



# 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



**LG VK Saxena accuses Kejriwal of 'misleading' people 'by creating a false political narrative' about one-time settlement for water bills. Delhi CM hits back at LG, saying 'work stuck ever since you took charge, let's work together', P 2**

**Former Intel India head Avtar Saini, 68, who was out on a ride with cyclists, knocked down & killed by a cab in Navi Mumbai, P 16**

**Biden wins Michigan's Democratic primary election but is facing significant opposition over his support for Israel as it wages war in Gaza Strip, Inside Jacket**

**Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli retain their place in the top bracket as BCCI unveils centrally-contracted players for this year. Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan have been dropped after ignoring directive to play Ranji Trophy, P 27**



## Sikh man from UP killed outside US gurdwara

In a case of suspected hate crime, a 29-year-old musician with a Sikh kirtan group was shot dead by unidentified assailants outside a gurdwara in Alabama Saturday night. Raj Singh was in the US for the past one and a half years. Earlier this month, a 76-year-old American hotelier of Gujarati origin was shot dead by a man who wanted a room in his motel in Alabama. **INSIDEJACKET**

## Chhattisgarh CM's security breached

A visitor carrying a revolver entered Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai's residence in Raipur in a car with a VIP plate on Feb 25, marking the biggest security breach of the state's CM. Sai was not in town. Eight personnel of his security detail have been suspended. **TNN**

## Nita Ambani to lead Disney-Rel board

Reliance Industries and Walt Disney on Wednesday signed a binding pact to merge their media operations in India in a \$8.5-billion deal, creating a behemoth with 120 TV channels and two digital OTT platforms. Nita Ambani will lead the merged company's board. **P 25**

## PM slams DMK for ad with China flag

PM Modi accused DMK of "insulting" and "neglecting" India's achievements in the space sector after an ad placed by a party minister in a Tamil Nadu newspaper showed a rocket with a Chinese flag on its nose cone. DMK must apologise, Modi said. **P 19**

# Himachal speaker suspends 15 BJP MLAs, CM lives to fight

## Budget Passed With Voice Vote, House Adjourned

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu appeared to temporarily stave off the threat to his govt after 15 of 20 BJP legislators were disqualified Wednesday for allegedly misbehaving with the

**▶ EDIT PAGE: Helping Hand For Lotus**  
**▶ 2nd working president of Assam Cong quits, P 21**

speaker, allowing Congress to get the state budget passed by a voice vote and buying it time to firefight the crisis sparked by Tuesday's cross-voting in Rajya Sabha election.

CM Sukhu declared he was "a warrior and will fight like a warrior" to complete his term. His govt also filed a petition under the anti-defection law against the six Cong-

## READY FOR TOUGH DECISIONS: CONG

▶ CM Sukhu says Cong 'high command has asked neither me nor anyone else for resignation'. Blames BJP's 'tantar-mantar used in Operation Lotus' for the crisis

▶ Cong says it would not hesitate in taking 'tough decisions' to ensure people's mandate is respected

▶ Cong's central observers Bhupinder Hooda, DK Shivakumar & Bhupesh Baghel hold one-on-one meeting with party MLAs; call up six legislators who cross-voted



CM Sukhu with Cong's central observer DK Shivakumar in Shimla on Wednesday

▶ Observers' report likely to be submitted by Thursday. It will include an analysis of cross-voting in Tuesday's Rajya Sabha polls that led to victory of BJP candidate

ress MLAs who defied the party whip in the RS poll. Speaker Kuldeep Singh Pathania reserved his decision on the plea. "They are not present in the House even today when this finance bill is under consideration and being passed. I have taken cognisance of this," he said. The house was later adjourned sine die.

Karnataka deputy CMD K

Shivakumar and former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda, whom AICC has deputed as observers, arrived in Shimla around 5pm and met Sukhu and his ministers. They individually interacted with the rest of the MLAs before calling up the six dissidents. Sources said the observers were to submit a report to AICC president Mallikar-

## Virbhadra's son says he'll resign as minister, retracts

Even as the Congress govt was grappling with a crisis triggered by cross-voting in RS polls, son of late former CM Virbhadra Singh and state PCC chief Pratibha Singh Vikramaditya announced his resignation as PWD minister in Sukhu's cabinet at a presser in the assembly complex, breaking down and alleging humiliation. Within hours though, the Shimla Rural MLA retracted his decision. **P 23**

jun Kharge by midnight. Sukhu said Congress "believes in forgiveness", referring to dissidents as "younger brothers". He also claimed that one of them had apologised to him for betraying the party whip. "I don't want to take his name. He said he erred in decision-making."

▶ Motion to suspend..., P 23

# Google CEO slams 'unacceptable' Gemini AI errors

San Francisco: Google CEO Sundar Pichai on Tuesday slammed mistakes by its Gemini AI app, after gaffes such as images of ethnically diverse WW II Nazi troops forced it to stop users from creating pictures of people. "I want to address the recent issues with problematic text and image responses in the Gemini app," Pichai wrote in a letter to staff, which was published by the news website Semafor.

"I know that some of its responses have offended our users and shown bias—to be clear, that's completely unacceptable and we got it wrong," he added.

The controversy emerged within weeks of Google's high-profile rebranding of its ChatGPT-style AI to 'Gemini'. Social media users mocked and criticised the company for the historically

"I know that some responses have offended our users and shown bias. To be clear... we got it wrong... we know the bar is high for us and we will keep at it for however long it takes" — Sundar Pichai

inaccurate Gemini-generated images, such as US senators from the 1800s that were ethnically diverse and included women.

In India, days after Gemini came under severe censure over its unsubstantiated allegations in response to a query on PM Modi, IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw last Monday warned that govt would "not tolerate" any racial and other biases in the running of platforms based on AI. **TNN & AGENCIES**

▶ See **INSIDEJACKET**

## CBI summons Akhilesh today in illegal sand mining case

New Delhi: CBI has summoned UP ex-CM Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday in connection with its probe into a high court-monitored case linked to illegal sand mining, reports Rajshekhar Jha. Notice has been served under Section 160 of CrPC, suggesting his statement will be recorded in capacity of a witness as of now.

The SP chief, who has been asked to appear at the agency's headquarters in

▶ Visitors meet SP neta's bro for tea, kill him, P 21

Delhi, said, "It happens when elections are around the corner. I got a CBI notice in 2019 before Lok Sabha polls. Now, it's again time for polls and I have got a notice."

The case pertains to illegal mining between 2012 and 2016 in UP's Hamirpur district when SP was in office.

▶ 13 projects, P 21

# UK-based gangster claims he got Rathee murdered

Abhay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A day after TOI reported that gangster Jyoti Baba was questioned by police agencies in Tihar Jail in connection with Haryana INLD chief Nafe Singh Rathee's murder, his brother Kapil Sangwan, a UK-based gangster, claimed responsibility for the killing.

The two-time former Haryana legislator and one of his bodyguards were gunned down by assailants inside a moving car at Bahadurgarh in Jhajjar district on Sunday. In a social media post, Sang-

## 'ENEMY'S FRIEND'

▶ UK-based Kapil Sangwan, brother of jailed gangster Jyoti Baba, claims Rathee had teamed up with rival criminal Manjeet Mahal, who got his brother-in-law and his friends killed

▶ 'This will be the fate of whoever shakes hands with my enemy,' he says in a post

wan claimed that the politician was a close associate of jailed gangster Manjeet Mahal, a rival of Sangwan.

▶ Contract killing, P 15

## Standoff ends as cops file FIR on farmer's death

Punjab govt on Wednesday ended a weeklong standoff with farm unions over the death of young farmer Shubhkar Singh on Feb 21 in a clash at Punjab-Haryana border. The unions had refused to allow a post-mortem to be done before an FIR was filed. A case of murder against unidentified persons has been registered. An autopsy is now expected to take place soon. **TNN**

# Shah, Nadda brainstorm with state netas ahead of meet to decide poll candidates

Akhilesh.Singh @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Anxiety among sitting BJP MPs as well as those aspiring for tickets surged on Wednesday, the eve of the party's first central election committee meeting. Home minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda held marathon deliberations with leaders from over 14 states and UTs amid speculation that a substantial number of incum-

bents could be benched. Two-termers are considered to be particularly vulnerable, with the party keen to ward off the risk of 'local incumbency' hindering its plans to leverage PM Modi's popularity to score its biggest LS win.

The number of state units called for deliberations has reinforced the indication that the leadership, taking up from where it left off in the latest state polls, may announce its first list soon. Party circles were

abuzz that the list, likely to be announced a day after the CEC meeting in which Modi, other parliamentary board members and senior state leaders will be present, may have as many as 200 candidates. BJP recently held 'informal' meetings with leaders from UP and other states. Besides, central office-bearers have completed the review of states the party expects decent pickings from.

▶ BJP likely to field..., P 20

**पिछले 10 सालों में खादी और ग्रामोद्योग का उत्पादन बढ़ा 3.7 गुना.**  
2014 के ₹ 26 हज़ार करोड़ से बढ़कर 2023 में ₹ 96 हज़ार करोड़

**मोदी सरकार — की गारंटी — नये भारत की नई खादी**

**पिछले 10 सालों में खादी और ग्रामोद्योग की बिक्री बढ़ी 4.4 गुना.**  
2014 के ₹ 31 हज़ार करोड़ से बढ़कर 2023 में ₹ 1 लाख 35 हज़ार करोड़

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Average AQI in Feb lowest since 2016 | 4

**25.5°** MAXIMUM  
**10.7°** MINIMUM

FORECAST: Mainly clear sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 27°C and 11°C

SUNRISE 6.46AM (FRI)  
SUNSET 6.20PM (THU)

MOONRISE 10.37PM (THU)  
MOONSET 9.40AM (FRI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

**141**

AQI IN DELHI ON WEDNESDAY (MODERATE CATEGORY)

NDMC continues sealing of shops in CP over tax default | 6



# LG Vs Govt Hots Up Over Water Bills, Solar Policy

## Water, finance & urban development under govt control, stop blame game: Saxena to Kejriwal... Atishi; Raj Niwas hits back

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Lieutenant governor VK Saxena accused chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday of "misleading" the people "by creating a false political narrative" around the proposed one-time settlement of unpaid water bills. He claimed that Delhi govt had no intention of implementing the scheme.

In a scathing response to AAP govt's allegations that the LG was "stalling" the proposed scheme and the passing of a resolution by Delhi Assembly asking the LG to direct bureaucrats to implement the payment scheme, Saxena said no document related to the proposal had ever been brought to his notice.

"Your statements are white lies, an example of the typical abuse and scot game that you seem to have mastered and made a career out of," the LG remarked in his letter, adding that the incumbent govt had done "nothing substantive" for the development of Delhi and its residents.



AT LOGGERHEADS, YET AGAIN

"In almost all spheres, you have blamed all and sundry — successive govts at the Centre since 2013, successive LGs, Congress Party, BJP, even govt servants — in a bid to maintain the charade that you have created through repeated lies perpetuated by an incessant publicity campaign," the LG wrote.

The state govt, both in the assembly and outside, has alleged that BJP-led central govt and the LG were impeding the proposed scheme

that would benefit more than 10 lakh consumers who had been getting "inflated" water bills since 2012. Govt also alleged that no action was taken against officials who did not heed "clear instructions".

Saxena asserted that the proposed scheme was related to the Delhi Jal Board, urban development and finance departments, all "fully and totally" under the direct control of the state govt. Alleging that there were "contradictions" in

the statements made by the ministers in the past few days, the LG also questioned why the urban development minister "kept sitting" on the proposal for almost one year.

"The timelines and decisions, as indeed the timing of the entire political exercise that has now been undertaken, very clearly point towards a convoluted game of blaming others for your own failures," the LG said. "Failure to take any decision concerning this subject is apparently deliberate and the political exercise being undertaken now is nothing but an exercise of shifting the blame of your own inefficiency and inability on a constitutional office or the central govt."

While the proposed scheme is intended to benefit over 10 lakh consumers, the LG said the remaining 17 lakh "honest consumers" who paid the bills on time should not be discriminated against and govt should refund their money, along with interest, which amounted to Rs 13,186 crore. "Any scheme that leaves out the equity principle

would be illegal *ab initio* since it is violative of the right to equal opportunity," Saxena noted in his letter.

The LG also alleged that Kejriwal, who earlier headed DJB as its chairman, was to be blamed for the generation of "inflated bills" during the past decade. "Now, you are tearing water bills in the public in a dramatic act of defiance. This act, I am afraid, is defiance against your own self and your own govt," the LG said.

Taking "grave objection" to the language of the "resolution" adopted by Delhi Assembly on Feb 19, Saxena said the assertion that "BJP exercises direct control over the LG" was "unacceptable and irresponsible". He further stated that the statement not only breached the propriety and constitutional provisions but was also an affront to the constitutional office of the LG for "petty political games".

He said, "I advise you to convey the same to the speaker of the Assembly and the same should be expunged from the proceedings of the House."

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Power minister Atishi on Wednesday alleged lieutenant governor V K Saxena was obstructing AAP govt's solar policy to ensure it is not notified before enforcement of the model code of conduct for Lok Sabha polls.

Raising the issue in Delhi Assembly, Atishi said, "The solar policy, in which electricity bills above 400 units could have been free, has been stopped by the LG. He sat on the file. I asked the LG's office personally about the file. When the file came back with several objections, it went from one officer to another. There is only one objective, and that is to stop the policy from getting notified before the model code of conduct for LS polls kicks in."

Dismissing her claim, Raj Niwas sources said that Kejriwal govt was "misleading people by habitually lying" and that the LG has not stopped solar policy, only sought details on its provisions.

"There is no such provision in the policy which would reduce people's electricity bills to zero. On the contrary, the policy has a Resco provision that will benefit only private power companies," it said.

Under the Resco (renewable energy service company) solar model, people have zero investment while the solar plant is installed in their house by a vendor. A power purchase agreement is reached which sub-



Atishi claimed that LG wanted to stop the solar policy from being notified before the model code of conduct came into effect

sidises electricity while the vendor earns from generation-based incentives.

"The LG has also asked whether there is a provision in this policy for coordination to benefit consumers from the capital subsidy worth thousands of crores of Govt of India," LG House said.

Earlier this month, Delhi govt had finalised Delhi Solar Policy 2024, under which people installing solar panels on their rooftops would get increased generation-based incentives from the earlier policy; a capital subsidy and facility to sell their excess generated electricity in real time to other consumers in the national capital.

Delhi govt had also announced it would be giving a capital subsidy to residential consumers of Rs 2,000 per kW of installation up to a maximum of Rs 10,000 per consumer. This was over and above the capital

subsidy of central govt.

Later, at a press briefing, Atishi reiterated the LG was holding back the solar policy file by putting bogus queries. "Its implementation would have benefited not only the environment but also the people of Delhi and prompted them to vote for CM Arvind Kejriwal. This is why the LG is trying to put it on hold. He is forgetting the dignity of his constitutional position and making every possible effort to secure votes for BJP in LS elections," she alleged.

Delhi BJP leader Harish Khurana said the solar policy is not Delhi-specific, but nationwide. "State govts across the country and central govt are working on it. There is no confrontation between any state govt and central govt. Kejriwal govt only wants to divert attention from allegations of corruption by discussing half-baked schemes," he said.

## ...CM hits back: Work stuck ever since you took charge, let's work together and set an example

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Responding to the lieutenant governor's letter on Wednesday, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said various schemes and programmes run by Delhi govt were affected by bureaucrats not clearing the files since VK Saxena took over as the LG. In a late evening reply to Saxena, Kejriwal said the same set of officials who helped improve Delhi govt schools and hospitals, set up mohalla clinics, laid pipelines in unauthorised colonies and deployed marshals in buses were now "stalling" all public works.

The CM wrote, "The officials have not been changed on a mass scale in the last two years. But ever since you have taken over as LG, the very same officers are now stopping works of public interest."

Kejriwal alleged that the bureaucrats claimed they were being threatened by the LG with vigilance enquiries, disciplinary action, suspension, CBI investigation and ED arrests if they cooperated with the elected govt. "You have vehemently denied these allegations and said that you have never asked any officer to stop works of public interest. (But) When you don't take action, it does raise a doubt in my mind whether these officers are acting under your instructions," said Kejriwal.

He went on, "I am forced to wonder whether the work of Delhi govt is being brought to a standstill to give a bad name to the Aam Aadmi Party and to promote the interests of BJP which is in power in the central govt that has appointed you. I sincerely hope that this is not the case."

ARVIND KEJRIWAL SAYS

**I am forced to wonder whether the work of Delhi govt is being brought to a standstill to give a bad name to the Aam Aadmi Party and to promote the interests of BJP which is in power in the central govt that has appointed you. I sincerely hope that this is not the case**

On the issue of the proposed one-time settlement policy of water bills, the CM claimed to have more than once brought to the LG's notice that despite the directives of the water minister, bureaucrats in Delhi Jal Board, urban development department and finance department were "creating a constitutional crisis" by not bringing the cabinet note on the scheme.

The CM said since the LG was in control of services and vigilance, all powers over officials in Delhi govt were exercised

by him and the bureaucracy responded only to his directions — whether given orally or in writing. The CM requested the LG to take exemplary action against one official at least and that would bring the "entire administrative machinery into order".

He said that Delhi govt faced the problems of non-availability of medicines and tests at mohalla clinics, non-payment of their rent and electricity bills, removal of staff at OPD counters of hospitals, overflowing sewers due to non-

payment for machines and labour; removal of bus marshals, delay of pension to retired DTC employees and termination of the operation of smog towers. "I will repeat once again that all of this is happening for the first time since the formation of an elected government in Delhi in 1993, and has only started in the last two years, since you became the LG of Delhi," Kejriwal alleged.

The CM also said that despite differences, diverse political backgrounds and perspectives between the two, such "offensive language" in the letter written by the LG was not acceptable from one constitutional functionary to another. "It is my earnest hope that in the interests of the people of Delhi, we will be able to maintain a cordial and constructive working relationship," Kejriwal wrote.

## Govt failed to revamp markets: BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The leader of opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, on Wednesday raised in the House the issue of redevelopment of Gandhi Nagar and five other markets announced earlier.

Govt had said it would revamp the Gandhi Nagar, Kamla Nagar, Khari Baoli, Lajpat Nagar, Sarojini Nagar and Kirti Nagar markets and would make them "world class".

"I want to draw the attention of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal that in this House itself, it was said Gandhi Nagar would be redeveloped and five other big markets would be revamped. A provision of Rs 100 crore was to be made available for the redevelopment in the 2022-23 budget," Bidhuri said.

"Till now, the redevelopment work has not started in any market. Facilities of water, electricity, fire and roads will have to be revamped. Today if you go to these markets, there are heaps of garbage lying around, forget redevelopment," he said.

Govt has shown dreams to common people and traders of Delhi, but the dream could not go beyond the announcement, Bidhuri alleged, demanding that govt fulfil its promises to develop these important markets. He said a message should go to the lakhs of traders from this House and govt should also provide information to every MLA on the current state of the plan.

While Gandhi Nagar market is a garment hub, Kamla Nagar is popular for fashion accessories, Khari Baoli for spices, Lajpat Nagar for wedding shopping, Sarojini Nagar for street fashion and Kirti Nagar for furniture and household decor.

## AAP will fight for Civil Defence volunteers on streets and in Parliament, says Atishi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The issue of Civil Defence volunteers, who had lost their jobs in Oct last year after Delhi govt issued a circular to end their "callout duty", rocked the budget session of assembly Wednesday, with minister Atishi stating AAP will fight for those laid off, from the streets to Parliament.

A total of 10,792 Civil Defence volunteers, mostly engaged as bus marshals, were removed after the Directorate of Civil Defence issued a circular stating it was contrary to rules mandating their requirement for dealing with disaster management. Officials had argued that buses already

had CCTV cameras and panic buttons. Speaking in the assembly, Atishi said for decades, it had been very challenging for women to travel in DTC buses. After continuing for several years, in 2023, the same officers who executed the scheme started putting objections, she added.

"They (officials) said, 'what is the use of bus marshals when there is CCTV?' I would like to tell them that you travel in a chauffeur-driven car so you don't realise what kind of bad behaviour women have to undergo," said Atishi.

She said despite revenue and transport ministers ordering to continue the bus marshals, the offi-

cials went ahead with the orders to remove them. "We will fight for their cause, from the roads to Parliament," she added.

Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "It appears that officials have been told that whatever they do, they should stop govt policy."

In a press statement later, leader of opposition in Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that along with Civil Defence volunteers, home guards, anganwadi, Asha workers, guest teachers, vocational teachers and contractual employees in Delhi govt should be regularised. "Kejriwal had repeatedly promised this during the elections," he added.

**New Delhi:** With the seat-sharing arrangement with Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) now settled, Delhi Congress has started an exercise to prepare a manifesto for the residents of the capital and will take feedback from common people on the issues that should be included in the document.

Addressing a press conference, Delhi Congress president Arvind Singh Lovely said extensive discussions would also be held with senior party functionaries, former ministers and workers before finalising the manifesto for the coming parliamentary election.

"Though INDIA bloc will have

a common minimum programme at the national level, Delhi Congress will discuss city-specific issues," said Lovely. "Due to BJP govt's neglect, the capital has suffered on all fronts, stunting its development and growth," he alleged.

Congress will contest on three seats — North East and North West Delhi and Chandni Chowk — in the capital, while the remaining four — East, South, West and New Delhi — have fallen in AAP's kitty. The alliance is an attempt to consolidate the anti-BJP vote and challenge the saffron front, which won all seven seats in Delhi in the last two Lok Sabha elections in 2014 and 2019.

Lovely said Delhi Congress had

LOVELY SAYS

**Though INDIA bloc will have a common minimum programme at the national level, Delhi Congress will discuss city-specific issues**

already constituted a manifesto committee under the chairmanship of former state unit president Anil Chaudhary to study the problems being faced by Delhiites and suggest remedies, which would be included in the document. Before the press conference, the committee held a meeting to initiate a discussion on the issues to be included in the document of the party promises.

Lovely said Congress had always worked for the welfare of the people and the manifesto would address issues directly related to the youth, women, workers and farmers, and bhagidari, and attempts would be made to give justice to lower and middle class, downtrodden, exploited sections, industrial workers, contract workers and others.

AICC secretary general and the party's Delhi in-charge, Deepak Babaria, said the Sheila Dikshit-led Congress govt, during its 15-year tenure, had made Delhi one of the best cities in the world, which had now been ruined as the central govt totally neglected it.

## Weaving magic: From saris to PPE suits, textile story under one roof

Ambika.Pandit@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** A weaver from Gujarat's Surendranagar in Saurashtra region is busy on a traditional handloom giving shape to a cotton Tangaliya design on a sari — once a dotted woven textile traditionally worn by the Bharwad shepherd community. A few steps away, weavers from Varanasi are working to create a silk sari guided by an electronic handloom jacquard machine that uses computer programming to ensure traditional designs are reproduced with precision.

Every step at Bharat Tex 2024, is an exploration of India's historical and abiding relationship with textiles. Moving forward, witness digital printing techniques using non-toxic colours and familiarise oneself with technical textiles ranging from PPE suits, anti-riot gear to outfits for fire fighters — incidentally one of the fastest growing segments in textiles.

Move further and the "journey of a T-shirt" reiterates the message of adopting a sustainable way of life and value the clothes we own. It takes 40 processes and more than 220 people starting from farms to fac-



Photos: Piyal Bhattacharjee

tories to make a basic T-shirt.

Bharat Tex's 'Vastra Katha' on show at Bharat Mandapam in Delhi, takes one through the stories of textile hubs like Panipat and varieties specific to states ranging from Uttar Pradesh to Tamil Nadu. The story culminates in an aesthetic display of high-end fashion that mixes traditional heritage with modernity and drives home the message of local going global.

The four-day expo steered by the ministry of textiles was inaugurated on Monday by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The exhibition at the theme pavilion brings in one place the diversity of fabric and art forms from across the country.

A large cocoon made of colourful threads at the centre of the pavilion provides an immersive experience to visitors of India's textile.

Rathod Baldevbhai's Tangaliya creations are a major attraction — both for fashion connoisseurs and students who watch with amazement as he uses his fingers and birds and flowers take shape on a vibrant colour palette in geometric patterns. The softspoken "bunkar (weaver)" says they have been doing this work for

for almost 700 years.

It is evident that the Tangaliya cloth initially worn as wrap-around by the women of the shepherd community has evolved with the market in terms of design, style and colour schemes. Baldevbhai shares that there were around 300 weavers at one point of time but families started leaving this work as it was not financially lucrative till National Institute of Fashion Technology saw potential in the creative work and helped them revive it through creative inputs and also trained the weavers. "Tangaliya got the GI tag in 2007 and since then there has been no looking back," he added.

"Both men and women work in each family work as a team on the handloom and it takes 15-20 days for a sari on average," he added.

As one moves forward, Vastra Katha takes one through the value chain of textiles. Amid displays of famous Indian fashion designers, there are stories such as those of the tribal women of Madhya Pradesh engaged in organic farming and how they are contributing to the textile story today — weaving a story of continuity as tradition meets modernity.





Government of India

# Modi Sarkar ki Guarantee

## Freedom from colonial mindset



Rajpath now becomes Kartavyapath, Mughal Garden becomes Amrit Udyan, new epaulettes of Indian Navy to be based on the naval ensign of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Hamara sankalp  
**Viksit Bharat**

Scan for more information



## Man posed as schoolgirl online, took obscene photos of minors, arrested

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**New Delhi:** A 27-year-old man, Subhan Ali, allegedly disguised himself as a schoolgirl on social media to interact with other girls. On the pretext of playing the game of truth or dare, he took minor girls' obscene photographs and harassed them.

Recently, a girl's mother noticed her daughter's depression. One day, she checked her daughter's phone and discovered that someone was blackmailing her daughter into sending obscene photos. Her father promptly informed the police, and Ali was arrested in Nainital.

Police stated that Ali, a sugarcane factory worker and school dropout, learned how to create social media accounts by watching various

**Probe revealed that the accused, Subhan Ali, had been using the fake profile to blackmail and harass minor girls for the past one year**

online videos. He also used the internet to research the truth or dare game, presumably to use the information for his predatory behaviour.

After getting a complaint, DCP (Southwest) Rohit Meena formed a team under inspector Vikas Kumar Buldak for the investigation. "Upon analysing the accused's fake social media profile, we discovered it was created using an email address. Tracing that email led us to Nainital, where we located the account holder. However,

he denied creating the profile," an officer stated.

Later, it came to fore that another factory worker had used his email address to create the fake profile. "We apprehended the suspect and confiscated his phone," the officer further said, adding that "the accused had been harassing at least six girls, including the complainant's daughter."

Further interrogation revealed that he had been using the fake profile to blackmail and harass minor girls for the past one year. Earlier, the accused searched the internet for instructions on how to create accounts on social media applications. He then created an account posing as a girl.

"The complainant's daughter had been harassed since July 2023. The accused, using a girl's photograph, had sent

multiple chat requests to her. Finally, the chatting began. The accused began his manipulation, and the girl was tricked into sending naked photos and videos," police said.

The girl's father informed the cops that he had provided her phone for attending online classes. One day, her mother discovered not only blackmailing chats but also obscene pictures, which prompted them to file a police complaint on Feb 20.

"We've identified one of his fake accounts and we suspect he may have created similar accounts on other platforms. Efforts are being made to find out how many girls fell prey to his nefarious intention," the officer said.

The accused is a resident of Uddham Singh Nagar in Uttarakhand.

## Bank manager withdraws ₹12cr from woman's accounts, booked

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** A private bank's manager was booked by Delhi Police for allegedly withdrawing a huge amount of money from a customer's accounts.

A woman and her husband had invested their entire life's savings of Rs 13.5 crore in two accounts. A majority of the amount was used for fixed deposits, which would have accumulated to more

than Rs 16 crore this year. The woman claimed that around Rs 12 crore had been withdrawn from their accounts.

Investigations revealed that the manager had created many fake fixed deposit accounts in her own name and forged documents to misappropriate the money.

"The major part of the offence was committed at the Vikaspuri branch of the bank," a police officer said.

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## Dispute over extortion turns violent, 2 injured

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** A dispute over alleged extortion escalated into violence in west Delhi's Khayala on Wednesday. At least two people were injured and one vehicle was set on fire, following stone-pelting by locals, police said.

Police received information about a person being thrashed by some people at B2 Block in Raghbir Nagar at 9.30am on Wednesday. "The local police staff rescued the injured person, identified as Balram, a bad character of Khayala police station," police said, adding that he was taken to a hospital.

Meanwhile, a group of locals gathered at B1 Block and pelted stones at Balram's car and set it on fire. They also attempted to locate and assault Pramod, Balram's associate, but police intervention prevented the incident.

Due to the growing crowd,

**Forces were called in from nearby police stations to restore order in the area. The crowd was dispersed after talks, police said**

forces were called in from nearby police stations to restore order. "We talked to the people and the crowd was dispersed. Based on a complaint, legal action is being initiated against Balram and Pramod," the officer said.

According to a senior officer, locals alleged that Balram was trying to collect money forcefully from vendors at the used-clothes market, which they claim sparked the violence.

Police said they were registering another case for the unlawful assembly that breached the peace and set a vehicle on fire. "We are scanning CCTV footage to identify people involved in the violence," the officer said.

## Govt launches scheme for persons with disabilities

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi Govt on Wednesday launched Sugamaya Sahayak Scheme for persons with benchmark disabilities. Under this scheme, the eligible persons will receive a range of assistive devices, including artificial limbs, tricycles, wheelchairs, hearing aids, adjustable axillary crutches, smart cane, smartphones and other useful kits from govt.

A "person with benchmark disability" means a person with not less than 40% of a specified disability.

To avail the benefits, the applicants must be a person with benchmark disability as per the disability certificate/UDID card and a resident of Delhi. They must possess an Aadhaar Card, and the annual income limit of the family from all sources should not be more than Rs 8 lakh.

Govt has signed a memorandum of understanding with Alimco, a public sector undertaking, for a period of five years.

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18-A, DDA SCO Complex, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024  
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**Corrigendum**

**Notice for Recruitment on Deputation**


With reference to the Advertisement dated 13.2.2024 it is to inform that the recruitment Notice has been revised. Accordingly applications are invited for the posts of Chief Project Manager, Superintending Engineer, Executive Engineer (Civil), Executive Engineer (Electrical), Assistant Engineer (Civil), Assistant Engineer (Electrical), Junior Engineer (Civil), Junior Engineer (Electrical), Accounts Officer, Assistant Grade-I (Accounts) and Draughtsman (Grade-1) on deputation basis.

Other details such as number of posts, level, duration of deputation eligibility & other conditions are available on DTTDC's website [www.delhitourism.gov.in](http://www.delhitourism.gov.in)

Last date for receipt of application has been extended by **14.03.2024**.  
(General Manager)

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- 1<sup>st</sup> year MBBS students enrolled in government medical colleges in Delhi
- Annual family income up to INR 5 Lakhs



To know more about the programme and application process, write to us at [mhf@maxhealthcare.com](mailto:mhf@maxhealthcare.com), visit [maxhealthcarefoundation.org](http://maxhealthcarefoundation.org) or scan the QR code.

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# Gone With The Wind! Feb AQI Lowest Since 2016

## Experts Say Met Conditions Helped Disperse Pollutants

## Not your usual Feb: How city kept its cool this mth

Priyangi Agarwal  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: This Feb, Delhi's average Air Quality Index (AQI) was 220 till Monday, making this the lowest since 2016, shows data of Central Pollution Control Board.

Although the average AQI was less than previous years, the air quality was still in the "poor" category. Experts said meteorological conditions, including rain and strong winds, prevented the AQI from rising on most days.

An analysis of the CPCB data, which started calculating AQI from April 2015 onwards, shows that the average air quality reading in Feb was 293 in 2016, 267 in 2017, 243 in 2018, 242 in 2019, 241 in 2020, 288 in 2021, 225 in 2022 and 237 in 2023.

The comparatively lower AQI, however, never led to a single "good" or "satisfactory" day in Feb, when AQI is below 101. Air quality mostly stayed "moderate" or "poor". However, a streak of four consecutive "very poor" days, when AQI is between 301 and 400, was also recorded this month.

Wednesday's AQI was 141 in the "moderate" range.

Experts said that as strong winds blew in the city on most days during the daytime, it aided in the dispersion of pollutants. The city also recorded excess rain this Feb, and rain helps in settling down the pollutants. India Meteorological Department's data shows that the city logged 32.5 mm rainfall in Feb this year, which is an excess of 53%.

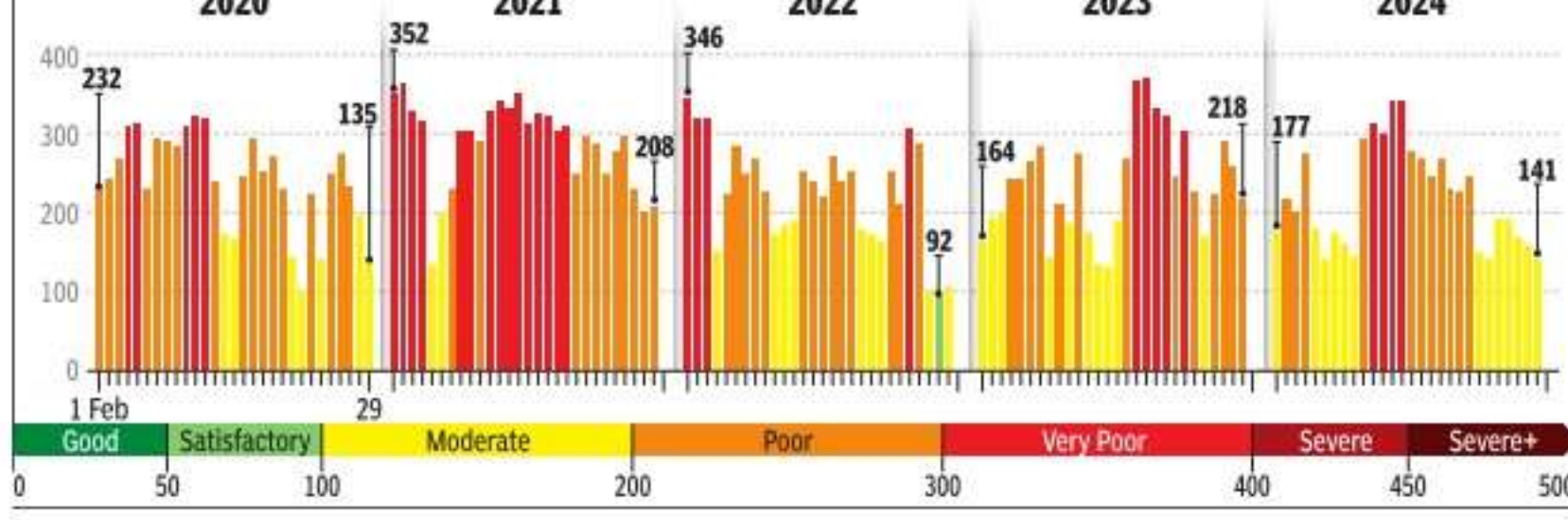
Anumita Roychowdhury, the executive director for research and advocacy at Centre for Science and Environment, said: "We are now virtually out of the winter season with improved ventilation



Photo: Piyal Bhattacharjee

This Feb\* saw the lowest average AQI since 2016 at 220. No 'good' or 'satisfactory' day was recorded this Feb. Four consecutive 'very poor' days reported this month. Strong winds and excess rain led to cleaner air. Experts said sustained efforts needed to ensure that all days meet national ambient air quality standards.

\*Till Feb 28



and stronger wind speed. This is helping in dissipating the ambient concentration. We need to watch this trend closely to understand the local and regional impacts of air pollution and to what extent the action is contributing

to clean up the air." Jan was the most polluted since 2016 with an average AQI of 354.

Dec 2023 was the most polluted in the past five years. Nov 2023 was the worst ever with AQI staying in the near

severe category (an AQI of 390 and above) for 17 days.

CPCB classifies an AQI from 0-50 as "good", 51-100 "satisfactory", 101-200 "moderate", 201-300 as "poor", 301-400 as "very poor" and over 400 as "severe".

New Delhi: The mean maximum temperature at Safdarjung this Feb, at 23.9 degrees Celsius, was the lowest since Feb 2019 (at 22.5 degrees C). The normal maximum temperature for the month based on the long period average is 24.2 degrees C.

This month was also the wettest Feb in 10 years as Safdarjung, the city's base station, logged 32.5mm rainfall which is an excess of 53%. Feb 2014 had recorded a higher rainfall at 48.8mm rainfall.

The contrast between this month's weather and that of Feb last year couldn't be sharper. The average night temperature last Feb was two degrees higher at 11.2 degrees C while the days on average were a whopping 3.8 degrees warmer at 27.7 degrees C. Last year, the daily maximum temperature had crossed 30 degrees C by Feb 20 and the month saw six days of 30-plus temperatures, with the month's highest touching 33.6 degrees C. This month, the warmest day was on Feb 19, when the mercury hit 28.2 degrees C.

"Four western disturbances impacted the plains in Feb this year. Two back-to-back western disturbances affected the region from Feb 1 to 4 leading to rain and cloudiness. However, no western disturbance influenced the city from the period from Feb 5 to 18. In absence of cloudiness and blowing of north-westerly winds, the night temperature stayed below the normal mark," said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist and

### MEAN MAX TEMP LOWEST IN 5 YRS

- The mean minimum temperature in Feb this year was 9.2 degrees Celsius
- It was the lowest mean minimum temperature recorded since 2008 when it was 8.4 degrees
- The mean maximum temperature in Feb this year was recorded at 23.8 degrees Celsius, making it the lowest in five years
- A higher mean maximum temperature than this was recorded in Feb 2019 at 22.5 degrees
- Delhi has logged 32.5mm of rainfall in Feb so far, making it the wettest Feb in 10 years
- Feb 2014 had received 48.8mm rainfall



head, Regional Weather Forecasting Centre, IMD. Due to clear skies, the heat quickly dissipates at night which causes a dip in night temperature. While north-westerly winds from western Himalayan region bring cold air to the city.

"Two western disturbances impacted the city in the last 10 days of the month. They were feeble and caused drizzling in the city," said Srivastava. Explaining why the day temperature remained low on most days, he said, "Strong winds of up to 10-12 kmph prevailed in the city on most days. Strong winds prevented a rise in maximum temper-

atures on most days."

The maximum temperature on Wednesday was recorded at 25.4 degrees Celsius, one degree below normal, but it will be considered as Feb 29's temperature as IMD maintains record of maximum temperature on next day.

The forecast of the met department says that the maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to stay around 27 and 11 degrees Celsius on Thursday. "However, rain is likely to lash the city either late on March 1 night or early morning of March 2," said a met official. Rain is likely to be accompanied by gusty winds of up to 30-40 kmph.

## Gang that sent people abroad on fake papers busted, 2 held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police has busted a visa racket with the arrest of two men allegedly involved in duping people with promises of overseas travel. Suspects Sukhdev Singh (32) and Rajesh Kumar (52), both native of Punjab, orchestrated a scheme involving fake Malaysian visas and travel via Thailand.

A police officer said that the arrests came after a passenger was deported from Thailand on Jan 11. "During examination of the documents a fake Malaysian visa stamp was discovered on his passport during immigration clearance. A case was registered under relevant sections of the IPC, and investigation began," said Usha Rangani, DCP (IG).

During investigation, the deported passenger expressed his intention to travel abroad for work. "He alleged being approached by two accused agents last year, who promised to facilitate his journey to Malaysia via Thailand in exchange for Rs 1.2 lakh. The agents, along with their associates, managed his illegal entry into Malaysia from Thailand and provided fake immigration stamps on his passport," the DCP added.

Police teams were formed, and the suspects were nabbed from their hideouts. During interrogation, Singh and Kumar claimed to be illiterate and were engaged in farming and running a dhaba in Punjab. "They revealed that they had connections with a few people abroad and colluded with these overseas agents to deceive people under the guise of facilitating foreign travel," an officer said.

Police said that investigations were underway to uncover involvement of other agents and scrutinise the suspects' bank accounts to track similar complaints.

## PWD's SOP for engineers after irregularities in audit

Siddhanta Mishra  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Public Works Department (PWD) has prepared a standard operating procedure for engineers to follow while executing projects to avoid irregularities during its audit of records.

This move comes after the finance department in Jan asked PWD to submit its responses on alleged irregularities in internal audits of several projects over the years. The SOP includes laying down rules regarding strictly following deadlines, no deviation from the original project cost and other such rules to avoid commonly detected problems during audits.

The SOP directed officials to avoid extra items due to unrealistic estimates. "Prepare estimates in a realistic and objective manner. Don't make vague estimates without adequate details, which may lead to huge quantity variations and creation of extra and substituted items," it said.

The SOP stated that delay in finishing work has to be avoided through close co-

**The SOP includes laying down rules regarding strictly following deadlines, no deviation from the original project cost and other such rules to avoid commonly detected problems during audits**

ordination with all concerned and by taking timely decisions. "The procedure as indicated in the CPWD works manual should be strictly followed," PWD said.

In Jan, Delhi gov't's finance department asked PWD to submit responses to alleged irregularities found in previous internal audits of several projects over the years. Then, the department directed all its zones and wings to send their responses as a priority to the questions raised, so further inquiries could be carried out.

The audits highlighted issues such as overpricing, purchasing equipment without completing formalities and non-imposition of fines on contractors.

Following a meeting with

the special secretary, finance, on Jan 11, PWD issued an order stating, "It was suggested the audit paras should be replied (sic) on priority and necessary directions should be issued for avoidance of similar irregularities in future."

PWD stated that irregularities had been noticed mainly in matters related to purchasing from the gov't marketplace, advertising charges and use of contingencies, among other expenses.

According to information available on Delhi gov't's website, the directorate of audit highlighted "irregularities" in the construction of flyovers, hospitals, offices and maintenance of various roads. The finance department highlighted 94 projects to PWD on which responses to queries raised in the audit would be required.

In Aug last year, to check misuse of funds and corruption, PWD had made it mandatory for officials to geo-tag ongoing construction projects and upload on-spot colour photographs on an app. The Delhi e-monitoring website was launched specifically for this purpose.

## HC initiates case over delay in acceptance of bail bonds

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has initiated a suo motu case over the alleged delay in acceptance of bail bonds by jail authorities for releasing inmates, observing that deprivation of liberty for a single day is "a day too many".

Justice Amit Mahajan said the object of granting ba-

ils and suspending sentences is to release an accused or a convict from imprisonment, and delay at the instance of the jail superintendent in accepting bail bonds is not acceptable.

The court acted after being informed that a convict in a cheque bounce case was told that the formalities involving acceptance of his ba-

il bond for release on interim bail by the jail superintendent would take anywhere from one to two weeks.

The court said bail bonds are at times ordered to be directly furnished to the jail superintendent to facilitate immediate release, and in certain cases, interim bails are granted on medical grounds or other exigencies.

"In such a scenario, this court fails to understand why the period of one to two weeks be taken by the jail superintendent for accepting the bail bonds. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has time and again reiterated the principle - 'Deprivation of Liberty for a single day is a day too many...'", it observed.

"The delay at the instance of the jail superintendent in accepting bail bonds is not acceptable to the conscience of this court. Let the matter be registered as a suo motu petition and numbered," the court ordered, asking the Director General of Prisons to file "an appropriate affidavit" in the matter.

The authorities' counsel said the case of delay cited by the court was possibly an aberration and delay, normally, does not occur on the part of the jail superintendent.

### GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

West Bengal Health Recruitment Board  
BENFISH TOWER, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, GN 31, Sector-V, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700091

**Recruitment of Clinical Instructor, Govt. Colleges of Nursing (By Direct Recruitment)**  
The West Bengal Health Recruitment Board invites online applications from eligible candidates for recruitment to 09 (Nine) Posts of **Clinical Instructor, Govt. Colleges of Nursing (By Direct Recruitment)** under Department of Health & Family Welfare, MERT Branch, Government of West Bengal.

1) Category-wise break-up of vacant posts:

Name of the Post: Clinical Instructor, Govt. Colleges of Nursing (By Direct Recruitment)	UR	SC	ST	OBC-A	OBC-B	Unreserved (PWD)	TOTAL
Clinical Instructor, Govt. Colleges of Nursing (By Direct Recruitment)	04	02	01	01	01	00	09

2) Only online registration and submission of application will be allowed at the official website of WBHRB ([www.hrb.wb.gov.in](http://www.hrb.wb.gov.in)) from 07.03.2024 (10:00 AM) to 21.03.2024 (02:00 PM).

3) Details of eligibility, Scale of Pay, other conditions, advertisement etc. will be available in West Bengal Health Recruitment Board Website i.e., [www.hrb.wb.gov.in](http://www.hrb.wb.gov.in).  
Date: 29.02.2024

Sd/-  
Secretary & Controller of Examinations  
West Bengal Health Recruitment Board

ICA-N 143(3)/2024

### GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

WEST BENGAL POLICE RECRUITMENT BOARD  
ARAKSHA BHAWAN (5<sup>th</sup> FLOOR), 6<sup>th</sup> CROSS ROAD, BLOCK - DJ  
SECTOR - II, SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA - 700091

**RECRUITMENT TO THE POST OF CONSTABLES/LADY CONSTABLES IN KOLKATA POLICE - 2024**

Advertisement No. - 06/2024/WBPRB  
Applications are invited from eligible Indian citizens having following eligibility criteria for recruitment to the post of Constables/Lady Constables in Kolkata Police - 2024.

Eligibility Criteria :-

- Age :- The applicant must not be less than 18 (Eighteen) years old and must not be more than 30 (Thirty) years old as on 01.01.2024. Upper age limit is relaxable as follows :-
  - By 5 (five) years in case of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates.
  - By 3 (three) years in case of Other Backward Classes - A and Other Backward Classes - B candidates.
  - By 3 (three) years in case of Third Gender/Transgender persons.
  - By 5 (five) years in case of Civic Volunteers serving in Kolkata Police only and
  - By the total number of years of completed service in case of Ex-servicemen candidates subject to maximum age of 40 (forty) years.

Note:-  
i) Third Gender/Transgender candidates belonging to OBC-A, OBC-B and Unreserved category will get upper age relaxation by maximum 3 (three) years and the candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe will get maximum 5 (five) years of age relaxation.

ii) Civic Volunteers belonging to any category will get maximum 5 (five) years of relaxation in upper age limit.

(2) Educational Qualifications :- The applicant must have passed Madhyamik Examination from the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education or its equivalent.

(3) Language :- The applicant must be able to speak, read and write in Bengali language, provided that the provision will not be applicable to the persons who are permanent residents of hill sub-divisions of Darjeeling and Kalimpong Districts for whom the provisions laid down in the West Bengal Official Language Act, 1961 (West Ben. Act XXIV of 1961) shall be applicable.

(4) Home Guard personnel and Civic Volunteers serving under Kolkata Police and desirous of applying must have completed 03 (three) years of service as on 01.01.2024.

(5) Candidates belonging to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) must produce INCOME AND ASSET CERTIFICATE as per specified format for the Financial Year 2023-2024 or onwards issued by the competent authority.

(6) For the vacancies reserved under Sports Quota, only meritorious sports persons participated in a competition on or after 01.01.2021 from the following disciplines may apply :-  
i) Athletics (including Track and Field events), ii) Badminton, iii) Basketball, iv) Cricket, v) Football, vi) Hockey, vii) Swimming, viii) Table Tennis, ix) Volley Ball, x) Tennis, xi) Weightlifting, xii) Wrestling, xiii) Boxing, xiv) Cycling, xv) Gymnastics, xvi) Judo, xvii) Rifle Shooting, xviii) Kabaddi and xix) Kho-kho.

Application Forms must be submitted through online only during the period from 01.03.2024 (00:01 hrs.) to 29.03.2024 (23:59 hrs.) using the websites of West Bengal Police Recruitment Board (<http://prb.wb.gov.in>); West Bengal Police ([www.wbpolice.gov.in](http://www.wbpolice.gov.in)) or Kolkata Police ([www.kolkatapolice.gov.in](http://www.kolkatapolice.gov.in)). Applicants are advised to read the 'Information to Applicants' before applying. Violation of instructions as given in the 'Information to Applicants' may lead to cancellation of application form.

An editing window will be available for the applicants want to edit/rectify their personal information (except permanent State, Mobile Number & E-mail Id.) already submitted in their Application Form for 07 (seven) days w.e.f. 01.04.2024 to 07.04.2024. Request for change/correction in the personal details (except category) shall not be entertained under any circumstances in later stages. However, if a candidate procures caste certificate after editing window is closed and wants to change his/her category, he/she must submit the petition in person or through e-mail at [changing caste category.ews.only@gmail.com](mailto:changing caste category.ews.only@gmail.com) by mentioning the Subject, Application Serial Number with Recruitment Drive within the time frame as mentioned in the 'Information to Applicants'. Please follow instructions in detail as given in the 'Information to Applicants'.

The eligibility criteria in detail, method of selection, scheme of examination, procedure for submission of application form and other terms & conditions are also available in the above-mentioned websites.

The selection process by the West Bengal Police Recruitment Board is transparent and purely merit-based. Hence, the applicants are advised to beware of the unscrupulous elements, racketeers, touts who may misguide the candidates with false promises of getting them selected for the job on illegal consideration.

