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Mumbai/METRO ■ Vol. XIV No. 206 THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2018

hindustantimes PAGE ONE PLUS | EDITOR'S PICK

CAN INDIA COME BACK?

By Arjun Srinivas

As the fourth Test begins in Southampton today with India trailing England 1-2 in the five-Test series, history is against the visitors. Out of 735 completed Test series, a team has come from behind to win the series only on 40 occasions. Only Don Bradman's Australia, in the 1936 Ashes, have managed to win a series after going 2-0 down

England, the rally kings

Since 1990, there have been more comebacks in Test series than in the 113 years before that. England are comeback kings, while South Africa have shown promise since their re-induction in 1992. Post-1990, India are ranked third.

Number of Test series victories in which a team has come back from behind

⟵ Pre-1990	Team	Post-1990 ⟶
9	ENG	7
6	AUS	1
3	WI	2
1	IND	3
0	SA	4
0	SL	2
0	PAK	1
0	NZ	1

India best among sub-continent sides

Out of 158 Test series, India have bounced back on just four occasions, a comeback rate of 2.5%. While England lead in terms of likelihood of comebacks, India have the highest rate among teams in the sub-continent.

% of comeback victories

ENG	5.9
WI	3.4
AUS	3.1
SA	3.0
IND	2.5
SL	1.7
PAK	0.7
NZ	0.6

India's comeback wins in series

Three of those four occasions have been at home, with the only away victory being in Sri Lanka in 2015. Only on one occasion has this been in a five-match series: the 1972-73 home series against England.

Opponents	Home/Away	Year	Result sequence
England	Home	1972-73	L W W D D
Australia	Home	2000-01	L W W
Sri Lanka	Away	2015	L W W
Australia	Home	2016-17	L W D W

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO.COM

› Right now we are in a very exciting position. We spoke about being ruthless, capitalising on crucial moments, which we did in Nottingham. We've to do that two more times to achieve the goal.
VIRAT KOHLI, India cricket captain

› We've got a great opportunity to put that right. We've bounced back before. And I don't expect anything less.
JOE ROOT, England captain

Arjun Srinivas is a recipient of the Mint-Hindustan Times-HowIndiaLives Data Fellowship 2018

INSIDE India bank on a perfect team ››P18 | **FOR UPDATES LOG ON TO** www.hindustantimes.com/sports-news | **LIVE ON** Sony Six, Six HD, Sony Ten 3 from 3:30pm

NDA Rafale deal better: Jaitley; Rahul hits back

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: Finance minister Arun Jaitley on Wednesday said the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government negotiated hard to keep the price of Rafale jets down by at least 20% per aircraft as compared to the previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) – a contention that led Congress president Rahul Gandhi to hit back and demand a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the deal. Jaitley told ANI that the aircraft were coming to India "fully loaded" and the deal was between two governments, without anyone in between. "Can you compare a basic aircraft's pricing with a loaded aircraft? Can you compare a simple and a weaponised aircraft?" Jaitley asked. "From 2007 to 2017, the escalations would have gone up, along with a foreign exchange variation… if you take the 2007 offer and the escalation clause without the add-ons, the price negotiated in 2015-16 is cheaper?" he added.

Hours after Jaitley's interview, Gandhi tweeted: "Mr Jaitley, thanks for bringing the nation's attention back to the GREAT #RAFALE ROBBERY! How about a Joint Parliamentary Committee to sort it out? Problem is, your Supreme Leader is protecting his friend, so this may be inconvenient. Do check & revert in 24 hrs. We're waiting!"

CONTINUED ON P 10

LYNCHING CASES DUE TO SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT: SECYS' REPORT

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: A panel of secretaries has told the Central government that incidents of lynching are part of a larger problem of unchecked malicious content on websites and social media platforms that are targetting children, women and minorities.

The panel of secretaries said the Indian police and other security agencies need to increase their presence in the cyberspace to check this kind of content.

CONTINUED ON P 10

shortstories

MILITANTS SHOOT DEAD FOUR J&K POLICEMEN

SRINAGAR: In one of the deadliest attacks on the police in Jammu and Kashmir in recent months, militants shot dead four policemen in the Shopian district of south Kashmir, hours after security forces killed a top Hizbul Mujahideen commander. So far this year, 33 policemen have been killed by militants across the state. ››P7

INDIA FINALISES TEXT FOR KEY DEAL IN 2+2 TALKS

NEW DELHI: Decks have been cleared for India and US to sign the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (Comcasa), with an agreed text of the foundational military pact (one of three such the US signs with close partners) sent to the highest level of the Modi government for approval. The agreed text will be put before a Cabinet Committee and signed during 2+2 dialogue. ››P11

RAHUL GANDHI TO BEGIN MANSAROVAR YATRA ON AUGUST 31

NEW DELHI: Congress president Rahul Gandhi will leave on Friday for a 12-day pilgrimage to Kailash-Mansarovar to fulfil a vow he took while campaigning in Karnataka during the Assembly elections earlier this year. "Gandhi is leaving for Kathmandu (Nepal) on August 31 for onward journey to Kailash-Mansarovar. He is expected to return on September 12," said a Congress functionary. ››P7

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Beauty Pageant for Heritage Vehicles

The 1935 Rolls-Royce Phantom II Continental Gurney Nutting Streamline Coupe, which belongs to Amir Jetha.

Even as headlines containing gloom and doom break back home, India's participation in competitions across the globe continues to bring cheer. No sooner had thrills over India's medal run begun to spread, when news of Indian contingent's stunning wins at The Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, said to be 'the world's most famous beauty pageant for heritage vehicles', brought more joy. Car aficionados swear that with cars being brought in from celebrated garages from across the world, just being invited to take part is an honour. Set in the salubrious climes of California, on rolling greens of a golf course, the event is the finale of Monterey Car Week held annually for vintage car buffs. This year was extra special for India as two classes had been reserved exclusively for cars with Indian legacy. No surprises then, that two Indians, both from Mumbai, hit the bulls eye. Automobile aficionado Nitin Dossa's 1936 Alvi's Speed 25 Vanden Plas (originally belonging to Maharaja of Mayurbhanj) won the second place in the 'Raj' class at the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance, whereas Amir Jetha's 1935 Rolls-Royce Phantom II Continental Gurney Nutting Streamline Coupe came first in the 'Motor Cars of the Raj' class at the Pebble Beach Concours, and was also judged best Rolls of the show. But, what got auto expert Hormazd Sorabjee most thrilled was to capture a clip of popular talk show host and impassioned car collector Jay Leno's impish wink to him. "The best cars are from India, but don't tell anyone I said that!" Leno, for the record, owns approximately 169 prized automobiles and writes a column for Popular Mechanics.

Jay Leno

The Hills are Afloat

A photo posted by Mudgal.

It takes beautiful people to say and do beautiful things. Our attention was attracted by renowned Delhi-based singer Shubha Mudgal's post on social media, on what appeared to be a family treasure. It was in the form of a neat handwritten draft of a letter from her late mother to the then District Magistrate of Nainital, bringing his attention (most politely, but firmly) to the results of unplanned construction in the hill station of Bhimtal, which was affecting the lives of its residents. "We are all senior citizens from different professions, who are settled in the area and at times, it is difficult for us to move out of our homes because of waterlogging, which has become a banem," she had written, sometime in the late 1990s. "Unfortunately, it doesn't seem as if anyone paid heed to her, because today, things are much worse with buildings of all shapes, sizes coming up, blocking the flow of water on the roads in the area," posted Mudgal, along with archival pictures, which her mother had planned to attach to assert the point she was making. As expected, this poignant blast from the past elicited much response. "Very moving. First, to have this letter and photographs, and second, to know that nothing has changed. We must keep trying," was a typical one. Indeed! Hill stations like Bhimtal are havens for elderly souls looking for to retire, away from big city blues in the evening of their lives. Imagine their consternation, when the banes of ugly development follow them there and make even their last few years a misery!

MODERNDICTIONARY

Follywood: The result of a deep, lasting and profound marriage between Indian fashion and Bollywood, resulting in all kinds of commercial activity, and stratospherically successful spin-offs in the realm of glossy magazine covers, product placements, brand endorsements, celebrity show stoppers and the collective careers of both Sonam Kapoor Ahuja and her sister.

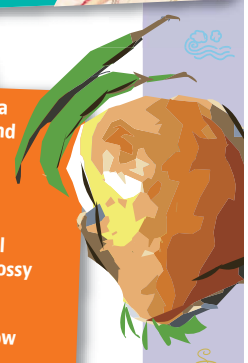

ILLUSTRATION: SUDHIR SHETTY

LA Calling

Yesterday, we experienced the joys of new age communication, when we texted musician Anushka Jagtiani for something or the other and received an immediate response from the other end of the planet, and from a completely different time zone!

"It's 2am. Just finished a song-writing session with co-writers and got home. Going to sleep soon, as I have another session in the morning," the singer, song-writer had texted from LA, where she has been creating music with some of the city's top young producers and song-writers for a few months. "We are combining Indian elements in our music, such as tablas and Indian classical singing woven in with American pop to create a unique sound. Some of my latest songs, which will be released soon are Rebirth, Taboo, and Crumbs," she said. Jagtiani, whose stage name is Anushka Jag, is the daughter of one of India's leading legal clans, which is coincidentally blessed with much singing talent too. She'd briefly worked with a news channel before, giving herself over to her musical passion. She describes her sound as "pop music with Indian influences, with inspiration from the likes of Freddie Mercury, the Rolling Stones, the Beatles, Drake and Cardi B". Her song, Rebirth, has a smoky timbre to it, juxtaposed with an upbeat catchy tempo and haunting lyrics. "I can't wait to perform in Mumbai," she says, on the eve of her return to the city. "But right now, I'm going Bollywood in Hollywood."

Anushka Jag

3daymumbaiweather

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Light rain or drizzle	Light rain or drizzle	Light rain or drizzle
30°c | 25°c	30°c | 25°c	31°c | 24°c

TEMPERATURE • HIGH • LOW

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ALMANAC
Today is 30th August, 2018
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- Bhadrapada, Krishna Paksha, 4
- Samvat 2075

Sunset: Thursday at 06:55 p.m. **Sunrise:** Friday at 06:23 a.m.
Moonrise: Thursday at 09:37 p.m. **Moonset:** Friday at 10:16 a.m.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2018

GOA CM MANOHAR PARRIKAR TO LEAVE FOR FOR TREATMENT IN US AGAIN ›HT NATION P7

76K FYJC SEATS STILL VACANT ›htmetro p4

RAJINI'S PARTY LAUNCHES 'BLUE BOOK'

A RULE BOOK FOR ACTOR'S RAJINI MAKKAL MANDRAM ›HT NATION P6

No democracy without dissent: SC on activists

'SAFETY VALVE' Top court issues notice to Maha govt; 5 to be under house arrest

HT Correspondents
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/PUNE/MUMBAI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday stopped Pune police from taking custody of five activists who were arrested a day before for alleged Maoist links, and placed them under house arrest in their respective homes until the case is heard again on September 6.

A three-judge SC bench headed by chief justice of India Dipak Misra also asked the Maharashtra government to file a response by September 5 to a petition by historian Romila Thapar and others that alleged the arrests were aimed at muzzling dissent.

"Dissent is the safety valve of democracy, the pressure cooker will burst if you don't allow the safety valves," justice DY Chandrachud, a part of the bench with justice AM Khanwilkar, said.

The SC bench questioned the rationale behind the arrest nine months after violence on January 1 left one person dead and four others injured in Bhima Koregaon, where hundreds of thousands of Dalits were celebrating the bicentennial of a war between the British and the Peshwas.

"There are wider issues raised by them (petitioners). Concern raised is that you are quelling dissent. Democracy is not safe if you quell dissent and that is what they are worried about," the court said.

In near-simultaneous Pune police raids across five states on Tuesday, lawyer and trade union activist Sudha Bharadwaj, poet P Varavara Rao, activist Gautam Navlakha, and lawyers Arun Ferreira and Vernon Gonsalves were arrested and charged with criminal conspiracy, creating fear and enmity between groups, and under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The arrests were part of an investigation into the Bhima Koregaon violence. Navlakha's transit remand from his house in Delhi to Pune was stayed by the Delhi high court on Tuesday evening and he was put on house arrest, and following a late-night hearing, Bharadwaj's transit warrant was also recalled by the local magistrate.

CONTINUED ON P10
››RELATED REPORTS, P5 &P6

DAY OF PROTESTS, COURTROOM DRAMA

■ Activists protesting against the arrest of poet Varavara Rao in Hyderabad. AFP

SUPREME COURT: Hearing begins in the afternoon on a petition by academics challenging the arrests. **'Dissent is the safety valve of democracy, the pressure cooker will burst if you don't allow the safety valves,'** the bench says, as it orders house arrest for the five activists till Sept 6

DELHI HC: Hearing continues on a petition by activist Gautam Navlakha against his arrest and transit remand. Halfway through dictating the order, the HC is informed of the apex court order. Matter will be heard on Thursday

PUNE COURT: Pune police link activists to banned Maoist group, say they were planning to recruit young people and target **'highest political functionaries'**. Late evening, court orders police to take the three activists back to their residence, as per the top court order

NHRC: Issues notice to Maharashtra government. Says arrests were made in violation of procedure and **'amounted to human rights violation'**

RBI ANNUAL REPORT

'99.3% demonetised notes were returned'

HT Correspondent
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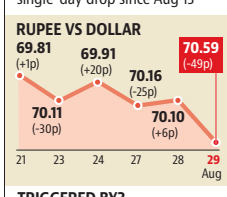
NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has conceded for the first time that almost all the banknotes invalidated in November 2016 have returned to it in the form of deposits, handing the Opposition fresh ammunition to target the government ahead of a string of state polls leading to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi rendered invalid ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes worth ₹15.44 lakh crore by value from the midnight of November 8-9, 2016, in an unprecedented move the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government described as a crackdown on black money, or untaxed, unaccounted cash stashed away by dishonest individuals, terror financing and counterfeit currency.

CONTINUED ON P10

RUPEE SLIDES 49 PAISE

Rupee plunged to an all-time low of 70.65 in day trade; it closed at 70.59/$, the biggest single-day drop since Aug 13



TRIGGERED BY?

High crude prices, concerns over widening current account deficit

RInfra sells Mumbai power business to Adani for ₹18,800cr

Tanya Thomas and Shayan Ghosh
tanya.t@livemint.com

MUMBAI: Reliance Infrastructure Ltd's chairman Anil Ambani on Wednesday completed the sale of its Mumbai city power distribution business to fellow industrialist Gautam Adani for ₹18,800 crore.

Though Reliance Infra has sold one of its profitable business ventures, it will help bolster the company's financials by repaying debt of ₹13,800 crore from an accumulated debt of ₹22,000 crore.

"For Reliance Infra, this is truly a transformative transaction. RInfra's gross debt will be reduced from about ₹22,000 crore to ₹7,500 crore, representing a steep debt reduction of 65% in just a single transaction," chairman Ambani told reporters at a news conference.

"RInfra's annual interest cost will also be reduced by 70% from ₹2,600 crore to ₹800 crore." The deal will help to narrow RInfra's debt-equity ratio to 0.3:1, among the lowest in the industry.

THE SALE WILL HELP RINFRA BOLSTER ITS FINANCIALS BY REPAYING DEBT OF ₹13,800 CRORE FROM AN ACCUMULATED DEBT OF ₹22,000 CRORE

CONTINUED ON P10

ATS CLAIMS 'NH4' CODE MAY HELP LINK MURDERS OF RATIONALISTS

Manish K Pathak
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MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) claimed to have narrowed down on the possible mastermind behind the terror plot hatched by the six recently arrested alleged sympathisers of Hindu right-wing group Sanatan Sanstha.

ATS also claimed to have decoded the communication between the arrested accused, who used the code 'NH4 wala kaam' (Work on NH4), where NH4 stands for the erstwhile National Highway 4 that connects Mumbai to Chennai via Pune, Satara, Kolhapur, Belagavi and Bengaluru — areas where rationalists Dr Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, MM Kalburgi and journalist Gauri Lankesh were killed.

"It could be a crucial code to prove the possible link between the murders of Dabholkar, Pansare, Kalburgi and Lankesh," said the officer. "The blasts outside theatres in Thane and Belagavi, which were engineered by the accused, further points to the links and their operational capabilities in these regions." The mastermind, meanwhile, is a leader of a religious sect from Maharashtra that is closely associated with Sanatan Sanstha, said ATS officers, who did not wish to be named.

CONTINUED ON P10
››RELATED REPORT, P2

asiangames 11 20 23

ATHLETES BRING DOUBLE DELIGHT

■ Arpinder Singh ended India's 48-year wait for a gold medal in men's triple jump; Swapna Barman becoming the first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian gold. PTI/AFP ››P16 & P17

3 big infra projects get state nod

HT Correspondent
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MUMBAI: Soon, you will be able to get from Mumbai to Pune, and from south Mumbai to the suburbs, faster, as the state gave final clearances to three projects.

The first, a 13.3-km link between Khalapur and Kusgaon on the Mumbai-Pune expressway, will let motorists heading to Pune avoid the ghat section and reduce journey time by 25 minutes. It is expected to take three years to be ready.

The second is the Versova-Bandra sea link for faster connectivity between south Mumbai and the western suburbs. The third project approved is a six-lane bridge over Thane creek that will come up alongside the existing Vashi bridge. All three proposals were cleared in a meeting led by CM Devendra Fadnavis.

"I have directed to ensure the construction work of all three projects should be started in the next one month," Fadnavis tweeted.

››FULL REPORT, P2

WHAT'S IN THE WORKS?

Mumbai to Pune link	Versova-Bandra Sea Link	Bridge over Thane creek
13.3km link between Khalapur and Kusgaon on Mumbai-Pune expressway, costing ₹3,939 cr, to reduce travel time between the two cities by 25 minutes	Part of the state's Coastal Road plan, the 8-lane, 17.17-km sea link aims to connect SoBo to the suburbs; to be built at a cost of ₹6,993.99 crore. It had a 2023 deadline.	A third bridge on Thane creek, running parallel to two existing ones connecting Mumbai and Navi Mumbai . The 1.8-km bridge will cost ₹560 crore to build

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Infra-wise: 3 mega projects to hit roads soon

FADNAVIS GIVES GO-AHEAD Proposal for Mumbai-Pune expressway link, Bandra-Versova sea link, Thane bridge cleared

HT Correspondent
htmetro@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Your travel time between Mumbai and Pune is set to reduce by around 25 minutes in the next three years, as the state government has given a final approval to build the 13.3-km link between Khalapur and Kusgaon on the Mumbai-Pune expressway.

The proposal was cleared by the chief minister Devendra Fadnavis-led cabinet sub-committee on infrastructure in a meeting on Wednesday. The committee has also given final approval to the Versova-Bandra Sea Link (VBSL) and a third bridge over the Thane creek. "With cabinet sub-committee approval in place, we can now award the contract to the lowest bidders," said Radheshyam Mopalwar, managing director, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC).

The Mumbai-Pune expressway link will start at Khopoli and through an interchange, lead to Kusgaon at the Pune-end of the expressway. Once built, motorists heading to Pune can avoid the ghat section, which is the most critical part where heavy vehicles slow down traffic. The work on the project is expected to start after monsoon, said an MSRDC official. MSRDC selected Afcons Infrastructure and Hyderabad-based Navyuga Engineering as the lowest bidders for the project.

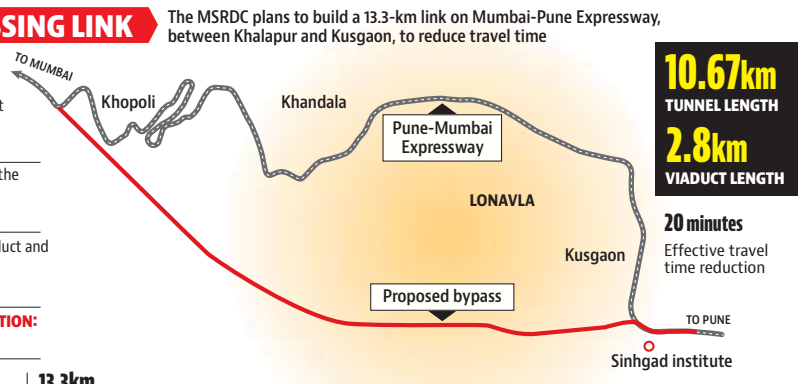
Meanwhile, the lowest bid for VBSL was received from a joint-venture of Reliance and Astaldi, which has quoted ₹6,993 crore for the project – ₹1,477 crore higher than MSRDC's estimated cost of ₹5,516 crore. VBSL is part of the ambitious coastal road project.

An MSRDC official said the third bridge on Thane creek will come up alongside existing Vashi bridge. Larsen and Toubro (L&T) emerged as the lowest bidder to construct the bridge.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO COMFORT

THE MISSING LINK

The MSRDC plans to build a 13.3-km link on Mumbai-Pune Expressway, between Khalapur and Kusgaon, to reduce travel time



ESTIMATED COST
Construction cost (civil) of project ₹3,939 crore
Cost of building the tunnels ₹2,696 crore
Building the viaduct and bridges ₹1,243 crore
PROJECT DURATION: 3 years

19km Original distance between Lonavla and Khopoli

13.3km Effective distance between Lonavla and Khopoli after the opening of the bypass

10.67km TUNNEL LENGTH
2.8km VIADUCT LENGTH
20 minutes Effective travel time reduction

PROJECT INCLUDES
TWO BRIDGES
1. 50 m height and 650 m length
2. 150 m height and 650 m length

TWO TUNNELS
1. Length: 1.75 km
2. Length: 8.92 km

VERSOVA-BANDRA SEA LINK (VBSL)

The VBSL was part of the Western Freeway project, which envisaged a series of sea links from Versova to Haji Ali and a tunnel from there to Girgaon Chowpatty. Also a part of the Coastal Road project, the link will connect south Mumbai to western suburbs

After the Bandra-Worli sea link was opened to public in 2009, plan for Worli-Haji sea link and VBSL were dropped

VBSL was revived after the Coastal Road plan was initiated by BMC

PROJECT COST ₹6,993.99 crore

17.17km total length of VBSL (including connectors)
9.80km length of road between Bandra and Versova
8 number of lanes
₹130 estimated toll
2023 estimated deadline

Entry/exits points (connectors): Otters Club in Bandra, Juhu Koliwada, and Nana Nani Park in Versova

ONE MORE BRIDGE ON THANE CREEK

A third bridge will now come up on Thane creek which will run parallel to the two existing bridges connecting Mumbai and Navi Mumbai

2 corridors on the bridge
1.8km length of the bridge
₹560 crore cost of bridge
It will be a six-lane bridge divided into two corridors. One three-lane corridor will be located between the existing Thane creek bridge and railway bridge, and another will be located between Thane creek bridge and the old bridge, which is currently not in use.

NEW TERMINUS COMING UP AT VASAI ROAD

To decongest other terminuses on WR and reduce load on the Vasai Road station, a new terminus has been planned there

103 number of outstation trains handled by western railway (WR) on an average daily
20 outstation trains to be handled by the terminus daily on an average
2013 WR first proposed the Vasai Road Terminus
2023 The target set by WR to complete the terminus
4 platforms to be built at the Vasai Road Terminus
3 stabling lines to be laid along with construction of a new station building
WR plans to operate new Rajdhani trains from the terminus as well

OTHER TERMINUSES

4 major terminuses currently in Mumbai that connect it to different parts of India
These are: Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT), Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), Mumbai Central and Bandra Terminus

ALSO ON-TRACK

139-year-old Parel workshop to make way for a Parel terminus
₹1,215-crore proposed terminus at Thakurli

Next stop: Vasai Road Terminus

HT SPECIAL

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MUMBAI: In order to reduce the load of outstation trains handled by the Bandra and Mumbai Central terminuses, the western railway (WR) has planned a new terminus at Vasai Road.

The terminus, which is set to come up by 2023, will also ease the present bottleneck at Vasai Road station. The project was necessitated as the city's rail network, which operates nearly 200 outstation trains and 3,000 local train services daily has reached its saturation point — the brunt of which is borne by WR and central railway (CR). WR had first proposed the construction of a terminus at Vasai Road in 2013, the plan for which didn't materialise. The project was again proposed in 2017. The project plan received a boost when Union railway minister Piyush Goyal on August 23 announced exploring the feasibility of a new main line terminal at Vasai Road.

Of the 103 outstation trains handled by WR in the city daily, 43 trains originate from Mumbai Central and Bandra Terminus, all of which cross Vasai Road. Apart from this, 60 trains are interchanged at Vasai Road. These include trains heading to and from north India, trains coming to or from CR and Main Line Electric Multiple Unit (MEMU) passenger trains from Panvel. Moreover, engine of outstation trains of CR are changed here along with the entire staff, which takes 50 minutes. Apart from this, 40 goods trains are handled daily.

> The Vasai Road Terminus will benefit commuters as they can avail originating trains.
> SANJAY MISHRA, divisional railway manager, WR

All of this creates a bottleneck at the station and restricts WR from increasing frequency of suburban trains, thus necessitating the need for a terminus.

The new terminus is set to have four platforms, three stabling lines for outstation trains, a new terminus building. Premium trains, including a new proposed Rajdhani Express and 20 other passenger trains will originate and terminate at the terminus.

According to officials, the land required is likely to include private and government land. WR will also prepare estimated cost of the project. "The land acquisition survey will start from September and a proposal will be sent to the Railway Board," said a senior WR official. Experts however have different opinions. "A terminus needs to be connected to all major highways and airports. This terminus will create confusion," said Subodh Jain, former member of Railway Board. Urban planner Sulaksha Mahajan however said with the shift of the population northwards, "a junction at Vasai Road should be built to connect passengers from CR and Konkan railway".

"It is an old demand. The terminus will improve punctuality of zonal Railways," said Subash Gupta, president, Rail Yatri Parishad.

COPS TO RETEST ANOTHER MD SAMPLE FOUND WITH CONSTABLE

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MUMBAI: Three years after receiving a negative report of the drugs seized from constable of Marine Drive police station, Dharmaraj Kalokhe, the crime branch on Tuesday took the second sample of the seized contraband for retesting.

Kalokhe was arrested on March 9, 2015, after 110kg of mephedrone was seized from his residence in a village in Satara. The next day, 12kg of mephedrone was seized from his locked cupboard at the police station.

The state forensic laboratory, after testing the samples from the seized contraband, stated that the powder is not mephedrone. The crime branch had moved the special NDPS court for resampling the seized drugs for re-examination at a central laboratory, which was rejected. The crime branch then approached the Bombay high court in 2015. In August 2018, the HC allowed the agency to obtain samples again for re-testing. The agency will now send the second sample to a lab in Hyderabad. While the petition for resampling was pending, the supplier of the consignment—a drug mafia called Shashikala Patankar alias Baby Patankar—was discharged from the case in Satara (involving 110 mephedrone) in August 2017.

The Mumbai crime branch had also arrested other top officials of anti-narcotics cell, anti-extortion cell and the special branch in this case.

DABHOLKAR MURDER CASE

Court denies CBI custody of Kalaskar

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MUMBAI : The special court for Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act on Wednesday rejected the Central Bureau of Investigation's (CBI's) request seeking the custody of Sharad Kalaskar, one of the alleged shooters named in the murder of rationalist Narendra Dabholkar.

The CBI reasoned that it was during their interrogation of Sachin Andure — the other accused in the Dabholkar case — that Kalaskar's involvement was revealed and hence, they required his custody. The agency also said they were the ones who named Kalaskar as the second shooter on August 20.

The court had earlier remanded Kalaskar in the custody of the Maharashtra Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) and observed there would be a legal complication to get the transfer done.

Special judge VS Padalkar said it would not be possible for the CBI to get Kalaskar directly transferred to its custody but only after he is remanded in judicial custody in the case registered against him by the ATS.

The judge also reprimanded the agency for their delay in seeking Kalaskar's custody. The court observed that the CBI, which had obtained a transfer warrant from the Judicial Magistrate First Class (JFMC) in Pune on August 23 and it was "obligatory on part of CBI to move before this court on August 24 onwards immediately by submitting the present application for handing over custody of Kalaskar."

There was no explanation given by the agency, the court said, on what action they took in those five days since obtaining the warrant before they submitted their application for transfer of custody.

LEGAL HICCUP FOR TRANSFER

- The court observed there would be a legal complication to get Kalaskar's transfer from the ATS done. The CBI cannot get him unless he is remanded in judicial custody again.
- The judge also reprimanded the CBI for their delay in seeking Kalaskar's custody even though they had obtained a transfer warrant on August 23

Parel blaze: Builder sent to judicial custody

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MUMBAI: The developer of Crystal Towers, Razak Ismail Supariwala, was remanded in judicial custody for two weeks by the Bhoiwada metropolitan court on Wednesday, after his police custody ended on the same day.

Supariwala was arrested on August 22 after a fire at the 16-storey Crystal Tower in Parel killed four persons. The Bhoiwada police told the court that they finished recording statements of the electricity contractor and fire contractor. The police said they need the developer's custody as they are still not finished with the investigation.

On Monday, the police had told the court they needed Supariwala's custody for the names of the fire, electricity and lift contractors. Advocate Dhaval Sanghoi, appearing for Supariwala, argued, "As the statements of the contractors have been recorded, there is no requirement of the physical custody of the accused."

Razak Ismail Supariwala HT FILE

Meanwhile, 10-year-old Zen Sadavarte, who had helped people to safety during the blaze, was called for an "informal meet" with Narendra Barde, deputy municipal commissioner (DMC) on Tuesday to felicitate her efforts. "She is a sharp and intelligent child. She had several questions. We had a discussion," said Barde. Zen said, "The officer wanted an account of what happened and he said, 'Tell me the story'. I told him it is not just a story as people's lives were lost."

The Don Bosco student also asked several questions regarding sealing of the entrance while the fire was raging. The 48 families, residents of Crystal Towers meanwhile continue to live without proper access to electricity and water. Although water supply was partly restored, families on the higher floors can't pump water. Zen's father, Gunratan, said, "They have been using battery lamps and candles."

A HARMONIOUS SELFIE

Ghazal maestro Pankaj Udhas's (centre) new album, Krishna Chants, was launched on Wednesday ay the Iskcon Temple in Juhu by the flautist Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia (left) and singer Anup Jalota. SHASHI S KASHYAP/HT

'Rahul will not attend RSS event even if invited'

Mallikarjun Kharge PTI

MUMBAI: Congress president Rahul Gandhi will not attend the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) lecture series even if he is formally invited, said senior Congress leader and the party's general secretary Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday.

"RSS's ideology is poisonous and there is no need to taste that poison to experience it. We are totally against attending any RSS programme and Rahulji will not attend it. We cannot endorse the RSS's ideology," Kharge said.

The denial came in response to the report that the RSS is planning to invite Gandhi for its three-day lecture series to be organised at Vigyan Bhavan from September 17 to 19 this year.

Kharge also added that party's primary aim is to win the election with flying colours.

"We are determined to win maximum seats and install our president Rahul Gandhi as prime minister. But before that, we have to fight the elections with full vigour to ensure the victory," he said.

Kharge was responding to the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar's statement that the party with most seats will claim the post of the prime minister.

The state Congress has rubbished the formula of sharing equal seats between the Congress and the NCP. Maharashtra Congress chief Ashok Chavan said, "There is no such proposal from the NCP and its state chief has clarified it to me." HTC

FOR UNINTERRUPTED WATER SUPPLY

Extra reservoir planned for SoBo

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MUMBAI: To provide uninterrupted water supply to south Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is planning to a build a water reservoir in addition to the existing 136-year-old Malabar Hill reservoir, which is in need of urgent repair.

The Malabar Hill reservoir supplies water to most wards of South Mumbai, including A (Fort), C (Girgaon) and D (Malabar hills) wards. The reservoir is located right below Hanging Garden.

The civic body said the new reservoir would have 20% capacity of the existing one. The Malabar Hill reservoir has a total of five compartments — that can hold a maximum of 147 million litres of water — and the civic body plans to repair each one separately. As each compartment shuts for repair, the new reservoir would help maintain a regular supply of water.

The BMC's chief engineer for water supply and projects, Manmohan Pednekar, said, "The alternate reservoir will come up on BMC land — which has a civic body's maintenance post that will be shifted temporarily. There are many procedures yet to be finalised. There are around 40 trees which are coming in the way. We will study whether they have to be shifted or not."

THE OLD RESERVOIR, WHICH HAS FIVE COMPARTMENTS AND IS LOCATED ON BMC LAND AT MALABAR HILL, IS 136 YEARS OLD. IT IS IN NEED OF URGENT REPAIR

The construction for the new reservoir is expected to begin in the next three to four months.

Plans to repair the old reservoir have been on hold for a while now because of a BMC bungalow housing a bureaucrat couple could not be vacated. Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) commissioner, Pallavi Darade and her husband, Pravin Darade, additional metropolitan commissioner of Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), currently live in the building.

Pallavi Darade, however, said, "We are staying here as per the state order. The BMC needs to approach the government for any communication. The reservoir has a separate entrance for maintenance and repair. The BMC can repair it even today if they want it."

Fillip for farmers: State nod to ₹50-cr mechanisation scheme

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MUMBAI: In an attempt to push agricultural output and to increase farmers' income, the Maharashtra cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹50-crore subsidy scheme to promote farm mechanisation.

The state, on the lines of Centre's Sub-Mission of Agricultural Mechanisation (SMAM), would provide a subsidy to individual farmers and harvesters, who intend to hire or purchase mechanised tools for farming or harvesting.

Under the state scheme, the government plans for creating a "hi-tech agricultural machinery hub."

The state would also provide subsidies to farmers for purchasing heavy machines including tractors, sugarcane harvesters, power tillers, and other farm machines.

Farmers belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), and women farmers would be able to marginally avail additional subsidy.

The state will also provide a subsidy to farmers wanting to purchase tools through bank loans.

According to a senior state bureaucrat, around 80% farmers in the state have small landholdings but do not have the financial resources to use machines and farm tools, and therefore there was a need to implement the scheme.

"Farmers with small land holdings, ones belonging to SC/ST and women farmers would get 35% subsidy to purchase tractors and for other machines, they would get 50% subsidy. Other categories would get a 25% subsidy for tractor, and 40% for other machines. We have earmarked ₹50 crore for the scheme this year," said an agriculture department official.

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Drama on highway: Murder accused try to flee after kin surround cop van

AT GOREGAON Two cops injured after relatives create trouble while duo was being taken from Dindoshi court to Taloja jail

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MUMBAI: An officer from the Sakinaka police station and a constable from the Navi Mumbai police were injured while they tried to stop two accused from escaping.

On Tuesday, a prison guard's party headed by assistant police inspector Arlekar was escorting Tabrez Khan and Salim Siddique from Dindoshi court to Taloja Jail.

The Powai police had arrested Khan and Siddique last year in connection with a murder case.

"One of the accused had submitted an application in court, which was rejected. As they got out of the main gate, 10-12 relatives of the accused stopped the prison van, in which, Khan and Siddique were being taken. They had parked their bikes and other vehicles in front of the van in order to stop it from moving ahead and take out the accused by roughing up the guards," said a police officer.

Police said that Khan and Siddique then started hitting their heads on the seat to show that they were beaten by the police.

"They also started damaging the vehicle from inside. Somehow, the police managed to move the vehicles with the help of sub inspector Hule of Sakinaka police, who happened to be crossing from the spot," said the police officer.

The relatives then started following the vehicle as Hule, Arlekar and others moved towards Aarey Check naka. They stopped the van by overtaking it and as soon as the van stopped, Siddique got into a physical fight with a constable inside. He punched him on his face and arm.

While the constable and Siddique got into a fight, Khan attacked Hule and Arlekar, police said.

"He bit Hule from the window and hit Arlekar on his wrist. Hule was trying to control the others outside the van. Khan also snatched Hule's mobile phone and threw it on the road. Meanwhile, a female relative of the accused tried to open the door of the van. Seeing an opportunity, both the accused tried to escape, but were stopped by the staff," said the officer.

As the people saw their plan failing, some of the relatives outside, fled from the spot.

Four of them including two men and two women along with the murder accused were taken to Vanrai police station, where an FIR was registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). The case was later transferred to Dindoshi Police station. Police said they are investigating the case further and a search operation is on for the other accused, who were involved in the incident.

ESCAPE PLAN GOES AWRY

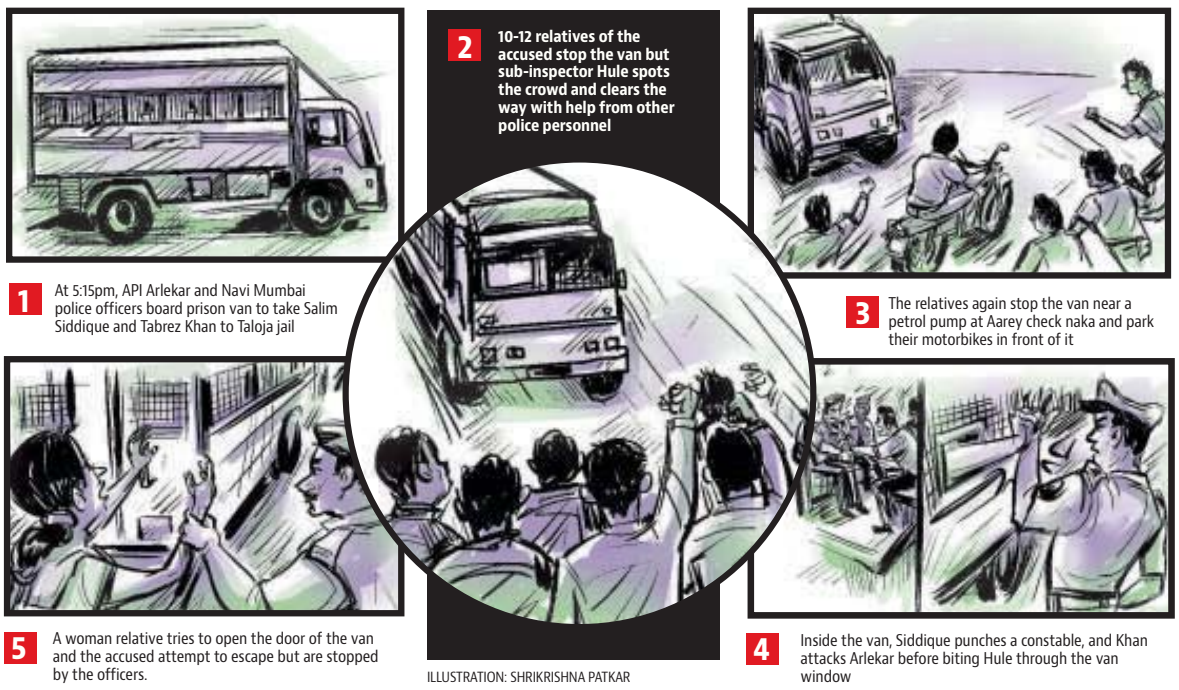

ILLUSTRATION: SHRIKRISHNA PATKAR

Bizman kidnaps 2, held after getting stuck in traffic jam

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MUMBAI: Two employees of a south Mumbai angadia were allegedly kidnapped by a Gujarat-based construction businessman after they committed to pay a debt on behalf of another construction businessman from Malad.

According to the DB Marg police, Shabbir Bharmal, 47, a construction businessman from Rajkot in Gujarat had given a loan of ₹10 lakh to a Malad-based businessman Dinesh Shah, a few months ago. The angadia knew both the men and had given surety that he would pay the money if Shah failed to.

Bharmal had received ₹6 lakh from Shah but the latter had been stalling payment of the remaining ₹4 lakh. Investigating officers said that on Tuesday, Bharmal came to Mumbai and contacted his friends Lakshman Kunchipurve, 37, and Babu Kunchipurve, 36, from Dharavi and asked them to accompany him. They rented a car and hired taxi driver Mohammed Akram, 49, to drive them around. At 2pm, Bharmal and his three accomplices visited the angadia's shop at Tata Road near Charni Road.

They told the shop employees Anil Rathod, 45 and Dharmesh Sagar, 40, they wanted to see the owner but when they could not get a satisfactory answer, Bharmal and his men asked Rathod and Sagar to accompany them to Malad to talk to Shah about paying the remaining amount.

"When Rathod and Sagar refused to go along, Bharmal and his accomplices forcefully shoved the employees in the car and left for Malad," said Suryakant Bangar, senior police inspector of DB Marg police station.

Bangar said that as soon as the car reached Jaslok Hospital in Peddar Road, it slowed down due to heavy traffic. "At first, Rathod did not object, however, when Bharmal threatened him, the former got scared and began shouting for help," he said.

Rathod noticed the traffic police constable posted at the junction, threw the door of the car open, and called out for help. The traffic constable intercepted the car and asked the driver to park it. He then alerted the control room and informed them of the kidnapping. Constables from Gamdevi police station then arrested the four men and handed them over to the DB Marg police.

"We have arrested the four men on charges of kidnapping. They were presented before the court on Wednesday where they were remanded to police custody," said Bangar.

PEDDAR ROAD JAM SAVES TWO

- Shabbir Bharmal and his three accomplices kidnap two employees from the angadia's shop at Charni Road on Tuesday
- He decides to forcibly take the employees to Malad to meet with the man who owes him money
- At Peddar Road near Jaslok Hospital, the car gets stuck in a traffic jam at 3.30pm
- One of the employees spots a traffic constable and shouts for help
- The constable informs the control room and intercepted the car before rescuing the two men.

₹21-L cigarettes, watches seized from SoBo mkts

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The watches seized by DRI.

MUMBAI: The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Tuesday raided Manish market and Crawford market in south Mumbai and seized smuggled watches and foreign cigarettes of well-known brands.

The DRI raided a godown in Manish market and seized 900 watches of top foreign brands, which they believe are counterfeit. "We initiated two separate raids, one at Manish market, where watches were seized and another at Crawford Market, where foreign cigarettes were seized," said a senior DRI officer.

"We suspect that the watches are first-copies of top brands."

Under section 123 of the Customs Act, the onus is on the person, from whose custody the seizure was made, to prove that the goods were not smuggled into the country, DRI said.

"Watches, cigarettes, gold and silver are notified commodities, which attract duty," said the officer, adding, "When we asked the person who stocked the watches, he was unable to provide any invoice or document following which, the items were seized."

DRI sources said that if the watches are found to be counterfeit, it will attract provisions under the Patent Act for protection of inventions and intellectual property rights.

In case of Crawford market, the DRI arrested Shabanali Razahusain Virani and seized foreign cigarettes worth ₹21 lakh from his godown. "The modus operandi is to bring these foreign brand cigarettes from Delhi to Mumbai after which they are sent to Goa, Gujarat and Pune," said the officer.

"These cigarettes are brought from the capital mostly by train. Another way is to send carriers to Dubai." Virani has been booked under relevant sections of the Customs Act and Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003.

The action comes a week after DRI cracked the whip on illegal sale of branded foreign cigarettes, as they raided six godowns at Musafir Khana and seized cigarettes worth ₹1.07 crore.

hindustantimes mumbai meri hai

MOVING IMAGES

A series that celebrates the city, through its people

Sanjay Ratan Singh loves Mumbai summers because they are good for his juice selling business at Fort. SATISH BATE/HT PHOTO

The juice vendor

"What I like about Mumbai is its summer, and that its winters are not extreme, because that is best for my business," says Sanjay Singh, 39, who runs a juice stall on a footpath at Fort.

His stall is frequented by office-goers in the original business district of the city.

"Mumbai has given me an identity. In fact, it has given my entire family its identity," he adds. Three generations of Singhs have run this juice stall, over the past 70 years.

Sanjay's grandfather came to the city in the 1950s from Uttar Pradesh, and began selling nimboo paani on the street.

His eldest son took over the business, which was passed on to Sanjay's father, and then to him.

"Ours is one of the few licenced stalls at Fort," he says proudly.

"We first got a license in 1967, and I make sure to renew it on time, so that there is no trouble with the authorities."

Honesty and hard work pay off in Mumbai, he adds.

"I don't get into trouble. I pay my taxes. My family even owns a small room in this area now."

On a sunny day, Sanjay makes between ₹500 and ₹700 in profits. "The Mumbai weather suits my business well," he says. "There is nothing about this city that I don't like."

THREE GENERATIONS OF SINGHS HAVE RUN THE JUICE STALL, EVER SINCE SANJAY'S FATHER CAME TO THE CITY FROM UP IN THE 1950s

TEXT: EESHANPRIYA MS

2008 Malegaon blast: Court to frame charges on Sept 5

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MUMBAI: Paving the way to begin the trial in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, the special court set up to hear the case is likely to frame charges against the five accused Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, Major Ramesh Upadhyay, Sameer Kulkarni, Ajay Rahirkar, Lt Col Prasad Purohit, Sudhakar Dwivedi alias Swami Amritanand, and Sudhakar Chaturvedi.

Special judge VS Padalkar has asked all the five accused to remain present on September 5 for the same.

The order came after the court on Wednesday rejected the application filed by Purohit seeking to stay the trial till his application filed before the higher courts are decided. The court on Wednesday pointed out that there was no stay from any higher court to prevent commencement of the trial.

Along with Purohit, Sadhvi and the other accused have approached the Bombay high court to petition for discharge. The special court had in December 2017 rejected discharge pleas of Sadhvi, Purohit, Upadhyay, and Kulkarni.

In December 2017, the special court had ordered to drop the charges of Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against all the accused booked in connection with 2008 Malegaon blast case. Since the order of the court, the case has been pending for framing of charges and only after that is done, can the trial begin.

Meanwhile, the special judge issued a non-bailable warrant against Dwivedi as he failed to remain present before the court. The court observed that neither did he nor his lawyer submit an application seeking exemption from appearance.

A DECADE ON, STILL AWAITING TRIAL

- Special judge VS Padalkar has asked all the five accused to remain present on September 5 for the framing of the charges
- In December 2017, the special court had ordered to drop the charges of Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against the accused
- Since then, case was pending for framing of charges and only after that can the trial begin
- The special court questioned the National Investigating Agency about the steps it had taken to trace the absconding accused Sandeep Dange and Ramchandra Kalsangra

Man kills neighbour over buffalo in field, arrested from Thane

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MUMBAI: The Mumbai crime branch arrested a man from Uttar Pradesh who has been accused of fatally shooting his neighbour after the latter's buffalo was caught grazing in his field. Vinod Dubey was hiding in Mumbai for three months in a rented house in Thane area after committing the crime in his hometown in UP.

The complainant, Shyam Prasad, a resident of Barhalganj area in Gorakhpur, UP alleged that his cousin Shyamnand Harbu's buffalo was grazing near Dubey's field. When Sudhir, a 10-year-old boy from Harbu's house went to retrieve the buffalo, Dubey abused, kicked and punched the child.

After hearing Sudhir's screams, Harbu went to see what was happening. He got into an argument with Dubey following which the latter's two associates Manish Dubey and Ramesh Dubey also got involved and a fight ensued.

Vinod was carrying a revolver at the time and in a fit of rage, he shot Harbu. He then went to the local railway station and boarded a train to Mumbai. In the city, he rented a room in Thane, said a crime branch officer.

The Gorakhpur police received a tip that he was in Mumbai. A Mumbai crime branch team brought him to the unit office on Tuesday and he confessed to the crime during interrogation. Gorakhpur police were informed and Dubey was handed to them for further investigation, said police inspector Sandesh Rewale of unit 4.

HC to expedite hearing on Metro work near agiaries

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MUMBAI: The Bombay high court has finally decided to hear and conclude the petition filed by the Parsi community against the Metro tunnelling work being carried out below two fire temples – at the junction of Princess Street, and the other at Kalbadevi.

Metro authorities had filed an application seeking constitution of a special bench to hear the case as the delay was costing it loses of ₹4.2 crore per day.

According to the application filed by the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL), the petition by the management of the two fire temples, and Atash Behrams had stalled the tunnelling work for Metro III.

This, the application said was causing loss to the project to the tune of nearly ₹4.2 crore per day.

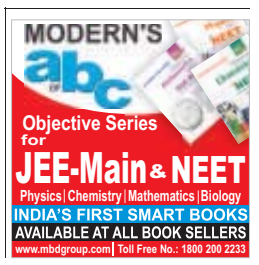
The application said that this loss would only add to the escalation of the entire project cost and hence sought an expeditious hearing of the case.

It further stated that as daily hearings of the case were not possible, the court should direct the formation of a special bench that could hear the case at length and decide on it. The petitioning managements of the fire temples had claimed that the tunnelling work would not only lead to desecration of the holy fires, but also choke the temple wells as their water sources could be damaged.

According to a member of the community Rusi Nariman, as all rites and rituals of the temple are done with the water from the temple wells only, any damage would put an end to the rituals hence the petition sought shifting of the Metro tunnel away from the site.

After hearing the application, the bench of acting chief justice Naresh Patil said that it would hear the matter on September 7 and on the request of the petitioners, on September 10 and 11 too.

THE TEMPLES CLAIMED THAT THE TUNNELLING WORK WOULD LEAD TO DESECRATION OF THE HOLY FIRES



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shortstories

HARBOUR RAILWAY SERVICES HIT DUE TO RAIL FRACTURE

MUMBAI: Local train services on the harbour line were disrupted on Wednesday morning from 8am after a rail fracture was spotted on the track between Khandeshwar and Mansarovar stations. Services resumed by 8.28am. Suburban trains on the harbour line towards Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) continued to operate with a delay of up to 20 minutes till afternoon. **HTC**

Direct flights to start from city to NYC, Frankfurt soon

MUMBAI: Passengers seeking to travel from Mumbai to New York in the United States and Frankfurt in Germany will now be able to take non-stop flights to these cities starting in October. National carrier Air India will now operate four flights a week to Frankfurt using Boeing 787 Dreamliners and three to John F Kennedy (JFK) International Airport, New York with Boeing 777-300ER. The Frankfurt flights will be operated on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, while the JFK flights will be operated on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Both flights will be a part of the winter schedule, said a senior Air India official . **HTC**

AC local compartment faces rain water leakage

MUMBAI: Passengers travelling in air-conditioned (AC) local trains have raised the issue of rain water leakage within the compartment, after the roof of a train compartment began to leak on Monday. The Western Railway was quick to rectify the problem but has stated that the issue with the AC ducts in the compartment requires to be addressed completely. "There were some issues with the material inside the AC duct which was fixed and the water leakage was stopped," said Sanjay Mishra, divisional railway manager, western railway. **HTC**

Parel college gets nod from state for name change

MUMBAI: The state cabinet approved the name change of a college in Parel from Bombay Veterinary College to Mumbai Veterinary College. **HTC**

Five pose as I-T officers, rob man of ₹33L, arrested

THANE: The Thane crime branch arrested five people, including two teenagers, for posing as Income Tax officers and robbed a real estate agent of ₹33 lakh. The arrested accused have been identified as Fayyaz Kazi, 47, Manav Singh, 19, Shoaib Munshi, 19, Salim Ansari, 21, and Imran Ali, 25. On August 5, the five went to Govind Singh's home in Kashimira, posing as I-T officers and threatened him at gunpoint, stole cash and other valuables and fled. Police has recovered cash worth ₹2.7 lakh and 10 tolas of gold. **HTC**

30-year-old kills garment businessman, arrested

THANE: The Ulhasnagar police arrested Sanjay Prasadi Sharma, 30, for stealing ₹10,000 and killing a 54-year-old garment businessman, Prakash Kashani. Sharma and Kashani had gone out for a drink when the incident took place. **HTC**

yourspace

TOPIC OF THE WEEK

As India breaks new ground at the Asian Games, what sports you would like to see more of in Mumbai? What do you think should be done to turn more youngsters into athletes?

GIFT VOUCHER worth ₹1,000

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5 rounds completed, but 76K FYJC seats still up for grabs

THE REASON Almost 80% are in private colleges; parents blame state's unchecked nod to new seats

Ankita Bhatkhande
ankita.bhatkhande@htlive.com

MUMBAI: Even as the state education department has finished five regular admission rounds for first-year junior colleges (FYJCs), over 76,000 seats across Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) are still lying vacant. Nearly 80% of the vacant seats are in permanently unaided colleges or in unaided divisions of aided colleges.

While the state education department has, as of now, not announced the number of students who are yet to secure admissions, senior officials in the education department said that the number is estimated to not be more than 5,000, revealing a huge discrepancy between the number of seats and students.

This year, the state education department created 10,000 FYJC seats in Mumbai with 14 new colleges. With the government granting permissions to more divisions and colleges every year, activists have over the last few years raised concerns over the increasing number of seats in private colleges.

In 2017, there were around 55,000 vacant seats across city colleges at the end of over 11 admission rounds. Vaishali Bafna, a member of SYSCOM an education think tank that had written to the government about the vacant seats, said "Every year, hundreds of seats lie vacant as there are no takers. The state education department grants permission to new colleges and divisions without even checking if there is a need for more seats. If the number of applicants is not more than the number of seats, what is the need to grant approvals for more colleges?" said Bafna.

Parents said that with many unaided divisions being granted approvals,students with low scores are often compelled to take admissions to these divisions where they have to shell out fees ranging from ₹6,000 to ₹15,000 depending on the course.

"Colleges are more interested in admitting students under their unaided divisions to get more revenue from fees. With blanket permissions being given to colleges, students and parents are not able to judge the quality of a particular college" said a parent from Mahim.

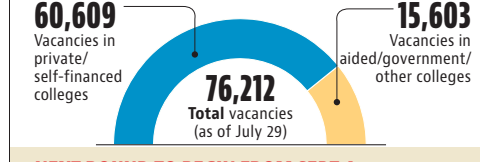
EXCESS SUPPLY, LOW DEMAND?

As more and more new seats get created in the state, city colleges struggle to fill up seats.

