

GADHIMAI FESTIVAL | Activists station themselves at border towns to save animals ahead of the world's largest sacrifice

'We are going to save as many lives as possible'

Dhairya Gajara MUMBAI

Animal rights activists have stationed themselves at key checkpoints of Indo-Nepal border towns ahead of the world's largest animal sacrifice festival in the neighbouring country.



3,500 Pamphlets in local languages distributed in 12 villages near the border, urging devotees not to sacrifice their animals

5,00,000+ Animals killed in 2009 2.5 lakh Animals sacrificed in 2014 and 2019



for the festival to be beheaded. Arkaprava Bhar, HSI/India's senior manager of campaign capacity building, who is leading efforts at the border, said, "Our mission is not just about stopping the illegal transport of animals but about standing up for compassion in our traditions. In the past two days, we've stopped vehicles carrying animals for the festival where they would have been beheaded had we not been there. We will save as many lives as possible and spread the message to end

beheaded. A few days prior to the border work, the teams also conducted door-to-door awareness campaigns and distributed around 3,500 pamphlets in local languages in 12 villages near the border, urging devotees not to sacrifice their animals. HSI/India and PFA have been working since 2014 to stop animal sacrifice at Gadhimai. According to their claims, the gruesome animal sacrifices have considerably reduced from an estimated more than five lakh animals

killed in 2009 to around 2.5 lakh animals in 2014 and 2019. Held every five years in Bariyarpur village in the Bara district of Nepal, the Gadhimai Festival is known as the world's largest animal sacrifice event. Tens of thousands of animals, including buffalo, goats, chickens, pigs, ducks and rats are beheaded as part of an historic ritual to appease the goddess Gadhimai. According to HSI, the majority of these animals are illegally transported from India into Nepal without any export licence.

Raj Kundra skips second summons in porn case

Ashish Singh MUMBAI

Businessman Raj Kundra, husband of Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty, has once again failed to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED), skipping the second summons issued in connection with the ongoing money laundering probe linked to a pornography case.

Kundra was initially summoned by the ED last week to appear on Monday, but he requested additional time, which the agency declined and issued the second summons. The second summons required him to appear on Wednesday, but Kundra did not comply. According to sources, the ED is now preparing to issue a third summons.

In the same case, the ED has also summoned actress Gehana Vasisth, directing her to join the investigation on December 9. Last week, the agency conducted extensive raids on 15 properties linked to Kundra and his associates in Mumbai and Uttar Pradesh. Kundra's Juhu residence and premises associated with Vasisth were among the locations searched. The ED has frozen several bank and demat accounts belonging to both Kundra and Vasisth, sources confirmed.

The ED in May 2022 registered a case of money laundering against Kundra in connection with the porn case, based on an FIR registered against him by Mumbai Police in 2021 for allegedly running a porn racket. Kundra was arrested in connection with the case, pertaining to which ED is probing financial transactions. Vasisth had in September 2021 secured protection from arrest from the Supreme Court in the case.

Babus, netas seek a bite of city's first seafood plaza

Shefali Parab-Pandit MUMBAI

The city's first seafood plaza, launched last November, has remained closed since the monsoon. While the stalls were shut from June to September due to the annual fishing hiatus, the plaza, located at Mahim Koliwada, has not reopened.

Internal conflicts among the women's self-help groups (SHGs) involved in the project, coupled with unresolved issues with the BMC, have further delayed its reopening, said sources.

The seafood plaza was designed to be a vibrant culinary hub, offering locals and visitors the opportunity to savour the freshest seafood right by the sea. Operated by 14 women's SHGs, the plaza was envisioned as a unique initiative to support both local tourism and the empowerment of women.

The BMC, through its G North Ward, provided essential resources such as tables, chairs, electrical lighting and waste collection systems, ensuring the infrastructure for the plaza's operation. Each SHG set up attractive gazebo-like structures, complete with electric lights, enhancing the



ambiance and making it an appealing destination. The plaza was closed during the monsoon season and was expected to reopen in October. However, political interference and internal disputes within the SHGs have kept it closed.

"Some local representatives tried to allot stalls to SHGs of their choice, which we will not tolerate. Unfortunately, the BMC turned a blind eye to the issue," said a member of one of the SHGs.

Their frustration became evident during the assembly election when a video went viral showing a fisherwoman in Mahim shutting the door of her house to the political candidates contesting from Mahim constituency.

"We have sent a letter to

woman SHGs instructing them to start their business from this month," an official said.

"The seafood plaza was meant to reopen in September, but in the beginning there was no response from the civic body. Also, disputes over stall allocation, influenced by political representatives, caused delays," Sharmila Naik, chairperson, Mahim Koliwada women's SHG, said.

"Due to political pressure, the plaza has remained closed for nearly three months. After the elections, the issue has been resolved, and discussions are now ongoing among the three societies and SHGs about prioritising local fisher women," she added.

BMC receives CRZ clearance for Versova-Dahisar-Bhayandar road

Shefali Parab-Pandit MUMBAI

Almost a year after the BMC awarded the contract for the Versova-Dahisar Link Road and Dahisar-Bhayandar Link Road projects, it has received the first important approval - the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance.

However, the civic body is yet to receive several other

approvals, including those from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Maritime Board and the Bombay High Court.

The road is part of the Mumbai Coastal Road Phase 2, which will ease connectivity between the island city and the western suburbs.

The 20-kilometre project, estimated at Rs16,621 crore,

will provide a vital connection between Versova and Dahisar.

A 5.6-km-long and 45-metre-wide elevated road will be constructed to link Dahisar with Bhayandar. This new infrastructure is set to reduce the load on the Dahisar check naka by 30-35%. Furthermore, it will provide an alternate route to Mira-Bhayandar.

सारस्वत दीनवत्सल संघ (Saraswat Deenavatsal Sangh) - १०९८ वार्षिक सर्वसाधारण सभेची सूचना. Includes details about the annual general meeting, agenda, and contact information.

PUBLIC NOTICE - GHARDA FOUNDATION. Notice regarding the purchase of premises on Ground-Lower (part), Ground - Upper (part), First, Second & Third Floors, total admeasuring 6269 Sq.Ft. Includes a table with property details.

MUMBAI DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II (Govt. of India, Ministry of Finance). ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 1225 OF 2023. SUMMONS. Includes details about the summons and the defendants.

ADITYA BIRLA CAPITAL. PROTECTING INVESTING FINANCING ADVISING. Includes details about a property sale and the terms of the offer.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SIMDEGA

e-Procurement Tender Notice - Two Envelope System. Tender Reference No. WRD/MID/SIMDEGA/BD/SLI - 08/ 2024-25. Letter No. Date : 04/12/2024. Includes details about the tender process and contact information.

E-AUCTION NOTICE - Shrenuj & Company Limited (in Liquidation). Sale of assets of the Corporate Debtor on a Standalone basis under the provisions of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. Includes details about the auction process and contact information.

TRENT LIMITED. Notice to shareholders for transfer of equity shares to Investor Education and Protection Fund (IIEPF) Demat Account. Includes details about the transfer process and contact information.

MUMBAI DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING FEDERATION LTD. MUMBAI. Special Recovery and Sales officer, Maharashtra Co-operative Societies Act, 1960. Includes details about the recovery and sales process and contact information.