ICA-N 143(6)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)  
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154  
Santalidih Thermal Power Station  
P.O. Santalidih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146

**Notice Inviting E-Tender**  
Ref. No.: WBPDDL/Tend-Adv/23-24/STPS/CC-1545 Date: 23.02.2024  
NIT No.: WBPDDL/STPS/NIT/E3517/23-24

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDDL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Rate contract for Bore Cutting, Repairing, Fabrication and other misc. jobs for CHP M/M, STPS". Tender Document Download Start Date: 27.02.2024 from 11:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 15.03.2024 within 16:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. K. K. Dutta. Mobile: 833690918. E-mail: cc\_stps@wbpdcl.co.in/kdutta@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA-T5334(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)  
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154  
Santalidih Thermal Power Station  
P.O. Santalidih Thermal Plant, Dist. - Purulia, Pin - 723146

**Notice Inviting E-Tender**  
Ref. No.: WBPDDL/Tend-Adv/23-24/STPS/CC-1547 Date: 23.02.2024  
NIT No.: WBPDDL/STPS/NIT/E3510/23-24

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, STPS, WBPDDL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Service Contract for round the Clock Operation of Panel Cabin and Maintenance of Railway signaling & Telecom of Panel Interlock System in STPS for two years". Tender Document Download Start Date: 27.02.2024 from 11:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 28.03.2024 within 16:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. K. K. Dutta. Mobile: 833690918. E-mail: cc\_stps@wbpdcl.co.in/kdutta@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA-T5332(2)/2024

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited  
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)  
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154  
Kolaghat Thermal Power Station  
P.O. Mecheda, Dist. Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721137

**Notice Inviting E-Tender**  
Ref. No.: WBPDDL/Tend-Adv/23-24/KTPS/CC-1546 Date: 23.02.2024  
NIT No.: WBPDDL/KTPS/NIT/E2922/23-24

E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> by the General Manager, KTPS, WBPDDL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 2 Part bid system for "Biennial Maintenance Contract for Horticulture and Landscaping activities at KTPS Township". Tender Document Download Start Date: 29.02.2024 at 11:00 AM. Bid Submission End Date: 19.03.2024 at 15:30 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Subhasis Das, Telephone No.: 8336904051. E-mail: cc\_ktps@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit: <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> ICA-T5334(3)/2024

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

WBSECLL invites e-Tender as follows:

1) NIT No.: WBSECLL/PM/JHP/HR/e-TENDER/2023-24/63 Dt.: 22.02.2024 of the Project Manager, JHP, WBSECLL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 27,90,744/- (₹13,75,236/- for 1<sup>st</sup> year & ₹14,15,508/- for 2<sup>nd</sup> year) for the work of Biennial contract for providing catering Services to St-I Power House under Jaldhaka Hydel Project, Dist. - Kalimpong, West Bengal, PIN- 743610.

2) NIT No.: WBSECLL/PM/JHP/HR/e-TENDER/2023-24/64 Dt.: 22.02.2024 of the Project Manager, JHP, WBSECLL. Estimated Cost: ₹ 27,90,744/- (₹13,75,236/- for 1<sup>st</sup> year & ₹14,15,508/- for 2<sup>nd</sup> year) for the work of Biennial contract for providing catering Services to St-II Power House under Jaldhaka Hydel Project, Dist. - Kalimpong, West Bengal, PIN- 743610.

Extension of Time  
Ref. NIT No.: WBSECLL/PM/JHP/23-24/57 Dtd.: 18.01.2024 of the Project Manager, JHP, WBSECLL. Bid Submission End Date is hereby extended up to 04.03.2024 (14:00 hrs.).  
ICA-T5324(3)/2024  
For details, visit <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> & [www.wbsecll.com](http://www.wbsecll.com)

NORTHERN RAILWAY  
TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Name of work with Comprehensive AMC of VSAT Hub, Remote VSATs for FOIS its location and UTS for 2 years

App. Cost of the work ₹ 2,02,71,319.44/-

Tender Document Fee NIL

Earnest Money Deposit Rs.251400/-

Address of the office Dy.CSTE/TDNR, 2nd floor Annex-1, DRM Office New Delhi-110001

Date & Time for upload the tender closing Tender uploading date & time 27.02.2024 up to 16:00 hrs & Tender closing date & time 27.02.2024 at 15:00 hrs

Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. See the Northern Railway website [www.nreps.gov.in](http://www.nreps.gov.in)

Tender No. 561-Sig-NMO-VSAT HUB and O&M-CAMC-2-2024 Dated: 27.02.2024 637/2024

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

WEST BENGAL STATE COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING  
Engagement of One (01) Software Developer in WBSCVT

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement as Software Developer (No. of Post: 01) purely on contractual basis for various projects in the web portal of the West Bengal State Council for Vocational Training. For information on qualification experience, procedure of selection, application format etc., please visit <https://scvtwb.in>.  
Deadline: Seven (07) days from the date of publication of the advertisement.  
ICA-N 145(3)/2024 Secretary, WBSCVT



॥ जय दादी की ॥



स्मृतिशेष श्रीमती शान्ति देवी अग्रवाल  
(16.03.1934 - 29.02.2020)


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## KALINGA INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (KISS)

Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India  
A home for 80,000 indigenous children



**KISS HUMANITARIAN AWARD 2023**

**PAST RECIPIENTS**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**Her Excellency Mama Rachel Ruto, EGH**  
First Lady of the Republic of  
**Kenya (2022)**

**Dr. Dansa KOUROUMA**  
President, National Transition Council  
of Guinea, **Guinea (2019)**

**Professor Muhammad Yunus**  
(Nobel Laureate)  
Founder, Grameen Bank,  
**Bangladesh (2018)**

**His Holiness  
The 14th Dalai Lama (2017)**  
Nobel Laureate, 2005 and  
Spiritual Leader

**Ms. Ashley Judd,**  
Hollywood Actor, Activist & Global  
Goodwill Ambassador, **UNFPA (2016)**

**His Excellency  
Dr Alejandro Toledo,**  
Former President of **Peru (2015)**

**Ms. Anne F. Stenhammer**  
Former Regional Programme Director,  
UN Women, **South Asia Regional Office (2014)**



**Mr. Bill Gates**, Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Co-Founder & former CEO of Microsoft receiving the prestigious **KISS Humanitarian Award 2023** from Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India.

**Madam Albina Du Boisrouvray**  
Founder, Association François-Xavier  
Bagnoud (FXB International),  
**Switzerland (2013)**

**His Excellency  
Lyongchen Jigmi Y. Thinley**  
Hon'ble Prime Minister, The Royal  
Government of **Bhutan (2012)**

**Rt Hon. Lord Nicholas  
Addison Phillips**  
President (Chief Justice) of  
the Supreme Court of the  
**United Kingdom (2011)**

**Rt. Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth**  
Eminent Social Worker &  
His Excellency the President of  
**Mauritius (2010)**

**Dr. Ham Kee-Sun**  
Eminent Educationist & Physician  
and Hon'ble President & Founder,  
Hanseo University, **South Korea (2009)**

**Ms. Edna Bomo Molewa**  
Noted Social Worker & Hon'ble  
Cabinet Minister, Social Development,  
South Africa National Assembly,  
**South Africa (2008)**

**AWARDEES ARE FROM**

**5**  
Continents

**13**  
Countries

**2**  
Nobel Laureates  
*among the awardees*

The KISS Humanitarian Award is a prestigious annual international award conferred by the Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS) in Bhubaneswar, India, conceptualized and the brainchild of visionary humanitarian and educationist Prof. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of KIIT and KISS. The award was initiated in 2008 to recognize and felicitate individuals for their exemplary and distinguished service to humanity across the globe.

The award ceremony for the years 2020 and 2021 has not taken place due to COVID-19. The awards will be received by legendary Indian personalities soon.

www.kiss.ac.in | www.kiit.ac.in | www.achyutasamanta.com
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# Teacher strangled, body dumped at playschool; suspect dies by suicide

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** A 32-year-old teacher was allegedly strangled and her body was dumped at a playschool in Narela, while the suspect, with whom the woman had opened the facility, died by suicide in Sonapat. Police are probing whether a love affair led to the alleged murder.

The teacher's family told police that she had left home on a scooter on Feb 23 and did not return. Varsha was last seen with her business partner Sohan Lal. They had co-founded the playschool, but it wasn't fully operational. "The school consisted of a basement, a ground-floor office and an adjacent shop. A small number of children attended the school where Varsha taught," police said.

When she didn't return till the next day, her father called her, but the mobile phone was answered by an unknown person. He claimed that he was in Harsana village in Sonapat, near the railway track. He also said a man was trying to kill himself. On a video call, Varsha's father identified the man as Lal.

Varsha's father went to the village and collected Varsha's mobile phone, but Lal or his body couldn't be found. The father filed a missing complaint on Feb 24 and an inquiry began. "The school premises were checked in the presence of Varsha's father. However, the main office was shuttered and locked, and it could not be examined," police said, adding Lal's last known location was traced to Haryana's Baraut.

"On Feb 28, the father went to the playschool and got the shutter opened with the landlord's help. As the main door was made of glass, he could see a body behind it," police said. He then called the local police. "They found Varsha's body inside the office room behind her desk," a senior officer said.

Lal's body was also found in Sonapat on railway tracks by the authorities. "Prima facie, it appears that Lal strangled the victim to death and later killed himself," he said. A case has been lodged under Section 302 (murder) of Indian Penal Code. Police are probing if any love angle was behind the murder.

# 'Dummies' Over Traditional Schooling

## Many Top-Performing Students Taking This Route As XII Boards Being Seen As Merely A Qualification

Shreya.Ghosh@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Many parents now believe that the Class XII board exams are merely year-end qualifying tests that permit a student to sit for the Common University Entrance Test, the result of which is crucial for admission to preferred universities. They are, therefore, questioning the value of investing time in traditional schooling because exams like CUET, JEE for engineering and NEET for medical studies seem more relevant assessments.

However, while schooling may not be important in this regard, there is still the criterion requiring students to have 75% mandatory attendance to be able to sit for the board exams. To meet this requirement, parents are opting to put their children in 'dummy' schools, which tie up with coaching and tuition centres for specialised teaching while facilitating the attendance need.

TOI spoke to principals who were part of the first ever inspection of dummy schools by CBSE last Dec.

They rued the growth of dummy schools, leading to a decline in plus two-admissions in CBSE-affiliated schools because many top-performing students were disengaging from traditional schools after Class X. They cautioned that dummy schools compromised the holistic development of a child that a traditional school ideally offers. Such dummy schools, the principals noted, were lo-

### TIMES Special

cated mostly in Delhi's border areas, like Narela.

The post-inspection report has been submitted to CBSE but the education board is yet to act on it. The team inspected 34 schools across states and deemed 23 to fit with the idea of a dummy institution. "While inspecting one such institution, we were told there were 60 students each in classes IX and X, but the number skyrocketed to 500 each in classes XI and XII. We found no students attending in Class XI and around 50 in Class

XII," disclosed Raji N Kumar, director, NK Bagdoria School, and member of CBSE's inspection team.

Experts caution against neglecting traditional schooling, citing studies that show a correlation between school attendance and academic performance. Furthermore, concerns regarding the mental health and career readiness of students are also of interest, as highlighted in the well-accepted Annual Status of Education Reports by Pratham Foundation report indicating a lack of clarity among 18-year-olds about their future plans.

"Amidst these shifts, the role of schools in providing holistic education, including career counselling and mental health support, becomes paramount. Schools make efforts to expose students to diverse opportunities through debates, symposiums, industry interfaces and internships aimed at nurturing well-rounded individuals," Sudha Acharya, principal, IITL Public School, Dwarka, told TOI.

Acharya stated that the

### NON-ATTENDING SCHOOLS

Unlike 75% mandatory attendance in CBSE-affiliated schools, regular attendance not a must in dummy schools

#### How they work

Dummy schools are virtual platforms established in collaboration with private schools and coaching institutes, which are officially recognised as schools by CBSE, even though they do not provide regular education or have a physical campus

Unlike 7 hours of class in traditional schools, in dummy schools, there is only 1-2 hours of classes



Focus is on school and Board exams

'Decreased' dependence on Board exams

Increased competition in entrance exams like NEET, JEE CUET

Gives students extra time for coaching classes

Why they are in demand

Dependence on Board exams

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Increased competition in entrance exams like NEET, JEE CUET

Gives students extra time for coaching classes

petitors rather than allies." Acharya added that the post-Covid paring down of the syllabus made parents less confident of their children doing well in the competitive exams. "That is why parents prefer coaching centres to classrooms. But we make sure to touch upon all topics necessary to fill the learning gap," the principal claimed.

Tania Joshi, principal, Indian School, revealed, "We were shocked that the dummy schools lacked laboratories, had unqualified teachers and the students were unaware even of the name of their teachers. The school head went missing when we wanted to query him about the functioning. His personal assistant told us, 'There is a reason why this school is running, madam.'"

TOI's attempt to seek CBSE's response to the issue met with silence. A principal had quipped, "It was a good initiative on the board's part to inspect the dummy school nuisance. But whether this will yield any results remains a question."

# Indian couple in US allowed to appear via video call to get marriage registered

**New Delhi:** Delhi High Court has allowed an Indian couple living in the US to appear through video conferencing to get their marriage registered.

Justice Subramonium Prasad directed the couple to appear before the Consulate General of India in San Francisco, California, and join the video conference from the premises, while taking into account the submission by authorities that in view of the advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology, the possibility of someone impersonating the couple cannot be ruled out if they are permitted to appear from outside.

"The Consulate General of India, San Francisco, California, is requested to permit the petitioners to join through video conferencing for the purpose of registration of their marriage," the high court said.

The high court was dealing with a plea in which the couple informed the court that they had left for the US to pursue their careers. The

couple claimed to have gotten married on May 10, 2022, according to Hindu rites and customs at a hotel in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

It was submitted that the woman, who was living in the US on an H1B (employment) visa, lost her job in Jan this year during a mass layoff at the company she was employed with. The plea said that to continue to reside in the US, the woman had to obtain a dependent visa, for which a marriage registration certificate is required.

The petitioners relied on an earlier order passed by the high court in which a couple was allowed to appear virtually before the authority concerned for registration of their marriage and sought similar relief.

The high court said, "This court is inclined to allow the present writ petition and permit the petitioners to appear before the registering authority through video conferencing for the purpose of registration of their marriage." **TNN**

# Deoli MLA, aide convicted of abetting suicide of doc

Vineet Upadhyay @timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** A court on Wednesday convicted AAP MLA Prakash Jarwal of abetting the suicide of a south Delhi-based doctor in 2020.

The court of special judge MK Nagpal stated that the oral and documentary evidence submitted by the prosecution was sufficient to prove the charge of abetment of suicide under Section 306 of Indian Penal Code (IPC) "beyond reasonable doubt" as the evidence was "corroborative and consistent in nature and does not suffer from any material contradictions or inconsistencies".

Most of the public or other prosecution witnesses, including the doctor's wife and son, had turned hostile, which "appears to this court was due to the fear of the accused persons and their associates", the judge said.

On April 18, 2020, Dr Rajender Singh (52) had died by suicide at his residence. Police found a six-page suicide note at the spot in which Dr Singh had allegedly blamed Jarwal, AAP's Deoli MLA, and his aide, Kapil Nagar, for harassing him and his family over his water

**While Jarwal and Nagar face a maximum imprisonment of 10 years, Harish can be jailed for maximum two years. The court will hear the arguments on the quantum of sentence on March 16**

supply business in association with Delhi Jal Board. He had held them responsible for his death and accused Jarwal of extortion.

Jarwal and Kapil Nagar were convicted under IPC sections 306, 34 (common intention), 120B (criminal conspiracy), 386 (extortion by threatening death or grievous hurt), 506 (criminal intimidation), and 511 (attempting to commit offences punishable with imprisonment for life or other imprisonment). Another accused, Harish Kumar Jarwal, also named in the note, was convicted under part one of IPC 506.

While Jarwal and Nagar face a maximum imprisonment of 10 years, Harish can be jailed for maximum two years. The court will hear the arguments on the quantum of sentence on March 16.

The court said that even in the absence of any evidence regarding the proof of payments of extortion money made by the deceased or other tanker owners, as claimed by the victim, the prosecution had successfully proved the charges under IPC 386, 511 and 120B against Jarwal and Nagar.

The content of the suicide note, the doctor's dying declaration, clearly showed that both accused were sharing a common intention to physical and mentally harass him, the judge said. The accused "had created such circumstances... for the deceased that he was left with no option but to take his own life", he observed.

The court also said the suicide note had clearly demonstrated the extent of "fear and pressure" under which the deceased was leading his life because of the "continuous and consistent threats of extortion and death".

The court rejected the defence questions regarding the physical and mental condition of the deceased, stating that no serious physical or mental ailment of the deceased could be inferred by it from the evidence that could have pushed him to take the extreme step.

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With a heavy heart we regret to inform you of the demise of our beloved.

A prayer meeting to celebrate his life would be held on

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You live in our hearts & are with us every moment.

**Anil Makhijani (Son), Mamta & Kajal (Daughters-in-Law), Chetan & Mursal (Grandson & his wife) & Mak Realtors**

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The silent joy of remembering a loved one. The moments you shared together. Little



**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE

Dy.CSTE/C/PS/NDLS, Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender (Single Packet System) for the following work:-

<b>Name of work &amp; Place</b>	Balance S&T Work (Indoor & Outdoor) for Part commissioning with distributed type of Electronic Interlocking system at Shakurbasti Station in connection with coaching terminal in meter gauge area of DLI Division in Northern Railway.
<b>Completion period</b>	09 Months from the date of issue of LOA
<b>Approx. cost</b>	Rs. 4,11,43,741.02
<b>Earnest money amount</b>	Rs. 355700/- (Rs. Three Lakh Fifty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Only)
<b>Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website</b>	Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 29.02.2024 to 22.03.2024 upto 11.30 hrs.
<b>Last date/Time of upload of tenders</b>	Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS website from 08.03.2024 to 22.03.2024 upto 11.30 hours.
<b>Date of opening of tender</b>	Tender will be opened on 22.03.2024 at 11.30 hours

No.570-Sig-PS-Tender-131 Date: - 27.02.2024  
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**CORRIGENDUM FOR EXTENSION OF DATE**

This is with reference to the notice for inviting RFP for Selection of Consultancy firm for providing Consultancy services for professional services to assist Uttarakhand State Department for GST Revenue Augmentation through e-procurement published on 05/11/2023 in Times of India and Economic Times. The last date of submission of RFP has been extended as per below details:-

S.No.	Particular	Extended upto
1.	Extension of Last date and time submission of RFP on e-procurement portal for Selection of Consultancy firm for providing Consultancy services for professional services to assist Uttarakhand State Department for GST Revenue Augmentation (E-procurement Tender ID - 2023_PFWBL65221_1)	23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2024 upto 1400 Hrs

Proposal must be submitted online through [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in). Detailed RFP and corrigendum will also be available in [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in). Consulting firm may refer for any amendment, corrigendum/extension of date on [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)  
PROJECT DIRECTOR  
UKPFMS

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON (SEE SECTION 82 Cr.P.C.)**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person(s) **Amit S/o Dharampal R/o B-3/875, 12.5 Gaj, Raghuraj Nagar, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in FIR No. **373/2014, PS Rajouri Garden, Distt. West, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a Warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused person(s) **Amit** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused person(s) **Amit** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused person(s) **Amit** of FIR No. **373/2014, PS Rajouri Garden, Distt. West, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before dated **20.04.2024**.

By Order  
**Sh. Milan Goel**  
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate-02 (West), Room No. 356  
DP/2397/WD/2024 (Court Matter)  
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

**THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA**  
[Set up by an Act of Parliament]  
ICAI Bhawan, Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi-110002

**Notice Inviting Tender**  
Empanelment of Service Providers for production of highly engaging advanced video content for Self-paced Online Modules of CA Course

ICAI invites unconditional and sealed proposals from reputed and experienced Service Providers for empanelment for production of highly engaging advanced video content for Self-paced Online Modules of CA Course. The last date for submission of the sealed bids is **21<sup>st</sup> March 2024 up to 05.00 P.M.** The tender document along with detailed terms and conditions is available at ICAI's website [www.icaai.org](http://www.icaai.org).

Secretary, ICAI

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Ph: (05966), 220620

**विद्युत वितरण मण्डल**  
उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड  
हाइडेल कॉलोनी रानीखेत: 263645  
( जिला-अल्मोड़ा, उत्तराखण्ड )  
दूरभाष: (05966), 220620

**ई-निविदा सूचना**

विद्युत वितरण मण्डल रानीखेत निम्न ई-निविदा आमंत्रित करता है। :-

क्र.सं.	ई-निविदा संख्या	कार्य का नाम	ई-निविदा क्र.च/जमा करने की ऑफलाइन/ऑन लाइन अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय	ई-निविदा (भाग-1) खुलने की ऑफलाइन/ऑन लाइन अन्तिम तिथि एवं समय
1	वि0वि0म0 (रा0)61/2023-24	वि0वि0म0, अल्मोड़ा के अधीन उपखण्ड-प्रथम अल्मोड़ा के अन्तर्गत उपभोक्ताओं की मोबाइल ऐप के माध्यम से मीटर रीडिंग एवं बिल वितरण सम्बन्धी कार्य।	14.03.2024 15:00 बजे तक	15.03.2024 12:00 बजे तक
2	वि0वि0म0 (रा0)62/2023-24	वि0वि0म0, अल्मोड़ा के अधीन उपखण्ड-द्वितीय अल्मोड़ा के अन्तर्गत उपभोक्ताओं की मोबाइल ऐप के माध्यम से मीटर रीडिंग एवं बिल वितरण सम्बन्धी कार्य।	14.03.2024 15:00 बजे तक	15.03.2024 12:00 बजे तक
3	वि0वि0म0 (रा0)63/2023-24	वि0वि0म0, बागेश्वर के अधीन उपखण्ड-प्रथम बागेश्वर के अन्तर्गत उपभोक्ताओं की मोबाइल ऐप के माध्यम से मीटर रीडिंग एवं बिल वितरण सम्बन्धी कार्य।	14.03.2024 15:00 बजे तक	15.03.2024 12:00 बजे तक
4	वि0वि0म0 (रा0)64/2023-24	वि0वि0म0, बागेश्वर के अधीन उपखण्ड-द्वितीय बागेश्वर के अन्तर्गत उपभोक्ताओं की मोबाइल ऐप के माध्यम से मीटर रीडिंग एवं बिल वितरण सम्बन्धी कार्य।	14.03.2024 15:00 बजे तक	15.03.2024 12:00 बजे तक
5	वि0वि0म0 (रा0)65/2023-24	वि0वि0म0, रानीखेत के अधीन उपखण्ड-प्रथम रानीखेत के अन्तर्गत उपभोक्ताओं की मोबाइल ऐप के माध्यम से मीटर रीडिंग एवं बिल वितरण सम्बन्धी कार्य।	14.03.2024 15:00 बजे तक	15.03.2024 12:00 बजे तक
6	वि0वि0म0 (रा0)66/2023-24	वि0वि0म0, रानीखेत के अधीन उपखण्ड-द्वितीय रानीखेत के अन्तर्गत उपभोक्ताओं की मोबाइल ऐप के माध्यम से मीटर रीडिंग एवं बिल वितरण सम्बन्धी कार्य।	14.03.2024 15:00 बजे तक	15.03.2024 12:00 बजे तक
7	वि0वि0म0 (रा0)67/2023-24	वि0वि0म0, भिकियासैण के अधीन उपखण्ड-प्रथम भिकियासैण के अन्तर्गत उपभोक्ताओं की मोबाइल ऐप के माध्यम से मीटर रीडिंग एवं बिल वितरण सम्बन्धी कार्य।	14.03.2024 15:00 बजे तक	15.03.2024 12:00 बजे तक
8	वि0वि0म0 (रा0)68/2023-24	वि0वि0म0, भिकियासैण के अधीन उपखण्ड-द्वितीय भिकियासैण के अन्तर्गत उपभोक्ताओं की मोबाइल ऐप के माध्यम से मीटर रीडिंग एवं बिल वितरण सम्बन्धी कार्य।	14.03.2024 15:00 बजे तक	15.03.2024 12:00 बजे तक
9	वि0वि0म0 (रा0)69/2023-24	वि0वि0म0, रानीखेत के अन्तर्गत बरेडी पम्पिंग पेयजल योजना में विद्युत संयोजन निर्गत किये जाने हेतु 11 केवी0 लाईन निर्माण एवं सामग्री की आपूर्ति सेमी टर्नकी के आधार पर सम्पादित करना।	18.03.2024 15:00 बजे तक	19.03.2024 12:00 बजे तक
10	वि0वि0म0 (रा0)70/2023-24	वि0वि0म0, बागेश्वर के अधीन उपखण्ड प्रथम के अन्तर्गत गरूड/कौसानी अनुभाग में एल0टी0 कंडक्टर को ए0बी0 केबिल में बदलने का कार्य एवं आपूर्ति	21.03.2024 15:00 बजे तक	22.03.2024 12:00 बजे तक

उक्त ई-निविदाओं की अन्य विषय व एवं शर्तें वेबसाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) पर देखी जा सकती है। उक्त ई-निविदाओं का शुद्ध पत्र/विस्तार/करण/निस्वीकरण आदि की सूचना वेबसाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) में ही प्रकाशित/उपलब्ध होगी।  
अधीक्षण अभियन्ता  
Customer Toll Free No-1800 419 0405 "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचाय"  
पत्रांक:- 634/वि0वि0म0(रा)/ई-निविदा दिनांक:- 28.02.2024

**राजस्व परिषद् उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून**

संख्या: 6805/IV-40/रा0प0/2020-21 दिनांक: 27 फरवरी, 2024

**ई-निविदा**

राजस्व परिषद् उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून द्वारा डिजिटल लैण्ड रिकार्ड्स मॉडर्नाइजेशन प्रोग्राम अन्तर्गत प्रदेश की राजस्व अभिलेखों में दर्ज सम्पूर्ण रैखीय भूमि का आधुनिक विधि से सर्वे एवं पुनः सर्वे कार्य करवाये जाने हेतु ई-निविदा <https://uktenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक 28.02.2024 (11:00 AM) से 15.04.2024 तक आमंत्रित की जाती है।

आयुक्त एवं सचिव,  
राजस्व परिषद् उत्तराखण्ड, देहरादून।

**Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority**  
Plot No. 1, Knowledge Park IV, Greater Noida City, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.-201308  
E-mail: [authority@gnida.in](mailto:authority@gnida.in), Website : [www.greaternoidaauthority.in](http://www.greaternoidaauthority.in)

Ref. No. : PLNG/2024/IF-23/707 Dated: 26/02/2024

**E-Tender Notice**  
**Request for Proposal for Appointment of Planning Processes, Monitoring & Operational Efficiency Consultant**

Detailed RFP document is available on the E-Procurement Portal of Government of UP (<https://etender.up.nic.in>) from 29.02.2024. The bid start date will be 29-02-2024. Interested Firms are required to apply online on the E-procurement website on or before 14.03.2024, 05:00 pm (IST). The bid opening will be on 15.03.2024, 11:00 am (IST). In case of any queries, the Bidders are requested to write to [gmplanning@gnida.in](mailto:gmplanning@gnida.in)  
GM, Planning, GNIDA  
Follow Us On / OfficialGNIDA

**यू.पी. प्रोजेक्ट्स कारपोरेशन लि.**  
(अन्तर्गत प्रदेश सरकार का उपखण्ड) CIN : U15209UP1976SGC004285  
कार्यालय महाप्रबन्धक, जॉन-2, 14-बन्धेश्वरनगर कालोनी, तुला शेरपुर, संतलमनर बाईपास, बरेली-243122. ई-मेल : [gm2.upclpbly@gmail.com](mailto:gm2.upclpbly@gmail.com)  
पत्रांक : 833/पीसीएस/जी.एम./जॉन-2/प्रकाशन दिनांक : 26.02.2024

**अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना**

जनपद बिजनौर में पशुचिकित्सालयों के 02 नग एवं जनपद सम्मल में राजकीय हाईस्कूल 01 नग निर्माण कार्य हेतु अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना सं0 28, 29 & 30/PCL/GM/ZONE-2/BLY/2023-24 दिनांक 26.02.2024 द्वारा अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। उक्त निविदा <http://etender.up.nic.in> की वेबसाइट पर ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 28 दिनांक 01.03.2024 से दिनांक 11.03.2024 तक एवं ई-निविदा संख्या 29 व 30 दिनांक 04.03.2024 से दिनांक 11.03.2024 के पूर्वान 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](http://www.upprojects.org) पर दिनांक 01.03.2024 व 04.03.2024 से देखी जा सकती है।  
महाप्रबन्धक, जॉन-2, बरेली

**छत्तीसगढ़ शासन, जल संसाधन विभाग**  
कार्यालय कार्यपालन अभियंता, मिनीमाता बांगों नहर संभाग क्रमांक 6  
नंदेलीभाटा-सक्ती, जिला-सक्ती (छ.ग.)

**ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट निविदा सूचना (प्रथम आमंत्रण)**  
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिये ऑनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं, जिसका विवरण निम्नानुसार है :-

निविदा सूचना क्र. व दिनांक / सिस्टम नं.	कार्य का नाम	अनुमानित लागत	निविदा की तिथि
13/व.ले.लि./2023-24 दि. 26.02.2024 सिस्टम निविदा क्र. 153273	जॉनगौर चांपा जिले के हम्देव बांगों परियोजना के बरदुली वितरक नहर के अंतर्गत कचंदा उप वितरक नहर के आर. डी. 0 से 8250 मी. तक नहर के क्षतिग्रस्त सी.सी. लायनिंग का पुर्ननिर्माण, कुलाबा फिफिसिंग एवं नान सर्विस बैंक का जीपीआर कार्य।	रु. 474.43 लाख	दि. 04.03.2024 शाम 5.31 बजे
14/व.ले.लि./2023-24 दि. 26.02.2024 सिस्टम निविदा क्र. 153274	सक्ती शाखा नहर के झालरौदा वितरक नहर आर.डी. 3690 मी. से 5146.45 मी. प्रभावित वनभूमि में आर.सी.सी. चैनल का निर्माण कार्य।	रु 299.50 लाख	से 18.03.2024 शाम 5.30 तक
15/व.ले.लि./2023-24 दि. 26.02.2024 सिस्टम निविदा क्र. 153275	सक्ती शाखा नहर के अंतर्गत मलनी वितरक नहर आर.डी. 5150 मी. से 6100.11 मी. एवं भोधिवा माइनर के आर.डी. 650 मी. से 1468.62 मी. प्रभावित वनभूमि में आर.सी.सी. चैनल का निर्माण कार्य।	रु. 311.07 लाख	

अन्य विवरण एवं विस्तृत निविदा छत्तीसगढ़ शासन की ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेब साइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर दिनांक 04.03.2024 समय 17.31 बजे से देखे तथा डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं।  
नोट:-1. निविदा में भाग लेने हेतु टेकेंदारों को ई-प्रोक्वोरमेंट वेबसाइट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> पर नामांकित /पंजीयन तथा लोक निर्माण विभाग की एकीकृत पंजीयन प्रणाली के अंतर्गत टेकेंदार को उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीयन कराना अनिवार्य है।  
2. निविदाकार को इस निविदा में वर्ष 2023 में जारी किये गये Pre Bid Qualification Certificat (Valid upto 30.09.2024) का उपयोग अनिवार्य है।  
अन्य निविदा संबंधी शर्तें विभाग के साईट <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in> में Live Tender के अंतर्गत निविदा प्रपत्र में उपलब्ध है।

Sd/-  
कार्यपालन अभियंता  
मिनीमाता बांगों नहर संभाग क्रमांक 6,  
नंदेलीभाटा-सक्ती  
G-08122/7

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure -  
Traffic Engineering Cell, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: EE/RI-TEC/TEND/19/2023-24 Date: 27-02-2024

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

The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - TEC Division, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing Scientific Humps, HRPC, Lane Dividers, Thermoplastic Paint and Other Road Safety Works in Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads.
1	Yelahanka and Dasarahalli Zone. Approximate Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 148.75 (inclusive of GST), EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,24,000.00
2	West and R.R. Nagara Zone. Approximate Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 198.20 (inclusive of GST), EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,98,000.00
3	East Zone. Approximate Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 297.50 (inclusive of GST), EMD Amount (in Rs.): 4,47,000.00
4	Mahadevapura Zone. Approximate Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 198.20 (inclusive of GST), EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,98,000.00
5	South and Bommanahalli Zone. Approximate Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 297.50 (inclusive of GST), EMD Amount (in Rs.): 4,47,000.00

Sl.No. 1 to 5 EMD Amount (Rs. One Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining as Specified in Bid Document)

**Calendar of Events:** 1) The Tender Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 01-03-2024 onwards. 2) Last Date for Submission of Pre Bid Queries is 12-03-2024 upto 15.00 Hours. 3) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 12-03-2024 at 16.30 Hours. 4) Last Date for Submission of Tenders: 21-03-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. 5) Date of Opening of Technical Bid: 22-03-2024 at 16.30 Hours. 6) Date of Opening of Financial Bid: Will be intimated to Tenderers. Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,  
Road Infrastructure -Traffic Engineering Cell, BBMP.



**UJVNL LTD.**  
NAVATNA COMPANY  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

**RO No. 307 "e" Tender Notice** Date: 27.02.2024

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M-ISO), Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

**Tender No. 02/EE(E&M-ISO)/2023-24/ISMS**  
**Name of the Work/Supply/Services:** "CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ISO 27001:2022 (ISMS) AT SITES HAVING IT/OT UNDERPHASE - II, III, V OF UJVNL LTD."

**Estimated cost** : Rs75.00 Lac + GST EXTRA  
**Date of availability of bid document on website** : 28.02.2024, 15:00hrs.  
**Last date for submission of bids on website** : 21.03.2024, 17:00 hrs.  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in> EE (E&M-ISO)

**"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"**

**JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED**  
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING) NEW POWER HOUSE,  
INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003 PHONE: (0291) 2742223, FAX: (0291) 2746539

**E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

E-Procurement Tender is invited for purchase of 315 KVA, 11/0.433 KV Star-1, Energy Efficiency Level-I, 3 Phase Copper wound (CRGO / Amorphous Core), Distribution Transformer under **TN-1972 (UBN JVV2324GLOB00678)**.

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at [www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvn1](http://www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvn1) and also at <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>.

Raj.Samwad/C/23/13683 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)  
Raj. Samwad/C/23/13683

**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

**KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

**No. CEE/T&P/SEE-2/EE-T7/AEE-T7/2023-24/13668-89** Date: 27.02.2024

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**  
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bid on electronic mode for the following work on Total Turnkey Basis.

Enquiry No. / Name of the Work
<b>KPTCL/2023-24/TL/WORK_INDENT749</b>

Conversion of existing 400kV Twin MOOSE SC line to 400kV DC line with QUAD Moose ACSR conductor between BTPS (excluding Jindal LILo line) to Guttur for a distance of 141.81 km along with Construction of 400kV terminal bay at 400/220kV BTPS (KPLC) sub-station and Construction of 400kV terminal bay at 400/220kV Guttur sub-station on Total Turnkey Basis including Supply of all equipments/ Materials including Mandatory spares, Erection (including Dismantling and Civil Works), of all materials/equipments, Testing & Commissioning.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after **28.02.2024 at 15:00hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **06.03.2024 at 15:00hrs.** Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electricity, Tendering & Procurement,  
KPTCL, III Floor, Kaveri Bhawan,  
Bengaluru - 560 009. Tel : 080 22274744.

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajarajeshwari  
Nagara Division, BBMP Office, Near Chowdeshwari  
Bus Stop, Mathikere, Bengaluru - 54.

**No. EE/RRND/Tend/13/2023-24** Date: 27.02.2024

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)**  
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, RR Nagar Division invites tenders from eligible tenderers for the work detailed in the table below:

S1. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
<b>SINGLE COVER SYSTEM</b>			
<b>Reserved for Others Category</b>			
1.	Maintenance and repairs to water supply assets in Ward No. 34 (JP Park), Ward No. 35 (Yeshwanth pura), Ward No. 37 (Peenya), Ward No. 38 (Lakshmidewinagara), Ward No. 39 (Laggere), Ward No. 41 (Kottigepalya), Ward No. 43 (Mallathahalli), Ward No. 45 (Rajarajeshwarinagar) (Call-2)	6.80 per each Ward	17,000 per each Ward
<b>Reserved for SC Category</b>			
2.	Maintenance and repairs to water supply assets in Ward No. 36 (Jalahalli), Ward No. 42 (Srigandhada kaval), Ward No. 45 (Rajarajeshwarinagar) (Call-2)	6.80 per each Ward	8,500 per each Ward
<b>Reserved for ST Category</b>			
3.	Maintenance and repairs to water supply assets in Ward No. 40 (Chowdeshwarinagara) (Call-2)	6.80 per each Ward	8,500 per each Ward
<b>TWO COVER SYSTEM</b>			
<b>Reserved for Others Category</b>			
4.	Improvements of Roads and Drains and Repairs of Culverts in Ward No. 16 (Jalahalli), Ward No. 17 (J.P. Park), Ward No. 38, (Peenya), Ward No. 42 (Lakshmi devinagara), Ward No. 73 (Kottigepalya), Ward No. 160 (Rajarajeshwarinagara) in RR Nagar Division.	82.64 per each Ward	1,28,000/- per each Ward
5.	Improvements of Roads and Desilting of Drains in Ward No. 160 (Rajarajeshwarinagara) in RR Nagar Division.	82.64	1,28,000/-
6.	Package No. 3 - RRND - (a) Construction of R.O Plant, Anganawadi Kendra, Samudaya Bhavana in Akkiyappa Garden in Ward No. 17 (J.P. Park) (1 work), (b) Renovation for Samudhaya Bhavana near Ambedkar Colony Ward No. 69 (Laggere) (1 work), (c) Renovation and Construction of GMPS School Mallathahalli (1 work), & Improvements and Development of Anganawadi Kendra Old Mallatha halli in Ward No. 129 (Jnanabharathi) (1 work), Total (4 works), in RR Nagar Division for the year 2023-24 - Call-2.	750.00	96,000/-
<b>Reserved for SC Category</b>			
7.	Improvements of Roads and Drains and Repairs of Culverts in Ward No. 69 (Laggere), Ward No. 129 (Jnanabharathi) in RR Nagar Division.	82.64 per each Ward	64,000/- per each Ward
8.	Package No. 06- RRND-RRND- (a) Construction & Improvements to the Roads, Drains & Pathways (b) Construction & Improvements to the existing toilets & other allied works in Ward No. 38, Lakshmidewi nagar in RR Nagar Division for the year 2023-24- Call-2	75.22	76,000/-
9.	Package No. 07- RRND-RRND- (a) Construction & developments to the Roads & Drains (b) Construction of New Library, Anganawadi, Toilets & Other Allied works (c) Providing Pump for Borewell & Pipeline Connection for Houses in Ward No. 41 (Kottigepalya), Ward No. 44 (Jnanabharathi) & Ward No. 45 (Rajarajeshwarinagar) in RR Nagar Division for the year 2023-24- Call-2.	56.91	60,000/-
<b>Reserved for ST Category</b>			
10.	Improvements of Roads and Drains and Repairs of Culverts in Ward No. 37 (Yeshwanthapura) in RR Nagar Division for the year 2023-24.	82.64	64,000/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK KPP portal from **28.02.2024 onwards.** 2) Pre-bid Meeting: **04.03.2024 at 3.30 p.m.** 3) Last date for submission of tenders: **07.03.2024 upto 4.00 p.m.** 4) Opening of Tenders: **08.03.2024 after 4.30 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK KPP portal: <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RR Nagar Division.

**IRCON INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**  
NAVATNA COMPANY  
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
Website: www.ircon.org, CIN - L45203DL1976GO008171

**e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE**

e-Tender No.: IRCON/2023/GRPA-TENDER/23-24/Urga-Dharamajgarh/Pkg-MJ-1 Dated: 28.02.2024  
e-Tender for and on behalf of Chhattisgarh East Railway Limited is invited from bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of "Construction of Major Bridges, Underpasses for Wildlife and Road Over Bridges (ROBs) between Urga (0 Km) to Dharamajgarh (62 Km) Single line in connection with the construction of New BG Electrified Single Railway Line for Chhattisgarh East Rail Corridor Phase-II from Urga (Km 0) to Dharamajgarh (KM 62) via Bhaisma station, Dongaama, Dhinara, Dhaskamunda, Hat and Khadgaon in the State of Chhattisgarh over South East Central Railway."

**Estimated Cost of Work** : Rs.287.48 Cr.  
**Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission** : 20.03.2024 at 15:00 Hrs.

For further details, visit website: <https://tenders.gov.in/procure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website. Executive Director/Projects, C-4, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi-110017

**UJVNL Limited**  
NAVATNA COMPANY  
Head Quarter : "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006, Telephone Number: 0135-2523223, Website: www.ujvnl.com, C.I.N No. - U40101UR2001SGC025866

**R.O. No. 299 Time Extension Notice and Corrigendum-3** Dated: 26.02.2024

**INVITATION OF BIDS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF HYDRO PROJECTS IN UTTARAKHAND**

1. Due to unavoidable circumstances various date of Bid No. 18/GM (CDH&NP)UJVNL/2023-24 "Development of hydro projects in Uttarakhand" invited by office of the General Manager (CDH&NP), UJVNL, Dehradun is hereby extended as follows:  
**Last date of sale and downloading of RFQ cum RFP Document** : 02-03-2024  
**Last date for submission of completed bid document** : 04-03-2024 (till 17:00 Hours)  
**Date of opening of technical proposal** : 05-03-2024 (from 11:00 Hours onwards).

2. Various provision contained in the RFQ cum RFP document of the aforesaid bids (Bid No. 18) invited by office of the General Manager (CDH&NP), UJVNL, Dehradun have been amended. For details of amendment kindly visit UJVNL website.

All other terms and conditions of the above Bids shall remain unchanged. For other details kindly visit Nigam's website: [www.ujvnl.com](http://www.ujvnl.com)  
**General Manager (CDH&NP), UJVNL, Dehradun**  
**"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"**

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY** G2

Letter No.: DRMC/AGRA / PARKING / E-AUCTION/2022 Dated:-26.02.2024

**E-Auction Notice**

On Behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager-North Central Railway-Agra invites E-Auction as per categories given as under:-

**Category:** Parking **Auction Catalogue No.:** PARKING -2024-01

Asset Details	E-Auction Start Date and Time	E-Auction End Date and Time
Achnera Railway Station - Cycle, Scooter, Moter Cycle & Car Parking for location Circulating Area	Date:-12.03.2024 Time:-10:00	Date:-12.03.2024 Time:-10:30
Kosikalan Railway Station Circulating Area - Cycle, Scooter Moter cycle & Car Parking.	Date:- 12.03.2024 Time:-10:00	Date:- 12.03.2024 Time:-10:40

**Note:-Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number. 347724(DG)**

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

**UJVNL Ltd.**  
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprises)  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135-2763808 & Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvnl.com

**RO No. 302 e-Tender Notice** Date: 26.02.2024

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M), Vyas Dam, Juddo Dakpathar, UJVNL Ltd. invites online bid from interested party's Brief summary of tender is given below

**NIT No** : 17/EE(E&M)/Vyasi Dam/2023-24  
**Name of work** : Supply of T&P Items at Vyasi Dam, Juddo, Dehradun  
**Estimated cost** : Rs18,27,719.00 + GST Extra  
**Date of Availability of bid document** : 27.02.2024 from 16:00 hrs on website  
**Last date for submission of bids on** : 21.03.2024 upto 16:00 hrs website  
For fuller & further details kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>  
Executive Engineer (E&M), Vyasi Dam, Juddo

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**MUMBAI RAILWAY VIKAS CORPORATION LTD.**  
2nd Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Mumbai-400 020

**VACANCY NOTIFICATION No. MRVC/E/DGM/IT/4/2024**  
dt. 26.02.2024

Mumbai Railway Vikas Corporation Ltd. invites applications for filling up of one post of **Deputy General Manager (IT)** on contract basis. The last date for submission of application by mail is 26.03.2024. For detailed vacancy notification/ further details, please visit website <https://mrvc.indianrailways.gov.in>. Corrigendum, if any, will be posted on the website only.

**PROCLAMATION REGARDING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**

**See Section 82 Cr.P.C.**

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Hari Om Sharma, S/o: Sh. Purshotam Dass, R/o: H. No. 265, Street No. 01, Bhola Nath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi** has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **Ct Case No. 1660/19, U/s 138 NI Act, P. S. Farsh Bazar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Hari Om Sharma** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Hari Om Sharma** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Hari Om Sharma** accused of **Ct Case No. 1660/19, U/s 138 NI Act, P. S. Farsh Bazar, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **26.04.2024**.

By Order  
Sh. Akhil Malik  
Metropolitan Magistrate-02  
Shahdara  
DP/2285/SHD/2024 Karkardooma Courts, Delhi

**OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER IN CHIEF  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, NAVA RAIPUR,  
ATAL NAGAR (CENTRAL TENDER CELL)**

**E-Procurement Tender Notice**  
**Main Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>**  
Tenders are invited for the Following works:-

S. NO.	System Tender No. / Date	Name of Work	PAC Amount (Rupees in lacs)
1	153048 First Call 19.02.2024	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROAD FROM MAIN ROAD DHAMTARI TO ACROSS CANAL TO SUB HEALTH CENTER, LENGTH 1.425 KM. (DN. NO.3, NAWA RAIPUR).	310.58
2	153050 First Call 19.02.2024	STRENGTHENING OF KM 42 TO 43/10.54/2 TO 54/10, 57, 59/2 TO 59/10.60.61.81/6 TO 86/6-13.20 KM OF DUDHAVA NAGRI BASIN ROAD (SH NO. 6) AT DISTT. DHAMTARI. (DN. DHAMTARI).	675.21
3	153068 First Call 20.02.2024	CONSTRUCTION OF GAURAV PATH FROM NAYKATAD TO KHARORA CITY ROAD, LENGTH 3.50 KM I/C. CULVERT AT DISTT. RAIPUR (DN. NO.2, RAIPUR).	1770.38
4	153077 Fourth Call 20.02.2024	CONSTRUCTION OF COMMERCIAL COURT BUILDING (INCLUDING 3 COURT ROOMS) AT SECTORE 24, ATAL NAGAR, NAWA RAIPUR I/C. WATER SUPPLY, SANITARY FITTINGS & ELECTRIFICATION WORK. DISTT. RAIPUR (DN. NO.3, NAWA RAIPUR).	728.40
5	153127 First Call 21.02.2024	WIDENING & STRENGTHENING OF GADADIH-PARKHANDA-GUDDUDA-NARI ROAD LENGTH 12.20 K.M., I/C. CULVERTS AT DISTT. DHAMTARI (DHAMTARI DN.).	1397.09
6	153121 First Call 21.02.2024	WIDENING & STRENGTHENING OF MOHRENA I/C. CULVERTS AT DISTT. RAIPUR (VIDHANSABH DN. RAIPUR).	2681.31
7	153131 Second Call 21.02.2024	Construction of Court Complex Building (Including Lift) G+5, I/c Electrification works at District Sessions Court Rajnandgaon (C.G.) (Balance Work).	596.13

Last Date of Tender Downloading S.No. 04 date 04.03.2024, S.No. 07 date 11.03.2024. Other Tenders Date are Schedule as date 13.03.2024. For more details on the tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal.

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer  
(Central Tender Cell)  
Office of Engineer In Chief  
P.W.D. Nava Raipur Atal Nagar

G-08088/9



# No Helmet? Danger Is Closer Than It Appears

AIIMS Study Shows Number Of Injured Slightly Down

## 2-WHEELERS ACCOUNT FOR 74% OF ALL ACCIDENTS



Anuja Jaiswal @timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Going by the data compiled by Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre of AIIMS, more people injured in two-wheeler accidents were found to be wearing helmets in 2022 compared to 2021. There had also been a slight decline in the number of injured, travelling either as driver or as pillion, without helmets. The data reveals that compared to 2021 when 18.6% drivers and 43.8% pillion-riders were injured for not wearing the protective headgear, the figures stood at 15.4% and 41.1%, respectively, in 2022. In both years, however, two-wheelers were the most vulnerable vehicle to accidents as they accounted for 74% of all mishaps in 2021 and 74.3% in 2022. A total of 13,362 road traffic injury victims in Delhi-NCR, 84.3% of them men, reached the trauma

**TIMES VIEW:** Helmets protect lives. We all know that. Yet, as the data shows, many of us are casual about our own safety. Authorities should highlight this data in their road safety campaigns. One hopes that the worrying numbers will compel the public to adopt safer driving behaviour.

centre in 2022 and 7,651, 85.9% of them men, in 2021. The majority of the victims were in the age group of 21-30 years — 35.7% in 2022 and 37% in 2021. "In such (non-helmet) cases, the driver and pillion-riders mainly suffer head injuries that could lead to death or morbidity (any kind of disability)," said trauma centre chief Dr Kamran Farooque. Wearing a helmet is important, but ensuring that it is ISI-certified and complies with govt-approved crash protection standards is absolutely necessary, he pointed out. "If the helmet is not as per standard,

there is no protection from it," he said, adding that a helmet should not be worn without a strap as it will not protect the person during a crash. According to World Health Organization, head trauma is the leading cause of death for motorcycle-riders and safe, quality helmets reduce the risk of death by over six times and that of brain injury by up to 74%. Yet the use of quality helmets in many low-and middle-income countries remains low even as the number of motorcycles increases rapidly. Dr Farooque said the head injury patients often required ventilator support in ICU and might remain on ventilator for a long time. Due to this, many other patients who have better prognosis are deprived of ICU care with a ventilator, he added. He advised the best way to save lives of road accident victims was to take them to the nearest hospital with basic life-support facilities.

# Man set to get DDA flat after 45-yr wait

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** A man who had applied for a flat under DDA's housing scheme 45 years ago may get it now due to Delhi High Court's intervention. While Ishwar Chand Jain applied in 1979, he was allotted an LIG flat almost 18 years later in a draw of lots conducted in 1996, but never communicated about it on his last known address available with DDA. Terming the behaviour of the agency as "misconduct", HC gave it four weeks' time to give a flat to Jain at the rate prevalent in 1996 since that was when he had been allotted it. "In a state like Delhi, the majority of Delhiites have one dream, i.e., to own a property in their name. It is not easy for the middle- and lower-income groups to own a property in Delhi. DDA, from time to time, comes out with schemes of fulfilling this dream of owning a

**TIMES VIEW:** It is bizarre that someone had to wait for decades to get his flat. The court must be commended for being firm on the issue. However, it would have been even better if penal action was also taken against the organisation responsible for the delay. It would have driven home the message that such acts of negligence are not condoned and will have consequences. Jain's plea said he had provided two addresses in the application form but later since he kept changing residence, he regularly updated DDA about the latest address. Jain placed stamped acknowledgement receipts from DDA before court. It was in one of the several periodic visits to the DDA housing section in 2013 that Jain learnt he had been allotted a flat in the 1996 draw of lots but the demand and allotment letter was sent to one of his earlier addresses. DDA said it lost the file, the scheme was closed long ago and there was no claim left, prompting Jain to move court. When DDA alleged Jain

woke up from "deep slumber" in 2013 and attributed delay to him, HC said the agency was responsible for delay as "allotment was made after 18 years of NPRS scheme and it thereafter failed to communicate the DAL letter at the last known address of the petitioner available in the record of DDA". It said the court has held on various occasions that when the DAL letter is issued on the wrong address or never communicated to an applicant, the registrants/ petitioners are entitled to allotment of flats. "The demand and allotment letter sent to the petitioner on the wrong address, despite the right address being on record of DDA, is no demand in the eyes of law. It was incumbent upon DDA to issue it to the petitioner on the new given address, which was the last known address on record of DDA," HC added.

