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THE TIMES OF INDIA

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Setback for world No. 2 Daniil Medvedev & No. 8 Andrey Rublev as Wimbledon bans Russian and Belarusian tennis players from 2022 tournament in response to Putin's invasion of Ukraine P 16

Maha cabinet approves 10 acres at Ulwe node, Navi Mumbai, **for construction of Tirupati Venkateswara temple,** says it will become a religious and tourist centre generating jobs for locals P 5

Sri Lanka's oppn leader Sajith Premadasa claims that the Speaker has assured that **Prez Gotabaya Rajapaksa is ready to resign** if all political parties request him P 13

At a state business summit, Bengal **CM Mamata Banerjee asks governor Jagdeep Dhankhar to "pass on a message to the Centre"** to ensure that "industrialists (investing in Bengal)" are not troubled by central agencies P 11

SC hits pause, Delhi razing goes on for another 1.5 hrs

Officials Cite Absence Of Written Order

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The C-Block of Jahangirpuri in north-west Delhi, where a Hanuman Jayanti procession last Saturday had led to communal riots, faced the wrath of the civic body's bulldozers on Wednesday. Responding to Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta's letter on Tuesday calling for action against illegal constructions of the riot accused in the area, the civic body sent in 9 demolition machines in the morning and began clearing a street under the protection of over 1,500 policemen and paramilitary forces.

▶ **Edit: Bulldozed Due Process, P 14**
▶ **Delhi civic body: Drive not related to clashes, P 12**

The first bulldozer arrived around 10.15am. For the next two hours, the JCBs were unstoppable though a Chief Justice-led Supreme Court bench, responding to an urgent plea by senior advocate Dushyant Dave, on behalf of the affected members of the Muslim community, had ordered status quo at the site around 10.50am. But citing the absence of a written order, the corporation officials persisted with the drive till around 12.20pm, taking down one structure after another, till CPM's Brinda Karat landed at the spot around the time when the SC was reiterating its order after being told that the drive had not stopped.

Civic officials on the spot said the operation was part of an ongoing drive and no permanent structures were touched. They also ruled out giving any notices because they claimed they didn't know the identities of the encroachers.

▶ **To stop machines, P 12**

Photo: Arindya Chattopadhyay

JCBs ROLL INTO JAHANGIRPURI

10.15am: First bulldozer arrives at C Block of Jahangirpuri
10.24am: Demolitions start at C Block's Kushal Chowk
10.50am: SC bench passes order for status quo at site. Can't be typed and signed as judges busy with other matters
12.05pm: As drive continues, the gate of a mosque is razed
12.15pm: Lawyer Dushyant Dave complains to bench that drive still on...
...Bench asks court registry to communicate order to mayor and Delhi Police
12.14pm: CPM's Brinda Karat (R) reaches site. Bulldozers stop shortly thereafter

"This is a demolition of India's constitutional values. This is state-sponsored targeting of poor & minorities. BJP must bulldoze the hatred in their hearts instead
—**RAHUL GANDHI** | CONG

He (Rahul) is doing the country no good sowing the seeds of hatred. He is maligning the country's image
—**ANURAG THAKUR** | BJP

Muslims are undergoing collective punishment. One must fear the curse of the poor...
—**A OWAISI** | AIMIM

Bulldozer is the only solution if Bangladeshi infiltrators open fire on police... This bulldozer drive is the beginning of making Delhi pollution-free
—**KAPIL MISHRA** | BJP

If you want bulldozer justice, raze the BJP headquarters, violence and rioting will stop instantly
—**MANISH SISODIA** | AAP

Loan agents, bank officer booked as sr citizen kills self

An abetment to suicide and criminal intimidation FIR has been filed against two women employees of a private bank in Kharghar, Navi Mumbai, and the bank officer who sent them to recover loan dues from a family after the head of family hanged himself. Vijay Pawar, 62, killed himself in his Panvel home on Monday after the women threatened to get them jailed as his daughter-in-law had defaulted on payment of a Rs 3-lakh loan. **P 3**

'Inflation target not breached so badly'

FM Nirmala Sitharaman has said the country has not breached inflation target "so badly" while referring to the recent surge in retail inflation, which hit a 17-month high of 6.9%, adding the economy faces challenges like the rising crude rates. **P 15**

Bharambe, Nashik top cop shifted

State home minister Dilip Walse Patil on Wednesday shunted out controversial Nashik top cop Deepak Pande and shifted joint CPs Milind Bharambe (crime) and Niket Kaushik (EOW), along with 29 high-ranking IPS officers. **P 3**

HC arrest cover for Somaiya son

Bombay HC on Wednesday granted interim protection till April 28 to Kirit Somaiya's son Neil in the INS Vikrant funds misappropriation case, directing him to appear before the city's Economic Offences Wing for four days from April 25. **P 4**

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Times Interact | P 6 & 8

Reasoned verdict 5 mths late, SC nixes HC order

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New Delhi: An unreasonably long gap between passing an operative order and the reasoned judgment could result in quashing of the verdict as the Supreme Court has set aside the Allahabad high court's acquittal order in a murder case as the HC delivered its reasoned verdict five months after passing the short operative order to acquit the accused.

A bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna deprecated the practice of the HC for delay in pronouncing a reasoned order and said such practice has to be stopped. It said the apex court had in 1984 noted such practices as judicial indiscipline and that judicial discipline requires promptness in delivery of judgments.

▶ **Can't seek redress, P 11**

SC commutes death for man who killed 4-yr-old

The Supreme Court granted life to a death row convict and commuted his sentence to 20 years' imprisonment for raping and killing a four-year-old girl in MP in 2013. The court said the crime committed by the convict was the most barbaric but it can't be termed rarest of rare to award death. **Flap Opp**

Man gets death for 7-yr-old's rape-murder

A Thane court sentenced to death a 33-year-old porter from UP for the abduction, rape and murder of a 7-year-old girl in Bhiwandi in 2019, convicting him under sections of IPC and Pocso Act. To secure the conviction, the prosecution examined 25 witnesses. **P 3**

City couple acquitted in '16 road crash that killed 2 kids

Mumbai: Over five years after two brothers, aged 12 and 7, on a bicycle were killed in an accident at Navy Nagar, a sessions court recently acquitted a Lance Naik's wife as the prosecution failed to prove she was behind the wheel. It also acquitted her husband and said the investigations were done in a very casual manner, **reports Rebecca Samervel**.

▶ **21 yrs on, HC acquits 18 given life for lynching, P 9**

Sangita Devi Rai (41) is alleged to have been learning to drive with her husband Santosh Kumar Rai (44) coaching her on December 11, 2016. Akshansh and Abhay Dhyani died on the spot.

Principal judge Urmila Joshi Phalke said the prosecution has miserably failed to prove the charges.

▶ **Car ownership, P 4**

> **Prosecution has to either prove that the vehicle was owned by the accused or that they were in possession of it. Though two small children lost their lives, probe agency has not taken care to find out about the ownership of the vehicle**
> —Sessions court

WHO's Tulsibhai: Modi gives Tedros new name

Gandhinagar: PM Modi gave WHO director general **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** a 'pucca' Gujarati name at his request—Tulsibhai.

"When he met me this morning, he said he has become a 'pucca' Gujarati. He asked me to give him a Gujarati name. He reminded me on the stage. In this pious land of Mahatma Gandhi, and as a Gujarati, I would call my best friend Tulsibhai," the PM said on Wednesday after inaugurating a three-day Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit in Gandhinagar, where the WHO chief was among the dignitaries. TNN

'Ayush visa' to boost medical tourism

In a bid to encourage medical tourism, PM Modi announced a special Ayush visa category for those who want to come to India and try traditional medicine. The government will soon launch "Ayush mark", which will provide authenticity to locally made Ayush products. **Flap Opp**

▶ **'Part of heritage', P 8**

Mother who flung baby girl out of hosp gets life for murder

Mumbai: Almost 12 years since a month-old girl died after being flung out of a window at KEM Hospital, the Sewri sessions court on Wednesday convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment her now 42-year-old mother, reports **Rebecca Samerval**. Dipika Parmar, who had been out on bail since 2010, had told the court that she was suffering from "postpartum disorder" at the time of the incident.

Parmar had prematurely delivered twins—a girl and a boy— in October 2010. The prosecution said Parmar killed the girl, who was more serious, as she was unable to afford the expenses—they had to pay Rs 200 per child for ICU facilities.

▶ **CCTV footage, P 4**

Soon-to-open Hancock Bridge down to 2 lanes

Mumbai: BMC plans to open the reconstructed Hancock Bridge by May-end, six years after the British-era structure was demolished. But when **TOI** visited the site Wednesday, a narrow two-lane bridge greeted the eye, instead of a four-lane bridge the BMC had announced. Civic activists are livid. Slamming BMC for "failed planning", they say the two-lane bridge will create a traffic bottleneck in an already-congested area, **reports Richa Pinto**.

▶ **Access lanes blocked, P 3**

MU leases 5 acres for 8 mths at ₹75L for shooting: RTI

Mumbai: Five acres of the Mumbai University's Kalina campus has been leased for eight months to a film-making company for shooting a web series, revealed an RTI application. In the RTI reply, the university informed activist Anil Galgali that no government permission or legal advice has been sought and no tender was called before leasing out 5 acres of the 250-acre campus land for 8 months at a cumulative rent of Rs 75 lakh, **reports Hemali Chhapia**.

▶ **Consulted panel: MU, P 2**

Uptick in Covid cases raises questions about reinfection

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

SL Shanth Kumar
Passengers undergo swab test at CSMT by BMC medical personnel

Mumbai: With an uptick in Covid cases in Mumbai, Delhi and Kerala, the debate on reinfections is back.

Intensivist Dr Sanjith Saseedharan from Fortis-Raheja Hospital, Mahim, is convinced many are reinfections. He tested positive for Covid twice in the last two years and, when he fell ill the third time, he did not get tested. One of his resident doctors has tested positive thrice. The idea that a viral infection gives years of immunity doesn't seem to hold with the Covid-causing SARS-CoV-2 virus.

"Reinfections are certainly happening. A large number of people in India were infected earlier, and, if the Covid numbers are going up again, it is logical to say it's a reinfection," said Dr Saseedharan. The Washington-based Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation has observed that two-third of India's population was affected by Omicron in the December-January period.

At the moment, doctors across the country are debating whether Omicron's various strains can cause fresh infection each time. For instance, in Kerala, doctors believe the XE strain is now dominant and spreading within families in a short time.

Infectious diseases specialist Dr Vasant Nagvekar, a member of the Maharashtra government's Covid-19 task force, said one possibly gets "immunity" against a strain of Covid-19 but not the virus. "However, previous infections and vaccination help reduce the impact of the new strain," he said.

The problem with reinfections is to prove them. "Reinfections can only be proven using genomic sequencing. We need samples of each time one got infected to conclusively say the same person was infected with the Wuhan strain and Delta or Omicron," said Dr Saseedharan.

In India, only a handful of research papers looked at reinfections and the first one from Mumbai proved reinfection among nurses in a private hospital.

Covid task force member Dr Shashank Joshi said, "There can only be anecdotal talk on reinfections in India because no comprehensive data has been published from India in this regard." The only scientifically proven fact about Omicron is that it causes breakthrough infection among people who have taken vaccines; these infections are mild and the majority don't need hospitalisation.

"Omicron's BA2 strain that swept through Europe and the US was found in India in January. We Indians have immunity against it for at least another three months. So, it would not be wrong to say that unless there is a new variant, there is no reason to worry about a wave right now," said Dr Joshi.

The current rise in cases, he said, is a cluster- or community-based infection. Doctors said the fact that the Covid-causing virus is "still in the community" is reason enough to use a mask.

State's weekly positivity rate below .5% but daily no. rising

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Mumbai: Maharashtra's weekly Covid positivity rate has remained below 0.5%, although the daily positivity rate has been inching upwards. After hovering between 0.2% and 0.3% in the first fortnight, the daily positivity rate touched 0.5% on Tuesday and 0.6% on Wednesday, prompting the state government to ask districts to up their vigil.

As per data released by the state public health department on Wednesday, Maharashtra's seven-day positivity rate in the week that ended on April 19, was 0.45%. The previous week's positivity rate was 0.41%. About seven districts, including Mumbai, have a weekly positivity rate that is above the state's average. Sindhudurg currently has the highest positivity rate at 2% among districts, followed by Beed (1.5%) and Gondia (1.1%). Mumbai's weekly positivity rate is 0.7% and is currently contributing to nearly 60% of cases in the state.

"We have to be vigilant considering the increase in cases in Delhi, Haryana and UP in the last seven days," Dr Pradeep Vyas, state's additional chief secretary, told **TOI**. "Delhi crossed 1,000 cases on Tuesday with more than 5% positivity for continuous three days. Haryana has also reported more than 300 cases today." Vyas added that Maharashtra too reported 162 cases on Tuesday, which is the highest ever daily new cases seen in April.

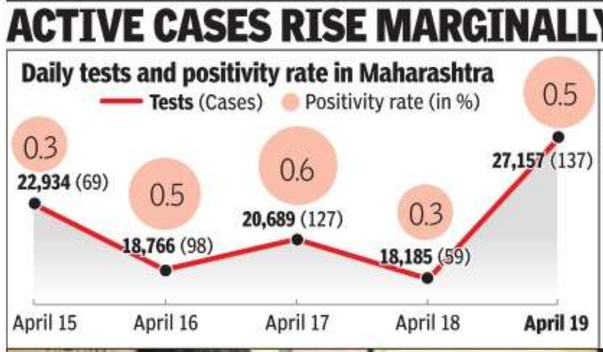
Positivity rate is a critical measure to gauge how widespread the infection is in the area where the testing is happening, and whether levels of testing are on a par with levels of disease transmission. A positivity rate above 5% is considered noteworthy and an indicator of increased viral activity. Experts have been pointing toward the state's reducing daily testing average. Currently, less than 30,000 tests are carried out in Maharashtra. In several districts, there are less than 100 tests performed daily.

A state health official argued that testing has dropped because the transmission has reduced and the count of positive cases is at an all-time low. "If there are no positive cases, there are no contacts to test either. So, testing numbers are naturally low," said the official. At its peak, Maharashtra was clocking nearly three lakh Covid-19 tests in a day. "However, there is also the element of self-testing. There are many who are getting tested at home if they develop symptoms. We urge them to declare their results," the official said.

Dr Shashank Joshi, a member of the state Covid-19 task-force, said till there is a rise in hospitalisations and deaths, there is no cause for panic. "We may be seeing a marginal rise in cases, but that has not impacted hospital admissions yet," he said. Across Maharashtra, 44 patients are hospitalised out of 690 active cases. Of these, 15 are in the ICU, including two on ventilator. "It is advisable to continue masking in indoor spaces," Dr Joshi said. "We are going through a hot and humid month, which is conducive for the virus. It is important for people to test and isolate if they get symptoms."

Pic: KK Choudhary

ACTIVE CASES RISE MARGINALLY IN STATE, CITY



Weekly positivity rate: In state 0.45%

In districts (where higher than state avg)

	(in %)
Sindhudurg	2.04
Beed	1.53
Gondia	1.14
Akola	0.99
Pune	0.98
Parbhani	0.88
Mumbai	0.67

A vaccination session for the 12-14 age group at Sacred Heart School, Vashi, on Monday. Many schools are at the forefront of the drive

Covid-19 Update: April 20

		Maha	Mumbai
New	Cases	162	98
	Deaths	0	0
Total	Cases	78,76,203	10,58,060
	Deaths	1,47,830	19,562
Discharged		77,27,683	10,39,005

MAHARASHTRA MUMBAI

Case fatality rate (in %): 1.87 | 1.8

ACTIVE CASES: 690 | 415

'Govt set to discuss Covid trends, see if masks should be the norm again'

Move After Some States Bring Masks Back Following Spike In Cases

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Pune: A state executive committee meeting planned for next week will analyse Maharashtra's Covid trends and decide if masks should be made mandatory again, senior officials with the disaster management department have said.

"We are going to have the SEC meeting next Monday or Tuesday. All trends and directives from the Centre and National Disaster Management Authority will be discussed," Aseem Gupta, principal secretary, disaster management, told TOI on Wednesday.

The state had made masks voluntary from April 2, after vital indicators, including the positivity rate, hit record lows. But spikes in cases in some parts of the country, and reintroducing of mask mandates by governments of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh have heightened alertness levels in Maharashtra. On Tuesday, Mumbai recorded 85 new Covid-19 cases, its highest daily count in one-and-a-half months.

"The state government had also directed authorities to ensure the situation was monitored at all times. Some important decisions can happen in the SEC meeting, including the decision on the mask rule," said another state official.

Doctors TOI spoke to on Wednesday said masks should be made mandatory again. Dr Kapil Zirpe, member of the Pune Covid-19 task force and head of the neurotrauma unit at Ruby Hall Clinic, said that while waves are expected, precautions should continue as long as Covid remains a pandemic.

"Our state seems to be better, given the low number of cases and high vaccination coverage. Waves will come with varied impacts," he said.

Dr Swapnil Deshmukh, a city-based psychiatrist said, "Psychologically, it will be extremely difficult to reimpose the rule again as a large number of people are opposed to masks and physical distancing. But mask regulation should be reimposed by Centre, as a precaution, amid rise in cases in some states and countries. Maharashtra should be prepared for any surge."

▶ Kids not drivers of Covid, P 7

Maha logs 162 cases, highest single-day rise this mth; no need for curbs yet: Tope

Mumbai: Maharashtra registered its highest single-day detection of new Covid-19 cases so far in April on Wednesday, even as public health minister Rajesh Tope said the situation in the state was under control and there was no need to bring back any restrictions. The state reported 162 fresh cases, while Mumbai registered 98 new cases on Wednesday, its highest single-day detection in nearly 50 days. There were zero Covid-19 fatalities in the state and the city.

A day after the Centre wrote to five states, including Maharashtra, asking them to keep a vigil in the backdrop of rising cases, Tope said the situation at the moment didn't warrant bringing back any restrictions, including fines for not wearing masks. "The rise in cases in the state is not significant, so there is no need to panic. The situation is under control," he said, adding that the government was monitoring the cases. "Appropriate decisions will be taken when required."

Maharashtra's 162 cases on Wednesday was a jump from 137 cases found on Tuesday and 59 on Monday. Mumbai too has been witnessing a steady rise in cases—34 cases on Monday, 85 on Tuesday and 98 on Wednesday. Active cases in the state touched 690 and 415 in the city. The city has breached the 400-mark in active cases after almost 40 days. Dr Shashank Joshi, a member of the state task force attributed the increase to the Wednesday effect, where a rise is usually seen midweek. The good news is that Mumbai saw no Covid-19 hospitalisations on Wednesday, and nearly all positive cases were asymptomatic.

"The state recorded over 60,000 cases in a day during the peak of the third wave so the rise in the numbers at the moment is not alarming," said Tope. Maharashtra has done away with most of the restrictions, including the mandatory wearing of masks since April 1. "Although masking is voluntary, I appeal to citizens and especially to senior citizens and persons with comorbidities to wear a mask in public places," he said. TNN

WT.5014.2022

Taste, drink, buy high-quality liquor at 'super premium' outlets in state

Alcohol From Fruits, Flowers Now Branded Indigenous IMFL: Cabinet

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Mumbai: You will soon be able to taste, drink and buy premium liquor brands from 'super premium' liquor shops or markets in the state, besides walk-in and self-service facilities. For this, the area of the 'super premium' outlet has to be 601 sq m and above. While in 'elite' liquor outlets, measuring 71 sq m-600 sq m, only walk-in, self-service and tasting areas will be available.

To set up such 'super premium' and 'elite' facilities, shop owners have to upgrade their existing licences by paying additional excise duty. This experience of buying liquor would be akin to the present duty-free imported liquor outlets at airports, said state excise officials.

Also, the niche category liquor made from fruits and flowers, like mohua and green cashew cover (kaju bond), will be called indigenous Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) instead of country liquor and will be available at a wide range of shops to gain a large customer base.

These major decisions related to excise were taken at the Maharashtra cabinet meeting held on Wednesday.

"The decision to create a new category of fruit- and flower-based liquor will not only encourage entrepreneurship, but also bring the niche products in the upscale market for larger customers to buy from a range of premium shops. While states, like Madhya Pradesh, have branded them as heritage liquors, we have named them as indigenous IMFL," principal secretary of excise department Valsa Nair Singh said.

Besides home-based processing units, farmers and labourers in horticulture and floriculture will benefit due to the decision as such liquors will fetch them better prices, said excise officials. Already, the state has allowed such liquors to be used for blending with other fruit-based liquors.

However, Singh said, the duty charged on fruit- and flower-based liquor will increase to Rs 50 per bulk litre from Rs 10. The retailers said with this new branding premium fruit and flower liquors will be available more reliably and at legitimate costs in upscale city markets. Moreover, these decisions will earn more revenue for the state.

Land given for film shooot after consulting panel: Univ

Mumbai: In an RTI reply to activist Anil Galgali on whether Mumbai University allotted land to M/s Siddhesh Enterprises for the purpose of shooting a film, the university said permission was granted to the production house on terms and conditions as suggested by a committee set up on the recommendation of the management council. The varsity has also informed a nodal agency appointed by the government to monitor such contracts.

According to Galgali, the university was shortchanged. "There is likely to be the involvement of some politicians," he alleged.

He has demanded a high-level inquiry into the matter in a letter to the governor, chief minister and education minister. "It would have been better for the University of Mumbai not to have taken this route in the sacred temple of education. If tenders had been issued with the government's permission and legal advice would have been sought, the rent would have been in crores because the rent at Film City at Goregaon in Mumbai is higher. It was necessary to know the rates there," said Galgali.

File Pic

The university said permission had been granted to the production house for the shooting of feature films from November 2021 to June 2022 (8 months) subject to terms and conditions. "A committee was constituted as suggested by the university's management council when Siddhesh Enterprises applied for the space for rent. In accordance with the terms and conditions suggested by the committee, an agreement was signed between the two," said a statement from the university.

As per the agreement, responsibility of obtaining necessary permits from the central and state government or any other necessary for the shooting are with Siddhesh Enterprises. "The university has written to the nodal agency appointed by the government for the shooting," said the statement from the university.— **Hemali Chhapia**

BEST plans 900 double-decker AC buses from Aug onwards

Mumbai: Guardian minister Aaditya Thackeray said BEST undertaking will start rolling out 900 double-decker air-conditioned buses from August, besides increasing the fleet to 10,000 buses by 2027. BEST announced the introduction of 100% digital buses in Mumbai. These buses offer a fully digital experience to passengers, where they can 'tap in' and 'tap out' themselves as they board and alight from the bus.

Thackeray, who inaugurated the 'tap in and tap out' on Gateway of India-Churchgate route as part of digital buses initiative said, "We will be implementing this in all 10 buses on this route in a few days and later expand it on all 438 routes."

He said nearly 900 AC double-decker buses will start rolling from August. TNN

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HC to state: Decide on vials near expiry date

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Mumbai: The Bombay high court on Wednesday told the state government to take a decision in respect of 300 Covishield vaccine vials with a Nallasopara (East) hospital that are to expire on May 2.

The oral direction by Justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Madhav Jamdar followed after state's advocate Ravi Kadam said a decision could not be taken on the hospital's representation and will be taken during the day. The judges said the decision must communicated to the petitioner "today itself".

They took note that 49 vials would expire on April 21 and 300 vials on May 2. Vijayalaxmi Hospital had moved the high court saying it had 349 surplus vials worth Rs 22 lakh excluding taxes. Each vial contains 10 doses. On April 7, the HC directed the state to consider its representation. On Tuesday, the state was frowned at for not taking a decision.

Advocates Uday Warunjikar and Sumit Kate, for the hospital, urged to allow the transfer of 49 vials "in the next two hours" so that it can benefit some people. Vasai-Virar Municipal Corporation's advocate said the transfer would take time and also not serve the purpose.

The judges, at one point, opined that the hospital could have handed over the vials and then raised a dispute over the amount. Referring to the Centre's direction to ensure no vaccine vial should be wasted, Warunjikar said: "State government is acting contrary to the central government." He also said: "Ours is a unique case. Large number of hospitals are facing a similar problem."

Observing that it is not adversarial litigation, the judges said the state must consider the hospital's representation in the light of its own direction of February 24 that private hospitals cannot exchange vaccine doses with government hospitals and the home ministry's February 22 direction to consider exchange of near-expiry vaccine vials of private Covid Vaccination Centres (CVCs) with long expiry vials available with government CVCs.

Court gives man death for rape-murder of 7-year-old

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Thane: The sessions court here sentenced to death a 33-year-old porter for the abduction, rape and murder of a seven-year-old girl in Bhiwandi in 2019. Bharatkumar Dhaniram Kori, a native of Uttar Pradesh, was convicted by special Pocso judge K D Shirbhate, who held him guilty of a number of charges under the IPC and Pocso. The judge also fined Kori Rs 10,000.

In the order dictated in a packed courtroom, the judge stated that the prosecution had successfully proved all charges against the accused.

Kalyan Karpe, the investigation officer, said Kori was known to the victim. It was submitted in court that on December 22, 2019, Kori lured the victim with the offer of an ice-cream from a nearby stall. A class 2 student, the girl accompanied Kori without hesitation and this was seen by the five-year-old and nine-year-old brothers of the victim.

The prosecutor informed the court that at 10 pm, the accused abducted her and took her to an isolated place and raped her. The prosecutor said that when the victim tried to rescue herself, the accused took a big stone and smashed the girl's head with it before fleeing the spot.

He was found near a garden and arrested. A passer-by who spotted the lifeless girl in the bushes alerted the police. The post-mortem report of the victim confirmed rape.

The prosecution, led by special public prosecutor Sanjay More examined 25 witnesses. The testimony of the ice-cream seller was included, as was that of the minor brothers who had witnessed the victim leaving with Kori.

Karpe informed the court that the medical reports said the blood found on the clothes of the accused and that of the victim matched. Karpe said a psychological test found Kori to be mentally fit.

The judge in her order noted it to be a rarest of rare case. She convicted Kori of murder, rape and under Pocso and sentenced him to death on the three counts seperately. The accused was convicted of offences under Section 364 (kidnapping or abducting in order to murder), Section 376 (rape), Section 302 (rape) of the IPC and under various sections of Pocso registered with the Bhoiwada police station of Bhiwandi division.

Last year in November, the Bombay high court had upheld the death sentence in a similar case, that of the rape and murder of a three-year-old girl in the city, and observed that the safety of a girl is paramount to society. In that case, Ramkirat Goud, who had come to the city from UP to find work two weeks before the crime, was sentenced to death for raping and killing the three-year-old girl in 2013.

In that case, too, the girl was raped and killed with a blow to the head with a rock.

Force keeps sharp eye on loudspeaker users, goons

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The police will take action against those flouting loudspeaker rules, say sources. The police said they had begun legal action and were issuing preventive notices to those with criminal cases in the past.

"Action will be taken against those using loudspeakers without permission and illegally. Permission in the silent zone will not be given," said a police officer, requesting anonymity. The officer added that if people from mosques and temples come for permission for loudspeakers and complete all the procedures, permission will be given as per law.

Police sources said that some preventive notices have already been issued to criminals on record, body offenders, stabbers and others. "This is a general practice in which we issue notices to offenders involved in previous crimes," the officer said.

▶Formulate policy, P 4

Major rejig as home min orders slew of transfers, promotions

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Mumbai: In a first major reshuffle after he took over the reins of the home department, NCP leader and home minister Dilip Walse Patil on Wednesday shunted out controversial Nashik police commissioner Deepak Pande and shifted joint commissioners Milind Bharambe (crime) and Niket Kaushik (economic offences wing), along with 29 high-ranking IPS officers. No new assignment has been given to Kaushik.

As per the orders on the website of the home department, 14 DIGs have been promoted to the IG rank, 11 SPs to the rank of DIG and few IPS officials have been transferred following completion of their tenure. A senior IPS officer said more transfers are on the cards since many senior IPS officers, including joint commissioner (law and order) Vishwas Nangre Patil and Jt CP-traffic Rajvardhan are due for promotion to the rank of additional DG. According to reports, government may upgrade the Jt CP-law and order post so that Nangare Patil can be retained in Mumbai.

Nashik CP Pande, who was at the receiving end over his letter against revenue officials for alleged rampant corruption, has been posted as special IG (prevention of atrocities against women), while special IG (VIP security) Jayant Naiknaware will be the new Nashik CP. Bharambe, who will be the new IG (law and order) in the DG office will replace Suhas Warke, who will be new Joint CP (crime). Additional CP Praveen Padwal has been posted as joint CP (EOW) on promotion, while Ankush Shinde will be the new CP, Pimpri-Chinchwad, in place of Krishna Prakash, who has been shifted to the VIP security branch.

Additional CPs Sandeep Karnik, Lakhmi Gautam, Satya Narayan Choudhary, S Jaikumar and Nishisth Mishra, too, have been shifted on promotion. Mahesh Patil will be the new additional CP (traffic) Mumbai and Virendra Mishra will be the new additional CP, north region.

Hancock Bridge's access lanes chock-a-block with buildings

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Mumbai: The BMC says it had to scale down its plan for reconstructing Hancock Bridge as it failed to acquire space because occupants of the buildings on access roads refused to leave.

"The plan to reconstruct the bridge was on the drawing board for years. Why did the BMC not think about how they would acquire area then? Officials and local politicians are to blame equally for the mess," said activist Kamlakar Shenoy. "Local politicians did not pursue the BMC to construct a four-lane bridge as the residents of said buildings form their vote bank."

TOI found during a visit that the BMC's talk of a four-lane plan was perhaps insincere. Besides the access lanes being chock-a-block with buildings, a luxury high-rise has come up close to where the southern access ramp is supposed to lie. If a four-lane bridge was indeed planned, who gave permission for the high-rise compound to sit cheek by jowl? "This is bad planning. Civic officials do not seem to have realised the traffic chaos that is bound to result once the bridge is thrown open," said activist K Shenoy.

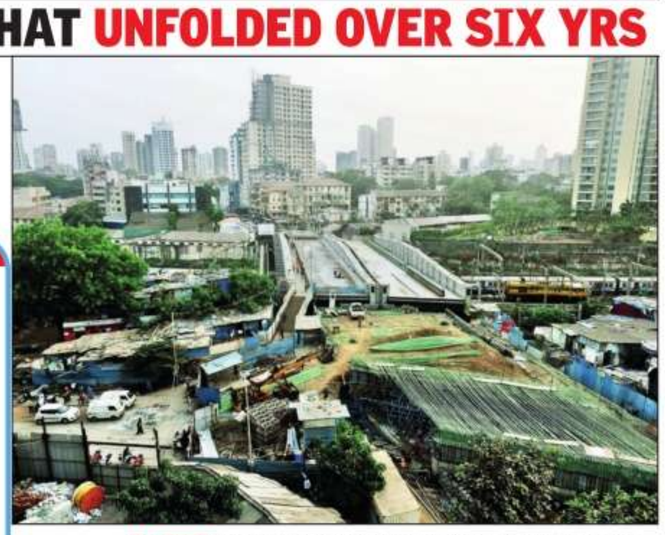
It also does not look likely that the bridge can be opened by May-end because of the work that remains. Though, Satish Thosar, chief engineer, bridges, said the BMC is targeting to start at least a part of the bridge for motorists before the monsoon sets in. "A pathway for pedestrians has already been opened up. Now, what can we do if the residents of a few buildings in the locality refused to leave? We will continue to pursue the matter once the bridge is made operational," he said.

Samajwadi Party MLA and former corporator from Byculla, Rais Shaikh, said the reconstruction plans were changed multiple times. "There should be an investigation on why so many changes were made in the construction plan. The bridge work, going on for so many years, has horribly affected traffic in the area. The locality is surrounded with schools. Children have suffered because of difficulty of access minus the bridge," he said.

After the bridge was demolished in January 2016, the BMC's standing committee cleared the proposal to reconstruct the bridge for over Rs 50 crores months later. Again, in 2020, the BMC proposed additional works worth approximately Rs 25 crore. The reason? An increase in the weight of the iron girders. Activists say all technical issues should have been sorted at the drawing board, and not at the implementation stage.

A JOKE THAT UNFOLDED OVER SIX YRS

Pic: Santosh Bane



Jan 2016 | The Raj-era Hancock Bridge, between Sandhurst Road and Byculla stations, is demolished during an 18-hour megablock

Deaths on tracks
Because no alternative arrangements are made for pedestrians who used the bridge, they are left with two options — either take a 5-7km detour to cross over to the other side (earlier just metres away), or cross the tracks. Naturally, the second option is taken by most, resulting in accidents. One of those run over by a train is a 14-year-old boy on his way home from St Peter's High School, Mazgaon

Sep 2017 | BMC awards the reconstruction work contract. It's already over 20 months since the bridge's demolition

Aug 2018 | Railway minister (Piyush Goyal) questions CM (Devendra Fadnavis) on why work hasn't started despite central clearances

April 2019 | Project deadline missed

Dec 2020 | BMC finishes bridge's pedestrian portion

April 2022 | Work on access ramps yet to be finished

TIMES VIEW: The reconstruction of the colonial-era Hancock Bridge has been inordinately delayed since it was demolished in 2016 and reflects poorly on the BMC's execution of such crucial projects. That the proposed four-lane bridge has now been cut down to just two is even more perplexing and raises questions about the functioning of the BMC's engineering department.

FIR against 3 bank staffers in suicide case

Navi Mumbai: Khandeshwar police on Tuesday filed an FIR against a private bank manager and two women loan recovery staffers for abetment to suicide and criminal intimidation after a retired BMC staffer, Vijay Pawar (62), from Panvel's Sukhapur village ended his life by hanging due to mental trauma caused by them.

Pawar's wife Savita said that on April 8, the two women came to their house and threatened them claiming that their daughter-in-law had defaulted on a Rs 3 lakh group loan from Greater Bombay Cooperative Bank. Upset, Pawar ended his life, claimed his wife. —George Mendonca

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Pawar house protest: Judicial custody for one

Mumbai: Advocate Gunratna Sadavarte, arrested in connection with the violent protest outside Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar's residence on April 8, was produced before a Girgaum court on Wednesday. While the police sought his five-day custody, the court sent Sadavarte to 14-day judicial custody.

Claiming that the case is politically motivated, Sadavarte moved the sessions court seeking bail. Last week, a magistrate's court had rejected his bail petition. Sadavarte's bail plea will come up for hearing on Thursday.

Sadavarte was arrested on April 8 by the Gamdevi police. He is accused of participating in a meeting at his building terrace on April 7 in which a conspiracy was hatched for the protest at NCP chief's house, police said. The meeting went on for more than three hours. So far, 118 people, mostly MSRTC employees, have been arrested in the case. TNN

Architect held for importing drugs from US

Mumbai: Special intelligence and investigation branch of customs probing drug trafficking have arrested one Anup Gupta, an architect, from Salcete, Goa under the NDPS act for allegedly importing 103gm of marijuana from USA through courier. Officials said the drug was recovered from his residence in four small packets stored in small bags. — S Ahmed Ali

Pharma co staffer loses ₹3L to fake Delhi crime branch cop

Convinced Passport Misused For Money Laundering, Drugs

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Mumbai: A 26-year-old man was left poorer by Rs 3 lakh after he fell for a video call made by a fake crime branch officer from Delhi. The scamster told the complainant that he faced a case of money laundering and narcotics, and could pay the money to sort out the matter. The Borivli police have registered an FIR against the scamster and his associates who wove an elaborate web of lies to trick the complainant.

The complainant works in a pharma company and lives in the western suburbs. On April 7, he received a phone call from an unknown number. A woman was on the line and introduced herself as an employee of the Delhi Passport Office. She rattled off the complainant's name, date of birth and Aadhaar card number, gaining his trust. She then told him that he had indulged in illegal activity while on a trip to Thailand in March and that a complaint had been received against him from the immigration department.

The complainant was taken aback as he did not have a passport. The woman then told him that someone could have used his details to get a bogus passport made. She then told him to speak to the Delhi crime branch and submit a letter about his innocence. She transferred his call and a man named Sunilkumar Nayak came on the line, introducing himself as a crime branch officer. After hearing the matter, Nayak made a video call to the complainant and told him that an arrest warrant had been issued in his name. He gave a web link to the complainant which showed cases of human trafficking, money laundering and narcotics lodged against him.

"Nayak was dressed in a uniform when he made the video call. He told the complainant he would be arrested and his property seized. The complainant was then connected to one Ashutosh Patel who claimed to be a senior officer. Patel asked for Rs 3 lakh as part of a procedure to take action against the person who misused his documents.

The complainant was told he would get a refund in two days. He transferred the money as instructed and got a 'police clearance certificate'. But when he later called on the same number, he couldn't connect with the officer and instead an unknown person from Gujarat answered the calls. He then approached police on April 14.

Ram

51 huts amid mangroves in Versova razed

Mumbai: Around 51 huts-ments that had come up amidst mangroves at Versova were demolished jointly by forest, revenue and police department on Wednesday. Environment minister Aditya Thackeray had on Tuesday announced that around 199 hectares of mangrove land with MMRDA will be handed over to forest department. Around 11,000 hectares of mangroves are now under the Indian Forest Act. TNN

Man booked for manhandling traffic cop

Mumbai: Owner of two heavy vehicles was on Tuesday booked for manhandling head constable Sharad Chaudhary attached to Malad traffic chowki, while he was issuing e-challans for vehicles plying in non-permitted hours in Malvani. The accused grabbed Chaudhary by his collar when he challaned one of his vehicles, while the other escaped. FIR was lodged with Malvani police. TNN

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CCTV showed mom going to hospital toilet with baby, returning without her

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Mumbai: Twelve years after she had flung her baby girl out of a window at KEM hospital, Dipika Parmar was called to the witness box of the Sewri sessions court at 11.30am on Wednesday. Judge A C Daga informed her that she had been found guilty of the murder of her daughter. Addressing the court in Marathi, Parmar said, "I have not done anything." She remained stoic as the sessions court pronounced a life sentence.

