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Sports

Fatima Sana to return home after father's demise

MONEY

UPI transactions volume rises 52% to 78.97 bn in Jan-Jun

**Edit** Hard to say Tata to Ratan **P.8****Cinema** Stars salute a star **P.14****FINAL ADIEU** Thousands pay tribute; funeral held as per the Parsi traditions

ALVIDA BHARAT 'RATAN'

Last rites were performed at Mumbai's Worli Crematorium

Ketan Narottam Tanna
MUMBAI

In the vibrant and often frenetic streets of Mumbai, life typically marches forward with relentless energy. However, there are moments when the city collectively holds its breath, and on Thursday there was one such poignant pause.

As the news of Ratan Tata's passing reverberated through the urban expanse, Mumbai came to a standstill, enveloped in sorrow. It had been years since the city expressed such deep communal grief—memories of tears shed for the nightingale Lata Mangeshkar and the founder-chief of the Shiv Sena Bal Thackeray are still fresh in the minds of many. But this day transcended ordinary life; it was a moment for the city to unite in its love and respect for a man affectionately known as 'Aapno Ratan' (Our Ratan) by the Parsi community.

► Continued on | P6



Police personnel drape mortal remains of Ratan Tata in the National Flag, kept at NCPA lawns for public to pay last respects in Mumbai on Thursday

1937-2024

● An era has just passed away... his humility, his great resolve, his vision and his determination to accomplish the very best for the Nation, ever a pride
■ Amitabh Bachchan

In his life, and demise, Mr Ratan Tata has moved the nation. I was fortunate to spend time with him, but millions, who have never

met him, feel the same grief that I feel today. Such is his impact. Your legacy will continue to live through the institutions you built and values that you embraced
■ Sachin Tendulkar

He leaves an extraordinary business and philanthropic legacy and was instrumental in mentoring and developing the modern

business leadership in India. He deeply cared about making India better.
■ Sundar Pichai

He inspired seasoned professionals and young students alike. His contribution to philanthropy and charity is invaluable. I convey my condolences to his family, the entire team of the Tata Group and his admirers

across the globe
■ President Droupadi Murmu

He was much more than a business icon, his vision and humanity demonstrated in the work of several charities founded and nurtured during his life. He was having the courage of speaking the truth to the men in power.
■ Manmohan Singh

'HOW TO AVOID CORRUPTION?'

A industrialist once asked Ratan Tata, "How do you avoid corruption?" To which, he replied, "It has to be self-regulating. You will never understand."

'Goa' refuses to let go

Wagging its tail non-stop, 'Goa' the dog with a red collar refused to leave Tata's side, literally clinging to the spot next to the casket. A caretaker said Goa was very close to Tata.

LAST WORDS...

On Monday, the industrialist had in a social media post debunked the rumours circulating around his health, with a message for his followers:

'Thank you for thinking of me'

Poore vatan ka Ratan



Government bans Hizb-ut-Tahrir

Says pan-Islamic group aims to establish caliphate

PTI
NEW DELHI

The government on Thursday banned Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT), a global pan-Islamic group set up in Jerusalem in 1953, saying the organisation aims to establish Islamic state and caliphate globally, including in India, through jihad & terrorist activities.

In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said the HuT is involved in radicalisation and motivation of gullible youth to join terrorist organisations

join terrorist organisations.

Later, the office of Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in a post on X, "Pursuing PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, the MHA today declared 'Hizb-ut-Tahrir' as a 'Terrorist Organisation'."

► Continued on | P6

fp Briefs

NEW DELHI

Decline in child marriages

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has come out with a comprehensive annual report for 2023-24 on prohibition of child marriage in India. NCPCR has prioritised the issue of child marriage which has resulted in a significant impact as during this period, reporting of child marriages has increased while the number of cases has shown a notable decline.

KOLKATA

Docs continue fast unto death

The junior doctors, agitating over the rape and murder of their colleague at the RG Kar hospital, continued their fast unto death for the fifth day on Thursday amid Durga Puja festivities across West Bengal.

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Brijbhai Pateriya resigns as MLA



a local doctor on Thursday.

Pateriya represented Deori Assembly constituency in Sagar district.

Interacting with Free Press, Pateriya said a man named Dhan Singh Yadav, aged 70 to 80 years, resident of Medki vil-

lage had died due to snake bite. "He was a poor person. When his family took the body for autopsy then doctor Deepak Dubey said that he will mention snake bite in the report when the victim's family will pay 10 per cent of the Rs 4 lakh compensation. When the family expressed inability in meeting the bribe demand, the accused doctor had not mentioned snake bite in the post-mortem report."

► Continued on | P6

Literature

Nobel for Han Kang, South Korean author



AP
STOCKHOLM

South Korean author Han Kang was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature Thursday for what the Nobel committee called "her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life." Nobel committee chairman Anders Olsson praised Han's "physical empathy for the vulnerable, often female lives" of her characters.

R 1,814 CR MD DRUG HAUL

MD drug worth Rs 7,500 cr produced in last 6 months

OUR STAFF REPORTER
BHOJPUR

MD drug worth around Rs 7,500 crore in international market was produced in last 6 months in the Bhopal factory, said officials on Thursday. Factory was busted by ATS Gujarat & Narcotics Control Bureau's Delhi unit on Sunday. Around 907 kg MD, both in liquid and solid forms, worth Rs 1,814 crore in international market too was seized during the raid.

SOCIAL MEDIA AS SCHOOL

Among the two arrested accused, Sanyal Bane had an idea about preparing the drug. Amit Chaturvedi had the knowledge of chemistry and trading license. For first three months, the duo set up the fac-

Indore was first choice

Amit Chaturvedi, Sanyal Bane and Harish Arjana met in Indore and chalked plan to set up a factory. However, they were unsure of the site. They initially wanted to base it in Indore. After failing to find a suitable site in Indore, they turned to Bhopal. Chaturvedi finalized the place and the factory came into being.

tory in Bhopal. Following failure of initial bid to make the drug, the duo turned to social media or internet to learn 'trick of the trade'.

► Continued on | P6

Kishore Kanyal becomes Sheopur collector

Jangid made collector of Niwari

Our Staff Reporter
BHOJPUR

The collector of Sheopur has been transferred before the announcement of date for the by-election in Vijaypur assembly constituency.

Sheopur collector Lokesh Kumar Jangid was posted as collector of Niwari on Thursday. Likewise, deputy secretary of the forest department Kishore Kanyal was shifted as collector of Sheopur.

The collector of Niwari Arun Kumar Vishwakarma was transferred to Madhya Pradesh State Agricultural Marketing Board as its additional director.

Kanyal who was the collector of Shajapur made some offensive remarks against a truck driver. Consequently, he was removed from there in January.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed anger at the statement of Kanyal saying his government would not tolerate such a language.

Apart from that, Saumya Anand was posted as assistant collector of Shahdol, Kartikeya Jaiswal as assistant collector of Balaghat and Vishal Dhakad as assistant collector of Dhar district.

CM launches Sampada-2.0 for e-registration, e-stamp



CM Mohan Yadav launches Sampada-2.0 at Kushabhu Thakre Convention (Minto Hall) on Thursday.

Our Staff Reporter
BHOJPUR

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday launched Sampada-2.0 portal for e-registration and e-stamp at Kushabhu Thakre convention (Minto Hall).

CM said that Sampada-2.0 had been integrated with revenue department, Urban Development Administration (UAD) department, GST and Unique Identity (ID).

Collector guideline rate would be available through App and property GIS mapping, biometric identification, document formatting would be done through software.

► Continued on | P6

Tête-à-tête with Chakrawat

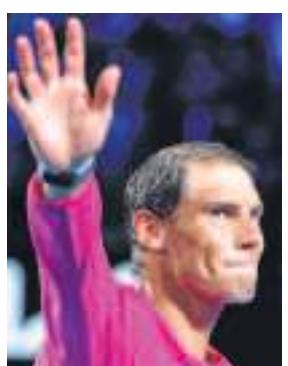
C talked to Hong Kong-based Surendra Chakrawat about Sampada-02. Chakrawat got power of attorney registered in Ratlam along with Dr Shakti Malik, 78, of Jabalpur who lives in New Delhi.

CM said that Sampada-2.0 had been integrated with revenue department, Urban Development Administration (UAD) department, GST and Unique Identity (ID).

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► Continued on | P6

Rafael Nadal to take a bow



Haridev Pushparaj
MUMBAI

An entire generation grew up on the enthralling exploits of Rafael Nadal for the better part of the last two decades but now the great man has called time on his illustrious career. The Davis Cup finals next month to be played in Malaga, Spain, will be the theatre for Nadal's final exhibition of his astute prowess on the tennis court.

With 22 Grand Slam singles titles under his belt, the Spanish giant was one of the holy trinity of world tennis or the so-called Big Three with Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic completing the frame.

See sports page

PM meets counterparts from Japan, NZ in Laos



PM Narendra Modi with world leaders during 21st ASEAN-India Summit in Vientiane

Discusses cooperation in different areas

ASEAN-INDIA SUMMIT

counterpart Shigeru Ishiba here during which they discussed ways to enhance cooperation in different areas, including infrastructure, connectivity and defence.

Separately, Prime Minister Modi also met his New Zealand counterpart Christopher

Luxon on the margins of the ASEAN-India Summit in Vientiane. Modi, who is in the Lao capital on a two-day visit, met Ishiba on the sidelines of the 21st ASEAN-India Summit and congratulated him on his new responsibility and wished him success in leading Japan to greater heights.

► Continued on | P6

milestone

Country's 100 richest surpass \$1tn

Online Report

The collective wealth of India's 100 richest tycoons surpassed the trillion dollar milestone for the first time as more than 80 per cent of the country's richest tycoons are now wealthier than they were a year ago, a Forbes report showed on Thursday.

In a record-breaking year, India's wealthiest are now worth \$1.1 trillion, more than twice as rich as they were in 2019, according to the Forbes list of India's top 100 billionaires. Mukesh Ambani, chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries, has once again secured the top spot on Forbes' 2024 list of

India's 100 richest tycoons, with his wealth increasing by \$27.5 billion over the past year. Ambani's total net worth now stands at an impressive \$119.5 billion, making him not only India's richest individual but also the second-largest gainer in dollar-terms globally in 2024. This achievement also places him as the 13th ri-

chest person in the world. Following closely behind is Gautam Adani, chairman of the Adani Group, who emerged as the biggest gainer on the 2024 list. His wealth skyrocketed by \$48 billion, reaching \$116 billion, marking a significant recovery from the Hindenburg Research controversy in 2023.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a "very productive" meeting with newly-appointed Japanese



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Memories of Tata's flying visit to Indore will last a lifetime

Arsh Rafik Visal

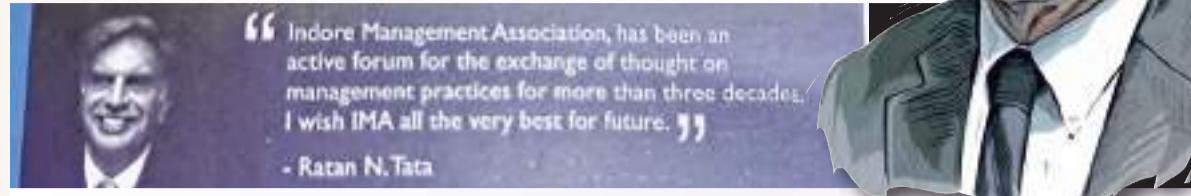
INDORE
We Indoreans are very keen to be No 1 in all aspects and Sanghi Brothers of the city was the first dealership of Tata Motors in the country which now has showrooms in many cities.

Ratan Tata's visit to Indore was only for a few hours, decades ago, but now it has become a memory that will last for time immemorial.

On the request of Sharad Sanghi, a well-known name in the automobile world, Ratan Tata himself came to inaugurate Sanghi Brothers' Lasudiya showroom on November 25 1996.

He came to Indore for just a few hours and left a different impression due to his simplicity and his easy-going style with the employees.

At that time, Ratan Tata came to Tata Export Company in Dewas. Sanghi Motors had a big showroom and service centre in Lasudiya area. He expressed his desire to see it and also visited the showroom located at Manoramaganj for fifteen minutes, said former Sanghi Motors senior em-



Tata honoured with IMA Life Time Achievement Award in 2009

Iconic industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata whose death has saddened the whole country, was honoured by the city in 2009. Indore Management Association (IMA) gave him the 'Life Time Outstanding Achievement Award' in its International Management Conclave held at Abhay Prashal. Santosh Muchhal, of IMA informed that due to some reason Tata could not come to receive the award and Ravi Kant, Managing Director, of Tata Motors had received the award on his behalf.



Ratan Tata giving a trophy to Narayan Sumrani in an in-house function of TATA company. In the middle is Mr. Shyam Mani, the CEO of commercial vehicles, Tata Motors

ployee Narayan Sumrani. He joined Sanghi Brothers(Indore) Pvt Ltd. in the sales department in 1969 and retired three years back

as a Director in Ms Arpijai Fabricators Pvt Ltd, (fabricating bus bodies), a sister concern of Sanghi Brothers "Seeing his sudden visit,

Sanghi Motors management organised an informal programme to hand over certificates to those four officers and employees who had been in the showroom for more than 25 years," at the hands of Ratan Tata he said.

Narayan Sumrani who himself was one of the recipients said, "when Ratan Tata Sir gave us the certificates, I asked him for his signature on the certificate but there was only the name of Sanghi Sir so he took the certificate overturned it and gave a signature beside it along with a message."

Sumrani said that one of his colleagues wanted to get Ratan ji's autograph and offered him a tissue. So he

signed on the tissue paper and gave it to him.

Ratan Tata who himself was an architect, asked about the architecture of the showroom in detail. He took many details from the load capacity of the lift to the interiors reflecting the profound impact he had on people's lives.

"In another memory, during one conference in Pune, there was a queue for food along the food counters and we saw that Ratan Ji was also following the queue and standing in between us. We asked him to step ahead but he told us that he will follow the queue. This shows his humbleness and simplicity. He was a great personality," he added.

EURASIAN GROUP | 41st meeting of Plenary & Working Group from Nov 25 to 29

Meeting on money laundering, terror financing to be held in city

Our Special Correspondent

INDORE

The crucial 41st meeting of the Eurasian Group Plenary and Working Group (EAG) will be organised in the city from November 25 to 29 at Brilliant Convention Centre. About 150 delegates from 9 countries will be participating in the five-day meeting. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Ministers of the member countries and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav will also participate in the meeting. EAG deals with issues of combating money laundering and financing of terrorism.

A meeting over the ar-



rangements of the internationally significant meeting of the EAG was held here on Thursday. Smarak Swain, Director in Union Finance Ministry also joined the meeting virtually from New Delhi. From the city Collector Asheesh Singh, IMC commissioner Shivam Verma, CEO Smart City Divyank Singh, CEO of District Panchayat Siddharth Jain, additional collectors Gourav Beniwal, Jayoti Sharma and Roshan Rai were present. Swain briefed about the meeting. Collector Singh also highlighted the prepara-

tions being made. He also assigned duties to the officers and instructed them to complete the preparations within the time.

Getting the chance of hosting the meeting of EAG in the city is not only a matter of honour for the city, but for the whole state.

The foreign delegates will be welcomed at Devhi Ahilyabai Holkar Airport as per Indian tradition. A reception counter will also be set up there. Cultural programmes will also be organised in the honour of the guests. For the

smooth organisation of the event a control room will also be set up.

EAG is Associate Member of FATF

The Eurasian Group on combating money laundering and financing of terrorism (EAG) is a Financial Action Task Force (FATF) style regional body which comprises 9 countries-Belarus, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, India, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. EAG is an associate member of the FATF. The EAG was established in 2004 and is cur-

rently an associate member of the FATF. The EAG was created for the countries of the Eurasian region not included in the existing FATF-style regional groups and is intended to play an important role in reducing the threat of international terrorism and ensure the transparency, reliability and security of the financial systems of states and their further integration into the international infrastructure for combating money laundering and terrorism financing (AML/CFT). The creation of the group coincided with the launch of efforts to create conditions for the formation and development of effective anti-money-laundering systems in the region.

Medicinal saplings planted at CSWT Campus



Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

Central School of Weapons & Tactics (CSWT), Border Security Force and an Ayurvedic products manufacturing FMCG company jointly planted medicinal plants at the BSF Campus on Wednesday. The plantation drive was conducted under the leadership of Rajan Sud, Deputy In-

spector General, CSWT BSF Indore.

All Officers, Subordinate Officers and Jawans of the Institute and Vijay Pandey, members of the company took part in the plantation drive. During this event more than 300 medicinal saplings were planted. The programme is aimed at providing better environment through enhanced aforestation inside the campus.

Gram Sabhas held in 45 villages as part of Vigilance Awareness Week

Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

As part of the Vigilance Awareness Week celebrations, Gram Sabhas were conducted in 45 villages across the district to promote the theme of "Culture of integrity, for nation's prosperity". These sessions were aimed at fostering transparency, accountability and active public participation in local governance.

The event focused on raising awareness about corruption, encouraging ethical practices, and discussing ways

to strengthen vigilance mechanisms at the grassroots level. The villagers were educated on the importance of upholding integrity in public service and maintaining vigilance in their daily lives.

In these meetings, the significance of citizen involvement in reporting irregularities was highlighted, and tools to facilitate such actions were introduced. Participants were encouraged to work together for the betterment of the community, ensuring a corruption-free and transparent system of governance.

Indoreans recall Tata's humbleness, philanthropy and inspiring nature

Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

We joined millions of Indians in mourning the sad demise of Ratan Tata, an extraordinary leader, visionary, and philanthropist.

RRCAT remembers the interaction and his keen interest in the Lab-to-Land translation of RRCAT's

We have lost a giant of the industry. Our association with Tata Chemicals spans 82 years and Ratan Tata was much more than a great industrialist—he was an exceptional philanthropist and a remarkable human being. It was these qualities that propelled him to such great heights.

His approach to handling crises was unique; after the Taj Hotel attack, he personally visited every affected household. After his demise, many industrialists reached out to us, offering their condolences due to our long-standing connection with Tata Chemicals.

- Unmesh D Malshe
Director RRCAT

- Sushil Sureka

Former general secretary Ahilya Chamber of Commerce and Industries

Ratan Tata's integrity and honesty have propelled him to great heights. He undoubtedly deserves international recognition as well. He was instrumental in taking the

Indian market to the global stage. Every project he undertook was met with success, a testament to his vision and leadership."

- Manoharlal Dalal
Senior advocate

Ratan Tata was not only an industrialist but also an inspiration to many. His contributions are beyond words.

Despite being such a prominent business tycoon, he always remained humble and connected with people from all walks of life, regardless of age, gender, or status. I would like to pay tribute to him, as his qualities set him apart from others."

- Rameshwar Gupta
Ex ADM Indore, President Abhyas Mandal Indore

4 caught consuming liquor near airport parking

Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

the relevant section of the Excise Act.

Aerodrome police station in-charge Rajesh Sahu informed Free Press that four youths were in a car and they were caught while consuming liquor there. The security officials of the airport spotted them and they later informed the police. Preliminary investi-

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1934-2012

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अद्वितीय

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अरण-प्रज्ञान सर्वीस, विद्यु-परिवर्य नेहरा, पालक-विद्युत अरोरा, गोपी-पुरी अरोरा, विन करा (पुणे एवं पुत्रवाडी)
अद्वितीय अरोरा (प्रकृतीपौर), जायगाम अरोरा, सारांश अरोरा, विन करा (पुणे एवं पुत्रवाडी)

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FOOD SAFETY | Saunf laced with harmful colours supplied from Gujarat

Over 750 kg spurious 'saunf' seized in Siyaganj

Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

In a significant operation ahead of the festive season, food safety officers in Indore seized 750 kg of spurious fennel seeds (saunf) suspected to be laced with harmful colour additives, on Thursday.

The fennel, which was reportedly imported from Unjha, Gujarat, was confiscated during a surprise inspection of Mahalaxmi Traders in Siyaganj. The seized stock, valued at Rs 97,500 has been sent for testing to determine its safety and compliance with food standards.

This action is part of a broader crackdown on sub-standard and unsafe food products in the district. As festive demand for items such as milk, sweets, namkeen, oil, and spices increases, additional collector Gaurav Benal, under the direction of collector Asheesh Singh, has formed three teams of food safety officers to intensively inspect food manufacturing, sale, and transportation across Indore.

Daily inspections and mobile testing

Teams of food safety officers are conducting daily inspections in both urban and rural areas. On Thursday, officers collected samples of mawakatl from Bhairav Nath Gujarati Kadhi Pafda in Nehru Nagar, as well as mawapeda and malai-barfi from Shri Charbhujia Sweets. In addition, food items at 10 establishments in Nehru Nagar were tested on the spot using a mobile food testing lab.



FSOs seize spurious fennel seeds from

10 pharma units checked in Rau and Rangwasa areas

Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

In light of the seizure of a bulk amount of contraband drugs being manufactured in a pharmaceutical unit in Bhopal, a drive to check pharmaceutical units started in the district on Thursday. On the first day, 10 units were checked.

Collector Asheesh Singh constituted inspection teams of industrial units to prevent drugs and synthetic drugs

with the potential for abuse. In compliance with the instructions of Collector Singh, today 10 industrial institutions were inspected by a joint inspection team of ACP Rau Rubina Mizwani, tehsildar Rau Narayan Nandeda, drug inspector Anumehha Vivek Kaushal, Alkesh Yadav and manager District Trade and Industry Center Manoj Shukla under the leadership of SDM Rau Vinod Rathore in Rau Rangwasa Industrial Area.

Products that did not meet quality standards were sampled for further analysis," senior food safety officer Manish Swami said.

Ensuring food quality and hygiene

Swami added that establishment operators were advised on maintaining proper hygiene, conducting regular medical checkups for employees, ensuring compliance with pest management systems, and testing raw materials and finished products to guarantee food safety," he said. All collected samples will be sent to the State Food Testing Laboratory in Bhopal for detailed examination, with legal action to follow based on the results. The Food Safety Administration will continue its stringent monitoring to ensure the availability of safe and quality food during the festival season.

Panchayat officer caught accepting Rs 2K bribe

Our Staff Reporter

INDORE/MHOW

Indore Lokayukta Police caught a coordinating officer at Janpad Panchayat Mhow while he was allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 2,000 on Thursday.

The bribe was taken from secretary of gram panchayat Choradia, in connection with a legal case concerning a parking contract at the Patalpani tourist spot.

Secretary Ravindra Chandrayan had lodged a complaint with Lokayukta police against janpad coordinating officer Munna Lal Yadav alleging that the latter demanded a bribe in exchange for handling legal fees related to an ongoing court case.

The case involves a parking contract awarded to Kapil Joshi for Rs 3,00,000, which was later cancelled by the Janpad Panchayat. The cancellation led Joshi to file a lawsuit, and Yadav allegedly sought the bribe to cover the costs for the government advocate representing the panchayat.

After verifying the complaint, Lokayukta Police set up a trap on Thursday. Yadav was caught red-handed while taking the bribe in his office at the janpad panchayat. A case has been registered against him under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Amendment Act, 2018.

Cheque of Rs 50 lakh given to deceased ASI's family

Police officer was killed on duty after being hit by a truck

Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

A cheque of Rs 50 lakh was given to the family members of ASI Govind Singh Chauhan, posted in 15th Battalion of the Special Armed Force who was killed after being hit by a truck in Barwani district, on Thursday.

He was deployed on duty for law and order in Thikri when he was hit by the truck on August 12. While checking the vehicles carrying cattle illegally and suspicious vehicles, he was hit by a truck around 1 am and died during treatment.

As per the contract be-



tween Police Headquarters Bhopal and State Bank of India under the Police Salary Package, a provision has been made to provide Rs 50 lakhs to his wife Shashi Chauhan and paid tribute to the deceased by presenting a shawl to his family as condolence. Sinha informed that at present this amount for personal accident has been increased from Rs 50 lakhs to Rs 1 crore as per the decision taken recently. The policemen of the 15th Battalion present on this occasion also expressed condolences to Chauhan's family.

Metro MD inspects priority corridor

Indore: Metro managing director conducted a field inspection on Thursday of the progress of the entire Indore Metro Priority Corridor. He conducted a field inspection of 16 stations (from Gandhinagar to Malviya Nagar Square) under the 17 km Priority Corridor. During the inspection all the subjects related to the Indore Metro Priority Corridor were discussed in detail with the officers of various departments of Metro, project contractors such as civil (station, depot, viaduct), system (rolling stock, signalling, traction, telecom etc.), general consultant. He also took a meeting with all the concerned officers and contractors regarding the weekly progress of the Indore Metro Priority Corridor.

English subject applicants can apply till Oct 29

Our Staff Reporter

INDORE

All results of all eight subjects of Assistant Professor Recruitment Exam which was held on June 9 are out, Madhya Pradesh Public Service

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR RECRUITMENTS

Commission (MPPSC) has initiated the interview process for successful candidates.

Candidates from the English subject, whose results were released on October 8, have until October 29 to submit their applications and documents without a late fee.

Document submission deadlines subject-wise

History and Hindi:
October 16
Mathematics and Commerce: October 18
Botany: October 25
English: October 29

NMDC 66th AGM Chairman Message

FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

Responsible Mining

Scientific | Sustainable | Spreading Smiles

and the infrastructure that ensures education, healthcare and opportunities for all.

This strong legacy is built by a committed workforce. We classify the health, safety, and dignity of NMDC employees as a top priority. Robust vigilance structures, safety protocols, access to grievance redressal along with the freedom to associate and engage in collective bargaining has nurtured a progressive and empowering workplace.

On Formation Day 2023, NMDC instituted the 'CND Excellence Awards to celebrate and honour the exceptional contributions of our employees, who are the driving force behind our company's progress.'

Corporate Governance

NMDC upholds the highest standards of corporate governance and ensures transparency, accountability, and integrity in all our operations. Corporate governance is not just a regulatory requirement but a fundamental pillar of our culture, guiding our actions and decisions to create long-term value for our stakeholders.

Towards Progress and Prosperity

As we progress further into the era of NMDC 2.0, we are gearing up to deliver 50 million tonnes of iron ore in FY25. Our journey from hereon will be guided by an ambitious growth strategy. We are investing in capacity expansion and new infrastructure to augment our production capacity to 72 million tonnes from our existing iron ore mines, while also developing the NCL (NMDC-CMD Limited) JV mines to contribute another 28 million tonnes. Leveraging on our intrinsic strengths and constraint optimization are the two drivers for realisation of our vision to achieve a 100 million tonnes production capacity by 2030.

This narrative aligns with the National Steel Policy's vision to enhance India's steel production capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030. NMDC's 100 million tonnes



would account for a quarter of the ~430 million tonnes of raw material required to reach that target.

Towards becoming a 100 million tonnes mining company, NMDC is transforming its approach to machinery, material and manpower planning. Innovation and digitalization are key tenets of this transformation. A steady intent is driving our investment in intelligent equipment and cutting-edge mining systems, such as Automatic Sampling, Fleet Management, and Rapid Wagon Loading. These technologies ensure the highest standards of productivity and efficiency, positioning us among the global mining powerhouses.

The accomplishments of NMDC find a unified representation in our new logo, unveiled in August, 2023. This logo heralds a new era of responsibility at NMDC, conveying the spirit of NMDC 2.0.

We convey our sincere gratitude to the Government of India for their constant support in creating an enabling environment that fosters growth and innovation in our industry. To our valued customers, banks, shareholders, associates, and global partners, I express my deepest gratitude for your trust, collaboration, and continued partnership. Together, we have overcome challenges and achieved iconic milestones. I am confident that with our collective effort, we will continue to thrive. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to the journey of NMDC.

Our achievements for FY24 are commendable, but the path ahead beckons with both promise and challenge. Our compass points north - toward innovation, sustainability, shared purpose and a 100 million tonnes strong future.

Jai Hind

Amitava Mukherjee
CMD (Additional Charge)

Excerpt from the CMD Speech at 66th AGM of NMDC held on September 27, 2024.

एनएमडीसी



Regd. Office: Kharji Bhawan, 10-3-311/A, Castle Hills,

Mesai Tank, Hyderabad - 500028, India. www.nmdc.com

Physical and Financial Performance

During the year under review, NMDC registered its best ever physical performance as it produced 45.02 million tonnes and sold 44.48 million tonnes of iron ore. The company recorded a 10% growth in production and 10% growth in sales compared to FY23 volumes. It translated into a strong financial performance earning a revenue of Rs. 21,294 crores in FY24, which is a 21% increase from the revenue generated in FY23. Strategic financial planning and pricing mechanisms led to a Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 5,632 crores and Profit Before Tax (PBT), before exceptional items, of Rs. 8,294 crores in FY24, realizing an upswing of 2% in PAT and 30% in PBT over CPLY. For FY24, NMDC's EBITDA stood at Rs. 8,709 crores representing a 28% growth from the previous financial year. The company's operating profit margin in 2023-24 was 34%. Company's highest-ever capital expenditure of Rs. 2,066 crores was expended towards capacity building in FY24, which was 17% more than the capex target. Rs. 1,769 crores, NMDC's standalone net worth (post the demerger of NSL) crossed the Rs. 25,000 crore mark in FY24, reinforcing the company's financial stability and its capacity to invest in growth and generate value for stakeholders.

Response to Climate Change

NMDC plans to leverage and enhance its sustainable and efficient mining legacy to meet the evolving needs of the environmentally conscious customers and align with India's goal of achieving Net Zero Emissions by 2070. NMDC's response to climate change includes initiatives such as energy efficiency, renewable energy adoption, waste reduction, and carbon capture and storage.

66th AGM

NMDC's 66th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on September 27, 2024, at the NMDC Auditorium, Kharji Bhawan, Hyderabad. The meeting was attended by shareholders, management, and guests. The agenda included the election of directors, approval of financial statements, and discussion on the company's performance and future prospects.

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FESTIVALS

Local holidays declared

Collector Neeraj Kumar Singh has declared local holidays for festivals in the sub-divisions of the district for the year 2024. As per the order, there will be a local holiday on Friday, October 11 in Khachrod and Nagda sub-divisions on the occasion of Durga Ashtami/Navami. Similarly, the collector declared a local holiday on November 1, the second day of Diwali, in Ujjain, Ghatiya, Khachrod, Mahidpur, Badnagar and Nagda divisions.

**NANAKHEDA National Postal Day celebrated**

A programme was organised at the Secondary School Nanakheda on the occasion of National Postal Day under the auspices of the organisation Nirjhar. Dr Rajesh Thakur, president of the organisation, presided over the event and emphasised the importance of postcards, stating that letter writing is an expression of human sentiment. The Indian Postal System is quite old and through it, letters and other materials reach from one corner of the country to another. Students expressed their commitment to write two postcards every year.

**MAHAVIR INTERNATIONAL 12 Veera members to participate in Dubai conference**

The international organisation, Mahavir International, is set to hold a conference named 'Amudha' for 125 female members from Veera centres across the country on October 16 at the India Club in Dubai. Ashok Bhandari, president of Indore-Bhopal region of the organisation, informed that 12 female Veera members from the region will be participating in the convention.

**BHARATIY COLLEGE Ishika selected for divisional cricket**

In the district-level cricket competition, organised by the higher education department, Ishika Patidar, a third-year BCom student from Bharatiy College, Ujjain secured her place in the divisional-level cricket competition with her outstanding performance. The student was awarded by Dr Hemant Gahlot, principal of GDC, during a ceremony held at Shastri Nagar Ground. Sports officer of the college, Neetu Patidar, informed that Ishika will represent the Ujjain division team as captain in the upcoming divisional-level cricket competition.

**VIDYA BHARATI Kanha selected for national wrestling**

In the Akhil Bharatiya Vidya Bharti Wrestling Competition held in Saharanpur, 'Bhaiya Pehalwan' Kanha Bagdi won the gold medal by securing first place in the 57 kg freestyle wrestling category. He will now represent Vidya Bharati at the SGFI national event in Delhi.

**4 train managers from Ujjain feted****FP News Service**

UJJAIN

The operations department at the Ratlam division railway office, on Thursday, honoured its employees with certificates of appreciation for their excellent railway service. On this occasion, four train managers from the Ujjain headquarters, RN Sharma, Pawan Chauhan, Sikandar Kumar and Ratan Kumar, along with five train managers and one vehicle controller from the Ratlam headquarters, were honoured by the

CM REVIEWS PREPS | Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar to be invited to inaugurate week-long event**Rs 3.1 crore sanctioned for Kalidas Samaroh****FP News Service**

UJJAIN

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar will be invited for the opening of week-long 66th Akhil Bharatiya Kalidas Samaroh, to be organised here from November 12. The state government has sanctioned a budget of Rs 3.10 crore for hosting the event featuring arts, culture and literature.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, on Thursday, reviewed the preparations of the Samaroh during a meeting of the central organising committee at Mantrala in Bhopal. Chief Secretary Anurag Jain, district minister in-charge Gautam Tetwal and non-government and official members along with prominent peoples' representatives of Ujjain attended the meeting physically and through virtual mode.

It was also decided Swami Govinddev Giri, Jagadguru Vidya Bhaskar, Jagadguru Ratne Prapannacharya and Shankar Abhyankar as special invitees for the opening and closing ceremonies. A sub-committee was formed to finalise the cultural events. During the Samaroh, Sanskrit Scholar from Indore Dr Mithila Prasad Tripathi will be conferred 'Shreshth Kriti Alankaran' while state-level Bhoj Award will be given to Gwalior's Prof Balkrishna Sharma. The winners of the National Kalidas Painting and Sculpture Competition will also be awarded during the



CM Mohan Yadav addresses central organising committee meeting of Kalidas Samaroh in Bhopal on Thursday FP Photo

Gudi Padwa to be celebrated in grand way

CM Yadav said that Gudi Padwa festival will be celebrated on March 30 in Ujjain as well as in the entire state as Vikram Parv "Srishti Aarambh Diwas". The culture department organises many events and festivals in the entire MP and outside the state. Reviewing the preparations for Vikramotsav-2025, he gave instructions on the outline of the event, cultural programmes, trade fair, exhibition, and Vichar Sammelan. He said that experts related to science and astronomy should be invited to Vikramotsav in the National Scientific Conclave. Akhil Bharatiya

programme.

