THE PERFECT



Beacon of Hope for Young



Govt bans Hizb-ut-Tahrir, says the group aims to establish caliphate

... pg 6



Rafael Nadal to retire after Davis Cup finals ... pg 10

Ratan Tata believed in leadership by trust!



was an extremely gentle, warm, large-hearted person; a visionary who had great interest in using technology for the development of society. He had a beautiful disarming smile.

I first met him in 2014 when I approached him for philanthropic support for SEARCH. In our experience, donors usually try and cut down the budget but to my surprise, Tata was just the opposite, He had recently taken up fulltime leadership of Tata Trusts then. I went with a Rs 20 crore proposal and instead of cutting it down, he kept urging me to add more equipment. The conversation was the opposite of what I had experienced with other donors. It was a novel experience where a

donor was telling me to ask

He believed that tribals should also get the best healthcare. He kept asking me to get a digital x-ray machine. He had faith in the principle of justice and equality...that every person in society should get equally good healthcare.

He believed in leadership by trust. If he saw a good organisation, he supported it fully and backed it to the hilt. And then he gave them full autonomy, flexibility and support. He wanted to help people for the long

I joined Tata Trusts in 2015 and since then. I've had the privilege of interacting him during personal oneon-one meetings and group meetings. And I got the see the man he really was—a visionary who was largehearted and warm.

session of the Maharashtra Assembly was ongoing, these MoUs were signed in the assembly itself. The then Chief Minister announced these MoUs and also stated that Tata was present in the visitors' gallery.

The entire House, cutting across party lines, gave him a standing ovation. The House reverberated with the sounds of clapping. The admiration and respect he enjoyed across political parties was tremendous.

Tata's love for animals is well-known. He set up a state-of-the-art animal hospital. Another incident I recall is when I had accompanied a minister for a meeting with Tata. We had gone to his office at Horniman Circle. The minister was talking excitedly and as

his voice rose in excitement, Tata gently hushed him to speak softly. There was a mongrel sleeping in the same room. Tata was so concerned about disturbing the mongrel that he didn't hesitate to even tell a cabinet minister to speak softy. But he was so gentle and almost innocent in his concern that it was extremely

He loved technology! Thanks to him, I got the opportunity to meet and listen to one of the inventors of the genetic modification technology because he had invited him to Mumbai.

heart warming.

He took great interest in various issues: he was curious about everything. He contributed a lot of prison reforms, healthcare of Gadchiroli and the government's malaria control programme. News of farmers committing suicide distressed him and he contributed towards their welfare.

He was a visionary industrialist and philanthropist. But above all, he was an extremely warm person. He loved both, humanity and the individual. There was never an occasion when he didn't walk me to the door and open the door himself. If you left from his office, he'd wait until you got into the lift. He was a beautiful combination of vin and yang.

His smile was disarming and child-life. Those who haven't seen his smile, have missed out on a lot in life.

> (The writer is director of SEARCH in Gadchiroli.)



'e name our daughters Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati; we worship the divine feminine power in the temples but oppress, repress and even attack the feminine power amidst us. That is the irony in the way India sees its women.

After the safety of the daylight fades, women are seen as easy prey by the predators of the night.

We mark the nine nights of Navratri, the festival of the goddess, by celebrating the dedication and valour of nine real-life women who brave the challenges of the night to pursue their dreams.

PART-9

Heroic Fire Fighter

THE FEARLESS FIGHTER SAYS SHE FINDS HAPPINESS IN HELPING PEOPLE IN DISTRESS

By Ruddhi Phadke

She was once taken to a building collapse site as part of her training. A seven-storeyed building had collapsed in Mumbai's Bhendi Bazaar like a pack of cards. Some were dead, and some were trapped under the rubble. Looking at the disastrous site, Ankita Ghadigaonkar, 29, almost repented her decision to become a fire fighter. However, once she managed to help rescue one of the trapped residents, she assured that her choice was perfect. "When I saw the delight in the eyes of the relatives of the rescued person, I felt satisfied that my efforts were not going in vain. I was very happy that I was contributing to a great cause."

Hailing from Kudal in the Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra, Ghadigaonkar came to Mumbai to become a cop, however, she landed up in Mumbai fire brigade services. She has been into this profession for the past seven years. "Right from day one, I have always done a night shift. My parents supported my decision. My job is to stay on call. Where there is a major fire, or an accident, or a building collapse, or a pigeon or any animal being trapped somewhere; When I get a call, my job is to rush to the spot along with the concerned personnel and equipment," she says Ghadigaonkar said that her first day was also a nightshift and she was posted at Byculla Fire Brigade service centre.

She said that the coworkers and staff have always been supportive and she never had any unwel-



ANKITA GHADIGAOKAR. 29, Fire Fighter, Mumbai Fire Brigade

coming experiences while at work. However, she pointed out that travel used to get scary in the initial days. Ghadigaokar said, "We never had pick up and drop facility. I am a Kalyan resident. There

Be in touch with relatives and keep numbers of the emergency services at hand.

was a time when I had to travel back from Matheran When Lused to board the train at 1 am, the compartment used to be empty That travel used to be very scary. I was under the constant threat of strangers barging into the train and harming me. Not a single guard would be there. By god's grace no untoward incident has taken place till date. However, a possibility of an

unfortunate incident during that train travel couldn't be ruled out." Ghadigaokar's husband

and family are supportive of her work. "Interestingly, everyone wanted a working woman, but at the same time, their expectation was that she must be available as per their convenience. Many rejected me because I was always assigned a night duty. Finally, I met my husband who was very mature and understood my professional commitments very

Talking about the rising crimes against women, Ghadigaokar advises that all the women should know how to call the emergency services and have these numbers saved "I have all the relevant contact details of CRPF, police, RPF saved," she savs. She advises women to also stay in touch with relatives about their whereabouts so that when in crisis, they can reach out for

China defiant over South China Sea skirmishes in ASEAN talks

Vientiane (Laos): Southeast Asian leaders stepped up pressure on China to respect international law following clashes in the disputed South China Sea during annual summit talks on Thursday, but Chinese Premier Li Qiang was defiant as he blamed "external forces" for interfering in regional affairs.

The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations' meeting with Li followed recent violent confrontations at sea this year between China and ASEAN members Philippines and Vietnam that heightened unease over China's increasingly assertive actions in the contested waters.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who will take over the rotating ASEAN chair next year, said the bloc has called for an early conclusion to a code of conduct to govern the South China Sea. Talks on the code of conduct have



hampered by sticky issues including disagreements over whether the pact should be binding.

ASEAN reiterated the need to maintain peace and security in the strategic waterway, he said, according to Malaysian national news agency Bernama.

But Li said meddling by foreign forces is creating conflicts within the

"We must realize that our development is also facing some unstable and uncertain factors. In particular, external forces

frequently interfere and even try to introduce bloc confrontation and geopolitical conflicts into Asia," Li said during an ASEAN meeting with China, Japan and South Korea. He called for more dialogue between countries to ensure disputes are resolved

amicably. Li didn't name the foreign forces but China has previously warned the US not to meddle in the re-

gion's territorial disputes. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who arrived in Vientiane on Thursday for the meetings,

is expected to raise the issue of China's aggression in the sea, officials said. The US has no claims but it has deployed Navy ships and fighter jets to patrol the waterway and promote freedom of navigation and overflight. ASEAN members Viet-

nam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei along with Taiwan have overlapping claims with China, which claims sovereignty over virtually all of the South China Sea. Chinese and Philippine vessels have clashed repeatedly this year, and Vietnam said last week that Chinese forces assaulted its fishermen in the disputed sea. China has also sent patrol vessels to areas that Indonesia and Malaysia claim as exclusive economic zones. Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr made clear to Li during talks Thursday that ASEAN-China cooperation cannot be separated from the sea dispute.

Man held for murdering grandmother

Thane: A 20-year-old man was arrested on Thursday for allegedly murdering his grandmother in a fit of rage in Wagle Estate area here, police said.

The accused was identified as Abhi alias Avi Vishnu Chouhan. The incident took place

on October 9, said police sub-inspector Niteen Hange of Srinagar police station.

Dayawati Hariram Chouhan (77), the victim, suspected that her grandson had taken her pension money, a sum of Rs 12,000, and quarreled with his sister, the officer

The accused then allegedly hit her with a stone grinder, causing her death, he added.

Chouhan was booked under section 103(1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and further probe was on, the officer said.

finding team on Haryana New Delhi: The Congress top brass on Thursday held a review meeting on the party's shock defeat in Haryana Assembly polls and decided to form a fact-find-

ing team that will speak to all its candidates to find out the reasons for the debacle.

Sources said the leaders during the meeting discussed the possible reasons for the "unexpected" results in Haryana and decided to set up the team to ascertain the reasons behind such results and also look into complaints of "discrepancies" in EVMs, as alleged by party

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, AICC general secretary organisation KC Venugopal, AICC senior observers for the polls Ashok Gehlot and Ajay Maken, as well as AICC secretaries for the state, participated in the review

meeting AICC in-charge of Hary-



Cong to set up fact-

ana Deepak Babaria joined the meeting online. However, Haryana Congress chief Udai Bhan and CLP leader and former chief minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, or any other senior leaders from the state were not called for the meeting.

"We held a review meeting on Harvana election results. As you all know, as the exit polls and opinion polls had showed, the results were unexpected.

"There was a lot of difference between exit polls and actual results. We discussed that, what could be the reasons for that. We will take appropriate steps going forward on this," Maken told

reporters after the meeting. Asked if infighting had hurt the Congress' chances in the polls, Maken said, "There are various reasons, from the Election Commission to internal differences, we have discussed all that will do so in future as well because such a big upset... we cannot discuss everything in one or one-and-ahalf hour."

A source present at the meeting said a fact-finding committee will be announced soon as is the convention in the party to analyse the results. The committee will speak with the party's candidates and leaders and detail the reasons for the "unexpected results".

The party has decided to depute a Technical Team to look into complaints and discrepancies noted by our candidates. Congress party will issue a detailed response based on the factfinding team's report.



By Kailas Rajwadkar

rom working on the shop floor of Tata Steel in 1961 after group chairman, the doyen of Indian industry --Ratan Tata during his tenure grew the India-centric conglomerate - Tata Group into a global force

ACC – the cement com-Tata group, its revemodity business despite nue was by and large being profitable to pursue global acquisition while coming from commodities, but he had listing TCS in 2004 that the foresight to grow fueled growth and derived the group inorganidividends for the group's cally by acquiring philanthropic initiatives. global brands with

Steel

acquir-

ing Tet-

ley,

Jaguar

Land

Rover

a n d

Corus,

respec-

ganic initiatives bore fruit

as close to 50 percent of

Tata group's revenue of

USD 165 billion now come

During his tenure as the

group chairman from

from global operations.

In 2008, he fulfilled his promise to offer the world's cheapest car -Tata Nano at a price tag of Rs 1 lakh, affordable to the Indian middle class and a mark of innovation. His vision about acquir-

ing companies not only brought about his financial acumen with respect to large global brands and conglomerates, but also about investing in startups including Snapdeal, Paytm, Ola, Cardekho, FirstCry, Lenskart, Nestaway, Urban Ladder, Urban Company, Generic Aadhaar among several

Born in Mumbai in December 1937 and completing his primary schooling within the city, Ratan Tata was adopted into the Tata family. He later enrolled in Cornell University from which he graduated with a degree in architecture in

"....he was a businessman for whom financial wealth and success was most useful when it was put to the service of the global community," said industrialist Anand Mahindra in his tweet.

As a staunch supporter of education, healthcare and rural development, Ratan Tata - the philanthropist supported University of New South Wales faculty of engineering to develop capacitive deionization in order to provide quality water for challenging areas.

He funded several initiatives for genetics, biological and physical sciences to foster collaboration and innovation among researchers to address infectious diseases including gene editing stem cell therapy and the need for sustainable food sources.

Post retirement, he led a very modest life living in Colaba in South Mumbai with his two dogs - Tito (German Shepherd) and Tango (Golden Retriever) but continued to leave a lasting legacy as a corporate and philanthropic citizen.

In the year 2000, Ratan Tata was recognized with third highest civilian honour - Padma Bhushan and with second highest civilian honour Padma Vibhushan in 2008 as also with state civilian honour like Maharashtra Bhushan.

As renowned industrialist Harsh Goenka aptly puts it, ".....a beacon of integrity, ethical leadership and philanthropy, who has imprinted an indelible mark on the world of business and beyond.'

"Tata's legacy will remain as an inspiration for all business leaders in the years to come. He will continue to be a role model for all business leaders. "As chairman of the Tata Group, Ratan Tata brought reforms to its working ethos and helped it grow into a formidable industrial group while following all rules and regulations."

Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

"Just came to learn of the passing of Shri Ratan Tata .. was working very late .. An era has ended .. a most respected, humble yet visionary leader of immense foresight and resolve .. Spent some wonderful moments with him, during several Campaigns we were involved in together .. My prayers."

Amitabh Bachchan, Actor

"Thank you sir for your contributions and always being so simple and full of empathy for all. World will miss you rip #SirRatanTata. Om Shanti."

Bipasha Bau, Actor

"Goodbye to The Titan... Fly high like you loved... and oh how you taught us to love."

Kareena Kapoor Khan, Actor

"Ratan Tata's legacy will forever inspire generations. His contributions to India and beyond are immeasurable. We are deeply grateful. Rest in peace, Sir."

Ajay Devgn, Actor

"Your legacy of leadership and generosity will continue to inspire generations. Thank you for your unmatched passion and dedication for everything you did for our country. You have been an inspiration to us all and will be greatly missed, Sir. #RatanTata."

Priyanka Chopra, Actor

"Legends are born, and they live forever. It's hard to imagine a day without using a TATA product... Ratan Tata's legacy is woven into everyday life. If anyone will stand the test of time alongside the Panchabhootas, it's him."

Rajamouli, Filmmaker

"The world bids farewell to a man who built more than just an empire... His legacy of kindness, innovation, and leadership will continue to inspire generations. Rest in peace, a true legend. Om Shanti."

Akshay Kumar, Actor

A humble king, who after his workers like his own children. Sir, you will always be remembered with great love and respect."

Dharmendra, Actor

"They say you have gone. It's too hard to bear your

loss... too hard... Farewell my friend." Simi Garewal, Actor-Host

"Finest human being, philanthropist business tycoon our very own #RatanTata is no more. His contributions to society/nation are enormous. i noughts & prayers are with the family & friends in their hour of grief for their irreplaceable & irreparable loss. Rest in eternal peace (sic)."

Shatrughna Sinha, Actor-Politician

"A national treasure whose contributions in nationbuilding shall forever be etched in the story of modern India. His true richness lay not in material wealth but in his ethics, integrity, humility and patriotism."