As Parmar was taken into custody, her husband, Manish, expressed his shock at the verdict. He said the family would move the high court.

Seeking the maximum sentence, public prosecutor Ranjana Budhwant said the child was very young when murdered by her mother, while Parmar's lawyer Devendra Yadav urged the court to show mercy.

Among nine prosecution witnesses cited by Bhudhwant was a nurse who told the court that on October 26, 2010, at 5am, Parmar complained that when she returned from the toilet, her daughter was missing. The nurse said she immediately informed others and they began to look for the baby. "I heard a baby crying outside the bathroom," the nurse said. The baby was found in the compound behind the toilet.

A security guard said the baby was found surrounded by water and mud and her ear seemed to be bitten by rats. He said when he asked Parmar what had happened, she maintained that when she went to wash clothes in the bathroom, the child went missing. The guard said he touched the clothes but they were dry. When he confronted her again, she admitted that she had thrown the infant. The guard told the court that in the CCTV footage Parmar is seen going to the washroom with the baby, but returning empty handed. The baby died the same day.

A defence witness, a psychiatrist who was head of department at KEM in 2010, said Parmar was suffering from "postpartum disorder." "Due to hormonal changes in women after delivery, there can be such disorders due to biological vulnerability. Along with these changes, negative life events are also important," the doctor submitted.

The doctor said when she examined Parmar after the incident, she found that she had "sadness of mood" and had not slept properly for one and a half months. She further said that the twins were born premature and as doctors had told them that they may not survive, Parmar and her husband were in constant fear. The daughter was more serious, they were told.

The doctor said prior to the birth of the twins, Parmar had a miscarriage and had lost another baby after birth. She said after finding that Parmar may resort to suicide, she kept her as an indoor patient till November 22, 2010. The doctor had not allowed Parmar to meet her baby boy, fearing she may kill him.

TRIAL IN 2010 MURDER CASE

Oct 26, 2010 | Dipika Parmar flings her month-and-a-half-old daughter from KEM hosp toilet window. Baby dies later
➤ Parmar sent for psychiatric evaluation and is admitted as an indoor patient

Nov 22 | Parmar is arrested for murder

Dec 27 | Gets bail on humanitarian grounds. Her lawyer says she needs to continue with psychiatric treatment

Feb 2013 | Trial commences. Over the years, 9 prosecution witnesses and one defence witness depose

Feb 4, 2022 | Court records Parmar's final statement

April 20 | Sessions court convicts Parmar and sentences her to life imprisonment

Woman held for selling fake car insurance online

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Mumbai: The police have arrested a woman who was part of a gang of online fraudsters that used to call up car owners to offer them cheap car insurance policies and dupe them by issuing fake policies.

The Lokmanya Tilak Police have arrested 30-year-old Amrin Irfan Kelkar, a resident of Virar in Palghar district, and are looking for her mentor Khagendra Vishwakarma. Police have booked Kelkar under the IPC sections of cheating and criminal breach of trust and under the Information Technology Act.

Police said that though the gang has duped several people in the city, the case came to light after Vinod Kothari, a resident of Kalbadevi, lodged a complaint that he has been duped of Rs 72,915 by an insurance agent. Police said that last year Kothari, who has five cars, had asked his accountant to buy one insurance policy. While the accountant was surfing the internet for insurance policies, one Neha called up saying that she was an insurance agent and would send them the quotations through email. "Neha bought for Kothari a true insurance policy of Royal Sundaram which won her his trust. A few months later, Kothari's accountant again contacted Neha and asked her to give quotation for four other cars and Neha emailed a proposal of Rs 72,915 of three different insurance policies," said an officer.

Kothari's sports utility vehicle car met with an major accident and when Kothari sent the car for service centre and submitted the insurance policy for reimbursement, the service provider informed him that the particular policy was in a different person's name. On further inquiries it transpired that the policy was fake. Kothari lodged a police complaint.

Police tracked the bank account to which Kothari's money was transferred which was in the name of Vishwakarma and his address was shown as Santacruz East. The address was fake, police said. Further investigations found that there were several purchases done online from Amazon. Police then took the help of the Amazon to find out where the ordered parcels were delivered.

"We learnt that it was delivered to a house in Virar. We raided the place and arrested Amrin Kelkar who admitted that she impersonated as Neha and along with her mentor Vishwakarma duped people," said an officer from LT Marg police station.

3rd HC judge recuses self from hearing Elgar case

Mumbai: Justice Sadhana Jadhav of the Bombay high court has recused herself from hearing a bunch of petitions about the Elgar Parishad-Maoist links case, the third judge of the high court to do so this year.

The accused in the case include 16 scholars and activists, including the late Jesuit priest Stan Swamy.

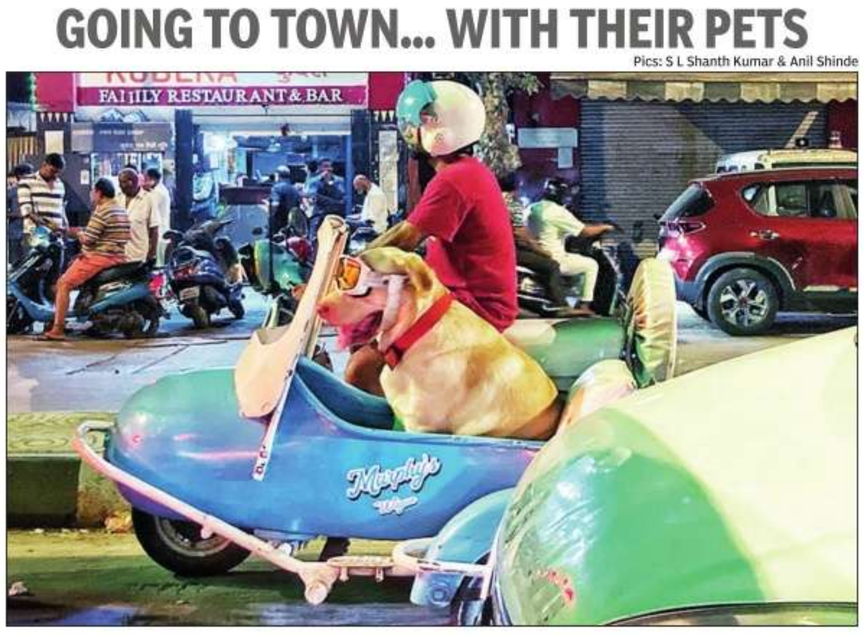
Earlier this year, Justice S S Shinde and Justice P B Varale of the high court had recused themselves from hearing the pleas arising from the Elgar Parishad case.

Justices Sadhana Jadhav and Milind Jadhav were presiding over two petitions filed by activists Rona Wilson and Shoma Sen seeking quashing of the case against them, a bail plea filed by lawyer Surendra Gadling, and a plea filed by priest Frazer Mascarenhas seeking that he be allowed to litigate on behalf of Swamy, who died in custody while waiting for medical bail.

Justice Jadhav on Tuesday said that no Elgar Parishad or Koregaon Bhima case matters be placed before her. She did not assign any reasons. PTI

GOING TO TOWN... WITH THEIR PETS

Pics: S L Shanth Kumar & Anil Shinde



Mumbaikars evidently love to take their furry friends for a ride. And well, they do it with pride. It's evident from the manner in which this pet dog (above) sat pretty, as it were, in the side car of a scooter while taking in the sights of the city, at Worli. It may be noted that the side car has the words 'Murphy's Wagon' emblazoned on it. Elsewhere, in Thane, another canine digs its heels into the steering handle of a two-wheeler as its master takes it for a spin around the lake city recently

HC interim protection to Neil Somaiya till April 28

Mumbai: Bombay high court on Wednesday granted interim protection till April 28 to Neil Somaiya, son of BJP leader and former Mumbai MP Kirit Somaiya in the INS Vikrant restoration fund collection and misappropriation case.

In case of his arrest he will be released on a personal bond of Rs 50,000 said Justice Anuja Prabhudessai while directing the youth BJP member to appear before the Economic Offences Wing of Mumbai police for four days from April 25.

On April 13 HC had granted interim protection from custodial interrogation to Kirit till April 28 in the same case a day after the sessions court rejected his plea.

Neil later approached the HC as his anticipatory bail application too, the sessions court rejected, but on April 13.

Justice Prabhudessai will now again hear the father-son duo next on April 28. The HC also sought the investigation progress report by the next hearing. TNN

'2 kids killed, but police didn't find out who owns car'

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Mumbai: The sessions court said it can recommend that the mother of two boys, aged 12 and 7, killed in an accident at Navy Nagar in 2016 could be compensated even if the accused are acquitted.

"It is not to be forgotten that Ratna Dhyani has lost her two children in the accident... It is to be assured to her that the victim is not forgotten in the criminal justice system," said principal judge Urmila Joshi Phalke. Akshansh and Abhay Dhyani had died on the spot after being hit by a car.

Pointing to lapses in investigations, the judge acquitted the accused—Sangita Devi Rai (41) and her Lance Naik husband Santosh Kumar Rai (44)—from charges relating to culpable homicide not amounting to murder, driving rashly and negligently, driving without an effective license and allowing a person to drive one's vehicle without a driving license. The accused have been out on bail.

The judge said, "Prosecution has to either prove that the vehicle was owned by accused no 1 (Sangita) or accused no 2 (Santosh) or that they were in possession of the vehicle. Unfortunately, though two small children have lost their lives, probe agency has not taken care to find out about the ownership of the vehicle." The judge further said the police did not even take pains to find out how the accused were in possession of the vehicle.

A key eye witness could not identify the accused due to lapse of time. The mother of the children told the court she had not seen the accused at the hospital. The prosecution examined 10 witnesses.

The court pointed out that none of the witnesses had said that the accused was driving recklessly.

"In fact, the argument that the vehicle was driven by accused no 1, and accused no 2 was coaching her, itself is not proven," the judge said, adding that the presence of both accused inside the vehicle at the time of accident has also not been proven.

"Therefore, I have no hesitation to hold that prosecution has miserably failed to prove the charges against the accused," the judge said. While the defence lawyer for the accused attempted to pin the blame on the children claiming they were not wearing helmets, the court said no negligence can be attributed to them as it is the duty of the vehicle driver to take care of pedestrians.

Interim panel in violation of SC order: Dahanu environ body

Mumbai: Justice (retd) Arun Chaudhari, the newly appointed chairman of Dahanu Taluka Environment Protection Authority (DTEPS), in an order, has said that the interim monitoring committee appointed by the Union ministry of environment, forests and climate change (MoEFCC) was in violation of Supreme Court directive. The order issued last week states that the office memorandum of October 2020 was void ab initio and its withdrawal was correct.

Following the death of Justice Chandrashekhar Dharmadhikari, the DTEPA chairman, the ministry had as an interim arrangement reconstituted the authority under the chairmanship of additional chief secretary/principal secretary urban development department. Dahanu taluka has been declared as an eco-sensitive zone and any development work in the area must obtain permission from DTEPA.

When the MoEFCC filed an application before the SC for approval to the reconstitution, the Conservation Action Trust (CAT) filed an intervention plea and then a special leave petition. "During the hearing, the MoEFCC accepted the reconstitution was in violation of the SC directive that mandated that the authority must be headed by a retired HC judge. It then withdrew its order," said Debi Goenka, executive trustee, CAT. He added that they would await the final SC order. —**Clara Lewis**

Will discuss loudspeaker policy with Raj: Minister

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Mumbai: State home minister Dilip Walse Patil said on Wednesday that he would hold discussions with political parties, including MNS chief Raj Thackeray, before finalising norms on the use of loudspeakers in religious places.

He said that the decision on whether to allow Thackeray's rally in Aurangabad on May 1 will be taken at the level of the Aurangabad police commissioner.

"The norms for the use of loudspeakers have been laid down by the Supreme Court and also by several Maharashtra government resolutions. Loudspeakers are not allowed without permission and those putting them up will have to follow the norms," he said. "However, before making things final, we will be consulting various organisations and political parties, including Raj Thackeray," he said.

He reiterated that anyone trying to foment trouble or break the law would be dealt with severely.

When asked why temples had put up CCTVs and not mosques, Walse Patil said: "The state has not asked for these. If some religious institutions decide to put up CCTVs, we do not object."

Netas labelled goons and their phone tapped: Raut

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Mumbai: Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday said that he and other leaders were falsely labelled anti-social elements and their phones were tapped by IPS officer Rashmi Shukla in 2019. Raut said that leaders whose phones were tapped were falsely shown as drug peddlers and gangsters. Raut said that there was a breach of privacy of the leaders whose phones were tapped.

"All those leaders whose phones were tapped were shown falsely as anti-social elements. Leaders like Nana Patole, or me to the four others, were also shown as anti-social elements falsely. This was all bogus and the phones were tapped and this is now becoming clear. Some were shown as drug peddlers, some were shown as gangsters. All this was happening when the MVA government was being formed. So someone was watching us and was monitoring to see what the MVA was doing," Raut said.

"With this our privacy was breached. One IPS officer who is supposed to work independently — this is expected from them — was working for one political party and was doing this to show loyalty to one particular leader of a particular party. Now the central government is giving her protection just like it is giving to so many others. Like always, the central government is protecting her and this is very unfortunate and disappointing," he said.

In March this year, an FIR was registered against Shukla at the Colaba police station under the Indian Telegraph Act and relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code. The case was registered following a complaint by senior police officer Rajiv Jain accusing Shukla of having put the phone numbers of Raut and NCP leader Eknath Khadse, who was then still in the BJP, under surveillance.

'Formulate nat'l loudspeaker policy, enforce it in Gujarat'

Mumbai: Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday took a dig at the BJP over the controversy over removing loudspeakers from mosques, saying PM Modi's government should roll out a national policy for loudspeakers on mosques and implement it first in Bihar and Gujarat. "The BJP has woken up too late on the issue of loudspeakers on mosques. The BJP must not try and teach the Shiv Sena about this. Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray had resolved many issues related to Muslims. Right now there are only political loudspeakers playing in the name of Hindutva. There is rule of law in Maharashtra but there should be a national policy for loudspeakers on mosques. Till now all loudspeakers have not been removed from mosques in Gujarat. Go to UP and see it in Bihar where there is a Nitish Kumar government running with the BJP's support. Just like the Centre made a policy for beef ban, but some states were given an exception. States in the North-East and Goa did not accept the beef ban. So where is the national beef ban policy?" Raut said. — **Chaitanya Marpakwar**

CR plans quiz time on some long-distance trains soon

Mumbai: Passengers of some long distance trains, including Mumbai-Pune Deccan Queen Express, will get interesting details of the en route stations, play a quiz and even indulge in gaming experience by scanning a QR code affixed on the walls of the coaches.

CR's chief public relations officer Shivaji Sutar said, "We have introduced 'Conversations on the Move' concept in Deccan Queen Express and few more trains to make travel a richer, more intuitive and engaging experience every time the passenger boards the train." Once you scan the QR code, passenger can be treated to a whole new level of travel and infotainment via an intelligent chat bot. He said, "You can access more details about the journey, especially in-depth details on some important stations on your route. These details include places to visit, shopping, meals to try, clothing and souvenirs."

A chance to refresh your general knowledge awaits you, with interesting quizzes you can choose from. CR has tied up with Gup-Shup. —**Manthan K Mehta**

CITY'S FIRST SKYWALK TO BE REBUILT SOON

Shailesh Jadhav

The Bandra (E) skywalk, built in 2008, is being dismantled by BMC to make way for a new one. The 1.3km skywalk was the first of its kind facility to be built for the comfort of pedestrians. However, it has remained underutilized because of the circuitous route.

Already parts of the skywalk have been cut to facilitate the construction of a flyover as part of Kalanagar junction improvement project.

Pedestrians fear that as this place is already crowded with passengers there is a possibility of an accident. Satish Thosar, chief engineer of the civic bridges department, said that considering the huge pedestrian movement in the area, the skywalk is being dismantled at night. "We plan to begin reconstruction of the skywalk from next month," said Thosar. TNN

Correction & Clarification

In the story "City school principal caught in 'sextortion' racket goes to cops" published in TOI edition dated April 20, the quote attributed to cyber expert Ritesh Bhatia as having watched porn online was misinterpreted. "Even if you have not visited a porn website, you would still receive such threatening ransom emails. Almost everyone I know, including me, have received such emails. Thankfully they now land up in my spam folder," he said

Battle over Juhu beautification work continues

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Mumbai: Battle between the BJP and the Shiv Sena over beautification works being carried out near a recently constructed Storm Water Drain (SWD) at Birla Lane leading to the Juhu Chowpaty seems far from over.

Local BJP MLA from Andheri, Ameet Satam, who had last week alleged that Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi had demolished a SWD as a part of beautification works, said that a civic notice served by the BMC ward officer has validated the charge. "The BMC should have itself insisted on permissions being taken as they were aware that an SWD line was recently constructed," said Satam.

A JCB machine demolishing the storm water drain at Birla Lane

A notice served by the assistant municipal commissioner of K west ward last week has stated that the work of demolition of the existing roadside SWD at Birla Lane was started on April 8, without obtaining prior permissions from the BMC.

It further stated that this is despite MHADA having requested an NOC for the work of road, street lights and other beautification work which is being carried out through Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi Local Area Development (MPLAD) fund.

"It is to inform herewith that, the MHADA has requested NOC for the work of road, street lights and other beautification work at Birla Lane, Juhu and accordingly. the NOC for the said work has been issued by this office dtd. 08.02.2022 which is valid for the FY 2021-22. However, the work of demolition of existing road side Storm Water Drain (SWD) at Birla Lane leading to Juhu Chowpaty, Juhu has been started by MHADA on April, 08, 2022 without obtaining prior NOC/permission from this office," reads the notice, a copy of which is with the **TOI.**

The former BJP corporator from Juhu, Renu Hansraj said that not only has the SWD line been demolished but the debris has also been put inside it. "If there is flooding in the area in the coming monsoon who would ne responsible?," she questioned.

Chaturvedi who has initiated the works said that it clearly appears that the notice has been made to be given under political pressure. "The BJP is spreading a video of the work claiming that we have demolished the SWD line which is not true. I am surprised over the BMC notice as well considering that the civic body was well aware about the same. I plan to take this issue up with the BMC. The SWD line was not demolished and only the road above was levelled," she said.

Crime branch recovers ₹1cr from 4 thieves

Navi Mumbai: Crime branch (unit-1) arrested four thieves from Patan and Kutch districts in Gujarat, and recovered Rs 1.2 crore which was stolen after breaking into a courier company near APMC. Shambhu Ahir (25), Bhupendrasingh Jadeja (27), Kiritsingh Vaghela (24) and Rajendrasingh Vaghela (24) had broken into the office of Digvijay Courier and stole over Rs 1.4 crore and fled to their villages. One of the accused was an ex-employee, and had made a duplicate key. TNN

Malik's sons, wife not joining ED probe into laundering case

Pradeep.Thakur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate's probe into a money laundering case allegedly involving NCP politician Nawab Malik is stuck at a crucial point with the kin of the minister not joining the investigation, according to ED sources.

The sources said the agency has summoned Malik's spouse Mehjabin, and his sons Faraz and Amir multiple times since March in connection with the money laundering case for which the minister is in judicial custody. Faraz has been summoned at least five times, the last on April 5 when Amir and Mehjabin were also asked to appear before the investigating officer.

Malik's wife and sons are majority shareholders in Solidus Investments and Malik Infrastructure, which are under investigation for their links with the gang members of fugitive terror accused Dawood Ibrahim. There are allegations of financial transactions with some of the gang members in connection with the Goawala Compound land grab case.

The minister's lawyers did not respond to a questionnaire sent by TOI on Tuesday seeking their comments on the alleged refusal of Malik's wife and their sons to join the investigation despite repeated summonses. Sources in the investigating agency said that Faraz, whom ED wants to interrogate in connection with the probe into alleged money laundering involving Solidus Investments, has taken the plea that he has approached the courts and sought legal recourse against the agency's summonses.

Malik, who was arrested by ED on February 23, recently approached the court for relief but a special Mumbai court extended his judicial custody till April 22 when his application is listed for hearing before the Supreme Court.

On April 13, the agency had attached their assets, including the three-acre Goawala Compound property in Kurla, two flats in Kurla (West), two flats in Bandra (West) and about 148 acres of land in Osmanabad, Maharashtra.

In its attachment order, the ED had claimed that Malik was working with Dawood gang members and helped the fugitive terror accused in laundering proceeds of crime.

From the properties attached by the agency, the three-acre land and buildings at Goawala Compound are estimated to be worth Rs 300 crore. "A rent of Rs 11.70 crore has been received by two entities controlled by Nawab Malik, namely Solidus Investments Pvt Ltd and Malik Infrastructure," the ED had said and termed this as "proceeds of crime" to justify the attachment of assets of the Maliks.

Law college penalised, told to refund excess fee

Mumbai: The state Fee Regulating Authority (FRA) not only penalised a law college for overcharging students, but also directed the management to refund the excess money to the students. The excess money charged from 98 students totalled around Rs 17 lakh.

While the FRA fixed the fees of MS College of Law from Mumbra at Rs 20,000 per annum. The college charged Rs 7,030 over and above the sum from each student of the 2018-19 batch for the three-year LLB programme. The college was directed to refund the money to these students. Since it was the college's first violation of the fee law, it was penalised with a fine of Rs 5 lakh. The extreme penalty in such cases could run up to twice the amount of excess fees charged from students. The authority acted on a complaint received from a student.

The FRA, in its order, observed that the college's management breached the mandatory provisions of Maharashtra Unaided Private Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admissions and Fees) Act, 2015.

The college in its statement to the FRA, requested the authority to take a lenient view in the matter. The management stated that "it is a minority institution catering to the needs of poor students in a remote area". The management mentioned that it charged the excess amount as it was under the impression that the heads under which the students were asked to pay were not included in the fee fixed by the FRA.

TOI tried to contact the college principal for comment but she was not available—**Yogita Rao**

BACK TO SPORTS AFTER TWO YEARS

SL Shanth Kumar

Children engaged in sports activities as they attend an annual summer camp at Shivaji Park. Schools in Mumbai, which resumed after almost two years, are closed for summer holidays

Tirupati temple gets 10 acres in Navi Mumbai

Times News Network

Mumbai: The Maharashtra cabinet on Wednesday approved ten acres at Ulwe node, Navi Mumbai for the construction of Tirupati Venkateswara temple as a special case.

In a tweet the state environment minister Aaditya Thackeray said, "The cabinet has cleared the proposal to hand over 10 acres land near the MTHL to the Tirupati Temple Trust."

In a press release, the government said the temple would become a religious and tourist centre generating employment for locals. The proposal was moved by the state urban development department.

The temple is being constructed under the city level facility for urban areas and will be provided the land on a lease rent of Re 1 per sq metre along with 1 floor space index.

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam that has constructed the temple in various cities such as Hyderabad, Chennai, Kanyakumari, Bengaluru amongst others under a similar policy had sought land in Navi Mumbai.

Lakhs of devotees of Shri Venkateswara from Maharashtra go to the Tirupati Balaji temple in Andhra Pradesh. For many in the state, it is difficult to visit the temple there. The Lord Venkateshwara's temple in Navi Mumbai will make it convenient for them to worship the lord.

Meanwhile, the cabinet also approved the renewal of lease for 30 years for 55 acres of government land granted to the Sant Gagangiri Maharaj Ashram Charitable Trust.

The land was leased in 1990 and the trust has carried out tree plantation on it. Till the government finalises its lease policy the trust will be charged Re 1 annually as rent, said a press release.

Submarine INS Vagsheer launched

Santosh Bane

Mumbai: Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar on Wednesday launched submarine INS Vagsheer built by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders. PTI

Khar Golibar subway to remain closed until May 2

Khar Golibar subway will remain closed for road traffic between 10am and 5pm till May 2. The subway will be undergo urgent repair work undertaken by the Western Railway. TNN

Pvt bank says textile import firm cheated it of ₹46 crore

Mateen.Hafeez@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: An FIR was lodged by police after a leading private bank alleged a company, that imports textile products from Hong Kong and sells in India, cheated it of Rs 46 crore. The case was registered at N M Joshi Marg police station and later transferred to city economic offences wing (EOW).

Investigators said Shivaji Kale (45), senior manager (legal) of the bank (Lower Parel branch) lodged the complaint that the company had taken a cash credit facility and term loan of Rs 46.3 crore for business. But the money was not used for the purpose. Two directors of the company have been named as accused.

"The complainant stated that the value of the property mortgaged while taking a loan has also depreciated. During 2017 and 2019, the company was sanctioned a cash credit facility but they did not return the loan," a police officer said. The duration of the crime was between 2017-19.

The officer added that as per the complaint while taking loan, the accused company had kept a property and list of debtors as mortgage. Later it was found that the list of debtors was also forged, said an officer. The probe is being conducted by senior inspector Kishore Parab and API Arundhati Yelve.

Police said initially the company had taken loans from three cooperative banks. Later the company approached the bank in 2017 asking to clear its loan to three banks and that they will repay the loan ," said an EOW officer.

'Depts should pay power dues from own budgets'

Times News Network

Mumbai: The state cabinet on Wednesday discussed the pending electricity dues of certain government departments, especially the urban development and rural development departments.

The issue was raised by energy minister Nitin Raut who said that department which is facing a cash crunch needs the money to fund electricity projects and even to tide over the power crisis by buying additional power and also importing coal. Officials said that the outstanding amounts to Rs 9,000 crore.

CM Uddhav Thackeray said that a decision will be taken after a review. Meanwhile, deputy CM Ajit Pawar was of the opinion that the departments concerned should clear the outstandings from their budgets and the government shouldn't be asked to pay.

Part of dist devpt fund for sports

Mumbai: The Maharashtra cabinet on Wednesday approved a proposal to reserve five per cent of the district development fund for school education and sports department. TNN

28-yr-old man attacks, extorts hawker, held

Mumbai: The Anti Extortion Cell of Mumbai police have arrested 28-year-old Ankit Srivastav, a resident of Sewri, who attacked a panipuri vendor in Wadala and set his handcart on fire after he failed to pay him 'hafta'. Police said they have requested the hawkers from Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Marg to come forward and lodge complaints if they were harassed and threatened by Srivastav as well. This arrest comes after instructions from the police commissioner Sanjay Pandey asking the city crime branch to take action against extortionists who are harassing hawkers.—**Ahmed Ali**

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S.No.	Branch	Yearly Fee	Seats
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2	DM - Nephrology	1000000/-	2
3	DM - Gastroenterology	1000000/-	3
4	DM - Endocrinology	1500000/-	2
5	DM - Medical Oncology	1500000/-	2
6	Mch - Surgical Oncology	1500000/-	2
7	Mch - Surgical Gastroenterology	1500000/-	3
8	Mch - Urology	2000000/-	3
9	Mch - Neurosurgery	300000/-	3

Note : 1. Stipend paid will be as per norms of State Govt. of Rajasthan 2. No Bond

Post Graduate Branches

S.No.	Branch	Yearly Fee	Seats
1	MD - Biochemistry	Free	1
2	MD - Microbiology	Free	2
3	MD - Pharmacology	Free	2
4	MD - Physiology	Free	2
5	MS - Anatomy	Free	2
6	MD - Community Medicine	Free	2
7	MD - Immuno Hematology & Blood Transfusion	Three Lacs	2

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, MUMBAI | THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022

JAKHAR NOT REPLYING TO PARTY NOTICE ON 'GROSS INDISCIPLINE', STRONG ACTION LIKELY: CONG SOURCES

THERE WILL BE NO RIOTS AFTER BULLDOZERS ARE RUN ON BJP HQ, AMIT SHAH HOUSE, SAYS AAP MLA ATISHI

Eye on China, India & US plan joint sea patrols, intel sharing

Official: Broad Understanding Reached At 2+2

Rajat.Pandit@timesgroup.com

ANI

Defence minister Rajnath Singh with US secretary of defence Lloyd J Austin at the Pentagon in Washington DC earlier this month

New Delhi: India and the US now plan to undertake 'sea patrols' and share intelligence in real-time to further expand their bilateral maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific as well as partner in new domains of space, cyber and artificial intelligence, with an eye firmly on a belligerent China, a senior defence ministry official said on Wednesday.

"Both countries expressed willingness and there was a broad understanding on the sea patrols as well as information-sharing, through satellites and other means, during the 'two-plus-two' dialogue in Washington last week," the official said. India and the US regularly conduct the top-notch Malabar naval exercise, along with the other two 'Quad' countries of Australia and Japan, as well as provide refuelling and operational turnaround facilities to each other's warships under a reciprocal military logistics pact.

The plan to undertake sea patrols, whether in a joint or coordinated manner, will be a significant step forward in the backdrop of the increasing forays by China —which already has the largest navy in the world with 355 warships and submarines —into the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

With defence minister Rajnath Singh also separately meeting his US counterpart Lloyd Austin and senior Boeing and Raytheon executives as well as visiting the Indo-Pacific Command at Hawaii, there was "forward movement" on several fronts, which included "business opportunities", the official said.

The US, for instance, will send a team to Indian shipyards in line with India's offer to "maintain and repair" American warships in the region. "India told the US it can provide customized facilities in a cost-effective manner," the official said. India and the US have also decided to "revitalise" the moribund Defence Technology and Trade Initiative.

64 border rds, 103 bridges planned; 75% near China

New Delhi: The Centre has proposed building 64 strategic roads with a total length of 3,508km and 103 bridges in areas falling in the India-China, Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Myanmar border areas at Rs 31,000 crore, reports **Dipak Dash**.

Nearly three-fourth of the roads and all proposed bridges would come up in areas close to the India-China border. The proposals would be placed soon before the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) for approval, sources said.

Officials said the roads will also help reduce the road head differential gap with the border as compared to neighbouring countries.

"Nearly 78% of the investment would go into the projects in India-China border areas while those in India-Pakistan border areas would get 14%," said a source.

All projects have been proposed to be completed by 2029.

Used 64% of capital outlay for domestic industry: MoD

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In tune with the ongoing thrust on indigenous arms production, the defence ministry on Wednesday said it had "over-achieved" its target of 64% of the capital procurement budget being earmarked for the domestic public and private industry in the 2021-2022 financial year.

"The MoD has been able to utilise 65.5% of the last fiscal's capital acquisition budget on indigenous procurements through the Indian industry to achieve PM Modi's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'," an official said.

"Moreover, as per the preliminary expenditure report of March 2022, MoD has been able to utilise 99.5% of the defence services budget in 2021-22," he added.

With the urgent need for India to get out of its strategically-vulnerable position as the world's largest weapons importer, accounting for 11% of the global arms imports, the government has taken a series of measures to curb arms procurements from foreign sources.

As reported by TOI, nine proposed foreign arms deals worth Rs 46,695cr, for instance, were recently scrapped in pursuit of the Make in India policy

As reported by **TOI** earlier, nine proposed foreign arms deals worth Rs 46,695 crore, for instance, have been recently scrapped in pursuit of the "Make in India" policy.

The defence ministry has also decided to earmark 68% of the capital procurement budget, which amounts to Rs 84,598 crore, for the domestic industry during the 2022-2023 fiscal. Of this amount, 25% will be solely for the private sector. The MoD has set up a committee to ensure full utilisation of the outlay for procurements from the domestic industry. Earlier this month, the MoD had also announced its third negative arms import list or "positive indigenisation list" of 101 more products, the imports of which will be progressively banned from December 2022 to December 2027. Defence minister Rajnath Singh has stressed the need to crank up indigenous development of weapon systems, platforms, technologies and ammunition. to reduce strategic vulnerabilities.

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NOTICE
DESTRUCTION OF MEDICAL RECORDS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 2016

Karuna Hospital, Jeevan Bima Nagar, Borivli, (West), Mumbai - 400103, will destroy all the Medical Records of the patients treated during the year 2016.

Any claimant requiring documents pertaining to the above may please contact the Administration Office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. along with an application of request by 25th May 2022. The destruction of records will be done on 1st June 2022.

CORRIGENDUM

In the Public Notice published on 16-4-22 in this newspaper regarding verification of title of (1) Mrs. Sharda Ramautar Bubna (2) Mr. Raviprakash Bubna (3) Ms. Yashvi Raviprakash Bubna of Flat No. 4304, at DB Woods, Goregaon East, Mumbai - 400 063, **Please send objection/s at the below mentioned address** within 7 days instead of the Name and address as published earlier.
Advocate Pragathi Malle 2102, 21st Floor, Neha Residency, Sri Ram Tekdi, Sewri, Mumbai - 400 013. Contact: 9833434350
All other details of the Public Notice will remain same.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that **PAREKH REALTY LLP** (a limited liability partnership firm incorporated under the provisions of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, having its registered office at 8th Floor, 83B – B Wing, Meher Apartments, Anstey Road, Off Altamount Road, Mumbai – 400026) ("the Promoters") and (i) Mrs. Rita Ashok Parekh, (ii) Ms. Janaki Ashok Parekh and (iii) Mrs. Devaki Anand Trivedi ("the Confirming Parties") have agreed to sell to our clients the **Residential Apartment bearing No. 5 ("the said Apartment")** admeasuring 174.56 square metres RERA carpet area (equivalent to 1878.96 square feet) located on the 5th Floor (Refuge Floor) in the building named **"63 JVPD"** along with three (03) car parking spaces **("the Car Parking Spaces")** on the leasehold Plot No. 63 of Vallabhnagar Co-operative Housing Society Ltd. admeasuring 852.50 square metres bearing C.T.S. No.243 of Village Vile Parle situated at North South Road No.1, Juhu Vile Parle Development Scheme, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai – 400056 in the Registration District of Mumbai Suburban. The Apartment and the Car Parking Spaces are hereinafter collectively referred to as **"the Premises"**.
Any person having any claim in, to or over the Premises or any part thereof described in the Schedule hereunder written by way of sale, allotment, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, trust, inheritance, possession, lease, sub-lease, assignment, transfer, tenancy, sub-tenancy, bequest, succession, license, maintenance, lis-pendens, loan, advances, lien, pledge, orders, judgments or decrees passed or issued by any Court, Tax or revenue or statutory authorities, attachment, settlement or otherwise howsoever is hereby required to make the same known in writing to the undersigned at 5th Floor, Durga Chambers, 40, Waterfield Road, Bandra (West), Mumbai – 400050 within 14 days from the date hereof, otherwise it will be presumed that there do not exist any claims and the same, if any, will be considered as waived or abandoned and our clients will proceed with the purchase of the Premises .
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New Link Road, Next to Infinity Mall, Andheri(W), Mumbai- 400053.
A set of blank Tender Document is available **From 21/04/22 to 25/04/22**
At Consultant's Office from **10.30 a.m. To 05.00 p.m. (On working days)**
Tender Cost : Rs.3,000/- (Cash-Non Refundable)
STRUT CONSULTANTS PVT. LTD.
Shree Ganesh Society,297/2360, Motilal Nagar No.2, M.G. Road, Goregaon (W), Mumbai - 400 104.
Contact : 9004285068

India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
SCOPE Complex, Core 8, 6th Floor, 7- Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110 003.
Subject: Open e-tenders are invited for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Static/ Dynamic Programmable Facade Lighting/Illumination Work at Osmania Arts College, Hyderabad Telangana.
Estimated Cost : Rs 8,85,92,726.00
EMD : Rs. 17, 71, 855.00
Date of publishing of tender : 21.04.2022
Last date of submission of tender : 04.05.2022 up to 1600 Hrs.
Date of opening of tender : 05.05.2022 at 1600 Hrs.
For further details, visit websites
https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app & www.itdc.co.in
or Contact Manager (E&M): 011-24307526/Asst. Manager (E&M): 011-24307534
Corrigendum/amendment if any will be uploaded in the above website only.
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E AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALVAGE SALES
Offers are invited for **Fire damaged building & Plant & machinery** belonging to **M/s Shree Samarth Engineers** Lying at E-15, Lote Parshuram Midc,Taluka –Khed Ratnagiri,-415722.on **"As is where is basis with all its defects"**. E Auction for the same will be held on 29/04/2022 by E Auctioneer **M/s S P Auctions LLP** on their website
WWW.SPAUCTIONS.IN
For further details and participating in E Auction, please log on to website or call **Mr. Sandeep 9326763328/8976048590** or **Mr. Devendra - 8691864436** or **Bhatawadekar Insurance Surveyors**, Shanti Nagar, Vakola, Santacruz (east) 400055, Tel: +91 22 26674425 / 26

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Shreenagar Sector 8 CHS Federation Ltd.
Wagle Estate, Thane(W)-400604.
Our redevelopment tender notice advertisement published on dated 4th March 2022 in Times of India and Maharashtra Times. We have hereby rescheduled Tender dates as follows :
Sale of Tender Document - Till 29/05/2022 (Between 11 am to 8 pm)
Submission of Bid Offer - Till 31/05/2022 (Between 11 am to 8 pm)
Opening of Sealed Tenders - 01/06/2022 (11.30 am onwards, Venue will be conveyed)
Project Management Consultant
M/s Shilp Associates,
PMC@Shilpassociates.in
Mr. Dnyandeo Sangle 9619922979
Mr. Rajiv Surve 8355855306
Mr. Nilesh Tayde 8451968060
Sd/-
Secretary
SHREENAGAR SECTOR 8 CHS FEDERATION LTD.

TENDER NOTICE
Sealed tenders are invited from reputed contractors for Structural Repairs, Civil Work, Waterproofing, Painting & Allied Works of
Rushabh Tower CHS. Ltd.
168, S.K. Hadkar Marg, Off. Zakaria Bunder Road, Sewri (West), Mumbai - 400 015.
Tender can be collected from Consultant's Office from **21.4.2022 to 30.4.2022** (Except Sunday & Holidays) between 10:30 am to 5:30 pm
Tender cost **Rs.10,000/-** (DD) Non-Refundable in favor of **"Rushabh Tower Co.Op.Hsg.Soc.Ltd."**
Sealed Tender to be submitted in Society's Office between 11:00am to 5:30pm on or by **4.5.2022**.
Contractor should meet all the following pre-qualifying criteria's:
i. Experience of 15 years in undertaking major repair works.
ii. Satisfactory Completion or Ongoing of atleast 5 projects over 2 Cr. (Single Work Order) in last 5 years.
iii. Total turnover for last 3 years should be above 8-10 Crs. per year.
Saksham Consultants
ISO 9001: 2015
Structural Engineers & Architectural Services
Unit No. 100, 2nd Floor, Kakad Udyog Bhavan, Sitaram Keer Marg, off. T. H. Kataria Marg, Matunga (W), Mumbai-400016.Tel.: 86550 07230/ Mob: 98199 70180.

