

short stories

BEST TO GIVE ₹50K
FOR TIP-OFF ON
POWER THEFTS

MUMBAI: To curb power thefts, the Maharashtra Electric Supply & Transport undertaking has announced an award of up to ₹50,000 for giving a tip-off on power thefts. After one gives a tip off, if the case of power theft is proved, the person will be immediately awarded with ₹20,000 or 1% amount of the total power theft. After final settlement, the person would get an award of ₹50,000 or 5% amount of the total power theft. BEST undertakings have also decided to give separate power connections to legal mezzanine floors for rooms in slums and chawls to avoid cases of power theft. HT

Prostitution racket busted, 2 arrested, 1 rescued

KOLHAPUR: A fitness centre in Kolhapur city was raided for allegedly running a prostitution racket under the garb of a fitness centre. The police said they sent a customer undercover who confirmed the case. The cops then raided the place, arrested two women on Sunday and rescued a 19-year-old girl and sent her to a women's welfare home. HT

Three farmers duped of ₹11 lakh by traders

KOLHAPUR: Three grape farmers in Sangli district were allegedly duped of ₹11 lakh by traders from Madhya Pradesh. The accused were identified as Mahabub and his brother Mahabub Wajid. The three farmers, Onkar Kulkarni, Appasaheb Suryawanshi and Mind Kulkarni, supplied grapes to the traders who paid some amount in advance but switched off their mobile phones before paying the rest, which was ₹11 lakh. HT

Man breaks into wife's house, steals appliances

KOLHAPUR: Uttam More at Dullagan in Sangli district allegedly broke into the house of his estranged wife Geetanjali and stole grinding machine and other domestic products worth ₹20,000 and his three associates. The woman later registered a complaint with the police on Sunday. HT

ADVERTISERS' INDEX

ADVERTISER	PAGE NO.
Ruparel Realty	Jacket Page 1
Ruparel Realty	Jacket Page 2
IGC Classroom	Page 24
Sunsilk	Page 1
Panjab National Bank	1
Caroline	3
Society X	3
SBI Life Insurance	3
Mandir Suzuki	5
Honda	7
UTI Mutual Fund	11
Amul	11
Mandir Suzuki IGMS	22
Display ads larger than 240 x 22	

homage

अद्वेष्टा सर्वभूतानां मैत्रः करुण एव च ।
निर्ममो निरकारः समदुःखसुखः क्षमी ।।

(महाभारतमय नैत्र, श्लोक 13, अर्वाय 12)

SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Respectful Homage to
Our Founder and Patron

An outstanding Philanthropist
who was instrumental in
setting up educational
institutions across the country.

Sarala Birla

(Bhai Doji 1924 – Ram Navami 2015)

Remembered reverently
by the faculty, students
and alumni

BIMTECH
BIRLA INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY
(Greater Noida)

BGU
BIRLA GLOBAL
UNIVERSITY
(Gurgaon)

(Under the auspices
of the Birla Academic
Council, Kolkata)

Project "PROTSAHAN CHIRAIYA"

Commemorating the first death anniversary of late Dr. Sarala Birla, Project "Protahan Chiraiya" was launched by BIMTECH on March 28, 2016 to impart life skill education to school girls in the village Neemika Shahajapur, Greater Noida. So far more than 90 girls have been trained in life skills. This village is adopted by Dr. Mahesh Sharma, the Union Minister of Culture under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna. The second phase of the project will be launched on March 28, 2017, in the same village where another batch of 90 more girls will be inducted into this project. During the next four years of this project around 450 school girls from neighbouring four villages will also be trained in life skills. This is our humble tribute to Late Dr. Sarala Birla, our Founder & Patron.

It's not just El Nino, aerosols too influence monsoons'

IIT-B STUDY Concentration of the suspended particles in the air modifies clouds

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MUMBAI: It's not just global weather phenomena like El Nino or La Nina that determine the strength of the monsoon, but also concentration of suspended particles— aerosols. High concentration of aerosols in the atmosphere influences rainfall in India, revealed a study by the Interdisciplinary Programme in Climate Studies (IPCS) at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.

A three-member team studied satellite and ground-based observations of aerosol and cloud properties between 2000 and 2008, over the core monsoon region of India— central north-east, central west, and north-west—that records 80% of rainfall. Aerosols are tiny solid and liquid particles in the air that originate from man-made activities such as burning of agricultural waste and forests, biomass burning, power plant smoke, as well as in natural form like dust, volcanic ash and sea salts. "When we looked at the data separately in abundant and deficient monsoon years, we found that a mix of atmospheric particles and dust are modifying clouds, thereby affecting rainfall patterns," said professor Chandan Venkataraman, co-author and convenor, IPCS.

Researchers said understand-

WHAT ARE AEROSOLS?

Aerosols are tiny particles in the air that originate from man-made activities such as burning of agricultural waste and forests, biomass burning, power plant smoke, as well as in the form of dust, volcanic ash and sea salts.

