

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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DRAVID'S FAB FEATS
Rahul Dravid announces his retirement on Friday

164 Tests, third highest by any player

13,288 runs, second highest by any Test batsman, at an average of 52.31. Better average overseas (53.03) than at home (51.35)

210 catches in Tests, highest for a non-wicketkeeper
31,189 balls faced in Tests, more than any batsman

36 Test hundreds, fourth highest after Tendulkar (51), Jacques Kallis (42) and Ricky Ponting (41)

21 centuries abroad, next only to Sachin's 29
25 Tests as captain of India; 8 won, 6 lost and 11 drawn

ONE INNINGS ENDS AT 39, ANOTHER SET TO BEGIN AT 38

“Finally, I would like to thank the Indian cricket fan. The game is lucky to have you and I have **been lucky to play before you**. To represent India, and you, has been a privilege and one which I have always taken seriously. My approach to cricket was simple. It was about **giving everything to the team**, playing with dignity, and upholding the spirit of the game. **I have failed at times, but I have never stopped trying**. It is why...

I leave with sadness but also with pride”



TIMES NEWS NETWORK

His career stats are stunning (see Dravid's Fab Feats, above). But they don't begin to define Rahul Dravid, the gentleman who proved that nice guys can finish first. The ultimate team man, who uncomplainingly shouldered the burden of opening the batting or keeping wickets whenever called upon to do so. The braveheart who was lavish with praise and stingy with excuses. The shy thinker who grew into one of cricket's most respected voices. The fighter whose batting went from pretty to gritty depending on the situation. Sixteen years after he debuted with a dazzling 95 at Lord's, Dravid, 39, exited first-class cricket with a press conference in his home town, Bangalore. He signed off in the manner that he had always played: with style, grace, dignity and the straightest of bats. There were no histrionics, only a heartwarming humility. Typically of the man, he thanked many — coaches, selectors, teammates, captains, physios and family. He spoke of looking forward to buying groceries and picking up his sons from school. And refreshingly, in a country where spectators have to suffer pathetic facilities and mistreatment, he thanked the Indian cricket fan. “The game is lucky to have you and I have been lucky to play before you.” Thank you, Jammu. The pleasure was all ours.

Aspirin could help fight 11 cancers

Malathy Iyer | TNN
The best bet against 11 cancers. This designer aspirin uses two gas molecules—nitric oxide and hydrogen sulphide—to do the trick, the researchers said. They wrote in the ACS Medicinal Chemistry on Friday that their aspirin could control cancers of the colon, pancreas, lung, prostate, breast, and blood in mice. Their paper in Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communication said their aspirin shrank “human” colon cancer tumours by 85% in live animals.

NEWS DIGEST

City school bus strike called off
The indefinite school bus strike in the city has been called off. School bus owners plan to move court to push for their demands. **P 6**

Cabbies threaten stir next
Nearly 35,000 taxis in the city have threatened to go on a strike from March 19 demanding a fare hike. **P 5**

Advance rail bookings
The 120-day advance booking system for railway tickets will come into effect today.

Sunil Prabhu new mayor
The Shiv Sena's Sunil Prabhu has been elected as Mumbai's new mayor. **P 5**

Joy Mukherjee dead
Actor Joy Mukherjee, 73, of 'Shagird' and 'Love in Tokyo' fame, died in Mumbai on Friday. **P 6**

Duronto from city to Delhi
The Mumbai-Delhi route is set to get a Duronto train service in the next 10 days. **P 9**

The Crest Edition
HEIR LOOMS
Once upon a time only the Congress was accused of running politics as a family business. Akhilesh Yadav and Sukhbir Badal's success shows almost every party now runs on blood lines. Will this son rise bring greater light?

Candid yet coy Films discuss sex and therapy, but with a twist

Great Gama A graphic novelist resurrects a wrestling legend

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Times Classifieds | P 8 & 10

Mulayam firm: Akhilesh to be CM

Works On Azam, Shivpal To Back Son
Pervez Iqbal Siddiqui | TNN

Lucknow: A day before the Samajwadi Party parliamentary board finally decides who will be the next chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav stood firm on his decision to hand over the baton to his son, 38-year-old Akhilesh.

► **Shivpal no vote-puller, P 16**
► **Related reports on P 12, 16**

who is now all set to be the state's youngest CM. Disregarding murmurs of protests from party old-timers who are opposed to the leadership of Akhilesh, Mulayam convened a late-night meeting at his home to iron out the differences and work out a compromise formula ahead of Saturday's meet.