As of July 28, the state education department has completed five rounds and phase-one of First Come, First Serve (FCFS) for admission to FYJCs

This year, with 14 new colleges, 10,000 FYJC seats were added across Mumbai

3.01 lakh Total seats available in 2018



NEXT ROUND TO BEGIN FROM SEPT 4

The Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (MSBSHSE) declared the results of the Class 10 supplementary exams on Wednesday.

A total of 33,397 students had appeared for the exam, which was conducted in July

The Mumbai division recorded a 14.21% result

Students who have passed the exam will now be allowed to apply in the second FCFS round which will begin after September 4.

"The education department grants permission to new colleges without even checking if there is a need for seats. What is the need to grant approvals for more colleges?"
VAISHALI BAFNA, SYSCOM, an education think tank

Ganpati pandals: Deadline to apply pushed to Sept 2

HT Correspondent
htmetro@hindustantimes.com

THE MOVE COMES A DAY AFTER BMC EXTENDED THE ORIGINAL DEADLINE TO AUGUST 31. IT SAID IT WILL CLEAR 453 PLEAS WITHIN TWO DAYS

MUMBAI: A day after the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) announced that it had extended the deadline for Ganesh pandal applications to August 31, it has now further extended the deadline to September 2. The initial deadline for online applications was Tuesday.

In a press conference held on Wednesday, BMC said that it will clear 452 pandals application, 23% of the total applications received this year, within the next two days.

BMC received a total of 2,694 online applications for setting up pandals on roads and footpaths.

Of these, 594 applications were rejected owing to multiple applications filed for the same pandal. Of the remaining 2,100 applications, 1,425 have been approved and 223 rejected by the civic body. The remaining 452 are pending with the traffic police and local police, as well as the civic body.

This year, the civic body had introduced a single-window online application system, which is linked with the traffic and police department.

After the application is submitted, it is forwarded to ward offices, traffic and police department to be approved within three days. However, many applications were cancelled owing to lack of documents while other were rejected following encroachment of footpaths.

Narendra Barde, deputy municipal commissioner, zone 2, said, "Mandals whose application have been rejected can resubmit the application with the requisite documents or after making the recommended changes such as reducing pandals size if it was encroaching roads or footpaths."

According to the guidelines, mandals need to submit a self-certified declaration regarding fire safety compliance on a ₹500 stamp paper to the ward authority.

The declaration should state that it would be the sole responsibility of organisers to comply with all fire safety measures under section 3 (3) of the Maharashtra Fire Prevention and Life Safety Measures Act, 2006.

The rule regarding self-certification had irked organisers across city.

Iron will to live (and die): Activists seek simpler norms for euthanasia

HT SPECIAL

Aayushi Pratap
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MUMBAI: The Indian Society of Critical Care Medicine (ISCCM), one of the largest bodies of health care professionals in India, has recommended simplifications in the procedure laid out by the Supreme Court (SC) on 'passive euthanasia' and living wills, stating that the current procedure is long-drawn and bureaucratic.

'Passive euthanasia' refers to the withdrawal of medical treatment with the intention to hasten a terminally ill patient's death. A living will, also known as advanced directive, refers to a situation where the patient gives consent for withdrawal of life support in the event that he or she is reduced to a permanent vegetative state with no real chance of survival.

On March 9, 2018, SC passed an order legalising 'passive euthanasia' and the creation of living wills.However, the ISCCM has stated that the procedure is "non-implementable" as doctors require clearances from various committees, which can take up to a month.

In a statement released last week, ISCCM recommended that a hospital-level committee, along with the patient's family, should be allowed to make decisions regarding withdrawal of life-supporting treatments.

"We are proposing a committee similar to one that takes decisions about organ transplants at the hospital level," said Dr Yatin Mehta, president, ISCCM.

ISCCM has proposed a two-tier system to allow decisions to be jointly taken between authorised relative of the patient and the treating team of 'three' senior doctors.

Doctors said in the six months since the SC order, not many had created living wills. Roop Gurasahani, a neurologist at PD Hinduja and Research Centre, who is part of the group advocating for living wills, said "The judgment has not translated into anything workable because the procedure is too complicated."

Other medical experts, alongside groups such as Indian Association of Palliative Care (IAPC), have also voiced their support for changes in the procedures. "We would also like to point out serious practical difficulties with the implementation of the procedure laid down by the Supreme Court," said IAPC last month.

Mary Ann Muckaden, president, IAPC added that a hospital-level ethics committee should be allowed to make the decision in case there is a difference of opinion between the treating doctors. "Ethics committees have experts such as lawyers and social activists. Such cases could be referred to it, so a decision is reached in two to three days," she said.

Meanwhile, there are those that have said that since it is a matter of human life, the procedure should be made stringent to prevent its misuse. Vipul Mudgal, director of Delhi-based non-governmental organisation Common Cause, whose public interest litigation in 2005 led to the legalisation of 'passive euthanasia' and living wills, said he holds no grudge against the procedure outlined by the court.

"It is matter relating to life and death. SC was clearly concerned about its misuse which is why it is so careful in its order and has multiple levels of checks. The court has given the order as there is a legislative vacuum on the issue," said Mudgal.

KNOW YOUR TERMINOLOGY

'Passive euthanasia' refers to the withdrawal of medical treatment with the intention to hasten a terminally ill patient's death.

A **living will**, also known as **advanced directive**, refers to a situation where the patient gives consent for withdrawal of life support in the event that he or she is reduced to a permanent vegetative state with no real chance of survival.

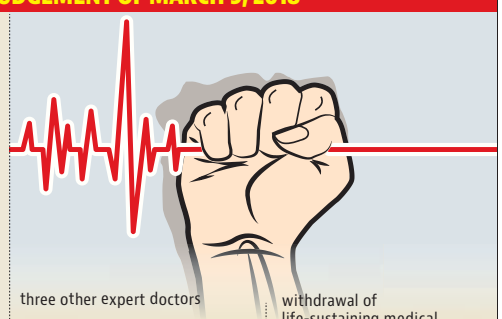
WHAT IT TAKES: SC JUDGEMENT OF MARCH 9, 2018

The hospital or facility, where the patient who has executed the advance directive has been admitted, must set up a medical board consisting of four expert doctors

The doctors will provide a preliminary opinion about the condition of the patient – whether the patient is terminally ill and if the existing treatment is only prolonging the process of dying

On this basis of the preliminary report, they will recommend whether or not the instructions in the advance directive should be honoured

Once this opinion has been provided, the collector of the district in which the hospital or other facility is located will set up another medical board. This will be presided over by the chief district medical officer and will consist of three other expert doctors



This second board will visit the patient and either confirm or reject the opinion of the first board

If the second board agrees that medical treatment should be withdrawn, a judicial magistrate of the first class will also visit the patient and provide final authorisation for removal of the life-sustaining medical treatment

If one of the medical boards refuses to authorise the withdrawal of life-sustaining medical treatment, the executor of the directive or his/her family may make an application to the relevant high court.

The high court will constitute an expert committee of three doctors and make a decision taking into account the committee's recommendations and the patient's best interests.

thetimescrosswords

CRYPTIC CLUES

Across
1 Shun fallen woman bearing a daughter (5)
8 Drunk male cuts drink (8)
9 Set up before going to Connecticut (5)
10 An order for freshly cooked bean soup (8)
11 Legally of relative significance (2-3)
12 A lot of water is found in these areas (3)
16 Stress it's money on account (6)
17 Company supported by a voucher (6)
18 Nevertheless you expect them initially (3)
23 Fire about fifty for being lax (5)
24 Fashionable writer will make his mark (8)
25 Let in many in the entrance (5)
26 Compromise though close to rage (8)
27 One turning over in bed (5)

Down
2 Girl executed in the bullring (8)
3 Made a customary statement? (8)
4 A tense time ahead (6)
5 Compass shows latitude (5)
6 Cattle drive (5)
7 Acquit beyond any doubt (5)
12 Where the farmer will go to sow? (3)
13 A small court of law (3)
14 Stopped when rebuked (6,2)
15 Its religious education has been guaranteed (8)
19 In a gem blemishes affect the standard (6)
20 A man entitled to go a long way? (5)
21 A team competing away (5)
22 Not just any type of injury (5)

PUZZLE 15067

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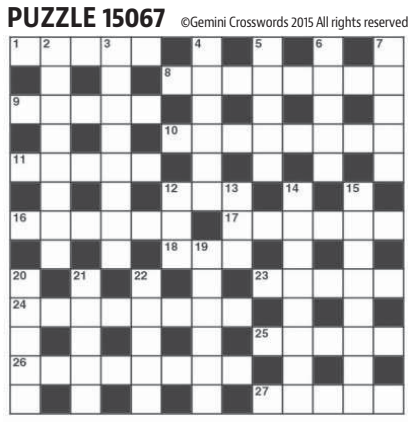

QUICK CLUES

Across
1 Coincide awkwardly (5)
8 Keep for future use (3,5)
9 Sharply evident (5)
10 Become established (4,4)
11 Expressionless (5)
12 A lively dance (3)
16 Persuade (6)
17 Attractiveness (6)
18 Trite quotation (3)
23 Point of view (5)
24 Meditate on (4,4)
25 Obstinately opinionated person (5)
26 Headlong (4-4)
27 Enlighten (5)

Down
2 Leave undisturbed (3,5)
3 Appear suddenly (6,2)
4 Landlocked southern African country (6)
5 Falter (5)
6 Comparatively unimportant (5)
7 Big and strong (5)
12 Type of aircraft (3)
13 Joke (3)
14 Unprejudiced attitude (4,4)
15 Impoverished (5,3)
19 Ancient (3-3)
20 Opportunity for action (5)
21 Answer (5)
22 Capacious (5)

SOLUTIONS FOR 15066

Cryptic

Quick

Seabird found in Pacific, Atlantic coasts rescued by Palghar locals

Ram Parmar
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The bird, rescued from an attack by stray dogs in Vadrai on Tuesday morning, was released later the same day. BHUSHAN BHOIR

PALGHAR: A rare seabird, known as the brown booby, indigenous to the coasts of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, was rescued by local fishermen in Vadrai, a coastal village in Palghar on Tuesday morning. The bird was reportedly being attacked by stray dogs, when the locals spotted the scene and shooed the dogs away.

The brown booby (Sula leucogaster) is a large seabird hailing from the Sulidae family. It is commonly found on Atlantic and Pacific Ocean coasts in America and Australia, said Bhushan Bhoir, assistant professor of zoology, SDSM Dandekar College, Palghar.

Bhoir was approached by the locals after the bird's rescue. "I reached the spot and found the bird in trauma. After consulting a vet, we kept the bird in a room at local resident Satyen Patil's residence. We let it move around the room and fed it multivitamins and fresh fish," said Bhoir.

The bird was then taken to Usrane coast in Palghar and released.

The brown booby frequents the breeding grounds of the islands in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, and nest in large colonies, said Bhoir.

'Internal assessment to help law students, increase attendance'

Musab Qazi
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MUMBAI: Even as some students have opposed internal assessment in three- and five-year law courses, supporters of the new evaluation method argue that it will compensate for the shortcomings of written tests.

The internal assessment, which will account for 40% of the student's grade, is part of the new choice-based credit system (CBCS) curricula for law courses approved by the university's academic council in June.

It will include assessment of term work, participation in college activities, class tests and conduct in the classroom.

Supporters of the new rule said internal assessment will help increase classroom attendance and participation in activities. It will help them go beyond the curriculum and learn practical aspects of law, they added.

Narayan Rajadhyaksha, principal, New Law College, Matunga, said the written tests have proven to be inadequate when it comes to assessing the performance of students. He said internal assessment will allow for continuous evaluation throughout the semester.

After the university issued a circular last week, many students criticised the decision. They argued it will affect standardisation in legal education. Besides, many pursuing law in the city are working, and find it difficult to attend lectures regularly.

fromourinbox

BMC TAKING RIGHT STEP TO AVOID FLOODS

There seems to be a general appreciation of the civic body's move to micro-manage the flooding issue, taking the focus away from bigger projects. (Year after deluge, BMC finds micro fixes for macro issues, August 29). Activists agree that flooding can be solved by considering local topography, but want the mitigation measures to be implemented in a time-bound manner. One hopes that the change in approach will be more effective.
VS IYER

GOVT MUST TAKE CARE OF DOCTORS, TREAT THEM WELL

It is a pity that in India, doctors are treated badly with less pay and lack of proper facilities (Treated as bonded labourers, 14 junior doctors tell high court, August 29). It is not surprising that qualified doctors are leaving India in search of better prospects. If we want them to stay here, the government needs to treat them well. Our politicians are not affected by the doctors' strike, but the common man is. We must not let our medical facilities to the poor suffer due to lethargy of the government. To prevent brain drain of medical professionals, doctors should be treated well.
VEENA SHENOY

YOUNG GUNS SHINE DESPITE ROADBLOCKS

Indian sports fraternity celebrated National Sports Day on 29th August as the Asian Games in Jakarta saw India winning 50 medals in various events (Medal rush, August 29). Indian sports is full of stories of champions triumphing despite the system and not because of it. These are individuals who defy tremendous odds and don't let the apathy and nepotism of administrators and the absence of even basic infrastructure hamper their growth.
C K SUBRAMANIAM

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'Cynical ploy to divert attention from Sanstha'

ACTIVISTS ARRESTED 37 rights groups condemn Pune police's action, call it political conspiracy to suppress civil liberties

HT Correspondent
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MUMBAI: Condemning the arrests and detention of human rights activists from five states by the Pune police on Tuesday — calling them 'Maoist sympathisers' — members of various human rights group demanded their immediate release.

Addressing media persons at Mumbai Press Club on Wednesday, representatives of the 37 organisations described the police action as a political conspiracy to suppress civil liberties and democratic rights of the activists.

They also alleged it was a cynical ploy to divert attention from the ongoing investigation against the alleged members of Sanatan Sanstha for their role in killing rationalists and plotting terror attacks.

On Tuesday, Pune police arrested advocate Sudha Bharadwaj, national secretary of People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) from Faridabad, Father Stan Swamy in Jharkhand, writer and poet Varavara Rao from Hyderabad, civil rights activist Gautam Navlakha from Delhi, activist Arun Ferreira and Vernon Gonsalves in Mumbai.

All five were booked under relevant sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) for their alleged links with Maoists.

The police also searched the Goa house of Anand Teltumbde, general secretary of Committee for Protection of Democratic Rights (CPDR).

Advocate Mihir Desai, one of the representatives of the groups, said charges levelled against the activists were baseless because most of them were not even present in Bhima-Koregaon when the violence erupted.

"UAPA is being invoked just to keep them behind the bars for a long time," he added.

Retired high court judge BG Kolse-Patil said the state had formed a fact-finding committee under IG Nangre Patil, whose report ascertained that Milind Ekbote and other Hindutva hardliners perpetrated the Bhima-Koregaon violence.

"Bhima-Koregaon violence was state sponsored. Sambhaji Bhide and Milind Ekbote provoked it. The main reason behind arresting intellectuals is to divert people's attention at a time when pressure is mounting on police to take action against Sanatan Sanstha chief," Patil said.

Teltumde, whose Goa house was raided by the police, said, "By arresting intellectuals who fight for the underprivileged and suppressed, the state is trying to tarnish their reputation."

DEMANDS MADE BY THE 37 GROUPS IN MUMBAI

AT THE EARLIEST

Unconditional release of all the human rights activists arrested under the draconian UAPA

State must immediately desist from using UAPA against human rights activist and intellectuals

Repeal the Act with immediate effect

Urgent intervention of National Human Rights Commission

A transparent investigation into the raids and arbitrary arrests

Speedy investigation and trial against Sambhaji Bhide and Milind Ekbote, the alleged perpetrators of Bhima-Koregaon violence

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis must speak out and distance himself from his 'mentor' Sambhaji Bhide.

Susan Abraham, wife of Vernon Gonsalves who was arrested from Mumbai, civil rights activist Anand Teltumbde (centre), whose Goa house was raided on Tuesday, and retired Bombay high court judge BG Kolse-Patil address media persons at Mumbai Press Club on Wednesday. BHUSHAN KOYANDE/HT

THE HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

Bhima-Koregaon violence erupted while observing the 200th anniversary of the Bhima-Koregaon battle on January 1

Eyewitnesses said a riot-like situation prevailed in the Pune district after a large group, allegedly holding saffron flags, pelted stones at the gathering

A youth died and several others, including several policemen, were injured in the violence

Dalits from across the state had gathered to commemorate the bicentenary of the battle fought between troops of East India Company, comprising Dalits, and the Peshwas in 1818

The violence in Bhima-Koregaon was followed by state-wide protests and the effects were felt in Mumbai as well

We have proof of their links, says minister

HT Correspondent
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MUMBAI: The state on Wednesday said the police have proof to ascertain that those arrested in multi-state raids on Tuesday have links with the Maoist movement. The state had also kept officials from the Central home ministry in the loop before initiating action against the activists, said state officials.

Deepak Kesarkar, minister of state for home, said, "We have proof that the accused have links with the naxal movement. Due process was followed before their arrest."

Chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, who heads the state home department, had discussed the issue with Union home minister Rajnath Singh during his Delhi visit on Tuesday. Fadnavis was in Delhi to attend a meeting of BJP chief ministers called by party chief Amit Shah.

A state home department official said the Centre was also given details by the state home department within 24 hours after initiating the action.

Commenting on National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) notice to the state over the arrests of the five activists, Kesarkar said it was the protocol and reply will be sent to shortly.

Sunil Porwal, additional chief secretary home, and Datta Padsalgikar, director general of police, said to have communicated with the Union home ministry to get clearance for the raids.

Speaking about the Supreme Court questioning the arrests, he said, "Though the court has raised questions, it has not stopped us from detention. We will produce the documents."

OPPOSITION SLAMS BJP

Senior Congress member and party leader in Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, said the Modi government was crushing human rights and suppressing the people raising voice against the government.

Shiv Sena, junior partner in the state and part of NDA, took a cautious approach. Senior Sena leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut said, "We do not want to comment on these arrests for now. We'll clear our stand by Thursday."

State NCP president Jayant Patil said there was a need to find out whether the claims made by the police were true or is it an attempt to divert attention from the questions being raised over Sanatan Sanstha and its activities.

It's going to backfire: Prakash Ambedkar

HT Correspondent
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MUMBAI: Dalit leader and Bharip Bahujan Mahasangh chief Dr Prakash Ambedkar, on Wednesday, said the arrests of the five activists was an attempt by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led state government to shift focus from the ongoing investigation against the Hindu right-wing organisation Sanatan Sanstha.

"This is a diversionary tactic because the Karnataka police have forced the Maharashtra police to take action against Sanatan activists, who have been implicated not just for murdering rationalists such as Narendra Dabholkar and Gauri Lankesh, but also hatching conspiracies to set off blasts," said Ambedkar, grandson of Dr BR Ambedkar, and one of the founders of Elgar Parishad, which was held in Pune on December 31. "This is a systematic effort to malign Elgar."

Ambedkar said the plot to target activists was to silence the masses, but will ultimately go against the government.

He added, "The name may be Sanatan [Sanstha], but the strings are being pulled by someone else. This is a ploy to go easy on Sanatan Sanstha. Now, the Maharashtra police will use the excuse of trying to solve a bigger case."

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Sale of RK Studios and the politics of forgetting heritage

MUMBAI NAMA

SMRUTI KOPPIKAR

The legendary Kapoor family of Hindi cinema, whose four generations have not only acted but contributed to shaping and nurturing the industry, has decided to sell the iconic RK Studio in Chembur, according to reports this week. The process of negotiation has apparently begun. It could take months or years, but what is certain is the family's resolve to sell the space, though with "a heavy heart", as actor Rishi Kapoor told a tabloid.

There is nothing overtly political about the act of selling off a piece of legacy. Such decisions tend to be personal and circumstantial, sometimes purely commercial. The Kapoor family, by all reckoning, are an emotional lot, bonded by their shared heritage and place in the film industry, and unlikely to have made the decision only on commercial basis. How the renowned actor-filmmaker, the late Raj Kapoor, might have reacted is anybody's guess. Yet, it is political in a way. RK Studio symbolises something uniquely urban: A personal space of great public, historic or heritage value but which is neither cared for by the industry or the city. This isn't the first nor will it be the last. The hostel and printing press set up by Dr BR Ambedkar were razed. Textile mills were replaced by malls and offices, and other film studios by gleaming towers.

Work spaces and homes of famous personalities, spaces steeped in historical value which speak to present generations, are a living heritage of Mumbai. They deserve more than what the Mumbai administrators have offered so far, focussed as they have been on built architectural heritage that too largely in the southern tip.

Despite the city being the de facto headquarters of Hindi cinema and a hub for alternative cinema, it got a film museum only four years ago. Could RK Studio have been turned into a memorial to the one of the greatest showman of the business in a way that preserved its essence but also allowed his descendants commercial returns? Could the city, the industry, and Kapoor family have partnered to create something new? Could this model have been replicated for other similar sites?

In the decline and imminent sale of the once sought-after studio lie many stories about Mumbai: The spatial shift of the cinema industry itself away from Chembur to the western parts of Andheri and Goregaon, the inescapable perennial traffic congestion which makes the commute to Chembur and back tedious for many, the availability of modern state-of-the-art studios, the speculative but dizzying prices of real estate, the premium on redevelopment of old and iconic properties. Also, it symbolises a city impatient with its past, making invisible certain aspects of itself.

The industry celebrates Ranbir Kapoor, but contributes little to maintain his grandfather's heritage. This is also a time when the middle class is more visible or vocal than in pre-liberalisation years. It begs the questions: Do commercial boom and an empowered middle class mean selective amnesia; do they lead to what's called the politics of forgetting? This is not only about places; it's equally, or more so, about people. As the city expands and becomes richer – at least certain sections acquire more wealth and wealthy – the poor become invisible or are forgotten, banished as it were to the margins of the city, turned into totems of urban exoticism for tourists the way "poverty tours" are organised in Dharavi. Then, those who speak for the marginalised and ask difficult questions are branded (for example, that obnoxious term "urban naxals"), arrested and thrown into lock-ups.

The words of Prof David Harvey, the distinguished geographer and anthropologist who popularised the idea of "Right to City", come to mind. "The question of what kind of city we want cannot be divorced from the question of what kind of people we want to be, what kinds of social relations we seek, what relations to nature we cherish, what style of life we desire, or what aesthetic values we hold," he wrote. What sort of a city do we want?

10-YR-OLD BOY ABDUCTED FROM KOLKATA FOUND AT GHATKOPAR

HT Correspondent
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MUMBAI: A 10-year-old boy from Kolkata was found at Ghatkopar station by Railway Police Force (RPF) officers on Tuesday afternoon. Officers said the boy was in a semi-conscious state when a travelling ticket examiner (TTE) handed him over to the on-duty RPF personnel.

Officers said they took the boy to the GRP police station after giving him medical aid.

The boy, Jeet Mahato, told officers that he was playing outside his house in Kolkata when he was kidnapped on Monday.

The boy said the kidnappers asked him to drink water after boarding a train following which he fell unconscious. When he woke up, the train had reached Mumbai (Kurla). But he was unable to explain how he reached Ghatkopar.

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htnation

...THE RBI IN ITS ANNUAL REPORT HAS VINDICATED OUR APPREHENSION. 99.3% OF THE MONEY HAS COME BACK... WHERE HAS THE BLACKMONEY GONE?
› MAMATA BANERJEE, West Bengal chief minister

picoftheday

A cobbler fixes an umbrella at his roadside shack in Dharmsala, which is currently receiving heavy rains, on Wednesday. AP

shortstories

ASSAILANTS USE IED TO KILL FATHER, SON IN VARANASI

VARANASI: A man and his son were killed in a blast set off using an improvised explosive device (IED) in Milkopur village in Varanasi in the wee hours of Wednesday, police said. A police officer said the heads of the victims, Lalji Yadav (48) and Ajay Yadav (22), were blown to pieces. He said local residents informed the police that Lalji and Ajay were sleeping in the verandah of their house on the outskirts of the village when unidentified assailants put bombs near their heads and set it off using an IED.

Former Odisha accountant general joins ruling BJD

BHUBANESWAR: Former accountant general of Odisha, Bengal and Kerala, Amar Patnaik whose audit reports on land allotment scam had rubbed the bureaucrats and politicians of Odisha the wrong way today joined the ruling BJD. Patnaik, an 1990 batch officer of Indian Audit and Accounts Sevice, would head the IT wing of BJD. "Amar Patnaik has a very rich experience of working in many states and his joining will definitely strengthen the party. He will head the IT wing of BJD," said the Chief Minister while welcoming him to the party.

Woman gang-raped after being abducted in Assam

GUWAHATI: Assam police is looking for five suspects who were allegedly involved in the abduction and gang rape of a woman on Wednesday in Assam's Nagaon district. According to the police, the incident happened around 3am when the survivor was travelling with a friend from Hojai to Golaghat. "On the way their motorbike was stopped by men in a Maruti Alto car," said SB Raimedhi, Nagaon SP said. The woman was taken to another spot where she was raped by five men, Raimedhi said.

Former TDP MP Nandamuri Harikrishna killed in mishap

HYDERABAD: Nandamuri Harikrishna, former Telugu Desam Party MP and fourth son of legendary Telugu actor and former Andhra Pradesh chief minister NT Rama Rao, died in a road accident on Hyderabad-Vijayawada national highway on Wednesday morning. According to Nalgonda police, Harikrishna, 61, who was driving his vehicle at a high speed, lost control and rammed the car into the road divider. He was immediately shifted to Kamineni super speciality hospital at Narketpalli, a few kilometres away, where he breathed his last at around 7.45 am.

Not wanting fourth child, man kills 'pregnant' wife

GHAZIABAD: The Ghaziabad police on Wednesday arrested a 35-year-old man, who allegedly murdered his 'pregnant' wife as he did not want a fourth child because the couple already had three minor daughters. The body of the 30-year-old woman was found in a drain near Crossings Republik on August 25. The police said during the altercation on the night of August 19, the man allegedly picked up a kitchen knife and stabbed her at least four times. When the police questioned him, the man broke down and allegedly admitted to the crime. "The post-mortem examination has not clearly indicated that the woman was pregnant. The column related to internal organs has been left blank in the report. We will verify the pregnancy angle with the help of the supplementary report," Manisha Singh, circle officer (city I), said.

'Will discuss water discharge with Chhattisgarh'

BHUBANESWAR: Union minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Wednesday assured the Odisha government that he will take up with Chhattisgarh authorities the alleged sudden discharge of water without informing the downstream state, which has led to a flood-like situation in some areas. "The Odisha government has drawn my attention towards the sudden release of flood water allegedly by Chhattisgarh. I will talk to the Chhattisgarh government in this regard," he said.

Arrested activists to return home

IN THE COURT Prosecution alleges activists part of 'Maoist plot to wage war against India', defence lawyers question police crackdown

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SESSIONS JUDGE ASKS POLICE TO SEND BACK 3 ARRESTED ACTIVISTS TO THEIR HOMES AFTER SC ORDERS HOUSE ARREST

PUNE: A Pune sessions court ordered the city police on Wednesday evening to make arrangement to send back activists arrested in connection with the January 1 Bhima Koregaon violence near Pune to their respective homes.

Sessions judge KD Vadane's order came at 7.15pm after the Supreme Court ruled that the five activists arrested for alleged Maoist links were to be kept under house arrest in their respective homes till September 6.

The judge also asked the police to file an affidavit by September 6, citing reasons for the arrest. The arrested people were taken to the Faraskhana police station for the night with the police stating they would be taken to their respective cities on Thursday.

Three of the five activists arrested by Pune police on Tuesday — lawyers Vernon Gonsalves, Arun Ferreira and poet P Varavara Rao — were produced before the Pune court around 3pm. The prosecution argued the activists were part of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist) group, which was trying to "wage a war" against country to "overthrow" the government.

The alleged plot came to light after police analysed the electronic devices, documents and other "highly incriminating evidences" seized from the five arrested persons, showing their links with the CPI (Maoist), said Pune deputy commissioner of police Shirish Sardeshpande

"They have shown intolerance to the present political system, and decided to target organisations and their officials and even the highest political functionaries," Sardeshpande said.

Public prosecutor Ujjawala Pawar said an event held at Pune's Shaniwarwada on December 31, 2017 called Elgar Parishad was organised by members of the CPI(Maoist), who were allegedly in the process of procuring "arms from Nepal and Manipur". According to the Pune (urban) police, this event stoked the violence that broke out in Bhima Koregaon the next day, leaving one person dead and four others injured.

The activists, according to the prosecution, had allegedly formed what was described as an "anti-fascist front" during a December 2015 meeting of the eastern bureau of the central committee of the CPI (Maoist). The prosecution said the police recovered a hard disk, a laptop, a pen drive, and documents from the arrested activists, which had been sent for forensic examination.

The prosecution produced a number of letters in court.

Pawar submitted to the court a purportedly seized letter with an alleged reference to poet P Varavara Rao. "As per our conversation in April this year, I am in touch with our suppliers in Nepal. Our comrade from Manipur will also assist us. Only V V Rao has the authority to communicate with them for purchase of arms," the letter allegedly stated. The prosecution also showed a purported catalogue of weapons.

In yet another letter, submitted by Pawar, activist Arun Ferreira was allegedly given the responsibility of recruiting rebellious students from prominent organisations such as the Tata Institute of Social Studies to propagate Maoist ideology. "Ferreira was given responsibility to recruit students and send them for training," said Pawar.

The prosecution said documents seized from the arrested people also allegedly indicated their links with separatist elements in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-east.

Advocate Rohan Nahar, appearing for the arrested activists, said the police action was inappropriate and the sections related to the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act were incorrect. He argued that there was no intent to incite violence in anything the activists said and questioned what the police meant by "waging war" against the state.

"Now that the prosecution has claimed they have seized everything, what is the need for custodial interrogation," said Shahid Akhtar, a defence lawyer.

Poet P Varavara Rao after being produced before a district court in Pune on Wednesday. Rao was among five activists arrested by Pune police a day earlier. PTI

Clampdown a bid to muzzle dissent, says petition in SC

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PLEA SOUGHT TO 'BRING ON RECORD ABUSE OF POLICE POWER, WHICH IS INTENDED TO STIFLE, IF NOT KILL' VOICES THAT ARE IN OPPOSITION TO THE PARTY IN POWER

NEWDELHI: The arrest of five activists by the Pune police for alleged Maoist links is aimed at silencing dissent and instilling fear in the minds of the people, historian Romila Thapar and four other academics told the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

The petition filed by the five intellectuals alleged the Pune police action was the "biggest attack" on freedom and liberty of citizens by resorting to high-handedness without any credible evidence. It also alleged no action was taken against right-wing Hindu leaders despite them being named by police in the January 1 violence at Maharashtra's Bhima Koregaon.

While hearing the petition, the Supreme Court observed that dissent was the "safety valve" of democracy and ordered the five activists be placed under house arrest at their respective homes till September 6.

Besides Thapar, noted economist Prabhat Patnaik, Padma Bhushan awardee and economist Devaki Jain, sociology professor in Delhi University Satish Deshpande and Maja Daruwala, who is a barrister by training and senior adviser to the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, filed the petition in the SC challenging the arrests.

The petition sought to "bring on record the gross abuse of police power in the country which intended to stifle, if not kill, independent voices and ideology differing from the party in power."

"The entire exercise is to silence dissent, stop people from helping the downtrodden and marginalised people across the nation and to instill fear in minds of people," the petition said.

"The timing of this action leaves much to be desired and appears to be motivated to deflect people's attention from real issues," the petition said.

The petition alleged the charges against the activists on the face of it appeared to be indiscriminate, unwarranted and part of a campaign to threaten human rights defenders, independent journalist, writers and thinkers from criticising the government.

"The use of the UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act), meant for exceptional and violent activity, against such persons when there has been absolutely no evidence of acts of violence by these activists is deeply disconcerting and calls for an urgent intervention by the court," the petition said.

The petition by the academics said the police had filed FIRs on January 4 this year against Hindu right wing leaders Milind Ekbote and Shambhaji Bhide based on eyewitness accounts that they and some fringe groups had incited the violence against the Dalit congregation during the 200th anniversary celebration of a British-Peshwa war.

The petition alleged the Maharashtra government and its police did not take any purposeful and decisive action against the right-wing leaders "who were behind" the violence and allegedly instigated the attacks. "The police instead embarked on a motivated process of arresting a large number of human rights activists, lawyers and journalist...," it said.

SANGH CALLS ACTION AGAINST 'ULTRA LEFT' A WELCOME STEP

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NEW DELHI: The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has welcomed the police action against activists who were arrested on Tuesday for their alleged involvement in the violence that rocked Bhima-Koregaon near Pune in Maharashtra on January 1. The Sangh, the ideological mentor of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), on Wednesday said the action against the "ultra Left" ideologues was "a welcome step."

"It is a good step by the government to identify these elements and investigate to bring facts to fore. The ultra left has been instigating violence and it needs to be probed," said Sunil Ambekar, the national organising secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), which is the students' wing of the RSS .

The ABVP will initiate a pan-India contact programme across campuses on Thursday to reach out to students, especially those who they feel are more "vulnerable" to gravitating towards ideology of the "ultra left".

The RSS has been raising red flags over the prevalence of leftist ideology across campuses, blaming it for inciting students to "rebel against constitutional institutions". The contact programme is a part of the larger battle that the Sangh is waging against Leftist ideology.

Ambekar said the organisation will initiate a 'Samvaad Abhiyan' (dialogue campaign) for reaching out to students and addressing their concerns. "The Samvaad Abhiyan will have state and national-level leaders of the ABVP interacting with students, especially those who come from marginalsied sections, to bridge the gaps that exist between communities and to prevent ultra Left activists from recruiting them ."

While RSS functionaries hailed Tuesday's arrest of five activists as a "step in the right direction", civil rights activist Anand Teltumbde, whose residence was also raided , said the police action is a step to "terrorise people into silence by targeting select intellectuals and activists."

TO TAKE ON BJP

Pawar looks to mend differences between Cong, other parties

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Sharad Pawar

NEW DELHI: Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Wednesday said he will try to resolve the differences between the Congress and its rival political parties for a broad-based alliance to remove the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from power in 2019.

"In the next 15 days to one month, I will start reaching out to the leaders of these parties. I know there are some difficulties. It is not that simple. I think it is possible to resolve these differences," he said at a press conference.

He was responding to a question about the difficulties the Congress faced in building a grand alliance because of its differences with parties like Biju Janata Dal, Telangana Rashtra Samithi and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The remarks came a day after Pawar backed state-specific tie-ups to defeat the BJP in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Pawar ruled out the possibility of the Opposition parties announcing a common prime ministerial candidate at this juncture. "It is not a serious issue. Projecting A or B is not important at this stage," he said.

"Twice in the past, I have seen similar situations. First, in 1976-77, there was no Janata Party before the elections and a leader was chosen only after the polls. Similarly, in 2004, we did not contest the elections under one leader or one group. We just sat together and decided to form an alternative government."

"I am not taking lead but I am discussing with my friends in different political parties," Pawar said when asked if he would take the lead in stitching the grand alliance for the 2019 elections. "I believe that the person, who is taking the initiative, should not be the candidate. I have no personal interest and it is easy for anybody with no personal interest to talk to other parties."

Pawar said there are apprehensions in the Opposition camp that the government might use different investigation agencies to threaten and prevent some parties from joining the anti-BJP front.

Earlier in the day, the NCP chief attacked the Modi government, saying the country was gearing up to "overthrow communal forces" in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

"I am deeply concerned with the NDA government's policies and actions that are nothing but a divisive, destructive and disruptive propaganda and a looming threat to the integrity of the nation," he told a party convention in Delhi. "We are a nation of diverse cultures, sects and religions and can only stay united with a secular thread of humanity. 'One religion, One nation' theory is absurd, impracticable in India's context."

Riot probe takes divergent routes

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PUNE: Almost eight months after the caste riots broke out in Bhima Koregaon , 40 kilometres from Pune, the probe has taken two routes – one indicating involvement of Maoists and another about the role of members associated with rightwing Hindutva outfits.

While one probe is being carried out by Pune urban police to check on Maoist links to the December 31 Elgar Parishad event in Pune, another probe is being carried out by the Pune rural police in which Samastha Hindutva Aghadi Milind Ekbote and Shiv Chhatrapati Pratishan founder Sambhaji Bhide have been booked for 'orchestrating violence' in Bhima Koregaon.

Following the first information report (FIR) filed at Shikrapur police station in January this year, police arrested Ekbote. The FIR against Ekbote was based on the complaint from Dalit activist Anita Ravindra Salve. Two months later, Ekbote was released by a court on conditional bail.

Police try to detain a man protesting against the arrest of activists in Hyderabad on Wednesday. PTI

In the same FIR, rural police also booked Bhide who was later given a clean chit by chief minister Devendra Fadnavis. In the FIR, Salve had alleged that she saw Bhide and Ekbote instigating the mob. Later, Fadnavis told the assembly that woman complainant "had retracted her statement saying she did not see Bhide and Ekbote at the spot".

Both Bhide and Ekbote have been booked under Sections 307, 143, 147, 148, 149, 295-A, 435 and 436 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 3(1)(10) of the Atrocities Act by Shikrapur police, pursuant to Salve's complaint..

In the Shikrapur case, police have not yet filed a charge sheet.

In another case registered at Pune's Vishrambaug police station, police initially booked members of Kabir Kala Manch, a left-oriented dalit outfit, for provocative speeches during Elgar Parishad. The FIR was based on a complaint given by 35-year-old Tushar Damgude, a resident of Katraj.

The latest arrest of five prominent activists as well as those on June 6 have been made under the same FIR which was filed at the Vishrambaug police station.

Damgude, the complainant in this case, has often praised Bhide on his Facebook page. With more than 13,000 followers, Damgude has often criticised members of leftist parties on his Facebook page.

Despite repeated attempts, Anita Salave could not be contacted as her phone was switched off.

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› There are reports that certain outfits are linked to these killings (of rationalists). If that is correct, then anybody can conclude that there is an attempt to divert attention (from that) by arresting these activists.
SHARAD PAWAR, Nationalist Congress Party chief

› The arrests were a ploy to divert people's attention from the failures of BJP governments... The arrests depict BJP's misuse of power which needs to be condemned.
MAYAWATI, BSP chief

› Modi is afraid that he will be murdered. It hardly sounds good as he is the PM. Activists have been arrested for suspected threat to Modi. It is an attack on people's rights.
LALU PRASAD, RJD chief

› It's not right to demoralise police. Bhima Koregaon violence was serious blow to our nation and Constitution. Plot of igniting caste tensions is out in open now and police are taking action.
HANSRAJ AHIR, MoS home

Rajini lays down rules for entry to his future party

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CHENNAI: Chairman Mao Tse Tung had his Little Red Book of slogans he used to regain what he thought was his faltering hold on the Communist Party of China in the 1960s and 1970s, and late Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi had the Green Book summing up his political philosophy.

Now, Tamil film superstar Rajinikanth, preparing for a career in politics, has his own version — a Blue Book of the values that his fans' association must uphold, and the structure it must adopt.

Nine months after announcing his political entry, Rajinikanth, without much fanfare, released the by-laws of the Rajini Makkal Mandram (RMM or Rajini Fans' Association), which is likely to be his political vehicle, in a slim 36-page blue-coloured book. It contains 25 main clauses and outlines the do's and don'ts.

Nine months after announcing his political entry, Rajinikanth released the by-laws of the RMM on Wednesday. PTI FILE

A key clause, apparently distancing the RMM from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), states: "We want to drive a clean and honest politics (that is) apart from caste, creed, language and race. So people associated with caste-based organisations and religious outfits cannot join RMM."

On the cover page of the book is a visage of a thoughtful-looking Rajinikanth and a hand symbol made famous by his movie Baba. Most observers expect RMM to be converted into a political party. His fellow Tamil movie star, Kamal Haasan, has already launched a party called Makkal Needhi Maiam (MNM).

While Haasan made a big splash launching the MNM at an event in Madurai, Rajinikanth has been working behind the scenes to strengthen RMM, said an office-bearer who did not want to be named as he was not authorised to speak to the media.

One of the clauses in the Blue Book was that nobody except the president (Rajinikanth himself) of RMM would speak to the media. While Rajinikanth could not be reached for comment, he has asserted in the past that a formal announcement of a party launch would only take place after the RMM is strengthened at the grassroots level.

The office-bearer cited above said about 7,000 people had already been appointed to positions at all levels. The RMM has also been involved in a membership drive for the last six months. Another office-bearer said on condition of anonymity that the 36 pages of by-laws had been put together in the form of a book to help his followers understand the RMM's structure and values.

The by-laws deal with the eligibility for membership, the hierarchy in the oufit and appointments. Fans are now hoping that Rajinikanth would soon make a formal announcement about the party. "We have almost completed the membership drive. Our high command has made appointments for all the positions. It has released the by-laws now. So, we are expecting the party launch soon," said an RMM worker from Trichy.

After Rajinikanth claimed that he would practise 'spiritual politics' – a statement that was welcomed by the BJP and other right-wing parties – the Blue Book proclaims that secularism would be the basic tenet. But people in the RMM also indicated that the book was launched to ensure equidistance from all parties; some statements by Rajinikanth had been seen as being in alignment with the BJP's stance.

BJP state general secretary Karu Nagarajan said Rajinikanth should have first launched a party before releasing by-laws. "...(His) recent statements about secularism do not augur well with his previously stated stance of practising spiritual politics," Nagarajan said.

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Militants kill four cops after Hizb commander shot dead

VALLEY VIOLENCE Policemen were escorting deputy superintendent when militants fired on them in Bongam, took rifles of three dead cops

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SRINAGAR: In one of the deadliest attacks on the police in the state in recent months, militants shot dead four policemen in Shopian district of south Kashmir hours after security forces killed Altaf Ahmad Dar, a top commander of the Hizbul Mujahedeen, and his associate, in neighbouring Anantnag. Thus far this year, 33 policemen have been killed by militants across the state.

The policemen were escorting a deputy superintendent of police when militants fired on them from an orchard near a fruit market in Bongam. The militants took away the rifles of three dead policemen.

A search-and-cordon operation was launched in the area immediately.

Earlier on Wednesday, two militants were killed when the army and police launched an operation in Munward village in south Kashmir's Anantnag district. "Anantnag encounter completed, two bodies of militants along with two weapons recovered from the site. It was a clean operation with precision," said SP Vaid Jammu and Kashmir's director general of police.

According to a police spokesperson, militants fired on security forces in Anantnag. "In the ensuing encounter two militants were killed who have been identified as Altaf Ahmad Dar alias Kachroo alias Moin of Hawoora Mishipora and Umar Rashid Wani of Khudwani Kulgam."

Police said Dar was one of the most important commanders of Hizbul Mujahideen. "The militant had a long history of criminal records since 2007," the spokesperson added.

Villagers carry the body of slain policeman Adil Ahmad, during his funeral at Zaura village, about 62km south of Srinagar, in Kashmir on Wednesday. WASEEM ANDRABI/HT PHOTO

WANI-LIKE PROTESTS ARE UNLIKELY: VAID

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir police chief SP Vaid allayed fears about possible street protests following Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) commander Altaf Ahmed Dar's killing in Anantnag on Wednesday.

Dar's killing followed an attack in Shopian that left four policemen dead, triggering fears about the kind of protests seen in the aftermath of HM commander Burhan Wani's killing in July 2016, resulting in the killings of over 100 people in the street protests that followed.

Vaid said Dar spearheaded the street violence post Wani's killing but said there had been no violence across Kashmir except the Shopian attack. "Nowhere else has any major violence taken place; everything under control." HTC

Nod for additional 2% hike in DA to benefit 11 million staff, pensioners

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NEW DELHI: The Cabinet on Wednesday approved additional 2 per cent hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR), a move that will benefit about 1.1 crore central government employees and pensioners, an official release said.

The impact on the exchequer on account of both DA and DR would be Rs 6,112.20 crore per annum and Rs 4,074.80 crore in the financial year 2018-19 (8 months from July, 2018 to February, 2019). The hike will be effected from July 1, 2018.

"The Union Cabinet...has approved to release an additional instalment of Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f. July 01, 2018 representing an increase of 2 per cent over the existing rate of 7 per cent of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate for price rise," it said.

The hike will benefit about 48.41 lakh central government employees and 62.03 lakh pensioners. As per the release, the increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

Rahul to begin his Kailash Mansarovar Yatra on Aug 31

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NEW DELHI: Congress chief Rahul Gandhi will leave on Friday for a 12-day pilgrimage to Kailash Mansarovar as part of a plan he had announced while campaigning before the Karnataka assembly elections.

"Gandhi is leaving for Kathmandu (Nepal) on August 31 for onward journey to Kailash Mansarovar. He is expected to return on September 12," said a Congress functionary aware of his travel plan.

Addressing a 'Jan Aakrosh' rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on April 29, Gandhi announced his intent to take a 15-day break from politics to enable him to go on the pilgrimage. He then narrated the incident of a technical snag in a chartered aircraft that was carrying him to Karnataka. The incident took place during the landing of the flight from New Delhi at Hubballi in north Karnataka on April 26.

Rahul Gandhi

"Two-three days ago when I was going to Karnataka, the plane nosedived 8000 feet and I thought it's all over. As I thought that, it struck me that I wanted to go to Kailash Mansarovar," he told a gathering of Congress workers.

The polling in Karnataka was held on May 12 and the results were declared on May 15. The Congress is part of the Janata Dal (Secular)-led alliance that governs the state.

Kailash Mansarovar is a mountain peak located near Manasarovar lake in the Tibetan Autonomous Region of China and is considered holy by the Hindus as the abode of Lord Shiva. It also holds religious significance for Jains and Buddhists. The Kailash Mansarovar yatra is undertaken by hundreds of pilgrims every year. Soon after the incident on the plane, the Congress alleged "intentional tampering" and demanded a probe into the "suspicious and faulty performance" of the 10-seater Falcon 2000 aircraft. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation has already initiated a probe into the incident.

Hindustan Times learns that the ministry of external affairs has received Gandhi's request for political clearance and that it is under process.

Goa CM to travel to the US again for medical checkup

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PANAJI: Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar was scheduled to travel to the United States on Wednesday evening for a medical checkup barely a week after his return from there. "His family wishes that he should be checked by the doctors who treated him initially, which is why he is travelling to the US. I have spoken to him and he has said that he is feeling fine. I do not expect that he will be away for too long, but we will see," Parrikar's press secretary Rupesh Kamat said.

The state cabinet was informed about Parrikar's plan to travel to the US on Wednesday.

Union minister and North Goa MP Shripad Naik told reporters they will request the party's national leadership to make an alternate arrangement in Parrikar's absence. "The party will take cognizance immediately. The party will think about what measures can be put in place to improve the administration."

Manohar Parrikar

Goa Forward Party leader Vijai Sardesai, who is part of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government in Goa, said Parrikar's absence had affected administration especially since the chief minister holds most of the important portfolios. But he added the "people would understand."

South Goa MP Narendra Sawaikar, who met Parrikar in Mumbai, said the CM was absolutely comfortable. "Absolutely no problem. He is just going to the US to take a second opinion regarding his digestion issues. Otherwise, there is absolutely no issue. He is okay," he said.

Parrikar had set up a three-member cabinet advisory committee during his three-month absence earlier this year. He continued to personally monitor and clear files from the US.

Parrikar had returned to Goa from the US on August 22. He was hospitalised at Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital a day later after he went there for routine tests. Parrikar had left for the US for his second follow-up visit on August 10.

The CM underwent three-month treatment for a pancreatic ailment at a hospital in the US.

Parrikar was first hospitalised on February 14 over food poisoning. He left for Mumbai a few days later. Officials had then said the chief minister would be "unavailable for next two days as he has to undergo a routine health checkup in Mumbai."

On February 16, the state government said Parrikar "is well and under observation. He is likely to be discharged in a day or two. It is a case of mild pancreatitis." He travelled to the US on March 5 and returned on June 14.

Hizb warns locals over participation in civic polls

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SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir's biggest militant group has warned the people of acid attacks if they participate in the local bodies' polls scheduled to be held from September to December.

The warning from Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) on Tuesday came as officials said the preparations for holding the elections were in their final stages and the dates for them could be announced soon. As many as 16 sarpanches (panchayat heads) and panchs (rural local bodies' members) have been killed over the last four years amid an escalation in militant violence.

A record 75% voter turnout was recorded when panchayat polls were last held in 2011.

"Those people who are thinking about participating in the polls should also get shrouds along with election forms," HM's operational commander, Riyaz Naikoo, warned in a purported audio message. Naikoo accused the armed forces of harassing "innocent people and ransacking their properties" as they prepare the ground for holding the elections. He said they have got hydrochloric and sulphuric acid and those participating in the elections should be prepared.

Naikoo said the army would guard the house of alleged informer, Shameema Bano, in south Kashmir's Pulwama district to protect her from them after tipping off the forces about HM commander Sameer Tiger's whereabouts. "How long could the forces have managed to protect her," he said, referring to Bano's murder on August 17. Tiger was killed in April.

Naikoo claimed they can kill anybody at any place. "We do not have personal animosity with anybody, but the people who will work against our struggle or sacrifices will be punished."

He criticised the media for failing "to highlight the atrocities of the forces" and blamed them for "working for the intelligence agencies". "The news portraying militants negatively gets prominence while houses of militants and other people, which get ransacked, find very little space on the inner [newspaper] pages."

Militants have issued poll boycott calls since 1996 when first elections were held in the state following the beginning of the armed insurgency in the 1980s.

Authorities have retained over 16,000 central forces deployed in Kashmir for the Amarnath pilgrimage for security during the local bodies' polls. The elections were due in January but they were deferred after the Peoples Democratic Party-Bharatiya Janata Party coalition government told the Centre the situation was not conducive for them.

The electoral process has been accelerated since the imposition of Governor's Rule in June after the BJP withdrew support to the coalition government.

Satya Pal Malik's appointment as the first politician governor in five decades last week is seen as part of the Centre's keenness to ensure smooth conduct of the polls. The state is under his direct administrative control in the absence of an elected government. Malik's arrival in Srinagar coincided with the killing of four people, including three policemen, in separate militant attacks on August 23.

Four policemen were shot dead in south Kashmir's Shopian while two HM militants were killed in Anantnag Wednesday.

Chief of Manipur's banned terrorist outfit held in Delhi

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NEW DELHI: A 45-year-old man who police said was the commander of Manipur-based banned terrorist outfit, Kangleipak Communist Party – People's War Group (KCP-PWG), was arrested in Delhi on Tuesday. Police said he had threatened to kill Manipur's chief minister and his three cabinet ministers.

DCP (special cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said Oinam Lbochouba Singh alias Khoirangba had allegedly circulated an audio message on social media that contained threats to kill Manipur CM Nongthombam Biren Singh and three ministers. Khoirangba was allegedly involved in several terrorist activities and extortions cases registered in Manipur, the special cell officers said.

DCP Yadav said the threat audio was circulated following agitations for the removal of Manipur University vice-chancellor, AP Pandey, by the varsity students' union, teachers' association and other groups.

"In the audio message, Khoirangba threatened that if the CM and his leadership failed to address certain local issues, he and his ministers will be killed," Yadav said. A copy of the audio message, along with a threat letter written on KCP's letterhead and signed by Khoirangba, had reached the CM's office on August 11 after which the Manipur police registered a case and launched a manhunt to nab Khoirangba. He had been hiding in Nepal for the last five years and was running the outfit from there, the DCP said. On Tuesday, Yadav said, the special cell team received information that Khoirangba had arrived in Delhi to allegedly set up the outfit's base here and carry out "anti-national" activities. The team learnt that Khoirangba would reach south Delhi's Kotla Mubarakpur to meet his associates.

Accordingly, a trap was laid and he was caught. "A mobile phone seized from Khoirangba contained the threatening audio message and other incriminating audios, videos and chats. Two rail tickets were also recovered," Yadav said. Police said Khoirangba allegedly declared himself the chief of the outfit after its commander-in-chief Laishram Ranjit Meitei and his two his key aides were arrested by the Delhi Police last year.

Forced to add surname in 2014 LS polls: Ashutosh

HT Correspondent
htreporters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Ashutosh on Wednesday waded into the surname controversy, a day after Atishi, the party's Lok Sabha polls nominee, said she had to drop her "Christian sounding" second name.

Ashutosh, a former journalist who had resigned from AAP on August 15, said that he was forced to add his last name Gupta ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, a claim rejected by the party. He contested the 2014 polls from Chandni Chowk parliamentary constituency Harsh Vardhan of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Kapil Sibal of Congress.

"In 23 years of my journalism, no one asked my caste, surname. Was known by my name. But as I was introduced to party workers as LOKSABHA candidate in 2014 my surname was promptly mentioned despite my protest. Later I was told – Sir, aap jeetenge kaise, aapki jaati ke yahan kaafi vote hain (How else will you win, sir? There are several voters of your caste here)," Ashutosh tweeted on Wednesday.

The party, however, dismissed Ashutosh's claim. "AAP's political affairs committee (PAC) never takes such decisions. It can be anybody's personal call," said Gopal Rai, AAP's Delhi convener.

Ashutosh.

> ...But as I was introduced to party workers as LOKSABHA candidate in 2014 my surname was promptly mentioned despite my protest.
> ASHUTOSH, in a tweet

Ashutosh said he has now left the party and is not constrained by party discipline. "I am free to express my views. But, it will be wrong to attribute my words as an attack on AAP. I am not a member of anti-AAP brigade," he said.

On Tuesday, Atishi — a former advisor to Delhi education minister — said she had dropped her second name Marlena to quell rumours that she is a "foreigner" and a "Christian".

