



THE TIMES OF INDIA

PRICE ₹ 7.00 ALONG WITH MUMBAI MIRROR OR THE ECONOMIC TIMES OR MAHARASHTRA TIMES*

REPUBLICAN RIVALS TED CRUZ & JOHN KASICH JOIN HANDS TO STUMP TRUMP'S NOMINATION 16

SLASH PRICES TO LURE BUYERS, RAJAN TELLS REAL ESTATE FIRMS 17

PRATYUSHA DEATH: HC CONFIRMS RAHUL RAJ'S ANTICIPATORY BAIL 2

BMC's revised draft devt plan out to gobble up open spaces

Wants Metro Car Shed At Aarey, 30% Of Saltpans

Vijay V. Singh@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The BMC has published controversial guidelines for reserving lands in the revised draft development plan (RDDP-2034), released on Monday. These will allow a network of roads in saltpan lands, a Metro car shed in Aarey Colony and on private mangrove land in Oshiwara. As per the guidelines, civic officials can mark these open spaces as reserved for the car shed and up to 30% of saltpan lands for "socially relevant activities".

Taking issue with the development, activists say the au-

WHITE GOLD

City's salt pan lands are spread over 5,500 acres

They are located in Ghatkopar, Chembur, Mandale, Turbhe, Anik, Wadala, Kanjurmarg, Bhandup, Nahur, Mulund, Malvani and Dahisar



Over 50% of the salt pan land either falls under the no-development zone or the coastal regulation zone (CRZ), which restricts any development 500 metres from the coastline

authorities are creating a conflict-like situation with citizens.

The guidelines say the road grid on saltpans and no-development zones (NDZ) will be for better integrated development. They say the Metro car shed and a zoo will be placed in an NDZ. The Oshiwara mangrove land is owned by a

businessman.

"Instead of protecting the remaining open spaces, the government is finding new ways to destroy them. Citizens are being taken for a ride. They should oppose such a proposal. It's a sad state of affairs that the government," said D Stalin, director of the

HC lifts building ban in KDMC

The Bombay high court on Monday lifted its ban on new construction projects in the twin townships of Kalyan and Dombivli. Over 150 building projects, worth over Rs 500 crore, that had applied for permissions were stuck following the court's order last year over the civic body's failure to set up waste disposal facilities. P 3

NGO Vanashakti.

In the 1991 DP, the civic authority had allowed only select activities in NDZ, like agriculture, horticulture, forestry, and amusement parks to ensure that most of such spaces remained open.

► MMRDA key to Aarey, P 5

Bowing to China? Modi govt revokes Uyghur leader's visa

Diplomatic Setback For India: Experts

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a U-turn, India on Monday cancelled the e-visa issued to Uyghur activist Dolkun Isa, apparently following protests by Beijing, and government sources later said the entire conference—an in-

I'm disappointed, Uyghur activist Dolkun Isa tells TOI in an exclusive interview, P 12

PM to visit Tehran next month

Following his visits to Saudi Arabia and UAE, PM Narendra Modi will travel to Iran at the end of May in a stand-alone visit, signifying the importance India attaches to ties with Tehran. Energy, connectivity and infrastructure are on the bilateral agenda, with an agreement on the Chabahar port ready to be inked. P 9

India, Pak foreign secys to meet today

In the first high-level engagement since PM Modi's visit to Lahore, foreign secretary S Jaishankar will meet his Pakistani counterpart Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry in New Delhi on Tuesday on the sidelines of the Heart of Asia senior officials' meeting on Afghanistan. India will aggressively take up Pathankot attack investigations. P 9

particularly as Rebiya Kadeer, chief of the World Uyghur Congress, was denied a visa in 2009, when India-China ties were more fragile. It was a sign to China that India had leveraged it was willing to exercise.

► Flip-flop slammed, P 12

Finmin snips EPF rate to 8.7%, triggers fresh protest

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Centre has decided to lower the interest for five crore Employees' Provident Fund subscribers to 8.7% during 2015-16, from 8.75% a year ago.

The rate is lower than the 8.8% recommended by the EPFO Organisation's board, and has triggered opposition from unions, including the RSS-backed Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) which has announced nationwide protests on Wednesday.

The EPFO finance committee had originally recommended an interest rate of 8.95% for 2015-16 but the board, headed by the labour minister, settled for 8.8% despite protests from trade union representatives.

The finance ministry, which notified the rates, brought it down to 8.7%, saying the lower payout was essential as the EPFO had decided to pay interest on inactive accounts from April. But the unions countered the ministry's argument.

