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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) | *APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE (IN DELHI NCR)

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Pacer **Jasprit Bumrah**, who is the leading wicket-taker in ongoing series against England with 17 scalps, is **likely to be rested for 4th Test** beginning Feb 23 in Ranchi; fit-again **K L Rahul set to join squad**, P 21

'We very much see the news... we want to ensure a good future for ourselves,' says **Ashwin Ramaswami, 24,** who is the **first Indian-American Gen Z candidate to run for Georgia state senate**, P 24

To avoid losing reserved seats, **PTI-affiliated independent candidates,** who won highest number of National Assembly seats in Feb 8 Pakistan polls, **decide to join minority right-wing Sunni Ittehad Council**, P 24

'Rage, anger, hatred for those who dared to kill our future': **Alexei Navalny's widow Yulia Navalnaya vows to continue his fight against Putin**, says authorities refusing to hand over his body to cover up killing, P 24

HC upholds life for 11 for CPM rebel's murder

Kerala HC upheld on Monday life sentences of 11 convicts, three of them CPM members (one of the three died while serving his sentence), by Kozhikode additional sessions court in 2012 T P Chandrasekharan murder case. HC also pronounced six convicts — Anoop, Kirmani Manoj, Kodi Suni, Rajeesh, Muhammad Shafi and Shinoj—guilty of criminal conspiracy. It also set aside acquittal of K K Krishnan and Geothi Babu. P 15

IN THE COURTS

- SC stays criminal **proceedings against now-K'taka CM Siddaramaiah for holding protests** against previous BJP govt | P 15
- SC pulls up govt for its **patriarchal approach in not granting permanent commission** to woman officers in Coast Guard | P 15
- Facilities such as **lifts and water pumps at societies are for domestic consumption** and **can't draw commercial charges** for electricity usage, Gurgaon court rules, orders discom to refund ₹70L | P 8
- Actor & AIADMK ex-MLA **S Ve Shekher, now in BJP, sentenced to 1-month jail** for derogatory social media post against woman journo | P 15

Lt Gen Dwivedi takes over as Army VC

Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, commissioned into 18 Jammu & Kashmir Rifles in Dec 1984, took over as the new Army Vice Chief Monday. He was earlier general officer commanding-in-chief of Northern Command. P 16

Cops create ruckus over delay in raita

Angry after their raita was delayed, five 'drunk' cops allegedly abused staff at a roadside eatery along the Agra-Mumbai highway on Sunday evening and beat up customers who came to dhaba owner's defence. P 18

Court to hand over Jaya's gold to TN

A Bengaluru court said it will hand 27kg of gold and diamond jewellery belonging to late CM J Jayalalithaa to TN home secretary, starting the process to sell her assets to mobilise Rs 100 crore fine imposed on her. P 15

Promoters clear ₹10L cr of 'default'

After Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code came into effect, fear of losing control over companies has prompted promoters to settle 27,514 cases worth a little less than Rs 10 lakh crore before they were admitted in NCLT. P 19

BTech student ends life in Kota

A 23-year-old BTech student, who was under treatment for depression, ended his life at his house in Kota on Sunday, when his family members were away. This is the fifth student suicide in the city this year. P 18

Delivery app user loses ₹97k in elaborate con

A 26-year-old businesswoman from south Delhi lost Rs 97,000 from her account shortly after getting an automated call "from a food delivery platform".

She approached local cyber cell, which unravelled an elaborate con being played out by a former delivery boy and his accomplice. This gang was using interactive voice responses (IVR) to extract account information by hacking into accounts linked with food delivery apps of their targets.

According to DCP (South) Ankit Chauhan, the accused were identified as Aniket Kalra and Himanshu, residents of Gurgaon. P 5

SC seeks ballot papers of Chd mayor election

Tells Returning Officer He Could Be Prosecuted

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New Delhi: Expressing concern over reports of horse trading of councillors for Chandigarh mayor election, Supreme Court on Monday decided to examine whether the result could be declared on the basis of votes cast on Jan 30 and directed that the ballot papers, some of which were allegedly defaced by the returning officer leading to an unexpected BJP win, be placed before it. After invalidation of eight votes of the AAP-Congress coalition, the BJP candidate won 16-12.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra directed that the ballot papers and videography of the polling, which were taken into custody by Registrar General of Punjab and Haryana HC on its order, be brought before it at 10.30am Tuesday. The court was of the opinion that if all ballot papers are found to be secured and intact, the result could be declared on that basis.

AAP candidate Kuldeep Kumar in his petition pleaded for fresh election but advocate general of Punjab and senior advocate Gurminder Singh submitted that all ballot papers were still valid and the result could be declared on that basis by removing the defacement allegedly done by returning officer (RO) Anil Masih. The bench also made it clear to Masih, who was present in court, that he could be prosecuted if it was found that he had interfered in the election process.

▶Quizzes Chd RO, P 16

MARKED DEFACED BALLOTS, SAYS RO

- Ballot papers & videography of polling to be brought before apex court which will **decide if papers are valid** and mayoral election results can be declared on their basis
- SC bench quizzes returning officer **Anil Masih** who was seen 'putting crosses' on ballot papers. He says they were already defaced and he was only marking them
- **AAP candidate** Kuldeep Kumar who lost **seeks fresh election**, but advocate general of Punjab opposes it
- Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for Chandigarh admn, also seeks fresh election with a **returning officer appointed by SC**

"We will list this tomorrow and see the ballot papers and decide... This **whole business of horse trading which is going on is very disturbing**... Let entire video of counting of votes also be produced
— **SC bench**

SC junks Sandeshkhali probe PIL, says 'don't compare it with Manipur'

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New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a PIL seeking a court-monitored CBI or SIT probe into violence in West Bengal's Sandeshkhali. It said Calcutta high court has already taken suo motu cognisance of incident, and asked petitioner to approach HC. "Local high court will be best to assess situation. Let there be no dual forums," SC said.

Petitioner-lawyer Alakh Alok Srivastava said SC had formed a panel of three former women high court judges to oversee probe, relief and remedial measures in violence-hit Manipur. Srivastava alleged disturbing incidents, too, have come to light in Sandeshkhali where a number of women claimed they had been raped.

"Please don't compare what happened in Manipur with what happened here," Justices B V Nagarathna and Augustine George Masih said. "We understand your eagerness and sympathy for victims, but monitoring of an investigation by this court is completely different," they said, adding that HC could consider transferring case to CBI, if it felt so.

SC stays LS panel summons to CS, DGP

SC Monday stayed proceedings against Bengal chief secretary, DGP and other officers who had been summoned by LS privileges committee on a complaint filed by BJP MP Sukanta Majumdar who alleged misconduct, brutality and life-threatening injuries to him while leading a stir for Sandeshkhali victims. P 16

CM nod to MoU signing for 3 Metro corridors

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal has approved signing of an MoU between his govt, the Centre and DMRC for three priority corridors being constructed under Metro Phase-IV. Of the corridors totalling 65km with 45 stations, Janakpuri West-RK Ashram is longest at 29km and 22 stations. Aerocity-Tughlakabad corridor will be 23.62km long with 15 stations. Majlis Park- Maujpur is shortest at 12.32km and eight stations. P 7

Midair collision of IndiGo planes averted in Nov

A midair collision of two IndiGo aircraft was avoided near Delhi airport last November, thanks to traffic alert and collision avoidance system (TCAS), **reports Saurabh Sinha**.

One of the pilots took a "wrong turn", setting his aircraft on a take-off path of the other, which had just become airborne from another runway at IGI, Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau said in a preliminary report. P 8

Won't join Rahul's yatra unless seat-sharing is finalised, says Akhilesh

Swati.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Keeping Congress guessing about his participation in Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra as it makes a pit stop in Rae Bareli on Tuesday, Samajwadi Party chief and INDIA partner Akhilesh Yadav on Monday upped the ante and demanded that seat-sharing negotiations between two parties be firmed up first.

While Akhilesh's last-minute announcement triggered fresh concerns over health and stability of INDIA partnership, SP managers told **TOI** that an alliance between the two parties was "on course and certain", but added a caveat that the outcome of negotiations hinged on whether Congress scales down its demand of 20 to settle for the 17 offered to it.

With a formal announcement still awaited, sources said Congress leaders in UP continued to push for a larger share of seats in western part of the state — at least two more seats — where the party believes it has a strong presence and an ability to win.

▶Putting Cong in place, P 22

DANCE of DEMOCRACY

- **Rajasthan Congress MLA Bagidora and tribal leader Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya joins BJP**, a day after meeting Nadda and Shah | P 16
- **Kamal Nath** 'himself is Congress high command', says **loyalist Sajjan Singh Verma, quashes speculation** he's joining BJP | P 16

I-T demand of up to ₹1L/person to be withdrawn

Following a proposal outlined in interim budget, Central Board of Direct Taxes has set a maximum ceiling of Rs 1 lakh per taxpayer for doing away with outstanding small demands. Withdrawals have begun and taxpayers can check status of demands by logging on to the I-T portal. The ceiling amount applies to demand amounts regarding principal tax component, interest, penalty, fee, cess or surcharge, CBDT said. P 19

Kutch villagers' treasure hunt helps unearth Harappan site near Dholavira

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Rajkot: They dug for gold – found a civilisation instead.

Legend has it that Lodrani, a hamlet 51km from the World Heritage Site of Dholavira in Kutch, was sitting on buried gold. So, some enterprising residents got together around five years back and started a dig, dreaming of getting rich.

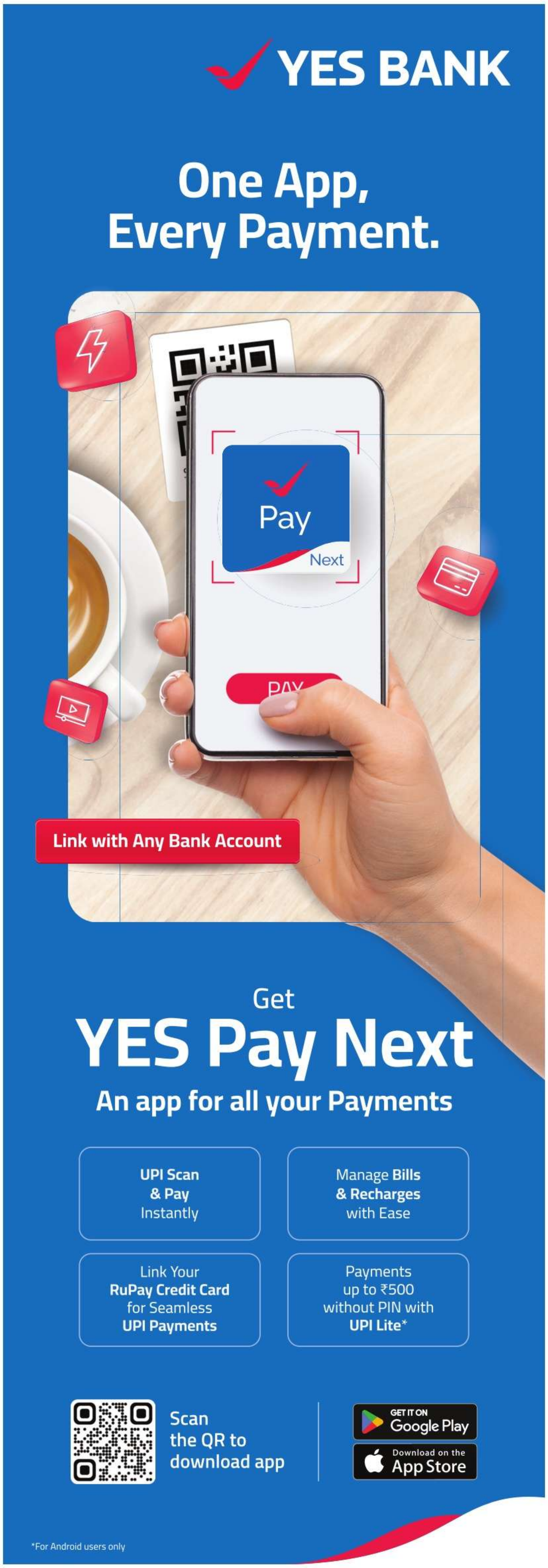
What they found, and what archaeologists, who took over the dig after preliminary finds, discovered is a Harappan-era fortified settlement.

Ajay Yadav, a research scholar working with his professor, Damian Robinson, both from Oxford's School of Archaeology, were lead archaeologists in this discovery. They said architectural details at the new site bear striking resemblance to Dholavira.

Talking to **TOI**, Yadav said the site had earlier been pretty much dismissed as a large stone-rubble settlement. "Villagers believed there was a medieval fortress and buried treasure. But when we examined the site, we found a Harappan settlement where life was flourishing some 4,500 years ago."

▶Wait finally ends, P 16

Morodharo yielded Harappan pottery (L) similar to that found in Dholavira. Ajay Yadav (above) with villagers who discovered the site



CM: 'Serious Constitutional Crisis' In Delhi As Bill-Waiver Scheme Stalled

Alleges Officers Refusing To Clear DJB's One-Time Settlement Plan At BJP's Behest

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New Delhi: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Monday that a "serious constitutional crisis" had arisen in the capital with the bureaucrats refusing to clear the one-time settlement scheme for disputed water bills allegedly on the "threats and pressure" of BJP.

Replying to a calling attention motion in Delhi Assembly on the matter, Kejriwal urged lieutenant governor VK Saxena to direct the officials to implement the scheme or take action against them if they refused to do so.

"A serious constitutional crisis has arisen in Delhi. If officials do not listen to govt, can the state govt run even for two days?" the CM asked. "And BJP is behind all this. BJP is happy when the people of Delhi are sad or ill. BJP wants to destroy Delhi."

Later, the assembly passed a resolution requesting Saxena to intervene and get the one-time settlement scheme for redressing faulty water bills implemented. The resolution read, "This House, while expressing its shock and dismay, requests Honourable LG to use his good offices to get these officers to implement this hugely pro-people scheme and to suspend them if the officers don't implement it."

TOI

Kejriwal said that despite AAP being in govt, it is unable to get its policies implemented

It also said the House "believes that the opposition party BJP, which exercises direct control over the officers of Delhi govt and over Hon'ble LG, for narrow, short term and illegitimate political gains, is threatening the officers to prevent the popular govt of Delhi from implementing such a hugely necessary and pro-public scheme".

Stating that Delhi had fallen victim to dirty politics, Kejriwal said that despite AAP being in govt, it is unable to get its policies implemented. "People are getting faulty bills. Those in govt are saying this should be rectified, the opposition is saying it should not," he said.

Kejriwal added, "Delhi is said to be a half state, but according to me, it is not even 5% of a normal state. If Delhi had been a full state, no bureaucrat would have dared to bypass the orders given by ministers. They would have been suspended in two minutes for sitting on files."

A few weeks ago, the AAP govt proposed a special scheme to settle large-scale pending water bills, but when it was stalled, minister Saurabh Bharadwaj claimed that the person behind the blocking was the urban development department's additional chief secretary.

Kejriwal pointed out that the one-time settlement scheme was introduced last June but it is still stuck. "Delhi has around 27 lakh consumers and around 40% haven't paid the water bills. The reason? They feel they've received inflated bills. It is govt's responsibility to step in. This problem arose during the Covid lockdown."

Leader of opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri alleged that the state govt sent faulty bills to Delhi's people and then introduced a waiver scheme. He said that govt blamed officials for not implementing the one time settlement scheme but the truth is that the AAP govt had no intention of actually settling the bills. "How were bills worth lakhs of rupees sent? The state govt announced a similar scheme in June but instead of implementing it, meaningless bills were sent to the public and now it says it wants to reduce the bill amounts."

Bidhuri said that he wanted to remind the people of Delhi of AAP's promise to provide 24-hour water which had not been fulfilled.

Woes of contract employees yet to be addressed: BJP

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New Delhi: Assembly leader of opposition Ramvir Singh Bidhuri raised the matter of jobs to unemployed civil defence volunteers who were removed from their roles, contract employees working with the DTC, guest teachers in schools in the House on Monday.

"I want to bring to the attention of the Kejriwal govt the DTC contract employees, 20,000 guest teachers in Delhi schools, anganwadi workers, Asha workers and marshals who were removed from DTC," he said.

Around 10,000 civil defence volunteers, most engaged as bus marshals, had lost their jobs in Oct last year after Delhi govt issued a circular to end their 'call out duty', stating that it was contrary to rules that mandate their requirement for dealing with disaster management and hostile attacks.

Bidhuri said the Kejriwal govt made promises to make guest teachers and contract workers permanent, but till date no one has been made permanent.

"Being the leader of opposition, employees of many departments come to me and request that I convey their demand to the govt. I request you to fulfil your promise of regularisation and to give pensions on time."

He said that a situation should not arise when people feel forced to hold protests for getting their dues. "I want to bring to your notice on behalf of lakhs of contract employees, DTC retired employees should be given pension on time," he said.

MLA Rajendra Pal Gautam, replying to Bidhuri in the Assembly, said that the AAP govt has always been against a contract system. "I want to ask the leader of opposition that will he cooperate on the issue of regularisation? LG is theirs. Will they cooperate?" he asked.

BIDHURI SAYS

Being the leader of opposition, employees of many departments come to me and request that I convey their demand to the govt

He said the government and every Vidhan Sabha member wanted that contractual employees to be regularised but they should also cooperate. "They have the services department. Do they promise to regularise?" he asked.

Speaker Ram Niwas Goel interrupted and requested Gautam to give a proposal in writing on the matter and there would be discussion on it.

Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj, replying to Bidhuri, said thousands of civil defence volunteers who were working efficiently were removed. "This House wants to discuss the subject and pass a resolution on it but I request Bidhuri that he should also tell us what he can get done by the LG. You tell us what we have to do and we will do that. We will tell what LG has to do and you get that done.... If you are ready, we are ready. Then these thousands of civil defence volunteers would be back," he said.

Speaker Goel requested members to come prepared on the matter for a discussion.

7 BJP legislators move high court, say suspension is not justified

Times News Network

New Delhi: Delhi High Court will hear the petitions filed by seven BJP MLAs challenging their suspension from the remainder of the budget session of Delhi Assembly for allegedly interrupting lieutenant governor VK Saxena's address on Tuesday. "Tomorrow, we restrict ourselves to the interim relief aspect only," the single judge bench of Justice Prasad said.

The BJP MLAs, Mohan Singh Bisht, Ajay Mahawar, OP Sharma, Abhay Verma, Anil Vajpayi, Jitender Mahajan and Vijender Gupta, had allegedly repeatedly interrupted the LG's speech during his address on Feb 15, which focused on highlighting the achievements of AAP govt. The plea filed by the MLAs alleged that other members of AAP were also heckling and shouting inside the House.

The plea stated that the Speaker "because of his biases and prejudices has not taken any action against the deputy speaker and members of the ruling party, though the said acts were of graver nature. But he ordered marshalling out the petitioner and other leaders of the opposition party selectively at around 11:32 am onwards".

"The Speaker has always shown a much lenient approach in dealing with the members of the ruling party when it comes to maintaining the decorum of the House. The specific acts done by the Hon'ble Speaker which showcase his allegiance shall be brought to the fore if so required," it added.

The plea further claimed that the Speaker ordered the suspension of the 7 MLAs without any justification.

"It is a case of double jeopardy, as the petitioners herein have been subjected to twice punishment for the same alleged misconduct," the plea stated.

LG seeks probe into GST evasions, govt blames officers

Times News Network

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena has asked Delhi govt to hold a detailed inquiry into goods and service tax (GST) evasions and tighten tax administration in the capital.

Referring to a **TOI** report published on Feb 9 that Delhi recorded an estimated GST evasion of nearly Rs 3,028 crore in third quarter of the current fiscal, highest in the country and detected 483 "bogus" firms, the LG wrote to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal advising him to direct the finance minister to assess its root cause.

"It is indeed dubious that the capital of the country tops the list of tax evasion among all states and Union territories, with the one in second place behind Delhi, by as much as Rs 827 crore. This is a serious matter in which the possibility of collusion of officials in the GST department cannot be ruled out," Saxena said in his letter to the CM.

Delhi govt, meanwhile, said it condemns any instances of tax evasion and is unwaveringly committed to enforcing strict compliance with tax laws. Strictest possible action will be initiated against the violators at once, it said.

"Despite our efforts, in collaboration with IIT-Hyderabad, to develop a software targeting tax evasion and improving revenue collection, we are dismayed by the fact that the proposal has been languishing among bureaucratic offices for almost a year," a govt statement said.

"A full year has passed since the initiation of the proposal in Feb, yet it is only now that it is slated to be presented before the cabinet. This delay has only happened because of the GNCTD Amendment Act. It is imperative that we collectively prioritize upholding the integrity of the tax system and safeguard the interests of the citizens of Delhi," it added.

Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, in a report released a few weeks ago, highlighted that in the quarter ending Dec 2023, a total of 4,153 bogus firms involved in suspected input tax credit evasion of around Rs 12,036 crore were detected across the country.

As per the report, 483 bogus firms were busted in the city during the period, which were suspected to be involved in GST evasion of Rs 3,028 crore. Delhi was third only to Maharashtra (926) and Rajasthan (507) in the number of bogus GST firms that were detected by the authorities in the third quarter of FY24.

"This not only reflects poorly on the state of tax governance in the national capital, but also results in a huge loss to the public exchequer. This resource could have been meaningfully utilised for investments in public interest," the LG said in his note.

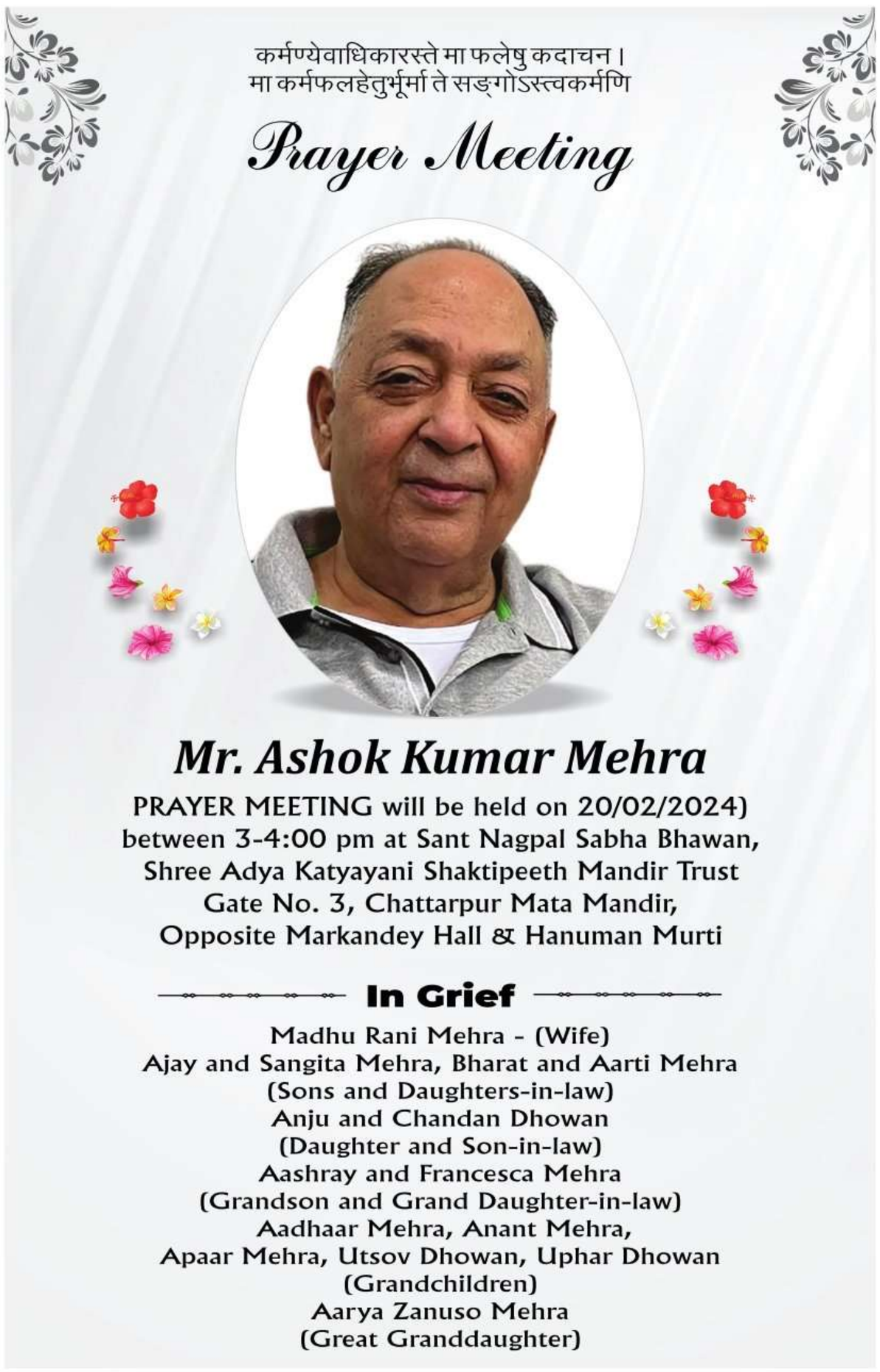
"I trust that you will personally take interest in the matter and apprise me of the efforts being made to tighten the tax administration in the city," he added.

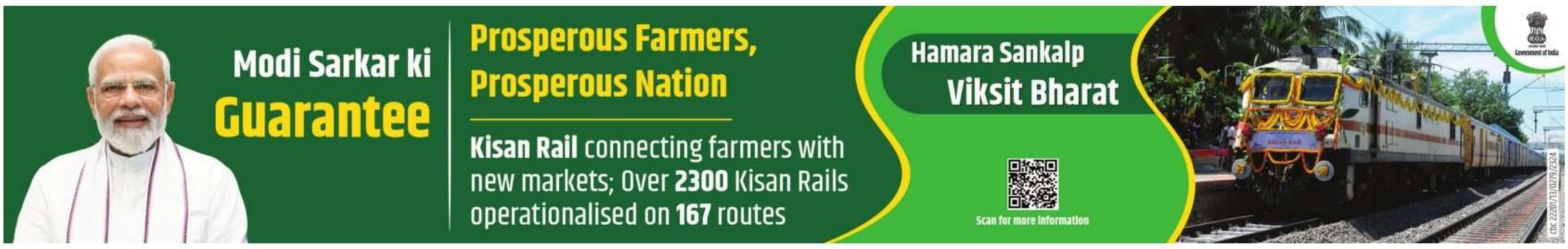
YOU READ IT HERE

Delhi Worst Offender In GST Evasion

Drive Reveals ₹3,000cr Evaded By 483 Bogus Firms In 3 Mnths

Feb 9, 2024





23 more shops get nod for 24x7 operations

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday granted permission to 23 more shops and commercial establishments to operate 24 hours.

This initiative will create employment for the youth and enhance economic activities within Delhi, the CMO said.

All these establishments must adhere to provisions and rules of the Delhi Shops Establishment Act, 1954. The government will an eye on them to ensure that action is taken in case of any violation of rules, the CMO added.

The proposal has now been sent to the lieutenant governor for final approval.

Compliance with Delhi Shops and Establishments Act is mandatory. For instance, during summers, women employees will not be permitted to work in any establishment between 9pm and 7am, and during winter, between 8pm and 8am.

In all, 33 individuals applied to the labour department to operate shops for 24 hours. The department examined these applications. Among these, 23 met the criteria and were approved. While the examination process of the remaining 10 application forms is on.

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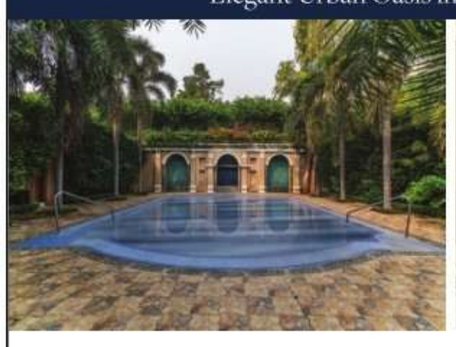

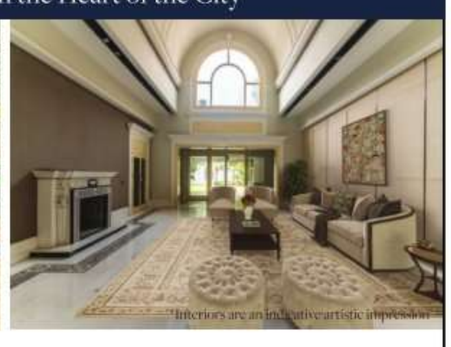

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Dwarka E-Way's Haryana Stretch May Open Soon

Inauguration By PM Likely Before Election Code Comes Into Force

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New Delhi: The 19-km stretch of Dwarka Expressway in Haryana, from Delhi-Gurgaon border to Kherki Daula, is set to open for traffic by the first week of March, just days ahead of the announcement of Lok Sabha polls when the model code of conduct (MCC) will come into force. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to inaugurate the completed stretch and hold a roadshow as well.

TOI has learnt that the remaining portion of the expressway in Delhi (9.5 km) is estimated to be completed by June-end. Though the full benefit of the country's first elevated urban expressway will be realised when the entire 28.5 km is opened for traffic, the inauguration of the corridor in Gurgaon will bring relief to the commuters.

Once the entire stretch is completed, 40-50% traffic is likely to be shifted to this new road from the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway, which gets choked during morning and evening peak traffic hours.

The Dwarka Expressway, also known as the Northern Peripheral Road, starts from Shiv Murti on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway and will connect Dwarka in Delhi to Gurgaon in Haryana. The road, mostly elevated, ends near Kherki Daula toll plaza. The expressway, developed with an investment of Rs 9,000 crore, will also have the longest and widest urban road tunnel in the country, measuring 3.6-km in length and 8 lanes.

Although, Dwarka Expressway was envisaged by the Haryana govt in 2006 to decongest Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway and as an additional link between the two cities, the project remained in shelf due to land acquisition issues. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) took up the development of the expressway in 2016 after the Centre agreed to develop it as an NH.

The state-of-art highway project will be access-controlled with designated entry points on service roads to avoid traffic congestion. It has been designed as an 8- lane grade-separated expressway, with provision of minimum 3-lane service roads on both sides. It also has four multi-level interchanges and cross-road underpasses at major junctions.

"Learnings from Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway have been utilised in the design of Dwarka Expressway. These include fully access- controlled corridor, three level grade segregation at major junctions, complete segregation of local traffic and thorough traffic. The expressway will provide direct access to the upcoming India International Convention Centre in Sector 25 in Dwarka," said an NHAI official.

Tribunal rejects appeal of contractual teacher against termination of service

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi School Tribunal recently dismissed the appeal of a contractual maths teacher against the termination of his service in Feb 2021 by a private unaided school. It stated that the teacher was appointed purely on a contractual basis to fill a temporary vacancy and according to the Delhi School Education Act and Rules, regularisation of services was not applicable in the case of such employees.

The tribunal, however, directed the school, which was recognised by the Delhi govt's directorate of education, to pay three months' salary and issue an experience certificate to the teacher.

The tribunal bench of presiding officer Satinder Kumar Gautam stated that the teacher's appointment was not statutory and after completion of the period of contractual service, he could be removed. "It is not as if the person who accepts an engagement either temporary or casual is not aware of the nature of his employment. He accepted employment with an open eye," it said in the order dated Feb 6.

Senior advocate Puneet Mittal and advocate Atul Jain appeared for the school.

TRIBUNAL SAYS

Pay three months' salary and issue an experience certificate to the teacher

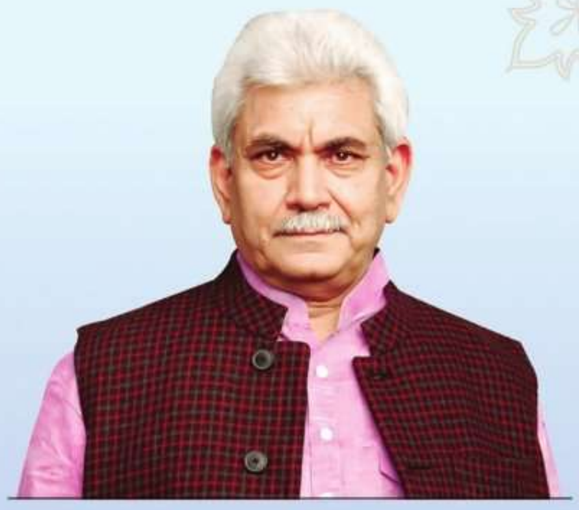
The tribunal was hearing the plea for quashing the termination order, besides reinstating the teacher with immediate effect, along with other benefits, including back wages.

"The appellant has to show his appointment statutory which he has failed. The appellant at the same time was not on probation and the appellant has also not pleaded that his employment was a sham," it added.

The tribunal, however, said termination can only be given after providing sufficient notice period to an employee for obtaining alternative employment. "Instead of awarding lump sum damages to the appellant, three months salary should be paid," it said.

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of Jammu & Kashmir



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- IIM, Jammu
- New Terminal Building Jammu Airport
- 206 Developmental Projects of UT
- Common User Petroleum Terminal, Jammu
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- Electrification of Baramulla-Sangaldan Railway line
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February 20, 2024 | 11:00 AM | M A Stadium, Jammu

Crooks Target Food Delivery App Users, Buy Grocery Items With Stolen Money

Woman Loses ₹97k After Cyber Criminals Trick Her Into Pressing A Few Numbers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 26-year-old businesswoman from south Delhi was in for a shock as she lost Rs 97,000 from her bank account shortly after getting an automated call "from a food delivery platform". She approached the local cyber cell, which unravelled an elaborate con being played out by a former delivery boy and his accomplice. This gang was using interactive voice responses (IVR) to extract account information by hacking into the accounts linked with food delivery apps of their targets.

According to DCP (South) Ankit Chauhan, the accused were identified as Aniket Kalra and Himanshu, residents of Gurgaon. "We have recovered two cellphones, including the one used in this crime and three SIM cards besides nine credit and debit cards and a fake Aadhaar Card from the accused," he added.

The victim told cops that she had received a seemingly pre-recorded message informing her that somebody was trying to access her app account. She was tricked into pressing a few numbers and the next minute, the money was deducted from her Lazy Pay account linked with her food delivery account. The siphoned money was then used to order random items from the app.

AN OFFICER SAYS

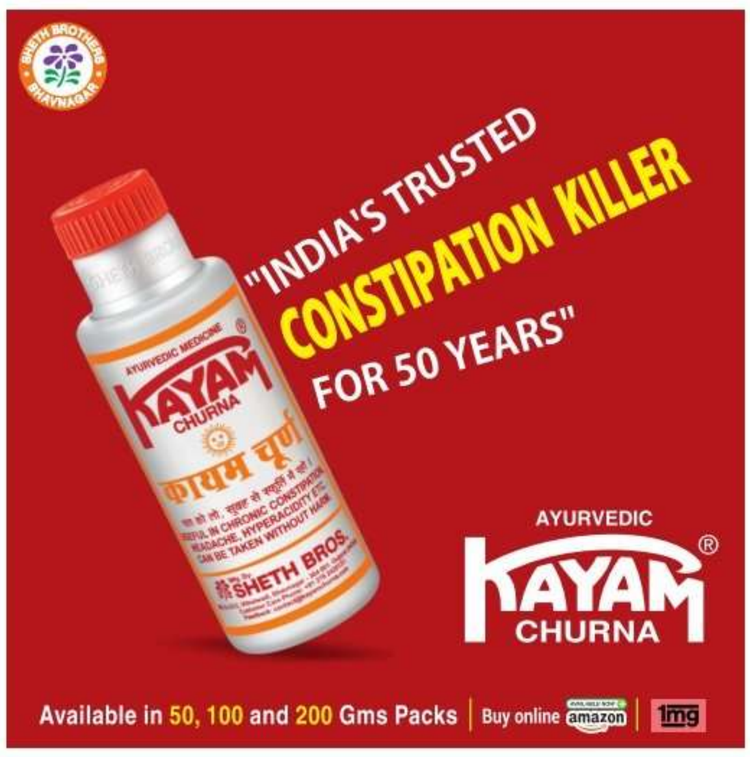
The suspects used to place big orders of grocery items from the account of the victims and sell those items in the local markets

An analysis of the number revealed that it was a virtual number and the SIM used to generate the number was issued on fake documents. Cops somehow traced the Gurgaon address where the delivery of items had happened and zeroed down on two suspects. A team comprising ACP Rajesh Kumar and SHO Arun Verma conducted a raid and apprehended the duo.

The accused disclosed that they used to buy grocery items from online selling platforms at lower price through offers and sold them in the market, thus saving 5%-10% on every order. They were members of a Telegram channel where a person from Punjab taught them to use the IVR system. The suspect also provided them the data of people who had linked their credit and debit card or internet banking with their food delivery app account.

The duo started extracting crucial information from gullible victims and used the details to transfer money from their account. "Kalra used to place orders of grocery items for as much amount as available in the account of the victims. Random addresses of Gurgaon were provided for delivery of items to avoid any police action. The duo then again sold these items in the local markets," the DCP added.

As the accused didn't have to spend money for buying, the profits were straight 100% which they divided into two. Himanshu was also running a medicine shop in Gurgaon.



Winds bring down max temp, CAQM revokes GRAP-II rules

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Gusty winds up to 50 kmph blew during the daytime and the maximum temperature dipped to 28.2 degrees Celsius, four degrees above normal, on Monday.

Although India Meteorological Department had predicted light to moderate rain on Tuesday, the Met department on Monday said there was a possibility of a drizzle.

The city on Sunday had recorded the warmest day of the year yet with maximum temperature rising to 29.7 degrees Celsius, five degrees above normal. The day temperature on Monday was 1.5 degrees lower than Sunday's maximum temperature. The minimum temperature was recorded at 14.1 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal.

Met officials said as strong winds prevailed in the city, it prevented the maximum temperature from dipping. However, the minimum temperature rose on Monday due to cloudy skies.

The maximum temperature is likely to hover around 25-26 degrees Celsius from Feb 22 to 25. The minimum is forecast to be 8-10 degrees Celsius.

"An active western disturbance has impacted the Himalayan region and will cause rain and snow in hills. Under the influence of this western disturbance, rain is likely to lash parts of the plains, but Delhi-NCR may witness only a drizzle. No intense rain activity is expected in Delhi due to the wind patterns," Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist and head of the Regional Weather Forecasting Centre at IMD, said.

"Wind speed is expected to reduce from Monday night and an average wind speed of 10 to 15 kmph is likely on Tuesday," Srivastava said.

The maximum and minimum temperatures could be around 28 and 12 degrees Celsius, respectively, on Tuesday.

After an improvement in air quality due to the winds, the Commission for Air Quality Management has revoked the Graded Response Action Plan's stage II measures on Monday. It was in force in NCR from Oct 21, 2023.

The AQI was in the "poor" category on Monday with a reading of 231. "The average AQI has remained less than 300 from Feb 15 onwards.... The forecast also indicates that average AQI will stay 'moderate' to 'poor'," CAQM said in a statement.

Piyal Bhattacharjee

WINDS OF CHANGE FOR DELHI

Install CCTVs in women-only parks: Mayor

New Delhi: Mayor Shelly Oberoi has directed officials to install CCTV cameras in women-only "pink parks" operational across MCD zones to ensure the safety and security of women visiting these parks, an official said on Monday.

The civic body's horticulture department may soon start the work on installing the CCTV camera in its women-only parks that are being built across its 250 wards, the official told PTI.

"The mayor has given instruction to install the CCTV cameras in the women-only parks to provide a safe and secure environment to the women and children who visit these parks," the official said.

It will also help is controlling illegal activities and crime against women that often get reported in public parks, the official added.

According to a report by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Delhi recorded the highest cases of crime against women among the 19 metropolitan cities in 2022.

Currently, MCD has 15 to 20 women-only parks operational in the city and the civic body is in the process of building a total of about 250 such parks in each of its wards across the city, the MCD official said. PTI

Excise case: BJP targets CM for ignoring ED summonses

▶Continued from P1

The source added that repeated refusals to face the probe team has not helped other accused in courts. "This is straight off the playbook of many other accused and it does not work," said the source.

"He (Kejriwal) is going the same way as Hemant Soren, who did the same with little success," said the source in reference to the former Jharkhand CM who did not heed multiple summons from ED. Soren was arrested recently and has failed to get bail so far.

Another source said defiance of summons by probe agencies is an offence for which the person concerned is liable to be prosecuted. "This is why the court in Delhi took up our pleas and issued notice to Kejriwal," the source said.

Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva stated that by continuously evading ED summons, the CM is disrespecting the law. "The court has also acknowledged that the summons sent by ED are valid and Kejriwal should cooperate with the probe," he said.

Sachdeva said just like Manish Sisodia and Sanjay Singh are behind bars in the alleged liquor scam, similarly Kejriwal will soon be behind bars as he is the "mastermind" of the scam.

Kejriwal had on Saturday appeared before Rouse Avenue court via video conferencing in connection with ED's complaint against him for skipping summons.

The court had granted exemption to Kejriwal from personal appearance for the day. Kejriwal had informed the court that he was unable to appear before it due to the ongoing Budget Session of Delhi assembly.

In its complaint, ED has alleged that the Delhi CM did not want to obey its summonses and kept on giving "lame excuses". It said if a high-ranking public functionary like him disobeyed the law, it would "set a wrong example for 'aam aadmi' (common man)". The Delhi CM has called the summons "illegal and politically motivated".

Man arrested for hoax bomb call at airport

New Delhi: A 20-year-old man was arrested for allegedly making a hoax bomb threat call late at night on Sunday at Delhi airport to gain publicity, police said on Monday.

The phone call made by the accused, identified as Kushagra Aggarwal from West Delhi's Janakpuri, led to a high alert and a full emergency at the airport.

Subsequently, a case under sections 506 and 507 of IPC was registered at the Udyog Vihar police station, and an investigation was initiated after the threat was declared a hoax, the police said.

During the probe, attempts were made to reach the caller, who later switched off his phone. He was finally apprehended in Janakpuri. TNN

GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY

(A NAAC Accredited A++ State University Established by Govt. of NCT of Delhi)
Sector-16 C, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078
Website : www.ipu.ac.in

ADMISSION NOTICE 2024-25

Admissions window Open for all UG, PG and Ph.D. programmes

Mandatory Online Registration at https://ipu.admissions.nic.in for all candidates of National Level Tests, GGSIP CETs, CUETs & Merit- Based programmes

Last Date : 31st March 2024

Engineering & Allied Programmes:

Undergraduate:

PROGRAMME NAME	Prog. / CET Code
B.Arch.	100
LE to B.Tech (for DIPLOMA Holders)	128
LE to B.Tech(for B.Sc. Graduate)	129
B.Tech (Bio Technology)	130
B. Tech (Multiple Disciplines) Please Refer Admission Brochure for Details	131

Postgraduate:

PROGRAMME NAME	Prog. / CET Code
M.Tech (CSE) and (IT) - Regular	139
M.Tech (ECE) and (VLSI- Design) -Regular	140
M.Tech (Artificial Intelligence & Data Science)	141
M.Tech (Food Processing Technology)	147
M.Tech (Bio Technology)	148
M.Tech (Nano Technology)	149
M.Tech (Industrial Bio Technology)	151
M.Tech (Chemical Engg.)	152
MTECH (Robotics & Automation)	156
MTECH(CSE) - Weekend	182
MTECH(ECE) Weekend	183
M.ARCH	367
M.PLAN	368

Ph.D. Programmes:

PROGRAMME NAME	Prog. / PET Code
Information Tech./Computer Science & Engg./Computer Applications/Artificial Intelligence- Data Science/Artificial Intelligence- Machine Learning/ Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT)/ Automation and Robotics (A&R)	211
Electronics & Comm. Engg./ Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT)/ Automation and Robotics (A&R)	212
Mechanical & Automation Engg./ Automation and Robotics (A&R)	213
Chemical Technology	231
Biotechnology	241
Architecture & Planning	602
Management	221
Mass Communication	261
Law and Legal Studies	301
Design and Innovation	341
Environmental Science	251
Mathematics	281
Chemistry	282
Physics	283
English	291
Sociology	292
Economics	601
History	340
Medical Sciences * Medical Sciences Test covers the following disciplines:	
Anatomy	321
Physiology	322
Microbiology	323
Pathology	335
Forensic Medicine & Toxicology	325
Community Medicine	326
Pharmacology	336
Anaesthesiology & Critical Care	330
Paediatrics	328
Obstetrics and Gynaecology	329
Psychiatry	337
Endocrinology	332
Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery	333
Sports Injury	338
Neonatology	339
Haemato-Pathology	324
Physiotherapy	327

Medical and Allied Programmes:

Undergraduate:

PROGRAMME NAME	Prog. / CET Code
MBBS	103
B.Sc. Hons (Nursing)	115
B.Sc (Yoga)	117
Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPT) Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (BOT) Bachelor of Prosthetics & Orthotics (BPO) Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Technology {B.SC. (MLT)} Bachelor of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology (BASLP)	124
B.Pharma	133
B.Sc. (Medical Imaging Technology)	134
BAMS (Ayurveda Medicine & Surgery)	153
BHMS (Homeopathy Medicine & Surgery	154
B.Sc. (Medical Technology–Radiotherapy)	158

Postgraduate:

PROGRAMME NAME	Prog. / CET Code
Master of Physiotherapy	107
Master of Occupational Therapy (Neurology)	108
Master of Prosthetics & Orthotics	109
M.Sc. (Yoga)	187
Post Basic B.Sc. in Nursing	188
PG Ayurveda Courses	196
M.Sc. -Nursing	198
PG Homeopathy	700

Certificate/Diploma Programmes:

Undergraduate:

PROGRAMME NAME	Prog. / CET Code
Certificate Course on Urban Green Space Mgmt	200
Certificate Course on Indian Heritage and Environmental Sustainability	201
Certificate Course on Biodiversity, Applied Ecology and Conservation	202
Weekend Certificate/Diploma in French/Japanese/German/Urdu	203

Postgraduate:

PROGRAMME NAME	Prog. / CET Code
Post Graduate Diploma in Fire & Life Safety Audit	173
Advance Diploma in Child Guidance and Counseling	175
PG Diploma in Yoga Therapy for Medical and Paramedical Graduates	176
PG Diploma in Cyber Security, Cyber Disaster and Block Chain Technology	177

The University will consider CUET scores for some of the UG & PG programmes, however, CET scores will be given preference over CUET scores. CUET applicants are advised to apply for CETs of the University also for better chances of admissions. Admission Brochures & other details are available on both the websites of the University **www.ipu.ac.in & www.ipu.admissions.nic.in**

Note - The appearing candidates can also apply for all the programmes.

