



Hindustan Times

Space to economy, Prez hails India's growth areas

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NEW DELHI: The Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, the abrogation of Article 370, and the law against triple talaq, all long-standing demands of the majority of Indians, were achieved in the past decade, President Droupadi Murmu said on Wednesday, prefacing the last parliamentary session of the second Narendra Modi government with an opening address to a joint sitting of Parliament.

In an 80-minute speech in the new Parliament building, Murmu presented the government's achievements over 10 years across a variety of areas, offering a glimpse into the issues the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will focus on ahead of the 2024 elections.

"Since childhood, we have been hearing the slogan of 'Garibi Hatao' (Indira Gandhi's plank in 1971). Now, for the first time in our lives, we are witnessing eradication of poverty on a massive scale," the President said, adding that poor people, along with youth, women and farmers would be the four "strong pillars of Viksit (developed) Bharat".

From security to space, digital infrastructure to women's empowerment, agriculture to foreign affairs, and the economy to the climate crisis, the President's speech listed policies, schemes, and milestones, often comparing the current position

continued on → 13



The guard of honour before the joint sitting of both Houses ahead of Parliament's Budget session. ANI

Debate, don't disrupt, Modi advises MPs ahead of session

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NEW DELHI: The budget session of Parliament is an opportunity for those members who frequently disrupted proceedings to introspect on their conduct and express remorse by contributing to nation-building, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday as he hurled criticism at the Opposition over the

acrimonious last session marked by the suspension of an unprecedented number of members.

In his customary remarks ahead of the budget session of Parliament on Wednesday morning, Modi also hailed the nation's progress and inclusive development, noting that the first session held in the new Parliament building cleared a landmark bill setting aside seats for women in national and state leg-

islatures.

"Those who want to disrupt by habit and those who disrupt democracy, these parliamentarians will have to introspect and ask themselves what they did in 10 years... Those who showed concern for people's issues would have done democracy a good turn and will be remembered by the people. But those who only disrupted, no one will remember them," he said. → P8

16TH FINANCE PANEL GETS 3 NEW FULL-TIME MEMBERS

NEW DELHI: The government announced on Wednesday that it had appointed three full-time members and one part-time member to the Sixteenth Finance Commission (16th FC). Former expenditure secretary and former member of the 15th FC Ajay Narayan Jha, former special secretary - expenditure Annie George Mathew, and Artha Global executive director Niranjan Rajadhyaaksha will be full-time members.

SBI group chief economic advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh was appointed as a part-time member, the finance ministry said. The government last month appointed former vice-chairman of NITI Aayog and Columbia University professor Arvind Panagariya as chairman of the 16th FC, which would suggest a devolution formula for tax revenues between the Centre and states. → P19

Centre cuts duty on components used to make mobile phones

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NEW DELHI: The finance ministry has reduced customs duty for certain goods used in manufacturing mobile phones from 15% to 10%, a decision that officials said would help India's mobile hardware industry and one that experts believe could lead to slightly cheaper devices.

The reduction of the import duty applies to parts such as SIM socket, screw, battery cover, front cover, middle cover, main lens, back cover, GSM antenna, sealing gaskets, and other mechanical items of plastic and metal. For certain other parts like resin, mesh, adhesive, sponge, etc, the customs duty has been slashed to zero. "This rationalisation of custom duties brings much needed

EXPERTS SAID MOVE WILL HELP THE INDUSTRY AND POTENTIALLY LEAD TO SLIGHT PRICE CUTS

certainty and clarity for the industry and in customs processes..." IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

HT reported on January 27 that the government was considering proposals to rationalise customs duties on almost 50 products in an attempt at boosting local manufacturing by removing duty inversions caused by recent free trade agreements. These steps, officials said at the time, could also cool commodity prices and check dumping of Chinese goods. → P19

OPPN CRITICISES PREZ SPEECH AS 'PROPAGANDA' FOR CENTRE

NEW DELHI: Several opposition leaders on Wednesday criticised President Droupadi Murmu's last address to the joint sitting of Parliament ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge describing her speech as a "propaganda" and "advertisement" of the Narendra Modi government. Alleging that the President's speech lacked vision, Kharge said it did not mention anything related to employment. It was "only a praise of PM Modi... maybe she was asked to do so and that's exactly what she did," he said. → P8

IN 2ND-HIGHEST EVER RAKE-IN, GST COLLECTIONS AT ₹1.72 L-CR FOR JAN

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NEW DELHI: GST revenues surpassed ₹1.72 lakh crore in January, the second highest monthly collection and the third over the ₹1.70 lakh crore threshold, data released on Wednesday showed, with experts attributing the high number to the resilience of the Indian economy and better tax compliance. The government expects the final January figure to rise marginally as it released the data a day in advance. → P19



READ: HT's coverage of the 2024 interim Budget

{ MACROECONOMY } INTERIM BUDGET 2024

Budget may focus on welfare, infra, adhere to fisc glide path

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NEW DELHI: India will meet its fiscal deficit target of 5.9% of GDP in 2023-24, and largely adhere to the envisaged glide path to bring it below 4.5% by 2025-26 on the back of robust growth, buoyant tax collections, and better targeting of expenditure, officials familiar with the matter said, adding that public spending on welfare schemes and infrastructure

development will continue with a focus on inclusive growth while keeping retail inflation low.

This will be evident in the interim budget that will be presented on February 1, they added, asking not to be named.

The proposals of the interim budget have been prepared keeping the full financial year 2024-25 in mind. It will be a pro-poor budget with a focus on farmers, women,

youth and vulnerable groups such as those belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes,

three officials aware of the development said. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present an interim budget on Thursday ahead of the summer's general election; the new government will present FY25 Budget in July.

continued on → 6

GUV SENDS BACK K'TAKA ORDER TO PUT UP KANNADA SIGN BOARDS

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BENGALURU: Karnataka's governor, Thaaawarchand Gehlot, on Wednesday sent back to the state cabinet an ordinance that proposed augmenting the use of Kannada language in commercial signboards at a time when pro-Kannada protests over the issue are escalating in the state. The governor advised the state government to pursue its passage through the assembly. → P10

{ TRANSITION TO LA NINA? } FORECAST

2nd driest Jan for NW India since 1901, but Feb may be wetter: IMD

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NEW DELHI: Rainfall over northwest India in January was the second lowest since 1901, India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday, but a warmer than usual February could see "above normal" rainfall in the region.

January saw poor rains across much of India, IMD added: there was a 58% rainfall deficiency

across the country; 91% over northwest India; 67% over east and northeast India; and 29% over central India.

Only peninsular India, experiencing the withdrawal of the northeast monsoon, recorded a large excess - 133%.

The agency also added that the strong El Nino conditions prevailing over Equatorial Pacific likely to weaken steadily and turn to neutral conditions by the end of spring. → P12



Rain on Wednesday capped a dry Jan for Delhi. SANJEEV VERMA/HT



Four questions that explain how to read today's Budget

By Roshan Kishore and Sreedev Krishnakumar

Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the last Budget of the second Narendra Modi government today. While technicality – this is just a vote on account – suggests that today's Budget is not very important, the fact that it is being presented a couple of months before the general elections makes it an extremely important political exercise. Given this backdrop how should one read today's Budget? Here are four questions which can put this debate in perspective.

1 Will there be a big political announcement in the Budget?

This is the most important question as far as today's Interim Budget is concerned. Will there be a big-bang announcement ahead of the 2024 general elections? If the 2019-20 Interim Budget of the first Narendra Modi government is any indication, there is good reason to expect that such an announcement could be made in the 2024-25 Interim Budget as well. The 2019-20 Interim Budget surprised everyone by announcing a direct income support for farmers of ₹6,000 per year with retrospective effect. The programme "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)" was made effective from December 2018 itself and the government allocated ₹75,000 crore for 2019-20 and ₹20,000 crore in the Revised Estimates of 2018-19. How big was the PM-KISAN announcement? The best way to look at it is to compare the size of its allocation with other major announcements in the 2019-20 Interim Budget. Will the 2024-25 Interim Budget also make a similar commitment in terms of a new scheme or enhanced allocations for existing schemes? It remains to be seen.

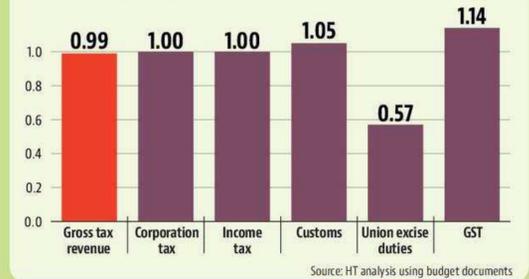
Share of major schemes in total central govt spending in the 2019-20 Interim Budget



2 Will the Budget assume a higher tax buoyancy?

This is the other important question from the resource mobilisation perspective. Most independent experts are almost unanimous that tax collections for fiscal year 2023-24 are likely to exceed the Budget Estimates of the previous budget due to a better-than-expected performance in terms of receipts from direct taxes. This is an impressive feat given the fact that nominal GDP growth in 2023-24 is projected to be 8.9%, which is lower than the 10.5% number assumed in the previous Budget. This should also lead to a higher tax buoyancy – it is the ratio of growth in taxes and GDP – for the fiscal year 2023-24, especially for direct taxes. Will this higher tax buoyancy continue in the 2024-25 Budget Estimates, reflecting better compliance and perhaps even higher growth in the corporate and white-collar salaried sector, or is the buoyancy merely a result of a one-time boost from inflation dynamics? This will be an interesting aspect to watch out for.

Tax buoyancy assumed in 2023-24 Budget



3 Will the Budget's boost to capex continue?

"Capital investment outlay is being increased steeply for the third year in a row by 33% to ₹10 lakh crore, which would be 3.3% of GDP. This will be almost three times the outlay in 2019-20," the finance minister said in her Budget speech last year. In terms of a basic balance of spending by the Centre, the numbers are even more impressive. As a share of total central government spending, the share of capital spending reached 22.2% in the 2023-24 Budget Estimates, the highest this number has been since 2004-05.

The capex push of the government has been critical in supporting overall growth despite a tepid momentum from private consumption. Whether or not the capex tilt in the Budget will continue as it has tended to under the second Modi government is a function of the first and second questions discussed above. A big-bang commitment with an eye on the polls (most likely a revenue spend) will make it difficult to increase capex share unless the government can find more resources.

Share of capital expenditure in central government's total expenditure (in %)

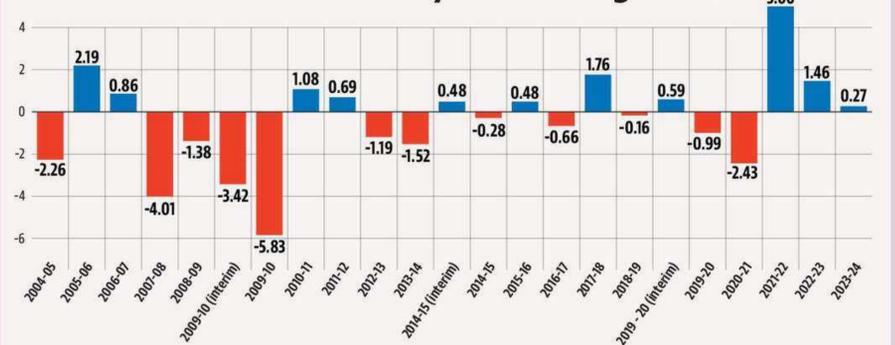


4 How will the markets react to the Budget?

Equity markets have by and large factored in the return of the current government. Policy certainty going forward has been a major tailwind for markets in the recent past. The BSE S&P, India's benchmark equity market index, has gained 6.33% since the results of the last assembly election cycle was announced on December 3. While markets are likely to cheer fiscal consolidation and maintenance of a capex focus, a large revenue spend eyed on the elections could upset sentiment. To be sure, analysis of BSE S&P on

budget day shows that markets reactions are usually not that extreme. Only four budgets since 2004 have seen the market going up or down by more than 3%. The 2021-22 Budget saw the biggest single day market gains since 1999 as the government announced increased spending without any significant change in indirect taxes, alleviating the fears of the market amid the pandemic. On the other hand, markets saw a steep fall on the day of the budget in 2009 due to concerns regarding a high fiscal deficit.

How BSE SENSEX moved on days of the Budget (in %)





Hindustan Times

FIRST VOICE. LAST WORD.

ED arrests Hemant; aide Champai may take over

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NEW DELHI/RANCHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) chief Hemant Soren on money laundering allegations minutes after he resigned as chief minister of Jharkhand on Wednesday, even as the state's ruling alliance picked trusted aide and sitting minister Champai Soren as its next leader and said he enjoyed a comfortable majority.

In the span of a dramatic few hours on Wednesday evening, Soren drove to Raj Bhavan and tendered his resignation even as 47 lawmakers backing the government followed him in three buses to meet governor CP Radhakrishnan.

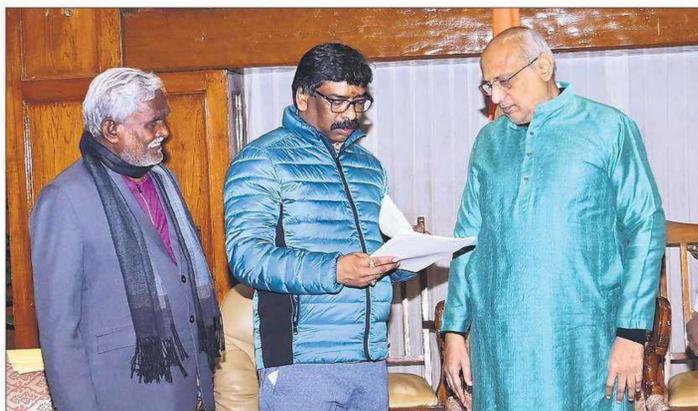
In a letter addressed to his party's MLAs before his arrest, Soren confirmed Champai Soren as legislature party leader.

"If I am arrested, in such a situation, after due consideration, I have decided to nominate Champai Soren as the new leader of the legislature party," he wrote.

State minister Mithilesh Thakur said: "With our majority, and all our signatures, we have tried to make Raj Bhavan aware that we have picked Champai Soren as our leader. Champai Soren will be the next CM."

At around 10pm, Soren returned to his residence and

continued on → 6



Hemant Soren hands over his resignation to Jharkhand governor CP Radhakrishnan (right) as Champai Soren (left) looks on, in Ranchi on Wednesday. PTI

'Tiger of Jharkhand' minister, MLA, follower of Shibu Soren

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JAMSHEDPUR: Champai Soren, 68, transport minister in the outgoing chief minister Hemant Soren's cabinet, popularly known as "Jharkhand Tiger" for his vocal advocacy for a separate Jharkhand state in the 1990s, will be the new chief minister of Jharkhand.

He was elected leader of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) legislative party as the arrest of Hemant Soren by the Enforcement Directorate became eminent on Wednesday. His nomination was endorsed by the Congress and other alliance partners of grand alliance in Jharkhand, said Rajesh Thakur, chief of Jharkhand Congress.

Born in 1956, Champai is the eldest son of Simlal Soren, a farmer from Jilingoda village in Saraikela-Kharsawan district, and worked in his farms alongside his father before joining JMM supremo Shibu Soren during his drive against local money lenders in tribal-dominated Santal and Dumka regions in the early 1990s. → P7

Hindu prayers allowed in Gyanvapi basement

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VARANASI: The Varanasi district court on Wednesday allowed Hindus to offer prayers at the southern cellar of the Gyanvapi Masjid in the city, marking a decisive turn in the decades-old dispute that will have reverberations not only on a raft of linked suits over the shrine but also in similar petitions over a mosque in Mathura.

District judge AK Vishvesha granted the family of a late priest the right to resume prayers in the southern cellar of the mosque after three decades, saying that the petitioner Shailendra Kumar Pathak Vyas and a priest appointed by the Kashi Vishwanath trust will be allowed to enter the premises.

Prayers — which were last offered in December 1993 — will have to resume within the next seven days, added the judge, whose last working day was Wednesday.

"District Magistrate, Varanasi/Receiver is directed to get pooja, Raag-bhog of the idols in the cellar, the property in question, on the south side of the building situated at Settlement Plot No. 9130, Thana Chowk, District Varanasi, done from the plaintiff and the priest named by the Kashi Vishwanath Trust Board,"

Turning point in Varanasi tussle?

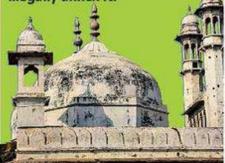
WHAT DID THE JUDGE SAY?

1 The court granted the family of a late priest the right to resume prayers in the southern cellar of the mosque, saying the petitioner Shailendra Kumar Pathak Vyas and a priest appointed by the Kashi Vishwanath trust will be allowed to enter the premises.

2 Prayers — which were last offered in December 1993 — will have to resume within the next seven days, added the judge, whose last working day was Wednesday.

THE VERDICT'S LIKELY IMPACT

The order is a victory for Hindu petitioners who asked for the rights to pray in the cellar and expressed apprehension that the mosque committee might illegally annex it.



the court said in its order.

The order is a victory for Hindu petitioners who asked for the rights to pray in the cellar — one of four in the complex, all sealed right now — and expressed apprehension that the mosque committee might illegally annex it. If the prayers go ahead, this will be the first time in three decades that any Hindu rituals are conducted inside the mosque complex, fulfilling a longstanding ideological goal of Hindu groups.

It is also a shot in the arm for other Hindu petitioners who argue that the mosque was built by

continued on → 13

Plea for survey of sealed area: HC issues notice

PRAYAGRAJ: The Allahabad high court on Wednesday issued notice to the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which manages the Gyanvapi mosque, in a petition by a Hindu woman seeking a survey of a disputed sealed area of the 17th century mosque. → P10

ED SUMMONS KEJRIWAL FOR FIFTH TIME ON FEBRUARY 2

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NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued summons to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, asking him to appear before it on February 2 in connection with its investigation into a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise police 2021-22, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

This is the fifth time that Kejriwal has been issued summons in the case. He has skipped the previous four. → P4

COURT DECLINES TO STAY CHANDIGARH MAYORAL VERDICT

CHANDIGARH: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday failed to get a stay order on mayoral elections of Chandigarh Municipal Corporation (MC), which prompted chief minister Bhagwant Mann to say the party will move the Supreme Court for an early hearing of its petition.

Mann said the AAP will file a petition in the Supreme Court to press for the early hearing of the matter. On Tuesday, the BJP won the Chandigarh mayoral poll after the chair scrapped a fourth of the Opposition's votes in a controversial decision, sparking allegations of vote tampering. → P8

NITISH DID NOT WANT I.N.D.I.A NAME, SAYS CASTE CENSUS HIS IDEA

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PATNA: Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar said on Wednesday that he had asked the 27-party Opposition bloc to not name itself INDIA and added that he took the initiative to push for a caste survey in Bihar, dismissing claims by Rahul Gandhi that the Congress was instrumental in implementing the landmark exercise.

Talking to reporters in Patna three days after he severed ties with the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and formed the government with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Kumar also dismissed speculation that he will leave the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). → P8

{ RIFT IN INDIA ALLIANCE } SEAT-SHARING TUSSELE

Mamata slams Cong as yatra enters Malda

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KOLKATA: The Trinamool Congress (TMC) will not spare a single Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal for the Congress till the latter severs ties with the Communist Party of India (Marxist), West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee said on Wednesday, amid a growing rift in the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) ahead of the general elections.

"I told them (Congress) I won't spare even a single seat. I asked them to first sever ties with the CPI(M)," she said.

This comments came on a day Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra re-entered West Bengal's Malda dis-



Mamata Banerjee

trict from Bihar, and a controversy broke out over a broken rear glass on the leader's car.

Congress state unit chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury initially claimed Gandhi's vehicle was "attacked". But the Congress later clarified that the window pane was damaged when sudden brakes had to be applied due to a woman coming in front of the vehicle during the yatra. → P8

RBI TELLS PAYTM TO HALT DEPOSITS FROM NEXT MTH

MUMBAI: Customers of Paytm Payments Bank will not be able to make fresh deposits or top up wallets, FASTags and mobility cards issued by it after a month, as RBI cracked down following an audit that revealed "persistent non-compliances" and "continued material supervisory concerns" at the payments bank.

However, customers can freely withdraw their money, RBI said in a statement. Interest payments, cashbacks and refunds can continue to be credited to these accounts. But it cannot provide any banking service or facility other than fund transfers, bill payments and UPI from March 1. → P19

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{ WORLD } FOR NEXT FINANCIAL YEAR

H-1B applications for next yr from March 6



The H-1B visa application submission process for the financial year 2025 would start from March 6, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services said on Tuesday as it announced a major overhaul of its annual lottery for the visa. The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. The new system, among other things, includes provision of a beneficiary-centric selection process for registrations by employers. As a result, unlike in the past of multiple applications by an individual that often resulted in abuse in fraud of the system, the H-1B visa applications would now be counted and accepted based on individual applicants.

{ MY INDIA } MARATHA QUOTA ACTIVIST

Hunger strike from Feb 10: Jarange Patil



Barely three days after he called off his Mumbai march, Maratha reservation activist Manoj Jarange Patil announced an indefinite hunger strike from February 10, as he criticised Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnis over "contradictory statements" on the issue. Jarange Patil, who has been demanding the issuance of Kunti certificates to all Marathas, said that despite the state government issuing a draft notification after a consensus last week, its leaders are talking in two voices. "The community is in doubt after the contradictory statements by the leaders. I, therefore, have decided to begin the protest again," he added.

{ WORLD } DAYS AHEAD OF ELECTIONS

Pak ex-PM Khan, wife jailed for 14 years on graft charges



A Pakistani anti-graft court jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Khan for 14 years each on charges of illegally selling state gifts, his party and lawyers said on Wednesday, just over a week before a national election. The verdict, which marked the third conviction handed down to the embattled ex-cricketer star in the last few months, also included a 10-year disqualification from holding public office, his party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said. Bushra Khan, commonly known as Bushra Bibi, gave herself up for arrest shortly after the verdict, PTI added. The 14-year imprisonment is harsher than the 10-year sentence given to Khan on Tuesday on charges of revealing state secrets, and comes as Pakistan prepares for polls on February 8.

{ MY INDIA } BOMBAY

HC split on Centre's fact check unit rule



The Bombay high court on Wednesday delivered a split verdict on a series of petitions challenging the amended Information Technology (IT) Rules, which empower the government to identify "fake news" on social media platforms through a Fact Check Unit (FCU). The petitions, including one filed by stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra, were met with divergent opinions from Justice Gautam S Patel and Justice Neela K Gokhale. This disagreement prompted the bench to direct the pleas to be referred to chief justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya for further consideration by a third judge, in accordance with the high court rules.

{ MY INDIA } 'NO ABNORMALITIES'

SC denies petition for abortion at 32 weeks



The Supreme Court on Wednesday turned down a plea by a 26-year-old woman seeking permission to abort her 32-week pregnancy, citing mental trauma and depression after the death of her husband. The top court held that courts have a duty to take care of the interests of both, a mother and an unborn child, an observation that came after a medical board from the AIIMS, which examined the petitioner, said that an abortion at this stage would endanger the woman's health and cause the child to be born anyway but with the likelihood of severe disabilities. The order strikes at the heart of the complicated question around abortion and its timing. The law allows pregnancies to be terminated on the advice of a doctor up till 24 weeks of a pregnancy.

IIM-L reaches out to alumni with 72 still to be placed

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LUCKNOW: Dozens of students in the batch graduating this year from one of India's top B-schools, Indian Institute of Management Lucknow (IIM-L), are yet to be find a job, according to an appeal sent to the institute's alumni seeking help, suggesting an industry downturn could hit prospects of jobseekers.

The institution said there "is nothing to worry about" and placements are underway, at least two professors from other IIMs said that they too have seen a marked drop in how companies are hiring from these premier institutes, where students are known to be swooped up with many holding multiple offers.

"Dear Batch of 2011. We are writing to address the current situation regarding unplaced students from our batch. Currently, 72 talented individuals are seeking employment opportunities," said the appeal, which added that: "Your support is crucial in maintaining the legacy of IIM Lucknow's 100% placement record."

"If you are aware of any job opportunities or have connections within your professional network that align with the skill sets of our 2024 batchmates, please consider referring them or informing us about potential openings," it said.

Responding to the situation, IIM Lucknow placement chairperson professor Priyanka Sharma said: "The process of placement is underway. There is nothing to worry about. Even today a few companies had come to the campus. Once placements are over, IIM-L will issue an official press release."

Another official, who asked not to be named, said reaching out to former pupils was a regular practice.

IIM-L, across its three 2-year MBA programmes, has nearly

600 students graduating this year. The situation is said to be similar at IIM Kozhikode and IIM Indore where it is taking longer to complete the placement process.

IIM Kozhikode director, professor Debashis Chatterjee, said: "There is an economic downturn. Placement work is taking longer than usual. I've heard that IIM Lucknow is looking to getting its 70-odd pupils placed. I'm sure that it will."

IIM Indore director professor Himansu Rai remarked: "It is taking more time than usual (to complete placements) in all IIMs. 100% placement will happen, of course. Compared to last year, the number of offers that companies are making is low. For example, if a company took 10 students last time, it is taking only two or three this time. Also, some companies have a hiring freeze this year."

The institute did not share the details of the timeframe for this year's placements, but in the past the placement process has been completed by the end of January. For instance, in 2023, the final placement press release was issued on January 27.

Last year, IIM-L secured 100% placements for its 37th batch of its Postgraduate Programme (PGP) and 18th batch of PGP-Agribusiness Management (AGM) students. It was the largest batch in its 37-year history.

The institute secured 632 offers for 556 students and placed them across multitude of roles in consulting, finance, general management, IT and analytics, sales and marketing, and operations & retail e-commerce with top recruiters from across the globe.

In 2023, the institute had achieved the highest ever average and median salary package of ₹32.23 lakh per annum and ₹30 lacs per annum, respectively, with the highest domestic and international CTC (cost-to-company) reaching ₹55 lakh per annum and ₹65 lakh per annum, respectively.

'Unfathomable sum': Judge voids Musk's \$56bn pay package

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SAN FRANCISCO: Elon Musk's \$55 billion pay package at Tesla was struck down by a Delaware judge after a shareholder challenged it as excessive, a ruling that would take a giant bite out of Musk's wealth and put the fate of his companies in question.

That is if the ruling survives a likely appeal. Shortly after the verdict, Musk took to social media to vent his feelings: "Never incorporate your company in the state of Delaware."

The decision on Tuesday, which amounts to his first major loss in court, means that more than five years after the electric-car maker's co-founder was granted the largest executive compensation plan in history, Tesla's board will have to start over and come up with a new proposal. Musk never attempted to exercise his options since they'd been challenged in Delaware chancery court. Tesla's share price slid about 3% in after-hours trading on the news.

Musk has repeatedly urged Tesla's board to arrange another massive stock award for him, years after he sold a significant chunk of his shares in the company to acquire Twitter. The billionaire has said he needs a bigger stake in Tesla to maintain control and expand further into artificial intelligence.

The ruling leaves the future of Musk's fortune in limbo. Worth some \$51.1 billion, the options were one of his most valuable assets. Without them his net worth would drop to \$154.3 billion, making him the third-richest person in the world after spending most of the past couple of years as No. 1, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Calling the compensation "an unfathomable sum", Delaware chancery court chief judge Kathleen St. J McCormick sided with an investor who complained Tesla directors didn't make proper disclosures about the 2018 executive package and the performance benchmarks required of Musk. She also found that conflicts of interest marred the board's consideration of the pay plan.

{ BUDGET SESSION BEGINS }

FROM SECURITY TO SPACE: PRESIDENT'S WIDE-RANGING ADDRESS TO PARLIAMENT

President Droupadi Murmu presented the government's achievements over 10 years across a variety of areas, offering a glimpse into the issues that the NDA is likely to focus on ahead of the upcoming general elections

NATIONAL SECURITY

The tangible results of my gov't efforts to strengthen internal security are visible to us. There is a sense of security in J&K today... There has been significant reduction in separatism in the Northeast. Naxal-affected areas have shrunk, and there has been a steep decline in Naxal violence

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Apart from the Ayushman Bharat programme, the Centre is providing free treatment. This has helped citizens save nearly **₹3.5 lakh cr**

- Jan Aushadhi Kendras have helped people save about **₹28,000 crore**.
- Prices of coronary stents, knee implants, and cancer medicines have also reduced.

RAM TEMPLE

On January 22, the country witnessed a similar epochal moment. After waiting for centuries, Ram Lalla has now been enshrined in his grand temple in Ayodhya. This was a matter of aspirations and faith for billion of our countrymen and the resolution of this has been accomplished in a harmonious manner

ECONOMY

- In the last 10 years, we have seen India transform from the "fragile five" to a "top five" economy
- Exports have increased from about \$450 billion to more than **\$775 billion**
- FDI flows have doubled
- The number of people filing IT returns has increased from about 32.5 million to about **82.5 million**

WELFARE

410mn families have got their own pucca houses. About **₹6 lakh cr** has been spent on this

- For the first time, piped water has reached about **110 million rural families**
- One million gas connections have been provided under the Ujjwala scheme as well

TRIBALS WELFARE

- Thousands of tribal villages have been provided power and road connectivity for the first time.
- Millions of tribal families now get piped water supply

POVERTY ALLEVIATION

According to NITI Aayog, in the last decade, about 250mn people have been lifted out of poverty

41.1mn poor families have now got their own pucca houses, she said

₹20 lakh crore has been spent so that poor people continue to receive subsidised rations

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

For the first time, benefits of reservation have been extended to people from economically weaker sections of general category

27% reservation has been introduced under the central quota for OBCs in UG and PG medical courses

Constitutional status has been granted to the National Commission for Backward Classes

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

100 million women are associated with self-help groups and bank loans worth **₹8 lakh crore** and aid worth **₹40,000 crores** have been disbursed to these groups... Increasing maternity leave from 12 to 26 weeks has benefited lakhs of women. Our government granted permanent commission to women in the armed forces for the first time... Of the **460 million loans** extended under the Mudra Yojana, more than 310 million have been given to women

AGRICULTURE

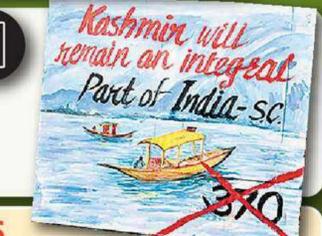
For the first time, my government has given priority to over **100 million** small farmers in India's agricultural policy and schemes, she said

- Under PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, farmers have received over **₹2.8 lakh crore** so far
- Over the past 10 years, there has been a threefold increase in easy loans for farmers from banks



ARTICLE 370 & CAA

- There were doubts regarding the removal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. Those are now history
- This Parliament also enacted a law to grant citizenship to persecuted minorities from our neighboring countries, the President said



EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

40,000 compliances removed or simplified

- 63 provisions in the Companies Act and Limited Liability Partnership Act removed from the list of criminal offences, she highlighted
- The Jan Vishwas Act has decriminalised 183 provisions under various laws
- A mediation law has been enacted for amicable resolution of disputes outside the court
- Green clearances now take less than 75 days

CLIMATE & GREEN ENERGY

- In 10 years, non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity has increased from **81gw (gigawatt) to 188gw**
- Solar power capacity has increased by **26 times**.
- Wind power capacity has doubled

INFLATION

- Despite global crises, the govt has managed to keep inflation in the country under control
- In the 10 years prior to 2014, the average inflation rate was over 8%. But this has been maintained at **5%** in the last decade

DIGITAL

The number of broadband users has increased **14 times**.

200,000 village panchayats have been connected with optical fiber.

- Artificial Intelligence mission to provide new opportunities to the youth, open avenues for new startups
- Quantum computing will develop a new age digital infrastructure. Work is in progress to ensure that India remains ahead in this field, Murmu said

INFRASTRUCTURE

375,000km of new roads have been built in villages.

- The length of National Highways has increased from 90,000km to 146,000km
- The **number of airports** in the country has doubled from 74 to 149
- Cargo handling capacity at major ports of the country has doubled
- 10,000km of gas pipelines** have been laid across the country

MIDDLE-CLASS BENEFITS

The railways gives about **50% discount to every passenger**

- Poor- and middle-class passengers get air tickets at lower prices, under the UDAN scheme
- Thanks to the LED bulb scheme, there have been savings of over **₹20,000cr** in electricity bills, she pointed out

SPACE

- The govt is engaged in making India a major global space power
- Attempts to increase India's share in the space economy have also been made
- Major decisions have been taken to expand India's space programme. This has led to formation of new space startups

GLOBAL STANDING

India has emerged as "Vishwa-Mitra" (friend of the world) in difficult times. It is because of this that we have become the voice of Global South

- In the last 10 years, another conventional way of thinking has been changed
- Earlier, events related to diplomacy were confined to the corridors of Delhi. My government has ensured the public's direct participation in this

Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

World-class airport network in India

Number of airports increased from 74 in 2014 to 149 now

Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat

Scan for more information

bc-22207/13/0242/2324

Amrit Udyan to open from tomorrow



The Amrit Udyan inside the Rashtrapati Bhavan will be opened for public from February 2. Visitors can book their visit online at <https://visit.rashtrapatibhavan.gov.in/visit/amrit-udyan/re>. According to the website, people can visit the garden between 10am and 5pm. The entry is facilitated through Gate 35 of Rashtrapati Bhavan, near North Avenue.

SANCHIT KHANNA/HT PHOTOS

Must protect both foetus, mom: SC in abortion case

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NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday turned down a request by a 26-year-old woman seeking permission to abort her 32-week pregnancy, citing mental trauma and depression after the death of her husband.

The top court held that courts have a duty to take care of the interests of both, a mother and an unborn child, an observation that came after a medical board from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), which examined the petitioner, said that an abortion at this stage would endanger the woman's health and cause the foetus to be born alive but with the likelihood of severe disabilities.

The order strikes at the heart of the complicated question around abortion and its timing. The law allows pregnancies to be terminated on the advice of a doctor up till 24 weeks of a pregnancy, but cases that have surpassed this gestation period have also been accepted by courts, especially when there is likelihood of severe harm to the mother.

Advocate Rahul Sharma, the petitioner's lawyer, had said: "We should think about the mother and not the unborn foetus. She is a widow and she does not want to live with this trauma. This pregnancy is against her choice and wish that will cause further trauma."

Dismissing the petition filed by the woman, referred as 'P', the Court noted that a medical board comprising doctors from AIIMS

had examined her following an order of the Delhi high court. Finding the foetus to be normal, the high court went by the medical experts' opinion and dismissed her plea. The woman challenged the HC's order of January 23 before the top court.

The top court bench headed by justice Bela M Trivedi said, "There is no abnormality in the foetus. It has been found to be a full-fledged, normal-bodied child. This is not the case we should entertain."

The bench, also comprising justice Prasanna B Varale said: "We have to take care of both — the foetus and the mother," as it dismissed the petition.

The Court further noted that the Delhi high court had directed the Central or state government to take care of all her medical expenses if she chose to deliver the baby in a government-run hospital. The Centre assured that if the woman was willing to give the child up for adoption, she will be fully assisted in this regard.

"It is just a question of another two weeks or so. Even the government is willing to take the child in adoption. The medical board says her life will be at risk in a pre-term pregnancy. We cannot permit it. All these points have been considered by the high court," the court said in its order.

This case caught the attention of the Delhi high court on two occasions. On January 4, the HC first permitted the petitioner to undergo abortion upon her mental examination at AIIMS's department of Psychiatry that found her suffering from severe

depression with suicidal ideation. However, on January 6 the HC received a letter from AIIMS claiming that the child will be born alive after delivery and there is a reasonable risk of physical and mental handicap to the newborn.

Following this, the Centre and AIIMS filed applications to recall the January 4 order which led to another round of litigation. The high court sought yet another report from AIIMS to know whether the petitioner will be in a position to deliver the child considering her mental state of mind. The doctors even came to the high court and proceedings were held in-camera.

Recalling its earlier order, the HC on January 23 said, "The Medical Board is of the opinion that since the foetus does not show any abnormality, feticide in this case is neither justified nor ethical."

Further, the board had opined that a preterm induction of labour has a high chance of failure and may have serious implications on the petitioner's future pregnancies. Also, the child born after a preterm induction of labour can have physical and mental deficiencies that will have drastic effect on the future of the child.

The HC order further said, "If the petitioner is inclined to give the newborn child in adoption, then as suggested by additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhatti, the Union of India shall ensure that the process of adoption takes place at the earliest and in a smooth fashion."

Govt revives Urdu Heritage Festival after 4-year hiatus

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NEW DELHI: After a hiatus of four years, the Delhi government will revive its Urdu Heritage Festival — a week-long cultural programme comprising qawwalis, ghazals, mushairas, Sufi music, dance, plays, debates, and painting, among other events.

The festival was discontinued in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and will resume at Central Park in Connaught Place on February 20 for six days, officials in the art, culture and language department said on Wednesday. The event will also host competitions for students.

An official aware of the matter said that more than 40 popular artists, including Urdu poets, and Sufi and qawwali singers will perform during the six-day festival. The festival is being organised by the department in collaboration with the Urdu Academy, and the list of artists is still being finalised, the official added.

The government began the Urdu Heritage Festival in 2010 to showcase the city's rich art and cultural heritage during the Commonwealth Games at Red Fort. In 2018 the event moved out of the walled city and has since been held at Central Park. Apart from the Urdu Heritage

Festival, the cultural and music calendar prepared by the Delhi government for February includes the Shahpur Jat Autumn Festival with a host of activities including exhibitions, workshops, heritage walks, retail shopping, folk dances, musical concerts, food, and fashion shows.

"The Shahpur Jat festival is scheduled to be held on February 16, 17 and 18," the above cited official added.

The Punjabi Academy of Delhi, a body under the Delhi government, is organising the National Poet's Meet on Saturday at Shri Ram Centre for Performing Arts in Mandi House.

Jan ends on a rainy note, max temp drops to 18.6°C

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NEW DELHI: The Capital recorded its first notable spell of rain this year on Wednesday which pushed the maximum temperature down by 2.8 degrees and ended what was a dry and unusually cold January with a reading of 18.6 degrees Celsius (°C), the India Meteorological Department said. It was 21.4°C on Tuesday.

Data from the weather agency shows that January 2024 was the driest since 2016 when the Capital recorded only "trace" rainfall. In January this year too, Delhi received "trace" rainfall — a 100% deficit from the seasonal average of 19.1mm. Rainfall recorded after 8.30am on the last day of a month is counted as part of the next month's total. As proper rain on Wednesday was only recorded post 8.30am, there was a 100% deficit in the monthly average.

This was also the second coldest January in 74 years since 1951, when the maximum temperature capped at 21 degrees Celsius (°C). In January 2024, the average maximum temperature was 17.7 (°C). The coldest January since 1951 was in 2003 when the average maximum was logged at 17.6°C.

IMD attributed Wednesday's rain to a western disturbance influencing the northern plains and added that a "very dense" layer of fog also blanketed the city in the early hours.

According to data from Safdarjung, Delhi's base weather station, the city recorded 8.5mm of rain till 5.30 pm on Wednesday.

However, the intermittent spells of rain hardly dispersed pollutants as residents continued their battle with bad air. The average air quality deteriorated considerably and clocked a 24-hour air quality index (AQI) reading of 392 (very poor) at 4pm, according to the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) national bulletin. On Tuesday, it read 357 (very poor) at the same time.

The very dense layer of fog slashed visibility to between zero and 50 metres for nearly seven hours, throwing both train and flight operations out of gear.

IMD forecasts dense fog along with cloudy skies and drizzle in parts of Delhi to continue through Thursday as well. "A yellow alert has been issued for both Thursday and Friday. There will be dense fog on both



(Above) At Kartavya Path and Bhagwan Das Road (right) on Wednesday. The city recorded 8.5mm of rain till 5.30 pm. SANCHIT KHANNA/ARVIND YADAV/HT

days and there is a possibility of light to moderate rain on Thursday as well," said a Met official.

The official added that a second western disturbance is approaching Delhi and would likely impact the region between February 3 and 5. However, the second disturbance would be bleak, the official said. "The winter conditions should continue for another week and then slowly recede. Delhi is going to experience dense fog for the next two days along with mostly cloudy skies," said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist at IMD. Meanwhile, the minimum temperature on Wednesday was recorded at 7.3°C, down from Tuesday's 8.7°C.

According to IMD, the maximum will stay around 20°C throughout the rest of the week while the minimum will stay around 8°C or below.

128 hours of dense fog

IMD has said that Delhi recorded 128 hours of dense fog, with visibility remaining below 200 metres this winter (December and January). This was the highest duration for which dense fog



persisted since 2014-2015 for the corresponding time.

"There were 20 days in these two months when a dense layer of fog covered the Capital. In 2014-15, there were 174 hours of dense fog, while in 2013-14, it was 160 hours," said RK Jenamani, scientist at IMD.

In January 2024 alone, according to IMD data, there have been 14 days of dense fog, with about 88 hours of recorded fog.

IMD classifies it as "shallow" fog when visibility is between

500m and 1000m, "moderate" when the visibility is between 200m and 500m, "dense" when visibility remains between 50m and 200m and "very dense" when the visibility drops below 50m.

Ruckus at airport

Airport authorities said that over 175 flights were delayed while six were diverted. Around 10 flights were cancelled due to poor visibility. Railway authorities said that at least 10 trains, to and from Delhi, were delayed by over

an hour. Passengers at the Indira Gandhi International IGI airport created ruckus after an IndiGo flight to Deoghar in Jharkhand from Delhi was cancelled.