# DDA carries out demolition drive at Khajoori Khas

**New Delhi:** Delhi Development Authority on Wednesday carried out demolition drive in Khajoori Khas to remove encroachment from its land and in the process house of Wakeel Hassan, a rathole miner recognised for his efforts in rescuing 41 workers trapped at Uttarkashi's Silkyara tunnel in Nov, was also demolished. Claiming that the action was taken without any prior notice and only his house was demolished, Hassan said "I demanded papers or notice from the authority officials who reached the site with the police but there was no reply from them. My family, including children, are on the road now and have nowhere else to go. We will not leave this place unless justice is done". Defending the action, DDA said that the demolition targeted encroachments on its planned development land. TNN

# Stolen Padma medal found, 4 arrested

Ashresh.Marupaka @timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Four people have been arrested for allegedly stealing and selling a Padma Bhushan award medal, which was given to renowned academic late GC Chatterjee. The medal has been recovered. Police said one of the accused, who worked as a medical attendant, was the main conspirator. The accused have been identified as Shrawan Kumar (33), Rinki Devi (40), Hari Singh (45) and Ved Prakash (39). All of them are residents of Madanpur Khadar. Police said that Samaresh Chatterjee, the grandson of GC Chatterjee, was living alone in an apartment and was not in the pink of his health, so he had hired Kumar as a medical attendant. When Kumar learnt about the Padma Bhushan award, he stole the medal and handed it over to Devi. Devi subsequently involved Singh who sold the medal to Prakash, a jeweller in Chittaranjan Park. Earlier, the accused had attempted to sell the medal to another jeweller named Dalip. He refused to buy it and informed the Kalindi Kunj police station about the stolen medal after the accused left the shop. After analysing video footage of cameras installed in and around the place of the incident and gathering local intelligence, police were able to identify and arrest the accused persons. DCP (South-east) Rajesh Deo said that the medal was dismantled to extract the items embossed with gold. "The accused got Rs 70,000 in return for the gold items," said the senior officer. The brass components of the medal are still missing. GC Chatterjee had served as the vice-chancellor of Punjab University & Rajasthan University, member of Union Public Service Commission and chairman of National Book Trust.

# Man conned under garb of WFH job

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Promised quick money for a review, a 22-year-old B.Tech student looking for work-from-home opportunities on the internet was allegedly duped of Rs 5 lakh by suspected conmen. Three men have been arrested in the case, which police suspect might be part of a bigger racket. The accused have been identified as Suraj Shrivastava (22), Vikram Sahani (28) and Piyush Jain (35). Shrivastava holds a bachelor's degree while Jain holds an MBA degree. The victim, who lives in north Delhi, told police he came across a work-from-home opportunity on social media that required people to write flight reviews. Using the details given, he contacted the persons and expressed interest. "He was tasked with reviewing flights for a certain sum of money per review. Initially, he received the payments, which was for building trust," said Manoj Kumar Meena, DCP (North). Overall, the youth was paid Rs 6,000 (Rs 50 for each review).

Soon, the "firm", said Meena, offered him "higher-paying tasks" with greater commissions, requiring him to invest money upfront in their "ratings business" for "promised returns". Subsequently, he was defrauded of Rs 5 lakh. A case was registered under relevant sections of IPC. "The money trail and analysis of call detail records from linked mobile numbers led our team to two people who acted as holders of the bank accounts used in the scheme to funnel the money. They had been deceived by Shrivastava, who had promised them loans," an officer said. Raids were conducted, leading to the arrest of the three suspects. "Jain admitted to receiving a message from a person identified as 'Kevin', who offered money in exchange for current bank accounts," the officer added. The trio collaborated to obtain bank accounts illicitly from unsuspecting people and forwarded the details to Kevin in exchange for payment. Cops added that four mobile phones, six SIM cards and over 20 blank cheques were seized during raids.

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Ph. No. : 0731-2426394, Fax No. : 0731-2423300  
No. MD/WZ/01/HR/2024/3250 Indore, Date : 28.02.2024

**RECRUITMENT FOR THE POST OF ASSISTANT ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL) ON CONTRACT BASIS**

Madhya Pradesh Paschim Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Co. Ltd. Indore, is the successor company of M.P. State Electricity Board that has been incorporated to undertake activities of distribution and retail supply of electricity in the jurisdiction of Indore & Ujjain commissionersaries. The company intends to recruit Assistant Engineer (Electrical) on Contract Basis in the Company on the basis of valid GATE score merit as on date of advertisement and invites online applications from the eligible candidates. Further details regarding vacant positions, minimum qualification, age limit, application fees and other details are available in detailed advertisement on company's website : www.mpwz.co.in. The application can be submitted online through the link provided on Company's website only from 06.03.2024 to 05.04.2024. The application through any other channel will not be accepted. M.P. Madhyam/114028/2024 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (HR&A)

**Petronet LNG Limited**

**GLOBAL NOTIFICATION INVITING TENDER FOR SELECTION OF EPC CONTRACTOR FOR TOPSIDE FACILITIES FOR THIRD BERTH (JETTY) AT DAHEJ LNG TERMINAL**

Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) invites proposals through International Open Competitive Bidding (ICB) from experienced and financially sound EPC Contractors for execution of EPC Contract of Topside Facilities for Third Berth (Jetty) at Dahej LNG Terminal. Interested parties are requested to visit our website [www.petronetlng.in](http://www.petronetlng.in) for detailed eligibility criteria along with other necessary details for issuance of Bidding document.

CGM & VP (C&P)  
**PETRONET LNG LIMITED**  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, World Trade Centre, Babar Road,  
Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi-110 001, India.  
Tel: No. +91-11-23472525  
Email: [itf24@petronetlng.in](mailto:itf24@petronetlng.in)

**PWD planning 20 new mohalla clinics in E Delhi**  
**New Delhi:** The Public Works Department is planning to construct 20 new mohalla clinics in east Delhi and take up repair work for seven others. It will take around two months to set up these clinics. The locations of the new clinics, which are likely to have on-site testing laboratories, are yet to be finalised. Currently, there are more than 500 such primary healthcare centres situated across the city. Delhi govt is also working on digitisation of patient records at all mohalla clinics. TNN

**MINISTRY OF MINES  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

## Prosperity through Mineral Security, Modi Government's Guarantee

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Prime Minister

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₹ 6 crore financial assistance

in

Maharashtra | Meghalaya  
Odisha | Uttar Pradesh

by

Shri Pralhad Joshi

Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines

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Shri Raosaheb Patil Danve

Union Minister of State for Railways, Coal and Mines

Scope Convention Centre, CGO Complex, New Delhi | 29 February, 2024

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# Destination Uttarakhand: Leading the way



Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to the holistic development of our state, leveraging its natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and immense potential. Through sustainable policies and strategic initiatives, we aim to foster economic growth, improve infrastructure, and enhance the quality of life for all our citizens. Our goal is to make Uttarakhand a model of progress, where tradition meets innovation, and every individual can thrive in a conducive environment for prosperity and well-being."

**Pushkar Singh Dhani,**  
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

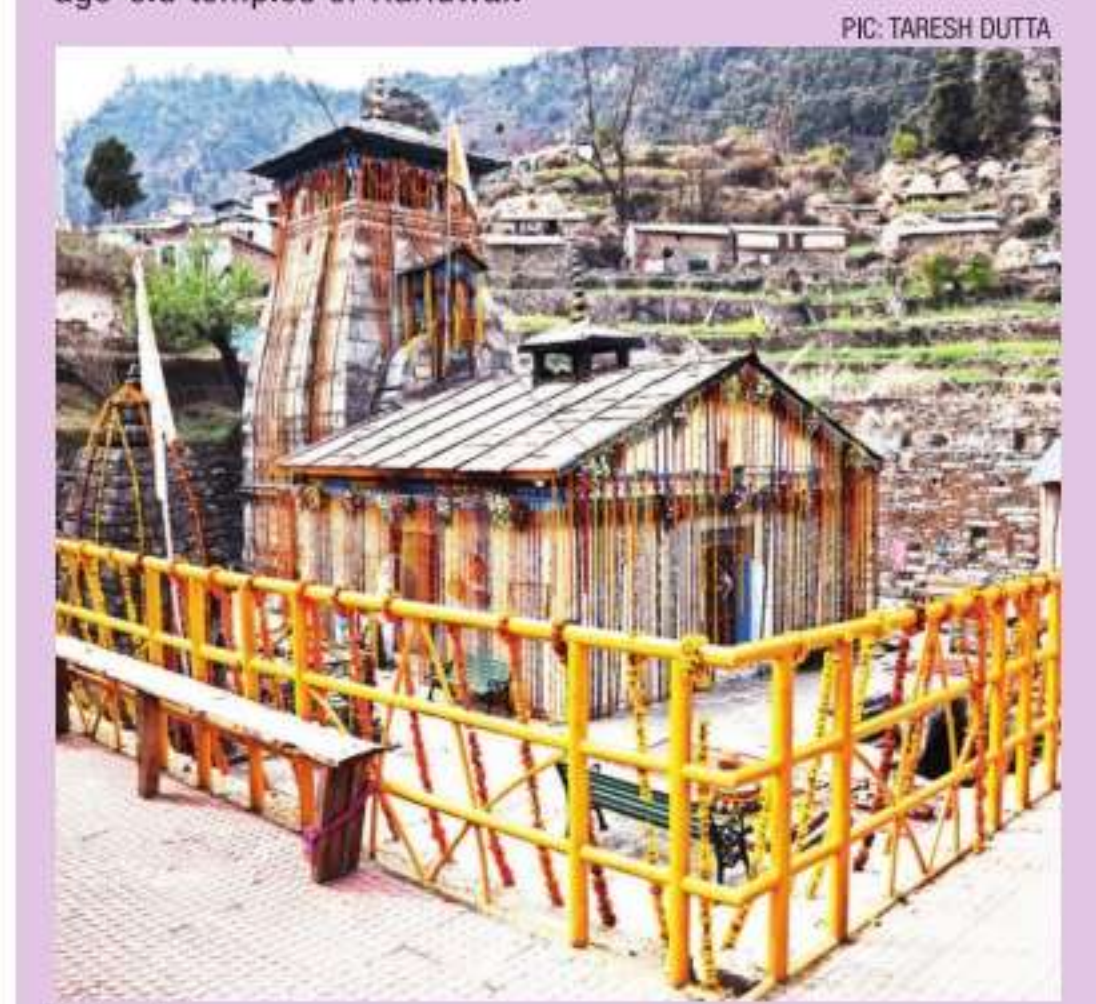
## Uttarakhand shines as the ultimate wedding destination

Under the visionary guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Uttarakhand is poised to become the next premier destination for weddings worldwide

Uttarakhand, which lies amidst the magnificent Himalayas, is a northern state known for its spiritual importance, spectacular terrains, and rich cultural legacy. Also known as the land of gods — 'Devbhoomi', Uttarakhand has forever known as one of the most revered pilgrimage destinations for lakhs of devotees. The state has, however, seen a change in recent years, developing much more than a spiritual destination. In a recent development, Uttarakhand is on the path of emerging as the next best destination when it comes to the world of destination weddings; all thanks to the visionary guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The notion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make Uttarakhand the next best wedding destination reflects the views of numerous who acknowledge the state's endless prospects. The Prime Minister encouraged the youth to embark upon the campaign 'Wed in India' at the inauguration of the Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit in Dehradun back in December 2023. During his address, he urged wealthy families to pick Uttarakhand as the destination for their celebrations.

The distinctive natural magnificence and myriad cultural tapestry depict the charm of Uttarakhand as the perfect wedding destination. From the serene lake of Nainital to the snow-capped mounts of Auli, each part of the state exhibits a feel of charisma and allure. Partners looking for a truly memorable experience can host their marital ceremonies amid the serene lake in Tehri, the beautiful hills of Mussorie, or the age-old temples of Haridwar.



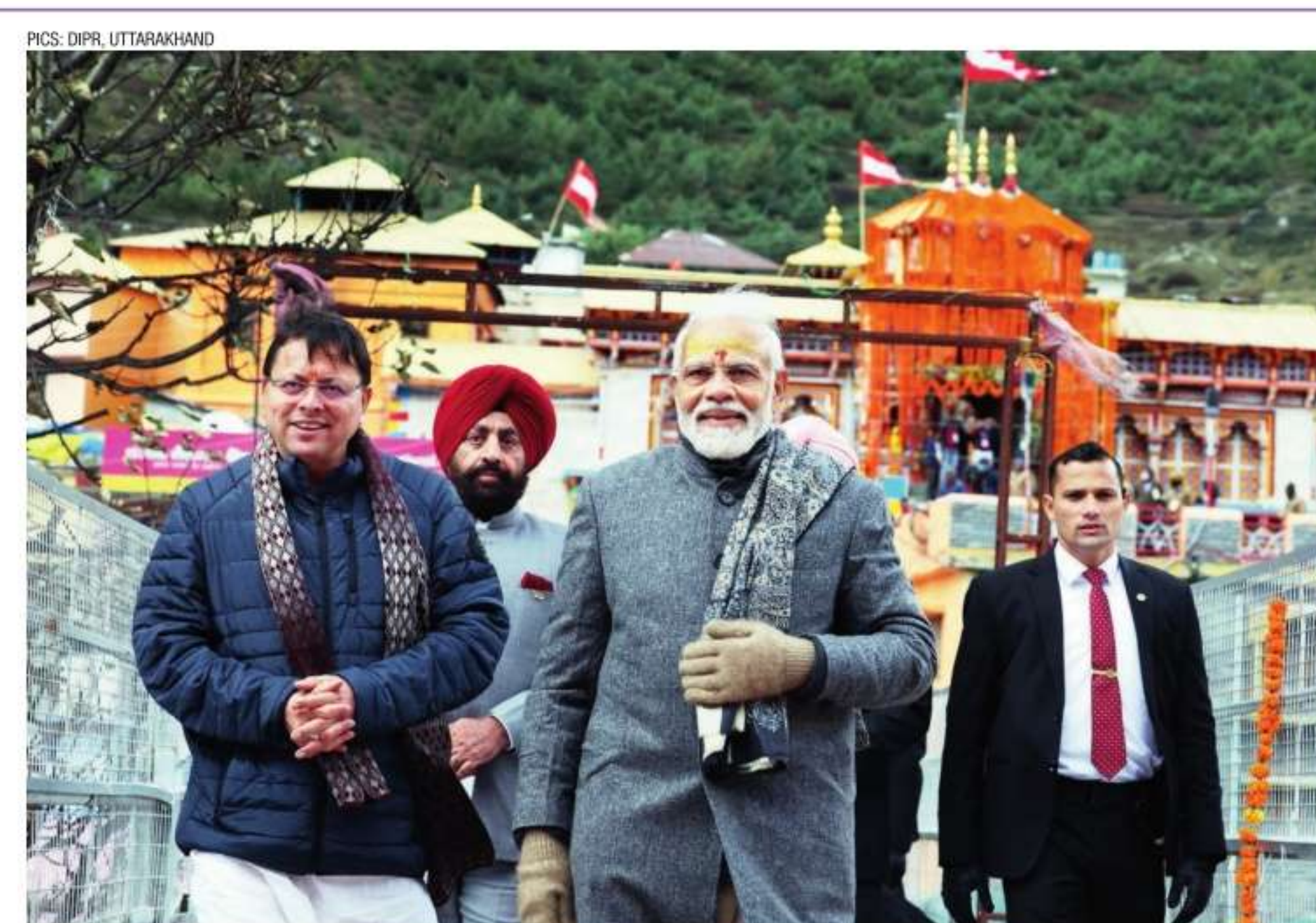
Triyuginarayan

What makes Uttarakhand a unique destination for weddings is not only its stunning places, but also its rich legacy and lively rituals. Weddings hosted in the state are not simply ceremonies but detailed experiences imbued with ancient traditions and rituals. From the spiritual atmosphere of Rishikesh to the holy flame at Triyuginarayan, every place presents a remarkable glimpse into the state's cultural tapestry.

Furthermore, the notion of Prime Minister Modi stretches beyond the celebration of togetherness. He looks forward to strengthening the local economy and supporting the denizens of Uttarakhand by encouraging destination weddings in the state. The inflow of visitors and investment prospects will in turn help in generating employment, enriching infrastructure, and promoting overall development.

Some of the famous places in Uttarakhand to host destination weddings include Triyuginarayan, Rishikesh, Joshimath, Shantikunj Haridwar, Golden Temple, Chakrata, Harisi, Dehradun, Kanatal, Mussorie, Auli, Tehri Lake, Ramnagar, Narendranagar, Brahmatatal, Nainital, Almora, Ranikhet, Bhimtal, Ramgarh, Mukteshwar, Ranigarh, Naukuchatal, and Gharakhali, among others.

The vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make Uttarakhand the best preference for destination weddings is a depiction of everything that makes this state remarkable. Uttarakhand is all set to evolve into a global leader in the tourism sector, as the state moves ahead towards emerging as one of the most favoured wedding destinations. Tourists, adventurers, and entrepreneurs are attracted to the state as it offers the best of yoga retreats, adventure sports, and cultural experiences.



PM Narendra Modi along with Pushkar Singh Dhani, CM, Uttarakhand, visiting Badrinath Dham

The picturesque northern state of Uttarakhand is well-known for its spiritual importance and stunning natural magnificence. Among the various destinations that attract devotees and visitors alike, Badrinath and Kedarnath stand out as embodiments of devotion and serenity. At the vanguard of restoring these consecrated places and utilizing their prospect for spiritual tourism is Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose relentless dedication and commitment have prompted transformative tasks in Uttarakhand.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares a deep-rooted affinity with Uttarakhand, especially Badrinath and Kedarnath, and this is apparent through his multiple visits and visionary endeavours desired to uplift these venerated pilgrimage sites. His spiritual reverence for Baba Kedarnath, exemplified through periodic visits to Kedarnath Dham, highlights his dedication to the spiritual and cultural legacy of the region. The aspirations of PM Modi are much more than only reverence; he foresees a new individuality for Uttarakhand by promoting Badrinath and Kedarnath Dham to international importance.

The most important aspect of this vision of PM Narendra Modi is the complete reconstruction of Kedarnath Dham, an undertaking close to his heart since the beginning of his tenure as the Prime Minister. The wrecking floods of 2013 initiated a revitalised emphasis on revamping Kedarnath, with PM Modi spearheading measures to assure that the reconstruction showcases brilliance and divinely befitting its essence. From building the statue of Adi Guru Shankaracharya to observing the progress firsthand, PM Modi's hands-on strategy highlights his dedication to maintaining the sanctity of Kedarnath.

Furthermore, strategic endeavours by PM Modi spread beyond Kedarnath to embrace the holistic growth of the

The reconstruction measures, associated with PM Modi's focus on maintaining its spiritual significance, have reformed Kedarnath to its previous glory, drawing pilgrims from across the world

of Uttarakhand. Projects such as the Badrinath Dham Master Plan modelled after the Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, seek to remake Badrinath into a smart spiritual hilltown, portraying the vision of PM Modi for incorporating tradition with modernity. The Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor and the Rishikesh Kamprayag Rail Project additionally highlight his dedication to improving connectivity and accessibility to these holy places.

The result of these endeavours by Prime Minister Modi is discernible, with Uttarakhand seeing a revival in spiritual tourism and pilgrimage footprint. The All Weather Road Project, also known as the Chardham Road Project, seeks to link the four Dhams of Uttarakhand, enabling seamless journeys for devotees and visitors alike. Likewise, the Rishikesh Kamprayag Rail Project, with its enterprising timeline and ingenious technique, vows to improve accessibility to Kedarnath and adjacent areas.

The importance of Kedarnath and Badrinath surpasses spiritual borders, echoing with believers and nature lovers globally. Situated amid the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas, Kedarnath carries a unique place as one of the 12 Jyotirlingas and an essential visit during the esteemed Chardham Yatra. The reconstruction measures, associated with PM

Modi's focus on maintaining its spiritual significance, have reformed Kedarnath to its one-time glory, drawing pilgrims from across the world.

The recent inauguration of pivotal infrastructure projects by Prime Minister Modi emphasises the continuous renewal measures in Kedarnath. From unveiling the statue of Adi Guru Shankaracharya to inaugurating essential projects like the Saraswati retaining wall and Teerth Purohit houses, the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi signifies a renewed dedication to promoting the spiritual legacy of Uttarakhand. His passion-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shares a deep-rooted connection with Uttarakhand, especially Badrinath and Kedarnath, and this is apparent through his multiple visits and visionary endeavours aimed at uplifting these venerated pilgrimage sites

## Boosting spiritual tourism in Uttarakhand through Badrinath and Kedarnath

ate and emotional association with Kedarnath, prominent in his genuine talk, echoes with devotees and strengthens the importance of these religious places.

The transformative effect of such enterprises by PM Modi grows beyond infrastructure growth, facilitating inclusive development and sustainable tourism methods in Uttarakhand. His focus on policy incentives and sectoral priority, especially on tourism and renewable power, has placed Uttarakhand as a beam of sustainable evolution. The superior benchmarks for sustainable development, Uttarakhand's aggressive strategy towards harnessing its natural resources and boosting tourism not only strengthens its economy but also showcases its potential on the global level.

The unwavering faith of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Badrinath and Kedarnath has instigated a revival of spiritual tourism in Uttarakhand. By means of far-sighted, endeavor and innovative interventions, PM Modi has restored these reli-

gious places, maintaining their sanctity while steering into a new period of prosperity and expansion. The Government extends its sincere congratulations to the Steering in recent years. This admirable progress stands as a testament to the sustained enactment of strategic approaches, with a sharp focus on paramount sectors such as tourism and renewable energy. It brings the happiness to see the significant improvements in infrastructure growth, establishing superior benchmarks for sustainable development. Uttarakhand's aggressive strategy towards harnessing its natural resources and boosting tourism not only strengthens its economy but also showcases its potential on the global level. I wholeheartedly admire the state's relentless dedication to promoting inclusive expansion, and I eagerly foresee its persistent conquest in the years to come," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Devotees throng Kedarnath Temple to seek divine blessings

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's journey included visits to religious sites like Parvati Kund and Adi Kailash Parvat, depicting the deep-rooted spiritual inheritance of the land and emphasising its possibility for expansion and tourism

## PM Modi's visit strengthens tourism and socio-economic growth in Uttarakhand

The visit of PM Narendra Modi to Pithoragarh district in October 2023 has memorialised an important landmark in the history of Uttarakhand, along with highlighting the cultural and spiritual richness of the state. The PM's journey included visits to religious sites like Parvati Kund and Adi Kailash Parvat, depicting the deep-rooted spiritual inheritance of the land and emphasising its possibility for expansion and tourism.

PM Modi initiated his spiritual journey at Parvati Kund, a venerated pilgrimage place enshrined amid the scenic landscapes of Uttarakhand. Attired in traditional local dress, the Prime Minister engaged himself in the spiritual aura, offering devotions with utmost reverence. His participation in the traditions, including playing the power drum and conch shell, demonstrated his respect for the local customs and rituals, resounding with the beliefs

of the local people. Moreover, the historic visit of Prime Minister Modi to Adi Kailash Parvat carries huge importance for the tourism sector of Uttarakhand. Being the first Indian Prime Minister to visit this sacred site, PM Modi has attracted awareness to the area's untapped prospect as a tourist destination. His exploration of the local art, craft, and products, as well as his arrangement with the Indo-Tibetan trade center in Gurji village, has demonstrated the cultural multiplicity and commercial possibilities of Uttarakhand.

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PM Narendra Modi along with Pushkar Singh Dhani, CM, Uttarakhand, during their visit to Jageshwar Dham Temple, a part of Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission

## Rekindling religious splendour: Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission

The heart of 'Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission' lies in the dedication to reviving and restoring the essence of 48 mythological temples, with a special emphasis on 16 notable ones spread across various districts of Kumaon

Uttarakhand is abode to a number of ancient temples and sacred sites. These temples are spread across the Kumaon area and have served as a source of belief and faith for a long time, attracting believers from various parts of the world.

However, over the course of time, several of these religious places aren't known to devotees as their magnificence is shadowed by disrepair and a dearth of connectivity. In a favourable turn of events, Pushkar Singh Dhani, CM, Uttarakhand, has acknowledged tremendous cultural and spiritual importance of these temples and has ventured on a visionary initiative known as the 'Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission', to restore and rejuvenate these architectural wonders across the state.

The core of this enterprising endeavour lies in the dedication to reviving and restoring the essence of 48

mythological temples, with a special emphasis on 16 notable ones spread across various districts of the Kumaon area. Admired for hundreds of years, these temples are all set to witness a massive transformation, with infrastructural modification plans sought to improve their accessibility and magnificence. CM Dhani's vision is just not limited to material renovations, but also encompasses a holistic strategy that contains enhanced road connectivity, hospitality and lodging services, and conservation measures.

One of the essential elements of the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission is the driving project to improve road connectivity to these venerated sites. The state government has acknowledged the significance of seamless conveyance networks in boosting pilgrimage and tourism and prioritised the building of roads connecting these temples. Along with facilitating the

pilgrimage for visitors, enhanced road infrastructure will also make way for more significant economic prospects for the local residents living in these remote locations.

Integration of contemporary conveniences with traditional spirituality is paramount to the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission. This idea of CM Dhani expands beyond just infrastructure expansion; it contains the establishment of a facilitative atmosphere for devotees and visitors alike. The allotment of budgets for the expansion of encompassing locations and the provision of hospitality services highlights the government's dedication to assuring an unforgettable and enriching experience for tourists.

In his goal of realising this notion, CM Dhani, during his meeting with PM Narendra Modi in January 2024, had requested support for the ongoing work of the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission. In the meeting, CM Dhani presented a detailed proposal summarising the purposes and essentials of the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission. This depicted his resolution to garner the required resources for a successful under-



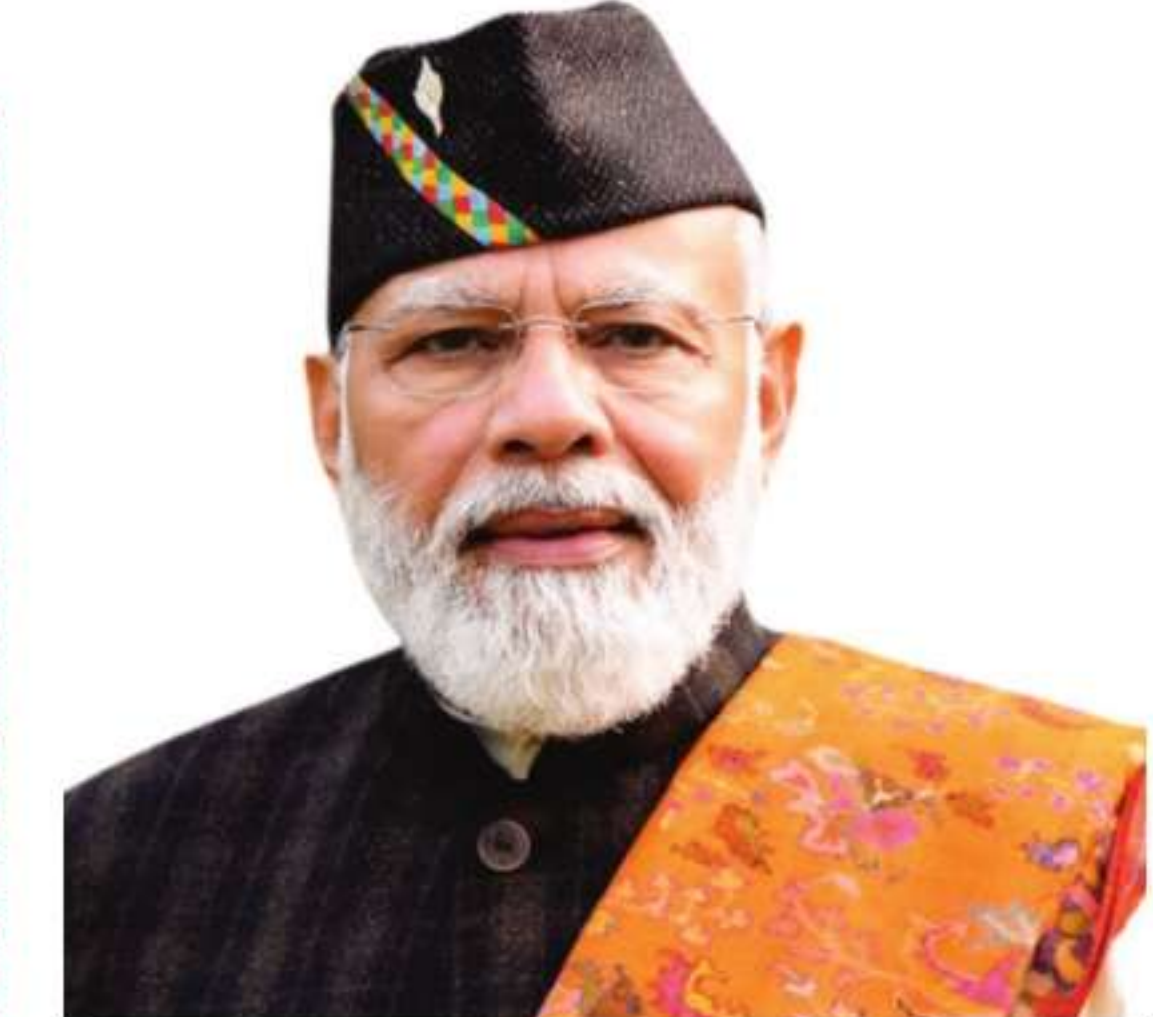
Bagmath Temple

taking of the mission, as well as highlight the urgency and importance of this initiative in boosting the economic and cultural landscape of Uttarakhand.

### MANASKHAND EXPRESS

In a recent development that observes an important landmark in the completion of CM Dhani's vision, the launch of the Manaskhand Express is nearing its scheduled date. Manaskhand Express is a special train service being launched under the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission that will connect Kolkata to Tanakpur.

This upcoming long-route train is scheduled to begin operations on April 15 and will function as a robust connection between the temples of the Kumaon area and devotees from across the nation. The Manaskhand Express will be supported by local and regional transportation services and hospitality arrangements and represents the essence of inclusivity and accessibility that underpins the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission. Furthermore, the Uttarakhand government's dedi-



"I congratulate the Uttarakhand government on the remarkable progress achieved in the last few years. This has been made possible by sustained policy push and focus on key sectors such as tourism and renewable energy. Alongside, the state has made significant strides in infrastructure development, setting new benchmarks for sustainable growth. Uttarakhand's commitment to harnessing its natural resources and promoting tourism has not only bolstered its economy but also showcased its potential on the global stage. I applaud the state's dedication to inclusive development and look forward to its continued success in the years ahead."

**Narendra Modi,**  
Prime Minister

commitment to conserving the legacy and cultural heritage of the state is apparent in its measures to frame a Heritage Act for the preservation and advancement of historical sites and temples. By launching individual master plans for each of the 16 temples recognised under the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission, the government is laying the groundwork for their exhaustive revival. The confluence of different departments and divisions beneath a cooperative mission emphasises the collective exuberance pursuing this transformative endeavour.

As the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission picks up speed, it bears the assurance of not just restoring religious sites but also reviving the socio-economic sector of the region. The conjunction of custom and modernity, spirituality, and infrastructure expansion, showcases the vision of CM Pushkar Singh Dhani for a resurgent Uttarakhand. By utilising the rich cultural legacy of the state and directing it into sustainable growth endeavours, the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission stands as an example of the ability of visionary leadership to shape the future of a country.



Bajinath



Garjiya Devi Temple



Gurudwara Nanakmatta Sahib



Jageshwar Dham Temple



Kasar Devi Temple

## Scouring Uttarakhand's untapped tourism potential: Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030

With the introduction of the Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030, the state sketches a transformative approach towards recognition at a global level as a diverse tourism hotspot while prioritising sustainable development and inclusive growth

Uttarakhand is famous among tourists for its abundance of natural wonders. Even today, the state holds an untapped potential ready to be utilised. With the introduction of the Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030, the state sketches a transformative approach towards recognition at a global level as a myriad tourism hotspot while prioritising sustainable development and inclusive growth.

The main principle of the Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030 lies in empowering all stakeholders within the tourism sector, assuring that each contributes to and benefits from Uttarakhand's journey towards evolution. By means of a suitable framework, the policy seeks to facilitate goals and interests, promoting holistic expansion.

Apart from its traditional essence of a spiritual and wellness destination, Uttarakhand strives to present its multi-faceted allure. From heritage and nature tourism to wilderness adventures and wellness retreats, the state pledges memorable experiences for every visitor. Further, the focus on all-weather tourism, including winter and Alpine ventures, seeks to draw tourists all year long.

Foremost to the Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030 is the making of authentic and genuine experiences, leveraging Uttarakhand's cultural and natural wealth. Tourism clusters and circuits will be designed to present new destinations, catering to various interests and likes.

The Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030 also prioritises sustainability with an emphasis on conserving the state's environmental and cultural legacy. Measures to preserve natural resources, wilderness, and cultural assets are vital, assuring Uttarakhand stays unspoiled and inviting for years.

In line with the digital era, Uttarakhand seeks to fulfil growing visitor anticipations through technology integration. Online platforms will be operated for advertising, bookings, and data dissemination, improving comfort and trust for visitors.

Private sector involvement is promoted, with the government encouraging ease of doing trade for hospitality and tourism undertakings. This combined strategy is anticipated to propel innovation and development.

The Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030 also emphasises high-value tourism to minimise adverse effects on the environment and civilisation while spreading benefits to local neighbourhoods. The Hub & Spoke model strives for balanced regional growth, improving infrastructure and

## PM Modi's 'Vibrant Village Programme' bolsters Uttarakhand's rural economy

PM Modi's enterprising 'Vibrant Village Programme' has arisen as a silver lining for the isolated border villages, marking a transformative period of comprehensive growth and economic upliftment

Spanning across 19 border regions, including Uttarakhand, the programme strives to revive 3,000 villages over a 10-year-long course. It bears an important goal of preventing migration by furnishing fundamental conveniences and promoting socio-economic sustainability. In the infancy stage of the program, 652 villages with a total population of 1,42,000 are being supported by means of an investment of Rs 4,800 crore.

Focus on infrastructure and connectivity growth is one of the key elements of the Vibrant Village Programme. The allotment of Rs 2500 crore for building roadways and improving connectivity will give a boost to economic activities in various villages across the country where the geographical landscape constantly poses difficulties. It will foster access to markets, and enhance the overall quality of life for locals.

Along with bolstering the nation's financial stability, the programme also supports the importance of inclusive growth as a cornerstone of India's advancement by prioritising the development of



PM Modi and CM Dhani with local people during their visit to district Pithoragarh

border villages. With the launch of the Vibrant Village Programme, the border villages in Uttarakhand and as well as other states will benefit greatly, eventually steering in a fresh phase of endless possibilities for the rural economy while reflecting the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.

## Homestays in Uttarakhand: Bridging tradition with modern travel trends

With the advent of the 'work from anywhere' culture, homestays in Uttarakhand provide an ideal setting for the millennials, as well as an idyllic break to those in their golden years

The Government of Uttarakhand is poised to provide the necessary support to proliferate homestays in all districts of the state with a focus on providing alternative sources of employment to the villagers and preventing migration from the original place of dwelling. At present, there are more than 5,000 homestays registered with Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board. The department provides necessary support in terms of marketing and training to the homestay owners. The Government also provides financial support to Homestay owners through the Deen Dayal Upadhyay GRI-Awas (Homestay) Yojana, through which local residents get financial support in rebuilding/renovating rooms to upgrade them for use by tourists.



Meenakshi Sadan Homestay based at Mussoorie under Uttarakhand Government scheme



PM Pushkar Singh Dhani at one of the homestays

Homestays in Uttarakhand have also been recognised by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. In the year 2022, Samruddhi Village in Pithoragarh district was awarded the Best Rural Homestay by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India. Several initiatives such as the Goat Villages, Sendul Village (Tehri Garhwal), and homestays in the Kumaon region have also won accolades. The Government has realised that with increasing awareness about hygiene and, the diverse food habits of travellers, it is essential that the homestays of Uttarakhand constantly upgrade themselves to provide the required services to the tourists. Hence, in addition to developing homestay infrastructure, the Government is also providing training to the local youth in the management and upkeep of these Homestays through professional agencies.

Text: Teju Datta



# UP surging towards \$1 trillion target



“Today, investment worth lakh of crores of rupees are pouring into Uttar Pradesh. Work is starting on thousands of projects in the state. These industries are going to change the face of UP. In the last 7 years, a red-carpet culture has replaced the red-tape culture. I have full faith in the power of UP and the hard work of the double engine government.”

**-Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**

## SECTOR-WISE INVESTMENT BREAKDOWN

- Manufacturing: **More than Rs 2 lakh crore**
- IT and Electronics: **More than Rs 90,000 crore**
- Renewable Energy: **More than Rs 1 lakh crore**
- Food Processing: **More than Rs 60,000 crore**
- Real Estate: **More than Rs 50,000 crore**
- Education: **More than Rs 25,000 crore**
- Waste Management: **More than Rs 25,000 crore**
- Healthcare: **More than Rs 10,000 crore**
- Distilleries: **More than Rs 10,000 crore**
- Dairy: **More than Rs 9,000 crore**
- Handloom & Textile: **More than Rs 6,000 crore**
- Pharma & Medical Devices: **More than Rs 2,000 crore**



The recently concluded Ground Breaking Ceremony @4.0 (GBC @4.0) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, was a resounding success, attracting a plethora of investors keen on exploring the state's vibrant business landscape. Under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the CM Yogi Adityanath-led Uttar Pradesh government has converted resolutions into achievements with vision, mission, and a firm commitment. A historic moment in the growth narrative of UP, GBC @4.0 saw PM Modi launching 14,000 projects worth Rs 10 lakh crore in the state

The Uttar Pradesh government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, has been proactive in implementing policies that promote ease of doing business and attract investments. Initiatives such as the Single Window Clearance System and the Industrial Investment and Employment Promotion Policy have been instrumental in creating a conducive environment for businesses to thrive.

Recent years have witnessed unprecedented growth and remarkable developments in the form of expressways, improved air connectivity, consistent power supply, and land banks availability. CM Yogi's decisive leadership over the past seven years has spurred investment propositions amounting to more than Rs. 40 lakh crore through the UP Global Investors Summit 2023.

MoUs of more than Rs 10 lakh crore were grounded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 19, 2024, at the GBC @4.0. These projects will provide employment opportunities for 34 lakh youths, bolstering the confidence of entrepreneurs and investors within the country and globally in the state's potential. Uttar Pradesh strides confidently towards its goal of achieving a \$1 trillion economy, significantly contributing to the realization of an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

“Uttar Pradesh has recognised its talent and unlimited potential to become a state known for security, good governance and development. The state has assimilated respected Prime Minister's instructions on value addition and framed its policies. Transformation with speed is the new identity of UP.”

**-Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister**

## TOP INVESTMENT SECTORS

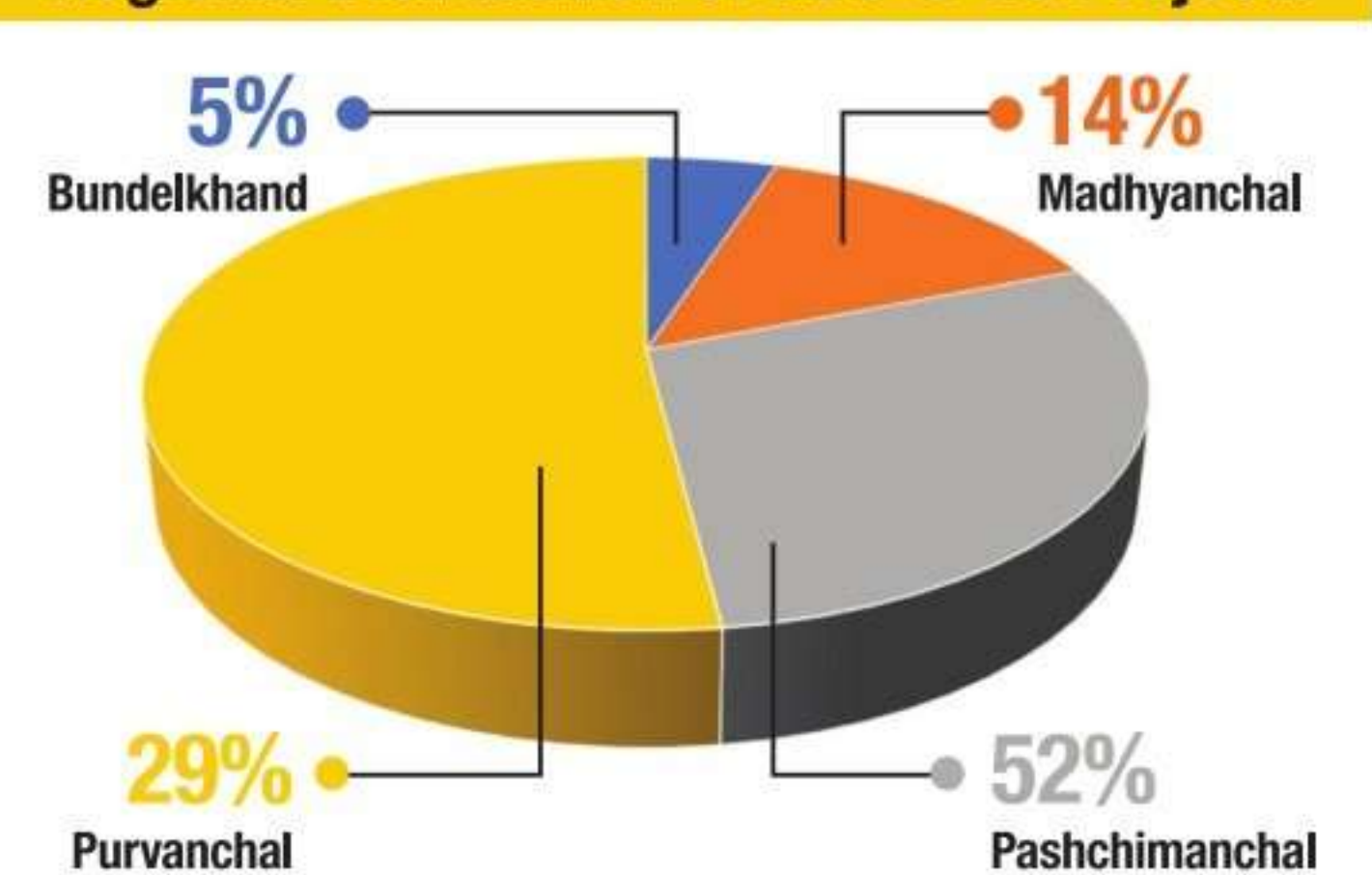
- Manufacturing: **21%**
- Renewable Energy: **13%**
- IT & Electronics: **9%**
- Power: **8%**
- Food Processing: **6%**
- Real Estate: **6%**
- MSME: **5%**
- Hospitality & Entertainment: **6%**
- Waste Management: **3%**
- Education: **3%**

## ADVANTAGE UTTAR PRADESH

- 6 expressways operational, 7 expressways under construction
- Highest number of airports in the country, 10 operational (including 4 international), 11 under construction
- The country's first rapid rail service from Meerut to Delhi
- Metro rail services in 6 cities — Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Lucknow, Kanpur and Agra
- Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor — 6 nodes; Aligarh, Agra, Lucknow, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Jhansi construction in progress
- The largest railway network of 16,000 km in the country
- The largest road network of 4 lakh km in the country
- Development of 94 routes along the international/ interstate borders
- State with the highest number of medical colleges — 65 operational, 22 under construction
- Home to international-level educational institutions like IIM Lucknow, IIT Kanpur, IIT BHU Varanasi, IIIT Prayagraj, NIT Allahabad
- State with 67 universities, 5,842 colleges, 370 polytechnics and 3,268 ITI / ITC
- Largest consumer and workforce in the country
- 56% population of the state is in the working age group
- First rank in the country to establish micro and small industries; 96 lakh MSME units operational
- North India's first hyper-scale data centre established in Greater Noida
- 65% contribution to the mobile manufacturing of the country
- India's first freight village developed on 100 acres in Varanasi
- Development of the country's first inland waterway
- Moving towards becoming the state with the highest number of safe cities in the country encompassing 17 municipal corporations and Gautam Buddha Nagar
- India's first public transport ropeway system is being developed in Varanasi
- First state to implement the skill development policy; skill development of 16.50 lakh youths
- Gold Medal Trophy for 'Best State in Skill Development' given to Uttar Pradesh by ASSOCHAM.
- Infra development in full swing at 1000-acre International Film City, Noida
- 8.5% of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor and 57% of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor lie in UP; junction of both freight corridors in Dadri
- First in the e-tendering system in the country
- UP awarded first prize for the best state for inland fisheries
- Recognized as a food basket of India; the leading state in the country to produce milk, sugarcane, sugar, potato, mango, amla and ethanol



## Regional Distribution of GBC @4.0 Projects



## INVESTORS SPEAK

“UP establishing new milestones under CM Yogi's leadership

UP offers great opportunities in several sectors under the leadership of CM Yogi Adityanath. We decided to establish the biggest shopping mall in North India in Lucknow. We waited for the new government to learn about their policy. Once the group made a presentation before the Chief Minister's office, the project was expedited. Yogi government is committed to crossing new milestones. The Middle East government is seriously considering investing in Uttar Pradesh.”



**-MA Yusuf Ali, Chairman & MD, LuLu Group**

“State lending right support to investors

Thanks to constant collaboration between all stakeholders, the state's oxygen production policy was launched on time, and we were able to expedite funding for the project. We have received the rights support when we faced issues related to water or power supply. By offering financial incentives, tax benefits, infrastructure support, regulatory assistant through single point contact, UP government has taken the right decision to attract foreign Investments.”



**-Benoit Renard, Managing Director, Air Liquide India**

“Robust policy framework bolstering investors' confidence

“I am delighted to be in the land of Yamuna and Ganga and we would continue with our investments in UP and India. A man, a family, or an individual can invest their heart and money only if they are fully satisfied and assured their investments will be productive. Policy frame has been worked out here to encourage investments.”



**-Sharafuddin Sharaf, Vice-Chairman, Sharaf Group**



CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE



## Court orders action against ACP who didn't salute properly

Bagish.Jha@timesgroup.com

**Gurgaon:** Miffed with an ACP who didn't follow the right salute gesture, a Gurgaon court earlier this month ordered the police commissioner to take appropriate action against the officer.

ACP Naveen Sharma had produced an accused before judicial magistrate (first class) Vikrant's court in a corruption case on Feb 8. The judge pulled the ACP up when he, before leaving, performed a customary salute — using two fingers to touch his forehead — and turned to go.

The judge asked him where he had learned the salute, to which the ACP explained he knew three kinds: one by raising the elbow, another by touching the forehead and the police salute. The ACP also tried to make light of the situation and told the court he was "wearing a tight shirt" and was "uncomfortable" in saluting the chair.

The judge then reminded him that the salute was meant for the chair, not the person, underlining the importance of a proper salute gesture. Citing the Punjab Police Rules, 1934 (as applicable in Haryana state), the court said, "All police officers entering a court of law in uniform, while such court is in session, shall salute the court, irrespective of the ranks or status of the judicial officer presiding in such court for the time being."

A police officer must salute with a level palm and the middle finger aligned with the right eye.

"The conduct of ACP Naveen Sharma is against the protocol and the rules as well... The court has reason to believe that ACP Naveen Sharma is in ignorance of the rules, which govern his service. He needs to be trained properly, making him aware of the rules and protocol," the court observed.

The judge directed police commissioner Vikas Arora to take "necessary action under The Punjab Police Rules, 1934, against the erring officer" and submit a report within a week.

The ACP was inducted into the Haryana Police in 2010. On Feb 8, he was in the court to produce accused Anil Sharma, who was seeking bail in a Rs 25-lakh corruption case.

# Crackdown On Gaming Websites, ₹4k cr Remittances Under Scanner

## Portals Registered Abroad Linked to Indian Bank A/Cs

Rajshekhhar.Jha@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing has filed an FIR and started its probe against online gaming websites that operated through shell firms and remitted revenues to the tune of around Rs 4,000 crore abroad illegally. The police action comes in the wake of a complaint from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) which has been probing the money laundering and violations under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

The investigation centres around alleged hawala operators like Ashish Kakkar, a resident of Greater Kailash II, Shiv Dagar from Saket, Keshav Sood from Anand Niketan and others who have been named in the FIR as accused. Officers said that the amount collected from the public through gaming websites was being routed through multiple bank accounts and finally remitted out of India by "mis-declaring the purpose of remittances" against the import of services and goods. "Remittances out of the income from racing, riding, etc., or any other hobby are not allowed under the provisions of FEMA," said an officer.

The probe in the predicate offence has revealed that the gangs were operating 188 bank accounts linked to 167 domestic firms, besides 110 accounts linked to 105 foreign firms. The bank account used to be operational mostly for 4-6 months and closed thereafter. Fresh accounts were then opened.

"Of the foreign firms, 46 are based in China, 30 in Singapore, 18 in Hong Kong, seven in UAE, two in Malaysia and one each in Thailand and Mauritius. Hundreds of SIM cards were taken on forged documents by suspects linked to these portals," said another officer.

The agency had started a probe after receiving inputs private networks or masking their actual identity as foreign-based online gaming websites.

"While these gaming websites were registered in foreign countries, all of them were found linked to Indian bank accounts. By using this modus operandi, they were collecting money (in hundreds of crores) from the general public through gaming websites and sending the said money out of India using illegal means such as foreign outward remittances against import of services/goods without actual business activities," a senior officer said.

"The accused were engaged in large-scale money laundering as well as international hawala transfer to various parts of the world". Last year, ED had conducted searches at the residences of accused Kakkar and others and recovered incriminating documents and other evidence suggesting that Kakkar had formed and operated a number of shell trading firms and bogus companies.