Sciences Programmes:

Undergraduate:

PROGRAMME NAME	Prog. / CET Code
B.Sc (Environmental Science)	135
B.Sc (Packaging Technology)	136
B.Sc./M.Sc. (Dual Degree) (In discipline of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics)	137

Postgraduate:

PROGRAMME NAME	Prog. / CET Code
M.Sc.(Environment Management)	111
M.Sc. (Medicinal Chemistry & Drug Design)	405
M.Sc (Bio Informatics)	411
MS (Packaging Technology)	604

Humanities/Social Sciences/ Languages Programmes:

Undergraduate:

PROGRAMME NAME	Prog. / CET Code
4 year Bachelor of Arts (English) (Under 5- year UG-PG Scheme)	184
4 year Bachelor of Arts (Economics) (Under 5- year UG-PG Scheme)	197
4- Year course of BA in Liberal Arts	451

Postgraduate:

PROGRAMME NAME	Prog. / CET Code
MA (English)	113
MA (Economics)	162

Professional Programmes:

Undergraduate:

PROGRAMME NAME	Prog. / CET Code
BCA	114
Integrated BA-LL.B. (Hons)/ Integrated BA-LL.B. & Integrated BBA-LL.B. (Hons)/ Integrated BBA-LL.B.	121
B.Ed.	122
BBA & Allied Programmes	125
BA (Journalism & Mass Comm.)	126
BHMCT (Hotel Mgmt. & Catering Tech.)	127
B Com (H)	146
B.Ed. (SPL EDU)	159
B.A. B.Ed. (Secondary) (ITEP)	161
B. Design	600
Lateral Entry to B. Design	613

Postgraduate:

PROGRAMME NAME	Prog. / CET Code
MBA	101
MCA/ MCA (SE)	105
MA (Mass Comm.)	106
LL.M. – Regular	112
M.Ed.	120
MBA (Executive Programme) - Weekend	155
LL.M. - Weekend	181
MBA (Fire and Industrial Safety) -Weekend	185
MBA (Disaster Mgmt.) -Weekend	186
M. Design	611
M.Ed. Spl Education (Intellectual Disabilities)	612

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR REGISTRATION AND ONLINE APPLY

Registrar

K-Drama! Police Unravel Visa Fraud

Embassy Sounds Alert After Finding Discrepancies In Papers Of 2 Dozen Applicants

Siddhivi.Singh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi Police is on the lookout for an organised gang that is allegedly forging documents of people from Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab using different modus operandi to help them get a visa to travel to South Korea. In the past few days, the Korean embassy in Delhi has found discrepancies in the documents of around two dozen applicants. Most of the discrepancies have a pattern, indicating the same gang's involvement in all these cases.

Officials at the consulate of Republic of Korea came across the instances of alleged forgery while examining the visa and work permit applications for the East Asian nation and subsequently alerted Delhi Police. Three FIRs were filed and a few suspects were also named.

During the scrutiny, the embassy found that all the entries of the bank statements of the visa applicants were the same and the applicants had forged the documents to obtain a Korean visa

According to two of the FIRs, four applicants from Patiala and Ludhiana in Punjab were booked for forging bank-related documents. During the scrutiny, the embassy found that all the entries of the bank statements were the same and the applicants had forged the documents to obtain a Korean visa. All the four visa application forms were also written in the same handwriting.

In the third FIR, 12 applicants were booked by police. Most of them are from Jammu&Kashmir and had applied for the tourist visa. "The embassy verified all the documents and found that the applicants had enclosed fake salary slips, no-objection certificates and experience letters from respective companies in order to obtain the visa," the FIR stated.

The consulate added that it had provided the cops with fake visa applications along with the alleged fraud documents submitted by the suspects. "Currently, we are interrogating the named accused and we suspect that a gang of agents was likely behind the forged documents. It is also being checked if some applicants recently managed to travel using such forged documents," said a police officer.

Police have registered the cases under sections 420 (cheating), 468 (forgery), 471 (using forged document as genuine) and 120B (criminal conspiracy) under IPC and initiated an investigation.

In the last two months, Delhi Police has busted several fake international visa rackets that cheated people by arranging fake documents and applications in exchange for a substantial sum of money.

"These agents would establish fake companies with seemingly legitimate front offices and facilitate the creation of fake bank statements, company stamps and letters in order to dupe many innocent travellers aspiring to go abroad," said the officer.

"We are verifying whether this was a similar such network," the officer added.

Need to redevelop buildings and areas built in 1960s: Puri

Times News Network

New Delhi: Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday said there is need to "quickly" rebuild much of Delhi quickly considering that many buildings came up in 1960s and were not built for the future.

Speaking at a workshop on recycling and use of construction and demolition (C&D) waste in the construction sector, Puri said, "Much of the construction that took place in 1950s and 60s (in Delhi) was not conforming to a plan; it was not built for future...much of Delhi which was constructed in the 60s, I suspect have to be rebuilt and quickly."

Citing examples of the New Parliament Building and Kartavya Path, the minister said govt has put focus planned development to cater to the need of future. Puri said infrastructure development will be a vital component for India to become a developed country by 2047.

The minister also said that people are now becoming more conscious about the harms of C&D waste, and the recycled materials are being used in construction projects. He added that solid waste processing in India has increased from mere a 17% in 2014 to more than 77% in 2024.

"Now, we are transferring these capabilities in other forms of waste management, including construction and demolition waste, plastic waste, e-waste and bio-hazardous waste," Puri said.

Earlier, flagging the menace of dumping C&D waste along roads and outside cities, Union urban affairs secretary Manoj Joshi urged state and city administrations to open more collection centres and enforce their processing.

Doc planning to start hosp duped of ₹56L

Times News Network

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Crime Branch has begun its investigation into the complaint of a doctor who was allegedly duped of Rs 56 lakh under the pretense of building a hospital.

The complainant, a doctor in Nellore, told cops that he was planning to start a dental hospital in his hometown. One of his family friends told him that he would help him get a govt grant for a 100-bed multispecialty hospital. But the friend told the doctor that the latter would have to pay Rs 60 lakh to govt officials. The friend's wife claimed that she knew many ministers. When the doctor said that he did not have that much amount, the couple suggested he pay in instalments.

"The doctor has paid Rs 56 lakh to the accused duo. During Covid-19, he suffered a financial loss and even had to sell a piece of land, which he had kept for his dental hospital. After waiting for years and finding that nothing was happening, he asked his friend to return the money. But he refused and the doctor then approached police," an officer said.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
Tenders are invited from reputed firms for the Works abridged NIeT No.- CMOH/BANKURA/NIeT-26/2023-2024, vide Memo No:- 753 Dated-15.02.2024. Related to schemes of "Civil & Electrical works of the District TB Centre (DTC) in CMOH Office, Bankura." under Health Dept. The last date & time of online bid submission: 24.02.2024 at 17:00 hrs. visit www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Secretary DH&FWS & CMOH, Bankura
ICA- T4256(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
Tenders are invited from reputed firms for the Works abridged NIeT No.- CMOH/BANKURA/NIeT-26/2023-2024, vide Memo No:- 753 Dated-15.02.2024. Related to schemes of "Civil & Electrical works of the District TB Centre (DTC) in CMOH Office, Bankura." under Health Dept. The last date & time of online bid submission: 24.02.2024 at 17:00 hrs. visit www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Secretary DH&FWS & CMOH, Bankura
ICA- T4257(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
CORRIGENDUM
Sealed Quotations are invited by the office of the U/S –e-NIQ No: WBHD/EE/ED-II/e-NIQ-27/23-24, Tender ID : 1) 2024_HSD_659373_1. Name of work: Engagement of man power for operation & minor maintenance of pump Motor Sets incl. E.I. maintenance or only Pump/EI Maintenance of residential flats, Compound Light etc. at different sites under Electrical Division – II, HD for the period of 1 (one) year". Name of Sites: 1) RHE Seikhpura. Bid Submission end date: 22.02.24 upto 2 P.M, Quotation Opening Date: 24.02.24 at 3 P.M, Quotation details may be obtained from the Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. II, Housing Directorate, 67, Bentinck Street, Kolkata–700069 on all office days during office hours.
ICA- T4312(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
ESI HOSPITAL ULUBERIA
JADUBERIA, HOWRAH-711316
e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is being invited for selection of reputed firms/agencies/contractors for supply of "Different types of Laboratory/Diagnostics Reagents, Kits and Chemicals" at ESI Hospital Uluberia, P.O. Jaduberia, P.S. Uluberia, Dist- Howrah, PIN-711316. Details of the terms & conditions will be available in the website www.wbtenders.gov.in Bid Submission Start from : 20.02.2024 at 12 noon, Closing end : 11.03.2024 at 12 noon, Opening on : 13.03.2024 at 12 noon. Sd/- SUPERINTENDENT, ESI HOSPITAL ULUBERIA.
ICA- T4253(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Office of the
PURBA BARDHAMAN ZILLA R.M.C.
Poddar Commercial Complex (1st floor), Purbasha Bus Stand, Alisha, Burdwan – 713103
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Name of the Work - Repairing and renovation works of Krishak Sahayak Kendra, Big Toilet (His & Her) at Purbasthali-I Krishak Bazar under Purba Bardhaman Zilla R.M.C. Vide NIT NO. WB/Pur.BZRMC/e-NIT-20/2023-24/ 2nd Call Dated 12/02/2024 bearing Tender Id:- 2024_WBSMB_666039_1. The last date for submission of above mentioned tender is on 07/03/2024 up to 04.00 PM. The detailed information regarding e-NIT will be available on the https://wbtenders.gov.in
Sd/- S. Saha, Secretary
Purba Bardhaman Zilla RMC
ICA- T4237(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
CORRIGENDUM NOTICE
The last date of Bid submission is being extended upto 24.02.2024 (6.00 PM) for the Re-E-Tender ID: 2024_HFW_652867_1 by the Director, School of Tropical Medicine, 108 C. R. Avenue, Kolkata-700073 for the Outsourcing of Test of Cord Blood Bank. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 24/02/2024 at 6:00 P.M. For details please visit: www.wbtenders.gov.in/ www.wbhealth.gov.in Sd/- Director, School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata.
ICA- T4263(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
IRRIGATION AND WATERWAYS DIRECTORATE
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
e-NIT NO. WBIW/SE/DIC/NIT-9(e)/2023-24
e-Tender is hereby invited on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal from the eligible bonafide contractors for two nos. work under CSDS. Last date & time of Bid submission is 12.03.2024 till 17.00 Hrs IST. Details of Tender may be seen at https://wbtenders.gov.in or https://wbiwd.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Damodar Irrigation Circle.
ICA- T4239(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT -CUM- VICE PRINCIPAL
NORTH BENGAL MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL
SUSHRUTANAGAR, DARJEELING
(N.I.T) NO. NBMCH/1206 Date 10/02/24
e-Tender is invited for Condemned X Ray & Ultra Sound Machine Phase-1 3rd call for Office of the M.S.V.P., North Bengal Medical College & Hospital. For tender details, forms may be downloaded from https://wbhealth.gov.in or https://www.wbtenders.gov.in.
Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 04/03/2024 at 5:00 PM
For Details, Please visit the website www.nbmch.org or the Office of the MSVP, North Bengal Medical College & Hospital, Sushrutanagar, Darjeeling.
ICA- T4242(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
HALDIA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
City Centre, P.O. Debhog, Haldia
Dist. Purba Medinipur, PIN-721657
Toll Free No. 1800-345-3224
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NIT No. 20/HDA/EC-ELECT/2023-2024
Online (e-Tender) tender in a two bid system is hereby invited for 'Restoration of LED street lighting system including supply and laying of LT power cable & HDPE pipe, etc. at Balaiponda Bazar area under Moyna Block.' Tender Amount : Rs. 7,01,468/-, Document downloading dates : 20.02.2024 to 02.03.2024 upto 1-30 P.M. Starting date of bid submission: 23.02.2024 at 2:00 pm. Last date for bid submission: 02.03.2024 upto 3-30 PM. Information in details is available in the office and website of HDA : www.hda.gov.in E-Tender can also be submitted through www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, HDA.
ICA- T4252(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tenders are invited by CMOH & Member Secretary, Dist. Health & Family Welfare Samity, Dakshin Dinajpur from reputed firms for **"New Construction of 02 nos HWC at Jathigram under Harirampur Block and Amgaon under Gangarampur Block for RIDF-XXIX for the FY 2023-24 under Dakshin Dinajpur District" Memo No :- DHFWS/DD/NIeT/1034 Dated:- 12.02.2024** Technical Bid Opening Date of the above mentioned e-Tender No : 06/03/2024 at 02:00 PM. For Details, Please visit the website www.wbtenders.gov.in or the Office of the CMOH & Member Secretary, Dist. Health & Family Welfare Samity, Dakshin Dinajpur.
ICA- T4233(4)/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/SgTPP/CC- 1466 Date: 15.02.2024
NIT No.: WBPDCL /SGTPP/NIT/ E2788/23-24 Dated : 08.02.2024
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at https://wbtenders.gov.in by the General Manager, SgTPP, WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/ Companies in three (03) Part bid system for **"Servicing of different EOT Crane (32 T, 5T & 16 T(Gantry) in Stage -I CW Pump House area & 40 T in Stage-II CW area, 5 T in RW Pump House & 10 T in CTMU & Intake Pump Stage -II area) at Water package area, SgTPP". Tender Document Download Start Date:** From 20.02.2024 at 10:00 hrs. **Bid Submission End Date:** on 13.03.2024 up to 15: 00 hrs. **Contact Person:** Mr. Atanu Chowdhury, Deputy General Manager (Contract Cell). **Mobile :** 8336903740. **E-mail:** achowdhury@wbpdcl.co.in
For details please visit: **https://wbtenders.gov.in**
ICA- T4325(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
E-Tender Notice
The Superintendent of Krishnanagar District Correctional Home, WB, for and on behalf of the Governor of WB, invites e-tender for supply of dietary. articles at Krishnanagar District Correctional Home for the period from 01.04.2024 to 30.09.2024. Tender Inviting Notice No. 01/KDCH/2024-25 dated: 23.01.2024. Date of documents download starts: 20.02.2024 at 14:00 PM. Last date of submission of tender: 09.03.2024 up to 12:00 PM. Full particulars may be had from the website www.wbtenders.gov.in "The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal reserves the rights to cancel any or all the tenders without showing any reason." Sd/- Krishnanagar District Correctional Home, W.B.
ICA- T4231(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Bid reference no.:- WBMSCL/NIT-118/2024; Dated-15/02/2024 - Supply and Installation Testing & Commissioning of 3 Nos. 1.5 Tr split AC machine for UPS room at Malbazar SSH, jalpaiguri. Bid reference no.:- WBMSCL/NIT-116/2024; Dated-15/02/2024 - Oiling, Rewinding, Repairing and Replacement of the old defective down rod etc. at Malbazar SSH & Islampur SSH, Bid reference no.:- WBMSCL/NIT-119/2024; Dated-15/02/2024 - Supply & delivery of Electromechanical O&M consumable Items at Nandigram SSH, Purba Medinipur. Last date of submission of bid (online)- 23.02.2024 up to 3.00 P.M. the tender document can be downloaded from www.wbmsc.gov.in & www.wbtenders.gov.in on or after 16.02.2024 at 02.00 P.M. Clarification requests, if any may be sent to cpee@wbmsc.gov.in Bid reference no. - WBMSCL/NIT-117/2024; Dated-15/02/2024 - Day to day repair, preventive maintenance, operation by providing High skilled, Skilled and Unskilled Manpower for Electrical installations, Lift, HVAC, Fire Fighting System etc. round the clock at Swasthya Bhawan & all other ancillary Building (Granthagar Bhawan, Driver's Room & Substation Building etc.) of Swasthya Bhawan Campus for the period of 2 (two) years. Last date of submission of bid (online)- 11/03/2024. The tender document can be downloaded from www.wbmsc.gov.in and www.wbtenders.gov.in on or after 16.02.2024 at 01.00 P.M. Clarification requests, if any may be sent to cpee@wbmsc.gov.in Sd/- Managing Director, WBMSCL, Special Commissioner H&FW to the Govt. of West Bengal
ICA- T4255(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, the Superintending Engineer, North Circle, Municipal Engineering Directorate invite the following e-tender as follows: Tender Ref No: 05 of SE(N)/MED/2023-2024(3rd Call) dt. 10.11.2023 & Tender Id: 2024_MAD_664966_1, Name of Work: "Investigation (Including Hydrological), Surveying, Planning, Designing, Construction &Commissioning of Intake Well Structure with raw water pumping station having capacity of supply 17.17 MLD with 22 hours operation (Approx.- 780.45m3/hr.)(3 nos of Pumps-2 working and 1 stand by), with constructing necessary all allied civil, electrical (according to I/E rules), mechanical works, including Geo technical investigation, Control Room (approx. 50 sqm.) with toilet, Proper dia Common Manifold (MS), boundary wall, river bank protection work (approx. length 300 meter), and Approach Road length approx. 380.00 m along with both side R.C.C retaining wall, R.C.C box culvert (4.0x4.0) & internal illumination complete in all respect and after satisfactory completion and commissioning, 3(three) months trial run, necessary training of maintenance staff & thereafter 5 (five) years operation and maintenance with security and guarding arrangement related to Water Supply Project within Alipurduar Municipality on Turnkey basis under Amrut 2.0" from reliable and resourceful Companies/Firms/ Contractors (Civil & Electro-Mechanical) having experience and acumen in construction work Bid submission start date (online)= 23/02/2024, 6.00 P.M. Last date of Bid submission (online)= 14/03/2024 6:50 P.M. Other details and corrigenda(if any) of the works may also be seen from the office notice board and website: https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, North Circle, MEDte.
ICA- T4234(3)/2024

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
WBSEDCL
WBSEDCL invites e-Tender as follows:
NIT No.: **CE/DTD/Testing_Instruments/2023-24/04** of the **Chief Engineer, Distribution Testing Department**. Estimated Cost: **₹ 1,78,27,500/-** for 'Manufacture, testing, supply and delivery of 05 (five) nos. CT Analyser'.
ICA- T4318(3)/2024
For details, visit https://wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbsedcl.in

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office : Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN : U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
WBSEDCL
The **Chief Engineer**, Procurement and Contracts Department, WBSEDCL invites e-Tender followed by Reverse Auction (Tender-cum-Auction) from genuine manufacturers only for manufacturing, testing, supply and delivery of the following items:

Sl. No.	Tender Notice No. & Description of Items	Quantity	Estimated Value (approx. in ₹)
1.	Tender Notice No.: P-63/2023-24/PC-I		
	12 kV Series Trip Indoor Metering Panel with VCB having		
(i)	CTR: 50-25/5-5A PTR: 11000/√3/110/√3V	500 Nos.	11.02 Cr.
(ii)	CTR: 100-50/5-5A PTR: 11000/√3/110/√3V	50 Nos.	1.17 Cr.
2.	Tender Notice No.: P-65/2023-24/PC-I		
	33 kV AIS ID Switchgear Board with VCB		
(i)	9 Panel	2 Sets	1.22 Cr.
(ii)	10 Panel	3 Sets	2.04 Cr.
(iii)	11 Panel	1 Set	0.75 Cr.
(iv)	11 Panel	1 Set	0.77 Cr.
		Total	4.78 Cr.

ICA- T4244(3)/2024
For details, visit **https://wbtenders.gov.in** & **www.wbsedcl.in**

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. 32 of 2023-24 of SE/SHC Superintending Engineer, Southern Highway Circle, Block-I, 2nd floor, WRITERS' BUILDINGS, Kolkata-700001 Invites online e-Tender for the work of 1. Sukanta Setu (R.O.B) with Approaches- Replacement of damaged surface course and other allied works of Repair & Maintenance in footpath, railing etc. under Alipore Highway Sub Division under South 24 Parganas Highway Division in the District of South 24 Parganas. Estimated cost Rs.2,4179,024.00, Tender ID: 2024_SH_667659_1. e-NIT No. 32 of 2023-24 of SE/SHC. Bid submission start date (online) 19.02.2024 from 3.00 pm. Bid submission end date (online) 15.03.2024 upto 2:00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in the website. Details of NIT and tender documents may be downloaded from : https://wbtenders.gov.in & Office Notice Board. Sd/- SE/SHC, P.W.(Roads) Dte.
ICA- T4278(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. WBSDB/EE/CED-I/NIT-16(e)/2023-24
e-Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Civil Engineering Division No-I, Sundarban Development Board from the reliable bonafide resourceful contractors for Construction of RCC Jetty with Approach Road and Protective works in Sundarban Region (South 24 Parganas, West Bengal). Details may be seen from the Notice Board of the office of the EE/CED-I/SDB on working days during office hours or in website https://wbtenders.gov.in / https://etender.wb.nic.in Date of Publishing- 19/02/2024, Bid submission start Dt.- 19/02/2024 at 14.00 hrs. Bid submission end Dt.- 14/03/2024 upto 15.00 hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Civil Engineering Division No.-I, Sundarban Development Board.
ICA- T4251(3)/2024

Re-Tender Corrigendum & Invitation of 2nd Call
Re-Tender Corrigendum is published on **19.02.2024** for the **Pathashree-III-2023-24 works vide e-NIT No. 34 of 2023-24 (ID: 2024_PRD_645736_14) & NIT No. 35 of 2023-24 (ID: 2024_PRD_646883_9, 17, 21), along with 2nd call is hereby invited on 19.02.2024 for the same work vide e-NIT No. 34 (2nd Call) of 2023-24 (ID: 2024_PRD_645736_54) & NIT No. 35 (2nd Call) of 2023-24 (ID: 2024_PRD_646883_39 to 41).** All details may be had from this office Notice Board and in website: https://wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbprd.gov.in
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
P&RD Dept
Govt. of West Bengal
North Bengal Circle
Jalpaiguri

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No: 04/KMDA/EM/SE/MC-I/ NIT/2023-24 (2nd Call)
Online tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Mechanical Circle-I, EM Sector, KMDA, Block-L, 1st floor, Unnayan Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from any company or any Contracting Firm who have successfully completed the work of a complete Water treatment Plant along with its H.T. Sub-Station, specifically designed to cater potable surface water in Surface Water Supply Schemes, for the work, **Description of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion,** Renovation, repairing and replacing of Electro-Mechanical equipments related to 140 MLD Water Treatment Plant at Panihara, Madhyamgram within Madhyamgram Municipal Area.,The Item Rate (To be quoted by the bidder), Rs.2,00,000/-, Three (03) calendar months excluding one month trial run and 12 months monitoring.**Last date & time of online Bid submission:** 12.03.2024 upto 16:00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites.**(KMDA-1219)**
www.kmda.wb.gov.in
www.wbtenders.gov.in
ICA- T4315(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
Ref. No. STM/DT/01/E-TENDER-48/031/2024 &
Tender ID : 2024_HFW_667135_1
dated- 15.02.2024
Sealed tender is invited by the Director, School of Tropical Medicine, 108 C. R. Avenue, Kolkata-700073 for the Procurement of KITS for the Department of Microbiology, Unit of Virology. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 07/03/2024 at 12:00 Noon. For details please visit : www.wbtenders.gov.in/ www.wbhealth.gov.in Sd/- Director, School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata.
ICA- T4261(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
THE DURGAPUR PROJECTS LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
CIN NO. U40102WB1961SGC025250
NOTICE INVITING TENDER(NIT)
NIT No. (1) WBDPL/PP/T/GM(PP)-12021(18)/3/2023/EMOPH/E/416, dated- 13.02.2024. Tender ID No. 2024_DPL_666866_1 for Proposal for the job of painting of U#7 auxiliary Transformer- A&B and 4 nos. Transformer oil storage tank, DPPS. Bid submission end date 24.02.2024, Bid Opening date: 28.02.2024. (2) WBDPL/PP/T/GM(PP)-12029(12)/37/2023/TM/E/415, dated- 13.02.2024 for Proposal for the job of annual rate contract of Attending fire fighting water pipe lines (HYDRANT & SPRAY) leakage rectification jobs at DPPS area of U#7 & #8. Bid submission end date: 27.02.2024, Bid Opening date: 01.03.24, Date extension NIT No. (3) WBDPL-11022(19)/1/2023-GM-POW(DPL)-DPL/WW/E-406, dated. 27.01.2024. (4) WBDPL-11022(19)/1/2023-GM-POW(DPL)/PS/E-407, Dated-29.01.2024 Sl. Nos. 3&4, Bid submission end date: 21.02.2024, Bid Opening date: 24.02.2024 respectively. (5) WBDPL/PP/T/GM(PP)-12021(12)/1/2024/EMOPHnIPH/E/409, dated-02.02.2024. Tender ID No. 2024_DPL_659289_1. Bid submission end date: 24.02.2024, Bid Opening date: 28.02.2024. Please Visit: https://wbtenders.gov.in / www.dpl.net.in
ICA- T4243(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Quotation Notice
Tenders are invited online from reputed and resourceful contractor/firm/Public Sector undertaking/Govt. Company for the work. N.I.e.Q No. PHE/SWSD/EE/NIeQ-29 of 2023-24 (Sl. No. 01) (Tender ID No. 2024_PHED_667661_1). Last date of submitting e-tender: 05.03.2024 (online) upto 05:00 P.M. Date of opening 07.03.2024 at 05:30 P.M. Please login in the department website: https://wbtenders.gov.in for details. Addenda/Corrigenda if any would be intimated in departmental website only. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Siliguri W/S Division, P.H.E. Dte.
ICA- T4301(4)/2024

Government of West Bengal
Office of the District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri
(Nezarath Section)
e-tender is invited by the District Magistrate, Jalpaiguri, online Item Wise/percentage rate/two bid system tender at **https://wbtenders.gov.in** for the following work:
NIT No. **12/MM/NZT/JAL/2024**
Date: **19.02.2024**
Tender ID: **2024_DMJ_669952_1**
Date: **19.02.2024**
Name of Work: **HIRING OF VIDEO CAMERA WITH OPERATOR FOR GENERAL ELECTION TO THE HOUSE OF PEOPLE-2024 FOR THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, JALPAIGURI**
Earnest Money - Rs. 20000/-
Memo No: 48(2)/ADVT/DICO/JAL Date: 19.02.2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
Ref. No. STM/DT/01/E-TENDER-49/032/2024 &
Tender ID : 2024_HFW_667551_1
dated- 15.02.2024)
Sealed tender is invited by the Director, School of Tropical Medicine, 108 C. R. Avenue, Kolkata-700073 for the Procurement of KITS for the Department of Zoonosis. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 27/02/2024 at 12:00 Noon. For details please visit : www.wbtenders.gov.in/ www.wbhealth.gov.in Sd/- Director, School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata.
ICA- T4262(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
Tender is invited for reputed firms for Renovation of ground floor of the 2nd building of the Regional Food Testing Laboratory, Siliguri at Salbari under Darjeeling District. NIeT No.- 37 (Const.) of 2023-24. The last date & time of online bid submission: 05.03.2024 upto 04:00 P.M. visit www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Medical Officer of Health, Darjeeling
ICA- T4248(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
FOOD & SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT
DIRECTORATE OF DDP&S
Indicative advertisement for FPS(Ration) Dealership
Applications are invited from eligible applicants for filling up the following vacancies of **Fair Price Shop Dealers** on the terms and conditions mentioned in the respective notifications duly published in the *Official Website* **(https://food.wb.gov.in)** *of the Food & Supplies Department, West Bengal*

Sl. No.	Notification No. and Date	District	Sub-Division	Block/ Municipality/ Municipal Corporation	GP/ Ward No.	Location of vacancy
1	Memo No.551/SDC/JPG/23 Date: 08.09.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Rajganj	Binnaguri	Mouza- Binnaguri, Birban Jhilma More To 500m (South) Towards Birban Hat at Gadheaganj Road
2	Memo No.561/SDC/JPG/23 Date: 08.09.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Rajganj	Binnaguri	Mouza- Binnaguri, Gosai Road, Near Shani Mandir
3	Memo No.553/SDC/JPG/23 Date: 08.09.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Rajganj	Binnaguri	Mouza- Binnaguri, Sibnath Para, Near Harimandir
4	Memo No.562/SDC/JPG/23 Date: 08.09.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Rajganj	Fulbari-II	Mouza- Binnaguri, Near Laxmidangi SSK School
5	Memo No.563/SDC/JPG/23 Date: 08.09.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Rajganj	Fulbari-II	Mouza- Binnaguri, Near Purba Dhantala SSK School
6	Memo No.536/SCFS/JPG/23 Date: 08.09.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Banarhat	Salbari-II	Mouza- Chamtimukhi, Near Gariyaltari Saylabala Prathamik Vidyalaya
7	Memo No.538/SDC/JPG/23 Date: 08.09.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Rajganj	Sannyasikata	Mouza-Sannyasikata, From Lal School More To 500m (Northeast) Towards Jotiyakali More
8	Memo No.552/SDC/JPG/23 Date: 08.09.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Rajganj	Fulbari-I	Mouza- Dabgram, 500mtr Radius From Chhat Pukur
9	Memo No.560/SDC/JPG/23 Date: 08.09.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Rajganj	Fulbari-I	Mouza- Dabgram, Kamrangaguri Srinagar, Colony
10	Memo No.692/SDC/JPG/23 Date: 01.12.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Rajganj	Dabgram-I	Mouza- Dabgram, Junglee Mohal, Near Khudiram Pally More
11	Memo No.691/SDC/JPG/23 Date: 01.12.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Rajganj	Fulbari-I	Mouza- Dabgram, Near Fulbari 1 GP Office
12	Memo No.550/SDC/JPG/23 Date: 08.09.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Rajganj	Dabgram-II	Mouza- Dabgram, Telipara More (Panchyet Road) To 500 Mtrs Towards Krishna Sangha Club
13	Memo No.535/SDC/JPG/23 Date: 08.09.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Banarhat	Salbari-I	Mouza- Paschim Duramari, Near Anandapara Primary School
14	Memo No.503/SDC/JPG/23 Date: 23.08.2023	JALPAIGURI	Jalpaiguri (Sadar)	Banarhat	Salbari-I	Mouza- Paschim Duramari, Near Laxmi Mandir
15	Memo No.766/SCFS/ISP/2023 Date: 16.08.2023	UTTAR DINAJPUR	Islampur	Chopra	Sonapur	Mouza- Bhotamari, Near Durgagachh ICDS Centre

Applications in prescribed proforma (Form C) along with other requisite documents and receipt of deposition of application fee of Rs. 1,000/- should be submitted to the office of the concerned Sub-Divisional Controller(F&S) or by online through the official website **(https://food.wb.gov.in) within 45 days from today.**
For details please visit official website of the Department **(https://food.wb.gov.in)** or contact the office of the concerned Sub-Divisional Controller (F&S).
Sd/-
Director of DDP&S,
Food & Supplies,
Government of West Bengal
ICA- N 122(3)/2024

NOTIFICATION NO-26 DATE : 12.02.2024
Appeal to the Legal Representatives of Dead/Missing Victims of 1992-93 Riots/Bomb Blasts in Mumbai
Hon'ble Supreme Court has issued the order regarding the '1992-93 Riots/Bomb blasts in Mumbai in' its Civil writ petition No. 182/2001 (vide order dated 4th November 2022) regarding granting the ex-gratia to the Legal Relatives of the Dead/Missing persons and to whom those who have received the Ex-gratia belatedly are directed to pay interest on such grant as per the Government of Maharashtra Resolution RLF/5992/pr.kr.276/M-3, dated 8th July 1993 & RLF/4997/pr.kr.4/M- 3, [cell], dated 22nd July 1998 a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Member Secretary, Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority, Mumbai.
As per the discussion held in the committee meeting on 19.12.2023, it was directed to this office to publish an appeal for the public with the list of dead/missing persons from the 1992-93 Riots/Bomb blasts regarding the delayed payments to the LRs of the concerned dead/missing persons.
A list of dead/missing persons whose Legal Relatives are untraceable despite several efforts made by the authorities to find them for granting Ex-gratia or delayed sums regarding the compensation is published at following websites **https://mumbaicity.gov.in/**, **https://mumbaisuburban.gov.in/** and **https://legalservices.maharashtra.gov.in.**

Sr. No.	New Sr. No.	Name of the Deceased Person	Address
37	841	Mihirkumar Radhanath Jana	At Post Kase Bayouk, Dist. Midanapur, West Bengal.
51	92	Gita Sarkar	C/o - K.P.Jiswal, 22/A Orphans Rd. Kiddenpore, Calcutta-23, West Bengal. Plot No. 504, A wing, Amita apartment, Yari Rd., Andheri (W), Mumbai

The respective legal heirs of the above mentioned deceased/missing persons are hereby requested to approach the below-mentioned address within One (1) Month from the date of publication of this notice with necessary documentation and identity proofs about Financial Assistance from the Government :-
For contact, please visit :

Natural Calamities Control Room,	Natural Calamities Control Room,
Collector Office of Mumbai City, Room No.103, First floor, Old Custom House, Shahid Bhagat Singh Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400 001, Website - **https://mumbaicity.gov.in/**, Email - **92.93riotsgrievances@gmail.com** Helpline No. - 022-2266 4232	Collector Office of Mumbai Suburban, Administrative Building, 10th floor, Government Colony, Opp. Chetana College, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051, Website- **https://mumbaisuburban.gov.in/** Email - **92.93riotsgrievances@gmail.com** Helpline No. 022-6940 3344

Please note that appropriate legal action will be taken against the concerned if found to have submitted false documents/evidence and/or given wrong information to avail the said benefit.
Sd/-
Devkumar Sukul
Member Secretary
State Legal Services Authority
West Bengal

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
E.E., Murshidabad Electrical Division, P.W.Directorate invites online tender for the following NIQ: NIT No: WBPWD/EE/MsdED/58/e-T of 23-24, Tender ID : 2024_WBPWD_667636_1. Bid submission end date:- 02.03.2024 upto 12.00. Detail of Tender may be downloaded from website: http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD, Murshidabad Electrical Division
ICA- T4274(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
e-Tender Notice
On behalf of the Governor of West Bengal, e-Tender is invited by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Diamond Harbour Health District, South 24 Parganas, Pin-743331 for Repair & Renovation works to set up X-Ray rooms at Kulpi RH, Magrahat RH & Sagar RH under DHHD from resourceful, eligible agency having experience in similar nature of works. Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 29/02/2024 at 5:00 P.M. For Detail, Please visit the website www.wbtenders.gov.in or the Office of the Undersigned. Sd/- CMOH, DHHD.
ICA- T4260(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
ABRIDGED TENDER NOTICE
WBFOR/BKS/JALATIRTHA/01 to 08/2023-24.
The undersigned invites e-Tender for Construction of Reservoir of JALATIRTHA Project 2023-24 under Bankura (South) Division. Last Date of submission of e-Tender is 05-03-2024 on 05.00 p.m. For viewing and participating in e-tender visit www.wbtenders.gov.in. and the details may also be obtained from www.bankuraforest.in & www.westbengalforest.gov.in Sd/-
E. Vijaya Kumar, IFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Bankura (South) Division.
ICA- T4268(3)/2024

Armed Guards To Bridge Safety Gap As Walkways Get Set For Makeover

PWD Identifies 10 Footbridges For Installation Of Proper Illumination And Repair Of Lifts

Siddhanta.Mishra
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Following theft of parts that have left the infrastructure damaged, the Public Works Department plans to depute armed security guards at foot overbridges (FOBs). In the first phase, 10 FOBs have been identified for the installation of proper illumination and repair of lifts, after which guards and maintenance staff will be tasked with looking after them.

Delhi High Court had pulled up PWD for the poor condition and lack of disabled-friendly measures at FOBs in the city, as highlighted by **TOI** several times.

PWD officials said the plan was to hand over the repairs of the FOBs to a private company. The tender for the Rs 6.3 crore project says that the company will be given four months to carry out the repairs and then maintain the public facilities for three. PWD plans to post an armed security guard at the bridges between 10pm and 6am.

The matter regarding FOB at Jangpura cropped up in Delhi Assembly. Several parts of the structure were stolen, rendering the elevated passage useless. This FOB will be repaired under this project. For the ease of people with disabilities, the lift doors closing time will be set to a minimum five seconds and there will be 'door open'' and 'door closed' announcements.

The private company is expected to depute staff for daily sweeping and mopping of the staircase and the cleaning of handrails and lifts. At least twice a month, the roof of the FOB will be cleaned of all dust and leaves. The company will have to maintain a record of servicing and repair works.

"Preventing unauthorised encroachment/theft at the facilities will be the responsibility of the agency," added an official. "In case of unauthorised activity being noticed at the FOBS, the agency will first inform the engineer-in-charge and then report the matter to police."

Last year, following the death of a 16-year-old after a fall from an FOB with its protective grilles missing, PWD's special secretary Shashanka Ala had asked officials to prepare a maintenance plan for all such bridges. On Dec 4 last year, Delhi High Court, while examining whether the FOBs were disabled-friendly, said they were in such a "pathetic condition" that even a healthy person wouldn't be able to use them. Flagging the "sorry state of affairs", acting chief justice Manmohan and justice Mini Pushkarna ordered PWD to immediately repair more than 100 FOBs.

During the hearing, PWD submitted that materials meant for FOBs and parts of the bridges got stolen and the agency had to lodge police complaints. The high court directed police to give full assistance to PWD. The agency's counsel also informed the court that PWD officials had already been directed to repair all broken FOBs.

CLOSE WATCH

File photos for representation

SPECIAL REVAMP PLAN

- Women safety alarms in all lifts
- Braille buttons in all lifts
- Full length handrails on the walls of the lifts
- Mechanised and manual housekeeping
- Night guard or gunman
- CCTV cameras

- Insurance of all parts of lifts
- No unauthourised encroachment shall be allowed on foot overbridges
- Full sweeping and mopping of the overbridges daily

YOU READ IT HERE

You Aren't Welcome Here: These Foot Bridges Couldn't Scream Any Louder
In 2nd Survey, TOI Finds Lifts & Escalators Non-Existent In Most Facilities For Pedestrians
Dec 2, 2023
Public Inconvenience: Grouse Over Foot Overbridges Needs Escalation
Of 7 FOBs Surveyed By TOI, Just 1 Found To Have Lift Or Escalators
Nov 28, 2023

- There are around 100 FOBs under PWD

ISSUES

- Dysfunctional lifts
- Lack of cleanliness
- Missing grills, steps and roof
- Theft of electrical items

Cops file report in murder of 17-year-old by juvenile

Times News Network

New Delhi: Delhi Police has filed an investigation report in connection with a murder case wherein a 17-year-old boy was stabbed more than 50 times by a juvenile in northeast Delhi's Welcome. Sources said the report was filed with the juvenile justice board on Feb 14, requesting it to try the accused as an adult.

Police said that on the day of the incident, the juvenile attempted to rob Rs 350 from the 17-year-old boy. When the boy refused, he allegedly stabbed him over 50 times. The knife used by the 16-year-old accused was apparently the one, which is generally used to cut meat. CCTV footage showed the remorseless juvenile stabbing the boy several times and dancing over his lifeless body.

Delhi Police apprehended the juvenile the following day. The juvenile used to live with his mother, who worked as a domestic help in the locality.

Police sources said that the teenager had murdered the boy in the most brutal way. He could easily have taken Rs 350 that the boy had with him, but he murdered the 17-year-old intentionally. The teenaged victim is survived by his mother, elder brother and sister. The victim's family had claimed that on the day of the incident, his mother had given him money to buy milk and flour. He then went to Welcome to play with his relatives. There, the accused saw the money and wanted to grab it. When the boy resisted, he was killed.

CM nod for signing of MoU on 3 Ph-IV metro corridors

Times News Network

New Delhi: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has approved signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Delhi govt, Centre and Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for the three priority corridors being constructed under the Phase-IV metro expansion.

Of the three corridors totalling 65 km with 45 stations, Janakpuri West- RK Ashram is the longest at 29km and 22 stations. The Aerocity-Tughlakabad corridor, which has 15 stations, will be 23.62km. Majlis Park- Maujpur is the shorter corridor with 12.32km and eight stations.

Majlis Park-Maujpur is an extension of the Pink Line, while Janakpuri West-RK Puram is an extension of Magenta Line. The Aerocity-Tughlakabad corridor is the Golden Line.

Delhi govt in a statement said that the signing of the MoU has been approved by the CM, and now the project will gain momentum. Due to the MoU, all obstacles in the way of these corridors have been completely removed. It added that CM Kejriwal made a personal effort to clear the way for the MoU. The completion cost is Rs 24,948 crore.

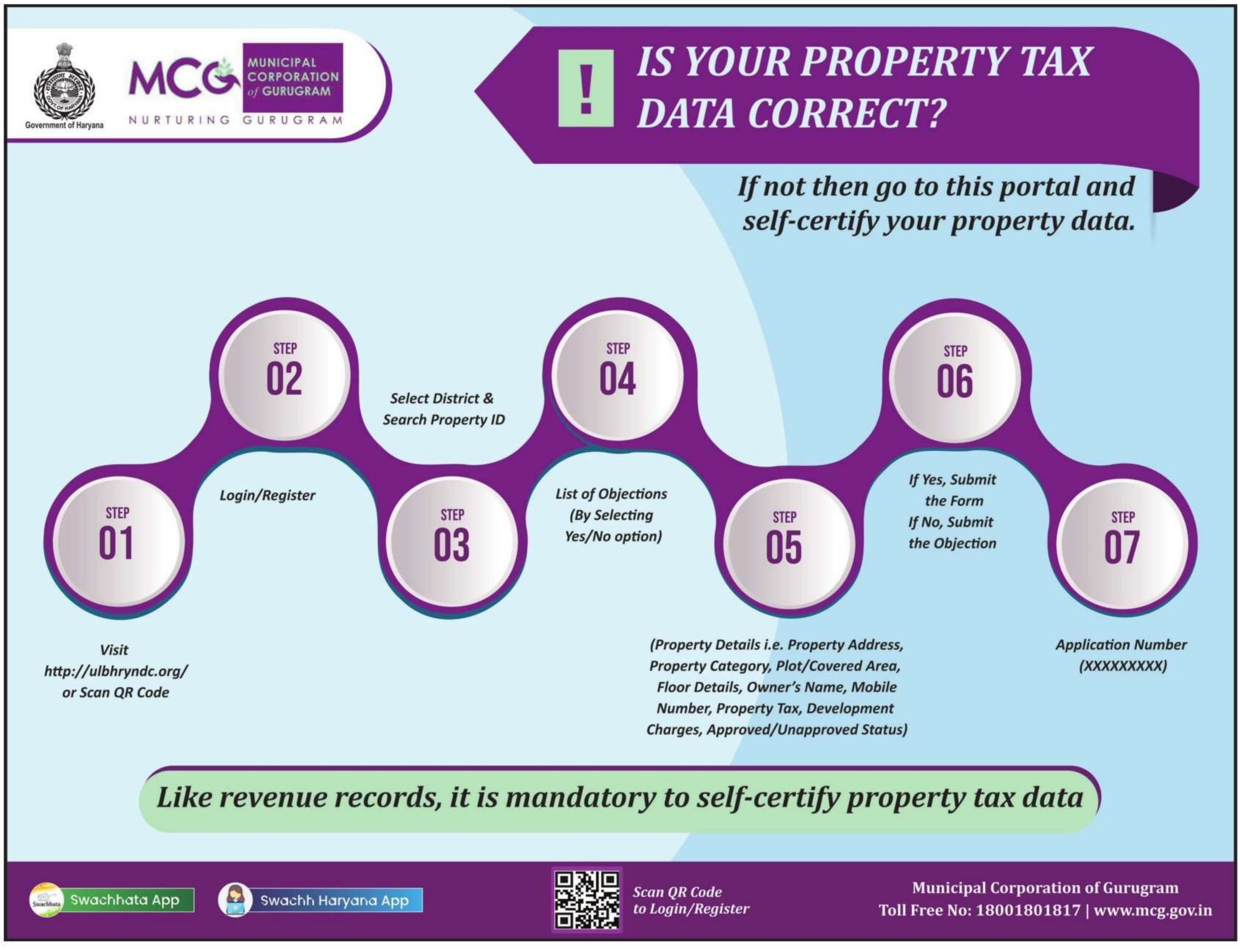
Delhi govt is also trying to get approval for three other corridors pending with central govt under Phase IV soon. These are Rithala-Bawana-Narela Kundli (21 stations), Inderlok-Indraprastha (10 stations) and Lajpat Nagar-Saket G Block (8 stations). These three corridors are under active consideration of the Government of India and work will start on them in due course.

In July last year, DMRC had said the proposed Rithala-Narela corridor may possibly be extended up to Kundli in Haryana to provide additional connectivity to the neighbouring state.

According to the MoU, Delhi govt, in consultation with DMRC, will work together to provide a common mobility card to provide integrated ticketing and seamless travel across all modes and all operators in the NCR. The MoU stated that a traffic information management control centre will be set up.

File photo

Delhi govt in a statement said the project would now gain momentum



A Close Shave For Two IndiGo Planes

AAIB Investigates 'Wrong Turn' In Delhi Skies

Saurabh.Sinha@timesgroup.com

Photo for representation

One of the planes turned in a direction it was not supposed to, says preliminary report by Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau

New Delhi: Two IndiGo aircraft came precariously close to each other seconds after take-off from Delhi airport last Nov. A preliminary report of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), which is probing the serious air proximity or airprox, said that one of the aircraft turned in a direction that it was not supposed to.

This set it on the take-off path of another plane that had become airborne from another IGIA runway. The traffic alert and collision avoidance system (TCAS) system alerts were sounded in both flight decks after which the planes tore way from each other.

On Nov 17, 2023, an Airbus A321 (VT-IUO) was to operate as 6E-2113 to Hyderabad and A320 (VT-ISO) as 6E-2206 to Raipur. 6E-2113 got departure clearance from runway 27 and departed at 12.31pm. "It established contact with (ATC) which cleared it to climb to 8,000 feet. However, 6E-2113 was observed turning left toward the take-off path of runway 29R instead of (the assigned path). At the same time, 6E-2206 received clearance and departed from runway 29R... climbing to 4,000 feet," AAIB's preliminary report says.

"6E-2206 came into contact with (ATC) and the controller instructed it to climb to 4,000 feet. During this sequence, a breach of separation occurred between 6E-2113 and 6E-2206, triggering a current conflict alert at 12.31.43pm. Both (the aircraft) received TCAS-RA," the report says.

At the time of the closest vertical separation (400 feet), lateral separation was 1.2 nautical miles (NM). At the time of the closest lateral separation (0.2 NM), vertical separation was 800 feet. There was no injury to any of the occupant on board in both aircraft and there was no damage, it adds.

The collision avoidance system issues two types of advisories to pilots: first a traffic advisory to give an advance warning to crew of two planes that they are headed in the same direction, and in second stage a resolution advisory that asks crew to take evasive action to avoid mid-air collision

The "traffic alert and collision avoidance system" (TCAS) was made mandatory for all aircraft after the Charkhi Dadri crash near Delhi on Nov 12, 1996. That fateful day, a Saudi Arabian Boeing 747 that had taken off from IGI had collided mid-air with a Kazakhstan Airlines Ilyushin-76 that was flying into the capital at Charkhi Dadri, killing all 349 people on board the two planes.

TCAS has saved thousands of lives in several air prox cases. The collision avoidance system issues two types of advisories to pilots: first a traffic advisory (TA) to give an advance warning to crew of two planes that they are headed in the same direction, and in second stage a resolution advisory (RA) that asks crew to take evasive action to avoid mid-air collision.

