



THE INSIGHT

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GOVTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO READ PEOPLE'S TEXTS, SAYS UK HOME MINISTER PRITI PATEL



CHOKSI BOOKED FOR CHEATING CITY REALTOR OF ₹30CR



GADKARI FAINTS ON DAIS IN SOLAPUR, CUTS SHORT TOUR

SC: Bring law for safety in cabs

In view of the growing number of sexual harassment cases by cab drivers, the SC has directed the Centre to consider framing a law to regulate app-based transport service providers like Uber and Ola to ensure safety of women commuters. The court also suggested that safety mechanism like GPS-linked panic button be installed in cabs to alert police like GPS-linked panic button. **P 5**

SC strength set to increase to 34

The Union Cabinet has cleared a bill to increase the strength of the Supreme Court from the current 30 to 33, excluding the Chief Justice of India. In a letter to PM Modi, CJI Ranjan Gogoi had sought an increase in the strength of the SC to tackle rising pendency of cases excluding the Chief Justice of India. In a letter to PM Modi. **P 4**

Docs remove TN boy's 526 teeth

Dentists in Chennai surgically removed 526 teeth that were tucked inside the right lower jaw of a seven-year-old boy. The abnormal teeth (termed compound composite odontome) were in sizes between 0.1mm-15mm. Surgeons removed all of them and retained 21 normal teeth. **P 2**

Afghan bus hits bomb, 34 dead

At least 34 people, most of them women and children, were killed in western Afghanistan's Farah province when their bus hit a roadside bomb along a highway, officials said on Wednesday, the same day a US peace envoy indicated a peace deal with the Taliban could be imminent and pertinent with it. **P 4**

Customer who didn't want 'Muslim delivery boy' gets food for thought

New Delhi/Jabalpur:

Food delivery startup Zomato won over many internet users on Wednesday after it refused to give in to a customer's demand to change a delivery executive because he was Muslim. Instead, founder Deepinder Goyal stood firmly

THE INSIGHT NETWORK

Mangaluru/Bengaluru:

a day and a half after Cafe Coffee Day founder V G Siddhartha was feared to have jumped off the Nethravathi bridge in Mangaluru, his body was found a kilometre from the spot by fishermen and policemen around 6.30am on Wednesday. Following postmortem, police said it appeared to be suicide but investigations were on. The news triggered a storm of reactions from the business world. While most recalled a "humble" and "brilliant" entrepreneur, others blamed the enforcement agencies for

HC: Why no FIR in bank scam linked to Ajit?

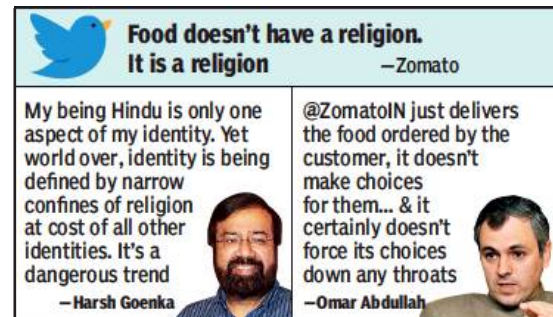
The Bombay HC on Wednesday rapped the state for not registering an FIR in the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank scam. NCP leaders Ajit Pawar and Jayant Patil, among other politicians, were directors and have been accused of swindling thousands of crores. When the prosecutor told the bench, which was hearing a PIL for them.

Suspect's b'day bash: 5 Bhandup cops suspended

Mumbai:

Five policemen were suspended on Tuesday for celebrating the birthday of a crime suspect at Bhandup police station on July 22, reports S Ahmed Ali. A preliminary probe has been launched against subinspectors Pankaj Shevale and Sachin Kokare, and constables Subhash Ghosalkar, Anil Gaikwad and Maruti Jumade. The night police inspector.

Customer who didn't want 'Muslim delivery boy' gets food for thought



behind the rider. "We are proud of the idea of India and the diversity of our esteemed partners and customers. We aren't sorry to

36 hours later, CCD founder's body fished out 1km from where he jumped Cremated At Family Estate

POLITICAL SLUGFEST BEGINS AS BIZ GOES ON



>Two days after he went missing fishermen and policemen on patrol find V G Siddhartha's body about 1km from Nethravathi Bridge near the backwaters of Hoige Bazar at 6:30am on Wednesday.

>Postmortem reveals it is a prima facie case of suicide with no other complication or reason whatsoever, say police

from left to right: V G Siddhartha's wife Malavika Hegde, sister-in-law Shambhavi, younger son Ishaan, mother Vaasanti and elder son

driving the 59-year-old "Coffee King" to suicide as evident from his purported suicide note. CCD, which named S V Ranganath as interim chairman, said the

note would be probed. He was cremated at the family estate, Chetana-hally, about 18km from his hometown Mudigere. His mother, Vaasanti, was

present at the funeral, his father is in a coma in a Mysuru hospital. Siddhartha's body was found near the backwaters of Hoige and mangal place

His private cos had ₹3,500 crore of debt

Over and above Coffee Day Enterprises's debt of Rs 6,547 crore, 4 private firms of Siddhartha had outstanding loans of Rs 3,537cr.

'Raids on DKS landed Siddhartha in I-T net'

Raids on Congress leader D K Shivakumar put the income tax dept on Siddhartha's trail, **Pressured, he wanted to give PE firms an exit** Under pressure, Siddhartha was keen to give KKR and Standard Chartered PE—both investors in CCD

Now, traffic violators face 6-mth jail as MV bill gets closer to law

New Delhi:

Parliament is set to pass the long-pending Motor Vehicle Amendments Bill, which brings a number of common offences—jumping traffic signal, use of hand-held devices (mobile phone) while driving, wrong passing or overtaking and driving against traffic flow—under the category of dangerous driving.

FINES HIKED FIVE TIMES, MIN RS.1,000

Dangerous driving | Jumping traffic light, stop signs, mobile use while driving wrong.

PUNISHMENT	
5000 penalty	6 months to 1 yr jail
Rs.10k fine or 2 yrs jail for repeat off.	
Fines to go up by 10% every year	

The fine for such offences has been increased five times from Rs 1,000 to up

>> Rs.1000 fine for not wearing seatbelt
>>Rs.10,000 fine, six months jail or both for drunk driving
>>Rs.25,000 fine & 3 years in jail for guardians of minors caught driving
>>no license for minors.

to Rs 5,000 with violators facing the risk of approximately 6 to 8 months.

Unnao case: CBI books Sengar, UP mantri's kin

Lucknow:

The CBI has registered a case of murder, attempt to murder, criminal intimidation and criminal conspiracy against jailed BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar and 29 others, including the son-in-law of UP junior agriculture minister Ranendra Pratap Singh, for the truck-car crash that left the Unnao rape survivor and her lawyer criti-

Village shuns funeral of rape survivor's aunt

The uncle of the Unnao rape survivor cremated his wife, who died in a car accident, on the banks of the Ganga in their UP village. However, not a single person approached the family to pay last respects. "Kuldeep (rape accused BJP MLA) mera poor parivar kha gaya, sirf hum hee reh gaye (Kuldeep destroyed my family, only I have remained)." **P 6**

cally injured and her aunts and family members dead.

6 pilots caught cheating during exam, debarred

Mumbai:

Six former Jet Airways senior pilots appearing for written exams that would permit them to fly the A320 aircraft for IndiGo were caught cheating on camera by a DGCA invigilator. The Boeing 737 pilots were debarred on Wednesday for six months, after which they will need to reappear for the exams, reports Manju V.

Local runs over CR engineer checking tracks

New Delhi:

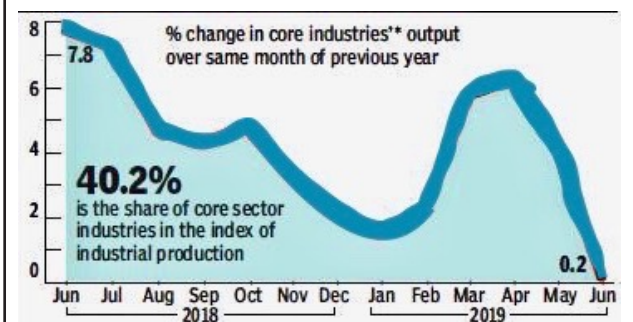
A senior Central Railway official died on Wednesday after he was hit by a local train between Kalyan and Thakurli stations while at work. Vimal Rai (40), additional divisional engineer in the track and maintenance department, was inspecting the tracks near Patripul with his work colleagues at 4.45pm. **P 3**

FIR lodged in 'rod piercing car' incident

Mumbai:

Day after a nearly 10ft-long iron rod flew out of nowhere and pierced the windshield of a moving Uber cab, the Vanrai police registered an FIR for negligence. Fashion designer Rinku Jain, seated in the front seat of the cab, had a narrow escape on Tuesday when the rod drove into the dashboard in front of

8 core sectors grew just 0.2% in June, a near 4-year low



*Eight core industries are electricity, steel, refinery products, crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas and fertiliser
Crude, gas, cement contracted in June, pulled down overall growth

New Delhi:

Growth in the eight key core sectors slowed to 0.2% in June, dragged down by a contraction in four segments and pointing to a slowdown for overall industrial growth. Data released by the commerce and industry ministry on Wednesday showed the eight core sectors—spanning coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, ce-

ment and electricity—rose an annual 0.2% compared with 7.8% in June 2018 and lower than the previous month's 4.3%. Growth during April to June was 3.5%, lower than the 5.5% posted in the year-ago period. The core sector accounts for 40.2% of the index of industrial production and the slowdown in June will impact the factory output data for June, which will be later at the end of June.