SP'S NEW NETAJI? Akhilesh Yadav

Mulayam is learnt to have conveyed to his brother Shivpal Yadav, and the party's Muslim face, Azam Khan, that he was all in favour of making way for Akhilesh who galvanized the party and helped it romp home with a thumping majority. The two are believed to have initially shown hesitation in accepting Akhilesh's elevation.

Mulayam Singh, whose health has been poor, wants Azam Khan to propose the name of Akhilesh as leader of the legislative party (and therefore chief minister) at Saturday's meeting and Shivpal Yadav to second it, in the time-tested way of projecting a unified face to the world and conveying that all was well. That would make both

Azam Khan and Shivpal stakeholders in this key decision, and they will be rewarded with plum posts.

One compromise formula doing the rounds has Azam Khan being made the Speaker, which would ensure the senior leader does not have to report to Akhilesh. However, that would give Azam Khan an autonomy that may not suit young Akhilesh. In the past in other states, the Speaker has at times become the rallying point for dissidents. Apart from his own “appropriate” positioning, Azam Khan is likely to pitch for a large number of ministries for his favourites.

The Samajwadi Party parliamentary board had met on Wednesday when Akhilesh's name was proposed as leader, but no decision could be reached as Azam Khan chose to stay put in his constituency Rampur, despite Mulayam Singh sending a helicopter there to bring him to Lucknow.

Violence up, big test for new leader
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Akhilesh Yadav's leadership was put to test on Friday with more reports of lawlessness, allegedly by SP workers, pouring in. Nearly half-a-dozen incidents of violence have rocked UP within days of the party's victory. On March 6, journalists were attacked in Jhansi. On Holi day, a former BSP minister's Ambedkarnagar rice mill was torched. There were also reports of Dalit huts being burnt down at Sitapur. Mulayam Singh Yadav and Akhilesh swung into action but blamed officers loyal to Mayawati who, the latter claimed, were allowing the situation to spin out of control. **P 12**

Another MP IPS officer attacked
Deshdeep Saxena | TNN

Morena/Bhopal: A day after a young IPS officer, Narendra Kumar, was mowed down by a tractor-trolley laden with illegally-mined stones in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district, reports have surfaced about another IPS officer having been targeted in the state, this time by the liquor mafia.

► **Threat to kill, P 19**

However, Jaidevan, the additional SP of Bhind, narrowly escaped death after he was attacked by the supporters of a ruling BJP MLA for cracking down on them for selling liquor on Holi, declared a dry day. Several shops in Bhind's Lahar Road were reportedly selling illicit liquor on Holi.

Final report: Panel wants no I-T till ₹3L, new slabs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The parliamentary standing committee on finance on Friday suggested reworking the income tax slabs, seeking exemption for income up to Rs 3 lakh and wanting the highest tax rate of 30% to kick in at over Rs 20 lakh. To make the tax system more predictable, the panel recommended that the slabs be indexed

► **New slabs not this yr, P 26**
► **Freight hike ups rates, P 25**

to inflation and called for automatic revision. The report, which will help the government push the Direct Taxes Code, has also suggested that the exemption limit for savings be enhanced from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.5 lakh. It suggested that the exemption limit for life and health insurance, and education, be doubled

DECODING DTC

INCOME TAX SLABS	Rate
0-3*	Nil
3-10	10%
10-20	20%
Beyond	20-30%

* Income in Rs lakh/year

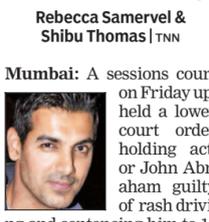
► **Senior citizen benefits from 60 yrs instead of 65 yrs**
► **Raise tax savings schemes limit to Rs 3.2 lakh.** In effect, annual income up to Rs 6.2 lakh will not be taxed

RBI slashes CRR, frees up ₹48,000cr

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday lowered the cash reserve ratio—the portion of deposits banks must maintain with it—freeing up more than Rs 48,000 crore. Besides increasing availability of funds for loans, banks can now earn interest on money hitherto lying idle. Lenders say the cut could bring down interest rates. **P 25**

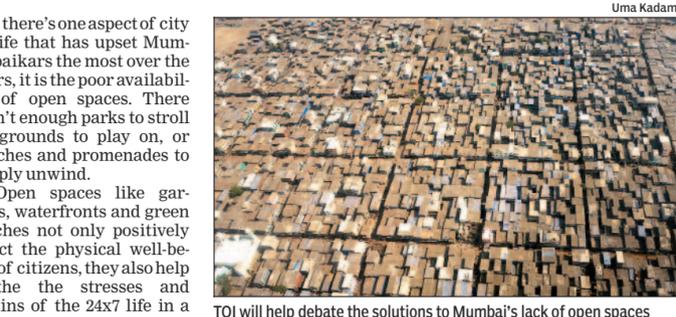
currently at Rs 1.5 lakh. The committee has recommended an exemption of Rs 3.2 lakh (excluding home loans), instead of Rs 2.7 lakh (including home loans) at present. If the parliamentary panel's prescriptions find favour with the government, those with annual income of up to Rs 6.2 lakh will stay outside the tax net.