Samaroh will be organised from November 12 to 18. It will begin with 'Vag Archana' at Gadkali temple on November 10. CM Yadav said that Sa-

march is organised every year in the Kalidas Sanskrit Academy premises for which a permanent structure should be built instead of a temporary structure.

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Meeting of Veer Bharat Nyas

CM Yadav told the members of Veer Bharat Nyas to make efforts to make the newly constructed museum in Ujjain an experiential and activity-based museum instead of a literature and traditional museum. Create content in an entertaining way using new technology. In this way, the youth will connect with the museum and it will become a centre of tourism in the country. Form a committee to give suggestions on content creation in the museum, he said. Yadav said that changing the name of the museum based on the subject of the galleries should also be considered. Make all required arrangements for stay of researchers coming to study the museum. Make a plan in collaboration with experts and organisations for the proposed road construction for the museum, he added.

27-km traditional 'Nagar Pooja' to be conducted today**FP News Service**

UJJAIN

Amid differing views on the dates, Maha Ashtami began on Thursday afternoon. While devotees gathered in temples for darshan, people at home performed the worship of the

MAHA ASHTAMI

goddess. Young girls were also worshipped, served meals and given gifts. According to practicing Brahmins, the Maha Ashtami began at 12:32 pm and will continue until 12:07 pm on October 11, after which Navami will start and last until 11 am on October 12. After that, the festival of Vijaya Dashami will be celebrated.

Meanwhile, Nagar Pooja (city worship) will be conducted at Chaubees Khamba Mata Man-

dir on Friday. Collector Neeraj Kumar Singh will begin the rituals by offering country-made liquor to Ma Mahamaya and Ma Mahalaya at 8 am. Following it, a team of officials and Kotwars, accompanied by drums and music, will proceed to worship the goddess and Bhairav temples within a 27-km radius. During this time, a continuous stream of liquor will flow from a pot as part of the ritual. At Shri Harsiddhi Temple, one of the 52 Shaktipeeths, official worship will take place on Maha Ashtami on Friday. The collector along with his wife will worship the goddess and offer her auspicious things, clothes, offerings and other sacred materials. Since government worship is held annually at this temple, the collector comes separately to perform the rituals.

CM reaches Devi Pandal in Jaisinghpura

CM Mohan Yadav reached Devi Pandal at Jaisinghpura, here on Thursday night, where he performed worship of the idol of Goddess Ambe amid full rituals. Extending wishes to the public, he said let Goddess Ambe keep everybody blessed and people celebrate Dussehra festival with joy. MLA Anil Jain Kaluheda and BJP president Vivek Joshi were among those present.

Oli rituals commence at Kharakuan Teerth**FP News Service**

UJJAIN

More than 200 men and women are participating in this year's Oli at the Shvetambar Jain community's Kharakuan Teerth. In the ritual, three types of Oli are observed: Varan, Khari and Uradi Oli.

Narendra Jain, secretary of Shri Rishabhdev Chhaganiram Pedhi Trust, stated that according to the Jain history, millions of years ago, the first worship of Siddhachakra took place in Ujjain, which cured Maharaja Shripal and 700 leprosy patients who were with him. In the ritual, the nine elements of Navpad – Arhant, Siddha, Acharya, Upadhyaya, Sadhu, Samyak Gyan, Samyak Darshan, Samyak Charitra and Samyak Tap are worshipped.

Though this worship is held



twice a year in every village or city across the country, the Jain community aspires to perform this nine-day ritual at least once in their lifetime at the Kharakuan Teerth in Ujjain. During the ritual, devo-

tees perform morning prayers in the temple and after listening to sermons, consume only one meal a day. This meal called Ayambil, consists of boiled food without milk, curd, ghee, oil, sugar or chilli.

Couple booked for 'breach of trust'**FP News Service**

UJJAIN

waha, who runs a seed store. The scheme involved daily collection of money with the promise of depositing it, offering good interest on the deposited amount and returning it with interest after maturity.

Both traders started giving daily amounts to Shailendra. When the maturity period ended, they asked him for the money and the latter gave them a cheque, which also bounced. The Central Kotwali police have registered a case of 'breach of trust' against the couple.

Kavindra (37), son of Sundarlal Burman, a resident of Arpita Colony, under Nanakheda police station, stated that he runs a grocery shop at Makshi Road vegetable market. In 2022, one Shailendra Malviya introduced himself as the collection officer of Shri Krishna Credit Cooperative Society Limited, located at Metro Talkies Lane. Shailendra explained a scheme to Kavindra and his neighbour, Vilas Kush-

Close shave for ex-corporator**COMPLAINT FILED 5 DAYS AFTER INCIDENT****FP News Service**

UJJAIN

A former corporator and hotelier, Guddu Kaleem, had a close shave when some unknown miscreants fired bullet shots at him. The incident reportedly occurred on October 4 but the victim filed a complaint only on October 9.

According to Neelganga police, Guddu Kaleem (60), son of Wazir Khan, a resident of Wazir Park Colony, came to the station on Wednesday with his nephew Arif Khan and lodged a report about the firing and injuries. He informed the police that on the morning of October 4, at 6 am, he was walking to the Hotel President located on Harifatak Road, as usual. As he reached Rushishree Garden, a white Ciaz car stopped about 10-20 meters in front of him. A masked young man sitting in the driver's seat got out of the car. As soon as he stepped out of the car, he fired a shot with a pistol. Kaleem saved himself from the bullet and started running. While fleeing, Guddu jumped into a drain to save his life. Injured Kaleem returned home and informed his family about the incident. When checked at a private hospital, it was found that his hand was broken. His family then took him to Indore for treatment. He filed the report at the police station five days after the incident.

He expressed suspicion toward Imran, the husband of his sister-in-law Shabina's daughter, Jini. According to Neelganga police, Guddu Kaleem (60), son of Wazir Khan, a resident of Wazir Park Colony, came to the station on Wednesday with his nephew Arif Khan and lodged a report about the firing and injuries. He informed the police that on the morning of October 4, at 6 am, he was walking to the Hotel President located on Harifatak Road, as usual. As he reached Rushishree Garden, a white Ciaz car stopped about 10-20 meters in front of him. A masked young man sitting in the driver's seat got out of the car. As soon as he stepped out of the car, he fired a shot with a pistol. Kaleem saved himself from the bullet and started running. While fleeing, Guddu jumped into a drain to save his life. Injured Kaleem returned home and informed his family about the incident. When checked at a private hospital, it was found that his hand was broken. His family then took him to Indore for treatment. He filed the report at the police station five days after the incident.

He expressed suspicion toward Imran, the husband of his sister-in-law Shabina's daughter, Jini. In the face of encroachment and traffic woes, Mhow's residents fervently urge authorities to unite in seeking a resolution.

Traffic arrangements in city markets have become so bad that complaints are being ignored. According to information, handcart vendors near Red Cross Hospital have started occupying the road.

mhow**Govt hospital's laxity exposed**

Expired and unexpired medicines found dumped together in storeroom

FP News Service

MHOW



Following this, the hospital's in-charge doctor, Dr Harraj Verma, issued notices to the heads of five departments.

A three-member team, including Dr Santoosh Sisodia, district stores in-charge Ingale and Jitendra from the district complaint branch, inspected the hospital for over two hours. They recorded statements from department heads and took photos of the expired and unexpired medicines found in

the store room. The team sought information on medicine expiration dates, issuance, and non-utilisation. They questioned why unused medicines weren't returned to storage and why the store in-charge didn't take note. Hospital in-charge Dr Verma stated that the three-member team from the district health department came for investigation and recorded statements from department heads.

The resultant inconvenience has begun to impinge upon the daily lives of residents, fostering frustration and dissatisfaction. Responsibility for alleviating these issues falls upon several bodies including the local police, Mhow Cantonment Board (MCB), SDM, and station headquarters.

However, their efforts appear disjointed, lacking the unified approach necessary to tackle the problem effectively.

Unlike in the past, senior officials seem conspicuously absent from the streets and

Mhow faces daunting traffic challenge**FP News Service**

MHOW

The dual menace of encroachment and congestion in Mhow has emerged as a pressing concern for its inhabitants, despite the oversight of multiple military and civilian authorities.

The once orderly streets of Mhow now paint a chaotic scene, cluttered with shopfronts encroaching onto thoroughfares and a deluge of parked cars lining the roadsides. This unchecked sprawl has significantly constricted passage, fostering frequent traffic snarls and gridlock.

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**Navratri celebration lights up St Mary's HS School****FP News Service**

MHOW

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EMPOWERED | Women are preventing child marriages, providing career guidance

Women who broke societal shackles as children, are now helping others do it

International Day of the Girl Child

OUR STAFF REPORTER

BHOPAL

Some young women in the city, as a child or teenager, rebelled against the norms imposed by families and society on the girl child. They fought hard to free themselves from their shackles. And now they are working to protect the rights of the girl child in their families, neighbourhood and society.

On the eve of the International Day of the Girl Child, Free Press spoke to three such women who shared their struggle, the challenges they faced and are still facing.

Excerpts:

'You have to overcome fear'

Twenty-four-year-old Nargis lost her father when she was a child. Her two brothers used to drive a rented auto-rickshaw and she and her three sisters stayed at home along with their mother. When she was 14, she happened to meet a group of social workers, who urged her to resist what she did not find right. The meeting changed her life. She not only refused to get married at a young age but even persuaded one of her relatives not to marry off his minor daughter. Having completed her masters in social work, she now works to stop child marriages. She also tells young girls about the POCSO Act and arranges meetings between teenage girls of her locality with policemen so that they are not afraid to approach the cops. "You have to overcome fear," she says.



'Joined Class 1 at age of 12'

As a child, Madhu (27), used to live in a slum cluster along the railway tracks near the Bhopal Railway Station. She and her sisters went rag-picking along with their mother. Their father had left them when she was 10. Her sisters were married off before they turned 16. Somehow, a social worker got her admitted to Class I at a school when she was 12.



'Moved to Bhopal for better opportunities'

Muskan (18) lived in a joint family in Bhupura Kalan village. The education of her cousins, like other girls in her village, was stopped after Class 10. The same would have happened with Muskan, but she insisted to move to Bhopal where she would get more opportunities. Her farmer parents had to relent and she joined a school in Bhopal in Class II. Now she is pursuing BA (Hon-

ours) in Political Science. She also persuaded the father of a friend to do the same. Her younger sisters are also now studying in Bhopal. "I want my brother to help me in cooking and I should be able to ride a bike like he does," she says. She now guides young about career opportunities, good and bad touch and about websites that they can use to enhance their knowledge.

'Gujarati Samaj organises Garba at Gujarati Bhavan on Thursday occasion of Navratri festival'



Gujarati Samaj organises Garba at Gujarati Bhavan on Thursday occasion of Navratri festival

'Our Staff Reporter'

BHOPAL

A large number of people belonging to the Gujarati commu-

nity presented garba, which enchanted the audience at Gujarati Bhavan in the city. They included women, men and children who were dressed in traditional attires

and presented garba on traditional Gujarati Garba songs. Around 500 people took part in the event. It was part of 'Navratri Utsav 2024', organised by

the Shree Gujarati Samaj. The theme of the fest was 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam'. Governor Mangubhai Patel was present as the chief guest on Thursday's per-

formance. President of the society Sanjay Patel said they have prepared around 500 saplings, which will be given to guests as well as garba participants.

Mohan impact in Haryana, 62% Yadavs vote for BJP

Our Staff Reporter

BHOPAL

The impact of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav's electioneering in the first assembly election after the parliamentary polls has come to light.

In Haryana, 62% of Yadavs voted for the BJP, and it came to light in a CSDS survey.

After the Brahmins and the Khatris, the Yadavs benefited the BJP in Ha-

rraya. The Congress got 25% of votes and other 11%. On the other hand, the BSP and the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD) got only 2%. There are many Yadav voters in the state.

Earlier, Yadav campaigned for the party candidates in the Yadav-dominated areas in UP and Bihar during the Lok Sabha election.

The Bihar Vidhan Sabha election will be held next year. Yadav may be asked to roll up his sleeves for it.

The BJP does not generally get the traditional Yadav votes in Bihar.

After Haryana, CM's activeness may benefit the ruling party in Bihar.

CSDS survey brings this fact to light

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Yadav votes in Bihar.

After Haryana, CM's activeness may benefit the ruling party in Bihar.

Buses checked, fine imposed

NARMADAPURAM

A team led by RTO Nisha Chouhan and DSP Santosh Mishra imposed a fine of Rs 11,500 for running buses at a high speed at Bhopal trisection in Narmadapuram city. The team also examined the

speed governor, various equipment and documents related to the bus.

The speed test of the bus was conducted with the help of the inspector's vehicle. During the inspection, it was found that seven buses did not have any speed governor. Such buses were stopped and

fined worth Rs 11,500. Likewise, one passenger bus found running in the wrong direction was confiscated and parked on the police station premises. Chouhan advised the bus operators to run their vehicles only after equipping the buses with speed governors.

district

Trial of train conducted on Satna-Panna-Nagod track

FP News Service

CHITRAKOOT

The much-awaited trial for running train on the Lalitpur-Singrauli track has begun on the Satna-Panna-Nagod track.

The project to run trains on the Lalitpur-Singrauli track has been going on for several years.

Now that the trial for running trains has begun, there are hopes that the project will soon be completed.

Commissioner of Railway Safety Department (Satna) in-

spected the railway tracks and asked the driver to run the train at a speed of 110km an hour.

According to sources, commissioner of railway central circle (rail safety), Manoj Arora, was present during the inspection of the tracks on Wednesday.

The inspection continued for nine hours. The trial of the special train was conducted on the Satna-Nagod-Panna rail track.

As the track is yet to be electrified, a diesel engine was used for the trial run, sources said.

The 11-km-long track will be completed in three months, sources further said.

Residents of Vaidik Vihar vow to keep colony polythene-free

FP News Service

NARMADAPURAM

The residents of Vaidik Colony have vowed before the idol of Goddess Durga to keep away from using single-use plastic and to plant saplings to maintain cleanliness in the area.

The residents took oath in the presence of the people's representatives during Mahashivratri of the goddess in a Pandal.

Chairperson of Nagar Palika Neetu Mahendra Yadav administered oath to the residents who presented Tulsi plants to the guests.

Rajya Sabha member Maya Narolia, Sohagpur legislator Vijaypal Singh, representative of legislator Mahendra Yadav and others were present on the occasion. Narolia said it was a welcome move to keep the colony clean as people keep their houses neat.

If such steps are taken, the city will be on top in the clean-

Devotee grows Jawars, other crops on his body, leaves food, water

FP news Service

UMARIA

A devotee of Goddess Durga has grown Jawars on his body in Rohnia village in the district during the Navratri festival and is doing penance before the deity.

He has given up on food and water. He takes only two drops of water offered to the deity, his family members said.

A large number of people flocked to the hamlet in Dev-

gama village Panchayat to see 40-year-old Bhaiyyal Kol who is doing penance before the goddess. On the day of Panchami (the fifth day of the full moon), the doors of his house were open to public.

Hundreds of people from nearby villages began to flock to his house to have a glimpse of the out-of-the-ordinary event.

The crops grown on his body will be offered to the deity at the Maihar temple on the ninth day of the festival.

Quack, untrained nurse help rape survivor deliver child

Our Staff Reporter

BHOPAL

The child, which was found in a plastic bag was delivered by a quack and an untrained nurse, said the police on Thursday. The premature baby of seven months was delivered and was thrown.

ACP Sunil Shrivastava said the minor girl was raped several times by her maternal cousin, who is also of the same age. The parents of the girl had separated some 10 years ago and for several times the girl remained alone at her home.

The brother of her mother also lives nearby and their family looked after the girl whenever she was alone.

One day, when the girl was alone at her home, her cousin came and raped her, after that he repeated the act and the girl became pregnant.

One day, when the girl com-

plained of severe pain in her stomach, the mother came to know that she got pregnant.

When the mother asked about the pregnancy, she told the mother about her ordeal.

The ACP added that the mother approached Firdos,

who actually works as a Dai.

The nurse said that the age of the girl is less (14) and she cannot perform abortion as the child had grown up.

The nurse suggested to take help of Surendra Nahar to abort the child. The quack found that the girl was seven-months pregnant. The quack arranged the delivery at the home of the girl and they helped the girl to deliver the child on Wednesday morning.

In the evening, the nurse abandoned the infant and fled. On Thursday, the infant died during the course of treatment.

The police have arrested the three and sent them to jail.

स्व. श्रीमती आशा रानी अरोरा
(पति - स्वर्गीय श्री मोहनलाल अरोरा)

1934-2012

अद्यानवर्त

जनर्म-सुखीता अरोरा, जनर्म-वताहाना अरोरा, मृदु-सुखीता बना (पुरुष एवं मुख्यमाने)
धीरक-आशुवी अरोरा, आलोक-यशस्वी अरोरा, उत्तम-सुख्या बना (पुरुष एवं मुख्यमाने)
सुनात-मुख्यमान अरोरा, राम-लिलित अरोरा, जया-पुरुषी उमाल (पुरुषी एवं मुख्यमाने)
अद्यान अरोरा, अद्यान अरोरा (पुरुषी एवं मुख्यमान), जययन अरोरा, आराजन अरोरा, रीत बना (पुरुषी एवं मुख्यमाने)
समर्पण अरोरा परीवार एवं सभी सम्बद्धया

सोम ग्रुप ऑफ कंपनीज

23, जेब-2, एम.पी. बाजार, झीलगांव-462011. Email: info@somindia.in

DEODAH

UNMET PROMISE: For 2024-25 academic year, school edu dept had planned to distribute 4.5 L bicycles to students

BRCs fail to deliver, no bicycles for students

Rishita Tomar
BHOPAL

The distribution of bicycles to 6th and 9th-class students in government schools has been severely delayed, with Block Resource Coordinators (BRCS) lagging behind in their responsibilities. Despite the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) sanctioning the cycles and allocating them to each district, only 2.48% of the cycles for 6th-class students and 4.6% for 9th-class students have been distributed across the state.

- Only 2.48% of the cycles for 6th-class students and 4.6% for 9th-class students have been distributed across the state
- In Bhopal no cycles have been distributed for either 6th or 9th-class students

18,506 bicycles have been distributed — 3,856 for 6th class students and 14,650 for 9th class students. A total of 474,194 bicycles have been distributed under the scheme, leaving 455,688 cycles yet to reach students.

Additionally, in Bhopal, no cycles have been distributed for



File Photo

either 6th or 9th-class students. A total of 2,108 cycles for 9th and 1,055 cycles for 6th students are still pending distribution in the district.

For the 2024-25 academic year, the school education department had planned to distribute 4.5 lakh bicycles free of cost to government school students. A provision of Rs 195 crore was made in the departmental budget for this purpose. However, the slow pace of dis-

tribution by the BRCs has led to significant delays, prompting department officials to issue urgent instructions.

Anurag Jaiswal, joint director DPI overseeing the cycle distribution status said that the department has directed the BRCs to finalize eligibility criteria and expedite the distribution process. District officials have been asked to ensure that all cycles are distributed by November 2024.

CLASS 9: Dists with no cycle distribution

A number of districts, including Ashoknagar, Umaria, Niwari, Seoni, Mandsaur, Harda, Gwalior, Sagar, Barwani, Neemuch, Chhatarpur, Agar Malwa, Damoh, Narmadapuram, Anuppur, and Guna, have yet to distribute a single bicycle to 9th-class students.

CLASS 6: 37 dists yet to distribute cycles so far

For 6th class students, 37 districts have reported no bicycle distribution so far. Cycles have only been distributed in a limited number of districts, including Narsinghpur, Dindori, Khargone, Ratlam, Guna, Burhanpur, Jabalpur, Ujjain, Jhabua, Mandsaur, Dewas, Indore, Katni, and Dhar.

The scheme: The free cycle distribution scheme aims to assist rural students, especially those from villages without secondary or high schools, by providing them with bicycles to commute to school. Under this scheme, students are eligible for a bicycle when they enrol in 6th and 9th classes. Additionally, girls residing in rural hostels and studying at schools located two kilometres or more away are also provided with bicycles to make their journey to school easier.

BMC updates preparations for idol immersions, Dussehra

Our Staff Reporter

BHOPAL



Preparations being made for immersion at notified ghats of encroachment from approach roads and routes identified for Durga tableaux procession.

BMC is also making special arrangements for cleanliness, availability of pure drinking water and lighting on the idol immersion ghats and also on the route of Ramlila Savari to be taken out during Vijayadasami, also Dussehra grounds where for Ravana Dahan will take place. Fire brigade staff

will be taken up.

BMC has also deployed three sub-engineers at the Police Headquarters to coordinate the complaints related to the arrangements and corporation related works in the police control room.

Day 1: Three registries executed in MP on launch of Sampada 2.0

Our Staff Reporter

BHOPAL

Three land registries were executed in state after the launch of Sampada 2.0, an upgraded software version of land registry, on Thursday. All the three registries have been executed in Bhopal and no other district reported any land registry on the day, as per the officials of department of registration and stamps.

Pilot districts—Guna, Ratlam, Harda and Dindori—reported 109 registries as Sampada 2.0 software was launched there on pilot basis. According to officials of the Sub registrar office (Pari Bazar), Bhopal, three registries were executed on day one.

S@MPADA 2.0 e-registry Portal Govt. of M.P.

Registration of documents like transfer of property, loan, etc. will be done digitally through the software

M Selvendran, Inspector General of Registration and Superintendent of Stamps, Madhya Pradesh, informed Free Press, "Today was the first day of the launch of e-registration and e-stamp. New system will gradually

pick up in the state and so no registry has been executed in any district after the launch of Sampada 2.0 (upgraded version). However, pilot districts have registered 109 registries."

Through Sampada portal and mobile app, documents including model deed, stamp duty calculation, stamp duty payment and book slots will be carried out online. Besides, now there will be no need for a witness for identification. Collector guideline rates, stamp duty, pre-registered documents will be available online.

BJP legislators, councillors open front against drugs

Our Staff Reporter

BHOPAL

People's representatives have opened a front after a drug factory was found in the state capital.

All the public representatives—from the legislators to the councillors of the ruling

The government has left itself to the mercy of liquor contractors: Vishnoi

party—have joined the campaign.

After a video clip of BJP legislator Pradeep Patel bowing down at the feet of the additional superintendent of police (ASP) went viral on social, former minister and present legislator Ajay Vishnoi took the government to task.

Vishnoi made Patel's photo-viral on social media and wrote: The government has left itself to the mercy of liquor contractors.

Immediately after Vishnoi's comments went viral, the Congress, too, came down heavily on the government.

Likewise, BJP councillor in Gwalior made a photograph of those—who were consuming liquor on road—viral on social

media.

When councillor Aparna Patel was posting the video, she threatened the ASP that if people were not prevented from consuming liquor on road, she would stage a sit-in outside the SP office.

On Wednesday, legislator from Mauganj Pradeep Patel bowed at the feet of the ASP urging him to stop sale of liquor.

Similarly, BJP legislator from Narayawali constituency in Sagar Pradeep Laria staged a sit-in outside the SP office in protest against the sale of liquor. Urban development minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, angry about sale of drugs in Indore, directed the police to act strictly against drug traffickers. There have been complaints about the sale of liquor and drugs across the state.

The public representatives of the ruling party have opened a front against the government.

Different types of drugs are being sold in the state. The public representatives said that it was not possible without police patronage.

Congress legislator Arif Masood alleged that all types of drugs were selling in the state capital. This is happening under the patronage of police and administration, Masood said.

Woman raped on marriage pretext

Our Staff Reporter

BHOPAL

A man allegedly raped a 30-year-old woman for two years by promising to marry her.

When the man refused to marry her, the woman approached the Jahangirabad police on Thursday and filed a complaint.

The police said the woman is married and was living sep-

arately from her husband when she came in contact with the accused, Abhinav Mishra.

In 2022, Mishra promised her that he will marry her and the duo entered a relationship.

After several requests made by the woman to get married, the accused kept on delaying. When she realised that Mishra will not marry her, she approached the police.

NMDC 66th AGM Chairman Message FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

Responsible Mining

Scientific | Sustainable | Spreading Smiles



Dear Shareholders,
It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of responsibility that I address you as the Chairman and Managing Director of your company - NMDC Limited, a cornerstone in the Indian mining industry. As we navigate through dynamic market landscapes and global economic shifts, I am honoured to lead a company known for its resilience, innovation, and commitment to sustainable growth. NMDC is devoted to Responsible Mining, the goal is to mine sustainably, restore ecosystems, invest in social initiatives, and meet the country's thriving demand for iron and steel. NMDC delivered historic iron ore volumes in FY24, an accomplishment that will echo through time as a testament of its mettle and shape the destiny of the company and the industry. Our legacy has been truly enriched by the surpassing of the 45 million tonnes mark in the financial year 2023-2024. India's largest iron ore producer continued to realize the weight of the country's dreams in fortifying mineral security. In this journey, NMDC has mitigated cyclical volatilities of the sector, built upon its technical and digital strength, bolstered its financial resilience, and worked tirelessly to deliver value to its stakeholders. As we reflect on FY24, I take pride in sharing the achievements, challenges and strategic vision of the company with you. NMDC's operational excellence, financial prudence, and strategic agility dovetailed with the stakeholders' confidence is positioning the company at the forefront of sustainable growth.

Operational Highlights

NMDC's major iron ore mines—Kirandul and Bacheli in Chhattisgarh, and Donimalai in Karnataka delivered their highest-ever annual production in company history. The tenacity in pellet production was also resolved leading to peak volume of 2.05 lakh tonnes pellet production in FY24, highest since the plant's commissioning.

During the year under review, NMDC made a strategic move to boost evacuation capacity and build supply chain resilience by commencing operations from its Kumar Marenga stockyard and implementing a 10 MTPA Rapid Wagon Loading System at its Khancol complex. These developments give a peek into the business model that the company is finalizing for leapfrogging to double its capacity. Another significant development in FY24 was the resumption of operations at Panna Diamond Mines in Madhya Pradesh, revitalizing a historic asset that diversifies our mineral portfolio. A landmark achievement in the direction of expansion and diversification came with the commencement of gold mining at Mount Celia in Western Australia in FY24 through the company's subsidiary, Legacy Iron Ore Limited. Legacy has also signed a joint venture agreement to unlock the potential of magnetite resources at Mount Bevan and explore minerals of strategic interest like Lithium in Australia.

Towards enhancing efficiency, transparency, and ease of doing business, a new organizational structure - 'Works Organisation' was conceptualized and implemented for the close monitoring and timely execution of all major capital projects.

To minimize carbon emissions, NMDC is moving towards eco-friendly transportation through slurry pipelines and railways instead of roadways. Progress in this direction is underway with the doubling of the Kirandul-Kothavalasa railway line expected to be completed in FY25 and the laying of the 15 MTPA Slurry Pipeline from Bacheli to Visakhapatnam via Nagamar slated for completion in FY27. NMDC is building a 2 MTPA Pellet Plant and 10 MTPA Beneficiation Plant along the Slurry Pipeline route with plans to introduce blending yards in its ecosystem as a step towards zero waste mining.

The company is also investing in solar and wind energy projects while exploring opportunities to mine critical minerals like lithium and cobalt to fuel the renewable energy sectors and the green transition of India.

ESG Performance

NMDC is intensifying efforts to curtail GHG emissions, enhance wastewater recycling, manage solid waste, and conserve biodiversity. We have developed a Scope 3 Greenhouse Gas Inventory to meticulously vet our value chain emissions. Our Biodiversity Conservation initiatives continue to thrive as we collaborate with the State Forest Departments to restore habitats and preserve ecosystems. Contributing to Chhattisgarh's environmental health, NMDC presented a first of its kind Mobile Environment Lab to Chhattisgarh Environment Conservation Board.

The company's transformative CSR initiatives are a source of pride and purpose for us. From empowering women to upskilling youth, generating employment opportunities to addressing public health, NMDC has been a steady pillar in enabling progress in the hinterlands of India. Our flagship social initiatives Shiksha Sahayog Yojana and Balika Shiksha Yojana have empowered the journeys of thousands of tribal children with scholarships for higher education and nursing education, making them agents of change in their communities. It is this approach that gave way to the Education City, Hospital on Wheels, Sports Academies,

and the infrastructure that ensures education, healthcare and opportunities for all. This strong legacy is built by a committed workforce. We classify the health, safety, and dignity of NMDC employees as a top priority. Robust vigilance structures, safety protocols, access to grievance redressal along with the freedom to associate and engage in collective bargaining has nurtured a progressive and empowering workplace.

On Formation Day 2023, NMDC instituted the 'CMD Excellence Awards' to celebrate and honour the exceptional contributions of our employees, who are the driving force behind our company's progress.

Corporate Governance

NMDC upholds the highest standards of corporate governance and ensures transparency, accountability, and integrity in all our operations. Corporate governance is not just a regulatory requirement but a fundamental pillar of our culture, guiding our actions and decisions to create long-term value for our stakeholders.

Towards Progress and Prosperity

As we progress further into the era of NMDC 2.0, we are gearing up to deliver 50 million tonnes of iron ore in FY25. Our journey from hereon will be guided by an ambitious growth strategy. We are investing in capacity expansion and new infrastructure to augment our production capacity to 72 million tonnes from our existing iron ore mines, while also developing the NCL (NMDC CMD Limited) JV mines to contribute another 28 million tonnes. Leveraging on our intrinsic strengths and constraint optimization are the two drivers for realization of our vision to achieve a 100 million tonnes production capacity by 2030. This narrative aligns with the National Steel Policy's vision to enhance India's steel production capacity to 300 million tonnes by 2030. NMDC's 100 million tonnes

would account for a quarter of the ~ 430 million tonnes of raw material required to reach that target. Towards becoming a 100 million tonnes mining company, NMDC is transforming its approach to machinery, material and manpower planning. Innovation and digitization are key tenets of this transformation. A steely intent is driving our investment in intelligent equipment and cutting-edge mining systems, such as Autonomous Sampling, Fleet Management, and Rapid Wagon Loading. These technologies ensure the highest standards of productivity and efficiency, positioning us among the global mining powerhouses.

The accomplishments of NMDC find a unified representation in our new logo, unveiled in August, 2023. This logo heralds a new era of responsibility at NMDC, conveying the spirit of NMDC 2.0.

We convey our sincere gratitude to the Government of India for their constant support in creating an enabling environment that fosters growth and innovation in our industry. To our valued customers, banks, shareholders, associates, and global partners, I express my deepest gratitude for your trust, collaboration, and continued partnership. Together, we have overcome challenges and achieved iconic milestones. I am confident that with our collective effort, we will continue to thrive. Thank you for your invaluable contributions to the journey of NMDC.

Our achievements for FY24 are commendable, but the path ahead beckons with both promise and challenge. Our compass points north - toward innovation, sustainability, shared purpose and a 100 million tonnes strong future.

Amitava Mukherjee
CMD (Additional Charge)

Excerpt from the CMD Speech at 66th AGM of NMDC held on September 27, 2024.

Physical and Financial Performance

During the year under review, NMDC registered its best ever physical performance as it produced 45.02 million tonnes and sold 44.48 million tonnes of iron ore. The company recorded a 10% growth in production and 16% growth in sales compared to FY23 volumes. It translated into a strong financial performance earning a revenue of Rs. 21,294 crores in FY24, which is a 23% increase from the revenue generated in FY23. Strategic financial planning and pricing mechanisms led to a Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs. 5,632 crores and Profit Before Tax (PBT), before exceptional item, of Rs. 8,294 crores in FY24, realizing an upswing of 2% in PAT and 80% in PBT over CPX.

For FY24, NMDC's EBITDA stood at Rs. 8,709 crores representing a 28% growth from the previous financial year. The company's operating profit margin in 2023-24 was 34%. Company's highest-ever capital expenditure of Rs. 2,066 crores was expended towards capacity building in FY24, which was 17% north of the capex target. Rs. 1,769 crores, NMDC's standalone net worth (post the demerger of NSL) crossed the Re. 25,000 crore mark in FY24, reinforcing the company's financial stability and its capacity to invest in growth and generate value for stakeholders.

Response to Climate Change

NMDC plans to leverage and enhance its sustainable and efficient mining legacy to meet the evolving needs of the environmentally conscious customers and align with India's goal of achieving Net Zero Emissions by 2070.

Exhibit showing the 66th AGM banner featuring the NMDC logo and the text "NMDC Limited". Below the banner, a row of six men in suits are standing together, representing the NMDC management team.



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Regional Digest

DHAR
Huge Chunari Kalash Yatra taken out

The 20th Sarvadharma Chunari Kalash Yatra, led by Kuldeep Singh Bundela, was taken out in Dhar city, aiming to maintain social unity. Thousands of people from all religions participated in the Yatra, which started from the bus stand and reached Maa Garhakila temple. The event was welcomed by over 30 forums, including Muslim, Bohra, Sikh and Patidar communities, promoting peace and harmony in the city. Satyashel Rao Panwar, former MLA Antar Singh Darbar, former municipal president Parvat Singh Chauhan and others were present.


DHAR
Advocate Ravi Maheshwari honoured

Shri Ram Sharanam Satsang and Parmarthik Sanstha, Dhar honoured advocate Ravi Maheshwari for his excellent work. The event was attended by the organisation's president Maheshchandra Maheshwari, secretary Shivshankar Verma, vice-president Satyanarayan Sharma, treasurer DK Upadhyay and member Santosh Maru, among others. The information was shared by the organisation's member Bhagwat Singh Jat.

KHANDWA
Saraswati Shishu Mandir celebrates Navratri with great enthusiasm

Saraswati Shishu Mandir in Khandwa celebrated Navratri with great enthusiasm. The school organised Garba Raas, weapon worship, girl worship and a feast. Students performed captivating Garba dances in traditional costumes. Chief guest Anjali Kanungo gave a meaningful speech. Kanya Puja was also organised, where small girls were worshipped and a feast was served. The event was attended by the principal, teachers and other dignitaries.