Govt defends EWS quota, says 50% cap not binding

New Delhi:

Defending the 10% quota for "poor among forwards", the Centre told the Supreme Court on Wednesday that a 50% cap on reservation is "fallacious" and not binding and the constitutional amendment to provide quotas in jobs and education to the econ-

omically weak was meant to uplift the poor. Appearing before a bench of Justices S A Bobde, R Subhash Reddy and B R Gavai, attorney general K K Venugopal strongly defended the Centre's decision to provide reservation to the economically weaker sections (EWS)

WR may run semi-AC rake by December

Mumbai:

The railway board has again initiated steps to run semi-AC rakes on the suburban network though there are challenges due to complex coach configuration of rakes. As coach positions are already marked on platforms, introduction of semi-AC locals would lead to chaos as commuters wait for their AC trains.

US fund lifeline for Zee, picks up 11% for ₹4,200cr

Mumbai:

Invesco Oppenheimer, the world's 13th largest investment manager, has agreed to pick up an 11% stake in Zee Entertainment Enterprises (Zee) for Rs 4,224 crore, which will help promoter Subhash Chandra to pare debt. US-based Invesco, which manages assets worth \$1.2 trillion, already owns

roughly 8% in Zee through the foreign portfolio investment (FPI) route. The new deal, which comes as a lifeline for Chandra who is under pressure to repay lenders, values the Zee stock at an 11% premium to Wednesday's closing price of Rs 361. The fresh fund infusion by Invesco will come through the (FDI) through mode.



Man with heart ailment treated for malaria, dies

Two Hospitals Held Guilty For Negligence, Directed To Pay ₹27 Lakh To His Widow

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Mumbai:

Nine years after a 40-year-old BPCL employee, who was treated for malaria instead of the myocarditis (heart ailment), died, the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation Hospital and Chembur-based Sushrut Hospital have been held guilty for negligence and directed to pay compensation of Rs 27 lakh to his wife. The state consumer commission said, "It can

be said that the doctors of the corporation hospital could not recognise the illness of the complainant's husband and, though doctors at Sushrut Hospital recognised the illness (myocarditis), they did not give proper medical treatment by calling a cardiologist in time." The civic hospital and the private hospital, along with its doctor, administrator and medical superintendent, were told to pay the compensation in

equal parts to Sanpada-based Swati Sherkhane, wife of the deceased Datta Sherkhane. Swati told the commission she had minor children and her husband's death had taken a toll on the family. The commission also reprimanded the civic hospital for refusing to arrange an ambulance to transfer the patient to the private hospital after Swati sought his discharge against their advice. The family took

him by taxi. Referring to the private hospital, the commission questioned why the treating doctor had called for a cardiologist only the following day and not on the night the patient was admitted. "The treatment which opponent no. 3 (treating doctor) had given to the complainant's husband may be correct, but we are of good opinions. had minor children and her husband's death. but we are of good opinions.

Common mobility card plan for city goes for Centre's nod

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Mumbai:

The railway board will soon take a call on a proposal by the Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation (MRVC) for an integrated ticketing system (ITS), which will not only be a onestop solution for all kinds of public transport ticketing and for paying toll or buying fuel, but could also be used for non-transport needs like banking and shopping. MRVC says ITS—a common mobility card that is already in use in Singapore, Hong Kong and several other developed nations—will bring down ticketing costs and release staff who now work at booking offices for administrative work, an area in the railways that is currently short-staffed. "The proposal, after formal approval, will be implemented in two phases. In the first, existing ticketing methods across the board—train, Metro, Mono, bus—will be unified in the second fare.

ONE NATION, ONE CARD IN MUMBAI

A common mobility card will allow mumbaikars to take any form of Public transport without having to stand in queue or stack their wallets.

WHAT EXISTS NOW

Across Mumbai Region, there are five modes of road travel and 15 different transport operators, each using a different smart card or automated payment system—rather cumbersome for the citizen.

Mumbai's suburban rail has a smart card using RFID tech (see inset), which can be topped up at booking counters. Tickets are bought by flashing it on an ATM, which deducts the fare and gives prints. Not hi-tech, but obviates need for queuing up. Also has a mobile ticket (UTS app), which gives a soft copy or QR code.

RFID card with pre-loaded balance, flashed at fare collection gate at originating and terminating stations. Also has chip-enabled plastic tokens. Third system is mobile ticketing where app needs to be flashed at gates. **Monorail is similar, but does not have mobile ticketing**

Has smart card for season tickets. Only allows topping up at depots and outside stations; balance gets deducted for each ride. Is given by all operators in MMR (BEST, MSRTC, TMT, etc)

Electronic toll collection (ETC) tag on car's windshield enables automatic deduction of toll at nakas without vehicle having to stop. Tag uses RFID tech and can be topped up via netbanking or debit card.

11 LAKH ESTIMATED COMBINED DAILY RIDERSHIP FOR INTEGRATED TICKETING SYSTEM

HOW COMMON MOBILITY CARD WILL WORK

>It will work on all forms of public transport. Also be a debit card for ATM withdrawals, paying at restaurants, groceries, pumps, toll gates. Hong Kong and Singapore have such a system.

>It will offer contactless payment based on radio frequency identification (RFID) or near field communication (eg Samsung pay, Apple Pay)

>It will be linked to one's bank account, with debit facility



RFID CARD An embedded chip and antenna would enable a consumer to just wave the card over a point of sale (POS) terminal.



Now, Choksi booked for duping city bldr of ₹30cr

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Mumbai:

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Mumbai police on Tuesday registered an FIR against fugitive diamond merchant Mehul Choksi and his associates for allegedly cheating a developer of Rs 30 crore. The accused sold off a partially complete project to Laxmi Group of Companies and after Choksi was booked in a Rs 6,100-crore loan default case, the property was attached by the Enforcement Directorate. Choksi is wanted for defrauding Punjab National Bank. The Laxmi Group of Companies has claimed that in November 2017, Choksi approached it and said that his company, Gitanjali Group, was in a financial crisis. Choksi told Laxmi officials he wanted to sell off a partly complete project, Tatva Residential, at Dattpada Road in Borivli. The project was initiated by Choksi in 2014 and was supposed to have 155 flats in two 20-storey towers. When Choksi approached the Laxmi Group, 101 flats were ready and sold off. Choksi asked Laxmi Group



BEST bus catches fire in the middle of the road at Matunga



Firemen brought the blaze under control in less than half an hour at Matunga on Wednesday

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Mumbai:

Passengers in a BEST bus had a narrow escape as it was gutted in a blaze on Dr B A Road at Maheshwari Udyan, Matunga, at 4.17pm on Wednesday. The incident highlighted "poor maintenance" of some of its buses. The fire in the diesel bus, ferrying commuters on route 27 (Mulund-Worli), was due to sparks in wires close to

the engine, an official said. BEST spokesperson Hanu-mant Gophane said, "The alertness shown by the driver, Tatu Fernandes, saved lives. He saw smoke coming from the wires and quickly alerted the conductor and passengers. The bus was evacuated in time and no one was injured." Sources said that after noticing sparks, some bystanders tried to douse the

blaze with fire extinguishers. But the fire spread across the cabin and to the roof and seats behind. Fear of an explosion caused panic in the area. A police constable diverted traffic and firemen brought the blaze under control in less than half an hour. BEST has instituted an inquiry. The driver, conductor and three passengers escaped without injuries.

HC: Why no FIR in co-op bank scam in which netas accused?

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Mumbai:

The Bombay high court on Wednesday rapped the state for not registering a first information report in an embezzlement scam at Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank. NCP's Ajit Pawar and Jayant Patil are among politicians who were directors accused of allegedly swindling the bank of thousands of crores. A bench of Justices Satyaranjan Dhar madhikari and Sandeep Shinde heard a PIL by activist Surinder Arora to register an FIR in the case. Nabard's audit report had revealed breach of various banking laws and RBI

guidelines by the directors who had distributed various loans to their sugar factories, spinning mills and other units between 2005 and 2010, and defaulted on repayment and recovery. In May 2011, RBI appointed an administrator for the bank. In January 2018, the high court directed EOW to record Arora's supplementary statement.



