

THE TIMES OF INDIA

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Elon Musk risks losing title of world's richest man after US judge strikes down his record \$56bn Tesla pay package, calls compensation granted by EV maker's board 'an unfathomable sum' that was unfair to shareholders, P 26

A court in West Bengal's Birbhum district sets aside an eviction order issued by Visva-Bharati to Nobel laureate Amartya Sen from a plot of land in Santiniketan, P 28

'My initiative... Now, people are taking credit': Bihar CM Nitish Kumar says Rahul's claim that caste survey held in state under pressure from Congress is 'nonsensical', P 16

Embattled Pak ex-PM Imran Khan receives second jail sentence in as many days as a court sentences him and his wife, Bushra Bibi, to 14 years' imprisonment in case linked to illegal sale of state gifts, P 26

ED arrests Soren an hour after party names his CM successor

Champai Soren, Not A Relative Of Hemant, Set To Take Over

Jaideep Deogharia, ASRP Mukesh & Dhritiman Ray | TNN

Ranchi: Hemant Soren was arrested in a land scam by Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday, becoming the first sitting CM of Jharkhand to be taken into custody in a corruption case.

An hour before he was whisked away by ED officials, Hemant handed over his resignation to governor CP Radhakrishnan around 8.30pm, even as the governing Jharkhand Mukti Morcha announced the name of his aide and transport minister Champai Soren as the next CM.

The arrest was a finale of

FOLLOWS 7 HRS OF QUESTIONING

6am | Prohibitory orders enforced in 100m radius of CM Hemant Soren's residence, Raj Bhavan and ED regional office. Over 1,000 cops deployed

10.15 | Senior JMM & Cong functionaries arrive at CM's house, cabinet ministers & MLAs follow

11.50 | Soren drives to JMM chief Shibu Soren's government residence, returns by 12.10pm

1.18pm | Team of 7 ED officials arrives at Soren's residence in entourage of 9 vehicles with CRPF personnel

3 | Reports surface that Soren has filed a case against Ranchi ED officials, accusing them of

violating SC/ST Atrocities law

5 | 3 tempo travellers roll into CM House from rear entrance, triggering talk that MLAs may be herded to a new location

8.15 | JMM & Cong MLAs reach Raj Bhavan, sent back

8.25 | Soren at Raj Bhavan. Smiles, shows thumbs up to cameras. Jharkhand Cong president Rajesh Thakur says Soren will resign, and Seraikela MLA and JMM vice-pres Champai Soren had been chosen by legislators to replace him

9.30 | Flanked by ED officials, Soren arrives at his residence, is taken into custody and sent to ED's zonal office

► ED ISSUES 5TH SUMMONS TO KEJRIWAL FOR FEB 2, P 2

the cat-and-mouse game played by Hemant with the central agency for the last two days over his questioning over alleged money laundering in a land scam involving transfer and settlement of land parcels by forging documents.

Equipped with a letter of

support from 47 MLAs to Champai in the 81-member house, the coalition sought an appointment with the governor. However, till late at night, the governor remained silent about giving them an audience.

► JMM corrals MLAs, P 22

Sis-in-law scotches wife's succession

Till recently, Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana, a 48-year-old MBA graduate, was being seen as his most likely successor. However, the party appeared to have backtracked after Sita Soren, a three-time JMM MLA and the CM's sister-in-law, announced Tuesday evening that she would oppose any move to make Kalpana the CM. P 22

Champai, 6th-term MLA, minister thrice

Set to be Jharkhand's next CM, Champai Soren, 68, is a sixth term MLA from Seraikela (ST) first elected to erstwhile Bihar assembly in 1991. Called "Kolhan Tiger" for his warrior-like skills during the Jharkhand movement, he became cabinet minister in the Arjun Munda govt in 2010 and has been minister twice in Hemant's cabinet. P 22

LAST PARLIAMENT SESSION AHEAD OF LOK SABHA POLLS KICKS OFF

Govt will present full Budget after LS polls, says confident Modi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Narendra Modi on Wednesday again asserted he would get a third term as PM and a full Budget would be presented after formation of a new government.

"As you know, traditionally, when elections are imminent, the complete Budget is not presented. We will adhere to this tradition... This time, Nirmala ji will present the Budget with some guiding points," the PM told journalists in his customary remarks on the opening day of Budget session, greeting them with "Ram Ram".

Though Modi has consistently sounded bullish on equalling the record of first PM Nehru by winning a third consecutive term after conclusion of Lok Sabha polls in May, his sunny remarks on Wednesday came against the backdrop of disarray in the ranks of rival INDIA bloc and a groundswell in large parts of the country owing to the consecration of Ram Lalla — factors that are supposed to have sharpened the edge BJP already appeared to have.

Prez: Ram Mandir can shape course of coming centuries

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Parliament on Wednesday reverberated with full-throated chants of 'Jai Shri Ram' with members applauding President Droupadi Murmu as she said construction of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya marked the fulfilment of the country's centuries-old desire and a defining moment which could shape the course of coming centuries.

She also referred to the removal of Art 370 in J&K, law against triple talaq and CAA. "There come junctures in the history of civilisations which shape the future for the coming centuries. There have been many such defining moments in the history of India also. This year, on January 22, the country witnessed a similar epochal moment... This was a matter of aspiration and faith for crores of our countrymen and the resolution of this has been accomplished in a harmonious manner," the President said concluding her speech after referring to the Ram temple twice earlier.



ECO WATCH

- GST receipts for Dec at ₹1.72 lakh cr — second highest monthly collection ever | P 25
- Core sector growth hits 14-mth low of 3.8% in Dec | P 25

IT rules on fake news: Bombay HC bench split, case to go to third judge

A two-judge bench of Bombay high court on Wednesday delivered a split verdict on the validity of a rule under the amended Information Technology Act, empowering the Centre to have a fact-checking unit to identify any fake, false or misleading information about its business on social media platforms, reports Swati Deshpande.

While Justice Gautam Patel ruled in favour of the petitioners and said such fact check cannot be unilateral by the Centre, Justice Neela Gokhale said the Centre is best placed to know the facts of its business.

The matter will now be referred to a third judge by Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya. FLAP OPP

Five Parl breach accused claim torture, coercion

Five of the six accused in the Parliament breach case — in which a smoke canister was hurled in Lok Sabha on Dec 13, 2023 — told a Delhi court Wednesday that they were given electric shocks, tortured and forced to sign blank papers to confess their association with political parties in the opposition and the alleged crime.

The court listed the application for further hearing on Feb 17 and asked Delhi Police to file its response.

The accused also told the court they were forced to provide the passwords for social media accounts, emails and phones, and two of them, during narco tests and polygraph, were "pressed" to name a political party or leader about their alleged involvement. P 20

CITY GETS FIRST RAIN IN 2 MONTHS



It was the winter's first rainy day in the capital, with light to moderate showers nearly through the day. Delhi last had a whiff of wet weather on Dec 3-4, when just trace rainfall was reported. By 8.30pm Wednesday, Safdarjung had recorded 9.7mm of rain and Palam 7.6mm. More rain is expected overnight and on Tuesday

- Winter's first major snowfall in the hills, from J&K to Uttarakhand
- With 91% rainfall deficit, Jan in north India was the 2nd driest in 124 years
- In Delhi, Jan was the 2nd coldest in 74 years in terms of day temperatures

Flyers of delayed flight sit in protest on Pune tarmac

Two weeks after IndiGo was fined Rs 1.2cr and Mumbai airport Rs 90L when flyers of a diverted plane had food on tarmac, passengers of a Pune-Delhi SpiceJet flight sat on Pune tarmac Tuesday night in protest after being made to board the aircraft twice following rescheduling because of bad weather in Delhi. A replacement flight finally took off after a delay of 15 hours. P 3

8 killed as vehicle falls into J&K gorge

Eight people died and another seven were injured when a vehicle skidded off a snowed-in road and fell into a gorge in J&K's Uri on Wednesday. An avalanche warning and inclement weather alert have been issued for six districts. P 28

Kerala ex-MLA P C George in BJP fold

BJP, which is trying to gather Christian votes in time for LS polls, added former Kerala MLA P C George to its fold on Wednesday. While George's Kerala Janapaksham (Secular) merged with BJP, his son Shone joined the party in Delhi. P 23

130ft Maoist tunnel found in Bastar

Troops returning from an operation in Bijapur found a 130-foot-long Vietcong-style tunnel dug by Maoists, where at least 100 armed cadres could easily hide, stockpile arms and ammunition, and use it as a staging ground for ambushes. FLAP OPP

Congress spent ₹72cr on Rahul's yatra in 2022-23

Congress spent Rs 71.8 crore on Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra between Sept 2022 and Jan 2023, constituting 15.3% of the party's total annual spend and more than 30% of its administrative and general expenses for 2022-23, its latest annual audit report shows, reports Bharti Jain.

Congress's total receipts in 2022-23 fell to Rs 452 crore from Rs 541 crore the previous year, while its expenditure rose to Rs 467 crore from Rs 400 crore. Its receipts via electoral bonds were down to Rs 171 crore, making up 63% of its donations and 38% of its overall income, from Rs 236 crore in 2021-22. P 14

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Metro to open its second museum at Supreme Court station | 9

18.6° MAXIMUM
7.3° MINIMUM

FORECAST: Generally cloudy sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 19°C and 8°C

SUNRISE 7.09AM (FRI) MOONRISE 11.48PM (THU)
SUNSET 6PM (THU) MOONSET 11.48AM (FRI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2024

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AQI IN DELHI ON WEDNESDAY (VERY POOR CATEGORY)

Dense fog in Dec-Jan for 128 hrs in 20 days | 3



New Covid variant, JN.1, highly contagious, finds study | 8

Winds Of Inter-Change: Travel Options Set To Get Vital Links

SARAI KALE KHAN: Pedestrian Bridges To Connect ISBT And RRTS, Metro & Rly Stns

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Public Works Department, Delhi government's transport department and National Capital Region Transport Corporation, the rapid rail company, are working together to connect the upcoming RRTS station and interstate bus terminal at Sarai Kale Khan, Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station and Hazrat Nizamuddin metro station by creating a multimodal transport system in the area with all the facilities linked by pedestrian bridges.

According to sources, a proposal on this has been seen to road engineering overseer, the Unified Traffic and Transportation Infrastructure (Planning & Engineering) Centre.

A pedestrian bridge is likely to connect Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station with the new RRTS station and will provide access to other areas too. It is yet to be finalised as to which facilities will be connected to the foot bridge. The determination of such facilities will decide the alignment of the bridge.

Travelators are generally provided for distances of 500 metres or more at public transport hubs, but for the convenience of people, the foot bridge at Hazrat Nizamuddin station is also likely to be

IN THE WORKS



equipped with a travelator. According to sources, the project to provide seamless pedestrian connectivity at the busy junction will be reviewed by the governing body of UTTIPEC before a final approval. Observations and comments from different departments are being sought.

The bus terminal, which is at a distance of about 85 metres from the Sarai Kale Khan RRTS station, will have one entry/exit gate near ISBT. There is also a provision for a dedicated footpath for entry into the ISBT. The Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station is about 280 metres from the RRTS station and will be made accessible through a directly linked foot bridge.

The entrance to the RRTS station will be created near the entrance to Hazrat Nizamuddin metro station and on Ring Road. It is also likely that a facility of a bus interchange with a pedestrian plaza will be provided right below the RRTS station.

The purpose of multi-modal integration is to make travel hassle-free and convenient for the passengers and to encourage the use of public transport. To decongest the ISBT and T-junction where several other projects are coming up, PWD constructed a new three-lane flyover last year near the RRTS station.

Want to help govt hospitals, give 'correct facts', says HC

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Wednesday said it wanted "structural reforms" in the functioning of government hospitals and sought before it "correct facts" that reflect the ground reality.

A bench of acting chief justice Manmohan and justice Manmeet PS Arora expressed its displeasure over the "misleading" information provided to it on the functioning of medical equipment in GTB Hospital and said it wanted to "help" the government in improving these hospitals.

It issued notices to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) and the government's services department after it was informed about the issue of vacancies and lack of manpower in hospitals. The court also suggested setting up a committee of doctors to come up with a solution.

"We want to help the Delhi government in fixing things. If you don't give us the correct position, it is very difficult to help you. We are not entering into a blame game. Here (on paper) everything looks hunky-dory, but on the ground people are denied admission," it pointed out, while hearing a PIL initiated by it on its own in 2017 concerning the issue of non-availability of ICU beds and ventilator facilities in government hospitals.

Earlier this month, the court took a grim view of the incident where a man died after de-



Earlier this month, the court took a grim view of the incident where a man died after denial of medical treatment by three Delhi government and one central government hospital. The man was taken to Delhi government's Jag Pravech Chandra Hospital, GTB Hospital and Lok Nayak (in pic) and Centre's Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital

nial of medical treatment by three Delhi government and one central government hospital on various pretexts including non-availability of ICU/ventilator beds or CT scan. The deceased was taken to the Delhi government's Jag Pravech Chandra Hospital, Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and Lok Nayak Hospital, and the Centre's Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

Amicus curiae and advocate Ashok Agarwal said the Delhi government had not provided information with respect to all its hospitals. After noting that the CT scan machine at GTB Hospital was stated to be "functional but not working at full capacity", the court questioned the latest report filed by the government.

"Your report says CT scan is functional, but you refused a patient and he died. Your affidavit is meaningless. It doesn't reflect ground reality. You are refusing patients on the grounds that the CT scan was not working. The court says it is working. It is misleading," the court remarked.

The Delhi government counsel assured the court that "health has always been a priority" for the government and four big hospitals with over 3,200 beds were proposed to come up in two-three years in Siraspur, Madipur, Jwalapuri and Hastals. Around 5,000 beds were also being added to the bed strength in existing hospitals, the counsel said.

The court suggested setting up a committee of doctors to examine the hospitals run by the Delhi government as a way forward and asked the principal secretary (health) to remain present on the next date of hearing.

ED issues fifth summons to Kejriwal in excise case

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Enforcement Directorate issued a fresh summons, its fifth, to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to answer questions on Friday regarding the excise policy case in which his senior colleagues, former deputy CM Manish Sisodia and party MP Sanjay Singh, are in judicial custody. His close aide Vijay Nair is out on interim bail.

Kejriwal has refused to appear before the investigators on grounds that the summons did not specify whether he was asked to appear as an accused or a witness and that the probe was politically motivated, aimed at maligning his image and thwarting AAP from challenging BJP.

The summons issued on Wednesday marked a rejection of Kejriwal's allegations. It will be interesting to watch his response to the latest summons, considering that it was issued hours before the arrest of Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren after he dodged eight summons from the anti-



CM Arvind Kejriwal has refused to appear before the investigators

money laundering agency. The probe turned towards Kejriwal following a poser from the Supreme Court, which asked the agency why it had not investigated the role of the AAP leadership in the case.

ED, which contested Sisodia's bail plea saying it aimed to wrap up its investigation into the liquor scam in six months, appears to be working on a tight timeline.

Kejriwal's name has figured in the chargesheets filed by ED against other accused in the excise policy case.

Talking to reporters, AAP's chief spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar the fresh summons received by Kejri-

wal were being studied. "All previous summons were illegal. We will do whatever is appropriate within the ambit of law," Kakkar said.

Delhi BJP, however, said Kejriwal should now "stop running away" from legal processes and cooperate in the investigation by appearing before ED. "Kejriwal's situation has become like that of an economic fugitive who is hiding from the ED. He knows his role in the scam was clear in the probe conducted by CBI and ED. That's why he is trying to evade the probe," Delhi BJP chief Vinendra Sachdeva said.

Delhi High Court, meanwhile, reserved its order on a plea by Sanjay Singh seeking bail. Singh sought bail on the ground that he has been in custody for three months and no role has been attributed to him in the predicate offence. The probe agency opposed the plea, contending that Singh was involved in acquiring, possessing, concealing, dissipating and using proceeds of crime generated from the 'scam'.

Extreme cold fails to kill bright idea, tulip bulbs start blooming

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New Delhi: Despite the extreme cold, tulips have started to flower at the AIIMS roundabout after New Delhi Municipal Council had planted them at December-end. However, the bulbs, including of black tulips, planted on a 1.5-km stretch on Shanti Path in Chanakya haven't shown signs of blooming fully yet. "We expect the full blooming of the tulips to start over the next 10 days," said Satish Upadhyay, vice-chairman of NDMC.

Besides Shanti Path, tulips have been planted in different design configurations at Talkatora Gardens, Ashoka Road, Lodhi Garden, Nehru Park, Windsor Place roundabout, vicinity of the Vice-President's Bungalow, 11 Murti and the NDMC headquarters. "Instead of planting the bulbs in two or three rows, we have set them in multiple rows and in different designs," said an NDMC official.

The civic body has planted white, yellow, red, pink, orange, purple, black and yellow-red tulips this year. "Despite the challenges associated with tulip cultivation, we have planted the bulbs successfully and there are no reports of bulbs being damaged by the chilly weather so far unlike last year," said Upadhyay.

NDMC stated that the pre-treated

and pre-programmed tulip bulbs can thrive in unpredictable weather conditions easily. "In addition to planting, we have also preserved 54,000 tulip bulbs from last year. 52,000 of them at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology in Palampur for further research and the rest at NDMC's high-tech nursery at Lodhi Garden," said the official.

NDMC expects to use the Lodhi Garden bulbs next year. Those treated at the research centre will also be planted in

decent numbers next year. "The civic body is a pioneer in growing tulips in public areas, inspired by the garden at the Rashtrapati Bhawan," said an official. "The tulip project, initiated five years ago, is part of NDMC's ongoing effort to create a more beautiful capital city."

This year, three lakh tulip bulbs were imported from Holland, with one lakh designated for DDA and the remaining for public spaces across Lutyens' Delhi. Other seasonal flowers, such as salvia, petunia, antirrhinum and marigold, are also being planted in public areas.



FEAST FOR EYES: This year, three lakh tulip bulbs were imported from Holland

Chandigarh mayor issue: Kejriwal to lead AAP protest

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party will hold a protest outside BJP headquarters in Delhi on Feb 2 over alleged cheating in the Chandigarh mayoral polls.

Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and his Punjab counterpart Bhagwant Mann will also take part in the protest.

The decision to hold the protest comes on the day Kejriwal was issued a fresh summons by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with an excise policy-linked money laundering case.

On Tuesday, in a setback to Congress and AAP - both partners in the opposition INDIA bloc - BJP swept the Chandigarh mayoral polls.

The AAP-Congress combine alleged that the presiding officer had tampered with the ballot papers.

Kejriwal said on Tuesday that BJP won Chandigarh mayor election by committing fraud in broad daylight. "Presiding officer deliberately invalidated 8 of our 20 votes by putting tick marks, which is captured on camera and whole country is watching," he said.

Leader of Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said that all the big and small leaders of AAP wanted to win this election by forming an alliance with Congress but now they have seen their fate. "The habit of boasting and making lofty promises has brought the Aam Aadmi Party down to reality," he added.

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4th case in a month: 7-yr-old attacked by pit bull, owner held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In the fourth such incident in Jan, a seven-year-old boy suffered injuries in northwest district's Mahendra Park after being allegedly attacked by a pit bull. The dog's owner has been arrested, police said.

The victim, a class 1 student, lives with his family in Jahangirpuri. In a complaint, the boy's father, a businessman, stated that the incident took place around 10pm on Jan 21, when his son was playing near their house. "My neighbour's pit bull reached the spot and attacked my son while my wife went to rescue him," the complainant said. Hearing the noise, other people rushed to the scene and somehow managed to rescue the child, who was then taken to a nearby hospital.

The complainant said that they had previously informed their neighbour about the need to control the dog. "Due to her negligence, the dog has bitten my son," he wrote in the complaint. The boy was receiving treatment for injuries on his hands and legs. The complainant said that the boy had received multiple stitches and was not able to appear in his examination.

A case was registered at Mahendra Park police station under sections 289 (negligent conduct with respect to animal) and 337 (causing hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the IPC.

Police said the dog's owner Mona (23), a resident of Jahangirpuri, has been arrested. She works as a helper in shirt button factory at Ramgarh village in Jahangirpuri.

On Jan 22, a two-year-old boy was injured allegedly in a pit bull attack in Vishwas Nagar. His father told police that he was returning from a temple with his wife and their child. As they approached their house, their neighbours opened their door and the dog rushed out and allegedly attacked the child.

Earlier in Jan, a seven-year-old girl was allegedly attacked by an American Bully while she was playing near her house in Shahbad Dairy. In another incident, a pit bull allegedly snatched an 18-month-old child from her grandfather's lap and mauled her at Uttarakhand Colony in Burari area.



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Normal Is Boring: Rain, Heavy Fog On Last Jan Day

Severe Cold Day Conditions In Some Parts Of City, AQI Dips After Showers As delays send plans haywire, rlys readies extra rest rooms

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: After a foggy morning, Delhi got rain on Wednesday, leading to a dip in daytime temperature. Some areas saw "cold day" or "severe cold day" conditions.

India Meteorological Department has sounded a "yellow" alert for moderate to dense fog on Thursday and Friday. Very light rain is expected on Thursday.

The Met department's data shows that the maximum temperature was 18.6 degrees Celsius, four degrees below normal, at Safdarjung, which is the city's base station.

"Severe cold day" conditions were seen on the Ridge as the maximum temperature dipped to 16.2 degrees Celsius, 6.6 degrees below normal. "Cold day" conditions were recorded at Palam and Ayanagar where the maximum temperature dropped to 17 and 17.4 degrees Celsius, respectively. At 13.9 degrees Cel-



Delhi received light showers on Wednesday afternoon and another spell of rain with strong winds on Wednesday night

sus, Jafarpur recorded the lowest maximum temperature. The minimum temperature at Safdarjung was recorded at 7.3 degrees Celsius, one degree below normal.

A "cold day" is declared when the minimum temperature is below 10 degrees Celsius and the departure of the maximum temperature from the normal is 4.5 degrees or more. A "severe cold day" is when the departure of the maximum temperature from the normal is 6.5 degrees or more.

Delhi got light showers on Wednesday afternoon and another spell of rain with strong winds on Wednesday night. From 8.30am to 5.30pm, Safdarjung logged 8.5mm of rainfall. In the same period, Palam, Lodhi Road, Ridge, Ayanagar and Pusa recorded 7, 9, 2.2, 2.3 and 6mm of rainfall, respectively. During the rain spell on Wednesday night, Safdarjung and Palam received 9.7mm and 7.6mm rainfall, respectively, from 5.30 pm to 8.30 pm.

The city also witnessed dense fog. Palam recorded dense fog for almost 11 hours from 10.30pm to 9.30am.

Safdarjung was no better with formation of very dense fog from 4 am to 9 am. A Met official said in Jan, two days saw the most intense duration of dense fog — Jan 30-31 and Jan 13-14.

Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist and head of the Regional Weather Forecasting Centre,

IMD, said: "Under the influence of a western disturbance, the city received rain. Very light rain or a drizzle is likely on Thursday. Though no rain is predicted for Friday, very light rain or a drizzle is predicted for Saturday as another western disturbance is expected." No significant change in temperature is expected in the next few days. The maximum temperature is likely to remain around 18-20 degrees Celsius, and minimum is predicted to stay around 7-9 degrees Celsius for the next few days.

Air quality was close to severe as the AQI crept up to 392 at 4 pm. It is predicted to be in the 'poor' range on Thursday and 'moderate' on Friday. After the rain, the AQI fell to 380 at 9 pm. "Winds were slow during the daytime. As another spell of intense rain was recorded on Wednesday night, and winds picked up, the air quality will show an improvement by Thursday morning," an official said.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With cold conditions persisting in the city and several trains getting delayed, the Delhi division of Northern Railway has arranged additional waiting rooms at key stations.

Prem Shankar Jha, executive adviser to the divisional railway manager, said, "Northern Railway has enhanced the waiting area for passengers at four major railway stations — New Delhi, Old Delhi, Hazrat Nizamuddin and Anand Vihar Terminal."

The additional waiting area provided is 6,142 square feet at New Delhi, 4,150 square feet at Hazrat Nizamuddin, 6,000 square feet at Old Delhi and 1,720 square feet at Anand Vihar Terminal.

Covered tents have been provided at New Delhi station (Ajmeri Gate side) and Hazrat Nizamuddin stations while additional space has been offered for waiting at Anand Vihar

Terminal, Old Delhi and New Delhi (Paharganj), he said.

The official said carpeting has been provided in the waiting areas. "At New Delhi and Old Delhi railway stations, there is extra waiting area at both the entry points, i.e., Ajmeri Gate and Paharganj at New Delhi and Kashmir Gate and Chandni Chowk at Old Delhi," he added.

On an average, over 20 trains were delayed daily — many up to six-seven hours — in the past few weeks due to fog. Railways data provided on Sunday showed 24 trains, including Azamgarh-Delhi Express, were delayed by over eight hours.

Another official said regular announcements were being made on the public address system to inform passengers about the extra waiting areas, which are open 24 hours and easily accessible.