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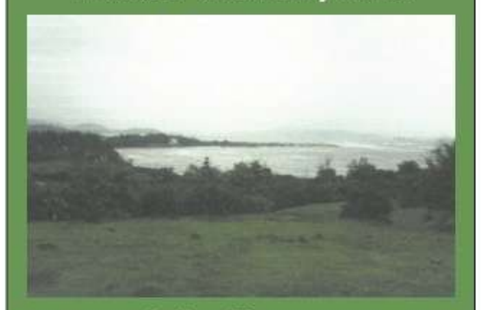

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Only 9 deaths since Feb 2021 due to vax side-effects: Panel

U.Sudhakarreddy
@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Millions of doses of Covid-19 vaccines administered in India so far have thrown up nine cases of death caused by confirmed reactions to the jabs since February last year, according to the health ministry's national committee on adverse events following immunisation (AEFI).

Of these nine deaths, two deaths each were attributed to vaccine product-related reactions, categorised as A1, in Telangana, Maharashtra and J&K and one each in Kerala, Haryana and Chandigarh. Eight of the casualties were linked to Covishield and one to Covaxin.

The cause of each of the nine deaths was explained as vaccination side-effects like anaphylaxis, thrombosis and thrombocytopenia syndrome. Experts say the estimated incidence of anaphylaxis is 1.3 per million doses of flu vaccine administered.

"Overall, the benefits of vaccination are overwhelmingly greater than the small risk of harm. As a precautionary measure, all emerging signals of harm are being constantly tracked and reviewed periodically," one of the reports states. The data was culled by **TOI** from a series of reports on AEFI prepared by the committee between February 2021 and March this year.

India has administered 186 crore-odd vaccine shots, including the first, second and booster doses. "For the mammoth amount of vaccine doses administered, the number of adverse events reported are negligible. All vaccines used worldwide are found to be safe. In these cases of adverse events and deaths in a given individual with health risks, anything can trigger a complication," said Rakesh Mishra, former director of the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).

3 weeks after it was scrapped, no-mask penalty back in Delhi

Schools Told To Remain Open, SOPs Sought

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: As expected, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority reinstated the mask mandate in public places on Wednesday and imposed a penalty of Rs 500 for any violation barely three weeks after the fine was scrapped. However, it said schools would continue to function as usual, holding physical classes, despite concerns about Covid infection among unvaccinated children.

The authority asked the government to lay down a standard operating procedure for schools with the help of experts to deal with infections and containment of spread and ensure its strict compliance. Any violation of the SOP will attract a penalty as a deterrent, it said.

The meeting of the DDMA, chaired by lieutenant governor Anil Baijal, was called after a surge in positivity rate and daily Covid-19 cases over the last fortnight.

DDMA members and public health experts agreed that the situation in the city is under control and there is no need to consider tougher measures, including closure of schools or a partial lockdown, as of now.

In a series of tweets that followed the meeting, Baijal said the experts at the meet called for testing to be enhanced, especially among those with symptoms.

PTI

Passengers wihtout masks at a railway station in Lucknow on Wednesday. The UP govt has made wearing of masks mandatory in Lucknow

Delhi logs 1k new cases in 24 hours

New Delhi: The daily tally of Covid-19 crossed the 1,000 mark on Tuesday for the first time in nearly two and a half months with 1,009 more people testing positive for the infection in the last 24 hours, reports **Durgesh Nandan Jha.** Earlier, the city had reported 1,104 cases in a day on February 10, but they came from 52,848 tests with a positivity rate of 2.09%. Tuesday's 1,009 cases came out of 17,701 tests with a positivity rate of 5.7%. The active case count has reached 2,641, an increase of nearly 400% since April 1. One death was reported in the last 24 hours. Data showed 91 patients, including children were currently admitted in various hospitals.

India's R-value above 1 for first time in 3 mths: Chennai researcher

New Delhi: India's effective reproduction number (R) for Covid, an indicator of how quickly the infection is spreading, has increased to over one for the first time since January, estimates a researcher from Chennai's Institute of Mathematical Sciences. The country's R value, steadily increasing over the last few weeks, is 1.07 for the week between April 12-18, according to Sitabhra Sinha.

In the preceding April 5-11 week, it was 0.93. The last time the R was above 1 was in the week between January 16-22, when the value was 1.28, Sinha said. "This increase in R value is not just because of Delhi but also Haryana and UP," the mathematician, who has been tracking R for India since the beginning of the pandemic, said.

An R value over 1 indicates that the number of active cases has increased. R should be contained below 1 to control the pandemic.

An R number lower than 1 indicates that the disease will stop spreading as there aren't enough people being infected to sustain the outbreak. The R value this year was highest between January 1-10, reaching 2.98 when the Omicron variant of coronavirus caused the third wave in India.

Almost all major cities — Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai — are showing R values above 1. In fact, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh have an R value above 2. Data for Kolkata was not available, Sinha said. PTI

AP

A man in a PPE suit raises awareness about Covid-19 during the Suwori Tribal festival in Guwahati on Wednesday

Cases rising, but critical illness is unlikely, says UP health panel

Lucknow: The health advisory committee on Covid-19 set up by UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath has said here on Wednesday that the rising number of infections at present is unlikely to turn into critical illness, reports **Shailvee Sharda**. "The form of infection is unlikely to change in the fourth wave which will look like the third as the disease is being caused by the Omicron variant," the panel said.

Led by director, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, prof RK Dhiman, the committee met on Wednesday and would be handing over its recommendation to the CM very soon. Among other recommendations, the committee has advocated the importance of prevention protocol and urged people to wear masks at public places, maintain social distance and wash hands with soap frequently.

Meanwhile, reviewing the Covid-19 situation in the state, the CM expressed satisfaction over the preparedness. About reports that a large number of kids are falling prey to the infection in other states, he said: "In 2016-17, there were only 150 Paediatric ICU (PICU) beds in the state while the number of PICU beds in the state as on date is 6,700."

Kids not driving recent rise, don't shut schools: Experts

Nisha.Nambiar@timesgroup.com

Pune: The recent rise in Covid-19 cases among children should not be a worry and there's no need to shut schools because most of the infected kids have developed mild symptoms, experts said. Children should be encouraged to wear masks, though.

"Children are not the drivers of the epidemic. Our advice to schools and parents would be to stick to Covid-appropriate behaviour and ensure kids wear masks as much as possible," said ICMR additional director general Samiran Panda.

Delhi, Haryana and some more states have reported small spikes in caseloads. The Delhi government has told schools to stop in-person classes if a student or staff member tests positive.

ButPanda said reopening of schools has not been identified as a significant driver of Covid in any region. "Closure of schools negatively impacts students. Such a move is not justified in the current context of the Covid epidemic in the country," he said. Chandrakant Lahariya, an epidemiologist, said sero-surveys indicate an estimated 70% to 90% of children in India contracted the virus when schools were closed. "We know kids are as susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 infection as adults. But Covid in them has been mostly mild or asymptomatic," he said. Lahariya said reports of Covid among children should not prompt partial or full closure of schools. "The only precaution is wearing masks and sufficient ventilation," he said.

Children falling sick due to low immunity

Doctors are seeing a sudden spike in children, mostly toddlers or those with pre-existing health conditions, frequently complaining of cough, allergies, viral infection, water-borne diseases, respiratory tract infections and gastrointestinal infections, reports **Sarfaraz Ahmed**. But most of these infections are self-limiting and children recover within 2-3 days, they said. According to doctors, the pandemic had a wide-ranging impact on children's health and staying at home for two years has taken a toll on their immunity. Children develop immunity to various viruses and bacteria by regular exposure to small inoculum of these microorganisms.

Nirav sis: Get US assets seizure case stopped

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Purvi Modi, sister of fugitive Nirav Modi, moved a plea before the special PMLA court, seeking the Enforcement Directorate's intervention in attachment of certain properties during ongoing bankruptcy proceedings in a US court.

The ED said it had already submitted relevant documents before the US court.

Purvi and her husband, Maiank Mehta, named as accused in ED's money-laundering case, turned approvers last year. They will depose as prosecution witnesses.

In her plea, Purvi said she sought to apprise the court about "events that could act as an impediment in the rightful recovery of assets by the ED". She said she wanted the court to effectively restrain the ongoing parallel bankruptcy proceedings filed under the US Bankruptcy Code initiated by the firms owned by Nirav Modi.

> "The bankruptcy proceedings are overlapping with the proceedings in India... She has been made a defendant, which is understood to be to recover properties held by the defendants including the applicant
>
> —Purvi Modi's plea

The petition sought that the ED to be directed to intervene in the US proceedings and seek an injunction, at least with respect to assets related to Purvi. It also asked "that the PNB (Punjab National Bank) be directed to communicate to the trustee of the US proceedings to refrain from continuing the US proceedings to avoid multiplicity of proceedings and possible double jeopardy". It also sought a notice to be issued to the trustee of the US proceedings, to withdraw the case in relation to Purvi's assets.

Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, National Mission for Clean Ganga
VACANCY

Applications are invited from willing and eligible individuals for engagement against one post each of "Consultant (Finance)" and "Consultant (Legal)" on contract basis in National Mission for Clean Ganga, Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti. Place of posting shall be New Delhi. Full details of the vacancy circular are available on the website **nmcg.nic.in.**

2. The last date for receipt of application is **15 days** from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.

DAVP 45125/12/0001/2223

GOVERNOR`S SECRETARIAT
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Tel - 0651 - 2283465, 2283466, 2283467 Fax - 0651 – 2284870
E-mail – jhrgov@jhr.nic.in
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Applications are invited online for the post of 1st Registrar/ 1st Registrar (Examination) and 1st Finance Officer, Jharkhand State Open University, Ranchi.

Online applications are invited from interested eligible candidates having required qualifications for the post of :-

1st Registrar/ 1st Registrar (Examination) and 1st Finance Officer, Jharkhand State Open University, Ranchi.

All the instructions and link regarding submission of online application are available on website having URL www.rajbhavanjharkhand.nic.in or www.jharkhanduniversities.nic.in from 21st April, 2022 Thursday 00:00 HRS.

O.S.D. (Judicial) to Governor -cum- Co-ordinator, Search Committee

PR 268551 Governor (22-23)_D

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (भारत सरकार)
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (रेल मंत्रालय)
RAILWAY BOARD (रेलवे बोर्ड)
NOTICE INVITING BID

Notice No.:2022/Elect/Dev./440/2 Date 20.04.2022

Project: Manufacturing and Maintenance of 1200 (twelve hundred) 9000 hp Electric Locomotives

The President of India, represented by Ministry of Railways, Director Electrical Engineering (Development), Railway Board (the **"Authority"**), having its principal office at Rail Bhavan, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001, India is engaged in the development of Railways and related infrastructure, and as part of this endeavour, the Authority has decided to undertake Manufacture and Maintenance of 1200 (twelve hundred) 9000 hp Electric Locomotives, through single stage two packet bidding system and has to carry out the Bidding process for selection of a Bidder to whom the Project may be awarded. A brief description of the Project may be seen in the Information Memorandum of the Project at the Authority's website **(www.indianrailways.gov.in)** Brief particulars of the Project are as follows:

"Manufacture and supply of 1200 Electric Locomotive of 9,000 horse power, Co-Co configuration (the "Locomotive") spread over a period of 11 (eleven) year at **Rolling Stock Workshop, Dahod** by the selected bidder and Maintenance at nominated Government Depots over Indian Railways on the basis of a long term manufacture and maintenance contract (the **"Project"**)".

The Bidding Documents can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of the Railway website https://ireps.gov.in from 27.04.2022 to 10.06.2022 (upto 17.00 Hrs. IST). Bidder must submit its Financial Bid and Technical Bid at https://ireps.gov.in on or before upto 24.08.2022 at 11:00 hours IST. Bids received online shall be opened on 24.08.2022 at 11:00 hours IST.

Bid submitted through any other mode shall not be entertained. Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 24.08.2022 at 11:00 hours IST. Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the Bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

For further details please contact:
Dr. Ram Niwas,
Director Electrical Engineering (Development),
Ministry of Railways (Railway Board),
Room No. 109, Rail Bhavan, Raisina Road, New Delhi-110001.
Contact No. : **+91-8595526735**
Email : **deedev@rb.railnet.gov.in**
Website : **indianrailways.gov.in**

872/2022

Government of India / Bharat Sarkar
Directorate General of Health Services
बी. सी. जी. वैकसीन प्रयोगशाला,
BCG Vaccine Laboratory,
गिण्डी, चैन्नई, 600032.
Guindy, Chennai-600032.
VACANCY CIRCULAR

Applications are invited to fill the following posts in BCGVL, Guindy, Chennai under the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, on deputation (including Short Term Contract) basis.

S. No.	Post	No.of Posts	Classification	Level in the Pay matrix
1.	Assistant Director (Non Medical)	1	Group "A" Gazetted (Non-Medical)	Level – 11 (Rs.67,700 - 2,08,700/-)
2.	Supply Officer	1	Group "B" Gazetted (Non-Ministerial)	Level – 08 (Rs.47,600 - 1,51,100/-)
3.	Store Officer	1	Group "B" Non-Gazetted (Non-Ministerial)	Level – 06 (Rs.35,400 - 1,12,400/-)

The details of eligibilities, educational qualifications, experience, age and terms & conditions, etc. along with Application Proforma may be accessed from website **www.dirbcglab.gov.in / www.mohfw.gov.in / www.dghs.gov.in**
The Last date of receipt of Application: 07-06-2022
Director, BCGVL, Guindy

National Highways Authority of India
(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)
भर्ती सूचना/RECRUITMENT NOTICE

भा.रा.रा.प्रा., **प्रतिनियुक्ति आधार पर** निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए भर्ती हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है:
NHAI invites applications for recruitment to the following posts **on Deputation basis:**

पदों का नाम Name of Posts	पदों की संख्या* No. of posts*	वेतनमान Pay Scale
महाप्रबंधक (पर्यावरण) General Manager (Environment)	02	पे बैंड–4 (₹ 37,400-67,000) + ग्रेड पे ₹ 8700/- (7वें सीपीसी के अनुसार पे मेट्रिक्स में लेवल 13 के समकक्ष) PB-4 (₹ 37400-67000)+Grade Pay ₹ 8700/- (equivalent to Level 13 in Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC)
उप महाप्रबंधक (पर्यावरण) Deputy General Manager (Environment)	01	पे बैंड–3 (₹ 15,600-39,100) + ग्रेड पे ₹ 7600/- (7वें सीपीसी के अनुसार पे मेट्रिक्स में लेवल 12 के समकक्ष) PB-3 (₹ 15600-39100) + Grade Pay ₹ 7600/- (equivalent to Level 12 in Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC)
उप महाप्रबंधक (सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी) Deputy General Manager (Information Technology)	03	
प्रबंधक (पर्यावरण) Manager (Environment)	01	पे बैंड–3 (₹ 15,600-39,100) + ग्रेड पे ₹ 6600/- (सीडीए पैटर्न में संशोधन – पूर्व 7वें सीपीसी के अनुसार पे मेट्रिक्स में पे लेवल 11 के समकक्ष) PB-3 (₹ 15600-39100) + Grade Pay ₹ 6600/- (Pre-revised in CDA pattern, equivalent to Pay Level 11 of the Pay Matrix as per 7th CPC)

*पदों की संख्या घट–बढ़ सकती है।
* Number of posts may increase or decrease.
2. अधिक जानकारी के लिए भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट **https://nhai.gov.in** देखें।
For details, visit NHAI website **https://nhai.gov.in**

ऑनलाइन आवेदन भेजने की अंतिम तिथि : 06.06.2022 (सायं 6:00 तक)
Last date for submission of online application: 06.06.2022 (6:00 PM)
आवेदन की हार्ड कॉपी भेजने की अंतिम तिथि: 20.06.2022 (सायं 6:00 बजे तक)
Last date for submission of hard copy of application : 20.06.2022 (6:00 PM)

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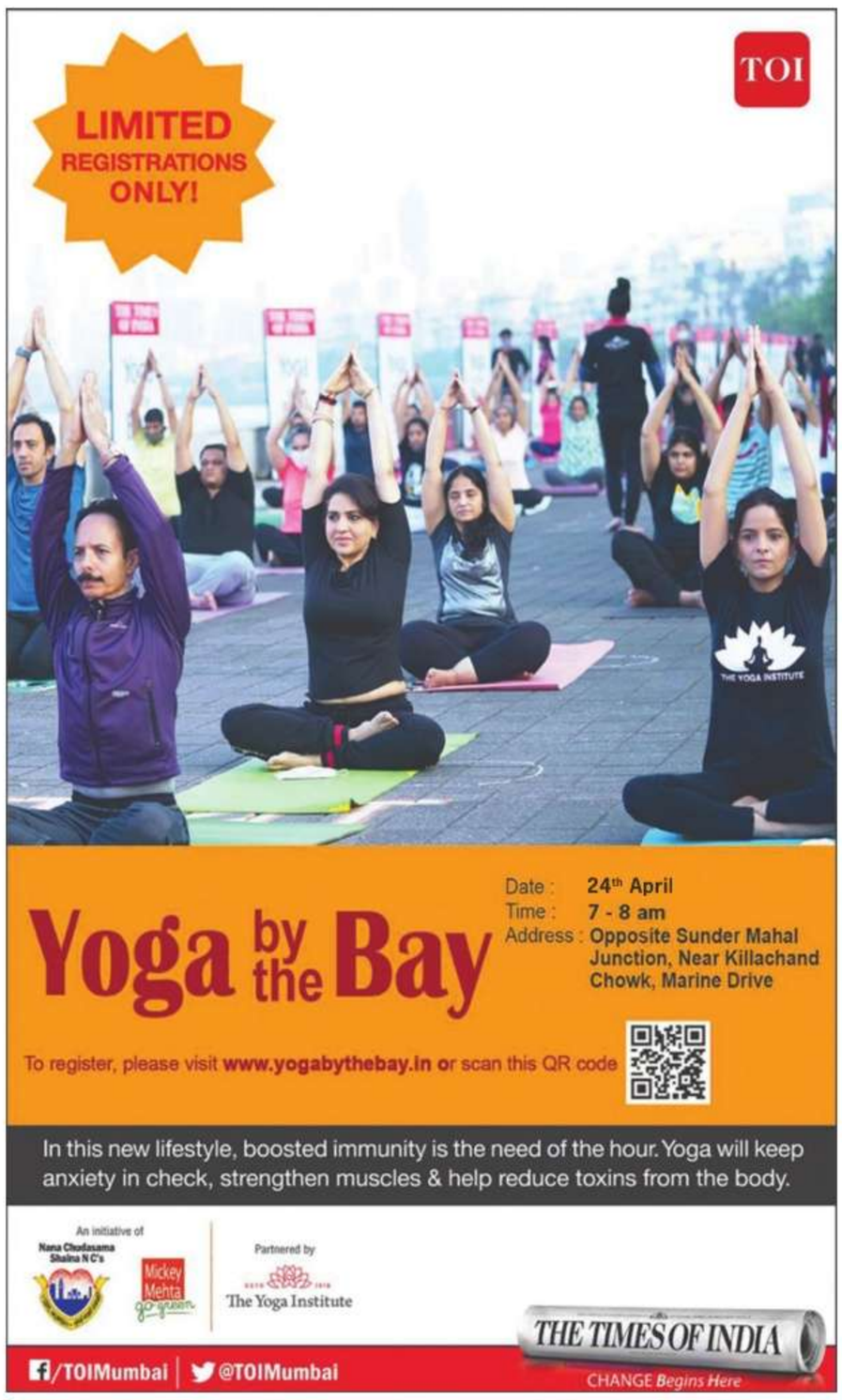

7 of a family burned alive in Ludhiana fire

Ludhiana: Seven members of a family of scrap-pickers were burned alive in their sleep when their shanty near the Ludhiana municipal corporation's central garbage dump caught fire early Wednesday, reports **Nishi Bhardwaj**. They couldn't come out of the burning hut as the main door was padlocked and probably couldn't locate the keys.

Eyewitnesses said people tried to put out the fire with buckets of water, but the flames quickly spread before police and the fire brigade reached the spot. Police said Suresh Kumar, 55, wife Rona Devi, 50, daughters Rakhi, 15, Manisha, 10, Chanda, 8, Geeta, 6, and two-year-old son Sunny perished in the fire on Kakka Road. Their eldest son Rajesh, 17, survived as he was sleeping at a friend's hut.

Guru Teg Bahadur gave his life to protect Kashmiri Pandits: Shah

Kicks Off Festivities For 400th Birth Anniv Of Sikh Guru

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

ANI

Union home minister Amit Shah being felicitated at Red Fort on Wednesday

New Delhi: Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh gave his life to protect Kashmiri Pandits from the brutality of the Mughals, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Wednesday as he kicked off the celebrations for the 400th birth anniversary of the ninth Sikh Guru who was beheaded on Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's orders.

Emphasising the quirk of fate that the 400th Parkash Purab of Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh was being celebrated at Red Fort, the same place from where Aurangzeb ordered his execution, Shah said the life of the Sikh Guru was an inspiration and a lesson in sacrifice and resolve.

"When the Mughals began torturing Kashmiri Pandits, they sought Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh's help. He asked them to tell Aurangzeb that if he could convert Him (Guru Tegh Bahadur) everyone will follow suit. Guru Tegh Bahadur came to Delhi himself. He suffered immeasurable torture and even witnessed the death of his three followers. However, he did not deter. Even 400 years on, everyone remembers Guru Tegh Bahadur and his sacrifice. Several crores live by his teachings and it is also why he continues to be remembered as 'Hind ki Chadar'," Shah said, asserting that the Sikh Guru is revered by everyone in the country, cutting across Hindus and Sikhs.

The two-day festivities, being celebrated as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, will see Prime Minister Narendra Modi address the nation from the Red Fort on Thursday as a tribute to the Sikh Guru.

The PM will also release a commemorative coin and stamp after the Guru, a book of poetry and comic books for children in English, Hindi and Punjabi, which narrate the life and sacrifices of Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh.

He will also release three animation films and 13 short films on the Sikh Guru's life, which will later be translated into all regional languages.

'UK looking to aid India's defence indigenisation'

▶ From P 1

When asked by **TOI** in London whether Johnson would raise India's purchase of discounted Russian oil and India's voting pattern at the United Nations, 10 Downing Street spokesperson said, "This visit is not framed on the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Obviously that is really important, but this is a visit that we have planned for a long time.

"India is an incredibly important partner. The PM has been wanting to make this trip to build our partnership across trade, investment, security and defence and green energy, so we will be discussing all those issues."

While saying, "You can absolutely expect it (Ukraine) to be on the agenda, she added, "We won't be seeking to lecture India or try and persuade them into one position or another. We will be seeking to work with them constructively as an important international partner."

In New Delhi, a source familiar with the likely agenda for the summit on Saturday said the United Kingdom is looking to support India's defence indigenisation efforts and there will be discussions on defence-industrial collaboration, including technology transfer.

Like US President Joe Biden in his recent virtual meeting with Modi, Boris Johnson is expected to discuss ways to reduce India's reliance on defence procurement from Russia and also enhance India's energy security. Sources said **Boris Johnson** will also call for democracies to work together and discuss ways for them to become more resilient.

Johnson, who has been banned from visiting Russia by Moscow, is also expected to brief Modi about his recent visit to Kyiv. India and the United Kingdom have completed two rounds of negotiations for a free trade agreement and the talks on Friday are expected to further encourage the ongoing negotiations.

Asked about Indian fugitives like Vijay Mallya living in the UK, sources said it was for the judiciary to take a view on such cases. Asked about the activities of pro-Khalistan groups in the UK, the source said the county would not allow any activity that's on the wrong side of the law.

Johnson will begin his India trip on Thursday with a visit to a new factory, university and cultural sites in Gujarat, where he will announce new collaborations in AI and technology.

UK and Indian businesses will confirm more than £1 billion in new investments and export deals in areas from software engineering to health, creating almost 11,000 jobs across the UK.

India is the pharmacy of the world: Mauritius PM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gandhinagar: Mauritius PM **Pravind Kumar Jugnauth** on Wednesday thanked India for sending ayurvedic medicines to his country during the Covid-19 pandemic and said that "India is the pharmacy of the world".

"We are grateful to India for sending 10 tonnes of ayurvedic medicines during the first lockdown (of the Covid pandemic). In Mauritius, the practice of AYUSH is popular, and we have embraced the notion that traditional medicines compliment modern medicines," Jugnauth said in his address at the three-day Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit, which got underway at Gandhinagar.

After the inaugural ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Jugnauth held closed-door meeting at Mahatma Mandir, the venue of the Ayush summit. PM Modi tweeted after the meeting, "Held productive discussions with PM @KumarJugnauth. We talked about further deepening bilateral cooperation between India and Mauritius across different sectors."

At the inaugural session of Ayush summit, Jugnauth said India is showcasing its official recognition of therapies originating from traditional medical systems by hosting the first-ever WHO-Global Centre for Traditional Medicine.

Traditional med needs govt support: WHO DG

World Health Organisation Director-General **Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** said long-term strategic investments along with government support are crucial to fostering innovation in the field of traditional medicine.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of the Global AYUSH Investment and Innovation Summit which began at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar on Wednesday. Praising India's strides in the field of AYUSH, the WHO DG said, "India will go to the whole world and the whole world will come to India". He underlined the need to support the innovation ecosystem for health in general and traditional medicine in particular. TNN

Jugnauth noted that Mauritius is one of the rare countries outside India where the practice of Ayurvedic medicines is governed by a legal framework, the Ayurveda and other traditional medicine act.

"Traditional medicine has been an integral resource for health for centuries in communities around the world and the use of traditional complementary or alternative medicine is especially widespread in settings where access to conventional medications is limited," he said.

'Tulsi part of heritage, 'bhai' a must'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gandhinagar: PM Modi said Tedros Ghebreyesus—the first Ethiopian and African to head WHO—has told him how much he loves India and about his Indian-origin teachers from his childhood.

He explained why he chose to name the 57-year-old public health expert after the medicinal plant tulsi or the holy basil (Ocimum tenuiflorum). He said tulsi has been integral to India's spiritual heritage and noted that there is a tulsi vivah festival as well, held around Diwali. And the "bhai" suffix, he said, is a must for a Gujarati man.

The PM said he is delighted by Tulsibhai's affection for Gujarat, his attempt to speak Gujarati, and his respect for his Indian teachers.

3 die in Bihar village, hooch suspected

Patna: At least three men from a village in Siwan district have died since Tuesday night.

The villagers suspect that the three had consumed spurious liquor. Three others are undergoing treatment after experiencing stomach pain and are in critical condition, reports Faryal Rumi.

The deceased belonged to Haradiya village in Panchrukhi block of Siwan district. The victims' kin refrained from saying anything and performed their last rites. No autopsies were conducted; the police received information about the deaths after the cremation. According to family members, the victims complained of abdominal pain, vomiting and severe tingling in the body. TNN

MLA slaps youth over good roads plea

Bengaluru/Tumakuru: In a video that has gone viral, Pavagada Congress MLA Venkataramanappa was seen slapping a youth who asked him for motorable roads to his village Nagennahalli near Pavagada, in Karnataka's Tumakuru district.

After attending a meeting at the tahsildar's office in Pavagada on Wednesday afternoon, MLA Venkataramanappa was on his way back to his car. The youth, who was part of the crowd that accosted the MLA, asked the legislator to provide good roads to his village. The angry MLA slapped the youth. The youth was taken aback by the MLA's conduct.

The lawmaker categorically declined to apologise to the youth for the assault. TNN

Tweet helps find 'unreachable' son

Mangaluru: A 16-year-old boy hopped on to a Mangaluru-Kerala train on a nine-and-a-half-hour journey on Tuesday. When the boy's father Kishan Rao could not reach him on the phone after five hours, he panicked and immediately shot off a tweet to railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw seeking help to know his whereabouts, reports **Deepthi Sanjiv**. In 34 minutes, his son Shantanu called his dad back to say all's well.

The tweet cited the boy's ticket PNR and made a desperate plea to the minister to find him. It added that the boy doesn't know Malayalam and was travelling alone for the first time. Within 15 minutes, Rao received a call from the railway control room asking for details.

TIMES TRIBUTE

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GOD SAW MY ANGEL TIRING AND CALLED HER HOME TO REST.

Mrs. Catherine A. D'silva

This picture was taken on 6th February 2022, our wedding anniversary in hospital, Catherine was all set to come home.

Month's mind mass on 1st May 2022 at 9.00 am at Divine Mercy Church, Ramdev Park Bhayandar (E).

Tribute from her husband Anthony D'silva, Cynthia, Salome, Sonu, Shreha, Shaheen, Thelma, Rosy, 75 members of the D'silva family in Goa & the Fernandes family. Mob: 9867198029

IN LOVING MEMORY

Mrs. Meena Rohit Mehta

With profound grief we inform you about the demise of our beloved Mrs. Meena Rohit Mehta on April 17, 2022.

She lived a beautiful & Inspiring life, devoted to her family and craft.

Prayer Meeting

On : 22.04.2022, From : 4:30-6:30 p.m
At : Jalaram Hall, Opposite Jogger's Park, NS Road Number 6, JVPD Scheme, Vile Parle (West), Mumbai 400049.

Deeply Loved by

Rohit G Mehta
Vinod and Rupa Mehta
Abha and Sajjan Damani
Hiral and Nimesh Chheda
Ramila Vora and Nandita Shah
Dinesh and Shakuntala Dholakia
Aneri and Aalok Shah
Anuj and Suchi Mehta
Rajesh, Snehee, Ananya, Arjun, Shivaay and Aryan

ICPA Health Products Ltd.

Dr. Shripal M Doshi

(1954 - 2022)
Passed away peacefully on 17/04/2022

Prayer Meeting:
Saturday - 23rd April 2022 • 5:00 to 7:00 PM
Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan
(Girgaum Chowpatty, Mumbai - 4000 07)

Zoom Meeting ID : 97774538888

Loved and remembered by

Renu Shripal Doshi

S/O Late Kanchanben & Late Mansukhbhai Doshi
Son in law of Late Dr.Pushpaben & Late Dr.Amulbhai Shah

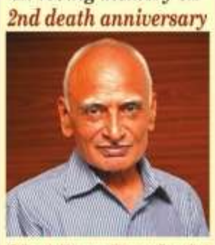
Siddharthbhai - Jyotiben | Rajuben - Khushvadanbhai
Akshat - Kunjal | Puniben (Nilam) - Nayanbhai
Toral - Pranav | Sheelaben - Mukulbhai

Aarav, Ahaan & Natasha

Shah Family
Madhuben | Hemen - Leena | Nilen - Avani
Manish - Anita | Bhavin - Stephanie

REMEMBRANCES

In loving memory on 2nd death anniversary

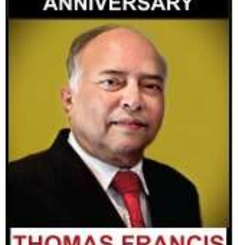


Shri RamDev Sethi
1944 - 2020

You will be remembered forever for your warmth and care

Smt. Chanchal Sethi, Dr. Vivek Sethi & family, Mrs. Kiran Arun & family

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY



THOMAS FRANCIS D'SILVA

August 21, 1948 - April 24, 2021

You were first my husband and dad to our children, then you became our best friend, now you are our angel

From your loving family,
Wife - Maria Angela D'Silva
Children - Steven / Shameem, Stephanie / Ivor and Stanton
Grandchildren - Isaac, Lee, Jillian, Ian and Isabel

First Death Anniversary Mass At Sacred Heart Church, Santa Cruz (West) On Sunday April 24, 2022 at 10 AM

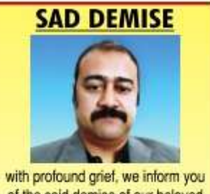
DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN LOVING MEMORY

NAJOO DARUVALA

Beloved wife of late Jimmy Daruvala, dearest Mother of Yezad & Niloufer (Ellaeenah) Daruvala, and Asheish & Jehangir Surti, grandmother of Sanaeya, Jehangir, Yohann & Zara, passed peacefully into eternal light on Tuesday, 19th April, 2022. Uthamna at Albless Bungli, Doongerwadi on Thursday, 21st April at 3:45pm.

SAD DEMISE



with profound grief, we inform you of the said demise of our beloved **PRAKASH KUMAR** (Advocate) on 12th April 2022

Rituals will be performed on
22nd April 2022 - Daskarm
23rd April 2022 - Ekadasa
24th April 2022 - Brahmbhoj

Address : Flat No. 705-A1, Godrej Vihaa CHS, Near Kharvai Naka, Badlapur East

Mrs. Swati Sinha, Advocate (Wife), Diya (Daughter), Darsh (Son)
Mob.: 9320609312

SAD DEMISE

मेरा तो जो भी कदम है, वो तेरी राह में है...
With saying this you left us for heavenly abode.

Smt Vijayalaxmi Mahale
Death : 20/04/2022
PRAYERS MEETING
Saturday 23rd April 2022
Time: Evening 5 pm to 7 pm
Venue: Ajivasan, Pt. Suresh Wadkar Music Academy, Near SNDT College, Opp. Lido Cinema, Juhu Tara Road, Santacruz (W) - Mumbai 400054.
In Grief:- Sanjay Mahale, Kanchan, Mahek, Mihir, Mahale family and Vasaikar family

ॐ शांति शांति शांति

Shri Devichand Lalchand Vohra
(1937 - 2022)

Our beloved father left for his heavenly abode on 18th April, 2022 after leading a joyous & principled life, always showering us with his love & blessings.

Prayer Meeting
on Thursday 21st April, Time: 5 to 6pm,
Venue: Sankha Hall,
Juhu Iskon Hare Krishna Temple

Vohra & Kapoor Family
Mob: 98701 31877

SATNAM WAHEGURU

You Live In Our Hearts & Thoughts ForEver

BHOG & ANTIM ARDAS

HIRU ATMARAM CHANGRANI

MAY 09, 1960 - APRIL 18, 2022

On Friday, 22nd April 10am Onwards
At
Gurudwara Dhan Pothohar 396/19, North Avenue, Linking Road, Near D P Road End of, 17th Rd, Santacruz West, Mumbai - 400054

MITU CHANGRANI
MAAYA - AVINASH - THIYA
CHANDANI - JITU - TRISHA
THE CHANGRANI, PANJWANI AND BELLANI FAMILY

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

REMEMBRANCE
SHARING MEMORIES

10th Death Anniversary

SMT.GEETA PURSHOTTAMDAS KULCHANDANI

She always has a ready smile & glowing charm, But she has slipped away, to join her beloved God.Fondly Remembered by Kulchandani Family

18th Death Anniversary

DR.A.D.JOSEPH
21.04.2004
H/O Late Achama Joseph

It is hard to forget some one who gave us so much to remember. Miss you Papa every day and we love you forever.

Fondly remembered by Dr.Daniel Joseph, Susan John, Kiran Joseph, Thomas John, Thomas, Anupa, Mikaela, Jeremiah, Joseph, Shivani and Riya.

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

Live-in relationships promote promiscuity, says HC judge

'Also To Blame For Rise In Sexual Crimes'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Indore: The Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh high court has observed that live-in relationships 'promote promiscuity and lascivious behaviour' giving rise to sexual crimes.

Justice Subodh Abhyankar made the observations on April 12 while rejecting the bail plea of a 25-year-old man accused of raping a woman with whom he had had a live-in relationship, but broke off with her after she got engaged. The applicant is also accused of blackmailing her with objectionable videos.

Justice Abhyankar said: "Taking note of the spurt of such offences in recent times arising out of live-in-relationships, this court is forced to observe that the bane of live-in relationship is a by-product of constitutional guarantee as provided under Article 21 of the Constitution, engulfing the ethos of Indian society, and promoting promiscuity and lascivious behaviour, giving further rise to sexual offences."

"Those who wanted to exploit this freedom are quick to embrace it but are totally ignorant that it has its own limitations, and does not confer any right on any of the partners," the judge said.

TIMES VIEW: The Supreme Court has accepted live-in relationships as equivalent to marriage for most purposes. The observation made here seems out of sync with that position. There needs to be judicial consistency in such cases.

SC summons Guj DGP for failing to trace man who deserted wife, son

The Supreme Court has directed Gujarat's director general of police (DGP) to remain present in the court on April 26 to explain the failure on part of the state police in tracing a person whose wife has filed dowry and domestic harassment cases against him. The woman has claimed that he deserted her and their son and fled the country.

The woman, a resident of Ambawadi in Ahmedabad, married the man from Visnagar in 2008. They lived in Mumbai and Visnagar for certain periods of time. TNN

HC stays Pune hosp's organ transplant licence freeze

Swati.Deshpande
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Bombay high court on Wednesday stayed a six-month suspension of Pune-based Ruby Hall Clinic's organ transplantation licence by the Directorate of Medical and Education and Research (DMER) imposed last week.

The hospital had filed a complaint at Koregaon Park police station after an organ transplant woman donor wanted discharge in another name following a March 24 surgery. Her 'brother', in turn, complained to the police that she was promised Rs 15 lakh by the donee, who was registered at the hospital as her husband, but she did not receive the money and was hence cheated. The 'brother' also sought action against the doctors concerned at the hospital.

BREATHER FOR RUBY HALL

On April 11, the DMER had suspended the transplant licence of Grant Medical Foundation's Ruby Hall Clinic on the grounds that it had not properly verified the documents submitted by the patients under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act. The hospital sought HC relief on Wednesday.