Last week, Arora's advocate Satish Talekar told the court that thereafter nothing has been done. The court then summoned the economic offences wing DCP Shrikant Paropkari. Prosecutor Deepak .

Borivli bizman found dead in Gujarat hotel

INSIGHT NETWORK

Mumbai:

A 26-year-old businessman, who had been missing from Borivli for more than a month, was recently found dead in a hotel room in Vapi, Gujarat. Yash Bafna was found hanging from the ceiling fan when the police entered his room on July 26. No suicide note was found. Bafna lived in Borivli (west) with his family and was single. He and his father ran a steel business. On June 23, he left home around 4pm. When he did not return, his family checked with friends and relatives. Eventually, they lodged a missing person's complaint at M H B Colony police station. Bafna lived in Borivli (west) with his family and was single.

FIR lodged in 'rod piercing car' incident

INSIGHT NETWORK

Mumbai:

Day after a nearly 10ft-long iron rod flew out of nowhere and pierced the windshield of a moving Uber cab, the Vanrai police registered an FIR for negligence. Fashion de-



CLOSE SHAVE

signer Rinku Jain, seated in the front seat of the cab, had a narrow escape on Tuesday when the rod drove into the dashboard in front of her. Tiny glass shards flew onto her face and body. Jain was badly shaken but unharmed. The incident occurred on the south-bound arm of the Western Express Highway under the JVL flyover." said senior inspector Vanrai police.

Retiring GP rues vanishing breed of family physicians

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Mumbai:

The disappearing breed of family physicians got sparser on Wednesday when Vile Parle-based general physician Dr Suhas Pingle retired after 43 years of practice. His last day saw long-time patients trooping in with bouquets or seeking joint selfies and a bit of medical drama when a patient—a 40-year-old man whose father was diagnosed with a heart attack by Dr Pingle 35 years ago—complained of chest pain. The 68-year-old doctor immediately performed an ECG that showed changes in the patient's heart function and dialled a nearby hospital for an ambulance. The fact that a general physician (GP) knows the patient as well as his



Dr Suhas Pingle with a patient on the last day of his 43-year-long practice

family history and makes time to discuss tough medical decisions makes them special. A few days ago when an 87-year-old patient claimed he had developed vertigo along with severe throat pain, Dr Pingle's diagnosis, given the patient's history, was H1N1. "He and his 85-year-old wife live alone, so I dialled for an ambulance and helped them cross the road to board it," he said. A few years ago, he would have accompanied the patient to a hospital but hasn't been able to do so of late. "It's one of the rea-

Now, pay ₹25 to enter Mahakali caves and forts in Raigad, Pune

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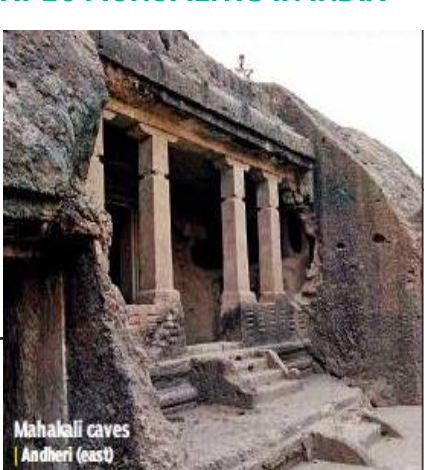
Free entry to Kondivati caves in Mumbai—popularly known as Mahakali caves—Lohgad Fort in Pune district, and Janjira Fort in Raigad district is no longer possible. According to a recent Gazette of India notification, the three are among 26 monuments in the country that were added to the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) list of ticketed sites. The footfall at the three sites in the Mumbai Circle has gone up over the years, and unruly elements tend to while away the entire day on these premises. The

FEE INTRODUCED AT 26 MONUMENTS IN INDIA

10 TICKETED MUMBAI CIRCLE MONUMENTS
Elephanta caves | Kanheri caves | Shaniwarwada | Agakhan Palace | Lenyadri caves | Karla caves | Bhaja caves | Raigad fort | Kolaba fort | Solapur fort |

3 ADDED TO THE TICKETED LIST
Lohgad Fort | Mahakali Caves | Janjira Fort |

entry fee will regulate both, ASI officials said. Indians and nationals from SAARC and BIM-STEAC countries pay Rs 25 per head. Nationals from other countries pay Rs 300 per head. A Mumbai Circle ASI offi-



Mahakali caves (Andheri east)

THE CHARGES

>> Indians and visitors from SAARC, BIM-STEAC countries | Rs.25 per head

>> Other foreign nationals | Rs.300 per head

WHY ASI IS TICKETING MORE MONUMENTS

>> Footfall at these monuments has gone up over the years

>> To keep away unruly elements from whiling away the entire day. visitors in June. Janjira fort saw 6,096 visitors, and Lohgad fort saw around 16,629 in the same month. Entry fee is being charged at the three sites since May 1 and at the least the whole was finalised.



FORMER RAJYA SABHA MEMBER SANJAY SINGH AND WIFE JOIN BJP DAY AFTER QUITTING CONGRESS



BJP GEN SECY RAM MADHAV LASHES OUT AT NC, PDP FOR CREATING WAR HYSTERIA IN J&K AHEAD OF POLLS

The loneliness of a 'victim family'

Fear-Struck Villagers Stay Away From Cremation In Unnao

INSIGHT NETWORK
Lucknow:

The jailed uncle of the Unnao rape survivor cremated his wife on the banks of the Ganga in their village on Wednesday, his forlorn figure and despairing voice mirroring the plight of a family left to fight its battles alone after losing three members in the span of just over a year. "Kuldeep Singh Sengar (the rape-accused BJP MLA) mera poora parivar kha gaya, sirf hum hee reh gaye (Kuldeep destroyed

my entire family, only I have remained)," he said, surrounded by cops and watched from a distance by fear-struck villagers unwilling to have anything to do with the family. An eerie silence had descended on the village, occasionally broken by the sirens of a 10-strong fleet of police vehicles, when the body of the rape survivor's aunt arrived from Lucknow,

three days after she and another relative were killed in a truck-car crash on NH-31 that also left the girl and her lawyer critically injured. In the past two years since

the rape survivor named Sengar as the accused, nobody in the village had stood by the family. Even their immediate neighbours turned into bystanders as the girl's uncle carried out the cremation rituals. Children passing by stared from far, perhaps unable to comprehend what was going on. "We don't belong to this neighbourhood. We came here only to find that out.



The body of the rape survivor's aunt was brought to her village Makhi from Lucknow and cremated on Wednesday under heavy police security

CJI slams registry for delay; hearing today

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Driver & cleaner of killer truck arrested

The driver and cleaner of the truck involved in the highway crash that killed two relatives of the Unnao rape survivor and left her battling for life were arrested on Monday and booked for murder, attempt to murder and criminal conspiracy. Police had detained driver Ashish Pal (26) and cleaner Mohan Srinivas (22) along with the owner of the truck, Devendra Pal, within hours of the truck-car collision on NH-31 near Rae Bareilly on Sunday. But it wasn't until the CBI took over the probe on Tuesday night that they moved to formally arrest the duo. Pal was allowed to go. S K Singh, the Rae Bareilly SP, told TOI that Ashish and Mohan were produced in court.

Senior advocate V Giri, appointed as amicus curiae in the CJI initiated PIL to curb incidents of child rape in the country, mentioned media reports about the survivor's kin writing a letter to the CJI

on threats being issued to them by Sengar's relatives and henchmen and requesting a bench of CJI Gogoi and Justices Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose to take up the matter. The CJI said the letter was

placed before him by the secretary general at 4pm on Tuesday though it was received by the registry on July 17. He agreed to list the matter on Thursday and said, "We will do something constructive in this destructive atmosphere." The survivor and her lawyer were grievously injured in a road accident. received by the registry on July 17. "We will do something constructive in this destructive atmosphere." two injured in accident.