Sukhvinder Singh, divisional railway manager, Delhi, said heating arrangements have been made in the entire waiting space at the stations to ensure a warm environment for passengers. Fog-disrupted journeys and the severe cold have been causing severe discomfort to thousands of rail passengers, with many using plastic sheets as mattresses.

New Delhi railway station is among the busiest in the country and the main junction for Rajdhani Express trains from state capitals. Many Shatabdi Express and Vande Bharat Express trains also originate and terminate at the station. The number of trains per platform per day ranges from 13 to 23. Nizamuddin, Anand Vihar and Old Delhi stations are also busy stations linking major cities.

An official said that heating arrangements had been made in the entire waiting space at stations

ress system to inform passengers about the extra waiting areas, which are open 24 hours and easily accessible.

Dec-Jan extreme: Dense fog for 128 hrs in 20 days

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi recorded visibility below 200 metres for 128 hours in 20 days of Dec and Jan, making this the third-most intense spell of dense fog in the past 10 years, according to India Meteorological Department.

In 2013-14, Delhi saw 160 hours of dense fog was in winter. The most intense spell of dense fog was in the winter (Dec and Jan) of 2014-15, which was for 174 hours.

IMD's data for the IGI Airport monitoring station shows the long period average for winter season (Dec and Jan) for dense fog is 107 hours. This winter saw fog spells 21 hours higher than normal.

The dense fog in Jan was also record-breaking. Jan saw dense fog for 14 days, totalling 88 hours. This was the third highest for any Jan between 2014 and 2024. The second-highest dense fog spell was in Jan 2015 for 98 hours. The highest was in 2014 with 121 hours in the past 10 years, according to the Met department.

RK Jenamani, a senior

THIRD-MOST INTENSE SPELL IN 10 YRS

Total dense to very dense fog hours with visibility below 200 metres in main winter fog months of Dec and Jan | **128 hours and 20 days**

For Dec and Jan together, it is the third highest after 2014-2015 in the last 10 years

Jan 2024 alone has 14 days with 88 hours, it is the third highest since 2015 for Jan



CRITERIA FOR FOG

Shallow fog	visibility below 1,000 metres
Moderate fog	visibility below 500 metres
Dense fog	visibility below 200 metres
Severe dense fog	visibility below 50 metres



IMD scientist, said: "From mid-Dec to Jan 28, no western disturbance impacted the region. Calm wind conditions prevailed. The absence of winds led to fog." He added that shallow to moderate fog in Jan was seen for 27 days. IMD classifies fog by visibility.

Flight cancelled, many flyers sit on tarmac

Joy.Sengupta @timesgroup.com

Pune: Over 150 flyers booked on a Pune-Delhi SpiceJet flight (SG8184) had a harrowing experience on Tuesday as they were made to board the aircraft twice following reschedulings before it was cancelled because of bad weather in the national capital.

The flight was scheduled to depart at 4.20pm on Tuesday. After disembarking the flyers for the second time, the airline announced that the flight had been cancelled because of the inclement weather and would fly to Delhi at 7.30am on Wednesday. Infuriated flyers sat on the airport's tarmac. Some passengers missed their onward international connections or appointments with doctors.

Earlier in Jan, the BCAS fined IndiGo Rs1.2 crore after flyers of a diverted plane assembled on the tarmac in the Mumbai airport and had food. The airport was also slapped with a fine of Rs90 lakh.

"Many flyers got into the tarmac out of frustration. Some of them went to the terminal building. The airline crew didn't have any answers and there was no coordination. Around 2am, the rest of the flyers went back to the terminal building. Most of the senior ground staffers of the airline had made a disappearing act by then," the flyer said.

The airline, on its part, said in a statement that bad weather was the reason for the flight cancellation. "Additional commercial flight SG 9937 was operated on Wednesday to accommodate the affected passengers. It departed at 7.45am on Wednesday from Pune for Delhi. Inconvenience caused to the passengers is highly regretted," the spokesperson told TOI.




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bility. When visibility is under 50 metres, the fog is said to be very dense. When it is from 50-200 metres, it is dense, from 200-500 metres is moderate and from 500-1,000 metres is shallow fog.

As six flights were cancelled, some passengers raised slogans at Terminal 2 against IndiGo after a Delhi-Deoghar flight was cancelled. IndiGo said the cancellation was "due to sudden drop in weather conditions... in Deogarh. Passengers were served refreshments and options to avail a full refund, alternative sectors or rescheduling."

Gurgaon sees season's first showers, visibility at zero

Gurgaon: A thick blanket of fog engulfed the city again on Wednesday, due to which visibility dropped to zero in some areas in the morning hours. The city also witnessed light showers later in the day, the first rain spell so far this season.

The maximum temperature fell by a notch from Tuesday's 17.3 degrees Celsius to 16 degrees on Wednesday. It was over 6 degrees below normal, making Wednesday the season's sixth 'cold day'. The wind speed dipped by 1kmph — it was 11kmph, from 12kmph a day before — bringing chill from the snow-clad mountains.

Gurgaon city has recorded seven 'cold days', six 'severe cold days' and three days of cold wave so far this season. TNN

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Bishnoi Clout Fading? Killings Of Aides Put Gang On Backfoot

Rajshankar Jha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: He orchestrated the high-profile assassinations of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala and Karni outfit chief Sukhdev Gogamedi and even got his key rival, Sukha Duneke, bumped off in Canada—all within 18 months. These killings, along with dozen other gang-related murders, saw no retaliations, building Lawrence Bishnoi's image of an "invincible" gangster in the eyes of his 500-strong syndicate.

However, Bishnoi's clout and image seem to have suffered a massive blow with the killings of three of his key henchmen by his rivals this Jan. The rivals struck after throwing an open challenge and declaring their next place of killing. But Bishnoi—currently lodged in a dingy jail cell in Gujarat—seems helpless, raising questions about whether his syndicate is weakening.

The recent revenge killings have displayed interesting trends. The retributions not only indicate the resurgence of Bishnoi's rivals who have been on the backfoot for nearly two years, but also suggest the formation of a strong bond between the Bambiha syndicate (Bishnoi's direct rival) and secessionist outfits like the Khalistani Tiger Force (KTF). Cops described this as a deadly cocktail.

"Two important characters seem to be playing together on the front foot against Bishnoi—gangster-turned-terrorist Arshdeep Singh aka Arsh Dalla of KTF and Gaurav alias Lucky Patial who leads the Bambihas. Dalla is based in Canada and Patial seems to have moved to North America from Armenia," said a seasoned investigator who tracks Bishnoi and rivals.

Dalla, a designated terrorist in central government's list, is learnt to be heading KTF following the killing of its chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar by unknown gunmen in Canada in June 2023. Dalla left India in 2020 and now lives in Surrey, British Columbia, with his wife and daughter. "He holds a passport issued in Jalandhar on Sept 1, 2017, and valid until Aug 31, 2027," a dossier on him reads. Dalla has already made inroads into Delhi's

POWER GAMES

THE ALLIANCES

SIDE 1

SIDE 2



Lawrence Bishnoi



Goldy Brar



Kala Jathedi



Deepak Boxer-Gogi



Kapil Sangwan



Rohit Godara-Anandpal



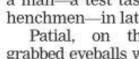
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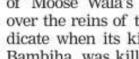
Raju Theth, splinter groups



Neeraj Bawana-Tajpuria syndicate



Arsh Dalla



Lucky Patial/Bambiha group



Kaushal Chaudhary gang

THE REVENGE KILLINGS INDICATE THE RESURGENCE OF BISHNOI'S RIVALS

territory with the beheading of a man—a test task for two of his henchmen—in late 2022.

Patial, on the other hand, grabbed eyeballs when he vowed to eliminate Bishnoi in the aftermath of Moose Wala's killing. He took over the reins of the Bambiha syndicate when its kingpin, Devender Bambiha, was killed in an encounter in 2016. With help from Canada and Pakistan-based Khalistani operatives, including Rinda Sandhu and Landa Harike, besides Haryana's

the money will be paid as compensation to the victim.

The court acted on a complaint by PC Jain, who suffered vision loss in his left eye because of gross medical negligence by Singh during a surgery in 2002-2003. Determined to fix accountability, Jain moved a consumer court.

The court underlined how Jain "has been contesting this long-drawn litigation for a rightful claim of compensation for more than 20 years" and termed as "cavalier" the manner in which his claim was reduced unilaterally by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission. It observed that the commission reduced the interest awarded by the state consumer commission to Jain from 12% to 6% "with a bald unreasoned observation that the rate of interest so applied was

on the higher side and, therefore, the same was reduced to 6%."

Appearing for Jain, senior advocate Shirin Khajuria highlighted the travails of her client who didn't get a "single penny" despite being awarded compensation in 2008 itself. She further informed the court that Singh falsely told the commission that he had already paid Rs 2 lakh to Jain.

Holding Singh guilty of medical negligence, the Faridabad District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in 2008 had ordered payment of Rs 2 lakh as compensation with an interest at 12% per annum from the date of filing of complaint till the date of realisation.

However, the case saw several rounds of appeal and the doctor got relief from the state commission which reversed

the findings against him, prompting Jain to approach the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission.

After a second round of litigation, the NCDRC ruled in favour of Jain but reduced the interest awarded from 12% to 6%, triggering appeals by both the victim and doctor before SC. Warning Singh that failure to pay the compensation in two months would result in the interest getting enhanced to 15% per annum, the apex court dismissed his appeal.

Earlier, the ethics committee of the Medical Council of India had held that Dr Singh was in violation of the Professional Misconduct, Etiquette and Ethics Regulation, 2012, and had recommended the removal of his name from the Indian Medical Register for six months.

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Jan 29 | Bishnoi's key henchman, Rajan Jaat from Kurukshetra, was killed and his body dumped in Yamuna Nagar, Haryana. He was shot twice in the head, his limbs tied and body set on fire

Jan 30 | Suraj Bhan, a key member of the Lawrence Bishnoi-Kapil Sangwan syndicate, was gunned down by assailants in Faridabad

Two important characters seem to be playing together against Bishnoi—gangster-turned-terrorist Arshdeep Singh aka Arsh Dalla of KTF and Gaurav alias Lucky Patial who leads the Bambihas

—AN INVESTIGATOR

The Bambihas, it seems, used the time to regroup.

The war is not limited to B

Healing Touch: This Device Can Be A Balm For Wounds

Helps In Quicker Recovery, Reduces Chances Of Infection

Anuja Jaiswal
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), with the support of its school of international bio-design, has developed a wound healing device for early healing that also reduces the chances of infection among patients with large wounds.

Professor Sushma Sagar from the AIIMS trauma centre, who received the institute's research award for best innovative technology, told TOI that two successful trials with the battery-operated device were done on at least 100 patients admitted to the trauma centre in the last two years.

She said the device has a combination therapy of "negative pressure as well as oxygen delivery" to large exudative wounds and helps in removing exudate, reducing edema and increasing vascularity.

It also helps in reducing microbial infection by providing regulated doses of oxygen to the wound. Besides, it helps in wound contraction and healthy tissue formation for improved healing.

"We have to change the dressing very frequently as

DEVELOPED BY AIIMS

Advantages of this innovation

- ▶ To take less time to heal wounds
- ▶ Reduces the number of dressing changes
- ▶ Better outcome | Reduced wound size, new and healthy tissue formation
- ▶ Enhanced readiness for closing the wound
- ▶ No exudates on clothes
- ▶ Reduced microbial infection due to local oxygen delivery



The wound healing device helps in reducing microbial infection by providing regulated doses of oxygen to the wound. Besides, it helps in wound contraction and healthy tissue formation for improved healing

they get wet easily. There is a need for such devices to take care of large wounds which

opening where a sieve-like tube is attached. When the tube is connected to the machine, it sucks the discharge / exudate due to negative pressure. The machine has an attachment for the canister where fluids get collected.

The negative pressure reduces wound discharge and additional oxygen delivery by another tube helps in decreasing infection from the wound. It also helps the wound heal by promoting the growth of new blood vessels.

This combination therapy can be a big boon for large wounds and can avoid multiple changes of dressing. Such combination therapy devices are not available in the market. "Each dressing can last for almost five days by using this device," she said, adding that there was no need to change the dressing every day but the container can be changed when filled. She further said that home-based therapy can be given by trained nurses or paramedics.

Negative pressure wound therapy is available in the market but expensive.

The device developed by AIIMS is likely to cost less, doctors said.

61-yr-old brain dead woman saves four

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The family of a 61-year-old woman, who was declared brain dead at Apollo Hospital after suffering a severe stroke due to high blood pressure, decided to donate her organs, saving four lives. The hospital's transplant team successfully retrieved her heart, liver and kidneys.

The woman from Faridabad was declared brain dead on Jan 30. After consent from the family, the organ retrieval process began on Wednesday by the skilled transplant team at the hospital.

All the organs were allocated to recipients through the National Organ and Tissue

Transplant Organization (NOTTO). The donor's heart was transplanted to a 16-year-old girl at MGM Healthcare, Chennai. One kidney was given to Jaypee Hospital, Noida, and one kidney and liver were transplanted to recipients at Apollo Hospital.

Dr Vinit Suri, senior consultant, neurology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, said, "It is always moving when families find the inner strength to enable organ donation even while coping with the irreparable loss of a loved one. In donating her organs, the 61-year-old donor embodied the highest ideals of empathy, generosity and the human spirit."

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(Approved by AICTE & Affiliated to Dr. APJAK Technical University, Lucknow)

Thursday | 8th February, 2024
10:30 AM

—VENUE—
Shri Ram Murti Centennial Auditorium, SRMSCET Campus, Bareilly

1. All candidates passed out in 2024, desirous for attending convocation are required to register for the convocation by **04th February, 2024** positively on E-mail: convocation@srms.ac.in. For any queries, please contact **9458701641**.

2. Candidates are also required to attend the rehearsal a day before i.e. on **07th February, 2024** at 3:00 PM essentially & join the pre convocation dinner in P. G. Hostel at 8:30 PM on the same day.

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SPEAK FOR INDIA
DELHI NCR EDITION 2023-24

DDA targets handover of Jailorwala flats by mid-March

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The long-awaited Jailorwala Bagh housing project has been completed and eligible candidates for the neighbouring Ashok Vihar slum cluster will likely get possession of flats in March, according to Delhi Development Authority (DDA). "The in-situ rehabilitation project will house 1,675 families and will be handed over to the beneficiaries by mid-March," said an official. The official said possession of 1,078 flats will be given in Phase I. Verification and other processes for allotment of flats have been completed. DDA had planned to give possession of the houses to

the allottees around Diwali. However, the work could not be completed within the timeline due to GRAP and other reasons, said the official. Earlier, a DDA official had said that the authority had identified two more jhuggi clusters for allocation of the remaining flats. "Verification of beneficiaries' eligibility in these clusters, which are located within a 5km range, is under process. We will carry out a draw of lots to finalise the floors," he had said. In July, DDA had established a facilitation centre on

the directions of the LG to guide allottees for demand-cum-allotment letters, biometrics, loans through financial institutions, and preparing and submitting their documents. The total cost of construction incurred by DDA on the project is Rs 421.8 crore. Eligible beneficiaries have to pay Rs 1,71,000 — Rs 1,41,000 as beneficiary contribution and Rs 30,000 as maintenance charges for five years. Officials had earlier said that DDA had subsidised each flat by about Rs 24 lakh. With a covered area of 400



NASCENT AND NEAT

square feet, each flat comprises two rooms, one kitchen, one bathroom, one toilet and a balcony. In Tower C, the authority has made provisions for facilities like community halls, shops, a classroom, a clinic and children's daycare centre. All towers have lifts. A basement measuring 11,024sqm has been constructed for parking. There is also a provision of surface parking. Ample green spaces of over 9,000sqm have been provided on the site. This is DDA's second in-situ rehabilitation project. In Nov 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had inaugurated 3,024 EWS flats in Kalkaji for slum-dwellers.

'Riot case probe not over even after 4 years of FIR'

New Delhi: Delhi's Karkardooma Court heard the arguments by the counsel for Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, who submitted that even after 4 years of registration of the FIR and filing of one charge sheet and four supplementary charge sheets, the investigation of Delhi police is still pending. It was also submitted that the daily diary should be checked to see what the police have done in 4 years. Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Sameer Bajpal, after hearing part of the arguments, adjourned the matter till Feb 12 for further hearing. The court is hearing an application seeking clarity on the investigation of Delhi police in the larger conspiracy case before beginning arguments on the charge.

Advocate Adit S Pujari, counsel for Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, submitted that the investigation can't be pending until charges are framed against the accused. He submitted that Devangana and Natasha were sitting and protesting; they did not chakka jaam. Traffic was running on the road at Jafraabad. It is shown in the video, but that is not given to us. The court is hearing an application filed in Sept 2023 seeking clarity on the investigation. ANI

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE
The Executive Engineer-II, Kolkata South Health Electrical Division, PWD, invites ENIG for Supply and Installation of wall bracket fan along with allied EI work for Male and Female Ward at Vidyasagar S.G. Hospital, Behala, Kolkata-34. vide Tender ID - 2024_WBPWD_655797_1. Last date of submissions - 16/02/24 upto 12.00 Noon. All documents can be seen / obtained from the websites <https://wbenders.gov.in/> or <http://www.wbenders.gov.in/> and office Notice Board. Sd/- Executive Engineer-II, Kolkata South Health Electrical Division, PWD, DDA, ICAT2429(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Mass Education Extension Directorate
Bikash Bhavan, 9th Floor, Salt Lake, Kolkata - 700091
It is hereby informed that a Corrigendum has been issued vide memo no. 68/WB, Dated 29.01.2024 in respect of e-NIT No. MEED/DIR/e-01/2023-24, Dated 10.01.2024. Director of Mass Education Extension, Govt. of West Bengal ICAT2458(3)/2024

e-CORRIGENDUM
e-CORRIGENDUM is hereby made for engagement of Security Guard at RRRMU, Jalpaiguri under WBSRDA, Jalpaiguri Division against NIT No. WBSRDA/13-EE/JLP/2023-24, dated-15.01.2024. Extended date for submission of tender is 05.02.2024, 14:00 Hrs. All details may be had from this office Notice Board and in website: <https://wbenders.gov.in/>
Sd/- Executive Engineer WBSRDA, Jalpaiguri Division

3-yr-old girl assaulted by uncle

New Delhi: A three-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by her uncle in Vasant Kunj. Police have arrested the accused. A complaint was filed on Jan 30 by the victim's mother, stating that she had gone to her relative's place, leaving her daughter with her father. When the victim's mother returned home after a few days, she found her daughter in poor health. The girl was immediately taken to the hospital and admitted to the ICU. Police reported that her condition is stable. The mother informed police that her daughter was allegedly sexually assaulted by her uncle, who visited their home and committed the assault. A police officer said that a young girl was allegedly assaulted at her home. "We have apprehended the accused in connection with the incident. The girl's condition is stable, and we are conducting a thorough investigation," the officer added. A case under section 376 (sexual assault) of PCO act. TNW

₹803cr Released By Govt For MCD

Funds Up Three Times Since 2014-15: Govt

NEW DELHI: Finance minister Atishi on Wednesday approved the release of the third instalment of Rs 803.7 crore for the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to ensure that the work in the civic body doesn't slow down and the corporation's employees get their salaries on time. Government said the fund allocation to MCD had increased three times since 2014-15 and 2.5 times in the past five years. "The Kerjial government allocated Rs 2,642.5 crore to MCD in 2023-24 compared to Rs 854.5 crore in 2014-15. In addition to this, funds are provided under several heads to MCD by Delhi government," the statement read.



Atishi said the instalment of ₹803.7 crore would ensure timely payment of salaries and pensions to the employees of MCD, apart from sanitation workers, paramedical staff and doctors

Atishi said the instalment of Rs 803.7 crore would ensure timely payment of salaries and pensions to the employees of MCD, apart from sanitation workers, paramedical staff and doctors. "This decision will inspire and motivate them to provide better services to the general public. Previously, employees in the BJP-run MCD were not receiving their salaries on time, leading to forced strikes. As a result, employees and the people of Delhi had to face difficulties," the finance minister said. Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor, however, said that due to the wrong policies of the Kejriwal government, the development work of MCD had come to a standstill. "The annual third instalment to MCD is part of government's revenue collection through property registration. This money is meant for the development of Delhi from which the Kejriwal government will now make MCD distribute salaries for two months and clap for itself," Kapoor alleged. "Despite promises, Delhi government has neither provided any additional financial resources to MCD nor released the amount pending for 10 years. In the past one year, the Kejriwal government has distributed salaries from the money meant for development work," Kapoor claimed.

OFFICE OF THE ZILLA PARISHAD, HOWRAH
10, BIPLABI HAREN GHOSH SARANI, HOWRAH-1
NIT No. 32, 31 & 30 of 2023-24 (3rd Call)
E-tenders are invited on behalf of Howrah Zilla Parishad from qualified contractors for different work for NIT No. NIT No. 32 (SI No.-4), NIT No. 31 (SI No.-1) & NIT No. 30 (SI No.-2) of 2023-24 (3rd Call). E-tender documents are available at State Government e-tender portal, www.wbenders.gov.in/. Last date of submission of tender is 07.02.2024 upto 17:00 hrs.
Sd/- District Engineer Howrah Zilla Parishad
Memo No.: 129/Adv/DICO/Hwh.
Date: 31.01.2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL N.B.D.D NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Notice Inviting e-Tender by the S.E./NBDD vide NIT No. 111 (SI Nos. 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08 & 09) 2023-24. Details of works may be seen in the above mentioned NIT in the website: www.wbenders.gov.in/ & www.wbndd.org/
Sd/- Superintending Engineer North Bengal Development Department ICAT-12386(4)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WRI&DD, e-NIT
Sealed Tenders (10) 2023-24/MATR SHRISTIP-VII/WRID/MCADDIV/2024, Tender ID: 2024_WRDD_65920_1 & (07) 2023-24/ALATIRTA/WRID/WRID/MCADDIV/2024 (2nd Call) & Tender ID: 2024_WRDD_65740_1 have been invited by the Executive Engineer (A-1) Mayarakshi (A-1) CAD Division, Barabagan, Suri, Birbhum-71101, from bonafied agency for Excavation, Re-excavation and Development of Water Detention Structure in Birbhum District under Mayarakshi (A-1) CAD Division. Last date & time of application for obtaining permission is 21.02.2024 upto 12.00 P.M. Other details may also be seen from office notice board. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only.
Sd/- Executive Engineer (A-1) Mayarakshi (A-1) CAD Division ICAT-12461(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsecl.in
WBSECL invites e-Tender as follows:
NIT No.: WBSECL/DE/EE/MMHD/CIVIL/e-TENDER/2023-24/02 Dt.: 22.01.2024 of the Divisional Engineer (Elect.) Mini-Micro Hydel Division, WBSECL, for (A) Name of work - Repair and maintenance of LINEP R.C.C. & B.P. sheet flume line along with other associated civil works at Little Rangit Hydro Electric Project; Estimated Cost - ₹ 9,76,574/-; (B) Name of work - Removing of unserviceable soil and silt from Forebay tank and Desilting tank along with fit-bit repair and maintenance work of Forebay tank trash rack at Little Rangit Hydel Project; Estimated Cost - ₹ 9,94,497/-; (C) Name of work - Repair and maintenance of Fabric flume channel along with other associated civil works at Fazi; Estimated Cost - ₹ 6,89,896/-; (D) Name of work - Repair and maintenance of Mungpok Kali Khola flume line along with other associated civil works; Estimated Cost - ₹ 7,04,252/-; (E) Name of work - Repair and maintenance of Rinchington R.C.C. & B.P. sheet flume line along with other associated civil works; Estimated Cost - ₹ 6,55,812/-; under Mini-Micro Hydel Division, Kurseong, Dist. - Darjeeling.
ICAT-12360(2)/2024
For details, visit <https://wbenders.gov.in/> & www.wbsecl.in