With four runways operational at Delhi airport (three at the time of this incident), there is no scope for error. In the past, too, there have been instances of mix-up in instructions or failure to follow them, and it was the presence of mind of pilots or air traffic controllers which saved the day. Technology was the saviour in the latest case.

500 homeless after fire destroys nearly 130 shanties in Shahbad Dairy, no casualties

Times News Network

Panic ensued in the area as residents ran to save their lives while attempting to salvage their possessions

New Delhi: Around 500 people were rendered homeless after nearly 130 shanties were gutted in a major fire at a slum cluster in Shahbad Dairy. Delhi Fire Service officials said no casualties or injuries took place and the rescue operation went on for 6 hours.

The officials said they received a call around 10 pm on Sunday about the fire which broke out in Shahbad Village. "A total of 15 fire tenders were rushed to the site. After the blaze situation came under control, a cooling operation was initiated," said DFS director Atul Garg.

A viral video on social media shows the entire area engulfed in flames. Panic ensued in the area where all the residents ran to save their lives while attempting to salvage their possessions.

Officials claimed that some local residents also climbed atop the fire tenders, which affected the operation. "While some of them were curious onlookers, a few others were asking firemen to put out the blaze in their shanties first. It was tough handling the crowd on the spot. Luckily, everyone was evacuated safely," a fire official said.

The operation was led by additional division officer Ajay Kumar Sharma.

An official elaborated on the constraints posed by the narrow, one-lane streets in the village. "To mitigate this issue, a strategic approach was devised, involving the laying out of water supply pipes from a main road situated approximately 1 kilometre away, facilitating efficient replenishment of fire tenders and enabling effective control of the blaze".

The official said the cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained. "The area had highly combustible items. Slum residents were found storing huge quantities of waste items, including plastic bottles, near their temporary structures. Even an electrical spark or somebody leaving a burning object near such items can easily trigger major fires," the official said.

At least 11 people, including the factory owner and 10 workers, died and four others were injured in a fire that broke out in a paint factory in outer Delhi's Alipur on Thursday evening.

Last year in May, 15 shanties were destroyed after a fire broke out in a slum in northeast Delhi's Shastri Park. No injury was reported in the incident.

Trio robs two men in Narela, stabs one to death

Times News Network

New Delhi: Three men committed two back-to-back robberies in the Narela industrial area and stabbed two men in the process. One of the victims died, while the other is in a critical condition.

Police have arrested one suspect, who claims he committed the robberies because of financial debt.

The deceased was identified as Chandrakant Jha (28), who lived in Narela. Police received information about the robberies at 9pm on Feb 16.

A senior officer said Jha was returning from his factory and he was carrying Rs 18,000 that he had received as a salary.

The three men waylaid the man and asked him to hand over the money. When he objected, they started stabbing him in the stomach. The second incident happened while Aakash, a worker of the same factory, was going home. The accused also robbed his mobile phone.

"They attacked Aakash and forcibly transferred money from his e-wallet and then stabbed him," a police officer said. Two cases were registered under IPC sections of murder, robbery and common intention.

Deputy commissioner of police (outer north) Ravi Kumar Singh said the police formed multiple teams for scanning CCTV cameras, conducting technical surveillance and for local intelligence. "We learned that the accused had transferred money from the victim's e-wallet. During investigation, we nabbed one suspect," he said.

The accused was identified as Manish, who lives in Punjabi Colony in Narela. "Manish confessed to the crime and told us that he committed the robberies along with his associates, Raja and Ajay, who reside in the same Punjabi Colony," the officer said.

He added that he was under a financial debt, so he had made a plan to rob.

On the day of incident, the three was roaming in the motorcycle and saw one of the victims, a permanent resident of Muzaffarpur in Bihar. He was a construction labourer.

Police are raiding various places in their search for the other two accused. They are also scanning CCTV cameras to ascertain routes taken by the accused to flee. The police have found a robbed mobile phone, money, knife and the motorcycle used in the crime.

Police said they are also trying to find out if the accused had committed any other crime in the past. Last year, a man was killed and two people were injured after three robbers on motorcycles went on a spree of stabbings in northeast Delhi. The victims were labourers.

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ANTIM ARDAS
21 February 2024
Wednesday
12:00pm - 1:00pm
KIRTAN
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At H Block Gurudwara, DLF Phase 1, Gurgaon
Loved & remembered by:
Pradeep & Devinder
Rachna & Dushyant
Mithu, Bryce & Siya
Angad, Sophie & Mia
Meenu & Keshav

In loving memory of Late
Mrs. Brijash Jaiswal Varma
(January 01, 1943 – February 18, 2024)

Mother is the most beautiful word that comes out of our lips. She was just that – the most beautiful creation of God for her family and friends, who were blessed to be a part of her life. While she leaves a void, her memories fill that with joy. We would like to celebrate her beautiful life at the prayer meeting on February 22, 2024.
Time: 15:00 hours
Venue: Club House, The Belaire
Location: The Belaire, DLF Golf Course Road, Gurgaon
In grief -
S S Varma (Husband)
Namita, Nilaya & Sunny (Daughter & Sons)
Hemant, Ruchira & Neelu (Son & Daughters in Law)
Tanish, Kiah, Tarini, Sara & Kyra (Grand Children)

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SHARING MEMORIES

In the loving memory of
SHRI PREM PRAKASH AGARWAL
(30/11/1917-20/02/2012)
Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us everyday, unseen, unheard but always near, still missed.
Dr. Kavita A. Sharma, Shri Vinay Agarwal, Shri Ravindra Govil, Smt. Madhu Chadda, Shri Sanjay Gupta, Smt. Vinita Synghal/ Sudarshan Synghal, Shri Manoj Kumar, Smt. Malini Jain, Smt. Chitra Mehta, Smt. Vandana Gupta, Shri Neeraj Gupta, Shri Kamal Kanwar/Rikhi/Gomti

SAD DEMISE

The Presentation Family grieves the loss of MR. JAGGA SINGH, one of our devout teachers, on his sad demise. You left us behind a rich harvest of memories to be cherished by us always. We extend our deepest condolence to the bereaved family.
Management, staff & students of Presentation Convent Sr. Sec. School, Delhi-06

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'Common services in society can't attract commercial power tariff'

Bagish.Jha@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: Facilities such as lifts and water pumps at apartment complexes are for domestic consumption and hence cannot draw commercial charges for their electricity usage, a sessions court has ruled, upholding a lower court's order.

The court of additional sessions judge Jasbir Singh, in its order dated Feb 17, directed the discom to refund Rs 70 lakh that was paid by Valley View Estate society along with interest at the rate of 6% per annum. Alternatively, the judge said, the discom could adjust the amount in future power bills of the society.

The ruling paves the way for other residential societies in the city to get similar relief. There are at least 15 more cases in litigation in the city on the same issue.

The court was hearing a challenge by Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN), the discom, against a 2017 order by a lower court in favour of the society.

The Gwal Pahari society had, in 2005, got two single-point domestic bulk connections from DHBVN to supply power to flats and run common services such as lifts, fire-fighting equipment and water pumps. The discom's charge at the time was Rs 3.5 per unit for domestic use.

In 2010, the discom carried out an inspection and found that more than 15% of the society's sanctioned load was being utilised for common services. It then sent a recovery notice of Rs 70 lakh, saying the society needs to pay a non-domestic bulk tariff of Rs 4.09 per unit, instead of the Rs 3.5 per unit it was being charged till then.

70L
₹ DISCOM WAS TOLD TO REFUND TO VALLEY VIEW ESTATE SOCIETY

Though the society paid the amount the same year, it challenged the discom's recovery notice before a lower court in 2011.

Civil judge (junior division) Rajiv Kaushik passed an order in November 2017, concluding that the discom could not levy commercial charges for common services. This order was challenged by DHBVN before the sessions court a year later.

During the hearings, DHBVN's counsel Sunder Singh argued that the society was given due opportunity to present its side after the recovery notice, and the additional charge of Rs 70 lakh was made lawfully.

The discom also said that the load of common facilities at Valley View Estate exceeded 15% of the total sanctioned load, so the society was liable to pay bulk commercial tariff.

Manu Jain and TK Bhatnagar, counsels for the developer and Valley View Estate, told the sessions court that electricity was being used for domestic and residential consumption only.

"We have been making regular payment of bills without any default," Jain said, arguing that the discom's recovery notice was an "illegal demand" and threatening to disconnect power supply for not paying up the amount was "against the principle of natural justice".

In societies, residential segments are charged fixed bulk domestic tariff for power (the current rate is Rs 6.3 per unit in Haryana). Similarly, any commercial segment, such as shops or grocery stores in a society's premises, are charged a non-domestic bulk tariff, the current being Rs 7.1 per unit.

According to DHBVN's practice, if the power used to run common facilities such as lifts and water pumps exceeds 15% of the society's sanctioned load, then it charges non-domestic rates. For instance, if the total sanctioned load of a society is 1000 KV and if consumption of power for common services is more than 150 KV, then it draws commercial rates.

This ends up being the case for most societies in the city as sanctioned load is often low. Depending on their size, group housing societies in the city pay monthly electricity bills in the range of Rs 5 lakh to Rs 70 lakh for common services.

Let's football! MCD to kick off training sessions at stadiums

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

Grounds at seven stadiums and 24 schools will be involved to begin with

New Delhi: To promote sports and to increase the participation of students in such activities, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi plans to start training sessions at its stadiums and playgrounds.

Grounds at seven stadiums and 24 schools will be involved to begin with. MCD plans to develop two clusters each in six of the municipal zones from the coming academic session to provide football coaching, posting in each cluster two football coaches and two assistants. These arrangements will be in addition to the training provided in the clusters in the Najafgarh zone.

"Last year, in the Najafgarh zone, four clusters were created for providing grassroots- level training in sports," said an MCD official. "Following the success of this scheme, this year we are keen to extend the facility to six more zones of Rohini, West, Narela, Keshavpuram, Civil Lines and Shahdara North. In each of these zones, two clusters will be made to which selected students of nearby MCD primary schools will be sent for training."

In addition to providing regular meals, MCD will also allocate Rs 40 per student for nutritional diets during training. "We are also making a provision for their commuting to ensure that the students can come to the training ground without inconvenience," said the official.

The move has come after MCD's under-11 football team clinched the first position in Delhi Youth League organised at Moti Bagh for two consecutive years. "During the tournament, our students won all matches and scored 50 goals. They even won gold in other competitions such as one organised at Thyagaraj Stadium," claimed the official.

MCD plans to establish facilities for other sports too so that students interested in badminton, chess, kabaddi, volleyball, table tennis, kho-kho, wrestling, etc., can receive guidance and training.

"We are working to develop infrastructure in all 12 MCD zones for sports. This year, during the Delhi Para Athlete Meet, 53 of our students with disabilities participated in various competitions and 39 of them won 101 medals. We also give scholarships to students who perform very well in sports," said the official.

MCD claimed it was already providing basic training to its students in various sports in its schools and helping them participate in zonal and inter-zonal competitions. "Those performing well in particular sports are scouted by the coaches and provided additional training before enabling their participation in other competitions," said the official.

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CBC 21201/13/0008/2324

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Court notice to ED on AAP MLA's anticipatory bail plea

New Delhi: A local court on Monday issued a notice to the Enforcement Directorate on an application moved by AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan, seeking anticipatory bail in a money-laundering case related to alleged irregularities by the Delhi Waqf Board in hiring staff and leasing assets during his chairmanship.

Special judge Rakesh Syal sought the central probe agency's response by Tuesday, when the court will hear arguments on the application that has claimed Khan anticipates being arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the case.

Khan, the AAP's Okhla MLA, was not named as an accused in the chargesheet that ED recently filed.

ED has named five entities in its prosecution complaint (ED's equivalent of a charge sheet) that included three suspected associates of Khan — Zeeshan Haider, Daud Nasir and Jawed Imam Siddiqui.

The money-laundering case stems from a CBI FIR and three Delhi Police complaints. PTI

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM	PROVIDING AND LAYING OF 100MM DIA WATER SUPPLY LINE AND LAYING OF 80MM THICK INTERLOCKING TILES IN NEWLY APPROVED COLONY - B.K ENCLAVE, NEWLY EXTENDED AREA ZONE-IV, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION GURUGRAM + 2 WORKS	15.02.2024 01.03.2024	2.89 CRORES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9914544004 ee4@mcg.gov.in

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I, Kanika alias Kanika Khillan alias Kanika Ravinder Khillan alias Kanika Varun Patel, D/O Sh. Ravinder Khillan, R/O DLF The Primus, Tower B, Flat 152, Sector 82A, Vatika India Next, Gurgaon, Haryana-122004, have changed my name to Kanika Varun Patel after marriage.

I, Renuka Padmanabhan Iyer, W/o. Rajeev Subramanian R/o. SG-4 3201, Saya Gold Avenue, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, 201014 has changed my name and be known as Renuka Iyer for all present and future purposes and refers to one and the same person only.

I Pushpendra Singh Juneja S/o Mohinder Singh Juneja, has changed my daughter name from Hargun Juneja to Hargun Kaur Juneja for all future purposes.

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PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT
(Order 5, Rule 20 of the Code of Civil Procedure)
CS(COMM)NO-2372/2022
M/S MLJ & SONS ...Plaintiff
VS
MR. J.BHUSHAN MAHAS ...Defendant

To,
MR. J. BHUSHAN MAHAS
PROPRIETOR AMPLE PUBLICATION INDIA OFF ADD-3778, KHASRA NO -132, STREET NO-2, WAZIRABAD NORTH -DELHI-110084
THE DEFENDANT ABOVE NAMED

WHEREAS You are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 13.03..2024 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this 15.02.2024.

Seal District Judge Commercial

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As Cancer Eats Into Future, Govt Support Is Only Hope

Survivors Seek Comprehensive Childhood Cancer Policy

Photos: Tarun Rawat

Ridhima.Gupta@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Sushant is not deterred by blood cancer, diagnosed last year. Like all frisky nine-year-olds, the precocious boy happily guides his mother at AIIMS every day. The unlettered mother, who is alone in the city for the treatment of her son, is grateful to her sick son. "I often can't find my way around at AIIMS and feel overwhelmed when speaking to doctors. That is when my son takes the lead," she smiled.

A lanky, chatty boy, Sushant had just entered Class IV when he had to drop out of school after his cancer diagnosis. Otherwise, he was very good in his studies. No longer attending school now, he spends too much time on his phone, his mother's only complaint about him.

The boy's father, a daily wage worker in Bihar, came to Delhi but had to leave the two in the city. He needs to return home and work so that can send them the money they require for the boy's treatment. "My medicines are very expensive and to be able to buy them, my father has to be at home. Here I am there with my mother so it is not very difficult," said Sushant. Unfazed, or perhaps unaware of the magnitude of his ailment, the boy enthusiastically added, "I want to be a doctor when I grow up. I should be able to treat the doctors who are currently treating me if they need help."

Given the huge odds fighting cancer faced by children from economically disadvantaged families, a number of childhood cancer survivors from different states and associated with NGO CanKids KidsCan (National Society for Change for Childhood Cancer in India) have written a letter to the Prime Minister, Union health minister and members of Parliament, demanding a comprehensive childhood cancer policy. They have sought early cancer treatment for patients near their home states so that they don't have to travel long distances to cities. They have pointed out that timely and early diagnosis can save their lives.

Meanwhile, Saif, 10, also a Class IV student and native of Bihar, said he didn't want to think about what he wishes to grow up to be. He is scared that such thoughts are a waste of time because of his sickness — Saif has brain cancer and recently underwent the fourth round of chemotherapy. His mother reported that chemotherapy has taken some toll on Saif's body.

Another youngster in a similar condition is Kapil, 6, a native of Uttar Pradesh, at Safdarjung Hospital. His father, Prem Singh, 35, has not worked for the last three years because he dedicated himself to his cancer-stricken son. "In any case, my finances were never in a good condition. And after I was forced to come to Delhi for Kapil's treatment, I have been out of work and neck-deep in debt," he said.

All these families reached Delhi because they could not avail treatment for their children in their own hometowns. "In the initial months, we just lived outside the hospital, which proved so challenging," said one of the parents. "For the affluent who go to a big city for cancer treatment of their children, it isn't hard. But for families like ours, such a shift completely disrupts our lives."

These three families stay at the moment in a care home in south Delhi run by an NGO that works for children cancer patients.

Set up panels for surprise check of bags: DoE to schools

New Delhi: Delhi schools have been directed to constitute a committee for surprise checking of school bags to ensure that no student brings any object that may be used to harm fellow students, a circular by Delhi govt's Directorate of Education (DoE) stated.

Schools have been directed to ensure that guards at the gates regularly check the bags of the students and make sure that the CCTVs are functional at all times.

According to the Directorate of Education, some incidents have come to their notice where students had indulged in quarrels and fights in and outside the premises during school hours.

"All the heads of government and private schools of Delhi are hereby directed to put all possible efforts for ensuring safety and security of students in the school premises. In order to make schools a safe and secure place for all concerned, it is imperative for all schools to implement a streamlined framework for ensuring good safety practices for students, parents and staff," the DoE circular said.

According to DoE, some incidents have come to their notice where students had indulged in quarrels and fights in and outside the premises during school hours

"Therefore, all the heads of govt and private schools are hereby directed to constitute a committee for random/ surprise checking of school bags of students in classrooms and ensure that no student is in possession of any material that may be used to harm fellow students," added the circular.

The heads of schools have also been asked to issue directions to all the guards deputed at entry gates for regular checking of bags for any unwanted/inappropriate article so that no untoward incident happens in schools.

"Heads of schools should also ensure that CCTVs are installed in the school and are functional all the time. Visitors should not be allowed to enter the classrooms and staff rooms," DoE further stated in the circular. PTI

SC seeks report on condition of 5 closed shelters

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) to submit a report along with photographs stating condition of five shelter homes for the homeless which have been closed by it for reportedly being in dilapidated condition.

A bench comprising justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta asked the counsel appearing for DUSIB to file an affidavit about the status of these shelter homes within two weeks.

The direction came after advocate Prashant Bhushan told the apex court that DUSIB had locked five shelter homes near Dandi Park forcing homeless people to live on roads in the winter.

"The SC in its order dated March 28 last year had stayed any further demolition of shelters for the urban homeless in Delhi without its permission. But, in spite of the order, DUSIB has now locked the shelter homes and people are forced to live on the street. This is contempt of the court order. There are 1 to 2 lakh homeless people while the shelter homes compared to it is not even 20 per cent," Bhushan submitted.

The direction came after advocate Prashant Bhushan told the apex court that DUSIB had locked five shelter homes near Dandi Park forcing homeless people to live on roads in the winter

The counsel appearing for DUSIB submitted that after the Yamuna floods in June and July last year, the shelter homes were in a dilapidated condition.

"We had filed a plea in the top court wherein we made a proposal that persons living in these shelter homes will be shifted permanently to Geeta colony. The matter is under consideration. The five shelter homes are in an uninhabitable condition," the DUSIB lawyer said, adding, the Board has taken a pledge that not even a single person will die in this winter due to cold.

When the bench asked the advocate appearing for DUSIB as to why the shelter homes could not be restored, the lawyer said they are located on Yamuna floodplain and it will not be possible.

The bench then directed, "You place on record the status report of these five shelter homes. You also submit photographs of the accommodation in Geeta colony meant for homeless people."

The apex court had last year restrained several authorities, including the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB), Delhi Police and the Delhi Development Authority, from demolishing temporary shelters for the homeless in the national capital without getting its permission.

The SC had passed the order while hearing a matter related to three temporary shelters at Geeta Ghat, built for the special category of the homeless such as individuals afflicted with TB, orthopaedic disabilities, and mental health conditions.

The bench had further directed the DUSIB to work out and present a plan within the next six weeks about the creation of alternative shelters instead of those demolished at the behest of Delhi police, DDA, or any other agency. PTI

Woman with spinal TB walks after 7 months, delivers baby

ABOUT SPINAL TB
- Spinal tuberculosis, also known as Pott disease, is a severe form of extrapulmonary TB that affects vertebral bodies and discs
- Diagnosis a challenge due to back pain as a presenting symptom, which can occur due to many other causes
- Classical symptoms of low-grade fever, loss of appetite and weight loss are generally missing

Geetu Chaudhary, *who had suffered total loss of nerve sensation in her lower body, not only delivered a healthy baby but also started walking on her feet*

WHY IT'S DANGEROUS
- Spinal TB accounts for nearly 1% of all TB cases
- It is most common and dangerous form of musculoskeletal TB, affecting the thoracolumbar region, followed by the cervical and sacral regions
- Can lead to vertebral collapse, spinal deformity, paraspinal abscesses, and neurological complications due to cord compression

PREVENTION/CURE
- Prognosis improved by early diagnosis, rapid intervention and completing the course of anti-TB medications
- Not all patients with spine TB require surgery
- Neurological deficit, large abscesses, spinal instability are indications for surgery
- Most patients, if diagnosed early, can be managed with anti-TB medications

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A 28-year-old pregnant woman, suffering from spinal tuberculosis who had lost nerve sensation in her lower body, has not only delivered a healthy baby but also started walking.

"I had lost all hope of standing on my own feet again but with the support of my husband and doctors at Fortis, I am standing here and can do everything on my own and take care of my child," Geetu Chaudhary, a resident of Delhi's Vishnu Garden, said.

According to doctors in Fortis, Shalimar Bagh, who enabled Geetu's recovery after two surgeries and physiotherapy, this was a challenging and rare case. The patient was pregnant and suffering from pain in her back for four months. Initially, the patient thought it was pregnancy related pain, and thus did not give much importance to it, but in the sixth month of her pregnancy, both her legs became weak and within 20 days her legs were completely paralysed and she was bedridden. The patient was unable to pass urine, necessitating a catheter. This is when she came to the hospital and was diagnosed with spinal tuberculosis through an MRI.

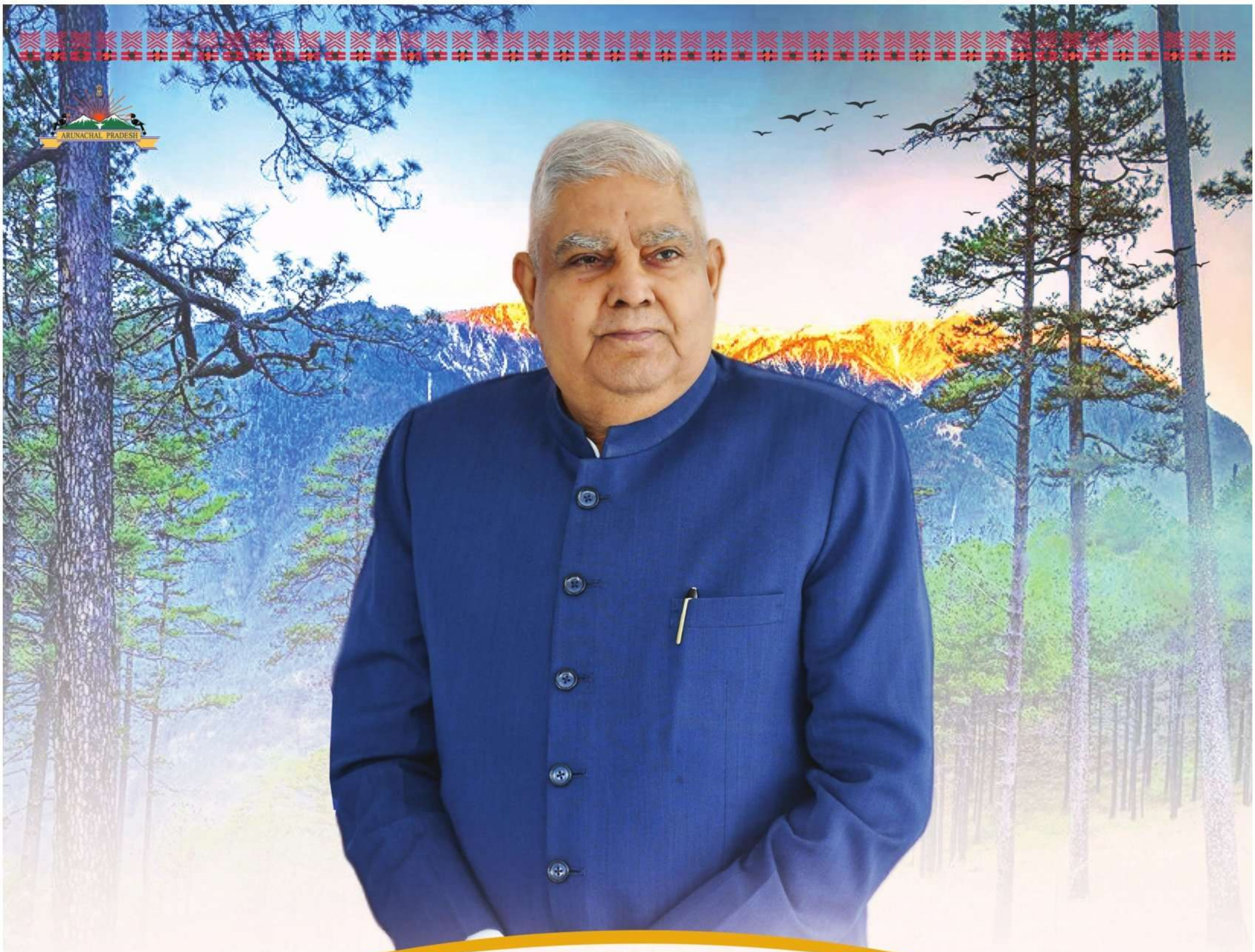
Dr Sonal Gupta, director & head of the department of neurosurgery at the hospital, said: "The surgical procedure was complex due to her pregnancy. We had to make her lie down in such a way that no pressure was exerted on the abdomen/foetus," she said. The doctors were unable to use traditional spinal fixation methods such as putting screws to fix an unstable spine due to pregnancy-related X-ray restrictions, which was mandatory for inserting the screws (intervertebral titanium cage). Surgeons opted for a temporary wire fixation. Additionally, the anaesthesia was carefully managed for the woman and the foetus.

Despite her condition, the bed-ridden Geetu remained hopeful. She delivered a healthy baby via a C-section. Fifteen days after delivery, an MRI revealed a severe spinal cord swelling, an unstable collapsed spine with spinal cord compression. To address this, another surgery was done through the side of her lung to remove the tuberculosis tissue and stabilise the spine, involving the placement of a cage and screws to bridge the vertebral gap.

Three months after her surgery, the patient showed no leg movement, prompting a repeat MRI that revealed ongoing spinal cord swelling. Despite the challenging prognosis, she and her husband Sachin remained optimistic. They persisted with regular physiotherapy and continued tuberculosis treatment. Over time, she regained full mobility.

Dr Gupta further said: "TB spine in pregnancy is not very rare, but to become completely paraplegic and remain paraplegic for 7 months and then make 100% recovery is what is rare and that is what is miraculous."

Dr Sunita Varma, director of obstetrics and gynaecology, said: "The survival of the baby was a challenge because of severe abdominal spasms due to the spinal cord compression. However, the patient is now free of tuberculosis and is leading a normal life. If the patient was not treated on time, she would have remained bed-ridden and wheelchair-bound for the rest of her life."



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At Fortified Borders, It's Test Of Patience

UP GATE: No Respite Even As Farmers Pause March

Photos: Umesh Kumar & Anindya Chattopadhyay

IT'S A CRAWL: Commuters expressed frustration at the gridlock, which has increased their travel time between Ghaziabad and Delhi

Avishek.Kumar
@timesgroup.com

Ghaziabad: Farmers may have pressed a pause on their march to the capital as talks with the Centre continue but for residents of Delhi-NCR, choked borders remain a reality for the second week as heavy police deployment and fortification of the entry points to Delhi continue.

The UP Gate border, one of the busiest because of the 14-lane Delhi-Meerut Expressway and NH-9, witnessed a jam in peak rush hour on Monday morning as thousands of cars negotiated its partially blocked lanes and flyovers, where police have parked cranes, cars, buses, trucks and a contingent of personnel.

Commuters expressed frustration at the gridlock, which has increased their travel time between Ghaziabad and Delhi, and the unpredictability that has led to reaching office late on multiple occasions since the border cordons began being drawn last Monday.

Raghunath Singh, director of a startup based in Delhi, said while there were no farmers or any protests at the border, barricades put up by Delhi Police left office goers and other commuters stranded in almost a kilometre-long queue of vehicles on the DME on Monday morning. Last week, the snarls stretched back to Sector 62 in Noida for a couple of days.

"Checking a vehicle took the cops hardly a minute but with vehicles being funneled into a line at the point where barricades are put up, it slows down traffic through the morning. I was stuck there for nearly 15-20 minutes," he said.

A govt school teacher, Sunidhi Chaturvedi, said she reached work late because she was caught in the snarl at the border. "Last week, I took the metro to school but today I assumed there would be no traffic congestion as the farmer leaders decided to halt the 'Delhi Chalo' march after talks with the Centre. But the checks continued and I was stuck on the flyover," she said.

Traffic inspector (UP Gate) Santosh Singh said UP Police deployed more than 50 cops at the border and some diversions were in place to ease traffic movement. "We are doing our best so that commuters don't have to suffer," he said.

Traffic movement remained smooth at three main Noida-Delhi borders —DND Flyway, Chilla and Kalindi Kunj. However, the farmers' group protesting in Noida and Greater Noida demanding increased compensation and developed land said it had not received a positive response from the police commissioner so far and was considering a protest march on Feb 23.

Rupesh Verma, district president of All India Kisan Sabha, said the police commissioner had assured the farmers that a high-level committee will be formed by Feb 18 to look into their demands. "Now they have sought some more time to decide on the formation of the committee. If the committee is not formed, we will march to Delhi on Feb 23," he said.

Murder he wrote: Man plotted for a month before killing colleague, created diversions

▸Continued from P1

Police have named Anish as the main accused in the chargesheet and booked him for murder and causing disappearance of evidence under the Indian Penal Code after examining more than 40 people.

According to the chargesheet, the planning for the murder began a month before the act, motivated by Anish's grudge against Mahesh over the woman. The investigation revealed, "Anish had told Mahesh that he had got a government job through 'setting' and could similarly help people in getting MTS jobs for Rs 3 lakh per person. Mahesh gave him Rs 9 lakh, of which he spent Rs 4 lakh."

Before the murder, Anish took a three-day leave and went to his hometown in Gohana. There, he met two friends and told them he was on medical leave but needed to collect money from someone in Haryana. He planned to leave his phone at home and asked one of the friends to call the other friend using his phone number.

He also called Mahesh and said he would meet him at a flat in RK Puram to discuss the matter of the jobs for which he had paid Rs 9 lakh. He then purchased five big polythene bags from a shop in south Delhi.

To reach the RK Puram flat, Anish borrowed his friend's motorcycle. There, during a conversation, he instructed Mahesh to open the laptop. When the latter was preoccupied with the screen, Anish struck him with a wrench. The chargesheet says Mahesh collapsed and began bleeding profusely. Anish swiftly wrapped him in the polythene, but noticing signs of life, continued to hit the plastic-wrapped victim with the wrench.

The chargesheet says that Anish told police he had made a phone call to his brother, a student in Noida, asking him to collect a parcel containing phones. He instructed his brother to switch on the phone near Faridabad before switching it off. However, his brother declined due to work commitments and gave Anish the number of a friend who could do it.

Anish then downloaded the Porter app and through its service sent his Survey of India colleague's two phones to Noida, directing his brother to throw them away. One of the phones was picked up by a person who switched it on and talked to Mahesh's family, according to the chargesheet. The victim's relatives then repeatedly called Anish to inquire about the former's whereabouts, but Anish claimed he had left to meet someone and knew nothing more. Feigning deep concern, he offered to help search for Mahesh.

Anish also accessed Mahesh's WhatsApp on another phone and put in a misleading status. After making it appear that Mahesh was in some other state, the murderer buried the body at a courtyard in RK Puram and had a labourer erect a platform at the spot.

The chargesheet claims that the flat where Anish buried Mahesh was allotted to another colleague, who usually left it vacant. "He borrowed the colleague's key under the pretext of wanting to see the flat. He made a duplicate of the key before returning the original," police said. "To move the body, he used his mother's car and he dumped the belongings of the victim in different locations in Delhi-NCR."

Sunder Nursery to host Urdu fest from Feb 22-25

Times News Network

New Delhi: Delhi govt is organising an Urdu festival from Feb 22 to 25 where several artists will perform and experts in the language will participate in debates and panel discussions.

One of the events includes an Urdu Ramlila. A theatre group from Faridabad will narrate the mythological tale of Rama's victory over Ravana.

A panel discussion on 'Ramayana Urdu ke Aaine Mein,' will see Khalid Alvi, Khalid Ashraf and Mohammad Kazim explore the depths of Urdu's perspective on Ramayana.

"The upcoming Urdu Heritage Festival is a great example of Delhi's culture. We are actively working to keep Delhi's culture lively. What better setting than the beautiful Sunder Nursery. We have some top artists and unique programs lined up, and I'm confident that the people of Delhi will enjoy the festival," minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said.

The festival will be organised for reviving Urdu and encouraging its proliferation through broadened involvement. Engaging a new and wider audience is vital to this mission. This festival will unite all Urdu enthusiasts to relish the beauty of the language in its various artistic expressions.

Urdu is a cornerstone of Delhi's cultural and literary legacy and signifies the mosaic culture of the capital. "Our government aspires to cultivate an ambiance of harmony and affection through such events," an official said.

People can enjoy a Sufi night by Indira Naik. Syed Sahil Agha will hold a session of traditional storytelling or Dastangoi. A Mehfil-e-Qawwali be held by the Warsi brothers from Hyderabad.

The grand festival will also have 'Chaar Bait', a 400-year-old tradition where artists blend verses, melody and rhythm. A Bhopal girls' group will perform this art.

AIIMS Masjid Moth campus & IIT get green nod for expansion

Times News Network

New Delhi: Delhi State Level Environmental Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) has granted environmental clearance to the redevelopment of the Masjid Moth campus for AIIMS and the expansion of IIT-Delhi.

AIIMS has proposed to construct a service block and IIT-Delhi plans to build an academic block, five blocks of faculty housing, two blocks of residential quarters and an electric substation.

The State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) had earlier recommended issuance of environment clearance to SEIAA.

For large construction projects in the city, it is mandatory to seek a clearance from the SEAC and SEIAA.

The SEIAA clearance is given on certain conditions to ensure that the environment does not deteriorate, and steps are in place for controlling dust and air pollution at the site, using treated water during and after construction, provision for rainwater harvesting, solid waste management, parking infrastructure and eco-sensitive areas in the neighbourhood. Clearance is also required for the number of trees that are required to be felled or transplanted. The SEIAA meeting was held on January 24, but its minutes were released recently.

SEIAA had granted environmental clearance to AIIMS' Masjid Moth Campus expansion in 2012, but the validity of this clearance was till 2019. "Now, the project proponent has applied for the clearance for the remaining service block, with a proposed built-up area of 10,665 sqm," the minutes said.

SEIAA gave conditional clearance as it directed the project proponent to ensure that anti-smog guns are used during construction and the project is registered with Delhi govt's portal for monitoring dust norms.

5 4 TERMS OF REFERENCE GIVEN FOR IIT-DELHI

SEIAA also gave its clearance to IIT-Delhi's campus expansion which will include construction of nine buildings at a cost of Rs 458.73 crore. SEAC had in January asked the project proponent to comply with 54 terms of reference for IIT-Delhi.

"SEIAA has approved the recommendations of SEAC taken on January 4, 2024, for issuance for terms of reference for the project, with additional conditions. The project proponent shall ensure the use of anti-smog guns during construction and demolition and ensure installation of reference grade continuous particulate monitoring system (CPMS)," the minutes of the meeting said.

Armed attackers target jeweller, son after failed robbery attempt

Times News Network

New Delhi: Four armed assailants tried to rob a jewellery shopowner of his bag containing cash and jewellery at gunpoint in northeast Delhi's Sonia Vihar on Saturday. After they failed to rob him, the robbers injured the shopowner and his son with pistol butts. They then fired several rounds into the air before fleeing the scene on their motorcycles. A video of the incident was doing the rounds on social media.

The victims were identified as Rajesh Pandey (58) and his son Mohit Pandey (26), residents of Sonia Vihar.

Police said they received information about the incident at 9:41 pm. The father-son duo had just closed the shop when the attack took place. The incident occurred in a busy area, and the video footage even shows the attackers beating one of the victims. Despite the victim's pleas for help, no one assisted them.

"The shopowner and his son are receiving treatment at a hospital. Police have recovered three empty shells, three live rounds (7.65 mm caliber) and a magazine at the scene of the crime," an officer said.

We have formed several teams to crack the case and are also scanning CCTV footage of the spot to look for more clues, DCP (Northeast) Joy Tirkey said.

A case has been registered under sections 393 (attempt to commit robbery), 394 (voluntarily causing hurt in committing robbery), 398 (attempt to commit robbery or dacoity when armed with deadly weapon) and 34 (common intention) of IPC and 27 Arms Act.

Changes suggested in building plan, vet hospital at Moti Bagh likely to miss April deadline

Times News Network

New Delhi: The April-end deadline fixed for completion of the much-awaited New Delhi Municipal Council's veterinary hospital at Moti Bagh is likely to extend further. Many changes have been proposed in the project plan.

During a recent joint inspection of civic officials to the hospital building, which is under construction, NDMC's vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay pointed out various grey areas. He later sent a note specifying all the shortcomings to the chairman, requesting for their redressal.

As per the plan, the veterinary hospital will be equipped with advanced facilities and will provide all medical services at reasonable rates to pets and stray animals.

"During the inspection, I pointed out many areas which need improvement to ensure optimal service distribution and utilisation of space for the next 25 years. For example, the entrance of the hospital was narrow and even the waiting area as well as reception facilities were found small and insufficient to accommodate the influx of animals and their accompanying owners," said Upadhyay.

The NDMC vice-chairman also raised concerns about the capacity of the OPD and the size of the X-ray room. "The hospital is meant for treating a number of animals, not just one or two, at a time and hence the arrangements should be made accordingly. I stressed upon using the glass doors for better visibility. Also, there was a demand to make arrangements for a chemist shop here," he said.

Creating provision of daycare facilities for the animals was, too, discussed during the inspection.

Upadhyay added that some of these lapses could have occurred due to lack of coordination between the different departments concerned. "I have urged proper coordination among the civil, electrical and veterinary departments. The project should be aligned properly with the long-term vision set forth by the PM for the betterment of New Delhi," he said.

NDMC officials are likely to visit the site again in near future to check if all the necessary facilities are in place.

The hospital was established at a plot measuring 420 sqm at Bidhan Chandra Vidyalaya in Moti Bagh. The land was acquired on July 25, 2018 following a request to the land and development office. The project involves the construction of a ground plus two-storey building, meticulously designed to accommodate modern medical amenities.

The hospital is likely to be equipped with modern medical equipment for animals, including ECG machine, autoclave and portable colour doppler, said officials.

O-

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NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH "e"-Procurement
Bid Identification No. Online Tender/95-2023-24/PMGSY/BPR

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads/ Bridges under **PRADHAN MANTRI- JANJATI ADIVASI NYAYA MAHA ABHIYAN** (PM-JANMAN Batch-I/2023-24) under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the districts of **Ganjam & Gajapati for 08 (Eight)** number of packages with estimated cost totalling to **Rs. 36.96 Cr (Approximate)** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with **State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways**. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement Dtd. **19.02.2024**

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security declaration and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur / Superintending Engineer of the Concerned divisions** on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 04.03.2024 upto 5.30 P.M.

For further details and corrigendum (if any) please log on to **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W. Circle, Berhampur
OIPR-25071/11/0110/23-24

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
(ISO 9001:2015 AND ISO 14001:2015 CERTIFIED)
METROS, ANNA SALAI, NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 600 035.

E-Tender Notice

International Competitive Bidding (ICB)

CMRL invites tenders through CPP e-procurement Portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfill the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender document through International Competitive Bidding under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the works mentioned below:

Tender No:CMRL/P&D/CON/CCT-03/2024: "Design and Construction of Civil, Structural, Architecture, MEP, VAC, Lifts, Escalators, Landscaping and Associated Works for Development of Chennai Central Tower".

(i) Document available from: 05/03/2024
(ii) Deadline for Bid submission: 18/04/2024 up-to 15:00 Hrs.

Tender No:CMRL/P&D/CON/MMFC-KR-04/2024: "Design and Construction of Civil, Structural, Architecture, MEP, VAC, Lifts, Escalators, Landscaping and Associated Works for Integrated Development of Multimodal Facility Complex with Kuralagam at Broadway, Chennai".

(i) Document available from: 06/03/2024
(ii) Deadline for Bid submission: 19/04/2024 up-to 15:00 Hrs.

For further details, please visit :
For NIT : **www.chennaimetrorail.org**
For Downloading Bid Documents : **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app**

DIPR/ 1069 /TENDER/2024

Sd/-
Director (Projects)

SARDAR SAROVAR NARMADA NIGAM LIMITED
(A wholly owned Government of Gujarat Undertaking)

Tender Notice No. & Name of the work	1) Est.Cost (Rs. in lacs) 2) Tender Fee (in Rs) (including GST) 3) EMD (Rs. in lacs) 4) Class 5) Time Limit	(a) Pre bid meeting (b)Last date for online downloading/ submission of tender documents (c) Last date for physical submission (d) Online verification of documents (e) Opening of Technical bid (f) Opening of Price bid
1	2	3
Works under the Chief Engineer (KBC),SSNNL, Kachchh		
Tender Notice No-06 of 2023-24 ID No. 46492 EPC Contract for Construction of Dudhai Sub-Branch Canal between Ch.23.025 km to 68.522 km (Earthwork, Structures, Lining, Service Road, C.R./H.R./Escape Gates, Stoplogs, Control Cabins, etc.) Including Geo-Investigation, Design of Structures and Operation and Maintenance of the same for 5 (FIVE) years.	(1) 49054.22/- (2) 35,400/- (3) 490.55/- (4) "AA" (5) 24 Months	(a) 04/03/2024 (b) 18/03/2024 up to 18.00 hrs. (c) From 19/03/2024 to 26/03/2024 (in office working hours) (d) 19/03/2024 at 11.00hrs onwards (if possible) (e) 19/03/2024 at 12.00 hrs onwards (if possible) (f) 19/03/2024 at 13.00hrs onwards (if possible)

Note: The details regarding contact place for physical submission and opening of tender, please visit website www.tender.nprocure.com
INF/2522/23-24

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता,
8वॉ वृत्त, लोक निर्माण विभाग, नई टिहरी
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, 8TH CIRCLE, P.W.D. NEW TEHRI
Phone & Fax 01376-232073 **e-mail: sepwdtehri@rediffmail.com**

पत्रांकः-1140/03 कैश-टेण्डर-08/2023 दिनांक- 17.02.2024

राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदा
अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना।

महामहिम राज्यपाल महोदय उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा जनपद टिहरी गढवाल के विधानसभा क्षेत्र नरेन्द्रनगर के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु स्वीकृति की प्रत्याशा में ई-टेंडरिंग के माध्यम से टू-बिड सिस्टम में निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा सम्बन्धी समस्त सूचनायें **http://www.uktenders.gov.in** पर दिनांक 20.02.2024 से उपलब्ध होगी।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर धनराशि (रु.लाख में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य रु. में	निविदा की वैधता	कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय	ठेकेदारों की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	वार्षिक अनुरक्षण के अन्तर्गत डाबरखाल कुडी मोण गुरियाली रानीचौरी डांडाचली गजा नकोट पांगरखाल राज्य मार्ग संख्या-75 के कि0मी0 27 से 34, 37 से 41, 52, 54 से 56 में बी0सी0 द्वारा नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	8.13	5000.00+ जी0एस0टी0	15 दिन	1 माह	किसी भी राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार अथवा उनके उपक्रम में मार्ग कार्य हेतु श्रेणी-ए एंव उच्चतर में पंजीकृत।
2	कठूड-नैचोली भासौं फिफल्टी मुख्य जिला मार्ग संख्या टी0-18 के कि0मी0 1 से 17 में पी0सी0 द्वारा नवनीनीकरण का कार्य।	6.00	5000.00+ जी0एस0टी0	15 दिन	1 माह	किसी भी राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार अथवा उनके उपक्रम में मार्ग कार्य हेतु श्रेणी-बी एंव उच्चतर में पंजीकृत।
3	आगराखाल-कुसरैला मोटर मार्ग (अन्य जिला मार्ग) के कि0मी0 5 से 13.30 में पी0सी0 द्वारा नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	3.30	5000.00+ जी0एस0टी0	15 दिन	1 माह	किसी भी राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार अथवा उनके उपक्रम में मार्ग कार्य हेतु श्रेणी-बी एंव उच्चतर में पंजीकृत।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
8वॉ वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0, नई टिहरी

यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.
(उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार का उपक्रम) CIN : U15209UP1976SGC004285
कार्यालय महाप्रबन्धक, जोन-2, 14-चन्द्रशेखरनगर कालोनी, तुला शेरपुर, संजयनगर बाईपास, बरेली-243122. ई-मेल : gm2.uppclbly@gmail.com

पत्रांक : 813/पीसीएल/जी.एम./जोन-2/प्रकाशन दिनांक : 19.02.2024

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

जनपद बरेली, बदायूं एवं पीलीभीत में प्रोजेक्ट अलंकार योजनान्तर्गत 17 नग निर्माण कार्यों हेतु अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना सं0 23/PCL/GM/ZONE-2/BLY/2023-24 दिनांक 19.02.2024, 24/PCL/GM/ZONE-2/BLY/2023-24 दिनांक 19.02.2024 एवं 25/PCL/GM/ZONE-2/BLY/2023-24 दिनांक 19.02.2024 द्वारा अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा http://etender.up.nic.in की वेबसाइट पर दिनांक 20.02.2024 से दिनांक 05.03.2024 के पूर्वाह्न 10:00 बजे तक डाउनलोड/अपलोड की जा सकती है। ई-निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण, नियम एवं शर्तें कारपोरेशन की वेबसाइट www.upprojects.org पर दिनांक 20.02.2024 से देखी जा सकती है।

महाप्रबन्धक, जोन-2, बरेली

Court acquits four, says no evidence to show presence among rioters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The case was registered against the men in Dayalpur police station for the offences of murder, rioting and other charges

New Delhi: A Delhi court has acquitted four men accused of murdering two persons during the 2020 Delhi riots, stating that even as circumstantial evidence there was nothing on the record to establish their presence among the rioters.

The court of additional sessions judge Pulastya Pramachala in a Feb 16 order said: "There is no evidence to even establish any of the accused being part of rioters at the given place and time. Therefore, all the accused persons are acquitted of all the charges alleged against them in this case."

The court was hearing two cases registered against Ashok, Ajay, Subham and Jitender Kumar for allegedly murdering Ashfaq Hussain and Jakir in the Brijpuri area in Delhi on Feb 25, 2020, during the riots.

