

KEM Hospital to add 300 more beds by Sept end

RUPSA CHAKRABORTY
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 16

KEM HOSPITAL in Mumbai is set to add 300 more beds by the end of September, boosting its total capacity to over 2,500 beds.

Currently, the hospital operates with 2,250 scheduled beds. In 2023, it admitted 64,520 patients, averaging 177 admissions per day. Its outpatient department saw 17,92,183 visits last year, encompassing both new and returning patients.

"The expansion of KEM Hospital is not just a response to current pressures but a proactive measure to strengthen its role as a vital healthcare provider in Mumbai," said Dr. Sangeeta Rawat, dean of the hospital.

The expansion comes at a critical time, following significant challenges last year. Four medicine wards and two general surgery wards were closed due to severe disrepair, forcing patients to be treated in makeshift wards at Shivdi TB Hospital.

This necessary but temporary solution strained the hospital's resources and staff.

Ongoing renovations, which have been in progress for over 14 months, have successfully restored wards 4, 7, and 11, with patient care resuming in these areas.

Repairs on wards 4A, 8, and 12 are nearing completion, with substantial progress made despite the complexities of renovating the hospital's heritage structure.

The addition of 300 beds will significantly enhance KEM Hospital's ability to meet the needs of its large patient base.

Each newly renovated ward will accommodate 90 to 100 patients, compared to the previous capacity of 60 to 75, reducing the hospital's dependence on temporary facilities and improving overall patient care.

Opp mocked me, but I kept silent, worked: PM on 100 days of govt

PARIMAL DABHI
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 16

LAUNCHING A scathing attack on the Opposition, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said there were some "power hungry people filled with negativity and hate" who want to restore Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir and "cut the country into pieces".

He also said the Opposition "mocked" and "insulted" him during the first 100 days of his third term but he kept working "silently" for people's welfare.

Inaugurating projects worth over Rs 8,500 crore at an event here, the Prime Minister said the festival of development continues "on a day when Ganesh Utsav and Milad-un-Nabi and many festivals are being celebrated across the country".

Addressing the gathering at GMDC Ground, Modi said: "On one hand, every citizen of the country wants to become the brand ambassador of Bharat; wants to take our country forward. On the other hand, some people filled with negativity are doing the reverse. These people



PM Narendra Modi with Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat and CM Bhupendra Patel after inaugurating Phase 2 of Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project. PTI

are striking on the unity of the country. Sardar (Vallabhbhai) Patel united India by bringing together more than 500 princely states. These power hungry and greedy people want to cut the country into pieces."

Without naming anyone, he said, "You must have heard that now these people are saying it jointly that 'we will bring Article 370 back in J&K'. These people

want to apply the rule of 'do samvidhan, do vidhan' in J&K once again. These people (who are indulging in) appeasement can cross any limit. Filled with hate, these people do not spare a single opportunity to defame India."

He also accused the Opposition of mocking him. "You must have seen, in the first 100 days, the kind of talk

that was doing the rounds. During these past days, I have been made fun of. People started mocking Modi," he said. "People were also puzzled. 'What is Modi doing? Why is he silent?'... But my brothers and sisters of Gujarat, this is the son from the soil of Sardar Patel. With a pledge, I have spent these 100 days for your welfare and for framing policies and taking decisions in the interest of the country while tolerating every mockery and insult. I resolved that I will not reply."

The Prime Minister, on his first visit to his home state after assuming office for the third consecutive time, said the Opposition wants to target Gujarat and the people of the state should be more alert and vigilant.

"Friends, on the way to development, India will boldly fight against such forces. India now does not have time to lose. We have to maintain peace in India... the way you are blessing me with enthusiasm, I will move forward with renewed energy. I will spend each and every moment of my life for you and your dreams," Modi said.

Modi: India's solar revolution chapter will be written in gold

RITUSHARMA
AHMEDABAD, SEPTEMBER 16

TODAY NOT only Indians but the entire world believes that our country is the best bet for the 21st century, said PM Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the 4th Global Renewable Energy Investor's Meet and Expo at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar Monday.

"India is preparing for the next 1,000 years. Our objective is not only to reach but even sustain at the top. We know our energy needs and are aware about requirements for becoming a developed nation by 2047. We are aware we do not have coal stocks, for we are not energy dependent and for this we have decided to build our future on solar, wind, nuclear and hydro power," Modi said.

"Our country is the best bet for the 21st century. When 21st century's history will be written, India's solar revolution chapter will be written in gold," PM said.

Underlining the mandate in the Lok Sabha polls, he said, "Behind our third term are huge aspirations of India. The youth... the women have faith that the wings their aspirations got in the last 10 years will take a new flight in this third term," he said.