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT/WBPD/SEWC-II/NIT 33/2024 call/2023-24
S.E./N.C.-II, PWD, Sara Sarani, Kodalia, Post : Bantel, Dist : Hooghly invites tender for the work of "Construction of proposed New Regional Office Office & District Drug Control office (G+3) within CMOH Office compound, Bankura, [2nd call]. Estimated Amount: ₹ 1,86,33,487/- Tender ID: 2024_WPD_65468_1. Bid submission start date (online): 02/02/2024 at 2:00 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online): 23/02/2024 at 2:00 P.M. Details on NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from: <http://www.wbenders.gov.in/> or <http://www.wbpd.gov.in/>
Sd/- SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, WESTERN CIRCLE-II, P.W.D. ICAT-12414(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ABRIDGED E-TENDER NOTICE
Notice of e-Tender for Repair & Maintenance of Group-C, Group-D Staff Quarter and Barak, at different Ranges, under Rajganj Division, West Bengal. NIT No. 06/e-NIT/Rajganj/Dev./of 2023-24 (2nd Call) related. Publishing date: 01.02.2024 at 1.00 P.M. Closing date: 16.02.2024 upto 5.30 P.M. For all other details please visit www.wbenders.gov.in/ or the Office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Rajganj Division at Karnajora, Rajganj, Uttar Dinajpur-733130. Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer, Rajganj Division. ICAT-12370(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Siliguri Jalpaiguri Development Authority
Himanchal Vihar, Rangpur, Seva Laghu Kendra, Matigara-734010
NIT INVITING e-TENDER
The Chief Executive Officer, Siliguri Jalpaiguri Development Authority, Siliguri invites electronic notice inviting e-bid (Online) under 2 (Two) bid system from eligible resourceful bonafide and experienced firms / companies / individual contractors for the following works: Widening of right hand side of ELECT/2023-24 of SIDA & 2) NIT 139 / Engg / ELECT/2023-24 of SIDA Name of Work 1) Supplying, installation, Testing, Commissioning of street light at Ward No. 01, Jalpaiguri Municipality & 2) Supplying, Installation, Testing, Commissioning of Street Lights at Ward No. 1, Jalpaiguri Municipality Amount out to Tender: 1) Rs. 4,97,215.00 & 2) Rs. 4,99,409.00. Earnest Money - 1) Rs. 9,944.00 & 2) Rs. 9,988.00. Tender Documents Sale / Download Start Date & Time: 30.01.2024 at 4.00 P.M. and Bid Submission End Date & Time: 09.02.2024 upto 4.00 P.M. Date of opening of Technical Proposals: 12.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. Date of opening of Financial bids: 12.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. Details on NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from the website: <http://www.sjda.org/> or <http://www.wbenders.gov.in/> or <http://www.wbidd.gov.in/> or <https://wbenders.gov.in/> or <https://wbidd.gov.in/> from 01/02/2024 after 17:30 hrs. Bid submission end date 16/02/2024 upto 17:02 hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Siliguri Irrigation Division 26, Nabinsin Road, Mahanadrapara P.O. Siliguri, Dist. Darjeeling. ICAT-12374(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsecl.in
WBSECL invites e-Tender as follows:
NIT No.: WBSECL/DE/EE/MMHD/CIVIL/e-TENDER/2023-24/02 Dt.: 22.01.2024 of the Divisional Engineer (Elect.) Mini-Micro Hydel Division, WBSECL, for (A) Name of work - Repair and maintenance of LINEP R.C.C. & B.P. sheet flume line along with other associated civil works at Little Rangit Hydro Electric Project; Estimated Cost - ₹ 9,76,574/-; (B) Name of work - Removing of unserviceable soil and silt from Forebay tank and Desilting tank along with fit-bit repair and maintenance work of Forebay tank trash rack at Little Rangit Hydel Project; Estimated Cost - ₹ 9,94,497/-; (C) Name of work - Repair and maintenance of Fabric flume channel along with other associated civil works at Fazi; Estimated Cost - ₹ 6,89,896/-; (D) Name of work - Repair and maintenance of Mungpok Kali Khola flume line along with other associated civil works; Estimated Cost - ₹ 7,04,252/-; (E) Name of work - Repair and maintenance of Rinchington R.C.C. & B.P. sheet flume line along with other associated civil works; Estimated Cost - ₹ 6,55,812/-; under Mini-Micro Hydel Division, Kurseong, Dist. - Darjeeling.
ICAT-12360(2)/2024
For details, visit <https://wbenders.gov.in/> & www.wbsecl.in

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ABRIDGED E-TENDER NOTICE
NO. WBFOR/DFORP/NIT 37/ JALATIRTA (3rd Call) of 2023-24
E-tenders are invited from eligible bidders for the work of "Construction of Pipe Spillway and inlet for Construction of Water Detention Structure" vide e-NIT No. "WBFOR/DFORP/NIT 37/ JALATIRTA (3rd Call) of 2023-24". The e-NIT will be published in the portal www.wbenders.gov.in/ on 30/01/2024 at 11.00 A.M. and the last date for online bid submission (Bid Closing) is 20/02/2024 upto 5.00 P.M. For further details, eligible bidders are requested to download the e-Tender Notice from website: www.wbenders.gov.in/ and www.wbsecl.in/ Sd/- Shivnandan Ram, WBFS, Divisional Forest Officer, Rupnarayan ICAT-12364(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. WBW/EE/SID/NIT-04(e)/2023-24
Open Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Siliguri Irrigation Division, Siliguri on behalf of Governor of W.B. for the work mentioned here under through e-bidding system from the eligible & resourceful Contractors having sufficient credential & financial capacity for execution of work of similar nature. Details of NIT & Tender documents may be downloaded from the website: <http://www.wbenders.gov.in/> or <https://wbenders.gov.in/> from 01/02/2024 after 17:30 hrs. Bid submission end date 16/02/2024 upto 17:02 hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Siliguri Irrigation Division 26, Nabinsin Road, Mahanadrapara P.O. Siliguri, Dist. Darjeeling. ICAT-12382(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Notice of Inviting Tender
Bid reference no. - WBMSCL/NIT-075/2024, Dated-22/01/2024
EI works for modification of Skill Lab Complex and Cal Lab at Academic Building of Rampurhat Govt. Medical College & Hospital, Dist- Birbhum. Last date of submission of bid (online) - 09.02.2024 upto 02:00 P.M. The tender document can be downloaded from www.wbenders.gov.in/ on or after 01.02.2024 at 12.00 P.M. Clarification/requests, if any, may be sent to info@wbmsc.gov.in Sd/- Managing Director, WBMSCL ICAT-12361(2)/2024

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113474 + web: www.wbsecl.in
E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED:
NIT No.: ACE/CTZ/ Arambag/Civil/ 2023-24/11
Construction of foundation for erection of Lightning Mast at Arambag 400 kv sub-station. Bid documents can be downloaded from 01.02.2024, 06:00 P.M. and bids shall be submitted (online) up to 03:00 P.M., 29.02.2024.
Date: 01.02.2024
NIT No.: SE/BA/ BARASATA/ELECTRICAL/ 2023-24/04
Painting of different types of structures & equipment's at Ashokenagar 132 kv sub-station. Bid submission starting date (online): 09.02.2024, 09:00 A.M. and closing date (online): 29.02.2024, 03:00 P.M.
Date: 01.02.2024
Visit the following websites: www.wbenders.gov.in/ & www.wbsecl.in/ for details. ICAT-12384(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE/KNHED/PW Dte. invite online e-Tender for the work "Dr. B.C Roy GEPIS, Phool Bagan Campus- Main Hospital Building - Through repair and rehabilitation of distress concrete including other ancillary work during 2022-23 - Electrical installation work." NIT No.: WBPWD/EE/KNHED/NIQ-144/2nd Call/2023-24. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_65630_1. Bid Submission Start Date (online): 02/02/2024, 1.05 PM. Bid Submission Closing Date (online): 15/02/2024 upto 1.00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be Published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from <http://wbenders.gov.in/> Sd/- S. Chakraborty/EE/KNHED/PW Dte./Govt. of WB. ICAT-12441(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE
The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal for and on behalf of the Governor of WB, invites e-Tender for Supply and Installation of 42" and 32" LED Television Sets along with 01 year comprehensive on-site warranty for Correctional Houses spread all over West Bengal. Tender Inviting Notice No. NIT No. 284/DCE/IS-18025/5/2023-SECTION(DCS)-DCS dated 19.01.2024. Date of documents download starts: 02.02.2024 at 17:00 hrs. Last date for receipt of written queries from bidders (Pre-Bid meeting): 12.02.2024 at 13:00 hrs. Last date of submission of tender: 17.02.2024 at 17:00 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website www.wbenders.gov.in/ The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal reserves the rights to cancel any or all the tenders without showing any reason. Sd/- Shri L. N. Meena, IPS, ADG & IG of Correctional Services, WB. ICAT-12389(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited by the Commissioner of Police, Kolkata for "Supply of Sealed Maintenance Free (SMF) battery for 12V of Wireless Branch of Kolkata Police". The last date of submission of the e-tender is on 16.02.2024 up to 15.00 hours. The NIT Document and other details will be available in the website: www.wbenders.gov.in/
Sd/- for Commissioner of Police, Kolkata ICAT-12379(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WEST BENGAL MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Company wholly owned by the Government of West Bengal)
Swasthya Sathi, GN-29, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700091
Memo No: WBMSCL/PROC/ 0489 Date: 30/01/2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
West Bengal Medical Services Corporation Ltd. is inviting electronic bids for supply and commissioning of Medical Equipment for 02 (two) new Government Medical College & Hospital, Dept. of Microbiology as per details indicated in the table below:
Table with columns: Sl. No., Item (Qty.), Bid Ref. No., Last date of submission of online bid, Remarks.
1. Micro Centrifuge (02) WBMSCL/NIT-081/2024, Dated - 27.01.2024, 17.02.2024 up to 05:00 PM, 2nd call for item at Sl. No. 1 and 3 of Bid Ref. No. WBMSCL/NIT-153/2023; Dated - 31.03.2023
2. Laminar Flow (02) WBMSCL/NIT-081/2024, Dated - 27.01.2024, 17.02.2024 up to 05:00 PM, 2nd call for item at Sl. No. 1 and 3 of Bid Ref. No. WBMSCL/NIT-153/2023; Dated - 31.03.2023
Interested Bidders may download the tender document and submit their bids online at the website www.wbenders.gov.in/. The tender document may also be downloaded from the websites www.wbhealth.gov.in/ and www.wbmsc.gov.in/
Sd/- General Manager, ICAT-12398(3)/2024 & Joint Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE/KNHED/PW Dte. invite online e-Tender for the work "Dr. B.C Roy GEPIS, Phool Bagan Campus- Main Hospital Building - Through repair and rehabilitation of distress concrete including other ancillary work during 2022-23 - Electrical installation work." NIT No.: WBPWD/EE/KNHED/NIQ-144/2nd Call/2023-24. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_65630_1. Bid Submission Start Date (online): 02/02/2024, 1.05 PM. Bid Submission Closing Date (online): 15/02/2024 upto 1.00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be Published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from <http://wbenders.gov.in/> Sd/- S. Chakraborty/EE/KNHED/PW Dte./Govt. of WB. ICAT-12441(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. WBW/EE/SID/NIT-04(e)/2023-24
Open Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Siliguri Irrigation Division, Siliguri on behalf of Governor of W.B. for the work mentioned here under through e-bidding system from the eligible & resourceful Contractors having sufficient credential & financial capacity for execution of work of similar nature. Details of NIT & Tender documents may be downloaded from the website: <http://www.wbenders.gov.in/> or <https://wbenders.gov.in/> from 01/02/2024 after 17:30 hrs. Bid submission end date 16/02/2024 upto 17:02 hrs. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Siliguri Irrigation Division 26, Nabinsin Road, Mahanadrapara P.O. Siliguri, Dist. Darjeeling. ICAT-12382(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL Notice of Inviting Tender
Bid reference no. - WBMSCL/NIT-075/2024, Dated-22/01/2024
EI works for modification of Skill Lab Complex and Cal Lab at Academic Building of Rampurhat Govt. Medical College & Hospital, Dist- Birbhum. Last date of submission of bid (online) - 09.02.2024 upto 02:00 P.M. The tender document can be downloaded from www.wbenders.gov.in/ on or after 01.02.2024 at 12.00 P.M. Clarification/requests, if any, may be sent to info@wbmsc.gov.in Sd/- Managing Director, WBMSCL ICAT-12361(2)/2024

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113474 + web: www.wbsecl.in
E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED:
NIT No.: ACE/CTZ/ Arambag/Civil/ 2023-24/11
Construction of foundation for erection of Lightning Mast at Arambag 400 kv sub-station. Bid documents can be downloaded from 01.02.2024, 06:00 P.M. and bids shall be submitted (online) up to 03:00 P.M., 29.02.2024.
Date: 01.02.2024
NIT No.: SE/BA/ BARASATA/ELECTRICAL/ 2023-24/04
Painting of different types of structures & equipment's at Ashokenagar 132 kv sub-station. Bid submission starting date (online): 09.02.2024, 09:00 A.M. and closing date (online): 29.02.2024, 03:00 P.M.
Date: 01.02.2024
Visit the following websites: www.wbenders.gov.in/ & www.wbsecl.in/ for details. ICAT-12384(2)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE/KNHED/PW Dte. invite online e-Tender for the work "Dr. B.C Roy GEPIS, Phool Bagan Campus- Main Hospital Building - Through repair and rehabilitation of distress concrete including other ancillary work during 2022-23 - Electrical installation work." NIT No.: WBPWD/EE/KNHED/NIQ-144/2nd Call/2023-24. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_65630_1. Bid Submission Start Date (online): 02/02/2024, 1.05 PM. Bid Submission Closing Date (online): 15/02/2024 upto 1.00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be Published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from <http://wbenders.gov.in/> Sd/- S. Chakraborty/EE/KNHED/PW Dte./Govt. of WB. ICAT-12441(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE
The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal for and on behalf of the Governor of WB, invites e-Tender for Supply and Installation of 42" and 32" LED Television Sets along with 01 year comprehensive on-site warranty for Correctional Houses spread all over West Bengal. Tender Inviting Notice No. NIT No. 284/DCE/IS-18025/5/2023-SECTION(DCS)-DCS dated 19.01.2024. Date of documents download starts: 02.02.2024 at 17:00 hrs. Last date for receipt of written queries from bidders (Pre-Bid meeting): 12.02.2024 at 13:00 hrs. Last date of submission of tender: 17.02.2024 at 17:00 hrs. Full particulars may be had from the website www.wbenders.gov.in/ The ADG & IG of Correctional Services, West Bengal reserves the rights to cancel any or all the tenders without showing any reason. Sd/- Shri L. N. Meena, IPS, ADG & IG of Correctional Services, WB. ICAT-12389(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-Tender Notice
e-Tender is invited by the Commissioner of Police, Kolkata for "Supply of Sealed Maintenance Free (SMF) battery for 12V of Wireless Branch of Kolkata Police". The last date of submission of the e-tender is on 16.02.2024 up to 15.00 hours. The NIT Document and other details will be available in the website: www.wbenders.gov.in/
Sd/- for Commissioner of Police, Kolkata ICAT-12379(3)/2024

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL WEST BENGAL MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Company wholly owned by the Government of West Bengal)
Swasthya Sathi, GN-29, Sector V, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700091
Memo No: WBMSCL/PROC/ 0489 Date: 30/01/2024
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2. Laminar Flow (02) WBMSCL/NIT-081/2024, Dated - 27.01.2024, 17.02.2024 up to 05:00 PM, 2nd call for item at Sl. No. 1 and 3 of Bid Ref. No. WBMSCL/NIT-153/2023; Dated - 31.03.2023
Interested Bidders may download the tender document and submit their bids online at the website www.wbenders.gov.in/. The tender document may also be downloaded from the websites www.wbhealth.gov.in/ and www.wbmsc.gov.in/
Sd/- General Manager, ICAT-12398(3)/2024 & Joint Secretary, Health & Family Welfare Department

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE
EE/KNHED/PW Dte. invite online e-Tender for the work "Dr. B.C Roy GEPIS, Phool Bagan Campus- Main Hospital Building - Through repair and rehabilitation of distress concrete including other ancillary work during 2022-23 - Electrical installation work." NIT No.: WBPWD/EE/KNHED/NIQ-144/2nd Call/2023-24. Tender ID: 2024_WBPWD_65630_1. Bid Submission Start Date (online): 02/02/2024, 1.05 PM. Bid Submission Closing Date (online): 15/02/2024 upto 1.00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be Published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from <http://wbenders.gov.in/> Sd/- S. Chakraborty/EE/KNHED/PW Dte./Govt. of WB. ICAT-12441(3)/2024

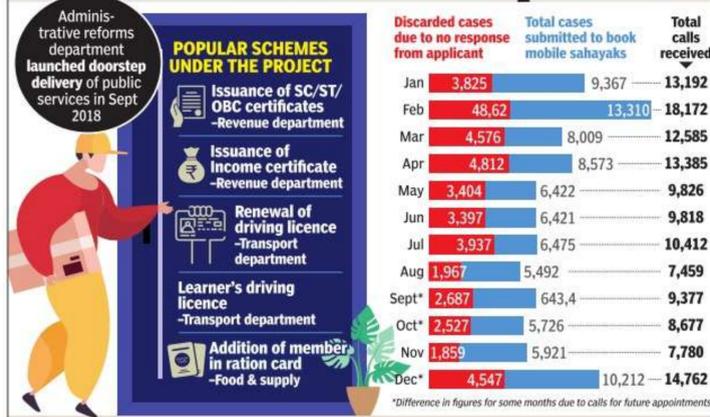
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL e-TENDER NOTICE
NIT No. WBW/EE/SID/NIT-04(e)/2023-24
Open Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Siliguri Irrigation Division, Siliguri on behalf of Governor

1.4L Calls In 2023 For Doorstep Delivery

Over 80k Cases Transferred To Departments

WHAT'S ON OFFER UNDER THE SCHEME

- This project currently offers 100 public services, including issuance of SC/ST/OBC certificates, new water or sewer connections, driving licence, etc
- One has to pay ₹50 in addition to the government fee prescribed for that service
- Citizen can call 24x7 helpline no. 1076 for the service



Abhinav.Rajput
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi government received over 1,40,155 calls last year under its doorstep delivery scheme of which 80,582, or around 57%, were transferred to the departments concerned. The rest were discarded for lack of response from the applicants. The convenience scheme launched in 2017 was aimed at eliminating the need for citizens to stand in long queues and undergo bureaucratic hassles at government offices and instead avail essential services directly at their doorsteps. The maximum number of calls were received in the month of Feb with 18,172 calls, of which 13,310 were forwarded to the appropriate department, followed by 10,212 in Dec. Officials explained that Feb was close to end of the financial year, while Dec was the year-end when people required many services to be renewed. "People deposit fees for renewal of permits and renew licences in this period," an official said. "This is also school and college admission seasons, so people apply for caste certificates."

Among the services that were most popular were issue of income and caste certificate, renewal of driving licence and addition of family member in ration card. The data shows that from Dec to April, coinciding with school admissions, the cases submitted crossed 8,000 each month. Delhi government will also bring its flagship Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojna under the scheme. The pilgrimage scheme, launched in 2018, offers free pilgrimage to people aged 60 years and above and their attendants. Officials, however, said that in a city with a population of over two crore, the service hadn't reached its optimum utilisation. A government official said, "The conversion ratio of people seeking information to those actually availing service is close to 60%, which shows that people inquiring also end up using the service." Officials said that there is low pendency of calls being attended. As per government data, the pendency for Jan last year was 209, Feb 328, March 369, April 525, May 395, June 442, July 699, Aug 534 and Sept 703. Data for the remaining

months was not available. The state government is in the process of adding 50 more services to the over 100 currently available. These deal mainly with documentation and certification, such as domicile certificates, permanent disabled ID cards, registration of marriage, application for water or sewer connection, property mutation, etc. Among the services that were being added are power connection load change, tracking of request and complaints of power connection, disability pension, DJB bill payment, tanker booking, borewell permission and transfer of permit in death case. To avail of any of these services, citizens have to book a home visit by dialling the toll-free 1076 number. A government official said, "Earlier, more than 50% of the respondents had to visit an office more than once to avail of a single service, while approximately 30% had to rely on intermediaries to avail of public services." He said the doorstep delivery scheme helped them avoid the queues at government offices and also the necessity to visit the offices several times.

HC pulls up MCD officials for failing to take action against illegal construction

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Wednesday pulled up MCD officials for failing to act against certain illegal and unauthorised construction in Chandani Mahal area.

A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan "warned" the officials, who were present in court, and questioned how the construction activity was permitted to go on, in spite of an earlier order directing removal of illegal structures there as well as a 'work stop' notice.

"You must be thinking this government job is not worth it. If you don't want to do it, give it up. You don't get to know when cement comes? (Officials) have to be vigilant when petition is pending in court. His job is on the line," the bench, also comprising Justice Manmeet PS Arora, said.

The court's observation came on a petition by an NGO which claimed that in spite of a 'work stop' notice, the illegal and unauthorised construction was still going on unabated at the site in violation of a judicial order passed last year.

MCD counsel said the construction activity was being carried out behind a facade and the officials cannot enter the property without permission but a show cause notice was issued to the builder.

The court was informed that the orders for demolition have been issued for Feb 5.

The court asked the authorities to explain how the ongoing illegal construction was visible to the petitioner but not them and said that satellite images are available for everyone to see.

"MCD officials believe they will turn a blind eye on the issue. How does the petitioner get to know but not the officers? Police is saying we intimated 15 days in advance," the court remarked.

"This court is of the prima facie view that without the passive support of MCD and police officers, construction at the site in question could not have been carried out," the court added.

Street vendor body writes to MCD over inclusion of families in survey

Siddhanta.Mishra@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The National Association for Street Vendors in India (NASVI) has requested the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to include family members of each vendor as street vendors while giving the vending certificate in the second phase.

The request came a few days after mayor Shelly Oberoi announced that a street vendor survey for those who had been left out would start soon.

"We have requested MCD to kind-

ly include the details of the family members, their name, relationship, and other details. The same points are mentioned in the Street Vending Act 2014 and should be included on the app for the survey," said NASVI executive director Arvind Singh.

Singh said civic officials had assured to look into their demands. According to the letter, "We request to include all the points mentioned in Delhi Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Scheme 2019 and Street Vendors (Protection of Live-

lihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act 2014."

During a cleanliness inspection at Laxmi Nagar and Vishwas Nagar, the mayor had said MCD had hired three agencies for a survey and the problem of street vendors would be largely resolved in the next one-two years. After vending certificates are issued, the vendors will be assigned authorised spots, she added.

Currently, around 75,000 street vendors have been identified by the authorities, but MCD put the number at 5 lakhs.

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Ready to fight BJP on all 7 seats: Cong

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: While the discussion between Congress and AAP on jointly contesting in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections in the city is still on, Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely said on Wednesday that if required, his party was "fully geared up" to put up a determined fight in all seven parliamentary seats to defeat BJP. Lovely, however, added that "constructive discus-

sions" were being held with the INDIA partners in all states, including Delhi, to put up a united fight. "Our party will fully honour the alliance's commitment. Discussions were being held at all levels with the alliance partners," he said at a press conference to announce a Congress workers' convention in east Delhi's Geeta Colony on Feb 3. The convention will be addressed by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge,

AICC general secretary KC Venugopal and INDIA coordination committee convenor Mukul Wasnik, Lovely said. "Congress will focus on justice for five sections of the society in the convention — youth, women, labour, farmers and cooperatives," said the former Delhi government minister. Senior party leader Mukesh Sharma said the convention would sound the poll bugle for the ensuing Lok Sabha polls this year.

HC: Give free help to visually impaired

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Railways to provide free human assistance to visually-impaired persons at major stations.

A bench headed by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan, which was hearing a petition initiated by the high court on its own for making rail travel disabled friendly, asked the Railways to consider providing the facility on its own or through a CSR initiative. Senior advocate SK Rungta, who was appearing as amicus curiae to assist the court, said that Railways has provided wheelchairs at stations but refused to provide free of charge escort to the visually-impaired.

The court listed the case for further hearing on March 20 and asked the Railways to file an additional affidavit. PTI

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- Daraksha** Kolkata Campus Marketing **18 Lacs CTC**
- Hemant** Bangalore Campus Marketing **18 Lacs CTC**
- Dheeraj** Pune Campus SCOM **18 Lacs CTC**
- Mili** Pune Campus HR **18 Lacs CTC**
- Khyati** Bangalore Campus HR **18 Lacs CTC**
- Anju** Pune Campus Finance **18 Lacs CTC**

ADMISSION

25th Batch (2024-26)

PGDM AICTE Approved

Placement Highlights (2022-24)

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GD&PI Process 2024

Date : 10th-11th Feb 2024

Venue: PGDAV College, DU Lajpat Nagar Delhi

Time : 9:30 AM

Contact Us : 7387755131 / 7757029571

www.isbm.ac.in

कार्यालय: प्रधानाचार्या, महामा विद्युत व्यवसायी राज्य विकसनालय महामहानगर विक्रमी।
पता: पन्ना, पन्नाकराजमहल-विन्ध्यमण्डल-2023-24-589
दिनांक: 31.01.2024

प्रति: प्रेम विद्युत :-
सर्वे महामहानगरां को सुविधा प्रदान करके कि महामा विद्युत व्यवसायी राज्य विकसनालय महामहानगरां में सुविधा प्रदान करके प्रमाणित करके के रूप में वेब पोर्टल पर विद्युत सेवा-2024-2024-589-4558292 दिनांक- 31.01.2024 प्रकाशित की गयी है। जिसकी प्रतिलिपि विद्युत-10.02.2024 है। इच्छुक सर्वे परसेलर विद्युत में प्रतिलिपि करके पावे।

प्रधानाचार्या
महामा विद्युत व्यवसायी राज्य विकसनालय महामहानगर विक्रमी।

TENDER NOTICE

SBI Securities

Investment aur Trust, Dono

SBICAP Securities Ltd. invites sealed tender proposal for supply of Servers, Storage, Virtualization. Details of RFP can be downloaded from <https://www.sbisecurities.in/procur-ement-news>

Last date to submit the tender proposal is 22.02.2024

KERALA STATE DRUGS & PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)
Kalamandir, Alappuzha, Kerala - 688322, Tel: 0477 2258164
Website: www.ksdcp.co.in, E-mail: ksdcpmgt@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice

E-Tenders are invited from competent Suppliers/Manufacturers for the Supply of APIs, Excipients, Prebiotics, Vitals, ETC. Shells for the year 2023-24. Last dates of Bid Submissions are 05th to 09th February, 2024. Please Refer Sites <http://etenders.kerala.gov.in/> www.ksdcp.co.in for detailed specification, terms and conditions. Any further amendment or corrigendum will be published only in the sites. Participants are advised to refer sites for necessary information on a regular basis. (Sd/-) Managing Director

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Q3 Consol. CC Revenue Up

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Q3 Consol. Operating Profit Up

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(₹ in crores, except ratios)

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

Notes:

- Additional information on standalone financial results is as follows:

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

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

For and on behalf of Board of Directors

Mohit Burman
Chairman
DIN: 00021963

Place: New Delhi
Date: 31 January, 2024

'JN.1 More Contagious Than Other Strains'

Could Be Fastest Spreading Omicron Variant, Even If Vaccinated, Finds Study

Anuja Jaiswal
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A recent study has revealed that the new Covid variant, JN.1, is highly contagious, perhaps more than any other viruses of the Omicron family and it spreads faster even in vaccinated persons.