The case was registered against the men in Dayalpur police station for the offences of murder, rioting and other charges.

In two separate orders, the court said the prosecution could not prove that any of the accused was involved in the killing of Jakir and Hussain.

The court, taking note of the witness in the cases turning hostile and not supporting the prosecution's version, said there was some circumstantial evidence as call details record (CDR), recovery of scissors, swords and the clothes worn by some of the accused persons based on disclosure statements.

However, the court said it could not reach a concrete conclusion about the presence of a particular person at a particular place, solely based on the CDR. "As far as swords and scissors recovered and relied upon by the prosecution is concerned, it is not that these weapons were found with remnants of the blood of the deceased, to show that they were the weapons through which deceased were killed."

The court further said that the prosecution did not conduct any forensic examination to show that the clothes had bloodstains of the deceased. The CCTV footage showing the presence of the accused persons as part of the unlawful assembly which murdered the duo was not played in the court.

HC asks why it shouldn't initiate contempt action against official for non-compliance with tree order

New Delhi: Delhi High Court asked a Military Engineer Services (MES) official on Monday to explain why contempt action should not be initiated against him for violating its earlier directions on not carrying out civil work within a two-metre radius of any existing tree without prior permission.

Justice Jasmeet Singh said photographs of excavation work carried out in the green belt on the station road in Delhi Cantonment showed that the mandate has "totally been given a go by and roots of trees have been cut without paying heed to the two-metre safety".

The court directed that no trenching activity shall take place at the site in violation of the court's orders and asked the tree officer and Station House Officer (SHO) concerned to take remedial measures.

The matter will next be heard on Feb 23. PTI

STATE BANK OF INDIA, Stressed Assets Management Branch-1
12th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan (STC Building), 1, Tolstoy Marg, Janpath, New Delhi-110001,
Ph. No. : 011-23701070, 23701097, 23701157, 23701167, 23701195, Fax No. 23701202. E-mail ID : team4samb1.del@sbi.co.in, sbi.04109@sbi.co.in

E-Auction Sale Notice

APPENDIX- IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described movable property hypothecated/charged & Immovable Property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditors, the **Physical** possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", As is what is" and Whatever there is"** on below mentioned dates, for recovery of amount as mentioned below, due to the Secured Creditors from following Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) and Corporate Guarantor(s). The reserve price and earnest money to be deposited is mentioned below respectively.

Name of Borrower(s), Guarantor(s) and Corporate Guarantor(s) with address/es	Description & owner(s) of properties	Reserve Price(RP) / EMD Amount 10% of The Reserve Price / Incremental Amount	Recovery Amount as per Demand Notice	Date / Time of on-site Inspection of Property with name of Authorized Officer & RA	Date & Time for Submission of Bid Application Form, KYC Documents, PAN Card, Proof of EMD etc. through MSTC Wallet	Date & Time of E-Auction
K.V. Aromatics Pvt. Ltd., D-212 to 215, GNEPIP, Site-V, Greater Noida-201306. **Mr. Himanshu Agarwal s/o Sh. Vinod Kumar Agarwal,** R/o H.No.306, Sector-15A, Noida-201301 **Also at:** House No. 317, Sector 15A, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, (UP)–201301 **Mr. Sudhanshu Agarwal S/o Sh. Vinod Kumar Agarwal,** R/o Villa No. 2/1, Land-2, Jaypee Green, Block-G, Kasna Road, Greater Noida-201310 **Mr. Aman Agarwal S/o Sh. Vinod Kumar Agarwal,** R/o Villa No. 2/1, Land-2, Jaypee Green, Block-G, Kasna Road, Greater Noida-201310 **Mr. Vinod Kumar Agarwal S/o Sh. Maharaj Narayan Agarwal,** R/o Mohalla Ther, Near Sheesh Mahal, Sambhal, U.P. **Mrs. Kamlesh Agarwal W/o Sh. Vinod Kumar Agarwal,** R/o Mohalla Ther, Near Sheesh Mahal, Sambhal, U.P.	**1/8, 1/2, 1/8 share of Khasra No. 295, 344 (Deed No. 4356, 4338, 4336), 10/16, 1/8 share of Khasra No. 299 (Deed No. 4337, 4355), 1/8, 1/8 share of Khasra No. 299, 295, 344 (Deed No. 1482, 3993) Sher Khan Sarai, Sambhal Distt. Moradabad (UP) Total area of property 2.33 Hectare, in the name of Shri Vinod Kumar Agarwal, Smt. Kamlesh Agarwal and Shri Himanshu Agarwal and Shri Sudhanshu Agarwal**	₹ 1390.00 Lacs / ₹ 139.00 Lacs / ₹ 1.00 Lac	**Rs. 131,21,18,409.00** (Rs one hundred thirty one crore twenty one lacs eighteen thousand four hundred nine only) **and NFB limit by way of bank guarantee having outstanding on Rupees 24,11,298.00** (Rupees twenty four lacs eleven thousand two hundred ninety eight only) **as on date including interest applied upto 12-09-2020 with future interest and incidental charges w.e.f. dated 13-09-2020**	**06-03-2024** 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M. Authorised Officer : Sh. Sachin Mob.: 8800997526	for more information Refer to https://www.mstcecommerce.com	**08-03-2024** From 11.00 AM to 01.00 PM with unlimited extensions of 10 minutes each

EMD to be transferred / deposited by bidders in his / her / their own wallet provided by M/s MSTC Ltd. on its E-Auction site https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp by means of NEFT

TERMS AND CONDITIONS :
E-Auction is being held on **"AS IS WHERE IS", AS IS WHAT IS" AND WHATEVER THERE IS"** basis and will be conducted "On Line".
The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider **M/s MSTC Ltd. (Helpdesk No. 033-2290-1004)** at their web portal **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp;** Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp**
Interested bidder may deposit Pre-Bid EMD with MSTC before the close of e-Auction. Credit of Pre-bid EMD shall be given to the bidder only after receipt of payment in MSTC's Bank account and updation of such information in the e-auction website. This may take some time as per banking process and hence bidders, in their own interest, are advised to submit the pre-bid EMD amount well in advance to avoid any last minute problem.
To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorised Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims / rights / dues / affecting the property/ies, prior to submitting their bid. In this regard, the e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the Bank.
The Authorised Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims / rights / dues. The sale shall be subject to rules / conditions prescribed under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002., The other terms and conditions of the e-auction are published in the following websites **1. https://www.mstcecommerce.com, 2. http://www.sbi.co.in**

STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Date : 19-02-2024, Place : New Delhi

Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

Advt. No. 20/2023

Government of India
Search-cum-Selection Committee
Department of Defence Production
Ministry of Defence

Invites applications for the post of

Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)

IN

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)

Last date of receipt of applications in DDP/MoD

By 1500 hours on 20th March, 2024

For details login to website
http://www.ddpmod.gov.in/vacancyandcircular

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NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION PLANNING BOARD
(A Statutory Body under Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt. of India)

Applications are invited from willing and eligible candidates for the following post in the National Capital Region Planning Board as per details given below:-

Name of Post	No. of Post / Category	Method of Recruitment	Scale of pay
Planning Assistant	01 (Unreserved)	Direct Recruitment	Pay Level-6 (₹ 35,400 - 1,12,400) as per 7th CPC pay matrix

Application in the prescribed format, duly completed in all respects and signed by the candidate with self-attested copies of testimonials etc., along with IPO/ Demand Draft for ₹ 100 (non-refundable) drawn in favour of NCR Planning Board payable at New Delhi towards Application Fee , should reach the Member Secretary, NCR Planning Board, 1st Floor, Core-4B, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 **on or before 5th March 2024**. The Application Fee can also be paid online. Application received after the last date will not be considered/Scrutinized.
Complete details such as eligibility criteria, educational qualifications, age, format of application, method of recruitment, online fee payment details etc. are available on NCRPB website. Before applying please go through NCRPB website https://ncrpb.nic.in.

IMPORTANT NOTE:
1) **This advertisement is in continuation to earlier advertisement no. CBC 44103/12/0009/2324 published in Times of India and Dainik Jagran (All India Edition) on 12.12.2023 and in Employment News edition 23-29 Dec. 2023. It is informed that the earlier advertisement No. CBC 44103/12/0009/2324, had erroneously mentioned that selection for the Post of Planning Assistant will be based on interview. Please note that selection will be based on WRITTEN TEST, and no interview will be held.**
2) **Persons who have applied earlier need not apply again. Their application will be scrutinized as per rules. However, if they wish to update/modify any information, they can submit the same, with due details of their earlier application for referencing. Persons who have not applied earlier can also apply.**
3) **All candidates are requested to check our website regularly. List of candidates found eligible for written test will be declared on NCRPB website. Date, time and venue of written test will also be informed on our website. Efforts will be made to also inform these candidates separately through mail on the mail ids provided by them. Hence, please furnish your email id correctly.**

The Board reserves the right not to fill up the above post without assigning any reason.

Sd/-
(Member Secretary)
CBC 44103/12/0013/2324

हरियाणा सरकार

"हम किसानों को सोलर पंप की सुविधा दे रहे हैं, खेतों के किनारे सोलर पैनल लगाने में मदद कर रहे हैं और इससे अन्नदाता, ऊर्जादाता भी बन रहा है। किसान के खर्च में भी कमी आई है और उसे कमाई का एक अतिरिक्त साधन भी मिला है।"
- नरेन्द्र मोदी

प्रधानमंत्री किसान ऊर्जा सुरक्षा एवं उत्थान महाभियान

75% अनुदान राशि पर 3 एच.पी. से 10 एच.पी. सोलर पंप के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित हैं

इच्छुक किसान अपनी आवश्यकतानुसार सोलर पंप की क्षमता एवं प्रकार का चयन करके अपनी पसंद की कंपनी चुनें और अपना लाभार्थी हिस्सा जमा करवायें।

आवेदन **saralharyana.gov.in** पोर्टल पर **20.02.2024** से **01.03.2024** तक करें

अधिक जानकारी के लिए

अपने जिले के अतिरिक्त उपायुक्त कार्यालय से सम्पर्क करें

अथवा

क्यू आर कोड स्कैन करें

RENEWABLE ENERGY : ENERGY FOREVER
HAREDA

नवीन एवं नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा विभाग, हरियाणा
अक्षय ऊर्जा भवन, सेक्टर-17, पंचकूला Ph: 0172-3504085
ई-मेल: hareda@chd.nic.in, Website: www. hareda.gov.in

सूचना, लोक सम्पर्क, भाषा तथा संस्कृति विभाग, हरियाणा www.prharyana.gov.in | Follow us on @diprharyana

CORPORATE BUZZ

www.toi.in/psu

IREDA, PNB to co-finance green energy projects

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) have joined hands through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aimed at advancing renewable energy initiatives across the nation. The agreement, signed at IREDA's registered office in New Delhi, paves the way for joint efforts in co-lending and loan syndication for a diverse spectrum of renewable energy

projects. Dr. R. C. Sharma, General Manager of IREDA, and Rajeeva, Chief General Manager of PNB, signed the MoU in the presence of Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director of IREDA; Atul Kumar Goel, MD & CEO of PNB; Dr. Bijay Kumar Mohanty, Director (Finance) of IREDA, along with senior officials from both organizations.

NDWBF 2024 ends on a high note

The 9-day New Delhi World Book Fair 2024 concluded on Sunday, with the fairgrounds brimming with lakhs of visitors and book lovers browsing books, attending author sessions, children's activities, and power-packed cultural

performances. Announcing the next edition of New Delhi World Book Fair, which will be held from February 1 to 9, 2025, Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, National Book Trust India, expressed happiness on the success of the New Delhi World Book Fair 2024. He conveyed his gratitude to all the readers, publishers, co-organizing organizations, and media, and said, "We are confident that more publishers and readers will participate next year and the global identity of Indian publishing industry will be strengthened. Yuvraj Malik, Director, National Book Trust India, said, "The next edition will see larger participation of CEOs and fair directors of the world's book fairs, and more B2B sessions will be part of the Book Fair."

IEPFA inks pact with leading bank

On February 19, 2024, the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) and DBS Bank signed an MoU to utilize DBS Bank's digital platform to spread safety messages about investments and fraudulent schemes. During the

signing ceremony, Anita Shah Akella, CEO of IEPFA, highlighted the organisation's proactive approach in conducting Investor Awareness Programmes to increase financial literacy and empower investors against financial fraud.

GAIL CMD conferred 'CEO with HR Orientation' award

Sandeep Kumar Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, GAIL (India) Limited, has been conferred the 'CEO with HR Orientation' award at the 32nd World HRD Congress & Awards. Gupta received the award for his business-related HR sensitivity and savviness, communication effectiveness with and towards employees,

innovation within other HR disciplines and areas, and change management. Gupta is a commerce graduate and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. He has an experience of over 35 years in the oil and gas industry. Before joining GAIL in October 2022, he held the position of Director (Finance) since August 2019 on the Board of Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

BES organises exhibition on media technology

The 28th International Conference and Exhibition on Broadcast and Media Technology, organised by Broadcast Engineering Society (BES) at Pragati Maidan, was inaugurated by the Minister of I&B, Anurag Singh Thakur. Sanjay Jaju, Secretary, I&B; A.K Lahoti, Chairman TRAI; Gaurav Dwivedi, CEO, Prasar Bharati, were also present on the occasion. Thakur while addressing the audience called the Broadcast

Engineering Society a beacon of technological advancement and innovation in the field of broadcast engineering. He highlighted that through its annual expo over the last two decades, BES has provided a platform for industry professionals from around the world to converge, exchange ideas, and push the boundaries of possibility. The expo serves as a testament to their dedication, continuous pursuit of excellence, spirit of collaboration, and ingenuity that propels the broadcast industry forward.

Management Development Programme held

MSME-Development & Facilitation Office, Okhla, New Delhi, Ministry of MSME, has organised a week-long Management Development Programmes on digital marketing, export management, quality management on LEAN, Six Sigma, TQM, for the existing entrepreneurs. It is aimed at capacity building of MSMEs through inputs on management practice systems to

improve their decision-making capabilities resulting in higher productivity and profitability of existing and potential entrepreneurs and developing new enterprises. Inputs on a variety of topics of managerial functions are provided to the participants by expert faculty, which aim at dissemination of knowledge through scientific/ modern management techniques/practices.

PSB to empower MSME entrepreneurs

Punjab & Sind Bank has launched its one-of-a-kind MSME training programme, "PSB IGNITE," designed with their MSME customers at its heart. The official launch event was held at the Punjab

U. Saravanan, Chairman & Managing Director, National Fertilizers Limited (NFL), has been conferred with "CEO of the Year Award' at the Business Leader of the Year Awards function held in Mumbai on February 17, 2024.

& Sind Bank corporate office on February 12, 2024, and was graced by the presence of Dr. Vivek Joshi, Secretary, DoFS, Ministry of Finance. This flagship programme with the knowledge partner Poornatha, aims to equip entrepreneurs with financial and managerial concepts in regional language through practically implementable and simplified courses. PSB IGNITE, a transformative MSME training programme, signifies a major step towards fostering entrepreneurship and financial literacy. MSME customers of Punjab & Sind Bank can attend this course online.

Appointment

Mahesh Verma assigned addl. charge of VC of DPSRU

The Vice Chancellor of Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Padma Shri Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Verma, has been assigned the additional charge of the Vice Chancellor of Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences & Research University (DPSRU). Verma is also Professor Emeritus, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Sciences, New Delhi. He is the President of International Association of Dental Research (India) and member of Science Committee, World Dental Federation, Geneva, Switzerland. He is also recipient of Dr. B. C. Roy Award in the field of medicine.

TENDER NOTICE

ihat India Health Action Trust (IHAT)

105 & 105A, 1st Floor. Ratan Square. No. 20. Vidhan Sabha Marg
Lucknow - 226001, Uttar Pradesh.
Phone: +91 522 4057072. E-mail: procurement@ihat.in

Ref No. IHAT/LKO/2023-24/02/001 **TENDER NOTICE** Date: 20.02.2024

India Health Action Trust requests for proposals by reputed firm/ Company/Organization for Optimizing diagnostic networks to increase patient access to TB diagnostic services in Uttar Pradesh.

The detailed RfP document can be downloaded from IHAT website under Work With Us at Notifications page - http://ihat.in (https://www.ihat.in/notifications/) from 20.02.2024 to 04.03.2024.

Last date for submission of bids is 04.03.2024 at IHAT Lucknow Office as mentioned above.

Technical Bids will be opened on 05.03.2024 at 11.00 AM in IHAT office, Lucknow.

Note: Any change in the date of Bid submission or Bid Opening shall be updated on IHAT website.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Vijay S/o Kishan @ Vinod R/o B-4/420, Sultanpuri, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. **278/2021, U/s 420/34 IPC, PS Tilak Nagar, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Vijay** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Vijay** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Vijay** of FIR No. **278/2021, U/s 420/34 IPC, PS Tilak Nagar, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **10.04.2024.**

By Order
Sh. Devanshu Sajlan
Metropolitan Magistrate
West Room No. 289
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1771/WD/2024
(Court Matter)

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a female namely **Rupam Devi and Adarsh Kumar and Aryan Kumar W/o Rajeev Sharma, R/o** Rajeev Nagar Gurgaon has been missing since 02.02.2024 at 06:00 PM from N.Delhi Railway Station on P.F.No. 13, Leaving for Samastipur Bihar by train. In this regard a **DD No. 70A dt. 15.02.2024** has been registered at PS, NDRS, New Delhi. The description of missing female and sons is as under **Husband's Name :** Rajeev Sharma, **Age :** 27 years, **Height** : 5'5", **Complexion** : Fair, **Face :** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Blue Jeans Sky Blue Sweater Blue Shoes and **Name:** Adarsh Kumar, **Father's Name :** Rajeev Sharma, **Age :** 8 years, **Height** : 3'5" Inch, **Complexion** : Wheatish, **Face :** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Red Cloth Green Shoes in feet. **Name:** Aryan Kumar, **Father's Name :** Rajeev Sharma, **Age :** 6 years, **Height** : 2'5" Inch, **Complexion** : Wheatish, **Face :** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Navy Blue Jeans Green Shoes. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

SHO
P.S., New Delhi Railway Station
Ph.: 011-23744073, 23363622,8750871305

Website : http://cbi.nic.in e-mail : ciccbi@cbi.nic.in
Fax : 011-230111334, Ph. : 011-23014046, 30115229, 23015218, Extn. 210

DP/1931/Rly/2024

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr.PC.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ramandeep Singh Dua, S/o Harjeet Singh Dua,** R/o H.No. M-25, 3rd Floor, Shyam Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in **Cr. Case No. 7924/2021 & FIR No. 337/2021, U/S 188/269 IPC,** PS Rajouri Garden, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Ramandeep Singh Dua** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ramandeep Singh Dua** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ramandeep Singh Dua** of **Cr. Case No. 7924/2021 & FIR No. 337/2021, U/S 188/269 IPC,** PS Rajouri Garden, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.03.2024.

By Order
Milan Goel
Metropolitan Magistrate-02
Room No. 356, 3rd Floor
West District, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

DP/1866/WD/2024

Government of Punjab
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Punjab)

Bid Ref. no. :- E-tender/ PHSC/Proc/2024/126

The Department of Health and Family Welfare, Punjab (Punjab Health Systems Corporation, Mohali) invites online bids through https://eproc.punjab.gov.in for the procurement of Equipments under MPLAD Funds for Government supply in the State of Punjab.

Date, time and place of Pre-bid conference.	:	29/02/2024 at 11.30 a.m. in the Committee Room of Punjab Health Systems Corporation, Punjab School Education Building, 2nd Floor, Block – E S.A.S. Nagar -Mohali-160062. Phone no. 0172-2232245, 2232247.
Closing date & time	:	20.03.2024 till 12:30 p.m.

For details log on https://eproc.punjab.gov.in).

Note : Any Corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only. **All the prospective bidders are advised to check the website regularly. No representation in this regard shall be entertained at a later passage of time.**

-Sd-
MANAGING DIRECTOR

DPR/Pb.:PHSC/12/341/2023/32627

NUMALIGARH REFINERY LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)

E-AUCTION OF RAW PETROLEUM COKE (RPC)

Product	Qty	Auction date	Time
RPC	6000 MT	27.02.2024	11:00 AM to 01:00 PM for Assam (1st Auction)
	Left over quantity of 1st auction	01.03.2024	11:00 AM to 01:00 PM) for all (2nd Auction).

NB: The second auction on **01.03.2024 at 11:00 AM to 01.00 PM** is subject to any left-over quantity after the first auction is over.
Minimum upliftment by each bidder : 500 MT.
For more details bidders are requested to go through the Business Rule Document (BRD) available in the website.

Contact Details
Phone No. : 9904407998 ; 79-6813-6834
E-mail id: komal.d@eptl.in ; ashish.sharma@eptl.in

Customers are requested to visit **www.nrl.co.in** (Tenders) & **https://eprocure.procuretiger.com** for regular auction of Paraffin wax, Sulphur RPC & CPC. Any addendum/corrigendum of this notice shall be published on the above mentioned websites only.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (E)
RDSS Division, Electricity Department-II, New Delhi Municipal Council
Room No. 1804, 18th Floor, Palika Kendra, New Delhi: 110001

CORRIGENDUM

Name of Work:- RFP for SCADA/DMS Implementation for RDSS works in NDMC

Tender Value : Rs. Rs. 114,45,17,000/-
Tender ID No. : 2024_NDMC_251667_1

Corrigendum No.	Particulars	Extended Date	Revised Date
1.	Bid Submission End Date	19-Feb-2024 15:30 Hrs.	28-Feb-2024 15:30 Hrs.
	Bid Opening Date	19-Feb-2024 16:00 Hrs.	28-Feb-2024 16:00 Hrs.
2.	Amendment in Technical Bid		

Further details can be seen at **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in** and **https://www.ndmc.gov.in/tenders.aspx**

Note:- To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with application services provider NIC is mandatory.

Executive Engineer (E) RDSS

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur

RISL invites e-bids from the eligible bidders for the following:

NIB No./ Date/ Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost/ EMD	Start of sale /Last date
7388/08.02.2024 RIS2324SLOB00090	RFP for Selection of Agency for Facility Management Services for RTI Portal (RTI) for the period 3 Year.	Rs. 179.90 Lac Rs. 3.58 Lacs	21.02.2024 29.02.2024

Details can be seen on the websites **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in**, & **http://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in**. Bids are to be submitted through **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**.

Raj.Samwad/C/23/13206 **Dy. Director**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

(See Section 82 Cr. PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Ajit Singh S/o Saudan Singh R/o Meethai Hathras Maha Maya Nagar UP also Vill Nangla Bavi Post Tuksan PS Hathras Gate Distt: Hathras UP** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 392/2014, U/s 279 IPC at PS: Rajouri Garden, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Ajit Singh** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Ajit Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ajit Singh of FIR No. 392/2014, U/s 279 IPC of PS: Rajouri Garden, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 23.03.2024.**

By order
Milan Goel
Metropolitan Magistrate
Room No.356,
Tis Hazari Courts Delhi

DP/1901/WD/2024

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office : Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN : U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in

Extension of Time

Ref. **NIT No.:** WBSEDCL/IT&C/33.10(iv)/2441, **Dtd.:** 29.01.2024 of the Chief Engineer (IT&C), WBSEDCL. Bid Submission Closing Date is hereby extended up to **08.04.2024** (till **14:00 hrs.**)

For details, visit **https://wbtenders.gov.in** & **www.wbsedcl.in**

ICA- T4321(3)/2024

ग्रेटर नौएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
भूखण्ड संख्या–01, के0पी–04, ग्रेटर नौएडा सिटी, जिला– गौतमबुद्ध नगर (उ0प्र0)
website : www.greaternoidaauthority.in email id : authority@gnida.in

पत्रॉक:स्वा0वि0 / 2024 / 158 दिनांक :16 / 02 / 2024

ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

प्रभारी (निविदा सेल), ग्रेटर नोएडा औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण द्वारा मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, ग्रेटर नोएडा की ओर से ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–स्वा0वि0 / 2024 / 157, दिनांक 16.02.2024 के माध्यम से उल्लेखित क्रम सं0: 01 में अंकित कार्य की ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई–निविदा की समस्त नियम व शर्तें ग्रेटर नोएडा प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट: **www.greaternoidaauthority.in** पर ई–निविदा लिंक एवं ई–पोर्टल **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। किसी परिवर्तन, संशोधन व अतिरिक्त सूचनाओं के लिए उक्त वेबसाइटें देखते रहें।

क्र.सं.	कार्य का नाम / वर्क सर्किल	अनुमानित लागत
1.	Remmediation of temporary dumpsite Near Lakhnawali Village at Greater Noida through effective Biomining and Mechanized means with complete Reclamation of the dumpsite land (Part-2)	रु0 2947.09 लाख

उक्त कार्यों की निविदा दिनांक 20.02.2024 से 04.03.2024 को 17:00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है एवं प्राप्त ई–निविदाओं की प्री–क्वालिफिकेशन दिनांक 06.03.2024 को 11:00 बजे खोली जायेगी। **वरिष्ठ प्रबन्धक (निविदा सेल)**

Follow Us On / OfficialGNIDA

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
12वां वृत्त, लो0नि0वि0, पौडी
Office of The Superintending Engineer,
12th Circle, P.W.D. Pauri
Fax & Phone No. 01368-222322 E-mail- sepwdpauricircle@gmail.com

पत्रांक- 1124/141 याता.-12/2022-23 दिनांक:- 17.02.2024

शुद्धि–पत्र

इस कार्यालय के पत्र संख्या **883/141yata-12/2023-24 date 09.02.2024** द्वारा ई-टेण्डर के माध्यम से ऑन लाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की गई थी, जिसमें क्रम संख्या 1 में अंकित कार्य को जनपद पौड़ी के विधानसभा चौबट्टाखाल गवाणी–पोखड़ा मोटर मार्ग के कि0मी0 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11 एवं 18 में एसडी0बी0सी0 द्वारा नवीनीकरण का कार्य पढ़ा जाय।

(इं0 पी0एस0 बृजवाल)
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
12वां वृत्त, लो.नि.वि., पौडी

GUJARAT COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of Gujarat
Block B, 7th floor, M. S. Building, Sector - 11, Gandhinagar, Gujarat 382011 E-mail: ao-gujcost-gnr@gujarat.gov.in
Website: https://gujcost.gujarat.gov.in/

Request for Proposal for engagement of Construction and Maintenance Agency (CMA) for Regional Science Centres at Junagadh and Surat in Gujarat

Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST), working under the aegis of the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of Gujarat, invites interested bidders to participate in the competitive bidding process for **engagement of Construction and Maintenance Agency (CMA) for Regional Science Centres at Junagadh and Surat in Gujarat.**

The RFP document can be downloaded from any following website: https://www.nprocure.com, www.gujcost.gujarat.gov.in. **The last date for submission of online bid is 16th March 2024.** GUJCOST reserves the right to accept/reject any/all tender without assigning any reason. Other terms and conditions are mentioned in the tender document.

Date: 19/02/2024 **Advisor & Member Secretary GUJCOST**

INF/2520/23-24

U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD

E-Tender Notice

GEM Bid Notice-GEM/2024/B/4603890/S.E.(H.Q)/JTPS, WORK: Engagement of one 54 Seater Non AC bus (Model not below 2017) for taking the office staff of JVUNL from Etah City of Office at plant & Back on Monthly hire charges basis for 2x660 MW, JTPS, Malawan, Etah. Last Date and time for submission of Gem-bid (Technical & financial) at GeM Portal website https://gem.gov.in : **11.03.2024 at 12:00 Hrs.** Estimated cost: **Rs. 837600.00,** Excluding GST. Total Quality of Work, tender specification and other terms & condition is as per Bid document available on the GeM Portal, undersigned reserves the right to cancel the GeM-bids without assigning any reason. Corrigendum, addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.

Executive Engineer (Work)

पत्रांक : 28 / अधी0अभि0(मु0) / 2x660 मेवा / ज0ता0प0 / दिनांक 17.02.2024

"Save Electricity Enhance National Productivity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
INVITATION OF TENDERS THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM

Tender Notice No. 82240372 **Dated : 19.02.2024**

Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-

S. N.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	82240372	Tab/Cap Ursodeoxycholic Acid 300mg	7,19,000	20.03.2024

NOTE - 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. **www.ireps.gov.in** for details. **2.** No Manual offer will be entertained.

544/24

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

VISAKHAPATNAM INDUSTRIAL WATER SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

Tender Notice No: 01/2023-24/DIR(T)/SGM/GM(VIWSCO)/DB-III Dt. 19-02-2024
Number of Works : 01, Value of Works : Rs.987.77 Lakhs
Downloading Starting Date: 20.02.2024
Closing Date : 05.03.2024
Further details at http://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in
O/o GM(VIWSCO) Cell No.: 9912349448 **CMD(VIWSCO)**

श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी पोर्ट, कोलकाता
SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJEE PORT, KOLKATA
Formerly Kolkata Port Trust

NIT No. : SMPK/KDS/CIV/T/2820/02 Dated 02.02.2024
Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata invites bids for
EMPANELMENT OF CONSULTANTS FOR COMPREHENSIVE ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES

Mode of Tender: e mode through www.kopt.enivida.in | Last date of submission : 29.02.2024 up to 3:00 PM.

For details, please visit www.smportkolkata.shipping.gov.in

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 15-02-2024 **to** 18-02-2024
Stationery Department

Tender ID: 2024_STY_660219_1 * Controller of Stationery * Supply of Photocopying Paper A4 size (21 x 29.7 cm) * Closing Date: 01-Mar-2024 * PAC: Rs12500000

Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.

Ro.No:15-18/Feb/2024/PRD/(N)14

No. NHM/PB./TPT/2024/39 **Dated, Chd 19.02.2024**

Government of Punjab
Public Notice

State Health Society Punjab (National Health Mission Punjab) under Department of Health and Family Welfare, Punjab invites bids for hiring of 25 vehicles with services under Supportive Supervision at State Head Quarter (1 Toyota Innova Crysta and 24 Sedan vehicles) as per the terms and conditions laid down in the tender.

Sr. No.	Items	Quantity
1.	Vehicles under Supportive Supervision	25

Last date & time for Submission of Bids : 01/03/2024 up to 11:30 am
For details log onto : https://nhm.punjab.gov.in

Note : Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.

-sd-
Mission Director
NHM, Punjab

DPR/Pb. : NHM/12/104/2023/32604

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of India Enterprise - Mini Ratna)
CIN : L74899DL1999GOI101707

IRCTC invites OPEN E-TENDERS FOR PROVISION OF ONBOARD CATERING SERVICES IN TRAINS FOR A PERIOD OF 05 YEARS FURTHER EXTENDABLE UPTO 02 YEARS for cluster of trains. Last Date for submission and opening of the series of tender's will be **01st, 08th, 11th, 18th, 21st and 26th of March, 2024.**

For details of clusters, Tender document downloading & participation please visit on website: **www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC**.

In case of any corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on IRCTC's website **www.irctc.com** and **www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC**.

ecatering.irctc.co.in

Office Address: GGM/P & T, 11th Floor, Statesman House, B-148, Barakhamba Road, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110 001, E-mail: mobilecatg.tend.com, Tel.: 011-23311263-64, Fax: 011-23311259

KRIBHCO GREEN ENERGY PVT. LTD. (KGEPL)
(100% owned subsidiary of KRIBHCO)
Noida, Uttar Pradesh | Tel: 0120-2543762

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

KGEPL invites Expression of Interest from reputed and experienced parties for selling up a Carbon Dioxide recovery and purification plant on Built, Own, Operate and Transfer (the "BOOT") basis along with Long term offtake of all Carbon Dioxide produced from the bio ethanol projects at following sites:

1. Kribhco Fertifilizer Complex, PO Kribhco Nagar, Hazira, Surat, Gujarat and
2. Sarvepalli Bit-II (Village), Venkatachalam Mandal, SPSR Nellore, Andhra Pradesh.

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TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

ED GRANTS MAHUA MOITRA A WEEK'S TIME TO APPEAR FOR QUESTIONING IN FEMA CASE

STALIN-LED TN GOVT URGES CENTRE TO TAKE UP CASTE CENSUS ALONG WITH NATIONAL CENSUS

HC upholds life terms for 11 in '12 murder of Kerala CPM rebel

Sets Aside Acquittal Of 2 Former CPM Members & Issues Warrants

Abhilash Ramachandran | TNN

Kochi: Kerala high court upheld on Monday the conviction and life sentences handed down to 11 convicts, three of them CPM members (one of the three died while serving his sentence), by the Kozhikode additional sessions court in the 2012 TP Chandrasekharan murder case. It dismissed the convicts' appeal.

A division bench of Justices AK Jayasankaran Nambiar and Kauser Edappagathu also pronounced six of the convicts — Anoop, Kirmani Manoj, Kodi Suni, Rajeesh, Muhammad Shafi and Shinoj — guilty of criminal conspiracy under IPC Section 120B.

It set aside the acquittal of two accused — former CPM Onchiyam area committee member KK Krishnan and former CPM local committee member Geothi Babu — finding them also guilty under Sec 120B, read with IPC Sec 302 (murder). HC directed the convicts to be presented for a hearing on sentencing under this section on Feb 26 and issued non-bailable warrant warrants for Krishnan and Babu.

TP Chandrasekharan, founder of Revolutionary Marxist Party, was hacked to death on May 4, 2012. The accused apparently resented him for leaving CPM to establish a new political entity

The bench directed nine convicts handed life term (except PK Kunhanandan and PV Rafeeq) to be present on Feb 26 to address prosecution's plea for enhanced sentence. It upheld the three-year jail term for Lambu Pradeepan (accused 31) and confirmed the acquittal of the remaining 22 accused, including CPM Kozhikode district secretary P Mohanan.

The case pertains to the killing of Chandrasekharan (52), founder and leader of Revolutionary Marxist Party, on May 4, 2012. He was hacked to death by a gang while returning home on his bike. The motive, as per the case, was that the accused, some of whom were CPM members, resented Chandrasekharan for leaving the party and establishing a new political entity.

Opposition leader V D Satheesan claimed the HC verdict further proved the role of CPM in the murder. He said UDF would support K K Rema's (Chandrasekaran's wife) decision to appeal against the acquittal of Mohanan and other leaders.

The division bench considered multiple appeals, including those filed by 12 convicts against their sentence, by the prosecution for maximum punishment, and by Chandrasekaran's wife challenging the acquittal of Mohanan.

The Kozhikode additional sessions court had sentenced MC Anoop; Manoj, alias Kirmani Manoj; NK Sunil Kumar, alias Kodi Suni; TK Rajeesh; Mohammad Shafi; S. Sijith, alias Annan Sijith; K Shinoj; KC Ramachandran (former CPM Kunnummakkara local committee member); Manoj, alias Trouser Manoj (former CPM Kadungapoyil branch secretary); PK Kunhanandan (former CPM Panoor area committee member); and PV Rafeeq, alias Vazhappadachi Rafeeq; to life imprisonment. Among life-term convicts, CPM area committee member Kunhanandan died in June 2020 while serving his sentence. The court pronounced the verdict in 2014, and 24 of the 36 accused were acquitted.

Why be so patriarchal, SC asks govt for denying women PC in Coast Guard

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New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday pulled up Centre for its patriarchal approach by not granting permanent commission to women officers in Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and asked why it cannot treat women officers equal to their male counterparts in ICG as being done by the Army, Navy and Air Force.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said court would intervene to ensure that justice is done and it would not confine to one case where the officer had approached the court. Court was hearing a plea of Priyanka Tyagi who was denied permanent entry into the Coast Guard.

"You speak of 'Nari Shakti'. Now show it here. You are in the deep end of the sea here. I don't think Coast Guard can say they can fall out of the line when the Army, Navy and Air Force have done it," the CJI told Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Vikramjit Banerjee, who submitted that Coast Guard operates in a different domain compared to the Army and Navy.

In her 14-year stint as a pilot with ICG as a short service appointment officer in the rank of assistant commandant, Tyagi saved more than 300 lives in sea, logged 4,500 flying hours — highest among men and women in the armed forces. Despite achievements, she was denied permanent commission. Citing grant of permanent commission to women in all three wings of armed forces, she had moved Delhi HC which refused to grant interim relief by directing ICG to continue her service till a judicial decision is made. She thereafter moved SC.

Hearing her plea, the bench said it would expand ambit of the case to examine the policy and would not be confined to only one case. The court asked ASG to take instructions from Centre.

"Forget about her case, we will now deal with what you do to others. We are SC...we will see that justice is done for women in ICG. We will open up the whole canvas, you better take instructions with what you want to do," the bench said.

"Why be so patriarchal that you do not want to see the face of women in the Coast Guard segment? You have women in the Navy. What is so special about the Coast Guard? What is so distinctive about the Coast Guard ... Times are gone when we said women cannot be in the Coast Guard. If women can guard the borders, they can guard the coasts as well," it added.

'YOU'RE IN THE DEEP END OF THE SEA'

"We are the Supreme Court... **we'll see justice is done for women in ICG.** We'll open up the whole canvas, you better take instructions with what you want to do

"You are in the deep end of the sea here. I don't think Coast Guard can say they can fall out of the line when the Army, Navy and Air Force have done it

Army, Navy and Air Force have done it

"Why be so patriarchal that you do not want to see the face of women in Coast Guard segment? You have women in the Navy. What is so special about the Coast Guard... **If women can guard the borders, they can guard the coasts as well**

—SC BENCH

China building villages on disputed Bhutan border

Beijing: China is reportedly pressing ahead with construction as well as expansion of border villages in disputed territories with Bhutan, despite ongoing border talks between the two countries, the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

China has been pressing ahead with its plans to build well-furnished villages on both Indian and Bhutan borders. China's attempts to build a road in Doklam plateau — close to the Siliguri corridor — in 2017 had resulted in an India-China stand-off, which ended only after Beijing dropped its construction plans.

The rapid expansion began as a poverty alleviation scheme but serves a dual national security role, the report quoted Chinese Communist Party officials as saying.

On Dec 28 the first batch of people — made up of 38 households from the Tibetan city of Shigatse — moved into the newly expanded Tamalung village, the report said, quoting a statement by Tibet Federation of Industry and Commerce. "The village is one of at least three built by China inside disputed zone. Local govts in Tibet Autonomous Region led a rapid expansion of border villages last year, with Tamalung doubling in size in the latter half of 2023," the report stated. Satellite imagery shows 147 new houses. The village expansion was designed to accommodate 235 households, in addition to the 200 people who were living there in just 70 homes in 2022.

To the east of Tamalung, another border village, Gyalaphug, also doubled in size last year after 16 sq km was cleared to make way for more than 150 houses. Satellite imagery shows new homes sitting next to an existing four rows of dwellings and a Communist Party community centre with a small library and other amenities, the report said.

China and Bhutan do not have diplomatic relations but maintain contact through periodic visits by officials. While China has resolved its boundary disputes with its 12 other neighbours, India and Bhutan are the only two countries with whom it is yet to sign border agreements.

In recent years, China has stepped up efforts to establish full-fledged diplomatic ties with Bhutan and to expedite negotiations to settle the vexed border dispute, which was complicated by Beijing's attempts to claim Doklam despite Thimphu's assertions that the area belonged to it. PTI

Ladakh outfits say Centre has agreed to talks on statehood

New Delhi: Centre has agreed to discuss demands like statehood for Ladakh, its inclusion in Sixth Schedule of the Constitution and setting up of a public service commission exclusively for Union Territory, the Apex Body of Leh (ABL) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) said on Monday, following talks with a high-powered committee led by junior home minister Nitiyanand Rai.

The agreement was arrived at a meeting of a 14-member delegation of ABL and KDA, representing various Ladakh organisations, with the high-powered committee, said a joint press statement issued by ABL and KDA. The two organisations also decided to call off "for the time being" their plan to proceed on a hunger strike from Tuesday "in view of this significant development".

The meeting at North Block resolved to constitute a joint sub-committee to discuss the demands. The other demands of the delegation include raising the number of LS seats in Ladakh and more job opportunities for locals. TNN

Tribal outfit's call to skip work paralyses offices in Manipur dist

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Guwahati: Govt offices in Manipur's violence-hit Churachandpur recorded thin attendance Monday following a key tribal body's appeal to employees to stay off work unless DC and SP are removed and security personnel involved in the killing of two people during a protest on Feb 15 are punished.

The staff were absent despite govt's warning of "no work, no pay". Attendance was sparse in neighbouring Pherzawl district as well. Medical, finance, education and power sectors were exempted by Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF). Markets and private establishments were open.

Late Monday, however, ITLF withdrew its appeal "in the interest of the general public" but "ordered" DC and SP to "depart" for their safety. "It has come to light that the two officials have risked their lives to return to the district. They are now responsible for their own safety," an ITLF notice read.

At the same time, ITLF urged calm. "ITLF regrets that the incident on Feb 15, 2024. We ask people to refrain from engaging in such aggressive behaviour going forward. Anyone who engages in such hostile behaviour in the future will be held responsible for their actions and will have to bear the repercussions on their own," ITLF notice stated.

A head constable in Churachandpur was suspended last Thursday after a clip went viral purportedly showing him with armed men.

PTI

A govt office in Churachandpur wears a deserted look on Monday

Man dies in cop custody, family alleges torture

Shamli: The family of 34-year-old Furqan Ahmad, from UP's Shamli whose body was "returned to his house minutes after he was picked up by cops from his place" on Sunday night, alleged on Monday that he died due to "police torture", reports **Sachin Sharma**.

Ahmad's brother Salman said, "My brother was picked up by a police team led by Vinay Kumar. About 15 minutes later, the cops returned him. He had marks on his back and was unconscious." Refuting the allegations, a cop said, "A team went to arrest 'Farukh', a wanted suspect. When police were conducting a raid , Ahmad tried to flee his house, which raised suspicion among cops. Ahmad was found not involved in the case and let off. Moments later, police were informed of Ahmad's death."

To realise fine, court to give TN 27kg of Jaya's gold & diamonds

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Chennai: The 36th city civil court in Bengaluru announced on Monday that it will hand over 27kg of gold and diamond jewellery belonging to late Tamil Nadu chief minister **J Jayalalithaa** to the home secretary of her state on Mar 6-7, the beginning of final judicial process to sell her assets to mobilise the Rs 100 crore fine imposed on her.

The move comes nearly 10 years after Jayalalithaa was convicted and sentenced to four years' imprisonment in a corruption case, and more than seven years since her death. The court's present proceedings are to auction movable and immovable assets of Jayalalithaa. After the jewellery is auctioned, the court will bring her immovable assets to auction.

While 20 kg of jewellery will be sold or auctioned to realise the fine, 7kg is exempt as it is deemed as inherited from her mother. For its part, Canfin Homes Ltd, where Jayalalithaa had an account, handed over almost Rs 60 lakh to the special court on Monday.

Special judge Mohan passed the order recording the fact that as directed by him earlier, Tamil Nadu govt had issued a GO on Feb 16 authorising the home secretary and an inspector-general of police from the directorate of vigilance and anti-corruption to come to Bengaluru court and receive the gold and diamond jewellery.

The judge said the officers must bring "along a photographer and videographer, and six trunks with necessary security, for collecting the jewels". He added: "Further, registrar, city civil court, is instructed to make necessary security arrangements with local police for the purpose of handing over the jewels to the state of Tamil Nadu."

In Sept 2014, special judge John Michael D'Cunha had convicted J Jayalalithaa, N Sasikala, J Ilavarasi and V N Sudhakaran and had sentenced all of them to undergo four years' imprisonment each. Jayalalithaa was fined Rs 100 crore, and the other three Rs 10 crore each.

Though Karnataka HC acquitted all of them on May 11, 2015, SC restored judge D'Cunha's order on Feb 14, 2017.

In 3rd attack this year, tiger kills boy in Pilibhit

Pilibhit: An 18-year-old Class X student was killed by a tiger when he had gone out to answer nature's call near a pond at Pandari village in UP's Pilibhit district on Monday, reports **Keshav Agarwal**.

Naveen Khandelwal, divisional forest officer of Pilibhit Tiger Reserve, said the deceased's family will receive a compensation of Rs 5 lakh, including Rs 4 lakh from State Disaster Response Fund & Rs 1 lakh from the forest department.

This is the third fatal man-tiger conflict in Pilibhit this year. In Jan, two villagers — Swaroop Singh of Purainideep Nagar & Ganga Ram of Jamunia Aaspur — lost their lives to tiger attacks in the district.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU

SC stays criminal case against Sidda filed for holding political rally

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday stayed criminal proceedings against Karnataka CM **Siddaramaiah** & other Congress functionaries, including Randeep Surjewala, for holding political demonstrations and protests on public roads against previous state govt run by BJP.

Though a bench initially observed that whether politicians could be exempted from criminal proceedings when common people are booked for holding protest without permission, it, however, agreed to hear their plea after senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Kapil Sibal submitted that people have fundamental right to hold peaceful protest and law and order problems could not be invoked as a ground to penalise them.

The court issued notice to Karnataka govt and respondents on their plea against the order of Karnataka HC refusing to quash the criminal proceedings.

TN ex-MLA gets a month's jail for derogatory post on women

Actor and former AIADMK MLA S Ve Shekher, who later joined BJP, has been found guilty and sentenced to one-month simple imprisonment by a special court for his six-year-old derogatory social media remarks against a woman scribe, reports **Sureshkumar K.** The actor made the remarks in 2018, days after the journalist objected to the then Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit patting her cheek during a meeting. Based on a complaint, cops registered an FIR under various sections of IPC and Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Harassment of Woman Act.

Since he was a former MLA, the case was moved to the special court in Chennai. On Monday, assistant sessions judge G Jayavel held the prosecution had proved the offence against the accused beyond reasonable doubt. The court imposed a fine of Rs 15,000 on the actor.

Digi Yatra hits 1.4cr users, led by Del & B'luru

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Digi Yatra, the face-scan biometric technology that allows travellers to pass through airports without a boarding pass or an identity card, has been used by a total 1.4 crore passengers in 14 months since its launch in Dec 2022. Delhi and Bengaluru have recorded, by far, most Digi Yatra users, according to a source from Union civil aviation ministry.

Available at 13 airports across India, Digi Yatra app's usage has risen steadily even as passenger traffic soars and queues at terminal gates lengthen. It was downloaded by 46 lakh users as of Feb 10, 20% up from 38 lakh users as on Jan 1.

Digi Yatra was initially launched at Delhi, Bengaluru, Varanasi in Dec 2022, followed by Vijayawada, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Pune in April 2023. Mumbai airport, a late entrant, introduced it in Aug 2023, but only at terminal 2. As of Feb 11, close to 3 lakh passengers have used Digi Yatra at Mumbai Terminal 2.

iStock

SCAN & FLY: The mobile app can be used at 13 airports across the country and has been downloaded by 46 lakh users as of Feb 10

At the end of the first year, 1.1 crore passengers had used it across India for a seamless travel experience through airports. Apart from a smooth entry into terminal, separate Digi Yatra queues for access to security checkpoints make the app popular. By Jan 31 this year, users had gone up to 1.3 crore and by Feb 11, the number was 1.4 crore passengers, said the ministry source.