BARNAGAR
SDM inspects Rawadiyapeer village

SDM Shivani Tareta inspected Rawadiyapeer village and Mindka gram panchayat, taking information from Halka Patwari and concerned persons regarding farmer registry, soybean registration and crop insurance. She provided necessary guidelines to the concerned persons. The SDM also inspected Anganwadis and Government Schools in the village and checked the work in progress under Nal Jal Yojana.


RATLAM
Free aids for divyangs distributed

Under the scheme of assistance to persons with disabilities for purchase/fitting of aids/appliances (ADIP Scheme), 259 prosthetic limbs and assistive devices were distributed to 114 divyangs freely. Minister Chetanya Kashyap said that the government is working for the complete uplift of divyangans. The programme provided 269 different types of equipment, including motorised tricycles, hearing aids and wheelchairs, to make their lives easier. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including the minister, mayor and collector.


SANAWAD
Forest ranger wins wildlife award

Nishant Dosi, a forest ranger in the Tawa buffer area of Satpura Tiger Reserve, has been awarded the state-level wildlife conservation award. Governor Mangubhai Patel presented the prestigious award to Dosi in a ceremony held in Bhopal. The award recognises Dosi's contributions to wildlife conservation, habitat protection and village development.

MURDER SUSPECTED | Half-burnt body recovered from forest area in Khargone

Missing Maha builder found dead

**PTI
KHARGONE**

The half-burnt and decomposed body of a builder from Maharashtra, who had gone missing, has been found in Khargone district, with the police suspecting he was murdered, an official said on Thursday.

The deceased has been identi-

fied as Kishore Lokre, a builder from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar in Maharashtra, SP Dharamraj Meena said.

The half-burnt body was found in a forested area on Daurva-Binjalwara road under Sanawad police station area, about 75 km from the district headquarters, on Wednesday, he said. The man seems to have died 10 days back and the body

Deceased was identified as Kishore Lokre, a builder from Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar in Maharashtra

has been bitten by animals as well, he said.

Lokre's family members ap-

proached the MIDC Waluj police station in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar on October 3 after he went missing. A case was subsequently registered, he said.

The official said as per the Maharashtra police, Lokre went to Mumbai on September 17 for his work, but instead of returning to Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, he went to Bhusawal (in

Jalgaon). After that, he headed to visit Omkareshwar in MP, Meena said.

The Maharashtra police found his last location in Deshgaon area of Khandwa district on September 27, after which his mobile phone was switched off.

Meena said the investigations suggested the man was strangled to death. After this, an

attempt was also made to burn the body, he added.

The body was handed over to the family late Wednesday night.

The Sanawad police in Khargone on Thursday registered a murder case against unidentified culprits, the official said.

According to police sources, Lokre had a penchant for searching buried treasures.

Crackdown on modified silencers


**FP News Service
RATLAM**

In a major crackdown on traffic violators, 97 two-wheelers were checked in Ratlam and 20 were

found to have modified silencers. Challan action was taken against the drivers under Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000.

The silencers were confis-

cated and destroyed with a bulldozer. This action aims to make traffic in the city smooth, safe and noise-free. The drive will continue to ensure a peaceful environment in the city.

Abhimanyu Abhiyan in full swing


**FP News Service
DHAR**

Under the 'Abhimanyu Abhiyan' initiative, Madhya Pradesh Police organised various programmes across Dhar district to raise awareness about crimes against women.

The initiative, led by SP Manoj Kumar Singh, aimed to educate villagers, students, women and children about women-related crimes.

In Manawar, SDOP Anu Beniwal organised a programme in two parts under the 'Main Hoon Abhimanyu' programme at schools and colleges.

Children of primary classes were explained about good touch and bad touch. Students from secondary classes to col-

lege were administered the oath of 'Main Hoon Abhimanyu'. They were explained about cybercrimes and some self-defence techniques were taught. With this, the auspicious launch of 'Betki Ki Peti' (complaint box) was done from the school of Manawar.

Apart from this, Badnawar SDOP Shershingh Bhuria, station in-charge inspector Deepak Chauhan went to the Government College in Badnawar.

Nalam station in-

charge Rahul Chauhan went to the Secondary School of Yam Kagdipura and gave detailed information to the students about crimes against women and the students were sworn in to become Abhimanyu to protect women in case of any crime against them.

Kisan Sangh expresses anger over Binjalwara project delays

**FP News Service
BHILKANGON**

Kisan Sangh, on Thursday, voiced their frustration over the delays and poor construction under the Binjalwara irrigation project.

During a block-level meeting held at the SDM office, the farmers demanded accountability from officials for the slow progress of the project and other pressing issues. The meeting commenced at noon and extended until 5 pm.

Kisan Sangh state convenor Shyam Singh Pawar highlighted significant concerns, particularly regarding the insufficient depth of the pipeline and the incomplete condition of Pump House No. 01.

Farmers were promised


Block-level meeting in progress at SDM office FP Photo

that the pump house would be operational by November for water delivery to their fields, but many expressed dissatisfaction with this timeline.

In addition to the project delays, district vice president Gajanand Bake raised alarms about the substandard Sharck 1 seeds provided by the chilli company Star Field. He noted

that farmers have yet to receive compensation for their poor crop yields.

District co-secretary Rajendra Singh Solanki pointed out that the purchase of cotton by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) was supposed to begin on October 1. However, the lack of action has left farmers without adequate

support prices.

Furthermore, district media in-charge Dinesh Singh Maurya criticised the electricity department for failing to deliver the promised 10 hours of power supply for irrigation, with farmers currently receiving only 6-7 hours. This shortfall has led to strong protests against the department's perceived negligence.

The meeting was attended by various officials, including SDM BS Kalesh and other departmental representatives.

Tehsil president Radheya Singh Patel, tehsil secretary Rakesh Chaudhary, city president Narendra Singh Solanki, SDOP Rakesh Arya, Tehsildar Ravindra Singh Chauhan were present and among others.

Venomous visitors give sleepless nights in Virat Colony

**FP News Service
PIPLIA MANDI**

Residents of Virat Colony, Ward 7, are living in fear as poisonous reptiles, including snakes, are entering their homes. The problem has been ongoing since the rains and despite complaints, no solution has been found.

The residents, including Rahul Chaudhary, Mangali Deera and others, claim that the lack of a proper road and poor drainage system are the main reasons for the issue. The drain water is accumulating in a pond behind the houses, attracting these venomous visi

The residents have been complaining about the issue for a long time and even lodged a complaint on the CM

helpline, but it remains unresolved. They are worried about their safety and the safety of their children.

The situation is becoming increasingly unbearable and the residents are demanding immediate action from the authorities.

Meanwhile, CMO Praveen Sen has assured that the problem will be resolved soon. According to him, the road has been approved in the residential area and while the road is being built, the drains will also be constructed properly and the water drainage will be done properly.

The residents are hoping that the authorities will take swift action to resolve the issue and provide them with a safe living environment.

Collector highlights family's role in shaping student's life


**FP News Service
MANDSAUR**

The second Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meeting of the academic session 2024-25 was organised at School of Excellence, Mandsaur on Thursday.

Collector Aditi Garg, who is also the president of the school management committee, guided the teachers, parents and students during the meeting.

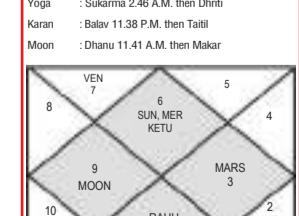
Collector Garg emphasised the importance of education and encouraged students to

develop a competitive spirit, desire for success and continuous efforts. She also stressed the role of family and school education in shaping a student's life.

The meeting recognised the achievements of students who secured top positions in the quarterly examination and those who excelled in the essay, painting and slogan competition organised on World Tourism Day. DEO Lokendra Dabi and around 350 parents attended the programme.

PANCHANG 11.10.2024 (DAKSHINAYAN)

Saka 1946 Month : Ashwin Shukla 8 Friday 12.07 P.M.
Nakshatra : Uttaradsa 5.25 A.M. then Saravna
Yoga : Sakarma 2.46 A.M. then Dhriti
Karan : Balav 11.38 P.M. then Taali
Moon : Dhanu 11.41 A.M. then Makar



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social harmony

Power Station hosts Garba competition

**FP News Service
NARMADA NAGAR**

An open Garba competition was organised at NHDC's Indira Sagar Power Station on Wednesday, as part of the Shardiya Navratri Mahotsav celebrations. The event saw 20 Garba Mandals from Narmada Nagar and surrounding areas participate, making it an interesting and lively programme.

The competition was inaugurated by managing director Rajiv Jain, along with other senior officials and



residents of the project colony. The social and cultural mandal organised the competition to promote social

and religious harmony in the area.

The winning group received a first prize of Rs 15,001, while the second and third prizes were Rs 11,001 and Rs 7,501, respectively. Consolation prizes and par-

ticipation money were also awarded to the participating groups.

On the occasion, the president of the women's club of Indira Sagar Power Station, Pinky, briefed the president of the women's club, Anju Jain, about the activities being carried out for women's uplift in the project. Social and cultural board secretary Pankaj Pandey said that various programmes were organised every year on the Durga Mandir premises, attracting a large number of devotees.

◆ INDORE ◆ BHOPAL ◆ UJJAIN ◆ MUMBAI ◆ PUNE

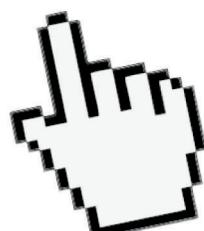
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fp Briefs

RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh gets ₹6,070 cr

Government of India has approved Rs 6,070 crore under tax transfer to Chhattisgarh. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai has expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for the release. Sai, taking to social media said this is a unique gift given by the Government of India to the people of the state on the occasion of festivals. The amount will help in strengthening the financial resources of the state, which will prove helpful in faster completion of development projects. It will also speed up public welfare works. Sai said that the double engine government is continuously paving the way for progress in Chhattisgarh.

Bemetara district is cataract free

Under the National Blindness and Low Vision Control Program, a total of 440 cataract patients from both the eyes have been successfully operated in district Bemetara as of March 2024. District Bemetara has received a declaration from the village sarpanch, rural health coordinator, section in-charge/sector in-charge/eye assistant officer and sub-divisional officer (revenue) that both the eyes are free from cataract. Thereafter, district Bemetara is to be declared cataract free district from both the eyes. If any common citizen who is suffering from cataract in both the eyes has any objection, then he can get in touch by October 25.

BILASPUR Officers suspended over tender irregularities

In a move following violations of rules and irregularities in the tender process for the construction of the new Ratanpur Municipality building, three officials have been suspended. The suspended officers include former Chief Municipal Officer (CMO) Hardayal Ratre, Public Works Department Clerk Ajit Singh, and Deputy Engineer Vaibhav Aggarwal. According to Joint Director Rakesh Jaiswal, the suspensions were ordered by the state government, and the officers have been reassigned to the Regional Office in Bilaspur during the suspension period. An online tender valued at Rs 165.77 lakh was issued on February 6, 2024, for the project. However, delays in the tender process, failure to seek the tender committee's recommendations, and other irregularities led to the suspension of Deputy Engineer Vaibhav Aggarwal under Rule 53 of the Chhattisgarh Municipal Employees (Recruitment and Service Conditions) Rules, 1968. Aggarwal has been held accountable for the potential financial losses incurred due to these lapses. Additionally, former CMO Hardayal Ratre and Clerk Ajit Singh have been suspended for their involvement in the tender irregularities. All three officials will report to the Joint Director, Urban Administration and Development, Bilaspur, during their suspension.

POLLS ROUND IN CORNER | Neighboring state

ECI seeks 23 IAS, IPS from Chhattisgarh for polls

Staff Reporter

RAIPUR

Amid preparations for the upcoming assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, 21 IAS officers and two IPS officers from Chhattisgarh have been called by the Election Commission to conduct the election process in a better way. The Election Commission has sent a call to 21 IAS officers of Chhattisgarh, which also includes 6 women IAS.

These officers have been asked to report to Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi on October 16, where they will undergo training. Besides this, the Election Commission can also announce the election schedule of these states by next week.

The 21 officers whose names have been finalized for election duty are not aware whether they will have to hold the front in Maharashtra or Jharkhand. It is being told that during the



training on October 16, these officers will be intimated which officer will go to which state.

Among the 21 officers who have been summoned by the Election Commission are R. Prasanna, Bhuvnesh Yadav, CR Prasanna, Janak Prakash Pathak, Shammi Abidi,

Shikha Rajput Tiwari, KD Kunjam, Kiran Kaushal, PS Elma, Saransh Mittar, Jitendra Kumar Shukla, Abhijeet Singh, Divya Umesh Mishra, Iffat Ara, Pushpa Sahu, Ritesh Kumar Aggarwal, Taran Prakash Sinha, Jagdish Sonkar, Rajendra

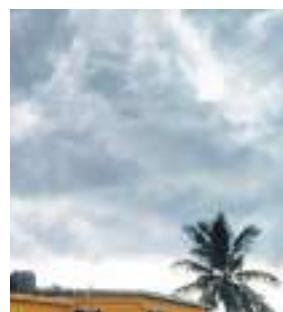
Kumar, Kuldeep Sharma and Kundan Kumar.

The Commission has put not only IAS but also two IPS officers from Chhattisgarh on election duty in Jharkhand and Maharashtra. These IPS officers include Prashant Kumar Thakur and Bhojram Patel.

Light rain, thunderstorms expected in Chhattisgarh

Staff Reporter

RAIPUR



Moisture from the Bay of Bengal caused light rain and thunderstorms across many parts of Chhattisgarh, including Raipur, on Thursday. The capital is expected to see a maximum temperature of 33°C and a minimum of 25°C.

In the past 24 hours, some areas have already experienced light to moderate rainfall, with Ramanujan recording the highest at 60 mm. Sukma saw the state's highest temperature of 35.8°C, while Narayanpur recorded the lowest at 19.6°C.

The south-west monsoon is gradually retreating, with the withdrawal line currently passing through parts of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra. The monsoon is expected to withdraw from Gujarat, Madhya Pra-

desh, and parts of Maharashtra in the next 2-3 days, bringing a gradual reduction in rainfall across Chhattisgarh. As the monsoon departs, cooler mornings and evenings are anticipated, while daytime temperatures will remain slightly warm.

Heavy rain and thunderstorms continue to affect the state, leading to a drop in temperatures. On Monday, heavy rain lashed rural areas of Raipur for half an hour.

CM, Sao mourns loss of Ratan Tata

Staff Reporter

RAIPUR



The passing of renowned industrialist and Padma Bhushan awardee Ratan Tata has left the country in deep sorrow. He was a towering figure who elevated Indian industry to global prominence, and his contributions to education, healthcare, sanitation, human welfare, and the nation's economy will be remembered for generations.

Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai expressed his condolences, calling Tata's demise an irreparable loss for both India and its industries. He highlighted Tata's unprecedented work and prayed for strength for the bereaved family.

Deputy Chief Minister Arun Sao also shared his grief, stating that India has lost a great son and a 'priceless gem'. Sao praised Tata's immense contributions to industrial growth and social development, particularly through the Tata Trusts, which impacted healthcare, education, and rural development.

Finish reservation, delimitation for three-tier Panchayats: Singh

Staff Reporter

RAIPUR

State Election Commissioner, Chhattisgarh Ajay Singh on Thursday asked the officials to ensure the process of delimitation and reservation for the elections of three-tier Panchayats be done within the time limit. He said that the processes of delimitation and reservation are vital for conducting elections on time.

He was holding a review meeting at the State Election Commission, Chhattisgarh's of-

fice located in Nava Raipur. The officials of Panchayat and Rural Development Department and General Administration Department participated in the meeting. The preparations for the upcoming three-tier Panchayat elections were reviewed.

It was asked to conduct the election process successfully and smoothly.

On the delimitation of three-tier Panchayats, Principal Secretary of Panchayat and Rural Development Department, Nitika Barik briefed on the action at the government level



President to visit C'garh

Staff Reporter

RAIPUR

President of India Droupadi Murmu will reach the capital Raipur on October 26 and 27 on a two-day visit to Chhattisgarh.

She will participate in many important programs including convocation ceremonies of prominent institutes. According to the information, during her visit, the President will also visit Purkhauti Muktagan of Naya Raipur and NIT Raipur. However, the minute-to-minute program of her visit has not been released yet, but preparations have been started at the government level.

Former C'garh CM Baghel criticizes BJP

Staff Reporter

BILASPUR

elections using ballot papers due to similar apprehensions about EVMs.

Baghel also accused the BJP of persistently targeting him, recalling previous instances when his land was investigated during former Chief Minister Raman Singh's tenure, leading to his imprisonment. He added that now BJP workers are blocking his path, and police are sending notices to his children, escalating the political vendetta against his loss.

Regarding the upcoming urban body and panchayat elections in Chhattisgarh, Baghel stated that the state government has yet to release a clear plan. The survey report on backward classes remains unpublished, and there is still no clarity on reservation policies or whether the mayoral elections will be direct or indirect.

On Articles 370 and 35A in Jammu and Kashmir, Baghel

remarked that the people have rejected these provisions. However, his primary focus remained on the Haryana elections, where he alleged EVM tampering contributed to Congress's loss.

Regarding the upcoming urban body and panchayat elections in Chhattisgarh, Baghel stated that the state government has yet to release a clear plan. The survey report on backward classes remains unpublished, and there is still no clarity on reservation policies or whether the mayoral elections will be direct or indirect.



National golf event will boost tourism in Chhattisgarh: CS

Staff Reporter

RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Secretary Amitab Jain on Thursday said the state's team will also be selected for the National Golf Championship. It will increase interest among people for golf along with other sports.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the National Golf Championship Pre-Launch organized by Golf Federation of India at the Golf Court in Mayfair, Nava Raipur.

The National Golf Championship 2024 is being organized from October 24 to 26. Teams from 20 states of the country will participate in the event. There will be 6 players in each team. The Chhattisgarh government will also participate in the event.

The Chief Secretary said that a healthy body is necessary for a healthy mind. It is necessary for everyone to participate in some sport or the other. Nava Raipur is also developing in terms of tourism. The objective of the event is to promote tourism of Chhattisgarh. Along with it, the greenery here will also be promoted. He also planted almond saplings.

National Golf Federation Founder and General Secretary Aryaveer Arya said in connection with the event that Golf Federation of India (GFI) is committed to work for



sports, environment, education, culture, and Vision India 2047.

In it, the first prize will be Rs 1 lakh, the second prize will be Rs 60,000, the third will get Rs 40,000, the fourth will get Rs 30,000 and the fifth prize will be Rs 20,000. Other prizes include: Winner Grass will receive an iPhone 16 Pro Max, Winner Net will receive an iPhone 16 Pro. The first day of the event will be the Caddy Tournament on October 24th, Plantation Drive on October 25th, players of all the teams will assemble on October 26th at 6 am and the closing ceremony will be held on October 27th, 2024.

421 Engineers to get their time scale pay

Staff Reporter

RAIPUR



Chhattisgarh Government's Panchayat and Rural Development Department issued an order on Thursday to extend the benefit of time scale pay to 421 engineers in recognition of their long-standing service contributions.

The order states that 32 engineers who have completed 25 years of service, 388 engineers who have completed 10 years of service, and 1 engineer who has completed 8 years of service have been included. The beneficiaries include Sub-Engineers, Assistant Engineers, Executive Engineers, and Superintending Engineers.

The matter had been pending for the last 4-5 years. Earlier, representatives of the

CM begins work at his new residence

Staff Reporter

RAIPUR



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai formally started the work at his residence office located in Nava Raipur, Sector 24 on Thursday. Secretaries to the Chief Minister, Rahul Bhagat, P. Dayanand and Basavaraju S, welcomed him to the new office.

The Chief Minister approved some important files. Officers and employees of the Chief Minister's Secretariat were also present on the occasion.

Sai had shifted to the new Chief Minister House at Nava Raipur, Atal Nagar after con-

ducting religious ceremonies during the Navratri with his wife. He was presently staying at the CM office at Civil Lines, Raipur.

3 Bears Electrocuted in Kanker District

Staff Reporter

RAIPUR/KANKER



In a tragic incident in Chhattisgarh's Kanker district, three bears died from electrocution after becoming entangled in a downed electric wire. The incident occurred in the Narharpur forest area, Kanker district. Along with the mother bear, her two cubs were also found.

Villagers from Devi Navagaon discovered the bears' bodies in a field early in the morning and promptly informed the forest department. Upon arrival, the team inspected the site and confirmed that the bears had succumbed to electrocution.

As per the information received, Tuesday night a storm hit the area and brought light rain, thunder, and strong winds, which caused hawks leading to breaking of an electric wire. The live wire was broken and fell into the field. The presence of water in the field led to the spread of electric current to the area. Finally, three bears came in contact and resulted in the tragic accident.

DFO Alok Bajpai told the media that the bears died due to electrocution. They came in contact with live wire through which current spread and all the three bears died.



144.31 pts



16.50 pts



2 paise



₹350



₹300

SENSEX 81,611.41

NIFTY 24,998.45 | USD/INR 83.98 | GOLD 77,350.00 | SILVER 91,200.00

**mp
Briefs**

NEW DELHI

WTO revises trade growth forecast

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) on Thursday revised the forecast for global trade growth marginally upwards to 2.7 per cent for 2024 though it said that rising geopolitical tensions continue to pose substantial downside risks. In April, the WTO projected 2.6 per cent in global trade for this year. However, the Geneva-based 166-member multilateral body slashed the forecast for 2025 to 3 per cent from 3.3 per cent earlier.

NEW DELHI

BoM reports 19% loan growth in Q2

State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) on Thursday said it has posted a credit growth of 18.7 per cent at Rs 2.17 lakh crore in the second quarter of FY24. Total advances were Rs 1.83 lakh crore at the end of September 30, 2023, BoM said in a regulatory filing. The lender reported a 15.4 per cent increase in total deposits to Rs 2.76 lakh crore against Rs 2.39 lakh crore at the end of the second quarter of the previous financial year.

NEW DELHI

JSW Steel partners with BHP

JSW Steel on Thursday said it has signed a pact with BHP and Carbon Clean to accelerate the deployment of carbon capture technology in the steelmaking process. India's steel sector accounts for 12 per cent of India's greenhouse gas emissions, with an emission intensity of 2.5 tonnes of CO2 per tonne of crude steel compared to the global average of 1.9 tonnes of CO2 per tonne of crude steel, as per official estimates.

AHMEDABAD

Major ports' freight traffic up 5.03%

Freight traffic handled by major ports in India in Apr-Sept rose 5.03% on year to 413.75 million tonnes, data released by the Indian Ports Association showed. The rise was mainly led by an uptrend in crude and petroleum products cargo, which rose 2.84% on year to 122.62 million tonnes. Such cargo accounts for nearly a third of total cargo handled at all major ports across the country.

NEW DELHI

MOL acquires stake in Depot Pharmacy

Medicamen Organics Limited (MOL) has announced the signing of a Definitive Share Purchase Agreement on October 08, 2024, for the acquisition of a 51% stake in Depot Pharmacy YEGO Ltd, a pharmaceutical company based in Rwanda, making Depot Pharmacy YEGO its subsidiary.

NEW DELHI

MyBranch now present in all states

MyBranch, a pioneer in flexible office space solutions, has reached a significant milestone by establishing a presence in all 28 states of India, further strengthening its leadership in the flex space market, particularly in Tier 2 and 3 cities.

CHECK MATE | To maintain a track of borrowers' credit history**RBI asks ARCs to become members of all credit info cos****PTI**

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Thursday asked Asset Reconstruction Companies (ARCs) to become members of all credit information companies and submit the requisite data to them in the prescribed format.

As per the extant norms, ARCs had to be a member of at least one Credit Information Companies (CICs).

Currently, there are four CICs in India -- Trans Union CIBIL, Experian, Equifax and CRIF High Mark.

In a circular, the central

bank said it has decided to align the norms for ARCs with the guidelines applicable to banks and NBFCs with a view to maintain a track of borrowers' credit history after transfer of loans by banks and NBFCs to ARCs.

"ARCs shall become members of all CICs and submit the requisite data to CICs as per the Uniform Credit Reporting Format prescribed by the Reserve Bank..." it said in a circular.

ARCs have been asked to put in place a system and processes to ensure compliance with the revised guidelines latest by January 1, 2025.

RBI asks banks to use info from all relevant sources for risk assessment

The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday asked banks, NBFCs, and other entities regulated by it to use information obtained from all relevant internal and external sources for their risk assessment exercise.

Reserve Bank's Regulated entities (REs) have to carry out 'Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment' exercise periodically to identify, assess and take effective measures to mitigate their Money Laundering (ML), Terrorist Financing (TF) and Proliferation Financing (PF) risks for clients, countries or geographic areas, products, services, and transactions or delivery channels.

In this regard, the central bank has issued 'The Internal Risk Assessment Guidance for Money Laundering/ Terrorist Financing' for the REs, particularly for the dealing staff and the Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/ Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT) / Counter Proliferation Financing (CPF) practitioners of the REs.

Meanwhile, the Reserve Bank of India has asked lenders to continue reporting data to credit information companies even after the cancellation of their licences or registration certificates, according to a notification on Thursday. The guidelines have to be implemented within the next six months, the notification said.

World Bank ups India FY25 GDP growth outlook by 40 bps to 7%**Informist**
NEW DELHI

The RBI on Wednesday lowered the Jul-Sept growth forecast by 20 bps to 7.0%

World Bank said.

The RBI on Wednesday lowered the Jul-Sept growth forecast by 20 bps to 7.0%. It, however, raised the growth forecast for Oct-Dec and Jan-Mar by 10 and 20 bps, respectively.

The World Bank expects investment growth to moderate in India this year because of a high base effect. It also sees the government continuing with its fiscal consolidation over the medium term, driven by "robust revenue growth and a modest increase in current spending". The government expects to lower its fiscal deficit to 4.9% of GDP in FY25 from 5.6% last year.

Equity MFs inflow drops 10% in Sep

SIPs hit fresh high at ₹24,509 crore

**PTI**

NEW DELHI

Equity mutual funds attracted Rs 34,419 crore in September, marking a decline of 10 per cent from the preceding month, on a sharp slump in inflow in thematic and large-cap funds.

This was also the lowest level of inflow since April when equity schemes saw investments of Rs 18,917 crore.

Despite the drop in net inflows, this was still the 43rd consecutive month of net inflow in the equity-oriented funds highlighting the ever-increasing appeal of mutual funds among investors, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed on Thursday.

Moreover, monthly contributions from the Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) rose to an all-time high of Rs 24,509 crore in September, as against Rs 23,547 in August.

This highlights the shifting investor sentiment towards disciplined and long-term wealth accumulation, Venkat Chalasani, Chief Executive, AMFI, said.

Overall, the mutual fund industry witnessed an outflow of Rs 71,114 crore in the month under review, after an investment of Rs 1.08 lakh crore in August, largely due to withdrawal to the tune of Rs 1.14 lakh crore from debt schemes.

Undeterred by the outflow,

NSE to discontinue weekly index derivatives for Bank Nifty, Nifty Midcap and Nifty Financial Services**FPJ News Service**

MUMBAI

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) will discontinue weekly index derivatives contracts for Bank Nifty, Nifty Midcap Select, and Nifty Financial Services, effective from November 13, 18, and 19, respectively, the exchange informed in a circular dated October 10. Moneycontrol reported.

SEBI's recent circular outlines new regulations for the futures and options trading segment.

Beginning Nov 20, exchanges will be required to limit weekly option expiries to one index per exchange.

"Average monthly income of households increased by 57.6 per cent during the five-year period from Rs 8,059 in 2016-17 to Rs 12,698 in 2021-22,"

Financial savings also saw a rise, with the average household saving Rs 13,209 annually in 2021-22, compared to Rs 9,104 five years earlier.

A significant 66 per cent of households reported saving in 2021-22, up from 50.6 per cent in 2016-17.

However, the proportion of households with outstanding debt increased from 47.4 per cent to 52 per cent.

The survey also noted remarkable increase in insurance coverage among rural

Monthly income of rural households rose by 57.6% in 5 yrs**NABARD SURVEY**

9.5 per cent" said NABARD.

Financial savings also saw a rise, with the average household saving Rs 13,209 annually in 2021-22, compared to Rs 9,104 five years earlier.

A significant 66 per cent of households reported saving in 2021-22, up from 50.6 per cent in 2016-17.

However, the proportion of households with outstanding debt increased from 47.4 per cent to 52 per cent.

The survey also noted remarkable increase in insurance coverage among rural

households in India. It found that the proportion of households with at least one member insured surged from 25.5 per cent in 2016-17 to 80.3 per cent in 2021-22. This reflects the growing accessibility of financial services in rural areas post-COVID.

The survey, which covered one lakh rural households, also highlighted improvements in household income.

It also noted that in addition to rising incomes, household expenditures increased as well, with the average monthly spending going up from Rs 6,646 in 2016-17 to Rs 11,262 in 2021-22.

Interestingly, the share of food in total consumption dropped from 51 per cent to 47 per cent, indicating a shift in spending patterns toward other needs.

Centre releases tax devolution worth ₹1.78L cr to states**PTI**

NEW DELHI

The union government on Thursday released tax devolution of Rs 1,78,173 crore to states including one advance instalment of Rs 89,086.50 crore in addition to regular instalments in view of the festive season.

States get normal monthly devolution of Rs 89,086.50 crore.

Advance instalment released in view of upcoming festive season and to enable states to accelerate capital spending and finance their development/welfare-related expenditure, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Currently, 41 per cent of taxes collected by the Centre is devolved to states on a regular instalments.

US inflation likely cooled again last mth**AP**

WASHINGTON

US inflation last month likely reached its lowest point since February 2021, clearing the way for another Federal Reserve rate cut and adding to the stream of encouraging economic data that has emerged in the final weeks of the presidential campaign.

The consumer price index is expected to have risen just 2.3% in September from 12 months earlier, down from the 2.5% year-over-year increase in August, according to economists surveyed by FactSet, a data provider.

A reading that low, likely reflecting lower gas prices and only a slight rise in food costs, would barely exceed the Fed's 2% inflation target. A little over two years ago, inflation had reached a peak of 9.1%.

Sensex, Nifty rise on buying in banking stocks**PTI**

NEW DELHI

Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty settled higher on Thursday, powered by a rally in banking and power stocks amid a largely firm trend in global markets.

The stock markets mostly traded range-bound in the absence of any major trigger and persistent foreign capital outflows, traders said. The 30-share BSE Sensex rose 144.31

points, or 0.18 per cent, to settle at 81,611.41.

The NSE Nifty climbed 16.50 points, or 0.07 per cent, to close at 24,998.45.

"The market was trading lacklustre in the absence of any



major trigger and continued selling by FIIs. Overall, we expect the market to consolidate in a range with stock-specific action," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Geojit Financial Services, said.

"The market traded on a range-bound trend with a negative bias ahead of the start of Q2 result. The Asian market started well but could not hold on to the gains as European markets waved on a negative trend in anticipation of the key US inflation data, global bond yields are rising," Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said.

For Phase 1, pay-out of securities in the equity cash segment (including netted cash and F&O physical settlement) will now be credited directly to clients' demat accounts by CCs.

The pay-out time has been changed from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, ensuring that securities will be credited to clients' accounts on the same day, rather than one day after the pay-out from the exchange.

In a separate circular, the regulator announced a change in the timing of securities payout under the T+1 rolling settlement.

The pay-out time has been changed from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm, ensuring that securities will be credited to clients' accounts on the same day, rather than one day after the pay-out from the exchange.

After a review meeting and representations from the Brokers' Forum, Sebi has extended the implementation

date to November 11 to ensure a smooth transition without market disruptions, according to the circular issued on Thursday.

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Sebi defers direct shares payout to client deadline to Nov 11 from Oct 14**PTI**

NEW DELHI

Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday extended the deadline to implement guidelines mandating the direct pay-out of securities to clients' demat accounts to November 11.

This rule was originally set to take effect on October 14.

On June 5, the Securities

and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) came out with a circular requiring Clearing Corporations (CCs) to credit pay-out securities directly to the client's demat account to improve operational efficiency and reduce risk.

Currently, the clearing corporation credits the same to the respective client's demat accounts.

The final operational guide-

lines were to be issued by CCs to the market by August 5. However,

mp Briefs

TCS Q2 PAT up 4.99% to ₹11,909 cr

PTI

NEW DELHI



Samsung workers detained, released later

A section of workers of Samsung India Electronics along with CITU leaders were arrested on Thursday and released later, after they tried to stage a protest near here without obtaining permission, police said. Samsung employees are on an indefinite strike since September 9 pressing for various demands including revised pay, better working conditions and registering the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) backed newly formed Samsung India Workers' Union by the state labour department.

NEW DELHI

Garuda IPO receives 7.55x subscription

The initial public offering (IPO) of Garuda Construction and Engineering has received 7.55 times on the final day of the share sale on Thursday. The initial share sale received bids for 15,03,44,299 shares against 1,99,04,862 shares on offer, according to data available with the NSE. The category meant for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) got subscribed 10.81 times while the quota for non-institutional investors received 9.03 times subscription.

CHHATRAPATI SAMBAJINAGAR

JSW Green Mobility gets 636-acre land

Vehicle manufacturer JSW Green Mobility has been allotted 636 acres of land in the Bidkin node of AURIC city and the plant will go into production in the next 12 to 18 months, an official said. After allotting 827 acres of land to Toyota Kirloskar Motors Private Limited, the administration has issued land to another vehicle production company in the Bidkin node of AURIC (Aurangabad Industrial City).

NEW DELHI

Eveixa Life expanding its global footprint

Eveixa Lifecare Limited, a leading name in the pharmaceutical and healthcare sector, has made significant strides in expanding its global footprint. The company has embarked on an ambitious expansion spree, with two major developments signaling its commitment to growth and diversification in the healthcare industry.