The AAP alleged these rumours were being spread by the BJP in her constituency to polarise voters. Marlena is a combination of last names of Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin, given to Atishi by her parents who are Communists. Coming from a Punjabi Rajput family, she claimed never using her real surname Singh or the second name Marlena in school as well.

However, the AAP changed Atishi Marlena's name on the party website to Atishi, and her twitter handle also was changed from @AtishiMarlena to @AtishiAAP.

In another tweet, Ashutosh also criticised the BJP, stating that its leaders should take a dip in the holy Ganga and declare that they would never ask for votes on the basis of caste.

Delhi BJP unit chief Manoj Tiwari said the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP is trying to spread "religious frenzy". "It is regrettable that the people who had claimed to change politics are trying to play caste politics and spread religious frenzy. The BJP condemns this and warns Arvind Kejriwal that he should desist from vitiating the social, religious and political atmosphere of the capital, otherwise he will have to pay a heavy price in the next elections," Tiwari said.

WALK - IN INTERVIEW FOR PARA-MEDICAL CATEGORIES

Central Railway, Mumbai Division will be conducting Walk-in-interview for filling up the posts in Para - Medical categories in Group 'C' on full-time contract basis. **This scheme will be valid up to 30.06.2019 or availability of regularly selected candidates whichever is earlier and subject to any instruction issued from time to time.**

Schedule of Walk-in Interview

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06.09.2018	10.00 Hrs to 13.00 Hrs	ECG Tech	

Interview will be conducted on next day, if not completed on the assigned date.
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Rain fury strikes Nagaland

HEAVY DOWNPOUR 12 die in state even as other parts of N-E register deficit rainfall

Sadiq Naqvi
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GUWAHATI: Twelve people were killed and thousands displaced in Nagaland due to incessant rains in the last one month with chief minister Neiphiu Rio seeking Central help on Wednesday, even as several other northeastern states registered deficit rainfall this monsoon.

Rains have been wrecking havoc in the hilly state since late July, resulting in 12 deaths.

As many as 3,000 families have also been displaced across 400 villages, according to Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority. "The damage this year is unprecedented in history," said Temjen Toy, chief Secretary. Nagaland had contributed ₹1crore towards Kerala's flood relief, earlier this month.

"#Nagalandneedsyour #help. Incessant rain has caused floods & landslides in several parts of the state & have affected many," tweeted out the chief secretary. The state has requested the centre ₹219 crore as immediate help. According to officials, the demand is likely to go up to ₹400 crore. The damage is pegged at around ₹800 crore as of now.

Interestingly, Northeast received deficit rainfall this year. According to figures from the Regional Metrological Centre, Guwahati, up to August 29, Nagaland has seen a 26% deficit this season, while Assam has 30%, Meghalaya 43%, Manipur 68%, Arunachal Pradesh 46%, Tripura 17% and Mizoram 6%.

"It is the nature of the rainfall which is disruptive," said Johnny Asin, a disaster management official with the Nagaland government. " It pours 100 mm in one hour," he said.

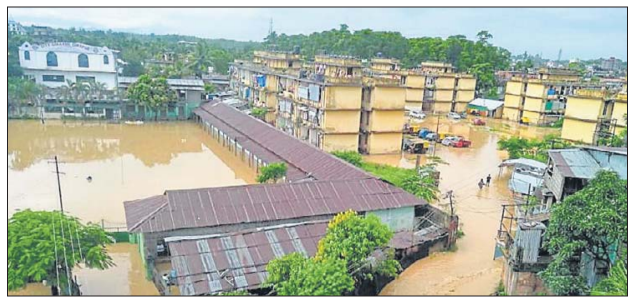
The primary cause of flooding has been attributed to the release of water, twice, from the Doyang Hydro electric project dam located in Nagaland's Wokha district. The water has flooded downstream areas including Golaghat district in Assam.

All the districts in Nagaland, including Kohima and Dimapur have been affected.

"The state of affairs is so sad that the main Dimapur to Kohima national highway is blocked," the chief secretary said. Asin, the disaster management official said arrangements have been made to divert traffic through rural roads.

"We are not allowing any truck with load of more than ten tonnes," he said. "Roads in as many as 359 locations have been cut-off, sending the state into an emergency situation."

Kiphere, a district in Nagaland that borders Myanmar is the worst affected. "We are hoping that the seven smaller trucks with 1,500 bags of rice which are on their way from Dimapur will get here by tomorrow morning," said MA Shihab the district deputy commissioner. "But that again will depend on the intensity of the rains," said Shihab.

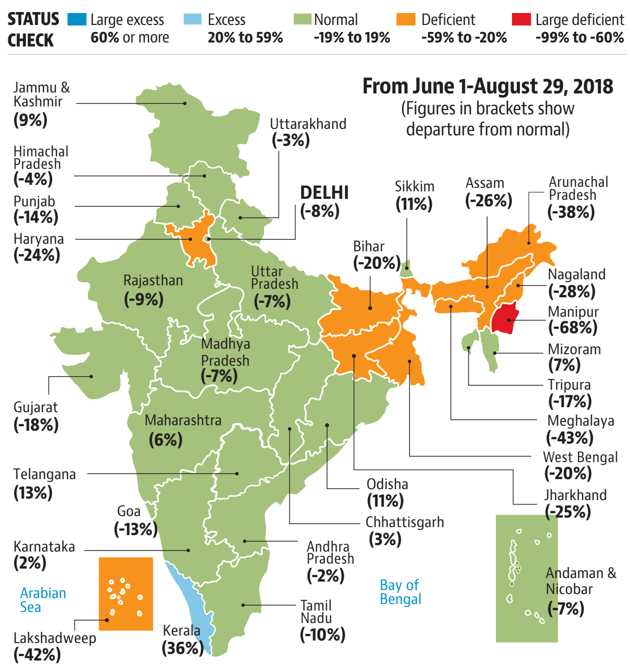


Floods in Nagaland have been attributed to the release of water from Doyang Hydro dam. HT PHOTO

A low-down on moonsoon rains

The current deficit is just 1% more than the IMD forecast. The second long-range forecast had predicted 95% rain across the country this monsoon season

-6% While the entire country registered an overall deficit of -6% rain fall, Manipur posted the maximum deficit at -68% followed by Meghalaya,Lakshadweep, Arunachal and Nagaland



Source: IMD, Govt of India

6 killed, 1 hurt in U'khand as MeT issues Sept 1 alert

DEHRADUN: Six died, one injured and search for one more continued after a house was buried under landslide in Tehri of Uttarakhand. The Meteorological Department (MeT) has warned heavy to very heavy rainfall in eight districts on September 1 and 2 following which the government has issued the advisory.

A family of eight was buried in the landslide early Wednesday in Kot village near Budhakedar.

Governor Baby Rani Maurya expressed grief at the death of the victims. Chief minister TS Rawat also expressed condolence to the family. He instructed the DM to make arrangements for the treatment of the injured persons and permissible financial assistance should be provided.

MeT department had warned heavy rainfall at isolated places in Nainital, Champawat, US Nagar, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Pauri and Dehradun. The Rishikesh-Kedarnath NH 107 was also blocked due to a landslide near Doliya Devi temple. **HTC**

POLICY DIVE

Policy Dive picks a policy issue, traces the debate around it, the different schools of thought, and the choices involved

Need drone guidelines on par with global standards

Faizan Haidar
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NEW DELHI: The ministry of civil aviation has announced a policy allowing individuals and companies to fly drones from December 1, in areas other than those barred for security reasons. According to the civil aviation ministry, drones are a technology platform with wide-ranging applications from photography to agriculture, from infrastructure asset maintenance to insurance. The commercial use of drones — as taxis, delivery vehicles, or other services — will not be allowed as of now, but the ministry is open to making changes in the regulations as technology advances.

Instead of digitising a paper-based process for registering and operating drones, India has formulated an all-digital process. Users will need to register drones, pilots and owners. BLOOMBERG

THE ISSUE

Although the draft policy was unveiled last year, the government said it took so long to finalize it because it was necessary to develop drone regulations on par with global standards that would permit the commercial application of various drone technologies. The preparation of these drone regulations through a Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) has taken multiple years because many countries are still experimenting with their drone regulations and India's security environment necessitates extra precautions.

Instead of simply digitizing a paper-based process for registering and operating drones, India has formulated an all-digital process. Users will be required to register their drones, pilots and owners on the digital sky platform of the civil aviation ministry.

The first phase of drone regulations are intended to enable visual line-of-sight, daytime-only operations at a maximum altitude of 400 ft

SIGNIFICANCE

Security concerns delayed the regulations. Any unidentified object, possibly a drone, routinely noticed by security personnel around the Delhi airport meant the runway had to be shut, affecting airport operations. India doesn't have the technology to shoot down a drone and disable it.

Although the regulations define "No Drone Zones" around airports, near the international borders, Vijay Chowk in central Delhi, state secretariat complexes in state capitals, and strategic locations/vital and military installations, if a drone were to reach a restricted area, there is no way to identify it or disable it.

THE DEBATE

Many drone users in India have been waiting for the regulation; because of security concerns, the use of drones has been illegal even in applications such as wedding photography. The first phase of regulations has allowed wedding photography using drones. If the device weighs less than 250 gm, no permission is required.

Going forward, the drone task force will provide draft recommendations for the second phase of drone regulations. These regulations will examine certification of safe and controlled operations of drone hardware and software, beyond visual-line-of-sight operations, and contribute to establishing practices at par with global standards.

The government has also specified the qualifications for drone pilots -- he/she should be 18 years of age, having passed the 10th standard exam in English medium, and undergone ground/practical training. The person should also have basic knowledge of the principles of flight and aerodynamics for fixed wing, rotary wing, and hybrid aircraft.

Campus politics hots up in Delhi as parties keep eye on 2019 LS polls

HT Correspondents
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NEW DELHI: In about two weeks, Delhi will witness two students' elections that appeared to have reached a fever pitch, as India heads into a poll season that culminates in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Student leaders in the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and the Delhi University (DU) are busy strategising ahead of their prestige battle.

New alliances are formed.

Issues beyond campus politics, such as celebrating India's many cultures, are finding a place in manifestos.

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union (JNUSU) elections will be held on September 14, while the Delhi University polls will be held on September 12.

THREE NORTH-EAST CMs AT ABVP'S EVENT

RSS-affiliated ABVP generated a buzz at JNU on Tuesday by inviting the chief ministers of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur, who stressed the Narendra Modi government's efforts for the development of India's northeastern states.

"Unlike the Congress government, the BJP actually delivers what it promised. The Narendra Modi government has changed the face of all north-east states," Manipur CM N Biren Singh said.

Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu talked about the Modi government's efforts in making his state "corruption-free". "There was so much corruption in Arunachal Pradesh before 2014. The Modi government has cleaned up the system and today we are moving forward towards development and prosperity."

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (above) Students Union elections will be held on Sept 14, while the Delhi University's on Sept 12.

When Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal started his address, a group of students raised slogans against the implementation of the 'citizens' amendment bill'. Replying, he said, "The National Registrar of Citizens (NRC) is very important as its aim is to differentiate between legal and illegal citizens of the country. It's a matter of national security and nothing can be more important than that." The CMs' visit drew criticism from other political groups at the campus. "The visit of three elected CMs at a mess event speaks volumes. It clearly shows the ABVP cannot even win a campus election without the intervention of its parent party," said AISA president Sucheta De. The ABVP said the high-profile event had nothing to do with the elections slated for September 14, but rivals called it a "blatant display of power".

Other groups are not far behind. Left-backed SFI invited CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury last week. Congress leader P Chidambaram visited the campus on Tuesday to attend an event organised by the party's student wing, NSUI.

The battle lines are drawn for the DU polls. An NSUI member said the group was trying its best to make the election a huge success. Last year, the NSUI had won the two top posts— the president and the vice-president—in the DU elections after a gap of five years, dealing a blow to the ABVP.

AAP STUDENT WING TO ALLY WITH LEFT-BACKED AISA

The AAP's student wing, CYSS, too is gearing up.

It was absent from campus politics for two years after losing the 2015 elections.

Now, it has formed an alliance the Left-backed All India Students Association (AISA).

AAP Delhi convener Gopal Rai said this would be the first time the CYSS would be fighting student union polls with a left-wing student outfit. The polls are slated for September 12.

"The AISA will contest the posts of president and vice-president while the CYSS will field candidates for the secretary and joint secretary positions. We will focus on three main issues — change, better education and better facilities for students," Rai told reporters.

Woman held after power bank she threw explodes at IGI

NEW DELHI: There were moments of panic at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI)airport on Tuesday when a woman, angry at being asked by security personnel to remove a power bank from her check-in baggage, smashed the device on a wall, causing it to emit sparks and smoke.

Security personnel initially mistook it for a hand grenade. The woman was later arrested by the Delhi Police.

A senior officer from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which handles security inside the airport, said the woman, identified as Malavika Tiwari, a resident of Defence Colony, arrived at the domestic terminal to board a SpiceJet flight to Dharamshala around 10.35 am

The officer said Tiwari was called for a physical examination of her bag after finding something suspicious.

"When her bag was opened, the device was found to be a battery bank. Since Bureau of Civil Aviation Security rules do not allow a passenger to carry power bank in checked-in bagage, Tiwari was asked to keep it in her handbag" th officer said.

However, she became irritated and threw it against a wall. "The impact caused the device to burst," the officer said. **HTC**

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The tenders are uploaded on our e-Tendering website on http://works.mahadiscom.in/eTender/etender. For any queries Contact Person : Ex. Engineer (Adm) **Mob. No :** 07875764404. The undersigned reserves all the rights to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof.
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2.	Processing facility of Construction & Demolition waste and making cement Concrete by Products in M.C. Chandigarh (Construction of retaining wall and MS shed) **Est. cost: 45.07 lac, EMD: 90,200/- Time Limit: 05 Months**	29.08.2018 to 07.09.2018 upto 12.00 noon	07.09.2018 12.00 noon
3.	Construction of Toe Wall with Railing. P/F PCC Tiles and Construction of C.C. Flooring in Park near Govt. Primary School. Mauli Complex in Mauli Jagran. Chandigarh (WDF) **Est. cost 13.90 lacs, EMD:27,800/- Time Limit: 03 Months**	27.08.2018 to 04.09.2018 upto 12.00 noon	04.09.2018 12.00 noon

Note - All other terms and conditions and complete DNIT are uploaded on website **https://etenders.chd nic.in.**
Executive Engineer,
Roads Divisions No. 2, Room No. 304 M.C. Chandigarh (O) 0172-5021626

WESTERN RAILWAY
MECHANIZED & MANUAL CLEANING AND HOUSEKEEPING
Tender Notice No. C331/4/3/JOS-GMN-KILE-BVI(Mech) Vol. II dated. 28.08.2018 for the following work: **Work & Location:** Mechanized & Manual cleaning and housekeeping of Jogeshwari, Goregaon, Kandivali and Borivali Stations for four years. **Advertised Value:** ₹ 14,91,44,387/-. **Office where Tender Form Available:** Sr. DCM. **EMD:** ₹ 8,95,730/-. **Date & Time of Submission:** on 04.10.2018 till 11.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening:** on 04.10.2018 at 11.30 hrs. The details for the Tender of Mechanized & Manual cleaning and housekeeping of Jogeshwari, Goregaon, Kandivali and Borivali stations for four years over Mumbai Division can be obtained on any working day from Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial)'s Office, Western Railway, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400008 or from Railways website: www.wr.indianrailways.gov.in
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Panel moots ways to make education accessible

Neelam Pandey
neelam.pandey@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: A panel has suggested including Indian Sign Language as a subject, offering Braille as a language option and providing various difficulty levels of core subjects for students with special needs as part of curriculum and examination reforms.

These are among key recommendations made by a group of representatives from various examination boards, advocates, parents, disabled students, and experts in the field who carried out extensive brainstorming in Delhi.

According to a CBSE official who was part of the discussions, the recommendations have been placed before the Punjab and Haryana high court which, in February, asked the board to see what facilities could be extended to students with disabilities under the revised Persons with Disabilities (PwD) Act.

The board will now work on these recommendations and see how they can be implemented.

The recommendations will cover all the major examination boards.

The group has also suggested allowing calculators to students who are victims of acid attacks, those with dwarfism and those afflicted by muscular dystrophy to help them in examinations.

The CBSE official, who asked not to be identified, added that the group has recommended that Sign Language be recognised as a subject in lieu of a second language.

"... Indian Sign Language should be treated as language to satisfy the formula prescribed by the board. On similar lines, Braille can also be offered as a language option," reads the recommendation of the group.

"Various levels of core subjects such as Mathematics, Science and Social Studies can be offered at two/three levels of difficulty. Different combinations of subjects can be developed, which matches the schemes of the studies at the senior secondary," it further states.

The National Curriculum Framework 2005 also has a provision that subjects such as Mathematics and English can be examined at two levels, standard and higher.

It adds that eventually, all subjects may be offered at two levels in a phased manner.

The group's recommendations, which have been seen by Hindustan Times, state that access to information creates opportunities for everyone in society and suggest that school websites be in "accessible formats" with "features like large font (size), speech to text (facility), contrast colour scheme, search option etc".

It also says "assignments and the question paper developed in school must be provided in accessible formats".

It also pitches for providing flexible opportunities for assessment wherein students should get an opportunity to demonstrate their learning in multiple ways that include visual and oral presentation, rather than only written assessment: "CBSE has recently allowed children with disabilities to give board's examination through computers. The same can be extended with providing question paper online with audio links. This will not only assist the students for reading/listening the question paper but will also provide little bit of explanation to questions. A headphone can be provided to the students. This facility will be very useful in cases of children with Autism Spectrum disorder and with low cognitive abilities. Children with hard of hearing and low vision will also benefit."

"These are good suggestions and measures that have been suggested by the panel which will help students with disabilities in coping with regular schooling. There is always scope for more" said Stuti Kacker, former secretary , Disability Affairs, in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and currently the chairperson of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

SUGGESTIONS

- Online class content can be developed for all children who are unable to visit classrooms. Attendance requirement in cases of children with severe diseases like cancer, living in remote locations and those with severe physical disabilities can be waived . They can also fill out their tests after each session online.
- Question papers by the board can have larger fonts
- For autistic students boards can have fewer questions on the paper.

NBCC (INDIA) LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
CIN: L74899DL1960GOI003335
Office Of The Chief General Manager (CPG), NBCC Bhawan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
NIT No. NBCC/CPG/MP Bhawan/Delhi/2018/164 **Date: 29.08.2018**
NBCC (India) Ltd. invites open e-tender from eligible applicants who fulfill qualification criteria as stipulated in clause 2.0 of NIT for **'Construction of New Madhya Pradesh Bhawan at 29-C & 29-D on junction of Jesus & Mary Marg and Dr. Radhakrishnan Marg, Chankyapuri, New Delhi** with Operation & Maintenance. Estimated Project cost is **Rs. 93.98 Crs,** Last Date of Submission of Bid is **20.09.2018,** Completion period is **18 Months.** The detailed NIT will be available on websites **www.tenderwizard.com/NBCC** and **www.eprocure.gov.in** Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication if any, would appear only on the said websites and not be published.
Chief General Manager (CPG)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER **Date: 28.08.2018**
Online Bids are invited on behalf of Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi from eligible contractors / firms for the following works:

Name & description of work	Estimated Cost (in ₹)	Bid Security (in ₹)	Tender available online and Last date to fill / upload the tender through e-tendering
Outsourcing of Laboratory Diagnostics Facilities through NABL Accredited Laboratory Diagnostic Setups in New Super Speciality Block of Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. (Completion period - 3 months) **Tender No.** Safdarjung/Tender/ Laboratory Diagnostic Facility/2018/1	20.00 Crore	40.00 Lakhs	From 31.08.2018 to 24.09.2018 up to 15:00 Hrs and opening on 24.09.2018 at 15:30 Hrs.
Outsourcing of Radio Diagnostics Imaging Facilities through NABH (MIS) Accredited Diagnostic Setups in New Super Speciality Block of Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi. (Completion Period - 4 Months) **Tender No.** Safdarjung/Tender/Radio Diagnostic Imaging Facility/2018/2	35.00 Crore	70.00 Lakhs	From 31.08.2018 to 24.09.2018 up to 15:00 Hrs and opening on 24.09.2018 at 15:30 Hrs.

For submission & other tender details, please refer detailed NIT on HSCC e-tender portal **http://www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC**. Safdarjung Hospital / HSCC reserves the right to accept or reject any application without assigning any reason or incurring any liability whatsoever. Prospective bidders are advised to regularly scan through HSCC e-tender portal **http://www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC** and HSCC website **www.hsccltd.co.in** as corrigendum / amendments etc., if any, will be notified on this portal and HSCC website only and separate advertisement will not be made for this.
Sr. Chief General Manager-I, HSCC (I) Ltd.
For & on behalf of Medical Superintendent, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi

MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (PPDC)
MINISTRY OF MSME, Government Of India Organization | Foundry Nagar, Agra 282006
Organizes Govt. Certificate Entrepreneurship Devlopment Program with Technical Training on
SOLAR ENERGY
HOW TO GET INTO THE BUSINESS OF SOLAR
Date : 01 & 02 September, 2018 (Two Days) | Time: 10:00 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Fees: Rs. 6500/- Included course fees, Govt. Certificate, Soft Study material, Lunch
Course Content: Start up your own Solar Business, Load Calculation, Costing & Raw Material, Installation & Designing,Govt. Policies,Subsidies & Net Metering,Opportunities in Solar Rooftop & Resco & Utility,Solar Street Light,Solar Water Heater, Solar Water Pump, Solar Products.... More Topic
Anyone wanting to take it up as a Business, Start-up, Job or Career in Solar can attend
VENUE-RTW Solutions, A 58/59, 2nd Floor,Nand-Jyot Industrial Estate,Above Indian Overseas Bank, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East.
Coordinator: 9971875996, 9910904179 | Practical Session
Limited Seats | Solar Business Support Available | www.ppdcagra.in

MSME TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (PPDC)
MINISTRY OF MSME, Government Of India Organization | Foundry Nagar, Agra 282006
Entrepreneurship Development Programme LEARN TO EARN AS FREELANCER IN
DIGITAL MARKETING
Date : 01 & 02 September, 2018 (Two Days) | Time: 10:00 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Fees: Rs. 6000/- Included course fees, Govt. Certificate Soft Study material, Lunch
Course Content- Google Adwords & Analytics, SEO, Keyword Generation, Social Media Marketing, Mobile Marketing tools Email Marketing, Affiliate Marketing, How to take Freelancing Projects....MORE TOPIC
Anyone wanting to take it up as a Career, Start-up, Job or Business from Home can attend
VENUE-RTW Solutions, A 58/59, 2nd Floor,Nand-Jyot Industrial Estate,Above Indian Overseas Bank, Andheri Kurla Road, Andheri East.
Mob.: 9910948732, 9953920498 | Limited Seats
Certificate will be awarded www.ppdcagra.in

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Applications should be addressed to:
Prof. Arun Kumar, Convener, DBT-Research Associateship Program, Department of Molecular Reproduction, Development & Genetics, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore 560012
Detailed information and relevant application format can be downloaded from: **http://www.mrdg.iisc.ernet.in**
The last date for receiving the completed application at Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, is **October 6,2018.**

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
Chittarranjan National Cancer Institute, (CNCI -2nd Campus) Kolkata
Director, Chittarranjan National Cancer Institute, (CNCI –2nd Campus) Kolkata under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India through their Consultants HSCC (India) Ltd. invites **On-line bids** from eligible bidders, in single stage two bid system for supply, installation, testing, commissioning & handing-over following Medical Equipment for Chittarranjan National Cancer Institute, (CNCI –2nd Campus), Kolkata.
A. IFB No. HSCC/PUR/CNCI/Kolkata/01/A dt.04.09.2018 (Blood Bank Items), 1. ELISA Reader Automatic, 2. VDRL Shaker, 3. Water bath, 4. Electronic Balance B chemical, 5. Multi Channel Pipette, 6. Haemoglobinometer Instant, 7. Colorimeter Computerized, 8. Mircroplate Washer, 9. Cell Washer, 10. Plasma Thawer
B. IFB No. HSCC/PUR/CNCI/Kolkata/Medical Equipment/03/A dt. 04.09.2018 (Radiology Items), 1. Digital Fluro Radiography, 2. Digital Mobile X – Ray, 3. High End Ultrasound Machine, 4. Mid End Ultrasound Machine
C. IFB No. HSCC/PUR/CNCI-Kolkata/Medical Equipment /06 dt.04.09.2018, 1.High end C ARM, 2. Biochemistry Auto Analyser16 channel, 3. Chemi lumisence immuno analyzer
For submission and other details, please refer HSCC e-tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC, www.hsccltd.co.in,www.eprocure.gov.in from the date mentioned above. Complete set of Tender documents for all items will be made available at e-Tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC, www.hsccltd.co.in,www.eprocure.gov.in on 04.09.2018
All Prospective bidders are advised to regularly scan through HSCC e-Tender portal www.tenderwizard.com/HSCC, www.hsccltd.co.in, www.eprocure.gov.in as all corrigendum/ amendments etc., if any, will be notified on this portal only and no separate advertisement will be made for this.
Sr. CGM-I, HSCC (I) Ltd
For & on behalf of Director CNCI, Kolkata

कार्यालय आयुक्त जनजातीय कार्य विभाग, मध्यप्रदेश
संशोधित विज्ञापन
संघ लोक सेवा आयोग की सिविल सेवा परीक्षाओं की कोचिंग हेतु आवेदन वर्ष-2018-19
विज्ञापन नम्बर- जी16986 दिनांक **31.07.2018** के माध्यम से ''**अखिल भारतीय सेवाओं की परीक्षा हेतु निजी संस्थाओं द्वारा कोचिंग**'' योजनांतर्गत संघ लोक सेवा आयोग द्वारा आयोजित सिविल सेवा की परीक्षाओं हेतु अनुसूचित जनजाति वर्ग के प्रतियोगियों के लिये दिल्ली स्थित प्रतिष्ठित कोचिंग संस्थानों से कोचिंग के लिये ''विज्ञापन'' का प्रकाशन किया गया था, जिसमें आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि **25.08.2018** थी। **कतिपेय कारणों से आवेदन करने की अंतिम तिथि 05.09.2018 सायं 5:00 बजे तक की जाती है। शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।**
(आयुक्त द्वारा अनुमोदित)
सहायक संचालक
जनजातीय कार्य विभाग
मध्यप्रदेश
जी–18065/18
महिला हैल्प लाईन
1090/ MPeCOP मोबाईल एप/ डायल 100

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
NEW DELHI
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UGC invites applications for the post of Director for Inter University Centre for Yogic Sciences, Bengaluru.
The Post of Director carries emoluments as that of the Vice Chancellor of a Central University. The application should be filled online for which the last date is 30.09.2018. The hard copy of the filled-in online application along with all the relevant documents should be sent to the **Joint Secretary (IUC), University Grants Commission, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002** on or before 09.10.2018. Further details are available on the UGC website **www.ugc.ac.in/jobs**
davp 21205/11/0011/1819
Secretary, UGC

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL, PRINCIPAL BENCH, AT NEW DELHI
CP-393 (ND)/2017
With CA-605(PB)/2018
In the matter of Section 66 of the Companies Act, 2013
And
In the matter of the Scheme of Reduction of Capital amongst India Education Services Private Limited and its shareholders u/s 66 and other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013
And
In the Matter of:
India Education Services Private Limited, a Company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 having its registered office at Hindustan Times House, Second Floor, 18-20, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi 110001.
- Applicant Company
CONFIRMATION OF CAPITAL REDUCTION
Notice is hereby given that by an order dated 4th July, 2018 and revised on 18th July, 2018, the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal, Principal Bench at New Delhi has approved the capital reduction of the Applicant Company from Rs.118,40,00,000/- divided into 11,84,00,000 equity shares of Rs. 10/- each to Rs. 2,00,00,000/- divided into 20,00,000 equity shares of Rs. 10/- each.
For **India Education Services Private Limited**
Sd/-
Date: 29.08.2018 **(Dinesh Mittal)**
Place: New Delhi **Director**

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frompageone

99.3%...

In its latest annual report released on Wednesday, RBI said as much as 99.3% of the junked banknotes by value, or ₹15.3 lakh crore, had returned to the banking system, confirming what had been widely perceived by economists and banking experts a long time ago: that much of the money had found its way back or that some individuals had found ways of laundering their black money.

Senior Congress leader and former finance minister P Chidambaram fired the first shot in a new political slugfest triggered by the long-pending report, released after a painstaking audit of the banknotes that were returned by citizens who had been given until the end of 2016 to deposit old high-value notes in their possession.

"So, government and RBI actually demonetised only ₹13,000 crore and the country paid a huge price," Chidambaram said in a Twitter post. "Over 100 lives were lost. 15 crore daily wage earners lost their livelihood for several weeks. Thousands of SME (small and medium enterprise) units were shut down. Lakhs of jobs were destroyed."

The reference to lives lost was to the purported deaths of people who had to queue up at bank branches for hours together in the days following demonetisation. The central bank took nearly two years to calculate and destroy the banned notes. The tedious process included day and night shifts, working 6 days a week and using 15 note-counting machines. "The processing of SBNs (Specified Bank Notes) has since been completed at all centres of the Reserve Bank. The total SBNs returned from circulation is `15,310.73 billion," the RBI declared in its report.

The banking regulator mentioned a silver lining to demonetisation, which the government later justified as a way of promoting cashless transactions.

"Monetary transmission from the policy rate to banks' deposit and lending rates improved during 2017-18, facilitated by the demonetisation-induced slosh of liquidity," RBI said. It added that the Indian economy remained resilient even "in the face of several shocks during the year – demonetisation's after-effects; GST (goods and services tax) implementation; spillovers from global sell-offs in bonds and equities; bouts of capital outflows; frauds in domestic banking system amidst mounting loan delinquencies and capital constraints; and the ongoing terms of trade erosion."

The government has steadfastly defended its decision to scrap high-value notes, saying data collected in the exercise would come in handy in tracking suspicious transactions and checking tax evasion. Demonetisation was followed up by a slew of measures including a law against benami property and steps to prevent generation of black money and its diversion to foreign accounts.

BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra on Wednesday said demonetisation had helped in the formalisation of the economy.

"In 2017-18, the net collection of direct taxes increased by 18%. Collection for 2016-17 was also higher than the previous year. More than 3 lakh shell companies have been closed. Another 50,000 are in the pipeline. This is a big step towards formalisation of Indian economy," said Patra.

The demonetisation exercise has achieved its objective, said economic affairs secretary Subhash Chandra Garg on Wednesday. He added that cash in circulation in the economy had decreased after demonetisation, indicating the success of the exercise in moving Indians towards a digital economy.

"I think the process of demonetisation is now complete. All the demonetised notes have been returned, notes worth ₹10,000 crore have not come back. There are some amounts stuck in court cases and some with law enforcement agencies. But the amount involved in those is very small," Garg said.

"There is now ₹3-4 lakh crore less in the system than prior to demonetisation," he added.

Refusing to get dragged into the debate about the intended objectives of demonetisation, Garg said: "Cash in hand is not the only form of black money. Black money is also in the form of benami assets".

"One of the many advantages of demonetisation was that when the new notes came they virtually weeded out all fake currencies," he added.

Demonetisation has cast its shadow on political discourse and state election campaigns in the country since November 2016. The BJP leadership has accused the opposition Congress of encouraging corruption and ignoring the interests of the poor. Former prime minister Manmohan Singh, himself an economist and former RBI governor, said the note ban was an exercise in ""monumental mismanagement".

Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala demanded an apology from Prime Minister Modi.

Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said: "Every single claim of Modi and his ministers about the Indian economy has proven to be wrong. He promised 10 crore jobs 5 year ago, but (there has been) all-round loss of jobs across the country since 2014. No amount of spin or PR can cover this disastrous failure of Modi."

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal demanded the release of a white paper on the note ban. "People suffered immensely due to demonetization. Many died. Business suffered. People have a rt to know - what was achieved thro demonetization? Govt shud come out wid a white paper on the same," he said in a Twitter message.

One economist noted the multiple objectives the government had set out to achieve through demonetisation and its "shifting goalposts."

"While a few objectives were achieved, the economy paid a high price for it, especially the MSME (micro, small and medium enterprise) and NBFC (non-banking financial company) sectors," said Abizer Diwanji, partner and national leader of the financial services practice at consulting firm EY.

OTHER TAKEAWAYS FROM RBI REPORT

RBI has said the bad loan problem may worsen due to the economic situation this fiscal, with increase in provisioning against NPAs and treasury losses combining to erode bank profits. Other insights:

GDP Growth rate is expected at 7.4% this fiscal on industrial activity and good monsoon. The monetary policy will be guided by the objective of achieving the medium-term target for retail inflation.

FDI India remains a preferred destination for FDIs as domestic consumption remains strong. With manufacturing picking up, consumption demand remains robust.

SURPLUS TRANSFER The RBI said the transfer of surplus to the government rose by 63.08% to ₹50,000 crore in the 2017-18 financial year. The RBI transfers surplus generated from its functions at the end of each financial year. It follows July-June financial year.

ATS...

The Goa-headquartered Sanatan Sanstha, however, has distanced itself from the arrested persons and said they are not its members.

The ATS is now probing links of the sect leader, who they claim is the mastermind, with Dr Virendrasinh Tawde, who the CBI claims conspired to kill Dabholkar.

According to multiple ATS officers, who did not wish to be named, the sect leader would send the arrested members to conduct reconnaissance before planning the hits on the identified targets. Once the members returned with their findings of the reconnaissance, plans were made to execute the hits.

The Maharashtra ATS and CBI have together arrested six persons, including Vaibhav Raut, Sudhanva Ghondalekar, Sharad Kalaskar, Shrikant Pangarkar, Avinash Pawar and Santosh Andhure, after the Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed by the Karnataka police arrested a key accused in the Lankesh murder, and later shared information with the other agencies.

Lynching...

The government formed the panel of secretaries, headed by Union home secretary Rajiv Gauba, to formulate its response on growing incidents of mob violence. Around 34 people have been lynched across nine states in the past year, according to publically available data.

The panel on Wednesday submitted its report to a group of ministers headed by Union home minister Rajnath Singh, which will take further call on the issue and present the final recommendations to the Prime Minister.

"The panel has taken the view that lynching is basically part of the overall issue of malicious and pornographic content floating in the cyber space. The content targets vulnerable sections like children, women and minorities. There is need to remove to this content from cyber space to address the larger issue. The government has held a series of meetings with the social media platforms in this regard," said a home ministry official who spoke on the condition of anonymity. India has been pushing Facebook Inc's WhatsApp to get tough on fake messages that have prompted a rash of lynchings in India. In a meeting with WhatsApp executives earlier this month, IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad asked them to form a corporate entity in India and appoint a grievances officer. The home ministry official added that Indian law enforcement agencies need to increase their presence in the cyberspace as well to deal with the malicious content.

"It is like having more security personnel on the ground but a fine balance will have to maintained considering privacy concerns," said the official.

The panel of secretaries discussed a separate law to deal with lynchings, but also looked at ways of strengthening the existing legal framework to deal with the malaise. It deliberated on providing compensation to victims of lynching incidents. Besides, the option of establishing special courts for faster delivery of justice in these cases was also explored. In July, the Supreme Court condemned mob lynching incidents across the country and urged Parliament to enact a law to deal with the crime that threatened rule of law and the country's social fabric.

According to the home ministry official, both options, strengthening the law and having a new one "are available to the group of ministers."

The group of ministers comprises external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, transport minister Nitin Gadkari, law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad and social justice and empowerment minister Thawar Chand Gehlot as its members.

RInfra sells...

To further pare debt, Ambani said he expects arbitration awards of ₹6,000 crore in ongoing cases of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Goa Power and National Highways Authority of India, and a ₹5,000 crore inflow from regulatory assets of the Mumbai Power distribution business that are under approval. "We have a further cushion of ₹8,000 crore under arbitration yet to be decided. With these available cash avenues, we expect to be completely debt-free by 2019."

NDA Rafale...

Later in the evening, the social media battle intensified further, with Jaitley responding through a series of tweets aimed at Gandhi, accusing him of resorting to "falsehood".

The NDA administration's decision to enter an $8.7 billion deal with France to buy 36 Rafale warplanes made by Dassault was announced in April 2015, with an agreement signed a little over a year later. This replaced the previous UPA government's decision to buy 126 Rafale aircraft, 108 of which were to be made in India by the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

The deal has become controversial with the Opposition, led by the Congress, saying that the price at which India is buying Rafale aircraft now is R1,670 crore for each, three times the R526 crore initial bid by the company when the UPA administration was trying to buy the aircraft. It has also said that the previous deal included a technology transfer agreement with HAL.

"The offer of 2007 had a basic 2007 price, plus escalation, plus currency variation. In 2015 or '16, this would have been 9% costlier than what the basic aircraft price negotiated was... Loaded to unloaded, you compare the price again. The 2016 price is 20% cheaper than the 2007 offer. So we got it cheaper," Jaitley said in the interview.

He asserted that no rules were bypassed and the Cabinet Committee on Security approval was taken during the deal, and negotiations took about 14 months to complete. The deal has also become controversial because one of the offset deals signed by Dassault is with the Reliance Group of Anil Ambani. The Congress alleges the earlier deal was scrapped and a new one signed just to provide Ambani this opportunity for an offset deal. Both the government and Reliance Group have repeatedly denied this. Jaitley said that, under the offset policy of the UPA, any original equipment manufacturer (OEM) can select any number of Indian partners, both from the private sector and the public for offset supplies.

He attacked the Congress for compromising the nation's security through "policy paralysis" and not going ahead with a deal after the tendering process was completed. Responding to Jaitley's remarks, the Congress asked if the government was scared of a joint parliamentary probe. "If Modi government has nothing to hide, why can't they agree to the JPC probe?" asked Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari. Senior Congress leader Anand Sharma said that vendors have to disclose how the offset contracts would be discharged under the defence procurement policy. "For him (Jaitley) to say that offset is not part of the contract is wrong," he argued.

The NDA government has maintained that it cannot disclose the details of the price on two counts: a confidentiality agreement with France, and the strategic reason of not showing its hand to India's enemies.

The Congress has rejected this contention and described it as an excuse to conceal the price of the aircraft.

No democracy...

Rao, Gonsalves and Ferreira had been arrested from Hyderabad, Mumbai and Thane respectively, and taken to Pune. Late on Wednesday evening, the Pune district court ordered them to be sent back to their residences where they will be kept under 'house arrest'. "Arrangements will be made to send all the accused to their respective cities," said assistant commissioner of police Shivaji Pawar.

According to Pune Police, an event called Elgar Parishad on December 31, 2017 in Pune, where various activists and Dalit organisations came together, was responsible for stoking the violence the next day. In June, the police arrested activist Sudhir Dhawale, lawyer Surendra Gadling, activist Rona Wilson, researcher Mahesh Raut and retired professor Shoma Sen for alleged Maoist ties. A separate probe by Pune (rural) police in the January 1 violence has named two Hindu right wing leaders, Milind Ekbote and Shambhaji Bhide.

The National Human Rights Commission served a notice to the Maharashtra government demanding a report on the arrests. It said the arrests were made in violation of the laid down procedure and so "amounted to human rights violation". It asked for a factual report on the matter within four weeks. Union home ministry officials said the ministry has nothing to do with the arrests. "Law-and-order and police are state subjects," said a home ministry spokesperson. A senior security official on the condition of anonymity said the Maharashtra police should have prepared its case better before acting against these individuals.

"It seems that the state police acted in haste by going for arrests of these individuals. These suspects could have been called for questioning first. The option of arrest should have been exercised only if they had refused to cooperate with the probe. And I hope the state police has really solid piece of evidence against these individuals to prove the charge that they were involved in inciting violence," said the central security official.

Maharashtra government said the police had strong evidence for the arrests. "We have solid proofs of the links of the accused with the Naxal movement. Due process was followed before their arrest based on the evidence the police have," said minister of state for home Deepak Kesarkar.

In the Supreme Court, two additional solicitor generals, Maninder Singh and Tushar Mehta, appeared for Maharashtra and questioned the locus standi of the petitioners. The petitioners were represented by senior advocate Abhishesk Manu Singhvi, who said the petition was filed in national interest. The FIR registered in connection with the Bhima Koregaon violence does not mention the activists who, Singhvi submitted, were not even present at the site where the incident took place. Senior advocate Dushyant Dave, also appearing for the petitioners, said the arrests showed how the liberty of citizens has been jeorpardised. Senior advocate Rajeev Dhawan called the arrests random. "If this lady (Bharadwaj) gets arrested then I am the next," Dhawan added.

Even as the SC heard the petition, hearing into Navlakha's petition against his arrest continued in the Delhi high court. After almost three hours of hearing arguments, the court was halfway through dictating its order when it was informed of the apex court's decision. The matter will now be heard on Thursday.

In the Pune court, the city police defended the arrests, producing three letters purportedly recovered during the investigation. The police told the court that the arrested activists were allegedly part of the "anti-fascist" front of the Maoists, were involved in recruiting students and young people, had links with separatists in Kashmir and the North-east and were intending to strike "high political functionaries". The police also submitted a letter reportedly detailing a plot to assassinate the prime minister.

The arrest of the five activists was condemned by public figures and opposition parties.

NCP chief Sharad Pawar said the arrests were an attempt to divert the attention from the recent breakthrough in the killings of rationalists such as MM Kalburgi, Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare and Gauri Lankesh. "They are activists. They are Leftists. Their ideology is Left. But I never heard they are associated with Naxalism. It is really unfortunate that the government thought of arresting them," he said.

"The people who have been arrested hold responsible position in the society. Therefore, it is incumbent on the government to put in the public space the reasons for their arrest. This multi-city arrest is a witch-hunt," Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari said.

The BJP hit out at Congress chief Rahul Gandhi for supporting the activists. "Rahul Gandhi said he has no hate against the prime minister. He is now speaking in favour of those who are conspiring to eliminate the prime minister," BJP spokesperson Shahnawaz Hussain said.

PSPCL Punjab state Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Off.: PSEB H.O., The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : U40109PB2010SGC033813, Website:- www.pspcl.in
OFFICE OF CHIEF ENGINEER / PP&R D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, PATIALA -147001 TEL. NO 0175- 2300534, FAX NO 0175-2308698/ 2200872 e-mail: ce-ppr@pspcl.in
Tender Enquiry for Banking of power by Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. for the period from 1st Nov- 2018 to 30th April 2020 on firm basis

TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. PPR 04 /2018

E-tendering page: https://pspcl.abcprocure.com

PSPCL invites tender for banking of power within Northern Region (NR) sources only from interstate utilities/traders, Traders having valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, as per table given below:

1	Last date and time of downloading of Specification from the website **https://pspcl.abcprocure.com**	18/09/18 up to 10:00 AM
2	Last date and time of submission of bid	18/09/18 up to 11:00 AM
3	Date and time of opening of Tender enquiry (initial offer)	18/09/18 at 12:00 Noon
4	Earnest money Deposit (in the form of demand draft/BG in Favour of PSPCL, Patiala, to be submitted at the office of Dy CE/PR ,T1A thermal design Complex Patiala or through RTGS)	EMD of Rs. 1,50,00,000/- (Rs. One Crore fifty Lac only), in the form of crossed Demand Draft/Bank Guarantee
5	Cost of Specification (in the form of demand draft in Favour of PSPCL, payable at Patiala) to be submitted at the office of Dy CE/PR, T1A thermal design Complex Patiala.	Rs. 5,000 /- (Rupees Five Thousand only.)

Arrangement-1 Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. (PSPCL) intends to bank the following power during the period from 1st Nov 2018 to 30th April 2019 on firm basis for a quantum of 100 mega watt RTC and 700 mega watt during 00:00 to 06:00 Hrs and 22:00 to 24:00 Hrs with Northern Region (NR) sources only. PSPCL shall require return of banked power on RTC basis, i.e., 00:00-24:00 hrs., in the months of 15th June 2019 to 30th Sep 2019.

Arrangement-2 Punjab State Power Corporation Ltd. (PSPCL) intends to receive power under advance banking arrangement during the period from 15th June 2019 to 30th Sep 2019 on firm basis for a quantum of 500 MW from Northern Region (NR) sources only. PSPCL shall be returning such banked power on RTC basis, i.e., 00:00-24:00 hrs., in the months of 1st Nov 2019 to 30th April 2020.

PSPCL reserves the right to increase/ decrease the quantum mentioned in the above table as per its availability before placing the LoA to the successful bidders. The minimum quantum offered by any bidder should not be less than 50 MW (and for minimum of 15 days) on RTC basis, otherwise their offer shall be rejected. PSPCL reserves the right to reject any or all tenders or to accept any tender in full or part as may be considered advantageous to PSPCL, without assigning any reason whatsoever. Tender specifications can be downloaded from web site **https://pspcl.abcprocure.com Note:-** It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspaper. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on **https://pspcl.abcprocure.com.**

C-339/18 **CE/PP&R, PSPCL, Patiala.**

Corporate Buzz

WRWWO President visits Jagjivan Ram Hospital on the occasion of Independence Day

Smt. Archana Gupta, President of WRWWO presenting the gift hamper patients of Jagjivan Ram Hospital of WR at Mumbai Central on the occasion of Independence Day.

Smt Archana Gupta, President, WRWWO-HQ, together with VP, Mrs. Shubha Jain & Sr. Members of the Executive Committee, visited the indoor patients of Jagjivan Ram Hospital of WR and distributed gift hampers on 15th Aug 2018 on the occasion of Independence Day. Mrs Gupta spent some time with the patients enquiring about their health and wished them a quick recovery. A team of doctors also accompanied the WRWWO members giving the feeling of concern to the patients & strengthening the sense of belonging to the large Railway Fraternity.

Sadbhavana Divas' Observed On WR

Shri A.K.Gupta, GM, W.Rly. & sr officers & staff are also seen on this occasion.

'Sadbhavana Divas' was observed at WR's HQs at Churchgate on 20th Aug18. Shri A.K.Gupta, GM, WR administered the 'Sadbhavana Pledge' in the foyer of the main HQ Bldg to all the Rly officers and staff to ensure social harmony and respect towards all religions. The ceremony was also attended by all the Principal HOD's & other officers and staff of WR. " Sadbhavna Pledge " was also administered in all the divisions of WR.

W. RLY GM Hoisted The National Flag on Independence Day

Shri A. K. Gupta, GM of WR addressing & inspecting the ceremonial parade during the 72nd Independence Day function at WR HQ, Churchgate, Mumbai on 15th Aug18. Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Principal Chief Security Commissioner of WR is also seen with him on this occasion.

The 72nd Independence Day was celebrated on Western Railway with the National Flag hoisted by Shri A.K.Gupta, GM, WR. On this august occasion, he inspected the ceremonial parade, took salute of march past and extended his greetings to all Railwaymen and their families. He mentioned the major achievements and performance of W.Rly in recent past. Shri Gupta said that with dedicated efforts of all railwaymen, Western Railway has continued its commendable performance. Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Principal Chief Security Commissioner along with other Principal Heads of Departments of Western Railway were also present on this occasion.

RSET's Jankidevi Bilasrai Bubna boys' Hostel Inaugurated at Malad

Mr. Kapil Dev Former Indian Criket Captain Inaugurated RSET's Jankidevi Bilasrai Bubna boys' Hostel at Malad

JNPT celebrates 72nd Independence Day with Great enthusiasm

School children feted with prizes Navi Mumbai, August 15, 2018: Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), India's No.1 Container Port celebrated 72nd Independence Day with great enthusiasm and participation by JNPT Trustees, employees, their families and school children attending in large numbers in the JNPT township. Shri Neeraj Bansal, Chairman-in-Charge was the Chief Guest of the function and hoisted the national flag in the presence of all the dignitaries and employees. Paying rich tributes to the freedom fighters who laid down their lives for the country, Shri Neeraj Bansal, Chairman-in-Charge, JNPT said "This is the day when we celebrate the spirit of freedom and democracy of this great country. This is also the time to pay our homages to all freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives to free India from foreign rule. We also celebrate the great success of JNPT in the last 29 years and stand committed to achieve more growth for the benefit of all stakeholders and country". Sharing the recent success of JNPT, Shri Bansal observed that JNPT handled the highest ever volume at 4.83 million TEUs for the year ended March 2018.

7 firms to provide rolling stock to Metro-2A & Metro-7 corridors

7 firms in race to provide rolling stock to Metro-2A and Metro-7 corridors In a major development on the Metro network front, the tenders for providing 378 metro coaches to the Dahisar to DN Nagar Metro-2A and Andheri (East) to Dahisar (East) Metro-7 corridor were recently opened in Delhi. The response was found very encouraging inasmuch as seven Indian and international firms have submitted the bid documents. The 7 firms are – 1) M/s.Hyundai Rotem, Korea; 2) M/s.Bombardier India & Bombardier Germany; 3) M/s.CRRC Corporation Ltd.; 4) M/s.Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.; 5) M/s.Titagarh wagons & TitagarhFirema; 6) M/s.Alstom Transport India & Alstom SA and 7) M/s.CAF India & CAF, Spain. The entire bidding process has been carried out adhering to the norms set by the Asian Development Bank who are funding the projects.

Shipping Corporation of India - Update

SCI - Update M.T. 'Desh Vaibhav' suffered an explosion – updates as on 15th Aug 2018 Further to our Press Release on M.T. 'Desh Vaibhav' issued on 14th Aug18, situation on board MT 'Desh Vaibhav' is totally under control and the vessel continues to be in full command. All personnel who had left the vessel are back on board safely. Two casualties have been reported and are being sent ashore. One injured crewman is being treated in the hospital at MUSCAT (OMAN). The vessel will be shortly shifted to nearest port for assessment of damage and repairs.

JNPT records all round growth

JNPT records all round growth ● Shri Gadkariji lauds good performance Mumbai, 25 August 2018: JNPT, the country's premier port has achieved substantial growth over the last four years. The port is poised to scale new heights in the coming years with the execution of many infrastructure projects, said Shri Nitin Gadkari, Honorable Minister of Road Transport and Highways of India. Shri Gadkari was speaking to reporters after the performance review of JNPT in the first 5 months of the current financial year. "JNPT is consistently posting impressive performance in the last few years. I am very happy that implementation of various performance initiatives and infrastructure projects to increase efficiency is making good progress. This gives me assurance that JNPT will continue to hold its premier position and also transform itself into a business and growth hub for the region," Shri Gadkari said. Shri Gadkari said that he is confident that the port would meet its target of 1 crore container handling capacity by 2022.

CR GM addresses Sr DCMs' Conference

Shri D. K. Sharma, GM CR addressed the Senior Divisional Commercial Managers' Conference at CSTM, Mumbai on 24.08.2018. Shri Vishal Agarwal, AGM, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Principal CCM, Shri D.K. Singh, Principal Chief Ops Mgr and other Principal HODs also addressed Sr. DCM's of the 5 Div's of CR and other Commercial Officers. The Div Offr's were advised to give attention to the following thrust areas: i) To bring about visible improvement in station and toilet cleanliness by 30.09.2018.

Independence Day Celebrations by GM CR

Shri D.K. Sharma, GM, CR hoisted the national flag and inspected the Guard of Honour presented by the RPF contingent on the occasion of Independence Day celebrations at the CR HQs, CSTM on 15.8.2018. Shri D.K. Sharma while addressing the gathering conveyed Independence day greetings, detailed about the performance of CR during current Yr18. He complimented the railwaymen for their excellent teamwork, dedication to duty and said CR will fulfill the expectations of the rail users in future.

CR Observes Sadbhavana Day

Shri D. K. Sharma, GM, CR administering the Sadbhavana Day Pledge to the officers and staff to work for the emotional oneness and harmony of all the people of India regardless of caste, region, religion or language and to resolve all differences through dialogue and constitutional means without resorting to violence at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus Mumbai on the occasion of Sadbhavana Day on 20.08.2018

President and Executive members of Central Railway Women's Welfare Organization

President & Exe members of CRWWO Visited the CR Hospital Byculla on the occasion of Independence Day On 15th Aug 18, on the occasion of Independence Day, Smt. Mamta Sharma, President, along with Exe Members of CRWWO visited Bharat Ratna Dr. BR Ambedkar Railway Hospital. Smt. Mamta Sharma inaugurated a new ward for men. Shri D.K. Sharma, GM, CR, Sr. DGM, Shri S.K. Pankaj, DRM, Mum Div Shri S. K. Jain, Principal Chief Medical Director, Dr. Shyam Sunder and Medical Director, Byculla Railway Hospital Dr (Smt.) Mira Arora were present on this occasion.

NTPC celebrates Independence Day

NTPC Kawas project celebrated India's Independence Day with great enthusiasm. Chief Guest Shri C. V Subramanian, GM(Kawas) unfurled & saluted the National Flag and took salute from CISF. Speaking on the occasion Shri C. V Subramanian recalled freedom fighters and said NTPC Ltd. established in 1975 and proved itself as the dominant power major with presence in the entire value chain of the power generation business.

Vicco's Significant Contribution To Building Of Brand Konkan

The inauguration ceremony of Konkan Conclave was graced by the presence of Director, VICCO, Mr. Sanjeev Pendharkar on 19th August at Sahara Star (Sapphire Banquet Hall) at 9.30 am. Mr. Sanjeev was requested to spare some of his valuable time to be an honourable guest on the occasion. The inauguration coincided with a panel discussion on BRAND KONKAN which commenced at 6:45 pm on the same day where Mr. Sanjeev Pendharkar addressed the relevant questions on Branding together with providing tips and steps to build KONKAN as a successful brand.He shared his lessons and experiences he has gathered through his ride of establishing VICCO as one of the world 's most iconic brands.