### GAME OVER

- Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing has started acting against online gaming websites operating through shell firms and remitting revenues abroad illegally
- Probe has revealed that the gangs were operating 188 bank accounts linked to 167 domestic firms, besides 110 accounts linked to 105 foreign firms
- Of the foreign firms, 46 are based in China, 30 in Singapore, 18 in Hong Kong, 7 in UAE, 2 in Malaysia and 1 each in Thailand and Mauritius
- Hundreds of SIM cards were taken on forged documents by suspects linked to these portals
- The firms and companies



were found to be registered and functional under the names of various employees or hired individuals

These entities used fabricated or forged documents to facilitate the collection, routing, and outward foreign remittances of proceeds of crime generated through online gaming offered by foreign-registered gaming websites

that various foreign-registered online gaming companies were illegally providing access to their gaming websites to the Indian residents through virtual

## Minor sexually assaulted after tuition, social media friend nabbed

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

ly assaulted her, said cops.

**New Delhi:** A 17-year-old girl studying in Class XI was sexually assaulted, allegedly by a 17-year-old boy she had befriended on social media, in southwest Delhi's Sagarpur Tuesday. The boy has been apprehended.

Police received information about the incident at 5.20pm. "The girl's father received a call from a person who told him his daughter was lying unconscious and bleeding near Dabri Mor Metro station. She was taken to a hospital and her family alerted police," an officer said.

Police said the girl had gone for her tuition and later went to meet the boy. Inquiry revealed she had been in contact with him and they had been planning to meet.

A raid was conducted and the youth apprehended from southwest Delhi. During interrogation, he told police he had called the girl to meet. After her tuition class ended, he allegedly called her to a place on Pankha Road and then took her to his friend's place. There, he sexual-

A senior officer said according to the girl's father, she lost consciousness after consuming food at the house of the boy's friend. When asked if the juvenile dumped her near the metro station, a cop said the girl boarded an e-rickshaw and reached the station, where her condition worsened and she lost consciousness.

A case under sections 376 (sexual assault), 328 (causing hurt by means of poison with intent to commit offence) of IPC and Section 6 of PoCSO Act was registered.

"Raids were conducted and the boy, a Class XII student, was apprehended. An FSL team found blood in the room where the alleged assault took place. The boy told us they had been in contact for several months but were meeting for the first time. He made her board the e-rickshaw for the metro station," the officer said.

Cops are questioning the friend whose house was allegedly used for committing the crime and scanning CCTV footage of the stretch to ascertain the sequence of events.

# Given admit cards, denied chance to take Boards: Students move HC against CBSE

Ridhima Gupta & Abhinav Garg | TNN

**New Delhi:** Many students were recently dismayed to find themselves being debarred from the ongoing Class X and Class XII board exams because the Central Board of Secondary Education has insisted on their uploading their domicile certificate.

Many of those who were not permitted to sit for their exams despite holding valid admit cards have now petitioned Delhi High Court on the matter. In their petitions, the students have demanded that CBSE clarify the status of their pending exams. In a couple of petitions, the high court has recognised the students' travails and expressed displeasure with CBSE. "This is unacceptable," said justice C Hari Shankar.

"CBSE is expected to be vigilant about the entitlement of students to appear in the examinations. It is inhuman to first issue an admit card to a student and when the student appears for the examination, make her stand outside the exam hall. CBSE has no right whatsoever to do this."

The bench made it clear that

### HIGH COURT JUDGE SAYS

**CBSE is expected to be vigilant about the entitlement of students to appear in the examinations. It is inhuman to first issue an admit card to a student and when the student appears for the examination, make her stand outside the exam hall. CBSE has no right whatsoever to do this**

any other candidate similarly stopped outside the examination hall for want of uploading the domicile certificate in time would be "entitled to enter the examination hall and undertake the examination with extension of time".

Deepak Kumar, 15, a native of Bihar who stays in a blind hostel, was one of the affected students. The Class X private candidate did write two of his papers but was surprised to be denied entry for his third paper, Hindi. "I have an admit card, I wrote two exams but in the third, the officials told me that I couldn't sit for the exam because I had submitted my domicile documents late," said the teenager. "I broke down and begged the officials to allow me to sit for the exam, but they were of no help."

The distraught boy said, "I

had thoughts of ending my life." Kumar missed two of his exams and is in distress about papers he still has to write.

Adil Khan, 22, private Class XII examinee, too is in hot water. He said, "We submitted our documents in Sept last year but weren't informed about the domicile certificate. Months later, we were told we needed to submit our domicile paper by Feb 15, which, of course, I did. And right before the exams, I got my admit card and appeared for three exams. Then, on the day of my English exam, I was told that my domicile had been submitted late and I wouldn't be allowed to write further exams. How is this fair?"

This was an additional trauma for visually impaired Khan, who said, "It is anyway difficult for us

to avail education and get past the hurdles in the system." He is worried that CBSE's "lackadaisical" attitude will hurt his Class XII scores and he will not be able to apply in Delhi University, a dream he has held for long. "I want the board to inform us about what will happen now. Will there be new exams? Will I get grace marks?" Khan asked.

Another visually-impaired Class X student, Luvkush, 17, too fretted about the uncertainty. "I have my one exam pending. Even if CBSE allows me to sit for it, what will happen about the marks of the papers I was forced to miss for no fault of mine? This can completely ruin my future," he said.

A lawyer told TOI, "We have filed a new PIL and the matter is listed for March 15. We have asked Delhi High Court to urge CBSE to urgently give private students proper guidelines on their pending exams so they can arrange for their scribes for the exams."

TOI received no response to its queries from CBSE till the time of filing this story.

## Court seeks response of police on bail plea filed by Umar Khalid

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** A Delhi court on Wednesday sought response of Delhi Police on the bail plea filed by former JNU student Umar Khalid, who is an accused in the alleged larger conspiracy behind the 2020 north-east Delhi communal riots.

The court of additional sessions judge Sameer Bajpai stated in the order, "Copy of the bail application, along with documents, has already been supplied to the prosecution. Reply to the present bail application be filed by the prosecution on the next date, with advance copy to the counsel for the applicant or accused (Khalid)."

The matter was posted on March 11 for filing of reply and arguments on the bail applica-

tion. The court was hearing Khalid's fresh application for a grant of regular bail. Khalid has been booked under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Protection) Act (UAPA).

Total 20 people had been accused in the case, including Tahir Hussain, Umar Khalid, Khalid Saifi, Isharat Jahan, Meeran Haider, Gulfisha Fatima, Shifa-Ur-Rehman, Asif Iqbal Tanha, Shadab Ahmed, Tasleem Ahmed, Saleem Malik, Mohd. Saleem Khan, Athar Khan, Safoora Zargar, Sharjeel Imam, Faizan Khan and Natasha Narwal.

The case, being probed by Delhi Police's Special Cell, was registered under various offences under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

## 'Rathee case contract killing, spotter was trailing target'

Continued from P1

This will be the fate of whoever shakes hands with my enemy. He backed Mahal in the murder of my brother-in-law and my friends," the post claimed.

The post added, "If someone supports my enemies, I will support their enemies and 50 bullets will await them. Everyone in Bahadurgarh knows how many people Nafe Singh killed and how much land he grabbed while he was in power. But no one was able to touch him because of his power."

"If police had been active during my brother-in-law and my friends' murders, I wouldn't have had to do this," Sangwan claimed.

Sangwan belongs to Najafgarh and has been using VoIP calls to make extortion demands from London, where he escaped using a forged passport procured from UP. Delhi Police has requested CBI's Interpol branch to issue a red corner notice (RCN) against the gangster.

Sources said, on Feb 26, multiple police teams had questioned jailed gangster Jyoti Baba in connection with the killing. "Jyoti was grilled for several hours along with another gangster, Sandeep alias Kala Jathedi, inside Tihar jail," sources said.

Sources said it was a case of contract killing and there was a spotter trailing the target. The CCTV obtained by cops shows a shooter in the front seat of an i20 car talking to someone on the phone just before they ambushed the target near the railway track.

Jyoti operates with liquor barons of Haryana and Gujarat. He was arrested from Gujarat in 2020 by a Delhi Police team. Jyoti appeared on the crime scene as a minor with a murder in Gurgaon. At age 19, he was involved in another murder — part of an ongoing gang-war in Bahadurgarh, Haryana — and absconded. He was subsequently arrested, put on trial and sentenced to life. After his conviction, his younger brother Kapil Sangwan took over command of his gang.

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(उत्तराखण्ड पावर कोरपोरेशन)  
कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत शक्तिरण मण्डल, रोहतासबाद, हरिद्वार  
दूरभाष 01334-239734

**ई-निविदा तिथि विस्तार सूचना**

इस कार्यालय द्वारा आमंत्रित ई-निविदा संख्या 69/2023-24 को अपरिहार्य कारणों से विस्तारित किया जाता है। अन्य विवरण के लिये उत्तराखण्ड प्रोक्योरमेंट की वेबसाइट [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) देखें, अन्य नियम व शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी।

पत्रांक: 2488/विनिगम/2023-24/टी-2  
दिनांक: 27/02/2024

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**Walk-In-Interview**

"Walk In Interview" against vacant post(s) of "Senior Resident (Clinical), Junior Resident (Clinical) & Tutor/Senior Resident (Non Clinical)" on contractual basis will be held from **05th March 2024 (Tuesday)** to every working Tuesday upto **30th April, 2024** for the post **Tutor (Statistical)** interview will be held on **05th March 2024 (Tuesday)** only according to requirement of vacant posts during 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM at "Office of the Principal, Government Medical College, Haldwani Distt.: Nainital, Uttarakhand". For Further details regarding vacant post(s), date and time and other details kindly visit our website: [www.gmchd.org](http://www.gmchd.org) & [www.medicaleducation.uk.gov.in](http://www.medicaleducation.uk.gov.in)  
Advt. No.- 323/GMC/Appnt. Dated: 28/02/2024

Principal  
Government Medical College,  
Haldwani

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**NOTIFICATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN CERTAIN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENTS & CENTRES**  
Notification No.001/RC/UD-FR/PR10&20/2024, dated: 23.2.2024

Applications are invited only through online mode, from Indian Nationals possessing excellent academic background and commitment to quality in teaching and research, for the vacant positions of **Assistant Professor in certain University Departments & Centres of Anna University**. For more details please visit the University website [www.annauniv.edu](http://www.annauniv.edu).

**Important Dates**

Date of Online Registration commencement	05.03.2024 (10.00 Hrs IST)
Date of Possession of Qualification, Experience and other requirements	29.02.2024
Last Date for Submission of online application	01.04.2024 (17.30 Hrs IST)
Last Date for receipt of hardcopy of online application	05.04.2024 (17.30 Hrs IST)

DIPR/217/Display/2024 REGISTRAR

**ARMY REST & RECOUP CENTRE, NAINITAL TENDER NOTICE**

1. Sealed bids are invited from having at least 3 year of experience in Catering Services at Army Rest & Recoup Centre, Nainital.

2. Two types of Bid forms required to be submitted i.e. Technical Bid and Financial Bid. Firms qualifying in Technical Bid will be considered for Financial Bid.

3. The firm to whom the contract will be allotted has to deposit refundable security of Rs 50,000/- for catering contract only for the duration of contract.

S.No.	Date and time of issuing of tender	Date and time of deposit tender	Date and time of opening of tender
(a)	Catering (Tender period 01 Apr 24 to 31 Mar 2025) 01.03.24 to 09.03.24 time 0900hrs to 1700hrs	12.03.24 time 0900 hrs to 1200hrs	12.03.24 time 1215 hrs onwards

\* The tender form cost of Rs 500/-each

4. Management Committee of Army Rest & Recoup Centre, Nainital has reserved the right to accept/reject any tender without assigning any reason.

OIC  
Army Rest & Recoup Centre, Nainital

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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**Stone Laying & Inauguration of 34 SC & OBC Residential Hostels**

Centrally sponsored scheme for construction of SC and OBC Hostels

Hostel facility for students, especially from rural areas, to pursue education

34 out of 25 hostels are constructed for girls

BY **DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR**  
HON'BLE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

29 February 2024 Time: 1:00 P.M. New Delhi - 110001

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MODI TO RE-OPEN UREA UNIT SHUT FOR 23 YEARS, FLAG OFF REFINERY EXPANSION IN BIHAR ON SAT

VISITOR ENTERS C'GARH CM SAI'S RAIPUR RESIDENCE WITH GUN, 8 COPS SUSPENDED



Former Intel India head hit by speeding cab while cycling, dies

George Mendonca



Saini was credited with working on Intel 386 and 486 microprocessors. He went on to lead the design of the Pentium processor

Navi Mumbai: Avtar Saini, a reputed chip designer, who was out on a ride with fellow cyclists, was knocked down and killed by a cab on Palm Beach Road in Nerul on Wednesday.

The 68-year-old Saini was former Intel India country head, credited with working on Intel 386 and Intel 486 microprocessors. He went on to lead the design of the Pentium processor.

The incident, coming less than a year since the death of runner Rajalakshmi Vijay on Worli seaface, is another reminder of how unfriendly roads are in Mumbai for cyclists, pedestrians and runners.

Saini, a resident of Chembur, was knocked down between Nerul junction and NRI Seawoods signal at 5.50 am. He was taken to D Y Patil Hospital, where he was declared brought dead. Members of an amateur cyclists group accompanying him said when the cab rammed into Saini's bicycle from behind, he skidded on road and sustained grievous injuries.

Due to the force of impact, the bicycle frame was wedged under the front wheels of the

cab. Its driver attempted to escape, dragging the bicycle under his wheels for a km. Passing motorists chased the cab and intercepted it near the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation headquarters at Belapur.

Satish Kadam, inspector of NRI coastal police, said, "The accused cab driver, Hrishikesh Khade, has been booked for rash and negligent driving causing death. He has not been arrested but served with a notice under provision of CrPc directing him to co-operate

in the probe and to remain present in court when a chargesheet is filed. Saini's body has been sent for postmortem."

Anwar Sayyed, a member of the cycling group, said Saini was an active member of Chembur Amateur Cycling group for 10 years. Praveen Prakash, another member, said Saini's wife died three years ago. He is survived by his son and daughter who live in US.

Gokul V Subramaniam, Intel India president, said on social media: "At Intel, we are saddened by the demise of former country manager & director Intel South Asia, Avtar Saini. Avtar played a key role in setting up Intel R&D center in India. He had an illustrious career at Intel from 1982 to 2004 during which he was instrumental in the design of several processors."

Technology analyst & editor of IndiaTechOnline Anand Parthasarathy told TOI: "Saini's contribution to development of Pentium processor was central to the timely commercial rollout of the chip. Together with Vinod Dham and Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Saini formed a unique threesome of Indians who contributed to Pentium."

Rapes, molestations unearthed at Guj nat'l law univ. 'Really scary,' says HC

Court Slams Registrar For Saying 'Nothing Happened', Orders Probe

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: Incidents of molestation, rape, homophobia and discrimination have been reported on the campus of Gujarat National Law University (GNLU) by a fact-finding committee that submitted its report to Gujarat HC last week. Terming the report "really scary", a bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agarwal and Justice Aniruddha Mayee on Wednesday blasted GNLU for the incidents and said the varsity's administration was involved in suppressing voice of students.

HC had taken suo motu cognisance of media reports following social media posts that a girl in GNLU was raped and a queer student was sexually harassed and formed the committee headed by former HC Judge Harsha Devani. Earlier, the ICC of the university and the registrar had brushed aside the allegations. "How come this university? And the registrar is filing an affidavit stating that 'nothing

There were not only two incidents of sexual harassment or rape, but there were cases of molestation, discrimination, homophobia, suppression of voices, as revealed in the report, HC said



A survivor stated that a politically influential person was involved in suppressing the case, HC said, adding that a social media post was forcefully removed due to intervention of registrar and warden of the girls' hostel

happened, close proceeding". He had the audacity to say this in court when it was seized with the matter. How will these people protect the children?" the CJ remarked. The bench said the report revealed there were not only two incidents of sexual harassment or rape as mentioned in social media posts, but there are incidents of molestation, rape, discrimination, homophobia, favouritism, suppression of voices, lack of existence of ICC, lack of info to students about ICC. In the light of the report, HC decided to form a high-

level investigation into GNLU's affairs by a competent authority that can also act against erring administrators and faculty, noting that there are allegations against the registrar, the director as well as against male members of the faculty. The report showed how faculty members and GNLU administration stonewalled inquiries on students' grievances. The judges criticised GNLU for treating students' grievances expressed on social media as an offence, "as if it would tarnish the university's image". "They adopted an

adversarial approach. That was the scariest part of this report. After parents, teachers in hostels or residential colleges play the role of parents... They are children. I am most concerned with law students. They are protectors of law. All these lectures, talks, seminars everything goes to rubbish. It has no meaning. If this is a state of affairs in a law college, we cannot show our faces to anyone. We are all responsible for the situation of this system," HC said. On the grievance of students about silencing their voices, HC said, "Categorical

statement is that a survivor stated that a politically influential person is involved in suppressing the case before police. The third (social media) post had been forcefully removed owing to the intervention of university registrar and warden of girls' hostel." The court cited the report as saying that members of earlier complaint committees behaved in a manner that prevented students from coming forward to report cases.

The judges further said that the report named the persons responsible for the suppression of students' voices, and allegations have been made against some of the male members of the faculty. The report, which the HC has kept in a sealed cover at least until further orders, also mentions how ICC members boasted about making the administration answerable, but they "have not tendered even an ounce of support".

For deciding on which authority should probe the case, the HC has posted further hearing on March 12.

ED raids 17 sites in several cities in Mahadev app case

Mumbai: ED on Wednesday froze demat accounts containing shares worth Rs 100 crore in a money laundering case related to Mahadev gaming app and seized around Rs 2 crore in cash in raids at 17 premises, reports Vijay V Singh.

The raids were carried out in Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata, and in Chhattisgarh and MP. ED raids focused mainly on associates of a key person from Mahadev group based in

Dubai who managed the betting business from there along with group promoters Saurabh Chandrakar and Ravi Uppal. ED sources declined to provide further details about this partner as the raids continued late on Wednesday.

Sources said the Dubai-based partner routed around Rs 800 crore overseas from India generated through online gaming-betting applications, through the hawala channel.

Rajiv killer freed in 2022 dies of cardiac arrest

Chennai: The second accused in Rajiv Gandhi assassination case, Santhan, alias T Suthendraraja, whose death sentence was commuted to life-term before his release in Nov 2022, died at Rajiv Gandhi Government Hospital on Wednesday.

Santhan (55) was diagnosed with cryptogenic cirrhosis, a liver condition with no known cause. Hospital dean Dr E Theranirajan said his condition was critical and he suffered cardiac arrest earlier on Wednesday. Santhan was a key operative, and was close to Rajiv assassination kingpin Sivarasam.

Santhan was arrested within weeks of the assassination and ended up spending 32 years in jail after being first sentenced to death along with 25 others. This was commuted to a life term in 2014 and he was prematurely released, along with six others, in Nov 2022. TNN

Vessel with 3,200kg of narcotics seized off Guj coast, 5 with suspected Pak links held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In the largest drugs haul on high seas in recent years, joint teams of Navy, Narcotics Control Bureau and Gujarat ATS seized a fishing vessel carrying over 3,200 kg of narcotics and arrested five crew members with suspected Pakistani links off the coast of Gujarat. Congratulating the teams for the 'grand success', home minister Amit Shah said the joint operation in making "the biggest offshore seizure of drugs" is a testament to Modi government's "unwavering commitment to making our nation drug-free".

NCB director general S N Pradhan said the cache could be estimated to be worth anything between Rs 1,300-2,000 crore in the international market. Navy, in turn, said the operation was significant not only in terms of the quantity and cost of seized contraband, but also underlined the collaborative efforts underway among different agencies to disrupt illegal nar-

WAR ON DRUGS

22 Feb 2024: 1,700kg of mephedrone worth ₹3,000cr seized from chemical unit in Pune's Daund taluka and shops in New Delhi's South Ex  
13 May 2023: Navy-NCB confiscated 2,500kg of drugs worth around ₹12,000cr from a large vessel near the Kerala coast. Pak national detained  
March 7, 2023: Coast Guard, Guj ATS seized Iranian boat with five Indian crew members allegedly carrying 61kg of heroin worth

₹425cr near Okha in Kutch  
Feb 12, 2022: Navy-NCB in High Seas seized around 529kg of very high-quality hashish, 234kg of crystal meth and some heroin  
Sept 21, 2021: In the largest heroin haul, DRI seized 3,000kg of heroin worth ₹21,000cr, believed to be from Afghanistan, from two containers at Guj's Mundra Port  
April 19, 2021: Navy seized narcotics worth ₹3,000cr from a fishing vessel in Arabian Sea

TIMES VIEW: Authorities must be commended for the massive seizure of narcotics. The worrying thing is that such activities are seldom one-off. Authorities must find out if smuggling of this nature is being carried out on a sustained basis and whether there's a need to scale up law enforcement.

officials said. NCB received information about an unregistered foreign fishing vessel which didn't have any automatic identification system installed on it. The tip suggested that the vessel would be coming to Indian waters with large quantity of narcotics. A naval P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft spotted the "suspicious boat" near the international maritime boundary line in the Arabian Sea.

Collision averted at Mum airport

Mumbai: An Air Astana aircraft from Kazakhstan was involved in a near-miss at Mumbai airport on Feb 22 when it entered an active runway just as an Air India plane was speeding for take-off. The cockpit crew of Air Astanaflight "erroneously" took a wrong turn. The AI A319 pilot spotted the plane & aborted take-off. DGCA has initiated an inquiry. TNN

4 held in UP cops' exam leak case

Lucknow: UP STF on Wednesday nabbed four persons involved in the paper leak of UP police recruitment exam. The four were identified as Bittu Yadav, Sanjay Gaud, Nataraj Prajapati and Jitendra Bharti. Probe revealed that Bittu got the paper from his associates on WhatsApp while the other accused arranged the candidates. TNN

U.P. COOPERATIVE SUGAR FACTORIES FEDERATION LTD. e-AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE SCRAP. Online e-Auction are invited for the sale of various types of Scrap on the basis of "As is where is" from Cooperative Sugar Mills of U.P.

O-2680 OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE. Identification No. - Online Tender - Road N.C.B. No. 86 for 2023-24. Letter No. 1172 /WE, Date: 26.02.2024

Patna Smart City Limited (PSC) NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR LABELLING OF SMART CITY PROJECTS, PATNA with O&M. 1. Patna Smart City Limited (PSC) invites bids from eligible experienced Firms/Contractors / Agencies / Bidders registered in appropriate category in any Government Organization/PSUs for execution of works as given below :-

कार्यालय- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता उत्तराखण्ड पावर कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड पुराना डीजल पावर हाउस, शीशमहल निकट: सेंट्रल स्कूल के सामने नैनीताल रोड, काटगोदाम, हल्द्वानी (नैनीताल), पिन नो: 263139 पत्रांक: 610/वि0 वि0म0 (ह0)/नि0सं0-विस्तार दिनांक: 28.02.2024, ई-निविदा विस्तार सूचना इस कार्यालय द्वारा पूर्व में प्रकाशित ई निविदा संख्या-92, 93, 94, 95, 96, एवं 97/2023-24, जिसकी ऑनलाइन/ ऑफलाइन खोलने की दिनांक 27.02.2024 निर्धारित की गयी थी। अपरिहार्य कारणों से उक्त निविदा को खोले जाने की तिथि दिनांक 12.03.2024 अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे निर्धारित की जाती है। निविदा को दिनांक 11.03.2024 के 17.00 बजे तक अपलोड किया जा सकता है। अन्य शर्तें अपरिवर्तनीय रहेंगी, निर्धारित तिथि को अवकाश होने की स्थिति में निविदायें अगले कार्य दिवस में खोली जायेंगी। कार्य की मंजू एवं शर्तें विभागीय वेबसाइट www.ukten.org पर देखी जा सकती है। "विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, हल्द्वानी।" सहायक निविदा संख्या-610/वि.वि.म.(ह.) दिनांक: 28.02.2024

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Open Tender Notice No. -NER-BSB0Snt-OT-07-2024. "Open Tenders" through Online (E-Tendering) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom)/Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and behalf of the President of India for the following works: SN : 1. Tender Notice No. and Description of work : 1. NER-BSB0Snt-OT-07-2024 : Name of work : Interlocking of 3 nos. LC gate & Reliability improvement of Mid Section LC gate (Total 11 No LC) & Replacement of Station section 32 nos. MLB gate to ELB gate in section of SR, DSTE-II/BSB of BSB Division. Details : Approx Value : Rs. 31990339.78 Earnest Money : Rs. 310000.00 Cost of Tender Form : Rs. 00.00 Completion period : 12 Months Tender closing date & Time : 18.03.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs. 1. Tender Online will be submitted up to 15 Hrs, on date 18.03.2024. 2. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the official website of Indian Railways i.e. www.reps.gov.in Div. Rly. Manager (S&T) CPRO/Signal-104 Varanasi Do Not Smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

Cong raised 'Pak zindabad' slogans in K'taka assembly, says BJP, slams Rahul, Kharge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Claiming that members of Congress raised "Pakistan zindabad" slogans to celebrate the victory of party's candidate Syed Naseer Hussain, BJP on Wednesday slammed the opposition party, saying the conduct of its members inside the Karnataka assembly complex on Tuesday evening was a reflection of the party's level of appeasement politics and the compromises it was making with national security for political reasons.

"It tells how low the appeasement politics of Congress has reached. At the same time, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, is going around, trying to fool people about this Bharat Nyay Yatra. This is the party that signs MoUs with China, this is the party that invites separatist people in conferences in Bengaluru," Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on a day Karnataka Police launched a probe into alleged pro-Pak sloganeering and CM Siddaramaiah announced that he had asked for the relevant footage to be sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory.

Union Minister Prahlad Joshi debunked Naseer Hussain's defence of his supporters and his claim that nobody had raised the offensive slogan. He demanded action against those allegedly involved and threatened a statewide agitation if they were let off. "Instead of condemning this, Naseer Hussain is trying to mislead and say that somebody is spreading false news, which is more dangerous. Congress, when it is in power, used to hobnob with Pakistan. Now they are directly supporting Pakistan. So I ask Rahul Gandhi as to what is his take on this," Joshi said as he sought to corner Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge who recently appointed Hussain as one of the co-ordinators in his office.

"I asked Mallikarjun Kharge what is his take on this? Because Naseer Hussain is the 'shishya' of Kharge. Let them clarify, let them condemn it. I also urge the home

Sidda: Will take action if charges are proved

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah said on Wednesday that strict action would be taken against people responsible for allegedly raising "Pakistan zindabad" slogans within the Vidhana Soudha premises after a probe to determine the veracity of the accusation. "We've

forwarded the voice report to Forensic Science Laboratory. If it substantiates the claim that slogans were raised in favour of Pakistan, decisive action will be taken accordingly. There will be no leniency towards individuals involved in chanting slogans supportive of Pakistan," the CM said.

Home minister G Parameshwara emphasised that video clips aired on multiple channels would be collected and examined. "We are treating this matter with utmost seriousness. Any slogan deemed anti-national will not be condoned. An FIR was filed yesterday. Upon identification of the individual through FSL report, appropriate action will be initiated," Parameshwara said.

On Wednesday, Karnataka BJP launched protests across the state to denounce the incident. Congress rejected BJP's claims, asserting its workers were merely chanting slogans in support of Nasir Hussain (who won his Rajya Sabha election on Tuesday), and not as alleged by BJP.

Rural Development & Panchayat Raj minister Priyank Kharge dismissed BJP's assertion, stating, "It is evident in the audio that they cheered for Nasir Hussain and chanted 'Syed Sahab Zindabad'. The party conducted an audio-forensic analysis, which revealed no such slogans were raised. This appears to be a desperate attempt by BJP to gain ground." TNN

minister of Karnataka to take note of the seriousness of this and take stringent action on this. Otherwise, BJP will definitely go on agitation throughout Karnataka," he added.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C. Whereas complaint has been made before this court that accused Krishan Pal S/o Veer Pal R/o H.No.217, Durga Mandir Gali, Kondli Also at Near Kalawati Hospital, Gali No.5 Patri Par Dukan, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in e-FIR No. 000046/2020 U/s 379/411 IPC P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Krishan Pal cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Krishan Pal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Krishan Pal of e-FIR No.000046/2020 U/s 379/411 IPC, P.S.Sadar Bazar, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 18.05.2024.

By Order Sh. Gaurav Goyal Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate Central District, Room No-247 Tis Hazari, Court, Delhi DP/2438/N/2024

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001) Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813 Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact number 96461 47777) TENDER ENQUIRY NO TSQ-1147 / RDSS Dy. CE/TL (Design), PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for 7 Nos. Packages under RDSS on Full Turnkey Basis work related to 66kV Sub-Stations and 66kV transmission lines, as per PSPCL Specification No. TSQ-1147 / RDSS. For detailed NIT and Bidding Document, please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 28.02.2024 (11.00 AM onwards). Note : Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in C/17024, DPP/PE : 76155/12/2763/2023/32974

TAMIL NADU WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE BOARD INVITATION OF BIDS - TWO COVER - ITEMWAR TENDER (e-Submission) IFB No. : 24 / TPIA / DO1 / CE / VLR / 2023 / DO: 22.02.2024 Eligibility Bidders dealing Third Party Inspection Tender Invitee The Chief Engineer, TWAD Board, No. 1, East Main Road, Gandhi Nagar, Vellore - 632 006. Downloading Period 01.03.2024 to 16.03.2024 upto 15:00 hours. EMD Payable Online Mode through E-Tendering Website https://tntenders.gov.in Pre Bid meeting 07.03.2024 at 11.00 hours at the office of the Tender Invitee Bid Submission 16.03.2024 before 15:00 hours duly Digitally signed encrypted Tenders through E-Tendering Website https://tntenders.gov.in Bid opening 18.03.2024 at 15:30 hours through E-Tender Portal



Madhya Pradesh

# 60 DAYS - PROFOUND IMPACT

## 'MODI KI GUARANTEE' FOR A PROSPEROUS MADHYA PRADESH

UNDER PM NARENDRA MODI'S LEADERSHIP, MADHYA PRADESH IS POISED FOR HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT. FROM SUPPORTING FARMERS WITH FAIR PRICES TO ENHANCING HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE, HE ENVISIONS A PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR ALL



Dr. Mohan Yadav  
CM, Madhya Pradesh

Narendra Modi,  
Prime Minister

The Madhya Pradesh government's extensive welfare measures encompass various sectors, including agriculture, education, tribal welfare, and infrastructure. Farmers in the state will benefit from support prices for wheat and rice, along with continued financial aid through the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana. Tribal communities will benefit from substantial investments in health, education, and social empowerment. Education initiatives include free schooling and nutritious meals, along with the establishment of new educational institutions. The government aims to boost industrial development, improve healthcare, and enhance basic infrastructure. These efforts reflect a comprehensive approach to uplift various sections of society and drive overall development in the state.

### SUPPORT FOR FARMERS

- ◆ The government has guaranteed support prices for wheat at Rs 2700 per quintal and rice at Rs 3100 per quintal
- ◆ Annual financial assistance of Rs 12,000 will continue under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi and Mukhyamantri Kisan Kalyan Yojana

### EMPOWERMENT OF TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

- ◆ Over the next 5 years, Rs 3 lakh crore will be spent on health, education, and social empowerment of tribal communities
- ◆ The collection rate for tendu leaves will be Rs 4,000 per standard bag
- ◆ Each ST block will have an Eklavya Model Residential School
- ◆ Medical colleges will be constructed in ST-majority districts like Mandla, Khargone, Dhar, Balaghat and Sidhi
- ◆ A Rs 100 crore investment will be made in expanding and modernizing worship sites under the Tribal Shradha Sthal Conservation Mission

### EDUCATION AND SKILLED YOUTH

- ◆ Students from poor families will receive free education from classes one to twelve, along with an annual assistance of Rs 1200 for school bags, books and uniforms
- ◆ Nutritious breakfast will be provided to all students in government schools
- ◆ Each division will have a Madhya Pradesh Institute of Technology
- ◆ Every family will be provided with at least one

- ◆ employment or self-employment opportunity
- ◆ Youth will receive stipends of up to Rs 10,000 under the Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao Yojana
- ◆ A sports complex will be constructed in each district

### DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL

- ◆ The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana will be extended for 5 years, providing free rations to all poor families
- ◆ No family in the state will be homeless with the initiation of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Mukhyamantri Jan Awas Yojana
- ◆ Senior and disabled citizens will receive a monthly pension of Rs 1500
- ◆ The Gig Workers Welfare Board will be established
- ◆ 18 traditional artisan groups will receive financial assistance of Rs 15,000 under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana
- ◆ 100% registration will be ensured for unorganised workers on the e-Shram portal and under Ayushman Bharat

### STRENGTHENING BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE

- ◆ Development boards will be formed for Bundelkhand, Vindhya, and Mahakoushal regions
- ◆ All households will receive 100 units of electricity for Rs 100 under the Atal Grih Jyoti Yojana
- ◆ Construction of 6 new expressways, including Vindhya Expressway, Narmada Path, Atal Progress Path, Malwa-Nimar Path, Bundelkhand Path and Madhya Bharat Vikas Path
- ◆ World-class modernisation of 80 railway stations, construction of Vande Metro and Vande Bharat sleeper trains, and airports in Rewa, Singrauli, and Shahdol
- ◆ Metro lines will be constructed in Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, and Jabalpur

### HEALTH FOR ALL

- ◆ The state government will bear the expenses for Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries exceeding Rs 5 lakh
- ◆ The number of beds will be doubled in medical colleges like the Madhya Pradesh Institute of Medical Sciences, Atal Medical College, and ICU beds
- ◆ Medical colleges will be established in each Lok



- ◆ Sabha constituency to increase seats by 2,000 in the next five years
- ◆ Nursing colleges will be established in each district

### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ The government aims to bring Madhya Pradesh's economy into the top 3 in the country with a Rs 45 lakh crore investment in the next 7 years
- ◆ Per capita income in the state will be doubled
- ◆ Aim to attract investment of Rs 20 lakh crore (FDI)
- ◆ Construction of industrial corridors near expressways, providing employment and self-employment opportunities to over 4 lakh youth
- ◆ Establishing 10 new MSME clusters with an investment of Rs 5,000 crore

### GOOD GOVERNANCE

- ◆ Implementation of the Police Commissioner system in Jabalpur and Gwalior after Bhopal and Indore
- ◆ Construction of a new campus for the National Defence University in Bhopal

### FOR WOMEN

- ◆ Girls from all BPL families will benefit from free education from KG to PG
- ◆ Women under the PM Ujjwala Yojana will receive

- ◆ cylinders for Rs 450
- ◆ Skill training will be provided to over 15 lakh rural women under the Lakshmi Yojana
- ◆ Economic assistance and housing benefits will be provided to over 1.3 crore women
- ◆ Girls from BPL families will receive a total of Rs 2 lakh from birth to 21 years

### PROMOTION OF CULTURE, HERITAGE AND TOURISM

- ◆ Construction of the memorial for Shri Ravidas Ji and initiation of the Heritage Conservation Mission with an investment of Rs 150 crore
- ◆ Establishment of the Bagheli, Bundeli, Gondi and Bhili Literature Academies
- ◆ Construction of grand memorials for all tribal heroes and the renovation of forts like Chaugan Fort, Devgarh Fort, Mandla Fort, Chauragadh Fort and Madan Mohan Fort
- ◆ Beautification and renovation of ghats of sacred rivers like Narmada, Tapti and Shipra under the Namami Narmada project
- ◆ Investment of Rs 7,500 crore for training, employment and self-employment opportunities for two lakh youth in the cooperative sector



## SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVANCEMENTS

MADHYA PRADESH'S NEW GOVERNMENT, IN A TWO-MONTH STINT, HAS PRIORITISED THE STATE'S SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL TOURISM. WITH A FOCUS ON PM NARENDRA MODI'S CULTURAL VISION, THE STATE IS STEPPING UP EFFORTS FOR PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT



The newly formed government in Madhya Pradesh has set its sights on advancing the state's cultural and environmental landscape. In just two months, the government has placed special emphasis on the development of spiritual and cultural tourism, aligning with PM Narendra Modi's vision for cultural enrichment.

One of the key initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Tourism of the Government of India is the 'Swadesh Darshan Yojana', which aims to develop theme-based tourist circuits. The approval of 76 projects under this scheme, including tourism destinations like Gwalior and Chitrakoot, is a significant step towards boosting tourism in the state.

### INTEREST-FREE LOANS FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The government's focus on tourism development is further highlighted by its introduction of interest-free loans for tourism development. This move is in line with PM Narendra Modi's acknowledgment of the vast potential of tourism in India, especially in terms of providing employment opportunities.

### DEVELOPMENT OF CHITRAKOOT ON THE LINES OF AYODHYA

Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav has also announced plans to develop Chitrakoot on the lines of Ayodhya, with a focus on the development of all major places along the Ram Van Path pilgrimage route. This comprehensive plan includes not only infrastructural development but also initiatives to raise religious awareness,

The newly formed government in Madhya Pradesh has placed special emphasis on the development of spiritual and cultural tourism during its brief two-month tenure. This focus aligns with PM Narendra Modi's vision for cultural enrichment, with the state aiming to preserve and protect its cultural, spiritual, and ancient heritage

promote spiritual development, and celebrate the Ramayana.

### RAM VAN PATH PILGRIMAGE ROUTE WILL BECOME THE CENTER OF CULTURAL TOURISM

The state government's commitment to cultural tourism is evident in its decision to develop the Ram Van Gaman Path route into a major hub for cultural tourism. This 1450-kilometer route, once developed, is expected to not only attract tourists but also create employment opportunities in the surrounding areas.

### GRAND CELEBRATION OF VIKRAMOTSAV 2024

In a bid to further promote tourism, the government has announced Vikramotsav 2024, a grand celebration planned in Ujjain. This event, scheduled for Mahashivratri to Gudi Padwa, will feature a widespread fair, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Madhya Pradesh. These initiatives, under the guidance of Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav, are expected to accelerate the state's development while preserving its religious and cultural heritage.

## Precepts of Ram Rajya defines Madhya Pradesh's Path to Progress

UNDER CHIEF MINISTER DR MOHAN YADAV'S LEADERSHIP, MADHYA PRADESH IS STRIVING TO REALISE THE IDEALS OF RAM RAJYA, FOCUSING ON GOOD GOVERNANCE, SOCIAL WELFARE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Madhya Pradesh, a state steeped in history and culture, is now setting its sights on a new chapter of progress under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Dr. Mohan Yadav. With a firm commitment to the principles of Ram Rajya, the state government is embarking on a transformative journey towards holistic governance and inclusive development.

Ram Rajya, as envisioned in Indian mythology, represents an era of ideal governance, characterised by justice, prosperity, and harmony. Drawing inspiration from this concept, Chief Minister Dr. Yadav has launched a series of initiatives aimed at uplifting the lives of millions of people across the state. His vision is clear: to build a society where every individual, regardless of their background, can thrive and prosper.

One of the key pillars of the government's approach is the focus on social welfare and inclusive development. In a short span of 60 days, Dr Mohan Yadav led MP government has taken several decisions aimed at improving the lives of the people. These decisions, ranging from healthcare to agriculture, reflect the government's commitment to the welfare of all sections of society.



MADHYA PRADESH'S JOURNEY TOWARDS RAM RAJYA UNDER CHIEF MINISTER DR. MOHAN YADAV'S LEADERSHIP REPRESENTS A BOLD STEP TOWARDS TRANSFORMATIVE GOVERNANCE AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT. AS THE STATE PROGRESSES ON THIS PATH, IT HOLDS THE PROMISE OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS

For instance, the government has initiated the establishment of medical institutes on the lines of AIIMS in every division, aimed at improving healthcare services and ensuring better access to quality healthcare for all. Additionally, the launch of the Dal Mission in Madhya Pradesh and efforts to increase the area under horticulture are steps in the direction of enhancing agricultural productivity and farmers' income.

The government's efforts also extend to promoting cultural and spiritual tourism in the state. Recognising the significance of places associated with Lord Shri Ram and Lord Shri Krishna, the government has undertaken initiatives to develop these sites as pilgrimage destinations. This not only promotes tourism but also preserves and promotes the rich cultural heritage of the state.

The government's commitment to good governance and development is also reflected in its efforts to preserve and promote the state's cultural heritage. Initiatives such as the establishment of the Bharat Veer Sangrahalaya (India's Bravehearts Museum) aim to immortalise the memories of the state's brave warriors and inspire future generations.





## Manipur police commandos hold 'arms down protest' over attack on addl SP

Prabin Kalita | TNN

**₹800cr tax loss risk due to unrest, says CM**

Manipur CM Niren Singh on Wednesday presented a vote-on-account, putting on hold a full budget until the Union budget is passed later this year, even as he admitted in his speech that the state faces risk of tax loss to the tune of Rs 800 crore during the current year due to the unrest in the state, reports **Prabin Kalita**. This was decided for better coordination with the Centre as the state's fiscal capacity remains hit by the continuing strife.

Additional forces were promptly deployed, resulting in crossfire where civilians Rabinash Moirangthem (24) and Kangjam Bhimsen (20) suffered bullet wounds. "A case has been registered, and the investigation has started," police said.

CM Niren Singh visited the wounded officer at the private hospital on Wednesday.

Commandos from Imphal West, Thoubal, Kakching, and Bishnupur districts participated in the protest, urging authorities to take decisive action against the attackers. Senior police officers held discussions with the protesters at their

respective bases.

"Around 200 armed miscreants came in vehicles and attacked the residence of Imphal West district additional SP Moirangthem Amit Singh. He and one of his escorts were abducted by the miscreants. They were later rescued and admitted to Raj Medicity for treatment," said a senior police officer.

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Additional forces were promptly deployed, resulting in crossfire where civilians Rabinash Moirangthem (24) and Kangjam Bhimsen (20) suffered bullet wounds. "A case has been registered, and the investigation has started," police said.

CM Niren Singh visited the wounded officer at the private hospital on Wednesday.

Commandos from Imphal West, Thoubal, Kakching, and Bishnupur districts participated in the protest, urging authorities to take decisive action against the attackers. Senior police officers held discussions with the protesters at their

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## India, US review steps to boost fight against terror, drugs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Indo-US homeland security dialogue held here on Wednesday saw both sides reviewing the ongoing cooperation in counter-terrorism and security domains, particularly bolstering of bilateral efforts to combat violent extremism, drug trafficking, organised crime and ensure transportation security.

While the Indian side was led by home secretary Ajay Bhalla, the visiting US delegation was headed by Kristie Canegallo, acting deputy secretary with the US department of homeland security.

Reaffirming their commitment to promoting vibrant people-to-people ties between India and the US, the two sides discussed steps to enable safe and legal migration; counter illegal immigration, human trafficking, money laundering and cyber crimes; and also prevent misuse of the cyber domain for illegal activities including terror financing.

During the discussion on measures to combat violent extremism, the issue of attacks on the Indian consulate in San Francisco last year is believed to have come up. NIA is probing the twin attacks, even as US agencies like FBI "aggressively investigate the incidents" at their end. The dialogue concluded with the signing of a memorandum of cooperation to facilitate exchange of law enforcement training between US federal law enforcement centre and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy here.

## 'Attack on Indian facilities or diplomats is criminal offence'

In an exclusive interview to TOI's Sachin Parashar, US acting deputy secretary of homeland security, Kristie Canegallo, addresses some of India's concerns related to terror, Khalistan separatist activities on US soil and visas. She, however, steered clear of the murder-for-hire plot, saying it was for justice department to comment, but added that accountability is expected once the Indian probe is complete. Excerpts:

Talk to us about the focus in your talks with Indian authorities and ongoing efforts to deal with issues like counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics and security of global supply chains.

It was a great opportunity for us to talk about a wide range of issues where we have strong and long partnerships, like cooperation on counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, cyber security and cyber crime, irregular migration and so our conversation today was about taking stock of where we were on each of these issues and identifying opportunities to deepen the partnerships. You mention counter-narcotics and that's a great example. So, we have a counter-narcotics working group which we are intensifying efforts around.

What action is the US taking against threats issued by Khalistan separatists, who are US nationals, against Indians and Indian diplomatic facilities?

Well, the safety and security of any diplomat in the US is a top priority for us and that certainly is true for Indian diplomats as well. Violence against diplomatic facilities or diplomats...those are criminal offences and we take those incredibly seriously. The department of justice and others are investigating these matters.



What we are focused on today was areas of our bilateral relationship where we have had strong collaboration, where there's additional important work to be done and certainly we expect that to continue

tigating these matters.

Will those responsible for the attack on the Indian consulate in San Francisco be brought to justice?

I'd refer to the department of justice on any investigative matter but I know they are engaged actively with local authorities in San Francisco and the govt of India and others.

TOI INTERVIEW

US has been pushing India to act against those who masterminded the murder-for-hire plot against a Khalistan leader, including an Indian official. How has been the Indian response so far and did you raise the issue in your meetings?

That really is a department of justice issue and so that was not something I engaged on today. I know that the Biden administration has raised this at quite senior levels and govt of India has indicated they are taking it seriously and has this investigation inquiry. You'll expect there to be accountability when that inquiry is complete.

Is there a chance that not addressing this issue properly could affect other areas of security cooperation?

I really can't comment on that. What we are focused on today was areas of our bilateral relationship where we have had strong collaboration, where there's additional important work to be done and certainly we expect that to continue.

India is seeking easier visa access through inclusion in the list of countries whose citizens are eligible for categories like H-2A, H-2B and E-1 and E-2. Is the US considering it?

Indian nationals make vital contributions to the US economy through their work and, further, they make vital cultural contributions to the

strength of our people to people ties. So, we are always looking for ways to ensure Indian nationals can avail of safe and orderly pathways, safe and orderly migration. It's something we are always looking at.

More specifically, what are you doing to address some of India's concerns on terrorism, given the continued activities in India's neighbourhood of terrorists, some of whom are yet to be designated by the UN because of opposition from China?

The homeland security dialogue was originally started under President Obama. One of the reasons it was started was to focus on counter-terrorism issues, and to make sure our information sharing apparatus was robust, dynamic and to keep pace with the dynamism that is inherent in the counterterrorism landscape. With respect to groups which have had a long history of terrorist activities, or some of the newer threats we are seeing like the increased threat from lone actors who might be radicalised to violence. We are engaging regularly with our Indian counterparts to make sure we are sharing information where individuals are concerned, or groups are concerned, so that we can act accordingly.

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**NOTICES**

**THE NATIONAL SPORTS CLUB OF INDIA**  
Regd. Off: Mathura Road, New Delhi-110 011  
Mumbai Office: Lala Lajpat Rai Marg, Mumbai 400 018.

**NOTICE OF ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

In accordance with Rules and Regulations of the Club, Notice is hereby given to members of the National Sports Club of India who are eligible and entitled to vote and to attend the General Body Meeting of the Club that an Ordinary General meeting will be held in the premises of the National Sports Club of India, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110 001, on Saturday the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024, at 4.00 PM, to announce the names of members elected to Central Council as a result of the ballot.

**ELECTION SCHEDULE AND INSTRUCTIONS**

- Elections will be held for 06 seats of the Central Council of Delhi Region and 06 seats of Mumbai Region which will be held on the date.
- Nomination forms duly filled in with two recent photographs and seconded as provided under the rules must reach the C.E.O., National Sports Club of India, Delhi and Mumbai respectively on or before 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The Nomination forms will be issued by the respective regions from the Reception Desk from Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024, from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.
- Scrutiny of Nominations to be held on Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at Delhi and Mumbai.
- The list of valid nominations will be displayed on the Notice Boards of the respective regions on Thursday the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- Last date for withdrawal of the nomination is upto 5.00 p.m. on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024.
- C.D.'s containing members details will be made available from Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2024, only to candidates standing for election on payment of Rs.500/- per C.D.
- In case of valid nominations exceed the number of vacant seats of any region, polling will be simultaneously held at Delhi Club House and Mumbai Club House on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2024, from 7.30 a.m. to 7.30 p.m. respectively. The voting will be conducted through e-voting managed by NSCL.
- Members are required to bring their membership card or election card or Passport or any Government issued photo identity Card to personally cast their votes at either of the Club Houses at Delhi or Mumbai on aforesaid date.
- The Nomination forms priced at Rs.5,000/- per form, will be issued by the respective regions from the Reception Desk from 29<sup>th</sup> March 2024, from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.
- Only those Members who have cleared their Club dues as on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023, will be eligible to stand for Election to the Central Council as well as to sign Nomination Forms of candidates as Proposer or Secondor and to vote at the Elections.
- No guests are allowed in Club premises during Elections.
- The results of voting held both at Delhi & Mumbai will be displayed on the Notice Boards immediately after completion of the Elections both at Delhi & Mumbai on 7<sup>th</sup> April, 2024.

Signed for and on behalf of the Executive Committee of NSCI

Sd/-  
Dilip Burad  
Hony. Secretary General

NEW DELHI  
Date: 24<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**TENDERS**

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RFP NOTICE

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E-Bids invited towards "Appointment of Design & Project Management Consultant" for the construction of our new Integrated Warehouse & Logistics Zone at Noida International Airport.

Bidders are invited to participate in the above-mentioned RFP. To download the RFP & for more details, please visit <https://www.aisats.in/tenders>

Last date of bid submission is 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2024, before 1700 Hrs.

**"E-AUCTION DIPLOMATIC VEHICLE WORLD BANK"**

\*\*E-Auction of TOYOTA CAMRY (PETROL) 2.5 SEATER, EURO IV (2015) AMT, Petrol, 2494CC, Km done 73856 Approx. White Pearl Mica Shine, Condition Fair, will be held on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 11:30 am onwards on "As is where is basis". Inspection at the World Bank, 70 Lodhi Estate New Delhi, on 2nd March-2024 between 11:00 am to 1:00 pm subject to security deposit of Rs. 50,000/- Per Vehicle, before E-Auction, by NEFT in favour Accurate Auctioneers. The vehicles will be sold on "As is where is basis". The buyer will have to make arrangements for insurance and registration of vehicles at his own cost in Delhi first.

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## Two factions of Muslim Conference J&K banned for 5 years over terror links

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday declared two separate factions of Muslim Conference J&K led by Haji Ghulam Nabi Sumji and Masrat Alam Bhat as 'unlawful associations' over their terror linkages, separatist agenda, raising funds from sources including Pakistan for unlawful activities in J&K including sustained stone-pelting and giving election boycott calls.