NEW DELHI

Manoj Dubey takes over as IRFC CMD

Manoj Kumar Dubey on Thursday assumed charge as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) under the Ministry of Railways. Dubey, a 1993-batch Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS), previously served as Director (Finance) and Chief Financial Officer of CONCOR.

NEW DELHI

Suzlon secures 400 MW wind power deal

Suzlon Group on Thursday said the company has secured a 400 megawatt (MW) wind power deal from Jindal Renewables Power. It will set up the wind project in the Koppal region of Karnataka, the Group said in a statement.

CHENNAI

Country's largest IT services firm TCS on Thursday reported a 4.99 per cent increase in September quarter net profit at Rs 11,909 crore, held back by a narrowing of profit margin.

The Tata Group company had reported a net profit of Rs 11,342 crore in the year-ago period, while in the preceding June quarter, it had a post tax net profit of Rs 12,040 crore.

Tata Consultancy Services' revenues rose 7.06 per cent to Rs 64,988 crore from Rs 60,698 crore in the year-ago period, and were marginally higher compared to Rs 63,575

crore in the June quarter.

Its operating profit margin narrowed to 24.1 per cent, down 0.2 per cent over the year-ago period and 0.6 per cent from the April-June quarter.

The company's overall employee base increased by 5,726 to 612,724 staffers, and

the overall addition in the first half of the current fiscal on a net basis came at over 11,000.

"We saw the cautious trends of the last few quarters continue to play out in this quarter as well," its chief executive and managing director K Krishnaswamy said in a statement.

He said the largest banking, financial services and insurance verticals showed signs of recovery during the quarter with a 0.1 per cent growth in revenues when compared to the year-ago period. Additionally, the rate cut by the US Fed will also help.

Manufacturing, which accounts for less than 9 per cent of the revenues, was among the fastest growing at 5.3 per cent.

The CEO attributed the impact on manufacturing to supply chain constraints and added that the trouble will be short-term.

The company reported new deal wins of USD 8.6 billion during the quarter, and

the CEO said that there has been no change in the demand environment.

Krishnaswamy said the company is happy to get the new deal signings between USD 7-9 billion, and the number may go up if there is a mega deal. He, however, said that given the current geopolitical tensions, deal conversations are stretching longer than what they did in the first quarter.

Chief financial officer Sameer Seksaria said spends on talent and infrastructure were one of the reasons for the dip in the margins, and added that there was a benefit coming from currency movements during the quarter.

Ireda Q2 net profit grows 36% to ₹388 cr

PTI

NEW DELHI

State-owned Ireda on Thursday reported a 36 per cent rise in its profit after tax to Rs 387.75 crore in the September quarter on higher revenues. The company had posted a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 284.73 crore in the July-September period of the preceding 2023-24 fiscal, it said in an exchange filing.

Its total revenue from operations rose 38.52 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,630.38 crore from Rs 1,176.96 crore.

Ireda's loan book increased by 35.88 per cent to Rs 64,564.36 crore from Rs

47,514.48 crore in the same quarter a year.

Loan sanctions jumped around four-fold to Rs 8,723.78 crore against Rs 2,852.05 crore in the second quarter last fiscal. The company disbursed Rs 4,461.87 crore worth of loans, up 43.93 per cent from Rs 3,099.98 crore in the year-ago quarter.

Ireda CMD Pradeep Kumar Das said, "Q2 results reflect our unwavering dedication to advancing India's renewable energy goals. The substantial growth in loan sanctions and disbursements underscores the company's commitment to supporting green projects across the nation".

India's pharma, meditech exports rise to 4th largest in FY25, despite global slowdown

PTI

Air India has placed an order for 85 more aircraft with Airbus, including 10 A350s, as the airline works on expanding operations, according to sources.

Of the 85 airplanes, 75 are narrow-body A320 family aircraft and 10 wide-body A350 planes, the sources said in the know said on Thursday.

There were no comments from Air India and Airbus.

In an update on Wednesday, Airbus said it has received orders for 667 aircraft this year till September.

Exports of pharmaceutical and meditech sectors in India are expected to continue to grow despite global slowdown concerns, according to Arunish Chawla, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals.

With 16 blockbuster drugs in the pipeline – for cancer, diabetes, HIV and tuberculosis, the exports in these sectors have become the fourth-largest in the country in the last fiscal. Amid global slowdown concerns, the sector is experiencing double-digit growth, supported by government efforts and the PLI scheme, the Secretary told reporters at the CII Pharma and Life Sciences summit.

The 16 drugs to be produced in India are part of a larger list of 25 molecules which are going off-patent in the next few years. Chawla said that exports of the Indian pharmaceuticals, biotech, and bulk drug exports have grown by double-digit in 2023. Further, he noted that India became export-oriented in the consumables and surgical industry, last year.

Analysts highlighted big jumps in jobless benefit applica-

US jobless claims hit 258,000, most in a year

AP

WASHINGTON

cations last week across states that were most affected by Hurricane Helene, including Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

"Claims will likely continue to be elevated in states affected by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Ian as well as the Boeing strike until it is resolved," said Nancy Vanden Houten, lead US economist of Oxford Economics.

"We think, though, that the Fed will view these impacts as temporary and still expect it to lower rates by 25 bps at the November meeting," Vanden Houten said that Washington state was the most impacted by the Boeing strike and accounted for a disproportionate share of the increase.

Analysts highlighted big jumps in jobless benefit applica-

hydrogen technology.

These factors could lead to an even greater demand for renewable energy than currently anticipated. India's installed power capacity is expected to rise at a 10% CAGR over FY24-FY30F to 777.1GW from 450.8 GW currently.

In FY24, as per the report the country auctioned 40 gigawatts (GW) of RE capacity. However, to meet the country's ambitious goal of 500GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, the report added that the pace of RE auctions will need to increase significantly, with approximately 60GW of capacity needing to be auctioned each year.

The report also stated that this rise in energy demand in the country will be driven by the expansion of data centers, increasing electric vehicle (EV) penetration, and advancements in green

hydrogen technology.

Ratan Tata called an emergency meeting at Taj President in Cuffe Parade to take stock. Team members were encouraged to speak freely and go by accounts, there was more self criticism than blame. The net result was that a massive retrofit was launched for some 45,000 Tata Indica cars with 45 parts being repaired free of cost.

Customer meets were held and they were heard out patiently and feedback was collected. A new car was already being worked on, the design saw some changes and a Tata Indica V2 was launched in 2001 which went on to do what the original car aspired

Driven by India's inherent strengths and a strong policy framework that encourages investment and exports, the textiles sector in the country is expected to grow to \$350 billion by 2030, the Centre said on Thursday. The textiles sector is set for significant expansion, with an 11 per cent growth in ready-made garments (RMG) of all textiles exports (y-o-y), according to Ministry of Textiles. With end-to-end value chain capability, a strong raw material base, a large export footprint and a vibrant and rapidly expanding domestic market, India is a traditional leader in the textiles sector.

Ozonetel acquires CloudConnect Communication

PTI

NEW DELHI

Hyderabad-based cloud communications solutions company Ozonetel on Thursday said it has acquired Cloud Connect Communications, which will help it capitalise on the USD 50 billion global UCaaS market.

Cloud Connect Communications is a mobile-first unified communications as a service (UCaaS) solutions provider and a licensed virtual network operator (VNO).

CloudConnect's UCaaS solutions are now a part of Ozonetel's oneCX platform.

Venkatesh & Co as well as chartered accountants Dasarthy V and Desikan G have been penalised by the regulator. They were members of the engagement team for the statutory audit of Coffee Day Enterprises Ltd for 2019-20.

CloudConnect's UCaaS solutions are now a part of Ozonetel's oneCX platform.

CLOUD Connect Communications has been debarred from taking up audit work for a certain period of time

(CDEL).

The two individuals have been debarred from taking up audit work for a certain period of time.

of the monthly stipend has been paid to the trainees who started their training in July, August, and September 2024. At the Mantralaya, Minister Lodha distributed the stipend symbolically to six trainees—Kajal Londhe, Atharva Mokal, Gauri Deshpande, Swarangi Pawar, Rohit Kamble, and Seema Shinde.

India's 100 richest tycoons surpass \$1 tn milestone, Adani at 2nd spot: Forbes list

IANS

NEW DELHI

The collective wealth of India's 100 richest tycoons surpassed the trillion dollar milestone for the first time as more than 80 per cent of the country's richest tycoons are now wealthier than they were a year ago, a Forbes report showed on Thursday.

In a record-breaking year, India's wealthiest are now worth \$1 trillion, more than twice as rich as they were in 2019, according to the Forbes list of India's top 100 billionaires.

"With his brother Vinod (Adani), he added \$48 billion to take the family's net worth to \$16 billion, enough to retain



Infrastructure magnate Gautam Adani, who posted a strong recovery from last year's short-selling attack and recently placed his sons and nephews in key positions," the report noted.

"With his brother Vinod (Adani), he added \$48 billion to take the family's net worth to \$16 billion, enough to retain

Min Lodha Disburses First Stipend to 46,000 Trainees Under Mukhyamantri Yuvakarya Prashikshan Yojana



Skill Development, Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha informed that a total of Rs 42 crore in stipends has been distributed via DBT to 46,000 trainees registered under the Mukhyamantri Yuvakarya Prashikshan Yojana. The first installment

Ratan Tata: An iconic business leader



Guest Column

GOVINDRAJ ETHIRAJ

In 1999, Tata Motors was on the verge of selling its passenger car division to Ford Motors after the Tata Indica launched a year earlier stumbled.

The follow-up discussions at Ford's Detroit headquarters in the US didn't go well. According to one account, Tata Motors officials which included Ratan Tata were insulted by some of the disparaging comments about the company and the car project.

Ratan Tata returned to India from the meeting apparently more determined to see the project through.

And roughly eight years later, Tata Motors bought Jaguar Land Rover from Ford.

Back to the Tata Indica. The problems were mounting, complaints about the engine and high noise and vibration levels in the car were pouring in.

Sales dropped and in 2000-01, Tata Motors announced a Rs 500 crore loss. The blame landed on Ratan Tata for thinking too big.

Ratan Tata called an emergency meeting at Taj President in Cuffe Parade to take stock. Team members were encouraged to speak freely and go by accounts, there was more self criticism than blame. The net result was that a massive retrofit was launched for some 45,000 Tata Indica cars with 45 parts being repaired free of cost.

Customer meets were held and they were heard out patiently and feedback was collected. A new car was already being worked on, the design saw some changes and a Tata Indica V2 was launched in 2001 which went on to do what the original car aspired

for and more.

Ratan Tata would return with a Rs 1 lakh car Nano in 2009 which again ran into problems both internal and external.

There are many aspects of Ratan Tata's personality at play. For one, his audacious goals which stretch way beyond most entrepreneurs would even dare attempt.

Remember, product entrepreneurs are rare in India. I do recognise that software products are also products but this is not the same league. It takes some gumption and courage to attempt a product that has to prove itself day after day on the roads of the kind we have in India.

Finally, when Tata may have got credit for the group's many successes in his active tenure, he never really sought the limelight and his colleagues, whether in cars, software, hotels or steel, felt a sense of constant ownership, that appears to last even after retirement.

Tata of course set a trailblazing path with the global acquisitions of brands like Jaguar Land Rover, Corus, Daewoo and Tetley.

That was another aspect of the vastness of his vision to grow and succeed. All Tata employees and acquaintances speak of Ratan Tata's humility and alignment with the traditional Tata Group principles of serving society along with creating value for shareholders.

His tenure has ticked all boxes and perhaps more.

In this time of confusing definitions of entrepreneurship and success, his life and career offer important insights into the true nature and role of entrepreneurship. Of the kind that shapes companies and nations.

Canara Bk hikes lending rate by 5 bps across various tenors

PTI

NEW DELHI

State-owned Can

corporate gallery

NTPC Noida Township Durga Puja 2024



Every year, NTPC Township at Noida has a remarkable transformation during Durga Puja to indulge everyone in the festive vibes. The local streets become vibrant and colourful, the usually quiet alleys come alive with a divine energy as they prepare to welcome Mother Durga and her four children to her home. This is the 29th year of the Puja in Sector 33, NTPC Township at Noida. Durga Puja commemorates goddess Durga's triumph over the demon king Mahishasura, celebrating the victory of good over evil with valour and courage. As the Township gears up for this major festival, many visitors from the different parts of NCR and our NTPC plants across India visit our Puja Pandal.

NASA Space Apps Challenge 2024 Concludes Successfully at VIT AP University



The NASA Space Apps Challenge 2024, a 48-hour hackathon, was successfully conducted on the 5th and 6th of October at the Innovation Incubation Entrepreneurship Cell (IIEC), 2nd floor of CB, VIT AP University, Amaravati. The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 200 students, including participants from Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and various regions of Andhra Pradesh such as Bhimavaram, Kurnool, Tirupati, and Kadapa. The event, coordinated by Dr. Deepthi Godavarthi, provided a platform for students to showcase their problem-solving skills, creativity, and innovation in the field of space technology and data science. Teams worked tirelessly over 48 hours to present solutions to real-world challenges proposed by NASA.

CII organises conference on Navigating the Green Hydrogen Revolution



India stands at the crossroads of an energy revolution, where Green Hydrogen will play a pivotal role in our journey towards sustainability. With strong policy frameworks, public-private partnerships, and innovation, we aim to become a global leader in Green Hydrogen production by 2030, driving economic growth and energy independence, said Swati Salgaocar, Chairperson, CII WR at CII Summit on Navigating the Green Hydrogen Revolution.

CORPORATE CORNER

NBCC to construct Integrated Sports Complex in Dhamnagar, Bhadrak

NBCC (India) Ltd. to construct an Integrated Sports Complex in Dhamnagar, Bhadrak granted by the Sports & Youth Services Department of the Government. This project showcases the commitment to enhancing sports infrastructure and promoting athletic excellence in the region. The project is valued at Rs 50 Cr approximately. The state-of-the-art complex will feature a FIFA-standard natural football ground equipped with LED flood-lights, an indoor hall for volleyball, cricket practice nets, and comprehensive facility buildings, including a hostel for athletes. This initiative aims to provide world-class training and competition facilities, fostering talent and encouraging youth participation in sports. NBCC is dedicated to delivering this project with the highest standards of quality and efficiency, ensuring it meets the needs of aspiring athletes and the local community. This complex will serve as a catalyst for sporting development in Bhadrak and contribute significantly to the overall growth of the youth in the area.

State-of-the-Art CGST Office Building at Nangal Raya executed by NBCC inaugurated

The Central Excise office building at Nangal Raya, District Centre, New Delhi was inaugurated on 8.10.2024 by Pankaj Chaudhary, Union Minister of State for Finance in the presence of Sanjay Kr Agarwal, Chairman, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Yogesh Sharma, Sr. ED (Engg.), NBCC and other senior officers of CBIC and NBCC. The newly completed office building, developed by NBCC (India) Ltd, stands as a symbol of modern infrastructure infused with sustainability features.

With a cost of ₹32.82 crore, this project spans a total area of 6,208.49 square meters, incorporating cutting-edge facilities while adhering to Green Building norms. The construction is in line with the government's commitment to eco-friendly, energy-efficient infrastructures.

The building is equipped with advanced facilities that emphasize its modernity and functionality. A 625 KVA DG Set ensures uninterrupted power supply, while a highly efficient VRV HVAC system, with a capacity of 440 HP, guarantees optimal heating, ventilation, and air conditioning throughout the premises. In terms of accessibility, the structure is fitted with two elevators, ensuring smooth and efficient movement within the building. The building's layout has been meticulously designed to accommodate various key departments of the GST Commissionate. The basement houses essential infrastructure such as the fire water tank, treated and raw water tanks, and the main electrical room. The ground floor is dedicated to the canteen, pantry, recreation room, and restrooms for gents, ladies, and those with disabilities, along with a welcoming reception area. The upper floors have been allocated to different divisions of the GST Commissionate. On the terrace, the building is equipped with a fire tank, water tank, VRV system and a 50 KVA solar system, reflecting the government's push toward renewable energy solutions.

whispersinthecorridors

Dr Suresh Mehrotra



► Dharmendra Pradhan is the silent architect of BJP's Haryana victory?

The architect of the BJP's historic third victory in Haryana, Dharmendra Pradhan, is anything but flamboyant. He was also assigned the elections in Uttarakhand in 2017, Uttar Pradesh in 2022. His long-term project was home state Odisha, which the BJP won this year. For over a month, he did not budge from the Haryana, setting up camps at Rohtak, Kurukshetra and Panchkula. He kept an ear to the ground - listening to party workers and leaders and liaising on their behalf with the Central leadership. He enthused workers, demystified the Congress campaign and helped with the candidate selection. He would go to ground zero and hold small meetings. He would take real time feedback from the workers and inform the leadership and rectify the shortcomings immediately. He also pacified the angry people in Haryana, identified the weak booths and adopted strong workers from other parties.



► Asgar to be Secretary to Omar Abdullah?



KAS officer Asgar is likely to be posted as Secretary in the CMs Secretariat in J&K. He is said to be Omar Abdullah's confident.



► IAS Neha Meena's project 'Jhabua Ki Udaan,' Educating the Tribal Land of Jhabua, MP

IAS Neha Meena, from the 2014 batch of the MP cadre, currently posted as collector Jhabua district of MP is set to reach new heights with her dream project, "Jhabua ki Udaan." "My goal during my tenure here is to educate as many students as possible and ensure that Jhabua has higher representation in the opportunities that arise," she emphasized. Believer of "What you do today, determines not only yours but also your nation's future" she is bringing an air of change in Jhabua. Neha has also been honoured with the 'Bhoomi Samman Platinum Award' by Honourable President Smt. Droupadi Murmu. "Jhabua ki Udaan" is an initiative aimed at empowering the youth of Jhabua to build successful careers and achieve their goals. Neha Meena stated, "My dream project focuses on developing a culture of education among the younger generation. We will also provide training for various competitive exams such as Patwari Bharti, MPPSC, UPSC, SSC, JEE, NEET, NDA/CAPF, and police recruitment." Additionally She has also managed to establish a central library to support exam prep and foster a reading culture among the tribal youth. The initiative offers all over support, including access to books, notes, a library, and workshops. "We are preparing modules, conducting online classes, mock tests, and interviews—all organized at the administrative level."

► Anurag Verma appointed ACS, Revenue, Rehabilitation in Punjab

Anurag Verma, currently CS, Punjab has been appointed as ACS, Revenue, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management in Punjab. He has been given additional charge of posts of ACS, Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and ACS, Horticulture and ACS, Soil & Water Conservation. He is a 1993 batch IAS officer of Punjab cadre.

► WHO: India eliminates Trachoma as public health problem in 2024

World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared that the Government of India has eliminated Trachoma as a public health problem becoming the third country in the South-East Asia Region to achieve this milestone. An official Certification was handed over to Ms Aradhana Patnaik, Additional Secretary and Mission Director, National Health Mission, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare by Ms. Saima Wazed, Regional Director, WHO South East Asia during the WHO's South East Asia Region, Regional Committee meeting held at New Delhi.

► K A P Sinha is new Chief Secretary of Punjab

K A P Sinha has been appointed as Chief Secretary of Punjab. He is a 1992 batch IAS officer of Punjab cadre.

From front page

ALVIDA BHARAT...

Yet, it was not only the Parsi community that mourned; all of Mumbai felt a deep connection to Ratan Tata, resonating profoundly within the very ethos of Mumbaikars.

As the sun began its ascent on Thursday, an overwhelming sense of loss washed over the city. Outside Tata's residence in Colaba, hundreds of mourners gathered—a sea of faces reflecting the weight of their shared grief. They were there to pay homage to a man whose impact extended far beyond the confines of corporate boardrooms.

The hearse, draped in an array of white flowers, made its solemn journey to the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA), where an emotional crowd awaited, eager to pay its final respects later in the day. This was a powerful display of love, admiration, and respect that mirrored the true spirit of Mumbai—a city often described as indifferent, and yet on Thursday, one that stood united in mourning.

Wrapped in the Indian Tricolour, Tata's casket was made available for public viewing, offering a final opportunity for those whose lives he had touched to bid farewell. The sight of corporate leaders standing side by side with Tata Steel workers was particularly moving.

Government bans Hizb...

"The outfit is involved in various acts of terror, including radicalising the gullible youths to join terrorist organisations and raise funds for terror activities, posing a serious threat to the national security and sovereignty of India. The Modi government is committed to securing Bharat by dealing the forces of terror with an iron fist," the home minister's office said.

The HuT is promoting terrorism by using various social media platforms and secure apps, and by conducting 'Dawah' meetings to encourage gullible youth to indulge in acts of terrorism, the notification said.

The home ministry said the HuT is an organisation which aims to establish Islamic state and caliphate globally, including in India, by overthrowing democratically elected governments through jihad and terrorist activities by involving citizens of the country, which is a grave threat to the democratic setup and internal security of the country.

"And whereas the central government believes that Hizb-ul-Tahrir is involved in terrorism and has participated in various acts of terrorism in India," the notification said while declaring the group as a banned organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Brijbharti Pateriya...

"When I came to know about the incident, I rushed to the Kesli police station,

but the police showed a dilly-dally attitude in registering a case against the accused doctor. If the ruling party MLA has to meet such a fate then there is no logic of remaining MLA. Hence, I tendered my resignation as MLA," he said.

He added that he has staged a dharna in front of the police station to press for the demand that a case shall be filed against the accused doctor. The dharna continued till the filing of this report.

CM launches Sampada...

There is no need for physical presence in registrar office. Verification and registration of documents too would be online and applicants would be provided soft copy through WhatsApp and email.

CM further said, "The new system was being implemented in the state keeping in view the ease of living. This will make registration system easy, simple and corruption-free.

Citizens will reap benefit of new system of e-registration and e-stamping. People will be able to sell their property and get it registered from home. With this system, online registrations can be done not only from the state but also from outside the state and the country. This will also save time of common man and will also the unnecessary charges."

CM further said, "GIS labs will be established in every district. Central government has given work of GIS mapping of 126 cities in the state."

MD drug worth...

"It took three months to prepare the drug," said an NCB officer. Meanwhile, officials claimed that it took nine months to set up factory in Bagroda Industrial Complex and six months to start production.

PM meets counterparts...

"Had a very productive meeting with PM Ishiba. I'm happy to have met him just a few days after he became Japan's PM. Our talks included ways to enhance cooperation in infrastructure, connectivity, defence and more. Boosting cultural linkages was also discussed," Modi said in a post on X.

Ishiba was appointed Japan's prime minister just last week. He replaced Fumio Kishida, who stepped down to pave the way for a fresh leader.

"PM @narendramodi and PM @shigeruishiha of Japan had excellent talks on the sidelines of the India-ASEAN Summit in Lao PDR. They deliberated on ways to strengthen the ties in a host of sectors, including technology, trade, defence and people-to-people linkages," the Indian prime minister's office said in a post on X.

"And whereas the central government believes that Hizb-ul-Tahrir is involved in terrorism and has participated in various acts of terrorism in India," the notification said while declaring the group as a banned organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

The Prime Minister underscored that India will continue to accord the highest priority to its ties with Japan, a trusted friend and strategic partner, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

Avdesh Mallick

RAIPUR

Amid preparations for the upcoming assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, 21 IAS officers and two IPS officers from Chhattisgarh have been called by the Election Commission to conduct the election process in a better way. The Election Commission has sent a call to 21 IAS officers of Chhattisgarh, which also includes 6 women IAS. These officers have been asked to report to Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi on October 16, where they will undergo training. Besides this, the EC can also announce the election schedule of these states by next week. The 21 officers whose names have been finalized for election duty are not aware whether they will have to hold the front in Maharashtra or Jharkhand. It is being told that during the training on October 16, these officers will be intimated which officer will go to which state.

MAHA, JKHAND POLLS

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UNEXPECTED! Congress leadership, led by Kharge, holds a review meeting to assess the reasons behind the loss

Haryana debacle: Rahul puts blame on leaders

Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday told a high-level party meeting called to review the party's surprise loss in the Haryana Assembly elections that the result was the outcome of some senior leaders placing their personal interests above that of the party.

The meeting, chaired by president Mallikarjun Kharge at his residence, was attended among others by general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, general secretaries and party observers for Haryana Ashok Gehlot, Ajay Maken and Pratap Singh Bajwa and state in-charge Deepak Babariya.

Most of the Haryana leaders were not called for the meeting and these included Dalit leader and Sirsa MP Kumari Selja, Rajya Sabha MP Ran-



Congress has suffered a setback in Haryana

deep Singh Surjewala, former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda and state Congress president Uday Bhan. Similarly, senior state Congress leader Ajay Yadav was also not invited for the meeting.

Following the meeting, Maken said the meeting reviewed the Haryana elections in detail. He said considering the opinion polls and the exit polls, even the media would agree with the Congress's view

that the result was "unexpected". "No one expected that the results would be like this. The difference between the results and the exit polls was phenomenal."

Maken said "we discussed the results, the possible reasons behind them and we decided to act further on various aspects about which Venugopal would later provide a detailed plan". To a question on whether factionalism within the party had harmed its



preaching God's message

A view of Deekshabhoomi being illuminated with lights ahead of the Dussehra festival in Nagpur on Thursday

Kar ministers express solidarity with Sidda

PTI
BENGALURU

MUDA SCAM

Karnataka Ministers on Thursday at a Cabinet meeting expressed their solidarity with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is facing demand from opposition parties for his resignation following charges in MUDA site allotment case.

The move comes amid behind-the-scenes political activities within the ruling Congress, with a few Ministers in the Sid-

daramaiah Cabinet recently holding closed door meetings, fueling speculation about leadership change.

"...even (Ministers) meeting Kharge (Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge) is being represented wrongly by you (meida), even if Ministers meet over food, it is also represented wrongly, in this backdrop during the cabinet today, all the ministers expressed their solidarity (with the CM) and support, stating that we are with him," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil told reporters.

According to some reports, the Congress high command

has asked Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM and state Congress chief D K Shivakumar to end the "fitters" about the change in leadership, while expressing displeasure over statements being made by a few ministers and some of them holding separate meetings.

Amid demand by opposition parties for Siddaramaiah to quit, PWD Minister Satish Jarikholi on Sunday met Home Minister G Parameshwara, a senior leader from the SC community, in Tumakuru, after last week's meeting with Kharge in Delhi, leading to intense speculations in political circles over leadership change.

Centre releases Rs 11,255 crore tax devolution to Maharashtra

Gaurav Vivek Bhatnagar
NEW DELHI

The Union Government on Thursday released a tax devolution of Rs 11,255 crores for Maharashtra as part of its tax devolution release of Rs 1,78,173 crore to 28 state governments, which includes one advance instalment of Rs 89,086.50 crore in addition to regular instalment due in October 2024.

In a statement, the Ministry of Finance said the advance instalment has been released in view of the festive season and to enable States to accelerate capital spending and finance their development and welfare-related expenditure.

Among the states, Maharashtra has received the fifth highest devolution after Uttar Pradesh which got Rs 31,962 crore, Bihar that received Rs 17,921 crore, Madhya Pradesh which got Rs 13,987 crore and West Bengal which received Rs 13,404 crore.

Change in Name
It is to bring kind Nabi to the people that my daughter previous name AYAT FATIMA DHO ABDUL SAEEED has been changed to AYAT FATEMA DHO ABDUL SAEEED I therefore, in future my daughter will be known by the her new name only ABDOUL SAEEED

Add.177, GEETA PALACE, INDORE (M.P.)-452002

नाम परिवर्तन संचालन
सार्वजनिक को सुनिश्चित जाता है कि नेहीं कोई के पास पोटेंट में उक्सा नाम लगादिया (Khadija) था, जिसे अब मैं परिवर्तित करके लगादिया नहीं (Khadija Saifee) कराना चाहता हूँ, व वर्तमान में कोई अदिवासी (Khadija Saifee) नाम से जाना नहीं पसंद करता जाता।

अलेक्षिया सैफी पति श्री मुस्तफ़ा सैफी
कर्म सं. 202, नामग्रन्थ स्ट्रीट
एस 130, काशीपुर एक, इंदौर (म.प.)

प्राप्ति विवरण

प्राप्ति व

Bail for Kapil Wadhawan after four years in jail

YES BANK FRAUD

Charul Shah Joshi

MUMBAI

Almost four years after his arrest in April 2020, the special court hearing the Yes Bank-DHFL case, on Thursday granted bail to the former director of DHFL, Kapil Wadhawan, on the ground of long incarceration in prison without trial.

Special Judge AC Daga, while granting bail to Wadhawan observed that economic offences have an adverse impact on society, but the accused cannot be "detained for years together without any ray of hope that the trial is going to start".

Prolonged incarceration before being pronounced guilty of an offence should not be permitted as it will go against the right to life and personal liberty enshrined in the Constitution, the court said.

"It is the duty of the pros-



ecution to commence with the trial and it is the right of the accused of speedy trial. In this matter, the accused is in custody for around four and half years without trial being started, coupled with the fact

The accused cannot be detained for years together without any ray of hope that the trial is going to start: Court

pleted.

"As such, his custody is not required for the purpose of investigation," the court said.

Even after having granted bail, Wadhawan may take little long to come out of prison owing to his involvement in other cases, where he still has to obtain bail.

CBI had registered a case on March 7, 2020, in connection with suspicious loans granted by Yes Bank and quid pro quo between Kapoor and Wadhawans. CBI in its FIR

against Wadhawan brothers, had stated that Yes Bank had invested Rs3,700 crore in short-term debentures in DHFL, which has not been redeemed till date, for which the Wadhawans had paid a kickback of Rs600 crore to Rana Kapoor in the form of a loan to DoiT Urban Ventures (India) Pvt Ltd – a company registered in the name of Kapoor's daughters. The bank gave another loan of Rs750 crore to a firm controlled by Wadhawans.

Two JJB members terminated for 'procedural lapses'

PUNE PORSCHE CASE

FPJ News Service

PUNE

The Maharashtra government has terminated the services of two members of the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) in connection with bail given to a juvenile accused in the Pune Porsche crash case, officials said on Thursday.

A probe panel of the state Women and Child Development (WCD) Department had recommended action against two members - LN Danwade and Kavita Thorat - for alleged "procedural lapses" misconduct, and non-compliance with norms".

A notification, dated October 8, issued by the state government stated that in the inquiry, Danwade and Thorat have been found guilty of "misusing their powers" vested under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act-2015, and government considers it expedient to terminate the appointment of both the members.

WCD Department Commissioner Prashant Naravane said, "I had given the probe panel report to the state government and recommended that the appointment of the two members should be terminated."

"The report, recommend-



A probe panel of the state WCD Dept had recommended action against LN Danwade and Kavita Thorat

ing the termination, was sent to the state government in July. The state government on Tuesday terminated the appointment of both the members as they were found guilty of misusing their powers, which have been provided under the Juvenile Justice Act," he said.

On May 19, two IT professionals were killed in Kalyani Nagar area of Pune after their motorcycle was hit by a speeding Porsche car allegedly driven by a 17-year-old boy in an inebriated condition. The case caused a national uproar after then JJB member Danwade granted bail to the accused, son of a builder, on very lenient terms, including writing a 300-word essay on road safety.

Later, a committee was formed by the WCD Department for a probe into the conduct of two JJB members in connection with the bail given to the minor accused.

'Dhangad, not Dhanger' clarification withdrawn

Prajakta Pol

MUMBAI

The state government's revenue department has withdrawn the clarification issued on Wednesday, stating that 'Dhangar' should be read as 'Dhangad' vis-à-vis inclusion of the Dhangar community in the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category. The move came after statewide protests from the Dhangar community, which has been drawing benefits such as exemptions on property tax and land purchase discounts meant for tribals under the ST category.

In 1996, the revenue and forest department purportedly mistakenly included the Dhangar community under the ST category. It realised the "error" only after 28 years and issued a clarification on Wednesday. However, after protests from Dhangars, it had to withdraw the clarifi-

cation overnight. Dhangar leaders have demanded action against the official who issued the correction.

In the national tribal survey, the Dhangar community was classified as a tribal group. The state government also submitted an affidavit in court, stating that the 'Dhangad' caste does not exist. Five to six other states have submitted similar affidavits. These states have extended all tribal benefits to the Dhangar community, which confirms that the Dhangars are indeed tribals.

Dhangar leader Prakash Shende said, "We have presented five laws related to tribal benefits to the state government. These include the law on exemption from court fees stamps, the law exempting tribals from property taxes, and the law regarding atrocities."

Sanjeev Kumar Singhal new head of ACB

Mumbai: Senior IPS officer Sanjeev Kumar Singhal was on Thursday promoted as Director General of Police of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Maharashtra police, an official release said here.

The post was vacant for six months following the retirement of IPS officer Jaijeet Singh. Earlier, Singhal was posted as Additional Director General of Police (Establishment) at the state police headquarters in Mumbai.

Rucha Kanolkar

MUMBAI

In a significant move to bolster the skill development ecosystem in Mumbai, the BMC and the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) have joined forces to launch a state-of-the-art skill center in Kandivali. This initiative was formalised with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the presence of Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Piyush Goyal.

He added, "By fostering partnerships between industry leaders and training programs, this center will bridge the gap between education and real-world employment."

The center, constructed in

vide cutting-edge vocational training to young individuals in Mumbai. Piyush Goyal said, "In just six days, this center has already secured employment for 700 individuals, showcasing its immediate impact and the potential it holds. Over the coming year, it is expected to provide jobs to 1 lakh candidates by skilling them in various sectors."

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In just six days, this center secures employment for 700

Expected to provide jobs to 1 lakh candidates

44 days, is expected to provide opportunities for thousands of people in and around Mumbai. This state-of-the-art center will attract people from all over the country for its facilities," he said.

The facility, located in Akurli Village, Kandivali East,

Courses offered

Fashion technology

AC and refrigeration

Gaming and animation

Quick service restaurant mgmt

Data and cyber security

covers a G+5 building with a built-up area of 3440.68 sqm. It will initially offer five specialised courses, including fashion technology, AC and refrigeration, gaming and animation, quick service restaurant management, and data and cyber security. The 3-6 months programmes are designed to create an immediate impact in the job market.

