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Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

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CBSE advisory for X and XII: Leave early, use Metro

CBSE issued an advisory Wednesday for students appearing in their board exams in view of traffic restrictions in Delhi, advising them to leave their homes early and use Metro to commute. Board exams for Classes 10 and 12 will commence Thursday, with over 5.8L students taking them in Delhi. **P 7**

Resolution against 1 nation, 1 poll in TN

TN assembly passed two resolutions Wednesday — one against 'one nation, one election' and another against delimitation. CM M K Stalin said 'one nation, one election' is dangerous, impractical, and comical. **P 16**

1 killed in Manipur as mobs target armoury

A 24-year-old man was killed while two others were injured in paramilitary firing as mobs targeted police training college and armoury of 5th India Reserve Battalion in Imphal East district Tuesday night. **P 16**

Man who entered lion den beheads wife

Three years after he entered a lion's cage at Kolkata's Alipore zoo, causing widespread uproar, 35-year-old Gautam Guichait stands accused of beheading his wife in Chistipur village of Bengal's East Midnapore. **TNN**

'Golden chapter': UAE mandir has added to Ayodhya joy, says PM

Manash.Gohain@timesgroup.com

UAE has written a golden chapter in human history. A beautiful...temple is being inaugurated here." PM Modi said Wednesday as he showered praise on the ruler of the country for his push for inclusivity, leading to construction of the first-ever temple in Abu Dhabi.

The inauguration has added to the joy felt by Indians over the consecration of Ram Lalla's idol in Ayodhya, Modi said.

Recalling President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's role in facilitating construction of BAPS (Bochasanwasi Shri

► Akbar's mother read Ramayan, her copy in Doha museum, FLAP OPP

Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha) temple, largest in West Asia, Modi said, "Right from the day in 2015 when...I mentioned the desire of people to have a temple, he cooperated all along — allotting as much land as was needed to fulfil aspirations of crores of Indians."

► Minister for tolerance, FLAP OPP



PM Modi inaugurates the BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday

'Govts must ensure minimum interference in people's lives'

Govts must prioritise ease of living, justice, mobility, innovation and doing business, PM Modi said at World Govt Summit in Dubai on Tuesday.

"People should neither feel absence of govt, nor should there be pressure. Govts have to ensure there is minimum govt in-

terference in people's lives," he said.

Modi said that in future, govts will have to strike a balance between national sovereignty and international interdependence, and retain commitment to international rule of law while working in national interest. **P 27**

ED's 6th summons to Kejriwal, tells him to appear Feb 19

New Delhi: Enforcement Directorate has asked Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal to join investigation at its headquarters here in the alleged excise policy scam and money laundering case on Feb 19, two days after AAP's convenor has to appear before a court to explain why he has not heeded earlier calls from the agency.

This is the sixth summons to Kejriwal since Nov last year. ED sources have maintained that Kejriwal's questioning is crucial to its ongoing investigation in the case where his AAP and senior party colleagues have been accused of taking bribes of Rs 100 cro-



Paytm execs quizzed on irregularities

Senior Paytm executives have appeared for questioning before ED in connection with alleged irregularities reported by RBI recently. They have been asked to come again. RBI had barred Paytm Payments Bank from accepting deposits after Feb 29. **P 20**

re from a liquor cartel controlled by 'South Group'. Two of his close colleagues, former deputy CM Manish Sisodia and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, are in judicial custody for allegedly taking bribes. **TNN**

► IPC section, P 14

10 arrested for substandard equipment at city govt hosps

Delhi govt's ACB has arrested 10 people, including manufacturers of medical equipment, suppliers to six state govt hospitals and pharmacists as part of its crackdown on procurement of substandard equipment.

"Our probe found connivance of doctors, officials and hospital storekeepers with these suppliers," ACB chief Madhur Verma said. Some doctors are under scanner, said sources, adding more arrests are likely with police seeking nod to proceed. The six hospitals include LNJP, DDU, GTB and LBS, reports Rajshekhar Jha. Bandages, gloves and infusion sets failed quality tests. In most cases, number of items delivered was less than what suppliers quoted. **P 2**

Indian IT pro wipes out own family in US

In the second episode of its kind this year, an Indian professional allegedly wiped out his family in a murder-suicide incident in US. In the affluent San Mateo neighbourhood of California, police found Anand Sujith Henry, 37, & Alice Priyanka Benziger, 38, dead from gunshot wounds. Their 4-year-old twins were also dead. **INSIDE JACKET**

43 yrs after Phoolan gang killed 20, one gets life term

Kanpur: Exactly 43 years after Behmai massacre, where 20 people were shot in a Kanpur village by 'Bandit Queen' Phoolan Devi and her gang, a court in Kanpur pronounced its verdict on Wednesday, handing life sentence to one of two last surviving accused, reports Faiz Siddiqui.

On Feb 14, 1981, Phoolan and her gang stormed Behmai village, located in ravines of

Yamuna, to avenge her gang rape by upper caste men. Among those who perished in a hail of bullets, 17 were Thakurs. "What was the point of a judgment that took more than four decades? Most people associated with the case are dead, whether it was the plaintiff or accused," said main plaintiff Rajaram's son Raju Singh.

► 30 died during trial, P 19

IN THE COURTS

► Punjab & Haryana HC makes it clear that state govt can't indulge in cherry-picking and only provide premature release to a select few out of pool of similarly-situated convicts | P 27

► SC seeks TN govt's reply to its suggestion for a scrutiny from an expert panel about a possible opening of Vedanta's copper plant after ensuring compliance with strict protection norms | P 27

► 9 mths after he moved SC for bail in a case related to a larger conspiracy behind '20 riots, Umar Khalid withdraws plea citing 'change in circumstances' | P 13

5 yrs on, promises made to Pulwama martyr's family remain unfulfilled

Siddharth Shankar Pandey

Jabalpur: It was a lonely remembrance day for the family of Ashwin Kacchi in a Jabalpur village on the fifth anniversary of the Pakistan-backed terror attack in which he and 39 of his CRPF colleagues were killed.

Barring security personnel, no one showed up Wednesday to meet Kacchi's family in Khudawal village, barely an hour's drive from Jabal-



Ashwin Kacchi's family built his statue, spending ₹6 lakh

pur, while the many promises made by Madhya Pradesh govt remain just promises.

The family built a statue as they were tired of waiting for the govt. After TOI reported the matter last year, govt promised to build a garden around it, but not a brick has been laid. The govt-given house is crumbling. A school was to be built and named after him, but there is no sign of that either.

► 'No one remembers', P 20



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Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh



Nand Gopal Gupta 'Nandi'
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With passenger journeys at 71.1 lakh, Delhi Metro breaks previous best | 7

23.7° MAXIMUM
7.3° MINIMUM
FORECAST: Mainly clear sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 25°C and 9°C
SUNRISE 6.59AM (FRI) | MOONRISE 10.27AM (THU)
SUNSET 6.11PM (THU) | MOONSET 12.14AM (FRI)

341
AOI IN DELHI ON WEDNESDAY (VERY POOR CATEGORY)

NDMC takes up repair, safety steps for 22 escalators at CP | 8



2020 Delhi riots: Umar Khalid withdraws his bail petition from SC | 13

ACB Arrests 10 For Procurement Of Subpar Equipment In City Hospitals

14 Firms Linked With Supply Were Inspected; Docs, Officials Under Scanner

Rajshankar.Jha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Initiating a crackdown on procurement of sub-standard equipment at Delhi's hospitals, the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) of Delhi govt has arrested 10 people, including manufacturers, suppliers and pharmacists, and are looking for a dozen others.

ACB chief Madhur Verma said the accused were involved in supply of substandard items to six Delhi govt hospitals. "During investigation, connivance of doctors, officials and hospital storekeepers with these suppliers surfaced," he added.

Several other doctors and govt officials are under the scanner in the case, according to sources. More arrests are likely as police have sought the nod of the competent authority to proceed, they added.

According to officials, the arrested suppliers and manufacturers had arranged receipts of prescribed items from officials of the hospitals against the supply of substandard items, and even in cases of short delivery or no delivery. The laboratory owners and managers had allegedly supplied fake and forged lab reports against the substandard items.

The matter came to fore last Aug when teams of the health department's vigilance wing conducted checks at the six hospitals, including LBS, DDU and GTB. The officials collected various samples and sent

HOW THE CASE UNFOLDED

► Vigilance wing of the health and family welfare department visited six Delhi govt hospitals and found abnormalities during inspection
► A case was registered under sections of Prevention of Corruption Act, Drugs and Cosmetic Act, and criminal conspiracy section



What investigation revealed

► Inquiry revealed connivance of doctors, officials and storekeeper
► Fake and forged receipts issued by hospitals without receiving the actual items
► Forged lab reports prepared after vigilance checks and records tampered with
► Forged entries were made in all relevant registers

► Sub-standard material was purchased from local markets with no parameters at all and was supplied to the hospitals
► Instances noticed where the approval committee gave nod even before receiving the material
► Seven suppliers, manufacturers, three lab owners, managers and pharmacists arrested

Arrests

- Hemant Joshi (Supplier)
- Kapil Makhija (Supplier)
- Kamaldeep Singh (Supplier)
- Arjinder Pal Singh (Supplier)
- Rajesh Malhotra (Manager)
- Rahul Chaurasiya (Trader)
- Harneet Singh Bindra (Supplier and trader)
- Shekhar (Manufacturer and owner of the firm)
- Shahid Chaudhary (Lab owner)
- Bipin Kumar Pathak (Pharmacist)

them to govt-approved labs. Most samples, such as cotton bandage, infusion sets, rolled bandages, absorbent cotton, latex examination gloves, infusion sets and rolled bandages, were found substandard or failed during testing. The health department subsequently filed complaints with ACB and an FIR was registered on Jan 5. During the probe, cops

ascertained the details of the firms that had allegedly provided the items through the GeM portal. The items were supposed to be delivered with desired certificates from govt-approved labs. Fourteen firms connected with the supply were inspected. Documents and laptops were seized and their representatives questioned. "Investigation revealed the govt officials inten-

tionally avoided taking the desired lab reports and licenses as mentioned in the GeM contract order. In some cases, licence numbers mentioned by the supplier belonged neither to him nor the manufacturer," the ACB chief added.

In most cases, the batch numbers of the delivered items didn't match the batch numbers quoted by the supplier. "It surfaced that substan-

dard material was purchased from local markets and supplied to the hospitals. Receiving of the items was found to be given by the concerned officials against nil delivery or short delivery. Instances were noticed where the approval committee had given the nod even before receiving the material," Verma said.

Sleuths found that the govt officials and suppliers continued the fraudulent activities even after the probe began, he added. Based on the evidence gathered, the cops placed the suspects under arrest.

The accused were identified as Hemant Joshi, Kapil Makhija, Kamaldeep Singh, Arjinder Pal Singh, Rajesh Malhotra, Rahul Chaurasiya, Harneet Singh Bindra, Shekhar, Shahid and Bipin Pathak.

Joshi, cops said, was the owner of a Laxmi Nagar-based firm while Chaurasiya had a company in Noida. Joshi was to supply about 49,000 handloom-rolled bandages. He placed an order with a Noida-based manufacturer who did not have the requisite licence. He also placed an order with a local manufacturer in Rewari. "Material from the local market with forged stickers was supplied to LNJP hospital," Verma said.

Another accused was supposed to supply 6.6 lakh gloves to DDU hospital. "He received 3,44,500 items from the hospital but on documents, he supplied only 1,78,000 items," said an official.

Green fight: Delhi adds 350 e-buses, total at 1,650

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena, along with chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and transport minister Kailash Gahlot, launched 350 electric buses on Wednesday.

This addition brings the total number of electric buses in the DTC fleet to 1,650.

The low-floor buses, equipped with GPS, CCTV, panic buttons and other facilities for passenger safety, will operate on routes from Sukhdev Vihar, Rohini Sector-37 Depot-II and Burari Bus Depot-I.

"These buses will contribute in a huge way in combating pollution," Saxena said. "I am hopeful that we will be able to stop the pollution with these steps."

Kejriwal said that with the addition of the 350 vehicles, Delhi has achieved the distinction of being the first city in the country to operate such a large fleet of electric buses.

Gahlot said that with the latest addition, the tally of electric buses in Delhi is at 1,650, making Delhi the state with the highest number of e-buses in the country and the third globally.

Kejriwal said: "Previously, Delhi's roads had Diesel Line buses running on diesel and petrol. Then CNG buses were introduced, and now electric buses are being introduced. Our effort is to gradually replace CNG buses with electric."

Among the vehicles, 300 have been included in DIMTS, while 50 are in the



LG VK Saxena and CM Arvind Kejriwal, along with transport minister Kailash Gahlot, flagged off the electric buses

DTC fleet. Depots have been built in Rohini Sector 37 and Burari to operate the DIMTS buses, while DTC buses will be operated from Sukhdev Vihar, Gahlot said.

Among the routes on which the buses would be deployed are ISBT Kashmiri Gate to Mehrauli, ISBT Kashmiri Gate to Lado Sarai, Sultanpuri Terminal to IGI Airport Terminal 2, Route 946 from Q Block Mangolpuri Terminal to Anand Vihar ISBT, Route 962 from Kanjhawala Village to Central Terminal, Route 945A from Q Block Mangolpuri to Keshav Nagar Mukti Ashram, Route 433 from Badarpur border to New Delhi Railway Station Gate Number-2, Route 511A from Badarpur border to Dhaula Kuan.

The electrification of more than 60 bus depots is on to accommodate over 8,000 e-buses by 2025. Currently, 16 depots are fully electrical, in-

cluding three new ones. The Kejriwal govt is investing over Rs 1,500 crore in the electrification of depots and has planned for a sustainable and green future, Gahlot said.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said that the Kejriwal govt did not add a single new bus to the DTC fleet, and it is the result of this negligence that the bus transport infrastructure is based only on electric buses provided by the central govt.

He said the Kejriwal govt had disappointed the people of Delhi on providing public transport. "The govt procrastinated in providing funds for the Metro and Rapid Rail, did not purchase even 10 buses for Delhi in 10 years, and now, when Delhi needs around 12,500 DTC buses, it is labelling the depleted fleet as running buses and patting its own back."

5-day assembly session starts today, budget likely on Monday

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The budget session of Delhi Assembly will start on Thursday with lieutenant governor VK Saxena's address to the House in the morning. The five-day assembly session is likely to witness the tabling of the economic survey and outcome budget on Feb 16 while the budget for the 2024-25 financial year may be presented on Feb 19. Delhi govt, however, has yet to make the exact date public.

This is going to be finance minister Atishi's maiden budget and AAP govt's last before Delhi legislative assembly elections in Feb 2025. While the

govt's focus on health and education will continue, officials said there will be a higher allocation of funds for the cleaning of the Yamuna and improving ambient air quality apart from water, rural roads and various developmental projects.

"This reflects govt's proactive approach towards addressing the diverse needs of the city," said an official.

Delhi govt presented Rs 78,800 crore budget in 2023-24 and Rs 21,000 crore was set aside for improving the city's infrastructure. Officials said the budget outlay for the next financial year was likely to be over Rs 80,000 crore.

Govt may implement the

Business Blasters programme, which is currently available for classes 11 and 12 of state-run schools, for final-year students in colleges as well. It aims to encourage and support 15,000 startups by 2030 and generate new avenues of employment, officials said.

Delhi BJP, however, rued that the budget session would not have the question hour. "Even in previous assembly sessions, the members have been consistently deprived of their constitutional right to ask questions. Kejriwal govt is running the assembly in a dictatorial and undemocratic manner," leader of opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri had alleged on Tuesday.

Heart blockage of 50-yr-old cured with ayurvedic therapy

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A 50-year-old auto driver, who was diagnosed with 95% blockage in his left anterior descending artery (LAD) after he suffered a heart attack in Nov 2022, has been completely cured after receiving treatment for nearly four months at All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA).

Talking to TOI, Avdhesh Kumar, a resident of Jaitpur in southeast Delhi, said that he suffered a heart attack on Nov 12, 2022. "I was taken to Safdarjung Hospital where I was admitted for seven days and after a few months of treatment, doctors performed angiography in which 95% blockage was found in left anterior descending artery and 70% mid-obstruction in right coronary artery (RCA)," he said, adding that doctors advised him stenting after treatment.

"Since I had no money, I did not go for the procedure. Later, I approached AIIA for treatment," he said, adding that angiography was performed in Oct 2023 and the LAD showed a non-calcified plaque in segment 6 causing 85-90% occlusion and the RCA showed a calcified plaque in segment 1 causing 5-10% occlusion. Another non-calcified plaque was noted in segment 2 causing 65-70% occlusion.

Assistant professor, Dr Divya Kajaria of the department of Kaya Chikitsa, AIIA, said that Kumar was provided Virechana, one of the Panchkar-

Kumar was provided Virechana, one of the Panchkarma therapies, followed by oral medicines for three months

ma therapies, followed by oral medicines for three months. He was admitted in the hospital for 15 days and then given three months of medication. Now he has 0-5% occlusion in both LAD and RCA, which is normal.

When the patient came to the hospital, he was having difficulty breathing and was not able to walk 500 steps and sometimes had chest pain, doctors said, adding that since the left artery is more vulnerable, he was advised to do a stent procedure. But due to financial constraints, he did not go for it.

According to doctors, a blockage in the LAD can lead to a fatal heart attack, known as the widow maker. As the largest coronary artery, the LAD supplies a lot of blood to the left side of the heart. This artery is at risk for plaque build-up (atherosclerosis) and coronary artery disease. Angioplasty and stenting are needed to open the artery and lower the risk of heart attack. While occlusion of the right coronary artery may cause infarction of the inferior wall of the left ventricle with or without right ventricular myocardial infarction.



LG approves acquisition of land to push road project

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a decisive push to make the much delayed Urban Extension Road-II (UER-II) a reality, lieutenant governor VK Saxena has approved the acquisition of over 2 big-has of land in southwest Delhi's Bharthal village.

The land parcel, said officials, is critical to the completion of the project. Its acquisition delay had set back the project by seven years.

UER-II, designed to connect north Delhi with the Delhi-Jaipur highway, was planned to decongest Dhaula Kuan and several intersections of both outer and inner ring roads. Officials said the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had requested permission to acquire 2 big-ha and 4.5 biswa of land in Bharthal in April 2016.

However, the acquisition process could not be completed due to several ongoing litigations. This delayed the road project, which was proposed in the Delhi Master Plan 2021 as the third ring road for Delhi.

The road was proposed by DDA between NH1 and NH2, connecting areas such as Narela, Bawana and Rohini in North Delhi, Dwarka sub city, IGI airport and Gurgaon.

Once operational, the road will also provide an alternate route for commuters and freight traffic between southern and eastern parts of Haryana (including the districts of Ambala, Panipat, Karnal, Rohtak, Bahadurgarh) to Delhi and Gurgaon and further up to Rajasthan.



The CM has assured the staff about the remaining pending salaries

Due from 2021, 96 Hardayal staff get 5 months' salaries

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: All the 96 employees of Hardayal Municipal Public Library were handed over salary cheques for five months at an event held in Delhi on Wednesday. The salaries were paid in lump sum for five months of 2021. The employees of the library had been sitting on dharna for the past nearly three years over non-payment of salaries.

Addressing the employees, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "A provision has been made for your salaries for the remaining period and that will be released soon."

"We are not politicians. In Punjab, our party has 92 elected MLAs. Of them, 80 are first-timers. Barring five to seven MLAs, most are first-timers in Delhi as well. We also come from the middle class and understand how difficult it is to survive without a salary. Expenses are to be incurred on paying electricity bills, water bills, children school fees and medical treatment," he added.

Kejriwal claimed they (BJP functionaries) were cursing AAP for providing electricity, water, health facilities and quality education for free.

"Earlier, there was a dishonest govt which ruined MCD in 15 years. Now, there is an honest govt. You must have noticed the difference in the functioning of MCD in the last one year even though they have snatched our various powers. They are posing problems in running MCD and Delhi govt," he alleged.

MLA and MCD in-charge Durgesh Pathak apprised the CM of the problems faced by the library employees. "They have been denied salaries for over 30 months and also humiliated," he said.

Thanking Kejriwal for addressing their long-pending grievances, an employee of the library said, "Though we were not getting salaries, AAP's policies were a big relief for us to make both ends meet. We availed the free bus service for women and restricted our electricity and water consumption to qualify for the free services. We are proud to be citizens of Delhi."

Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that they always asserted that the library was in a financial crisis which could only be solved with a grant from govt. "We welcome the release of the five-month salaries of employees. But instead of these piecemeal efforts, Delhi govt should give a one-time grant to the library to totally pay its debts, ensure proper upkeep of its heritage building and further expand it," he said.

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The main talk will be delivered by Smt. Joyati Kapur, Founder Working President and Sri Shantanu Kapur, Founder Member and Senior Advisor. Smt Joyati Kapur and Sri Shantanu Kapur are the oldest, closest disciples of Venerable Gurudeva Mahamahopadhyaya Yogacharya Dr. Ashoke Kumar Chatterjee. They have been able to glean the most subtle aspects of Kriyayoga through their Kriyayoga sadhana of 35 years and their close proximity to Venerable Gurudeva.

The talks will be followed by a Q&A session.

Date : February 16, 2024
Time : 6 pm to 9 pm

Venue : Multipurpose Hall, India International Centre, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi


Please contact for further details: 9833658167 / 9833883838

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Woman beats up 13-yr-old boy

New Delhi: A 52-year-old woman who runs an NGO for street dogs has been arrested for allegedly beating a 13-year-old boy who was riding a bicycle near her house in Safdarjung Enclave. The woman allegedly grabbed the boy by his neck and forcefully took him inside her house and slapped him. In the melee, a dog also bit the boy, police said.


The accused was identified as Anusheh Hussain. The incident happened on Feb 10. The child alleged in the complaint that the woman made the dog bite him. A case was filed under sections 289 (negligent conduct with respect to animals), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 337 (causing hurt by an act endangering the life or personal safety of others) of the IPC. TNN



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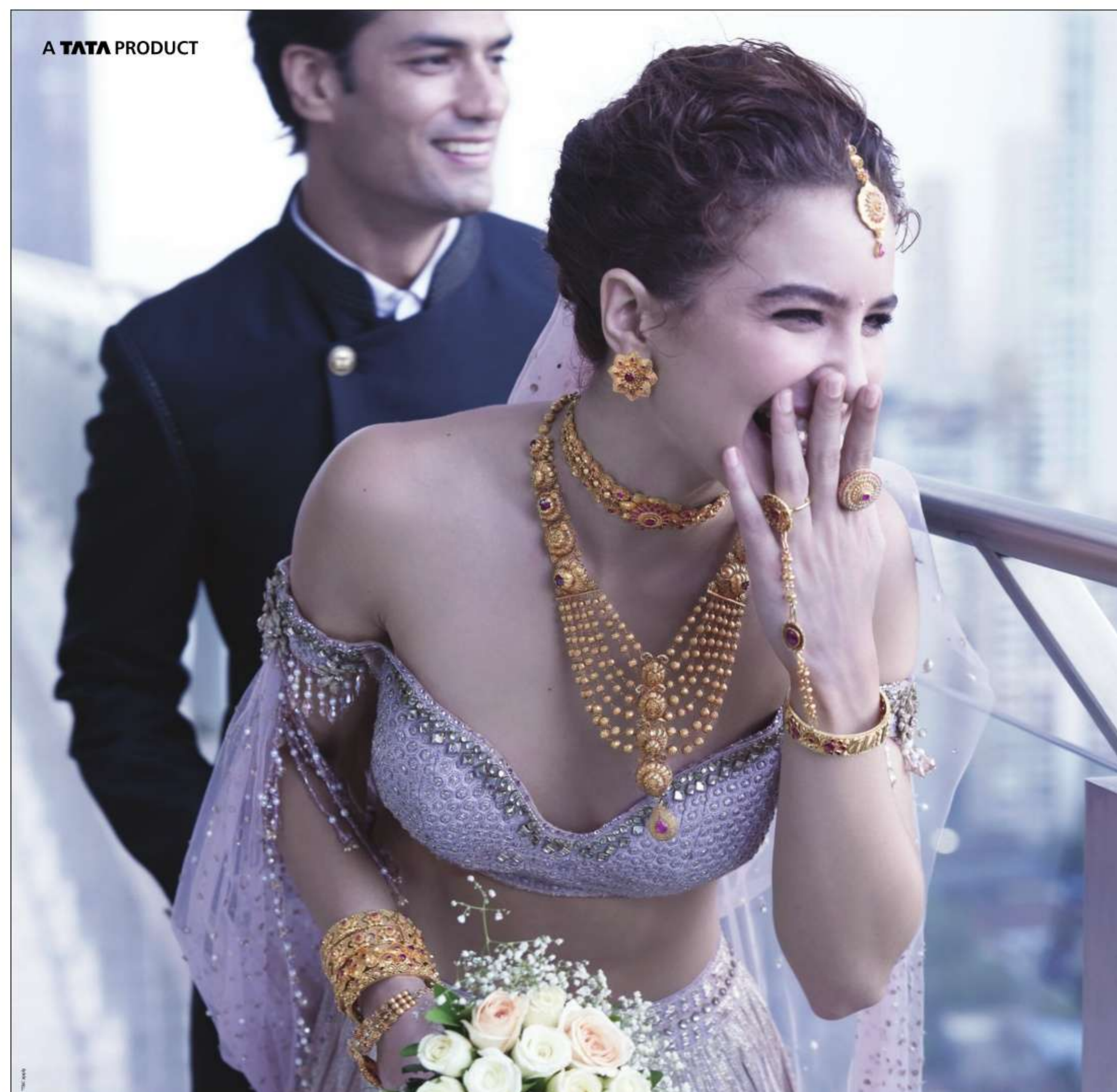
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Singhu border

Near Tikri border

Photos: Tarun Rawat, Piyal Bhattacharjee

Jams Ease, Not Anxiety, At Fortified Borders

Worried Parents Urge Edu Boards To Move Exam Centres

Barriers beefed up, ambulances no longer permitted to pass through

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Noida/Ghaziabad/Gurgaon: After two days of jams, traffic flow was largely smooth through Delhi's main borders with Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurgaon at UP Gate, Chilla, Kalindi Kunj and Sirhaul as restrictions were eased by police and more lanes were opened.

On Monday and Tuesday, the stringent curbs that were imposed — even as the protesting group of farmers were nowhere near Delhi — annoyed commuters as long delays on roads threw schedules haywire.

While NH-9 at UP Gate continued to remain closed for traffic for the third day, forcing off-goers and other commuters to take detours via Khora Colony, Mayur Vihar Phase 3, Kaushambi and Vaishali to reach the capital, strict checks at the border's flyover through which traffic is currently allowed — led to a jam in the morning rush hour, though not as long as the previous two days.

Sanchit Sharma, a resident of Ghaziabad's Vijay Nagar headed to central Delhi for work, said he was stuck near the UP Gate flyover for nearly 15 minutes as cops continued to check vehicles and allowed only two cars to pass at a time. About 50% of the flyover remained heavily barricaded today as well, he said.

Traffic police inspector (Indrapuram) Santosh Singh said, "Due to Basant Panchami, the traffic volume was relatively low today. Movement eased after barricades were removed from the Anand Vihar side of the flyover," he added.

Lawyer Ashish Kumar, a resident of Supertech Icon in Indrapuram, said the barricades at the border brought back the memories of the year-long farm stir three years ago. "We bore the brunt of the blockade then as UP Gate remained sealed for nearly 13 months. With a fresh farm agitation brewing at the borders, people

like me, who have to travel to the capital regularly, are worried about a 2020-21 rerun," he said.

With board exams around the corner, several parents have urged the education boards to reallocate exam centres away from the border areas. Vikas Bansal, father to two girls studying in classes 7 and 11 at Apeejay School near Noida's Film City, said should the talks with farmers fail, he would prefer online classes for his daughters. "The safety of children is of utmost importance to us. While their school was shut on Feb 8 when the prohibitory orders were imposed ahead of the farmers' march to Parliament call, we would expect them to hold on-line classes if there are further traffic disruptions due to the farmer's protest," Bansal said.

In Noida, traffic breezed through the DND on Wednesday as Delhi Police opened more lanes. At Kalindi Kunj, traffic continued to remain restricted to two lanes towards Delhi leading traffic to snarls, especially during rush hours. No snarls were reported at the Chilla border.

Commuters travelling from Gurgaon to Delhi, who were stuck in tailbacks for hours at Rajokri on Tuesday due to barricading on the expressway, also heaved a sigh of relief as traffic flow remained relatively smooth on the arterial road on Wednesday. "No traffic problems were reported on Wednesday in Gurgaon due to security arrangements made in connection with the farmer's protest," DCP traffic Virender Vij said.

The Old Delhi highway and MG Road, two other important link roads, also did not report any snarls. In Faridabad, police issued a traffic advisory urging vehicles moving towards Delhi to take a left turn from NH-19 to reach the Prahladpur border via Ankeer Chowk and Surajkund Road. Commuters from Noida and Delhi to Faridabad were advised to use Kalindi Kunj Canal Road and New Sehatur Bridge to reach Faridabad through the Bypass Road.

While there were no traffic restrictions in Gurgaon, commuters like Rashi Sharma, an MNC executive in Cyber City,

are worried about how things might pan out in the coming days. "Since many people have switched to working from home for the past couple of days, there is relatively less traffic on roads. However, my firm will not allow an additional work-from-home option and has asked us to come to the office from Thursday. The authorities need to get this stalemate resolved at the earliest so that the common man is not inconvenienced," she said.

Rupesh Verma, GB Nagar district president of All India Kisan Sabha, told TOI that the farmers will wait till Feb 18 for the formation of a high-level committee to study farmers' issues and take necessary measures thereafter. "We are also networking in villages to mobilise people for a Feb 16 protest in Greater Noida," he said.

The multi-tier barricading and police deployment, meanwhile, remained in full force at the borders as the Punjab farmers tried to advance towards Delhi, but blockades set up by Haryana Police held them back.

Kushagra.Dixit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The fortifications at Singhu border were reinforced on Wednesday with the authorities completely sealing the passages. While on Tuesday, a passage had been kept open for ambulances, on Wednesday, even this was closed to prevent farmers from breaking through the fortified border. The roads at Singhu, the gateway to Punjab and Haryana, were sealed with boulders and concrete and an additional tier of metal barricades.

The signboard saying "Welcome to Delhi" on NH-44 was taken down, apparently because police think boards like these will prove impediments if they have to resort to firing teargas shells. Police signage warning people in Gurmukhi script about strict action against any violation of Section 144 CrPC were put up. These arrangements continued to hamper the free movement of daily commuters. Among those especially affected were patients and their attendants in ambulances that were turned back and had to search for alternative routes.

An ambulance operator told TOI, "The patient was critical and needed immediate medical attention due to acute kidney failure and acute respiratory distress syndrome. We were shocked to be turned back at Singhu border. Police suggested we take some other routes to reach Delhi, one of which passed through Kondli village. However, the detour meant reaching AIIMS took an additional hour and a half. Even there, we were asked to approach Gangaram Hospital. Luckily, the patient survived the long journey because the ambulance was equipped with a ventilator and syringe pump. But we couldn't help seeing whether the patient was breathing or not."

Several motorists coming

Photos: Tarun Rawat



to Delhi from Haryana in personal vehicles were seen inquiring about access with the cops and perplexed local residents. Several people could be seen carrying their luggage and crossing the border into Delhi on foot. On Wednesday, the narrow pedestrian passage had been further shrunk by the placement of earthmovers and concrete hurdles on the road.

Later, Haryana Police assured that they would include di-

version routes in their traffic plans to ensure that emergency services were not hindered. B Satheesh Balan, police commissioner, Sonapat, said, "We are adding an alternative route from Kondli Industrial Area which will be updated in our traffic plan." Balan affirmed that the protesting farmers would be restricted to the border between Punjab and Haryana at Shambhu.

"Here in Singhu, we are coordinating with Delhi Police.

We are actually playing a complementary roll in the security arrangements," said Balan. "I don't think the farmers will be able to reach here and will be handled at Shambhu border. There are five districts between Ambala and here and we have put up similar barricades and gathered police personnel from two districts for posting at each of the five cities on the way."

Meanwhile, the cops were seen marshalling autorickshaws on the other side of Singhu border to meet the needs of people coming from Delhi. Many people could also be seen waiting to pick up their families at the border.

"It looks like Wagah border... as if we are on the India-Pakistan border," commented Kaniska, a Class V student who crossed into Haryana from Delhi on foot with his twin brother, Karun, and his mother. The boy seemed overawed by the sight of barbed wires and the milling cops and paramilitary personnel there.



A commuter says he was stuck near the UP Gate flyover for 15 minutes as cops allowed two cars at a time

Rajesh Mehta

Entry of goods vehicles restricted, brace for rise in retail prices of veggies, fruits

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The supply of vegetables, fruits and other essentials may get affected in the capital causing an increase in retail prices due to restrictions on the entry of vehicles after security agencies sealed the state borders in the wake of the ongoing farmers' protest.

Traders associations, on the other hand, claimed that there was 75% fall in the number of customers coming from NCR towns to various malls and markets in the capital due to the sealing of borders and traffic jams.

The vegetable and fruit dealers at Azadpur Mandi said that although no impact was seen on the arrival of goods, they feared that the supplies would shrink if the protest continued for long. Being the largest fruit and vegetable mandi in Asia and a redistribution point, Azadpur witnesses the arrival of hundreds of big and medium-sized vehicles every day carrying nearly 12,000 tonnes of goods.

Anil Malhotra, the general secretary of Azadpur Vegetable Dealers Association, said that till now there was busi-

ness as usual at the mandi.

"I don't see the supplies getting affected and rates surging north due to the protest. There could be some delay in the vehicles reaching their destination as the roads are closed at the border but the supplies are not short," Malhotra said, adding that even the protesting farmers would not like the produce spoils due to non-supply.

Rajveer Singh, a fruit wholesaler operating from Ghazipur Mandi, said that he noticed the delay in the arrival of trucks carrying green vegetables. The fruit and vegetable mandi of Ghazipur is just next to the Delhi Gate border.

"There is no change in the wholesale prices as of now but some retailers may have jacked up the rates artificially," Singh said.

The Chamber of Industry and Trade (CTI), a traders' body, said that business in most markets of the capital had fallen due to the restriction in the movement of vehicles.

According to the CTI members, around 3 lakh people visit Delhi's markets from the NCR towns — Gurgaon, Farida-

bad, Noida, Ghaziabad, Loni, Sonapat and others — for shopping.

"On the occasion of Basant Panchami, footfall at marriages were also affected as 200 resorts, hotels and banquets located on the state borders and people had a tough time reaching these places. About 40,000 marriages took place in the city on Wednesday. The wedding season will continue and in given circumstances, traffic jams will only multiply in the city," Brijesh Goyal, chairman of CTI, said.

Subhash Khandelwal, the president of CTI, said that a huge number of customers in Delhi's markets were coming from Sonapat, Panipat, Rewari, Bahadurgarh, Naraul, Gurgaon, Bawal, Noida, Faridabad and Ghaziabad every day.

"But due to the farmers' movement, their numbers have suddenly decreased in the last two days. Not just that, more than 15,000 commercial vehicles stopped to enter Delhi and more than 25,000 commercial vehicles are stuck in Delhi. This will affect the supply of goods in the coming days," Khandelwal said.

3 L
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2 men open fire at shop for electronic items in Jafrabad mkt, none hurt

New Delhi: Two men allegedly opened fire at a shop in Jafrabad area of northeast district on Wednesday. Police received information at 4.22pm about the incident at the LED market in Maujpur. The complainant, Muzamil (21), told police that he runs a shop selling second-hand electronic items. "At around 4.20pm, two people came to my shop and opened fire. One bullet hit an LED screen and the other a washing machine. They fled on a motorcycle afterwards. No one was injured in the firing," a police officer said. Cops were scanning CCTV cameras' footage to ascertain the sequence of events. TNN

Earnings dip, traders at Tikri up in arms even before farmers arrive

Ashresh Marupaka & Siddhivi Singh | TNN

New Delhi: Rajesh used to earn Rs 1,200 on a usual day plying his autorickshaw at Tikri border. In the last two days, he has barely made Rs 200 per day. He is not alone. Other auto drivers, shopkeepers and businesses at Tikri border have all seen their income dipping in the wake of the protest by farmers.

The anxiety is so high that while the farmers are yet to begin their protest, the local industry body has already been protesting against the blockades and restrictions put up at the border. Even without the protesting farmers, the main road connecting the town of Bahadurgarh in Haryana with Mundka in Delhi has been sealed. Overnight, the barricades on the Delhi side were fortified in a flurry of activities that evoked images from a high-octane action film. Amid the dust and debris, pedestrians navigated through small openings in the layers of barricades.

The blockade erected on Tuesday in front of JJ Hospital in Bahadurgarh was supplemented on Wednesday by barricades on the Delhi side. This created a buffer zone between Haryana and Delhi with concrete slabs, metal barricades, concertina wires and shipping containers on either side. Saurav, 21, had been hired to pour in the cement mixture between prefabricated slabs to create solid barriers. "We are a team of six and

were summoned overnight to put up the barricades. The barricade is 7ft wide as per the instructions of the junior engineer," said Saurav.

Local sanitation worker Manoj lifted stones strewn across a footpath to fill the gap between the cement slabs. "We're gathering bricks, stones, any debris from the road and placing them in the pit to fortify its structure," explained Manoj. A cement plant dispatched nearly 15 loads of concrete in trucks for both

the road blockades. The 7ft cement border is virtually impenetrable. It will take heavy duty drilling machines at least three days to break through the barricade, claimed a worker, who like the others, is being paid Rs 500 daily for his labour. The barricade has a PA system that can be heard up to 1.5km.

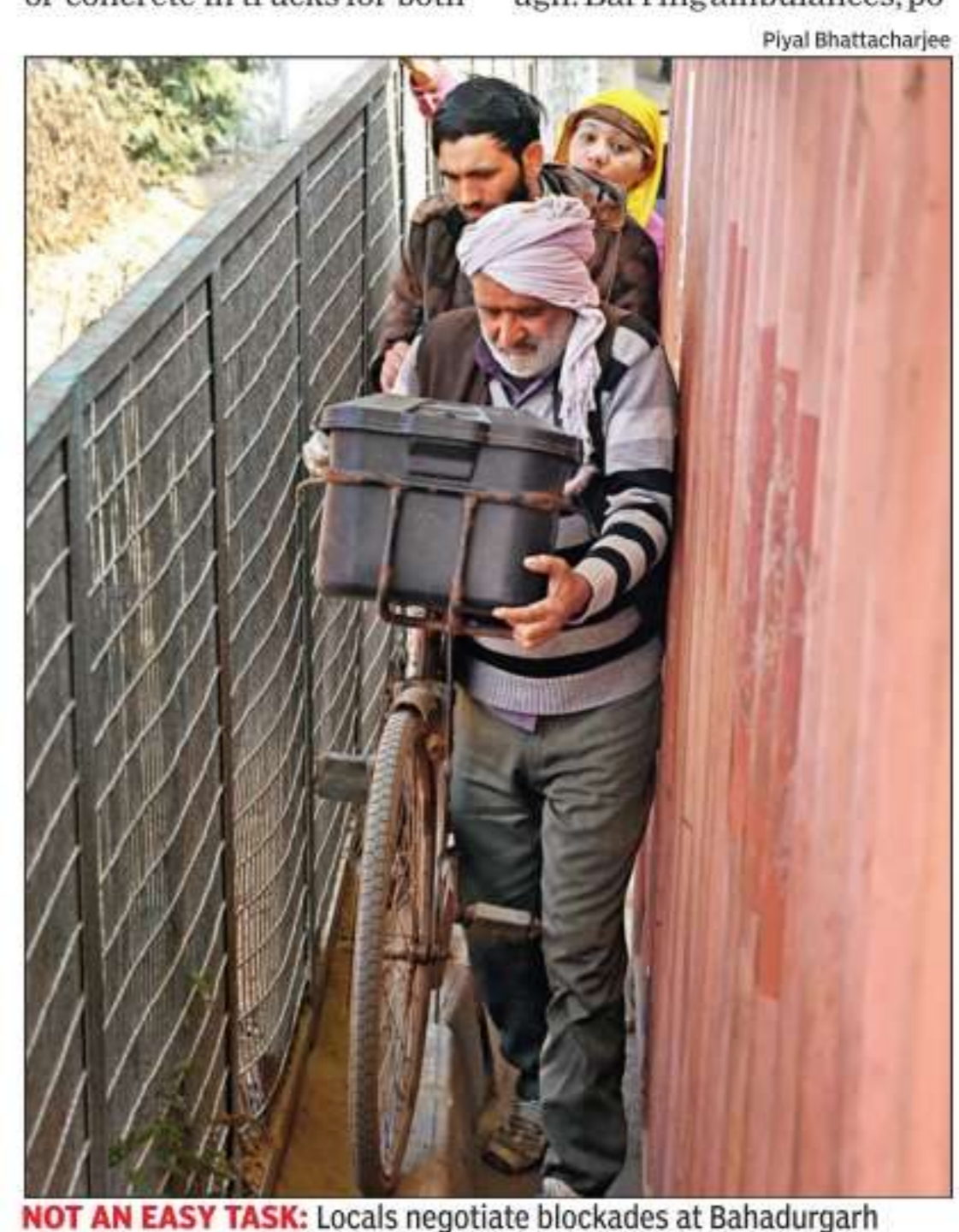
In the cramped space between these fortified structures, residents struggled to manoeuvre their way through. Barring ambulances, po-

lice have cut off all access to civilian traffic on the stretch. During the day, a 3-ft gap was left open for pedestrians to cross the border, but this was subsequently shut. People who reside in the area and those who wished to pass through for work were instructed by Delhi Traffic Police to take diversions to reach their destinations.