The study was published online in the *Journal of American Medical Association* and doctors across Delhi caution people to be vigilant of this virus as it changes its character frequently.

According to researchers, JN.1 appears to be one of the most immune-evading SARS-CoV-2 variants to date. They said that although the latest Covid vaccines might not consistently prevent infections caused by JN.1 or other circulating Omicron subvariants, they can still reduce severity of the disease. "The purpose of vac-



STAY VIGILANT

cination is to decrease the severity of the disease. Many people think that the purpose of vaccination is to prevent infection, but this is wrong," the authors stated.

Professor GC Khilnani, chairman, PSRI Institute of Pulmonary Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, also a member of the technical advisory group of WHO Global Air Pollution and Health, said that studies had shown that previous immunity arising from infec-

PROF KHLNANI SAYS

We are going to see more and more cases of Covid, but the silver lining is that JN.1 only causes mild illness

tion and vaccination prevented severity of Covid caused by JN.1 but did not significantly protect people from being infected by it. "Those with comorbidities and the elderly should take care to avoid infection by following Covid-appropriate behaviour, including using masks, avoiding crowds and practising hand hygiene," Khilnani said.

He added, "We are going to see more and more cases of Covid, but the silver lining is that JN.1 only causes mild illness." He said there was no need for panic even if the enhanced vi-

gillance uncovered more variants in the future. Normal life and travel must go on, but vigilance was essential, he said.

Echoing similar views, Dr colonel Vijay Dutta, senior consultant, internal medicine & pulmonology, Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, said that high-risk populations must remain extra cautious. "The virus' relentless mutation underscores the need for a collective commitment to safeguarding public health," he said.

Admitting that the numbers of Covid cases caused by JN.1 were increasing in India, Dr Sandeep Budhiraja, group medical director, Max Healthcare, said, "The virus has further mutated in the spike region, which makes it more infectious and it rapidly spreads from person to person. On the bright side, the JN.1's effect is categorised as a mild illness. It is mainly causing upper respi-

ratory symptoms. And because of what we call hybrid immunity, people are now reasonably protected."

However, advising caution not only for Covid but all respiratory-related infections, Dr Sushila Kataria, senior director, internal medicine, Medanta Medicity, said, "Omicron has become endemic. Being an RNA virus, it is susceptible to mutations, and we can anticipate numerous mutations in the future. Adhering to respiratory etiquettes remains crucial, and it's important not to overlook flu vaccinations during the winter season. But there is no need to worry excessively," she said.

According to the research study, "Inevitably, JN.1 will peak — if it hasn't already — as newer, cleverer SARS-CoV-2 variants replace it. In the next few months, many people will get infected with JN.1.

A COLOURFUL WELCOME

Anindya Chattopadhyay



IN FULL BLOOM: President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate 'Udyan Utsav 2024' at Amrit Udyan, Rashtrapati Bhavan, on Thursday. A 225-year-old Sheesham tree, a floral clock and a selfie point are among this year's key attractions. The Amrit Udyan will remain open for the public from Feb 2 to March 31 from 10am to 5pm. People can enter the garden from gate no 35 of the Rashtrapati Bhavan near North Avenue

HC seeks response from ED on Supertech chairman's bail plea

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) response on a plea by R K Arora, chairman and promoter of realty major Supertech Group, challenging an order denying him bail in a money laundering case.

Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri issued notice to the ED and listed the matter for further hearing on Feb 21.

Arora has sought to set aside a Jan 24 trial court or-

der which dismissed his regular bail plea. Arora's counsel urged the court to consider the prayer, saying he has been in custody for the last six months.

The trial court had noted that his earlier bail plea was dismissed on July 22, 2023 and said that there was no substantive change in the circumstances.

The filing of a prosecution complaint by the ED does not amount to a change of material cir-

cumstances after the dismissal of the previous bail application, it had said, adding that it was not inclined to entertain his bail plea. A prosecution complaint is the ED's equivalent of a chargesheet.

On Jan 16, the trial court had granted 30-day interim bail to Arora on medical grounds in the money laundering case. This order has already been challenged in the high court and is pending adjudication. **PTI**

NGT seeks Centre, Delhi govt response on 2023 floods

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal has sought a response from the Union ministry of environment, the Union ministry of jal shakti, Delhi government and others in a matter regarding the 2023 floods in the national capital, allegedly caused by unauthorised constructions on the Yamuna floodplain.

Delhi battled one of its worst flood-like situations in several pockets last year because of heavy rain, with more than 25,000 people being evacuated from the inundated areas.

The green panel was hearing a matter in which it took suo motu cognisance of a newspaper report that said there was large-scale encroachment on the floodplain, with around 76 unauthorised colonies along the 22-kilometre stretch from Wazirabad to Palla.

The delineation of floodplain was required to prevent the encroachments, which caused the floods, the report said. The matter has been posted to March 21 for further proceedings. **PTI**

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"And come he slow or come he fast, It is but Death who comes at last."



Up Close & Personal: Metro To Open Its Second Museum

Will Retrace Its Life Journey At Supreme Court Station Soon

Priyangi Agarwal
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: After the museum at the Patel Chowk station, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation will install another museum at the Supreme Court station this year. Some of the items to be exhibited at the new museum were put on display at the Shivaji Stadium station on Wednesday. TOI's story on 'A token of Delhi's love affair with metro', published on Dec 9 last year, is among the exhibits.

A range of interactive exhibits, including a simulator where commuters can experience what it is to operate a metro train, an interactive quiz to test commuters' knowledge of DMRC and a tourist map are on show at the Shivaji Stadium metro station. These exhibits, along with additional ones, will be shifted to the upcoming museum at the Supreme Court metro station.

"The metro museum at Patel Chowk, which has been a special attraction for visitors and commuters of Delhi Metro since 2009, has space constraints," said Anuj Dayal, principal executive director, corporate communication, DMRC. "Delhi Metro is therefore setting up a bigger museum at the Supreme Court metro station of the Blue Line." Dayal added



Photos: Rajesh Mehta



A range of interactive exhibits are on show at Shivaji Stadium metro station

that over 5,000 students visit the museum at Patel Chowk metro station every year.

Though the new metro museum is expected to be ready in

the second half of the year, passengers can engage with the interactive exhibits at Shivaji Stadium station till then. The simulator installed there

can give passengers a hands-on experience of how to drive a metro train. This innovative exhibit allows people to understand the nitty-gritty of operating a metro train while creating an exciting and immersive experience for them.

A digital display showcases Delhi's Metro journey so far in its almost 30-year journey. From its registration on May 3, 1995 to the urban rail network reaching a coverage of 392km in 2024, visitors will be able to navigate through a visually engaging journey that captures the incredible growth and technological advancements of the city's metro railway over the years.

An interactive tourist map exhibited there provides an easy-to-use guide for tourists visiting Delhi. This map highlights popular tourist destinations, including heritage sites, making it an invaluable resource for both domestic and international visitors. There is also a working model of the system with a running train showcasing the underground and elevated tracks. Bridges and viaducts are also integrated into the track.

The exhibition at Shivaji Stadium metro station was inaugurated in the presence of Vikas Kumar, managing director, and other senior officials of DMRC.

Culture, chemistry and commerce converge at Art of India showcase

Aman Nath

Indian art has never been as busy as an ant, as it is in the present times," writes Alka Pande, curator of TOI's Art of India show. With the theme of 'Tradition, Transition, Modernity' strung into a Ragamalika, the exhibition attempts to set up a fresh garland to honour India's civilisational body of artworks. Besides the grand masters whom only the wealthy can seek and afford, there are many younger artists, who will attract new buyers and aspiring collectors. For such new art entrants, there are figurative, pleasant, hangable works.



The thumper, hard-bound catalogue, printed for the occasion presents an optimistic picture of the Indian art scene. India's urban priorities of roti, kapda, makaan having been addressed to quite an extent, its art market remains at less than half a percent of the \$70 billion global market. But India is sure to reduce this gap as the art auction market has galloped 265% since 2013, much like Husain's horses, which became the hallmark of social arrival of the wannabes in the 1980s! Other estimates demonstrate that 60% of the artworks sold last March "exceeded the upper limits of their estimates, indicating a strong demand."

Besides, a remarkable 600% increase in art sales in less than three decades, shows the bulls huffing and puffing, recalling the powerful black and white works of Sunil Das. To keep this buoyancy, a financial suggestion in the catalogue proposes: "For Indian art to reach its potential, it should reach a stage where it is on par with international standards of art, whether that is by diversifying the buyer pool or by seed funding talented artists, so that the ability to create art is also not looked at as a leisurely privilege as is the ability to buy it, or by doing both!" To this, Rakhi Sarkar of Cima art gallery, Kolkata adds in her Epilogue: "Without the imaginative world of art, we will be intellectually constrained and creatively jeopardised". She suggests an awakening of government agencies, so that "cultural commerce can be made truly big in this country."

For the it's scale and location in the lovely India Habitat Centre, this exhibition is to be admired. You could expect



READ BETWEEN THE LINES: Photographer Rohit Chawla's installation of banned books stems from his desire to create art that is subversive and has meaning, rather than just being beautiful, he says. The goal with this exhibit, which features his recreations of book covers including 'The Satanic Verses' and 'Black Beauty', was to obliquely comment on self-censorship and ban culture



NEW HORIZONS: NGO Inside Me has put up paintings made by blind children at the Art of India exhibition. They teach the basics, from holding a crayon to drawing a circle. Some have even learnt to draw complex forms like human or plant anatomy, says founder Shivani Bharadwaj, adding that the goal is to introduce people to the unique imagination of these kids

squirrel hair paint brushes in most parts of the world, but not gau goli — a dense yellow colour produced from the urine of cows fed on mango leaves. The part of the show called Methods and Materials, literally celebrates India's diversity, flaunting it at a moment of effervescent global visibility for our civilisation post the Ram Mandir. With contemporary Indian artists beginning to draw from their roots, this capillary action is visually enriching.

The gender, sexuality, and identity section, which forms the gateway gallery, so to say, tells hitherto untold stories, Myna Mukherjee's credentials in the politics of representation, come after a battle against the hegemony of clichéd Indian representations abroad. Her queer viewpoint talks loudly against "so many silences about gender and sexuality in South Asian cultures". The works that hang as well as they speak in today's space are a pair of collaborative AI works by Karthik Kalyanaraman, Raghava K K and Harish Agrawal which bring stick women drawings of 2,000 people into centrifugal circles with a haloed appeal. A layered two-tier light box cyanotype produced by Man-

dakini Devi is as contemporary as it is traditional, if one looks below the layer to the curving naga. A work by Bulbul Sharma done on khadi silk, co-worked by a neuro diverse Kanta artist Komia, is as attractive as it is moving in its tale.

The sculpture and photography sections are quite refreshing. Ketan Amin's work is most effective both for its dexterity of creating two stainless steel sheens: a pleated gloss beside the sheer glare of metal. The most radiant Durga installation in glass fibre creates a magnetism that draws the viewers. The large print of a micro-macro sandstone grille can be admired at length. In the photo section, Asha Thadani's Makar Sankranti fills our visual vocabulary with a new action shot. But Hariharan Subrahmanian's new take on John Berger's Ways of Seeing is as arresting and amusing as it is haunting.

One could cavil about all the sections not being equally substantive. Some artists get four or five exhibits, others are represented with notebook sketches. But to be fair, it is not difficult to be lost in this ocean of Indian art, because it is a mammoth proposition. Nevertheless, in this vibrant painted art route that TOI has created in the capital, there is great urban chemistry between the artworks and the people who pass through it continually. The very bazaar or kasbah atmosphere which the show has created takes it out of the glass cube of the gallery or indeed the ivory tower in which it is usually perceived.



Exhibition is on at Visual Arts Gallery, India Habitat Centre, till Feb 4

Woman found dead in Gurgaon house, hubby sitting next to body; kin allege dowry abuse

Ishita Singh@timesgroup.com

Gurgaon: The family of a 28-year-old woman, found dead at her home in Farrukhnagar's Sundarpur Jarau on Monday, has alleged she was physically abused over dowry by her husband who was spotted sitting next to her body in an intoxicated condition.

Police said the autopsy report concluded that Poonam, who got married to Mangat Ram (35) in 2015, died of poisoning. Poonam's family has filed a murder case under Section 302 of the IPC at the Farrukhnagar police station.

Mangat, a mechanic, is absconding, cops said. "We haven't made any arrests so far. Action will be taken as per the law

once the investigation is complete," said assistant sub-inspector Rajesh.

According to the complaint, Poonam's younger sister Priya went to her house to visit her on Monday when she saw the body lying outside the washroom around 8am. Mangat was sitting next to the body, apparently intoxicated. Priya called her family for help before calling the cops.

"The family claims that the night before Poonam's death, she had called her brother Hemant Kumar to inform him about an ongoing dispute with Mangat. But before her brother could respond, the call got cut," the ASI said.

Kumar alleged Mangat and his mother were "torturing" Poonam for not giving them enough in dowry.

"Things took a nasty turn when Mangat and his mother started harassing Poonam for dowry. We tried talking to them and explaining our financial struggle. We had already given what we could afford. But Mangat and his mother wouldn't consider it. The arguments and abuse just wouldn't stop. They even threatened to get him married again if we didn't cough up more money, making my sister's life a living nightmare," Kumar said in the complaint.

Kumar said he rushed to Poonam's house after Priya called him and saw Mangat "drunk and out of control".

"He had physically abused Poonam overnight," the complaint added.

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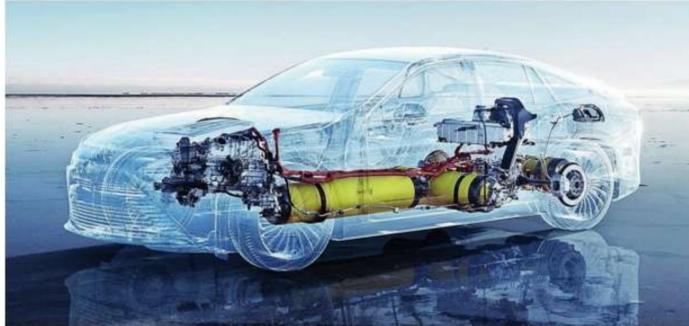
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Bharat Mobility Global Expo to showcase India's booming auto industry and new-age tech

Amber Banerjee

India is all set to host the first-ever Bharat Mobility Global Expo in Delhi between February 1 to 3. With over 600 exhibitors and 80,000 registered visitors, the mobility expo sheds the spotlight on the new-age technologies that will drive forward the Indian automotive industry, which is now the third-largest in the world. From exciting showcases for automotive enthusiasts to B2B solutions for industry stakeholders, the expo promises to offer something for people involved across the value chain. With a focus on new-age components, tech, future fuels and a growing EV ecosystem, the expo will also feature dedicated exhibitions on automation, urban mobility solutions, EV charging solutions and more.

Other highlights at the expo will include the Mercedes-Benz India podi-



ing the government's key priorities in achieving self-reliance and energy independence through our multiple green technology options as well as our efforts towards Making-in-India through greater localisation and skill enhancement of our people. Our pavilion is a testament to the company's dedication to meeting the evolving needs and aspirations of the coun-

try, thus delivering "Mass Happiness to All" and "Leaving No One Behind" contributing to the betterment of society and growth of the nation thereby building the base for "Amrit Kaal". Vikram Gulati, Country Head and Executive Vice President, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "Broadly, the expo will fea-

ture informative sessions, workshops, conferences, roundtables and various interactions for business-to-business, government-to-government and business-to-consumer stakeholders. The three-day expo is being supported by top industry bodies such as the Society of Automobile Manufacturers Association (SIAM), Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA), Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA), Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV) and NASSCOM. It is designed to bring together new-age technology and solutions from across the industry and bridge the gaps by promoting collaborations. Unlike the auto expo that focuses on new car launches, the upcoming event will incorporate important steps toward EV components and sub-systems, battery technologies and circular economy principles, infrastructure support for EV charging and clean energy sources among other important discussions. The expo will also highlight India's growing reputation as the leading destination for innovative automotive software solutions, industrial automation and autonomous mobility. Urban solutions such as

e-bikes and sustainability through alternative power-trains and new-age materials like green steel will be under the spotlight as well.

Moreover, with India now being one of the largest vehicle manufacturing markets, the expo will also serve as a convergence point for potential investors and prop up India as the destination for new manufacturers. Speaking of foreign manufacturers, Vietnamese EV maker VinFast is expected to participate in the first Bharat Mobility Global Expo as well. Apart from an Indian assembly plant with a 50,000-car production capacity, VinFast is also rumoured to be working on an additional battery manufacturing plant in the country. However, the most exciting EV manufacturer, Tesla Inc. which recently announced plans to enter the Indian market, has not yet confirmed if it will be participating in the expo or not. With the inauguration to be held on February 1 by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, patrons will be kept engaged with product launches, several CEO conclaves and even a Motorsports section that will have a live Go Karting racing track. The three-day expo will be held at Pragati Maidan in Delhi.



um, where visitors will get to see the Concept EQG SUV in the flesh for the first time. The EQG is based on the famous G-Class 4x4 and demonstrates the future of luxury lifestyle vehicles. The new GLA and AMG GLE 53 Coupe are also going to be on display among other exciting showcases. Toyota Kirloskar Motor is also expected to showcase a Battery Electric Vehicle (BEV) and a Hydrogen Fuel-Cell EV among its other strong hybrid solutions at the expo. Toyota's arsenal of displays will further focus on advanced sustainable mobility solutions and Make-in-India initiatives as part of its 'Grow India - Grow with India' theme. Flexi-fuel technologies that can lower carbon emissions and boost the rural economy will also be under Toyota's focus.

"The expo gives us an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to support-



Citroen C3 Aircross Automatic launched

Yash Sharma

Citroen has launched the C3 Aircross Automatic (AT) SUV at a starting price of Rs 12.85 lakh, ex-showroom. It is the first automatic transmission vehicle built on Citroen's C-cubed platform.

Available in Plus and Max variants, the SUV offers

seating for five or seven passengers.

Under the hood, it packs a 1.2-litre, three-cylinder, turbo-petrol engine that makes 110 hp and 190 Nm of torque. Notably, with the AT option, it now delivers more torque compared to the manual (MT) version, reaching 215 Nm. Further, it is paired with a 6-speed torque converter transmis-

sion, offering manual mode but without paddle shifters. Additionally, the SUV boasts an ARAI-certified fuel efficiency figure of 17.6 kmpl.

In terms of design and features, the C3 Aircross AT closely resembles its MT counterpart and cannot be distinguished on the basis of appearance. It is equipped with a 10.2-inch

touchscreen display supporting wireless Apple CarPlay/Android Auto and a 7.0-inch TFT digital instrument cluster.

The base-spec, Plus 5-seater AT variant starts at Rs 12.85 lakh with the Max AT 5-seater and Max AT 5+2 variants priced at Rs 13.50 lakh and Rs 13.85 lakh, respectively. (All prices are ex-showroom)



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Mahindra XUV400 EL Pro: New features, flexible pricing explained



■ Arpit Mahendra

Mahindra XUV400 has been around for some time in the Indian market and has had the Tata Nexon EV as its rival ever since its launch. Between these two, the Tata Nexon EV has enjoyed more sales and that's primarily due to the Tata Motors' SUV offering more features and a larger battery with more range. Mahindra has been aware of this issue and has worked towards a quick fix that is now on sale in the form of the XUV400 EL Pro. While the older model will continue to sell, this new variant is more than just a variant. In reality, it's a game-changer in the segment and here's why.

NEW FEATURES

Mahindra XUV400 EL Pro gets a major upgrade in the form of an all-new dashboard and more importantly a new 10.25-inch infotainment screen with wireless Android Auto and Apple CarPlay. Equipped with Adrenox, the system now offers 50+ connected features that add to the safety and convenience of the occupants. The

new 10.25-inch digital instrument cluster looks great and has customisable displays that offer elaborate and clear readouts. Both these screens offer a massively better and premium experience compared to the older XUV400. The other significant change is the new multifunctional flat-bottom



steering wheel that adds to the premium quotient of the new cabin. Adding further to the comfort of the cabin is the dual-zone automatic climate control system that allows for separate temperatures on either side of the centre console. Buyers of the new EL Pro variant will now also have access to a wireless charging pad, rear AC vents, rear USB socket and over-the-air (OTA)

updates. Overall, the cabin now feels properly modern and premium and offers impressive comfort, connectivity and tech to the occupants.

The other big change is in the powertrain area without any change in terms of tech. While the battery and motor

specs remain the same as ear-

lier, customers can now go for the EL Pro variant with the smaller 34.5 kWh battery in addition to the larger 39.4 kWh unit. This is a brilliant move as the customer now won't be forced to compromise features when going in for the smaller battery pack. In addition, for urban users, the buying price now becomes lower without having to sacrifice any of the great new fea-

tures added by the company.

VERDICT

The new Mahindra XUV400 EL Pro range has been launched at a starting price of Rs 15.49 lakh, going up to Rs 17.49 lakh for the top version with the larger battery pack (ex-showroom prices). At these prices, the upgraded XUV400 offers great value for money and ensures that tech and features are at par with the segment standards. Keep in mind that the XUV400 has always been one of the most spacious vehicles in its segment and that hasn't changed in the new update. In terms of driving, the EL Pro continues to be fun to drive and according to our tests, the vehicle should be able to offer a realistic range of around 300 km with the larger battery. Add to it the fact that the customer can now decide what kind of battery they want and also be in control of the price is something that gives this new version a big advantage over its rivals. As a result of these changes, we can safely say that the updated XUV400 EL Pro is now one of the best EVs in the sub-Rs 20 lakh segment.



"A Lamborghini is not a commodity, it's a dream" - Francesco Scardoni

■ Amber Banerjee

Italian supercar manufacturer, Lamborghini, recently launched the all-new Revuelto PHEV sports car in India at a starting price of Rs 8.89 crore (ex-showroom). Apart from being the first hybrid supercar from the Lamborghini stables, the Revuelto is also the successor to the globally acclaimed Aventador, marking the carmaker's exit from naturally aspirated V12s when it got phased out in 2022. Onwards and upwards, Lamborghini soon launched the Revuelto in global markets and the PHEV has definitely made an impression among Lamborghini fans who may have been sceptical at first.

The Revuelto gets a 6.5-litre NA V12 petrol engine that works in tandem with three electric motors to belt out a peak power output of 1,001 hp. It can catapult from 0-100 kmph in just 2.5 seconds and has a top speed of 350 kmph. The Revuelto also gets an electric-only mode and

represents how the next-generation of supercars is more potent while being more sustainable as well.

At the India launch, we caught up with Francesco Scardoni, Region Director for Asia Pacific, Automobili Lamborghini, to find out how customers in India and the rest of the world have responded to the idea of a hybrid supercar. "We expect complete acceptance of PHEVs from our customers, not only in India but worldwide. This is because our customers know that Lamborghini design has no compromises. With the Revuelto, we have added new technology and features while we have not removed anything, so there are no compromises for our customers. So, that makes the hybrid Revuelto better than the car before it, which was the Aventador. Few things to mention, from a driving point of view this car is more comfortable, it has much better acceleration and the PHEV system gives it a combined

output of 1,001 hp. In 2011 the Aventador had set a milestone and the Revuelto is now doing the same in 2023," he said.