In a viral video, passengers were seen ostensibly shouting slogans against the airlines. An IndiGo spokesperson said: "IndiGo flight 6E 2198 from Delhi to Deoghar was cancelled on Jan 30 and Jan 31, 2024 due to sudden drop in weather conditions around the airport in Deoghar."

27-YEAR-OLD MAN FOUND DEAD AT MANDAWALI RLY STATION; PROBE ON

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NEW DELHI: The body of a 27-year-old man with injuries on his forehead, face and neck was found near the staircase of Mandawali railway station in east Delhi on Monday morning, the Delhi Police said. Police identified the victim as Deepak Kumar Jha, who lived with his family in Mandawali and worked at a private company. He took a local train to his workplace in Delhi, police added.

Police said that Jha's phone, cash, and other belongings were missing suggesting that he might have been killed for resisting a robbery.

Police identified three suspects and a murder case was registered at the Anand Vihar railway police station on Tuesday, they said.

Deputy commissioner of police (railways) KPS Malhotra said: "Since no identification documents were found on Jha, police carried out an inquiry in the neighbourhood and the victim was identified by his father Chhabri Kant Jha. The father said the victim was carrying a phone, some cash and documents while leaving home".

MCD to set up integrated funeral facility for 3 faiths

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NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has initiated the development of a funeral complex in Rohini that will cater to Hindus, Muslims, and Christians — the Capital's first integrated facility for the last rites of three major religions — officials aware of the matter said on Wednesday.

The civic body has invited bids for the redevelopment and landscaping of a 10-acre ground at Rohini Sector 26, and has estimated that the complex will cost around Rs 5.7 crores to set up.

A senior MCD official said a detailed redevelopment plan has been finalised, and two separate bids have been invited for redevelopment work worth Rs 4.6 crore, adding that the three-way partitioned facility will host a modern crematorium with pollution control measures, along with separate burial grounds for Muslims and Christians which will have landscaping and air-conditioned waiting halls.

"The area has been roughly divided, with three around 3

acres for each of the three sections. An additional Rs 1.12 crore will be spent on partition walls, pathways, drainage, and boundary walls. Two separate bids have been invited. The ground is expected to be redeveloped in 11 months," the official said, on condition of anonymity.

"The site selected for the complex was provided by Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and was used for the cremation of those who succumbed to Covid complications during the second wave of the disease in 2021, when the burden on traditional cremation grounds had increased," the official added.

The new facility will also reduce the load on the Nigambodh Ghat and Punjabi Bagh crematoria, the official said.

A second official said that the new funeral complex has been based on a cremation facility in Hyderabad.

"Teams from MCD's public health department visited the Banjara Hills cremation facility in Hyderabad... Based on learnings from Banjara Hills, we will develop the Rohini facility into a green area, where the funeral

pyre platforms will be located in various corners so that each family gets a separate secluded space to perform the final rites. At the existing crematoria, the pyre platforms are bundled up under one shed," the official said.

According to the Delhi government's annual birth and death registration report issued in December 2023, the Capital recorded 128,106 deaths last year, which translates to an average of 351 deaths per day. According to the report, 104,764 of the deaths were registered under the Hindu faith, 16,467 as Muslims, 3,690 as Sikhs, 781 as Christians, and the remaining 2,404 did not specify any religion.

The MCD public health department oversees operations at 49 wood-based cremation grounds, eight CNG-based cremation grounds, and one electric crematorium. The city also hosts 14 burial grounds (six for Muslims, five for infants, and three for Christians). Of these facilities, 38 cremation grounds and 11 burial grounds are run with the help of NGOs.

TWO MEN WHO ROBBED CAB DRIVER ARRESTED FROM ROHINI

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police on Wednesday arrested two men who allegedly robbed a cab driver of his vehicle and cellphone after posing as passengers at Rohini in outer Delhi.

Officers identified the two as Rajesh Kumar, 38, and Sagar Kumar, 22, and said that they have recovered the stolen cab, a toy gun and a knife that they used in the crime, along with two phones — one stolen from the cab driver, and the other that was used to book the cab.

Deputy commissioner of police (Rohini) Gurjib Singh Sidhu said that around 1am on Tuesday, the police control room received a call about the robbery from the cab driver, identified as Surjeet Kumar, 28.

Subsequently, members of a special operation to curb organised and street crimes in the Rohini police district, named "Panther-Claw", took up the probe, officers said. The team scanned CCTV footage and tracked the suspects to Avantika Road in Rohini and were caught early Wednesday morning, the police said.

ED summons Kejriwal on Feb 2, but CM to hold stir at BJP's HQ

Neeraj Chauhan and Alok KN Mishra

NEW DELHI: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has issued summons to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, asking him to appear before it on February 2 in connection with its investigation into a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the Delhi excise police 2021-22, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

This is the fifth time that Kejriwal, who is also the national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), has been issued summons in connection with the case. He has skipped four previous summons — on November 2 and December 22, 2023 and January 3 and 18 this year — calling them "illegal and politically motivated".

The officials said the protest



CM Arvind Kejriwal has skipped four previous ED summons, calling them 'illegal and politically motivated'.

will be held outside the BJP headquarters in New Delhi.

The party did not immediately comment on whether Kejriwal will appear before ED in connection with the fresh summons. However, AAP chief spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar said, "We have received information about the fifth summons. Our legal team is studying it, and whatever is right as per the law will be done."

To be sure, Kejriwal has in the past consistently objected to the

ED summons by saying that it was not clear whether he was asked to appear before the agency as a witness or suspect; as chief minister or as AAP chief; and without any details on the line of questioning.

After he skipped the fourth summons on January 18, he alleged that the summons were part of a political conspiracy to stop him from campaigning for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "All the four summonses are

illegal and invalid. Different courts have termed such general, non-specific ED summons illegal and have quashed them. I have written to ED multiple times on why the ED notices are illegal, but ED has not responded," he said at the time.

Two months before Lok Sabha polls, I have been summoned. BJP leaders are saying that I will be arrested. How does the BJP know that I will be arrested? It is because the BJP is running ED. They do not want me to campaign in the Lok Sabha polls. The entire purpose of the summons is to arrest me before Lok Sabha polls and stop me from campaigning," he added.

The federal agency, however, has said that it wants to question Kejriwal on the formulation of the excise policy, on the meetings held before it was finalised, and about allegations of bribery.

The BJP, meanwhile, accused Kejriwal of making a "mockery" of the Constitution by skipping the previous four summons. "He is trying to escape by making new excuses," said Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva.

Leader of the opposition in the Delhi assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri added, "This time

Kejriwal should have the courage to appear before ED, because ED and the public also want to know who is involved in the liquor scam."

The Delhi government's 2021-22 excise policy aimed to revitalise the city's flagging liquor business. The plan, however, came to an abrupt end with lieutenant governor VK Saxena recommending a Central Bureau of Investigation probe into alleged irregularities in the regime.

ED has alleged that the AAP received kickbacks to the tune of ₹100 crore to finalise the excise policy, and that some of this money was used by the party in its Goa elections campaign. The agency has already arrested at least 14 top AAP leaders, in connection with the case, including former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and parliamentarian Sanjay Singh.

AAP, Kejriwal, Sisodia, and Singh have denied all charges, and have called the case a "witch-hunt" and "political vendetta" at the behest of the Union government. The party has also been running a campaign to seek public feedback on whether Kejriwal should step down as chief minister if he is arrested.

MAN HELD FOR SPRAY-PAINTING SEPARATIST GRAFFITI IN CAPITAL

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NEW DELHI: A 37-year-old cab driver was arrested by the Dwarka district police for allegedly spray-painting separatist graffiti on the wall of a park managed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi in Tilak Nagar in west Delhi on January 26, the Delhi Police said on Wednesday.

Police identified the arrested man as Jansvinder Lucky, who told police that he was following the instructions of his US-based friend who is associated with Khalistani terrorist Gurbatwint Singh Pannun.

Deputy commissioner of police (Dwarka), Ankit Singh, said: "A resident of Tilak Nagar, Lucky disclosed that his friend Gagandeep had promised him ₹15,000 if he spray-painted separatist slogans on walls of public property in Delhi. Jansvinder needed money and he had sought help from Gagandeep. However, no money was paid to him despite the job being done."

DCP Singh added that on January 26, a slogan was found painted on the wall after which a case was registered. Through CCTVs and manual investigation, the suspect was identified and was arrested on Wednesday from the Vishnu Garden area in west Delhi.

Hry gov't begins work on Global City project ph 1

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GURUGRAM: The Haryana government has begun work on Phase 1 of the Global City project, a mixed land use project in Gurugram on 1,000 acres along the Dwarka Expressway that will comprise residential and commercial spaces with modern infrastructure and utilities, officials familiar with the development said on Wednesday.

The project's first phase comprises building roads, electricity, water supply, and other infrastructure on 587 acres by December 2026, HSIIDC (Haryana state industrial and infrastructure development corporation) officials said, adding that the contractor has taken over the project site.

They added that Phase 1 of the project would be built at a cost of ₹940 crore.

The Global City project is being developed across parts of Sectors 36, 36B, 37, and 37B. When finished, it will have commercial towers, offices, residential towers, retail spaces, hospitals, schools, a centre for innovation, start-ups, an incubation zone, hospitality and cultural zones comprising 12 million square metres of built-up area, along with green spaces and water bodies, and its own inter-

national mass rapid transportation system. The state government had organised several programmes across the country and abroad to launch and market this project in the last three years. The project was conceived in 2019 and tender for the first phase was awarded last September.

"The trunk infrastructure in the first phase is being developed on 587 acres. The work will include building 13km of internal roads, landscape across 82 acres, a 26-km-long storm water drain network, 11.96km potable water network, a 12km recycled water pipeline, and a 10km utility tunnel. The work is expected to be completed by December 2026," said Yash Garg, managing director of HSIIDC.

"HSIIDC will operate and maintain the Global City until December 31, 2033, at no additional cost to the allottees. From 2034 onwards, maintenance charges will be recovered from allottees on actual operation and maintenance cost incurred in proportion to the actual built-up area," he said.

In a related development, the state government increased HSIIDC's working capital limit for developing infrastructure in the Global City and IMT Sohna by ₹1,500 crore, a government spokesperson said.

RWA asks Aiyar's kin to exit over temple protest

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NEW DELHI: The Jangpura Extension Residents Welfare Association (RWA) has accused Suranya Aiyar, daughter of former union minister Mani Shankar Aiyar, of creating "hatred and distrust" among people and "disturbing peace in the colony" by her January 20 comments on social media that she would be fasting to protest against the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

In a letter to Suranya, RWA president Kapil Kakkar said that she should apologise

for the "hate speech" and added that the RWA would suggest that the Aiyars should "kindly move out to another colony... if they think they were right in protesting against the consecration".

When asked for her response to the RWA letter, Suranya said that she does not live in the house in Jangpura Extension, and that she has no more comments to make beyond what she has said in the past.

A house in Jangpura Extension is listed in the immovable assets of Mani Shankar Aiyar, according to his affidavit submitted to the Election Commission on March 29, 2014.

NDMC extends fee hike at parking lots

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NEW DELHI: The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has decided to continue charging enhanced fees at New Delhi parking lots under the Graded Response Action Plan (Grap) to combat air pollution. In an order issued on Wednesday, the civic body said that the enhanced fee will continue to apply till April 30 or the withdrawal of Grap stage 2, whichever is earlier.

Curbs under Grap stage 2 have been in effect in Delhi since October 21, 2023. Under the normal parking fee slab for surface parking at NDMC parking lots, four wheelers are charged Rs 20 per hour

CURBS UNDER GRAP STAGE 2 HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT IN DELHI SINCE OCTOBER

(with maximum of Rs 100 for a day), while two wheelers are charged Rs 10 per hour. In case of multilevel parking sites, the charges are Rs 10 for four hours for cars and Rs 5 up to four hours for two-wheelers.

The council on November 13, 2023 doubled these rates at parking sites that it operates, and the enhanced rates were extended to parking lots managed by private concessionaires on November 28, 2023.

In an official statement on Wednesday, NDMC said that as per statutory directions issued by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), certain actions are envisaged to be taken to prevent further deterioration of air quality, including enhancement of parking fees.

"NDMC has decided to extend enhanced parking fees till April 30. NDMC has taken the decision based on CAQM order. Enhancement of parking fees carried out by earlier has been extended till April 30 or withdrawal of order CAQM, whichever is earlier," the statement said. To be sure, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), which manages around 96% of Delhi's geographical area, has still not

enforced a hike in parking rates. MCD last increased parking rates as part of Grap curbs in November 2017.

MCD's executive wing had moved a proposal to empower the commissioner to enforce these parking fee hikes, but the matter was postponed in a house meeting held on January 29.

Dr S Velumrangan, chief scientist, Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), said, "Agencies will have to increase enforcement and we need a more comprehensive uniform policy for this measure across the city. It is a form of congestion pricing but it will not make any impact unless while Delhi is considered at policy level rather than each local body deciding its own rules."

Year-long study to map city's smaller pollutants

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) is planning to carry out a year-long survey to identify dispersed, smaller pollution sources across the 250 wards and to plan better routes for civic services, senior MCD officials said on Wednesday.

The agency has invited bids to hire an agency with surveyors for one year to identify and audit the smaller pollution sources. The overall activity will be mapped and it will be linked

with the "MCD 311" mobile app, an official said.

A senior MCD official said that the corporation would be spending ₹36 lakh on this exercise and it will cover the inner colony road network under the jurisdiction of the civic body.

"The goal is to mark smaller, dispersed pollution sources in the form of construction waste, municipal waste, potholes, damaged roads or open burning of waste," the official said. HTc

PACE NEWS | Hindustan Times MEDIA MARKETING INITIATIVE

Empowering Futures through Research: A Guide to Profile Building in Academic Journey

In the realm of education, active participation in research has emerged as a pivotal element for the personal and academic growth of students. Notably, distinguished institutions such as Harvard, with an annual contribution of 87,515 publications, the University of Toronto with 50,936, and the University of Oxford with 45,106, exemplify the profound importance of an education deeply rooted in research principles. Statistics reveal that approximately 73% of students who engage in the creation of published research papers secure scholarships, provided their academic standing is commendable. While illustrious institutions like Harvard and Yale actively contribute to the knowledge pool, it is imperative to recognize that research is not exclusive to elite scholars, but also for school students. The impact of research publications transcends mere accolades; it plays a significant role in shaping successful applications to foreign universities and even top Indian universities like Ashoka University, Krea University, etc. Admission committees place considerable emphasis on candidates showcasing a dedication to academic research. Published research serves as compelling evidence of academic prowess, setting candidates apart from their peers in the competitive admissions process. Several students under our guidance in profile development have successfully authored multiple research publications, showcasing their academic achievements.



(Written by) Jitin Chawla, Eminent Career Counsellor and Study Abroad Expert

Identifying an intriguing research topic is a pivotal step, often grounded in issues that personally resonate with the student. Accessible resources, such as those provided by universities like Harvard, offer insights into compelling research topics. Exploring government initiatives and integrating different fields and technologies can lead to innovative problem-solving, such as combining psychology with consumer behaviour to analyse responses to advertisements.

- 1. Identifying Research Problem:** Pinpoint specific research question or issue to investigate.
- 2. Literature Review:** Review existing literature to understand the current knowledge on the chosen topic.

3. Formulating Methodology: include standardised questionnaires, outlining the approach to be taken in the study. **4. Data Analysis Techniques:** Collect data effectively and derive meaningful insights. Following the completion of the research, selecting the right platform for publication becomes essential. Research papers find homes in various journals, websites, and books, with those listed on Scopus and recognized by UGC being among the most sought-after. Consider options like International Journal of Social Science and Economic Research (IJSSER), International Journal for Multidisciplinary Research, and International Journal of Advanced Research (IJAR). Submission of the paper or abstract and undergoing a peer review process by publications follow these initial steps. It's crucial to remember that publishing a research paper is a transformative journey, fostering both academic and professional development. Students can harness the power of knowledge to enrich their personal and academic lives, and create opportunities for international education.

Balancing Academics and Well-being: Navigating the Pressures of Student Life

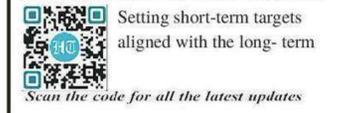
The journey through the final stages of school, marked by a relentless spree of examinations, encapsulates the mental and emotional struggles of students. The prevailing pressure to meet expectations in a highly competitive environment often leads to mounting anxiety and frustration. This distressing experience prompts reflection on how to alleviate this pressure-cooker situation. The pivotal decision of subject selection in Class XI is the first step towards a future career. It is crucial for students to introspect and recognize their aptitudes, avoiding succumbing to societal expectations. In a rapidly evolving world, where new and exciting career possibilities emerge constantly, enthusiasm for these opportunities is key. Effective systematic planning is paramount in achieving goals.



(Written by) Dr Namita Singhal, Principal, Venkateshwar Global School, Rohini

objectives allows for steady progress. Identifying strengths and weaknesses and working on them forms a solid foundation. Good time management is essential, with a well-structured timetable

that balances study hours. Physical and mental well-being are central in this phase. A focus on fitness goals, mindful eating, and engagement in activities like dance or music contribute to an energetic and focused mind. Emotional intelligence takes precedence over intellectual accomplishments, playing a vital role in building successful relationships both personally and professionally. Parents play a significant role in providing support and guidance. Open communication and understanding the unique individuality of each child are crucial. This holistic approach aims to ease the burdens on students, fostering a balanced and fulfilling educational experience.



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KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Chief Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., invites Open Tender in Single bid system through E-Tendering on IREPS portal from eligible contractors for the following work. **Name of Work: Complete Track Renewal (P) work in Tunnel-1 and Point & Crossing for 2 kilometre between Km 515/000 to Km 568/000 of Harwada - Honnavar section under the jurisdiction of Assistant Engineer, Madgaon in Senior Regional Engineer, Karwar in Karnataka State. Tender Notice No.: KR/W/1/58/2023/10. Estimated Cost: Rs. 1,35,33,225/- excluding GST. Tender Closing Date/Time: 21.02.2024 up to 15:00 hrs** for submission of online Offers/Bids. **Completion period: 240 days** inclusive of monsoon. Manual offers shall not be accepted. Please visit <https://ireps.gov.in> website for details / participation. Corrigendum/addendum will be hosted in this website only.

छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता
जल संसाधन संभाग, कोटा
जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

निविदा निरस्तीकरण आदेश

आदेश क्रमांक 641/व.ले.लि./2023-24/कोटा दिनांक 29.01.2024
निविदा सूचना क्रमांक: 16/व.ले.लि./2023-24, दिनांक 28/12/2023
सिस्टम नंबर 150399 "तेन्दुआ जलाशय योजना का जर्जोडर एवं नहर मसमत तथा लाईनिंग कार्य" (प्रथम आमंत्रण) निविदा राशि रु. 117.27 लाख की निविदा में एकल निविदाकार होने के कारण पुनः निविदा आमंत्रित करने का निर्देश कार्यालय प्रमुख अभियंता जल संसाधन विभाग, शिवनाथ भवन, नवा रायपुर अटल नगर रायपुर (छ.ग.) के पृष्ठ. क्रमांक 4262997/निविदा प्रकोष्ठ/2023/10816 (टीसी) नवा रायपुर दिनांक 19.01.2024 के आधार पर उक्त निविदा निरस्त की जाती है।

कार्यालय अभियंता
जल संसाधन संभाग, कोटा
जिला-बिलासपुर (छ.ग.)

दिनांक 02.01.2024
G-073704

कार्यालय अभियंता अभियंता
उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लि०
विद्युत परीक्षण सख्त (नगरीय), 18 ईश्लो रोड, देहरादून, ई-मेल-etdurban@yahoo.in

पत्रांक: 182/वि०प०ख०(न०)/दे०द० दिनांक: 30.01.2024

निविदा सूचना

अनुमयी एवं प्रतिष्ठित ठेकेदारों से खण्ड के अन्तर्गत विद्युत परीक्षणशाला-उत्तर, देहरादून के मीटरिंग अनुभाग के अन्तर्गत आने वाले विद्युत उपभोक्ताओं के परिसर पर चैकमीटर स्थापित एवं फाईनल करने का कार्य सम्पादन हेतु मोहरबन्द निविदायें दो भागों में (प्रथम भागमें धरोहर धनराशि व अनुभव का साथ, तथा द्वितीय भागमें दरें, जो कि निविदा खुलने की तिथि से कम से कम 6 माह के लिए वैध हों) आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र किसी भी कार्य दिवस में अद्योस्ताधिकर्ता के कार्यालय से दिनांक 14.02.2024 12.00 बजे तक रु 295/- (कर सहित) खण्डीय कार्यालय में नगद मुगतान उपरान्त क्रय किये जा सकते हैं। जो दिनांक 14.02.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक खण्ड द्वारा प्राप्त की जायेगी तथा दिनांक 14.02.2024 को 15:45 बजे उपरिष्ठत निविदादाताओं के समुख अद्योस्ताधिकर्ता अथवा उनके द्वारा अधिकृत प्रतिनिधि द्वारा सार्वजनिक रूप से खोली जायेगी। धरोहर राशि रु 16000.00 मात्र किसी भी राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक की एफ०डी०आर०/सी०डी०आर० के रूप में ही अद्योस्ताधिकर्ता के पक्ष में बन्धक होनी चाहिए। धरोहर राशि एवं समस्त साक्ष्यों के बिना निविदा प्रस्ताव का भाग दो नहीं खोला जायेगा। यदि किसी कारण वश निविदा खोलने के दिन कार्यालय बंद रहता है, तो आगले कार्य दिवस में निविदा खोली जायेगी।

अद्योस्ताधिकर्ता को यह अधिकार है कि वह बिना कारण बताये निविदा को निरस्त कर सकते हैं।

निविदा सं० 15/वि०प०ख०(न०)/दे०द०/2023-24

खण्ड के अन्तर्गत विद्युत परीक्षणशाला-उत्तर, देहरादून के मीटरिंग अनुभाग के अन्तर्गत आने वाले विद्युत उपभोक्ताओं के परिसर पर चैकमीटर स्थापित एवं फाईनल करने का कार्य। अभियंता अभियंता, विद्युत परीक्षण सख्त (नगरीय), देहरादून राष्‍ट्रहित में बिजली बचायें

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20

E-Tender No. — PRYJ-GSU-Sig-013-2023-24

E-Tender Notice

Dy.CSTE Gati Shakti Unit (Signal & telecommunication), N. C. Railway PRYJ for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-tender on prescribed form for the following work up to 12.00 hrs on the opening date of E-tender mentioned therein. The details of the Tender are as under:-

S.N.:	Tender No.:	Approx. Cost of work (Rs.):
1	013	54671975.15

Name of work: Prayagraj Division: Upgradation of existing Goods Sheds at Alhasrai, Ekdil and Phaphund stations over Prayagraj Division in North Central Railway

Earnest Money (Rs.): 423400.00
Cost of Tender Form: 0.00
Completion Period: 12 Months
Date of Opening of tender: 26.02.2024

2. Availability of tender form: Tender forms are available on www.ireps.gov.in; 3. Earnest Money to be deposited: The prescribed amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above must be deposited along with the tender form Online through Internet Banking or Online Payment gateway only. The tenderer(s) should note that, in any case, the Earnest Money in any other form than specified above shall not be acceptable. Tenders without earnest money shall be summarily rejected. 4. Time & place of opening of tender: Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj at or after 12.30 hours. In case tender opening date happens to be holiday, Tenders will be opened on the next working day. 5. Validity of offer: 60 days from the date of opening. 6. Right of Railway to deal with tender: Railway administration reserves the rights to postpone, modify or to cancel the tender without assigning any reasons. 7. Similar Nature of Work: Any signaling work involving design, installation, testing, commissioning of E/OI alterations of. 184/24 (ADM)

North central railways | @CPNCR | @northcentralrailway | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

THE MADHYA PRADESH STATE MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
Paryaw Bhawan, Block'A', 2nd Floor, Jail Road
Arera Hills, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh - 462011
Phone : 0755-2763391, 2763392, 2763393 & Fax: 0755-2763394
E-mail : info.mpsmc@mp.gov.in

RFENO. MPSMCL/Geology/26/2023-24/129 Bhopal, Dated : 30.01.2024

NOTICE FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

"Selection of Service Provider for Preparation of Forest Diversion Proposal and to facilitate obtaining approval of Division of Forest land (Forest Clearance Stage I)"

MPSMCL hereby invites proposals (RFP) for Selection of Service Provider for Preparation of Forest Diversion Proposal and to facilitate obtaining approval of Division of Forest land (Forest Clearance Stage I) from MOEF&CC, GOI for Dadartola Dadar Bauxite block and Jariyari Bauxite block in Madhya Pradesh. Eligibility conditions, timelines, terms and conditions etc. for participating in the tender are provided in the RFP Documents which can be downloaded from the M.P. Tender portal <https://mptenders.gov.in> from 31.01.2024 onwards.

M.P. Madhyam/113519/2024 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
PUNJAB WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD

NIT No.: 08/PWSSB D-2/B/1 Date: 30.01.2024

Executive Engineer, Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn. No. 2, Bathinda on the behalf of Chief Executive Officer, Pb. W/S and Sew. Board Chandigarh invites online bids for the following:

Sr. No.	Item	Amount in lacs
1.	Part (A) - Prov. & Laying of RCC NP-3 Pipe with HDPE lining, UPVC pipe sewer, MPS Including pumping Machinery, DI K-7 R/M and all others works contingent thereto at Bhagta Bhai Ka as per DNT (SBM-2.0)	556.15
	Part-B: Survey, Soil Testing, Design, Supply and Constrn. Commissioning of 3 MLD capacity STP cum 9 Kld FSTP based on Suitable Proven Sustainable Biological technology including other appurtenant works on tursky basis as per DNT including O&M for a period of 60 months after stabilization period of 3 months (SBM-2.0)	Lump-Sum
2.	Part (A)- (As per Sr. No. 1) S&S inside HDPE lining, at Nathana as per DNT (SBM-2.0)	1349.38
	Part (B)- (As per Sr. No. 1) 1.00 MLD Capacity STP cum 3 KLD FSTP (SBM-2.0)	Lump-Sum

Closing date & time: - 6th Attempt : 23.02.2024 upto 05.00 PM
Opening date & time: - 6th Attempt : 26.02.2024 upto 11.00 AM
Pre Bid meeting date & time : 12.02.2024 at 11:00 AM

For detailed log onto <https://proc.punjab.gov.in>
Note: Any Corrigendum(s), to the Tender/RFP Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
31892 Pb. W/S & Sew. Divn. No.2, Bathinda

HC pulls up Delhi over facilities in its hospitals

Shruti Kakkar
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Wednesday pulled up the Delhi government for presenting an "incorrect picture" regarding the functioning of CT scan machines and the availability of beds in its hospitals, saying patients were being denied admission due to lack of essential equipment and beds.

"This data is saying that the CT scan machine is working, while it is not working. We want to help you in fixing things, but it does not seem that you are giving the correct picture. But we want a clear picture. Here everything looks hunky dory. On the ground level, people are being denied admission," a bench led by acting chief justice Manmohan said to advocate Satyakam who appeared for the Delhi gov-

ernment. The court was considering an application seeking an investigation into the death of a man who had jumped from a moving police control room van earlier this month and was refused treatment by government hospitals due to non-functional equipment.

The application filed by amicus curiae Ashok Agarwal said the man was refused admission by four hospitals due to the non-availability of necessary facilities including CT scan, ICU/ventilator beds and the absence of a communication network between the hospitals in the Capital.

During the last hearing, the high court directed the Delhi government to indicate the inventory of the non-functional machines and the timelines by which the same would be

repaired or replaced. The court also expressed its intention to direct the health department to ensure the functioning of machines in all the hospitals expeditiously. Advocate Satyakam had submitted that five out of six CT scan machines and 1,059 out of 1,123 ventilators were functional in the 19 hospitals including GTB hospital, Lok Nayak hospital, and Deen Dayal Upadhyay hospital.

A bench also comprising justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora had indicated to constitute an expert committee to assess the situation of the hospitals saying it did not want to enter into a "blame game".

On Wednesday, advocate Satyakam submitted that the Delhi government was monitoring its health infrastructure to ensure that it is at a similar pace with the growing population.

KHARGE TO KICK OFF CONG'S POLL PREP WITH RALLY AT GEETA COLONY

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely on Wednesday said that Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge will address a rally being organised by the party in Geeta Colony in east Delhi on February 3, marking the beginning of the party's Lok Sabha poll preparations in the Capital.

"After the unprecedented success of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, Delhi Congress has decided to hold a Nyay Sankalp Workers' Convention at the Geeta Colony Ramliya ground on February 3 (Saturday) from 11am. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal and India Alliance co-ordination committee convener Mukul Wasnik will address the convention," Lovely said at a press conference at the Delhi Congress office.

In the 2024 general elections, the Aam Aadmi Party and Congress are trying to fight the BJP together by sharing seats. Multiple seat-sharing discussions have been held but no final decision (on seat-sharing) has yet been taken, people aware of the matter said.

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said both the Congress and the AAP are scared of the upcoming polls. "People are satisfied with Narendra Modi government are going to give more than 400 seats to BJP in the Lok Sabha polls," Kapoor said.

Swati Maliwal takes wrong RS oath, has to take it again

NEW DELHI: Newly-elected Rajya Sabha MP Swati Maliwal had to take her oath twice after she took a wrong oath clubbed with a slogan. Leader of the House Piyush Goyal objected to her slogan and said, "This vitiates the Oath itself." Chairman Jagdeep Dhankar said "this is a very solemn occasion and there have been instances earlier when there were diversions to oath in the country and outside also, and corrections had to be made. She is a young MP. She will bear with it." Maliwal initially took the wrong oath of a nominated member. **HTC**

Boy injured after being attacked by neighbour's pet dog

NEW DELHI: A seven-year-old boy suffered multiple injuries after his neighbour's pet dog allegedly attacked him outside his house in northwest Delhi's Jahangirpuri on Monday, police officers said. Based on a complaint from the boy's father, a first information report was registered for negligent conduct with respect to animal and causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others under sections 289 and 337 of the Indian Penal Code at Mahendra Park police station, police said. **HTC**

Greater Noida: Man stabbed over dispute during cricket game

NOIDA: A 23-year-old man was stabbed by his friend after a dispute broke out between them during a cricket game at a ground in Surajpur, Greater Noida, at 5pm on Tuesday. "Kapil Kumar was playing with 10 others at a when a dispute broke out between him and another player, Mohit Kumar," said an officer. Mohit picked up a knife from a nearby fruit-seller and attacked Kapil with it, said police. "Kapil sustained a stab wound to his abdomen and was rushed to a hospital by his friends. Mohit was arrested. Kapil is said to be stable. **HTC**

COURT RESERVES ORDER IN SANJAY SINGH BAIL PLEA

NEW DELHI: The Delhi high court on Wednesday reserved its order on a petition by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh, seeking bail in connection with a case pertaining to the Delhi excise policy.

Singh was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on October 4 in its probe into allegations of money laundering in the implementation of the policy. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma heard the arguments on behalf of both Singh and ED on Wednesday and reserved the order.

Singh sought bail on the ground that he has been in custody for the last three months and no role has been attributed to him in the predicate offence. **HTC**

Govt releases ₹803cr to MCD

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Delhi government on Wednesday released the third tranche of ₹803.69 crore for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for payment of staff salaries, the office of Delhi finance minister Atishi said in a statement.

Under the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, the fund allo-

cation to MCD increased from ₹854.5 crore in 2014-15 to ₹2,642.47 crore in 2023-24, the statement said. The previous two tranches were released in May and August last year. "The decision to release the instalment will ensure timely payment of salaries and pensions to the employees of the MCD. In addition, sanitation workers, paramedical staff, etc., in the MCD will also receive their salaries

on time," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the Delhi BJP said that due to the wrong policies of the AAP government, the development work of MCD has come to a standstill. "The annual installment of ₹803.69 crore is money for development, from which the AAP government will distribute salary and will clap for itself," said Praveen Shankar Kapoor, Delhi BJP spokesperson.

Keeping the Capital safe



A CISF official and his canine companion during a security drill following the inauguration of interactive museum exhibits showcasing Delhi Metro's journey at the Shivaji Stadium Metro Station on Wednesday. **SANCHIT KHANNA/HT PHOTO**

Advertisement No. 08/2024 Government of India

Public Enterprises Selection Board invites applications for the post of **Director (Finance) In Central Warehousing Corporation**

Last date of submission of application by the applicant is **21st February, 2024**

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal officers to PESB is **01st March, 2024**

For details login to website <http://www.pesbnew.nic.in>

OFFICE OF THE ELECTION OFFICER SURAJMAL MEMORIAL EDUCATION SOCIETY, C-4, JANAKPURI, NEW DELHI-110058
Website : www.surajmalmemorialeducationsociety.org

Ref. No.: SMES/Elec.Off./2024/01/004 Dated : 01.02.2024

NOTICE FOR ELECTION

I, Ashish Chakraborty, in my capacity as Election Officer for election of twenty one members of the Executive Committee of the Surajmal Memorial Education Society, C-4, Janakpuri, New Delhi, do hereby give notice of the above said election to be held on Sunday, the 10th March, 2024, as per the following schedule:-

S.No.	Election schedule	Date(s)	Time
1.	Publication of Electoral List (Membership List) inviting Claims and Objections for alteration, addition of inadvertent omission, deletion or correction in the list (In pursuance to Delhi High Court's Order in WPC/11798/2019 and CM Appl. 48379/2019, CM Appl. 53842/2019 dated 27.9.2023)	01.02.2024 (Thursday) To 16.02.2024 (Friday)	11.00 am to 3.00 pm
2.	Date for filing of Nomination Papers by the candidates, in person	17-02-2024 (Saturday) and 19-02-2024 (Monday)	11.00 am to 3.00 pm
3.	Scrutiny of Nomination Papers	21-02-2024 (Wednesday)	From 11.00 am
4.	Publication of names of candidates whose Nomination Papers have been found valid on Scrutiny	21-02-2024 (Wednesday)	4.00 pm
5.	Last date for Withdrawal of Nomination	23-02-2024 (Friday)	2.00 pm to 4.00 pm
6.	Publication of Names of Contesting Candidates and Allotment of Symbols	23-02-2024 (Friday)	4.30 pm to 6.00 pm
7.	Date of Poll	10-03-2024 (Sunday)	10.00 am to 5.00 pm
8.	Counting of Votes	11-03-2024 (Monday)	From 9.00 am onwards
9.	Declaration of Result of Election	After completion of Counting	

Note:

- All events pertaining to the election will take place in the premises of Surajmal Memorial Education Society at C-4, Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058 as per prescribed date and time.
- A copy each of the Rules for Election, Electoral Roll, Nomination Form and Withdrawal Form can be obtained from the office of the undersigned in the Conference Room of Maharaja Surajmal Institute of Surajmal Memorial Education Society, C-4, Janakpuri, New Delhi, on any working day between 11.00 am and 3.00 pm, during the period of election schedule. All these documents are also uploaded on the website of the Society www.surajmalmemorialeducationsociety.org from where the printouts can be obtained. The membership list will be supplied on demand, on payment basis @ Rs. 2/- per page.
- Every member who wishes to file Nomination should ensure the deposit of the security amount of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) in favour of "Surajmal Memorial Education Society" in the office of Election Officer in the form of Accounts Payee Cheque/Bank Draft and should ensure attaching a copy of the receipt with the Nomination Form.
- In case the cheque / draft is dishonoured by the Bank, the candidature of the contesting candidate shall be cancelled.
- Duly filled Nomination Form should be presented only in person by the intending candidates. The Proposer and Seconder should also accompany the candidate.
- The Candidate, his proposer and seconder should attach with Nomination Paper a self-attested photocopy of any of the photo Identity Documents issued by the Govt., like, Aadhaar Card, Voters' ID Card, Passport, Driving License, Service Identity Cards with photograph issued by Central/State Govt./PSUs/Public Limited Companies and should also carry such original ID card for verification.
- Withdrawal Form can be presented only in person by the intending candidate.
- On the day of poll, the voters must produce any one of the valid / original photo identity documents, mentioned at point (6) above, for obtaining Voter's Slip and again at the time of casting of votes.

Sd/-
(Ashish Chakraborty)
Former Secretary, Election Commission of India
Election Officer (SMES)

Date : 01.02.2024
Tel : 011-45656183/45037193

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S. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended (31/12/2023)	Corresponding quarter ended (31/12/2022)	Previous year ended (31/03/2023)
1	Revenue from operations	3,255.06	3,043.17	11,529.89
2	Net Profit for the period / year (before tax, exceptional items and share of (loss) / profit of joint venture)	661.81	620.92	2,220.31
3	Net Profit for the period / year before tax (after exceptional items and share of (loss) / profit of joint venture)	661.41	620.16	2,218.68
4	Net Profit for the period / year after tax and share of (loss) / profit of joint venture	506.44	476.65	1,701.33
5	Net Profit for the period / year after tax (after non controlling interest and share of (loss) / profit of joint venture)	514.22	475.94	1,707.15
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (comprising profit for the period / year (after tax) and other comprehensive income (after tax) }	525.98	401.62	1,481.66
7	Paid-up equity share capital (Face Value of ₹ 1 each)	177.20	177.18	177.18
8	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	9,360.50	8,579.80	8,796.08
9	Securities Premium Account	534.27	520.95	520.95
10	Net worth	9,537.70	8,756.99	8,973.26
11	Outstanding Debt	1,844.63	1,546.60	1,173.79
12	Debt Equity Ratio	0.19	0.18	0.13
13	Earnings per share (Face value of ₹ 1 each) (not annualised)			
(a)	Basic	2.90	2.69	9.64
(b)	Diluted	2.90	2.68	9.61
14	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	17.04	23.46	22.72
15	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	21.80	37.57	33.35
16	Other Equity	9,360.50	8,579.80	8,796.08

Notes:

- Additional information on standalone financial results is as follows:

Particulars	Quarter ended (31/12/2023)	Corresponding quarter ended (31/12/2022)	Previous year ended (31/03/2023)
Revenue from operations	2,414.36	2,298.26	8,684.35
Profit before tax	557.29	522.16	1,828.67
Profit after tax	428.12	394.34	1,373.26

The above is an extract of the detailed format of unaudited consolidated financial results for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December, 2023 filed with the stock exchanges under Regulation 33 and 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December, 2023 are available on the Stock Exchange websites (www.nseindia.com and www.bseindia.com) and Company's website (www.dabur.com).

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Mohit Burman
Chairman
DIN : 00021963

Place: New Delhi
Date: 31 January, 2024

FROM PAGE 1

HEMANT SOREN

hand to be arrested, after his father Shibu Soren and Madhu Koda.

"We have evidence that he grabbed some land, which was illegally obtained by others through falsified documents," said an ED officer, who didn't want to be named. Soren appeared defiant. "I have always fought and will continue to fight. But I will not compromise," he posted on X.

Raj Bhavan later released a photo of Soren submitting his resignation to the governor, accompanied by Champai Soren, Left lawmaker Vinod Singh, Congress leader Pradeep Yadav, minister Alamgir Alam, and Rashtriya Janata Dal legislator Satyanand Bhokta. "We have 47 MLAs and we should be allowed to form the government. The governor said that he will check our papers and call us," said Alam.

The assembly strength is 81. On a tense day in Ranchi, with prohibitory orders clamped across large swathes of the state capital, Soren's questioning began at 1.15pm at his residence, with ruling party legislators also in the premises. The questioning lasted for seven hours.

The official quoted above said ED has evidence that Soren is a key beneficiary in alleged land related irregularities in Ranchi, where a network of brokers and businessmen were allegedly working over the years to create fake deeds of landed parcels by forging records in the registrar offices and further selling them off. Officials said Soren will be produced in a court on Thursday, when ED will explain the exact charges against him.

Soren and the JMM have repeatedly denied the allegations and called them politically motivated, saying that the details of his assets are public.

In the assembly, the ruling alliance that includes the JMM, Congress, the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist) has 48 seats while the National Democratic Alliance has 32. One seat is vacant. All eyes will now be on governor Radhakrishnan. The law and past precedent say he can ask Champai Soren for a fresh letter of support from the lawmakers backing his leadership. Alternatively, he can also tell Champai Soren to prove his majority on the floor of the House, but it could be a contentious directive given that the JMM is, so far, united and the party's coalition partners have also furnished their support in writing. The Supreme Court's 2023 judg-

ment in the Shiv Sena case says that the governor must have credible material to substantiate his decision to call for a floor test. The BJP may also move a request in the assembly for a floor test that the speaker—who belongs to the JMM—will take a call on.

To be sure, there is no prohibition either in the Constitution or under any statute that mandates a sitting CM to resign after arrest in a criminal case. It is only after their conviction and an imposition of a jail term that they must resign. Some precedents and political prudence have seen CMs stepping down after arrests. After an arrest warrant was issued against him in connection with a fodder scam case, Lalu Prasad Yadav chose to resign as the Bihar CM and his wife, Rabri Devi, took over in 1997. On the other hand, J Jayalalitha served as Tamil Nadu CM for three years while she was being tried in a corruption case and resigned only after she was found guilty in 2001.

Anticipating the arrest, the ruling coalition has already planned shows-of-strength across the state, where assembly elections are due later this year.

The trouble began for him in August last year when the federal financial crimes agency asked to question him. The leader didn't show up and skipped six subsequent summons, before finally agreeing to being questioned on January 20 this year.

