



AHEAD OF MAHA LOCAL BODY POLLS, BY CM SHINDE GRANTS ₹500CR IN SPECIAL FUNDS TO CIVIC BODIES

No Diwali gift, staff make toll free for 5k cars

Agar Upret over a 'patly' Diwali bonus, workers at a toll plaza on the Agra-Lucknow expressway staged a silent protest Saturday night by leaving the boom barriers open and letting over 5,000 vehicles pass without paying the ₹565 toll, reports Sudip Javanta.

SC seeks Centre's help on online gambling ban plea

65 Crore Playing Such Games, Creating Annual Biz Of ₹1.8 Lakh Crores For These Platform: PIL

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has sought the Centre's assistance on a plea seeking directions to prohibit online gambling and betting platforms that allegedly operate under the guise of social and e-sports games.

A bench of justices JB Pardiwala and JY Vaidyanathan asked the counsel appearing for the petitioner to serve a copy of the PIL to the counsel for the central government. 'We request VC Bharti to look into the petition and assist us on the next date of hearing. List after two weeks in a regular manner on a date to be notified on Friday.'



SC seeks Centre's help on online gambling ban plea

ZUBEEN GARG'S SONAPUR CREMATION SITE SHOULD BE NAMED 'ZUBEEN KSHETRA', SAYS WIFE GARIMA

SC goes extra mile to ensure widow gets Railways' compensation justice after 23 yrs of legal battle

New Delhi: For a tragedy-struck widow, whose husband died in a train accident, the Supreme Court went the extra mile to ensure that she is compensated by the Railways after years of struggle. Sonapur's husband Vijay Singh had a valid railway ticket from Rakhitpur station to go to Patna by the Bhagalpur-Intercity Express on March 21, 2002, but he was accidentally killed from the running train at the originating station itself, due to heavy rain inside the compartment and the train derailed.



Widow's fight for compensation justice

'imaginary' and 'contrary to the undisputed facts on record'. 'What emerges is the fact that the appellant's claim was not accepted by both the Tribunal and the High Court solely on the ground that the deceased was of unsound mind and he was knocked down by an unidentified train, the top court ruled in its order of February 2, 2025. A bench headed by Justice Surya Kant had observed that if the deceased would have been of unsound mind, it would have been readily impossible for him to purchase a valid railway ticket for travel to Patna and could not have tried to board the train all by himself. The top court directed the Railways to pay the widow within two months a compensation of ₹4.5 lakh with six per cent interest per annum from the date of filing of the claim petition. But to her bad luck, her local court could not convey her the order as she passed away.

UK-based researcher deported from IGI

Bharti.jain@timesofindia.com New Delhi: London-based academic and researcher Francesca Orsini was Monday deported entry into India on arrival at IGI airport, as she was blacklisted in March 2025 for having violated conditions of her tourist visa by undertaking research during her previous visits, according to the Home Ministry. Professor Emerita of Hindi and South Asian Literature at School of Languages, Cultures & Linguistics in London, is a literary historian working with Hindi and Urdu texts and has been searching into how multilingualism works within the literary culture of South Asia. Orsini had reportedly arrived in New Delhi from Hong Kong on her way to India. 'She was denied entry in line with visa rules in force, as she had come to the agencies' notice that she was doing research projects while in India on a tourist visa. This is a clear violation of her visa conditions. As per standard global practices, if a person is found violating visa conditions, he or she can be blacklisted, a senior government official told TOI. To undertake research in India, a foreign national must secure a research visa. As some prominent persons, including Opposition MPs, took to X to claim Orsini's deportation without being of good faith, she said, 'I am a "good" that is innocent, paranoid, and even stupid," officials stressed it is every national's sovereign right to admit or deny entry to a foreigner. "In this case, subject was blacklisted and offering an explanation is not mandatory while deporting a blacklisted person," said the official. In February, another UK academic, Nishita Kulkarni, was deported upon arrival at Bengaluru on the basis of apprehensions of her conducting research against her after Indian agencies flagged her consistent "pro-terrorist" comments and "anti-India" lines on Kashmir public forum.

Cop-killer thief shot dead in hosp during gun-snatch bid

Hyderabad: A 26-year-old vehicle thief accused of fatally stabbing a Telangana cop in Nizamabad was shot dead by an inspector at a govt hospital Monday after he allegedly tried to snatch a constable's rifle, reports Mahesh Bhardwaj. 38-year-old, who was undergoing treatment for injuries sustained during the arrest, allegedly lunged at an armed constable in his ward around 11:30am. Police said he ignored repeated warnings before Nizamabad city armed reserve inspector H Sateesh opened fire, hitting him six times in the chest. He died instantly. "Riyaz tried to grab constable's S&W rifle and press trigger. Despite warnings, he remained violent. To prevent a tragedy, our officer fired in self-defence," police commissioner P Sai Chaitanya said.