Kamal Haasan, Actor

"Deeply saddened by the tragic news of Shri Ratan Tata. He upheld the values of integrity, grace, dignity through everything he did and was truly an icon and Taj of India. RIP Sir, you have touched so many lives."

Anushka Sharma, Actror

"He was indeed a moral compass for me whenever I had some ambiguity and confusion in ethical issues. Losing a dear friend like Ratan is very painful. Ratan was a role model for me in valuebased leadership."

NR Narayana Murthy, Co-founder, Infosys

"Tata exemplified integrity, innovation, and compassion, guiding the Tata Group to unprecedented heights while upholding the highest standards of corporate responsibility. His influence will continue to inspire future generations, serving as a guiding light for all of us in the industry."

Salil Gupte, President, Boeing South Asia

"At IndiGo, we are grateful for his visionary leadership and contribution to Indian aviation, and deeply saddened by the loss."

Pieter Elbers, CEO, IndiGo

"He played a pivotal role in setting up our Vistara ioint venture over a decade ago, laying the foundation for a strong and enduring relationship between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines."

Goh Choon Phong, CEO, Singapore Airlines

"Continuing the legacy of the first 'swadeshi'

large steel industry the life of Ratan Tata has been a source of inspiration for the budding entrepreneurs."

Ashwani Mahajan, Swadeshi Jagran Manch

graduating in architecture to becoming its chairman and later on the

to reckon with.

Before he joined the

1991-2012, the group exited Tata had 'Make in **India' vision four** decades ago

By Amrut Abhyankar

fter getting inducted into TATA Sons, Ratan Tataji's first responsibility was NEL-CO- a company that manufactured radio sets. I had just joined NELCO back in March 1981. The company was just recovering from an 8-month closure due to a workers' strike. At such a critical time, the company was handed over to Ratan Tata. Very soon a gate meeting by Dr. Datta Samant was announced and the danger of closure loomed over the factory. On the same day when the meeting was scheduled, a close associate of Ratan Tata came to the shop floor and stood on a cranky table appealing to all the workers & officers to gather. He gave a superb speech, stating how Ratan Tata Saheb treats the company as his family & how each one of us have a great respect for him as a family head, and that we would render him our unconditional, wholehearted support in pulling out our company from the crisis. This had a very positive impact and the gate meeting turned out to be a flop show. All this because of the very good quality of Ratan Saheb of dealing with all officials from top officials to the workers with grace & humanity, imparting a high level of motivation.

The same year on NEL-CO day he delivered a speech about his future plans for the company. I clearly remember him saying- This can become a state-of-the-art electronics gadgets manufacturing company & can be named as TATA Electronics Company. He said, "There will be a second TELCO in that I had seen many blind

workers working on the assembly line manufacturing radio sets in NELCO. It was so thought provoking for me. He was a businessman with a difference. Earning profit was not the only motive. His gesture of contributing a great deal to humanity, uplifting or supporting life of the down-

trodden, handicapped and the likes was exceptional. What a noble philosophy indeed! This had and continues to generate unprecedented loyalty to the brand name TATA from workers to consumers and

Occasionally Ratan Saheb used to visit the shop floor of NELCO. In those days the company was manufacturing over 25,000 radio sets in a month. He would visit the assembly line and talk to the assembly workers, and managers of other disciplines like



production, materials, R&D to understand their grievances. This would enhance the sense of belonging. I was fortunate enough to witness such visits of Ratan Saheb and having a close glimpse of him. I used to wonder how he was so involved in understanding the manufacturing problems at the micro

During all his visits his attire used to be quite modest. I always saw him in white full shirt. He would always be polite, never raised his voice and never complained about how hot and humid conditions prevailed on the shop floor. His broad, affirmative and convincing voice with absolute clarity of thoughts would establish a direct connection with the

employees He had the vision of 'Make in India' four decades ago. Everything in house - all the allied processes related to radio manufacturing, hot foiling of radio front panel, printed circuit board manufacturing can be easily outsourced, which is the present trend. Ratan saheb ensured that everything was made in the NELCO factory.

NELCO, in spite of hav-

ing enough space, R&D and manpower to have mass production of TV sets, it was the era of license raj and licenses were issued only to small scale industries, as per the then prevailing industrial policy. How disappointing and frustrating it must have got for ambitious industrialists like Ratan Tata! However, instead of running away from the scene, he found a solution. Vendors were developed with due licenses to manufacture TVs and NELCO's first colour TV "Chroma Delux" was rolled out. Our entire team under the leadership of Nabar was busy streamlining the manufacturing line. After few days of working tirelessly, I still feel proud to recall how everybody strived to make the first perfectly working set of "Chroma Delux" that was to be sent to Ratan Tata's home. If we compare today's TV set "Chroma Delux" was quite a primitive version. Still like all of us Ratan Tata was extremely eager to see the new baby.

Life takes you back to the ideologies and inspiring people you met in life during the initial stage of your career. I left NELCO soon. Later after ten years, I met Nabar once again by coincidence. Today I am a vice President with an Indian company promoted by Nabar called Ikebana electronics Pvt Limited. The company produces heat shrinkable products. I am in-charge of Indian operations and export to neighboring countries & design & type testing of Ikebana products. Ratan Tata's ideals and his aura will always remain a source of inspiration for me in my journey ahead.

(The writer is BTech (BHU) and a former employee of NELCO, headed by late Ratan Tata)

By Ruddhi Phadke

anjeevv Nabar, who won a silver award in Global Maharashtrian Entrepreneurs Competition held in London in 2017 on the occasion of Marathi Sammelan in London, has a pool of experiences to share. He has closely interacted with and worked on several key projects like modernization of the manufacturing facilities and the colour TV manufacturing for Nelco and a few others with the able guidance of late Ratan Tata.

Sanjeev Nabar said, "I spent four years in early 1980's, working closely with Ratan Tata. However, he is still my source of inspiration and I still follow the principles learnt from him in my group of companies. His influence has permanently etched on me and it still helps me to achieve my career goals."

He pointed out that when NELCO had opened after a long lock-out due to labour trouble at that time back in 1980. It was like a new company when he joined NELCO as the Senior Manager- Engineering. Sanjeev Nabar is a B.Tech (Mechanical) and post graduate in (Industrial Design) from IIT-



He had a very great quality of giving a whole hearted pat on the back of his employees. Once, while introducing me to the visiting VIP, Sumant Mulgaokar, the CEO of TELCO by referring me as the brain behind modernisation of NELCO." He was an achiever and knew the art of peacefully extracting good work from his team.

Nabar said, "Under his guidance, I got another very interesting opportunity. I was the leader of NELCO's color TV manufacturing project team. In India, colour TV transmis-

Tata knew the art of peacefully extracting good work from his team

Bombay and also three Management diplomas from Mumbai University. Nelco produced transistor radio sets and was working on a unique model called Cheetah when Sanieev Nabar joined. Cabinet grill of that product was with metal finish, which we were sourcing from an outside vendor, however the quality was not up to the mark.

Nabar said, "Ratan Tata chaired the meeting to plan the same and asked me upfront whether I could take the challenge of making this product in our own factory and eliminate the bottleneck. I agreed and knowing the need to do this fast, promised to make the automatic machine in just two months. It was too short a notice and everyone was taken by a shock when I actually did it. Ratan Tata issued me a letter thoroughly appreciating my contribution."

Nabar said that Tata was so honest and liberal in his moral support as an ideal boss that he happily handed over the opportunity lead the complete modernization of NEL-CO's consumer electronics product facilities, which again by his blessings which Nabar achieved well within the stipulated deadline.

Nabar proudly recalled, "He would always take me along for his factory visits and discussed all the developments with me closely. Mesmerising, inspiring, supportive, a philanthropist, ideal industrialist and a thorough gentleman! He was a complete package.

Sanjeev Nabar, Industrialist

sion started for the first time during the 1982Asian games in New Delhi. He, very wisely identified the best time to enter into colour TV manufacturing from components level. He was extremely happy when this project was successful."

Nabar highlighted that although he worked with the TATAs only for four years, as an entrepreneur, he owed a lot to Ratan Tata for the greatest opportunities that he got under his leadership. He pointed out that Ratan Tata was the greatest industrialist I have seen in my lifetime.

Nabar said, "Earlier, Tata Group was an India centric company. Ratan Tata took over Jaguar, Land Rover, established Tata Tea brand and Tata Steel internationally by timely global acquisitions. All this pushed Tata Group into the global space making it an internationally recognised brand. During his time as the Chairman of Tata Group, he achieved a growth in business 40 times and profits 50 times, making it an unprecedented commercial success.'



Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his deputy Devendra Fadnavis paid tribute to Ratan Tata.

Pic: Bhushan Koyande

Beacon of Hope for Young India

By Anoop Raghav

Tndia mourns the passing of Ratan Tata, the Llegendary industrialist, philanthropist, and visionary, whose leadership and humanity redefined the nation's entrepreneurial landscape. At the age of 86, Ratan Tata leaves behind a legacy of innovation, compassion, and integrity that has not only touched countless lives but also propelled Young India into a future

rich with opportunities. Born into one of India's most iconic business families, Ratan Naval Tata stepped into the shoes of his predecessors with a quiet determination to transform the Tata Group into a global powerhouse. But his ambitions went beyond corporate success; they were driven by a deep commitment to national progress, social justice, and youth empowerment.

Under his stewardship, Tata Group expanded across industries-steel, automotive, information technology, and telecommunications-earning international respect and making Tata a name synonymous with trust.

But what truly sets Ra-

tan Tata apart from other industrialists is his unwavering focus on the potential of India's youth. Long before India's demographic dividend became a common term, Tata understood that the future of the nation lay in harnessing the innovation, passion, and energy of its younger generation. Through his leadership, the Tata Group invested in startups, offered mentorship, and provided platforms for young entrepreneurs to transform their dreams into realities.

One of Tata's most enduring contributions was his relentless pursuit of making India self-reliant in technology and innovation. His vision materialized in the form of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), which grew from a fledgling IT services company into the world's largest IT services firm. Through this venture,

he provided countless jobs to young Indians, making India a global IT hub. The software revolution initiated under his guidance continues to empower a new generation of techsavvy India n s propelling them to the forefront of the global stage.

Another

Thereafter I used to be in touch with him through email and he was meticulous in responding through his personal

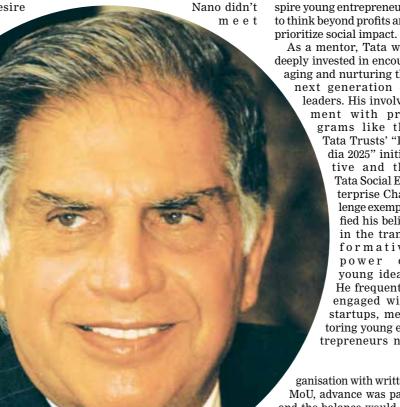
secretary. My second interaction with him was at the Indian Merchants Chamber (IMC) around 2010 and there too, I was lucky to have got a chance to interact with him for about 15 minutes. Though some people kept asking him to meet, but he

I was with family at Thai paid the bill using his credit crowning jewel of his leadership was the Tata Nano, a project that demonstrated Tata's belief in innovation for the masses. His desire

THE PERFECT VOICE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024

give every Indian family an affordable car was not merely about business-it was about dignity and access. Although the



Conthough ference the Taj Hotels organised under are owned by the Tata chairmanship of Late Dr K Group under his steward-C Mohanty, at Taj Land End, ship. No security, no protothat was around 1998 or so. col. no show-sha! Just his After the closing of the conattendant who was standing ference on Sunday around 3 pm, all of us left and the Or-

he came out to board the car, Virdi was to ready to leave. The banquet staff asked him I had a chance to greet and meet him at the hotel ento first clear the bill and trance. This was on 23rd then go. He had no money or June 2023, and he did recogcheck book with him. Dr nise me and asked, how was my work in the HIV field go-Virdi called me saying, that ing on? The other closeness "the hotel people are not alwas the date of birth, his lowing me to leave, without 28th December being in bepaying some 124,000/- Rs tween my wife's - 27th Detowards the balance

I spoke to the banquet I recall one instance, manager, told him that this even is organised by an or-

payment".

ganising Secretary Dr. S S

commercial expectations, it exemplified Tata's philosophy of risk-taking for the greater good, an example that continues to inspire young entrepreneurs to think beyond profits and

As a mentor, Tata was deeply invested in encouraging and nurturing the next generation of leaders. His involvement with pro-

grams like the Tata Trusts' "India 2025" initiative and the Tata Social Enterprise Challenge exemplified his belief in the transformative power of young ideas. He frequently engaged with startups, mentoring young entrepreneurs not

ganisation with written MoU, advance was paid and the balance would be settled on reconciliation of accounts. When he insisted on payment, I gave my credit card details asking him to charge the card. I just sent an email to Tata, that this event was not a profit-making event and was an academic conference on TB and also discussing about HIV. How the hotel people treated us wasn't expected of a Tata brand. Within a day, I received his email with profound apology. The matter did not end there, when I card statement came, I noticed that the entire amount was credited to my card account! That is the Tata Legacy!

(The writer is a consultant in HIV and Infectious Diseases and Secretary General of Peoples Health Organisation - India.)

just with capital but with wisdom and kindness. His openness to ideas from even the humblest of innovators became a hallmark of his leadership. A true believer in inclu-

sive growth, Tata's philanthropy has been as vast as it has been profound. Through the Tata Trusts, he quietly but powerfully contributed to education, healthcare, and rural development, empowering young Indians from all corners of the country to reach their fullest potential. His commitment to corporate social responsibility became a guiding light for India Inc., making philanthropy a core part of the business ethos.

Ratan Tata will also be remembered for his humility, compassion, and grace. In an era where corporate leaders often basked in personal glory, Tata shunned the limelight. His focus was always on collective success—whether it was his company's or his country's. His life was a reminder that true leadership is not just about wielding power but about empowering others, especially the young minds that shape the future.

As India bids farewell to one of its most beloved sons, Ratan Tata's legacy will continue to inspire generations to come. He was not just the head of the Tata empire; he was the guiding force behind the rise of Young India—a visionary who believed that the nation's youth held the key to a brighter tomorrow. His contributions to industry, society, and the spirit of entrepreneurship will forever be etched in the annals of modern Indian

> (The writer is a journalist based in Mumbai.)

"Ratan Tata ji was a visionary business leader, a compassionate soul and an extraordinary human being. He provided stable leadership to one of India's oldest and most prestigious business houses. At the same time, his contribution went far beyond the boardroom. He endeared himself to several people thanks to his humility, kindness and an unwavering commitment to making our society

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

"He indeed proved to be a worthy successor of the very inspiring late Shri J R D Tata, with whom I had the opportunity to interact with on numerous occasions. The nation will remain indebted to Shri Ratan Tata -- he was truly a legend. May his soul rest in peace."

