



**EAVESDROPPING DEVICE? GLITCH LETS IPHONES LISTEN IN ON OTHERS THROUGH FACETIME 24**

**MANDHANA SHINES AS INDIAN WOMEN NOW WIN NZ ODI SERIES 27**



**RAHUL'S MINIMUM INCOME PLEDGE AS FAKE AS INDIRA'S 'GARIBI HATAO' CRY: MAYA 10**



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## Centre, UP plan to complete 3 lakh delayed Noida flats

**Stress Fund With Corpus Of Up To ₹2k Cr Planned**

Dipak Dash & Sidhartha | TNN

New Delhi: The Centre and the Uttar Pradesh government are looking to tap the unutilised land available with developers of delayed projects in Noida and Greater Noida, as well as setting up a dedicated fund to release stress and speed up delivery of near-

► I-T dept to help you get home loan subsidy, P 21

ly three lakh apartments.

The issue of setting up a stress fund for the sector was discussed at a meeting between Piyush Goyal, who is officiating as finance minister, and public sector banks on Monday where housing secretary D S Mishra was also present, sources told TOI. Though the

### REALTY CHECK

Projects sanctioned since 2005	105
Completed	34
Viable	33
BUILDERS WITH SURPLUS LAND	
Amrapali	Jaypee
10,000 new flats can be built	Has 3,500 acre surplus land



corpus of the stress fund is yet to be worked out, the seed capital could be anywhere between Rs 1,000 crore and Rs 2,000 crore. The housing ministry, NBCC and banks have been asked to work out a plan that can be implemented quickly.

The other option is to use undeveloped land parcels with

developers by transferring them to agencies such as NBCC, the construction PSU, which can leverage them to raise resources or develop them and finance the construction of flats, some of which were booked a decade ago.

► 70k flats in limbo, P 9

**Govt examines 4 options for farm package**

A part from studying Telangana's 'Rythu Bandhu' and Odisha's 'Kalia' schemes, the Centre is looking at some other proposals before announcing its much-anticipated farm package during the Union Budget on Friday, reports Vishwa Mohan.

It is examining two other models: area-based income compensation and waiving the premium for crop insurance and interest on loans for farmers who pay on time. "The intent is to support farmers and ease agrarian distress. We can't hazard a guess on the kind of support which may finally get the Cabinet's approval, keeping in view its sustainability and financial implications on the exchequer," said a top government official. P14

**Govt cuts import duty on electric vehicles by half**

The Centre slashed customs duty on electric vehicles imported in completely knocked-down or semi-knocked down state, while making imported lithium ion batteries and power banks used with mobile phones more expensive. Import duty on EVs in pre-assembled state was cut to 10-15% from 15-30%, making it more attractive to ship green vehicles into the country.

The lower duty is expected to encourage companies to assemble e-vehicles in the country. Completely built EVs will continue to attract 25% import duty, while those with petrol and diesel engines face up to 100% levy. The changes are seen as part of a wider policy push, to be unveiled next month, to provide subsidy to EVs. P 26

To make your vote mobile, support the petition at

www.lostvotest.com

**LOST VOTES**

P 20

**Criminal charges on Huawei in US**

The US Justice Department brought sweeping charges against Chinese telecom firm Huawei and its chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, accusing them of trying to steal trade secrets, obstruct a criminal probe and evade economic sanctions on Iran.

The indictments, partly unveiled on Monday, come amid a broad and aggressive US campaign against China's biggest telecom equipment maker. P 24

**Lessors ground 4 Jet Air planes**

Unpaid lessors grounded four Jet Airways aircraft on Monday night at Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru and Chennai airports. Another Boeing 737 Max is also learned to be grounded for some time. While Monday's incident is learned to have led to the cancellation of 19 flights, Jet didn't comment till the time of going to press. P 26

**Rahul promises women's quota**

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the women's reservation bill would be passed on a priority if the party won the 2019 elections. "The first thing we will do when we win the 2019 election is to pass the women's reservation bill in Parliament," he said, adding: "We want to see women in positions of leadership."

