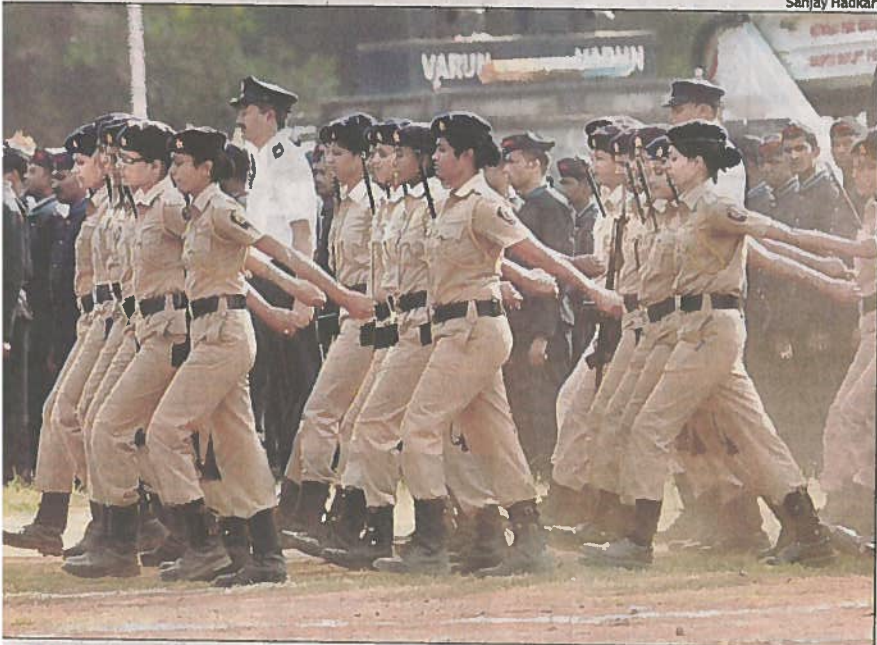


MARCH IN APRIL

Sanjay Hadkar



**MAY 1:** Policewomen rehearse for the Maharashtra Day parade at Shivaji Park on Tuesday

Late Syedna told me to keep mum on succession: Kin

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**Mumbai:** The late Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin did not publicly reveal the 'nass', the official declaration of succession, conferred on **Khuzaima Qutbuddin** (74) apprehending "swords would have been drawn", Bombay high court was told on Tuesday.

During his cross-examination before Justice Gautam Patel on the trial's second day, Qutbuddin said his uncle Syedi Saleh Safiuddin, who was also the 'mukasir'—third in rank after the Syedna and 'mazoon' (successor-designate)—had asked the Syedna why it was

secretly, "It was the Syedna's decision. Not mine," said Qutbuddin, adding that he was the witness. He also said that it is not for him to guess why the late Syedna asked him not to disclose it, saying, "He asked me to keep it confidential and I obeyed." Qutbuddin also said from the respect he got from his uncle and others, he felt they knew of the nass conferred on him.

Asked if Saifuddin, the current Syedna, knew about it, he replied, "I think so." Chagla said these answers show that several persons knew about the alleged nass conferred on Qutbuddin. But Qutbuddin



not made public, and was told by the Syedna in Gujarati that if he had done so, "talwaro chali jase". Qutbuddin has filed a suit to declare himself the spiritual head of the Dawoodi Bohras, saying his half-brother Burhanuddin secretly conferred nass on him on December 10, 1965. After Burhanuddin's death in January 2014, his second son Mufaddal Saifuddin (68), who was appointed in London in 2011, took over the mantle. Syedna Saifuddin's advocate, Iqbal Chagla, questioned why "this alleged nass" was conferred

clarified that when the Syedna appointed him mazoon, in a sermon at that time, he referred to him as a beloved son and that he was much more than a mazoon. "This carried the meaning that I was more than a mazoon and I was his successor," he added. Qutbuddin said that his late half-brother Yusuf Najmuddin along with Saifuddin and his brothers schemed against him. He claimed attempts were made to assassinate him at MP and Yemen. The cross-examination will continue after the court vacations.

BEST leases out 383 buses for ₹60L in a day

**Mumbai:** The BEST has begun giving out buses on lease in a bid to fill up its coffers. Last week, it leased out 383 buses in a single day to a corporate firm to earn Rs 60 lakh. "We are now liaisoning with tourist operators, cruise liners, hoteliers and expect to earn lakhs by leasing out both non-AC and AC buses lying idle at our depots," said BEST

general manager Jagdish Patil. He said the undertaking was also "intelligently" deploying buses in areas where there is potential to make profit.

"We have tied up with the railways to deploy extra services during Sunday megablocks and this too will fetch more revenue for the cash-strapped undertaking," Patil said.—Somit Sen

BEST to conduct cable audit, prevent transformer tripping

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**Mumbai:** With the recent tripping of transformers in Malabar Hill, Dadar, Wadala and Kurla, the BEST top brass have directed the electricians to conduct a "cable audit" across the island city. The aim is to ensure uninterrupted power supply to 10.55 lakh consumers this summer. They have directed their officers to check for cable-related faults and rectify them at the earliest. BEST general manager Jagdish Patil after the committee meeting on Tuesday, a few members had complained Patil with complaints of repeated power cuts in the city and "blackouts" at the city hospitals, had inconvenienced seviziens. "Of late, there have been power cuts due to cable faults either due to technicians or during road dig-up incidents must not be," Patil said.

POWER-FUL MEASURES

Measures the BEST will undertake for uninterrupted power supply

- ▶ Check for all cable faults in the island city—from Colaba/Cuffe Parade to Sion/Mahim
- ▶ Ensure that there is no further tripping of transformers. The deadline is set for June 1
- ▶ Implement 11 new electrification projects at a cost of ₹365 crore
- ▶ Renovate all existing sub-stations and scrap old/faulty transformers and replace them with new ones

Committee member Kedar Hombalkar said power consumption is maximum during summer and the BEST should ensure there is no shortfall in supply. Patil confirmed that the peakload was around 780 MW,

while BEST had the capacity to supply upto 933 MW power. "Most of the power is purchased from Tata Power, while we also enter into short-term power purchase agreements to meet the increasing demand during summer," he said.

He further said, "The state government recently gave us a go-ahead to seek Rs 365 crore loan from the Rural Electrification Corporation Limited to execute 11 new electrification projects between Colaba and Mahim/Sion." The loan will help the BEST renovate all the existing sub-stations and scrap the old/faulty transformers by replacing them with the new ones. "We will effectively strengthen the network for 10.55 lakh power consumers in the island city," he said.

"With brand new transformers and augmentation of distribution network, we are confident our consumers will not have any reason to complain about power supply," he said.

man worse than 3rd degree'