Dramatic scenes unfolded in Delhi and Ranchi over the last two days, after ED swooped in on Soren's residence at Shanti Niketan in Delhi and even sent a team to the airport, but failed to locate him. Sleuths were stationed there till at least 10pm on Monday and seized about ₹36 lakh in cash from his Delhi residence, a BMW SUV, and documents. Soren later said none of this belonged to him and registered a case against ED.

The developments prompted the BJP to allege that Soren was absconding in fear. But Soren—who had landed in Delhi on Friday and was expected to fly out in a chartered plane—drove 1,300km to Ranchi overnight and showed up in the city on Tuesday.

A Kolkata based businessman, Amit Kumar Agarwal, arrested by ED on Jan 7 last year, is key to Soren's arrest as he is suspected to be the handler of tainted funds of several politicians including the former Jharkhand CM, as alleged in a petition filed in the Jharkhand high court in 2021 by a lawyer, Rajeev Kumar.

ED has already filed a charge sheet in the alleged land scam on

June 12, 2023, naming Amit Agarwal, arrested Indian Administrative Officer Chhavi Ranjan and eight other individuals, Dilip Kumar Ghosh (a close aide of Agarwal), Pradip Bagchi, Afshar Ali (alleged kingpin who created fake deeds on landed properties), Mohammad Saddam Hussain, Imtiaz Ahmad, Talha Khan, Fayaz Ahmed, Bhanu Pratap Prasad, and three companies allegedly linked to Agarwal—Jagatbandhu Tea Estates Pvt Ltd, Rajesh Auto Merchandise Pvt Ltd and Aurora Studio Pvt Ltd.

The alleged scam pertains to usurping prime landed parcels including a 4.55 acre defence land at Morabadi Mouza at Ranchi, and a land parcel of 7.6 acres at Hehal, Ranchi—both valued at over ₹74 crore, besides other land parcels—by the accused persons by making fake deeds using manufactured identities and falsifying original land records, according to the ED charge sheet, which HT has seen.

Overall, ED has recovered documents related to at least 27 properties of which alleged fake deeds were created.

INTERIM BUDGET

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will maintain a continuity between the interim and the full budgets for 2024-25 as it is confident of a third-term (2024-29), the three officials said. "The Modi government has responsibly prepared the interim Budget because it is sure of getting a third-term, and cannot escape from implementing the Budget promises. Besides, the interim Budget will be in sync with the full Budget as a pathway to a 'Vikshit Bharat' [developed India] by 2047," one of them said. "The full Budget may enhance allocations further rather than reducing outlays," a second official added.

"The interim budget on Thursday will focus on inclusive growth, a precursor of the full Budget, with a double-digit jump in allocations for key sectors," the third official said. The government's priority sectors are agriculture, rural development, MSMEs, health, education, defence and the Northeast region, he added. The governments will allocate larger outlays to areas that will accelerate economic growth, create jobs and bring ensure societal well-being.

In the 2023-24 Budget, while the government raised outlays for defence by 13% on an annualised basis, it enhanced its capex 33% to Rs 10 lakh crore. That will continue, the officials said. "The government's three-year

capex push will continue, albeit on a higher base to crowd in private investments and maintain current rate of economic growth," the first official said. "Capex proposed in the interim budget may not be treated as rigid as it could be tweaked in the full budget depending on global and domestic factors in the next six months. The capex push remains one of the prime growth drivers," he added.

The government is also committed to fully fund flagship schemes even if their initial budget may see a sharp year-on-year jump, officials said, citing examples of food security, and MGNREGA. "It has planned expenditure for 2024-25 on a high base keeping robust revenue inflow in mind, hence any major deviation from envisaged fiscal deficit glide path is not expected," the second official said. According to this official, deficit could be gradually reduced to 5.2% in 2024-25, 4.5% in 2025-26 and 4% in 2026-27.

Despite global headwinds and the disruption in Red Sea trade, India's first advance estimates of growth released on January 5 projected a higher-than-expected GDP growth of 7.3% in 2023-24. Experts said revenue growth is in sync with India's economic growth. India's gross direct tax collections in the current financial year jumped by 16.77% on an annualised basis, highlighting the robustness of the economy and enhanced compliance.

The interim budget will also emphasise on active participation of states in capital expenditure, ease of living, and implementing reforms, the officials said.

According to the officials, the budget will focus on women with a roughly 30% year-on-year jump in gender budgeting in line with the Delhi Declaration under India's G20 presidency. HT reported this on October 18, 2023.

Experts said they don't expect big announcements in the interim budget, but are confident of continuity in the government's economic policies. "The economic policies of the Modi government have been globally acknowledged. They not only helped the economy to quickly recover from Covid disruptions but also made India the fastest growing major economy of the world. Investors want this policy continuity along with political stability, which the Modi government provided for the last 10 years," said Nilaya Varma, CEO and co-founder of Primus Partners, a consultancy.

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Mayank Austen Soofi



The ghosts of Patel Nagar

The old edifices of a central Delhi locality

PUBLIC INTEREST

The faded yellow paint has peeled off in many places—is probably peeling off at this moment too, while you read these words. The old paint underneath the yellow, resurfacing, has the dull pink glow of a perpetual sunset. The building seems empty. Facing the smoggy road, it stands between modern glass-grey edifices.

The bungalow is a souvenir of old Patel Nagar. The central Delhi locality is littered with similarly elegant residues of our city's recent past. Some houses are tucked deep within backlanes, adorned with the chippy floors and swirly staircases of decades-old architectural trends. A few of these look forlorn. They must be vacant, awaiting their turn to be replaced by multistoreys.

A handful of Patel Nagar's aged relics line both sides of its main road, easily visible to passersby. One such bungalow has a huge porch colonised by a huge banyan. Another exists only in the memories of a celebrated Shakespeare scholar. In his 80s, Professor Rupin Walter Desai grew up in the "large, rambling" Rangoon Villa built in 1952 by his father, who used to teach Far Eastern history at the

University of Rangoon in Burma. The main road house had two gardens, five rooms, and many terraces and balconies. There were guava and papaya trees, and a giant fig tree. The young Desai would reread *Hamlet* in the back garden or in his room upstairs. The drinking water for the "villa" would be sourced from Karol Bagh; no water pipeline existed in Patel Nagar during the early years of the bungalow. "Too expensive to maintain," it was sold in the 1970s, obliging the venerable academic to move to his current flat in a Patel Nagar backlane. A "big hotel" stands on the site of the professor's former home; the hotel actually occupies the plots of two former bungalows.

Not far from where Rangoon Villa was, a moderately dilapidated bungalow continues to be inhabited. Two of the rooms have fireplaces. The dimly lit pooja room with its musty peeling walls evokes the hushed ambience of a sacred cloister; so soulful here that one palpably feels the divinity's presence. Sadly, portions of the beautiful woodwork in one of the rooms were destroyed by a termite invasion. The family recognises the rarity of the house, but is resigned to the inevitability of its demise. (A multistorey overlooks the bungalow.)

Meanwhile, on the main road, a building is coming up. A bungalow stood on the site.



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HT Homage

UTHAVANI

With deep sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved

Shri Raj Nath Gupta
03.06.1941 - 31.01.2024
Son of Late Sh. Jai Nath Gupta
Chairman, MC Ramjas Foundation
Vice Chairman, Ramjas College

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Chinmaya Mission
89 Lodhi Estate, Lodhi Road, New Delhi
02 February 2024 (Friday): 11.30 - 12.30 Noon
Rahul Gupta (Son)
Rishika Gupta (Daughter in Law)
Gunakshi Gupta (Granddaughter)
9818647323, 9891647598
Bhagirath Palace

Our Pita Ji **41st Loving Memory of** Our Maa Ji

Smt Manjit Kaur
Your teaching of tolerance and patience are constant, guiding force. We always deeply feel your warmth of love and affection. You live in our hearts.

SARDAR JAI SINGH (06.05.1999) **SMT. MANJIT KAUR** (01.02.1983)

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Ex. Member National Commission for Minorities Govt. of India
Ex. Director Punjab & Sind Bank Govt. of India
Ranjit & P.S. Shawney (M.L.A)
Inder Preet Singh Josh (District. Judge U.P.)
Sahibi Shawney (Member MCD), Sonu & Ekam (M) 9212142437, 9868142434

HT Unforgettable

In Loving Memory of
Mr Suresh Bhola
1st Feb. 2012

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Shagun (Son); Khushboo-Parag; Neil; Bahar- Nitin, Prahari; Bhola and Jain Family. #9810788095

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स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल किशनगंज

अल्पकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- 035BD/LAEOKISHANGAN/2023-24
(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

बिहार के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम/अन्य राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार/सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रम या राष्ट्रीय या अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्थायिक के किसी भी एजेंसी में समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदकों से प्रतिष्ठित दर निविदा दो बीड प्रणाली (तकनीकी एवं वित्तीय) अन्तर्गत आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। यदि संवेदक बिहार राज्य के किसी कार्य विभाग/निगम में पूर्व से निबंधित नहीं है, तब एकराजना के पूर्व निम्नलिखित कार्य का स्वीकार पत्र (लेटर ऑफ एक्सेप्टेंस) प्राप्त होने के बाद बिहार राज्य के किसी भी कार्य विभाग/निगम (जिसमें निबंधन की प्रक्रिया लागू हो) में निबंधन कराना अनिवार्य होगा।

1. कार्यों की विवरणी :-

युप संख्या	कार्य का नाम	परिमाण विपत्र की राशि (लाख ₹00 में)	अग्रघन की राशि (ऑन लाईन मोड या ऑफ लाईन मोड में केवल B.G. के रूप में) (लाख ₹00 में)	परिमाण-1 वषत्र का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में मुगुतान) (रुपये में)	बीड प्रोसेचिंग शुल्क (अप्रत्यर्पणीय केवल ऑनलाइन मोड में मुगुतान) (रुपये में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)
01.	किशनगंज जिला अन्तर्गत किशनगंज प्रखंड के मोतिहारा तालुका पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	315.49659.	6.31000	10,000	e-proc2 के बेब पेज के अनुसार	14 months
02	किशनगंज जिला अन्तर्गत दिघलबैक प्रखंड के ताराबाड़ी पदमपुर पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	320.52935	6.41100	10,000	e-proc2 के बेब पेज के अनुसार	14 months
03	किशनगंज जिला अन्तर्गत देढ़गाछ प्रखंड के खनियाबाद पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	321.78 749	6.43600	10,000	e-proc2 के बेब पेज के अनुसार	14 months
04	किशनगंज जिला अन्तर्गत देढ़गाछ प्रखंड के मोरहा पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	321.53 589	6.43100	10,000	e-proc2 के बेब पेज के अनुसार	14 months
05	किशनगंज जिला अन्तर्गत कोचाघामन प्रखंड के पुरान्दाहा पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	317.00645	6.34100	10,000	e-proc2 के बेब पेज के अनुसार	14 months
06	किशनगंज जिला अन्तर्गत ठाकुरगंज प्रखंड के बंदरखुला पंचायत में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	338.21347	6.76500	10,000	e-proc2 के बेब पेज के अनुसार	14 months

2. निविदा निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक -27.01.2024

3. निविदा कागजात अपलोड करने की प्रारम्भिक की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 06.02.2024 को 10.00 बजे पूर्वाह्न से (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर) तिथि एवं समय

4. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि : दिनांक 08.02.2024 समय 3.30 बजे, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, विवेकेश्वरशा भवन, चतुर्थ तल, कमरा नं०-423, बेली रोड, पटना-800015

5. निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 15.02.2024 समय 3.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

6. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 19.02.2024 समय 3.30 बजे अपराह्न से। (कडिका 5 में उल्लेखित अंतिम तिथि से दो कार्य दिवस के पश्चात् की तिथि)। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

7. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : सक्षम पदाधिकारी द्वारा बाद में घोषित की जायेगी। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

8. निविदा खोलने का स्थान : www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर

9. निविदा की वैधता अवधि : 120 दिन (निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि के बाद)

10. विस्तृत जानकारी : कार्यपालक अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमण्डल, कार्य प्रमंडल किशनगंज कार्यपालक अभियंता स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल किशनगंज

विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

PR. No. 016255 (Planning) 2023-24

बिहार में शराब का व्यापार, विक्री एवं सेवन अवैध है। इससे संबंधित शिकायत इस नंबर पर दर्ज करायें, आपकी जानकारी गुप्त रखी जाएगी।

टॉल फ्री नं- 15545 या 1800 345 6268

How the day unfolded

6 AM Close to 2,000 security personnel are deployed near the CM's residence, ED's Ranchi office and Raj Bhavan

9 AM Section 144 is imposed around the three locations barring gathering of people. Hemant Soren meets his father Shibhu Soren at the latter's residence in Ranchi

11 AM Senior IAS officer Avinash Kumar is removed as additional chief secretary of home department and chief secretary L Khiantge is given additional charge

11:30 AM Hemant Soren files a case with SC/ST police station in Ranchi against ED officials alleging harassment. JMM workers start assembling at the Morabadi ground to protest against ED questioning Hemant Soren

1:15 PM Seven-member ED Directorate team protected by central police force personnel enters CM's residence. The questioning starts

5:15 PM Three empty buses enter the CM's residence

8:19 PM MLAs of the ruling coalition, who are camping at the CM's residence, leave for Raj Bhavan in the buses

9 PM Hemant Soren leaves for Raj Bhavan with ED officials and submits resignation to gov C P Radhakrishnan

9:30 PM Hemant Soren accompanies ED team to ED office in Ranchi

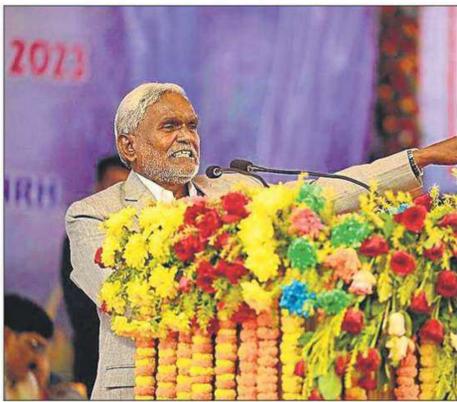
10 PM Hemant Soren is arrested by ED

9:55 PM JMM MLAs meet the governor CP Radhakrishnan and propose Champai Soren as the leader of the legislative party

Man at forefront of stir for J'khand tipped to be CM

Debashish Sarkar
letters@hindustantimes.com

JAMSHEDPUR: Champai Soren, 68, transport minister in the outgoing chief minister Hemant Soren's cabinet, popularly known as "Jharkhand Tiger" for his vocal advocacy for a separate state of Jharkhand in the 1990s, will be the new chief minister of the state. Soren was elected as leader of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) legislative party on Wednesday night as arrest of Hemant Soren by the Enforcement Directorate become imminent on Wednesday. His nomination for the post of the CM was endorsed by the Congress and other partners of grand alliance in Jharkhand, said Rajesh Thakur, chief of Jharkhand Congress.



Champai Soren was inducted as minister for the first time by Shibhu Soren in 2005 when the latter was the CM for nine days. HT

Born in 1956, Champai is the eldest son of Simal Soren, a farmer from Jilingoda village in Saraikela-Kharsawan district, and worked in his farms alongside his father before joining JMM supremo Shibhu Soren during his drive against local money lenders in tribal dominated Santhal and Dumka regions of the state in early 1990s.

"He was known for pushing for the tribal state of Jharkhand during the agitation led by Shibhu Soren for a separate state," said his old associate Shalender Mahato, former Jamshedpur MP and his long-time colleague in JMM. Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar in 2000.

A Class 10 pass out from Ramakrishna Mission School

in Jamshedpur and father of seven children --- four sons and three daughters --- Champai won for the first time from Saraikela assembly seat in 1992 in a bypoll as an independent MLA. He won again in 1995 on a JMM ticket and had been with the party since.

He had lost from Saraikela assembly seat only once, in 2000. According to an affidavit

filed ahead of the 2019 election, his total assets are worth ₹2.28 crore. Champai was inducted as minister for the first time by Shibhu Soren in 2005 when the latter was the chief minister for nine days. He served again in two governments headed by Shibhu Soren in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

He was inducted into the cabinet by Hemant Soren when he formed the government in 2019 and was made minister of food and civil supplies and transport.

"He may be academically underqualified but as far as mass movements for tribal welfare are concerned, he was always on the forefront," Mahato, the former Jamshedpur MP, added.

Mahato said Champai Soren has been awarded for his unflinching loyalty to Shibhu Soren and had earned Hemant Soren's trust as well.

He said although Champai Soren is a popular JMM leader, he is "no threat" to Soren family. Indeed, Hemant Soren has been seen bowing to Champai Soren at times; he considers the latter his uncle, said a senior JMM leader who asked not to be named.

Soren files FIR against ED over searches at his Delhi residence

Raj Kumar
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RANCHI: Acting on a complaint from Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren, the state police on Wednesday registered a first information report (FIR) against senior Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials over searches conducted by the federal agency at his Delhi residence, officials familiar with the matter said.

The case was registered at the SC/ST police station in Ranchi after Soren (48), who is also the executive president of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), alleged in his complaint that ED conducted a search at his residence in the national capital to "harass and malign me and my entire community". "An FIR has been lodged against some senior ED officials... We got the application from the chief minister," Ranchi senior superintendent of police (SSP) Chandan Kumar Sinha was quoted as saying by news agency PTL.

An SC/ST police station deals with complaints of atrocities against the members of Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities.

In his complaint to the inspector-in-charge of the SC/ST police station, Soren named ED officials Kapil Raj, Deovrat Jha,

The 3 cases against Soren

CASE 1: LAND PARCEL OWNERSHIP
The alleged scam pertains to usurping prime landed parcels including a 4.55 acre defence land at Morabadi Mouza in Ranchi, and a land parcel of 7.6 acres at Hehal, Ranchi — both valued at over ₹74 cr at the current market price — by making fake deeds using manufactured identities and falsifying original land records. ED has recovered papers related to 27 properties. Soren has dismissed the case as politically motivated

CASE 2: SAHIBGANJ 'ILLEGAL' STONE MINING CASE
The case concerns alleged illegal mining and transportation of stones. The ED in its probe found that Hemant Soren's aide Pankaj Mishra was using his close association with the former to engage in this, resulting in a significant loss to the exchequer

CASE 3: OFFICE OF PROFIT
In Feb 2022, the BJP accused Soren of holding an office of profit and sought his disqualification for allegedly granting himself a stone-chip mining lease. On former governor Ramesh Bais' reference, the EC sent its recommendation on August 25 on the issue after conducting a months-long hearing. However, Bais demitted office before passing an order on the matter. To be sure, ED is not investigating this case



Anupam Kumar, Aman Patel and a few unidentified, all attached to the agency's Ranchi zonal office.

The case was registered under the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

HT has assessed a copy of the complaint dated January 31.

An ED team searched Soren's residence in Delhi on Monday, and camped there for almost 13 hours in order to question him in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land deal in Jharkhand.

The agency has claimed to have seized ₹36 lakh, a BMW

SUV registered in Haryana and some "incriminating" documents during the search.

Soren returned to Ranchi from Delhi, nearly 1,300km away, by road on Monday night to avoid officials keeping a watch at New Delhi airport to trace the JMM leader. He reached Ranchi in the early hours of Tuesday.

In his complaint, he said that the search at his residence in Delhi was conducted without any prior notice and in his absence.

"My family members and I have suffered and experienced immense mental, psychological and emotional harm because of the acts committed..." Soren said in the complaint.

The JMM leader also claimed he was not the owner of the seized car, and the cash recovered did not belong to him as well.

"This search was done without any information to me and this has disgraced me in the eyes of the general public," he alleged in the complaint.

The trouble began for Soren in August last year when the federal financial crimes agency asked to question him.

The leader didn't show up and skipped six subsequent summons, before finally agreeing to being questioned on January 20 this year.

INDIA SURGE
INTERIM BUDGET 2024

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Uttar Pradesh
UTTAR PRADESH TOURISM

बुंदेलखण्ड गौरव महोत्सव
Bundelkhand Gaurav Mahotsav

1-18 February, 2024

Main Attractions:
Hot air balloon, Cultural programme, Yoga, Water sports, Heritage walk, Green firecrackers show, Laser show, Bundeli cuisine, Bundeli handloom, Bundeli apparel exhibition, Bundeli Craft Mela

Jalaun 1-2 February, Hamirpur 5-6 February, Mahoba 9-10 February, Chitrakoot 13-14 February, Banda 16-18 February

Note: Bundelkhand Gaurav Mahotsav successfully organised in Jhansi and Lalitpur.

Department of Tourism, Uttar Pradesh

Oppn MPs causing disruptions in House must introspect: Modi

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The Budget session of Parliament is an opportunity for those members who frequently disrupted proceedings to introspect on their conduct and express remorse by contributing to nation-building, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday as he hurled criticism at the Opposition over the acrimonious Winter session marked by the suspension of an unprecedented number of members.

In his customary remarks ahead of the Budget session of Parliament on Wednesday morning, Modi also hailed the nation's progress and inclusive development, noting that the first session held in the new Parliament building cleared a landmark bill setting aside seats for women in national and state legislatures.

"Those that are compulsive disruptors of Parliament, those who compulsively disrobe parliamentary values (loktantrik mulon ka cheerharan karte hain), these honourable MPs should introspect about what they did in the last 10 years. They should perhaps ask 100 people in their areas,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the media on the first day of the Budget session on Wednesday. SANJEIV VERMA/HT

no one would remember the names of the disruptors," Modi said. "Even their own constituents won't know what they did. Those who showed concern for people's issues would have done democracy a good turn and will be remembered by the people. But those who only disrupted, no one will remember them."

"This session is one for them to repent and leave a good footprint. Please do not let the opportunity go, and give the country something good," he added.

Modi's comments came

against the backdrop of the Winter session of Parliament, the most acrimonious in recent memory, which was marked by the expulsion of Trinamool Congress leader Mahua Moitra in the Lok Sabha, the shocking breach of security in the Lower House that saw two men vaulting onto the floor and spray coloured smoke, and the suspension of 146 Opposition members amid uproar over the incursion. The suspensions were revoked before the Budget session commenced but bitterness underlined deepening

ing fault lines between the government and the Opposition that upended parliamentary business and saw bills being passed by the House with little discussion in the last session.

Modi exhorted members to change course. "Perform the best, give the benefit of your thoughts to the House in the interest of the country and fill the country with enthusiasm and excitement," he said. Their words will become a part of history, he added.

Modi said he believed that a big section of the country's democracy-loving people will appreciate the conduct of those MPs who used their wisdom and talent even though they might have been critical in their views. But no one would remember people with negativity, he said.

The Budget session, which began on Wednesday, is also the last session of the 17th Lok Sabha, just months ahead of general elections scheduled this summer.

Modi greeted journalists with "Ram Ram" (an invocation of Lord Ram) and noted that there was a tradition of not presenting a full budget before the polls.

"We will follow the same tradition and present a full-fledged

budget after a new government is formed," he said, adding that finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will outline measures in the interim budget that will indicate the direction of the nation's progress.

Modi also expressed confidence about the people's support to the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Democratic Alliance. "I am of the firm belief that the country is moving forward and touching new heights of progress...the country is experiencing all-round and all-inclusive development. This journey will go on continuously with people's blessings," he said.

The Congress hit back at Modi and said it is the BJP that indulged in "disrobing" of Parliament and posed a threat to democracy in the country. Party chief Mallikarjun Kharge said data from the past two decades show that most interruptions in Parliament occurred during the 15th Lok Sabha (2009-2014) when the BJP was the principal opposition party. "So it is the BJP which has indulged in 'cheerharan' (disrobing) of Parliament, and not the Opposition. Democracy is in danger. Courtesy: BJP," he said.

How NDA, UPA eras stack up

	UPA	NDA
Exports	\$450bn	\$775 billion
People filing IT returns	32.5mn	82.5mn
Start-ups	A few hundred	100,000
Vehicular sales	130mn (2004-13)	210mn (2014 onwards)
EV sales	2,000 (2014-15)	120,000 (2023-24)
National highways (length)	90,000km	146,000km
High-speed corridors	500km	4,000km
Airports	74	149
Metro rail	5 cities	20 cities
Hospitals	7 AIIMS, 390 medical colleges	16 AIIMS and 315 medical colleges

Source: President's address in Parl

Murmu's speech was an advertisement of Modi govt, says Oppn

Saptarshi Das

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NEW DELHI: Several opposition leaders on Wednesday criticised President Droupadi Murmu's last address to the joint sitting of Parliament ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge describing her speech as a "propaganda" and "advertisement" of the Narendra Modi government.

Alleging that the President's speech lacked vision, Kharge said it did not mention anything related to employment.

"The address of the President was only a praise of PM Modi...maybe she was asked to do so and that's exactly what she did in her 1-hour-20-minute speech. This was a propaganda, advertisement for Modi and a political speech," the Congress chief said, adding: "The speech had no vision or element of enlightenment. There was nothing related to employment mentioned in the President's speech or the address by the PM outside Parliament. This was a document to entrap the poor."

Lok Sabha MP Danish Ali, who was recently suspended from the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), said there was nothing special in the President's address. "Government said that employment had been generated but the fact is that the youth are on the streets...the speech was repetitive," Ali said. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader and



Droupadi Murmu

Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi said: "Ten years ago, PM Modi spoke of employment, inflation corruption and farmers' income. President has never spoken on any of these issues...The reason is that this government has failed."

In her maiden address to the joint sitting in the new Parliament building, the President listed the achievements of the Modi government over the past decade. She said the centuries-old desire to build a Ram temple in Ayodhya has now become reality and also hailed the armed forces for giving a befitting reply to terrorism and expansionism.

Hitting back at the opposition leaders, Union minister of state for home Ajay Mishra Teni said they have no issues left to raise as the Modi government worked for the development of the country. "Modi has fulfilled many things that the country has been waiting for. It is evident why the Opposition has framed this narrative. It is better not to expect a response from these desperate and disappointed people," the BJP leader added.

COURT SEEKS COPS' REPLY ON HOUSE BREACH ACCUSED'S 'TORTURE' CLAIM

Deepankar Malviya

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NEW DELHI: A Delhi court on Wednesday sought the Delhi Police's response to an application filed by five out of the six accused in the Parliament security breach case, alleging that they were being tortured and electrocuted to accept their association with political parties.

The application moved before additional sessions judge (ASJ) Hardeep Kaur last week also claimed that the five accused were forced to sign 70 blank pages.

"Accused persons were tortured/given electric shocks to sign and confess (to) the commission of crime under the UAPA and their association with national political parties...two accused persons were forced to write on the paper about their association with the political party/leader of opposition political party," the accused told the court in a joint petition.

The accused also alleged that they were forced to give their biometrics for issuance of new sim cards and provide details of their social media accounts, emails and passwords.

The court sought the police's response and listed the matter on February 17.

The application was moved by Manoranjan D. Lali Jha, Anol Shinde, Mahesh Kumawat, and Sagar Sharma. On January 13, Neelam Azad, the sixth accused, had also approached the court, saying she was forced to sign 52 blank pages.

HT reached out to Delhi Police for a response but did not receive one immediately.

CISF joins Delhi cops to monitor security at Parliament entrance

HT Correspondent

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NEW DELHI: The Delhi Police and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on Wednesday jointly manned the security at the gates of the Parliament complex, which opened for the Budget session, officials familiar with the matter said, adding this was the first time CISF personnel were deployed on the premises.

The access control and frisking of visitors entering the complex was done by the Delhi Police and the Parliament Security Service—an in-house security agency of Parliament—till last session.

While the Centre is yet to hand over the security of the complex to any paramilitary force, officials said around 140 CISF personnel, who have been deployed at Parliament since January 23, conducted the security checks in assistance with the Delhi Police at different gates. The CISF personnel were brought in after a massive security breach during the Winter session on December 13 last year.

"All forces jointly managed the security on Wednesday. The MHA [ministry of home affairs] is yet to issue an order to hand the security to any specific force. The 140 CISF personnel are part of the security set up familiarisation exercise. They assisted Delhi Police in the security checks," an official aware of the matter said, requesting ano-



Security personnel deployed near Parliament House complex on Wednesday.

nymity. "For now, the security set up is almost the same, except for the addition of the 140 CISF personnel, more security personnel on the roads outside, and more Delhi Police officers at each gate checking the identity of visitors."

Currently, around 1,000 personnel from the Delhi Police and around 1,600 from the CRPF are posted for Parliament security.

The MHA on December 20 directed the CISF to conduct a security survey against the backdrop of a massive security breach at the high security complex. A detailed security survey is conducted by the force before taking over the security of any building, site, or installation.

On December 13, two men walked through three layers of security with smoke canisters concealed in their shoes, vaulted into the Lok Sabha from the visitors' gallery and sprayed smoke inside the chambers from the public gallery during Zero Hour.

Pradhan gifts copy of Veda to speaker after Dhankhar's order

NEW DELHI: Dharmendra Pradhan, Union education minister, on Wednesday gifted a copy of Veda to Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla on the directions of Vice-President and Rajya Sabha chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar.

"Following the order of the respected Chairman Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar ji to provide a copy of Veda to the honorable members of Rajya Sabha, today a copy of 'Veda Kalpataru' was provided to respected @loksabhaspeaker Om Birla ji," Pradhan posted on X. In August, Dhankhar suggested that Pradhan shares a set of Vedas with each MP.

Cong to flag inflation, yatra disruptions during House debate

NEW DELHI: The Congress lawmakers will raise issues like unemployment, price rise, hostility faced during the party's ongoing Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, the border incursions by China and misuse of the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation against opposition parties during the debate on the President's speech, the party said on Wednesday. Party chief Mallikarjun Kharge told leaders to remain focused on issues as the time for debate would be limited. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi asked leaders to attend the session without fail.

Govt will bring law to tackle malpractices during exams: Prez

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said the Centre has decided to enact a new law to deal sternly with malpractices in exams. Addressing the joint sitting of Parliament at the beginning of the Budget session, Murmu said the government is aware of the concerns of youths regarding irregularities in examinations. "My government is aware of the concerns of youth regarding irregularities in examinations. Therefore, it has been decided to enact a new law to deal sternly with such malpractices," she said.

Bigwigs take the front row at joint sitting

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NEW DELHI: Commerce minister Piyush Goyal sat next to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and former Congress chief Sonia Gandhi shared the only front row earmarked for the Opposition in the Lok Sabha chamber in the new Parliament building that hosted for the first time, the President's address to a joint sitting of both Houses.



Union minister Piyush Goyal next to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Others in the front row were Rajya Sabha deputy chairman

Hariwansh, BJP president J P Nadda, home minister Amit Shah, and Union ministers Nitin Gadkari, Nirmala Sitharaman, S Jaishankar, Arjun Munda, Smriti Irani, Narayan Rane, Virendra Kumar and Dharmendra Pradhan.

Two seats, allotted to former prime ministers H D Deve Gowda and Manmohan Singh remained vacant. While Gowda was seen sitting in the last row, Singh was not present in the House.

The Opposition remained

mostly silent even as the ruling lawmakers enthusiastically reacted to nearly every sentence of President Droupadi Murmu. But at the end of Murmu's speech, Gandhi was seen thumping her desk and the President stopped on her way out to exchange greetings with the former Congress chief.

The session was attended by 58 diplomats, including the ambassadors of Brazil, Egypt, Maldives and Nepal, and the High Commissioner of the United Kingdom.

Nitish: Wanted another name for INDIA bloc

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PATNA: Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar said on Wednesday that he had asked the 27-party Opposition bloc to not name itself INDIA and added that he took the initiative to push for a caste survey in Bihar, dismissing claims by Rahul Gandhi that the Congress was instrumental in implementing the landmark exercise.

Talking to reporters in Patna three days after he severed ties with the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and formed the government with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Kumar also dismissed speculation that he will leave the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

"I had asked them to choose a different name for the alliance but they decided it. I was trying so hard. They were not doing anything... not even discussing seat sharing," he said. "I have come back here (NDA). There is no question of going anywhere else. I will work for the people of Bihar," he said, adding that he didn't care about the future of the Opposition grouping.

At a meeting held in Bengaluru on July 17-18, the Opposition bloc had adopted the name INDIA or Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance.

Kumar also dismissed statements by Rahul Gandhi taking credit for last year's caste survey. "There cannot be anything more absurd than this," Kumar told reporters. "Has he (Rahul) forgotten when the caste survey happened? I conducted it in the presence of nine parties. Everybody knows that the initiative was taken by me only. He is taking fake credit, what can I do? Let it be."

Findings of the landmark survey—the first to successfully enumerate caste in independent India—were released in October last year and showed that backward communities comprised 63% of the state's population. The government subsequently hiked reservations to 75% in government jobs and education.

On Tuesday, Rahul Gandhi told a rally in Purnea that his party



Nitish Kumar

was responsible for the survey. "It was my party which put pressure on Nitish Kumar and the RJD for conducting a caste survey, which the BJP never wanted," he said.

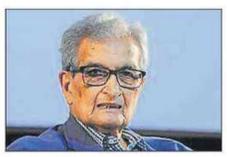
When asked about the Enforcement Directorate (ED) action against his former ally and RJD chief Lalu Prasad and his son and former deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav, Kumar said: "Everyone is aware about the allegations against him (Lalu Prasad). The investigation is underway. I don't have more information. Neither did I ask about it, nor anyone told me anything."

Tejashwi Yadav was questioned by ED in the land-for-jobs scam, a day after his father Lalu Prasad was quizzed in the matter. The JD(U) chief also dismissed Tejashwi's claim that he made Kumar work towards fulfilling a promise of providing one million government jobs.

"This is also nonsensical. He is simply trying to take credit. It's like he is patting his own back. People know what they (BJP) have done. Everybody knows about the deteriorating law and order situation in the state during the RJD's regime," Kumar said.

Accusing the RJD of doing nothing during its rule in the state earlier, Kumar added: "The developmental work started in the state when I became the chief minister."

Senior RJD leader and Rajya Sabha member Manoj Jha countered Kumar. "Nitish Kumar had come to us fearing that the BJP could poach JD(U)'s legislators. He sought RJD's support... Tejashwi Yadav wasn't ready at that time... However, when Tejashwi agreed to extend support, he clearly said that providing jobs would be his first priority," he said.



Amartya Sen

VISVA-BHARATI'S EVICTION ORDER AGAINST SEN WAS NOT LEGAL: COURT

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KOLKATA: Visva-Bharati's eviction order against Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, to vacate 13 decimal of 1.38 acres of land on the university campus last year, was illegal, the district court in West Bengal's Birbhum said on Wednesday.

In her order, seen by HT, district judge Sudeshna Dey Chatterjee noted that the eviction directive was "not legally sustainable and liable to be set aside".

"We challenged the eviction order, saying the law (varisty) cited was not applicable at the time when Sen's father, Ashutosh Sen, took the land on lease from Visva-Bharati. Moreover, the university could not furnish any document relating to the lease agreement executed in 1943." Sen's lawyer Gorachand Chakraborty said.

Reacting to the district court's order, acting vice-chancellor Sanjoy Kumar Mallick said: "We can comment only after studying it." Pratichi, Sen's home, stands on the sprawling campus at Bolpur in the district. The Prime Minister is the chancellor of the varsity.

No seats for Cong if it doesn't sever ties with Left: CM

HT Correspondent

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KOLKATA: The Trinamool Congress (TMC) will not spare a single Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal for the Congress till the latter severs ties with the Communist Party of India (Marxist), West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said, amid a growing rift in the INDIA bloc ahead of the general elections.

Banerjee, who is also TMC chief, also alleged the Congress was teaming up with the CPI(M) to strengthen the BJP in the state.

"I told them (Congress) I won't spare even a single seat. I asked them to first sever ties with the CPI(M). I haven't forgotten how the CPI(M) tortured our men," she said, referring to the 34-year rule of the Left Front in the state

earlier. "I will never forgive the CPI(M). I will also not forgive those who support the CPI(M)...," she added.

This comments came on a day Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra re-entered West Bengal's Malda district from Bihar, and a controversy broke out over a broken rear glass on the leader's car.

Congress state unit chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury initially claimed that Gandhi's vehicle was "attacked". But the Congress later clarified that the windshield pane was damaged when sudden brakes had to be applied due to a woman coming in front of the vehicle during the yatra. Gandhi was unharmed in the incident.

Banerjee said the incident took place in Bihar, and not Bengal. "I learnt that Rahul Gandhi's car was pelted with stones. I



Mamata Banerjee

checked what exactly happened and found that the incident occurred in Katihar (in Bihar), not in West Bengal. The car entered West Bengal with the glass already broken... I condemn the attack. This is nothing but drama."

The chief minister was addressing government programmes in Malda and Murshidabad. Her remarks against the Congress came days after she ruled out any alliance with the party and announced that the

TMC would contest all 42 Lok Sabha seats on its own in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

"I told the Congress that they don't have a single legislator in the state assembly. I offered them two Lok Sabha seats and said that I would ensure they win from the two seats. They refused and wanted more seats," Banerjee said.

The CPI(M) is the "number one agent of BJP", the TMC chief added. "Our understanding with the Congress was good. It has deteriorated because of the CPI(M)," she said. She continued: "I asked the Congress how many seats they want? 42 out of 42? They would lose all 42 and the BJP would enter Bengal. I won't allow this. I backed out because I will not hold the CPI(M)'s hand."

On January 25, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge had spoken

to Banerjee to salvage the situation amid increasing signs of strain within the INDIA bloc.

The Congress dismissed the chief minister's statement on seat-sharing discussions with the party.

"She is coming up with new statements everyday. A few days ago, she said no one (from Congress) discussed seat-sharing with her. Then with whom did she discuss the formula of two seats? She is trying to confuse the people," Congress leader Soumya Aich Roy said.

The CPI(M) alleged the TMC and BJP are natural allies. "Banerjee hasn't opposed any bills introduced by the Modi government since 2014. Her party spent crores of rupees to contest in some states to split non-BJP votes and help the BJP. We consider the TMC and BJP synonymous." CPI(M) leader Tanmay Bhattacharya said.

{ CHANDIGARH MAYORAL POLL } AAP CHALLENGES RESULT

HC refuses to grant interim relief; Mann says will move SC

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH: The Punjab and Haryana high court on Wednesday refused to grant any relief on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s petition to set aside Tuesday's Chandigarh mayoral election and conduct a fresh poll, prompting chief minister Bhagwant Mann to announce that the party will move the Supreme Court for an early hearing of its plea.

On Tuesday, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won the Chandigarh mayoral poll after

the chair scrapped a fourth of the Opposition's votes in a controversial decision, sparking allegations of vote tampering that marred the first electoral showdown between the ruling party and the 27-party Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

The petition against the outcome of the poll in the high court was filed by AAP councillor Kuldeep Dhalor, who was the candidate for the post of mayor, against the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation and the Union Territory administration, among



AAP and Congress workers during a protest near a police station in Chandigarh.

others. Speaking to reporters after the hearing, the petitioner's counsel Gurminder Singh said the court

has given three weeks to the Union Territory administration and the presiding officer, Anil Masih, director general of police, and newly-elected mayor Manoj Kumar Sonkar to file their replies.

The court also refused to restrain Sonkar from discharging his functions during the pendency of the dispute in court.

Reacting to the high court's decision, Mann said: "We will move the Supreme Court. We will seek an early hearing in the matter. There is a video of the whole thing." He also questioned why the Chandigarh administra-

tion required three weeks to prepare a report.

"What happened yesterday in the mayoral polls is murder of democracy. Before this too, such things have been happening under their rule. But yesterday, there was video footage too of the whole thing... To save democracy is everyone's responsibility and all of us should make efforts," he said.

On Tuesday, Mann alleged "cheating" in the Chandigarh mayoral poll and said the day will be remembered as a black day for the country's democracy.

75
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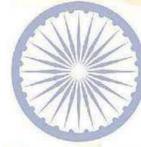


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ATI VISHISHT SEVA MEDAL, PRESIDENT'S TATRAKSHAK MEDAL & TATRAKSHAK MEDAL AWARDEES : 2023-24

Independence Day - 2023 (15th August 23)

IG Manoj Vasant Baadkar, TM - President's Tatrakshak Medal (Distinguished Service)

Comdt (JG) Anurag Shukla, Sultan Singh, P/Nvk (P) - Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry)

DIG Manoj Bhatia, DIG KR Deepak Kumar, Deobrat Kumar Mishra, P/Adh (RP) - Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service)

Republic Day - 2024 (26th January 24)

Director General Rakesh Pal, PTM, TM - Ati Vishisht Seva Medal

IG Bhisham Sharma, TM - President's Tatrakshak Medal (Distinguished Service)

Comdt Sunil Dutt, Comdt (JG) Saurabh - Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry)

DIG Anil Kumar Parayil, DIG Jamal Taha, Dipak Roy, P/Adh (AR) - Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service)

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Governor returns ordinance on 60% Kannada on signboards



Will never allow implementation of CAA in TN: CM CHENNAI: Chief minister MK Stalin said on Wednesday that the DMK government will never allow the Citizenship (Amendment) Act to be implemented in Tamil Nadu, as it discriminates against certain groups of people. "I give an assurance (to the people) that we won't not let Citizenship (Amendment) Act set foot in Tamil Nadu," Stalin said in a post on X. He also criticised the opposition AIADMK, saying if it were not for that party's support to the Citizenship Amendment Bill, it may not have become a law.

Arun Dev
letters@hindustantimes.com

BENGALURU: Karnataka's governor, Thaaarchand Gehlot, on Wednesday sent back to the state cabinet an ordinance that proposed augmenting the use of Kannada language in commercial signboards at a time when pro-Kannada protests over the issue are escalating in the state.