So what can a passenger expect from Digi Yatra experience? For one, Digi Yatra passengers have exclusive gates. "Digi Yatra line vs normal line, saved me 20 minutes at least? India tech stack," Tej Kapoor, managing partner of a venture capital firm tweeted on Saturday. According to Delhi airport website, processing time per Digi Yatra passenger at a gate is 3 seconds.

In contrast, the conventional queue has CISF personnel manually checking the boarding pass and verifying date of journey, passenger's name and face with his/her identity card, comparatively a much longer process.

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd.
(A Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ, CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425
Address: SUDA Bhawan, 7/23, Sector-7, Gomati Nagar Extension, Lucknow

Advertisement No:- UPMSCL/HR/2023-24/1704 Dated: 17/02/2024

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited invites application for the following positions on Deputation/ Contractual:

Sr. No.	Designation	Maximum Age Limit (In year)	Vacancy	Category	Mode of Recruitment	Honoraria in INR (Monthly)	Essential Qualification	Post Qualification experience
1	Pharmacist (Quality Control)	45	1	UR	Deputation/ Contractual	47600-50000 Pay Matrix 8 (in case of Deputation)	Applicants must have B.Pharma degree OR Graduate in Science (Chemistry/ Bio-Chemistry) Discipline from a recognized university/Institution	Applicant must have minimum Two years experience in drug quality control

* Interested Candidates must send their application form in the prescribed format along with self attested relevant document by speed post/registered AD from Indian Postal Department by mentioning on the envelop " Application for the (Post Name)" to GM (AHL), SUDA Bhawan 7/23 sector -7 Gomti Nagar extention, Lucknow PIN:226010. Applications sent by any other mode shall not be entertained. Submission of Application Starts from February 20, 2024. * The Last Date of Submission of Application is 19 March, 2024 at 05:00 PM.* Regular government (Department/Corporations/Institutions) employees with suitable experience on seniority (matrix level) are encouraged to apply on deputation. * Vacancies shall be subject to the State reservation policy of Uttar Pradesh. * Age relaxation for candidate applying on Deputation shall be in accordance to Govt. of UP Service Norms. * Please note January 01 ,2024 shall be taken as a reference date for computing age, qualification, experience etc. Application not received on prescribed format will be rejected. Application format may be download from the Website:- **www.upmsc.in**

For vacancy notification and other related detailed information please visit www.upmsc.in

Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

SVC CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. (Multi-State Scheduled Bank)
(Formerly The Shamrao Vithal Co-op Bank Ltd.)

Notice to Existing Equity Shareholders Of SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd. (Formerly The Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Ltd.).

Notice is hereby given to all Regular Members (Members) of SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd. (Formerly The Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Ltd.) (hereinafter referred to as "SVC Bank"). The Bye-Laws of SVC Bank require individual members to hold minimum 50 equity shares and non-individual Members to hold 100 equity shares. SVC Bank has in the past notified its Members holding less than the qualifying shares to increase their holdings so as to qualify to continue as Members of SVC Bank. A request is now being made to all Members who hold less than the qualifying number of shares to buy the required number of additional shares before 28th March 2024.

SVC Bank has amended its Bye-Laws to change the face value of its shares from Rs. 25/- (Rupees Twenty Five) to Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten). This will take effect from 1st April 2024. Members holding odd number of shares will therefore need to buy one share of Rs. 25/- before 28th March, 2024 to facilitate conversion. In case the Member does not purchase the additional one share, the fractional amount of Rs. 5/- would be refunded to the Members and the balance shares will be converted into shares with face value of Rs.10/- each. From 1st April 2024, minimum qualifying holding of individual Member will be 125 shares of Rs.10/- each and 250 shares of Rs.10/- each for non-individual Members.

Hence we request, all individual Members who hold less than 50 equity shares and non-individual Members who hold less than 100 equity shares to apply for additional equity share/s on or before 28th March, 2024.

SVC Bank has launched an online portal for application of additional equity share/s for it's Members. Those Members, whose mobile numbers and/or email addresses are registered with SVC Bank will receive an SMS/email with an embedded link to apply for additional equity share/s online. Those Members whose mobile numbers/email addresses are not registered with the Bank are requested to approach any SVC Bank's Branch (visit www.svcbank.com to find the nearest branch) with an identity proof and Membership details for application of additional equity share/s. In case of any queries please write to sharesdept@svcbank.com or call on +91 022-66999999/66999775 during business days and hours.

We request co-operation from concerned Members and request you to apply for the requisite number of equity share/s on or before 28th March, 2024. We also request all Members to update their mobile numbers/email addresses/current demographic details, to enable SVC Bank to share important updates about their shareholding periodically.

Sd/-
Ravinder Singh
Managing Director
SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd.

Date: 20.02.2024

SVC Tower, Jawaharlal Nehru Road, Vakola, Santacruz (East), Mumbai 400055.

Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi takes over as Army Vice Chief

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lt-General **Upendra Dwivedi**, who was commissioned into 18 Jammu & Kashmir Rifles in Dec 1984, on Monday took over as the new Army Vice Chief. He will be the senior-most Lt-Gen in the 12-lakh strong force when Gen Manoj Pande retires on May 31.

Lt-Gen M V Suchindra Kumar, who was commissioned into 1 Assam Regiment in June 1985, in turn, replaced Lt-Gen Dwivedi as the general officer commanding-in-chief of the crucial Udhampur-based Northern Command.

During his two-year tenure as GoC-in-C of Northern Command, Lt-Gen Dwivedi provided "strategic guidance and operational oversight" for planning and executing sustained operations along the northern and western borders with China and Pakistan, in addition to overseeing counter-terrorism operations in J&K. "During this period, Gen Dwivedi was actively engaged in the ongoing negotiations with China in resolving the vexed border issue. He was also involved in modernisation and equipping of the Army's largest command," a senior officer said.

Centre's 5-crop MSP proposal not a lasting solution: Experts

'Move Doesn't Address Crisis Thoroughly'

Vibhor Mohan & Neel Kamal | TNN

PTI

Protesting farmers at Shambhu border near Patiala district on Monday

Chandigarh/Bathinda: Agricultural scientists, economists and experts weighed in Monday on Union govt's proposal to buy five crops on minimum support price (MSP) under a legal framework for five years. While some saw the offer as a step towards revitalising alternative crops, others remained sceptical, considering it as a temporary fix for the crisis and doubting its effectiveness as a long-term solution.

During talks Sunday night with farmer unions, govt offered to purchase cotton, maize, arhar/tur, masur, and urad through National Cooperative Consumer Federation (NCCF), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (Nafed), and Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for five years.

Economist Sucha Singh Gill criticised the proposal, stating that limiting MSP to four or five crops does not address the crisis comprehensively. He emphasised the need for MSP calculations for all 23 crops to ensure fair prices nationwide. "The way govt is speaking about diversification, it seems it is concentrating only on Punjab and Haryana while paddy is grown in many states. Govt should consider the entire country."

For his part, Satish Verma from Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID) viewed the proposal positively, suggesting that the offer could facilitate crop diversification away from water-intensive paddy cultivation. "If Centre offers a convincing plan, farmers should go for it. Number of crops can be increased from five," he said, highlighting the viability of alternative crops like pulses and maize.

However, agriculture economist Sardara Singh Johl noted that the offer resembles contract farming. "Pulses will promote diversification only if they replace rice and wheat. Otherwise, these will be grown as summer crops and end up in intensive farming that could strain groundwater resources."

Agriculture policy expert Devinder Sharma questioned the proposal's efficacy, underscoring that market prices for the three pulses are already higher than MSP. He expressed concerns about the offer's implications and its Punjab focus. "Why is it called contract farming for five years? Is it an attempt to bring back the (withdrawn) farm laws through the backdoor?"

Economist Ranjit Singh Ghuman said Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommended MSP before but it was not implemented. "Now, an offer has been made for five years. What happens after?" he asked.

Another farmer dies of heart attack amid stir

Bharat.Khanna @timesgroup.com

Patiala: A 45-year-old farmer associated with BKU (Ekta Ugrahan), Narinder Pal of Bathoi Kalan village in Patiala, died of a heart attack Sunday while protesting outside the residence of former Punjab CM Amarinder Singh. This is the third death during the ongoing farmers' stir.

Other protesters took Narinder to Rajindra Hospital, a govt facility, when he reported feeling unwell at night, but he could not be saved. Hospital's medical superintendent Dr H S Rekhi said: "The body was moved to the mortuary for an autopsy, after which the farmer's family can claim it."

Patiala unit president of BKU (Ekta Ugrahan), Jaswinder Singh Baras, said Narinder had two daughters and a son, and had a debt of Rs 10 lakh. Dalbara Singh Chajla, a member of the farmer union, said, "We won't cremate the body or allow any autopsy until someone from Narinder's family is given a govt job, compensation of Rs 10 lakh and full debt waiver."

Average wholesale onion prices up 40% at Lasalgaon

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Nashik: Average wholesale prices of onions at Lasalgaon Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC) increased by 40% on Monday, a day after Union minister Bharati Pawar announced the Centre's decision to withdraw the ban on its export, subject to a cap that will be specified in a detailed notification soon.

Although the Centre is yet to come out with a formal notification on the withdrawal of export ban, Pawar, MoS and MP from Dindori (Nashik rural), said the decision was taken at a meeting of Union govt's group of ministers, led by home minister Amit Shah.

An APMC official said the development had a positive impact on the average prices at Lasalgaon, the country's largest wholesale onion market.

The average prices of the bulbs at Lasalgaon rose to Rs 1,800 per quintal on Monday from Saturday's Rs 1,280 per quintal. The minimum and maximum wholesale prices were recorded at Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,100 per quintal, respectively, during the day, when around 10,000 quintals of onions were auctioned.

Another APMC official said the onion exporters "have also started buying the produce for selling it in the overseas markets".

On Dec 7 last year, the Centre had imposed a ban on onion exports till March 31, 2024, in a bid to cater to the demand in the domestic markets and stabilise the wholesale prices.

Central govt is yet to come out with a formal notification on the withdrawal of export ban. On Dec 7 last year, the govt had imposed a ban on onion exports till March 31, 2024, in a bid to stabilise the wholesale prices

Following the move, average wholesale onion prices had crashed by 67% in the past two-and-a-half months —from Rs 3,950 per quintal on Dec 6 last year to Rs 1,280 per quintal on Feb 17.

As the cost of onion production was Rs 1,800 per quintal, farmers said they incurred losses if the produce fetched rates below that. The onion growers claimed they had incurred heavy losses and could not recover production cost during the last two-and-a-half months.

Neighbours to get shipments, but no blanket plan to lift ban

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New Delhi: India is set to allow export of around 3 lakh tonne of onion till March end to neighbouring countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Mauritius which have approached govt after it banned overseas shipment of the kitchen commodity. There is no blanket proposal to lift the ban.

Sources said the proposal for exporting onions to these countries was put before the group of ministers headed by home minister Amit Shah last week for approval. The countries had written to the external affairs ministry seeking import of onions to meet their domestic demand.

The modalities with "terms and conditions" for export will be notified in a week, sources said. Though the volumes will be less, it will send a positive message to farmers in Maharashtra who have been demanding a total lifting of the ban on exports. Govt had imposed a ban on Dec 7, 2023 and it's effective till March.

Data show that the retail prices have fallen to Rs 20 a kg from Rs 60 per kg in December last year due to the ban on export and arrival of kharif crop.

Raj tribal Cong MLA, tipped for Lok Sabha run, joins BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Jaipur: Mahendrajeet Singh Malviya, a Rajasthan Congress MLA and former minister seen as a front-runner for a Lok Sabha ticket, joined BJP on Monday. The entry capped a week of speculation about the plans of Malviya (63), a two-term MP and four-term MLA from the tribal Dungarpur-Banswara region in the state's south.

The switch was finalised in a Sunday night meeting with home minister Amit Shah, BJP president J P Nadda and CM Bhajanlal Sharma. Malviya was part of CWC, Congress's highest decision-making body.

Speaking at the state BJP headquarters here, Malviya declared that the vision and leadership of PM Narendra Modi had led him to return to his "old house". He recalled his association with ABVP during his school and college years. "I listened to the addresses of PM Modi and home minister Shah at the (BJP) national conference yesterday and I was stunned by their grand vision for the country," Malviya said.

Elaborating, Malviya said he had realised that "the development of the tribal regions of Rajasthan, Gujarat, and MP is not possible without PM Modi". The MLA described it as "deeply hurtful" that top Congress leaders rejected the invitation to the Jan 22 consecration at Ayodhya's Ram Temple.

The exit of Malviya — seen as the tallest leader in Dungarpur-Banswara belt — creates a vacuum for Congress before LS polls. Malviya is likely to be fielded by BJP from the same seat. If Malviya's exit is a blow, more such high-profile departures from Congress loom. Former minister Lalchand Kataria and four-time MLA Richpal Mirdha are reportedly eyeing entry into BJP, but the plans seem to have stalled for now.

Govt co-ops to buy maize at MSP for supply to distilleries

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Making a beginning for assured procurement of maize at MSP, govt has issued a standard operating procedure (SOP) through which cooperatives such as Nafed and NCCF will sign deals with distillers for uninterrupted supply of the crop for ethanol production.

The SOP comes at a time when govt is negotiating with protesting farmers in Punjab and is trying to convince them to call off the protest. As per the SOP, govt cooperatives will ensure assured supply of maize at Rs 2,291 per quintal for ethanol manufacturing while they will buy the crop from farmers at an MSP of Rs 2,090 quintal for the kharif season. This will serve the purpose of uninterrupted supply of the feedstock to distilleries and ensure the guaranteed MSP to farmers.

Sources said govt agencies have got a target to procure one lakh tonnes each this season and will go full throttle from the next rabi season

Cooperative minister Amit Shah had announced the plan last month. He had said the two agencies would start registration of maize procurement and these would make arrangements for selling farmers maize at MSP directly to the ethanol manufacturing factory. This will ensure there is no exploitation of the farmer.

Sources said the agencies have got a target to procure one lakh tonnes each this season and will go full throttle from the next rabi season. This will ensure achieving the target of 20% ethanol blending by 2025.

Since maize production is lower this year and rice is not being made available to grain-based distilleries, it's selling above MSP. "The real test will be when there is normal production of maize and rice, and it is made available for ethanol production. It is to be seen whether govt will make it mandatory for distilleries to use certain percentage of maize for ethanol production," said a source.

SC quizzes Chd RO, threatens prosecution if he's not truthful

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesgroup.com

PTI

Anil Masih, returning officer for Chandigarh mayoral election, outside Supreme Court Monday

New Delhi: Supreme Court Monday quizzed returning officer Anil Masih, who has been accused of defacing ballot papers in the Chandigarh mayoral election leading to a BJP win.

"Mr Masih, I am asking you questions. If you are not giving a truthful answer, you will be prosecuted. This is a serious matter. We have seen the video. What were you doing looking at the camera putting out crosses on the ballot papers? Why were you putting marks on ballot papers?" the bench asked.

As the court pointed out that it was very evident from the video that he was putting X marks on certain ballot papers, Masih admitted he had indeed put marks on eight ballot papers but clarified that he did so as those papers were already defaced. The court thereafter called for ballot papers to be examined and passed the order.

Advocate general of Punjab and senior advocate Gurminder Singh mentioned that an "interesting development" had taken place since the last hearing and told SC "horse trading" happened. CJI responded in a lighter vein, "we also read newspapers". At the end of the hearing, the bench expressed concern on the "whole business of horse trading".

Appearing for Chandigarh administration, solicitor general Tushar Mehta opposed the submission that the result be declared on basis of votes cast and urged the court to order fresh polls to be conducted by a returning officer appointed by it.

At the last hearing, the court had slammed RO Masih, observing that the election "was a mockery of democracy" and accused him of murdering democracy. "Is this the behaviour of an RO? He looks at the camera, defaces the ballot... Please tell your RO SC is watching over him," CJI had said.

Sharad Pawar welcomes SC order, calls it a win for voters

▶Continued from P 1

Issue notice. Counter-affidavit to be filed in two weeks, rejoinder if any within one week thereafter ... Order of the Election Commission dated 7th Feb, granting the petitioner right to use name NCP Sharad-Chandra Pawar as per Symbols Order, shall continue," a bench of of Justices Surya Kant and K V Viswanathan said.

Pressing for interim relief, senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Sharad Pawar, submitted that his client would now have to obey the whip of Ajit Pawar if the court does not grant relief. His plea was strongly opposed by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Ajit Pawar.

The commission passed the order after evaluating the applicability of three tests, i.e., 'Test of Aims and Objectives of the Party Constitution', 'Test of Party Constitution' and 'Test of Majority', to decide the dispute. The commission ruled in favour of Ajit Pawar faction as 57 affidavits were filed by NCP MPs, MLAs and MLCs in favour of Ajit Pawar faction and only 28 affidavits filed in support of Sharad Pawar.

Meanwhile, Sharad Pawar welcomed the SC order. "It is a win for the voters as Supreme Court observed that the voters of the country should not be undermined and questioned what about the fact that candidates have fought on the ticket of the original party," he said on social media platform X.

"We bow down to Supreme Court for recognising us as Nationalist Congress Party – Sharadchandra Pawar, in the interim and having directed ECI to consider our application for a symbol within seven days," Sharad Pawar added.

Today, some may call even Sudama's gift to Krishna a bribe: Modi

Sandeep.Rai@timesgroup.com

PM Modi takes part in a puja during foundation stone-laying ceremony of Shri Kalki Dham in Sambhal on Monday

Sambhal: Laying the foundation stone of the Kalki Dham Temple in Sambhal, considered a stronghold of Samajwadi Party, on Monday, PM Modi said "the wheel of time has turned for India and the country is not following others but setting an example for the world."

"If temples are being built today, new medical colleges are coming up too. Our pilgrimage sites are being developed and hi-tech infra created in the cities," Modi said.

"Today, our ancient sculptures and ancient idols are being brought back from other countries, and foreign investment is also coming in record numbers," he added.

The PM reiterated his call for 'Ram Rashtra'. "Like Lord Ram, Kalki avatar will determine the course of thousands of years... God has given me the duty to rebuild a 'rashtriya rupi mandir' (the temple that is India)," he added.

"I am confident that Kalki Dham will emerge as another revered centre of faith. We can say that Kalki is the initiator of change in the cycle of time and is also a source of inspiration. Kalki Dham is going to be a place dedicated to the god who is yet to take incarnation," said Modi.

"This kind of concept regarding the future was written in our scriptures hundreds and thousands of years ago. This is amazing," he added.

UP CM Yogi Adityanath, expelled Congress leader Acharya Pramod Krishnam (who is also the chairman of Kalki Dham Nirman Trust), and thousands of sadhus and commoners were also present on the occasion.

Earlier in the day, welcoming the PM, Krishnam said, "Today saints have gathered from across the country to witness the fulfilment of a dream."

During his speech, Modi shared an anecdote with Krishnam leaving everyone in splits: "Krishnam told me that 'everyone has something to give you but I have nothing, I can only express my feelings'. It is good that he did not give me anything, otherwise in today's era, if Sudama gave rice to Krishna and a video started circulating, a PIL would be filed in the SC & the judgment would come that something was given to lord Krishna as bribe..."

PM: Aim is to ensure nobody is left behind in welfare stakes

Lucknow: PM Modi on Monday held up welfare measures rolled out by his govt for all sections of society as the "real social justice" and "real secularism". "Our aim is to ensure nobody is left behind in the welfare stakes," he said, declaring the arrival of "Modi-ki-guarantee wali gaadi" in every village, town and city. The PM was speaking at UP Global Investors Summit here.

"Modi is also taking care of those left uncared by all previous govts," he said.

In a pitch for local products, the PM urged tourists to spend at least 10% of their travel budget on items produced in the areas they visit. "It might not be a big amount for you, but it will transform the economic landscape of that place."

Modi referred to the trend of big fat foreign Indian weddings as an "unfortunate tendency" among the affluent, leading to many people back home losing out on potential business. He said "wed-in-India" was one way of contributing to the economy. "Service to the country doesn't mean only sacrificing one's life like Bhagat Singh. You can also work for the country and serve it."

CM Adityanath said UP had transformed into "a land of unlimited potential", going from "UP" to "Udyam Pradesh" as the country's emerging growth engine. Recounting PM Modi's advice in 2018 about UP needing value addition in its core sectors, the CM said his govt took the prodding seriously, and the results were showing in terms of availability of land, human resources and capital. TNN

After being almost-famous, Lodrani's wait finally ends

▶Continued from P 1

The site, formally identified in Jan, has been named Morodharo (a Gujarati word for less salty and potable water). It yielded a large quantity of Harappan pottery, similar to those found in Dholavira, per Yadav. The settlement looks mature (2,600-1,900 BCE) to late (1,900-1,300 BCE) Harappan. Detailed examination and excavation will reveal more, archaeologists said.

"Our most important observation is that this site and Dholavira both depended on the sea. As it's so close to the Rann (desert), it can be safely presumed that at that time what became a desert later must have been navigable," Yadav said.

Lodrani's claim to archaeological fame has come after false starts earlier. A survey was conducted in 1967-68 by archaeologist J P Joshi. He reported a Harappan site at Lodrani but no concrete evidence was then found. During the Dholavira excavation between 1989 and 2005, experts visited Lodrani but they weren't impressed.

Had residents of a small hamlet not begun a treasure hunt, a vital piece of India's antiquity would have remained buried.

TIMELESS TREASURES

- This is a fortified settlement dating back to the Harappan era
- The fortification measures 102 m east to the west and 58 m north to the south
- The thickness of the wall is an average of 3.3 m
- It has a 10X10 m platform on the south-west side and a well on the north-east side
- Burial cairns, which are mounds of stones to demarcate a boundary, found

Perforated jar sherds

- Harappan pottery with perforated jar sherds, reserved slipware, and terracotta cakes unearthed
- All these items found have a striking resemblance to those found in Dholavira

No question of Nath, son joining BJP, says aide

Suchandana.Gupta @timesgroup.com

Bhopal: Ending weeks of suspense on whether Kamal Nath would switch to the saffron camp, his close aide Sajjan Singh Verma said Monday that the Congress stalwart isn't joining BJP and neither is his son, Chhindwara MP Nakul Nath. Verma added that Nakul will contest the Chhindwara seat on a Congress ticket.

Sources said Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi and current AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge spoke with Kamal Nath over the phone.

After two days of intense drama and speculation, Verma on Monday said, "We had a meeting for an hour-and-a-half on Rahul Gandhi's Nyay Yatra and the 29 Lok Sabha seats in MP. He (Kamal Nath) said he will go to Bhopal in a day or two and hold meetings."

SC stays LS proceeding against WB babus

AmitAnand.Choudhary @timesgroup.com

PTI

NCW chairperson Rekha Sharma (C) visits Sandeshkhali on Monday

New Delhi: In a relief to West Bengal's chief secretary, DGP and other officers who were summoned by the privileges committee of the Lok Sabha, the Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed the proceedings against them on a complaint filed by BJP MP Sukanta Majumdar who alleged misconduct, brutality and life-threatening injuries to him.

As the officers were asked to appear before the committee at 10.30am, senior advocates Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Kapil Sibal rushed to the court and mentioned the case before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud.

The bench also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, agreed to grant hearing and passed the interim order protecting the officers. Singhvi and Sibal, appearing for them, told the bench that a Member of Parliament, indulging in political activity, was protected by the privileges and the state officials were not responsible for the injuries suffered by him during the protest against the state government. He was leading a demonstration in support of the victims of Sandeshkhali violence.

Sibal, appearing for the chief secretary, said that breach of privilege was not maintainable and raised questions on how the officer could be held responsible when he was not even present at the spot. He told the bench that the video footage clearly showed that he was pushed by workers of his own party. "38 police officers of West Bengal were injured. Eight were lady police officers. Video also shows that a BJP lady member pushed the complainant and that is how he got hurt. We can show the video," Sibal said.

Singhvi, appearing for the DGP, submitted that privileges could not be invoked in such situations and the demonstration was done in violation of law as Section 144 of Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) was in force on that day.

Senior advocate Debashish Bharuka, appearing for Lok Sabha secretariat, said that the petitioners were not accused of anything and summoning is a part of procedure to find out the facts and pleaded the court to allow the proceedings to go on.

The bench, however, decided to stay the proceedings and issued notice on the petition filed by the aggrieved officers. "There shall be stay of further proceedings in pursuance of the official memorandum (OM) dated Feb 15, 2024," the bench said and sought response from the Lok Sabha secretariat within four weeks.

TV journalist held for trespass in Sandeshkhali

Kolkata: A TV journalist was arrested in Bengal's Sandeshkhali on Monday in a case of criminal trespassing and molestation filed against him by a woman, Basirhat SP Hossain Mehedi Rehman said.

The complainant alleged that the journalist illegally entered her home when she wasn't "in proper attire" and started filming her despite being asked not to do so.

The accused will be produced in a Basirhat court on Tuesday, police said.

Union I&B minister Anurag Singh Thakur condemned the arrest as an attack on media freedom, saying it was unfortunate that a journalist reporting on "atrocities on women" had been targeted in a state with a woman CM. Thakur, who was in Guwahati, said coercive action against journalists in Bengal wasn't a new trend. TNN

Op to enhance smile kills groom-to-be

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hyderabad: A dental procedure to enhance his smile ahead of his wedding turned fatal for a 28-year-old businessman at a clinic in Hyderabad's tony Jubilee Hills last week.

Police have booked FMS International Dental Clinic under Section 304A of the IPC (causing death by negligence) after Laxmi Narayana Vinjam's family filed a complaint. Laxmi Narayana's father Vinjam Ramulu has alleged that his son lost consciousness after he was administered anaesthesia during the procedure on Feb 16 and that he could have died due to a drug overdose. Laxmi Narayana had gone to the clinic alone.

Laxmi Narayana's father Vinjam Ramulu alleged that his son lost consciousness after he was administered anaesthesia during the procedure on Feb 16

That evening, when Ramulu called, the clinic staff answered and informed him that his son had fallen unconscious during the process.

They claimed that he was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

In his complaint, Ramulu said his son was perfectly fine when he left their home in Hyder Nagar.

"We have seized the medical records from the clinic and are collecting CCTV footage," a police official said.

10 more arrested for Haldwani violence

Nainital district police arrested 10 more individuals on Monday for their alleged involvement in the Feb 8 violence in Haldwani's Banphoolpura area.

Police said two of those arrested were named in one of the three FIRs filed in the case. They also found 9 litres of petrol stored in two jerrycans from the residence of one of the accused.

Sharing details about the arrests, senior superintendent of police (SSP), Nainital, Prahlad Meena, said that they have apprehended Taslim Qureshi (25), Wasim Siddiqui (38), both named in one of the FIRs; Mohammed Shoaib (23), Anas (20), Ayan (19), Arbaz Ahmad (20), Shahraz Hussain (29), Mohammed Wasim (35), Nazim (30) and Mohammed Uzair (23). TNN

5.2 magnitude earthquake hits Kargil: A 5.2 magnitude earthquake hit Kargil district in the Union territory of Ladakh Monday night but there was no report of any damage, officials said. According to NCS the tremor occurred at 9.21 pm. PTI

Prisoner dies in Raj jail after fight with cops: A prisoner died under suspicious circumstances while a head constable and a constable were beaten up by two inmates of Ajmer Central Jail in Rajasthan on Monday. It all started when TV at the cell of high security prisoner Sravan Soni (45), stopped working. Angry, he called head constable and cell in-charge Rajesh Kumar (40), when he went there with a constable, another prisoner, Fardeen (27), got out of his cell and both the prisoners attacked the two cops with iron rods. TNN

3 kids die as woman jumps into well with them after fight with hubby: 3 kids died after their mother jumped into a well taking them along, following a family quarrel in Jharkhand's Seraikela -Kharswan district, police said on Monday. The woman, identified as Puja Mahato, was rescued by villagers and taken to a community health centre. She was a resident of Lohardaga district, had an altercation with her husband over a visit to her parent's place on Saturday. The woman taking her three children along jumped into the well when her husband left for Ranchi for some work, SDPO (Seraikela) Dilip Khalko said. PTI

K'taka HC jails painter for 10 yrs for raping minor: Reversing the acquittal of a Mysuru painter, the Karnataka HC has held him guilty of abducting and raping a 14-year-old in 2013, and sentenced him to 10 years under Pocso Act. A division bench comprising justices HB Prabhakara Sastry and Umesh M Adiga also fined the painter Rs 55,000 and handed down five years of rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping the girl to compel her into marrying him. TNN

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CEMENT AND BUILDING MATERIALS
(Under the Administrative Control of Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Govt. of India)
34 KM Stone, Delhi-Mathura Road (NH-2), Ballabgarh-121004, Haryana, India.
Ph:+91-129-2666600 Website: www.ncbindia.com

Requires (On Contract Basis)
Advertisement No.: C/02/2024 (01)

National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCB), Ballabgarh requires Project Engineers (Electrical, Civil, Electronics & Instrumentation Engineering), Senior Lab Technician, Lab Analysts (Chemical, Physical), Designer (Mechanical), हिंदी अनुवादक, Purchase Assistant, Stores Assistants, Office Assistants and Receptionist on Contract Basis for NCB Ahmedabad & NCB Ballabgarh. For detailed information, please visit the website www.ncbindia.com. Any amendment or any post advertisement information shall be available on NCB website only. The last date for receipt of application shall be 21 days from the first week date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News.

CBC 05207/12/0006/2324 DIRECTOR GENERAL

राष्ट्रीय मात्स्यिकी विकास बोर्ड
National Fisheries Development Board
मत्स्यपालन विभाग / Department of Fisheries
मत्स्यपालन, पशुपालन और डेयरी मंत्रालय / Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
भारत सरकार / Government of India
स्तम्भ संख्या-235, पी.वी.एन.आर एक्सप्रेस वे, डाक-एस.वी.पी.एन.पी. ए. हैदराबाद- 500052
Pillar No: 235, PVNR Expressway, SVPNPA Post, Hyderabad-500 052
फ़ोन/ Phone No. 040- 24000201; फैक्स/ Fax No: 040-2401 5568; मेल/ Mail: info.nfdb@nic.in

NFDB/Division XI (Administration)/Hiring Consultants/2024 Date:20-02-2024

WALK IN INTERVIEW NOTIFICATION

Walk-in-Interview will be held at 9:30 AM on date(s) mentioned below for engaging consultants on contractual basis at National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad and National Freshwater Fish Brood Bank (NFFBB), Kausalyaganga, Bubaneswar -752002.

Sl. No.	Division	Name of the Position	No. of Posts	Date of Walk-in Interview	Place of Interview	Place of Posting
1	Administration & Finance	Consultant Grade-I	01	04.03.2024	NFDB, Hyderabad	Hyderabad, Telangana
2	Administration & Finance	Consultant Grade-II	01			
3	Administration & Finance	Consultant Grade-II	01		NFFBB, Bhubaneswar	Bhubaneswar, Odisha

For details/eligibility criteria for the post and application proforma; please visit NFDB's website i.e. http://nfdb.gov.in.

(Sd/-)
Senior Executive (F&A)

ODISHA COAL AND POWER LTD.
(A GOVT. OF ODISHA COMPANY)
Zone-A, Fourth Floor, Fortune Towers, Chandrasekharpur
Bhubaneswar, Odisha - 751023
Ph No: 0674-2300654 / 0674-2300664

NOTICE FOR SHORT TERM LINKAGE SALE OF COAL THROUGH E-AUCTION

Ref : EA/18/23 Dt. 20/02/2024

Odisha Coal and Power Ltd (OCPL), a State PSU of Odisha is operating Manoharpur Coal Mine in Hemgir Block of Sundargarh District. OCPL intends to place surplus coal for short term linkage sale, in accordance with amended Mineral Concession Rule and MMDR Act. Declared grade of the Mine is G-14. Approx. 1 (One) Million ton of Coal of G-14 Grade will be sold per annum for 2 (Two) years through E-auction via MSTC auction portal on 15th March 2024 (indicative).

For further details, interested Manufacturing / Power producing Industries may visit our website, i.e., **www.ocpl.org.in**. Any clarification may please be addressed to the undersigned at the above address or by email to: **contracts@ocpl.org.in**

Sd/-
Sr. General Manager (Commercial)

गंभीर कपट अन्वेषण कार्यालय
भारत सरकार
Serious Fraud Investigation Office
Government of India
B-3 Wing, 2nd Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
बी-3 विंग, द्वितीय तल, पंडित दीनदयाल अंत्योत्य भवन, केंद्रीय कार्यालय परिसर,
लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली- 110003

सं./No. SFIO/ADMN-II/BILLS/0034/2015-ADMN-II-Part(1)(6528)/I/

It is proposed to fill up the following vacancies in this office on deputation (ISTC) basis: -

S. No.	Designation	Tentative no. of vacancies	Level in the pay matrix as per 7th CPC	Tentative Place of Posting
01	Additional Director (Capital Market)	01	Level-13	Delhi / Mumbai/ Kolkata / Chennai / Hyderabad
02	Joint Director (Financial Transaction)	01	Level-12	
03	Deputy Director (Corporate Law)	10	Level-11	
04	Deputy Director (Forensic Audit)	01		
05	Deputy Director (Investigation)	01		
06	Principal Private Secretary	01		
07	Senior Assistant Director (Banking)	01	Level-10	
08	Senior Assistant Director (Customs & Central Excise)	01		
09	Senior Assistant Director (Investigation)	01		
10	Senior Prosecutor	02		
11	Assistant Director (Investigation)	04	Level-8	
12	Assistant Director (Law)	01		
13	Private Secretary	01	Level-7	
	Total	26		

2. Since, these are the deputation (ISTC) posts, private candidates need not to apply.

3. The number of posts advertised are tentative and may increase/decrease on administrative grounds. Interested and willing eligible candidates may forward their application/s, complete in all respects, through proper channel in prescribed proforma to The Director, Serious Fraud Investigation Office, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 by Speed Post within 60 days from the date of publication of this advertisement in the Employment News. For details, etc. visit www.sfio.nic.in/ www.mca.gov.in.

3. Separate applications may be forwarded for each post as per proforma along with photocopies of self-attested copies of educational qualifications, up to date ACRs/ APARs for the last 5 years, duly attested (on each page) by an officer of the level of Under Secretary or above, Vigilance Clearance Certificate, Integrity Certificate and the Certificate of major/minor penalty imposed on the officer during the last 10 years. The Cadre Controlling Authority may also certify that the particulars furnished by the officer have been verified and found correct.

4. The selected candidates will also be eligible for Special Security Allowance @ 20% of the basic pay. No deputation allowance shall be admissible along with SSA.

5. Applications received without ACRs/ APARs, Vigilance Clearance, self-attested copies of Educational Qualification, etc. or otherwise found incomplete will not be considered.

Sd/-
Senior Assistant Director [Admn.]

CBC 07102/11/0017/2324

Government of India
Ministry of Corporate Affairs
SERIOUS FRAUD INVESTIGATION OFFICE
2nd Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
B-3 Wing, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi-110003.
Phone: 011-24369242

05/15/2023-AdmnSFIO

ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANTS IN SFIO

Applications are invited from retired Government officers, retired Prosecutors and retired Judges, for engagement as consultant in Serious Fraud Investigation Office, on contract basis. The eligibility conditions, nature of duties, remuneration, terms & conditions, etc. are available on the website www.sfio.gov.in. Interested candidates may forward their application in prescribed format to the Deputy Director (Admn.), Serious Fraud Investigation Office, 2nd Floor, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, B-3 Wing, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003 through Speed Post within 20 days from the date of publication of this advertisement.

Sd/-
Senior Assistant Director (Admn.)
CBC 07102/11/0016/2324

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TUBERCULOSIS AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES
(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Sri Aurobindo Marg, Near Qutab Minar, New Delhi-110030

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

Eligible candidates from Indian Nationals may appear for **walk-in-interview** for the posts of Senior Resident in various specialties in pay level 11 of pay matrix as per 7th CPC on **01 March, 2024 at 10:00 AM in NITRD.**

S.No.	Name of Post	No. of Posts
1	Senior Resident (TB & Respiratory Diseases)	5 (UR-1,OBC-1, SC-1, ST-1, EWS-1) •One of the above post is reserved for PwD
2	Senior Resident (Radiology)	UR-1
3	Senior Resident (Pathology)	EWS-1

Detail of the posts, qualifications, terms and conditions etc. can be obtained from website www.nitrd.nic.in / Institute's notice board. DIRECTOR

Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India

Proposal from interested agencies is invited for providing services in respect of legal default cases under Venture Capital Assistance Scheme for the states, namely (Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, J&K, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal). Interested agencies may visit website: **http://www.sfacindia.com** for full details. Last date for submitting application is 21 days from the date of Publication.

Managing Director

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (CSIR)
Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg,
New Delhi-110001
Advt. No. 01/2024

CSIR invites applications/nominations for the position of Director, CSIR- Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute (CSIR-CGCRI), Kolkata, in Level 15 of pay-matrix (Rs.1,82,200-2,24,100) plus allowances as applicable in CSIR. For eligibility criteria and other conditions, please see the detailed/complete advertisement No. **01/2024** on CSIR website www.csir.res.in. Applications / nominations may be sent alongwith complete bio-data and list of publications/patents etc. through email at drc@csir.res.in or by post to Director Recruitment Cell, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Anusandhan Bhawan, 2, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001 on or before **10.04.2024.**

CBC 36202/12/0022/2324

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय
उ0प्र0 प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड
जे-1, ज्ञानसरोवर कालोनी, अलीगढ़ (उ०प्र०)
पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु आयोजित की जाने वाली लोक सुनवाई की सूचना

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि जनपद कासगंज में गाटा संख्या–05 ग्राम मानिकपुर खाम, तहसील सहावर जनपद कासगंज (उ0प्र0) में गंगा नदी के 23.225 हेक्टेयर क्षेत्रफल में सैण्ड माइनिंग प्रोजेक्ट के प्रस्ताव पर लोक सुनवाई के सम्बन्ध में पर्यावरण, वन और जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार से पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति प्राप्त करने हेतु प्रस्ताव उ०प्र० प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, लखनऊके समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया गया है।

पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी अधिसूचना संख्या – 1533 दिनांक 14.09.2006 के प्राविधानों के अनुपालन में लोक सुनवाई अपर जिलाधिकारी (वि0/रा0) महोदय, कासगंज की अध्यक्षता में ग्राम मानिकपुर खाम, तहसील सहावर, जनपद कासगंज (उ०प्र०) में दिनांक 20.03.2024 को अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे की जानी प्रस्तावित है। उक्त सैण्ड माइनिंग प्रोजेक्ट परियोजना की लोक सुनवाई हेतु जनता के सुझाव, विचार, टीका एवं टिप्पणियां आदि आमंत्रित किये जाते हैं। परियोजना से सम्बन्धित ई. आई. ए. एवं संक्षिप्त अभिलेख निम्नलिखित कार्यालय में उपलब्ध हैं–

(31) कार्यालय, जिलाधिकारी, कासगंज।

(ब) कार्यालय उपायुक्त, जिला उद्योग एवं उद्यम प्रोत्साहन केन्द्र, कासगंज।

(स) क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी, उ0प्र0 प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, जे–1, ज्ञानसरोवर कालोनी, अलीगढ।

(द) उ0प्र0 प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, टी. सी. -12वी, विभूति खण्ड गोमती नगर, लखनऊ (उ0प्र0)।

(य) क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, मध्य क्षेत्र, पर्यावरण एवं वन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, पंचम तल, सेक्टर–एच, अलीगंज, लखनऊ।

अतः समस्त सर्वसाधारण को इस आम सूचना के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि उक्त प्रस्तावित सैण्ड माइनिंग प्रोजेक्ट की पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति से सम्बन्धित प्रकरण के निस्तारण हेतु एन०ए० शेरवानी प्राइमरी पाठशाला, न्योली, तहसील – सहावर, जनपद कासगंज (उ0प्र0) में दिनांक 20.03.2024 को अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे लोक सुनवाई अपर जिलाधिकारी (वि0/रा0) महोदय, कासगंज की अध्यक्षता प्रस्तावित लोक सुनवाई में उपस्थित होकर अपने आपत्ति / टिप्पणी एवं सुझाव आदि प्रस्तुत कर सकते हैं अथवा सुझाव एवं आपत्तियां आदि लिखित रूप से प्रकाशन की तिथि से 30 दिन के अन्दर उपरोक्त कार्यालयों को प्रेषित कर सकते हैं।

क्षेत्रीय अधिकारी

पत्रांक- 2583/लोक सुनवाई/2024 दिनांक 17.02.2024

O-
Tel. 06766-258301(O)
email : se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
eProcurement Notice for Road Work under MMSY-TRIP
Identification No. Road Online NCB No. 423
No. 738 / Date : 13.02.2024

1. Name of the work : Construction and Maintenance of road under MMSY-TRIP in the District of Keonjhar.
2. No. of work : 01 (One) No.
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT.
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT.
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E.N.E.R.W. Circle, Keonjhar	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	Road Online NCB No. 423	Dt. 19.02.24 at 11.00 A.M.	Dt. 04.03.24 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 02.03.24 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt. 06.03.24 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

• Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
R.W. Circle, Keonjhar
OIPR - 25177/11/0067/23-24

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
STATE PLANNING COMMISSION/SETU
PLANNING DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF UTTARAKHAND

RFP for Selection of Agency for Enhancement of Uttarakhand Parivar Pehchan Patra Uttarakhand (Family Database) for Effective Citizen Scheme Delivery in the State

1. The State Planning Commission/SETU, Planning Department, Govt. of Uttarakhand invites proposals from external agencies to strengthen the Parivar Pehchan Patra of every citizen and family with additional capabilities such as citizen wallet, service eligibility, department module, mobile app etc with an objective of efficient and effective delivery of services and benefits to its residents.
2. Detailed terms of reference (prescribed format, terms and conditions) can be accessed from the websites of Government of Uttarakhand website: www.uktenders.gov.in

Secretary,
Planning Department
Govt. of Uttarakhand

Date: 20-02-2024

MINERAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
DIRECTORATE OF GEOLOGY AND MINING, MADHYA PRADESH
29- A Khanij Bhawan, Arera Hills Bhopal
Phone and fax 0755-2551795
Email: geology.dgm@mp.gov.in

No.2092/Auction- 12 /Geology / F.No.- 12 / 2023-24 February 16, 2024

Notice Inviting Tender

Government of Madhya Pradesh in exercise of the powers conferred by Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015, invites tender from the eligible bidders for the e-auction of major minerals in the state.

Eligibility conditions, timelines, terms, and conditions etc. for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document available in electronic form only and can be downloaded from the e- auction portal of MSTC Limited (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp).

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves on the above e-auction portal. The bidders can participate in the bidding only after online purchase of the Tender Document on payment of the Tender fee from the above e-auction portal. Any revision, clarifications, addendum, corrigendum, time extensions, etc. to the tender document will be hosted on the above e-auction portal only and no separate notifications shall be issued in the press.

Model Tender Document and Mineral Block Summaries are available free of cost on the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited website (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp).

The block specific Tender documents are available for purchase on the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp). The sale of Tender Document shall commence from **Monday, 19 February, 2024.** The pre-bid conference would be organised in hybrid mode on **Wednesday, 13 March, 2024.** The venue, time and link for virtual mode shall be notified separately on the MSTC portal. Last date for purchase of Tender Document, on the e-auction platform is **Thursday, 4 April, 2024,** and the last date for submission of the bid is **Friday, 12 April, 2024,** on or before 17:00 hours (IST). The bidders shall note that financial bids are invited in digital format only and technical bids are invited both in digital and physical format.

List of Mineral Blocks for Auction

Sr. No.	Name of the Block	District	Mineral	Price of Tender Document without GST (inRs.)
	Mining Lease (in accordance with Section 10A(2)(d) of the Act)			
1.	Aber Laterite and Limestone Block*	Satna	Laterite and Limestone	2,00,000
2	Badiya Limestone Block*	Dhar	Limestone	25,000
3.	Karmau and Mungwari Limestone Block*	Satna	Limestone	5,00,000
	Mining Lease			
4.	KarondiSagodi Limestone Block*	Damoh	Limestone	5,00,000
5.	Nimarmunda Limestone Block*	Damoh	Limestone	2,00,000
6.	Pachama Dadar Bauxite Block*	Balaghat	Bauxite	5,00,000
7.	Pipariyamal (West) Bauxite Block*	Dindori	Bauxite& Laterite	5,00,000
	Composite Licence (in accordance with Section 10A(2)(d) of the Act)			
8.	Aad Sarai-Garhwa Diamond Block*	Rewa	Diamond	5,00,000
9.	Palasdor Manganese Ore Block*	Jhabua	Manganese Ore	25,000
10.	PapraKokahansar Diamond Block	Satna	Diamond	5,00,000
11.	Sohagi-Majhigawa-Purwa Diamond Block*	Rewa	Diamond	5,00,000
	Composite Licence			
12.	Amlihwah Gold and Basemetal Block*	Singrauli	Gold and Basemetal	5,00,000
13.	Byodihar Gold and Basemetal Block*	Singrauli	Gold and Basemetal	5,00,000
14.	ParihasiBasemetal Block	Singrauli	Basemetal	5,00,000
15.	Baranjh-Pakkatola Bauxite Block	Anuppur	Bauxite & Aluminous Laterite	5,00,000
16.	GangwadaAgarwara Limestone Block	Khargone	Limestone	5,00,000
17.	Harsa-1 Diamond Block*	Panna & Chhatarpu	Diamond	5,00,000
18.	Harsa-2 Diamond Block*	Panna & Chhatarpur	Diamond	5,00,000
19.	NandiyaAgarwara Manganese Block	Khargone	Manganese Ore	5,00,000
20.	Chuli-Barora Limestone Block	Sidhi	Limestone	25,000

Note: * Auction of these blocks is being considered as "Second Attempt"

G-24375/23

Sd/-
DIRECTOR
Directorate of Geology and Mining
Madhya Pradesh

कोरोना में सावधानी हटी,समझों दुर्घटना घटी।

Drunk cops riot at dhaba over raita

Agra: Five policemen who were having a meal at a dhaba along the Agra-Mumbai highway on Sunday evening got infuriated after the raita they had ordered got delayed.

The cops, who were alleged to be inebriated, initially abused the roadside eatery staff and when a few customers including a bus driver came to the dhaba owner's defence, they went on a rampage, beating up customers including passengers of a bus. All of this was captured on CCTV. Taking cognisance of footage of the incident circulated on social media, DCP of the area attached two cops to police lines on Monday.

DCP Sonam Kumar said, "Taking suo motu cognisance and on the basis of preliminary investigation, sub-inspectors Aman Kumar and Neetu Singh have been attached to police lines. A detailed probe is being conducted." TNN

Depressed BTech student dies by suicide in Kota

Kota: A 23-year-old BTech student, who had been under treatment for depression for the last three years, ended his life at his house in Kota on Sunday, when his family members were away. This is the fifth student suicide in the city this year.