Announcing the five-year ban on the two outfits under Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, home minister Amit Shah posted on X: "Striking terror networks with undiminished

**O-2683**  
Tel: 06766-258301(O)  
email: se\_nerwjkj@rediffmail.com

**GOVT. OF ODISHA**  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER  
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE: KEONJHAR

Procurement Notice for Road Work under MMSY-TRIP  
Identification No. Road Under NCB No. 425  
No. 1014 / Date: 26.02.2024 /

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/S.E.N.E.R.W. Circle, Keonjhar	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar, No. 425	Road Online NCB No. 425	DL 04.03.24 at 11.00 A.M.	DL 18.03.24 at 5.00 P.M.	DL 16.03.24 at 5.00 P.M.	DL 19.03.24 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website: [www.tendersorsisa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorsisa.gov.in).

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer  
R.W. Circle, Keonjhar  
OIPR - 25177/11/0070/23-24

**O-2687**  
Tel: 06670-23594  
E-Mail: [serwbpt@yahoo.com](mailto:serwbpt@yahoo.com)

**GOVT. OF ODISHA**  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER  
RURAL WORKS, CIRCLE, BHAWANIPATNA

Bid Identification No.: BPT/Online-53/2023-24 Date- 27.02.2024  
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR ROAD & BRIDGE WORKS IN ODISHA  
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work	Construction of NH-353 to Bhalumunda to Tukla via Chnutmal and Sindhibahal Road in the district of Nuapada under MMSY-TRIP for the year 2023-24.
2. No. of Works	01 No.
3. Location details	Nuapada District
4. Estimated Cost	As per NIT.
5. Period of Completion	As per NIT.
6. Cost of tender paper	Rs. 10,000/- per set.
7. Other details:	

Availability of tender for online bidding	Last date & time for seeking tender clarification	Date and time of opening of technical bid
From	To	
04.03.2024 11.00 A.M.	20.03.2024 5.00 P.M.	19.03.2024
		21.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website "www.tendersorsisa.gov.in"

Sd/-  
Chief Construction Engineer  
Rural Works Circle, Bhowanipatna  
OIPR-25102/11/0072/23-24

**A-1611**

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER  
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN  
AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSI, DIST.-MAYURBHANJ  
Mail Id. [cebmsb2019@gmail.com](mailto:cebmsb2019@gmail.com)  
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE  
Bid Identification No. 53/ 23-24 OF CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

1 Name of Work	A. Protection Embankment of Ghudabalanga River Village Gabagan Shakantulpura, Tentulpura, Ghudisan, Puruna Balasore and Panjibag. B. Stone Pitching near village Totapada, Jaleswar (Totapada to Kuanpur and Beharasaah) C. Strengthening of River Embankment of Subarnarekha River, Baiapal.
2 Estimated Cost	A. Rs. 839.10 Lakh B. Rs. 835.76 Lakh C. Rs. 833.29 Lakh
3 Bid Security/ E.M.D.	A. Rs. 8.39,200/- B. Rs. 8.35,800/- C. Rs. 8.33,300/-
4 Period of Completion	For Sl. No. A, B & C- 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
5 Class of Contractor	For Sl. No. A, B & C- "A" Class and "Special" Class
6 Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	02.03.2024 at 10.00 A.M.
7 Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	27.03.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.
8 Date of opening of bid	28.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
9 Name & Address of the O.I.T	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/O the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager  
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin



# SC ruling on state minerals tax could impact govt oil cos

## Dues From Crude Extraction Over ₹4,500Cr, Assam Tells Court

Dhananjay Mahapatra  
@timesgroup.com



While western and eastern offshore facilities account for 50% of crude production, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Assam account for nearly the rest

**New Delhi:** Decision of Supreme Court's nine-judge Constitution bench on states' legislative competence to levy tax on mineral-producing land could impact central oil companies, as Assam, one of the three major inland crude and natural gas producing states, has told court that state tax due from crude extraction runs to more than Rs 4,500 crore till July 31, 2022.

Prior to commencement of hearing before a bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices Hrishikesh Roy, A S Oka, B V Nagarathna, J B Paridwala, Manoj Misra, Ujjal Bhuyan, Satish C Mishra and Augustine G Masih, Assam govt had tendered a statement indicating dues both towards tax and interest under Assam Taxation (On Specified Lands) Act 1990 as amended in 2004.

Assam had said that the principal tax amount between Aug 2007 and March 2022 was Rs 1,454 crore and interest, computed at the rate of 2% per month, stood at Rs 3,068 crore. The total outstanding payable to state by

oil companies was Rs 4,522 crore as on July 31, 2022.

While western and eastern offshore facilities account for nearly 50% of India's crude production, three states — Rajasthan, Gujarat and Assam — account for almost all of the balance.

Appearing for Odisha and Jharkhand, latter having a demand of Rs 10,558 crore as tax on mineral bearing land, senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi with advocate Sansriti Pathak told the bench that Entry 49 of List II empowered states to levy tax on lands and buildings, subject to provisions of Entry 50 in List II, which enabled Parliament to impose limitations on taxes on mineral rights.

Dwivedi said PM Narendra Modi's pet slogan of "double-engine govt" must translate to fiscally empower states under the federal scheme of governance mandated by the Constitution. Solicitor general Tushar Mehta said, "The Constitution provides for two Lists, one for Parliament to legislate and the other for Assemblies, clear evidence of cooperative federalism. The Centre is tasked to ensure overall development of the country, irrespective of how minerally enriched or poor a state is."

CJI Chandrachud said Goods and Services Tax (GST) has taken cooperative federalism to a different level. "But it is the duty of court

to ensure that states' taxation power is not whittled down even though in our federal scheme of governance, power balance leans slightly towards the Centre," he said.

Dwivedi said imposition of tax on mineral-bearing land may increase price of minerals but that is no ground to deny states their right to legitimately exercise powers conferred upon them by the Constitution under the federal structure.

For a special area development authority in UP, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria argued that Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act is a legislation only to provide for "development and regulation of mines and minerals" and does not deal with taxation. Hence, states were free to levy tax on mineral bearing land.

Appearing for Andhra Pradesh, senior advocate S Niranjan Reddy said the Union's power to impose limitations on state's power to tax mineral bearing land cannot be construed to mean that only the central govt had power to levy cess on mineral rights. The arguments will continue on Thursday.

# Uniform levy of royalty levels playing field: Centre

Continued from P1

For example, if additional cess is levied on coal by one of the major producing states (78% of coal resources are concentrated in Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh & Bengal), all states who purchase coal from such state would be forced to increase power tariff (55% of India's commercial energy production is coal reliant and 68% of coal produced is used for generation of electricity), which will directly impact inflation, "ministry of mines said.

It gave a detailed spread of important mineral reserves: iron ore reserves in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha (accounts for more than 50% of production annually), and Karnataka; 82% of manganese ore are found in Karnataka, Odisha (these two states accounting for 59% of total mineral reserve), Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra; 73% of bauxite concentrated in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh; 96% of chromite resources in Odisha; and, 84% of tungsten reserves are concentrated in Karnataka, Rajasthan & AP.

The ministry said, "To drive development across the nation in a streamlined and equitable manner, availability of mineral-based raw materials (including iron ore and steel) across the country at competitive prices is essential, which involves legislative addressing the effects of concentration of mineral resources in a few states."

"Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, was enacted by Parliament in public interest to place regulation and development of major minerals within Union's control. Under MMRDA, Union has the power coupled with the duty to advance the national public interest by ensuring harmonised mineral development (and consequent economic development) across the nation, rather than creating localised pockets of mineral resource driven growth," it said.

A non-harmonised fiscal regime, varying from state to state, would force states not richly endowed with mineral wealth to procure raw material at higher prices from mineral-rich states which will put the latter category of states at

significant economic advantage that would come at the cost of national interest in maximising economic development for all from the nation's mineral wealth, it said.

"A uniform levy of royalty prescribed by the Union under MMRDA levels the playing field, thereby promoting domestic industry across the nation in a manner which is equitable, while at the same time ensuring revenue generation for the states," the ministry said.

It said the royalty is fixed keeping in view international price of minerals so as to keep the cost of these and the finished product using such minerals competitive in the international market to boost exports and shrink trade deficit.

"Ensuring that the power to impose fiscal levies on minerals is reserved for the central government is therefore fundamental to ensuring rapid and flexible responses at national level to international developments in the mineral markets. This national imperative cannot be permitted to be stultified or distorted by an overlay of state levies," the Centre said.

## Cops, CBI, ED... any agency can arrest Shahjahan: HC

**Kolkata:** Calcutta HC on Wednesday said an elected public representative could not be permitted to evade law and it would be open to any agency — state police, CBI or ED — to arrest Sheikh Shahjahan, accused in Sandeshkhali case, reports Subrata Chatteraj.

HC reiterated that its Feb 7 order only stayed formation of a CBI-state police joint special investigation team (SIT) and should not be interpreted "to be an impediment to arrest Shahjahan".

A division bench of Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam and Justice Hiranmay Bhattacharya did not agree with state advocate general Kishore Datta's argument that HC's Feb 7 order staying investigations in Jan 5 FIRs prevented state po-

## Mamata trashes Nandigram parallel

**B**engal CM Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday rubbished parallels which are being drawn between unrest in Sandeshkhali on the one hand and Singur and Nandigram on the other, reports Falguni Banerjee & Debasish Konar. "Singur is Singur and Nandigram is Nandigram," she said in Bankura's Khatra, adding that BJP is trying to "instigate violence everywhere by comparing one to another".

lice from arresting Shahjahan. HC said there were old cases against Shahjahan in which he had not only been chargesheeted by police as an accused but shown to be absconding.

"The state police cannot shirk its responsibility in not apprehending a person who has been on the run for more than 25 days," CJ said, adding, "A person who has been elected to public office cannot defy law and, therefore, we leave it open to any one of the agencies to arrest him."

Appearing for ED, additional solicitor general SV Raju said they were opposed to a state police role in the Sandeshkhali probe. AG Datta strongly opposed this submission. HC will take up the hearing again on Monday. TNN

# DMK ad shows rocket with China flag; insult to our scientists: PM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



PM Modi with BJP's TN chief K Annamalai on Wednesday

**Chennai:** PM Narendra Modi accused Tamil Nadu's governing party DMK on Wednesday of neglecting India's achievements in the space sector after an advertisement placed by a state minister in a local newspaper showed a rocket with a Chinese flag on its nose cone.

"DMK is a party that doesn't do much work, but is always ready to take false credit. We all know that DMK tries to take credit for our schemes. This time, they've crossed all limits," he said, addressing a public gathering in Tirunelveli.

His remarks followed his participation in the founda-

tion stone-laying ceremony for a new space vehicle launch complex at Kulasekara Pattinam in Tuticorin district. "DMK's advertisement today is hilarious. They have insulted Indian science and Indian space sector, for which they must apologise," the PM tweeted later.

State fisheries minister Anitha Radhakrishnan, who represents Tiruchendur constituency where the space complex is coming up, had placed the advertisement on the event. It showed images of Modi and CM MK Stalin against a backdrop of rockets. One of the rockets prominently displayed a Chinese flag, while others featured Chinese lettering. Radhakrishnan could not be reached for comment.

DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi attributed the mistake to artist responsible for artwork. She also referenced Modi's 2019 meeting with Chinese premier Xi Jinping in Mahabalipuram. "And, moreover, China was not declared our enemy," she said.

# Jolt to Muslim side in Teele Wali Masjid case

Ravi Singh Sisodiya | TNN

**Lucknow:** A district court in Lucknow rejected on Wednesday a revision petition filed by the Muslim side against a civil judge order whereby he had decided, on Sep 6, 2023, to hear civil suit in Teele Wali Masjid case after rejecting plea that the suit cannot be heard on grounds of non-maintainability.

The civil suit was filed in 2013 by Lord Sheshnagesh Teeshwar Mahadev Virajman through friend Dr VK Srivastava, contending that during Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's reign, a Hindu religious structure, Laxman Teela, was demolished to make way for Teele Wali mosque, and, therefore, the original

## Varanasi court nixes plea by original litigant's sons to join Gyanvapi suit

**A** Varanasi fast-track court on Wednesday rejected pleas by Pranay Kumar Pandey and Karan Shankar Pandey, sons of one of the original litigants in Gyanvapi case, who were seeking to be made party to the suit titled 'Ancient Idol of Swayambhu Lord Vishweshwar vs Anjuman Intizamia Masjid and others'.

The court of civil judge (senior division) Prashant Kumar Singh concluded that pleas were not maintainable under Order 22 Rule of CPC. Advocate Vijay Shankar Rastogi, who represents Swayambhu Jyotirlinga Bhagwan Vishweshwar as deity's next friend, had contended pleas. Court has fixed March 7 as next date for a hearing on the comprehensive survey by ASI encompassing entire Gyanvapi mosque premises, Rastogi said.

Pranay and Karan are sons of Harihar Pandey, who, with Somnath Vyas and Prof Ramrang Sharma, filed the original suit. Pandey died on Dec 10, 2023, after which his sons sought to join the case. TNN

Hindu religious structure must be restored at the site. In his order on Wednesday, additional district judge

Narendra Kumar III said plea in the civil suit was based on a mixed question of law and facts and hence could not be

dismissed summarily without recording evidence only on objection of Muslim side that the suit was time-barred under provisions of the Places of Worship Act, 1991.

ADJ observed that there was no illegality in the order of Sept 6, 2023 in entertaining the suit on merit.

Plaintiff Nripendra Pandey and others had claimed in the suit that people still worship at the site.

The Muslim side had filed a plea that said the suit was not maintainable not only under the Places of Worship Act, 1991, but was also barred by provisions of Waqf Act, 1995. The civil judge had rejected the Muslim side's objection, leading to a revision plea before ADJ.

# Disrupted sleep makes people vulnerable to cognitive problems in later years

Durgesh Nandan Jha | @timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** People who have disrupted sleep in their 30s and 40s are twice as likely to have memory and thinking problems a decade later, suggests a new study published in the journal *Neurology* that analysed the duration and quality of sleep of 526 people with an average age of 40 for 11 years. They were also made to take part in a series of memory and thinking tests.

The researchers found that of the 175 people with 'most disrupted' sleep, 44 had poor cognitive performance 10 years later, compared to 10 of the 176 people with the 'least disrupted' sleep.

"Given that signs of Alzheimer's disease start to accumulate in the brain several decades before symptoms begin, understanding the connection between sleep and cognition earlier in life is critical for understanding the role of sleep problems as a risk factor for the disease," said study author Yue Leng of University of California, San Francisco. "Our findings indicate that quality rather than quantity of sleep matters most for cognitive health in middle age," she added.

Cognitive function refers to mental

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syndrome characterised by confusion, forgetfulness, and a lack of focus and mental clarity. Some also complain about memory problems. Most of it is caused by poor sleep," he said.

An average adult requires at least seven hours of quality sleep for better health. For children, doctors recommend, even longer duration — anywhere between 8-12 hours depending on the child's age. Doctors, however, say obsession with watching TV, playing video games or indulging in activities on social messaging apps has left even the young ones sleepless.

"Short-term effects of lack of sleep are well known and we often encounter it while examining school children. They come with complaints of lack of concentration and bad mood. The long-term effects are, however, less understood. But we need not wait for the results. It will be more prudent to act in advance to prevent potential damage that poor sleep may inflict upon the children in the long run by educating them as well as their parents about the importance of good sleep," said Dr Samir Parikh, director, department of mental health and behavioural sciences at Fortis Healthcare said.

processes involved in the acquisition of knowledge, processing of information, and reasoning.

According to Dr Shamsher Dwivedi, director (neurology) at Max Healthcare, good sleep has a restorative effect on the brain. Poor sleep, on the other hand, is known to disrupt that process and, therefore, increase the vulnerability of cognitive decline in a person.

"These days, many young people working in the corporate sector come to us with complaints about brain fog, a

# Centre eyes bumper wheat crop, 23% hike in procurement

Dipak Dash | @timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Govt on Wednesday estimated wheat procurement to be around 300-320 lakh tonne during the rabi marketing season, starting March 1, amid projection of a bumper winter crop this year. This will be around 23% more than the quantity procured last year and will be enough to meet the food security requirement and for future market interventions.

TOI learnt that food ministry estimated procurement after long deliberations with state food secretaries on Wednesday. Govt also estimated wheat production to be around 1,110 lakh tonne this year, slightly lower than last estimate. "We will keep reviewing the progress regularly with states. Additional procurement centres will be opened in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan to buy more wheat at MSP from farmers," an official said.

The increase in wheat procurement will bolster

## FIELD REPORT

Govt wheat procurement & open market sale (in lakh tonnes)

Year	Procurement	Open market sale
2019-20	341	36
2020-21	390	25
2021-22	433	70
2022-23	188	33
2023-24	262	94
2025-26	300-320*	NA

\*Estimated procurement



stock of Food Corporation of India (FCI), which has plummeted to an eight year low of around 100 lakh tonne because of less procurement during past two years because of a fall in production.

Sources said two major wheat producing states — Punjab and Madhya Pradesh — are estimated to procure around 130 lakh tonne and 80 lakh tonne respectively in the next marketing season, indicating MSP operations won't be impacted due to farmers' protest.

Uttar Pradesh, which will start buying wheat

from March 1, has estimated procurement of around 60 lakh tonne while procurement in Rajasthan and Bihar will start from March 10 and March 15 respectively. In MP, MSP operations will begin from March 22 while in Punjab and Haryana this will start from April 1.

Meanwhile, FCI has stopped weekly open market sale of wheat considering that the fresh crop will start arriving in mandis from next week and moderate the price. However, govt will continue selling Bharat Atta at subsidised price to consumers.

# HC denies bail to Senthil, asks PMLA court to fast-track trial

**Chennai:** Madras HC on Wednesday denied bail to former Tamil Nadu minister V Senthil Balaji, who was arrested by Enforcement Directorate (ED) on June 14, 2023, on charges of money-laundering, reports Sureshkumar K. Justice N Anand Venkatesh directed special court for cases under PMLA to complete the trial in three months.

Asserting that the former minister remained influential and apprehension still subsisted that he would tamper with evidence and influence witnesses, the judge said: "The petitioner resigned from the post of minister without a portfolio just one day prior to hearing of this bail petition."

The fact that the petitioner continued to hold the position as a minister for nearly eight months after his arrest, that too without a portfolio, when he was inside the jail, shows the tremendous influence of the petitioner and the importance that is given to him by the state govt, the judge said.

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## LOST & FOUND

I Sudesh Kohli, W/o Shri Dev Raj Kohli, B-2/8, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi have lost Original sanction plan, Sanction Letters, Original Occupancy Certificate, all sanctioned/ issued by DDA. Original will dated 02/06/1975 of Shri Shanti Sroup Kohli (S.S. Kohli); Original Relinquishment Deed dated 30.07.2012, duly registered as Document No. 8610, in Book No.1, Volume No. 6626, On Pages 60 to 68 On 30.7.2012, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, New Delhi and other Misc. Documents pertaining to property number B-2/8 Vasant Vihar, New Delhi 110057, have been lost/Misplaced. If any body finds please return.

## Hit by train, 2 die in Jamtara

At least two persons were killed and several injured after being hit by a train in Jamtara district of Jharkhand on Wednesday, reports **Rajesh Kumar Pandey**. The death toll might rise after the rescue operation is over. One of the deceased passengers has been identified as Manish Kumar of Katihar district of Bihar whereas the identity of another is not yet to be ascertained.

## Rajnath: Give Modi 2 more terms to end poverty, job crisis

Patna: Union defence minister **Rajnath Singh** on Wednesday appealed to the masses to give two more terms to PM Narendra Modi to end poverty and unemployment, reports **Manoj Chaurasia**.

He said BJP does what it promises. "You have to take a pledge not only to elect him (Modi) for the third time but also for the fourth time. If that happens, we will end poverty and unemployment," Rajnath said at a rally in Darbhanga.

Stating that under no circumstances will the crisis of credibility be allowed to grow in Indian politics, he said, "We do what we say." He described BJP as "most credible party of India."

Earlier, addressing local intelligentsia in Sitamarhi, considered the birthplace of Goddess Sita, Singh asked the masses to vote for BJP, saying the Modi gov't had fulfilled all the commitments it made to the voters and it has no taints of corruption.

"We repealed Article 370, ended triple talaq and constructed a grand Ram temple at Ayodhya that we had promised. Some people used to mock us saying 'Ramllala ayenge, mandir wahin banayenge lekin BJP-wale tarih nahin batayenge. But now the consecration ceremony of Lord Ram's idol at the temple is over," the defence minister said, stating, "Jo hamne kaha tha, sab kya (we did all that we had promised)."

"During 2014 Lok Sabha elections, when the manifesto was being drafted, Modi ji used to regularly remind me that I should take utmost care of the fact that none of the promises we cannot fulfil should find a place in the manifesto. In 2019, he said the same. You can pick both our manifestos and see for yourself whether we fulfilled the promises we made or not," he said.

Singh cited the example of Qatar pardoning 8 former Indian sailors on death sentence as a result of India's goodwill, saying that it highlights how India's credibility has been established in the international community and how the world is now taking India very seriously.

"It happened after PM Modi talked to the Amir of Qatar," he said, asserting India has become a powerful nation.

He also said the Modi gov't gave Bharat Ratna to socialist leader and former Bihar CM late Karpoori Thakur who was neglected during Congress regime. "During Congress's time only one family got all the honours. But, our PM gave Bharat Ratna to PV Narasimha Rao ji, who was a Congress leader. We honoured his contribution," he said.

## 'Papa Bravo Nair': Tracing IAF top gun's flight as Gaganaut

### From Early Days At NDA, Nair Has Been Driven By 'Killer' Attitude

Prasenjit.Mund@timesgroup.com

**Bhopal:** Call sign: "Papa". Ensign: The golden wings of Gaganaut. Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair looks like he was born with the flight suit (now spacesuit), but how did the ace test pilot, fighter pilot and top gun get his nickname "Papa"?

Over a quarter of a century ago, when Nair transitioned from the 'ragad-patti' (grind) of National Defence Academy (NDA) to Air Force Academy (AFA), someone wanted to

### Nair graduated from NDA among the top rankers and moved to Air Force Academy, where he again excelled in every aspect of flying. He won the coveted Sword of Honour

know his name. "Flight Cadet PB Nair, sir," he replied.

"PB what?" Pat came the reply, "Papa Bravo Nair, sir." And the name stuck. Not one to ever have things lost in translation, Group Captain Nair has always been clear about his target. "He never lets anything get between him and his ambition," someone close to him said.

From his early days at NDA, when every first-terminer struggles to find his bearings — especially those from civilian backgrounds, like Nair — what propelled "Papa" was his never-say-die spirit. A "Killer" attitude, as his NDA squadron calls itself. "There's not an exam he has



Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair with his wife, Malayalam actor Lena. Their recent marriage was kept confidential and the big revelation came on Instagram, hours after PM Modi handed coveted 'astronaut wings' to Nair and his three fellow astronauts-designates

academics. Again, an astounding effort when merely surviving military training requires one to dig deep for every last drop of josh, every single day.

Nair graduated from NDA among the top rankers and moved to AFA, where he again excelled in every aspect of flying. He won the coveted Sword of Honour and was commissioned as a fighter pilot. He would move on to becoming a test pilot — the pinnacle of flight skills.

"Becoming a test pilot means completing an MTech course in just 11 months while risking your life four times a day while you take planes beyond their envelope," said a fellow test pilot.

One needs nerves of steel, and ice-cold blood in your veins to be a test pilot, said another who's been there and flown that.

Nair aced this, too. He clocked 3,000 hours as a test pilot, topped the prestigious United States Staff College course, cleared his Defence Services Staff College-Wellington course with distinction, commanded a Sukhoi-30 squadron and became a top-grade flight instructor.

He has flown two dozen types of fixed-wing aircraft, including the Su-30, MiG-21, MiG-29, Hawk, Dornier and An-32. All the while, the winds of destiny were nudging Nair beyond the clouds. IAF motto says, "Touch the Skies with Glory." Nair was primed to go beyond.

His experience and a steely resolve paid off for Nair when selections started for Gaganaut mission in 2019. The first medical tests were conducted in October of that year. Nair cleared all, competing with much younger officers.

Last year, when Group Captain Nair attended a reunion at NDA, the joke was that he was one among the 0.1% who could still fit into his first-term muffs. Turns out he was fitting out to be a spaceman! The top gun is now gunning for the stars. Papa Bravo Nair!

## 'Moment of pride': Actor reveals marriage to Nair

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kochi:** Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair's selection as one of the four astronauts-designate for Gaganaut mission wasn't the only secret he had to keep until Tuesday. His recent marriage to Malayalam actor Lena was kept confidential, too, lest it spill the beans on the top secret.

The big reveal came on Instagram, hours after PM Narendra Modi handed coveted "astronaut wings" to Nair and his three fellow astronauts-designate at a formal event in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram.

Lena took to her handle to announce that she was married to the 47-year-old test pilot, a post that quickly went viral.

not topped," said one of his Kilo Squadron mates.

Nair ranked 27th in his NDA qualifying exam — quite a feat

The Kanyaka Talkies and Spirit actor posted pictures of her and Prasanth together, including at a traditional wedding ceremony on Jan 17 and another alongside Isro chairman S Somnath on Tuesday's event.

"It is a historic moment of pride for our country, our state of Kerala and me personally," she said of her husband being included in India's first crewed space mission.

"In order to maintain the officially required confidentiality, I was waiting for this announcement to let you know that I got married to Prasanth... in a traditional ceremony through an arranged marriage," Lena wrote.

The actor was unavailable for comment.

considering the pass rate is less than 0.1%. He was a "gold torchie" in all six terms at NDA, a badge given for excellence in

**APTRANSCO:VIJAYAWADA**  
e-Procurement Tender Notice  
The APTRANSCO invites bids online for Spec No. PMM32-e-07/2024. Work : Lot 1: 31 Nos 220V, 100AH (10 A FC/ 20 A FCBC) Battery Chargers, Lot 2: 11 Nos. DCDB panels for 220 V 10 A 100AH Battery chargers, Lot 3: 5 Nos. 220V, 400AH (60 A FC/ 100 A FCBC) Battery Chargers. Date & Time of availability of Tender: 27.02.2024 at 06:00 PM. Web: <http://apeprocurement.gov.in>.  
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(Through e-tendering)  
Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Telo-QT-991 Dated: 27.02.2024  
Name of work with its location: Provision of Railnet at Depots and offices inside Delhi Area of Delhi Division.  
App. Cost of the work (₹): ₹ 2,50,01,673.80/- only  
Earnest Money Deposit(₹): ₹ 2,75,000/- only  
Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM office, New Delhi-110055.  
Date & Time for upload the tender / closing date & time: 27.03.2024 up to 15.00 hrs.  
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc: See the Northern Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055  
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No.2023/RS(E)/TMS/4 New Delhi, dated 28/02/2024  
CORRIGENDUM No-1  
Sub: E-Open indigenous Tender No:2023-TMS-4B for procurement of 337 sets of Tungsten Carbide Tamping Tools (TCTT) for IR Track Machines.  
1.The due date of opening of the subject tender has been postponed from 05/03/2024 (Tuesday) to 01/04/2024 (Monday).  
2.All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain the same.  
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Short Tender Inviting Notice  
Online tender is being invited by Chief Engineer (O&M) SBPDCL for Execution for Erection of Dedicated 11KV Feeder for Engineering/ Polytechnic Colleges under Electric Supply Circle PESU WEST, Ara and Nalanda under SBPDCL Under Deposit head Scheme. Details are as below:-

SL NO	NIT NO.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost With GST (In INR)	Cost of EMD (In INR)	Cost of BOQ/Tender Document (In INR)	Bid Processing Fee (In INR)
1	27/PR/SBPDC/2024	Execution for Erection of Dedicated 11KV Feeder for Engineering/ Polytechnic Colleges under Electric Supply Circle PESU WEST, Ara and Nalanda under SBPDCL Under Deposit head Scheme	153307286.62	2533072.87	17,700.00(15,000.00 + GST @18%)	As per eproc2

The Time line for the above tender is as follows:  
Bid submission start date : From 05/03/2024, 12:00 Hrs  
Bid submission due date (Last Date): Up to 19/03/2024, 15:00 Hrs  
Date of Opening of Technical & Commercial Part (Part-I) : On 20/03/2024, 15:00 Hrs onwards  
Date of Pre Bid Meeting: On 07/03/2024, 12:00 Hrs

\*The details are available at the website [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in).  
\*Date of opening of price part: To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation  
Note- (1) Subsequent information / notification / corrigendum will be available only on website of EPROC and/or SBPDCL [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) and/or [www.sbpdccl.co.in](http://www.sbpdccl.co.in).  
This information is available on [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) also  
PR- 18400 ( B & C ) 2023-24 नरो से बचानी दूरी है, क्योंकि परिवार जरूरी है

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Email id: [eproc2support@bihar.gov.in](mailto:eproc2support@bihar.gov.in)  
Working Hours: 8AM to 7PM  
(All days in week except few selected state holidays)  
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Invitation for Bids  
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. P&C / EST-E-208/ 2023-24  
Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) invites proposals from reputed and experienced Agencies/ Firms / Companies for the work "Design, Construction, Testing and Commissioning of Intake well along with ancillary structures, Civil Work, all EMI works including Pumping Station, piping system, electrical system & instrumentation & PLC, SCADA and automation."  
SL No. Name of Work Estimated Cost (Approx.) Tender Cost Period of Completion Class of Contractor  
1 Design, Construction, Testing and Commissioning of Intake well along with ancillary structures, Civil Work, all EMI works including Pumping Station, piping system, electrical system & instrumentation & PLC, SCADA and automation etc at River Mahanadi for water supply to Gajamara Industrial Area, Dist-Dhenkanal (On turnkey basis) Rs. 19.37 Cr. (Excluding GST) Rs. 11,800/- (On-Line including GST) 9 (Nine) Calendar Months A & Special Class Contractors of PWD & Equivalent Class of other Departments  
\* Note - Earnest Money Deposit will be applicable as per prevailing circular of Govt. of Odisha at the time of bidding.  
1. 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](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in) from 5 PM of Dt. 02.03.2024 to 5 PM of Dt. 02.04.2024.  
Sd/-  
Chief General Manager (P&C)  
OIPR-14003/11/0428/23-24

**Govt. of Bihar**  
**Bihar Education Project Council**  
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER  
(<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)  
I. Bihar Education Project Council (BEPC), Patna, invites "Request for Proposal (RFP) For Empanelment of Vendors for establishing ICT Lab & Smart Classes in Government Schools under Department of Education, Govt. of Bihar" from eligible agency.  
II. The complete tender documents can be seen on and downloaded from the website <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in>.  
III. Schedule of Events:

SL	Information	Details
1	RFP No. and Date of availability	BEPC/ICT&SC - BOO/2024/993, Dated 26.02.2024 Available for download from 26th February 2024, 09:00 PM onwards till 18th March 2024, 4:00 PM on e-proc-2 website
2	Last date for submission of written queries for pre bid clarifications	02nd March 2024, 6:00 pm Email: <a href="mailto:ssabihar@gmail.com">ssabihar@gmail.com</a>
3	Date of pre-bid conference	04th March 2024 at 2:00 PM. Virtual Mode - Link: <a href="https://us02.web.zoom.us/j/81546272058?pwd=5WlrRzhVHVCVtqNFQSMZMMWYSUT09">https://us02.web.zoom.us/j/81546272058?pwd=5WlrRzhVHVCVtqNFQSMZMMWYSUT09</a> Meeting ID: 815 4627 2058 Password: abc123 e-mail: <a href="mailto:ssabihar@gmail.com">ssabihar@gmail.com</a>
4	Release of response to clarifications	05th March 2024, 6:00 PM
5	Last date of submission of bid	18th March 2024, 4:00 PM
6	Opening of Technical Bids	18th March 2024, 4:30 PM
7	Award on empanelment	To be intimated later
8	Contact person for queries	Shahjahan, Administrative Officer, BEPC Mobile - 725888166

This information is available on [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) also  
Administrative Officer  
Bihar Education Project Council  
PR. No. 018363 ( B & C ) 2023-24  
नरो से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr. P.C.

Where as complaint has been made before me that accused **Pradeep S/o Sh. Suresh Chand, R/o- Premises Right Hand side to House No. 1574, Jatav Mohalla, near BSES Pole No. NJFG 627, Main Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043** has committed (or suspected to have committed) the offence in case registered vide **Ct Case No. 677/2020 U/s 135 Indian Electricity Act PS Najafgarh, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused **Pradeep** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Pradeep** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Pradeep** of case **Ct Case No. 677/2020 U/s 135 Indian Electricity Act PS Najafgarh, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court (or before me) to answer the complaint on or before the day of **22.04.2024**.

By Order,  
**Sh. Vinod Kumar Meena**  
Addl. Distt. & Session Judge (South-West)  
Special Court (Electricity), Court No. 609,  
Dwarka District Court, New Delhi  
DP/2373/DW/2024 (Court Matter)

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR (PROJECT & PLANNING) IN OMC LTD.

**No.01/SM/ADV/2024/SM,** Date: 28.02.2024  
OMC, a Gold category and the largest State PSU in Mining Sector in the Country, undertakes exploration, mining and trading of iron, chrome, bauxite & limestone ores. The Corporation has achieved an annual turnover of Rs. 14,449.57 crores in the FY 2022-23. Inspired by the vision to emerge as the market leader and to play a catalytic role in the growth of industrialization, OMC caters to the requirements of mineral based industries.  
The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) is seeking qualified and experienced candidates for the post of Director (Project & Planning) for Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMCL) in its Corporate Office located at Bhubaneswar in the Scale of Pay of Rs. 1,35,100-2,16,800/-. The post carries DA, HRA, Medical allowance, perks etc. at par with an Officer of OMC in CGM in E-8 rank.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post to be filled up	Qualification
1	Director (Project & Planning)	01	Graduate in Mining/ Mechanical/ Electrical/Civil/ Mineral Processing/Metallurgy Engineering with good academic record from a recognized University/ Institution. MBA/Post Graduate Diploma in Management will have an added advantage.

Pay Protection will be allowed to the deserving officers from the Central or State Governments/CPSES/State PSUs.  
Detailed requirement for the position along with the application format is available in Steel & Mines Department, Government of Odisha website <https://steelmines.odisha.gov.in> as well as in the website of OMC Ltd. <https://omcltd.in>.  
Complete application in the prescribed format with enclosures and a passport size photograph should be sent to the Additional Secretary (FE) to Government in Steel & Mines Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar-751001 by Speed post/Registered Post/e-mail (e-mail id: [dsmsec.or@nic.in](mailto:dsmsec.or@nic.in)) only to reach within 30(thirty) days from the date of publication of Advertisement. Envelope containing the application should be superscribed as "Application for the post of Director (Project & Planning), OMCL" Outstation candidates appearing the interview will be provided Economy Class Air fare for to & fro journey on submission of original documents.

Sd/-  
Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Steel & Mines Department, Odisha Secretariat,  
Bhubaneswar-751001,  
Email - [dsmsec.or@nic.in](mailto:dsmsec.or@nic.in)

## ADVERTISEMENT FOR APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR (EXPLORATION) IN OMC LTD

**No.02/SM/ADV/2024/SM,** Date: 28.02.2024  
OMC, a Gold category and largest State PSU in Mining Sector in the Country, undertakes exploration, mining and trading of iron, chrome, bauxite & limestone ores. The Corporation has achieved an annual turnover of Rs. 14,449.57 crores in the FY 2022-23. Inspired by the vision to emerge as the market leader and to play a catalytic role in the growth of industrialization, OMC caters to the requirements of mineral based industries.  
The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) is seeking qualified and experienced candidates for the post of Director (Exploration) for Odisha Mining Corporation Limited (OMCL) in its Corporate Office located at Bhubaneswar in the Scale of Pay of Rs. 1,35,100-2,16,800/-. The post carries DA, HRA, Medical Allowance, Perks etc. at par with an Officer of OMC in CGM in E-8 rank.

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	No. of Post to be filled up	Qualification
1	Director (Exploration)	01	Post Graduate in Geology/ Applied Geology/M.Tech in Mineral Exploration with good academic record from a recognized University/ Institution.

Pay Protection will be allowed to the deserving officers from the Central or State Governments/CPSES/State PSUs.  
Detailed requirement for the position along with the application format is available in Steel & Mines Department, Government of Odisha website <https://steelmines.odisha.gov.in> as well as in the website of OMC Ltd. <https://omcltd.in>.  
Complete application in the prescribed format with enclosures and a passport size photograph should be sent to the Additional Secretary (FE) to Government in Steel & Mines Department, Odisha, Bhubaneswar-751001 by Speed post/Registered Post/e-mail (e-mail id: [dsmsec.or@nic.in](mailto:dsmsec.or@nic.in)) only to reach within 30(thirty) days from the date of publication of Advertisement. Envelope containing the application should be superscribed as "Application for the post of Director (Exploration), OMCL" Outstation candidates appearing the interview will be provided Economy Class Air fare for to & fro journey on submission of original documents.

Sd/-  
Additional Chief Secretary to Government,  
Steel & Mines Department, Odisha Secretariat,  
Bhubaneswar-751001,  
Email - [dsmsec.or@nic.in](mailto:dsmsec.or@nic.in)

## BJP likely to field Shivraj, Scindia for LS elections

► Continued from P1

The review, an exercise comprising on-the-spot assessment, feedback from local units and findings of surveys commissioned by the party, involved weighing the prospects of winners from last round against strengths of potential replacements.

Core group members from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Delhi, Goa, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Haryana, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Uttarakhand, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu had brainstorming sessions with Shah, Nadda and general secretary (organisation) B.L.Santhosh.

Sources said former MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan, who was present in the meeting to review probables for his state, is among the likely candidates from a prominent seat. Besides, Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia and senior party member Kailash Vijayvargiya could also be fielded.

Sources said election committee of Delhi BJP has submitted a list of 25-30 probables to the national leadership for the seven seats in the capital.

The names of foreign minister S Jaishankar, housing and urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri and late leader Sushma Swaraj's daughter Bansuri were among the probables for the New Delhi seat apart from sitting MP Meenakshi Lekhi, a senior Delhi BJP official said. "The list of probables was discussed in a meeting of national leaders, including Nadda, Shah and state president Virendra Sachdeva, at the party headquarters," he said.

Except for East Delhi MP Gautam Gambhir and North West Delhi MP Han Raj Hans, the remaining five — Ramesh Bidhuri (South Delhi), Lekhi (New Delhi), Harsh Vardhan (Chandni Chowk), Manoj Tiwari (North East Delhi) and Parvish Verma (West Delhi) — are representing their constituencies for the second time in a row.

**BUILDING CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT**  
Construction Division No.-2, B.C.D., Patna  
(Only as per e-Tender procedure on website [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))  
Re-E-Tendering Invitation Notice  
Engineering, Procurement and Construction- S.B.D.Tender No. -12/2023-24

Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Tender in two bid system (Technical and Financial bid) is invited from Any Contractor Registered with Government of India / Any State Government / Any Public Sector unit Undertakings or an Agency of National / International repute for the following work.  
Designation and Address of Advertiser : Executive Engineer Construction Division No.-2, Building Construction Department, Patna.

- Date of Inviting Tender : 27.02.2024
- Last date and time of sale(download) of B.O.Q : 05.03.2024 to 25.03.2024, 15.00 HOURS (Only [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))
- Last date and time of submission(upload) of Tender : 28.03.2024, 15.00 HOURS (Only [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))
- Date, Time & Place of Pre-Bid meeting : (i) 11.03.2024 at Chief Engineer (south), Building Construction Department, (Vishweshwariya Bhanan), Patna, 12.00 HOURS
- Date & Time of opening of Tender (Technical Bid) : 30.03.2024 16.00 HOURS
- Date and time of opening of financial bid : After approval of technical bid by Competent Authority
- Place of sale of B.O.Q : Only on website ([www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in))
- Place of Submission of Tender : website: [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
- Period of BID VALIDITY : 120 days
- Post of Tender sanctioning officer : Competent Authority

11. Details of Work :

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Cost of BOQ (in Rs)	Cost of Bid Processing (in Rs.)	Time of completion of work
1	Construction of Agriculture Engineering College, Ara. (Engineering Procurement and Construction basis).	142,45,40,000.00	1,55,00,000.00	10,000.00	As per e-procurement-2	18 Months

For further details please visit : [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)  
PR- 018408 (BCD) 2023-24  
Executive Engineer, Construction Division-2, BCD Patna  
नरो से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार



Cong ready for 'tough decisions' in HP; observers' report likely today

Priority Is To Protect Cong Govt: Jairam

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress on Wednesday said it will take "tough decisions" to setright the situation in Himachal Pradesh...



Himachal CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu offers prayers with Congress MLAs at Tara Devi Temple in Shimla on Wednesday

will take a decision on the correctives based on the report. Given that many of the legislators have demanded that CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu be replaced, AICC spokesman Jairam Ramesh told reporters...

interest is supreme. More than the party's interest, it is the mandate of the people that was given in December 2022," he said.

Sources said the report of observers, who are in Shimla along with AICC state in-charge Rajeev Shukla, is likely to be submitted by Thurs-

day evening. Ramesh said the report will have two parts — why did the cross-voting happen, and what steps are needed to save the people's mandate in the state.

The basic issue in the crisis is if Congress can persuade back its six MLAs who voted against the official RS nominee in favour of BJP, and also key minister Vikramaditya Singh, who made matters worse for the party by resigning from the Sukhu cabinet on Wednesday...

Ramesh asserted that Congress will protect its five-year mandate and slammed BJP for trying to topple yet another opposition government.

Two-child norm for govt jobs in Raj gets SC nod

Dhananjay.Mahapatra@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: More than 21 years after upholding validity of the mandatory 'two-child norm' eligibility criteria for candidates contesting panchayat polls, the Supreme Court has now put its stamp of approval on an identical norm for public employment...

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Dipankar Datta and K V Vishwanathan dismissed the appeal filed by ex-serviceman Ram Lal Jat, who had retired from service in 2017 and had applied for a constable's post in Rajasthan Police on May 25, 2018.

His candidature was rejected as Rule 24(4) of Rajasthan Police Subordinate Service Rules, 1989 that followed the norm set under the Rajasthan Various Service (Amendment) Rules, 2001, which provides that "no candidate shall be eligible for appointment to the job who has more than two children on or after

June 1, 2002." He had unsuccessfully challenged the rejection of his candidature for constable post in Rajasthan high court, which in Oct 2022 had ruled that the fixation of norms squarely fell in the realm of policy, which could not be interfered with by the court.

The Justice Kant-led bench said, "A somewhat similar provision, which was introduced as an eligibility condition to contest panchayat elections, has been upheld by the SC in the case Javed and others vs. State of Haryana in 2003. This court held that the classification, which disqualifies candidates for having more than two living children, was non-discriminatory and intra-vires the Constitution, since the objective behind the provision was to promote family planning."

The bench dismissed Jat's appeal saying the HC judgment did not warrant any interference.

SP neta's brother shot dead by visitors who had come for tea

Shamli: Mohammad Yusuf, a property dealer and brother of SP youth wing leader, Mohd Kala, was gunned down in his office at Baghat on Wednesday. The assailants were having tea with Yusuf when suddenly, they began to fire at him, aiming at his head and chest...

IDBI BANK LIMITED advertisement with details of RFP for Onboarding a System Integrator to Migrate Enterprise Data Warehouse...

Desert(er) storm in hills: How Cong was pushed to edge in HP

Kullu: If rebellion within BJP was a major factor behind its defeat in the assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh in the winters of 2022, it's now the turn of Congress party, which has been pushed to the edge by deserters in its ranks, reports Rohit Mullik.

Out of the six rebel MLAs, who cross-voted on Tuesday ensuring the victory of Harsh Mahajan, also a former Congress leader who had defected to BJP ahead of the polls in 2022, the three prominent faces—Rajinder Rana, Sudhir Sharma and Ravi Thakur—were at loggerheads with their own govt right from their start.

A strong claimant for a ministerial berth, Rajinder Rana, the three-time MLA from Hamirpur, which is also the home district of CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, has never shied away from expressing his unhappiness publicly for not being included in the state cabinet.

Even two days ahead of the Rajya Sabha polls, Rana, while addressing a public gathering in his assembly constituency in Sujapur, had said the state cabinet had been expanded thrice in the last one year, but his name was always left out and that he would not accept any cabinet rank in Sukhu govt now.

Rana, a former BJP leader, had come to prominence in 2017 after defeating former CM Prem Kumar Dhumal on a Congress ticket.

A four-time MLA and former minister in the Virbhadra cabinet, Dharamshala MLA Sudhir Sharma, another prominent rebel face has also been vocal about not being given a ministerial berth in Sukhu govt. Sharma has been regularly posting his displeasure on social media.

But the most critical of his own govt has been Lahaul Spiti MLA Ravi Thakur, who on Wednesday replied "BJP" when asked by reporters in Shimla about which party he now belonged to. Belonging to the same camp, the three other Congress MLAs, who cross-voted are three-time MLA Inder Dutt Lakhanpal from Barsar in Hamirpur, first-time MLA Chaitanya Sharma from Gagret in Una and first-time MLA Devendra Bhattu from Kulehar in Una.

The three other turncoats — Hoshiyar Singh from Dehra in Kangra, K L Thakur from Nalagarh in Solan, and Ashish Sharma from Hamirpur—are all BJP rebels.

'3 projects cleared in one day' when Akhilesh held mining portfolio

Continued from P 1

Then minister for mining Gayatri Prajapati was alleged to have illegally granted fresh leases and renewed existing ones in a manner that caused heavy losses to state exchequer and undue gain to him and his associates. CBI entered the scene in July 2016 following a directive from Allahabad HC, which said natural resources could not be permitted to be looted and asked the agency to probe suspected collusion of govt officials.

CBI had claimed that senior UP officials had cleared 13 projects in a single day on Feb 17, 2013, in gross violation of laid down procedures. Akhilesh, who was CM then, held the mining portfolio during 2012-13. Thereafter, Prajapati took over as mining minister.

Eleven people were named in the FIR along with unknown public servants for allegedly misusing their position to allow illegal mining of minor minerals. CBI's inquiry found that officials had illegally granted fresh leases, renewed existing leases and permitted obstructed periods for existing leaseholders, without following a tendering procedure.

Assam Congress working president quits, may join BJP

Guwahati: Assam Congress working president Rana Goswami resigned from his post and the party's primary membership on Wednesday, marking the departure of two of the state PCC's three working presidents ahead of upcoming Lok Sabha polls, reports Kangkan Kalita. Goswami, a close aide of former CM Tarun Gogoi, is reportedly poised to join BJP.

Earlier, legislator Kamalakhya Dey Purkayastha stepped down as working president, pledging support to BJP-led govt. Another MLA, Basanta Das, also threw his support behind Himanta's govt without resigning from Congress.

Following his resignation, Goswami hurried to New Delhi, where he hinted at making an announcement about his "new political innings".

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY advertisement for Corrigendum No.01

JHARKHAND BIJI VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED advertisement for Notice inviting tender for procurement through rate contract

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS advertisement for E-TENDER NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER UTTAR PRADESH RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY advertisement

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE (1st Call)

Maharashtra State Rural Livelihoods Mission Rural Development & Water Conservation Department advertisement

Table with 10 columns: Sr, NIT/Tender notice No. and description of item, Tender fee, Date of publication of tender on website, Date of publication of tender on website, Online Bid Submission start date, Online Bid Submission end date, Technical bid opening date and time.

NOTE:- (i) Only e-tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and may be contacted on Mobile No. 9431135523/9430348596, NIC helpline No. 0651-2400178

Sd/- General Manager (S&P) JBVNL

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER UTTAR PRADESH RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY advertisement

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA e-PROCUREMENT NOTICE (1st Call)

The Chief Executive Officer, UPRRDA, Lucknow on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for Construction and Maintenance of roads of following groups, as mentioned in column-3, using "Full Depth Reclamation with Cement Stabilization and Additive" under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana with construction cost including maintenance cost as in column 9 from the eligible contractors registered with the UP PWD/UP RED, in appropriate class-A or equivalent category in CPWD/ MES/ Railways and other State Govt. and Central Govt. departments. Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

Table with 10 columns: SL No., CONCERNED SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, GROUP NO., DISTRICT NAME, NAME OF PACKAGES, LENGTH IN KM, ESTIMATED COST IN RS. LAKH (CONSTRUCTION COST EXCLUDING GST IN RS. LAKH, FREE MAINTENANCE COST (6 Yrs) EXCLUDING GST IN RS. LAKH, TOTAL COST EXCLUDING GST IN RS. LAKH.

- 1. Start Date and Time of Availability of Bid Document for download on website: 15.03.2024 from 12:00 Noon onwards
2. Date and Time of pre-bid meeting at UPRRDA Office (either physically or virtually) link will be provided in the NIT: 22.03.2024 at 11:00 A.M.
3. Start Date and Time of submission of Bids through e-procurement (either physically or virtually) link will be provided in the NIT: 27.03.2024 from 11:00 A.M.
4. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 25.04.2024 upto 12:00 Noon
5. Date/ Time for opening of bids through e-procurement: 26.04.2024 at 12:30 P.M.
6. Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in www.pmsgstendersup.gov.in
7. The employer has right to issue addendum/ corrigendum as per ITB clause 10 online only, which will not be published in any news paper. All prospective bidders are advised to keep regular watch and visit e-tender portal regularly.
8. For further details please log on to www.pmsgstendersup.gov.in

राष्ट्रीय मात्स्यिकी विकास बोर्ड National Fisheries Development Board advertisement

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., Division, Name of the Position, No. of Posts, Place of Posting, Date of Walk-in Interview

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER AGRA CIRCLE, P.W.D. AGRA INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) {E-Tender}

Table with 8 columns: Sl. No., District, Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac), Total Cost (Rs. in Lacs), Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs), Cost of Document (in Rs.), Time of Completion

Letter No.: 919/14M-Agra Circle/2023-24 Dated: 20.02.2024
1. The Superintending Engineer, Agra Circle, P.W.D., Agra (U.P.) on behalf of Governor of Uttar Pradesh invites ITEM RATE BIDS (SBD) on work line for the construction of work detailed in the table given below. The bidders are advised to examine carefully all instructions including addendum/amendments to ITB, conditions of contract, contract data, forms, technical specifications, bill of quantities etc. in the Bid Document.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER MAINPURI CIRCLE, P.W.D. MAINPURI INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) {Very Short Term E-Tender} (11nd Time)

Letter No.: 522/7M-Mainpuri Circle/2023 Dated: 24.02.2024
1. The Superintending Engineer, Mainpuri Circle, P.W.D., Mainpuri (U.P.) invites for registered in P.W.D. "A" class contractor, item rate bids, online for the construction of work detailed in the table given below. The bidders are advised to examine carefully all instructions including addendum/amendments to ITB, conditions of contract, contract data, forms, terms, technical specifications, bill of quantities etc. in the Bid Document.

