

WHEN SRIDEVI FLOORED AMITABH AGAIN

HT CAFÉ | Big B seemed stunned when he saw his former leading lady at her film's premiere

DEATH THREAT TO FEDERER

SPORT | Swiss ace will have to shrug off threat at the Shanghai Masters > P22

BUSINESS CRACKDOWN ON DRUGS

Overpriced medicines under watch > P17

do! A SWEET AND SIMPLE DELIGHT

Sridevi makes English Vinglish an absolute delight for moviegoers WATCH & READ P16

Auto, taxi fares hiked again



BIG RAISE Minimum auto fare will be up by ₹3, to ₹15



UP Taxi minimum fare to be raised by ₹2, to ₹19



PAY MORE New fares in effect from October 11

Kailash Korde

■ kailash.korde@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: In the steepest hike in 35 years, the state government on Friday not only raised the minimum fare by Rs3 for autos and Rs2 for taxis, but also upped their basic fares (per km rate), which will make long-distance commute expensive.

This is also the second hike in six months, and you can expect another fare revision in eight months. The hike applies to all CNG-run taxis and autos in Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai.

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Transport Authority has reduced the minimum distance to 1.5km from 1.6km and introduced a new system of calculation, wherein commuters will be charged for every 100 metres after the first 1.5km. It has based

COMMUTE FOR MUMBAITERS BECOMES DEARER

REVISION OF MINIMUM FARE
AUTO Current fare: ₹12
Fare hike: ₹3
NEW FARE ₹15

TAXI Current fare: ₹17
Fare hike: ₹2
NEW FARE ₹19

* Fare hike comes into effect from October 11 (next Thursday)

CHANGE IN FARE STRUCTURE

AUTO After the first 1.5km (minimum fare), for every subsequent km, the charge will be ₹9.87 instead of ₹7.12

TAXI After the first 1.5km (minimum fare), for every subsequent km, the charge will be ₹12.35, instead of the existing ₹10.50

ADDITIONAL BURDEN

A 22-km auto journey on the Western Express Highway from Borivli to Bandra will cost ₹60 more after Oct 11

Current fare: ₹157*
NEW FARE: ₹217*
38% fare hike*

* With scope for minor variation

The minimum fare distance has been revised from 1.6km to 1.5km for the MMR

NEXT HIKE
Fares will go up again within eight months, in next May



the tariff hike on the new fare calculation formula created by the state-appointed, one-member Hakim Committee.

Once the hike comes into effect from Thursday, October 11, cabs will charge a minimum fare (for first 1.5km instead of

current 1.6 km) of Rs19, instead of Rs17, while autos will charge Rs15 instead of Rs12.

For every subsequent kilometre, commuters will have to pay Rs9.87 for autos, which will be Rs1.85 more than you currently pay for every kilometre,

and Rs12.35 for taxis, which is a hike of Rs2 per km.

If this is not bad enough, once the new tariff comes into effect, there's likely to be a lot of confusion as the meters — both mechanical and electronic — of the 1.5 lakh autos and taxis ply-

ing in the city will need to be recalibrated for them to be able to calculate the revised fares. State transport commissioner VN More said the process will take 45 days.

» CONTINUED ON P2
» RELATED REPORTS, P2

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Arvind Kejriwal and Prashant Bhushan, India Against Corruption activists who recently turned politicians, have now targeted Congress president Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra.

They accused Vadra of increasing his wealth from Rs50 lakh to Rs300 crore in three years by receiving an "unsecured, interest-free loan of Rs65 crore" from real estate giant DLF to buy properties at very cheap prices from the same company.

When contacted, an aide of Vadra said he would respond to the charges later. But Congress leaders and Union ministers quickly came out in support of Vadra, threatening legal action against the IAC. Rubbishing the charge, Congress spokesperson Manish Tewari said the activists were acting as "BJP's B team".

The BJP demanded a probe into the alleged deal, but the Congress said such attacks were reminiscent of what its leadership faced in the 1970s and 1980s when attempts were made to defame former PMs Indira and Rajiv Gandhi.

Earlier, Kejriwal said DLF could have tied up with Vadra for acquiring land on favourable terms through Congress gov-

ACTIVIST FACES FLAK



■ Arvind Kejriwal, Robert Vadra

UNION MINISTERS Ambika Soni, Salman Khurshid, Rajiv Shukla and Jayanthi Natarajan slammed Arvind Kejriwal and his team. "We will teach him a lesson through legal means," Khurshid said.

ernments in Delhi, Haryana and Rajasthan. Delhi chief secretary PK Tripathi dubbed the allegation "factually incorrect and misleading", saying, "The government was not in the business of allotting land to private entities."

But a DLF spokesperson said "All our transactions with Robert Vadra are completely transparent and adhere to highest standards of ethics."

Kejriwal said the balance sheets of five companies owned by Vadra and his mother had a total share capital of Rs50 lakh in 2007. "Although they had no legitimate business activity between 2007 and 2010, they acquired properties worth over Rs300 crore during the period."

Now, reforms in the stock market

ON A ROLL UPA govt may launch initiatives to boost funds flow in the next few weeks



Gaurav Choudhury

■ gaurav.choudhury@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The capital markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), is firming up a host of reform measures it could launch in a few weeks, including a possible "safety-net mechanism" for retail investors buying initial public offerings (IPOs) or a company's first stocks.

SEBI is also planning to reduce the gap between allotment of shares and the time when these start trading on stock exchanges from 12 days to a week, making the process simpler and faster for millions of investors.