Looking anxiously as police set up a five-layered barricade near the Tikri border metro station, Parvesh, a juice shop owner, wondered if he'd have to shut shop as he had during the 2020-21 farm protests. The nightmare of financial losses hangs heavy over Parvesh and many others as the police arrangements outside their shops have blocked potential customers too.

Tea seller Kishan Kumar was an exception, finding new customers among the security personnel. "I am happy that my business is booming," he beamed.

Meanwhile, auto drivers were distressed by the loss of income. Scanning the road for potential passengers, Rajesh voiced his frustration: "My savings have taken a significant hit. During the previous protest, at least we could use one route. This time, everything has been blocked. I make around Rs 1,200 daily, but in the past couple of days have been lucky to go home with Rs 200." Rajesh also claimed that a usual five-minute trip to Bahadurgarh now took nearly 45 minutes due to the congested back roads.



NOT AN EASY TASK: Locals negotiate blockades at Bahadurgarh

Piyal Bhattacharjee



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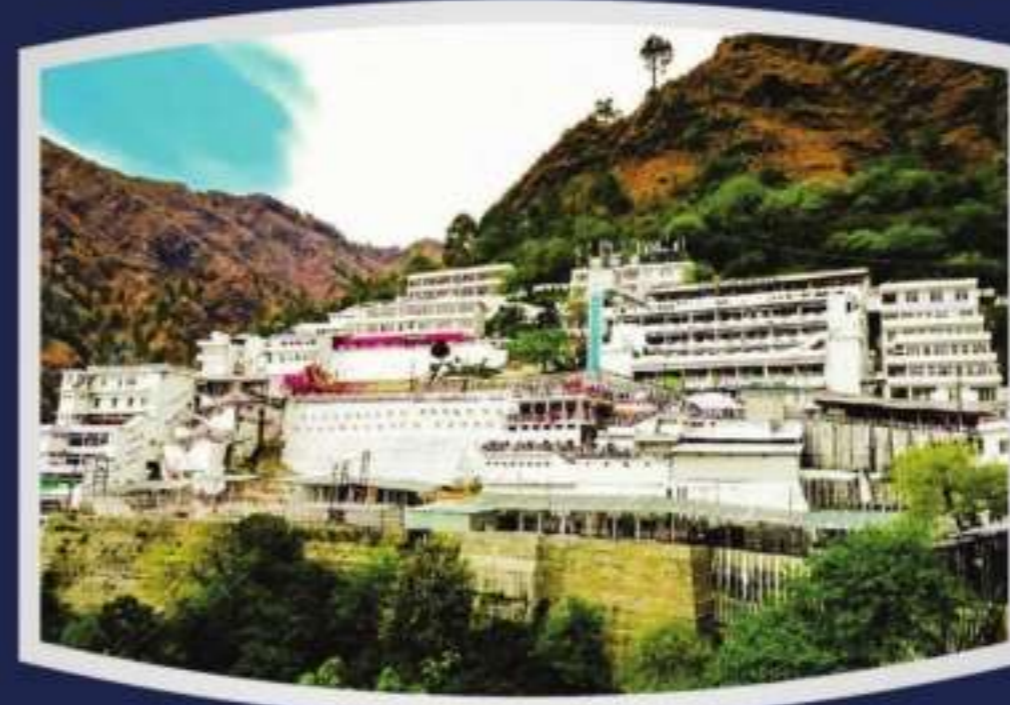
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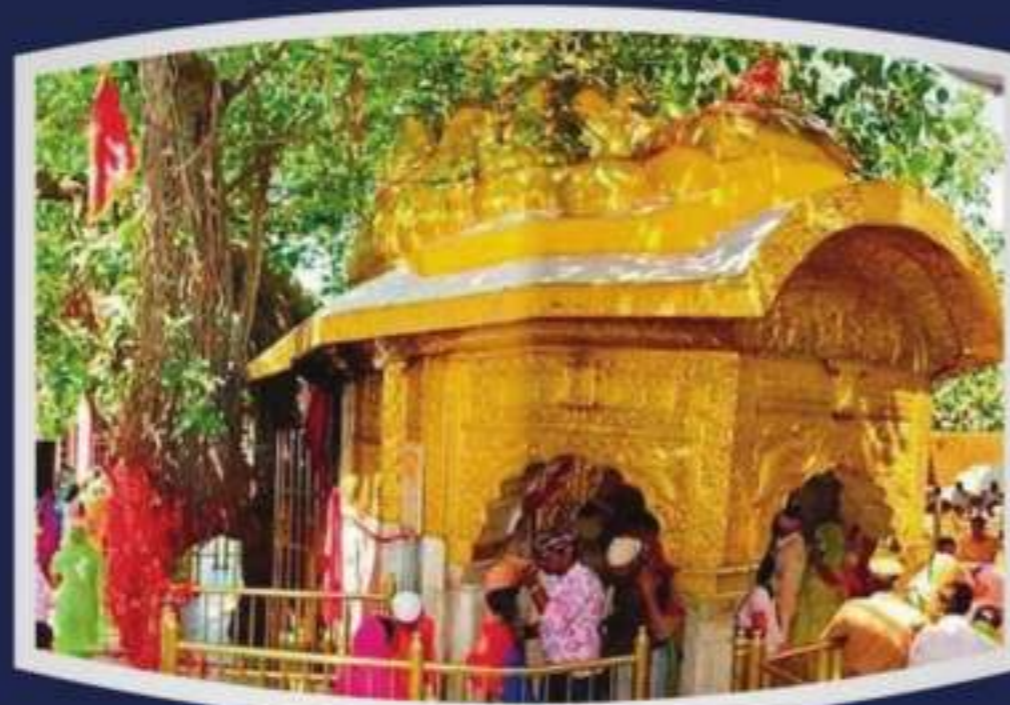
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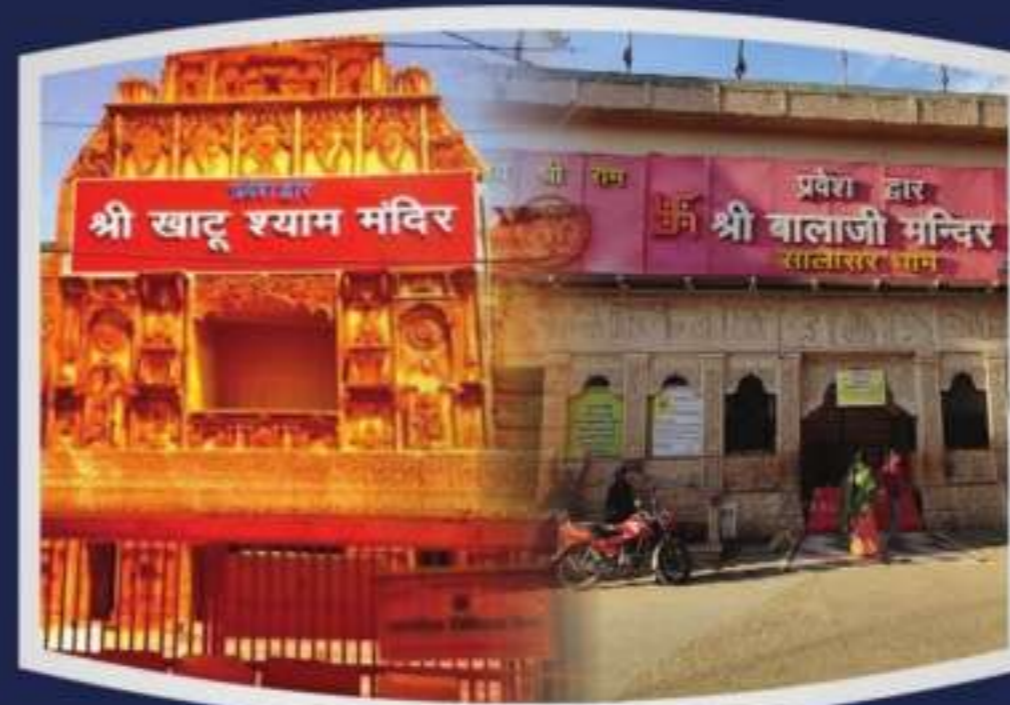
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Wait Game: Stand-By For Traffic Continues

Office-Goers Crossing Borders Worst Affected

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Travelling continued to be impacted on Wednesday due to heavy police deployment and barricading of roads. At the most vulnerable locations near the borders, there were several security layers, including barbed wires, tyre killers, concrete blocks and blockades made with shipping containers.

Motorists travelling from Noida to Delhi were advised to take alternative routes. "Due to picketing/checking on DND Flyway, traffic is heavy on both the carriageways of the flyway. Commuters from Noida to Delhi and vice-versa are advised to take alternative routes like Chilla border route," Delhi Police posted on X. Only two lanes were open for vehicles on the flyway.

Office-goers, especially those coming from or going towards the border areas, were the worst affected on Wednesday. Richa Malhotra, a resident of Noida, said that she had to go to south Delhi for a work-related assignment in the morning but was stuck on the DND Flyway and wasn't able to reach her destination on time.

Police closed access to Singhu border on NH-44 to traffic. "Inter-state buses and



CHOCK-A-BLOCK

commercial trucks going to Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh will take a diversion on Outer Ring Road at Majnu Ka Tilla to proceed towards Signature Bridge to Khajuri Chowk through Loni Border towards Eastern Peripheral Road," a traffic advisory read.

It added, "Only DTC buses, cars and four-wheelers allowed from Mukarba Chowk towards NH-44 to take exit No. 2 on NH-44 at DSIDC cut towards Narela and Safiabab border." The stretch from Lohi Mandi to Mayapuri, Outer Ring Road, KN Katju Marg, Paschim Vihar, Netaji Subhash Place, Mukarba Chowk and Rohini were affected. Only two lanes of NH-9 and one of NH-24 at Ghazipur border were open for vehicles.

Nivedita, who uses Outer

Ring Road daily, said that for the past two days, traffic on the artery had been moving at the speed of ants. "While driving to Paschim Vihar around the afternoon, traffic movement had gone completely haywire," she said. "There were erratic manoeuvres towards service lanes while two-wheelers resorted to driving into oncoming traffic or taking a turn in the middle of the road. Driving was indeed a task today."

She added, "For the past two days, I have been facing congestion hassles while travelling to east Delhi. Nowadays, even on the days I take the Delhi Metro, the e-rickshaw I take to office gets trapped in traffic. There is no escape!"

While no major traffic snarls were reported in central and south Delhi today and movement was smoother than on Tuesday, diversions were made on the route to the borders at Tikri, Dhansa and Jharoda. The traffic advisory said, "Commuters going towards Bahadurgarh, Rohtak, Jhajjar, Gurgaon, etc., via Rohtak Road, Najafgarh-Jharoda Road & Najafgarh-Dhansa Road are advised to use Najafgarh-Nangloi Road from Nangloi Chowk, Najafgarh-Daurala Road from Najafgarh and Najafgarh-Chhawla Road from Najafgarh."

Up and onwards: With 71.1 lakh passenger journeys, Delhi Metro breaks previous best

Priyangi Agarwal @timesgroup.com

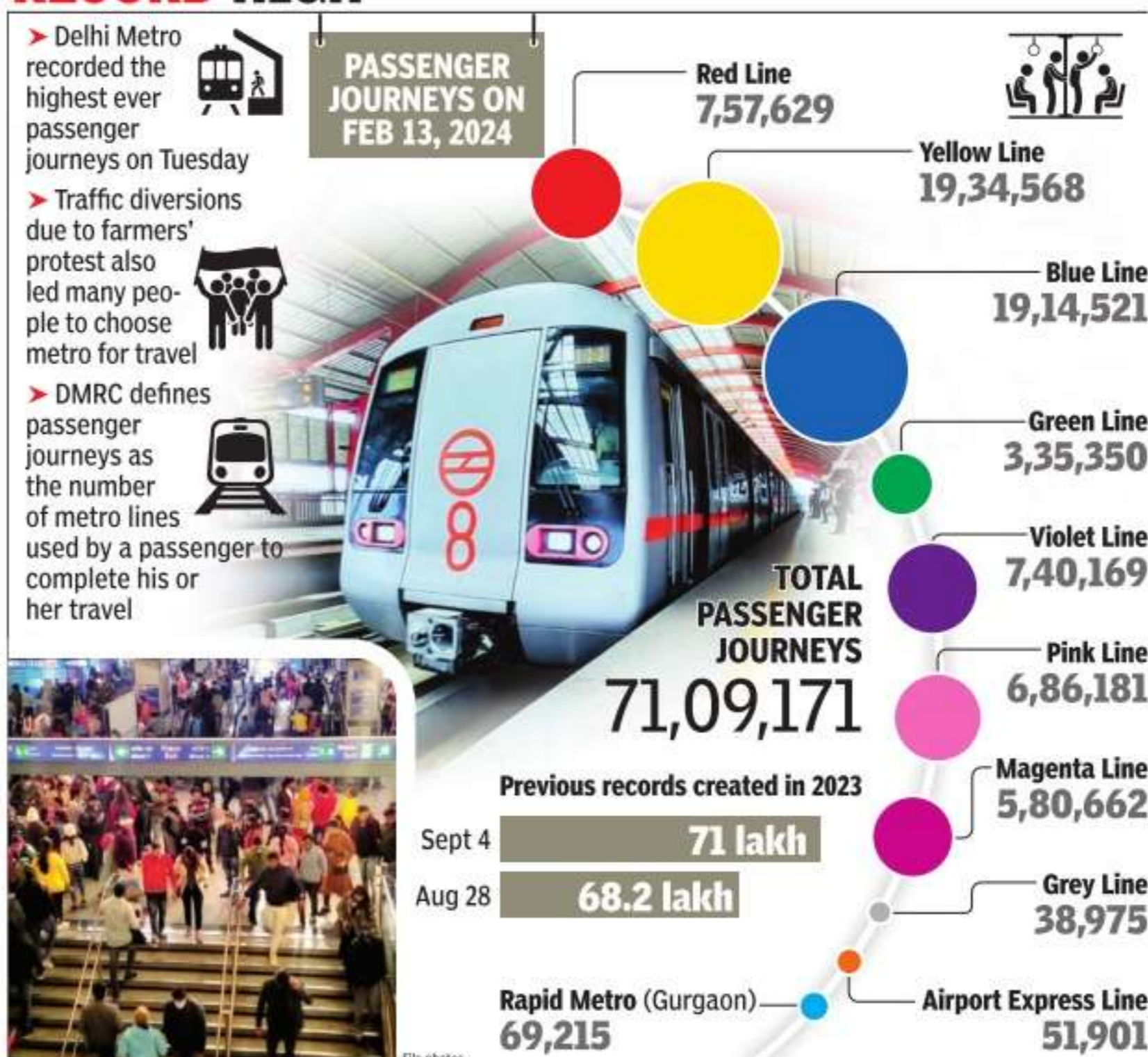
New Delhi: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Tuesday recorded its highest passenger journeys at 71.09 lakh, beating the previous record of 71.03 lakh created in Sept last year. Many people opted for Delhi Metro and kept their vehicles at home due to traffic diversions for the farmers' protest.

In contrast, 70.87 lakh passenger journeys were recorded on Monday. In comparison to Sept 4, 2023, when the previous record of 71.03 lakh passenger journeys was created, DMRC registered an additional 60,000 passenger journeys on Tuesday.

DMRC defines passenger journey as the number of Metro cards used by a passenger to complete his or her journey. However, ridership data includes total tickets sold and Metro cards used by commuters to exit a station. Delhi Metro used to calculate passenger ridership till 2018, but it started coming up with passenger journeys from 2019.

Anuj Dayal, principal executive director, corporate communications, DMRC, said, "DMRC registered its highest passenger journeys on Feb 13, 2024, with 71.09 lakh journeys being performed in the network. This faith shown by the passengers makes DMRC a major mass transit backbone of NCR.

RECORD HIGH



Delhi Metro is continuously working towards further improving the overall commuting experience of the passengers and would like to thank the passengers for their patronage and support.

"Delhi Metro is an environment-friendly system. When more passengers prefer the Metro over their private vehicles, there is a reduction in vehicular emissions, which helps in improving the air quality of the city and its peripheries," added Dayal.

Many commuters said they chose the Metro to avoid the chaos on roads due to the farmers' protest. Ankita, who resides in Noida, said, "I usually take a cab to reach my office at Mandi House. However, since I wanted to avoid

traffic jams, I have been taking the Metro since Tuesday to ensure that I reach the office on time."

Another commuter said since there are traffic diversions in place due to farmers' protest, he has been opting for the Metro, which is comfortable and safe public transport.

DMRC data shows that of the total 71.09 lakh passenger journeys recorded on Tuesday, the maximum rush was witnessed in Yellow Line, which saw 19.34 lakh passenger journeys. It was followed by Blue Line, which reported 19.14 lakh passenger journeys, and Red Line at 7.57 lakh passenger journeys. Yellow and Blue Lines are the busiest lines in the DMRC network.

In 2023, DMRC had recorded 2,032,342,972 (over 2 billion) passenger journeys, making it the highest ever passenger trips recorded in a year. Delhi Metro witnessed a major reduction in footfall following the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020 and the subsequent waves. Services were suspended from March 22, 2020 to Sept 6, 2020 and from May 10, 2021 to June 6, 2021.

Metro trains operated with reduced capacity for nearly two years and started functioning with 100% seating and standing capacity since 2022. TOI had earlier reported that Delhi Metro has surpassed its pre-Covid passenger journeys on a consistent basis from 2023 onwards.

Passengers wait for hours as bus services affected

Abhinav Rajput @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: ISBT Kashmir Gate saw much thinner crowds on Wednesday as several roadways buses going to Punjab, Haryana and parts of Himachal Pradesh were cancelled, giving a tough time to passengers.

Bus services from other states have been disrupted for the past two days due to several diversions and road blockages put in place to stop farmers from entering Delhi, said a senior official.

The worst affected were those going to Punjab and Haryana. A staff at ISBT said over 300 roadways buses go to each of the two state daily, but now, over 70% have been cancelled. The numbers are expected to decrease further

Serving as a crucial transportation hub, ISBT facilitates bus services, connecting Delhi with various states in north India. Over 1,800 buses ply every day from the terminal to Jammu, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab and UP. Of these, over 700 go to Punjab and Haryana alone due to their proximity to Delhi and better road connectivity. Officials said nearly 70% of these were cancelled in the past 24 hours.

Those who came to go to Punjab, Haryana and Himachal had to wait long hours or return as operators suggested trains would be a better option. There were disruptions in bus services to Jammu too.

While over 100 buses operate on the Himachal route usually, the number

has reduced by half in the past two days, an official said, adding, "On Tuesday, the buses coming from Himachal reached Delhi after 4pm when they should have reached by noon."

The worst affected were those going to Punjab and Haryana. A staff at ISBT said over 300 roadways buses go to each of the two state daily, but now, over 70% have been cancelled. The numbers are expected to decrease further. "Drivers had to take several detours and some were asked to return. Even if the buses manage to leave Delhi, they are not able to return," the official said. "There used to be over 350 buses for Haryana, but the number was down to just 50 on Wednesday, he added. For Himachal, the number of buses has reduced to 50 from the usual 120. Services to UP and Uttarakhand, however, were not disturbed, the official said.

Mamta, who took a roadways bus from Hisar, said, "It took nine hours to cover the distance. Usually, it doesn't take more than 4.5 hours."

A bus conductor at the terminal said, "Services for Ambala are mostly cancelled. We have some buses going to Chandigarh, but they are also going via Loni to Panchkula instead of Ambala."

Shyam Shukla, who had to go to Kurukshetra, said, "I have been waiting for two hours. They are now saying that no bus is going to Kurukshetra. Instead, there is a bus to Panipat. From there, I will have to arrange some other means of transport."

On Tuesday, buses had to drop their passengers at the Singhu border, from where they had to walk for over a kilometre with their baggage and arrange transport again.

Board exams: CBSE advises using metro

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) examinations for classes X and XII will start on Thursday, Feb 15 and students are instructed to reach their examination centres on or before 10 am.

"Due to the prevailing situation in Delhi, it is expected that there will be traffic related problems which may cause delays in reaching the examination centre. Therefore, all students are advised to leave their homes early so that they can reach on time as per the instructions issued by CBSE," an advisory released by CBSE on Wednesday stated.

The board advised all students to use Delhi Metro services to reach the examination centres. "Only those students will be allowed entry who enter the examination centre by 10 am. After this, no student will be allowed," the advisory added. 5,80,192 students will appear for the boards from 877 examination centres in Delhi. All schools are requested to help and guide parents and students, the advisory added.

CBSE has alerted the general public against certain unscrupulous elements that may spread rumours on social media platforms about paper leaks. **TNN**



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Gangster Sidhana at protest site, cops go on alert in city

Raj Shekhar Jha & Abhay | TNN

New Delhi: Delhi Police have gone on alert after receiving intelligence that gangster-turned-radical Lakha Sidhana was spotted around the protest site in Haryana, allegedly inciting the farmer groups to break the barricades. Officers said on Wednesday that they had received videos on Facebook featuring him trying to mobilise the farmers and instigating them to commit violence and use JCBs to break through the barriers. The cops have shared the videos with their counterparts in Haryana.

Police will not risk Sidhana being on the loose, given their experience with him in the 2020-21 protests. Sidhana, the cop said, was accused of getting anti-social elements to mix with the protesters, which had then led to violence. Police suspect Sidhana is planning to take the place of the deceased Deep Sidhu.

Sidhana's name had cropped up in the case of violence at Red Fort on Jan 26, 2021. A resident of Bathinda in Punjab, Sidhana was once a big name in the crime world. Later, he plunged into politics. He was also a kabaddi player. Last week, Sidhana was booked by Punjab Police for damaging police vehicles and attacking a policeman in a separate case.

Following inputs about possible violence, the cops have substantially stepped up security at the borders of Delhi. Around 5am on Wednesday, more concrete was poured between the barriers erected at Tikri border. "We have also installed 360-degree PTZ cameras there. It offers pan, tilt, and zoom capabilities.

To enhance nighttime monitoring, night vision cameras have also been installed," the officer said. Dedicated teams have been formed to monitor CCTV cameras from control rooms. They will alert senior officers to any suspicious activity.

Police are also using long range acoustic devices or sound cannons that produce a high-pitch sound causing excruciating pain in the ears, tasers that paralyse people with electricity for a few seconds and flash bangs that blind protesters for some time.

Regarding temporary detention centres, police said that it was usual for all police forces to prepare for temporary holding centres in cases of the need to detain protesters at large gatherings.

PA systems have been installed and the officer said that this would be used to warn the protesters of legal action if they breached the barricades. More personnel have been posted at the smaller borders, including Sabhapur checkpoint, Bhopura, Mandoli Sewa Dham and Chauhan Patti. "We don't want to leave any stone unturned. Should the protesters try to enter the city, we have enough arrangements to stop them at the small borders too," the officer claimed.

Cemented barricades have been fortified with barbed wires. "We have reinforced these barricades with multiple layers of barbed wire. Attempting to forcefully remove these barricades will be impossible and would result in physical injury," the officer said. Within the city, the cops have placed shipping containers, sandbags, buses and JCB machines in central Delhi, New Delhi and south Delhi.



Lakha Sidhana

NDMC Takes Up Repair, Safety Steps For 22 Escalators At CP

Seeks To Complete Project In 7 Weeks, Make All Of Them Operational

Vibha.Sharma
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has taken up repairs and several other measures to ensure 22 escalators linking subways in Connaught Place and adjoining areas become operational again.

Apart from coordinating with local police to check the theft of escalator items, the civic body has deputed security staff in three shifts for 75 days. It has also cleaned the escalators and fixed a time-frame of four to seven weeks for repairs.

"The operation and maintenance agency has been asked to make all escalators operational in a time-bound manner and install the missing parts. Thereafter, in the long term, tasks will be assigned for security, cleaning and sweeping. To ensure there are no thefts again, we have requested police for regular checks," said NDMC vice chairman Satish Upadhyay, who inspected the escalators on Saturday.

"I received repeated complaints that the escalators were



NDMC is coordinating with police to check the theft of escalator items

in a dire and unhygienic state. The inspection revealed 22 escalators connecting to places like Super Bazar, Statesman House, KG Marg and Janpath were not working due to stealing of plates and other accessories. It has caused people inconvenience and many prefer to use zebra crossings instead of the subways," said Upadhyay.

Officials from the electricity, civil, security and other concerned NDMC depart-

ments were instructed to enhance security measures. "It was also observed that the stainless steel gates, aimed to restrict entry to the subways at night, were installed after the escalators. This allowed thieves to steal escalator items easily. Officials have been asked to install the gates before the escalators instead, at the subway entrances," said Upadhyay.

Open or partly damaged escalators have caused a lot of inconvenience to visitors in the past. The lack of guards, moreover, often results in people relieving themselves inside the facilities, rendering them unhygienic and unusable. "We have removed all unwanted people from the subways. The escalators and subways have also been washed and cleaned thoroughly," said an NDMC official.

The council said it had filed at least 50 complaints with police about missing escalator parts. "On Tuesday, three thieves were caught and stolen parts recovered from them. The episode was captured on CCTV cameras. We are keeping a regular check to avoid such incidents in the future," said a Delhi Police official.

Traders called for proper maintenance and safety of subways and escalators. "Two escalators were repaired recently. We hope the council engages trained staff to ensure no theft happens again. Many of the subways in Outer Circle were developed for the 2010 Commonwealth Games," said Atul Bhargava, president, New Delhi Traders Association.

Chief secy flagged 'encroachment by party' on HC land

Abhinav.Garg
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi's chief secretary told a high-profile committee of judges and senior officials in Dec last year that a plot of land in Rouse Avenue is "encroached" and partly under "unauthorised occupation" of a political party.

Minutes of a meeting, held on Dec 12, reveal that the chief secretary told high court judges that "the plot of land measuring 3.036 acres at Rouse Avenue is partly under unauthorised occupation of CPWD and a political party. However, a part of said plot is vacant and can be utilised for construction of 55 courtrooms as part of Phase I of the project."

The meeting was chaired by acting Chief Justice Manojan, Justice Rajiv Shukla and attended by principal secretary (law), principal secretary (PWD), secretary (finance), other officers of Delhi govt, along with land and development officer (L&DO). According to the minutes, later placed before SC in the matter relating to improvement of Delhi's judicial infrastructure, the CS and Suresh Rana, engineer officer, L&DO, assured the committee the portion of the plot at Rouse Avenue on which there is no encroachment will be taken over by govt and delivered by L&DO in a day's time, i.e., by Dec 13, 2023.

The chief secretary submitted that for the vacant portion of the plot, money will be sanctioned, tenders floated and work awarded by mid-March, 2024.

"The CS has assured that the matter shall be taken up with L&DO, ministry of housing and urban affairs, on priority basis to get encroachment removed and obtain the vacant possession of the other portion of the plot at Rouse Avenue as well," the minutes show.

It adds that Rana also assured that the needful will be

done "at the earliest" while the CS added that "once the encroachment on the remaining portion of the land is cleared and vacant possession is taken over by Delhi govt, the tenders for remaining work shall be awarded as early as possible and steps shall be taken to complete the project expeditiously".

The committee then asked L&DO to take steps to ensure that possession of the vacant area available for the Rouse Avenue project is handed over to HC expeditiously. Documents show that over 3 acres of allotted land is contiguous and adjacent to the court complex at DDU Marg where HC plans to erect additional court rooms and lawyers' chambers.

AAP runs its office on the Rouse Avenue plot allotted to

Chief secretary submitted that for the vacant portion of the plot, money will be sanctioned, tenders floated and work awarded by mid-March 2024

Delhi HC. The bungalow was the residence of Delhi's transport minister, but was later taken by the party.

On Tuesday, SC took exception to Delhi govt's inability to remove the office of a political party that had encroached upon the land allotted to Delhi HC and directed that "a specific timeline" be furnished in this regard.

"Specific modalities shall be provided for a composite tender in regard to the implementation of the Rouse Avenue project so that the entirety of the work can proceed in a speedy manner," the SC bench headed by CJI D Y Chandrachud had ordered.

AAP had issued a statement denying allegations of encroachment.

8 e-machines to clean mkts twice a day

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi has procured eight electric machines to keep city's markets clean by doing proper cleaning at least twice a day.

Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Wednesday flagged off these battery-operated litter picker machines which would be used to clean major markets in Delhi as a pilot project. If the project is successful, all Delhi markets will be cleaned through such battery-operated suction machines which are environment friendly, said officials.

Oberoi said that cleaning the city

markets was a big challenge for the MCD which is why a pilot project has been started today wherein these suction machines will be used which will neither raise dust nor cause noise pollution.

"Machine will collect garbage with a capacity of 240 litres. It will have a battery backup of 8 to 10 hours after single charge and has a strong battery capacity of 200 AH. I believe that the biggest responsibility of the corporation is cleanliness and in such crowded areas where there is a lot of traffic, it is difficult for mechanical sweeping machines to move there. Here this machine will be able to collect garbage

twice daily," said the mayor.

Deputy mayor Aaley Mohammad Iqbal said that they have handed over these machines to address sanitation issues in major commercial hubs of Delhi.

BJP Spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor said that the suction machines released on the prototype scooter were used by private sanitation agencies to clean solid stone-laden ground in hospitals, schools, offices, and airports etc. "Such machines are already being used in the cleaning of MCD's Civic Center, but they are entirely inappropriate for Delhi's poor condition roads and streets," added Kapoor.

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Mahesh Kumar Tuli
(30.01.1944 - 13.02.2024)

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Prayer Meeting

Friday, 16th February 2024
At Shri Sathya Sai Auditorium
11:00 am

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Gauri & Sumit Sarin

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Sumona & Sahira

Joginder & Shyama Tuli,
Neelam Kundra, Ravi & Sarita Tuli

ॐ
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THAT IS MY ABODE SUPREME, HAVING GONE TO WHICH THEY (YOGINS) NEVER RETURN.
Shamsher Rathke
21st June 1936 — 13th February 2024

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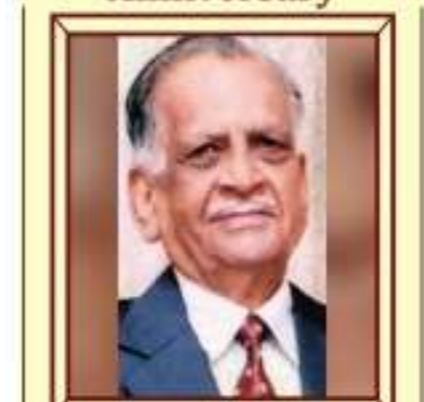
Satish & Rita Gupta
Dolly & Subhash Bindra
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Prayer Meeting
4PM to 5PM, Friday 16th February 2024
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REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES



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REMEMBRANCE SHARING MEMORIES
For any information call
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Bharti visits Patparganj after water, sewer complaints: Delhi Jal Board (DJB) vice-chairperson Somnath Bharti on Wednesday visited Patparganj after receiving complaints related to water and sewers from the local residents. During his visit, the DJB vice-chairman gave directions to officials to fix the sewer problems within a week. This is the second such visit by Bharti in the last few days. Earlier, he visited areas of Nangloi and Punjabi Bagh to

address the problems of choked and overflowing sewers. During his visit to these areas, officials were asked to find a solution in 15 days. According to sources, several complaints had been received by DJB from Patparganj over the past few days. Water minister Atishi recently pointed out an increasing number of complaints due to lack of solutions by DJB. Bharti had visited Patparganj last year also and he found several problems in some of its colonies then. **TNN**

Check all food items in city, HC tells FSSAI

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has asked the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to prepare a plan to test all food products in the city. A bench of acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet PS Arora said the FSSAI must come up with a plan for a food safety audit in Delhi.


"Since FSSAI is the apex body dealing with food safety, this court directs it to prepare a plan for sampling and testing of all food products in Delhi. Let a plan be placed on record. We will get it implemented by the Delhi govt," the bench said.

The HC was hearing a suo motu case initiated in 2010 following a news report on the use of certain pesticides for growing vegetables that can cause serious diseases.

During the hearing, the court asked Delhi govt and FSSAI to inform how much testing is being done in the city and the number of kits available for this purpose and the budget allocated for the same. **TNN**

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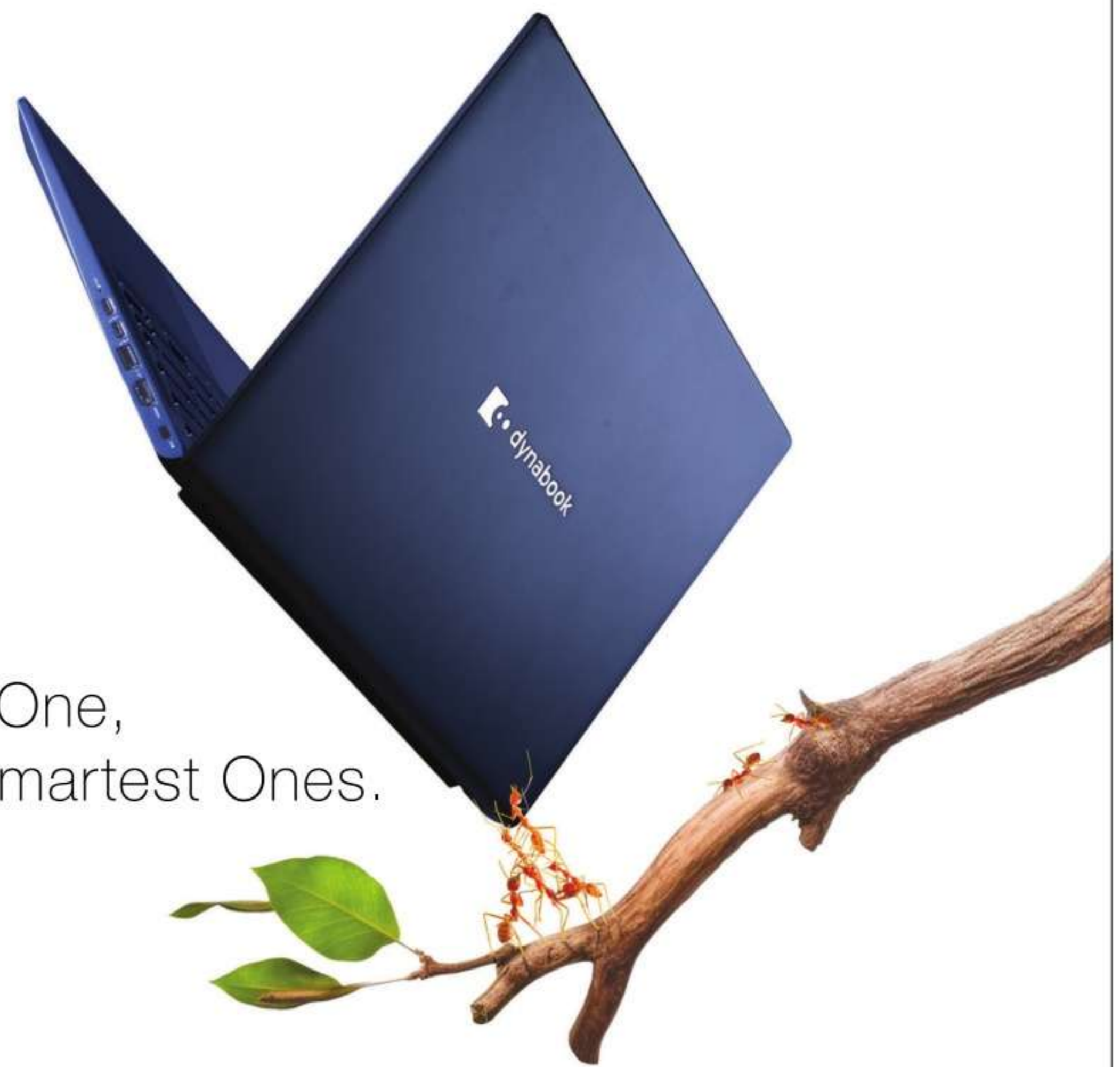


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IALOGUE 2024

TIMES AUTO INITIATIVE

Tech-driven intelligence in new-age cars making consumer rides safer, connected, and intuitive: HARMAN



It will not be unfair to say that the tech industry today is what is steering the journey of the automobile companies into the future. As one talks about 5G-enabled, connected, smarter vehicles that are high on design and sustainability, what comes across clearly is that mobility of the future will be safer, immersive, stylized, and managed through a series of screens, audio systems, and lighting panels that would make the whole experience highly enriching and customizable.

To understand these trends and innovations better, TOI's Pankaj Doval speaks to Armin Prommersberger, one of the world's strongest minds working on connected vehicle technologies and innovations who is a Senior VP for Product Management at HARMAN International.

EXCERPTS: DO YOU ALSO SUBSCRIBE TO THE THEORY THAT THE TECH INDUSTRY IS DRIVING THE FUTURE OF AUTO COMPANIES?

This is an interesting question. As I see it, our role is to enable the auto companies to be back in the driver's seat. We can show what is possible. One of the unique benefits that we get as HARMAN and Samsung is to have so many insights about where the consumer and electronics market is headed for - this year or in the coming years. We can be good counsellors on where data is going. Auto companies, on their part, can create their own expressions.

WHAT IS THE LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT THAT YOU HAVE WITH THE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT TEAMS IN AUTO COMPANIES?

It is extremely deep. We see the companies as partners. We provide the baseline. But what features should go in it, and what UI/UX is required, all this requires collaboration. If I look just five years back, it was a case where the designer did something and thereafter gave it to engineering, and completed the task and gave it back. Now, the designer can work with our products directly.

DO YOU THINK A CAR CONNECTED TO THE INTERNET GRID IS VULNERABLE TO CYBER THREATS?

There are two things that are fundamental to all our experiences. One is safety, and the other is security. HARMAN has been certified by the latest ISO standard for cyber security in auto. Cybersecurity cannot come in later, but rather needs to be embedded. When we define what our products should be, we talk to the OEMs. During that time, we also discuss the latest in cybersecurity and also what we see as threats. Also, we initiate security updates, and can carry out patch on a car at any point in time. We are moving at a very different speed.

BUT DOES ALL THE TECH WIZARDRY ON CARS MAKE THEM EXPENSIVE FOR CONSUMERS?

Well, let's look at displays and their price competitiveness for an example. HARMAN's Neo QLED displays compete with OLED displays in terms of visual performance. And OLED displays are really expensive. Our Neo QLED display, however, gives customers the same experience (of OLED) but at a much lower price point... So, if I can get

'Orchestration of all individual elements requires a lot of intelligence'

Global Sr VP
Armin Prommersberger

visual performance of an OLED, but I pay at least 30-40% less, then I have achieved an amazing customer value at an amazing price point.

