

Crime against women in Guj declined 13% in 4 years

State Police Has The Highest Chargesheeting Rate: NCRB

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Vadodra: Gujarat is considered one of the safest states for women. And, the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report released recently indicates that in the last few years, the state has performed well when it comes to the safety of women.

According to the report, in the last four years crimes against women have gone down. The number of offences against women has reduced by nearly 13% between 2019 and 2022. In 2019, 8,799 cases of crime against women were registered across the state. The numbers dropped to 8,028 cases in 2020 and went down further to 7,348 in 2021.

In 2022, 7,731 cases of crimes against women were registered, a marginal increase compared to the previous

CHANGING TREND AND APPROACH

Year	No. of offences	Crime rate	Chargesheet rate
2019	8,799	27.10	94.40
2020	8,028	24.40	94.60
2021	7,348	22.10	93.30
2022	7,731	22.90	89.90

Rise in rape case

Year	Rape cases	Accused known to woman	Rape with marriage promise	Accused friends & employer
2020	486	457	229	196
2021	589	537	263	237
2022	616	595	273	273

Source: NCRB

year. Even the rate of crime against women has gone down from 27.10 to 22.90 between 2019 and 2022. Crime rate is calculated as the number of crimes per one lakh population.

The state police have been quick in investigating the crime against women and filing chargesheet at the rate of 89.8 in 2022. In 2020, the charge-filing rate was 94.60 — one of the highest in the country.

"The police haven't been

just acting quickly on offences against women. We have also been taking proactive steps to ensure that women feel safe in public places. Apart from the regular patrolling in the public areas, the special duty teams of cops are also formed to nab miscreants, chain-snatchers or those harassing women," said Shashir Singh, DG (law and order), Gujarat.

When Singh was Vadodra police commissioner, he had initiated the SHE team that focused only on of-

fences against women and also worked to improve their safety. This team doesn't just nab criminals but also acts with empathy to solve domestic problems or abuse faced by women.

Singh said that the police have also been quick in investigating offences against women and hence the charge-sheeting rate is very high. "Monthly monitoring of investigations about the crimes against women is done and if the police inspector doesn't file the chargesheet within a month, he is penalized," Singh added.

While the overall offences against women have declined, the number of rape cases have gone up in the state in the last three years. From 486 in 2020, the rape complaints have shot up to 616 in 2022.

The NCRB data states that nearly 40% of these complaints are under the category of rape under the pretext of marriage or by separated husband. The other major offenders include friends, family members or employers.

In 2022, over 97% of the offenders in the rape complaints were known to the rape survivors.

1L teachers to protest over pending dues

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: The Rashtriya Shaiksha Mahasangha, a schoolteachers' association, has announced protest rallies across the state seeking resolution of their pending demands, including reinstatement of the old pension scheme.

The association said that rallies will be held in Mehsana, Himmatnagar, Godhra, Kheda,

RALLY ON SATURDAY

Nasari, Surat, Bhavnagar, Junagadh, Dwarka and Morbi on December 9 and about 1 lakh teachers will participate in these protest rallies.

The association had earlier agitated demanding that the old pension scheme should be reinstated for teachers and other school staff. However, as the demand has not been resolved yet, the association has launched a new phase of agitation beginning with the protest rallies. The teachers' pending demands include issues related to job assurance to surplus teachers in grant-in-aid schools, transfers and the benefits of 7% pay commission. After the rallies, the teachers will submit memorandums to district collectors, education department officials, the chief minister, and also send a letter to the prime minister's office.

'Digital economy to be 20% of country's GDP by 2026'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gandhinagar: Asserting that the next decade is poised to be India's era of digitalization and startups, Union minister of state for electronics and information technology, skill development and entrepreneurship said India's digital economy, currently at 11% of the GDP, will surge to 20% by 2026.

Speaking at the inaugural function of 'Startup Conclave 2023', held in Gandhinagar, Rajeev Chandrasekhar said, "In 2014, the digital economy was around 4.5% of the GDP and today it is 11%. The digital economy is expanding at a pace two and a half times faster than the overall GDP growth. By 2026, digital economy will account for 20% or one-fifth of the Indian GDP."

The minister said that targets and ambitions set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he launched the Digital India programme in 2015 have transformed "qualitatively as well as quantitatively our economy, our innovation ecosystem and our position as a nation in the world."

India's position has transformed from being the consumer of technology for nearly three decades to being the



Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar and state CM Bhupendra Patel at startup conclave on Thursday

producer of devices, products and platforms for the world, he said. "Our economy, which was once dominated by a few groups or segments, has now become a highly diversified economy," said the minister.

Emphasizing that India has now become the fastest-growing digital economy in the world, Chandrasekhar said, "This is the most exciting time for the innovation and technology sector in India."

He added that the best time for startups and innovation is yet to come "because the next decade will be a decade of opportunities".