► Cut a part of plans, P 18

Blacklist 6 road contractors, file FIRs: BMC panel

Mumbai: The BMC's preliminary road inquiry report has found 53% deficiency in 34 road works carried out by private contractors, reports Richa Pinto. The probe team has recommended that six contractors be blacklisted and police case be filed against them. It has also sought the suspension of the chief engineer (roads) and chief engineer (vigilance) during the time the roads were laid.

Last September, the BMC had initiated a probe after mayor Snehil Ambekar wrote to civic chief Ajay Mehta alleging malpractices in road repair works. P 3

BJP got ₹111cr from poll trusts

Nineteen parties got Rs 177 crore from six electoral trusts in 2014-15, with BJP getting Rs 111cr and Congress Rs 32cr. Indiabulls Housing Finance, DLF, Bharti Airtel, Tatas and CEAT were top contributors. P 12

Airtel's video via pvt network plan

Bharti Airtel has written to Trai for permission to offer video content through a private network, exclusively to its customers. The company fears the service may be in "violation of principles of net neutrality". P 17

LGBT mag editor killed in Dhaka

Two days after a professor was murdered by Islamists, a leading gay rights activist, who was the editor of Bangladesh's only LGBT magazine, was hacked to death in Dhaka on Monday. P 16

RS ethics panel all set to expel Mallya

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Tycoon Vijay Mallya could lose his Rajya Sabha membership as early as May 3 with the RS ethics committee on Monday unanimously deciding he should be expelled from the Upper House though it gave him a week's time to explain his case.

The committee examined documents received from various banks that relate to Mallya's outstanding loans amounting to Rs 9,400 crore, including Rs 1,687 crore to IDBI and Rs 1,223 crore to Punjab National Bank. It was found that in the last decade Mallya has not furnished details of his liabilities to the ethics committee. Every member has to give an annual statement of assets and liabilities to the panel.

After the meeting, committee chair Karan Singh said, "We examined Mallya's case. The documents that we had

Banks reject liquor baron's offer

In another setback to liquor baron Vijay Mallya, the SBI-led consortium of 17 banks on Monday rejected Mallya's fresh offer to deposit an additional amount of Rs 2,468 crore over and above the earlier offer of Rs 4,400 crore as against its demand of Rs 9,000cr. P 8

sought from banks have come. There was a unanimous view that he should be expelled from the House membership. But still we have decided to give him a week to tell us whatever he has to say. The next meeting of the committee has been fixed on May 3, when we will take the final decision."

► Foreign citizenship, P 10

Mumbai noisiest city, vehicles worst culprits

Vishwa.Mohan@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi may be the dirtiest city in terms of air pollution, but the dubious distinction of being the noisiest city in the country goes to Mumbai which reported the maximum violation of safe noise levels for consistently longer periods during 2011-14.

Following Mumbai, were Lucknow and Hyderabad. Delhi, which has the advantage of relatively higher green cover and roadside plantations, was at No. 4 on the list.

Though the most common source of noise pollution, the one that affects the most people, is motor vehicles, other sources like generator sets, office machines, aircraft, indus-

trial and construction activities too substantially contribute to increasing the noise level in cities.

The observation came from the Central Pollution Control Board which, in its latest report, also noted how noise pollution (noise level beyond the prescribed limits of 55 decibel during day and 45 decibel during night) can cause aggression, hypertension, hearing loss, tinnitus and sleep disturbance. "Tinnitus can lead to forgetfulness, severe depression and at times panic attack," said the country's national pollution watchdog that compiled the data from 35 locations in seven cities.

► Create awareness, P 12

Armyman's wife dies in CST retiring room

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In what is suspected to be a case of inhalation of insecticides, a 28-year-old woman died and her army man husband took ill a day after they checked into a railway retiring room at CST. GRP officials said pest control had been carried out at the retiring rooms. No FIR has been registered yet as the police are awaiting post-mortem reports.

Zia ur Rehman, 32, a lance naik with the Indian Army, was in Pune for training. He and wife Nazia then went to Goa for a break. They arrived in Mumbai around 10.30pm by the Madgaon Express on Friday.