Global studies are on to understand the impact of aerosols on the environment. Researchers said certain aerosols are important, while some are bad for the climate and health.

Man-made aerosols comprising carbon and sulphur compounds that are being emitted by industries and vehicles in large quantities are harmful and toxic.

Increasing concentration of aerosols in the atmosphere can block sunlight, affect visibility

If there is solar light, but no aerosols in the atmosphere, human beings will not survive due to the heat. Naturally occurring aerosols cool the earth.

The paper Contrasting influences of aerosols and cloud properties during deficient and abundant monsoon years by PhD students Pooja and Prashant Dave, with Professor Chandan Venkataraman was published in Scientific Reports of the Nature Publishing Group (NPG) on March 24, 2017.

changes in cloud properties with increased aerosol levels during deficient years could inhibit cloud development and rainfall, and a similar phenomenon during abundant years could lead to cloud invigoration and intensify rainfall," said Venkataraman. Deficient rainfall years are marked by lower availability of moisture, less upward wind motion (convection), along with less cloud formation. On the other hand, abundant rainfall years received abundant rainfall, higher aerosol levels resulted in the opposite. "We know that

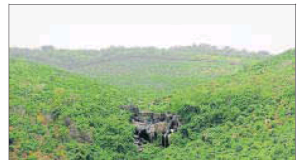
scale processes such as El Nino, La Nina, sea surface temperature and ocean warming have been well-studied, researchers said the impacts of local processes such as aerosols and deforestation on the monsoon need attention. "Long monsoon breaks of more than seven days can lead to rainfall deficits and impact crop production. Therefore, studies need to be conducted to see if aerosols are intensifying deficits in rainfall in some regions or invigoration in large intensity," said the IPCS team.

SCNP buffer zone under threat from construction activity

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MUMBAI: Private builders are ravaging the Dindoshi hills that form part of the buffer zone of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP), flouting all environmental norms, said green activists. They said a comparison of satellite images from 2000 and 2016-17 clearly show how soil and rocks have been mined from these hills, cutting into them, which has also resulted in widespread destruction of trees.

The Mumbai-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) Watchdog Foundation alleged private builders in Goregaon (East) were behind these deprecations that were in violation of the December 5, 2016, notification by the Union Environment Ministry that prohibits commercial mining and stone quarrying around the SGNP. The NGO filed complaints with the Mumbai suburban collector and SCNP officials last Saturday. "The notification by the environment ministry says stone quarrying and crushing units are prohibited except for the domestic needs of local residents when it comes to construction or repair works only. Any activity is not permitted for development of real estate," said Godfrey Pimenta, trustee, Watchdog Foundation. Officials from the Mumbai suburban collectors' office said they only conduct an investigation would be done in the matter. "We have not received the complaint yet but will ask my sub-di-



• Dindoshi hills in the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, from where soil and rocks have been allegedly mined.

visional officer to visit the site, carry out a cross-examination of the complaint and file a report. We will take action against private builders if these violations that have gone unnoticed," said Deependra Singh Kashwa, Mumbai suburban collector.

Forest department officials said a survey had been planned to check such violations in the area. "The local divisional forest officer has been informed about such activities in Mumbai and surrounding areas. A survey will be conducted to check the destruction of forest. If found any wrong done at the site, immediate action will be taken," said a senior official from the Thane forest range. The SGNP is home to more than 1000 plant species, 251 species of birds, 50,000 species of insects and 40 species of mammals. In addition, the park provides shelter to 38 species of reptiles, nine species of amphibians, 150 species of butterflies and a large variety of fish. "Some of the animal and bird species are becoming increasingly uncommon around the SGNP due to the urbanisation in the surrounding areas like this cutting into the hills," said Pimenta. The ecology of this entire area is on the verge of deterioration as a result of this rapid urbanisation. Environmentalists also said trees and water bodies were the worst-hit by this illegal quarrying and mining. Stalin Dayanand, director, Vanashakti, says, "There was a waterfall that used to run through the hills, which have dried up due to illegal constructions within the hills, hidden from the public and these activities are conducted only at night."

An order passed by the national Green Tribunal, western bench in 2015 said hills with a slope of 25 degrees or more can't be permitted to be cut into. "Several Bombay HC orders and the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, do not allow quarrying or cutting into the hills in and around the national park," said Stalin.

the times crossword

CRYPTIC CLUES

- Across**
- 1 They describe one's times at school (5)
 - 2 A worker interrupted by ecstatic non-worker (6)
 - 3 Urine statement about someone's character (5)
 - 4 One in jam here sadly is a doofus character (6)
 - 5 A person's great deal to succeeding in this game (5)
 - 6 A ship as a means of transport (3)
 - 7 Display well started (3)
 - 8 They hold an alternative support (6)
 - 9 How to judge an effort (5)
 - 10 Move south along shore (5)
 - 11 Spanish equivalent of Mister (5)
 - 12 Abuse found in capid dispensing of medicine (6)
 - 13 Actor's instruction to play As You Like It (7-3)
 - 14 Something to read in the powder room (6)
 - 15 Those taken for trips (5)

