



England is on the verge of a famous cricket victory after Harry Brook smashed the second-fastest triple century in history, Joe Root scored a career-best 262 and the tourists declared their first innings at an enormous 823-7 against Pakistan in the first Test, **P 13**



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Panathinaikos defender George Baldock, 31, a former Greece international who also played for Sheffield United for seven seasons, found dead in his Athens home, Greek media reports

As Rafa announces retirement, Djoko says 'legacy will live forever'

Madrid: Rafael Nadal is retiring from professional tennis at age 38, he announced in a video message Thursday, after winning 22 Grand Slam titles — 14 at the French Open — during an unprecedented era he shared with rivals Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

Nadal has competed infrequently the past two seasons due to injuries and said next month's Davis Cup finals will mark his farewell to tennis. He had hip surgery in 2023 and entered just two of past eight major tournaments.

Nadal said, "It is obviously a difficult decision, one that has taken me some time to make. But in this life, everything has a beginning and an end."

Nadal's old rival Novak Djokovic, who has a 31-29 career record against the Spaniard, said, "Your tenacity, dedication, fighting spirit is going to be taught for decades. Your legacy will live forever." AGENCIES

## Asean friendship crucial in times of conflict: Modi

**SCS In Focus, PM Talks Peace, Sovereignty**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



PM Modi greets artists after a performance of Phra Lak Phra Ram, the Lao adaptation of Ramayana, in Vientiane on Thursday

and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

To enhance connectivity and resilience, Modi proposed a 10-point plan that included doubling the number of scholarships at Nalanda University for ASEAN students,

►Continued on P6

and ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

To enhance connectivity and resilience, Modi proposed a 10-point plan that included doubling the number of scholarships at Nalanda University for ASEAN students,

and a review of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement by 2025. "We are neighbours, partners in the Global South, and a rapidly growing region in the world," Modi said.

►Continued on P6

## DoPT tells Amrapali, Rose & three others to join AP cadre

Srikanth.Aluri@timesofindia.com



Amrapali Kata & Ronald Rose

Vijayawada: The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has rejected the request of eight senior IAS officers, including Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) commissioner Amrapali Kata for either a domicile change or allocation of a cadre different from the state they are currently working in.

Consequently, NTR district collector G Srijana, Kadiapeta district collector Siva Sankar Lotheti, and AP director of public health and family welfare Chevvuru Hari Kiran would shift from Andhra Pra-

adesh to Telangana cadre. Kata and D Ronald Rose, energy secretary with Telangana, will report to Andhra Pradesh. Besides, IAS officers M Prashanti, Vakati Karuna and A Vani Prasad have also been directed to report to AP.

DoPT in its order said the IAS officers have been relieved from their duties with im-

mediate effect and directed them to report to their respective states on or before October 16. Senior officials in Telangana, however, said they had received the directive only on Thursday and relieving orders would be issued soon.

All the officials had joined the undivided AP cadre. When the state was bifurcated in June 2014, Amrapali and Ronald were allocated to AP, and Srijana, Siva Sankar and Hari Kiran were given Telangana cadre. However, they have thus far not joined the states they were allocated to.

►Continued on P4

ED slaps ₹2.1k cr penalty on NBFC running loan app with Chinese link

The Enforcement Directorate's adjudicating authority has imposed a penalty of Rs 2,146 crore on PC Financial Services Pvt Ltd (PCFS), a non-banking financial company running a loan app allegedly linked to Chinese and Norwegian entities, for FEMA violations. This is the first instance in India of an NBFC running a loan app being penalised with a huge fine, reports U Sudhakar Reddy.

ED's adjudicating authority ordered confiscation of PCFS's properties, worth Rs 252 crore, in India. PCFS came under scrutiny after the ED Hyderabad unit's investigation revealed that the company, allegedly under the control of Chinese owners, was involved in lending money to people in India through its mobile app, "CashBean". P2

## CANINE COMPANION GOA JOINS THOUSANDS IN BIDDING FAREWELL TO RATAN TATA

Photo: Sunjay Hadkar



Corporate bigwigs, politicians and celebrities joined thousands of people on Thursday as they bid farewell to Ratan Tata. (Above) His half-sister Shireen Jejeebhoy, half-brother Noel Tata and his son Neville, and Tata Trusts GM Shantanu Naidu walked with others behind his casket at a Wroli crematorium where his funeral was held.

Among those who mourned his passing was Goa (right), a stray dog he adopted and named after the state

where it was found. Earlier in the day, led to the casket at Mumbai's National Centre for Performing Arts, Goa wagged its tail non-stop, refusing to budge from Tata's side. Goa had not eaten since morning, a caretaker said. The last rites were performed with full state honours in the presence of Union home minister Amit Shah, Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, and others. Mumbai police paid tribute with a gun salute | P6

## KTR sues min Surekha for 'defamation'

BRS working president KTR Rama Rao Thursday approached the court against minister Konda Surekha for the alleged defamatory statements she made against him, including allegations that he was the reason for the divorce of star couple, Naga Chaitanya and Samantha Ruth Prabhu. In his complaint, KTR also said that Surekha made defamatory statements against him regarding illegal phone tapping of select individuals.

FULL REPORT: P4

**TERMINUS**

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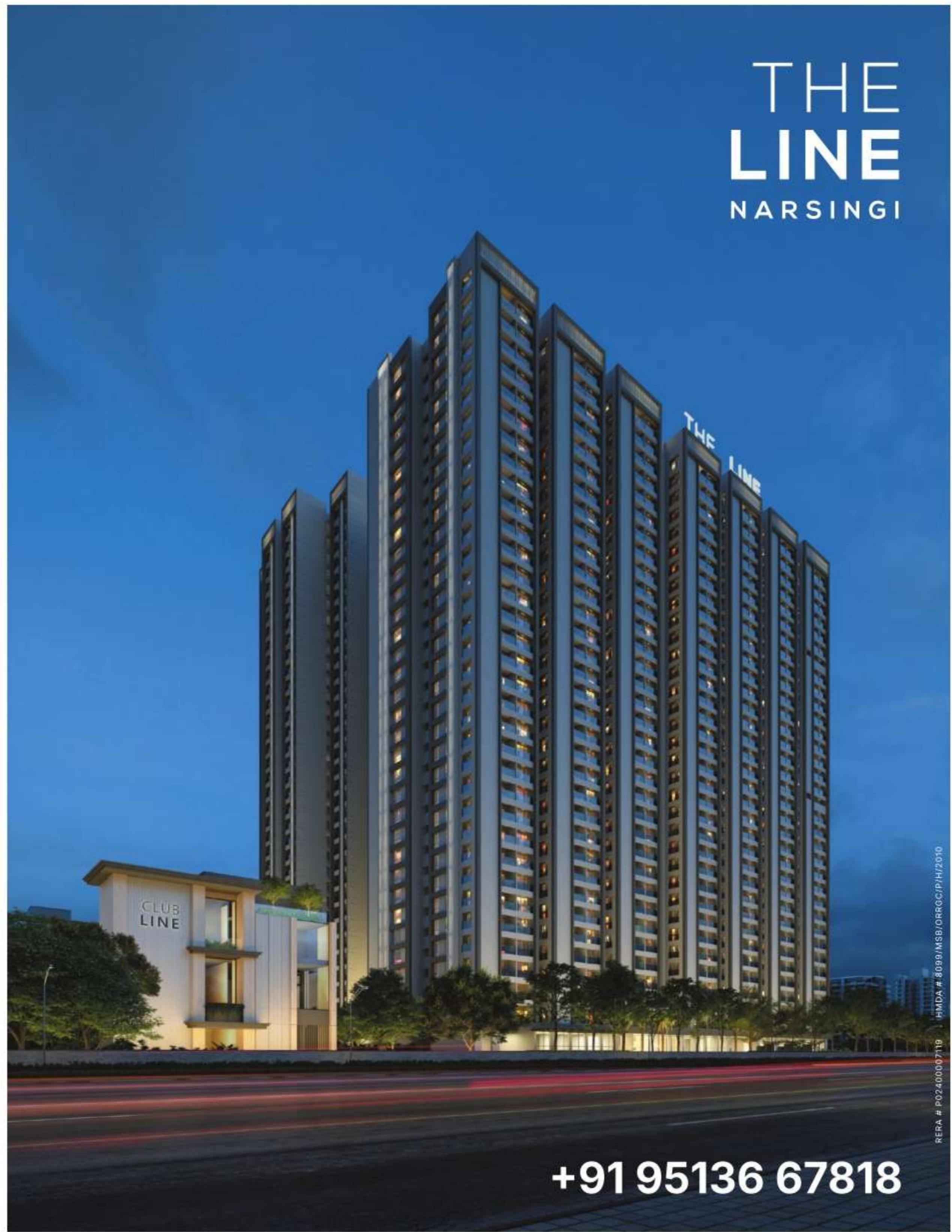
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HINDU # P02/2020/NS/RRQCP/H/2010



## Cracker spectacle of 70-ft Ravan effigy to draw lakhs

Sunny.Baski@timesofindia.com

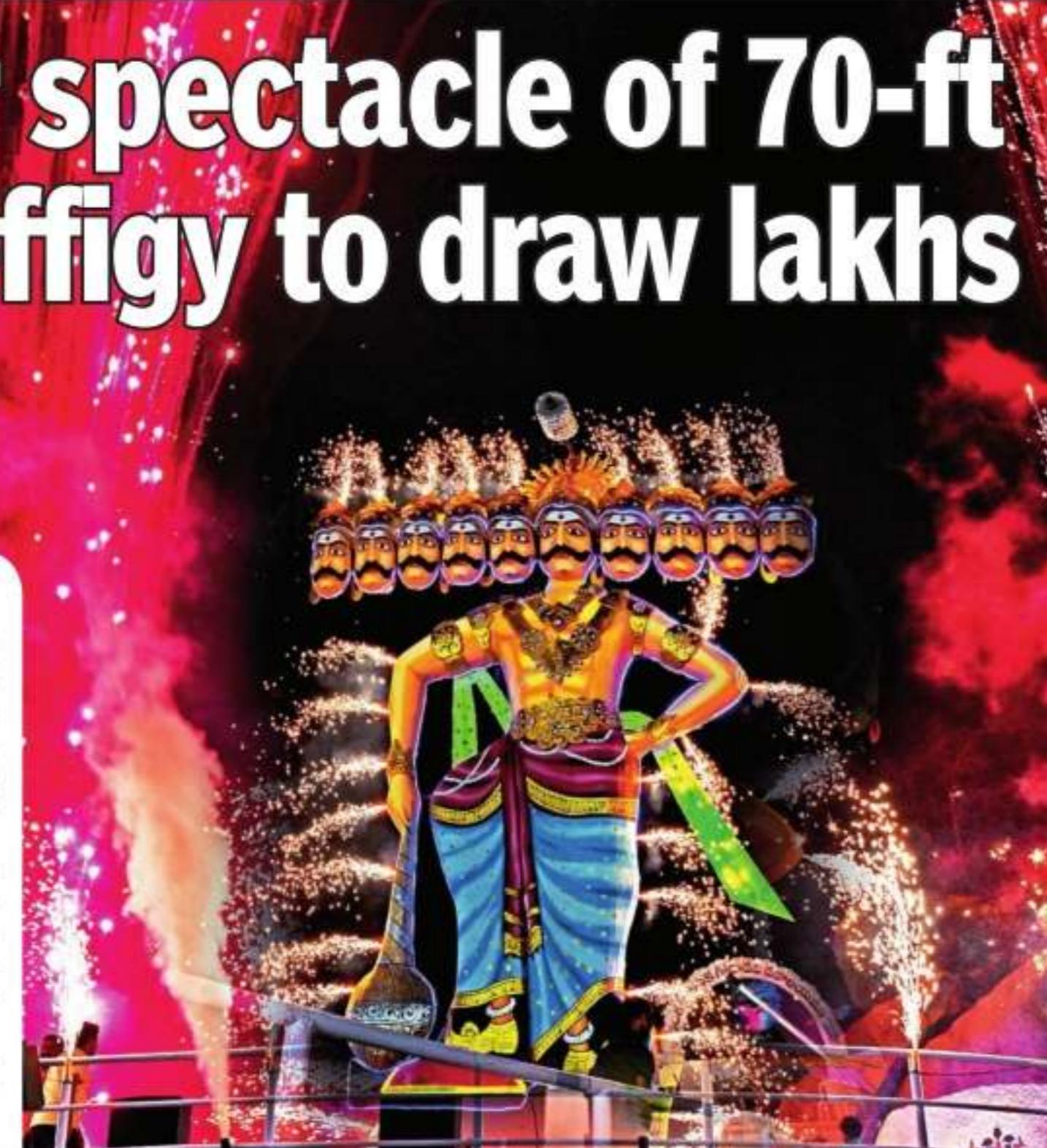
Ravan Vadh (Ravan Dahan) at Rangeela Maidan in Warangal is all set to attract over 2 lakh people this year to witness the colossal effigy of Ravana being reduced to ashes on Saturday.

This tradition has been the pride of Warangal for more than 100 years. What began as the burning of a poster of Ravan in the 1920s has evolved into the burning of an effigy made of clothes after independence. The event's popularity has also been enhanced by its unique location, nestled between a temple, a hilllock and a lake at Ursu Gutta in the Karimabad area.

According to the Warangal's Dasara Utsav Committee, the 70-foot Ravan effigy is the second largest in India, surpassed only by the one in Mysore, and is celebrated on a par with the Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi.

Initially, the event was held on a hillock, but as the size of the effigy increased from 10 feet to 70 feet this year, the venue was shifted downhill to accommodate the growing number of spectators, committee members said.

"The creation of the Ravan image with its iconic 10 heads had cost over Rs 15 lakh. To ensure a spectacular display during the Ravan Dahan, local artisans and specialists from Nellore were brought in to bring the effigy to life and meticulously arrange the crackers inside the structure,"



Our place has become famous for the Ravan Dahan event, which is a source of pride for the residents. The entire community anticipates this festival for months and participates wholeheartedly in the festivities

—Manoj Kumar | RESIDENT OF KARIMABAD



Nagapuri Sanjay Bau, committee president, told TOI.