## George Fernandes, eternal rebel with a cause, dead

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Put it down to the current page's obsession to reduce complexities to bumper stickers. Or the compulsion of journalism to find a vantage through which to lead readers or viewers into a development. While reporting the death of 88-year-old George Fernandes, media outlets called him a former Union minister — an atrociously inadequate description of the Socialist stalwart who captured India's imagination in the 1970s.

A firebrand before the word became commonplace, Fernandes lit many fires and never allowed the one that smouldered inside him to go out until Alzheimer's confined him to bed.

Dispatched to a religious seminary by his Mangalore-based middle-class parents who wanted him to be trained as a Catholic priest, Fernandes



A chained Fernandes being taken to Delhi HC during the Emergency

— 'George Saheb' to legions of his admirers across the country — ran away to Bombay. All of 19, he slept on footpaths before finding a mentor in Placid D'Mello, whose Socialist leanings were to prove a life-long influence on the young boy

from coastal Karnataka.

Fernandes soon found a job, that of a proofreader with The Times of India, a huge opening for the runaway kid. But the lure of Socialist ideology, its pull multiplied by the growing appeal of Ram Manohar Lohia and his feisty challenge to Congress and the Establishment, ensured it was the first and last job he held.

He plunged himself into the labour movement and started working among taxi drivers, turning Bombay Taxi Union into a formidable force. This was the time when the commercial capital was dominated by the likes of D'Mello, CPI boss S A Dange and his colleague Krishna Desai and, above all, Congress's S K Patil, "the uncrowned king of Bombay". With his relentless energy, fearlessness and commitment to the working class, Fernandes was soon holding his own against his better-known peers.

► Man of action, P 12

## 10 NE parties join hands against Citizenship Bill

Prabin.Kalita @timesgroup.com

Guwahati: In a grand show of unity against the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 10 northeast-based parties, seven of them BJP allies, and JD(U) — an NDA constituent at the national level — came together on Tuesday to jointly fight against the Bill "within and outside" Parliament.

Of the remaining three parties, Asom Gana Parishad

(AGP) and Naga People's Front (NPF) were earlier part of the NDA, while KHNAM has some influence in NDA-ruled Meghalaya.

At the meeting organised here by AGP and NPF, the parties said they would ensure that the Centre's attempt to

### Another NDA state shoots down bill

Nagaland has become the third NDA-ruled state in north-east, after Meghalaya and Mizoram, to oppose and reject the Citizenship Bill, 2016. The NDPP-led People's Democratic Alliance government, of which BJP is a constituent, was under considerable pressure from the people to oppose the bill. P 20

amend the Citizenship Act was defeated in the Rajya Sabha.

The Lok Sabha has already cleared the contentious bill that proposes to offer citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan on grounds of religious persecution.

## MJ defamation case: Ramani summoned

Delhi court on Tuesday summoned journalist Priya Ramani after it found her remarks alleging sexual harassment by BJP leader M J Akbar were prima facie defamatory. "Reputation is not only the salt of life but also the purest treasure and the most precious perfume of life," additional chief metropolitan magistrate Samar Vishal remarked while summoning Ramani on February 25, reports Aamir Khan.

Immediately after the order was passed, Ramani tweeted, "Time to tell our side of the story." Akbar had sued Ramani for her tweets in 2018, which also had a link to an article in Vogue, which was first published in October 2017. P 19

## NAT'L CYCLISTS DREAM OF GOLD, SLEEP IN COLD



Most participants at the National Cycling Championships, beginning today in Jaipur, have been made to sleep on mattresses kept on the floor in chilly weather, with no access to hot water. International-level players have been given hotel rooms. The organisers cited lack of funds for the poor facilities | P 29

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## Best Selling Premium Smartphone Brand of 2018

- Counterpoint Research Market Monitor 2018

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Best Selling Premium Smartphone models of 2018\*



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