Independence Day celebrated as Grand Parents Day at PJK

Independence Day celebrated as Grand Parents Day at PJK Podar jumbo Kids Vimannagar, Pune has celebrated Independence Day in a unique way. The school has organized special events for its kids and their grandparents. The theme of the day was "Following the footsteps of our grandparents- Celebrating independence", which was enjoyed by all. Both seniors and juniors enthusiastically solved crosswords and picture search to learn more about their country. They created their own Newspaper bag and tri-colour badge to take home. They participated in the activities like Peg the India, solved riddles, danced and played lagori with patriotic fervor. Children showed their love, respect and gratitude to their grandparents. Selfies were captured of this wonderful time spent together.

KVIC celebrates Independence day

Smt. Preeta Verma, CFO hoisted the National Flag in Central office of KVIC in Mumbai. Speaking on this occasion, CEO said that the honorable PM Shri Narendra Modi has repeatedly mentioned in his radio talk Mann ki baata about the encouragement of khadi. She also mentioned about Khadi exhibition in Indian Embassies of 10 countries organized by KVIC which would encourage the sale of Khadi at international level. Emphasizing the importance of Khadi, Mahatma Gandhi had conveyed the message to the world that freedom movement is connected to the social, cultural and economic independence of a person who lives in the village and whose livelihood is related to hand spun and hand woven cloth that is Khadi, she added . ■Reader Initiative Programme

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₹12K crore of MP funds lie unutilised

LOCAL ISSUES Development funds unused largely on account of district agencies and authorities not following through on them

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NEW DELHI: As much as ₹12,000 crore of the local area development funds of Members of Parliament (MPLADs) have remained unutilised since the 14th Lok Sabha was constituted (in 2004), largely on account of district agencies and authorities not following through on them, according to a government report prepared earlier this month.

The Union ministry of statistics and programme implementation's report shows that as of February 2018, Uttar Pradesh leads the list of states with unspent funds, followed by Maharashtra, Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. To be sure, it isn't clear whether the situation has changed since.

"The (UP) government is coordinating with the MPs for effective utilisation of fund. Together the party and the government would ensure maximum utilisation of the funds which could be used for the upliftment of the poor and the needy," said UP minister Siddaharth Nath Singh.

Bihar Minister for planning and development Rajiv Ranjan alias Lalan Singh said he would have to look into the exact causes as to why the funds remained unutilized. "There may be various causes. At times several MPs recommend some projects on lands which are involved in legal wrangles. We have to look for the exact reasons for non-utilisation of funds," he said.

Debashish Chakraborty, additional chief secretary in the Maharashtra planning department, said: "It may have happened that some of the MPs have not suggested work during their tenure though most of the MPs ensure that their funds are spent by the end of their tenure.'

"It is complete discretion and choice of the MPs to suggest work and the state government hardly has any role to play. All our collectors take the work under MPLAD scheme very seriously

UTTAR PRADESH LEADS THE LIST OF STATES WITH UNSPENT FUNDS, FOLLOWED BY MAHARASHTRA, BIHAR, RAJASTHAN AND MADHYA PRADESH

and act on them forthwith," Chakraborty added.

The statistics and programme implementation ministry has called a review meeting on August 30 with all its state-level nodal secretaries to address the issue. It is also proposing better coordination between state and district authorities along with the respective MPs to ensure better usage of MPLAD funds.

The agenda paper of the meeting shows that in February, funds alloted but unspent stood at ₹4773.13 crore while 2920 instalments of Rs 2.5 crore were yet to be released, resulting in a total backlog of ₹12,073.13 crore. In both cases, the problem was at the district level. "Ministry has observed that a large number of instalments are not being released due to non-furnishing of requisite documents by the nodal district authority. In many cases, the delay is caused because already-released funds have not been utilized or there is a failure to obtain the utilization certificate (UC) from implementing agencies/ implementing districts. Releases are delayed also because of faulty UCs or faulty audit certificates.," the agenda paper said. That isn't surprising, according to Pronab Sen, the former chief statistician of India. "We have to remember the disadvantages of an MP; the district administration is always more sensitive to MLAs (members of the legislative assembly) as they are answerable to the state government. Quite often, local MLAs tend to poach ideas put forth by MPs. But on the other hand MLAs tend to spend more time in their constituencies, also because it's smaller than that of an MP's. MPs have to be more proactive in identifying the needs of the locals," he added.

Under the scheme, all Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs get ₹5 crore each year for development work in their constituencies or states. Each MP has the choice of suggesting to the district collector development projects using the funds of the MPLAD scheme.

The annual fund of ₹5 crore is released in two equal instalments. So, a Lok Sabha MP is entitled to 10 instalments in the tenure of 5 years adding up to ₹25 crore while each Rajya Sabha MP gets ₹30 crore in 12 instalments over 6 years.

"The rules of release of funds under MPLAD needs to be more facilitating and flexible. Opposition-ruled states create roadblocks at each step in utilising the fund. I have three districts in my constituency so three different district collectors will pose three different hurdles for me to use the MPLAD funds. Why are funds under MLALAD used more optimally than MPLAD? There lies your answer," said Rajiv Satav, Congress Lok Sabha MP.

The rules of the MPLAD scheme state that the work has to be completed within 18 months from the date of demitting office in the case of Rajya Sabha MPs or dissolution of the Lok Sabha, and subsequently accounts have to be closed. But the government report shows several accounts dating back to the 14th Lok Sabha are yet to be closed.

Currently, the 16th Lok Sabha is in the fourth year of its five-year term.

"Obtaining utilisation certificate for a project is at the centre of using MPLAD. The UC gets stuck as most constituencies comprise more than one district and it gets caught between the different district collectors. But since its not a lapsable fund we should not be overtly worried about it," said Nishikant Dubey, a Bharatiya Janata Party Lok Sabha MP.

Narendra Modi

Those who spread negativity must be ignored, PM Modi tells BJP workers

HT Correspondent
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NEW DELHI: Negativity should not be spread through social media and people spreading materials causing harm to the nation and society should be shunned and ignored, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday during a video interaction with BJP workers from his parliamentary constituency Varanasi.

The prime minister said society can be strengthened only when positivity is spread and promoted. The interaction was held through NaMo App.

Replying to a question, he said, "People at times overstep the bounds of decorum. They hear or see something false and forward it. They don't notice that how much damage they are doing to society. Some people use such words that do not behove any decent society. They say or write anything about women."

He said that the issue was not about any political party or ideology. "It is about 125 crore Indians... and everybody should train themselves to never spread dirt through the social media," the PM said.

The Prime Minister also urged workers to share videos highlighting the changing face of India. The country is witnessing historic and unprecedented progress over the last few years, he told the BJP workers.

Modi said every village in India has now electricity, schools and toilets while the country has become the largest manufacturer of mobile phones. It has also become the fastest growing economy and fastest growing aviation market with more people flying than travelling in AC trains.

India readies text for crucial Comcasa

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NEW DELHI: The decks have been cleared for India and the US to sign the much-awaited Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (Comcasa) with the agreed text of the foundational military agreement (one of the three such the US signs with close partners) sent to the highest level of the Modi government for approval.

The agreed text of Comcasa agreement will, after it is vetted, be put up before the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) for clearance and will be signed during the 2-plus-2 dialogue on September 6 between the Indian and US foreign and defence ministers, Indian and US diplomats familiar with the matter said.

The diplomats, based in New Delhi and Washington DC, added that the agreed text was finalised after a senior Indian government official dashed to the Pentagon last week for final clarifications and additions.

THE AGREED TEXT OF COMCASA WILL BE PUT UP BEFORE THE CABINET PANEL ON SECURITY FOR CLEARANCE AND WILL BE INKED DURING THE 2-PLUS-2 DIALOGUE

The Comcasa agreement, which has been hanging for the past decade, allows India to operate on high-end secured communication equipment installed on American platforms acquired by Indian armed forces, such as C-130 J, C-17, P-8I aircraft, and Apache and Chinook helicopters. In some cases, the use of such equipment is a prerequisite to acquiring these platforms, or in exploiting their full potential. It also facilitates interoperability or cooperation with other countries using the equipment.

The first deliveries of Apache attack helicopters and Chinook heavy lift choppers to India will be done in the second half of 2019. India's original concern was that the use of such equipment could threaten its own operational independence. The final version is believed to have addressed all such concerns.

While the finalised text of Comcasa is currently being vetted by the national security planners of the Narendra Modi government, India and the US have also decided for the first time to conduct an advanced tri-service humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercise off the coast of Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal later this year.

"Earlier, bilateral exercises were confined to individual services but it has now been decided that India and US will conduct a joint tri-service exercise. The possibility of holding a tri-service amphibious exercise and a counter-terrorism exercise are also in the pipeline," said a South Block official who asked not to be identified. India participated in a tri-service human assistance and disaster relief exercise with Russia last year.

After the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) cleared a $1 billion purchase of 24-multi-role Sikorsky-Lockheed Martin helicopters for the Indian Navy through the foreign military sales route, India is planning to send a request for information (RFI) to the US shortly and begin commercial negotiations. India has also sent an RFI for acquiring National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System–II (NASAMS-II) from the US at a cost of around $1 billion, and which will make parts of Delhi impregnable from aerial attacks.

While US secretary of defense James Mattis has dropped the idea of visiting Bengaluru on September 5 due to last-minute engagements, secretary of state Mike Pompeo will reach Delhi the same evening after a five-hour whistle-stop engagement with Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad.

Both secretaries will meet Prime Minister Modi and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on the sidelines of the 2-plus-2 dialogue with Indo-Pacific maritime security architecture on top of the agenda.

Karnataka wants all state employees to send their children only to govt schools

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BENGALURU: The HD Kumaraswamy government wants to make it mandatory for state government officials to send their children to government schools in a bid raise the quality of education and facilities provided in these institutions, according to Karnataka's minister for primary education.

"We are considering bringing in a policy on the basis of a report to encourage enrolment in government schools," N Mahesh said, adding that the government is looking at the legal implications of such a proposal.

"By making government employees enrol their wards in government schools, we hope to make them stakeholders in the betterment of these schools," he said.

However, Mahesh said he was not very sure of the legal implications of such a move and if it would stand in a court of law. "We have asked for legal opinion to ensure that we do not go against some judgments of the Supreme Court, where it held that state governments cannot dictate choice of school of the children. We are looking at ways to overcome this," he said.

The objective behind the move is ostensibly to improve the facilities provided in govt institutions MINT FILE

The move is based on a September 2017 report by the Karnataka Development Authority (KDA) on strengthening government schools. The report suggests that "those who draw a salary from the government have to mandatorily send their children to government schools and not private ones. And there should be a provision to punish those who flout this rule". The objective, according to the report, is to ensure higher standards of education and better facilities in government schools.

From a legal perspective, constitutional law expert Alok Prasanna Kumar said, it was necessary to see what sort of measures the government would use to ensure compliance with the rule.

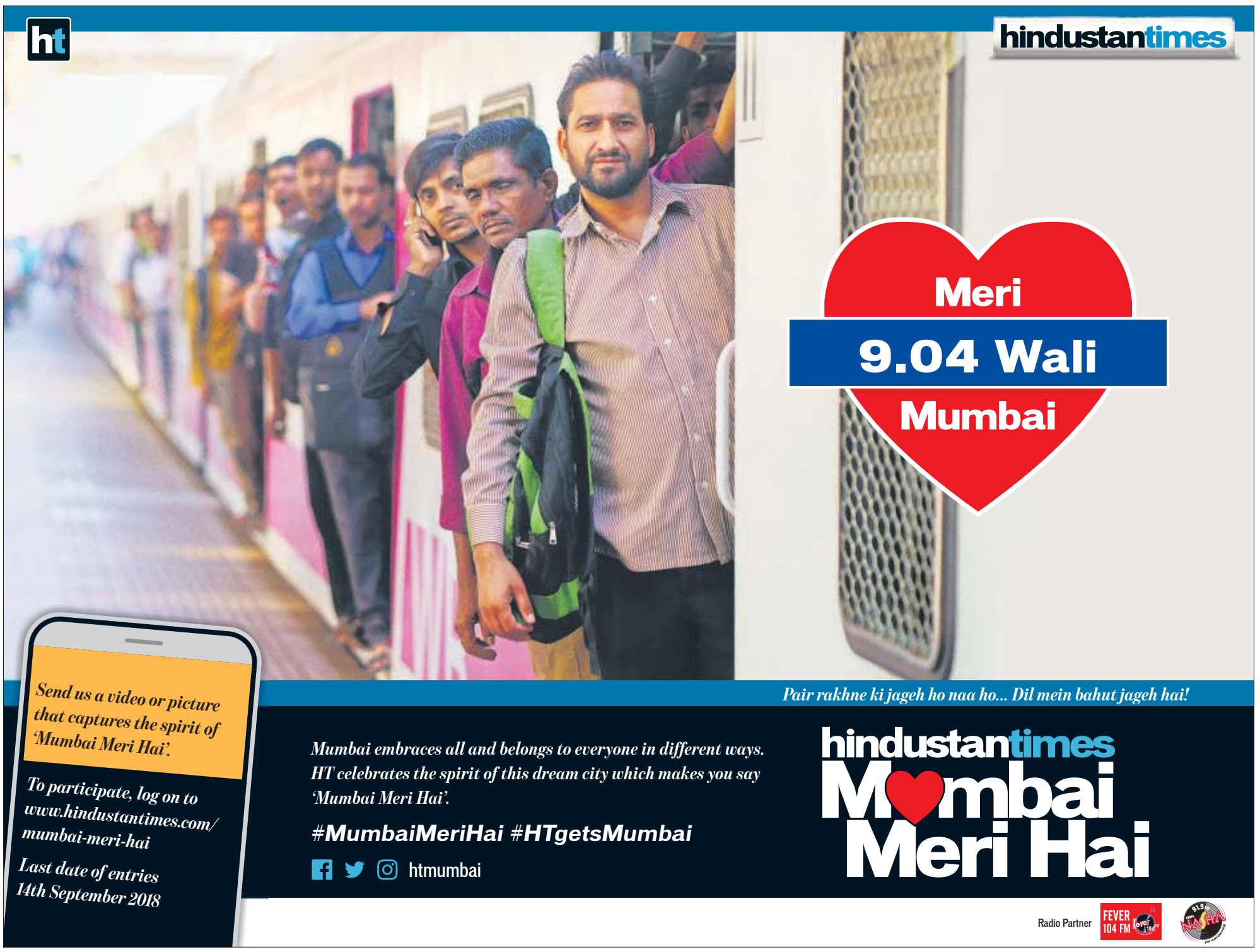
"Government employees do not enjoy all the rights that other citizens do. And, hence, I do not see any legal hurdles to the policy," he said.

Kumar said the key in this instance would be the measures the government would use to ensure that the employees followed the rules. "These could be positive or negative reinforcements, in which case we would have to see if they adhered to the policy's intent," he added.

However, 24 other recommendations made in the report — including allowing for 25% reservations for economically disadvantaged students in private schools — are not being taken up by the government at this time, according to KDA chairman SG Siddaramaiah.

"This was one of 25 recommendations we had made. But I suppose a start has to be made somewhere," he said.

Multiple reports in the state, by government agencies and independent researchers, have pointed out the poor condition of government schools. According to one survey conducted in 2017-18 by the Department of Public Instruction, which HT has accessed, there are 5,525 government primary schools in the state that have requested for funds to completely reconstruct their buildings.



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The Hindustan Times
ESTABLISHED IN 1924

BJP gets off the blocks for 2019

The Opposition needs to do more if it wants to counter the party

ourtake

A meeting of the Prime Minister, the BJP president, some senior ministers, and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states on Tuesday discussed the possible contours of the party's campaign for 2019.

First, it was decided at the meeting that the BJP and the larger National Democratic Alliance, of which the party is a part, will fight 2019 under the leadership of Narendra Modi. This shouldn't surprise anyone but it is a reflection of Modi's standing and stature, and also a rebuttal of any suggestion that there could be an alternative.

Second, the PM and the CMs also discussed the measures the government has taken to address the angst of key voter groups — farmers ; people from the scheduled castes and tribes; and people from other backward classes. It is clear that the party will try and reach these constituencies with the message that it did something for them, just as it will try and highlight this government's welfare programmes.

Also discussed were the upcoming elections in three key states currently ruled by the BJP: Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.

The BJP has been in election mode for some time now — this newspaper pointed out that party president Amit Shah has visited most of the states in the past few months — and the meeting on Tuesday should be seen in this context. Since 2013, it has also become evident that the party has a better campaign machine than the Opposition.

The Opposition, which is hoping to put up a united front in 2019, needs to work on these three dimensions. The first concerns leadership, and not just because everyone now sees large elections as mano-a-mano contests. The second concerns the messaging. A campaign focusing on the shortcomings of the incumbent will work (as it did in 2014), but only if the latter is incapable of shaping an alternative narrative. The opposition must develop a message around what it will do to address specific issues if it comes to power. The third is simply having the resources to launch a campaign that is as intense as the BJP's.

Buffet's money in Paytm is a ringing endorsement

It's increasingly becoming clear that the march of fin-tech firms is unstoppable

Storied investor Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway has invested in One97 Communications, the parent of Paytm. Coming in the wake of WalMart's investment in Flipkart, this is a huge endorsement of the start-up ecosystem in India, especially its prized unicorns.

Established start-ups in the country should now no longer have trouble raising money from just about anyone. Given Buffett's iconic status , it is likely that other large investment funds that have so far ignored Indian unicorns now start seeing them in new light. Indeed, given how things work, it is likely that not just unicorns, but even lesser Indian start-ups will benefit .

Paytm itself is also a winner, although it already has powerful backers, including SoftBank and Alibaba. This investment reaffirms its position as the company to watch in the payments space. Buffett, a die-hard value investor, is known to shun risk, although he can often be contrarian, and his firm follows the same investment philosophy (Berkshire Hathaway has said that Buffett wasn't directly involved in the Paytm deal). Buffett has invested in technology firms, even start-ups, but his bets are far less risky than those of traditional venture capital investors — which isn't surprising because Berkshire Hathaway isn't a venture capital firm. Given this, the firm's investment in Paytm is an endorsement of the latter's business model.

The Buffett investment in Paytm is bad news for traditional banks and finance companies, though. Fin-tech, it was always known, would disrupt banks and finance companies, rendering their business models unviable and the firms themselves uncompetitive. Banks and finance companies have invested billions in technology in the hope that by digitising their businesses, they can avoid becoming irrelevant in the new world. But it's increasingly becoming clear that the march of fin-tech firms — Paytm's parent is one — is pretty much unstoppable.

comment

pivotalideas

NACHIKET MOR

Overhaul the medicine supply chain

Given the problems in the old system, many countries have developed more scientific models

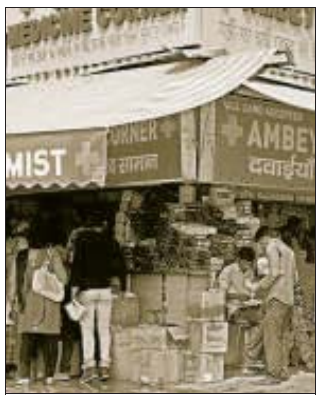
Health systems around the world are benefitting from recent advances in supply chain technologies to deliver essential medicines to patients more effectively. Traditional lines between public, private, online, and physical are starting to blur and, as a result, direct-to-home and online pharmacy models have developed more quickly in emerging markets like India than many had expected. A commonly used supply chain architecture for essential medicines in most developing countries has historically been bulk procurement by the national or state/provincial government and then distribution to districts and health clinics owned by the government. This approach, even when well implemented, may suffer from many problems which are linked to, among other things, multiple levels of complexity, long resupply intervals, uncertainties in financing, and diffused accountabilities. Many countries have, therefore, developed alternative supply chain models based on modern day supply chain science and technologies.

South Africa, for example, is now implementing a model in which the government negotiates prices and select suppliers, but the suppliers deliver the medicines directly to health clinics or district hospitals. In the past, such models were not feasible because of the challenges in verifying whether the supplier delivered the right quantity of products to the clinic. In South Africa, a new supply chain visibility platform enables supplier-direct-delivery by providing government procurement managers with unprecedented visibility into stock, receipts, and consumption at each health clinic.

One of the main sources of underperformance within supply chains stems from the lack of information capture and sharing. Modern supply chains have adopted information and communication technology such as the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network, being used in public sector in India, to improve information flow and decision making across these supply chains.

In Senegal, the government has started contracting private, third-party, logisticians for last-mile deliveries of all essential medicines from district warehouses to individual health clinics. Healthcare workers in clinics no longer have to determine order quantities for medicines or travel to district headquarters to collect medicines stock. The third-party logisticians deliver an assortment of 100+ medicine to each clinic and use tablet computers to collect stock and consumption data. This data, coupled with advanced analytics, allows for more precise forecasts of how much to ship to each clinic in the next round of delivery. As a result, medicine shortages have practically been eliminated in Senegal, that too at a reduced cost.

Around the world there is also a concern that distribution reach of the private sector is confined to more concentrated urban areas whereas those living in rural and remote regions depend on the public-sector medicines distribution system. Australia is one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world. Stocking products which are infrequently ordered and delivering them to remote rural pharmacies/clinics means minimal or no profit for private wholesalers and distributors. To remedy this incentive problem, the government of Australia runs an incentive pool which pays a small bonus to wholesalers who supply the full range of medicines to pharmacies in designated remote areas at or below the negotiated price. The Community Service Obligation (CSO) Incentive pool is overseen by an independent agency which monitors compliance and conducts regular audits of the distributors. Managing such an incentive pool requires strong government oversight and enforcement, but new digital technologies could also enable such structures in fragmented markets with lower enforcement capacity.



The distribution reach of the private sector is confined to exclusive urban areas HT

The private distribution network for medicines in China (not unlike India) is a complex multi-tier network with multiple middle men between the manufacturer and the end clinic. Some of the channel intermediaries charge additional markups adding to overall healthcare costs. The multiple product handoffs from one intermediary to another lead to the lack of transparency in the system and increased risks for fake products entering the supply chain. Modelling studies have shown the multiple benefits of reducing the number of tiers in the supply chain. Learning from them, China has now implemented a "two-invoice system" whereby only two invoices can exist between a manufacturer and a clinic. Each manufacturer sells to a distributor and that distributor sells directly to hospitals and clinics, eliminating multi-tiered distribution. In its phased implementation, rural areas which require "fine mesh distribution" would be allowed up to three invoices till national distributors can expand their distribution coverage to all regions.

As countries around the world, including India, attempt to ensure the timely availability of a full range of medicines to each and every one of their citizens, they would benefit greatly from studying some of these newer approaches that have been implemented, and developing appropriate solutions to their own challenges.

Prashant Yadav and Nachiket Mor are both employees of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
The views expressed are personal

UNSTOPPABLEFORCE

Rescue workers evacuate people from flooded areas after the opening of the Mullaperiyar dam shutters following heavy rains, on the outskirts of Kochi, August 15, 2018 REUTERS

Why dams cannot control such devastating floods

Dams subsume low and medium-level floods, but during high to very high ones, their safety cushions fall short

MANOJ MISRA

Devastating floods in Odisha (2011), Uttarakhand (2013), Tamil Nadu (2015), Bihar (2016) and now in Kerala prove that reservoir dams on rivers, contrary to claims, cannot prevent floods. In fact, they create devastating floods.

Here's why: Often dams are claimed to be multi-purpose projects, and prevention of floods is cited as one of the purposes of dams because they have something called a flood cushion, which gets filled only when a river is in spate. But floods don't have any uniform dimension. There are low floods, medium floods, high and very high floods. Many of these are cyclical in nature with high floods taking place in 25, 50 or 100 years. But in this era of climate change, these cycles have gone awry: high to very high floods visit us far more often than before.

Thanks to their flood cushions, dams subsume low and medium-level floods. But these harmless floods should not be controlled because they replenish floodplains with fresh nutrient-rich soil, boost fisheries and rejuvenate the riparian flora and fauna. Such floods also recharge aquifers. Farmers, too, welcome floods for these reasons. The prevention of low and medium-scale floods also provides a false sense of security to the State and people, leading to occupation of flood plains for raising housing colonies, highways, schools, colleges, commercial establishments and even airports as has been done in many cities in India.

But when high to very high floods come, the flood cushion proves ineffective and counterproductive, necessitating the dam manager to release as much water as possible in as little time as possible to save the structure from damage. Such emergency releases from the dam result in mayhem downstream, since the real flood cushion — the flood plains — are occupied. Unfortunately, rainfall, river and nature are blamed for the mess.

The pro-dam lobby often cites the example of Tehri dam in Uttarakhand. They claim it successfully controlled the very high flow in the river Bhagirathi in 2013. Yes, that's a fact. But it is also a fact that the event took place in June, when the dam reservoir did not have much water, and so could accommodate the sudden high inflows. What if the extreme event had taken place during the monsoon months of July-September when the reservoir would have been full? I am yet to get a convincing answer to this question.

Manoj Misra is convener, Yamuna Jiye Abhiyaan
The views expressed are personal

Rahul must reconsider his statement on 1984

Instead of having others defend him on the issue, he must show moral courage and own up to his mistake

HARINDER BAWEJA

Addressing a gathering at the Bucerius Summer School in Germany last week, Congress president, Rahul Gandhi, told his audience that his sister, Priyanka Gandhi, and he had forgiven Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, for ordering the assassination of his father, former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, in 1991. "The reason I wasn't happy was because I saw myself in his children. So I realised, him lying there actually means that there are kids like me who are crying," he said.

Rahul has often spoken of pain and has also been commended for being able to deal with the loss of a father who died a violent death. Yet, for someone who understands pain, it is surprising that he sought to absolve the Congress for the worst pogrom in which more than 3,000 Sikhs were killed in the Capital in riots that followed the assassination of Indira Gandhi.

Thirty four years have passed since Delhi burned. Several commissions of inquiry have named Congressmen for their involvement in the killing of Sikhs. Among the various commissions, the one headed by Justice GT Nanavati expressly named leaders including Jagdish Tytler and Sajjan Kumar. The cases against them were reopened, after the report said there was "credible evidence" and Rahul, who was a Member of Parliament by then, must surely remember that Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was forced to drop Tytler from his Cabinet.

Several leaders, including former home and finance minister P Chidambaram and Punjab chief minister Amarinder Singh, have jumped to Rahul's defence, saying he was only a child, barely 13 or 14 years of age, in 1984. The Punjab CM, in fact, has made it worse by naming Congressmen and saying they may have acted in their personal capacity.

IT'S BEEN ALMOST 34 YEARS SINCE DELHI BURNED. SEVERAL INQUIRY COMMISSIONS HAVE NAMED SENIOR CONGRESSMEN FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE KILLING OF SIKHS.

If I were Rahul Gandhi, I would be embarrassed by both arguments. Age does not absolve you of the fact that as the president of the grand old party, you ought to know your history. In this case, it is contemporary history. For example, let's refer to all the Japanese leaders who have had to apologise for the havoc their country wreaked on its neighbours during World War II. They too were children at the time but they apologised even though they had no personal role.

Nor, for that matter, did Manmohan Singh, but he made a forceful speech in Parliament after the Nanavati report was tabled. "I have no hesitation in apologising to the Sikh community. I apologise not only to the Sikh community, but to the whole Indian nation because what took place in 1984 is the negation of the concept of nationhood enshrined in our Constitution," he said. He went a step further, saying, "I hang my head in shame."

Amarinder's defence, too, crumbles quickly. It is naive of him to suggest that leaders such as Sajjan Kumar — he named him — acted in a personal capacity, when, for the past 34 years, he continues to be a part of the Congress. Kumar and Tytler were even named as Lok Sabha candidates, but their names were withdrawn after a huge uproar in 2009.

Of late, Rahul Gandhi has been particularly articulate. He has addressed burning issues, including those of hate and lynchings, and even went to the extent of hugging Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Parliament. In his favour, it must also be said, that he is willing to take live questions but in the current instance, he could hardly have been unprepared for a question relating to the 1984 violence. The question has dogged the party for 34 years and his mother, too, has apologised for the pain of the pogrom.

As he prepares for the big battle of 2019, Rahul Gandhi must reconsider what he said. Senior Congress leaders such as Tytler and Sajjan are still being adjudicated on in court. Instead of having Chidambaram and others defend him, he must show moral courage and clarity and own up that he perhaps made a mistake. That one step alone will go a long way. He may even be hailed for being a politician who is willing to correct himself.

Justice lies at the heart of the 1984 riots, which was not only about those who died, but is also about the living, who continue to fight. Rahul Gandhi can help them — and himself — by speaking up again.

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innervoice

DO PROBLEMS HAUNT YOU? TAKE UP THE CHALLENGES ONE BY ONE

Shreeprakash Sharma

Human life is a mystery in which problems keep on befalling at regular intervals. Some people brace themselves for the challenges of life while others buckle down under the pressure of what seem to be insurmountable hardships of life.

However, giving in to the problems without trying to fight can be seen as lack of courage and an escapist attitude from the essential fulcrums of a balanced and blissful life.

Two important questions arise here: The first is, how to solve the problems of life without losing patience? One of the timeless treatises on braving challenges is to live life like an hourglass from which grains of sand drop one by one, over time. It means you should take up the challenges one by one. Trying to solve all the problems of life in one go is a waste of time. It has correctly been said that no man ever sank under the burden of the day. When the burden of tomorrow is added to today's burden, only then the weight is more than a man can bear. So, leaving the future to God and minding only what is happening now prevents us from falling into the whirlpool of anxieties and stresses.

The famous Greek philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras used to teach his disciples to live for the day. Living myriad moments at a time is the root of human miseries. Learning to avoid the rush of an avalanche of problems is a timeless secret to gain emotional poise and happiness.

Inner Voice comprises contributions from our readers.
The views expressed are personal

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Army personnel wait in the rain to present the guard of honour to Sri Lanka's President Maithripala Sirisena, before he arrives to attend the Bimstec summit in Kathmandu, Nepal, on Wednesday. REUTERS

Bimstec meet looks to boost anti-terror ties, connectivity

ON THE ANVIL PM to arrive today; members may announce plan to set up development fund

Jayanth Jacob & Anil Giri
letters@hindustantimes.com

KATHMANDU: The seven Bimstec member-states are expected to announce a connectivity master plan and step up counter-terror cooperation during a summit to be held here on Thursday and Friday, officials familiar with preparatory discussions said.

An announcement about setting up a development fund is also expected during the summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec), the officials said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive here on Thursday morning, his fourth visit to Nepal, to attend the summit of the grouping that has a combined gross domestic product of $2.8 trillion and which fits the two foreign policy priorities of his government — neighbourhood first and Act East. Of the seven members, five – India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka – are from South Asia and two, Thailand and Myanmar, are from Southeast Asia. Myanmar is the only Southeast Asian country that shares a land border with India.

As Kathmandu geared up to welcome the leaders with arches and cut-outs, the foreign ministers of the grouping gave the finishing touches to the agenda for the summit.

NARENDRA MODI WILL INAUGURATE THE NEPAL BHARAT MAITRI PASHUPATI DHARMASHALA BUILT WITH INDIAN AID

The connectivity master plan, which includes a pact for power grid connectivity and rail, road, sea and digital connectivity, has been in the works for some time as the 21-year-old grouping tries to leave behind an era of cooperation at a sluggish pace.

An Indian official said the Kathmandu declaration will reflect the "ambitious agenda" for connectivity. Other officials said institutions such as the Asian Development Bank had evinced interest in the connectivity plans.

"After the summit, the countries will get into the specifics of the master plan. Some of these plans can be aligned with national connectivity plans," said Nepal's foreign minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.

A memorandum of understanding on grid connectivity is set to be signed after the summit. The MoU envisages the establishment of the Bimstec Grid Interconnection Coordination Committee to undertake the Bimstec Grid Interconnection Master Plan Study, which will open up avenues for energy trade in the region.

The planned Bimstec development fund will undertake specific projects in member countries. Officials said modalities for the fund, such as raising the corpus, will be discussed in due course.

The summit will also focus on stepping up counter-terror cooperation, strengthening the Bimstec secretariat and putting in place a charter, an agreed blueprint for its functioning in a more coordinated manner.

The members have also looked at narrowing focus areas to key issues such as connectivity, poverty alleviation, trade, investment and tourism, climate change and security.

"BIMSTEC should focus on fewer areas. Instead of 14, they should bring it down to a few like four or five areas for detailed coordination. Among others, FTA should be concluded fast and the stage should be set for a comprehensive trade agreement, covering not only goods but services and investment," said Sachin Chaturvedi, director of Delhi-based think tank Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).

"The flexibility of Bimstec is its strength and it can move fast. This is the very reason that Saarc cannot move forward. Its charter does not allow quick decision-making."

During the Bimstec ministerial meeting, minister of state for external affairs VK Singh said India accords utmost priority to the grouping as it fulfills New Delhi's foreign policy priority of "neighbourhood first and Act East".

Strategic affairs expert Brahma Chellany agreed: "Bimstec fits well with India's Act East policy. India is returning to its traditional orientation to the east. Bimstec, like India's Act East policy, will help to realign India's foreign policy along the historical axis."

Modi is set to have bilateral meetings with leaders of the six other countries on the sidelines of the summit. Before he returns to Delhi on Friday, Modi will inaugurate the Nepal Bharat Maitri Pashupati Dharmashala built with Indian aid.

The grouping formed in 1997 has held only three summits — in 2004, 2008 and 2014. PM invited Bimstec leaders to a BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, Russia) outreach forum in Goa in 2016, giving impetus to the forum representing a geographical region that is home to 22% of the world's population.

face to face

PRADEEP KUMAR GYAWALI, Nepal foreign minister

'Access to Bay of Bengal region is key'

KATHMANDU: Nepal, the host of the Bimstec summit, is also the current chair of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation, and foreign minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali doesn't see the two groupings as "rival alternatives". In an interview with **Jayanth Jacob and Anil Giri**, he spoke about various issues. Excerpts:

What are your realistic expectations from Bimstec, considering the regional grouping, which is two decades old, hasn't taken off in terms of realising the objectives it set out to achieve?
Yes, 20 years is a long period for a regional cooperation initiative and we could have been more efficient and proactive. For Nepal, wider connectivity and access to the sea and markets of the Bay of Bengal countries are very important. Bimstec had identified 16 core areas to work on. I must say 16 areas make it vague and now we are focusing on six or seven issues such as connectivity and economic integration.

Connectivity is a broad concept.
Yes. It is physical and digital. Other areas such as customs facilitation are important, then (power) grid connectivity and so on. This region has huge potential for economic development, and integration and connectivity is a key instrument... But it is least integrated. For economic and regional integration, we need to accord top priority to connectivity.

Five of the seven Bimstec members are in South Asia, perhaps the world's least integrated region. Saarc was for regional integration. Now some would see Bimstec as an instrument to bypass Saarc. Do you subscribe to this?
Nepal gives high importance to both processes. We don't see them as rival alternatives. They are complementary to each other. Our aim is, and we are doing our best, to revitalise Saarc and make Bimstec more efficient. It is a matter of dismay that Saarc leaders haven't met in two years. We, through formal and informal channels, diplomatic and other channels, are sending strong messages that Saarc should be re-activated and the aspirations of the people of South Asia met. We are the chair of both processes.

Do you sense that India-Pakistan rivalry has derailed Saarc process?
Yes. Sometimes we feel (so) and it is sensible. However, Nepal feels dialogue, negotiations...can mitigate differences. It is natural that countries may have difference on various issues. But humanity has devised various options to address them. It is not the best option to sideline regional cooperation (due to a) misunderstanding. But since Saarc is lagging behind, it doesn't mean Bimstec will meet the same fate. We are trying for early organising (of the) Saarc (summit).

How far has Bimstec come in the area of anti-terror cooperation?
We are discussing this issue very seriously. Peace and security is an important aspect of Bimstec.

Security ramped up in Nepal

Anil Giri
letters@hindustantimes.com

KATHMANDU: Nepal has put in place an extensive security blanket in its capital Kathmandu ahead of the fourth Bimstec Summit that begins on Thursday, deploying more 10,000 security personnel led by army soldiers.

Following an assessment of security threats, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina will be provided "Z-plus" security cover, a senior home ministry official said.

Another top official said the security assessment had included threats to the heads of state and government from Islamist militants, Rohingya groups and the LTTE of Sri Lanka.

The Nepal Army will lead the overall security deployments for the visiting dignitaries and at vital installations, and it will be supported by Nepal Police, Armed Police Force and the National Investigation Department. Army commandos have been mobilised to protect the heads of state and government.

According to local media reports, a team from India's Special Protection Group (SPG) will accompany Modi throughout his stay in Kathmandu. The 27-member SPG team will provide round the clock security to him.

The Bangladeshi premier will be protected by special forces from her country and a Nepalese security team, said officials. "The Sri Lankan president might be at threat from the LTTE," a security official who did not want to be named said.

Nepalese security officials said they were keeping a close watch on Rohingya refugees living in Kathmandu, fearing protests against leaders from Bangladesh and Myanmar. Nepal hosts around 400 Rohingya refugees.

ODD-EVEN POLICY IN EFFECT FOR SUMMIT

Nepal has introduced an odd-even number driving plan in Kathmandu from Wednesday even as commuters faced huge difficulties. People were seen queuing for public transport and tourists were forced to walk at some places. Metropolitan Traffic Police Division chief Basanta Panta said the system will be in place till August 31.

SCHOOLS TO STAY SHUT

Schools in the Kathmandu Valley will remain closed during the summit, the federal affairs ministry said in a statement.

Centre issues advisory against 'Momo challenge'

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government has issued an advisory to guard against the 'Momo challenge', an online 'game' that is allegedly driving people to commit suicide in parts of the country.

The 'game' features the image of a girl with a distorted face and eyes bulging out called the "Mother Bird by Link Factory", according to reports. West Bengal police recently said the challenge claimed the lives of two people, months after similar reports connected to the 'Blue whale challenge'.

"It went viral... especially on WhatsApp," the advisory by the ministry of electronics and IT stated. The advisory has also asked people to look out for signs and symptoms including 'becoming withdrawn from friends and family' and 'persistent low mood and unhappiness'. It also asked parents to check in with their children and assess if there was 'unusually secretive behaviour' on their part.

Lynchings bad for India's reputation, says Alphons

Sutirtho Patranobis
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BEIJING: Lynchings are bad for India's image, tourism minister KJ Alphons has said in Beijing, indicating that the issue has the potential to affect the country's ability to attract foreign tourists.

"Well, it (lynching) shouldn't happen. Simple. And the PM (Narendra Modi) has called them criminals. And he told the states you have to take action because law and order is a state subject," he said during an interaction with Indian and Chinese reporters late on Tuesday evening.

Responding to a query from an Indian journalist on whether lynchings had impacted tourism, Alphons said: "Well, not on a big time basis…not really. But anything happening like that is bad for the reputation of the country. We won't say it's good for the reputation of the country."

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The General Manager (CP), RITES Ltd. invites on behalf of **Northern Railway,** online item rate bids on Two packet system for the following work: -

NIT No.: RITES/CP/AY RLY STN/BLDG/2018; **Name of work:** Construction of Station Building, Staff Quarters and Other Allied Works in connection with Development of Ayodhya Railway Station at Ayodhya, U.P. **Estimated Cost:** ₹71.37 Crore; **Earnest Money:** ₹25.00 Lakh; **Period of completion:** 21 months: **Last time & date of submission of bid:** 11:00 Hrs. on 19.09.2018

The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app**

Addendum/Corrigendum, if any, shall be hosted online only.

DATE EXTENSION NOTICE

The last date of submission of bids in r/o Tender No CE/NDZ/Ts/T-04/2018-19 floated for electrification works under the Infrastructure Plan Project - Part II for the supply, test, transport, construction, erection, testing and commissioning of 11kV/33kV lines, distribution transformer centers of varying capacities and other allied works in Parbhani Circle under Nanded Zone.
is extended as below.
1) Last Date of submission of bids extended up to 04.09.2018 up to 17.00Hrs.
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All other matter in the published tender will remain unchanged.

PR No. 220/18-19 Chief Engineer, MSEDCL Nanded Zone

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TFR/PD/CF 18-24	S/I/T of CAT6 UTP cables and Optical fiber cables along with accessories	7,00,000/-	500	14,000/-	14.09.2018

The Tender documents can be downloaded from our Website **www.tifr.res.in/tenders** OR **www.eprocure.gov.in/cppp** All further Corrigendum/Addendum's will be published on TIFR/CPPP Website only.
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REQUIREMENT OF PREMISES

Detailed notification inviting offers for our **Bhakti Park Branch,** having carpet area around ± 1500 sq.ft. is available in our website : **www.bankofindia.co.in**
Prescribed tender format for submission of offer may be obtained **upto 5.00 P.M.** from **29.08.2018 to 07.09.2018** from our office at above address.
Last date for submission of offer is **07.09.2018 upto 5.00 P.M.**
Dy. Zonal Manager, Mumbai South Zone

MUMBAI PORT TRUST

Notice for Sale Under Sections 61 and 62 of The Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

Under mentioned goods lying uncleared for over two months from their respective date of landing will be sold by e-Tender cum e-Auction Sale on **10/09/2018** or any date thereafter, if these goods are not cleared by the consignees within ten days from the date hereof :

Children Toys : 1) Toy Mall (2) Ace Shipping & Offshore Co. P. Ltd. (3) Hyundai Merchant Marine India Pvt. Ltd, Anti Theft Backpack: 1) Zydape (2) Mac-Nels Container Lines, Polyster Film: 1) Peuswnrial Shipping Agencies P. Ltd (2) Window Furnishing India (3) Transworld Shipping Services Pvt. Ltd, Office Chairs & Foam Mattress : 1) BEHL Innovations Private Limited (2) T. S. Lines (India) Pvt. Ltd.

It is to be specifically notified that in addition to the above lots, all goods landed prior to **10/07/2018** for which no specific notice might have otherwise been given are also included in this Auction.

Importers and Exporters in general are requested to note that the goods earlier withdrawn from sale on payment of Port Trust charges are re-listed in this e-Tender cum e-Auction Sale, on expiry of the period for which charges have been paid.

- e-Auction conducted every week
- No Custom formalities involved in clearance of sold goods
- No payment of Customs duty by the Purchaser

For further details of goods kindly visit -
MbPT Website : **www.mumbaiport.gov.in**
e-Auctioner Website : **https://mstcecommerce.com**

MbPT-39-2018 **Traffic Manager**

चलार्थ पत्र मुद्रणालय : नाशिक रोड
(भारत प्रतिभूति मुद्रण तथा निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड की इकाई)
भारत सरकार के पूर्ण स्वामित्वाधीन
Miniratna Category-I CPSE & ISO 9001:2008 & ISO 14001:2004 CERTIFIED
CIN: U22213DL2006GOI144763
Tel No. : 0253-2454493 E-mail: purchase.cnpnashik@spmcil.com
Fax No.: 0253-2464100 Website: www.spmcil.com

महाप्रबंधक, चलार्थ पत्र मुद्रणालय, नाशिक रोड निम्नलिखित मदो के लिए मोहरबंद निविदा आमंत्रित करते है । The General Manager, Currency Note Press, a unit of SPMCIL Nashik Road, invites sealed tender for the following items.
1. Tender No. 6000011409 Procurement of Dry Running Type Rotary Vane Pressure Vaccume Pump.
2. Tender No. 6000011559 Procurement of Un-Watermark white Band Roll Paper - 180 MM.
3. Tender No. 6000011484 Supply Installation, commissioning and Training of Printability Tester with Temperature Controlled Inking unit for Printing Inks.
4. The bid due date of Tender No. 6000011269 Procurement of Centrifugal Chiller 650 TR is hereby extended from 31.08.2018 upto 18.09.2018.
5. Tender No. 6000011490 Supply, Installation, Testing and Laying of power cable distribution boxes of security wall of CNP on Turnkey Basis.
कृपया आगे के विवरण के लिऐ हमारी वैबसाइट www.spmcil.com पर देखे ।
For further details, please visit our website at www.spmcil.com

NATIONAL TESTING AGENCY
Excellence in Assessment
(An autonomous organization under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India)
Corresponding Address: Plot No. C-20/1A/8, Block C, Sector 62 IITK Outreach Centre, Gautam Budh Nagar, Noida - 201309 (UP)

TENDER NOTICE

NTA/2018-19/002	Dated: 29.08.2018
Online Bids are invited through e-procurement CPPP site https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app on behalf of National Testing Agency (NTA) for "Use of Software/ Algorithm for conduct of Computer Based Test (CBT) for Various Professional Entrance and Eligibility Examinations by NTA" (On the basis of candidates count)	
Sale of Tender form / download from website	**05:00 PM of 29th August 2018**
Pre-Bid meeting for queries	**11:00 AM of 4th September 2018**
Last date for submission of Bid	**03:00 PM of 14th September 2018**
Opening of Technical bid	**03:00 PM of 15th September 2018**
Presentation & Demonstration by Bidders	**11:00 AM of 16th September 2018**
Opening of Financial bid of technically qualified bidders only	**05:00 PM of 16th September 2018**
Tender Cost	**₹25000**
Earnest Money	**₹100,00,000 (One Crore)**
The detailed tender document with specifications and terms & conditions are available on website **www.nta.ac.in** and **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**	**Director (NTA)**

NOTICE INVITING e-NIT
e-NIT No. WBIW/SE/MEC/NIT-09(e)/2018-19

e-NIT is hereby invited by the undersigned for t**he work:** "Improvement of Irrigation and flood management system through Durgapur Barrage by SITC of New Vertical Gate & Stop log Gate in connection with special repair of Barrage Gate, Gantry Crane, Emergency Floating Gate & Trestle Bridge including painting of all Gates of Durgapur Barrage at Block & P.S.-Barjora, District-Bankura" **TenderId: 2018_IWD_188144_1** Last date of online bid submission: **24/09/2018 at 5 PM.** Details may be seen from the **website https://wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbiwd.gov.in** **Sd/-**
Superintending Engineer
Mechanical & Electrical Circle
I&W Dte. Govt. of West Bengal

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S. M. S. MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS, JAIPUR

No. 3595-05 F/MC/Store/2018-19 Dated:- 21.08.2018

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 26- 92/ 2018-19

Online Bids are invited for the supply and installation of various items for various departments and attatched hospitals use of S.M.S. Medical College Jaipur, From Their Manufacturers/ Authorized Distributors/Dealers/Indian Agents can participate for bidding. You are requested to quote your best offer along with the complete details of specification and required documents.

Date of Publishing of Tender Documents	Bid Submission End Date	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	Technical Bid Opening Date	Total Items in NIT	Total Value of NIT (In Lacs)	UBN No.
28.08.2018 At 11.30 AM	17.09.2018 at 04.00 PM	31.08.2018 At 12.00 Noon	18.09.2018 at 10.30 AM	67	Rs. 2172=00	SMS1819GLOB00095 To SMS1819GSOB00161

1. The Tender Document, Technical Specifications, Estimated Value, Earnest Money and other information related to this NIT can be seen at website **medicaleducation.rajasthan.gov.in & http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**..Detailed tender notice and documents can be seen and download on web site **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**.
2. Tender shall be submitted online only through website **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**.
3. Pre-Bid Meeting with the intending bidders shall be held on 31-08-2018 at 12.00 pm onwards at LT-I SMS Medical College, Jaipur. All the respective bidders are requested to send comments/representations on or before pre-bid meeting. Intending bidders will be allowed to seek clarifications on specification, terms & con ditions etc. in writing to SMS Medical college Jaipur upto 5 pm on 31-08-2018. After above period no correspondence will be entertained in this meter.

This NIT can be seen on DIPR Web Site www.dipronline.org.

DIPR/C/11494/2018 **PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER**

WESTERN RAILWAY
CONSTRUCTION OF 2 LANE ROAD OVER BRIDGES

Dy. Chief Engineer (Construction)I, Western Railway, Pratapnagar, Vadodara-390004, invites **E-Tender No. Dy.CE/C/I/BRC/485** as per the details given below: **Name of the Work:** Construction of 2 Lane Road over bridges in lieu of LC No. 51 at Km. 51/4-5 on Anand-Khambhat section. **Approximate Cost of Work:** ₹ 904.72 Lakhs. **EMD:** ₹ 6,02,360/-. **Availability of Online Tender for Bidding:** From 21.08.2018 at 11.00 hrs. To 21.09.2018 upto 15.00 hrs. **Tender Opening Date:** 21.09.2018 at 15.30 hrs. **Note:** Regarding detailed notice containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility criteria, Similar Nature of work, detailed tender conditions, please visit **www.ireps.gov.in** Manual offers will not be considered.
follows us on: twitter.com/WesternRly

HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT BOMBAY

Hutatma Chowk,

Fort, Mumbai 400 032.

TENDER NOTICE NO. HIGH COURT / INTERNET LEASED LINE / 621 / 2018

Tender Notice for installation and commissioning of Internet Leased Line at

Bombay High Court

The High Court of Judicature at Bombay invites online bids (Technical & Financial) from two independent well-established firms / agencies having relevant experience, for procurement of two independent INTERNET leased line connectivity 50 Mbps (each) (1:1 uncompressed and unshared, redundant with last mile on optical fiber) using OFC technology at the premises of High Court of Judicature at Bombay, Mumbai. Interested parties may submit their Tender Offer **on or before 19/09/2018 up to 02.00 P.M.** on e-Tendering Website of Government of Maharashtra i.e. http://mahatenders.gov.in. The Tender document and the Terms and Conditions are available on the Websites viz. http://mahatenders.gov.in and http://bombayhighcourt.nic.in.

Date: 27th August 2018

Sd/-
Registrar General
High Court, Bombay.

DGIPR/2018-2019/2699

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htworld

I FEEL RESPONSIBLE BECAUSE I DIDN'T SEE THE PAIN IN MY BABY'S EYES. I SHOULD HAVE JUST KNOWN. IT'S MY FAULT, I DIDN'T KNOW.

› LEIA ROCHELLE PIERCE , mother of Jamel Myles,9, who killed himself over homophobic bullying

photooftheday

Fireworkers remove a four-metre gold statue of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan from Wiesbaden, Germany, on Tuesday after it provoked an angry response from locals. The statue was erected on August 26 as part of an art festival. AFP

shortstories

PAKISTAN GOVT SAYS INTERPOL REJECTED REQUEST FOR MUSHARRAF'S ARREST

ISLAMABAD : Interpol has rejected Pakistan's request to issue a Red Corner notice for former president Pervez Musharraf as it does not want to interfere in cases of a political nature, the government on Wednesday informed a special court hearing the treason case against the former military dictator who is now in Dubai. The government's reply came as the tribunal resumed hearing the case against Musharraf for suspending the Constitution in 2007 by imposing emergency. Musharraf, 75, was indicted in the case in March 2014 after he appeared before the court and rejected all charges. Interior secretary Yousuf Naseem Khokhar informed the court that a letter was written to Interpol to issue a Red Warrant. AGENCIES

Trudeau says Nafta deal possible by Friday

OTTAWA: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Wednesday there is a chance of reaching agreement on a continental trade deal with the US and Mexico by the end of the week. Just a day after Canadian trade officials rejoined talks on the North American Free Trade Agreement in Washington, Trudeau said, "There is a possibility of getting to a good deal for Canada by Friday," the day the US has set to have at least the broad accord completed. AFP

Russia's Putin offers pension concessions

MOSCOW : Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday scaled back plans to lift women's retirement age by eight years to 63 as he offered concessions to a package of pension reforms that have hit his approval ratings. Putin said the new retirement age for women will be raised to 60 from the current 55, instead of the 63 previously proposed. AP

India, Pakistan hold talks on Indus Waters Treaty

LAHORE: India and Pakistan on Wednesday commenced crucial talks on various aspects of the Indus Waters Treaty, the first bilateral engagement since Prime Minister Imran Khan took office. The first round of the two-day meeting was held at the National Engineering Services Pakistan. The water commissioners of Pakistan and India are required to meet twice a year and arrange technical visits to projects' sites and critical river head works. PTI

Imran to skip UN meet to focus on Pak economy

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's new Prime Minister Imran Khan will skip next month's United Nations General Assembly session to focus his attention on the country's economy, said his foreign minister. Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi will head the Pakistani delegation at 73rd UN General Assembly session set to open on September 18. REUTERS

inthenews

JULIA FLORES COLQUE

Bolivian woman might be world's oldest person with a recorded age of 117 years and 10 months

1 With a national identity card which says she was born on October 26, 1900, Flores Colque has witnessed two world wars, revolutions in Bolivia and the transformation of her rural town of Sacaba with 3,000 people to a bustling city of more than 175,000

2 Birth certificates did not exist in Bolivia until 1940, and births previously were registered with baptism certificates provided by Roman Catholic priests. Flores Colque's national identity card, however, has been certified by the Bolivian government

3 The previous oldest person, a 117-year-old Japanese woman, died earlier this year. A spokeswoman for Guinness World Records said she was not aware of receiving any application for Flores Colque, who doesn't seem to care that her record hasn't been confirmed.

Trump warns of 'violence' if Republicans lose midterm polls

SCAREMONGERING US prez tells evangelical leaders that Democrats will reverse his achievements 'overnight'

Yashwant Raj
yashwant.raj@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: US President Donald Trump has warned evangelical leaders that Republicans losing control of Congress in the midterm elections will result in Democrats overturning his achievements "quickly and violently".

At a closed-door meeting with evangelist leaders at the White House on Monday, Trump said everything on his agenda would be at stake if Republicans lose in November, according to an audiotape of the meeting obtained by The New York Times.

"They will overturn everything that we've done, and they'll do it quickly and violently, and violently," Trump said, according to a Times report.

"There's violence. When you look at antifa, and you look at some of these groups — these are violent people," he said, referring to a group of aggressive anti-fascist activists.