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No., District/ Division, Name of Work, Estimated cost (Rs. in Lac), Bid Security (Rs. in Lacs), Cost of Document (in Rs.), Time of Completion



**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE**  
 "e" Procurement Notice for Building Work  
 Identification No. - Online Tender - Building NCB No. 83 of 2023-24  
 Letter No. 994/WE Date : 22.02.2024

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding	Last date & time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender in O.O.C.C.E.R.W. Circle, Balasore
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	NCB No. 82 of 2023-24	From 29.02.2024 at 11:00 A.M. To 11.03.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	11.03.2024 upto 1.00 P.M.	12.03.2024 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in).

Sd/-  
 Er. N.V. Harinar Rao  
 Chief Construction Engineer,  
 R.W. Circle, Balasore  
 OIPR-25105/11/0109/23-24

**बिहार सरकार**  
**राज्य स्वास्थ्य समिति, बिहार**  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS**  
 e-tender (NIT) Reference No.11/SHSB/EC/2023-24  
**Notice Inviting Tender for Selection of Agency for Rate Contract for Composing, Printing & Supply of Sickle Cell Status ID Card**

- The State Health Society, Bihar (SHSB) is implementing the National Health Mission (NHM) to carry out various health related program(s) and strengthening the health delivery system, in the state of Bihar.
- The State Health Society, Bihar (SHSB), Patna intends to select an agency via e-tendering for rate contract for composing, printing and supply of Sickle Cell Status ID Card in the state of Bihar per tender documents. The rate contract agreement with the successful bidder will be signed with SHSB.
- To participate in the e-tendering process, the bidder/agency are required to get themselves registered with Bihar Government Centralized e-Procurement portal, i.e., <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>, may contact the helpdesk at the following address, "Mjunction Services Limited, RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajipura, Ashiana Road, P.S. - Shastri Nagar, Patna 800 014, Bihar, e-mail id: [eproc2support@bihar.gov.in](mailto:eproc2support@bihar.gov.in), Toll Free Number- 18005726571 (Working Hours: 8AM to 7PM, All days in week except Sunday and few selected state holidays)".
- Tenderer may also download the tender documents (a complete set of document is available on website) from e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>) and submit its tender by using the downloaded document.

**5. Schedule of Events:**

S.No.	Event Description	Timeline
5.1	Bid Submission Start Date & Time	28/02/2024 (Wednesday) from 11:00 AM, on the e-Procurement Portal ( <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> )
5.2	Last date & time for submission (upload) of online bidding document	20/03/2024 (Wednesday) till 05:00 PM, on the e-Procurement Portal ( <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> )
5.3	Last date & time for submission of EMD (Online Mode)	20/03/2024 (Wednesday) till 05:00 PM on the e-Procurement Portal ( <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a> )
5.4	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid	21/03/2024 (Thursday) at 03:00 PM on the e-Procurement Portal <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a>
5.5	Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid	05/04/2024 (Friday) at 11:00 AM on the e-Procurement Portal <a href="https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in">https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in</a>
5.6	Pre-bid meeting (Date & time)	06/03/2024 (Wednesday) at 11:00 AM
5.7	Pre-bid meeting venue	Conference Hall, State Health Society, Bihar, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Sheikhpura, Patna - 800014

For further enquiry and information, please contact to the following officers during office hours 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM on all working days.  
 Shri Rajesh Kumar, Deputy Secretary-cum-I/CIEC, Mob. No.-8544402054.  
**PR-18434 (B & C) 2023-24**  
**Executive Director**  
**State Health Society, Bihar**

**बिहार सरकार**  
**जल संसाधन विभाग**  
 क्रम संख्या एवं सामग्री प्रबंधन निदेशालय  
 राष्ट्रीय प्रतिस्पर्धात्मक निविदा  
 (बाद 2024 के पहले बाद संघर्षात्मक सामग्रियों के लिए कोटेशन)

क्र. सं.	कार्य का विवरण	मात्रा	अंश की राशि (रु. में)	बीज कागजात का मूल्य (रु. में)	BELTRO को Online देना (रु. में)	कार्य समाप्ति का समय
1.	जल संसाधन विभाग के मुख्य अभियंता, समस्तीपुर के परिक्षेत्रीय विभिन्न प्रमंडलीय/केंद्रीय गोदामों में विशिष्टी के अनुरूप 1.2 घन फीट क्षमता के नये खाली सीमेंट बोरे (पी. पी. बोमेन बैग) का आपूर्ति कार्य।	45,50,000 अदद	10,12,000.00	10000.00	5900.00	60 दिन
2.	जल संसाधन विभाग के मुख्य अभियंता, पटना एवं गोपालगंज के परिक्षेत्रीय विभिन्न प्रमंडलीय/केंद्रीय गोदामों में विशिष्टी के अनुरूप 1.2 घन फीट क्षमता के नये खाली सीमेंट बोरे (पी. पी. बोमेन बैग) का आपूर्ति कार्य।	31,75,000 अदद	7,06,000.00	10000.00	5900.00	60 दिन
3.	जल संसाधन विभाग के मुख्य अभियंता, मुजफ्फरपुर के परिक्षेत्रीय विभिन्न प्रमंडलीय/केंद्रीय गोदामों में विशिष्टी के अनुरूप 1.2 घन फीट क्षमता के नये खाली सीमेंट बोरे (पी. पी. बोमेन बैग) का आपूर्ति कार्य।	63,37,500 अदद	14,09,000.00	10000.00	5900.00	60 दिन
4.	जल संसाधन विभाग के मुख्य अभियंता, कटिहार एवं वैशाली के परिक्षेत्रीय विभिन्न प्रमंडलीय/केंद्रीय गोदामों में विशिष्टी के अनुरूप 1.2 घन फीट क्षमता के नये खाली सीमेंट बोरे (पी. पी. बोमेन बैग) का आपूर्ति कार्य।	37,50,000 अदद	8,34,000.00	10000.00	5900.00	60 दिन
5.	जल संसाधन विभाग के मुख्य अभियंता, समस्तीपुर, वैशाली एवं कटिहार के परिक्षेत्रीय विभिन्न प्रमंडलीय/केंद्रीय गोदामों में विशिष्टी के अनुरूप 1.2 घन फीट क्षमता के नये खाली सीमेंट बोरे (एच.डी.पी.ई. बोमेन बैग) का आपूर्ति कार्य।	28,00,000 अदद	6,23,000.00	10000.00	5900.00	60 दिन
6.	जल संसाधन विभाग के मुख्य अभियंता, पटना, गोपालगंज एवं मुजफ्फरपुर के परिक्षेत्रीय विभिन्न प्रमंडलीय/केंद्रीय गोदामों में विशिष्टी के अनुरूप 1.2 घन फीट क्षमता के नये खाली सीमेंट बोरे (एच.डी.पी.ई. बोमेन बैग) का आपूर्ति कार्य।	31,37,500 अदद	6,98,000.00	10000.00	5900.00	60 दिन

विज्ञापन निर्गत करने की तिथि :- 27.02.2024  
 परिष्कार विवरण प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय (सिर्फ वेबसाइट [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर) :- दिनांक 05.03.2024 से 07.03.2024 के अपराह्न 3:00 बजे तक।  
 प्री ब्रीडिंग मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान :- 06.03.2024 को पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे निर्देशक, क्रम संख्या एवं सामग्री प्रबंधन निदेशालय, जल संसाधन विभाग, बिहार, पटना का कार्यालय।  
 कोटेशन अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 07.03.2024 समय अपराह्न 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक।  
 टेक्निकल बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 07.03.2024 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)  
 वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- तिथि एवं समय की सूचना तकनीकी बीड पर निर्णय के बाद वेबसाइट पर दी जायेगी।  
 कोटेशन खोलने का स्थान :- (www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in) पर  
 कोटेशन की वैधता की अंतिम तिथि :- 31.10.2024 (बाद अतिथि तक)  
 विज्ञापनदाता का पदनाम एवं पता :- निर्देशक, क्रम संख्या एवं सामग्री प्रबंधन निदेशालय, जल संसाधन विभाग, न्यू बैरक संख्या-5 हाईवे रोड, पटना-800001 दूरभाष संख्या-7463889156

विशेष जानकारी के लिए [www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in), <https://state.bihar.gov.in/wrd/wrd.bihar.gov.in> & [www.prd.bihar.gov.in](http://www.prd.bihar.gov.in) पर देखा जा सकता है।  
**PR. No. 018437 (WRD) 2023-24**  
 विस्तृत जानकारी [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।  
**नरो से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।**

### Ready for farewell: Kamal Nath to Cong workers

Bhopal: Congress stalwart Kamal Nath on Wednesday became emotional while addressing a party workers' convention in Chourai assembly segment of Chhindwara Lok Sabha constituency, reports **Suchandana Gupta**.  
 "Vida karna chahte hain, toh aapki marzi, main taiyyar hon. Mein khudko thopna nhi chahta hon. Yeh toh aapki maan-mansha ki baat hai (You want to send me off, that is your wish, I am ready. I do not want to impose upon you. This is a matter of your mind and intent)," Nath, who represented Chhindwara for nine terms in Lok Sabha, said.  
 Earlier this month, there was intense speculation that Kamal Nath and his son, Chhindwara MP Nakul Nath, might quit Congress and join BJP. On Tuesday, Nath had called the entire episode a "media-created rumour".

### Bihar ex-CM Rabri, 2 daughters get bail in land-for-jobs laundering case

New Delhi: A Delhi court granted bail on Wednesday to former Bihar CM **Rabri Devi** and her daughters — Hema Yadav and Misa Bharti — along with Hridayanand Chaudhary, a former railway employee, in a money laundering case related to the alleged land-for-jobs case.  
 Special judge Vishal Gogme said: "It is the apparent scenario that accused were not arrested consciously by investigating agency. Hence, there is no reason for court to employ further stringent standard to speculate whether accused are likely to flee from trial or influence witnesses if they are admitted to regular bail."  
 All four accused had moved a regular bail plea on Feb 9 appearing before court in response to summons. Counsel for ED submitted before court that the allegations involving money laundering are grievous in nature and if the court were to consider admitting the accused to bail, stringent conditions may be imposed. The court imposed various conditions for bail, including personal bonds and surety of Rs 1 lakh each.

**Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA)**  
 (Deptt. of Additional Sources of Energy, Govt. of U.P.)  
 Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, U.P. 226010, Mob. No: 9415609007  
 Fax: 05222720779, 2720829, Website : [www.upneda.org.in](http://www.upneda.org.in) E-mail : [compneda@rediffmail.com](mailto:compneda@rediffmail.com)

RFS No: 01/UPNEDA/Jhansi Solar Park/2024 Dated 29.02.2024

### e-Tender Notice

Uttar Pradesh New & Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA) invites Online Bids from Prospective Bidders through ISN-ETS Portal FOR SELECTION OF SOLAR PROJECT DEVELOPER (SPD) FOR 600 MW GRID-CONNECTED GROUND MOUNTED SOLAR PHOTO VOLTAIC PROJECTS INSIDE JHANSI SOLAR POWER PARK AT JHANSI, UTTAR PRADESH.

The Bid document shall be available at ISN-ETS Portal from 04.03.2024 Interested bidders may view, download the Bid Document, seek clarification and submit their Bid through ISN-ETS Portal upto the date and time mentioned in the table below:

Sl. No.	e-tender No	e-tender document availability at site	Pre-bid meeting date & time	Submission of e-bid Date & time	Technical e-bid opening date & time
1.	01/UPNEDA/Jhansi Solar Park/2024	04.03.2024	15.03.2024 at 12.30 PM	27.03.2024 at 06.00 PM	28.03.2024 at 12.30 PM

The details of tender can be seen or downloaded from ISN-ETS Portal ([www.bharat-electronictender.com](http://www.bharat-electronictender.com)). Director, UPNEDA reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

**Save electricity for your better tomorrow** DIRECTOR, UPNEDA

**उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लि**  
 (उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम)  
 कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण खण्ड, श्रीनगर (गढ़वाल) दूरभाष: 01346-252115, Email: [edsri@yahoo.com](mailto:edsri@yahoo.com) कॉर्पोरेट आईडी नं. (CIN) U40109UR2001SGC025867

**"ई-निविदा सूचना"** दिनांक: 26.02.2024

विद्युत वितरण खण्ड, श्रीनगर (गढ़वाल) के अन्तर्गत विभागीय कार्यों के सम्पादन हेतु बाह्य एजेंसी/वाहन स्वामियों को जोड़ना/अपघटन/आयकर एवं ईंधन/एलईडी बल्ब/पंजीकृत हों, से मुहुरन्द निविदा छ: हाक तक वेचता हेतु आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा क्रय करने जमा करने एवं खोलने का विवरण निम्नवत है।

S.N.	Particular	Tender Details	Tender Details	Tender Details	Tender Details
1	Tender Specification No.	13/2024-25	14/2024-25	15/2024-25	16/2024-25
2	Name of work.	Hiring of 01 No. Closed Body Diesel Jeep for O & M Work Under EDD Sinnagr	Hiring of 01 No. Closed Body Diesel Jeep for O & M Work Under EDDSD Kirtinagar	Hiring of 01 No. Closed Body Diesel Jeep for O & M Work Under EDDSD Devprayag	Hiring of 01 No. Closed Body Diesel Jeep for O & M Work Under EDDSD Sinnagr
3	Estimated Cost without taxes (Rs. in Lakhs)	7.68	7.68	7.68	7.68
4	Earnest Money Rs.	25000.00	25000.00	25000.00	25000.00
5	Cost of Tender document including GST(Rs)	590.00	590.00	590.00	590.00
6	Last date of submission of Tender in Online & offline mode	12-03-24 Upto 1500 Hrs	12-03-24 Upto 1500 Hrs	12-03-24 Upto 1500 Hrs	12-03-24 Upto 1500 Hrs
7	Date of opening of Part-1 of Tender in online & offline mode	13-03-24 Upto 1500 Hrs	13-03-24 Upto 1500 Hrs	13-03-24 Upto 1500 Hrs	13-03-24 Upto 1500 Hrs

Note: 01- Part-1 of the tender will be opened on same day, Bidder must to qualify above requirements in order to complete in the tender. Failing to submit Necessary Documents in Part-1 shall be disqualified.  
 02- Part-2 of the Tender will be Opened after getting approval from competent Authority. For further details please visit our website [www.uptender.gov.in](http://www.uptender.gov.in) for any assistance on e-tendering please contact 01346-252115

पत्रांक: 1352/वि0ख0श्री0/निविदा सूचना अधिशासी अभियन्ता  
**राष्ट्र हित में विद्युत बचाव** बिजली बचाने हेतु एलईडी बल्ब का प्रयोग करें  
**"Pay Electricity bill Online 24x7 from [www.upcl.org](http://www.upcl.org)"** Customer Care Toll Free No.-1800 419 0405

**MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT**  
 Directorate of Municipal Administration, Chennai-28. Tel: 044-29864447  
 Request for Proposal (RFP) for Establishment of Bio CNG on DBFO basis  
 (Roc.No34180/2022/SBM1, Dated : 28.02.2024)

- Request for Proposals (RFP) invited from the eligible bidders for Establishment of Municipal Solid Waste Bio-CNG projects in Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Tambaram, Salem and Nagercoil Corporations on Design Build Finance Operate & Transfer (DBFO) model through PPP mode for a concession period of 20 years under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0
- The details of the bid shall be obtained from web portal: [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in)
- The tender document shall be downloaded from 02.03.2024 from the portal [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in)
- Pre-bid meeting will be on 25.03.2024 at 11.00 AM by concerned Corporation.
- The last date for downloading the tender document and the last date for uploading / submission of filed up tender document is upto 3.00pm 22.04.2024.
- The received bids will be opened at 4.00 P.M. on 22.04.2024 at the office of concerned Corporation..
- The value of each project, Bid Security – (RTGS/e-BG), and the eligibility criteria for the bidder etc., are given in the bid document.

DIPR/1278/TENDER/2024 Director of Municipal Administration, Chennai-28.

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL DIVISION BHEP, CHANDERKOTE**  
 Email : [xenmbhep@gmail.com](mailto:xenmbhep@gmail.com)

### GIST OF e-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of Managing Director JKPDC, e-tenders are invited from the OEM, or their Authorised Representatives/ Joint Ventures/ Reputed Firms having relevant experience in the field / well versed with O&M of Hydro Mechanical equipments (including services and spares), for the below mentioned work :-

S. No	Name of Work	e-NIT No. & Date	Due Date	Tenders receiving Authority
1.	Breakdown / Preventive RMC/AMC of all Hydro Mechanical equipments (including services and spares) installed at BHEP-II	20 of 2023-24 Dated 24/02/2024	18.03.2024 AT 04.00 P.M.	Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, BHEP, Chanderkote.

For details of work, terms and conditions and any other clarifications, kindly visit [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in), you can also contact the Office of the undersigned on any working day up to 18.03.2024 till 02.00 PM.

Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer, Mechanical Division, BHEP, Chanderkote.**

DIP No/DIPJ-5536-P/23/27.02.2024

**OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA**  
 NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR  
 INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No-B-IV-H (H&D)-29/2024 9281/Bhubaneswar, the dt. 27th Feb., 2024  
**Invitation for Bids**  
**1st Corrigendum**

**Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 65/2023-24**  
**Name of the Work - Construction of 100 bedded SDH at Begunia in the district of Khordha for the year 2023-24.**

The following changes have been made in Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 65/2023-24

- Bid documents such as DTCN BOQ etc. can be seen / downloaded from the Govt. Website i.e. [www.tendersorissa.gov.in](http://www.tendersorissa.gov.in), during the period from dt. 07.03.2024 to 17.00 hours of dt. 25.03.2024 instead of dt. 27.02.2024 to dt.16.03.2024 for ONLINE BIDDING respectively.
- Online bids shall be received till 17.00 Hours of dt.25.03.2024 instead of dt.16.03.2024.
- The technical bids will be opened at 11.30 A.M. of dt.27.03.2024 instead of dt.18.03.2024. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Sd/-  
 Chief Engineer, Buildings (I/C), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, OIPR-34117/11/0122/23-24

**Office Of The Superintending Engineer 9th Circle Public Works Department Dehradun**  
 Office of the Superintending Engineer, 9th Circle PWD, Dehradun Uttarakhand  
 Website- <http://pwd.uk.gov.in> E-mail: [sepdwdun09@gmail.com](mailto:sepdwdun09@gmail.com)  
 Letter No. 1333/1C/9/2024 Dated: 27/02/2024

### NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING e-tender Notice (Short term)

The Superintending Engineer 9th Circle, Public Works Department, Dehradun on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" invites short term tender in two bid system for the following work. Information regarding tender shall be available on <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> from date 29.02.2024.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Validity of Tender (In days)	Period of Completion (In Month)	Contractor Category of Registration
1.	Under the state plan, from Husandin's house to Imran's house in Gram Panchayat Khushhalpur under Sahaspur assembly of Dehradun district, from Tarif Ali's house to Istiaq's house, from main road to Khizar's house, from culvert to Khushalpur Eidgah towards Shahzad Ali. Construction work of damaged/unpaved internal roads from the house of A.K. towards the crematorium and cemetery, from the main Chakrata road towards the primary school, from the main road towards the house of Imram Driver.	3.16	5000.00 + 18% GST	60	06	Registered in 'B' & above category in Road works in Central Govt./ State Govt. / any Govt. Undertaking

Note:- The Tender Invitation Notice is being issued in anticipation of the administrative approval and financial sanction of the work.

Government of Karnataka  
**DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY**  
 #49, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560001  
 E-mail: [dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in](mailto:dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in)

No. DMG-17022/5/2017/2023-24 C.No. 30960 Dated: 27.02.2024

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP No. 3585-86/2024 dated: 26.02.2024, the Department of Mines and Geology is calling tender for auction of about 6,53,247 tonnes in 11 lots lying at expired mining lease No. 2346 earlier held by M/s Mineral Enterprises Limited through MSTC. Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Auction notification is published in MSTC portal. Tender Document, notification, update and other details for the e-auction process shall be available in electronic form only at the website of MSTC Ltd. <https://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/aucsearch/search.jsp>

The auction of stock is "AS IS WHERE IS AND NO COMPLAINT BASIS". The interested bidders shall ascertain the quantity and quality of the Iron ore before participation.

The Department is not responsible for any dispute arising after confirmation of the bid. Interested bidders may visit the MSTC Ltd website.

Sd/-  
 Director,  
 Department of Mines & Geology  
 DIPR/CP/3912/Zenkar/2023-24

**Govt. of Bihar**

### CABINET SECRETARIAT DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING BID

Letter No: CBN(Misc.)-05-78/2023-143

Sealed offers under TWO BID SYSTEM are hereby invited by the Govt. of Bihar from eligible Non Schedule Operator Permit holders (Non-scheduled category) under DGCA, India, for WET LEASE (not more than 03 years old) **Twin Engine Helicopter** for VVIP/VIP operation in Bihar and entire Territory of India, for an initial period of 5 (five) years. Specification of helicopter is appended below:-

**THE DESIRED SPECIFICATIONS OF THE HELICOPTER ARE AS FOLLOWS:-**

- The helicopter should be certified vide FAR 29 or CS 29 certification standards
- Twin engine having good operational capability/reliability and easy maintainability.
- Minimum Range 300 NM with AWW at 35°C OAT & 1500 FT. AMSL.
- Minimum cruising speed 130 knots.
- Category A performance capability.
- Dual flight control with Auto Pilot.
- IFR capability.
- Full air conditioned.
- CVR/FDR, EGPWS and other essential equipment installed as per applicable DGCA Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs)
- Seating capacity as per Type certificate data sheet.
- The helicopter and its engine to be type accepted by DGCA
- AUW below 5700Kg.
- Helicopter should be in VVIP/VIP configuration.
- 7+2/8+2 (Passengers + Pilot) seating capacity.
- One in number Twin Engine Helicopter 7+2/8+2 (Passenger + Pilot) seater for VVIP/VIP operation in Bihar and all airports in India. Approximate utilization of flying hours will be 540 hrs per year (i.e. 45 hrs per month).
- Bidder has to deposit Bid Bond (Earnest Money) of Rs. 2.00 (Two) Crores in the form of Bank Guarantee as specified in the Detailed Tender Documents.
- Other terms and conditions and technical parameters required for the Helicopter are specified in the Detailed Tender Documents.
- The Government of Bihar will not be responsible for non-reaching of the Tender Documents due to postal delay or misplacement etc.
- Tender Documents can also be downloaded from the website "http://state.bihar.gov.in/csd" or "http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar".
- Last date and time of receipt of Tender by post or by hand is 15:30 hours (IST) on 01.04.2024 in the office of Additional Chief Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat Department, Govt. of Bihar, Patna.
- a) Sealed Tenders will be opened in the office chamber of The Additional Chief Secretary (Cabinet Secretariat Department), Govt. of Bihar, Patna at 17:00 hours (IST) on 01.04.2024 by a committee constituted by the Government of Bihar. If intervened by a holiday, Tenders will be received/opened at the same time on next working day.
- b) After opening of Sealed Packets of Tenders, only the Technical Bids shall be opened on 01.04.2024 at 17:30 hrs for scrutiny of the bid documents and technical data etc. The schedule of events for different activities is given below:-

Sl.No.	Schedule of Events	Date
1.	Request for Proposal	27.02.2024
2.	Pre-bid meeting	12.03.2024 (Online on 11:00 AM)
3.	Reply to queries	18.03.2024
4.	Last date for submission of proposals & Technical bid opening	01.04.2024
5.	Presentation by Bidding organisations	08.04.2024 (11:00 AM)
6.	Opening of Financial Bid	15.04.2024
7.	Award of Contract	24.04.2024
8.	Positioning of Helicopter	15.05.2024

If Technical Bid of any bidder is found incomplete, not supported by requisite Bid Bond and/or required documents or deficient of any technical parameters as specified in the Detailed Tender Documents, their Financial Bid shall not be opened and same will be returned to the bidder in sealed condition as submitted by the bidder.

The Government of Bihar reserves the right to reject any or all the bids offer without assigning any reasons thereof.

This information is available on [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar) also

Director, Operation,  
 Civil Aviation Directorate  
 Cabinet Secretariat Department,  
 Govt. of Bihar, Patna

PR. No. 018442 (CSD) 2023-24  
**नरो की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।**



# Motion to suspend Himachal BJP MLAs adopted by voice vote

Continued from P 1

The group of six, along with three Independents who backed BJP in the RS vote, had arrived from Haryana's Panchkula by helicopter to respond to charges of breaching the anti-defection law. Their arrival was marked by chaos as Congress and BJP supporters broke barricades, shouted slogans and scuffled despite the presence of a large police contingent. They returned to Panchkula without attending proceedings, maintaining that 20 others were on their side and that they all wanted Sukhu out.

Former CM and leader of the opposition Jai Ram Thakur, who had been insisting since Tuesday that the budget estimates should be passed only through a division vote, had led a delegation of BJP MLAs to governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at 7.15am.

Soon after the assembly convened, there was pandemonium when parliamentary affairs minister Harshwardhan Chauhan moved a motion to suspend 15 BJP MLAs for allegedly disrespecting the speaker. The motion was adopted by a voice vote. The speaker adjourned the House till noon when BJP members refused to budge. The finance bill was later passed by a voice

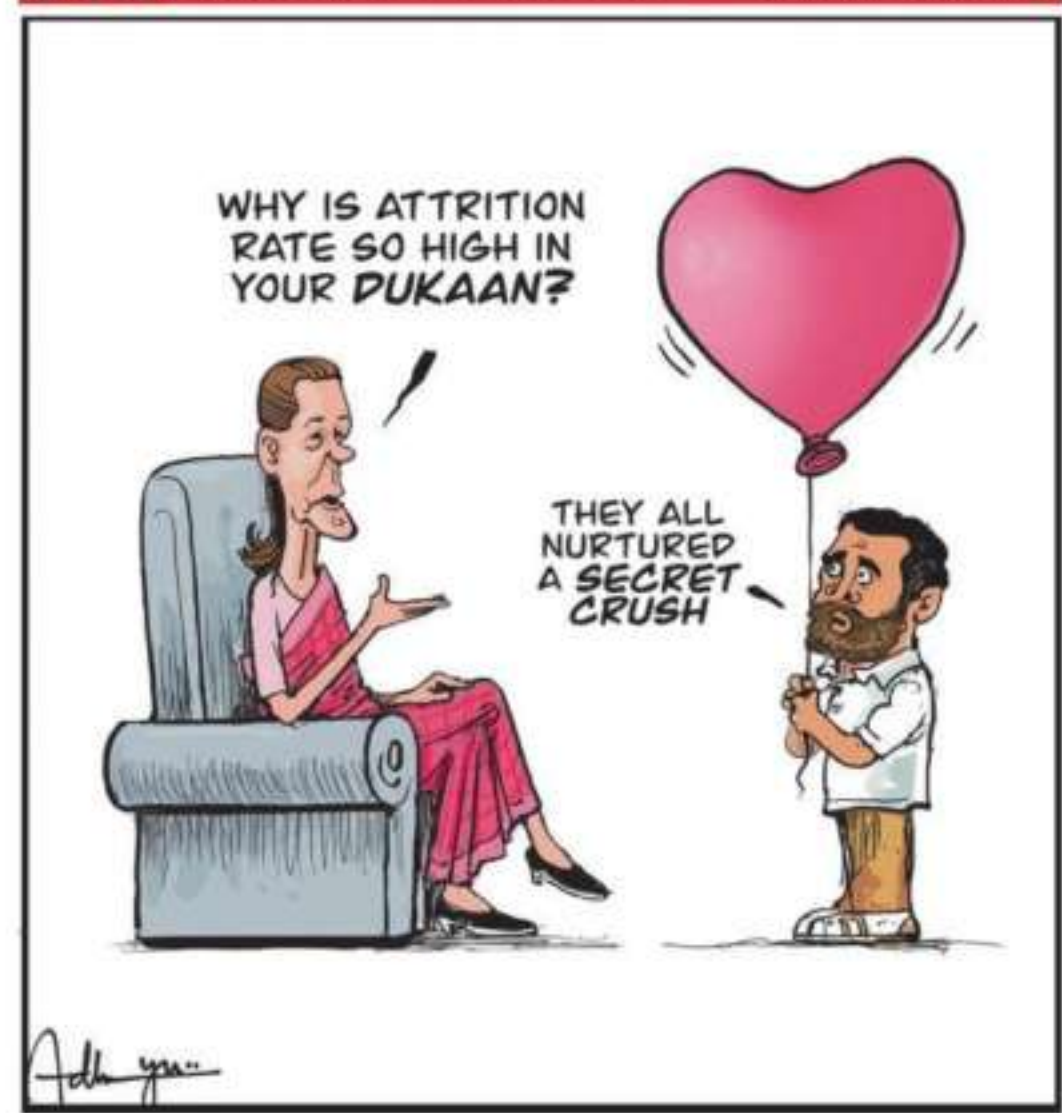
## Cong trashes talk of Sonia taking 'safe' Raj route

Congress rubbished as "motivated" the queries if the party had apprehension of cross-voting in Himachal Pradesh and if it was behind Sonia Gandhi's decision to opt for the Rajya Sabha from Rajasthan.

Faced with persistent questions about the HP unit having asked the senior Congress leader to fight the RS polls from the state, Congress spokesman Jairam Ramesh said there were similar proposals from Telangana, Karnataka and Rajasthan. "The high command took a decision, and you are distorting that decision. It is a baseless question," he said.

Cross-voting in HP led to the defeat of Congress candidate Abhishek Singhvi in the RS polls held on Tuesday. FN vote after the last 10 opposition MLAs walked out. Sukhu repeated his accusations against BJP, saying the party conspired to topple his govt with CRPF and Haryana Police's help but was defeated. "They tried luring some of our legislators through monetary inducements and bringing them to their side," the CM said.

### TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



# Sukhu lives to see another day as mantri retracts move to quit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Shimla: Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu successfully quelled rebellion within his govt on Wednesday as Vikramaditya Singh, son of former CM late Virbhadra Singh, retracted his decision to resign from the council of ministers.



Sukhu was in trouble following cross-voting by six Congress MLAs, enabling BJP to secure victory in Rajya Sabha polls in the hill state the previous day. The crisis intensified Wednesday morning when Vikramaditya, the 34-year-old son of state PCC chief Pratibha Singh, emotionally announced his resignation during a press conference at the assembly complex, citing humiliation.

I want to forget differences, said Vikramaditya Singh, son of former CM late Virbhadra Singh of Congress MLAs by Sukhu's govt. Vikramaditya also expressed disappointment over the disregard for his father's contributions and aspirations.

However, after deliberations with Congress observers, Vikramaditya declared in the evening that he would not push for his resignation. Emphasising the primacy of the organisation over individuals, he expressed readiness to move forward and serve the people. "I want to forget the differences and move ahead," said the MLA for Shimla Rural constituency.

Later, CM Sukhu described Vikramaditya as his "younger brother" and reiterated his commitment to addressing the concerns raised by the minister, signalling a concerted effort to maintain unity within the party and govt.

## PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.) Whereas complaint has been made by me that accused person namely Deepak Verma S/o Y.P. Verma R/o House No. 90A, New Lahore Colony, Main Gali, Shastri Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide FIR No. 335/2023 U/s 420 IPC registered at P.S. Tilak Nagar, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said Deepak Verma could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Deepak Verma has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Deepak Verma is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 01.04.2024.

By Order  
Sh. Devanshu Sajjan  
Metropolitan Magistrate-07,  
Room No. 289, IInd Floor,  
Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/2306/WD/2024  
(Court Notice)

# Netas Will Fake It Till They Make It

## Expect A Rush Of AI This Poll Campaign As Tech-Powered Deepfakes Make Dead Leaders 'Talk'

Himanshi Dhawan @timesgroup.com

Mahatma Gandhi campaigning for Congress. Yogi Adityanath addressing a virtual meeting in flawless Odia. Mamata Banerjee calling voters personally, seeking feedback on her government's work.



An AI-generated video of the late M Karunanidhi that was telecast at a book launch. (Right) Jailed PTI leader Imran Khan used AI to generate a speech last December



### HOW TO DETECT A DEEPAKE

Look at the video carefully for telltale signs

Eyes sometimes don't blink or blink too much, lip movement that doesn't sync with words, an unnatural shadow on the face or under the eyes  
Unusual movement of hands and feet | Check to see if the movement of the body seems incongruous to the face, compare body movements to facial expressions

Focus on details  
Details are a weak point for deepfake software. Look for unrealistic facial hair, overly smooth or wrinkled skin, unnatural lip colour, etc.

### The Deepfakes In Demand

AI-powered audio calls | Simulating the voice of a politician using AI to deliver personalised responses in the voter's preferred language  
AI digital avatar | Generates content where a politician (dead or living) addresses multiple audiences at the same time with customised messaging in various languages  
Holobox | A digital avatar is created, allowing the AI politician to interact with the audience (party workers or voters) in a conversational style. This is more realistic than a hologram

AI. These were used for robo calls to constituents. Today's wide acceptance of deepfakes as a campaign tool contrasts with the near-horror the tech was greeted with just a few years back. A 2020 deepfake video of Delhi BJP leader Manoj Tiwari speaking in Haryana and English - he speaks neither language fluently - was cri-

tailed, addressing his cadre. Khan's voice was cloned by a US-based startup, ElevenLabs. It used Khan's notes that were fleshed out by his lawyers for the 'speech'. Despite internet bans in Pakistan, the video was viewed by more than 4.5 million people. New York mayor Eric Adams has audios of his speaking Spanish and Mandarin, thanks to

tiqued severely. But as AI got refined, as its use for film special effects as well as for ads spread, it started turning from being dangerous to useful. When Rashmika Mandanna was 'de-aged' for a tea ad, there was not even a storm in a teacup.

### Horses For Courses

The Karunanidhi deepfake video is a good example of parties using dead leaders for current campaigns. As Niyagam explains, past leaders of DMK, AIADMK were charismatic and knew how to energise crowds, their parties want to recreate that magic. They reckon older voters will connect, and younger ones will be enthused.

The other use of deepfakes is to overcome limitations of star campaigners. Yogi is a firebrand BJP campaigner in the heartland. But he's ineffective in the South - unless there's a deepfake video of him speaking the lingo. It is this possibility of tailoring content, language and even nuance for each region, constituency and community that makes deepfakes deeply attractive to the political class.

Ajmer-based Jadoun, who taught himself AI, says a conversational AI agent that uses a leader's voice to "talk" to party workers or constituents is much in demand. "As test cases we have done personalised messages in Tamil, Telugu, Odia," he says. His team is also working on the concept of a holobox where a digital avatar of the leader is created. This AI politician will be able to interact with his/her audience in conversational style, a far more "real" experience than the usual hologram avatar.

None of this comes cheap, of course. A good quality video can cost a lakh per minute. Audio plus video can push the cost above Rs 5 lakh per minute.

### The Critics & The Law

Politicians are all gung-ho, and that worries tech experts. Many studying AI ethics feel deepfakes, insofar as they use subterfuge to manipulate opinion, pose an unprecedented threat. Jaspreet Bindra, who runs

The Tech Whisperer, says, "The very nature of democracy can be under threat from deepfakes. And it's not only content where false information is created... something true can be termed a deepfake by those who want to stop that information from getting around." What can happen, he says, "people won't know what or who to believe".

AI ethics lawyer Abhivardhan says it is ethically questionable to use any form of AI-generated content mined from material on dead leaders. There's a difference between current leaders promoting a past leader's thoughts and "virtually cloning a dead politician," he says. Even in cases of living politicians, and even when consent is given, he says, AI deepfakes are a problem. He says there must be a disclaimer that the content is AI-generated.

Bindra says the problem is not so much that deepfakes are created but that they travel everywhere on social media. Therefore, and while waiting and hoping that people will get sensitised to dangers of political deepfakes, authorities must take action against social media networks that carry deepfakes without asking any questions.

The long-term solution is educating people, Bindra says. He's optimistic on this count. "People have been educated to use traffic standards, stop at red lights, drive on the left side of the road... We have limited smoking by spreading awareness. Surely, we can do that with deepfakes as well."

It would help if Indian law and policing were up to date. It isn't. "There are gaps in detection, investigation, prosecution, and prevention of deepfake crimes. There are not enough technological solutions," Abhivardhan says. Meantime, lawyers say, aggrieved parties will have to depend on IT Act and its rules, along with criminal code provisions that deal with impersonation, violation of privacy, publication of obscenity and defamation.

But that's too cumbersome, complicated. Before you have digested all the laws, there, on your WhatsApp, is a deepfake video, looking all too real, asking for your vote.

**TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI**  
O/o. Chief Vigilance & Security Officer  
e-Tender Notice  
Roc.No. TTD-22021(36)/3/2023-CE-(AD) 28/02/2024  
1) Name of Work: Hydraulic Pressure Test Refilling Painting and Supply of Spares for fire Fighting Extinguishers to certain TTD Buildings at Tirumala for year 2023-2024. Schedule of work: 01.03.2024 at 10.30 AM, Download end date: 21-03-2024 at 03.00 PM, & Last date for bid submission: 21.03.2024 at 05.00 PM. Tender document can be downloaded from the website: <http://tender.aperecurement.gov.in>. For further details if any: a) Contact Phone No. 0877-2264279, b) E-mail ID: cc2cavsttd@gmail.com  
ROC, NR, PRA / 13963/ Adv. No. 386/ PRO / 2024, Dated: 28.02.2024

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
TENDER NOTICE  
(Through e-tendering)  
Name of Work with its location: Provision of Rainnet at way Side and Junction Stations in Outside Delhi Area of Delhi Division.  
Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.): Rs. 2,96,30,498.05/-only  
Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.): Rs. 2,96,200/-only  
Address of the office: Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055  
Date & Time for upload the tender / Tender uploading / closing date & time-closing of tender: 01.04.2024 up to 15.00 hrs.  
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc.: See the Northern Railway website [www.nreps.gov.in](http://www.nreps.gov.in) & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.  
Tender No. 558-Sig-16-Tele-OT-992 Dated: 27.02.2024  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 633/24

**कार्यालय-अधिसासी अभियन्ता, लघु सिंचाई खण्ड, पिथौरागढ़।**  
पत्रांक 1373/सॉफिओई-निविदा सूचना (शुद्धि पत्र)/2023-24 दिनांक 28.02.2024  
**शुद्धि पत्र**  
अधिसासी अभियन्ता लघु सिंचाई खण्ड पिथौरागढ़ के कार्यालय पत्र सं० 1366 दिनांक 27.02.2024 द्वारा प्रकाशित ई-निविदा सूचना जो दिनांक 28.02.2024 को दैनिक समाचार पत्र दृष्टिपूर्वक और ई-निविदा पर प्रकाशित की गयी थी। उपरोक्त अति अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना में कर०स० 03 पर प्रकाशित योजना सॉफिओई तिसरा त्रुटिवश प्रकाशित हो गयी थी के स्थान पर सॉफिओई तिसरा (कुटी) पढ़ा व समझा जाए जो सत्य है, शेष नियम शून्य इत्यादि यथावत रहेंगे।  
अधिसासी अभियन्ता, लघु सिंचाई खण्ड, पिथौरागढ़।

**UTTARAKHAND CIVIL AVIATION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Doon Helidrome Dehradun, Saharanpur Road, P.O. Kullhan, Pincode-248001 Tel. 0135 2608981  
Notice No.- 415/UCADA/B200\_DBU/2024 Dated: 28 Feb, 2024  
TENDER NOTICE  
Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, Govt. of Uttarakhand inviting e-Tender from the aircraft manufacturer Approved "Aircraft Spares Vendor" in India to supply of "DBU-5010E" including installation and certification by the appropriately licensed AME on Sika B200, MSN-BB 1914, VT-UBA aircraft of Govt. of Uttarakhand equipped with Proline-21 avionics system. This may also be seen on Uttarakhand procurement website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in). The detailed tender schedule is as follows:  
Date of Downloading of Tender: 28/02/2024 Time: 15:00 hrs  
Start date for submission of bid: 28/02/2024 Time: 15:00 hrs  
Last Date for submission of Tender: 06/03/2024 Time: 15:00 hrs  
Opening of Technical Bid: 06/03/2024 Time: 16:00 hrs  
Last Date for submission of documents physically at UCADA: 06/03/2024 Time: 16:00 hrs  
Opening of Financial Bid will be intimated by e-mail to the technically qualified bidders. For more details, please visit [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, Doon Helidrome, Mussoorie bypass P.O.- Kullhan, Dehradun, Uttarakhand-248013.  
CEO, UCADA

**POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.**  
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)  
"Viduyt Bhawan" Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002 Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675 Tel. No.: 0135-2642711  
E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-2  
The last date of submission of the E-Tender for "Supply, Erection and Testing & Commissioning of 80MVA 132/33KV Transformer and associated works at 132 KV substation Manglore and 132KV Substation Bazpur" against Tender Specification no. PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-II/SS-10/2023-24 is hereby extended upto 12.03.2024 15:30 Hrs. For more details please visit the e-tender website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in) (tender id no. 2024\_PTCUL\_68132\_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website [www.ptcul.org](http://www.ptcul.org). All other terms and conditions shall remain same. For any assistance on E-Tendering, Please contact +91-8999899000  
Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)  
RO No 330/HQ/PTCUL Dated 28.02.24  
"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajapete Division, 2nd Main Road, Nanjamba Agrahara, T.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560 018.  
No.EE(CMP)TEND/E-Proc/2023-24 Dated: 26.02.2024  
**CORRIGENDUM**  
Ref: 1. Tender Notification No. EE/CMP/TEND/E-Proc/09/2023-24 Dated: 21.02.2024  
With reference to the above Tender Notification No. EE/CMP/TEND/E-Proc/09/2023-24 Dated: 21.02.2024 due to Technical Reason Calendar of Events has been revised as mention below.  
(1) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders is 06.03.2024 upto 4:00 pm. (2) Pre Bid Meeting Document on 04.03.2024 at 11:00 am. (3) Opening of Technical Bid Document is 07.03.2024 at 4:30 pm. (4) Opening of Financial Bid Document 08.03.2024 at 4:30 pm. (If Possible).  
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.  
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajapete Division

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-Tender No.: JHS-ENGG-HQ-2024-27 Date: 26.02.2024  
E-Tender Notice  
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work:  
Description of Work: Virangana lakshmbai Jhansi-Provision of Fencing gate in front of staff quarters in west colony Jhansi.  
Approx Cost (₹): 22302977.80 Earnest Money (₹): 261500.00  
Date of closing Tender: 20.03.2024 at 15:00 hrs., Date of Completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 06 Months, Tender on line can be submitted upto 15:00 hrs on 20.03.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.irps.gov.in](http://www.irps.gov.in). 34524 (ADM)  
North central railways @CPRONCR @northcentralrailway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

**राष्ट्रीय जलविज्ञान संस्थान, रुड़की**  
(जल शक्ति मंत्रालय, जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग के अंतर्गत भारत सरकार की सोसायटी)  
जलविज्ञान भवन, रुड़की-247667, उत्तराखंड  
संख्या: 5(XIV)/2023-24/NIH/Pur-01 दिनांक: 27.02.2024  
राष्ट्रीय जलविज्ञान संस्थान रुड़की "हिंदी में तकनीकी पुस्तक लेखन पुरस्कार योजना" के अंतर्गत वर्ष 2023 के दौरान प्रकाशित मौलिक तथा अनूदित पुस्तकों के लिए प्रविष्टियां आमंत्रित करता है।  
उक्त पुरस्कार योजना की पात्रता सम्बन्धी शर्तों एवं अन्य विवरण की विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए कृपया संस्थान की अधिकारिक वेबसाइट [www.nihroorkee.gov.in](http://www.nihroorkee.gov.in) देखें।  
वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी

**UJVN LIMITED**  
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)  
H.O. "UJAWAL" MAHARAJ BAGH, GMS ROAD, DEHRADUN - 248006, CIN No. U40101UR2001900020860  
Tel.: 0135-2762806, Fax: 0135-2763596, Website: [www.ujvn.com](http://www.ujvn.com)  
RO No. 313 Short Term Tender Notice Date: 28.02.2024  
Office of Executive Engineer (E/M), Arakot Tiuni & Tiuni Plas, invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:  
Tender No: 03/EE(E/M)/Arakot Tiuni & Tiuni Plas/2023-24  
"Annual Operations & Maintenance Contract for Electrical Installations and other miscellaneous works at the project office of Arakot-Tiuni & Tiuni-Plasu, Dakpathar, Dehradun"  
Estimated cost: ₹8,97,744.00/- (GST Extra)  
Date of availability of bid on website: 29.02.2024, 16:00 hrs  
Last date for submission of tender: 14.03.2024, 15:00 hrs  
For further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website "www.ujvn.com"  
Executive Engineer (E/M)  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

**MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Govt. of Maharashtra undertaking)  
Opp. Bandra Reclamation Bus Depot, Bandra (W), Mumbai - 400 050, Maharashtra State, INDIA. Tel. No.: 022-26517938. Web site: [www.msrdc.in](http://www.msrdc.in)  
E-Tender Portal: <http://mahatenders.gov.in> email: [coastalroad.msrdc@gmail.com](mailto:coastalroad.msrdc@gmail.com)  
**E-TENDER NOTICE (2<sup>nd</sup> call)**  
1) Construction of Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelters at Village Usarni and Village Yadvan in Tal. Palghar & 01 Location in Mira-Bhayandur Dist. Thane in Maharashtra (T-2726).  
2) Construction of Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelters at 27 various locations in Tal. - Kudal, Dodamarg, Sawantwadi, Vengurla, Malwan, Kankavli, Deogad & Vaibhavwadi in Sindhudurg District in Maharashtra (T-2727).  
Online digitally signed offers are invited by MSRD from the interested bidders for the above works (2<sup>nd</sup> call).  
The offer document can be viewed/downloaded through e-tendering portal, <https://mahatenders.gov.in> from 29.02.2024  
Vice Chairman & Managing Director, MSRD Ltd., Mumbai

**उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग**  
हदिकार पिन कोड- 249404  
पत्रांक : 179 / 56 / उ.क.प्रा. / पशुचिकित्साधिकारी(पं-2) परीक्षा-2023 / गोन-3 / 2023-24 दिनांक : 28 फरवरी, 2024  
विज्ञापित  
एतद्वारा सूचित किया जाता है दिनांक 21 एवं 22 फरवरी, 2024 को आयोजित पशुपालन विभाग के अन्तर्गत पशुचिकित्सा अधिकारी पं-2 पर हेतु मुख्य(लिखित) (वस्तुनिष्ठ प्रश्न) परीक्षा-2023 के प्रथम प्रश्नपत्र- सामान्य अध्ययन एवं सामान्य हिन्दी, द्वितीय प्रश्नपत्र- पशुचिकित्सा विज्ञान एवं तृतीय प्रश्नपत्र- पशु विज्ञान विषयों की लिखित परीक्षा (वस्तुनिष्ठ प्रकार) की चारों सीरीज (A, B, C & D) की उत्तराखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग की वेबसाइट [www.psc.uk.gov.in](http://www.psc.uk.gov.in) पर अग्रिमियों को सूचनायें प्रसारित कर दिया गया है। यदि किसी अग्रिमियों को चारों सीरीज के किसी प्रश्न एवं उत्तर विकल्प पर कोई आपत्ति है तो वह आयोग की वेबसाइट पर Online Answer Key Objection हेतु दिये गये लिंक पर जाकर अपनी आग्रिमियों को आयोग द्वारा जारी दिशा निर्देशों के अनुसार दिनांक : 29 फरवरी, 2024 से 06 मार्च, 2024 (समय रात्रि के 23:59:59 बजे तक) तक दर्ज करा सकते हैं। अग्रिमियों द्वारा प्रति-प्रश्न आपत्ति के साक्ष्य निर्धारित शुल्क ₹ 50.00 का युगतान करना होगा। आयोग की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध लिंक Online Answer Key Objection के अतिरिक्त ई-मेल, डाक अथवा अन्य किसी माध्यम से प्रेषित आपत्तियों पर विचार नहीं किया जायेगा। उक्त के अतिरिक्त अग्रिमियों द्वारा अंतिम तिथि के उपरान्त प्रेषित आपत्तियाँ तथा प्रति-प्रश्न आपत्ति के साक्ष्य निर्धारित शुल्क ₹ 50.00 का युगतान नहीं किये जाने की दशा में प्रस्तुत आपत्तियों पर कोई विचार नहीं किया जाएगा। उत्तर कुंजी के साक्ष्य आपत्ति दर्ज किये जाने से पूर्व आयोग की वेबसाइट पर उपलब्ध दिशा-निर्देश सम्बन्धी विस्तृत विज्ञापित पत्रांक : 178 / 56 / उ.क.प्रा. / पशुचिकित्साधिकारी(पं-2) परीक्षा-2023 / गोन-3 / 2023-24 दिनांक : 28 फरवरी, 2024 का अध्ययन अवश्य कर लें।  
(गिरधारी सिंह रावत) सचिव।

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
**NOTICE REGARDING REMOVAL FROM RAILWAY SERVICE**  
Shri Vikas Saraswat S/O Hari Kishan Sharma Resident/Permanent address House no-413, Mali Pada, Dholi pyau Dist. Mathura (U.P.) was working as a Pipe fitter Grade-III under SSE/W/IDH, North Central Railway Agra. Due to long absent from duty since 03.08.2020 he has been removed from railway service Vide ADEN (HQ) AGC letter No. AGC/308/2/DAR/Vikas Saraswat date 07.02.2024.  
Appeal against this order may be done to Divisional Engineer (HQ) NCR, AGRA with in 45 days of publication of this notice under DAR rule 1968 section 18.  
Asstt. Divl. Engr. (HQ) N.C.Rly., Agra Cantt.  
North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @northcentralrailway @CPRONCR





## A thought for today

I simply had to admit that the capacity of his memory had no distinct limits

ALEXANDER LURIA, The Mind of a Mnemonist

## In With The Old

Biden to Trump, stereotypes about memory and aging are a poor judge of competency. Look at the science

America's median age is less than 39. Both Biden and Trump are doubly older. Across the pond France has a 34-year-old PM. More than their years though, it is the many instances of their 'forgetfulness' that have critics questioning Biden-Trump's fitness for the world's most powerful presidency. Experts, however, suggest that these concerns are rooted more in the stereotypes about aging, than facts.