Raids on Shivakumar landed VGS in I-T net

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Bengaluru:

There's a strong feeling among Bengaluru's business and political circles that at least some of VG Siddhartha's problems stemmed from his close ties with DK Shivakumar, a powerful and resourceful Congress leader and protégé of Siddhartha's father-in-law and former Karnataka chief minister SM Krishna who is now with the BJP. "Besides being Gowdas, they shared a strong personal bond," said a person close to Siddhartha. According to the income-tax department, Shivakumar also had financial dealings and while Siddhartha's debt problems weren't a secret in India Inc, it was these dealings that landed the CCD founder under the I-T scanner and added

to his woes. Opposition circles, of course, believe DKS was the primary target of the investigation. DKS, one of the richest politicians in Karnataka who is facing serious charges of corruption, had been in charge of keeping 44 Gujarat Congress MLAs cloistered at a resort near Bengaluru in 2017 till the cliff-hanger vote for Ahmed Patel's re-election to the Rajya Sabha. He was also at the centre of the operation that saw Congress-JD(S) pip BJP to office after the Karnataka assembly elections last year. Documents reveal that the investigation in Siddhartha's case arose from the search of DKS' financial consultant N Chandras-



TOUGH TIMES: Shivakumar at his house during the I-T raids

hekhar Sukapuri. "It is normal for a search on one person leading to others. This was one such instance," said BR Balakrishnan, principal chief commissioner (PCC) of income-tax, Karnataka-Goa region, who retired on Wednesday. In his purported 'suicide note' Sidd-

hartha had spoken of a "lot of harassment by a former DG-IT". Balakrishnan, who was director general of investigation before becoming PCC, defended the probe into Siddhartha's business dealings and denied.

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Agra:

In a case of instant revenge, a power corporation electrician of Firozabad district disconnected power supply to a police station after a sub-inspector posted there issued him a Rs 500 ticket for not wearing a helmet on Tuesday evening. The cops at Linepar police station remained without power for more than four hours before senior police officials approached power corporation officials and connection was restored. The electrician, Srinivas, said that the police station had also violated norms by not paying their power bills since 2016 and so he punished them in return. "I was returning to the local power station (Labour Colony) on a motorcycle after repairing a

power fault in Badi Chappeti when subinspector Ramesh Chandra stopped me and issued a Rs 500 chal-

olation of traffic rules incurred penalties. I told them that they had also not paid the power bill,



AVENGER: Srinivas cuts off the power supply to Linepar police station after he was fined Rs 500 for not wearing a helmet. Srinivas said the station, which has not paid power bills since 2016, has dues of Rs 7 lakh and this was also a violation.

lan for not wearing a helmet. I made him to talk to a junior engineer, who requested him to exempt me. But he did not listen," electrician Srinivas told TOI. "The SI and his associates started telling me that vi-

which is Rs 6.62 lakh now, in time. So, I disconnected their power supply," said Srinivas. Dakshinanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited (DVVNL)-Firozabad sub-divisional officer Ranveer Singh, confirmed that.

AJAXI SAVES THE DAY



WHIFF OF LIFE: CRPF personnel rescue a man trapped in a landslide on the Jammu-Srinagar highway after they followed a cue from its bomb squad sniffer dog Ajaxi (inset) on Wednesday. The landslide was triggered by heavy rains in Jammu. A boy (8) was killed after his home collapsed because of overnight rains

Sniffer Sherlock has sent several poachers to jail

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Bhopal:

Poachers may not be afraid of tigers, but they have heard of five-year old Nirman. They know there's no hiding from him. Since Nirman — a German Shephard — was inducted as sniffer in the Tiger Task Force in Satna in October 2016; it has cracked 35 cases of poaching and sent several poachers behind bars. Now, Nirman has won the first 'Canines for Felines' contest for "super sniffer" dogs trained under a TRAFFIC and World Wide Fund-India programme. A dozen wildlife sniffer dogs from



WHEN DOGS ARE FAMILY

Kerala police dogs to be laid to rest with full honours

The funeral of dogs and horses that have served the state police will be held with full police honours, including the gun salute and police band. Thunder, a dog that breathed its last at the retirement home for police dogs, Vishranthi, at Kerala Police Academy on Sunday, was laid to rest with full police honours on Monday. "This will be followed for horses too," state police chief Loknath Behera said.

all over the country participated in the contest.

Cops fine electrician ₹500, he snaps their power supply

HC judge bars journalists from entering court

Kolkata:

Calcutta high court judge Samapti Chattopadhyay, who is hearing the Bongaon municipality trust vote and other local body cases, on Wednesday barred journalists from entering her courtroom till further orders.

At the commencement of the hearing on the Bongaon matter, Justice Chattopadhyay orally directed that reporters would not be allowed to be present in her courtroom during TCT.

Rakesh Asthana is new chief of narcotics bureau

New Delhi:

The home ministry on Wednesday appointed 1984 batch



IPS officer Rakesh Asthana as the director general of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB). Asthana will hold the position as an additional charge, the order said. Asthana is currently director general of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). He was posted there in the aftermath of his feud with sacked CBI director Alok Verma last year. Asthana will hold the position as an additional charge, the order said.

Shah, Irani get Advani, Joshi seats in LS

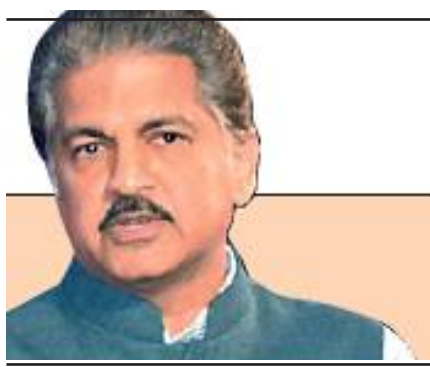
New Delhi:

Home minister and BJP president Amit Shah and WCD minister Smriti Irani have been allotted front row seats in Lok Sabha.

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ENTREPRENEURS MUST NOT ALLOW BUSINESS FAILURE TO DESTROY THEIR SELF-ESTEEM: ANAND MAHINDRA



MALLYA: SIDDHARTHA A BRILLIANT ENTREPRENEUR, GOVT AGENCIES AND BANKS CAN DRIVE ANYONE TO DESPAIR

As The Company Board Takes Measures To Reassure Investors, Stock Price Crashes For A Second Consecutive Day Siddhartha took fresh loans to pay back StanChart PE last year

AVANTIKA.VITAL@KHGROUP.COM

Bengaluru: Since Café Coffee Day founder VG Siddhartha's purported letter surfaced on Tuesday citing the pressure from "one of the private equity partners forcing me to buyback shares", the role of these firms is increasingly being questioned by entrepreneurs and investors. For Siddhartha giving an exit to these PE investors — who had invested in the company in 2010 and not sold any shares during even the public offering in 2015 — was high priority "Siddhartha would say, I just want to give StanChart and KKR an exit," a close associate of the CCD founder told TI on Wednesday. He was referring to two of the three PE shareholders in the listed holding company Coffee Day Enterprises: New Silk Route (10.6%), KKR (6% stake) and Standard Chartered



CALL UNDER PRESSURE: Both StanChart PE and KKR had made a partial exit from Coffee Day Enterprises last year

PE (5.6% stake). The three firms had together invested Rs 960 crore in Coffee Day Enterprises in 2010. While Siddhartha did not name a specific investor in the letter, speculation and finger pointing has been rife with investor and entrepreneur circles as to who was to blame. Interestingly, both Standard Chartered PE and KKR had also given loans to various companies of Coffee Day group in separate deals. One of the companies which held

5.9% stake in listed Coffee Day Enterprises — Devadarshini Info Technologies — had raised about Rs 300 crore from Stan-Chart PE through optionally convertible debentures in 2014. Under the terms of the deal, the PE firm could take 99% stake in Devadarshini if the loan wasn't repaid, according to company filings with the ministry. PE firm could take 99% stake in Devadarshini if the loan wasn't repaid. associate of the CCD founder told TI on Wednesday.

Holding cos had ₹3,500-cr debt

AVANTIKA.VITAL@KHGROUP.COM

Bengaluru:

Four private holding companies of VG Siddhartha, which held over 17% stake in Coffee Day Enterprises, had an additional debt of Rs 3,537 crore, of which over Rs 2,500 crore was borrowed since 2017, analysis of the index of charges data on the ministry of corporate affairs website shows. These entities — Devadarshini Info Technologies, Gonibedu Coffee Estates, Coffee Day Consolidations and Sivan Securities —

TROUBLE DOGGED HIM

Holder	Holding (%)	% of holding pledged	Pledged shares as % of total
Coffee Day Consolidations	5.81	95.94	5.57
Devadarshini Info Technologies	5.87	83.07	4.88
Gonibedu Coffee Estates	5.24	78.93	4.14
Malavika Hegde	4.05	65.27	2.65
Sivan Securities	0.21	99.99	0.21
V G Siddhartha	32.75	71.4	23.38

were the personal holding companies of Siddhartha and he had pledged most of his shares in these companies. This debt of Rs 3,537 crore is over the Rs 6,547 crore Coffee Day Enterprises had, underlining that he was grappling with total loans of over Rs 10,000 crore. About 76% of the 54% stake held by the promoter group in Coffee Day Enterprises is pledged, according to stock exchange filings at the end of June 2019. This additional debt had put more pressure on VG.