When contacted by the Times, a White House spokesman declined to elaborate on what Trump meant.

The control of both chambers of Congress is at stake in the midterm elections, and there are fears that if Democrats take back the House of Representatives and the Senate from the Republicans, they could not only stymie Trump's legislative agenda but could also move towards impeaching him.

Evangelicals are a key constituency for Trump and he appealed to them to use their pulpits to urge congregants to go vote in the November elections.

"I think we're doing very well, and I think we're popular, but there's a real question as to whether people are going to vote if I'm not on the ballot," he said.

"I just ask you to go out and make sure all of your people vote," Trump said. "Because if they don't... we're going to have a miserable two years and we're going to have, frankly, a very hard period of time because then it just gets to be one election — you're one election away from losing everything you've got."

WHITE HOUSE COUNSEL MCGAHN TO LEAVE POST

White House counsel Don McGahn, whose time serving President Donald Trump has been marked by tension related to the investigation of Russian election interference, will leave the job in the coming weeks.

"White House Counsel Don McGahn will be leaving his position in the fall, shortly after the confirmation (hopefully) of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the United States Supreme Court," Trump tweeted on Wednesday. "I have worked with Don for a long time and truly appreciate his service!"

McGahn voluntarily cooperated with Special Counsel Robert Mueller and his team in a continuing investigation that already has resulted in guilty pleas, indictments and cooperation deals and one conviction for several Trump insiders.

(With inputs from Agencies)

No Red Card for rhetoric? US President Donald Trump with FIFA president Gianni Infantino. REUTERS

White House to probe Google after Trump accuses it of bias

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: The White House indicated it will investigate Google after President Donald Trump accused the tech giant, as well as Facebook and Twitter, of promoting negative news coverage of his administration.

Trump's economic adviser Larry Kudlow told reporters on Tuesday that the White House was "taking a look" at Google, saying the administration would do "some investigation and some analysis," without providing further details.

His comments came hours after Trump accused Google's search engine of promoting negative news articles and hiding "fair media" coverage of him.

Trump's attack against the Alphabet Inc unit follows a string of grievances against technology companies, including social media Twitter Inc and Facebook Inc, which he has accused of silencing conservative voices, and Amazon.com Inc, which he has said is hurting small businesses and benefiting from a favourable deal with the US Postal Services.

Google denied any political bias, saying in a statement that its search engine is "not used to set a political agenda and we don't bias our results towards any political ideology."

Trump said in several tweets on Tuesday that Google search results for "Trump News" were "rigged" against him because they showed only coverage from outlets like CNN and not conservative publications, suggesting the practice was illegal. "Google is really taking advantage of our people," Trump said. "Google, and Twitter and Facebook, they are really treading on very, very troubled territory."

PAK MINISTER WORKING ON KASHMIR PROPOSAL

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan human rights minister Shireen Mazari is working on a proposal for "conflict resolution" in Kashmir that will soon be presented to Prime Minister Imran Khan and the cabinet for approval.

The minister is currently working on the proposal and it is yet to be finalised, said a person in Islamabad familiar with the latest developments in the matter.

Mazari, who is considered a hardliner on India and has worked on defence and strategic issues for long, told the media on Wednesday that she is "working on a conflict resolution model for Kashmir". She did not give details.

In a television interview earlier this week, Mazari said the draft proposal is expected to be ready by the end of next week and will then be circulated among "all the stakeholders".

"It will first be shown to the cabinet and the prime minister. If it is approved, the matter will be taken forward," she said.

However, it is unclear whether the proposal is being prepared at the behest of the ruling Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party or is a personal initiative of Mazari. After the PTI won the general election, Mazari was tipped to become the defence minister but she did not get the portfolio, apparently due to objections from the powerful military.

Observers said the proposal could be part of efforts by Mazari to remain relevant after she was given the relatively low profile human rights portfolio. They said the proposal could contain some new confidence-building measures or humanitarian measures but it was not clear how far it would go in finding a lasting solution to the Kashmir issue. HTC

Pakistani Islamists call for Dutch envoy's expulsion over cartoons

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

LAHORE: An Islamist party in Pakistan called for the expulsion of the Dutch ambassador on Wednesday as it launched a protest against a far-right Dutch politician's plan for a cartoon competition featuring caricatures of Prophet Mohammed.

Several thousand activists began a march in Lahore for the demonstration organised by Tehreek-e-Labbaik, a party that amassed the fifth largest number of votes in a general election last month having campaigned as a defender of the laws and punishments for crimes of blasphemy.

Party leader Khadim Hussain Rizvi set out from Lahore's historic centre at the head of a protest which he aims will pass through the towns of Punjab province to Islamabad, where protesters will stage a sit-in to pressure Prime Minister Imran Khan to cut diplomatic ties with the Netherlands.

"The Dutch ambassador should be immediately deported," Labbaik spokesman Ejaz Ashrafi told Reuters. "We will only stop when the government meets this demand."

Pakistan has already complained to the Dutch government about far-right parliamentarian Geert Wilders' plans for a cartoon contest that will upset and provoke Muslims.

Foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said he planned to take up the issue with the UN and several world leaders.

HURRICANEMARIA

Aftermath of Hurricane Maria in San Juan in October 2017. AP FILE

Puerto Rico death toll raised to 2,975

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

SANJUAN: Puerto Rico's governor raised the US territory's official death toll from Hurricane Maria from 64 to 2,975 on Tuesday after an independent study found that the number of people who succumbed in the desperate, sweltering aftermath had been severely undercounted.

The new estimate was made by researchers with the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University.

"We never anticipated a scenario of zero communication, zero energy, zero highway access," governor Ricardo Rossello told reporters. "I think the lesson is to anticipate the worst. ... Yes, I made mistakes. Yes, in hindsight, things could've been handled differently."

He said he is creating a commission to study the hurricane response, and a registry of people vulnerable to the next hurricane, such as the elderly, the bedridden and kidney dialysis patients.

Rossello acknowledged Puerto Rico remains vulnerable to another major storm. He said the government has improved its communication systems and established a network to distribute food and medicine, but he noted there are still 60,000 homes without a proper roof and that the power grid is still unstable.

Tuesday's finding is almost twice the government's previous estimate, included in a recent report to Congress, that there were 1,427 more deaths than normal in the three months after the storm.

The George Washington researchers said the official count from the September 20 hurricane was low in part because doctors were not trained in how to classify deaths after a disaster.

The number of dead has political implications for the Trump administration, which was accused of responding half-heartedly to the disaster.

China not to put boots on ground at Afghan base

Sutirtho Patranobis
spatranobis@hindustantimes.com

THERE WILL BE NO CHINESE MILITARY PERSONNEL OF ANY KIND INVOLVED IN AFGHAN SOIL, SAID MOSAZAI. CHINA ALSO DENIED THE REPORT

BEIJING: Chinese military personnel won't be stationed at the Beijing-funded counter-terrorism camp being built in Afghanistan, the Afghan envoy to China, Janan Mosazai, said on Wednesday.

The militaries of the two countries are working in close coordination on setting up a counter-terror mountain brigade in the northern Badakhshan region.

"There will be no Chinese personnel under any circumstances," Mosazai said in a statement.

He was reacting to a report in the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post.

The report said the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is likely to send hundreds of military personnel to Afghanistan's isolated Wakhan Corridor in Badakhshan after they complete building a camp in the area.

If true, the development would have been worrying for India, which recently agreed to jointly implement a capacity-building project with China in Afghanistan.

It was agreed on by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping during their informal summit at Wuhan in April.

Citing sources, the report said this would be the first time that China would have a military presence in the area, "a narrow strip of inhospitable and barely accessible land extending about 350 km from the northern Afghan province of Badakhshan to China's Muslim region of Xinjiang".

Sources told the newspaper that the Afghanistan base would have a different role than the one in Djibouti – where China has deployed more engineers and builders than combatants – because the "training camp is located close to Xinjiang, which Beijing sees as the main source of the "three forces" – separatism, terrorism and extremism – behind a series of violent attacks in the region in recent years".

Rejecting the SCMP report as false and baseless, Mosazai said: "The Chinese side is providing assistance to Afghanistan so that we can set up a mountain brigade in the north of Afghanistan in order to enhance our counter-terrorism operations in the region."

Texan begins selling plans for 3-D firearms

CHICAGO: A Texas man on Tuesday began selling digital gun-making blueprints, including for a 3D-printed plastic handgun, despite a judge's order barring the distribution of the material.

Cody Wilson initially published the files on his website four weeks ago, after a deal struck with the Trump administration that ended the federal government's efforts to block him.

Wilson's actions caused a political firestorm, and even prompted Trump to tweet that making gun blueprints easily available online "doesn't seem to make much sense!"

Multiple states filed a joint lawsuit claiming Wilson endangered public safety. One of the homemade weapons could evade metal detectors and all lacked traceable serial numbers.

A federal judge issued a temporary order on July 31 barring the distribution of the digital blueprints, and on Monday extended that order until the states' lawsuit is adjudicated.

Wilson told a news conference on Tuesday that he interpreted the judge's ruling as only barring the free online distribution of the blueprints. He instead began to offer the files for sale, and promised to send physical copies on flash drives or by email.

Visitors to his online marketplace, once again active on Tuesday, could name their own price for the information. AFP

Suspension of H-1B premium processing extended to Feb 19

WASHINGTON: The US on Tuesday announced it was extending the suspension of premium processing of petitions for H-1B non-immigrant visas for highly skilled foreign workers to February 19, 2019.

The current suspension was scheduled to end on September 11.

Premium processions allows the fast-tracking of H1-B petitions against a fee that is higher than that for normal visas. It cuts the processing time drastically, helping companies fill vacancies urgently and not wait for months in the ordinary process.

The Trump administration has also expanded the temporary suspension to include certain additional petitions.

When the US citizenship and immigration services (USCIS) first announced the freeze in 2017, it had said it needed to invest time and resources deal with a backlog of piled up petitions. It reiterated in its announcement on Tuesday that the suspension was to "process long-pending petitions, which we have been unable to process due to the high volume of incoming petitions and premium processing requests over the past few months, (and to) be responsive to petitions with time-sensitive start dates". HTC

'US Rohingya report consistent with UN'

Reuters
letters@hindustantimes.com

UNITED NATIONS: Findings of a US state department investigation into Myanmar's Rohingya crisis are "consistent" with those of a report by UN investigators released this week that called for Myanmar's commander-in-chief and other generals be tried for genocide, the US ambassador to the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Addressing the UN Security Council, Nikki Haley said "the world can no longer avoid the difficult truth of what happened."

She did not use the term "genocide" and the state department has said it had not yet concluded whether it shared the determination of "genocidal intent" that Monday's UN report attached to the attacks on Rohingya Muslims.

However, Haley said that of the more than 1,000 randomly selected Rohingya Muslims surveyed in the state department's own report, "fully one-fifth" witnessed more than 100 victims being killed or injured. She said 82% had seen a killing, more than half had witnessed sexual violence and 45% had witnessed a rape.

"The report identifies one group as the perpetrator of the overwhelming majority of these crimes: the Burmese military and security forces," Haley said, referring to the US report.

She said the Security Council must hold those responsible for the violence to account and added, "The whole world is watching what we do next and if we will act."

MYANMAR REJECTS UN REPORT

YANGON: Myanmar on Wednesday rejected the findings of a UN investigation alleging genocide by its military against the Rohingya in a defiant response to a crisis that has heaped international opprobrium on both its leadership.

"We didn't allow the FFM (the UN Fact-Finding Mission) to enter into Myanmar, that's why we don't agree and accept any resolutions made by the Human Rights Council," said government spokesman Zaw Htay. He said Myanmar's own independent Commission of Enquiry was set up to respond to "false allegations. AGENCIES

B'desh journalist hacked to death at her residence

DHAKA: A Bangladesh television journalist has been hacked to death with a sharp-edged weapon by unidentified assailants at her residence, media reports said on Wednesday.

Subarna Nodi, 32, was a correspondent for Ananda TV and also worked for the Daily Jagroto Bangla newspaper, bdnews24.com reported. She lived in the Radhanagar area of Pabna district, 150 km from Dhaka.

Around 10 to 12 assailants rang the doorbell of her house at 10.45 pm on Tuesday, bdnews24.com reported. When she answered the door, they hacked her and fled. AGENCIES

IRANNUCLEARAGREEMENT

Khamenei says ready to abandon deal

TEHRAN: Iran's supreme leader on Wednesday warned the country could abandon its nuclear deal with world powers if it no longer served its interests, even as economic and political pressure mounted on the government.

"Naturally, if we reach the conclusion that (the nuclear deal) is no longer maintaining our national interests, we will put it aside," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a meeting with the cabinet.

He said Iran must not "pin its hopes" on Europe, despite European efforts to salvage the nuclear deal following the withdrawal of the United States.

The government of President Hassan Rouhani has been battered by the return of US sanctions, which has triggered a rapid departure of foreign firms and ended his hopes of attracting large-scale investment.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. AFP

His political enemies are circling, with Parliament announcing two more ministers could be impeached in the coming days.

The labour and economy ministers have already been sacked by parliament this month and motions have been accepted to vote on impeaching his industries and education ministers in the coming days.

Khamenei insisted the political tumult was a sign of the strength of Iran's democracy.

He praised the tough questioning Rouhani received in Parliament on Tuesday as "a glorious show of the power of the Islamic republic and the self-confidence of officials."

Tuesday's grilling in parliament was the first for Rouhani in five years as president, and lawmakers slammed his handling of five economic issues, ranging from unemployment to the collapsing value of the currency.

In voting at the end of the session, they declared they were unsatisfied with four of his responses. AFP

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shortstories

Sanjiv Singh, chairman, Indian Oil Corp. Ltd

OMCs TO EXPAND NETWORK AFTER FOUR-YEAR GAP

MUMBAI: Indian Oil Corp. Ltd (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp. Ltd (HPCL) are set to expand their fuel retail network after a gap of nearly four years. The three state-run companies have an ambitious plan to open a combined nearly 50,000 fuel outlets over the next three years, said officials at IOCL. "With over 50,000 new fuel stations and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) distributorships coming up in the next few years, benchmarking to global standards and generating additional revenue streams from non-fuel business is an idea worth exploring by the oil marketing companies (OMCs)," Sanjiv Singh, chairman, IOCL, told shareholders at an AGM in Mumbai.

Aditya Birla Capital ties up with Varde Partners

MUMBAI: Aditya Birla Capital Ltd (ABCL), the financial services arm of Aditya Birla Group, has announced a joint venture with US-based alternative assets manager Värde Partners to invest in distressed assets in India. Aditya Birla Capital CEO Ajay Srinivasan said that Varde Partners will come on board as a 50 :50 joint venture partner in ABCL's newly incorporated asset reconstruction company for which it received RBI nod in September last year.

HC grants bail to Bhushan Steel ex-promoter Singal

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Wednesday directed that Bhushan Steel's erstwhile promoter Neeraj Singal, arrested by the SFIO for allegedly siphoning off ₹2,000 crore, be released on interim bail as the agency has not been able to justify the need for his continued incarceration. A bench of justices S Muralidhar and Vinod Goel said since Singal's challenge to the constitutional validity of the provisions for grant of bail and powers of arrest of SFIO were prima facie, not frivolous, he should be able to seek interim relief.

India may miss fiscal deficit target for 2018-19: Moody's

NEW DELHI: The government is likely to miss its fiscal deficit target in its final year in office due to higher than budgeted oil prices and rising interest rate scenario, Moody's Investors Service said. The government has set the target of reducing fiscal deficit to 3.3% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2018-19 from 3.5% of GDP in the previous financial year.

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RBI: Economy may clock 7.4% growth; bad loans likely to rise

MOUNTING BURDEN RBI warns of deterioration in NPAs due to prevailing economic conditions

Agencies
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MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Wednesday that banks will witness further deterioration in their non-performing assets (NPAs) or bad loans due to the "economic situation prevailing" in the current fiscal.

According to RBI's Annual Report 2017-18, gross non-performing assets (GNPAs) plus restructured standard advances in the banking system remained elevated at 12.1% of gross advances at the end of March 2018.

The combined impact of the increase in provisioning against NPAs and mark-to-market (MTM) treasury losses on account of the hardening of yields eroded the profitability of banks, resulting in net losses, it said.

In a pre-emptive response, it said, the RBI allowed banks to spread their MTM losses over four quarters starting from third quarter.

"Going forward, the stress tests carried out by the Reserve Bank suggest that under the baseline assumption of the current economic situation prevailing, the GNPA ratio of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs) may increase further in 2018-19," it said.

The aggregate gross NPAs of SCBs increased primarily as a result of this transparent recognition of stressed assets as NPAs, from ₹3,23,464 crore, as on March 31, 2015, to ₹10,35,528 crore, as on March 31, 2018.

In order to curb NPAs, the RBI has put in place revised and harmonised guidelines for resolution of stressed assets during the year, replacing earlier schemes like Sustainable Structuring of

Gross non-performing assets plus restructured standard advances remained elevated at 12.1% of gross advances at end of March 2018, the RBI Annual Report said MINT

Stressed Assets (S4A scheme), Strategic Debt Restructuring scheme (SDR), Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme and Joint Lenders' Forum (JLF).

On GDP front, the RBI expects economic growth rate to accelerate to 7.4% in the current financial year owing to a pickup in industrial activity and good monsoon. In its annual report released on Wednesday, the RBI also said its monetary policy will continue to be guided by the objective of achieving the medium-term target for retail inflation of 4%, within a tolerance band of +/- 2 per cent, while supporting growth.

It cautioned that India's external sector will have to confront global headwinds, but expressed confidence that the current account deficit would largely be financed by foreign direct investment. Several experts, including India's largest lender State Bank of India, expects the CAD to widen this fiscal on account of high oil prices and a large trade deficit. The CAD was estimated at 2% of the GDP in the financial year ending March 2018.

The report noted that agricultural production is likely to remain strong, growth impulses in industry are strengthening—propelled by a sustained pickup in manufacturing and mining activity, corporates are reporting robust sales growth and an improvement in profitability, and services sector activity is set to gather pace.

Also, revenue-earning freight traffic of railways has picked up, driven by stepped-up movement in coal, fertiliser and cement.

"Keeping in view the evolving economic conditions, real GDP growth for 2018-19 is expected to increase to 7.4% from 6.7% in the previous year, with risks evenly balanced," said the RBI report.

The report has maintained the projection regarding GDP growth for the current fiscal as estimated in the third bi-monthly monetary policy of 2018-19 announced earlier this month.

The RBI report also said the transfer of surplus to the government rose by 63.08% to ₹50,000 crore during the financial year ending June 30, 2018. It had transferred a surplus of ₹30,659 crore to the government in financial year 2016-17.

The central bank transfers the surplus generated from its functions to the government at the end of each financial year, after accounting for any funds transferred to the contingency reserve or the asset development fund. It follows July-June financial year.

The central bank also pointed out that India remains a preferred destination for foreign direct investment (FDI) as domestic consumption remains strong.

With manufacturing sector gathering momentum, helped by both services and agriculture sectors, consumption demand remains robust in the country making it an attractive investment destination, the annual report said.

India received $37.3 billion capital inflow in 2017-18 as compared to $36.3 billion in the previous fiscal. During the 2015-16, the country received $36.06 billion.

Giving details of FDI flow, the report said, the increase in foreign capital flow was mainly due to higher flows into the communication services, retail and wholesale trade, financial services and computer services.

Prepare list of PSBs that can be merged, govt tells central bank

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NEW DELHI: The government has asked the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to prepare a list of candidates for merger among 21 public sector banks (PSBs) as it seeks to strengthen a banking system laden with bad debt, people familiar with the matter said.

In a meeting this month, finance ministry officials also asked the RBI to suggest a time frame for the consolidation, the people said, asking not be named as the information isn't public. The move is aimed at creating fewer, better-capitalized lenders and improving regulatory oversight, they said.

India has been battling for years to clean up its banks, which have the highest bad-loan ratio after Italy among the world's 10 largest economies. PSBs are estimated to hold 90% of non-performing loans, and 11 of the 21 are operating under an emergency programme, supervised by the RBI, which restricts new lending.

A phone call to a finance ministry spokesman and an email to the RBI seeking comment weren't immediately answered.

PSBs need to consolidate to avoid losing more market share to peers in the private sector, the outgoing chairman of Bank of Baroda Ravi Venkatesan said in July.

Airtel has approached the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal seeking a stay on the DoT demand MINT

DoT seeks ₹1,626 cr from Airtel to clear merger with Tikona

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NEW DELHI: The department of telecommunications (DoT) has in a letter dated August 17 asked Bharti Airtel Ltd to pay in cash and through a bank guarantee a total of ₹1,626.89 crore to clear its merger with Bharti Digital Networks (formerly known as Tikona Digital Networks).

Airtel has, however, approached the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) seeking a stay on the DoT demand.

DoT asked Airtel to pay ₹185.62 crore in cash. This is the difference between the entry fee payable for unified access service licence in the four telecom circles of Gujarat, Himachal, Uttar Pradesh (east) and Uttar Pradesh (west) and the entry fee already paid by Tikona under unified licence in the 2300 MHz band.

This payment would enable Airtel to also provide voice services using the spectrum in the four circles. Tikona has 20 MHz spectrum in these circles and the Rajasthan circle.

"Bharti Airtel shall (also) submit bank guarantee towards one-time spectrum charges for ₹1,441.27 crore towards spectrum holding beyond 4.4 MHz (under the merger and acquisition guidelines)," the letter said.

Mint has seen a copy of the letter. One-time spectrum charges are payable by companies that want to convert their administered spectrum or spectrum not bought in an auction to liberalised or auctioned spectrum. Auctioned spectrum can be deployed flexibly for any purpose, unlike administered spectrum.

Under the department of telecommunications's merger and acquisition guidelines, if a transferor (Tikona) holds a part of the spectrum, which (up to 4.4 MHz) has been assigned against the entry fee paid, the transferee (Airtel), at the time of merger, shall pay to the government, the differential between the entry fee and the market-determined price of spectrum from the date of approval of such arrangements by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) on a pro-rata basis for the remaining period of validity of the licence.

In respect of spectrum holding beyond 4.4 MHz, a bank guarantee for an amount equal to the demand raised by the DoT for one-time spectrum charges shall be submitted by transferee (Airtel), pending final outcome of the court case, according to the guidelines.

NCLAT admits Mistry's plea, issues notice to Tata Sons

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NEW DELHI: An appellate tribunal on Wednesday admitted ousted Tata Sons Ltd chairman Cyrus P Mistry's plea challenging a National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) order that upheld his removal as chairman.

The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has issued a notice to Tata Sons seeking a response on the matter within 10 days.

The petition, which has been filed by Mistry in his personal capacity, requests the appellate tribunal to set aside the order passed by the Mumbai bench of NCLT on July 9. Mistry has also said that some words and comments written against him in the NCLT order should be expunged.

The NCLT bench had, as part of the same order, allowed Tata Sons to become a private firm, which has also been challenged in NCLAT by the Mistry family.

The two-judge NCLAT bench, headed by Justice SJ Mukhopadhyay, on Wednesday said that the plea filed by Mistry will be heard on September 24 along with the other petition filed by Mistry's family-run investment firm, Cyrus Investments Pvt. Ltd.

Last week, the appellate tribunal admitted the plea by Cyrus Investments seeking an interim

Tata Sons' ousted chairman Cyrus Mistry MINT/FILE

stay on the conversion of Tata Sons into a private company from a deemed public company and posted the matter for hearing on September 24, after which the fate of Tata Sons as a public company is likely to be decided. It also restrained Tata Sons from forcing the Mistry family out of the holding company till the hearing on the matter is over.

"If the appellants (Cyrus Investments) are forced to sell their shares, which may affect the merits of the appeal as they will cease to be member(s) of the company, we direct the respondents (Tata Sons) not take any step in terms of Article 75 for transfer of shares of minority shareholders like appellants and others during the pendency of the appeal," said the tribunal in its interim order issued on Friday.

Article 75 of the Articles of Association relates to "company's power of transfer shares".

If the appellate tribunal allows Tata Sons to become a private firm, it would insulate the company from any threat of being taken over by any entity in a "hostile manner".

This means any shareholder of privately held Tata Sons will have to seek permission from its board before selling his stake to another entity, including one with a hostile intent. The Mistry family, which had deep ties with the Tata group before the public spat, owns 18.4% stake in Tata Sons valued at $17 billion.

Shareholders of Tata Sons on September 22, 2017 voted in favour of the Tata group holding firm becoming a private company at the first annual general meeting (AGM) under the chairmanship of N Chandrasekaran.

The move was opposed by the Mistry family, represented by a proxy, because it would restrict the ability of his family firms to sell their stake. Mistry, in his appeal filed through a family run investment firm, had also alleged "oppression and mismanagement" on the part of Tata Sons.

Taking note of the issue, the NCLAT in its order said on Friday, "We have noticed the rival contention of the parties. We are not inclined to decide the aforesaid issue at the stage of hearing for grant of interim relief."

Disclose names and action taken against wilful defaulters: CIC

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NEW DELHI: The Central Information Commission (CIC) has asked the Union government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to disclose the names of wilful defaulters of ₹50 crore and above and the action taken against them, saying every taxpaying citizen has a right to know about it.

The direction came recently from central information commissioner M Sridhar Acharyulu while hearing a plea seeking information. Acharyulu pointed out that defaulters of small amounts like farmers are defamed in public, while defaulters above ₹50 crore were given a long rope, news agency *PTI* reported on Wednesday quoting the written order.

Defaulters above ₹50 crore were given high concessions in the name of one time settlements, interest waivers and several other privileges and their names are hidden from exposure to secure their reputation, the *PTI* report said quoting the order.

RBI and banks have been making serious efforts to recover dues from wilful defaulters and to bring them to book.

The central bank has shown some reluctance in disclosing the names of wilful defaulters , but banks such as Punjab National Bank (PNB) name and shame wilful defaulters as part of recovery efforts.

UTI AMC chief executive Leo Puri MINT/FILE

Govt to give green signal to ₹5,000 cr UTI AMC share sale

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MUMBAI: T Rowe Price, the largest shareholder of UTI Asset Management Co. (UTI AMC), called a truce with the government and the markets regulator after the finance ministry agreed to issue a no-objection (NOC) letter for UTI AMC's initial share sale, and direct state-run financial institutions to cut their stakes in the local asset manager, two people aware of the development said.

The US fund manager withdrew its writ petition against the government, the Securities and Exchange Board of India and other UTI AMC shareholders on Tuesday after it was satisfied with the assurances given by finance ministry officials at a meeting in early August, the people cited above said on condition of anonymity.

Accordingly, the government will ask Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC), State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Bank of Baroda (BoB) to slash their stakes in UTI AMC from 18.25% to 10% each within a deadline. T Rowe Price owns 26% in UTI AMC, but the four government institutions together command a majority on its board.

T Rowe Price approached the Bombay high court on August 8, seeking its intervention to force the four state-run institutions to reduce their stakes as mandated by the stock markets regulator, and order the continuance of its chief executive Leo Puri. On August 28, it withdrew the petition.

"The government has said this time that it will work out a plan favourable for all stakeholders and the AMC. The government will direct the four public sector sponsor-cum shareholders (who have their own separate in-house AMC businesses) to reduce their stakes in UTI AMC in the next three months, definitely by end of March 2019," said the first person.

According to the second person, UTI AMC is likely to come out with a ₹5,000-crore IPO.

Tata Power-backed Resurgent set to buy 75% stake in Prayagraj Power

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MUMBAI: Lenders to Prayagraj Power Generation Co. Ltd have approved a bid from Resurgent Power Ventures Pte Ltd to buy a controlling stake in the debt-laden company.

A likely deal would mark the first acquisition by Resurgent, according to a statement issued by Tata Power on Wednesday. Resurgent is backed by Tata Power Co. Ltd and ICICI Venture Funds Management Co. Ltd, a unit of ICICI Bank Ltd.

The lenders have offered a letter of intent to Resurgent to acquire 75.01% stake in Prayagraj, Tata Power said.

Prayagraj has a 1,980 megawatts (MW) super critical coal-based power project in Uttar Pradesh and figured in a February 12 circular of the Reserve Bank of India, directing banks to resolve their debts before the August 27 deadline.

"After our due diligence, we found that Prayagraj Power fits in our overall scheme of growth," said Praveer Sinha, chief executive and managing director at Tata Power. He said Prayagraj has "all approvals and clearances in place along with long-term PPA and fuel-supply agreement".

Established in September 2016, Resurgent is a Singapore-based fund owned 26% by Tata Power and 10% by ICICI Venture.

Kuwait Investment Authority, Oman State General Reserve and Canadian pension fund Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec hold the remaining stake.

Rupee falls to all-time closing low of 70.59

IANS
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MUMBAI: Caution ahead of key macro-economic data, coupled with volatile global crude oil prices and a rise in the demand for US dollars pulled the Indian rupee to a fresh low on Wednesday.

According to analysts, continuous outflow of foreign funds from the country's equity markets also dragged the rupee lower.

On an intra-day basis, the Indian rupee plunged to 70.65-66—the lowest ever mark—against the greenback after it opened at the Interbank foreign exchange market at 70.31-32 and soon surpassed its record low of 70.40 to a greenback made on August 16.

ACCORDING TO ANALYSTS, CONTINUOUS OUTFLOW OF FOREIGN FUNDS FROM THE COUNTRY'S EQUITY MARKETS ALSO DRAGGED THE CURRENCY LOWER

It settled at a record closing low of 70.59-60 against the US dollar, weaker by 49 paise from Tuesday's close of 70.10 to a US dollar.

"Weakness across emerging market currencies like Lira, Real, Ruble, Rand and Yuan, alongwith weakness in Euro has caused Rupee to depreciate. Rising oil prices is an added concern. RBI may have been an active seller on dollars in spot market as well as derivatives market," said Anindya Banerjee, deputy vice-president for Currency and Interest Rates with Kotak Securities.

"Over the near term we expect USD/INR to remain within a range of 70-71.20 on spot."

Apart from global cues, outflow of foreign funds from the Indian equity and bond markets has had an adverse impact on the rupee.

Investment-wise, provisional data with exchanges showed that foreign institutional investors sold scrips worth ₹1,415.87 crore whereas domestic institutional investors bought stocks worth ₹1,114.36 crore.

Besides, caution prevailed ahead of the release of India's GDP and fiscal deficit data. The key macro-economic data points will be released on Friday.

"Factors like month-end US dollar demand from importers, increase in crude oil prices in the international market and caution ahead of key economic data on Friday pressurised the rupee," Anand Rathi, Shares and Stock Brokers research analyst Rushabh Maru told *IANS*.

Meanwhile, the government on Wednesday said the Indian currency was expected to remain in the range of 68 to 70 during the year.

Economic affairs secretary Subhash Chandra Garg told the media that the depreciation in the rupee was due to some small mismatch in the demand and supply, which may go either way depending on the view taken by the operators. He said while foreign portfolio investors took some $9 billion from the country during the first three months of the current fiscal, net flow was at an equilibrium in July.

TRADING BARBS

Musk's rants rekindle concern about troublesome tweeting

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SAN FRANCISCO: Just days after hastily abandoning a short-lived exploration of taking Tesla Inc. private, Elon Musk returned to Twitter to showcase the impulsiveness that has raised the eyebrows of investors and regulators alike lately.

In a series of posts late on Tuesday, the unpredictable chief executive officer denied that he cried during a *New York Times* interview earlier this month. Musk then couldn't resist trading barbs with a follower who criticized him for calling a cave explorer in Thailand a pedophile back in July. "For the record, my voice cracked once during the NY Times article. That's it. There were no tears".

Musk steered clear of making any assertions about Tesla, a key distinction from his posts that are said to be under investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission. But the missives served as fresh reminders of Musk's erratic Twitter tendencies and reinforced concerns about whether he can adhere to the SEC's rules, now that he's decided Tesla will stay public and continue to fall under the agency's oversight.

"He's not going to become a typical CEO, so the question is whether he's going to make statements that run afoul of securities laws," said Ken Bertsch, an executive director at the Council of Institutional Investors, a trade group that represents public pension funds that own Tesla shares. With the SEC, Musk is "going to be on a shorter leash," Bertsch said. "And I'm sure the company's lawyers are telling him that."

Tesla Motors chief executive officer Elon Musk REUTERS

You don't think it's strange he hasn't sued me? He was offered free legal services. And you call yourself @yoda …

The SEC hasn't acknowledged that it's investigating Tesla, and Ryan White, a spokesman for the agency, declined to comment for this story. A Tesla spokesman also declined to comment.

Musk started 17 days of drama when he tweeted on August 7 that he had "funding secured" to take Tesla private, without sharing evidence that investor money was indeed lined up. Generally, the SEC considers statements by executives to be material information that have to be true, and the comment prompted a subpoena from the regulator.

After Musk has changed course Friday and pledged to keep Tesla public, one of the biggest risks he faces is that the SEC will try to bar him from being an officer or a director of a public company. This level of punishment often stings much more than any fine, which is why most companies aggressively resist it in settlement negotiations with the regulator.

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asiangames

JAKARTA 2018
18 AUGUST-2 SEPTEMBER

medal tally

Country	G	S	B	Total
China	102	67	50	219
Japan	52	47	63	162
South Korea	37	42	50	129
Indonesia	30	22	36	88
Iran	19	16	17	52
India (9th)	11	20	23	54

G - Gold **S** - Silver **B** - Bronze
Medals tally updated till end of Day 11 of competitions.

newstracker

Edidiong Odiong. AP

BAHRAIN'S ODIONG COMPLETES SPRINT DOUBLE

JAKARTA: Nigerian-born Edidiong Odiong of Bahrain pipped India's Dutee Chand for the second time in three days to win the women's 200 metres gold and claim the prestigious sprint double at the Asian Games on Wednesday. Wei Yongli of China again came third to claim bronze in an exact repeat of the top three places in Sunday's 100m sprint final at the Gelora Bung Karno Stadium.In the shorter sprint, the 21-year-old Odiong won in a photo-finish over India's Chand but was a clear winner on Wednesday, clocking 22.96 seconds. She became the fourth woman to win the sprint double in a single Asian Games.

Wrestlers Bajrang, Vinesh in race for Khel Ratna

NEW DELHI: Champion wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat are in contention for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award after notching up gold medals in this year's Commonwealth Games and the ongoing Asian Games. It has been learnt that Bajrang has already filed his nomination through the Wrestling Federation of India, Vinesh is likely to be considered by the Sports Ministry. Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore is set to analyse the Indian athletes' performance in the Asian Games in the first week of September. The Ministry is then likely make its recommendations for the National Sports Awards to the selection committee, which will be finalised in the next few days. This year's ceremony will take place on September 25.

Japan basketball players suspended for buying sex

JAKARTA: Tottenham forward Son Heung-min will get one more shot at an exemption from military service after helping South Korea reach the final at the Asian Games. Son took leave from the Premier League to join the South Korea squad in Indonesia in pursuit of an Asian Games title. He figured a short break now could save him two seasons on the sidelines later. The South Korean government rewards Asian Games gold medals and Olympic medals of any kind with an exemption from the compulsory 21-month national service. Failing that, the 26-year-old Son would have to report for duty within the next couple of years. Lee Seung-woo scored twice and Hwang Ui-jo added to his tournament tally to give defending champion South Korea a 3-0 lead in Wednesday's semifinals at Pakan Sari Stadium before Tran Minh Vuong pulled one back for Vietnam with a well-taken free kick in the 70th minute. Son was replaced two minutes later and South Korea hung on for a 3-1 win to advance to Saturday's final against Japan, which beat United Arab Emirates 1-0. "Nah, the game was too late ... was difficult to watch but I was very happy (for) my team," he said. That goes for Spurs, and for South Korea. In a response to a question about an exemption from military service, Son said only that he was "happy to make the history" in what would be a win-win for himself and his country.

Swapna, Arpinder buoy gold haul

DOMINANCE Bengal girl becomes first Indian to win heptathlon gold with 6026 points; triple jumper breaks 48-year jinx

HT @ ASIAN GAMES

AJAI MASAND

JAKARTA: Self-belief and a desire to do something on the biggest continental stage was the unifying factor as triple-jumper Arpinder Singh, heptathlete Swapna Barman and sprinter Dutee Chand shone in the incandescence of the floodlights at the GBK Main Stadium here on Wednesday.

If one was to look for inspiration, he didn't have to look beyond a sturdy Sikh, a 21-year-old girl who has overcome debility and a seasoned sprinter who had challenged destiny to emerge champion at the Asian Games.

On a day when Arpinder clinched the triple jump gold, the daughter of a rickshaw driver, Swapna, bagged the top podium finish in the most punishing women's event and sprinter Dutee Chand overcame cramps to add to the 100m silver, it was the most productive day in track and field, pushing India's gold medal tally to 11, the same as the 2014 Incheon Asian Games and the total tally to 54, just three short of the previous continental Games.

And with at least five more medals assured — two in boxing, two in squash, and one in women's hockey — after Wednesday's performance, India is set to cross the Incheon tally of 57 medals.

Arpinder, who hails from Sonepat in Haryana, was left dehydrated by the extremely sultry conditions, unable to even come close to his personal best of 17.17m set in Lucknow four years back. But his best leap of 16.77m — on the third attempt — was enough for gold as others wilted. The silver-medallist from Uzbekistan, Ruslan Kurbanov, had the best jump of 16.62.

"I started getting cramps because of the conditions after the third jump, which was my best. I was not in a position to even do the fifth and sixth attempts properly and failed," said Arpinder, the son of an armyman who played kabaddi and wanted his son to take up the more glamorous track events such as 100, 200 and 400m. But Arpinder had made up his mind and he wanted to be a triple jumper.

"After a 16.77m, I wasn't confident of a medal, leave aside gold, but sometimes luck plays a major role," said the 25-year-old who became only the third Indian to win a triple jump gold, the others being Mohinder Singh Rai (1958) and Mohinder Singh Gill (1970).

Swapna Barman was an out-and-out winner even before she took the field for her last heptathlon event — the 800m. She only had to finish ahead of China's Wang Qingling, who was 63 points behind after the sixth and penultimate round of javelin. Though Swapna finished second-last in 800m, she made sure the Chinese finished behind her. Swapna's total of 6026 was 72 points better that of Qingling.

Swapna's improvement over the last four years can be gauged from the fact that at the 2014 Incheon Asian Games she had a total of 5178 points.

"I am happy I could achieve this feat despite terrible pain in my right jaw, the result of eating too many chocolates," the Jalpaiguri girl chuckled.

DUTEE'S DOUBLE

Bhubaneswar girl Dutee Chand could not come up with a similar performance as in the heats, where she timed 23:00 seconds in 200m, but still managed to add to the 100m silver she won on the opening day of athletics. Her timing of 23:20 was way behind Bahrain's Edidiong Odiong, who clocked 22.96. But the Orissa girl, who has fought many a battle to come back on track, said, "I am finally feeling I am back to where I belong. Bhagwan bahut taqleef diya, leking ab sab theek hai (I went through a lot of hardships, but now everything is OK."

India's Swapna Barman celebrates after winning gold in women's heptathlon at the Asian Games in Jakarta on Wednesday. REUTERS

> I started getting cramps because of the conditions after the third jump, which was my best. I was not in a position to even do the fifth and sixth attempts properly and failed.
> ARPINDER SINGH, Triple jump gold medallist

Arpinder Singh at the men's triple jump medal ceremony. PTI

'Chocolate' girl with dozen toes, Swapna has faced struggles of life

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JAKARTA: Swapna Barman's craving for chocolate could well have cost her gold at the Asian Games. Just before her competition began on Tuesday, she started writhing from tooth pain, forcing her to compete with a medicated tape covering her right jaw.

"I had severe pain in my right jaw and couldn't take medication because of the stringent anti-doping rules. In fact, I wasn't even sure I would be able to give my best with this killing pain. But, somehow, I got the motivation over the last two days to win the Asian Games gold," said the Jalpaiguri girl after clinching the heptathlon gold.

"I told myself that if I have to win, I'll have to forget the pain. I was also nursing a right knee injury and that too was troubling me," said Swapna who started as a high jumper in 2013 but later moved to heptathlon.

With 6026 points, Swapna won the gold by a massive margin, with China's Wang Qingling coming second with 5954 points and Yuki Yamasaki of Japan notching a personal best of 5873 on way to bronze.

Going into the final phase of the gruelling event — 800m — she knew she had to just keep pace with the Chinese to clinch gold. Though Swapna — whose mother works in a tea estate and her father a rickshaw driver before a stroke left him bedridden in 2013 — finished fourth in 800m, she was way ahead of the field.

No Indian had won gold in heptathlon before Swapna, with Soma Biswas winning two consecutive silver medals at the 2002 Busan and the 2006 Doha Games and Karnataka's JJ Shobha winning bronze at the 2006 Games. Pramila Aiyappa also had won bronze in 2010.

Life has given Swapna more pain than joy. Born with six toes on both feet, she has had to endure the pain of wearing normal shoes as no shoe-manufacturing company was ready to make customised shoes for her. "You can well imagine the pain I go through when I compete with spiked shoes which are narrow in front," she said. Now her gripe will be taken more seriously.

Swapna's gold like balm on our journey of struggle: Soma

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KOLKATA: Only four heptathletes from India had breached the 6000-point barrier before Wednesday. So it was appropriate that Dronacharya award-winning athletics coach, Kuntal Roy, would rate Swapna Burman's gold medal winning performance with 6026 points as indication of her entry into an elite group among Asians.

"It is the equivalent of breaking the 8000 points barrier in decathlon," said Roy who coached Soma Biswas and Sushmita Singha Roy to medals at the Asian level. Biswas bagged silver in the 2002 and 2006 Asian Games' heptathlon and Singha Roy took silver and bronze respectively in the 2005 and 2007 Asian Championships.

"Swapna's gold is a victory for the entire fraternity of people associated with heptathlon," said Biswas, who is the first Indian to break the 6000-point barrier. "My silver in Busan showed people we could be world class in heptathlon. Swapna's gold is like a balm on our journey of struggle. I feel proud as a Bengali and an heptathlete," added Biswas.

"It was Swapna's effort in the high jump and javelin that tipped the scales," said Roy. On way to becoming the first Indian to bag the heptathlon gold, Burman won the high jump with 1003 points and the javelin competition with 872 points. "If you do very well in two or three events, you make it very difficult for the rest of the field to catch up," said Roy.

Given her mental resilience, Roy said he was confident that Burman would finish among medals. Like many athletes in India, Burman comes from an economically challenged background. Her father has been ill and unemployable since Burman, 21, was a child. Mother Basana worked at a tea garden. "My daughter has struggled with injuries recently. She had a hip problem and then hurt her leg. To have overcome all that and win gold makes me immensely proud," said Basana, breaking down while speaking to a Bangla news channel in Jalpaiguri in north Bengal where they stay.

Add to that the fact that Burman has 12 toes, meaning getting shoes for her posed an even bigger challenge in a sport that requires different pairs for a number of events.

Barring Biswas, GG Pramilla, JJ Shobha and Singha Roy scored over 6000 before Burman.

Roy also felt that Burman was helped by the legacy left by Biswas and Singha Ray. "It helps if someone has trod the path before you," he said. "I wish the state and the country will take combined events more seriously now."

Soma Biswas was the first Indian to cross 6000 points.

Dipika Pallikal. AFP

Squash: Women's team in semis, complains of no foreign coach

Ajai Masand
ajai.masand@htlive.com

JAKARTA: Simmering discontent in the Indian squash contingent could not be missed even as the women's team thrashed China 3-0 — its fourth win by that margin in Pool B — to secure a semi-final berth and assure at least a bronze here on Wednesday.

The team gets ready for its toughest challenge in the group phase, against Hong Kong on Thursday, which will decide who tops the 6-team pool.

There was complete disconnect between India coach Cyrus Poncha and manager Bhuvneshwari Kumari and the players during breaks. After the match, no niceties were seen being exchanged and the officials left, followed by Joshana Chinappa a little later. The cause of discord has been the "inability" of the Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) to find a coach ahead of the Asian Games, where India have won three individual medals and assured of at least a team bronze.

The foreign coach's slot was vacant after Egypt's Achraf El Karargui quit in a huff because of "unprofessional" attitude of the federation. "Almost all of us have trained abroad for Asian Games with different coaches in the absence of a good coach," said world No 19 Dipika Pallikal after beating China's Duan Siyu, 11-1, 11-4, 11-5. However, Poncha said: "This (players raking up controversy) was in very bad taste, especially at this point."

TT dream run continues: Bronze for Sharath-Manika

Press Trust of India
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

JAKARTA: The dream run of Indian table tennis contingent continued when the mixed doubles pairing of Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra won a historic bronze medal on Wednesday.

On Tuesday Sharath-led men's team had secured a bronze, ending India's 60-year-wait for a maiden table tennis medal at the Asian Games.

Sharath and Manika teamed up in mixed doubles on Wednesday and defeated some quality pairs. In the semi-finals, they lost to China's Yingsha Sun and Wang Sun 9-11, 5-11, 13-11, 4-11, 8-11. The semi-final was a best of seven games contest while the earlier rounds were played in the usual best of five format.

In the pre-quarterfinal they defeated the strong a South Korean pair of Lee Sangsu and Jeon Jihee 11-7, 7-11, 11-8, 10-12, 11-4. They faced their toughest challenge in North Korean Cha Hyo Sim and An Ji Song for a place in the semi-finals and a guaranteed medal.

Exuding confidence and showing good skills the Indians pulled off a thrilling 11-4, 10-12, 11-6, 6-11, 11-8 victory.

Sharath Kamal and Manika Batra in mixed doubles event. PTI

Sharath's power and Manika's deceptive play from the pimpled rubber proved too hot for the Koreans to handle

"In mixed doubles, the role of the female player is very important. More often than not, it actually decides who is going to win the match," Sharath said.

"It has been an unbelievable campaign so far. Not even in my wildest dreams I thought of winning a medal at the Asian Games. Now I have got too. I am still pinching myself," said Sharath.

They will now compete in individual competition starting Thursday. India had won a whopping eight medals at CWG.

results

ATHLETICS

Men's 20km walk final: Manish Singh Rawat and Irfan Kolothum Thodi were disqualified.
Women's 20km walk final: Khushbir Kaur finished 4th (1:35.24) Soumya Baby disqualified.
Women's 200m: Dutee Chand finished 2nd (23.20s) won a silver medal.
Men's triple jump final: Arpinder Singh won gold with a mark of 16.77, AV Rakesh Babu finished 6th with a mark of 16.40.
Men's 1500m qualification: Jinson Johnson finished 2nd (3:46.50), Manjit Singh finished 7th (3:50.59); both qualified for the final.
Men's 4 x 400m relay qualification: India finished 4th (3:06.48), qualified for the final.

Dutee Chand on the podium in Jakarta. AP

Women's heptathlon: Swapna Barman won gold (6026 pts), Purnima Hembram finished 4th (5837 pts)

BOXING

Men's light fly 49kg quarterfinals: Amit Phangal beat Kim Jang Ryong of North Korea 5-0.
Men's middle 75kg quarterfinals: Vikas Krishan beat Tuoheta Erbieke Tanglatihan of China 3-2.
Women's fly 51kg quarterfinals: Sarjubala Devi lost to Chang Yuan (China) 0-5.

CYCLING TRACK

Men's sprint: Ranjit Singh lost in 1/16 finals and Esow lost in 1/8 finals.
Men's 4000m individual pursuit qualification: Manjeet Singh finished 12th clocking 4:43.714, failed to qualify for the final.

HANDBALL

Men's main round: India beat Indonesia 37-23.

JUDO

Men's -60kg elimination round of 16: Vijay Kumar Yadav lost to Diyorbek Urozboev of Uzbekistan 0-10.
Women's -52kg elimination round of 16: Kalpana Devi lost to Ziyaeva Gulnoza of Uzbekistan 0S3-10S2.

PENCAK SILAT

Women's double final: Simran and Sonia finished 7th with 527 points.

SAILING

49er FX women race 14: Varsha Gautham and Shweta Shervegar finished second with 30 points.

SQUASH

Women's team Pool B: India beat China 3-0.

TABLE TENNIS

Mixed doubles round of 16: Anthony Amalraj/Madhurika Patkar lost to KK Ho/HC Lee (HKG) 1-3.
Mixed doubles semi-final: A Sharath Kamal/Manika Batra lost to Yingsha Sun and Wang Sun of China 9-11, 5-11, 13-11, 4-11, 8-11; won a bronze medal.

VOLLEYBALL

Women's semi-final for 9 – 12: India beat Hong Kong 3-0.

INDIANS IN ACTION TODAY

ATHLETICS
4:30am: Men's 50km walk (Sandeep Kumar)
5:10pm: Women's discus throw final (Sandeep Kumari, Seema Punia)
5:50pm: Women's 1500m final (Monika Choudhary, PU Chitra)
6:50pm: Women's 4x400m relay final
6:30pm: Men's 5000m final (Govindan Lakshmanan)
6:05pm: Men's 1500m final (Jinson Johnson, Manjit Singh)
7:10pm: Men's 4x400m relay final

BRIDGE
8:30am: Men's pair semi-finals (Pranab Bardhan/Shibhnath Sarkar, Sumit Mukherjee/Debabrata Majumder, Subhash Gupta/Sapan Desai)
8:30am: Women's pair semi-finals (Marianne Karmarkar/Hema Deora, Aparna Sain/Feroza Chothia)
8:30am: Mixed pair semi-finals (Bachiraju Satyanarayana/ Kiran Nadar, Rajeev Khandelwal/Himani Khandelwal)

EQUESTRIANISM
6:30am: Jumping individual final round (Kaevaan Kevic Setalvad and Zahan Kevic Setalvad)

HOCKEY
4:00pm: Men's tournament semi-final (India v Malaysia)

JUDO
7:30am: Men's -81 kg elimination round of 32 (Harshdeep Singh Brar v Rajitha Pushpa Kumara Uwarapaksha Gedara of Sri Lanka)

SQUASH
11:00am: Women's Team Pool B (India v Hong Kong)

TABLE TENNIS
10:45am: Women's singles round of 32 (Mouma Das v Chen Szuyu of Chinese Taipei)
6:45pm: Manika Batra v Nanthana Komwong of Thailand)
2:00pm: Men's singles round of 32 (Achanta Sharath Kamal v TBD)
7:30pm: Men's singles round of 32 (Sathiyan Gnanasekaran v TBD)

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India women beat China, enter final after 20 years

GRITTY VICTORY Gurjit Kaur's 52nd-minute strike sets up 1-0 win, books summit clash against Japan

SHARAD DEEP

India women hockey players exult after defeating China in their Asian Games semi-final on Wednesday. PTI

JAKARTA: India overcame a gritty China 1-0 to enter the final of the Asian Games women's hockey competition after 20 years. They play Japan, who beat Korea 2-0 in the other semi-final, in the gold medal match on Friday.

Despite scoring big wins in the league stage, India women struggled to dominate the three-time Asian Games champions in the semi-final. Gurjit Kaur scored the only goal in the last quarter after the girls looked intent only on displaying individual stick-work and failing to play as a team.

After facing a tough challenge from the Chinese in the first quarter, India managed to create a few openings in the subsequent three quarters. However, lack of quick passing and some shoddy attempts meant they couldn't score with the Chinese defence parrying both forwards Vandana Katariya and Navneet Kaur.

China relied on a defensive strategy and did not venture much into the Indian citadel. Goalkeeper Savita Punia was tested by the Chinese forwards only once when they managed to get a penalty corner.

At a time when the match looked set for another shootout — after their Asia Cup final last year — Gurjit Kaur's perfect hit on the top right corner of the net off the team's seventh penalty corner in the 52nd minute brought cheers on the faces of Indian fans.

The goal was a result of sustained pressure on the Chinese goal in the final quarter as the Indians managed to earn three back-to-back penalty corners within a period of two minutes, and Gurjit managed to convert the last one into a goal.

With eight minutes to go, China finally came out of their citadel and tried their best to draw level but India proved to be a tough nut to crack.

Captain Rani Rampal was surprised with her team's poor display in the first two quarters. "Yes, we didn't play to our potential in the first two quarters, and I don't know what went wrong," she said after the match. "We could have scored more goals if we had played with better coordination on the frontline."

"But anyway, this is a big win for us and we are just a step away from achieving the biggest success of our lives, and I am sure we will win against Japan in the final," said Rani.

This is India's third entry in the final of the women's hockey competition. They won in 1982 and finished runners-up in 1998.

Aggressive India face Malaysia

HT Correspondent
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

JAKARTA: Captain PR Sreejesh has been the most consistent man in the Indian hockey side. He not only mans the goal with grit and determination but also keeps the boys motivated. Time and again this has proved worthy for India.

So far, Sreejesh has conceded just three goals in five matches here. He needs to excel once again on Thursday when defending champions India take on a spirited Malaysia in the semi-final.

Given India's winning record of 70 out of 101 matches against Malaysia, Sreejesh's team starts favourites. In their last meeting, India won 2-1 against a new-look Malaysian side at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games a couple of months back.

India are on a roll at the Asian Games, netting 76 goals against five teams, including a record 26 against Hong Kong. "Every game is important to us and we prepare ourselves that way. I always ask my boys to play their natural game and that too according to the situation. We have done our homework well and are ready to take up the challenge," said team's chief coach Harendra Singh, who was handed the team's reins after India's loss to England in the bronze-medal match at the Commonwealth Games this year.

"We must continue the same aggressive approach we have shown in our attack from the very first match, but we must be doubly cautious in our defending and ensure we don't give away penalty corners which will be critical," Sreejesh said.

Sreejesh however warned it won't be easy against Malaysia with an experienced S Kumar manning their goal. "How we convert the opportunities would be most important," he said.