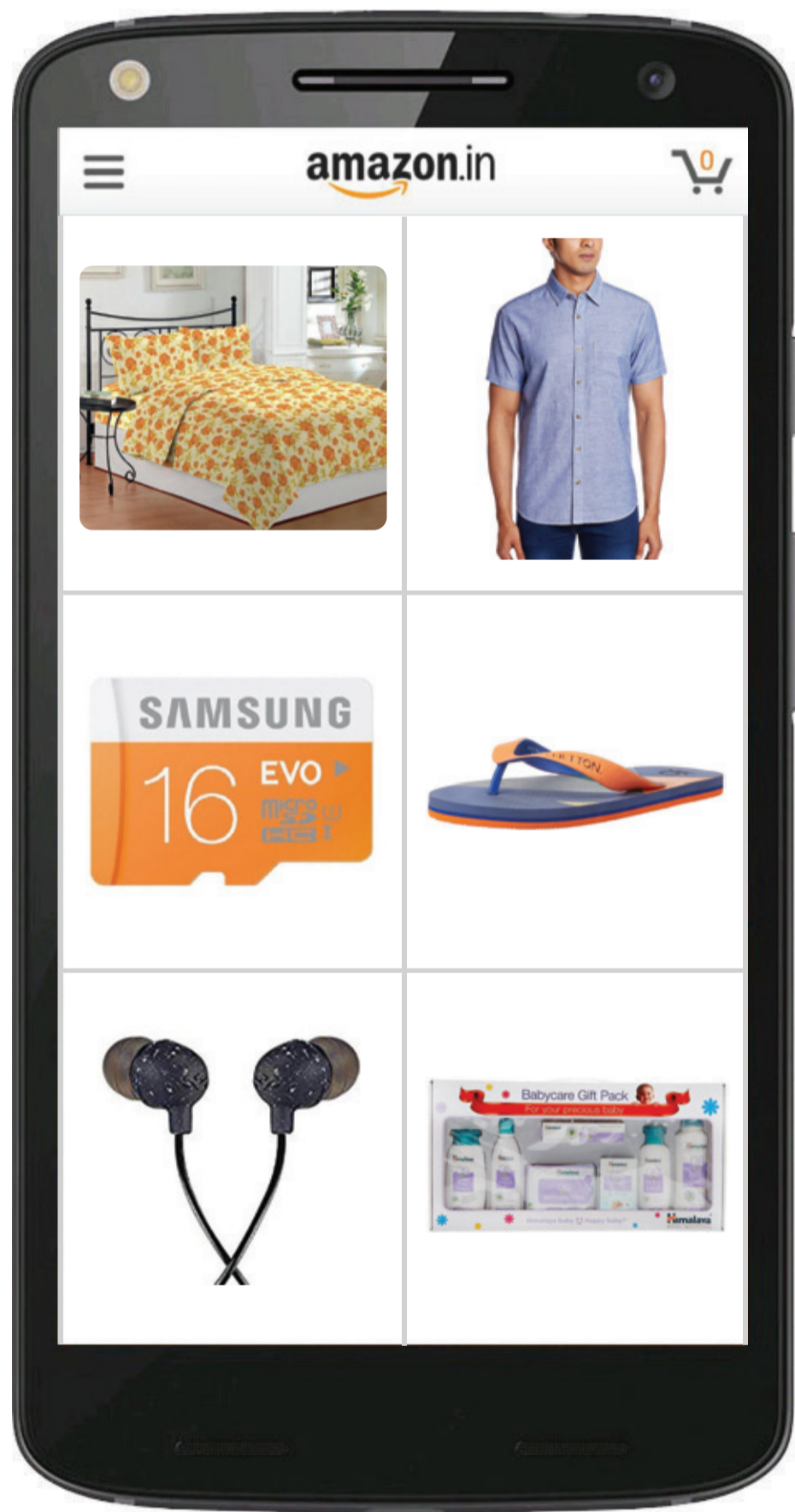
► Pest control to blame? P 7



INSECTICIDE OR FOOD POISONING? Zia ur Rehman and Nazia stayed in a retiring room at CST and consumed biryani bought from the pantry of the Madgaon Express. Later, both fell sick. Next morning Nazia collapsed

WE INDIANS LOVE SHOPPING

PRODUCTS UNDER ₹499 ONLY ON THE APP



SIGN IN ON THE APP AND WIN# MOTO X FORCE MOBILES



DOWNLOAD THE AMAZON APP NOW

amazon.in

#Terms and Conditions apply. *The prices mentioned 'Under ₹499' are subject to Terms & Conditions - Products shown here are for reference only, actual products may vary. Offer available only for shopping on the Amazon App. Offer valid on limited products and until stocks last.