Ajay Kumar Raina, executive vice president of NSDC, said, "Today marks a significant milestone in India's journey toward becoming a global skills capital, as envisioned by our PM Modi. This collaboration between NSDC, BMC and

CII reflects our unwavering commitment to empowering the youth of India. Through this initiative, we are providing young individuals with opportunities that align not only with their professional aspirations but also with India's broader economic goals."

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has equipped the facility with advanced labs, supported by industry partners and sector skill councils. A key aspect of the collaboration is the commitment to employment outcomes, with industry partners pledging to secure at least 75%

employment for candidates post-training. "NSDC, along with CII, will bridge the gap between education and employment by offering industry-relevant training and facilitating job placements," Raina noted.

During the launch event, offer letters were distributed to 20 candidates, representing the first batch of 500 beneficiaries.

The center will be managed by NSDC, which will oversee operations, including staffing, infrastructure, and maintenance. Regular bi-annual reports will be provided to BMC.

CREDIT SOCIETY CASE

ED seizes assets worth ₹1,000 crore



Ashish Singh

MUMBAI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Mumbai on Wednesday provisionally attached immovable assets worth approximately ₹1,002.79 crore in the money laundering case against Dnyanradha Multistate Cooperative Credit Society Ltd (DMCSL), its chairman Suresh Kute, and others. Kute, was arrested in the month of July and currently in judicial custody.

The investigation is based on FIRs registered at various police stations in Maharashtra from May to July 2024. These FIRs cite several sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860, and the Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (MPID) Act, 1999 in respect of fraud committed with the investors by Kute and others through M/DMCSL. DMCSL was managed and controlled by Kute, Yashwant V Kulkarni and others. It floated various deposit schemes (ponzi) and claimed to provide interest which varied from 12% to 14%.

During the agency's investigation, it was found that Kute and others lured more than 4 lakh gullible investors to deposit money with DMCSL by promising them higher returns. However, no payment or only partial pay-

Scholarship scheme has one more course

No action on notice to Shilpa, Raj

Urvi Mahajani

MUMBAI

In a relief for actor Shilpa Shetty and her businessman husband Raj Kundra, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) told the Bombay High Court on Thursday that it would not act upon the eviction notices issued to the couple till their application against the attachment order is heard and decided by an appellate tribunal.

ED issued notices to the couple on September 27 directing them to vacate their house in Juhu and a farmhouse in Pune in connection with a money-laundering case. The notices were issued pursuant to an attachment order passed by the agency.

Under the Rajarshi Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Tuition Fee Scholarship Scheme for students from economically weaker sections, the state government provides financial assistance of 50% of these fees.

The courses covered under the said scheme include medicine, engineering, architecture, pharmacy, and agriculture among others. While students enrolled in government-run, aided, partially aided, and private colleges get the benefit of the scheme, those admitted in private deemed universities and self-financed universities are excluded.

upping the game

BMC, NSDC join hands for a skill centre in Mumbai



Growing green

BMC has started plantation below the JJ flyover as part of the Mumbai beautification project - Salman Ansari

vide cutting-edge vocational training to young individuals in Mumbai. Piyush Goyal said, "In just six days, this center has already secured employment for 700 individuals, showcasing its immediate impact and the potential it holds. Over the coming year, it is expected to provide jobs to 1 lakh candidates by skilling them in various sectors."

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BJP's Sanjay Kakade likely to join NCP (SP)

Staff Reporter

PUNE

After Harshvardhan Patil and Samareet Singh Ghate's entry into the Nationalist Congress Party (Shard Chandra Pawar group) [NCP(SP)] ahead of the forthcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections, another heavyweight Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader from western Maharashtra is likely to join Sharad Pawar's party.

Speculation is rife that former Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Kakade is on the verge of joining the NCP (SP). The rumours gained further traction after his wife, Usha Kakade, was seen meeting NCP (SP) working president and Baramati MP Supriya Sule in Pune on Wednesday.

Speaking to the media, Kakade stated, "I am neither denying nor confirming the news (of a switch). I will not take any decision without consultation with Devendra Fadnavis."

Meanwhile, Pawar interviewed ticket aspirants for the eight Assembly constituencies in Pune city as well as constituencies in the rest of the district on Wednesday.

Pune City NCP (SP) chief Prashant Jagtap said more than 15 aspirants appeared for interviews for the eight city constituencies—Kothrud, Kasba, Vadgaon Sheri, Parvati, Hadapsar, Khadakwasla, Pune Cantonment, and Shivajinagar.

Jagtap himself appeared for an interview for the Hadapsar constituency.

PROPAGANDA VISUALS | The banners, hoardings of politicians not only make unappealing visuals but pose a threat if they fall

Illegal posters flood city

Indu Bhagat

PUNE

Ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections, which are expected to be announced before November, candidates and political parties are using various methods to impress voters and convey their messages. Due to this, streets and roads are filled with unauthorised banners and posters from different political parties. The posters can be seen pasted everywhere: on bus stops, trees, compound walls and even at the Pune Railway Station metro pillars.

Preeti Singh, a resident of the Malunge area, said, "The Radha Chowk near Orchid Hotel, Baner, is filled with big posters of politicians. They have also covered the signboards mounted at the entrance of the underpass of a bridge with posters—all this to gain attention and seek votes from people. Authorities should take some strict action against the illegal placement of these posters."

FC Road and Karve Nagar Road are lined with numerous hoardings from different political parties, and some big posters covering the signboards can be seen at Radha Chowk in Baner. Most of these banners and posters are placed illegally without any consent or permission from the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC). These banners not only make the city look unappealing



but also pose a threat to life if they fall.

In Kasba, sitting MLA Ravindra Dhangekar's posters are up alongside posters of BJP leaders. Even in the Khadakwasla constituency, banners for BJP's Bhimrao Tapkir, the sitting MLA, NCP (SP) leaders, and former BJP corporator Manjusha Nagpure and her husband Deepak Nagpure have appeared. The posters by the Nagpures at Rajaram Bridge on Sinhgad Road carry messages about 'Love jihad'. A similar poster was also seen at Veer Baji Pasalkar Chowk.

Manjusha Nagpure told The Free Press Journal (FPJ), "We placed the banners about love jihad at Rajaram Bridge and are not aware of receiving any intimation from the PMC."

A PMC official told the FPJ,

"The Sky Signs Department is taking care of such violations. We are taking strict action against those who are allegedly putting up posters without proper permission from the PMC."

PMC Commissioner Rajendra Bhosale issued a notice enforcing strict rules and regulations for advertisements. The letter from the commissioner read, "Designated spaces for temporary advertisements, as listed on the PMC website, will now require prior permission from the relevant zonal office and payment of prescribed fees. Any advertisements placed outside of these areas or without proper authorization will face action under the Maharashtra Defacement of Property Act, 1995, with potential criminal charges. Citizens are reminded that

boards related to birthdays, greetings, religious events, or similar occasions will only be allowed at authorized locations after proper approval from the PMC's License and Sky Sign Department."

The decision was taken in compliance with sections 244 and 245 of the Maharashtra Municipal Corporation Act, 1949. The PMC's Licensing and Sky Signs Department will regulate the erection and renewal of advertisement boards. This is in response to a public interest litigation filed by the Suswara Foundation and others, leading to a government order on Nov 14, 2022. The order mandates all municipalities in the state to ban unauthorised advertisement panels, banners, flex posters, and other similar materials to curb urban disfigurement.

Online lottery by MHADA's Pune board for 6k+ houses

FPJ News Service

PUNE

The Pune Housing and Area Development Board (a division of MHADA) has announced an online lottery for the sale of 6,294 housing units across Pune.

Pimpri-Chinchwad, PMRDA regions, and also in Solapur, Kolhapur and Sangli districts under various housing schemes. The registration and application process began on Thursday, Oct 10, 2024, at 12pm.

The 'Go-Live' event will be inaugurated by Shivaji Rao Adhalrao Patil, Chairman of the Pune Board. The online lottery for the sale of these housing units will be conducted on Dec 5, 2024. Beginning at 12pm on Oct 10, interested applicants can start the online registration and application process. On the same day, they will also be able to make payments online.

The registration and application process will close on Nov 12, 2024, at 5pm. Additionally, applicants will have time until 11.59 pm on Nov 12, 2024, to submit their Earnest Money Deposit (EMD). Payments via RTGS/NEFT can be made until 3pm on Nov 13, 2024, during regular banking



hours. The provisional list of accepted applications will be published on Nov 23, 2024, at 7pm on MHADA's official website, www.housing.mhada.gov.in. Applicants will be allowed to raise objections to the provisional list until 5pm on Nov 27, 2024. The final list of eligible participants for the lottery will be published on Nov 30, 2024.

The Pune Board advises interested applicants to carefully review the information booklet before registering and applying. This booklet is available on MHADA's official website at https://housing.mhada.gov.in. Additionally, MHADA has not appointed any agents, consultants, or property agents for this lottery. Applicants are strongly urged not to engage with such individuals, as the Pune Board will not be responsible for any fraudulent dealings or unauthorised transactions.

Furthermore, 3,312 housing units under the 20%



Bengali Durga Puja

85th Greater Sarbojanin Durgotsav 2024, organised by the Bangiya Sanskriti Samsad at the Congress Bhavan. Pic: Anand Chaini

Fuel shortage fear looms over strike call

Staff Reporter

PUNE

The Petrol Dealers Association (PDA) in Pune, comprising over 900 dealers and transporters, has announced an indefinite strike from Oct 15, due to unresolved issues with oil companies regarding unfair tender practices, rampant thefts in fuel transportation and many other issues. The PDA, in a press release, stated that the strike aims to address several serious concerns, which have been ignored despite multiple representations to the oil companies and authorities. The organisation also stated that they have already informed the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, local administration and oil



companies about this planned agitation. "Therefore, from Oct 15, it will be the primary responsibility of the oil companies to ensure that petrol and diesel are delivered to pumps in proper quantity, quality, and on time, to avoid public inconvenience," they

said in a statement. The PDA also said that the oil companies have floated tenders with unviable rates, forcing dealers to sign blank documents/agreements. Many transporters who accepted these low rates have been involved in thefts, with 65%

caught by police while trying to survive in this unfair system."

"Oil companies are offering unreasonable rate bands without consulting the stakeholders. The safety of petroleum transportation is being taken for granted, putting the public at risk as companies disregard essential safety protocols," it added.

"The association's repeated representations to curb thefts have been ignored. Over 10 theft cases have been reported in the last two years, with the most recent case a month ago where the Pune Police invoked MCOCA," the PDA further said.

Despite companies investing large sums in theft-proof systems like e-locking and

vehicle tracking, thefts continue to occur, said the PDA.

"This proves the negligence of company officers monitoring these systems, forcing the police to step in and act in the interest of public safety," it stated, adding that these officers "have been left unpunished, despite their major involvement in undermining the transportation of explosive substances like petrol and diesel."

The organisation demanded that these officers be suspended and an investigation be launched against them.

The PDA also demanded scrapping the "unviable" tenders and "the publication of new ones with fair rates, viable for the safe transport of hazardous materials like petrol and diesel."

Talent Fusion 2K24 event wraps up

Staff Reporter

PUNE

The highly anticipated Talent Fusion 2K24 event, organised by the MIT School of Corporate Innovation and Leadership (SCIL) at MIT ADT University, recently concluded with tremendous enthusiasm from students across various departments. This annual event, which aims to enhance the employability skills of students throughout the university, once again proved to be a great success.

Talent Fusion is designed to promote the holistic development of students, focusing on both professional and aptitude skills. The event's competitive nature attracted over 1,900 participants from across the university in its initial round. Over the course of three rounds, the field was narrowed down to 10 finalists, who competed in the final 'Elevator



The winners of Talent Fusion 2K24:

- First prize:** Madhur Patil, School of Computing
- Second prize:** Prasad Bokare, School of Computing
- Third prize:** Abhishek Saha, School of Engineering and Sciences

Notable guests, including Captain Prerit Mishra, principal of MANET, and Suraj Bhowmik, head of the Students Impact Council, were also in attendance.

The event was led by Shikha Kabra, practice leader for aptitude skills, and Sarah Rose, practice leader for professional skills from the SCIL department.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Jaydeep Shirole, practice leader of the Career Advancement Cell.

Agarwal Samaj Federation celebrates Agrasen Jayanti

Staff Reporter

PUNE

The Agarwal Samaj Federation celebrated 'Agrasen Jayanti' on Oct 7 at Yerwada's Lok Shahr Annabhau Sathe Sanskrutik Bhawan amid a gathering of thousands. The event honoured meritorious students who passed class 10th and 12th with mementoes.

Prominent figures included Agarwal Samaj Federation president Krishnakumar Goyal, Maharashtra state president Umesh Khatan, Abhimanyu film producer Pawan Jain and Mumbai Agarwal Samaj president Dinesh Agarwal, alongside officers from various society organisations. Dignitaries lit the ceremonial lamp to mark the occasion. Goyal emphasised the importance of education for students, stating that it should benefit society and the nation. He announced plans to acquire land for the Agarwal Samaj in Pune, with the construction of Vastu Bhawan to



facilitate organisation among members.

Federation secretary KL Bansal, Vinod Bansal, Shyam Goyal, Nitin Agarwal, Madanlal Gupta, Nandlal Gupta, Neeta Agarwal, Subhash Sugla and women office bearers extended their wishes on Agrasen Jayanti.

Rambhau Jagtap

SATARA

Pratapgad Fort, located near Mahabaleshwar and steeped in the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, was the site of a vibrant Mashal Mahotsav on Tuesday night. The festival dazzled attendees with the lighting of 365 torches, illuminating the sky alongside an array of fireworks and the rhythmic beats of traditional drums. Attendees passionately chanted slogans like "Jai Bhavani... Jai Shivaji," creating a lively and reverent atmosphere.

This year's celebration marked the 15th anniversary of the Mashal Mahotsav, which began following the 350th anniversary of the Bhawani Mata temple at the fort. The event started with the lighting of 350 torches and has been celebrated annually during the Navratri festival.

As the formal puja of Bhawani Mata concluded, traditional instruments signalled the moment to light the torches, accompanied by enthusiastic chanting of "Jai Bhawani Jai Shivaji". Thousands of devotees were mes-

merised by the stunning ceremony, further enhanced by decorative electric lights adorning the fort.

Mahaprasad was organised for the visiting devotees, adding to the festive spirit. During Navratri, two ghatas are placed at Pratapgad: one honouring Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the other dedicated to Rajaram Maharaj. This cherished tradition continues to thrive, with the Mashal Mahotsav celebrated for the past 15 years and featuring an impressive 365 torches this year.

annual celebration

Mashal Mahotsav celebrated at Pratapgad Fort

annual celebration



gp Briefs

AHMEDABAD
Ex-Army Officer held for scam



Ahmedabad cybercrime cell nabbed a former army personnel, Swami Ayyappa Naravala Apparao, from Hyderabad for duping a city businessman of ₹86 lakh over a WhatsApp call. The ex-army man called the businessman on WhatsApp and informed him that he had an insider tip for the stock market. Trusting the tip, the businessman invested ₹86 lakh in the share market. After that, the accused converted the amount into US dollars and transferred it to Cambodia. Realising the scam, the businessman filed a complaint against the accused in the Ahmedabad Cyber Crime and an investigation was started for the same.

With the help of the money-transferring link, the Ahmedabad cybercrime cell was able to trace and identify the accused and nabbed him from the state of Hyderabad.

AHMEDABAD
AMC to pay ₹33 crore for roads

Over ₹33 crore is to be paid to contractors for the construction of new roads. This year, more than 19,000 potholes on roads were repaired by the Amdavad Municipal Corporation (AMC) during the monsoon. The standing committee has approved the proposal to pay this amount to four contractors for regrading and construction of new roads across different wards in the city. Contractors will receive a price increase ranging from 24.50% to 31.50%. According to the proposals submitted for work in the northern and western zones, an estimated ₹105.2 crore has been allocated for road works. The proposals include regrading and resurfacing roads, as well as patchwork on existing roads in various parts of the northern and western zones, as well as in the eastern zone. The standing committee is reviewing these proposals for approval.

AHMEDABAD
Two arrested for hospital robbery

Ahmedabad City Crime Branch cracked two burglary cases at two hospitals over the past two months. The authorities arrested two suspects involved in the crimes, which took place at hospitals in the Vadaj and Ramol police station areas. The suspects, Deepak alias Bhuvu Bachubhai Dantani (29), a rickshaw driver, and Rahul Rajeshbhai Dabhi (20), a freelancer, were apprehended by the crime branch. Both men are residents of Shahibaug, Ahmedabad. After their arrest, they were handed over to the respective police stations for further investigation. The first burglary took place two months ago at a hospital located within the Vadaj Police Station's jurisdiction at Mansi Hospital, while the second incident occurred five days ago at a hospital in the Ramol Police Station area at Asian Children's hospital.

DIAMOND INDUSTRY | He was left impressed by the scale and technology in use

Ratan Tata's deep connection with Surat: A memorable visit in 2018

Melvyn Thomas

SURAT



Ratan Tata, India's iconic industrialist and chairman emeritus of Tata Sons, had a profound connection with Surat, the bustling diamond city in Gujarat. Born on December 28, 1937, during the British regime in the Bombay Presidency, Tata's roots trace back to the Parsi community in Gujarat. His father, Naval Tata, was born in Surat, further deepening the family's historical ties to the city. Tata's last visit to Surat took place on May 3, 2018. It was a significant occasion, as he was invited by Govind Dholakia, the chairman of Shri Ramkrishna Exports (SRK) and now the BJP Member of Parliament from Surat. During this visit, Tata was not just visiting a modern diamond powerhouse, but also reconnecting with his family's heritage in the Parsi community of Surat.

Upon his arrival, Tata went straight to Shahpore, a historic part of the city, where he

visited the grand Parsi General Hospital and the Surat Parsi Panchayat office. These landmarks hold great significance for the Parsi community, and Tata's visit was seen as nod to his familial roots. From Shahpore, Tata made his way to the SRK diamond factory in Katargam, where he was warmly welcomed by Dholakia and his family. Reflecting on his visit to Surat after 20 years, Tata shared his admiration for the city's rapid development. "Surat is khoobsurat (beautiful)," he said, emphasizing

On his last trip to Surat, he had a chance to reconnect with his Parsi roots that trace back to Gujarat

ceremony then, Tata assured the Dholakia family that he would make time to visit them in the future. At the SRK diamond unit, Tata was deeply impressed by the advanced diamond cutting and polishing processes. He praised the company's research and development efforts, expressing amazement at the scale and sophistication of the operations. "I never thought that we do this in India and that too in Surat," Tata commented. His admiration extended to the possibility of India applying similar expertise in other sectors, such as electronics.

Tata also spoke with the younger members of the Dholakia family, discussing the differences between pro-

fessionally-run companies like Tata and family-run businesses like SRK. He highlighted the challenges family businesses often face, especially when multiple generations are involved. Despite these challenges, Tata encouraged diversification as a key to success in the business world. Known for his humility and focus on social welfare, Tata reflected on his legacy. He expressed a desire not to be remembered solely as a wealth creator, but as someone who made a meaningful difference in the lives of ordinary people. He credited his achievements to the opportunities he received in India, stating, "Had I not been born here, I wouldn't have been able to do what I wanted to do to help people."

Interestingly, Tata's connection with Surat extended even further, as Titan watches—manufactured by the Tata Group—source diamonds from the Surat-based company, creating yet another bond between the iconic industrialist and the city.

From Surat to the skies; Tata's inspiring tale



Vidhu Sekhar P

Ratan Tata, the son of the soil and his contribution has influenced the state of Gujarat. As the nation pays tribute to this legend, the world values his legacy, which inspires youngsters to imbibe his values and commitment to the progress of the society. Surat can proudly call Ratan Tata as their son because his contribution to the state's growth was invaluable.

There are few specific instances at Surat and in Gujarat where the bond was very visible. Surat got the early liberalization benefits from the automobile industry as Tata Motor's dealership was established in 2008. Tata Steel's supply chain supported the textile and manufacturing industries. Tata has powered industrial and residential areas through electricity supply. His initiatives have promoted the diamond industry through various initiatives.

The politically controversial TATA NANO PLANT got a lease of life that generated thousands of jobs by transforming the state's automotive industry. Mithapur facility of Tata Chemicals, known for the production of soda ash, salt, and other essential products. His initiatives for renewable energy harnessed solar and wind energy to power Gujarat's growth. In academics, the Tata Trust came forward to collaborate with Gujarat University for education and research initiatives. Rural empowerment was visible through their support to the communities. He has addressed many budding entrepreneurs, Industry leaders and promoted innovation that has the power to drive the economy.

As a consequence of pushes and pulls, the joint venture never took off due to regulatory hurdles. Aviation liberalization was delayed, hindering growth. It was a loss of opportunity as we missed out on a world-class airline that could have raised industry standards.

A fast forward to 2022, and a sweet revenge, Tata group acquired Air India the loss making Maharaaja, the white elephant and turned the tables. In October 2021, Tata Sons made a historic bid of ₹18,000 crores to acquire it, marking a significant milestone in Indian aviation.

Coming to the airline business, there is an untold story where backstabbing has in fact delayed domestic aviation growth in the country. When late Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao went for economic liberalization during the 1990s, the Indian aviation industry was ready to expand wings. Tata Group saw an opportunity to enter the domestic aviation market. In 1998, Tata announced a joint venture with Singapore Airlines to launch a domestic airline in India.

The proposed joint project classified as "Tata-SIA Airlines," was aimed to rev-

solutionise India's aviation landscape. As per the policy Singapore Airlines would hold a 40% stake, while Tata Sons would own 60%. The partnership would leverage Singapore Airlines' expertise and Tata's domestic presence.

However, vested interests and lobbies allegedly backed by rival airlines and politicians, sabotaged the project. The Indian government suddenly changed the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, reducing the foreign stake limit from 40% to 26% for domestic airlines.

This move was specifically targeted to Tata-SIA Airlines. The rival private airlines lobbied heavily against the Tata-SIA venture, citing concerns over foreign control on Indian skies. Ratan Tata was upset by the sudden policy change of FDI, and termed it as unfortunate.

Tata-SIA Airlines announced the joint venture in 1998. Government changed FDI policy in 1999 by reducing foreign stake limits. In 2000, Tata decided to back out from the project. It is to be remembered that till 1998-99, major private airlines in India enjoyed support from German Lufthansa, Kuwait Airways and Gulf Air.

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The successful bid marked the beginning of a new era for Air India under Tata Sons' leadership, poised to reclaim its position as India's premier airline. Ratan Tata, a witness to this historic pact, had once been denied justice when Tata-SIA Airlines' joint venture was sabotaged. Today, he stood vindicated. Tata taught us that the Sky is not the Limit; and none are here to teach Tata how to fly.

(Author is an Assistant Professor at NIFT, earlier worked with Airline Industry)

Dropout rates in Guj cause for concern



FPJ News Service

GANDHINAGAR

According to the dropout statistics in the academic year of 2022-23, 23% of students in classes 9 and 10 dropped out from the schools in Gujarat. Over 1.15 lakh students in the state are not attending the school. The state government's education department conducts an annual child tracking and dropout survey, every year to keep track of the education of students in the state.

The data obtained by the government by the survey reveals that the dropout rate is higher among the boys compared to girls. Recently, the School Education Council (Gujarat School Education Board) issued a circular to all DEOs (District Education Officer), district project coordinators, and municipal administrators, stating that dropout rates are notably higher in classes 6 to 8 and 9-10. The dropout rates are 1.17% for grades 1 to 5, 2.68% for grades 6 to 8, 23.28% for grades 9-10, and 6.19% for

grades 11-12. District-wise, the highest dropout rate of 35.45% is reported in Devbhumi Dwarka. Among the total dropouts in grades 9-10, 24.97% are boys and 21.24% are girls. Despite government efforts to enroll children during school admission drives, many remain untracked. According to the tracking system, there are 2,35,127 untracked children aged 6 to 14 and 3,82,667 aged 15 to 19. The dropout data indicates that there are 51,764 children aged 6 to 14 and 88,972 children aged 15 to 19 who have dropped out. The central government's management portal shows that 1,15,219 children are not currently enrolled in school, while requests have been made for 67,969 children at the district level to be enrolled in school. The School Education Council has instructed all DEOs and administrative officials to start the new survey from October 10, with the aim of completing the survey by November 30.

Homes of gang rape accused face demolition

VADODARA: VMC is likely to take action against Munna and Mumtaz Banjara, two of the accused in the Vadodara gang rape case in Bhayli after their residences were found to be illegal.

The corporator visited the Ekta Nagar area of Tandalja and conducted a site survey upon receiving the information that the accused's houses were illegal. After that, both individuals were served a demolition notice by the Municipal Corporation.

Four in ₹200Cr scam remanded to custody

FPJ News Service

AHMEDABAD

A magistrate's court on Wednesday remanded four accused in a GST input tax credit scam case to 10 days of police custody. The accused include Maheshdham Langa, a journalist The Hindu newspaper. The other accused are Jyoti Gondaliya, Aeajaz Maldar, and Abdul Qadri. A firm named Dhruvi Enterprise is found to be at the centre of the whole tax evasion scheme. During questioning, Samad stated that he had purchased another 15 to 20 companies between 2022 and 23.

inquiry in the case, it was found that after acquiring the GST number for Dhruvi Enterprises, registrations were obtained for another 13 companies. Through these 14 companies, multiple financial transactions were shown to claim input tax credit.

Samad Kadri bought a fake company under the name Dhruvi Enterprises for Rs2 lakh and sold it to another party. During questioning, Samad stated that he had purchased another 15 to 20 companies between 2022 and 23.

MP slams SMC for negligence in bridge maintenance



"someone could easily slip through and fall into the river below," warned Dalal, emphasizing the urgent need for repairs. Speaking on the matter, a concerned resident from Adajan said, "It seems like the authorities are waiting for a disaster to happen before they act."

Dalal's letter highlights the alarming state of the parapet wall on the new section of the bridge, which serves as a vital link between the two bustling areas. According to him, the entire parapet has multiple large holes exposing the steel and concrete underneath. "The holes are so wide that

their AC chambers to assess the damages to public properties, including bridges," he said. Dalal urged the commissioner to take immediate action to repair the parapet wall before any untoward incidents occur.

Local business owners also voiced their frustration. "We've reported this issue multiple times, but no one listens. The bridge is a major route for commuters and its condition has been worsening for months," said Manoj Patel, a shopkeeper.

Forest dept begins ESZ awareness

FPJ News Service

RAJKOT

Amid ongoing resistance by villagers against the proposed eco-sensitive zone (ESZ) around Gir, the forest department has begun distributing leaflets to address misconceptions. Forest officials claimed that certain vested interests were inciting farmers against the ESZ. Residents of 196 villages that would be part of the ESZ have held rallies and submitted memorandums demanding the cancellation of the notification, fearing that their rights would be restricted.

Aradhna Sahu, Chief Conservator of Forests, Junagadh, put their concerns to rest. She stated that while activities like commercial mining, stone quarrying, and crushing units would be restricted, there would be no limitations on personal mining. Regulated activities would include hotels and resorts.

Gujarat CM Patel inaugurates SPIPA campus in Gandhinagar



The inauguration is part of a week-long celebration to commemorate PM Modi's 23 years in public office

duties and contribute to Viksit Gujarat.

Chief Secretary Raj Kumar, along with Shri Mohammad Shahid, the Additional Chief Secretary of the Administrative Reforms and

T-Hub, Tconsult & Queen Maria Leonora Torres ink MoU

FPJ | HYDERABAD

In a landmark event held at the world's largest innovation campus, T-Hub, Tconsult and Her Highness Queen Maria Leonora Torres of the Philippines have signed an exclusive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formally establish the Tconsult Royal Alliance for Global Innovation & Investment.

The MoU signing marks the beginning of a groundbreaking collaboration between Tconsult and royal families worldwide. Sundeep Kumar Makthala, Chairman of Tconsult, and Her Highness Queen Maria Leonora Torres exchanged the MoU during a prestigious ceremony at T-Hub, solidifying their commitment to drive global innovation and foster strategic investments aimed at trans-



formative technological and social impact. The Tconsult Royal Alliance for Global Innovation & Investment is designed to connect royal families, governments, and

global investors with cutting-edge innovations that address some of the world's most pressing challenges. Through this partnership, Tconsult will identify and promote innovative solutions while facilitating high-impact investments that empower communities and stimulate economic growth in sectors such as healthcare, education, sustain-

ability, and technology.

Speaking on the occasion, Sundeep Kumar Makthala stated, "We are honoured to have Her Highness Queen Maria Leonora Torres as the first royal partner in this global initiative. This MoU is the foundation of a long-term alliance that will drive innovations and investments, transforming lives across borders. Our vision is to create a network of partnerships with royal members worldwide, enabling global cooperation to solve critical issues."

Her Highness Queen Maria Leonora Torres emphasized the importance of this collaboration, noting, "This partnership with Tconsult reflects our shared commitment to uplifting societies through innovation and investment. Together, we will work toward fostering sustainable development and enhancing opportunities for people across the globe." This signing represents the first in a series of pacts Tconsult plans to formalize with royal family members across the world, further expanding its global footprint in the fields of innovation, investment, and social impact. T-Hub, a symbol of cutting-edge innovation and technology, was the ideal setting for this inaugural signing of such a historic agreement.

SRI MAHISHASURA MARDHNI



CM Revanth mourns Ratan Tata's demise

FPJ | HYDERABAD

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has expressed deep shock at the death of veteran industrialist Ratan Tata, who passed away at the age of 86 in Mumbai's Breach Candy hospital on Wednesday night.

In a tweet on Thursday, the Chief Minister stated that he is deeply shocked and saddened by the passing of Ratan Tata, one of India's greatest industrialists.

"A visionary leader, humanitarian, and legendary figure in India's corporate world, Shri Tata's life was an extraordinary journey of humility and success," he said.

Under Ratan Tata's exceptional leadership, the Tata brand soared to unparalleled heights, conquering new horizons and filling every Indian with pride. His unmatched



contributions to making India a global industrial power have left an indelible mark. Ratan Tata's legacy of business excellence, unwavering ethics, and commitment to social good will continue to inspire generations, especially the youth of an aspirational and enterprising India, Revanth Reddy reminded. The Chief Minister

further stated that with the passing away of Ratan Tata, India has lost not only an industrial icon, but also a beloved son who embodied the true spirit of service and integrity, adding that there will never be another like him. The Chief Minister has extended his heartfelt condolences to the Tata family and to the countless Indians who mourn this immense loss. Ratan Tata's contributions will be remembered forever and his spirit will continue to guide us, Revanth Reddy added.

Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar described Ratan Tata as a visionary who transformed Tata Group into a global powerhouse, creating countless opportunities for India's growth.

Ratan Tata's legacy will continue to inspire generations, he said.

Tata Group's contribution are immeasurable

FPJ | HYDERABAD

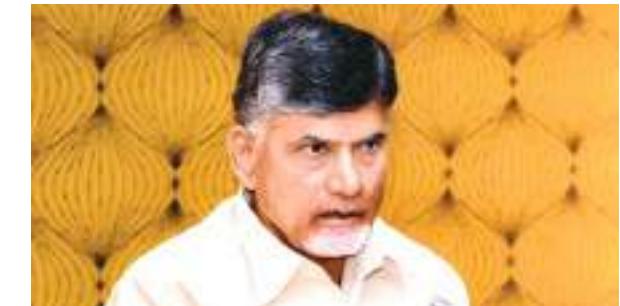
In a message, Chairman, CII Telangana, on the demise of Ratan Tata today said, "We are profoundly saddened to learn of the passing of Ratan Tata, a visionary leader, industrialist, and philanthropist whose contributions to the Tata Group and India are immeasurable. His vision led to significant expansions and acquisitions, making the Tata brand synonymous with excellence and trust. Tata's exceptional leadership



transformed the Tata Group into a global conglomerate renowned for its innovation, governance practices, and great commitment to corporate social responsibility. Tata steered the Group towards international markets, acquiring global brands such as Jaguar Land Rover and Corus Steel. This not only diversified the group's portfolio but also enhanced its global presence. He also championed innovation, leading to the development of groundbreaking products

like the Tata Nano, and this spirit of innovation fostered a culture of creativity within the group. Beyond business, Tata strongly advocated for education, healthcare, and community development. His philanthropic initiatives, particularly through the Tata Trusts, have touched the lives of lakhs of people. His humility, integrity, and unwavering commitment to societal progress have inspired countless individuals and leaders. Our heartfelt condolences to all those who were touched by his extraordinary life, may his vision continue to inspire us all", said Sai D Prasad.

Ratan Tata not only businessman, also true humanitarian: AP CM Chandrababu Naidu



Telugu film personalities pay tribute to Ratan Tata

FPJ | HYDERABAD

tributed to our Nation building," he said on X.

Describing Ratan Tata as a giant of industry and a beacon of humanity, actor Mahesh Babu said the departed industrialist's generosity, wisdom, and unwavering commitment for the greater good has left an indelible mark on the world.

In his message, Junior NTR said Ratan Tata's selfless philanthropy and visionary leadership have transformed countless lives. "India owes him a debt of gratitude."

Actor Ram Charan termed Ratan Tata's demise as a huge loss to the nation.

"An iconic legend and guiding light, he touched the lives of many, from the common man to business pioneers. A deeply loved philanthropist, Ratan Tata Sir's legacy will live on in the hearts of millions," he said.

By 7 PM Productions, Puppet Show Productions project with Thiruveer

FPJ | HYDERABAD

Versatile actor Thiruveer, known for his captivating performances in diverse roles, is set to star in the upcoming comedy-drama film "The Great Pre Wedding Show." The film, produced by By 7PM Productions and Puppet Show Productions, officially launched today in Hyderabad with a grand ceremony.

Director Rahul Srinivas, known for his fresh perspective, helms the project, which features the talented Tina Shravya (of "Committee Kurrolu" fame) as the leading lady. The muhurat shot was graced by renowned actor Rana Daggubati, who gave the ceremonial clap, while Sandeep Agaram commenced the shoot by switching on the camera.