Rohit Mathur, who was pursuing BTech degree from a Jalandhar college, has attempted suicide in the past, too, police said.

On Sunday, Rohit called up his father and told him that he was contemplating suicide. Police handed over the body to family members after postmortem examination on Monday. TNN

CBI nabs EPFO officer taking ₹2 lakh bribe:

CBI arrested an enforcement officer of the EPFO on Monday while allegedly receiving a bribe of Rs 2 lakh from a software company which had received funds of more than Rs 3 crore under the central govt's Atmanir-bhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana, officials said. PTI

Kerala woman set on fire by husband dies:

A woman set on fire, allegedly by her estranged husband, on a road in Alappuzha on Monday morning died of her injuries. The deceased has been identified as Arathy (30) from Vettakkal. She succumbed to her burn injuries at the govt medical college hospital in Alappuzha. TNN

उ0प्र0 लोक सेवा आयोग

विज्ञप्ति

एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि विज्ञापन संख्या ए-3/ई-1/2023 दिनांक **21.08.2023** के अन्तर्गत विज्ञापित स्टाफ नर्स (पुरूष/महिला) प्रा0 परीक्षा-2023 से सम्बन्धित पद चिकित्सा शिक्षा एवं प्रशिक्षण विभाग उ0 प्र0 के है। महानिदेशक चिकित्सा शिक्षा एवं प्रशिक्षण उ0प्र0 के पत्र दिनांक **21 नवम्बर, 2023** द्वारा यह अवगत कराया गया है कि दिव्यांग (पी0एच0) अभ्यर्थियों हेतु उपश्रेणी केवल ओ0एल0 (One Leg) चिन्हांकित है। अतः शासनादेश सं0 5/2022/18/1/2008/47/का-2/2022 दिनांक 18 अप्रैल, 2022 के बिन्दु-5 में निहित प्राविधानानुसार प्रश्नगत पद हेतु दिव्यांग (पी0एच0) अभ्यर्थियों के लिए चिन्हांकित ओ0एल0 (One Leg) से भिन्न उपश्रेणियों में ऑनलाइन दावे के आधार पर प्रारम्भिक परीक्षा में सम्मिलित होने वाले अभ्यर्थियों का अभ्यर्थन मा0 आयोग द्वारा निरस्त कर दिया गया है।

संख्याः- 09/02/ई-2/2023-2024 **ओंकार नाथ सिंह**
दिनांकः प्रयागराज, 19 फरवरी, 2024 **(अनुसचिव)**

WESTERN RAILWAY-BHAVNAGAR DIVISION

RESURFACING OF LCs AND P WAY MAINTENANCE WORK OUTSOURCING

No. W/118/NIT/E-Tender/2023-24/WA/37 Date 13/02/2024; Divisional Railway, Manager (Works), Western Railway, Bhavanagar para invites e-tenders for the following works: Tender Details are as under:- **Sr. No. (1); E-Tender No: 150/2023-24; Name of Work:** Bhavnagar Division:- Resurfacing of LCs (MG Section); **Tender Value:** ₹ 49,79,092.56; **EMD:** ₹ 99,600.00; **Sr. No. (2); E-Tender No: 151/2023-24; Name of Work:** P Way maintenance work ADEN PBR section outsourcing for 2 year; **Tender Value:** ₹ 9,35,80,740.01; **EMD:** ₹ 6,17,900.00; **For all above tenders: Bidding Start Date:** 22/02/2024; **Date of Bidding Closing:** 07/03/2024; The NIT has been uploaded on Railway web site **www.ireps.gov.in** on **13/02/2024** 175

Like us on: facebook.com/WesternRly

BSES

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, New Delhi

TENDER NOTICE **Date: 20.02.2024**

Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) are invited for following jobs from all the bidders.

NIT No.	Brief Tender Description	Estimated Cost (₹)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BR/24-25/RB/CR/AS/1179	RENEWAL OF GROUP TERM LIFE & OTHER RELATED INSURANCE POLICIES FOR THE EMPLOYEE OF BRPL FOR FY : 2024-25	4.00 Crore	04.03.2024 16:00 HRS	04.03.2024 16:30 HRS
CMC/BR/24-25/RB/CR/AS/1180	TENDER FOR RENEWAL OF VARIOUS GENERAL INSURANCE POLICIES IN BRPL FOR FY : 2024-25	14.50 Crore	04.03.2024 15:00 HRS	04.03.2024 15:30 HRS

For details in respect of Equipment/BOM/Services, Qualifying requirements, Terms & conditions, purchase/submission of tender documents etc. please visit our website **www.bsesdelhi.com**

Head (Contracts & Materials)

Regd. Off. : BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Bhawan, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019 | Corporate Identification No.: U40109DL2001PLC111527
Telephone No. : +91 11 4910 7235 | Website : www.bsesdelhi.com

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Tender No.–PRYJ-GSU-Sig-015–2023-24

E-Tender Notice

Dy. CSTE Gati Shakti Unit (Signal & telecommunication), N.C. Railway PRYJ for and on behalf of the President of India invites open E-tender on prescribed form for the following work up to 15:00 hrs on the opening date of E-tender mentioned therein. The details of the Tender are as under :–

Tender No.	Name of Work
015	Prayagraj Division : Provision of Sand Hump/Over Run at Loop Lines at five Stations namely Pata, Sarai Bhupat, Balrai, Firozabad and Jalesar Road over Pryagraj Division in North Central Railway.

• **Approx. Cost of work (Rs.) : 30792343.51, • Earnest Money (Rs.)** : 304000.00 • **Cost of Tender Form : 0.00, • Completion period :** 12 Months, • **Date of Opening of tender : 18.03.2024. • Availability of tender form :** Tender forms are available on **www.ireps.gov.in • Earnest Money to be deposited :** The prescribed amount of Earnest Money as mentioned above must be deposited along with the tender form Online through internet Banking or Online Payment gateway only. The tenderer(s) should note that, in any case, the Earnest Money in any other form than specified above shall not be acceptable. Tenders without earnest money shall be summarily rejected. • **Time & place of opening of tender :** Tender will be opened through E-tender at office of Divisional Railway Manager, Prayagraj at or after 15:30 hours. In case tender opening date happens to be holiday, Tenders will be opened on the next working day. • **Validity of offer :** 60 days from the date of opening. • **Right of Railway to deal with tender :** Railway administration reserve the rights to postpone/modify or to cancel the tender without assigning any reasons. • **Similar Nature of Work :** Any signaling work involving design, installation, testing, commissioning of EI or alterations of EI.

295/24 (D)

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

SOUTH EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SUPER SPECIALITY HOSPITAL AT MOTIBAGH, NAGPUR

CPM / Gati Shakti Unit, South East Central Railway, Nagpur, acting for and on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the execution of below mentioned work:

Tender No.: CPM-GSU-27-NGP-2023-24

Name of the Work: Construction of Super Speciality Hospital at Motibagh, Nagpur.

Appr. Tender Value: ₹ 6,19,68,458/-
Earnest Money: ₹ 4,59,900/-.

Bidders will be able to submit their original / revised bids up to **15:00** Hrs of **04.03.2024.**

Manual offers are not allowed against the Tenders and any such manual offer received shall be rejected. Details are available on our website: **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Dy. Chief Engineer - GSU, South East Central Railway, Nagpur

FL/37-242

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

DELHI CANTONMENT BOARD
TENDER NOTICE

Delhi Cantonment Board invites tenders from the Govt. approved contractors in appropriate category through e-tendering for the following works as detailed below;

Date of release of tender through e- procurement	:	23.02.2024 at 1700 hrs
Last date & time for downloading of tender documents	:	20.03.2024 upto 1300 hrs
Last date and time submission of e-tenders	:	20.03.2024 upto 1300 hrs
Date and time for opening of e-tenders	:	21.03.2024 at 1330 hrs

Details of work

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount of Contract	Earnest Money Deposit Amount
1.	Essential improvements to Cantt General Hospital for streamlining OPD as also to create additional spaces for Specialists and general OPDs for Cantt General Hospital, Delhi Cantt	Rs. 2,40,00,000/-	Rs. 3,15,000/-

The bidder may download the "Tender Document" and other terms and conditions as applicable including detailed NIT, terms & conditions, particular specifications, special conditions, signing of Integrity Pact, adherence to GFR 2017 provisions, applicability of Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India), Order 2017 etc as provided in the technical bid from web site of **http://defproc.gov.in** & **www.delhi.cantt.gov.in.**

Please note that any amendment, clarification, errata to tender documents shall be uploaded on website **http://defproc.gov.in** & Cantt Board website **www.delhi.cantt.gov.in.** All intending bidders are required to visit aforementioned websites to check for amendments, clarifications, errata etc prior to quoting their rates & no compensation whatsoever shall be admissible to the bidders for failure to register the same.

Telephone No.25695450 **Sd/-**
No. DCB/8/C-1/TN/2023-24/15 **Chief Executive Officer**
OFFICE OF THE CANTONMENT BOARD **Delhi Cantonment**
Website: www.delhi.cantt.gov.in

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता,
निर्माण खण्ड, लोक निर्माण विभाग, नरेन्द्रनगर।
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, C.D. P.W.D., NARENDRA NAGAR
Mail Id-eepwdnarendranagar@ymail.com

पत्रांकः-352/8 ए0 दिनांक- 17.02.2024

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

महामहिम राज्यपाल महोदय उत्तराखण्ड की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा जनपद टिहरी गढवाल के विधानसभा क्षेत्र नरेन्द्रनगर के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु ई-टेंडरिंग सिंगल-बिड सिस्टम के माध्यम से निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा सम्बन्धी समस्त सूचनायें http://www.uktenders.gov.in पर दिनांक 20.02.2024 से उपलब्ध होगी।

क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	धरोहर धनराशि (रु. लाख में)	निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (रु. में)	निविदा की वैधता	कार्य पूर्ण करने का समय	ठेकेदारों की श्रेणी
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	वार्षिक अनुरक्षण 2024-25 के अन्तर्गत ओबरी-विरोगी मोटर मार्ग के किमी0 1 से 3 एवं ओबरी-घरगॉव मोटर मार्ग के किमी0 1 से 4 में पी0सी0 द्वारा नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	2.32	4000.00+ 18% G.S.T.	02 माह	04 माह	मार्ग कार्य हेतु श्रेणी सी0 एवं उच्चतर में पंजीकृत।
2	वार्षिक अनुरक्षण 2024-25 के अन्तर्गत पौडी-देवप्रयाग-गजा-जाजल मोटर मार्ग के कि0मी0 49, 62 एवं 104 में एस0डी0बी0सी0 एवं पोखरी पेन्दार्स मोटर मार्ग के कि0मी0 1 से 4 में एस0डी0बी0सी0 द्वारा नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	2.51	4000.00+ 18% G.S.T.	02 माह	04 माह	—तदैव—
3	स्वीकृति की प्रत्याशा में वार्षिक अनुरक्षण 2023-24 के अन्तर्गत ताछला-नौर मोटर मार्ग के कि0मी0 1 से 8 एवं दुवाधार-ग्वाड-मैसर्क मोटर मार्ग के कि0मी0 1 में पी0सी0 द्वारा नवीनीकरण का कार्य।	3.00	4000.00+ 18% G.S.T.	15 दिन	01 माह	—तदैव—
4	निक्षेप मद के अन्तर्गत विठ्ठल दास आश्रम मोटर मार्ग के कि0मी0 1 एवं 2 में ओ0 आई0एम0टी0 संस्थान/ओमकारानन्द आश्रम में जाने हेतु अण्डरपास का निर्माण कार्य।	0.78	2500.00+ जी0एस0टी0	02 माह	04 माह	मार्ग कार्य हेतु श्रेणी डी0 एवं उच्चतर में पंजीकृत।

नोटः-निविदादाताओं द्वारा निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम तिथि एवं निर्धारित समय से पूर्व निम्नलिखित अभिलेख मूल में अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय में उपलब्ध कराना आवश्यक होगा। जिसके प्रस्तुत न करने पर निविदा पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

1- निविदा प्रपत्र की लागत कॉलम 04 के अनुसार का डिमांड बैंक ड्राफ्ट, जो अधिशासी अभियन्ता निर्माण खण्ड लो0नि0वि0, नरेन्द्रनगर के नाम देय हो एवं 18 प्रतिशत जी0एस0टी0 की धनराशि का पृथक से बैंक ड्राफ्ट अलग-अलग दिये जाने अनिवार्य होगें।
2- निविदा की वैद्यता हेतु अंडरटेकिंग जो रु. 100.00 के नॉन जूडिसियल स्टाम्प पेपर पर रु. 1.00 के रसीदी टिकट पर हस्ताक्षर उपरान्त निविदा की वैधता अवधि इंगित करते हुये कार्य का नाम अंकित किया जाना अनिवार्य होगा।
3- निविदा धरोहर धनराशि निविदा सूचना के अनुसार, जो अधिशासी अभियन्ता लोक निर्माण विभाग, नरेन्द्रनगर के नाम बन्धक हो।
4- फर्म के रजिस्ट्रेशन सर्टिफिकेट की प्रति संलग्न करना अनिवार्य होगा।
5- उपरोक्त एस0डी0बी0सी0/पी0सी0 कार्य पेवर फिनिशर द्वारा समयवद्ध अवधि में किये जाने प्रस्तावित हैं अतः निविदादाता द्वारा समकक्ष कार्यों का अनुभव, स्वंय अथवा लीज पर हॉटमिक्स प्लान्ट/मशीनरी इत्यादि से सम्बन्धित साक्ष्यों की हार्ड कॉपी नियत तिथि को उपलब्ध कराना अनिवार्य होगा अन्यथा साक्ष्यों के अभाव में निविदा पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जायेगा।

उपरोक्त निविदाओं को अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा, इस सम्बन्ध में किसी का कोई भी दावा मान्य नहीं होगा।

CAD-4198

idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | **ODISHA** NEW OPPORTUNITIES

No. HO/P&C/ EST/E-2532/03/04/2023/ 5475 **Dated- 17.02.2024**

Invitation for Bids

BID IDENTIFICATION NO-P&C/EST-E-200/2023-24

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) invites proposals from reputed and experienced Agencies/ Firms / Companies for the work "Survey, Site investigation, Detailed Design, Construction, Procurement and Installation of required machinery, equipment and instruments, testing, commissioning, operation & maintenance of 10 years of 5 MLD capacity ZLD (Zero Liquid Discharge) based Common Effluent Treatment Plant at Kalibeti, Khurdha, Odisha (on Turnkey basis)".

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Approx.)	Processing Fee	Period of completion	Operation and Maintenance period	Class of contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	"Survey, Site investigation, Detailed Design, Construction, Procurement and Installation of required machinery, equipment and instruments, testing, commissioning, operation & maintenance of 10 years of 5 MLD capacity ZLD (Zero Liquid Discharge) based Common Effluent Treatment Plant at Kalibeti, Khurdha, Odisha (on Turnkey basis)" *	144.20 Cr. (Excluding GST)	Rs.30,000/- (On-Line)	16 (Sixteen) Calendar Months)	120 (One Hundred Twenty) Calendar Months	Super Class Contractors of PWD & Equivalent Class of other Departments

*Note-1 Bidder to quote Operation & Maintenance cost for 10 years separately as per tender document.
*Note-2 L1 Bidder shall be decided on the basis of least life cycle cost i.e.both Quoted Construction Cost and Operation & Maintenance cost. (Refer to DTCN).
*Note-3 Earnest Money Deposit will be applicable as per prevailing circular of Govt. of Odisha at the time of bidding.

The Bid document comprising of detailed eligibility criteria, scope of the work, land details, Instruction to bidders etc. can be downloaded from the web-site **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** from 5 PM of Dt. **21.02.2024 to 5 PM of Dt. 07.03.2024.**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C)
OIPR-14003/11/0402/23-24

KK-410

Website: www.ouat.ac.in
Email- registrarouat@gmail.com
Ph- 0674-2397818/919
Fax- 0674-2397424

ଓଡିଶା କୃଷି ଓ ବୈଷୟିକ ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ
ODISHA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE & TECHNOLOGY
BHUBANESWAR-751003, ODISHA

2023

No. E-II-II-07/2013/Part-II/2421/UAT **Dt. 17.02.2024**

INDICATIVE ADVERTISEMENT

In revision to the advertisement No. 2860/UAT dated 20.02.2023, applications are invited from the eligible candidates in the prescribed format for recruitment of personnels in the post of Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) on contractual basis in the following subjects lying vacant in different Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) under OUAT.

Subject Matter Specialist (SMS) :

Agronomy - **05,** Horticulture - **07,** Plant Protection (Plant Pathology/ Entomology/ Nematology) - **10,** Agriculture Extension - **07,** Soil Science - **04,** Veterinary (Animal Science) - **05,** Agricultural Engineering - **08,** Fishery - **02,** Plant Science (PBG/Seed Technology/ Plant Physiology) - **05,** Forestry - **04.** Total = **57** (Fifty seven)

The detailed advertisement with information sheet containing number of vacancies, reservation of posts in different category, prescribed application form, application fee & mode of payment, qualification experience, selection procedure, scale of pay, age and other required conditions in respect of the vacancies as well as general information and instructions to the candidate can be downloaded from University website: **ouat.nic.in**

Last date of receipt of application: 11.03.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.

BY ORDER OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR
Sd/- **Lopamudra Mohanty**
17.02.2024
REGISTRAR
OIPR- 01522/11/0002/23-24

North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited

Govt. of Bihar

(Regd. Office : Vidyut Bhawan, Baily Road, Patna)
(Department of Stores & Purchase)
CIN NO: U40109BR2012SGC018920
Contact No. : 9264437183, Email- cesnp4.nb@gmail.com

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EMPANELMENT OF SMART METERS FOR ONGOING SMART METERING PROJECT WORKS UNDER NBPDCL & SBPDCL
(Through e-procurement mode only - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

EOI No-15/PR/NBPDCL/2024

North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (NBPDCL), a Government of Bihar Undertaking invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for empanelment of Vendors for supply of Smart Meter in one Tier (Technical) online Bid from eligible and experienced original Manufacturers registered under Company Act 1956 for ongoing smart metering project works for NBPDCL & SBPDCL. In this regard details as below:-

Particulars	Period of Empanelment	Tender Cost (In Rs.)	Registration Fee for manufacturers having factories in India but outside Bihar (in Rs.)	Registration Fee for manufacturers having factories inside Bihar (in Rs.)
For empanelment of Vendors for supply of Smart Meter for ongoing smart metering project works under NBPDCL & SBPDCL	5 Years	20,000.00	3,00,000.00	2,00,000.00

The Time line for the above tender is as follows:

Start Date of Online submission of Bid	**23.02.2024 from 11:00 Hrs.**
Last Date of Online submission of Bid	**11.03.2024 up to 18:00 Hrs**
Last Date of submission of Bid Declaration and hard copy of receipt of BSEDCL processing fee & tender cost	**11.03.2024 up to 15:00 Hrs**
Date of opening of Techno -Commercial bid(Part-I)	**12.03.2024 after 17:00 Hrs**
Date of Pre Bid Meeting:	01.03.2024 at office chamber of Chief Engineer (S&P) NBPDCL, 4th floor, Vidyut Bhawan-3 Bailey Road, Patna, Bihar

''विवादों के निष्पादन के लिए लोक अदालत का लाभ उठावें''
''परस्पर सहमति से न्यायिक निर्णय प्राप्त करें''
''समय एवं खर्च की बचत करें।''

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** **Electrical Superintending Engineer (S&P)**
PR- 017610 (B & C) 2023-24 **NBPDCL**

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

GOVERNMENT OF MADHAY PRADESH
NARMADA VELLY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
UPPER NARAMADA ZONE,BARGI HILLS, JABALPUR(M. P.)

Tel.No. - 0761-2673450 **E-mail: ceunz.2010@rediffmail.com**

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (First Call)

N.I.T. No. 295/G/CE/2023-24 **Jabalpur, Dated : 09/02/2024**

Online tenders for the following works have been processed on the e-Procurement system Portal website **http://mptenders.gov.in** Tender details as below :-

Tender No.	:	.....
Name of the work	:	Construction, operation and maintenance of Bahoriband micro lift irrigation project with all ancillary works, Piped Irrigation system to supply water through pressurized pipeline system for micro irrigation (Drip/Sprinkler) to deliver at farmer's fields with a duty of 0.35 Lit/Sec/Ha. with OMS at 20Ha. Chak with 10 times duty from 20 ha to 2.5 ha.Chak with at least 23 Meter Residual Head at highest point of each 2.50 Ha chak with total power requirement of 17.23 MW in Culturable command area of 32000 Ha, out of gross command area 47704 Ha. The work includes all activities i.e. survey, investigation, designing, drawing, obtaining approval from competent authority, procurement, construction of Bahoriband micro lift irrigation project with pump houses, laying of rising /gravity mains, branch lines, distribution network, railway and highway and other road crossing structures, controlling and regulation of system with SCADA with full automation. Preparation of land acquisition cases and compliances, pursuing for final award , preparing, complying and pursuing cases for obtaining statutory clearances including forest, environmental clearances as per rules from respective departments of GoI and GoMP, construction of permanent & temporary buildings for official and residential purpose, approach roads and other required works as directed by Engineer in charge. The work also includes Management, Operation and Maintenance (MoM) for the period of 60 months after completion and further extendable for another 60 months, including 60 months defect liability period running simultaneously.
Probable Amount of Contract (Rs. In Crore)	:	Rs. 836.05 Crore (G.S.T. Extra)
EMD (In Rs. lakh)	:	(Rs. 50.00 Lakh)
Cost of Tender Document	:	Rs. 50000.00 (Non-Refundable)
Date of Purchase of tender document	:	09-02-2024, 17:30 Hrs. to 27-02-2024, 17.30 Hrs
Date of Opening of EMD	:	29-02-2024, 10:30 AM Onwards
Completion Period	:	60 Months (including rainy season)

- The tender document can be purchased only online from the above website after making online payment using credit card or Internet Banking Account.
- Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal.

Sd/-
(D.L. Verma)
Chief Engineer
Upper Narmada Zone Bargi Hills, Jabalpur

G-24443/23

कोरोना में सावधानी हटी, समझो दुर्घटना घटी।

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE

Rekha Devi Ashish Anish

General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely Rekha Devi along with her two Children **Anish (Aged:** 10 yrs.) and **Ashish (Aged:** 8 yrs.) **W/o** Hari Chander **R/o** Gali No.22A, Kair Road Dabar Enclave, Jaffarpur Kalan, New Delhi **Aged**-30 Years has been reported missing since 13.02.2024 vide **DD No.40A Dated 13.02.2024** registered at Police Station Jaffarpur Kalan, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Shallow, **Height:** 4'6", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Unknown coloured suit-salwar and white coloured shoes in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female with her children, may inform SHO, Jaffarpur Kalan, New Delhi at E-mail : **cic@cbi.gov.in** or website : **http://cbi.nic.in**

Sd/-
SHO, Jaffarpur Kalan, New Delhi
Tel.: 011-25318081
Mob. 8750871030

Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641
FAX No. : 011-24368639
DP/2025/DW/2024

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ASSAM INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

E-Procurement Notice :: Request for Bid for Non-Consultancy Services

Name of Project : Assam Inland Water Transport Project (AIWTP)
RFP Reference no. : **AIWTD-11013/43/2023**
Assignment Title : Hiring of Implementation Agency for Printing and Execution of Outdoor and Outreach activities

The Government of India has obtained financing from the World Bank towards cost of the Assam IWT Project. Under the project, State Project Director, Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society (AIWTDS) invites Request for Bids through National Open Competitive bidding process from eligible firms for the aforesaid assignment. Complete documents of the RFB shall be available on website **www.assamtenders.gov.in & www.aiwtdsociety.in.** Intending bidders are required to register at e-tender portal of the Assam Govt. **www.assamtenders.gov.in** and participate through e-tender portal only. The last date and time of online submission of bids is on 11.03.2024 at 14:00 HRS (IST).

Sd/-
State Project Director
Assam IWT Development Society
Email : dir.iwtds-as@gov.in
Janasanyog/CF/5688/23/20-Feb-24

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM
ASSAM INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

E-Procurement Notice :: Request for Proposals for Consultancy Services

Name of Project : Assam Inland Water Transport Project (AIWTP)
RFP Reference no. : **AIWTD-11012/38/2023**
Assignment Title : Hiring of IEC Consultancy Services for Communication, Creative Designing, Video Production and Social Media Management

The Government of India has obtained financing from the World Bank towards cost of the Assam IWT Project. Under the project, State Project Director, Assam Inland Water Transport Development Society (AIWTDS) invites Request for Proposal through National Open Competitive bidding process from eligible firms for the aforesaid assignment. Complete documents of the RFP shall be available on website **www.assamtenders.gov.in** & **www.aiwtdsociety.in.** Intending bidders are required to register at e-tender portal of the Assam Govt. **www.assamtenders.gov.in** and participate through e-tender portal only. The last date and time of online submission of proposal is on 11.03.2024 at 14:00 HRS (IST).

Sd/-
State Project Director
Assam IWT Development Society
Email : dir.iwtds-as@gov.in
Janasanyog/CF/5690/23/20-Feb-24

B- **Mail ID: sepwdsbp@rediffmail.com**

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
NORTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR
e - Procurement
BID IDENTIFICATION No. CCENC (R AND B) /34/ 2023-24
No. 740 Dtd. 08.02.2024

1. The **Chief Construction Engineer, Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **Percentage Rate** bids in double cover system **in ONLINE MODE** for the construction of **Bridge works** as detailed in the DTCN from the eligible class of contractors.
2. No of works= **03 NOS (THREE) (BRIDGE WORKS)**
3. Tender Cost: **Rs. 10,000/-**
4. Class of contractor: **"A" Class AND "Special" Class.**
5. Date & Time of available in website & receipt of Bids From **15.02.2024** to **17.00 Hours of 29.02.2024.**
6. Date of opening of Technical Bid **29.02.2024 at 18.00 Hours.**
7. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**
8. Any corrigendum/ Addendum will be displayed in the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Northern (R&B) Circle, Sambalpur
OIPR-34035/11/0039/23-24

North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited

(Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-21)
CIN No.- U40109BR2012SGC018920
Website: http://nbpdcl.co.in/ E-mail- nbpdclceom@gmail.com
(Department of Operation & Maintenance)
Contact: - 9264437181
(Through e-procurement mode only- www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

बिहार सरकार

Notice Inviting Tender
NIT NO:-16 /PR/NBPDCL/2024

North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (NBPDCL), a Government of Bihar Undertaking, invites Request for Proposals (RfP) for**Execution for Erection of Dedicated 11KV Feeder under Electric Supply Circle - Chapra, Muzaffarpur and Motihari for Engineering and Polytechnic College at different places under TESA Area Board, NBPDCL Under Deposit head Scheme on Turnkey Basis on behalf of NBPDCL.** Eligible and experienced Firms / Companies who have necessary experience are welcome to participate in the online tendering process.

S.No	Particulars	Estimated Project Value (Rs.)	E.M.D. (Rs.)	Cost of Tender document. (Rs.)
1.	**Execution for Erection of Dedicated 11KV Feeder under Electric Supply Circle - Chapra, Muzaffarpur and Motihari for Engineering and Polytechnic College at different places under TESA Area Board, NBPDCL Under Deposit head Scheme on Turnkey Basis.**	15,67,97,480.00	25,67,975.00	17700.00 (15000 + GST @ 18%)

The time line for the above tender is as follows:

Bid submission start Date:	03/03/2024, from 15.00 Hrs
Bid submission due Date:	12/03/2024, up to 18:00 Hrs
Last Date of submission of EMD and hard copy of receipt of BSEDCL processing fee & tender cost.	13/03/2024,up to 14:00 Hrs
Date of opening of Techno -Commercial bid (Part-I)	13/03/2024, after 15:00 Hrs.
Date of Pre-bid Meeting	04/03/2024 At 11:00 AM in the office chamber of Chief Engineer (O&M) NBPDCL. 04th floor, Vidyut Bhawan -3 Bailey Road, Patna.

For further details please visit : **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar**

Chief Engineer (O&M),
North Bihar Power
Distribution Company Limited

PR- 017711 (B & C) 2023-24

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

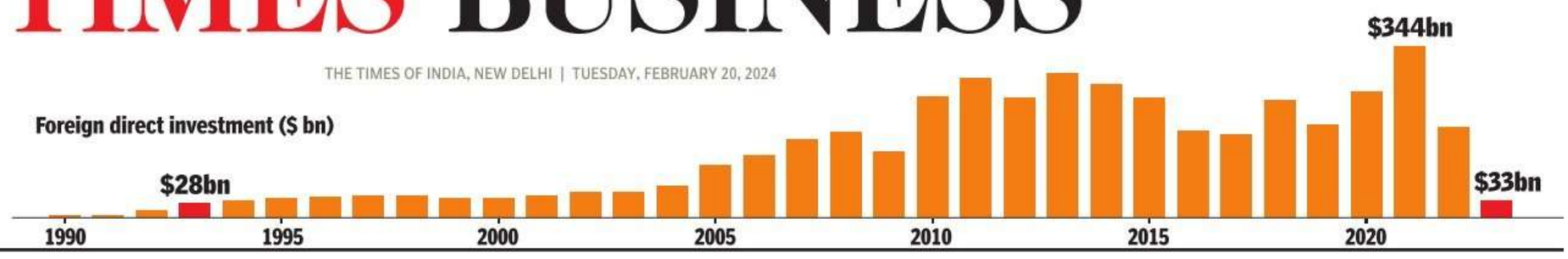
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Foreign Direct Investment Slumps To 30-Year Low In China

Foreign direct investment into China last year increased by the lowest amount **since 1993**. Foreign firms added **$33 billion** to their FDI liabilities – **82% lower** than the 2022 level. The data shows the effect of Covid lockdowns as well as weak recovery last year. There's more incentive for MNCs to keep cash overseas rather than in China, because advanced economies have been raising interest rates when Beijing has been cutting them to stimulate the economy

Source: Bloomberg



Govt starts withdrawing old small tax demands

CBDT Sets Cap Of ₹1L Per Taxpayer, Includes Wealth & Gift Taxes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Govt has begun the process of extinguishment of old outstanding small income tax demands after setting a ceiling of Rs 1 lakh per taxpayer. Taxpayers can check the status of the demands by logging on to the I-T portal.

As was mentioned by FM Nirmala Sitharaman in her interim Budget speech, I-T department will withdraw small outstanding direct tax demands of Rs 25,000 or less which pertained to the period up to FY10 and of Rs 10,000 or less for the financial years from 2010-11 up to 2014-15. Sitharaman had said that this would benefit about 1 crore taxpayers. Govt officials had pegged the total value of cancellation of these demands to be around Rs 3,500 crore.

In its recent order, CBDT said that such small tax demands that were outstanding as on Jan 31, 2024 raised under the I-T Act and also under the erstwhile Wealth Tax and Gift Tax Acts, shall be remitted and extinguished subject to the ceiling of Rs 1 lakh for a taxpayer. CBDT clarified that this limit of Rs 1 lakh covers outstanding demand entries in the books of the tax authorities in respect of the principal tax component, and interest, penalty, fee, cess or surcharge under the three tax acts.

"In other words, the thresholds set for each year would apply subject to the overall threshold of Rs 1 lakh per taxpayer. It should also be noted that if an outstanding for a particular year is beyond the value prescribed for that year, say Rs 30,000 for FY11, it will not be considered, even if the taxpayer has no other outstanding demand and this limit falls within the overall limit of Rs 1 lakh," Ameet Patel, tax partner at Manohar Chowdhry & Associates, said.

CBDT clarified that extinguishment of demands does not entitle the concerned taxpayers to any claims for credit or refunds. Further, such extinguishment will not provide any immunity from any criminal proceeding which is pending, initiated or even contemplated against the taxpayer.

There is a grey area which requires explanation. CBDT's order states that consequent to the extinguishment of the outstanding demand, there shall be no requirement to calculate interest under section 220(2) of the I-T Act, and the corresponding sections under the Wealth Tax and Gift Tax Acts. This interest is charged for delay in payment of the tax dues.

"However, if such interest was already levied and is part of the demand outstanding in the books of the revenue authorities, will it be covered by the aggregate limit of Rs 1 lakh? This requires a clarification," Patel said.

It should be noted that demands, even if within the limits prescribed, raised against those required to deduct/collect tax at source, under the I-T provisions relating to TDS or TCS shall not be extinguished.

THE FINE PRINT...

Fiscal years to which outstanding demands as of Jan 31, 2024 pertain	Monetary limit for extinguishment of demand
➤ Up to FY 2009-10	➤ Each outstanding demand entry of ₹**25,000 or less**
➤ From FY 2010-11 to FY 2014-15	➤ Each outstanding demand entry of ₹**10,000 or less**

Note: The above is subject to a maximum ceiling of ₹1 lakh per taxpayer

Entrepreneurs cannot live in denial of rules: Minister

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Entrepreneurs and companies, irrespective of their reach and scale, cannot deny the fact that certain rules and laws need to be complied with, union minister of state for electronics & technology **Rajeev Chandrasekhar** said on Monday.

He added that govt maintains an open and consultative approach to regulations and the idea is not to play "rule maker". "Entrepreneurs begin to trespass because the momentum of entrepreneurship takes them beyond what the regulators have allowed them to do at that particular point in time… even if you are a hard charging, successful, innovative entrepreneur, you cannot live in denial of the reality that there are rules and laws that have to be complied with. And that applies to big companies, small companies, startups, legacy…," Chandrasekhar said at the Mumbai Tech Week.

His comments come amid RBI's move to curb operations of Paytm Payments Bank due to "persistent non-compliance". RBI found lakhs of instances of alleged KYC violations by PPBL, raising concerns of money laundering along with the lender's inability to maintain an arm's length relationship with its parent, resulting in the regulator putting severe restrictions on it, **TOI** had reported.

Personal guarantors face more insolvency heat

SC Ruling To Improve Recovery, Prolonging Cases Will Amplify Liabilities: IBBI Chief

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on Monday said a recent Supreme Court ruling will help improve the recovery of creditors from personal guarantors (PGs) and cautioned them against prolonging cases, as it will only "amplify their liabilities".

The comment by IBBI chairman Ravi Mittal in the latest newsletter comes months after a Supreme Court ruling. "The judgment has cleared roadblocks for the insolvencies involving PGs, providing relief for lenders whose petitions for insolvency proceedings against PGs were getting stuck in various legal forums due to challenge of various provisions. This facilitates a more holistic resolution of the corporate debtor (company) and its PGs aligning with the IBC's mandate for value maximisation," he said.

List of PGs facing proceedings includes several well-known names — from Anil Ambani to Venugopal Dhoot, Ruias of Essar Group and Bhushans of Bhushan Steel. At the height of the loan boom, when valuations had soared, personal guarantees were the norm.

At the end of Dec, there were nearly 2,500 such insolvency applications, involving debt of over Rs 1.7 lakh crore Of these, 87 applications have been withdrawn or rejected before the appointment of a resolution professional (RP), while RPs have been appointed in 1,096 cases. After appointment of a RP, 296 cases have been admitted in NCLT. So far, only 21 cases have resulted in approval of a repayment plan, with the amount realised adding up to just Rs 91 crore — or 5.2% of the claims.

IBBI data showed creditors have been able to recover around 32% of claims admitted by NCLT. Cases have dragged for 724 days, 2.7 times of deadline of 270 days.

Mittal pointed to "excessing litigation" delaying cases, which results in value erosion of the company and in turn increases the burden on the guarantors. Citing IBC, he argued that process for PGs prioritises debt restructuring over outright bankruptcy, which is the last resort in case the repayment plan falters. "By cooperating in the process and submitting a repayment plan for approval by creditors, debtors can effectively discharge their debt liabilities instead of initiation of their bankruptcy process," Mittal wrote in a message to PGs

2,467 CASES: OVER ₹1.7L CR DEBT

Insolvency resolution of personal guarantors

	No. of cases	Adjudicating authority: NCLT	Adjudicating authority: DRT	Debt* (Rs cr)
2019-20	25	24	1	3,340
2020-21	262	256	6	40,119
2021-22	970	955	15	67,761
2022-23	787	786	1	47,826
April-June, 2023	122	122	0	4,603
July-Sept, 2023	190	163	27	3,341
Oct-Dec, 2023	111	111	0	4,255

*Debt data not available in 490 cases

NCLT: National Company Law Tribunal; DRT: Debt Recovery Tribunal

Source: IBBI

Byju's issue gets $300mn commitment

New Delhi: Edtech major Think & Learn, which operates under Byju's brand name, is learnt to have received a commitment of $300 million from investors for its ongoing rights issue which will close by the end of Feb, sources aware of the development said.

Byju's floated a rights issue in Jan to raise $200 million at an enterprise valuation in the range of $220-250 million — a 99% reduction in its peak valuation of $22 billion.

Sources also shared that Byju's has offered miffed investors to appoint two independent directors to enhance transparency but only after the rights issue and declaring its financial results for FY23.

"Byju's has received a total commitment of around $300 million for the rights as on date," said a source. AGENCIES

Niti backs tax reforms on senior care products

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

EASE FINANCIAL BURDEN

New Delhi: Reverse mortgage system to increase liquidity of senior citizens, tax and GST reforms on senior care products to increase the adoption and safeguard the senior population from financial burden are among a string of measures suggested by government think tank Niti Aayog.

"Encouraging the private sector to design targeted and comprehensive geriatric health insurance products and increasing liquidity and capital allocation to the senior care industry will help in addressing needs of the affording segment," said the paper on senior care reforms in India, while suggesting action on four key areas, which include health, social, financial and digital.

It called for protection for the elderly from financial fraud by increasing awareness and literacy. "The government should reassess the reverse mortgage mechanism to increase liquidity for seniors and by making necessary amendments to the current reverse mortgage rules."

The paper called for designing a robust digital inclusion, which calls for improving access to digital services, focus on increasing digital literacy, efforts should be made to harness potential of modern technology, such as, AI, internet of things, big data, and machine learning to take charge of routine procedures. Elderly in India currently comprises a little over 10% of the population, and is projected to reach 19.5% of the total population by 2050.

The paper estimated that by 2050, one in every four Indians will be a senior citizen. In absolute numbers, it will be equal to the population of the US for the industry in the form of a "silver economy". The senior care industry in India is about $7 billion (approximately Rs 57,881 crore) and it is expected to grow rapidly, showing ample opportunity for the health care companies to create solutions for the silver generation, according to the paper.

It also called for involving the private sector in areas like building elder care homes, sponsoring medical units that can travel to remote & rural areas and designing new private sector insurance products for the elderly.

"Earmarking CSR funds as a contribution to national funds or for care provided to the non-affording category of seniors in their facilities in lieu of concessional land, utilities, tax rebates, etc," according to the paper.

Mitsubishi picks up 32% stake in TVS Mobility

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: Japanese automotive giant Mitsubishi has invested Rs 300 crore for 32% stake in multi-brand automotive dealer TVS Vehicle Mobility Solution, subsidiary of TVS Mobility (demerged from TV Sundram Iyengar & Sons). With this, the dealership business of TVS Mobility will transform into TVS VMS — a joint venture between TVS Mobility and Mitsubishi — with both parties committed to support the venture's growth.

"This investment is intended to propel the parties' vision in relation to vehicle ownership in passenger cars, commercial vehicles and material handling equipment and the business model will have the potential to achieve $2 billion revenue in the next 3-5 years' time," said R Dinesh, director, TVS Mobility. Mitsubishi, he added, is coming in as a partner to "scale up this business and spread this model to other geographies."

"The latest investment in TVS VMS widens MC's investment coverage through enhanced service capabilities even further and should propel its aim to develop comprehensive mobility solutions," said Shigeru Wakabayashi, CEO of automotive and mobility group at Mitsubishi.

Losing control: Promoters clear nearly ₹10L cr 'default'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Since the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC) kicked in over seven years ago, some 7,300 cases have been admitted in the NCLT. But the fear of losing control over their companies has prompted promoters to settle almost four times more cases — 27,514 to be precise — before they were admitted in the tribunal. And, the default amount in these cases added up to a little less than Rs 10 lakh crore.

"The credible threat of the Code, that a corporate debtor may change hands, has changed the behaviour of debtors. Thousands of debtors are resolving distress in early stages. They are resolving when default is imminent, on receipt of a notice for repayment but before filing an application, after filing an application but before its admission, and even after the admission of the application, and making best effort to avoid consequences of a resolution process," IBBI said, while releasing the numbers for the Dec quarter.

Bankers said companies are more prudent in seeking loans now and ensure timely repayment, fearing action. Under IBC, on admission of a case, NCLT appoints a resolution professional, who works with the committee of creditors until a resolution applicant is approved by the tribunal. During the resolution process, the promoters lose their powers. While lenders and financial creditors (which includes homebuyers in case of real estate) have initiated 3,300 of the cases that were admitted, operational creditors, who could be small vendors had initiated 3,566 cases, IBBI data showed.

Ongoing Cases Decline Since June 2023

While case admission is rising, so are closures

Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP)

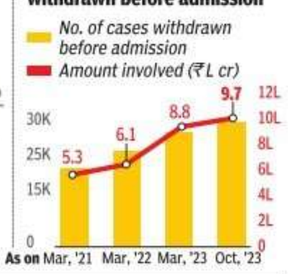
As on	Admitted	Closure	Ongoing
Mar-22	5,317	3,610	1,707
Mar-23	6,580	4,619	1,961
Jun-23	6,831	4,844	1,987
Sep-23	7,081	5,158	1,923
Dec-23	7,325	5,426	1,899

Mfg, realty account for nearly 60% of admissions

Sectorwise distribution (%)

Source: IBBI

Till Oct, 27,514 cases were withdrawn before admission



One member not to join 16th Fin Comm

New Delhi: Artha Global executive director Niranjan Rajadhyaksha has expressed his inability to join as a member of the 16th Finance Commission due to personal reasons, the finance ministry said on Monday.

The govt had on Jan 31 appointed four members of the 16th Finance Commission chaired by Arvind Panagariya.

Apart from Rajadhyaksha, former expenditure secretary Ajay Narayan Jha and retired bureaucrat Annie George Mathew were appointed as full-time members of the commission. SBI Group chief economic advisor Soumya Kanti Ghosh was named a part-time member. AGENCIES

Whirlpool India parent to sell 24% in co via block trade

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Whirlpool Mauritius, an arm of global white goods major Whirlpool, is selling 24% stake in its India arm for about Rs 3,740 crore ($451 million) through block deals on Tuesday. Currently, Whirlpool Mauritius holds 75% stake in Whirlpool India, shareholding disclosure on BSE showed.

The Mauritius entity is offloading about 3 crore shares of the Indian arm at a base price of Rs 1,230 per share — a discount of 7.6% to the stock's Monday closing at Rs 1,331 on BSE. Goldman Sachs is the broker managing the deal.

The base size of the offer is for about 1.9 crore shares — about 15% of the Indian company's equity capital — that would fetch about Rs 2,340 crore (around $282 million). There is also a greenshoe option for another 1.1 crore shares, about 9% of the company equity, for nearly Rs 1,400 crore (around $169 million), the term sheet for the deal showed.

In Jan this year, Whirlpool had announced that it was looking to divest 24% stake in the Indian arm. Even after offloading this stake, it would retain full control of the Indian arm with its 51% holding.

Chinese cos to outsource mfg to local players

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New Delhi: After resisting to open up their supply chain and production work to Indian companies, Chinese firms have finally decided to give business to local makers. They will outsource crucial manufacturing processes and know-how to select homegrown companies, official sources have said.

The move comes after persistent nudging by govt and seen as a big victory for local players, many of whom need manufacturing contracts after having won benefits under production-linked incentive scheme for smartphones. The PLI payout comes only after companies fulfil specified commitments towards new investments and business activity.

Sources said Dixon Technologies and Karbonn are among frontrunners for getting new business from companies such as Oppo and Vivo.

Sources added that Dixon has "already bagged a large manufacturing order" from Oppo for making phones. "This has come through one of the original design manufacturers (ODM) of Oppo, which has now tapped into Dixon with an order size of around 5-6 lakh units per month," they said, requesting anonymity. When contacted, officials at Dixon Technologies refused to speak on the matter.

The new business for Dixon comes close on the heels of the company winning a large manufacturing order from Xiaomi to manufacture smartphones. Separately, Xiaomi had also signed an exclusive partnership with another homegrown electronics maker Optiemus to make audio products.

Karbonn, which had won PLI benefits under UTL Neolyncs, is also in "advanced discussions", though the company did not comment on the matter. "There are some other Indian electronics manufacturers also, who are being tapped into," sources said.

While Chinese companies such as Vivo and Oppo have their own manufacturing facilities in India, they also outsource work through their ODMs, such as, Longcheer, Huaqin, and Wingtech. These ODMs are crucial partners of smartphone ecosystem of Chinese companies and have a strong say in allotting manufacturing business. **TOI** reached out to Oppo and Vivo on the matter, but there was no response.

Govt had stepped into the matter after it found that Chinese companies were not ready to open up their supply chains to Indian players, despite virtually controlling the broader smartphones business in India. Except for Samsung and Apple, who cumulatively have around 25% of the Indian smartphone market, majority of the business is with Chinese makers, such as, Xiaomi, Oppo, Vivo, RealMe and OnePlus. "Since Samsung operates through its own factories that were set up long back, the only credible manufacturing business for enterprising Indian companies can come through the Chinese. We want more Chinese companies to give technology and manufacturing opportunities to such Indian players, especially as they will also come with PLI benefits," said official sources.

Even Apple has roped in the Tata group for making iPhones in India, adding the Indian company to list of manufacturing partners that includes Taiwanese Foxconn and Pegatron.

DIXON, KARBONN MAY GET NEW BIZ

- ➤ **Dixon Technologies has "already bagged a large manufacturing order" from Oppo** for making phones, say sources. An original design manufacturer of Oppo has tapped into Dixon with an order size of around 5-6 lakh units per month
- ➤ **Karbonn is in advanced discussions** as also some other Indian electronics manufacturers
- ➤ Govt entered the matter after it found Chinese companies are not ready to open up supply chains to Indian players, although they control smartphones business here
- ➤ **Local players need manufacturing contracts after having won benefits under PLI scheme** for smartphones. PLI payout comes only after companies fulfil specified commitments towards new investments and business activity

Dalmia Cement to focus on retail space

Kolkata: Puneet Dalmia-led Dalmia Cement, one of the top cement companies in the country, will increase its focus on business-to-consumer (B2C) segment and is rebranding itself as RCF (roof column foundation) expert.

The rebranding, instead of the current 'Future Today', is part of a plan to grow faster than industry. Dalmia Cement COO Sameer Nagpal said the company has set a growth target of 14-15% over the next few years, against an expected industry expansion of 10%.