L.K. Advani, BJP leader

"He was much more than a business icon, his vision and humanity demonstrated in the work of several charities founded and nurtured during his life. He was having the courage of speaking the truth to the men in power. I have fond memories of working very closely with him on several occasions."

Manmohan Singh, Former Prime Minister

"I was fortunate to spend time with him, but millions, who have never met him, feel the same grief that I feel today. Such is his impact. From his love for animals to philanthropy, he showed that true progress can only be achieved when we care for those who don't have the means to take care of themselves."

Sachin Tendulkar, Former Cricketer

"Shri Ratan N. Tata was a visionary leader whose contributions shaped India's industrial and philanthropic landscape. His leadership at Tata Sons redefined corporate responsibility and innovation, positioning the Tata Group as a global force while remaining rooted in ethics. SBI shared a deep relationship with Shri Tata, whose support for the banking sector and financial inclusion greatly influenced our initiatives. His partnership helped drive economic growth and community development. As we mourn his loss, we honor his legacy and the values he championed that

significantly contributed to building India." Challa Sreenivasulu Setty, Chairman, SBI

"Over the decades, generations of my family and I have had close ties with the institution of Tata. Ratan Tata epitomised the finest ideals of the storied Tata Group. Through his career and actions, he unfailingly demonstrated that business, at its best, is both a vehicle for economic strength and a catalyst for societal progress. His decisions have impacted lives and industries far beyond financial metrics. His legacy will inspire future generations of Indians to pursue success with integrity. India and India Inc have lost a true visionary."

> Kumar Mangalam Birla, Chairman, Aditya Birla Group

It is a very sad day for India and India Inc. Ratan Tata's passing away is a big loss, not just to the Tata Group, but to every Indian.

At a personal level, the passing of Ratan Tata has filled me with immense grief as I lost a dear friend. Each of my numerous interactions with him left me inspired and energised and enhanced my respect for the nobility of his character and the fine human values he embodied. Ratan Tata was a visionary industrialist and a philanthropist, who always strove for society's greater good.

Tata took India to the world and brought the best of the world to Bharat. He institutionalised the House of Tata and made it an international enterprise growing the Tata group over 70 times since the time he took over as Chairman in 1991.

> Mukesh Ambani, Chairman and MD, Reliance Industries

Tata Legacy is forever

By Dr. Ishwar Gilada

ach of us are born to die, but no one can predict when. Some people are born to live for ever in the hearts of people through their deeds and

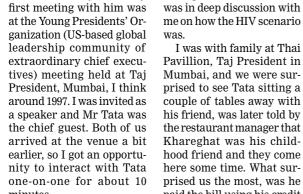
In our lives, sometimes we come across extremely rare personalities who have neither comparison nor replacement! One such person was Ratan Tata. We build statues of big, famous, mighty and politicians. Ratan deserves a "statue of Humility and Dignity" and that can be at the Nariman point, near the National Centre of performing Arts

ary JRD Tata. This will keep inspiring us and for generations

Tata for almost three dec-

(NCPA) built by the legend-I have had known Ratan

ades but met only thrice. My





card,

by the pillar outside the res-

taurant with his bag. When

cember and mine on 29th

December!

Homage to Ratan Tata at NCPA lawns in Mumbai on Thursday.

The unforgettable legend

public viewing in Mumbai on Thursday.

(both in Bombay) laid the foundation of a perfect "Tata". Young boy was fond of cricket and took piano lessons. Sports and music ran in his veins.

Future was waiting for him at Cornell University in the United States. He prospered with love and passion at the University where he studied architecture and structural engineering from 1955 to 1962. These years at Cornell left a deeper impact on the young man. He often said, "architecture provided me with the equipment to be a perceptive business leader." For sure!!

He traveled in America and was very impressed with many things around. But the young architect settled down with a very important message and a promise which he always followed, "Architecture, that "inescapable art", is nothing if not an expression of worth through work, a medium that inevitably suffers when explained in writing or speech.'

Work became more important than words for him. His childhood passion for sports and music grew with his sense and sensibility. He began to follow the footsteps of his legendary ancestors to appreciate Modern Indian Art and also remained at the very foundation of being a connoisseur.

Ratan Tata was an avid art collector and car enthusiast. His art collection spanned a range of mediums, from paintings and photographs to sculptures. He particularly admired the works of renowned artists like MF Husain, SH Raza, Anjolie Ela Menon, and Jehangir Sabavala.

His encouragement reached a milestone in 2014, Tata Group endowed the Indian Institute of

Technology, Bombay and formed the Tata Center for Technology and Design (TCTD) to develop design and engineering principles suited to the needs of people and communities

Mortal remains of business leader Ratan Tata being kept at NCPA lawns for

with limited resources. The Tata Group donated Rs.950 million to the institute which was the largest ever donation received in its history.

Tata Group, under the leadership of Ratan Tata formed the MIT Tata Center of Technology and Design at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a mission to address the challenges of resource-constrained communities, with an initial focus on India. He continued to play roles in art and architecture not only as a philanthropist but also as mentor and guide. He was on the jury panel of the prestigious Pritzker

Architecture Prize which

was given to the legendary

Indian architect in 2018. Ratan Tata was the interim chairman of Tata Sons. He headed the main two Tata trusts Sir Dorabji Tata and Allied Trusts and Sir Ratan Tata Trust and their allied trusts.

Both the trusts support the studies and research, heritage and culture, conservation and documentation in many fields including art. I feel blessed to have received Sir Dorabii Tata Trust post-doctoral

fellowship a few years ago. His passion for globalization and development to the nation with a perfect vision to focus on the youth has paved a path for a strong India. He believed in growth....he flew in skies with dreams but never separated from his foundation.

(Writer is a founder of V'aarsa, a Craft Initiative and an independent art curator. Views personal.)



By Dr. Manjiri Thakoor

Torld will always remember the legend Jamsetji Tata who was succeeded by his two sons Sir Doarabji Tata and Sir Ratanji Tata. The latter's widow adopted Naval Tata to whom Ratan Naval Tata was born on 28th Decem-

ber 1937. With early schooling in Campion and then at Cathedral and John Connon

myperfectvoice@gmail.com

Emotional farewell to a gem

By Correspondent

Mumbai: India's financial capital on Thursday bid an emotional farewell to Ratan Tata, one of her most illustrious sons who defined both her enterprise and humility as thousands, from ordinary citizens to luminaries, paid tributes to him before his last journey

The final rites of the industry titan-philanthropist were performed with full state honours at a crematorium in Worli in the evening after Mumbai police personnel accorded him a gun salute, a day after he died at a city hospital, marking end of an era.

The last rites were performed as per the Parsi tradition, one of the priests present at the crematorium said. After the funeral, there will be three more days of rituals which will be conducted at the late business tycoon's bungalow in Colaba.

After his death late on Wednesday night, Tata's mortal remains were taken to his residence in the early hours of Thursday, and from there to a cultural centre to allow members of the public pay their last respects.

Industry captains, top

try's highest civilian award, on the legendary industrialist.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid floral tributes at the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA), where the mortal remains were kept for most part of the day, and staved put till the end of the last rites in the

The Ambani family led by richest Indian Mukesh Ambani also paid homage to the departed business leader.

Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar was among those who visited the Colaba home of Tata to pay homage before the body was moved to the NCPA premises. At the famous cultural institution, the crowds had already s w e l l e d uр anticipation.

In a rare display of camaraderie, the A-listers joined in with the commoners in paying their last respects. Amongst the more recognised names from the business world who went to NCPA were Tata Group chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla and L&T chairman S N Subrahmanyan, among others.



The Testing Times

kars came together to pay their last respects to the 86-year-old former Tata Group chairman.

As announced earlier by the Maharashtra government, the funeral took place with full state honours, as part of which the tricolour covered the casket covering the body and a gun salute was given by the Mumbai Police. The Maharashtra Cabinet passed a resolution urging Centre to confer the Bharat Ratna, the counSharad Pawar, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, his Andhra Pradesh counterpart N Chandrababu Naidu, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, Maharashtra Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena president Raj Thackeray also went to NCPA.

and his former wife Kiran

ing NCP (SP) president

Superstar Aamir Khan





5-km journey to the crematorium in Worli from NCPA, a very touching scene was witnessed as Tata's pet dog 'Goa' was refusing to move away from the mortal remains.

As the procession made its way out of NCPA, there were chants of 'Amar Rahe', 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram" as the cavalcade consisting of a van decked with flowers and some police vehicles made its way

crematorium.

Peri Khambatta, one of the priests who helped with the Zoroastrian rituals at the final rites, explained that the funeral is only the first step and there will be three more days of rituals which will be performed at Tata's residence.

In view of the heavy footfall anticipated at NCPA, the Mumbai police had stepped up security arrangements and im-



northwards.

At the crematorium's Prayer Hall, where Tata was cremated in an electric furnace, there was a huge stream of people which had to be restricted from entering the facility.

Once the important personalities, including politicians, left the facility, people ran in, only to be stopped about 100 metres inside. Members of the closely knit Parsi community and extended family of Tata soon left the

posed traffic restrictions in parts of Nariman Point, a business district in south Mumhai

Tata, credited with transforming the 156-yearold business group into a globally renowned conglomerate, died at the Breach Candy Hospital after a brief illness.

The Maharashtra government has declared a day of mourning in the state on Thursday in honour of the veteran

industrialist.

Tata's pet dog 'Goa' refuses to leave his side

There were four instances when Ratan Tata's leadership was immensely tested outside his business empire. He came clean and victorious in each of them.

Singur Agitation

In 2006, the Left Front government invited the Tatas to set up Nano small car project in Singur but land acquisition got into trouble. However, in 2007, when Banerjee came the CM, she led the agitation and went on a hunger strike against the Nano project. Violence erupted after police action against protesters. Tata decided to pull the production of the Nano out of West Bengal in 2008 and moved to Sanand in Gujarat.

Rift with Cyrus Mistry

Tata had decided to appoint a non-Indian Parsi as head of Tata Sons after he stepped down from the coveted post. In mid-2012, an Irish citizen Cyrus Mistry of the Pallonji Mistry group, a stakeholder in Tata Sons, was chosen by a selection panel to head the Tata Group and took charge in December that year. However, things took a turn for the worse and Mistry's relationship with Tata soured on various issues like expansion and diversification. On October 24, 2016, the board of Tata Sons removed Mistry as the Chairman of Tata Sons. Mistry had raised a series of serious allegations against the overall functioning of the group, "total lack of corporate governance" and "the failure on the part of the directors to discharge the fiduciary duty owed to the stakeholders of the group". This was stoutly rejected by the Tata group. Both the sides - the Tatas and Mistrys — were engaged in levelling charges and allegations against each other. Finally, Tata won the case in the Supreme Court.

Fight with Nusli Wadia

Bombay Dyeing chief Nusli Wadia and Ratan Tata were close friends for many decades. However, their relationship soured in 2016 during the Cyrus Mistry episode. In December 2016, Tata Sons removed Wadia from the boards of Tata Motors, Tata Steel and Tata Chemicals after Wadia supported Cyrus Mistry against his ouster from Tata Sons.

Niira Radia Tapes In November 2010, telephone conversations between corporate lobbyist Niira Radia and various industrialists, politicians, journalists and bureaucrats were leaked to the press. These conversations led to allegations of misconduct and came amidst allegations against former telecom minister A Raja.

Mumbai: As thousands gathered at Mumbai's NCPA, where Ratan Tata's mortal remains were kept earlier on Thursday, a black dog with white paws and a white patch on its nostril and forehead made the sombre setting more poignant. Wagging its tail non-

Rao, director Madhur

Bhandarkar and actor Ra-

jpal Yadav represented the

tinsel town in paying their

jostling, the people's flow

at the venue (NCPA) was

But more than the rec-

ognizable names, it was

ordinary people, especially

students and youth, who

made a beeline at NCPA to

pay their last respects to

the tycoon. "I felt I have

lost a family member. He

very disciplined.

In a city infamous for its

respects.

stop, the dog with a red collar refused to leave Tata's side, literally clinging to the spot next to the casket.

'Goa', a stray, named after the coastal state from where Tata had adopted it nearly a decade ago, was brought to the National Centre for Performing



Arts (NCPA) in south Mumbai to pay the final respects to its friend who was no more.

did a lot for the people and

the country," said an emo-

tional Abhishek Gabhne

were also present in large

numbers, like Siddharth

Chandanshive, a third gen-

eration staffer of the salt-

to-software global group,

who came to pay their re-

spects crediting the con-

glomerate for whatever

time, as the casket was be-

ing readied for the over

Ahead of the appointed

they have achieved.

Tata Group employees

(23), a B-school student.

A caretaker said Goa

was "very close" to Tata. When photographers jostled to click Goa's pictures, the caretaker urged them to let the pet go saying it

since morning. Tata's love for dogs is well-chronicled. During Diwali of 2020, he had posted on Instagram a photograph of him celebrating the festival with the "adopted Bombay House dogs", especially with Goa, his "office companion".

had not eaten anything

Earlier in the day, MNS president Raj Thackeray fondly remembered that he and Tata shared a common thread of their love for canines and said stray dogs were welcomed in all Tata premises, be it the Taj Mahal hotel or Bombay House, the group headquarters.

"He established many excellent standards in important sectors of the industry along with new and effective initiatives. His continuous cooperation and participation remained in all types of works in the interest of the society. Be it the issue of national unity and security or any aspect of development or the welfare of working employees, Ratan ji remained inspirational with his unique thinking and work."

Mohan Bhagwat, RSS chief

"Indian automobile industry is deeply saddened with the passing away of Shri Ratan Tata, a towering figure, who has played a stellar role in bringing the Indian auto industry to the global stage. A great humanist, visionary and leader, he championed innovations that are helping build a better tomorrow."

Shailesh Chandra, President, Society of Indian **Automobile Manufacturers**

"His unparalleled contributions as a visionary leader and ethical statesman have left an indelible mark on our nation. Tata's commitment to integrity and innovation not only transformed industries but also uplifted communities, inspiring countless lives. A true hero, his legacy of compassion and service will resonate for generations, guiding the industry towards the greater good."

> Pawan Munjal, Executive Chairman, Hero MotoCorp

"Ratan Tata will forever be remembered for his transformative contribution towards modernisation of the Indian business landscape and deep compassion towards the betterment of the society. His profound contribution and revolutionary thinking has inspired the automobile industry in India to think beyond conventional boundaries.'