However, at Rs 8.89 crore ex-showroom, the Revuelto costs almost twice as much as the top-selling Urus SUV and Huracan super sports. Will the Revuelto have enough takers in India? To this, Scardoni confirmed to us by saying, "We are sold out with the Revuelto till 2026 and that includes allocations for India as well, which also means that the product is successful. Starting from 2024, we will have more Revuelto cars in India. The first car will be delivered right after Q1 and will continue from Q2 onwards. Bookings are currently open for 2026 production." While the share of Revuelto cars may be lower than other models, it also has a slower production rate. Currently, the Urus makes up for almost 60% of Lamborghini sales in India and the rest 40% comes from the super sports segment. In the super sports family, the V10 cars are always in

higher demand than the V12. This is also why the ratio of production of the V10 models is at a higher volume than the V12 cars. "In terms of growth percentage, India is one of the top markets for Lamborghini," Scardoni assured us. He further pointed out, "Indian customers are really focused on creating one-off cars. So creating specific configurations to make the car unique is something we see our customers focus on here. They are also really focused on the details, technological innovations and they understand how special and futuristic these cars are. They are an educated buyer and really know what they are investing in." Scardoni ended the conversation by saying, "Lamborghini is not a commodity, it is not a car that you drive from point A to B, it is more like a dream. I think that thanks to the Ad Personam program, the customers can get their dream car custom made, depending on their mood, style and other characteristics."

Most-awaited electric SUVs in India in 2024



MARUTI SUZUKI EVX

Maruti Suzuki, though late to the electric vehicle (EV) scene in India, is now gearing up to unveil its first electric car in the country. Named the 'eVX,' this SUV was first displayed as a concept at Auto Expo 2023. It is anticipated that the eVX will offer two battery options: a 48 kWh unit for base models and a bigger 60 kWh unit for top-end variants. While the details haven't been disclosed yet, it is possible that this model will offer a range of up to 550 kms. The eVX will be manufactured at the company's Gujarat plant.

While the exact launch date remains undisclosed, industry insiders predict it will hit the roads in late 2024, marking the manufacturer's much-awaited debut into the EV market.



TATA HARRIER EV

After unveiling the Harrier EV at the Auto Expo in January 2023, the company is gearing up to roll it onto production lines and possibly, onto the streets by the second half of 2024.

The Harrier is expected to offer two battery pack options and may include an all-wheel-drive system. While specific details are still under wraps, it's speculated that the top-spec variant of the Harrier EV could boast a range of 500 km on a single charge. Besides that, there are also very strong speculations that the company will also introduce an electrified iteration of the Safari as well. In fact, both of the electric models have already been spotted testing in India.

■ Yash Sharma

In a significant stride towards green mobility, electric vehicle (EV) sales in India witnessed a remarkable surge in 2023. The cumulative EV sales across various segments surpassed 15 lakh units during the year, marking a substantial 48% growth compared to the previous year's total sales. In fact, the passenger vehicles (PVs) segment alone consistently exceeded 7,000 units for eight consecutive months from May, thereby reaching the highest-ever annual sales of more than 81,000 units.

As the segment continues to grow, manufacturers are actively introducing new models to cater to the demand of different categories. In 2023, over a dozen electric cars were launched, ranging from entry-level models to top-end luxury vehicles. Continuing the momentum, manufacturers are now gearing up to introduce more models in the coming months. Notably, Tata Motors, with one of the top-selling electric PV lineups in the country, has already started the year strongly with the launch of the electrified Punch SUV. Here, let's take a look at some of the most anticipated EV launches of 2024.

MAHINDRA XUV300 EV

Mahindra is gearing up to heighten the competition in the electric vehicle market, particularly against the Nexon EV. Following their previous attempt with the XUV400, they're now preparing to introduce a more budget-friendly option, the XUV300 EV.

To be positioned below its predecessor, the XUV300 EV is expected to draw inspiration from the upcoming XUV300 facelift in terms of design elements. The electric variant, XUV300 EV, will likely feature a slightly smaller 35 kWh battery compared to the top-spec XUV400's 39.4 kWh battery. Besides that, detailed specifications regarding range and electric motor performance are yet to be revealed.



MAHINDRA XUV.E8

In 2022, Mahindra gave us a sneak peek of their upcoming electric SUV, the XUV.e8, with a concept version. Since then, the EV, which is essentially an electric version of the XUV700, has been spotted testing on Indian roads multiple times, hinting at its imminent arrival. The test mules of the XUV.e8 closely resemble the concept version, sporting a bold daytime running light (DRL) strip across the hood and lower-placed headlights. Its side profile bears a striking resemblance to the XUV700.

Expected to pack an 80 kWh battery, the XUV.e8 is likely to offer two power outputs: 230 hp and 350 hp. There's also speculation about a twin-motor setup, enabling all-wheel-drive capability, a feature that may also debut in the Thar.e model in the future.

TATA CURVV

Tata, despite being a force to reckon with in the EV segment, doesn't seem to rest on its laurels anytime soon. Besides the debut of its ICE range in electric avatars, the company will also launch the Curvv, an all-new electric SUV expected to debut sometime in mid-2024.

The model is anticipated to offer an impressive range of 400-500 km on a single charge, thanks to a large battery pack. Although specific details are still kept under wraps, it's been hinted that the Curvv will house a larger battery pack compared to the Tata Nexon, which currently features a 30.2 kWh unit. Additionally, the Curvv is expected to feature a dual-motor setup, providing all-wheel drive capability for enhanced performance beyond the tarmac.





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Boat supplier held for Gujarat lake tragedy

Vadodra Police Wednesday arrested Alpesh Bhatt, the contractor who supplied a boat that capsized in the Harni Lake killing 12 schoolchildren and two teachers. Bhatt, 38, leased 10 boats for the recreation facility at the lake and regularly collected their rentals. A local court remanded Bhatt in police custody for six days on Wednesday. He is one of 19 people named in the FIR that police lodged. Police arrested 14 people over the tragedy so far. **TNN**

Rahul 1st yatra cost Cong ₹72cr, 15% of party's annual spend

Receipts Dip To ₹452cr In '22-'23 From ₹541cr In '21-'22, Expenditure Up

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Congress spent Rs 71.8 crore on the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by its general secretary Rahul Gandhi, which saw him cover a distance of over 4,000km from Kanyakumari to Kashmir between Sept 2022 and Jan 2023. The yatra expenditure constituted 15.3% of Congress's total annual spend and over 30% of its administrative and general expenses for 2022-23, as per the party's latest annual audit report filed with the Election Commission.



Rahul's Kanyakumari-Kashmir yatra was between Sept '22 and Jan '23

Congress's total receipts in 2022-23 fell to Rs 452 crore from Rs 541 crore in 2021-22, while its expenditure rose to Rs 467 crore from Rs 400 crore in the corresponding period, according to the party's audit

report made public by EC on Wednesday. Its receipts via electoral bonds were down to Rs 171 crore, making up 63% of its total donations and 38% of its overall income, from Rs 236 crore in 2021-22. So far, audit reports of five of six national parties — AAP, BSP, CPM, National People's Party and Congress

for 2022-23 are public. BJP's report is not out yet. On the expenditure side, Congress spent Rs 71.8 crore on the yatra and Rs 192.5 crore on elections (down from Rs 279.5 crore in the preceding year) in 2022-23. Its administrative and general expenses saw a 161% jump compared to 2021-22, thanks to the yatra, a

new initiative, and the sharp rise in spend on pre-poll surveys that cost the party over Rs 40 crore in 2022-23, up from Rs 23 lakh in 2021-22. Of the party's total receipts of Rs 452 crore in the last financial year, Rs 43.2 crore came from individual donors (down from Rs 60.2 crore in 2021-22) and Rs 53.9 crore from companies (up from Rs 28.8 crore in 2021-22). Interestingly, Congress showed no income from electoral trusts and foundations in 2022-23, as against Rs 18 crore received through this route in the previous year.

Collection from issuance of coupons and sale of publications got Congress Rs 125.7 crore, while receipts through fees and subscriptions totalled Rs 42.4 crore.

HC refuses stay on election result for Chandigarh mayor

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chandigarh: Punjab and Haryana HC issued notice to the Chandigarh administration on Wednesday on a plea by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate Kuldeep Singh seeking directions to set aside the Chandigarh municipal corporation mayoral elections.

However, the division bench of Justices Sudhir Singh and Harsh Bunger did not stay the election result and asked the UT administration to submit its reply by Feb 26.

The petitioner's counsel, senior advocate Gurinder Singh, urged HC to stay the result declared Tuesday for the post of mayor. However, counsel representing the UT administration as well as Chandigarh MC contended that the election result should not be stayed as it was being challenged on the basis of disputed questions of fact. They pointed out that disputed questions of fact cannot be decided under Article 226 of the Constitution. After the HC hearing, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann said AAP would approach the Supreme Court to seek an early hearing in the case.

Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann said AAP would approach the Supreme Court to seek an early hearing in the case

Asked if he and AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal planned to hold a protest in Chandigarh, Mann said: "No, there is no plan to hold any protest... The Chandigarh administration has to submit a report in the case. It is, however, evident in the video how he (the presiding officer) was counting the votes. HC has given three weeks' time. We will request the apex court for an early decision."

AAP's Kuldeep Singh alleged in his plea that there was gross violation while counting votes, that ballot papers were tampered with and then invalidated, moves that went in favour of BJP and against the AAP-Congress alliance.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice
Divisional Railway Manager (Works) N.C. Railway, Jhansi for and behalf of President of India invites sealed "Open Tender" through on line (E-Tendering) for the following work:
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Description of work: Pre & Post BCM work of main line and Raising of Ballast Cushion at various locations of Jhansi - Parauna section under ADEN HQ-1 sub division.
Earnest Money 223200.00
Date of closing Tender: 20.02.2024 at 15:00 hrs., Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 06 Months. Tender on line can be submitted up to 15:00 hrs on 20.02.2024. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website www.irps.gov.in 182/24 (D)
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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/O: Unknown, R/O: Unknown was found dead on 25.07.2023 at 08:00 PM on Footpath in Front of GTB Police Station, Delhi.** In this regard DD No. 134 A, dated 25.07.2023, has been lodged at Police Station, Seema Puri, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 40 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Wearing: Black Colour Pant and Black Colour Shirt.
If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.
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NOTE : It is informed that all the candidates who had applied for the similar IT posts vide BECIL Advertisement File No. BECIL/HRMS/AIIMS/JAMMU/Advt.2023/340 dated 04.07.2023 shall be considered for shortlisting if found eligible as per the eligibility criteria as mentioned in the presently published advertisement.

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232413 006822	Procurement of Sodium Silicate - Alkaline for Unit - I	16.02.2024
232413 006823	Procurement of Alkaline Sizing Chemicals with Alkyl Ketene Dimer (AKD) for PM#1,2&3	17.02.2024
232433 000453	Procurement of White Clay	16.02.2024
232433 000448	Procurement of PP Bag for Power Bond Cement Packing (Size : 29.3"x20.5")	20.02.2024
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232413 006672	Multicolour Laminated Wrapper Reels of various sizes (base 80 GSM with 10 Micron Polyester)	15.02.2024
232423 004247	Laying of Telephone & Fiber Optic Cables for School & Colony in TNPL Unit - II	20.03.2024

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and plastics. Representatives from these sectors are expected to attend as keen visitors, eager to explore opportunities and network with industry pioneers.

FOR UNPARALLELED EXPERIENCE

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

ships and explore synergies across borders. Furthermore, the list of embassies invited, and likely to visit PlastFocus 2024, include Thailand, Malaysia, Russia, Ecuador, Peru, Colombia, Vietnam, Bangladesh, GCC, CSR, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, USA, Mexico, Canada, and Brazil.

To further diversify the participant portfolio, PlastFocus 2024 has also invited representatives from leading trade bodies, as the exhibition has emerged as a beacon, drawing attention to India as a signifi-

cant manufacturing hub. Industry leaders and stakeholders from diverse industries are recognising India's potential, leading to increased interest and attendance.

Entities not directly involved in the exhibition have also shown a strong interest in PlastFocus' evolving role, encompassing a variety of industries beyond machinery

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

DATE: February 1 - 5, 2024
VENUE: India International Convention & Expo centre (IICC)
Dwarka, New Delhi

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B'uru-based IS 'ideologue' gets 10 years in jail: More than a week after Bengaluru-based Mehdi Masroor Biswas was convicted, the 'ideologue' was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment. **TNN**

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

No: KSMSC/DRUGS/RETND/NFDS/REAGENTS & KITS/193/2023-24 Dated: 31.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref: 1. Tender Notification No: KSMSC/DRUGS/RETND/NFDS/REAGENTS & KITS/193/2023-24, Dated: 30.01.2024. (IND-0085).
2. Tender Notification No KSMSC/DRUGS/RETND/NFDS/TESTING KIT/194/2023-24, Dated: 31.01.2024. (IND-0086).

Nationwide Tender is invited through e-Tendering system under KPPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:

1. Re-Tender for the supply of Reagents/Kits for Diagnostic services under NFDS Programme under 15th FC Budget (IND-0085).
2. Re-Tender for the supply of Testing Kits for Diagnostic services under NFDS Programme under 15th FC Budget (IND-0086)

Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> from 30.01.2024. The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/- Managing Director
KSMSC, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/R0326/23-24

Government of India
Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue
DIRECTORATE OF REVENUE INTELLIGENCE
Bengaluru Zonal Unit
/No. 8(P), 1st Stage, 3rd Block, HBR Layout,
Opp. BDA Complex, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560043
Tel: 080-25421102 Fax: 080-2542 1315 Email: dribzu@nic.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

An informer purportedly passed on specific information to an officer on 07-05-2015 leading to seizure of 11.3kgs of gold from 4 passengers at Calicut Airport (Kozhikode Airport) on 08.05.2015 by DR.

The said informer is required to present himself/ herself within 30 days of publication of this notice before the Additional Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Bengaluru Zonal Unit, No. 8(P), 1st stage, 3rd block, HBR Layout, Bengaluru 560043, to establish his/her claim of having passed on the information to the officer on 07-05-2015.

Any person making a fraudulent claim will be proceeded against under the law.

Sd/-
Additional Director General

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER, CONSTRUCTION WING, UTTARAKHAND PEYJAL NIGAM
E-32, JUDGE FARM, HALDWANI, DISTT.- NAINITAL (PIN 263139)

Letter no. 277/Nivida-Anubandh/Udharn Singh Nagar/31 Dated: 31-01-2024

E-Tender Notice

1. Name of the work:- CONSTRUCTION OF ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING CLUSTERS (ESCORT FARM) AT IIE, KASHIPUR, DISTRICT-UDHAM SINGH NAGAR.
2. Estimated Cost:- Rs. 13745.09 Lacs (without GST)
3. Period of Completion:- 18 Months
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the portal: 01-02-2024 (17.00 hrs)
5. Online Bid submission: End date :- 16-02-2024 (17.00 hrs)
6. Date & Time of Technical bid Opening:- 19-02-2024 (11.00 hrs)
7. Name and Address of the Officer inviting bid:- General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Haldwani.
8. Pre-bid meeting details (if required) Date & Place :- 06-02-2024 (11.00 hrs) Office of the General Manager (Kumaon), Nirman Wing, Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Haldwani.
9. For further details, details of subsequent Amendment / correction documentation etc. may be obtained from the e-Procurement portal www.uktenders.gov.in

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उ० प्र० लोक सेवा आयोग
संक्षिप्त विज्ञापित

उ०प्र० सम्मिलित राज्य / प्रश्न अधीनस्थ सेवा परीक्षा-2023 का अंतिम चयन परिणाम दिनांक 23 जनवरी, 2024 को घोषित किया जा चुका है। प्रश्नगत परीक्षा में सम्मिलित पदों जिन पर अभ्यर्थियों का चयन लिखित परीक्षा के आधार पर हुआ है, उनके आगे चयन पत्र एवं शैक्षिक अभिलेखों का सत्यापन (मूल शैक्षिक प्रमाण पत्रों से) कराये जाने हेतु 16 फरवरी, 2024 को तिथि निर्धारित की गयी है। विवरण निम्नवत् है:-

क्रमांक	अनुक्रमिक	चयनित पद
1.	000642	कर निर्धारण अधिकारी
2.	128260	प्राविधिक सहायक (भू-भौतिकी)
3.	236714 एवं 355390	विधि अधिकारी (लोक निर्माण विभाग)
4.	294614, 190631, 187839, 087738, 176352, 390020, 199009, 422980, 359486, 562335 एवं 338873	प्राविधिक सहायक (भूतत्व)
5.	386023 एवं 134606	उपकारपाल

इन संबंध में विस्तृत विज्ञापित आयोग की वेबसाइट <http://uppsc.up.nic.in> पर उपलब्ध है।
संख्या- 469(1)/1/ई-3/2023-2024 (आंकार नाथ सिंह)
दिनांक: प्रयागराज 30 जनवरी, 2023 अनुसूचित

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग
15, नेहरू पथ (बेली रोड), पटना - 800001

आवश्यक सूचना

विज्ञापन संख्या 09/2022 के अंतर्गत औषधि निरीक्षक के पदों पर नियुक्ति हेतु लिखित (वस्तुनिष्ठ) प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा में सफल अभ्यर्थियों को निदेश दिया जाता है कि उक्त परीक्षा के ऑनलाइन आवेदन में अंकित प्रमाण पत्रों / कागजातों को दिनांक 01-02-2024 से 07-02-2024 तक आयोग के Portal पर Upload करना सुनिश्चित करें तथा उसकी मूल प्रति एवं छायाप्रति के साथ दस्तावेज सत्यापन में सम्मिलित हों।

2. साक्षात्कार के पूर्व उक्त सफल अभ्यर्थियों का दस्तावेज सत्यापन (Document Verification) दिनांक 12-02-2024 एवं 13-02-2024 को किया जायेगा। दस्तावेज सत्यापन का विस्तृत कार्यक्रम आयोग के वेबसाइट www.bpsc.bih.nic.in पर प्रदर्शित है। कार्यक्रम में वर्णित समायानुसार अभ्यर्थी दस्तावेज सत्यापन के लिए उपस्थित होना सुनिश्चित करेंगे।

स्वा:/-
परीक्षा नियंत्रक
बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना

Ponder what you've gained by eroding democratic ethos: PM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: PM Modi on Wednesday said the country was progressing on all counts and spoke about his government's focus on inclusive development; specifically referring to measures like 33% quota for women, and the decision to make women the centrepiece of this year's Republic Day parade.

"A journey of inclusive development is underway. I hope this trajectory continues with the blessings of the public," Modi said, referring to President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint session of Parliament as also the fact that the interim budget on Thursday will be presented by Nirmala Sitharaman as signs of women's empowerment.

For the second time in less than a week, the PM frowned upon the disruptions forced by lawmakers. "Those who have been undermining democratic values need to ponder what they have gained," he said, adding that few people remembered who forced suspension of business whereas MPs who enriched the House with constructive ideas left an indelible impression.

"Hence, despite the opposition, displays of intel-



PM on the opening day of the budget session at Parliament House. Arjun Ram Meghwal and Jitendra Singh are also seen

lectual prowess, concern for the common man's interests, or sharp reactions against us, I firmly believe that a substantial part of the country — comprising democracy enthusiasts and society at large — will appreciate such conduct. Conversely, individuals who contribute nothing but negativity, hooliganism and mischief are seldom remembered. However, the current budget session presents an opportunity for redemption and leaving a positive impact," the PM said.

He urged all MPs not to let this chance slip away, to act in the best interest of the country, contribute their most valuable ideas to the House, and infuse the nation with enthusiasm and excitement.

Amid row over an incident that wasn't, Rahul re-enters WB

Behrampur/Malda: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra made its way from Katihar in Bihar to Malda in Bengal with a broken car windshield on Wednesday, initially suspected to be caused by a stone thrown by miscreants but which his party later clarified was due to a security rope whipping the vehicle when a crowd leaned forward, report Sukumar Mahato and Subhro Maitra.

The incident was seen as a major security breach as Rahul — covered by "Z+ category" security — was in the car. He later shifted to a bus. Besides, confusion over the incident's location triggered condemnation and rebuttals.

The controversy ignited when Bengal Congress president Adhir Chowdhury said, "Someone threw stones (at the car) from behind. A person like Rahul needs a huge security cover... There is no security arrangement here. They want to make something happen."

Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee was quick in her response. "I condemn this inci-

dent. I condemn any attack on anyone. In Bihar, Nitish Kumar's party has recently leaned towards BJP. They have become one. They have anger. Therefore, such things can happen. But there should be no untoward incident in Bengal. Any party can hold rallies or processions," she said at a public meeting.

TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh refuted claims that the incident occurred in Bengal, affirming it transpired near DM College in Katihar, as supported by Malda police's video evidence.

Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete clarified the circumstances surrounding the incident, attributing the broken windshield to a sudden stop due to a crowd gathering to meet Rahul. "...when a woman suddenly came forward to meet him, the car had to be stopped suddenly. The windshield of the car was broken due to the rope used in the security circle. Rahul is fighting the battle for justice diligently and this country not only stands with him but will also keep him safe," Supriya tweeted.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Administrative Officer/Const.III/Northern Railway, Kashmir Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work:-

1. Full Name of work Construction of washing lines with cover shed, sick line, heavy repair bay, CDO office complex and other allied works in connection with Development of Universal coaching complex at Ayodhya cantt station of Lucknow Division on Northern Railway.
2. Approx cost of work Rs. 4457.14 lacs
3. Completion period of the work 12 (Twelve Months)
4. Earnest Money to be deposited Rs. 23,78,600.00
5. Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 05.02.2024 to 26.02.2024 upto 11.30 hrs.
6. Last date/Time of upload of tenders 26.02.2024 upto 11.30 hours. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f.12.02.2024 to 26.02.2024
7. Date and time of opening of tender 26.02.2024 at 11.30 hours (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenders will be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No. 74-W-3-2-467-WA-LKO Dated: 31.01.2024
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PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (PMC) PUNE 411 005.
Web: - <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
E-tender Notice No. 276/ 2023-24

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER BHAVAN DEPARTMENT

Offers by way of e-tendering (Percentage Rate Tender) are invited by The Superintending Engineer, Bhavan Department Pune Municipal Corporation, Pune from contractor's in e-tendering system for following works

Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Estimated cost put in this tender excluding GST, Royalty & Material Testing Charges (Rs.)	GST (Rs.)	Royalty	Material Testing Charges (Rs.)	Earnest Money (0.5%) (Rs.)	Security Deposit (5%) (Rs.)	Time limit in Calendar months (Including Mansoon)	Defect Liability Period	Cost of Tender Document
Chandani Chowk Sushobhikaran Karne Ya Antargat Hindavi Swarajya Nirmiti Shilp Ubharne.	7,81,59,840/-	6,56,41,065/-	1,18,15,392/-	6,00,008/-	1,03,375/-	3,28,206/-	32,82,054/-	12 Months (Including Mansoon)	60 Months	17,879.00

The details of the above work, such as Security Deposit, Earnest Money Deposit. Terms and Conditions of the tender and Schedule B of the work are available on web site <http://mahatenders.gov.in> Tenders for this works are to be submitted by e-tendering system.

Bidders can avail the e-tender document from / 2024 to / 2024 up to 2.30 PM. Pre bid meeting will be held on / 2024 at 11.00AM in the chamber of S.E. Bhavan Department Pune, PMC, Pune, by the way of e-tendering system only. The last date of Submission by the way of e-tendering will be / 2024 up to 2.30 PM if any change occurs it will be communicated at the time of Pre bid meeting/Publication on Web site News paper. The tender will be opened on / 2024 on 3.00pm.

sd/-
Executive Engineer (Bhavan)
Pune Municipal Corporation Pune 411 005

Advt No. 3/1713, Dt. 31/1/24

Prez mentions CAA in House as govt prepares for rollout

Cites Positive J&K Security Situation

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid indications from Union ministers that CAA would be implemented soon, President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday made a mention of CAA in her address to the joint sitting of Parliament.

"This Parliament also enacted a law to grant citizenship to persecuted minorities from our neighbouring countries," she said in her address.

On Jan 28, junior minister for ports and shipping Shantanu Thakur had said in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district that CAA would be implemented in the next seven days, reinforcing the possibility of early rollout of the law. Modi government enacted in 2020 in the face of widespread protests.

According to sources, CAA rules — which are yet to notified, holding up imple-



President Droupadi Murmu receives a guard of honour on the first day of the Budget session of Parliament, in New Delhi on Wednesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Union minister Pralhad Joshi look on

NE witnessing record tourist arrivals: Prez

Underlining the growing popularity of north-east and the "heightened excitement" around Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands, President Droupadi Murmu said government is developing pilgrimage destinations and historical sites across the country. Growth in the tourism sector has been propelled by the country's "growing stature", she said on Wednesday in her maiden address. **TNN**

mentation of the Act that provides for grant of Indian citizenship to Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Afghan nationals belonging to Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Christian Buddhist and Parsi communities who had migrated to India before Dec 31, 2014 — are ready and may be notified soon. A fully online system for application, processing and grant of citizenship under CAA is on the anvil, enabling eligible migrants to submit their request through a dedicated MHA portal, from where ever they are and track its progress.