The ordinance, approved during a cabinet meeting on January 5, sought to amend the Kannada Language Comprehensive Development Act, 2022, and put in place a provision that mandates 60% space on signboards must be taken by Kannada language, and remaining 40% by any other language including English. While sending back the ordinance, the governor advised the state to pursue its passage through the assembly, sparking a sharp response from the government, which called his intervention unnecessary. "The government crafted a law to amplify the presence of



Thaaarchand Gehlot

Kannada on signboards. However, the governor's directive mandates its passage through the Assembly. He could have simply endorsed it," deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar said.

Soon after Shivakumar's statement, the governor's office released a clarification saying that the ordinance was not outrightly "rejected".

"It is clarified that the Governor has not rejected the said Ordinance. Rather, the Ordinance has been returned to the State Government with the advice to present the said Bill before both the Houses of State Legislature for approval, since the notification for

summoning both the Houses has already been issued which is scheduled to commence from 12th February 2024," the statement said. The decision to bring an ordinance followed violent demonstrations by pro-Kannada groups targeting businesses in Bengaluru for allegedly neglecting the state language.

On December 27, vandals from a fringe group attacked numerous establishments across the city.

The governor's refusal to approve the ordinance comes days after chief minister Siddaramaiah met Gehlot at the Raj Bhavan, and implored him to expedite the clearance of bills passed during the Belagavi session of the legislature in December. Out of the 17 bills passed during the session, the governor has given assent to five so far. In several non-BJP-ruled states such as West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Telangana, there has been friction between the Raj Bhavans and the state governments over multiple issues.

While the Opposition Bharatiya

Janata Party (BJP) is yet to take a formal stance on the signboard issue, a legislator who did not want to be named on Wednesday said that there was no need for controversy over the governor's action. "Raj Bhavan has already communicated the necessity for passing the bill in the Assembly, and it's just a matter of a few days. We stand in support of Kannada," he said.

Meanwhile, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, the state capital's civic body, has initiated a drive to enforce the "60% Kannada" rule for name boards on commercial establishments in the city. As of Saturday, approximately 34,000 notices have been issued to non-compliant businesses, with a deadline set for February 28 for changing the signboards.

Reacting to the issue, minister for Kannada and culture Shivaraj Tangadagi said: "He (the governor) has put 'session' as the reason (for sending back file). I do not want to politicise it... it is about the language's pride".

Gyanvapi: Outlining cellar worship plea

A string of petitions regarding ownership and antecedents of Gyanvapi mosque, as well as those requesting rights to pray at various parts of the shrine, have been filed across courts in Uttar Pradesh. On Wednesday, Varanasi district court delivered its verdict in one plea and allowed Hindu prayers to be offered at a cellar on southern side of mosque. A look at the history of this case:

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

Acharya Ved Vyas temple head priest Shaileendra Kumar Pathak Vyas files plea in Varanasi court of civil judge (senior division), seeking rights to offer prayers at cellar on southern side of Gyanvapi mosque; he also seeks appointment of district magistrate as receiver of cellar; on the same day, Vyas files an application in district court to transfer the suit to self

JANUARY 30

Hearing in case is completed

JANUARY 31

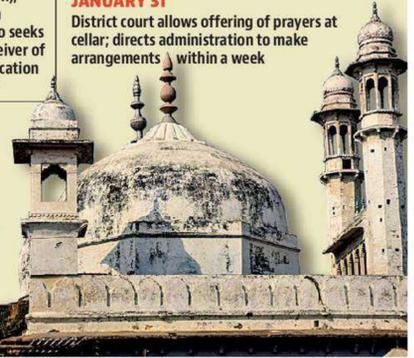
District court allows offering of prayers at cellar; directs administration to make arrangements within a week

OCTOBER 19, 2023

District court orders transfer of plea to self after hearing all parties on different dates

JANUARY 17, 2024

District court appoints district magistrate as receiver of cellar on southern side of mosque; court also directs district magistrate to keep the concerned area safe and untouched during hearing of the case



HC notice to mosque panel on plea seeking survey of sealed area

Jitendra Sarin
letters@hindustantimes.com

PRAYAGRA: The Allahabad high court on Wednesday issued notice to the Anjumman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which manages the Gyanvapi mosque, in a petition by a Hindu woman seeking a survey of a disputed sealed area of the 17th century mosque.

The area in question holds a disputed structure that Hindus say is a shivling, a claim rejected by Muslims who say it is part of a ritual abutment tank.

Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal passed the order on a petition filed by Rakhi Singh, challenging the Varanasi district judge's order dated October 21, 2023 refusing to direct the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) to undertake a survey of the wazukhana area.

Rakhi Singh argued that the survey of the wazukhana, excluding the disputed structure, was necessary to ascertain the religious character of the property in question.

THE AREA IN QUESTION HOLDS A DISPUTED STRUCTURE THAT HINDUS SAY IS A SHIVLINGA CLAIM REJECTED BY MUSLIMS

Last week, four Hindu women - Laxmi Devi, Sita Sahoo, Manju Vyas and Rekha Pathak - moved the Supreme Court seeking a scientific survey of the same sealed section.

This came days after the ASI survey - which was conducted last year and had excluded the sealed section - said that a large Hindu temple existed before the construction of the Gyanvapi mosque.

In her plea, Rakhi Singh stressed that the survey of the wazukhana area is necessary in the interest of justice and will benefit the plaintiff(s) and defendants alike.

HC REFUSES TO DIRECT FB TO STOP HATE CONTENT ON ROHINGYA

Shruti Kakkar
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Prior censorship of any publication of Rohingya on Facebook is an example of "a treatment that is worse than the disease", the Delhi high court said as it refused to direct the social media giant to stop hateful content against the community.

The court order uploaded on Wednesday granted the petitioners - two Rohingyas - liberty to approach Facebook with their grievances, adding that IT Rules, 2021 provided a robust grievance redressal mechanism for removing objectionable posts.

"This court is also of the opinion that there should be prior censorship of any publication of Rohingyas on Facebook is an example of 'a treatment that is worse than the disease'," a bench of acting chief justice Manmohan and justice Manmeet Pritam Singh Arora said in order on January 30.

It also said the relief sought by petitioners were not maintainable as they had not alleged that the social media platform failed to abide by the IT Rules.

Bombay HC delivers split verdict on pleas challenging amended IT Rules

Sahyaja MS
sahyaja.s@hindustantimes.com

MUMBAI: The Bombay high court on Wednesday delivered a split verdict on a series of petitions challenging the amended Information Technology (IT) Rules, which empower the government to identify "fake news" on social media platforms through a Fact Check Unit (FCU).

The petitions, including one filed by stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra, were met with divergent opinions from justice Gautam S Patel - who held that the rules be struck down - and justice Neela K Gokhale, who rejected the petition.

The disagreement prompted the bench to direct the pleas to be referred to Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya for further consideration by a third judge, in accordance with the High Court Rules. Subsequent to the verdict, the central government informed



The pleas were referred to Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya for further consideration.

the HC that the FCU would not be notified for 10 more days.

Justice Patel expressed concerns regarding the amended rule's potential for censorship of user content, highlighting the shift in responsibility for content accuracy from creators to intermediaries. He emphasised on the need for clear guidelines and criticised the imbalance in addressing grievances concerning government-related information compared to other sensitive issues. He highlighted the submission regarding Article 14 -- the Constitutional provision that holds equality before law -- and the flawed classification, asserting its correctness. "There is no particular reason why information relating to the business of the central government should receive 'high value' speech recognition... as opposed to precisely such information about any individual or news agency," he stated.

Further, acknowledging the issue of deepfakes, he emphasised that the opinion of the FCU or the Press Information Bureau (PIB) labelling a specific piece of government-related information as false or misleading should not be considered sacrosanct.

In contrast, justice Gokhale accepted the validity of the amended rules, stating that they target misinformation with malicious intent while safeguarding freedom of speech. According to justice Gokhale, a rule cannot be

invalidated solely based on concerns of potential abuse. She highlighted the evolving threat of disinformation and its potential to sow social discord, increase polarisation, and influence election outcomes.

She said the amended rule specifically targeted misinformation and patently untrue information knowingly shared with malicious intent by users.

Regarding the nature of truth and falsity, justice Gokhale explained that "fake is something which is non-existent. The question of subjective interpretation of fact does not arise, because the very fact itself is non-existent." The amended IT Rules, faced challenges to their constitutional validity. The rules require the intermediaries - social media platforms - to take down content identified by the FCU as "fake or misleading" to retain their legal immunity against third-party content.



Modi govt rebuilt J&K, ended era of terrorism: Shah

NEW DELHI: Union home minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the Narendra Modi government has rebuilt Jammu and Kashmir, ending an era of terrorism and violence. In a series of posts on X in both English and Hindi, the home minister said: "The Modi government rebuilt Jammu and Kashmir, ending an era of terrorism and violence. The Modi government gave wings to the development of Jammu and Kashmir by rolling out massive infrastructure and welfare schemes..."

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Sonu Ali S/o Kalaam Ali R/o Shani Bazar Chowk Kachhi Kardampuri Delhi** has been missing since 10.01.2024 from his house. In this regard a DD No. 41A, dated 20.01.2024 has been lodged at PS, Jyoti Nagar, Delhi.

The description of missing boy is as under:

Name: Sonu Ali, **Father's Name:** Kalaam Ali, **Age:** 22 years, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Extn No.: 2101
DP/1043/NE/2024

SHO
P.S., Jyoti Nagar, Delhi
Ph. : 011-22810525
Mob.: 8750870731

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Bitish Kumar @ Chhutka S/o Sh. Ramjinish, R/o- Village- Mebi, Sitamarhi, Bihar, India** also at **Jhuggi No. 58, 5/35 Industrial Area, Kirti Nagar, West Delhi, India** has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide FIR No. 186/2023 U/s 25 (b)/54/59 Arms Act P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Bitish Kumar @ Chhutka** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Bitish Kumar @ Chhutka** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Bitish Kumar @ Chhutka** of case FIR No. 186/2023 U/s 25 (b)/54/59 Arms Act P.S. Rajinder Nagar, Delhi is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **11.03.2024**.

By Order
Vinod Kumar
Metropolitan Magistrate-03
Central District, Room No. 150
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/724/CD/2024 (Court Matter)

RAJASTHAN MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED, JAIPUR

D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax No. 0141-2228065 E-mail: edepmrm-sc@nic.in
No. F-8/JRMSCE/PPM-4/NIB-821/2023-24/1015 Dated: 25.01.2024

NOTICE INVITING BID

Bid for item Pulse oxymeter (Table Top) are invited from interested bidders up to Date: 13-02-2024 : 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website "https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in/" or "www.dipronline.org" or "https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/" or website "http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in".
UBN:- MSC2324GLRC00129
Raj.Samwad/C23712454

Executive Director (EPM)

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice

Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work:

E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-HQ-2024-16	Approx Cost
Description of work: Pre & Post BCM work of main line and Raising of Ballast Cushion at various locations of Jhansi - Parauna section under AHQ-I sub division.	14636517.60
	Earnest Money
	223200.00

Date of closing Tender: 20.02.2024 at 15:00 hrs. **Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter:** 06 Months. * Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 20.02.2024. * For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in 182/24 (D)

North central railways @ www.nctr.indianrailways.gov.in @ northcentralrailway @ CPNCR

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PARICHA THERMAL POWER PROJECT, PARICHA JHANSI

E-Tender Notice

- E-Tender- N-PAR/C/OMC5/CHD3/6000004338_00**
"Annual rate contract for repair, rewinding and re-insulation of 6.6 kv HT Motors ranging from 200KW to 500 KW in coal handling Plant of PTPP Parichha Jhansi." Estimated Cost Rs. 21,49,570.00 EMD Rs. 40,000.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 21.02.2024 up to 02:00 PM.
- E-Tender- ET-17/CMD4/PTPP/2023-24 "M and R of Water supply Distribution etc. in colony Area at PTPP Parichha."** Estimated Cost Rs. 25,82,063.00 EMD Rs. 52,000.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 21.02.2024 up to 12:00 PM.
- E-Tender- N-PAR/B/OMC4/EMD2/6000004471**
"Relocation of LT Switchgear located at 2x110 MW and associated works in BTPS PTPP." Estimated Cost Rs. 36,33,990.00 EMD Rs. 40,000.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 16.02.2024 up to 12:00 PM.
- E-Tender- N-PAR/C/OMC2/BMD1/6000004282**
"Dismantling, cutting Repairing of Old Warm Out/Eroded pipeline and Erection of new 200/100/50/25 mm NB ECO ASH PAN Pipeline in unit 5 and 6 2x250 MW, CTPS, PTPP Parichha." Estimated Cost Rs. 5,07,350.00 EMD Rs. 8,200.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 14.02.2024 up to 01:00 PM.
- E-Tender- ET-15/CMD3/PTPP/2023-24 "M and R of Door and Window in colony area at PTPP Parichha."** Estimated Cost Rs. 35,89,796.00 EMD Rs. 72,000.00 e-bid Submission dt.: 20.02.2024 up to 12:00 PM.

NOTE:- Total Quality of work, tender specification and other terms & conditions is as per tender document available on the e-tender portal our website www.etender.up.nic.in & upvnul.org. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.

पत्रांक : 21/टीएफएससी-प्र/बीटीपी/ दिनांक 31.01.2024
"Save Electricity for Nation"

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that this girl namely **Sonam, D/o Arvind, R/o 155A, VP Block, Pitampura, Delhi**, is missing/kidnapped since 11.01.2024 at about 07:30 AM from her house. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 08/2024, dated 12.01.2024, U/s 363 IPC, has been lodged at P.S. Maurya Enclave, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the missing/kidnapped girl is as under:

Gender: Female, **Age:** 17 years, **Height:** 4'7", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** White suit salwar, grey sweater, white shoes in feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/kidnapped girl, kindly inform to the following:

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax: 011-24368639
E-mail: sho-menclave-dl@nic.in

SHO
P.S. Maurya Enclave, Delhi
Ph. No.: 8750870225

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Sajan Handa C/o Naresh Kumar, VPO Nissing, Karnal-132024 (Haryana)** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Ct. Case No. 2798/2018 U/s 138 NI Act, PS Rajouri Garden, Delhi and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Sajan Handa** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Sajan Handa** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Sajan Handa** of Ct. Case No. 2798/2018 U/s 138 NI Act, PS Rajouri Garden, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **01.03.2024**.

By Order
Sh. Karanbir Singh
MM (NI Act-05), West
Room No. 04, Annexe-I
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/883/WD/2024 (Court Matter)

UJVN Limited

HO "UJ-JWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dahrudun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808 Fax: 0135- 2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

पत्रांक: 146 दिनांक: 31/01/2024

Short Term e-Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (C&M) MB-II Joshiyara, Uttarkashi invites online bid from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

e-Tender No: 15/EE(C&M)/MB-II/Joshiyara/2023-24
Name of work: Reconstruction of Damaged Road from Police Line Gyansu to Darbar band at right bank of Joshiyara Barrage MB-II Reservoir, Uttarkashi.
Estimated cost: ₹2,95,26,954.00 (GST Extra)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 27-01-2024 (17:00 hrs)
Last Date for submission of bids: 10-02-2024 (17:00 hrs)
For fuller & further details, kindly visit "e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>"

Executive Engineer (C&M) MB-II Joshiyara
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one male Namely **Md. Salim S/o Hasmuddin R/o L-58/C Abul Fazal Enclave Jamia Nagar Okhla, Delhi**, has been missing/kidnapped from Nokash Cafe Preet Vihar, Delhi, since 20.01.2024. In this regard, a case DD. No. 23A dated 22.01.2024 has been registered at P.S. Preet Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing male is as under.

Age: 28 years, **Height:** 5'9", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** thin, **Wearing:** Black color jacket and black color jeans pant and black color shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing male then please inform P.S. Preet Vihar, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, providing clue about the person.

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011- 24368639
DP/974/ED/2024

Sd/-S.H.O.
Preet Vihar, Delhi
Tel No. 8750870621

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that one boy Namely: **Gulfam, S/o Ishrafail, R/o: Hanuman Mandir, Yamuna Bazar, Near Iron Bridge, Delhi**, has been kidnapped from Seelampur Main Market, New Delhi, since 18.01.2024 at 12:00 pm from the area of P.S. Seelampur, Delhi in this regard a case vide FIR No. 47/2024 U/s 363 IPC dated 18.01.2024 has been registered at P.S. Seelampur, Delhi. The description of the kidnapped boy is as under: **Age:** About 5 months, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 2', **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Blue colour jersey, sky blue colour lower and orange colour hat. Person depicted in the picture whose age is about 26-27yrs, **Height:** 5'7" has kidnapped the child. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy and the baby but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/997/NE/2024

SHO
P.S. Seelam Pur, Delhi
Ph.: 011- 22562035, 8750870721

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

General Public is hereby informed that one person Namely: **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown**, was found dead at Yamuna Western Canal, Near Pump No.8, Iron Bridge Delhi on 04.11.2014 at 10:20 AM in the area of P.S. Bawana in this regard a case has been lodged vide DD No. 891/2014 U/S 302/201 dated 04.11.2014 at P.S. Bawana, Delhi. The description of the dead person is as under:- **Age:** About 35-40 years, **Sex:** Female, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** Blue colour printed suit with red colour border, 2 golden colour bangel & 1 golden colour necklace. If any one having any information about this dead person please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Bawana, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27751949, 8448299619

DP/1237/OD/2024

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2nd Edition PLASTFOCUS

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PlastFocus 2024 - The Premier Confluence of the Plastics Industry Set to begin on February 1st, 2024

PlastFocus 2024, India's premier international exhibition in the plastics industry, is all set for the final countdown. Renowned for its stature as a significant event, this year's exhibition will host a diverse array of esteemed delegates and high commissions from across the globe. With the event raising its bar in terms of providing a professional business environment and world-class facilities, **PlastFocus 2024** is going to be a pivotal platform for groundbreaking business collaborations and innovations within the industry.



PlastFocus 2024, heralded as the most significant event for the plastics industry, is poised to kick off on February 1st, 2024. Being held at the world-class, expansive YASHOBHOOMI (IICC), Dwarka, New Delhi, the entire 1,00,000 sq. mts. exhibition space has been booked to capacity, marking it as the largest gathering in the industry's history. Scheduled from 1st to 5th February, **PlastFocus 2024** - an Evolved Plastics Exhibition for the best plastics manufacturing technologies is gearing up to be the nucleus where the entire plastics industry converges for five days of innovation and collaboration.

Organised by Triune Exhibitors Pvt. Ltd. and powered by the Plastic Machines Manufacturing Association of India (PMMAI), **PlastFocus 2024** is supported by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the Ministry of Heavy Industries, Govt. of India.

The participation of key ministries, such as the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India and the Department of Heavy Industry, Government of India, highlights the strategic importance

of this event in the context of economic and industrial development.



Showcase of Live Machines Set to Spur Industry Growth

Continuing to be the star attraction for the industry, is the impressive showcase of over 250 cutting-edge machines that have attracted a broad gamut of high-profile visitors, decision makers from the processing industry and representatives from various embassies and chambers of commerce. Comprehending the growing importance of exports for our industry, concerted efforts have been put in this direction resulting in delegations from Russia, various African countries, Nepal Bangladesh and more, who have already marked their calendars for exclusive B2B meetings that are scheduled to be conducted at the exhibition site, during **PlastFocus 2024!** These engagements aim to foster international partnerships and explore synergies across borders. Furthermore, the list of embassies invited, and likely to visit **PlastFocus 2024**, include Thailand, Malaysia, Russia, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, GCC, CSR, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, USA, Mexico, Canada and Brazil.



Bringing the Industry Together

Cyril Pereira, Managing Director of Triune Exhibitors Pvt. Ltd., sheds light on the event's uniqueness, stating, "We have developed an App specifically for Plastfocus that not only provides all data about the Expo to the visitors and Exhibitors but also has an innovative matchmaking feature that will distinctively connect genuine buyers with suitable sellers. Besides over 250 live machines on display and from raw materials to polymers, molds, and dyes, every aspect of the production chain will be represented, providing attendees with a comprehensive view of the industry's capabilities."

Tushar Parikh, Chairman of the Plastics Machinery Manufacturers Association of India (PMMAI), anticipates the event, stating, "**PlastFocus 2024** is set to present cutting-edge technology through live machines, allowing attendees to witness these innovations in action. It's an opportunity to discern the distinctions between machines manufactured in India and their global counterparts."

Focusing on Sustainability - Recycling Pavilion

What sets this Expo apart is its dedicated focus on sustainability, emphasizing the industry's commitment to environmental responsibility. Attendees can explore a myriad of initiatives, including a recycling pavilion with state-of-the-art machinery, and innovative solutions aimed at minimizing the environmental footprint of plastics

Exemplary Planning for Unparalleled Experience

The organiser of **PlastFocus 2024** have thoroughly planned every detail to provide an unparalleled experience for all participants and visitors. From ensuring extensive space for the display of machinery, to offering the finest culinary options, optimal connectivity and ample parking facilities, every aspect has been thoughtfully considered. The organisers proudly facilitate this international confluence, positioning India at the vanguard of global trade and commerce.

As **PlastFocus 2024** opens its doors, the atmosphere is charged with anticipation and excitement. The exhibition promises to be a breeding ground for ideas, innovations and partnerships that will undoubtedly shape the future of plastics and related industries

Inauguration TODAY

EXCITEMENT
IN PLASTICS INDUSTRY
ABOUT TO HAPPEN
@ Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi

2nd Edition
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2nd driest Jan for NW India since 1901, Feb likely to be warmer: IMD

Jayashree Nandi
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Rainfall over north-west India in January was the second lowest since 1901, India Meteorological Department said on Wednesday, but a warmer than usual February could see "above normal" rainfall in the region, the India Meteorological Department said Thursday.

January saw poor rains across much of India, the weather office added: there was a 58% rainfall deficiency over the country as a whole; 91% deficiency over north-west India; 67% deficiency over east and northeast India; and 29% deficiency over central India. Only peninsular India, experiencing the withdrawal of the northeast monsoon recorded a large excess -133%.

To be sure, IMD's forecast for February should factor in the fact that the agency got its January forecast wrong. On January 1, it said monthly rainfall for January over north India would likely be above normal (>122% of the so-called long period average), and monthly rainfall over the country as a whole, most likely to be above normal (>118% of LPA).

"We cannot say that our forecast was entirely wrong. The model predicted absolutely correctly that rainfall will be deficient over Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. It also correctly forecast that there will be above normal rainfall over peninsular India. But it also forecast that there will be above normal rainfall over the northern plains which was not correct. We are trying to improve our forecasts based on

NORTH INDIA ALSO RECORDED AN UNUSUALLY PROLONGED FOG EPISODE FROM DEC 25 TO JAN 30

multi-model ensembles. It is a continuous process," said M Mohapatra, director general, IMD. Mohapatra said the large deficiency in rainfall over north-west India can be attributed to the lack of any strong western disturbances.

"The reason may be linked to the negative phase of the North Atlantic Oscillation. A negative phase of NAO is linked to fewer and weaker western disturbances impacting our region," he explained. NAO refers to pressure fluctuations over the North

Atlantic ocean.

In January, northwest India saw five WDs, but most were far too north; only the latest one, between January 28 and 31, was south enough to bring rain and snow to north and northwest India.

North India also recorded an unusually prolonged and persistent fog episode covering the entire Indo-Gangetic Plains region from December 25 to January 30, which saw day temperatures plunging. Maximum temperatures in northwest India were -0.62 degrees below normal.

But the mean temperature over the country in January was 0.49 degree C above normal making it the ninth warmest since 1901; the minimum temperature was 0.97 degree C above normal, the fourth

highest for night temperatures. Peninsular India recorded its warmest January ever, with mean temperature 1.11 degree C above normal.

The strong El Nino conditions prevailing over Equatorial Pacific likely to weaken steadily and turn to neutral conditions by the end of spring, IMD added -- an assessment that is in sync with that from other agencies including the US' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

That is early good news for the southwest monsoon -- the El Nino is negatively correlated with the monsoon rains -- although it is far too early for a monsoon forecast.

The IMD also said some models showed that after a brief period of ENSO-neutral conditions, a transition to La Niña around July-September 2024 was possible.

{ INTERVIEW } BHUPENDER YADAV, UNION ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

'Centre plans to identify, conserve more wetlands'

The number of India's Ramsar sites has increased to 80 and the Centre is asking states to notify and recognise more small and large wetlands, and involve local people and communities in their management, union environment minister, Bhupender Yadav said in an interview with Jayashree Nandi ahead of World Wetland Day on February 2. He added that the Centre has given states a year to consolidate all government records that identify forests as per the Forest Conservation (Amendment) Act. Edited excerpts:



formance, and make necessary mid-course corrections.

The environment ministry has asked state governments to prepare a consolidated report of forest land as available in government records or are notified as forest under law to delineate areas on which the Forest Conservation Amendment Act 2023 will apply. Will this mean we have one year to identify more unrecorded deemed forests?

The one-year period provided in the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 is for consolidation of government records, not for providing relief from the purview of the Act.

The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 has been enacted with a view to augment and strengthen forest management, remove ambiguity in the applicability of the provisions of the Principal Act in various lands, achieve the targets envisaged in the National Forest Policy, 1988 and to align with dynamic changes in the ecological, social and environmental regimes during the last four decades, the Amendment Act has been enacted by the Centre on 1.12.2023.

The Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Rules, 2023 were accordingly notified by the Centre on 29.11.2023 wherein all states and UT administrations have been instructed to prepare, within one year, a consolidated government records of all lands on which the provisions of Amendment Act shall be applicable. These provisions imply that states have been provided opportunity to consolidate their records for the purpose of applicability of the Act without excluding forest like areas from the purview of the Act.

Risk of disappearance looms on unnotified wetlands that are not Ramsar sites. How do you plan to protect them?

Wetlands are among the world's most economically valuable ecosystems and regulators of the global climate, and therefore the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi accords high significance to wetlands conservation. The seriousness was reflected in Budget 2023 where the Amrit Dharohar scheme envisioned by PM Modi was set into motion.

Our Ramsar Site network added five new sites on January 31 with Karavetti Bird Sanctuary, Tamil Nadu; Magadi Kere Conservation Reserve, Karnataka; Longwood Shola Reserve Forest, Tamil Nadu; Ankasamudra Bird Conservation Reserve, Karnataka; and Aghanashini Estuary, Karnataka being the latest. This has taken the Ramsar Site tally from 75 to 80.

There has been considerable progress made by several states towards preparatory steps required for notification of wetlands, and we are confident that they will come forward with notifying more and more wetlands.

Our focus at the ministry has been to strengthen the institutions responsible for regulation - that is

the state and UT wetland authorities. Several states are also establishing wetlands authorities at the district level so that enforcement of regulation is taken to the last mile. Under the Save Wetlands Campaign launched on World Wetlands Day 2023, about 69,000 wetlands have been ground-truthed and health cards of more than 5,000 wetlands, prepared.

How are our recently declared Ramsar sites performing? Do you plan to declare more Ramsar sites?

Under the aegis of Amrit Dharohar, we are supporting the concerned wetland management agencies in putting in place integrated management plans, which will address local threats to these ecosystems, if any. Through investment into opportunities such as nature tourism, local communities will be incentivised. MoEFCC in collaboration with the tourism ministry is imparting trainings across the Ramsar Sites for the local communities to certify them as Nature-guides.

The ministry also aim to bring Ramsar sites under a systematic management evaluation system, on the lines of protected areas which will enable wetlands managers to self-evaluate their per-



The tunnel was found after the security forces and a group of rebels engaged in a gunfight in Abujmad forest area.

Forces discover 130-m tunnel used by Maoists

Ritesh Mishra

letters@hindustantimes.com

RAIPUR: A 130-metre tunnel that was possibly used as a hideout by Maoists was detected by security forces in Dantewada district of Jharkhand on Tuesday, officials said on Wednesday. The detection of the tunnel in a forest near Tadpodi village came hours after the security forces and a group of rebels engaged in a gunfight in Abujmad forest area.

Dantewada superintendent of police (SP) Gaurav Rai said the

forces were returning to the base camp in Bhairmagarh when they found the tunnel.

"On Tuesday, security forces were mobilised following intelligence reports about the presence of 25-30 armed Maoists, including high-ranking divisional committee member of CPI (Maoist), Mallesh, in the area bordering Dantewada-Bijapur districts. The forces engaged with the Maoists near Tadopati village and forced them to flee into the jungles. When they were returning, they found this tunnel built by the Maoists," Rai said.

25-YR-OLD NABBED FOR MINOR'S RAPE, MURDER IN ASSAM

SILCHAR: A 15-year-old girl was allegedly raped and murdered by her 25-year-old neighbour in Karbi Anglong district of Assam last week, police on Wednesday said, adding that the accused has been arrested.

The alleged incident took place on January 26 but came to light on Tuesday evening, after the body of the minor, who was reported missing, was found in a forest area after a four-day long search.

Karbi Anglong superintendent of police (SP) Sanjib Kumar Saikia said: "On January 26, the accused, who is a driver, was taking her to her school hostel where she used to stay. On the way, he raped her and killed her before dumping her body in a forest area." "On January 27, we received a complaint from the accused himself, who said the girl had gone missing," he added.

Saikia said the teen's parents told police that the girl went with the accused and never reached the hostel. "We picked up the driver for questioning, during which he confessed to the crime. He was immediately arrested," he said. **BISWA KALYAN PURKAYASTHA**

New guidelines issued for green bodies by SC

Abraham Thomas

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday held that bodies and authorities enforcing environmental laws should be accountable, transparent and efficient in their functioning as it issued a slew of directions, including regular audit of their performance towards proper institutionalisation of environmental regulatory bodies and authorities.

A bench headed by justice BR Gavai said, "We seek to emphasise and reiterate the importance of ensuring the effective functioning of these environmental bodies as this is imperative for the protection, restitution and development of the ecology." The court passed the order while approving the Centre's notification making the expert committee assisting the Supreme Court on environment and forest issues -- the central empowered committee (CEC) -- to be a permanent body with members chosen by the Centre for a fixed tenure and specified functions. Approving the two notifica-

THE COURT ISSUED DIRECTIONS, INCLUDING REGULAR AUDIT OF PERFORMANCE OF SUCH BODIES

tions issued by government on September 5 constituting CEC as a permanent body and on September 8 naming chairperson and members, the bench was satisfied that its concerns over the functioning of CEC have been addressed. At the same time, the court emphasised the need for proper institutionalisation of authorities and bodies dealing with enforcement of environmental rule of law.

The bench, also comprising justices PS Narasimha and PK Mishra, said, "These bodies (tasked with enforcing laws on environment, forests and wildlife) constitute the backbone of environmental governance in our country. They need to function with efficiency, integrity and independence. As duty bearers, they are also subject to accountability."

Eight killed in road accident in J&K

SRINAGAR: At least eight people died and seven were injured after a vehicle they were travelling in fell into a gorge in Baramulla district of north Kashmir on Wednesday. "Seven died on the spot while one died later at the hospital," a police officer said.

Kovind chairs meet with NCP, RLJD

NEW DELHI: Former President and Chairman of the One Nation One Election committee Ram Nath Kovind met with the Nationalist Congress Party and Rashtriya Lok Janata Dal on Wednesday and deliberated on the feasibility of harmonizing polls in India.

Request for application to fill the Project Management Unit (PMU) Position of Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project

Date: 29.01.2024
Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project (MPSDP), Department of Technical Education, Skill Development & Employment, Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project (MPSDP) is an Asian Development Bank (ADB) supported program, to reinforce efforts by the Government of Madhya Pradesh (GOMP) to modernize and reform the state's technical and vocational education and training (TVET) system so that its workforce can be equipped with the skills required by the growing development needs of the state.

The Project Director, Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project (MPSDP), invites eligible individuals to submit their application for the position of **Support Consultant Finance - 01**.

Interested individuals may submit their application online at ADB Consulting Services Recruitment Notice (CSRN) website <http://www.adb.org> in accordance with the instructions contained there in the CSRN. All other form of submissions including hard copy will not be considered for evaluation. MP Government employees who are interested in joining the project may send application to mpspd.dsd@gmail.com through proper channel with NOC from the parent department for advertised post. The project details and Terms of Reference for the positions are available on the CSRN. The deadline for the submission of application is 19.02.2024.

Project Director,
Madhya Pradesh Skills Development Project (MPSDP)
G-23580/23

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E-mail : cgmhvz@gmail.com, Ph. No. : 0731-2426354, Fax No. : 0731-2423300
No. MD/WZ/01/HR/2024/1545 Indore, Date : 31.01.2024

APPOINTMENT FOR THE POST OF INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR ON THE BOARD OF THE COMPANY

Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Limited, Indore invites application from the eligible candidates for the appointment to the post of **INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR** on the Board of the Company. The detailed advertisement and application form can be downloaded from the Company's website www.mpwv.co.in

How to Apply :

- The application with all the annexures is to be submitted in hard copy to The Chief General Manager (HR&A), MPPKVVCL, Indore on the address mentioned below so as to reach this office latest by 20.02.2024 during office hours (i.e. up to 6.00 pm).
- Incomplete applications shall not be considered.
- Selected candidate will be informed at his/her mail address and will be given seven days time to accept/reject the position.

Address for Communication :
THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HR&A)
M.P. Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Limited.,
GPH Compound Pologround, Indore (M.P.) Pin-452003,
Telephone : (0731) 2426354, 2426244, E-mail : cgmhvz@gmail.com
Kindly super scribe the envelope with "Application for the post of "INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR",
M.P. Madhyam/113532/2024 **CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HR&A)**

E-AUCTION FOR LEASING OUT OF VPH & SLR COMPARTMENTS ON ROUND/SINGLE TRIP BASIS IN TINSUKIA DIVISION

E-Auction for leasing out of VPH & SLR compartments on round/single trip basis for 03 years. Auction Catalogue No. TSK-SLR-VP-27. Lot Auction Start (All Lots): 10:00 hrs. on 19-02-2024; Rate Unit: Per Trip Licensing Fee & Per round trip (Two way).

SL No.	Lot No./Category	Description
AA1/	15960-SLR-F1-DBRG-HWH-22-1 (Parcel-SLR)	Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment)
AA2/	12423-SLR-F1-DBRG-NDLS-22-2 (Parcel-SLR)	Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment)
AB1/	20505-20506-VP-1-DBRG-NDLS-22-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	Parcel Space in Parcel Van
AB2/	13281-13282-VP-1-DBRG-RJPB-22-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	Parcel Space in Parcel Van
AB3/	15930-15929-VP-1-NTSK-TBM-22-1 (Parcel-Parcel Van)	Parcel Space in Parcel Van

Auction Closing Date/Time : At 11:10 hrs. on 19-02-2024. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Successive lots closing interval 10 minutes. Note: Prospective Participant/bidders are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module of REPS website www.ireps.gov.in for more details.

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आवश्यक सूचना

स्वास्थ्य विभाग, बिहार के अंतर्गत राज्य के चिकित्सा महाविद्यालयों एवं अस्पतालों में सुपरस्पेशलिटी विभाग के अंतर्गत सहायक प्राध्यापक के विभिन्न संकायों के कुल 220 रिक्त पदों पर नियमित नियुक्ति हेतु दिनांक 08.01.2024 को आयोग द्वारा प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या-01/2024 से 17/2024 के अंतर्गत जिन अभ्यर्थियों द्वारा दिनांक 28.01.2024 तक रजिस्ट्रेशन (पंजीकरण) कर परीक्षा शुल्क का भुगतान किया जा चुका है, लेकिन आवेदन का Final Submission नहीं किया गया है, सिर्फ उनके लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने की प्रक्रिया पूर्ण करने के लिए पूर्व की ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने की निर्धारित तिथि को निम्न प्रकार से विस्तारित किया जाता है:-

क्र.सं.	ऑनलाइन आवेदन संबंधी प्रक्रिया	पूर्व से निर्धारित अंतिम तिथि	विस्तारित अंतिम तिथि
1.	ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने की अंतिम तिथि	28.01.2024	01.02.2024

नोट:-
1. इंटरनेट व्यवधान के लिए आयोग जिम्मेवार नहीं होगा।
2. अभ्यर्थी ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने की प्रक्रिया पूर्ण करने के लिए आयोग के वेबसाइट पर प्रदर्शित विस्तृत विज्ञापन एवं ऑनलाइन आवेदन भरने हेतु आवश्यक निर्देश का भली-भाँति अध्ययन कर लेंगे।
3. विज्ञापन की शेष शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी।
4. उक्त सूचना आयोग के वेबसाइट www.bpsc.bih.nic.in पर उपलब्ध है।

परीक्षा नियंत्रक,
बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NASHIK
E-Tender Notice No.78 for 2023-24 (Online)

Online E-Tenders in "B-1" Form for the following works invited by Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik Phone No. (0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State From Capable of P.W.Deptt. Registered/ Unregistered Contractor or International Contractor whose Sub company / branch in India and also complete terms and conditions mentioned in tender document.

Tender document download on our website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> Right of rejection of E-tender / cancellation of E-tender reserved by The Executive Engineer, P. W. Division, Nashik. *Conditional Tender will not be accepted.

Notes :- Above mentioned E-Tender Notice including Total 15 (Fifteen) (Costing upto Rs.1000.00 Lots) Works And details of mentioned E-Tender Notice available on below website.

- www.mahapwd.gov.in
- <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Tender Document Sale Start and End Date Time	01.02.2024		TO	15.02.2024	
	From	11:05		Upto	17:00
* Blank E-Tender form Fees (Non refundable) and EMD amount will be accepted Online only.					
* Post Qualification criteria condition included in tender document.					
* All eligible/intrested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal https://mahatenders.gov.in before downloading tender documents and participate in e-tendering.					
* The information of E-Payment Gateway available on E-Tendering website https://mahatenders.gov.in					

Please Note this to all Registered / Unregistered Contractors.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Nashik
DGIPR/2023-24/ROC 7469

Office of The Superintending Engineer, 7th Circle PWD. Gopeshwar
E-Mail:- sepwdgope@rediffmail.com

Letter No.: 528/50 Yatayat-7/2024 Dated: 31.01.2024

E-tender Notice (Two Bid)

Superintending Engineer, 7th Circle, P.W.D, Gopeshwar invites bid on behalf of Hon,ble Governor of Uttarakhand by e-tendering under two bid system for the following works. Information regarding bid will be available from 05-02-2024 on <https://www.uktenders.gov.in>.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount of Earnest money (Rs.Lakhs)	Cost of e-tender document	Validity of tender (in days)	Completion period (in months)	Contract's category of Registration
	(P.D. Karanprayag) Maintenance Work of Simli to Sainu M/R Km. 1 to Km. 11 under One Time Maintenance work in Assembly Constituency Karanprayag, Distt. Chamoli.	3.04	5000.00 + 18% GST	120	12	Registered in Category "B" For Road work in Uttarakhand & other State/ Govt. of India/ any Govt undertaking
1.	(P.D. Karanprayag) Under PMGSY, Repair work & Work of Premix carpet, Construction of Damaged wall, Crash Barrier, Parapet on Molagad- Matai M/R Km. 1 to Km. 11 in Assembly Constituency Tharali, Distt. Chamoli.	4.31	5000.00 + 18% GST	120	12	-do-

Office of the Director,
Ground Water Department, U.P
State Ground Water Informatics Centre (Bhujal Bhawan),
Vill- Hariharpur, Near Delhi Public School,
Shaheed Path, Lucknow -226002

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Bid No.: 1646 /GWD/A-7 (Israel), dated: 24-01-2024

The Director Ground Water Department, Uttar Pradesh, on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh, invites online bids, for Execution of Gangawali Mini Pilot-Design & Build (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) basis, Under Examination of Feasibility and Planning in principle of India-Israel Water Project in the area of Bundelkhand in the state of Uttar Pradesh., from eligible bidders/firms working in any Central/State departments or Government/ Semi-Government undertaking or in private sector for similar work through e-tendering in two envelop system for the work as detailed below-

S. no.	Name & Description of Work	Estimat ed Cost (without GST) (Rs.)	Completion Period of Work	Last date to upload the bid through e-Tendering	Cost of Bid Document (Rs.)	EMD/Bid Security Amount (Rs.)
1.	Execution of Gangawali Mini Pilot-Design & Build (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) basis, Under Examination of Feasibility and Planning in principle of India-Israel Water Project in the area of Bundelkhand in the state of Uttar Pradesh.	Rs. 12.20 Crores	6 Months	07-03-2024 up to 15:00 hours	Rs. 10000+ 1800 (GST) =Rs.11800.00	24,40,000.00

The Bid Document shall be available online on e-tender portal <https://www.etender.up.nic.in> in ,from 06-02-2024 at 02:00 PM to 06-03-2024 up to 05:00 PM. The last date of submission of bid document is 07-03-2024 up to 03:00 PM (online). The Technical Part of Bids shall be opened on 07-03-2024 at 03:30 PM.

For submission & other Tender details, please refer NIT available on website e-tender portal <https://www.etender.up.nic.in> . The Bid Document and other details are also available on GWDUP website [http:// upgwd.gov.in](http://upgwd.gov.in) The corrigendum/amendments etc., if any, will be notified on these websites only and separate advertisements will not be made for the same.

GWDUP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid without assigning any reason or incurring any liability whatsoever.

(Dr. Balkar Singh)
I.A.S.,
Director

UP-201852, Dt. 30.01.2024
Website : www.upgov.nic.in

{ FROM PAGE 1 }

PREZ SPEECH

with what was before the Narendra Modi government took charge in 2014.