AVANTIKA.VITAL@KHGROUP.COM

Bengaluru:

Coffee Day Enterprises has constituted a three-member executive committee to exercise the powers of late chairman and managing director VG Siddhartha. The leadership vacuum needed to be filled urgently, given the sharp downward spiral the company's share price has seen since Siddhartha went missing. The company board, which met on Wednesday, appointed independent director S V Ranganath as interim chairman, and Nitin Bagamane as interim COO. The two, together with CFO R Ram Mohan, are part of the executive committee. According to his LinkedIn profile, Bagamane is also chairman of Tanglin Developments, which owns the Coffee Day group's technology park. Ranganath used to be chief secretary (2009-2013) in the Karnataka

CYRIL MANGALDAS LEGAL COUNSEL
Law firm Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas (CAM) has been appointed legal counsel for Coffee Day Enterprises on matters re-

lated to transition and governance, including investigating the veracity of the purported letter written by founder chairman VG Siddhartha, sources told *The insight*.



TOP OF THE BOARD: SV Ranganath, R Ram Mohan and Nitin Bagamane

government. The board said it will prepare and approve a detailed charter of authorities vested in the executive committee. The board also took note of a message from Siddhartha's wife, Malavika Hegde, expressing support and trust in the company's professional team and the effort to look after the interest of the employees and all other stakeholders. Hegde is a non-executive, non-independent director in the company. The executive committee will explore opportunities

to deleverage the Coffee Day Group's assets by finding ways to monetise it, the company said. Siddhartha had been trying to sell several of the company's assets in order to pay off debts. Sources told TI that only two board members, Ranganath and Sulakshana Raghavan, managing director of Landor Mumbai, were present in person for the board meeting held in Coffee Day's headquarters in Bengaluru on Wednesday in order to pay off debts and done at the moment pay off by Sunday.

I once thought of taking my life: Vaitheeswaran

AVANTIKA.VITAL@KHGROUP.COM

At 11.30 on the night of December 31, 2012, when all around people were partying and waiting for the clock to strike midnight, there was loud banging on K Vaitheeswaran's door. His wife and son cautioned him. But when it went on, Vaitheeswaran picked up courage and opened the door. A group of drunk people stood outside. They abused him, his wife and son. Threatened them. Made a big ruckus. Several

neighbors heard the commotion and came out. Vaitheeswaran's e-commerce venture IndiaPlaza.com, which he had co-founded with several others, had run out of money. The company was unable to pay many of its vendors, and could not pay employee salaries. Vendors were constantly calling, often in the middle of the night, and threatening him. One ven-



K Vaitheeswaran, founder of IndiaPlaza.com

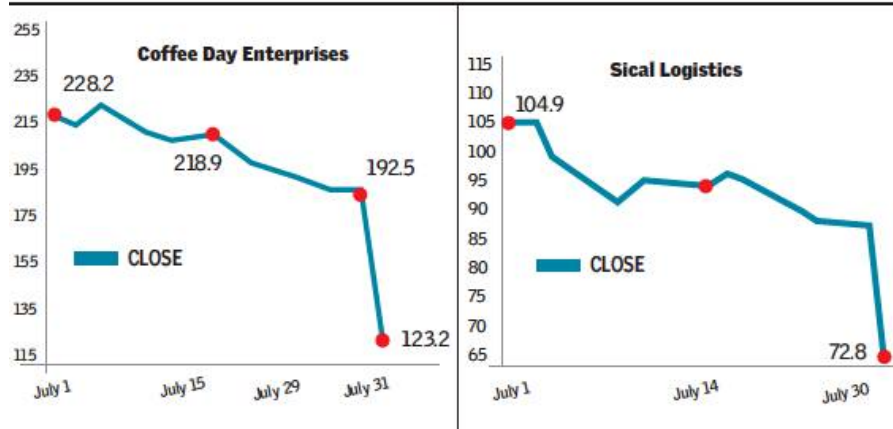
dor once came into the office, pulled out a dagger and laid it on Vaitheeswaran's table. Some would go to his house, and warn his wife.

A former employee who had not been paid threatened to sexually assault his wife. Vaitheeswaran was only one of five directors in the company.

And his was a minority stake. But he was the face of the company. So everybody's ire was directed at him. On January 1, 2013, after the horror of the previous night, and even as he received Happy New Year greetings on his mobile phone, Vaitheeswaran contemplated taking his own life. "I couldn't take it anymore. I couldn't see my wife and son dealing with this," he recalls. He had done some research that told him that if a person dies, all his debts die with him. "I'm tell-

ing you this with an enormous sense of shame that he felt atm." "I couldn't take it anymore. I couldn't see my wife and son dealing with this," he recalls. he received Happy New Year greetings on his mobile phone, Vaitheeswaran contemplated taking his own life. "I'm telling you this with an enormous sense of shame that he felt atm." "I couldn't take it anymore. I couldn't see my wife and son dealing with this," he recalls. he believed life has alot to offer and isnt a menial as it sounds.

Coffee Day, Sical stocks crash for second day



TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The stock prices of Coffee Day Enterprises and Sical Logistics crashed on the bourses for the second consecutive day after the body of VG Siddhartha, founder and CMD, was found early on Wednesday. In just two sessions, the stocks lost over 37% with its shareholders losing about Rs 1,655 crore

across the two companies. On Wednesday, the stock price of Coffee Day lost 20% following a slump of an equal magnitude on Tuesday after Siddhartha went missing. At close of session, it settled at an all-time low of Rs 123. On Wednesday, the company's market cap was down at Rs 2,604 crore from its Monday close at Rs 4,068 crore, hours before the Bengaluru-based entrepreneur

went missing. Sical Logistics too lost 20% for the second session on the trot with the stock closing at Rs 58 on BSE. On Wednesday, the company's market cap was down at Rs 341 crore from its Monday close at Rs 552 crore. According to Coffee Day's latest shareholding disclosed to BSE, as on June 2019, promoters held 54% stake in the company.

Board plans to investigate veracity of letter to staff

TIMES NEWS NETWORK Bengaluru:

At the Coffee Day Enterprises board meeting on Wednesday, members took cognizance of statements on the purported letter from Coffee Day founder VG Siddhartha relating to financial transactions outside the knowledge of the senior management and the board. "While the authenticity of the letter is unverified and it is unclear whether these statements pertain to the company or the personal holdings of Siddhartha, the board took serious note of the same and resolved to thoroughly investigate this matter," the company said in a statement issued to the stock exchange. Meanwhile, sources close to family claimed letter

TEXT OF VGS' LETTER

To our Board of Directors and Coffee day family,

After 37 years, with strong commitment to hard work, having directly created 30,000 jobs in our companies and their subsidiaries, as well as another 20,000 jobs in technology company where I have been a large shareholder since its founding, I have failed to create the right profitable business model despite my best efforts. I would like to say I gave it my all. I am very sorry to let down all the people that put their trust in me. I fought for a long time but today I gave up as I

could not take any more pressure from one of the private equity partners forcing me to buy back shares, a transaction I had partially completed six months ago by borrowing a large sum of money from a friend. Tremendous pressure from other lenders lead to me succumbing to the situation. There was a lot of harassment from the previous DG income tax in the form of attaching our shares on two separate occasions to block our Mindtree deal and then taking position of our Coffee Day shares, although the revised returns have been filed by us. This was very unfair. **Regards, V G Siddhartha**

CCD bond holders might take first hit

INSIGHT NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai:

Coffee Day Enterprises risks losing the borderline investment-grade rating for its bonds with rating agencies warning that the company could get downgraded in light of the promoter's absence. ICRA said that it has placed Rs 315 crore worth bonds on rating watch with negative implications indicating that there are chances of a downgrade. The rating was reviewed after the company said on Tuesday that its promoter had gone missing. A downgrade will have an

immediate impact on the value of mutual fund units of schemes that have invested in these bonds. DSP credit risk fund has exposure to Cafe Coffee Day paper to the tune of 3.9%. DSP has written off 50% of its exposure in CCD paper, which has impacted the return of the fund by -1.30%. Bharti Axa and Indiabulls MF are also understood to have lent to the CCD group. "As the development may have a critical bearing on the group's operations and credit profile, ICRA will continue to monitor further developments.

Entrepreneurs talk of #CCDmemories

INSIGHT NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru/Chennai:

Entrepreneurs and business leaders expressed shock and grief over VG Siddhartha's tragic end. Throughout Wednesday, people took to Twitter to offer condolences and share how Cafe Coffee Day, which Siddhartha founded, had been part of their entrepreneurial journey — right from the start of their ventures. Home grown beer-brand Bira 91's founder and CEO Ankur Jain tweeted, "Everytime I wanted to

call on @TajLandsEnd to sell @Bira91 at the hotel, I always met my sales guy at the bandstand Cafe Coffee Day! Countless sales conversations happened over coffee at CCDs across the country that created #Bira91 #CCDmemories." Soon, #CCDmemories emerged as a growing hashtag on Twitter. Dinesh Agarwal, who co-founded online commerce platform IndiaMart 23 years ago, said one has to be wary of debt ratio to one's net worth. "Many times, private investors.