The hospital's counsel S R Nargolkar submitted that the suspension was illegal in view of an HC judgment expressly holding that it's not the duty of the hospital to verify documents and establish identity of patients. "We have made all possible efforts and called for and received a police verification report, tehsildar's report, affidavits made before the executive magistrate, their Aadhaar cards, ration cards, passport and voter ID cards and bank statements," said Nargolkar. The state, through government pleader P P Kakade, contended that the hospital should have first approached an appellate authority under the law—which is the state government—to appeal the suspension before rushing to HC.

But the HC bench orally observed that "operations cannot be stopped because the petitioner has made out a prima facie case" and granted a stay.

HC: Parents of dead employee can't be ignored for pension

Ajay.Sura@timesgroup.com

Chandigarh: The Punjab and Haryana high court has clarified that parents of deceased government employees cannot be ignored for granting family pension merely on the ground that the deceased had left behind a widow or the children at the time of death.

The government's interpretation of the rules was that once the pension is extended to a widow of a deceased employee, the same cannot be extended to the employee's parents, even if the widow becomes disentitled due to re-marriage.

"In case the family pension is to be extended by the department so that the dependent of the deceased do not suffer from financial hardships, then though it is correct that the widow initially is entitled for the grant of family pension to the exclusion of the others, thereafter, in case the widow becomes ineligible, the children will be entitled for the grant of family pension in exclusion of the others, but when the children also become ineligible for the said benefit, then in case the parents are still alive, who were also dependent upon the deceased and fulfil the other eligibility criteria required for the grant of family pension, their case for the grant of family pension cannot be ignored merely on the ground that the deceased had left behind a widow or the children at the time of death," the HC has observed. Justice Harsimran Singh Sethi of the HC passed these orders while hearing a petition filed by Swaran Kaur, a widow.

The petitioner's son was employed with the police. He was married and had a son. On June 4, 2006, he and his son died in a car accident

The petitioner's son Satnam Singh was employed with the Punjab Armed Police. He was married and had a son. On June 4, 2006, Satnam Singh and his son died in a car accident.

Thereafter keeping in view the rules governing the service of Satnam Singh, his widow was found eligible for the grant of family pension.

Court sets aside cognisance of chargesheet on Kashmir youths

Agra: The additional district and sessions judge of Agra has set aside the chief judicial magistrate (CJM) court's January decision of taking cognisance of the chargesheet filed by Agra police against three Kashmiri students, on the grounds that it was filed without seeking sanction from the state government or Centre, reports **Anuja Jaiswal**.

The three students were booked under sedition laws for allegedly cheering for Pakistan's victory against India in a T-20 World Cup cricket match last year on social media.

SEDITION CASE FOR CHEERING FOR PAK

In a revision petition, defence lawyer Madhuvan Dutt Chaturvedi, challenging the order of the CJM court, argued that no court can take cognisance of the sedition charge sheet without prior approval for prosecution from the Centre or state government. While quashing the court order of the CJM, additional district and sessions judge Mahendra Kumar directed the concerned court to pass the cognisance order only after the prosecutor produces an "approval for prosecution" by the state government or the Centre.

HC: Court can't be swayed by emotions tilting towards women

Chandigarh: A court of law can't allow itself to "be swayed by emotions tilting towards the fairer sex" while arriving at a decision, a bench of the Punjab and Haryana high court observed while dismissing a woman's plea for transfer of a case filed by her estranged husband from Amritsar to her native district of Patiala, reports **Ajay Sura**.

PLEA FOR TRANSFER OF CASE DISMISSED

"In this modern era, there is a clamour for equity of sexes-...What one could decipher is that by making the husband attend the proceedings at a far-off place...the wife cannot be allowed to take undue benefit of her own wrongs," Justice Fateh Deep Singh said.

Terming the petition "nothing but sweet revenge by the wife to force the husband not to seek his rights under the law", the judge said seeking a change in jurisdiction under Section 24 of CPC "is not to be rightly inferred unless and until there are bona fide compelling reasons for the court to come to the aid of the applicant".

21 yrs on, HC acquits 18 given life term for Odisha lynching

Lalmohan.Patnaik
@timesgroup.com

Cuttack: Eighteen people sentenced to life imprisonment 21 years ago for lynching a villager on suspicion of practising witchcraft were acquitted by the Orissa HC on Tuesday, citing lack of evidence. All of them were out on bail for the entire period since appealing the trial court's 2001 verdict.

Chandra Sekhar Pradhan died in a mob attack at Duguripari village, Kandhamal, on November 11, 1998. A sessions court convicted 18 persons for his murder and sentenced them to life in prison on April 19, 2001.

Letting off all 18, Chief Justice S Muralidhar and Justice R K Pattanaik said, "There is no evidence to link each appellant to the offence or even indicate their precise role. They are entitled to the benefit of the doubt."

The bench said the testimonies of eyewitnesses were most crucial to the case, but "only seven" of them were examined by the prosecution, of whom two later turned hostile. "Further, this was a case where there was no dead body to be found. There was no medical or forensic evidence as such to corroborate the testimonies of the prosecution's eyewitnesses. The purported ashes were not sent for forensic exam."

The bench also questioned the deposition of the deceased's wife, Kamala Pradhan, who claimed to have identified the 18 faces accused of murder despite it being dark. "The crucial part of the evidence, where she could purportedly identify as many as 18 accused whom she saw on a dark night, is rendered totally unbelievable. The answers in the cross-examination show that she could not have been speaking the truth since there was, in fact, no street lamp."

SC ask ED how it will bring back ₹5,000 cr kept in tax havens by Unitech promoters

As the erstwhile promoters of real estate firm Unitech siphoned off homebuyers' money and parked over Rs 5,000 crore in overseas tax havens, the SC has directed the ED to brief it about how that amount could be brought back and the steps taken by it to ensure that money deposited there is not further transferred. The SC also declined to pass an order to hand over the Indian assets seized by ED to the Centre-appointed new board of directors to revive the financially-crippled company, reports **Amit Anand Choudhary**.

Additional solicitor general Madhavi Divan, appearing for ED, told a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah that the value of the assets seized by the agency is around Rs 1,000 crore and that amount could be given to the board. She said all seized properties were purchased by the promoters by diverting homebuyers' money and if the court wanted, then the assets could be transferred to the company before completion of trial against them. The bench, however, said that there is a procedure established under PMLA, and it cannot pass an order to "short circuit" the process. It said it can ask the PMLA court to expedite the proceedings.

T Rama Rao, versatile film director, passes away at 83

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Versatile and prolific producer-director T Rama Rao, who had an unerring knack for finding the popular pulse across languages and regions, passed away after a brief illness early on Wednesday. He was 83.

Known for making films at a brisk pace, he was a hugely in-demand director for Hindi films produced in the South in the 1980s. Family yarns (Judaai, Sansar), conservative romantic drama ('Maang Bharo Sajna', 'Ek Hi Bhool'), inspirational stories ('Nache Mayuri'), action films ('Andha Kanoon', 'Watan Ke Rakhwale') -- Rama Rao found success in a variety of genres.

Making his debut as a director in the Telugu film 'Navarathri', featuring A Nageswara Rao in 1966, Rama Rao directed a slew of Telugu films till the late 70s including 'Jeevana Tarangalu' and 'Yamagola'. He made his Hindi debut by remaking 'Yamagola' as 'Lok Parlok' in 1979. The film created a huge controversy and was briefly banned.

There was no looking back for Rao till 2000, as remade several Tamil and Telugu films in Hindi and directed several leading Bollywood heroes including Amitabh Bachchan, Jeetendra, Dharmendra, Mithun Chakraborty, Anil Kapoor as well as female stars Rekha, Sridevi, Jayapradha and Madhuri Dixit. Rama Rao launched actor Rajinikanth in Hindi, when he remade Tamil hit 'Sattam Oru Iruttarai' as 'Andha Kaanoon' in which Amitabh made a special appearance. He also directed one of Kamal Haasan's early Hindi films, the amiable hit, 'Yeh Toh Kamaal Ho Gaya'.

From the early 2000s, he turned his attention back to Kollywood as a producer and made quite a few hits including actor Vikram's 'Dhil' and 'Arul'.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RSAMB DIV.HANUMAGARH

No: 77-128 **NOTICE INVITING BID-01/2022-23** Date:19.04.2022

Bids for Various Roads & Building works of KUMS Hanumangarh Town/ Hanumangarh/ Bhadra & Suratgarh as Rs. 215.52, 92.66, 86.21 & 111.21Lakhs respectively are invited from interested Bidders upto 6:00Pm of Date 12.05.2022 & 23.05.2022 other particulars of the bids may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and http:// agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in/rsamb departmental website.

UBN: AGM22-23WSOB00035 to 00038.

Raj.Samwad/C/22/748 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Prayagraj
(Ministry of Culture, Government of India)
14, CSP Singh Marg, Prayagraj-211001
Tel: 0532-2421855

Deepawali Crafts Fair and Rashtriya Shilp Mela-2022

North Central Zone Cultural Centre, Prayagraj is organizing **Deepawali Crafts Mela** from **9th to 22nd October, 2022** and **Rashtriya Shilp Mela** from **01 to 12th December, 2022** at **Shilp Haat** of the **Center**. The applicants have to submit **Photo of the candidate, Aadhar card, Weavers Service Center/DCH Certificate** along with the application form. The applicants have to deposit a **partial** amount of **Rs. 10,000/-** (Rupees ten thousand only) **separately** for **Deepawali Crafts Fair** & **Rashtriya Shilp Mela** through **bank Draft** in favour of **Director, NCZCC, Prayagraj**. **The number of shops is limited.** The **last date** for receipt of applications in the **Center's Office** for **Deepawali Crafts Mela** is **5th September, 2022 till 6:00 PM** and the **last date** for receipt of applications for **Rashtriya Shilp Mela** is **14th October, 2022 till 6:00 PM**. Detailed information's can be obtained on the website of the center at **www.nczcc.in** or on the telephone number of the center's office at **0532-2421855** or on the mobile number-**7607001855**.

Director
NCZCC, Prayagraj

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI
REQUESTS YOU TO
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TTD Invites donations to **SV Pranadana Trust** from the interested Donors / Institutions towards the Construction / Establishment of Super Speciality Paediatric Hospital in Tirupati.

The main objective of this Super Specialty Hospital is to give new lease of life to the children who are suffering from cardiac and other life threatening diseases. Free treatment will be provided to the under privileged children coming under the BPL category.

As a part of Corporate Social Responsibility, the Companies and Firms shall also contribute their largesse for this noble cause as Hindu Dharma preaches that Children are none other than Almighty themselves.

Donors of one crore and above for this noble cause will also be provided Udayasthamana Seva as a token of appreciation for their generous contribution towards this noble mission. Donors contributing less than one crore will be provided with the darshan and other privileges that are already existing for donations of the prescribed amounts.

The donors other than donating under Corporate Social Responsibility are eligible for Income Tax deduction under Section 80 (G) of Income Tax. The individual donors, shall avail Udayastamana Seva ticket for 25 years while for companies it is applicable for 20 years.

For complete details, please visit **www.tirupatibalaji.ap.gov.in** or contact arjitham office phone No.-08772263589 or send mail to **arjithamoffice@gmail.com**

ROC. No. PR4/13941/Adv. No.20/PRO/2022 Dated: 20.04.2022 **Sd/- Executive Officer**

RASHTRIYA RAKSHA UNIVERSITY
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Advertisement for the Recruitment of Teaching Positions

Rashtriya Raksha University invites an application from eligible candidates for the contractual positions of Assistant Professor / Assistant Professor of Practice. For more details kindly visit the university website: **www.rru.ac.in**
The last date of application is **06/05/2022**

INF/130/22-23 **Registrar I/c**

Dr. NTR UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES: A.P
VIJAYAWADA – 8
NOTIFICATION

Online Applications duly uploading the scanned original certificates are invited from the NEET UG-2021 for admission into Management Quota seats in UG AYUSH (BHMS/BAMS) courses for the academic year 2021-22 in Private Un-aided Non-Minority Homoeopathy & Ayurvedic Colleges in the State of Andhra Pradesh **from 11.00AM on 21-04-2022 upto 05.00PM on 24-04-2022** in the Website: **https://ugmqayush.ntruhsadmissions.com** Detailed Notification & Prospectus are available on the University website: **http://ntruhs.ap.nic.in**

Vijayawada
Date:20.04.2022

Sd/-
(Dr. K. SANKAR)
REGISTRAR

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. COS/CRJ/PUB/e-Tender/19/0162 Date: 13/04/2022. The following **e-Tenders** can be accessed under the link **www.ireps.gov.in**. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link **www.ireps.gov.in→ login→ E-Tender Stores/Supply.** Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ/CLW/ Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/ HQ, 0341-2535631. **Sl. No.; Tender No.; Brief Description of Item; Qty.; Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees); Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): [1]; 702-20028 ;** Brake Control System including Driver's Vigilance Control Device for WAG-9HC Class of Locomotives with necessary Software, Hardware, Electrical & Pneumatics for interface with DPWCS; **329.00 Set**; 5000000.00; **10/05/2022** at 11:00 AM. (2); 75223776 ; Pivot for Bogie; **1486.00 Numbers;** 444400.00; **11/05/2022** at 11:00AM.

PR2-014 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan
www.facebook.com/clwrailways पर हमें फॉलो करें

DELHI JAL BOARD (GOVT. OF N.C.T. OF DELHI)
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER(C)-4
THROUGH EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(C)DR VI
LAJPAT NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110024

NIT No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender (in Rs.)	EMD (in Rs.)	Non-Refundable Tender Fee	Completion Period	Last date/ time for tender download through e-procurement solution
1	Providing and laying 300 mm to 500 mm nominal dia. internal and peripheral sewerage line in Dera Mandi under Chhattarpur assembly constituency, South Delhi. **Tender ID: 2022_DJB_220609_1**	11,89,21,952/-	23,78,500/-	1500/-	12+3 Months Monsoon Period= 15 Months	10.05.2022 upto 3:00 PM
2	Providing and laying 300 mm to 500 mm nominal dia. Internal and peripheral sewerage line in Chandan Hola & Satbari under Chhattarpur assembly constituency, South Delhi. **Tender ID: 2022_DJB_220617_1**	59,07,20,924/-	1,18,14,500/-	1500/-	12+3 Months Monsoon Period= 15 Months	10.05.2022 upto 3:00 PM
3	Providing and laying 300 mm to 600 mm nominal dia. Internal and peripheral sewerage line in Fatehpurberi, Asola & Bhati village under Chhattarpur assembly constituency South Delhi. **Tender ID: 2022_DJB_220624_1**	48,28,78,750/-	96,58,000/-	1500/-	12+3 Months Monsoon Period= 15 Months	10.05.2022 upto 3:00 PM
4	Providing and laying 300 mm to 600 mm nominal dia. Internal and peripheral sewerage line in Rajpur Khurd (Maidangarhi) under Chhattarpur assembly constituency, South Delhi. **Tender ID: 2022_DJB_220628_1**	37,22,08,364/-	74,44,200/-	1500/-	12+3 Months Monsoon Period= 15 Months	10.05.2022 upto 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at https://govt.procurement.delhi.gov.in

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 47 (2022-23)

Sd/- (Tausif Saifuddin)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER(C) DR-VI

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Pune
(mail : lnepmrda@gmail.com)

Public Notice as per Section 3 (2) of Maharashtra Metropolitan Region Development Authority Regulations, 2016

It is hereby informed to all citizens that PMRDA is carrying out e-Auction of following educational plots for the purpose of creating basis educational infrastructure.

Sr. No.	Village & Survey / Gat No./ /Sr.No.	Plot area (sq. m.)	Reserve/Base Price for Lease Premium Rs.
1	Bhosari, Tal- Haveli Gat No./Sr.No. 21 & 43 (Partly) (Sector no. 1, Plot no. High school no.1)	9047.55	24,10,44,827
2	Bhosari, Tal- Haveli Gat No./Sr.No. 91 & 96 (Partly) (Sector no. 3, Plot no. Educational complex)	12709.70	35,56,68,245
3	Bhosari, Tal- Haveli Gat No./Sr.No. 78 Borhadewadi, Tal- Haveli Gat No./Sr.No. 521 (Partly) (Sector no. 6, Plot no. Primary school 3)	3763.80	10,02,75,160
4	Ravet, Tal- Haveli Gat No./Sr.No. 200 & 201 (Partly) (Sector no. 32A, Plot no. Primary school 1)	6975.8	24,77,73,440

The detailed information about e-Auction program and process is published on https://eauction.gov.in website. The applicants can avail the registration facility provided to register themselves on this site from 22nd April 2022 onwards.

-Sign--
Dr. Suhas Diwase (IAS)
METROPOLITAN COMMISSIONER AND CEO, PMRDA, PUNE

L-22
INSTITUTE ON MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION (IMAGE)
Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment

RFP No. 1749 / **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL** Dated: 20th April, 2022

The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment, Odisha intends to engage extension functionaries at Blocks & Districts and setting up of PMU in IMAGE under Extension Reforms (ATMA). Hence, Institute on Management of Agricultural Extension (IMAGE), Bhubaneswar of Department of Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment, Odisha invites sealed proposal from the eligible bidders having their office in Odisha for "Engagement of extension functionaries at Blocks & Districts and setting up of PMU in IMAGE under Extension Reforms (ATMA) Scheme" under the administrative control of IMAGE, Odisha.

The RFP Document containing ***details of scope of work, professional requirements and other bidding parameters*** can be accessed and downloaded from the website of Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment Department at www.agriodisha.nic.in & www.odisha.gov.in

Important dates for the bidding process:

Sl No.	Critical Events	Time Line
1	Date of Issue of RFP	21.04.2022
2	Submission of Pre Bid Queries	29.04.2022 up to 5.30 PM
3	Pre Bid Meeting	04.05.2022 at 11.30 AM
4	Publication of Pre Bid Clarification	07.05.2022
5	Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid	12.05.2022 up to 5.30 PM
6	Opening of Technical Bid	13.05.2022 at 11.30 AM
7	Technical Presentation	18.05.2022 at 11.30 AM
8	Opening of Financial Bid	20.05.2022 at 04.00 PM

The proposal complete in all respect in a sealed envelope clearly mentioning on the top of it **"Selection of Agency for Engagement of Extension Functionaries at Blocks & Districts and setting up of PMU in IMAGE under Extension Reforms (ATMA) Scheme"** must reach the undersigned through **Speed Post / Registered Post latest by 12.05.2022 up to 5.30 PM**. The proposals received beyond the scheduled last date and time shall not be considered and will be out rightly rejected. Further, the authority reserves the right to reject any/all proposals without assigning any reason thereof.

INSTITUTE ON MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION (IMAGE)
Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment
Siripur, Bhubaneswar - 751001
Website: https://agriodisha.nic.in , www.odisha.gov.in
Email: imagebbsr1999@gmail.com
Phone: 0674-2974145

OIPR-01408/11/0002/22-23

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
(श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)

आदर्श चिकित्सालय एवं व्यावसायिक रोग केन्द्र
Model Hospital and ODC Indore
नंदानगर, इंदौर - 452011
Nanda Nagar, Indore - 452011
Email - ms-indore@esic.nic.in
Website : www.esic.nic.in, www.esic.in

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR THE POST OF FULLTIME/PART TIME CONTRACTUAL SUPER SPECIALIST

S. No.	Department	FULLTIME/PART TIME CONTRACTUAL SUPER SPECIALIST		Date and Time
		Total Vacancy	Reservation	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
01	Cardiology	01	UR-01	13/05/2022
02	Gastroenterology	01	UR-01	
03	Medical Oncology	01	UR-01	
04	Neurology	01	OBC-01	
05	Surgical Oncology	01	UR-01	
06	Urology	01	UR-01	

For complete details, please visit our website www.esic.nic.in. Further any corrigendum/ addendum (if any) or any revision will be circulated through mentioned websites only.

Medical Superintendent, ESIC Model Hospital & ODC, Indore reserves the right to fill any or no post or
cancel the interview at any stage
No. of vacancies advertised can be varied.

In case of any unfilled vacancy after the scheduled date of interview, Interview will be conducted on every Wednesday (next Wednesday in case of holiday on Wednesday). Applicants are advised to refer to the hospital website www.esic.nic.in for confirmation of unfulfilled vacancy position from time to time

Medical Superintendent

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE AGRICULTURAL MARKETING BOARD

e-Procurement Tender Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

1. The **Executive Engineer HPSAMB, SHIMLA, H.P** on behalf of Chairman, Himachal Pradesh State Agricultural Marketing Board invites the online bids on Item Rate basis for the civil works under schedule A, Electrical works under Schedule B, Fire fighting works under Schedule D and on EPC basis for the HVAC under schedules C in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned works from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD or any other state PWD or equivalent class in Govt. of India / C.P.W.D./P.W.D / Public sector undertaking/ Railways/ M.E.S. / Registered with State and Central Government undertakings/Quasi Government. **A Contractor enlisted in a particular class shall be eligible to tender for his own class and one step below as per enlistment rules of HPPWD.**

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	Time Period	Class
1.	**ESTABLISHMENT OF INTEGRATED COLD CHAIN INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PRESERVATION AND VALUE ADDITION AT PARALA AND KHARAPATHAR, SHIMLA DISTRICT (HP) ON ITEM RATE CONTRACT FOR CIVIL, EI WORKS AND EPC FOR THE HVAC WORKS"**	44.50 Crores	5 Lakhs	10,000/-	15 Months from date of award	A
						Class A category in Civil/Mechanical/ Electrical

2. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission :** The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website https://hptenders.gov.in. Bidder would be required to register in the website which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in **HPSAMB** may obtain the same from the website: https://hptenders.gov.in. Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e- tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in these tenders.
3. **Key Dates:**

Period of sale of Bidding document	:	**19.04.2022 at 18.00 Hrs. to 13.05.2022 at 18.00 Hrs.**
Time and Date of Pre-bid meeting	:	**25.04.2022 at 11.00 Hrs.**
Last date and time for Online Submission of Bids	:	**13.05.2022 upto 18.00 Hrs.**
Last date and time for Physical Submission of Bids	:	**16.05.2022 upto 11.00 Hrs.**
Time and Date of opening of Bids (Technical Part)	:	**16.05.2022 at 15.00 Hrs.**

4. **TENDER DETAILS :**
   The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover :
   Cover 1 : shall contain scanned copies of all **"Technical Documents/ Eligibility Information".**
   Cover 2 : shall contain **"BOQ/Financial Bid",** where contractor will quote his offer for each item. The rates quoted by the contractor shall be including all the Taxes.
5. The document has Volume 1, 2 and 3 which are containing schedule of quantities, additional & special conditions, additional specifications, particular specification and other terms and conditions given in the NIT and drawings for Civil, Plumbing, Electrical & HVAC works.
6. Details of these parts are summarized as under :
   PART A : HP PWD-6, HP PWD-8 including schedule A to F and Standard General Conditions of Contract.
   PART B : Technical specifications for Civil and Plumbing Works, Electrical Works, HVAC and Firefighting Works
   SCHEDULE 1 : Technical specifications for Civil and Plumbing Works under item rate contract
   SCHEDULE 2 : Technical specifications for Electrical Works under item rate contract
   SCHEDULE 3 : Technical specifications for HVAC under EPC Basis contract.
   SCHEDULE 4 : Technical specifications for Firefighting Works under item rate contract
7. **SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS :** The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document (b) original Bid Security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of Fixed deposit receipt duly pledged in the name of Executive Engineer, HPSAMB Shimla in the O/o Executive Engineer, HPSAMB, Shimla, H.P as specified in Key dates at Sr. No. 3.
8. **BID OPENING DETAILS :** The bids shall be opened on **16.05.2022 at 15:00 hours** in the office of the Executive Engineer, HPSAMB, Shimla, H.P. by the authorized officer. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
9. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a **period of 90 days** after the deadline date for bid submission.
10. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond his control. Even though the system shall have all updates for the information of bidders but the undersigned shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidder's responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.
11. The non-responsive contractors can submit their dissent against the tender within **three days** after opening of technical bid. Any kind of query/objection will not be entertained after the specified days.
12. E-mail address and contact details must be mentioned in the tender document.
13. The undersigned reserve the right to reject one or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever in the interest of the board.
14. The address for communication is as under :
1. Name & Designation of Officer : **Sh. Naresh Thakur, Managing Director.**
2. Official Address : Himachal Pradesh State Agricultural Marketing Board, Vipnan Bhawan, Khalini, Shimla-171002 (HP)
3. Telephone nos. : +91 177 2621252, 2621347; Fax : 01772621260
4. E-mail : hpmarketingboard@yahoo.co.in

Executive Engineer, HPSAMB, Shimla-2

Advt.No.0054/20.04.2022.

MADHYA PRADESH ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

MPRDC (M.P. State Highway Authority)
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
45-A, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462011, Phone No. : 0755-2597290/ 2765205, Fax : 0755-2572643, Website : mprdc.gov.in
CIN : U45203MP2004SGC016758
NIT No. 983/MPRDC/HR/884/2022 Bhopal, Dated 19.04.2022

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)

Empanelment of State Quality Monitors for Road/Bridge/Road & Bridge under Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation Ltd.

The Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation (MPRDC) (the "Authority") is engaged in Empanelment of State Quality Monitors for Road/Bridge/Road & Bridge on State Highways/ Major District Roads entrusted to it, in State of Madhya Pradesh. As a part of its functions, the Authority has decided to engage independent **State Quality Monitors (SQM)** for inspection of this project being executed by the MPRDC. The Authority has decided to carry out the process of selection of the monitors as per their qualification.

The interested monitors who wish to apply in response to this Request for Qualification (RFQ) are invited to submit their Applications for pre-qualification as prescribed in RFQ Document, which shall be available for sale from **18th April, 2022** on **www.mprdc.gov.in.** The Application(s) shall be submitted by the Bidder(s) on MPRDC's Email: **mismprdc@mp.gov.in** as specified in RFQ Document. All future clarifications will be uploaded on the website only.

No physical application shall be considered.

M.P. Madhyam/104480/2022 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Tender No- BPL/LC/T/619 Dt.14.04.2022

E-tender on behalf of the President of India acting through Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer (Const.), West Central Railway, Construction Office building, Near DRM Office, Habibganj, Bhopal (M.P)-462024, invites from the reputed Contractors, for the following work. **Tender No-**BPL/LC/T/619, **Description of work-**Design, Supply, erection, testing and commissioning of 25 KV , AC 50HZ single phase OHE electrification of Itarsi North-South grade separator / fly over with yard remodeling for single down line (Left over work).**Completion period-**06 months, **Estimated cost in Rs.-** 3,11,98,623/- **EMD in Rs-** 3,06,000.00, **Tender form Cost-**NIL, **Closing time & date-**At 15.00 hrs on 09.05.2022. The complete information of above E-tender is available in website IREPS (www.ireps.gov.in) and also placed on the notice board of the office of DY.CEE(C)/BPL. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against the above tenders. Corrigendum/ amendment, if any, to this publication would appear only on the above mentioned website and will not be published elsewhere.

DY.CEE(C)/BPL

वैक्सीन लगवाएं, जीवन के सफर को सुरक्षित बनायें।

मध्यप्रदेश पुलिस आवास एवं अधोसंरचना विकास निगम

कार्यालय परियोजना यंत्री, संभाग क्र. 01, ग्वालियर
ई-मेल : mpphcgwaliorno1@gmail.com

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

मध्यप्रदेश पुलिस आवास एवं अधोसंरचना विकास निगम, संभाग क्र. 01, ग्वालियर द्वारा निविदा क्रमांक 05/2022-23, (ऑनलाइन निविदा क्रमांक - 2022_MPPHC_198035_1 एवं निविदा क्रमांक 06/2022-23, (ऑनलाइन निविदा क्रमांक - 2022_MPPHC_198046_1 आमंत्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत निविदा सूचना एवं अन्य विवरण **Portal : https://www.mptenders.gov.in** पर देखे जा सकते हैं।

म.प्र. माध्यम/104490/2022 **परियोजना यंत्री**

WESTERN RAILWAY

VARIOUS WORKS

Tender Notice No.WTR/17/2022/02 dated 19.04.2022 for tender on e-procurement mode only are invited by Chief Engineer (Track Supply), Head Quarter Office, Old Building , 2nd floor, Churchgate , Mumbai 400020 for supply of the following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Short Description	Tender Quantity	Date of closing tender
1	216029	Various types of welding portions for fusion welding of rails - **(A/B)** 60/52 Kg (90 UTS) rails with 25 mm gap **(C)** 60 Kg /60E1(R-260 grade rails & 60Kg (90UTS) with 25mm gap. **(D)** 60Kg (90UTS) rail with 75 mm gap	**A) 16716 Nos. B) 13242 Nos. C) 6007 Nos. D) 800 Nos**	**26.05.2022**
2	226002	6mm thick nylon cord reinforced GRSP to drg no. T-4218	**10902 Sets**	**24.05.2022**

Time of closing of E-tender Box: 11.30 hrs on the date of closing of tender.
For detailed tender conditions/Corrigendum please visit **www.ireps.gov.in** 0042

Like us on : facebook.com/WesternRly Follows us on : twitter.com/WesternRly

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
	EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Solid Waste Management Division M.C. Chandigarh		
1.	Major overhauling of dry waste processing plant at Garbage Processing Plant, Sector 25 West. Repair/replacement of machinery, parts etc. to make the plant in running condition and operation and mtc. of plant for a period of 1 year extendable by 2 years. (Ch. To: Solid Waste Management). (Re-invited) App. Amount : Rs.6,35,12,000/- EMD : Rs.12,70,240/- Time Period : 3 months for repair & 1 year for O&M extendable by 2 years Tender Fee : Rs. 5000/-	20.04.2022 To 26.04.2022 at 06:00 P.M.	27.04.2022 at 10:00 A.M.

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in

NODAL OFFICER-CUM-EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
M.C.P.H. Divn.No.3, Room No.1, Water Works, Sector-37, Chandigarh

DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM

UPTDC
(Government of Uttar Pradesh)
PARYATAN BHAWAN, C-13, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow - 226010 U.P. (India)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FOR SELECTION OF AGENCY FOR OPERATION & MAINTENANCE OF BHAGIRATHI ATITHI GRAH (A 100 ROOM HOTEL), HARIDWAR, UTTRAKHAND ON MANAGEMENT CONTRACT.

UP State Tourism Development Corporation Ltd, Uttar Pradesh, invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for selection of agency for operation and maintenance of Bhagirathi Atithi Grah (A 100 Room Hotel) at Haridwar, Uttrakhand on Management Contract.

Interested parties may download the bid document from e-tender website **http://etender.up.nic.in.** The pre-bid for the Request for Proposal shall be held on **29.04.2022 on 12.00 Noon** at Paryatan Bhawan 4th Floor, C-13, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 Uttar Pradesh, India.

Request for Proposal (RFP) can be submitted online on or before **12.00 Noon** by **18.05.2022** along with requisite Fee and Bid Security, on the website **http://etender.up.nic.in.** Amendments to this Notice Inviting Tender (NIT), if any, would be published on the website **http://etender.up.nic.in.**

For inquiry, UPSTDC Ltd. can be contacted through email: **mdupstdc@gmail.com / md@upstdc.co.in** or mobile +91-9415609464 or through office visit at its main office UPSTDC Ltd. Paryatan Bhawan, C-13, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, 226010, Uttar Pradesh (India).

DIRECTOR GENERAL/ MANAGING DIRECTOR

PREMISES REQUIRED ON OUTRIGHT PURCHASE BASIS AT BANDRA KURLA COMPLEX, MUMBAI

Offers from owners / PSUs / PSU Banks / Reputed parties for Bare shell / unfurnished office premises (around 18,000 Sq. ft RERA CARPET AREA) with parking facility on Outright purchase basis at a prominent Business / Market location in or around within a maximum distance of 500 meters from our existing office premises at Parinee Crescenzo, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai.

The Contact person is Mr. Inderjeet Ghuliani, Senior Vice President. Contact No.: 022-61793400

The premises should be available for possession immediately on the execution of the Sales deed. Interested parties are requested to download the details from our website www.sbimf.com available under the heading 'Download - Tenders.' and e-Tender Portal: https://etender.sbi/SBI/. The last date of submission of the Offer in the prescribed format by 5 PM on 5th May 2022. The Company reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals without assigning any reasons thereof.

SBI FUNDS MANAGEMENT LIMITED

SBI Funds Management Limited
(A Joint Venture between SBI & AMUNDI)
(CIN: U65990MH1992PLC065289)
9th Floor, Crescenzo, C-38 & 39, G Block,
Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai- 400051.

CORRIGENDUM

PRESS NOTICE FOR APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON AS PER MAHARASHTRA WATER RESOURCES REGULATORY AUTHORITY (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2016. (MAHARASHTRA ACT NO. VIII OF 2017) :-

Government of Maharashtra (GoM) has enacted Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act, 2005 to regulate water resources within the State of Maharashtra, facilitate and ensure judicious, equitable and sustainable management, allocation and utilisation of water resources, fix the rates for use of water for agriculture, industrial, drinking and other purposes, and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Fresh nominations are invited by undersigned on behalf of Selection Committee for the post of Chairperson of Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority on or before 20th April, 2022 upto 17.00 p.m. (Candidates who have applied for the said post as per the advertisement published earlier are required to re-submit the new application).

The last date for submission of nomination form for the said post has been extended to 10th May, 2022 instead of 20th April, 2022.

All the relevant details regarding eligibility criteria, service conditions, details to be furnished alongwith the nomination as per the Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Act, 2016 (Maharashtra Act no. VIII of 2017.) are available on following web sites.

https://maharashtra.gov.in
https://wrd.maharashtra.gov.in
https://mwrra.org

Sd/-
(R. R. Shukla)
Chief Engineer (WR) & Joint Secretary
Water Resources Department,
Government of Maharashtra.

DGIPR/2022-2023/232

MADHYA PRADESH ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

MPRDC
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
45-A, Arera Hills, Bhopal-462011, Madhya Pradesh
Phone No. : 0755-2527290/2765205 (EPBX), Fax : 0755-2572643
Website : www.mprdc.gov.in, CIN: U45203MP2004SGC016758
NIT No. 975/558/MPRDC/Procu/FR-NDB/2022 Date: 18.04.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation Limited (MPRDC) Bhopal invites online tender for consultancy services for the preparation of feasibility report for 2 lanning/2 lanning with paved shoulder of the following State Highways (SH) & Major District Roads (MDR) in the state of Madhya Pradesh.

Package	S. No.	Name of Road	Road Length (In Km.)	Package Length (In Km.)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)
Package-A	1.	Indore-Depalpur	34.00	462.00	20,000/-
	2.	Suwasara-Garoth-Bhanpura	61.00		
	3.	Badnawar-Thandla	78.00		
	4.	Budhni-Itarsi	35.10		
	5.	Datia- Seondha	65.00		
	6.	Murar-Chitora	29.40		
	7.	Birgoda-Ingoriya	30.00		
	8.	Vidisha-Ahmedpur	20.30		
	9.	Pathariya-Kherbana	15.00		
	10.	Sahajpur-Tendukheda	22.00		
	11.	Sonkatch-Gandharvpuri	12.00		
	12.	Jeerawad-Bilwari-Gandhwani	20.00		
	13.	Pichhor-Indergarh	9.20		
	14.	Sadrai-Gadarwada	31.00		
Package-B	1.	Katni-Vijayrahavgarh-Barhi	51.40	445.82	20,000/-
	2.	Kannod-Satawad-Punasa & Narmada Bridge	77.32		
	3.	Khamarpani-Seoni-Lodhikheda-Remond Chowk	24.40		
	4.	Kalinjar (UP Border)-Ajaygarh-Panna	45.60		
	5.	Gairatganj-Silwani-Bareli-Pipariya	105.00		
	6.	Pipariya-Matkuli	28.00		
	7.	Chabi-Shahpura	49.50		
	8.	Shahpura-Umariya (Ghogari)	22.00		
	9.	Astha-Kannod	42.60		
Package-C	1.	Indore-Ujjain	77.00	555.56	20,000/-
	2.	Bina-Khimlasa-Malthone	40.00		
	3.	Rahatgarh-Begamganj-Gairatganj	49.00		
	4.	Bichiya-Kumhra	29.00		
	5.	Rewa-Bankuiya-Semariya	33.40		
	6.	Gohad-Mau	31.60		
	7.	Lahar-Amayan	23.23		
	8.	Chitrangi-Pendra	13.20		
	9.	Jhukehi-Kymore	27.64		
	10.	Anuppur-Jethari-Vyankatnagar	40.60		
	11.	Bhind-Baroli	15.20		
	12.	Sajjanpur-Chibora	21.59		
	13.	Amarpatan-Rampur	25.60		
	14.	Silwani-Batera-Saikheda-Umarganjhir-Pipaliya Road	24.00		
	15.	Majhgawa-Patera-Mahtain-Barondha-Khoti-Shiyaman	56.70		
	16.	Rangatola-Changera-Beni-Waraseoni	47.80		

The dates for purchase, submission, etc. are mentioned in the key dates. Tender forms can be purchased online only **upto 15:30 hrs. on 23.05.2022** from website **www.mptenders.gov.in.** The bidders have to submit the Technical bid as well as Financial Bid online only. The Addendum/ Corrigendum (if any) shall only be published on the website of **www.mptenders.gov.in** only. If holiday is declared by Govt. of M.P. on the date of opening, the same will automatically be shifted to subsequent working days. MPRDC reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

M.P. Madhyam/104481/2022 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

MADHYA PRADESH ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

MPRDC
(Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)
45-A, Arera Hills, Bhopal – 462 011, Madhya Pradesh
Ph. : 0755-2527290, 2765205, Fax : (EPBX) 0755-2572643
Website : www.mprdc.gov.in, CIN : U45203MP2004SGC016758
NIT No. 971/557/MPRDC/Procu/2022 Bhopal, Date : 18.04.2022

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation Limited (MPRDC) Bhopal invites proposal for user fee collection at following toll plazas in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

S. No.	Name of Work	Annual Potential Collection (APC) (in Crore)	Bid Security (EMD) (in Lakhs)	Cost of RFP Document (in Rs.)	Period of Service (in Months)
1.	User Fee Collection on Pipariya-Narsinghpur-Shahpura Road (SH-67) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.	25.21	12.61	50,000/-	24
2.	User Fee Collection on Rewa-Beohari Road (SH-57) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.	17.53	10.00	30,000/-	24
3.	User Fee Collection on Harda-Khandwa Road (SH-71) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.	12.03	10.00	30,000/-	24
4.	User Fee Collection on Beohari-Shahdol Road (SH-57) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.	8.66	8.66	20,000/-	24
5.	User Fee Collection on Ratlam-Jhabua Road (SH-26) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.	6.94	6.94	20,000/-	24
6.	User Fee Collection on Seoni-Balaghat Road (SH-72) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.	6.72	6.72	20,000/-	24
7.	User Fee Collection on Raisen-Gairatganj-Rahatgarh Road (SH-29 and 62) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.	5.38	5.38	20,000/-	24
8.	User Fee Collection on Gogapur-Mahidpur-Ghosla Road (SH-16) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.	2.27	2.27	15,000/-	24
9.	User Fee Collection on Malehra-Loundi-Chandla Road (SH-12) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.	1.59	1.59	12,500/-	24
10.	User Fee Collection on Chandla Sarvai Gorihar-Matond Road (SH-05) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.	0.16	0.32	2,000/-	24

The dates for purchase, submission, etc. are mentioned in the key dates. Tender forms can be purchased online only upto **15:30 hrs. on 23.05.2022** from website **www.mptenders.gov.in** The bidders have to submit the Technical bid as well as Financial Bid online only. The Addendum/ Corrigendum (if any) shall only be published on the website of **www.mptenders.gov.in** only. If holiday is declared by Govt. of M.P. on the date of opening, the same will automatically be shifted to subsequent working days.