Sonia joins NDA in applauding Prez reference to Ram temple

Subodh.Ghildiyal @timesgroup.com

Continued from Page 1

This was the first joint session to be hosted in the new Parliament building. Murmu's every reference to the Ram temple was greeted with thunderous applause and she had to pause while the Lok Sabha hall, hosting the first joint sitting, reverberated with thumping of desks. Once, even Congress leader Sonia Gandhi was seen joining the treasury benches.

In her 75-minute speech, seen as the government's vision statement, she mentioned several big ticket reforms in the past 10 years and had multiple mentions of the Ram temple. In the very beginning, she said, "For centuries, there was an aspiration to construct the Ram Mandir. Today it is a reality."

Along with Ram temple, Murmu also referred to BJP fulfilling key poll promises in the last five years.

"There were doubts regarding the removal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir. Those are now history. This Parliament also enacted a strict law against 'triple talaq' and a law to grant citizenship to persecuted minorities from our neighbouring countries," she said.

The President said the government believed that the grand edifice of a 'Viksit Bharat' would be erected on four strong pillars — youth, women, farmers and poor — for whose empowerment the government was working tirelessly as a significant portion of tax revenues had been spent to empower them.

Murmu also hailed the armed forces for giving a befitting reply to terrorism and expansionism, an apparent reference to Pakistan and China, as she asserted that India has emerged as a prominent voice against terrorism in the world.

In her maiden address in the new Parliament building, the President listed the economic reforms undertaken by the government that has transformed India from the group of "fragile five" to the "top five" economies in the world.

Cong slams Prez address, says PM avoiding accountability

Subodh.Ghildiyal @timesgroup.com

Continued from Page 1

New Delhi: Even as Congress slammed the President's address as evidence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi avoiding accountability for his "failed guarantees" on jobs, economy, farmers and national security, party president Mallikarjun Kharge said the BJP leader has presided over "cheerharan" of Parliament and warned that BJP is a threat to democracy.

Kharge said President Droupadi Murmu's joint address was a delayed honour to her as she was not invited for inauguration of the new Parliament building.

He questioned the President's claim that forces were following a "tit-for-tat" policy, reminding that a recent video has proved that China was denying access to Indian



Kharge said President Droupadi Murmu's joint address was a delayed honour to her as she was not invited for inauguration of the new Parliament building

grazers at Patrolling Point 35 and 36 in Ladakh, which are within India's claim line. Pointing out that Manipur has been in the grip of ethnic violence for eight months, he said the President should have made an appeal for peace in the state.

Congress MPs Shaktisinh Gohil and Gaurav Gogoi said while the government,

Stalin: CAA won't be implemented in TN

Union junior ports, shipping and waterways minister Shantanu Thakur's recent statement that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) would be implemented across the country within seven days evoked sharp reactions from DMK and AIADMK.

Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin asserted on Monday that the legislation, which he said was "anti-Muslim and anti-Lankan Tamils", would not be implemented in Tamil Nadu. AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami said his party would never allow minorities to be affected by the law. AIADMK had backed the bill when it was passed in 2019, when Palaniswami was CM. **TNN**

Murmu also referred to positive developments on the internal security front, including the prevailing sense of security in Jammu and Kashmir that has relegated doubts regarding the removal of Article 370 from the erstwhile state to history.

Cong seeks 3 Mumbai LS seats, UBT Sena willing to give just 1

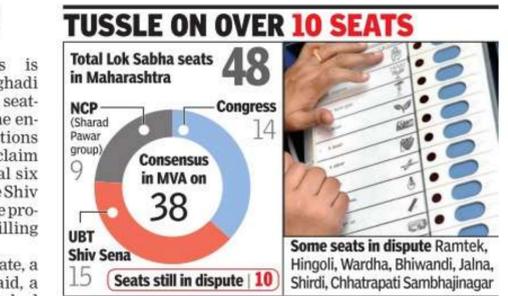
Prafulla.Marpakwar @timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Consensus is eluding Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) over drafting a seat-sharing formula for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections after Congress staked claim to three out of the total six seats in Mumbai, while Shiv Sena (UBT) rejected the proposal, saying it was willing to part with only one.

Elsewhere in the state, a top Congress leader said, a consensus has been reached on 38 seats, and it is expected that most of the disputes on the remaining seats will be resolved in the next meeting of the MVA on Feb 2. If there is no decision, then NCP president Sharad Pawar, UBT Sena president Uddhav Thackeray and AICC observer Ramesh Chennithala will resolve the row over seat-sharing, the leader said. Maharashtra has 48 Lok Sabha seats in all.

The Congress leader said that during the last MVA meeting, Congress leaders staked claim on three of Mumbai's seats — North-Central, North-West and South-Central.

BJP nominee Poonam Mahajan had won from North-Central, the undivided Shiv Sena's nominee Gajanan Kirtikar from North-West, and Sena's Rahul Shewale from South-Central. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Sena said



these seats are its strongholds and offered the Mumbai North seat to Congress.

According to the understanding reached at the MVA meeting, Congress is expected to contest 14 seats, UBT Sena 15 and NCP (Sharad Pawar group) 9, while 10 seats are in dispute. Ramtek, Hingoli, Wardha, Bhiwandi, Jalna, Shirdi, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Sangli and Amravati are among the disputed seats.

Nitish: Rahul in bid to steal caste survey credit

Patna: Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday dismissed as "nonsensical" Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's claim that the caste survey in the state was conducted under pressure from the latter's party, reports Madan Kumar.

Nitish also revealed, for the first time, that he had suggested other names for the opposition bloc, but they went ahead with "INDIA". He accused Congress leadership of not taking any decision in the INDI Alliance.

Nitish said, "Everybody knows that the initiative was taken by me only. Now, people are taking credit... We decided to conduct the caste survey after taking a decision at a joint meeting of nine political parties. I got the caste survey conducted at my own level. Everything was done by me. Someone is trying to take credit," Nitish said.



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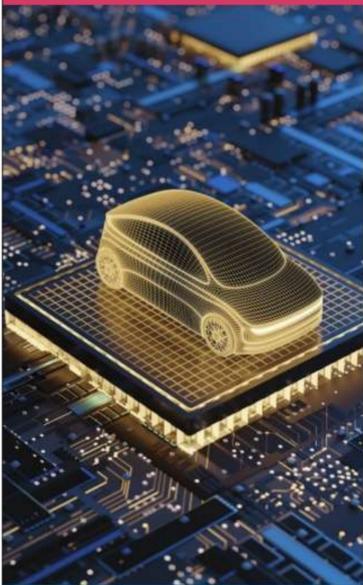
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Mulayam's fence stopped worship at cellar in 1993

BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF KVT & GYANVAPI



Continued from P 1

The case is distinct from the Shringar Gauri litigation initiated by five Hindu women, seeking the right to unhindered daily worship of the deity and other idols within the Gyanvapi compound.

Shailendra Vyas's plea states that his maternal grandfather, Somnath Vyas, would worship Shringar Gauri and other Hindu deities in the southern cellar until Dec 1993, when the then state administration barred entry into what purportedly used to be known as "Vyasji ka tehkhana".

The petition was admitted on Sept 25 last year, over two years after the main Shringar Gauri case was filed in the Varanasi civil judge's court. District judge Vishvesha took over the Shringar Gauri case on the orders of SC and subsequently clubbed several civil suits linked to Gyanvapi.

Shailendra Vyas's counsel Vishnu Shankar Jain said the plaintiff's family had been visiting the southern

Swamy moves Varanasi district court to get impleaded in Shringar Gauri case

Senior lawyer and politician Subramanian Swamy has approached the Varanasi district court for his impleadment in the Shringar Gauri suit filed by five women plaintiffs. "We've applied for the certified copy of the pending suits. I'll receive them on behalf of Swamy on Thursday and thereafter we'll implead," Swamy's legal associate and advocate Vaidushya Parth told TOI. In a press release, Swamy said there is a bunch of suits lying before the Varanasi district court seeking relief to worship Maa Shringar Gauri and other deities on the outer wall of the Gyanvapi complex. "The outcome of the suit in Varanasi district court has implications in my pending case before SC. I have, therefore, decided to get impleaded in this suit," he said.

cellar to worship the deities there "for centuries".

"In Dec 1993, the then Mulayam Singh Yadav government erected a steel fence without any judicial order, thus stopping the puja," he said.

Besides seeking access to the closed southern cellar of Gyanvapi, his client had petitioned the court to appoint the DM or any other appropriate authority as the "receiver" of that portion of the mosque.

In a Jan 17 order, the district court appointed the DM as the receiver. The latter

took custody of the southern cellar on Jan 23.

Before Shringar Gauri and seven other Gyanvapi-linked cases were transferred to district judge Vishvesha in 2022, the civil judge had ordered a court-monitored survey of the compound. The Hindu side claimed that a "Shivling" was found in the ablation pond of the mosque during the survey, which AIM challenged.

SC ordered the sealing of the pond area and transferred the case to the district judge on May 20, 2022.

Lost hope for justice: Muslim side

VHP Welcomes Court Order On Gyanvapi Cellar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Varanasi/ New Delhi: Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) on Wednesday welcomed the Varanasi court's decision to allow a priest to worship deities in the southern cellar of Gyanvapi mosque while Anjuman Intejamia Masjid (AIM) joint secretary SM Yaseen said, "Ab humein insaaf ki ummid nahi rahi (Now, we have lost hope for justice)".

AIM advocate Akhlaque Ahmed said the district judge's order will be challenged in the high court.

VHP president Alok Kumar said: "Today, a court in Kashi has given a very important decision. We are glad that the court said the petitioner and Kashi Vishwanath can together appoint a pujari to en-



Devotees celebrate in Varanasi on Wednesday after the district court allowed prayers in the southern cellar of Gyanvapi mosque

sure conduct of regular 'puja-archana' there. This has happened after 31 years." He said this after the Varanasi district court granted the grandson of Somnath Vyas the right to worship Hindu deities in the Gyanvapi mosque cellar. Vyas used to perform prayers there till 1993 when the cellar was closed by authorities.

He also congratulated the Hindu community over the court's decision, saying: "We hope that after this, the court's verdict on Gyanvapi case will also come soon. We are confident that the decision will come in favour of Hindus based on evidence and facts."

BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia refused to comment on the court's decision, saying it was a sub-judice matter. "We should not be commenting on such matters." AIM advocate Ahmed said their objection challenging maintainability of the petitioner's plea had been overlooked, although the court has fixed Feb 8 for the next hearing.

HC notice to AIM on plea for wuzukhana survey

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: The Allahabad high court on Wednesday issued a notice to Anjuman Intejamia Masjid (AIM) on a revision petition filed by a Hindu plaintiff, challenging the Varanasi district court's refusal to direct ASI to survey the 'wuzukhana' area, except the 'Shivling', inside the Gyanvapi complex.

Justice Rohit Ranjan Agarwal was hearing a revision petition filed by Rakhi Singh, a plaintiff in the Shringar Gauri case, who argued that the ASI survey of wuzukhana area was necessary so that the religious character of the entire property could be determined.

The survey was possible by using non-invasive methods, as directed by the Supreme Court, the petitioner

A Hindu plaintiff has challenged the Varanasi district court's refusal to direct ASI to survey the 'wuzukhana' area, except the 'Shivling', inside the Gyanvapi complex

further contended. The Varanasi court had on Oct 21, 2023, rejected the petitioner's application seeking the wuzukhana area survey, observing that it would violate Supreme Court's May 17, 2022, order for protection of the area where the purported Shivling was found. The ASI has already conducted a scientific survey of the Gyanvapi complex, but it excluded the wuzu pond.

Priest hails verdict: 'Pleasant moment for all Sanatanis'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Varanasi: The Varanasi priest whose petition led district judge Ajaya Krishna Vishvesha to allow regular worship of Shringar Gauri and other Hindu deities in the southern cellar of Gyanvapi mosque described Wednesday's verdict as a "most pleasant moment for my family and all Sanatanis".

Shailendra Kumar Pathak Vyas, head priest of Acharya Ved Vyas Peeth temple, said his ancestors had been performing puja at the cellar since 1551 before access was barred in 1993. He recalled regularly visiting the southern cellar, referred to in the petition as "Vyasji ka tehkhana", with his late maternal grandfather Somnath Vyas. Somnath Vyas was among the three plaintiffs in the original Adi Vishweshwar vs Gyanvapi Masjid title suit filed in 1991. Suit 610/

1991 is currently being contested by advocate Vijay Shankar Rastogi as the "next friend of the deity". The Vyas family retains records of other cases linked to Gyanvapi that members of the clan had purportedly filed at different times since 1880.

During the renovation of Kashi Vishwanath Dham, members of the Vyas family shifted to different localities of the city, but continued to stake their claim to the southern cellar of the Gyanvapi mosque.

Shailendra Vyas said his family had been living near Kashi Vishwanath temple and Gyanvapi mosque since 1883. Gulshan Kapoor, who used to give the call for "jalabhishek" during worship of Shringar Gauri, recalled that following the developments in Ayodhya in 1992-93, he submitted memorandums to the authorities and launched an agitation for access to the cellar.

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi - 110029

FELLOWSHIP ENTRANCE TEST - 2023

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the next Fellowship Entrance Test for Indian and International students on **3rd March 2024**.

Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website <https://natboard.edu.in> for eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates	
Availability of Information Bulletin	19 th January 2024 Onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	19 th January 2024 (3 PM Onwards) to 8 th February 2024 (Till 11:55 PM)
Date of Examination	3 rd March 2024

Candidate Care Support: • Helpline Portal on applicant login page
+91-7996165333 • Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

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UNVEILING THE MAGNITUDE

With a track-record of four successful editions, ACMA Automechanika New Delhi 2024 boasts of a staggering 500+ exhibitors who will showcase the latest advancements from the automotive aftermarket industry. Moreover, keeping in line with its long-standing tradition of internationality, the expo will welcome participation from Russia, China, Korea, Taiwan, USA, UK, Malaysia, UAE, New Zealand, Türkiye, Italy, Thailand.

INDUSTRY GIANTS

Companies like Schaeffler, ZF India, Mahle Aftermarket, NRB Bearings, Mansons International, Subros, JK Fenner, Minda Corporation, RMP Bearings, and Celette India, amongst others will

present their latest offerings, share insights, and engage in meaningful discussions, making ACMA Automechanika New Delhi 2024 a must-attend for professionals from two-wheeler, passenger vehicles, trucks, bus and tractors segments.

INTERNATIONAL FLAVOUR AND PAVILIONS

ACMA Automechanika New Delhi 2024 is proud to host international pavilions from Germany, Korea, Taiwan, and Thailand that will add a distinctive global touch to the event. Joining the league, the event will also feature participation from Sampa Otomotiv, Liqui Moly, Industrias Del Recambio, and many more.

DRIVING INTO THE FUTURE

Indicative of the sector's steady surge due to the

increasing vehicle ownership, the focus will be on technology, innovation, the shift towards electric vehicles and localisation. This reaffirms India's position as a key player in the global automotive ecosystem, poised for sustained growth.

Expressing his view on the upcoming expo, Vinnie Mehta, director general of the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), expressed, "The outlook for the industry is optimistic, given the continuous expansion of the market size and the notable growth in component exports, rising by five per cent to USD 20.1 billion in FY 2023 from USD 19.1 billion in FY 2022. Notably, exports to North America, Europe, and Asia have witnessed growth in 2023 compared to the previous year. As

this edition of Automechanika marks the first physical edition post-Covid-19, we are delighted to witness the enthusiasm of exhibitors from both India and abroad."

Sharing a similar sentiment, Raj Manek, executive director and board member, of Messe Frankfurt Asia Holding Ltd, said, "After the successful past editions of the show, we are excited for the fifth edition of ACMA Automechanika New Delhi 2024. The Indian vehicle industry including passenger, light-weight, and heavy-duty vehicles is growing at a fast pace and India has witnessed this growth trend last year across these segments. The growth of vehicle sales is a clear indicator of the auto components and aftermarket industry. We are excited to once again bring new solutions and technologies from India and around the world."

IN COLLABORATION WITH REGULATORY BODIES

The event is supported by prominent industry associations like AIAWA, AAMPACT, ASA, EGEA, FAIASPDA, APMA, and FIGIFEA. This collaboration ensures that ACMA Automechanika New Delhi 2024 has established itself as the leading exhibition platform for the aftermarket and automotive industry.

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ACMA messe frankfurt

Tortured by cops to admit oppn link: Parl breach accused

New Delhi: Five of the six people arrested in the Parliament security breach case on Wednesday told a court here that they were allegedly being tortured by Delhi police to accept their association with opposition parties.

The submission was made before Additional Sessions Judge Hardeep Kaur, who extended the judicial custody of all the six accused till March 1. Five of the accused, Manoranjan D. Sagar Sharma, Lalit Jha, Amol Shinde and Mahesh Kumawat told the court that they were forced to sign about 70-odd blank papers.

The accused persons were given electric shocks to sign and confess crime under UAPA, five of the six people arrested in the case told a court, which sought reply from cops

"Accused persons were tortured/given electric shocks to sign and confess the commission of crime under UAPA and their association with national political parties... two accused persons were forced to write on the

paper about their association with the political party/leader of opposition political party," the accused told the court in a joint petition. The court sought a reply from police in the matter and fixed Feb 17 for hearing the application.

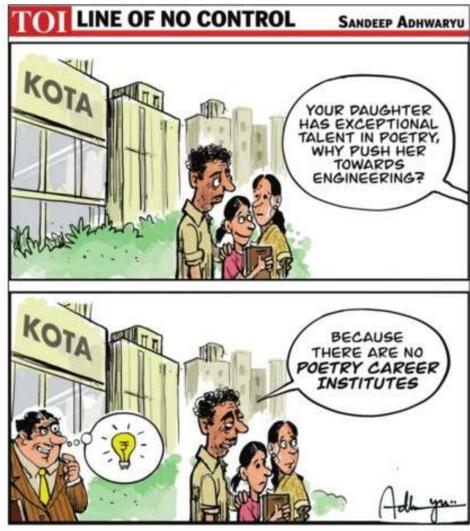
The sixth accused in the case is Neelam Azad, who had earlier alleged before the court that police had forced her to sign several blank papers. Azad's application is currently pending before the court.

"During (after/before) the conduction of polygraph/narco/brain mapping), the associated persons

conducting tests pressed two accused persons to name a political party/leader about their involvement." "Each were asked about their current/old mobile phone numbers and made them visit the Airtel/BSNL/Vodafone offices for issuance of SIM cards of old mobile numbers and current SIM card numbers for reasons best known to the prosecution. During this illegal drill, accused persons gave their biometrics/signed for issuance of SIM cards," the joint petition stated. The accused persons claimed they were forced to provide all their

social media account, email and phone passwords.

In a security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack, Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D jumped into Lok Sabha chamber from public gallery during Zero Hour on Dec 13 last year, released yellow gas from canisters and shouted slogans before they were overpowered by some MPs. Around the same time, two other accused Amol Shinde and Neelam Azad sprayed coloured gas from canisters while shouting "tanashahi nahi chalegi" outside the Parliament premises. #



CAD-3921 Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar - 751 001
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives. Tel.: (0674) 2380608 Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
Notification No. 530/OSMCL/2024 Date: 30-01-2024
NOTICE INVITING E-Tender for SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF VETERINARY EQUIPMENT

Online Bids through e-Tender portal (<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, installation & commissioning of Equipment as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1	Bid Reference No: OSMCL/2023-24/VETERINARY_EQP/25	Tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Veterinary Equipment	Rs. 5,900/-

Sl.No.	Particulars	Date and time
1.	Date & time of release of bid	30/01/2024, 5 PM
2.	Date & time of Pre-Bid Meeting	06/02/2024, 11.30 AM Venue: Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time: 15/02/2024, 3 PM End Date & Time: 11/03/2024, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of online Technical bid opening	14/03/2024, 3 PM
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Managing Director, OSMCL
OIPR: 1011211/0039/2324

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
Government of NCT of Delhi
5/9, Under Hill Road, Delhi-110054

Notice Inviting e-Tender
IFB NO.: DoT/DIMTS/DERA-MANDI/2024/01
Ref No.: 2024_TD_252658_1

Transport Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, in association with "Delhi Integrated Multi Modal Transit System Limited (DIMTS)", 8th Floor, Delhi Technology Park, Shastri Park, Delhi- 110053, invites Bids on two packet system through e-procurement for the following work:

IFB No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (Approx.)	Earnest Money	Period of Completion	Last Date & Time for Submission of Bid	Pre-Bid Meeting Address with Date & Time
DoT/DIMTS/DERA-MANDI/2024/01	Supply, stacking and Planting of various species of 6-7 ft. tall saplings including their maintenance during and after Plantation for a period of 7 years on site at Dera Mandi Village, New Delhi	INR 353 Lakh (Rupees Three Hundred and Fifty-Three Lakhs Only)	INR 7.10 Lakh (Rupees Seven Lakhs and Ten Thousand Only)	6 months and 7 years (6 Months for Plantation and Maintenance period of 7 Years after completion of Plantation)	1500 hrs on 21.02.2024	O/o The Deputy Commissioner, (DTC Sect.), Transport Department, GNCTD, Room No. 121, New Block, First Floor, 5/9, Under Hill Road, Delhi-110054 at 1500 hrs on 09.02.2024

The Detailed Invitation for Bid & Bidding Documents are available on the website <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> from 01.02.2024, at 900 hours onwards. The intended bidders shall submit their bid online on the aforementioned website. In case of any query, undersigned can be contacted through email.

Dy. Commissioner [DTC Sect.],
Transport Department, GNCTD
E-mail: deputycommissionerdtc@gmail.com & devendra.gautam@dimts.in
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0328/23-24

Government of Tamil Nadu
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF STATIONERY AND PRINTING, IC0
110, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI-2.
Cite. No. Q4/37363/2023
E-TENDER NOTICE
Dated: 30.01.2024

1) For and on behalf of the Government of Tamil Nadu, e-tenders are invited only through online from Printers / bidders for Printing and Supply of 30 Envelopes with variable data to stick as Booklet Album with white Art Board (250 GSM) as per Text matter. Size: Paper Quality and GSM and other Technical Specifications for 2024 Elections by the General Manager of Stationery and Printing, 110, Anna Salai, Chennai-2.
2) The crucial date and time are given below:

S. No.	Description of the items	Delivery Places	E-tender published on portal	Pre-Bid Meeting	E-tender closing date
1.	Printing and Supply of 30 Envelopes with variable data to stick as Booklet Album with white Art Board (250 GSM) as per Text matter. Size: Paper Quality and GSM and other Technical Specifications for 2024 Elections.	Offices of concern District Election Officers / Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation / District Collectors in Tamil Nadu.	01/02/2024	07/02/2024	20/02/2024 11.00 A.M.

3) Tenders should be furnished in the prescribed format only, which can be downloaded from the <https://tntenders.gov.in>
DIPR/566/Tender/2024
Commissioner

CAD-3939 **idco** **ODISHA**
NEW OPPORTUNITIES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, BHUBANESWAR-751022
Tender Call Notice No. H.O./P&C/ EST-E-2474/01/2023(Part-I) / 2999
Dated: 30.01.2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Value of work (Approx.)	Period of Completion
1.	Providing, laying, jointing, testing & commissioning of 900mm (NB) dia D.I.S/S (K-9) Pipes in raw water rising main from proposed Intake well of IDCO on river Mahanadi at Phulbari to the water works site of proposed Industrial Area at Gajamaru in Dhenkanal district of Odisha.	Rs. 62.78 Crores	09 (Nine) Calendar Months

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-Line for Bidding
1	2	3
4	5	6
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar-751022	Bid ID No- P&C/EST/ E-18/17/2023-24	17:00 Hours of dt. 06.02.2024 17:00 Hours of dt. 21.02.2024

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. Corrigendum or addendum if any will not be published in news papers and can only be seen in the e-procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in as well as IDCO website www.idco.in.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C)
IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-14003/11/0373/23-24

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग
15, नेहरू पथ (बेली रोड), पटना

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

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

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

स्वा:-
परीक्षा नियंत्रक
बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना

O-2353 **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA**
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF RURAL WORKS, ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
Letter No. 3439, Dated. 25-1-24 Email i.d.: crew_bbsr@yahoo.com
"e" Procurement Notice for bridge works in Odisha (Online-13 (Bridge) / 2024-23 dt. 25.01.2024)

- Name of the work : Construction of bridge work
- Total No. of works : 19 (Nineteen) nos
- Estimated cost : Rs 1092.36 to 4990.57 lakh
- Class of contractor : "A" Class, "Special" Class & "Super" Class as applicable.
- Period of completion : As mentioned in Column 7 of TCN.
- Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid identification No	No. of bridge works	Availability of tender online for bidding	
			From	To
Chief Engineer, Buildings & Bridges, Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar	Online-13 (Bridge)/ 2023-24	19 (Nineteen) nos	05.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	19.02.2024 Up to 5.00 P.M.