**Memory is not a movie** | Charan Ranganath, UC Davis professor of neuroscience, has a new book *Why We Remember* making a lot of buzz. He makes a distinction between forgetting and forgetting. Nobody accuses people like Martin Scorsese (81 years) and Warren Buffett (93) of having lost their competency with age. First, our past is only ever with us as an interpretation. Second, just because photo-accuracy decreases with age doesn't mean the ability to make consequential decisions does.

**Practice is not wasted** | Research suggests that there are mental abilities that sharpen with age. Take the example of a study at the Georgetown University Medical Centre. It examined some widely used processes of brain networks and found that working memory does decline – such as holding a telephone number actively in mind. But other critical aspects of cognition such as self-control as well as the ability to "inhibit distracting information" to focus on what is important, can improve with age.

**Today's lifestyle wonders** | There is also the persuasive idea of super-agers. They remain sharp even when their peers decline. A Swedish study, *Successful Memory Aging*, traces this to a triad of genetic, epigenetic and lifestyle factors. Two years ago Biden was meme-mocked when he fell off his bicycle, after his foot got caught in the pedal. But a more relevant point is, how many octogenarians cycle? India's life expectancy of 70 will keep going up, Japan's is already 85, more and more earthlings are living past a century. How healthy we age is, to a great extent, already in our hands.

**Tomorrow's promise** | Some simple anti-aging formulas like calorie control just need more popularising. But more sci-fi ones are also in the works. Including drugs that could directly affect the biological pathways of aging. Today we can use spellcheck to write documents without anyone questioning our faculties. Tomorrow an AI diary could offer broader memory assistance in similarly ubiquitous ways. Meanwhile, let's stop judging a person's competency by their age.

## Cong Crisis? What's New

BJP keeps sharpening its strategy. Congress fails to spot dissent before it blows up

Cross-voting by 6 Congress MLAs in Rajya Sabha election for Himachal's single seat should not have triggered the uproar it did. Party whips in assembly do not extend to RS elections. So, RS cross-voting – technically – doesn't impact assembly. Qualifying word being 'technically'.

**K'taka model** | Post cross-voting, disaffection within governing party in Himachal exploded with dissenting MLAs demanding CM Sukhu's scalp. Sukhu, with 40 MLAs and three Independents, would've likely survived a confidence vote in the 68-member assembly had it come to pass yesterday but that's not at issue here. The issue is managing factions. Sukhu could take a leaf out of Karnataka, where rivalries were kept aside for RS polls. Even a BJP MLA cross-voted for Congress's nominee, and another abstained.

**Dukhi with Sukhu** | Dissenters' grudge is CM's 'working style' and govt failing to provide jobs. It's rare for MLAs to throw their own govt under the bus on such matters. But it is the dissenter-in-chief in Himachal Congress who was the most miffed. Vikramaditya Singh, son of former CM Virbhadr Singh and current Congress state head Pratibha Singh, said he felt 'humiliated' that his grievance was not 'political', that his dissent was 'an emotional thing for a son'. Apparently, what pained him was that state govt has so far failed to install the late Virbhadr's statue.

**Takeaways** | One, Congress is no stranger to factional mutinies but it fails to spot them before they blow up. Two, this playbook is now familiar – similar scenes have played out in other states; BJP will sniff out the smallest chink in opposition's armour. Three, Jairam Ramesh's words, 'people's mandate needs to be respected', sound like they belong to a fairy tale. Four, Sukhu is fighting – despite the chaos, assembly passed the state budget, and he claimed BJP MLAs are in touch with him. How it will all turn out is hard to predict. What's certain is that there are jitters across Congress state units.

## Seat-scaring

Welcome to the election edition of Indian Matchmaking

Bachi Karkaria

Move over, Sima Auntie. The possibilities of electoral alliances are *asima*. Just as royal alliances were historically sealed by marriage, our political ones are aimed at securing the throne. So, as in the 1964 blockbuster, all manner of suitors are again pleading. 'Poll, Radha, poll, *sangam hoga ki nahin*.' Politics has always made strange bedfellows, though it's quite likely that a few may head to the matrimonial court even before the mandap. No wonder the music of shehnai is called 'strains'.

Indian Matchmaking, Elections *Ishtyle* is predictably having an impressive run in the run-up to what is globally acknowledged as The Greatest Show On Earth. The Bahut Jeeta Party has already declared a walkover – or rather a bulldozer-over, thanks to its unmatched showman. But hope springs eternal in the political beast. Members of INDIA have linked arms and called outliners to arms for what they say is a war to save democracy. However, its biggest challenge is in-house: how to achieve unity amidst such diversity.

In Bengal, TMC isn't inclined to give any tlc to possible tie-ups; La Belle Sans Mamata has resolutely said, 'Merci, but no mercy' to hopeful Congress. Still, INDIA will gain from seats pulled in by this unpartnered partner. The Gone Old Party has managed to sing 'AAP jaisa koi hil jaye', since Kejriwal & Co has shaken its stand, and agreed to sharing seats in Gujarat and Haryana though not in Punjab. In critical UP, the Gandhis have bowed to altered realities, and conceded lion's share to bigger *sher*, SP. However, the double-engine's deafening roar derails all with its relentlessly tom-tommed track record.

Maharashtra could serve up a piquant *masale bhat* to the omnipotent No Dissenters Alliance: there's talk of a Congress-UBT-Sharad NCP *puran-poli* while CM Shinde's Sena could make *bharta* of his own Mahayuti *baingan* over seat-sharing. INDIA will also be strengthened by Tamil Nadu and Bihar results. However, there's no getting away from the fact that an alliance made up of parties with too many 'I's' will perform find it difficult to join the dots.

Alec Smart said: "Defiant RS voters make mother party very 'cross'."

## Helping Hand For Lotus

Rajya Sabha election results are one more indicator of how hungrily BJP fights to win. And the party is aided by Congress harbouring the wrong kind of ambition

R Jagannathan



BJP's unexpected success in Rajya Sabha polls in UP and Himachal is yet another pointer to its overwhelming hunger for success and burning ambition to dominate all available political spaces. While it obviously goofed up in Karnataka, where two of its legislators either cross-voted or abstained, in UP and Himachal it managed to garner huge support from several SP and Congress legislators, giving it two additional seats in the upper house. While the UP verdict does not indicate any political earthquake there, in Himachal it implies a threat to Congress's govt in the near future.

**Three questions** | One, why can't opposition get its act together even after seeing BJP's drive to make its already dominant position even more unassailable? Two, is there an ambition deficit in opposition that matches Modi's ambition surplus? And, three, is this growing BJP domination at Centre and inroads into states where it was not previously strong leading us to a one-party state?

To answer the last question first, India was very much a one-person, one-party state from 1947 to 1964, when Nehru's Congress ruled the roost. He dominated both party and govt, both in Centre and states. BJP is nowhere near that level of dominance, but it's hoping to get there by opening its tent to non-Sangh Parivar elements even while seeking to expand in hitherto weak regions like the south.

**Nehru qua Modi** | What's common to the Nehru era and the Modi decade is their huge personal connection with the masses, which made it easier for their parties to go out and harvest votes. Nehru also created a very broad tent where all shades of ideology could be accommodated. BJP is attempting to do the same by bringing in non-Sangh Parivar talent.

The short answer to whether we are heading towards a one-party state is that it depends on whether BJP succeeds in producing another leader like Modi in the 2024-29 period at the national level, and on the quality of regional opposition. BJP is hoping to expand in states where some regional parties are declining (for example ALADMK in Tamil Nadu, CPM in Bengal and Tripura). But as long as regional players provide alternatives among themselves, BJP may not be able to dominate state politics as it currently does Delhi. So the

jury is out on the question of whether we are heading for a one-party state.

**Opposition's weakest link** | The real issue is what opposition does in the time between now (2024) and when Modi may walk off into the sunset (sometime after 2029), assuming BJP wins big this May. Why is opposition not able to widen its base beyond some regional fortresses, some of which now look vulnerable? If a chain is only



Uday Deb

as strong as its weakest link, clearly that link is Congress, which has not been able to provide an effective counter even in states where there are only two national parties in the fray.

**Opposition's missing message** | Another factor tripping the anti-Modi alliance is lack of a clear political message. The voter knows that a hotch-potch

coalition will not last, and hence needs to know why it should still vote for them. There's no clear story given to the voter on how such a coalition will govern if elected.

Nor is there any compelling reason why she should give up the bird in hand ("the Modi guarantee") just in order to humour some quarrelsome birds in the bush. The weakness of the opposition *khichdi* is not its composition, but a total lack of flavour. Merely alluding to Modi as authoritarian and fascist doesn't cut much ice with the electorate if Modi is delivering elsewhere and inviting them to be part of something larger than themselves.

**Positivity trumps negativity** | Next, is there enough opposition ambition and hunger for political success? When there are at least four or five leaders who want to be PM if the coalition wins, personal ambition isn't the problem. The problem is negative ambition in contrast to BJP's positive ambition. When BJP talks of a "Modi ki guarantee", it's selling the charisma of its leader *and* addressing aspirations of the masses. Modi hatred and attempts to create caste and regional polarisations cannot be sure-fire election winners when BJP can counter with its own brand of politically potent Hindutva mixed with hopes of progress.

While BJP has strung together a wider alliance of Hindu castes and communities, and is even trying to reach out to some Christian groups and Pasmanda Muslims, opposition depends on the latent negative energies of two minority groups, largely Muslims. Worse, it has perceptually painted itself into a corner by seeming to be anti-Hindu. No amount of temple visits before elections will mitigate core Hindu voters' suspicions that minorities are being given special favours. You cannot win elections by pandering only to negative energies.

**The hope factor** | Addressing those intangible elements called hope and aspiration is vital. And it's not all about doling out freebies, which every voter knows will ultimately come at somebody's cost and cannot last.

To sum up, Modi and BJP win because they tap into identity politics, hope and fear in large segments of the masses, while opposition taps only the fear element in a small section of voters. Fear alone can win once (as in 1984), but not repeatedly.

## Affluent Indians: Why They Matter...Even In Elections

Affluent India drives consumption trends and direct tax collections. Yes, they form a narrow base. But their savings power the economy and they are voting more

Sanjiv Shankaran@timesgroup.com



Consumption is keenly tracked and widely commented upon for what it says about us or the signal it sends on the health of the economy. The chatter around it has only increased after GOI released data last week on household consumption.

Everybody consumes. That's neither here nor there. What really matters is how we can stack consumers to learn something. With so much talk of "premiumisation" of India's consumer market, what's the size of this population?

## Who are India's affluent consumers?

A useful benchmark for this group is a cut-off set in a recent Goldman Sachs report. It uses a reference point of \$10,000, or about ₹8.3 lakh per capita income to estimate Affluent India.



This number is in line with the ceiling annual income of ₹8 lakh used by govt to determine whether students are eligible for EWS/OBC quotas. The state's idea of 'creamy layer' is not too far away from Goldman Sachs' understanding of affluent India, which today numbers around 60 million consumers. It estimates this number will grow to 100 million by 2027.

Even at 100 million, affluent India is well below 10% of the population. But what you see depends on where you are. For global firms in search of a market, 100 million consumers would be equivalent to the 16th largest country in the world.

They pack a punch even in the domestic market. Consider what's happened to India's car market. There were 4.1 million units sold in 2023, making it the third largest. SUVs, the embodiment of premium, made up 53% of sales. And the once dominant small cars are

shrinking in sales and mindshare.

## Are affluent paying income tax?

Let's use a loose definition and add people who file tax returns and also those who may not have filed returns but did record TDS on some transaction. In AY 2022-23, taxpayers by this definition came to around 89 million. Or around 6% of the population.

Look at tax data from another angle. GDP data for 2021-22 showed that nominal per capita income was ₹1.49 lakh. A look at data on tax returns for the same AY showed that 60.5 million people reported gross total income of ₹1.5 lakh and more. Not all of them would have had to pay income tax, but the returns data suggests that affluent India could number less than 60 million.

## Where do they invest?

Indian households do the bulk of the country's savings. Typically, ₹2 of every ₹3 saved in India comes from households. Real estate and gold have long been important avenues to invest savings. But what's more interesting of late is the change in the pattern of financial assets.

RBI's data on annual flow of household savings shows that bank deposits remain the favourite parking lot even if its popularity is declining. Roughly 30-40% of the flow of household savings go into bank

deposits. Other popular destinations are life insurance and PPF, which support government borrowing. But the big change is the surge in popularity of capital market investments.

Mutual funds have emerged as the preferred vehicle. Between 2020-21 and 2022-23, household flow into them almost tripled. Within mutual funds, it's SIPs that gained. Little wonder that India's stock indices seem largely insulated from FII flows.

Assume it's largely affluent India that's driving the SIP boom. How many SIP accounts are there? At the end of January, there were 79.2 million accounts. Of course, definitions vary and therefore aggregate numbers across databases can't be compared in a simplistic fashion. But no matter which way one slices and dices numbers, affluent India is not more than 5% of the population, using \$10,000 annual income as a benchmark. In terms of households, the proportion will be higher.

## Do they care about the country?

Popular wisdom has it that when it comes to voting there's urban apathy. A sign of disinterest in public affairs that comes with living in a bubble. Data indicates this is just lazy thinking.

Political scientists Sanjay Kumar and Souradeep Banerjee used CSDS-Lokniti election data to map class-wise voter turnout in metropolitan cities for the 2009 and 2014 Lok Sabha elections. It turned out that the middle-class and rich, in particular, had a turnout above the city average.

If the relatively poor had a lower turnout, it shouldn't be construed as apathy. A large proportion of urban poor are economic migrants and, therefore, probably cast their vote somewhere else or didn't have the necessary papers.

Affluent India is a thin sliver today. But they carry weight that's disproportionate to their number.

## Calvin &amp; Hobbes

RRINNGGG



## Sacredspace



A strange, amazing day that comes only once every four years...A day of unlocked potential...Use

this day to do something daring, extraordinary and unlike yourself. Take a chance and shape a different pattern in your personal cloud of probability.

Vera Nazarian

## Hands: Crafting Connections, Shaping Destinies

Homayun Taba

I used to marvel at the dexterity of my dad's brother's small hands. A professional magician, working with an audience at close quarters, it was as though he was gifted with a separate brain in the nimble fingers of his ambidextrous hands.

Humans are homo faber, creators of objects, made possible because of the opposable thumb, quite different from other primates. We can grasp tools firmly, sew tiny stitches, even sign between narrow dotted lines. Aristotle called the hand 'tool of tools'. Manual work requires handling of simple tasks, technical tasks work with hands and the brain, while an artist, as well as the sign language user, combines the fingers, brain, and emotion.

In spite of thousands of daily tasks, very few of us look closely at our own or others' hands. Women are better at this, especially in jewellery wearing and in

manicuring. 'Man' in 'manicure', comes from Latin 'manus', hand, with derivatives manual, manufacture, manuscript, manipulate. The Greek word for 'hand' is 'kheiro', chiro as seen in chirography – handwriting.

The digital age has led to more uses, typing, and sending messages. 'Digital' originates from the Latin 'digitus', finger, traditionally used for counting. Hands and lips are the most sensitive parts of our anatomy – sensitive to texture, temperature sensing, to touching and reading, as in Braille.

Positive relational connotations include – handshake, army salute, waving, affectional hands holding, comforting hand on the shoulder of a grieving person. Negative uses are rude and obscene finger gestures, threatening finger pointing, making a fist with intention to cause harm.

Psychologically, handling refers to problem solving, managing conflicting, or stressful emotional situations in order to avoid impulsive reactions as 'flying off the handle'. Hand movements can reveal emotional states – fidgeting, sweating, and shaking.

Among many religious and spiritual symbols, we have hamsa, open hand, known as the Hand of Fatima in Islam and the Hand or eye of Miriam in Judaism, as defence against the evil eye. Hamsa, Arabic khamsa, five, in Indian tradition refers to the five senses.

Referring to the divine, our finger points upward 'all is in her hands'. While praying, our open or folded palms indicate receptivity of blessings.

Many traditions use mudras with psycho-spiritual significance – abhaya mudra, right hand held upright and palm facing outwards as a gesture

of reassurance dispelling fear and conveying divine bliss and protection. Mudras are also used for redirecting pranic currents in the subtle body, as well as inducing certain mental states.

It is good to be reminded that hands are not just a physical assemblage of bones, muscles and nerves but conveyors of thoughts, emotions and of deep significance. In Michelangelo's *Creation of Adam* painting, a divine finger reaches out to infuse prana, the breath of life, into the man's finger. In being grateful for the gift of life, our commitment needs to be harm avoidance, and to reach out with healing hands and intention to all in need physically or otherwise.

It is said that we don't hold the world's solution in our hands, but we do have our hands to work towards solving the world's problems. When the God of history comes, points out Mamerto Menapace, the Benedictine monk and writer, "He will look at our hands."



# India Takes China's Electronics Export Mkt Share As Govt Lures With Incentives

India is chipping away at China's dominance in electronics exports in key markets as manufacturers diversify supply chains away from the world's factory to other parts of Asia, a new study shows. India's electronics exports to the US as a ratio of China's increased to 7.7% in Nov last year from 2.5% in Nov 2021. Govt is luring electronics manufacturers with heavy incentives such as tax cuts, rebates, easier land acquisition and capital support

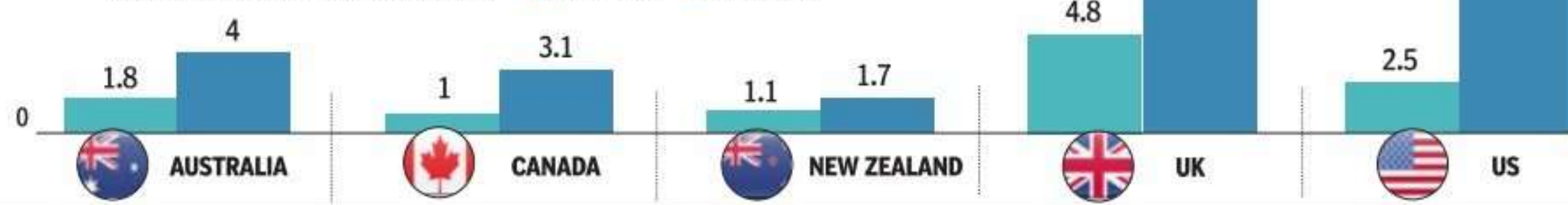
Source: Bloomberg

# TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

## India's Electronic Exports in Key Markets

(As share of China's exports in %)



India houses Samsung Electronics's biggest mobile phone factory

Apple makes at least 7% of all its iPhones in India through its contract manufacturer Foxconn Technology Group and Pegatron

# RIL to merge Viacom18 with Disney's Star in \$8.5bn deal

Reliance To Own Controlling Stake | Nita Ambani To Lead Board

Reeba.Zachariah@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries and global media major Walt Disney on Wednesday signed a binding pact to merge their media operations in India in a \$8.5-billion deal, creating a behemoth with 120 TV channels and two digital OTT platforms.

RIL-owned Viacom18 will be merged with Walt Disney's local arm Star India, strengthening the Reliance's hold over the country's \$28-billion media and entertainment industry. Reliance, along with Viacom18, will own 63% in the merged entity, while Disney will hold the remaining 37%.

Reliance will infuse \$1.4 billion (Rs 11,500 crore) in the merged company to finance its growth plans and consequently, the transaction will value the new entity at \$8.5 billion (Rs 70,352 crore). The announcement comes after Japan's Sony Corp terminated a \$10-billion merger between its local arm and Zee Entertainment Enterprises.

Nita Ambani, wife of Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani, will lead the merged company's board, while Uday Shankar, co-founder of Bodhi Tree Systems, will be its vice-chairperson. Nita's appointment comes nearly six months after she quit RIL's board to focus on philanthropy.

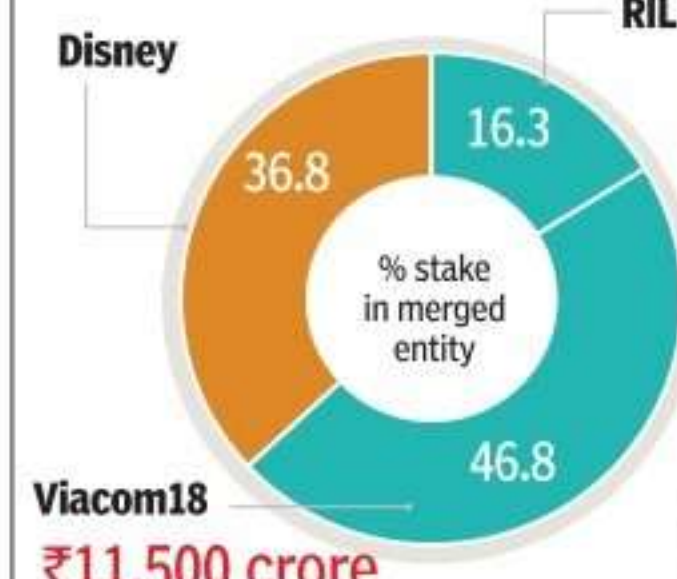
The development marks Shankar's return to Disney, where he was chairman of Star India. After quitting Disney, Shankar joined hands with British-American businessman James Murdoch to

## STARS ALIGN: RIL TO INVEST \$1.4BN IN JOINT VENTURE

### What's The Deal

- Reliance-owned Viacom18 will be merged into Disney's India biz (Star)
- Reliance, with over 63% stake, will control the merged media major

### Who Will Own How Much



**Viacom18**  
\$11,500 crore (about \$1.4 billion) | Reliance's investment in the merged entity



We have always respected Disney as the best media group globally and are very excited at forming this strategic joint venture that will help us pool our extensive resources, creative prowess, and market insights to deliver unparalleled content at affordable prices to audiences — **Mukesh Ambani** | CHAIRMAN, RIL

### How Big Is The Deal

**\$8.5 billion**

(₹70.5k cr) | Largest deal in Indian media industry will create country's biggest co in sector



Zee-Sony merger, if completed, would have been worth \$10 billion

### Merged Entity's Market Share

120 TV channels across entertainment & sports with 750 million combined viewership

**Viacom18** 40 channels | Such as Colors & Sports18

**Star India** 80 channels | Like StarPlus & Star Sports

2 digital platforms — Hotstar and JioCinema



Nita Ambani will be chairperson of the merged entity...

Uday Shankar to be vice-chairperson

(\*Shankar is co-founder of Bodhi Tree, an investor in Viacom18)

## Tatas to buy Disney's stake in DTH biz

**Mumbai:** Tata Sons plans to buy out Walt Disney's nearly 30% stake in Tata Play, a subscription-based satellite TV broadcaster, following the changes at the US company's India strategy, sources said. The move will increase Tata Sons's stake in the direct-to-home player to 80% from 50%. — Reeba Zachariah

set up Bodhi Tree.

Bodhi Tree, in which Qatar Investment Authority and NBCUniversal & Sky-owner Comcast are also shareholders, own about 13% in Viacom18. With a 47% stake, Viacom18 will be the largest shareholder of the merged entity, which will be controlled by Reliance, a joint statement said.

The merged entity will

have over 750 million viewers across the country and will also cater to the Indian diaspora.

Disney has been grappling with challenges in India such as retaining subscribers as well as securing streaming rights of coveted cricket tournaments. In 2022, Reliance outbid Disney to win the streaming rights

for IPL and bagged a multi-year pact in April to broadcast HBO shows, which were earlier with Disney. Reliance streamed IPL matches for free resulting in Disney+Hotstar subscriber exodus.

Disney may contribute certain additional media assets to the combined entity, the statement said. However, it didn't spell out the details. "Reliance has a deep understanding of the Indian market and consumer," said Disney CEO Bob Iger, and the deal will allow "us to better serve consumers with a broad portfolio of digital services and entertainment and sports".

## Honorary knighthood for Bharti's Sunil Mittal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Bharti Enterprises founder and chairman Sunil Mittal on Wednesday has been conferred an honorary Knighthood by Britain's King Charles III "for services to UK and India business relations".

In a list of honorary British awards unveiled by the UK Cabinet Office, Mittal receives a KBE under the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire — one of the highest honours conferred by a British monarch. The 66-year-old entrepreneur said in a statement that he was "deeply humbled" by the gracious recognition from King Charles.

"The UK and India have historical relations, which are now entering a new era of increased cooperation and collaboration. I remain committed to working towards strengthening the economic and bilateral trade relationships between our two great nations," Mittal said. "I am thankful to the government of the UK, whose support and keen attention to the needs of business has been critical in making the country an attractive investment destination," he said.

The KBE, conferred for a pre-eminent contribution in any field of activity, is awarded in an honorary capacity to foreign nationals. While the Knighthood conferred on UK nationals gives them the title of Sir or Dame, non-UK nationals awarded the honour add KBE (or DBE for women) after their name. Previous Indian recipients of the Honorary KBE include Ratan Tata (2009), Ravi Shankar (2001) and Jamshed Irani (1997).

## Keep rights issue funds in diff a/c: NCLT to Byju's

Asks Edtech Co To Consider Extending Feb 28 Deadline

Asmita.Dey@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** The National Company Law Tribunal, in an interim order, has directed Byju's to keep the funds received as part of the rights issue in a separate escrow account. The court said that the funds should not be withdrawn till disposal of the oppression and mismanagement suit filed by investors against the company's management.

The NCLT has also asked the company to consider the extension of the closure date of the rights issue so that "the rights of the petitioners (investors) with regard to the making of application for shares under their rights entitlement does not get prejudiced." TOI has reviewed a copy of the order.

Byju's rights issue is scheduled to close on Wednesday. Sources close to the company said that it will not extend the date of closure of the issue. Byju's declined to comment.

The firm's investors Prosus, Peak XV Partners, General Atlantic and Sofina had sought a stay on the rights issue, stating that there are serious allegations of siphoning off funds by the company's promoters and the company is being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate and Ministry of Corporate Affairs. Lawyers representing the investors argued that if they do not subscribe

### UNDER PRESSURE

NCLT has asked that Byju's maintain the funds raised via its rights issue in a separate escrow account

NCLT did not stop the closure of the issue, but has asked the co to consider its extension

The firm's investors had sought a stay on the issue amid allegations of siphoning off funds by the co's promoters

The case will next be heard on April 4

to the rights issue, their shareholding will decline to 2.5% from 24.5%. The investors declined to comment.

Byju's has given an undertaking that no allotment of new shares will be made without increasing the authorised share capital of the company in accordance with law. The case will next be heard on April 4. The cash-starved company had been banking on its \$200 million rights issue to raise capital and meet current liabilities. Byju's will have to call an extraordinary general meeting to seek shareholder approval and increase authorised capital.

The court has also asked regulatory authorities such as the MCA, RBI and Sebi to file a reply in response to the petition in two weeks. Through the NCLT petition, investors are also seeking declaration of the founders as unfit to run the company and a forensic audit of the firm.

## Sensex tanks 790 pts amid fears of delay in US rate cut

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Across-the-board selling pulled down Sensex by 790 points or 1.1% at 72,305 on Wednesday with Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank and ICI-ICI Bank contributing the most to the day's slide. On the NSE, Nifty closed 247 points or 1.1% lower at 21,951.

According to Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services, markets were jittery, mirroring weak global markets. Global investors are

## Bitcoin tops \$60k 1st time in 2+ yrs

Bitcoin rose to \$60,000 for the first time in more than two years, amid surging optimism that demand for the token is widening beyond committed digital-asset enthusiasts.

The cryptocurrency has jumped over 40% already this year, fuelled in part by the launch of US exchange-traded funds holding the coins. BLOOMBERG

awaiting key US economic data as there is fear that interest rate cuts in the world's largest economy may be delayed. As turmoil in China's property sector further impacted the Asian market trend, profit booking weighed on Indian markets, fuelled by concerns about India's Q3 GDP growth potentially slowing to 6.6% from 7.6% in Q2.

Foreign funds led the selling with a net outflow of Rs 1,879 crore while domestic funds were net buyers at Rs 1,827 crore, BSE data showed. The day's slide in the overall market also left investors poorer by Rs 6.1 lakh crore, with BSE's market cap now at Rs 392.4 lakh crore.



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# Govt hits out at US blocking appointments to WTO body

## Says Dispute Settlement Delay Leading To Credibility Loss

Sidhartha@timesgroup.com

Abu Dhabi: Amid attempts to paint India as an "obstructionist", gov't on Wednesday hit out at the US for blocking appointments to the WTO appellate body for dispute settlement, and said this has resulted in a loss of credibility for the Geneva-based body.

Besides, along with South Africa, it has virtually blocked a last-minute attempt by China and pro-Belt Road Initiative nations to push through an agreement on investment facilitation, which it sees as a non-trade issue, at the ministerial meeting here.

With each country sticking to its stance, talks are deadlocked with less than 24 hours for close of the meeting. Discussions on an outcome document began on Wednesday after two days of dialogue on some of the vexed issues but an Indian negotiator conceded that there had been no change in stance by the key players.

Chances are that the meeting, which is to end on Thursday evening, will go into extra time, although they are unlikely to extend beyond Friday noon.

Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal was hopeful that there will be an outcome. "I am sure there will be outcomes, there will be fair balance and equity in

### 'No Change In Stance By Key Players'

Govt, with South Africa, has virtually blocked a last-minute attempt by China and pro-Belt Road Initiative nations to push through a deal on investment facilitation

WTO members noted that the appellate body — the appellate arm of the dispute settlement system — had been non-functional since Dec 2019, due to blocking of appointment of its members by the US

I am sure there will be outcomes, there will be fair balance and equity in outcomes, which reflect India's interests... India is a consensus builder, several countries are seeking to break that... We have strongly demanded that those who are blocking various decisions at WTO should start addressing the concerns of developing countries like India. They should meet high expectations of the world and ensure that areas of our concern and interests like permanent solution to public stockholding, among others, are given due importance and addressed speedily.

Govt, which usually re-

Talks are deadlocked with less than 24 hours for the close of meeting

There had been no change in stance by key players, says an Indian negotiator

US trade representative Katherine Tai ruled out a deal on dispute settlement

Without naming the US, Goyal said: "First and foremost the appellate body should be restored."

USTR Katherine Tai ruled out a deal on dispute settlement, while arguing that it was not to blame.

The American side had earlier committed to work out a solution by 2024 and it reiterated that the issue will be addressed in the remaining 10 months, but officials were sceptical, given that presidential elections are due in the US in Nov. While EU came up with an alternative formulation, suggesting that members do not challenge the dispute settlement panel's decision on a voluntary basis, but the proposal was rejected by India and others.

In case of investment facilitation — which found its way into discussions on development issues — India and South Africa have said that despite over 120 countries said to have agreed to the deal, there is no official ratification. Besides, it is debatable whether it is a "trade issue". In any case, any inclusion into the WTO framework will require "exclusive consensus", which was only possible if the first two conditions were met.

"Investment is not part of WTO mandate. Therefore, South Africa and India have opposed inclusion of investment facilitation. We have given in writing to secretariat today," Goyal told reporters.

The Chinese trade minister has opted to leave Abu Dhabi despite intense negotiations beginning to deliver a deal.

of stages of the process from 7 months to 9 months, and requires sandbox entities to ensure compliance with provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

The changes come as RBI governor reaffirms RBI's commitment to innovation in the wake of RBI's strict stance on Paytm Payments Bank, which many criticised may stifle innovation

and technology in the financial sector.

The governor reaffirmed the commitment to innovation after criticism from some quarters that RBI's strict stance on Paytm Payments Bank, due to its failure to comply with RBI norms, might stifle innovation.

# Voda Idea falls 14% even as board OKs fund-raise

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Vodafone Idea stock crashed 14% in Wednesday's weak market after the company's huge fund-raising plan weighed on market sentiment. The stock opened marginally lower but lost value through the session to close at Rs 13.7 on BSE.

On Tuesday, the board of directors of Vodafone Idea approved a fund-raise of up to Rs 45,000 crore through a combination of equity and equity-linked instruments, the crisis-ridden telco said. Market players are worried about excessive supply of stocks during the fund raise, hence the slide in the stock price, they said.

Shriram Finance to replace UPL in Nifty Shriram Finance will replace UPL in the Nifty index, effective March 28, an NSE arm said on Wednesday.

"Shriram Finance has been included in the Nifty 50 index as it has the highest six-month average free-float market capitalisation within eligible universe as a replacement to UPL," NSE Indices said in a release.

# Indian eco stays resilient, says NCAER

# RBI tweaks framework for sandbox innovations

## New Structure To Enable On-Tap Proposals, Revise Process Timeline From 7 to 9 Months

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI has tweaked its framework to promote innovations through a 'regulatory sandbox'. The new framework will enable on-tap proposals, replacing the previous structure where RBI presented challenges to a cohort of tech firms and required them to devise solutions within a specified time frame.

"The framework has been revised based on the experience gained over the last four and a half years in running four cohorts and feedback received from fintechs, banking partners and other stakeholders," RBI said.

Among others, timelines of the various stages of the regulatory sandbox process have been revised from seven months to nine months. The updated framework also re-

### Revised Based On Past Years' Experience

A regulatory sandbox is a govt-backed, controlled testing environment for companies to experiment with new tech for a specified time frame

Under the old framework, RBI presented challenges to a cohort of tech firms and required them to devise solutions within the specific period

The new structure enables on-tap proposals, revises timelines

of stages of the process from 7 months to 9 months, and requires sandbox entities to ensure compliance with provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023

The changes come as RBI governor reaffirms RBI's commitment to innovation in the wake of RBI's strict stance on Paytm Payments Bank, which many criticised may stifle innovation

and technology in the financial sector.

The governor reaffirmed the commitment to innovation after criticism from some quarters that RBI's strict stance on Paytm Payments Bank, due to its failure to comply with RBI norms, might stifle innovation.

# Banks to disclose climate change strategy by FY26

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Banks and large financial companies will have to disclose their governance, strategy, and risk management structures to manage climate change risks by FY26, according to RBI.

The draft disclosure framework on climate-related financial risks was released by the central bank on Wednesday. The framework includes definitions for key terms related to climate-related financial risks and is applicable to various financial institutions, including scheduled commercial banks, urban cooperative banks, financial institutions, and non-banking financial companies.

Foreign banks operating in India must also make specific disclosures related to their

operations in country. While larger banks listed in the document are mandated to adopt the guidelines, others have the option to voluntarily adopt them. Regulated entities must disclose governance information, including structure overseeing climate issues, respon-

on the business model.

Risk management disclosures include the assessment of climate-related financial risks, including credit, market, liquidity, and operational risks. This encompasses methodologies for evaluating the impact of climate-related risk drivers on credit risk management systems, market risk positions, liquidity risk profiles, and operational risk.

Starting from FY28, regulated entities must disclose targets for mitigating and adapting to climate-related financial risks, along with metrics used to measure progress. This includes the objective of the target, the metric used for setting it, the related period and base period, any milestones or interim targets, and validation by a third party if applicable.

abilities outlined in policies, competency development, communication processes, and management oversight.

They are also required to disclose climate-related information pertaining to their strategy, including issues affecting prospects, short-, medium-, and long-term horizons, specific challenges, and the impact

# 'Terms of trade favour rich nations'

From P 1

In recent years, the share of Indian rice in the global market has gone up and the recent export curbs have angered western nations. Developed countries have been trying to paint a picture that India was distorting global trade by selling subsidised foodgrain in the international market, which was not the case.

On the contrary, officials pointed out that the rules were

framed in a way that the terms of trade favoured rich nations with the reference price for calculation of subsidy fixed at the 1986-88 level. This meant that any price offered above Rs 3.20 a kg of wheat was treated as subsidy.

As per the "flawed formula", India ends up breaching the prescribed ceiling of 10% of value of production in case of rice but cannot be dragged to WTO for violation of global rules as member nations had agreed to avoid any

disputes till a new formula was worked out. But that was more than a decade ago and the rich nations have refused to address what India believes is the most critical issue facing poor and developing nations.

US and EU are now seeking to link a resolution of this problem to a larger reform of global farm trade, including reduction of subsidies and import duties. Given the current global dynamics and domestic political

situation, no country — especially EU — is willing to discuss lowering of import duties, resulting in a situation where public stockholding has been pushed to the backburner for two years.

"Post-Covid, countries have realised that food security is akin to national security. It needs to be addressed before anything else. The kind of language coming from some countries here is unacceptable," an Indian negotiator told TOI.

**PUNJAB CRICKET ASSOCIATION**  
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SALE OF CORPORATE BOXES AT NEW INTERNATIONAL CRICKET STADIUM AT MULLANPUR (NEW CHANDIGARH)  
The Punjab Cricket Association is going to host the IPL Matches from IPL Season 2024 onwards and Bi-lateral Matches, except ICC events, allotted by BCCI, from March 2024 onwards at its newly built International Cricket Stadium, Mullanpur (New Chandigarh).  
The detailed Terms and Conditions are available on PCA Official website i.e. www.cricketpunjab.in. For any clarifications, you may contact Mr. Abhishek Mookherjee, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, PCA at his Mobile Number +91-8059228289 or E-mail: accounts@cricketpunjab.in. Sd/- (HONY. SECRETARY)

**DESIGNATED OFFICER, MINISTRY OF MINES, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
Room No.: 307- 'D' wing, 3rd Floor, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi, 110001, 011-23388061  
"Invitation of Bids for Second Tranche for Grant of Mineral Concession of Critical and Strategic Minerals"  
In exercise of the power conferred under Section 11(D) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to Central Government for the purpose of granting mineral concessions for minerals specified in the Part D of the First Schedule of the Act through auction and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time, the Government of India has directed the Designated Officer, Ministry of Mines to undertake second tranche of auction of 18 blocks of Critical and Strategic Minerals. The tender process will be launched on Thursday, the 29th of February 2024. Tender document and other details can be accessed on (https://www.msteccommerce.com/auctionhome/mclcn/index.jsp). CBC 26101/11/0010/2324

**GATI SHAKTI VISHWAVIDYALAYA**  
(A Central University under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India)  
Lalbagh, Vadodra, Gujarat 390004  
Ref: GSV/LABS/2024/001 29.02.2024  
**INVITATION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SUPPLY OF LAB EQUIPMENTS**  
Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodra is a Central University under the Ministry of Railways, established through an Act of Parliament in 2022, for creating best in class manpower and talent for the entire transportation and logistics sectors.  
This University is mandated to work across railways, shipping, ports, highways, roads, waterways, aviation etc. GSV is in the process of augmenting lab infrastructure spread over the domains of Mechanical, Civil, Electrical, Electronics, Computer Engineering and Robotics and has a considerable requirement.  
Towards this, GSV invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from manufacturers and suppliers of the lab equipments and consumables for supply of various items. The list of items with their specifications and quantity requirement is given on GSV website link, https://gsv.ac.in/eoi2024. Interested manufacturers, OEMs, vendors and suppliers of Lab Equipments are invited to express their interest by filling the Google form available on the website and uploading the equipment specifications therein. Providing the prices in the table is mandatory. Attach brochure if any along with the Google form. Shortlisted manufacturers/suppliers will be contacted by GSV for further process. GSV advises them to be registered on GeM and Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) so that they can bid for supplies in the future course of action. Please visit the above link for details. The response to the EOI by the interested manufacturers/suppliers should reach us by 10th March 2024 (5 PM). 340

**WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY**  
E-TENDER NOTICE ■ Date: 27.02.2024  
E-tender is invited from reputed and experienced contractors by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General), DRM's Office, West Central Railway, Bhopal (Near Rani Kamalapati Station), for and on behalf of the President of India, for the following:-  
Tender No.: ELECT-GEN-BPL-T-06-2024. Name of work: Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for maintenance of Conventional and LHB RMPUs fitted in RMPU AC coaches including power cars of BPL division for 03 years. Estimated Cost: ₹ 2,73,84,954.89. Earnest Money: ₹ 2,86,900/-  
Tender No.: ELECT-GEN-BPL-T-07-2024. Name of work: Bhopal Division - Hiring of desert coolers for the summer season 2024-26 (for 03 years) for the DRM/BPL office complex and other electrical offices etc. over Bhopal Division for 100 days per year. Estimated Cost: ₹ 31,88,108/- Earnest Money: ₹ 63,800/-  
For both the above tenders: Completion Period: 36 Months each. Date and Time for closing of tender: 19.03.2024, 11.00 Hrs. The details of complete tender documents and its related information may be seen at https://www.ireps.gov.in and notice board of this office. Manual offer for above said tender is not acceptable and if any manual offer submitted will not be considered. Corrigendum/Updating, if required, will be uploaded on website, it may be seen at above said URL and notice board of this office till the date of closing of tender. If cost of tender is above ₹ 50 lakhs then as per para 10 of GCC eligibility criteria will be applicable. Before participation in tender, contractor first read this condition. Documents for same should be uploaded on the IREPS website, by the contractor. Uploaded documents will be considered for finalization of tender. The brief of same has also been given in the special condition attached with the tender.  
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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/23/13686 Jt. Director

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl Namely Komal Kumari D/o Daboo Singh R/o H.No.30, gali No.2 Rakesh ka Plot Village Kapashera, Delhi has been missing/kidnap from her house since: 29.12.2023. In this regard, a case FIR/DD No. 578/23 dated. 29.12.2023 has been registered at P.S Kapashera, Delhi. The description of the missing girl is as under: Age: 15 years, Height: 5'0", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Blue color shirt and blue color jeans pant and sandal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing girl then please inform P.S. Kapashera, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: c/c/cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in, providing clue about the person.  
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Sd/-S.H.O. Kapashera, Delhi  
Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/1619/SW/2024 Ph No. 011-7065036220

**BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE**  
Office of the Executive Engineer-5, Solid Waste Management Division, 4th Floor, Annexe Building-3, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.  
No: BBMP/EE-5/SWM/TEND/01/2023-24/Call-3 Date: 26-02-2024  
**INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (CALL-3)**  
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)  
The Executive Engineer-5, Solid Waste Management, BBMP invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for appointing Contractor for Construction of New Public Toilets and Upgradation of Existing Public Toilets in in BBMP Limits as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Construction of New Public Toilets and Upgradation of Existing Public Toilets in East and Yelahanka Zone. Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 824.66, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.37
2	Construction of New Public Toilets and Upgradation of Existing Public Toilets in Rajarajeshwari Nagar Zone. Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 831.10, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 12.49

**Calendar of Events:** 1) RFP Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 26-02-2024 at 16.00 Hrs. onward. 2) Last Date for Receipt of Queries: 02-03-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. 3) Date of Pre Bid Meeting on 04-03-2024 at 15.00 Hours at the Office of the Chief Engineer (SWM). 4) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is 07-03-2024 upto 17.00 Hours. 5) Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is 11-03-2024 at 10.30 Hours. 6) Date of Opening of Financial Proposals after Approval of Technical Proposals through KPP Portal. Further details can be had from the above office. Sd/- Executive Engineer-5, Solid Waste Management, BBMP.

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
**SEE SECTION U/S 82 Cr. P.C.**  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Vinay R/o Premises in front of RZ 169, Near BSES Pole No. NJFA850, A-Block, Arjun Park, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043 has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in Ct. Case/424856/2016 135 Electricity Act. P.S. Najafgarh, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Vinay cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Vinay has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Vinay of Ct. Case/424856/2016 135 Electricity Act. P.S. Najafgarh, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 25.04.2024  
By Order  
SH. VINOD KUMAR MEENA  
Addl. District Session Judge (South-West)  
Special Court (Electricity) Court No.609,  
Dwarka District, Courts, New Delhi  
DP/2378/DW/2024

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Rahul Kumar @ Titu S/o Late Mahender Pal R/o House No. 515, Gopal Nagar, Azadpur, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide e-FIR No. 13060/2020 U/s 411 IPC registered at P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said Rahul Kumar @ Titu could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Rahul Kumar @ Titu has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Rahul Kumar @ Titu is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 01.04.2024.  
By Order  
Ms. Neeti Suri Mishra,  
Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate  
(North), Room No. 117,  
Rohini Court, Delhi.  
DP/2311/NW/2024  
(Court Notice)

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
(See Section 82 Cr. PC)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Iqbal @ Bali S/o Riyazuddin R/o O-200, O-Block Sunder Nagri, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 376/14 U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act at PS: Madhu Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Iqbal @ Bali can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Iqbal @ Bali has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Iqbal @ Bali of FIR No. 376/14 U/s 25/54/59 Arms Act at PS: Madhu Vihar, Delhi is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 14.05.2024.  
By Order  
Udbhav Kumar Jain  
Metropolitan Magistrate-04  
Room No. 37, Shahdara  
Karkardooma Courts, Delhi  
DP/2392/ED/2024

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED**  
(See Section 82 Cr.PC.)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Mandeep Dhillon, Proprietor Illuminatr lifestyles, Shop No. 124, 125 & 126 First Floor, Above Stationary Mart, Nirvana, Courtyard, Sector-50, Gurgaon, Haryana has committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in Case Reg. No. 2828/2018 & 3299/2019, U/S 138 NI Act, PS North Rohini, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Mandeep Dhillon can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Mandeep Dhillon have absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Mandeep Dhillon of Case Reg. No. 2828/2018 & 3299/2019, U/S 138 NI Act, PS North Rohini, Delhi are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 09.04.2024.  
By Order  
Ebbani Aggarwal  
Metropolitan Magistrate (North-West)  
Room No. 107, First Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi  
DP/2093/RD/2024

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Bipin Yadav S/o Rambalans Yadav R/o Bank Wali Gali, Prahladpur, Shahbad Dairy, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in a case vide DD No. 118A dt. 29.12.2022 U/s 40(A) Delhi Excise Act registered at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued stating that the said Bipin Yadav could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Bipin Yadav has absconded (or are concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Bipin Yadav is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.03.2024.  
By Order  
Judge Evening Court No. 3,  
(North), Room No. III, 1st Floor,  
Rohini Court, Delhi  
DP/2350/ON/2024  
(Court Notice)





**ANDY MURRAY LOSES TO FIFTH-SEED UGO HUMBERT AT DUBAI CHAMPIONSHIP**



**PRAGGNANANDHAA CRUSHES GERMAN VINCENT KEYMER IN FIRST ROUND OF PRAGUE MASTERS**

## BCCI CRACKS THE WHIP

**Drops Shreyas, Ishan From List Of Centrally Contracted Players**

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Mumbai: Sending a strong message that not playing in the Ranji Trophy unless you are on national duty or are unfit will not be tolerated, the BCCI on Wednesday excluded India's middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer and wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan from the list of 30 centrally contracted players. TOI had reported on February 23 that not playing in the ongoing Ranji Trophy (at that point in time) may see Kishan and Iyer lose their central contracts.

Iyer missed the last league match and the quarterfinal of the Ranji Trophy, citing back pain. He has made himself available for the Ranji Trophy semifinal against Tamil Nadu from March 2 at the MCA's ground in BKC in Mumbai.

Kishan, on the other hand, came back midway from India's tour of South Africa due to 'personal reasons' last year. The explosive 'keeper-bat missed the Test series against England and didn't play in the Ranji Trophy for Jharkhand. Earlier this month, BCCI secretary Jay Shah had told the media in Rajkot ahead of the second Test that all the contracted players were obliged to play in the Ranji Trophy for their domestic teams, unless they were on India duty or were recovering — from injuries — at the National Cricket Academy (NCA). "They (players) have been informed on phone already and I'm going to write letters as well that if your chairman of selectors, your coach and your captain are asking for it then you will have to play red-ball cricket," Shah had said.

Kishan has returned to competitive cricket and turned out for RBI on Tuesday in the DY Patil T20 tournament in Navi Mumbai. He scored 19.

Middle-order batsmen KL Rahul, Shubman Gill and pacer Mohammed Siraj have all been elevated to the Grade A category while 'keeper-bat Rishabh Pant, who has been out of action since January 2023 while recovering from a horrific road accident, finds

### LIST OF CONTRACTED PLAYERS

**Grade A+:** Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah and Ravindra Jadeja.  
**Grade A:** R Ashwin, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, KL Rahul, Shubman Gill and Hardik Pandya.  
**Grade B:** Surya Kumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Yashasvi Jaiswal.  
**Grade C:** Rinku Singh, Tilak Verma, Ruturaj Gaekwad, Shardul Thakur, Shivam Dube, Ravi Bishnoi, Jitesh Sharma, Washington Sundar, Mukesh Kumar, Sanju Samson, Arshdeep Singh, KS Bharat, Prasidh Krishna, Avesh Khan and Rajat Patidar.  
**Fast Bowling contracts:** Akash Deep, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Umrans Malik, Yash Dayal and Vidwath Kaverappa.



SHREYAS IYER



ISHAN KISHAN

himself in Grade B.

Iyer was part of the Grade B list last season while Kishan had a Grade C contract. "Please note that Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan were not considered for the annual contracts in this round of recommendations," the BCCI said, adding: "The BCCI has recommended that all athletes give precedence to participating in domestic cricket during periods when they are not representing the national team."

Even though he has been out of action due to an ankle injury since getting injured during India's match against Bangladesh in Pune in the 2023 ODI World Cup in October, all-rounder Hardik Pandya — along with R Ashwin and Mohammed Shami — has been retained in Grade A. "When approached to play in the WTC final last year, Pandya had made it clear that his body wasn't ready for red-ball cricket. He wants to focus on the shorter formats. The selectors are fine with it," a source said.

Indian captain Rohit Sharma, former Indian captain Virat Kohli, premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja have been retained in the A+ category.

The annual contracts for the 2023-24 season will be applicable from Oct 1, 2023 to Sept 30, 2024. Players who feature in a minimum of three Tests or 8 ODIs or 10 T20Is within this period will be included in Grade C on a pro-rata basis. So, if Dhruv Jurel and Sarfaraz Khan, who have played two Tests against England, feature in the Dharamshala Test, they will make it to Grade C list.

### Times View

The BCCI has sent a terse message to those cricketers who seem to become selectively unfit. This is a much-needed move. But the BCCI also needs to apply rules such as this with fairness and sincerity against all errant cricketers. If rules are not applied equally, they are not rules at all.

## In a first, BCCI gives 'fast bowling contracts'

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Mumbai: In a first of its kind move to encourage upcoming fast bowlers, the BCCI on Wednesday gave fast bowling contracts to Akash Deep, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Umrans Malik, Yash Dayal, and Vidwath Kaverappa — all pacers who have played for India or are in line to do so. TOI takes a brief look at these pacers.