MPRDC reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

M.P. Madhyam/104476/2022 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Karnataka Forest Development Corporation Limited, Pulpwood Wing Shimoga.

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Director KFDC Ltd.
Near RTO Office, Shimoga

No.KFDC/ED/A6/CR-90/2022-23/48 Date : 16.04.2022

BRIEF E-BID NOTIFICATION

The e-tender is invited through e-procurement from the wood based industries i.e. pulp and paper / rayon grade pulp, MDF board manufacturing industries / Any other pulpwood consuming industries etc. existing in Karnataka or elsewhere for purchase of 157000 MT of without bark OR 188400 MT of withbark of Eucalyptus / Acacia pulpwood from the plantations of Shimoga, Chickmagalore, Dharwad and Bangalore division which is under the control of Executive Director, Karnataka Forest Development Corporation Ltd., Shimoga.

Note : Above mentioned quantity is only approximate. The actual quantity will be intimated during execution of agreement. (1) Place of receiving e-tender : **e-procurement portal website https:/www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** (2) EMD amount: **Rs. 5,00,000.00 (Rs. Five lakhs) only to be deposited at e procurement portal.** (3) Date and time of receiving e-tender by e-procurement portal up to **17.30 hrs of 25.04.2022** (4) Date and time of opening e-tender by the undersigned: **27.04.2022 at 3.30 PM.**

The other details required if any pertaining to the bid may be obtained from the e-procurement portal office – phone No. 080-25501216, 080-25501227/above office phone No. 08182-272155 during the office hours.

DIPR/SMG/No.78-04 zenkar/2022-23 **sd/- Executive Director, Shimoga**

O-110

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK
AT/PO - NAYABAZAR, DIST - CUTTACK - 753004
Tel No.06712443399, Email Id- serw_ctc@yahoo.com
Order No. 1414 dtd : 18.04.2022

2nd CORRIGENDUM TO TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. Tender On Line RWC 03/2022 invited by this office letter no.1265 date-05.04.2022

The date and time of availability of tender, seeking tender clarification, opening of technical bid & Financial bid as per bid identification No. Tender On Line RWC- 03/2022 are hereby modified and may be read as follows.

3. Clause No-06 of NIT Modified below:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time for seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack	Tender Online RWC 03/22	25.04.2022 at 11.30 A.M.	09.05.2022 up to 5.00 P.M	09.05.2022 up to 2.00 P.M.	10.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later.

Sd/- **Chief Construction Engineer**
Rural Works Circle, Cuttack
OIPR - 25097/11/0005/22-23

A-81

Government of Odisha,
Department of Water Resources,
Office of the Chief Engineer, JICA Projects,
Brahmani Left Basin, Sukinda.
At-Jamuposi, Po-Amploba Dist. Jajpur, Odisha, Pin-755 018,
E-mail: cebmblb@gmail.com Phone No. 06726 - 244517

1st Corrigendum Notice

Bid Identification IFB NO.-CE-JICA-BLB-ICB-D(I)-02 of 2021-22.

1. Unit of measurement for Item No.215 in BoQ of Price Bid under Bill-2, Water Conveyance System may be read as **Sqm** instead of **Cum.**
2. In the Technical Bid under Section VI-1 General Specification, Clause 7.1 (e) in first paragraph, the words written as **"within ninety (30) days"** may be read as **"within ninety (90) days".**
3. The last date of collection of Bidding Documents is extended to 27th April 2022 up to 1.00 P.M
4. Closing Date and time of receipt of Bid is extended up to 12.30 P.M of 28th April 2022.
5. Date and Time for Opening of Technical Bid is extended to 10.30 A.M of 29th April 2022.
6. The place of submission and opening of Bid remains same.
7. All other conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, JICA Projects,
Brahmani Left Basin, Sukinda
OIPR-32343/11/0001/22-23

'Ensure agencies do not harass WB investors'

Didi Asks Guv To Give Centre A Message

Tamaghna Banerjee & Udit Prasanna Mukherji | TNN

Utpal Sarkar

The CM has repeatedly protested against the Centre's "harassment" of opposition state govts and parties "through agencies"

Kolkata: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and state governor Jagdeep Dhankhar found themselves praising each other on Wednesday instead of trying to fend off acerbic attacks from one another, though the Bengal CM, who seemed to mellow first, did choose the Bengal Global Business Summit's opening session to ask Dhankhar to "pass on a message to the Centre" to ensure that "industrialists (investing in Bengal)" are not troubled by agencies.

"All these industrialists out here, they cannot open their mouths. We want the Centre's help. But I would like you to personally see that industrialists are not disturbed through some agencies. Please see to that," Banerjee asked Dhankhar, who shared the dais with her and other dignitaries. The governor gestured that he did not hear her last words, prompting Banerjee to get closer to him and whisper something in his ears; they then shared a smile before the national anthem started. "I am excited that the governor has joined us for the BGBS programme. He gave an excellent opening speech, which we appreciate. Like your speech, we would appreciate your cooperation always," Banerjee said before her "message to the Centre".

The Bengal CM has repeatedly protested against the Centre's "harassment" of opposition state governments and parties "through agencies" like the CBI and ED. Several Bengal ministers and Trinamool leaders, including Firhad Hakim, Partha Chatterjee, Abhishek Banerjee and Anubrata Mandal, are now being investigated by these agencies. Trinamool has called the charges against its leaders a part of the Centre's strategy to destabilise and threaten opposition-governed states.

Banerjee focused on the various positives that Bengal could offer investors. "We are the first state to organise a physical business summit after two years of the pandemic," she said, adding that the last five editions had resulted in investment proposals worth more than Rs 12,000 crore.

"We are a no-strike-no-bandh-only-work state, have world-class infrastructure, free education for all, social security for the underprivileged, we excel in skill development and have focused on ease of doing business and massive digitisation."

Boy leans out of school bus to throw up, dies as head hits pole

Ghaziabad: A 9-year-old boy died on his way to school on Wednesday morning after his head hit an electricity pole when he leaned out of the school bus window to throw up as he felt sick, reports **Avishek Kumar**. The bus had taken a sharp turn at that very moment, leading to the death.

The Class 4 student, Anurag Bharadwaj, was fine when he boarded the bus but had possibly felt suffocated in the vehicle, which his father alleged was crammed with students. Preliminary inquiries by the administration, however, indicated the 42-seater bus was not packed to capacity, though other transport norms were purportedly flouted.

Police said the incident took place around 7am when the bus was headed towards Dayawati Public School in Modinagar. "The kid leaned out of the window and that's when the driver took a turn. Anurag's head hit an electricity pole," said SP (rural) Iraj Raja. "Immediately, the bus staff took the boy to a nearby hospital, but he died during treatment," Raja added.

The driver Omvir Kumar and helper Jaipal were arrested. Based on the parents' complaint, police filed an FIR against the school's owner Umesh Kumar Modi, principal Netrapal Singh, Omvir, Jaipal and others in the management.

Kejri remarks: Punjab police book ex-AAP netas Vishwas, Lamba

Barinderjit.Saluja
@timesgroup.com

Mohali: Punjab police served notices on Wednesday to former AAP member **Kumar Vishwas** and former AAP MLA **Alka Lamba** after FIRs were registered against them for making "inflammatory statements" against Delhi CM and AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal. Police teams pasted the notices at their homes in Ghaziabad and Delhi, asking them to join the investigation in Ropar.

The two former AAP members have been charged at Ropar Sadar police station with wanton provocation with intent to cause a riot, indulging in vilification, voluntarily causing hurt, wrongful restraint, and criminal conspiracy under various sections of the law.

A Punjab police team led by inspector Sumit Mor reached the residence of poet-turned-activist Kumar Vishwas and served him the notice. Vishwas tweeted the presence of police at his home on Wednesday morning: "Punjab police has arrived at my door early in the morning. I am warning you, Bhagwant Mann, who was inducted into the party by me, that the man sitting in Delhi who you are allowing to play with the power given to you by the people of Punjab, will one day betray you and Punjab. Remember my warning."

Just before the Punjab assembly elections, a video showed Vishwas speaking against Kejriwal and alleging that he has links with Khalistani terrorists. Police pasted notices outside the residences of both Vishwas and Lamba, asking them to join the investigation in Ropar. Punjab's opposition parties attacked the Mann government, accusing it of misusing the police for vendetta.

Parties can't seek redress if reasoned HC order delayed

AmitAnand.Choudhary
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The problem with delayed reasoned HC orders is compounded as it deprives any aggrieved party of the opportunity to seek further judicial redressal in the next tier of judicial scrutiny, pointed out the Supreme Court.

"Despite the strong observations made by this court... in the year 1984 and thereafter repeatedly reiterated, still the practice of pronouncing only the operative portion of the judgment without a reasoned judgment and to pass a reasoned judgment subsequently has continued. Such a practice of pronouncing the final orders without a reasoned judgment has to be stopped and discouraged," said a bench of Justices M R Shah and B V Nagarathna.

In case of the Allahabad high court order that the SC quashed, there was a gap of five months between the HC passing the operative order and delivering the reasoned order by which the trial court's order of convicting the accused in a murder case was set aside. While passing the operative brief order, the HC had directed that the accused be released from jail forthwith but the court passed the detail order five months thereafter.

"From the record of proceedings, it appears that the reasoned judgment was pronounced and uploaded after a period of almost five months. Therefore, applying the law laid down by this court in the decisions referred to hereinabove, we set aside the impugned judgment and order passed by the high court without further entering into the merits of the case nor expressing anything on merits in favour of either party. We remand the appeals to the high court to decide the same afresh in accordance with law and on its own merits," the bench said.

Retired colonel (75) shoots dead wife, kills self

Pune: A 75-year-old retired colonel shot dead his wife (63) in their flat located in Mundhwa and then killed himself using the same weapon on Wednesday evening.

"After hearing the gunshots, the society's residents went to their flat and later informed the police. After assessing the scene, we think that the retired Army officer shot his wife dead with his 12-bore rifle and then shot himself dead around 7pm," deputy commissioner of police (Zone V) Namrata Patil said.

The elderly couple was staying in the flat and the weapon is a licensed one, Patil said. Their three children are based in Mumbai and Delhi. The police have contacted them and they will come to Pune, she added. "We searched their flat, but did not find suicide note. We spoke to their children and they informed us that their father had been disturbed for the last few days," Patil said. TNN

T'gana: Centre set to buy 40L MT raw rice

Sribala.Vadlapatla
@timesgroup.com

Hyderabad: Announcing that the Centre has accepted the Telangana government's request to procure 40 lakh metric tonnes of raw rice this season, Union tourism minister **G Kishan Reddy** on Wednesday said several irregularities were taking place in rice mills across the state.

"Food Corporation of India (FCI) inspections have revealed that rice was missing from 4.53 lakh bags. The TRS should answer where the rice has gone. We have written to the Telangana government to conduct inspections across the rice mills in the state," he said at a press conference in Delhi.

Telangana chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao had recently held a protest in Delhi demanding that the Centre have a uniform procurement policy. He also wanted every grain of rice from Telangana be picked on the lines of Punjab.

Reddy stated that the Centre will write another letter seeking details on the state government's action on rice mills, pointing out that the state government did not begin the paddy procurement process and that the Centre had accepted the state government's proposal.

The minister futher added: "Who will be responsible for the delay and farmers selling rice at a lower price in the meantime. The Telangana government did not even supply the same quantity of raw rice from the previous summer season."

2 debt-ridden farmers end lives in Punjab

Bathinda: Two debt-ridden farmers from Punjab's Bathinda district ended their lives on Tuesday night. BKU Ekta Ugrahan claimed that both the suicides were linked to loss of yield in wheat.

Jaspal Singh (39) from Miserkhana village committed suicide by jumping before a running train. His family owned 12 acres of land and had taken Rs 9 lakh loan from HDFC Bank, Maur Mandi, in Bathinda. He used the entire amount on farming operations, but low yield added to his stress level. According to Jaspal's family members, he left home late in the night, when they were sleeping.

Gurdeep Singh (28) of Mansa Khurd village near Miserkhana hanged himself in the motor room in the fields. His family owned only two acres of land and had taken 6 acres on lease. The family owed Rs 3.25 lakh to the bank and primary agricultural cooperative society. TNN

Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd

PMPML invites proposals from interested and eligible Bidders for Appointment of Operator for Setting Up of Public Charging Stations at designated PMPML locations on PPP Basis" through-tendering on thee-tender portal www.mahatenders.gov.in. The tender document be available on the e-tender portal from **21 April 2022** onwards. Please refer to the uploaded e-tender document for further details and associated terms.

PMPML reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal at any time without assigning any reasons. Bidders are required to take note of the same.

Sd/-
Chairman & Managing Director
Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Ltd.

Advt. No. 1
Date. 19/04/2022

NATIONAL JUTE BOARD
राष्ट्रीय पटसन बोर्ड
वस्त्र मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
NATIONAL JUTE BOARD
Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India
3ए व 3बी पार्क प्लाजा, 71, पार्क स्ट्रीट, कोलकाता-700 016
दूरभाष: 033-2217 2107 /2226 3438, फैक्स: 033-2217 2456
ईमेल: jute@njbindia.in

LAUNCHING OF JUTE MARK INDIA LOGO

NIT No.: 01/NJB/Event-Mgt./Tender/2022-23 **Dt. 21.04.2022**

Notice inviting Tenders from Event Management Agency in connection with the launch of Jute Mark India Logo, comprising Exhibition & Theme Pavilion and Fashion Show schedule to be held for any 9 Days (21st to 29th May 2022) at National Library, Belevedere Road, Block A, Alipore, Kolkata-700027 (Date and Venue are tentative and subject to change)

For further details, please visit the **Tender Notice** hosted in the website: **www.jute.com** by clicking **"Tender Notice". Last Date & time of submission: 10th May, 2022 upto 1 PM. Opening of Tender : 10th May, 2022 at 3 PM.**

Secretary
National Jute Board

झोपडपट्टी पुनर्वसन प्राधिकरण

झोपुप्रा/अभि/ओडी/२०२२/१५१४४ दिनांक: २०/०४/२०२२

जाहीर सुचना

याद्वारे कळविण्यात येते की, झोपडपट्टी पुनर्वसन प्राधिकरणामध्ये सन २०१४ पूर्वी ज्या योजना स्विकृत केलेल्या आहेत, तथापी संबंधित विकासक यांचे कडून आवश्यक बाबींची पूर्तता न केल्याने सदर योजना रखडलेल्या आहेत. अशा सर्व योजना दप्तरी दाखल करण्यात येत असून याबाबत सर्व योजनांची माहिती झोपडपट्टी पुनर्वसन प्राधिकरणाच्या www.sra.gov.in या संकेत स्थळावर उपलब्ध आहे.

संबंधित संस्थेस कळविण्यात येते की, परिपत्रक क्र. १४४ नुसार नविन विकासकाची नियुक्ती करुन प्रस्ताव फेर सादर करावा जेणे करुन रखडलेली योजना मार्गी लावणे सोईचे होईल.

सही/-
मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी
झोपडपट्टी पुनर्वसन प्राधिकरण

प्रशासकीय इमारत, प्रो. अनंत काणेकर मार्ग, वांद्रे (पूर्व), ४०० ०५१.
दुरध्वनी क्र. ०२२-२६५६५८०० फॅक्स क्र. ९१-२२-२६५९०४५७ संकेतस्थळ : info@sra.gov.in

F. No. P.15025/60/2021-FR
भारत सरकार/Government of India
स्वस्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय/Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
स्वस्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग/Department of Health & Family Welfare
(खाद्य विनियम अनुभाग)/(Food Regulation Section)

Re-advertisement for filling up the post of Chairperson, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

In supersession of earlier advertisement davp no. 17102/11/0018/2122 published in employment news dated 17.07.2021 on the subject, the Government of India, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) invites applications for the post of Chairperson, FSSAI, New Delhi. FSSAI is an autonomous body under the MoHFW. The last date for submission of the application form is 45 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News. The proforma for sending the application and other details can be downloaded from **www.mohfw.gov.in** or **dopt.gov.in** or **fssai.gov.in**.

(Vishal Kumar Gupta)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

DAVP 17102/11/0006/2223

6 ADDITIONAL SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS BETWEEN MUMBAI AND MADGAON

TRAIN NO.	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL
01047	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus at 07.50 hrs on 22.4.2022, 24.4.2022 and 26.4.2022 (3 trips)	Madgaon at 17.30 hrs same day
01048	Madgaon at 19.30 hrs on 22.4.2022, 24.4.2022 and 26.4.2022 (3 trips)	Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus at 08.20 hrs next day

Halts: Dadar, Thane, Panvel, Roha, Khed, Chiplun, Ratnagiri, Kankavali, Kudal, Sawantwadi Road, Thivim and Karmali.

Composition: Two AC-3 Tier, Two AC Chair car, 2 Sleeper Class, 4 Reserved Second Class Seating, 4 General Second Class including Guard's brake van and generator van.

Reservation:

Bookings for special train no.01047/01048 on special charges will open on 21.4.2022 at all computerised reservation centres and on website **www.irctc.co.in**

For detailed timings at halts of the above special trains, please visit www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or download NTES App

CENTRAL RAILWAY
www.cr.indianrailways.gov.in
centralrailwayindia
Central_Railway
Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav
50
Rail Madad Helpline 139

O-109
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR
e-Mail Id-serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

Letter No. 926 Date : 20.04.2022

1st Corrigendum to bid Id No. Bridge tender online RWCSBP-54/2021-22 invited vide this office Letter No. 768.dt. 30.03.2022

In pursuance to this office Bid **ID** No.Bridge tender online RWCSBP-54/2021-22 published vide this office e-Procurement notice no. 768, dt. 30/03/2022, the following changes have been made in NIT.

Sl. No.	Items	As per Original TCN	As per 1st corrigendum
1	Availability of tender online for bidding	13/04/22 09:00 am to 28/04/22 05.00 PM	25/04/22 09:00 am to 10/05/22 05.00 PM
2	Last date of Seeking Clarification	25/04/22 upto 01.00 PM	05/05/22 upto 01.00 PM
3	Date and time of opening of tender (Technical) in office of the CCE,RW Circle,Sambalpur	29/04/22 at 10.00 AM	11/05/22 at 10.00 AM

All other terms and Conditions remain un altered.

Sd/- **Chief Construction Engineer**
Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur
OIPR-25091/11/0007/22-23

KUMAR BHASKAR VARMA SANSKRIT AND ANCIENT STUDIES UNIVERSITY
Namati, Nalbari - 781337, Assam

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Applications are invited by 'Advisory Board for selection of VC at KBVS&ASU' from the eligible candidates/ Nominations by VCs or eminent person for the post of Vice Chancellor of KBVS&ASU, Nalbari. For application form and other details applicants may visit **www.kbvsasun.ac.in**. Last date of submission: **19-05-2022** by e-mail and **25-05-2022** by Post.

Sd/- **Controller of Examinations**
(On behalf of the Advisory Board for selection of VC, KBVS&ASU)

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, राज. राज्य कृषि विपणन बोर्ड, किसान भवन लालकोठी वृत्त-जयपुर

क्रमांक : 45–94 **बिड आमन्त्रण सूचना संख्या 01/2022–23** दिनांक– 19–04–2022

निर्माण कार्य बालिका आवासीय विद्यालय जिला भरतपुर, विभिन्न पशुपालन केन्द्र/उपकेन्द्र की मरम्मत पैकेज भरतपुर–01, भरतपुर 02, भरतपुर 03, धौलपुर 01, सुदृढ़ीकरण और मरम्मत कार्य पाँली क्लीनिक पशुचिकित्सालय भरतपुर, पार्किंग क्षेत्र एवं नाली मरम्मत कार्य नई मण्डी यार्ड कृ.उ.म.स. भरतपुर, नीलामी चबूतरा सवाग्रड सीकरी कृ.उ.म.स. नगर, एकलव्य मॉडल आवासीय स्कूल मल्लाना बैड क्षमता वृद्धि का कार्य, निर्माण कार्य किसान पथ खरेली–डोरोली सड़क कृ.उ.म.स. खेरली, निर्माण कार्य सम्पर्क सड़क बबेली से पाड़ा कृ.उ.म.स. अलवर, राजकीय महाविद्यालय राजगढ़ के अन्तर्गत भवनों का कार्य जिला अलवर, पांली क्लिनिक के सुदृढ़ीकरण एवं शल्य चिकित्सा कक्ष के आधुनिकीकरण का कार्य अलवर। राशि रु. 18.10 लाख से 1364.84 लाख की ऑन–लाईन बिड ई–प्रोक्युरमेन्ट (www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) के माध्यम से उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत बिडरों से आमंत्रित की जाती है। बिड से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण बोर्ड की वेबसाईट www.agriculture.rajasthan.gov.in/rsamb एवं www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। जिसका UBN No AGM2223WLOB00022 से AGM2223WSOB00034 तक है।

राज.संवाद/सी/22/756 **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, वृत्त–जयपुर**

CAD-252
omfed www.omfed.com
The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producer's Federation Limited
D-2, Sahidnagar, Bhubaneswar-751007
Ph. No. - 0674-2546030, 2540273, 2540417
Fax No. : 0674-2540974, Email ID : omfed@yahoo.com

Adv.No.OMFED:HRD:RECRUIT:02:2022 Date: 21.04.2022

ADVERTISEMENT NOTICE

OMFED, the apex Cooperative Body of Milk Producing Farmers at the State Level invites Applications from dynamic and experienced professionals for the following contractual vacancy :

Sl.No	Name of the Post	No. of Post	Nature of job
01	Technical Superintendent (Process Production)	02	Contractual
02	Superintendent (Quality Control)	02	Contractual
03	Superintendent (Finance)	02	Contractual
04	Jr. Laboratory Technician	01	Contractual

The details of the Qualification, Experience, Terms of Reference and Application form for the post s may be downloaded from OMFED website **www.omfed.com**. The last date of submission of application is **05.05.2022**. OMFED Management reserves the right to cancel, effect changes or alteration in the above advertisement without assigning any reason thereof and corrigendum, if any, will be published in above said website.

Managing Director
OIPR - 06063/11/0011/22-23

बिहार सरकार
बिहार लोक प्रशासन एवं ग्रामीण विकास संस्थान
वाल्मी परिसर, फुलवारी शरीफ, पटना – 801505

विज्ञापन सं0–02/2022-23

बिहार लोक प्रशासन एवं ग्रामीण विकास संस्थान (बिपार्ड), पटना द्वारा आयोजित किए जानेवाले सभी प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों में प्रशिक्षण प्रेक्षक–सह–मोडरेटर की सेवाएं लेने हेतु पैनल तैयार किया जाना है। इसके लिए राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार/सार्वजनिक उपक्रमों के सेवानिवृत्त राजपत्रित पदाधिकारियों एवं विश्वविद्यालयों/महाविद्यालयों के सेवानिवृत्त योग्य तथा अनुभवी शिक्षकों से दिनांक 30.04.2022 को 05.00 बजे अपराह्न तक आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। आवेदक पूर्ण Bio-data के साथ अपना आवेदन बिपार्ड को ई–मेल के माध्यम से bipardpatna@yahoo.in पर भेज सकते हैं या कार्यालय में जमा कर सकते है। आवश्यक जानकारी यथा कार्य, मानदेय, योग्यता के लिए विस्तृत जानकारी संस्थान के वेबसाईट http://bipard.bihar.gov.in पर प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

इसके संबंध में कोई अन्य जानकारी दिनांक 30.04.2022 को 05.00 बजे अपराह्न तक किसी भी कार्यालय दिवस में कार्यालय काल के दौरान बिपार्ड कार्यालय से या संस्थान की वेबसाईट http://bipard.bihar.gov.in से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

PR- 0959 (Ni Ni) 2022-23
संयुक्त निदेशक
नशे से बनानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है।

CENTRAL RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Tender

Notice Inviting Tenders for establishment of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Solution at Mankhrud and Titwala Railway station have been upload on website **www.ireps.gov.in** Hence, the tenderers are requested to visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in** to know the details of tenders. **Tender No.:** BB-C-465-CP-EVCS--MNKD **Tender Closing date time:** 10.05.2022 at 15.00 Hrs **Tender No.:** BB-C-465-CP-EVCS-TLA **Tender Closing date time:** 10.05.2022 at 15.00 Hrs Further Addendum/ corrigendum, time extension, clarification etc. if any, in connection with the subject tender, will only be uploaded in the website. Bidders should regularly visit the website to keep themselves updated. Conditional offers will summarily be rejected.

Rail Madad Helpline: 139 43

भाअजप्रा iwai
Project Management Unit
INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)
Head Office: A-13, Sector – 1, Noida - 201 301
Phone: 0120-2544004, **Fax:** 0120-2543976, **vc.iwai@nic.in, rkant.iwai@nic.in**

Notice Inviting Tender - NCB

"Fairway Maintenance of Access Channel of MMT Haldia on National Waterway–1"
Reference: IN/ IWAI / NW-1/14/01/2022
Inland Waterways Authority of India is desirous of undertaking maintenance of approach channel for its Multi Modal Terminal at Haldia on National Waterway-1. e-Bids are invited from interested bidders and the bidding documents and other details may be seen at IWAI website **"www.iwai.nic.in"** and e-procurement site **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app** from 26.4.2022 onwards.
Date: 14.04.2022 **Project Director (JMVP)**

bajaj ENERGY

Lalitpur Power Generation Company Limited (LPGCL) and Bajaj Energy Limited (BEL) a part of "Bajaj Group" invite sealed bids to procure 3.20 Lakhs MT Imported Non-Coking (Thermal) Coal on FOR Power Plant basis. Interested bidders are invited to visit our website www.lpgcl.com from 21.04.2022 to 26.04.2022 for details.

TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE
TATA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
(A Grant-in-Aid Institute under Dept. of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India)
DR. E. BORGES MARG, PAREL, MUMBAI 400 012

No: TMH/TMH/2022-23/CAP/PT/0001 to TMH/MUL/2022-23/CAP/PT/0016
PUBLIC TENDER NOTICE - 01

18/04/2022

Director, Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai invites Technical & Financial Bids from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) or Authorized vendors for "Supply, Installation, Commissioning and Maintenance of Medical Equipment. Set of Complete tender document is available on https://tmc.gov.in
Tender No. TMH/TMH/2022-23/CAP/PT/0001 to TMH/MUL/2022-23/CAP/PT/0016
Date of Commencement of Tender: 18.04.2022
Date of Submission: 19.05.2022 up to 4.00 p.m
Date and time of opening of Part I Technical Bid: 20.05.2022 at 10.30 am onwards
PURCHASE OFFICER

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru- 560 020

No. BDA/EE-West/work_TN-01/2022-23 Date: 13.04.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT-TERM TENDER

(Through GoK e-Procurement platform http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)

Item rate tenders are invited through e-Procurement Tendering System for the following works by the Executive Engineer, BDA, T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumarapark West, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BDA, Bengaluru from registered Class-I Contractors or equivalent KPWD/BDA/NH/MES/Railways.

Name of the work: Improvements to road from (Magadi Road) Kachohalli cross to gangondanahalli junction, Ch: 0.00km to 4.63km, from (Magadi Road) Kadabagere Cross to Gangondanahalli junction, ch: 0.00km to 6.71km. From Gangondanahalli junction to Madanayakanahalli (NH-4) ch:0.00 km to 3.81km with soil stabilzation method. Indent No.BDA/2021-22/RD/Work_INDENT1476. Approx. cost put to tender: **Rs. 3600.00 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 36.00 Lakhs.** (Rs.1.00 Lakh will be as per E-procurement portal & Balance amount is in the form of Bank Guarantee)/FDR.

For further details, please log on to **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or call e-procurement Helpdesk on 080-22371090/22340060.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, West Division, BDA, Bengaluru
BDA/PRO/TN/01/2022-23

DELHI JAL BOARD:GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER(P)-2/ EE(WW)PROJECT-I
FLAT NO.- E-1, TYPE-IV, STAFF QTRS, JHANDEWALAN, KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI-110005
Email: djbeeemii@gmail.com
स्वच्छ भारत एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

PRESS NIT No- 01 (2022-23)

NIT No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost	Earnest Money (Rs.)	Date of release of Tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/Time receipt of Tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 150 Nos. Tube wells along with Automation, O&M for 2 Yrs. at Nilothi and Najafgarh for augmentation water supply	Percentage Rate	28,16,500/-	Tender Id: 2022_DJB_220690_1 Publish Date 19-Apr-2022 02:00 PM onward	04-May-2022 up to 03:15 PM

NIT along with all terms & conditions is available on DJB website https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 46 (2022-23)
Sd/-
EE(WW)PROJECT-I
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

WESTERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM

In the Tender Notice No. WR-MMCT0 ECOA(ECTD)/32/2020-O/o Sr.DEE/ CHG/MMCT issued in connection with **"Annual Maintenance contract of Power Cars provided with M/s. Greaves Cotton Diesel Engines including schedule maintenance of Diesel Engines and Alternators with their operations to extend Power Supply during Maintenance of EOG / LHB primary trains including new trains / Holiday Spl. trains at BDTS coaching Depot & escorting with Power Cars of these trains for One Year- Schedule A - Enroute operation on Escorting Duty & Daily Trip Maintenance."** due on 09.05.2022 at 15.30 hrs , is **postponed** to **17.05.2022 at 15.30 hrs**, the **EMD amount is read as "Rs. 2,29,200/-.** 0044

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Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd.
(A Government of India Undertaking)

NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Name of Work : "Installing, Commissioning and Operation of Intelligent Track Condition Monitoring & Maintenance Management Services on DFCCIL (TCMMM)". NIT No. HQ-ENWC0MMS(TCMM)/1/ 2022-O/o GGM/WCI/DFCC/13568 Date: 18.04.2022. DFCCIL invites open E-Tenders/offers on **Single Stage Two Packet System** on prescribed forms from firms / Companies / Joint Ventures having requisite technical experience and financial capacity for undertaking of the captioned project (through IREPS). The complete RFP document have been uploaded on IREPS website **www.ireps.gov.in** and DFCCIL website **dfccil.com** for downloading from **19.04.2022.** Amendment/ Modification in RFP, if any, will be uploaded on the websites only. **Manual tenders/offers are not allowed and will not be accepted. Closing Date/Time: 31.05.2022; 15:00 Hrs.**

GGM/WC-I

'All communities have been living in harmony for yrs, civic body biased'

Temple Wasn't Targeted: North Delhi Area Locals

Vibha Sharma & Abhay | TNN

TOI

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation launched an anti-encroachment drive in Jahangirpuri on Wednesday. The development comes after communal clashes broke out in the area during a Hanuman Jayanti procession on Saturday evening. On Tuesday, Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta alleged that those accused of rioting in Jahangirpuri had built 'illegal constructions' in the area and demanded that these be demolished

New Delhi: Tears, pain and a sense of helplessness were seen on the faces of people who had shops in C Block of Jahangirpuri. The North Delhi Municipal Corporation carried out a demolition of "encroachments" there on Wednesday and many people lost their source of income. There was, therefore, an undertone of anger in the words of the Jahangirpuri residents when they said that people of all communities had lived in harmony for decades and the municipal action was "biased".

Mohammad Hosiyar claimed to be an area resident for four decades and said he had, for ages, been responsible for the maintenance of Valmiki Mandir at C Block, Jahangirpuri, with his friends, including Ganesh. Exhibiting keys that he said were of the temple gate, Hosiyar said, "All of us worked day and night for the construction of the mandir complex and now work diligently on the upkeep and cleanliness of the place. Everyone considers the others a part of the family and our children have been brought up together. We don't want such undesirable events to happen and ruin our unity." When Hosiyar and Ganesh were narrating what happened at Jahangirpuri since Wednesday morning, they were joined by their neighbour, Jai Balaji, a priest at the temple near Kashmere Gate police station. Balaji said, "I have been living in D Block of Jahangirpuri for decades. There has not been a single day when we haven't greeted each other. We respect each other's culture and celebrate all festivals together. Saturday's incidents, in that perspective, were unfortunate."

Rahima, 32, searched through the rubble of her razed shop to collect anything of worth. Her 12-year-old son Asif helped her in retrieving the things that could help them restart life. But there wasn't much, even a fridge in the shop had been crushed. "I have a family of five and the shop run by my husband keeps them alive," said Rahima. "We took a loan to construct our house and shop. The demolition means a loss of over Rs 1 lakh for us. Now, how I will feed my family?" Adjacent to Rahima's shop, 35-year-old Rakesh's juice shop was also razed. He sat forlorn amid the debris of his shop, clueless about his future. He had run his shop for 15 years at Kushal Chowk. "Yehi sahara tha (the juice shop was our only support)," he said sadly. "My brother took a loan to start the shop. We have a family of 7-8 members and we managed to feed them through the shop income." He estimated his loss at over Rs 1 lakh.

Jamila's shop was among the first to be demolished on Wednesday morning. Tears rolling down, the woman who made mats out of old cloth for 30 years lost her livelihood on Wednesday when a bulldozer brought down her shop. "Not only my shop, but my shanty was also damaged by the earth mover," she mumbled. Jamila's family of five depended on her earnings to survive. Nearby, Sanju was weeping even as her husband, Raman Jha, consoled her. Their paan shop was demolished. "How will we survive?" asked Sanju. "Our lives are ruined."

Some residents quietly pointed out the temple was not targeted though it too had encroachments. The politicians were unnecessarily creating confusion and misunderstanding by doing so, they alleged. "The municipal corporation demolished the illegal extensions at more than 50 shops, even those on the mosque premises. And they did it even after being told that the SC had ordered a status quo," said meat seller Bablu. "When they acted against the shops located next to the temple, why were the illegal extension at the temple not cleared?" Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh said the demolition drive was not "motivated or targeted" and that the law was equal for all.

War of words between Rahul, BJP over 'bulldozers of hate'

Times News Network

New Delhi: With BJP governments' making a political statement with the use of "bulldozers" after communal tensions, Congress MP Rahul Gandhi called the demolition drives a state sponsored targeting of minorities and the poor. The remark came after the demolition carried out in Jahangirpuri in the national capital. Meanwhile, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address the nation on growing communal clashes and to condemn the violence.

Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "This is a demolition of India's constitutional values. This is state-sponsored targeting of poor and minorities. BJP must bulldoze the hatred in their hearts instead." Also, tweeting about the reported coal crisis in the country, he addressed Modi to say, "Switch off the bulldozers of hate and switch on the power plants."

As reported by **TOI**, Congress leaders Tuesday discussed growing communal tensions in the country during their consultations on future party strategy.

Speaking to reporters, Gehlot said PM Modi's silence on communal tensions encourages the rioters, and he should condemn them unequivocally.

"People in power should stop attempts to foment violence and condemn it. But just the opposite is happening. I have heard that the PM is calling MPs from Rajasthan and asking them what they were doing... The PM or home minister should take decisions in the national interest. They should introspect. The PM should address the nation," he said.

ANI

Police personnel instruct locals during the anti-encroachment drive in New Delhi's Jahangirpuri

Owaisi slams BJP, AAP for demolition

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday called the demolition in Jahangirpuri a "targeted drive", adding that BJP and AAP are giving collective punishment to Muslims. He further asked the central government why the structures had not been brought down in the past seven years if they were illegal. ANI

Rahul sowing seeds of hatred, says BJP

Times News Network

New Delhi: The BJP on Wednesday accused **Rahul Gandhi** of maligning the country's image and sowing the seeds of hatred after the Congress politician attacked the governing party over the use of bulldozers in riot-hit areas of Delhi and in states like Madhya Pradesh.

"This is all you can expect from someone whose history is linked to corruption and riots," Union I&B and sports minister Anurag Thakur said in a jibe trained at Congress.

Thakur, who was talking to reporters on the various activities undertaken by BJP as part of the celebrations in the lead up to the 75th anniversary of Independence, also targeted Rahul, saying: "He is doing the country no good sowing the seeds of hatred. He is maligning the country's image."

Gandhi had attacked the government over the use of bulldozers in violence-hit areas and urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to switch off "bulldozers of hate" and switch on power plants.