EARLIER, PERFORMANCE OF CARS AND HORSEPOWER WERE FACTORS DRIVING SALES. BUT NOW WITH ENHANCED TECH AND ELECTRICS, DO YOU THINK CREATURE COMFORTS ARE BEHIND SALES?

We see the democratisation of acceleration as a driving experience with electric vehicles. Now OEMs are left with less differentiation, except for shape of the car and external design. What we see across all OEMs is that the in-cabin experience is becoming so much important. It's not just about the number of screens but also about the experience when a person drives from point A to point B. I want my journey to be safe, comfortable, and enjoyable as I travel. The world sitting outside cars is getting even more complex and that is why we give ADAS features for safety. So, we promise an out-of-the-world in-cabin experience which makes a customer wonder that why would he or she would even want to leave the car.

AND WITH ALL THESE INNOVATIONS HAPPENING AROUND, IS IT EASY TO SCOOP UP THE BEST TALENT?

Two years ago, for the same question, I would've said that it's 'really, really, really' hard. But now I would at least take out 'really' out from that statement. The market and talent now know what's really happening at Samsung and HARMAN - the products that we are bringing out, the technologies, and their combination. You can work with latest and greatest consumer tech and put that into automotive. In the last 12 months, the game has changed for us, and we see so much of interest for us. We see so much interest in people to join us in super critical domains like AI, machine learning, cyber security, and automotive. We get voluntary applications from people that normally we were trying to hire from the Big Tech companies.

DOES A CONNECTED CAR WITH SCREENS AND TECH MEAN HIGHER SURVEILLANCE ON CONSUMERS?

Sensors are always tracking things for sure, but for our good. Also, the application of AI makes the devices understand context. That's where we are heading. What we are developing today is giving the cars the sensors and the brain to understand how I feel, what I might need, what the world around the car does, and what the world inside the car is. This orchestration of all these individual elements requires a lot of intelligence.

DO YOU WORRY ABOUT RANSOMWARE ATTACKS WHERE ALL DATA MAY BE HELD HOSTAGE?

Cyber security has so many aspects, including ransomware and stealing of private information. You need to think of cybersecurity as a whole - from the edge device to the cloud, and back, including the transmission in between. But here, a lot of Samsung's abilities come into play. We use a lot of intelligence and processes that have been deployed there since decades. This is a whole investment domain for us, the same as data privacy.

HOW MUCH OF WORK IS HAPPENING IN INDIA FOR CUTTING-EDGE TECHNOLOGIES?

Our team in India is about 6,000 people. Literally about 80% of the software work that we do is done in India. India is not just an engineering hub, but also a hub for innovation. We were lucky to start in India very early. To us, our India teams are deeply integrated, who are drivers of our software development. We are hiring more in India.

Safer, connected, and entertained on the road

Connected mobility benefits set to expand manifold as car-occupant interactions get thicker: MG Motor



MG Motor is perhaps the first car company in India that build its sales and convenience pitch around connectivity with its much-famous 'Internet Inside' tagline. The company today offers a suite of intelligent connectivity features across its product range, and promises that the car-customer interactions are only going to get stronger over the coming years to offer a safer, connected, and entertaining eco-system to the occupants. TOI's Pankaj Doval speaks to MG Motor India Deputy MD Gaurav Gupta to understand the pitch around connectivity.

EXCERPTS: MG STARTED ITS OPERATIONS IN INDIA ON THE PLANK OF 'INTERNET INSIDE' IN ITS CARS. DOES A CONNECTED VEHICLE TALK TO THE OCCUPANTS?

MG Motor has always been committed to providing its customers with the best-in-class connected car technology and we have democratized connected-car technology in India. Connected cars have become significantly popular and customers today expect their vehicles to connect to their existing digital world,

making their driving experience safer, more comfortable, and even more entertaining.

Our connected technology integrates itself seamlessly into the lives of our customers with meaningful touches. We had launched MG Hector-India's first Internet car and the concept of 'Internet Inside'. It comes with an embedded Machine-to-Machine SIM card from Reliance Jio that makes the car 5G ready. Its voice assistant gets activated by saying "Hello MG" and understands over 100 voice commands, takes Hinglish commands and recognizes your voice too. Our 'Hello Jio' voice assistant (designed in partnership with Jio) is trained to understand native Indian speakers with diverse regional dialects and tonality.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS THAT A CUSTOMER GETS FROM A CONNECTED VEHICLE WHEN IT COMES TO SAFETY PARAMETERS?

Connected vehicles provide real-time monitoring and alerts for issues like vehicle diagnostics, maintenance requirements, and potential breakdowns. A great example from our portfolio is the connected technological innovation in the MG Hector. It comes with a first-in-segment Digital Bluetooth Key and Key Sharing capability. In case of an emergency or loss of a key, the Digital Key can be used to lock, unlock, start, and drive the vehicle. It also gets E-Call emergency response system that alerts Pulse Hub, which is the company's dedicated 24x7 customer management center in case of an accident. When the airbags are deployed, e-call is activated

and a text message is sent to the Pulse Hub along with the location of the car. Also, a text message is sent to the registered emergency contact numbers to notify the respective people about the mishap.

Other features such as the intelligent Traffic Jam Assist (TJA) and Auto Turn Indicators deliver complete peace of mind, safety, and comfort to customers. We also have features such as Anti-Theft Immobilisation, Low-Battery Alert, Overspeed Warning, among others features, enhancing the overall safety of the driver and passengers.

WHAT IS THE EASE AND CONVENIENCE THAT A CUSTOMER GETS FROM A CONNECTED VEHICLE BEYOND SAFETY, FOR EXAMPLE IN AREAS SUCH AS ENTERTAINMENT, CONNECTIVITY?

MG is the first OEM to introduce the first over-the-air

when new updates are available. The MG Hector sports a 35.56 cm (14-inch) HD portrait infotainment system, giving the user access to entertainment at their fingertips. The Hector comes embedded with a JioSaavn premium account that adds to the seamless, on-the-go connectivity, and you have your favourite tunes at the tap of a button.

DO YOU AGREE WITH CONCERNS THAT A CONNECTED VEHICLE MAY SOMETIMES ACT AS A DIVERSION FOR THE DRIVER'S ATTENTION?

Connected mobility is a great enabler for customers in today's day and age. The power of voice controls, intuitive interfaces, and systems that can differentiate between driver and passenger interactions, really help ensure that the driver's attention remains focused on the

CYBER ATTACKS?

We, as manufacturers, and our technology partners are consistently investing in robust security measures, encryption protocols, and regular software updates to mitigate and minimise risks associated with connected cars. With technology, you always have to be ready and stay equipped and trained to serve and support. We focus on ensuring a strong vehicle electronics and software architecture that keeps users and their data secure. Our systems are so interlinked that we have traceability right from the manufacturing line to the showroom to the workshop. We already have our website, our data management system, our pulse hub and our SAP Connect. All our customer driving data is stored on cloud servers (partners like Microsoft Azure, L&T Technology Services, among others) which come with high levels of security so that they can rest easy.

WHAT ARE THE NEXT LEVEL OF ADVANCEMENTS THAT WE CAN EXPECT ON CONNECTED VEHICLES?

The next level of advancements in connected vehicles can offer features like self-parking, adaptive cruise control, and lane-keeping assistance. Vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) and vehicle-to-infrastructure (V2I) communication systems can enable cooperative driving, traffic optimization, and enhanced safety. Additionally, integration with smart home devices, integration with ride-sharing services, and further advancements in infotainment and connectivity are expected.



MG Hector SUV offers 75 connected features, including 100 voice commands

(OTA) software update. MG customers no longer go with their cars all the way to the authorised service station for updating their infotainment system. So, like smartphones, MG vehicles get a new look screen and themes, new apps and new entertainment content from time to time as and

road. MG cars come loaded with an array of safety features that make driving a seamless experience.

CAN A CONNECTED ECO-SYSTEM ON VEHICLES MEAN THAT CARS AND SUVs ARE ALSO PRONE TO SOFTWARE VIRUSES AND

A Holistic Approach to Vehicular Safety



Shailesh Chandra

In today's global scenario, road accidents are a major cause of fatalities, claiming around 1.19 million lives annually worldwide, with India alone accounting for 13% of this staggering figure. It's undeniable: vehicular safety holds paramount importance. Acknowledging this, the Government of India has underscored the 4Es of road safety: Engineering, Education, Enforcement, and Emergency Care. The journey towards safer roads

demands not only regulatory updates but proactive efforts from OEMs and the wider automotive ecosystem. The industry and government must make collaborative efforts to continuously enhance vehicle safety through sustained investment in accident research and the development of new safety technologies and designs.

Tata Motors, for instance, has pioneered this pursuit by investing in advance state-of-the-art digital and physical product development processes, guided by road safety experts. Engineering a safe vehicle is intricate and requires seamless collaboration among a wide set of stakeholders across product development process.

ELEVATING SAFETY THROUGH RESEARCH
Vehicles face countless safety challenges on the

road, from various collisions to stability issues. The interplay of vehicle mass, human anatomy, and unpredictable road conditions necessitate a balanced approach to product design, ensuring maximum protection during extraordinary events. Over-engineering for safety could render vehicles prohibitively expensive, defeating the purpose of making safety accessible to all. Therefore, analysing accident data meticulously to inform product design allows automakers to offer safe yet affordable options across all vehicle segments.

INTER-RELATIONS OF SAFETY TECH

Vehicle safety extends beyond the mere inclusion of airbags; it encompasses the vehicle's design, driving environment, and driver behaviour, addressing pre-crash, crash, and post-

crash stages. Safety features are categorized into passive and active systems. Simply put, active vehicle safety features are designed to prevent a car accident, whereas passive vehicle safety features serve to offer protection when an accident

instances, even taking some automated steps that can minimise damage. If utilised mindfully, they can significantly improve driver behaviour, make safe driving a conscious experience, and ultimately, make Indian roads much safer.

significant step forward in India towards having our own Safety regime.

SAFETY FEATURES AMONG TOP CONSIDERATION SET
In conclusion, creating a safe vehicle is an ongoing scientific



Tata Curvv SUV will be introduced with electric and ICE options

cannot be avoided. For example,

- Passive safety features involve devices such as seat belts, airbags, head restraints, and ISO-FIX mounts, activated during a collision.
- Active safety includes features such as brake assists, tire pressure monitors, and parking sensors, which prevent accidents.

A CASE FOR ADAS

Advanced Driver Assist Systems (ADAS) technology is becoming increasingly relevant within the Indian automotive market, as a smart technology that actively enhances vehicular safety by preventing or reducing the impact of potential accidents.

ADAS comprises of several sub-systems that alert the driver of a variety of potential threats on the road, with systems for autonomous emergency braking, forward collision indicators, lane departure warnings, blind spot detection, etc. Together, they elevate the vehicle's safety by encouraging drivers to be more alert on the road, and in some

SIGNIFICANCE OF SAFETY RATINGS

Automakers rely on independent safety protocols to evaluate their vehicles, resulting in performance star ratings after extensive digital and physical testing. Ratings from organisations like the Global New Car Assessment Programme (GNCAP) indicate the likelihood of injury in an accident. A vehicle with a 5-star rating is deemed significantly safer, with a lower risk of life-threatening injuries, compared to a 1-star rated vehicle. The GNCAP 2022 protocols have notably improved vehicle safety by introducing more stringent crash tests and evaluation criteria. These enhanced protocols have pushed manufacturers to upgrade safety features, such as improved structural integrity and the inclusion of more advanced safety technologies. The protocols also emphasise pedestrian safety, encouraging the development of exterior or vehicle designs that minimise injury to pedestrians in the event of a collision. Bharat-NCAP is a

endeavor, driven by extensive research and the collective efforts of safety experts, OEMs, government bodies and most importantly, evolved consumers, who have now started demanding safety features in their cars.

As roads and vehicles evolve, so should the commitment to enhancing vehicle safety, with the ultimate goal of securing a safer future for all road users. It is equally important that efforts are made towards educating masses on the importance of safety, safe driving techniques and enforcing a strong safety guidelines on roads. However, as the famous saying goes 'The brake on the mind is the best brake', highlighting the importance of considering safety before any journey, complementing the sophisticated algorithms and devices in our vehicles that tirelessly work to keep us safe.

- Shailesh Chandra is Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility

Adoption of EVs not a sprint, but a marathon

Localisation, fast-charging infra, lower tax rates key to build scale for greens

as it also needs to scale up rapidly. The current demand is not simply for availability, but that of availability of 'ultra-fast chargers' that saves consumer time considerably.

In India, approximately 12,000+ EV charging stations have already been installed which is a highly encouraging sign for future scalability and can work wonders towards building consumer confidence in an EV. However currently more than 99% of chargers are capable of only charging up to 60 Kwh, compared to the requirement of 180 Kwh and more, for high-capacity batteries.

It's equally imperative there's a holistic approach towards locally manufacturing EVs to bring down the entry price barrier. To achieve this reality, policy making must take a lead role in catapulting growth in the sector, one of which is continuing the current incentives for consumers. There are numerous suggestions from the industry to infuse these growth enablers, that will energize this marathon for decarbonization and climate protection.

The Government should continue the 5% GST commitment on EVs till end of this decade, encouraging long-term planning and flexibility for OEMs. There is also a need for

Governments across states to sustain their commitment towards EV adoption, continuing the tax breaks and incentives that attract consumers.

At OEM level, we are ensuring we encourage EV adoption not just with desirable product offerings, but also with ease of ownership, offering long battery warranties, comparable residual value of EVs with ICE counterparts, and extended service intervals to prolong workshop visits.



Coming in 2024: Mercedes-Maybach EQS SUV, the first-ever all-electric Mercedes-Maybach in India

We are also creating a pool of highly competent and 'future ready' EV professionals through our Industry-Academic Partnership with reputed engineering colleges across India. Mercedes-Benz's ADAM (Advanced Diploma in Auto-

motive Mechatronics) course is highly coveted and adds immense value to customers and to the overall EV ecosystem, which the industry benefits from.

Among these complexities, consumers need to be made aware of sustainability, educated about sustainable products and their benefits over ICE vehicles, resource conservation practices pursued by OEMs and of circular economy etc. This awareness has to be led by the future generation, a younger yet wiser generation,

including our own production centres, developing our electrification portfolio, use of renewable energy throughout the utilisation phase of EVs and finally, recycling of vehicles to contribute to a circular sustainable cycle.

In conclusion, I am a big believer that consumers need to be educated not only about the advantages of EVs in terms of Decarbonisation and total cost of ownership but also demystify the several myths surrounding EVs.

OEMs should continue to not only focus on introducing new products, but also spend their resources for consumer education initiatives. The real acceleration towards the road to future mobility demands continuous innovation, lasting endurance, strategic patience, and mutual encouragement. However, customers are key stakeholders in all our initiatives, and they should in turn push the industry for the introduction of the latest technology in BEVs and ensure carbon free mobility solutions. In this context, the age-old African saying which I referred to, truly makes most sense.

- Santosh Iyer is Managing Director & CEO, Mercedes-Benz India



Santosh Iyer

"If you have to go fast, go alone; if you have to go far, go together" is an old African saying that remarkably underlines India's quest and transition to electric mobility. It's a long journey to the mission of achieving a carbon-neutral future, and we must take our customers along in this journey. This journey will be more of a marathon that requires close collaboration and deep commitment amongst businesses, policy makers and most importantly from consumers and society at large.

While the initial sprint has commenced with the launch of attractive and tech rich products, that is not all. OEMs and their partners, policy makers and all other stakeholders have to work in tandem ensuring the creation of a robust, enduring and time-bound EV ecosystem, which is the strenuous part of this marathon. Setting up a dedicated high power public charging infrastructure will remain a key task

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Sealed tenders are invited from reputed and experienced courier agencies. The last date for submission of the sealed bids is **29th February, 2024 upto 03.00 P.M.** The tender document along with detailed terms and conditions is available at ICAI's website i.e. www.icaai.org.

Secretary, ICAI

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Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact Number : 9646123323)
Tender Inquiry No. PPR-07/2024 Dated: 14.02.2024

Chief Engineer/PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-Tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy from interstate/intrastate sources viz. Generators, Traders having Valid Inter State Trading License issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, intrastate trading license issued by PSERC for intrastate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IPPs & CPPs from 1st March 2024 to 31st June 2024. The link for the e-Bidding portal is www.msstcecommerce.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.Powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com). For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to www.msstcecommerce.com from 14.02.2024 onwards.

Note :- Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at www.msstcecommerce.com

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Joint General Manager/Project-3: Mr. 97481 49900
Chief Project Manager/ Lucknow: Mr. 98182 08662
Consultant/RLDA: Mr. Alok Sinha, Mr. 98182 08662
For e-bid queries: Mr. Suraj Singh, Mr. 9996 53965
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Phone: 0120-2544004 Fax: 0120-2424544; E-Mail: vc.iwai@nic.in

Notice Inviting Tender - NIT
NIT for Re-Engineering of Bend in Approach Channel Up-stream of Farakka Navigation Lock on National Waterway-1 (River Ganga)

Inland Waterways Authority of India intends to engage a Contractor for "Re-Engineering of Bend in Approach Channel Up-stream of Farakka Navigation Lock on National Waterway-1 (River Ganga)" as informed that the last date for submission of bids is up to 1500 hrs. (IST) on 13.03.2024. For details and further updates please visit website www.iwai.nic.in.

Date: 14.02.2024 Vice Chairman & Project Director (JMVP)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Parmod Singh S/o Raghubeer Singh R/o M-47, Gali No.13, Brahmapur, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 30/2020 U/s 33 Delhi Ex. Act at PS: Jafraabad, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Parmod Singh can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Parmod Singh has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Parmod Singh of FIR No. 30/2020 U/s 33 Delhi Ex. Act of PS: Jafraabad, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 26.03.2024.

By order
Aayushi Sexana
Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No. 48,
DP/578/NE/2024 Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Akash @ Babu S/o Pawan Kumar Sharma R/o A-84 A-Block, Old Maharani Enclave, Hastal Uttam Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. 238/2017 U/s 279/338 IPC, PS Ranohola, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Akash @ Babu cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Akash @ Babu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Akash @ Babu of FIR NO.238/2017 U/s 279/338 IPC, PS Ranohola, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 16.03.2024.

By Order
Shri Ankit Karan Singh
Metropolitan Magistrate-08,
Room No.30, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/1698/OD/2024

Kolhapur Municipal Corporation, Electrical Department
RE-Tender Notice :- 129/2024 Extension

Online tenders through E-Tendering system is invited for Supply and Installation of Decorative Heritage Pole for Lighting Around chh.Shivaji Chowk Road, Bindu Chowk Road, CPR Chowk Road, Dasra Chowk Road and Jayantinaral Road Kolhapur The tender can be downloaded from the e-tendering website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. The pre-bid meeting for the said work was held on 24/1/2024 and the detailed report on the issues raised in the said meeting was published on the above website dated on 13/2/2024. Above said tender has extended (adding to the previous tender submission end date) up to 20/02/2024 at 4.00 PM due.

City Engineer
Kolhapur Municipal Corporation, Kolhapur

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business

I Qamran Nisa W/O Abdul Samad R/O Meeranpura Tanda UP-224190 have to changed my name to Munni Begum for all purposes.

BUSINESS PROPOSALS

LOST & FOUND

CARBON BLACK FROM EUROPE

I Richa Bhatia have lost my original Marksheet for IIIrd Year Interior Design Diploma Program of Meera Bai Polytechnic (Institute of Technology) BTE Boud Delhi Session Year 1994 Roll No. 918316. If found contact 9811590460.

CARBON BLACK N-220 100 MT

GENERAL

We can offer quality stocks at low prices on a monthly basis as below:

NOTICE for Advertisement I Tara Chatrath daughter of Anand Chatrath currently residing at Johnson Orchards, PO Raison, District Kullu, Himachal Pradesh - 175 128 bearing Australian Passport No. PB3451825 do confirm that my Son aged two years plus bearing the name Jude Richard Anand Jordan and Jude Richard Jordan are one and the same person. Jude's Passport No. PU11895021 is issued by the Republic of Ireland. Jude's date of birth is 28.10.2021 and place of birth is Manali Himachal Pradesh - 175 131. This is to further confirm the above affidavit No. 20AA658563 dated 13.02.2024 before the Notary Public, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh - 175 101 TARA CHATRATH Mother

real estate

M/s. T.G.K.Global Consultants, Rep., by its Proprietor, T.G.Krishnamurthy, S/o Gangappa Naidu, No.60, Giri Road, T.Nagar, Chennai - 600 017.

MUMBAI PROPERTIES

1. A.M. Ponnuswamy No.218, Kunawakkam, No.37, PillayarKoil Street, Chengalpatt-2.

SOUTH MUMBAI

2. M/s Takata India Pvt. Ltd., Represented by its Authorised Signatory, S. Sarathy, Having Office at B-7/7, 2nd Floor, Salfardjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110 029.

4000 sq Fully Furnished Office Space Near to Mahalaxmi temple with Sea View Near to Station. Please contact 9 8 2 0 3 0 9 0 5 1 hp@prakashsteelage.com

3. M/s Asia Investment Private Ltd., Represented by its Authorised Signatory, S. Sarathy, Having Office at No.1, Sri Aurabindo Marg, Hauzkhaza, New Delhi - 110 016.

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

personal

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

The Public at large is hereby informed that Late Smt. Pritam Kaur W/o Late Sh. Pyara Singh R/o DE-130, Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027 was having residential property no. DE-130, Tagore Garden, New Delhi-110027 admeasuring 200.00 sq. yds which her legal heirs Smt. Harmander Kaur, Sh. Amandeep Singh and Sh. Harmandeep Singh are selling to my client. Any person having any right, interest, objection with respect to this property can contact the below mentioned person within 15 days after which no claim would be accepted.

I Mohammad Salim S/O Mohammad Iqbal Miyan R/O Raghubar Nagar, New Delhi has changed my name from Saleem to Mohammad Salim for all future purposes

Advocate: Arjun Gupta Phone: 9818518079

I, Sunil Kumar Chanchal, s/o Luxmi Nand presently residing at Flat No. 473, DDA, Pocket 2, Sector 9, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110077. (Permanent Address: Village Nain, Post Loharwin, District Bilsapur, HP 174021) have changed my Name from Sunil Kumar Chanchal to Sunil Kumar vide affidavit dated 13.02.2024 at New Delhi

To place an ad in **TIMES interact**

I, Danvir Singh R/o A 69 Inderpuri, New Agra, Uttar Pradesh -282006 have changed my minor daughter's name from Lakshmi Chauhan to Lakshna Singh Chauhan.

For Tender & Public Notice Ads, Call :9312633518

To place an ad in **TIMES interact**

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS (Appellate Jurisdiction) O.S.No. 243 of 2019

M/s. T.G.K.Global Consultants, Rep., by its Proprietor, T.G.Krishnamurthy, S/o Gangappa Naidu, No.60, Giri Road, T.Nagar, Chennai - 600 017.

1. A.M. Ponnuswamy No.218, Kunawakkam, No.37, PillayarKoil Street, Chengalpatt-2.

2. M/s Takata India Pvt. Ltd., Represented by its Authorised Signatory, S. Sarathy, Having Office at B-7/7, 2nd Floor, Salfardjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110 029.

3. M/s Asia Investment Private Ltd., Represented by its Authorised Signatory, S. Sarathy, Having Office at No.1, Sri Aurabindo Marg, Hauzkhaza, New Delhi - 110 016.

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Take notice that the above appeal filed on behalf of the appellant before the Hon'ble High Court, Madras came up for hearing on 12.02.2024 and the Hon'ble Court had directed the appellant to take paper publication on you (Respondent No.3) and posted the case for hearing on 18.03.2024. Hence, take notice that the above mentioned case shall be posted for hearing on 18.03.2024 before the Hon'ble High Court, Madras and therefore, either appear in person or through a pleader on the said date at 10.30 AM failing which the matter shall be heard in your absence.

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TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited on the prescribed form for the supply of the following items to Hotel Hans Pvt. Ltd. for the financial year 2024-25: Fruits, Vegetables, Milk & Dairy products, Poultry & Eggs, Fish & Sea Foods, Mutton, Imported Cold Cuts, Imported Cheese Products, Grocery Indian & Imported, Tenderloin, Processed Meat, Chinese Food, Frozen Items, Charcoal, Flowers Supply, Industrial Salt, Chemicals, Stationeries, Housekeeping Items and Engineering products.

Particulars of specification and prescribed form can be obtained from the purchase office of The Hans Hotel within 07 days from the date of the advertisement between 11.00 to 16.00 hours on cash payment of Rs. 1000/- (Non Refundable) for each category.

Sealed tenders will be received till 16.30 Hrs on 22nd February 2024 at The Hans Hotel (Time Office). Late applications and soft copy shall not be accepted.

THE HANS HOTEL
15, BARAKHAMBA ROAD, CONNAUGHT LANE, NEW DELHI-110001, PHONE: 011-6615-0000

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited for the supply of the below-mentioned items to The Park New Delhi as per the specifications for the period 01.04.2024 to 31.03.2025

1. Indian Vegetables, Fruits, and Imported Fruits	14. Dry Fruits
2. English Vegetables	15. Spices and Condiments
3. Milk and Dairy Products	16. Atta, Maida and Sugar
4. Chicken	17. Rice
5. Mutton	18. Eggs
6. Fish and Sea Foods	19. Bread, Bakery and Cookies
7. Cold Cuts	20. Office Stationery
8. Ice Cream	21. Paper Tolerances
9. Kuli	22. Housekeeping and General Items
10. Bakery Items	23. Wet, Dry Garbage and Malba Lifting
11. Chinese & Frozen products	24. Electrical, Hardware and Refrigeration Items
12. Local & Imported Cheese	25. Gel Funs
13. Pulses	

Tender forms are available in our Purchase Office at The Park, 13 Parliament Street, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001. Contact No: 9650830076 & 8851899964 on any working day from 15th - 24th February 2024 between 1000 hrs to 1700 hrs on Cash payment of Rs. 1500/- for each category (Non-refundable). The last date of receipt of sealed tenders is 29th February 2024 till 1700 hrs. The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any tenders in full or in part without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE AT MADRAS (Appellate Jurisdiction) O.S.No. 243 of 2019

M/s. T.G.K.Global Consultants, Rep., by its Proprietor, T.G.Krishnamurthy, S/o Gangappa Naidu, No.60, Giri Road, T.Nagar, Chennai - 600 017.

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2. M/s Takata India Pvt. Ltd., Represented by its Authorised Signatory, S. Sarathy, Having Office at B-7/7

AQI Still 'Very Poor', No Relief Likely Soon

Mercury May Rise By 2-3 Degrees This Week

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality stayed in the "very poor" category for the fourth consecutive day on Wednesday.

The AQI was 341 against 342 a day earlier.

Feb 2021 had recorded nine "very poor" air quality days in a row. No such streak was seen in Feb 2022 and 2020.

Meteorological parameters, including calm wind condition and fog, have caused the accumulation of pollutants and no improvement is expected in the next few days.

An official said the calm wind conditions during the night and low wind speed in the daytime have hampered the dispersion of pollutants. "Since no significant change in meteorological conditions is expected and local and regional sources of pollution remain high, the air quality is expected to stay in the 'very poor' category for the next two days," an official said.

According to the Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, which is the forecasting body under the Union ministry of earth sciences, the air quality is likely to remain "very poor" from Feb 15-17. The outlook for subsequent six days from Feb 17 is that the air quality is likely to be "poor".

Central Pollution Control



Calm wind conditions during the night and low wind speed in the daytime have hampered the dispersion of pollutants, an official says

Board's data shows that Feb 2023 had also recorded four consecutive "very poor" air days.

The maximum and minimum temperatures saw a rise on Wednesday. The maximum on Wednesday was 25 degrees Celsius, two degrees above normal and warmer than 22.8 degrees Celsius a day earlier. The night temperature rose from 8.3 degrees Celsius on Tuesday to 9.6 degrees Celsius, one degree below normal, on Wednesday.

A Met official said: "Both the maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to see a rise by two-three degrees this week. Due to clear skies, the

days are likely to witness a rise in mercury. However, there is a possibility of very light rain or drizzle on Feb 20."

The maximum temperature is likely to hover around 25 degrees Celsius by Feb 15 and may increase to 26 degrees Celsius by Feb 18.

The minimum temperature, which has stayed below normal in Feb so far, is expected to rise in the next few days and may stay close to normal. However, the minimum temperature is predicted to rise to 10 and 11 degrees Celsius, respectively, on Feb 18 and 19. The normal minimum temperature for this time of year is 10.2 degrees Celsius.

341

AQI KEEPS CITY'S AIR IN THE 'VERY POOR' CATEGORY ON WEDNESDAY

DDA: Vacate stay on action against mosque on Ridge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Wednesday moved the high court seeking to vacate a stay on taking any coercive action against the 100-year-old Shahi Masjid, a graveyard and a school in Dhaula Kuan.

The DDA said this area was part of the Central Ridge, a protected forest where residential and commercial activities are prohibited. It informed the court that Delhi gov't's religious committee had approved the removal of encroachments there.

Delhi High Court had earlier ordered status quo at the site of the mosque, graveyard and the school while hearing a petition apprehending their demolition.

Justice Sachin Datta issued a notice to the petitioner—the managing committee of the Shahi Masjid and Qabristan Kanganal Shah situated near the Kitchener Lake, Bagh Mochi, in Dhaula Kuan—and asked it to file a reply within 10 days on DDA's application seeking vacation of the stay granted on Nov 2 last year.

During the hearing, the court also sought to know from DDA if the encroachment included the masjid and on what basis the authorities were planning to act. "On what basis do you want to take the action? You make a clear and cogent case. Give me the exact dimensions. What is that you want to remove and why?" the judge asked DDA

and asked its lawyer to answer when the matter is heard again on Feb 29.

The court pointed out that "if the masjid is in existence for so long, under what law you want to remove it." However, on the point of encroachment, the court made it clear that the sanctity of the ridge has to be maintained and no one can be allowed to encroach upon a forest area.

JUDGE SAYS

On what basis do you want to take the action? You make a clear and cogent case. Give me the exact dimensions. What is that you want to remove and why?

The court also raised a legal issue. Can the religious committee remove a structure which is vintage and has been in existence for the last 50-60 years. The petitioner's counsel submitted there was no encroachment in the area where the mosque is situated.

"The petitioner has failed to point out that as per the revenue records and the earlier rounds of litigation, it is an encroacher on the government land on the Central Ridge, which is an ecologically sensitive area. Continuous demolition drives are being conducted in the area," DDA argued in its plea.

24-yr-old held for posing as doctor at RML

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 24-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly impersonating a doctor at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. The suspect was identified as Ashutosh Tripathi, a Bura-ri resident, police said.

Police received a complaint on Tuesday from a senior resident doctor in the surgery department at RML Hospital. The complainant claimed to have found a person wearing a stethoscope and posing as a doctor in the surgery emergency department.

When police reached the spot and the impostor was handed over to them. A case of impersonation was registered against him. During questioning, he told police that he aspired to be a doctor but was unable to pass the entrance exam.

The suspect kept changing his statements. Initially he claimed to be a doctor and later pretended to be a medical student. He told cops that he was fascinated by wearing doctor's coats. "Tripathi informed us that he had previously visited the hospital for the treatment of an acquaintance. He navigated the hospital, which is how he became familiar with the layout," a police officer said.

Police were investigating whether he entered the hospital with the intent to steal or to commit fraud by impersonating a doctor and CCTV footage was being reviewed to ascertain it. "Additionally, we are investigating whether he accessed other hospitals while impersonating a medical professional. To date, we haven't received any related complaints," the officer added.

Riots case: Umar Khalid withdraws bail plea from SC

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Nine months after he approached the Supreme Court for bail in a case related to a larger conspiracy behind the 2020 Delhi riots, former JNU student leader and accused Umar Khalid on Wednesday withdrew his petition citing "change in circumstances" to approach the trial court to initiate fresh proceedings for bail.

Khalid, who has been in custody since Sept 2020 and is facing various charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and Indian Penal Code, was denied bail by Delhi High Court in Oct 2022. He later moved the apex court for relief. The court had on May 18 last year issued notice on his petition.

At the outset of the hearing before a bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal, Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal sought the court's permission to withdraw the petition. "Bail matter we wish to withdraw. There has been a change in circumstances, we will try our luck in the trial court," Sibal submitted his plea but the court dismissed it as withdrawn.

During the nine months' pendency of the case in SC, Umar's plea was listed for 14 times but no substantial hearing could take place.

As Umar's plea was tagged with a batch of other petitions challenging the validity

of various provisions of UAPA, including one filed by a journalist and a lawyer who were booked under the law by Tripura Police, the bench proceeded to hear other petitions. But the court deferred the hearing for Thursday after petitioners' lawyers sought time to take instruction to withdraw the petition.

The court also expressed reservations in entertaining PILs filed by independent persons who were not affected parties.

Advocate Prashant Bhusan, appearing for the aggrieved journalist, contended that UAPA was being grossly abused

and his client was booked merely for tweeting "Tripura is burning". He said the stringent law was used against those who are critical of the ruling party. But the state govt informed the bench that HC had also initiated proceedings by taking suo motu cognisance and Bhusan's client had not appeared before HC.

The bench then asked Bhusan whether he wanted to pursue the case in SC or HC and granted a day to seek instruction.

The Delhi High Court, while denying bail to Khalid in 2022, had observed that the protests against the proposed Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the 2020 North-East Delhi riots were prima facie orchestrated at various meetings attended by Khalid and his actions prima facie qualified as "terrorist law" under the anti-terror law.



Umar Khalid

Weight of items used to hide drugs can't be added to their weight: HC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The weight of towels and bedsheet that are used to hide drugs and narcotics cannot be included for determining the quantity of the recovered substance under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, Delhi High Court stated recently.

The observation came while the single judge bench of Justice Vikas Mahajan granted bail to Afghan national Mohammad Nasar in a drugs case registered by Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in 2021 after recovery of two towels and a bedsheet containing heroin from another Afghan national at Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Noting that NCB had included the weight of the towels and the bedsheet in the weight of the total contraband recovered from co-accused Hikmatullah Hakimi, the court stated that these

do not qualify to be a neutral substance. The weight of the towels cannot be included with contraband for determining whether seized material is of small or commercial quantity, it added.

The court also noted that Nasar was neither involved in any offence under the NDPS Act earlier nor he had any criminal record. Therefore, he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail, it stated.

The court looked into other allegations as well against Nasar, especially about him planning to meet Hakimi in Malviya Nagar to collect the heroin. However, it found nothing on record to indicate that Nasar had any knowledge of the contents of the bag which was handed over to him by Hakimi.

The bail was granted with several conditions, including furnishing personal bond in the sum of Rs 50,000 and a surety bond of the like amount.

Free dental check-up and awareness events at Maulana Azad Institute

New Delhi: To celebrate 40 years of excellence, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences is organising a four-day event—Dental Health Utsav-2024—from Wednesday. The aim is to foster awareness about dental health. The utsav will feature an array of activities, including free dental check-up, dental health awareness programmes, social media campaigns, informative health talks, innovative exhibits and lectures.

Dental Health Utsav draws thousands of visitors annually. The theme of this year's event is "prakriti ke rang, muskan ke sang". Innovative exhibits and demonstrations are open for public display. The utsav was inaugurated by chief guest Lt Gen Vineet Sharma, VSM, DGHS, IHQ of MoD (Army); Prof (Dr) Poonam Narang, dean, Maulana Azad Medical College; Prof (Dr) Tulika Tripathi, director-principal, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences; and Prof (Dr) Ruchika Roongta Nawal, organising secretary. In her address, Dr Narang applauded Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences for its unwavering commitment to delivering high-quality dental care services. **TNN**

Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority, Jhansi

For constituting PMU, Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority invites application for engaging consultants & young professionals experienced in the fields of urban planning, environment, ICT, finance, civil engineering, architect, law. The interested applicants may apply online for senior consultant/consultant grade 2 / consultant grade 1/ Young Professionals in BIDA through the link <https://innobles.com/resource/>. The instructions for submitting the relevant profiles online will be available on said link. Candidate may note that mere submission of profiles and meeting the minimum eligibility criteria as per guideline do not entitle the candidate to be shortlisted/selected for any position of consultants and young professionals in PMU of BIDA. BIDA reserves the right to call only requisite no. of candidate for further selection process after preliminary screening/shortlisting of candidate profile vis-a-vis requirement of BIDA. BIDA would be free to cancel of any candidates at any stage of engagement process if he/She is found to be ineligible and/or furnished incorrect or false information / certificate / Document or has suppressed any information for further queries candidate may contact at E-mail aceo.bida@office.upic.in **Manager (Admin), BIDA**

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India

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Crooks pose as cops to rob firm director of ₹2L

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 35-year-old director of a software company was abducted, assaulted and robbed of Rs 2 lakh in Kishangarh by a group that posed as police officers. An inquiry has revealed that the five men lured the victim, Mohit Saxena, to a location under the pretence of a meeting and then forced him into a car. They forced him to reveal his bank details and withdrew Rs 2 lakh from the victim's account before dumping him at an isolated place five hours later. Three of the five are gym trainers. Saxena, who lives in Paschim Vihar and runs his software company in Laxmi Nagar, said the robbery happened on Feb 9 around 1 a.m. Saxena told police that his accountant called him and said there was a meeting scheduled with some people regarding company-related work. "The accountant spoke to someone named Hardeh, who had requested a meeting in Kishangarh," Saxena said. He and his accountant proceeded to the meeting in Saxena's car. They were near Gurbu Industrial Area when four men in a car accosted them. Posing as police officers, they abducted the duo. "They threatened them and demanded Rs 2 crore. Saxena explained that he'd come for a meeting and didn't have any money," a police officer said. The accused assaulted him and took his ATM card. "They forced him to reveal his PIN, then withdrew money from a nearby ATM," the officer added. "They threatened Saxena with dire consequences if he reported the incident to the cops," the police officer said. The five were identified as Babil, Naved, R Vijay, Mohammad Aziz, and Hardeh. They said they learned that Saxena was looking for telecallers. On coming to know of his wealth, they planned to rob him.

Car dealer told to pay ₹2L for 'mental agony'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A consumer court has ordered a car dealer in Delhi to pay Rs 2 lakh as compensation to a consumer for causing "harassment, mental agony and pain". The car had developed a snag within the very first week of purchase. The complainant, Arun Kumar, who had purchased a Wagon R car by paying over Rs 4.5 lakh from a showroom in Amar Colony, Lajpat Nagar in 2012, claimed that the speedometer of his brand new vehicle stopped working within 24 hours of purchase. The bench of the Delhi state consumer disputes redressal commission, headed by president Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal and comprising judicial member Pinki and general member JP Agrawal, said, "If a brand new car gives trouble within a few years of its purchase, any consumer shall feel dissatisfied. In the present case, the respondent took the pains to take the new car to the workshop and no doubt, this constitutes mental agony". Not only this, when the staff at the workshop took the car for repairs, it even met with an accident, Kumar alleged. Following this, the complainant requested for replacement of the vehicle. However, this was refused by the dealer. Kumar then approached the South Delhi district forum. The forum decided in favour of Kumar in Nov 2018 following which the car dealer filed an appeal in the commission. The court observed that the defects in the car point to negligence on the part of the staff of the appellant. "We modify the order to the extent that instead of replacing the said vehicle and refunding the complete amount of purchase, the appellant is directed to pay a sum of Rs 2 lakh on account of harassment, mental agony and pain to the respondent (Kumar)," it stated.

ED moved court under IPC section, not PMLA

Continued from P1. On Feb 7, a local court had issued summons to Kejriwal asking him to be present in court on Feb 17 to explain why he has repeatedly not appeared before ED's probe team. The agency had moved court against him under PMLA but under IPC Section 174, where an accused can be jailed for one month for each case of disobedience to summons. In her order, additional chief metropolitan magistrate Divya Malhotra had said, "In view of the discussion, the complaint... accompanied by the supporting documents, discloses all the necessary ingredients constituting the offence punishable under Section 174 of IPC. Section 63(4) of PMLA enables prosecution under Sec 174 for disobedience of any direction under Section 50 of the Act." The judge also noted that those summoned by ED were bound to comply with the same by virtue of Section 50(3) of PMLA.