FIR against BJP MLA for remarks 'targeting minority community'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 16

THE NAVI Mumbai police registered an FIR against BJP MLA Nitesh Rane for allegedly making remarks targeting a minority community during a speech at a Ganapati event in Navi Mumbai, officials said on Monday.

The case was filed on Sunday at the NRI Police Station against Rane and the event organizer, following a complaint by a police officer, according to an official.

The official added that the event was recorded, and after seeking legal opinion, an FIR was lodged.

The complaint stated that Sankalp Gharat had organised a seven-day Ganapati celebration at Ulwe without the necessary permissions on September 11, and Nitesh Rane attended the

Nitesh Rane allegedly made the remarks during a speech at a Ganapati event in Navi Mumbai

event as the chief guest. During his speech, Rane allegedly made remarks targeting the minority community and incited the crowd, according to the complaint.

An FIR has been registered under sections 302 (uttering words with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings), 351(2) (criminal intimidation), 352 (intentional insult with intent to provoke a breach of peace), and other relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the official said.

Congress to chair three LS standing committees, 1 RS

ASAD REHMAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 16

AFTER MONTHS-LONG negotiations with the government, the Congress is set to chair three in the Lok Sabha (finance/ external affairs/ defence, social justice and empowerment, agriculture/ animal husbandry) and one in the Rajya Sabha (defence/home affairs).

In the last Lok Sabha, the party had only one chair, of the standing committee on communications and information technology. This time, INDIA bloc allies like

development. In the Rajya Sabha, the party will chair the standing committee on education.

The Congress had sought the chairs for four standing committees - three in the Lok Sabha (finance/ external affairs/ defence, social justice and empowerment, agriculture/ animal husbandry) and one in the Rajya Sabha (defence/home affairs).

In the last Lok Sabha, the party had only one chair, of the standing committee on communications and information technology. This time, INDIA bloc allies like

the Samajwadi Party, DMK and Trinamool Congress are also expected to get one chair each.

The decision follows several rounds of meetings between the government and Opposition. While Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju and Union Minister of State for Law & Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal represented the government, the Congress was represented by Deputy Leader in Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi, and chief whips Kodikunnil Suresh (Lok Sabha) and Jairam Ramesh (Rajya

Sabha) at these meetings.

On August 16, five parliamentary standing committees were constituted. Of these, Congress MP and general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal was named as the chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), which, as per convention, is given to the Opposition. The chairs of the remaining four committees went to BJP members - Ganesh Singh (welfare of Other Backward Classes), Sanjay Jaiswal (estimates), Baijayant Panda (public undertakings, Faggan Singh

Kulaste (welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes).

On August 27, TMC MP Derek O'Brien had written to Leader of the House in Rajya Sabha J P Nadda over the delay in the reconstitution of Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs). There are 16 DRSCs for Lok Sabha and eight for Rajya Sabha. While all these committees have members from both Houses, the Lok Sabha DRSCs are headed by a Lok Sabha member, and the Rajya Sabha DRSCs are headed by a Rajya Sabha member.

BMC proposes to set up aviary in plot reserved for garden

Mumbai: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued a notification proposing to change the reservation of a land parcel at Nahur in the eastern suburbs from that of a garden to a zoo.

The 6.5-acre plot will be transformed into a bird park or aviary by the BMC. According to the civic body's development plan (DP) rules, the plot was originally reserved for a garden. The construction of an aviary would require changing the status of reservation to a zoo, as a result of which the BMC has issued a notification

seeking suggestions and objections from citizens for transforming the status of reservation.

"A detailed plan about the proposed modification has been kept open for inspection of the general public at the BMC's local T ward office and chief engineer Development Plan's office inside the civic headquarters," read the BMC's notification.

"This bird park will be an extension of the Byculla Zoo which also has an aviary. However, this facility will be dedicated for birds," said an official. ENS

GOOD MONSOON THIS YEAR

Kharif sowing goes up in Maharashtra

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, SEPTEMBER 16

THE KHARIF sowing in the state has gone up by 4.51 lakh hectares due to good rain this year, the data sourced from the ministry of agriculture stated.

As per the data, the total area under kharif sowing stands at 144.92 lakh hectares at the end of mid-September this year. Last year, it stood at 140.41 lakh hectares during same period till mid-September.

The IMD hinted that monsoon may stretch till October this year with frequent rains in the state.

Agriculture minister Dhananjay Munde expressed satisfaction saying, "Good monsoon is a major factor which attributes to good sowing of kharif crops this season. Though there have been instances of heavy rains and hailstorms, sowing of kharif crops is good," he said.

The soyabean, which is the main kharif crop cultivated mainly in Marathwada and Vidarbha regions, is likely to see

higher production as the area under sowing has crossed 52 lakh hectares. A year ago, the soyabean was sown on 50 lakh hectares. Which means the area under soyabean has increased by two lakh hectares. This is the second consecutive year which shows increase in soyabean cultivation.

