couple children, and wounded dozens.

Norta Global Ltd, based in Sofia, Bulgaria—allegedly owned by Rinson Jose (37) of Wayanad, a Norwegian citizen—is being investigated by international security agencies following reports linking it to the sale of hundreds of pagers.

Last spoke to family 3 days ago

Central intelligence agencies and Kerala police special branch collected details on Friday about Rinson from his native village, Ondayangadi, near Mananthavady, Wayanad. Wayanad district police chief Taposh Basumathary said police had done a normal background check on Rinson. "Now that the identity and details of the family have come out in the media, police have taken steps to ensure they are safe. We are patrolling the area," he said.

Family sources said Rinson, son of Moothedath Jose and Gracy who used to work as tailors, had gone abroad with his twin brother, who now works in the UK. Rinson's sister is a nurse in Ireland. He lives in Norway with his



Rinson Jose had last visited Wayanad in Nov 2023 and returned to Norway in Jan 2024

wife and had last come home in Nov 2023 and returned in Jan 2024. "Rinson last spoke to his family here three days ago. They haven't been able to contact him on the phone since. We tried calling Rinson's wife on Friday as well, but no one answered. The news reports about him are unbelievable; he could also have been deceived," Rinson's uncle, Thankachan, told TOI.

Is Norta Global linked to pagers sale?

Hungarian media reported that Norta Global had facilitated the sale of the pagers. The firm's website—which described it as a leading technology company with a strong focus on consulting, technology and payment integration, recruitment and outsourcing—has been taken down now.

However, Bulgaria's State Agency for National Security said on Friday that Norta Global and its owner had "not carried out any transaction lin-

ked to the sale or purchase of the merchandise" or that which "falls under laws on terrorism financing".

Reuters reported on Thursday that Norta's Bulgarian headquarters was registered at an apartment building near Sofia that was also home to nearly 200 other companies, but there was no sign of Norta.

Reuters said Rinson declined to comment on the pagers when reached by phone and hung up when asked about the Bulgarian business.

Amund Djuve, CEO of DN Media, where Jose currently works, told Reuters that he was aware of the reports and had alerted police and security services. He said that Jose was travelling to the US.

Oslo police said that it had initiated "preliminary enquiries into the information that had come to light".

Norway's domestic intelligence agency, PST, said it was aware of the situation and declined to comment further; Reuters reported.

'He would not do anything wrong'

In Ondayangadi, residents of the area said they knew Rinson as an upright person, while his shocked family members said they were sure he would not do anything wrong. Rinson's uncle, Thankachan, said he didn't know of Rinson owning a company in Norway. "He was an employee at an organisation... You can ask anyone in our church diocese and no one will say anything bad about him."

Top court raps CBI for calling West Bengal courts 'hostile'

Central Agency Backtracks And Withdraws Plea

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The court said the CBI petition for transfer of trial in 42 cases related to post-poll violence in Bengal was contemptuous for which action could be taken against the officer involved in filing the plea

New Delhi: CBI's complaint that it is having to contend with hostility in the courts in West Bengal drew sharp reaction from the Supreme Court which pulled it up for casting aspersions on the judiciary by branding all courts in the state as hostile.

The agency took the ground of hostility against it to press for transfer of trial in 42 cases related to post-assembly election violence in 15 districts out of West Bengal to another state. But a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mishra took strong exception to CBI pointing a finger at the functioning of all courts in the state and said it was contemptuous for which action could be taken against the officer involved in filing the petition.

In its petition, the agency had taken the stand that the accused in post-poll violence

cases being investigated by the agency had been released without hearing it.

"What ground have you taken? You are bracketing all courts as hostile. Blanket averments have been made that bail is being granted without hearing you. This is casting aspersions that the entire judiciary is hostile," the bench told additional solicitor general S V Raju at the outset of hearing.

The ASG said that it was not about hostility inside the court but outside and admitted that the petition was loosely drafted.

He, however, insisted that transfer of trial outside West Bengal was needed for free and fair proceedings, leading the bench to say that the agency had to first withdraw the blanket allegation.

"If we transfer matters then we are certifying that

there is a hostile atmosphere over all the courts in the state and courts are not functioning. Your officers may not like the judicial officer or a particular state but don't say that the entire judiciary is not functioning. The district judges, civil judges and session judges can't come here and defend themselves. It is a fit case for contempt. How can you cast aspersions on the judiciary," the SC said.

The agency in its petition said, "In some of the post-poll violence cases, the accused persons are being released on bail by the trial court concerned without even hearing the prosecution CBI which had carried out investigation into the cases on the orders of Calcutta HC... In the light of the hostile environment prevailing in the courts in West Bengal, it would not be possible to carry out

the trial of the post-poll violence cases in a fair and judicious manner."