Cops write to DMRC again over metro wall collapse

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police wrote another letter to Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) in connection with the Gokulpuri metro station wall collapse, which claimed one life and injured four others last Thursday. A senior officer said police wrote to DMRC a day after the incident, seeking details of those involved in constructing and maintaining the station. "We had asked DMRC to share the findings of any inquiries they conducted on the incident," the officer added. DMRC was also asked to provide the details promptly to facilitate the investigation. An officer said they have not gotten any reply for DMRC, so they have sent a reminder. When contacted DMRC, there was no response from their side. The wall collapse incident took place at Iram on Thursday. A 53-year-old man died and four people were injured during the incident. The deceased was identified as Vinod Kumar Pandey. The other victims, Ajit Kumar (21), Monu (19), Sandeep (27) and Mohammad Tazir (24), were receiving treatment. A senior officer said the road where the incident took place connects Gokulpuri to the main Wazirabad road.

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD) Global e-Tender Notice

No. 2024/RS(WTA)-149/Tender/548 New Delhi, dated 14.02.2024 Subject: Global e-Tender No-WTA-548 opening on 18.03.2024 for Procurement of Wheel for 3-Phase WAG9 locomotives to drawing No. 1209-01-111-003 Alt.-5, and Wheel for 3-Phase WAP7 locomotives to drawing No. 1209-01-111-070 Alt Nil with specification IRS-R-34-15 of May 2015. Electronic bids are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for Procurement of Wheel for 3-Phase WAG9 locomotives to drawing No. 1209-01-111-003 Alt.-5, and Wheel for 3-Phase WAP7 locomotives to drawing No. 1209-01-111-070 Alt Nil with specification IRS-R-34-15 of May 2015. The interested bidders are advised to visit the website http://reps.gov.in for further details, downloading of the tender documents and submission of their e-bids. Any further corrigendum to this tender will be uploaded on the website http://reps.gov.in only and not in print media.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified Newly born baby male Age: 1 Day, Complexion: Wheatish, was found on 17.12.2023 at road side C-16, Sarai Kale Khan, Gujjar Chowk, New Delhi. He was admitted in AIIMS Hospital vide MLC No. 8731/2023. In this regard FIR No. 459/23 dated 17.12.2023 u/s 317 IPC has been registered at P.S. Sunlight Colony, New Delhi. The children has been kept for identification at Welfare home for children at Sarita Vihar, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this baby boy may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos. SHO : P.S. Sunlight Colony, New Delhi Tel. No. : 011-26347482, 26348324, 08750870928, 09205153015 DP/14835/SE/23

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)

Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Banel Thermal Power Station P.O. Tribeni, Dist. - Hooghly, Pin - 712503 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/23-24/BTSP/CC-1459 Date: 09.02.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCL/SGTTP/NIT/E2773/23-24 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdenders.gov.in by the General Manager SGTTP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 02 (Two) Part bid system for "Repairing of Different Roads Inside & Outside of BTSP Plant". Tender Document Download Start Date: 15.02.2024 at 12:00 Hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 15.02.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Ranjana Bhaduri, Add. General Manager (M&C). Phone No.: 033-28612311. E-mail: purchase_btsp@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise) WBSEDL WBSEDL invites e-Tenders as follows: 1) NIT No: RM/HG/CNV/7/2023-24/59, Dt: 08.02.2024 of the Regional Manager, Hooghly Region, WBSEDL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 50,30,584/- for the work of Construction of retaining wall to protect the common approach road to Chandanpur Divisional Store, Kolkata Zone and Hooghly Administrative Building and other allied civil works at Chandanpur. 2) NIT No: BNR/DI/E-Tender/2023-24/02, Dt: 08.02.2024 of the Regional Manager, Bankura Region, WBSEDL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 49,14,234/- for the work of Bulk power supply at 33 KV with ultimate contract demand of 1570 KW. The Executive Engineer (E/M), PHE Dte. at Baidyapur, Gangajalpa of Bankura Division under Bankura Region. 3) NIT No: RM/Nadia/E-Tender/2023-24/15, Dt: 15.02.2024 of the Regional Manager, Nadia Region, WBSEDL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 13,50,019/- for the work of Laying of 3.3 km. of 33 KV XLPE underground cable through a new route to cover defect line of existing D/S-5/Sundar 33/11 KV Sub-Station under Tehatta Division, Nadia Region. ICA-13734(3)/2024 For details, visit https://wbtdenders.gov.in and www.wbseidl.in

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Abridged e-Tender Notice

On behalf of Government of West Bengal, the following e-Tenders are invited from eligible bonafide Contractor/individual/organisation/cooperatives/Vendors as follows:- SI. No. e-NIT No Nature of Works Place of Work 01. 09/SPAP/Budget Raising of 2 years old seedlings for creations of Plantation -2025-26 under Jalpaiguri Division, during the period 2023-24. Chalsa Central Nursery 02. 10/SPAP/Budget Khuttiman Central Nursery 03. 11/SPAP/Budget Dalgajn Central Nursery Document downloading & Submission starting date (online through the website http://www.wbtdenders.gov.in) 16/02/2024 & 19/02/2024 respectively. Bid submission closing date (online through the website http://www.wbtdenders.gov.in) 22/02/2024 upto 5.00 P.M. Opening of Technical Bid dated 22/02/2024. Opening of Financial Bid after technical bid evaluation. Corrigendum if any will be displayed in the Notice Board of this office. SD/- Vikas V, JFS Divisional Forest Officer, Jalpaiguri Division ICA-13728(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)

Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Santaldih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/23-24/STPS/CC-1437 Date: 07.02.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCL/STPS/NIT/E3402/23-24 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdenders.gov.in by the General Manager STPS, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Repairing of Different Roads Inside & Outside of STPS Plant". Tender Document Download Start Date: 15.02.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 15.02.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. Contact Person: Mr. K. Kr. Dutta, Dy. General Manager (Contract Cell). Contact No.: 8336903918. E-mail: kdutta@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-13815(3)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited (A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)

Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154 Sagardighi Thermal Power Project P.O. Monigram, P.S. Sagardighi, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237 Notice Inviting E-Tender Ref. No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/23-24/STPP/CC-1450 Date: 08.02.2024 NIT No.: WBPDCL/SGTTP/NIT/E2773/23-24 Dated: 02.02.2024 E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtdenders.gov.in by the General Manager SGTTP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 3 (Over) Part bid system for "Repairing of Air/Flue Gas Duct during upcoming Unit-4 (Overhauling)". Tender Document Download Start Date: 15.02.2024 at 10:00 Hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 27.02.2024 at 15:00 Hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Alanu Chowdhury, DGM (Contract Cell). Mobile no. : 8336903704. E-mail: achowdhury@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: https://wbtdenders.gov.in ICA-13814(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WEST BENGAL POLICE RECRUITMENT BOARD

Araksha Bhawan (5th floor), 6th Cross Road, Block - DJ, Sector - II, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 091 RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF LADY CONSTABLES IN WEST BENGAL POLICE - 2023 Advertisement No. 05/2024/WBPRB The result of Final Written Examination for recruitment to the post of Lady Constable in West Bengal Police - 2023 has been announced and uploaded in the websites of West Bengal Police Recruitment Board (https://prb.wb.gov.in) and West Bengal Police (https://wbpolice.gov.in). To find the result in the websites the candidates are advised to search by inputting or keying - in their Application Sl. No. and Date of Birth. The shortlisted candidates will be called for Interview, which is scheduled to be commenced tentatively on and from 22.02.2024 to 29.02.2024 under 06 Range Recruitment Boards. The Call Letter for Interview can be downloaded through link (wbprb.appllythru.net) provided in the websites from 13.02.2024. 1. Candidates shall have to upload their relevant testimonials prior to download their e-Call Letter meant for the Interview. The following documents should be uploaded by the candidates :- 2. Proof of Age :- Pass certificate/Admit Card of Madhyamik Examination from the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education or its equivalent, 3. Certificate/Mark sheet showing that the candidate has passed Madhyamik Examination from the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education or its equivalent, 4. Domicile Certificate :- For candidates of Hill Sub-Divisions of Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts (As applicable), 5. Gorkha, Garhwali & Rajbanshi community certificate (As applicable) [Mandatory for those candidates who took relaxation in Physical Measurement], 6. Caste certificate for SC, ST candidates issued by the competent authority under the Govt. of West Bengal 7. (As applicable), OBC-A/OBC-B certificate issued by the competent authority under the Govt. of West Bengal, 8. Revaliated/Renewed OBC -A/OBC - B certificates in case the actual OBC -A/OBC - B certificates that were issued before 01.01.2022, 9. EWS certificate as per certified format applicable for Govt. of West Bengal, for the EWS candidates valid for the financial year 2022-2023 or onwards. No Objection Certificate (NOC) :- Candidates employed in any Govt. organization shall have to produce NOC (As applicable). Candidates are advised to follow the instructions on their Call Letter and visit the above mentioned websites for further update. ICA- N 1106/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL MIDNAPORE KHARAGPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (A Statutory Authority of the Government of West Bengal)

Sahaj Kshudiram Zilla Parkapana Bhawan (2nd Floor), Zilla Parishad Complex, Paschim Medinipur - 721011, Phone No. 03222 - 261739, e-Mail ID: mkdadm@mkdadm.gov.in EO No. 1/ MKDA/2023-24 e-Tendering for Expression of Interest is invited for conceptual design for construction of Administrative Building of MKDA from bonafide and resourceful contractors having relevant credential for similar work. NIT & Tender Documents may be viewed on and from 15-02-2024 at 18:00 Hours and Tender Documents downloaded and submitted on and from 16-02-2024 upto 12:00 Hours. Closing of Downloading & Submission of the Bidding Documents on 01-03-2024 at 12:00 Hours. Details of NIT & Tender Documents may be downloaded and submitted from www.wbtdenders.gov.in. Sd/- Executive Officer, MKDA & ADM, Paschim Medinipur. ICA-13750(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer (P.W.D.), Jalpaiguri Division, Jalpaiguri invites online tenders for the works: Sl.No.01 "Stretches repair to Bonapara Road nom 0.00 Km to 2.25 Km under Jalpaiguri Division, PWD during 2023-2024." Estimated Amount Put To Tender: Rs. 9,75,105.00. Tender ID: 2024.PWD.663701_1. Sl No: 02 "Stretches repair to Bonapara Road from 6.00 Km to 8.10 Km under Jalpaiguri Division, PWD during 2023-2024." Estimated Amount Put To Tender: Rs. 9,86,604.00. Tender ID: 2024.PWD.663701_2. Sl No: 03 "Stretches repair to Jhabari Road from 0.00 Km to 3.25 Km under Jalpaiguri Division, PWD during 2023-2024." Estimated Amount Put To Tender: Rs. 9,89,268.00. Tender ID: 2024.PWD.663701_3. Sl No: 04 "Stretches repair to Jhabari Road from 0.00 Km to 3.25 Km under Jalpaiguri Division, PWD during 2023-2024." Estimated Amount Put To Tender: Rs. 5,28,238.00. Tender ID: 2024.PWD.663701_4. NIT No-37 of 2023-24 (1st call) for sl no: 01, 02, 03 and 04 of E.E. JPDD. Tender Ref No: 2024.PWD/37/2023-24. For sl no: 01, 02, 03 & 04. Bid submission closing date (online): 16.02.2024 at 10:00 Hrs. Bid Opening date (online): 19.02.2024 at 10:30 Hrs. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT documents may be downloaded from www.wbtdenders.gov.in. http://wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/-EE, JALPAIGURI DIVISION, PWD. ICA-13751(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE

Table with 5 columns: SI No, District/Establishment, Tender Reference No./NIT No, Bid Submission Start and End Date, Name of the Work / Scheme. It lists various tenders for fisheries, including brackish water, howrah, bankura, and birbhum, covering works like supply of bicycles, distribution of fish, and pisciculture training.

Other details may also be seen at https://wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Director of Fisheries, West Bengal ICA-13836(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL KMDA TENDER NOTICE e-NIT No. 18/EE/EM/EBSD/EM/ KMDA/18 of 2023-24 Online preference tender is invited by The Executive Engineer (E/M), EBSD, E.S. Lakes, Kolkata-700106 for the following: 1. Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of LAFU; Pass Box; Garment cubicle; Air shower and Air Pressure Monitoring System at different Frozen Semen Bull Stations and EET/IVF laboratory of PBGS&S. Bid submission Starts on 15.02.2024. Bid submission Closes on 03.03.2024. 2. Printing and supply of M.F. Forms (2nd Call). Bid submission Starts on 15.02.2024. Bid submission Closes on 22.02.2024. The detailed e-NIT may be obtained from the website: http://wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, P.B.G.S.B.S. ICA-13732(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PASCHIM BANGA GO-SAMPAD BIKASH SANSTHA (A GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ORGANIZATION) e-TENDER NOTICE e-Tenders are invited by the Chief Executive Officer, PBGS&S, S. Lakes, Kolkata-700106 for the following: 1. Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) of LAFU; Pass Box; Garment cubicle; Air shower and Air Pressure Monitoring System at different Frozen Semen Bull Stations and EET/IVF laboratory of PBGS&S. Bid submission Starts on 15.02.2024. Bid submission Closes on 03.03.2024. 2. Printing and supply of M.F. Forms (2nd Call). Bid submission Starts on 15.02.2024. Bid submission Closes on 22.02.2024. The detailed e-NIT may be obtained from the website: http://wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, P.B.G.S.B.S. ICA-13732(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE e-NIT is hereby invited by Executive Engineer, Howrah Division, P.H.E. Dte. vide Ref: No WBPHED/EE/HD/NIT-24 OF 2023-24, Memo No- 613/HD, Dt: 09/02/2024. Details will be available in the website www.wbtdenders.gov.in and wbtdenders.gov.in. Last date of application for tender: 27/02/2024. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Howrah Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-13791(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER e-NIT No. WB/EE/KID/IDIVISION/e-NIT-25/E/2023-24 under Kakkidpur irrigation Division, Kakkidpur. One e-tender has been invited by the undersigned for 35 (Thirty Five) nos. of work, amount put to tender Rs. 44.78 lakh. Last date of submission of online bid 27.02.2024 upto 12:00 Hrs. All NIT details may be obtained from the website: www.wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Howrah Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-13745(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL CORRIGENDUM NOTICE Corrigendum for NIT No. WBPH/EE/25/2023-24 (1st call) invited by the Executive Engineer, Hooghly Division, PHE Dte. For Details, corrigendum/addendum, participating in the tender log on to www.wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hooghly Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-13782(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE The CMOH, Hooghly invites bids from eligible bonafide and resourceful contractors for the work: CMOH/E-Tender/1043 dt-08/02/2024, Tender ID: 2024.HFW.663658_1. For details, please visit the website: www.wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hooghly Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-13735(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, New Town Kolkata W/S Div.-II, P.H.E. Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. PHE/NIT/D/11/E-27 OF 2023-24, I.D. 2023.PHE.D.664741_1 & 2023.PHE.D.664741_2 for SI No. 1 & 2 (I) last date submission: 16.02.2024 upto 12:00 pm. (ii) Date of opening: 19.02.2024. After 01.00 pm. (iii) Intending Bidders are requested to visit the website: http://wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, New Town Kolkata W/S Div.-II, P.H.E. Dte. ICA-13790(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Office of the Assistant Director of Agriculture (Admin), Soil Conservation, Coochbehar NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER e-NIT No. 26/SOIL/NFSM/2023-24 dated 02/02/2024 27/SOIL/NFSM/2023-24 dated 05/02/2024 (https://wbtdenders.gov.in) E-tender is hereby invited in percentage of rate basis (below at par) above for Excavation of Water Harvesting Structure (WHS) in Two Cover System (E-procurement) for Site Specific Activities of Soil and Water Conservation under NFSM-Rice on water logging area of resourceful & bonafide agencies. Last date of application for tender papers is 15/02/2024 and 16/02/2024, 11:00 Hrs. (for eNIT 26 and 27 respectively). For Details, please visit the site or office of the Asstt. DA (Admin), Soil Cons, Coochbehar. ICA-13749(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Nadia Arsenic Division-I, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. WBPH/18/NAD-I/23-24 and ID-2023.PHE.D.664562_1 to 11 for MtC. works under Nadia Arsenic Division-I, P.H.E. Dte. Kalyani, Nadia. Details will be available in the website www.wbtdenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 26.02.2024 upto 12:00 pm. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Nadia Arsenic Division-I, PHE Dte. ICA-13800(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-Tender Notice e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Birbhum Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. 47/2023-2024 and 2024.PHE.D.664621_1 to 3 for Different types of works of different Piped Water Supply under Birbhum Division, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website www.wbtdenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 21.02.2024 at 15:00 IST. Sd/- for Executive Engineer, Birbhum Division, PHE Dte. ICA-13783(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Office of the Executive Engineer MAYURAKSHI SOUTH CANALS DIVISION IRRIGATION & WATERWAYS DIRECTORATE SANTINKETAN, BIRBHUM-731235 e-Tender Notice No-WB/EE/FMSCD/NIT-18(E)/2023-24 e-Tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal from the eligible contractors for 3 (Three) nos. work under C.S.O.s. Last date of bid submission is 05.03.2024 till 16:00 Hrs. IT. Details of Tender Notice may be obtained at https://wbtdenders.gov.in or https://wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mayurakshi South Canals Division. ICA-13833(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL MIDNAPORE KHARAGPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (A Statutory Authority of the Government of West Bengal) Sahaj Kshudiram Zilla Parkapana Bhawan (2nd Floor), Zilla Parishad Complex, Paschim Medinipur - 721011, Phone No. 03222 - 261739, e-Mail ID: mkdadm@mkdadm.gov.in EO No. 1/ MKDA/2023-24 e-Tendering for Expression of Interest is invited for conceptual design for construction of Administrative Building of MKDA from bonafide and resourceful contractors having relevant credential for similar work. NIT & Tender Documents may be viewed on and from 15-02-2024 at 18:00 Hours and Tender Documents downloaded and submitted on and from 16-02-2024 upto 12:00 Hours. Closing of Downloading & Submission of the Bidding Documents on 01-03-2024 at 12:00 Hours. Details of NIT & Tender Documents may be downloaded and submitted from www.wbtdenders.gov.in. Sd/- Executive Officer, MKDA & ADM, Paschim Medinipur. ICA-13750(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ABRIDGE NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER WB/EE/WC/NI-04(E)/2023-24 Superintending Engineer, Western Circle-II invites online tender for 01 (one) no. Work "Protective work to Seta Dyke from Ch. 3.60 km to Ch. 3.78 km at Mouza- Rappur (Birampur) in G.P. Padma-I, within Circle- Rommagar-I, P.S.-Dighi, Mohona, District- Purba Medinipur" under this Circle. A.P.T. Rs. 141.30 lakh. Tender forms and other details may be obtained from the department website: www.wbtdenders.gov.in or https://wbtdenders.gov.in (direct site). Last date of submission of e-bid online is 05.03.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs. Sd/- J.C. Bhattacharya, Superintending Engineer, Western Circle-II, I&W Directorate Tamruk, Purba Medinipur. ICA-13838(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER e-NIT No. WB/EE/COB/E-NIT-19/2023-24 Open Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Cooch Behar Irrigation Division on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal for single maintenance work through e-Tendering from eligible bonafide outsiders having sufficient credential & financial capacity for execution of work of similar nature. Details of NIT & Tender documents may be downloaded from www.wbtdenders.gov.in or https://wbtdenders.gov.in Bid submission closing date is 03/03/2024 upto 16:00 Hrs. Sd/- P. MANDAL, Executive Engineer, Cooch Behar Irrigation Division, Debari, Cooch Behar. ICA-13824(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE Office of the Secretary, District Health & Family Welfare Samiti & Chief Medical Officer of Health, N 24 Pgs, Kol-124, invites e-Tender for Electrical Installation Work for Up Gradation of Subcentres to Su-Swasthya Kendras (Health & Wellness Centre) under NIM/Health Policy 2022-23 at different Block (Habra-I&II) of North 24 Parganas (3rd Call). (vide NIT no. CMOH(N24Pgs)/Tender/HWC-96(E) 3rd Call-1266, Dated:- 07/02/2024) at this institution. Tender & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 24.02.2024, 6.00 pm (Tentative) Subject to availability of e-Tender slot. For details please visit: www.wbtdenders.gov.in or www.wbhealth.gov.in www.north24parganas.gov.in ICA-13820(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE Executive Engineer (P.W.D.), Jalpaiguri Division, Jalpaiguri invites online tenders for the works: Sl.No.01 "Stretches repair to Bonapara Road nom 0.00 Km to 2.25 Km under Jalpaiguri Division, PWD during 2023-2024." Estimated Amount Put To Tender: Rs. 9,75,105.00. Tender ID: 2024.PWD.663701_1. Sl No: 02 "Stretches repair to Bonapara Road from 6.00 Km to 8.10 Km under Jalpaiguri Division, PWD during 2023-2024." Estimated Amount Put To Tender: Rs. 9,86,604.00. Tender ID: 2024.PWD.663701_2. Sl No: 03 "Stretches repair to Jhabari Road from 0.00 Km to 3.25 Km under Jalpaiguri Division, PWD during 2023-2024." Estimated Amount Put To Tender: Rs. 9,89,268.00. Tender ID: 2024.PWD.663701_3. Sl No: 04 "Stretches repair to Jhabari Road from 0.00 Km to 3.25 Km under Jalpaiguri Division, PWD during 2023-2024." Estimated Amount Put To Tender: Rs. 5,28,238.00. Tender ID: 2024.PWD.663701_4. NIT No-37 of 2023-24 (1st call) for sl no: 01, 02, 03 and 04 of E.E. JPDD. Tender Ref No: 2024.PWD/37/2023-24. For sl no: 01, 02, 03 & 04. Bid submission closing date (online): 16.02.2024 at 10:00 Hrs. Bid Opening date (online): 19.02.2024 at 10:30 Hrs. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT documents may be downloaded from www.wbtdenders.gov.in. http://wbtdenders.gov.in Sd/-EE, JALPAIGURI DIVISION, PWD. ICA-13751(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE Office of the Secretary, District Health & Family Welfare Samiti & Chief Medical Officer of Health, N 24 Pgs, Kol-124, invites e-Tender for Electrical Installation Work for Up Gradation of Subcentres to Su-Swasthya Kendras (Health & Wellness Centre) under NIM/Health Policy 2022-23 at different Block (Habra-I&II) of North 24 Parganas (3rd Call). (vide NIT no. CMOH(N24Pgs)/Tender/HWC-96(E) 3rd Call-1266, Dated:- 07/02/2024) at this institution. Tender & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 24.02.2024, 6.00 pm (Tentative) Subject to availability of e-Tender slot. For details please visit: www.wbtdenders.gov.in or www.wbhealth.gov.in www.north24parganas.gov.in ICA-13820(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER The Chief Executive Officer, Siliguri Jalpaiguri Development Authority Himachal Vihar, Near-Passport Seva Laghu Kendra, Matigara-734010 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER The Chief Executive Officer, Siliguri Jalpaiguri Development Authority, Siliguri invites electronic notice inviting e-bid (Online) under 2 (Two) bid system from eligible resourceful bonafide and experienced firms / companies / individual contractors for the following works: Tender No. 1) NIT 116 / Engg / 2023-24 of SIDA (2ND CALL) & 3) NIT 122 / Engg / 2023-24 of SIDA (2ND CALL). Name of work: 1) Repairing School Building and Trussing up an Overhead Tin Roof of Classroom at Siliguri Mahananda Vidyamandir, Mahakalpalay, Siliguri. 2) Construction of Bituminous Road including both side Drain from Smriti Bhadra to Samar Ghosh house under Ward No-19 Jalpaiguri Municipality & 3) Construction of CC Road from H/o Shamal Das to H/o Robi Roy at North Samar Nagar under Dabgram-G.P., within Rajganj Block, Dist.- Jalpaiguri. Estimated Amount Put To Tender: Rs. 31,92,319.00. 2) Rs. 42,36,300.00 & 3) Rs. 18,13,751.00. Earnest Money: 1) Rs. 63,846.00, 2) Rs. 84,726.00 & 3) Rs. 36,275.00. Tender Documents Sale / Download Start Date & Time- 15.02.2024 at 4:00 P.M. and Bid Submission End Date & Time- 01.03.2024 upto 4:00 P.M. Date of opening of Technical Proposals- 04.03.2024 at 11:00 A.M. Date of opening of Financial Proposals - to be notified after technical evaluation. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. All details can be obtained from the website: www.sida.org or log in to https://wbtdenders.gov.in or contact Engineering Section of SIDA at (0353) 2512922, 2515647. Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, Siliguri. ICA-13764(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE Office of the Secretary, District Health & Family Welfare Samiti & Chief Medical Officer of Health, N 24 Pgs, Kol-124, invites e-Tender for supply of cooked food, dry foods, tea and snacks to the meetings and trainings organized by O/o the CMOH, Barasat, under North 24 Parganas (2nd Call). (vide NIT no. CMOH(N24Pgs)/Tender/Food2ndCall-1274, Dated:- 07/02/2024) at this institution. Tender & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 02.03.2024, 6.00 pm (Tentative) Subject to availability of e-Tender slot. For Details, Please visit: www.wbtdenders.gov.in or www.wbhealth.gov.in www.north24parganas.gov.in ICA-13819(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE Office of the Secretary, District Health & Family Welfare Samiti & Chief Medical Officer of Health, N 24 Pgs, Kol-124, invites e-Tender for supply of cooked food, dry foods, tea and snacks to the meetings and trainings organized by O/o the CMOH, Barasat, under North 24 Parganas (2nd Call). (vide NIT no. CMOH(N24Pgs)/Tender/Food2ndCall-1274, Dated:- 07/02/2024) at this institution. Tender & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 02.03.2024, 6.00 pm (Tentative) Subject to availability of e-Tender slot. For Details, Please visit: www.wbtdenders.gov.in or www.wbhealth.gov.in www.north24parganas.gov.in ICA-13819(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Abridged e-Notice Inviting Tender e-NIT No. WB/EE-II/CD/NIT-26/2023-24 WB

UP's 2024-25 BUDGET FOCUSES ON 'GYAN'

Upliftment of *Gareeb* (underprivileged), *Yuva* (youth), *Annadata* (farmers) and *Nari Shakti* (women power)



“ In the last seven years, Uttar Pradesh has written a new story of progress, in which the public has actively participated along with the state government. I am confident that Uttar Pradesh will play a leading role in the resolution journey of developed India.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

“ This is a budget of Rs 7,36,437 crore. There has been an increase of 6.7% compared to the budget of 2023-24. It also presents the achievements of the Double-Engine government committed to PM Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, and Sabka Prayas'. If we compare the GDP of Uttar Pradesh in 2016-17, which was almost Rs 12 lakh crore, and now if we talk about the GDP of UP in 2024-25, it will be successful in reaching Rs 25 lakh crore.

Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister



Empowering the people and the future of Uttar Pradesh

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Budget size:

Rs 7.36 lakh crore

(6.7% increase over 2023-24)

EXPENDITURE

Revenue expenditure:
Rs 5.33 lakh crore

Capital expenditure:
Rs 2.04 lakh crore

Capital outlay:
Rs 1.55 lakh crore

Increase in capital outlay: **6.19%**

Revenue surplus (% of GSDP): **2.97%**

Fiscal deficit, (% of GSDP) within FRBM limit of 3.5%: **3.46%**

ALLOCATION TO KEY DEPARTMENTS (IN INR CRORE)

Primary Education:
Rs 76,035

Energy:
Rs 57,071

Police:
Rs 39,516

Public Works Department:
Rs 34,858

Medical Health & Family Welfare:
Rs 27,086

Urban Development:
Rs 25,698

Rural Development:
Rs 25,409

Namami Gange & Rural Water Supply:
Rs 25,110

Panchayati Raj:
Rs 21,197

Heavy & Medium Industries:
Rs 21,054

GYAN is an abbreviation coined by PM Narendra Modi, symbolising '*gareeb* (underprivileged), *yuva* (youth), *annadata* (farmers) and *nari shakti* (women power)' — the four key sections of the nation that UP's Rs 7,36,437.71 crore budget seeks to uplift. UP government's fiscal strategy for 2024-25 has begun with a budget that outlines concrete steps towards

making the state a 1 trillion-dollar economy. Addressing the needs of key sectors and its stakeholders, the new budget has prioritised growth and welfare-centric initiatives for developing all-inclusive context for youth employment, women empowerment, farmers' prosperity and welfare of the poor and the entrepreneurs.

FARMERS' WELFARE

- Uttar Pradesh budget eyes 5.1% agricultural growth in financial year 2025
- Rs 2,400 crore allocated for supplying electricity to private tube wells of farmers at concessional rates, which is 25% more than the current financial year
- Rs 200 crore allocated for the World Bank-assisted UP Agris Scheme
- Allocation of Rs 449.45 crore for PM KUSUM Yojana
- Allocation of Rs 1,100 crore for supply of free water to farmers

WOMEN & CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- Rs 700 crore allocated under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana
- Rs 4,073 crore allocated for maintenance grants to destitute women after the death of their husbands
- Rs 600 crore allocated for the daughters of poor families under the Mukhyamantri Samuhik Vivah Yojana
- Allocation of Rs 971 crore for payment of honorarium to anganwadi workers and assistants

YOUTH & EMPLOYMENT

- 8.32 crore workers of Uttar Pradesh registered on the 'e-Shram' portal created by the Government of India — highest in the country
- Rs 4,000 crore allocated for distribution of tablets/smartphones under Swami Vivekananda Yuva Sashaktikaran Yojana
- Allocation of Rs 220 crore for scholarship to students of minority communities
- Allocation of Rs 70 crore for Chief Minister Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme

SPORTS

- Rs 195 crore allocated for development of sports infrastructure in various districts



Encouraging sportspersons

PICS: DIPR, GOVT. OF UTTAR PRADESH



Taking UP closer to 1 trillion dollar vision

- Rs 12 crore allocated for establishment of Sports Science and Injury Centre
- Rs 50 crore allocated for construction of sports infrastructure with private participation

LAW & ORDER

- Allocation of Rs 39,550 crore to modernise the state police force



Modernising law and order infrastructure

- Allocation of Rs 300 crore for establishment of courts in various districts of UP
- Rs 100 crore allocated for the under-construction National Law University in Prayagraj

MEDICAL & HEALTHCARE

- Rs 7,350 crore allocated for the operation of various programmes under the National Rural Health Mission
- Allocation of Rs 400 crore for establishment of a medical college in Varanasi district
- Allocation of Rs 125 crore for free medical facilities for incurable diseases
- Rs 322 crore allocated for Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana in 2024-25

- Government Ayurvedic College in Ayodhya and Government Homeopathic Medical College in Varanasi to be established

AVIATION SECTOR

- Rs 1,100 crore allocated for development of airstrips across the state
- Mayorpur (Sonbhadra) and Sarsawa (Saharanpur) airports under construction



Expanding & upgrading air-connectivity

- Allocation of Rs 150 crore for the expansion of Maharishi Valmiki International Airport Ayodhya Dham

CONNECTIVITY

- Rs 3,668 crore allocated for PM Gram Sadak Yojana
- Rs 800 crore allocated for widening/strengthening/construction of 4-lane highways for industrial/logistics parks
- Allocation of Rs 1,000 crore for construction of flyovers and similar infrastructure in urban areas
- Rs 346 crore allocated for Agra Metro
- Rs 914 crore allocated for the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Corridor Regional Rapid Transit System project
- Rs 395 crore allocated for Kanpur Metro Rail project

INDUSTRIALISATION

- Allocation of Rs 400 crore for Atal Industrial Infrastructure Mission
- With an estimated investment of Rs 30,000 crore, eight data centres planned to create 900 MW capacity
- Rs 400 crore allocated for Atal Bihari Vajpayee Powerloom Viduyat Flat Rate Yojana to uplift handloom and powerloom weavers
- Allocation of Rs 200 crore under PM Mega Integrated Textiles Region and Apparel Scheme, to establish mega textile park in Lucknow-Hardoi on about 1,000 acres

WELFARE

- New scheme — Construction Workers Death and Disability Assistance Scheme — created by integrating 'Construction Workers Death, Disability

BUDGET ALLOCATED IN 2024-25 TOWARDS HIGH-GROWTH DRIVING ECONOMIC PROJECTS

- Asia's largest airport at Jewar: **Rs 1,150 crore**
- Linking industrial nodes with expressways/ NHs: Lucknow- Agra and Purvanchal: **Rs 500 crore**
- National Rural Health Mission: **Rs 7,350 crore**
- 14 new Medical Colleges: **Rs 964 crore**

Assistance and Disability Pension Scheme' and 'Construction Workers Funeral Assistance Scheme'. In all the schemes consolidated under this scheme, there are 40,183 beneficiaries till November 2023 and an amount of about Rs 433 crore spent

- Allocation of Rs 7,377 crore for old-age pension
- Allocation of Rs 1,170 crore for Divyang Pension Yojana
- Rs 42 crore allocated for Leprosy Pension Scheme

TOURISM & CULTURE

- Allocation of Rs 2,500 crore for the grand event of Maha Kumbh Mela-2025
- Rs 14.68 crore allocated for establishment of Nishad Raj Guha Sanskritikendra, Shringerpur
- Rs 10 crore allocated for International Ramayana and Vedic Research Institute in Ayodhya
- One tourist destination to be developed in each assembly constituency of UP under Mukhyamantri Paryatan Vikas Sahbhagita Yojana

EDUCATION

- Rs 650 crore allocated for free sweaters and shoes-socks, in addition to Rs 350 crore for school bags for over 2 crore students studying in classes 1 to 8
- Allocation of Rs 255 crore for enrolling more than 2 lakh children from disadvantaged groups and economically weaker sections in 2024-2025



Children learning through digital interfaces

- Allocation of Rs 1,000 crore for Operation 'Kayakalp'
- Rs 498 crore allocated for digital libraries at Gram Panchayat and ward level
- Rs 168 crore allocated for distribution of free uniforms to nearly 30 lakh students above the poverty line

CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE



AHEAD OF TRIAL COURT APPEARANCE, SIDDA MOVES SC SEEKING QUASHING OF 2022 'LAW & ORDER' CASE

DMK MOUTHPIECE SLAMS TN GUV RAVI OVER HIS ADDRESS IN RECENT ASSEMBLY SESSION

TN House passes resolution against 'one nation, one poll'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Tamil Nadu assembly on Wednesday adopted a resolution urging the Union govt not to implement the 'one nation, one election' policy. It adopted another resolution unanimously urging the Centre not to carry out delimitation of constituencies based on the census post 2026, even as CM MK Stalin called the policy "dangerous, impractical and comical."

DMK allies, Congress, VCK, MDMK and Left parties supported the resolution. PMK, which released its shadow budget, did not participate in the day's proceedings. Stalin moved both resolutions.

"This house urges Union govt not to implement the 'one nation, one election' policy as the theory is impractical; not enshrined in the Constitution of India; election to local bodies, state assemblies and parliament are being held at different times on the basis of people centric issues in a vast and diverse country like India and it is against the idea of democratic decentralisation," the resolution said.

Multiple polls have wide ramifications, can hurt GDP growth, investments: Paper

A paper by N K Singh, member of the high-level committee on 'one nation, one election' and Prachi Mishra, chief of systemic division issues at IMF has brought out that, multiple elections do not just result in repetitive expenses but also have wider economic ramifications extending to GDP growth and investment. The paper has discussed expanded public expenditure, fiscal deficit, education, health outcomes, and law and order, in addition to uncertainty in the minds of investors and other societal stakeholders. The committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind, which met economists on Wednesday, has decided to have a wider discussion on the paper.

It comes amid demands from corporate sector to move to a single election every five years — with Parliament, assembly and local body — held together. In a presentation to the panel, industry chamber Ficcid said that reducing frequent polls could help save anywhere between Rs 7,500 crore and Rs 12,000 crore. Besides, CII argued that model code of conduct takes a toll on infrastructure projects with each election hitting govt work as employees are pulled into the electoral process for nearly two months. TNN

Stalin said delimitation based on census after 2026 was like a Damocles sword hanging over people of south India. "One nation, one election is the worst arbitrary idea. The ploy to reduce number of elected representatives of people of Tamil Nadu in the name of delimitation based on census must be thwarted. All should raise our voice against both, since they undermine democracy," he said. "One nation, one election" would pave way for illegal dissolution of state assemblies, Stalin said. "If the Union govt falls, will they dissolve all state assemblies and hold polls? Will those in power in Centre voluntarily resign if the govt fall in some states and polls are to be held?"

Sandeshkhali: Set up SIT for judicial probe, says Bengal govt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose urged state govt on Wednesday to establish a SIT and conduct a judicial inquiry into the Sandeshkhali violence, while emphasising the arrest of "gang leaders" and their "henchmen", and advocating for ex gratia to victims. He suggested state women's commission address the matter appropriately. "Take strict action against erring enforcement officials, particularly police."



Sandeshkhali in Bengal's North 24 Parganas has witnessed protests since Feb 7, predominantly led by women expressing anger over sexual harassment and high-handedness by associates of fugitive TMC strongman Sheikh Shahjahan. Shahjahan has evaded authorities since Jan 5 when villagers wounded three ED officers during a search operation at his home, as part of the probe into an alleged ration scam. Trinamool spokesman Kunal Ghosh criticised Bose's statements as "motivated, partial, baseless, and done to further political agenda". He suggested Bose should have engaged with state govt instead of "aligning with BJP and CPM".

Tension escalated after Bengal BJP leaders sought to visit Sandeshkhali following Calcutta HC's quashing of prohibition orders. An agitation in front of Basirhat SP's office resulted in a scuffle between BJP workers and police. State party chief Sukanta Majumdar fell while standing on the bonnet of a car and appeared to faint. He was rushed to a hospital. However, Sec 144 of CrPC was re-imposed by North 24 Parganas district administration at 19 places in trouble-torn Sandeshkhali. Calcutta HC had granted liberty to the state to seek a prohibition order in the "exact area of disturbance".

UPA spiked MS panel advice on MSP, said it would distort mkt

Had Told Parliament Such A Regime Could Be Counterproductive

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Manmohan Singh govt had turned down Swaminathan Committee's recommendation for minimum support price that was at least 50% higher than the weighted average cost of production, arguing that it would distort the market. "A mechanical linkage between MSP and cost of production may be counterproductive in some cases," K V Thomas, who was minister of state for agriculture and food, had said in response to a Parliament question in 2010 posed by BJP's Prakash Javadekar. Thomas had said govt was of the view that the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices recommended MSP based on "objective criteria and considering a variety of factors".

On Tuesday, Congress functionaries, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge and MP Rahul Gandhi, had said they would bring a law guaranteeing MSP in case they were voted to office. Rahul said his party "decides for the country and not for politics", while questioning criticism over the promise to give legal guarantee on MSP. He also sought to counter claims that the Swaminathan Committee report was not implemented by Congress, saying UPA had implemented 175 of the 201 recommendations. Based on the recommendations of the committee, set up by UPA, farmers are de-



Congress is now saying it would guarantee MSP, if voted to office

manding implementation of the C2+50 formula — which is a comprehensive cost including imputed cost of capital and the rent on the land owned by farmers — for 23 crops covered by MSP. Centre has, however, said the issue needs to be dealt with in detail before it can commit to meet the demand. Govt officials have argued that a legislation offering a guarantee was not feasible as the value of agricultural produce in the country

during FY20 was pegged at Rs 40 lakh crore, while the market value of 24 crops that are part of the MSP regime (including Fair and Remunerative Price for sugarcane) was estimated at Rs 10 lakh crore, slightly higher than the Centre's capital expenditure for the current financial year. Procuring this value of produce from a budget of Rs 45 lakh cr (for 2024-25) would mean that there would be very little money left to pursue other development & social goals.

Rahul slams govt stand on MSP

Rahul Gandhi criticised on Wednesday the govt's warnings that MSP guarantee would bankrupt the country, arguing that only farmers issues raise such concerns while concessions to industrialists are ignored. "Modi, his propaganda machinery and friendly media are the enemies of the poor and farmers," the Congress functionary claimed. TNN

Invoke power to stay, quash criminal proceedings sparingly, SC tells HCs

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Disapproving of high courts invoking inherent powers granted to them under section 482 of Criminal Procedure Code to interfere in to probe in criminal cases and grant protection to accused, Supreme Court on Tuesday held that the statutory power has to be exercised "sparingly with circumspection and in the rarest of rare cases".

A bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Prasanna B Vales said that there was nothing wrong in invoking section 482 of CrPC to quash proceed-

ings if allegations made in FIR or complaint prima facie did not constitute any offence or if the criminal proceedings are found to be manifestly mala fide but HCs should resist from exercising the power at the nascent stage of probe. The court quashed an order passed by Allahabad HC restraining police and ED from taking coercive action against officials of Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited.

"It hardly needs to be reiterated that inherent powers under section 482 do not confer any arbitrary jurisdiction on high court to act according to whims or caprice. The stat-

utory power has to be exercised sparingly with circumspection and in the rarest of rare cases. In a way, by passing such orders of staying investigations and restraining investigating agencies from taking any coercive measure against the accused pending petitions under section 482, HC has granted blanket orders restraining the arrest without accused applying for anticipatory bail under section 438," the bench said.

The bench said the HC orders were in utter disregard and "in the teeth" of the guidelines issued by the three-judge bench of apex court.

Shark attacks man in Maha river; he may lose a leg

Sandhya.Nair @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: An 7ft-long bull shark, a species that can live in freshwater, nearly severed the left calf and ankle of a 32-year-old tribal man who was crossing the shallow waters of Vaitarna river in Manor on Tuesday. The man's leg may need to be amputated.

The adult shark, weighing around 190kg, is said to have been captured later and killed by the locals of Dongarpada. Manor police, however, claimed it died during a rescue operation. Locals said that the shark was pregnant but this could not be independently verified. It is suspected to be the first case of attack by a marine predator on a human along coastal Palghar and Maharashtra.

Locals had spotted the bull shark in the river earlier in the day, and children as well as women who wash clothes and bathe by the riverbank were warned against venturing into the waters. Around 3.30pm, Vikya Gowari, a resident of Dongarpada, was collecting twigs and branches along the river. He stepped into the waters and the shark ripped off



Videos of the shark being held by a rope on the shore by locals and bloodstains on its underbelly circulated online

most of his left calf and ankle. His screams alerted locals, who rushed to the spot to find him profusely bleeding.

While a few men rushed Gowari to a nearby hospital, others captured the predator and beat it to death. Videos of the shark being held by a rope on the shore and bloodstains on its underbelly circulated online. Gowari was later shifted to Vinobha Bhawe Civil Hospital in Silvassa.

Manor police later took custody of the carcass. They claimed that the fish had died while efforts were being made to rescue it. The carcass has been handed over to the mangrove cell of the forest department for further investigation. Bhushan Bhoir, a marine biologist from Palghar, said "It is a dangerous sign. The shark may have travelled to river in search of food, which is depleting in the oceans."

Manipur mobs target armoury; 1 dead, 2 hurt as forces open fire

Imphal: Deadly violence erupted Tuesday night in Manipur, resulting in the death of a 24-year-old man and injuries to two others in paramilitary firing as mobs targeted the police training college and armoury of 5th India Reserve Battalion in Imphal East district, reports K Sarojkumar Sharma.

The attacks unfolded against the backdrop of intensified search operations to recover over 5,000 arms and ammunition looted from police armories since ethnic violence erupted in Manipur on May 3 last year. Simultaneously, another group attempted to storm the police training complex at Pangei, located nearby. In response, paramilitary forces opened fire, wounding Okram Santosh (24), Kh Robert, and Tongbram Rex. Santosh died en route to hospital, while other two are undergoing treatment.

Navigating towards Viksit Bharat through Waterways

"We are resolute in our efforts to harness waterways for India's progress."

Shri Narendra Modi

Inauguration of Inter-modal Terminal (IMT) Kalughat on NW-1 (Ganga) (Rs. 82.50 Crore)

Laying of foundation stone for Community Jetties at Bettiah (Nautan) on NW-37 (Gandak) (Rs. 3.50 Crore)

Benefits

To connect Nepal & Bihar with Haldia Port through National Waterways

To improve the socio economic condition of the people living nearby River and generate employment

Thursday, 15th February, 2024 at Kalughat, Terminal

Presided by

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal
Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Government of India

In the august Presence of

Sh. Samrat Chaudhary
Dy. Chief Minister, Bihar

Sh. Vijay Kumar Sinha
Dy. Chief Minister, Bihar

Shriyut Shripad Naik
Hon'ble Minister of State, MoPSW and Tourism

Sh. Shantanu Thakur
Hon'ble Minister of State, MoPSW

Sh. Rajiv Pratap Rudy
Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Saran

Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal
Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Paschim Champaran

Inland Waterways Authority of India, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India

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OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ELECTION OFFICER, JALGAON
E-mail: Id-dyeejalgaon@gmail.com. Phone No-0257-2217640
Ref No-Eln-1/RR/254/2024 Dated-13/02/2024.

Notice for Tender

District Election Officer, Jalgaon invites proposals from reputed and experienced companies to participate in the competitive bidding process to supply Tent, Table, Chair, Furniture & other related items on rental basis.

For the detailed Tender document, interested bidder should visit <http://mahatenders.gov.in> & www.jalgaon.nic.in.

Tender submission would be online and the deadline to submit the proposals is 06/03/2024 at 6.00 hrs.

Sd/-
(Ayush Prasad)
District Election Officer, Jalgaon.

DGIPR/2023-2024/8236

INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)
Head Office: A-13, Sector-1, Noida - 201 301
Ph: 0120-2544004, Fax: 0120-2424544, vc.iwai@nic.in

Notice Inviting Tender – NIT

NIT for Fairway Maintenance of access channel Kalughat (12.5 km) of National Waterway-1 (River Ganga)

Inland Waterways Authority of India intends to engage a Contractor for "Fairway Maintenance of Access Channel Kalughat (12.5 km) stretch of National Waterway-1 (River Ganga)". Bidders are informed that the last date for submission of bids is up to 1500 hrs. (IST) on 12.03.2024. For details and further updates please visit website www.iwai.nic.in and e-procurement site <https://procure.gov.in/e-procure/app>.

Date: 13.02.2024 Vice Chairman & Project Director (JMVP)

K RIDE
RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (KARNATAKA) LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Government of Karnataka & Ministry of Railways)

BENGALURU SUBURBAN RAILWAY PROJECT

CIN: U60100KA2000SGC028171
Regd. Office: 1st Floor, Samparka Soudha, Opp: Orion Mall, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-10

Tender Notice No. KRIDE/2023-24/01/WORK_INDENT18 Dated: 14.02.2024

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-tenders are invited from experienced agencies for the following work: Enumeration, Marking and preparation of reports of trees in Corridor-I of Bangalore Suburban Railway Project

Last date for submission of bids is 18.03.2024

For details, visit: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or www.kride.in Sd/-
Executive Director Civil

DIPR/CPNVL/3568/2022-23

HIGH COURT OF UTTARAKHAND, AT NAINITAL

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR PROCUREMENT OF HAND HELD DEVICES

The High Court of Uttarakhand invites eBids in two cover system from the eligible bidders for supply of Hand Held Devices for Process Servers and Bailiffs in District Courts of State.

The last date of submission of eBids shall be 27/02/2024, 11:00 AM. The detail of tender document along with terms and conditions of e-tender can be downloaded from "<http://uktenders.gov.in>" and on the official website of High Court of Uttarakhand, Nainital i.e. "<http://www.highcourtuttarakhand.gov.in>"

Sd/-
Registrar General
High Court of Uttarakhand, Nainital

After ₹350cr I-T recovery, J'khand Cong MP revises returns, pays tax on ₹150cr

New Delhi: Congress' Rajya Sabha MP Dhiraj Sahu, from whose premises a record haul of Rs 350 crore cash was seized by the Income Tax department in Dec last year, has revised his returns for last year and paid tax on Rs 150 crore, report Surojit Gupta & Sidhartha.

The businessman-turned-politician has argued that some of the cash recovered relates to business conducted during the current financial year, for which returns are to be filed only in the next financial year. On the remaining amount, Rs 50 crore remains unexplained on which the Income Tax department will levy penalty and tax, sources said.

Sources said the Congress MP has said that the cash was part of "business turnover". "They have been unable to explain anything about the Rs 50 crore from the overall cash pile and will have to pay tax and penalty. We will see the returns for when they are filed in July," they added. Revision of returns is allowed under the income tax rules to correct mistakes or any details left out in the original tax return.

The search operation undertaken by the I-T department at the premises linked to Sahu in Dec had resulted in seizure of undisclosed cash amounting to more than Rs 351 crore and unaccounted jewellery exceeding Rs. 2.8 crore. This was the largest ever cash haul by the income tax department.

A statement issued by the department after the operation was completed had said that a substantial part of the Rs 329 crore cash was unearthed and seized from obscure and dilapidated buildings, hidden chambers and hidden safe-house camouflaged as an unoccupied/nondescript residence located in small towns of Odisha including Sudapada and Titlagarh in Bolangir district and Khetrajapur in Sambalpur district.

RAIL LAND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(A Statutory Authority under Ministry of Railways, Government of India)
Unit No. 702-B, 7th Floor, Konektus Tower-II, DMRC Building, Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi-110002 Phone: +91-11-23222854, Fax: +91-11-23222855

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL THROUGH E-TENDER
(RFP Notice No. R/LDA/2024/RFP/CD/09 Dated 01.02.2024)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION & COMMISSIONING OF MULTI MODAL TRANSIT HUB (MTH-2) ALONG WITH ALL ARCHITECTURAL, STRUCTURAL, CIVIL, MEPE, HVAC & OTHER ALLIED WORKS ON PARAGARAJ SIDE IN CONNECTION WITH REDEVELOPMENT OF NEW DELHI RAILWAY STATION ON ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT AND CONSTRUCTION (EPC) BASIS

Station	Construction Period	Bid Document Fee	Bid Security	Estimated Cost
New Delhi Railway Station	24 Months	Rs. 29,500/- (I/c GST @18%)	Rs. 1.00 Crore	Rs. 440 Crore

Pre-bid Meeting: 1st March, 2024 at 11:30 Hrs
Venue: R/LDA Office, New Delhi

Last Date of Submission of E-bid Online: 08.04.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.
Opening of E-bids Technical: 12.04.2024 at 15:30 Hrs.

For Further details of the project, please visit our website www.rlda.indianrailways.gov.in or on e-procurement portal www.tenderswizard.in/R/LDA under the heading "e-tender". For any clarifications, may please contact:-

Jt. General Manager/Project	Chief Project Manager	For e-bid queries-
New Delhi-1 M: 70110 51338 ndisepc@rlda.railnet.gov.in	New Delhi-1 M: 79526 18481	Mr. Suraj Singh M: 95996 53865 suraj@etenderwizard.com

Note:- Any Corrigendum or Addendum shall be published only on above mentioned Website. JGM/Tender, (M) 9901 14988

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Kengeri Division, RR Nagar Zone, BBMP Building, C A No-3, 1st Main Road, Outer Ring Road - Kommaghatta Road, Kengeri Upanagara, Bangalore-60

ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण (Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority)

Table with 3 columns: क्र. (No.), कार्य का नाम/वर्क (Work Name), अनुमानित लागत (Estimated Cost). Lists various construction and maintenance works.

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NORTHERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM Due to transportation constraint dates of walk-in-interview are being postponed. The revised dates are as below:-

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED See Section U/S 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Nitu W/o Sunil R/o House Left Hand side of H.No. 634, Pole No. 07, Village: Issapur Khara, New Delhi-110077 has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Ct. Case No. 352/2020 U/S 135 of the Indian Electricity Act, PS Kapashera, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Nitu cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Nitu has absconded (or is concealing herself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

e-Tender Notice Mukhya Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Maharashtra Rural Road Development Association Jalna e-Tender Notice No. 47/2023-24. Under Mukhya Mantri Gramsadak Yojana, E-Tender is being published on www.mahatenders.gov.in this website after 10:00 o'clock on 12.02.2024.

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED No. 1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560079. Phone: +91-80-29619801 Email: md.kmscsl@gmail.com

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE Office of the Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, Bengaluru - 560064.

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - SHORT TERM (Two Cover System) Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only

The Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed below. (Standard Tender Document - KW-01, KW-02, KW-03 & KW-04)

Table with 4 columns: Sl. No., Name of the Work / Category, Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs), EMD (Rs. in Lakhs). Lists various construction works.

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender document can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2) Date of Pre Bid Meeting on 19-02-2024 at 16:00 Hours at the Office of the Executive Engineer (Yelahanka Division). 3) Tenders must be Submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or before 16:00 Hours on 23-02-2024. 4) Date of Opening of Technical Bids on 26-02-2024 after 16:00 Hours. Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Yelahanka Division, BBMP.

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS KATHUA E-mail: sspkathua@kpolice.gov.in Fax/Phone No.: 01922-234010 LOOK OUT NOTICE On 24-01-2024, one Balram Shadotra S/O Rakesh Kumar R/O W.No. 06, Tehsil and District Kathua lodged a written report at P/S Kathua stating therein that on 20-01-2024 his daughter namely Simran Shadotra, age about 17 years is missing. The complainant tried his best to search his daughter but all in vain. On this, a case FIR No. 26/2024 U/S 363 IPC has been registered at P/S Kathua.

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD. (A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise) Office of Chief Engineer (O&M), Kumaon Zone, 220KV S/S, Campus, Kamalagaria, Haldwani-263139 Corporate ID U40101UR20045GC028675 Phone No. 7088117917

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD. (A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise) Office of Chief Engineer (O&M), Kumaon Zone, 220KV S/S, Campus, Kamalagaria, Haldwani-263139 Corporate ID U40101UR20045GC028675 Phone No. 7088117917

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male Age : 50-55 years, Height : 5'3", Complexion : Shallow, wearing blue & violet colour checkdar shirt, mehndi colour jersey and grey colour lower, was unconscious on 13.02.2024 at KM Pole No. 4/12, 4/14G, Near Mandawali Railway Station, Ghaziabad Side, Delhi. He was admitted in GTB Hospital vide MLC No. 002/02/2024, where doctor declare him brought dead. In this regard a DD No. 04-A dated 13.02.2024 u/s 174 Cr.P.C. has been lodged at P.S. Anand Vihar Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours for identification in the mortuary of GTB Hospital, Delhi.

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD. (A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise) OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (OPERATION & MAINTENANCE), GARHWAL ZONE, 26-KV LINES, ROORKEE

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd. Invites the following e-tenders. 1. Procurement of Battery Charger & Battery Set for 132 KV Substation Chudiyala against e-tender specification No.CE/GZR-31/2023-24. Last date of submission online/offline of e-tender is 13.03.2024 upto 15.00 hrs which shall be opened on 14.03.2024 at 15.00 hrs.

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER Name of Work and its location: 30-Elect-55-T-2023-24-E3 Electrical work regarding provision of Centralized control and command center (C-4) at BRSQ Railway Station. Approx. Cost of the works in Rs. 109.38 lacs. Address of the office: Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

UJVN LIMITED H.O.: "UJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006. Telephone: 0135-2763508, 2763808, Fax: 0135-2763507 CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Short term e-Tender Date Extension Notice-02 In reference to tenders invited by Office of The Executive Engineer (Civil-I), Lakhwar Multipurpose Project, Dakpathar (Distt-Dehradun). The amended dates of bid are as below: 1. Tender No. 12/EE (Civil-I)/MPP/2023-24 2. Last Date of submission of tender on website 17.02.2024 upto 16:00 Hrs. For further & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED (A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Mekedatu Project Division, Harobele - 562 126. E-mail : eemekedatu@gmail.com Tender Notification No. : 01/2023-24 Date : 12-02-2024

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD. (A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise) "Vidut Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Muz, Dehradun-248002 Corporate ID U40101UR20045GC028675 Tel. No. 9135-2642711

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbala Division, Queens Road, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore.

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI PROJECT RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER MAHANADI PROJECT RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER Name of Work and its location: 30-Elect-56-T-2023-24-E3, Electrical Work in Connection with Repairing of AC Plant at Microwave V-SAT Hub Th. Road and CADC of 1/5/2 TR Window/Split Type Air Conditioner & Air-Conditioner plant installed over Delhi Division.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Sub: NIT No. 15-DyCE-GSU-DLI-23-24R2 The Dy. Chief Project Manager Electrical (Gati Shakti/Northern Railway, DRM Office, New Delhi-110001 invites e-tender for the under noted work. It will be uploaded to IREPS website on date 15.02.2024

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HALT CONTRACTORS No.631-CP-Halt Tender-2023 Date: 13.02.2024 Applications are invited from eligible candidates for appointment as halt contractors for sale of tickets on commutation basis at following halt stations for a period of five years (05). Applications in sealed envelope will be accepted from 14.02.2024 to 04.03.2024 (From 10:00 to 17:00 hrs) and on 05.03.2024 up to 11:00 hrs and same will be opened on 05.03.2024 at 12:00 hrs.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED (A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises) OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER Mekedatu Project Division, Harobele - 562 126. E-mail : eemekedatu@gmail.com Tender Notification No. : 01/2023-24 Date : 12-02-2024

Blast at govt event in Chitrakoot kills 4

Short Circuit Likely Cause; Probe Ordered

Arindam Ghosh
@timesgroup.com



Police personnel inspect the blast site in Chitrakoot on Wednesday

Jhansi: Four minors were killed and several injured in a massive blast triggered by a fire, caused possibly due to short circuit, during preparations for a fireworks display at Bundelkhand Gaurav Mahotsav in Chitrakoot, organised by UP tourism department, on Wednesday.

The blast was so massive that it created a two-foot-deep crater at the venue. Chitrakoot SP Arun Singh said the explosion took place at 3.10pm and its impact could be heard a kilometre away. Emergency services, including nine ambulances and four fire tenders, were rushed to the site. District magistrate Abhishek Anand said the event was cancelled after the incident.

The deceased were identified as Ajneya Mishra (11),

Prabhat Patel (10), Paras Sharma (12) and Mohit Kumar (14). UP CM Yogi Adityanath expressed condolences to the families of the four boys and announced immediate financial assistance of Rs 5 lakh each to their families and Rs 50,000 to the injured.

On the CM's instructions, a committee headed by an ADG has been constituted to delve into the exact cause of the explosion. Jhansi police have registered an FIR against a Mumbai-based company that was entrusted with the fireworks display, Dom Entertainment, for negligence. The FIR said initial investigation pointed towards the company's employees failing to handle the electrical equipment properly.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



Isro to launch weather sat on Feb 17

New Delhi: In a boost for India's meteorological services, Isro will launch INSAT-3DS, which will enhance meteorological observations and help in better weather forecasting and disaster warning, from the Sriharikota spaceport at 5.30pm on Feb 17, reports Surendra Singh. The satellite will be launched on board a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle F14 (GSLV F14).

Fully funded by the ministry of earth sciences (MoES), the INSAT-3DS satellite is a follow-on mission of a third-generation meteorological satellite to be placed in the geostationary orbit. Isro stated that Indian industries have significantly contributed to the making of the satellite.

Of 34 accused, Phoolan and 30 others died during Behmai trial

Continued from P1

Rajaram of Behmai village had alerted police about the massacre, leading to the registration of a case against 34 people, including Phoolan Devi. Of them, 31 died during the trial period, including Phoolan Devi. Also, 28 witnesses in the case passed away during

the trial. One of the accused, Man Singh, remains at large. A local court in Kanpur framed charges in the case in Aug 2012. On Wednesday, Kanpur Debat additional district judge (anti-robbery court) Amit Malviya sentenced Shyam Babu Kewat to life imprisonment and acquitted another accused, Vishwanath, due to lack of evidence.

ED tampered with digital proof: Balaji

Chennai: Former Tamil Nadu minister V Senthil Balaji, seeking bail from Madras HC, Wednesday accused Enforcement Directorate (ED) of tampering with digital evidence seized from his house to frame him in money laundering case, reports Suresh Kumar K.

"The brand of the digital evidence such as pen drive and hard disk recorded in the seizure mahazar and the ones produced in the court are different," said senior advocate Aryama Sundaram. It was initially reported that the pen drive consisted of 284 files. But in a later report, it was modified as 472 files, he pointed out.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No: KWA-JB/5047/2023-R3(RMC)
Implementation of Enterprise Utility Service and Billing Solution in Kerala Water Authority with at least 5 years of operational support.
EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/- Tender fee : Rs. 25,000/- Last Date for submitting Tender : 11-03-2024, 03:00 pm. Phone : 9447795252
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in & www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Chief Engineer (HRD&GI)
KWA-JB-GL-6-2352-2023-24 Jalabhavan, Thiruvananthapuram

ARMY WELFARE HOUSING ORGANISATION (AWHO)

Kashmir House, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi-110011
Visit us at www.awhosena.in
A Demand Survey for Srinagar City (J&K) for Group Housing project is being carried out by AWHO from 15 February, 2024 to 31 July, 2024. For more details please visit AWHO website www.awhosena.in. AWHO Management

डॉ० एपीजीओ अब्दुल कलाम प्राविधिक विश्वविद्यालय

सेक्टर-11, जानकीपुरम विस्तार योजना, लखनऊ, उत्तर प्रदेश-226031
पत्रांक: ए0केटी0यू0कुस0का0भाषा/2024/846 दिनांक: 13-02-2024
केन्द्रीय पुस्तकालय में पुस्तकों की आपूर्ति हेतु विक्रेताओं के पैनल के लिए अधिकृत विक्रेता के रूप में नामांकित होने के लिए प्रतियोगिता प्रकाशकों/वितरकों/विक्रेताओं से आवेदन-पत्र दिनांक 24 फरवरी, 2024 तक आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं। विस्तृत विवरण विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट: https://aktu.ac.in पर उपलब्ध है।
कुलसचिव

CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
41/5, Sir Moolchandani Ave., August Kranti Marg, New Delhi, New Delhi-110028
Warehousing for Everyone
No. CWC/B&C/ED/7(1) (f)/2023-24 Dated: 15.02.2024
ELECTION NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that Election of Director on the board of the Central Warehousing Corporation for a term of three years, representing shareholding institutions under section 7(1)(f) of Warehousing Corporations Act, 1962 viz. insurance companies, investment trusts and other financial institutions, recognised associations and companies dealing in agricultural produce or notified commodities, will be held on 16.04.2024 (Tuesday) (02.30 P.M. to 04.30 P.M.) in the Auditorium of the Corporate Office, CWC. The last date for receipt of nomination is 06.03.2024 (Wednesday) up to 5.00 PM. The last date for receipt of proxies/authorized representations (ARs) will be 21.03.2024 (Thursday) up to 5.00 PM. For detailed information please logon to CWC website www.cwecor.nic.in.
Secretary, CWC

भारतीय दूरसंचार विनियामक प्राधिकरण

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA
महानगर दूरसंचार भवन, जवाहर लाल नेहरू मार्ग (पुराना मिट्टो रोड), नई दिल्ली/New Delhi - 110002
OPEN HOUSE DISCUSSION
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) shall hold an Open House Discussion through video conference on the following subject at the date and time given below:
Subject Date Time Venue
"Draft Telecommunication Mobile Number Portability (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2023" 22nd February 2024 Sign in: 10.30 AM Conference: 11.00 AM OHD will be through video conferencing
Interested stakeholders/industry representatives are invited to participate in the Open House Discussion. The Stakeholders/Industry representatives willing to participate in the OHD may register themselves on TRAI website on the OHD notification page at URL: www.traai.gov.in/events.
The Consultation Paper on the subject is available in the URL: https://www.traai.gov.in/sites/default/files/Regulation_27092023.pdf.
For any clarification, Shri Akhlesh Kumar Trivedi, Advisor (Network, Spectrum and Licensing), TRAI may be contacted at Tel. No. +91-1123210481, email: advmnm@traai.gov.in. CBC 06202/12/0056/2324

Uttarakhand Health & Family Welfare Society, MoH&FW

Danda Lakhound, P.O. Gujra, Sahasthradara Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Bid Identification No. NHMUK/MMU-RT/2023-24/3041 Dated: 14/02/2024
e-Tender Notice
Mission Director, NHM, Uttarakhand invites e-tender, from eligible bidders for providing operational services of Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) in Uttarakhand. The bid document containing detailed terms & conditions will be available at http://www.uktenders.gov.in from 16/02/2024 (3:00 pm) onwards. The Pre-bid meeting will be held on 21/2/2024 at 3:00 pm at NHM state office conference hall, last date of bid submission is 08.03.2024 up to 3:00 PM. For any query please contact 0135-2607938. Mission Director, NHM, Uttarakhand

Government of India Public Enterprises Selection Board CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the PESB advt. No. 7/2024 dated 23.01.2024 vide which application for filling up the vacancy to the post of Chairman and Managing Director, SJVN has been invited, it is informed that the date of vacancy for post, wherever appears, may be read as 01.02.2024 instead of 01.03.2024. Other T&C contained in the aforesaid advertisement will remain unchanged.
For details log in to website http://pesb.new.nic.in

Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises MSME - TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

Process & Product Development Centre, Agra Government of India Society
OFFLINE TRAINING ON Export Import
COURSE CONTENTS : 24th - 25th February, 2024 (Weekend)
• Introduction to Export & Import • Import Documentation • Export Documentation • Foreign Trade Policies • Duty drawback, certificate of origin, marine insurance, duty drawback, RoDTEP, ECGC, INCO terms, advance authorisation, EPCG authorisation, SEZ, bonded warehouse, FTWZ • Importability exportability etc.
Timing 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Course Fees :- Rs. 4500/- Including GST (Lunch and refreshments will be provided).
OFFLINE TRAINING ON EV Charging Station
COURSE CONTENTS : 2nd - 3rd March, 2024 (Weekend)
• Electric vehicle policy • EV penetration in India • Basic working of Electrical vehicle vs ICE • Need for Charging Infrastructure • EV Charging station types and its Technologies • Types of Chargers and its Connector types • Charging Management System (CMS) • Data Security & Data Management • Challenges in the EV market • EV station Infrastructure & business opportunities • Charge point Operators Platform (COPS) • All India Government guidelines and standards
Timing 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM Course Fees :- Rs. 4500/- Including GST (Lunch and refreshments will be provided).
Venue Br. MSME DFO, 2nd floor, MSME-TDC PPDC, EFC New Delhi, Opp. Haldiram L Block, Outer Circle Connaught Place, New Delhi - 110001
For More Details and online registration
Contact Number - 9810371728, 7983607199, 9677692445
E-mail- kathir.r@dcmsme.gov.in, msmeppdc@delhi@gmail.com
Certificate will be awarded.

Centre for Railway Information Systems CRIS

Tender No. 01245038. Subject: Procurement of System Software, Onsite Help desk and OEM Man days for 1 year for Indian Railway Native IoT based Yield Analysis Telemetry, Recording and Control (IR-NIYANTRAC) project. Date of Opening: 07.03.2024 (15:30 HRS) Tender Documents can be downloaded from Website www.reps.gov.in. For future modification/ extensions pl. see www.reps.gov.in.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum/Modification in e-Auction Date Auction/Corrigendum Notice No. 19/2023-24 Amendment in Published e-Auction dates in February-2024
Following correction/amendment is carried out in published e-auction dates of February-2024
Published e-Auction Dates: 16 February-2024, Amended e-Auction Dates: 22 February-2024, Jurisdiction of Lots: Dy CMM/ Depot/GKP
Other e-Auction dates and terms and conditions, as published vide Auction Notice No. 17/2023-24, will remain unchanged. This notice is also available on NE Railway website on www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in
Principal Chief Materials Manager, CPRO/S-134 Gorakhpur
Never travel on roof and foot boards.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Corrigendum No.: 04/2023-24/TMC/HQ/NCR/PRJ Date: 13.02.2024 CORRIGENDUM-4th
Corrigendum of Tender No. TMC0032324 Date of opening 14.02.2024 against Tender Notice No. 03/P-69/2023-24/TMC/HQ/NCR/ALD Dated: 16.11.2023.
All the related tenders are hereby informed that due date of opening of tender No. TMC0032324 has been re-fixed as 20.03.2024 in place of earlier date 14.02.2024. All other terms & conditions shall remain unchanged. Corrigendum for the same is available on website http://reps.gov.in & www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in. 1871/23 (A)
North central railways CP/PRONCR

भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान Wildlife Institute of India

(An Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India)
Chandrabani, Dehra Dun - 248 001, INDIA
EPBAX: +91-135-2640111 TO 2640115
E-MAIL: wii@wii.gov.in, Web Site: https://wii.gov.in
Recruitment of Staff-2024 Advertisement No. WII/ADM/2024/07
The Wildlife Institute of India, an autonomous institution of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change, Government of India is inviting applications from the interested eligible candidate for the following posts.
Sl. No. Name of post Pay Matrix Level No. of vacancies Group Category UR SC ST OBC EWS Age
1. Lab Attendant Level-1 04 Group C 01 0 0 02 01 Minimum 18 years Maximum 28 years
2. Driver Level-2 02 Group C 0 0 0 01 01 Minimum 18 years Maximum 27 years
3. Technical Assistant (IT&RS/GIS) Level-6 01 Group B 0 0 0 0 01 Minimum 18 years Maximum 28 years
The detailed advertisement, terms and conditions are available at WII's website https://wii.gov.in. The last of receipt of application is 14.03.2024.
Registrar Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun

CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES AND TRAINING (CCRT)

MINISTRY OF CULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
15 A, Sector-7, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075
SCHEME FOR AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO YOUNG ARTISTES IN DIFFERENT CULTURAL FIELDS
Off-line Applications are invited by CCRT, Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India for the award of Scholarships from Young Artistes of Outstanding promise in the fields of Indian Classical Music, Indian Classical Dances, Light Classical Music, Theatre, Visual Arts and Folk Traditional and Indigenous Arts.
Please note Applications are invited for the Batch Year 2022-23 with effect from 15th February, 2024. There are 400 scholarships available this year. Details of the schemes, instructions for applicants, eligibility conditions/criteria and Application Module are available on the following websites of the Ministry of Culture Government of India and CCRT i.e. www.indiaculture.nic.in & www.ccrindia.gov.in.
31st March, 2024 is the last date for submission of applications.
ONLY OFF-LINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED
CBC 09127/12/0012/2324

BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY RESEARCH ASSISTANCE COUNCIL (BIRAC)

(A Government of India Enterprise)

NATIONAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER BioNEST SCHEME

Apply to BIRAC for:
Setting up of new BioNEST-Incubation Centres/
Upgradation of Existing BioNEST Centres

Who can Apply?
Indian institutions fostering deeptech Life sciences Innovations:
Universities/Research Institutes/Incubation Centres/
State Government S&T bodies/ Research Hospitals

Apply Online www.birac.nic.in
Application Submission Starts on: 15 Feb 2024
Closes on: 31 March 2024

For any queries, write to:
Dr. Chhaya Chauhan, Sr. Manager - Incubation | sped4.birac@nic.in
Ms. Apurva Shrivastava, Officer - Incubation | user-034@birac.nic.in

'No one remembers martyrs after polls are over'

Continued from P 1

Army and CRPF officers and some ex-servicemen — Kacchi's brothers in uniform — garlanded the statue and a "kanya bhaj" was organised by the family, but no public representative or govt official set foot in Khudawal. Kacchi's family spent Rs 6 lakh building the statue. "During Ashwin's last rites, and also during the inauguration of the statue that we built, administrative officials and public representatives had said that a school would be built in his name and the statue

PM pays homage to 'brave heroes' of Pulwama

PM Narendra Modi and other senior leaders Wednesday paid tribute to the CRPF personnel killed in a terror attack in Pulwama on this day in 2019. "I pay homage to the brave heroes who were martyred in Pulwama. Their service and sacrifice for our nation will always be remembered," Modi said.

site would be developed as a park. But those are still just promises. Not a single official or representative turned up to pay homage to the martyr," Ashwin's brother, Sumant Kacchi, told TOI.

His niece, Priyanka Kacchi, said, "Whenever we talk to public representatives about the construction of a school in my un-

deplorable condition, promises remain unfulfilled." In Madhya Pradesh, govt gives financial assistance of Rs 1 crore to the families of "martyrs". A house is provided and a school is named after the fallen soldier. In Ashwin Kacchi's case, govt provided Rs 1 crore and allotted a house, but other promises lie forgotten. Even in Bhopal, govt took over a year to keep its promise to name a road after Group Captain Varun Singh, a Shaurya Chakra awardee, who died in the helicopter crash that killed CDS Bipin Rawat and 12 others.

ED questions Paytm executives on RBI-flagged 'irregularities'

Will Decide On Formal Probe Based On Findings

Pradeep.Thakur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Senior executives of Paytm have appeared for questioning before Enforcement Directorate in connection with alleged irregularities reported by Reserve Bank of India recently. The regulator had barred the payments bank from accepting deposits from customers after Feb 29.

The agency is conducting a preliminary enquiry based on the findings of RBI and will take a decision on registering a formal investigation depending on its findings. Sources, however, said no serious issues had come to light so far.

ED has asked Paytm executives to come again with certain docu-



Paytm Payments Bank has been barred from accepting deposits from customers after Feb 29

information, documents and explanations from the authorities, including ED, with respect to customers that may have done business with the respective entities, and provided the required information, documents and explanations to the authorities. The company and its associate have continued to provide such information, documents and explanations to the authorities as is being required by them."

On Feb 4, TOI had reported that ED may examine charges of KYC-related lapses by Paytm Payments Bank that were shared by RBI a few months ago.

RBI has so far only shared information that it thought was suspicious and prone to misuse, especially from the money laundering angle.

The issues flagged by RBI included use of the same PAN on multiple occasions, absence of KYC and allowing transfers via pre-payment instruments without proper verification over the last few years.

B- GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"-PROCUREMENT NOTICE WORKS DOCUMENT
E-mail: ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-39/2023-24

- The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Government of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below:
- Nature of work : Road works
- No. of work : 2 Nos.
- Tender Paper cost : Rs. 10,000.00
- Class of Contractor : Special Class/Super Class
- Available of bid document the website : From 10.00 A.M. of 16.02.2024 to 4.30 PM of 02.03.2024
- Date of opening of Bid : Dt. 02.03.2024 at 4.35 P.M.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: <https://tenderodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha (I/C)
OIPR-34117/11/0109/23-24

महाराष्ट्र शासन
क्रीडा व युवक सेवा संचालनालय, महाराष्ट्र राज्य
शिवछत्रपती क्रीडा संकुल, महालुंगे-बालेवाडी, पुणे ४११०४५
संकेतस्थळ: <https://sports.maharashtra.gov.in>
ई-मेल: desk@dsys-mh@gov.in, mahkr@rediffmail.com

ई-निविदा सूचना

क्रीडा व युवक सेवा संचालनालय, महाराष्ट्र राज्य यांचेद्वारा शिवछत्रपती क्रीडा संकुल, महालुंगे-बालेवाडी, पुणे येथील जलतरण तलावाकरिता जलतरण तलावाकरिता अंतरराष्ट्रीय दर्जाची सर्वचलित वेळ नोंदवणारी यंत्रणा (टचपॅज) पुरवठा करणे, बसविणे, कार्यान्वित करणे व चाचणी करून देण्याच्या कामाकरिता देशातील/राज्यातील परवानाधारक / नोंदणीकृत मान्यताप्राप्त, अनुभवी उत्पादक/वितरक यांचेकडून दोन लिफाफा व खुल्या स्पर्धात्मक पद्धतीने ऑनलाईन ई निविदा मागविण्यात येत आहे. निविदा कागदपत्र शासनाच्या <http://mahatenders.gov.in> या संकेतस्थळावरून डाऊनलोड करण्यात यावीत. तसेच निविदा स्वीकारण्याचा अथवा नाकारण्याचा अधिकार आयुक्त, क्रीडा व युवक सेवा, पुणे यांनी राखून ठेवला आहे.

स्वाक्षरी- आयुक्त, क्रीडा व युवक सेवा, महाराष्ट्र राज्य, पुणे

जतटपॅज / १२०३२४(४३)का ११
डीजीआयपीआर २०२३-२०२४/८२८४

कार्यालय छावनी परिषद्, चकराता
जिला देहरादून, उत्तराखण्ड फोन : 01360-272220
फॅक्स : 01360-272502 ई-मेल : ceochak-stats@nic.in

File No. 8/2/CFB/CHILDREN PARK/EOI Dated: 14 February, 2024

Expression of Interest (EOI)/रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति

The Cantonment Board Chakrata invites the Banks/Central PSUs/State PSUs for Expression of Interest on leasing out the Children Park Building/Floor situated near head Octroi post Sadar Bazar Chakrata through agreement.

छावनी परिषद् चकराता बँका/केंद्रीय पोएसयू/राज्य पोएसयू आदि से, चिल्ड्रेन पार्क बिल्डिंग/फ्लोर जो की चुंगी चौकी सडर बाजार चकराता पर स्थित है को समझौते के माध्यम से पट्टे पर देने के लिए रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति आमंत्रित करता है।

The interested Banks/Central PSUs/State PSUs will be submit proposal in envelope or through email ceochak-stats@nic.in for respective requirement, nature of Organization/Business, Name, address of Competent Authority for Agreement, other details alongwith offer price of rent (in ₹) (basis on the property Children Park Building/Floor as on date, monthly/yearly) to the Chief Executive Officer, Cantonment Board Chakrata, Post-Chakrata, Distt-Dehradun-248123 on or before 05-03-2024 upto 05 PM. For more detailed EOI information or physical inspection of Children Park Building/Floor please contact Shri Shekhar, Revenue Superintendent, Cantonment Board Chakrata on mobile No. 9410921038.

इच्छुक बैंक / केंद्रीय पोएसयू / राज्य पोएसयू, लिफाफे अथवा ई-मेल ceochak-stats@nic.in द्वारा प्रस्ताव जिसमें संबंधित आवश्यकता, संगठन / व्यवसाय की प्रकृति, समझौते के लिए सक्षम प्राधिकारी का नाम, पता एवं अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी तथा साथ में प्रस्तावित किराया मूल्य (₹ में) (आज की तारीख में) संपत्ति चिल्ड्रेन पार्क बिल्डिंग / फ्लोर के आधार पर मासिक / वार्षिक) आदि को मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, छावनी परिषद् चकराता, पोस्ट- चकराता, जिला- देहरादून- 248123 को 05-03-2024 (अप्रराहन-05 बजे) तक या उससे पहले प्रस्तुत करना होगा।

रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति की अधिक विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए या चिल्ड्रेन पार्क बिल्डिंग/फ्लोर के भौतिक निरीक्षण के लिए कृपया श्री शेखर, राजस्व अधीक्षक, छावनी परिषद् चकराता से मोबाइल नंबर 9410921038 पर संपर्क करें।

(R.N. Mandal)
Chief Executive Officer
Chakrata Cantt.

"बेटी बचाओ, बेटी पढ़ाओ" "एक भारत श्रेष्ठ भारत"

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

Tender Notice No:03/2023-24/CE/GVMC/SE(P-I)/EE(PD-II)/Dt:13-02-2024 (Item No.1)

GVMC desires to invite RFP for "Selection of the vendor for procurement of horses and development of horse stables & riding arena at Mudasarova park, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh". The details can be downloaded from website of www.aperecurement.gov.in.

- Download starting date : 15/02/2024 @ 5:00 PM
- Download ending date : 22/02/2024 @ 3:00 PM
- Last date of submission of bids : 22/02/2024 @ 4:00 PM

email : eepd2_gvmc@yahoo.co.in
Mobile No : 85019 49467 Sd/- Commissioner, GVMC

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSONS
(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Bhushan @ Sonu Arora S/o Satpal Arora (2) Sita Devi W/o Satpal Arora both R/o L-17, 1st Floor, back side Private Colony Srinivaspuri, Delhi (3) Bhawna W/o Surender Kumar R/o 2/F, 68 NIT Faridabad, Haryana have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No.667/15 u/s 498A/406/506/34 IPC, P.S. Rani Bagh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Bhushan @ Sonu Arora, Sita Devi and Bhawna cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Bhushan @ Sonu Arora, Sita Devi and Bhawna have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Bhushan @ Sonu Arora, Sita Devi and Bhawna of FIR No.667/15 u/s 498A/406/506/34 IPC, P.S. Rani Bagh, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 15.03.2024.