Pakistan face Japan in the day's other semi-final.

INDIA ROUNDUP

India's appeal in 4x400m mixed relay rejected

Agencies
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

JAKARTA: India's silver medal in the 4x400m mixed relay will not be upgraded to gold after the protest against champions Bahrain was rejected by the Asian Games' Jury of Appeals on Wednesday.

India had lodged a protest, stating that a Bahraini runner had obstructed Hima Das during the race in which India finished second after MR Poovamma frittered away a good 30m lead. The Indian quartet of Muhammed Anas, Poovamma, Hima and Arokia Rajiv had clocked 3 minute and 15.71 seconds to finish behind Bahrain (3:11.89) in the event.

LOSS IN KURASH
JAKARTA: India's Megha Tokas lost 0-3 to Indonesia's Shifa Khasani Najmu in women 63 kg quarter-final of Kurash event.

ALBEN CRASHES OUT
JAKARTA: Esow Alben crashed out of the men's sprint in the pre-quarters while Monorama Devi failed to complete the women's omnium event in a disappointing day for India in cycling. Esow lost to Chaebin Im of South Korea. In men's sprint, Ranjit Singh was unable to go beyond the Round of 32, losing to Puguh Admadi of Indonesia. In men's 4000m Individual Pursuit, Manjeet Singh finished 12th, clocking 4:43.714, 24.042 seconds behind leader Sanghoon Park of South Korea.

SIMRAN, SONIA LAST
JAKARTA: India's Sonia finished last in the women's doubles event of pencak silat. The duo scored a total of 527 points, 47 behind the Indonesian pair of Ni Made Dwiyanti and Ayu Wilantari Sidan, who clinched the gold.

VIJAY, KALPANA OUT
JAKARTA: India judokas Vijay Kumar Yadav and Kalpana Devi Thoudam were knocked out after losing their bouts in the men's and women's elimination rounds.

Vijay lost 0-10 to Uzbekistan's Urozboev Diyorbek in the men's 60kg. Kalpana lost to Uzbekistan's Gulnoza Ziyaeva in the women's 52kg round of 16 here.

Braving injury, Vikas defends to ensure 3rd medal

Sharad Deep
sharad.deep@htlive.com

JAKARTA: A serious cut above the left eyebrow just two days before a bout can shake the confidence of any boxer. Not Vikas Krishan's.

Krishan's ability to defend himself against relentless attack was on display on Wednesday as he guaranteed himself a hat-trick of Asian Games medals with a thrilling 3-2 win over China's Tuoheta Erbieke Tanglatihan in the men's middleweight (75kg) division quarter-finals.

While Krishan had to work hard, Amit Panghal brushed aside Kim Jang Ryong of North Korea with a unanimous 5-0 verdict in the men's light flyweight (49kg) category. With this win, Amit also assured himself of a medal.

Gold medallist in the lightweight category at the 2010 Games in Guangzhou and a middleweight bronze medallist at the 2014 Incheon Games, Vikas made a solid start before finding himself in trouble when a right jab from Tuoheta led to bleeding from the cut.

This could have easily dampened the spirit of the 26-year-old Indian, but he gathered himself and showed courage.

The fans as well as the support staff of the boxing team kept egging on Vikas, who, despite the bleeding, stretched the Chinese rival in the last round and eventually emerged victorious.

"He (Tuoheta) is a young opponent and I have beaten him 5-0 several times. However, he managed to hurl an upper cut at the beginning itself and it split open my eyebrow," said Vikas. "I showed determination in the second round, playing aggressively, even though I felt some pain."

"I didn't want to go all out and expose my injury further. So, I decided to defend myself. I had all the experience. I'm happy that it worked and am confident of making it to the finals with a better showing in the semis," said Vikas, who faces Kazakhstan's Amankul Abilkhan in the semi-final on Friday.

In his bout, Rohtak boy Amit turned out to be far superior to his opponent and dominated all the three rounds. He kept hurling punches on his rival Kim right from the start.

"Such an attacking play was part of our strategy. Whatever we had planned came handy in the bout," Amit said. "The boxer was aggressive and I planned a wait and watch strategy and then released the punches."

Meanwhile, Sarjubala Devi lost 0-5 to Chang Yuan of China in the quarter-finals of the 51kg category of the women's section.

Vikas Krishan had also won gold at the 2018 CWG. GETTY

Tender Notice

The Department of Tourism, Dadra & Nagar Haveli has invited online tenders through Tender ID: 2018_UTDNH_3064_1 and Corrigendum-1 for selection of a caterer/hotelier for operating restaurants at Dudhani & Kauncha from eligible companies. The last date for tender submission is 15.09.2018 till 1200 Hrs. The tender document can be viewed and downloaded from www.dnh.nic.in and https://dnhtenders.gov.in/.

No.DNH/TOUR/C/45/659
Date : 27/08/2018
No.IP/DNH/379/2018
Silvassa Dt:28/8/2018

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Tourism)
Dadra & Nagar Haveli

Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Ltd.

Zone-14, Bhopal Municipal Corporation, BHEL, Govindpura, Bhopal-462023 (MP)
Phone: 0755-2477770, Email: Bscdcl@smartbhopal.city

Sr. No. 1224 /MPBSCDCL/2018 **Bhopal, Date : 27/08/2018**

Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Limited की ओर से निम्नांकित कार्य हेतु MPBSCDCL/TENDER NO-64 ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है:-

S. no	Tender Name (MPBSCDCL/TENDER NO-64	Tender Document Fee	Earnest Money Deposit/ Bid Security	Estimated Cost	Last date & time for purchase of RFP/ Tender Documents
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	"Construction of Multistorey G, H and I type Government Housing Phase III Including Internal Electrification, Plumbing and Fire Fighting under Smart City Area Based Development" (MPBSCDCL/TENDER NO.-64	Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand only)	Rs. 50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty lakhs only)	Rs. 203.20 Cr (Rupees Two Hundred Three Crore and Twenty Lakh Only)	19/09/2018 17:30 Hrs.

RFP दस्तावेज एवं निविदा संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी **www.mpeproc.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकती हैं।

C.E. (P)
भोपाल स्मार्ट सिटी डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड

MADHYA PRADESH URBAN DEVELOPMENT CO. LTD.

(Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh)
M.P. Rajya Sahkari Bank, Jail Road, Arera Hills, Bhopal (M.P.)-462011
E-mail : einc@mpudc.co.in, Telephone: 0755-2762825

MADHYA PRADESH URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT WORLD BANK FUNDED

Invitation for Bids under National Competitive Bidding

NIT No. MPUDC/WB/2018/4133 **Dated 29 August 2018**

M.P. Urban Development Company Limited invites Bids (to be submitted in the e-Procurement Portal) for the following works:

Package WB 7: (i) Design and Build Sewage Treatment Plant of capacity 0.43, 0.22, 0.11 MLD; Packaged Treatment Plant of capacity 0.06 and 0.06 MLD and all Appurtenant Structures, Pumping Station and Allied Works (ii) Survey, Review the Design, Redesign where necessary and Build New Sewerage Network including Small Bore Solid Free System (iii) Operation and Maintenance of Sewage Treatment Plants, Sewage Pumping Station, Sewage Networks and Small Bore Solid Free System and Septage Management for a period of 10 years of Bhedaghat Nagar Parishad, District Jabalpur of Madhya Pradesh.

Package WB 8: (i) Design and Build Sewage Treatment Plant of capacity 11.10 MLD, Packaged Treatment Plant of capacity 0.15 MLD and all Appurtenant Structures, Pumping Stations and Allied Works (ii) Survey, Review the Design, Redesign where necessary and Build New Sewerage Network including Small Bore Solid Free System and Septage Management (iii) Operation and Maintenance of Sewage Treatment Plants, Sewage Pumping Stations, Sewage Networks and Small Bore Solid Free System and Septage Management for a Period of 10 years of Shajapur Nagar Palika Parishad, District Shajapur of Madhya Pradesh.

Detailed Bid Document is available on **http://mpeproc.gov.in**(Madhya Pradesh Urban Development Co. Ltd.). NIT No. 162 and 163 respectively from 31.08.18 at 12:30 hours. The deadline for submission of bids online is **29.09.18 at 14:00 hours**. Interested bidders may participate in the bidding process as per instructions given in the bidding documents.

M.P. Madhyam/91397/2018 **ENGINEER IN CHIEF**

MAHAVITARAN — Invitation for Bids, e-tender notice date extension

The Superintending Engineer (O&M Circle, Nanded), on behalf of MSEDCL (the Employer), invited sealed e-tenders **T-10, 11, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, 30, 31, 34, & T-36** from eligible tenderers for "Supply, Transport, Construction, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Ag connections on HVDS in all Divisions under Nanded Circle" **date extended up to dt. 31.08.2018.**

Modified version of the tenders is uploaded on our e-Tendering website on http://works.mahadiscom.in/eTender/etender. For any queries Contact Person: Ex. Engineer (Adm) **Mob. No.:** 07875764404. The undersigned reserves all the rights to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons thereof. All other terms and conditions are remain unchanged.

H.O.P.R. No. 228 dt. 28.08.2018

Superintending Engineer MSEDCL, Circle Nanded

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN

OFFICE OF THE SUPRINTENDING ENGINEER W.R. CIRCLE SRI VIJAYNAGAR 335704

NIT No. 04/2018-19/2718 Date: 20.08.2018
e-procurement NIB No. 04/2018-19
UBN NO. WRN1819WSOB00213
UBN NO. WRN1819WSOB00214

On behalf of Governor of Rajasthan The Superintending Engineer, Water Resources Circle Sir Vijaynagar invites e-tenders from registered experienced/ individuals and Qualified Agencies to submit proposal as per Tender document for the work Renovation & Remodeling of NizampuraDisty from RD 0.000 to 23.875 & Nizampura Minor RD 0.000 3.975 Tail and Renovation and Renovation & Remodeling of BilochiyaMinor from RD 0.000 to 38.500 tail This if total two work the cost of work is 378.25 and 393.82 lac. The Details of works available at website www.waterresources.rajasthan.gov.in, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in./ www.eprocrajasthan.gov.in

Superintending Engineer, W.R. Circle Sri Vijaynagar

DIPR/C/11394/2018

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA 420-B
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in, cebuildings@rediffmail.com
Tel. (0674) - 2391523, Fax: (0674) - 2395245

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No. B-I-HE-ctc-5/2015 No. 37092 Dt. 21.08.2018

Invitation for Bids

Bid Identification No. CE (B) - 29/2018-19

1.	The Chief Engineer (Buildings) Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for building work **"Construction of 400 seated Girls hostel building of Sailabala Women's College at Cuttack (S+3)"** whose amount put to tender (Appx.) is Rs. 8,67,00,000/- detailed below.		
2.	Nature of work	:	Building work (Composite work)
3.	No. of work	:	1 no.
4.	Bid Cost	:	₹ 10,000/-
5.	Class of Contractor	:	Special class/Super class.
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	**From dt. 31.08.2018 to 1700 hours of dt. 22.09.2018.**
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	**Dt. 24.09.2018 at 11.30 AM.**
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersorissa.gov.in**. Any addendum/ corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.		

I&PR Key No. 34117/11/0103/1819 **Chief Engineer (Buildings), Odisha**

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED

(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING) NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003, PHONE: (0291) 2742223, FAX: (0291) 2746539

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Short Term Tenders are invited for supply of 11 KV Cross Arm With Clamp and Top Hamper **(TN-1488) (UBN JVV1819GLOB00406).**

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at www.jdvvnl.com and also at http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in

Raj.Samwad/C/18/3440 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)

बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

भारत प्रतिभूति मुद्रणालय : नाशिक रोड

(भारत प्रतिभूति मुद्रण तथा मुद्रा निर्माण निगम लिमिटेड की इकाई)
भारत सरकार के पूर्ण स्वामित्वाधीन CIN: U22213DL2006GOI144763

ग्लोबल निविदा (GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE)

महाप्रबंधक भाप्रमु निम्नलिखित के लिए ग्लोबल (Global) निविदा आमंत्रित करते है : 1) प्रेशर सेंसिटिव ऑप्टिकल ब्राइटनिंग एजेंट–फ्री सेल्फ अधेसिव स्टीकर पेपर, क्वांटिटी: 25–ऍम.टी. (निविदा सं. 6000011622). 2) इ.ओ.आई फॉर प्रोक्योरमेंट ऑफ वन स्टेट–ऑफ–द आर्ट टेक्नोलॉजी एट (8) कलर शीट फेड एंड ड्राई ऑफसेट प्रिंटिंग मशीन (इ.ओ.आई. सं. : 107)

खुली निविदा (OPEN TENDER NOTICE)

महाप्रबंधक भाप्रमु निम्नलिखित के लिए खुली निविदा (एनसीबी) आमंत्रित करते है : १) कॉम्प्रेहेंसिव ए.एम.सी. फॉर जेरॉक्स नुवेरा 288–ई.ए. नॉन एम.आय.सी.आर. प्रिंटर (निविदा सं. 6000011531) २) एप्वाइंटमेंट ऑफ ट्रांसपोर्टेशन एजेंसी फॉर ट्रांसपोर्टेशन ऑफ सेक्युरिटी पेपर अँड मटिरियल (निविदा स. 6000011547) ३) प्रॉक्यूरमेंट ऑफ न्युमाटिक स्पेयर्स फॉर मशीन (निविदा सं. 6000011485) ४) प्रोक्योरमेंट ऑफ ऍफ.एम. डाई कटर अप्पर नाइफ : 20 नं. (निविदा सं. 6000011540). ५) प्रोक्योरमेंट ऑफ स्पेयर पार्ट्स फॉर ऑनलाइन बारकोड नम्बरिंग सिस्टम (निविदा सं. 6000011576). ६) डबल फोल्डेड पोलिओलेफिन श्रिंक फिल्म–२५० mm (निविदा सं. 6000011396).

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए कृपया हमारी वेबसाइट http://ispnasik.spmcil.com देखें. कोई संशोधन / शुध्दिपत्रक केवल वेबसाइट पर ही प्रकाशित की जाएगी.

हस्ता/–
उपप्रबंधक (तकनिकी प्रचालन) क्रय प्रभारी

Coal India Limited
A Maharatna Company

Notice for Global e-Tender

(1) Global e-Tender No. - CIL/C2D/240T Dumper/R-80/18-19/324 dated 24.08.2018; **(2) Item description:** Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 96 nos. 240T Rear Dumpers along with Consumable Spares and Consumables for 12 months of warranty period from the date of commissioning of the equipment and thereafter Spares & Consumables for a period of 84 months.; **(3) Estimated Tender Value for Equipment only:** Rs. 1499.00 Crores. **(4) Tender Document:** There will be no physical sale of tender document. The complete tender documents can only be downloaded from Coal India Limited website: **(www.coalindia.in),** Central Public Procurement Portal **(www.eprocure.gov.in)** and CIL's e-Procurement Portal **(http://coalindiatenders.nic.in).** All necessary details may be seen from the tender document available in the above websites.

General Manager (MM)-HOD

OFFICE OF THE SARPANCH VILLAGE PANCHAYAT VANAKBARA-DIU

TENDER (ONLINE)INVITATION NOTICE NO.8 OF 2018-2019
No. V.V.P/F. 44 & F. 45/2018-19/35, Dated - 28/08/2018

The Sarpanch, Village Panchayat, Vanakbara Diu invites, Govt. Approved Agency on behalf of the President of India, the Online item rate tenders from the experienced, eligible and reputed Contractors (registered under CPWD, State PWD, GWD, & SB and also, invariably, with the VAT/GST Department of U.T. of Daman & Diu (Lowest bidder must obtain local VAT/GST Registration within 15 days) for the below mentioned works.

Details of each works i.e. name of work, estimate cost, amount of EMD, tender fees, time limit etc is available on https://daman.nprocure.com or www.nprocure.com

* On line downloading start date	From 13:00 Hrs on 29/08/2018
* Online downloading end date	Up to 13:00 Hrs on 10/09/2018
* Online submission of Tender	Up to 13:05 Hrs on 10/09/2018
* Physical submission of documents	Up to 14:00 Hrs on 11/09/2018
* Online Opening of Price Bid	On 11/09/2018 16:30 Hrs onward (If possible

*Bidders have to submit Price bid in Electronic format only on https://daman.nprocure.com or www.nprocure.com website till the last date and time for submission. Price Bid in physical format shall not be accepted in any case.

Tender Notice is also available on the website www.diu.gov.in

In case bidder needs any clarification or if training required for participating in online tender, they can contact the following office: "(n) Code Solution - A Division, GNFC Ltd." 403, GNFC Info Tower, Bodakdev, Ahmedabad - 380054 Gujarat(India) e-mail : nprocure@gnvfc.net Fax: +91 79 26857321 Website : www.nprocure.com

Sd/-
(Veniben Ramji Solanki)
CHAIRMAN,
DEVELOPMENT WORK COMMITTEE
VILLAGE PANCHAYAT
VANAKBARA-DIU

Sd/-
(Virji Lacmane)
SARPANCH,
VILLAGE PANCHAYAT
VANAKBARA-DIU

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htsport

WE SHOULD HAVE A HEAT RULE, IT'S NOT HEALTHY TO BE OUT THERE GETTING DIZZY AND POOR BALL KIDS OUT THERE.
› NICK KYRGIOS, turns heat on officials to come up with extreme conditions rule at US Open

shortstories

Mayank Agarwal

MAYANK HELPS INDIA B WIN QUADRANGULAR FINAL VS AUS A

BENGALURU: India B on Wednesday defeated Australia A by nine wickets in the one-day quadrangular series final at M Chinnaswamy Stadium. Sent in to bat, the Australians lost their last six wickets for 33 to be dismissed for 225 in the 48th over. Spinner Shreyas Gopal was the wrecker-in-chief picking three wickets. In reply, India B reached the target in the 37th over thanks to half-centuries from Mayank Agarwal (69), Shubman Gill (66*) and Manish Pandey (73*).

Brief scores: Australia A 225 all out in 47.5 overs (D Short 72, A Carey 53, S Gopal 3/50) lost to India B 230/1 in 36.3 overs (M Agarwal 69, S Gill 66*, M Pandey 73*). India B won by 9 wickets.

Bhuvneshwar fit for Asia Cup return

BENGALURU: India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar on Wednesday made an impressive comeback in competitive cricket with a three-wicket haul for India A, giving clear indication that he will be available for selection during the Asia Cup in the United Arab Emirates from September 15. Bhuvneshwar had figures of 9-1-33-3 against South Africa A in a placings match of the Quadrangular series, which India A won by 124 runs.

SL arrests two Indians on suspicion of match-fixing

COLOMBO: Sri Lankan cricket's anti-corruption unit detained two Indian spectators on suspicion of match-fixing during a domestic Twenty20 league game, officials said on Wednesday. The men were apprehended after officials spotted them behaving suspiciously and making repeated calls on their mobile phones during the match between Galle and Dambulla at Pallekele.

Jayaram makes winning start at Barcelona Masters

BARCELONA: Indian shuttler Ajay Jayaram advanced to the men's singles second round after beating Spain's Pablo Abian in three games at the $150,000 Barcelona Spain Masters BWF World Tour Super 300 tournament here on Wednesday. Former world No 13 Jayaram notched up a 15-21, 21-17, 21-8 win over local player Pablo, seeded sixth, in the opening round to set up a clash with Russia's Vladimir Malkov.

todayontv

CRICKET
INDIA V ENGLAND
3.30pm: 4th Test, Day 1, live on Sony Six, Six HD

ASIAN GAMES
7.00am onwards: Day 12, Sony Ten 2 & HD 2, Sony Ten 3 & HD 3

TENNIS
US OPEN
8.30pm: Live on Star Sports Select 1 & SHD 1

For latest in sports, go to www.hindustantimes.com/sport-news

India bank on a perfect team game, eye titanic comeback

FOURTH TEST After Trent Bridge win, Virat Kohli's men look to continue momentum at Southampton

HT@ ENGLAND

N ANANTHANARAYANAN

SOUTHAMPTON: India will aim to stay on cruise control in this southern coastal city tied to the sinking of the Titanic when they take on England in the fourth Test, starting at the Ageas Bowl on Thursday.

The Titanic set sail from Southampton in April, 1912 and sank in the Atlantic, and the tragedy still echoes everywhere in the city. However, the number of cruise ships, many trans-Atlantic, that call in regularly will also remind Virat Kohli and Co of revival.

India went into the third Test at Trent Bridge 2-0 down amid forecasts of a possible sweep in the five-match series. However, their resilience led to a thumping 203-run victory that has put pressure on the hosts.

The venue is hosting only its third Test. The last one was in 2014, when a battered India crumbled against James Anderson and off-spinner Moeen Ali. England's master swing bowler is seven short of surpassing Australia's Glenn McGrath's tally of 563 to become the most successful fast bowler ever. Moeen has also been included after his recent match-winning show for Worcestershire (double century and eight wickets).

Moeen, who took eight wickets in that 2014 win, will replace young batsman Ollie Pope and will bat at No 7. All-rounder Sam Curran will return in place of Chris Woakes, who has suffered a recurrence of a quad muscle problem.

FOCUS ON ASHWIN

The interest in the India camp will be on R Ashwin's fitness following a groin injury that flared up at Trent Bridge. The off-spinner bowled and batted in the nets on Tuesday and has been declared fit, meaning India might retain the eleven for the first time under Kohli.

"We don't feel we need to change anything," Kohli, who will be leading India in his 39th Test, said on Wednesday.

While Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane found form with vital fifties in the third Test, India will hope openers KL Rahul and Shikhar Dhawan build on the half-century stands they provided at Trent Bridge.

Interestingly, 18-year-old Prithvi Shaw, the U-19 World Cup-winning skipper drafted in as the third opener for the last two Tests, has had long batting stints in the last two days and comes into the side after doing well for India A in England.

PACERS ON TOP

India have never won three Tests in an overseas series, but fast bowler Mohammed Shami has cautioned they will have to take one match at a time. India pacers have stood out so far, taking 38 of the 46 wickets in the first three Tests to match England in the department this time.

That means a spiteful pitch can hurt England as well. England's worries are on opener Alastair Cook's poor form. The 33-year-old scored 180 for England Lions against India A, but has scores of 13, 0, 21, 29, 17 in this series with Ishant Sharma having had his number.

Wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow's finger injury is likely to force him to play as a batsman at No 4.

At Tuesday's training, Bairstow had a long conversation with coach Trevor Bayliss. He will bat at No. 4 as regular batsman, skipper Joe Root confirmed.

Jos Buttler, who scored a century in Trent Bridge and kept wickets after Bairstow was injured, will don the gloves.

Victory will keep India on course to record history as only one team — Don Bradman's in the 1936-37 Ashes series at home — has rallied to win from 0-2 down.

India skipper Virat Kohli and R Ashwin during a training session in Southampton on Wednesday. The fourth Test begins today. REUTERS

TEST MATCHES AT ROSE BOWL

	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	Success%
England at Rose Bowl	2	1		1	75.00
India at Rose Bowl	1		1		00.00

If momentum is anything, then India favourites

BY INVITATION

AAKASH CHOPRA

The series was touted as a heavyweight clash between two equally matched sides and while the opening two games presented a slightly different story, the narrative seems to have changed radically after the third Test. Indian batting stood up at Nottingham and the result went the visitors' way. India had issues to address but the same was true for England. Let's do a comparative analysis to assess where the two teams stand.

OPENERS

There's very little to choose between the two sides. India have tried three different opening pairs in three Tests and while England have stuck with the same pair, the numbers produced by them aren't painting a rosy picture. Alastair Cook is going through one of the worst phases of his illustrious career and Keaton Jennings is fighting hard for survival at the top level. Both have looked unconvincing. India's latest opening pair of Shikhar Dhawan and KL Rahul has ignited hope of solving the opening riddle but it's still far from a perfect solution. Dhawan has fought hard and Rahul has shown glimpses of his potential but both are yet to score individual fifties.

MIDDLE ORDER

In the first two Tests, India's middle order meant Virat Kohli, for batsmen on either side of him weren't contributing significantly. Joe Root at three for England, despite the failures in the last two Tests, will pip India's Cheteshwar Pujara to the post. Similarly, Olie Pope is no contest for India's number 4, Kohli.

IF YOU WERE TO LOOK AT HOW THE TWO ATTACKS FARED IN NOTTINGHAM, YOU'LL BE FORCED TO PUT THE INDIAN PACE QUARTET AHEAD

At Number 5, Ajinkya Rahane has played only one knock of note and Jonny Bairstow for England has offered a little more. In fact, England's lower order scores over that of most teams in the world. Bairstow is followed by Jos Buttler, Ben Stokes and Chris Woakes, and may be, Moeen Ali in Southampton. This provides England the depth unheard and unseen of in recent times across the cricketing globe. India, on the other hand, have Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya and Ravi Ashwin to follow Rahane. But as we found out in the first innings of the third Test, depth doesn't always guarantee loads of runs.

SPIN DEPARTMENT

In 2014, the key difference between the two sides was England out-spinning India over the course of five Tests. Moeen Ali took wickets in almost all games, which included a lot of top order batsmen. That's not the case in 2018, for Ashwin has already proved that he's a lot more effective than Adil Rashid and even if Moin were to play in Southampton, it's quite likely that Indian spinners will be more effective.

FAST BOWLERS

If we were to go by only pedigree and past performances, English bowling attack will look miles ahead of their Indian counterparts. But if you were to look at how the two bowling attacks fared in Nottingham, you'll be forced to put the Indian pace quartet slightly ahead. English attack has a little more discipline and sharpness but Indian attack is a little more varied. The addition of Jasprit Bumrah and Ashwin giving regular breathers to the pace department has brought the two attacks closer.

If momentum is a real thing in sport, India should start the third Test as favourites. But if momentum could sway the eventual outcome, England had no business of losing the third Test. By now, it's become quite apparent that both teams have their weaknesses and the team that's able to hide them better is the one ending up on the right side of the result.

The writer is a former Test batsman and his views are personal

Kohli hints at unchanged side

N Ananthanarayanan
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SOUTHAMPTON: India may retain the same playing eleven for the first time after 38 Tests under Virat Kohli with the India skipper declaring R Ashwin fit to play in the fourth Test against England starting at the Ageas Bowl on Thursday.

"We don't feel we need to change anything," Kohli, who will be leading India in his 39th Test, told a media conference on Wednesday. With India openers Shikhar Dhawan and KL Rahul making vital contributions to the 203-run win at Trent Bridge, the possibility of changes had receded.

Off-spinner Ashwin suffered an adductor muscle problem, but Kohli said: "Everyone is fit to start tomorrow. Ashwin has recovered nicely. He had a good practice session yesterday and he is good to go."

"It has not always been the case of changes. There have been injuries as well, which has not been taken into consideration. It has been a mix. Seeing things the way they are right now, we don't see any need to change anything."

Kohli hoped India players would cash in on their experience and put in extra hand work than they did at Trent Bridge. "Maybe four years ago, we didn't capitalise on the lead," he said, referring to India squandering a 1-0 lead in 2014 after losing the next three games, starting with the defeat in Southampton in the third Test.

"We spoke about being ruthless, relentless and capitalising on those important moments, which we did in Nottingham. We've to do that two more times to achieve the goal we want to, and not be satisfied with one victory. If Nottingham was hard work, this is going to be harder because England would want to come back strong."

> It has not always been the case of changes. There have been injuries as well, which has not been taken into consideration. It has been a mix. Seeing things the way they are right now, we don't see any need to change anything.
> VIRAT KOHLI, Team India skipper

US OPEN

Federer, Zverev cruise as Djokovic survives scare

Agence France-Presse
sportm@hindustantimes.com

NEW YORK: Wimbledon champion Novak Djokovic suffered in sweltering US Open conditions on Tuesday but battled through to the second round with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0 victory over Hungarian Marton Fucsovics.

It was brutal conditions at the Flushing Meadows Soaring temperatures and high humidity prompted organizers to offer the men a 10-minute mid-match heat break for the first time ever.

"We both struggled. We were not the only ones today. Brutal conditions," said Djokovic, who called for trainers who enveloped him in ice packed towels late in the second set. I had to find a way to dig myself out of the trouble."

Until late in the third it was "survival mode" said Djokovic, who endured a rocky start to the season after elbow surgery before breaking through for a 13th Grand Slam title at Wimbledon.

He certainly looked a contender as he reeled off the last 10 games against Fucsovics, showing signs of sharper focus even before the 10-minute heat break between the third and fourth sets.

Federer escaped the worst of the conditions as he headlined the night session on Ashe.

Nor did he meet much resistance from Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka who he beat in straight sets in a 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 victory.

Fourth-seeded German Alexander Zverev kept his time in the sun to a minimum with a 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 victory over Canadian lucky loser Peter Polansky while Australian Nick Kyrgios fired 25 aces and 48 total winners in a 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Moldova's Radu Albot.

Women's second seed Caroline Wozniacki took the weather in stride, trying to "think cool thoughts" as she defeated Samantha Stosur 6-3, 6-2.

In other women's matches, reigning Wimbledon champion Angelique Kerber beat Russian Margarita Gasparyan 7-6(5), 6-3.

Two-time Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova beat Yanina Wickmayer 6-1, 6-4 and 2017 runner-up Madison Keys downed France's Pauline Parmentier 6-4, 6-4.

Maria Sharapova, who won the last of her five Grand Slam titles in 2014, advanced 6-2, 7-6(6) over Patty Schnyder, out of retirement and at 39 the oldest player to qualify for a Grand Slam main draw.

BHAMBRI BOWS OUT

Menawhile, India's top singles player Yuki Bhambri once again failed to clear the first round hurdle of a Grand Slam losing to Frenchman Pierre Hugues Herbert in straight sets.

Bhambri, who is world No 96, lost 3-6, 6-7(3), 5-7 in a match that lasted nearly two and half hours.

Humid conditions troubled Novak Djokovic before he prevailed over Marton Fucsovics 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0. AFP

KEY RESULTS (1ST ROUND)

Men's: 7-Marin Cilic bt Marius Copil 7-5, 6-1, 1-1 retired; 21-Kei Nishikori bt Maximilian Marterer 6-2, 6-2, 6-3; 10-David Goffin bt Federico Gaio 6-2, 6-4, 7-6(5); 2-Roger Federer bt Yoshihito Nishioka 6-2, 6-2, 6-4; 30-Nick Kyrgios bt Radu Albot 7-5, 2-6, 6-4, 6-2; 13-Diego Schwartzman bt Federico Del Bonis 6-2, 7-6(8), 6-2; Matthew Ebden bt 32-Filip Krajinovic 7-6(1), 6-7(5), 4-6, 6-1, 4-1 retired; 4-Alexander Zverev bt Peter Polansky 6-2, 6-1, 6-2; 17-Lucas Pouille bt Yannick Maden 7-6(6), 6-2, 7-5; 6-Novak Djokovic bt Marton Fucsovics 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-0; 26-Richard Gasquet bt Yuichi Sugita 6-3, 6-1, 6-3; 12-Pablo Carreno-Busta bt Malek Jaziri 7-5, 6-2, 6-2; 14-Fabio Fognini bt Michael Mmoh 4-6, 6-2, 6-4, 7-6(4); 23-Chung Hyeon bt Ricardas Berankis 4-6, 7-6(6), 6-0, 2-0 retired

Women's: 6-Caroline Garcia bt Johanna Konta 6-2, 6-2; 30-Carla Suarez bt Nicole Gibbs 5-7, 6-3, 6-4; 22-Maria Sharapova bt Patty Schnyder 6-2, 7-6(6); 10-Jelena Ostapenko bt Andrea Petkovic 6-4, 4-6, 7-5; 14-Madison Keys bt Pauline Parmentier 6-4, 6-4; Kirsten Flipkens bt 24-CoCo Vandeweghe 6-3, 7-6(3); 29-Dominika Cibulkova bt Arantxa Rus 4-6, 6-2, 6-3; 4-Angelique Kerber bt Margarita Gasparyan 7-6(5), 6-3; 5-Petra Kvitova bt Yanina Wickmayer 6-1, 6-4; 26-Aryna Sabalenka bt Danielle Collins 6-0, 4-6, 6-4; 20-Naomi Osaka bt Laura Siegemund 6-3, 6-2; 11-Darya Kasatkina bt Timea Babos 6-4, 5-7, 6-4; 13-Kiki Bertens bt Kristyna Pliskova 6-0, 7-5; Katerina Siniakova bt 28-Anett Kontaveit 6-7(3), 6-3, 7-5; 2-Caroline Wozniacki bt Samantha Stosur 6-3, 6-2

SHORT PASSES

Loew rejects Ozil's racism allegations

Agencies
sportm@hindustantimes.com

MUNICH: Joachim Loew has rejected Mesut Ozil's accusations of racism within the German FA as the head coach gave his analysis of Germany's World Cup debacle on Wednesday.

"Mesut made allegations of racism, but I can clearly say that in the DFB, there have never been racist comments," Loew said. "The players with an immigration background have always enjoyed playing for us and nothing has changed.

Arsenal midfielder Ozil retired from international football on July 22 with a stinging three-page statement, in which he directly accused DFB president Reinhard Grindel of racism.

This is the first time Loew has commented on the Ozil saga. "His advisor called me to inform me that Mesut would issue the third part of his statement," added Loew. "The player himself did not call me, which normally players have done in the past. Mesut has still not called and for the last two weeks I have unsuccessfully tried to reach him.

Germany head coach Joachim Loew (right) has denied Mesut Ozil's claims of racism in the country's football federation. GETTY IMAGES

RONALDO'S STRIKE ADJUDGED UEFA'S BEST

MILAN: Cristiano Ronaldo's stunning overhead bicycle kick for Real Madrid against current club Juventus has been voted UEFA's goal of the season.

The former Real Madrid striker beat competition from 11 nominees for the award in honour of his goal in last season's Champions League quarter-final first leg in Turin.

WEST HAM SURVIVE SCARE, CARDIFF EXIT

LONDON: West Ham United diced with a potentially embarrassing League Cup second round defeat by AFC Wimbledon before fighting back to win 3-1 against their 10-man opponents.

However, Cardiff City were dumped out 3-1 by Norwich City, while Southampton won 1-0 against Brighton & Hove Albion.

In other games, Leicester City thumped Fleetwood Town 4-0, Stoke City beat Huddersfield Town 2-0, Crystal Palace won 1-0 at Swansea City, Bournemouth blanked MK Dons 3-0 and Fulham beat Exeter City 2-0.

AJAX SEAL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SPOT

PARIS: Four-time European champions Ajax booked their place in the Champions League group stage despite a goalless play-off second leg against Dynamo Kiev. The Dutch side's 3-1 cushion from the first leg proved enough in the Ukrainian capital.

Ajax will be joined in Thursday's group stage draw by AEK Athens, whose 1-1 draw with MOL Vidi of Hungary was enough for a 3-2 win on aggregate.

BENGALURU FC SUFFER 0-2 LOSS, OUT OF AFC CUP

ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN: Bengaluru FC bowed out of AFC Cup after suffering a 0-2 defeat against Altyn Asyr FK of Turkmenistan in the second leg of their Inter-Zone semifinal at the Kopetdag Stadium here on Wednesday.

The winners advanced to the next stage with a 5-2 aggregate.

MUMBAI DARSHAN

ROCKY NETS WINNING GOAL IN BRITACEL'S 1-0 VICTORY

HT Correspondent
sportm@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Rocky Fernandes struck the winning goal as Britacel Silicones SC defeated PD Hinduja Hospital SC 1-0 in the Mumbai District Football Association's Third Division league at the St Xavier's ground, Parel.

OTHER RESULTS: Naseeb Reloded 1 (Sharuk Shaikh) bt CSGM SC 0; Milan under-19 (Momin Mohd Sharukh) drew NYASS SC 1 (Yeshwante Nikhil).

EASY FOR ST ELIAS

St Elias girls outplayed St Theresa 4-0 to clinch the title in the Major Dhyan Chand Inter-Schools Hockey Tournament at the Mahindra Stadium on Wednesday.

Madhavi Mhatre struck twice and Harshada Dhaniwale and Aradhana Jadhav added a goal each for the winners.

In the boys' final, Children Academy overcame Guru Nanak with a 1-0 win after Vansh Shah found the mark.

CATHEDRAL TRIUMPHS

Cathedral & John Connon, Fort were crowned champions in the boys' open category in the IIFL Wealth-Mumbai Inter-Schools Chess Championship, at the GD Somani School, Cuffe Parade.

The winners, comprising Rishab Shah, Shourya Jain, Himay Kapadia and Darsh Doshi won all their matches to finish with 12 match points ahead of Gurukul who finished with nine points.

FINAL STANDINGS

Standard X: 1-Cathedral 12 points; 2-Gurukul 9, 3-Thakur Public 6.
Standard VII: 1-Don Bosco 12, 2-MKVVI, Borivali 10, 3-Sri Sri Ravishankar Vidyalaya 8.
Standard VI: 1-Bombay Scottish, Mahim 10, 2-Gopi Birla Memorial 10, 3-MKVVI, Borivali 9.
Standard IV: 1-BD Somani 10, 2 Bombay Scottish, Mahim 9, 3-Vidya Niketan 'B' 8.
Standard II: Hiranandani Foundation 12, 2-Hill Spring International 'A' 9, 3-Arya Vidya Mandir, Juhu 8.

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NAVI MUMBAI THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2018

GOA CM MANOHAR PARRIKAR TO LEAVE FOR FOR TREATMENT IN US AGAIN ›HT NATION P7

76K FYJC SEATS STILL VACANT ›htmetro p2

RAJINI'S PARTY LAUNCHES 'BLUE BOOK'
A RULE BOOK FOR ACTOR'S RAJINI MAKKAL MANDRAM ›HT NATION P6

No democracy without dissent: SC on activists

'SAFETY VALVE' Top court issues notice to Maha govt; 5 to be under house arrest

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NEW DELHI/PUNE/MUMBAI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday stopped Pune police from taking custody of five activists who were arrested a day before for alleged Maoist links, and placed them under house arrest in their respective homes until the case is heard again on September 6.

A three-judge SC bench headed by chief justice of India Dipak Misra also asked the Maharashtra government to file a response by September 5 to a petition by historian Romila Thapar and others that alleged the arrests were aimed at muzzling dissent.

"Dissent is the safety valve of democracy, the pressure cooker will burst if you don't allow the safety valves," justice DY Chandrachud, a part of the bench with justice AM Khanwilkar, said.

The SC bench questioned the rationale behind the arrest nine months after violence on January 1 left one person dead and four others injured in Bhima Koregaon, where hundreds of thousands of Dalits were celebrating the bicentennial of a war between the British and the Peshwas.

"There are wider issues raised by them (petitioners). Concern raised is that you are quelling dissent. Democracy is not safe if you quell dissent and that is what they are worried about," the court said.

In near-simultaneous Pune police raids across five states on Tuesday, lawyer and trade union activist Sudha Bharadwaj, poet P Varavara Rao, activist Gautam Navlakha, and lawyers Arun Ferreira and Vernon Gonsalves were arrested and charged with criminal conspiracy, creating fear and enmity between groups, and under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The arrests were part of an investigation into the Bhima Koregaon violence. Navlakha's transit remand from his house in Delhi to Pune was stayed by the Delhi high court on Tuesday evening and he was put on house arrest, and following a late-night hearing, Bharadwaj's transit warrant was also recalled by the local magistrate.

CONTINUED ON P10
››RELATED REPORTS, P5 &P6

DAY OF PROTESTS, COURTROOM DRAMA

■ Activists protesting against the arrest of poet Varavara Rao in Hyderabad. AFP

SUPREME COURT: Hearing begins in the afternoon on a petition by academics challenging the arrests. **'Dissent is the safety valve of democracy, the pressure cooker will burst if you don't allow the safety valves,'** the bench says, as it orders house arrest for the five activists till Sept 6

DELHI HC: Hearing continues on a petition by activist Gautam Navlakha against his arrest and transit remand. Halfway through dictating the order, the HC is informed of the apex court order. Matter will be heard on Thursday

PUNE COURT: Pune police link activists to banned Maoist group, say they were planning to recruit young people and target **'highest political functionaries'**. Late evening, court orders police to take the three activists back to their residence, as per the top court order

NHRC: Issues notice to Maharashtra government. Says arrests were made in violation of procedure and **'amounted to human rights violation'**

RBI ANNUAL REPORT

'99.3% demonetised notes were returned'

HT Correspondent
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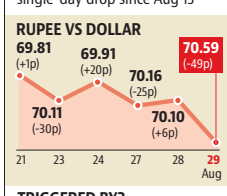
NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has conceded for the first time that almost all the banknotes invalidated in November 2016 have returned to it in the form of deposits, handing the Opposition fresh ammunition to target the government ahead of a string of state polls leading to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi rendered invalid ₹500 and Rs1,000 notes worth ₹15.44 lakh crore by value from the midnight of November 8-9, 2016, in an unprecedented move the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government described as a crackdown on black money, or untaxed, unaccounted cash stashed away by dishonest individuals, terror financing and counterfeit currency.

CONTINUED ON P10

RUPEE SLIDES 49 PAISE
Rupee plunged to an all-time low of 70.65 in day trade; it closed at 70.59/$, the biggest single-day drop since Aug 13



TRIGGERED BY?
High crude prices, concerns over widening current account deficit

RInfra sells Mumbai power utility to Adani for ₹18,800cr

Tanya Thomas and Shayan Ghosh
tanya.t@livemint.com

MUMBAI: Reliance Infrastructure Ltd's chairman Anil Ambani on Wednesday completed the sale of its Mumbai city power distribution business to fellow industrialist Gautam Adani for ₹18,800 crore.

Though Reliance Infra has sold one of its profitable business ventures, it will help bolster the company's financials by repaying debt of ₹13,800 crore from an accumulated debt of ₹22,000 crore.

"For Reliance Infra, this is truly a transformative transaction. RInfra's gross debt will be reduced from about ₹22,000 crore to ₹7,500 crore, representing a steep debt reduction of 65% in just a single transaction," chairman Ambani told reporters at a news conference.

"RInfra's annual interest cost will also be reduced by 70% from ₹2,600 crore to ₹800 crore." The deal will help to narrow RInfra's debt-equity ratio to 0.3:1, among the lowest in the industry.

THE SALE WILL HELP RINFRA BOLSTER ITS FINANCIALS BY REPAYING DEBT OF ₹13,800 CRORE FROM AN ACCUMULATED DEBT OF ₹22,000 CRORE

CONTINUED ON P10

ATS CLAIMS 'NH4' CODE MAY HELP LINK MURDERS OF RATIONALISTS

Manish K Pathak
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MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) claimed to have narrowed down on the possible mastermind behind the terror plot hatched by the six recently arrested alleged sympathisers of Hindu right-wing group Sanatan Sanstha.

ATS also claimed to have decoded the communication between the arrested accused, who used the code 'NH4 wala kaam' (Work on NH4), where NH4 stands for the erstwhile National Highway 4 that connects Mumbai to Chennai via Pune, Satara, Kolhapur, Belagavi and Bengaluru — areas where rationalists Dr Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, MM Kalburgi and journalist Gauri Lankesh were killed.

"It could be a crucial code to prove the possible link between the murders of Dabholkar, Pansare, Kalburgi and Lankesh," said the officer. "The blasts outside theatres in Thane and Belagavi, which were engineered by the accused, further points to the links and their operational capabilities in these regions." The mastermind, meanwhile, is a leader of a religious sect from Maharashtra that is closely associated with Sanatan Sanstha, said ATS officers, who did not wish to be named.

CONTINUED ON P10
››RELATED REPORT, P2

asiangames 11 20 23

ATHLETES BRING DOUBLE DELIGHT

■ Arpinder Singh ended India's 48-year wait for a gold medal in men's triple jump; Swapna Barman becoming the first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian gold. PTI/AFP ››P16 & P17

3 big infra projects get state nod

HT Correspondent
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MUMBAI: Soon, you will be able to get from Mumbai to Pune, and from south Mumbai to the suburbs, faster, as the state gave final clearances to three projects.

The first, a 13.3-km link between Khalapur and Kusgaon on the Mumbai-Pune expressway, which will let motorists heading to Pune avoid the ghat section and reduce journey time by 25 minutes. It is expected to take three years to be ready.

The second is the Versova-Bandra sea link for faster connectivity between south Mumbai and the western suburbs. The third project approved is a six-lane bridge over Thane creek that will come up alongside the existing Vashi bridge. All three proposals were cleared in a meeting led by CM Devendra Fadnavis.

"I have directed to ensure the construction work of all three projects should be started in the next one month," Fadnavis tweeted.

››FULL REPORT, P2

WHAT'S IN THE WORKS?

Mumbai to Pune link	Versova-Bandra Sea Link	Bridge over Thane creek
13.3km link between Khalapur and Kusgaon on Mumbai-Pune expressway, costing ₹3,939 cr, to reduce travel time between the two cities by 25 minutes	Part of the state's Coastal Road plan, the 8-lane, 17.17-km sea link aims to connect SoBo to the suburbs; to be built at a cost of ₹6,993.99 crore. It had a 2023 deadline.	A third bridge on Thane creek, running parallel to two existing ones connecting Mumbai and Navi Mumbai . The 1.8-km bridge will cost ₹560 crore to build

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THE ROADS ARE REPAIRED EVERY YEAR, SO WHY ISN'T THE QUALITY MAINTAINED?
›ASHOK WADEKAR, resident of Manpada, on the poor condition of Thane roads

shortstories

ROBBER HELD IN PANVEL, STOLEN GOODS SEIZED

NAVI MUMBAI: A 33-year-old man who was allegedly involved in house break-ins and chain snatching cases, was arrested by the Panvel taluka police on Monday. With his arrest, the police claimed to have solved five cases registered in the Panvel region alone. The accused has many other cases registered against him at different police stations of Raigad district, a senior officer said. So far, the police have recovered 178 grams of gold jewellery, two mobile phones and a two-wheeler from him. **HTC**

40-year-old paan shop owner held for selling ganja

NAVI MUMBAI: The anti-narcotic cell of Navi Mumbai police has arrested a 40-year-old paan shop owner for allegedly selling ganja. The police have also recovered 2.90 kg ganja worth ₹35,100 from his possession. Acting on a tip, the police raided Naresh paan center at Panvel taluka on Tuesday night and found the ganja in it. "We had received information that the owner of the paan shop was selling narcotics on the pretext of selling paan of different varieties," said a police officer from the anti-narcotic cell. **HTC**

Kalyan traffic police book 40 for flouting rule

KALYAN: Followed by the decision of taking action against motorists who drive on the wrong side in the city and cause congestion, the Kalyan traffic police have booked 40 people for violation in the last two days. "We have taken action against 40 of them and this has helped improve the traffic movement on the new Patripool bridge. The violators have been booked under the Motor Vehicles Act and fines ranging from Rs200 to Rs1,200 imposed on motorists," said Anil Deshmukh , senior traffic police inspector of Kalyan unit. **HTC**

Potholes in Thane repaired overnight

ON A WAR FOOTING Residents fume as their numerous protests did not yield result but Yuva Sena chief's visit made TMC extra efficient

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THANE: The nightlong pothole filling spree of the Thane Municipal Corporation, a day before the visit of Yuva Sena president Aaditya Thackeray to inaugurate several projects, has not gone down well with residents.

Fed up of inaction by the civic authority in spite of several protests, Thane residents said the potholes were filled overnight not for common people but for the politician's visit.

The Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC), however, claimed it would be an ongoing process for the next three nights.

It carried out the road repair work on Tuesday night at more than 25 prime locations across the city.

Sandeep Malvi, public relation officer of TMC said, "The civic commission gave directives to work throughout the night to fill potholes to ease the present traffic congestion and ensure there are no potholes in the city before Ganeshotsav. The work of filling potholes is going on for the past few days. However, rain and increased load of heavy vehicle traffic have led to resurfacing of potholes."

Malvi said it was decided to fill potholes at night to prevent traffic congestion.

Anil Patil, city engineer said, that they had formed teams of senior engineers who supervised the work at different places. "The work began at 10pm and continued till 5am. More than 500 workers repaired the roads."

The corporation concentrated on roads such as Eastern Express Highway, Ghodbunder Road and the service road which connect Thane to other cities.

This is what Nitin flyover in Thane looked like before Tuesday. Motorists had been complaining about the pathetic road. PRAFUL GANGURDE/HT

Residents have been protesting the poor condition of roads through campaigns and also through social media. The outrage grew when a biker met with an accident on Tuesday.

Ashok Wadekar, 68, a resident of Manpada, was injured after his bike skidded on a pothole-riddled road in Manpada. Wadekar said, "The road had worn off and there was a lot of sand on the road. As there was a heavy vehicle in front of me, I took a slight turn but my bike skidded off the sand. My hand was fractured. My helmet came off and my glasses hit my eyes. I got few stitched on the lower part of my eye."

He added, "The road is repaired every year, so why isn't the quality maintained? The TMC has no system in place to check the quality of the materials used by contractors in repair works."

Even as the TMC is facing flak for the pathetic condition of roads, its decision to fix roads overnight did not go down well with residents, who said the work was undertaken on a war footing as Thackeray was visiting the city.

Shilpa Bhat, member of the Road Commuters' Forum, said, "If potholes had been repaired because of the visit of high-ranking politicians, it shows that the authorities can complete the work overnight if they wish to. The pothole problem is impacting our daily lives. We urge the authorities to take cognizance of the citizens' problems."

Sachin Kamble, 37, a Kopri-based lawyer, said that for weeks they had been demanding to fill the potholes. "The TMC claimed to be filling them, but nothing much was seen on the roads. However on Tuesday night, the authorities and ministers were seen on road filling potholes overnight. We believe that efforts are merely for Thackeray's visit. The corporation should show similar dedication on other days too."

Some residents took to twitter commenting that some VIPs should visit the city daily so that the pothole issue would be solved.

TMC officials supervise repair work on Tuesday night near Nitin flyover in Thane, hours before Aaditya Thackeray's visit.

> If potholes had been repaired because of the visit of high-ranking politicians, it shows that the authorities can complete the work overnight if they wish to
> SHILPA BHAT, member of the Road Commuters' Forum

The TMC said the work would go on for three nights. Malvi said, "The special night time drive will go on for three days. The civic commissioner has asked to complete maximum work at night."

CRATERS RESURFACE

Some potholes which were repaired on Tuesday night have reappeared, in just a few hours. The cement-filled potholes on Nitin Flyover came off covering the entire flyover with cement powder.

ACTIVIST THREATENED BY CONTRACTOR

Thane activist Sanjeev Dutta has filed a non-cognisible offence against a road contractor for allegedly threatening him for clicking photos of potholes. Dutta claimed that he was taking pictures of potholes which had reappeared on a recently repaired road when the contractor threatened him.

Dutta said, "A few days ago, the work of filling potholes was undertaken near my house in Jambli Naka. However, the road was damaged within few days, revealing the substandard work. I posted the photos on social networking sites. On Tuesday evening, when I was walking along the TMC road, a man approached me on motorbike. He started abusing me for uploading the photos. He also threatened me with dire consequences if I did not remove the photos. I have filed an NC with the Naupada police."

Cops chalk out plan for peace during festivals

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NAVI MUMBAI : The Navi Mumbai police have started meeting residents to ensure that peace prevails in the city during the upcoming festivals of dahi handi and Ganeshotsav.

After the widespread violence during the Maratha protests last month, the police are not taking any chance for a similar situation to arise.

On July 25, the Maratha protest turned ugly as violence broke out at Kopar Khairane and there were attacks on people's homes, offices and hotels.

Vehicles were set on fire in front of a police outpost. Mobile phone internet services were suspended in the satellite city for two days.

Sudhakar Pathare, deputy commissioner of police (zone I), said, "We have started collecting intelligence inputs from some of the areas. Officials from the state intelligence department and Intelligence Bureau are on the field."

"Our officials are also roaming around in plainclothes to know the ground realities. Based on the reports provided by the people, we will prepare our strategy," he said.

According to Pathare, officials from the cyber cell are keeping a tab on social media too.

"They are paying especial attention so that no one can spread any rumour or hate message against anyone. Strict punitive measures will be taken if anyone is found doing so," he said.

The police have started tracking the movement of those with criminal background.

Pathare said, "We have already externed five people from our area over the past one week. We are preparing the second list of people with criminal background and they will be exterened before the festival."

BREAKING BARRIERS

Children participate in dahi handi celebrations at Shivaji ground in Thane on Tuesday. PRAFUL GANGURDE/HT

THANE: Special students from around 15 schools gathered at Shivaji Maidan on Tuesday to celebrate dahi handi.

With 527 differently abled students dressed in traditional attire, the ground at Jambhli Naka looked colourful with little dahi handis put across the maidan.

Bal Gopal Mitra Mandal along with Punarjeevan Samajik Trust organised the event. They also created awareness on organ donation.

"With the aim to give all the children an equal opportunity to revel in the festive spirit, we started this initiative 27 years ago. We took doctors' feedback before conducting this event and ensured that the children are safe and feel comfortable while breaking handis," said Vials Damale, president of Bal Gopal Mitra Mandal.

Children were given protein tonic, cash prize and trophies were given to all participating students. "Teachers had taught me to climb the pyramid and I sat atop the shoulder of a new friend I made today. It was fun to break the handi," said Parth Joshi, 12, one of the participants.

All necessary precautions and measures were taken to ensure the safety of the little Govindas. A two-tier pyramid was made by children with the help of teachers and parents.

ANKITA G MENON

DEFECTIVE CAR SALE RACKET UNEARTHED: COP

THANE : The Thane Police on Wednesday claimed to have unearthed a racket that allegedly involved selling defective cars to customers with the help of forged documents.