Apart from the Ravan Dahan, the celebrations will also include a cracker show and cultural programmes. To ensure tight security, hundreds of policemen will be deployed at the venue as spectators from different parts of

the state will be coming here, said M Madhu Sudhan, general secretary of the committee. All public representatives and district administration officials will also be present at the event.

In addition to the main event, Ravan effigies have been erected in every village, division and town of the erstwhile Warangal district, ready to be burnt on Oct 11. The enthusiasm for the event is particularly evident in areas such as Kazipet, where local communities are organising between 10-15 Ravan Dahan ceremonies.

Near the Kadipikonda bridge, three towering effigies, each 30 to 40 feet tall, are being prepared within a 100-metre radius by local residents.

### SCR TO RUN 1,400 SPECIAL TRAINS

South Central Railway has announced 1,400 special trains to cater to festival rush. These trains, which will operate during Oct and Nov, will run on routes Tirupati, Nizamuddin, Visakhapatnam, Gorakhpur, Agartala, Raipur, Nagpur, Danapur, Santragachi, Srikakulam, Nagpur, Malda Town, Patna, Shalimar, Shirdi, Sholapur, Pune, Mumbai and Jaipur

Hyderabad: This Navratri, Garba events across Hyderabad have become more inventive, with organisers adding creative spins to the traditional festivities.

From dancing in snowy settings and glowing neon outfits to Garba focused on rural traditions from Gujarat, the festive season is being transformed into a cultural extravaganza.

One of these unique events took place at Snow Kingdom in Kondapur, where the winter wonderland was reimagined as a dandiya paradise. "We wanted to use our space to elevate the festive spirit, so we organised a first-of-its-kind Dandiya event in Snow Kingdom," said Snow Kingdom managing director Puvvadi Harika.

Over 200 people took part in the event. Despite the creativity, organisers have ensured that roots of the festival are not forgotten. Bhavik Shah from the Cyberabad Gujarati Association said: "Our Garba revolves around the 'Garbi' or 'Garba Deep,' which symbolises life and divine femininity. We make sure to honour the Garbi, playing Garba around it and using only folk music to maintain authenticity."

Dandiya event organised at Snow Kingdom in Kondapur, where the winter wonderland was reimagined as a dandiya paradise

## Creative twists to Garba pandals



Amisha.Rajani@timesofindia.com

In Secunderabad, Classic Gardens raised the bar with a Neon Garba event. "This year we wanted something that hadn't been done before. Everyone came wearing neon accessories — some had neon jewellery, others neon outfit, and some simply neon bands. As people played Garba in the dark, the glowing lights captured the vibrant spirit of city," said event organiser Saloni Jain.

At Navkar Navratri Utsav, participants embraced the theme of 'Fly Your Wings,' where attendees wore anything that resembled wings.

Despite the creativity, organisers have ensured that roots of the festival are not forgotten. Bhavik Shah from the Cyberabad Gujarati Association said: "Our Garba revolves around the 'Garbi' or 'Garba Deep,' which symbolises life and divine femininity. We make sure to honour the Garbi, playing Garba around it and using only folk music to maintain authenticity."

## NBFC fined ₹2k cr for running loan app with Chinese links

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@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: Enforcement Directorate's adjudicating authority has imposed a penalty of ₹2,146 crore on PC Financial Services Private Limited (PCFS), a non-banking financial company, running a loan app allegedly linked to Chinese entities for Foreign Exchange Management Act violations.

This is the first such instance of an NBFC running a loan app being penalised with a huge fine in the country.

The adjudication proceedings concluded on Oct 7 with ED's adjudicating authority ordering confiscation of PCFS's properties worth ₹252 crore in India.

RBI in Feb two years ago said: "PCFS was found to be charging usurious rates of interest and other charges to its borrowers apart from indulging in unauthorised use of logos of RBI and CBI for recovery from the borrowers in violation of the fair practices code." RBI cancelled the certificate of registration of PCFS and debarred it from acting as an NBFC.

## HOW CO'S ROLE UNRAVELLED

- Data was given to tele-callers, who made abusive calls to their kin
- PMLA case was filed
- It was revealed PC Financial Services received FDI of ₹173 crore
- 43 FIRs filed across Telangana against instant loan apps
- ED issues an enforcement case information report
- 362 apps named in FIRs
- It was found that apps linked to NBFCs
- Apps associated with fintech companies, directly or indirectly controlled by Chinese nationals
- While sanctioning loans, personal data of applicants taken

## More Such Raids Likely In Future

## Roaches, expired food in Kukatpally hospital canteen

### HOSP CANTEENS ON RADAR



Sri Holistic Hospital canteen raided following a complaint

10 more alerts from public about problems with hospital canteens

- Raids to be conducted by dept in near future
- People ringing up authorities daily, seeking food safety tests at restaurants they suspect to have hygiene issues
- Authorities say requests are also pouring in for checks at eateries in hospitals and hostels
- Raids to be intensified to cover as many canteens as possible, say food safety officials

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: In a first, food safety officials raided a hospital canteen and found serious lapses, including cockroach infestation and rat droppings. During the raid on the canteen at Sri Holistic Hospitals, Kukatpally, officials found expired food items, raising serious concerns about the health implications for patients and their relatives using hospital canteens.

The Food Safety Task Force team carried out the inspections following a complaint from a patient's relative, who had alerted officials about the unhygienic conditions, officials said. "Although no live rats were observed during the raids, rat droppings were seen on several shelves where food ingredients were stored. Dozens of cockroaches were seen during the raid. At night, cockroaches and rats would crawl around the place. The area had an unbearable smell, which made it even more difficult to stand there," said an official, adding that such a stench was found during several raids on eateries.

Among the expired food items found in the canteen were masala powder, brown sugar, red chilli powder, dark chocolate compound and filter coffee. "These were discarded. Rat droppings were observed on the shelves inside the store, suggesting a possible rat infestation. Live cockroaches were also found in the storeroom," said RV Karnan, Commissioner of Food Safety, Telangana.

Meanwhile, there were no pest control measures in place at the premises and no health certificates were available. "The grinding area was also found to be highly unhygienic. There were loose plaster flakes on the ceiling and some had even fallen down inside the kitchen premises," Karnan said in a statement.

Interestingly, the food handlers who served the customers were found dressed as per the rules, with aprons and hair caps. The canteen had a water analysis and food testing report, though the original FSSAI licence was not available.

While the Food Safety Task Force has been conducting raids on eateries for some time now, including two on Thursday, there is a growing demand from the general public for conducting raids on hospital canteens.

He said former CM YS Rajasekhara Reddy had written to Ratan Tata when the state

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It is with a profound sense of loss that we bid farewell to Mr. Ratan Naval Tata, a truly uncommon leader whose immeasurable contributions have shaped not only the Tata Group but also the very fabric of our nation.

For the Tata Group, Mr. Tata was more than a chairperson. He inspired by example. With an unwavering commitment to excellence, integrity and innovation, the Tata Group under his stewardship expanded its global footprint while always remaining true to its moral compass.

Mr. Tata's dedication to philanthropy and the development of society has touched the lives of millions. From education to healthcare, his initiatives have left a deep-rooted mark that will benefit generations to come. Reinforcing all of this work was Mr. Tata's genuine humility in every individual interaction.

On behalf of the entire Tata family, we extend our deepest condolences to his loved ones. His legacy will continue to inspire us as we strive to uphold the principles he so passionately championed.



**TATA SONS & TATA GROUP OF COMPANIES**

# Accused Offered Victims 12% Interest On Investments ■ Couple arrested for duping 17,500 investors of ₹229 cr

**'Agents And Influencers Being Probed'**

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**Hyderabad:** Madhapur-based Investment firm DKZ Technologies/Dikazo Solutions Pvt Ltd managing director Syed Ashfaq Rahil and his wife and director Syeda Aisha Naz were arrested by Hyderabad Central Crime Station sleuths for duping 17,500 investors of ₹229 crore.

Claiming to be operating B2B and B2C businesses and offering up to 12% interest on their investments, the arrested accused and their associates collected huge sums as investments from the depositors

The accused also claimed that they operate stores like Dikazo in Madhapur and Hourly Fresh in Chaderghat and Tolichowki, and also had partnership with Amazon for delivering 4,000 orders per

## ACCUSED IN JUDICIAL REMAND

- MD of DKZ Technologies & his wife held by CCS sleuths
- Syed Ashfaq Rahil & Syeda Aisha Naz duped 17,500 investors of ₹229 cr
- Claimed operating B2B & B2C businesses, offered 12% interest on investments
- Accused with their associates collected huge sums as investments from depositors

### SPECIAL TEAMS FORMED TO PROBE

- Claimed to operate stores like Dikazo in Madhapur, Hourly Fresh in Tolichowki
- Also had partnership with Amazon to deliver 4k orders daily & with BOULT, a firm specialising in headphones & neckbands

A detailed examination of accounts and bank statements of the firm and the accused persons is still on, and the total amount of fraud is yet to be ascertained —CV Anand | CP HYDERABAD



## ED Focus On Money Laundering In Mule Accounts Case

ED launches probe in ₹46 cr GST fraud case

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**Hyderabad:** Enforcement Directorate has registered an enforcement case information report (ECIR) and initiated a money laundering investigation in connection with a ₹46 crore GST refund fraud case. ECIR follows an FIR lodged by Hyderabad central crime station police.

On May 4, CCS sleuths arrested five GST officials on charges of fraud while probing seven cases.

According to the CCS detective department, the accused officials conspired with seven individuals who allegedly established bogus electric bike manufacturing units in Hyderabad. The accused registered the fake companies on GST portal by submitting fabricated documents such as rental agreements and electricity bills to claim fraudulent GST refunds.

During probe, CCS sleuths seized ₹1.7 crore, 564 original procurement guarantee agreement bonds executed by the accused, blank letterheads, gadgets, and other incriminating material from DKZ/Dikazo Solutions at Madhapur. The accused were sent in judicial remand.

ED is probing the money routing angle and trying to identify the crime proceeds involved in the case. ED has decided to record the statements of the accused officials and witnesses in the case.

## ED initiates PMLA probe in ₹175 cr cyber fraud case

Bank A/cs Rented To Fraudsters Based In Dubai

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**Hyderabad:** Enforcement Directorate has initiated a money laundering probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in connection with a ₹175 crore cyber fraud case that has ramifications across several states.

ED's enforcement case information report was based on an FIR filed by Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGSB)

## BANK A/CS USED FOR HAWALA

- ED's enforcement case information report based on FIR filed by Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGSB)
- 2 held by TGSB in Aug 2024 for providing bank accounts to cyber cons based in Dubai
- Accounts used for illegal activities such as cyber crimes & hawala transactions, says TGSB
- Proceeds sent to handlers in Dubai using cryptocurrency



Particularly movement of funds through the banking system and use of cryptocurrency to transfer the money to Dubai.

Based on the leads given by Tauqeer and Bawazir, TGSB apprehended Madhu Babu Gali, branch manager of State Bank of India in Shamshergunj, and Upadhyay Sandeep Sharma, a gym trainer, on Aug 28 for their alleged involvement in the racket. These accounts were utilised for illegal activities such as cyber crimes and hawala transactions, TGSB alleged.

ED's investigation is centered on the money laundering aspect of the fraud, particularly sent to handlers in Dubai using cryptocurrency to transfer the money to Dubai.

The fraudsters were deceiving unsuspecting individuals by making them open bank accounts, obtain cheques and signatures, and then using these accounts to transfer funds.

The proceeds were subse-

## KTR moves court against Surekha

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him with a mala fide and oblique motive to defame him. "There is absolutely neither any good faith nor any public interest involved in making the defamatory statements," he said.

Listing out the various statements made by the minister, which were reported in a section of the media, he urged the court to take cognizance of his complaint and punish her in accordance with the law. KTR mentioned BRS leaders Tula Uma, Balka Suman, Satyavathi Rathod and Dasoju Sravan as witnesses.

Tollywood star and Naga Chaitanya's father, Nagarjuna, has already filed a defamation case against Surekha and recorded his statement in court. TNN

## Nampally court notice to Surekha

**Hyderabad:** A city court at Nampally issued summons to Telangana minister Konda Surekha, in connection with the criminal defamation case filed against her by Tollywood actor Nagarjuna. The court sought the minister's response in the case and posted the matter to October 23. The court heard arguments presented by both parties and issued notices to Surekha.

Earlier, on October 3, Nagarjuna filed a criminal defamation case in Nampally court against Surekha. The minister however, gave a clarification withdrawing her statement against the actor's family following uproar from all corners. The court on Tuesday recorded the statements of actor Nagarjuna and his niece Supriya in connection with the case. TNN

## Woman ASI attempts suicide at police stn

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Hyderabad:** Alleging harassment from her senior, a woman assistant sub-inspector attempted suicide at the Chilipichip police station in Medak district on Wednesday.

While the woman officer is admitted to hospital and is said to be out of danger, Medak police have initiated an inquiry into the incident. The woman's family members alleged that she was on bandobast duty continuously for three days and went on rest after completing the duty.

Though she attended her duties, Chilipichip sub-inspector (SI) Yadagiri harassed her and marked her as absent from work. The woman also alleged that the SI was discriminating between her and other staff at the police station, targeting her specifically.

She further alleged that the SI spoke rudely to her and insulted

## OUT OF DANGER

- Woman ASI admitted to hospital, is out of danger
- Medak police initiate inquiry into incident, to verify facts
- Woman's kin allege she was on bandobast duty for three days
- Claim Chilipichip SI harassed her, marked her absent from work
- Woman alleged SI discriminating between her & other staff

her in front of other personnel at the police station.

Allegedly upset with the SI's behaviour towards her, she attempted suicide at the police station on Wednesday. DSP, Tandur division, S Venkat Reddy said that they were verifying the facts and conducting a detailed inquiry into the incident.

## Amrapali claim of eligibility for swapping cadre rejected

► From P1

### Somesh was asked to join AP cadre

**Hyderabad:** In the first case of its kind in the two Telugu states, DoPT had in Jan 2023 ordered the then chief secretary of Telangana, Somesh Kumar, to join AP. Somesh had briefly joined AP govt, but later took voluntary retirement and became an advisor to then chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao. TNN

Both mentioned that they belonged to AP but gave their permanent addresses in Telangana. According to the guidelines to determine domicile status, the permanent address was the first yardstick to be considered.