By Order,
Ms. Preeti Rajoria
Metropolitan Magistrate, Room No.18,
Rohini Court, Delhi

DP/1783/OD/2024

BUREAU OF POLICE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT OF RETIRED GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN BPR&D ON A CONTRACT BASIS

Applications for walk-in interviews on 28.02.2024 are invited from retired Government employees for engagement in the BPR&D on a contract basis.

The details terms and conditions, eligibility criteria, and qualification criteria are available on the website of BPR&D @ www.bprdnic.in

The applicants are advised to send their applications in duly filled proforma at e-mail address ad.estab@bprdnic.in by 1700 hrs of 23.02.2024. The competent authority reserves the right for any amendment, cancellation, or change in the advertisement in whole or part thereof without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
(Dr. S. Karthikayan)
Assistant Director (Estt.)
ad.estab@bprdnic.in

CBC 19117/11/0008/2324

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER (LABOUR) LABOUR DEPARTMENT, GNCT OF DELHI
5- SHAM NATH MARG, DELHI-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

HIV Act, 2017 has been enacted to prevent and control the spread of HIV and for protection of Human Rights of Persons affected by the said virus and syndrome. Vide Judgement dated 26.09.2023 (Copy of the judgement is available on the website of Labour Department, GNCTD i.e. www.labour.delhi.gov.in). Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter civil Appeal. No. 7175/2021, titled "CPL Ashish Kumar Chauhan (Retd.) Vs. Commanding Officer & Ors. has directed to ensure compliance of various provisions of the aforesaid Act including section 19 and 20 of the HIV Act 2017, in regard to designation of a complaint officer, in all the factories, industrial establishment, commercial establishment, shops, plantations, commercial offices, professional organizations, and all other bodies falling within the definition of "establishments" (under section 2(f) of the HIV Act) which reads as follows:

"establishment" means a body corporate or co-operative society or any organization or institution or two or more person jointly carrying out a systematic activity for a period of twelve months or more at one a more places for consideration or otherwise, for the production, supply or distribution of goods or services."

All the above mentioned establishments are advised to comply with the various provisions of the Act applicable to them.

Sd/-
(S.C. Yadav)
Additional Labour Commissioner
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0341/23-24

Assam Electronics Development Corporation Ltd.
(A Govt. of Assam Undertaking)

Industrial Estate, Bamunimaidan, Guwahati - 781021, Assam

Tender No. AMT/TCITY/3DP-COE/2023-24/01 Dated: 14.02.2024

TENDER NOTICE

AMTRON invites e-tenders in two bids system (Technical & Financial Bid) from Qualified parties for **SELECTION OF AGENCY(IES) FOR TURNKEY DEPLOYMENT - DIGITAL DESIGN AND INDUSTRY 4.0 CENTER OF EXCELLENCE** fulfilling the conditions as mentioned in the eligibility criteria of the RFP.

Submission of bid shall be through e-procurement portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in>

Further details and subsequent communication may be seen at <https://assamtenders.gov.in>

The last date for submission of bid is 05.03.2024 (12:00 Hrs).

Sd/-
Managing Director
A.E.D.C. Ltd.

Place: Guwahati Date:14.02.2024

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

No. S/Sale/611/E-AP/5270/23-24 Dated: 14.02.2024

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME, NOTICE NO. 12 MONTH March-2024

It is intimated that scrap materials available in all Divisions and Depots of North Central Railway will be sold through e-auction and all organizers will conduct the auction of their area.

Scrap Items : P Way Scrap, Scarp Rail, Cast Iron Scrap, Condemned rolling Stock, Non ferrous and Non metallic Scrap, Turning & Boring, Condemned Oil/Paints Drums, Condemned Machinery & plants, Condemned Vehicles, Condemned office equipments, Foundry Slag, Released overhead MS/GI tanks, Released Ferrous scrap of train lighting fans, Released MS/GI pipe line, foundry skull, Workshop MS scrap and other MS scarp.

SN	e-auction Date & Day	Depot/ Division	Organizer of Auction	Through Website
1.	07.03.2024 Thursday			www.reps.gov.in
2.	14.03.2024 Thursday			
3.	19.03.2024 Tuesday	GSD/JHS	Dy.CMM/SYS/JHS.	
4.	22.03.2024 Friday			
5.	30.03.2024 Saturday			
6.	05.03.2024 Tuesday			
7.	12.03.2024 Tuesday	GSD/CNB	Dy.CMM/GSD/CNB	
8.	19.03.2024 Tuesday			
9.	30.03.2024 Saturday			
10.	07.03.2024 Thursday			
11.	13.03.2024 Wednesday	PRYJ DIV	Sr. DMM/NCR/PRYJ	
12.	19.03.2024 Tuesday			
13.	28.03.2024 Thursday			
14.	05.03.2024 Tuesday			
15.	13.03.2024 Wednesday			
16.	20.03.2024 Wednesday	JHS DIV	Sr. DMM/NCR/JHS	
17.	27.03.2024 Wednesday			
18.	01.03.2024 Friday			
19.	07.03.2024 Thursday			
20.	14.03.2024 Thursday	AGC DIV	Sr. DMM/NCR/AGC	
21.	21.03.2024 Thursday			
22.	27.03.2024 Wednesday			

Special Conditions : 1. All type of scraps will be through e-auction mode www.reps.gov.in website. In the event of auction not being completed on the same calendar day, auction may be continued on the next calendar days also. 2. The unsold lots of e-auction will also be included in next e-auction of respective depot. 3. The intending purchaser may inspect the lot of scrap material before the auctions during working hours. 4. To purchase material above Rs. 5 Lacs, the purchaser must be registered with GST. 5. For further details on auctions (like catalogues, last sold rates in auctions & other details), Please visit North Central Railway's website "www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in" 6. For further detail regarding e-auction Please visit "www.reps.gov.in" website. 278/24 (D)

North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR

ED arrests 3 in J&K terror funding case

New Delhi: In a crackdown on an over-ground terror network in Kashmir, ED on Tuesday arrested a homemaker among three persons from Srinagar and Anantnag for their alleged involvement in terror financing on directions of their Pakistani handlers. They have been remanded to ED custody till Feb 20 for custodial interrogation.

The three arrested persons are homemaker Fatima Shah, Mohammad Akbar Bhat, both residing in Srinagar; and Sabzkar Ahmad Shaikh from Anantnag. They are already in jail after their arrest more than five years ago by J&K Police's State Investigation Agency.

Sources said, all the accused had not been filing any income tax as they had no declared income but large deposits from unexplained sources were found in their bank accounts, the probe revealed. ED suspects the accused also received money from Pakistan to finance terrorists operating in the Valley. TNN

Government of Jammu & Kashmir, DIRECTORATE OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY, KASHMIR
E-mail - kashmirmerino.sheep@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE.

No-Dshk/ACcts/23-24/104502 Dt:-13.02.2024.

Reference:-

- E-Procurement Notice for Sale of Wool issued vide no-DSHK/ACCTS/23-24/1137 (E/Dt:-19.01.2024).

S. no.	Description	Date & Time
1.	Bid submission and date	20.02.2024 (2.00pm)
2.	Opening of Technical Bid (Online)	21.02.2024 (2.00pm)

The other terms and conditions of e-NIT will remain same.

Sd/-
Chairman
State Level Purchase Committee
Sheep Husbandry Department
Kashmir.

DIP No:DFPK-1633/23/13/02/2024.

Government of Maharashtra
Directorate of Municipal Administration

Work Name: **Mechanized cleaning of underground drainage network**

"Providing Operation and Comprehensive Maintenance Services of Vehicle Mounted combined Suction and Jetting machine with Sewage water recycling facility for cleaning/ desludging of Sewer/Drain Lines on DBFO (Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Maintain) basis for period of 7 years for cleaning of Under Ground Drainage (UGD) network in Maharashtra State"

Information regarding the tender notice, necessary documents, correction sheet etc. regarding the said Bid will be available on this website- [Government e Marketplace \(GeM\) : National Public Procurement Portal, Government of India](http://Government e Marketplace (GeM) : National Public Procurement Portal, Government of India) <https://gem.gov.in/>

Sd/-
(Sudhakar Deshmukh)
Jt. Commissioner
Directorate of Municipal Administration

DGIPR/2023-2024/8273

टेलीफ़ॉक्स- 0135-2522941 ई-मेल - bridcul@gmail.com
CIN No - U45203UR2008SGC032591

BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)

ब्रिज, रोपवे, टनल एण्ड अदर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ़ उत्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य अर्थव्यवस्था विकास निगम लिमिटेड
प्रधान कार्यालय: अवस्थापना भवन, 583-ठ, राजकीय आइ.टी.आई. निरंजनपुर के सामने, मात्रा, महाराष्ट्र रोड, देहरादून- 248001

Ref:255/BRIDCUL- 889/24 Dated: 13/02/2024

On behalf of Hon'ble, Governor of Uttarakhand, E-Tenders are invited by Managing Director BRIDCUL, from the Contractors registered with any Govt./Semi Govt./PSU/Nigam in suitable Class & Category for the works given as below:-

S. No.	Ref No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (In lac Including GST)	Earnest Money (In Lac)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Time Period
1	BRIDCUL/ HQ DDN/64/2023-24)	Construction of Examination Hall Building in Doon University Distt. (Civil Work)	1691.19	33.82	5000 + 18% GST	12 Months
2	BRIDCUL/ HQ DDN/65/2023-24)	Strengthening of Motor Road Satpuli-Kandakhal-Sisildi(Service Road to NH-534 & SH-51(Length 32 KM) Under Chaubatakhal/ Lansdowne Constituency Assembly area Distt. Pauri Garhwal	1539.00	30.78	5000 + 18% GST	12 Months
3	BRIDCUL/ HQ DDN/66/2023-24)	Strengthening of Motor Road Bhikyasain Deghat Bungidhar Mehalchori Badhuwan Chaukhuitya at MR-43 to 75 KM(Length 33KM) Under CRIF at Srinagar Constituency Assembly area Distt. Pauri Garhwal	2527.11	50.54	5000 + 18% GST	12 Months
4	BRIDCUL/ HQ DDN/67/2023-24)	Improvement/Strengthening Road Safety in Birahiguna Motor Road (Length 13 KM) Under CRIF Distt. Pauri Garhwal	1009.42	20.19	5000 + 18% GST	12 Months

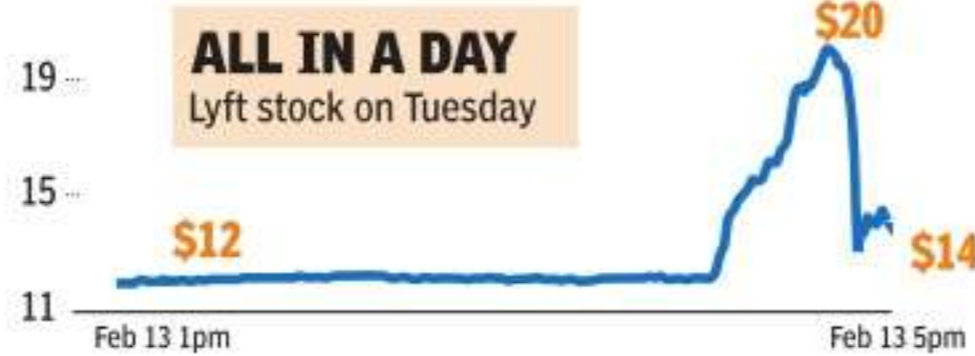
For above tenders, document download start date is 13.02.2024 and Bid submission end date is 26.02.2024 at 1500 Hrs. The details of e-tender of above work can be obtained directly from website <https://uktenders.gov.in>
Note:- NIT is published in anticipation of sanction of projects.
Changes, if any will be intimated only through website <https://uktenders.gov.in>

DGM (HQ)

Typo In Results 'Lyfts' Uber Rival's Stock By 67%

US ride-hailing co Lyft on Tuesday said it was set to expand margins this year by 500 basis points. This led to a surge in its shares, which jumped 67%. However, less than an hour later, Lyft CFO Erin Brewer told analysts in a call that the co is actually expecting margins to expand by 50 basis points — not 500 — acknowledging that the press release was incorrect. A spokesperson attributed the mistake to "clerical error"

Source: Bloomberg, Refinitiv 100bps = 1 percentage point



> The error overshadowed what was otherwise a solid beat on profit that signalled a years-long effort to challenge Uber may be paying off
> But Lyft still lags behind Uber — the co held 30% market share as against Uber's 70%

UBER SHARES OUTPACE LYFT

Uber has maintained market dominance as more people use it often



RBI gov asks banks to remain alert to build-up of loan risks

Das Flags Runaway Growth In Personal Loans & NBFC Exposure

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In the central bank's first meeting with bank chiefs since July 2023, RBI governor Shaktikanta Das on Wednesday raised the issue of outlier growth seen in personal loans segment and the exposure to NBFCs.

In Nov 2023, RBI had hiked risk weights on unsecured personal loans and lending to NBFCs to slow down bank credit to these segments, which have been seeing runaway growth.

Das said that the domestic financial system was resilient, but there is no scope for any complacency, and banks should continue to maintain their vigil around

UNDERWRITING QUALITY WOES



the build-up of risks. The RBI governor, however, complimented bankers on their improved financial performance.

According to sources, RBI is also concerned about the quality of underwriting in loans, which are distributed through intermediaries, including digital players.

Das noted the issues relating to business model viability. He also said that banks must ensure that they do not relax underwriting stan-

dards when disbursing loans through co-lending arrangements with NBFCs.

Bank credit for personal loans grew 23% year-on-year as of Dec 2023 to Rs 13.3 lakh crore. Total loans in the individual loan segment (including home, consumer and auto loans) rose 28.5% to Rs 51.7 lakh crore. Bank credit to NBFCs grew 15% year-on-year to Rs 15.2 lakh crore for the same period. The overall increase in bank credit year-on-year stood at 19.9%

due to the merger of HDFC with HDFC Bank. Without the merger, bank credit growth would have been 15.6%, while credit in the individual loan segment would be 17.7%.

Das's meeting with bankers was part of RBI's ongoing communication with the top management of the banks it oversees. Deputy governors M Rajeshwar Rao and Swaminathan J and executive directors responsible for regulation and supervision also attended the meetings. The last such meeting took place on July 11, 2023.

The RBI governor also spoke about the need for liquidity risk management given current market conditions and sought their preparedness to meet cyber security incidents.

BofA blames Infy's US unit for data leak of 57k clients

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Bank of America — one of Infosys's key customers — has named Infosys McCamish Systems as the source of a data breach that has affected 57,028 customers.

McCamish Systems, a subsidiary of Infosys BPM, was impacted by a cybersecurity incident in Nov last year that resulted in non-availability of certain applications and systems in it. Infosys McCamish is a platform-based BPO firm that provides services to the financial services sector supporting life insurance, annuity products and retirement plans. It is also a software reseller for industry-specific clients. McCamish was acquired by Infosys BPM (formerly Infosys BPO) in 2009.

CYBERATTACK

"On or around Nov 3, 2023, IMS was impacted by a cybersecurity event when an unauthorised third party accessed IMS systems, resulting in the non-availability of certain IMS applications. On Nov 24, 2023, IMS told Bank of America that data concerning deferred compensation plans serviced by Bank of America may have been compromised. Bank of America's systems were not compromised," said the notice sent to BofA's customers.

The letter said the deferred compensation plan information may have included customers' first & last names, address, business email, date of birth, social security number, and other information.

Irdai looks to double policy trial to 1 month

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: You may soon get more time to read the fine print of your insurance policy and cancel it if it doesn't suit you. Insurance regulator Irdai has proposed to extend the 'free-look' period for policies from 15 days to a month.

A free-look period allows policyholders to evaluate their insurance policies after purchase and cancel them within a specified time frame without a penalty, an insurance broker said. This provision helps prevent mis-selling of insurance by providing policyholders

Extended period ensures time to review policy terms, protects from pressure

with time to actually review the terms and conditions of their policies, protecting them from pressure tactics and enabling them to reconsider their decisions if they find the policy unsuitable or unnecessary.

Additionally, free-look period encourages insurance companies to be transparent in their sales practices, fostering trust between insurers and policyholders. The proposed norms also mandate life and health insurers to gather nominations and bank details of policyholders upfront, along with setting criteria for electronic policies. These proposals are part of the new rules

in the Irdai (protection of policyholders' interests and allied matters of insurers) Regulations, 2024, which consolidate eight regulations.

The broker added that besides including the free-look period, there should be increased awareness about the availability of the facility and how to utilise it. Very often, the intermediary is not incentivised to inform the customer about the availability of this feature.

The eight regulations include those on the issue of policies, outsourcing, ensuring policyholder protection, and disclosures in advertisement. Others pertain to handling insurance premiums, establishing offices, registering policy changes, and providing written acknowledgements.

For insurers, Irdai has proposed to discontinue the need for filing advertisements with the authority. Also, insurers can open a new place of business if they meet specified criteria without prior approval from the regulator. Those meeting solvency ratios and profitability requirements can now open foreign branches, including at the International Financial Services Centre, without requiring specified returns. Additionally, insurance companies will not have to report their outsourcing arrangements to the authority — insurers are instead required to disclose outsourcing details in their annual reports.

Mahindra Q3 profit up 34% at ₹2,658cr

Mumbai: Mahindra on Wednesday reported a smaller-than-expected 34% increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 2,658 crore for the quarter ended Dec 2023 as weak demand for its profit-boosting tractors offset SUV sales.

While Mahindra's tractors and farm equipment sales form only about a third of total revenue, they are far more profitable than its auto business, which comprise close to two-



WEAK TRACTOR SALES

thirds of the topline and includes the sale of SUVs and commercial vehicles. The company said its vehicle sales rose 20% in Q3 but tractor sales dropped 4%. AGENCIES

PV wholesales up 14% in Jan at 3.9L+ units

New Delhi: Passenger Vehicles (PV) sales in India kicked off on a strong note in 2024 with wholesales rising 14% year-on-year to 3,93,074 units last month, the best-ever figure for Jan, driven by robust demand for utility vehicles, industry body Siam said on Wednesday.

As per the data issued by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), dispatches of passenger vehicles from manufacturers to dealers stood at 3,46,080 units in Jan 2023. Two-wheeler wholesales rose 26% to 14,95,183 units last month. AGENCIES

RBI bars fintechs from issuing biz credit cards on KYC worries

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI has asked payment networks Visa and Mastercard to stop facilitating business credit card issues by fintech aggregators, also known as business payment solution providers.

Business credit cards, unlike consumer credit cards, are issued to businesses. These are used to make vendor payments and act as a substitute for working capital for the companies.

Historically, banks have been issuing these cards to corporates. In recent years, fintechs have issued such cards, onboarding vendors to enable them to accept payments made on credit card networks.

When contacted, Visa confirmed the development. "Visa received a communi-

AGGREGATORS HOLD LOW SHARE

> Business credit cards, typically issued by banks, are used to make vendor payments and act as a substitute for working capital for companies
> Bankers said the central bank was worried that these cards, if issued by non-banks to facilitate payments to those merchants not officially onboarded to the card

acceptance network, could bypass KYC norms

> A senior banker said that the impact on the credit card business would be limited as the share of aggregators is very low
> He said that credit to the small businesses would not be hit as they could continue to avail credit lines with banks and use them for working capital



cation from RBI on Thursday, Feb 8 in what appears to be an industry-wide request for information on the role of BPSPs in commercial and business payments. That communication included the direction that we hold all BPSP transactions in abeyance," the company

said in a statement. "It is important to note that BPSPs are regulated and licensed by RBI under the payment aggregator/payment gateway guidelines. Visa is proactively engaged and continues to be in discussions with RBI and our ecosystem partners to ensure complian-

ce," the statement added.

Banks said that RBI's concerns stemmed from the fact that the issuance was happening through entities that are not authorised to issue cards. Secondly, business credit cards must limit their usage for specified transactions. The central bank was also worried that these instruments, if issued by non-banks to facilitate payments to those merchants not officially onboarded to the card acceptance network, could bypass KYC norms.

A senior banker said that the impact on the credit card business would be limited as the share of aggregators is very low. He said that credit to the small businesses would not be impacted as they could continue to avail credit lines with banks and use them for working capital.

16th fin panel starts work on fund share

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: At a time when states, particularly from the south, are demanding a higher share of taxes, the 16th Finance Commission started work on preparing the roadmap for sharing of resources for five years, starting April 2026. The 16th Finance Commission, headed by economist Arvind Panagariya, held its first meeting here on Wednesday.

Unlike some of its predecessors, the current commission has been given an open canvas with only what is provided in the Constitution given as the mandate with even the census, which is used as the base for population related calculations, not mentioned in the terms of reference.

The panel will hold wide ranging consultations over 18-20 months, which will include those with the states and other agencies before finalising its recommendations by Oct-end 2025, an official statement said.

Allotted flat won't be part of liquidation process: IBBI

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: New rules of Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) provide for exemption of allotted property from liquidation process, providing much-needed relief to thousands of home buyers, whose real estate projects are caught in the insolvency resolution process for years with fear of liquidation hanging over their head.

"Wherever the corporate debtor has given possession to an allottee in a real estate project, such asset shall not form a part of the liquidation estate of the corporate debtor," IBBI said.

This means that homebuyers, who have got possession of their flats, can stay in them even if the project goes into liquidation as their property will be outside the ambit of the exercise. Most real estate projects have not faced that situation yet.

IBBI is separately working on amendments to improve the insolvency resolu-

PROVIDING RELIEF

> Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India's (IBBI) new rules will ensure homebuyers, who have got possession of their flats, can stay in them even if the project goes into liquidation as their property will be outside the ambit of the exercise
> Most realty projects have not faced that situation yet
> IBBI is also working on amendments to improve insolvency resolution process, which has so far been slow for real estate sector

tion process, which has so far been slow for the real estate sector. The new rules were notified by IBBI, which also provides flexibility in cost reduction during the liquidation process.

The change in rule will mean that the liquidator can reduce the reserve price by up to 25% for assets, with existing valuation of the

corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) once, provided it is approved by the Stakeholders' Consultation Committee (SCC). For assets where fresh valuation is conducted during liquidation, the reserve price can be cut by up to 10% in subsequent auctions, with SCC's approval.

Besides, liquidators have been given the power to sell assets of a company through private sale but through prior consultation with SCC. The steps are part of an exercise by IBBI to improve the liquidation process. Separately, on Wednesday, an expert panel recommended phased introduction of a voluntary mediation as a dispute resolution mechanism under the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code.

The committee has proposed the establishment of a dedicated and specialised NCLT-annexed insolvency mediation cell with an independent secretariat to administer, oversee, and manage the conduct of insolvency mediations under the law.

Uber rolls out 1st buyback plan after profitable yr

Uber Technologies will buy back as much as \$7 billion in shares to return capital to shareholders after reporting its first full year of operating profit and consistent positive free cash flow in 2023.

The repurchase plan "is a vote of confidence in the company's strong financial momentum," chief financial officer Prashanth Mahendra-Rajah said in a statement on Wednesday. "We will be thoughtful as it relates to the pace of our buyback, beginning with actions that partially offset stock-based compensation, and working toward a consistent reduction in share count." The stock jumped as much as 11% in New York, its biggest gain since last May. It had more than doubled over the past 12 months through the close of trading Tuesday.

WORTH \$7BN

Uber is the latest of a handful of tech companies announcing plans to boost shareholder returns. Earlier this month, Meta announced plans to buy back an additional \$50 billion in shares and issue its first quarterly dividend, while Airbnb expanded its buyback programme by \$6 billion on Tuesday.

The capital allocation plan marks another milestone of financial health for Uber after it racked up \$30 billion in accumulated deficits over years of freewheeling spending. But last week, CEO Dara Khosrowshahi said 2023 was an "inflection point". BLOOMBERG

WPI inflation eases as food prices soften in Jan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

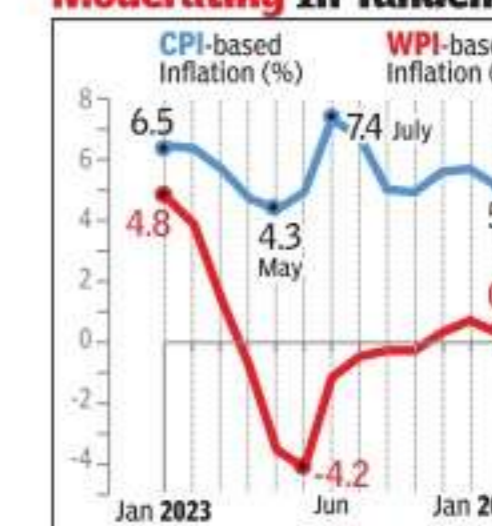
New Delhi: Wholesale price inflation softened marginally in Jan, led by easing in food and manufactured product inflation. Inflation in pulses (16.1%) remained in double digits.

Data released by the commerce and industry ministry on Wednesday showed inflation, as measured by Wholesale Price Index (WPI), slowed to 0.3% in Jan from 0.7% in Dec. Food inflation moderated to 3.8% during the month, slower than the 5.4% in Dec.

WPI inflation had remained in negative territory for several months as prices of manufactured goods and fuel had remained subdued.

The latest data showed vegetable inflation slowed to 19.8% from 26.3% in Dec, while fruit and milk prices remained muted. Egg, meat and fish inflation dipped to the negative territory in Jan. Wheat inflation also contracted 3.1% during the month.

Moderating In Tandem



"Going ahead, volatility in international crude oil prices will remain a concern, owing to tensions in the Red Sea region. Moderation in trend of food prices and continued decline in international commodity prices will however provide cushion to the headline number," Bank of Baroda said in a note.

Data released earlier this week showed retail inflation moderated to a three-month low in Jan on the back of a favourable base and some easing in food and fuel prices, providing much-needed relief

to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) battling stubborn price pressure.

The RBI held rates for the sixth consecutive time in its latest monetary policy as governor Shaktikanta Das said that the battle against inflation was far from over. In his monetary policy statement, Das had said that the inflation trajectory, going forward, would be shaped by the outlook on food inflation, about which there is considerable uncertainty.

"Adverse weather events remain the primary risk with implications for the rabi crop. Increasing geopolitical tensions are leading to supply chain disruptions and price volatility in key commodities, particularly crude oil. On the positive side, the progress in rabi sowing has been satisfactory and augurs well for the season. Prices of key vegetables, especially onions and tomatoes, are registering seasonal price correction," Das had said.

FPIs' investment value up 13% at \$738bn in Oct-Dec

New Delhi: The value of FPIs' (Foreign Portfolio Investors) holding in Indian equities reached \$738 billion in the three months ended December 2023, marking a surge of 13% from the preceding quarter, driven by the strong performance of the domestic stock market, according to a report by Morningstar.

The value of FPIs investment was at \$651 billion in the September quarter of the current fiscal. On a year-on-year basis, the value of such investments rose 26% from \$584 billion in December 2022. "This could be attributed to the good performance of the domestic equity markets as well as strong net inflows from FPIs," the report noted.

However, FPIs' contribution to Indian equity market capitalisation fell marginally during the quarter under review to 16.83% from 16.95% in the previous quarter. After withdrawing \$5.4 billion in

the September quarter, foreign investors were net buyers in the Indian equity markets to the tune of \$6.1 billion in the three months ended December 2023 owing to the decline in US Treasury bond yields. Also, the listing of IPOs and the fall in crude prices brought foreign investors back. "The political stability fol-

lowing the Bharatiya Janata Party's victory in three major state elections created a favourable climate for investors. Additionally, the robust performance of the Indian economy compared to other similar economies drew investor interest," the report noted.

However, this momentum could not be maintained, and FPIs turned into net sellers in Jan this year and took out \$3.1 billion from Indian equities on multiple factors including profit booking. Moreover, cautiousness has continued to prevail so far in Feb. "The Indian equity markets touched all-time high levels in Jan, which led FPIs to book some profits," the report noted. AGENCIES

Anti-asthma drugs drive pharma mkt growth

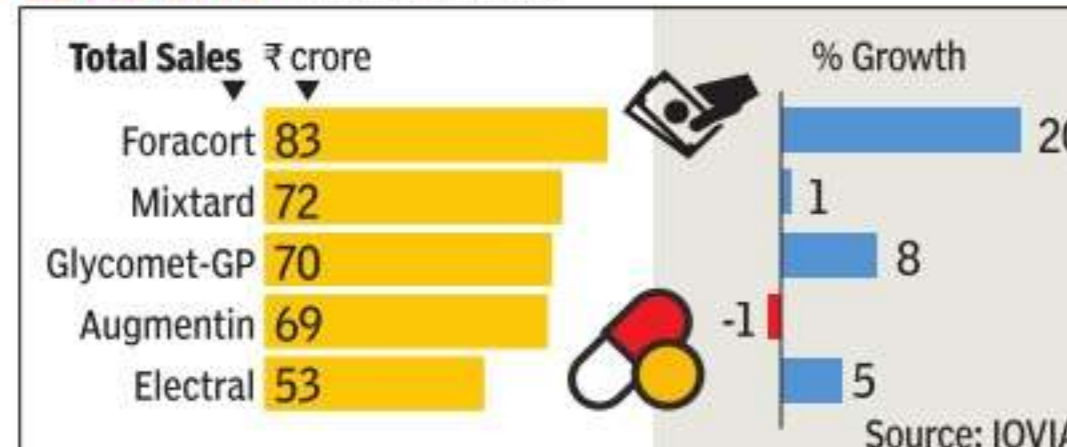
Rupali Mukherjee @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Respiratory therapies led the growth during Jan in the pharma market, which seemed to have started the year with a bang, growing nearly 8% to Rs 17,937 crore.

Anti-asthma drugs (Foracort and Budecort) continued to post a double-digit growth each during the month, pointing to our struggle with growing pollution levels across the country. Typically, the domestic pharma market has been largely driven by either antibiotics or anti-diabetics in the past.

Jan becomes the third month in which respiratory

LEADING THE PACK



drugs posted some of the highest increases in recent times, latest data culled by TOI from market research firm IQVIA showed. The pharma retail market had closed the year with a lacklustre 5% growth in December. Among top rankers, Foracort, used for asthma and respiratory issues, assumed the top slot with a growth of 20% in January, netting Rs 83 crore sales. Other top drugs — anti-diabetes therapies Mixtard and Lantus registered sluggish sales during the month. Overall, the organised phar-

ma retail market, valued over Rs 214,476 crore, grew just over 10% as of MAT (moving annual total) January. Therapies including Udi-Liv, Liv 52, Telma and Zerodol-SP registered a strong double-digit growth, while Electral gained 128 ranks to reach 5th position with a growth of 5%. Further, the acute segment, which includes cough and cold medications, showed an upswing of 6%, whereas chronic has grown nearly double to 11%.

Meanwhile, the growth in domestic companies and MNCs was nearly neck-and-neck with 8% and 7% each for January. Growth for most domestic companies is being

driven by sales in emerging markets including India, and the US business. The US has always been a lucrative market, accounting for a significant share of their revenues. Also, certain companies, including MNCs, are facing headwinds by regulatory price controls, undertaken as part of inclusion of their drugs in National List of Essential Medicines. Analysts expect revenue growth of companies to be around 7-9% in FY2024, supported by price increases and new product launches. During a major part of 2023, companies were negatively impacted by the price caps, besides an uneven monsoon, which affected acute therapy sales.

Overall, the organised phar-



A thought for today

Innovation distinguishes between
a leader and a follower

STEVE JOBS

Champs Only At Home

Indian startups have transformed the domestic market. But the real test is doing it abroad

Two of India's most popular online payment options, UPI and RuPay, recently spread to three countries. Sri Lanka, Mauritius and UAE will allow these payment options in their domestic market. UPI and RuPay are both state-backed initiatives. Their international acceptance is a result of good tech and India's diplomatic heft. But tech developed by private startups doesn't travel well abroad. For example, Zomato shut at least 10 of its foreign subsidiaries last year.

Global presence matters | Startup Genome, a research outfit, studied the impact of expanding a firm's customer base across markets. It found that when startups target a customer base beyond the home market from an early stage, there are all-round benefits. A bigger pool of customers to tap into will also lead to faster growth.

India, an outlier | This general principle doesn't apply to India. India was identified as a market where startups that sought retail customers could become unicorns (valued at over \$1 billion) by doing business only at home. The sheer size of Indian market provides an easier path to a unicorn status than it would for an Israeli startup.

China treads a different path | The same logic should apply to China, the second most populous country. Chinese startups, however, have made a bigger splash overseas than their Indian counterparts. Startup Genome ranks Shanghai on par with Tel Aviv, Berlin and Singapore as leading markets for innovation. Of course, Silicon Valley is right on top along with New York and London.

Flipside of size | Indian startups have been presented with a large and underserved domestic market to tap. The focus naturally has been the domestic consumer base. But there's a downside to it. An eager home market can be served without necessarily innovating much. But going abroad requires standing out with a novel offering. Innovation must be the vehicle for global expansion. That's been lacking so far.

Exceptions to the rule | It's newer Indian tech companies, catering to other businesses, not retail consumers, which have been built on an overseas client base. Firms in the market for software-as-a-service are an example. But it remains to be seen if they can evolve into more sophisticated firms. Something an earlier generation of software companies haven't quite managed.

An economy set to be the world's third largest needs to see more innovation. We need global champions.



Wearing Rules

Kurta-pyjama in navy mess is welcome. But now there's desi dress code. Let's be cool about clothes

Naval establishments will now allow officers and sailors to wear kurta-pyjama in the mess, as part of a mission to Indianise military traditions and undo 'vestiges of the colonial era'. That's fine and dandy. But navy has replaced one dress code for another, by issuing precise guidelines on cut and colour, collar, and cuff. Dress codes, of course, are meant to make the social order clear. At one point, they demarcated the nobility from the rest, sumptuary laws in Europe dictated appropriate attire for each class, Indian caste rules prohibited some kinds of dress and ornament for subordinated castes, in some regions they were not allowed to cover their upper bodies. Women have had to hide their faces and bodies in purdah and ghonghat. Elite clubs with colonial roots declare their social cachet by insisting on western formal dress. Occasion-wear, for weddings, funerals and high-society events, still has clear protocols for men and women. Gender boundaries are patrolled through clothing, everywhere in the world.

Flouting these rules takes social courage. It's no wonder that social rebellion has expressed itself through discarded dress codes. The swadeshi movement made a bonfire of Western vanities. Mahatma's insistence on homespun khadi rejected colonial exploitation and conveyed an ethic of simple dignity. Of course, dress codes like uniforms also impose institutional belonging, visually wiping out social differences and inequalities. It makes sense for schools, militaries, monasteries, and guerrilla groups to kit out individuals in the costume of the collective.

But control and standardisation serve little purpose in the wider world. Dress codes should be for strictly limited purposes, and a sense of irony and playfulness about all such impositions can only help the cause of freedom. Take off the tie, loosen the collar and breathe easy.



Collection, connection

How Jamini Roy revived
the hues of my past

Bachi Karkaria



Fate lines have curious crossings. My newly reconnected old colleague, Kounteya, was curating a selection of 43, rarely seen, large Jamini Roys. Cruelly I was leaving town just before its opening. But serendipitously I got a preview - plus a Wow!-grade plug into my girlfriend.

Collecting Jaminis doesn't quite fit the stereotype of a Kolkata Guju trader. But a 1993 exhibition was an epiphany for Kamal Parekh; he got hooked to the fish-eyed images of Bengal's folksy artist. And went on to net 200 originals of Bengal's mass-faded master, Kounteya, who had transferred his reporter's nose for news to art, tracked him down. And so was midwifed this exhibition; it also inaugurated the cool gallery set up by Kamalbhaj, just off fabled Park St. He too was there that afternoon to oversee the birth of his love-twins.

In awed tones Kamalbhaj told me how Jamini spurned imported canvases and chose his native jute or even *chataai* and homespun saris, making his own colours like simple village women always had. Was his first acquisition showpiece here? Yes, a brilliant Sita Agni-pariksha. But his pride - and piece de resistance - was a trio of Last Supper paintings stretching across a wall. Two in vibrant shades had a distinctive central Christ, but the uppermost, had 13 identical figures all in sombre monotone. 'Ganga maati no rang', said Kamalbhaj, adding 'Jesus knew he was to be crucified and his body would mingle with the earth.' A variation from Gospel truth, but who was I, philistine, to quibble?

Then followed a surreal resurrection. Turned out that Kamalbhaj had lived just three houses from where I'd grown up swathed in printers' ink. He'd known our press, our family journal *Navroz* (Estbld 1917), my parents, even Bachubai Kanga Kumarika Mandal, named after my grandmother, first principal of the Gujarati school for girls. After this, art was no match for nostalgia as we wallowed in the shared remembrances of two outpost communities brought together by a valiant little paper every week for nearly 75 years.

Coincidences, like fate lines, are a continuum. Warm, fuzzy thought.

Alec Smart said: "India or Pakistan, there's not just horse-trading but whole stable-trading."

Kisans: North-South Divide

Why do Punjab farmers protest while their southern cousins don't? Answer lies in differing aspirations

Narendar Pani



As farmers' protests return to Delhi it is not certain protesters and policy makers are talking about the same thing. Policy makers - cutting across governments - see demands of farmers in purely economic terms and lean towards letting market decide prices to be paid to them.

For farmers, their demands are expression of the severe challenges they face from multiple transformations they've experienced. With governments, and several experts, choosing to throw economic textbooks at a drowning community calling for help, there is a distinct possibility of India's food security being compromised.

Farmers' protests must be seen in the context of at least three major transformations.

To better income | First is declining share of agriculture in GDP. In line with worldwide development process, earnings from non-agricultural sectors have been growing much more rapidly than agricultural income.

Productivity of land in India is not comparable to the best in the world, but even if that gap were bridged agricultural income would not be anywhere near rapidly growing sectors like infotech. With these differences reflected in consumption patterns, farmers aspire for comparable incomes.

For raised aspirations | Response to these aspirations is determined by production patterns generated in an older transformation, Green Revolution. As is now widely known, irrigated areas benefited much more from Green Revolution than dry land areas. This created a clear divide between regions with high levels of irrigation providing high productivity and regions left behind.

In Green Revolution regions, raised aspirations generate a demand for greater returns from agriculture. In regions that Green Revolution left behind, aspirations are sought to be realised outside agriculture. Farmer protests are thus largely led by Green Revolution regions while other regions have thrown in the towel.

Global warming | Punjab's leading role in these protests can be traced to a third transformation: global impact of climate change. Global warming is expected to reduce frost in large areas of northern hemisphere thereby increasing potential for agriculture. A Government of Canada website speaks of opportunities to grow

warmer weather crops taking advantage of longer growing seasons and fewer extreme cold events.

This has, arguably, contributed to Canada becoming more open to immigration of farming communities. Farmers of Punjab, having demonstrated their agricultural prowess in Green Revolution, are an obvious target group. Their aspirations are influenced by what their friends and relatives earn in Canada.

Markets no answer | Economists would have the market decide the response to cumulative effects of the three transformations. While this approach is academically appealing, especially when fortified with mathematical models, it does not take great insight to identify its extreme risks.

The market could take agricultural production in a

felt. Existence of production cycles can lead to spurts in prices of foodgrains. The frequency of these spurts could increase if the per capita net production of food does not grow rapidly. And there are some signs that the per capita net production of wheat could be tapering off.

For free food | To expect governments to stick religiously to market logic on issues like food prices is clearly unrealistic. In a political economy which has place for distribution of free food to 800 million people, no government can be expected to ignore sharp spurts in food prices.

Much to the chagrin of market-friendly economists, governments periodically curb exports as a response to spurts in prices. This meets short-term requirements of a polity that cannot afford food shocks, but only serves to further alienate farmers.

Incentivise farming | With a free hand for the market being outside the realm of practical politics, the only way forward is to focus on long-term food security.

Since it is difficult to see any government going back on the current norm of free food for 800 million people, there is value in being realistic and treating this as policy goal. Target of an agricultural policy must then be to supply this food as well as ensure that basic food for the rest of the population is reasonably priced.

This goal would prioritise production of sufficient food, ideally from most productive lands. Farmers who achieve high levels of productivity and quality would be entitled to higher prices and possibly other support.