State higher and technical education minister Rushikesh Patel said in his address that the startup conclave will have various sessions, and networking opportunities to promote collaboration, creativity and startup ecosystem.

Woman's nude photos posted on social media

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: A 32-year-old woman from Gota area in Ahmedabad filed a complaint with Cybercrime police on Thursday, alleging that two persons posted her nude pictures on a micro-blogging platform to tarnish her reputation. The complainant stated in her FIR that she is a digital marketing professional and had moved to Ahmedabad from London six years ago.

On November 28, when she was scrolling through X, an unknown person sent her a message with her nude picture attached. "The perpetrator had somehow obtained my nude photograph without my knowledge and shared it on the platform. Many users posted multiple times and I faced sexual harassment because of it. People also posted comments on the picture, and it has harmed my reputation in society," the complainant said.

The high court issued show-cause notices to eight I-T officials including Arvind Singh Arneja, director general of income tax (investigation), asking why action should not be taken against them for dereliction of duty.



under the Income Tax Act for their "atrocious use" of power. The other officers were members of the raiding party and a woman inspector who escorted a woman advocate out of the lawyer's office.

The bench of Justice Bhargav Karia and Justice Nirul Mehta was hearing a petition by advocate Matilak Sheth, whose office was searched by income tax officials

ostensibly to find an MoU signed by a person under the department's lens. The bench found such behaviour by the officers to be "atrocious" and "highly inappropriate", "sad" and "painful".

The judges told the I-T department lawyer that the officers would not be safe tomorrow. "Are they (I-T officials) police officers? How can they collect documents which do not pertain to you (lawyer) and take nothing to do with your income. You are holding it in a professional capacity. You have confidential documents of your clients. How can they touch it? Ask your officers under which provision they can touch their power; for atrocious power was exercised under the guise of search of an advocate," the judges said.

The court further commented, "No professional person will be safe in this country. We are not living in 1975-76, when you can go anywhere and do anything you like. This is not a state of emergency." The court insisted that the officers explain their conduct "otherwise let them go home". The court said the lawyer was not aggrieved at the search, but the manner in which it was conducted was highly objectionable. "You return the document and make a public apology and then only you will spare us. Otherwise, consequences will follow. This is not permissible. We are not subscribing to this," the court made it clear before issuing the show-cause notices to eight officers, seeking their replies by December 18.

397 lions died in Gujarat during 2019-21: RS told

The Union government on Thursday said 397 lions died in Gujarat between 2019 and 2021, around 10% of them due to unnatural reasons. Minister of state for environment Ashwini Kumar Choubey said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha, "397 lions including 182 cubs of 0-1 year have died in Gujarat from 2019-2021."

Giving the break-up, he said 68 lions and 90 cubs died in 2019, 73 lions and 76 died the next year, while 76 lions and 46 cubs died in 2021, the minister informed the Rajya Sabha.

"As reported by the State, 10.53 percent lions including 3.82 percent cubs have died due to unnatural reasons out of total deaths of lions in the last five years in Gujarat State," the MoS said. He said funding assistance is provided under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats (CSS-IDWH) to the state for the conservation of Asiatic lions, raising awareness on lion and other wildlife conservation, habitat management among other initiatives. He also said the matter of translocation of lions from Gujarat to MP is in the Supreme Court. ■

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New cola plant to boost ancillary industries in Guj

Continued from P1

When operational, the plant will have a workforce of about 400 persons in operational and engineering roles, with an emphasis on gender diversity.

"The beverages major has created several employment opportunities through at least two lakh retailers and direct and indirect jobs for 1,000 persons in Gujarat thus far," said a source.

The new plant is expected to give a boost to ancillary industries such as packaging suppliers, flavour producers, engineering services, capital goods, and automation services, sources in the government said.

Mt Carmel to shift students to two schools next yr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: With the iconic Mount Carmel school building in Navrangpura deemed unfit for use and structural damage posing a threat to students and staff, the school's administration has decided to shift students to two different schools from the academic year starting June 2024.

The 100-year-old institution will relocate students from Classes 5 to 8 to Mount Carmel School, Carmel Cote, Khanpur and Classes 9 to 12 to St Xavier's School, Mirzapur, the school administration said in a statement.

"On professional advice of our structural engineers regarding the growing structural deterioration of our school building, and sin-



Parents gather at Mt Carmel school after the meeting

SCHOOL YET TO SEEK DEO'S PERMISSION: Ahmedabad City District Education Officer Rohit Chaudhary told TOI, "We have not been formally informed of the school's plan. We will share the structural report with the public works department for advice."

ce safety and wellbeing of our students and staff are the topmost priority of the school management, we have no choice but to make some changes and arrangements in the near future," the statement said.

There is no news on when the reconstruction will start. It is said they need Rs 60 crore for the project. Parents have offered to pay advance fees and are okay with a hike too.