HACK OF THE DAY: TURN LOST PHONE INTO A THIEF-CATCHING CAMERA

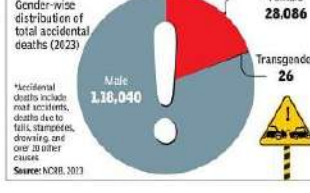
WHAT IT SOLVES: Basic tracking is insufficient if the phone is stolen. WHAT TO DO: 1. Install an enhanced anti-theft app: Download an app (like BitDefender/Prey) > Grant admin permissions > Set up a 'Thief Selfie' trigger. 2. Tracking lost phone: Log in to the app with your credentials on an alternative phone > Track location of SIM, your phone or wipe data in case of a SIM change. 3. Careful: These apps require several deep device permissions to function fully. Can remotely record audio/photos or alert an alternative number upon SIM swap. Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites and updates regularly. Tip from @aihackz@newsindia.com

Biryani row: Suspended cop held for eatery owner's murder

Ranchi: Jharkhand Police have arrested three people, including a suspended constable, in connection with the murder of restaurant owner Vijay Kumar Nag in Ranchi on Saturday. The accused had alleged that a chicken bone was found in the vegetable biryani ordered from Nag's restaurant. SP (Ranchi) Praveen Pushkar said Monday that the suspect, Ashish Kumar Singh, was arrested after an encounter on Cheri Manuatu road on Sunday. Suspended constable Harvindra Singh, who had provided the guns, was caught the same day during an anti-crime drive in Patratu valley, while another accused, Prashant Kumar Singh, was arrested earlier. A fourth suspect, Amit Thakur, is absconding.

8 out of 10 accident victims were male in 2023

In 2023, men accounted for over 82% of accidental deaths in India. The reason behind fewer women dying in accidents could be because of skewed gender representation in the workforce.



Days after sparring over B'uru infra, Biocon chief meets CM, DKS

Bengaluru: Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar Shaw Tuesday met Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar to greet them on the occasion of Deepavali, and assured cooperation and support for Bengaluru's development. Shaw has been critical of Bengaluru's infrastructure woes by highlighting them through her social media posts, and has been repeatedly urging the state govt to intervene. Shivakumar also the minister in charge of Bengaluru Development, later told reporters that Shaw has assumed cooperation and support of the industry for Bengaluru's development. "Bloom chief Kiran Mazumdar Shaw" visited Cauvery (CM) official residence and met chief minister Siddaramaiah on the occasion of Deepavali, the CM's office said in a statement. Shaw met Shivakumar at his Siddavilvarajpet residence in Bengaluru. Asked whether there was any discussion regarding Bengaluru with Shivakumar, said, "Of course, they (industry leaders) have agreed that they are going to cooperate with the development of Bengaluru and they will not hurt Bengaluru. They will support Biocon."



Shaw meets Shivakumar after the meeting, Shivakumar said Shaw had assumed cooperation of the industry for Bengaluru's development.

Lokpal floats tender for ₹5cr BMW fleet for 7 members, draws flak

New Delhi: The seven-member Lokpal has drawn attention by floating a tender to procure seven BMW 7 series cars for its members at a cost of ₹5 crore. The development, now comments on social media but judicial circles point out that the proposed purchase of cars for the ombudsman — headed by retired Justice A M Ebrahimkar of the Supreme Court — is in accord with the perks that judges of SC and high courts enjoy. While the chairman of the Lokpal is selected from a pool of retired chief justices of India or SC judges, the judicial members are from among retired SC judges or chief justices of HCs. The types of cars for SC and HC judges depend on the decision of a committee of judges in courts. In case of SC judges, they have been allotted BMW 7 series, while the CH have been sanctioned BMW 5 series cars, sources said. Different HCs have different kinds of cars allotted to their judges. For instance, Delhi HC judges have been allotted Toyota Camry, while the counterparts in Andhra Pradesh HC have been sanctioned Kia Carnival. For judges of several other HCs, Toyota Innova Xyloross is the preferred vehicle. However, Congress spokesperson Saral Patil said that the Lokpal, which is now looking to buy seven luxury cars worth ₹5 crore, has not acted on a single case since Narendra Modi became PM. "This is the institution that Modi delivered after massive and continuous protests against the UPA govt during India Against Corruption movement," he jeered, recapping Congress's allegation that Lokpal agitation by Anna Hazare was an RSS plot to defame the UPA.

Ayush & MBBS docs' parity: SC refers case to larger bench

New Delhi: SC practitioners of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homopathy (AYUSH) seek parity in pay scales, service conditions and retirement age with MBBS doctors? Amid conflicting judicial rulings on the issue, a two-judge bench of Chief Justice and Justice K Virod Chandran has referred the matter — a long-standing dispute between AYUSH & MBBS practitioners — to a larger bench for an authoritative decision. "There is an area of ambiguity regarding service conditions, especially retirement age and pay package," the bench said. "Parity should be considered on the touchstone of identity of functions, similarity in work carried out and comparable duties assigned." It said the parity must be evaluated considering qualifications, treatment practices, and nature of duties performed by traditional medicine practitioners. It requested the government to provide details regarding AYUSH doctors from MBBS practitioners. SC observed, "It's MBBS doctors' monopoly which is being challenged by practitioners of indigenous systems of medicine." The order came on a petition filed by Rajasthan, which is represented by SG Tushar Mehta, against the different retirement ages for AYUSH and MBBS doctors were introduced to serve public good and address the shortage of allopathy doctors.

After Taliban min's visit, Kabul embassy restored

New Delhi: India Tuesday restored its embassy in Kabul, upgrading its technical staff to the level of an embassy, following the announcement made during Taliban foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's recent visit to India. As per understanding between the two sides, India will designate the head of mission in Kabul as chargé d'affaires before eventually appointing an ambassador, while the Taliban are expected to send two diplomats to New Delhi by Nov. The diplomats will operate from Afghan embassy here, even though India has not formally recognised the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the name used by Taliban for their regime.

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