Speaking in the new Lok Sabha chamber, Murmu said, "For centuries, there was an aspiration to construct the Ram Mandir. Today it is a reality. There were doubts regarding the removal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. Those are now history. This Parliament also enacted a strict law against "Triple Talaaq..." amid thunderous applause from ruling lawmakers led by Modi.

Describing the Ram Mandir as "a matter of aspirations and faith for crores of our countrymen and the resolution of this has been accomplished in a harmonious manner", the President hailed the installation of Ram Lalla (the infant Ram) in a "grand temple" in Ayodhya and said: "There come junctures in the history of civilisations which shape the future for the coming centuries. There have been many such defining moments in the history of India also. This year, on January 22, the country witnessed a similar epochal moment. After waiting for centuries, Ram Lalla has now been enshrined in his grand temple in Ayodhya."

Her speech also mentioned the Modi government's flagship programmes for poor people and cited a recent NITI Aayog report to announce in the last one decade of the government, about 250 million Indians have been lifted out of poverty (as defined by a multidimensional index that tracks access to essential services and products). Murmu added that a significant section of tax revenues are spent on empowerment of the four pillars, pointing out that, for instance, ₹6 lakh crore has been spent to give 41 million poor families their own pucca (permanent) houses.

Welfare and essential services were a recurring theme in the President's speech.

"For the first time, piped water has reached about 10 million rural families. Around ₹4 lakh crore is being spent for this. 100 million Ujjwala gas connections have by now been provided. These beneficiary sisters are also being provided cooking gas at very cheap rates. My government has spent around ₹25 lakh crore on this scheme. Since the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, 800 million Indians are being given free ration. This facility has now been extended for another five years and an additional ₹11 lakh crore would be spent on this," she told

Parliament.

She singled out Digital India for special attention, and said 46% of the world's total real-time digital transactions take place in India and the government has so far transferred ₹34 lakh crore through DBT (direct benefits transfer), preventing ₹2.75 lakh crore from going into wrong hands.

Murmu also detailed the government's efforts to empower women, reminding Parliament that this year's Republic Day Parade was dedicated to the cause. At the parade on the country's 75th Republic Day on January 26, women were everywhere, in the flypact, in mechanised columns, in marching contingents, in bands, and in the cultural extravaganza.

"My government has enlarged the role of daughters everywhere — in water, land, sky and space. We all are aware what economic independence means for women," added Murmu, India's second woman and first tribal president. She added that around 100 million women are associated with self-help groups that gets ₹40,000 crores of credit and said, "Out of more than 460 million loans extended under Mudra Yojana, more than 310 million loans have been given to women."

Two other recurring themes in the President's speech were Amrit Kaal, the 25 years between 2022 and 2047 and leading to India's 100th anniversary of independence, and Viksit Bharat (developed India). Murmu said that the government's vision of Viksit Bharat is not limited to economic prosperity alone. "We are giving equal importance to social, cultural and strategic strengths. Without them, the development and economic prosperity would not be permanent."

Murmu said, "This is the time for India to script the future for the coming centuries... Hence, my government is now working on a grand vision. This vision also has a programme for the next five years. It also has a road map for the next 25 years."

The President spoke of the massive expansion in physical infrastructure that has happened over the past decade and of how the government has prioritised over 100 million small farmers through its policies. The emphasis, she said, is "on making farming more profitable. Our aim is to reduce the cost of farming while increasing profits," she announced.

India has transformed in the past decade, Murmu said, from a

"fragile five" to a "top five" economy, with an increase in its tax base and exports. It has continued to grow despite global headwinds from Covid and other crises, and also managed to keep inflation under check, she said.

India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world, the first country to hoist its flag on the southern pole of the Moon, and launched a successful solar mission, Aditya, Murmu said.

She also underscored that India's clout was growing on the global stage.

"Even in this era of global disputes and conflicts, my government has firmly placed India's interests before the world. The scope of India's foreign policy today has gone far beyond the constraints of the past. Today India is a respected member of many global organisations. Today India is a leading voice in the world against terrorism," she said.

"Today India responds strongly and takes initiatives for the humanity caught in crises. Wherever there is a crisis in the world today, India tries to respond promptly... The whole world appreciated the historic G20 Summit held in India. The unanimous adoption of the Delhi Declaration even in a fractured environment is historic," the President said.

Murmu quoted late PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee to say that the country will never stop its journey. "My government is moving ahead with the guarantee of fulfilling the dreams of 1.4 billion Indians."

GYANVAPI

Mughal emperors after demolishing a temple and seek rights to the complex.

Vishnu Shankar Jain, a counsel for Vyas, said, "This order allows daily prayers, and is a major win for us."

The court fixed February 8 as the date to hear the objections of the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee, which manages the 17th century mosque. But the committee said it will challenge the order in the high court.

"We will challenge the order in the Allahabad high court," said advocate Akhlaque Ahmad, representing Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee.

The four-page verdict represented yet another setback for the mosque committee, which has, so far, unsuccessfully argued that the Hindu suits were barred by the 1991 Places of Worship Act, which locks the religious character of shrines as they existed on August 15, 1947, with the exception of the

Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute.

The verdict comes roughly a week after the same judge furnished a copy of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) report on the same complex. The ASI survey conducted a study of architectural remains, exposed features and artefacts, inscriptions, art and sculptures, to conclude that there existed a Hindu temple prior to the construction of the Gyanvapi Masjid. The mosque panel has already disputed the timelines indicated in the report and said it will study the survey before taking legal steps.

The Vyas family of Varanasi, a family of priests, was considered the hereditary owners of the southern cellar of the mosque, where prayers to Ganesha, Hanuman, Nandi and other deities were conducted by Somnath Vyas, the maternal grandfather of the petitioner. But in the aftermath of the Babri Masjid demolition in December 1992, authorities feared a law-and-order problem and sealed all four cellars of the mosque. Permanent barriers raised were also erected at the time. The last time the prayers were offered were in December 1993.

On September 25, 2023, Shailendra Kumar Pathak Vyas filed a plea in the court of civil judge (senior division), urging the court to appoint the district magistrate or any suitable person nominated by him as the receiver of the cellar and a direction to the receiver to allow the plaintiff, co-pujaris and devotees to perform puja there. The Varanasi district court on October 19, 2023 transferred the civil suit to itself.

In his submissions, Vyas alleged that the mosque committee kept visiting the cellars and might take it over. Ahmad called the allegation baseless. The plaintiff said as hereditary pujaari, he should be allowed to enter the cellar — also known as Vyas ka taykhana — and resume puja.

Vishnu Shankar Jain, one of Vyas's lawyers, said that he asked the court to allow the plaintiff to perform puja in the cellar and create an entry gate for the space.

Ahmad argued that the plea was barred by the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991. "The cellar is part of the Gyanvapi mosque. So, worship could not be performed. Therefore, puja should not be allowed," Ahmad argued.

On January 17, the Varanasi district court appointed the district magistrate as the receiver of the cellar, directing him to keep it safe and not allow any change.

WATER AND WASTEWATER SOLUTIONS
WANTED FRANCHISEES
in North India with good contacts in local municipalities/Industry/PWD etc.
Please send your credentials/resume to :
wastewatertreatment118@gmail.com
wastewatertreatment119@gmail.com

NORTHERN RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM-III
E-Tender Notice No- 01ExamCBTBid2024Acct
Dated 16.01.2024
This is hereby notified that Northern Railway has decided to extend the last date of receipt of the bids to 05.02.2024 till 15:00 hrs and the received bids will be opened at 15:00 hrs on the same day.
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 339/24

Indian Institute of Science Education & Research Bhopal
Institute Works Department, Bhopal Bypass Road, Bhauri, Bhopal - 462 066 (M.P.)
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
The Superintending Engineer, Institute Works Department, IISER Bhopal on behalf of the Board of Governors invites online percentage rate tenders from CPWD enlisted contractors of appropriate class and other eligible firms / contractors of repute in two envelopes system for the following work:

Sl. No.	NIT No. & date	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest Money	Period
1.	IWD/SE/NIT/2023-24/39 dated 16.01.2024	Miscellaneous repair work, Internal & External painting in Tower- A, B & E at IISER Bhopal.	Rs. 68,59,513/-	Rs. 1,37,191/-	04 (four) months
2.	IWD/SE/NIT/2023-24/40 dated 16.01.2024	Miscellaneous painting work at IISER Bhopal for the financial year 2024-25.	Rs. 9,43,683/-	Rs. 18,874/-	12 (twelve) months
3.	IWD/SE/NIT/2023-24/41 dated 16.01.2024	Providing and fixing solid wood pan partitions with door shutters and windows in the THERM Building at IISER Bhopal.	Rs. 60,41,777/-	Rs. 1,20,836/-	04 (four) months
4.	IWD/SE/NIT/2023-24/42 dated 17.01.2024	Rearrangement of additional power points and data points for the Second Floor (302-DSE Dept.), First Floor (103, 110 & 111-EECS Dept.) & Second Floor (210- EES Dept.) in the THERM Building and First Floor (106 & 107- Physics Department) of 4D building and DSE department faculty office & student sitting area in second floor, Plasma Building at IISER Bhopal.	Rs. 15,71,163/-	Rs. 31,423/-	2 (two) months
5.	IWD/SE/NIT/2023-24/43 dated 17.01.2024	Annual maintenance of fire-fighting equipment in various buildings at IISER Bhopal for the year 2024-25.	Rs. 17,59,569/-	Rs. 35,191/-	12 (twelve) months
6.	IWD/SE/NIT/2023-24/44 dated 17.01.2024	Development works surrounding NIRAALAYA (water body) including landscaping, civil and horticulture works at IISER Bhopal.	Rs. 87,52,232/-	Rs. 1,75,045/-	04 (four) months

The bids forms and other details for application can be obtained from the website www.tenderwizard.com/IISERB. The press notice is also available in Institute website www.iiserb.ac.in and website www.eprocure.gov.in.

Parul University
Vadodra, Gujarat
NAAC GRADE A++
CSE | IT | EC | BCA | MCA
Applications are invited for the posts of Lecturer, Assistant/ Associate Professor / Professor in above disciplines
Salary • For B.Tech/BCA (Fresher) - CTC 3.0 - 4.0 Lac/ Annum
• For M.Tech/MCA (Fresher) - CTC 4.8 - 6.0 Lac/ Annum
Outstation Candidates Shall Be Paid 10-15% Per Month Additional Salary As Relocation Allowance. *No Bar For Experienced & Deserving Candidates
WALK-IN INTERVIEW IN DELHI
Date & Time: Feb 04, 2024 (Sunday), 09:30 AM
Old Delhi Rohini : Hotel Gallivant Inn Sector 18, Near Crime Branch Office, Above Idfc Bank Rohini ☎ 9428232881
New Delhi Noida: Hotel Ginger Noida, Noida Sector-63, Noida ☎ 9328462130
Qualification & experience as per AICTE norms. Interested candidates can also apply through www.paruluniversity.ac.in/careers Registrar

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Indicative Notice
Railway Recruitment Cell/Northern Railway
Employment Notice No. RRC/NR 02/2024/CQ
RRC Website: www.rccnr.org
Online Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizen for 02 vacancies in level 2 of Pay Matrix 7th Pay Commission against Cultural quota for the year 2023-24 in Northern Railway.

Important Dates	
Date of Publication of Detailed Notification on RRC Website	25.01.2024
Date & time of start of online Application	At 1200 Hrs. on 31.01.2024
Date & time of closing of Online Application	At 1200 Hrs. on 29.02.2024
Expected Date of Online Written Examination	09.03.2024

333/2024
Chairperson/RRC/LP/NR
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

पावरग्रिड POWERGRID
NOTICE
Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Package-I: Establishment of SLDC cum REMC for UT of Ladakh under consultancy assignment for Establishment of SLDC cum REMC for UT of Ladakh; Spec No.: CCNTW/SCADA/DOM/A00/2308709 Single Stage Two Envelope (SSTE) (Funding : Domestic) Bidding Procedure
DOMESTIC COMPETITIVE BIDDING Date: 01/02/2024
POWERGRID invites online bids through e-portal <https://tender.powergrid.in> for the following Package:
Details/Site/Salient Particulars of Works Downloading of Bidding Documents Deadline for Bid Submission (Soft Copy & Hard Copy Part) Cost of Bidding Documents
Package-I: Establishment of SLDC cum REMC for UT of Ladakh under consultancy assignment for Establishment of SLDC cum REMC for UT of Ladakh. Till 15/02/2024 upto 11:00hrs. Soft Copy Part: 15/02/2024 up to 11:00hrs & Hard Copy Part: Not Applicable
1. For further details including addendum/changes in bidding program, if any, please visit procurement portal <https://tender.powergrid.in>
2. The First Envelope (Techno-Commercial part) of the bid shall be opened on the same day of the deadline for Bid Submission (Soft Copy part) i.e. at 11:30hrs onwards.
3. The complete Bidding Documents are also available on our website <http://www.powergrid.in> for the purpose of reference only.
4. The NIT/IFB has already been published on e-portal <https://tender.powergrid.in> on 12/09/2023. If you have any information, please contact: 0124-2822383/2366; 965008825/9501102051
POWER GRID CORPORATION OF INDIA LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office : B-9, Qutub Institutional Area, Kalkaji Sarai, New Delhi - 110 016
Corporate Office : Saudamini, Plot No.2, Sector-29, Gurugram, Haryana - 122 001
Website: www.powergrid.in, GIN: L04101DL1, 1989G0038121
A Maharatna PSU

TENUGHAT VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED
तेनुघाट विद्युत निगम लिमिटेड
(A GOVT. OF JHARKHAND UNDERTAKING)
CIN U40101JH1987SGC013153
HINOO, DORANDA, RANCHI-834002, JHARKHAND (TEL: 0651-6900252, Fax 0651-2253841)
Letter No:1034/2023-24 Date:31/01/2024
e-TENDER NOTICE
Online tender in two parts (Part-I Technical & Commercial Bid and Part-II price Bid to be submitted in TVNL Website Only) are invited on behalf of TENUGHAT VIDYUT NIGAM LIMITED, Ranchi from reputed, experienced and financially sound firms for under mentioned work at TTPS, Lalpaha.

Sl. No.	NIT No. / Rfx. No.	Description	Last date & Time of purchase of tender paper	Last date & Time of Bid Submission	Due date & Time of opening of Part-I
01.	NIT No. 12/BMD/P/TVNL/RAN/2023-24 Rfx No.100009283	Procurement of Low Nox coal compartment assembly for Boiler U-II at TTPS, Lalpaha.	22nd February 2024 up to 14:00 Hrs	23rd February, 2024 up to 14:00 Hrs	23rd February, 2024 up to 16:00 Hrs

Bid documents are to be submitted online through SAP-SRM, TVNL website webdispatcher.tvnl.in/srmpnd up to last date and time of bid submission. The tender documents can be downloaded from our website www.tvnl.in

Sd/- (R. Ranjan) ESE(C&M)
PR 317457 (Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd.) 23-24 (D)

दिल्ली प्रौद्योगिकी विश्वविद्यालय DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
(Formerly Delhi College of Engineering)
(Estd. by Govt. of NCT of Delhi vide Act 6 of 2009) Shahbad Daultpur, Bawana Road, Delhi 110 042
Delhi Technology University is a State University with approximate strength of 20,000 persons which includes students, faculty/staff and residents. DTU wishes to invite reputed brands (preferably with Multi-National presence) for various food and beverages items such as subs, burgers, pizza, North Indian Cuisine, South Indian Cuisine, Continental, snacks such as Momo, beverages such as tea, coffee, mock tails, etc.
The interested organizations may apply for the same on licence fee basis latest by 10 days from the publication of this advertisement. The application may be submitted in the prescribed Performa. For more details, kindly visit the University website www.dtu.ac.in.
(Dr. Anil Kumar) Deputy Registrar, GA

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
प्रथम तल, कॉमर्सियल कॉम्प्लेक्स, सेक्टर-ओसेगा-1 (पी-2) ग्रेटर नोएडा
Toll Free No. 18001808296, वेबसाइट : www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com
पत्रांक: वाई.ई.ए./मूलेख/तह-वी.के./2133/2024 दिनांक: 31.01.2024
सार्वजनिक सूचना
निम्नलिखित भूमि यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा आपसी सहमति के आधार पर काश्तकारों से क्रय किया जाना प्रस्तावित है। क्रय हेतु काश्तकार, गाटा संख्या, क्षेत्रफल व काश्तकार का हिस्सा निम्नलिखित तालिका में अंकित है -
(सेक्टर-21, ग्राम रबपुरा, फिल्म सिटी)

क्रम सं.	खाता संख्या	खसरा संख्या	गाटे का कुल क्षेत्रफल (हे.में)	तहसील की आख्यानुसार काश्तकार का भाग	तहसील की आख्यानुसार हिस्सा	काश्तकार का नाम
1	60	1109	0.8380	में से	0.0975	फाजिल खॉन पुत्र इकबाल खॉन नि.मो. नौईरंरंजान कस्बा रबपुरा

उत्तरावली

क्रम सं.	खाता संख्या	खसरा संख्या	गाटे का कुल क्षेत्रफल (हे.में)	तहसील की आख्यानुसार काश्तकार का भाग	तहसील की आख्यानुसार हिस्सा	काश्तकार का नाम
2	159	551मि	0.4810	में से	0.3967	पूरन पुत्र मनफूला नि. ग्राम उत्तरावली

उपरोक्त भूमि क्रय किये जाने में यदि किसी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है तो वह लिखित रूप में 15 दिवस के अंदर यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे प्राधिकरण के कार्यालय / सी.आर. सैल में अपनी आपत्ति प्रस्तुत कर सकता है।
विशेष कार्यधिकारी, यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे प्राधिकरण

Corrigendum No.15
Executive Engineer
Public Work Division Alapalli, Tah. Aheri Dist. Gadchiroli.
Phone No. 07133-266402 E-mail- alapalli.ee@mahapwd.gov.in Web Site- www.mahapwd.gov.in
Tender Notice No.11/2023-24
The tender is being floated again as Correction In Tender Format mentioned below in the notice no. 11/2023-24

Sr. No.	AS PER NEWS PAPER	NOW MODIFIED/READ AS
1	Online E-Tenders Of Lumpsum Rate "C" Form For The Following Works Are Invited By The Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Alapalli On Behalf Of Public Works Department Of Government Of Maharashtra For International Contractor's Indian Sub Company's/Indian Company/Contractor's. Tender Documents Download In www.pmgstendersmah.gov.in . All Rights To Reject Any Or All Tenders For The Following Works Reserved By The Competent Authority Conditional Tender Should Not Be Accepted.	Online E-Tenders Of Item Rate "B2" Form For The Following Works Are Invited By The Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Alapalli On Behalf Of Public Works Department Of Government Of Maharashtra For International Contractor's Indian Sub Company's/Indian Company/Contractor's. Tender Documents Download In www.pmgstendersmah.gov.in . All Rights To Reject Any Or All Tenders For The Following Works Reserved By The Competent Authority Conditional Tender Should Not Be Accepted.

This Corrigendum is part of This Tender
Outward No.266/A.B./T.C./2024 Date. 25.01.2024
DGIPR/2023-24/ROC 7460

GOVT. OF MAHARASHTRA
Public Works (East) Division, Pune- 411 001
Phone No. 020/26122457
Web- www.mahapwd.gov.in & e-mail - eastpune.ee@mahapwd.gov.in
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 115 FOR 2023-2024
The Executive Engineer, Public Works (East) Division, Pune - 411 001 invites bids for following work from Registered as well as unregistered Contractor and full filling the qualifying criteria for B1 Tender Format as per Maharashtra Government Public Work Department G.R. No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Blgd-2, dt. 27/9/2018 and Public Work Department Mantralaya Mumbai Circular No. CAT/2017/Pra.Kra-08/Blgd-2, dt. 22/10/2018. Bids document can be downloaded from website <https://mahatenders.gov.in> Executive Engineer reserves all rights to accept or reject bids. Conditional bids will not be accepted.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost Rs.	Earnest Money Deposit	Time limit for Completion	Cost of e-tender Form Fee	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Compound Wall, Internal Road, Parking Shed, Furniture Work, Misc. Work (Main and Interior Door, Rolling Shutter etc) for office of the Additional Superintendent of Police Baramati, Baramati City Police Station, and Traffic Police Baramati. Tal. - Baramati, Dist. - Pune.	9,21,38,373/-	4,61,000/-	12 Months (Including Monsoon)	Rs.3540/- (With GST 18%)	Registered as well as unregistered Contractor

E-tender- Time Table

1. Period of Downloading of bid documents / Sale start and end dates	Dt. 01.02.2024 @ 10.00 hrs. to Dt. 15.02.2023 @18.00 hrs.
2. Pre-bid Meeting in the Office of Chief Engineer, P.W. Region Office, Pune, Old Central Building, Pune - 411001.	Dt. 06.02.2024 @ 12.00 hrs.
3. Period of Bid Submission/ Bid Submission Start and End date.	Dt. 01.02.2024 @ 10.00 hrs. to Dt. 15.02.2024 @18.00 hrs.
4. Bid Opening Period	Dt. 16.02.2024 @ 18.00 hrs. (If Possible) (In the office of Superintending Engineer, P.W. Circle, Pune)

Note :-
1. All eligible/interested contractors are downloading and mandated to get enrolled on e-tendering portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.
2. For online Payment related issues, Kindly send email with Bank Reference Number to this email merchant@sbi.co.in. You may also contact 022-27560149 for clarifications.
3. Other term and condition Displayed in online e-tender forms. Right to reject any or all online bid of work without assigning any reasons thereof is reserved.
4. Above only Tender Notice is displayed on P.W.D. website "www.mahapwd.gov.in"
5. Online Blank Tender Downloading fee and Earnest money shall be paid via online using payment gateway mode.
DGIPR/2023-2024/ROC 7433

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Public Work (East) Division, Pune 411 001

कार्यालय प्रधानाचार्य, स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, पीलीभीत उत्तर प्रदेश
ई-मेल: asmcpilbhit2022@gmail.com वेबसाइट: www.asmcpilbhit.com
पत्रांक: एम्सएनएमसी०/पीलीभीत/2024/4462 दिनांक: 27/01/2024
-: विज्ञापित :-
स्वशासी कार्यालय 'महानिदेशक चिकित्सा शिक्षा एवं प्रशिक्षण उ०प्र० के पत्रांक संख्या एम०ई०-2/2024/330 लखनऊ दिनांक - 24.01.2024 के अनुपालन में स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय, पीलीभीत के आचार्य, सह आचार्य एवं सहायक आचार्य के नियमित रिक्त पदों हेतु निर्धारित प्रपत्र में आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं।
पदों की संख्या निम्नवत है:-

क्र०	विशिष्टता	आचार्य		सह आचार्य		सहायक आचार्य	
		पदों की संख्या	श्रेणी	पदों की संख्या	श्रेणी	पदों की संख्या	श्रेणी
1	आर्थोपेडिक्स	--	--	01	SC	--	--
2	आयुर्वेदिक	--	--	--	--	01	SC
3	आयुर्वेदिक एण्ड गायनीकोलॉजी	01	SC	01	UR	01	OBC
4	इमिनोहिमेटोलोजी एण्ड ब्लडट्रांसफ्यूजन (ब्लड बैंक)	--	--	--	--	01	UR
5	इमरजेंसी मेडिसिन	01	UR	01	OBC	01	SC
6	एनाटॉमी	01	OBC	--	--	--	--
7	एनेस्थीसियोलॉजी	01	UR	01	SC	01	OBC
8	ओटो- राइनो- लैरिगोलॉजी	--	--	--	--	--	--
9	कम्युनिटी मेडिसिन	--	--	--	--	01	SC
10	जनरल मेडिसिन	01	SC	01	UR	01	OBC
				01	OBC	01	UR
11	जनरल सर्जरी	--	--	01	UR	01	SC
				01	OBC	--	--
12	ट्यूबरकुलोसिस एण्ड रिस्पैटरी मेडिसिन / फ्लोरोरी मेडिसिन	--	--	01	EWS	--	--
13	डर्मेटोलॉजी वेनेरोलॉजी एण्ड लेप्रोसी	--	--	01	SC	--	--
14	फार्माकोलॉजी	--	--	01	SC	--	--
15	फिजियोलॉजी	--	--	--	--	01	SC
16	फोरेंसिक मेडिसिन	--	--	--	--	01	UR
17	बायोकैमिस्ट्री	--	--	01	OBC	01	OBC
18	रेडियोलॉजी-डायग्नोसिस	--	--	01	OBC	01	SC
19	साइकैट्रिक	--	--	01	EWS	--	--
योग :-				05		14	13

नोडल प्रधानाचार्य
स्वशासी राज्य चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय
पीलीभीत

Sr. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK/NOTICE/TENDER	OPENING DATE/CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN LACS	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1.	Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab, Chandigarh	Vehicles Tracking System	02.02.2024/22.02.2024	1.00 LACS	9417026842 dyceo@punjab.gov.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CORRIGENDUM & ADDENDUM IF ANY, KINDLY VISIT:
eopunjab.gov.in
www.eproc.punjab.gov.in

RO Code:
26/12/906/2023/31923

Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice B-1709
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 54 / 2023-24
e-mail : ccekeonjharwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd.keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No. 448 dt. 29.01.2024

- No. of the work: - 3 Nos. Road Works & 1 No. Weir Work
- Estimated cost: - Rs. 105.22 Lakhs to Rs. 774.40 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor: - 'B' Class, 'A' Class & 'Special' Class
- Period of completion: - 05 (Five) to 09 (Nine) Calendar Months
- Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal: - From 11.30 Hours of 01.02.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 15.02.2024
- Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal: - 16.00 Hours of 15.02.2024
- Date of opening of Bid from Portal: - 11.30 Hours on 16.02.2024
- Name and address of the officer inviting Bid: - Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "<http://tendersodisha.gov.in>"

Chief Construction Engineer
Keonjhar (R & B) Circle, Keonjhar
OIPR - 34033/11/0075/2324

बिहार सरकार

आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार
(बिहार सरकार का एक उपक्रम)
प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, पूर्वी गाँधी मैदान, पटना
Email-md@idabihar.com, Web-www.idabihar.com,
phone: 0612-2675933, 2675935, Fax no-2675934

समुचित श्रेणी में निम्नलिखित संवेदकों को प्रतिलिखित दर/मद दर निविदा (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in के माध्यम से)

पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या : 17/TEN/IDA/24

- विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता: कार्यपालक अभियंता (Tech), आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गाँधी मैदान के पूरव, पटना-800004
- निविदा डाउनलोड करने की अवधि एवं समय: दिनांक 13.02.2024 से 20.01.2024 को 17:00 बजे तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- प्री-बिड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान: दिनांक 16.02.2024 को 15:00 बजे आधारभूत संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, गाँधी मैदान के पूरव, पटना।
- निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय: दिनांक 21.02.2024 को 17:00 बजे तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- अग्रघन राशि की मूल प्रति अथवा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मुद्रातल का प्रमाण और परिमाण विवर मूल मुद्रातल का प्रमाण जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि, समय एवं स्थान: दिनांक 22.02.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय: दिनांक 22.02.2024 को 15:30 बजे तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय: तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के पश्चात। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- निविदा कैश की अवधि: 120 दिन
- कार्य का विवरण :-

क्र०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रु० में)	अग्रघन की राशि (रु० में)	परिमाण विवर का मूल्य (आवृत्त/वर्षीय रूप में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि (माह में)
1	(Re-Tender) Remaining work of Construction of Plug & Play Prefabricated shed at Bhagalpur, Phase-04	10,43,76,719.00	20,44,00,00.00	10,000.00	05 Months

निर्वाह जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prd Bihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
(TECH-HQ)
PR. No. 016405 (B & C) 2023-24

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम लिमिटेड

BIHAR STATE EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking)
ISO 9001:14001;OHSAS 18001
Shiksha Bhawan, Bihar Rashtrabhasa, Parishad Campus,
Acharya Shivpujan Sahay Path, Saidpur, Patna-800004
Tel. No : 0612 - 2660850 *Fax No : 0612 - 2660256
E-mail: bseidc@gmail.com * Website : <http://www.bseidc.in>
* CIN: U80301BR2010SGC015859

निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या 64 वर्ष 2023-24
SBD आधारित प्रतिलिखित दर निविदा
(केवल ई-टेंडरिंग पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

बिहार राज्य अंतर्गत विभिन्न विद्यालयों एवं महाविद्यालयों के भवन निर्माण हेतु निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। कोई भी संवेदक जो केन्द्रीय/राज्य सरकार/सार्वजनिक क्षेत्रों में समुचित श्रेणी में निम्नलिखित हो, निविदा में भाग ले सकता है परन्तु इस निगम का रजिस्ट्रेशन कार्य के आवंटन के बाद कराना अनिवार्य होगा।

- विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता: मुख्य अभियंता, बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम, पटना।
- निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत की तिथि: 30.01.2024 2022
- निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड करने एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि पूर्वानुमान से: दिनांक-15.02.2024 से 21.02.2024, 15.00 बजे तक। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- संवेदक द्वारा निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि/समय: दिनांक-21.02.2024 को 15.00 बजे तक। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- अग्रघन,सभी साक्ष्य पत्र, मूल में जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि/समय स्थान: दिनांक-22.02.2024 को 15.00 बजे तक। बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम, पटना।
- प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय एवं स्थान: मुख्य अभियंता, बिहार राज्य शैक्षणिक आधारभूत संरचना विकास निगम, पटना। दिनांक-19.02.2024 को 15.00 बजे।
- तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि/समय अंतिम तिथि/समय: दिनांक-23.02.2024 को 15.30 बजे (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान: तकनीकी बीड के निष्पादन के उपरान्त। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- कार्य की विवरणी:-

SL no-	Work Name	BOQ Amount (In Lakh)	EMD IN (In Lakh)	Cost of BOQ IN RS	Period of Completion
1	Vertical Extension Work at 2nd Floor of Existing Building at Government Mahila College Gulzarbagh, Patna.	436.57	8.73	10,000/-	15 Months
2	Vertical Extension Work at 1st & 2nd Floor of Academic Building & Renovation Work of Existing College Building At Government Mahila College, Gardaniabagh, Patna.	463.58	9.29	10,000/-	15 Months
3	Construction of Boundary Wall along with Main Gate, & Guard Room and Construction of Toilet Block, Drainage system, External Electrification & Campus Development work, At Government Mahila College, Gardaniabagh, Patna.	464.52	9.27	10,000/-	15 Months
4	Construction of 50 Seated Women's Hostel (G+2) for Women's Training College of Patna University, Patna.	393.22	7.86	10,000/-	15 Months
5	Balance work of Diet Building (Girls Hostel Boys Hostel & Institutional Building) At - Madhepura Dist- Madhepura, Bihar.	494.21	9.90	10,000/-	12 Month

निर्वाह जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prd Bihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।
PR- 016397 (B & C) 2023-24 मुख्य अभियंता

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office:- PSEB H.O. Building, The Mall, Patiala
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Contact No. 96461-18773

TENDER ENQUIRY No.: QQ-2346/PO-P

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL 2nd floor, Multistory Building, The Mall, Patiala, invites E-Tender for Procurement of 4,60,000 Nos Galvanized Steel Pins of Steel head made by forging process, suitable for 11 KV Pin Insulators, as per PSPCL specification No. QQ-2346/PSPCL/PO-P. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 31.01.2024 onwards.

NOTE: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

C77/24 31894

अखिल भारतीय आयुर्विज्ञान संस्थान, जोधपुर
ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, JODHPUR
Bansi Phase-II, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) 342005 Ph No: 0291-2740741

04th CONVOCATION
Saturday, 03rd February 2024
at AIIMS, Jodhpur Auditorium, Bansi Phase-II, Jodhpur-342005

- Degree will be conferred to MBBS Batches-2016, 2017, B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing Batches- 2017, 2018, 2019, MD/MS/MDS Batches-January & July 2018, 2019 & January 2020, DM/MCh Batches- July 2018, January and July 2019 & January 2020, M.Sc. Medical Batches- 2019, 2020, 2021, M.Sc. Nursing batches- 2019, 2020, MPH Batches- 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, PhD Batches- July 2017, January & July 2018, July 2019 and MedTech(Masters) Batch- 2021.
- Eligible candidates may note that prior consent for participation in the Convocation is mandatory. The consent shall be sent by email to "deanacademicjsdh@gmail.com"
- Candidates who do not send consent for 4th Convocation shall be deemed to have opted for having the degree conferred 'in absentia'.
- 1st rehearsal will be on Friday, 2nd February 2024 at 10.00 am and final full dress rehearsal will be on Friday, 02nd February 2024 at 03.30 pm.
- Both Rehearsals are compulsory for the candidates and no exception will be made in this regard.
- For more details please visit our website www.aiimsjodhpur.edu.in
- For any clarification, kindly contact deanacademicjsdh@gmail.com

Dean (Academics)
AIIMS, Jodhpur

Directorate of Veterinary Services, Chhattisgarh
Indrawati Bhawan, Block-3, Nawa Raipur
Phone No. 0771-2331393, 94, 95 Fax No. 0771-2331392/95 email : dirvet.cg@nic.in

e-Tender Invitation Notice

Online Tenders are invited from licensed manufacturers/importers for supply of Veterinary Vaccine for financial year 2023-24 of Department of Veterinary Services, Chhattisgarh. The detailed schedules are as follows.

S. No.	Tender Details	Name of Work	Approximate Amount
1	Tender No. 440 Date 29/01/2024	RATE CONTRACT AND SUPPLY OF VETERINARY VACCINE	Rs. 12.20 Cr.
2	Starting Date of online Tender Submission 30.01.2024		
3	Pre Bid Meeting Date 08.02.2024, Time 1.00 PM (Venue -DVSCG)		
4	Last Date of Tender Submission 29.02.2024, Up to- 5:30 PM		

The detailed tender documents and the list of items are made available under Department-Livestock Development Department (LDD) on website <https://www.eproc.cgstate.gov.in> and <https://agriportal.cg.nic.in/ahd>

Director
Veterinary Services
Chhattisgarh
G-07377/5

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA C-2953
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
P.H. DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR AT CHATRAPUR
Phone - 06811 263990- FAX - 06811 263950- E-mail - chatrchpr@gmail.com

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Bid Identification No. 7403 / SPH(C) / 2023-24 dt. 29.01.2024

- Name of the work: 1 (one) no of work
- Estimate cost: 727.95 lakh
- Date & time of availability of bid document in the portal: From 11.00 AM of 03.02.2024 to 5.00 PM of 17.02.2024
- Last date / time of receipt of bid in the portal: 5.00 PM of 17.02.2024
- Date and time of opening of bids: 1.00 P.M. on dated.19.02.2024
- Name and address of the Officer inviting the bid: Superintending Engineer, P.H. Division, Bhanjanagar at Chatrapur.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <https://www.tenderorissa.gov.in>

Superintending Engineer
P.H. Division, Bhanjanagar
at Chatrapur
OIPR - 13172/11/0019/2324

कार्यालय परिवहन आयुक्त
उत्तर प्रदेश
देवी कोठी, महात्मा गांधी मार्ग, लखनऊ-226001

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

उत्तर प्रदेश में समस्त लोक सेवा वाहनों (दुपहिया, ई-रिक्शा तथा तिपहिया को छोड़कर) राष्ट्रीय परमिट से आच्छादित वाहनों तथा नये एवं विद्यमान मॉडल मामले में, एन2 और एन3 वर्ग के प्रत्येक खतरनाक एवं परिसंकटमय समान को ले जाने में प्रयुक्त वाहनों में AIS: 140 कम्प्लायन्ट व्हीकल लोकेशन ट्रैकिंग ड्रिवाइस (VLTLD) को कमाण्ड सेंटर से इंटीग्रेट कराये जाने एवं वाहनों की ट्रैकिंग हेतु टेस्टिंग एजेंसी ICAT तथा ARAI से AIS-140 Compliant Backend Software Certification प्राप्त सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों से Implementation Agency के रूप में चयनित होने हेतु प्रस्ताव प्राप्त करने के लिये प्रेस विज्ञप्ति दिनांक 09.06.2023 को प्रकाशित की गयी थी तथा Implementation Agency के रूप में चयनित होने हेतु संस्थाओं की तकनीकी अर्हता हेतु विभाग द्वारा तैयार की गयी RFP (Request for Proposal) को परिवहन विभाग की वेबसाइट <http://uptransport.upscd.gov.in> पर अपलोड किया गया था। VLTLD योजना हेतु प्रकाशित प्रेस विज्ञप्ति तथा RFP (Request for Proposal) को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है।

अपर परिवहन आयुक्त (आई०टी०)
उत्तर प्रदेश

UP 201928 DL 31.01.2024
Website: www.upgov.nic.in

GOVT. OF ODISHA A-1366
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
DRAINAGE CIRCLE, UNIT-8, BHUBANESWAR-751012
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE No. ACEDC-BBSR-08/2023-24
email id :- se drainagebbsr12@gmail.com

- Total number of Works: 3no. of works as mentioned below.
- Name of Works: 1. IMPROVEMENT TO LINK DRAINS OF BODAGHAI DRAINAGE SYSTEM INCLUDING ITS STRUCTURES UNDER HINJIL AND SHERAGADA BLOCKS IN DOAB NO. XVII OF GANJAM DISTRICT. 2. DREDGING OF BRACKISH WATER CHANNEL FROM HARIDAS TO CDA CHANDEL NEAR KUSUBENTI VILLAGE UNDER BRAHMAIGIRI BLOCK IN PURI DISTRICT. 3. RENOVATION OF LUNA-RATNACHIRA DRAINAGE SYSTEM WITH STRUCTURES UNDER BRAHMAIGIRI BLOCK.
- Estimated Cost: 1. Rs. 2,57,75,808.00 2. Rs. 6,17,91,321.00 3. Rs. 4,76,85,389.00
- Bid Identification No.: ACEDC-BBSR/DD-BAM-18/2023-24 ACEDC-BBSR/DRI-PUR-19/2023-24 ACEDC-BBSR/DD-PUR-20/2023-24
- Period of completion: 11(Eleven) Calendar months.
- Class of Contractor: As per DTCN
- Date and time of availability of Bid Document in the portal: 03.02.2024, 11.00 Hours to 17.02.2024, 17.00 Hours.
- Date of Opening of Technical Bid: 19.02.2024 at 11.00 hours in the O/o the Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar.
- Date and time of receipt of Bids in the portal: 03.02.2024, 11.00 Hours to 17.02.2024, 17.00 Hours.
- Last date and time of receipt of Bids in the portal: 17.02.2024, 17.00 Hours.
- Date of opening of financial Bid: To be uploaded in Portal after evaluation of technical bids.
- Date of Lottery (if required): To be intimated to the responsive bidders through their Registered E-Mail Ids.
- Bid Security: 1. Rs.2,57,75,808.00 2. Rs.6,17,91,321.00 3. Rs.4,76,85,400.00
- Cost of Tender paper: Rs.10,000/-
- Procurement Officer: Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar-751012

Further details can be seen from the Govt. web site www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation if any required will be published only in Govt. web site: www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd/-
Additional Chief Engineer, Drainage Circle, Bhubaneswar
OIPR - 32375/11/0009/2324

Cannot cripple Parliament's power, says SC in AMU case

Utkarsh Anand
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court will be averse to interpreting the law in a manner that may substantially cripple the power of the Parliament, a seven-judge bench observed on Wednesday, sounding a word of caution that the "eagerness" by the government and other parties to question the 1981 amendments in favour of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)'s minority status ought not to circumscribe the authority of the lawmaking body.

The bench, led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, emphasised that it has to lay down the law for the future and therefore, the efforts by the parties to impugn the 1981 amendments by Parliament should not lead to a general principle curtailing the Parliament's authority.

"Let's not go into a wider context and dilute the power of Parliament by laying such a broad proposition that it's not open to Parliament, while legislating, to take a view of historical facts to the contrary...even if it is embodied in a judgment...The legislature is not bound to take notice of facts as they emerge, as you and we would think emerge. Powers are with the legislature and that's what they do every time in the Income Tax law when they bring about retrospective changes," said the bench, which also comprised justices Sanjay Khanna, Surya Kant, JB Pardiwalla, Dipankar Datta, Manoj Misra and Satish Chandra Sharma.

The court's observations came after senior counsel Neeraj K Kaul, representing one of the parties that has opposed the minority status for AMU, questioned the 1981 amendment in the AMU Act. The impugned amendment changed the definition of "university" to state that the institution was established by Muslims, in an endeavour to grant minority status to AMU.

The 1981 amendments were passed apparently to get over the Supreme Court's five-judge bench judgment in the Azeez Basha case in 1967, which declared that AMU was neither established nor administered by Muslims and could not enjoy protection for minorities to administer educational institutions under Article 30(1) of the Constitution.

But the Allahabad high court



The bench, led by CJI Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, emphasised that it has to lay down the law for the future.

junked these amendments in 2006.

This verdict led to AMU and the then United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government challenging it before the Supreme Court.

But in 2016, in a reversal of the previous stand, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government sought to withdraw the Centre's appeal, maintaining that AMU is not a minority institution and that the Basha judgment was correct.

Objecting to the 1981 amendments, Kaul on Wednesday said that it was not permissible for the Parliament to alter historical facts.

"It is sought to be argued today that by the change in definition of 'university' and by removal of the word 'establishment', we will change the historical facts...But even by a legislative fiat or legal fiction, you cannot take away a historical legislative fact...you cannot alter history," the senior counsel added.

The bench, however, responded with a caveat. "Mr Kaul, you are also appearing on the side of the government. In the eagerness to uphold the striking down of the 1981 amendment, let us not do something which substantially cripples the powers of the parliament," it said.