With prolonged monsoon likely till early October, agriculture department expects increased foodgrain production.

To avoid distress selling of soyabean crops following higher production, the agriculture min-

ister has urged the Centre to increase procurement at a Minimum Support Price of Rs 4,892. Accordingly, the Centre has given nod for procurement of soyabean for 90 days.

Earlier this week, the Centre has raised the import duty on raw soy oil, palm oil and sunflower oil to 27.5 per cent. Previously, the import duty on raw crude oil was just 5.5 per cent. Similarly, import duty on refined soy oil, palm oil and sunflower oils has been raised from 23.37 percent to 35.75 per cent.

Project Cheetah audit: Lack of coordination between Centre, state, 'unjustified' spending

KNP officials say report not final, will respond to all questions raised

ANAND MOHAN J
BHOPAL, SEPTEMBER 16

A REPORT by the Accountant General of Madhya Pradesh has flagged concerns over the management of Project Cheetah at Kuno National Park (KNP), highlighting a "lack of coordination" between central and state government departments as well as issues regarding expenditure.

The concerns were raised in a sample audit of records - from August 2019 to November 2023 - that was made public Monday in response to an RTI query by wildlife activist Ajay Dubey.

Senior officials at KNP said the audit was ongoing and not final. "These are not allegations, just questions that will be answered in the coming months. It is wrong to state this is a final report. We will give all responses in coming phases," an official said.

KNP director Uttam Sharma declined to comment on the issue.

The audit flagged that there was no mention of cheetah reintroduction "in the work plan and management plan", and that "there are no documents detailing where the cheetah reintroduction work began and how it started".

The audit noted that Kuno was to be developed as an alternate habitat for Asiatic lions, as per the Supreme Court's decision dated April 15, 2013, and the state government was "com-



Cheetah reintroduction is being conducted according to Cheetah Action Plan 2021

pletely serious" about it. "Thus, it was not clear whether the cheetah reintroduction would be conducted within Kuno National Park. Consequently, no management plan specifically addressing cheetah reintroduction is available," the report said.

The cheetah reintroduction is being conducted according to the Cheetah Action Plan 2021 prepared by the Centre. The report said: "It is evident from the statements of the Forest Division there was a lack of coordination between the departments of the Government of India and the Government of Madhya Pradesh."

"It is also clear the ground staff and the Forest Division were not involved in site selection or the cheetah reintroduction study. The matter has been brought to the attention of the government," it said.

The report also flagged an "unjustified" expenditure of over ₹90 lakh under labour expenses. It was mentioned in work plan of the Kuno Wildlife Division that "employment and alternative sources of income for the local residents near forests should be provided". The audit noted that "from September 2022 to June 2023, it was found that, in more than eight cases, brushwood removal and trench deepening work, amounting to INR 9,110,568, was carried out using JCB machines instead of labourers, contrary to the directions."

The audit further said there were irregularities in the construction of a 5.9-km wall. It said "67 fewer bags of cement were used than required, leading to a substandard construction", and that there was an excess payment of Rs 4.14 lakh. It also said that royalty was not deducted for materials such as sand, gravel, stone, and boulders used in the construction, which indicated a loss of revenue.

The Forest Division said discrepancies in cement usage and payments were "due to technical reasons and corrective measures would be taken in future projects". According to audit report, from 2021-22 to 2023-24 (up to January 2024), the expenditure on Project Cheetah was ₹44.14 crore, which "was not in accordance with approved management plan". It highlighted DFO Prakash Kumar's transfer not long after he received training from Namibia, saying the "benefits of this training could not be utilised in the cheetah reintroduction".

BAJAJ FINANCE LIMITED

CIN-L65910MH1987PLC042961

Registered Office: Akurdi, Pune 411 035.

Corporate Office: 4th Floor, Bajaj Finserv Corporate Office, Off Pune Ahmednagar Road, Viman Nagar, Pune 411 014.

FIXED DEPOSIT SCHEMES

Rated CRISIL AAA/ STABLE and [ICRA]AAA(Stable).

The abovementioned ratings indicate highest degree of safety with regard to timely payment of interest and principal on the instrument.

This is a public announcement that the rate of interest which were applicable w.e.f. 16 July 2024 to fixed deposit scheme upto ₹ 5 Cr., will be applicable to fixed deposit scheme upto ₹ 3 Cr. w.e.f. 17 September 2024.

These changes are applicable to fixed deposit scheme of resident Indians, non-resident Indians, Systematic Deposit Plan (SDP) from Resident Indians as well as deposits from Trusts.

Further, there are no changes in the rate of interest (last effective from 16 July 2024) as well as the terms and conditions governing the fixed deposit scheme.

By order of the Board of Directors for Bajaj Finance Limited

Rajeev Jain
Managing Director
DIN: 01550158

Pune
12 September 2024