> Masakazu Yoshimura, MD and CEO, Toyota Kirloskar Motor

"Mr. Tata was a truly remarkable business leader, the likes of whom nations get only once in a

Venu Srinivasan, Chairman Emeritus TVS Motor

"Tata leaves behind an astronomical imprint on the Indian industry, philanthropy, and the perennial zest to better the world we live in. A true nation builder, his legacy in the growth of the country will forever inspire entrepreneurs and all Indians alike." Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman, Bharti **Enterprises**

"As we move forward, we will honour his legacy by continuing to build not just enterprises but a better world... just as he did."

Anish Shah, MD and CEO, Mahindra Group

"In the passing of Ratan Tata, we have not only lost the iewel in the crown of Indian industry but also a man whose vision and outstanding personal qualities made him an icon for every Indian."

Anil Agarwal, Chairman, Vedanta Group

"The world has lost a true visionary and humanitarian. Ratan Tata's unparalleled contributions to business and society will forever remain his legacy."

Sanjiv Goenka, Chairman, RPSG Group

"Tata made immense contributions to the automotive industry, besides many other sectors and have left an indelible mark on the growth and global stature of Indian industry. His legacy will continue to inspire future generations of leaders in India and beyond."

Shradha Suri Marwah, President, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA)

"Tata's personal achievements and legacy are unequalled in society, and the mark he leaves on the company's business and brands is greater than that of any other individual. It was thanks to his singular vision that Tata acquired JLR in 2008, and we owe everything we have become since then to his unwavering support and dedication."

Adrian Mardell, CEO, JLR

Tata helped me fulfil my dream, says circumnavigator

Mumbai: When former journalist Vishnudas Chapke set out to circumnavigate the world in 2016, he banked on crowdfunding. But the tour became increasingly challenging as he struggled for money and even contemplated calling it off midway.

But he did fulfil his dream of travelling around the world crossing as many borders as possible, thanks to the generous help of Ratan Tata, recollected Chapke on Thursday.

Chapke is one of the countless people whose lives were touched by Ratan Tata's philanthropy.

Tata, credited with transforming the Tata

Group into a globally renowned conglomerate, died at age 86 at the Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai on Wednesday night.

"My journey could be completed only because of the generous help from Ratan Tata," Chapke told PTI. "India has lost a son who

was fulfilling the dreams of common people daring to do something unconventional," he said. Chapke said he was in

Chile and struggling with finances when a call from Tata Trusts renewed his morale and fuelled his journey.

"Tata had read about my attempt as well as my struggle to fulfil my dream.

While in Chile, I got a call from Tata Trusts asking if I had checked my bank account," Chapke, now 42, recalled.

"The cost of checking the account balance was over \$2. So, I told the official I would get it checked through my sister in Parbhani district," Chapke recalled. The official chuckled and told him that as Tata Trusts had sponsored his circumnavigation, he could check his account anywhere and let twothree dollars go. The official also assured that funds would never be short for his dreams, said Chapke.

"The funds had been lying in my bank account for four weeks and I was not even aware of it," he said.

The financial assistance came when Chapke was finding it hard to get going. The former scribe, who lives in Mumbai's Mankhurd area, said he would stay as a guest at somebody's residence, walk as much as possible, use public transport and eat whatever people offered him. If not for the help from Tatas, he had decided to end his trip midway in Argentina due to lack of money.

Chapke said he travelled to 35 countries by land, covering Asia, Australia, South America, North America and Europe.



State asks Centre to raise non-creamy layer limit to Rs 15 lakh



Mumbai: The Maharashtra cabinet on Thursday decided to request the Union government to increase the income limit to qualify for 'non-creamy layer' to Rs 15 lakh per year from the current Rs 8 lakh.

The decision came ahead of the assembly elections which are expected to be held next month

A non-creamy layer certificate, which means the family income of a person is below the prescribed limit, is needed to avail of reservation benefits in the Other Backward Class (OBC) category

A draft ordinance to accord a constitutional status to the Maharashtra State Scheduled Caste Commission was also approved in the cabinet meeting, said a statement from the office of Chief Minister Eknath

The ordinance will be tabled in the next session of

the legislature, it said, adding that 27 posts were approved for the commission.

In other decisions, the cabinet approved a proposal to set up welfare corporations for journalists and newspaper vendors

Additional funds of Rs 709.27 crore were sanctioned for the Balasaheb Thackeray Turmeric Research Centre in Hingoli

A proposal under which non-profit organisation Sulabh International will provide toilets and rest rooms at all 57 government hospitals in the state was approved in the meeting, the release said.

Government land in Akse and Malwani in Borivali suburb of Mumbai will be given for the Dharavi redevelopment project and ineligible slum-dwellers will be provided housing in these areas spread over 140 acres, it said. The cabinet also decided

to provide houses to the government employees living in the Bandra government colony in Mumbai.

The Public Libraries Act will be amended give a boost to the library culture in the state, the release

The cabinet also approved the construction of Jalna-Nanded expressway which will be linked to the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi corridor.

Irrigation projects were sanctioned for Saoner, Kankavli, Rajapur, Ambernath, Jihe Kathapur and Latur. Anganwadi centers in the state will be allowed to start day-care centres, the cabinet decided.

African safari will be introduced at the Balasaheb Thackeray Gorewada international zoo in Nagpur.

The working capital of the Maulana Azad Financial Corporation will be hiked from Rs 700 crore to Rs 1,000 crore, the cabinet decided.

The honorarium for Madarsa teachers with the D Ed degree will be increased from Rs 6.000 to Rs 16.000. while the salaries of teachers with BA, B Ed, BSc degrees will be hiked from Rs 8.000 to Rs 18.000.

The government also decided to start the Maharashtra State International Employment and Skill Advancement Company which will implement an MoU with the German state of Baden-Wuttemberg to enable youth from Maharashtra get employment.

The company will have a working capital of Rs 3 crore. More than 27,000 applications have been received out of which scrutiny of 10,000 applications has been completed, the release said.

Cabinet appeals centre to honour **Tata with Bharat Ratna**

By Abhijit Mulye

Mumbai: The Maharashtra Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday passed a resolution to appeal to the Centre to honour Ratan Tata with the prestigious Bharat Ratna award. On behalf of all citizens of Maharashtra the cabinet paid tributes to veteran industrialist, Tata Sons' Emeritus Chairman Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata and also passed a resolution condoling his death.

The cabinet also resolved that the Udyog Ratna award with which industrialist Ratan Tata was honoured last year will now be named after him. It also resolved to name the industries house being developed in Mumbai at the cost of Rs 700 crore after Ratan Tata.

The cabinet meeting which is most likely to be the last meeting of the present cabinet before the announcement of state assembly elections, made a whooping 80 decisions that include formation of several corporations aimed at social and financial upliftment of several communities and social groups

The cabinet also resolved to elevate the annual income limit for the creamy layer among non-OBC communities to Rs 15 lakh and has sent a recommendation to the centre in this regard. The cabinet also resolved to form corporations for the Gujar, Leva Patil, Kumbhar, Koli, Nath, Shimpi, Gavali, Vani and Lohar communities. Apart from these the cabinet also cleared formation of corporations for newspaper vendors and journalists.



Industrialist Ratan Tata's remains being taken to Worli Crematorium for last rites in Mumbai on Thursday.

Bail to minor accused in Porsche crash case

2 members of Juvenile **Justice Board removed**

government has terminated the services of two members of the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) here in connection with bail given to a juvenile accused in the Pune Porsche crash case, officials said on Thursday.

A probe panel of the state Women and Child Development (WCD) Department had recommended action against the two members - L N Danwade and Kavita Thorat - for alleged "procedural lapses, misconduct and non-compliance with norms".

WCD Department Commissioner Prashant Narnavare told PTI, "I had given the probe panel report to the state government and recommended that the appointment of the two members should be terminated."

"The report, recommending the termination, ernment in July. The state government on Tuesday terminated the appointment of both the members as they were found guilty of misusing their powers, which have been provided under the Juvenile Justice

A notification, dated October 8, issued by the state government stated that in the inquiry, Danwade and Thorat have been found guilty of "misusing their powers" vested under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act-2015, and government considers it expedient to terminate the appointment

Act," he said.

On May 19, two IT professionals were killed in Kalyani Nagar area of Pune after their motorcycle was hit by a speeding Porsche car allegedly driven by a 17-year-old boy in an ine-

of both the members.

The case caused a national uproar after then JJB member Danwade granted bail to the accused. son of a builder, on very lenient terms, including writing a 300-word essay on road safety.

Later, a committee was formed by the WCD Department for a probe into the conduct of two JJB members in connection with the bail given to the minor accused.

In its report, the panel talked about the "procedural lapses, misconduct and non-compliance with norms" of the JJB members.

As part of its probe, the committee had recorded the statements of the two JJB members.

In its report, the committee recommended action against the two JJB members for procedural lapses.

CRIME WATCH

Nigerian national held with drugs

Thane: Police have arrested a 43-year-old Nigerian man after seizing mephedrone and cocaine valued at Rs 25.43 lakh from his possession in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai township, an official said on Thursday. Acting on a tip, the police raided a house in Taloja area on Tuesday and caught the Nigerian national with the contraband, Navi Mumbai Anti-Narcotics Celi senior police inspector Sandeep Nigde said. The police seized from his possession 21.16 gm of mephedrone powder and 106.74 gm of cocaine valued at Rs 4.23 lakh and Rs 21.2 lakh, respectively, he said. The accused has been identified as Ifeanyi Christian Iyida, the police said. The house owner, who rented his premises to the Nigerian man without verifying his documents and without intimating the police, has also been made as an accused in the crime.

Labourer killed during fight

Latur: A labourer died after his friend slit his throat during a fight in Maharashtra's Latur city, police said on Thursday. Victim Hajimalang Sayyed and his friend Sultan were outside a wine shop in a market in the city's Lokhand Galli area when they got into a scuffle around 7.30 pm on Wednesday. During the fight, Sultan picked a sharp object and slashed Sayyed's neck, killing him, a police official said, adding that efforts are underway to arrest him. On Tuesday, a man was killed and another seriously injured by three persons in the city. The accused were subsequently arrested, police said.

Sepoy posted at Taloja jail caught with drugs

Thane: A sepoy posted at Navi Mumbai's Taloja Central Jail has been arrested for alleged possession of drugs worth Rs 10 lakh, police said on Thursday. An officer at the Kharghar police station said an FIR (first information report) has been registered under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS Act) against the sepoy, Anil Asaram Jadhav. On Wednesday evening, when the 38-year-old accused was going to report for duty at the jail, his tiffin box was checked by guards posted at the entrance of the prison.

Delay in trial, Kapil Wadhawan gets bail

court on Thursday granted bail to Kapil Wadhawan. former director of erstwhile mortgage firm DHFL, in an alleged loan fraud case linked to Yes Bank, citing delay in trial, and need for balance "between the right of individual liberty and interest of society".

Special Judge A.C. Dagga, in his order in Mumbai, noted that economic offences have an adverse impact on society, but the accused cannot be "detained for years together without any ray of hope that the trial is going to start".

Prolong incarceration before being pronounced guilty of an offence should not be permitted as it will go against the right to life and personal liberty enshrined in the Constitution, the court observed.

Kapil Wadhawan was arrested in the fraud case on April 26, 2020, and has been in judicial custody since then. He, however, is not likely to walk out of jail as the former Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd (DHFL) director is yet to secure bail in another case pending against him.



DHFL, once a leading mortgage lender, was acquired by the Piramal Group in 2021 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) after it faced debt crisis.

The case relates to the Yes Bank-DHFL scam of approximately Rs 4,000 crore where the private lender's co-founder Rana Kapoor has been alleged to have entered into a criminal conspiracy with the then-promoters of DHFL, including Kapil Wadhawan

The CBI has claimed that Yes Bank had invested Rs 3,983 crore in DHFL (by way of subscription to debentures issued by the housing finance firm).Later, the bank granted loans to DHFL in lieu of kickbacks of Rs 600 crore to be paid by it to the companies held by Kapoor and his family members, according to the

Besides this fraud, Kapil Wadhawan has also booked in various cases registered by the CBI and the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Advocate Vijay Aggarwal, appearing for Kapil Wadhawan, had argued that his client deserves bail solely considering the long period in custody spent by him and there being no likelihood of trial commencing anytime soon.

Wadhawan has been in custody for more than four years and a chargesheet against him has already been filed. Subsequently, three more supplementary chargesheet were filed by the probe agency, Aggarwal pointed out.

Investigation in the case is still continuing, which shows there is no likelihood of trial commencing despite a lapse of more than four years, he submitted.

Aggarwal contended that all other accused arrested earlier in the case, including real estate businessmen Sanjay Chabbaria and Avinash Bhosale, and Dheeraj Wadhawan, another DHFL promoter, have been released on bail.

ED won't act on eviction notices



Mumbai: The ED told the Bombay High Court on Thursday that it would not act upon the eviction notices issued to actor Shilpa Shetty and her husband Raj Kundra till their application challenging a property attachment order is heard and decided by an appellate tribunal.

On September 27, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) issued notices to Shetty and her businessman husband, directing them to vacate their house in Mumbai's Juhu area and a farmhouse in Pune in connection with a money laundering case.

The duo challenged the same in the HC, terming it as arbitrary, illegal and uncalled for. The notices were issued pursuant to an attachment order passed by the agency against the couple's properties.

A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite Dere and Prithviraj Chavan had on Wednesday asked the ED what was the urgency to issue an eviction notice.

'Good man' who chatted with his newspaper vendor

day, 39-year-old Harikesh Singh thought the COV-ID-19 pandemic was the cruelest blow he had faced. His newspaper distribution business suffered badly after the lockdown, and there were long days of uncertainty.

But the death of his favourite customer who subscribed to no less than 14 newspapers makes him rethink which was the stronger blow: the pandemic, or the death of Ratan Tata

"He was a very good man, a messiah for the poor," Singh, who delivered newspapers for Tata for nearly two decades, told PTI. When his association

with India's favourite industrialist started in 2001, Tata's address was an apartment in Colaba's Bakhtavar building. Later it shifted to Halekai, a private bungalow next to it. Singh remembers the

sight of Tata sitting in the garden of the bungalow in the mornings, reading the newspapers he had delivered, and the smiling face. Tata would wave at him, was doing. These brief exchanges are etched in his mind, Singh said. Some years ago, when a

relative was diagnosed with cancer, Tata immediately helped Singh with a letter to the Tata Memorial Centre for quick treatment, and also gave Rs 5 lakh.

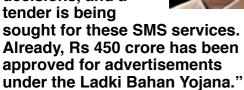
The pandemic changed the reading habits of Ratan Tata too. The household stopped taking newspapers, Singh said, adding that Tata started getting only two newspapers which came in a paper bag from the nearby Taj Mahal Hotel.