The bench told Kaul that the parties, in their effort to sustain the decision of the Allahabad high court, should not be asking the court to substantially mute the powers of Parliament in future.

"We have to be very careful because what we are laying down is the law for the future on the powers of the constitutional body

While Kaul said that there are several instances of the constitutional courts striking down parliamentary laws, the bench said that the Parliament may still be entitled to take a particular view of historical facts as opposed to a

legal view.

Kaul added that the court must also take judicial note of the fact that AMU was established and has been recognised as an "institution of national importance" (INI) and therefore, it cannot press for minority status given the constitutional status of such institutions. He contended that AMU and BHU were given the INI tag under Entry 63 of the Union List after the Constitution came into force and thus, their character could not be changed by a subsequent legislation. Coming after Kaul, senior counsel Guru Krishnakumar also argued that an institution with INI tag cannot be a minority institution.

To this, the bench wondered if the grant of INI status should be construed as an absolute bar against institutions seeking minority status. "There could nothing be fundamentally inconsistent with a minority institution being of national importance. You can have a minority institution which is made by the Parliament by law...How can the grant of the status be of negative connotation," it remarked.

On the seventh day of the hearing, the Centre and other parties opposing the pleas for the grant of minority status to AMU concluded their arguments.

As senior counsel Rajeev Dhawan commenced his submissions in rejoinder, the bench asked him to address the issue whether the grant of INI status will mean doing away with the minority character of an institution. The court will continue hearing the case on Thursday.

The Centre has maintained in the case that AMU is an institution of "national character" that ought to maintain its secular origins and serve the larger interest of the nation first.

The Centre grants the status of INI to premier higher educational institutions in India through an act of Parliament.

According to the ministry of education, an INI is an institute that "serves as a pivotal player in developing highly skilled personnel within the specified region of the country/state". Such institutions get special funding from the Centre while the University Grants Commission Act gives them the "degree granting status". IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and Delhi University, among others, figure in the list of 165 INIs recognised by the Centre.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA O-2358
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, CUTTACK
e-mail - senw.ctc@yahoo.com

No. Tender Online RWC - 04/24 Letter No.-340 Date - 29.01.2024

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Name of the work: Construction Buildings/Bridges/Road works.

2. Class of contractor: Special Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities

3. Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crore & upto Rs.50.00 Crore: A Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities

4. Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crore & upto Rs.20.00 Crore: B Class (of Odisha PWD) & relevant class of other licensing authorities

5. Estimated cost more than Rs. 20.00 Lakh & upto Rs.3.00 Crore: As specified in the Column-8 of the Annexure.

6. Time for Completion: As per Annexure attached

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack	Tender Online RWC - 04/24	02.02.2024 at 11.30 A.M.	16.02.2024 upto 10.00 P.M.	16.02.2024 at 02.00 P.M.	17.02.2024 at 11.30 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Chief Construction Engineer,
Rural Works Circle, Cuttack
OIPR - 25097/11/0045/2324

DELHI CANTONMENT BOARD

TENDER NOTICE

Delhi Cantonment Board invites tenders from the eligible bidders in appropriate category through e-tendering for the following works as detailed below:

Date of release of tender through e-procurement : 07.02.2024 at 1700 hrs
Last date & time for downloading of tender documents : 29.02.2024 upto 1300 hrs
Last date and time submission of e-tenders : 29.02.2024 upto 1300 hrs
Date and time for opening of e-tenders : 01.03.2024 at 1330 hrs

Details of work

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount of Contract	Earnest Money Deposit Amount
1.	Term Contract for repair/replacement of GI pipe and allied work in Delhi Cantt	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	Rs. 1,75,000/-
2.	Term Contract for repair/replacement of CI pipe and allied work in Delhi Cantt	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	Rs. 1,75,000/-
3.	Term Contract for maintenance operation of 4 CETP installed at various Community centres of Delhi Cantonment Board	Rs. 35,00,000/-	Rs. 70,000/-
4.	Cleaning and chemical treatment of underground reservoirs and overhead tanks of Delhi Cantonment Board (Twice a year)	Rs. 7,00,000/-	Rs. 14,000/-
5.	Term Contract for repair/replacement of internal electrification and allied works in Delhi Cantt	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	Rs. 1,75,000/-
6.	Term Contract for repair/replacement of external electrification and allied works in Delhi Cantt	Rs. 1,00,00,000/-	Rs. 1,75,000/-
7.	Installation of passenger carrying lifts at various schools of Delhi Cantonment Board	Rs. 90,00,000/-	Rs. 1,60,000/-
8.	Supplying, fixing, testing, commissioning of VRV/VRV, HVAC System at Mehran Nagar Barat Ghar & Jharera Barat Ghar, Delhi Cantt	Rs. 2,80,00,000/-	Rs. 3,55,000/-
9.	Maintenance & operation of Evaan make lifts installed at CB Office & Cantonment General Hospital, Delhi Cantt	Rs. 35,00,000/-	Rs. 70,000/-

The bidder may download the "Tender Document" and other terms and conditions as applicable including detailed NIT, terms & conditions, particular specifications, special conditions, signing of Integrity Pact, adherence to GFR 2017 provisions, applicability of Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India), Order 2017 etc as provided in the technical bid from website of <http://defproc.gov.in> & www.delhi.cantt.gov.in.

Please note that any amendment, clarification, errata to tender documents shall be uploaded on website <http://defproc.gov.in> & Cantt Board website www.delhi.cantt.gov.in. All intending bidders are required to visit aforementioned websites to check for amendments, clarifications, errata etc prior to quoting their rates & no compensation whatsoever shall be admissible to the bidders for failure to register the same.

Telephone No. 25695450
DCB/E&M/NIT/2023-24/5
OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD
Website: www.delhi.cantt.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Executive Officer
Delhi Cantonment

BSF links Punjab drug bust with smugglers in Pak, Amritsar prisoners

Prawesh Lama
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Border Security Force (BSF) officers have written to the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) about a recent drug bust at the India-Pakistan border in Punjab, suspecting it has links with some prisoners in Amritsar jail and Pakistan-based drug suppliers, people aware of the matter said on Wednesday.

BSF IDENTIFIED 2 PAK NATIONALS INVOLVED IN RECRUITING VILLAGERS ON THE INDIAN SIDE TO RECEIVE ARMS AND DRUGS HERE

Collectively, BSF has recovered nine packets of heroin weighing 4.369kg, one packet of ICE (methamphetamine) weighing 968 grams, one pistol, four rounds of ammunition and Indian currency worth ₹70,140.

The officer quoted above said the interrogation of the four men led the forces to identify two other Punjab residents who were managing the delivery in Delhi. "These two men are absconding. We have evidence which shows one of these men has links with people in an Amritsar jail. That person lodged in Amritsar is also part of the operation. NCB is the nodal agency, so the case has been handed to them for investigation," the officer added.

Smugglers based in Pakistan have been actively sending arms and drugs through drones from across the international border in Punjab. To stop such drones from entering Indian airspace, the government is working on at least three designs for anti-drone technology, which are being tested on a pilot basis at different locations at the Indo-Pak border.

Over the last four years, the numbers of drones being sent have also increased significantly.

RAJ SEEKS CENTRE NOD FOR TIGERS' TRANSLOCATION

JAIPUR: The state forest department has asked the Centre to permit translocation of around nine tigers from other states to tigers reserves of Rajasthan to avoid inbreeding and create a fresh gene pool of tigers in the state, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

In a letter to the union environment minister Bhupendra Yadav, state forest minister Sanjay Sharma has urged for translocation of big cats to Rajasthan from other states.

"Apart from ensuring safety of the tigers, their monitoring and habitat improvement, maintaining the male-female ratio is also an important task of the management," Sharma stated in the letter.

"The Ranthambore Tiger Reserve does not have a suitable tigers to be translocated. Hence, it is urged to permit translocation of big cats from other states," he said in the letter to the Union minister.

Joshimath residents protest against admin

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

DEHRADUN: The affected residents of subsidence-hit Joshimath town, who shifted back to their damaged houses due to delay in the rehabilitation process by the state government, protested against the administration's decision to cut electricity and water supply, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday.

Atul Sati, convener of Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti (JBSS), a civil society group, said, "The residents who have been living in houses that fall in the red zone have been just given compensation for the damages not for their land. If their water and electricity supply were cut, where would they go in the winter season?"

"I recently requested the disaster management secretary to pay compensation of land to the

affected people. But the authorities haven't even decided the rate for compensation for land yet," Sati added.

Arjun Singh Bisht, Nayab Tehsildar, Joshimath, said, "We in coordination with the water and electricity department had served them notices to vacate the houses as it is not safe to live in them. But they didn't comply with the order. The authorities then decided to cut the water and electricity connections to ensure the safety of lives. We have already cut some electricity and water connections in the Manohar Bagh area. On Monday, when we went to the Gandhi Nagar area, people protested and objected to our action and didn't allow us to cut connections."

"If people continue to live in unsafe houses, any untoward incident can happen. Who would be responsible for the same?" he said.

Parents Allege Torture Suicide by Jadavpur student under scanner

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

KOLKATA: Jadavpur University on Wednesday asked its internal complaints committee (ICC) to launch an investigation into the allegation of parents of a visually impaired student who died by suicide at her home in north Bengal on January 18, university officials said.



The student died by suicide on January 18 in north Bengal HT

The parents accused the university of mental and physical torture of the student. "The university authorities held meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday and referred the matter to the ICC. One of the accused students, with whom the deceased reportedly had an affair, has been barred from entering the campus," Partha Pratim Roy, general secretary of JU Teacher's Association, said.

The victim was a second-year undergraduate student. Her parents have lodged written complaints with the university as well as the police in Jalpaiguri district, where they live, stating that their daughter was physically and mentally tortured by two male students who, too, are visually impaired. Of the two accused, one is a junior student who lives in a JU hostel. The other is a research scholar who travels from home.

IN THE COURT OF MS. KAVERI BAMEJA, LD. DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT)-07 ROOM NO. 302 CENTRAL, EXTENSION BLOCK, TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (Order 5, Rules 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
CS (COMM) 624/2021
Next Date of Hearing 27.03.2024
ICICI BANK LTD.
VS
MOHD. NASIR
TO, MOHAMMED NASIR S/O SH. ABDUL RASHEED R/O 1993-94, SHIVAJI ROAD, AZAD MARKET NFR. AGARWAL SWEETS, DELHI-110 006
NEW ADDRESS: MOHAMMED NASIR, S/O SH. ABDUL RASHEED, VILLAGE/POST-AKONDA, PS-CHANDPUR, TEHSIL-CHANDPUR, BLUNOR, (U.P.)-286 011
ALSO AT: C/O SOFTWARE DATA INDIA LTD. DESIGNATION: N.I. A-14, SECTOR-02, NOIDA, (U.P.)-201 301
WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 27.03.2024 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.
Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 24.01.2024
District Judge Commercial Court-07 (Central) Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Open E-TENDER NOTICE
For and behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Chief Engineer/Bridge Line/North Western Railway, Jaipur invites online open E-Tendering system (Single Packet) for the following works on prescribed electronics forms:-
1. E-Tender No.: DYC/EBR/2024-03 2. Name of the work with its location: Painting of steel girder of Br.no. 22 in PL-DNA sec. & metalizing of steel bridge girder Br.no. 54, 81, 107, 122, 129 in SMR- BLDI sec., Br.no. 35A in SMR-BME sec., of JU Div 3. Approx. cost of work : Rs. 11415214.00/- 4. Earnest Money to be deposited : Nil 5. Completion Period : 12 Month 6. Date & Time of submission : 23/01/2024 13:44 7. Website particulars and notice board location where complete detail of tender can be seen : www.irps.gov.in 122-CQ/24
Follow us on:

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in, (Contact number: 9646118721)
Tender Enquiry No. QW-320/PO-W Dated: 24.01.2024
Chief Engineer/Stores & Workshops Organization, Sarabha Nagar, PSPCL, Ludhiana, invites E-tender of Repair of 3-phase, 50 cycles, outdoor type, oil immersed, naturally cooled, Stack core type construction, OWP Aluminium Wound Distribution Transformers (Type Conventional) of capacity 63 KVA with voltage ratio 11/0.433 KV conforming to ISS: 2026 (with latest amendments, if any) and 1180 part-1 (2014) complete with a first filling of oil conforming to ISS: 335/1993 (with latest amendments, if any)
Quantity = 15000 Nos.
For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from 24.01.2024 from 1:30 P.M. onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>
C78/24 31897

WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION
REPLACEMENT OF PIPE LINE AND PROVIDING CCTV ROOM
Sr. No.1: E-Tender No. 148/2023-24. Name of Work: Group Work: (1) Vartaj-Bhavnagar Para: Replacement of Corroded water pipeline (2) Bhavnagar: Replacement of corroded Water pipeline. Tender Value (Rs.): ₹ 3,60,59,007.36, EMD (Rs.): ₹ 3,30,300.00, Gr. No.2: E-Tender No. 149/2023-24. Name of Work: Bhavnagar Division: Providing CCTV room at RPF controlling stations for monitoring under VSS project. (Against IRPSM doubling work of Rajkot-India. PH-15 Rajkot-Kanalsu. 11.20 Km) Tender Value (Rs.): ₹ 25,95,076.43, EMD (Rs.): ₹ 51,900.00. For Both Tenders: Bidding Start Date: 02-02-2024 Date of Bidding Closing: 16-02-2024 The NIT has been uploaded on Railway Website www.irps.gov.in on 25-01-2024. BVP-167
Follow us on:

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
E-Tender No. NB236058A, Date: 27-01-2024. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work. Item Description: Must change kit for 3rd year maintenance schedule of KNORR make Air Brake System of LHB Power Car Coaches as specified in Annexure B (KIT-2). PL No. 33579880. Qty.: 21 Set, Consignee: SSE/CLS/BG/NBSQ, NFR (Assam); Earnest Money: ₹ 1,07,990.00. E-tender will be Closed at 14:30 hrs. on 27-02-2024. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in website www.irps.gov.in.
Dy. CMM/D/New Bongaigaon
NORTH EAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"
NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
ई-निविदा आमन्त्रण सूचना
पत्र सं. WB-74-W/Work/नॉटा नं. 29.01.2024 मंडल रेल प्रबन्धक, इजीनियरिंग, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई-निविदा के माध्यम से प्रवर्तित नियमों के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित प्रयोजनों के निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमाङ्कित आमन्त्रण की जाती है। ई-निविदा सूचना सं. 2023-24 : 152 कार्य का नाम व स्थान : Provision of Centralised water supply system with provision of OH Tank, repair to existing pipe line, Repair to old qtr water supply, provision of GLR and connecting pipe line network at Jalra, Ren, Kheduli, Jogimagra, Khariya Khangar, Umed station and other stations, drain between track in Km 553 to 556 & track protection work in km 506 to 508/0 & km 553 to 557 and protection for embankment in the jurisdiction of Sr. DEN/Eas. अनुमानित लागत रुपये : 6,29,85,642.71 बचाने की राशि रुपये : 4,64,900.00 निविदा सूचना संख्या 152 of 2023-24 निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि 19/02/2024 को 15:00 बजे तक है। वेबसाइट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई-निविदा देखी व मरी जा सकती है - www.irps.gov.in 118-CQ/24
Follow us on:

Office of the Superintending Engineer, Baisinga Canal Division, Laxmiposi, PIN-757107, Dist. - Mayurbhanj
Email ID: se.baisinga2022@gmail.com
AUCTION SALE NOTICE NO. 14/2023-24 of SE, BCD, Laxmiposi.
1. No. of Work Total 03 nos. of work
2. Reserve Price/Upset price Rs. 406.00 to Rs. 27,347.00
3. Auction Method / E.M.D. Rs.50.00 to Rs. 1400.00
4. Period of Completion 01(One) Month from the date of issue of work order.
5. Date & Time of availability of bid document in the office of the undersigned Upto 5:30 PM of 26.02.2024
6. Last date/time for receipt of bid in the office of the undersigned. Upto 5:30PM of 29.02.2024
7. Date of opening of bid 01.03.2024 at 11.30AM
8. Name & Address of the O.I. Q Office Of the Superintending Engineer, Baisinga Canal Division, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj-757107
Superintending Engineer, Baisinga Canal Division, Laxmiposi
OIPR - 322811/0004/2324

भवन निर्माण विभाग, भवन प्रमंडल, कटिहार
राष्ट्रीय/स्पर्धा ई0 निविदा पद्धति के अनुसार
वेबसाइट एवं www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर
एस0बी0डी0 निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-02/2023-24 का शुद्धि पत्र :-
एलटू द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि कार्य का नाम :- कटिहार जिलान्तगत कोडा अंचल मौजा कोडा में 520 आसन वाले एक अन्य पिछड़ा वर्ग कन्या आवासीय +2 उच्च विद्यालय का भवन निर्माण कार्य का निविदा इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक- 70 दिनांक- 16.01.2024 के द्वारा दैनिक समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित किया गया है, जिसका पी0आर0 संख्या- 015620 (BCD) 2023-24 है, के निविदा तिथि में आवश्यक संशोधन किया जा रहा है :-
क्र0 सं0 विवरण पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि संशोधित तिथि
1. परिमाण विवरण बिक्री (आउटलॉड की) तिथि एवं समय दिनांक- 30.01.2024 से 21.02.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक। दिनांक- 15.02.2024 से 08.03.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
2. निविदा प्रॉपोज (आउटलॉड करने) की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय दिनांक- 23.02.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक। दिनांक- 11.03.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।
3. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय दिनांक- 27.02.2024 को 3:30 बजे अपराह्न में। दिनांक- 12.03.2024 को 3:30 बजे अपराह्न में।
4. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय तकनीकी बीड मूल्यांकन के परस्तात्। तकनीकी बीड मूल्यांकन के परस्तात्।
5. प्रिबीड मॉडिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान दिनांक- 27.01.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न को अंतिम अतिरिक्त भवन अंचल, पूर्णियाँ का कार्यालय एवं दिनांक 29.01.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न को मुख्य अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार, पटना का कार्यालय। दिनांक- 13.02.2024 को 3:00 बजे अपराह्न को मुख्य अभियंता, भवन निर्माण विभाग, बिहार, पटना का कार्यालय।
शेष कड़िकाएँ यथावत् रहेगा। कार्यपालक अभियंता भवन प्रमंडल, कटिहार
PR-016273 (BCD) 2023-24
नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works (South) Division, Kolhapur Tarabai Park, Opp. Residency Club, Kolhapur-416 003
Outward No. AB/G-34/ 511 /2024 Phone No. 0231-2650042, Fax - 0231-2650140
Date :- 25/01/2024 E-mail:- southkolhapur.ee@mahapwd.gov.in
सा.बां. विभाग शासन निर्णय क्र. सीएटी 2017/प्र.क्र. 8/इमारती-2, दि. 12 एप्रिल, 2017.
E - TENDER NOTICE NO. 78 for 2023-24
Executive Engineer, P. W. (South) Division, Kolhapur, on behalf of Public Works Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, invites offers from the contractors fulfilling the eligibility criteria mentioned in the Tender Document for the following works on e-tender platform. The tender forms (B-1 Type) can be downloaded from Govt. of Maharashtra, website <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
The Executive Engineer, P.W. (South) Division, Kolhapur reserves right to accept or reject any offer. Any Conditional offers will not be accepted.

Sr. No.	Name Of Works	From of Tender	Estimated cost. Rs. in lakhs.	Earnest Money Rs.	Cost of tender From Fee Rs.	Time Limit for Completion	Class of contractor (PWD Registration)
1.	Construction of Tahasil Office at Gargoti, Taluka-Bhudargad, Dist. Kolhapur	B-1	912.26	4,56,000/-	3400/-	24 Months	PWD Registration Not Required.

E Tender Schedule
Period of download of Tenders From :- Date 01/02/2024 to 15/02/2024 at 17.55 pm.
Prebid Conference (On line) In the office of the Chief Engineer, P.W. Region, Pune on 06/02/2024 at 12.00 Hrs. (Online)
Bid Submission Closing Date of Tenders Date :- 15/02/2024 at 17.55 hrs.
Submission of Hard Copy (Office Addresses) as on date- 20/02/2024 at 10.00 am At any of the following places within 72 Hrs. after Bid Submission Closing at office of the
1. Superintending Engineer, Public Works Circle, Kolhapur.
2. Executive Engineer, Public Work Division, Kolhapur,
3. Executive Engineer, Public Work (South) Division Kolhapur
Place, Time and Date of Bid Opening Date :- 20/02/2024 Executive Engineer, Public Work (South) Division Kolhapur. at 10.05 Hrs (Online) if possible.
All information relating to above tender is available on following websites.
1. <http://mahapwd.gov.in> 2. <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
(If there is any change in above notice, same will be informed on above website).
2. On the notice board of Executive Engineer, P.W. (South) Division, Kolhapur.
Sd/-
(P. R. Jadhav)
Executive Engineer,
Public Works (South) Division,
Kolhapur

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) JAMMU
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS
e-NIT No.: CEJ/PMGSY/762 of 2023-24 Dated:- 27.01.2024
Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu on behalf of The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders on %age Above/Excess (+) OR %age Below/ Less (-) basis (i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K U.T. Govt, CPWD, Railways or equivalent and other State/U.T. Govts up to 1700 Hrs. on 10.02.2024 for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the date of completion on OMMAS.

S. No.	Name of the Work/Package No.	Name of the PIU	Const. Part (Rs. In Lacs)	Mainnt. Part (Rs. In Lacs)	Total (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Documents (Rs. In Lacs)	Bid Security (EMD) @2% of total cost rounded to the nearest thousand (Rs. In Lacs)	Time Allowed for completion	Call of tender	Time and date of opening of technical bids	Class of Contractor
1.	Construction of 1x125 Mtr long truss girder steel Motorable single lane Bridge (IRC class A loading or equivalent) in KM2nd RD (650-800) on Sohla to Cheto road, Package No. JK04-605A, Regular PMGSY Batch 2016-19, Block Paddar, District Kishtwar.	Kishtwar	625.00	-	625.00	0.085	12.50	09 Months	1st	13.02.2024 1100 Hrs.	Any contractor with State/U.T. PWD/CPWD/Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works.

1. The Bidding document can be downloaded from the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from 1855 Hrs on 30.01.2024 to 10.02.2024 upto 1700 Hrs.
(b) The Bids shall be deposited ONLINE ONLY in electronic format on the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from 1000 Hrs on 01.02.2024 to 1700 Hrs. on 10.02.2024.
(c) Pre bid meeting will be held on 31.01.2024 at 1200 Hrs.
(d) Technical Qualification Part of Bids will be opened online at 1100 Hrs on 13.02.2024.
2. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in>.
3. For Complete information refer to the bidding document
4. For further details kindly visit our website <https://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in>
No.: CEJ/PMGSY/24267-341 Dated:- 27.01.2024
Sd/-
Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu
For and on behalf of The Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Office of The Principal, Autonomous State Medical College, Gonda.
E-mail: principalasmcgonda@gmail.com
asmcgonda@gmail.com
M.No.8858004085
website: www.asmcgonda.org
Add:Autonomous State Medical College, In-front of Circuit House, ChhavaniSarkar, District Gonda, Uttar Pradesh-271001
Letter No: 1970 /ASMC/Gonda/Advertisement-3/2024, Date: 25, January, 2024
Advertisements
Applications are invited in prescribed format for the regular posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant professor at Autonomous State Medical College, Gonda, U.P. The applications should reach the Office of the Principal, Autonomous State Medical College, Gonda, Opposite Circuit House, Gonda, U.P. on or before 15-02-2024 till 05:00 PM. For Details, visit our website: www.asmcgonda.org. Details of the posts are mentioned below.

Sr. No.	Name of Specialty	Professor		Associate Professor		Assistant Professor		
		No of Posts	Categ-ory	No of Posts	Categ-ory	No of Posts	Categ-ory	
01	Orthopedics	--	--	01	SC	--	--	
02	Ophthalmology	--	--	--	--	01	SC	
03	Obstetrics and Gynecology	01	SC	01	UR	01	OBC	
04	Immuno-Hematology and Blood transfusion	--	--	--	--	--	01	UR
05	Emergency Medicine	01	UR	01	OBC	01	SC	
06	Anatomy	01	OBC	01	UR	01	OBC	
07	Anesthesiology	01	UR	01	SC	01	OBC	
08	Oto-rhino-Laryngology	--	--	--	--	01	EWS	
09	General Medicine	01	SC	01	UR	01	UR	
10	General Surgery	01	UR	01	OBC	--	--	
11	Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy	--	--	01	SC	--	--	
12	Pediatrics	--	--	01	OBC	--	--	
13	Pharmacology	--	--	01	SC	--	--	
14	Physiology	01	OBC	--	--	01	SC	
15	Biochemistry	--	--	01	OBC	01	OBC	
16	Radiodiagnosis	--	--	01	OBC	01	SC	
17	Psychiatry	--	--	01	EWS	--	--	
Total		07		15		14		

Principal
Autonomous State Medical College
Gonda



OPINION

The
Hindustan Times
ESTABLISHED IN 1924

{ OUR TAKE }

Challenge in the Indian Ocean

Piracy, Gaza war, and rising Chinese power are stretching the Navy's capabilities. Delhi needs to augment its capabilities

The Indian Ocean region has become restive, with the war in West Asia finding an echo in the waters surrounding India, including a surge in attacks on merchant ships and attempted hijacking of vessels. The Indian Navy has been called on repeatedly, either to assist ships that have been targeted by Houthi rebels or to prevent the hijacking of smaller vessels. This is in keeping with India's growing reputation as a first responder in emergency situations in the neighbourhood, though there is also the need to protect the large number of Indian sailors employed by global shipping companies. While India has been involved in anti-piracy operations off the coast of Somalia since 2008, the current situation has required the deployment of 10 frontline warships along with units of marine commandos across regional waters.

These operations, however, have come at a time when the Indian Navy also has its hands full with responding to diverse challenges posed by China's People's Liberation Army Navy and other Chinese maritime assets all over the Indian Ocean. Besides attempting to project its influence in regional waters, China has sent surface vessels, submarines and surveillance ships on visits to neighbouring countries such as Pakistan, the Maldives and Sri Lanka in recent years. Thanks to coordinated efforts by India and its partners, Sri Lanka has now imposed a year-long moratorium on such visits by foreign research vessels. This has resulted in China diverting its focus to the Maldives, whose relations with India are at a low. These developments will stretch the capabilities of the Indian Navy, which currently has a fleet of less than 150 warships, as compared to China's figure of almost 340 warships. While the Indian Navy has more than 60 warships on order, China has been building up its maritime assets at a faster pace and creating foreign bases that can be used to augment the reach of its naval power.

The time has clearly come for New Delhi to take a closer look at the need to speed up the enhancement of its naval capabilities and build up the country's merchant fleet. This will require augmentation of ship building infrastructure and partnerships to gain access to advanced technology and expertise. With China's force projection bound to increase amid growing contestation in regional waters, such steps alone will prepare India for future challenges.

What snow leopards say about Himalayas

The elusive snow leopard, given a mystical aura by the late American naturalist Peter Matthiessen, has been finally counted. The Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India estimates that there are 718 members of this species across six states/UTs, with the largest population in Ladakh (470). This is the first census of the snow leopard, whose habitat in India is estimated to be in the Himalayas at altitudes ranging from 3,200 m to 5,200 m, and spread over 93,392 sq km. The inaccessible nature of the habitat has been a major reason why this cat population was never counted — in the 1980s, it was guesstimated that there were 4,000 to 7,500 snow leopards in the world.

The snow leopard is the apex predator in the Himalayas, which makes its survival crucial to the mountain's ecology. The census should help in keeping track of the health of the cat population. The census work has also helped to trace demographic trends and identify potential threats. Poaching, overgrazing in its habitat, declining snow line, and the climate crisis have been flagged as concerns. For instance, only 30% of its habitat is under legal protection. A vulnerable species, its transnational habitat makes conservation a tricky matter; the three main habitats in India — Hemis-Spiti, Nanda Devi-Gangotri, and Khangchendzonga-Tawang — are close to the India-China border and under the surveillance of the armed forces. Conservation programmes will require sensitising them and local communities to respect the leopard's habitat and predatory needs.

The ecological equilibrium of the snow leopard habitat has a downstream impact since this geography also forms the watershed of major river systems of the subcontinent, including the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra. In short, the snow leopard is the most representative species of the Himalayan ecology and conservation efforts aimed at it may well benefit many other species, including humans.

Heed the advice of justices on evictions

Allahabad high court order on the right to resettlement and rehabilitation can help in crafting a meaningful, humane jurisprudence on evictions and constitutional rights

In a society as riven with inequalities as ours, access to land and housing has always been a major social problem. Because of widespread landlessness, people at the margins of society often find themselves forced to reside on land that they do not have legal title to and build their homes (and lives) on such land. Among these people, the unlucky ones are those who, from time to time, catch the attention of the State: That is when the bulldozers arrive, homes are torn down, and swathes of people are evicted.

In 1985, in a famous judgment since called *Olga Tellis*, (named after the journalist who took on the Bombay Municipal Corporation over the rights of pavement dwellers) the Supreme Court recognised for the first time the social and structural issues around landlessness, poverty, and informal settlements and slums in our urban landscape. The Court held that even people who were residing "irregularly" on public land

were owed certain constitutional protections before they could be forcibly removed.

The Court's actual protection — a right to adequate notice and (if required) a hearing before eviction — was disappointingly meagre, but subsequent judgments have built upon the insights of *Olga Tellis*. Courts have held that before eviction, a survey must be carried out to determine if the residents are eligible for existing rehabilitation schemes; and removal and rehabilitation must be done in accordance with such schemes. The judgments, however, remain patchy, with other courts offering no relief to the evicted and the landless. The recent advent of home demolitions as a form of "bulldozer justice" has added to the problems.

In this context, a recent order of the Allahabad high court (HC) is important in its reaffirmation of the progressive ethos of the Constitution. The case concerned a locality called Akbar Nagar, where a set of people had been residing for 40 to 50 years. In October 2023, an eviction order was passed, on the basis that this was a green belt, and that, therefore, the residents' occupation was illegal. The residents approached the Allahabad HC, which passed interim orders staying the demolition and eviction. In his order, justice Pankaj Bhatia noted that not only had the petitioners been in possession of the

locality for a very long time, but in the intervening period, the government had itself built a road there, in addition to setting up a school. There was also an existing relocation scheme. In this light, the court wondered what the tearing hurry was to evict landless and poor individuals, especially in the middle of a harsh winter.

The court also went on to note that under the Constitution, it was the duty of the State to ensure adequate resettlement before it carried out evictions. The court, therefore, stayed the demolition and evictions, and noted specifically that any demolitions could be undertaken only after resettlement or rehabilitation was done in accordance with the law; in other words, resettlement and rehabilitation were conditions precedent to evictions and demolitions, including for occupants and residents without formal title to land.

In its order, the court also prevented precipitate and violent State action by stipulating that four weeks would have to be given to the inhabitants to apply for the resettlement scheme, and have their claims processed; it was only after these procedures were carried out could the municipality obtain vacant physical possession of the premises.

The court's order was timely. As far too often in such cases, courts only take cognisance after the demo-



A recent order of the Allahabad high court is important in its reaffirmation of the progressive ethos of the Constitution. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Gautam Bhatia

litions and evictions have been conducted, thus making the case infructuous (this was what happened, to a large extent, in the notorious Jahangirpuri demolitions in 2023). By ensuring that relevant orders were passed while the petitioners' homes were still standing, the court ensured that its invocation of the Constitution had genuine meaning for the residents whose rights were at stake.

The court's order is also important because — as noted here — it is consistent with the progressive ethos of the Constitution. In many other post-colonial countries — such as South Africa and Kenya — courts have recognised that landlessness and housing are social problems, which cannot be resolved by violently evicting people on the basis that they are "illegally" present on the land.

Courts in these countries have

developed a detailed jurisprudence, requiring resettlement and rehabilitation, and for the municipality to engage meaningfully with the residents, before punitively evicting them. The Allahabad HC's order thus represents the best practices in global constitutional law as well as the best impulses of the Indian Constitution.

At present, the case has been shifted to a division bench of the HC, which will hear it in early February. Hopefully, the remarkable and progressive order of justice Pankaj Bhatia will be sustained, and taken forward, with the HC at the forefront of crafting a meaningful and humane jurisprudence on evictions and constitutional rights.

Gautam Bhatia is a Delhi-based advocate. The views expressed are personal

Delhi-Paris tango offers a third way in diplomacy

In the aftermath of the Russia-Ukraine war in February 2022, several western countries fussed over India's refusal to explicitly condemn Russia. Simultaneously, French President Emmanuel Macron's controversial visit to China last year, coupled with his desire to deepen economic ties with Beijing, raised questions about France's ambiguous policy towards China. Yet despite France's staunch support for Ukraine and India's tense ties with China, on neither of these occasions did India and France pressure the other to align positions or take a certain stance. Both countries' fierce proclivity towards strategic autonomy in their foreign policies means that potential friction points such as these are removed, paving the way for a special relationship. This is why despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi's last-minute invitation, President Macron graciously accepted to be the guest of honour at India's Republic Day celebrations, demonstrating the reliable nature of India's oldest strategic partnership. As middle and balancing powers, India and France together represent "a third way", away from United States (US)-China bloc politics.

A multi-faceted partnership spanning cooperation in a range of sectors, defence remains at its core. France is now India's second largest arms supplier holding 29% of its share as compared to the US, which holds only 11% despite Indo-US ties expanding rapidly. Defence acquisition is a comparatively tedious process in the US compared to France's more centralised system. Therefore, France is perceived as an easier "fewer strings attached" partner, particularly in the context of India's goals of diversifying defence needs away from its traditional supplier, Russia, as well as its Make in India initiative that requires technology transfers and advanced know-how for indigenous equipment manufacturing. Besides the mega deals involving Rafale jets and Scorpene submarines, the two leaders adopted a "defence industrial roadmap" aimed at co-development and co-production of military hardware with the potential to also supply equipment to third countries. An Airbus-Tata agreement to manufacture civilian helicopters is in the works.

Yet, security cooperation is not merely limited to arms deals but extends to critical areas such as the Indo-Pacific, where India and France converge on their conceptual definitions of the region and the need to maintain the rule of law and stable sea lanes of communication against an assertive China. This has created the foundations for strong maritime cooperation in security areas including illegal fishing and anti-piracy as well as enabled trilateral talks with "like-minded" nations such as Australia and the United Arab Emirates.

Both India and France are resident powers. France has citizens, military bases, territories, and economic zones in the region making it the first European country to release an Indo-Pacific Strategy in 2018, way before the concept became commonplace. Its case has only strengthened since then, with the linking of security in the Euro-Atlantic and Indo-Pacific theatres. Last year, India and France launched a roadmap for Indo-Pacific cooperation, which included a development fund for sustainable projects in third countries. In India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), France looks after the marine resources pillar.

The two leaders did not reportedly discuss progress on the six pending nuclear power plant projects in Jaipur although cooperation in modular reactors, both small and advanced, did feature on top of pre-existing energy cooperation in renewables and green hydrogen. In Jaipur, Macron was served tea that was paid for through UPI — India's digital payments system that France intends to implement, beginning with tickets at the Eiffel Tower. Modi and Macron also signed an MoU on satellite launches and vowed to deepen collaboration on space situational awareness.

However, two critical sectors still require significant effort. The first is trade and investment, which has traditionally lagged given the security and State-centric nature of the India-France relationship. India and France are the world's fifth and seventh largest economies respectively. Yet bilateral trade between the two countries is valued at \$15 billion in the 2022-23 period. Indo-German trade in the same period was almost double at almost \$30 billion. In addition, France is only India's 11th largest foreign investor.

It is encouraging that attempts are being made to address this imbalance through greater involvement of the private sector and the presence of Indian and French CEOs during high-level visits. Yet it is through the European Union-India Free Trade Agreement, the negotiations of which are currently in full swing, that trade can receive the maximum boost.

Enhancing people-to-people connect is another endeavour that can benefit the partnership. This includes more educational exchanges as well as civil society linkages. Here too, the comparison with Germany presents a stark picture — only 10,000 Indian students are present in France whereas Germany hosts around 35,000 Indian students. Macron's ambitions to increase the numbers to 30,000 by 2030, on top of granting Indian students five-year short-stay Schengen visas, are promising. Yet France's controversial new immigration law that takes a hardened approach to immigrants and foreigners may dent such efforts.

Ahead of the general elections in India this year, Modi's political star is shining. Macron, however, has fared poorly at home after the loss of his parliamentary majority, which has impacted his ability to govern during his second mandate. This was most recently evident in the above-mentioned immigration law where centrist Macron was perceived as pandering to the far-Right to pass a law that was intrinsic to his second-term pledges. The pomp and pageantry of high international diplomacy, therefore, provide a domestic boost.

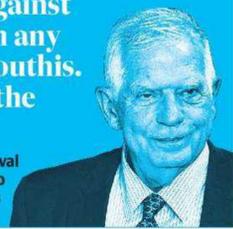
As dependable allies, the India-France partnership is a force for global good in a volatile world engulfed in multiple crises. Only in a span of a few months, multiple meetings have transpired between the two leaders, and Modi's visit to Paris last July saw the launch of an ambitious Horizon 2047 Roadmap. The relationship has its fair share of roadmaps and institutionalised dialogues to guide its trajectory. What's critical for New Delhi and Paris going forward is to operationalise ambitions into tangible deliverables.

Harsh V Pant is vice president for Studies at ORF. Shairee Malhotra is associate fellow, Europe at ORF. The views expressed are personal

{ JOSEP BORRELL } EU FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF

This is the EU's purpose: Protection of the ships. Intercepting attacks against the ships. Not participating in any kind of actions against the Houthis. Only blocking the attacks of the Houthis

On the European Union's plans to launch a naval mission in the Red Sea to help defend cargo ships against attacks by Houthi rebels



Rooftop solar waits for its moment under sun

The spotlight has once again turned to solar rooftop installations with the government recently announcing a scheme to cover one crore households with rooftops in the next few years. Rooftop solar has been a policy priority in India given its multiple benefits. We had set a target of 40,000 MW of rooftop solar by 2022 against which we have achieved only 11,000 so far.

Let us look at its benefits first. It saves precious land and also generates seven times more jobs as compared to large ground-mounted ones. It provides cost-effective power at the consumption point. On average, the cost of one unit is ₹4 as compared to about the ₹6.5 average cost of power procured in India after factoring in transmission losses, carriage charges, and spillage in the networks. It can reduce the power bill of consumers and also bring down the overall cost of power as we will not have to build long expensive new transmission lines for delivering power from the deserts of Rajasthan.

But why is the share of the residential sector only one-fourth of all the solar power produced despite the higher level of subsidy (up to 40%) offered by the central government for small rooftop plants of up to three kilowatts, normally set up in households? There are two main reasons for this.

First, the financial gains from investing in rooftop plants depend on the rate of power being paid to the power utility. The tariff in the electricity bill has two parts. A fixed charge in terms of ₹ per KW per month computed on your contracted load, and the energy charge being paid for the units consumed in a month. The fixed charge is to be paid as such since a household with a rooftop solar would continue to be the consumer of the utility. What matters is the energy charge avoided on the electricity generated from the rooftop facility and consumed directly by the household. Energy charges vary not only for various consumer categories but also increase for residential consumers as consumption goes up.

In Delhi, the energy charge is ₹3 for up to 200 units in a month whereas it is ₹7 for the units consumed in the 800 to 1,200 units slab for households. It is ₹7.75 per unit for

an industrial unit. Clearly, a large number of households consuming up to 200 units per month will have no savings from a solar rooftop as they have to pay one rupee extra for every unit, or else they get power free in several states.

Recently, there were reports of a decline in rooftop installation additions in Karnataka after the announcement of free power. Incentives from rooftop plants are positive and substantial for richer households consuming more and for industrial or commercial consumers.

Second, low-income households do not have much capital to invest in solar rooftops. A 3 KW plant would cost about ₹1.5 lakh after incorporating the subsidy. Further, bankers are not prepared to lend to small households as recovery of loans is difficult and uncertain. Utilities find it difficult to recover the bills even when there is a risk of disconnection.

But if larger households or industrial consumers continue to dominate rooftop additions, it will start impacting either poor households or state budgets adversely because the net savings made by these consumers will have to be made up by the regulators through overall tariff increases or the state government will have to provide extra subsidies.

Therefore, a way has to be found for the benefit of solar rooftops to reach a large number of smaller households. A new model where households rent out their roof area to credible government agencies who borrow the money required and set up rooftop plants could be tried. Power utilities buy the electricity generated from such plants at rates to recover the investment with an incentive of about a rupee per unit.

This incentive should be paid to the household for leasing the rooftop and also continuing to support the unhindered operation of the plant. Bankers will be comfortable lending to government agencies and the households will get incentivised in large numbers without any impact of low tariffs or free power. Government subsidy can, in addition, increase the incentive to the households and also further reduce the cost of power to the utilities.

Alok Kumar is former Union power secretary. The views expressed are personal

Pak ex-PM Imran, wife jailed for 14 yrs in corruption case

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

ISLAMABAD: A Pakistani anti-graft court jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Khan for 14 years each on charges of illegally selling state gifts, his party and lawyers said on Wednesday, just over a week before a national election.

The verdict, which marked the third conviction handed down to the embattled ex-cricket star in the last few months, also included a 10-year disqualification from holding public office, his party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said. Bushra Khan, commonly known as Bushra Bibi, gave herself up for arrest shortly after the verdict, PTI added.