A thought for today

*They are sick that surfeit with too much,
as they that starve with nothing*

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Make It Win-Win

Personal laws permitting triple talaq had to go but criminalising it spawns new injustices

The passage of the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill criminalising instant oral talaq in the Rajya Sabha fulfils a BJP electoral promise. The party's Hindutva base and even a number of Muslims opposed to the writ of religious leaders and personal laws reigning supreme in their community have welcomed the moment. By prescribing three years imprisonment for Muslim men who pronounce the talaq-e-biddat, the law stickout with rough edges for treating divorce as a criminal offence. From a system which gave archaic personal laws a long rope for decades to now criminalising practices like triple talaq that it fostered, India is veritably swinging between extremes. The old order had to change, but it is unfortunate that the new law failed to strike a balance. Personal laws gave religious leaders disproportionate influence and denied many people, especially women, the benefits of living in a free society and under meaningful protection of the state. By overriding personal laws, government is indeed doing Muslim women a world of good but in failing to treat triple talaq as a civil offence, as in any other messy divorce case, it may conceivably end up doing more harm than good to the woman. A legal challenge in Supreme Court is certain to raise issues like proportionality: whether the severity of punishment befits the seriousness of the crime and whether there are less onerous ways of achieving the legislation's goals.



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A Tragedy's Lessons

VG Siddhartha's untimely demise should catalyse a look at India's compliance environment

VG Siddhartha was among the front ranks of Indian entrepreneurs, who built a massive cafe chain that could take on multinational giants like Starbucks. There remain many unanswered questions about his tragic demise. A letter attributed to him, alluding to what triggered his mental turmoil, points to a larger problem confronting the economy. India is a particularly challenging place to actualise an entrepreneur's dream. Despite the best intentions of governments, firms – be they start-ups or long standing ones – have to spend an inordinate amount of time and resources in managing the regulatory environment. Unless this changes, a \$5 trillion economy remains a long way away. Between the professed aims of policy makers and what actually materialises on the ground is a vast gap. This gap results in economic underperformance. To illustrate, GST was meant to make compliance with indirect tax easier in addition to creating a common market. However, that is not the case. This week CAG tabled in Parliament its first ever audit of GST's compliance system. Its conclusion was dismal. However, that is not the case.



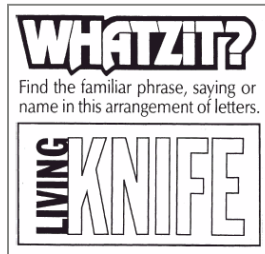
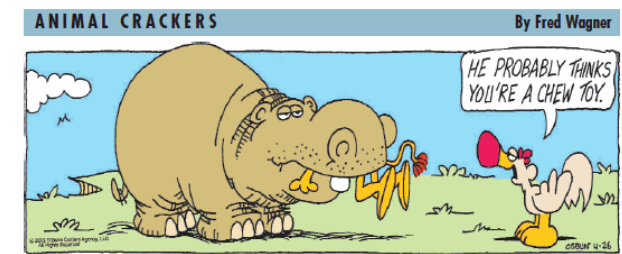
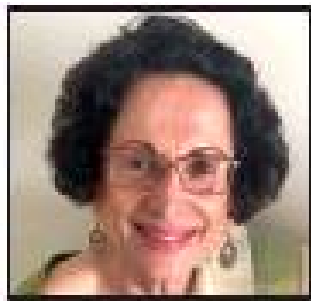
make compliance with indirect tax easier in addition to creating a common market. However, that is not the case. This week CAG tabled in Parliament its first ever audit of GST's compliance system. Its conclusion was dismal. However, that is not the case.

Scalps on the Alps

How dare a snooty Swiss hotel tell us how to behave? We are topper tourists, no?

BACHI KARKARIA

Lots of our desi tourists have been yodelling their lungs out. They are gloating over the grovelling correction sent out by a Swiss hotel which said that the note it had issued to 'Dear Guests from India ...' was a 'misunderstanding', and hadn't meant to be racist. Kyon-ji, apolo-ji is bas, or wot? We want free stay in best suite with full hospitality. And throw in all the spa treatments too, else our foreign minister will give you such a deep-tissue message that you'll emerge from it as holey (and smelly) as your cheeses. Worse, our PM will never hug yours again. What face you can then show in global community? The days of your entire Indians-dependent tourism industry will be as numbered as your Swiss accounts. How did your note dare to single out us Indians? What bakwas instructions: 'Don't carry food from the breakfast buffet back to your room for lunch. Don't share dishes ordered for one. Maintain peace and quiet as the hotel has other guests from the world over.' Tamara baap nu shu jayechhey if we wrap up croissants and cheese slices and pocket half the apples for our little baablo aney baby while we tramp around all day? So what if I order one buffet lunch for me, my Mrs orders only cheap soup – and helps herself from my heaped plate? In our great Indian tradition, patni always eats what pati-parmeshwar leaves for her. Franc-ly, it's way so Mama-Papa can eat in peace.



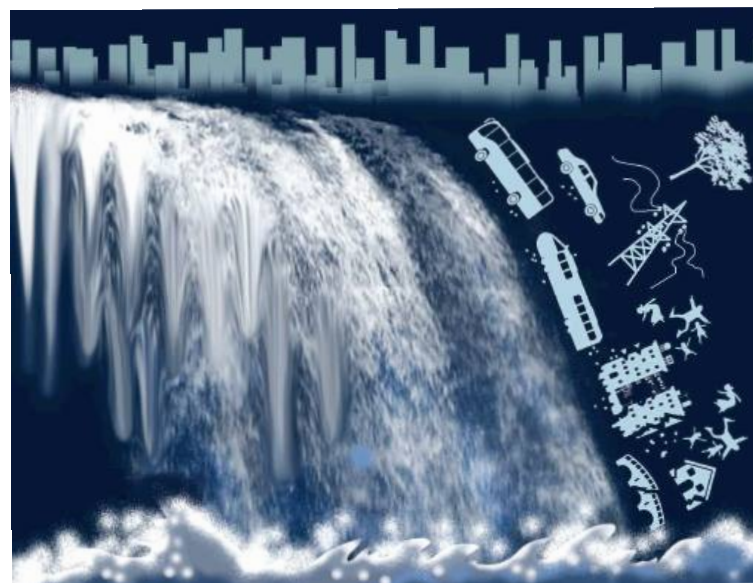
Give Rivers More Space

To avoid frequent flooding havoc, India must regulate construction on floodplains

AVANTIKA VITAL

Last week, the Ulhas River on the outskirts of Mumbai burst its banks, swamping the land around it, including local housing estates, and stranding the passengers of the Mahalaxmi Express. The flood should not have surprised anyone: Much of the region's exurban growth has been in townships along the Ulhas, with little regard for the integrity of the river system.

India has made progress on many aspects of flood disaster management in the past decade, notably in warnings and evacuation, as we saw earlier this year when Odisha moved a million people to safety ahead of Cyclone Fani. But the country needs to catch up on a critical measure, one that is taking on greater urgency with climate change: the regulation of development on floodplains. This regulatory gap persists despite the urging of various agencies and parliamentary committees over 45 years, and for obvious reasons: developable land, especially around growing cities, is precious. If one were to quantify the true costs of real estate development in flood-prone



areas, however, that calculus might be different. Reckless construction over wetlands, floodplains, or riverbeds – natural features that absorb and mitigate heavy rainfall or a river's overflow – helped cause or aggravate the floods in Mumbai in 2005 and 2017, Uttarakhand in 2013, Srinagar in 2014, Chennai in 2015 and Kerala in 2018. (Paved areas elevate flood risk by reducing absorption of water into the ground and increasing runoff.) In three of those flood events – Kochi, Chennai, Mumbai – airports, a critical piece of infrastructure, were closed for days because they were located on a floodplain, or even across the river itself.

The short-sightedness of those decisions seems remarkable given how well known the concept of floodplain protection is, not just in traditional community practice but modern hydrology. In 1975, the Central Water Commission prepared a model bill for floodplain zoning and sent it to the states to enact and implement (rivers are state subjects). Only three states – Manipur, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand – have enacted such legislations so far, and even in these states, implementation is virtually absent. This regulatory shortfall is no secret. The National Disaster Management Authority's (NDMA) Flood Guidelines observe that

"the reluctance of states to enact zoning has led to increase in encroachment on floodplains, sometimes authorised and duly approved by planning authorities." Another push for a floodplain policy came in 2016 when draft River Regulation Zone Rules, formulated with the help of independent experts, were circulated by the ministry of environment, forests, and climate change (MoEFCC). The rules proposed demarcation of active floodplains, high flood lines, and high to low impact zones, and then limiting development within these zones. What would such limits look like? NDMA's guidelines suggest prohibiting vital public infrastructure in the most flood-prone areas along rivers. UN guidelines on flood management call for "wise use" of floodplains. They suggest wetlands, agriculture and green reserves along water courses that will not only act as buffers against flood but nurse fisheries and enable storage and recharge of groundwater. In less risky zones, building codes would be needed to reduce flood damage to homes. The MoEFCC's draft river rules were opposed by many states.