Srijanastated in her UPSC dossier that her place of birth was Pudi village in Chittoor. Similarly, Siva Sankar stated that his place of birth was Dharmavaram village in Vizianagaram district. However, both gave their permanent addresses in Hyderabad.

In Hari Kiran's case, a direct recruit in the unreserved category as an insider of the combined state of AP, he was given the Telangana cadre on the basis of reservation. He contended that he could not be considered a reserved candidate when he was selected in the unreserved category.

However, the Pratyush Sinha Committee guidelines state that an officer, who belongs to a reserved category as per declaration to the UPSC, would be considered belonging to that category, even if he or she qualified for service on general merit.

In all cases, the committee observed that any deviation from the guidelines would be in clear violation of the direction of the high court.

## Leopard found dead in ATR, foul play ruled out

**Hyderabad:** A grown male leopard was found dead under suspicious circumstances in the Amrabad Tiger Reserve in the Nallamala forest at Amaragiri in Kollapur range of Nagarkurnool district.

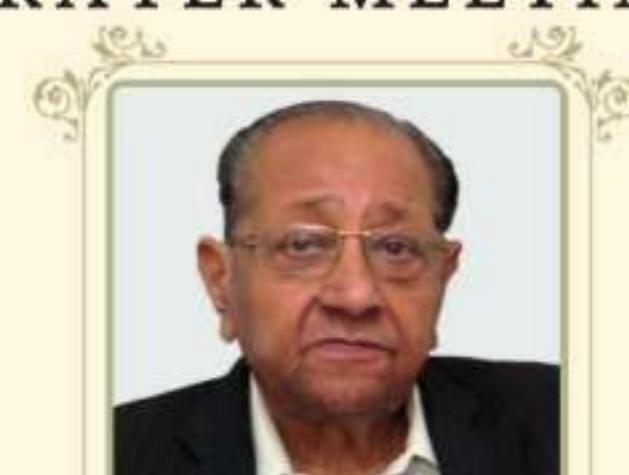
The big cat's carcass was found by locals at around 11 am on Wednesday, who alerted the forest officials immediately.

ATR divisional forest officer Rohit Gopidi said the nine-year-old leopard was in its prime, adding that it did not die of old age. The wild animal's skin, claws and nails were intact, which rules out the possibility of poaching. TNN

**CMDE Ravichander Raghavan**  
(Retd.), VSM, reached Lotus feet of Lord on 9th October 2024.  
Mourned by wife, son, daughter, family and friends.  
Contact: 9840639910

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& Deshmukh Family

## PRAYER MEETING



**SHRI TILAK RAJ HORA**  
Who left for his heavenly abode on 10th October, 2024.

Prayer meeting will be held on Friday 11th October, 2024 from 3 pm to 4 pm at Kohinoor Hall, Taj Deccan, Rd No. 1, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad.

In Loving Memory

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## In loving memory of

Padma Vibhushan

Ratan Tata

28 DECEMBER, 1937 - 9 OCTOBER, 2024

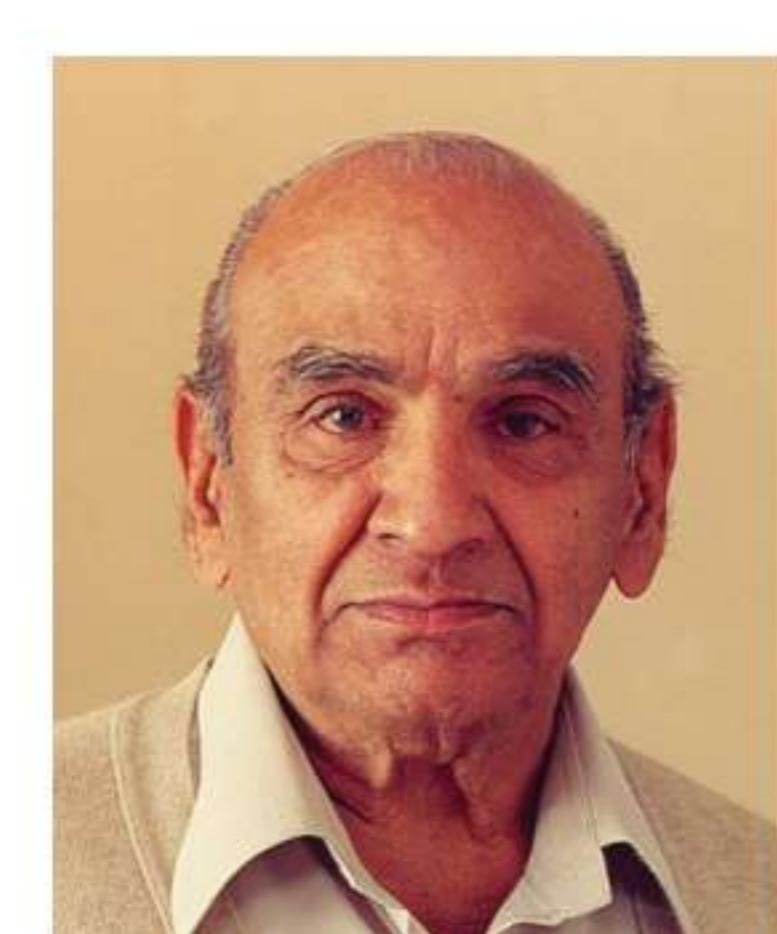
His words—"The true measure of success is not in what you achieve, but in how you impact others positively"—will inspire generations to come.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to his family, friends, and all whose lives he touched.

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स यत्प्रमाणं कुरुते लोकस्तदनुवर्तते ॥



**Lala Shri Dhar**

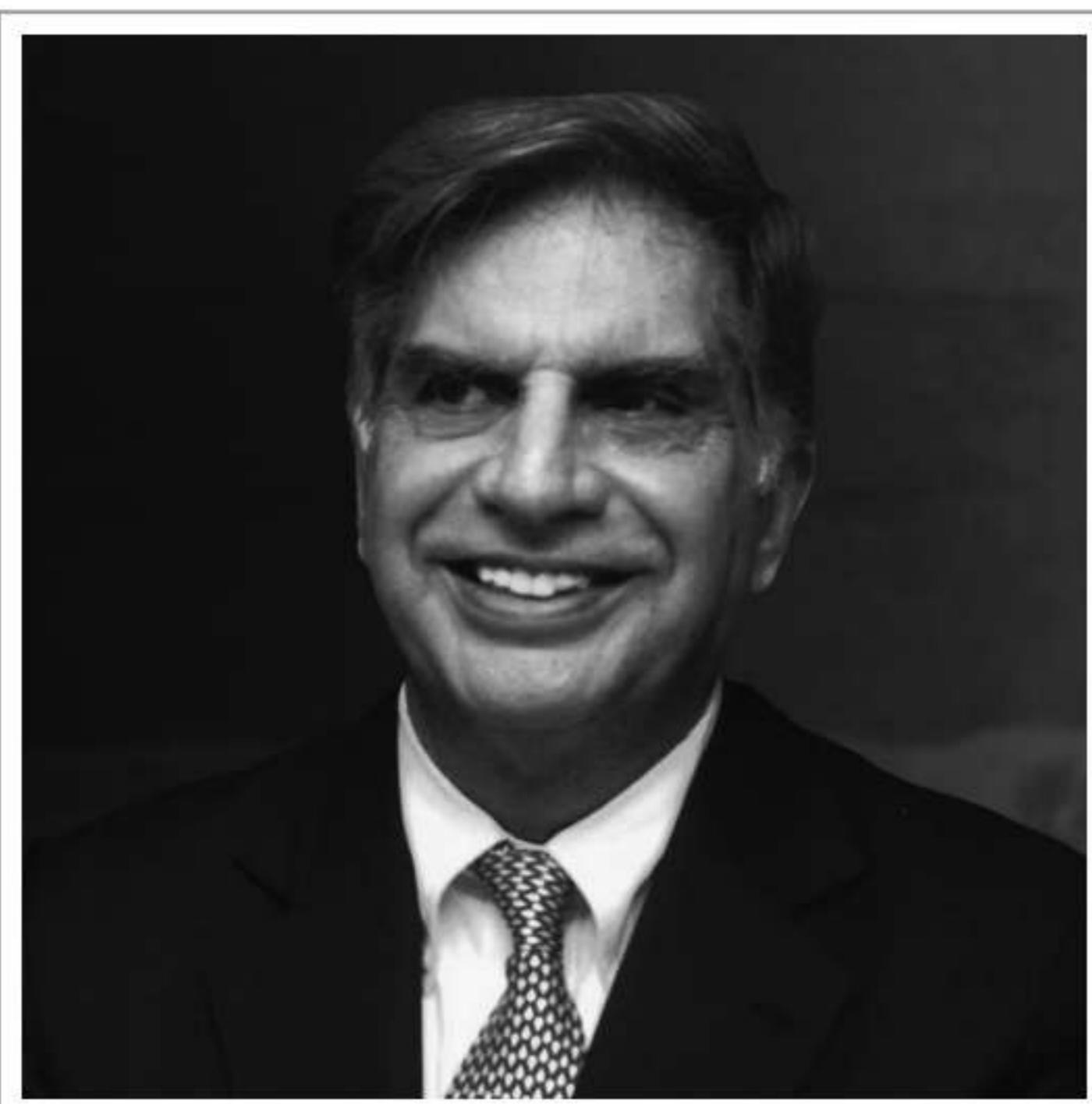
(December 3, 1927 - October 11, 2008)

A man of strong values of the head & heart, known for his humility & affectionate nature.

May his blessings always be with us.

Shriram Family

Members of the DCM Shriram Group



Padma Vibhushan  
Shri Ratan N Tata

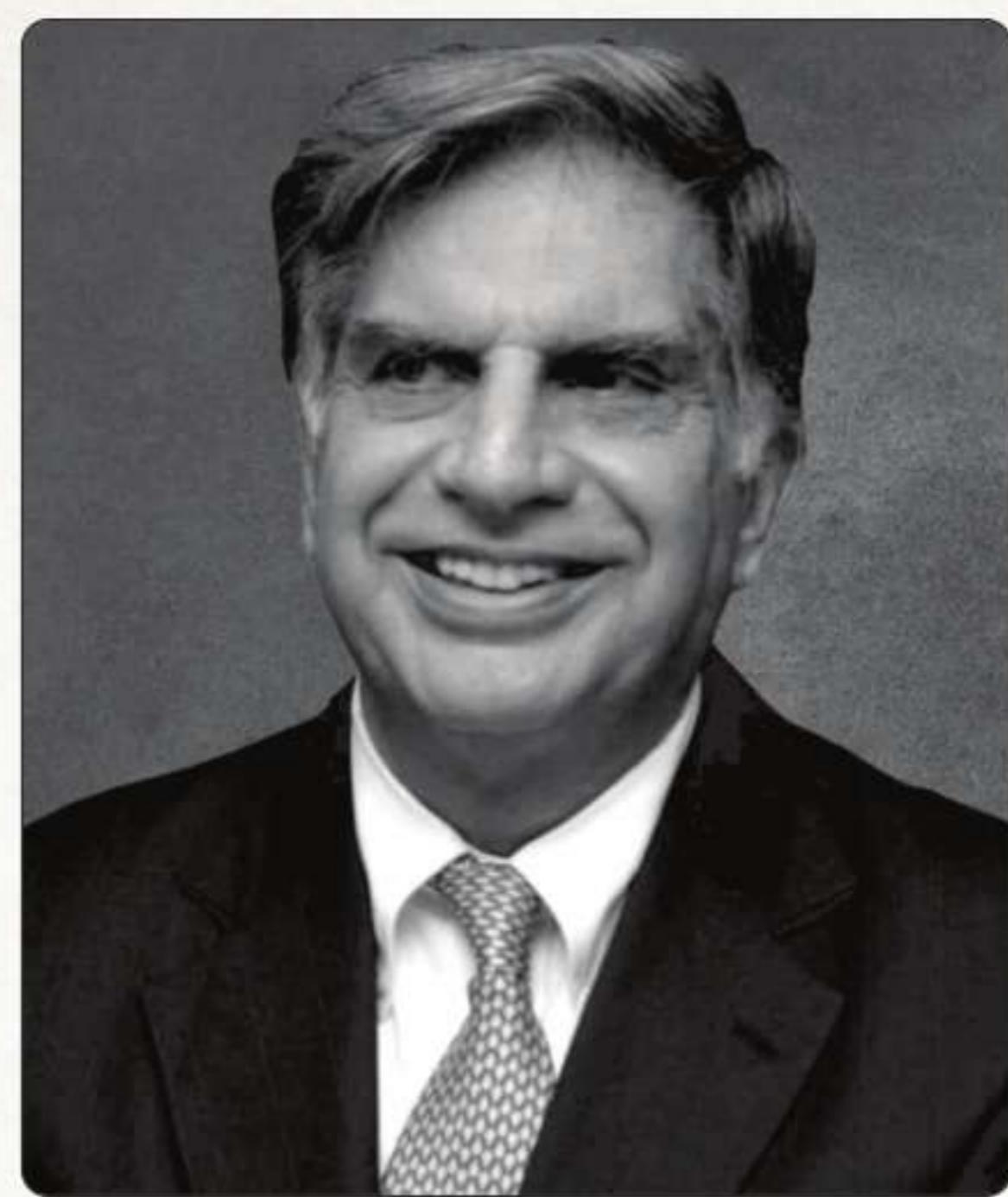
28<sup>th</sup> December 1937 – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024

With deep sorrow, all of us at TCS mourn the passing of Mr. Ratan Tata, an extraordinary leader whose legacy will always be a guiding light for us.

His remarkable leadership, marked by a unique blend of humility and confidence, guided TCS through transformative global expansions with a deep sense of service to the communities we operate in, and the values we cherish.



## Humble Homage



We deeply mourn the passing away of

### Mr. Ratan Naval Tata

(1937 – 2024)

who embodied the spirit of India with integrity, compassion and an unwavering commitment to the greater good.

Om Shanti !