The idea is to focus on retail customers, with the share of B2C projected to increase from 65% of its topline to 70%. This is also seen as a catalyst to achieve carbon neutral status by 2040, Nagpal said.

The demand in the retail segment is mainly for blended cement, which has a lower carbon footprint when compared with non-blended (OPC) cement, he explained. Currently, blended cement accounts for 84% of the company's production.

Having roped in actor Ranveer Singh, Dalmia Cement is stepping up focus on brand building and has lined up roadshows in 75 cities about new initiative. New brand positioning of the company, RCF Expert, was designed by Rahul Kansal.

Nagpal said special attention is being given to tier 2 and tier 3 towns, along with other areas with untapped potential. "The metro cities are majorly dominated by real estate players, which for the industry is mostly B2B. So, our focus will be on smaller towns, where people construct individual houses." Dalmia Cement now has 45,000 strong dealer strength. "In order to support the retail initiative we will have 600 technical people and 150 tech vans across the country, which can give advice to customers," COO added. TNN

Kotak Bank rejigs senior mgmt roles

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Ashok Vaswani, MD & CEO of private sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank who took over on Jan 1 this year, on Monday announced top-level changes in the bank's top management.

KVS Manian, a veteran with the bank and whole-time director now, has been designated as the joint MD, the bank said in a statement to the bourses. Shanti Ekambaram, another bank veteran and also a whole-time director, was designated the deputy MD. Both changes are effective March 1, the bank said.

The bank appointed Devang Gheewalla to succeed Jaimin Bhatt as the group's chief financial officer starting April 1, after Bhatt retires on March 31. The bank elevated Milind Nagnur as its chief operating officer, effective April 1. It also promoted Paul Parambi as the group's chief risk officer, effective March 1, the release said.

A thought for today

You may have heard the world is made up of atoms and molecules, but it's really made up of stories

WILLIAM TURNER

Shopping Truths

What consumer surveys tell us about men, women, business, ads and India's economic resilience

Consumer surveys often throw up results that puncture myths, for example, men shop mostly for functional stuff. They don't, as an IIM-Ahmedabad survey on online shopping habits shows.

Land of dandies | Fashion tops the list of stuff women – *and men* – buy online. And it's men who spend more, in per capita terms, on online shopping. Outspending women by 36%, men also manage to finish their buying in less time than women.

What we don't know | The large gap in per capita spend between women and men should trigger questions. A separate survey carried out by DBS and Crisil on financial independence of women showed that it's practically non-existent for middle-class women. Does IIM-Ahmedabad's survey indicate that even technology, which helps people overcome so many other obstacles, can't quite escape social constraints?

Good times, not for all | Recent consumption patterns also point to other constraints. An analysis by **TOI** of consumer companies' performance in the Oct-Dec quarter of 2023 was revealing. Rarely have premium products seen such strong demand. Quick service restaurants report brisk sales of gourmet pizzas. However, sales growth of the regular variant hasn't kept up. Mass market products continue to report lacklustre sales.

Uneven recovery | The analysis shows that last couple of years have seen a two-track pace of bounce back from Covid. For households with an income between ₹3-5 lakh a year, discretionary spending has been squeezed by factors such as inflation. For households with an annual income of ₹10 lakh and more, the pandemic is a distant memory. SUVs and travel are all the rage, leading to happier times for businesses and advertisers.

Many messages | India's economy runs on consumption. It makes up about 60% of GDP. Consumption patterns provide insights to social changes. Surveys and data from consumer goods firms are corroborated by macro data. Lower-income households haven't yet joined the party of an economy set to top 7% annual growth for the third straight year.

In the Oct-Dec 2023 quarter, the proportion of self-employed in urban jobs increased by a percentage point to 40.6%. Among women, the share employed as unpaid help rose four straight quarters. No surprise then that mass market stuff's slow moving. For growth to sustain, that's the market that needs to grow again.

Side By Side

Why Patnaik in Odisha and Jagan/Naidu in Andhra are keen to maintain good equation with Modi

Two states, Odisha and Andhra, cruise along almost noiselessly to their assembly elections. Because their state polls are held simultaneously with Lok Sabha's.

Friends with Centre | It's exactly this cover of LS elections that's given Naveen Patnaik an advantage since he assumed office in 2004. Patnaik benefits from stable ties with GOI, whether UPA or NDA. True, BJP or Congress can't devote full time or resources to a single state during LS campaign. But that doesn't take away from Patnaik's achievement. His record of winning a majority of Odisha's LS seats wasn't broken even by Modi's popularity. Modi is no rival to Patnaik. They have good ties. But in Odisha BJP has made inroads into BJD's votes. So, Patnaik leaves no place for complacency, as was evident in Padampur byelection, where he personally campaigned after BJD lost an earlier bypoll to BJP.

Wannabe friends | In neighbouring Andhra, heads of both governing and opposition parties want to tie up with BJP. The situation is not peculiar. TDP's Naidu scraped back to power in 2014 only with BJP's help. Jagan-led YSRCP's win in 2019 was a result of a hard-fought and successful campaign. But Naidu's walking out of NDA ahead of polls had played a role too. Jagan this time must fight both Congress, headed by his sister, and old foe Naidu. Seeking BJP's backing is insurance. In both Odisha and Andhra, incumbent govts want quid pro quo arrangements with Delhi – simultaneous LS, assembly polls are a reason. This time, the other reason is that Modi is considered the favourite. So, good vibes with him make sense for CMs seeking return to office.

Hold your peace, it's war

Generals, statesmen and them soldier boos, er, blues...

Rupa Sengupta

Peace is a many-sundered thing. For Putin, it means demilitarised, regime-changed Ukraine. For Zelensky, it entails 'we all finish' Putin. For Biden, it mandates Ukraine's (uncertain) victory – via war that boosts US arms-making. For Trump, it requires Trump. But if Nato 'delinquents' withhold 'dues', Russia can do 'whatever the hell they want'. Starting with Putin benefiting Trump…by endorsing Biden?

Military commanders pursue peace-oriented political goals in battle. By, say, carpet-bombing commies in Vietnam, only to let Saigon be bygones. Or bombarding Iraq into hugging democracy – and authoritarianism-promoting instability. Or de-Talibanising Afghanistan, just to see it re-Talibanised…Didn't military theorist Clausewitz say war's result is never 'final'?

Chasing final results, ambitious, troops-hungry generals chafe in their political bosses' labyrinths. Like Gen MacArthur, stopped from turning Korean conflict into WWIII. Or Gen Westmoreland, prevented from enlarging 'Nam's killing fields. Or, recently, Russia's Gen Surovikin, allegedly disciplined for befriending 'mutineers'. Or Ukraine's popular Gen Zaluzhny, reportedly fired for demanding 'unpopular' mobilisation.

Gen Patrick Sanders is UK's outgoing army chief. Picturing land war, he called for a troops-bolstering 'citizen army'. Frowning, No.10 dismissed the conscription scare. That didn't stop boot-stamping 'Lance Corporal Johnson', ex-PM BoJo, from penning a *Daily Mail* column, saluting 'Yes, Sah!' to fighting 'for King and country'. Yup, war's a party(gate).

Tussles notwithstanding, war's political-military-industrial JV requires cannon fodder, brawnwashed. Take one Russian military recruitment ad exhorting men to join up: 'You're a real man! Be one!' It suggests pacifists are poofters and desperate housewives wanting hubbies demobilised are emasculators. 'Bravery conquers fear', a Ukrainian campaign sloganeers. With recruiters obliging draft-dodging palm-greasers, bribery conquers fear too.

Given its (f)utility, 'statesmen' pitch war as 'continuation of policy' by bloodier means. 'Military geniuses' chase gory glory. Both applaud war deeds, reducing war dead to competitive statistics. Courtesy both, distraught soldiers remember 'firelit homes, clean beds and wives' – war poet Siegfried Sassoon's words. For these reluctant martyrs, it's Catch-22: plead insanity to avoid being body-bagged, and you're certified sane; if sane, you must do what's insane: kill, get killed.

Three questions, answered, arise. Isn't war still too serious a business to be left to the generals? Yes, sah! Can that too-precarious a blessing – peace – be left to expediently belligerent, expeditiously defence-lobbied and exasperatingly blinkered politicos? No, sah! Where does that leave us? Dunno, sah!

Careful, It's The Year Of Dragon

China doesn't see India as an equal, but hardening global perceptions about Beijing might create opportunities for fresh bilateral approach

Vijay Gokhale

When the quinquennial electoral cycle concludes by middle of 2024, GOI will turn its attention to new policy priorities. China, presumably, would be one of these. China is a formidable power at our doorstep. As one China expert, Richard McGregor, pointed out earlier this month, its economy might be slowing down, but China is still responsible for a third of global manufacturing and will remain a strategic player for decades to come.

Four propositions might be valid in framing a new policy on China.

● First, the pre-2019 bilateral framework built by the two sides since 1988 seems to be irretrievably broken. Reason is China's egregious violation of a basic understanding – that neither side will use force or threaten to use force to change the status quo.

Since 2013 it has escalated its grey-zone warfare along Line of Actual Control (LAC). The tragic encounter in Galwan valley in June 2020 was the tipping point. We have been in a state of armed co-existence since then. There's no clarity whether the Chinese side is willing to dial down its grey-zone warfare along LAC to help stabilise relations with India. Unless China is willing to rebuild trust through action, this state of affairs is likely to become the new normal in crafting a fresh bilateral framework.

● Second, China's approach towards India even after Galwan still appears to be mired in the past. It looks to be unwilling to deal on an equal basis with India, considers India incapable of independent agency in conduct of its foreign policy, and presumes that its partnership with others must be driven by malice towards China.

In order to deter India from 'tilting' towards others, China continues to use coercive methods. It seems not to have learnt from previous experience that such tactics have not succeeded in subduing India or deterring it from building partnerships with others. It's not clear whether China might be ready to re-adjust its approach in building a fresh bilateral framework.

Chad Crowe

● Third, it's worth examining whether the changed global and regional perceptions about China might encourage it to be more accommodative or lead to greater assertiveness. Notwithstanding the current debate about whether China has peaked or merely plateaued, perceptions have changed after the pandemic. Attitudes towards China in US are hardening. Western technology sanctions are biting. Europeans may not be as enthusiastic as US to 'de-risk', but their companies are reducing fresh FDI inflows into China.

More generally, supply of essential products by China during the pandemic on commercial rather than humanitarian considerations has raised international concerns about how far it can be depended upon as a reliable actor in a global crisis. China's neighbours are more wary about its behaviour and, thus, less optimistic about the future trajectory of their relationships.

Chinese economy faces a number of structural problems. Demographic dividend has begun to abate. The sudden collapse of Covid policy and emergence of corruption at the highest levels in Chinese military despite President Xi Jinping's relentless anti-corruption campaign call into question the full extent of his control over the political machinery.

While, as McGregor put it, China is not drifting into oblivion, it may no longer be seen as a 10-ft giant either. Chinese leadership is aware of the changes in international perception. For them, certainties appear to be diminishing and vulnerabilities might be growing. Their leadership acknowledges the complexity of national security issues they are facing.

In a recent essay in *Foreign Policy*, Hal Brands and Michael Bekley suggest that when favourable short-term military prospects are matched by a longer-term strategic and economic outlook that is gloomy, it tends to make revisionist powers like China more prone to violence. Post-pandemic, whether China will become more aggressive or accommodating towards others needs to be carefully analysed.

● Finally, China's behaviour in 2024 is likely to be shaped by the uncertain outcome of US presidential elections in November. One American view is that the present relationship is in a temporary equilibrium without fault lines being resolved. Both President Biden and Trump have outlined the strategic challenge that China poses to US in broad terms, but there is no bi-partisan consensus on policy details. Absence of clarity on who will win the presidential race as well as what American policy might be after November is likely enhancing their anxieties.

The positive trajectory of India-US partnership is expected to continue after November under both Biden and Trump. The question is whether China is able to see beyond this fact, recognise that India is transforming and that it needs to be engaged differently than in the past.

The conduct of general elections in the world's largest democracy calls for vigilance on our borders. For the next few months, risk management would remain a priority. After elections are over, however, it might be prudent for both sides to explore ways to rebuild normal relations. The relationship between two major economies and nuclear-armed neighbours need not continue indefinitely in the present vein.

GOI has rightly demonstrated its resolve in dealing with Chinese coercive behaviour along LAC. At a future juncture, it may look at appropriate engagement opportunities without letting its guard down. Talk-and-deter is, perhaps, a way ahead.

The writer is a former foreign secretary

Elections Need Money But Also Protection From Money

Transparency in political finance is a tricky issue in all democracies. Now that electoral bonds are outlawed, what can India learn from German and American models?

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Transparency and minimising illicit funds in electoral finance – party income, campaign funds and expenditure – is hands-down the biggest challenge for democracies world over. Vital to the idea of free and fair elections is for voters to know where a party or candidate's money is coming from and how they're spending it.

How do parties raise funds? | From members, individuals, private donors. From unions, trusts and companies. The last, income from companies, has been the most contentious worldwide including in India, which decades ago had fleetingly banned corporate donations. The concern is companies that fill party coffers and politicians' pockets exert unfair influence on policy. But bans on company donations tend to drive such transactions underground. Two, regulations and caps have failed to bring in transparency in such transactions of large amounts.

State funding of elections is followed in several countries, mostly in Europe, and in some states of US. Most European nations earmark their funds to parties – especially as incentives to promote women's representation and voter education. Scotland incentivises, tags funds to political participation of persons with disabilities.

US model | Funds from political action committees (PACs), Super-PACs, social welfare groups, national, state, and local party committees and lobbyists add to individual donations to election campaigns. A 2010 landmark and controversial case, Citizens United vs Federal Election Commission, swerved political finance towards deregulation by prohibiting government from imposing any restrictions on corporations engaging in electioneering.

On state funding, Federal Election Commission sets out matching funds for presidential candidates of major and minor parties who meet given criteria. Payments are made from the '$3 tax checkoff'. A federal income tax form asks taxpayers if they wish to give $3 of their taxes to Presidential Election Campaign Fund. When taxpayers say 'yes', $3 goes into the fund. This is the sole source of funds for the public funding programme – reportedly, barely 4% taxpayers tick 'yes'. Nominees too are barely interested in tapping this given other sources of Big Money.

German model | State funding as followed in Germany is currently considered the most equitable practice. In this model of 'matching grants', up to 50% of a party's income, and no more, comes from the state. The amount to a party is decided basis a party's vote share in the latest election (European, national, regional) at a flat rate per vote; the rate graded with increasing vote shares. There is a disbursement ceiling to the state kitty.

● There is no limit on raising private and corporate donations. In no case, however, can the amount of public funds exceed the sum of private funds that a party raises by itself. High-value funds must be reported immediately. State financing is used for both party management and elections, and can be received in a staggered manner from after the election to the next one.

● Matching grants ensure that smaller parties too, who crossed the threshold of 5% vote share in the last election, receive assured income from the state.

● In January, Germany's top court cut funding to a minor far-right party it found to be 'explicitly undermining' German democracy. So, state funds can also be used to penalise.

Why public funding of elections is a challenge in India | Per various studies, the problem is the nature of our political parties and our political system.

● With intra-party democracy not quite the norm, state funds will remain in the control of party leadership. Rather than flow to candidate level.

● In a first-past-the-post system, Lok Sabha elections especially are highly centralised. Funds allocation basis vote shares will then be unfairly skewed towards the largest national parties. Voters, to 'make their vote count', vote for party perceived to be winning even though their actual support may be for a smaller regional party.

● Independents stand to lose, unlikely to have vote-share thresholds at state or national levels to qualify for state funds.

● State funds also cannot solve the problem of illicit donations from companies.

Why it is a good idea | What state funds can do is reduce parties' dependence on corporate donors and networks at the local level, the patron-client election-time economy. One idea is for matching grants to donations of small denominations from supporters. If the electorate puts its money where their vote is, parties will be that much more strengthened. But in India, as goes the joke, the reverse is more often true – voters *seek* quick returns from candidates against promise of their vote.

Matching grants works well in Germany also because its electoral system is a mixed one where half its seats are directly elected and half elected on party lists. Seats for the latter are then allocated basis vote shares. How parties are funded can hardly be viewed in a silo. It has as much to do with the electoral system as it has to do with the nature of parties.

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacred*space*

The most empowering thoughts you can have are those of peace, joy, love, acceptance and willingness. These thoughts don't create a counter-force. Powerful, joyful, loving thoughts stem from your willingness to allow the world to be as it is.

Wayner Dyer

Gita Shows You The Pathway To Excellence

Jaya Row

Is it possible to attain perfection or is human being flawed by nature? The world demands faultless action from us. Yet excellence seems like a distant dream. Our ancestors pursued and attained perfection. In just 19 verses, the Gita Chapter 2 defines perfection and describes the pathway to enlightenment.

What makes for excellence? What comes in the way of attaining your goals? Desire is the obstacle to gaining the very object you seek. It keeps you stunted, makes you unhappy. Chase after desire and the object of desire eludes your grasp. Turn your back on desire, the object comes to you.

Happiness is the goal of all beings. Yet, nobody seems to know where happiness lies or how to gain it. The Bhagwad Gita gives the prescription for happiness.

Happiness is equal to the number of desires fulfilled, divided by the number of desires harboured. Using this formula, either increase the number of desires fulfilled, or reduce the number of desires harboured. We all are busy fulfilling our desires, but has it increased our happiness? Not necessarily.

Suppose you need a pair of walking shoes. As you enter the mall you sample a perfume, see a beautiful watch and the latest smartphone. Finally, you buy the shoes. You have fulfilled one desire, but now you harbour three more – perfume, watch, smartphone. Happiness has shrunk. So, focus on bringing down desires and your happiness increases exponentially. And when the desires come down to zero, you get infinite happiness.

THE SPEAKING TREE

The truth is that you cannot give up a desire, you can only take up a higher one. Then the lower will lose its lustre. But the object will come to you only because you have gained merit. The greatest of people only gained merit. Einstein, for instance, was dedicated to Physics. The Nobel Prize came to him.

Where does desire come from? When do you feel hungry? When your stomach is empty. Desire comes from emptiness. You seek objects to fill that emptiness. In spite of fulfilling many desires the emptiness does not go. Because it is not real. Even as you experience a void you are full, totally full. You don't know it.

So, you do not need objects from the world, you need knowledge of your fullness. When a child gets separated from his wealthy parents and grows up as a beggar, he does not need alms. He needs to know he is a millionaire. Then his life improves dramatically.

We are not just millionaires, we are 'infinitaires'. Ignorant of our real worth we ask for paltry, petty things. Gain knowledge and your life changes miraculously.

Upgrade your desires. For how long will you remain in the kindergarten of life, oblivious to higher joys? Pick an emotional desire, your happiness multiplies. When any family member does well you rejoice. Move to an intellectual desire. Connect with the country and you celebrate the achievement of all Indians. Your happiness increases 1.4 billion times.

Finally, move to the realm of the Spirit. You gain infinite happiness. You are no longer tormented by the world. You attain perfection.

TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

MATSUYAMA WINS AT RIVIERA TO BECOME ASIA'S MOST PROLIFIC PGA TOUR WINNER

WILD CARD DIAZ ACOSTA STUNS ALCARAZ CONQUEROR JARRY TO WIN BUENOS AIRES TITLE

Getty Images

England's Swashbuckling Style Has Come Unstuck On Turning Tracks

BAZBALL'S BIG TEST

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Rajkot: Will England's 'Bazball' dream in India turn into a fiasco? Do they need to review, or even curtail it for now? Going by how Ben Stokes & Co capitulated to an embarrassing 434-run defeat in the third Test in four days here to go down 2-1 in the series, questions are bound to arise.

Launched in June 2022 at Lord's under England's new team leadership of captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum, the home when England successfully chased down 277 in the fourth innings against New Zealand, their ultra aggressive, go-getting brand of Test cricket has seen England storm their way to 14 Test wins since then.

However, the aggressive style of batsmanship, regardless of the situation or wicket, came under fire last week after England's best batsman Joe Root reverse-scooped Jasprit Bumrah to Yashasvi Jaiswal at second slip on the morning of Day 3, helping India to come back into the game for good.

Former India left-arm seamer Karsan Ghavri, who was at Rajkot to watch the match, felt that while 'Bazball' would work for England back home or in Australia, on turning pitches in India, it was a recipe for disaster.

"Bazball can be good on a *pata* (flat) wicket. On a turning track, it doesn't work. Test cricket is a great test of your temperament, and your skill of grafting for runs. This type of cricket can be played in England and Australia. In India, on a turning pitch, it's not possible to play like that, because every time, you won't be able to middle the ball while playing your shots," Ghavri told **TOI**.

He felt that the 28-run win in the first Test at Hyderabad lulled England into believing that the formula would succeed in India too.

"Once they won the first Test, they thought that they would be able to beat India with this brand of cricket. But, now, they'll realize that on a turning track, it's difficult to play shots. Here, you've to play a lot of the waiting game, which unfortunately England didn't. You should look to take singles and doubles by placing the ball well, and take a boundary off a loose ball, like Jaiswal and Sarfaraz did at Rajkot. In a Test, if you play a dot ball, it's fine," Ghavri said.

"In the first innings, Stokes was playing beautifully, but what was the need for him to smash Jadeja into the hands of a fielder at deep mid-wicket, which Jadeja had especially kept for that shot? It shows that you are overconfident. One small mistake can cost you your wicket. For batsmen, it's a one-ball game," Ghavri felt.

However, 'Bazball' still has its backers. "England should continue the 'Bazball' approach, because it's testing the Indian players. If anything, they should be a little bit more calculated. So, play the reverse sweep when the pitch is turning on the third (and) fourth day, and on the first and second day, play the sweep shot. They got some of their calculations wrong there. But generally speaking, they should continue playing Bazball, because it's entertaining, and keeps everyone really interested," former England left-arm spinner Monty Panesar told **TOI** from London.

"The issue here is that you're going to have heavy losses when they play like this. And when they do play in a positive manner, like we've seen in the first two Tests, it's great, entertaining cricket," he said.

ONE SWEEP TOO MANY? England's Jonny Bairstow falls while attempting to play a sweep shot on Sunday

Rookie spinners struggling

The other issue plaguing England is the ordinary performance of their inexperienced spinners, apart from left-arm spinner Tom Hartley, who has taken 16 wickets in three Tests so far @33.18.

In the third Test, England's spinners appeared to be cannon fodder for the likes of Jaiswal and Sarfaraz. "The quality of England's spinners since the first Test hasn't been great. Let's be honest, and we've got to be fair here: These spinners haven't got a lot of First-class experience. They're learning on the job. Sometimes, Ben Stokes, in a very positive mindset, is backing his players, and that gets the best out of the spinners. But, if you haven't played a lot of First-class cricket, there will be times when the spinners will get exposed. So, what will end up happening is that India will take advantage of that," Panesar felt.

Panesar observed that India now know that they are capable of outclassing England, even if they are under pressure at some stage in the game.

"I think that India are beginning to feel that now, 'Guys, we know the quality of their spinners. We know how they (England) are going to play. They're going to be ultra-positive.' When England had reduced India to 33/3 (on Day 1 of third Test), they should've bowled them out for 250. India now know that they just need one person to get a big hundred, one big partnership, in the first innings of a Test, and then they are very much on the top," he felt.

'PEOPLE ENTITLED TO THEIR OPINION'

"We'll turn the page and go quids in again trying to put India under pressure. Hopefully in seven or eight days we'll be talking about how exciting it is to be heading into a decider. People are entitled to their opinion, good, bad or ugly. It's up to us whether we want to listen to it or not. The dressing room is a very strong place where confidence is high, and guys are backed to go out there and allow their talent to flourish. If we allow the outside noise to seep in, that's our problem. We've still got some progress to make and some things to improve on, but we're a better team now than we were 18 months ago. We're obviously not totally screwed down on the method yet. The upside is hopefully continuing to put bums on seats, make Test cricket more entertaining, we'll win more often and we'll be a team that people really want to follow."

—**Brendon McCullum** | TO BBC

Result exposed England's method: Former captains

London: Former England captains Nasser Hussain and Michael Vaughan have criticised the team's 'Bazball' approach in the ongoing Test series against India, saying the visitors need to apply themselves based on match situation instead of being guided by a one-dimensional philosophy of aggression.

"This was the worst defeat under (Ben) Stokes and Brendon McCullum, and one that exposed their method. They cannot take the aggressive at every opportunity, they have to pick their moments," Vaughan wrote in his column for "Telegraph.co.uk'.

Hussain echoed the sentiment. "Bazball is about being attacking but it is also about soaking up pressure," he said on 'Sky Sports'.

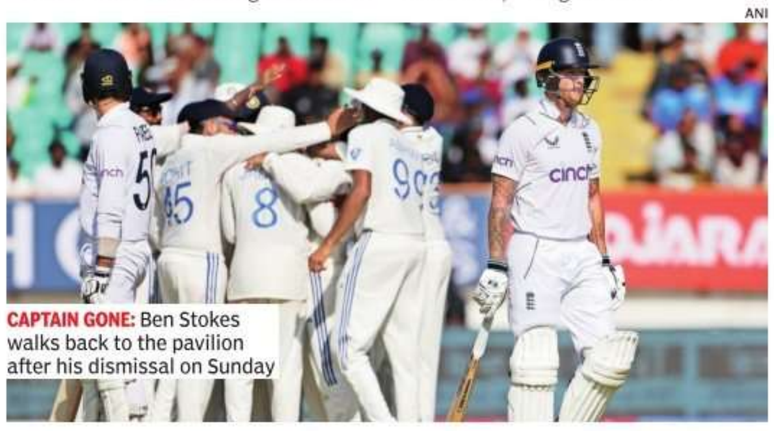
Vaughan added: "They need to look at the way Yashsavi Jaiswal and Shubman Gill played on Day Three. They soaked up the pressure for 30 or 40 balls, and then they started to get boundaries. "That is what Test batting is about. India have scored 875 runs in 228.5 overs. No one can tell me it's been boring watching India bat here," Vaughan said.

Things have gone downhill for England since winning the series-opener in Hyderabad. The visiting team's batters have displayed poor judgement, giving away the advantage to the hosts.

"...Surely a defeat this heavy has to be a wake-up call for Ben Stokes and his players. England make out that everything is positive but they need to be having conversations about how to bat better," Vaughan said.

Out-of-form batter Joe Root has been in the eye of the storm for his dismissal in the third Test. His reverse-scoop off Jasprit Bumrah straight to second slip had sparked a collapse of sorts in the first innings. "The way they played this week has gifted India a victory. I couldn't believe my eyes the way they batted on Day Three, especially Joe Root's shot," Vaughan said. PTI

ANI



CAPTAIN GONE: Ben Stokes walks back to the pavilion after his dismissal on Sunday

BUMRAH LIKELY TO BE RESTED, RAHUL SET TO BE BACK FOR RANCHI TEST

Rajkot: Lead India pacer Jasprit Bumrah is likely to be rested, while batter KL Rahul is expected to come back after recovering from a quadriceps injury, in the fourth Test against England beginning February 23 in Ranchi.

Bumrah is the leading wicket-taker in the five-match series with 17 scalps and singlehandedly bowled India to victory in the second Test. The hosts lead 2-1 in the five-match rubber. "The team will travel to Ranchi tomorrow and Bumrah is likely to be given rest," said a BCCI source while also informing that Rahul is nearing full fitness and should be a part of the squad in Ranchi.

BUMRAH

The decision to rest Bumrah doesn't come as a surprise considering he bowled 80.5 overs in the first three Tests. As part of workload management, India had also rested Mohammed Siraj from the second Test in Visakhapatnam before he returned to play a part in India's record 434 run win over the visitors in Rajkot on Sunday.

India are well-placed to seal the series in Ranchi but if they are not able to, the home team will desperately need the services of Bumrah for the fifth and final Test in Dharamsala beginning March 7.

Rahul, who missed the second and third Test after complaining of pain in his right quadriceps, had reached 90 percent fitness last week, according to an insider. "He is reaching his match fitness and should be available for Ranchi Test," the source added. PTI

Getty Images

SAVIOUR, ONCE MORE: PR Sreejesh

India edge Spain after tough fight in FIH Pro League

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India were far from impressive but were still able to prevail 8-7 over Spain in the shoot-out after the Pro League match finished 2-2 in regulation time at Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium in Rourkela on Monday.

It was one of their most disappointing performances in recent times under coach Craig Fulton who looked worried at half-time with Spain leading 2-1. Speaking to the broadcaster, Fulton later said, "We made a lot of technical mistakes. We must possess more of the ball because we are giving it away too easily."

The Indians did come out firing in the third quarter and grabbed three back-to-back penalty corners. Harmanpreet Singh failed to convert the first two. He then went for variation in the third and played it towards Sanjay behind his back. Sanjay's shot was saved by the goalkeeper but Abhishek, who had won the PC initially, collected the rebound and made it 2-2 five minutes into the third quarter.

India won a couple of more penalty corners but they couldn't take advantage. It was Spain who dominated the proceedings in the final 15 minutes. They won multiple PCs but PR Sreejesh was up to the task and denied Spain from scoring the winner. Sreejesh, one of the senior-most players in the squad then starred in the shoot-out, forcing Spain captain Marc Miralles to miss his shot and help India grab the bonus point after the shoot-out.

With this result India have 10 points from five matches and will next play the Netherlands, who beat Ireland 2-1 in the other match of the day.

India began the match in scintillating fashion as Jarmanpreet Singh scored in the first 40 seconds of the match with a superb strike through the legs of Luis Calzado. Manpreet Singh played an inch-perfect aerial ball a bit farther away from the half-line towards Jarmanpreet and he made no mistake.

GALLERY

Agarwalla fetches Olympics quota

New Delhi: Asiad medallist Anush Agarwalla secured Paris Olympics quota for the country in the dressage discipline, the Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) announced. Agarwalla was allotted the quota on the basis of his performance in four FEI events.

KKR name Chameera as replacement for Atkinson: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) named Sri Lankan fast bowler Dushmantha Chameera as a replacement for England pacer Gus Atkinson for the 2024 IPL. Chameera will join KKR at a reserve price of Rs 50 lakh.

Ashalata to lead India: Seasoned defender Ashalata Devi will lead India in the four-nation Turkish Women's Cup beginning in Alanya, Turkey, on Wednesday. **India's matches:** vs Estonia (Feb 21); vs Hong Kong (Feb 24); vs Kosovo (Feb 27)

Delhi to host Asian track cycling c'ship: India will host the prestigious 43rd Asian Track Cycling Championship at the IG Indoor Stadium in New Delhi from Feb 21-26. The event also holds significance as it serves as the final Track Continental C'ship before the 2024 Olympics. AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

FOOTBALL: Champions League, Inter Milan vs Atletico Madrid; PSV Eindhoven vs Borussia Dortmund, 1.30 am Wednesday (Sony Sports); AFC Cup, 9.30 pm (Jiocinema); EPL, Man City vs Brentford, 1.30 am Wednesday (Star Sports)

Five in fray to partner Bopanna at Oly

Reuters

EVERGREEN: Bopanna will be participating in his third Olympics

Bhambri, Balaji, Prashanth, Myneni And Chandrasekar Are In The Running

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Doha: India has five players in the top-100 of the ATP doubles ranking outside of world No. 1 Rohan Bopanna.

The question then is who among Yuki Bhambri (60), Sriram Balaji (80), Vijay Sundar Prashanth (81), Saketh Myneni (89) and Anirudh Chandrasekar (94) will partner the 43-year-old in the 2024 Paris Olympics. The race is so keen and tight that another five ranked inside the top-150 — Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan (120), Arjun Kadhe (121), Niki Poonacha (138), Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli (143) and Ramkumar Ramanathan (145) — could also count themselves in the running.

To just give it a sum, there's about 700-plus points separating Bhambri from Ramkumar. "If all goes well, we will have representation in men's doubles. Whoever I pick, we'll be lucky if we get a tournament before the Olympics," Bopanna said of the July 27 to August 4 event to be played at Roland Garros. "Of course, I'm hoping that they improve their rankings and we can have a chance to play before the Olympics."

Bhambri, playing alongside veteran Dutch Robin Haase, has a tricky opener in the Qatar Open, an ATP 250 Series event, where they've drawn Kazakh Alexander Bublik and Dutchman Botic van de Zandschulp in their opener. "I want to get my ranking up to give myself an opportunity, give Rohan something to think about. That's the goal at the back of my head," said Bhambri, who has teamed with Bopanna a few times.

Bopanna, who kickstarted the 'Doubles Dream of India' project, with the aim of helping the country's top doubles pros with coaching assistance wherever they are playing, has fostered a sense of community between the players.

With the 43-year-old firmly logged inside the top-10, India is assured of a spot in men's doubles draw at the Olympics, provided the 6'4'' Kodava stays in the top-10 until the Monday after the conclusion of the French Open (June 10, 2024). Balaji, who is teaming up with German Andre Begemann in the Challengers in India, has an alternate plan.

"We are a bunch of us in the top-100-150 and we still have some time for the deadline. I hope we can have two teams in the Olympics," he said. "I hope all of us can get our rankings up. Rohan can choose whoever he wants to play with and then if we have two more players inside the top-40 or 50 we have a chance of having two teams in the Olympics. I really hope for that."

Bhambri, 30, a former junior world No. 1, enjoys the sense of team the travelling Indians have at tournaments around the world, courtesy Bopanna. "It is nice having a lot of us at the same events," he said. "We have been fortunate in having a programme that has worked well for us, having a coach and physio wherever we are."

"Most of us have known each other for a very long time, we have grown up together and played together," Bhambri said. "We hang out as much as we can and get along pretty well. We all wish the best for each other and want each other to taste success," he added.

Korean star Hong to trade tennis for military service

Hopes To Return To ATP Tour After Mandatory Stint In Armed Forces

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Bengaluru: Every tennis player fosters the dream of competing in Grand Slams. South Korea's Seongchan Hong, who started playing tennis as a seven-year-old, is no different. The French Open is one of his biggest goals. He failed to clear the qualifying hurdle last year and 2024 presents the last realistic opportunity to feature in one of the three remaining Slams. Surprised? The 26-year-old will join the South Korean Army this December.

As per South Korea's law, able-bodied men aged between 18 and 28 must serve in the armed forces for a period of 18-21 months, barring those winning an Olympic medal or gold at the Asian Games. For instance, footballer Son Heung-Min was exempted after helping his nation win gold at the 2018 Asiad in Jakarta. Hong fell short at the Hangzhou 2022 Asiad, winning two bronze medals in the singles and doubles competitions. Now, he wants to make use of the next nine months before swapping jerseys for a military uniform.

Syed Asif

FROM COURTS TO BARRACKS: Seongchan Hong

"I want to play the Grand Slams this season. I must go to the army in December. So, this could also be the last year for me, travelling on the Tour. That is why I am enjoying myself currently and giving my best," said **Hong, who lost 6-4, 3-6, 3-6 in the Bengaluru Open Challenger final to Italy's Stefano Napolitano on Sunday here**.

However, Hong will still be carrying his kit to the army, which has a tennis team. But he can only feature in tournaments in South Korea.

"May be, I can play for one hour. It is going to be different when I play there. But I can play tournaments in South Korea, the Challengers and the ITF. I will not be travelling for one and a half years, meaning I will not be able to compete with other players on the Tour. My rankings will surely take a dip," said Hong.

The player, who will have to follow the army's training regimen for the 18-month period, does not want to give up on his dreams too easily and hopes to make a return. But that could depend on his fitness and where his game stands. "When I return to the Tour, I will be around 29, that means it will be tough for me physically and mentally. But I want to make a comeback," said Hong.

Delhi end season on a high with win vs Odisha

New Delhi: Left-arm spinner Sumit Mathur took a five-wicket haul on debut as Delhi defeated Odisha by seven wickets on a dramatic fourth day to end their Ranji Trophy campaign on a high. Sumit, who took four wickets in the first innings, ended with a match haul of nine as Delhi won their third match of the season.

Delhi finished third in the standings behind Madhya Pradesh and Baroda.

Had it not been for the unexpected loss to Puducherry in the tournament opener, Delhi could have qualified from Group D. Odisha on the other hand finished seventh in an eight-team group. PTI

Brief scores: Odisha: 440 and 133 all out in 46 overs (Aasirwad Swain 29; Sumit Mathur 5/26) lost to Delhi: 451 all out and 123/3 in 20.3 overs (Ayush Badoni 40 not out; JB Mohapatra 2/45) by seven wickets.

BRIEF SCORES

In Lucknow: Chhattisgarh: 414 and 199 for 8 decl. in 53 overs (Ajay Mandal 51; Shivam Sharma 3/34) vs Uttar Pradesh 238 and 201 for 3 in 42 overs (Priyam Garg 114 not out; Vishvas Malik 2/26).
In Vizianagaram: Andhra Pradesh: 272 and 189 for 9 in 97 overs (Ashwin Hebbar 72; Basil Thampi 3/36, Nedumankuzhy Basil 3/43) vs Kerala 514 for 7 decl. in 161.4 overs.
In Salem: Tamil Nadu: 435 and 71 for 1 in 7 overs beat Punjab: 274 and 231 all out in 64.2 overs (Nehal Wadhera 109; Sai Kishore 4/80) by nine wickets.
In Agartala: Tripura: 149 and 333 lost to Railways: 105 and 378 for 5 in 103 overs (Pratham Singh 169 not out, Mohammad Saif 106; Manisankar Murasingh 3/81) by 5 wickets.
In Hubballi: Chandigarh: 267 and 236 for 5 in 80 overs (Arslan Khan 63, Mayank Sidhu 56 not out; Vasuki Koushik 2/26) drew with Karnataka: 563 for 5 declared.
In Nagpur: Vidarbha: 423 and 205 all out in 71.4 overs (Dhruv Shorey 43, Atharva Taide 49; Nishant Sindhu 4/56) beat Haryana: 333 and 180 all out in 34.3 overs (Anshul Kamboj 46; Akshay Wakhare 3/30, Aditya Sarwate 2/38) by 115 runs.
In Jamshedpur: Jharkhand: 188 and 269 beat Rajasthan: 210 and 158 all out in 68.1 overs (Mahipal Lomror 48; Anukul Roy 5/36) by 89 runs.
In Delhi: Maharashtra: 225 and 157 for 6 in 90 overs (Arshin Kulkarni 58; Nitin Tanwar 2/29) drew with Services 432 all out in 190 overs (Shubham Rohilla 72, Nakul Sharma 87; Taranjitsingh Dhillon 5/131).

India's trap coach Dradi has liver cancer

New Delhi: India's shotgun foreign coach, Italy's Marcello Dradi revealed he is suffering from liver cancer, which would come as a bad news for the country's trap shooters preparing for Paris Olympics.

Dradi was hired early last year by the Sports Authority of India on the recommendation of National Rifle Association of India after Australian shotgun expert Russell Mark, and his wife, skeet coach Lauryn Mark, quit following differences with the national sports body.

Drad, 54, said that he cannot leave his country for more than four days at a stretch due to post-surgery follow-ups. This effectively rules him out for long training camps. PTI

Former Lazio Teammates Diego And Inzaghi To Cross Swords At San Siro

AFP

Milan: Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone returns to a happy hunting ground on Tuesday at the San Siro, but must put feelings to the side in an intriguing Champions League last 16 clash with Simone Inzaghi's Inter Milan.

The Rojiblancos, fourth in La Liga, need a strong run in Europe to make something significant of a season.

In their path lie the runaway Serie A leaders and last year's Champions League runners-up, with the first leg in Italy.

Simeone, who played for Inter between 1996-1999 winning the UEFA Cup in 1998, has fond memories from his time in Milan and has long been touted as a future coach of the Serie A side. Meanwhile Simone Inzaghi's Inter found form and came within a whisker of winning the Champions League for the first time since 2010.

Atletico have never won it at all — and it is the one clear piece of unfinished business for Simeone, who has led the team to virtually every other trophy. The coach steered them to the final in 2014 and 2016, only for rivals Real Madrid to defeat Atletico on both occasions in agonising fashion, in extra-time and on penalties respectively.

If Atletico are to break new ground this season, Simeone will have to lead them past his former — and potentially future — team. Victory in Europe has become Atletico's key goal as they lie a long way off the pace in the Spanish title race.

Simeone rested Antoine Griezmann for the 5-0 win over Las Palmas on Saturday in La Liga, indicating where his priorities lie.

"We need a great Griezmann, and we need him fresh." Simeone and Inzaghi both tend to line up with 3-5-2 formations and the matches promise to be an intriguing tactical battle. Atletico's coach reserved special praise for Inzaghi, whom he played with at Lazio between 1999-2003.

"A team doesn't win the Super Cup or (lead) the league without being a very well-drilled side," said the Argentine. "They have a coach, Simone, whom I have a good relationship with because I was with him at Lazio and he's doing very good things at Inter." AFP

FORM GUIDE

Atletico Madrid: **WLLDWW**

Inter Milan: **WWWWWW**

Previous meeting: The teams have met only once, Atletico winning 2-0 in the 2010 Super Cup in Monaco thanks to second-half goals from Jose Antonio Reyes (62) and Sergio Aguero (83).

- Diego Simeone scored 14 goals in 84 games in all competitions for Inter Milan between 1997 and 1999.
- Simone Inzaghi's side made it eight successive wins in all competitions – and six in Serie A – with a 4-0 home victory against Salernitana on Friday.

> **They're physical, they know what they're doing, they have lots of great players coached by a really good manager who was also a great teammate."**
>
> —**Simone Inzaghi** ON ATLETICO MADRID

PSV's Bosz seeks redemption vs Dortmund

The Hague: PSV Eindhoven coach Peter Bosz has added incentive for Tuesday's Champions League last-16 clash against Borussia Dortmund — he spent a miserable few months at the Bundesliga giants culminating in a humiliating sacking.

The 60-year-old Dutchman has enjoyed a remarkable season with runaway Eredivisie leaders PSV, who equalled a top-flight record by winning their first 17 league games.

PSV are now gunning for their first Champions League quarterfinal since the 2007-2008 season. But Bosz will have a personal point to prove against Dortmund, who tempted him away from Ajax in June 2017. The Bosz reign started brightly enough. Six wins from the first seven games led some to speculate that Dortmund could finally dethrone perennial champions Bayern Munich.

PETER BOSZ

But the rot started to set in by mid-October, when Dortmund embarked on a run of five games without a win, piling the pressure on the new coach.

The domestic woes were compounded by failure in Europe, with Dortmund crashing out of the Champions League group stage without a single win. However, the low point came on November 25, in a famous game at home against bitter local derby rivals Schalke 04. Dortmund were 4-0 up within 25 minutes but somehow contrived to draw the game 4-4, leaving the home fans -- and backroom bosses -- furious. The die was cast and Bosz was finally sacked on December 10, after just 167 days in charge. When the last 16 draw was made against his old employers, Bosz was diplomatic, describing Dortmund as a "big club" with one of the strongest fanbases in Europe.

"I still know a lot of people at the club and I'm looking forward to it," he said. But in an interview with the Algemeen Dagblad late last year, he revealed the behind-the-scenes difficulties, notably with Aubameyang and French striker Ousmane Dembele. AFP

Who dares wins! Anmol shows the way

Gutsy 17-Year-Old Has The Badminton World Impressed

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In the last couple of months, **Anmol Kharb** has hardly put a foot wrong.

The 17-year-old shot into limelight by becoming one of the youngest women's singles champions in Guwahati on December 24, 2023. As if to prove that the senior national crown was not a flash in the pan, she grabbed her maiden All India senior ranking tournament title in Jodhpur on January 28 this year.

Then, what she did in Shah Alam, Malaysia during the Badminton Asia Team Championships last week was nothing short of a miracle. In the business end of the tournament, she won back-to-back crucial matches, showing nerves of steel, to help India emerge triumphant.

"I am glad I could deliver when it mattered the most. The entire team, including the coaches, were supporting me vociferously. Thanks to that cheering from the sidelines, I felt absolutely no pressure. Once I claimed the opening game quite easily, I dominated her to finish it off quickly. It was a dream moment for all of us," Anmol, who trains at Sunrise Shuttlers Academy in Noida under coach Kusumm Singh, told TOI on Monday.

Anmol's father Devender Singh, a former national-level kabaddi player, always travels with her during tournaments. He was there in Malaysia too when his daughter steered India to win. She spends around six hours daily honing her skills and improving her fitness.

"My day starts quite early, and I do physical fitness from 5 to 7 in the morning. After breakfast, on-court session practice starts from 10 and ends at 2.30. Thereafter, I take a rest and study in the evening," said Anmol. Talking of her sterling performance, Arun Vishnu, the assistant coach of the Indian squad, said: "She takes no pressure at all. She is daring and plays with a cool mind."

KHELO INDIA

PLAY ONE, PLAY ALL: International boxer Jamuna Boro hands over the Khelo India University Games 2023 torch to sports minister Anurag Thakur at the Sarusajai Sports Complex in Guwahati on Monday. Also in the picture is Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma (second from right)

Football Delhi suspends Ahbab FC, player for 'own goal' after farce

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A farce was played out on the final day of the Delhi Premier League's 2023-24 season at the Dr Ambedkar Stadium Monday, lending suspicion to rumours that minor leagues such as the one run by Football Delhi are thriving platform for online betting and match-fixing.

Decades-old Delhi club Ahbab FC was suspended by Football Delhi after incidents during their 4-2 win over Rangers FC went viral online. Six goals were scored in the meeting of relegated clubs, and Ahbab had scored all six!

The two self-goals, clear incidents of Ahbab defenders lobbing the ball into their own empty net, came in the final minutes and the passage of play swiftly began trending with Indian football fans – watching the live streaming on Football Delhi's official YouTube channel – sharing it. The administrator reportedly disabled the live chats section during the match, when it was being felt that some users were able to forecast the score.

To avoid any further embarrassment, Football Delhi also suspended Mohd Shamim, scorer of the first self-goal. Both player and club were suspended after an emergency meeting called by authorities. They have been suspended till the next AGM of the Delhi body.

Anuj Gupta, president of Football Delhi told **TOI** that they would also be filing a police complaint, he added. The Delhi Premier League sub-committee chairman, Rizwan Ul-Haq added, "I am alarmed that such a thing has occurred. We will launch an enquiry."

The All India Football Federation termed the incident as appalling. "Prima facie, it's very concerning. Past few months we're collecting hard evidence on suspicious matches with continuous investigation to eliminate such instances from Indian football," said president Kalyan Chaubey.

BAYERN SLUMP TO THIRD STRAIGHT LOSS

Berlin: Bayern Munich slumped to their third consecutive defeat on Sunday as Bochum defeated the 11-time defending champions 3-2 in the Bundesliga. It left Thomas Tuchel's team eight points behind leaders Bayer Leverkusen with 12 rounds remaining and will increase doubts over the Bayern coach's future after a midweek loss to Lazio in the Champions League and last weekend's 3-0 defeat at Leverkusen. "It feels like a horror film that just doesn't end," Bayern midfielder Leon Goretzka said.

"Today was a bit like Murphy's Law. Anything that could go wrong, went wrong," said manager Tuchel.