On Thursday, Singh finished his newspaper deliveries a bit early and joined hundreds of others who lined up in the Colaba bylane to bid final farewell to the most illustrious person in the neighbourhood.

Hussain Shaikh, 57, was in the same crowds. Shaikh used to occasionally clean Tata's favourite Mercedes Benz for years. When his daughter got married, Tata gave him Rs 50,000 through a staff member in the

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This government is spending Rs 23 crore to send SMS updates to the public about cabinet decisions, and a tender is being



Atul Londhe, Spokesperson, Congress

Top cop recollects Tata's steely resolve

Mumbai: For most people, Ratan the first set of officers who en-Tata was affability personified but the industrialist demonstrated resoluteness when it mattered. particularly during the 26/11 terror attacks, recalled Maharashtra's Additional Director General of Police Vishwas Nangre Patil on Thursday.

"Ratan Tata stood like a rock for three days outside the Taj Mahal Palace hotel in Colaba as security forces carried out an operation against Lashkar-e-Taiba

terrorists," Nangre Patil told PTI. Nangre Patil was the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 1) in south Mumbai and was among tered the iconic hotel and fought the Pakistani terrorists in November 2008

The senior IPS officer said Tata displayed resoluteness, uncharacteristic of his calm demeanour. when the iconic hotel came under

As the operation against the terrorists went on, Tata could be seen standing outside the hotel for most of the time. He would frequently interact with the security personnel and his staff members, he said.

Not just humans, Tata was equally worried about the five to



six stray dogs that were affected by the exchange of fire in the hotel's vicinity. He fed the animals, said Nangre Patil, calling Tata a great human being.

After the operation ended and the terrorists were neutralised. he pledged to reopen the hotel, which had suffered damages, and support the family members of those killed and injured in the

Within a month, the Taj hotel was operational though it took another 21 months to restore its heritage facade and grandeur.

In 2009, he unveiled a memorial at the hotel to honour the 31 people, including his employees and guests, who had lost their lives in the terror attack there.

He also formed the Taj Public Service Welfare Trust to help peo-

Police officer Deepak Dhole, who was seriously injured while fighting the terrorists inside the hotel, called Tata a "real gem of the country".

"It was our duty to fight against the terrorists, who had entered the hotel, and we did our job to rescue the guests. As the operation was underway, I sustained serious injuries due to fire," he

As he was posted at Colaba police station and Tata also lived in the area. Dhole said he would often meet the business honcho as part of his job.



People pass by effigies of demon king 'Ravan' kept at the roadside for sale ahead of Dussehra celebration in Jalandhar on Thursday

PhD scholar found dead at IIT Kanpur

Fourth suspected suicide in one year

Kanpur (UP): A 28-yearold PhD student at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur ended her life by hanging herself from the ceiling hook here on Thursday, the fourth such case in the last one year.

Pragati Kharya, a resident of Sanigawan in Kanpur who was pursuing a PhD in Earth Sciences. committed suicide inside her hostel room D-116 in hall number-4 during the intervening night, but the matter came to light on Thursday noon, they said.

Her hostel mates informed the IIT-K authorities who in turn alerted the

In a statement, IIT Kanpur said with profound grief it mourns the tragic

and untimely demise of Kharya. Kharya joined the PhD program in December 2021, it said

"A police forensic team has visited the campus to investigate the circumstances of the death. The Institute is awaiting the results of the police investigation to determine the cause. With Pragati Kharya's passing, the institute has lost a promising young researcher. The institute extends its deepest condolences and prays for strength and comfort to her family and friends in this time of great loss," the IIT

"The police received information about a suicide by a PhD student at around 12 pm today," Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Rajesh Singh told PTI.

Assistant CP (Kalyanpur) Abhishek Pandey said, "After getting information about the suicide police rushed there and found the door of Pragati's room was locked from inside."

"After breaking open the door, they found the woman's body hanging from the ceiling fan," he added. The suicide note written

in which she held no one responsible for her extreme step has been recovered from the room. A mobile phone was also recovered from the hostel room that might help police in solving the mystery behind the suicide, the ACP said, adding, possible reasons behind suicide will only be revealed after a preliminary probe and completing other formalities

The body was sent to the mortuary for post-mortem. The family members have also arrived at the IIT-K, according to the police.

On January 18, 29-yearold PhD student, Priyanka Jaiswal, who was pursuing a PhD in Chemical engineering had allegedly committed suicide inside her hostel room after being locked from inside.

On January 11, M.Tech second-year student Vikas Kumar Meena (31) allegedly hanged himself from the ceiling fan in his IIT, Kanpur hostel room, reportedly after he was "temporarily" barred from continuing with his course.

Assets of 'CashBean' to be seized

New Delhi: Assets worth more than Rs 252 crore of an Indian subsidiary of a Norwegian company "controlled" by Chinese persons have been ordered for confiscation in a FEMA probe against an "illegal" money lending mobile app named 'CashBean', the ED said.

The Enforcement Directorate said an order, post adjudication, was issued on October 7 against PC Financial Services Pvt Ltd (PCFS) under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) along with imposition of a penalty of more than Rs 2,146 crore against the said company.

PCFS is a subsidiary of Norway-based Opera Group. The federal agency said in a statement that the "overall control" of PCFS was held with Chinese beneficial owners. It indulged in the business of lending money to the public in India through its mobile app 'CashBean', it said.

"Remittances of Rs 429.30 crore were made by PCFS to its related overseas group companies in the garb of 'Import of Software Licenses and Services' which were found to be bogus," it alleged.

The Reserve Bank of India, it said, had in February, 2022 found that PCFS was charging "usurious" rate of interest and other charges to its borrowers in an "opaque" manner apart from indulging in "unauthorized" use of logos of the RBI and the Central Bureau of Investigation for recovery from the borrowers in gross violation of the fair practices code.

The banking regulator cancelled the certificate of registration of the company and debarred it from acting as a non-banking financial institution, the ED said.

Govt bans Hizb-ut-Tahrir, says the group aims to establish caliphate

New Delhi: The government on Thursday banned Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HuT), a global pan-Islamic group set up in Jerusalem in 1953, saying the organisation aims to establish Islamic state and caliphate globally, including in India, through jihad and terrorist

In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said the HuT is involved in radicalisation and motivation of gullible youth to join terrorist organisations, such as ISIS, and raising funds for terror activities.

Later, the office of Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in a post on X, "Pursuing PM Shri@narendramodi Ji's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, the MHA today declared 'Hizb-Ut-Tahrir' as a 'Terrorist Organisation'."

"The outfit is involved in various acts of terror, including radicalising the gullible youths to join terrorist organisations and raise funds for terror activities, posing a serious threat to the national security and sovereignty of India. The Modi government is committed to securing Bharat by dealing the forces of terror with an iron fist," the home minister's office said.

The HuT is promoting terrorism by using various social media platforms and secure apps, and by conducting 'Dawah' meetings to encourage gullible youth to indulge in acts of terrorism, the notification said.

The home ministry said the HuT is an organisation which aims to establish Islamic state and caliphate



globally, including in India, by overthrowing democratically elected governments through jihad and terrorist activities by involving citizens of the country, which is a grave threat to the democratic setup and internal security of the country.

"And whereas, the central government believes that Hizb-ut-Tahrir is involved in terrorism and has participated in various acts of terrorism in India," the notification said while declaring the group as a banned organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

The ban will be effective on HuT and all its manifestations and front organisations.

On Tuesday, the National Investigation Agency arrested a key accused in the Tamil Nadu Hizb-ut-Tahrir case related to spreading disaffection and secessionism by promoting the ideology of the anti-India outfit.

A total of seven accused were arrested by the NIA so far in the case.

The NIA had alleged the

arrested accused were actively engaged for propagating secessionism and seeking military assistance from Pakistan to liberate Kashmir.

"The ulterior motive of the conspiracy was to establish Khilafat by overthrowing the government of India by waging violent Jihad," the NIA alleged.

Founded in 1953, HuT is an international pan-Islamic group with a long-term goal of establishing a caliphate rule under Islamic law. The group's headquarters is in Lebanon and it operates in at least over 30 countries including the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and Australia.

The HuT has a history of praising and celebrating attacks against Israel and Jews more widely.

Several countries have banned HuT for their subversive activities. Those countries which already banned the group include Germany, Egypt, the UK and several Central Asian and Arab countries.

Kerala Assembly resolution against simultaneous polls

Thiruvananthapuram: The Kerala assembly on Thursday unanimously passed a resolution urging the central government to roll back its decision to approve the proposal for 'one nation, one election' recommended by the Ramnath Kovind panel, saying that it was "undemocratic and unconstitutional".

The resolution was moved on behalf of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan by state Parliamentary Affairs Minister M B Raiesh who said that the proposal would weaken the countrv's federal system and sabotage the diverse nature of India's parliamentary democracy.

He said that it would also lead to cutting short of the term of various state assemblies and local self governments in the country.

The high-level committee had recommended simultaneous elections for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies as the first step, followed by synchronised local body polls within 100

Rajesh further said that



Pinarayi Vijayan

this decision amounted to a violation of the people's mandate, a challenge to their democratic rights and usurping of a state's power to hold elections and taking over of the federal system of the country.

He contended that the committee was viewing Lok Sabha, state assembly and local body polls as an expense and doing so was 'undemocratic".

He said it was a "condemnable move" as there were other simpler ways to reduce election costs and governance effective.

"This move is unconstitutional and against constitutional values as well as an attempt to implement the RSS and BJP agenda," Rajesh claimed.

Man arrested for molesting multiple girls

Itanagar: A 37-year-old man who allegedly molested multiple school and college girls was arrested in Itanagar, police said on

The accused, a native of Nuna Camp village in Dirang in West Kameng district, was apprehended after a complaint was lodged at the Itanagar women police station, Superintendent of Police Rohit Rajbir Singh said.

The arrest was made after a 14-year-old girl was molested on September 7. The accused offered her a lift on his scooter while she was going to school.

"The accused touched her inappropriately during the ride. The girl had to jump off the moving vehicle to escape," the SP said.

After the complaint was registered, police did an investigation and uncovered a pattern of similar incidents perpetrated by him, targeting school and college girls in Itanagar, Singh said.

The investigation revealed that there are seven more victims, he added.

Four victims were school students, while the other four were in college, according to police. -PTI functionaries will deliberate on a range of contemporary issues and chalk out future plans during a twoday national executive meeting of the organisation scheduled to begin in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura on October 25.

New Delhi: Senior RSS

The meeting in Parkham village near the temple town will also discuss the "organisational goals" that has to be achieved by next vear when the RSS completes 100 years of its foundation, according to a statement uploaded by the organisation on its website on Thursday.

"This year, the meeting of the Akhil Bharatiya Karyakari Mandal of the Rashtriva Swavamsevak Sangh (RSS) is going to be held on 25 and 26 October in Parkham village near Mathura in Braj province of western Uttar Pradesh," RSS national media and communications in-charge

RSS national executive meet in Mathura

Farmers during their protest at the Noida Authority Office in Noida.

statement. All the heads of the RSS' 46 provincial units, general secretaries and 'pracharaks' are expected to attend the meeting, he said.

Sunil Ambekar said in the

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, general secretary Dattatereya Hosabale, all joint general secretaries and other members of the national executive will be present at the meeting, he added.

Ahead of the national executive meeting, Bhagwat will deliver his annual speech on the occasion of Vijayadashami at Reshimbaug ground in Nagpur on Saturday.

"There will be a detailed discussion in the meeting on the plans for follow-up of the important issues (to be) mentioned in the speech of the Sarsanghchalak ji (RSS chief) on the occasion of Vijayadashami," Ambekar said.

Gang-rape accused dies in police custody

ing a teenage girl in Gujarat's Surat district died in a hospital here after he complained of breathing difficulty in police custody on Thursday, an official said.

Shivshankar Chaurasia (45), named in murder and theft cases in the past, and Munna Paswan (40) were arrested on Wednesday for the alleged sexual assault on the minor.

"I am informed that Chaurasia had complained of difficulty in breathing at around 2.00 pm and was rushed to a health centre in the Kamrej area. He was then referred to the new civil hospital, where he died during treatment," said Surat District Superintendent of Police Hitesh Joysar.

Police will produce Paswan before a court in the evening seeking his remand, he said.

According to the police, Paswan, Chaurasia and a third person, who is yet to be nabbed, allegedly raped a 17-year-old girl in Mangrol taluka on Tuesday night.

The teenager had gone to the Kim village to meet

arrested for allegedly rap- coaching class. She and her male friend were sitting in a deserted place on their way to a petrol pump along the highway near Mota Borsara village when three men approached them, police said.

> While her friend escaped, the trio raped the minor before fleeing with her and her friend's mobile phones. After being alerted, police registered a case for gang rape and other charges under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Paswan and Chaurasia were nabbed from a nearby location on Wednesday evening and cops had to open fire while taking the duo into custody, police had said in a release.

Police said several cases had been registered against the two in areas like Ankleshwar, Kadodara, Amirgadh and Karian.

Chaurasia was booked in a murder case in 2017 in Ankleshwar and for theft in 2023 in Karjan. This year, he was booked under the Arms Act by the Amirgadh police station of Banaskantha.

Hindu side says survey of Gyanvapi complex incomplete

Varanasi: Lawyers representing the Hindu side on Thursday furnished their submissions before a court here in response to the arguments put forth by the Muslim side

in the Gyanvapi case two days ago. The Hindu side's plea had demanded a survey by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) in the remaining parts of the Gyanvapi complex.

Following the submissions, the court posted the hearing on October 16.

Advocate Madan Mohan Yadav, who is representing the Hindu side, said he appeared before Civil Judge Senior Division Yughul Shambhu, and submitted that the survey done by the ASI in the Gyanvapi complex was incomplete.

Yadav said the ASI was not in a position



to furnish a correct report without excavation and therefore it should be ordered to conduct the excavation and survey the entire Gyanvapi complex.

On October 8, the Muslim side -- Anju-

man Intezamia Committee -- had presented its views on the petition.

The lawyers then reportedly submitted before the court that when the Hindu side has appealed to agitate the case in the high court and Supreme Court, there was no point arguing the matter in the trial court.

They also submitted that when the ASI survey of the Gyanvapi complex had been done once already, there was no justification for conducting another survey.

The lawyers of the committee had also stated that digging a pit in the mosque premises for the survey was not practical in any way, and could damage the mosque.

Previously, the Hindu side had argued that the original place of 'Jyotirlinga' was in the centre, under the dome of the purported mosque located in the Gyanvapi complex.

"Geographical water used to flow continuously from the 'Argha' which used to collect in the Gyanvapi Kund. It was believed that drinking this water gives knowledge. Therefore, this pilgrimage is also considered as 'Gyanoday Tirth'," it was argued earlier during hearings.