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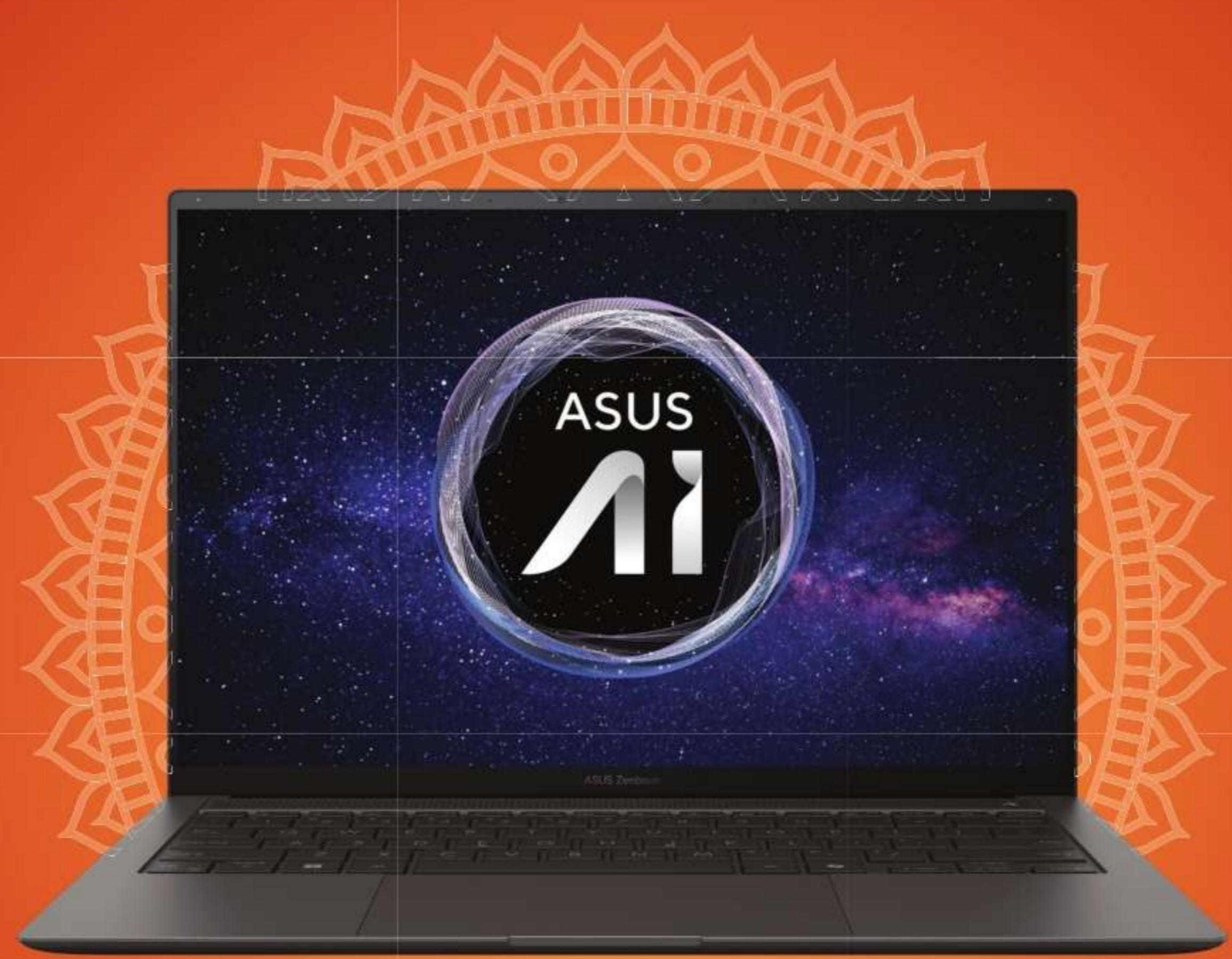
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**TMC HAS UNLEASHED THREAT CULTURE, JUNGLE RAJ IN BENGAL: BJP CHIEF JP NADDHA OVER RG KAR INCIDENT**



**KNOWLEDGE, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EMBEDDED IN INDIA'S DNA, ASSERTS UP CM YOGI ADITYANATH**

## Mumbai bids farewell to India Inc's titan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**A** 28-year-old software engineer, Baby, packed her bags, grabbed her 10-month-old daughter, and along with her husband, caught the first flight from Hyderabad to Mumbai on Thursday afternoon. Her purpose was to give her daughter a "darshan of Ratan Tata Sir," the man she saw as a reflection of her own father, whom she lost a year ago. "We were planning to come to Mumbai in Dec for my daughter's first birthday to meet him. I've always looked up to him... I couldn't believe it when I heard the news," she sobbed, as her husband stood by her side, after arriving at Worli crematorium moments after Tata had been taken into the inner chamber for cremation. As they stood there pleading to be let in, a police officer comforted them, saying, "I understand your feelings. I took up duty today especially because it was him—Garib ka daata, hamare Ratan Tata."

This exchange reflected the

### Give him Bharat Ratna, says state cabinet to Centre

**Mumbai:** The Maharashtra cabinet on Thursday urged the Centre to award the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award, to Ratan Tata. The state govt declared a one-day (Oct 10) state mourning for the industrialist. Later in the day, the state industry and labour department issued a govt resolution (GR) renaming the Udyog Ratna award as 'Ratan Tata Udyog Ratna Award.' Ratan Tata was the first recipient of the award when it was instituted in 2023.

day's mood—a shared sense of reverence and loss as thousands—dignitaries, business leaders and citizens—gathered to bid farewell to Ratan Tata, chairman emeritus of Tata Sons, who passed away on Wednesday night.

The measured steps of a military brass band set the tone for the day, as their steady march led the flower-laden hearse from Tata's Colaba residence to NCPA at Nariman Point. Tata's final farewell saw his family by his side, including stepmother Simone Tata, half-brother Noel and brother Jimmy Tata, and half-sisters Shireen and Deanna Jejeebhoy. Joining them were industrialists like Reliance group chairman Mukesh Ambani and his family, Aditya Birla group chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla and his daughter Ananya Birla, TVS chairman emeritus Venu Srinivasan, JM Financial chairman Nimesh Kampani and his son, among others.

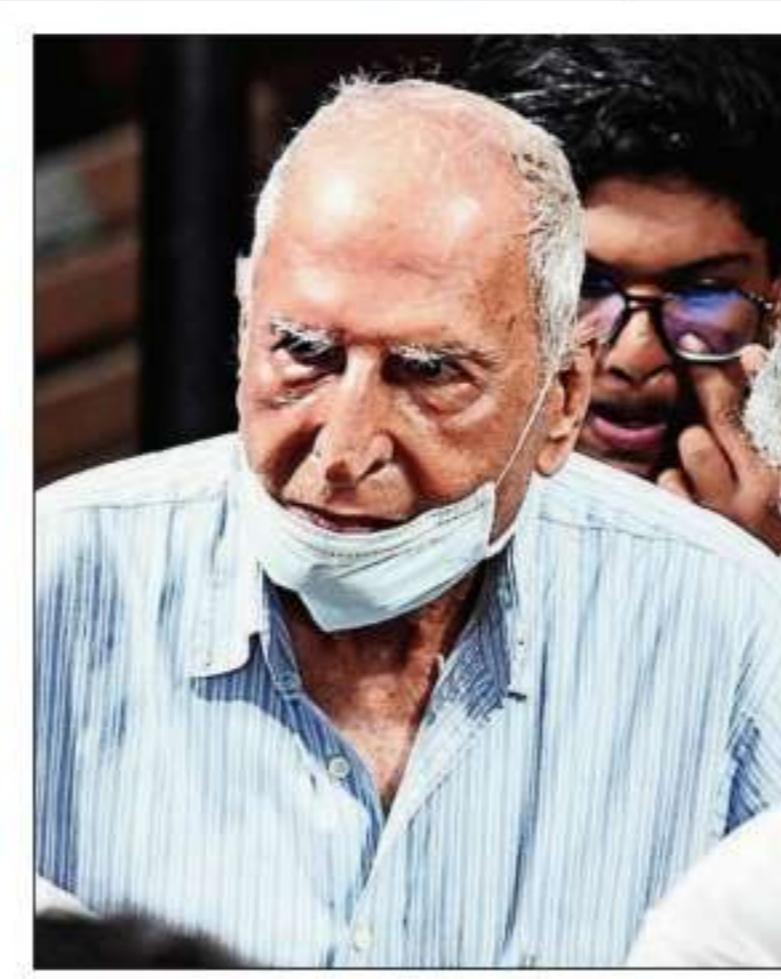
Ratan Tata epitomised the finest ideals of the storied Tata Group. He demonstrated that business, at its best, is both a vehicle for economic strength and a catalyst for societal progress," said Birla, whose family once held a stake in Tata Steel higher than the Tata family. Sha-



The last rites of Ratan Tata took place with full state honours. Among those who paid their tribute was Union home minister Amit Shah, seen here with N Chandrasekaran, CM Eknath Shinde, Devendra Fadnavis & Piyush Goyal



Noel Tata, half-brother, his son Neville, daughter Maya & Tata Trusts trustee Mehli Mistry



Jimmy Tata, brother



Nita and Mukesh Ambani



Kumar Mangalam Birla



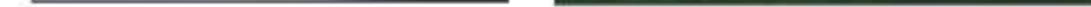
Uddhav Thackeray with wife Rashmi and son Aaditya



Deanna Jejeebhoy, half-sister



Simone Tata, stepmother



Shireen Jejeebhoy, half-sister

### TRIBUTES POUR IN

“A visionary leader whose dedication to improving lives left an indelible mark on India—and the world. I had the privilege of meeting him on several occasions, and was always moved by the strong sense of purpose and service to humanity

**Bill Gates | Co-chair Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**

“A leader par excellence, visionary industrialist, and philanthropist whose contributions have left an indelible mark... His deep resolve to innovation, ethical business practices and social responsibility transformed industries and uplifted communities — **Nirmala Sitharaman | Finance Minister**

“A visionary. Strong believer of ethics in corporate governance. He was also a member of RBI central board... When the economic history of modern India is written, even one full volume will not suffice to describe Ratan Tata's achievements

**Shaktikanta Das | RBI Governor**

“A true nation builder, his legacy in the growth of the country will forever inspire entrepreneurs and all Indians alike — **Sunil Bharti Mittal | Chairman, Bharti Enterprises**

“Mr Tata... had an active Instagram account that often sought help for abandoned or injured dogs. The Economic Times... wrote that in retirement he was seen as an 'adorable old uncle'. That is an unusual encomium for a business titan — but an especially affectionate one

**Article in The Economist**



Sharad Pawar



The flower-laden hearse making its way from NCPA to Worli crematorium

The police gave him a 24-gun salute. And yet, the state funeral

felt less a ceremonial duty and more a final salute to the shared

history between Tata and the people.

## Indo-Asean ties key amid global conflict, says Modi

From P 1

### China hits back at Asean, says 'external forces' interfering in regional affairs

**W**e are peace-loving nations, that respect each other's national integrity and sovereignty, and we are committed to ensuring a bright future for our youth," said Modi. "I believe the 21st century is the 'Asian century.' Today, when there is conflict and tension in many parts of the world, the friendship, coordination, dialogue and cooperation between India and Asean are of utmost importance," he added.

Leaders underlined the significance of UNCLOS as the legal framework within which all activities in oceans and seas must be carried out, and its strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action in the maritime sector.

They called for peace, stability and prosperity in the region through "trust and confidence based on shared democratic values, strong belief in sovereignty and territorial integrity, and a shared commitment to the rule of law and the

## Axe the tainted & non-performers, PM Modi tells secys

Dipak.Dash@timesofindia.com

**New Delhi:** Cracking down on non-performers and corruption, PM Narendra Modi has asked Union secretaries to carry out rigorous assessment of performance of employees as per rules, which give absolute right to govt to retire any staffer in "public interest".

Sources said in an interaction with all central ministers and secretaries on Wednesday, a day after J&K and Haryana assembly poll results were declared, the PM referred to Fundamental Rule 56(j) of the CCS (Pension) Rules, which specify that the "appropriate authority" can retire any govt servant if it is of the opinion that he/she is unfit for retention in service. Govt needs to give three-month notice or three months of pay and allowances in case of compulsory retirement.

Employees attaining 55 years of age can be impacted by this rule. Similarly, Rule 48 specifies that at any time after a govt servant has completed 30 years qualifying service, "he may be



IANS  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi

required by the appointing authority to retire in public interest". Such officers get an opportunity to respond and can also challenge the order in courts. Govt departments have so far compulsorily retired over 500 officers invoking these rules.

Officials said there is a need to tweak the current regime as the present screening system is based on benchmarks and not on ranking of employees. Almost all employees get above benchmark annual ratings by their seniors, and they pass the yardsticks for promotion.

Addressing the ministers and secretaries, Modi said good governance and development works get rewarded by people, a reference to BJP's hat-trick in Haryana and a good show in J&K, sources said.

## K'taka SIT to probe ₹7k cr Covid 'scam' under BJP govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka cabinet Thursday decided to establish an SIT to probe alleged Rs 7,200-crore irregularities in procurement of medicines & medical equipment during the Covid-19 pandemic, when Basavaraj Bommai helmed BJP govt in state.

The cabinet announced formation of a sub-committee to review administrative decisions taken during the period and to recommend action. These decisions follow an interim report submitted on Aug 31 by an inquiry commission led by retired HC judge John Michael D'Cunha.

The 11-volume report highlighted irregularities amounting to Rs 7,223 crore in procurement of medical equipment and medicines. The commission recommended recovering Rs 500 crore from companies involved and blacklisting them.

"The govt will take steps to recover the money. While SIT will take measures such as filing FIRs against those involved in the scam, the govt will wait for the final report by the commission and SIT's

### Lokayukta quizzes Siddaramaiah's brother-in-law in Muda land case

**Mysuru:** Lokayukta police, one of the two agencies investigating the alleged Mysore Urban Development Authority (Muda) land allotment scam, Thursday questioned Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah's brother-in-law BM Mallikarjun Swamy and land-owner J Devaraju for more than eight hours, reports **Milton Lawrence**. Swamy, the third accused, and Devaraju, the fourth accused, in the case were questioned separately about allegations of creation of fraudulent documents and violation of the law regarding land purchase.