What customers really want: Cashbacks and deep discounts can only go so far

RONNIE SCREWVALA

Two years ago a study by IBM Institute for Business Value and Oxford Economics found that 90% of Indian startups fail within five years of opening shop. Another more recent report said that the 5 best-funded startups in India combined, haemorrhaged more than a billion dollars in 2018. These top five losers – Paytm, Flipkart, MakeMyTrip India, Swiggy and Zomato – are also household names each valued at over a billion dollars and more than a

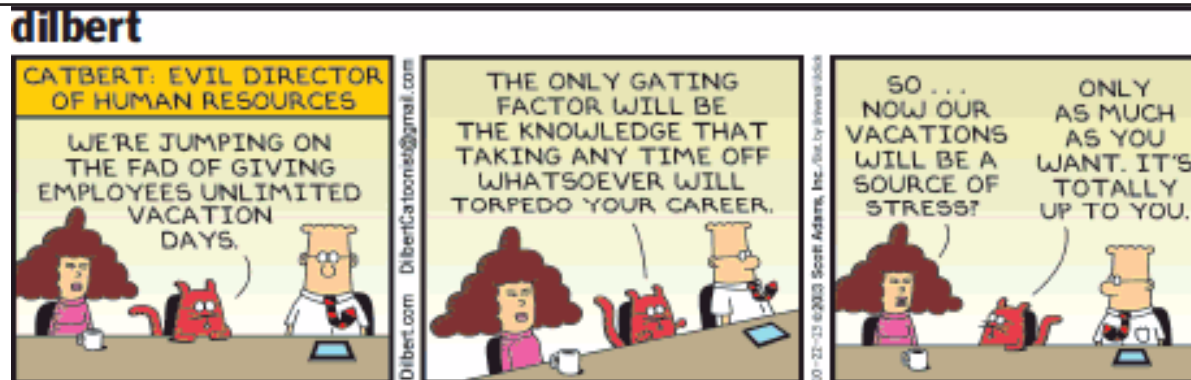


decade old with millions of customers on their books. This mindless chase for customers is not exactly helping even the best amongst us. It should therefore not come as a surprise that 'running out of cash' is the second most common reason among the top 20 reasons why startups fail, the first being an even more ridiculous reason – 'no market

need' according to an April 2019 report by CB Insights. The writing on the wall can't get any bolder. The Indian startup ecosystem is a little over a decade old now. Luring customers with cashback and deep discounts might have worked in the past. But the same ecosystem has since moved into the post-cost arbitrage environment where old ways

of thinking are not helping. While the lure of a good deal or waving cash at customers may seem helpful in onboarding new customers, it is not enough to retain them or earn their long term loyalty. At a recent startup conference on customer experience or CX, almost every executive in the room who saw the fallacy in blindly chasing customer numbers also said that they valued CX more. The CIO of a growing healthcare chain specialising in maternity, childcare and fertility said, "Pregnancy is not an illness but wellness. Every aspect of

the pregnancy and delivery should be celebrated and the customer deserves the best experience during this time." The product head of an online travel business said, "We focus more on engagement and solving the base problems as it is evident that these engagements will eventually lead to conversion into loyalty in the product and help in building retention." Constant improvements in CX through innovation is a lot easier said than done. The IBM Institute report stated it is not enough to retain them or earn their long term loyalty and the bonding.



Storms In Life
I have seen many storms in my life. Most storms have caught me by surprise, so I had to learn very quickly to look further and understand that I am not capable of controlling the weather, to exercise the art of patience and to respect the fury of nature.
Paulo Coelho

Absolutism, Crime Against Cerebral Evolution

AVANTIKA VITAL

Once Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan asked Jiddu Krishnamurti as to what's the worst human attribute. Pat came the answer from the laconic JK: To be absolute. So very true. To be absolute is indeed an exceedingly undesirable attribute a person can have. No one has seen tomorrow and no one knows where life will take a person. Future is forever unpredictable and perennially capricious. So, in retrospect, today's rigidity seems stupidity tomorrow.

Humans must be open and flexible to a plethora of changes according to the circumstances in the future which cannot be envisaged today. That I shall remain unchanged is not a quality. It's foolish stubbornness. To be willing to change means to accept the ups and downs of life with a sense of pliable equanimity and elastic equilibrium. Our ideas undergo a sea-change as we grow old. Our perceptions

about almost all things change with the passage of time. Just before the Battle of Kurukshetra, Arjun told Krishna with rigid and presumptuous obstinacy: 'If a situation arises that I'm required to slay Bhisma pitamah, I'll rather die than even think of slaying him.' Krishna smiled and just said, 'Dri-gocharam pashyanti – Let's see, only time will decide.' Needless to say, Arjuna, the apple of Bhisma's eye, had to slay the

venerable warrior during the battle. 'Change today's thoughts. Then only can you blossom into a complete individual,' said English philosopher John Locke, 'Khandanmandanam iti nihitam jeevanasya rahasyam – The essence of life lies in the refutation of one's own values and beliefs.' Beliefs get fossilised when we refuse to change them. Remember, life is so complex that there're very strong chances that your opponent can also be a right number.





SRIKANTH WINS AGAINST CHINESE QUALIFIER IN FIRST ROUND OF THAILAND OPEN

SCALONI CONFIRMED AS ARGENTINA COACH TILL 2022 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING PERIOD



England Seek A 'Double' As Australia Eye Ashes History

Birmingham: England return to 'Fortress Edgbaston' for the first Test against Australia on Thursday looking to round off an already memorable season by completing a World Cup and Ashes double. If the World Cup remains the pinnacle of the 50-over game, for England and Australia there's nothing quite like a renewal of Test cricket's oldest rivalry. But now there's arguably more at stake for both sides than the series result. For England, a home season billed as the most important in a generation started brilliantly with their impressive run to a first men's World Cup

International cricket in Britain emerged from behind its satellite television payroll for the first time since the celebrated 2005 Ashes so that millions could watch England's Super Over win against New Zealand at Lord's. Building on that groundswell of support is a key part of the England and Wales Cricket Board's posttournament strategy. Regaining the Ashes represents an ideal chance to keep those new followers on board, even if none of the five Tests are on free-to-air television. For Australia, an Ashes series win under the dignified leadership of Tim

KEY BATTLES

WARNER—ROY

Both England and Australia have batsmen at the top of the order with the ability to dictate the pace of an innings and with something to prove. David Warner, who had an impressive World Cup campaign for Oz, is resuming his Test career after ban.

SMITH—ROOT

When Australia and England last met, in Australia in 2017-18, Steve Smith and Joe Root were the opposing skippers. Since then, Smith has been stripped of the captaincy and is preparing for his first Test outing since banned over last incident.

ENGLISH GUILE—AUSTRALIAN PACE

England have a new weapon in paceman Jofra Archer (not included in the first Test) but the key to their bowling attack will be veterans James Anderson and Stuart Broad. Anderson and Broad lack the sheer pace to frighten batsmen but are masters of exploiting English

4 England have won the last four home Test series vs Australia — by 2-1 in 2005; 2-1 in 2009; 3-0 in 2013 and 3-2 in 2015.

5 Wickets needed by Stuart Broad to become the 9th England bowler to complete 100 wickets or more vs Australia. (STATS: RAJESH KUMAR)

GALLERY



Sri Lankan team members (from left) Shehan Jayasuriya, Lahiru Kumara and captain Dimuth Karunaratne

Bhaji for probe into award delay

Harbhajan Singh has pleaded with the Punjab Sports Minister Rana Gurmit Singh Sodhi to "start an inquiry" into the reasons behind the delay of filing his nomination for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, which ultimately led to it being rejected by the Sports Ministry. "I've learned that due to the delay, I won't be getting the award this year," said the veteran spinner in a video. "I would like to plead the Sports Minister of the Punjab Government to start an inquiry into the matter," the 39-year-old said.

63 years to Laker's haul

It has been 63 years since English pacer Jim Laker's feat of becoming the first bowler to scalp all ten-wickets in a single Test match against Australia.

"#OnThisDay in 1956, Jim Laker became the first bowler to pick up 10 wickets in a Test inning. He picked up a total of 19 wickets in that Test against Australia. Do you remember which other bowler has picked up 10 wickets in an innings?" ICC tweeted.