Producers Sandeep Agaram and Ashmita Reddy expressed their gratitude to Rana Daggubati and other industry personalities who graced the event. They emphasized the comedic and dramatic elements of the film, highlighting Director Srinivas' unique and innovative approach. The producers announced that



'The Great Pre Wedding Show' launched traditionally by Rana Daggubati

regular shooting will commence on November 7th. this occasion, producers Sandeep Agaram and Ashmita Reddy said, "I would like to express my sincere thanks to Rana Garu, other film personalities and celebrities who came here to support our film 'The Great Pre-Wedding Show.' We are making a movie in comedy drama genre. Director Rahul Srinivas is making the film with a new point. We are starting regular shooting from November 7. Thanks to hero Thiruveer" he said.

Director Rahul Srinivas shed light on the film's premise, stating that "The Great Pre Wedding Show" will entertain audiences with its blend of humor and drama. He also revealed that the shooting will take place in S. Kota and Visakhapatnam from November 7th onwards. Srinivas expressed

his gratitude to Thiruveer, Sandeep Agaram, and Ashmita Reddy for this exciting opportunity. Director Rahul Srinivas said that the movie 'The Great Pre Wedding Show' will entertain as a comedy drama movie. We are going to shoot in S. Kota and Vizag areas from November 7. Thanks to hero Thiruveer and producers Sandeep Agaram and Ashmita Reddy for giving us the opportunity," he said.

The film's official launch has generated significant buzz in the industry, with fans eagerly anticipating Thiruveer's next captivating performance. The comedic and dramatic elements, coupled with a fresh perspective from the director, promise a compelling and entertaining cinematic experience.

Movie: The Great Pre-Wedding Show
Banner: BY7PM Productions, In Collaboration with Puppet Show Productions, **Genre:** Comedy, Drama, **Cast:** Thiruveer, Teena Sravya (Committee Kurrolu Fame), Rohan Roy (#90's A Middle Class Biopic Fame), Narendra (Mem Famous Fame), **Crew:** Producers: Sandeep Agaram, Ashmita Reddy, Co-Producer: Kalpana Rao **Written & Direction:** Rahul Srinivas, **DOP:** K Soma Shekar, **Music:**

Director: Kalyan Nayak (Arteri Pada Bhushan, Mem Famous, Maruthi Nagar Subramanyam Fame), **Editor:** Naresh Adapa, **Executive Producer:** Prajny Konigari, **Production Designer:** Phani Teja Musi, **Costume Designer:** Aarthi Vinmaka & Priyank Veeraboina, **Sound Designer:** Ashwin Rajsekhar, **PRO:** Naidu Surendra Kumar - Phani Kandukuri (Beyond Media), **Publicity Designer:** Ideal Dots, **Marketing:** House Full Media

'Ratan Tata should be given 'Bharat Ratna'

FPJ | HYDERABAD

Renowned business woman and artiste Dr G. Anuha Reddy expressed grief over the death of Ratan Tata (86), the industrial tycoon, who fulfilled the dreams of the poor. She expressed her grief over the death of a great person like Ratan Tata, who established many companies in the country and abroad and provided livelihood to the poor and weaker sections.

g o v e r n m e n t confer the highest civilian award of the country Bharat Ratna' on Ratan Tata, who left his mark in the industrial sector for a long time and stood on the side of the poor and is a role model for many today. Tata was hailed as a humanitarian, who gave 65% of his wealth to the poor. She said Ratan Tata did not marry as he was worried that he would be distracted from his cherished ambitions. Anuha Reddy said Ratan Tata was a role model for the present as well as future generations.

Don't be scared of Digital arrest, threats

FPJ | HYDERABAD

The City cyber crime police authorities have made it clear that digital arrests are not implemented anywhere in the country, and advised the people not to be afraid of threats and digital arrest. They also made it clear that no government department or agency will make video calls or skype calls.

Stating that incidents of digital arrest are increasing in recent days not only in Hyderabad but in the country, the authorities said cyber criminals are adopting the methods of threats and digital arrest and people should not become a prey to such tactics of the criminals.

The police, cyber cops, ED, CBI, RBI, Customs officials, judges, Narcotic wings, BSNL

or TRAI will never make video or spike calls. Cyber criminals are making video calls and threatening the innocent people in the name of drugs, money laundering, illegal transactions and so on. People should not get scared of such calls, but immediately call 1930 or whatsapp to 8712665171 and lodge a complaint.

The authorities said some gangs are scaring the people in different ways, using the name of police and other agencies and threatening them about digital arrest. They made it clear that there is no such practice of digital arrest and no government department or agency resort to such practice. People should be aware of these facts and refrain from paying/transferring money to anyone who resort to threats and digital arrest and so on.

Producers Sandeep Agaram and Ashmita Reddy expressed their gratitude to Rana Daggubati and other industry personalities who graced the event. They emphasized the comedic and dramatic elements of the film, highlighting Director Srinivas' unique and innovative approach. The producers announced that



**Quick
Trail**

BENGALURU

Films should be visceral experience, irrespective of genre: Director

When 'Ibbani Tabibida Ileyali (ITI)' was released on September 5, it met with push back from some critics who felt that perhaps Rakshit Shetty – the producer – let director Chandrajith Belliappa indulge too much in his idiosyncrasies.

To be fair to them, the film is perched precariously on a string of wispy verses and hipster-ish dreams. A tony restaurant that could sell its signature dishes for Rs 20 is one among the many progressive ideas floated by Belliappa in his film.

But perhaps the confidence with which he anchors these alternative viewpoints – despite this being his first full-length feature film – made it possible for the film to be steered into a more popular zone.

"Qualities I have within and qualities I believe in probably did seep into the film subconsciously, but there was no push to preach," insisted Belliappa.

Incidentally, Belliappa debuted as director with one of the seven anthologies in 'Katha Sangama' in 2019, made as a tribute to filmmaker Puttana Kanagal and produced by another giant of the Kannada film industry, Rishab Shetty.

Belliappa admits that he did wear his heart on his sleeve for 'ITI'.

"Since it is a love story, some specific qualities that I may be looking for in the partner that I want to spend my life with may have coloured the girl's character. The way I want to treat her defined the character of the male lead," Belliappa told PTI.

Wispy or not, more than a month later, when most Kannada films wrap up after one week in theatres, 'ITI' is still going strong, proving critics wrong.

K'taka HC acquits 3, including Pakistani man, citing procedural flaw in 2012 terror case

NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court has acquitted three people, including a Pakistani national, from charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) related to a 2012 terror conspiracy allegedly plotted inside Bengaluru Central Prison.

The court found a procedural flaw in the prosecution sanction granted by the state government, leading to the acquittals.

The accused – Syed Abdul Rehman from Bengaluru,

Afsar Pasha alias Khushiruddin from Chintamani in Kolar district and Mohammed Fahad Khoya from Karachi, Pakistan – were charged under various provisions of the UAPA and the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

However, while acquitting them of these charges, the court upheld Rehman's conviction under the Arms Act, 1959, and the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.

Rehman was found guilty of illegal possession of a revolver and concealing explosives, leading to a revised sentence of 10 years' imprisonment.

A division bench, consisting of Justice Sreenivas Har-

ish Kumar and Justice J M Khazi, allowed the petitions

filed by Pasha and Khoya challenging their 2023 conviction and life imprisonment sentence.

However, the bench only modified Rehman's conviction under the lesser offenses of the Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act.

The court found that the

sanction for prosecution

was flawed. The Principal Secretary to the Home Department at the time,

Raghavendra H Auradkar,

admitted during cross-

examination that he could

not recall whether an in-

dependent review commit-

tee was involved when he

granted the sanction.

The court noted that under Section 45(2) of the UAPA, it is mandatory to consider the review committee's report before granting sanction.

As the trial court overrode this procedural lapse, the High Court concluded that the sanction order was invalid, thereby vitiating the charges under the UAPA.

The court also noted the absence of independent evidence to substantiate the charges of criminal conspiracy to recruit youth for Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and

conduct attacks in Bengaluru, allegedly planned during the accused's imprisonment.

The charges largely relied on confessions from the accused, which the court deemed insufficient for conviction.

The bench concluded that there was no proof linking Rehman to any activities directed by the other accused during their time in prison.

Consequently, Pasha and Khoya were ordered to be released unless they are implicated in other cases, with the latter slated for deportation to Pakistan.

Mysuru decked up for a grand Dasara procession

NT Correspondent

mysuru

Mysuru, the cultural capital of Karnataka, is all decked up for the traditional historic Jamboo Savari Dasara procession on Saturday, which will be followed by a torchlight parade at the Bannimantap Grounds.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will participate in the Dasara procession along with several ministers, while Governor Taawar Chand Gehlot will attend the torchlight parade.

The grand procession of the elephants, led by the golden howdah carrying Abhimanyu, marks the culmination of the nine-day Dasara festivities on October 12.

This year, all Dasara-related events, including cultural programs held at 12 different venues with the participation of more than 5,000 artists, will conclude after launching on October 3. These events include the flower show, drone shows, Yuva Dasara, Yoga Dasara, Women and Raitha Dasara,

wrestling, and more, all of which received an overwhelming response. However, Dasara illumination will continue until October 23, and the Dasara exhibition will remain open until the end of December this year.

On Vijayadasami day, October 12, CM Siddaramaiah will kick off the Dasara procession by performing

the traditional Nandidwaja puja during the auspicious Makara lagna timings between 1:41 PM and 2:10 PM in front of the Kote Anjaneyaswamy temple at the north gate of Mysore Palace.

The procession will be followed by cultural troupes and tableau, with more than 50 participating this year, reflecting the arts, culture, and architecture

of different districts, while highlighting the importance of equality, universal brotherhood, and protecting the constitution.

Dignitaries will offer floral tributes to the golden howdah carrying Goddess Chamundeshwari and the Dasara elephant Abhimanyu during the auspicious Kumba lagna between 4 PM and 4:30 PM on Vijaya-

dashami day.

Meanwhile, the forest department has prepared all 14 Dasara elephants after providing 45 days of training for the grand procession, conducting rehearsals to acclimate them to the crowd, police band, and other sounds during the Jamboo Savari procession.

The roles of the main elephants participating in the Dasara procession have been finalized by the forest department. Out of the 14 elephants, nine will take part this year. Dhananjaya will march as the Nishaane Elephant (lead elephant), followed by Gopi as the second lead, along with Sugreeva, Prashantha, Ekalavya, Mahendra and others.

As lakhs of tourists flock to the city on Vijayadasami day, the district administration has made elaborate arrangements for the success of the festival.

To maintain law and order and ensure public safety, the city police have deployed more than 6,500 personnel.

measurable. His legacy of compassion, humility, and nation-building will continue to inspire generations," he said.

In his message, JDS su-

premo HD Deve Gowda

said India lost a vision-

ary business leader in the

passing of Tata.

"In his early years as

Chairman, Tata Group, I

had negotiated the crea-

tion of a new airport for

Bangalore with him. I was

CM then. Later too we

were in touch. He was a

very gentle person. RIP"

the former PM said on 'X.'

Woman assaulted in home invasion by local goons

NT Correspondent

BENGALURU

A 56-year-old woman, Jayalakshmi, was assaulted by a group of 40 to 45 persons, presumed to be local rowdies, at her home near Malleswaram 18th Cross on Monday. The attackers entered her residence, removed her and her family, and stole cash and belongings," according to her.

As per her FIR, the incident occurred between 4:00 and 5:00 am. The group had been threatening her for the past month, demanding that she surrender her land for 10 lakh. After she refused, they arrived with a JCB, destroyed her house, and threatened her if she contacted the police.

In a statement to News

Trail, Inspector Ramesh S. indicated that they are investigating the issue but are not authorized to comment to the media. When a News Trail reporter posted photos and a copy of the FIR on social media, DCP North Saidulu Adavath responded, assuring that they would look into the matter and in-

structed the Malleswaram police to address the issue. She said that rowdies Jaikishan (A1), Chinnababu (A2), Prathap (A3), Prabhhu (A4), along with 40 others, dragged her and her family out, tied up her second son, and beat her first son, knocking him down and assaulting his chest and arms.

BJP chief Vijayendra predicts fast-paced political developments, change of CM

NT Correspondent

BELAGAVI

Karnataka BJP President B Y Vijayendra on Thursday predicted fast-paced political developments in the state in the next few days, including change of Chief Minister over the Muda 'scam'.

"Lot of political developments are certainly taking place in the state. In the next few days the kind of fast paced political developments will take place, which both you (media) and the people of the state will see," he told reporters here.

Asked about his recent comments regarding change of Chief Minister after Dasara festival, he said: "I have said that fast paced

political developments will take place, it includes everything."

Vijayendra on Sunday claimed that, according to his information, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who is

facing a probe in the Muda site allotment case, may resign after Dasara.

A few Ministers in the Siddaramaiah Cabinet had recently held closed-door meetings, fueling speculation about leadership change.

On several leaders in the BJP "not accepting" his leadership and openly making comments against him, he said the party leadership wants him to head the BJP.

Political developments will take place, it includes everything."

"Seniors in the party would need some time to understand me, considering them (their opposition to

him) as anti-party activities will be wrong. I have been always saying that I will take everyone together, they too need some time, everything will be good in the days ahead," he added.

A section of BJP leaders

led by senior legislators Ba-

Jarkiholi

had been

openly critical

of

Vijayendra,

accusing him of indulging in "adjustment politics" with the ruling Congress.

After relaxing guidelines for Paying Guest (PG) accommodations in Bengaluru last month, the BBMP has identified 2,320 PGs operating without a business license, as of Thursday.

A new set of guidelines was released in the wake of the brutal stabbing of a student who resided in a PG in Koramangala this July.

However, PG owners have been put in a bind due to rigid regulations. BBMP Special Commissioner (Health) Suralkar Vikas Kishore announced a relaxed set of guidelines.

Despite being notified about the non-compliance, PGs continue to operate without adhering to the guidelines.

Out of 4,513 PGs, only 2,193 are operating with a business license. The Mahadevapura zone, notorious for hosting illegal accommodations, has 527 illegal PGs, of which 498 have not complied with the new guidelines. Nine accommodations have been sealed, with notices issued to all 527 of them so far. However, residents in the area feel that the BBMP's enumeration is too low.

The East zone tops the list for illegal PGs, with 537 operating without a

Fruit, flower prices surge ahead of Ayudha puja

inflation

mysuru

Cycle Pure Agarbathi rewards mahouts, 'kavadis'

Cycle Pure Agarbathi, one of the sponsors of Mysore Dasara, paid tribute to the unsung heroes of the festival—the elephants, their mahouts, and kavadis who take care of them.

The company gifted 65 pressure cookers to these individuals at a simple ceremony held in the premises of Mysore Palace on Thursday.

This is the second consecutive year the company has honored the mahouts and kavadis.

Speaking on the occasion, Managing Director of Cycle Pure Agarbathi, Arjun Ranga, stated that his company was delighted to continue supporting the mahouts, recognizing their tireless dedication to caring for the Dasara elephants during their stay. The elephants also reflect a deep connection to our heritage. His firm is committed to empowering these unsung heroes for their invaluable contributions to the conservation of forests and nature. DCF Dr I B Prabhu Gowda thanked the company for honoring the elephant handlers.

dubuliformis) now costing 1,700 rupees per kg, up from 950 rupees a week ago; jasmines priced at Rs 1,000 per kg, compared to Rs 670 previously; and roses now at Rs 500 per kg, up from Rs 270.

While speaking with News Trail, flower seller Mahadevi from Ramanagar district said, "Every morning, we bring loads of Kanakambaram and Gandharaj flowers. We arrive by train around 4 am. During festival times, the demand for flowers is high, and this year, due to the rain, we have a lower quantity compared to last year. Hence, the demand for flowers has significantly increased." Meanwhile, other flowers like Sevanti (Chrysanthemum) are priced at Rs 300 per kg, while Sugandharaja costs Rs 350. Marigold flowers are at Rs 800 per kg, and round jasmine has risen to Rs 500 per kg, up from Rs 200. Lotus pairs are now priced at Rs 70, whereas they were previously Rs 50.

The prices of fruits have also risen, with apples costing Rs 120 to Rs 150 per kg, pomegranates at Rs 250 per kg, cardamom bananas at Rs 120 per kg, custard apples priced between Rs 140 to Rs 180, and grapes costing between Rs 180 to Rs 200.

Due to the rains, the price of tomatoes is increasing day by day and has now reached Rs 80 per kg, up from Rs 30 two weeks ago. Tomato prices are rising due to a lack of supply in the market because of the rain, as the KR market receives tomatoes from Hoskote, Channapatna, and Tumkur, commented vegetable vendor Hameed Pasha to News Trail.

Despite the price hikes, the festive spirit remains high as people flock to the market to prepare for the celebrations.

Lokayukta questions CM's brother-in-law in Muda case probe

NT Correspondent

MYSURU

Days after filing an FIR against CM Siddaramaiah and his family in the Muda case, Lokayukta police on Thursday gathered information from the CM's brother-in-law, B.M. Mallikarjuna Swamy, who had purchased the controversial land in Kesare. In return, Muda allotted 14 alternative sites to his sister, Parvathi.

Landowner J. Devaraj, who sold 3.16 acres of land in Kesare to Swamy, also appeared before the Lokayukta police. They were questioned separately.



FOR THE PEOPLE

Free Press

FOR FREE FLOW OF TRUTH

Hard to say Tata to Ratan

When the news of Ratan Tata's passing was confirmed on Wednesday, there was a spontaneous outpouring of emotion from every nook and cranny of India. That he was 86 and ailing did not lessen the sense of loss felt across the country. This wasn't merely because he headed one of India's largest conglomerates, but because he was Ratan Tata. Among business houses, the Tatas hold a unique place due to the diversity of their products — from common salt to state-of-the-art electric cars. However, among industrialists, Tata was regarded as a Titan, respected by one and all. When he succeeded JRD Tata as chairman of the Tata Group, many saw him as a greenhorn, who had obtained the role due to his name. Yet, as the boss of Bombay House, Tata's corporate headquarters, for more than two decades, he proved himself a visionary, ultimately earning global respect.

As the story goes, Ratan Tata once felt insulted by Ford's chairman, but it was he who ended up saving the American behemoth when he bought Jaguar and Land Rover for \$2.23 billion.

Another major acquisition under his leadership was Corus, one of Europe's largest steel plants, which was sinking deeper into the red. The Tatas had lost Air India when it was nationalised, but under Ratan Tata's leadership, the company not only regained control but also established itself as a major player in aviation through a successful tie-up with Singapore Airlines. Of course, he faced criticism — such as when he moved the Nano project out of West Bengal, or when a Tata executive was caught making controversial remarks on tape, or when reports emerged of the company allegedly paying extortion money to insurgents in the Northeast. Yet these were seen as aberrations, as the group successfully steered clear of significant turmoil. Few businessmen have as unblemished a track record as Ratan Tata.

He earned respect not only for making money but also for giving it away through philanthropy. He never disappointed anyone who approached him with a genuine need, whether it was for setting up a hospital or helping a start-up. Anyone who met him couldn't help but notice his humility and willingness to assist. His compassion extended even to animals, as evidenced by his order allowing stray dogs to enter the Bombay House gates. In Ratan Tata's passing, the country has lost a figure the whole world loved and respected.

Kissa makan ka

Move over Kissa Kursi Ka, Delhi has got a new soap opera — Kissa Makan Ka! Atishi Singh has now earned the dubious distinction of being the first chief minister whose personal belongings were unceremoniously tossed from her "official" residence. Now, let's not forget, Delhi has seen its share of evictions, including that of poor Gulzarilal Nanda, who was booted out despite having held the office of prime minister — twice, albeit for mere coffee breaks. But in Atishi Singh's case, the twist is, she's still in office!

The Lieutenant Governor, with his rule book in hand, pointed out that the house Kejriwal once called home was never actually designated as the chief minister's residence. Technically, when Kejriwal stepped down, he should have handed over the keys to the public housing department, not his hand-picked successor. But, in true political fashion, she moved in with admirable swiftness, turning the place into her camp office. One can almost hear the echo of "Finders, keepers!"

In an ideal world, Kejriwal would have graciously returned the house to the state

MumbaiNaama

SMRUTI KOPPIKAR

In the week that Mumbai's newest transport line, the long-awaited Metro 3 Aqua Line, opened for commuters, the city mourned its quiet corporate icon, Sir Ratan N Tata. Where do the lines meet, you may wonder. Read on.

Cities are built, in the physical and socio-cultural realms, not only by policy decisions of governments and relentless labour of its large working classes, but equally by people who have enormous wealth as well as compassion or vision. Mumbai, or Bombay, would not have become the city it did — the Urbs Prima in Indis — if it was not for the generous contributions by the men and women of wealth in its early days.

Whether their contribution was pure charity, out of compassion for fellow natives, or was motivated by business interests is open to debate but they lent a hand. Besides charity to their own religious and community organisations, Mumbai's millionaires of yore directed some of their windfall profits from trade in opium-clothes to building institutions in education and health, part-financed the new university, set up libraries and shelters and drinking water fountains, besides contributing to infrastructure.

The Mahim Causeway story deserves a re-telling. Stirred by the series of storms in 1840-41 that hit the bay between Mahim and Bandra, which could only be crossed by boat, and led to loss of lives in alarming numbers,

Lady Avabai Jeejeebhoy donated Rs 16 lakh (nearly £17,000 then) for a causeway to be built — used to this day. Wife of the merchant Jamsetji Jejeebhoy, their donations gave Bombay a number of institutions including the famed Sir JJ Hospital and Sir JJ School of Art.

They were not the only ones. The Sassoon family, the Cowasji family, Jamshetji Shankarshet and, of course, Jamsetji Tata, widely acknowledged as the Father of Indian industry and the man who set up the industrial empire, were philanthropists. Tata Trusts, founded by Jamsetji Tata in 1892, stood out on the international list of philanthropists for having donated more than \$102.4 billion (adjusted for current figures) till 2021, according to EdelGive Foundation and Hurun Report for the year. The mind-boggling sum significantly surpassed donations of other prominent philanthropists of the current era, the report showed.

Tata Trusts vastly benefited in the past few decades from Ratan Tata's vision of what philanthropy should do in society, according to those who mapped it closely. Tata's interviews show his concern for causes. The obituaries have paid a handsome tribute to not only his legacy in business but also in charity and philanthropic activities. He was, by all accounts, a man with his heart in the right place and spoke of his intent to do social good. The tributes have, of course, courteously side-stepped inconvenient parts of the Tata empire

such as the massacre of protesting Adivasis in Kalinganagar or the attacks on people of the SEZ-Birodi Prachar March in West Bengal, among others, that can only be labelled anti-people. And, the Tata group was the biggest donor to the Bharatiya Janata Party before the 2019 general elections.

Author Amitav Ghosh, at the Mumbai Litfest in 2016, gave interviews in which he explained how India's largest companies — the old Bombay money — played a pioneering part in the opium war. "The whole history of capitalism is the creation of mythology...and sold to us as a great history of financial innovations. That (too) is nonsense," he said to many jaw-droppers. While history shows this truth, what's also to be acknowledged is that at least some of the profits were ploughed back into the making of the city — partly for furthering business, partly as charity. This nature of philanthropy, to improve the city for the masses, has ironically been on the decline even as Mumbai has become home to more and more billionaires over the past few decades. This is noteworthy because "there has been a notable increase in corporate givers" with the proportion of companies following the Corporate Social Responsibility doubling from 30% in 2018 to 60% in 2022, according to India Philanthropy Report 2024. The actual CSR spending, however, grew moderately at 7% in 2023, it added.

Should this go into city-making pro-

jects such as part-financing the metro or road improvement works? Or does corporate philanthropy play safe now by financing small-scale projects that have the blessings of India's government such as activities of the Swachh Bharat Mission? Industry involvement in city-making, especially in the post-1991 liberalisation decades, has been in the commercial role of project leaders and contractors — unlike Lady Avabai Jeejeebhoy's philanthropic gesture of funding an infrastructure project.

In fact, in the Mumbai of 2024, it would seem blasphemous if one were to suggest that the ten wealthiest families of Mumbai donate — without a business payback — to improve the city's infrastructure. What's the government for, and their apologists would ask. Governments, whether the colonialists or today's elected, can do only so much without the active contribution of wealth creators-philanthropists. Bombay's history shows this. The Bombay Chamber of Commerce, for example, had a role in setting up land and sea communications, construction of railways, introduction of the electric telegraph and modern postal service.

The colonial city was built, as Preeti Chopra, professor of architecture and urban history wrote in her brilliant paper 'A Joint Enterprise: The Creation of a New Landscape in British Bombay (1839-1918)', jointly with a mix of speculation and philanthropy particularly in the second half of the 19th century

when "the colonial regime and the Indian and European financial and mercantile elite cooperated in creating an infrastructure — for commerce, but also institutions for the public good — that was conducive to the commerce and well-being of the city".

The local elite played a complex and multifaceted role in city design, and by doing so they constructed, erased, and transformed the city, argued Chopra. "As landowners they made deals with the government. As men of business, they acted as advisers, partners, or investors in schemes. As men of wealth, they built wells, tanks, and religious, educational, and medical institutions. They influenced the course of development and opposed government schemes if they negatively affected their interests...In doing so, the joint enterprise resulted in the creation of a new public arena for all of Bombay's citizens."

This construction of colonial Bombay, as other historians too have documented, was a "joint enterprise" between the imperial power, and the financial and technical involvement of wealthy Indians. The Tatas played a key part in this. Their philanthropic footprint widened in the 21st century but did it include city-making?

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Rational Analysis

S MURLIDHARAN

Under the trademark law, a brand name can be registered to foil the designs of the impostors and charlatans. It is not the business of the registrar to get nosy and question if the brand is indeed popular except in cases where an unregistered brand seeks protection from imposters on the ground that even though unregistered, the brand enjoys tremendous popularity thanks to hoary usage. Ideally a brand should enjoy top-of-the-mind recall to the extent its name comes to be equated with its purpose and process like Xerox for photocopying, Surf for washing powder, Colgate for brushing teeth and so forth. Against this backdrop, the loose usage of the term brand in the context of personages is questionable. After the Congress party inched closer to the 100 mark in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, self-styled brand gurus and Congress supporters have started gushing about brand Rahul vis-à-vis brand Modi.

That people actually vote for Narendra Modi when they vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is axiomatic though critics aver that such a larger-than-life image for its leader is not good for the BJP especially when the time comes for successor. Modi

indeed is Xerox and BJP the photocopier even if it is a slightly mixed metaphor. Rahul Gandhi the scion of the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty is nowhere near that status. His father Rajiv Gandhi was not similarly feted during his brief political innings including as the prime minister before his life was snuffed out by the cruel hands of fate. His grandmother Indira Gandhi and great grandfather Pandit Nehru could lay claim to such exalted status but not gushingly as brands.

One swallow doesn't make a summer. Rahul's megalomania has been fostered by the effete Congress party that has run out of ideas beyond sycophancy. His loud and shrill speeches inside and outside the Parliament have been hailed as the signal of arrival of the born-again Rahul. But four months after the humbling Lok Sabha verdict for the BJP and Modi and encouraging verdict for Congress and Rahul, there is a reversal of fortunes in the air. The results of the recent Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir elections beat this out. To be sure, Congress's and by extension Rahul's performance is impressive in terms of percentage of votes polled but that is always a cold comfort in the electoral sweepstakes in the first past post sys-

tem where the single largest party despite not getting the majority in terms of votes, walks with the honors and the right to rule for the next five years.

Rahul would do well to heed the advice of his well-wishers. He should not rush to America with alacrity ahead of Prime Minister Modi as he has been doing in the past few years. His advisers think by doing so, he gets to preempt his political bête noir, Modi, little realising that NRIs as of now are not enthusiastic voters in the Indian elections unless they happen to be in India through sheer happenstance. To be sure, Modi makes it a point to address the Indian diaspora whichever country he goes to but that is more to address his audience and fans back home given the news channels proclivity to grab any opportunity to fill media time and TRP. In contrast, Rahul addresses the so-called elite inside the closed doors of auditoriums at ungodly hours (from Indian point of view). And when at such meetings he bemoans the lack of democracy in India and minority rights, he is dismissed off as a disgruntled crier without substance. Campaign in such places as Silicon Valley, California, New Jersey, Dubai and Singapore would make sense

when Indian passport holders are allowed to vote from the comfort of their foreign homes.

Rahul would do well to urge the state governments where Congress is in power to walk the talk as well as deliver on economic planks

gional satraps heading regional parties. In this respect, he is at a distinct and severe disadvantage vis-à-vis his predecessors in the dynasty. Nehru and Indira Gandhi did not have to contend with regional parties. Rahul willy-nilly has to. While regional parties may join hands in principle to oust Modi their common rival, they can bear their fangs in their overweening ambition to come out of the claustrophobic regions. AAP is a case in point. It is reluctant to yield ground to Congress in states where it is strong like Delhi, Punjab and Haryana. Ditto for TMC in West Bengal. If Congress and Rahul are content in contesting those 200-odd seats where there is a direct fight between Congress and the BJP, they may as well stop dreaming about returning to power at the center. A coalition is a compulsion with contradictions and grim prospect of disintegrating at the slightest hint of major disagreement, be it the choice of the coalition's leader or on pursuing national agenda perceived to be inimical to a regional party.

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For Rahul Gandhi, power won't be available on a platter

Rahul would do well to urge the state governments where Congress is in power to walk the talk as well as deliver on economic planks

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Freebies and sops

This refers to the report 'Gadkari rings the bell on subsidies' (Oct 2). The practice of luring voters during the election season is a very old one and has been increasing steadily in the last few years. Politicians quickly learn how to spend public money to

their advantage. The 'freebies' culture in Indian politics is expanding at a rapid pace. Especially in the last decade, political parties have consistently promised voters free stuff. No party is left behind. Using public money to lure voters to give something free only for electoral

politics is blatant financial malpractice. The use of public money by political parties to woo voters amounts to corruption. Today, the financial position of the State is such that the government has to raise loans from the market to build infrastruc-

ture projects. In such a

situation, spending thousands of crores of rupees for the Mukhyamantri Mazhi Ladki Bahin Yojana is certainly an imprudent decision of the Government. The economic consequences of this will have to be borne in the future by the people of the State. It is commendable that at least one political leader has been vocal about the spending on such schemes. Gadkari deserves congratulations for this.

MIKHAEL MATHIAS

Safeguards needed

With reference to the report 'Missing girl calls out rape by father on being traced' (Oct 4), this tragic case reveals one of the darker realities of our society — the violation of trust and abuse of power within family units. It makes amply clear how law enforcement can be important in exposing and dealing with these heinous crimes if the community also supports them. It was the protector father who in the end unfortunately proved to be one of the most ruthless perpetrators of un-

believable violence against his daughter. This no longer makes it a personal tragedy but the realisation of the deeper problems between sexes and an indication of the failure of society to protect the weakest among us. The police action was laudable, especially the work of constable Vinod Parab, who treated the victim with care and sensitivity. Such support is timely. His approach allowed her to open up about her trauma, and after her father's arrest, she got the justice she deserved.

Saumtree Mukherjee

Historic award

It is a historic day for the medical fraternity with Victor Ambrose and Gary Ruvkun winning the Nobel Medicine Prize 2024 for micro-RNA discovery, and their crucial role in governing cell function. mRNAs are useful as biomarkers in the early detection, diagnosis and prediction of cancer and as therapeutic suppressors of tumours, to target cancer cells without affecting healthy tissues.

Sreelekha PS



HASAN ZAIDI

wp *Briefs***CROATIA**
Migrants tormented by police

Croatia's border police force appear to be burning clothing, mobile phones and passports seized from asylum seekers attempting to cross into the European Union before pushing them back to Bosnia. A report with photographs of burnt belongings, along with testimonies of sexual assault and beatings meted out by the police, shared with the Guardian by the humanitarian organisation No Name Kitchen, are the latest alleged evidence of brutality against people migrating at EU borders. Every day, thousands of people from Asia, the Middle East and Africa, attempt to cross the Balkans to reach the EU.

PAKISTAN
2 cops killed in militant ambush

Two policemen were killed and three others injured when militants attacked their vehicle in Pakistan's northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Thursday morning, police sources said. The incident happened at about 8:50 a.m. when unknown assailants opened fire on the vehicle before fleeing the scene, sources from the district police told Xinhua news agency. The vehicle was conducting routine patrols when it came under the attack, the sources added. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack yet.

AUSTRALIA
YouTuber charged with rape

British rapper and online personality Yung Filly has been charged over rape allegations in Australia. Real name Andres Felipe Valencia Barrientos, he is best known for his work with the YouTube collective Beta Squad. He was arrested in Brisbane on Tuesday and extradited to Perth the following day.

Macron's amour for Emily

The French President, Emmanuel Macron is an ardent fan of the super hit Netflix series, Emily in Paris. Looks like the young President wanted to take his mind off the several pressing issues that loom over France such as the high budget deficit, immigration problems, tense atmosphere within his newly formed government and just talk about lighter topics.

And Emily in Paris was one such topic during his interview with the American entertainment magazine, Variety. When the journalists asked him about his wife, Brigitte Macron's guest appearance in season 4 of the popular series he beamed, "I was super proud and she was very happy to do it." The 46-year-old President spoke about a short scene shot in a Parisian restaurant where the protagonist of the series, Emily Cooper rec-

REASON FOR ATTACK | Israeli military claims Hamas had a command and control centre at the school in Gaza

28 killed as Israel hits school turned shelter**Agencies**

GAZA



The damage caused at Rafida school following the airstrike

- AFP

An Israeli airstrike on a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in central Gaza killed 28, including women and children, with a further 54 people injured according to The Guardian, which cited a Reuters news report. The Israeli military said on Thursday it had carried out a "precise strike on terrorists", who had a command and control centre embedded in a school. "This is a further example of the Hamas terrorist organization's systemic abuse of civilian infrastructure in violation of international law," the military statement said. Hamas denies such allegations.

