

**Man held for killing girlfriend's husband**

**KALYAN:** Three days after the murder of a man near Kalyan railway station, a 28-year-old labourer was arrested. The accused, Sachin Mhaske, allegedly killed the 30-year-old, who was his girlfriend's husband. Datta Pable, senior police inspector from Kalyan GRP, said, "The deceased came to know about his wife's affair with Mhaske. Both men had a heated argument. On Friday, Mhaske assaulted the man and killed him. We questioned the deceased's wife and arrested Mhaske."

HTC

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# HC allows plea for succession battle over Bohra religious title

HT Correspondent

htmetro@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** The Bombay high court on Tuesday allowed a plea filed by Taher Fakruddin, son of deceased Khuzaima Qutbuddin, seeking to continue the succession battle that was initiated by his late father over the title of Syedna or Dai-al-Mutlaq—the religious leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community.

Following the death of his father in March last year, Fakruddin had filed chamber summons in the high court seeking permission to continue with the suit filed by his father and to amend the prayers in the initial

suit. He had further claimed that before his death, his father had conferred upon him, the 'nass', appointing him as his successor and thus, he was entitled to hold the title of the 54th Dai.

Fakruddin's plea was opposed by the incumbent Syedna Mufadal Saifuddin. Saifuddin had argued that because of the demise of Qutbuddin, the suit filed by him stood abated and though Fakruddin had a right to file a fresh suit, he could not continue with the existing suit.

Justice GS Patel, however, held that if a fresh suit was possible, then "continuance of the existing suit was equally possible." He said that allowing this

would be more "appropriate for it will also save judicial time, money."

He observed that even if Qutubuddin hadn't filed a suit challenging the incumbent Syedna's right to hold the office of Syedna in the first place, Fakruddin would still have a right to approach court seeking to prove that not only was his father rightly appointed the 53rd Dai but that he was his rightful successor, the 54th Dai and consequently, had a right to the property attached to the Syedna's office. Thus, his plea to continue with the suit could be allowed.

HC will take up the matter for further hearing on April 26.

# RTE ADMISSION: NO APPLICANTS FOR SOME SCHOOLS

HT Correspondent

htmetro@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** Only 40% of applications were allotted seats in the first round of admissions under Right to Education (RTE) quota reserved for economically and socially weaker students, as students have not applied seats in 39 schools.

For the 8,593 seats in 100 schools in Mumbai, 9,426 students applied, but 1,090 seats had no takers. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) held the lottery for admissions on Monday, through which it allotted seats to 3,400 students for the remaining 7,400 seats.

Students from households earning less than a lakh a year annually, applied for the RTE seats in kindergarten and Class 1 in 334 unaided, non-minority schools in Mumbai. Under the Act, schools must provide free education to these students from classes 1 to 8, and they are later reimbursed by the government.

"Since there were vacant seats which no one wanted, on 6,685 seats have been allotted. Some have been given more than one seat and they have to pick one," said Mahesh Palka, education officer, BMC education department.

Parents will have until March 15 to secure admission at the school allotted to their children. In case of multiple allotment, parents will have to approach the school of their choice.

Parents can download their allotment letters from the RTE portal and take the document to the school for admission.

## NO NIGHT CURFEW AT WOMEN'S HOSTELS

# Students rebuff ABVP's move to claim credit

Musab Qazi

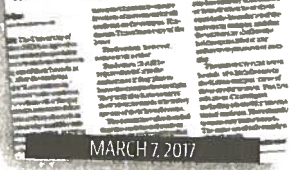
musab.qazi@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** After the University of Mumbai's (MU) decided to lift the night curfew for girls' hostels, students denied claims by Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) that it had agitated for changes in hostel rules.

HT on Tuesday reported that the MU had agreed to do away with the rules prohibiting women students from venturing out of hostels at night, after the girls called the rules 'discriminatory'. In a letter to the students, vice-chancellor (V-C) Sanjay Deshmukh announced that the girls and boys or their hostels at the university's Kalina campus will be subjected to same rules, starting Wednesday. The university's Campus Development Committee (CDC), on Tuesday, formally adopted the new rules.

**HT COVERAGE**

**MU lifts night curfew for women students**



HT had reported on Tuesday how the university had lifted night curfew for women.

ABVP, in a statement, suggested that the rules are the result of the combined efforts by the women and the organisation. "[The] gender bias was not acceptable to us. So some students went on hunger strike till the gender bias was over," read the statement.

The issue of different hostel

timings for male and female students came to light after the university agreed to open up the campus library round-the-clock, following a protest by students led by ABVP. However, owing to the hostel rules, the girls were prohibited from using the library during nighttime.

The university had then assured the students that it will start a reading room in the girls' hostels. It also announced setting up a committee. According to women students, they continued demanding equal access to library and same rules for both genders.

"This is to clarify that the ABVP has not been associated with our movement after they left us midway and withdrew support, accepting the discriminatory settlement made by the administration," read a statement by Disowning Barriers, a

group of women students struggling for equitable rules in MU hostels. They insisted that no student union was part of the negotiations between hostelites and MU authorities.

In its statement, the university said its decision to open the Kalina campus library round-the-clock was based on the demands made by both the ABVP and women students. It also cited the University Grants Commission's (UGC) guidelines on women's safety in campuses as the reason for the new rules.

ABVP said that it never "settled" for the authorities' solution. "We had just accepted it as a temporary measure, allowing the university some time to reach a solution. In fact, we continued to follow-up on the issue with the authorities," said Rohit Chandode, general secretary, ABVP Mumbai.

# 'Open wells killed almost 1,500 animals in a day'

Badri Chatterjee

badri.chatterjee@hindustantimes.com

**MUMBAI:** In the last decade, around 1,500 animals, including leopards, jackals, civets, jungle cats, wolves and hyenas, have died after accidentally falling into

## PAST INSTANCES OF LEOPARDS FALLING INTO WELLS

AUGUST 4, 2016

A seven-year old leopard was rescued from 60-foot deep well at Dimpalgaon



**AUTHORITIES SPEAK**

"We did not receive any complaint from the NGO..."