The Hindu party has demanded the examination of the water through water engineering, geologists and archeologists.

Further, the 'Shivling' found from the Gyanoday Tirth, which the Muslim side termed as the "wazukhana", should also be examined to ascertain whether it is a 'Shivling' or a fountain, they had said. -PTI

QUOTE OF THE DAY "We have

brought reforms and economic development to the country. **During this** period, not a single corruption charge has been levelled against our government.



This was acknowledged even by the opposition." Amit Shah,

Union Home Minister

@perfectvoice in

Israel's ground invasion in southern Lebanon

Jerusalem: Israel's ground invasion in Lebanon stretched into its second week as the Hezbollah militant group fired hundreds of rockets deep into Israel — with no end in sight to the escalating conflict.

More than 1,400 people have been killed in Lebanon - mostly in airstrikes - and over a million displaced since the fighting intensified in mid-September. At least 15 Israeli soldiers and two civilians have been killed since the ground operation began, and more than 60,000 people have been displaced from towns along the border for more than a year.

Hezbollah began firing rockets into Israel on October 8, 2023, a day after Hamas, the Palestinian militant group, attacked southern Israel, which sparked the war in Gaza. Israel and Hezbollah have exchanged fire almost every day since, coming close to a full-fledged war on several occasions but stepping back from the brink until this month.

What is the aim of Israeli military's ground invasion?

The Israeli military began what they called a "limited, localised and targeted ground raids" in southern Lebanon on October 1. The same day, the military said that it had carried out dozens of secretive cross-border operations to destroy Hezbollah infrastructure over the past year. The aim, Israel says, is to allow its displaced residents to



return home

A military official said that thousands of Israeli troops are currently operating along the roughly 100-kilometre-long (62mile) border, clearing the area just along the border to try to remove the launch pads where Hezbollah fires rocket-propelled grenades and anti-tank missiles into Israeli towns, as well as infrastructure they say would allow for an October 7-style invasion of Israel.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the military's strategy, said the troops haven't ventured deep inside Lebanon so far, and have conducted operations from distances of a few hundred metres (yards) up to 2 to 3 kilometers (1.5 to 2 miles) into Lebanese territory.

The Israeli military has shared videos of what it says are underground tunnels chiseled into rock used by Hezbollah. The tunnels are used to store weapons and stage attacks. One tunnel stretched from Lebanon into Israeli territory, according to the military.

The goal is not to destroy Hezbollah, and the army is aware that this will not remove the threat of longerrange rockets and missiles, the official said.

What is Hezbollah's strategy?

Hezbollah officials, including assassinated leader Hassan Nasrallah, have conceded that the Israeli military has the superior air force and intelligence. But Hezbollah has the advantage in direct confrontations on Lebanese turf.

Hezbollah forces have better equipment and training compared to Hamas, which Israel has been battling for more than a year in Gaza. Hezbollah forces gained experience in wars in Syria and Iraq. Lebanon's terrain is also more rugged and challenging than the Palestinian enclave, which is mostly flat and sandy.

Hezbollah's strategy, led by its elite Radwan Forces.

has been drawing in and ambushing incoming Israeli troops, detonating explosive devices or firing rockets at them, and firing artillery and rockets at Israeli border towns. Although Hezbollah has lost many of its top officials and commanders in recent weeks militants have con-

Could there be a diplomatic solution?

of Haifa

tinued to fire rockets deep-

er into Israel, including

heavy barrages on the city

Hezbollah's acting leader signalled on Tuesday that the group is open to a cease-fire. Guzansky believes Israeli troops will stay on the ground in southern Lebanon until there is an internationally enforced diplomatic solution that's stronger than the current UN peacekeeping force. If Israeli troops retreat, he said, they risk the same situation as 2006. where Hezbollah simply rearmed and resumed operations.

-AP $\stackrel{:}{:}$ tend the event.

India's plays a geopolitical role: USISPF

Washington: India plays a pivotal role geopolitically from an American perspective and offers US companies the opportunity to derisk from China in the manufacturing sector, the head of a top India-centric American business and strategic advocacy group has said.

The economic growth story of India is tremendous. India is among very few large economies which are growing seven to eight per cent, Mukesh Aghi, the President and CEO of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), said on Wednesday.

From an American perspective, India plays a "pivotal role" geopolitically, he said. "India is one economy which is providing market opportunity, especially to US companies that come in and invest and gain market share. It is an economy which is providing de-risking from China itself in the manufacturing area," Aghi told PTI.

"What we are seeing is the Indian economy is not just becoming a market opportunity, it's becoming an opportunity for manufacturing. ..But more important is we are seeing a growth of global capability centres in India," Aghi said.

expected to gain momentum in 2025, he said. India is exporting roughly almost USD 125

The Indian economy is

billion of services. Aghi's remarks came ahead of the annual India

Leadership Summit of the USISPF on October 14. Several top American business leaders, including

CEOs of Fortune 100, are heading to New Delhi to at-



Indian community welcomed PM Modi in Laos on Thursday

Yemen's Houthi rebels target ship in Red Sea

ed attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels targeted a ship on Thursday in the Red Sea, authorities said.

The attack comes as the rebels continue to threaten ships moving through the Red Sea, a waterway that once saw USD 1 trillion in goods move through it a year, over the ongoing conflicts in the Mideast stemming from the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

A ship in the Red Sea skirting the coast of the East Africa found itself struck first by a projectile that damaged the vessel, but sparked no fire and caused no injuries, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said. The private security firm Ambrey identified the ship as a Liberian-flagged

chemical tanker. At least two more projectiles later fell in the waters around the vessel, which was a distance away from Hodeida, the Houthi-controlled port from which



many of the rebels' attacks have been launched.

The rebels did not immediately claim the attack. However, it can take them hours or even days to acknowledge their assaults.

The Houthis have targeted more than 80 merchant vessels with missiles and drones since the war in Gaza started in October. They seized one vessel and sank two in the campaign that has also killed four sailors. Other missiles and drones have either been intercepted by a U.S.-led coalition in the Red Sea or failed to reach their targets, which have included Western military vessels

The rebels maintain that they target ships linked to Israel, the U.S. or the U.K. to force an end to Israel's campaign against Hamas in Gaza. However, many of the ships attacked have little or no connection to the conflict, including some

> bound for Iran. In Thursday's attack, Ambrey said it "assessed the vessel to have a strong affiliation with the Houthi targeting profile," without elaborating.

Modi announces 10-point plan for ASEAN

Vientiane (Laos): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday announced a 10-point plan to strengthen India-ASEAN comprehensive partnership and asserted that ties with the regional grouping were critical to guiding Asia's

Addressing the 21st India-ASEAN Summit here, Modi noted that India-ASEAN trade had doubled to over USD 130 billion in the past decade and announced a review of the trade in goods agreement to harness the greater economic potential of the partnership.

"I believe that the 21st century - the Asian century – is the century of India and ASEAN nations," the Prime Minister said while addressing the leaders of the ASEAN nations that include Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos and Singapore.

The Prime Minister said India was commemorating the 10th anniversary of its Act East Policy, which has given new energy, direction and momentum to the historic relationship be-



tween India and the ASE-

"The India-ASEAN Summit was a productive one. We discussed how to further strengthen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and ASEAN. We look forward to deepening trade ties, cultural linkages and cooperation in technology, connectivity and other such sectors," he said in a post on X after the summit.

The 10-point plan to further strengthen the India-ASEAN partnership includes celebrating the year 2025 as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism, doubling the number of scholarships at Nalanda University and providing new grants for ASEAN students at Agricultural Universities in India.

Prime Minister Modi also announced celebrating the decade of Act East Policy through several people-centric activities including Youth Summit, Start-up Festival, Hackathon, Music Festival, ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks and Delhi Dialogue.

Modi also announced organising the ASEAN-India Women Scientists Conclave under the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund.

He said India would make available USD five million for enhancing disaster resilience and also initiate a new Health Ministers' track towards building Health Resilience.

Human trafficking gang connected to Laos, says NIA

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge sheet against members of a human trafficking gang that was sending Indians to Laos to work in cyber-crime sweatshops run by Chinese scammers targeting European and American citizens, officials said on Thursday.

The agency filed its charge sheet before a special court on Wednesday against gang members Manjoor Alam alias Guddu, Sahil, Ashish alias Akhil. Pawan Yaday alias Afzal alias Afroz, along with the key conspirator, Kamran Haider alias Zaidi.

"NIA investigations have revealed that all five were involved in trafficking vulnerable Indian youth to the Golden Triangle Region in Lao PDR where they were forced to commit cyber scams targeting European and American citizens. They operated through the consultancy firm, Ali International Services, which functioned as a front for human trafficking," an NIA spokesperson said in a

statement.

First same sex marriage between Nepali, US national

THE ORGANISATION THAT FACILITATED THE MARRIAGE SAID **NEPAL CAN BE A HUB FOR SAME SEX MARRIAGE**

By Shirish B Pradhan

Kathmandu: Two young men, a Nepali and a US citizen, married here on Thursday, a first such instance involving a foreigner in the Himalayan nation after its Supreme Court allowed same sex marriage.

The apex court in June 2023 issued an interim order to legalise same sex marriages in Nepal after a writ petition filed by people from the sexual minority community.

Following that interim order, Nepal's Surendra Pandey and Maya Gurung had registered same sex marriage in November 2023, a first time for South Asia.

On Thursday, the marriage between Nepal's Prajeet Budhathoki, 27, and US citizen Joseph Foster Elis. 30. was solemnised in a hotel here as per the Hindu rituals amid the chanting of Vedic mantras.

The ceremony was attended by around 50 people, including those from the sexual minority community, diplomats, family



members and media persons.

The couple later exchanged rings as per the Christian tradition in the presence of a Chistrian priest.

This same sex marriage was facilitated by Maya Ko Pahichan, the organisation working for the welfare of LGBT community headed by LGBT activist Sunil Babu Panta, who is the first gay Member of Parliament of Nepal.

"This is the first marriage between a Nepali gay man and a foreign gay man. This is a historic moment for us," Panta said.

Nepal can be a hub for destination weddings for same sex marriage, which will ultimately help promote tourism, he added. On Monday, Praject and

Joseph legally registered their marriage at Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City in Sunsari district of Eastern Nepal as same sex marriage and received a marriage certificate from the local body.

New Yorkers Joseph, who is pursuing a PhD in Sanskrit language at the Tribhuvan University here, and Prajeet, who runs a queer travel company in Nepal, met in Kathmandu two years ago.

"This is so amazing that our love is being recognised," Joseph said shortly after the wedding ceremony. Joseph has now decided to live in Nepal with his

Muizzu expresses gratitude for India's financial assistance

Male: Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu on Thursday expressed gratitude for India's financial assistance and its consistent support, especially during challenging times, as he and his wife Sajidha Mohamed returned after concluding their five-day state visit to the country.

Muizzu expressed gratitude for India's financial assistance, including the rollover of a USD 50 million Treasury Bill for another

The 46-year-old, who was sworn-in as Maldives president in November last year. also thanked India for additional support of INR 30 billion to USD 400 million under a bilateral currency swap agreement.

This was Muizzu's first state visit to India since taking office at the invitation of President Droupadi Murmu. During the visit, Muizzu held high-level meetings with President Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several other officials. These discussions centred on strengthening the friendship and development partnership between the Maldives and India.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Sri Lanka has an untapped export potential of an estimated USD 10 billion annually which could create nearly 1,50,000 new jobs. There is

significant opportunity for expanding exports in manufacturing services and agriculture."

Gevorg Sargsyan, Country Director, World Bank

Nobel Prize in literature to South Korean author Han Kang Stockholm: South Korean au-

thor Han Kang was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature Thursday for what the Nobel committee called "her intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life."

Nobel committee chairman Anders Olsson praised Han's "physical empathy for the vulnerable, often female lives" of her

"She has a unique awareness of the connections between body and soul, the living and the dead, and in a poetic and experimental style, has become an innovator in contemporary prose," Olsson

said. Nobel literature committee member Anna-Karin Palm said Han writes "intense lyrical prose that is both tender and brutal, and sometimes slightly surrealistic as Han becomes the first Asian

woman and the first South Korean writer to win the Nobel literature prize. She also becomes the second South Korean national to win a Nobel Prize, after late former President Kim Dae-jung won the peace prize in 2000. He was honoured for his efforts to restore democracy in South Korea during the country's previous military rule and improve relations with war-divided rival North Korea.



Han wins the Nobel at a time of growing global influence of South Korean culture, which in recent years has included the success of films like director Bong Joon-ho's Oscar-winning "Parasite," the Netflix survival drama "Squid Game" and the worldwide fame of

K-pop groups like BTS and BLACKPINK.

Han, 53, won the International Booker Prize in 2016 for "The Vegetarian," an unsettling novel in which a woman's decision to stop eating meat has devastating consequences.

At the time of winning that award, Han said writing novels "is a way of questioning for me."

"I just try to complete my questions through the process of my writing and I try to stay in the questions, sometimes painful, sometimes - well - sometimes demanding," she said.

With "The Vegetarian," she said, "I wanted to question about being human and I wanted to describe a woman who desperately didn't want to belong to the human race any longer.

Her novel "Human Acts" was an International Booker Prize finalist in 2018.

Han made her publishing debut as a poet in 1993; her first short story collection was published the following year and her first novel. "Black Deer," in 1998. Works translated into English include "The Vegetarian," "Greek Lessons," "Human Acts" and "The White Book," a poetic novel that draws on the death of Han's older

sister shortly after birth.

EDITORIAL

Humble Colossus

Ratan Tata, who passed away at 86, was a man who spoke in the measured tones of a diplomat and moved with the quiet grace of a statesman. His impact on India's industrial landscape was seismic. He wasn't one for bombast, despite commanding one of the world's most sprawling conglomerates. This reserved and unassuming leader of the Tata Group led with a sense of dignity and responsibility that increasingly feels like a relic of another age. His death marks not just the proverbial end of an era but the departure of a figure whose rare combination of ambition and humility is difficult to imagine being replicated.

For four decades, Tata guided his family's company through turbulent waters, not only expanding its reach but redefining what it meant to be an Indian multinational in a globalized world. In the 1990s, as India underwent economic liberalization, many business leaders were uncertain about handling the surge of foreign competition. But Tata saw a different horizon. His acquisitions - Tetley Tea, Corus Steel, and the crown jewel, Jaguar Land Rover - were statements of intent. It proved that India was not just opening its doors to the world, but was ready to claim a seat at the table.

Ratan Tata's ascent to the helm of Tata Group in 1991 marked a turning point for the group's business. He transformed the centuries-old, largely domestic conglomerate into a global titan, shaping both the company and India's economic history Yet, unlike many of his contemporaries, Tata did not appear to lust after power or wealth for its own sake. He understood that the true measure of a corporation was not just its profits, but its purpose.