Additionally, three hospitals in the north were told to evacuate putting patients' lives at risk, medics say. The strike took place in the city of Deir Al-Balah, Israel, which has not yet commented on evacuation orders for medical facilities, has said Hamas has command facilities embedded in the hospitals, which it denies. Reuters reports that in the north of the territory, the Israeli military is

pushing on with an offensive begun six days ago, when it sent its troops into Jabalia, the largest of Gaza's eight historic refugee camps and the nearby towns of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahiya. Meanwhile, the armed wing of Hamas says it successfully conducted a "complex ambush" that saw multiple Israeli armoured vehicles and soldiers hit east of besieged Jabalia in northern Gaza.

The Qassam Brigades said a convoy consisting of 12 military vehicles and a truck

loaded with soldiers was targeted with multiple explosive devices. "After that, our fighters advanced towards the ambush area and finished off the remaining soldiers from zero distance with light weapons. They targeted a number of soldiers who fled the area towards a house with an antipersonnel explosive device, killing and wounding them." The Israeli military has not commented on the incident yet. Earlier in the day, The Islamic Resistance in Iraq,

a Shiite militia group, claimed responsibility for a drone attack on a "vital" site in Eilat, Israel's southern port city on Wednesday night.

The group said in a statement on that the attack was conducted "in solidarity with the people of Palestine and Lebanon," pledging to continue targeting "the enemy's strongholds." The statement did not provide further details about the targeted site or report any casualties, Xinhua news agency reported.

China cannot represent Taiwan: Prez**ANI**

TAIPEI

Taiwan's President William Lai Ching-te, has in a veiled reference to China over its claim on the island, stated that his mission as the country's leader is to ensure that the "nation's sovereignty must not be violated or annexed."

Pledging to uphold Taiwan's self-governing status, Lai in his address on Thursday in Taipei on the commemoration of Taiwan's National Day said, "The Republic of China (Taiwan's official name) -- which took root in Taiwan, Penghu, Kinmen and Matsu -- and the People's Republic of China are not subordinate to each other", Central News Agency Taiwan reported.

Lai said, "The People's Republic of China has no right to represent Taiwan." He added that his "mission" as president was to "ensure that our nation endures and progresses" and "resist annexation or encroachment upon our sovereignty." China claims Taiwan as its own and has not ruled out the use of force to achieve unification.

However, he promised to maintain "the status quo of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait" and pledged to cooperate with Beijing on issues of mutual interest.

Russian strike on Ukrainian port kills seven

A cargo ship that was similarly damaged by Russian missiles last month

- AFP

Agencies

KYIV/LONDON

Russian missiles have hit a civilian container ship at a port in Ukraine's Odessa region, killing seven people, according to local officials, reports the BBC. "This is the third attack on a civilian vessel in the past four days," said the region's governor, Oleh Kiper. He said Russia had targeted port infrastructure and all the victims were Ukrainian. Several others were wounded, and a port employee died of his injuries in hospital on Thursday, Kiper added. The latest strike on one of Ukraine's ports on the Black Sea coast coincided with a European tour by President Volodymyr Zelensky, who is visiting leaders in London, Paris and Rome.

Russia's overnight attacks on Ukraine also left several people wounded in the southern city of Zaporizhzhia.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian drones targeted a military airfield in the Maikop region of south-

This is the third attack on a civilian vessel in the last 4 days. Russia continues to target port infrastructure

Oleh Kiper
Odesa Governor

ern Russia. Local officials evacuated 40 people from a nearby village. Russia's missile strike on the Odessa region hit a Panamanian-registered ship on Wednesday night, Oleh Kiper said - two days after a Palau-flagged ship was attacked, leaving one dead on board. Another ship, which was said to be carrying 6,000 tonnes of corn, was attacked on Sunday.

The Ukrainian government says Russia's attacks on Odessa's Black Sea ports are aimed at trying to destroy grain exports that guarantee international food security.

Govt to curtail SC's powers: Imran to UN**PTI**

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's former PM Imran Khan wrote a letter to the United Nations against the incumbent government's decision to execute constitutional amendments that aim to threaten judicial independence and human rights in the country. In his appeal, Khan has expressed concerns saying that the legislation

poses a serious threat to the rule of law, and the protection of fundamental rights of the people of Pakistan.

Khan alleges that the amendments would remove jurisdiction from the Supreme Court to a new Federal Constitutional Court, provide for the selection of the chief justice of the new Federal Constitutional Court by a new committee whose meetings would be private.

Hurricane Milton wreaks havoc in Florida**FPJ News Service**

WASHINGTON



Hurricane Milton seen from space

- NASA

Many areas of Florida woke up to a disastrous Thursday as Hurricane Milton left behind a trail of destruction the previous night. The storm slightly shifted course and muscled its way making landfall near Siesta Key in the Tampa region of Florida with whip-lashing winds as a dangerous Category 3 storm. There were reports of 38 tornado touchowns in the area. 'Milton' was the fifth hurricane to make landfall in the US this year and was, by far, the strongest and nastiest, records indicated.

Reports indicated that there were "multiple fatalities" in St. Lucie County, Florida. Electric poles were uprooted leaving 3 million residents without power even as houses were reduced to rubble in rural areas.

Eight airports were shut and hundreds of flights suspended in and around the hurricane's curve.

By midnight, 'Milton' had maximum sustained winds of 110 miles per hour, placing it at the height of a category 2 storm. Hurricane-force winds

extended outward up to 35 miles from the center of 'Milton' and tropical-storm-force winds extended outward up to 250 miles, especially to the north.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency for 51 counties, while President Joe Biden has approved a federal disaster declaration.

Meanwhile, a storm of a different kind hit the region as

Republicans are fighting a war against misinformation to keep their constituents safe as they braced for the aftermath of the hurricane. Republicans point the finger at members of their own party — and their presidential nominee — for spreading misinformation.

President Biden condemned misinformation about Hurricanes Milton and Helene as "un-American,"

singling out Trump for making false claims about the government's rescue and efforts. Speaking about Hurricane Milton, Biden said people in need of help were being put at risk by the "reckless, irresponsible and relentless" promotion of disinformation about the government's response to the storms.

Republican Rep. Carlos Gimenez of Florida called out Georgia firebrand Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene on Wednesday telling her to get her "head examined" for suggesting someone is "controlling the weather."

Last week, Greene, without specifying who "they" is, posted, "Yes they can control the weather. It's ridiculous for anyone to lie and say it can't be done."

Gimenez said "There's no place for misinformation, especially when it's on purpose, at times like this."

Ukraine prez meets UK, NATO heads**AP**

KYIV

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy arrived in London on Thursday for talks with the leaders of Britain and NATO on his "victory plan" for the war against Russia. Zelenskyy is meeting Prime Minister Keir Starmer and NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, before traveling to Paris for talks with President Emmanuel Macron. He will then head to Germany and Italy.

The details of Zelenskyy's plan have been kept quiet but contours have emerged, including the need for fast action on decisions Western allies have been mulling since the war began.

North Koreans deployed by Russia in Ukraine: sources**Agencies**

KYIV

North Korean military engineers have been deployed to help Russia target Ukraine with ballistic missiles, and North Koreans operating in occupied areas of Ukraine have already been killed, senior officials in Kyiv and Seoul said. There are dozens of North Koreans behind Russian lines, in teams that "support launcher systems for KN-23 missiles", a source in Ukraine told the Guardian.

Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader, last year travelled to Russia for a summit with Vladimir Putin where the two men bolstered their deepening ties

with a secret arms deal. Pyongyang's ammunition shipments were vital in allowing Russian forces to advance in a grinding war of attrition in eastern Ukraine this summer. But it appears increasingly clear that the agreement went beyond supplying materiel. North Koreans were among the dead after a Ukrainian missile strike on Russian-occupied territory near Donetsk last week, Ukrainian officials said. It was not clear if they were military engineers or other forces. If North Koreans are on the ground it would mark the first time a foreign government has sent troops in uniform to support Russia's war.

'Indo-Pak climate talks necessary'

LAHORE: The CM of Pakistan's Punjab province Maryam Nawaz has called for "climate diplomacy" with India to mitigate the impact of smog in both the countries.

The Punjab province in Pakistan along with many other areas in northwest India face excessive air pollution from October to February mostly due to the burning of crop residue as farmers prepare to sow their winter crops. "Stubble burning in Indian Punjab is impacting us here because of air direction. There should be climate diplomacy with India to address the smog issue," Maryam said on Wednesday at the climate change leadership internship programme.

public outcry**Oz zoo euthanizes healthy lioness****Agencies**

ADELAIDE



veterinary team failed to improve its condition, the zoo management decided to euthanise the animal to spare

it further suffering. Amani, 23, the oldest lioness in the country, was put to sleep shortly after.

The zoo claimed the decision was made as "negative impacts" on Amani without her partner "outweighed any benefits of keeping the lioness alive". Amani and Mujambi had been together for 16 years and were "very closely bonded". Zoo director Phil Ainsley said the decision was taken after carefully examining other options.

"Tigers, we know, potentially can live in isolation. That's not how it works for African lions," he said. "Normally you'll either get a

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RAFAEL NADAL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT: A legend bids adieu after 22 Grand Slam titles

KING OF CLAY, CHAMPION OF HEARTS

Grand Slam count

14

His record 14 French Open championships are more than anyone, man or woman, won at any one of the sport's four major tournaments, a dominance celebrated by a statue of Nadal that stands near the main entrance to the grounds of Roland Garros and in the shadow of its main stadium, Court Philippe Chatrier.

4

In addition to his French Open triumphs, he won four trophies at the US Open

2

Two apiece at Wimbledon and the Australian Open, giving him a career Grand Slam.



The reality is that it has been some difficult years, these last two, especially. I don't think I have been able to play without limitations. 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."

Rafael Nadal

AP 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 because of injuries and said next month's Davis Cup finals will mark his farewell to the sport. He had hip surgery in 2023 and entered just two of the past eight major tournaments.

In a result that symbolized where things stood for his body, and career, he exited in the French Open's first round this year, a straight-set loss to eventual runner-up Alexander Zverev.

Nadal returned to that site in southwest Paris for

Nadal's unrelenting, physical style of play - every point pursued as though it were his last, sprinting and sliding into place for that high-bouncing bullwhip of a lefty forehand - made him one of the greats of the game and the unquestioned King of Clay, the slow, red surface on which he dominated.

FEDERER PAYS TRIBUTE: "What a career, Rafa! Thank you for the unforgettable memories." – Roger Federer

ROLAND GARROS TRIBUTE: "14 thanks for the millions of memories." – Roland Garros X account

SINNER'S ADMIRATION: "The lessons he taught us...how to stay

humble." – Jannik Sinner

DAVIS CUP'S FAREWELL: "One last dance." – Davis Cup X account

RONALDO'S SALUTE: "Your dedication, passion, and talent have inspired millions." – Cristiano Ronaldo

LAVER'S FAREWELL: "I'm going to miss

watching this bloke fight for every point." – Rod Laver

ATP'S THANKS: "Thank you for everything, Rafa. It's been incredible." – ATP Tour X account

BOULTER'S HUMOR: "Nope, I/we refuse this application to retire." – Katie Boulter

INIESTA'S CONGRATS:

"Congratulations on your spectacular career and legacy." – Andrés Iniesta

KYRGIOS' REQUEST: "Rafa, don't retire, I want to play you 1 last time." – Nick Kyrgios

REAL MADRID'S PRIDE: "Rafa Nadal is a source of pride for our country." – Florentino Pérez

the Summer Olympics, where he lost to old rival Djokovic in the second round of singles and reached the quarterfinals of men's doubles with Carlos Alcaraz.

Nadal hasn't played since.

His goodbye will also come while representing Spain, at Malaga in the Davis Cup.

In addition to his French Open triumphs, he won four trophies at the US Open and two apiece at Wimbledon and the Australian Open, giving

him a career Grand Slam.

His last pair of major titles arrived in 2022, at Melbourne in January and at Paris in June, pushing him ahead of Federer, who held the men's record of 20 Grand Slam titles when he

announced his retirement at age 41. Federer bid adieu in late 2022 by teaming with Nadal in a doubles match at the Laver Cup. Both have since been surpassed by Djokovic, 37, who is up to 24 majors.

semifinal loss.

2018: Wins 11th French Open, injuries affect performance elsewhere.

2019: Wins 12th French Open and 4th US Open, returns to No. 1 at age 33.

2020: Ties Federer with 20 Slam titles after winning 13th French Open.

2021: Foot injury limits him to two matches after French Open

Host Emerald marches into QF of All India IPSC Inter School Girls Basketball Tournament

Our Sports Reporter INDORE

Host Emerald Heights International School secured a spot in the quarterfinals of the All India IPSC Inter School Girls Basketball Tournament, representing Madhya Pradesh with pride.

Along with them, MNS Rai, Hyderabad Public School, YPS Mohali, Daily College, Modi School Laxmangarh, and Lawrence School, Ooty also advanced to the quarterfinals after a day filled with thrilling matches at the indoor stadium.

In one of the day's key matches, YPS Mohali faced off against MNS Rai. Mohali dominated each quarter, putting pressure on MNS Rai, who struggled to keep up. Samaira's 16-point performance, along with Samarth Gill's 13 points, helped Mohali clinch a 47-39 victory, securing the top spot in their group. For MNS Rai, Rachna and Khushi contributed 13 and 12 points, respectively.

Daly College met Sanskar Valley School, Bhopal in

another intense game. The Indore team adopted an aggressive strategy, breaking through the Bhopal defence and winning comfortably by 31-8 points, with Priyavnada leading the charge with 12 points.

Lawrence School, Ooty and Rajkumar College, Rajkot clashed in a low-scoring but hard-fought game. With both teams struggling strategically, Ooty managed a 14-8 victory thanks to Vanya, who scored 8 points.

In a dominant performance, Hyderabad Public School overwhelmed Sanskar Valley School, Bhopal, securing a 45-10 win. Hyderabad's Prachi led the attack with 15 points, keeping their team in control throughout the match.

In a closer contest, MNS Rai took on Modern School, Delhi. Despite Modern School's earlier form, they were unable to find their rhythm, losing 37-28 to MNS Rai. The day concluded with Lawrence School, Ooty comfortably defeating Mayo College, Ajmer, by 40-29 points.

All India IPSC tennis tournament kicks off at DC

Our Sports Reporter INDORE

The All India IPSC Tennis Tournament has officially commenced at Daly College in Indore, bringing together talented young players from across the nation to showcase their skills.

This prestigious event features competitions in both team and individual categories for the girls' under-17 age group, with the finals scheduled for October 12. Participants hail from several

states including Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, and Punjab.

On the opening day, the tournament witnessed some exciting matches. The RKKGPS team secured a decisive victory against the Emerald Heights School team from Indore, winning 2-0.

Similarly, the Mayo College team from Ajmer delivered a strong performance, defeating the Modern School team from Delhi by the same scoreline. The third match also showcased dominance, as the

semifinal loss.

2022: Wins 21st and 22nd Slam titles at Australian Open and French Open, oldest champion at Roland Garros.

2023: Early exit from Australian Open due to hip injury, sidelined for the rest of the year.

2024: Announces retirement after competing in Davis Cup and Paris Olympics.

Chief guest inaugurating the All India IPSC tennis tournament kicks off

RKC School team from Raipur triumphed over MNSS Rai with a 2-0 victory.

The tournament was inau-

gurated with great enthusiasm under the guidance of principal Dr Gunmeet Bindra, who was accompanied by vice

principal Tushar Bhatwaj, Indian junior Davis Cup team coach Sajid Lodhi, and other esteemed staff members.

Bindra expressed excitement about hosting this important event and emphasised the opportunity it provides for young talents to shine. Selection for the IPSC Tennis team aiming for the SGFI tournament will be based on the performances demonstrated during this competition, encouraging participants to deliver their best on the court.

Bhopal, Chhindwara dist crowned champions

Our Sports Reporter BHOPAL

Bhopal and Chhindwara districts have been declared champions in the recently concluded divisional-level men's and women's chess championship held at JH College in Betul.

The two-day tournament showcased the strategic

prowess of 144 players representing 22 teams, with participation from seven districts in the Bhopal division and four districts in the Chhindwara division.

In the Chhindwara division, the host district emerged victorious, clinching the championship title, while Seoni district secured the runner-up position. In contrast, the Bhopal divi-

42nd MP State Yoga C'ship from tomorrow

INDORE:

The Madhya Pradesh Yoga Association, in collaboration with the Indore District Yogasana Sports Association, is set to host the 42nd MP State Yoga Championship on October 12 and 13 at St Norbert School on CAT Road. This prestigious event aims to showcase the state's top yoga talent across various age categories and is expected

to attract participants from all over Madhya Pradesh.

Association secretary Gulab Singh Chauhan announced that the championship will include competitions for mini, sub-junior, junior, and senior age groups, providing a platform for both boys and girls to demonstrate their yogic prowess.

Vidyasagar College triumphs in inter-college women's cricket tourney



Our Sports Reporter INDORE

Vidyasagar College emerged victorious in the inter-college division-level cricket (women) competition, organised by Holkar Science College. In a dominant performance, Vidyasagar College defeated Gujarati Innovative College to clinch the championship title.

In the semifinals, Vidyasagar College easily surpassed Mata Jijabai PG College by nine wickets. The second semifinal between Gujarati Innovative College and UTD was

a nail-biting affair. Gujarati Innovative set a challenging total of 173 runs, with Somya Ali impressing everyone with a century. UTD came agonisingly close, needing 3 runs off the final ball but could only manage 2, resulting in a tie. In the thrilling super over, Somya Ali once again proved her worth by hitting a six to secure a victory for Gujarati Innovative.

In the grand finale, Vidyasagar College, batting first, posted a massive total of 221 runs. Both openers, Sakshi Patil and Sakshi Untwale,

were in fine form, with Patil scoring a century and Untwale contributing 62 runs. In reply, Gujarati Innovative struggled under pressure, losing key players early and crumbling to 59 all out, giving Vidyasagar College a commanding 162-run victory.

The prize distribution ceremony was presided over by Dr RC Dixit, additional director of Indore division, and Dr PK Sharma, principal of Holkar College, who handed out trophies, mementos, and certificates to the winning and runner-up teams.

As a result of this competitive event, a total of 24 players—12 selected from each division—will advance to represent their districts in the upcoming state-level chess tournament set to take place in Jabalpur on October 18 and 19.

The two-day tournament showcased the strategic

sp Briefs

DUBAI

Women's T20 WC: Radha wins fielder of the match honour

Radha Yadav was awarded the best fielder medal for her stunning catch during India's 82-run victory over Sri Lanka in the Women's T20 World Cup at Dubai International Stadium. India set a formidable target of 172 runs and restricted Sri Lanka's scoring effectively. Fielding coach Munish Bali praised the team's outstanding fielding performance, noting they took nine catches with no errors. Coach Amol Muzumdar emphasised the importance of staying grounded despite the win. India now prepares to face Australia in their final group stage match.

**LAUSANNE
IOC sets Jan date for presidential candidate meeting**

The International Olympic Committee has scheduled a key presidential election meeting for January 30, where seven candidates will present their programs to IOC members. The election follows the tenure of Thomas Bach, who is set to step down after 12 years. The candidates include notable figures from various sports governing bodies. Key issues for the next IOC president will include Olympic hosting rights and gender equality in sports.

**NEW DELHI
Women's T20 WC: Fatima Sana to return home after father's demise**

Pakistan captain Fatima Sana will fly back to Karachi following her father's death, as confirmed by the Pakistan Cricket Board. She will miss the upcoming match against Australia in the Women's T20 World Cup. Teammates and the cricket community have expressed their condolences. Currently third in Group A, Pakistan must secure victories in their remaining matches to advance to the semifinals.

**NEW DELHI
HIL 2024-25: Over 1000 players set to go under hammer at players' auction**

The Hockey India League (HIL) prepares for its return with a players' auction scheduled for October 13-15 in New Delhi, marking the league's first edition in seven years. Over 1,000 players, including top domestic and international talents, will be auctioned, alongside the inaugural women's league. The men's auction runs from the 13th to 14th, and the women's auction on the 15th, promising an exciting new chapter for Indian hockey.

BROOK AND ROOT: A historic partnership that wrote new chapters

Spectre of defeat haunts Pak

**IANS
MULTAN**

In a remarkable display of batting prowess, Harry Brook became the first England batter in 34 years to hit a triple-century in Test cricket, achieving an extraordinary score of 317 runs on Day Four of the first Test against Pakistan at the Multan Cricket Stadium. His historic performance, alongside an impressive 262 from Joe Root, highlighted a record-breaking partnership that propelled England to a formidable declaration of 823/7, marking the fourth-highest team total in Test history.

Brook's sensational innings, which came off just 322 balls, was peppered with a staggering 29 fours and three sixes. This remarkable achievement not only established Brook as the holder of the highest score by an England batter against Pakistan—surpassing Denis Compton's long-standing record of 278 from 1954—but also set a new benchmark for the highest score by an England man's batter in Asia, breaking Alastair Cook's previous record of 263 from 2015.

The partnership between Brook and Root was nothing short of astonishing, as they amassed 454 runs together, making it the fourth-highest partnership in the history of Test cricket and the highest-ever for England. This feat also made them the first England duo to register two 200+ run stands in their careers, joining an elite group as the ninth pair from any country to achieve such a milestone.

Root's performance was equally impressive, with his 262 marking his highest Test score—a testament to his enduring skill and resilience at the crease. This inning eclipsed his previous best of 254 against Pakistan in 2016, and with this sixth double

PT Usha accuses Chaubey of impersonating acting CEO'

**ANI
NEW DELHI**

Indian Olympic Association president PT Usha hit back at All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Kalyan Chaubey and accused him of "impersonating the acting CEO" of the IOA.

She emphasised that the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Government of India recognize Raghu Iyer as the "legitimate

CEO of the IOA." She stated that his "agenda using official IOA stationery for a Special General Meeting (SGM) to be held on October 25 in the national capital is both 'both illegal and in violation of the IOA Constitution.' Usha reiterated that Raghu Iyer is 'the current and only CEO of the IOA'". She claimed that certain members of the IOA Executive Council (EC) are "denying his appointment and withholding his salary for the past nine months."



England's Harry Brook plays a shot during the fourth day of the first Test against Pakistan at the Multan Cricket Stadium in Multan on Thursday AFP

PARTNERSHIP

454

Root and Brook put on a partnership of 454 runs, the highest ever for England and the fourth highest in test history. The biggest remains 624 between Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene for Sri Lanka against South Africa in 2006.

BOWLING

100+

Six Pakistan bowlers conceded more than 100 runs. It is just the second time that has happened in tests, after Zimbabwe against Sri Lanka in 2004.

RUN RIOT IN MULTAN**TOTAL SCORE****800+**

It was the fourth time a team scored more than 800 runs—and the first time this century. Only three totals have been bigger: Sri Lanka's 952-6 declared against India in 1997; England's 903-7 declared against Australia in 1938; and England's 849 all out against the West Indies in 1930.



Joe Root plays a shot on the fourth day of the first Test against Pakistan at the Multan Cricket Stadium on Thursday AFP

JOE ROOT**262**

Root became England's highest run-scorer in tests during his career-best knock of 262 as he surpassed Alastair Cook. He moved to fifth place on the all-time list, behind only Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, Jacques Kallis and Rahul Dravid.

HARRY BROOK**317**

Brook outscored Root in hitting 317, tied for 20th in the list of highest individual scores in test cricket. He became the sixth Englishman to make a triple-hundred, and the first since Graham Gooch in 1990.

Vinoo Mankad Trophy U19: MP triumphs over Bihar by 128 runs

**Our Sports Reporter
INDORE/HYDERABAD**

In a dominant display at the Vinoo Mankad Trophy U19 limited-overs tournament, Madhya Pradesh secured a convincing 128-run victory over Bihar in Hyderabad. Bihar won the toss and elected to field, but MP capitalised on their batting depth, posting a formidable total of 317/9 in their 50 overs.

Key contributions came from Saransh Surana (51), Rudrash Singh (45), Kumar Aryan (39), and Manal Chouhan (34), who built the innings despite the bowling efforts of Bihar's Badal Kumar (3 wickets) and Suman Saurav (2 wickets).

In response, Bihar struggled to gain momentum against the MP's disciplined bowling attack. Hemant Singh's valiant 85 kept them in the game, but wickets fell at regular intervals. Bihar was eventually bowled out for 189 in 47.3 overs. Anvesh Chawla starred with the ball, taking 4 wickets, while Sumit Singh chipped in with 3 crucial dismissals.

U19 Girls T20: MP crushes Sikkim to enter pre-QF

RANCHI: The Madhya Pradesh girls' U19 team delivered a commanding performance to secure a massive 152-run victory over Sikkim in the ongoing BCCI U19 Girls T20 Tournament. MP won the toss and elected to bat, setting an imposing total of 183/3 in their 20 overs. Shreya Dixit was the star with the bat, scoring a brilliant 90, while Vaishnavi Vyas remained unbeaten on 58, anchoring the innings. Sikkim's Namreeta took 2 wickets but was unable to contain the onslaught.

In response, Sikkim collapsed under the pressure of MP's bowling attack, managing just 31 runs before being bowled out in 16.5 overs. Anadi Tagde delivered a spectacular spell, taking 6 wickets for just 8 runs, including a sensational hat-trick, to dismantle Sikkim's batting lineup. With this victory, MP has qualified for the pre-quarter final, where they will face Maharashtra on October 12 in Gurugram.

Indore's Aadi Mishra selected for Asian Mini Golf C'ship

**Our Sports Reporter
INDORE**

Aadi Mishra, a talented student from Indore Kids College, has earned a coveted place in the Indian Mini Golf team for the upcoming Asian Mini Golf Championship scheduled to take place in Xiang Mai, Thailand.

Aadi Mishra's impressive track record includes several accolades, having clinched medals at the National Games in Goa along with triumphs in various national competitions.

The announcement of Aadi's selection has generated a wave of pride and support from his school and local sports community. The Director of Kids College, Abhishek Mishra, expressed his delight at Aadi's achievement, emphasizing the importance of nurturing young talent in sports. Moreover, Madhya Pradesh Mini Golf Organisation secretary Kaushal Shivhare, along with Kids College principal Juhi Mishra and notable figure Vipin Gaikwad,

extended their heartfelt congratulations, reinforcing the community's encouragement for Aadi as he prepares to represent India on an international stage.

As the championship approaches, Aadi Mishra looks forward to showcasing his skills and bringing honor to his school and country. His journey serves as an inspiration to aspiring athletes within the region, further promoting the spirit of competitive sports in Indore and beyond. The Indian Mini Golf team's performance at the Asian championship will be keenly watched, with expectations riding on young talents like Aadi to emerge as future stars in the sport.

FAREWELL TO A TITAN

A LEGACY BEYOND THE GAME: Sports icons mourn the loss of a visionary, philanthropist, and inspiration

**ANI
NEW DELHI****A VISIONARY WHO INSPIRED MILLIONS**

Double Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra echoed the nation's sorrow, recalling his personal interactions with Tata:

"I'm very sorry to hear about the passing of Shri Ratan Tata ji. He was a visionary, and I'll never forget the conversation I had with him. He inspired this entire nation."

Former cricketer Irfan Pathan lauded Tata as not only a business leader but a beacon of inspiration:

"Deeply saddened by the loss of Shri Ratan Tata ji. He wasn't just a business leader,

but a true inspiration for millions. His dedication, integrity, and impact on India's growth are unmatched."

Cricketing legend Virender Sehwag summed up the national sentiment:

"We have lost a true Ratan of Bharat. His life will be an inspiration for us all and he will continue to live in our hearts."

Ratan Tata, born on December 28, 1937, was a revered industrialist whose vision for India went far beyond business. Under his stewardship, the Tata Group soared to unprecedented heights, while his philanthropic efforts touched the lives of millions.

Awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2008, his legacy will remain forever etched in the heart of the nation.

India could miss Rohit for one Test in Oz

**PTI
NEW DELHI**

India could miss the services of skipper Rohit Sharma during one of the first two Test matches in Australia due to personal reasons which have communicated to the BCCI.

The Indian team will embark on tough five-Test series in Australia starting November 22 in Perth and there is a possibility that Rohit could give either the first or the second game in Adelaide (December 6-10) a miss.

"There isn't any complete clarity about the situation. It is understood that Rohit has intimated to the BCCI that there is a possibility that due to a pressing personal matter, he might have to skip one of the two Tests at the beginning of the series," a BCCI source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"In case, the personal issue is sorted before the start of the series, he might play all five Tests. We will get to know more in coming days," he said.

The 37-year-old Rohit played both the home Tests against Bangladesh. India will next host New Zealand for a three-Test rubber starting October 16.

In case Rohit misses a Test match in Australia, the in-form Abhimanyu Easwaran is likely to be his cover although Shubman Gill and KL Rahul are also players with enough experience in the opening slot.

Easwaran will also be in Australia with the India A team which is supposed to lead.

However, there is no word who the vice-captain of the Test team will be as there was no official deputy for Rohit during the recent home series against Bangladesh.

Taskin acknowledges Indian dominance ahead of final T20I

**PTI
NEW DELHI**

Bangladesh pacer Taskin Ahmed admitted the superiority of Indian players, stating they are the best in the world capable of batting effectively under any conditions. This acknowledgment comes after Bangladesh faced two consecutive defeats in the T20I series, leading 2-0 with one match remaining, including an 86-run loss in the second T20I.

Taskin praised the experience and skill level of the Indian players, saying, "There is no doubt that they are the best in the world, not only in their home conditions but all over the world." Despite a promising start by the Bangladeshi pace trio, which managed to outfox the Indian top order during the powerplay, the spinners failed to maintain that early advantage. Taskin noted, "In the powerplay, we did well, but they batted well in the end, and unfortunately, spinners had a bad day."

Bangladesh's batting frailties were on display as they could only muster 135 runs in response to India's formidable total of 221/9.

Whatever happens, maarte jao

Rinku praises Gambhir, SKY for empowering players

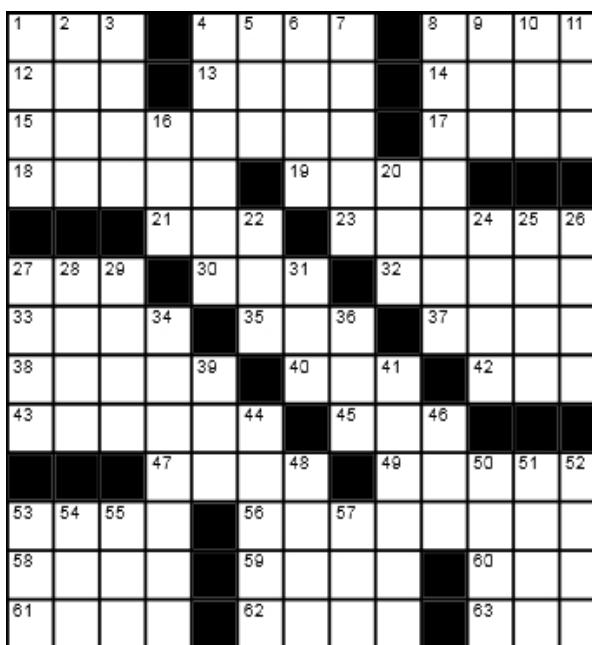
**PTI
NEW DELHI**

highlighted the team's aggressive approach, saying,

"The coach and captain have asked us to play our game. The message from them is 'maarte jao ko' (just keep hitting the ball)." With Gambhir's guidance and freedom to express themselves, Rinku feels motivated to contribute effectively to the team's success.

Entering the match with India at a precarious 41/3, Rinku adjusted his strategy according to the match situation. He noted that while batting towards the end, his goal was to score quickly, saying, "My main aim is to collect more and more runs for the team." He also acknowledged the challenges faced early in the innings but emphasized the importance of building momentum through partnerships.

As India prepares for the third and final T20I in Hyderabad on Saturday, Rinku expressed his ambition to play across all formats, believing in his capability as an all-format player.

Crossword #1288**Across**

- 1 Flow back
- 4 Rostrum
- 8 Shabana or Kaifi
- 12 Erie mule of song
- 13 Italian island
- 14 Flaccid
- 15 Announce
- 17 Our forefathers?
- 18 Recess
- 19 Acid, tart
- 21 Equal Time Point
- 23 Spanish fleet
- 27 Money that has to be paid to the Government?
- 30 Dine
- 32 Himalayan country
- 33 Ear-related
- 35 Fresh and unfamiliar
- 37 Food store in short?
- 38 Get to know
- 40 Convert to leather
- 42 Scottish river
- 43 Irks or pests
- 45 Sharp bark
- 47 Dull pain
- 49 Mongrels
- 53 Many (1,3)
- 56 Overshadowed
- 58 Indian queen
- 59 Algerian port
- 60 American Medical Association, acronym
- 61 Thought
- 62 The organ of breathing
- 63 Revenue
- Passenger-Kilometres

Down

- 1 Sports channel
- 2 Adriatic port or ex-Pakistani wicket keeper
- 3 Political alliance
- 4 Erase
- 5 carte
- 6 Wading bird
- 7 Pacific island group
- 8 Frightened, startled
- 9 Energy
- 10 Mrs in Marseille
- 11 Internet addresses
- 16 Fidel's friend Guevara
- 20 Large vase
- 22 Woodland deity
- 24 Copied
- 25 Broad valley
- 26 Tell ____ : fib? (1,3)
- 27 Indian unit of weight
- 28 Egyptian symbol - "neat" anagram?
- 29 Capital of Shaanxi province, China
- 31 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 34 2018 FIFA World Cup finalists
- 36 Path
- 39 The Big Apple
- 41 Nominating
- 44 "Holes" changed for the abode of the dead?
- 46 Young dog
- 48 Light fawn colour
- 50 Ivan or Peter
- 51 Casual worker
- 52 U.S. State, for short (1,3)
- 53 Acute Resp. Infection
- 54 Youth
- 55 Single unit
- 57 Local Area Network

YOUR DAY By Vinayak Vishwas Karandikar

ARIES: Today is a day to entertain and earn. Expect expenditure for medical and children. People in entertainment and sports will get success. Today you can spend time with family and may attend a get-together. Some people may suffer from back pain.