Hodgson steps down as Palace manager

London: Crystal Palace manager Roy Hodgson has stepped down, the Premier League club announced on Monday. "I have fully enjoyed my time here across six seasons," Hodgson said on Palace's website. "However, I understand, given recent circumstances, it may be prudent at this time for the club to plan ahead, and therefore I have taken the decision to step aside." Hodgson, 76, was taken ill during a training session last week and underwent tests in hospital where he was stable. The decision came hours before Palace's visit to Everton. AGENCIES

Reuters

FIRING PIN: United's Hojlund (C) celebrates with Garnacho (R) and Rashford

Hojlund makes history

Luton: Rasmus Hojlund made Premier League history as the Manchester United striker's double ensured his side survived a scare from lowly Luton in their 2-1 win on Sunday.

Hojlund became the youngest player to score in six consecutive Premier League games after netting twice in the first seven minutes at Kenilworth Road.

EPL

At 21 years 14 days old, Hojlund surpassed Newcastle midfielder Joe Willock's previous record set when he was 21 years 272 days old. Ruud van Nistelrooy scored in 10 successive United top-flight outings in 2003 before Leicester's Jamie Vardy beat his Premier league record with 11 in a row in 2015.

After failing to score in his first 14 Premier League appearances following his August move from Atalanta, Hojlund has scored eight times in his last eight games in all competitions. His brace should have put United in complete control, but Luton fought back impressively as Carlton Morris quickly reduced the deficit. AFP

TIMES NATION

SC to states: Hand list of forest lands by March-end

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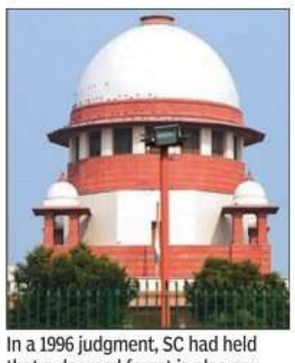
New Delhi: While directing states and UTs to follow the definition of 'forest' as laid down in its 1996 judgment, SC on Monday also directed states to file, by March-end, reports on forest land identified as per its ruling in that case (T N Godavarman vs Union of India).

In a 1996 judgment, SC had held that a deemed forest would not only include 'forests' as understood by the dictionary meaning of the word but also any area recorded as forests in govt records, irrespective of ownership.



In a 1996 judgment, SC had held that a deemed forest is also any area recorded as forests in govt records, irrespective of ownership

Court was hearing petitions filed by a group of retired Indian Forest Officers who have challenged the amendment alleging that it has resulted in vast tracts of forests losing legal protection and becoming vulnerable to be used for non-forest purposes.

The PIL filed through advocate Kaushik Choudhury alleged that change in law will "radically undermine India's decades-old forest governance regime" besides being violative of apex court's ruling by curtailing the definition of forest land that will fall within its ambit.

They alleged that exemption of zoo and safari from list of non-forestry activities will result in such activities being organised inside forests.

Additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati refuted the allegation and told the bench that the amendment was brought to consolidate and take forward the order passed by SC 28 years ago. She said govt was duty bound to digitise the record.

The bench, after hearing both sides, passed an interim order. "Pending completion of exercise by administration of state govts and UTs, under Rule 16, the principles which are elucidated in the judgment of this court in T N Godavarman (case) must be continued to be observed. As a matter of fact, it is evident that Rule 16 includes within its ambit forest-like areas to be identified by expert committee, unclassified forest lands and community forest lands. In the interregnum therefore, while being guided by provisions of the statute and those contained in Rule 16, state govts and UT administrations shall peremptorily ensure compliance with the ambit of expression 'forest' as explained in the decision in T N Godarman," court said.

All-crop MSP will help govt save, cut imports: Farm netas

▶ Continued from P 1

BKU (Ekta Sidhupur) general secretary Kaka Singh Kotda urged farmers from every village in Punjab to converge at Khanauri and Shambhu by Tuesday. Three farm unions — Punjab Kisan Union (Baghi), Sada Eka Jindabad Morcha Punjab, and Kisan Mazdur Naujwan Ekta Punjab — also pledged support to protests, announcing their intention to join at Khanauri & Shambhu.

During fourth round of negotiations in Chandigarh, Union ministers Arjun Munda, Piyush Goyal, and Nityanand Rai presented the five-crop MSP proposal, involving National Cooperative Consumer Federation (NCCF), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (Nafed), and Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) in the procurement process.

The method to ascertain MSP has been a contentious issue, with farm groups advocating for C2 formula that includes imputed cost of capital and rent on the land

Agri leaders highlighted potential savings govt could achieve by providing MSP on all crops, estimated at Rs 1.75 lakh crore. They argued that such savings align with govt's expenditure on importing pulses and could be significantly reduced by promoting domestic production.

They asserted that extensive consultations with stakeholders preceded their decision "so that Centre did not have a chance to claim that farmers immediately rejected its proposal without any debate". Also, they highlighted unaddressed issues such as farm debt waivers.

Centre's offer was also dismissed by Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), representing 40 farm unions across India, citing concerns that it dilutes the longstanding demand for MSP based on C2+50% formula, which was promised by BJP in its 2014 general elections manifesto and originally recommended by National Farmers Commission chaired by MS Swaminathan in 2006.

SKM has fragmented into distinct entities since 2020-21 — SKM (Punjab), SKM (Non-Political) and KMM — and it had initially dissociated itself from "Delhi Chalo" which began on Feb 13. SKM announced plans for a black flag protest against NDA MPs on Feb 21 and scheduled a meeting in Delhi on Feb 21-22 to strategise further actions.

The method to ascertain MSP has been a contentious issue, with farm groups advocating for the comprehensive cost (C2) formula that includes imputed cost of capital and rent on the farmers' own land. Govt suggests MSP should be at least 50% higher than the weighted average cost of production. This discord underscores the complexity of ongoing negotiations between farmers and govt, indicating protracted discussions ahead.

Previous rounds of talks on Feb 8, 12 and 15 failed to reach consensus, with disagreements revolving around the legal guarantee of MSP.

Maratha quota won't disturb existing ones: CM

▶ Continued from P 1

Attending the birth anniversary celebrations of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at his birthplace of Shivneri fort in Pune district, CM Eknath Shinde hinted at a separate quota for Marathas that "will make sure... the existing quota of other communities will not be disturbed".

The report, though, does not suggest any quota. Quantum of quota is a political decision of govt, said insiders.

They said the bill will be similar to Socially and Educationally Backward Classes Act, 2018, introduced by Fadnavis govt, albeit more compact. State already has 10% quota for economically weaker section in which politically-influential Marathas are biggest beneficiaries, claiming 85% of the reservation.

RESERVATION ROAD

"Marathas will not be able to claim both quotas — a candidate opting for EWS will not be able to claim Maratha quota," an official said.

This is the third time in a decade that state is introducing legislation for Maratha quota. Each time such legislation has been introduced, it has been before elections and based on a survey which concluded that the community is backward.

Each legislation granting Maratha quota was struck down in court, mainly because SC has upheld that reservations cannot cross 50% limit. In the state, reservations are already 52%. With a 10% Maratha quota, reservations will reach 62% and face a legal challenge.

Officials say the current survey conducted by Gokhale Institute for Politics and Economics has tried to address gaps in the Gaikwad Commission survey, which was rejected by apex court.

"The survey covered 1.6 crore families and did a detailed analysis of 60 lakh families," an official said.

Senior statisticians, though, have strongly criticised the survey, which was conducted over just 11 days, and said the result is bound to be unreliable.

SP chief not shy of putting 'junior' ally Cong in place

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New Delhi: SP chief and INDIA partner Akhilesh Yadav's remarks on seat-sharing negotiations come on the heels of his letter to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge in which he said he would join Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Rae Bareli to put up a show of strength for INDIA bloc.

The remarks suggest that the SP chief was unwilling to relent after bumping up SP's original offer of 11 seats to Congress. It also appeared that he was not shy of putting Congress, the 'junior' partner with only one Lok Sabha seat to its credit in UP, in its place, publicly.

"Right now, talks are underway between the two parties. We have had several rounds of talks. They have sent us lists and we have sent them as well. The moment seat-sharing is finalised, Samajwadi Party will join their Nyay Yatra," Akhilesh told reporters on Monday.

With SP now pressing hard for an early finalisation of seat-sharing talks and appearing keen to push forth on its own terms, sources said a formal announcement may be made within the next 24 hours to prevent Congress being left red-faced by Akhilesh's "abandonment" on UP turf.

With 80 seats up for the taking, SP had unilaterally announced 11 seats for Congress in UP shortly after Nitish Kumar left INDIA bloc embarrassed with his dramatic exit from the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar. The move was then seen as a face-saver that sought to underscore that INDIA bloc was alive and well in at least one key state, especially after back-to-back setbacks in West Bengal and Bihar.

Talks are underway between Congress and SP. They have sent us lists and we have sent them as well, said Akhilesh Yadav

Irani dares Rahul to contest from Amethi

Union minister and BJP MP from Amethi Smriti Irani on Monday dared Congress MP from Wayanad Rahul Gandhi to contest from her constituency, sharpening the potential square off between the two leaders in run up to high-stakes Lok Sabha elections.

"He left Amethi in 2019, and now Amethi has left him. If he is confident, then he should contest from this seat without going to Wayanad (Kerala). Let him contest from Amethi," Irani said. TNN

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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Bhambri, Balaji, Prashanth, Myneni and Chandrasekar, all in top 100 of ATP doubles ranking, in fray to partner Bopanna at Oly, P 21

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TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

BOREDOM: THE DESIRE FOR DESIRES — LEO TOLSTOY

BAFTA DRAWS FLAK FOR LEAVING OUT MATTHEW PERRY FROM MEMORIAM SEGMENT, OFFICIAL SAYS TO BE INCLUDED IN TV AWARDS EVENT IN MAY

IN AN ACT OF DEFIANCE, HELEN MIRREN RIPS UP AI-GENERATED SPEECH AT AN AWARD SHOW IN US, DRAWS APPLAUSE FROM THE AUDIENCE

PTI independents to join minor party in bid to form govt in Pak

Move Aimed At Not Losing Crucial Reserved Seats Allotted To Political Parties

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Independent candidates affiliated to Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) who won highest number of National Assembly seats in the Feb 8 polls announced on Monday that they would join minority right-wing Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

PTI's move is aimed to avoid losing reserved seats that are only allotted to political parties based on their representation in assembly. There are 70 reserved seats – 60 for women and 10 for minorities – in National Assembly and 227 in the four provinces.

SIC is an alliance of Islamic political and religious parties in Muslim-majority country which represents followers of school of Sunni Islam.

Since PTI was denied to contest election on its iconic cricket bat symbol, Imran Khan-backed candidates had contested polls as independents and stunned observers by winning more than 92 National Assembly seats in a House of 266 elected members.

Three-term PM Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) finished second with 75 seats and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari-led Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) bagged 54 seats. "We are officially announcing that our independent candidates will join SIC in National Assembly and provincial assemblies of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) in order to claim our share of reserved seats," Gohar Khan, PTI's interim chairman, said at a press conference in Islamabad. He said PTI would formally apply to Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) for its share of reserved seats after independent candidates backed by it join SIC. Khan added that PTI had signed an agreement with SIC.

PTI interim chairman noted that his party-backed elected members had fulfilled electoral watchdog's requirement to join a political party within three days of their notification. "Affidavits from all candidates have been collected and will be submitted to ECP," he said. Gohar reaffirmed that PTI will form govts at centre as well as provinces of Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. "Our next goal is release of our leadership and workers," he said.

SIC chief Sahibzada Hamid Raza confirmed that his party and PTI had formed an "unconditional alliance" in which Imran's party would make all decisions. "We have been their ally for last eight years and supported each other as we did now by providing our platform so that PTI can get their share in reserved seats," he said.

AP

File photo of Imran supporters protesting alleged vote-rigging in Karachi

CPEC at stake, China asks Pak parties to work together to ensure stability

Beijing: China on Monday urged Pakistan's polarised political parties to work together to uphold solidarity and maintain social stability as they struggled to form a coalition govt following a fractured mandate in the elections.

Asked whether China is concerned about the political instability in Pakistan, foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, "As a close and friendly neighbour, China fully respects the choice of the Pakistani people. We hope and believe that relevant parties will uphold solidarity, maintain stability and properly handle relevant issues to jointly open up a brighter future for the development of the country".

The political instability in Pakistan remained a cause of concern for China, which is investing heavily in the strategic $60-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), overriding India's objections as it is being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Beijing is also bankrolling Pakistan, which is in the throes of an economic crisis, to maintain the balance of payments with periodic loans to maintain the requisite forex reserves.

Mao said China and Pakistan are all-weather strategic cooperative partners. China hopes to work with Pakistan to build on the traditional friendship, deepen practical cooperation in various areas, and accelerate the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community with a shared future, she added. PTI

India purchased Russian oil worth $37 bn, claims European thinktank

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: India has put $37 billion into Moscow's coffers with unprecedented purchase of Russian oil at a time it is locked in a war with Ukraine, a European thinktank has said, suggesting that New Delhi's largesse is undermining western sanctions. According to an analysis by Finland-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), India has increased its purchase of Russian crude by over 13 times its pre-war amounts.

The CREA report, first cited by CNN, acknowledges that India's purchases "amounts to US strategic partner New Delhi stepping in to replace crude purchases by Western buyers", and are "entirely legitimate". In fact, it reveals that India refined some of the crude and exported it to US as oil products worth more than $1 billion.

But while Russian crude sales to India are not subject to sanctions, the report says an examination of shipping routes by experts suggests this huge volume of shipments might involve a so-called "shadow fleet" of crude tankers, specially created by Moscow to try to disguise who it is trading with and how, and maximise the Kremlin's profits. CNN says it witnessed "what is a likely part of that complex trade-off" at the Greek port of Gythio earlier this month: Two oil tankers — one massive, the other smaller — sidled up next to each other for a ship-to-ship transfer, which involves passing crude oil between vessels, sometimes with the aim of disguising its origin and ultimate destination.

"One is owned by an Indian-based company accused of involvement in sanctions violations, and the other was previously owned by an individual subject to separate US sanctions," CNN reported, citing the shipping monitoring firm Pole Star Global. "Transfers are (sometimes) done legally, but they're also used as an illicit tactic to evade sanctions," it quoted David Tannenbaum at Pole Star Global as saying. "You're adding multiple layers to the shell game of vessels as they try and confuse authorities as to where this oil is coming from and who's buying it at the end of the day."

India has repeatedly asserted that it is well within its rights to purchase Russian oil and is not in violation of sanctions, amid mainly European disquiet at New Delhi re-exporting it as finished products. New Delhi has also said some European countries continue to buy Russian oil in even greater volumes than India.

"Our trade with Russia is at a very small level- $12-13 billion, in comparison to European countries. We've also given the Russians a set of products... I don't think people should read more into it other than the legitimate expectations of any trading country to increase its trade," external affairs minister S Jaishankar, who has been assertive about India's trading options, said during a joint press conference with his German counterpart Annalena Baerbock at the onset of the Russia-Ukraine war that triggered the sanctions.

The CREA report suggests that India's purchases have increased significantly since then. Some of the more recent trades involve the shadow fleet Russia has devised.

According to CNN, some oil trade between Russia and India is open and direct. It cited Windward, a maritime artificial intelligence company, which analysed global shipping movements and detected 588 direct voyages by oil tankers from Russia to India last year.

But Pole Star Global examined the same route and found over 200 trips last year by ships from Russia that performed a transfer in Laconian Gulf to another ship, which went on to India. The net impact of India's crude purchases, CNN said, has been to weaken the pinch Russian President Vladimir Putin feels from oil sanctions. Russia's federal revenues, it said, ballooned to a record $320 billion in 2023 and are set to rise further still.

Reuters/File

An oil terminal in Russia. The analysis by Finland-based Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air says India refined some of the crude and exported it to US as oil products worth over $1 billion

Navalny's widow vows to continue his fight

Alleges Authorities' Delay In Handing Over Body Due To Traces Of Poison

The widow of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny vowed Monday to continue his fight against Kremlin while authorities denied his mother access to a morgue where his body is believed to be held after his death at an Arctic penal colony.

Fighting back tears, Yulia Navalnaya accused Russian President Vladimir Putin of killing her husband in the remote prison and vowed to punish him and other alleged perpetrators. She also slammed authorities, saying they were refusing to hand over the body to Navalny's mother to cover-up his alleged killing, and referred to his alleged earlier poisoning with a Soviet-era Novichok nerve agent.

Russian authorities said the cause for Navalny's death Friday is still unknown. "They are cowardly and meanly hiding his body, refusing to give it to his mother and lying miserably while waiting for the trace of another Putin's Novichok to disappear," Navalnaya said. She urged Russians to rally behind her "to share not only the grief and endless pain that has enveloped and gripped us, but also my rage."

"Rage, anger, hatred for those who dared to kill our future," she said. "I address you with the words of Alexei, in which I really believe: It's not a shame to do little, it's a shame to do nothing. It's a shame to let yourself be intimidated."

Navalnaya urged all those who mourn Navalny to unite to fulfill his dream of a "beautiful Russia of the future" so that "the unimaginable sacrifice" he made would not have been in vain. "The main thing that we can do for Alexei and ourselves is to keep fighting," she said. "Stronger, more fiercely and valiantly than we did before. We all need to get together in one strong fist and strike that mad regime, Putin, his cronies, bandits in epaulets, thieves and killers who mutilated our country."

Navalny's spokesperson Kira Yarmysh said that the Investigative Committee, the country's top criminal investigation agency, informed Lyudmila Navalnaya that the cause of her son's death remained unknown and that the official probe had been extended. "They lie, buy time for themselves and do not even hide it." Many world leaders blamed President Putin and his govt for Navalny's death. On Monday, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the bloc was mulling sanctions against Russia.

Some Russian media claimed Navalny's body bore bruises, possibly caused by medics' attempts to resuscitate him. The reports couldn't be independently confirmed. In Brussels, Navalnaya met EU foreign ministers and other EU officials who were considering sanctions against Moscow over Navalny's death. "By killing Alexei, Putin killed half of me, half of my heart and half of my soul," Navalnaya said. "But I still have the other half, and it tells me that I have no right to give up. I will continue the work of Alexei." AP

AP

Some Russian media claimed Navalny's body bore bruises, possibly caused by medics' attempts to resuscitate him

Egypt: Suez Canal revenue down 40-50% due to Houthi attacks

Cairo: Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said Monday that revenues from the Suez Canal had "decreased by 40 to 50%" so far this year due to attacks on shipping by Yemen's Houthi rebels. The canal is one of the main sources of foreign currency for Egypt.

Since Nov, the Iran-backed Houthis have launched numerous attacks on vessels in the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea, which the group says are aimed at ships with links to Israel. "See what is happening at our borders... with Gaza, you see the Suez Canal, which used to bring Egypt nearly $10 billion per year, (these revenues) have decreased by 40 to 50% and Egypt must continue to pay companies and partners," Sisi said.

The UN said in late Jan that the number of ships passing through the Suez Canal had fallen 42% in the previous two months. The number of weekly container ship transits through the Suez fell by 67% year-on-year, according to the UN Conference on Trade and Development, while tanker traffic dropped 18%, the transit of bulk cargo ships carrying grain and coal was down 6% and gas transport at a standstill. AFP

Israel discussing new limits on access to Al-Aqsa in Jerusalem

Jerusalem: The Israeli govt is discussing whether to increase restrictions on access to an important mosque in Jerusalem during the Islamic holy month of Ramzan, leading to predictions of unrest if the additional limits are enforced.

Cabinet ministers discussed on Sunday whether to bar some members of Israel's Arab minority from attending prayers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound during Ramzan, according to two officials briefed on the deliberations, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The office of PM Netanyahu said a decision on the matter had already been reached, without saying what it was. But the two officials said a final decision would be made only after the govt received recommendations from the security services in the coming days.

Israel has long limited access to Al-Aqsa for Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, it has imposed extra restrictions on Arabs in Israel. But some had hoped those limits would be largely lifted for Ramzan, which starts in early March.

The mosque complex is sacred to both Muslims and Jews, who call it the Temple Mount because it was the site of two Jewish temples in antiquity that remain central to Jewish identity. Tens of thousands of Muslims visit the mosque every day during Ramzan.

Israeli police raids at the site, riots there by young Palestinians and visits by far-right Jewish activists have often been a catalyst for wider violence, including a brief war between Israel and Hamas in 2021.

The move to further restrict access was promoted in the Israeli cabinet by Itamar Ben-Gvir, the far-right minister for national security, who has long pushed for greater Jewish control over the site and less Muslim access to it. In recent days, he had warned that Muslim worshippers might use access to the mosque to display support for Hamas.

Analysts say Netanyahu is wary of angering Ben-Gvir because his ruling coalition depends on Ben-Gvir's support. But Arab leaders as well as some Jewish Israelis have warned that by allowing Ben-Gvir to dictate policy at the mosque, Netanyahu could inflame an already volatile situation. Dan Harel, an ex-deputy chief of staff in the military, said the move would be "unnecessary and foolish" and might "ignite the entire Muslim world." NYT

Getty Images

The Dome of the Rock at the Al-Aqsa mosque compound

At world court, Palestinians seek end to Israeli occupation

The Palestinian foreign minister Riad Malki on Monday accused Israel of apartheid and urged the UN's top court to declare that Israel's occupation of lands sought for a Palestinian state is illegal and must end. The remarks came at hearings into the legality of Israel's 57-year occupation. The case opened at the International Court of Justice, also known as the world court, against the backdrop of the Israel-Hamas war, which became a focal point of the day — even though the hearings were meant to centre on Israel's control over the occupied West Bank, the Gaza Strip and annexed east Jerusalem. AP

24-year-old Indian-American running for Georgia senate

Washington: Ashwin Ramaswami has become the first Indian-American from Gen Z — those born between 1997 and 2012 — to run for a state or federal legislature in the US, indicative of a new breed of young politicians emerging from the community.

Ramaswami's parents immigrated to the US from Tamil Nadu in 1990. "I'm running for (Georgia) state senate in order to give back to my community. I want to make sure that everyone has the same opportunities that I had growing up," Ramaswami, 24, said in a recent interview. "I want to make sure we have a new voice, people who are young, who come from unconventional backgrounds in politics because it's really important that we have people who represent us, not just people who can afford to do it," he said.

A second-generation Indian-American who has built a career in software engineering, election security, and technology law and policy research, is running in the Democratic party for state senate in district 48 of Georgia.

Ramaswami is a Democrat and he is hoping to replace incumbent Republican Shawn Still, who was indicted with former President Trump for the January 6 insurrection at the US Capitol.

If elected, he would be the first Gen Z state senator in Georgia and the only Georgia state legislator with both a computer science and a law degree. By doing so, he would also break barriers as the first Indian-American in the Georgia state legislature.

A native of Georgia, Ramaswami has worked with nonprofits, startups, and small businesses to use technology for the public interest and create jobs. As a civil servant, he worked at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency on cybersecurity and election security, working with state and local election offices to secure the 2020 and 2022 elections. He also worked as a legal fellow in the Georgia attorney general's consumer protection division. PTI

Houthis' attack severely damages ship in Red Sea

A missile attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels that damaged a Belize-flagged ship travelling through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait that connects the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden has forced the crew to abandon the vessel, authorities said Monday. The ship targeted in the Houthi attack on Sunday reported sustaining damage after "an explosion in close proximity to the vessel," the British military's UK Maritime Trade Operations centre reported. "Military authorities report crew have abandoned the vessel," the UKMTO said. "Vessel at anchor and all crew are safe."

Houthi Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree issued a statement claiming the attack, saying the vessel later sunk. There was no independent confirmation the vessel sank. AP

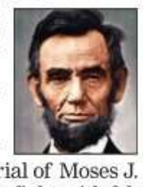
'Lincoln pardoned Biden's great-great-grandfather'

Washington: Abraham Lincoln pardoned Joe Biden's great-great-grandfather after a late-night Civil War-era brawl, documents reportedly show, linking the two US presidents across the centuries.

The court martial records in the US National Archives, reported by Washington Post on Monday, detail the trial of Moses J. Robinette after a fight with fellow Union Army civilian employee John J. Alexander in 1864. Robinette was charged with attempted murder after the tussle in the Army of the Potomac's winter camp in Virginia, when Alexander overheard him saying something about him to a cook, and rushed at him.

The two men scuffled, and Robinette drew his pocketknife, leaving Alexander with several cuts before others intervened, according to the documents. The 42-year-old, who had been hired by the army as a veterinary surgeon, insisted that Alexander "possibly might have injured me seriously had I not resorted to the means I did". But military judges convicted him and sentenced him to 2 years' hard labour.

Three army officers petitioned Lincoln to overturn his conviction, claiming the sentence was unduly harsh and that Robinette had been defending himself. Lincoln agreed, and signed the pardon on Sept 1 that same year. AFP



AROUND THE WORLD

AFP

Michelangelo's statue of David gets a routine clean-up in Florence

US shooting victims' families bring their voices to life via AI to plead for gun reforms

Joaquin "Guac" Oliver died in the 2018 Parkland, Florida, high school massacre. The families of Oliver and five others killed with guns are now using artificial intelligence to create messages in their loved ones' voices and robocalling them to senators and House members who support the National Rifle Association and oppose tougher gun laws. The protest is being run through a website, where visitors select which offices receive calls. The campaign was launched on Valentine's Day because it was the sixth anniversary of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, which left the 17-year-old Oliver, 13 other students and three staff members dead. His parents say the campaign is based on the oft-cited idea that if someone wants laws changed, the first step is calling elected representatives. To make the recordings, the families gave an AI firm audio of their loved ones and it re-created their voices. Oliver's AI voice identifies him and then says, "Many students and teachers were murdered on Valentine's Day ... by a person using an AR-15, but you don't care. You never did. It's been six years and you've done nothing."

Cameron first UK foreign min to visit Falklands in 30 years

Foreign secretary David Cameron visited the Falkland Islands on Monday, the first visit in three decades by Britain's top diplomat to the far-flung UK territory claimed by Argentina. Cameron said he was visiting the South Atlantic archipelago to make clear they are "a valued part of the British family". Argentina President Javier Milei said recently he hopes to recover the islands diplomatically. The last UK cabinet minister to visit was defence secretary Michael Fallon, in 2016, while Douglas Hurd was the last foreign secretary to head there in 1994.

Blaxit: Tired of racism, black Americans try life in Africa

Jes'ka Washington lives in a six-bedroom house on a hill with avocado trees and a spectacular view, not far from the rabbit farm she runs. For less than $50,000, Shoshana Kirya-Ziraba and her husband built a four-bedroom, two-bathroom house on family farmland with goats, turkeys and about 1,000 chickens. Mark and Marlene Bradley now call themselves islanders and the owners of three homes cooled by ocean breezes.

All of them are black Americans who found their new homes in Africa. They are enjoying the substantially lower cost of living and, more important, they said, the absence of the racism and discrimination they experienced in the US.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the racial reckoning in the wake of the murder of George Floyd led some black Americans to seek a different way of life abroad. It's a movement that some are calling Blaxit.

Those moving to Africa are also looking for an ancestral connection. Their migration is less about money and more about acceptance. Today, a new life in Africa is open to people of varied professions who can work remotely. Immigration has been fuelled by vocal proponents on social media and by govt programmes like Sierra Leone's path to citizenship and Ghana's Beyond the Return campaign. According to the Diaspora Affairs Office of Ghana, at least 1,500 African Americans moved to the country between 2019 and 2023. Despite the potential concerns for newcomers — including a wave of anti-LGBTQ policies across the continent — black Americans are migrating.

Washington, 46, of Houston, relocated to Rwanda in 2020. Kirya-Ziraba, 40, moved to Uganda from Texas in 2021. The Bradleys, who are in their 60s, settled in Zanzibar in 2022.

Ashley Cleveland, 39, a mother of two relocated from Atlanta to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in 2020 and is now based in South Africa. She said she appreciates that in much of Africa, race is "an abstract concept". "Seeing Black African people on the money, on the billboards, you immediately eliminate your Blackness," she said. She welcomed this change for her children, one of whom is no longer "bullied because of her complexion."

Some people, however, never get the resolution they sought. Adwoa Yeboah Asantewaa Davis, who moved from Washington, D.C., to Ghana in 2020, said, "You're coming here and you're expecting that everybody's Black, so I'm going to be OK... But then you get here and you're being 'othered'" — viewed as different and separate. And then there's the exodus back to the United States. Erieka Bennett, who moved 40 years ago, warned, "Africa isn't for everyone." NYT

NYT

NEW BEGINNINGS: Since moving to Zanzibar in 2022, Mark & Marlene Bradley are enjoying the substantially lower cost of living

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THE TIMES

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) |

FORMER LAZIO TEAMMATES SIMEONE (L), NOW ATLETICO MANAGER, AND INTER MILAN BOSS SIMONE CROSS SWORDS IN CL TODAY 22

Farm unions reject govt offer to link MSP & crop diversification

Call For 'Delhi Chalo' March To Resume

Neel.Kamal & Vishwa Mohan

Bathinda/New Delhi: Sanyukt Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha, spearheading "Delhi Chalo" farm protests, rejected Monday a proposal by the Centre for a five-year contract with farmers to procure maize, cotton, and pulses — arhar/tur, masur, and urad dals — at minimum support price through cooperatives and promote crop diversification.

SKM's Jagjit Singh Dallewal and KMM's Sarvan Singh Pandher reiterated their demand for a legal guarantee of MSP on 23 crops, following a C2+50% formula of profit over input cost.

While Piyush Goyal, one of three ministers to have attended fourth round talks with farmers Sunday, praised govt proposal as "out of the box" and emphasised its potential to encourage crop diversification and improve groundwater levels in Punjab, Dallewal and Pandher likened it to contract farming.

After consulting protesters at Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana, the two announced plans for farmers to resume their march towards Delhi at 11am Wednesday. Over 20,000 protesters have been camping at these locations.

▶ Another farmer dies in Pjb during protest, P 16

▶'Will help govt', P 22

'GUARANTEE MSP ON 23 CROPS'

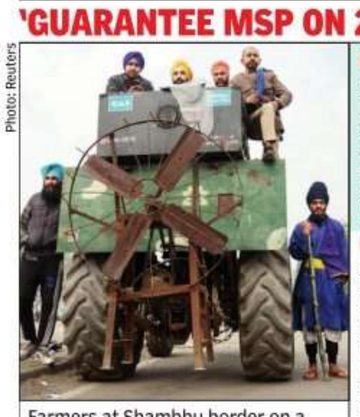

Photo: Reuters

Farmers at Shambhu border on a modified tractor fitted with a fan to blow away smoke from tear gas shells lobbed by Haryana police

Govt Offer: Cooperative societies **NCCF & Nafed to enter into contract with farmers growing tur, urad & masoor dal, maize & cotton** for buying crops at MSP **for next 5 yrs.** No limit on quantity bought

Farmers' Reply: Legal guarantee of MSP on all 23 crops, following a C2+50% formula of profit over input cost, a must. **No word on farm loan waiver, public sector crop insurance scheme**, no privatisation of electricity, ₹10K monthly pension to farmers above 60 years

Not a long-term solution: Experts

Many agri scientists, experts and economists **TOI** spoke to over Centre's latest proposal remained sceptical, considering it as a temporary fix for current crisis and doubted its effectiveness as a long-term solution. While one emphasised need for MSP calculations for all 23 crops to ensure fair prices nationwide, another said, "Why is it called contract farming for five years? Is it an attempt to bring back (withdrawn) farm laws through backdoor?" **P 16**

Wholesale onion prices up 40% as export ban lifted

Average wholesale onion prices at Lasalgaon, India's largest wholesale onion market, rose 40% to Rs 1,800 per quintal Monday from Saturday's Rs 1,280, after the Centre on Sunday withdrew ban on its export subject to a cap that will be soon specified. Wholesale prices had crashed 67% in the past 2.5 months from Rs 3,950 per quintal on Dec 6 last year following Centre's ban on exports till March 31, 2024 to cater to domestic demand. **P 16**

Dwarka eway stretch to open in March

A 19-km stretch of Dwarka Expressway — from Delhi-Gurgaon border to Kherki Daula — is set to open for traffic by March first week. PM Modi is likely to inaugurate it and hold a roadshow. **TOI** has learnt that remaining portion of expressway in Delhi (9.5 km) is estimated to be completed by June-end. **P 3**

Tiger kills Class 10 student in UP

An 18-year-old class 10 student was killed by a tiger when he had gone out to answer nature's call near a pond at Pandari village in UP's Pilibhit district on Monday evening. The victim, Pankaj, was preparing for state board exams. Angry villagers later protested against 'negligence' of forest officials. **P 15**

Man dies in custody, kin allege torture

Family of Furqan Ahmad (34) from UP's Shamli claimed that he died due to "police torture" after his body was "returned to his house minutes after he was picked up by cops" on Sunday night. But police denied this, saying his postmortem will be videographed and conducted in presence of a magistrate. **P 15**

In 7 yrs of 'double engine' govt, UP's gone from 'red tape' to 'red carpet': Modi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: UP has shed the baggage of the past in seven years of BJP's double-engine govt, trading "red tape" for "red carpet" to woo global investors, PM Modi said Monday while launching 14,000 projects collectively valued at Rs 10 lakh-odd crore.

"I offer special congratulations to CM Yogi Adityanath. Every Indian is proud that UP has decided to become a trillion-dollar economy," Modi said at UP Global Investors Summit. "Seven to eight years ago, crime and riots were common, and no one would have even believed had anyone said UP would be this developed."

The PM said the state's progress was in line with how the world now sees India as "a guaranteed destination for better returns".

▶'Aim is to ensure', P 16

CM Adityanath presenting a memento to PM Modi

'Sudama's gift will be seen as bribe today'

Laying the foundation stone of Kalki Dham in UP's Sambhal, PM Modi said "the wheel of time has turned for India". As an aside, Modi said in today's age, if Sudama gave rice to Krishna, a video would go viral and a PIL would be filed that lord Krishna had been bribed! **P 16**

Maha govt may table bill giving 10% quota to Marathas today

Mumbai: Maharashtra govt will introduce a bill in a special assembly session Tuesday to grant 10% quota to Marathas in govt jobs and education, said people with knowledge of the matter. The move follows a report submitted by the state backward class commission which concluded that the Maratha community is socially and educationally backward, **reports Priyanka Kakodkar**.

A govt official explained that "the government has to ensure that the quota is below 12%-13% because Bombay high court had agreed to this figure before the quota was totally scrapped by the apex court".

The state faces both Lok Sabha and assembly polls this year amid a sustained agitation by Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange.

▶'Won't disturb', P 22

Wait for court decision, Kejriwal tells ED, skips summons for sixth time

New Delhi: Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal on Monday skipped ED's sixth summons issued to him in connection with its investigation into the alleged excise scam.

"We are giving them replies as per law. Now, they have filed a case. ED should wait for the court's judgment before issuing any fresh summons," said Kejriwal.

▶Probe GST evasions, LG tells Delhi govt, P 2

Calling the ED summons illegal, AAP said, "The matter of validity of ED summons is now in court, ED itself went to court. Instead of sending summons again and again, they should wait for the court's decision."

ED sources claimed the Delhi CM has been trying to push the matter closer to Lok Sabha polls so that he can cite his campaign commitments to avoid meeting the probe team. "He is seeking to run out the clock," a source said. TNN

Help implement DJB scheme: CM to LG

CM Kejriwal said a "serious constitutional crisis" has arisen in Delhi as officers are saying they wouldn't pass DJB's one-time settlement scheme because of BJP "threats and pressure". He urged the LG to direct them to implement the scheme or take action if they refused it. **P 2**

▶BJP targets CM, P 5

SC lets Pawar Sr's NCP faction bear his name

Supreme Court on Monday directed that EC's interim order granting name of 'Nationalist Congress Party-Sharadchandra Pawar' for his faction would continue till further order.

Agreeing to hear his plea against EC decision to recognise Ajit Pawar's faction as real NCP, SC issued a notice to poll panel. It asked Sharad Pawar to approach EC for getting a symbol and also directed EC to decide on this within a week after an application is filed.

On Feb 6, EC decided NCP symbol dispute in favour of Ajit Pawar, nearly eight months after he broke away from Sharad Pawar camp to join Shiv Sena-BJP govt in Maha with 8 NCP MLAs. TNN

▶'Win for voters', P 16

SC to states: Go by our 1996 definition of forest

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New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday directed states and UTs to act as per the definition of 'forest' laid down in its 1996 judgment for identifying and preserving forest land and not follow the 2023 amendment to the Forest (Conservation) Act, which has allegedly resulted in 1.97 lakh square km of land getting excluded from forest area.

While passing the order which virtually stayed the amendment to FCA, a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also directed that its prior permission will be necessary for setting up any zoo or safari in a forest. The SC ordered the Centre to issue a circular notifying all state govts and UTs about these directions.

▶List by March-end, P 22

WHAT IT SAYS

- In its 1996 judgment in T N Godavarman case, SC held that a deemed forest would not only include 'forests' as understood by the **dictionary meaning of the word** but also any area recorded as forests in **govt records, irrespective of ownership**
- In Monday's order, bench also mandates SC's prior permission for setting up **zoo or safari in a forest**

Almost perfect murder: Killer set up 'phone alibi'

Abhay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Despite elaborate subterfuge after the murder of a senior Survey of India official, police were able to chargesheet a man for the crime and reveal the extensive preparations he made for the crime and its cover-up. Anish decided to eliminate his colleague as both men had feelings for the same woman.

The chargesheet only names the murderer as Anish, and the victim as Mahesh. It describes how Anish, after the murder on Aug 28, 2023, had Mahesh's phones couriered to Noida to thwart tracking of the device. He also accessed Mahesh's WhatsApp account and put up a sad status about a loan. Anish left his own phone at his home in Haryana's Gohana, asking a friend to make calls from the device, effectively establishing his presence there.

▶Murder he wrote, P 12

BODY BURIED

- Anish bore a **grudge towards his collegue** at Survey of India as both were in love with the same woman
- Anish tricked the victim into meeting him and **struck him with a wrench**
- He buried the body in courtyard of another colleague's house and had a **platform built over it**

This is the job 50L youths in UP are hoping to land

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If someone offered you a job where you have to work 12 hours a day for seven days a week and then take home a salary of about Rs 35,000 at the end of the month, what are the chances you will go for it? Before you answer, here's a small fact: last week, 50 lakh youths in UP were desperately trying to crack the entrance exam for this entry-level police job, no questions asked. **TOI** explains what the job involves.

TOI Explains

A Record

First things first, this was a record. On offer were 60,244 posts of constable in UP Police, but over 50 lakh applied – this was the highest number of online registrations received by the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board (UP-PRPB) since its formation in 2009. Of them, over 6 lakh were from outside UP – some 2.67 lakh from Bihar and nearly 75,000 from Haryana; youth from MP, Rajasthan, and Delhi applied too.

The Package

To apply, one will need to at least have cleared Class XII. Those who qualify will get a monthly salary of Rs 34,770. This also includes some allowances like DA, a meal allowance of Rs 1,800, a house allowance of Rs 2,400, a bike allowance of Rs 500 and a mobile phone allowance of Rs 2,000. The mobile phone allowance is a recent inclusion. Meal allowance, too, has been raised by Rs 500. If a constable dies while on duty, the family gets a Rs 1-crore payout.

Constables, who often travel for official duties, are reimbursed their travel expenses. But they can only take a train or bus. Even private cabs or taxis are not allowed, barring in 'exceptional circumstances'.

The Job

And this is where things get really tough. It's a 12-hour shift, seven days a week. There is no weekly off, but a constable gets 30 casual leaves and 30 earned leaves a year. Tough luck if they fall ill – because they get only 18 months of medical leave for their entire tenure.

Retired IPS officer OP Singh, when he was DGP, tried to implement the system of weekly offs for cops on a pilot basis, but it got nowhere.

Ajay Kumar

WHY KHAKI? Security of a govt job, charm of uniform and the power it wields in society is a big pull

WORLD'S LARGEST POLICE FORCE

- UP police force is considered to be the world's largest. Present strength (non-gazetted rank) is **3.3 lakh, including 47,000 women**
- Around **65,000 posts** in the non-gazetted ranks (including PAC, fire department, civil police) were vacant, hence the present round of hiring
- The entrance exam has two parts – a written exam and a physical efficiency test. Men must run 4.8km, and women 3km, within a stipulated time

- After qualifying, constables undergo six months' training before being inducted into the force

Up The Ladder

Once in, promotion prospects are not too bad. A constable's first promotion is to head constable. This comes with a salary increase. From Rs 34,770 a month, the pay goes up to Rs 50,000, including allowances. Subsequent promotions, after seven to 10 years, are to sub-inspector and inspector roles with corresponding salary increases.

So, Why Join?

Many aspirants and working cops **TOI** spoke to admitted that apart from the security of a government job, the charm of 'khaki' and the power it wields in society is a big pull for youths.

Rohit Chaudhary, who joined in 2021 and is now posted as a constable in Kheri, proudly dons his khaki. He cites job security, 'marriage prospects', and the provision of compensatory employment for family members in case of unforeseen circumstances as primary attractions of the job.

HOW **ELEPHANTS** BECAME A **JUMBO WORRY** IN KERALA

A high-level ministerial meeting is planned today in Wayanad district over the growing cases of human-animal conflict in Kerala, where two people have lost their lives this month to elephant attacks

Ajeesh was not alone when he was spotted on Feb 10 by the elephant known as 'Belur Makhna' (Belur, since it had strayed into Kerala from the Karnataka taluk; 'makhna' means without tuskers). But the 47-year-old was not as lucky as the other members of the crowd in Mananthavady in Wayanad district. As they ran to safety, the elephant chased Ajeesh, who scaled the wall of a compound to escape the elephant. However, the elephant brought down the gate of the compound and attacked Ajeesh, who was declared dead at a local hospital.

Days after Ajeesh's death, V Paul, an ecotourism guide in his fifties and a member of the local forest protection council, was trampled to death on Feb 16 in the forests of Cheriyamala in Wayanad. On Jan 31, a farmer had met a similar end in the same district.

In the last four years, 57 people in Kerala have lost their lives in elephant attacks alone, per data shared in Lok Sabha. The statistic speaks of the larger issue of human-wildlife conflict in Kerala. A 2022 Kerala State Planning Board report says the state recorded over 300 deaths due to animal attacks over 10 years. The recent deaths have sparked angry protests and there was also a dawn-to-dusk strike in Wayanad district on Feb 17. In Ajeesh's case, locals point out that even though the elephant was radio-collared, they had not been warned of its movements by forest officials. The demand is now for more concerted steps to rein in wild animals. But experts point out that checking such attacks is easier said than done.

TOI Explains

Old Reasons, And Some New

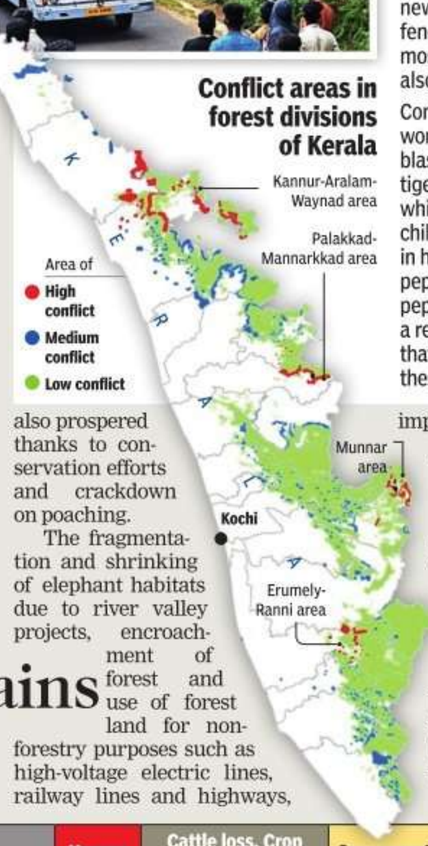
Close to a third of Kerala's territory is under forest cover. Experts note that human-wildlife conflict is a serious problem in Wayanad and the state's northern regions. While the issue is not of recent origin, it has been exacerbated by more contemporary concerns ranging from change in cropping patterns to commercial activities like animal husbandry and plantations near forest areas.

Commercial crops like sugarcane, banana, rubber, etc. are a ready source of food for wild animals, which have also prospered thanks to conservation efforts and crackdown on poaching.

The fragmentation and shrinking of elephant habitats due to river valley projects, encroachment of forest and use of forest land for non-forestry purposes such as high-voltage electric lines, railway lines and highways, etc, has increased the threat for elephant attacks. The planting of invasive varieties like lantana, which are not fit for consumption by herbivores, and the monoculture of exotic species like eucalyptus and acacia adversely impact habitat quality.

The state govt also notes that "the tolerance level of the present generation" living on forest fringes is not as high as older generations that had learnt to co-exist with animals. The rise in human-wildlife conflict in semi-urban areas is linked to factors like abandoned farmlands, dumping of garbage, etc. that bring wild boar, peafowl, etc into new habitats. It was while hearing a petition on wild boar attacks that Kerala high court asked for efforts to be made to control human-wildlife conflict in the state.

File Photo



FENCING, PEPPER SPRAY FAIL TO KEEP ANIMALS AT BAY

Lately, the Kerala Forests and Wildlife Department has mostly relied on erecting barriers and impediments to prevent the entry of animals into farmlands and residential areas. A total of 511.2km of elephant-proof trenches have been dug so far and new solutions like solar-powered fencing and elephant-proof walls – mostly borrowed from Africa – have also been deployed.

Confidence in traditional strategies has worn thin. Animals can get used to the blasting of firecrackers and recorded tiger roars if used over a long period while dabbing boundary ropes with chili and grease was found ineffective in high-rainfall areas. Hand-held pepper sprays, smoke canisters and pepper dung that's burnt to produce a repellent smoke are other strategies that have been partially effective as these rely on the direction of the wind.

Year	Human Deaths	Cattle loss, Crop damage etc. (No. of incidents)	Compensation paid (Rs lakh)
2019-20	102	6,063	714.2
2020-21	97	7,077	785.6
2021-22	152	7,094	1,056
2022-23	99	5,800	803.1
2023-24*	105	4,555	161.1
Total	**555**	**30,589**	**3,519.90**

Table shows human deaths and damage to cattle and crops in animal attacks in Kerala. Elephant attacks killed 106 people between 2018-19 and 2022-23 in the state. Odisha saw 542 elephant-linked deaths in this period, the highest reported

Seeking More Teeth

Amid repeated cases of animal attacks, the Kerala assembly passed a resolution asking the Centre to simplify laws to allow it to deal more effectively with the issue. It has sought a change in the Wildlife Protection Act such that the powers available to the chief wildlife warden (CWW) can be exercised by chief forest conservators, who would be better-placed to take steps in case of an emergency. Under Sec 11(1)(a) of the Act, CWWs can permit any person to kill specified wild animals if they pose a threat to human life. The resolution also asked that wild boars be declared as vermin Act so as to permit their culling.

– Kenneth Mohanty