Fix sick farms | At the same time government could encourage setting up farm management cooperatives that would manage, for a fee and without having any rights to the land, large numbers of farms that are currently less productive. These farms would benefit from economies of scale and their owners would have the option of seeking non-farm work. Government could even help smoothen the process of movement out of agriculture.

Look out for farmers | Task of ensuring long-term food security while protecting interests of individual farmers is by no means an easy one. But it is important to recognise the way forward rather than simply sitting in judgment over farmers who are facing the risks, and opportunities, of multiple transformations.

The writer is dean of social sciences, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru



PHOTOS: IAF FOR REPRESENTATION PURPOSES

direction far away from food security. In agriculturally less developed regions, growth in food output would be further constrained as the market demands workers move from agriculture to more lucrative opportunities.

Migration no solution | In agriculturally advanced regions, international migration, especially to countries like Canada where migration-enabling networks already exist, becomes even more attractive.

Negative effects of this movement out of agriculture on food production would be further enhanced if government follows advice of economists and encourages farmers to move to more lucrative non-food crops.

Think food security | Impact of these trends on food security may not seem particularly significant when seen in terms of average availability of food, but there are some complexities that can make their presence

Gujarat Boy Who Became Modern Cricket's Whispering Death

But Jasprit Bumrah, Team India's smiling assassin, is much more. He is a distilled version of the best we may be as people

Anand Vasu



With the India-England Test series tantalisingly poised at 1-1 and the third Test beginning today in Rajkot, pace-ace Jasprit Bumrah, surprisingly on home pitches, is leading India's wicket-taking charts. This has evoked comparisons with another legendary pace master.

They called him Whispering Death, because he was so light on his feet you would not hear him running in to bowl the delivery that would end your innings. He was referred to as Rolls Royce of fast bowlers because he was that smooth, that classy, that sophisticated. This was Michael Holding, the fast bowler with the most biomechanically pleasing action ever conceived. And now we have a very modern version in Bumrah.

His action is copied by 12-year-olds across India but is impossible to replicate. Bumrah's magnificence is a case study of nature versus nurture. Jasprit's mother, Daljit Kaur, a school principal, was noise-averse and to this end, her gawky son bowled only into the skirting along walls in their house. The ball would make a muffled sound when it made contact and thus the greatest yorker in modern times was born. The corridor was limited, and from this came the shuffling, stuttering run-up that no coach would recommend.

While Jasprit loved cricket, it was hardly a calling. He was not that prodigy who caught attention early. But he imbued early on that it was not enough to be unique or brilliant, it was important to succeed. This is what brings us to 2024 and Bumrah the bowler he is. Standing at the top of his mark, ball in hand, Bumrah is not thinking only of the ball he will bowl next. It could be short, full or in-between, but it will be fast, furious and do exactly what he wants.

Bumrah is focused on a singular event but he is acutely aware of its place in the bigger scheme of things. Match situation is everything to him. Ball in hand is merely a means to an end.

And so, when he takes a deep breath and whooshes to the crease, legs bumbling and arms whirling, there's clarity of thought that's second to none. Physically, there are a thousand things happening in no time, visually uncoordinated and seemingly disconnected, but, in Bumrah's world, only two things exist: the ball in his hand and the top of off stump. And the two will meet as if destined.

Bumrah may be the visual antithesis of Holding, but he is same in soul and spirit where aesthetics and excellence intersect. Bumrah is often referred to as a once-in-a-generation bowler. But in truth he is much more. We may never see his kind again.

Brutal with his line, unforgiving with his length, and viscerally violent with his pace, Bumrah is the most unpleasant bowler you can come up against. But once ball has been bowled his eyes will dance with a smile that takes you in, whether you have won the battle or been beaten all ends up because Bumrah is a person who lives life to the fullest and invites you to come with him on the journey, for better or worse.

You can trace Bumrah's journey, a Punjabi outsider in Gujarat, a refugee if you will, an English-speaking fast bowler who cringed when expletives

flew in team meetings and find a thousand reasons why he may not have reached where he has. You can judge Bumrah statistically, wickets, economy rate, Player of the Match awards, and he will stack up favourably. What you cannot measure, however, is the life he has breathed into a great game.

India could be down and out against an England team playing their brand of Bazball on a Hyderabad turner or a Visakhapatnam feather-bed. And yet, when Bumrah has ball in hand and is running in there is hope.

With the best missing, injured or unavailable, Team India may be hamstrung. But even as winter's cool burns away and summer's hard yards beckon, Bumrah stands tall. Because he is a mamba for all seasons, ageless, effervescent and relentlessly hardworking. He shows up every day and does what he can, not out of a sense of responsibility, but because this is who he is. We don't know it, but Bumrah, the cricketer, is a distilled version of the best we may be as people.

As Bumrah gathers himself and approaches the crease to give his best, there's belief that something good will come of this. Every ball can't yield a wicket, but when you give it your all, and allow excellence to kiss beauty, you don't need to worry about outcome. If you win, you throw your arms up in celebration. If you pull up short, you turn tail and start again, the Bumrah way, with a smile on your lips and a rocket in your hands.

The writer is a sports commentator

Calvin & Hobbes



MISS WORMWOOD? YES, CALVIN?

IF IGNORANCE IS BLISS, THIS LESSON WOULD APPEAR TO BE A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT ON YOUR PART TO DEPRIVE ME OF HAPPINESS, THE PURSUIT OF WHICH IS MY UNALIENABLE RIGHT ACCORDING TO THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

I THEREFORE ASSERT MY PATRIOTIC PREROGATIVE NOT TO KNOW THIS MATERIAL. I'LL BE OUT ON THE PLAYGROUND.



Sacredspace



To be always talking is against nature. For the same reason a hurricane never lasts a whole morning, nor a rain storm all day...if even Heaven and earth cannot blow or pour for long, how much less in his utterances should man?

Tao Te Ching 23

Love Untouched, Mystique Of Platonic Connection

Sumit Paul

Humne dekhi hai un aankhon ki mahakti khushboo/Haath se chhoo ke ise rishton ka ilzaam na do/Sirf ahsaas hai ye rooh se mahsoos karo/Pyaar ko pyaar hi rahne do koi naam na do - Don't defile something as sublime as love by touching it/It's a gossamer feeling to be experienced by the soul/Let love remain unalloyed love. When the poet-lyricist Sampooran Singh Kalra 'Gulzar' penned these immortal lines for the film *Khamoshi*, he must have thought of Platonic Love, Nishkaam Prem, Ruhani Unsiyat.

Platonic love is not something utopian; it has existed and there have been lovers in all ages and eras who went beyond body to love each other sans the lure of flesh.

Named after the Greek philosopher,

Plato, who conceptualised and practised it, Platonic love has been a butt of jokes and ridicule for aeons. Plato, despite being very virile, the word 'Plato' means 'broad-shouldered' in Greek, chose to remain non-physical with a woman, who was apparently a young mother or perhaps the elder sister of one of his students. They loved each other but were never involved physically.

Love is the most exalted of all human emotions that's often desecrated by the embedded carnality.

Many of us look at a man-woman relationship in terms of its perceived end-result, which we erroneously think to be sex. True love has no place for quotidian considerations and earthly desires. Love is the togetherness of souls and spirits, not of bodies. We are

all capable of being as much spiritual, not in the esoteric and intangible sense, as we're intrinsically sensual. The pristine purity of love need not be adulterated by elements of sensuality. Love is a virgin landscape, unspoilt by the weeds of physicality. As Thomas

Hardy writes in *Jude the Obscure*, "We ought to have lived in mental communion, and no more."

But, here one must say that bodily love is not condemnable either. It's an ultimate expression of love, though it also proves that lust is often a form of hate. Since

Hardy writes in *Jude the Obscure*, "We ought to have lived in mental communion, and no more." But, here one must say that bodily love is not condemnable either. It's an ultimate expression of love, though it also proves that lust is often a form of hate. Since

hai meri paak khilwaton ka/Sare-shaam aane wale, dam-e-subha jaane wale" - You're the witness to my undelimited solitude/As you came at night and left at dawn as a virgo intacta.

Underscoring this, American poet and novelist Sylvia Plath says, "If your love is truly transparent and not turbid/No trace of sexuality it ever does permit." When truly evolved human beings will get past the needs of anatomy, love in its purest essence will emerge as a universally acceptable idea. Till then, only a chosen few like Plato, Victorian English poet Robert Browning, Persian poet-mystic Khaqani and Job Charnock, the English founder of Calcutta, sorry, Kolkata, will love their beloved without a scintilla of desire. Charnock fell in love with a Bengali woman but was never intimate with her. This is the apogee of love, wanting to be emulated by a few more.



THE SPEAKING TREE



KENYA MARATHON STAR KIPTUM'S FUNERAL TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 24



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AUSTRALIA'S BETH MOONEY WILL CAPTAIN GUJARAT GIANTS IN WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE

MAN CITY FRET OVER JACK GREALISH AFTER INJURY BLOW IN MATCH AGAINST COPENHAGEN



Partly Inexperienced India Face Eng On Flat Rajkot Pitch; Pacer Wood Replaces Offie Bashir

DIFFERENT STROKES: While Shubman Gill (left) silenced critics with a century in the previous game in Vizag, wicketkeeper KS Bharat is under pressure to retain his place in the Rajkot Test

TEST OF THE UNTESTED

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

Rajkot: As expected, the generous amount of grass on the surface at the Niranjan Shah Stadium has been shaved off, setting the stage for what could be a flat track which offers slow turn. This has turned out to be one of the most exciting series between the two sides in recent times and Rajkot is expected to continue in the same vein. Resuming after an eight-day break, the series, currently locked at 1-1, could see more twists and turns before it ends in Dhamshala with the fifth and final Test.

The match assumes huge significance for two stalwarts, Ben Stokes and Ravichandran Ashwin. England skipper Ben Stokes, who is credited with changing the language of England's approach to Test cricket, is set to play in his landmark 100th Test. India's off-spin maestro R Ashwin is on the cusp of his 500th Test wicket, having taken 499 in a decorated career so far. Stokes already has happy memories of this venue, having scored 128 in a drawn first Test here in 2016.

On the eve of the Test, India head coach Rahul Dravid and chief selector

Ajit Agarkar were seen involved in a deep discussion at the India nets. Blooding rookies against a fearless, formidable opponent isn't a preferable situation, but with key players ruled out due to injuries or unavailability, India have been left with few options but to try those who have impressed in the domestic circuit.

Over the next five days or less, the world will see how India's most inexperienced middle-order in a long time, which is missing former India captain Virat Kohli in this series and KL Rahul for this match, performs against the likes of James Anderson, Mark Wood (England have chosen to play two pacers,

India (probable XI): Rohit Sharma (c), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Rajat Patidar, Sarfaraz Khan, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel/KS Bharat (wk), R Ashwin, Kuldeep Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj
England (final XI): Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jonny Bairstow, Ben Stokes (c), Ben Foakes (wk), Rehan Ahmed, Tom Hartley, Mark Wood, James Anderson

dropping off-spinner Shoaib Bashir), Tom Hartley, Rehan Ahmed and Joe Root, with each bowler presenting a different challenge.

This match could finally end the long wait for domestic run-machine Sarfaraz Khan. Having broken into the team after amassing 3912 runs in 45 first-class matches at an average of 69.85, in a tally that includes 14 centuries and 11 fifties, Sarfaraz knows that he has to make this rare opportunity count. After all, KL Rahul, out due to a quadriceps injury, could be back for the next Test in Ranchi.

Another middle-order rookie, Rajat Patidar, who made 32 and 9 on his Test debut in Vizag, too would want to cash in. Behind the stumps, Dhruv Jurel, who has averaged 46.47 in 15 first-class matches while playing for UP, too is likely to wear the India Test shirt for the first time. The unavailability of Ishan Kishan and KS Bharat's struggles has presented the 23-year-old with a huge opportunity.

In this scenario, India will again bank on their best batter in the series, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and their best bowler, pace ace Jasprit Bumrah, to fire hard. Bumrah's regular pace partner Mohammed Siraj too is expected to be back.

LIVE ON SPORTS18, JIOCINEMA 9:30AM

INDIA ENGLAND

ICC TEST RANKINGS

2 3

HEAD TO HEAD

IND 32 ENG 51 DRAW 50

PITCH

It will be a typical Indian wicket - good for batting only until the spinners come into play!

WEATHER

Hot, between 31 to 36 degrees. No chance of rain over five days.

ODDS: IND 5/10, ENG 2/1, DRAW 5/1

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

'Rohit will captain in 2024 T20 WC'

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Rajkot: The suspense over who will captain India in the T20 World Cup in June is over. India will be playing the tournament under the captaincy of Rohit Sharma, BCCI secretary Jay Shah said here on Wednesday.

"In the 2023 (final) in Ahmedabad, even though we did not win the World Cup after 10 straight wins, we won hearts. I want to promise you that in 2024 (T20 World Cup) in Barbados (venue for the final), we will lift the trophy under Rohit Sharma's captaincy. We will hoist India's flag," Jay Shah said here at a function to rename the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Khanderi after

veteran cricket administrator Niranjan Shah.

Significantly, Shah made this statement in front of a gathering which included Rohit, head coach Rahul Dravid and chief selector Ajit Agarkar, a few other members of the Indian team, and IPL chairman Arun Dhimal. Legends like Sunil Gavaskar and Anil Kumble were also among the audience.

"The selectors are also on the same page on this matter," Shah told reporters later, adding: "This call was taken by the selectors."

Interestingly, allrounder Hardik Pandya, who is currently out of action due to an ankle injury, has led India full-time in T20Is since January 2023. Rohit played for India's T20I side for the first time since the T20 World Cup semifinal in 2022 when he turned out for the home T20I series against Afghanistan recently.

JADDU COMING TO TERMS WITH MANAGEMENT OF INJURIES

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Rajkot: Returning to the squad after a hamstring injury forced him to miss the Vizag Test, Ravindra Jadeja, now 35, is realising he isn't getting any younger.

Jadeja stressed that even though he's one of the best fielders in the world, his role in the field will be limited. "I would like to give my 100% and save my body and keep away from diving when not required. As the match progresses, the body will get used to the flow and you will forget that there was an injury. I will get into rhythm in one or two days," Jadeja told reporters.

"I can get injured again tomorrow. I can work on my body more smartly and do it carefully and hope there will be no problem. But there is no guarantee," he cautioned.

'Enjoy theatre of playing against India'

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Rajkot: Set to feature in his landmark 100th Test, England captain Ben Stokes on Wednesday said he always enjoys playing against India because of the "theatre it brings". Stokes also said he is not bothered about the fanfare around his milestone Test and only wants to focus on England going 2-1 up in the series.

"Milestones are what they are. I've always enjoyed playing against India because of the contest, the theatre it brings. I'm looking forward to getting the presentation done and dusted, then everything can be focused on the cricket. I'm proud to say that I've been able to play a part in 100 Tests, because it's quite a lot - it's a lot of warm-ups. It's one more game and hopefully there's a lot more to come," Stokes said.

"There have been some great times in an England shirt and some not so great times. That is what's great about professional sport. I've been able to make sure every day is a learning day. Later down the line, when I'm a bit older, isn't it have more of a chance to reflect."

'Confident Rehan would get visa'

Stokes also expressed his relief that England's young leg-spinner Rehan



OLD HABITS! Ben Stokes, who has said he will not bowl in the series, turns his arm over at the England nets on Wednesday

Ahmed's visa issue was resolved in quick time. He lauded the airport authorities in Rajkot and the Indian government and cricket board (BCCI) for their intervention. Ahmed, who has Pakistani roots, had a single-entry visa when the England team arrived in Rajkot from Abu Dhabi. After he was granted a temporary visa, the 19-year-old completed his paperwork on Wednesday.

"For any individual having to wait for that (visa) is always an anxious period, but thankfully, we got it through this morning, and great job from the guys at the airport for giving him his visa, and everyone at the BCCI and the government. We do not have to worry anymore about those issues, we were very confident that we would get the visa for Rehan

before the game started," said Stokes. This was the second time visa issues have cropped up for England in the series. Just before the start, off-spinner Shoaib Bashir was forced to fly back to London from Abu Dhabi after a delay with processing his visa.

'Kohli not playing shouldn't be labelled as positive or negative for England'

On Virat Kohli's absence, Stokes said, "I think I said the other day that Virat not being here, I don't like it being used as a benefit to us or a disadvantage to India because obviously there's some specific reasons as to why he's not playing. I think it should just be left at that as opposed to whether it's an advantage or disadvantage to any side."

Don't discount Pujara yet!

Veteran Batsman Has Come Good In Ongoing Ranji Season; Rahane, Though, Has Stumbled Big Time

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New Delhi: Recently, Cheteshwar Pujara scored his 17th first-class double-century. The landmark came in the quintessential Pujara way, with a deft, understated leg glance.

It was Pujara's first innings in the ongoing Ranji Trophy season. The 36-year-old has been out of favour with India's Test squad - something he was an integral member of for nearly a decade. This Ranji season is crucial for Pujara in his endeavour to make a comeback to the team.

In recent times, several young batters have got a look-in with the Indian Test team, and with varying degrees of success. But no one has been able to strongly cement his place in the playing XI.

Pujara knows this and hasn't thrown in the towel yet. "There have been ups and downs in the last few years and it tests you as a player. I still have a lot to prove. This (making a comeback) is a different type of challenge. I know that the kind of contributions I have made to Indian cricket, I still have a lot to contribute," Pujara had said in a podcast not long ago.

And he is walking the talk in this Ranji season. In 10 innings, Pujara has scored 673 runs at an average of 74.77, including two centuries and two half-centuries. He has also reached the milestone of 20,000 first-class runs.

With this performance, what Pujara has managed to do is to remain in the conversation around the Test squad. After Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer had modest returns against England in the first Test in Hyderabad, former India coach Ravi Shastri issued a warning to the two batsmen.

"These youngsters need to prove themselves. Don't forget, Pujara is waiting. He is grinding it out in the Ranji Trophy and is always on the radar," Shastri said during commentary.

Against Rajasthan, Pujara scored 110 on a track that was turning square at the end of the second session on Day 1. It was a masterclass on how to play spin on rank turners, something the young batters in the Indian Test squad currently can strive to emulate.

Just like Pujara, another former Test regular, Ajinkya Rahane too had set out to revive his fortune with good returns in the Ranji season. However, Rahane's bat isn't doing him any favour - he has managed just 90 runs at an average of 15.00 so far. An unbeaten 56 against Chhattisgarh in his innings got some respectability to the numbers, but preceding that Rahane had returns of 1, 9,



PUJARA AND RAHANE

INDIANS WHO HAVE SCALED MOUNT 20K

Rank	Player	Runs
1	Sunil Gavaskar	25,896 runs
2	Sachin Tendulkar	25,396 runs
3	Rahul Dravid	23,794 runs
4	Cheteshwar Pujara	20,242 runs

PUJARA IN 2024 RANJI TROPHY

Inn: 10	Runs: 673	Ave: 74.77
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RAHANE IN 2024 RANJI TROPHY

Inn: 7	Runs: 90	Ave: 15.00
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8, 16, 0, 0 during the season. After the World Test Championship final last year, the Indian team management has made it amply clear that they're looking beyond Pujara and Rahane and want to give a "longish" run to the newcomers in the Test team. But will it be prudent to completely ignore a proven Test veteran like Pujara and not have him in the frame at all?

SL complete sweep over Afg

Colombo: Opening batter Pathum Nissanka scored his second century of the series to propel Sri Lanka to a comfortable seven-wicket win and a 3-0 sweep over Afghanistan in the ODI series on Wednesday. Afghanistan were bowled out for 266. Sri Lanka then reached 267-3 with 14 overs and four deliveries to spare. Nissanka scored 117 runs off 101 deliveries. AP

Two Danes skittle NZ as SA take lead

Hamilton: South Africa skittled New Zealand's tail to dismiss their hosts for 211 and take a shock first-innings lead of 31 runs on day two of the second Test at Seddon Park on Wednesday.

SECOND TEST

Off-spinner Dane Piedt (5-89) and seamer Dane Paterson (3-39) did most of the damage as the Proteas removed the last seven New Zealand batters for 66 runs after lunch. It would have been worse but for Neil Wagner's 27-ball 33, which featured two thumping sixes and helped the hosts creep a bit closer to South Africa's tally of 242. With a slew of test rookies sent over to New Zealand while their more experienced compatriots played in Cricket South Africa's Twenty20 competition, little was expected of Neil Brand's side in Hamilton. Those expectations were lowered even further when Brand named two spinners, in-

cluding the recalled Piedt, to face off against New Zealand's four-pronged seam attack.

"It was a great day of cricket for South Africa and the Proteas," said Piedt. "Very proud of how everyone put their hand up and competed. We know we are on the back foot all the time and we just tried to take those windows of opportunity and fortunately it went our way."

New Zealand, comfortable 281-run winners in the first test last week, had ended South Africa's innings in the first 40 minutes of play for the addition of only 22 runs. Debutant paceman Will O'Rourke (4-59) took three of the four wickets and will start the second innings on a hat-trick after removing Ruan de Swardt (64) and Paterson in successive balls to complete the dismissal. **Brief scores:** New Zealand 211 (Williamson 43, Latham 40, Piedt 5-89, Paterson 3-39) trail South Africa 242 (De Swardt 64, O'Rourke 4-59) by 31 runs

Nabi ends Shakib's long run as No. 1 ODI allrounder

Dubai: Afghanistan allrounder Mohammed Nabi on Wednesday became the oldest player to headline the ICC ODI all-rounders' list, ending Shakib Al Hasan's long reign at the top.

There is little to no change at the top of the Test rankings with India's Jasprit Bumrah firmly perched at the top of the bowlers' list.

India's Ravindra Jadeja, who is set to return in the third Test against England beginning Thursday, still led the way comprehensively in Test all-rounders' rankings.

Nabi reached the No.1 spot following his 136 during the opening match of Afghanistan's three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka, while the 39-year-old also picked up a wicket in the same contest to gain one place and move to seventh on the latest rankings for ODI bowlers. PTI

Young Anmol stars as India stun China

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Indian women shocked China 3-2 and men drubbed Hong Kong 4-1 to reach the knockouts of the Badminton Asia Team Championships (BATIC) in Shah Alam, Malaysia. The win on Wednesday helped the Indian women top Group W and both teams - India and China - have made the knockouts.

Despite China fielding their second string squad, they were expected to dominate as India do not have any world class player except PV Sindhu.

The toast of the Indian victory was 18-year-old National champion Anmol Kharb. With the teams locked 2-2, the Haryana girl held her nerve to defeat world No. 149 Wu Luo Yu. In the one hour, 18 minute contest, longest by badminton standards, the world No. 472 downed Wu 22-20, 14-21, 21-18. Anmol won the big points towards the end of the first and third games in the biggest match of her career.

Earlier, Sindhu gave a winning start with a 21-17, 21-15 victory against Han Yue. Despite a 4-0 win-loss record against Han, the victory was important for Sindhu as it was her first match of the year.

China struck back when Liu Sheng Shu and Tan Ning downed Ashwini Ponnappa and Tanisha Crasto 21-19, 21-16. China secured the lead as Wang Zhi



NEW KID ON THE HORIZON: Anmol Kharb

Yi made short work of Ashmita Chaliha 21-13, 21-15. However, Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand secured a hard-fought victory for India. They defeated Li Yi Jing and Luo Xu Min 20-21, 21-18, 21-17 to make it 2-2 before Anmol won the tie for India.

In the afternoon, Indian men got off to a poor start as HS Prannoy lost to NG Ka Long Angus 18-21, 14-21. However, India won the next four matches to qualify for knockouts as Hong Kong had lost to

China 0-5 on Tuesday. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty beat Lui Chun Wai-Yeung Shing Choi 21-16, 21-11; Lakshya Sen trounced Chan Yin Chak 21-14, 21-9.

MR Arjun-Dhruv Kapila had it easy against Chow Hin Long-Hung Kuei Chun 21-12, 21-7 and Kidambi Srikanth downed Jason Gunawan 21-14, 21-18. The tie between China and India on Thursday will determine Group A topers.

Guardiola Hails 'Extraordinary' De Bruyne
As Holders Cruise Towards Quarters

CITY SECURE

Copenhagen: Pep Guardiola hailed Kevin De Bruyne's form "extraordinary" after the Belgian was involved in all three goals as Manchester City beat FC Copenhagen 3-1 on Tuesday to close in on the Champions League quarterfinals.

De Bruyne's early opener was cancelled out against the run of play by Magnus Mattsson.

Bernardo Silva restored City's lead before half-time, but they had to wait until stoppage time to add further punishment for the hosts when Phil Foden turned home De Bruyne's cut-back.

De Bruyne was sidelined for five months by a hamstring tear suffered on the opening night of the Premier League season in August.

But since his return last month, the 32-year-old has scored two goals and provided seven assists in seven appearances. "Extraordinary," said Guardiola of De Bruyne's statistics. "The biggest players love to appear in the biggest stages. It's the hour of truth when you are in the last 16 of the Champions League and we start well."

The English champions have now won 11 consecutive games in all competitions as they remain on course to repeat last season's treble of Champions League, Premier League and FA Cup.

Copenhagen had not played a competitive game for two months since sealing their place in the last 16 by dumping out Manchester United and Galatasaray in the group stages.

"They had a great group stage so we had to respect them," said De Bruyne. "We started really well but I think we made one mistake and they pounced on it."

"We played a really good game. In the second half we created a lot of chances, could have scored more and luckily in the end we scored the third one, so it is a little bit of an advantage now."

That lack of match sharpness from the Danish champions showed in the early stages as City stormed out of the blocks.

De Bruyne headed a glorious chance wide and Kamil Grabara denied Ruben Dias with a fine save inside six minutes. The former Liverpool goalkeeper had no chance when De Bruyne broke the deadlock on 10 minutes with a clinical low finish from Foden's pass. Jack Grealish had been surprisingly handed just his second start of the year by Guardiola, but the England international lasted just 15 minutes before he pulled up with a suspected groin injury. AFP

De Bruyne's extraordinary. The first goal was amazing - the pass, the right tempo from Phil (Foden) and after he was involved in the second and the third. The biggest players appear on the biggest stages. Now we have to do our job and finish it." — Pep Guardiola, MAN CITY COACH

MATCH STATS		Copenhagen	City
21	Possession%	4	6
4	Shots	1	27
1	On Target	2	13
2	Corners	13	6
13	Fouls	3	3

THAT'S NINE UCL WINS IN A ROW FOR CITY, THE LONGEST STREAK BY ANY ENGLISH SIDE IN THE COMPETITION'S HISTORY

INSURANCE STRIKE: Bernardo Silva scores Man City's second goal

DIAZ DAZZLES FOR REAL

Leipzig (Germany): Brahim Diaz scored an incredible solo goal as Real Madrid won 1-0 away at RB Leipzig in Tuesday's Champions League last 16 first leg.

Leipzig were energetic but wasteful early, frequently undoing their good work with poor decision-making in the final third. The hosts were made to pay early in the second half when Diaz opened the scoring. Drafted into the side in place of the injured Jude Bellingham, Diaz danced past five Leipzig defenders before curling an inch-perfect shot inside the far post.

The win was Real Madrid's seventh in seven games this Champions League campaign and puts them in prime position to make it past the last 16 for the fourth straight season. Real travelled to Saxony without England midfielder Bellingham, who injured his ankle in Saturday's 4-0 win over Girona.

With first-choice centre-backs Antonio Rudiger, David Alaba and Eder Militao ruled out, coach Carlo Ancelotti opted to continue midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni's



I received the ball, faked one way and then as soon as I started to move I sensed that the defenders were wary of diving in, that they were backing off. So I made my run and put the shot in the top corner." — REAL MADRID SCORER Brahim Diaz

MATCH STATS		Leipzig	Real Madrid
50	Possession%	14	50
14	Shots	9	15
9	On Target	7	3
7	Corners	10	3
10	Fouls	12	12

stint in central defence.

Despite their injury woes, Real sit five clear in the league and have only lost twice this season in all competitions, both times to derby rivals Atletico Madrid.

Leipzig coach Marco Rose said Tuesday his side were "not afraid" of Real Madrid, having beaten the 14-time European champions 3-2 at the same venue in October 2022.

The hosts thundered out of the blocks and had the ball in the net three minutes in, but the goal was controversially ruled out for offside, with Benjamin Henrichs deemed to be obstructing the goalkeeper.

Leipzig carved out a handful of half-chances but poor control in crucial moments, particularly from striker Benjamin Sesko, let the visitors off the hook.

Other than a trademark long-range effort from Toni Kroos which was gobbled up by Leipzig goalkeeper Peter Gulacsi, Real created little early. Their best chance came late in the first half when Vinicius' looping cross drifted just above the head of an advancing Rodrygo. AGENCIES

FC BAY SIGN KUNDANANJI FROM MADRID FOR WORLD RECORD FEE

New York: Bay FC have signed Zambia forward Racheal Kundananji from Spain's Madrid CFF, the clubs announced on Tuesday, with the American team paying up to a reported \$860,000 to set a new world record in women's football. The 23-year-old, who joined Madrid in 2022 from fellow Spanish top-tier side Eibar, signed a contract through the 2027 season with an extension option for the 2028 campaign, the National Women's Soccer League club said. The San Francisco Bay Area's new NWSL franchise paid \$785,000 for Kundananji, local media reported, with a possible \$75,000 in add-ons, making her the most expensive female player ever.

SON HURT FINGER IN BRAWL BEFORE ASIAN CUP LOSS: KFA

Seoul: Tottenham Hotspur's captain Son Heung-min injured his finger in a brawl with a teammate on the eve of South Korea's humiliating loss to Jordan at the Asian Cup, the Korean football body said, with one player involved issuing an apology on social media Wednesday.

According to a report from British newspaper The Sun, Son dislocated his finger in a "bust-up" that erupted at dinner the night before the game.

EX-DUTCH STAR PROMES CONVICTED OF COMPLICITY IN COCAINE SMUGGLING

Amsterdam: Dutch court convicted former Netherlands soccer star Quincy Promes of complicity in cocaine smuggling and sentenced him in his absence Wednesday to six years in prison. Amsterdam District Court ruled that the 32-year-old Promes, who plays for Spartak Moscow, was involved in the import and export of hundreds of kilograms (pounds) of cocaine in 2020. Promes, a former player for Ajax and Sevilla, lives in Moscow and did not appear at his trial in the Dutch capital. AGENCIES

Fresh rumblings in Indian wrestling

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New Delhi: A little over five months are left for the Olympic Games to begin in Paris and the future of Indian wrestling remains tense. There is little clarity over who's running the sport in the country — is it the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)-appointed ad-hoc committee which has the backing of the sports ministry or the suspended Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), helmed by Sanjay Bablu Singh?

With United World Wrestling (UWW) lifting WFI's suspension on Tuesday, the ad-hoc body is now without much work, since it's the national federation which has now been mandated by the UWW to send entries for international competitions. The ad-hoc body, at best, can organise tournaments and trials domestically. The ad-hoc body has already given a call to organise the trials (March 10 and 11 in Sonapat and Patiala) for the two Olympics qualifiers in Bishkek and Istanbul while a similar announcement has been made by the suspended WFI president.

But, with the recognition coming from the UWW, the WFI has received a shot in its arm and has the right to hold trials and send teams to the two Olympic qualifiers and Senior Asian Championships (April 11-16). The UWW won't be accepting entries if they are sent by the ad-hoc panel.

It's been learnt that the

ministry, IOA and WFI would be engaged in a three-way talk in coming days to find a solution. A source told TOI that the IOA will apprise the UWW of the whole situation and the reasons behind suspending the WFI. If a favourable response doesn't come, then the ministry and IOA would work out details to lift the suspension after laying down certain terms and conditions for the Singh-led body to fulfill.

Meanwhile, ace wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Vinesh Phogat and Sakshie Malikkh, who protested for more than a year demanding the arrest of former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, in separate video messages posted on 'X', alleged that Sanjay Singh "used deceit" in getting the suspension lifted by the UWW. They also threatened to restart their agitation against the WFI.

"We came to know yesterday that Sanjay Singh had done some setting with UWW to get the suspension lifted. Brij Bhushan and Sanjay Singh have left no stone unturned to show that they are above the law. Our protest has only been suspended. I might have retired from wrestling but I will not tolerate Brij Bhushan or his people running the federation and harassing women. In the next 2-4 days, we will contact the people associated with our agitation and chalk out the future course of action. We will have to restart the path of protest," warned Sakshie.

Australian Carey equals record with 8 catches

Adelaide: Australia's Test wicketkeeper Alex Carey has equalled an international record with his eight catches on Wednesday in a domestic one-day cricket match.

Carey held eight catches for South Australia state in a limited-overs win over Queensland in his first 50-over match since being replaced as Australia's first-choice white ball wicketkeeper at the World Cup in India last year.

He took five catches off the bowling of Jordan Buckingham and equalled the List A world record with his eighth



catch to dismiss Matt Kuhne-mann. Two other wicketkeepers have taken eight catches in a List A innings, both in England. Derek Taylor set the record playing for Somerset in 1982 and Worcestershire's James Pipe matched it in 2021. AP

'Playing in front of my daughter was a proud moment'

There Has Been A Change Of Roles For Former Hockey Captain Manpreet - Both At Home And On The Field

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Manpreet Singh has come a long way since making his debut for the senior side in 2011. He recently played in his 350th game and has his eyes fixed on bagging the gold in Paris Olympics after leading the team to bronze in Tokyo.

However, a lot has changed since that eventful day in Tokyo when India beat Germany 5-4 in the bronze-medal match. First of all, he is no more the captain.

Secondly, he is playing as a defender and not a midfielder under the new coach Craig Fulton; and most important of all, he has become a father to a little girl — Jasmine — and it's something that has made a huge difference to his mindset.

"She came down to watch me play during Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai last year and to play in front of her was an immensely proud moment. It gave me the confidence to do even better since I knew that my girl will be watching me play," said Manpreet during an exclusive interaction with TOI.

But it's not always easy for him to be away from his two-year-old daughter. "It's tough not to be able to spend time with my girl but I will surely get a lot of time once I am done playing for the national team. It's difficult not to see her grow up but I also have responsibility towards my national team at the moment," added the former captain.

He also believes his daughter will be proud of his achievements when she finally grows up. It's a long way to go but if she could understand now she would certainly be proud of how her father has been performing in FIH Pro League that is currently going on in Bhubaneswar.

Manpreet was pivotal in helping India win against Spain and then earning a bonus point against the Dutch. They will next face off against Australia on Thursday.

It will be another nail-biting affair considering Australia has always had the last laugh against India in big competitions. But with India playing a new brand of

hockey under Fulton, one can always expect the unexpected.

Speaking of his new role in the team, Manpreet sounded satisfied. "When I first came into the national team, I used to play as a defender so it's not much of a differ-



ence now. Moreover, it's not a big deal whether I play in defence or midfield as long as I get the opportunity," he added.

Manpreet has also donned the role of the first rusher during penalty corners and has been impressive there too.

However, it wasn't all so positive a year back when the team was knocked out of the World Cup against New Zealand in the crossover stage. But the team turned things around when they won the Asian Champions Trophy and then bagged the Asian Games gold.

"Whatever happened in the World Cup is a thing of the past. We started performing well after that and the transition under Fulton was also good. Asian Games was then like a qualifier for us and not only did we win it but scored numerous goals," he said.

Ramkumar ousts top seed Nardi

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Bengaluru: Wild card Ramkumar Ramanathan of India is making it a habit of taking the longer route to win matches at the Bengaluru Open Challenger tennis tournament here.

After saving three match points in his opening-outright match against France's Maxime Janvier, the 29-year-old rallied superbly after losing the first set to knock out top seed Luca Nardi of Italy 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 in 93 minutes and reach the quarterfinals on Wednesday.

As Ramkumar won the tenth game in the deciding set after Nardi hit the ball wide, he heaved a sigh of relief. He looked at the crowd which egged him throughout the match, and smiled.

The way Nardi, who was prolific in his return game, rolled past Ramkumar in the first set in 22 minutes, very few would have predicted a big turnaround in the following hour: But, a determined Ram-

kumar showed up in the second set, matching shot for shot with Nardi, whose serve was broken in the fifth game.

Some strong defence also helped the Indian frustrate Nardi further as the match moved to the decider.

The momentum swayed in favour of the Tamil Nadu player in the third set as he came up trumps with some strong service games, including five aces in the third set, to seal the win. He is set to face Hong Seongchan of South Korea for a berth in the semis.

Fourth-seeded Benjamin Bonzi of France lost 3-6, 4-6 to Poland's Maks Kasnikowski. However, fifth-seeded Australian Adam Walton eased past Karnataka's SD Prajwal Dev 6-3, 6-0 in just over an hour.

Results: Singles: Ramkumar Ramanathan (Ind) bt Luca Nardi (Ita) 1-6, 6-4, 6-4; 8-Oriol Roca Batalla (ESP) bt Tristan Boyer (USA) 7-5, 6-3; Maks Kasnikowski (Pol) bt 4-Benjamin Bonzi (Fra) 6-3, 6-4; SD Prajwal Dev (Ind) lost to 5-Adam Walton (Aus) 3-6; 0-6.



RAMKUMAR RAMANATHAN



THE LAST RIDE... FOR NOW: Lewis Hamilton (left) admitted it felt 'emotional' and 'surreal' to take part in the final Formula One car launch of his Mercedes career at Silverstone on Wednesday. Team principal Toto Wolff (C) and team driver George Russell were also present

PTPA close to making a big change in tennis: Pospisil

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Bengaluru: For any professional athlete, including an individual sport like tennis, life can be a challenge in terms of mental health and pressure. Those are the issues, among others, that the Professional Tennis Players Association (PTPA), launched in 2020 by Canada's Vasek Pospisil and Serbian Novak Djokovic, look to address and create a better future for players.

"We're trying to build a web of unlimited services that touches a lot of areas including mental health, financial advice, insurance, etc. Personally, the biggest thing which most players don't even know is that they need help in life after tennis. That's a big one because nobody knows it until you retire. You hear all these people that have depression, right? Because all these athletes

stop playing their sport," said Pospisil, who will face seventh-seeded Stefano Napolitano of Italy in the pre-quarterfinals of the Bengaluru Open Challenger tennis event.

"Suddenly, they have nothing. I mean we don't have an identity. So, we are building a platform for some kind of support, like educating some of these players on what's going to happen after tennis, and that is a big one for me," he added.

The association's player executive committee of 2023 comprised a strong line-up of top players including American John Isner and Tunisia's Ons Jabeur among others. Even Rohan Bopanna has urged players to support the PTPA. "We've made amazing progress. We have about 500 players in the PTPA and most of the top ones. We are close to making a big change in the sport. But at the same time, these things don't happen overnight," said Pospisil.



VASEK POSPISIL



China's Pan Zhanle in action

Red-hot Pan fastest in 100m freestyle heats

Doha: China's newly minted world record holder Pan Zhanle topped qualifying for the men's 100 metres freestyle semifinals at the Doha World Championships on Wednesday, while Olympic medallist Jeremy Desplanches was fastest in the 200m medley heats.

Pan posted a time of 47.82 seconds in the morning session at the Aspire Dome pool, just over a second off the world record (46.80) he set on Sunday with his stunning lead-off swim in the relay won by China. It was a rapid rebound for 19-year-old Pan following his surprising exit from the 200m freestyle heats on Monday, an event in which he was expected to contend for medals.

Italy's Alessandro Miressi qualified second in the 100m freestyle with 47.94, while Briton Matt Richards, the 200m freestyle world champion at Fukuoka last year, was fourth quickest.

With world champion Kyle Chalmers skipping the meet, along with Fukuoka medallists Jack Alexy and Maxime Grosset, Pan is in the box seat to pick up his first individual world title. Desplanches secured top seed for the men's 200m individual medley semi-finals with a time of one minute 58.17 seconds. AGENCIES

Teen Pak tennis player dies during event

Islamabad: A teenaged Pakistani tennis player, Zainab Ali Naqvi, died of suspected heart attack after collapsing in her room following a practice session ahead of an ITF junior tournament here. The 17-year-old died while being taken to hospital late on Monday night. She was accompanied by her grandmother who sought help after the youngster fainted. PTI

Need international cooperation to deal with AI, crypto challenges, says Modi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the world needs inclusive, smart, clean and transparent and green govts, while calling for global cooperation on artificial intelligence (AI) and cryptocurrency.