Thakur also took a swipe at AAP for accusing the governing party of instigating riots and saying that its headquarters should be bulldozed. "It is a party that goes to the extent of compromising with terrorists for power," he said. Politics is meant to change society with ideology and policies, but some people are determined to lower its standards, Thakur added.

Speaking about the ongoing 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', Thakur said since the launch of the programme by the PM in Sabarmati on March 12 last year, which had coincided with Mahatma Gandhi's iconic Dandi march, over 25,000 events have been held across the country and also abroad by April 18 this year.

Jaipur police ban mobile DJs at rallies and processions

Jaipur: The Jaipur police has banned mobile DJs, especially those on vehicles with mounted electronic music systems, for any function or procession on the city roads, reports **Ashish Mehta**. This was announced as part of the campaign to control the menace by police commissioner Anand Srivastava on Wednesday.

"It is completely banned. If anyone defies it, action will be taken under Section 188 of the IPC for disobeying the government order. Also, vehicles with mounted music systems will not be permitted as per the Motor Vehicles Act. I have directed authorities concerned to take action against such vehicles having a mounted music system as per the Act," he said.

The city police will run a campaign against such vehicles, he said.

While the police had taken action against such vehicles previously too, it will now be re-enforced. "Moving vehicles with loud music systems will not be allowed at any function. If we find them on the road, we will take action," he said.

Anti-encroachment drive routine, no permanent structure hit: Civic officials

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Amid allegations by residents of a one-sided action in clearing encroachments in Jahangirpuri on Wednesday, officials of North Delhi Municipal Corporation said that the clearance drive had been scheduled for the week, having carried out similar drives in the past too.

"We had two encroachment clearance drives on February 2 and 17 and a third on April 11," said a municipal officer. "We freed 5,150sqm of encroachments on various roads, including Kushal Cinema Road and BC Block Road." Civic officials claimed that the drives aimed to clear encroachments to ease the way for traffic and pedestrians. In fact, the Block BC market association had petitioned a court against the illegal extension in the area, they said.

"The high court appreciated our efforts to clear the right of way after the April 11 action. On Wednesday, we got the police force deployed in large numbers so we decided to carry out the demolition drive. It had nothing to do with Saturday's incidents. About 2km near Kushal Cinema were cleared of illegal structures," said the north corporation commissioner, Sanjay Goel.

PTI

HELPLESS: A vendor of Jahangirpuri who lost her means of livelihood

Regarding complaints that the civic body hadn't adequately informed people about the demolition drive, the officials said that no permanent houses or shops were razed. "There was no plan to target any permanent houses or shop. Also, we don't have the identity details of the encroachers, so the question of serving them notices doesn't arise," said an official. "Drives of this kind are regular in all wards and zones and are done with or without notice under sections 321, 322, 323 and 325 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957."

People said they suffered the repercussions of the April 16 violence even though they weren't a part of it. Mobile shop owner Javed wondered why they were targeted when encroachments were rife in the city. "Even on the other side of Jahangirpuri, there are so many illegal extensions, but why were we targeted specifically? We are discussing with other shopkeepers how to get relief in the matter," he said.

There were other people who claimed that the civic body had refused to heed anyone and carried out the demolition nonstop. "I have paper to show DDA allotted me the shop in 1977. I asked the officials to see these papers, but ignoring me, they demolished the corners and grilles of my shop," said Ganesh Kumar Gupta, who owns a juice corner on Kushal Cinema Road.

An official countered that they had verified everything before the action and only one shop was found to have documents, that too for a kiosk and not a two-storey shop.

'No public interest': MP HC junks plea against demolitions

Times News Network

Bhopal/Jabalpur: The Madhya Pradesh HC on Wednesday dismissed a PIL that sought an order to restrain the administration from bulldozing houses of persons accused of any crime. It doesn't concern any larger public interest, a division bench of Chief Justice R V Malimath and Justice Purusendra Kaurav observed while dismissing the petition., adding that if at all houses of some persons were demolished, they have a legal right to defend themselves and their properties.

The petitioner, advocate Amitabh Gupta, said that houses of those accused of crime are being bulldozed by the administration and police in several parts of the state. He referred to media reports on bulldozing of houses in Indore, Bhopal, Ujjain, Khargone and some other places in support of his contention.

"Bulldozing the house of an accused without giving him a hearing is illegal," he argued in his petition, and attached a copy of a newspaper report in which former SC judgeDeepak Gupta had criticised the bulldozing of the house of Abdul Rafiq in Ujjain.

Additional advocate general Ashish Anand Barnard, appearing on behalf of the state, said only illegally built houses have been bulldozed by the administration and the PIL is based solely on media reports. Besides, none of those affected by the administrative action has filed a petition in court, he argued.

The court, in its brief order, said: "...we are of the considered view that it may not be appropriate to entertain this petition as a public interest litigation." As it dismissed the petition, it said, "Even if the case of the petitioner is to be accepted that certain houses of certain persons have been demolished, those persons have a legal right to defend themselves and their properties in a manner known to law. We do not see any nexus with the petitioner and the persons whose properties have been demolished. Therefore, it is for those persons to appropriately move court for a necessary order as they deem fit. We do not find any reason to entertain this petition on behalf of the present petitioner."

₹10k bounty on 106 Khargone fugitives

Khargone district police have registered a case against two youths, Waseem and Irfan, suspected of attacking SP Siddhartha Choudhary with a sword and pistol during the April 10 riots and announced a Rs 10,000 reward for their arrest. The bounty has also been announced on 104 other suspects who are wanted for arson and violence during which a Ram Navami procession was attacked. As many as 160 people have been arrested so far, two of whom have been booked under the National Security Act. TNN

Minorities panel plans inter-faith trust-building committee soon

New Delhi: In the backdrop of incidents of communal unrest, the most recent being the violence in the Jahangirpuri area in the capital, the National Commission for Minorities is preparing to put in place a central level inter-faith coordination committee to focus on building trust between communities.

NCM chief Iqbal Singh Lalpura said there is a need to focus on confidence building measures and the committee will bring together eminent citizens, scholars, community and religious leaders of the six minority communities.

"We will also bring on board Hindu community members into this committee so that there is a dialogue among all communities. This committee will reach out wherever a need is felt to dispel tension building up between communities by making room for dialogue and resolution," Lalpura said.

TO DISPEL TENSION

"We plan to have this inter-faith central committee in place in about a month's time. We will also be asking the states to set-up similar committees," Lalpura added.

As reported earlier, the NCM has sought a report from the Delhi Police and the state authorities on the action taken in the Jahangirpuri case.

An NCM team led by Lalpura also visited Jahangirpuri and met with members of both the Muslim and Hindu communities.

The NCM sought that the culprits must be nabbed at the earliest but no innocent person should be booked. TNN

No politics or malice in action on rioters: Min

Barwani: Junior Union minister for steel and rural development Faggan Singh Kulaste said the action taken in response to violent incidents on Ram Navami was lawful and "not out of malice" or motivated by politics. "If a person lives here and behaves in this manner, conducts such activities, plays with sentiments, action has been taken against them within the scope of law," he said. "If people try to create such an environment, it is natural action will be taken," Kulaste said. TNN

Hubballi violence: 11 more held, prohibition relaxed in some areas

Times News Network

Hubballi: Police have arrested 11 more people in connection with the riots in Hubballi, Karnataka, on Saturday, taking the number of arrests to 126 till Tuesday evening.

With the situation now mostly calm, police relaxed prohibition orders that were to be in force till 6 am on Wednesday across Hubballi city but continued with CrPC Sec 144 across areas that come under five police stations — Town, Old Hubballi, Kasabapeth, Ghantikeri and Bendigeri — in Hubballi South subdivision till April 23. City police commissioner Labhu Ram, who confirmed the fresh arrests, told **TOI:** "As a precautionary measure, we have extended prohibitory orders in Hubballi South subdivision although normalcy has prevailed." Two constables have filed complaints alleging there was a conspiracy to kill cops on Saturday night. "Miscreants brought rocks that they threw on us," the complaint said. A local court granted bail to the youth who allegedly posted a derogatory comment on WhatsApp, which triggered the violence.

Police probing role of maulvi: Bommai

Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai said police are investigating the alleged role of a local maulvi in the violence. "Police are probing the case from different angles," Bommai said. A video that purportedly shows a maulvi identified as Waseem Pathan of Ganesh Pet instigating the mob while standing atop the CP's vehicle has been shared on social media. Police had said on Tuesday that they were in possession of the video and had launched a hunt for the maulvi. TNN

UP man thrashed for 'chanting religious slogans'

Agra: A 55-year-old man was allegedly thrashed by some men for purportedly chanting "religious slogans" outside his house in Aligarh's Sarai Kale Khan under Sasni gate police limits on Wednesday. An FIR has been registered and a man arrested in the case, Aligarh SSP, Kalanidhi Naithani said, adding "it was probably a fallout of a clash between two neighbours".

The complainant, Dinesh Kumar, alleged he was "chanting slogans when some people from the area spat on him". When he protested, the man claimed he was beaten up and suffered injuries on the head and near his left eye. TNN

Karat planted herself in machine's way to stop them

Times News Network

New Delhi: Even as the demolition in north-west Delhi's Jahangirpuri was undertaken on Saturday, word of the impending demolitions had reached there a day earlier and the area was tense since morning. C-Block and the nearby streets were bristling with cops, who were also keeping vigil on the terraces of several houses to apparently guard against any stone-pelting.

Special commissioner of police (law & order) Dependra Pathak, who was on the spot with his personnel, said they were there to maintain peace. "The situation is peaceful and we have adequate deployment in the area," he said even as residents of C-D blocks, mostly ragpickers, were scampering around, shifting waste stockpiles out of the area.

Amidst heavy media presence, the bulldozers first partially razed a two-floor structure which had a juice shop. Ganesh Gupta, who owned that shop, claimed that he was allotted the shop by DDA in 1977 and possessed all the necessary documents but no one listened to him. The machines then turned on the carts parked on the road and crushed them. The residents questioned why the corporation had woken up suddenly if the structures were illegal and the timing of the entire operation.

Meanwhile, the bulldozers demolished a grocery shop owned by one Rahima and a carpet-mattress shop of Jamila. The distressed women said it was a cruel blow in the month of Ramzan. Next, a juice shop owned by one Rakesh and a paan shop of Raman Jha were pulled down. All of them told **TOI** that they have been living in C-Block, where they ran their shops, for the past several years and had never been targeted. The mean machines pressed on and partially razed the walls of 60-year-old Sheikh Abdul Qadri's electrical shop. He said he has been living in the C-block area for the past 10-15 years. "My shop has remained closed after the violence and I have not been able to earn anything. Eid is coming and I have to pay rent too. I just want peace to be restored," he said, ruing that those who were not part of any mob were paying the price.

Karat told the JCB driver to stop. Around the same time, the SC was reiterating its order and asking its registry to communicate it to the civic officials and cops

Kunal, 15, stood by and watched as his father's shop was partially razed. His father, Dinesh Kumar, said he had opened the shop last year and was quite disappointed. Around 12.05pm, the demolition squad approached the mosque from where stones were allegedly thrown on the day of the rioting. They first crushed some food carts and then brought down the gate of the mosque. Just as a bulldozer reached a temple, around 12.14pm, Karat arrived at the spot and planted herself in the way of the machine. She told the JCB driver to stop. Around the same time, the SC was reiterating its order and asking its registry to communicate it to the civic officials and cops. After a few minutes, the drive stopped and gradually the JCBs began leaving the spot. "The SC had ordered status quo around 10.50am and I have come here to ensure implementation of the order. I am here to stop the bulldozer which is disregarding the order," she said. Later, she spoke to senior officers and informed them about the SC's order. In the evening, custodians of the temple, which is located close to the mosque, were seen removing portions which could be targeted as encroachments. "We have removed a plastic sheet from the top and some window grilles," said Birender Kumar of the temple management.

1-yr extension to truce with 3 Naga groups

New Delhi: The Centre has extended the ceasefire agreement signed with three Naga insurgent groups for one more year. In a statement, the Union Home Ministry said the agreements are with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-NK (NSCN-NK), National Socialist Council of Nagaland- Reformation (NSCN-R) and National Socialist Council of Nagaland K-Khango (NSCN K-Khango).

"It was decided to extend the ceasefire agreements for a further period of one year with effect from April 28, 2022 to April 27, 2023 with NSCN-NK and NSCN-R and from April 18, 2022 to April 17, 2023 with NSCN K-Khango," the statement said. Agreements were signed on Tuesday. PTI

Temperature soars in Marathwada, rain likely

Times News Network

Aurangabad: This summer is being a scorcher for Marathwada, with many cities recording temperatures above the 40 degree Celsius mark. Parbhani was among the hottest cities in the state on Wednesday with the daytime temperature touching a scorching 43.3 degrees Celsius. Only Akola at 44.8 degrees Celsius, and Jalgaon at 43.5 degrees Celsius were hotter. Aurangabad was also feeling the heat at 40.9 degrees Celsius temperature — two degrees above normal, revealed the data available with the IMD.

The Met department, issued a 'yellow' alert for three Marathwada districts — Nanded, Latur and Osmanabad — where thunderstorms with lightning and gusty winds at isolated places are likely over next 72 hours. This may bring down the mercury level marginally — by about one degree.

TOI

Many cities in Marathwada recorded temperatures above 40 degree Celsius on Wednesday

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, MUMBAI | THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022

COINCIDENCE IS GOD'S WAY OF REMAINING ANONYMOUS
— ALBERT EINSTEIN

SCIENTIST NAMES NEW SPECIES OF MILLIPEDE AFTER TAYLOR SWIFT: HER MUSIC HELPED ME THROUGH ROUGH SPOTS... MY WAY OF SAYING THANKS

JOHNNY DEPP CALLS EX-WIFE AMBER HEARD ACCUSATIONS 'HEINOUS', SAYS HE NEVER STRUCK HER OR ANY WOMAN

Russia Rains Artillery, Missiles On E Ukraine

In Mariupol, Ukrainian Soldiers Holding Out Inside A Steel Factory Warned That They Could Be Killed Within Hours

Russian forces pressed their offensive in Ukraine on Wednesday, raining artillery and missile strikes along the long eastern front, as Moscow took the provocative step of test launching an intercontinental ballistic missile designed to evade defences. In announcing the test, President Putin said the new missile, known as the Sarmat, should cause anyone threatening Russia to "think twice."

For Ukraine and its allies, though, the more immediate concern was the battle for the east and the scene in the southeastern city of Mariupol, where Ukrainian soldiers holding out inside a sprawling steel factory warned that they could be killed within hours. Yet even as the troops defied a Russian deadline to surrender, a tentative deal was reached to allow women and children to evacuate the besieged port city. It was unclear whether civilians also sheltering inside the steel plant would be covered by the deal.

A Ukrainian marine commander in Mariupol said his troops may be able to hold out for only a few hours longer as Ukraine tried to evacuate 6,000 women, children and elderly people on Wednesday. Mariupol mayor Vadym Boichenko urged civilians to leave, saying 90 buses were waiting to head into what is left of the devastated city under a preliminary agreement with Russia — the first in weeks — on establishing a safe corridor. In a video posted online hours earlier, Serhiy Volyna, commander of Ukraine's 36th marine brigade which is still fighting in Mariupol, urged the international community to help evacuate wounded Ukrainian fighters and their families. "This is our appeal to the world. It may be our last. We may have only a few days or hours left," he said, dressed in a camouflage jacket. "The enemy units are dozens of times larger than ours, they have dominance in the air, in artillery, in ground troops, in equipment and in tanks." Reuters could not independently verify the video posted on the Telegram messaging app. Along the 480-km eastern front, which stretches from Mariupol north to Kharkiv, US and Ukrainian officials said that Russia continued to pour in soldiers, artillery units and military hardware as it launches a renewed assault aimed at grinding down and encircling Ukrainian forces, and capturing all of the eastern territory known as the Donbas. "Virtually the entire combat-ready part of the invaders' army is concentrated on the territory of our state and in the border areas of Russia," Ukrainian President Zelensky said. AGENCIES

Reuters

Evacuees wait to board a bus to leave Mariupol. The city authorities had said on Wednesday they hoped to evacuate about 6,000 people under a preliminary accord with Russia on establishing a safe corridor. But the deputy commander of the Azov Regiment in Mariupol told Ukrainian TV that civilians were too frightened to make their way to the agreed evacuation points because Azovstal was under constant bombardment

Russia says it has handed over peace proposals to Ukraine, Kyiv says reviewing

Russia said on Wednesday that it has presented Ukraine with a draft document outlining its demands as part of talks aimed at ending the conflict — days after President Vladimir Putin said the negotiations were at a "dead end". Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that "the ball is in their court, we're waiting for a response." He gave no details on the draft, and it was not clear when it was sent or if it offered anything new to the Ukrainians, who presented their own demands last month. A Ukrainian presidential adviser said Kyiv was reviewing the proposals. Moscow has long demanded, among other things, that Ukraine drop any bid to join Nato. Ukraine has said it would agree to that in return for security guarantees from a number of other countries. AP

Yellen leads G20 meet walkout as Russia officials speak: Report

US treasury secretary Janet Yellen and Ukraine's finance minister Serhiy Marchenko walked out of a G20 meeting on Wednesday as Russia's representative started talking. Britain's delegation to the meeting in Washington, including Bank of England Governor Andrew Bailey, also walked out in protest at Russia's participation. Several finance ministers and central bank governors also left the room, including US and Canada representatives. Those who attended virtually turned off their cameras. BLOOMBERG

Russia tests N-capable ballistic missile that Putin says has no peer

Russia announced on Wednesday it had successfully launched a new missile that it said could deploy nuclear warheads at hypersonic speeds anywhere in the world and outwit defences, a move that President Putin said was aimed at showing Russia's adversaries that they needed to "think twice" before threatening his country. "The new complex has the highest tactical and technical characteristics and is capable of overcoming all modern means of anti-missile defence. It has no analogues in the world and won't have for a long time to come," Putin said. "This truly unique weapon will strengthen the combat potential of our armed forces, reliably ensure Russia's security from external threats and provide food for thought for those who, in the heat of frenzied aggressive rhetoric, try to threaten our country."

But even if the test was successful, the new missile does not appear ready for use. The Russian defence ministry said Wednesday's test launch of the Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile was its first and that it would enter Russia's arsenal only "after the completion of the testing programme."

Putin first announced Russia had developed the Sarmat in 2018, but his decision to test it on Wednesday appeared intended to send a blunt message in the middle of the war in Ukraine. Analysts have speculated that Putin could escalate the threat of using nuclear weapons to try to deter Western countries from supporting Ukraine and to force Ukraine to surrender. The Russian defence ministry released footage showing a white missile emerging from an underground silo in a snowy launch site in a ball of fire and then speeding into the sky. The launch took place at the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in northwest Russia, the ministry said, and hit a target on the Kamchatka Peninsula 5,632 km to the east. Putin was shown overseeing the launch by videoconference at the Kremlin. The Sarmat is among Russia's next-generation missiles that Putin has called "invincible", and which also include the Kinzhal and Avangard hypersonic missiles. Last month, Russia said it used Kinzhal for the first time in warfare to strike a target in Ukraine. It is designed to elude anti-missile defence systems with a short initial boost phase, giving enemy surveillance systems a tiny window to track. Weighing more than 200 tonnes and able to transport multiple warheads, Putin said the missile can hit any target on Earth. AGENCIES

'Exiled' ex-PM to be back in Pak, face the courts: Minister

Omer Farooq Khan

Islamabad: Pakistan's former three-time PM Nawaz Sharif is returning to the country after Eid to voluntarily face the judicial process in all cases against him, federal minister and PML-N leader Javed Latif said on Wednesday.

He also revealed that PPP had named the party's chairperson Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari for the vacant foreign minister's berth and that he would take the oath for the office after returning from London.

Nawaz, whose third term as PM ended in 2017 when he was forced to resign in accordance with the Supreme Court's decision in the Panama papers case, flew to London in November 2019 to seek treatment for various ailments. "Nawaz Sharif will be seen in Pakistan after Eid," Latif said in a video statement a day after new PM Shehbaz Sharif's 37-member cabinet took the oath of office.

On the cases as pending against Nawaz, the minister said PML-N believed in the sanctity of the legal process and would accept whatever verdict the courts gave. Farhatullah Babar, PPP's secretary-general, said party chief Bilawal was visiting London primarily to meet Nawaz and congratulate him on the new coalition government.

A two-member bench of the Lahore high court is scheduled to take up a petition filed by PML-N, seeking the removal of Nawaz's name from the no-fly list. His name was put on the exit control list by the erstwhile PTI-led government after he made a long-distance comeback to politics in 2020 by breaking a two-year silence to denounce the country's powerful military and vowing to topple Imran Khan.

Bilawal's UK visit raises speculations

Pakistan People's Party chairman Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari on Wednesday is headed to London where he is expected to meet PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif to "discuss the current political situation" of Pakistan, a day after he excused himself from taking the oath as the foreign minister, leading to speculation that all allies of PM Shehbaz Sharif are not on the same page. Confirming Bilawal's departure, PPP secretary-general Farhatullah Babar said the main purpose of meeting Nawaz Sharif is to congratulate him on the coalition government and "discuss the current political situation", News International newspaper reported. Quoting sources, the News report said Bilawal's not taking oath as the foreign minister meant there was some issue in the coalition government and he wanted to resolve it first. Other sources in the PPP said Bilawal is reluctant to join the cabinet because it may hinder his political activities ahead of elections likely to be held by the end of the year. But PM Sharif is adamant that he should join. PTI

Court: Make info on Imran's gifts public

In a setback to Imran Khan, the Islamabad HC on Wednesday ordered the government to make public details of the gifts received by the former PM from foreign dignitaries since assuming office in August 2018. Gifts given to government officials by foreign governments belong to the state of Pakistan and not some individuals, Justice Mian Gul Hassan Aurangzeb observed on Wednesday. "These gifts are not meant for taking home," he said, adding that these gifts should be recovered. PTI

NEWS IN PIX

MIGHTY FALL

Ukraine forces shoot down $15m Russian copter with missile system worth '$100'

Ukrainian troops downed a $15 million Russian Ka-52 helicopter by using an air defence missile system worth a fraction of the cost. According to reports, the Ukrainian military unit Operational Command 'East' took to its Facebook page to share the news about the helicopter crash that took place in the Kharkiv region. An officer named Yaroslav said: "At night, enemy helicopters went very low. They circled over our positions... And an anti-aircraft gunner fired two missiles at them. One, however, hit a heat trap, and the other shot down a Ka-53. It fell..." As per the post, the unit used an 'Igla' - a portable surface-to-air missing system that was developed by the Soviet Union, and only costs $100. The post also mocked that using a 'Stinger', which is worth approximately $120,000, would have been a waste. "We joked among ourselves that we shot down a Russian screwdriver approximately $15 million worth of weapons for 100 bucks paid for by the Soviet Union," the post read.

Those who fled Mariupol plant narrate harrowing life

The civilians who have been sheltering underground at a Mariupol steel plant for more than 50 days have endured desperate conditions, running low on food and emerging to check on each other only between Russian artillery barrages, two employees who managed to escape said. The Azovstal plant is the last Ukrainian holdout against Russia's battle for the port city and could have just hours left before it falls.

Ukrainian forces defending it have vowed to fight until the "last drop of blood." Some who escaped last month described a dire situation in the dozens of bomb shelters underneath the plant.

Alexey Yoguruv fled to the Soviet-era factory in February with his family, days after the Russians started shelling his neighbourhood. Initially, everyone had three meals a day, and families shared cooking and cleaning duties. To unwind, they played board games and sang together. "We were like a family. The only thing missing was sunlight," said Yoguruv, who was the plant's deputy director for maintenance. But the situation steadily worsened as supplies grew scarce, he said. "As the weeks went on, we began rationing our food, the adults would eat one meal a day." Before the war, the plant was an engine of Mariupol's economy, employing over 10,000 people and producing 4.3 million tons of steel annually. As the Russians ramped up their attacks on neighbourhoods, more families started to flood into the plant. Employees estimated that at least 4,000 people were sheltering there by March. Yoguruv said there were as many as 90 bunkers at the plant, each of which can hold as many as 75 people.

Yoguruv arranged an escape route and managed to evacuate most of the people in his bunker on March 18 in three vans. Watching Russians bombard the plant this week, he said: "I think of my two daughters when I see the faces of the people who are down there." Ivan Goltvenko, the chief of human resources at the plant, described a similarly harrowing path out. "I watched two nine-storey buildings explode," he said. "I am haunted by this shame for having escaped. I feel like I should be down there with them." NYT

Reuters

About 1,000 civilians remain trapped at the Azovstal plant where forces are making their last stand in Mariupol, President Zelensky said

UK court sends Julian Assange extradition decision to govt

London: A British judge on Wednesday formally approved the extradition of Julian Assange to the US to face spying charges. The case will now go to Britain's interior minister for a decision, though the WikiLeaks founder still has legal avenues of appeal. The order, which brings and end to the years'-long extradition battle closer, comes after the UK Supreme Court last month refused Assange permission to appeal against a lower court's ruling that he could be extradited. District judge Paul Goldspring issued the order in a brief hearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court, as Assange watched by video link from Belmarsh prison and his supporters rallied outside the courthouse, demanding he be freed. **Home secretary Priti Patel will now decide whether to grant the extradition.**

The move doesn't exhaust the legal options for Assange, who has sought for years to avoid a trial in the US on charges related to WikiLeaks' publication of a huge trove of classified documents more than a decade ago. His lawyers have four weeks to make submissions to Patel, and can also seek to appeal to the High Court. Assange lawyer Mark Summers told the court that the legal team had "serious submissions" to make. The US has asked UK to extradite Assange so he can stand trial on 17 charges of espionage and one charge of computer misuse.

Zelensky & Navalny voice support for Macron in polls

Paris: Ukrainian President Zelensky and jailed Russian Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny both voiced support for French President Emmanuel Macron ahead of an election that pits Macron against Russia-friendly far-right candidate Marine Le Pen. Navalny tweeted his support for Macron, calling on French citizens to vote for him in Sunday's runoff vote, while Zelensky, in a TV interview, also spoke in favour of Macron.

"A Russian political prisoner addressing the voters of France is quite ironic... I certainly, without hesitation, urge the people of France to vote for @EmmanuelMacron on April 24," Navalny said in a long Twitter thread. He added that he also wanted to appeal to those who would not rule out voting for Le Pen. He said anyone who calls themselves a "conservative" and is sympathetic to President Putin is actually "just a hypocrite with no conscience".

Zelensky was more circumspect in his support for Macron. "While I do not think that I have the right to influence what happens in your country, I want to say I have a relationship with Emmanuel Macron and I would not want to lose that," he told French TV station BFM. He added that Le Pen was wrong in her views about Russia-Ukraine issues. "If Le Pen understands that she has made a mistake, our relationship could change," Zelensky said. Le Pen, who prior to the war had been an open admirer of Putin, has said that as president she would block European sanctions on Russian oil and gas. REUTERS

Fresh protests rock Sri Lanka after man killed by police, president orders impartial probe

Rambukkana: Fresh anti-government protests spread across Sri Lanka on Wednesday, a day after police shot dead a demonstrator and triggered international condemnation.

The latest wave of demonstrations are the largest so far in the current unrest and again saw protesters blockading key highways, according to Sri Lanka's public order ministry. On Tuesday, a 42-year-old father of two was killed when police dispersed a crowd in the town of Rambukkana with tear gas and live ammunition. Nearly 30 others were wounded in the confrontation.

People in Rambukkana, 95km east of the capital Colombo, defied an official curfew to again take to the streets in protest a day after the violence. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said he was "deeply saddened" by the police shooting and promised to uphold the public's right to peacefully protest against his government. Sri Lanka's police force "will carry out an impartial and transparent inquiry", he wrote on Twitter.

Police said they were forced to act when the crowd was about to set alight a fuel tanker — an account rubbished by opposition. "These people are not suicidal to burn a tanker and get killed in the process," lawmaker Rohini Kumari Wijerathna said in parliament. AFP

Reuters

DAUGHTER SEEKS JUSTICE: KD Chaminda Lakshan, 41, had gone to the petrol station at Rambukkana to fill his motorcycle when he got caught up in clashes, his family said. I want justice for the crime committed against my father,' his daughter Piumi said

Opposition leader claims speaker said Gotabaya ready to step down as prez

Sri Lanka's leader of opposition Sajith Premadasa on Wednesday claimed that parliament speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardene had assured that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa was ready to resign if all political parties request him, media reports said on Wednesday. Speaker Abeywardene, however, denied it. "I only said the president is ready to handover the government to anyone who commands majority," he clarified in the parliament. Premadasa reiterated that Abeywardena had said this at a party leaders' meeting and called him a "blantant liar". "You said that if all party leaders go and ask him to step down, he is ready for it. We're ready to do that." A unanimous call from party leaders would have to include the ruling SLPP, led by Gotabaya's brother PM Mahinda Rajapaksa. Political analysts say it is unlikely that the SLPP will back such a call. PTI

AROUND THE WORLD

Reuters

WORLD WEED DAY: People dressed as cannabis leaves gather with marijuana activists to mark world cannabis day in Berlin on Wednesday

Shooting case: 'Rust' film producers fined for gun safety failures

New Mexico workplace safety regulators on Wednesday issued the maximum possible fine of nearly $1,37,000 against a film production company for firearms safety failures on the set of "Rust" where a cinematographer was fatally shot in October by actor and producer Alec Baldwin. New Mexico's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau said Rust Movie Productions must pay $1,36,793, and distributed a scathing narrative of safety failures in violation of standard industry protocols, including testimony that production managers took limited or no action to address two misfires on set prior to the fatal shooting. The bureau also documented gun safety complaints from crew that went unheeded and said weapons specialists were not allowed to make decisions. At a ranch on the outskirts of Santa Fe in October, Baldwin was pointing a gun at cinematographer Halyna Hutchins when it went off, killing Hutchins.

Philippines' poll body clears last hurdle for Marcos

Manila: The Philippines' poll body on Wednesday cleared a major legal hurdle in frontrunner Ferdinand Marcos Jr's — son of the late authoritarian ruler Ferdinand Marcos — path to the presidency when it dismissed the final petition calling for his disqualification from the May 9 election. The Commission on Elections (COMELEC) ruled that a case calling for Marcos to be barred from the contest based on his failure to file income tax returns lacked merit. "Regardless of the fact that the non-filing of income tax return was done repeatedly by the respondent, there is still no tax evasion to speak of as no tax was actually intentionally evaded," the COMELEC's first division said in the ruling. "The government was not defrauded." Marcos has consistently topped opinion polls. REUTERS

Shanghai allows 4m more out of homes as virus rules ease

Shanghai allowed four million more people out of their homes on Wednesday as anti-virus controls that shut down China's biggest city eased, while the IMF cut its forecast of Chinese economic growth and warned the global flow of industrial goods might be disrupted.

A total of almost 12 million people in the city of 25 million are allowed to go outdoors following the first round of easing last week, health official Wu Ganyu said at a news conference. Wu said the virus was "under effective control" for the first time in some parts of the city. Under the latest changes, more than 4 million people are included in areas where the status shifted from closed to controlled, said Wu. He said some are not allowed to leave their neighbourhoods and large gatherings are prohibited.

Meanwhile, the IMF reduced its forecast of Chinese growth this year to 4.4% from 4.8% due to the shutdowns of Shanghai and other industrial centers. That is down by almost half from last year's 8.1% growth and below the ruling Communist Party's 5.5% target. China's case numbers in its latest infection surge are relatively low, but the ruling party is enforcing a "zero-Covid" strategy that has shut down major cities to isolate every case.

On Wednesday, the government reported 19,927 new cases in China's mainland, all but 2,761 of which had no symptoms. Shanghai accounted for 95% of the total, or 18,902 cases, of which 2,495 had symptoms.

The Shanghai city health agency reported seven people who had Covid-19 died Tuesday but said the deaths were due to cancer, heart disease and other ailments. All but two were over 60. Shanghai has confirmed just 17 official deaths in its current outbreak.

Shanghai shut down businesses and confined most of its population to their homes starting March 28 after a spike in infections. AGENCIES

Bloomberg

CAUTIOUS REOPENING

Massive solar flare may hit sat communications

Surendra.Singh
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The Sun on Wednesday unleashed a massive solar flare that has the potential to impact satellite communications and global positioning systems, the Centre of Excellence in Space Sciences India (CESSI) said. The flare has been classified as an X-Class, which denotes the most intense flare. The X2.2 class solar flare eruption took place at 3:57 UTC (9.27 IST) from the solar magnetic active region AR12992. "It erupted from a region beyond the southwest limb of the Sun," according to US space weather forecasting site NOAA Space Weather.

"Strong ionospheric perturbation is ongoing over India, South East Asia and the Asia-Pacific regions. Expected high frequency communication blackouts, satellite anomalies, GPS scintillations, and airline communication impacts," the CESSI tweeted.

Solar flares are powerful bursts of energy that can impact radio communications, electric power grids and navigation signals, and pose risks to spacecraft and astronauts. During a solar flare, the highly energetic charged particles are expelled from the Sun at speeds close to that of light. These rays can disturb the ionosphere region of the Earth, which plays key role in radio communications. According to Nasa, the smallest flares are classified as A-Class, followed by B, C, M and X. Each letter represents a 10-fold increase in energy output. An X-Class flare is 10 times M-Class eruption and 100 times a C-Class flare.

A thought for today

Cereal crops will be ready for harvest in June. Whether farmers in Ukraine would be able to harvest them and deliver to the market is unclear

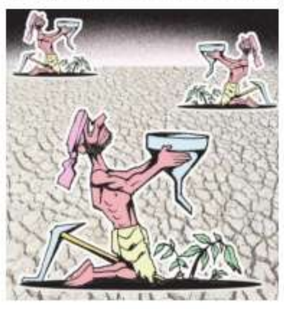
QU DONGYU, FAO

Rain Watching

Southwest monsoon forecast has a mixed message. It's a wake-up call for agriculture

The season's first long range forecast for the 2022 southwest monsoon conveyed a mixed message. The forecast of a normal monsoon was reassuring, particularly given that its accuracy in the last decade was better than the preceding one. However, the long period average rainfall that serves as the monsoon benchmark was lowered a bit to 87 cm. It's a reminder of larger forces at play in the climate system and the need to adapt to both warmer conditions and a possible decline in precipitation. Southwest monsoon is the mainstay of India's agricultural cycle and through it the entire economy.

This year's monsoon needs to be located in the backdrop of three important developments. A transient one is the fallout of the Russia-Ukraine war as the two countries jointly account for about 30% of global wheat exports. Therefore, India, which exported Rs 74,491 crore of cereals in FY 21, will have an outsized impact on the global market this year. Two other developments are the escalating annual mean land surface temperature and the water stress in northwest India, which will have a long-term impact on Indian agriculture.



India's yields on most essential crops have improved over the last decade. Consequently, even though the extent of agricultural land has shrunk marginally, both cereal and vegetable output have increased. However, the worsening environmental stress calls for fairly large changes in Indian agriculture. To begin with, there's a need to find a durable solution to our overflowing granaries. India's buffer stock norm for foodgrains at the beginning of the financial year is 21 million tonnes. The actual holding has been over two times the required level in the recent past. GoI needs to work out effective ways to offload the excess as elevated global cereal prices can influence domestic market prices through the trade channel.

The long-term solution is to find ways to shift the balance of output towards horticultural products. A good development has been that the area under vegetable cultivation increased by 10% over the last five years. We need patient reform in the logistics chain if this environmentally sound trend is to intensify.

Bulldozed Due Process

Courts must step in and stop state/local authorities from ignoring basic principles

Bulldozers had continued to raze alleged encroachments in Delhi's Jahangirpuri – scene of rioting on Saturday – yesterday, forcing Supreme Court to expeditiously communicate its stay order to North Municipal Corporation of Delhi. This is enormously troubling, even by recent standards. Some authorities seem to have no qualms using any law or agency for various motives – here the subliminal messaging appeared to be payback to "rioters". Only SC and high court judges with their constitutional protections can ensure that political and permanent executives apply laws wisely and humanely. Courts must step in to prevent this mindless deployment of bulldozers; the Constitution is getting bulldozed as well. Razing of homes and shops hurts entire families, and even if there are family members who allegedly rioted or even if structures are illegal, there's due process – innocent until proven guilty and adequate notice, respectively – to be followed.

From its slums to posh areas, Delhi is overrun by encroachments, as are most Indian cities. Bureaucratic hair-splitting on illegal structures was therefore thoroughly unconvincing when Jahangirpuri was singled out. And even if one were to look at it in terms of legality, the MCD Act has clear provisions: Under Section 317 the Commissioner is supposed to issue notice to remove projections (structures or fixtures) onto streets, Section 343 allows demolition of buildings with a minimum notice period of 5-15 days. Only Section 322 doesn't require issuing notice, because it involves removing temporary structures like stalls encroaching into public streets. There's also an appellate tribunal under the Act to hear appeals against notices.

Those who faced demolitions in Delhi and MP got no time to appeal, contravening principles of natural justice. Despite the Constitution's prescription that the state can deprive the right to life only under "procedure established by law", SC rightly recognised the tendency of authorities to arbitrarily act under cover of law. Under the sanctity SC has accorded to fair, just and equitable procedure since 1978, even demolishing temporary structures like a juice stall or a ragpicker's shed that support livelihoods without notice, cannot evade this due process. Turning the bulldozer into political theatre and the sword arm of instant 'justice' must stop. Constitutional courts located in national/state capitals must respond fast enough to localised cases of overreach. Hopefully, they will prevail.

Acronym acrimony

MICE is scurrying to make the events biz easier

Bachi Karkaria

MICE is an apt acronym for the thriving-but-tiresome task of organising meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions. When entertainment moved from relaxation to revenue stream, event managers began strutting around the bizscape. From weddings to weighty seminars everything had to be tarted into this e-word. But organising star- and stand-up-comic-studded events is not for the mousy, since it's easy to fall into the myriad rat-traps set by fat-cats of the licence-permit raj. Now, hope comes in the form of a single-window website being set up by the apex body for MICE.