Other details can be seen in the bidding documents, which will be available in website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Chief Engineer (Buildings & Bridges), Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar
OIPR: 25123/11/0043/2324

GOVERNMENT OF UTTARAKHAND
Office of Superintending Engineer Research Circle Irrigation Research Institute Roorkee
E-mail: info@iriroorkee.res.in, Website: www.iriroorkee.res.in
e-Tender Notice No.: 01/SE(R)/e-Tender/2023-24 Dated 31.01.2024
Superintending Engineer, Research Circle, Irrigation Research Institute, Roorkee, Uttarakhand on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" invites item wise rates through e-tenders in "Two Bid System" for the following work.

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender form (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Validity of Tender	Period of completion	Date of online publication	Bid submission end date
1	Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Data Acquisition and Post Processing Software for Echosounder (Make: SyQuest, Model: Bathy 500DF) & SIMRAD MX510 Navigation System (GPS)	1,000.00+ GST @ 18%	24,000.00	120 Days	3 months	01.02.2024	11.03.2024

For further details please log on to www.uktenders.gov.in

Superintending Engineer
Research Circle

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PHE MECHANICAL RURAL DIVISION, SRINAGAR, KASHMIR.

Corrigendum 1
For E-NIT No. PHE/MRD/TS/ 147 of 01/2024 DT: - 23-01-2024 issued vide this office No:- PHE/MRD/TS/5127-38 DT: - 23-01-2024 and published vide No: 2024_PHE_243497_1 is hereby extended due to poor response, new closing and opening dates as under:

S. No.	Description	Date	Time
1.	Closing date	02-02-2024	11:00 AM
2.	Bid opening date	02-02-2024	12:00 PM

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PHE Mechanical Rural Division,
Srinagar.

No: PHE/MRD/5201-12
Dated: 30-01-2024
DIP No: DIPK-1577/123

Office Of The Superintending Engineer
8th Circle Public Work Department New Tehri
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, 8TH CIRCLE P.W.D. NEW TEHRI
Website- <http://pwd.uk.gov.in> E-mail: sepdtehrir@rediffmail.com
Letter No. 643/Scash-tender-8/2023 Dated: 30/01/2024

Short Term National Competitive Bidding e-Tendering Information
Superintending Engineer 8th Circle, PWD, New Tehri invite e-tender through two-bid system on behalf of Governor, Uttarakhand for timely execution of the following road safety work under district Tehri Garhwal. All the information related to the tender will be available on <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from date 01.02.2024.

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/ firm Class
1.	Reconstruction work with Bituminous Concrete (B.C.) and road safety work with crash barrier, Delinicator, Regulatory, Informatory Board of freedom fighter Shri Vishweshwar Dutt Saklani Motor Road (Raipur Kumalda-Kadukhal) from Km 7.500 to 71.760 in Jaunpur development block of district Tehri Garhwal, Under the Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF). (In Anticipation).	43.20	5000.00 + GST	120 Days	15 Month	Registered in State Government / Central Government in road work registered in category-'A' and above.

Office Of The Superintending Engineer
9th Circle Public Work Department Dehradun
Office of the Superintending Engineer, 9th Circle PWD, Dehradun Uttarakhand
Website- <http://pwd.uk.gov.in> E-mail: sepdwddun09@gmail.com
Letter No. 645/1C-9/2023 Dated: 31/01/2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER Request for Proposal (RFP)
The Superintending Engineer 9th Circle, Public Works Department, Dehradun on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" invites e-RFP in Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) system for the following work. Information regarding RFP shall be available on <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> from date 06.02.2024.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Validity of RFP (In days)	Cost of RFP Document (In Rs.)	Period of Completion
1.	Consultancy Services for Bid Evaluation and management system for PWD Uttarakhand.	2.00	120	4000.00 + 18% G.S.T.	3 Month + 3 year Maintenance

Note:- Corrigendum/Addendum, if any will be published only in the above web-site.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383. Website: www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-42/43/574/2023-24 Date: 30.01.2024

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Class-I (Electrical) Contractors registered in KCEI who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work : EP-42 (1) Providing Power Infrastructure to Tertiary Treatment Plant (TTP) and Jackwell Pumphouse at KIADB Narasapura Industrial Area, Kolar District. (2) Providing Power Infrastructure and Streetlights to Harjenahalli Sub Layout, Vemgal Industrial Area, Kolar. (3) Arranging Power Supply to TTP at Vasanthanarasapura Industrial Area & Intake Tank at Bheemsandra at Tumakuru.

EP-43 (1) Providing Basic Electrical Infrastructure Facilities and Street Lights to Kapnoor Industrial Area, 3rd Phase, 2nd Stage, Kalaburgi District. (2) Providing Basic Electrical Infrastructure to Adinarayana Hosahalli Industrial Area, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.

For EP-42 : Last date for submission of bids is: **12.02.2024 upto 04:30 pm.**
For EP-43 : Last date for submission of bids is: **14.02.2024 upto 04:30 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 1
DIPR/CPJA/3307/2023-24

HIGH COURT OF MADHYA PRADESH: JABALPUR
NOTICE INVITING TENDER SECOND CALL
Sealed tenders are invited by the High Court of Madhya Pradesh for the "Selection of Consultant for Preparing DPR, Blue Print and Bid Process Management". The last date of online tender submission is 26th February, 2024 before 06:00 P.M. (mandatory). The sealed tender complete in all respect addressed to "Registrar General, High Court of Madhya Pradesh, Jabalpur" must be submitted before 05:00 P.M. on 27th February, 2024 (mandatory). The technical bids of the tender shall be opened online on 28th February, 2024 at 11:00 A.M. The detailed tender document is available in the official website of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh www.mphc.gov.in and Government e-procurement portal www.mptenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
REGISTRAR GENERAL
कोरोना में सावधानी हटी, समझौते दुर्घटना घटी। G-23566/23

कार्यालय पुलिस दूरसंचार मुख्यालय, मध्यप्रदेश, भद्रभद्रा रोड, भोपाल.-462003
Fax No. 0755-2443674, E-mail: ssp_radio@mppolice.gov.in

क्रमांक-पु.दु.सू./ क्रय / यूएचएफ / टुकिंग / भोपाल / डी- / 5241 / 2024, दिनांक 30/01/2024
छठवीं ई-निविदा सूचना (NIT)

पुलिस महानिदेशक मध्यप्रदेश को ओर से वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक (रेडियो) मध्यप्रदेश भोपाल द्वारा नीचे दर्शित तालिका अनुसार निम्नलिखित सामग्रियों हेतु ऑनलाइन छठवीं ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-

S. no	Name of item	Tender fee	Required EMD
1	Design, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of UHF Digital Radio Trunking System on "Turn-key" Basis for Bhopal District		
a	APCO-25 Phase-II Technology as per given BOQ Annexure-A	30,000/-	50,00,000/-
	OR		
b	DMR Tier-III Technology as per given BOQ Annexure-B		

- निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) किसी भी स्थिति में वापसी योग्य नहीं होगा और ना ही इसमें किसी प्रकार की छूट दी जावेगी।
- निविदा शुल्क वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक (रेडियो) मध्य प्रदेश, भोपाल के नाम से आनलाइन वेबसाइट www.mptenders.gov.in पर आवश्यक रूप से जमा करना होगा।
- सुरक्षा निधि की राशि ऑनलाइन वेबसाइट <https://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर एवं ऑफ लाइन इस कार्यालय में उपस्थित हो कर एफडी, Bank Guarantee/Demand Draft के रूप में जमा करना आवश्यक होगा।
- म.प्र. पुलिस की वेबसाइट www.mppolice.gov.in पर निविदा प्रपत्र एवं विस्तृत जानकारी डाउनलोड की जा सकती है।
- यह एक टर्न-की प्रोजेक्ट है।
- निविदा का शेड्यूल :-
 - निविदा प्रपत्र क्रय / डाउनलोड प्रारम्भ करने की तिथि : 30/01/2024 के 1800 बजे से
 - प्रो-बिड क्वैरिज प्रस्तुत करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि : 30/01/2024 के 1830 बजे से
 - प्रो-बिड क्वैरिज प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि : 05/02/2024 के 1700 बजे तक
 - प्रो-बिड मॉडिंग की तिथि : 06/02/2024 के 1200 बजे से
 - प्रो-बिड क्वैरिज रिस्पॉंस अपलोड करने की तिथि : 12/02/2024 के 1800 बजे से
 - ऑनलाइन निविदा जमा करने की प्रारम्भ तिथि : 13/02/2024 के 1800 बजे तक
 - ऑनलाइन निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि : 20/02/2024 के 1700 बजे तक
 - प्रो-क्वालिफिकेशन निविदा खोलने की तिथि : 21/02/2024 के 1710 बजे

Sd/-
उप पुलिस महानिरीक्षक
वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधीक्षक (रेडियो)
म.प्र. भोपाल
G-23592/23
कोरोना में सावधानी हटी, समझौते दुर्घटना घटी।

Office of The Superintending Engineer
7th Circle P.W.D., Gopeshwar
E Mail: sepdwgope@rediffmail.com
Letter No. 503/50 Yatayat-7/2024 Dated: 31.01.2024

E-Tender Notice (Two Bid)
Superintending Engineer, 7th Circle, P.W.D., Gopeshwar invites bid on behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand by e-tendering under two bid system for the following works. Information regarding bid will be available from 07.02.2024 on <https://www.uktenders.gov.in>.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount of Earnest money (Rs. Lakhs)	Cost of e-tender document	Validity of tender (in days)	Completion period (in months)	Contractor's category of Registration
1	Strengthening of Nagarasu Dhanpur Dandakhal motor road by DBM and BC in block Agastyamuni of Rudraprayag assembly constituency of district Rudraprayag Under CRIF	42.00	5000.00 + 18% GST	120	18	Registered in Category "A" For Road Work in Uttarakhand & other State/Govt. of India/Any Govt. undertaking

75
आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव



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every second day***

saved 11554 lives since inception (1977)

193 lives in the year 2023 alone

Apprehended drugs

*worth Rs. 477.89 Cr
in the year 2023 alone*

and drugs worth Rs. 15342.97 Cr since 1977



EMERGENCY MARITIME SEARCH & RESCUE (SAR) TELEPHONE NO. 1554

Note : Kindly call on above Toll free no. for any emergency at Sea

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

Independence Day - 2023 (15th August 23)

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

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

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

Republic Day - 2024 (26th January 24)

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

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

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

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

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HEMANT'S HURDLES SINCE 2022



Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren reaches Raj Bhavan to submit his resignation to governor CP Radhakrishnan in Ranchi on Wednesday

Feb 11, 2022

Jharkhand BJP memo to governor Ramesh Bais accuses Soren of misusing office to acquire mining lease for a stone quarry in Ranchi's Angara block in 2021

May 2, 2022

EC notice to Soren why his assembly membership shouldn't be cancelled for violating RP Act, wants reply by May 10

May 10, 2022
Soren pleads EC for more time, citing mother's ill-health



Hemant Soren addresses supporters on Wednesday after being questioned by Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials in a money laundering case

June 28, 2022

Soren appears before ED, claims case is not maintainable as he had acquired mining lease for 0.88 acre plot in 2008 before entering politics. Also says he had given up the lease in 2021

July 20, 2022

ED raids in 19 locations across Jharkhand yield Rs 37 cr 'unaccounted' cash generated from illegal mining, arrests Soren's assembly constituency representative Pankaj Mishra

July 30, 2022

Jharkhand Congress MLAs Irfan Ansari, Rajesh Kacchap and Naman Bixal Kongari arrested in Howrah after police found Rs 49 lakh in cash in their car, Congress suspends the trio

Aug, 2022

Soren-led coalition on tenterhooks; Bais claims receiving a sealed envelope from EC

Aug 30, 2022

Coalition moves MLAs to a resort in Chhattisgarh fearing poaching by BJP

Sept 4-5, 2022

After MLAs' return, Soren seeks trust vote, wins it with 48 votes in his favour

Nov 17, 2022

After ED's second summons, Soren joins probe, questioned for over nine hours

A revolt & a banquet hall foiled move to make Soren's wife CM

Sis-In-Law Upends Plan To Give Kalpana, Whose Hall Is Under ED Lens, Top Job

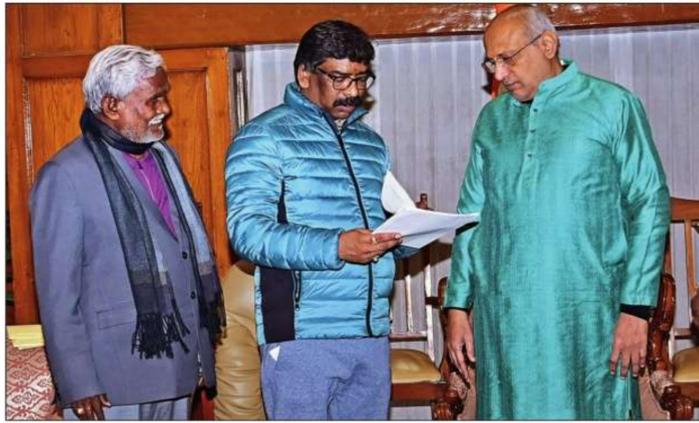
Dhritiman.Ray@timesgroup.com

Ranchi: JMM insiders had been speculating Hemant Soren's wife Kalpana Soren to be his probable replacement in case he was arrested by ED in the land scam case, ever since party MLA Sarfaraz Ahmed made a surprise resignation on Dec 31, 2023.

The 48-year-old MBA graduate, who largely remained in the shadows of her husband the past four years, was also photographed during a meeting of MLAs of the JMM-led coalition, which was chaired by Soren hours after he "resurfaced" in Ranchi this Tuesday afternoon.

However, the party backtracked from its plans after Sita Soren, a three-time JMM MLA and the CM's sister-in-law, announced Tuesday evening that she would oppose any move to make Kalpana the next CM.

Sita skipped both meetings of JMM, Congress, and RJD MLAs, which were chaired by the CM in his



Champai Soren and Hemant Soren with Jharkhand governor CP Radhakrishnan at Raj Bhavan on Wednesday

home Tuesday. She even did not turn up at the CM's home while he faced ED's questioning. Her phone remained switched off throughout the day as her associates claimed she was flying to Ranchi from New Delhi.

Lobin Hembrom, a seasoned JMM MLA from Borio in Sahibganj, also backed Sita as the CM. "She is the elder of the two daughters-in-law of Shibu Soren and has been an MLA for three terms. She should get social justice,"

Hembrom said. Like Sita, Hembrom, who is in his seventies, also skipped Tuesday's meetings and did not turn up in Ranchi the day after. "I am at home as there are some family issues," he said.

Kalpana, who is from Mayurbhanj district in Odisha, manages several businesses. She also owns "Sohrai Bhawan", a banquet hall in Ranchi. It was this banquet hall which might have forced the party leadership to rethink its plan.

"Sohrai Bhawan has been under ED's lens and Soren had been asked to furnish details of its transactions for the past five years during questioning on Jan 20. That apart, there was also an inquiry into the purchase and sale of land during the tenure of former CM Raghubar Das," a JMM insider said.

Besides Sohrai Bhawan, the reluctance of several veteran JMM MLAs and a section of Congress lawmakers also forced JMM to pitch Champai Soren as Hemant's replacement. Party sources said several lawmakers were of the view during previous meetings that a sitting MLA from JMM quota should be picked as Hemant Soren's replacement.

JMM corrals MLAs at CM house, keeps buses ready for movement in a group

► Continued from P 1

A consensus could not be reached over the name of Hemant's wife Kalpana Soren for the top post due to a family feud, with his sister-in-law and three-term MLA Sita Soren opposing her name, sources said. This led to six-term MLA Champai emerging as Hemant's successor.

JMM leaders said that in case the governor refused to meet the coalition members, they are prepared to parade the MLAs before the Raj Bhavan and demonstrate their strength. "We are ready for a floor test as per time allowed by Raj Bhavan but before that, it has to pay credence to the fact that even after Hemant's resignation, the existing coalition enjoys a majority," said a JMM leader.

Earlier, flanked by ED sleuths, Soren went to Raj Bhavan, sporting a smile, and was taken away soon after he submitted his resignation. Later, JMM filed a case in high court, challenging his arrest. Nearly three hours after Hemant submitted his resignation, he tweeted from his X handle @HemantSorenJMM: "...haar manunga nahin (Will not accept defeat)."

Ahead of the resignation, ED made elaborate security arrangements to counter any backlash from Soren's supporters. ED sleuths came to the CM's residence at 1.20 pm in SUVs, less than an hour after Hemant met his father Shibu Soren to take his blessings and returned home. Just before his questioning began, Hemant lodged an FIR against ED officers Kapil Raj, Deovrat Jha, Anupam Kumar, Aman Patel and unknown others

41 SEARCHES & 5 SURVEYS DURING PROBE

► An FIR by Ranchi municipal corporation tax collector Dilip Sharma on July 4, 2022, alleges forgery of documents and fraudulent acquisition of 455 decimals of Army land in Bariatu area

► During investigation, ED comes across other land scams in Ranchi. On April 13, 2023, ED searches 21 locations in Jharkhand, Bihar and Bengal against IAS officer Chhavi Ranjan, government employees and land dealers. Seizes property incriminating documents from their possession

► During operation, ED comes across evidence from premises of Badgai circle inspector Bhanu Pratap Prasad, suggesting alleged involvement of CM Hemant Soren in land deals

► ED questions Soren on Jan 20, 2024, in connection with illegal possession of a land plot measuring 8.5 acres in Bariatu, Ranchi city. CM is also questioned regarding cash deposited in accounts of Sohrai Bhawan, owned by his wife Kalpana Soren

► ED arrests 14 people in Ranchi. Chhavi Ranjan, Bhanu Pratap Prasad, Rims employee Afsar Ali and other land dealers and businessmen are among them

► ED attaches three land parcels on Chesire home road, Pugnra and Siram worth Rs 161.64 crore in Ranchi land scam case

► ED carries out 41 searches and five surveys during investigation

Another feather of graft in oppn cap: BJP

After Soren stepped down, BJP Wednesday dubbed him "one more feather of corruption" in the opposition bloc INDIA's cap. BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla wrote on X, "One more feather of corruption in cap of 'INDI Alliance' from Jharkhand." BJP RS MP and former state unit chief Deepak Prakash said, "The people of Jharkhand got justice today... In his four-year rule, Soren tried to turn Jharkhand into 'loot-khand'." PTI

under sections 3 (1) (p) (r) (s) (u) of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act for their alleged role in harassment of a tribal along with his community. Soren in his FIR alleged that ED officers leaked 'misinformation' to media aimed at maligning his image after their visit to his Delhi residence Shanti Niketan — that has been taken on lease by the state government — on Jan 29.

"This purported search (at Shanti Niketan) was without any information to me nor was my presence re-

quired," he said in the FIR, clarifying that the BMW car taken away or the cash seized from the place did not belong to him. "These persons and unknown others who are not members of any Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe have instituted false malicious and vexatious criminal proceedings against me."

While Hemant was being questioned, the governing coalition MLAs had assembled at the CM's residence and stayed put there all through the day. Hectic parleys were held to come to a

consensus on Hemant's successor in the event of his resignation.

ED took Soren to their regional office in Hinoo in Ranchi. Though there was no official confirmation from ED in this regard till late evening, DGP Ajay Kumar Singh confirmed it, saying: "He has been arrested and taken to the ED office." Hemant would undergo medical examination before being produced before the PMLA court in Ranchi.

Champai said that he has been hearing about grievances of Sita Soren, the eldest daughter-in-law in the Soren family, through media reports. "Let her come to Ranchi and we can discuss it internally," he said, assuring that internal differences are manageable.

Having experienced poaching bids in the past, JMM has kept the flock of MLAs together at CM's residence and three small buses were kept ready, to ensure that every movement of the MLAs is managed in a group.

Hemant was questioned for the first round on January 20 by ED officials and directed to remain available once again between January 28 and 31. He went to New Delhi for some personal work on January 27 and it was the very next day that ED sleuths visited his Delhi residence where he managed to give them a slip and instead filed a letter expressing his readiness to be available for questioning on January 31.

While accusing the Enforcement Directorate of disgressing from the main case in questioning, he had rubbished the charges of owning the plot of land in which the ED is investigating the money laundering aspect.

1st J'khand CM to be arrested immediately after resigning

ASRP.Mukesh@timesgroup.com

Ranchi: Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren became on Wednesday the first CM of the state to be arrested by central investigation agencies moments after resigning office.

Hemant's father, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha supremo Shibu Soren, and Madhu Koda, both once CMs, were also jailed, but neither was CM when arrested; Soren senior was a Union minister and Koda had been out of government for a while.

Hemant Soren's case sets a precedent. Since taking power in 2019 after clinching a majority in the 81-member House in alliance with Congress and JMM, the Hemant Soren-led government has had a bumpy ride. The CM's problems began to intensify from the beginning of 2022. BJP approached the Election Commission accusing Hemant of holding an office of profit and demanded his disqualification for owning a stone mining quarry in Ranchi. Political turmoil, including a face-off with Raj Bhavan, reigned in the state, prompting Soren to move his MLAs to a resort in Raipur to keep his flock together ahead of a trust vote in the state assembly later that year to checkmate the opposition.

Meanwhile, ED began its probe into the illegal mining scam and arrested several high-profile people, including former mining secretary Pooja Singh and the CM's assembly representative, Pankaj Mishra. In November 2022, Hemant faced nine hours of ED questioning in the case.

Hemant Soren received the first summons for questioning in the land scam case in Ranchi district in August 2023.

'Kolhan Tiger' is a fierce advocate of tribal rights

B. Sridhar | TNN

Jamshedpur: Arjun Munda, Madhu Koda, Raghubar Das, and now Champai Soren — Jharkhand's mineral-rich Kolhan division has sprung its fourth CM in the state's 23 years of political history.

Champai, aged 68, is a six-term MLA representing Seraikela (ST reserve) constituency in Seraikela-Kharsawan district. He entered the Bihar assembly for the first time as an independent legislator in 1991 and has since retained the seat, except for a loss in 2000 to Anantram Tudu of BJP. Jharkhand was carved out of Bihar on Nov 15, 2000.

Champai joined JMM and won the seat in the 1995 assembly polls. After his defeat in 2000, he has clinched victory in all subsequent polls held in 2005, 2009, 2014, and 2019. Notably, Champai unsuccessfully contested Lok Sabha elections from Singhbhum in 1999 and Jamshedpur in 2019.

He served as a cabinet minister in the Arjun Munda government starting from 2010. He continued his ministerial roles in Hemant Soren's cabinets in 2013 and 2019, respectively.

Champai from Jilinggora village in Rajnagar block of Seraikela began his political journey by actively participating in the statehood movement in the early eighties alongside JMM patriarch Shibu Soren. Known as the "Kolhan Tiger" for his warrior-like skills during the

SOREN'S 10 ED SUMMONSES

Aug 8, 2023: ED issues first summons to Hemant Soren in Ranchi land scam case. CM asks ED to withdraw summons, warns of legal action

Aug 19, 2023: Second summons, told to appear on Aug 24. CM challenges summons in SC

Sept 1, 2023: Third summons, told to appear on Sept 9. CM gives it a miss, saying matter is in SC

Sept 18, 2023: Fourth summons, told to appear on Sept 23. CM challenges in Jharkhand HC

Oct 26, 2023: Fifth summons, told to appear on Oct 4. CM's advocate writes to ED, asking it to desist from taking coercive actions

Dec 11, 2023: Sixth summons, told to appear on Dec 12. CM leaves Ranchi to attend a programme in Dumka. He sends a letter to ED, claiming agency was trying to tarnish his image

Dec 30, 2023: Seventh summons, asked to appear in seven days. CM again gives it a miss



ED officials at the residence of ex-Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren in Ranchi on Wednesday

Jan 13, 2024: Eighth summons, asking Soren to record statement between Jan 16 and 20. ED records statement for 7 hours at his Ranchi home on Jan 20

Jan 22, 2024: Ninth summons; asks Soren to record statement between Jan 27 and 31. CM sends letter, saying he would inform date and place later

Jan 27, 2024: Tenth summons; asks Soren to specify date/place. Else, ED will come to him

Jan 29, 2024: ED reaches Soren's home in Delhi and Jharkhand Bhawan, reportedly confiscates cash and a luxury car parked at his Delhi residence

Jan 29, 2024: CM writes to ED, agreeing to be present in his Ranchi home on Jan 31

statehood agitation, he is respected by politicians and entrepreneurs alike.

Champai, the eldest of four siblings, is married to Manko and is a father of seven children. His father Simal was a farmer and mother Mado was a homemaker. Though educated only up to matriculation, he has been a fervent advocate for tribal

rights and a notable trade union leader, spearheading successful movements in Jamshedpur and Adityapur.

Suresh Sonthalia, former president of Singhbhum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), said he anticipates significant progress under Champai's leadership, given Kolhan's industrial landscape.

Suspense over gov's next move keeps J'khand on edge

ASRP.Mukesh@timesgroup.com

Ranchi: With chief minister Hemant Soren tendering his resignation on Wednesday evening, the fate of Jharkhand's governing coalition now rests in the hands of governor C P Radhakrishnan. The Raj Bhavan house confirmed the acceptance of Soren's resignation, but did not reveal its next move, even as the ruling combine is confident of its majority.