Devaraju arrived at the Lokayukta office at 10.45am, followed by Swamy at 11.15am. Their interrogation continued until 7.30pm, with both providing statements and evidence. Their accounts were crosschecked. Devaraju, after questioning, said he had shared necessary information with the investigators. The case revolves around the disputed transfer of three acres of land in Kesare, Mysuru, through a sale deed from Devaraju to Swamy in 2005. There are claims that Devaraju did not possess the legal title at the time of the land sale, as his nephew contends. The land was later transferred to Parvathi, Siddaramaiah's wife and Swamy's younger sister, in 2010 when Swamy gifted the property to her.

the Valmiki ST Development Corporation scam, now has a new line of attack against the opposition. The Covid-19 medical procurement scam investigation will focus on BJP MP K Sudhakar, who was the health minister during the pandemic, as well as former CMs BS Yediyurappa and Basavaraj Bommai, who were in office from 2019 to 2023.

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**A thought for today**

I could read the literary works translated into Korean from a lot of languages, without any distinction such as which is foreign or not

HAN KANG

## Why Just 1 In Top 100?

*Aside from Tatas, no Indian business is a global brand. Foreign acquisitions are not the answer*

Perhaps what is being most memorialised about Ratan Tata is how he put an Indian conglomerate on the global map. From the acquisition of the tea firm Tetley to the steelmaker Corus and the luxury auto brands Jaguar and Land Rover, he expanded Tata Group's international presence dramatically. But how has all this translated into building a global brand? Remember, even our famed IT companies cannot claim this status. Adding value to other businesses has not translated into the kind of international mass consumer recognition that such a tag demands. In this regard, some of Tata Group's acquisitions have indeed helped make it enough of a household name across countries, for it to emerge as the only Indian brand among the world's top 100 most valued brands, per Brand Finance global rankings.

Apple, Microsoft, Google and Amazon grab the top four spots, Samsung stands fifth, China's TikTok and ICBC bank are ranked seventh and tenth. Overall, US gobbles up 45% of global brand value, China 13% and India subsists on a meagre 2%.

There is plenty of blame to go around for this. Some point fingers at govt policies and crony capitalism. Even on this premise, the real question would be why we didn't get the strain of "efficient cronyism" that fuelled East Asian miracles, and has Samsung ranking as the fifth strongest brand in the world. Others blame lack of business leadership, where even our IT giants lag the

kind of R&D and design work that makes some global firms race ahead of all others. What is the software product by which India is known in the world? Why isn't there even a free email service provider that's home-grown and home-loved?

Acquiring foreign businesses ultimately isn't the most effective way of becoming a global brand. The power of countries and corporations works in conjoined ways these days. Consider the power dynamics embedded, for instance, in Apple's phrase, "designed in California, assembled in China". Or how the intangible soft power benefits of the Jaguar brand still largely accrue to UK. To really play in the big leagues, India has to grow a brand-building ecosystem, which will need both a heavy pickup in private investment and a supportive regulatory system. As a glance at all the Indian talent serving non-Indian brands across the world shows, human resources aren't the root problem. What's lacking is the business embrace of innovation, a vision of creating markets instead of just serving them.

## Thought For Food

*Meat production on the scale humans demand is unsustainable. Tech has a solution. Go for it*

Global food systems are unsustainable, we know. But it's still shocking to find that food production is a major threat to 86% of species. Too much land is going into growing food—devouring wetlands, ending biodiversity, ruining marine ecosystems. The Living Planet index says an estimated 30-40% of all food produced is never eaten. Bycatch (the extra marine life caught that's not consumed) results in 9mn tonnes of dead sea life. Over 10% of all ocean catch is discarded. It's a no-brainer that unsustainable food systems are ultimately self-harm. So, what's the road to staple diets that aren't grievously detrimental to the planet?

India suffers from the twin nutrition crises – obesity and malnutrition. If at one end of the economic spectrum food is even a fad, at the other end ensuring enough food can be a struggle. Focus on millets over two decades has got a fillip with govt intervention. The traditional coarse grain is now the choice of the well-heeled too. Where India falters is in its focus on protein. Too much breath is spent on trying to control what form that protein takes – a matter with religious and cultural overtones and undercurrents.

Instead, get real. The National Family Health Survey showed that in 16 states over 90% of people regularly eat chicken, fish or meat. In 4 states, 75-90% of people aren't vegetarian. In 5 states, 50-75% eat meat. Only in 5 states is more than half the population vegetarian. But does India have enough land to farm livestock if demand for meat goes up, as it might? Can it be done sustainably? No. Therefore, GOI should get serious about championing investment in R&D for lab meat and plant-based meat. It's a technology that has huge global potential.

## Indo-Italian line

*Among the many things the two countries have in common is their ingenious concept of forming a queue*

Jug Suraiya

Again in Italy, Bunny and I feel very much at home. The feeling of homeliness is induced by a sense of familiarity, breeding not contempt but comfort. Italy feels, and acts, much like home.

Like Indians, Italians display a lively interest in food, particularly in their dolci, which they enjoy with the gusto we have for our mithai. Like Indians, Italians are family-oriented, and both have a flair for what Indians call jugaad and Italians call l'innovazione frugale, or frugal innovation.

Like us, Indians have a lot to say about a lot of things, from the shenanigans of politicians to the shocking cost of the bare necessities of life, like gelati, and when Indians talk, like us they use their hands as fluently as their tongues, so that each conversation involves the callisthenics of mudra.

Like Indians, Italians have a blithe nonchalance regarding pettifogging rules, be they about the navigation of vehicular traffic on roads or the importunate intrusions of the taxman.

But perhaps more than anything else, Indians and Italians share a unique spatial construct: the horizontal queue. Elsewhere, queues are formed on the basis of verticality, along a North-South axis, with North being the head of the line and South its tail end.

Indians and Italians find such linearity to be mystifying and contrary to the tenets of rudimentary common sense and the laws of logic.

Assume that the objective of the queue is Point A – be it a bus stop, a ticket window, or a buffet table – the idea is for everyone to position themselves as close as possible to Point A. A basic exercise in time-and-motion ergonomics shows that the most sensible way to achieve this is to form a line-up which goes from North to South, with North stealing an invidious march over the underprivileged South, but a configuration which goes from East to West, whereby both are equitably equidistant from Point A.

It is this singular commonality that links India and Italy, with each taking its cue from the other. Or its queue from the other.



**jugular vein**

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## MESSAGE IN A BEER

*Opinion polls suggest the gap between Trump and Harris voters is really a gap between 'completely masculine' men and everyone else. So, Harris is doing her part to demonstrate masculine traits*

Dan Cassino



Columnist based in New Jersey

As Kamala Harris goes on a media blitzkrieg, including downing a folksy beer on late-night TV, what demographic is she really trying to woo? She has to demonstrate enough 'masculine traits' but not too much.

This US presidential election is expected to have a record gap between how men and women vote. But the real gap is less between men and women, and more about traditionally masculine men versus everyone else. Trump is doing his best to leverage his lead among these traditional men into a victory, but he hasn't been able to make gendered attacks on Harris stick the way they did against other candidates.

In 2020, men favoured him over Biden by 8 points, while women favoured Biden over Trump by 15. This was bigger than the gap in the 2016 election, which pitted Trump against a female candidate, Hillary Clinton. This year, polls are showing an even larger gap, with men favouring Trump by 7, and women favouring Harris by 18 percentage points.

There are a lot of explanations for this broad gender gap, which only started showing up in US elections around 1980, and doesn't occur consistently in other developed democracies. Some scholars argue that the gap is caused by differences in earnings, job status, need for govt assistance, or other economic differences between men and women. Others say that it's more about issues, and that women vote for Democratic candidates because they care more about topics like healthcare, social welfare and reproductive rights.

However, survey data that your correspondent has collected in this and previous elections shows that the gap between men and women is actually being driven by one group of men: those that embrace traditional masculinity.

In addition to being asked if they're men or women, respondents are asked to place themselves on a scale running from 'completely masculine' to 'completely feminine'. About half of men say that they are 'completely masculine', with most of the rest placing themselves just one place over, at 'mostly masculine'. Women are about as likely to say that they are 'completely feminine', but are more spread out among the other categories of masculinity and femininity.

Among the half of men who say that they are 'completely masculine', Trump leads Harris by 34 points; among the rest of men, Harris has a 20-point lead. That 20-point lead is almost the same as Harris's lead among women. Put another way, the gap between men and women is really a gap between those traditionally masculine men and everyone else.

Men who say that they're completely masculine tend to be older and less educated than other men, all

Even though they still earn more than women, and hold the vast majority of top roles in business and govt, men in US are increasingly feel that their status is threatened. In surveys, almost 40% say that they believe that they face discrimination because they're men. When Trump promises to re-open factories, restore good jobs, and get rid of policies that have been put in place to help women and minorities get equal access to opportunities, he's appealing to this group.

Trump's persona also appeals to these men. The traits that US voters see as masculine – being aggressive, taking charge, not compromising or apologising – are the very traits that Trump has consistently displayed in his three presidential campaigns.

Alongside are traits that have been labelled "toxic masculinity", like bullying and attacks on women, gay and trans people. But as negative as many of these traits are, US voters associate masculine traits with leadership, putting female candidates at a disadvantage, as they have to perform both feminine traits that are seen as part of being a woman, and the masculine leadership traits that voters expect from a presidential candidate.

In 2016, Trump was able to win, in large part, because his gendered attacks against Clinton worked. She was seen as being insufficiently masculine – not being a strong leader or physically strong – while simultaneously not being feminine enough. In 2020 and 2024, Trump's main attack against Biden was that he wasn't strong, active, decisive or masculine enough to serve. Now, running against Harris, such attacks don't seem to be landing.

Harris is doing her part to demonstrate masculine traits, pointing to her career as a prosecutor, and recently talking about owning a gun, and implying that she would shoot an intruder into her home. Her level of energy, especially in comparison to the much older Trump, makes the attacks used against Biden and Clinton – that they're weak and lack the stamina to hold office – fall flat.

US presidential elections are almost always masculinity contests, with candidates accusing each other of not being manly enough for the job. In the past, this has worked to Trump's advantage, but while he's holding on to his base of traditionally masculine men, he'll need to find a new tactic if he wants to win over enough other voters to take the presidency.

The writer is Professor of Government and Politics at Fairleigh Dickinson University and Executive Director of the FDU Poll



factors that would tend to push them towards Republican candidates. Black and Hispanic men are commonly in this category, which helps explain why Trump has done better with men in those groups than previous Republican candidates, despite campaign rhetoric that can be seen as racist.

Trump's campaign seems targeted directly at these traditionally masculine men. His policies are built around the promise to 'Make America great again', to turn back the clock to an era when men were socially, politically and economically dominant in US.

## Decent, Humble, Humorous...But Still A Colossus

*Ratan Tata's extraordinary personal qualities sat comfortably with his sharp business sense. Question the unquestioned, he used to tell his colleagues*

Mukund Govind Rajan



Ratan Tata's passing leaves a significant void in the Indian business firmament. He possibly saved India's largest and most respected business conglomerate from irrelevance and in the process became a role model for a generation of Indian businesses and start-ups.

**The man** | In leading an over century-old enterprise with many "lifers", Ratan Tata showed a path-breaking willingness to take risks and back young talent. Scores of Tata managers assigned major responsibilities in their twenties will attest to this, as will many appointed CEOs in their thirties. He didn't mind ruffling feathers, constantly exhorting those around him to "question the unquestioned".

His response to my concern that this writer lacked an MBA qualification was: "All you need to succeed in the corporate world is good common sense". That is pretty much how he conducted his affairs, backing his instincts on people and issues.

At well over six feet in height and always immaculately dressed, Tata had an imposing physical presence. But he maintained a fundamental level of decency and humility, urging his office to show empathy when engaging with stakeholders with grievances and claims.

We warmed to his ability to laugh loudly, sometimes at himself, and his incredible mimicry of colleagues. Given to doodling during long meetings, he

once drew the bald heads of three senior Tata Sons' directors, Shahrokh Sabavala, Jim Setna and Noshir Sowarrowa, to keep himself entertained.

Sadly, this sense of humour began to vanish as pressures of office started wearing him down midway through his chairmanship. Senior colleagues retired and were replaced by a younger, more diffident lot who tended to be intimidated by his larger-than-life stature. As he neared retirement, business disappointments and corporate scandals such as the so-called 2G scam would cause him considerable pain.

**The strategist** | Having assumed charge of the Tata Group in 1991, the year India began to liberalise its economy, Tata was forced to focus initially on consolidation. Convinced that individual Tata companies would do better if they were guided by a powerful Group Centre, rather than

each trying to operate on its own, he saw off internal opposition from satraps like Russi Mody at Tata Steel and Ajit Kerkar at Indian Hotels. Parallelly, he undertook key initiatives to boost the competitiveness of the group, investing in talent and capabilities at the Group Centre; promoting a culture of quality consciousness via the 1995 launch of JRD Quality Values Award Programme; and securing access to

intellectual property to help companies improve their competitiveness, including through joint ventures with global leaders like IBM, Lucent Technologies, Honeywell and AIG.

Bold technology bets were sanctioned by him, including the project perhaps most closely linked with this original champion of "Make in India", the launch of India's first indigenous passenger car, the Tata Indica.

Having successfully defended the Tata Group's domestic turf from foreign competitors in the 1990s, Ratan Tata used the next decade to transform Tatas into a global enterprise. Buoyed by Tata Teal's \$450mn leveraged buyout of the much larger Tetley Tea in 2000, he advised other Group companies to internationalise, including through inorganic growth.

A wave of acquisitions followed, culminating in the largest in corporate India's history, the Corus Steel acquisition by Tata Steel. Resultantly, Tata Group consolidated turnover increased from \$10bn in the early 2000s to over \$100bn when Tata retired in 2012.

**The legacy** | Overseas acquisitions allowed the Tata Group to substantially bulk up. However, the timing of many of these, just before the global financial crisis in 2008, was unfortunate. A number of acquisitions were subsequently



Uday Deb

Calvin &amp; Hobbes



## Learning The Art Of Renouncing And Rejoicing

Swami Sukhabodhananda

**T**he Bhagavad Gita's message encompasses a twofold instruction: learn how to renounce and know how to rejoice. It emphasises the two 'R's—the art of renouncing and that of rejoicing.