Gayatri Vyas | PARENT

There is no assurance from the school that it won't shut, and no information on when the original building will be reconstructed and students will be shifted back.

Pankaj Parmar | PARENT



100-yr-old Mt Carmel building to fall silent

works, or reconstruction of the school building will begin and completed, and the relocated classes will be shifted back to the original location.

"Classes will shift from June 2024 to Mt Carmel, Khanpur and St Xavier's Mirzapur. It is likely that both wings of the school building will be demolished and rebuilt," Sister Renuka, director of the school, told TOI. The school had recently requested parents, teachers, and management members to attend a meeting to discuss structural safety issues that plague the building. After announcement of the decision, some parents sought the engineers' structural safety report from the school but were denied. Parents also raised the issue of why the school kept functioning if engineers had raised concerns on the building's safety six months ago.

Evicted for Sabarmati Ashram devp, slum dwellers move HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Slum dwellers evicted for the Sabarmati Ashram redevelopment project have approached the Gujarat high court, urging it to direct the authorities to grant them a place to move or to give them small houses.

The advocate for the 35 households, Anand Vyas, submitted before the court on Thursday that their eviction has taken place because Ashram Road is to be closed and an alternative route is to be laid down in the Ashram redevelopment scheme.

These slum dwellers were first evicted on the high court's order in 2006, but returned and occupied the place again. As the evicted families have no place to live, they have



Demolition started from Abhay Ghat for renovation of the Gandhi Ashram in Ahmedabad on December 23, 2021

at present put up at a night shelter. The lawyer submitted that under the redevelopment scheme, as many as 172 families have been paid Rs 60 lakh each for vacating their houses or have been given alternative accommodation. The municipal corporation should consider the case of these slum dwellers with compassion and consider accommodating them in a housing scheme for economically weaker sections (EWS). The HC will hear this matter on December 18.

"When we began cultivation, the mushrooms were priced at around Rs 400 to 500 per kilogram. We hope that such prices will ensure that the cultivation generates good revenue," said Bhaal Rathwa from Vankundi.

So far, the villagers have been cultivating paddy straw, oyster and milky mushrooms which have high nutrition value by using agriculture waste from their farms.

'Coops key to increase cultivation'

Continued from P1

Farmers have at present cultivated mushrooms for their own consumption and distribute these to those interested in the neighbourhood.

"The cooperative will be a key to ensure that the scale of cultivation increases and they can sell it in the market," said Satapathy. He said that the cooperative may kick off

with over 25 members. Ramrings Nayak from the Gajapura Karta village said, "The cooperative society will be an ideal way to reach out to the market. We have held meetings to discuss the formation of the cooperative. Women from our families have also learnt the process and will be at the helm of affairs."

The villagers also hope that the mushroom crop fetches them some good income.

Public Notice
It is hereby informed that the State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA), Parvatan Bhawan, Sector 10-A, Gandhinagar, 382 010, has accorded Environmental Clearance for Proposed manufacturing plant of 'Synthetic Organic Chemicals' located at Plot No. 21-1 & 21-2, GIDC Jaghadia Industrial Estate, Vill. Randoli, Taluka: Jaghadia-383110, Dist. Bharuch, Gujarat by M/s. Acume Chemicals Pvt. Ltd. EC Identification no. EC23B921G110292 & vide letter No. SEIAA/GUJ/EC/50/1482/2023 dated 22nd November, 2023 under the provision of EIA Notification dated 14th September, 2005.

Copies of Clearance letter are available on website of <http://parvash.nic.in/>.

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M/s. Acume Chemicals Pvt. Ltd.

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
RASHMI VARMA LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
Sale of the Company as a Going Concern under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016
Regd. Office: 405 Metro Tower Ring Road, Surat, Gujarat, 395002
CN: 1471161974-038302

Date and Time of E-Auction: 08 January 2024, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM
(with unlimited extension of 5 minutes each)
Notice is hereby given to the public in general under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 and Regulations there under, regarding Sale of Rashmi Varma Limited - in Liquidation (Corporate Debtor) as a going concern by the Liquidator.

on assets as per Regulation 32(ii) of the IBBI Liquidation Process, Regulations, 2016 with all its assets under Land and Building, Plant and Machinery and Securities and Financial Assets including Cash and Bank Balance.	A	7,80,00,000 (Seven Crores)	70,00,000 (Seventy Lacs Only)	5,00,000 (Five Lacs Only)
The Targeted Assets include factory land and building and plant and machinery at Masat Village, Silvassa. Photo of Land at Masat Village and Office unit at Metro Tower Surat.				
Date and Time of Auction	08th January 2024 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm			
Last Date of Submission of EOI	22nd December 2023			
Last Date of Submission of EMD	08th January 2024			
Inspection Date and Time	On or before January 06th, 2024 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm			
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