"One of the two accused involved in the case is a regional transport office (RTO) agent from Beed in the Marathwada region," a police officer said.

"Accused Sachin Sonawane, a resident of Vashi in Navi Mumbai, allegedly used to purchase cars with some defects from car dealers based in Mumbai and used to sell them to unsuspecting buyers by decking them up," said Thane police public relation officer (PRO) Sukhda Narkar.

As per the conditions mentioned in the car purchase tenders, Sonawane was supposed to destroy the defective cars, but instead he sold them with the help of another accused Sayyed Shakir, Narkar said.

Sonawane cheated the state exchequer of ₹9.42 lakh by forging receipts of vehicle tax, Narkar said.

Shakir used to prepare fake sale certificates and manufacturing certificates of the cars and got them registered with the RTO in Beed, the officer said. She said the police stumbled upon the scam while they were probing a car registration racket at the Beed RTO.

Sonawane and Shakir have been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for cheating.

Police have yet to make any arrests in the case. The cheating occurred during March 2017 to September 2017.

Police have so far unearthed five cases of dubious sales during the investigation. **PTI**

QUALITY CHECK: FDA CRACKS DOWN ON SWEET SHOPS

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THANE: With the beginning of the festive season, the Food and Drug Authority (FDA) will start inspecting sweet shops and eateries in the city to check for quality of sweets sold.

"We will begin special drives against sweet shops, manufacturers of sweets and raw materials from September 1. We have deployed six food inspectors in Thane along with 30 employees to sample the raw materials. If we find that the safety norms are not in place, we will seal the shops," said Suresh Deshmukh, joint commissioner of food, Thane.

The Ganeshotsav organisers, too, are on the FDA radar.

The officials will ensure the 'prasad' distributed among devotees is prepared in clean and hygienic environment.

The FDA has stationed a team of six food inspectors and 33 employees for the special drive set to begin from September 1.

With the onset of festive season, the demand for sweets, dry fruits and raw materials such as ghee, oil, mawa, flour, jaggery, sugar, besan, coloured sweets, silver work and saffron (kesar) increases.

"We will keep a check on all Ganesh pandals to ensure that the 'prasad' is cooked in a hygienic environment. We will conduct a meeting with the organisers, giving them safety guidelines to cook 'prasad'. We will keep an eye on all pandals to ensure none of the safety guidelines are violated," said Deshmukh.

THE GUIDELINES

The guidelines are based on the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which was implemented in 2011. The place where 'prasad' is prepared should be clean and hygienic, raw materials should be bought from registered stores, cooks and distributors should wear gloves, clean clothes and shower cap and take special precaution in case of milk-based sweets.

DIAL TO COMPLAINTS

For any complain regarding adulteration call on 25820510 or 25811988

THEME PARK OPENS

Visit this park, learn driving and know all about safety on roads

Megha Pol
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THANE: After a delay of over four months, the Thane Municipal Corporation has finally opened the Children's Traffic Park and Urban Forest for the residents at Kavesar.

The park will explain traffic and road safety rules to the children along with giving them driving lessons in four and two wheelers.

The corporation said that while the residents can visit both the parks from Thursday, the timings are not yet decided. Moreover, the riding lessons on four-wheelers too might take some time to begin.

The children's traffic park will give training to the youngsters on traffic safety rules. The school children can visit the park to learn more on the traffic rules.

The park will also give driving lessons, both virtual (through artificial stimulation) and on-track for two and four wheelers.

An official from Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) requesting anonymity said, "The driving lesson for two-wheeler, both through stimulation and on the 90-m track will begin from Thursday. In case of four wheelers, at present, only the virtual training will start while the on-track training will take around ten days to begin. People can visit the park to check out the time slots for training. We haven't decided on the timing for the park yet."

Residents who wish to learn driving will have to visit the park and get registered for these lessons. The corporation claims that the training will be free at present.

According to the officials, the park has around 15 two wheelers for women and 10 for men. Around 10 cars will be available for four-wheeler training. People above 18 years will be eligible for the driving lessons.

Shiv Sena's youth wing leader Aaditya Thackeray inaugurated the two parks for the public on Wednesday.

The corporation had earlier plans to get the chief minister to open the park in April. However, after the event was cancelled, the park was awaiting inauguration for almost four months.

The children's traffic park at Ghodbunder Road in Thane was thrown open to the public on Wednesday. PRAFUL GANGURDE/HT

Thackeray also inaugurated the Urban Jungle which has its gate in the premises of the traffic park. The forest is a four-and-a-half acres of plot planted with over 3,500 trees of various local species.

TMC has planted around 3,500 trees of different species like peepal, banyan, jamun, rudraksha and neem to name a few.

Apart from trees, the TMC is developing walkways and pergolas in this forest. The forest though artificial will give a feel of an authentic jungle.

"There will be no-entry fee to the urban forest. The timings at present will be the same as that of the children's traffic park, as the entry is from the park. The residents can visit the forest during the day from Thursday," the TMC official added.

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Unsafe highway takes a toll on motorists

RTI QUERY 32 people died in accidents on Sion-Panvel highway between Belapur and Vashi in nine months; it was 15 in same period last year

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NAVI MUMBAI: The 25-km Sion-Panvel highway, which passes from Vashi to Kalamboli in Navi Mumbai, has turned into an accident-prone stretch.

A Right to Information (RTI) query revealed that 32 people died in accidents between Belapur and Vashi on Sion-Panvel highway in the past nine months.

Sources from traffic department said: "There were 15 deaths and 87 accidents between Belapur and Vashi during similar period last year."

The Sanpada and Nerul stretch saw maximum deaths at 11 between November 2017 and July this year.

The vital link to Mumbai and Pune has been seeing regular traffic snarls because of potholes this monsoon.

Activist Deepak Singh filed a public interest litigation on pothole-riddled highway and problems faced by commuters every day. "The hearing has been intentionally delayed, despite the case being a criminal PIL. I have written a letter to the Chief Justice of India to take up this case on priority basis," said Singh, who also filed the RTI query.

₹15 Lakh Daily revenue of the highway from toll collection

15,000 two-wheelers ply on the highway

30,000 four-wheelers ply on the highway

50,000 heavy vehicles ply at night

3 Lakh vehicles ply in a day on the stretch

ABOUT SION-PANVEL HIGHWAY

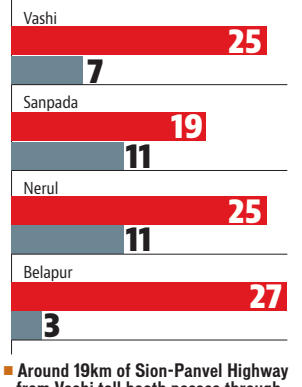
PWD looks after the maintenance of the 25km stretch of Sion-Panvel highway

Vashi, Nerul, Belapur, Kharghar and Taloja are the five bridges maintained by MEP

A Silent protest was also carried out by daily commuter only July 21, who demanded to waive off the toll till the highway is repaired

6 CASES have been registered with the PWD in Belapur in 2018

Number of accidents on Sion-Panvel highway from November 2017 till july



Around 19km of Sion-Panvel Highway from Vashi toll booth passes through Navi Mumbai. BACHCHAN KUMAR/HT

Around 19 km of Sion-Panvel Highway from Vashi toll booth till the start of Pune Expressway passes through Sanpada, Nerul, Belapur, Juinagar, Kalamboli and Panvel

The public works department (PWD) is responsible for maintaining the highway. PWD executive engineer Kishore Patil said, "We have taken up repairs but cannot start concretisation work till monsoon ends. We fill patches and also keep an eye on newly developed potholes and repair them. The traffic snarls are because of potholes on Belapur and Vashi bridge which is maintained by Mumbai Entry Point (MEP) Infrastructures."

The police stations had written to PWD officials before monsoon to repair the stretch. But, nothing was done. Anil Deshmukh senior police inspector from Vashi police station said, "In the letter, we mentioned about dangerous stretch killing people but nothing was done to solve the issue."

The Sion-Panvel Highway is one of the busiest highway in the country and an important junction for vehicles going towards Pune, Goa and southern cities of Maharashtra through Mumbai-Pune Expressway.

Engineer from MEP Vijay Mane said, "We have already fixed paver blocks at the beginning of Belapur bridge. Asphalting work on highway has been taken up to fill potholes."

One of the worst stretches of the highway is near Vashi bridge till Sanpada.

Nitin Pawar, deputy commissioner police (traffic), said, "The condition of the highway has worsened this year. Cops manning traffic face difficulty and at times they have to face motorists' ire."

"It is alarming that the potholes which are the cause of accidents have been ignored. PWD officials should be answerable for the deaths," said Hemant Sharma, a transport activist.

Motorists and commuters have been bearing the brunt.

"Small accidents are a daily affair. Bikers topple and fall every day," said Bipin Apte, 32, who travels from Kamothe to Chembur every day.

Amit Charles, 29, took three hours to reach Mumbai airport.

"It should have ideally taken one and half hours. Officials are still doing shoddy work. They are earning revenue in crores but have ignored our problems," said Charles, a Kharghar resident.

HC ASKS FOR STATE'S REPLY ON KHARGHAR POND PLEA

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NAVI MUMBAI: The high court recently directed the state to file its reply on the Kharghar pond case, which was filed by NGO Abhivyakti.

The state will have to make it clear whether the land is a wetland area.

Residents from Kharghar's Sector 19 and Abhivyakti have been fighting for months to save the pond.

Pramod Patil, nodal officer, environment and forest, City and Industrial Development Corporation (Cidco), said, "We have filed our reply. As per our findings, the area isn't notified as a wetland. A pond developed because of artificial depression."

D Stalin, Wetland Committee member, said Kharghar got its name from the creek. "It is a wetland area and this has been mentioned in the state's inventory. Only Cidco has been saying there are no wetlands in Navi Mumbai," said Stalin.

Earlier, residents kept vigil to check illegal dumping. In its initial order, the court had directed Cidco to ensure there was no further dumping in the area as it was an unprotected area.

Nareshchandra Singh, founder of Abhivyakti, said, "We have submitted our findings to the court. It clearly indicates that the pond is an extension and part of a large expanse of wetland area. We have submitted maps from government portals. As per the national inventory list, the area is a wetland. We have to wait for the state's reply."

Surrounded by high-rises, the pond, which has shrunk over the years, is home to many types of birds.

"Whether it is natural or artificial, the water body needs to be saved. Cidco, too, should take up responsibility," said Aba Vithal Ranaware, an environmentalist and Navi Mumbai resident for the past three decades.

"When I shifted to Vashi in the 80s, there was nothing beyond Vashi and what we could see was a large expanse of wetland and mangrove. However, most of the wetland area slowly turned into development zone," he said.

Cidco to put up plots on sale for cooperative housing societies

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NAVI MUMBAI: The City and Industrial Development Corporation (Cidco) will conduct a lottery for the allotment of 20 plots reserved for cooperative housing societies.

The draw is likely to be held on September 6 through the traditional manual system.

Chief public relations officer of Cidco Mohan Ninawe said, "Cidco has brought the plot sale scheme for housing societies after several years. We have received 170 applications for 20 plots."

Cidco had been constructing affordable houses in Navi Mumbai and later started allotting plot to cooperative housing societies.

LUCKY DRAW

- Cidco to conduct a lottery for the allotment of 20 plots reserved for cooperative housing societies
- The lottery likely to be held on September 6
- It will be held through the traditional manual system
- Twenty cooperating housing society buildings will soon come up in the city.

For the past few years, it has been concentrating on selling plots to individuals which has got it good returns. This had led to dashing hopes of those who cannot buy high priced properties.

Recently, it again offered affordable housing and along with it plots for societies representing various sections of the societies with an aim to allow member of the same fraternity to stay together.

Of the 170 applications received, 24 have been rejected for not meeting the eligibility criteria. Twenty cooperating housing society buildings to come soon in the city. The plot for freedom fighters is being offered at Sector 5 in Panvel, while a plot at Sector 12 of Kharghar has been reserved for MLAs and MPs.

Ninawe said, "The draw for the plot will be held in second week of September."

LOST LEGS IN RAILWAY ACCIDENT

Thane girl gets financial aid from couple

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THANE: After a 14-year-old girl lost her legs in a railway accident at Thane station two weeks ago, a couple from Prabhadevi has extended financial support by raising around ₹2 lakh for her treatment.

The couple got to know about the girl from a newspaper report. When they read that the girl's family cannot afford her treatment, they decided to extend financial support to her.

The accident took place on August 14 at 3.30pm at Thane station and Runali More lost both her legs, below the knees.

She is in hospital for the past 15 days and the hospital bill for her treatment is around ₹3 lakh.

"After reading the report, we decided to support the girl financially as we learnt that her family is not well off. We have contributed ₹1.25 lakh to her hospital bill. Even our 14-year-old son is helping collect funds for the girl. As of now, he has managed to collect around ₹1.7 lakh and hopes to collect around ₹3 lakh, which will be used for her prosthetic legs," said the couple from Mahim requesting anonymity. The amount collected through crowdfunding, an initiative by their son, will be transferred to More's personal account, added the couple.

Runali More with her parents in a private hospital. Her hospital bill has touched ₹3 lakh. HT FILE

THE COUPLE'S SON ALSO HELPED COLLECT ₹1.7LAKH FOR THE GIRL AND HOPES TO REACH ₹3 LAKH

"We want More to make herself strong to fight all the challenges," said the 48-year-old man.

More's mother, who works as a house help, is the only earning member of the family. "It will be difficult for my parents to afford my treatment. I am thankful to the couple for helping me," said More, undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Thane.

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htcafé MUMBAI

Kriti Sanon and sister, Nupur Sanon (right)
PHOTO: PRODIP GUHA/HT

My sister is taking time to say yes to a film: Kriti Sanon

Shreya Mukherjee

Being the elder sister, Bollywood actor Kriti Sanon doesn't mind when her beloved younger sister, Nupur Sanon, calls her "mummy" just to tease her. "It's okay when sometimes Nupur calls me 'chhoti mummy'. There's a part of me that's very protective and acts like a mother to her, [when I'm] in Mumbai," says Kriti, adding that though they are sisters, they're more like buddies.

"We confide in each other; whenever I want to talk about anything, she's there. We have the same group [of friends] in Mumbai. But at the same time, I try and make sure that she's doing fine. I check on her late nights, whether she's eating on time, resting well, etc. I can't be chilled out about it. She has more friends than I do. I've been in this city for five-six years and she has been here for just a year-and-a-half and she has like some 50 friends. And I don't think I can count five on my finger," says the Delhi girl, Kriti, with a laugh.

Over the past couple of months, rumours have been abuzz about Nupur being keen on having a career in acting. Kriti shares that it's a passion that her sister has discovered lately. "Initially, I was modelling and I realised that I'd like to become an actor. She, too, realised that she really likes acting and enjoys it a lot. Nupur is yet to sign a film. She's taking her time and weighing all her opportunities before saying yes to something. And I think this is the right way to go. Your first project is very important," says Kriti, sounding like the wise elder sister even during our conversation. We mention this, and she laughs again.

> Nupur and I confide in each other; whenever I want to talk about anything, she's there. We have the same group [of friends] in Mumbai. But at the same time, I try and make sure that she's doing fine.
> **KRITI SANON,** ACTOR

So, what are the career tips that she has given to Nupur? "There's just one thing that I told her, and that was from my experience. When I came to Mumbai to work in films, there were times when I got opportunities that kind of lured me and made me think whether I should grab it or not. Such times are not easy to deal with. One needs to have a lot of patience," says Kriti. "I've told Nupur, 'make sure that whatever you step into is good enough for your debut'. The first film sets the graph and ground for an actor. Being very sure of what you take up is the most important and the hardest part. Letting go of offers is also very difficult," adds the actor, who'll be seen next in a bunch of Bollywood films: Housefull 4, Luka Chuppi, Arjun Patiala, Panipat and Kalank.

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ALL SET FOR A GOLDEN YEAR!

As Akshay Kumar's latest hit becomes the eighth Hindi film to enter the ₹100-crore club this year, we take a look at how 2018 could easily become the most profitable year, in recent times, for Bollywood

Stills from Sanju (above left), Zero (above right) and Padmaavat (below)

Prashant Singh

On Monday (August 27), when Gold entered the ₹100-crore club, the Akshay Kumar-starrer became the eighth Hindi film to join the much-coveted group this year. Other films that made over ₹100 crore at the Indian box office in 2018 include Padmaavat, Sanju (both the movies earned over ₹300 crore each), Sonu Ke Titu Ki Sweety (SKTKS), Raid, Baaghi 2, Raazi and Race 3.

FASCINATING TIMES

Apart from the films mentioned above, a number of other Hindi films, too, hit the bullseye at the box office. The list includes Hichki, Veere Di Wedding, Pad Man, October, Parmanu: The Story of Pokhran, Dhadak and Satyameva Jayate (SJ; still running). It's interesting to note that 2018 still has four months to go — which is traditionally considered the most profitable time span for Hindi films.

In fact, September-December will also see some of the biggest potential blockbusters, such as Zero, Thugs of Hindostan, Simmba and 2.0, hitting the big screen. So, the question is: can 2018 turn out to be Bollywood's most profitable one in recent times? "Absolutely! To sum things up: till now, this year has been an eye-opener as well as a fascinating one," says trade analyst Taran Adarsh.

Stills from Satyameva Jayate (above), Raazi (right) and Gold (far right)

CONTENT IS KING

Experts feel it's "heartening" to see audiences making their way to cinema halls in such big numbers. "In 2018, non-theatrical revenues have shot up but what's more significant is that theatrical earnings have increased, which means people have returned to theatres," says Adarsh, adding that "people have connected with Hindi films again" in a big way. "When that happens, you have won more than half the battle," he says.

Producer Bhushan Kumar, who backed films such as Raid, SKTKS and SJ, concurs. "In 2018, audiences have made it crystal clear that they will back good and entertaining content. And as a producer, it's heartening to know that I can fearlessly back different kinds of films, knowing that people are willing to watch a variety of stories and that too, in theatres."

Bhushan and Adarsh have a point, considering films belonging to different genres — historical (Padmaavat), female-oriented (VDW and Raazi), action thrillers (Baaghi 2, Race 3 and SJ), romcoms (SKTKS and Dhadak), biopics/real life inspired films (Sanju and Parmanu) as well as socially relevant movies (Hichki and Pad Man) have made their mark at the box office.

MONEY MATTERS

While experts agree that it all "ultimately boils down to the quality of content", movies have to be executed in a commercially-viable manner as well. "This year, business wise, what has also worked in a big way are cost-effective and sensibly-priced films. Be it our films (SKTKS, Raid or SJ), or even Raazi, these movies made absolute sense when it comes to return on investment," explains Bhushan.

But how have the tables turned in such a profitable manner? Says trade expert Komal Nahta: "2018 has been a sort of ground-breaking year. Actually, the last three to four years didn't turn out to be good for Bollywood at all. In such a case, everyone — actors, directors as well as writers — gets anxious and then, they have no option but to pull up their socks. That's exactly what has happened."

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MONEY-SPINNERS

Sanju: ₹340 cr
Padmaavat: ₹300 cr
Race 3: ₹170 cr
Baaghi 2: ₹165 cr
Raazi: ₹125 cr
SKTKS: ₹110 cr
Raid: ₹100 cr
(All the India nett. figures are based on trade estimates)

Side stripes: B-Town's new fashion fad

Akshay Kaushal

What's seen on fashion runways is what's in the celebrity closets. And if you are a sucker for celebrity fashion, you know that what's in the celeb closet will soon make it to everyone's closet. Looks like this time, it will be the side stripes that will be found everywhere. What was until now, considered fit only for track pants or athleisure wear, is now seen on the sides of trousers, denims and dresses.

Actors such as Shahid Kapoor, Diana Penty and Nora Fatehi have been sporting it, and fashion experts are giving this "sporty vibe" a big thumbs up.

"The side stripe gives a sporty vibe to the look and at the same time, looks perfect for casual dressing. They were all over the global ramp last season, and we are now seeing them on our Bollywood fashionistas," says designer Jenjum Gadi.

Designer Dhruv Vaish says the trend is very '70s. "With the return of everything '70s, we shouldn't be surprised seeing this, since designers are shifting their attention to that era."

This print helps create a taller, leaner look. "Side-striped trousers make your legs look longer. These vertical stripes also give an illusion of one being leaner," says stylist Sahil Gulati.

The trend is also versatile. "You have a wide range of choices when it comes to side-stripes. And the best part is that you can wear them for a formal occasion with a blazer or team it with a round neck tee for a sporty look," adds Gulati.

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(From left) Nora Fatehi, Diana Penty, Mouni Roy, Shahid Kapoor and Jimmy Sheirgill
PHOTOS: PRODIP GUHA/HT, YOGEN SHAH

STOP PRESS

HRITHIK ROSHAN ISSUES CLARIFICATION AFTER BEING ACCUSED OF CHEATING

Recently, Hrithik Roshan was accused of duping the stockist of his clothing brand of ₹21lakh. Now, the actor has clarified his stance with a statement that says that he was in no way associated with the matter. "Hrithik Roshan and HRX Brand have no association with the matter in question in news. HRX Brand has been licensed to Global Fragrances for limited purposes. The license was terminated by HRX Brand because of defaults by Global," reports Pinkvilla.

HTC

Neeraj book-ed for a big screen outing!

Prashant Singh

When he isn't calling the shots — as a film-maker — behind the camera, chances are, he is busy writing his stories and even novels. That's how Neeraj Pandey came up with his first novel, Ghalib Danger in 2013. And now, the Special 26 (2013) and Baby (2015) director has come out with the Hindi version of the same book. "Now, the next logical step is to either turn it into a web series or a two-part film," reveals Pandey, as he talks about his book, working with Ajay Devgn, and having lived with Ghalib Danger for three-four years.

Ghalib Danger is back in your life. How excited is the author in you?
I am very excited. It seems like only yesterday when the English edition came out. But I am sure the Hindi version will cater to a much larger audience. At the heart, it's a Hindi story and that's why any content [based on it] was also supposed to be in Hindi. So, I never thought that an English film could be made on it. Also, I've worked very closely on the Hindi translation. So, it's a good feeling.

We have heard that you plan to turn your novel into a film or web series. True?
Yes, because I won't be able to tell the story in one film, and making a three-part movie will be a bit too much. So, the logical thing is a two-part series, and even the structure is conducive for that as it's about two generations of gangsters. Or, there can be a web series, wherein I can unravel the story at my pace. But I am yet to take a call. We will see how the book is received, and let's see how far it reaches.

Many a times, things get lost in translation. In that sense, did you face any challenge?
I don't think we had that problem. This is one material that I breathed and lived for the last four-five years. Also, Hindi is a language that I write my films in and since I was closely associated with it, I made sure that nothing gets lost in translation (smiles).

Your films always have a real touch. Does the same hold true for your characters in the novel too?
Yes, there is a bit of this and that in it! It's not inspired by any one particular person but it is rooted in reality. Every character including the protagonist is real. Once you have that 'real' touch, you give them some unique traits. In my book, I have used Mirza Ghalib's poetry, which acts as a cornerstone for my main protagonist. So, basically, it's a fictional character set in the real world.

CONTINUED ON P3

Coming to films, your next is Chanakya, which seems to be very challenging. Also, you will be working with Ajay Devgn for the first time...
Of course, this film is challenging and we are cognizant of it. It's a project that has been with us for the last four-five years. We have been working and preparing ourselves for this film silently. So, it has been a long journey and we are aware that there is a longer journey ahead of us. Yes, it will be very exciting to work with Ajay, as he is very sharp. I feel he is constantly pushing the envelope with different kinds of content that he is part of — as an actor and as a director-producer. I have interacted with him a few times and find him to be very quick on the trigger.

PHOTO: PRAMOD THAKUR/HT

> I won't be able to tell the story in one film, and making a three-part movie will be a bit too much.
> **NEERAJ PANDEY,** FILM-MAKER

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SHOW BUZZ

CELEB DIARIES

PHOTO: KARANJOHAR/ INSTAGRAM

Perfect poser

Karan Johar posted this image on Instagram with the caption, "Shoot life!!! #callingkaran styled by @nikitajaisinghani #always!"

QUOTE HANGER

I'VE SPOKEN TO SARA (ALI KHAN) AND ANANYA (PANDAY) AND THEY'RE SO FULL OF LIFE. I'M EXCITED TO SEE THEM ON SCREEN.
JANHVI KAPOOR, ACTOR

I DON'T THINK WOMEN IN FILMS TODAY ARE IN A PLACE WHERE THEY HAVE TO WAIT FOR A STRONG FEMALE PART.
DEEPIKA PADUKONE, ACTOR

TWITTER TWATTER

Celebrating sportsmen

Akshay Kumar

@akshaykumar: Today being the birth anniversary of one of India's greatest sportsman, #MajorDhyanChand is also marked as #NationalSportsDay. The best tribute would be to not just celebrate it for a day but make sports a way of life.

PHOTO: FAIZI ALI

'I DON'T WANT TO BE AN EYE CANDY'

Sana Khan talks about how people are looking beyond the glamour and why she needs to be in a ready-to-shoot mode

Kavita Awaasthi

Actor Sana Khan shot to fame after participating in the reality show Bigg Boss season 6. After that, she starred in the Salman Khan-starrer Jai Ho (2014), followed by the erotic thriller, Wajah Tum Ho (WTH; 2016), and a guest appearance in Akshay Kumar's, Toilet: Ek Prem Katha (2017). "I don't want to be all over the place," says Sana, adding that she wants to wait for good characters and films. "It took me two years to get WTH after Jai Ho. I don't mind waiting if the wait is worth it. You want to be part of a good film and do a role that is noticed. People loved my cameo in Toilet. Directors were impressed by my performances and now they know that I can act and carry a film. Everybody wants to be part of a big film and work with popular actors but it's not easy. I want to do roles that are challenging, and not be part of films that I would end up hating."

Sana is excited about her next project, a web series co-starring Sanaya Irani. "The plot is about India and Pakistan, not Hindus and Muslims which appealed to me. I was interested in doing the web series as not only was the story thrilling, but my role too, is character driven. I play an ISI agent in the series. I don't want to be an eye candy on screen. Once you star in an erotic thriller, people tend to offer you similar roles. But thankfully, that hasn't been the case with me. I am working on two movies where I have pivotal and powerful roles. People are looking beyond the glamour factor and I too, am focusing on performance-oriented roles," she says.

Being the fitness enthusiast she is, Sana reveals that other than acting, one also has to also look fit to get good roles. She lost eight kgs in the last few months. She says, "I have been working hard to look fitter than before because looking good is a prerequisite for an actor. You should maintain yourself and be ready for the camera, always."

She feels grateful that the industry taught her to take care of her health, appearance and grooming. She says, "Moreover, nobody's going to wait for you to lose weight when they cast you. In the entertainment industry, you have to survive on your own. And when people see your talent, they want to give you work. You have to fight for yourself and get good roles, be noticed and be visible."

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> You should maintain yourself and be ready for the camera, always...You have to fight for yourself and get good roles, be noticed and be visible.
> **SANA KHAN,** ACTOR

> I have managed to go by all this time without a single picture of my daughter being published, I'm sure it's possible for others to do so too.
> **RANI MUKERJI,** ACTOR

'I don't understand the unnecessary exposure'

Sneha Mahadevan

Rani Mukerji, recently won the award for Best Actress at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne for her performance in Hichki. She also bagged the award for Excellence in Cinema. During her stay in Melbourne, Australia, Rani spoke about why star kids shouldn't get undue exposure in the public eye at one of the masterclass sessions at the film festival.

Rani had taken her two-year-old daughter Adira to Australia with her and this was the first time the two went on a vacation together to the country. Like husband Aditya Chopra who avoids the public eye, Adira too, is rarely photographed. Rani had, in earlier instances, said she respects that Aditya doesn't want to be in the limelight and will do the same for her daughter as she wants her to have a normal upbringing.

In today's time, star kids are often caught in the fan following that their famous parents garner and get introduced into the spotlight at a very young age. Talking about it, Rani said, "I don't understand the unnecessary exposure a kid is forced to have when they're young. I don't want my daughter to grow to be entitled. Her only entitlement today, is that she has famous parents, but that's it. It's not something she has earned. When she grows up, she will need to earn her own status. And that's why I feel it necessary to keep her away from the media glare. I have managed to go by all this time without a single picture of my daughter being published, I'm sure it's possible for others to do so too."

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'Dharamji had always been my inspiration'

Pooja Sharma

Gurmeet Choudhary was expected to have a certain physique as he plays an army officer from the '60s -'70s in his upcoming movie, Paltan. Apparently, Gurmeet asked his trainer to help him acquire a physique like that of actor Dharmendra during his heyday.

Gurmeet says, "I wanted a natural physique for this film. It had to be sans the perfect abs and sculpted body — the kind of physique that men had in the 1960s and '70s, specially Dharamji. The idea was to look like an army officer and not a model. Also, Dharamji had always been my inspiration, a fierce body with a handsome face. So, to play an army man, I felt Dharamji's was the perfect physique."

Talking about his fitness regimen for the role, he adds, "I went all natural to achieve this kind of physique. No supplement or fancy workout. I ate natural foods without any protein shakes. I followed a traditional workout of basic exercises, pull-ups and push-ups, which are natural and can be done without equipments."

Gurmeet adds that this film is close to his heart because it is based on the Army. He says, "My father was in the Army. So, I have lived in that environment. Secondly, I'm glad I got to work with legendary director JP Dutta. I have grown up watching his films innumerable times."

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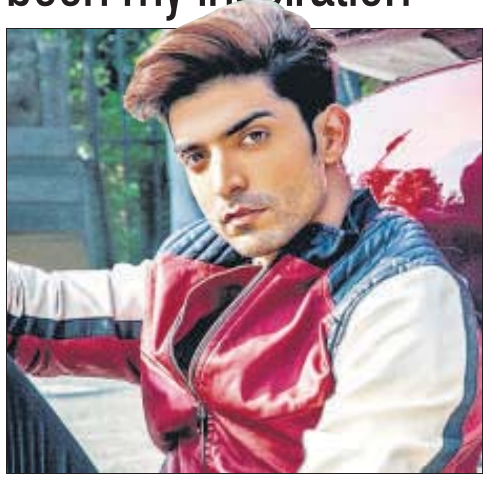

> I went all natural to achieve this kind of physique. No supplement or fancy workout.
> **GURMEET CHOUDHRY,** ACTOR

RAJKUMMAR STARRER BECOMES FIRST FILM RELEASE IN CHANDERI

Pooja Sharma

Rajkummar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor are busy promoting their horror-comedy Stree, which was shot in Chanderi, Madhya Pradesh. During the shoot of the film, the locals shared with the unit that they didn't have a theatre. They had to go to the nearest town, Bhopal, if they had to watch any film. Now, since Stree was shot in their city, they were keen on watching it. On hearing this predicament, one of the influential personalities from Chanderi decided to build a theatre in the town. So, a theatre will now be open to the locals with the release of Stree.

Director Amar Kaushik says, "The locals of Chanderi would travel almost 50 to 70 kilometres to towns in the nearing areas to watch movies since those were the closest theatres for them. While we were shooting for Stree there, the concept of having a theatre in their town came into being. The entire process of building a theatre was hastened and now the construction of the theatre is in the last leg of its completion. It is going to be ready in no time. It's a great development that the people of Chanderi would get to see films in their town and they can watch their own town in Stree."

Rajkummar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor in a still from the movie, Stree

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STARGAZING IN THE CITY

Shahid Kapoor

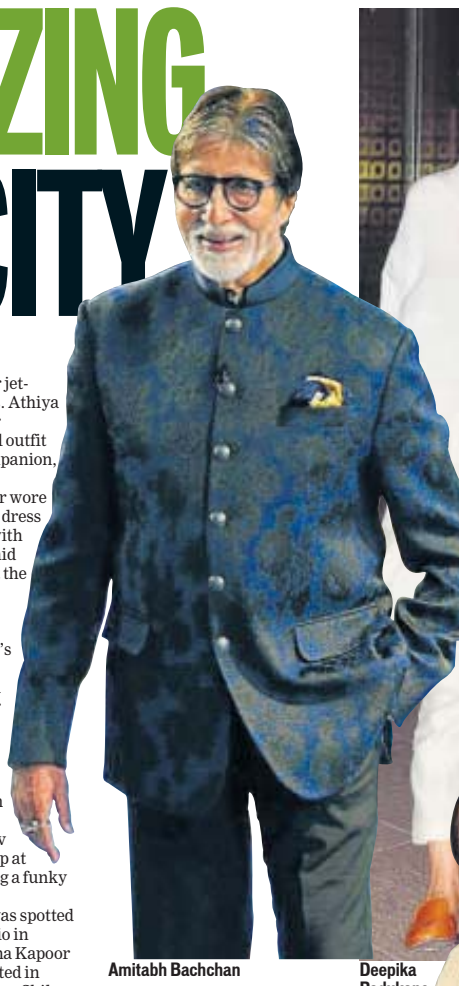
SPOTTED

Amitabh Bachchan addressed the media at a press conference held in Filmcity, Goregaon, looking dapper in a royal blue and black formal outfit. Deepika Padukone, Alia Bhatt, Vidya Balan, Jacqueline Fernandez, Dia Mirza, Janhvi Kapoor and Athiya Shetty were spotted at the airport. Deepika Padukone chose one of the most comfortable looking kurtas and paired them with pencil pants. Accessorising them with tan flats and sunglasses, she was a vision of simplistic elan in white. Alia on the other hand had no qualms enjoying all eyes on her as she donned a bright orange hoodie. She, too, flashed her dimples for the cameras. Jacqueline balanced her shocking pink tee with a white jacket. Janhvi, Vidya and Dia all opted for traditional wear for jet-setting across cities. Athiya Shetty matched her monochrome travel outfit with her travel companion, a book.

Shraddha Kapoor wore a nude, full-sleeved dress for an interaction with press in Juhu. Shahid Kapoor, who was at the same event kept it casual in a black chequered shirt. Meanwhile, Shahid's wife Mira Rajput Kapoor was spotted with their daughter Misha in Khar (W).

Taapsee Pannu donned a light blue dress to be at a masterclass for film students held in Goregaon. Anubhav Sinha also turned up at the same do sporting a funky bandana.

Malaika Arora was spotted leaving a yoga studio in Bandra (W). Kareena Kapoor Khan, too, was spotted in Bandra exiting a gym. Shilpa Shetty Kundra, Evelyn Sharma and Elli AvrRam were also photographed in the same area. Sunil Grover was at a film event held in Juhu.


Amitabh Bachchan

Deepika Padukone

Kareena Kapoor Khan

Alia Bhatt

Jacqueline Fernandez

Mira Rajput Kapoor and Misha

Dia Mirza

Anil Kapoor

Taapsee Pannu

Shraddha Kapoor

Athiya Shetty

Shilpa Shetty Kundra

Vidya Balan

Malaika Arora

Evelyn Sharma

Janhvi Kapoor
Anubhav Sinha

Elli AvrRam

Sunil Grover

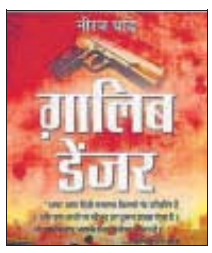
I enjoy writing more than direction: Neeraj

CONTINUED FROM P1

You are a film-maker as well as a writer. Which hat do you enjoy wearing more?
Writing, essentially, is a very solitary and lonesome job. But at the same time, you are in complete control of it. You don't require anyone else to be a part of that particular process. So, whether it's the pain or joy, everything is yours. It's very personal in that sense. If I have to make a choice, I enjoy writing more than direction but having said that, the experience of direction is also very different and satisfying. As a creative person, I definitely get more contentment as a writer but direction is a more collaborative process.

> Writing, essentially, is a very solitary and lonesome job. But you are in complete control of it.
> **NEERAJ PANDEY,** FILM-MAKER/WRITER

Talking about Ghalib Danger, it – in a way – reminds one of Hindi pulp fiction novels usually found at railway station bookstalls, etc. What's your take?
See, we all grew up on the same culture. And even I remember those AH Wheelers' stalls at every railway station across India, and like others, I too, would invariably pick up a comic or a book before starting a [train] journey. So, in a way, it is nice that I will now address that same milieu and cater to the readers and audiences, who love Hindi novels and pulp fiction.



Book cover of Ghalib Danger

How did you come up with the basic storyline of the novel?
I remember I came up with this character while talking to (author) S Hussain Zaidi. And then, it started growing on me. But I didn't sit down to write it until it started shaping up into something [solid] in my head. Around that time, Hussain said, 'why don't you write my [book] brand's first novel?' So, I told him that I should work on the same story that I had discussed with him. He was excited about it and that's how the journey began.

You are also working and researching for your next film, Chanakya. Has it been maddening?
It's exciting as well as challenging. But these are the moments and subjects that you live for. There are tonnes [of things] to read and thankfully, there is material available now. So, if you want, you can dig deep into it and keep on digging deeper to find a method to tell a particular story.

Prashant Singh

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TODAY'S SPECIAL

EXHIBITIONS

CHANDANA DIXIT/ JEHANGIR ART GALLERY

THE VIBRANT EARTH
At Jehangir Art Gallery, Fort. From 11am to 7pm. Till September 2.

THE MONSOON SHOW
At Gallery, Kala Ghoda. From 11am to 7pm. Till October 12.

REFLECTION OF THE SELF
At Jehangir Art Gallery, Fort. From 11am to 7pm. Till September 3.

VIDYARTHI VISHESH
At Gallery Pradarshak, Khar. From 11am to 7pm. Till September 1.

SAVOUR

FOOD FEST
Try dishes such as Chicken Moju and Thala Kerali at the Sri Lankan Food Festival. At The Leela, Andheri (E). From 12pm to 11.30pm.

NEW MENU
Try Masala Corn, Peanut Chaat, Pakodas and Flakey Veg puff at the Chai and Namkeen Menu. At Jeon, Juhu. From 9am to 9pm.

LAUGH

STAND-UP NIGHT
Comedian Nishant Tanwar will tickle your funny bone at this show with his style of comedy. At Flyp@MTV, Lower Parel. From 7pm.

FUNNY BUSINESS
Attend MBC Superjokers 60, a stand-up with 10 open comedians. At Kreating Charakters, Andheri (W). From 8pm.

ENJOY

TRIBUTE SHOW
Groove to popular Pink Floyd songs at this tribute show for the band by RLA. At Hard Rock Café, Worli. From 8.30pm.

ATTEND

ALL THAT JAZZ
Elena Friedrich, Saurav Ghosh and Anurag Naidu will take the stage at this Jazz Night. At The Quarter, Girgaon. From 9pm.

For more events log on to www.hindustantimes.com/events

Get your event listed in this section by mailing us the complete details (pictures, date and venue details) to ht.cafe@gmail.com. For any further queries, contact: 022-66134000

MOVIES ON TV

HBO
1149 Mission Impossible – Ghost Protocol
1407 Man of Steel
1622 Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice
1820 It
2100 Wonder Woman
2326 Police Story

SONY PIX
1210 The Great Wall
1358 Son of The Mask
1601 Mr Bean's Holiday
1754 The Fate of The Furious
2100 The Incredible Hulk
2327 The Scorpion King

STAR MOVIES
1251 Pirates of The Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge
1524 Life of Pi
1806 Logan
2100 Chinese Zodiac
2333 Underworld: Awakening

SONY MAX
1200 Dangerous Khiladi 4
1500 Bhoothnath Returns
1800 Ekkadiki
2100 Katamarayudu

ZEE CINEMA
1204 Bhagam Bhag
1524 Return of Raju
1811 Mera Badla Revenge
2100 The Power of 3 Jai Luv Kush

& PICTURES
1118 Sanam Teri Kasam
1428 Sardaar Gabbar Singh
1735 Train To Busan
2000 Commando 2
2243 Harry Potter And The Prisoner of Azkaban

WB
1142 Mousehunt
1315 Heart of Dragon
1455 Point Break
1645 Tarzan
1816 Overdrive
1948 The Dictator

MOVIES IN TOWN

REVIEWS AND RATINGS BY desimartini.com

SMS MOVIES to 542420
For the latest ratings and reviews

BOLLYWOOD

GENIUS
After finding love, an orphan joins RAW and is compelled to kill his entire team.

HAPPY PHIRR BHAG JAYEGI
Madness ensues when professor Harpreet Kaur gets kidnapped and lands in Shanghai.

HOLLYWOOD

MILE 22
James Silva, an operative from the CIA, is aided by a top-secret team to retrieve information.

THE MEG
A 75ft shark has to defeated in order to save people who are stuck at the ocean bed.

HINDI MOVIES

GENIUS

CAST: Utkarsh Sharma, Ayesha Jhulka, Nawazuddin Siddiqui
Carnival, Sangam, Andheri (W), 11.45am, 7.30pm,**Balaji Movieplex**, Kopar Khairane, 2pm, **PVR Growel**, Kandivali (E), 10am, 4.15pm, 10.30pm, **INOX**, Inorbit Mall, Malad (W), 9.55am, 1.05pm, 4.15pm, 6.20pm, INSIGNIA, 10.15pm, **INOX**, Raghuleela Mall, Kandivali (W) 12.20pm, 5.30pm, 11.15pm, **INOX**, Raghuleela Mall, Vashi, 9.55am, 1.20pm, 5.30pm, 10.15pm, **Cinepolis**, Fun Republic Mall, Andheri (W) 8.50am, 5.05pm, 11.30pm, **Fun Cinemas**, K Star Mall, Chembur, 10am, 4.30pm, 10.55pm, **Metro INOX Cinemas**, Marine Lines, 9.15am, 12.25pm, 3.35pm, 6.50pm, **INOX**, R-City, Ghatkopar, 10.05am, INSIGNIA, 12.45pm, 3.55pm, 7.05pm, 10.15pm, **Miraj Dattani Cinemas**, Vasai, 12.15pm, 7.45pm, Movietime, Cubic Mall, Chembur, 11am, 5pm, 8pm, 10.55pm, **PVR**, Citi Mall, Andheri (W), 9am, 5.15pm, 11.15pm, **Suncity Mukta A2 Cinemas**, Vile Parle, 2pm, **Carnival**, Little World Mall, Kharghar, 1.40pm, 10.30pm, **Carnival**, R Mall Mulund, 9.45am, 2.45pm, 7.45pm, **Star Big Cinemas**, Ambarnath (W), 11am, 1.45pm, 9.45pm, **Bahar Cinema**, Vile Parle (E), 7.15pm, **Carnival,** Dreams Mall, Vasai, 11.15am, 5pm, 10.45pm, **Chandan Cinema**, Juhu, 6.30pm, **New Excelsior Mukta A2 Cinemas**, Fort, 1.30pm, **INOX**, Thakur Mall, Dahisar 1.15pm, 4.25pm, 7.35pm, **INOX**, Neelyog, Ghatkopar (E), 9.40am, 3.40pm, 8pm, **INOX**, Metro Mall Junction, Kalyan (E), 10.15am, 1.25pm, 7.25pm, 10.35pm, **G7 Multiplex**, Bandra (W), 3.30pm, 6.30pm, **Gold Cinema**, Dadar (E), 5.15pm, **Gold Cinema**, Santacruz (W), 4pm, 10pm, **INOX**, Glomax Mall, Kharghar, 12pm, 4.30pm, 10.45pm, **INOX**, Korum Mall, Eastern Express Highway, Thane, 10.50am, 5.35pm, 10.45pm, **INOX** Laserplex, CR2, Nariman Point, 9.55am, 2.30pm, INSIGNIA, 5.25pm, 10.45pm, **Kasturba Cinema**, Malad, 6.30pm, **Carnival KT**, Vasai, 10.35am, 4.15pm, 7.15pm, 10.15pm, **Bharat Cineplex**, Kurla (W), 12.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.30pm, **Mukta A2 Cinemas**, Jai Hind, Lalbaugh, 10.30am, 4.35pm, **Miraj Fun Fiesta Cinemas**, Nallasopara, 9.30am, 8pm, **Mukta A2 Cinemas,** K Mall, New Panvel(W), 12pm, 5.30pm, 10pm, **Mukta A2 Cinemas**, Topiwala, Goregaon,10.30am, 4.30pm, **Maratha Mandir**, Mumbai Central, 6.30pm, Movietime, The Hub, Goregaon, 11am, 5pm, 8pm, 10.55pm, Movietime, Malad, 10.30am, 7.30pm, **Movietime Star City**, Matunga (W), 1pm, **Premiere Cinema**, Dadar (E), 6.30pm, **Premier Gold**, Dongri, 12.30pm, 6.30pm, **PVR, Milap,** Kandivali (W), 4.15pm, **Plaza Cinema**, Dadar, 12.30pm, **Roxy Cinema**, Charni Road, 11.45am, **Sangeeta Cineplex**, Malad, 11.30am, 2.10pm, 10.30pm, **SPI**, **S2 Haseen**, Bhiwandi, 12.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.50pm, 10pm, **Carnival SM5**, Kalyan, 10.15am, 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.15pm, **Gold Cinema**, Sona Borivali (E), 2.30pm, **Sterling Cineplex**, Fort, 5.15pm, **Tilak Cineplex**, Dombivali, 9.30am, 6.30pm, **Vandana Cinema**, Thane, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, **INOX**, Worli, Atria Mall, 10.10am, INSIGNIA, 5.25pm, INSIGNIA, 10.45pm

HAPPY PHIRR BHAG JAYEGI

CAST : Sonakshi Sinha, Diana Penty, Jassi Gill
Bharat Cineplex, Kurla (W), 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm, 10pm, **INOX**, Neelyog, Ghatkopar (E), 10.45am, 1.45pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 7.45pm, 10.45pm, **Fun Cinemas**, K Star Mall, Chembur, 9am, 11.55am, 12.30pm, 2.50pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm, 11.35pm, **Carnival**, Sangam, Andheri, 9am, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm, 11pm, **Gold Cinema**, Santacruz (W),1pm, 7pm, **Movietime Cubic Mall**, Chembur, 9am, 10am, 11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 7.30pm, 8pm, 10.45pm, **G7 Multiplex**, Bandra (W), 12.30pm, 9.30pm, **Bahar Cinema**, Vile Parle (E), 4.30pm, 10.30pm, **Movietime Suburbia**, Bandra (W), 10am, 12.45pm, 8.15pm, **Suncity Mukta A2 Cinemas**, Vile Parle, 9am, 11.45am, 5pm, 10.45pm, **INOX**, R-City, Ghatkopar, 9am, 10.35am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 3.25pm, 4.25pm, 6.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.15pm, 10.15pm, 11.15pm, **Carnival**, IMAX, Wadala, 9.05am, 11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8pm, 10.45pm, **Citylight Cinema**, Mahim, 9.45am, 2.45pm, 10.30pm, **Movietime Star City**, Matunga (W), 10am, 4pm, 10pm, **Chandan Cinema**, Juhu, 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 9.30pm, **Plaza Cinema**, Dadar, 9.30pm, **Chitra Cinema**, Dadar (E), 6.30pm, **24 Karat**, Jogeshwari, 11.15am, 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm, 10.30pm, **Cinepolis**, Fun Republic Mall, Andheri (W), 9am, 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm, 11pm, **Gold Cinema**, Dadar (E), 9.30am, 2.30pm, 10.30pm, **PVR**, Citi Mall, Andheri (W), 9am, 11am, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm, 11pm, **Premiere Cinema**, Dadar (E), 12.30pm, 3.30pm, **Movietime**, The Hub, Goregaon, 9am, 10am, 11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 7.30pm, 8pm, 10.45pm, **Matterden Carnival Cinemas (Deepak Talkies)**, Parel, 9.15am, 11.55am, 2.35pm, 5.15pm, 10.45pm, **Mukta A2 Cinemas**, Topiwala, Goregaon, 9am, 2.15pm, 5pm, 10.30pm, **Mukta A2 Cinemas**, Jai Hind, Lalbaugh, 9am, 2.30pm, 5.10pm, 10.35pm, **INOX**, Worli, Atria Mall, 10.05am, 1.15pm, 4.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm, 10.35pm, **INOX**, Inorbit Mall, Malad (W), 9.10am, 10.45am, 12pm, 1.45pm, 3.10pm, 4.45pm, 7.45pm, 9.30pm, 10.45pm, **INOX**, Raghuleela Mall, Vashi, 10.05am, 11.15am, 2.10pm, 3.35pm, 5.05pm, 8pm, 9.30pm, 10.55pm, **Kasturba Cinema**, Malad, 12.30pm, 3.30pm, **Sangeeta Cineplex**, Malad, 9am, 2.30pm, 7.50pm, 10.35pm, **Maratha Mandir**, Mumbai Central, 3.30pm, **Movietime**, Malad, 9am, 11.45am, 5.30pm, 10.55pm, **Premier Gold**, Dongri, 3.30pm, 10pm, PVR, Milap, Kandivali (W), 10am, 1pm, 4pm, 7pm, 10.45pm, **Balaji Movieplex**, Kopar Khairane, 9.15am, 12pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm, 11.15pm, **Carnival**, R Mall, Mulund, 9.10am, 11.55am, 2.40pm, 5.25pm, 8.05pm, 10.50pm, **FUN Cinemas**, Central Plaza, Girgaon, 9.30am, 7.55pm, **Roxy Cinema**, Charni Road, 9am, 2.30pm, 10.45pm, **INOX**, Raghuleela Mall, Kandivali (W), 9.30am, 11.15am, 2.10pm, 5.05pm, 8pm, 10.55pm, **Metro INOX Cinemas**, Marine Lines, 9.45am, 11.20am, 2.15pm, 5.10pm, 8.05pm, 10pm, 11pm, **Anand Cinema**, Thane, 10.30am, 4pm, 10pm, **Liberty Carnival Cinemas**, Marine Lines, 11.30am, 2.15pm, 5pm, 10.30pm, **Sterling Cineplex**, Fort 9.30am, 12pm, 2.35pm, 8.05pm, 10.30pm, **New Excelsior Mukta A2 Cinemas**, Fort, 10.30am, 4.30pm, 10.30pm, **Vandana Cinema**, Thane, 12.30pm, 9.30pm, **INOX**, Korum Mall, Eastern Express Highway, Thane, 10am, 1pm, 4.15pm, 7.15pm, 10.30pm, **Regal Cinema**, Colaba, 3.30pm, 9.30pm, **INOX** Laserplex, CR2, Nariman Point, 9.35am, 11.15am, 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 7.20pm, 9.30pm, 10.30pm, **Gold Cinema**, Sona, Borivali (E), 9.30am, 10.30pm, **INOX**, **Glomax Mall**, Kharghar, 9.05am, 11.55am, 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 7.35pm, 11.05pm, **Carnival,** Little World Mall, Kharghar, 9am, 11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8pm, 10.45pm, **Oracle Fun Square**, Kharghar, 12pm, 3pm, 6pm, 8.35pm, **INOX**, Thakur Mall, Dahisar, 9.50am, 11.15am, 2.10pm, 5.05pm, 8pm, 10.55pm, **KK Cinema**, Kamothe, 8.30am, 11.40am, 2.15pm, 5pm, 8.15pm, 11pm,**Tilak Cineplex**, Dombivali, 9.30am, 12pm, 2.30pm, 5.15pm, 8pm, 10.30pm, **Mukta A2 Cinemas**, K Mall, New Panvel (W), 9.45am, 12.15pm, 3pm, 7.45pm, 10.30pm, **Carnival**, SM5, Kalyan, 9am, 11.35am, 2.15pm, 5pm, 7.45pm, 10.30pm, **SPI, S2 Haseen**, Bhiwandi, 12.15pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm, **Miraj Dattani Cinemas**, Vasai, 9.15am, 12pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm, 11pm, **Carnival, KT**, Vasai, 9am, 11.40am, 2.20pm, 5pm, 7.45pm, 10.30pm, **Star Big Cinemas**, Ambarnath (W), 10am, 12.45pm, 3.30pm, 7.30pm, 10.30pm, **Carnival**, Dreams Mall, Vasai, 9am, 11.45am, 2.30pm, 8.15pm, 11pm, **Miraj Fun Fiesta Cinemas**, Nallasopara, 9.15am, 12pm, 2.45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm, 11pm.

GOLD

CAST : Akshay Kumar, Mouni Roy, Kunal Kapoor, Amit Sadh
Synopsis: The film shows independent India's first Olympic gold medal in hockey.
Fun Cinemas, K Star Mall, Chembur, 9.45am, 1pm, 4.15pm, 7.30pm, 10.45pm, **Carnival**, Sangam, Andheri, 10am, 1pm, 4.30pm, 7.25pm, 10.25pm, **Movietime**, Cubic Mall, Chembur, 10am, 1pm, 4pm, 7pm, 10pm, **Suncity Mukta A2 Cinemas**, Vile Parle, 9am, 2.10pm, 7.45pm, INOX, R-City, **Ghatkopar**, 10.05am, 1.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.20pm, 7.35pm, 9.30pm, 10.45pm, **Cinepolis**, Fun Republic Mall, Andheri (W), 9.45am, 1pm, 4.15pm, 7.30pm, 10.45pm, **PVR**, Citi Mall, Andheri (W), 9.45am, 1pm, 3.45pm, 7pm, 10.15pm, **INOX**, Inorbit Mall, Malad (W), 9.50am, 1pm, 4.10pm, 7.20pm, 8.20pm, 10.30pm, **INOX**, Raghuleela Mall, Vashi, 10.05am, 1.15pm, 4.25pm, 7.35pm, 10.45pm, **Balaji Movieplex**, Kopar Khairane, 9.45am, 4.15pm, 7.30pm, 10.30pm, **PVR**, Growel, Kandivali (E), 9.15am, 12.30pm, 3.45pm, 7pm, 10.15pm, **INOX**, Raghuleela Mall, Kandivali (W), 10.20am, 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 8.05pm, 10.30pm, **Metro INOX Cinemas**, Marine Lines, 10.05am, 1.15pm, 4.25pm, 7.35pm, 10.45pm, **Cinepolis**, Viviana Mall, Thane, 10am, 12.30pm, 1.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 7.45pm, 9.30pm, 11pm.