While this would be of a piece with the sleek, streamlined India led by a one-man event industry, the business of acronyms is not as easily dealt with. For starters, the term can't be worn as loosely as pajamas. It can't be used for the random collection of initials which comprise Gen Z's entire vocabulary – or which dot the average newspaper headline. 'TTYL' and 'NFT' are mere initialisms. Correctly speaking, acronym applies only to a Wordle-authorised word.

Pain-in-the-butt purists scoff that, to qualify, said word also has to be relevant to the context. A shoo-in is MAD, the Cold War strategy developed to stop the mutually assured destruction resulting from superpowers pressing their nuclear button. So is MADD which describes the rage of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Tina Brown's WOW exclaims the power of Women of the World and our own National Organisation for Women wants empowerment NOW. AAP is the sole political party.

erratica

Technically, UNICEF/UNESCO don't get membership even though they are pronounced as words. Unlike WHO, whose initials are individually spelt out. Ironically, this could be the only UN agency to qualify as a full-fledged acronym. During the pandemic, didn't the world keep demanding, 'WHO is in charge?!!'?

Still, beyond a point, it's absurd to be pernickety about being purist. Case in point is not ending sentences with a preposition. As the chastised Churchill quipped, 'That's the kind of arrant pedantry, up with which I will not put.'

***

Alec Smart said: "What does Musk's hostile bid prove? One man's tweet is another man's poison-pill."

State Of The State

When govts intervene in matters of personal and religious choice, social peace & livelihoods suffer

Sagarika Ghose

First there was uproar on hijab, then a controversy over halal meat, next an outcry against azaan on loudspeakers. A series of communal dog-whistles have created a situation where religious processions have led to communal clashes in both BJP and opposition governed states.

And when government bulldozers demolish homes and commercial establishments without first seeking judicial process, vital reconciliation between citizens cannot take place.

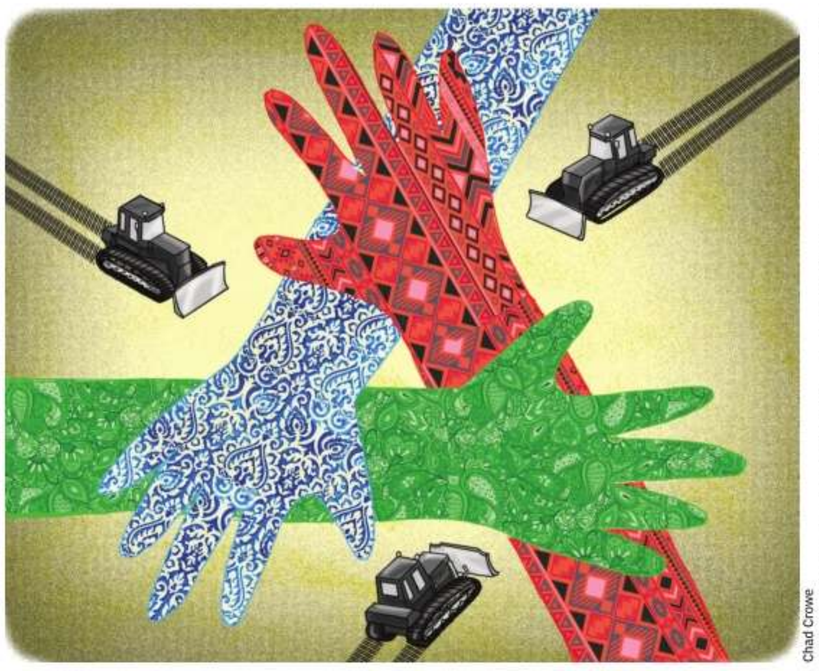
Fanning the flames of religious hatred in mixed neighbourhoods has led to a spiral of violence. There are many reasons for the hate hysteria: social media fallout, failure of the police and the role of Hindu and Islamic groups engaging in action and reaction on the ground.

But the root of the problem is the state's failure to be non-partisan and governments meddling in social, religious and private matters of food, dress and modes of worship. If any of these cause disputes, these are best left to courts, citizens groups, and institutions to negotiate and navigate through dialogue between local stakeholders.

In Haryana the government took it upon itself to force out namazis practising open air namaz, with the CM declaring such a practice would not be tolerated. Ideally the matter should have been resolved through a citizens' dialogue or judicial process in which all sides were heard.

If the state becomes the sponsor of identity, new political adventurers will jump in demanding state protection for a growing list of new flags and totems. Are governments going to endlessly keep shoring up identity divides? UP's 'love jihad' law is another example of state intrusion into personal choices. Family or clan objections to inter-faith couples need to be privately resolved, if needed by recourse to existing laws. Why must the bullying state intervene through specific legislation as if to penalise certain personal relationships?

UP CM Yogi Adityanath has recently announced that no religious processions will be allowed without police permission. A tough-sounding move, but will the UP administration be even-handed in ensuring that the law prevails across communities?



Chad Crowe

In Uttarakhand, CM Pushkar Dhami has issued instructions to conduct a verification of residents. The state may end up circumscribing citizens' constitutional rights to move freely throughout India without restrictions, explicitly provided in Article 19.

Of course, every party practises partisan politics through state instruments. In Bengal, the Left's state capture entrenched one-party rule and TMC is now accused of similar intimidation of rivals.

BJP though seems to have taken partisanship on religious issues to another level. In Karnataka the Bommai government first brought in an anti-conversion bill, which was seen as targeting the Christian community. The government then took a stand against hijab, then certain ministers supported boycott of Muslim vendors at Hindu temple fairs, and ruling party officials inveighed against halal meat.

If the state becomes the sponsor of identity, new political adventurers will jump in demanding state protection for a growing list of new flags and totems. Are governments going to endlessly keep shoring up identity divides?

By excluding citizens from the meat business or fairs, the government is gravely interfering in citizens' right to livelihoods. It required a sharp intervention from entrepreneur Kiran Majumdar Shaw for the Bommai government to back off.

State sponsorship of identity opens a Pandora's Box. When Rajput Karni Sena went on a violent rampage against the film *Padmaavat*, politicians across party lines were helpless, because governments today see organised identities as vote banks.

But in the process of patronising groups, individual freedoms are being lost. The freedom to eat, worship, marry, dress, watch movies are all in danger if state power is harnessed to moral policing informed by any ideological position. If arbitrary government action is welded to majoritarian groups then minorities will always feel paranoid and some majority groups will be recklessly emboldened.

Constitutional functionaries should not publicly cast moral judgement against a citizen wearing ripped jeans nor should governments intervene in students' dress codes. In a rights-based republic, institutions and individuals must be at liberty to decide on clothing. Similarly, meat eating is a legal right, which cannot be taken away on grounds of religion or culture.

The principle of constitutional democracy is that we enjoy our freedoms because others enjoy theirs. Vegetarians have every right to exercise their freedom to reject meat, equally non-vegetarians have their right to eat the food of their choice. The point is, no group should be able to access state power or mob power to impose their own personal choices on others.

Gandhi believed passionately in vegetarianism and celibacy but did not seek to impose these values on others through state power or laws. Ambedkar became a Buddhist but did not seek state support for Buddhism.

Yet the rising Hindu Right is blurring the lines and some groups are whipping up communal passions, demanding state patronage and often obtaining it. Only token arrests were made after a dharam sansad became the platform for calls for communal violence. On the other side of the divide Islamist groups are galvanising hotheads within the community.

Instead of taking sides on religious and cultural matters, governments need to focus on the basic task: Impartially upholding law and order and respecting individual dignity.

'We Are On The Cusp Of A Purpose Revolution'

Defining it will become central to the way firms operate. It provides a framework to navigate complexities

*Harvard Business School professor **Ranjay Gulati** speaks to **Namrata Singh** about the insights in his book 'Deep Purpose: The Heart and Soul of High-Performance Companies':*

Q&A

● What is deep purpose?

Purpose is not merely a statement. It is an operating system that emanates from a purpose statement that, in turn, serves as a compass for the organisation. Many companies follow a superficial purpose which is just a tick in the box. Purpose is not CSR. When an organisation asks that fundamental question 'what is purpose?', when it contemplates on that question, it forces the company to think long-term. When you start to think long-term, as a viable business, you have to think about stakeholders.

During 'the great resignation' which I call 'the great rethink', people reflected on what work means to them. They want to make a difference in some way. When an employee starts the day by asking 'what am I doing?' or 'am I doing the right thing?' it becomes an operating system within the company. In a deep purpose company, employees are energised because they feel a sense of trust and emotional connection. Purpose is going to become much more central to how businesses, leaders and even employees think.

● How do you negotiate the trade-offs?

Here's the delicate dilemma. Some companies start using purpose as a cloak to hide nefarious activities while others use it to make an excuse for poor financial performance. You cannot say I'm busy saving the Amazon forest and I will not give you any returns. So how do you navigate this balancing of expectations across a range of stakeholders is a very delicate challenge.

● Is moral neutrality still an option?

If you look at the Ukraine crisis it's a watershed moment for business because now, for the first time, businesses are being forced to take sides in a geopolitical issue. We now have instances where the shareholders and the financial intermediaries are all taking a stance on a geopolitical issue. This is uncharted terrain because thus far businesses were able to sit on the sidelines and avoid getting pulled into sensitive moral, social and political issues. Going forward, businesses are going to be forced to take positions on domestic and geopolitical issues.

Purpose can help you navigate your way through complexities. It doesn't give you answers, but at least it gives you some framework to evaluate your point of view.

● Why isn't shareholder value enough?

Shareholder value does inspire and motivate people. When bonuses are tied to shareholder value, people will work very hard for that. But we forget that shareholder value is a by-product of running a great business and not an end goal in and of itself. I think there is also room for people to be inspired by something besides just shareholder value.

It's no longer just about features and functionality. It's about brand and purpose and what they stand for. I think that's going to be increasing going forward.

● When should a startup zero in on a purpose?

Of course, survival is key. However, some of the most successful ones I interviewed defined their existence by more than just a "big idea", but rather a "grand ideal". Their statement of intent was more expansive, almost like a purpose statement. This not only appeals to investors and new employees, but was the basis for their vision for growth and success. It also allows them to think about how they imagine their business differently. So even though you're focussed on survival, having a purpose gives them a sharper strategy. It allows them to understand the customers, the market domain, the problem space one is working in better, because the purpose is about a statement of 'why do we exist', which forces you to think about which customers we are trying to serve, what problems we are trying to solve, and what kind of things we need to solve those problems. So, it's a wonderful disciplining mechanism, even for fledgling companies. Increasingly, this is becoming very common among tech companies.

● When will purpose-driven companies occupy top place in investor portfolios?

I think it's happening now. Covid has triggered employees to demand something more out of their jobs. We're on the cusp of a purpose revolution. Companies who understand this are going to have a talent advantage, a brand advantage, strategic clarity on what they're doing and why they're doing it. My own field-based study of 18 companies across a range of industries shows that deep purpose can in fact make a significant difference to financial performance.

dilbert

Sacred*space*

Die Empty

I want to know that if I lay my head down tonight and don't wake up tomorrow, I have emptied myself of whatever creativity is lingering inside, with minimal regrets about how I spent my focus, time, and energy... it takes intentional and sustained effort... But it is well worth it.

Todd Henry

The Guru Who Taught Us To Fear None, Scare None

Charan Singh

Guru Tegh Bahadur was the ninth guru of the Sikhs. His early years were spent in Amritsar under the tutelage of Baba Budha, contemporary of Guru Nanak, and Bhai Gurdas, inscriber of Adi Granth, prepared by Guru Arjan in 1604. Hence, his understanding of religion, society, history, and contemporary issues was very deep, which reflected in his poetic compositions.

The main teachings of Guru Tegh Bahadur can be culled from his 116 compositions in 15 ragas, contained in the Guru Granth Sahib (GGS). The universal messages are in simple Braj language. They are easy to understand and have examples from daily life, emphasising universalism in spirituality. In one of his compositions, the Guru explains that as bubbles appear and disappear in water, similar is the creation of this world.

His main messages in the GGS can be summarised thus: Human birth is precious, so don't waste it; shun bad company; treat pain/pleasures equal and keep your emotional self above joy/sorrow; God dwells inside you like image within a mirror; life is seeping away like water from a pitcher; what is the point of going on a pilgrimage when the mind is not in control, it's like a stone that is kept immersed in water and still the water does not penetrate it; this world is like smoke, nothing permanent or everlasting; nothing will go beyond this life except meditation; body is like a hailstone, it quickly melts away, so shed all delusions; why worry when nothing is permanent in this world; why this false pride when knowing that this world is like a dream and nothing is yours; and as a pet dog does not leave the house of master, stay steadfast in meditation.

THE SPEAKING TREE

In his extensive travels, Guru Tegh Bahadur preached tolerance and inter-faith harmony. In Dhaka, for example, the Guru helped restore peace between Chakradhvaj, ruler of Ahom, and Raja Ram Singh of Amber.

He also practised economic independence. The piece of land where Anandpur is built was offered by Rani Champa of Bilaspur, but the Guru preferred to pay for it and purchased it for Rs 500 in 1665.

He believed that the spiritually wise are steadfast, neither do they intimidate nor get intimidated by anyone. He observed that those persons are enlightened who treat friends and foes alike. It was while practising these principles that Guru Tegh Bahadur resisted forced conversion under the reign of the Mughal emperor, Aurangzeb, and without hesitation sacrificed his life.

Earlier, Guru Nanak had started holding inter-faith dialogues while interacting with spiritual masters of different faiths and their compositions later became part of the GGS. The supreme sacrifice of Guru Tegh Bahadur upholds the same principle, to accept diversity of belief and respect plurality in society. The sacrifice also reveals that strong social bonds get established with inter-faith dialogues. Kashmiri Pandits, for example, chose to come to Guru Tegh Bahadur, who reciprocated happily and even gave his life for the cause.

The lesson to be drawn from the sacrifice is that the freedom to practise faith of one's choice is a matter of human rights, individual conscience, for which no force or allurements should be used.

The writer is former chairman of Punjab and Sind Bank

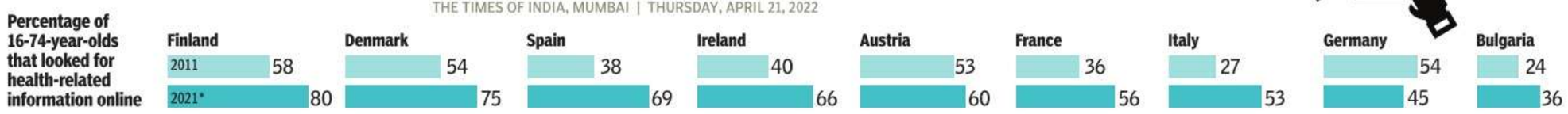
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, MUMBAI | THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022

Turning To The Internet For Information On Health

There are several countries where people rely on the Internet for medical information. Data from Eurostat shows that in Finland, 8 out of 10 respondents said they had turned to the web for info linked to health, while in Denmark, 75% said they had done so

Source: Statista



Govt eyes SPAC framework to enable new listing route

Panel Report Suggests Amendments To Companies Act

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The government is looking at putting in place a regulatory framework for Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPAC) in the statutes to aid the possible listing of Indian companies in the country through this route.

The Company Law Committee, which submitted its report on a fresh set of amendments to the Companies Act, has suggested introduction of enabling provisions in the law to list a SPAC on domestic or international exchanges.

A SPAC is a type of company that does not have an operating business and has been formed with the specific objective of acquiring a target company. This allows a shell company to go for an initial public offering (IPO) without commercial activity. After listing, the SPAC merges with or acquires a target company, allowing it to benefit from such a listing, without having to complete the IPO formalities.

The panel has gone on to suggest that the provisions allowing Indian companies to list directly on overseas exchanges should be operationalised. While Parliament allowed the move, the revenue department has refused to address issues related to taxation. This is holding up the plan, which was seen as a key reform initiative in recent years.

The committee pointed out that some Indian companies such as ReNew Power had opted for the SPAC route to list overseas. Government officials said that the move will require several amendments to the law and there may also be fresh taxation issues, which will need to be addressed.

So far, the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) has put in place regulations for SPAC listing in GIFT City.

While public comments have been sought on the plan, the ministry of corporate affairs intends to commence discussions with other government agencies, such as the department of economic affairs in the finance ministry. Sebi is examining the possibility of introducing a framework for regulating SPACs in India.

The Company Law Committee has recommended that provisions in the Companies Act should be tweaked to relax the requirement to carry out business before being struck off and providing exit options to the dissenting shareholders of a SPAC if they disagree with the choice of the target company identified.

WHAT IS SPAC?

A special purpose acquisition company is an entity formed with an objective to not have any operating business, but only acquire a target company within a stipulated period (usually 18-24 months)

- The entity lists on a stock exchange, then merges or acquires a target company, which is looking to list
- The target company is able to list quickly without having to complete the IPO formalities
- Rules are in place for Indian companies to list via SPAC in GIFT City
- The US, UK, Canada, Singapore, Malaysia have recognised and regulated SPACs
- Apart from Companies Act amendments, tax rules may need to be tweaked

Govt amends guidelines for 'Nidhi' cos

New Delhi: To protect the interests of the public and prevent possible illegal fund-raising activities, the government has amended rules governing Nidhi companies, whereby its prior declaration will be compulsory for a certain class of such companies for starting business. The move by the corporate affairs ministry also comes against the backdrop of a significant increase in the number of Nidhi companies and instances of the people getting duped by fraudulent money pooling activities. PTI

RBL Bank recommends candidates for MD & CEO

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBL Bank's board on Wednesday said that it has approved candidates for the MD & CEO post and would send the shortlisted names to the RBI for approval.

Sources said interim MD & CEO Rajeev Ahuja, whose term ends in June, is not among the candidates. In March, the central bank had granted a three-month extension for Ahuja.

In December 2021, the RBI had appointed its chief general manager Yogesh Dayal as a director on the board of the bank with its CEO Vishwavir Ahuja proceeding on leave at the same time. Earlier in June 2021, the central bank had allowed Vishwavir to continue as CEO for a year. In the interim, the regulator had asked RBL Bank's board to recommend names for a successor.

However, as the board had not made much progress in the quest for a successor, the RBI is understood to have moved to ensure that recommendations are made in time. In January this year, the bank announced that it has appointed Pradip Shah as an external expert to work with the CEO search panel. The board also appointed Egon Zehnder as the search firm for identifying candidates.

The search committee comprises Majeev Singh Puri, chairman of the nomination & remuneration committee, and two other directors Ishan Raina and Veena Mankar.

Tata Steel will stop doing biz with Russia

JLR Had Halted Shipments, Tata Power Applies For Cancellation Of Mine Licence

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Mumbai: Tatas have cut business ties with Russia as the corporate fallout from the invasion of Ukraine spreads. On Wednesday, Tata Steel said it has taken a "conscious decision to stop doing business with Russia".

Previously, British sister concern Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) paused vehicle shipments to Russia citing "trading challenges". JLR sold over 13,000 luxury vehicles in Russia last year. Tata Steel sourced raw materials, mainly coal, from Russia to produce the metal. "To ensure business continuity, all our steel manufacturing sites in India, the UK and the Netherlands have sourced alternative supplies of raw materials to end its dependence on Russia," the company said.

India has not imposed any sanctions on Russia and has also not criticised its invasion of Ukraine. "The EU will end their business ties and our businesses in the UK and Netherlands are part of this decision," Reuters reported, quoting a Tata Steel executive.

TCS had said though it does not have any operations in Russia, it is helping clients maintain their business continuity plans as well as sees an opportunity to ramp up hiring in Eastern Europe, where it employs about 5,000 people. Sister concern Tata Power, which had bagged a mining licence for a thermal coal mine in Kamchatka province in Russia for $4.7 million in 2017, has recently applied for its cancellation.

REDUCING DEPENDENCE

- Tata Steel used to import coal from Russia for its steel-making process
- The co has said all sites in India, the UK and the Netherlands have sourced alternative raw materials to end dependence on Russia
- Tata Steel is among only a handful of Indian cos that have halted biz with Russia
- India's No. 2 software services co Infosys had said it would exit Russia

- This is in contrast with western cos, several of which have withdrawn from Russia, some of them forgoing decades of investments

SAP exits Russia after 30 years of ops

Bengaluru: SAP has become the latest tech giant to exit Russia after 30 years of operation in that country. The company said it is committed to supporting Ukraine. "We continue to believe that coordinated inter-governmental sanctions offer the best way to end the war. In line with our responsibilities as an employer and provider of business-critical software, we have also gone beyond sanctions," it said. TNN

HDFC sells 10% in realty fund arm to ADIA for ₹184 crore

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: HDFC has sold a 10% stake in HDFC Capital — a wholly owned subsidiary that manages real estate funds — to Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for Rs 184 crore. ADIA is also a primary investor with a $1-billion investment in the company's affordable housing fund and has now picked up a stake in HDFC Capital.

The six-year-old company has a paid-up capital of only Rs 2 crore, which means that almost the entire proceeds of the sale will go to HDFC as a gain. "This investment will enable HDFC Capital to propel towards becoming a leading investment platform in real estate and technology ecosystem," said HDFC chairman Deepak Parekh.

HDFC Capital is the investment manager for HDFC Capital Affordable Real Estate Fund 1 (H-CARE 1), H-CARE 2 and H-CARE 3, which are registered with Sebi as category-2 alternative investment funds. These funds combine to create a $3-billion platform targeting the development of affordable and mid-income housing in India.

Not breached inflation target 'so badly': FM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the country has not breached the inflation target "so badly" while referring to the recent surge in retail inflation, which hit a 17-month high of 6.9%.

"India's inflation today is at about 6.9% last month. Our tolerance band is only 4% plus or minus 2% to it. So we could go up to 6%... We have breached 6% but not really breached it so badly," Sitharaman said while participating at a function organised by the Atlantic Council.

"Of course, the price burden is on the common man and we are trying to relieve him of that stress," said the FM as she elaborated on the strategy to steer the economy forward after the Covid impact.

> Of course, the price burden is on the common man and we are trying to relieve him of that stress...
> —NIRMALA SITHARAMAN, FM

She said the economy faces several challenges such as the rising global crude oil prices and all the commodity prices, which have gone skyrocketing. "These will have an impact on all economies. Notwithstanding the challenges we are now able to stand and move forward. Move forward with a lot more system and process reforms," the FM said.

Data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index (CPI), neared the 7% mark at 6.95% in March, higher than the 6.1% recorded in February. Food inflation surged 7.7% during the month from 5.9%. Separate data has shown that wholesale price inflation shot up to a record 14.6% in March. It has remained in double digits for the past 12 months in a row.

The breakdown of supply chains as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has added to the price pressures across the world and India is facing strains in supply of edible oils, metals and other commodities. Rising global crude oil prices have also posed fresh policy challenges and experts believe an increase in interest rates could be as early as June to combat the price pressures.

Non-compete clause for Infy staff difficult to enforce

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Bengaluru: Infosys's recently introduced non-compete clause that forbids new joinees from working on the same customer's projects across five named competitors and their subsidiaries for six months after leaving the firm is not only restrictive, but the traceability of a breach of such a clause has practical challenges in India, experts said.

Infosys has named TCS, IBM, Accenture, Wipro and Cognizant as competitors that employees cannot join if they are put on a project of the same customer as the one they were working for at Infosys. Infosys's objective seems to be to restrain employees from divulging confidential information related to customers.

Some feel the enforcement of such a clause at a time when attrition is at an all-time high in the IT industry would dent employee morale. Pune-based IT/ITeS union Nites has filed a complaint with the ministry of labour & employment on the development.

When **TOI** contacted Infosys, it said, "It is standard business practice in many parts of the world for employment contracts to include controls of reasonable scope and duration to protect confidentiality of information, customer connection and other legitimate business interests. These are fully disclosed to all job aspirants before they decide to join Infosys."

Adani-Israel co JV, 13 others vie for drone scheme

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New Delhi: Adani-Elbit Advanced Systems India, a JV of Adani Group and an Israeli company, is among the 14 beneficiaries under the government's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for manufacturing drone and drone components. These 14 are made up of five drone and nine drone component manufacturers.

The aviation ministry had invited applications from eligible manufacturers this March, following which the first provisional list of 14 beneficiaries was released on Wednesday.

The shortlisted drone manufacturers are Dhaksha Unmanned Systems (from Chennai), Ideaforge Technology (Mumbai), Io Tech World Aviation (Gurugram), Omnipresent Robot Technologies (Gurguram) and Raphe Mphibr (Noida). The shortlisted drone component manufacturers are Absolute Composites (Bangalore), Adani-Elbit Advanced Systems India (Hyderabad), Adroitec Information Systems (Delhi), Alpha Design Technologies (Bangalore), Inventgrid India (Sambalpur), Paras Aerospace (Bangalore), SASMOS HET Technologies (Bangalore), ZMotion Autonomous Systems (Bangalore) and Zuppa Geo Navigation Technologies (Chennai).

The 14 cos are made up of 5 drone & 9 drone component manufacturers

"The list of beneficiaries is likely to be expanded further since some more manufacturers are likely to exceed the eligibility criteria for the full financial year 2021-22. The final list of PLI beneficiaries is expected to be released by June 30, 2022, after detailed scrutiny of their financial results and other specified documents," said an aviation ministry official.

'Progressive portrayal of women boosts impact of ads'

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New Delhi: Progressive portrayals of women result in advertising that is more effective for companies. Indian advertisements that depicted progressive gender roles had a positive impact of as much as 32% in short-term product sales and improved a brand's equity by 51%, showed a study.

Women in real life, however, consider themselves more progressive than their depictions in mainstream advertising, signalling that brands and advertisers have their work cut out for them. "While there has been some positive movement by brands in this regard, one can still witness some deeply embedded stereotypes in their advertising," said Santosh Desai, MD & CEO at Futurebrands India.

Food & drinks and personal care have evolved to show women in a better light, while household categories have been found to be holding a lot of baggage, showed the study by data analytics and brand consulting company Kantar and the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI).

China keeps rate unchanged in surprise move

China surprisingly kept its benchmark lending rates steady on Wednesday, with markets seeing the move as Beijing's cautious approach to rolling out more easing measures as the economy slows due to Covid lockdowns. In contrast to most major economies that have started to tighten monetary policy to combat inflation, China has stepped up easing to cushion the slowdown. REUTERS

Nykaa to launch salons with Estee Lauder brand

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New Delhi: Beauty and wellness retailer Nykaa has forayed into the salon business by partnering with Estee Lauder's haircare brand Aveda.

While the contours of the deal were not disclosed, Nykaa has opened a Nykaa-Aveda branded salon in Bengaluru and will follow it up by opening two more in Mumbai and Delhi, to start with. Aveda, too, will use Nykaa's distribution network to expand its presence in the domestic market.

In addition, the omnichannel retailer is building a hub-and-spoke model with its business-to-business (B2B) arm for salons, similar to what wholesaler Metro Cash & Carry does with kirana stores.

It will employ a hub-and-spoke model for salons, similar to what wholesaler Metro Cash & Carry does with kirana stores

Nykaa, which currently has 14 warehouses and over 100 retail outlets across India, will use them to replenish inventory of other third-party salons, stores and pharmacies in a hyper-local manner, Anchit Nayar, CEO, e-commerce beauty at Nykaa, told **TOI**.

Nykaa's move comes against the backdrop of signs of consolidation in the Indian salon industry, which has been severely impacted by the pandemic. In February, Mamaearth acquired haircare, hair color and styling products, including the chain of salons under BBLUNT brand name from Godrej Consumer Care for Rs 135 crore. Senior executives at Nykaa and Aveda, however, said the segment is witnessing a strong rebound.

Netflix loses 200k users, 1st drop in a decade

After a decade of meteoric growth that shook Hollywood to its core, Netflix has run into a wall. The streaming service lost 200,000 customers in the first quarter, according to a statement on Tuesday, the first time it has shed subscribers since 2011. Netflix also projects it will lose another 2 million customers in the current second quarter, setting up its worst year ever as a public company.

Investors, analysts and Hollywood executives had been bracing for the company to report a sluggish start to the year, but Wall Street still expected Netflix to add 2.5 million customers. The shares, already down more than 40% this year, tumbled over 35% in early trade on Wednesday.

Netflix management pointed to four causes, including the prevalence of password sharing and growing competition. The company said there are 100 million households that use its service and don't pay for it, on top of its 221.6 million subscribers. The company is experimenting with ways to sign up those viewers.

"Our relatively high household penetration — when including the large number of households sharing accounts — combined with competition, is creating revenue growth headwinds," the management wrote in a letter to shareholders.

The results will have ramifications for all of the big entertainment companies. After watching millions of customers abandon pay TV for streaming, US entertainment giants have merged and restructured to compete with Netflix in streaming. Investors encouraged this strategic shift, buying shares in companies like Walt Disney that demonstrated a commitment to streaming.

Netflix's troubles will cause investors to question whether the later-arriving media companies will sign up enough customers to justify all the money they are spending on fresh programming.

Co-chief executive officers Reed Hastings and Ted Sarandos had dismissed the company's recent slowdown in growth as a speed bump related to the pandemic, which accelerated its growth in 2020. But its subscriber acquisition has slowed for a year and a half, and the company hasn't reverted to pre-pandemic levels. "The big Covid boost to streaming obscured the picture until recently," the company said.

Netflix lost customers in three of its four regions, including more than 600,000 in the US and Canada. It blamed most of that attrition on a price increase, and said the decline was expected. Russia's invasion of Ukraine cost the company another 700,000 customers when it had to pull its service in Russia, resulting in a loss of 300,000 customers in the Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Asia was the lone bright spot. Netflix added more than 1 million customers in the region. BLOOMBERG

ADs, NO SHARING PASSWORDS SOON

Netflix Had Forecast 2.5mn New Users, What Caused Drop?

- Netflix was hit by **inflation**, Ukraine **war** and **competition** from cos like **HBO** and **Disney**
- Netflix also projected that it will **shrink by 2mn customers in the March-June quarter**

What Happens Next?

- Netflix co-founder **Reed Hastings** had for years opposed advertising and was fine with password sharing
- Now, Netflix will introduce a **cheaper, advertising-supported option** in the next couple years, and will also **crack down on people sharing their passwords**

$40bn+ Wiped Out In A Day

- Netflix stock **crashed over 35%** early on Wednesday
- It is Netflix's **worst day** on the market in **18 years** and it is on course to be the worst performing stock of the year on both S&P 500 and Nasdaq 100

Appliances giant BSH eyes 75% localisation in 3 years

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Mumbai: India is growing at a much faster 30% than the global rate of 12% for BSH Home Appliances Group. The 15.6-billion-euro giant, which is Europe's leading home appliances maker, has already made a significant part of its planned investment of 90 million euros in the country.

In an exclusive interview with **TOI**, BSH Home Appliances Group CEO Carla Kriwet said the company expects India to continue growing at this rate for three-four years, with a target of clocking half a billion euros in sales by 2025. "India is increasingly an important market for us. For us, India is among the top 5 emerging markets," said Kriwet, who is visiting the country for the first time after taking over as global CEO in 2020.

> When you see the amount of tariffs between the US and China, it doesn't make business sense to import from China or the US. We are going more for local productions... We have to make our supply chains more resilient
> **Carla Kriwet** | CEO, BSH HOME APPLIANCES GROUP

Globally, the company's brand portfolio includes well-known brands like Bosch, Siemens, Gaggenau and Neff, as well as the ecosystem brand Home Connect and service brands like Kitchen Stories. Kriwet said, starting from a small base, the market share numbers in India are also increasing. The company was, however, not forthcoming in providing the exact numbers.

BSH has a target of achieving 75% localisation by 2025. The company said its Bosch Max Flex freezer is India's first flexible refrigerator which comes with a third door compartment that can be used as a fridge or freezer. Kriwet said India-first products like the Bosch Max Flex showcases the company's commitment to the country.

"Consumer centricity is key. So, our teams here have built a solid product pipeline, which is sure to enable market share growth across categories. We will continue to focus on product innovation, smart home ecosystems, and greater manufacturing abilities," said Kriwet.

BSH Home Appliances (India & SAARC) MD & CEO Neeraj Bahl said the company aims to be among the top three brands of home appliances in the country.

United's 4-0 Loss To Liverpool Reveals Squad Needs Significant Overhaul

9 United have conceded nine goals against Liverpool in the EPL this season, the most they've ever shipped against a team in a single campaign.

22 Points separating Liverpool from sixth-placed United. United have lost all four games to City & Liverpool in 2021/22, conceding 15 goals, scoring 1.

FREE FALLING

5 Liverpool's Mohamed Salah is the first player in Premier League history to score five goals against Manchester United in a single campaign.

Reuters

"THEY MAKE OUR LIFE EASIER IN THE MIDFIELD AND IN THE BACK, THEY ALWAYS GAVE US THE BALL IN A ONE AGAINST ONE SITUATION." -Mo Salah

Liverpool: The remaining Manchester United fans inside Anfield were chanting for the club's owners to sell when the coaches and players were already back inside analyzing their failings in a humiliating 4-0 loss to Liverpool.

It was a moment, before facing the media, for introspection and self-criticism by interim manager Ralf Rangnick and midfielder Bruno Fernandes at the home of their club's fiercest rival.

"What I tell them in the locker room stays there, obviously," Rangnick said, before offering a flavour of the damning assessment. "We were just not up to it in the first half. We didn't win a single second ball. In most of the first ball situations we were just spectators.

"If you play like that against a team like Liverpool, then it's difficult."

Coming from the temporary coach who is set to move into a consultancy role at the end of the season, it painted a bleak picture of what expected incoming manager Erik ten Hag will find at Old Trafford. Not that United's malaise will be hard for the Dutchman to detect from his vantage point at Ajax. The combined 9-0 tally in losses to Liverpool in this season's pair of Premier League games has exposed the team's shortcomings with Ole Gunnar Solskjær and, now, Rangnick at the helm.

Or course, the coaching credentials of both Solskjær and Rangnick can be debated. The suitability of distant owners — the US-based Glazer family — can be questioned, too, especially as they appear to show little affection toward the club beyond its ability to make them money. "Any owner should analyze the situation," Rangnick said. "It's not that difficult. The team needs a rebuild."

Changes in the recruitment department are already under way. Up to 10 new players could be required next season, according to Rangnick, and there's the signing of Ten Hag from Ajax that is yet to be completed. Paul Pogba, Edinson Cavani, Jesse Lingard and Juan Mata are among the players out of contract.

How, though, can United be no closer to winning the title when more than $1 billion has been spent on players since Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 after winning the club's record 20th English title?

"If you cannot get hold of the ball, if you cannot put at least a little bit of pressure on the ball against a team like Liverpool," Rangnick said. "We just didn't attack them. It almost looked as if they were afraid to be outplayed, but again, in the second half, this was better."

That assessment was despite United conceding twice in the second half, just as it did before the break. Mohamed Salah scored two goals, and Luis Díaz and Sadio Mane also scored for Liverpool.

Liverpool are challenging Manchester City for the Premier League trophy, to join United on 20 titles. Manchester United, meanwhile, has dropped to sixth place. "For us it is extremely embarrassing and as a coaching staff to have press conferences like the one we have right now," Rangnick said. "But, we just have to admit they are better than us."

Rangnick attributed Liverpool's recent success to the time Jurgen Klopp was given to reshape the squad from his hiring in 2015. "I'm not blaming anyone but we just have to realize what kind of squad they had," Rangnick said of Liverpool. I would say they have 25 Formula One racing cars in their squad."

United are running on empty. AP

> **If you look at those two clubs (City and Liverpool) who are currently dominating Premier League, they brought in two managers, but not only that, they changed the whole thing with regards to formation. The headline of everything was 'how do we want to play?' Underneath this headline in every transfer window, they created the team they have in both clubs. It's clear that there will be six, seven, eight, maybe 10 new players, and before you sign those players, you need to know what kind of football does the new manager want to play."** —Ralf Rangnick

Reuters

'CRISTIANO APPLAUSE WAS BEST MOMENT OF GAME'

Liverpool: Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp said the show of support for Cristiano Ronaldo during their 4-0 win over Manchester United on Tuesday was the "moment of the game", as both sets of fans stood for a minute of applause following the death of his newborn son. The Portuguese forward, who did not play on Tuesday, was given a standing ovation by fans in the seventh minute, with Liverpool supporters singing, "You'll Never Walk Alone" while their United counterparts applauded. Both sets of players walked onto the pitch wearing black armbands. "Pretty sure if you ask anybody about it, my moment of the game, even when it was very important and a great result, was the seventh minute when our people showed pure class," Klopp told reporters. So many things they are much more important in life than football."

UNITED CLEAROUT BEGINS WITH TOP SCOUTS

Manchester: Manchester United chief scout Jim Lawlor and head of global scouting Marcel Bout have left the club ahead of what is expected to be a busy summer in the transfer market. Chief scout Lawlor has decided to end his 16-year association with the club and Bout, who came to Old Trafford as part of Louis van Gaal's backroom team in 2014, has also left. Recruitment has been pinpointed as one of United's major failings in a five-year trophy drought despite being one of the biggest spenders. Ajax boss Erik ten Hag is expected to be named the club's new manager soon.

NEVILLE SAYS SQUAD 'WORST IN 42 YEARS'

Liverpool: Former Manchester United captain Gary Neville slammed his side after they fell 4-0 to Liverpool, terming them as the illustrious club's 'worst side in 42 years'. "There are some decent players. I cannot explain how it is gone from what would be slightly promising at the end of last season finishing second - I know they lost in the Europa League final which was a bad one - to the point where we are today which is an all-time low in my 42 years of watching United," Goal.com quoted Neville as saying. AGENCIES

Covid scare looms as 2nd DC player tests positive

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Mumbai: The dark clouds of Covid that had first threatened and then halted the 2021 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) and later forced the second-half of the tournament to be shifted to the UAE three months later, are hovering dangerously once again.

It is not appearing as bad as on the previous occasion because medical health experts monitoring this year's event say double doses of vaccination and timely booster shots have helped. However, **Mitchell Marsh** testing positive and his CT Value showing a scary '17' has once again put everybody in a state of frenzy.