Down

- 1 Growth of conciliation upset villagers - about sign (4)
- 2 Battle remembered in the long run (8)
- 3 Lined boxes - grip (6)
- 4 Brilliant combination of the Hebrew and the Spanish (5)
- 5 Dispositively remained sober (5)
- 7 Held out for capital (5)
- 8 Twelve inches short behind (5)
- 9 A lot carried by most voyagers (5)
- 10 Instrument produced by one making an entry (8)
- 11 Understanding of mean (8)
- 12 Centre to be rebuilt in modern style (5)
- 13 Wild event to paddle in the foam (5)
- 14 A higher path (5)
- 15 Sagger out of a labyrinth (5)

MUMBAI: The provision of chopper services at University of Mumbai's Kalina campus will get a step closer to reality with a trial run on Tuesday. Pawan Hans officials said two choppers will operate from the Kalina campus on Tuesday and accommodate 16 students. The first ride, which is a demo, will be done free of cost.

"This will be a demo ride to understand the logistics and feasibility of the service. It will help us find out how to make this a regular feature, along with the necessary permissions," said Sanjay Kumar, general manager (West) Pawan Hans. MU spokesperson told HT, "This is the first time a university is introducing such a feature for its students and we are very excited about it."

TISS TO SHUT THREE CENTRES

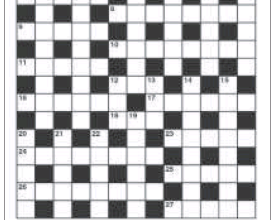
Students' union to demand clarity

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MUMBAI: The announcement by Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to shut down three centres and discontinue services of around 25 teachers has baffled students, who have decided to demand a clarification from the administration. TISS students' union held a meeting Monday to discuss the issue. However, with little clarity on the matter, they decided to demand a clarification from the administration. Students are upset as some of these 25 professors are research mentors to students who are completing their research thesis. In a statement posted on the institute's website, TISS director S. Parasharam announced 'closure' of three University Grants Commission (UGC) funded centres - Centre for the Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policies, Advanced Centre for Women's Studies and the Nodal Centre for Excellence under the Scheme of Human Rights - citing UGC's failure to send funds. He added that contracts of faculty members and staff hired for these centres, will lapse on March 31. Parasharam told HT, "Since we depend on government grants to pay for these professors, we have informed them that no grants have come our way in a while and if they are not cleared by March 31, we might have to discontinue some courses, and contracts of some teachers."

PUZZLE 14623

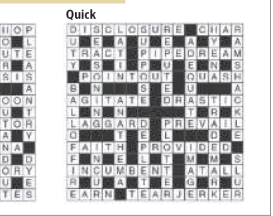
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QUICK CLUES

- Across**
- 1 Doped (5)
 - 2 Rutter excessively (6)
 - 3 Speedy (5)
 - 10 Start to act independently (5)
 - 11 Spanish equivalent of Mister (5)
 - 12 A stringing (5)
 - 13 Abuse overbearing woman (6)
 - 14 Kind of large net (6)
 - 15 Spider's trap (5)
 - 23 Consciously treated (5)
 - 24 Dennis lightly (5)
 - 25 French composer (Belgian) (5)
 - 26 Unimportant people (5)
 - 27 Shew (5)
- Down**
- 1 President (2,3)
 - 3 Exceed acceptable limits (2,3)
 - 4 Forthcoming (4)
 - 5 Motorists (5)
 - 6 Tolerate (5)
 - 7 Velocity (5)
 - 8 Archer's weapon (5)
 - 10 Flow back (3)
 - 14 Widely separated (3)
 - 15 Visual imagination (5)
 - 19 Stronous exertion (6)
 - 20 Reduce drastically (5)
 - 21 Of the countryside (5)
 - 22 South American country (5)

SOLUTIONS FOR 14622



from our inbox

STATE MUST PROVIDE BETTER MEDICAL FACILITIES IN RURAL AREAS

Civic hospitals are the backbone of medical treatment for the poor strata of the society and there should not be any discrimination there. (Not from city) You may have to pay more in civic hospitals, March 27. Rural areas don't have good medical facilities and that's why people turn to hospitals in Mumbai. Asking them to pay more for it is unfair and if that is so, then the state must provide good medical facilities in rural areas too.

TAXPAYERS' MONEY SHOULD NOT BE SPENT ON CLEANING MITHI

As long as toxic chemical waste is being released on the banks of Mithi river, it will continue to be a sewer and it is senseless to spend taxpayers' money on its cleaning. (The Mithi is more sewer than river now, March 27). The BMC should continue its good work on widening the sewer so that it doesn't overflow.

KP RAJAN