FRIDAY'S NIFTY FREE FALL

SEBI has begun a probe into the flash-crash of NSE index Nifty, which fell by 900 pts on Friday, stopping trade for about 15 mins. Sensex fell 120 points to close at 18,938.46. The rupee too snapped a five-day rally and slipped by 11 paise to 51.85 against the US dollar

New, cheaper insurance policies on the cards

The government's move to raise the FDI cap in the life insurance sector to 49% from 26% will lead to cheaper insurance products and better services for customers, as more players are likely to enter the sector.

» FULL REPORT, P17

ht FAST FACTS

We have launched a graphic feature called HT Fast Facts that aims to bring our readers up to speed with concepts in the news. Today, a look at why the rupee is appreciating against the dollar, the primary reason being foreign institutional investments have risen, climbing from ₹12,300 crore in July to ₹19,800 crore in September.

» P18

HT Correspondent

■ htmetro@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The national aviation regulator on Friday issued a show cause notice to Kingfisher Airlines management asking it to explain why its licence should not be cancelled. The debt-ridden carrier has got 15 days to respond to the notice.

According to the notice issued by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) (a copy of which is available with the Hindustan Times) the airline has failed to maintain its flight schedule and regularly cancelled flights inconveniencing passengers over the past 10 months.

» FULL REPORT, P11

SC BANS MINING OPS IN GOA, WANTS REPORT IN 4 WEEKS



HT has done a series of reports since September 22, 2011 on illegal mining of iron ore in Goa

ht FOLLOW-UP

HT Correspondent

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Friday banned mining operations in Goa on the basis of the Central government-appointed justice MB Shah Commission report that said illegal mining has cost the state Rs35,000 crore in the last 12 years.

The court also restrained mining companies from exporting and selling ore that has already been extracted and directed the SC-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to submit its report on illegal mining within four weeks.

A three-judge bench headed by justice Aftab Alam issued notices to the Centre and the state government on a PIL filed by the NGO, Goa Foundation, seeking a probe into illegal mining.

The state government had, on September 10, suspended all mining operations till October 2012. The SC, however, gave the directions observing the matter was now before the court.

» CONTINUED ON P11
» RELATED REPORT, P11

WI thrash Aus, to face Lanka in final



GAYLE-POLLARD SHOW FLOORS AUSSIES

West Indies beat Australia by 74 runs in the second semi-final on Friday to book a place in Sunday's final against hosts Sri Lanka. Chris Gayle (75) and Kieron Pollard (38) toyed with Aus bowling as WI posted 205/4 before bowling out Aus for 131 in 16.4 overs.

» P19

SUNDAY'S FINAL: WEST INDIES vs SRI LANKA (7pm) Live on Star Cricket



ICC WORLD TWENTY20

RAINA IN TWEET ROW

Cricketer Suresh Raina found himself on the back foot after a tweet made from his account ridiculed Pak's ouster. "Ek do din late gaye ghar!!! Woh bhi besharam ki tarah Gaye... Bye bye Pakistan!!!" read the tweet. Raina later deleted it and wrote: "Smart phones r dangerous. Discovered it last night after my nephew posted random tweets."

ON THE WEB

hindustantimes.com/WCT20

3-year-old girl from city beaten, burned by parents last month

Menaka Rao

■ menaka.rao@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: In the wake of a mother's arrest on Thursday for battering her three-month-old daughter to death, it has come to light that a three-year-old girl was beaten and burned by her parents in Dharavi in September.

But while it took the Borivli police over a week to start investigations into the baby's death, the Dharavi child was taken away from her parents by the police and placed in the custody of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Her mother was arrested and is now out on bail, while

ADOPTED CHILD?

THE COPS suspect the Shivasrans may not be Sunita's biological parents

THE MOTHER confessed that she slapped Sunita a few times, but claims she burned her skin as she was suffering from a fungal infection

BOTH PARENTS have not claimed custody of the child.

her father is absconding.

The child, Sunita Shivsharan, was brought to Sion hospital by Roshan Shaikh, a social worker, on September 15 after she learnt

about the girl being assaulted through her neighbours.

"It was a classic case of battered baby syndrome. The child was bleeding in the eye because of assault near the forehead. She also had burns and several healed scars. We reported the case to the police," said Dr Rajesh Dere, associate professor, forensic medicine, Sion hospital.

The Dharavi police arrested Sunita's mother Jayashree under relevant sections of the Juvenile Justice Act. She was released on bail about a week later. The child was treated for her wounds and discharged on September 21.

» RELATED REPORTS, P5

Our Savings Account. Two Unique Features!

NO MINIMUM BALANCE.

PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE OF ₹ 4 LAC FOR JUST ₹ 100 PER YEAR.



- ✓ Multi-city cheques
- ✓ Net Banking and Mobile Banking
- ✓ Free transfer of funds between accounts in SBI Branches
- ✓ Auto-sweep facility available

- ✓ ATM-cum-Debit Card
- ✓ No charges for pass book
- ✓ Free withdrawal at over 27,000 State Bank Group ATMs

For further details contact your nearest SBI branch or visit our website www.sbi.co.in

Conditions apply.

also in ht today

comment

The UPA must convince the BJP if it wants to execute its long overdue reforms »P12

world

Obama says the man he debated talked about policies different from those Romney has proposed »P14

htvalue+

1+ health covers. Should you buy? Four companies have offers on to restore your health cover after its term »P18