The 14-year imprisonment is harsher than the 10-year sentence given to Khan on Tuesday on charges of revealing state secrets, and comes as Pakistan prepares for an election on Feb. 8. It was not immediately clear if the two sentences for Khan would run concurrently.

"Another sad day in our judicial system history, which is being dismantled," Khan's media team said, repeating his denial of the charges.

"No cross-questioning allowed, no final argument concluded and decision pops up like a pre-determined process in play... this ridiculous decision will also be challenged." Khan's lawyer, Intezar Panjutha, told Reuters: "It is a sham verdict."

Khan and his wife were charged with illegally selling gifts, worth more than 140 million rupees (\$501,000) and received during his 2018-2022 premiership, from a state treasury known locally known as the "Toshakhana".



Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan, (right), and Bushra Bibi, his wife, at an office of Lahore High Court in Lahore, Pakistan, on July 17, 2023.

Government officials have alleged Khan's aides sold the gifts in Dubai.

A list of these gifts shared by a former information minister included perfumes, diamond jewellery, dinner sets and seven watches, six of them Rolex — the most expensive being a "Master Graff limited edition" valued at 85 million rupees (\$304,000).

Khan was also handed a three-year prison sentence in August for the same charge by another court, but that sentence had been suspended on appeal.

Wednesday's verdict followed an investigation by the country's top anti-graft body,

the National Accountability Bureau (NAB).

Bushra's conviction was an attempt to pressurise Khan further, PTI's acting chairman and lawyer Gohar Ali Khan said in a television interview. "Bushra Bibi has no link to this case," he said.

Khan — who in the waning days of his premiership began to challenge the country's military — was ousted from power in a no-confidence vote in April 2022. He now has more than 150 legal cases hanging over him.

Still, the former cricket star remains intensely popular. Pakistan saw violent demonstra-

tions — including ones that targeted military installations — after Khan's arrest last year.

Authorities have since cracked down on his supporters and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, or PTI, making further rallies unlikely, and many of his party's candidates have been disqualified from contesting the February 8 parliamentary elections.

With Khan fighting legal battles, his rival, three-time premier Nawaz Sharif, has a clear path to a fourth term in office. Sharif himself was hobbled by legal cases and prison sentences, but the Supreme Court and other courts have acquitted him

on all charges and scrapped a lifetime ban on politicians with criminal convictions from contesting elections.

Sharif's party succeeded Khan's after his ouster, and currently a caretaker government headed by Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-haq Kakar is running day-to-day affairs.

Though Kakar has said he would ensure free and fair elections in a peaceful environment, there have been isolated attacks at election rallies.

A candidate from Khan's party, Rehan Zeb, was shot and killed Wednesday in northwestern Pakistan's Bajur district.

A day earlier, four people died when a roadside bomb went off near rally participants from Khan's party in the southwestern Baluchistan province.

Khan on Wednesday filed a plea in the Supreme Court challenging the rejection of his nomination papers for two National Assembly seats in Punjab province for the February 8 polls.

The nomination papers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supreme were rejected last month for two National Assembly constituencies in Lahore and Mianwali districts of the province on "moral grounds and being convicted in the Toshakhana (national treasury gifts) corruption case."

The 71-year-old former cricketer-turned-politician had filed a petition at the Lahore High Court (LHC) earlier this month against the rejection of the papers, which the court turned down, upholding the decisions of the returning officer (RO) and appellate tribunal.

In his plea, Khan urged the apex court to declare him eligible to contest the elections from the two constituencies, Geo News reported.

'A 3-stage Gaza truce plan being examined'

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

GAZA STRIP: Hamas is reviewing plans for a three-stage truce with Israel which foresee a weeks-long halt to the Gaza war, a source in the Palestinian militant group told AFP on Wednesday.

The Islamist movement said earlier this week it was mulling proposals drawn up by mediators in Paris for a second truce nearly four months since the war began.

While a November pause to the fighting lasted a week, the latest accord aims to pave the way for an initial six-week halt to the fighting.

Over that period Israel would release between 200 and 300 Palestinian prisoners who are not deemed high-security detainees, in exchange for 35 to 40 hostages held in Gaza, the Hamas source close to Egyptian and Qatari mediators said.

Only "women, children and sick men over 60" who are captive in Gaza would be freed at this stage, the Hamas source told AFP, declining to be named given the sensitivity of the issue.

Palestinian militants seized about 250 hostages during Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel. The attack resulted in the deaths of around 1,140 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures.

Israel says 132 of the hostages remain in Gaza including at least 29 people believed to have been killed.

Relentless bombardment by Israel and a ground invasion has killed at least 26,900 people in Gaza since then, most of them women and children, according to the health ministry.

Meanwhile, witnesses said Israel had stepped up air strikes on Gaza City in the north, and bombed parts of Khan Younis in the south, despite



Smoke rises during an Israeli ground operation in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip.

what appeared to be the most serious peace initiative for months in the Israel-Hamas war.

World powers hope to prevent a wider conflict, but tensions in the Middle East remained high after Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi rebels said they would keep attacking US and British warships in the Red Sea in solidarity with Palestinians.

Smoke rose above Gaza City after the latest air strikes, some of which targeted the headquarters of the Hamas-run interior ministry, Hamas-run media and residents said.

The Al-Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza also came under fire and tanks pounded areas of Khan Younis around Nasser Hospital, the largest still functioning in the south, witnesses said.

Much of the densely populated Gaza Strip has been devastated by almost four months of Israeli bombardment, and most of its 2.3 million residents have been uprooted by fighting that international aid agencies say has caused a humanitarian crisis.

IRAN WARNS U.S. AGAINST THREATS AFTER THE DEADLY STRIKE ON TROOPS

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

DUBAI: Iran threatened on Wednesday to "decisively respond" to any US attack on the Islamic Republic following President Joe Biden's linking of Tehran to the killing of three US soldiers at a military base in Jordan.

The US has signalled it is preparing for retaliatory strikes in the Mideast in the wake of the Sunday drone attack that also wounded at least 40 troops at Tower 22, a secretive base in northeastern Jordan that's been crucial to the American presence in neighbouring Syria.

"America must stop using the language of threat and projection and focus on a political solution," Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said, according to the official IRNA news agency.

"Iran's response to threats is decisive and immediate," he added.

The White House warned that "multiple actions" could be taken in retaliation for the attack but gave no further details.

On Wednesday, General Hossain Salami, head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, said threats by American officials "will not go unanswered," IRNA reported.

"We are not looking for war, but we are not afraid of war," said Salami.

Iran has denied any links to the attack on the US troops and said it was not seeking an "expansion" of conflict in the Middle East.

Iranvati also denied that Iran and the US had exchanged any messages over the last few days, either through intermediaries or directly.

US lawmakers grill tech Meta, Tiktok, X CEOs over child exploitation

WASHINGTON: The chief executives of social media companies Meta, X, Tiktok, Snap, and Discord faced tough questions on their efforts to combat online child sexual exploitation at a US Senate hearing on Wednesday. "This disturbing growth in child sexual exploitation is driven by one thing: changes in technology," said Senator Dick Durbin.

Myanmar junta extends state of emergency by 6 months

YANGON: Myanmar's junta on Wednesday extended a state of emergency by six months, again delaying elections the military has promised to hold as it battles opposition across the country. The nation has been in turmoil since the Feb 2021 coup which ended a ten-year experiment with democracy and sparked mass protests and a crackdown on dissent.

UN court rejects most of Ukraine's 'most' case against Russia

THE HAGUE: The United Nations' top court on Wednesday rejected large parts of a case filed by Ukraine alleging that Russia bankrolled separatist rebels in the country's east a decade ago and has discriminated against Crimea's multiethnic community since its annexation of the peninsula. The International Court of Justice ruled Moscow violated articles of two treaties — one on terrorism financing and another on eradicating racial discrimination — but it rejected far more of Kyiv's claims under the treaties.



The French Gendarmerie stand near armoured vehicles near Chilly-Mazarin, near Paris, France, on Wednesday.

20 arrested as French farmers close in on Paris

Agencies
letter@hindustantimes.com

PARIS: French police arrested about 20 farmers on Wednesday as convoys of tractors edged closer to Paris, Lyon and other key locations, with many ignoring police warnings over the scope of their action.

France has been at the centre of growing rural discontent across Europe, with protests also held in Germany, Poland, Romania, Belgium and Italy. Spanish farmers have said they will join the movement.

Amid mounting calls for higher incomes, less red tape and protection from foreign competition, "there are huge expectations" among farmers, said Arnaud Rousseau, head of France's largest agricultural union the FNSEA.

But he added that not all of the demands could be immediately answered "so I'm trying to call for calm and reasonableness".

Eighteen people trying to blockade the Rungis wholesale food market south of Paris, a key food distribution hub for the capital region's 12 million people, were arrested for "interfering with traffic", police said.

Prosecutors said 15 of those arrested were in custody. Between 200 and 300 tractors in a convoy that set off from southwest France were kept away from the market by police, who deployed armoured vehi-

cles as a precaution. Units were deployed along the A6 motorway leading to Rungis.

The European Commission on Wednesday proposed measures to limit agricultural imports from Ukraine and offer greater flexibility on rules for fallow land in a bid to quell the protests in France and other EU members.

The Commission said it would extend the suspension of import duties on Ukrainian exports for another year to June 2025. They were originally suspended in 2022 to support Ukraine's economy following the Russian invasion, which has hit shipments via the traditional Black Sea route.

The Commission proposal, which will require approval from EU governments and the European Parliament, introduces an "emergency brake" for the most sensitive products — poultry, eggs and sugar — allowing tariffs if imports exceed the average levels of 2022 and 2023.

It also allows the Commission to impose measures if the markets of one or more EU members are disrupted by a surge of imports of other farm produce, such as grains. In critical cases, these could be in place 21 days after a request is made.

Ukraine's EU neighbours — Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia — have complained that the farm imports have upset their markets, leading to protests by farmers and truckers.

Thai court orders end to royal insult reform

Reuters
hindustantimes.com

BANGKOK: A Thai court on Wednesday ruled that the biggest party in parliament had violated the constitution with its plans to change a law against insulting the monarchy, saying the campaign was a hidden effort to undermine the powerful crown.

In a verdict that will set a precedent for future reviews of one of the world's strictest lese majeste laws, the Constitutional Court ordered the Move Forward Party to cease a campaign it called damaging to the monarchy, an institution it said was central to Thai identity and national security.

Move Forward won the most votes in last year's election on an anti-establishment platform that included a once unthinkable proposal to amend article 112 of the criminal code, which carries penalties of up to 15 years in jail for each perceived insult of the royal family.

Thailand's king is enshrined in the constitution to be held in a position of "revered worship".

"The action of the accused dis-

plays the use of freedom of thought to demand the destruction of the democratic system of governance with the king as the head of state, hidden within, and through the call to amend article 112 of the criminal code as party policy," the court said in delivering the verdict.

Move Forward's agenda has resonated among millions of young and urban voters, but its proposal to change the law insulting the palace from criticism outraged conservatives, and saw its attempts to form a government torpedoed by lawmakers allied with the royalist military.

In a country where reverence for the monarch has for decades been promoted as central to national identity, article 112, under which at least 260 people have been prosecuted in the past four years, is seen by many royalists as sacrosanct.

Though the court had no remit to punish Move Forward, the ruling is expected to trigger a wider legal effort by the party's opponents to seek its dissolution and lengthy political bans for its leaders over the plan to amend the law, which has yet to be proposed as legislation.

{ AMERICAN AVIATOR } DISAPPEARED NINE DECADES AGO

Explorer may have found Amelia Earhart's plane wreckage

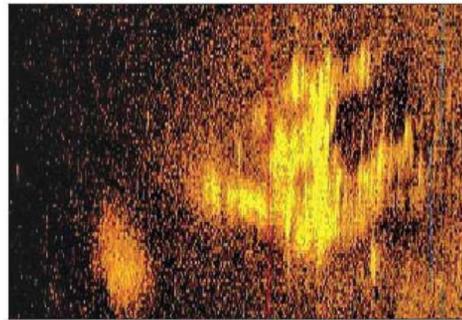
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WASHINGTON: A former US Air Force intelligence officer says he believes he has found the wreckage of Amelia Earhart's plane, which disappeared nine decades ago, on the bottom of the Pacific Ocean using sonar data from a deep-sea drone.

Hoping to solve an 87-year-old mystery, explorer Tony Romeo plans to launch a mission later this year or next to find the long-lost plane, which a massive US search failed to do in 1937.

"She's America's most famous missing person, right? As long as she's missing, there's always going to be somebody out there searching," Romeo said. "If we can help bring closure to this story and bring Amelia home, we'd be super excited."

Earhart, 39, an American aviator, became the first woman and second person ever to fly



This handout sonar image courtesy of Deep Sea Vision shows a plane shaped object believed to be Amelia Earhart's (right) Lockheed 10-E Electra resting about 4,875m on the Pacific Ocean floor.

solo and non-stop across the Atlantic in 1932, five years after Charles Lindbergh accomplished the feat.

Along with navigator Fred Noonan, she was attempting to fly around the world when their plane went missing over the Pacific. If she succeeded, she

H-1B visa application process to begin March 6, says USCIS

Press Trust of India
letters@hindustantimes.com

WASHINGTON: The H-1B visa application submission process for the financial year 2025 would start from March 6, a US federal agency said Tuesday as it announced a major overhaul of its annual lottery for this specialty occupation visa.

The H-1B visa is a non-immigrant visa that allows US companies to employ foreign workers in specialty occupations that require theoretical or technical expertise. Technology companies depend on it to hire tens of thousands of employees each year from countries like India and China.

The new system, among other things, includes provision of a beneficiary-centric selection process for registrations by employers. As a result, unlike in the past of multiple applications by an individual that often resulted in abuse in fraud of the system, the H-1B visa applications would now be counted and accepted based on individual applicants. Even if one individual files multiple applications for various companies, they would be counted as one application based



USCIS also announced new rules aimed at reducing the potential for fraud in the H-1B registration process.

on their personal credentials like passport numbers.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) also announced a set of new rules which are aimed at strengthening the integrity of and reducing the potential for fraud in the H-1B registration process.

This includes reducing the potential for gaming the registration system and ensuring each beneficiary would have the same chance of being selected, regardless of the number of registrations submitted on their behalf, the federal agency said.

USCIS said the initial registration period for the fiscal 2025 H-1B cap will open at noon Eastern on March 6, and run through March 22. During this period, prospective petitioners and their representatives, if applicable, must use a USCIS online account to register each beneficiary electronically for the selection process and pay the associated registration fee for each beneficiary.

Starting February 28, companies will be allowed to open their account which can be used to start and complete the registration process.

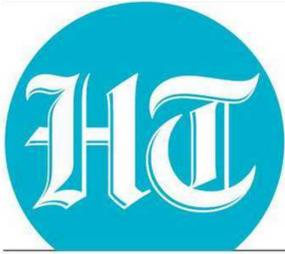
Romeo supposes Earhart ran out of fuel and landed the plane on the ocean surface and that the craft later sank to the bottom, where it would have lay ever since, little disturbed by the light currents. "The first step is to confirm it," he said. "The next step would be, if it's possible, to raise it to the surface and restore it," Romeo said, adding that the process could take years.



Blurry sonar images from the deep-sea drone show a plane-like shape on the flat, sandy ocean bottom, he said. Deep Sea Vision's 16-member crew searched more than 13,400 square km over 100 days at the end of last year.

Romeo said the images showed what appeared to be a plane matching the size of Earhart's Lockheed Model 10-E Electra. The image, he said, appeared to show a distinguishing characteristic of the plane: its twin vertical stabilisers on the tail.

Romeo supposes Earhart ran out of fuel and landed the plane on the ocean surface and that the craft later sank to the bottom, where it would have lay ever since, little disturbed by the light currents. "The first step is to confirm it," he said. "The next step would be, if it's possible, to raise it to the surface and restore it," Romeo said, adding that the process could take years.



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RBI bars Paytm Payments Bank from accepting deposits, top-ups

From March 1, firm can only facilitate fund transfers, and UPI, bill payments

Shayan Ghosh
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MUMBAI: Customers of Paytm Payments Bank will not be able to make fresh deposits or top up wallets. FASTags and mobility cards issued by it after a month, as the central bank cracked down following an audit that revealed "persistent non-compliances" and "continued material supervisory concerns" at the payments bank.

However, customers can freely withdraw their money, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said in a statement. Interest payments, cashbacks and refunds can continue to be credited to these accounts. But it cannot provide any banking service other than fund transfers, bill payments and UPI (unified payments interface) from March 1.

"For all practical purposes, the above notifications end the operations of Paytm Payments Bank. This is a definite negative development and adds to the



The RBI asked the bank to terminate all nodal accounts of One97 Communications and Paytm Payments Services by Feb end.

already heavy regulatory overhaul on the business," analysts at Bernstein said in a note on Wednesday.

RBI clamped down under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act. The section relates to the central bank's power to issue directions in public interest or to prevent the affairs of any bank being conducted in a manner detrimental to the interests of the depositors, besides others.

The new restrictions come nearly two years after the payments bank was barred from signing up new customers. Also, in October, RBI had fined it ₹5.39 crore for non-compliance with some provisions of KYC (know your client) guidelines, cyberse-

curity framework, etc.

Paytm Payments Bank is an associate company of listed One97 Communications Ltd, which held a 49% stake in it as on 31 March 2023. Shares of One97 Communications closed at ₹761 on the BSE on Wednesday, unchanged from a day ago. The RBI announcement came after market hours.

Experts said the FASTag business of the company would be severely impacted as customers would now need to look for an alternative issuer.

The regulator also asked the bank to terminate all nodal accounts of One97 Communications and Paytm Payments Services by the end of February.

How RBI's Paytm Payments Bank restrictions impact you

Livemint
feedback@livemint.com

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday barred Paytm Payments Bank from accepting customer deposits from March 1, after an audit revealed "persistent non-compliances" and "continued material supervisory concerns". This comes almost two years after the payments bank was restricted from onboarding new customers, a restriction that is still in force. Mint spoke to sectoral experts to piece together what today's RBI notification means for Paytm customers:

What happens to users of Paytm App?

They will not be impacted since it comes under the parent company (One 97 Communications) of the payments bank. That apart, UPI or unified pay-

ments interface transactions would also work on the app.

What to do if you use Paytm Fastag or its National Common Mobility Card?

RBI has allowed such customers to extinguish their balances but they cannot load these instruments with more money from March 1.

What would happen if your Paytm app is linked to your bank account with the payments bank?

There are no restrictions on usage of the app to transfer money or withdraw it from the wallet or account. However, there are restrictions on inward or credit transactions from March 1. This means that account holders can freely transfer money out of the wallet and bank accounts but cannot receive money from March 1.

Fiscal deficit at 55% of target

Rhik Kundu
rhik.kundu@livemint.com

NEW DELHI: The government's fiscal deficit during the first nine months of the current financial year stood at ₹9.82 lakh crore, or 55% of the annual estimate of ₹17.87 lakh crore, according to data released by the Controller General of Accounts on Wednesday.

Fiscal deficit for the same year-earlier period was ₹9.93 lakh crore, or 59.8% of the annual estimate of ₹16.61 lakh crore for FY23. The decline in the fiscal deficit despite a jump in government spending to fuel economic growth was due to higher tax receipts and an increase in non-tax revenue.

The Centre aims to reduce the fiscal deficit—the difference between the government's income and expenditure—to 5.9% of gross domestic product during FY24, from 6.4% in the previous fiscal year. The government is committed to lowering the fiscal deficit to 4.5% of GDP (gross domestic product) by FY26.

A higher fiscal deficit leads to a higher debt burden and more spending on debt servicing, which can be unhealthy for an economy and risks devaluing the currency and impacting private investments.

Capex rose to ₹6.74 lakh crore



The decline in fiscal deficit was due to higher tax receipts and rise in non-tax revenue.

during April-December FY24, or 67.3% of the annual estimate, from ₹4.90 lakh crore in the same period in FY23. Total receipts during the period stood at ₹20.72 lakh crore, or 76.3% of the annual estimate, of which tax receipts stood at ₹17.30 lakh crore, or 74.2% of the annual estimate. Non-tax revenue stood at ₹3.12 lakh crore, or 103.5% of the annual estimate.

Total expenditure rose to ₹30.54 lakh crore, or 67.8% of the annual estimate, from ₹28.18 lakh crore in the corresponding period in FY23.

While the centre has accelerated coverage and extended tenures of its flagship welfare programmes ahead of the upcoming general election, experts expect the government to exceed its spending targets marginally during the ongoing fiscal.

{ REPORT CARD }

BANK OF BARODA Q3 PROFIT UP 19%
State-owned Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Wednesday posted a 19% increase in profit at ₹4,579 crore for third quarter ended December 2023. Total income increased to ₹31,416 crore during the quarter under review. Gross Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of the bank declined to 3.08% of gross loans.

MARUTI SUZUKI Q3 PROFIT JUMPS 33%
Maruti Suzuki India on Wednesday reported 33% increase in consolidated net profit at ₹3,207 crore for the third quarter ended December 31, 2023, on account of higher sales. Total revenue from operations was up 15% at ₹33,513 crore from the year-ago period.

SUN PHARMA NET PROFIT UP 16.5%
Sun Pharmaceutical on Wednesday reported a 16.52% rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹2,523.8 crore in the third quarter. Consolidated total revenue from operations during the quarter under review stood at ₹12,380.7 crore. Total expenses were higher at ₹9,560.74 crore.

AMBUJA CEMENTS Q3 PROFIT RISES 2X
Ambuja Cements Ltd reported nearly a twofold rise in its consolidated net profit to ₹1,089.55 crore for the third quarter, helped by higher sales and lower fuel and raw material costs. Its consolidated revenue from operations increased 2.8% to ₹8,128.80 crore.

DABUR DEC QTR PROFIT RISES 6.2%
FMCG major Dabur India Ltd reported an increase of 6.24% in consolidated net profit at ₹506.44 crore for the third quarter. Its revenue from operations was up 7% at ₹3,255.06 crore during the quarter under review. Total expenses in the quarter were up 7.82% to ₹2,720.62 crore.

January records 2nd highest monthly GST revenue at ₹1.72 L cr

Rajeev Jayaswal
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NEW DELHI: Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues surpassed ₹1.72 lakh crore in January, the second highest monthly collection and the third over the ₹1.70 lakh crore threshold, data released on Wednesday showed, with experts attributing the high number to the resilience of the Indian economy and better tax compliance.

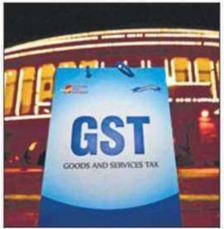
The government expects the final figure of January to marginally rise as it released the data one day in advance. Usually, monthly revenue figures are released on the first day of the following month. An exception is made for the January numbers because the government presents the fiscal Budget for the subsequent financial year on February 1.

"The gross GST revenue collected in the month of January, 2024 (till 05:00 PM of 31.01.2024) is ₹1,72,129 crore, which shows a 10.4% year-on-year growth over the revenue of ₹1,55,922 crore collected in January 2023 (till 05:00 PM on 31.01.2023)," the Union finance ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Final collection for the month [January 2024] would be higher," it said.

Monthly GST revenues saw a significant jump in the current financial year. Collections crossed the ₹1.70 lakh crore mark for three times in FY24, with April 2023 being the highest ever at ₹1,87,035 crore. The second time was in October 2023, when ₹1,72,003 crore was collected. On average this financial year, the monthly GST collection has been above ₹1.66 lakh crore, mainly because of a buoyant economy and stricter compliance driven by technology, experts said.

Robust GST collections, a



On average this fiscal year, the monthly GST collection has been above ₹1.66 lakh crore.

weathervane of economic health, reflect resilience of the Indian economy, despite global headwinds stemming from the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, and disruption in the Red Sea trade route.

The data is in sync with India's first advance estimates of growth released on January 5 which projected a higher-than-expected gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 7.3% in 2023-24. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday revised its growth forecast for India in 2023-24 to 6.7% from 6.3% earlier. Cumulative gross GST collection witnessed 11.6% y-o-y growth in the first 10 months of FY24 (April 2023-January 2024), reaching ₹16.69 lakh crore, as against ₹14.96 lakh crore collected in the same period of the previous year, the statement said.

Saurabh Agarwal, tax partner at EY, said the recent surge in GST collections underscores the strength and resilience of the Indian economy. "This consistent upward trend, evident in surpassing key milestones, reflects the effectiveness of improved tax administration and heightened taxpayer compliance. Overall, these positive indicators pave the way for continued economic expansion."

Core sector growth at 3.8% in Dec, slowest in 14 months

Abhishek Jha
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NEW DELHI: India's core sector growth slowed in December with the Index of eight core industries rising 3.8% year-on-year in the month, according to data released by the ministry of commerce and industry on Wednesday. This is the slowest growth in the index since October 2022, when the index increased just 0.7% year-on-year.

December was also the second consecutive month when the growth rate of the index slowed down. Its growth rate

DECEMBER WAS THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE MONTH WHEN THE GROWTH RATE SLOWED DOWN

was 12% in October and 7.9% in November. To be sure, sequentially, the index increased 5.9% in December compared to a 3.3% contraction in November and 2.5% growth in October.

Of the eight industries covered by the index, only crude oil (it has around 9% weight in the

index) contracted in December compared to the year before. It shrunk 1% annually in December compared to 0.4% annual contraction in November.

All the other seven sectors in the index registered growth in December 2023 compared to the year before. However, the growth in most sectors was less than in November, as expected from the headline number. Growth slowed down the most in electricity and refinery products sectors, which have around 20% and 28% weight in the index respectively. Growth of electricity sector decreased from 5.8% in

November to 0.6% in December. Growth of refinery products decreased from 12.4% in November to 2.7% in December.

To be sure, the core sector index does not reflect the entire industrial output of India. The industries included in the index have only around 40% weight in the broader Index of Industrial Production (IIP). IIP data for December will be released on February 12 by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation.

"As expected, the core sector growth slowed to a 14-month low of 3.8% in December

weighed by base normalisation. While seven out of eight sectors witnessed a year-on-year increase in output, growth was seen moderating in most sectors.

The positive aspect was the improvement in cement output with growth of 1.3% following the contraction seen in the previous month. With the base turning unfavourable, we expect the industrial output to record a muted growth in the range of 1-2% in December, in line with the moderation seen in core sector growth," said Rajani Sinha, chief economist, CareEdge Ratings.

Govt names 4 members of 16th FC

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government announced on Wednesday that it had appointed three full-time and one part-time members of the Sixteenth Finance Commission (16th FC): former expenditure secretary and former member of the 15th Finance Commission Ajay Narayan Jha, former special secretary—expenditure Annie George Mathew, and Artha Global executive director Niranjan Rajadhaksha will be full-time members.

State Bank of India (SBI) group chief economic advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh was appointed as a part time member, the statement, by the finance ministry, said. The government last month appointed former vice-chairman of NITI Aayog and Columbia University professor Arvind Panagariya as chairman of the 16th FC, which would suggest a devolution formula for tax revenues between the Centre and states.

"The Sixteenth Finance Commission has been requested to make its recommendations available by October 31, 2025, covering an award period of five years commencing 1st April, 2026," the statement said.



Ajay Narayan Jha is one of the members of the 16th Finance Commission.

The order of Panagariya's appointment came about a month after the government on November 29 announced the terms of reference (ToR) for the 16th commission, which also asked the body to suggest measures for augmenting states' resources for local bodies, besides reviewing the existing arrangements for financing disaster management initiatives.

On November 6, Ritwik R Pandey, a 1998-batch IAS officer and a joint secretary in the department of revenue, was appointed as officer on special duty for the advance cell of 16th Finance Commission in the rank and pay of an additional secre-

tary. "The distribution between the Union and the states of the net proceeds of taxes which are to be, or may be, divided between them under Chapter I, Part XII of the Constitution and the allocation between the States of the respective shares of such proceeds," the first ToRs for the commission said.

"The principles which should govern the grants-in-aid of the revenues of the states out of the Consolidated Fund of India and the sums to be paid to the States by way of grants-in-aid of their revenues under article 275 of the Constitution for the purposes other than those specified in the provisos to clause (1) of that article," is the second ToR.

The third ToR pertains to the measures needed to augment the consolidated fund of a state to supplement the resources of the panchayats and municipalities on the basis of recommendations made by respective state finance commissions.

The Sixteenth Finance Commission may review the present arrangements on financing Disaster Management initiatives, with reference to the funds constituted under the Disaster Management Act and make appropriate recommendations, it said.

FinMin cuts import duty on mobile spare parts to 10%

Aditi Agrawal
aditi@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The finance ministry has reduced customs duty for certain goods used in manufacturing mobile phones from 15% to 10%, a decision that officials said would help India's mobile hardware industry and one that experts believe could lead to marginally cheaper devices.

The reduction of the import duty applies to parts such as SIM socket, screw, battery cover, front cover, middle cover, main lens, back cover, GSM antenna, sealing gaskets, and other mechanical items of plastic and metal.

For certain other parts like resin, mesh, adhesive, sponge, etc, the customs duty has been slashed to zero.

"This rationalisation of custom duties brings much needed certainty and clarity for the



The decision is aimed at helping India's mobile hardware industry and could lead to marginally cheaper devices.

industry and in customs processes. I thank Hon'ble Prime Minister and finance minister for this step towards strengthening the mobile phone manufacturing system," IT minister Ashwini Vaishnav said.

The gazette notification, however, did not specify any date for implementing the lower duty. HT reported on January 27 that the government was

considering proposals to rationalise customs duties on almost 50 products in an attempt at boosting local manufacturing by removing duty inversions caused by some recent free trade agreements. These steps, officials familiar with the matter said at the time, could also cool commodity prices and check dumping of Chinese goods.

"The industry generally always tries to pass the benefit to end customers to capture more of the market," Sharma said. This reduction in customs could result in a maximum 1-2% reduction in the market price of mobile phones, he added. "The customs duty has been reduced for only specific components. The overall impact on final price will thus be limited," he said.

In a statement, India Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) too hailed the move. "The amendment is an important policy change toward export-led growth, ensuring policy consistency, and addressing competitiveness in manufacturing, which is a crucial victory for the mobile phone manufacturing industry in India. This was amongst the key asks that have been made by ICEA for the interim budget 2024-25," the industry body said.

Indian mobile manufacturing firm Lava's president, Rishi Bhatnagar, also called this "a good step". "We are very happy with this. This will help us improve our margins. I was surprised that this was announced on the eve of the [interim] Budget since this has been one of our key asks form this Budget... This reduction in customs duty is a crucial step for us as we are not only manufacturing mobile phones but also designing them," he said.

{ THE CROSSWORDS }

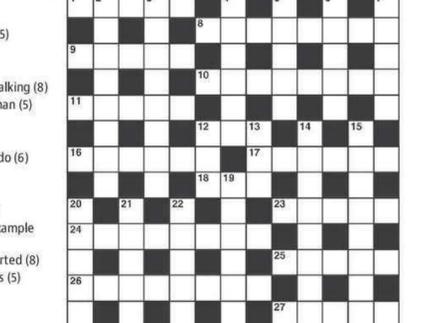
CRYPTIC CLUES

- ACROSS
1 It's evenly balanced just the same (5)
8 Bar on a flight (5,3)
9 Passes around a form of fuel (5)
10 Holy man going on horseback or walking (8)
11 Doctor caught in error is a simple man (5)
12 Pay for service (3)
16 Latins put out or put in office (6)
17 Think what people who count will do (6)
18 Make second hand (3)
23 General stall (5)
24 Alarming trouble on the border (8)
25 Renounce international body for example (5)
26 Not altogether how steam is converted (8)
27 It's a decorative edging one gathers (5)

DOWN

- 2 Result of division not quite correct (8)
3 Variety needed in world construction (3,5)
4 Upper class taken in by government figure (6)
5 Reflective note (5)
6 Morally weak perhaps giving Father trouble (5)
7 Saw a number grow old (5)
12 Fever starts to fluctuate (3)
13 Scrub as taken out before (3)
14 A ship in which sherry may be served (8)
15 A sound step (8)
19 Mark the sailor a six-footer (6)
20 A nasty accident on the tennis court? (5)
21 Sounds a ghastly storyteller (5)
22 Opinions wives expressed differently (5)

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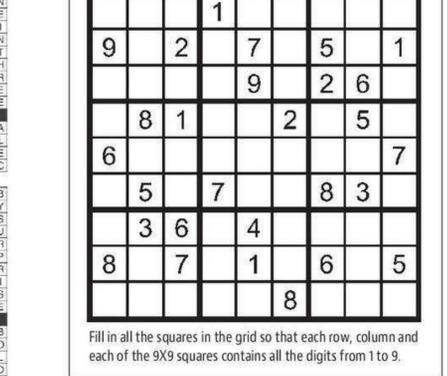
QUICK CLUES

- ACROSS
1 Indolence (5)
8 Sudden disastrous collapse (4-4)
4 Reduce to lower rank (6)
10 A lot (4,4)
11 To attempt (5)
12 Obtain (3)
16 Long cigar (6)
17 Significant (2,4)
18 Travel regularly (3)
23 Sham attack (5)
24 A caricature (8)
25 Vault below church (5)
26 At top speed (4,4)
27 Agitated mental condition (5)

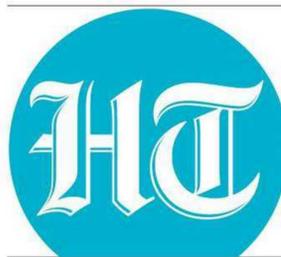
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS (16770)



{ SUDOKU } DIFFICULTY LEVEL ★★★★★



WEATHER: TEMPERATURE HIGH & LOW. THURSDAY: Possibility of light rain or drizzle with moderate to dense fog. FRIDAY: Dense fog. SATURDAY: Generally cloudy sky with light rain or drizzle. ALMANAC: Today is 1st February 2024. TEMPERATURE IN FOUR METROS: Delhi 20°C | 08°C, Mumbai 29°C | 16°C, Kolkata 26°C | 19°C, Chennai 31°C | 22°C.



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ST. MARY'S SR. SEC. SCHOOL
(Affiliated to CBSE)
A-2, Mayur Vihar Phase-III, Delhi-110096, Ph: 22613539.

REQUIRE

- PRT - All Subjects**
- PRT - Art & Craft**
- TGT - English**
- TGT - Hindi (2 Post)**

Apply on the prescribed application form available at school office on all working days during office hours from 5th to 16th February 2024. Principal

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- Primary Teacher**
- Special Educator (Female) with RCI Certification**
- A Committed Christian Value Education Teacher**
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- Music Teacher - With specialization in Indian Solo Instrument**
- ATL Lab Instructor • Nurse - (Female)**

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Social Science	✓	✓	✓
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Physical Edu. Teacher	✓	✓	✓
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Engagement of Head (Skill Development) on Contractual Basis

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Last date of receipt of application is **15th February 2024**;
Applications may be sent to ceo@psscindia.org
For more details: www.psscindia.org;
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Chief Executive Officer
Power Sector Skill Council

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, RISHABH Tyagi S/o Nagender Tyagi R/o 51/2, West Yojti Nagar, Shahdara New Delhi-110094 have changed my name from Rishabh Tyagi Kalki Tyagi for all future purposes.

I, ANKIT Singh Tanwar S/o Sh. Sunil Kumar No. JC-352612F Rank Subedar R/o V.P.O Khudana, Teh. & Distt. Mahendragarh (Haryana) have changed my name from Ankit Singh to Ankit Singh Tanwar (DOB 31.05.2003) for all future purposes.

I, S. Kartik S/o Sharvan Kumar R/o A/45C, top floor, U/side, Panchsheel Vihar, New Delhi changed my name to Sharvan Kartik vide Affidavit dt.29.01.2024 Sworn before notary Jamegaj Bar, Delhi

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, INA Raman D/o Shri Rajiva Raman R/o H.No. 204, First Floor, Sector-45, Faridabad-121003 declare that my father's name wrongly written in educational document as Rajiv Raman. But correct name of my father is Rajiva Raman for all future purposes

I, SWARNPRAVA Pradhan, W/o Umesh Khando R/o H.No. 58, Sector-38, Sarai, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi-110016, have changed my name to Sanjivita Pradhan for future purposes

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJIV Tyagi S/o Sh. Janeshwar Tyagi R/o 319, Niti Khand-3, Indrapuram, Ghaziabad, U.P. 201014 have changed my name from Rajiv Tyagi to Rajeev Tyagi for all future purposes

I, ARCHANA Verma D/o Late Sh. Madan Lal Kumar w/o Arun Kumar R/O A-142, Preet Vihar, Delhi-110092 changed my name after Marriage from Archana Verma For all Future purposes. Archana & Archana Verma both are the same & one.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GAURAV Khurod S/o Sh. Amrit Lal Khurod R/o H.No. 58, Sector-38, Sarai, Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi-110016, have changed my name of my minor daughter from Saanvi to Saanvi Khurod for all purposes.

I, AMRIT Dev Prakash S/o Ram Bachan Mishra resident of D6/615/6 Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070, I have added my surname Mishra, and my Present name is Dev Prakash Mishra.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, APARNA Pandey W/o Anil Kumar Shukla R/O Flat No. B-1014, 5th Avenue, Gaur City-1, Sector-4, Greater Noida West, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. 201308 have changed my name to Aparna Shukla for all future purposes.

I, PAOMUJALLA S/O Thongkhangpa Thome R/O 18-A, first floor, DDA Janta Flat, Shivaji Enclave Extn. Tagore Garden New Delhi-110027 declare that Paomujalla and Paomujalla are one and the same person and shall henceforth be known as Paomujalla for all Purposes

CHANGE OF NAME

I, GANESH Nagarkoti S/o Kunwar Singh R/O H.No. C-93 Street Flat No. 15, Dayal Bagh Extn, Faridabad, Haryana 121009 have lost my original 10th and 12th Marksheet and Certificate and Operation Thee Technician Diploma and Marksheet. Finder may contact on above address.

COURT NOTICES

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(ORDER 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure) IN THE COURT OF MS. KAVERI BAWEJA, LD. DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL COURT)-07, ROOM No. 302 CENTRAL EXTENSION BLOCK TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI

CS (COMM) No. 674/2023

CANARA BANK
Vs
MANPREET SINGH

To,
1. Manpreet Singh Proprietor Of M/s Guru Has Expo S/o Mr. Joginder Singh R/O House No. 2385, 2nd Floor, Tilak Street, Paharganj, Swami Ram Tirth Nagar, New Delhi-110055 Also at: Q/o Plot No. 65, Block-50, Ramjas Road Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005 Also at: Property No. 1575, Main Bazaar, Paharganj New Delhi-110055

2. Mrs. Jasmine Kaur R/O House No. 2385, 2nd Floor, Tilak Street, Paharganj, Swami Ram Tirth Nagar, New Delhi-110055

WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 20-02-2024 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte.

GIVEN under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 10-01-2024.

DISTRICT JUDGE
Commercial Court-07, (Central)
TIS Hazari Courts, Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICES

OFFICES MERGER NOTICE

All policy holders/stakeholders and general public are hereby informed that following offices under Regional Office-1, New Delhi are being reorganized and will not be functional after 2 months of publication of this notice.

- Business Office N-39 Connaught Place (erstwhile DO-20), Office Code (214600), Address: N-39, Bombay Life Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001 will be merged into new servicing office-i.e. Business Office Connaught Place N-34 (erstwhile DO-16), Office Code (212800), Address: N-34, Bombay Life Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. Contact: Ph: 011-23351476, 479, 011-23357325. Email: 212800@orientalinsurance.co.in
- Business Office Badarpur (erstwhile BC Badarpur), Office Code (211691), Address: 573, 2nd floor, Chirag Delhi, New Delhi-Market, 110019. Contact: Ph: 011-47038997
- Business Office R.K. Puram (erstwhile BC R.K. Puram), Office Code (212790), Address: Shop No. 77, Vasant Life Building, Sector 6, RK Puram, New Delhi-110022, will be merged into new servicing office-i.e. Business Office South Extension (erstwhile DO-15), Office Code (212700), Address: G-8, South Extension Part-I, New Delhi-110049. Contact: Ph: 011-24625216, 011-24698901. Email: 212700@orientalinsurance.co.in

Hence after two months all the services as regards to the Policy/Claims or any other services will be provided by the New Servicing Offices as mentioned above.

Dated: 01.02.2024
Dy. General Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed in public large that my clients Chandra Mohan Kandwal S/O Late Sh. Brahma Nand Kandwal and Smt. Meena Kandwal both R/O 16-A, Pocket-1, Sector-D, Kirti, Shanti, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, Delhi-110096, Mobile No. 9911461063 has severed all kind of relationship from their son Neeraj Kandwal and also disown him from their all kind of movable and immovable properties forever as he is involved in illegal activity and having the company of anti social elements and if any person deals with Neeraj Kandwal in any manner then the same will be at risks and costs of him/her and my clients shall not be responsible for his acts and deeds.