We must learn both—the art of living and the art of dying. This involves learning how to die to our past and master how to be present in the here and now. While the art of living is essential to our survival, the art of dying to our past is equally important. In such a state of living, a certain intelligence is awakened.

Many of you will feel it is a contradiction, but it is not. In the West, people know how to rejoice, they know how to celebrate, but they do not know how to renounce their negativity, shackles, and bondage; they do not know that celebration without renunciation is mere

excitement. In the East, in India, we all know how to renounce—at least we talk of renunciation—however rarely do we know how to rejoice.

Rejoicing and renouncing are like the two wings of a bird which enable it to fly. Some people are imprisoned, and some are free. We are free when we know the art of living and dying; imprisoned because we do not know how to live and die.

The Gita says, "Prasanna chetasahi ashuhu budhihi parayatishtati"—it is only the cheerful mind which can realise the Truth. To be cheerful, you should know how to rejoice. You are a true bhakt if you know how to rejoice—not by taking alcohol or any other intoxicating substance but by changing your attitude, values, approach, context,

and sheer commitment. If you know how to be happy, that is excellent, but you should also know how to renounce.

Renounce what? Not the world. Wherever you go, the world exists. In the Himalayas too, the world exists; therefore, you cannot renounce the world. You can renounce your addiction, infatuation, ignorance, and your prejudices with reference to the world. We must renounce our negativity, our shackles, our imprisonment, and our addiction. This is indicated by the word 'Hindu'—

"Heenam nashayati iti Hindu." Heenam refers to what keeps you in bondage—shackles, fitters, and traps. Heenam nashayati signifies one's commitment to destroying that which keeps them in bondage.

Krishna says to Arjun, "Uddharet atmaanam natmanam avasadayet atmaeva atmano bandhuham atma eva

THE SPEAKING TREE

Sacredspace



*The difference between the great and the ordinary is simply this: that the great think they are ordinary and the ordinary think they are great.*

How can you lift yourself? By destroying what keeps you in shackles, in bondage. And what keeps you in bondage and shackles? It is 'ajnan' which keeps you in bonds and shackles. Krishna says there is nothing more 'pavitrnam', pure, than 'ajnan', understanding, wisdom. Therefore, it is not the world you have to renounce. You have to renounce your addictions, and your attachments.

*Swami Sukhabodhananda will be conducting Navaratri celebrations online till October 12,*

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Har Tyohar ke Sang Malabar

Perception of **savings needed for retirement among affluent is highest in US & Hong Kong**, followed by Singapore and Taiwan, according to HSBC Quality of Life Report 2024

# TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, HYDERABAD | FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024

Note: Conducted in March 2024 through an online survey across 11 markets, the research captures insights from affluent aged 25-69, possessing investable assets from \$100,000 to \$2 million



## Govt releases tax devolution of nearly ₹1.8L cr to states

New Delhi: Ahead of the festive season, the Centre on Thursday released tax devolution of nearly Rs 1.8 lakh crore to states. This includes the normal monthly devolution of Rs 89,086.5 crore and an advance installment. "This release is in view of the upcoming festive season and to enable states to accelerate capital spending, and also finance their development or welfare related expenditure," said a statement from the finance ministry. TNN



## RBI nod for Bandhan Bank's CEO appointee

Mumbai: Bandhan Bank has appointed Partha Pratim Sengupta as MD and CEO, following approval from RBI. Sengupta will be taking over from interim CEO Ratan Kumar Kesh, who took charge after the bank's founder Chandra Shekhar Ghosh retired in July 2024. TNN

## NFRA fines 3 entities in Coffee Day case

New Delhi: The National Financial Reporting Authority on Thursday imposed penalties totalling Rs 2.15 crore on an audit firm and two auditors for lapses in relation to the statutory audit of Coffee Day Enterprises for 2019-20. AGENCIES

## BlackRock, GIC to invest in Hyundai IPO

BlackRock and Singaporean wealth fund GIC, among others, have made bids to buy stock in Hyundai Motor India's \$3.3 billion IPO, people familiar with the matter said. BLOOMBERG

## US inflation rises more than forecast in Sept

Underlying US inflation rose more than forecast in Sept, representing a pause in the recent progress toward moderating price pressures. BLOOMBERG



## Britannia's cheese JV invests ₹220 crore in Pune facility

Shashank.Didmishe @timesofindia.com

Pune: Britannia Bel Foods, a joint venture between Britannia Industries and France-based Bel Group, started production of cheese products at its facility in Ranjangaon. The companies invested Rs 220 crore in the factory, which had the capacity to manufacture 6,000 tonnes of natural cheese and 10,000 tonnes of processed cheese a year. The products were sold under the Indian company's brand through its distribution channels, while the Bel Group brought scale, efficiencies, and innovation.

Started in 2022, the JV aimed to establish Britannia as an established player in the cheese industry.

Gujarat-based Amul was by far the market leader in the cheese market in India, with a share of over 65% out

## Grocery bills to rise on commodity pain

Asmita.Dey@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Grocery bills are set to rise with FMCG companies planning to hike rates of household essentials like cooking oil, soaps and detergents due to higher commodity prices—like for palm oil and copra. The price revisions will keep upward pressure on inflation, which is being closely watched by RBI.

Godrej Consumer said in its Sept quarter update that its earnings will be lower due to tough operating conditions driven by increase in palm oil prices. Palm input costs, which have been ris-

sing since March, have risen in high-teens as of date. Management has decided not to pass on the entire cost hike to consumers in one step," the firm said. As an immediate measure, analysts expect price hikes to happen in larger pack sizes rather than at sensitive entry-level category price points.

FMCG firms' warnings resonate with RBI's caution over price increases in commodities. In its monetary policy statement, RBI had cautioned that unexpected weather events, worsening geopolitical conflicts (which can impact global commodity prices), and re-

### PALM OIL PRICE SURGE

- Vegetable oil import duty hike, geopolitical tensions to weigh on FMCG segment
- Price hikes expected in larger pack sizes than in entry-level price points

cent increases in certain commodity prices (like edible oils, wheat, and key vegetables) pose upside risks to the inflation outlook.

Marco, the maker of Saffola Oats and Parachute coconut oil, said that copra prices rose ahead of internal forecasts, and the company has already taken one round of price hikes at the

end of Q2. Besides, the recent import duty hike also led to vegetable oil prices moving higher towards the end of the quarter. The company is expecting a "moderate lag" in operating profit growth in Q2 on the back of partial absorption of higher input costs and remains watchful of the potential uncertainty in crude oil prices in the wake of geopolitical tensions. Analysts tracking the sector, in fact, said that inflation will be the biggest risk for the segment in the coming quarters.

The Israel-Iran conflict is expected to take up the prices of crude and this could affect prices of almost everything around leading to higher inflation across all commodities. Also, as more nations get involved in the conflict, it is expected that commodity supply constraints will lead to an increase in input costs for most FMCG companies," independent consumer consultant Akshay D'Souza told TOI.

The cost of tea could also be a worry for firms in Q3, analysts at Nuvama Institutional Equities said in a recent note. Tea companies have started taking gradual price hikes, analysts at the firm said.

## ₹24k cr: Mutual fund SIP flows hit new high for 15th mth in row

At Record ₹67L Cr, MF Assets Are Nearly A 3rd Of Bank Deposits

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Mutual fund SIPs continue to drive retail investor participation in the capital markets, with contributions crossing Rs 24,508 crore in Sept 2024—hitting an all-time high for the 15th month in a row, data from industry body Amfi showed.

However, flows into equity mutual fund schemes dropped 10% from Aug to Rs 34,419 crore due to a slump in inflows in thematic and large-cap funds. The mutual fund industry saw an overall outflow of Rs 71,14 crore in Sept, following an investment of nearly Rs 1.1 lakh crore in Aug, largely driven by just over Rs 1.1 lakh crore withdrawals from debt schemes.

The industry's assets under management rose to Rs 67 lakh crore by the end of Sept, up from Rs 66.7 lakh crore in Aug. Mutual fund assets are almost a third of bank deposits, which stood at Rs 215 lakh crore at the end of Sept 2024.

Retail AUM, which includes equity, hybrid, and solution-oriented schemes, also hit a record Rs 40.4 lakh crore. Mutual fund folios reached an all-time high of 21.1 crore in Sept.

Amfi chief Venkat Chalasani said, "The growing SIP contribution highlights a shift towards disciplined, long-term investment strategies."

SIP accounts also reached a record 9.9 crore in Sept, with 66 lakh new accounts registered during the month. The SIP AUM stood at Rs 13.8 lakh crore, up from Rs 13.4 lakh crore in Aug. Liquid

funds experienced significant outflows of Rs 72,666 crore in Sept, accounting for 64% of the overall outflows, followed by money market funds (Rs 23,421 crore) and overnight funds (Rs 19,363 crore).

Digital investment platform Groww contributed 16 lakh new SIPs, further strengthening its position as the largest mutual fund distributor. Harsh Jain, co-founder and COO of Groww, said the increasing participation of younger and female investors shows financialisation of savings.

The mutual fund industry

## TCS revenue rises over 5% in Q2, N America biz down 2%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: IT major TCS's revenue grew 5.5% year-on-year in constant currency in the Sept quarter. The company's mainstay banking and financial services sector showed signs of recovery even as clients continued to keep IT costs down. However, its outlook on demand remains guarded as the global picture continues to show uncertainty.

Growth was led by energy

**HIRING PLANS**  
TCS added 5,726 employees in the last qtr. The co said it is on track to hire 40k freshers this fiscal. Attrition rate was unchanged at 12.3%

resources & utilities, and manufacturing, which grew 7% and 5.3%, respectively. "We are seeing some pressure in many accounts. Labour and supply chain constraints are impacting the industry. However, in these areas of concern, manufacturing continues to see a strong demand environment and deal pipeline," Krishnamoorthy said.

The banking and financial services vertical grew 0.1% in the Sept quarter compared to the year-ago period, while technology and communica-

tions saw a decline. However, its mainstay business market North America saw a 2.1% decline during the Sept quarter.

TCS's operating margin witnessed a quarter-on-quarter decline of 60 basis points to 24.1% in the Sept quarter from 24.7% earlier. The total order book for the period stood at \$8.6 billion—a decline of over 3.5% sequentially.

TCS added 5,726 employees in the last quarter, bringing the total number of employees to 612,724 in the Sept quarter. The company said it is on track to hire freshers. Company CHRO Milind Lakkad said TCS is considering differential compensation for each segment of hiring. "We welcomed 11,000 associates in first half of the year. We remain on track for trainee onboarding as planned. We have commenced the campus hiring process for FY26," Lakkad added. He said the company was planning to hire around 40,000 freshers in the current fiscal.

Mercedes-Benz India has seen strong sales growth in 2024 so far, with the company witnessing a 13% growth between January and September, reaching 14,379 units. In Q3, the company saw a 21% growth to 5,117 units. The company has attributed the increase in its sales to several newer launches each year and customer service, leading to higher interest from buyers. "We are seeing a continuous increase in our sales numbers despite sluggish growth in the overall sector," Santosh Iyer, MD and CEO of the Indian unit of the German car company, told TOI.

The company is also planning to launch two additional new vehicles in the last two months of 2024, he added. The company's electric vehicle portfolio continued to gain customer traction, growing by 84% year on year. With the introduction of the EQA 250+, facelifted EQB SUV, EQS SUV 580, and the Maybach EQS SUV, the company has six EVs in its portfolio. Its top-end vehicle segment continued to grow by 18% till September 2024.

Separately, the company also launched the LWB E-class with pricing in the range of Rs 78.5 lakh to Rs 90.2 lakh. The company started production of the E-class vehicle in 1995, and there are 57,000 units plying in India.

## Merc India's new launch strategy driving sales: MD

Shashank.Didmishe @timesofindia.com



RISING NUMBERS

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To Whom It May Concern

Notice for Issue of Pond Ash on free of cost basis from NTPC Kharone to Eligible Projects like Road Project / Dams / Mine Backfilling and OB Mixing / Shoreline Protection etc.

EOI No. NTPC/Kharone/AU/Pond Ash/2024/P-3 Date: 11-10-2024

This Notice is in compliance with MoEFCC/Govt. Gazette Notification dated 31-12-2021 on Fly Ash Utilization for the agencies engaged in construction activities such as road laying, road and flyover embankments, shoreline protection structures in coastal districts and dams, Mine Owners for Mine backfilling and OB Mixing, within 300 kms radius from NTPC Kharone.

Intend to Use: Within 300 kms radius requiring ash for construction activities like Road Project / Damsite backfilling and OB Mixing/Shoreline Protection etc. may submit their requirement of ash supply. NTPC Kharone shall supply the ash on free of cost\* and \*is where is basis and shall bear the Transportation cost.

HOW TO APPLY: Interested Agencies are requested to submit their requirement(s) in the specified format to the e-mail addresses as given in 'General Information' by 17:00 hrs. of 18.10.2024.