MI trade Markande with DC

Four-time Indian Premier League champions Mumbai Indians have traded leg-spinner Mayank Markande with Delhi Capitals for West Indies all-rounder Sherfane Rutherford. MI have released Markande to Delhi Capitals and in return roped in the Guyanese. "wish Mayank the best" Ambani said.

ACTION TODAY

INTERNATIONAL CRICKET: The Ashes: Test 1-Day 1, 3.30 pm (Sony Six)
TENNIS: ATP 500 Citi Open, 2 am Friday (Sony ESPN)
NATIONAL KABADDI: PKL: Gujarat vs Delhi, 7.30 pm (Star Sports 2)
TABLE TENNIS: Kolkata vs Mumbai, 7 pm (Star Sports 1)

UP FOR GRABS



(DAVID) WARNER IS A PLAYER WHO CAN TAKE GAMES AWAY FROM YOU. TO TIE HIM DOWN AND NOT LET HIM ESTABLISH HIS AUTHORITY AGAINST US WOULD BE A REALLY BIG PLUS FOR US. —BEN STOKES

8 Consecutive Tests played by England without losing at Edgbaston, since 2009. Their last defeat here was by five wickets to South Africa in 2008. Since then, they have won six and drawn two at this venue

'England will try and rub salt in our wounds'

David Warner Talks To TOI Ahead Of The Ashes Series

GAURAV GUPTA@TIMESGROUP.COM

Mumbai:

Almost 17 months after he was banned for his controversial role in the ball tampering saga, David Warner is set to return to Test cricket. The dashing opener is set to lead Australia's charge as they take on traditional rivals England in the latest round of Ashes, cricket's oldest rivalry. Warner spoke exclusively to TOI from Birmingham. Excerpts:

Australia have not beaten England in the Ashes in England since 2001...

We have got a great bunch of boys. We have

good classic bowling options and the batters are coming off with some good scores. So, look, we haven't played against the Duke ball for a while. We have used them at home to try and get a little bit of extra practice (with it). And the guys have combated that (Duke ball) quite well at the (Sheffield) Shield level. We are pretty ready. You beat England 4-0 last time at home in 2017-18.

Does that give you any sort of psychological advantage coming into this series?

I think when you beat a team prior to coming over to their shores, you always take some momentum into it, but yet again, these (English) conditions are quite different. The ball swings

lot, and the wickets can be conducive to good seam and swing.

What about that World Cup semifinal defeat to England defeat? Will that be playing on your minds?

We will definitely be more motivated. We never like losing a semifinal and we are playing at the same venue as well, so that's playing at the back of our mind.

England are the world champions now, but it's a different format, isn't it?

Yes it's a different format. You'd think that they would be coming out with lots of energy and try and obviously knock us off here at home. They would try and rub a bit more

salt in (our) wounds and make us go home

6 boys disqualified from MCA Jr camp

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Mumbai:

The off season isn't bringing good tidings for Mumbai cricket. A day after it emerged that talented young opening batsman Prithvi Shaw failed a dope test and has subsequently been banned by the BCCI for eight months, comes another unpleasant piece of news. Six Mumbai boys, who were chosen amongst the 30-strong probables list for the U-16 off-season camp at BKC, were rendered ineligible on various grounds. While

five were ruled overage, having failed bone tests, conducted by the BCCI last week, one was disqualified on grounds of domicile — he didn't have the minimum two-year residential qualification to play for Mumbai. Post this development, the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has kept selection trials on Saturday to pick replacements for the camp. "We've asked the coaches of all the eight centres (where the MCA summer vacation camps were conducted) to send four of the most talented.

Dhoni joins Army unit in Kashmir

Srinagar:

MS Dhoni, an honorary lieutenant colonel in the Territorial Army, joined Army troops in the militancy-infested south Kashmir region on Wednesday to carry out patrolling, guard duties and similar responsibilities just like other soldiers. The former India captain will be staying with his 106 TA Battalion (Para) till August 15 and undertake duties with the troops, Army officials said that justice would be theirs.

Never asked umpire to cancel four: Stokes

London:

With his "hand on heart", England's World Cup hero Ben Stokes says he never asked the umpires to cancel the four runs off an overthrow during the epic final against New Zealand. One of the biggest turning points of the July 14 final was the overthrow on the fourth ball of the final over bowled by Trent Boult. In a bid to complete his second run, a diving Stokes, his bat outstretched, accidentally deflected the ball coming



from the deep mid-wicket region to the third man boundary.

"I saw all of that. I was thinking to myself, did I say that? But hand on heart, I did not go up to the umpires and say something like that to the umpires," Stokes said in the latest episode of BBC podcast "Tuffers and Vaughan". Stokes, who remained not out on 84 at the end of regulation play before swinging his bat again.

Did BCCI follow proper procedure in Prithvi case?

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New Delhi:

As the Indian cricket board (BCCI) is battling to prove its competence in dealing with anti-doping violations, while resisting to come under the umbrella of the country's National Anti-Doping Agency (Nada), the handling of Prithvi Shaw's case has raised a few questions on the procedure followed to hand him the eight-month retrospective suspension. It may be noted that BCCI, under pressure from International Cricket Council (ICC) and World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada), is about to sign an agreement with Nada for a six-month trial from October.

Prithvi, Akshay Dullarwar and Divya Gajraj were suspended by

BCCI on Tuesday for 'inadvertently' consuming banned substances. The board, while releasing a detailed report on Prithvi's case, didn't reveal the date when the Wada-accredited National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) sent the adverse report. TOI has learnt that the board received the report on May 2 before it appointed an independent review board to verify the reports. Prithvi was only sent a notice on July 16 and he explained his situation after that. The board didn't even

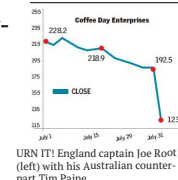
inform the Delhi Capitals (DC), the IPL franchise which has signed Prithvi. Capitals played three matches after May 2 and Prithvi scored a 38-ball 56 as his team ousted Sunrisers Hyderabad in the eliminator. "We had no idea about the development. The BCCI didn't communicate anything with us. We were kept in the dark," a top DC official told TOI on Wednesday. As it stands, Prithvi then went on to play the Mumbai T20 League. TOI understands that the MCA authorities also had no idea



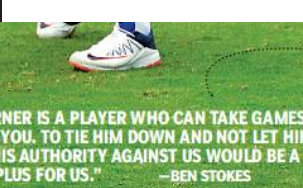
about the development. The Nada code clearly states: "If the review of an Adverse Analytical Finding under Article 7.2.2 does not reveal an applicable Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUE) or entitlement to a TUE as provided in the international standard for TUE, or departure from the international standard for testing and investigations or the international standard for laboratories that caused the adverse analytical finding. Prithvi then went on to play the Mumbai T20 League. TOI understands that the MCA authorities also had no idea about the development. the international standard for testing and investigations or the international standard for laboratories that caused the adverse analytical finding.

ARCHER MISSES OUT AS ENGLAND NAME EDGBASTON TEST SIDE

Birmingham: World Cup-winner



Jofra Archer will have to wait for his Test debut after the fast bowler was left out of the England side named on Wednesday for the Ashes opener against Australia at Edgbaston. The Barbadosborn quick, who has been struggling with a side injury, was omitted from an original 14-man squad along with fellow pacemen Sam Curran famous cricketer. **SKIPPER PAINE, 34, FEELS NO PRESSURE** Australia captain Tim Paine says he has no fears about losing his place as he prepares to lead his team in the first Ashes Test against England. Asked if he felt under pressure to justify his place, Paine replied: "No, I do not at all. I'm 34 years old, I don't really care".



(DAVID) WARNER IS A PLAYER WHO CAN TAKE GAMES AWAY FROM YOU. TO TIE HIM DOWN AND NOT LET HIM ESTABLISH HIS AUTHORITY AGAINST US WOULD BE A REALLY BIG PLUS FOR US. —BEN STOKES

AUSTRALIA'S KHAWAJA, PATTINSON CONFIRMED

Melbourne: Australia coach Justin Langer has confirmed James Pattinson and Usman Khawaja are certain starters for the opening Ashes Test.

India under Kohli a threat for WI: Bishop

New Delhi: Bowling great Ian Bishop feels India have emerged as a better Test team when it comes to performing in foreign conditions and that's why West Indies will find it difficult to beat the Virat Kohli-led side in the upcoming two-match Test series in August. The Indian Test side has performed considerably well in the recent years. While their record is unmatched at home, India have played according to their status of No. 1-ranked Test team in away conditions as well. Last year, India registered their first-ever Test series win in Australia. Before that, they played well in England in the five-match series. Although, the winning margin was 1-4, signalling the series to be a one-sided affair, the rubber was closely fought between the two teams. Bishop — a panelist of Sony Pictures — said: "India know their home conditions so well. India have become the powerhouse that has played better overseas in time of recent year in England.