ENGLISH MOVIES

MILE 22

CAST: Mark Wahlberg, Lauren Cohan, Ronda Rousey, Iko Uwais
Carnival, Sangam, Andheri, 1.05pm, 6pm, **INOX**, R-City, Ghatkopar, 9.15am, 11.15pm, **Cinepolis**, Fun Republic Mall, Andheri (W), 12.10pm, 9.05pm, **PVR**, Citi Mall, Andheri (W), 9.30am, 1.45pm, 6.15pm, 10.45pm, **INOX**, Worli, Atria Mall, 1.10pm, 3.20pm, 8.10pm, **INOX**, Inorbit Mall, Malad (W), 11.30pm, **INOX**, Raghuleela Mall, Vashi, 9.10am, 2.35pm, 7.10pm, 10.35pm, **Metro INOX Cinemas**, Marine Lines, 9am, 6pm, 11.15pm, **Sterling Cineplex**, Fort, 10am, 8.15pm.

THE MEG

CAST : Jason Statham, Li Bingbing, Ruby Rose, Rainn Wilson
INOX, R-City, Ghatkopar, 10.10am, **INOX**, Inorbit Mall, Malad (W), 2.45pm, **Metro INOX Cinemas**, Marine Lines, 1:35pm, 10.55pm.

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE — FALLOUT

CAST: Tom Cruise, Rebecca Ferguson, Michelle Monaghan, Henry Cavill
Synopsis: Ethan Hunt takes it upon himself to save the world.
INOX, R-City, Ghatkopar, 5.25pm, **INOX**, Inorbit Mall, Malad (W), 9.05am, 5.15pm, **Movietime**, The Hub, Goregaon, 10.30am, 10pm, **INOX**, Worli, Atria Mall, 3.30pm, **INOX**, Korum Mall, Eastern Express Highway, Thane, 1.55pm.

CHRISTOPHER ROBIN

CAST : Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell,
Synopsis: Winnie-the-Pooh is back with his friends to help Christopher regain his sense of imagination.
Metro INOX Cinemas, Marine Lines, 4.05pm, 8.40pm.

Cinema halls may send their movie schedule to ht.cafe@gmail.com every Wednesday by 4pm

PVR, Phoenix : 38581913 **Regal:** 22021017 **Eros:** 22822335 **Plaza:** 24304704 **Chandan:** 26200437 **INOX, Nariman Point:** 39862563 **Sterling:** 66220016 **Premier Gold:** 23722094 **Maratha Mandir:** 23070110 **Cinepolis, Thane:** 39863550 **PVR Goregaon:** 40730301 **Sangam:** 28327217 **Balaji Movieplex:** 27554245 **Cinemax, Malad:** 28897851 **PVR, Juhu:** 8800900009 **INOX, Kharghar:** 66595959 **Chitra:** 2418 **INOX, Vashi:** 9321866843 **Carnival:** 67886209 **PVR Mulund:** 8800900009

DESIMARTINI RATING METRE
Terrifyingly Terrible
Not Worth It
One Time Watch
First Class
Super Awesome

All the listings on this page are subject to last-minute changes without prior intimation

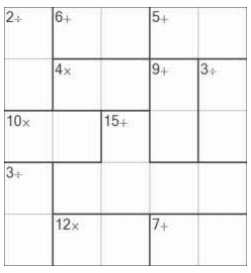
SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★

3				8	2	6		
7	2						8	
			7					3
	1			5		3		9
		5				4		
4		9		3			2	
5					7			
	6						3	7
		1	6	9				2

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 9X9 squares contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

MATHDOKU



Place numbers into the puzzle cells so that each row and column contains each of the digits from 1 to 5. No number is to be repeated in any row or column. Each bold-outlined cells contain a hint of a number and one of the mathematical symbols + x - /. The number is the result of the operation represented by the symbol to the digits contained.

CALVIN AND HOBBES

Bill Watterson

DID YOU KNOW?

Jackie Shroff dropped out of school after 11th standard as his family reportedly did not have much money. He then started working as a travel agent in a company called Trade Wings. Jackie eventually made it big as an actor in Bollywood.

SCRAMBLE - 2829

Solve the four anagrams and move one letter to each square to form four ordinary words

CSORS
TALKS
FHORTU
INOPCH

Now arrange the letters marked with an asterisk (*) to form the answer to the riddle or to fill in the missing words as indicated.

There are no ___ in evolution.
- Louis D. Brandeis(9)

SCRAMBLE SOLUTION: Cross, stalk, fourth, phonic
ANSWER: There are no **shortcuts** in evolution. - Louis D. Brandeis

SOLUTION SUDOKU

8	7	1	6	9	3	5	4	2
9	6	2	5	4	1	8	3	7
5	4	3	8	2	7	1	9	6
4	8	9	1	3	6	7	2	5
6	3	5	2	7	9	4	1	8
2	1	7	4	5	8	3	6	9
1	9	8	7	6	4	2	5	3
7	2	6	3	1	5	9	8	4
3	5	4	9	8	2	6	7	1

SOLUTION MATHDOKU

1	3	4	2	5
4	2	1	5	3
3	5	2	4	1
5	2	3	4	1
3	5	1	4	2
2	1	5	3	2

DAILY HOROSCOPE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2018

Astrologer Prem Kumar Sharma can be contacted at: Delhi: 91-11-26449898, 26489899 (Sat to Mon): Panchkula: 91-172-2562832, 2572874 (Tues to Thurs); Mumbai: 91-22-26398641 (Last week of every month)

YOU SHARE YOUR BIRTHDAY WITH

CAMERON DIAZ: She is an American actor and producer. She is best known for her roles in films such as The Mask (1994), Charlie's Angels (2000), The Holiday (2006) and Gambit (2012) .

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20)
Things are going fine and to your liking on both the personal and professional fronts. You will benefit by befriending someone important. Saving money can be on the top of your agenda and you will manage it without feeling the pinch. You may provide emotional support to someone close.
Lucky Number: 5; Lucky Colour: Yellow

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 20)
Reflect on what is transpiring, before making any decision. Good foresight on your part will make an event go smoothly. Neglecting to renew a contract threatens to put you in a tight corner. Your good intentions may get misinterpreted by someone close. An outstation travel is on cards for some.
Lucky Number: 3; Lucky Colour: Yellow

GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUN 21)
An achievement on the academic front may have you sitting on cloud nine. Your views and opinions regarding an issue at work will be appreciated. Retailers may find newer ways of promoting sales. Availability of money poses no problems, as earning rises. A promise kept is likely to draw someone close to you.
Lucky Number: 22; Lucky Colour: Blue

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)
There is much that comes your way at work and you will be expected to complete it today. Your impetuosity and impulsiveness may mark a perfect outing with your family. The raise you had been expecting may take some more time to materialise. Weight watchers will need to stick to routine.
Lucky Number: 11; Lucky Colour: Grey

LEO (JULY 23 - AUG 23)
A good source of earning will be found by those looking for financial security. Business persons will manage to turn the day profitable. Your hard work is likely to get positive results on the professional front. Differing opinions among family members may lead to arguments and debates.
Lucky Number: 6; Lucky Colour: Green

VIRGO (AUG 24 - SEPT 23)
On the academic front, good preparation will make all the difference in whatever you are trying to achieve. Your upbeat mood at work will help boost your performance. Problem about finances will be resolved by cutting down on expenses. You can expect a helping hand from family in whatever you are involved in.
Lucky Number: 2; Lucky Colour: Grey

LIBRA (SEPT 24 - OCT 23)
You will excel professionally and may climb up the corporate ladder. Someone's efforts will help you immensely on the academic front. Your light and relaxed attitude towards life will help you cope with everyday tensions. You will need to curb your lack of persistence at work and sharpen your focus to succeed.
Lucky Number: 15; Lucky Colour: Red

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 22)
There is a possibility of someone asking for a loan, so take your call. You have an intrinsic desire to impress others not only by words, but by deeds too. This is the day when you can become the toast of your circle. Your efforts on the professional front will get noticed and encourage you to put in your best.
Lucky Number: 7; Lucky Colour: Brown

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23 - DEC 21)
Persistence on the business front will pay handsomely and will get you recognition too. You will manage to stick to your budget in a new venture. Your romantic feelings will be readily reciprocated by the one you love. So get ready for a great day. Learning additional skills will add to your knowledge, so go for it.
Lucky Number: 9; Lucky Colour: Brown

CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 21)
Getting comfortably settled in a new environment is indicated. You yearn for recognition at work and you may manipulate the situation to get it. Curb this tendency, before it harms you. On the romantic front, you will feel much more nearer to the one you love. Health will remain good by eating right.
Lucky Number: 8; Lucky Colour: Grey

AQUARIUS (JAN 22 - FEB 19)
Your contention on the professional front will be proven correct and add to your reputation. You will be able to round off an exam or a competition in style on the academic front. Those planning a vacation are in for a thrilling time. You will be able to meet people you have not met for long in your social circle.
Lucky Number: 6; Lucky Colour: Green

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20)
You will go the length to see a task to completion and win appreciation for it too. There will be no problem about money, as you start to earn well. Paperwork may bog you down in office today, as you don't leave anything pending. Your own initiative will help you in proceeding towards your goal on the academic front.
Lucky Number: 3; Lucky Colour: Yellow

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'NOTHING PREPARED ME FOR ROHINGYA SUFFERING'

In an emotional speech at the United Nations Security Council meeting, actor Cate Blanchett implored the world body not to 'fail the Rohingya'

In her role as a goodwill ambassador for the UN Refugee Agency, actor Cate Blanchett spoke in front of the UN Security Council on Tuesday. The two-time Academy Award winner said that nothing prepared her for "the extent and depth of suffering" she saw when she visited camps in Bangladesh for Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled a violent crackdown by Myanmar's military.

Blanchett said she heard "gut-wrenching accounts" of torture, rape, people seeing loved ones killed before their eyes, and children thrown into fire and burned alive".

"I am a mother, and I saw my children in the eyes of every single refugee child I met," she said, adding, "I saw myself in every parent. How can any mother endure seeing her child thrown into a fire?"

The Rohingya have long been treated as outsiders in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, even though their families have lived in the country for generations. Nearly all have been denied citizenship since 1982, effectively rendering them stateless. They are also denied freedom of movement and other basic rights.

The latest crisis began with attacks by an underground Rohingya insurgent group on Myanmar security personnel, last August, in northern Rakhine State. Myanmar's military responded with counter-insurgency sweeps and has been accused of rights violations. This included rape, murder, torture, and the burning of Rohingya homes and villages — leading about 7,00,000 Rohingya to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh.

Blanchett, who visited refugee camps in Bangladesh in March, said it was important to recall that last year wasn't the first attack on the Rohingya. She said that women who were raped by Myanmar security forces are now giving birth to children who are not only stateless but "are likely to carry this stigma for the rest of these lives".

She urged support for the refugees and Bangladeshi host communities, and implored the Security Council to help the Rohingya return with "a clear pathway to full citizenship".

AP

CELEBS SPEAK ON THE ROHINGYA ISSUE

Academy Award-winning actor Angelina Jolie, who is a vocal humanitarian and a member of the UN, demanded that Myanmar government take action against the violence.

Actor Michelle Yeoh, who visited refugee camps in Bangladesh in January as a UN goodwill ambassador, called the condition 'despicable'.

In May, Bollywood actor Priyanka Chopra also visited Rohingya kids in refugee camps and asked the world to be more 'compassionate'

Cate Blanchett is a UN goodwill ambassador PHOTO: CARLO ALLEGRI/REUTERS

Cardi B apologises for Civil Rights Movement parody

American rapper Cardi B apologised to the family of Martin Luther King Jr. after joking about his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement.

Cardi raged a controversy when she participated in a skit that jested the civil rights activists as Real Housewives-esque reality stars on the Wild 'N Out's Rip Michaels show, 'Off the Rip.

Martin Luther King's youngest child, Bernice, took offence to Cardi B's parody and revealed that the rapper contacted her to discuss the skit, confirmed a source. The 'Bodak Yellow' singer recently graced the 2018 MTV Video Music Awards with her first live performance since welcoming her daughter, Kulture Kiari.

ANI

Cardi B PHOTO: AFP

'Aretha Franklin, an irreplaceable force'

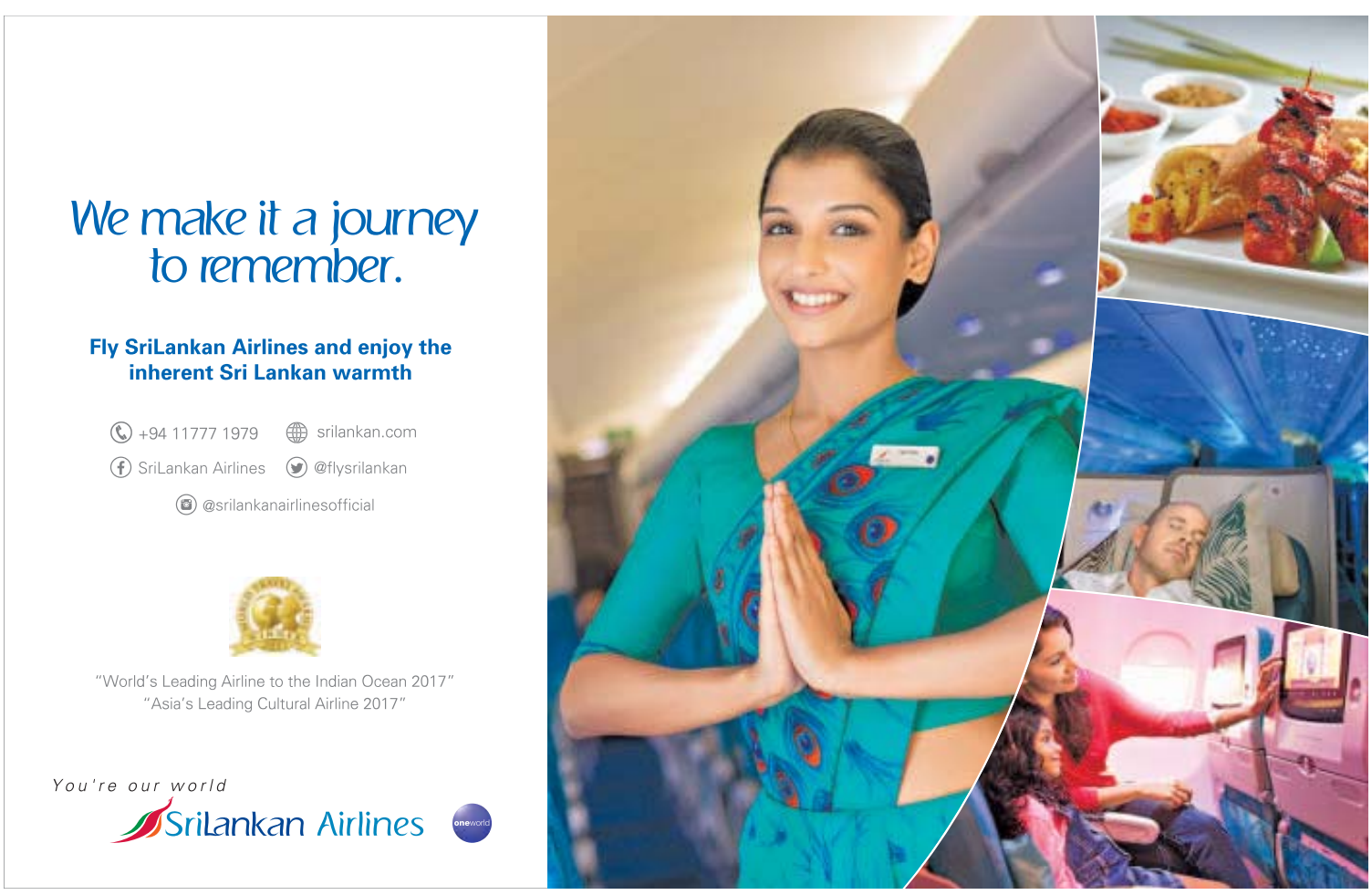
(Inset) Aretha Franklin (right) Taylor Swift PHOTO: AP

Days ahead of Aretha Franklin's funeral in her hometown, singer Taylor Swift honoured the late Queen of Soul. On Tuesday evening, the 'Reputation' singer, 28, performed at Detroit's Ford Field, USA where she asked the sold-out crowd to pay tribute to Franklin with a moment of silence.

"Last week we lost an irreplaceable force. Aretha Franklin did so much for music, she did so much for women's rights, she did so much for civil rights," Swift told concertgoers as heard on videos shared by fans on social media. "She was one of those people where no matter what you said, no matter what glowing positive thing you said about her, it would be an understatement. Words could never, ever describe how many things she did in her lifetime that made our world a better place. And this is her home. "I would like it if we could have a moment of silence so that every single one of us could reflect on our love and respect for her and everything that she did in her life. So if we could please cut the lights, we'll have a moment of silence for Aretha. We love you Aretha," the pop star added.

Franklin died at age 76 of pancreatic cancer on August 16. On Tuesday, the day of her funeral, which is open to the public, hundreds of people, some of whom spent the night on the sidewalk to save their spots in line, showed up to pay their respects at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, USA.

IANS



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'Hear his point of view'

SERIOUSLY CYRUS

CYRUS BROACHA

Recently, I became friends with a guy from my office. Post that, we have been chatting on WhatsApp; during breaks, we hang out at the office cafeteria. Last week, we went out for lunch. And, now after less than a month, he has proposed to me. I haven't given him a reply, as I am not sure. Is it too early to get a proposal? - SR

Love has no definite mean time that must be observed. You are going out alone for lunch with him, so obviously you like him. But please don't feel pressured. Suggest to him to take it slow. It's going well for both of you in any case. By the way, you are already sort of in a relationship.

I have been in a relationship for five years. But, my boyfriend is not interested in marriage. I have even threatened him with a breakup. My parents, who don't know about him, are pressurising me to get married. I want to get married to him. What should I do? - MT

The great Julius Caesar was very keen on crossing the rubicon (the rubicon was an Olympic size swimming pool, which qualified as a river for very poor Italians). It was only when he was halfway across that Caesar realised he didn't know how to swim. And, this only became clear to him because by then he was 13 feet underwater with his helmet on — those days helmets were compulsory during all modes of transport you see. My point is, how serious are you about marriage? If you are, then crack the whip. Don't wait till you are drowning in an European river with your helmet on. If you like, suspend the relationship for a week. That would be like a slap on his wrist — so he knows you are serious. You might as well deal with the marriage issue now rather than later. Put your cards on the table. But only if that's what you really, really want. And, also hear his point of view.

About a week back, I joined a new office. But, to my surprise, my ex-boyfriend is also working here. I didn't know this when I joined the place. He had broken up with me two years back, and it took me a long time to come out of it. But, now, the moment I see him, I start thinking about my past. I don't want to leave this job as I got it after a long search and I love my current boyfriend a lot. I am worried I may start liking him again. Please help. - NF

Sadly, you can't use Henry the VIII's strategy. Henry abolished the concept of the ex-lover. He did this by executing his present lover in order to enjoy a new one. In the modern world, things are a little different. Besides, there are many important differences between you and Henry VIII. To list three, Henry was 350 pounds, he played tennis and never had a boyfriend. Two years is long time. In two years you've reached half acre Olympic games, or you've completed 10% of a metro construction in Mumbai (metro construction in Mumbai is set to outlive the very city of Mumbai currently). Show some mental strength. You have a new guy and a new job, so get on with it. Think of your future. It's easier than you think. Maybe, try thinking of something you detest every time you see him. For e.g I detest poha, if it helps.

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/USED FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

I have been in a long distance relationship for three years and this time, I have cheated on my girlfriend twice. I will be marrying her in 2019. I don't want to cheat on her after marriage. Should I tell her the truth about my cheating ways? - CT

Surely, you mean you cheated four times because we all know when it comes to sins, the truth is double the confession. My advice is the same that I gave a man who wanted to pat a tiger. I told him, "Even though the tiger is a cocker spaniel, he is sleeping now. So, don't disturb him please." Make peace with yourself and move on. Honesty is never as good as selective honesty. Don't be a goody two shoes. Start with a new state, and try and stay on the straight and narrow. Or confess to her. And, even if she forgives me, she'll have that info on you for the rest of her life. I say, leave the sleeping tiger alone.

JUST WRITE TO UNCLE CY

AT CYRUS @HINDUSTANTIMES.COM AND I'LL GIVE YOU SOME RELIEF.... ERR... THAT IS, **PROVIDED, I'M NOT DOING A HEADSTAND AT THE TIME.**

PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK/USED FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

CAUGHT IN THE WEB

Is your teenager living under virtual peer pressure and you don't know how to deal with it? Experts try to make your life easy

Anjali Shetty

Parents and guardians are always conscious of the threat of peer pressure and the impact it can have on their teenage children. However, one has to be careful about handling the situation without letting it affect your equation with your child.

Parenting is definitely a tough job, especially when you are making sure your child accesses the right content from a barrage of social networking sites or apps. Teens can easily form opinions, judge others and get influenced by their peers, who are already present in the virtual world. And, they may have not even met some of these people in person. So, how does one maintain a balance in such a situation? Experts share that keeping a cool mind, not resorting to punishments and having open discussions helps reduce most of the problems that teenagers encounter.

PROPER COMMUNICATION

Dr Manjiri Deshpande, child psychiatrist, The Pediatric Network, points out that it's imperative for parents to get acquainted with social media in order to help them keep the lines of communication open. Deshpande says, "Parents must know who their kids are spending their time — online or offline. It is always a good idea to talk openly to your teens and explain to them that a person's social media profile may not be an accurate representation of who he/she really is. You need to make them understand the fact that just because someone likes to post pictures about their life's accomplishments and adventures, it does not mean that he/she leads a picture-perfect life. Teens should be thought to value their lives instead of wasting time in comparing their own lives to that of others online."

BUILDING CONFIDENCE

Experts suggest that when teenagers' thoughts are coloured and they attempt to bring in an artificial change to their original self, one can be sure that the teen is a victim of peer pressure. Archana Goenka, academic director, CP Goenka International School, says, "The first step while working on this aspect is to be your child's best friend and first friend. Build so much confidence in the children that they share all their secrets and keep their parents in the loop."

Deshpande adds that the only solution to this issue is to keep a closer eye on the child's peer group. She says, "In today's tech-savvy world, peer pressure seems to have become a virtual problem. However, this old-style of safeguarding your child can become quite perplexing for parents. More safety measures include befriending your child on the social networking sites to keep a tab on his/her activities, setting limitations on screen time and encouraging your child to engross in the real world's extracurricular activities such as sports."

> Build so much confidence in the children that they share their secrets and keep their parents in the loop.
> **ARCHANA GOENKA,** ACADEMIC DIRECTOR, CP GOENKA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

LOVE AND SUPPORT

One should understand that the teen phase of a child's life is a very precarious time when there are a lot of hormonal changes taking place in a child and they are constantly shaping their identity and figuring out new things. And, according to experts, if they are not given adequate attention at this vulnerable point of life, they opt for shelter in the virtual world, making things worse for all. Goenka says, "A little love and understanding from parents can make them less prone to falling prey to wrongdoings online. Teens may not realise the perils of the virtual world or may not know how to set restrictions for themselves. But together, you can positively navigate the difficulties of life both online and offline."

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DOS FOR PARENTS

- It is not possible to know of your child's every virtual move. However, keeping a tab on his/her time of logging on these apps/sites and talking about it will help.
- Be curious, but not inquisitive: As parents you should know which platforms or apps he/she is using. Have a chat on why they need to be on it.
- It's important that parents know who their teenage children are spending time with — be it online or offline.

- Dr Manjiri Deshpande, child psychiatrist and Archana Goenka, academic director, CP Goenka International School

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THANE THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 2018

GOA CM MANOHAR PARRIKAR TO LEAVE FOR FOR TREATMENT IN US AGAIN ›HT NATION P7

76K FYJC SEATS STILL VACANT ›htmetro p2

RAJINI'S PARTY LAUNCHES 'BLUE BOOK'

A RULE BOOK FOR ACTOR'S RAJINI MAKKAL MANDRAM ›HT NATION P6

No democracy without dissent: SC on activists

'SAFETY VALVE' Top court issues notice to Maha govt; 5 to be under house arrest

HT Correspondents
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI/PUNE/MUMBAI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday stopped Pune police from taking custody of five activists who were arrested a day before for alleged Maoist links, and placed them under house arrest in their respective homes until the case is heard again on September 6.

A three-judge SC bench headed by chief justice of India Dipak Misra also asked the Maharashtra government to file a response by September 5 to a petition by historian Romila Thapar and others that alleged the arrests were aimed at muzzling dissent.

"Dissent is the safety valve of democracy, the pressure cooker will burst if you don't allow the safety valves," justice DY Chandrachud, a part of the bench with justice AM Khanwilkar, said.

The SC bench questioned the rationale behind the arrest nine months after violence on January 1 left one person dead and four others injured in Bhima Koregaon, where hundreds of thousands of Dalits were celebrating the bicentennial of a war between the British and the Peshwas.

"There are wider issues raised by them (petitioners). Concern raised is that you are quelling dissent. Democracy is not safe if you quell dissent and that is what they are worried about," the court said.

In near-simultaneous Pune police raids across five states on Tuesday, lawyer and trade union activist Sudha Bharadwaj, poet P Varavara Rao, activist Gautam Navlakha, and lawyers Arun Ferreira and Vernon Gonsalves were arrested and charged with criminal conspiracy, creating fear and enmity between groups, and under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The arrests were part of an investigation into the Bhima Koregaon violence. Navlakha's transit remand from his house in Delhi to Pune was stayed by the Delhi high court on Tuesday evening and he was put on house arrest, and following a late-night hearing, Bharadwaj's transit warrant was also recalled by the local magistrate.

CONTINUED ON P10
››RELATED REPORTS, P5 &P6

DAY OF PROTESTS, COURTROOM DRAMA

■ Activists protesting against the arrest of poet Varavara Rao in Hyderabad. AFP

SUPREME COURT: Hearing begins in the afternoon on a petition by academics challenging the arrests. **'Dissent is the safety valve of democracy, the pressure cooker will burst if you don't allow the safety valves,'** the bench says, as it orders house arrest for the five activists till Sept 6

DELHI HC: Hearing continues on a petition by activist Gautam Navlakha against his arrest and transit remand. Halfway through dictating the order, the HC is informed of the apex court order. Matter will be heard on Thursday

PUNE COURT: Pune police link activists to banned Maoist group, say they were planning to recruit young people and target **'highest political functionaries'**. Late evening, court orders police to take the three activists back to their residence, as per the top court order

NHRC: Issues notice to Maharashtra government. Says arrests were made in violation of procedure and **'amounted to human rights violation'**

RBI ANNUAL REPORT

'99.3% demonetised notes were returned'

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

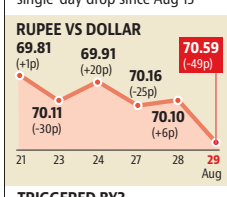
NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has conceded for the first time that almost all the banknotes invalidated in November 2016 have returned to it in the form of deposits, handing the Opposition fresh ammunition to target the government ahead of a string of state polls leading to the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi rendered invalid ₹500 and Rs1,000 notes worth ₹15.44 lakh crore by value from the midnight of November 8-9, 2016, in an unprecedented move the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government described as a crackdown on black money, or untaxed, unaccounted cash stashed away by dishonest individuals, terror financing and counterfeit currency.

CONTINUED ON P10

RUPEE SLIDES 49 PAISE

Rupee plunged to an all-time low of 70.65 in day trade; it closed at 70.59/$, the biggest single-day drop since Aug 13



TRIGGERED BY?

High crude prices, concerns over widening current account deficit

RInfra sells Mumbai power utility to Adani for ₹18,800cr

Tanya Thomas and Shayan Ghosh
tanya.t@livemint.com

MUMBAI: Reliance Infrastructure Ltd's chairman Anil Ambani on Wednesday completed the sale of its Mumbai city power distribution business to fellow industrialist Gautam Adani for ₹18,800 crore.

Though Reliance Infra has sold one of its profitable business ventures, it will help bolster the company's financials by repaying debt of ₹13,800 crore from an accumulated debt of ₹22,000 crore.

"For Reliance Infra, this is truly a transformative transaction. RInfra's gross debt will be reduced from about ₹22,000 crore to ₹7,500 crore, representing a steep debt reduction of 65% in just a single transaction," chairman Ambani told reporters at a news conference.

"RInfra's annual interest cost will also be reduced by 70% from ₹2,600 crore to ₹800 crore." The deal will help to narrow RInfra's debt-equity ratio to 0.3:1, among the lowest in the industry.

THE SALE WILL HELP RINFRA BOLSTER ITS FINANCIALS BY REPAYING DEBT OF ₹13,800 CRORE FROM AN ACCUMULATED DEBT OF ₹22,000 CRORE

CONTINUED ON P10

ATS CLAIMS 'NH4' CODE MAY HELP LINK MURDERS OF RATIONALISTS

Manish K Pathak
manish.pathak@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) claimed to have narrowed down on the possible mastermind behind the terror plot hatched by the six recently arrested alleged sympathisers of Hindu right-wing group Sanatan Sanstha.

ATS also claimed to have decoded the communication between the arrested accused, who used the code 'NH4 wala kaam' (Work on NH4), where NH4 stands for the erstwhile National Highway 4 that connects Mumbai to Chennai via Pune, Satara, Kolhapur, Belagavi and Bengaluru — areas where rationalists Dr Narendra Dabholkar, Govind Pansare, MM Kalburgi and journalist Gauri Lankesh were killed.

"It could be a crucial code to prove the possible link between the murders of Dabholkar, Pansare, Kalburgi and Lankesh," said the officer. "The blasts outside theatres in Thane and Belagavi, which were engineered by the accused, further points to the links and their operational capabilities in these regions." The mastermind, meanwhile, is a leader of a religious sect from Maharashtra that is closely associated with Sanatan Sanstha, said ATS officers, who did not wish to be named.

CONTINUED ON P10
››RELATED REPORT, P2

asiangames 11 20 23

ATHLETES BRING DOUBLE DELIGHT

■ Arpinder Singh ended India's 48-year wait for a gold medal in men's triple jump; Swapna Barman becoming the first Indian heptathlete to win an Asian gold. PTI/AFP ››P16 & P17

3 big infra projects get state nod

HT Correspondent
htmetro@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: Soon, you will be able to get from Mumbai to Pune, and from south Mumbai to the suburbs, faster, as the state gave final clearances to three projects.

The first, a 13.3-km link between Khalapur and Kusgaon on the Mumbai-Pune expressway, which will let motorists heading to Pune avoid the ghat section and reduce journey time by 25 minutes. It is expected to take three years to be ready.

The second is the Versova-Bandra sea link for faster connectivity between south Mumbai and the western suburbs. The third project approved is a six-lane bridge over Thane creek that will come up alongside the existing Vashi bridge. All three proposals were cleared in a meeting led by CM Devendra Fadnavis.

"I have directed to ensure the construction work of all three projects should be started in the next one month," Fadnavis tweeted.

››FULL REPORT, P2

WHAT'S IN THE WORKS?

Mumbai to Pune link	Versova-Bandra Sea Link	Bridge over Thane creek
13.3km link between Khalapur and Kusgaon on Mumbai-Pune expressway, costing ₹3,939 cr, to reduce travel time between the two cities by 25 minutes	Part of the state's Coastal Road plan, the 8-lane, 17.17-km sea link aims to connect SoBo to the suburbs; to be built at a cost of ₹6,993.99 crore. It had a 2023 deadline.	A third bridge on Thane creek, running parallel to two existing ones connecting Mumbai and Navi Mumbai . The 1.8-km bridge will cost ₹560 crore to build

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THE ROADS ARE REPAIRED EVERY YEAR, SO WHY ISN'T THE QUALITY MAINTAINED?
›ASHOK WADEKAR, resident of Manpada, on the poor condition of Thane roads

shortstories

ROBBER HELD IN PANVEL, STOLEN GOODS SEIZED

NAVI MUMBAI: A 33-year-old man who was allegedly involved in house break-ins and chain snatching cases, was arrested by the Panvel taluka police on Monday. With his arrest, the police claimed to have solved five cases registered in the Panvel region alone. The accused has many other cases registered against him at different police stations of Raigad district, a senior officer said. So far, the police have recovered 178 grams of gold jewellery, two mobile phones and a two-wheeler from him. **HTC**

40-year-old paan shop owner held for selling ganja

NAVI MUMBAI: The anti-narcotic cell of Navi Mumbai police has arrested a 40-year-old paan shop owner for allegedly selling ganja. The police have also recovered 2.90 kg ganja worth ₹35,100 from his possession. Acting on a tip, the police raided Naresh paan center at Panvel taluka on Tuesday night and found the ganja in it. "We had received information that the owner of the paan shop was selling narcotics on the pretext of selling paan of different varieties," said a police officer from the anti-narcotic cell. **HTC**

Kalyan traffic police book 40 for flouting rule

KALYAN: Followed by the decision of taking action against motorists who drive on the wrong side in the city and cause congestion, the Kalyan traffic police have booked 40 people for violation in the last two days. "We have taken action against 40 of them and this has helped improve the traffic movement on the new Patripool bridge. The violators have been booked under the Motor Vehicles Act and fines ranging from Rs200 to Rs1,200 imposed on motorists," said Anil Deshmukh , senior traffic police inspector of Kalyan unit. **HTC**

Potholes in Thane repaired overnight

ON A WAR FOOTING Residents fume as their numerous protests did not yield result but Yuva Sena chief's visit made TMC extra efficient

Megha Pol
megha.pol@hindustantimes.com

THANE: The nightlong pothole filling spree of the Thane Municipal Corporation, a day before the visit of Yuva Sena president Aaditya Thackeray to inaugurate several projects, has not gone down well with residents.

Fed up of inaction by the civic authority in spite of several protests, Thane residents said the potholes were filled overnight not for common people but for the politician's visit.

The Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC), however, claimed it would be an ongoing process for the next three nights.

It carried out the road repair work on Tuesday night at more than 25 prime locations across the city.

Sandeep Malvi, public relation officer of TMC said, "The civic commission gave directives to work throughout the night to fill potholes to ease the present traffic congestion and ensure there are no potholes in the city before Ganeshotsav. The work of filling potholes is going on for the past few days. However, rain and increased load of heavy vehicle traffic have led to resurfacing of potholes."

Malvi said it was decided to fill potholes at night to prevent traffic congestion.

Anil Patil, city engineer said, that they had formed teams of senior engineers who supervised the work at different places. "The work began at 10pm and continued till 5am. More than 500 workers repaired the roads."

The corporation concentrated on roads such as Eastern Express Highway, Ghodbunder Road and the service road which connect Thane to other cities.

▪ This is what Nitin flyover in Thane looked like before Tuesday. Motorists had been complaining about the pathetic road. PRAFUL GANGURDE/HT

Residents have been protesting the poor condition of roads through campaigns and also through social media. The outrage grew when a biker met with an accident on Tuesday.

Ashok Wadekar, 68, a resident of Manpada, was injured after his bike skidded on a pothole-riddled road in Manpada. Wadekar said, "The road had worn off and there was a lot of sand on the road. As there was a heavy vehicle in front of me, I took a slight turn but my bike skidded off the sand. My hand was fractured. My helmet came off and my glasses hit my eyes. I got few stitched on the lower part of my eye."

He added, "The road is repaired every year, so why isn't the quality maintained? The TMC has no system in place to check the quality of the materials used by contractors in repair works."

Even as the TMC is facing flak for the pathetic condition of roads, its decision to fix roads overnight did not go down well with residents, who said the work was undertaken on a war footing as Thackeray was visiting the city.

Shilpa Bhat, member of the Road Commuters' Forum, said, "If potholes had been repaired because of the visit of high-ranking politicians, it shows that the authorities can complete the work overnight if they wish to. The pothole problem is impacting our daily lives. We urge the authorities to take cognizance of the citizens' problems."

Sachin Kamble, 37, a Kopri-based lawyer, said that for weeks they had been demanding to fill the potholes. "The TMC claimed to be filling them, but nothing much was seen on the roads. However on Tuesday night, the authorities and ministers were seen on road filling potholes overnight. We believe that efforts are merely for Thackeray's visit. The corporation should show similar dedication on other days too."

Some residents took to twitter commenting that some VIPs should visit the city daily so that the pothole issue would be solved.

▪ TMC officials supervise repair work on Tuesday night near Nitin flyover in Thane, hours before Aaditya Thackeray's visit.

› If potholes had been repaired because of the visit of high-ranking politicians, it shows that the authorities can complete the work overnight if they wish to
SHILPA BHAT, member of the Road Commuters' Forum

The TMC said the work would go on for three nights. Malvi said, "The special night time drive will go on for three days. The civic commissioner has asked to complete maximum work at night."

CRATERS RESURFACE

Some potholes which were repaired on Tuesday night have reappeared, in just a few hours. The cement-filled potholes on Nitin Flyover came off covering the entire flyover with cement powder.

ACTIVIST THREATENED BY CONTRACTOR

Thane activist Sanjeev Dutta has filed a non-cognisible offence against a road contractor for allegedly threatening him for clicking photos of potholes. Dutta claimed that he was taking pictures of potholes which had reappeared on a recently repaired road when the contractor threatened him.

Dutta said, "A few days ago, the work of filling potholes was undertaken near my house in Jambli Naka. However, the road was damaged within few days, revealing the substandard work. I posted the photos on social networking sites. On Tuesday evening, when I was walking along the TMC road, a man approached me on motorbike. He started abusing me for uploading the photos. He also threatened me with dire consequences if I did not remove the photos. I have filed an NC with the Naupada police."

Cops chalk out plan for peace during festivals

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NAVI MUMBAI : The Navi Mumbai police have started meeting residents to ensure that peace prevails in the city during the upcoming festivals of dahi handi and Ganeshotsav.

After the widespread violence during the Maratha protests last month, the police are not taking any chance for a similar situation to arise.

On July 25, the Maratha protest turned ugly as violence broke out at Kopar Khairane and there were attacks on people's homes, offices and hotels.

Vehicles were set on fire in front of a police outpost. Mobile phone internet services were suspended in the satellite city for two days.

Sudhakar Pathare, deputy commissioner of police (zone I), said, "We have started collecting intelligence inputs from some of the areas. Officials from the state intelligence department and Intelligence Bureau are on the field."

"Our officials are also roaming around in plainclothes to know the ground realities. Based on the reports provided by the people, we will prepare our strategy," he said.

According to Pathare, officials from the cyber cell are keeping a tab on social media too.

"They are paying especial attention so that no one can spread any rumour or hate message against anyone. Strict punitive measures will be taken if anyone is found doing so," he said.

The police have started tracking the movement of those with criminal background.

Pathare said, "We have already externed five people from our area over the past one week. We are preparing the second list of people with criminal background and they will be exterened before the festival."

QUALITY CHECK: FDA CRACKS DOWN ON SWEET SHOPS

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THANE: With the beginning of the festive season, the Food and Drug Authority (FDA) will start inspecting sweet shops and eateries in the city to check for quality of sweets sold.

"We will begin special drives against sweet shops, manufacturers of sweets and raw materials from September 1. We have deployed six food inspectors in Thane along with 30 employees to sample the raw materials. If we find that the safety norms are not in place, we will seal the shops," said Suresh Deshmukh, joint commissioner of food, Thane.

The Ganeshotsav organisers, too, are on the FDA radar.

The officials will ensure the 'prasad' distributed among devotees is prepared in clean and hygienic environment.

The FDA has stationed a team of six food inspectors and 33 employees for the special drive set to begin from September 1.

With the onset of festive season, the demand for sweets, dry fruits and raw materials such as ghee, oil, mawa, flour, jaggery, sugar, besan, coloured sweets, silver work and saffron (kesar) increases.

"We will keep a check on all Ganesh pandals to ensure that the 'prasad' is cooked in a hygienic environment. We will conduct a meeting with the organisers, giving them safety guidelines to cook 'prasad'. We will keep an eye on all pandals to ensure none of the safety guidelines are violated," said Deshmukh.

THE GUIDELINES

The guidelines are based on the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, which was implemented in 2011. The place where 'prasad' is prepared should be clean and hygienic, raw materials should be bought from registered stores, cooks and distributors should wear gloves, clean clothes and shower cap and take special precaution in case of milk-based sweets.

DIAL TO COMPLAINTS

For any complain regarding adulteration call on 25820510 or 25811988

BREAKING BARRIERS

THANE: Special students from around 15 schools gathered at Shivaji Maidan on Tuesday to celebrate dahi handi.

With 527 differently abled students dressed in traditional attire, the ground at Jambhli Naka looked colourful with little dahi handis put across the maidan.

Bal Gopal Mitra Mandal along with Punarjeevan Samajik Trust organised the event. They also created awareness on organ donation.

"With the aim to give all the children an equal opportunity to revel in the festive spirit, we started this initiative 27 years ago. We took doctors' feedback before conducting this event and ensured that the children are safe and feel comfortable while breaking handis," said Vials Damale, president of Bal Gopal Mitra Mandal.

Children were given protein tonic, cash prize and trophies were given to all participating students. "Teachers had taught me to climb the pyramid and I sat atop the shoulder of a new friend I made today. It was fun to break the handi," said Parth Joshi, 12, one of the participants.

All necessary precautions and measures were taken to ensure the safety of the little Govindas. A two-tier pyramid was made by children with the help of teachers and parents.

ANKITA G MENON

▪ Children participate in dahi handi celebrations at Shivaji ground in Thane on Tuesday. PRAFUL GANGURDE/HT

DEFECTIVE CAR SALE RACKET UNEARTHED: COP

THANE : The Thane Police on Wednesday claimed to have unearthed a racket that allegedly involved selling defective cars to customers with the help of forged documents.

"One of the two accused involved in the case is a regional transport office (RTO) agent from Beed in the Marathwada region," a police officer said.

"Accused Sachin Sonawane, a resident of Vashi in Navi Mumbai, allegedly used to purchase cars with some defects from car dealers based in Mumbai and used to sell them to unsuspecting buyers by decking them up," said Thane police public relation officer (PRO) Sukhda Narkar.

As per the conditions mentioned in the car purchase tenders, Sonawane was supposed to destroy the defective cars, but instead he sold them with the help of another accused Sayyed Shakir, Narkar said.

Sonawane cheated the state exchequer of ₹9.42 lakh by forging receipts of vehicle tax, Narkar said.

Shakir used to prepare fake sale certificates and manufacturing certificates of the cars and got them registered with the RTO in Beed, the officer said. She said the police stumbled upon the scam while they were probing a car registration racket at the Beed RTO.

Sonawane and Shakir have been booked under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for cheating.

Police have yet to make any arrests in the case. The cheating occurred during March 2017 to September 2017.

Police have so far unearthed five cases of dubious sales during the investigation. **PTI**

THEME PARK OPENS

Visit this park, learn driving and know all about safety on roads

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THANE: After a delay of over four months, the Thane Municipal Corporation has finally opened the Children's Traffic Park and Urban Forest for the residents at Kavesar.

The park will explain traffic and road safety rules to the children along with giving them driving lessons in four and two wheelers.

The corporation said that while the residents can visit both the parks from Thursday, the timings are not yet decided. Moreover, the riding lessons on four-wheelers too might take some time to begin.

The children's traffic park will give training to the youngsters on traffic safety rules. The school children can visit the park to learn more on the traffic rules.

The park will also give driving lessons, both virtual (through artificial stimulation) and on-track for two and four wheelers.

An official from Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) requesting anonymity said, "The driving lesson for two-wheeler, both through stimulation and on the 90-m track will begin from Thursday. In case of four wheelers, at present, only the virtual training will start while the on-track training will take around ten days to begin. People can visit the park to check out the time slots for training. We haven't decided on the timing for the park yet."

Residents who wish to learn driving will have to visit the park and get registered for these lessons. The corporation claims that the training will be free at present.

According to the officials, the park has around 15 two wheelers for women and 10 for men. Around 10 cars will be available for four-wheeler training. People above 18 years will be eligible for the driving lessons.

Shiv Sena's youth wing leader Aaditya Thackeray inaugurated the two parks for the public on Wednesday.

The corporation had earlier plans to get the chief minister to open the park in April. However, after the event was cancelled, the park was awaiting inauguration for almost four months.

▪ The children's traffic park at Ghodbunder Road in Thane was thrown open to the public on Wednesday. PRAFUL GANGURDE/HT

Thackeray also inaugurated the Urban Jungle which has its gate in the premises of the traffic park. The forest is a four-and-a-half acres of plot planted with over 3,500 trees of various local species.

TMC has planted around 3,500 trees of different species like peepal, banyan, jamun, rudraksha and neem to name a few.

Apart from trees, the TMC is developing walkways and pergolas in this forest. The forest though artificial will give a feel of an authentic jungle.

"There will be no-entry fee to the urban forest. The timings at present will be the same as that of the children's traffic park, as the entry is from the park. The residents can visit the forest during the day from Thursday," the TMC official added.

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Unsafe highway takes a toll on motorists

RTI QUERY 32 people died in accidents on Sion-Panvel highway between Belapur and Vashi in nine months; it was 15 in same period last year

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NAVI MUMBAI: The 25-km Sion-Panvel highway, which passes from Vashi to Kalamboli in Navi Mumbai, has turned into an accident-prone stretch.

A Right to Information (RTI) query revealed that 32 people died in accidents between Belapur and Vashi on Sion-Panvel highway in the past nine months.

Sources from traffic department said: "There were 15 deaths and 87 accidents between Belapur and Vashi during similar period last year."

The Sanpada and Nerul stretch saw maximum deaths at 11 between November 2017 and July this year.

The vital link to Mumbai and Pune has been seeing regular traffic snarls because of potholes this monsoon.

Activist Deepak Singh filed a public interest litigation on pothole-riddled highway and problems faced by commuters every day. "The hearing has been intentionally delayed, despite the case being a criminal PIL. I have written a letter to the Chief Justice of India to take up this case on priority basis," said Singh, who also filed the RTI query.

₹15 Lakh Daily revenue of the highway from toll collection

15,000 two-wheelers ply on the highway

30,000 four-wheelers ply on the highway

50,000 heavy vehicles ply at night

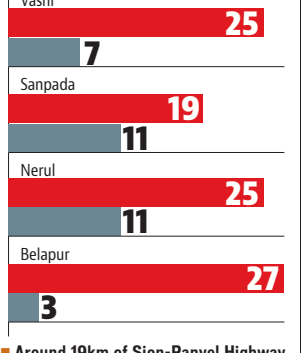
3 Lakh vehicles ply in a day on the stretch

ABOUT SION-PANVEL HIGHWAY

PWD looks after the maintenance of the 25km stretch of Sion-Panvel highway

Vashi, Nerul, Belapur, Kharghar and Taloja are the five bridges maintained by MEP

A Silent protest was also carried out by daily commuter only July 21, who demanded to waive off the toll till the highway is repaired



Around 19km of Sion-Panvel Highway from Vashi toll booth till the start of Pune Expressway passes through Sanpada, Nerul, Belapur, Juinagar, Kalamboli and Panvel

The public works department (PWD) is responsible for maintaining the highway. PWD executive engineer Kishore Patil said, "We have taken up repairs but cannot start concretisation work till monsoon ends. We fill patches and also keep an eye on newly developed potholes and repair them. The traffic snarls are because of potholes on Belapur and Vashi bridge which is maintained by Mumbai Entry Point (MEP) Infrastructures."

The police stations had written to PWD officials before monsoon to repair the stretch. But, nothing was done. Anil Deshmukh senior police inspector from Vashi police station said, "In the letter, we mentioned about dangerous stretch killing people but nothing was done to solve the issue."

The Sion-Panvel Highway is one of the busiest highway in the country and an important junction for vehicles going towards Pune, Goa and southern cities of Maharashtra through Mumbai-Pune Expressway.

Engineer from MEP Vijay Mane said, "We have already fixed paver blocks at the beginning of Belapur bridge. Asphalting work on highway has been taken up to fill potholes."

One of the worst stretches of the highway is near Vashi bridge till Sanpada.

Nitin Pawar, deputy commissioner police (traffic), said, "The condition of the highway has worsened this year. Cops manning traffic face difficulty and at times they have to face motorists' ire."

"It is alarming that the potholes which are the cause of accidents have been ignored. PWD officials should be answerable for the deaths," said Hemant Sharma, a transport activist.

Motorists and commuters have been bearing the brunt.

"Small accidents are a daily affair. Bikers topple and fall every day," said Bipin Apte, 32, who travels from Kamothe to Chembur every day.

Amit Charles, 29, took three hours to reach Mumbai airport.

"It should have ideally taken one and half hours. Officials are still doing shoddy work. They are earning revenue in crores but have ignored our problems," said Charles, a Kharghar resident.

■ Around 19km of Sion-Panvel Highway from Vashi toll booth passes through Navi Mumbai. BACHCHAN KUMAR/HT

HC ASKS FOR STATE'S REPLY ON KHARGHAR POND PLEA

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NAVI MUMBAI: The high court recently directed the state to file its reply on the Kharghar pond case, which was filed by NGO Abhivyakti.

The state will have to make it clear whether the land is a wetland area.

Residents from Kharghar's Sector 19 and Abhivyakti have been fighting for months to save the pond.

Pramod Patil, nodal officer, environment and forest, City and Industrial Development Corporation (Cidco), said, "We have filed our reply. As per our findings, the area isn't notified as a wetland. A pond developed because of artificial depression."

D Stalin, Wetland Committee member, said Kharghar got its name from the creek. "It is a wetland area and this has been mentioned in the state's inventory. Only Cidco has been saying there are no wetlands in Navi Mumbai," said Stalin.

Earlier, residents kept vigil to check illegal dumping. In its initial order, the court had directed Cidco to ensure there was no further dumping in the area as it was an unprotected area.

Nareshchandra Singh, founder of Abhivyakti, said, "We have submitted our findings to the court. It clearly indicates that the pond is an extension and part of a large expanse of wetland area. We have submitted maps from government portals. As per the national inventory list, the area is a wetland. We have to wait for the state's reply."

Surrounded by high-rises, the pond, which has shrunk over the years, is home to many types of birds.

"Whether it is natural or artificial, the water body needs to be saved. Cidco, too, should take up responsibility," said Aba Vithal Ranaware, an environmentalist and Navi Mumbai resident for the past three decades.

"When I shifted to Vashi in the 80s, there was nothing beyond Vashi and what we could see was a large expanse of wetland and mangrove. However, most of the wetland area slowly turned into development zone," he said.

Cidco to put up plots on sale for cooperative housing societies

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NAVI MUMBAI: The City and Industrial Development Corporation (Cidco) will conduct a lottery for the allotment of 20 plots reserved for cooperative housing societies.

The draw is likely to be held on September 6 through the traditional manual system.

Chief public relations officer of Cidco Mohan Ninawe said, "Cidco has brought the plot sale scheme for housing societies after several years. We have received 170 applications for 20 plots."

Cidco had been constructing affordable houses in Navi Mumbai and later started allotting plot to cooperative housing societies.

LUCKY DRAW

- Cidco to conduct a lottery for the allotment of 20 plots reserved for cooperative housing societies
- The lottery likely to be held on September 6
- It will be held through the traditional manual system
- Twenty cooperating housing society buildings will soon come up in the city.

For the past few years, it has been concentrating on selling plots to individuals which has got it good returns. This had led to dashing hopes of those who cannot buy high priced properties.

Recently, it again offered affordable housing and along with it plots for societies representing various sections of the societies with an aim to allow member of the same fraternity to stay together.

Of the 170 applications received, 24 have been rejected for not meeting the eligibility criteria. Twenty cooperating housing society buildings to come soon in the city. The plot for freedom fighters is being offered at Sector 5 in Panvel, while a plot at Sector 12 of Kharghar has been reserved for MLAs and MPs.

Ninawe said, "The draw for the plot will be held in second week of September."

LOST LEGS IN RAILWAY ACCIDENT

Thane girl gets financial aid from couple

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THANE: After a 14-year-old girl lost her legs in a railway accident at Thane station two weeks ago, a couple from Prabhadevi has extended financial support by raising around ₹2 lakh for her treatment.

The couple got to know about the girl from a newspaper report. When they read that the girl's family cannot afford her treatment, they decided to extend financial support to her.

The accident took place on August 14 at 3.30pm at Thane station and Runali More lost both her legs, below the knees.

She is in hospital for the past 15 days and the hospital bill for her treatment is around ₹3 lakh.

"After reading the report, we decided to support the girl financially as we learnt that her family is not well off. We have contributed ₹1.25 lakh to her hospital bill. Even our 14-year-old son is helping collect funds for the girl. As of now, he has managed to collect around ₹1.7 lakh and hopes to collect around ₹3 lakh, which will be used for her prosthetic legs," said the couple from Mahim requesting anonymity. The amount collected through crowdfunding, an initiative by their son, will be transferred to More's personal account, added the couple.

■ Runali More with her parents in a private hospital. Her hospital bill has touched ₹3 lakh. HT FILE

THE COUPLE'S SON ALSO HELPED COLLECT ₹1.7LAKH FOR THE GIRL AND HOPES TO REACH ₹3 LAKH

"We want More to make herself strong to fight all the challenges," said the 48-year-old man.

More's mother, who works as a house help, is the only earning member of the family. "It will be difficult for my parents to afford my treatment. I am thankful to the couple for helping me," said More, undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Thane.

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