'General Information' and 'Standard format for application' for Notice have been uploaded on <https://nptcender.ntpc.co.in>

Registered Office: NTPC Bhawan, Scope Complex, 7, Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi - 110003. Website: [www.ntpc.co.in](http://www.ntpc.co.in) CIN: L40101DL1975GOI007966

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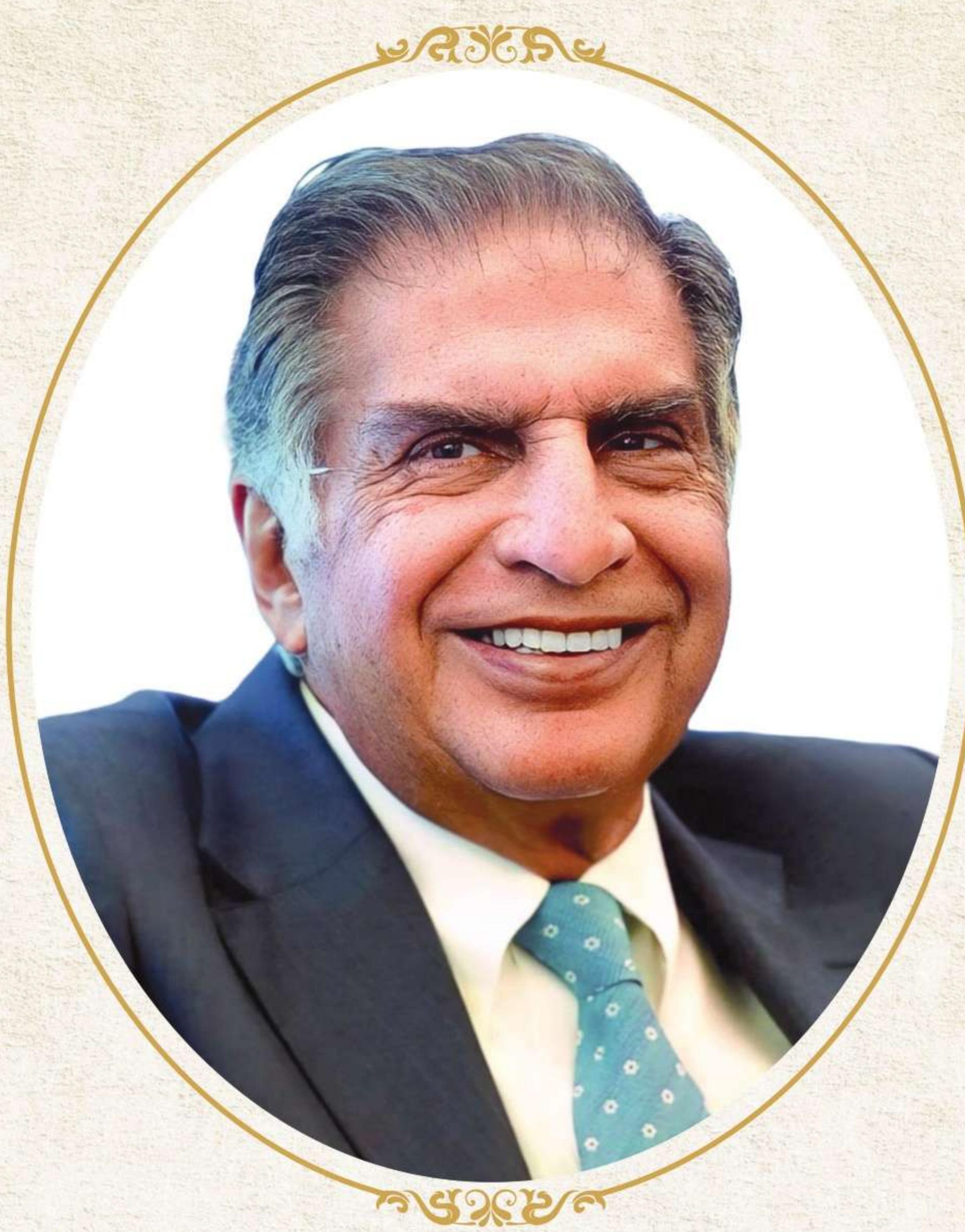
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Refer our website [www.vdfengineering.co.in](http://www.vdfengineering.co.in) regarding correction in Assistant Professor Post. All other conditions and post remain unchanged.

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We at Kirloskar Electric pay tribute to Mr. Ratan Tata, a visionary leader who transformed industries and inspired generations. His unwavering integrity, commitment to excellence, and support shaped our journey. Though he is no longer with us, his legacy of leadership, innovation, and values will continue to guide and inspire us.



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Executive Chairman



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**What a career, Rafa! I always hoped this day would never come. Thank you for the unforgettable memories and all your incredible achievements in the game we love. It's been an absolute honour!"**

Roger Federer



**VAMOS FOREVER: 22-Time Grand Slam Champion Rafael Nadal Says He'll Retire After Next Month's Davis Cup Finals**

# THE MAN WHO NEVER QUIT, QUILTS

Prajwal.Hegde@timesofindia.com

The 1000-watt lighting will flicker to life again and there will be another spring, but Roland Garros, located at the edge of Paris' Bois de Boulogne, once the hunting ground of French royalty, will never be the same.

As of today it has become a kingdom without its king.

Rafael Nadal, the 14-time winner on this ochre-hued stage, will be riding into the sunset. He'll pull out his Babolat Pure Aero for the last time as a professional tennis player in the Davis Cup Finals in Malaga, starting Nov 19. The announcement that slipped quietly into the inboxes of tennis reporters around the world was hardly unexpected given that the 38-year-old could play just two tournaments in 2023, and was only marginally better this year, 12 wins from seven tournament starts.

He grit his teeth to hide the grimace, but the grunt was never quite that roar which echoed across the tennis landscape more times than it was possible to count.

Nadal's 38-year-old frame has been creaking and splintering, and his spirit, stubborn and indefatigable in the trenches, was finally out of reserve. It's that thing called time. It's not always strapped on a wrist, sometimes it's the song a body sings as the summer runs out.

In the video message, where he announced his retirement from the sport, the Spaniard said, he could no longer 'play without limitations', that has been Nadal's goal for most of his career, but never more than when he could sight the finish line.

If anything then those words were testimony to the way he competed – stretching, straining, dragging it out, leaving it all out there. It's the only way he knew.

Nadal, winner of 22 Grand Slam titles, along with Novak Djokovic (24), and Roger Federer (20) stand as tennis' trinity.

While Djokovic is the Greatest Of All Time, having gone past his peers in the numbers game, Nadal, is the greatest ever to walk the red earth, having emerged triumphant at the French Open more times than any player has reigned at a major.

He won in Paris on his tournament debut in 2005 as a 19-year-old, wearing white pirate pants and a sleeveless tee that showcased his biceps, and for the

**It's obviously a difficult decision, which has taken me a long time to make. But in this life, everything has a beginning and an end. I think it's the appropriate time to put an end to what has been a long and much more successful career than I could have ever imagined. But I am very excited that my last tournament is the final of the Davis Cup."**

Rafael Nadal, IN HIS STATEMENT

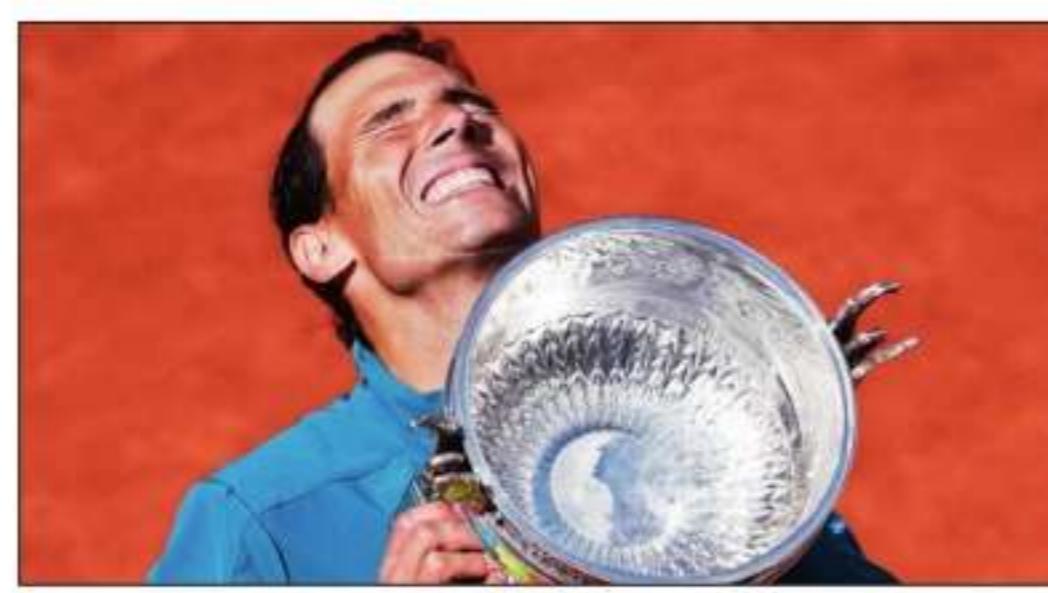
14th time 17 years later in shorts and a V-neck shirt. That journey from boy to man capsule in a stat that reads 112 wins from 116 outings at Roland Garros. Of Nadal's 92 Tour level titles, 63 have come on clay courts. His 81 consecutive wins on clay from 2005 to 07 constitute the longest single-surface win streak in the Open Era in men's singles.

In a sense Nadal's spirit embodied the clay — its relentless nature, the texture of the surface, which while neutralising power and pace, is easier on the body, while asking for more with every swing. It lends time and saps energy. Give and take. It even seemingly aligned forces with the left-handed Nadal's spin and supreme range, the extra step or shot, cutting-edge angles, and most of all the willingness to wait.

Djokovic paid the ultimate compliment to Nadal after beating him in the semifinals at Roland Garros in 2021. "It's hard to find superlatives for Rafa's achievements here," the Serbian said. "Each time you step on the court with him at Roland Garros, you have to climb Mt. Everest to win." On a balustrade across the upper tier of Court Philippe Chatrier the words — Victory Belongs To The Most Tenacious — are engraved. The quote — which French aviator Roland Garros made his own, even inscribing it on his planes' propellers — is attributed to Napoleon I. It also sums up the 14-time champion's spirit.

While Nadal — finicky with the way he places his drinks at courtside, and obsessively tugging at his shorts between points, a childhood habit he has never been able to get rid of — is notorious for winding down the shot clock and picking up time violations, he has been the very definition of sportsman-like on the court. No cussing at his box or breaking rackets.

Around the grounds, he has a smile and a kind word for fans and staff. A photograph, an autograph. A memory for someone. And always for Roland Garros, a part of its earth itself.



**The lessons he taught us, the young players, how to behave on the court, how to handle situations on the court, tough situations. And also to stay humble in the same time, not changing with success."**

Jannik Sinner, WORLD NO. 1

**Rafa don't retire! wanna play you one last time. We had our differences but you were one hell of a warrior. Best wishes and good luck with whatever comes next."**

Nick Kyrgios, 2021 WIMBLEDON FINALIST

**Rafa, what an incredible race you've had! Your dedication, passion and incredible talent have inspired millions around the world. It has been an honour to witness your journey and to be able to call you a friend."**

Cristiano Ronaldo, PORTUGAL FOOTBALL CAPTAIN

**One post is not enough to express the respect I have for you and what you have done for our sport. You have inspired millions of children to start playing tennis and that's the greatest achievement anyone can wish for."**

Novak Djokovic

## RIVALRIES & MORE

**Rafael Nadal's duels with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic shaped the course of men's tennis for over a decade and a half. While the Federer-Nadal rivalry was a clash of styles, the Spanish legend's duels with the Serbian master were nothing short of gladiatorial. Nadal leads Federer 24-16 on head-to-head and Djokovic edges Rafa 31-29. TOI takes a look at the best five from both these famous rivalries**

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### NADAL VS FEDERER

**First glimpse:** 2005 Miami final: Federer was the undisputed king and even though he had lost to Rafa the previous year, the Swiss was just unstoppable at that point. Nadal had won the first two sets and was well on course to stopping Federer from winning his first Sunshine Double, but the experience of the Swiss helped him win 2-6, 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-1.

**Rafa truly takes over clay:** 2006 Rome Open final: Rafa had beaten Federer in the 2005 French Open semifinal, but the rivalry on clay hadn't been settled yet. The Rome final was the first of the clay swing that year and if Federer had won this match, the head-to-head on this surface might not have looked as lopsided. Federer had two match-points in the fifth set Nadal prevailed 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6.

**Best-ever: 2008 Wimbledon final:** Rafa's autobiography starts with how he was feeling when there was a rain-break in this final during the fifth set. The Spaniard had lost the earlier two Wimbledon finals to his greatest adversary and when he went two sets up. Federer then played some of his best tennis to win the next two in tie-breakers. The rain-breaks, the fading light — everything added



to the drama, till Rafa held after breaking Federer in the 15th game of the fifth set to win 6-4, 6-4, 6-7, 6-7, 9-7.

**Cheers, tears and a beautiful friendship:** 2009 Australian Open: Though Nadal had won the Wimbledon final the year before, the popular mandate was Federer was the better player on faster courts. This was the first time they were playing in a Grand Slam outside Roland Garros and SW19, and the stakes were massive. In a match that went to and fro, Nadal prevailed 5-7, 3-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-2. The loss left Federer in tears and as he cried, it was Rafa who consoled him on the podium.

**Roger's redemption:** 2017 Australian Open: Both were coming back after massive injuries and it was a surprise that the two made the final. Federer attacked like never before using his single-handed backhand as an explosive weapon. But Rafa weathered the storm and was up a break in the fifth set. The

last four games of that match was probably the best Federer had ever played while trailing against Nadal. He eventually won 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

### NADAL VS DJOKOVIC

**Slam dunk:** 2010 US Open final: Nadal was trying to emulate Federer and a select few in the history of men's tennis to win all four Majors. Djokovic, around that time, was establishing himself as the best player on hard courts. But Nadal was just in a league of his own that year after winning his second Wimbledon title and went on to beat Novak 6-4, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 and make a place for himself in history.

**Marathon for all times:** 2012 Australian Open final: Five hours, 53 minutes — it went on for that long and by the end of it, the two struggled to stand on their feet in the humidity of Melbourne during the prize distribution ceremony. The fortunes fluctuated, but Novak stood strong. Nadal led 4-2 in the fifth but Novak's resilience came through in a 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7(5), 7-5 win.

**Still the Clayboy:** 2013 French Open semis: Many call it the greatest claycourt match of the new millennium. Novak was desperate to break his Roland Garros jinx but Rafa was just being Rafa. He said after winning the



four hour 37 minute thriller 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 7-5. "You need to love this game...I lost a similar one in Australia, but this one was for me."

**Day-nighter:** 2018 Wimbledon semis: Another epic encounter that rolled over to the next day, the match carrying on for an unreal 5hr 15min on grass-court. Novak wasn't at his best after coming back from an injury, but he refused to give up. On Saturday afternoon, the final scoreline read 6-4, 3-6, 7-6(9), 4-6, 10-8 in favour of the Serb as the tennis world revelled at the jaw-dropping resilience of the two champions.

**One last time:** 2021 French Open semis: Nadal had blown away Novak in the 2020 French Open final. The battle for most Slams was also on and Nadal desperately wanted to win. The quality of the points played was outstanding, the two matching each other shot for shot. Novak won 3-6, 6-3, 7-6, 6-2.