On Wednesday, Tim Seifert, the Delhi wicketkeeper-batsman from New Zealand, tested positive, leading to random testing of all other cricketers, coaches, and support staff staying at a South Mumbai hotel all day. The franchise had first reported a positive case on 15th when physiotherapist Patrick Farhart had tested positive and a second one on 16th when the team masseur followed.

After Seifert tested positive, the franchise officials panicked further when some RAT tests showed positive on Wednesday, but RT PCR reports came negative. The team, this time, ordered fresh test samples to be sent to a local hospital in Mumbai for a last minute confirmation. Wednesday's match, which for most part looked like it was about to be called off, was given a go ahead 45 minutes before the toss when test results came negative.

"The entire Delhi Capitals contingent underwent two rounds of testing (Wednesday). Match (with Punjab Kings) will go ahead as per schedule after the second round turned negative," BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a statement. Delhi's next game versus Rajasthan Royals, scheduled in Pune for April 22 is now being shifted to the Wankhede Stadium. As the Wednesday drama ensued, there was panic all around. **TOI** spoke with franchises who are clear that protocols need to be "way stricter" in the tournament going forward.

"Earlier, there was only weekly testing. Why not daily or every alternate day? Second, the agency that has been appointed for this testing – the BCCI needs to ensure these guys are really good. It is not possible that RT PCR results are coming negative, but RAT has been coming positive so regularly," say those tracking developments.

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Virat overcooked, needs a break: Ravi Shastri

Mumbai: Batting stalwart Virat Kohli is mentally "overcooked" and needs to take a break from cricket in order to serve the country for at least another six-seven years, feels ex-India coach Ravi Shastri. Kohli has been going through a lean patch with just two 40-plus scores to show in last seven innings for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the current IPL season.

The 33-year-old, who hasn't scored a century in the last 100 matches across formats, had stepped down from T20 captaincy both for India and RCB and also quit Test leadership, while he was removed from ODI skipper's role.

Shastri feels the likes of Kohli needs to be handled with care and empathy amid the Covid-19 restrictions which has confined players inside bio-bubbles. "I am going straight to the main guy here. Virat Kohli is overcooked. If anyone needs a break, it's him," Shastri told Star Sports.

"Whether it's 2 months or a month-and-a-half, whether it's after England or before England. He needs a break because he has got 6-7 years of cricket left in him and you don't want to lose that with a fried brain."

Kohli was out for a duck on Tuesday night as RCB rode on Faf du Plessis' 96 to claim a 18-run win over Lucknow Super Giants. PTI

Times View

Shastri may be correct in his observations. But the truth is that Virat Kohli has availed his share of breaks, which is certainly more than many other regular members of Team India. More importantly, both Kohli and Rohit Sharma, India's two top batters, have performed sub-par in the ongoing IPL. With the T20 World Cup just a few months away, one hopes that they find their form and feet soon.

FULHAM SEAL PREMIER LEAGUE PROMOTION

London: Fulham achieved promotion back to the Premier League on Tuesday with a 3-0 home win over Preston North End which guaranteed the London side a top-two finish in the second-tier Championship. League leaders Fulham now have 86 points from 42 games. Promotion is worth up to $240 million. Fulham's next challenge is to win the Championship title. They are nine points clear of second-placed Bournemouth, who have 77 points and a game in hand on the leaders.Huddersfield Town are in third place on 73 ahead of Luton Town with 71, Nottingham Forest on 70 and Sheffield United who occupy the final playoff place on 66.

BRAZIL TO PLAY ARGENTINA AT MCG

Sydney: Brazil and Argentina will meet in a friendly international at Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in June, five years after the South American powerhouses attracted 95,000 fans to the venue, the Victorian state government said. State sports minister Martin Pakula said his understanding was that the big name players from both countries would feature in the June 11 clash. "Our expectation, based on the discussions we've had, is that players like (Lionel) Messi and Neymar will be here," he told Melbourne's 3AW radio station.

IN LEAKED AUDIO, PIQUE ASKS FOR HELP TO PLAY AT OLY

Madrid: Gerard Pique asked for help from the president of the Spanish soccer federation to play at the Tokyo Olympics, audio stolen from the federation revealed. The details, published by the El Confidencial newspaper, came after other audio had revealed that the Barcelona defender helped to negotiate a 24 million euro commission to take the federation's Spanish Super Cup to Saudi Arabia.

Pique can be heard asking federation president Luis Rubiales to talk to Olympic team coach Luis de la Fuente and set up a meeting between them. "You have to do this for me, Rubi, you have to make it happen," Pique said. "We have to keep it a secret and talk to the coach ... I'll go to Madrid and we sit with him. We have to do it in a way that it's not out anywhere. The three of us have to keep this very secret until the end."

Rubiales agreed to talk to the coach but said it would be up to De la Fuente to decide what to do.

Pique said he didn't want the information leaked to keep other players from trying to request the same thing. He said he had heard that Sergio Ramos also wanted to play and likely leaked that to the media to try to pressure the coach. Neither Pique nor Ramos made it to the Olympic squad.

Martinez helps Inter sink Milan in Cup semis

Milan: Inter Milan striker Lautaro Martinez grabbed a first-half double to help his side secure a place in the Coppa Italia final with a 3-0 second-leg victory over AC Milan at San Siro on Tuesday.

They will next face Juventus or Fiorentina who meet in their semi-final return in Turin on Wednesday, with the hosts 1-0 up.

"I am happy because we are playing another final," said Martinez, who has endured a difficult season. "There are things said that I don't like, but I defend this jersey. The club put a lot of faith in me and I try to repay them on the pitch."

"We wanted to win, we didn't achieve that, we were certainly up against a strong opponent," said Milan boss Stefano Pioli. AFP

PELE BACK IN HOSPITAL

Sao Paulo: Brazilian soccer great Pele returned to hospital on Monday as he continues to receive treatment for cancer, Sao Paulo's Albert Einstein hospital said in a medical note on Tuesday.

Edson Arantes do Nascimento's clinical condition is good and stable, and he is likely to be discharged in the next few days, doctors said, using Pele's full name. AGENCIES

Russian, Belarusian players barred from Wimbledon

Tennis players from Russia and Belarus will not be allowed to compete at this year's Wimbledon due to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, the Grand Slam's organisers All England Lawn Tennis Club (AELTC) said in a statement on Wednesday.

The AELTC said earlier this month it was in talks with the British government on the participation of players from Russia and Belarus in the June 27-July 10 grasscourt Grand Slam.

A ban on Russian players means world No. 2 **Daniil Medvedev** and world No. 8 Andrey Rublev will not compete in the men's draw. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, who is 15th in the women's rankings, will also suffer after this decision.

The body added on Wednesday that it had a responsibility to play its part in the efforts of government, industry, sporting and creative institutions to "limit Russia's global influence through the strongest means possible."

"We recognise that this is hard on the individuals affected, and it is with sadness that they will suffer for the actions of the leaders of the Russian regime," Ian Hewitt, chairman of the AELTC said in a statement.

Later, ATP termed the decision by AELTC as unfair. AGENCIES

GALLERY

Bangla spinner Mosharraf dead

Former Bangladesh left-arm spinner **Mosharraf Hossain**, 40, has died, the country's cricket board said. He is survived by his wife and one child. According to *ESPNcricinfo*, Hossain was suffering from brain cancer and had recovered after undergoing treatment, but the tumour relapsed in November 2020. Hossain played five ODI matches for Bangladesh between 2008 and 2016, taking four wickets. PTI

Harpeet, Sachin add two more bronze

Sachin Sahrawat and Harpeet Singh grabbed bronze medals on Wednesday as India's Greco Roman contingent cherished its second best show at the Asian Championship with five medals. Sachin (67kg) beat Uzbekistan's Mahmud Bakhshilloev. The rival of Harpreet (82kg), Qatar's Jafar Khan, did not take the mat due to injury. PTI

Indian compound archers assured of medal

Indian archers qualified for the compound team final, assuring the country a medal in the World Cup Stage 1 in Antalya (Turkey) on Wednesday. The trio of Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan and Aman Saini, who were seeded ninth, overcame their opponents from Britain to win 236-235. The Indians will play France in the title clash. PTI

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: IPL: Mumbai vs Chennai 7.30pm (Star Network)
FOOTBALL: EPL: Burnley vs Southampton 12.15am Friday (Star Sports Select 1)
GOLF: USPGA 2am Friday (Eurosport)
TENNIS: Serbia Open 2.30pm (Eurosport)

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Shaikh & Kashte help Route Mobile score 333 in 'B' Div

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Superb knocks by Saeed Shaikh (149, 144b, 20x4, 2x6) and Sanket Kashte (93, 101b, 14x4, 1x6) helped Route Mobile score 333 against Mumbai Division on Day One of their Times Shield 'B' Division first round match at National CC at Cross Maidan on Wednesday.

Brief Scores
FIRST ROUND, DAY 2
'A' GROUP
Gr Mumbai Police 'A' 132 in 40.1 Overs lost to Space 136-3 in 37.3 overs (Ninad Kadam 56*, Siddharth Mhatre 39*) by 7 wkts.
Route Mobile 333 in 74.2 Overs (Saeed Shaikh 149, Sanket Kashte 93; Ravindra Sante 4-83, Afsar Khan 3-66) vs Mumbai Division.
'B' GROUP
Repro India 186 in 56 overs beat Teleperformance Global Services 95 in 31.3 overs (Sumit Markali 4-27, Ganesh Alwe 3-8) by 91 runs.
'C' GROUP
Western Rly 285 in 52 overs beat Mumbai Port Trust 'A' 258 in 68 overs (Atharv Dakway 67*, Nilesh Patwardhan 35, Akshay Girap 5-92, Hitesh Kadam 3-76) by 27 runs.
Nirlon 272 in 74.1 overs beat Dr Balabhai Nanavati Hospital 221 in 67.1 overs (Pranav Haryan 110, Rohit Vaidya 32, Kumar Boresa 5-45), Hemant Buchade 3-89) by 51 runs.
'D' GROUP
Tata 439-6 in 71 overs beat Western Rly 109 in 19.2 overs (Nikunj Mohite 44, Ashish Gharat 34; Vishal Dabholkar 5-27, Aditya Dhumal 3-47) by 375 runs.

Mulani bags another fifer, takes Mumbai into CK Nayudu final

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Mumbai: Shams Mulani's 'midas touch' with the ball at the Narendra Modi Stadium at Ahmedabad has ensured Mumbai a place in the final of the Col CK Nayudu Trophy (for Under-25). Continuing his brilliant run at the venue, the left-arm spinner took yet another fifer — five for 71 in 23 overs, on Day Three to help Mumbai skittle out Rajasthan for 228 in 61 overs in the second innings of their semifinal on Wednesday.

Shams Mulani bagged five for 71 in 23 overs to help Mumbai reach the Col CK Nayudu final

MUMBAI CRICKET

This was Mulani's eighth five-wicket haul in just five games. Having taken six for 27 in the first innings, Mulani finished with impressive figures of 11 for 98 in the match. "It was hard work for us today because the wicket was slow. Our pacers did a good job. I'm just trying to do my job. I'm grateful for the wickets that I'm getting," a modest Mulani told **TOI** from Ahmedabad.

Showering praises on him, Mumbai Under-25 coach Rajesh Pawar said, "He's been in outstanding form. You can see his hunger to perform. Even after taking six wickets in the first innings in this match, he was hungry for more wickets. His attitude and approach towards the game is creditable. The younger players in the team will learn so much upon seeing his work ethic. I've seen such a committed cricketer after a long time."

Mumbai will now play the winners of the other semifinal between Vidarbha and Madhya Pradesh in the final, which will begin from April 24. It has helped Mumbai skipper Jitendra Tamore has won the toss — a crucial factor in all the five games so far.

Brief Scores: Mumbai 288 & 251 (Saksham 66, Shams Mulani 44; S Dhiwan 4-44, M Suthar 4-88) beat Rajasthan 103 & 228 (Puneet Mishra 60, Karan Lamba 30; Shams Mulani 5-71) by 208 runs.

Mumbai women's team pips Haryana by 5 runs

Mumbai scored a thrilling five-run win over a Shafali Verma-led Haryana in the Senior Women's T20 Trophy on Tuesday. They've now won both their first two games.

Brief Scores: Mumbai 121-6 in 20 overs (RS Chaudhary 34) beat Haryana 116-9 in 20 overs (Reema Sisodia 36, Sheetal Rana 32).

Ayaz Khan, Shedge help Mumbai take lead

Half-centuries by Ayaz Khan (84, 124b, 10x4, 1x6) and Suryansh Shedge (82 not out, 111b, 11x4, 1x6) helped Mumbai overtake Rajasthan's 363 and gain the all-important 9-run first innings lead on Day Three of their Cooch Behar Trophy (for Under-19) quarter-final on Wednesday. After Ayaz and Omkar Malekar (45, 130b, 6x4) added 108 for the fourth wicket, a 93-run stand for the seventh wicket between Shedge and Aayush Zimare (38) took Mumbai to 372 for seven.

Brief Scores: Rajasthan 363 vs Mumbai 372-7 (Ayaz Khan 84, Suryansh Shedge 82, Omkar Malekar 45).

Former world No. 1 Sharapova pregnant with first child

Paris: Former women's tennis world No. 1 **Maria Sharapova** is pregnant with her first child, the Russian announced on her 35th birthday on Tuesday.

The five-time Grand Slam singles champion has been engaged since December 2020 to British businessman Alexander Gilkes.

"Precious beginnings!!! Eating birthday cake for two has always been my specialty," she captioned the photo on Instagram.

In the picture, Sharapova — who lives in the United States — is seen touching her stomach and posing on a beach. Sharapova followed the initial message up posting a thank you to those of her 4.2 million subscribers on Instagram who had congratulated her on the news.

"Waking up in paradise and to so many beautiful messages," she wrote.

Sharapova won all four Grand Slam singles titles — including the French Open twice — before retiring in 2020. ANI

Djokovic cleared to play

Rome: Five-time champion **Novak Djokovic** can come to Rome and play at the Italian Open next month even if he is still not vaccinated against the coronavirus, the president of the Italian Tennis Federation said on Wednesday.

"The rules regarding players' participation are established by the government and the ATP," federation president Angelo Binaghi said at the presentation for the May 8-15 tournament.

Binaghi indicated that he had discussed the issue with Valentina Vezzali, the Italian government's cabinet undersecretary in charge of sports, who was seated next to him. AP

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, MUMBAI | THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022

41 YEARS
PRIDE OF INDIA

Wounded Capitals scar Punjab

Grappling With Covid Crisis In Camp, Delhi Notch Up Commanding Nine-Wicket Victory

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Control the controllable is right up there among the most used clichés in Indian cricket. It has been the get-out-of-tricky-situation phrase for most cricketers. If ever the phrase carried significance, it was on Wednesday evening for Delhi Capitals against Punjab Kings.

With Tim Seifert becoming the sixth member in three days from the Capitals contingent to test positive for Covid-19 in the morning, the players waited in their hotel rooms till the last hour, uncertain if the match would go ahead while their opponents were already at the venue.

As the remaining members returned negative results, just 15 players and a handful of support staff were allowed to go to Brabourne stadium. Languishing at eighth spot in the points table, confined to hotel rooms and the team engulfed in uncertainty, coach Ricky Ponting and captain Rishabh Pant turned up at the venue, delivered strong speeches revolving around 'control the controllable' and galvanized the team. The team had found its purpose.

Capitals may have been the wounded team when they reached the venue but when they left the stadium, they had brutally scarred Punjab Kings. They dismissed Punjab for a paltry 115 and then chased down the target in 10.3 overs with nine wickets to spare.

After electing to bowl first, Pant's bowlers put up an inspiring show. Led by the guile of Axar Patel, they were so accurate that it never appeared this one was the same pitch on which over 400 runs were scored a couple of nights ago.

However, openers David Warner and Prithvi Shaw — fast becoming the most ominous opening partnership in this IPL — did show why so many runs were scored the other night as they put on 83 in 6.3 overs. Shaw fell for a 20-ball 41 while slog-sweeping Rahul Chahar but not before the duo had hammered 81 runs in the first six overs, making a mockery of a bowling attack led by Kagiso Rabada.

Warner, with his third half-century on the trot, remained unbeaten on 60 off 30 balls as he finished the game with Sarfaraz Khan not out on 12 off 13 at the other end. Every bowler played his part, bowled to captain Pant's plans, took the obscenely short boundary on one side out of the game and choked the reckless Punjab batting lineup. There were no war cries or over-the-top celebration throughout the match, but the intent was unmistakable.

The tone was set by a brilliant piece of glovework behind the stumps by Pant to dismiss Shikhar Dhawan caught behind, down the leg side, off off-spinner Lalit Yadav in the fourth over. And once Mustafizur Rahman knocked over Punjab Kings skipper Mayank Agarwal for a 15-ball 24 in the next over, the collapse looked imminent.

Axar Patel came inside the powerplay, made use of the sticky pitch, got the in-form hard-hitting Liam Livingstone stumped and applied the choke. He finished with figures of 2/10.

2/10
Axar Patel has recorded his most economical figures (2.50) in an IPL match. His previous best in a four-over spell were 4-1-11-2 (2.75) for Punjab against Kolkata at Eden Gardens, Kolkata on May 28, 2014.

Rajesh Kumar

MISERLY: Delhi Capitals' Axar Patel hardly gave anything away to Punjab at the CCI

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	N/R	PTS
GT	6	5	1	+0.395	10
RCB	7	5	2	+0.251	10
RR	6	4	2	+0.380	8
LSG	7	4	3	+0.124	8
SRH	6	4	2	-0.077	8
DC	6	3	3	+0.942	6
KKR	7	3	4	+0.160	6
PBKS	7	3	4	+0.562	6
CSK	6	1	5	-0.638	2
MI	6	0	6	-1.048	0

"Thank you, but I think the Player of the Match award should be shared with Axar Patel, because he took some valuable wickets in the middle overs."

—Kuldeep Yadav | DC spinner

MI legend Pollard ends int'l career

West Indies all-rounder and limited-overs captain Kieron Pollard on Wednesday announced his retirement from international cricket. Pollard played 123 ODIs and 101 T20Is for West Indies. He never played Tests but went on to become one of IPL's greatest ever overseas players for Mumbai Indians since 2010 and scripted limitless heroic solo rescue acts for MI. TNN

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Punjab Kings: Mayank Agarwal b Mustafizur 24, Shikhar Dhawan c Pant b Ahmed 9, Jonny Bairstow c Mustafizur b Ahmed 9, Liam Livingstone st Pant b Patel 2, Jitesh Sharma lbw Patel 32, M Shahrukh Khan c Pant b Khaleel, Kagiso Rabada b Kuldeep 2, Nathan Eliis b Kuldeep 0, Rahul Chahar c Powell b Lalit 12, Arshdeep Singh run out (Pant) 9, Vaibhav Arora not out 2.
Extras: (lb 1, w1). 2.
Total: (all out, 20 overs). **115**
Fall-of-wickets: 1-33,2-35, 3-46, 4-54, 5-85, 6-90, 7-90, 8-92, 9-109
Bowling: Shardul Thakur 2-0-20-0, Khaleel Ahmed 4-0-21-2, Lalit Yadav 2-0-11-2, Mustafizur Rahman 4-0-28-1, Axar Patel 4-0-10-2, Kuldeep Yadav 4-0-24-2.
Delhi Capitals: Prithvi Shaw c Ellis b Chahar 41, David Warner not out 60, Sarfraz Khan not out 12.
Extras: (w6). 6.
Total: (for one wicket, 10.3 overs) 119.
Fall-of-wickets: 1-83.
Bowling: Vaibhav Arora 2-0-31-0, Kagiso Rabada 3-0-35-0, Arshdeep Singh 1-0-17-0, Nathan Ellis 2-0-15-0, Rahul Chahar 2-0-21-1.
Result: Capitals won by nine wickets.
Player-of-the-Match: Kuldeep Yadav.

MI vs CSK: Not the usual El Clasico

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Mumbai: As has always been the case, for the umpteenth time in the Indian Premier League (IPL), the much-awaited clash between Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings is once again set to be a battle of equals.

Except, they're equals at the bottom of the table.

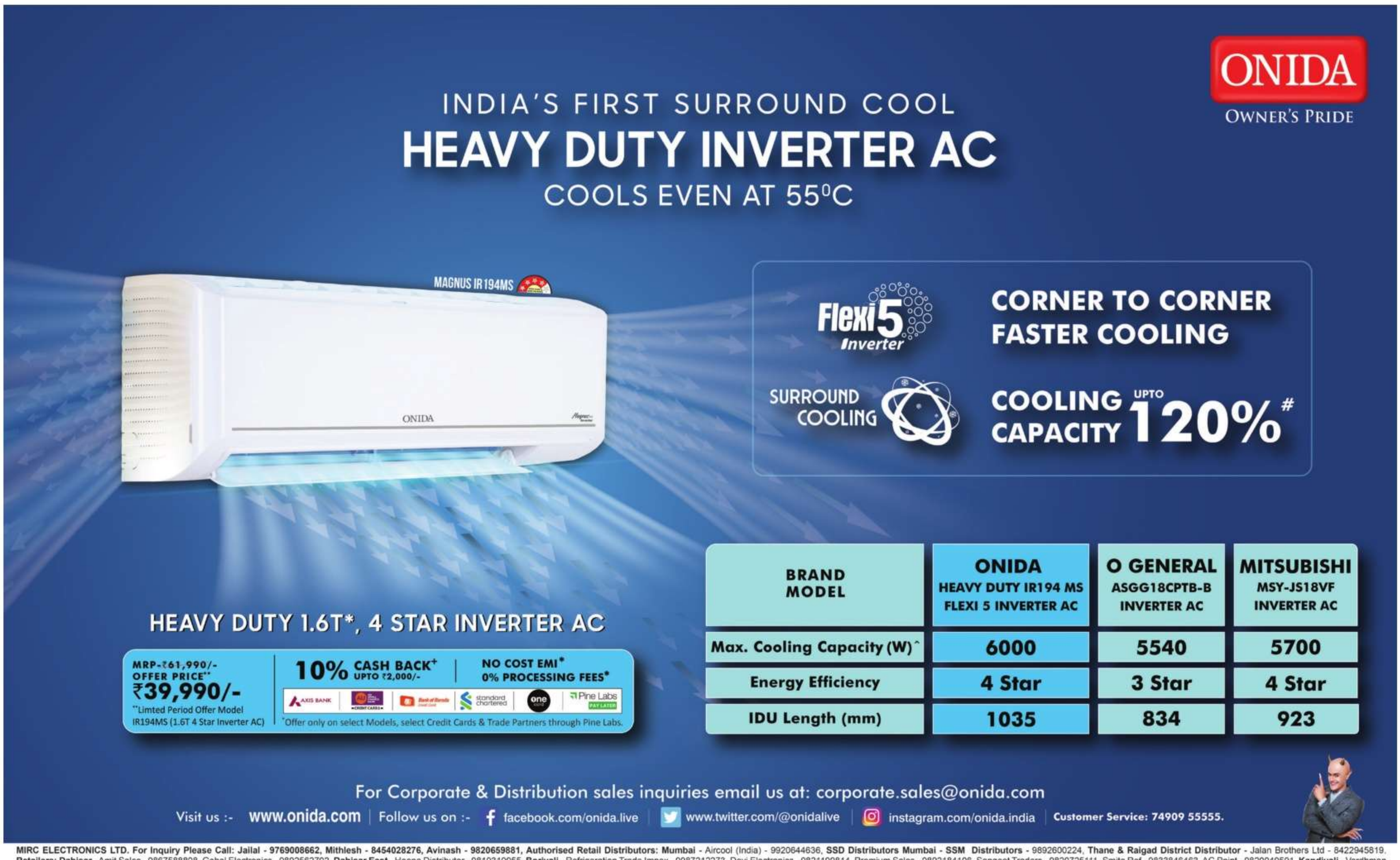
T20's 'El Clasico' – played between two teams who've won nine out of the 14 titles so far between them – is a clash this time to avoid the proverbial wooden spoon. The script that's gone 'wonky' got rewritten by fate when introduction of two new franchises last year led to both, MI and CSK, having to let go of their core and look at the mega-auctions on a fresh note.

So, on that very fresh note, the two teams most responsible for making IPL's television numbers crash through the roof over the years like no other franchise, will take guard at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Thursday evening.

Their miseries stem from a common worry – bowling. It lacks teeth. They must wait for this season to get over, see what they can gain during the transfer window, identify talent available in India and globally and make up for what was a lost opportunity at the auction.

On that note, MI can look forward to Jofra Archer coming on board. Until then, both sides can only try avoid the ignominy of their collective losses this season.

Chennai have conceded at nine runs per over and Mumbai at 9.5. Accordingly, Chennai are ninth on the points table and Mumbai 10th.



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RUSSIA HAS TESTED A NEW INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILE CAPABLE OF CARRYING NUKES THAT WILL MAKE KREMLIN'S ENEMIES 'THINK TWICE': PUTIN 13

As cases nudge up, state panel set to discuss masks next wk

Positivity Rate Low, Tope Says Curbs Not Yet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

As Maharashtra registered its highest daily count of Covid cases in April on Wednesday, the disaster management department said a state executive committee meeting, planned for next week, will analyse the trends and decide if masks should be made mandatory again.

FULL COVERAGE: P 2

However, with the state's 7-day positivity rate remaining under 0.5%, health minister Rajesh Tope said there's no need yet to bring back any curbs. "The rise in cases is not significant, so there is no need to panic," he said a day after the Centre wrote to five states, including Maharashtra, asking them to take preventive steps due to rise in cases.

Mumbai reported 98 new cases on Wednesday, its highest in 49 days, while the state added 162. The state's 7-day positivity rate on April 19 was 0.45%, but it's higher in about seven districts, including Sindhudurg (2%) and Mumbai (0.7%). However, the state daily positivity rate touched 0.6% on Wednesday, after hovering between 0.2% and 0.3% for two weeks.

"We are going to have the SEC meeting next Monday or Tuesday. All directives from the Centre and NDMA will be discussed," Aseem Gupta, principal secretary, disaster management, told **TOI**.

CITY ACCOUNTS FOR 60% OF DAILY COUNT

- Amid Covid cases in schools after reopening, **ICMR addl director-gen Samiran Panda** says closure over infections not justified: **"Children are not the drivers of the epidemic"**
- 162 **cases in state** on Wednesday, **highest since March 31** (183)
- **City records 98 fresh cases**, highest daily count in nearly 50 days
- Mumbai's WPR is 0. 7%, accounts for nearly 60% of cases in the state
- **India's R-value has crossed 1** for first time in three months, says researcher

▶ 9 DEATHS DUE TO VAX REACTION SINCE FEB 2021 P 7

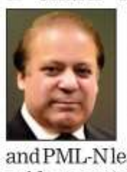
Mask mandatory in Delhi again

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority has reinstated the mask mandate in public places and imposed a penalty of Rs 500 for any violation barely three weeks after the fine was scrapped. It asked the government to lay down a standard operating procedure for schools. P 7

Covid uptick raises reinfection question

Doctors across the country are debating whether Omicron's various strains can cause fresh infection each time. Dr Vasant Nagvekar said one possibly gets "immunity" against a strain but not the virus. "However, previous infections and vaccination help reduce the impact." P 2

Ex-PM Nawaz Sharif to return to Pak after Eid



Pakistan's ex-PM **Nawaz Sharif** is returning to the country after Eid to voluntarily face the courts in all cases against him, minister and PML-N leader Javed Latif said, **reports Omer Farooq Khan**. Nawaz was forced to quit in 2017 over the Panama papers. PPP chief Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari is headed to London where he is expected to meet Sharif, leading to speculation that all is not well within the alliance. P 13

Focus on Indo-Pac, BoJo won't 'lecture' on Ukraine

Naomi Canton & Sachin Parashar

London/New Delhi: UK PM Boris Johnson will discuss the Ukraine issue with PM Narendra Modi during their meeting on Friday, but won't 'lecture' India on how to go about its ties with Russia. His discussions here are expected to focus on ensuring an open Indo-Pacific that's free from coercion.

Johnson's Indo-Pacific focus is important for India as the government here is concerned that recent developments in Ukraine could shift the attention away from the region, apart from driving Russia into a tighter strategic embrace with China.

Mariupol could fall 'within hours'

Mariupol could fall into Russian hands within "hours", a Ukrainian official said, as the two sides agreed to a humanitarian corridor for civilians to flee the devastated city. European Council head Charles Michel in Kyiv promised all help to Ukraine. P 13

▶ Aid def indigenisation, P 8

India, US plan sea patrols, intel sharing

India and the US plan to undertake 'sea patrols' and share intelligence in real time to expand their bilateral maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific as well as partner in new domains of space, cyber and artificial intelligence, a senior defence ministry official said on Wednesday, **reports Rajat Pandit.** The plan to undertake sea patrols, whether in a joint or coordinated manner, will be a significant step forward in the backdrop of the increasing forays by China into the Indian Ocean Region. P 6

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With 'Ayush visa', India to woo visitors for traditional therapy

'Ayush Mark' To Help Promote Authentic Locally-Made Products

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi/Gandhinagar: In a bid to attract medical tourism in the country, PM Modi on Wednesday announced a special Ayush visa category for foreign nationals who want to come to India to take advantage of traditional medicine. The initiative is part of the government's 'Heal In India' campaign to promote medical tourism in India. The government will soon launch 'Ayush mark', which will provide authenticity to locally-made Ayush products.

"With this visa, it will make travel easier for accessing Ayush therapies (in India)," said Modi while speaking at the inaugural session of the Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit 2022 in Gandhinagar.

The PM added that the Centre has a plethora of initiatives to encourage and promote the Ayush sector, including establishment of a digital portal to connect medicinal plant farmers with Ayush product manufacturers. Mauritius PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus were present as guests for the event. "From a turnover of less than $3 billion in 2014, the Ayush sector is now worth more than $18 billion," the PM stated.

The PM said the idea for an Ayush summit came to him during the Covid-19 pandemic . "We saw how ayurvedic medicines, Ayush kada and many such other products were aiding people to increase immunity. During the times of Covid-19, turmeric export from India increased manifold. Innovation and investment increase the capability of any sector. It is time now to increase investment as much as possible in the Ayush sector," he said.

AP

PM Modi with WHO chief Ghebreyesus in Gandhinagar on Wednesday

'Ayurveda restored Kenya ex-PM kin's vision'

PM Modi on Wednesday said that the ayurvedic treatment of Rosemary Odinga, daughter of former Kenyan PM Raila Odinga, in India brought her eyesight back. The PM said the former PM went to several countries to get his daughter treated. "But none of the treatments could bring her sight back. Finally, they got success in India. She received ayurvedic treatment for the same. He (Odinga) told me that when Rosemary saw her children again, it was the golden moment of her life," he said. TNN

Highlighting the scope for innovation and investment in the medical sector, Modi said: "Be it natural supplements, drug supply chains, Ayush-based diagnostics or telemedicine, there are possibilities of innovation and investment all around. To encourage startups in the traditional medicine sector, many steps have been taken." "The government will develop a network of Ayush parks to encourage promotion, research and manufacturing of Ayush products," he added.

▸Related reports, P 8

The PM said the government is encouraging production of herbal and medicinal plants, which can be an avenue of sustainable income and has scope for employment generation.

"The market for such plants is, however, limited and specialised. Such farmers must find it easy to associate with the market. The government is working speedily for an e-marketplace that would connect companies making Ayush products with farmers growing medicinal plants," he said.

1 killed, 2 injured in Telangana as e-scooter battery explodes

Hyderabad: An 80-year-old man died and his wife and grandson suffered burn injuries when the battery of an electric scooter exploded in their house in Hyderabad's Nizamabad town on Tuesday, reports **Mahesh Buddi**.

Police have registered a case under IPC Section 304-a (causing death due to rash or negligent act) against the manufacturer, Pure EV. The deceased has been identified as B Ramaswamy. According to the police, Ramaswamy's son B Prakash is the owner of the electric scooter.

On Tuesday night, Prakash removed the detachable battery of the scooter and put it on charge in the living room of their house. While Prakash and his wife Krishnaveni slept in the bedroom, Prakash's parents, Ramaswamy and Kamalamma, and with their grandson Kalyan slept in the living room, close to where the battery was being charged. "Around 4am, the battery exploded," said Nizamabad III town SP Sai Nath.

SC quotes Wilde, commutes rapist-killer's death sentence

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New Delhi: Quoting Oscar Wilde's statement that 'The only difference between the saint and the sinner is that every saint has a past and every sinner has a future', the Supreme Court granted life to a death row convict and commuted his sentence to 20 years' imprisonment for raping and killing a four-year-old girl in MP in 2013.

A bench of Justices U U Lalit, S Ravindra Bhat and Bela M Trivedi said that the crime committed by the convict was the most barbaric and he deserved no sympathy but it cannot be termed as rarest of rare to award death sentence. Referring to basic principles of restorative justice, the court said that the convict should be given an opportunity to reform and become a socially useful individual.

"Considering the gravity and seriousness of the offence, the sentence of imprisonment for the remainder of appellant's natural life would have been an appropriate sentence. Howeverone of the basic principles of restorative justice as developed by this court over the years also is to give an opportunity to the offender to repair the damage caused, and to become a socially useful individual, when he is released from the jail," Justice Trivedi, who penned the judgement, said.

"The maximum punishment prescribed may not always be the determinative factor for repairing the crippled psyche of the offender. Hence, while balancing the scales of retributive justice and restorative justice, we deem it appropriate to impose upon the accused the sentence of imprisonment for a period of twenty years instead of imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life for the offence under section 376A, IPC," she said.

Getty Images

'The only difference between the saint and the sinner is that every saint has a past and every sinner has a future', the SC quoted author Oscar Wilde

In this case, the convict was awarded death sentence by the trial court and it was upheld by the Madhya Pradesh HC. The convict then approached the apex court against conviction and death sentence. The court said that there was sufficient evidence to nail his guilt and upheld the conviction order but commuted the death sentence.

"In the opinion of the court, any sympathy shown to the appellant would lead to miscarriage of justice. However, it has been brought to the notice of this court that in a series of judgements, this court has not treated such case as the rarest of rare case," the bench said.

Attendance row: Teacher opens fire in UP school

Agra: An assistant teacher allegedly thrashed the principal of a government primary school in Uttar Pradesh's Jalalpur Santhal on Tuesday after a dispute over marking "false attendance".

The accused teacher, identified as Dighendra Pratap Singh, also "fired shots inside the school premises", a video of which soon went viral on social media. The school's principal, Arvind Kumar, filed a police complaint and after a primary probe, the accused was suspended.

ASP Dhananjay Singh Kushwaha said the accused is absconding. Principal Kumar said that "the assistant teacher was not a regular employee." "On Tuesday, he came to school and was trying to mark false attendance for the days he was absent. When I objected, he started to beat me. He also fired several shots targeting me." TNN

Anti-Maoist op turns into mission to save mom-to-be

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Raipur: An anti-Maoist operation turned into a rescue mission when security forces came across a pregnant woman in agony in a remote village in Bastar's Dantewada district on Tuesday. With Maoists having cut the only dirt road to the village, the jawans fashioned a cot into a stretcher and carried her on their shoulders to a patrol vehicle, which took her to hospital where she gave birth to a healthy baby.

"District Reserve Guards personnel were marching through a forest near Burgum region of Kuakonda when they saw a pregnant woman who needed immediate hospitalisation. Ambulances couldn't reach the village or even the main road as Maoists had dug up the road at many places," Dantewada SP Siddharth Tiwari told **TOI**.

The jawans swung into action. They tied a cot to a big bamboo stick, put the woman on the cot, and carried her for 3km to a point where a DRG patrol vehicle was waiting to take her to Palnar hospital, around 90km away. She delivered a boy and both mother and child are healthy, said officials. "In insurgency-hit regions, where security personnel are deployed, their duty expands from fighting the Naxals to protecting the local population and helping people as well," the SP said.

ANI

Jawans carried the pregnant woman for 3km after Maoists cut off the only dirt road to a remote village in Bastar

Kuakonda is a Maoist hotspot. The insurgents often dig up roads to strike fear among villagers and to discourage people from getting involved in development activities.

Dug-up roads make life difficult for villagers but Maoists employ the tactic to retain their grip on the local population and restrict movement of security forces' vehicles.

Record heat sees rapid snow melt in U'khand

Gaurav.Talwar@timesgroup.com

Dehradun: The months of March and April (till date) in Uttarakhand have turned out to be the warmest in the last 30 years, according to the regional meteorological centre. The prolonged dry weather and high temperature levels have also increased the rate of snow melting in the hills. Unlike previous years, there is no snow left at high-altitude places like Badrinath and Kedarnath. Besides, snow is melting rapidly along the route of Hemkund Sahib, the revered Sikh shrine in the Garhwal Himalayas.

The regional branch of the Indian Meteorological Department said the average temperatures between March 1 and April 20 have been settling at least 5-7 degrees above normal, in both the plains and hills of Uttarakhand. The maximum temperature in Dehradun on Wednesday was recorded at 38.6°C, six notches above normal and the minimum temperature 20.6°C, three notches above normal.

This last happened in March 2004, though for a lesser duration, when temperatures remained above normal by 4-6°C for 15 days. "That year, a 100% rain deficit was recorded in March although the state got some respite after 40 mm rainfall in April, as against the expected 30 mm," said Bikram Singh, director of the Met office. "On the basis of the data of the last 31 years, we can conclude that the months of March and April this year have been hottest, with the average temperatures settling way above normal continuously," Singh told **TOI**.

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AN UNUSUAL SUMMER

High-altitude places like Badrinath and Kedarnath, which are usually covered in snow at this time of the year, have little snow left this year. SP Chamoli Shweta Choubey said, "There has been little snow left in Badrinath since the past 15 days. Due to warm conditions, snow is also melting along the Hemkund Sahib yatra route."