Dr. M. K. Gahlaut (Advocate)
Ch No. 455, 2nd Floor Western Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SHASHI Sharma W/o Bharat Sharma R/O F-25, Utsav Apartment, Sector-18, Rohini, Delhi-110089 declare that my name Shashi wrongly written in my minor daughter's (Yukti Sharma) 10th class certificate. My correct name is Shashi Sharma and I will use Shashi Sharma as my name in future.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, ASHOK Kumar R/o: Dumariya P.O Tengarhar P.S Shankarpur district Madhupura state Bihar pin no. 85229. I hereby declare that my wife's name Smt. S. Kumari wrongly written in all my dealings & documents will be known as my wife Smt. Kumari also I want to confirm date of birth 25/04/1990 is also wrong in all documents, correct date of birth is 08/11/1995 for all purposes Affidavit no. -65 dated : 25.01.2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, AMIT Kumar S/o Surender Kumar R/o PD32A Pitampura Delhi-110048 have changed my name to Amit Arora for all purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, ANIL Kumar S/o Raghuraj Singh R/O No.-8, Vill-Kalonda, Jarcha, Dadr, G b Nagar have changed my Name from Anil Kumar to Anil Kumar Shishodia for all future purposes

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, GEETA Devi W/o Sh. Sunil Kumar No. JC-352812F Rank Subedar R/o V.P.O Khudana, Teh. & Distt. Mahendragarh (Haryana) have changed my name from Geeta (DOB-15.08.1977) to Geeta Devi (DOB 01.01.1975) for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, UMA Shanker Gupta S/o Sh. Om Parkash Gupta R/O Flat No. 1203-A, 13th Floor, Tower A-3, Emerald Bay Sector-104, Dhanwanpur, Gurgaon, Haryana-220006 declare that, Uma Shanker and Uma Shanker Gupta both are the name of one and the same person. And I will be known as Uma Shanker Gupta for all future purposes.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Oriental Insurance Company Limited (A Govt. Of India Undertaking)
Regional Office-1, 10th Floor, Hansalya Building 15, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001, IRDA Reg. No. 556 (CIN-U66010DL19470007158)

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- Business Office Badarpur (erstwhile BC Badarpur), Office Code (211691), Address: 573, 2nd floor, Chirag Delhi, New Delhi-Market, 110019. Contact: Ph: 011-47038997
- Business Office R.K. Puram (erstwhile BC R.K. Puram), Office Code (212790), Address: Shop No. 77, Vasant Life Building, Sector 6, RK Puram, New Delhi-110022, will be merged into new servicing office-i.e. Business Office South Extension (erstwhile DO-15), Office Code (212700), Address: G-8, South Extension Part-I, New Delhi-110049. Contact: Ph: 011-24625216, 011-24698901. Email: 212700@orientalinsurance.co.in

Hence after two months all the services as regards to the Policy/Claims or any other services will be provided by the New Servicing Offices as mentioned above.

Dated: 01.02.2024
Dy. General Manager

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HT

Sheoran wins bronze in Cairo

NEW DELHI: India's Akhil Sheoran shot 451.8 to win bronze in the 50m 3P event at the ongoing shooting World Cup in Cairo on Wednesday. Sheoran had brilliant kneeling and prone rounds where he consistently hit the inner 10s but a bad standing round cost him a higher finish. Czech Republic's Jiri Privratsky won gold (462.9) while France's Romain Aufrere took silver (460.5).

Saravanan seals Olympics quota

NEW DELHI: Asian Games bronze medalist Vishnu Saravanan has become the first Indian sailor to qualify for successive Olympics by making the cut for Paris Games. The 24-year-old from Vellore finished 26th out of 152 sailors at the ILCA 7 Worlds in Adelaide. The only other Indian in fray, Mohit Saini, finished 136th. So far, Saravanan is the only Indian sailor to qualify for this year's Olympics. Saravanan had finished 20th overall among 35 competitors at the Tokyo Games.

Aisam hints at playing singles

ISLAMABAD: Aisam ul-Qureshi, Pakistan's most successful tennis player, does not play singles on the ATP Tour, but when national duty demands it, he willingly takes up the responsibility, and the Indian team might have to contend with him on the opening day of the Davis Cup World Group I tie, starting Saturday. Aisam could play against either Ramkumar Ramanathan or N Sriram Balaji, who will most likely play on Saturday.

Javelin thrower Manu looks to rekindle Olympic dreams

Recovering after a dip in form last year Manu is now raising his game to qualify for the Olympics

Shantanu Srivastava
sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

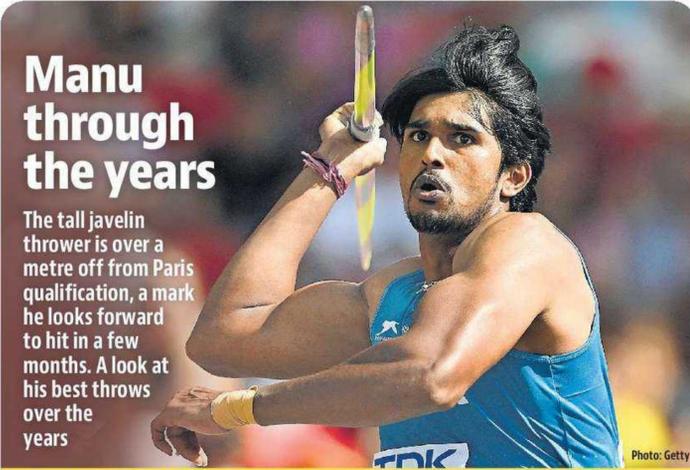
NEW DELHI: In the first half of 2023, DP Manu had consolidated his position as India's No.2 javelin thrower, behind Olympic and world champion Neeraj Chopra. Behind Chopra, there were few barring Rohit Yadav who could challenge Manu's arm. It appeared a matter of time before the tall 24-year-old transitioned into the big league.

Then came along Kishore Jena, and in a three-month run from August became India's new javelin sensation. As the Odisha thrower began touching longer distances with every meet, Manu seemed to stagnate.

The then unfancied Jena improved his best seven times in 2023, going from 78.93m at the start of the year to 87.54m at the Hangzhou Asian Games to qualify for the Paris Olympics. At the Budapest World Championships, where Chopra nailed a historic first gold medal for India, Jena was fifth in the final (84.77m), pipping Manu to sixth (with an effort of 84.14m).

Jena's meteoric rise has fired the competitive hunger in the Karnataka thrower. "I am really happy for Kishore, but to watch Jena improve so much has lit a fire in me. I am waiting for the season to begin so that I can show everyone what I'm capable of," Manu said.

"As an athlete you want to beat everyone else. I am no different. We stay in touch through text messages and sometimes exchange notes too. We push each other. Jena has told me a



VENUE	DISTANCE (IN MTS)
LUCKNOW, 2019	76.24
MOODBIDRI, 2020	73.94
PATIALA, 2021	76.3
CHENNAI, 2022	84.35
BENGALURU, 2023	84.33

Manu through the years

The tall javelin thrower is over a metre off from Paris qualification, a mark he looks forward to hit in a few months. A look at his best throws over the years

few times that he wants me to come to Paris. We want to do a Budapest encore, and this time hopefully there will be more than one Indian on the podium."

Manu is focused on tweaking his technique which he expects will help add "one or two metres" to his average distance.

Manu's coach Kashinath Naik said: "He has been hovering around 84m for two years now. It took us two years to consistently get around 83-84m. This year, we want to push him to the 85-87m range. Once you start

throwing that distance consistently, you will find yourself in medal contention at most major meets."

"He has the advantage of height. He definitely has a 90m throw in him, but we may have to wait a year or two for that," Naik said. Manu stands at 6 feet 2 inches, while Jena is only 5 ft 7 in. (Chopra, at 6 feet, is the gold standard; his national record is 89.94m).

It shows that javelin, being a highly technical event, is not about physical attributes alone.

throwing momentum. "Neeraj too falls down in his follow through, but that is only after he has completed the action. Manu hits the ground earlier, which robs him of a couple of metres," he said.

"I am working on my block," Manu said. "It has to be purposeful, powerful. Only then will the power transfer from the lower body into the throw. My knee tends to bend while blocking, which breaks the momentum."

It is not easy to change a technique honed by years of muscle memory. It may take months, and Manu was back training barely ten days after the season ended.

"I was desperate to hit training. The break was mainly to switch off a bit mentally. Even then, failing to better my PB and failing to make the Asian Games bothered me."

Manu is approaching the new year with optimism.

"Competitions will truly begin around May-June. We are trying to arrange a trip to Europe in March. We want to hit the Paris qualification mark (85.50m) early in the season so that we can approach the rest of the season at ease," Naik said.

For now, the emphasis is on getting Manu's body competition ready.

"We started with a lot of strength training. I realised I lacked raw strength, for which I will increase muscle mass this year. I weigh around 86-87kg, I need to get to around 92kg," Manu said.

Manu presses 160kg on the bench and snatches around 92 kg.

"I have increased my intake of lean proteins. As of now, I am lifting up to 80-85% of my potential. We've started throwing only recently. I am already touching 85m in practice with a 900g javelin. It augurs well for the season," he said.

NADA raid on dope test evaders causes a flutter in Capital

Avishkek Roy
avishek.roy@htlive.com

NEW DELHI: A team from National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) swooped on a locality near the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium last week to collect samples, catching state-level athletes there off-guard.

The team of four NADA officials reached Kotla Mubarakpur around noon last Thursday, at a locality where more than 200 athletes from nearby places in Delhi stay in rented accommodation and train at the JLN stadium.

Coaches, on condition of anonymity, called it an unprecedented incident as NADA normally does not go for sample collection in residential areas. More so, these athletes are neither in NADA regular testing pool nor file whereabouts like national level athletes.

"The NADA team came prepared with a list of names for sample collection, mainly from the Delhi state meets. It raised an alarm among the athletes and some of them managed to flee. The NADA officials went to three or four houses and collected the sample of one athlete," said a coach aware of the development.

A NADA official called it a "routine affair of target testing based on information from the intelligence wing." However, many in the athletics fraternity believe the crackdown was a result of recent incidents in Delhi state and cross country meets where athletes evaded testers and even refused to be subjected to dope testing.

"We have never heard of NADA officials going to a residential area. They go to the houses of those athletes who are in the NADA testing pool and file whereabouts. But these are mostly state level athletes, junior athletes. Such surprise visits will instil fear among athletes, which is necessary," said a Delhi state coach. Another coach, however, felt NADA should save such measures for hostels where national level athletes train.

"There are many big fishes NADA should bother about. Why

A CAT-AND-MOUSE GAME WITH NADA

●Sept: Seven out of eight runners in Delhi State 100m final allegedly fled after seeing NADA dope testers

●Oct: Men's 5000m at the Open Nationals in Bengaluru saw six athletes cross the finish line almost together, reportedly to avoid coming in top three and evade dope testers

●Oct: WADA raises concern about the Delhi state meet fiasco

●Oct: AFI launches enquiry into the incident

●Jan: NADA officials make surprise visit in nearby locality of JLN Stadium where many Delhi state athletes stay to collect urine and blood samples

don't they go to the JLN Stadium hostel where national level athletes stay and train? The situation was such that landlords thought these athletes had committed a crime," said the coach.

NADA has increased its activity in the last few months since an incident at the JLN Stadium where allegedly seven athletes fled from running the 100m final at the Delhi state meet after NADA officers landed for sample collection. Interestingly, the lone athlete who stayed back and completed that race flunked the dope test. That incident came to the notice of the World Anti-Doping Agency and World Athletics. The Athletics Federation of India then set up a committee along with its Delhi unit to enquire into the incident.

It has been learnt that most of the athletes who missed the 100m race have not reported to the committee. India is among the world's top three nations in doping violations. Recently, WADA also raised a red flag regarding doping violations among minors with India second in that list, behind Russia.

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग
15, नेहरू पथ (बेली रोड), पटना-800001

आवश्यक सूचना

स्वास्थ्य विभाग, बिहार के अंतर्गत राज्य के चिकित्सा महाविद्यालय एवं अस्पतालों में सुपरस्पेशलिटी विभाग के अंतर्गत सहायक प्राध्यापक के विभिन्न संकायों के कुल 220 रिक्त पदों पर नियमित नियुक्ति हेतु आयोग द्वारा प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या-01/2024 से 17/2024 के अधीन ऑनलाइन आवेदन करने वाले उम्मीदवारों को सूचित किया जाता है कि उक्त विज्ञापनों का साक्षात्कार दिनांक 05.02.2024 से निर्धारित है।

उक्त साक्षात्कार आयोग हेतु अल्प अवधि को दृष्टिगत में रखते हुए सभी उम्मीदवारों को निर्देश दिया जाता है कि वे साक्षात्कार कार्यक्रम में दिए गए निर्देशों के आलोक में अनुपालन सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

साक्षात्कार का विस्तृत कार्यक्रम आयोग के वेबसाइट www.bpsc.bih.nic.in पर प्रकाशित है।

परीक्षा नियंत्रक,
बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना।

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Administrative Officer/Const.III/Northern Railway, Kashmir Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work:-

1. Full Name of work	Construction of washing lines with cover shed, sick line, heavy repair bay, CDO office complex and other allied works in connection with Development of Universal coaching complex at Ayodhya cantt station of Lucknow Division on Northern Railway.
2. Approx cost of work	Rs. 4457.14 lacs
3. Completion period of the work	12 (Twelve Months)
4. Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 23,78,600.00
5. Availability of tender document on Nly. Website	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 05.02.2024 to 26.02.2024 upto 11.30 hrs.
6. Last date/Time of upload of tenders	26.02.2024 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f.12.02.2024 to 26.02.2024
7. Date and time of opening of tender	26.02.2024 at 11.30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2)). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenders would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. 74-W-3-2-467-WA-LKO Dated: 31.01.2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 329/24

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Engagement of CMP/GDMO/Specialist over and above present strength for NR/DH/DLI.

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for Engagement of Three Contract Medical Practitioner (CMP) at Northern Railway, Divisional Hospital Delhi-Detailed advertisement with VACANCY STATUS, terms & conditions, format of application form is available on Northern Railway website <https://nr.indianrailways.gov.in>. Delhi Division No. NR-DL10PERS (GENL)/466/2020-010-DPO/DLI/LNR/22409P-9(Gaz) Date: 30.01.2024

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 325/24

U.T. ADMINISTRATION OF DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI AND DAMAN & DIU
DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL & HEALTH SERVICES, SILVASSA

No. DMHS/EST/Staff/2022/347/6332
Date: 29/01/2024

ADVERTISEMENT

Directorate of Medical & Health Services, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and Daman & Diu is conducting Walk-in-Interview on date 02/02/2024 at 9:00 am at Collectorate, DNH, Silvassa for the various posts on Short term contract basis under NAMO Medical Education & Research Institute and Directorate of Medical & Health Services Silvassa.

O/o, Director, Medical & Health Department, Silvassa, DNH
No. IP/DMN/2/5/2023-24/103 Dt. 31/01/2024

Hindustan Times

HT City

CAN'T BELIEVE I HAVE STARTED A SECOND CAREER: PARINEETI CHOPRA

CHECK OUT TODAY'S EDITION

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. - 13820232024 Date: 30.01.2024

TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Engineering) / North Central Railway / Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites the following E-Tenders on prescribed form for the following works up to 13:30 hrs. on 23.02.2024. The details of the tenders are as under:

S.N.-1 Tender No.: 347, **Name of Work:** Muck disposal, cess repair and drain work under ADEN/ETW.

Approx Cost of Work (Rs): 23083665.72 | **Bid security (Rs):** 265400.00
Completion Period: 08 months, **Similar work for Eligibility Criteria:** P.Way work.

S.N.-2 Tender No.: 348, **Name of Work:** Provision of overrun at Pata, Balrai, Sarai Bhopat, Firozabad and Jalesar Road stations.

Approx Cost of Work (Rs): 24048044.05 | **Bid security (Rs):** 270200.00
Completion Period: 10 months, **Similar work for Eligibility Criteria:** P.Way work.

S.N.-3 Tender No.: 349, **Name of Work:** Upgradation of goods shed at Nibkarori (NBUE) station under ADEN/FZD.

Approx Cost of Work (Rs): 55342236.79 | **Bid security (Rs):** 426700.00
Completion Period: 10 months, **Similar work for Eligibility Criteria:** Any Civil Engineering work.

S.N.-4 Tender No.: 350, **Name of Work:** Combined Tender: (A) Turnout Sleeper renewal in RRH-TDL section under Sr.DEN/III/PRYJ. (B) NI work at ETW under ADEN/ETW. (C) CTR (S) under ADEN/FZD.

Approx Cost of Work (Rs): 18297958.06 | **Bid security (Rs):** 241500.00
Completion Period: 12 months, **Similar work for Eligibility Criteria:** P.Way work.

Date of Opening of Tender: 23.02.2024, **Note:-** (1) The complete information along with tender document of above E-Tenders is available on website www.ireps.gov.in up to 13:30 hrs on the due date of tender opening i.e. 23.02.2024. The tender shall be opened at or after 15:00 hrs on due date. (2) Bids other than in the form of E-Bids shall not be accepted against above Tenders. For this purpose, vendors are required to get themselves registered with IREPS website along with Digital Signature Certificates issued by CCA under IT Act-2000. (3) Rates entered into Financial Rate page and duly signed digitally shall be considered. (4) Tender No. 347 to 350 is having advertised value more than 50 Lakhs, therefore, Annexure-V & V (A) (Document Verification Certificate) are required. The supplier/contractor of goods and/or services would be subject to GST Act and Rules as applicable from time to time. (5) Document being attached should be signed by the tenderer on its body. (6) This tender notice has also been uploaded on www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. (7) Cost of Tender document and Bid Security can be deposited Online through Internet Banking or Payment Gateway or Bank Guarantee Bond as detailed in para 12 of tender document. (8) In case of any difficulty helpdesk available on the website of IREPS may be approached. (9) Tender on line can be submitted up to 13:30 hrs. on 23.02.2024. (10) Along with other instructions given to Tenderers, Tenderers are required to Pay special attention on Para 12.0 of Tender Document for Bid Security Deposit. (11) E-Tender Forms shall be issued free of cost to all Tenderers. (12) For tender no. 347 to 350: The tenderer has to submit necessary documents in compliance of clause 10 to 18 (Part-1) of IRGCC, 2022 (Works matter) mandatorily, otherwise their offer will be considered as incomplete Offer and accordingly shall not be considered. 188/24 (P)

North central railways | www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in | northcentralrailway | [CPNRNCR](https://cpnrncr)

ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
प्लॉट नं.-1, नौएडा पार्क-IV, ग्रेटर नौएडा सिटी, गौतम बुद्ध नगर, वाराणसी-221002।
वेबसाइट: www.greaternoidaauthority.in, ई-मेल: authority@gnida.in

पत्रांक: स्था/वि/2024/94 दिनांक 31/01/2024

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

प्रभारी (निविदा सेल), ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नौएडा की ओर से ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या- स्था/वि/2024/93, दिनांक 31.01.2024 के माध्यम से उल्लिखित क्रम सं: 1 से 2 में अंकित कार्य की ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा की समस्त नियम व शर्तें ग्रेटर नौएडा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट: www.greaternoidaauthority.in पर ई-निविदा लिंक एवं ई-पोर्टल <https://tender.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिचय, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिए उक्त वेबसाइट देखते रहें।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम / वर्क सॉर्किल	अनुमानित लागत
1	Sweeping of Service Roads & Side Verge of Main Roads by Quick Response Team (QRT). (Part-1)	रु० 273.73 लाख
2	Sweeping of Service Roads & Side Verge of Main Roads by Quick Response Team (QRT). (Part-2)	रु० 276.15 लाख

उक्त कार्य की निविदा दिनांक 01.02.2024 से 14.02.2024 को 17:00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है एवं प्राप्त ई-निविदाओं की प्री-क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 16.02.2024 को 11:00 बजे खोली जायेगी। प्र. वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (निविदा सेल)

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UJVN LIMITED
(An Undertaking of Govt. Enterprise)
H.O. "UJVN", MAHARAJA BAGH, GHS ROAD, DEHRADUN - 248006, U.P. India. Tel: 0135-2763888, Fax: 0135-2763556, website: www.ujvn.com

RO No. 153 Date: 31.01.2024

Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (Maint.), Chibro Power Station, Dakpathar (Dehradun), invites sealed tenders from interested parties.

(1) Tender No: CH(Maint.) - 34/2023-24 Annual Maintenance Works of unit No 03 of Chibro Power Station. (2) Tender No: CH(Maint.) - 35/2023-24 Replacement of damaged part of drainage & dewatering pipe line at Chibro Power Station.

Estimated cost: (1) ₹12,38,793/- (2) ₹23,88,886/- (GST extra)

Date of availability of bid on website: 02.02.2024, 11:00 hrs
Last date for submission of tender: 24.02.2024 up to 13:00 hrs

For further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvn.com. (Executive Engineer, Maint., Chibro)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

Government of Punjab
Tender Notice for Various Works
Tender Notice Reference No. 06 dt. 30.01.2024

The Department of Punjab Water Supply & Sewerage Board invites online bids for the following:-

Sr. No.	Item	Quantity
1.	Providing Tap Connections to consumers, Extension and Augmentation of Water Supply System at Amloh District Fatehgarh Sahib for Distribution Network. Installation of Tube well and Construction or 0.5 Lakh Gallon OHSR under AMRUT 2.0 Scheme, Part-1, Phase-1	1

Closing Date and Time : up to 22.02.2024 at 3.00 PM
For detail login to : eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note: Any Corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Punjab W/S & Sew. Divn No. 2, Patiala
esp2.pwsssb@punjab.gov.in

31914

महाराष्ट्र शासन
कार्यकारी अभियंता, सा.बां.(दक्षिण) विभाग, कोल्हापूर
ई-निविदा कार्यप्रणाली अंतर्गत निविदा सूचना क्र. ६६ सन २०२३-२०२४.
शुद्धीपत्रक क्र. ९
(महाराष्ट्र शासन, सा.बां.विभाग, मुंबई यांचेकडील शासन निर्णय क्र. संकीर्ण-२०२३/प्र.क्र.१०४/इमा-२, मंत्रालय, मुंबई ४०००३२, दिनांक ०७/०८/२०२३ अन्वये)

निविदा डाऊनलोड कालावधी	:-	दिनांक २३/०१/२०२४ ते १३/०२/२०२४ अखेर वाढविणेत येत आहे.
निविदा पूर्व बैठक	:-	मा. मुख्य अभियंता, सा.बां.प्रादेशिक विभाग, पुणे यांचे कार्यालयात दिनांक ०६/०२/२०२४ रोजी दुपारी १२.०० वाजता (ऑनलाईन)
निविदा इसार रक्कम निविदा शुल्क व प्रतिज्ञापन इत्यादीचे मुळ दस्तावेज सादर करावयाचा दिनांक	:-	कार्यकारी अभियंता, सा.बां. (दक्षिण) विभाग, कोल्हापूर कार्यालयाचा पत्ता-ताराबाई पार्क, मुख्य पोस्ट ऑफिसजवळ, रमणमळा, कोल्हापूर-४१६००३. दिनांक १५/०२/२०२४ रोजी (सकाळी १०.०० पर्यंत) वरील कार्यालयात सादर करणेत यावीत.
तांत्रिक व आर्थिक निविदा उघडण्याचे ठिकाण व दिनांक व वेळ (शक्य झाल्यास)	:-	कार्यकारी अभियंता, सा.बां. (दक्षिण) विभाग, कोल्हापूर यांच्या कार्यालयात दिनांक १५/०२/२०२४ रोजी शक्य झाल्यास सकाळी १०.०५ वाजता.

जा.क्र./निविदा/५७४/२०२४.
कार्यकारी अभियंता, सा.बां. (दक्षिण) विभाग, कोल्हापूर, यांचे कार्यालय, ताराबाई पार्क, रिसिडेन्सी क्लब समोर, कोल्हापूर-४१६००३
दिनांक - ३०/०१/२०२४
प्रत - उप अभियंता, सा.बां. उपविभाग, राधानगरी, यांना माहितीसाठी.
प्रत - नोटीस बोर्ड माहितीसाठी

सही/-
(प्र. र. जाधव)
कार्यकारी अभियंता,
सा.बां. (दक्षिण) विभाग, कोल्हापूर

ROC-2023-24/No-5/C7440

The distraction game: Ringing in the sweep to take India off track

Though considerable, sweeps and reverse sweeps have also facilitated England's fluent scoring off orthodox shots

Somshuvra Laha

somshuvra.laha@htlive.com

VISAKHAPATNAM: To what extent did the reverse sweep and sweep alter the course of the Hyderabad Test? Quantitatively, not by much. Out of England's first innings score of 246, 41 runs (just 16%) came from sweep, slog sweep and the reverse sweep. That increased to 24.5% in the second innings with 103 out of 420 runs. Bulk of the score in both innings was still made off the traditional shots. Like the drive, that accounted for 39% of the first innings score and 35% of the second. Which tells us the only reason the chatter is so focused on the reverse sweep is because England have successfully implemented it as a strategy to distract.

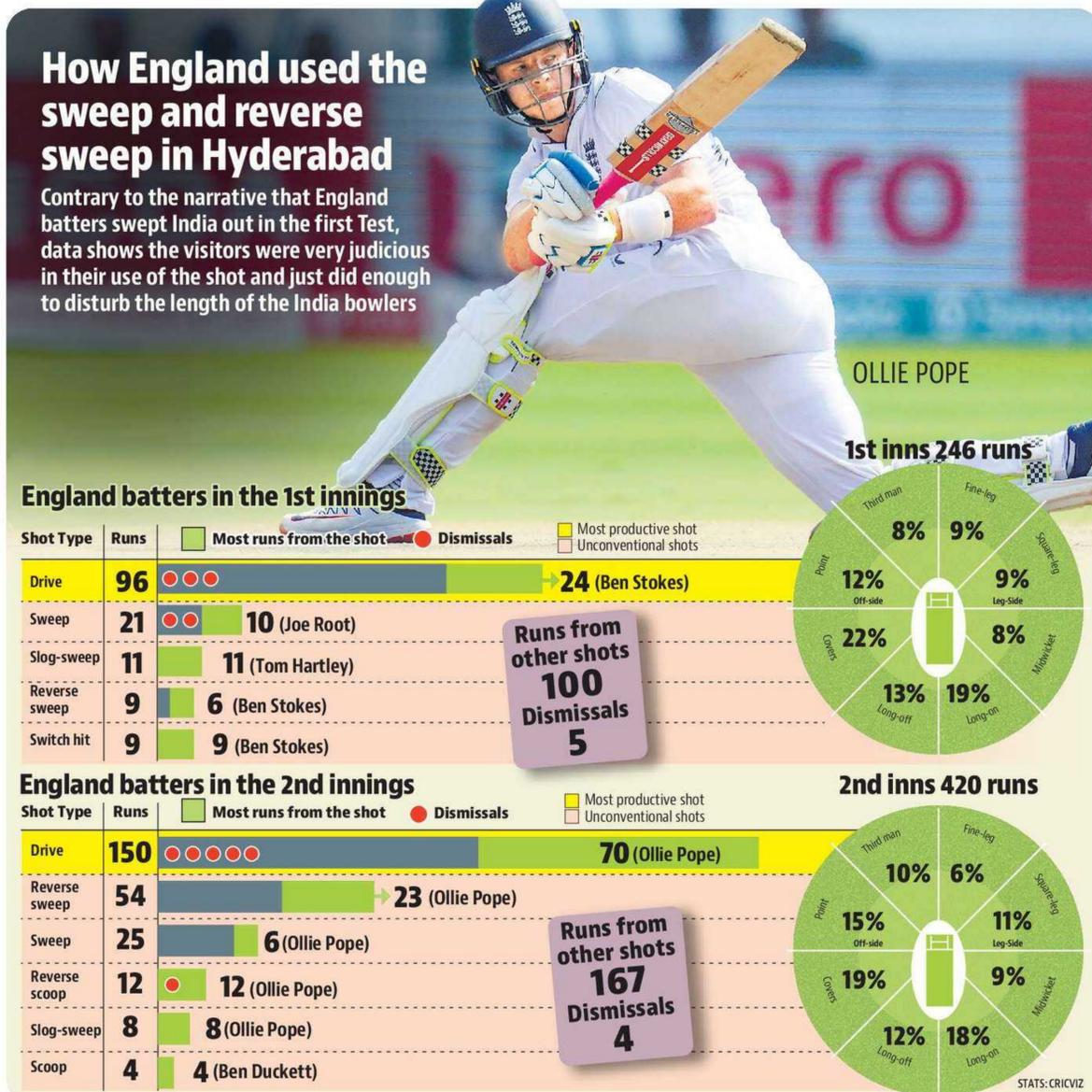
Zak Crawley indicated as much. "I think sweeping and reverse sweeping, when it's spinning, is a good option. It takes the spin out of plan," said the England opener here on Wednesday. This isn't the first time a visiting team tried to sweep Indian spinners.

Back in the 1987 World Cup, Graham Gooch showed the way, sweeping Maninder Singh and Ravi Shastri in the semi-final. So emboldened was Nasser Hussain by the returns of the sweep shot during the tour of Pakistan in 2000 that he went ahead and even swept Muttiah Muralitharan in 2001. England won both those tours. At home, look no further than Damien Martyn who seized on every opportunity to sweep during Australia's 2-1 win in 2004.

Joe Root was at the top of his sweeping game on the last tour when he scored a double hundred in the first Test but even he has wholeheartedly joined this growing English tribe looking to explore the reverse game.

"I think the reverse sweep is more common for us, because there's just less field in there," said Crawley. "They always seem to have two men out on the leg side. If they had two men out on the other side, we'd probably play the sweep...the reverse sweep comes probably just as naturally to us as the normal sweep."

Also factor in the lack of bounce in India, making the reverse sweep a largely safe option. "The most important thing is you don't think you are going to miss at all," Root said in Hyderabad. "Have that mindset of committing to the shot and nailing it for four or one, or



whatever. Pope (who scored 196 in the second innings) did it exceptionally well."

Thing is, only 23 out of Pope's 196 came off the reverse sweep. But a narrative had emerged by then—helped no less by the record that England had already zoomed up to second after Chennai 2021 as the only team to score so many runs off those shots in India since 2014—that England were all about the reverse sweep and sweep. They are not. England are still scoring more off conventional shots.

What they have done though is pick the right moments to derail India's spinners with the right type of liberating shot. The

adaptations were deft too. Not once were the scoop or the reverse scoop tried on a first day Hyderabad pitch that had decent pace—only sweep, reverse sweep and slog sweep, in that order.

But on a Day 3 pitch that had slowed down enough, England weren't afraid to try the reverse sweep (fetching 54 runs) more than the conventional sweep (25 runs). Not only did it mess up the lines of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, it also made way for more boundary balls in the length area that could be driven or eased off the backfoot.

This approach goes against

the grain of Test batting as we knew, scoring runs by limiting risks. This is a new era though, where England are willing to risk a little to facilitate quicker runs off more conventional shots. "The mindset when I first came to England was to take your time and build a long innings and I didn't think that came naturally to me and a few of the others," said Crawley. "A lot of us play a bit better under this regime."

What next for England? Given how Root was seen exploring the switch hit—the legality of which has been a topic of fierce discussion on live television—at the nets on

Wednesday, trust England to do anything it takes to stay one step ahead of India.

Which, considering Jadeja has been ruled out, could put India in a greater fix. Ashwin remains India's best bet in terms of thinking out of the box but neither Axar Patel nor Kuldeep Yadav—primed to replace Jadeja—have that level of expertise. This being only the second Test in a five-match rubber, India could still stick to their guns. But given how quickly England wiped out the 190-run deficit in Hyderabad, there could always be a temptation to find that unscorable length or focus on a rough cre-

ated outside the popping crease and ask England to take higher risk.

The other way around is to play England's unconventional game of reverse shots, something most India batters were seen trying to perfect on Wednesday. It's challenging work though. "It's not something that you can just try," said India batting coach Vikram Rathour. "You need to be prepared for that, you need to practice it. If you add more shots to your game it's always beneficial, but we play in a traditional way. Our strength or strong areas are going straight and using our feet."



Mohammed Siraj inspects the pitch at the ACA-VDCA stadium. PTI

Kuldeep, Patidar and Sarfaraz hone their skills

Somshuvra Laha

somshuvra.laha@htlive.com

VISAKHAPATNAM: What is common between the 2016 and 2021 home Test series against England, apart from the fact that both were ultimately bagged? Then too, India did not win the series opener. And every time that happened, the pitch for the next match automatically earned a higher rank in the conversation. Fueling similar anticipation, the surface at Visakhapatnam looks brown, if not a bit dry. Also, Jack Leach hasn't trained, and almost every Indian batter brought out the reverse sweep in a clear attempt to correct previous wrongs. Just one Test in and rarely have India looked as busy as they do now for a home series.

It makes sense though. Not being able to chase 231 was a wake-up call with India never needing to score more than 172 in the fourth innings at home—incidentally against England, in 2016—in the last 10 years. When they were pressed to cross 200 though, the batters succumbed. Some, like Shubman Gill, were guilty of prodding at a flighted ball without showing any footwork. Which is why Rahul Dravid was seen trying to take Gill through the process of playing spin, showing him how to use his long stride to dead bat the ball after spending enough time tuning his range.

Gill has had somewhat of a torrid run, not scoring a fifty in 11 innings. Also under the pump is Yashasvi Jaiswal who didn't look to bid his time in a tricky chase. But the management is willing to cut them slack. "There are young batters in our team who have not played much Test cricket. So, we need to be a bit patient with them. Batters like Gill, Jaiswal and (Shreyas) Iyer will eventually start getting big runs, I'm sure of it," India batting coach Vikram Rathour said at the press conference on Wednesday.

Defeats like Hyderabad tend to question almost everything that India have done right till now, but the think tank is clearly not panicking. And it starts with not wavering from their brand of batting. "There's a difference between playing with intent and

playing attacking cricket. I want them to play with intent. If there is the opportunity to score some runs, they should take it," said Rathour.

"They need to decide by looking at the surface and conditions. So, the batters need to possess that intelligence as to which is the best or safest shot on the surface. Could they have batted with more discipline? Maybe they could have. That's what they need to decide and come up with their plans. But they need to score runs by playing their shots, as you need to back your strengths. Batting is always about getting out but how many runs you put on the board," he said.

With that mindset, it might get difficult to choose between Rajat Patidar and Sarfaraz Khan if India persist with two pacers. Khan brings with him a solid reputation as a sweeper, but he hardly deployed that shot during nets. More engaging though was Patidar, who came ahead of Khan and spent more time at the nets trying every shot in the book.

Dravid is known to be a stickler for chronology in terms of travelling with the squad and ultimately getting a chance, so right now Patidar looks to have the edge over Khan, who has only recently joined the group. "On this kind of wickets, I think they can really add a lot of value to the team," Rathour said about Patidar and Khan. "If we have to pick just one of them, of course, it would be tough. But that decision will be made by Rahul Dravid and Rohit."

Also set to replace Ravindra Jadeja is Kuldeep Yadav, who incidentally played the first reverse sweep during India's practice session. That was just to get a feel though as he quickly settled into bowling strict lines, preparing himself for a role he has barely got till now. Bowling in tandem with Ashwin isn't easy, especially at home where Yadav has leaked runs in the past. But with the pitch set to come into play—Rathour believes it should assist turn, if not on Day 1, eventually—Yadav's tempters could just be the need of the hour against batters willing to push the envelope.



Arsenal's Gabriel Jesus scores past Nottingham Forest's Matt Turner in their Premier League match. ACTION IMAGES VIA REUTERS

Arsenal gear up for Liverpool with win

Agencies

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NOTTINGHAM: Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said his side's Premier League title challenge was building momentum after the Gunners beat Nottingham Forest 2-1 on Tuesday to move up to second in the table. Gabriel Jesus and Bukayo Saka were on target at the City Ground as the Gunners moved to within two points of Liverpool, who they face at the Emirates on Sunday.

Arteta's men had not won away since early December as their push for a first title in 20 years stumbled over the festive period. But they have won both their games since returning refreshed from a two-week winter break. "We have to generate some momentum," said Arteta. "We have to prepare well as it is going to be a big game (against Liver-

pool)." Forest had won all of the previous three meetings between the sides at the City Ground, including the defeat that mathematically ended Arsenal's title challenge last season.

But Nuno Espirito Santo opted to just try and contain Arsenal and Forest's gameplan was undone once Jesus broke the deadlock 25 minutes from time. "Against this team at home I have seen a lot of teams that have suffered. I am pleased with the performance and winning the game," added Arteta. "We had to be really patient but have the intention to hurt them all the time and we did that."

Jesus fired against the post with his first big chance early in the second half after an inviting flick from Martin Odegaard played him through. But they finally got their reward as Forest switched off from Oleksandr Zinchenko's throw-in.

'Teams need to find a style that suit their players; foolish to try playing like England'

{ LANCE KLUSENER } FORMER SOUTH AFRICA ALL-ROUNDER

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NEW DELHI: Even as West Indies and England scripted unexpected wins against Australia and India respectively on Sunday to reiterate that Test cricket is alive and kicking, there are challenges that the longest format faces. One of them will be apparent later this week when South Africa field a second-string team for the first of two Tests against New Zealand.

The reason? South Africa's top players are unavailable due to their commitments in SA20, the country's T20 franchise league that is meant to help Cricket South Africa (CSA) boost its financial status. Former South African all-rounder Lance Klusener, who's coaching Durban's Super Giants in SA20, was known for his white-ball exploits but also played 49 Tests in his career. In an interview, he spoke about the Test versus T20 conundrum, what he thinks of Bazball and more. Excerpts...

Durban's Super Giants have had a superb run in SA20. How difficult is it to achieve consistency in T20s?

It's tough. The start has been good for us. We had players moving (after the first season). We have been able to replace quite well. We are going to face that challenge again as we go forward I guess. It's nice to get on a bit of a roll.

What have you made of the standards in the SA20 and how does it rank in compari-

son to other T20 leagues?

It's right up there. It's just as competitive as any other T20 league in the world. The good thing is people have come out in big numbers to support. That's been great...it adds a whole different dimension for the players as well. It's been really well received.

South Africa sending a second-string Test team to New Zealand has attracted a lot of criticism...

I guess it's unfortunate. They could have possibly fitted it in at another time. On the other hand, if one or two players can emerge from that (Test) series, it may not be a bad result. It's a little bit of a double-edged sword. You have got people missing out on Test cricket, but you have possibly got an opportunity for youngsters to put up their hand and make a claim for selection when everybody is back. It seems to be only a South African problem. I don't see other countries sending second-string teams to play Test cricket really. It is a scheduling problem which could have been handled better.

You were a top seam-bowling all-rounder who played 49 Tests and 170-odd ODIs. How difficult is it currently for seam-bowling all-rounders to commit to playing Tests when T20 leagues are more prominent?

It's all about money. If you pay your seam-bowling all-rounder enough money, he will commit to Test cricket. I am not sure whether



the money is there in Tests anymore and that's why we see them all leaning towards T20s. That's unfortunately the way the world is moving. Fast-bowling all-rounders are a high price in the market. It will always be difficult to hang onto them consistently in Tests.

If all-rounders don't commit to playing Tests, will it affect the format?

I don't think so. I still think the quality will be there. Test cricket is the ultimate test of one's ability. If there are all-rounders out there who want to match their numbers with the best that have ever played the game, it will be in Tests. Do the modern-day all-rounders want to compare their stats with the greatest in the game? I am not sure. Let's see how it pans out but I don't

think it will have a negative effect.

Heinrich Klaasen is part of the Durban franchise. He has retired from Tests after playing just four matches. Do you see more and more players taking this decision and how worrying is that?

Klaasen wasn't getting selected for some bizarre reason. And then you need to make that decision whether to hang around and hopefully be selected for Tests or go and play franchise cricket where you have a small window to make money. His decision was right. At the end of the day, you have to look after your family. It's a business.

South Africa were very aggressive as a batting unit at the ODI World Cup. With

the T20 World Cup coming up, how excited are you by the attacking brand of cricket that the South African batters are displaying?

I don't think you have an option but to play an attacking brand of cricket in T20s. We have got some good young talent. Maybe the Test tour to New Zealand will unearth a few more that haven't been involved in the SA20.

What do you make of Bazball and the way England are playing Tests under Brendon McCullum?

Each team needs to find a style of play that suits conditions and the way that their players set up. It's great England are playing that style of cricket. Maybe it does suit them. But I am not sure it works for other teams out there. They will need to find out what's best for them. It will be foolish for every team to adopt a style of play like that. It's attractive to watch but I don't think it's necessarily the right style for every team.

You were a master at batting in the slog overs of white-ball games. How has the role of a finisher evolved?

I don't think the role has really changed. The challenges are still there. T20 cricket has allowed people to make sure that their skills are better. The quality of finishing and death bowling is a lot better than when we used to play. The standards are a lot higher compared to back in the day when we used to hit a white ball.

MAHARASHTRA EMERGE OVERALL CHAMPIONS IN 2023 KHELO INDIA YOUTH GAMES

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CHENNAI: Maharashtra emerged champions with a total of 158 medals (57 gold, 48 silver, 53 bronze) while Tamil Nadu and Haryana took the second and third positions respectively, bagging 98 medals (35 gold, 21 silver, 39 bronze) and 103 medals (35 gold, 22 silver, 46 bronze) as the Khelo India Youth Games 2023 Tamil Nadu concluded in Chennai on Wednesday.

At the prize distribution ceremony Union sports minister Anurag Thakur said: "With every Khelo India Youth Games, we have grown in stature. It is with immense pride I mention that 4454 young athletes across 26 States/UTs battled it out for glory, fuelled by their athletic zeal and the unwavering spirit of sportsmanship. There was almost equal representation at the games with 2307 male athletes and 2147 female athletes competing."

"Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has envisioned that India will become the next sporting super power in the world and the way the sports eco-system is evolving every passing day is a testament to this transformation," he added.

A total 30 overall meet records and national youth records have been created in this edition of the games. In athletics, 8 records have been created while in weightlifting, 22 records.