## Madhvendra and Divi are champs

CM Madhvendra Pratap Sharma of Madhya Pradesh with 10 points and Keralan Divi Vijesh (9.5) bagged top honours in the boys and girls sections respectively at the 37th National U-11 chess in Gachibowli on Thursday.

**RESULTS (R XD):** Boys: Aarav (9) drew Madhvendra Pratap Sharma (10); Meenal Sundhi (8.5) lost to Advik Amit Agrawal (9.5); Vaishnavi Sagarwala (8.5) drew Samash

## Hyd look to begin well

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

bad are also high on confidence after winning the Buchi Babu All India Invitational tournament recently.

"The first game is important and you want to start well. The team is a mix of youth and experience with most of the players being all-rounders. This is the team that won the Buchi Babu tournament and they are keen to do well," said Hyderabad

The match is being played at the Gymkhana due to the India-Bangladesh T20I at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. Venue apart, Hyderabad will also have to do without N Thakur Tilak Varma, who has been summoned for national duty after Shivam Dube suffered an injury. Rahul Singh will lead Hyderabad.

Hyderabad wreaked havoc in the Plate group last season, recording five victories and won the league. They defeated Meghalaya by five wickets in the final to return to the Elite group. Opener Tanmay Agrawal aggregated 765 runs in seven matches at 95.62, which included a 366 against Arunachal Pradesh. That was the fastest triple ton (147) in first-class cricket. Rahul Singh (694), Tilak Varma (412) too contributed with the bat last season. In the bowling department, Tanay Thaygarajan scalped 56 wickets, including seven five-wicket hauls. However, Elite Group will be a different challenge altogether and the team needs to up their game.

Along with Rahul and Tanmay, Rohit Rayudu and Himateja add to Hyderabad's batting. The experience of CV Milind and the likes of Rakshana Readdi, Kartikeya Kak and Tanay and Anikethreddy will pose a challenge for Gujarat. Hydera-

## India men's team settles for bronze in Asian TT

New Delhi: Indian men's team bowed out in the semifinals and settled for the bronze medal following a 0-3 loss to Chinese Taipei in the semifinal of the Asian Table Tennis Championships in Kazakhstan's Astana, on Thursday. Indian women's team had also won the bronze medal in the competition on Wednesday. Achanta Sharath Kamal found the going tough against his world No. 7 opponent Lin Yun-Ju losing 11-7, 12-10, 11-9. Manav Thakkar lost to world No 22 Kao Cheng-Jui 11-9, 8-11, 11-3, 13-11. PTN

### Smriti, Rashmika in QFs

Mysuru: Giant-killer Smriti Bhasin scored a come-from-behind victory over Karnataka's Harshini N Nagaraj in the second round of the ITF Mysuru Open on Thursday. The 21-year-old Hyderabad saved three match points — two in the second set and one in the tie-breaker — for a 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(9) victory. Pooja Ingale edged out eighth-seeded Humera Baharmus 5-7, 6-3, 7-6(8-6). Top-seeded Shravalli Rashmika Bhamidipaty recorded a 6-1, 6-3 win over Tanisha Kashyap. PTN

### Hyderabad defeat Goa by 31 runs

**Hyderabad:** Hyderabad defeated Goa by 31 runs in the 4th round of the BCCI U-19 tournament for the Vinoo Mankad trophy in Mohali.

**Brief scores:** Hyderabad 248/8 in 50 overs (Wafiq Kachhhi 56) bt Goa 217 in 47.3 overs (Dishank Misquin 87). **In Hyd:** Sikkim 105 in 36.3 overs lost to Madhya Pradesh 109/3 in 61 overs. Uttarakhand 297/8 in 50 overs (**Seminal 123, Raichandani 109\***; **Adithya Balaji 7/67**) bt Kerala 166 in 40.1 overs (P Kartik 56). Bihar 197 in 45.2 overs (Aditya Sinha 63, Md Alam 51); **Tiware 6/41** lost to Chhattisgarh CA 201 in 34.1 overs (Alok Kumar Gupta 64). PTN

## Giri's Knights march into final

Magnus Carlsen's Alpine SG Pipers remained in contention for the final berth with a resounding win over V Anand's Ganges Grandmasters in the Global Chess League in London. Anish Giri's PBG Alaskan Knights have already clinched the final spot (21 match points) with a round to spare. Pipers, playing with white pieces, won the ninth round 12-5. Carlsen humbled Anand in rook, bishop and pawns endgame with his active king.

### Alcaraz upset by Machac in Shanghai

No. 2-ranked Carlos Alcaraz's 12-match winning streak was ended by Tomas Machac 7-6(5), 7-5 in the Shanghai Masters quarterfinals. Sinner advanced to his fifth ATP Masters semifinal of the season when the Italian swept aside fifth-ranked Daniil Medvedev 6-1, 6-4.

### Sabalenka rallies to beat Putintseva

Second-ranked Aryna Sabalenka rallied from a set down to beat No. 35 Yulia Putintseva 1-6, 6-4, 6-0 to maintain her undefeated record at the Wuhan Open and rise to the top of the WTA rankings. Coco Gauff advanced to the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-1 rout of 17th-ranked Marta Kostyuk. PTN & AGENCIES

### West Indies thrash Bangladesh by eight wickets

Off-spinner Karishma Ramharack starred with an impressive four-wicket haul as West Indies cantered to an eight-wicket victory against Bangladesh in the women's T20 World Cup on Thursday. After restricting Bangladesh to 103 for 8, the West Indies overhauled the target with as many as 43 balls to spare. **Brief Scores:** Bangladesh 103/8 in 20 overs (Nigar Sultan 39; Karishma Ramharack 4/17) lost to West Indies 104/2 in 12.5 overs (Hayley Matthews 34). PTN

## Lakshya, Kiran & Malvika bow out

Manne.Ratnakar@timesofindia.com

It was curtains for the Indian players at the Arctic Open BWF Super-500 tournament in Vantaa, Finland on Thursday.

Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei avenged his Olympic quarterfinal loss to Lakshya Sen with a 19-21, 21-18, 21-15 victory.

Lakshya ran out of gas in the decider as Chen raced to a 12-2 lead at the halfway stage. It was difficult for Lakshya to claw back despite a four-point burst from 6-15 to 10-15.

Kiran George lost to fifth seed Jonathan Christie of Indonesia 17-21, 8-21. Malvika Bansod faltered against Ratnachan Intanon of Thailand 15-21, 8-21. Unni Hooza went down to Michelle Li of Canada 10-21, 19-21 and second seed Han Yue of China drubbed Aakarshi Kashyap 21-9, 21-8. In mixed doubles, Chinese fourth seeds Cheng Xiang and Zhang Chi trounced Sathi Kumar Karunakaran and Aadya Varyiath 21-12, 21-15.

### Three Indians in last eight

Three Indians — Tanvi Sharma, Aalisha Naik in women's singles and Pranay Shettigar in men's singles — advanced to the quarterfinals of the World junior (U-19) badminton in Nanchang, China.

**RESULTS (POFs):** Men — Pranay Shettigar bt Eak Nath Kitkappa (Tha) 21-14, 21-17; Women — Tanvi Sharma bt Niina Mats





with



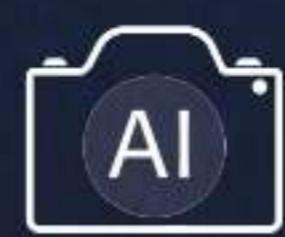
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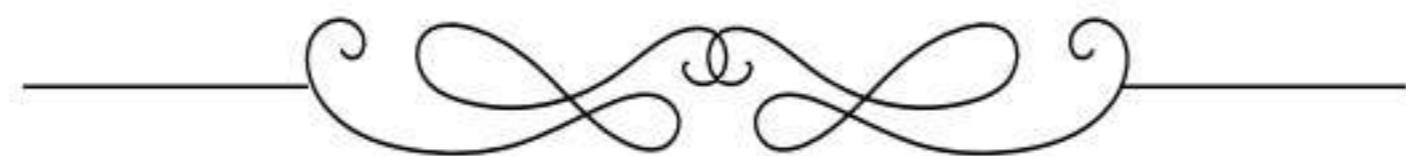
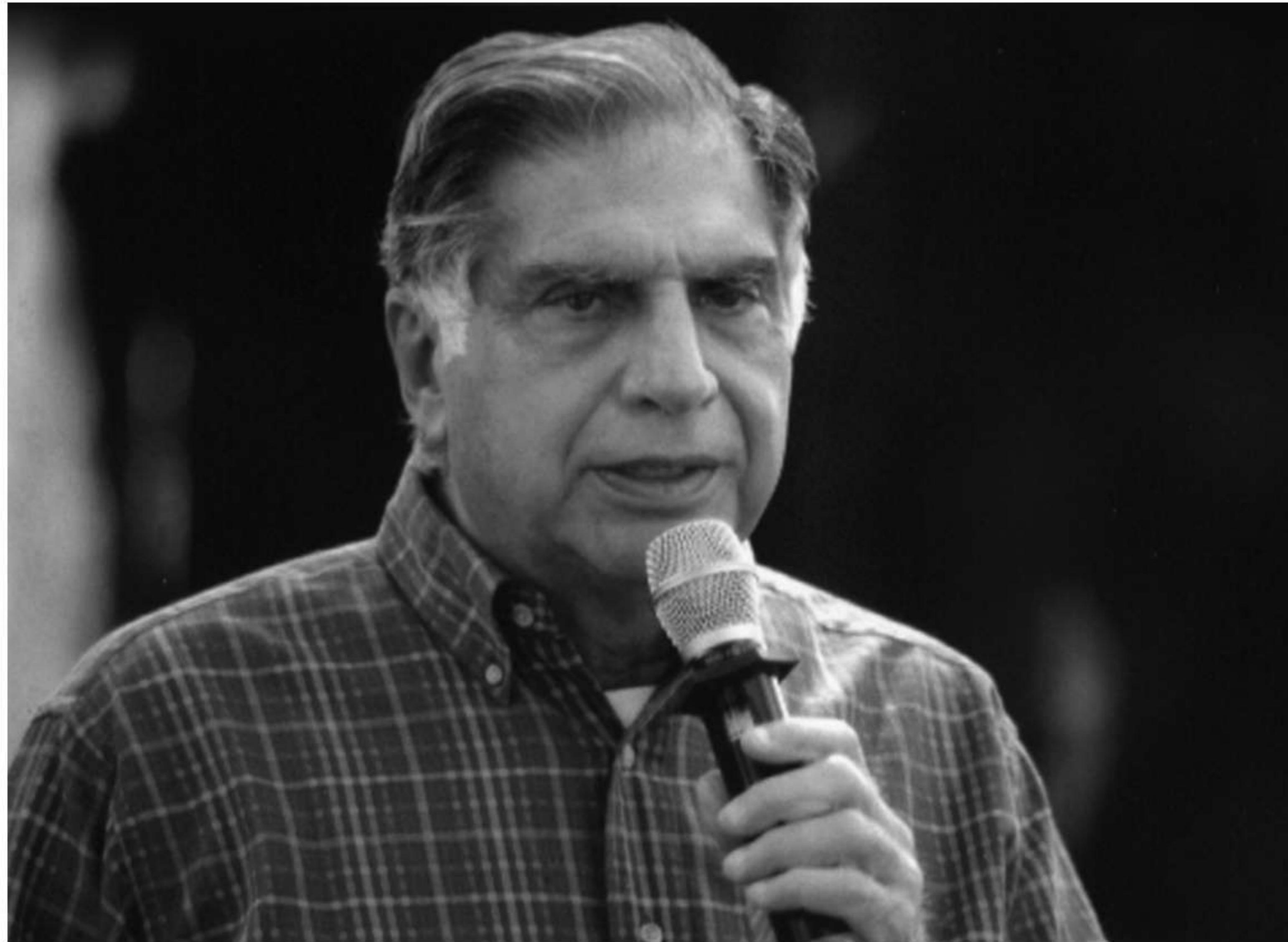
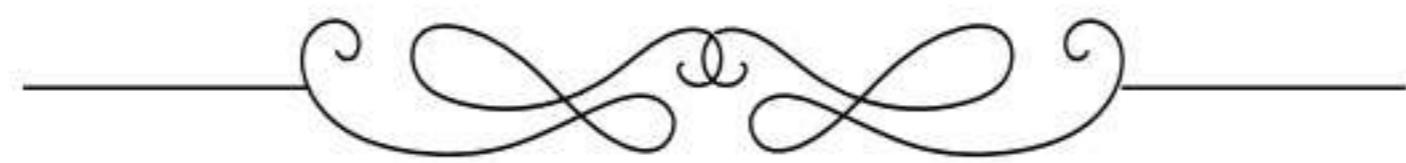
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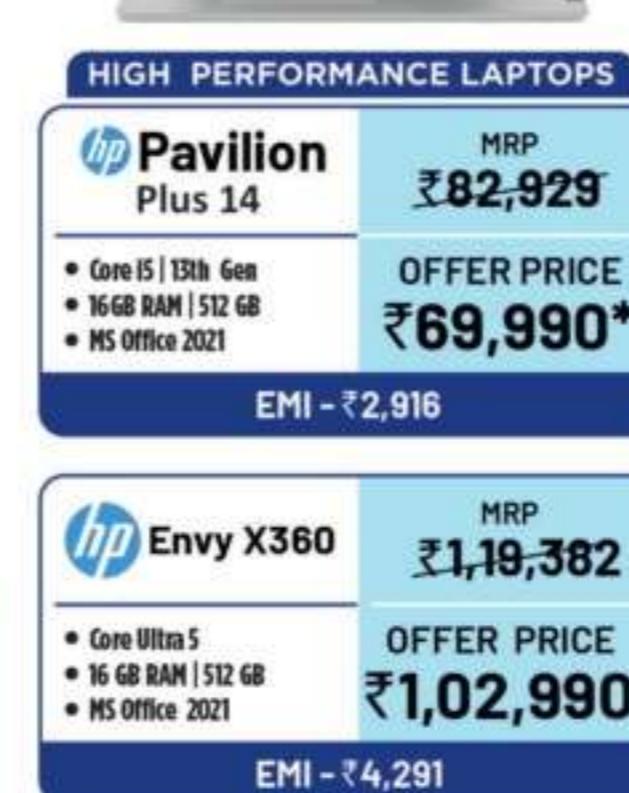
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