**UMRAN MALIK:** A tearaway pacer from Jammu who clocked speeds of 150 kmph per hour during IPL-2022 but has been out of the Indian team for the past year. Giving a special contract to Malik is a signal to the 24-year-old that he is still in the scheme of things purely due to the raw pace that he can generate.

**YASH DAYAL:** An impressive left-arm seamer from Uttar Pradesh, who turned out for Gujarat Titans last year in the

IPL. Dayal was hit for five consecutive sixes by Kolkata Knight Riders' Rinku Singh in an IPL match. However, the 26-year-old has impressed the national selectors.

**AKASH DEEP:** The Bengal pacer made an impressive Test debut when he took three for 83 against England on Day 1 in the fourth Test in Ranchi.

**VIDWATH KAVERAPPA:** Turned out for India A against the England Lions in January in Ahmedabad; took 10 wickets (4/99 & 6/61) for Karnataka against Vidarbha in the Ranji Trophy quarterfinals in Nagpur. Kaverappa took 25 wickets in five matches @20.16 in Ranji Trophy.

**VIJAYKUMAR VYSHAK:** He impressed for Karnataka and Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL. He took 39 wickets in eight matches @23.61 for Karnataka in the 2023-24 edition of the Ranji Trophy.

## Board mulls matching red-ball fee with IPL remuneration

**BCCI Consulting Team India Captain, Coach, Selectors To Revive Players' Interest In Tests & First-Class Cricket**

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New Delhi: Indian cricketers could well be celebrating a windfall in remuneration from the Indian cricket board (BCCI) shortly. TOI understands that BCCI is deliberating the value of annual retainership contracts and it will be revised with an eye on raising the value for red-ball cricketers. In Wednesday's press statement, while announcing the central contracts for 2024-25, the board didn't mention the value of the various grades.

TOI has learnt that the BCCI has been in discussion with Team India head coach Rahul Dravid, captain Rohit Sharma and chief selector Ajit Agarkar on ways to revive interest in red-ball cricket amongst players. According to sources, the board has got a proposal to raise match fees/remuneration of players — both at Test and domestic level — so that it matches the remuneration of lower mid-level IPL contracts.

It has been identified that the quality of the Ranji Trophy has dropped substantially in the past three seasons with a host of players citing niggles and workload during the red-ball season. The board has also realized that the interest in Ranji Trophy diminishes once the IPL auctions are done. It has resulted in the resource pool drying up significantly.

"The board has asked for recommendations from the Indian team management. They are taking a very aggressive approach towards maintaining the sanctity of the longest format of the game. It is imperative that players, who are committed to first-class cricket, are rewarded at a similar level as IPL cricket. That would mean that existing remuneration has to be multiplied," a BCCI source told TOI. "The recommendations are on the



**TIME TO GIVE BOOST TO RED-BALL CRICKET:** Indian team during the Ranji Test against England

lines of increasing the Test match and first-class fees by three times. The idea is that if a player plays the entire Ranji Trophy, he should be able to make around Rs 75 lakhs which matches an average IPL contract. It has also been suggested that if a player plays all Test matches in a year, he should be able to make Rs 15 crores which is at par for any marquee IPL contract," the source added.

Going by the existing match fees, a player can make about Rs 25 lakhs if he plays all 10 Ranji matches in a season. The base price of a player in IPL auctions is pegged at Rs 20 lakhs. It has been observed that players, particularly fast bowlers, don't want to put their bodies through the rigours of first-class cricket for an amount which equals to the base price at IPL auctions.

BCCI's four grades in retainership contracts were valued at Rs 7 crore, Rs 5 crore, Rs 3 crore and Rs 1 crore. While the recommendations from the team management and selectors are being dissected, it is learnt that the board is deliberating to allow a considerable raise in remuneration.

"The board may not agree to increasing the remuneration by three times at

one go but they are considering meeting the players at mid-point. Even that should be a hefty raise. This is why the board has not announced the value of contracts. The board will have to decide if it wants to raise the match fees or make specified contracts accordingly," the source said.

### Selectors aim to create red-ball pool

While the BCCI has announced fast-bowling contracts for five bowlers, TOI understands the selectors are working towards creating a pool of bowlers in red-ball cricket. It will also work towards a set of wicketkeepers and spinners who can endure the rigours of first-class cricket.

Agarkar's committee has been going around the country to hand pick bowlers. For example, Khaleel Ahmed, who has been missing first-class cricket for years, was pushed to play Ranji Trophy for Rajasthan this season. Delhi's Mayank Yadav was identified but he missed the Ranji Trophy due to a side strain after the Vijay Hazare Trophy. They have also spoken to Arshdeep Singh on increasing his game time with the red ball.

## Australia look to finish season in style

**Wellington:** World champions Australia will hope to round off one of the nation's most successful seasons in cricket with victory in a rare Test series in New Zealand starting at Wellington's Basin Reserve on Thursday.

**1ST TEST AUS VS NZ**

Having won a maiden World Test Championship, retained the Ashes and claimed

a sixth 50-over World Cup title in a glorious six months, Pat Cummins's side will aim to lock away the Trans-Tasman Trophy before a well-earned break from international duties. The brevity of the two-Test series, the first between the nations in New Zealand since 2016, has prompted grumbling from fans in both nations.

Many would prefer a longer contest between the reigning WTC holders and

the inaugural 2021 champions.

Australia, however, may be glad for the light load after sloggling through five Tests in the home summer following the World Cup triumph in Nov. Their last Test was a defeat to the West Indies in Brisbane and a reminder to the world that Australia are, in fact, beatable. New Zealand may have been glad for the reminder, having not beaten Australia in a Test since 2011. AGENCIES

## Warriorz make light work of MI

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**Bengaluru:** Having started their Women's Premier League campaign with two straight wins, Mumbai Indians were keen to continue their winning ways when they squared off against UP Warriorz here on Wednesday. But the defending champions were outdone by the brilliance of Kiran Navgire (57; 37b, 6x4, 4x6), who helped Warriorz script an impressive seven-wicket win at the M Chinnaswamy stadium.

Opting to bowl first, Warriorz restricted Mumbai Indians, who were without regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur due to a niggle, to 161/6. It was a competitive score, but Warriorz batters, especially Alyssa Healy (33) and Navgire made batting look easy, reaching the target in the 17th over.

With Vrinda Dinesh picking up an injury while fielding, the move to pro-

mote Navgire up the order worked wonders. The right-hander formed a solid opening partnership alongside the experienced Australian Healy. It was their aggressive strokeplay, dealing in fours and sixes primarily, which put Mumbai on the back foot. It also set the tone for the Warriorz, who were 61/0 after the first six overs. Navgire was at her dominant best during the phase, hitting six fours and one six.

Earlier, Mumbai openers Yastika Bhatia (26) and Hayley Matthews (55) laid the foundation with their 50-run stand. Thereafter, all batters — Amelia Kerr (23), Pooja Vastrakar (18) and Issy Wong (15 n.o.) — scored briskly to bring up 161.

**BRIEF SCORES:** MI 161/6 (H Matthews 55, Y Bhatia 26) lost to UPW Warriorz 163/3 in 16.3 overs (K Navgire 57, G Harris 38\*, A Healy 33, D Sharma 27\*; I Wong 2/30)



UP Warriorz skipper Alyssa Healy tackles a pitch invader during the WPL match in Bengaluru on Wednesday

## Zaheer was someone I used to watch a lot to try and learn from, says Anderson

**New Delhi:** James Anderson, England's greatest fast bowler with an unparalleled longevity and nearly 1000 international wickets, says he has learned a few elements of pace bowling, including reverse swing, from Indian great Zaheer Khan.

"For me, Zaheer Khan was someone I used to watch a lot to try and learn from. How he used the reverse swing, how he covered the ball when he ran into bowl, that's something I tried to sort of develop on the back of playing against him quite a few times here," Anderson told JioCinema.

Among the current lot of Indian pacers, Anderson is most im-



ZAHEER

pressed by Jasprit Bumrah's ability, calling him a "great exponent" of reverse swing.

Asked about Bumrah's match-winning performance in the second Test against England, Anderson said, "With someone of his quality you expect that standard from him. You know that reverse

swing can play a big part in India and he's a great exponent of it. He's got good pace and is very accurate, very consistent.

"That yorker we saw to Ollie Pope, he's got that up his sleeve as well. It's not a fluke that he's got to number one in the world. He's a world-class bowler and from our point of view we weren't surprised that he put up a performance like that."

The seasoned Englishman added, "There are not many better bowlers than Bumrah, Shami and Siraj. They're world-class bowlers. You put Ishant Sharma in there as well, and that's a really strong bowling attack." PTI

### GALLERY

#### ICC Test rankings: Jaiswal rises to 12th, Jurel 69th

**Dubai:** India's latest batting sensation Yashasvi Jaiswal advanced towards a top-10 spot in the ICC rankings for Test batters by climbing three spots to 12th while his compatriot Dhruv Jurel leapfrogged 31 places to 69th on Wednesday. Jaiswal, who started the series in 69th position, continues his ascent to the top after scores of 73 and 37 in the fourth Test.

**Sathish, Aakarshi enter second round at German Open:** Indian shuttlers Sathish Kumar Karunakaran and Aakarshi Kashyap progressed to the second round of the men's and women's singles competition at the German Open Super 300 badminton tournament in Mülheim an der Ruhr on Wednesday.

**Swimmer Dhinidhi clocks 'Best Indian Time':** Dhinidhi Desinghu produced a record-breaking swim to clock the 'Best Indian Time' in the girl's 100m freestyle on way to a fourth place finish at the 11th Asian Group Aquatics Championships in Philippines. Dhinidhi broke the previous record of 57.35s set by Kenisha Gupta, clocking a new Indian best time of 57.33s.

### ACTION TODAY

**BASKETBALL:** NBA, 6 am to 9.30 am (Sports18); **CRICKET:** NZ vs Aus, 1st Test, Day 1, 3.30 am (Amazon Prime); Afg vs Ire, Only Test, Day 2, 11.30 am (Eurosport); **WPL:** Bengaluru vs Delhi, 7.30 pm (Jio); **FOOTBALL:** ISL, Odisha vs EB, 7.30 pm (Sports18); I-League, Namdhari vs Gokulam, 3.30 pm (Fancode); **TENNIS:** ATP Dubai, QFs, 3.30 pm (Eurosport)

## AIFF: Chaubey-legal head dispute deepens

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**New Delhi:** The spectre of mistrust between the nodal legal officer of the All India Football Federation, and the AIFF president, Kalyan Chaubey doesn't seem to be dying down.

After his Feb 4, 2024 mail detailing the legal discrepancies within the AIFF, Nilanjan Bhattacharya this week charged the AIFF president of casting aspersions on his competence as a lawyer by offering him an alternative role and continuing to deliberately bypass him in matters requiring legal counsel.

Further accusing Chaubey of using political clout for arm-twisting within the federation, the legal head stated, "Your act of continuous misrepresentation of the values of the respective political institution by using its name

to softly intimidate the general audience and members around is a sincere and serious concern."

Screenshots of the mail are in possession of TOI.

TOI had reported on Feb 6, 2024, allegations of "massive breach of privacy against the interest of the AIFF" against the president by "not sharing legal contracts or taking legal opinion in any matter," and had also reported that he was in "no position to any more share my retainership with your good office" since they had been withheld.

After TOI highlighted the non-payment of his dues, Bhattacharya revealed that while his fees for Nov and Dec 2023 have been disbursed, he writes of the "extreme disrespect" of being accused by Chaubey of not communicating with him with anything work related.

"Since the beginning of January 2024, I have not received a single email either soliciting my legal opinion or requiring my written consent to ensure adequate safeguards in the federation's interests. Furthermore, it was informed to me that my services will only be solicited after I agree to the alternate role as offered by you," the letter said.

The legal head also raised concerns about legal matters "being referred to certain practitioners of (the president's preference) and whose appointment has not been approved by 'anybody in the federation'." "I had raised certain pressing concerns in the interests of the federation. However, (since then) not only have I not received any redressal from your office, attempts have been made by your office to malign and defame me, question my competence and

scouting for reasons to restrict my services," it said. Bhattacharya further alleges, "I would like to submit that contrary to the aspersions created by you, when I have required your good guidance, you were never accessible."

"More so never in official/court hours and on the contrary (you) would direct to meet at odd hours of the night at your residence, which is beyond the mandate that we are lawfully due to discharge in football's interest."

Pointing out that during the legal head's tenure, "the federation has greatly reduced its effective legal cost in spite of facing increased litigation and legal troubles," the letter further states that substantial dues of the lawyers still exist and that "no recourse is in sight despite numerous attempts (on Bhattacharya's part) to get the same settled."

## Organisers keen on cricket in 2026 Asian Games

**New Delhi:** The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) is eager to have cricket at the 2026 Asian Games in Japan and is exploring the idea of converting a baseball stadium in Nagoya for this purpose.

Cricket administrators perceive multi-sport events like the Asian Games as an opportunity to boost the game, which will return to the Olympics at Los Angeles 2028 after a 128-year gap. Cricket featured in the Hang-

zhou Games in China last year but wasn't part of the 2018 Games in Jakarta and Palembang in Indonesia. "We are still working on the

### SPOTLIGHT

sports programme for the 2026 Games but yes, we would want cricket to be part of it," OCA acting president Randhir Singh said. The lack of cricket facilities in Japan, however, remains an issue.

There is an international cricket stadium in Tochigi prefecture, north of Tokyo, but the OCA prefers a facility in or around Nagoya, the capital of Aichi prefecture where the Games will be held.

The Tochigi stadium would be a three-and-a-half hour drive from Nagoya, said OCA deputy director general Vinod Kumar Tiwari, who visited Japan last month with an OCA coordination committee to oversee preparations. "We are

working with the Asian Cricket Council on this," Tiwari said.

The programme for the 2026 Games will be finalised at an OCA General Assembly in April.

"It will be great to have cricket in the 2026 Games, and we at JCA will provide all kind of support," Japan Cricket Association chief executive Naoki Miyaji said. "It would leave a fantastic legacy, and go a long way in promoting the game in the country." REUTERS

## Nagpur, Mumbai to host Ranji semis

**New Delhi:** Mumbai will play Tamil Nadu at home while Vidarbha will host Madhya Pradesh in Nagpur in the Ranji Trophy semifinals, starting from Saturday. The VCA Stadium in Nagpur and the BKC Ground in Mumbai will host the last 4 stage matches of the country's premier domestic cricket tournament.

Vidarbha recorded a re-sounding 127-run win over Karnataka to book a place in the semifinals. They will meet Madhya Pradesh, who are coached by Chandrakant

Pandit, who guided Vidarbha to back-to-back titles in 2017-18 and 2018-19. MP, on the other hand, had eked out a narrow four-run win over Andhra in the quarterfinals.

Mumbai will head to the semifinals on the back of a historic match where Tanush Kotian and Tushar Deshpande became the first pair since 1946 to hit hundreds batting at number 10 and 11. The record 41-time champions entered the last-four stage by virtue of first-innings lead against Baroda. PTI

## Shikhar Dhawan hits 39 on return

**Navi Mumbai:** Out-of-favour India batter Shikhar Dhawan returned to competitive cricket with a 28-ball 39

but his knock went in vain as DY Patil Blue lost by one run to Tata Sports Club in the DY Patil T20 Cup.

The 38-year-old, who last played for India during the 2022 ODI series in Bangladesh, hit 5 boundaries and 2 maximums during his entertaining knock.

Set a target of 186, Dhawan, who last played competitive cricket in the 2023 IPL for Punjab Kings, shared a 64-run stand with Abhijit Tomar in 7.1 overs.

Nutan Goel remained unbeaten on 38 off 35 balls as he added valuable 58 runs for the fifth wicket with Shubman Dube (42). However, Blue fell short by just one run to finish on 184 for seven in their allotted 20 overs. PTI





## TAKE FIVE

## Haaland Scores Five Goals In Man City's 6-2 Rout Of Luton In The FA Cup Pre-Quarters

London: Erling Haaland looks determined to make up for lost time. The Norway striker scored five goals to power Manchester City into the quarter-finals of the FA Cup in a 6-2 win against Luton on Tuesday. It was his eighth hat-trick in a season-and-a-half with City and the second time he has scored five in a single game for the club.

Perhaps more significantly, it was evidence that Haaland is fully back up to speed after recently returning from a foot injury that ruled him out for more than a month between December and January. "My fitness is getting back to its best finally," he said. "I feel good. It's an amazing feeling."

Haaland had scored only three goals in seven appearances since making his comeback on Jan. 31. By his remarkable standards, that represented a relative drought, but he looked back to his devastating best at Kenilworth Road with a first-half hat-trick and two more after the break. Four of those goals came from assists by Kevin De Bruyne, who has also missed large parts of the season through injury. "It's a pleasure playing with him," Haaland said. "I think we know what we both want from each other, we look at each



HAVE MERCY: Luton Town goalkeeper Tim Krull manages to stop this charge from City's Erling Haaland (C) during the FA Cup 5th round match in Luton

## HAALAND HIGHS

- 1 Haaland is the first player to score five or more for a top-flight club in the FA Cup since George Best v Northampton in 1970.
- 2 He is the first player to score five goals in a match twice for Man City.
- 3 Haaland is the first player to score at least five goals in an FA Cup tie (first round onwards) since Duane Darby for Hull City against Whitby in

other and it clicks well." Mateo Kovacic added a sixth for City, while Jordan Clark struck twice for Luton. Haaland was denied a possible double hat-trick when he was replaced by Julian Alvarez in the 77th minute. It was the

- 4 This is the second time Haaland has scored five goals in a game in his senior career, previously doing so for City against RB Leipzig in the Champions League in March 2023.
- 5 Since his debut for City in July 2022, Haaland has scored 79 goals in 83 games in all comps, 30 more than any other Premier League player in that time (Salah 49).

second time City manager Pep Guardiola substituted the striker after scoring five goals, having taken him off during the 7-0 rout of RB Leipzig in the Champions League last year. Haaland now has 27 goals in all competitions for the season. AP

## Real Mallorca in final after a gap of 21 years

Madrid: More than two decades later, Mallorca are back in the Copa del Rey final. The Spanish club partly owned by Golden State Warriors coach Steve Kerr and former NBA great Steve Nash defeated Real Sociedad 5-4 in a penalty shootout to make it to the final 21 years after they won the competition for the only time.

Mallorca goalkeeper Dominik Greif saved the opening penalty by Mikel Oyarzabal, then Sergi Darder converted the decisive kick

to put Mallorca in the final. The teams drew 1-1 in regulation and were scoreless in extra time at Sociedad's Reale Arena.

The teams had drawn 0-0 in the first leg in Mallorca on February 6.

COPA DEL REY

Mallorca will play the April 6 final in Seville against either Atletico Madrid or Athletic Bilbao. It will be the fourth Copa final for Mallorca, who hadn't made it to the title game since they won the tournament in 2003 against Recreativo Huelva. AP

## Tirkey, Bhola Nath deny rift

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Bengaluru: The skeletons have begun to tumble out of the Hockey India closet with two top officials — a coach and CEO — both foreigners, handing in their resignations in quick succession and both pointing towards administrative bungling as the primary cause.

Senior women's team chief coach Janneke Schopman accused the federation of gender discrimination, lack of respect and a non-conducive working environment while Elena Norman, the CEO of 13 years, was more forthright when she said she was the victim of power struggle and factions in Hockey India.

Since the start of the new regime in 2022, it hasn't been a smooth ride for former India skipper Dilip Tirkey, who assumed office as president with Bhola Nath Singh as HI secretary. It is learnt that Bhola Nath, who is a close

aide of FIH president Tayyab Ikram, has been undermining the powers of the president. A few exchanges of emails, in possession of TOI, suggest the same.

But on Thursday, the men in power issued a joint statement to defuse the situation.

"Hockey India is an autonomous and professional body dedicated to the development of Indian Hockey. Our primary objective as an organisation has been and continues to remain the welfare and progress of the sport of Hockey and our athletes. In this spirit, our entire focus remains on growing our talent, ensuring all hosted events are conducted with utmost professionalism and our national teams are receiving the best support to support their performance on the global stage," they stated.

Reacting to Norman's comments, they said, "Recently there have been state-

ments by outgoing officials, claiming that there are divisions within the organization. This is not correct. We remain united in working together, and as always in the best interest of the sport."

On the accusation of the men's team getting preferential treatment, while dismissing both Schopman and Norman's claims, said, "The federation has treated the teams and all players equally with equal benefits and training facilities, including cash awards and monetary recognition that is at-par and is purely based on performance. We have built our ethos around equity and equal opportunities right from the grassroots levels across states as well as on a national level."

World over the focus is on putting the finishing touches to the Paris Olympics preparations but Hockey India is busy firefighting within the house, looking for a new CEO and a chief coach for the women's team.

## Jhajharia to contest for PCI president's post

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New Delhi: Double Paralympic gold medalist, Devendra Jhajharia, has decided to contest the Paralympic Committee of India's (PCI) elections for the president's post, setting the stage for another celebrated sports person to helm an Indian sports federation.

The PCI is currently under suspension by the sports ministry for its failure to hold elections on time. The ministry had called the delay as "willful and intentional", which went against the principles of the national sports code resulting in non-compliance with guidelines.

Javelin thrower Jhajharia, who won the gold at the 2004 Athens and 2016 Rio Paralympic Games in the F46 disability category, filed his nomination papers for the top job on Wednesday here, representing his home state of Rajasthan. Thursday is the last date to file the nomination papers for the PCI elections scheduled on March 9 at the India Habitat Centre and Jhajharia so far is the lone candidate to run for the presidential post.

The office bearers and governing board members will be elected for a period of four years from 2024 to 2028 for the posts of president (1), vice presidents (2), secretary general (1), treasurer (1), joint secretaries (2) and executive committee members (5).

TOI has learnt that current PCI chief Deepa Malik — the country's first female para athlete to win a medal at the Paralympics in Rio 2016 — has

received nomination from the Bihar state association but the Haryana-born sports administrator hasn't filed her nomination yet.

It would be interesting to see if Malik throws her hat into the ring with Thursday being the last date to file nominations. Sources claimed that Malik has the govt's backing but has been persuaded by some office bearers of the PCI to drop out of the race and extend her support to Jhajharia. "Jhajharia is all set to become the president of the PCI. He filed his nomination papers only after he got the assurance from PCI voters that he would be elected to the top post. He is very keen on contesting the elections after serving the last four years in the PCI's governing board as the athlete council representative," a source informed.

It's been learnt that the no office bearer from the outgoing executive body will contest the upcoming elections, bringing an end to the tenure of PCI's long-serving secretary general Gurnar Singh. "An entirely new executive committee will take charge, headed by Jhajharia," another source said.

The 42-year-old Jhajharia won silver at the Tokyo Paralympics in 2021, apart from winning a gold in 2013 and a silver in 2015 (both F46 category) at the Para World Championships. "With encouragement from my well-wishers and with an aim to work for the betterment of para sports and para athletes, I have filed my nomination papers for the post of president of PCI," he said.

## JAPAN WOMEN'S TEAM BEATS N. KOREA TO CLINCH OLY SPOT

Tokyo: The Japanese women's soccer team won a spot at the Paris Olympics on Wednesday after beating their North Korean rivals in a match that also marked the first visit by one of its football teams to Japan in seven years. The 2-1 victory, following a first leg draw in Saudi Arabia last week, was played at the stadium built for Tokyo Olympic Games. North Korea declined to join that sports gathering, which took place in 2021, citing concerns about the Covid-19 pandemic. Australia demolished Uzbekistan 10-0 to book their place too. REUTERS

## Nothing to separate Mumbai, Goa

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Mumbai: There was no separating Mumbai City and FC Goa in an Indian Super League clash that had a controversial build-up, as the two teams had to be content with a 1-1 draw at the Mumbai Football Arena here on Wednesday.

After a goalless first half, Vikram Partap Singh had the Islanders ahead when many would still have been settling into their seats after the break. The man who had scored both goals in Mumbai's win over Bengaluru in

their last home fixture pounced on a Bipin Singh cross from the right to slot past Dheeraj Singh at the Goa goalkeeper's near post.

Had Mumbai held on to their lead, it would have seen Petr Kratky's side replace Odisha atop the standings. But Goa, who were on a 12-game unbeaten streak before falling to three straight losses coming into this clash, ensured it was not going to be another disappointing evening when Mohammad Yasir fired an unstoppable left-footer into the top left corner in the 61st minute to earn the

Gaurs a crucial point. While Mumbai have now caught up with Odisha on 32 points from 16 games but stay in second place, Goa moved to fourth spot (29 points) as all three clubs and Mohun Bagan remain in the hunt for the League Winners Shield.

There was a spicy edge to this clash after FC Goa formally lodged a complaint against the hosts for allegedly spying on their training session on match eve. Though Kratky later said it was a "closed case", Mumbai's faithful following, couldn't resist taunting the visitors.

## Nagal goes down fighting to Sonogo

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Dubai: Sumit Nagal went down 4-6, 7-5, 1-6 to the 48th ranked Lorenzo Sonogo in the first round of the Dubai Duty Free tennis championships late on Tuesday. The 26-year-old Indian worked his way back into the match by breaking in the 12th game of the second set to level set scores. Both players left the court at the end of the second set and Nagal took his time returning to the court.

The India No.1, ranked 97 this week, appeared to have been hampered by an abdominal strain. He clutched his side a couple of times and the physio was on court later in the set. Nagal was up 40-0 in his opening service game of the deciding set in which he was broken.

Nagal, who will play the two Masters 1000 events in Indian Wells and Miami next, will see how March goes before he decides which events he'll play in the clay court season. The Indian, at 101 in the ATP live rankings, said, "It will be the two Masters Series events and then a 250 event on clay. I'm not sure where yet."

## Andy Murray unlikely to play past this summer

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Dubai: Andy Murray — two-time Wimbledon champion and twice singles gold medalist at the Olympics — will hang up his racket not long after the summer of 2024 has faded into fall. Murray, a former No.1, who underwent hip surgeries in January 2018 and again 12 months later, said he is bored of the retirement question.

"I'm likely not going to play past this summer," said Murray moments after he went down 2-6, 4-6 to the fifth seed Ugo Humbert in the second round of the Dubai Duty Free tennis championships on Wednesday.

"I get asked about it after every single match, every single tournament that I play. I'm bored of the question, to be honest," the 36-year-old said. "I'm not going to talk more about that between now and whenever the time comes for me to stop. But yeah, I don't plan on playing much past this summer."

If selected, Murray will play the 2024 Paris Olympics to be held at Roland Garros a couple of weeks after Wim-



CALLING IT QUITS: Andy Murray

"I like the tournament. I like playing at Roland Garros," he said adding, "Obviously if you want to do well at the Olympics, you probably are going to have to play some tournaments and get matches on the clay. Even if the Olympics was not after Wimbledon, I would still want to play Roland Garros."

The Scot has made one final and four semifinals at the French Open but has played the clay court Slam just once after his hip surgeries. "Last few years I've tried to give myself better preparation for the grass season, but that also doesn't guarantee that you're going to play really well on the grass," he said.

"I've had experiences throughout my career where I didn't play the French Open in 2013 and I won Wimbledon. I also played the French Open and did really well in 2016. I don't think it makes a huge difference if you get an extra week's practice or so on the grass."

Asked to pick between Wimbledon and the Olympics, Murray said, "Being British, Wimbledon is obviously an extremely special tournament. So I mean I would have to probably say Wimbledon."

"The Olympics, I'd love to be part of that," he said. "It's been some of the best experiences of my career, being part of the British national team. When I got to carry the flag out in Rio, it was an amazing, amazing moment," he added.

Horner cleared, will remain Red Bull F1 boss

Sakhir: Christian Horner (in pic) will remain the boss of Formula One champions Red Bull after being cleared on Wednesday of alleged misconduct toward a female employee. The Austrian energy drink company that owns the sport's dominant team issued a statement after an independent investigation and ahead

of Saturday's season-opening race in Bahrain. "Red Bull can confirm that the grievance has been dismissed," a Red Bull spokesperson said. "Red Bull is confident that the investigation has been fair, rigorous and impartial." Horner, who is married to former Spice Girls

singer Geri Halliwell, had denied the allegations and continued to lead the team during the investigation in what he said was business as normal.

The 50-year-old was scheduled to fly to Bahrain on Wednesday, and the outcome of the misconduct investigation lifted a cloud hanging over a team that has won all but one race last year.

"The investigation report is confidential and contains the information of parties and third parties who assisted in the investigation, and therefore we will not be commenting further out of respect for all concerned," Red Bull said. REUTERS

ATP signs deal with Saudi Arabia's PIF

Bengaluru: The ATP Tour and Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF) have signed a multi-year strategic partnership, the governing body of men's tennis said on Wednesday in a move highlighting the growing influence of the Gulf nation on global sport.

The PIF will now become the official naming partner of the men's rankings as well as partner ATP tournaments in Indian Wells, Miami, Madrid, Beijing, the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin and the Next Gen ATP Finals staged in Jeddah.

Saudi Arabia has invested heavily in various sports like soccer, Formula One, boxing and golf in the last few years

while critics accuse the oil-rich kingdom of using PIF to "sportswash" its human rights record. The country denies accusations of human rights abuses and says it protects its national security through its laws.

The ATP said PIF had committed to developing and unlocking opportunities for young players and would also contribute to its OneVision Strategic Plan that focuses on unity, enhancing fan experiences and leveraging growth opportunities. "Our strategic partnership with PIF marks a major moment for tennis," ATP CEO Massimo Calvelli said. "It's a shared commitment to propel the future of the sport." REUTERS





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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Manchester City's Erling Haaland scores five times as FA Cup holders run riot in a 6-2 rout of Luton in the fifth round, P 28

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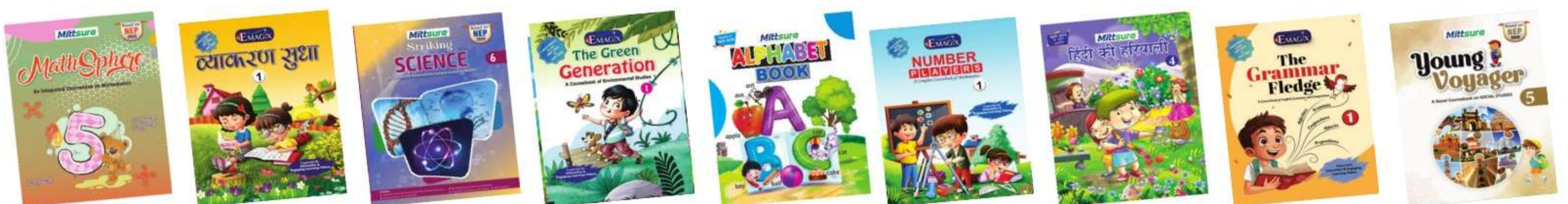
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**KANYE WEST SUED BY DONNA SUMMER'S ESTATE FOR 'UNAUTHORISED USE' OF HER 1977 HIT 'I FEEL LOVE' ON HIS 'VULTURES' ALBUM**

**REBECCA FERGUSON REVEALS IN A PODCAST THAT SHE ONCE FLED A MOVIE SET IN TEARS AFTER HER CO-ACTOR SCREAMED AT HER**



## In Michigan, Trump Beats Haley As Biden Defeats 'Uncommitted'

**In Latest Primary, US Prez's Biggest Challenge Came From Arab-American Voters, Progressives And Young People Protesting His Support For Israel**

President Joe Biden won Michigan's Democratic primary election on Tuesday but was facing significant opposition over his support for Israel as it wages war in the Gaza Strip, with a substantial percentage of voters casting ballots for "uncommitted" as part of a protest movement against him. Former President Donald Trump was also victorious in the Republican primary, coasting past former governor Nikki Haley of South Carolina to continue his undefeated primary streak.



US President Joe Biden reported to a hospital on Wednesday for his last yearly medical examination before Nov's election as scrutiny intensifies over the 81-year-old's fitness and mental acuity for a second term



Trump's victory over Nikki Haley extends an unbroken streak in the nominating contests. Michigan is his sixth straight triumph, and it is his second, after Nevada, in a state expected to be a crucial battleground come Nov

The results demonstrated how both Biden and Trump are confronting enduring weakness within their parties, with meaningful numbers of Democrats and Republicans voting against them even as they race toward a Nov rematch.

In the Democratic primary, Biden faced his most significant challenge not from another candidate but from Arab-American voters, progressives and young people protesting his support for Israel by choosing "uncommitted."

While Biden won the state with more than 618,000 votes, more than 100,000 Michigan Democratic primary voters cast ballots for "uncommitted" in the race, enough to pick up the pair of delegates — one from the 6th District, centered around Ann Arbor, and the other from the 12th District, which includes Detroit suburbs with large blocs of Arab Americans. The vote totals raise concerns for Democrats in a state Biden won by only 154,000 votes in 2020. Biden was beaten by the "uncommitted" vote in both Dear-

born and Hamtramck, where Arab Americans make up close to half the population.

Some local Democrats such as US Representative Rashida Tlaib, the first Palestinian-American woman to serve in Congress, had advocated for "uncommitted" votes to convey a message to Biden. Organisers of the "uncommitted" campaign, who had purposely set expectations low with a goal of at least 10,000 votes, celebrated Tuesday's results as a win. Biden still won 115 delegates on Tuesday and is well on his way to clinching the nomination over marginal competition. Unofficial results put the "uncommitted" total at close to 13% of overall vote in the Democratic primary.

In 2012, during Barack Obama's reelection bid, the "uncommitted" option received nearly 21,000 votes, representing 11 percentage points. The "uncommitted" vote to-

als in both 2016 and 2020 — when the Democratic primaries were contested — hovered around 20,000, which was less than 2 percentage points.

"I want to thank every Michigander who made their voice heard today," Biden said in a statement that did not mention the "uncommitted" vote or the organised protest of his Gaza policy. "Exercising the right to vote and participating in our democracy is what makes America great."

The movement aimed to warn Biden that he must change his stance on Gaza or face repercussions in Nov. The threat was most urgent in Michigan, which was vital to Biden's 2020 victory and has lately tilted toward Trump in polls, but risked reverberating across the country. Michigan — thanks to its large Arab-American population, college campuses and early primary date — became the electoral focal point of wider Democratic

unease with Biden's support for Israel's offensive in Gaza.

Some of his allies feared that if the movement registered serious disapproval against him, it could have lasting effects into the general election, especially if Biden held firm to his position on the conflict. "It's not just the Arab American and Muslim community," Democrat Representative Debbie Dingell, whose district includes Ann Arbor, said on CNN on Tuesday. "It's young people who want to be heard and have the same concerns." The strength of the "uncommitted" campaign, she said, is "not a surprise to me."

Trump, for his part, kept moving toward the Republican nomination with his defeat of Haley. But he is expected to pick up far more delegates Saturday, when rival factions of Republicans are set to hold duelling conventions after a month-long leadership fight that has thrown the state party into chaos. That could mean the state will send two states of delegates to the national convention this summer. Both sides are loyal to Trump, and the Republican National Committee has recognised one faction, led by Pete Hoekstra, as legitimate.

Trump and his allies have sought to turn squarely to the general election. Pushing Haley to drop out, they have argued that she is forcing him to spend money that would be better used against Biden. Bolstered by campaign cash from wealthy donors, she has said she will keep competing through the Super Tuesday primaries March 5. AGENCIES

## Hamas chief says showing flexibility in talks with Israel but ready to fight

Dubai: Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh said Wednesday the Islamist group was showing flexibility in negotiations with Israel over the Gaza war but at the same time was ready to continue fighting. In a televised speech, Haniyeh also called on Palestinians in Jerusalem and West Bank to march to Al-Aqsa Mosque to pray on the first day of Ramadan on March 10, raising the stakes in the indirect talks for a truce deal to have come into force by then.

Israel said Monday it would allow Ramadan prayers at Al-Aqsa Mosque but set limits according to security needs, setting the stage for possible clashes if crowds of Palestinians turn up. US President Joe Biden hoped a ceasefire would be agreed by March 4, following negotiations in Qatar also aimed at freeing hostages.

Haniyeh called on the self-styled Axis of Resistance — allies of Iran consisting of Lebanon's Hezbollah, Yemen's Houthis, and Islamic Resistance in Iraq — as well as Arab states, to step up their support for Palestinians in Gaza. "It is the duty of Arab and Islamic nations to take the initiative to break the starvation conspiracy in Gaza," he said, referring to what Palestinians say appears to be a deliberate policy by Israel to deny them food. REUTERS

## Israel's settlement plans triggered US shift in language

Washington: Israel's plan to add thousands more homes to settlements in West Bank announced last week was the final push Biden administration needed to declare them "inconsistent" with international law, sources and US officials familiar with the move told Reuters.

Rather than the carefully choreographed policy rollout typical in Washington, US secretary of state Antony Blinken made the reversal in response to a question at a news conference in Buenos Aires. "It's been longstanding US policy under Republican and Democratic administrations alike that new settlements are counter-productive to reaching an enduring peace," he told reporters. "They're also inconsistent with international law."

The decision to make the change now underscores Biden administration's growing frustration with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu. The Israeli leader is increasingly at odds with his biggest backer US President Joe Biden on a host of issues over the Israel-Hamas conflict. REUTERS

## New audio leaks give credence to Imran's claims of rigged polls

Lahore/Karachi: Two purported audio clips of the main leaders of Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan leaked on social media on Wednesday have given credence to the claim made by former PM Imran Khan's party that the Feb 8 elections were "massively rigged".



Khan's party that the Feb 8 elections were "massively rigged". In one of the clips, Sindh governor Kamran Tessori is allegedly heard saying, "They say that our mandate is 100% fake."

Tessori is heard telling someone that when he became governor, MQM-P was aligned with Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. When Pakistan Democratic Alliance formed gov't, MQM-P changed its loyalties in April 2022, which didn't go down well with their voters. Governor said MQM-P got seven National Assembly seats in Karachi in the 2018 elections as it had its genuine vote bank then. "Today (Feb 8 polls) we didn't get votes," he said. Governor also complained that they (a reference to the military establishment and PML-N) are giving MQM one ministry in the Centre and also bringing their governor to Sindh.

In a second clip, MQM-P senior deputy convener Mustafa Kamal is heard saying: "We met PML-N delegation and they told us two things — PPP is saying MQM-P's mandate is 100% fake and since PML-N and PPP have the required numbers in parliament to form gov't, MQM-P should be sidelined." Kamal confirmed the clips, saying there is nothing new about his party's rivals claiming their mandate is fake.

MQM-P clinched 17 National Assembly seats in Karachi. PTI claimed in all the winning seats, MQM-P candidates were not even in third position. PTI has alleged that its 90 National Assembly seats have been stolen and distributed among PML-N, MQM-P and PPP to form "fake govts." PTI

## Apple kills 'secret' EV project that was intended to challenge Tesla

San Francisco: Apple has cancelled its plans to release an electric car with self-driving abilities, a secretive product that had been in the works for nearly a decade. The company told employees in an internal meeting Tuesday that it had scrapped the project and that members of the group would be shifted to different roles, including in Apple's AI division, according to a person briefed on the matter.

Although Apple had not unveiled its car to consumers, the product had for many years been one of Silicon Valley's worst-kept secrets because it was being tested on public roads. The cancellation is a rare move by Apple, which typically doesn't shelve such public and high-profile projects.

Tim Cook, Apple's CEO, has publicly hinted that Apple was interested in entering the car space. The car, internally code-named Titan and Project 172, was a challenging product to develop, as parts of the division were shuttered, plans were scrapped and restarted, and dozens of workers were laid off along the way. The car, which Apple spent billions of dollars researching, had been intended as a rival to Tesla's electric vehicles, which include autonomous driving features. NYT

While the precise motive behind Singh's murder is yet to be ascertained, his family believes that it may be a case of hate crime. This is the second murder of an Indian-origin person in the region this month. Earlier in Feb, an American hotelier of Gujarati origin, Pravin Rajibhai Patel, 76, was shot dead after a confrontation with a man asking for a room in his motel in Sheffield, Alabama. In July 2019, Neil Kumar, a 30-year-old student from Kerala was shot to death at point-blank range in Alabama in an apparent robbery bid.

## Ghana parliament passes stringent anti-LGBTQ law

Accra: Ghana's parliament passed legislation on Wednesday that intensifies a crackdown on the rights of LGBTQ people and those promoting lesbian, gay or other non-conventional sexual or gender identities in the West African country. Gay sex was already punishable by up to three years in prison. The bill now also imposes a prison sentence of up to five years for the "wilful promotion, sponsorship, or support of LGBTQ+ activities".

The bill, one of the harshest of its kind in Africa, still needs presidential assent to come into force. President Nana Akufo-Addo has not confirmed if he will sign the bill into law. A coalition of Christian, Muslim, and Ghanaian traditional leaders sponsored the legislation. Around 30 African countries currently ban homosexuality. South Africa is the only nation on the continent to allow gay marriage, which it legalised in 2006. AGENCIES

## UK boosts MPs' security as tensions flare over Gaza

London: UK gov't announced a multi-million-pound package on Wednesday to boost the security of elected lawmakers who say they face increasing threats amid tensions over the Israel-Hamas war.



Children sit in a destroyed car in Rafah. British MPs have expressed growing concerns over their safety following a surge in antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents since the conflict broke out on Oct 7

The £31 million (\$39 million) in extra funding over the next year follows British MPs being targeted with intense criticism and abuse over their stances on the conflict. It also comes during a febrile, pre-poll atmosphere, with a nationwide vote due this year.

Under the new provisions, lawmakers will have access to a dedicated police contact to discuss security while those most at risk could seek body-

guards, interior ministry said. The money will also expand cybersecurity advice to MPs and increase police patrols in

areas witnessing heightened community tensions, it added.

"None of us should have to accept that enduring hate crimes, harassment, or threats is part of the job," interior minister James Cleverly said.

British MPs have expressed growing concerns about their safety following a surge in antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents since the conflict in Gaza broke out on Oct 7.

PM Rishi Sunak said they had been "verbally threatened and physically, violently targeted", with "legitimate protests hijacked by extremists".

Conservative MP Mike Freer, who represents a large Jewish area, is not seeking re-

election because of a spate of threats and an arson attack on his office. Earlier this month, fellow Tory Tobias Ellwood said 80 pro-Palestinian protesters had gathered outside his home, with police warning his family to "stay away" to avoid antagonising the crowd. Last week, Commons speaker Lindsay Hoyle cited threats to lawmakers as a reason for his controversial handling of a debate about calls for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

MPs have received death threats, with female MPs also being threatened with rape. Some now wear stab-proof vests, carry alarms and have hired bodyguards. AFP

## Navalny to be buried in Moscow tomorrow, wife fears possible arrests

Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny's funeral will be held in Moscow on Friday, his wife Yulia announced, but she said she was unsure if it would pass off peacefully and that plans for a civil memorial service had been blocked. Kira Yarmysh, Navalny's spokesperson, posted on X that a service for Navalny would be held on Friday in Church of the Icon of the Mother of God in Maryino where Navalny used to live. Navalny would then be buried at the Borisovskoye cemetery, around 2.5km away on the other side of the Moskva River.



'People in Kremlin killed him, then mocked Alexei's body, then mocked his mother, now they are mocking his memory,' Yulia wrote on X

Navalny's allies accused Kremlin of thwarting their attempts to organise a separate civil memorial service in a hall which could have accommodated more people. "Two people — Vladimir Putin and (Moscow Mayor) Sergei Sobyanyin — are to bla-

me for the fact that we have no place for a civil memorial service and farewell to Alexei," Yulia wrote on X. "People in Kremlin killed him, then mocked Alexei's body, then mocked his mother, now they are mocking his memory."

Kremlin denies any involvement in Navalny's Feb 16 death in an Arctic penal colony.

Russian Orthodox funeral services are usually presided over by a priest and accompanied by choral singing, with attendees gathered around the open casket of the deceased to

say their farewell. It was not clear how the authorities would ensure crowd control.

"The funeral will take place the day after tomorrow and I'm not sure yet whether it will be peaceful or whether police will arrest those who have come to say goodbye to my husband," Yulia told European parliament in Strasbourg.

"Putin killed my husband. On his orders, Alexei was tortured for three years. He was starved in a tiny stone cell, cut off from the outside world and denied visits, phone calls and even letters," Yulia said.

Speaking in English, her voice sometimes faltering, Yulia described Putin as a "bloody monster" and told lawmakers it was not possible to negotiate with him. "You cannot hurt Putin with another resolution or set of sanctions that is no different from previous ones." REUTERS

## Google's teams working around the clock to fix Gemini issues: Pichai

Continued from P1

A Google spokesperson confirmed to AFP that Sundar Pichai's letter to staff was authentic.

Pichai said Google's teams were working "around the clock" to fix these issues but did not say when the image-generating feature would be available again. "No AI is perfect, especially at this emerging stage of the industry's development, but we know the bar is high for us and we will keep at it for however long it takes," he wrote.



India's communications and IT minister Ashwini Vashnaw had warned that the gov't will "not tolerate" any racial and other biases in running of platforms based on AI. He had said that companies such as Google, which are developing AI-based solutions, ne-

ed to train the underlying models powering their platforms "properly" in order to avoid biases and misinformation. The views of the cabinet minister followed a similar censure by minister of state for IT & electronics Rajeev Chandrasekhar who termed the results thrown up by Gemini as "violations" of certain provisions of the IT Act as well as the criminal code.

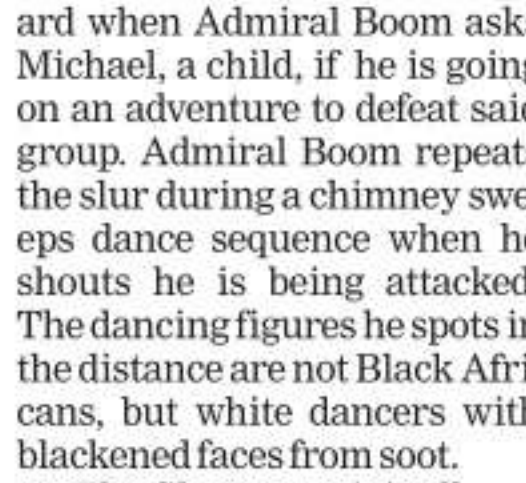
Tech companies see generative artificial intelligence models as the next big step in computing and are racing to in- fuse them into everything from searching the internet and automating customer support to creating music and art.

But AI models, and not just Google's, have long been criticised for perpetuating racial and gender biases in their results. Google said last week that the problematic responses from Gemini were a result of the company's efforts to remove such biases. Gemini was calibrated to show diverse people but did not adjust for prompts where that should not have been the case, also becoming too cautious with some otherwise harmless requests, Google's Prabhakar Raghavan wrote in a blog post. "These two things led the model to overcompensate in some cases, and be over-conservative in others, leading to images that were embarrassing and wrong," he said. Many concerns about AI have emerged since the explosive success of ChatGPT.

Experts and governments have warned that AI also carries the risk of major economic upheaval, especially job displacement, and industrial-scale disinformation that can manipulate elections and spur violence.

## 'Mary Poppins' gets new age rating in Britain for racist language

London: The rating for "Mary Poppins," the beloved children's musical about a nanny with magical powers that was released 60 years ago, has been raised to PG in Britain due to the use of "discriminatory language," British Board of Film Classification said. The change follows a wave of recontextualising and reclassifying of films from bygone eras for modern audiences amid shifting cultural norms and mores.



'Mary Poppins' was originally rated 'U' for Universal, upon its release in 1964, and again in 2013 for a theatrical release. It has now been reclassified as PG — the second-least severe of six ratings

as PG — the second-least severe of six ratings. The strictest is 18, which prohibits anyone under that age from renting, buying or seeing it in theaters.

"We understand from our racism and discrimination research, and recent classification guidelines research, that a key concern for people, parents in particular, is the potential to expose children to discriminatory language" or behaviour which they may find distressing or repeat without realising the potential offense, a spokesperson for the board said. The change is part of a gro-



'Mary Poppins' was originally rated 'U' for Universal, upon its release in 1964, and again in 2013 for a theatrical release. It has now been reclassified as PG — the second-least severe of six ratings

wing list of films that have been reexamined in recent years. BBFC in 2023 reclassified "Santa Claus: The Movie" (1985) with a higher rating, to PG, for its mild violence and language. Similarly, the rating for "Star Wars: Episode VI — Return of the Jedi" (1983) was also raised to PG for moderate violence. Ratings can also move downward. "Enter the Dragon" (1973) and "Friday the 13th" (1980) are now labeled 15 after holding higher ratings. Similar reevaluation has been going on in the US. In 2020, HBO Max temporarily pulled

"Gone with the Wind," a film routinely criticised for whitewashing the horrors of slavery and romanticising the antebellum South, from its library. Similarly, Disney+ in 2021 added a content disclaimer to 18 episodes of "The Muppet Show" because they include "negative depictions and/or mistreatment of people or cultures." Books, too, have been revised. Roald Dahl estate in 2023 changed or removed hundreds of words in at least 10 books, including "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" and "Matilda," to make them less offensive. NYT

## AROUND THE WORLD



NEWBORNS IN JAPAN ARE AT A NEW LOW: The number of babies born in Japan last year fell for an eighth straight year to a new low, gov't data showed. The 758,631 babies born in 2023 were a 5.1% decline from the previous year. The number of marriages fell by 5.9% to 489,281 couples, falling below half-million for the first time in 90 years — a key reason for the declining births

## S Korea's fertility rate, world's worst, plunges yet again

South Korea's fertility rate, already the world's lowest, continued its dramatic decline in 2023, as women concerned about their career advancement and the financial cost of raising children decided to delay childbirth or to not have babies. The average number of expected babies for a South Korean woman during her reproductive life fell to a record low of 0.72 from 0.78 in 2022, data from Statistics Korea showed on Wednesday. That is far below the rate of 2.1 per woman needed for a steady population. South Korea's demographic crisis has become the top risk to economic growth and the social welfare system, with the country's population of 51 million on track to halve by the end of this century. South Korea has

## Harry loses legal challenge over security downgrade

Prince Harry said Wednesday he would mount an appeal after he lost his legal challenge against British gov't's decision to take away his police protection when he is in Britain. Harry had brought the action against gov't at high court in London after home office said in Feb 2020 that he would cease to automatically receive personal security while in Britain. Harry, along with other senior royals, received full publicly-funded protection provided by the state before he stepped back from his royal duties and moved to California with his American wife Meghan Markle in March 2020.