HC stays jail for John for rash driving
Rebecca Samervel & Shibu Thomas | TNN



Mumbai: A sessions court on Friday upheld a lower court order holding actor John Abraham guilty of rash driving and sentencing him to 15 days in jail. The case relates to an April 2006 incident when the star rammed his bike into a cyclist on Khar-Dhanda Road, injuring two youths and himself. Soon after the court gave its order, John was taken into custody by police and put through medical tests. But his lawyers made a dash for the Bombay High Court which, just before its closure for the day, stayed the jail term and ordered the actor's release on a cash bail of Rs 20,000. **P 2**

Let's give ourselves the space we deserve



TOI will help debate the solutions to Mumbai's lack of open spaces

GASPING FOR BREATH

	No.	Sq Km	%
Gardens & Parks	318	2.5	0.5
Playgrounds	631	4	0.8
Recreation grounds	603	7.2	1.6
Encroachments on above	501	5.3	1.1

erup or encroached upon. Whatever the figure, the crime is obvious: There are several open spaces out there, but they are not being acquired as green lungs for the city. Meanwhile, many of them fall prey to illegal slums and land sharks. The Times of India seeks to open a debate on not just the complaints against such official apathy, but also on the solutions offered by citizens, professionals, social organizations and governmental agencies. In TOI's 'Mumbai For Me' campaign, we seek to bring together various sections of society to discuss how the quality of life can be improved by en-

hancing the availability and quality of open spaces. Das and his team have drawn up a plan that seeks not only to protect and develop reserved open spaces, but also develop public areas along lakes, ponds, beaches, hills, mangroves, promenades and other green zones. It seeks to create and integrate open spaces in a manner that they “intermingle with daily life”, says Das. (An exhibition of the team's solutions will run at the NGMA from March 15).

There is no reason why a city with a wealth of untapped reserved areas, a national park within the municipal limits, a 34-km coastline, a profusion of beaches, lakes, and creeks, and promenades with world-class potential, has to languish in congested and concretized confines that offer just 0.03 acre of open space to every 1,000 people. That sorry figure was computed 40 years ago, when Mumbai had a population of a little under 9 million. Today's 12.4 million Mumbai-kars must demand the environment and atmosphere they deserve.

Women plan their travel better than men: Study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Indians are infamous for being last-minute travellers. But it seems the tendency to not plan in advance and take decisions at the eleventh hour is not a cultural hang-up. It has rather to do with gender, says a study done by an online travel portal that tracked usage patterns of travel-related bookings online.

“The one very prominent trend that jumped out was that women plan their travel well in advance: 53% of bookings involving women travellers are made more than two weeks in advance,” said Noel Swain of Cleartrip, the portal that conducted the study.

The study arrived at the trends by tracking the 15 lakh-odd bookings done on the website between April 2011 and

February 2012. Compared to the 53% advance bookings in groups containing women, only 43% men book two weeks in advance. “Twenty-one per cent of bookings containing women travellers are made less than three days in advance, as compared to 32% among men,” the study said. There are other gender-related traits. Of the 15 lakh people who made a booking (the total number of tickets booked is much larger as more than one ticket can be booked per transaction), only 19%, or 2.85 lakh, were women. They included women who booked an air ticket/hotel room for themselves, family, friends and also women travel agents who book for others.

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Sr.	Particulars	Senior Citizens	
		Amount (In ₹)	Amount (In ₹)
A	Investment Amount	10,000	10,000
B	Immediate Tax Savings*	3,090	3,090
C	Effective Investment (A-B)	6,910	6,910
D	Maturity Amount of original Investment	16,187	15,797
E	Total Pre Tax Benefit on Deposits (D-C)	9,277	8,887
F	Rate of Interest	9.75% p.a.	9.25% p.a.
G	Effective Annual Yield (5 yrs)	18.55%	17.77%

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