Opposing the CBI plea, senior advocate Gopal Sankar Narayanan and lawyer Pranav Sachdeva told the bench the petition had been settled by the attorney general himself and raised questions on why CBI was seeking transfer of trial when the alleged victims were silent.

The court, after a brief hearing, allowed CBI to withdraw the petition but noted its displeasure in its order over the allegation made by CBI against the judiciary.

"Scandalous allegations have been made against all the courts in general in West Bengal. Repeatedly averred that there is a hostile environment prevailing in the courts. It is very unfortunate that the central agency has chosen to cast aspersions on courts in West Bengal. Learned ASG states that there was no intention to cast aspersions. However the averments are to the contrary. He seeks permission to withdraw. We make it clear that all objections to the proposed transfer are expressly kept open," the bench added.

6 killed as truck trying to overtake crashes head-on into bus in Jalna

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Six people died and 22 others were injured when a truck trying to overtake a vehicle on the narrow Beed-Jalna road collided with a state transport bus in Ambar tehsil of Jalna district on Friday, reports **Mohammed Akhef**.

The driver of the Beed-bound truck—ferrying sweet lime—apparently lost control of the vehicle and crashed into



22 people were injured in the accident on Beed-Jalna road

the bus coming from the opposite direction, near Shahpur, Jalna SP Ajay Bansal told TOI.

The deceased were identified as truck driver Shaikh Jabbar Shaikh Anwar (56), truck cleaner Satish Devidas Naik (45), both from Anjanagan in Amravati district; bus conductor Bandu Tusliram Bargaje (52) from Beed, and passengers Rahibai Ranganath Kalsait (65) of Buldhana, Panchfula Bhagwan Solunke (75) of Beed and Rehmatbi Mehbub Pathan (70) of Beed, police said.

The 22 injured were admitted to different govt hospitals, Ambar sub-divisional police officer Vishal Khambe said, adding: "Preliminary reports stated that the condition of some of them was critical."

Gadchiroli doc caught ferrying liquor using govt ambulance

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Nagpur: In Maoist-hit Gadchiroli, where alcohol prohibition is in force, police arrested a doctor on intercepting 10 cartons of desi liquor and 96 bottles of foreign branded liquor from a govt ambulance. The consignment, worth over Rs 50,000, was seized during a 'naka-bandi'. Dr Brahmanand Pungati, in-charge of Pipli Burgi primary health centre (PHC), was arrested four days ago and may lose his medical licence.

Sources said the consignment was likely to have come from Chhattisgarh, where interstate liquor smugglers

push booze across the state borders in Gadchiroli hamlets. Police said Dr Pungati would hold 'liquor parties' at the PHC quarters with his aides, who too were nabbed. Police suspect the liquor was stocked at the PHC and adjoining govt quarters to avoid police raids.

COULD LOSE HIS MEDICAL LICENCE

Pungati's contract has been scrapped by zilla parishad and he is blacklisted. A wanted bootlegger Dilip Lekami, who was accompanying him, managed to skirt the police. Maharashtra Medical Council administrator Dr Vinky Rughwani said,

"the council has suo moto taken action against Pungati and issued a showcause notice. He has breached the code of ethics for medical practitioners," he said, adding the body is empowered to suspend his licence.

Sub-inspector Akshay Patil said the ambulance was stopped post-midnight by commandos. "The ambulance driver told me he was heading to Pipli Burgi PHC with a patient. I was surprised to see cartons and few people inside the ambulance and ordered commandos to check the vehicle. The driver immediately pressed on the accelerator and sped away, but was intercepted 500m away," said Patil.

K'taka mulls 6 days of paid period leave a yr for public & pvt sectors

Nithya.Mandyam & Yashaswini.Sri | TN

Bengaluru: Karnataka is considering a landmark move to provide six days of paid menstrual leave annually for working women in both private and public sectors.

An 18-member committee has been formed to draft a bill titled "The Right of Women to Menstrual Leave and Free Access to Menstrual Health Products", aimed at improving the work-life balance for women. Labour minister **Santosh Lad**

said, "We are reviewing the proposal and have scheduled a meeting with committee members. This initiative aims to support the female workforce. The leave will be flexible, allowing women to choose when they need time off."

If implemented Karnataka will become the fourth state, after Bihar, Kerala and Odisha, to provide menstrual leave.

In Dec 2023, former Union women and child development minister Smriti Irani had opposed a similar proposal in Parliament say-

ing menstruation should not be treated as a disability. Fast forward to July 2024: The Supreme Court handed the decision on menstrual leave policies to the central and state govt, encouraging them to consider the matter for female students and working women.

The govt's move has evoked positive reactions from women professionals and youngsters in Bengaluru. Many said it was a welcome and much-needed move.

Annette Sayani, a professional, called it a "bold step in redefining workplace norms".