This sense of corporate responsibility permeated the Tata Group under his stewardship. The Tata trusts, which control a significant portion of the conglomerate, were channelled into education, healthcare and social welfare, long before such initiatives became de rigueur among global corporations. Ratan Tata's vision of business extended beyond immediate returns. He did not just want to make money - he wanted to build a better India.

In a country where corruption often festers in the corridors of business and politics, Tata stood apart. He was, by all accounts, incorruptible. His refusal to bow to the demands for bribes in the early days of his airline venture was one of the more publicized examples of his moral code, but it was emblematic of a larger ethos that shaped the Tata Group. In the often-unscrupulous world of Indian business, where backroom deals and political patronage are part of the game, Tata's integrity was legendary. He was a man who did not waver, even when it would have been easier to compromise. His legacy will not be found in gilded skyscrapers or flashy acquisitions, but in the livelihoods improved by Tata's social initiatives, in the global respect won for Indian business, and in the ideals of corporate governance he upheld until the very end.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

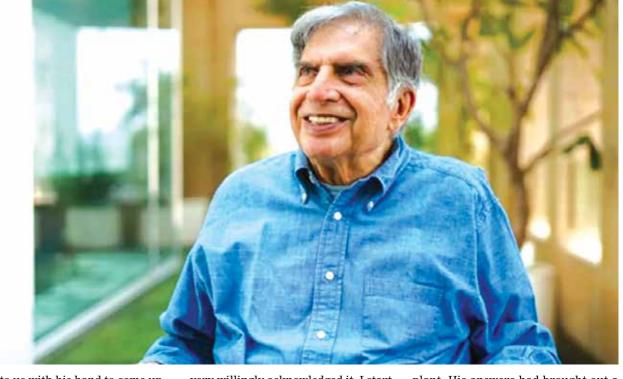
So great, yet so simple



Prasad Dixit

he year was 1992. JRD Tata had handed over the reins of the Tata Group to Ratan Tata just a few months back and Bharatratna award was conferred upon JRD Tata in that year. There was a function organized on the lawns of NCPA in Mumbai to facilitate JRD Tata. As a very junior employee in a Tata company, I had gone to NCPA to attended it along with my colleagues. When the function concluded and crowds were dispersing, we saw JRD, Ratan Tata, and few stalwarts of the Tata Group chatting amongst themselves on the dias. We decided to take a chance and see if we could personally meet and congratulate JRD. As we were standing at the footsteps of the dais in expectation, JRD noticed us and sig-

It is not very uncommon to get to read a news about a sad demise of a towering personality of our times. However, it is very rare when such a news brings to life some of the cherished moments in ones life - and that personality is a part of those memories. News about the sad demise of Mr. Ratan Tata is one such rare occasion for me.



naled to us with his hand to come up. We were thrilled to go up and shake

We were thrilled to go up and shake hand with him. He warmly accepted our wishes, enquired which company we work for, patted us on the back and told us to always live the Values that we stand for.

As we were about to turn back and leave, Ratan Tata approached us with his usual warm smile, thanked us for our wishes, and extended his best wishes to us. Humility of both of them had deeply touched our heart that day.

Twenty years passed. The year was 2012. I had continued with the same Tata company. In the annual function of the company in that year, I was a part of the team that won the award for the best all-round business performance. Ratan Tata was handing over the reins of the Tata Group to Cyrus Mistry in that year.

I was called upon stage to receive the award at their hands. Later in the evening at the dinner event, I took an opportunity to approach him and asked if I could share a memory with him. He

very willingly acknowledged it. I started by referring to the function on the lawns of NCPA in 1992. To my great surprise, he promptly said "Yes, that was for JRD's Bharatratna".

I narrated the whole incident to him and said that I had gone on the dais on my own at that time, and that it was a great moment for me to be invited on the stage this time. With that same warm smile he patted me on my back and congratulated me.

I also pointed out to him the coincidence that both these events happened when generational change was happening right at the helm of the Tata Group. In the first meeting he had just taken over the Group Chairmanship and in the second event he was handing it over. The entire conversation lasted for about five minutes.

The interest that he showed and the participative attention that he extended were etched in my memory forever. In the question-answer session earlier during the day, he was asked about unpleasant experiences related to Nano

plant. His answers had brought out a tough decision maker in him and highlighted the extent to which he would go resolutely to uphold the Values that he believed in.

Seeing such a Business Leader engaging with me so humbly to listen to my memories and showing keen interest in the discussion was indeed a unique experience for me.

His contribution to Industry and Society, and his exemplary leadership in the post economic liberalization era will continue to inspire generations. He has touched many lives through the trusteeship concept of management and rich contribution to all walks of life through Tata Trusts. But a down to earth, humble person in him would have touched hearts of many ordinary people like me in a very special way.

His memory will always be alive in the mind of thousands of such people. May his soul rest in peace.

(The writer has worked in a Tata company for more than 30 years.)

India's Quiet Pivot: How Strategic Ties with Israel are Redefining Its Role in the Middle East



Shoumojit Banerjee

ndia's relationship with Israel has traversed a remarkable arc, evolving from a largely passive distance to a powerful, albeit quiet, camaraderie. At the heart of this shift lies India's complex domestic politics, its historical solidarity with the Palestinian cause, and a contemporary realpolitik that now closely aligns it with the Jewish State. The transition has been most stark since 2014 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose tenure has reshaped the Indo-Israeli relationship in ways that reflect broader global trends but also signal India's deepening role in the

The transformation of India's relationship with Israel, though, did not begin with Narendra Modi's government, nor was it solely a post-Cold War phenomenon. In fact, the earliest

India's evolving relationship with Israel, from Nehru's pro-Palestinian stance, to Rajiv Gandhi's quiet diplomatic thaw, and Modi's full embrace of the partnership, reflects a strategic shift without rupturing its long-standing ties with the Arab world.



signs of a thaw appeared during the tenure of Rajiv Gandhi.

Rajiv, who came to power in 1984 after the assassination of his mother, Indira Gandhi, inherited a foreign policy deeply entrenched in non-alignment and staunch support for the Palestinian cause. However, as the Cold War was slowly winding down, Rajiv's government recognized the need to recalibrate India's diplomatic outlook to match its emerging security and economic priorities.

It was during this time that quiet diplomatic channels were opened between India and Israel. Although India officially remained committed to the Palestinian cause - underscored by Rajiv's continued support for Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) - a more nuanced approach was starting to take shape.

For decades after its independence in 1947, India maintained a pro-Palestinian stance that mirrored the moral aspirations of its first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. It was a period when India's foreign policy was couched in anti-colonial solidarity, and aligning with Palestine seemed natural. The Indian National Congress, with its socialist leanings and emphasis on global justice, viewed

Israel's establishment through the lens of Western imperialism. Nehru himself, though not hostile toward Israel, could not fully endorse the new Jewish state given India's significant Muslim population and the rising tide of non-alignment across the Global South. India's official position was

thus firmly pro-Palestinian, though there was no outright hostility towards Israel.

During Indira Gandhi's tenure, the tilt towards Palestine became even more pronounced. India was a vocal critic

of Israeli actions in the Middle East, particularly after the Six-Day War in 1967 and Israel's continued occupation of Palestinian territories. In 1975, India went so far as to support the United Nations resolution equating Zionism with racism. India's leadership, then rooted in the Non-Aligned Movement, saw Israel as an extension of Western imperialism in the Middle East.

The Palestinian struggle against Israel mirrored, in India's eyes, the anti-colonial fights of Asia and Africa. Despite this publicly pro-Palestinian stance, by the late 1980s, cracks were beginning to show in India's foreign





policy. Israel was rapidly becoming a technological powerhouse, with advanced capabilities in agriculture, defence, and intelligence - all areas where India, struggling with internal security issues and a stagnant economy, needed support.

Rajiv Gandhi's government also faced growing domes-

faced growing domestic challenges that prompted this shift. The rise of militancy in Punjab and the Kashmir Valley necessitated better intelligence and security measures. Israel, with its reputa-

tion for counterinsurgency prowess, began to emerge as a valuable partner. Although formal diplomatic ties were still a decade away, under-thetable exchanges and covert collaborations in intelligence and defence were initiated during this time.

It was a cautious beginning, one that allowed India to maintain its public solidarity with Palestine while quietly exploring new strategic partnerships. This dual-track diplomacy laid the groundwork for the more formal engagement to follow in the 1990s. In many ways, Rajiv Gandhi's tenure was a period of quiet, strategic recalibration with Israel.

Thus, while Rajiv Gandhi remained outwardly committed to the traditional pro-Palestinian stance, his tenure marked the first subtle shift towards pragmatism in India's Middle East policy. This early groundwork would later be capitalized on by Prime Ministers like P.V. Narasimha Rao, who, in 1992, formally established diplomatic relations with Israel, further accelerating the thaw that had started during Rajiv's time.

Quiet diplomatic exchanges were initiated between New Delhi and Tel Aviv, and in 1992, India finally established full diplomatic relations with Israel under Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. This was a pragmatic shift, but India still maintained its official pro-Palestinian stance in multilateral forums.

Thus, the seeds sown during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure blossomed into a more comprehensive and public partnership under subsequent governments, culminating in the full embrace of Israel under Modi's current

leadership. This 'quiet pivot' continued through the 1990s and 2000s, as Israel began to emerge as an important partner for India in defence and technology. The Kargil War of 1999 was another turning point with Israel providing India with critical military supplies during the conflict, cementing its role as an indispensable partner. Yet, even as the Indo-Israeli relationship blossomed behind closed doors, India publicly reiterated its commitment to the Palestinian cause, a delicate balancing act that reflected its desire to maintain ties with Arab nations and its own sizable Muslim population.

Modi's visit to Israel in 2017 was historic - not only because he was the first Indian prime minister to visit the country, but because of the symbolism it carried. This was no quiet diplomatic affair; it was a public celebration of a relationship that had long been kept in the shadows. Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu walked the beaches of Tel Aviv together, their camaraderie displayed for the world to see. The shift

was not just in optics but in substance: trade between the two nations surged, defence cooperation deepened, and there was a marked shift in India's rhetoric regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The unspoken logic was clear: Israel could offer India what the Arab world could not, especially in terms of defence technology and expertise in areas like counterterrorism.

Yet, this growing closeness with Israel has not resulted in a complete alienation from the Arab world. Modi has skilfully managed to maintain strong ties with countries like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Iran, positioning India as a significant player in the Middle East.

As India's global stature rises, its role in the Middle East is evolving in tandem. The region has long been a theater of great power competition, with the U.S., Russia, and China all vying for influence. India, by deepening its ties to both Israel and the Gulf states, is positioning itself as a bridgebuilder, a nation that can talk to all sides. New Delhi's participation in the I2U2 (India, Israel, the UAE, and the U.S.) grouping is emblematic of this approach that seeks to leverage synergies between these nations in trade, technology and security.

However, India's ability to shape the future of the Middle East faces significant challenges. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains unresolved, with no imminent peace process in sight. While India has been careful not to take sides, the longer this conflict festers, it may be hard for India to maintain its balancing act. The Abraham Accords, brokered by the Trump administration in 2020, which normalized relations between Israel and several Arab states, have opened new possibilities for cooperation, but they have also exposed rifts within the Arab world itself. India will need to navigate these delicate dynamics, balancing its ties to Israel with its historical relationships in the Arab world.

Concludes











- 1. A vegetable vendor takes shelter under a cart during the rain in Karnataka on Wednesday.
- 2. Music director A.R. Rahman performs at the 'Yuva Dasara' event in Mysuru on Wednesday.
- 3. Artists perform Laotian Ramayana before PM Modi at a ceremony in Laos.
- 4. Rajinikanth fans celebrate release of movie 'Vettaiyan' in Chennai on Thursday.
- 5. Bollywood actors Kajol, Rani Mukerji and Tanishaa during the 'Durga Puja' festival celebrations in Mumbai.



TALK OF THE TOWN

The Complex Relationship between Film Stars and Politics



Abhijit Joshi

Scene 1: In 1984, Amitabh Bachchan, one of India's biggest film stars, won the Lok Sabha elections, defeating Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna by a

However, his journey in politics was not as smooth as his success in films. When Bachchan entered Parliament, a well-known politician sarcastically said, "Hope you won't shoot us like in your movie Inquilaab," referring to Bachchan's role as a hero in the film. Despite his popularity on screen, Bachchan's political career failed miserably. His association with the Gandhi family brought him into politics, but the Bofors scandal tarnished his image. Though he was later cleared, the damage was done, and he quietly left politics for

Scene 2: On 25th March 1989, Tamil Nadu's assembly witnessed a shocking incident. Jayalalitha, the leader of the opposition, was humiliated when her saree was pulled by members of the ruling DMK party. She was mocked and insulted, but Jayalalitha made a strong vow that day: she would return to the assembly only as Chief Minister. True to her word, she became one of Tamil Nadu's most powerful leaders, breaking barriers in the male-dominated world of Tamil politics.

Though her career was not without controversy, Jayalalitha's resilience made her a symbol of strength.

Scene 3: Bhagwant Mann, a standup comedian known for his mimicry, wasn't as famous as his contemporary Kapil Sharma. But today, Mann is the Chief Minister of Punjab, leading the state for the last two years. Most of his comedian contemporaries, except Kapil Sharma, have faded away, but Mann made a surprising transition into politics and succeeded

These three stories might seem different, but they share one common factor— actors stepping into politics. The relationship between Bollywood and Indian politics is complex, with a mix of love and hate. While some stars have managed to do well in politics, many others, including Amitabh Bachchan, Rekha, Lata Mangeshkar, Kirron Kher, Dhar-



cleared of any wrongdoing, his politi-

cal career never recovered, and his

once-glittering film career also faced

Khanna, Rai Babbar, and Shatrughan

Sinha didn't have to deal with the

same level of expectations, allowing

them to navigate politics more

smoothly. From Kashmir to Kanya-

kumari, there are many film person-

alities who have tried their luck in

politics, but very few have managed

In contrast, actors like Vinod

difficulties





Rajesh Khanna, have struggled to make a mark. On the other hand, politicians like Shatrughan Sinha. Jaya Bachchan, and Vinod Khanna have managed to find success. The biggest reason for this difference is public expectations. Amitabh Bachchan, for example, remains an admired actor, but that did not translate into political success. His association with the Gandhi family may have brought him into politics, but the Bofors scandal severely damaged his credibility. Though he was

and real-life expectations. In films like Nayak, Anil Kapoor's character could make quick decisions when he became Chief Minister for a day, but in real life, it's far more complicated. Though the film industry keeps producing actors who enter politics, only a small number achieve success. While movie stardom guarantees popularity, it doesn't ensure success in the tough world of politics.