TAURUS: Focus on travel and study today. You can invest in property or vehicle. People in fields like tourism, hotels or politics will do well. Family party is indicated. Some of you may suffer from ear problems.



GEMINI: Travel and communication is indicated today. Expect expenditure for essentials and travel. People in tourism and politics will be successful. Travel with a sibling is indicated. Some of you may have eye problems.



CANCER: Your wishes are likely to get fulfilled. Expect expenditure for medical treatment. People in fields like medicine and politics will benefit. You will have good family time today. Some people may suffer from toothache.



LEO: Today is a day to take initiatives. Expect expenditure on medical bills and travel. People in fields of tourism will be benefited. You may go for a long drive with your family. You may suffer from blood pressure or eye problem.



VIRGO: Today is a day to travel and spend. Expect expenditure on medicine. People in fields of medicine will do well. You will be able to spend time out with your family. Some of you may suffer from back pain.



LIBRA: Today is the day to get your work done. Expect expenditure on business. People in fields like banking or medicine will be benefited. You may not be able to spend time with family due to job responsibility. Some people may suffer from eye problems or knee pain.



SCORPIO: You will be successful in commercial life. Expect expenditure for business growth. People in fields like communication and education will do well. You will balance family and office time. Some of you may suffer from knee pain.



SAGITTARIUS: Face problems and find their solutions today. Expect expenditure for health. You may experience work stress. Today you may have to solve some issues with your father or in-laws. Some people may suffer from indigestion or lower back pain.

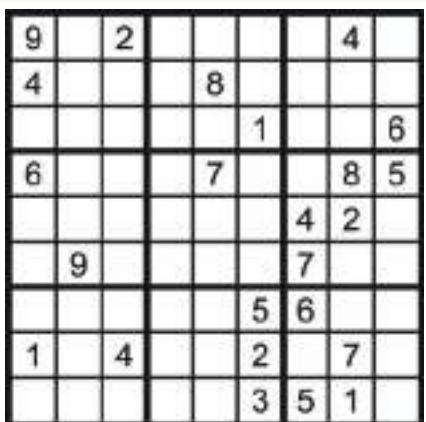


CAPRICORN: Today is a day to face problems in career and family life. Expect expenses for spouse or medical treatment. People in fields like insurance and finance. Lovers may get opposed by their family. Some people may suffer from lumbar pain.



AQUARIUS: You will be busy on all fronts today. Expect expenditure for business or spouse. Some people may start a business along with their job. People working in banks and insurance will be benefited. Dispute with some family members is indicated.

PISCES: Today you will get financial stability. It's a day to earn and not to lose. Politicians, artists and sportspeople will do well. You will solve problems in relationships. Some of you may suffer from back pain or heart problem.

FPJ - SUDOKU - 179**Solution**

8	6	9	7	4	3	5	1	2
1	5	4	6	9	2	3	7	8
3	2	7	8	1	5	6	9	4
2	9	8	1	5	4	7	6	3
5	7	1	3	6	8	4	2	9
6	4	3	2	7	9	1	8	5
7	8	5	4	2	1	9	3	6
4	3	6	9	8	7	2	5	1
9	1	2	5	3	6	8	4	7

WHAT TO DO: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.

55 One, 57 Lany, 63 RPK.
64 Sheel, 65 Aje, 66 Pub, 38 Learm, 40 Tel, 56 Edipased, 58 Ram, 59 Dran, 60 AMA,
47 Ach, 49 Mu, 35 New, 37 Soi, 21 Amada, 27 Tex, 30 Es, 22 Nepa,
17 Apes, 18 Nithe, 19 Sour, 21 Bas, 3 Blac, 4 Eleba, 14 Lump, 15 Prodram,
9 Zup, 10 Mele, 11 Pps, 16 Clie, 20 Un, 22 Pren, 24 Aped, 25 Dala, 26 Alie,
17 Apes, 18 Nithe, 19 Sour, 21 Bas, 3 Blac, 4 Eleba, 14 Lump, 15 Prodram,
Down: 1 Ebb, 4 Dais, 8 Azmi, 12 Sal, 13 Eleba, 14 Lump, 15 Prodram,
Across: 1 Ebb, 4 Dais, 8 Azmi, 12 Sal, 13 Eleba, 14 Lump, 15 Prodram,

Navaratri and the range of spiritual practices

— Swami Brahmananda Saraswati

We are almost at the end of Navaratri celebrations. A lot of garbas, homas and pujas are being performed all across the country. As usual, people are also bemoaning the fact that the celebrations are very commercialized. This may be true for the bigger garbas that are organized by different organizations roping in star singers. But there are a lot of smaller Garbas going on where the religious symbols of the Devi are present, not just as a mere token, but as a central figure of importance. The night is meant for worship. Similarly, in millions of homes, Devi is worshipped according to the unique tradition that each family follows.

One should also not discount the fact that the cute couple who may be dancing the night away also has probably fasted or eaten only foods generally eaten during a fast. And after breaking the fast with a delicious dinner, the couple has now stepped out of the house to celebrate the Garba. This brings us to something unique in Sanatana Dharma, or Hinduism, as it is popularly called.

Spirituality and celebrations, religion and wealth, tapas, religious austerities and fun, sacrifice and money, all these are not opposites or mutually exclusive. These may look like dichotomies, but very often, they are also complementary to each other. Each of these practices prepares and matures the person in different ways. Yin and Yang are not really opposites, but different and complementary. They are flip sides of each other in our Hindu way of thinking. To a great extent knowingly, in a conscious manner, as a student of spirituality or unknowingly in their psyche, Hindus understand that the ultimate spiritual wisdom is going beyond these dichotomies and understanding the dimension that is free from all these pairs of opposites, otherwise known as Advaita Vedanta. This is the crowning jewel of Hinduism, and somewhere people recognize that there is indeed a truth that is beyond opposites.

The writer is the founder of Aarsha Vidy Foundation. You can write to him at aarshavidyaf@gmail.com

**GODDESS LAKSHMI**
MESSAGE FOR THE DAY

A day to get out of victim mode. Exercise your willpower, tap into your inner strength, and pave the way for your dreams.

Be practical and let go of illusions and delusions. Ask for help, delegate work, & upgrade your skills. Goddess Durga and I are blessing you.

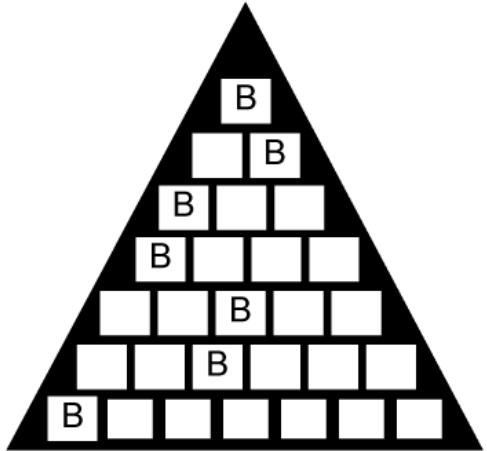
Tip for the day: Offer a red flower and say, "Goddess Lakshmi, please bless me with speed where it is required in my life. This or better. Thank you".

Lots of divine miracles your way, Sheetal Sapan Mhatre.

ALPHA TRIANGLE

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

- 1 Second letter
- 2 Able-bodied, abbr.
- 3 History or psychology students?
- 4 Ignoble
- 5 Cavalry sidearm
- 6 Excludes or keeps out
- 7 Pesters



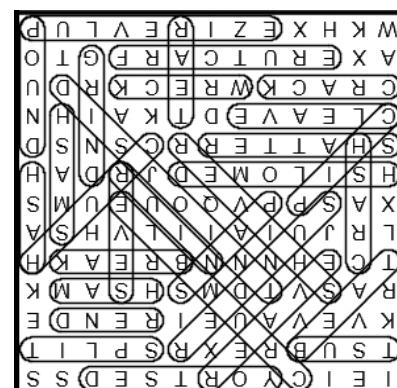
B, AB, BAS, Base, Sabre, Debars, Badgers.

Solution to Alpha Triangle**Word Search****Smash To Bits**

Can you find the words connected in one way or the other with the theme indicated by the title in today's Word Search?

The words may be read horizontally, vertically or diagonally either forwards or backwards, but always in straight lines. Use a ruler to cross them through as you find them.

Beat	Destroy	Ruin
Break	Disjoint	Sever
Bust	Fracture	Shatter
Chip	Grind	Shiver
Cleave	Hash	Smash
Crack	Mash	Snap
Crash	Pound	Split
Crumble	Pulverize	Sunder
Crush	Reave	Tear
Demolish	Rend	Wreck

**Go Figure**

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once. Operations should be carried out sequentially. BODMAS rule does not apply.

The operators:**Easy**

$$\boxed{\quad \quad \quad \quad} = 12$$

2 2 3 9

Medium

$$\boxed{\quad \quad \quad \quad} = 40$$

1 4 4 6

Hard

$$\boxed{\quad \quad \quad \quad} = 51$$

5 6 8 8

Easy - $2 + 3 - 2 + 9 = 12$
Medium - $4 + 6 \times 1 \times 4 = 40$
Hard - $6 \times 8 + 8 - 5 = 51$

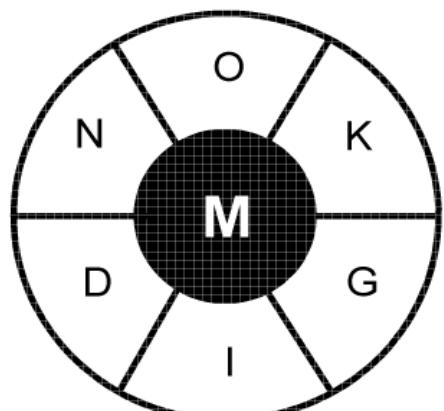
Our Solutions:**Riddler**

You are blindfolded and naked in an empty room. You are given a pair of steel bars. One is a bar magnet, the other is not. You will be released if you can tell which is which. You are allowed to touch them together just once. How can you tell which is the magnet?

Answer: Touch the end of one to the centre of the other. If they are attracted the touching end belongs to the magnet.

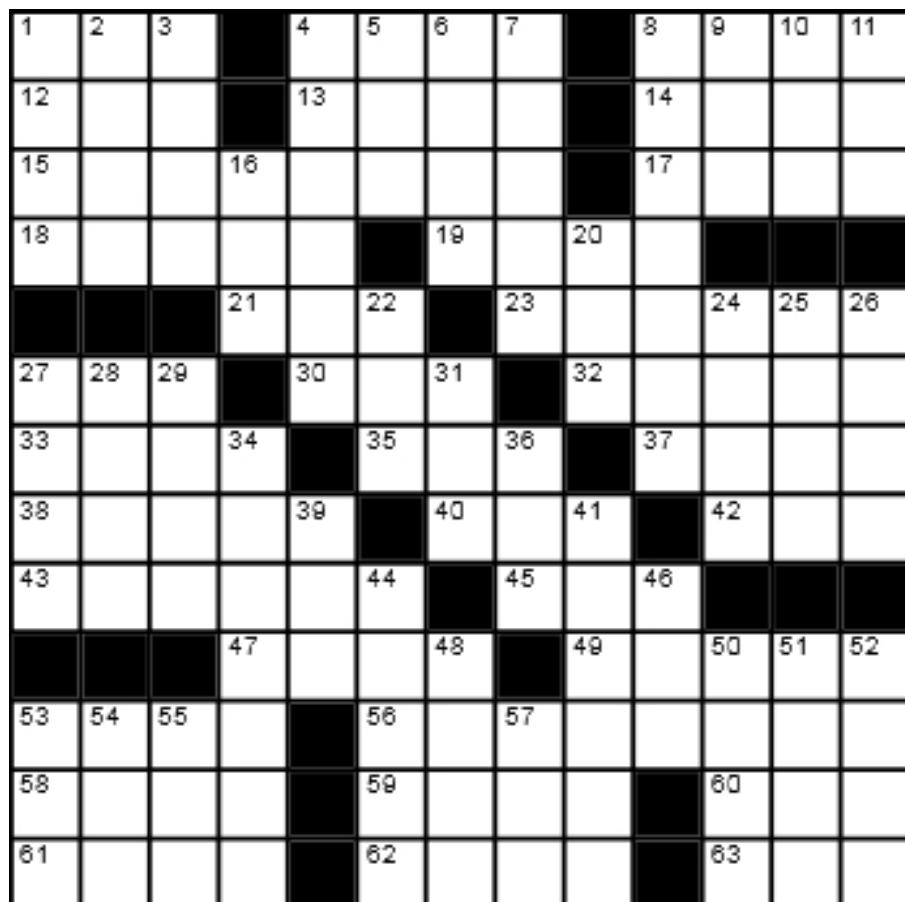
BULL'S EYE

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Each word can use a letter only once and must contain the central letter. There should be at least one 7-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

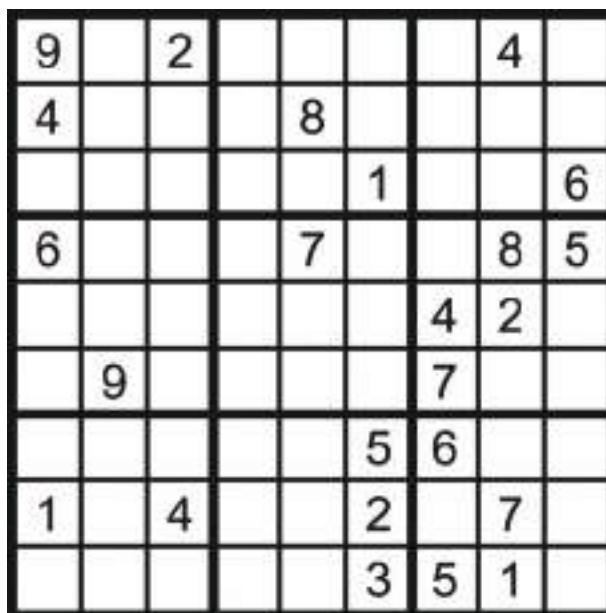
**Ratings:**

02 average; 03 good; 04 outstanding.

KINGDOM, mind, mink, monk
SOLUTION:

Crossword #1288**Across**

- 1 Flow back
- 4 Rostrum
- 8 Shabana or Kaifi
- 12 Erie mule of song
- 13 Italian island
- 14 Flaccid
- 15 Announce
- 17 Our forefathers?
- 18 Recess
- 19 Acid, tart
- 21 Equal Time Point
- 23 Spanish fleet
- 27 Money that has to be paid to the Government?
- 30 Dine
- 32 Himalayan country
- 33 Ear-related
- 35 Fresh and unfamiliar
- 37 Food store in short?
- 38 Get to know
- 40 Convert to leather
- 42 Scottish river
- 43 Irks or pesters
- 45 Sharp bark
- 47 Dull pain
- 49 Mongrels
- 53 Many (1,3)
- 56 Overshadowed
- 58 Indian queen
- 59 Algerian port
- 60 American Medical Association, acronym
- 61 Thought
- 62 The organ of breathing
- 63 Revenue
- 65 Passenger-Kilometres
- 67 Sports channel
- 68 Adriatic port or ex-Pakistani wicket keeper
- 69 Political alliance
- 70 Erase
- 71 carte
- 72 Wading bird
- 73 Pacific island group
- 74 Frightened, startled
- 75 Energy
- 76 Mrs in Marseille
- 77 Internet addresses
- 78 Fidel's friend Guevara
- 79 Large vase
- 80 Woodland deity
- 81 Copied
- 82 Broad valley
- 83 Tell ____ : fib? (1,3)
- 84 Indian unit of weight
- 85 Egyptian symbol - "neat"
- 86 anagram?
- 87 Capital of Shaanxi province, China
- 88 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet
- 89 2018 FIFA World Cup finalists
- 90 Path
- 91 The Big Apple
- 92 Nominating
- 93 "Holes" changed for the abode of the dead?
- 94 Young dog
- 95 Light fawn colour
- 96 Ivan or Peter
- 97 Casual worker
- 98 U.S. State, for short (1,3)
- 99 Acute Resp. Infection
- 100 Youth
- 101 Single unit
- 102 Local Area Network

SUDOKU

WHAT TO DO: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.

Pragya Sharma

Dining rooms in any household are warm informal gathering spaces to dine and discuss. A dining space is a crucial area in the house that symbolises utility and functions by connecting the family and guests under one roof to enjoy a good dining experience. You can show the dining space a little more love with minimalistic design interventions such as adding a table runner, creating softness with a floor rug, decorating the centrepiece with florals, using an accent wallpaper or a pendant light to highlight the overall ambience of the room.

■ **Floral arrangements**

Incorporating natural elements adds freshness to the dining room. A beautifully arranged flower centerpiece can enhance the table, while a large palm or fiddle leaf fig can transform an empty corner. Faux flowers are a budget-friendly way to add color and greenery.

■ **Add a rug**

Rugs help define the dining area and create a cozy atmosphere. Choose from contemporary, bohemian jute, or traditional Indian carpets to suit your style. Since spills are inevitable, dark-colored, absorbent fabrics work best for dining spaces.

Ways to style your dining room



■ **Wall art and statement pieces**

Wall art adds personality to your dining room without taking up floor space. Consider large-scale contemporary pieces or gallery walls. Decorative vases and sculptures also make excellent statement pieces.

■ **Creative lighting**

Proper lighting sets the room's tone. Opt for multiple light sources with color options to enhance the atmosphere. A chandelier or pendant light can serve as a focal point, while ambient lighting from lamps and sconces adds warmth. Dimmer switches help adjust the mood.

■ **Add a rug**

Rugs help define the dining area and create a cozy atmosphere. Choose from contemporary, bohemian jute, or traditional Indian carpets to suit your style. Since spills are inevitable, dark-colored, absorbent fabrics work best for dining spaces.

■ **An accent wallpaper**

Add vibrancy to your dining room with colorful, textured wallpapers. They can instantly change the ambiance and spark conversations. Choose from botanical, floral, geometric, or abstract patterns to make family meals or dinner parties feel special.

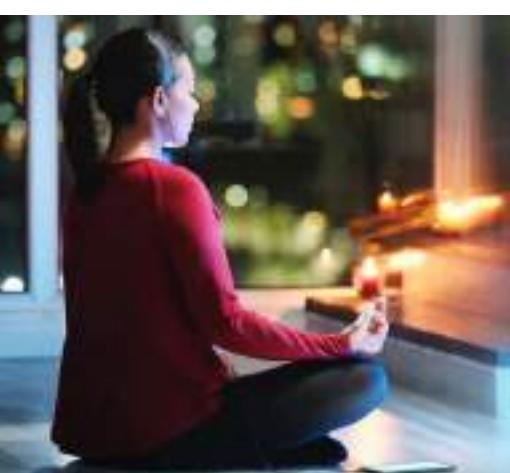
■ **Change your table-scape**

Enhance your dining table with table runners, seat covers, and napkins. Soft cushions and upholstered chairs. Use stylish dinnerware to create a striking design contrast.

■ **Include mirrors**

Mirrors can make your dining room feel larger and more inviting by reflecting light and creating an open atmosphere. A well-placed mirror, either framed in a stylish design or as a large wall feature, adds elegance.

What is moon meditation?



Asha Das

At the end of a long tiring day, or even a week, all we long for is some moment of peace and serenity. Enter moon meditation, a practice that taps into the calming energy of the moon to help you find inner peace. This ancient technique has gained popularity for its potential to enhance mindfulness and promote a deep sense of relaxation. In this article, we'll take a look into the world of moon meditation, uncover its techniques, benefits, and guide you on a journey to harness the soothing energy of the moon.

What is moon meditation? How does it help with mental peace?

The moon is central to countless myths and rituals across cultures. Its influence on tides and natural cycles is undeniable. Similarly, the moon's energy is believed to affect our emotional and mental states. Moon meditation centres on this connection, allowing practitioners to align their inner rhythms with the moon's cycles for a heightened sense of awareness and calm.



Benefits of moon meditation

Emotional balance: Moon meditation can help regulate emotions, reducing stress, anxiety, and promoting a sense of emotional balance.

Letting go: The waning moon phase is ideal for releasing negative thoughts, emotions, and patterns through meditation.

Moon meditation: How to do it?

■ Choose a serene location, whether indoors or outdoors, where you won't be disturbed during your meditation. Before beginning, set a clear intention for your meditation. Whether it's emotional healing, personal growth, or relaxation, clarify your purpose.

■ Decide on a moon meditation technique that resonates with you - lunar phases, moon bathing, or moon mantra meditation.

■ Sit or lie down in a comfortable position. Close your eyes and take a few deep breaths to centre yourself.

■ During your meditation, visualize the moon, feel its energy, & immerse yourself in its tranquil glow.

■ If practising during the waning moon, focus on releasing any negativity or emotional baggage. During the waxing moon, concentrate on your intentions.

Manifestation: Practicing during the waxing moon can amplify your intentions and desires, aiding manifestation efforts.

Mindful self-care: Moon meditation encourages self-care and self-reflection, fostering a deeper connection with oneself.

Chandana Rao
Starting your day off right has a lot of impact on your overall well-being. Even the smallest habit can make a difference. While many people reach for a cup of coffee, have you ever considered the benefits of drinking unsweetened black tea every morning? In this article, we will explore what happens when you drink unsweetened black tea every morning. Read on...



Rich in antioxidants

Black tea is rich in antioxidants, which help protect your body against free radicals and oxidative stress. These antioxidants can support your immune system and reduce the risk of chronic diseases.

Health benefits of unsweetened black tea, for a better morning routine

Are you ready to embrace a morning ritual that supports both your physical and mental well-being?

Boosts your energy for the day

Unsweetened black tea contains caffeine, which can provide a gentle and sustained energy boost without the jittery feeling often associated with coffee. By replacing your sugary morning beverage with a cup of black tea, you can maintain a steady level of alertness throughout the day.

Enhances weight loss

Black tea has been linked to weight loss due to its ability to boost metabolism. The combination of caffeine and other compounds in black tea can help increase fat oxidation, making it an excellent addition to your weight loss journey.

Benefits of black tea without sugar

Positively aids heart health

Regular consumption of unsweetened black tea has been associated with a reduced risk of heart disease. The antioxidants present in black tea can help lower LDL cholesterol levels, decrease blood pressure, and improve overall cardiovascular health.

Improves mental focus

Black tea contains L-theanine, an amino acid that promotes relaxation and enhances focus. Combined with caffeine, it boosts cognitive performance and concentration without the energy crash, making it ideal for starting your day with clear thinking.

Note: If you're aiming to limit your caffeine intake, opt for decaffeinated black tea or consider herbal teas.

Incorporating a cup of unsweetened black tea into your morning routine can have numerous benefits for your overall well-being. So, why not swap your sugary morning drink for a cup of unsweetened black tea and reap the benefits?

Common first aid mistakes and how to avoid them

Using ice directly on a burn

Applying ice directly to a burn is a common mistake that can exacerbate tissue damage and lead to frostbite. The extreme cold can worsen the injury and delay proper healing.

How to avoid it: For burns, hold the affected area under cool (not cold) running water for 10 to 15 minutes. After cooling the burn, cover it with a sterile gauze or clean cloth. Avoid using ointments or butter, as these can trap heat and potentially worsen the burn.

Misinterpreting stroke symptoms

Stroke symptoms, such as sudden numbness, slurred speech, or confusion, are often mistaken for simple fatigue or drowsiness. Delayed medical attention can have severe consequences, as timely treatment is crucial for recovery.

How to avoid it: Recognize stroke symptoms using the acronym FAST:

- F: Face drooping
- A: Arm weakness
- S: Speech difficulty
- T: Time to call emergency services.

If you notice these signs, seek emergency medical help immediately.



Moving someone with a suspected spinal injury

In the event of a suspected spinal injury, moving the person can lead to further harm, including paralysis. Despite the urge to move the injured individual to a more comfortable position, this action should be avoided unless absolutely necessary.

How to avoid it: Keep the person still and call emergency services. If the person is in imminent danger, such as from a fire, move them with great care while keeping the spine as straight as possible. Avoid unnecessary movement to prevent further injury.

Improper wound cleaning

Using harsh substances like hydrogen peroxide or alcohol on wounds can damage tissues and delay healing. Proper wound cleaning is essential to prevent infection and promote recovery.

How to avoid it: Clean the wound gently with soap and water. After cleaning, apply an antibiotic ointment to reduce the risk of infection and cover the wound with a sterile bandage. Change the dressing regularly and monitor for signs of infection, such as redness or swelling.

Performing incorrect CPR

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a critical life-saving technique, but incorrect application, such as not pressing hard enough or not maintaining the right rhythm, can be ineffective.

How to avoid it: Perform CPR by pressing hard and fast in the center of the chest at a rate of 100 to 120 compressions per minute. Aim for a depth of about 2 inches. Ensure proper hand placement-use the heel of one hand in the center of the chest with the other hand on top. If unsure about rescue breaths, focus on chest compressions until professional help arrives.



Removing an object stuck in a wound

In cases where an object is embedded in a wound, removing it can cause severe bleeding and additional damage. The instinct to remove the object may be strong, but it can be dangerous.

How to avoid it: Do not attempt to remove the object. Instead, stabilize it by applying pressure around the wound with clean gauze or cloth. Seek immediate medical assistance to address the injury properly.



Applying a tourniquet incorrectly

Using a tourniquet improperly, such as applying it too loosely or for non-life-threatening injuries, can cause serious complications, including tissue damage and loss of limb.

How to avoid it: A tourniquet should only be used for severe bleeding that cannot be controlled by direct pressure. Place it 2 to 3 inches above the wound (not over a joint) and tighten it until the bleeding stops. Note the time of application and seek emergency medical care as soon as possible.

Mismanaging hypothermia

Warming someone with hypothermia too quickly, such as using hot water or heating pads, can lead to dangerous fluctuations in body temperature and shock.

How to avoid it: For mild hypothermia, gradually warm the person by moving them to a warm environment and using dry blankets. Avoid direct heat sources. For severe hypothermia, seek emergency medical help immediately and provide warm, dry clothing if available.

Ignoring the need for professional medical help

One of the most significant mistakes is failing to seek professional medical help when needed. Even if initial first aid is administered, some injuries or conditions require advanced medical treatment.

How to avoid it: Always call emergency services for serious injuries or conditions, such as severe bleeding, unconsciousness, or chest pain. Follow up with professional medical care to ensure that the injury or condition is properly treated and monitored.

Stars salute a star

Several celebrities mourn the loss of visionary industrialist Ratan Tata

CJ Desk

Veteran industrialist Ratan Tata passed away on Wednesday evening at the age of 86, leaving a deep impact on the nation. People from all walks of life, including Bollywood, expressed their grief.

Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons, died at Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai. Tata was one of India's most respected and loved business leaders.



Will forever cherish every moment spent: Rajinikanth

Veteran actor Rajinikanth paid an emotional tribute to Industrialist Ratan Tata. Taking to X on Thursday, Rajinikanth shared a memorable picture of himself with Ratan Tata. Along with the photo, he wrote, "A great legendary icon who put India on the global map with his vision and passion.. The man who inspired thousands of industrialists. The man who created lakhs and lakhs of jobs for many generations.. The man who was loved and respected by all.. My deepest salutations to him. I will forever cherish every moment spent with this great soul.. a true son of India is no more.. Rest in peace #RatanTata."



An era has just passed away, says Amitabh Bachchan

The death of veteran Industrialist Ratan Tata has left a vacuum that can never be filled. People across the country have been grieving since he breathed his last on Wednesday night. Like many others, megastar Amitabh Bachchan, too, paid tribute on Thursday. Sharing a picture with Ratan Tata, Big B wrote on his

Instagram handle, "An era has just passed away...his humility, his great resolve, his vision and his determination to accomplish the very best for the Nation, ever a pride.. It was my greatest honour to have had an opportunity and privilege to work together towards common humanitarian causes.. A very sad day .. my prayers."

Sad day for the country: Aamir, Kiran

Bollywood actor Aamir Khan and his ex-wife, director-screenwriter Kiran Rao, paid their respects to veteran industrialist Ratan Tata, who passed away on Wednesday night.

Speaking to the media, Aamir Khan expressed his sorrow and spoke on Tata's immense contribution to the country.

"It is a sad day for the country. The contribution of Ratan Tata to the country is priceless. We will all miss him a lot," the actor said.

Kiran Rao, also shared her thoughts saying, "It is a sad day today. He was a very good person. It is really sad that he is no more. He has done a lot for the country."



Diljit Dosanjh pays emotional tribute during his concert

Singer Diljit Dosanjh paused his Germany concert mid-way to pay an emotional tribute to veteran Industrialist Ratan Tata.

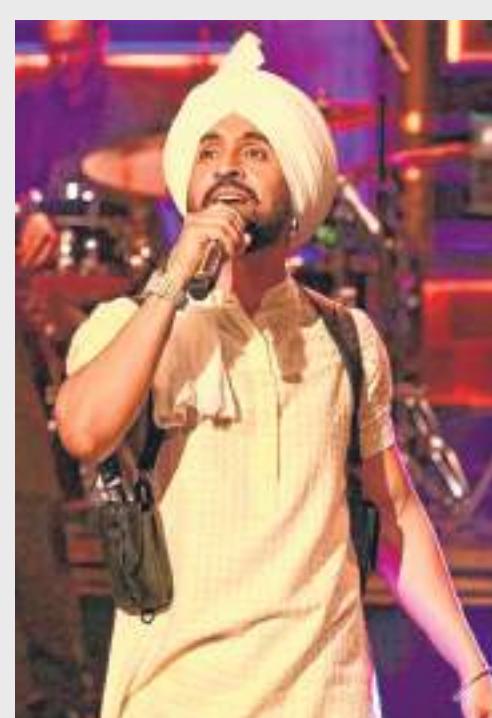
A video of Diljit talking about the industrialist during his concert went viral on social media.

Taking to his Instagram story, Diljit re-shared the post of his fan page, teamdiljit and wrote, "RIP Ratan Tata."

In the viral video, Diljit addressed the crowd in Punjabi.

He was heard saying, "You all know Ratan Tata. He passed away and this is my small tribute to him. I felt necessary to take his name today because all his life, he worked hard. Whatever I have heard and read of him, I never seen him speak anything wrong about anyone."

The actor-singer added, "He has always worked hard in his life, did good work and helped people. This is life, this is how one should be. If there is one thing we can learn from his life, it is that we should work hard, think positive, be helpful and live life to its fullest."



Ratan Tata Saheb, *hasrat hi rah gaie aap se milne ki*. A Humble King, who looked after his workers like his own children. Sir, you will always be remembered with great love and respect."

— Dharmendra



Deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. Ratan Tata.
— Salman Khan



Deeply saddened by the news of Shri Ratan Tataji. He upheld the values of integrity, grace and dignity through everything he did and was truly an icon and Taj of India. RIP sir, you have touched so many lives.

— Anushka Sharma



Legends are born, and they live forever. It's hard to imagine a day without using a TATA product... Ratan Tata's legacy is woven into everyday life. If anyone will stand the test of time alongside the Panchabhootas, it's him. Thank you Sir for everything you've done for India and for impacting countless lives. You've left a mark that will last for generations. Salute to you... Always your admirer... Jai Hind

— SS Rajamouli



A titan of industry, a heart of gold! Ratan Tata Ji's selfless philanthropy and visionary leadership have transformed countless lives. India owes him a debt of gratitude. May he rest in peace.

— Jr NTR



The world mourns the loss of a visionary. Ratan Tata's legacy will forever inspire generations. His contributions to India and beyond are immeasurable. We are deeply grateful. Rest in peace, Sir.

— Ajay Devgn



Through your kindness, you touched the lives of millions. Your legacy of leadership and generosity will continue to inspire generations. Thank you for your unmatched passion and dedication for everything you did for our country. You have been an inspiration to us all and will be greatly missed, Sir.

— Priyanka Chopra Jonas



India has lost a true visionary today. He was a beacon of integrity and compassion whose contributions went beyond business, impacting countless lives. May his soul find peace.

— Sanjay Dutt



Goodbye to The Titan... Fly high like you loved... and oh how you taught us to love

— Kareena Kapoor Khan

The world bids farewell to a man who built more than just an empire... His legacy of kindness, innovation, and leadership will continue to inspire generations. Rest in peace, a true legend. Om Shanti

— Akshay Kumar

The Big B at 82

A rocky start to his film career. Rejected by All India Radio. A life threatening punch on the sets of the film *Coolie* (1982). His company's abysmal failure. People knocking at his door and abusing him for unpaid debts. A career resurgence on TV and the screen like no other at the turn of the millennium with *Kaun Banega Crorepati* and *Mohabbatein*. The stories about Amitabh Bachchan are endless. Today, as he turns 82, we cite some interesting facts about the megastar.

■ His father, the legendary poet Harivansh Rai Bachchan, initially wanted to name him Inquilab, motivated by the phrase *Inquilab Zindabad* (Long live the revolution) used during the independence struggle.

■ He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Kirori Mal College in 1962.

■ Amitabh started his career in films in 1969 as a voice narrator in Minal Sen's *Bhuvan Shome*. His voice was also used in Director Satyajit Ray's *Shatranj Ke Khiladi* (1977).

■ Initially, he wanted to be an engineer and was also interested in joining the Indian Air Force.

■ His debut movie was *Saat Hindustani*.

■ His first hit was *Zanjeer*. Before which he had 12 flops, one after another.

■ Amitabh's real surname is Shrivastava, but his father had adopted the pen name Bachchan.

■ Amitabh was signed for the role of a mute in *Reshma Aur Shera* because of a letter of introduction from then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to friend Nargis.

■ His first *Filmfare Award* for Best Supporting Actor was in *Anand* (1971).

■ The first time Sonia Gandhi had come to India from Italy before getting married to Rajiv Gandhi, Bachchan was there at the airport on January 13, 1968 to receive her. Sonia spent 48 days at their house with his parents before the marriage.



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