Addressing the World Govt Summit in Dubai, he underlined that govts must prioritise ease of living, ease of justice, ease of mobility, ease of innovation and ease of doing business in their approach to public service. "People should neither feel the absence of govt, nor should there be pressure from govt. Govts have to ensure that there is minimum govt interference in people's lives," the PM said.

While calling for cooperation in dealing with challenges in an interconnected world, Modi said govts have to deal



Dignitaries listen to Modi's address during the Dubai summit on Wednesday

with multiple challenges such as ensuring national sovereignty while staying within the limits of international laws. He said every govt was bound by responsibilities, be it food or water security, health security or education. He referred to challenges posed by terrorism and climate change and said that technology was proving to be

a key disruptor, whether positive or negative. "On the one hand, there are domestic concerns, on the other hand, the international system seems in disarray," Modi said.

He said that in his 23 years in govt, at the Centre and in Gujarat, he had worked on the philosophy of "minimum govt, maximum governance" and laid emphasis on creat-

ing an environment that generated a spirit of enterprise and energy among citizens. "Along with a top-down and bottom-up approach, we also move with a whole of society approach," he said.

The Prime Minister said, looking at the future, govts have to strike a balance between national sovereignty and international interdependence and retain commitment towards international rule of law while working in national interest. "How do we expand national progress and increase our contribution towards global good? How do we take advantage of digital technology and stay away from its negative influence? How do we put our effort towards global peace and still work towards combating terror. Keeping in mind all these factors we have to do our planning for the future," Modi said.

Will need 3.4L paramilitary personnel for LS election: EC

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New Delhi: As the country awaits the announcement of polls to Lok Sabha and four state assemblies, possibly towards the second week of March, the Election Commission on Wednesday sought a staggering 3,400 companies of central armed police forces (CAPFs), for the upcoming general elections. This even as the election watchdog embarks Thursday on its customary visits to the states and Union Territories to assess poll preparedness, starting with Odisha and covering Bihar, Tamil Nadu, UP, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir until Mar 13.

The poll preparedness reviews come amid reports of EC seeking around 3.4 lakh personnel from the CAPF to ensure a free and fair election process. As per a communication sent by EC to the Union home ministry, the maximum chunk of 920 companies has been sought for West Bengal, where concerns regarding likely poll-related violence run high, followed by J&K where 635 companies are proposed to watch over its first Lok Sabha election since Article 370 was nullified.

As per the EC proposal — which will be examined by MHA based on availability of the CAPFs — 360 companies were sought for Chhattisgarh; 295 for Bihar; 252 for UP; 250 each for Andhra, Jharkhand and Punjab; and 200 for Gujarat, Manipur and Rajasthan.

Ex-PM Shastri's grandson quits Cong, joins BJP

Lucknow: Vibhakar Shastri, grandson of former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri, resigned from Congress and joined BJP in Lucknow on Wednesday. "BJP govt led by PM Modi is fulfilling the aspirations of people and working on the ideals of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'," said Shastri after joining party in presence of UP BJP president Bhupendra Chaudhary and deputy CM Brajesh Pathak. He said that INDIA bloc had no ideology and was driven by the sole objective of unseating PM Modi.

Earlier in the day, Shastri took to 'X' to announce his resignation. It was not clear what prompted him to resign from the party. He has been associated with Congress for the last 25 years. **TNN**

PM: India brings innovation & speed in energy climate action

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India offers "scale and speed, quantity and quality to every mission", PM Narendra Modi said on Wednesday, pitching for a larger role in global energy and climate arena.

"Inclusivity boosts the credibility and capability of any institution... 1.4 billion Indians bring talent, technology and innovation to the table. We bring scale and speed, quantity and quality to every mission," Modi said in his recorded address to International Energy Agency's ministerial meeting to mark organisation's 50th anniversary.

Underlining India's achievements in climate action, PM said India has surpassed its Paris climate targets ahead of time and remains firmly committed to addressing the global issue. He expressed confidence that India playing a bigger role will hugely benefit the IEA.

India, the third-largest oil consumer and a heavy-



Modi said India was home to 17% of the global population while it was also running some of the world's largest energy access initiatives. But still, its carbon emissions account for only 4% of the global total. It aims to cut emissions intensity of GDP by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels

hitter in coal use, achieved its emissions intensity-related targets 11 years ahead of the committed time-frame and non-fossil fuel targets nine years ahead of schedule. The government has set a 2070 net-zero.

He pointed out that India is home to 17% of the global population while it is also running some of the world's largest energy access initiatives. But still, India's carbon emissions account for only 4% of the global total. Giving perspective to the scale of India's achievement in carbon mitigation, he said, "In one decade, we went from 11th largest economy to

fifth largest. In the same period, our solar energy capacity grew twenty six fold. Our renewable energy capacity also doubled."

The country now aims to reduce emissions intensity of gross domestic product by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels and achieve 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.

Modi also highlighted India's proactive approach in leading initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and the Mission LiFE, which focuses on pro-planet lifestyle choices.

Spl session of Maha House on Feb 20 to discuss Maratha quota

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Mumbai/Sambhajinagar: A one-day special session of state legislature will be held on February 20 to discuss the Maratha reservation issue and also the ongoing move to give Kunbi certificates to Marathas so that they can get benefits under the Other Backward Communities category. The proposal for the one-day session was cleared by the state cabinet on Wednesday.

Quota activist Manoj Jarange's health deteriorated further as his indefinite hunger strike entered its fifth day on Wednesday. However, not willing to take a step back, Jarange warned that if the state govt failed to fulfil the Maratha reservation-related demands within the next few days, he and his supporters will go to Mumbai.

On Wednesday, Jarange's nose started bleeding. This sparked panic among his family members and supporters. As the news spread, a large number of people started congregating at the Antarwali Sa-



Janange warned that if the state govt failed to fulfil the Maratha reservation-related demands within the next few days, he and his supporters would go to Mumbai

rati, where the activist has been on indefinite hunger strike since Feb 10.

Initially, Jarange had refused all treatment and was even unwilling to undergo a medical examination. Speaking to community members, Jarange made an emotional appeal and said: "If I die, take me to govt's door. Hold this govt accountable if I die. If govt does not give us reservation within the next few days, we will go to Mumbai. If govt is unwilling to come to us, we will go to it. We will wait till Feb 18. They should first tell

us when they will implement the reservation law, then I will be ready to take treatment."

It took his supporters hours to convince Jarange to allow intravenous saline support, so that he could at least be hydrated. On the request of some supporters and journalists present at the strike venue, he eventually had some water. The police, not taking any chances, scaled up the bandobast at Antarwali Sarati.

Meanwhile, a post on X by Union minister Narayan Rane, who questioned Jarange's mental health and threatened to show Jarange his place, caused more unrest within the Maratha community members, who asked Rane to abstain from making such comments.

Meanwhile, bandh call given in response to govt's alleged delay in meeting the Maratha quota demand evoked a mixed response on Wednesday. Apart from onestate transport bus being attacked in Dharashiv, no other untoward incident was reported.

Friends, foes or frenemies? BJP, BJD share complex ties

BJD In A Position To Win All 3 Odisha RS Seats, But Will Help BJP

Ashok Pradhan & Akhilesh Singh | TNN

Bhubaneswar/New Delhi: Biju Janata Dal on Wednesday extended its support to Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for the Rajya Sabha polls in a move that has once again put the spotlight on its complex and curious equation with BJP.

BJP has 22 MLAs and needs the support of another 15 legislators to secure Vaishnaw's election. With 108 MLAs in the 147-member House, BJD was in a position to win all three seats but chose to make the concession to BJP which, significantly, remains its chief rival in the state.

Vaishnaw had entered the fray last time as an Independent jointly backed by the two parties but, in a last minute move, BJD boss and Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik acceded to BJP's request to help him win as a candidate of the saffron party.

The move has rendered the curious ties between the two parties even curiously, especially because of its tim-



Modi referred to Patnaik as his 'friend' during a meet recently

ing, coming just before they are to face off in state elections. A few months ago, at an event where PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation for an airport, Patnaik had said he was confident that Modi would be in office when the project was completed and inaugurated.

Modi reciprocated recently by referring to Patnaik as his "friend" while addressing a public meeting in Sambalpur in Odisha.

This fits in with the pattern of BJD mostly siding with the BJP govt in Rajya Sabha, where NDA lacks the numbers, on important issues but is at odds with the

reality of BJP's emergence as its main challenger.

It will be interesting to see if the two parties continue the "bonhomie". BJP has also been "softer" than earlier when it had launched an aggressive campaign in the state, expecting consolidation of its foothold in another state where it used to be a fence-sitter for long.

Vaishnaw, along with BJD's candidates Subhashish Khuntia and Debashish Samantaray, is expected to win unopposed.

Congress general secretary in-charge of Odisha Ajoy Kumar said the "BJP-BJD bonhomie" was a "tacti-

cal larger plan" of the two former partners. "BJD always backed BJP. Now Odias understand why CBI-ED never conducted a raid on the CM and his close aide V K Pandian even though the state witnessed massive scams," he posted on X.

State BJP president Manmohan Samal, however, said there was no chance of any alliance with BJD and exuded confidence that they would form a govt on their own in Odisha. "We have fielded a candidate. We are confident of winning. It is Naveen Patnaik who should answer why he supported our candidate. We can't deny accepting support from anyone in a poll. But this has nothing to do with BJP's determined efforts to fight against the Naveen regime," Samal said.

Ruling out any coalition with BJP, BJD's Rajya Sabha member Munna Khan said support to Vaishnaw was only for the larger interest of development in railway and telecom sectors as the Union minister was instrumental in increasing the allocation of central funds to the state.

Assam Cong MLAs back BJP govt but say won't quit party

Guwahati: Congress in Assam received a jolt, weeks after Rahul Gandhi's yatra in the state, as two of its MLAs—PCC working president Kamalakra Dey Purkayastha and former minister Basanta Das—extended support Wednesday to BJP-led govt without quitting their party, reports **Kangkan Kalita**. Earlier, two other Congress MLAs—Siddeque Ahmed and Sashikanta Das—were suspended for supporting Assam's BJP-led govt.

Both Purkayastha, who quit as working president, and Das said they decided to support Himanta Biswa Sarma's govt to usher in development to their constituencies, Karimganj North and Mangaldoi respectively. "This is my gift to Rahul Gandhi," Sarma said mocking the Congress functionary.

Purkayastha said, "I will support govt but will continue to be a Congress worker."

Nadda shifts to Guj because of BJP's depleted numbers in HP

Continued from P 1

Environment minister Bhubender Yadav may be fielded from Bhiwani-Mahendragarh in Haryana. Baluni is expected to contest from Pauri-Garhwal in Uttarakhand while health minister Mandaviya and fisheries minister Rupala can enter the fray from Bhavnagar or Amreli, in Gujarat.

Chandrasekhar, who was elected from Karnataka, is being considered for Thiruvananthapuram seat represented by Congress's Shashi Tharoor.

Besides them, MSME minister Narayan Rane, junior minister for external affairs V Muraleedharan, former Bihar deputy CM Sushil Modi and former Union minister Prakash Javadekar were among the exclusions.

Nadda was allotted one of the berths from Gujarat because of BJP's depleted numbers in Himachal Pradesh,

his home state from where he was elected. While Chavan, who hopped across from Congress on Monday, has expectedly been accommodated in Maharashtra, CM Eknath Shinde has kept his promise of an RS berth for Milind Deora, also a recent induction from the opposition. NCP (Ajit) has nominated Pratul Patel for the seat the latter held, a decision which underlined the resilience of the former Union minister as well as that Ajit Pawar considers Patel to be just as useful as his estranged uncle Sharad Pawar.

The speculation about Union ministers from Rajya Sabha who have not made it to the list contesting LS polls is in line with PM Modi's recent assertion that it was time for many to take the journey from Rajya Sabha to "Jan Sabha". No Rajya Sabha member of the party who has served two or more terms has been repeated ex-

cept Nadda, who is set for a third term.

The break-up of the 28 candidates underscores BJP's determination to recognise its grassroots organisation workers, as well as its desire to expand its base to new social constituencies and promote women. The new names—Dharmshila Gupta of Bihar; Medha Kulkarni of Maharashtra and Maya Naroliya of MP—are associated with the party's Mahila Morcha (women's wing), an ode to Modi's repeated stress on the higher approval BJP enjoys among women voters.

Among the 28 retiring members, only four have been renominated as the party brass has sent an unambiguous signal that its RS members can't take their high-profile perch for granted and are expected to use the platform to connect with the masses and cultivate constituencies of their own.

No merger, say Cong & Sharad's NCP

Mumbai: While speculation was rife in political circles on Wednesday over possibility of merger of Congress and NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) ahead of LS elections, senior leaders of both parties denied it, saying these were all rumours and nothing was on the cards, reports **Prafulla Markpakwar**.

According to reports, AICC observer Ramesh Chennithala during his meeting with Pawar on Tuesday given a merger proposal in the larger interest of the two parties and to keep away BJP from power.

MPCC president Nana Patole said he along with Chennithala did meet Sharad Pawar, but there was no discussion on a merger.

NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) leader and ex-minister Anil Deshmukh and working president Supriya Sule denied the reports, saying NCP is part of the MVA.

Diggy's aide, not Kamal Nath, nominated to RS from MP

Continued from P 1

Among other candidates for the Upper House, AICC treasurer and former Union minister Ajay Maken is set to be elected from Karnataka. He lost the RS poll narrowly from Haryana in 2022 owing to cross voting by a Congress MLA. The party has renominated Syed Nasir Hussain and GC Chandrasekhar from Karnataka. Interestingly, Abhishek Singhvi will now represent Himachal in the Upper House. While he won the last time from West Bengal with the support of TMC, Congress' relations have now soured with the Bengal outfit, and his shift indicates the changed equations.

Contrary to reports, former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan did not figure in the list of 10 candidates. Ra-



Sonia Gandhi with Sachin Pilot in Rajasthan before filing her papers

jan recently met party leaders on their request for inputs for the manifesto, which triggered the speculations. Social media on Wednesday was abuzz that he turned down the offer.

In a surprise pick, Ashok Singh, close to Digvijaya Singh, has been nominated from MP despite the lobbying by former CM Kamal Nath for himself for the lone seat the party can win from the state. There have been

speculations that Nath may quit the party. While Congress has denied such a possibility, it is to be seen how Nath reacts in the coming days. His son and MP Nakul Nath is likely to be LS nominee again from Chhindwara.

Sonia's shift to RS has put the spotlight on her possible replacement in her Lok Sabha constituency of Rae Bareilly. Political circles have been abuzz with speculation about Priyanka stepping in to keep the seat which was represented by Indira Gandhi.

The other nominees include Akhilesh Prasad Singh from Bihar, who has been re-nominated and Chandrakant Handore from Maharashtra. While former Union minister Renuka Chowdhury will represent Telangana in RS, Anil Kumar Yadav is the other nominee from Telangana.

'Man's mom time no domestic violence to wife'

Rebecca.Samervel@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Observing that her husband giving time and money to his mother cannot be considered as 'domestic violence', a sessions court dismissed a 53-year-old Mantralaya employee's appeal against a magistrate court rejecting her domestic violence complaint against her ex-husband and in-laws.

"It revealed from the entire evidence that her grievance is that, respondent no 1, husband, is giving time and money to his mother, which cannot be considered as domestic violence. She made allegations that respondent...when working abroad during 1996-2004, used to send money to his mother. However, it is clearly revealed from her cross-examination that she had withdrawn amount



The judge also refused to grant the woman any maintenance as she was employed

from NRE account of respondent...and purchased a flat in her name," the judge said.

The woman had filed an appeal before the sessions court in 2016, the year after a magistrate's court rejected her plea for relief under the Domestic Violence Act. The woman had filed the complaint in 2008.

The woman had submitted that she had married the

accused in 1992 and delivered a daughter two years later. She alleged that the husband had cheated her by concealing the fact that his mother suffered from a psychological ailment. The woman also alleged that her mother-in-law stopped her from working and, along with the rest of the family, used to harass her. She also submitted that her husband quarrelled with her over trivial issues and was also instigated by his mother. The woman said that the man threatened her with divorce.

The man, however, submitted that the woman was greedy, had withdrawn Rs 21 lakh from his NRE account and never treated him as her husband. He also said that due to her cruelty, he had attempted suicide. The man also filed for divorce.

The court, however, pointed out that the woman had

lived with her mother-in-law very briefly.

"...applicant (woman) made very vague allegations which does not inspire confidence of truthfulness. The pleadings and evidence and admissions given in the cross-examination, lead to conclusion that respondent No1, husband, tried to commit suicide on 2-3 occasions. It is matter of record that their marriage has been dissolved...on the reason of cruelty by wife. Thus, the entire evidence of applicant is unbelievable and untrustworthy," the judge said.

The judge also refused to grant her any maintenance as she was employed.

Further the judge also refused to grant any maintenance to their daughter, as she is 29 years old. The judge pointed out that she had other remedies.

Explore restart of Vedanta's copper plant: SC

Seeks Scrutiny Of Factory; TN Opposes Move

Dhananjay.Mahapatra@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: SC on Wednesday pressed for a response from a reluctant TN govt to its suggestion for a scrutiny from an expert panel about viability and a possible opening of Vedanta's closed copper smelting plant at Thoothukudi after ensuring compliance with stringent environment protection conditions.

TN stoutly opposed reopening of Vedanta's plant, which catered to 36% of India's copper needs and exported 50% of its produce fetching Rs13,500 crore to the exchequer between 2014-

Can't cherry-pick convicts for early release: HC

Punjab and Haryana HC said Haryana govt cannot indulge in cherry-picking and provide concession of premature release to a select few out of a pool of convicts in a similar situation, terming such an approach "highly inequitable," reports **Ajay Surra**. Court was of the view that the practice of arbitrarily categorising convicts as "threats to society" or indiscriminately deferring their cases for premature release needs to be discouraged. HC has passed these orders while directing Haryana govt to reconsider the request of several murder convicts.

2018, alleging grave danger to Thoothukudi residents and damage to environment. However, Vedanta agreed to a fresh valuation by a panel of experts while agreeing to comply with SC-appointed panel's stringent environmental conditions. The plant has been lying shut after the death of 12 people in police firing on a group of protesters demanding its closure.

The bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardi-

wala and Manoj Misra sought to reconcile the competing considerations on the twin anvils of public health, environment protection and national interest. "There is a state concern as the custodian of health and lives of residents of Thoothukudi. We cannot brush it aside as govts irrespective of political party have supported closure of the plant...There is national interest involved as there are only a few copper smelting plants in India. We can ask the panel to

examine all issues and give us a report within a month. In addition, we can quantify the damages the plant has to pay for past violations," the bench said and posted the matter for further hearing on Thursday.

Appearing for Vedanta, senior advocate Shyam Divan told bench that plant was closed by TN govt unilaterally without even a showcause notice, in blatant disregard of principles of natural justice. Appearing for TN govt, senior advocates C S Vaidyanathan and Gopal Shanakaranayan said state has overwhelming public interest grounds to order closure of the plant, which posed serious threat to the lives and health of residents of Thoothukudi. CJ-led bench said it was not inclined to allow Vedanta to either refurbish the plant or allow it to function through an interim order.

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As major parties back formation of a coalition govt, jailed Imran's party says its mandate has been 'stolen in the dark of night', **INSIDE JACKET**

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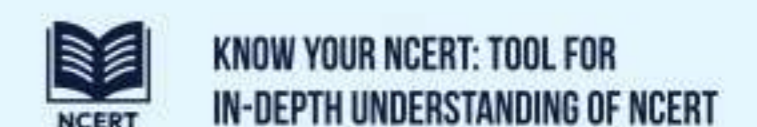
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JLO HINTS AT MUSIC RETIREMENT, SAYS 'THIS IS ME... NOW' ALBUM MIGHT JUST BE HER LAST: 'I FEEL VERY FULFILLED'



LESS THAN A YEAR AFTER ABRUPT END OF \$20M PARTNERSHIP WITH SPOTIFY, MEGHAN LANDS NEW PODCAST DEAL WITH A US NETWORK

In setback to truce talks in Cairo, Bibi 'recalls' his negotiation team

PM Says Hamas Making 'Delusional' Demands; Lebanon & Israel Trade Fire Killing Israeli Soldier, 4 Lebanese Civilians

Jerusalem: International efforts to broker a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas suffered a setback on Wednesday as Israel reportedly recalled its negotiating team and PM Benjamin Netanyahu accused Hamas of hobbling the high-stakes negotiations by sticking to "delusional" demands.



File photo of a child being treated at the Nasser Medical Hospital. Palestinians were fleeing the Khan Younis hospital after Israeli forces reportedly ordered them to leave and threatened military action to stop alleged Hamas activity

Netanyahu's remarks came hours after local media reported that the Israeli leader had ordered an Israeli delegation not to continue talks in Cairo, raising concerns over the fate of the negotiations and sparking criticism from the families of the roughly 130 remaining captives, about a fourth of whom are said to be dead.

The mediation efforts, steered by the US, Egypt and Qatar, have been working to bring the warring sides toward an agreement that might secure a truce in the months-long war. "In Cairo, Israel did not receive any new proposal from Hamas on the release of our captives," Netanyahu said. "A change in Hamas' positions will allow progress in the negotiations." Israeli media reported that Netanyahu told his delegation not to return to the talks unless Hamas softens its demands. Hamas has said it will not release captives until Israel ends its offensive, withdraws from Gaza and releases a large number of Palestinian prisoners, including militants. Hamas officials had no immediate comment.

On Tuesday, CIA chief William Burns and David Barnea, the head of Israel's Mossad spy agency, attended the talks in the Egyptian capital, but there

Blasts hit Iran natural gas pipeline, official calls it 'act of sabotage'

Dubai: Explosions struck a natural gas pipeline in Iran early on Wednesday, with an official blaming the blasts on a "sabotage and terrorist action" in the country as tensions remain high in the Middle East. Details were scarce, though the blasts hit a natural gas pipeline running from Iran's western Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province up north to cities on the Caspian Sea. The roughly 1,270km pipeline begins in Asaluyeh, a hub for Iran's offshore South Pars gas field. Saed Agahi, the manager of Iran's gas network control centre, told Iranian state tele-

vision a "sabotage and terrorist" action caused explosions along several areas of the line. There are no known insurgent groups operating in that province, home to the Bakhtiari, a branch of Iran's Lur ethnic group. Agahi did not name any suspects in the blasts. Iran's oil minister Javad Owji, also speaking to state TV, compared the attack to a series of mysterious and unclaimed assaults on gas pipelines in 2011—including around the anniversary of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution. Tehran marked the 45th anniversary of the revolution Sunday. AP

were no signs of a breakthrough. The talks continued Wednesday at a lower level, even as deadly violence persisted both in the Gaza Strip and along Israel's border with Lebanon.

Israel said Wednesday a female soldier was killed in rocket fire from Lebanon, while Lebanese media said four civilians, including two children, were killed in a series of Israeli

US reviewing if arms it gave Israel harmed Gazans

The US state department is reviewing reports of harm to Gazans civilians by Israel's military as part of a new US programme that tracks cases in which foreign armies use US-made weapons to injure or kill civilians. State department spokesman Matthew Miller said on Tuesday that Biden administration was "reviewing incidents" in the war under what it calls Civilian Harm Incident Response Guidance. Miller suggested that the review was not likely to lead to short-term changes in the US' support for Israel. NPT

Sinwar still alive? Hamas chief seen in tunnel in Israel clip

Israel's army released a video on Tuesday that it said was of Hamas' chief in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, filmed on Oct 10 with his family members in a tunnel in the Palestinian territory. The black and white images showing a man said to be Sinwar being led through a tunnel with a woman and three children are said to be the first of him since the war broke out last Oct. Army spokesman Daniel Hagari said Israeli troops would not stop until they had captured Sinwar "dead or alive". AFP

strikes. While the rocket fire was not immediately claimed, the intense exchanges further raised fears of a broader conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed Hezbollah. AP & AFP

Indian IT professional in US suspected of wiping out family in 'murder-suicide'

American Nightmare: Couple, 4-Yr-Old Twins Found Dead In 2024's 2nd Such Incident

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: In the second episode of its kind this year, an immigrant Indian professional allegedly wiped out his family in a suspected murder-suicide incident, raising questions about whether the famed American dream is turning into a nightmare for some.

Police in the affluent neighbourhood of San Mateo, California, said that following a welfare check alert, they found a couple, Anand Sujith Henry (37) and Alice Priyanka Benziger (38), dead in their bathroom from gunshot wounds. The couple's 4-year-old twins, Noah and Neithan, were also found dead inside one of the home's five bedrooms. "Based on the information we have at this time, this appears to be an isolated incident with no danger to the public as we are confident the person responsible was located within the home," police said, suggesting it was a case of murder-suicide. They did not elaborate on how the boys died.

Henry had worked as a software engineering manager at Google for eight years

The suspected murder-suicide episode involving seemingly successful Indian immigrants is similar to an incident in Massachusetts in Jan. The tragic stories appear to underscore the pressure on Indian immigrant professionals and Indian-Americans, idealised as a model minority

and Meta/Facebook for 17 months before co-founding an artificial intelligence firm called Logits in 2023. He had earlier worked at Salesforce and had interned at Adobe Systems, according to his social media profile. Benziger was a data science manager at Zillow, a real estate company, after stints at Dictionary.com, Idibon, and Change.org.

The couple, hailing from Kerala, were both alumni of TKM Engineering College near Kollam, and later attended Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

Local media reports indicated they had a troubled marriage, with frequent police interventions after they moved to the Bay Area, where they bought the \$2.1-million suburban home after living in four different San Francisco apart-

ments. Reports also said Henry had filed for divorce in Dec 2016 but had reconciled before the birth of twins, and that Benziger's mother was staying with them till recently before returning to India.

This is the second such murder-suicide episode involving seemingly successful and affluent Indian immigrants, following a similar incident in Massachusetts in Jan in which Rakesh Kamal (57) shot dead his wife, Teena Kamal (54), and their college-going daughter Arianna Kamal (18) before turning the gun on himself. The Kamals, both highly educated professionals, had co-founded an education systems company called EduNova in 2016, but had dissolved it in 2021 after financial setbacks that undercut their affluent lifestyle in a

\$5-million suburban home. The tragic stories appear to underscore the pressure on Indian immigrant professionals and Indian-Americans, idealised as a model minority, to present themselves as successful and wealthy. Indian-Americans have the highest average household income among all ethnicities in the US (\$126,891, almost twice the US average of \$65,316), but that top line would barely qualify as modest in the Bay Area and other affluent pockets in America. Earlier this month, California lawmaker Barbara Lee called for a \$50/hour federal minimum wage, more than six times the current federal minimum wage in the US, saying Californians cannot get by on less than \$100,000 a year due to the high cost of living in the state. The current national minimum wage is at \$7.25 an hour; California's is more than double—\$16 an hour. "In the Bay Area, United Way came out with a report that said \$127,000 for a family of four is just barely enough to get by. Another survey said \$104,000 for a family of one, barely enough to get by," Lee said.

Young, Bright, Dead ...And Case Closed

While some deaths of Indian and Indian-origin students in the US are explainable, quite a few are not. Cops often don't investigate properly, some Indian-American parents say, because the community doesn't get 'enough' media coverage

Sujeet Rajan in New York

Jan 20 was freezing cold in Illinois. Akul Dhawan, 18-year-old Indian-American student at University of Illinois, was reported missing in the early hours. About 10 hours later he was found dead, less than 400 feet from the place where he was last seen on campus. An autopsy showed evidence of hypothermic skin changes.

Deaths from cold are not uncommon in the US, and the second half of Jan was brutally cold in Illinois and much of the Midwest, with wind chills dipping from -20 to -30 degrees Celsius. But Akul's death raises disturbing questions for Indian-Americans.

"This is bizarre, that a kid is never found who was just less than a block, like one minute away, sitting there, freezing to death," his father Ish Dhawan was quoted as saying.

Akul's parents have filed a lawsuit alleging police officers were negligent while searching for him, but many Indian-Americans say Akul's case follows a pattern of US police's indifference towards students from the community.

Indian-Americans Nobody's Priority

"I think the problem is there is nobody to talk for them (families of the students) here. My husband says police will say, 'oh, no foul play suspected'. That's the end of it, case closed. That's exactly what they told us: 'no foul play suspected'," Lovely Varughese, mother of Pravin Varughese, who was robbed, beaten and left to die 10 years ago in Illinois, said.

"Why don't we get the same attention other communities get? When those kids go missing, it's all over national news...but then when it comes to our kids, we are lucky if it even gets to the local TV channel," she adds.

Every Case Open-And-Shut

Cold weather may have also played a role in the death of two computer science students at Connecticut's Sacred Heart University last month. Autopsies confirmed that Gattu Dinesh, 22, from Telangana, and R Nikesh, 22, from Andhra Pradesh, died after inhaling carbon monoxide emitted by a room heater.

February started with two alleged suicides. At Indiana state's Purdue University, mechanical engineering doctoral student Sameer Kamath was reported to have killed himself. He was expected to graduate with a PhD in 2025.

Days before him, Shreyas Reddy Benigeri, a mechanical engineer from BITS Pilani who was studying



(L-R) Neel Acharya, Aditya Adlaka, Sameer Kamath, Akul Dhawan

FATAL RUN

Feb 5, 2024 | Purdue student Sameer Kamath allegedly shoots self

Feb 1, 2024 | University of Cincinnati student Shreyas Reddy Benigeri reported dead from 'unknown natural causes' or suicide

Jan 28, 2024 | Purdue student Neel Acharya found dead, cold weather likely cause

Jan 20, 2024 | University of Illinois student Akul Dhawan freezes to death outdoors

Jan 16, 2024 | Alabama University student Vivek Saini murdered with a hammer

Nov 18, 2023 | University of Cincinnati Medical School student Aditya Adlaka shot dead

Oct 29, 2023 | Valparaiso University student Varun Raj Pucha stabbed to death in a gym

no "foul play" was suspected in his death.

Even Red Flags Are Ignored There are other cases where police have swiftly closed the book despite several unexplained circumstances. Computer science and data science double major Neel Acharya's death in January is a case in point.

Acharya, alum of St Mary's School in Pune and undergraduate student at Purdue University, was found dead on campus a day after an Uber driver dropped him off in the night. While toxicology reports are awaited, authorities ruled out foul play, saying the autopsy revealed no signs of trauma on his body.

But Lovely Varughese disagrees with their assessment. "His (Acharya's) phone was found somewhere in the field and he was found on the campus. So, I don't know how they can say no foul play (is) suspected. You know,

nobody's going to throw their phone in the field and come and just die. It's common sense."

She says the case has turned out just like her son Pravin's in 2014. "Authorities are not doing anything. That's exactly what was happening with Pravin too."

Pravin Varughese, 19, was found dead in a wooded area in Carbondale, Illinois, on Feb 12, 2014. Gaega Bethune, 23, was accused of beating and robbing him after offering him a ride on a freezing February night. A jury convicted Bethune of first-degree murder, but a judge later tossed out the guilty verdict and Bethune was released on bond.

Brutal End To Young Dreams

Hardly two weeks before Acharya's death, Indian student Vivek Saini, 25, was murdered by a homeless drug addict who had received food and warm clothing from him in the past. The man struck Saini nearly 50 times on the head with a hammer, and the attack was caught on camera at a convenience store in Lithonia, Georgia, where Saini worked as part-time clerk.

Last November, another Indian student, Varun Raj Pucha, was stabbed to death by a stranger at a gym. He was studying for a master's degree in information technology at Valparaiso University in Indiana.

There were several other violent killings of Indian students last year. Aadiya Adlaka, 26, doctoral student at University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, was found shot inside a car in November. In June, Jude Chacko, 21-year-old student at Temple University, was shot by an unknown assailant in Philadelphia. Then there was the killing of Veera Saiesh, a 21-year-old from Andhra Pradesh, in a suspected robbery at an Ohio gas station last April.

This is not an exhaustive list of barely investigated deaths of Indian-origin students in America. When assailants are known, like the South Korean student who stabbed his roommate Varun Manish Chheda at Purdue in 2022, there's at least some closure, but when the system treats a death as 'case closed' almost from Day 1, the tragedy is compounded.

Sometimes, Indian-Americans come together to protest, as they did after Jaahnavi Kandula, an Indian student in Seattle, was struck dead by a police patrol car in Jan 2023. Cameras caught a cop joking and laughing, and saying: "Yeah, just write a cheque - \$11,000. She was 26 anyways. She had limited value." It was a rare case in which the mayor of an American city apologised.

(By arrangement with The American Bazaar)

Kyiv sinks Russian ship off Crimea in blow days before war's 2nd anniv

Kyiv: Ukraine's military said Wednesday it used naval drones to sink a Russian landing ship in the Black Sea, a report that has not been confirmed by Russian authorities. The Caesar Kunikov amphibious ship sank near Alupka, a city on the southern edge of the Crimean Peninsula that Moscow annexed in 2014. Ukraine's general staff said. It said the ship can carry 87 crew members.

Sinking the vessel would be another embarrassing blow for the Russian Black Sea fleet and a significant success for Ukraine 10 days before the second anniversary of Russia's invasion. Ukraine has moved onto the defensive in the war, hindered by low ammunition supplies and a shortage of personnel, but has kept up its strikes behind the largely static front line.

It is the second time in two weeks that Ukrainian forces have said they sank a Russian vessel in the Black Sea. Last week, they published a video that they said showed drones assaulting the Russian missile-armed corvette Ivanovets. AP

Mandate stolen in 'dark of night': Imran's PTI

Lahore/Islamabad: As major political parties in Pakistan backed the formation of a coalition led by PML-N president Shehbaz Sharif, jailed former PM Imran Khan's party Wednesday alleged that its mandate has been "stolen in the dark of the night".

In a surprise move, Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) on Tuesday night nominated Shehbaz, 72, as the prime ministerial candidate instead of party supreme and three-time former premier Nawaz Sharif.

"Pakistan is being put on (the) road to further destabilisation... The decision to induct a bunch of criminals to form govts, who have been rejected by the people, reflects a myopic view of grave challenges the country is beset with," said Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's central information secretary Raouf Hasan.

Independents backed by Khan's PTI sprang a surprise by winning the most seats in Parliament in the Feb 8 elections, which recorded a 47.6% turnout, lower than the 52.1% witnessed in 2018. PTI

PML-N, allies mull 25-member cabinet

Discussions are underway on the composition of the new federal cabinet of the coalition gov't with the possibility of a 25-member lineup in its initial phase. The PML-N leadership, comprising Nawaz Sharif and Shehbaz

Sharif, engaged in a crucial meeting to review the party's interactions with various allies and considered the names of potential cabinet members, sources told Express Tribune.

Leaders from MQM-P are being considered for key positions, PML-N sources said. Awn Chaudry from Istehkam-e-Pakistan Party is expected to be appointed as special assistant to the PM.

Earlier, PML-N outlined a formula which suggested if the coalition agrees to a PML-N candidate as PM, the positions of president and speaker would go to PPP. PTI

In a 1st in nearly 150 yrs, US House impeaches prez cabinet official

Brussels/Paris: The Republican-controlled US House of Representatives Tuesday narrowly voted to impeach Democratic President Joe Biden's top border official, as immigration shapes up to be a major issue in this year's elections. By a vote of 214-213, the House approved two articles of impeachment accusing Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas of not enforcing US immigration laws, which Republicans argued to record flows of migrants across the US-Mexico border, and making false statements to Congress.

The vote marked second time in US history, and the first time in almost 150 years, that the House has impeached a member of a president's Cabinet. Democratic Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's office said senators would be sworn in as jurors shortly after they return from a break on Feb 26. The Democratic-led chamber is highly unlikely to vote to remove Mayorkas. REUTERS

Feared ex-general claims victory in Indonesia polls

Jakarta: Indonesia's defence minister, a feared former general who was removed from the army after he was found responsible for the kidnapping of political dissidents, appeared to be on track to win the presidential election outright on Wednesday, casting doubts on the future of one of the world's most vibrant democracies.

The candidate, Prabowo Subianto, had a commanding lead in the three-way race for president, with more than 58% of the vote, according to unofficial tallies that have a history of accurately predicting the final results. The two other presidential candidates said it was too early to declare a winner.

If the projections are confirmed, Indonesia — the world's third-largest democracy — will be led by a president who has said that the country needs neither elections nor democracy, who was barred from entering the US for two decades because of his human rights record and who was long associated with Indonesia's former dictator,

Suharto. Prabowo served as a special forces commander in a unit linked to torture and disappearances, allegations that he vehemently denies. The era of liberty that followed the ouster of Suharto, critics say, could now be under threat with Prabowo's ascent to power.

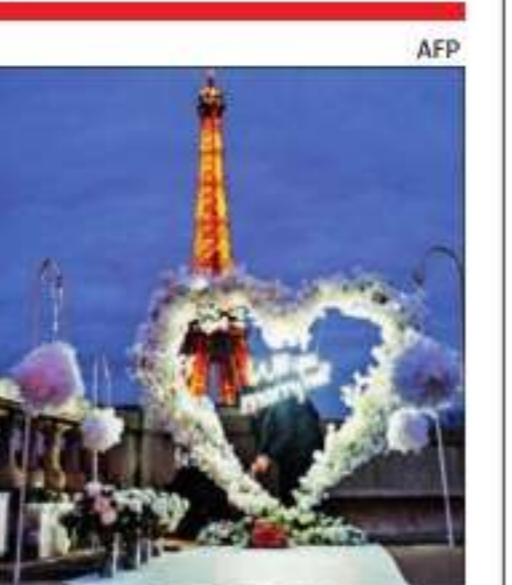
On Wednesday night, supporters of Prabowo chanted his name as he gave his victory speech in the capital, Jakarta. "This victory must be a victory for all the Indonesian people," he said. The election in Indonesia matters far beyond its borders. The world's fourth-most-populous country, it is of growing strategic importance to both the US and China. Indonesia is one of the world's top producers of coal, palm oil and nickel, and it sits atop the supply chains of many global companies.

Crucially, Prabowo has the tacit backing of the wildly popular incumbent Joko Widodo, who is betting on his former rival as a continuity candidate to preserve his legacy, including the inclusion of his 36-year-old son Gibran on the ticket. NPT

AROUND THE WORLD

Detecting 'carrots' & 'tea bags': Ukraine decodes Russian chatter to save lives

As the radio crackles with enemy communications that are hard to decipher, one Russian command rings out clear: "Brew five Chinese tea bags on 38 orange." A Ukrainian soldier known on the battlefield as Mikhass, who has spent months analysing such chatter, is able to quickly decode the gibberish: Prepare five Beijing-made artillery shells and fire them on a specific Ukrainian position in Serebryansky Forest, which forms the front line in the country's restive northeast. Hiding in the basement of an abandoned home 12km away, Mikhass immediately warns the commander of a unit embedded in that part of the forest, giving him minutes to get his men into trenches, saving their lives. On the defensive and critically short of ammunition and soldiers, Ukrainian forces are increasingly resorting to an age-old tactic — intelligence gleaned from radio intercepts — in a desperate effort to preserve their most vital resources. After listening to hours of Russian communications, much of it related to troop rotations, artillery fire and drone reconnaissance, they gradually build an understanding — with help from specialised software — of what it means. "Cucumbers" are mortars, "carrots" are grenade launchers — and locations are conveyed in a numerical code with a corresponding colour. The Russians know they are being listened to and try to deceive their enemy with bogus information. It is up to Mikhass and others to discern the signal from the noise. NPT



V-DAY PROPOSAL: A woman prepares a heart of flowers with the words 'Will you marry me' in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris

desperate effort to preserve their most vital resources. After listening to hours of Russian communications, much of it related to troop rotations, artillery fire and drone reconnaissance, they gradually build an understanding — with help from specialised software — of what it means. "Cucumbers" are mortars, "carrots" are grenade launchers — and locations are conveyed in a numerical code with a corresponding colour. The Russians know they are being listened to and try to deceive their enemy with bogus information. It is up to Mikhass and others to discern the signal from the noise. NPT