> (Writer is a communication professional. Views Personal)

READERS' CHOICE

Prioritising Stock Traders' Mental Well-Being



Saurabh Lohiya

eople desire security in financial income, but trading is inherently uncertain. As per recent data released by SEBI, 93 per cent of traders in the Futures and Options segment lost money between FY22-FY24.

Stress and anxiety are significant concerns for traders, among other mental health concerns. Due to the uncertainty, inexperienced traders will likely face more stress than experienced traders. Several studies indicate that the percentage of Indian adults suffering from moderate or high levels of anxiety is close to 11 per cent. Stoxmind.ai, a psychometric assessment service for traders, estimates the number of

As we celebrate World Mental Health Day, let us put a spotlight on the mental well-being of stock traders, a group often overlooked in discussions about occupational stress and mental health. India has a large number of active traders; as per SEBI, almost one crore traders participated in the Futures and Options segment in the Financial Year 2024.

traders with the same concerns to be around 18 per cent. A 2023 study bv Mumbai-based GOQii estimated that 17 per cent of Indians were stressed due to financial instability. Stress and anxiety can be triggered by the chances of losing money, making wrong decisions, market volatility and family pressure.

Traders feel strong emotions such as fear, greed, euphoria or demotivation. There is a constant fear of missing out on opportunities or losing money. They face the emotional ups and downs that accompany profits or losses. The psychological pressure to succeed in a highly competitive and uncertain environment can lead to various mental health concerns.

Traders are also susceptible to cognitive biases stemming from making assumptions from a large amount of available information. Such biases are bottlenecks for objective decision-making. For example, recency bias causes one to perceive undue weight to a recent win

Negative self-talk is yet another mental health concern. It includes dwelling on past losses or doubting one's abilities. Trading requires a high focus on analysing data, executing strategies, and managing trades. However, negative emotions act as a distraction to maintain focus. Negative self-talk can undermine confidence and lead to shying away from self-reflection - through journaling, psychometric tests or seeking feedback from a mentor.

Strategies for Well-being

The importance of self-care cannot be overestimated in a risky profession like stock market trading. Self-care can include yoga, meditation, gym exercises, and quality time spent with loved ones. Being physically active is essential not only to keep the body fit but also to support cognitive abilities. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle can help traders to stay sharp and make better decisions.

A support network can be crucial for treading objectively in the trading journey. Support networks can include personal relations, peer traders at the same level in their journey and senior traders. A support system can provide encouragement, advice, and a sense of camaraderie. Talking about trading experiences can help process emotions before they become overwhelming.

Traders need resilience - the ability to sustain setbacks and adapt to challenges. Trading is a journey with ups and downs; coping with losses and setbacks is essential. Building resilience involves cultivating a positive mindset, avoiding unhealthy coping activities, and maintaining a long-term perspective. Perception of losses can be reframed as learning opportunities for growth.

Cultivating self-awareness through introspection is the key to growing a strong mindset. It is crucial to pay attention to the psychological factors that inhibit trading, such as fear of taking losses or lack of confidence. It is better to be honest with oneself about the motivations for trading and what one feels rather than trying to suppress or hide those feelings. Self-reflection helps to play on strengths, manage weaknesses and identify areas for growth. Psychometric tests, journaling, mentorship, or professional guidance can help develop self-awareness.

Conclusion

Trading success is predominantly driven by psychology, surpassing the importance of market analysis and trading strategies. Understanding and managing emotions, cognitive biases, and an objective mindset is crucial for making sound trading decisions and achieving consistent profitability. Traders often make the mistake of focusing solely on technical skills while neglecting the significant impact on their mental state. Seek support from peers, mentors, or mental health professionals when needed.

(The writer is the Psychological Coach at Stoxmind.ai, a free trading mindset assessment tool.)



England's Harry Brook celebrates after scoring double century during the fourth day of the first test cricket match between Pakistan and England in Multan, Pakistan on Thursday.

Lakshya Sen bows out of Arctic Open

Vantaa (Finland): Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen squander a one-game advantage to lose to Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei in the pre-quarterfinals of the Arctic Open badminton tournament here on Thursday.

The 23-year-old toiled hard for one hour 10 minutes before going down 21-19 18-21 15-21 to his seventh seed opponent in the second round of the Super 500 tournament.

It was a bad in the office for India as all shuttlers from the country made second round exits.

Indian qualifier Kiran George, who had defeated World No 25 Wang Tzu Wei



of Chinese Taipei on Wednesday, was brushed aside 17-21 8-21 by fifth seed Jonatan Christie of Indonesia in the men's singles

Malvika Bansod meekly surrendered (15-21 8-21) to Ratchanok Intanon in the women's singles contest.

Unnati Hooda and Aakarshi Kashyap also lost their respective round of 16 games. Unnati went down 10-21 19-21 to Canada's Michelle Li, Aakarshi lost 9-21 8-21 to second seed Han Yue of China. The mixed doubles pair of Sathish Kumar Karunakaran and Aadya Variyath lost 12-21 15-21 to the Chinese combine of Cheng Xing and Zhang Chi.

The women's doubles pair of Rutaparna Panda and Swetaparna Panda will take on top seeds Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning later in the day

All India FIDE Open Chess starts today

Mumbai: Leading players from across the country have confirmed their participation in the 1st All India FIDE Rating Open Chess Tournament 2024, hosted by South Mumbai Chess School and to be played at the Russian House, Peddar Road, Mumbai starting from Friday, October 11.

This five-day event will witness intense competition as the players will battle for FIDE rating points and prestigious prizes.

Tournament Director Durga Nagesh Guttula stated, "Top-rated players will showcase their talent and skills. We have made the best possible arrangements for all players, from highquality playing conditions to excellent facilities.

Nadal to quit after Davis Cup

Thursday he will retire from tennis at age 38 following next month's Davis Cup finals.

Nadal won 22 Grand Slam singles titles during an unprecedented era he shared with his rivals in the so-called Big Three, Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

"Really, everything I have experienced has been a dream come true,' Nadal said in an announcement on social media. "I leave with the absolute peace of mind of having given my best, of having made an effort in every way"

The Spaniard indicated his decision was related to persistent injury problems.

"The reality is that it has been some difficult years, these last two especially. I don't think I have been able to play without limitations. It is obviously a difficult decision, one that has taken me some time to make. But in this life, everything has a beginning and an end," Nadal said.

Nadal's unrelenting, physical style of play — every point pursued as though it were his last, sprinting and sliding into place for that high-bouncing bullwhip of a lefty forehand made him one of the greats of the game and the unquestioned King of Clay, the slow, red surface on which he claimed his record 14 French Open championships.

That's more than anyone, man or woman, won at any one of the sport's four major tournaments, a dominance celebrated by a statue of Nadal that

stands near the main entrance to the grounds of Roland Garros and in the shadow of its main stadium, Court

ish his career at the Davis Cup, which will be played in

excited that my last tournament will be the final of the Davis Cup and representing my country," he said. "I think I've come full circle since one of my first great joys as a professional tennis player was the Davis

the Paris Olympics, where he lost to old rival Djokovic in the second round of the singles tournament and reached the quarterfinals of the men's doubles with Carlos Alcaraz.

time to put an end to a career that has been long and much more successful than I could have ever imagined," he said.



WCG Annual Rink Football

Shoaib Baig nets brace

By correspondent

Mumbai: St Francis Xavier (Kanjur Marg) put up a determined performance and scored a fighting 3-2 win against St. Anthony's 'C' (Malwani) in a Men's Open match of the 44th Willingdon Catholic Gymkhana Annual Rink Football Tournament 2024, played under floodlights at WCG courts.

Shoaib Baig played a key role scoring two goals, while teammate Atharva Nikam struck one to secure St. Francis Xavier's win. The Malwani team found the back of the St. Francis net through Om Arane and Bhuvan Koli.

In another match, Holy Cross 'A' (Juhu) capitalized on the chances that came their way to record a fluent 2-0 win against Our Lady of Gloria 'B' (Byculla) 'B.' Both teams played attacking football and created goal-scoring chances, but Holy Cross players Chetan Bariya and Roshan Bangela did well

and scored a goal each, which helped their team secure a win.

Later, Our Lady of Health (Versova) produced a strong fighting display to snatch a close 3-2 win against Holy Cross 'B' (Juhu). Siddharth Kamble, Yug Kathin and Vikas Sharma were bang on target for the Versova outfit, while Nikhil Thavervittel and Chirag Gawde reduced the deficit for the Juhu side.

In Veteran's 40+ Men encounter, Royalers SC (Juhu) beat Warriors SC 3-2. Douglas Lasrado struck a brace of goals while Rembert Fernandes contributed the other for the winner. Warriors scored through Asif Quereshi and Cedrick Pintu. Bandra Packers enjoyed an easy outing as they handed Our Lady of Fatima (Vidya Vihar) a 3-1 defeat. Twin strikes from Milden Dennis and a goal from Ranzie Kalicharan completed the goal tally for the Bandra Packers, while Domsav D'Souza struck for the Fatima lads.



Hardik Pandya celebrates after taking the catch of Bangladesh's Rishad Hossain during the second T20 International cricket match in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Joshi, top Indian at Macao Open

Macau: India's Khalin Joshi played a bogey-free round, which included two birdies, to end day one of the SJM Macao Open golf tournament on tied 19th.

Joshi, who had a birdie each on the front and back nine of the Macau Golf & Country Club, had a card of

2-under 68 and was the top Indian.

Other Indians in the field had modest scores with SSP Chawrasia (69) at T-36, Honey Baisoya, Karandeep Kochhar, Varun Chopra and Saptak Talwar at T-56th with even par 70 each.

Yuvraj Sandhu, Ajeetesh

Sandhu and Rashid Khan were T-80 with 1-over 71 each, S Chikkarangappa (72) was T-98th and Yashas Chandra (75) was T-132nd.

Rattanon Wannasrichan's shot a stunning 9-under 61 to take a two-stroke lead over Australian Sam Brazel, who returned a 63.

Young Guns charge to

Mumbai: Young Guns FC proved too hot for Somaiya Sports Club and charged to a fluent 3-0 victory in Women's Premier League match of the MFA Leagues 2024-2025 and played at the Neville D'Souza ground, Bandra on Thursday.

Producing a perfect combined performance, Young Guns scored through the efforts of Tiah Pereira, Shreya Kaup and Tracy Monis to complete the win. In another match, MH Oranje FC defeated Bom-

bay Gymkhana 2-0. Strikers Trupti Deep and Olivia Chanu struck one goal each to seal the win.

Results - Women's Premier League: MH Oranje FC 2 (Trupti Deep, Olivia Chanu) beat Bombay Gymkhana 0; Young Guns FC 3 (Tiah Pereira, Shreya Kaup, Tracy Monis) beat Somaiya Sports Club 0.

Indian men settle for TT bronze



New Delhi: Indian men's team bowed out in the semifinals and settled for the bronze medal following a 0-3 loss to Chinese Taipei in the semifinal of the Asian Table Tennis Championships in Kazakhstan's Astana, on Thursday.

Indian women's team had also won the bronze medal in the competition on Wednesday, which is the country's first medal in the category since the beginning of the event in 1972.

The legendary Achanta Sharath Kamal, world No 42, found the going tough against his world No 7 opponent Lin Yun-Ju, whose reflexes and precision made the contest tougher for the Indian to settle into his own game. Sharath Kamal lost the contest 11-7, 12-10, 11-9.

In the following contest Manav Thakkar lost to world No 22 Kao Cheng-Jui in a hard-fought contest whose outcome was 11-9, 8-11, 11-3, 13-11 in the favour of the Chinese Taipei's player and a 2-0

In the third game, Harmeet Desai also had to deal with disappointment as the Indian paddler lost to Huang Yan-Cheng 6-11, 9-11, 7-11.

"Despite the loss, the Indian men's team has much to be proud of. A bronze medal at the prestigious Asian Championships is no small feat, especially in the elite continental championships," said the Table Tennis Federation of India in a release

War within IOA intensified

LIVID USHA DECLARES THERE'S NO ACTING CEO, LAMBASTS CHAUBEY New Delhi: Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha Thursday barred the IOA staff from taking any instructions from joint secretary Kalyan Chaubey and the rest of the Executive Council members while declaring that the agenda unveiled by him for the October 25

Special General Body Meeting was "illegal and

On Wednesday, Chaubey issued a circular on official IOA letterhead, listing 26 agenda items for the SGM to be held here on October 25. One of the items was a vote of no confidence against Usha "in light of alleged constitutional violations and actions potentially detrimental to Indian sports".

Chaubey, who had issued the circular "pursuant to a directive from 12 members of IOA EC", had signed it as IOA's joint secretary and acting CEO. Usha declared that Chaubey does not hold the acting CEO's post.

He had earlier served as IOA's acting CEO before Raghuram Iyer took charge of the post in January. Usha, in a press release, termed Chaubey's action as

"both illegal and in violation of the IOA Constitution". "In accordance with Article 8.1 of the IOA Constitution, as the President of the IOA, I have already convened the SGM, with due notice issued on 3 October 2024, Further, I have not authorised Mr. Kalyan Chaubey, Jt Secretary IOA to convene any meeting or promulgate an agenda for the SGM on 25 October 2024," she said.

"Therefore, any other agenda or notice for the same meeting, including the one issued by Mr. Kalyan Chaubey, is illegal, unauthorized, and must be viewed as being issued with malafide intent and needs to be

Usha had said that Iyer's appointment was approved by the Executive Council (EC) in a meeting on January 5, while his salary was the only issue left to be negotiated.

Twelve members (out of 15) of the IOA Executive Council, including Chaubey, had refused to ratify Iyer's appointment as CEO.

After the acrimonious EC meeting held on September 26, the majority of the EC members had said in a letter sent to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that Chaubey still remained as IOA's acting CEO.

"It has come to my attention that Mr. Kalyan Chaubey,

impersonating himself as the Acting CEO of the IOA, has issued an agenda using official IOA stationery for a SGM ... This action is both illegal and in violation of the IOA Constitution," Usha said.

"I want to make it unequivocally clear that the current and only CEO of the IOA is Mr. Raghuram lyer, who officially joined the IOA on 15 January 2024. Despite certain members of the IOA EC denying his appointment and withholding his salary for the past nine months, Mr. lyer continues to serve in his role.

According to Article 8.1 of the IOA Constitution, SGM may be summoned at any time by the IOA President through the CEO and/or by decision of a simple majority of the Executive Council members.

But, Usha argued that the EC can convene the SGM only after a formal meeting.

"Additionally, it is also worth noting that for the EC members to convene a SGM through the CEO, such a decision can only be taken at an EC Meeting as required by the IOA Constitution, which has not been convened in the recent past," she said in Thursday's press release.