The JMM-Congress-RJD combine also submitted a letter to the governor, proposing the name of Seraikela MLA and rural development minister Champai Soren as the new leader of the coalition. "The ball is now in the Raj Bhavan's court," state Congress president Rajesh Thakur told TOI outside the governor house.

The ruling combine, however, is confident of continuing in office. As the news of Soren's arrest broke, the three coalition partners transported their MLAs to the Raj Bhavan in three buses to showcase their majority in the 81-member assembly. The governor, however, turned them away, citing lack of prior appointment.

Minutes later, at about 8.15pm, Soren drove in his carcade, reportedly accompanied by the ED sleuths, to submit his resignation. He was flanked by Champai and Congress MLA Alamgir



JMM supporters protest against ED officials in Ranchi on Wednesday

Oppn goes into huddle; Sonia, Pawar join in

In the wake of the arrest of JMM chief and Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren, top opposition leaders met on Wednesday night to take stock of the developments, reports Subodh Ghildiyal. NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, DMK leader TR Baalu and CPM leader Sitaram Yechury met at the residence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for a discussion.

The concern in the opposition camp is ensuring the safety of the Jharkhand government, worried as they are that BJP would try to poach the MLAs of JMM as well as the allies. Besides, the possible ED action against other opposition leaders like RJD's Tejashwi Yadav is also a matter of concern. The action on opposition leaders may have a serious bearing on the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. The defection of JDU chief and Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar from the opposition to the BJP camp has jolted the opposition. "There is little that the opposition can do, but the INDIA parties can try to beef up their defences and also plan the future counter political action," a source said.

Alam, among others.

JMM MP Mahua Majhi said they were not worried about government's fate, as they had the required numbers. "The Raj Bhavan must take a quick decision on the change of guard," she added. Jamshedpur East's Inde-

pendent MLA Saryu Roy, however, said in a post on X: "After Hemant Soren's resignation and non-appointment of any new CM or caretaker CM, President's Rule is imminent in the state, even if for a brief period till final announcement is made."

'Huge govt aid for AMU indicator of status'

Dhananjay.Mahapatra@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Union government has provided Rs 5,467 crore during 2019-23 to meet almost the entire expenses of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), senior advocate Guru Krishna Kumar told the Supreme Court Wednesday and asked whether it has received such large funds from the Centre had it been a minority-aided institution.

Appearing for one of the original petitioners before the Allahabad HC which had in 2006 quashed AMU's decision to provide 50% reservation to Muslims in PG medical courses, Kumar took a bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justice

AMU received Rs 5,467 cr during 2019-23, while Delhi University got Rs 2,709 cr during the same period. Would it have received so much from the Centre had it been a minority-aided institution, asked senior advocate GK Kumar

es Sanjiv Khanna, Surya Kant, J B Pardiwala, Dipankar Datta, Manoj Misra and Satish C Sharma that the grant to Delhi University during the same period was Rs 2,709 crore or less than 50% of the allocation to AMU. He said as AMU has been consistently described, both by framers of the Constitution and subsequent government, as an institution of excellence and national importance, it belonged to every citizen of India and cannot be de-

the giving up of minority status by the patrons of the movement lobbying for the university, and the consistent stand of successive governments that it is not a minority institution under Article 30 of the Constitution couldn't have been obliterated by Parliament in 1981 through an amendment to AMU Act, 1920.

In rejoinder, senior advocate Rajeev Dhawan said it is a historical fact Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College was established and managed by Muslims and it formed the nucleus of AMU. Its assets and liabilities were made part of AMU, he said, arguing that this indicates AMU was a continuation of MAO and hence must get minority status.

While accusing the Enforcement Directorate of disgressing from the main case in questioning, he had rubbished the charges of owning the plot of land in which the ED is investigating the money laundering aspect.

It's rape only if consent obtained by fraud: SC

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Observing that the offence of rape is made out if it is established that the consent by the victim was a result of a false promise to marry, the Supreme Court quashed the criminal proceedings against a man after noting that there was consensual relationship as they got engaged which was also accepted by the woman who filed a rape case.

Seeking quashing of case, the accused alleged that the complainant was his legally wedded wife which was denied by her. The complainant, however, accepted that they got engaged in 2017 after six years of relationship and a child was born out of it.

MP govt leaves rape survivor in the lurch

A child gang rape survivor and her family have been left in the lurch by Madhya Pradesh government, which promised to take care of her education but has not paid her fees for the past four years, reports Litha Achari. The private school in Indore — where the survivor and her elder sister were admitted by government in 2018 — has sent a Rs 14 lakh dues notice to the Indore collector and district education department, with a copy sent to the family for 'information'. Then CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan had announced that MP government would bear her educational expenses but the school said it has not received any payment since 2019.

After examining the contentions of both, a bench of Abhay S Oka and Pankaj Mishra came to the conclusion that it was a consensual relationship and it was not a case of false promise of marriage. Allowing the plea, the court quashed the criminal proceedings in the case. "The fact that they

were engaged was admitted by the second respondent (lady). The fact that in 2011, the appellant proposed to her and in 2017, there was engagement is accepted by the second respondent. In fact, she participated in the engagement ceremony without any protest. However, she has denied that her mar-

riage was solemnised with the appellant," the bench said.

"The appellant has accepted that the second respondent is his legally wedded wife and the child born to the second respondent is his child. We, therefore, propose to direct the appellant to pay a sum of Rs 5 lakh to the second respondent. This will be without prejudice to the right of the second respondent to claim maintenance for herself and for her daughter from the appellant in accordance with law. We propose to direct that the amount of Rs.10,00,000/- already deposited by the appellant with the HC shall be invested appropriately till the child attains majority," the bench said.

Kerala's PC George merges party with BJP before LS polls

New Delhi: Ahead of Lok Sabha polls, Kerala Janapaksham (Secular) chief P C George merged his party with BJP on Wednesday. George along with his son Shaun and other Kerala Janapaksham (Secular) leaders joined BJP in the presence of saffron party's in-charge for political affairs in Kerala Prakash Javadekar and other senior leaders.



"We are very delighted to welcome Kerala Janapaksham (Secular) leaders P C George, Shaun George and George Joseph," Javadekar said at a press conference at BJP headquarters.

Along with George, BJP national secretary Anil Antony, Union ministers V Muralidharan and Rajeev Chandrasekhar were also present at the press conference.

BJP chief J P Nadda took to X to welcome Kerala Janapaksham (Secular) leaders into the party fold and said he was confident that George and his associates would work for the development of Kerala and the nation.

"I welcome senior Kerala leader Shri PC George, along with Shaun George Ji and members of his party, Janapaksham (Secular), into BJP family," Nadda said.

"I am confident that, under the able leadership and guidance of Hon. PM Narendra Modi ji, you will work towards strengthening our endeavour of serving the people of Kerala and working for Kerala and nation's development," he added.

Javadekar described George as "a fiery speaker & a great Catholic Diocese leader".

REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS CENTRE, U.P.
(An autonomous organization under Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of U.P.)
Sector-G, Jankipuram, Kursi Road, Lucknow-226021 (U.P.)
Ph: 2730451, 2730815, Fax: 0522-2730535, Email: director.rsacup@govt.in

REQUIRES SCIENTIST/ENGINEER/ACADEMICIAN FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR

Remote Sensing Applications Centre, U.P. is an autonomous organization of Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of U.P. and registered under Societies Registration Act of 1860. The Centre is engaged in carrying out R & D and operational projects related to application of Geo-spatial techniques (Remote Sensing, GIS, GPS, LIDAR/ Bathymetric etc.) in the study of entire gamut of natural resources.

The job requires overall scientific guidance and supervision besides Administrative and Financial management of different scientific and other activities of the Centre. Applications are invited for appointment to the Post of Director from Scientists/Engineers/Academicians of repute with following essential and desirable qualifications and experience.

Essential Qualification & Experience:

- First Class Master Degree in any discipline of Natural Science or Engineering (preferably Ph.D.) with minimum 20 years of working experience in applications of Remote Sensing & GIS domain.
- The above mentioned essential experience in both the cases include minimum 5 years experience of higher level administrative responsibilities, managerial experience in project planning formulation & evaluation.

Desirable:

- Candidate working at the level of Scientist-SG (Level-13A) or equivalent.
- The retirement age will be 60 years.
- The candidate should be between 48-57 years of age as on 01-01-2024.
- The post will be governed by State Government Rules, as applicable in Uttar Pradesh Government.
- The relaxation in age and qualification for the reserved candidates will be applicable as per State Government Rules.
- The selected candidate will be placed in Level-14 (as per VII Pay Commission).

General Conditions:

- The re-advertisement should be considered as a fresh advertisement but candidates who had applied in 11.03.2023 advertisement will be considered in this and as such need not to apply again.

The applications under registered post with date of birth and full details of qualifications, experience, achievements, present post held, responsibility & scale of pay with self attested copies alongwith list of Publications, should reach the Administrative Officer, Remote Sensing Applications Centre, U.P., Sector-G, Jankipuram, Kursi Road, Lucknow-226021 on or before 03.03.2024. Candidates called for interview will be paid one side Air Fair/ Rail Fair as per their entitlement, subject to presentation of documentary proof. Candidates already employed need to submit their applications through proper channel.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

NATIONAL RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
20-22, Zamrudpur Community Centre, Kailash Colony
Extension New Delhi 110048; Phone: +91 11 29240401-07
Email: write2@nrdc.in; Website: <http://www.nrdcindia.com>

Advt. No. 07/2023-24

NRDC is a PSE under DSIR, MoST, Govt with a mandate to commercialize technologies emanating from R&D Organizations. NRDC invites applications for two posts of **Consultants (Engineers) for Ministry of Heavy Industries Project on contractual basis.**

For eligibility criteria and other conditions, please see the detailed advertisement on NRDC website www.nrdcindia.com. Candidates should send their applications by post or through email to jobs@nrdc.in on or before 16 February 2024 to: **The Manager (P&A), National Research Development Corporation, 20-22 Zamrudpur Community Centre, Kailash Colony Extension, New Delhi 110048.** CBC 36206/12/0016/2324

Government of Rajasthan
Office of the Chairman,
D.M / M.Ch / M.D. / M.S. /
Other candidate's Allotment Board-2023
RUHS College of Dental Sciences,
Subhash Nagar, Behind T.B. Hospital, Jaipur | Phone: 0141-2280090
<https://medicaleducation.rajasthan.gov.in/me/home/dptHome>
www.rajmedicoallotments.com
No. State Allotments Board / 2023/312 Dated: 31-01-2024

NOTIFICATION

D.M. / M.Ch candidate's allotment to Serve State Govt. on contractual basis for limited duration.

Refer the order dated 12.07.2022, 27.09.2022 and 28.08.2023 of Department of Medical Education and letter dated 01.09.2023 issued by the Directorate of Medical Education, Government of Rajasthan. The NEET SS 2020 batch candidates are hereby informed that allotment to post/ seats of Assistant Professor / SR will be conducted off-line on 17.02.2024 as per the schedule available at the above website.

The concerned candidates are advised to visit the website regularly for updates and other relevant information.

Chairman
D.M / M.Ch / M.D. / M.S. /
Other candidate's Allotment Board-2023

IIMC granted deemed univ status, can now offer degrees

New Delhi: The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), a 58-year-old institution known for its journalism and mass communication courses, has been declared by the ministry of education, on the advice of University Grants Commission, as a deemed to be university under distinct category on Wednesday, reports Manash Gohain.

The declaration extends to IIMC New Delhi and its five regional campuses located in Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir), Amravati (Maharashtra), Aizawl (Mizoram), Kottayam (Kerala) and Dhenkanal (Odisha). With this new status, IIMC is now authorised to offer degrees, including doctoral degrees.

The institute was established under the Union ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Aug 17, 1965 and is one of the premier institutions of its kind in the country, providing quality training in journalism and undertaking meaningful research in the field of media and mass communication. The institute currently offers Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism Courses in English, Hindi, Radio and TV, Urdu, Odia, Marathi, Malayalam and Advertising and Public Relations.

ARUN JAITLEY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (AJNIFM)
SECTOR-48, PALI ROAD, FARIDABAD
(An Autonomous Institution under Ministry of Finance)

Department of Expenditure-AJNIFM: Procurement Research Centre

Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM) invites applications for engagement to the position of Part Time Consultant(s) to do data driven research.

Interested candidate may visit <https://www.ajnifm.ac.in/sites/default/files/vacancy/advertisementparttimeconsultant.pdf>. The last date is **18.02.2024**.

Chief Administrative Officer

DELHI STATE INDUSTRIAL & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
N-36, Bombay Life Building, Connaught Circus, New Delhi-110001
Tel: +91-11-20810067-69 (Extn. 171/131), website: www.dsiidc.org

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM INVESTORS FOR ALLOTMENT OF PLOTS FOR DATA CENTRES AT RANI KHERRA AND OKHLA INDUSTRIAL AREAS

DSIIDC seeks Expression of Interest for utilization of vacant land parcels at Rani Kherra and Okhla Industrial Areas exclusively for setting up of Data Centres. The permitted land use is 'Industrial' with permitted FAR of 200, without any height restriction.

The interested parties may submit required information like size of plot, period of lease, facilities required at the site, support required from DSIIDC/Govt. of NCT of Delhi and any other relevant information as per the format available on DSIIDC website www.dsiidc.org, by post/ e-mail to Executive Engineer (CD-23), Room No.-104, First Floor Hall, Technical Centre Building, DSIIDC, Wazirpur Industrial Area, Delhi - 110052, Ph: +91 9911118515, e-mail: cpmmhln@gmail.com by 02.03.2024

Sd/-
EE (CD-23)

Bihar State Power Generation Company Limited
5th Floor, Viduyt Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna - 800 021
Website: <https://bspgcl.bihar.gov.in> Email ID: chiefengineerbspgcl@gmail.com
CIN: U40102BR20125GCO18888

Notice Inviting Tender

NIT No. 01/PR/BSGCL/2024

Description of work	EMD	Tender Document Cost (inc.GST)	Bid Processing Fee
PROCUREMENT OF SOLAR POWER FROM GRID CONNECTED 02 MW TO 10 MW AC CAPACITY SOLAR PV POWER PROJECT (GROUND MOUNTED WITH RAISED STRUCTURE OVER POND) TO BE CONSTRUCTED UNDER RESCO MODE ON PRIVATE POND THROUGH TARIFF-BASED COMPETITIVE BIDDING FOR TOTAL CUMULATIVE CAPACITY OF 10 MW (AC).	Rs. 5 Lakhs/MW as per the capacity to be quoted by the bidder	Rs. 25,000/- + GST @ 18% (non-refundable)	As per Eproc2.

Start Date of Online Sale of Tender Documents: 12.02.2024 15:00 Hrs. onwards
At 11.00 Hrs on 20.02.2024, Venue: Conference Hall, 5th floor Viduyt Bhawan, Patna-800021

Pre-Bid Meeting Date (Physical & Online): Upto 14:00 Hrs. of 05.03.2024

Last Date of Online Sale of Tender document: Upto 16:00 Hrs. of 05.03.2024

Last Date of Submission of Original EMD: Upto 16:00 Hrs. of 05.03.2024

Last Date of Online Submission of Tender: Upto 16:00 Hrs. of 05.03.2024

Date of Opening of Techno-Commercial Part (Part-I): 17:00 Hrs. onwards on 05.03.2024

Date of Opening of Financial Part (Part-II): To be intimated to the eligible bidders through e-mail.

Online E-Reverse Auction Request Schedule: E-Reverse Auction schedule will be communicated after completion of evaluation of Financial Bid (Part-II). The qualified bidders will be invited accordingly.

(i) Contact No. 7763813863. (ii) E-mail id: chiefengineerbspgcl@gmail.com
For further details please visit: www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdibihar **Chief Engineer, BSPGCL**

PR-016375 (B & C) 2023-24 Working Hours: 8AM to 7PM (All days in week except Sunday and few selected state holidays)

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

BIHAR INDUSTRIAL AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
FIRST FLOOR, UDYOG BHAWAN, EAST GANDHI MAIDAN, PATNA-800 004
Website: www.biadabihar.in, Email: biada@rediffmail.com Phone: 0612-2675938/2675991/2675889 (fax)2675296

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

For Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Firm/Agency/Supplier for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Different Machines for BIADA MEGA LEATHER FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES CLUSTER at I/A Mahwal, Motpur Bihar.

NIT No. -21/BIADA/2023-2024 (Through e-procurement mode only - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

The Agency jointly should work with BIADA for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of different Machines for BIADA MEGA LEATHER FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES CLUSTER at I/A Mahwal, Motpur Bihar.

Sl. No.	Description of Items	Date & Time
1	Start and Last Date for Downloading of Tender Documents	19.02.2024 to 07.03.2024, 10:00 AM
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date, Time, & Place	26.02.2024, 3:00 PM at BIHAR INDUSTRIAL AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FIRST FLOOR, UDYOG BHAWAN, EAST GANDHI MAIDAN, PATNA-800 004
3	Last Date & Time of submission of Tenders online	08.03.2024 from 05:00 pm
4	Last Date, Time & Place for Submission of Hard Copy of Sealed Tender Documents to BIADA Office	11.03.2024, 03:00 PM at Technical Section BIHAR INDUSTRIAL AREA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FIRST FLOOR, UDYOG BHAWAN, EAST GANDHI MAIDAN, PATNA - 800 004
5	Technical Bid Opening Date, Time & Place	11.03.2024 from 03:30 PM
6	Financial Bid Opening Date Time Place	After Evaluation of Technical Bid
7	Validity Period of Tender	180 Days

Sl. No.	Estimated Amount	Rate	EMD Money (Rs)	Tender Fee (Rs)	Processing of tender fees online to BSEDCL	Work Complete on time (in months)
1	Supply, installation, Testing and Commissioning of different Machines for BIADA MEGA LEATHER FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES CLUSTER at I/A Mahwal, Motpur Bihar	Rs. 18,07,128.00	Rs. 17,00,000	11,000.00 (including 18% GST)	As appears on eproc2.bihar.gov.in/	6 Months

For participating in E-tendering process, the contractor shall have to get themselves registered to get user ID, Password and Digital signature. This will enable them to access the website on <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/> and download / participate in E-tender. All tender queries related to this tender shall be communicated at www.biadabihar.in.

Detailed conditions and necessary information of the tender can be contacted in the office of Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority, DGM (Technical), Patna during the working hours and can also be seen on the office's notice board, BIADA website www.biadabihar.in/ and website of eproc <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/>. For any kind of information related to the process of e-tendering, E-Procurement Helpdesk Address: Mjunction services limited, RJ Complex, 2nd Floor, Canara Bank Campus, Khajpura, Ashiana Road, P.S. - Shastri Nagar, Patna 800014, Bihar, Toll Free Number: 1800 572 65

For further details please visit: www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdibihar **DGM (Technical)**
PR-016399 (B & C) 2023-24
BIADA Patna

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

Govt. of Bihar

South Bihar Power Distribution Co. Ltd, Patna Bihar
Registered Office: Viduyt Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-21
A Govt. of Bihar undertaking
CIN No. U40109BR20125GCO18890
(Department of Stores & Purchase)
Short Tender Notice
NIT No. 18/PR/SBPDC/2024
(Through e-procurement mode only - www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

South Bihar Power Distribution Co. Ltd. (SBPDC), a Government of Bihar Undertaking, invites online tender for procurement of 33 KV 400 mm² XLPE UG Cable for SBPDC in Two-tier (Techno-Commercial & Price) online bid from eligible and experienced Original Manufacturer as detailed below:-

NIT No.	Name of material	Quantity, in KM	Cost of tender Documents including GST@18%, Rs	Estimated Cost including Ex-works, freight & GST@18%, Rs.	Earnest Money Deposit, Rs.
18/PR/SBP DCL/ 2024	33 KV 400 mm ² XLPE UG Cable	40	23,600/-	12,77,66,400/-	22,78,000/-

The Time line for the above tender is as follows:

Last Date of Online Submission of bid along with Tender Cost & processing fees:	13.02.2024, up to 18:00 Hrs
Last Date of submission of EMD and hard copy of receipt of BSEDCL processing fee & tender cost	15.02.2024, up to 15:00 Hrs
Date of opening of Techno-Commercial bid (Part-I)	15.02.2024, after 17:00 Hrs
Date of Pre Bid Meeting:	07.02.2024, at 11:00 Hrs Venue: SBPDC, Viduyt Bhawan, Patna

For further details please visit: www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdibihar

PR. No. 016343 (B & C) 2023-24 **Electrical Superintending Engineer**
नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार। (Purchase)

बिहार सरकार
योजना एवं विकास विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-01 बेतिया
पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या - SBD 02/2023-24
(केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

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

1. कार्य की विवरणी :-

क्र. संख्या	कार्य का नाम	परिमाण विवरण की राशि (लाख रु में)	अध्ययन की राशि (ऑन लाईन मॉड या ऑफ लाईन मॉड में केवल B.G. के रूप में) (लाख रु में)	परिमाण-विवरण का मूल्य (अप्रत्यक्षीय केवल ऑनलाइन मॉड में भुगतान) (रुपय में)	बीड प्रोसेसिंग मूल्य (अप्रत्यक्षीय केवल ऑनलाइन मॉड में भुगतान) (रुपय में)	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि (माह में)
01.	02	03	04	05	06	07
1	परिमाण विवरण जिला के मंडल/विभाग प्रमुख के दस्तावेज परसोच पंचायत के सुअरक्षण में धाना -456, खाना-34 खेसरा-761, रकबा 50 बीड में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	311.64748	6.23300	10000.00	According to eproc2 web page	14 माह
2	परिमाण विवरण जिला के मंडल/विभाग प्रमुख के दस्तावेज परसोच पंचायत के विद्युत् सुअरक्षण में धाना -200, खाना-279, खेसरा-628 / 1, रकबा 50 बीड में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	306.53306	6.13100	10000.00	According to eproc2 web page	14 माह
3	परिमाण विवरण जिला के मंडल/विभाग प्रमुख के दस्तावेज परसोच पंचायत के रतनमाला धाना -207, खाना-20, खेसरा-2572, रकबा 50 बीड में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	307.07797	6.14200	10000.00	According to eproc2 web page	14 माह
4	परिमाण विवरण जिला के मंडल/विभाग प्रमुख के दस्तावेज परसोच पंचायत के भवनाथ धाना -210, खाना-4, खेसरा-891 / 1, रकबा 50 बीड में पंचायत सरकार भवन का निर्माण कार्य।	307.49326	6.15000	10000.00	According to eproc2 web page	14 माह

2. विभाजन निर्गत करने की तिथि :- दिनांक -24.01.2024

3. निविदा कामजात अपलोड करने की प्रारम्भिक की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 09.02.2024 को 10:00 बजे पूर्वाह्न से। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

4. प्री-बीड मीटिंग का समय, स्थान एवं तिथि :- दिनांक 12.02.2024 समय 3:30 बजे, मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, विद्येश्वरधरा मठ, चतुर्थ तल, कमरा नं०-423, बेली रोड, पटना-800015

5. निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 16.02.2024 समय 3:00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

6. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- दिनांक 19.02.2024 समय 3:30 बजे अपराह्न से। (कठिना 5 में उल्लेखित अंतिम तिथि से दो कार्य दिवस के पश्चात् की तिथि)। (सिर्फ वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

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

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

9. निविदा की कैला अवधि :- 120 दिन (निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि के बाद) कार्यपालक अभियंता, स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन प्रमंडल, कार्य प्रमंडल-01 बेतिया।

विस्तृत जानकारी www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdibihar पर देखी जा सकती है।

PR-16143 (Planning) 2023-24 कार्यपालक अभियंता
स्थानीय क्षेत्र अभियंत्रण संगठन, कार्य प्रमंडल-01 बेतिया।
नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

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Phone: 0612-2675933, 2675935, Fax no-2675934

अति अल्पाकालीन पुनर्निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या-16/TEN/IDA/24
समुचित श्रेणी में निबंधित संवेदकों से प्रतिशत दर / मद्द दर निविदा (केवल ई-टेंडर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाइट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in के माध्यम से)

1. विभाजन/कार्य का विवरण एवं ताल	कार्यपालक अभियंता (Tech), आन्ध्रप्रदेश संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, पूर्वी मैदान के मूल, पटना-800004
2. निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 06.02.2024 से 12.02.2024 को 17:00 बजे तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
3. प्री-बीड मीटिंग की तिथि, समय एवं स्थान	दिनांक 09.02.2024 को 15:00 बजे आन्ध्रप्रदेश संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, पूर्वी मैदान के मूल, पटना।
4. निविदा अपलोड करने की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 13.02.2024 को 17:00 बजे तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
5. अग्रपान राशि की मूल प्रतिशत अथवा इलेक्ट्रॉनिक प्रणाली का नाम	दिनांक 15.02.2024 को 15:00 बजे तक पीपीसीए शाखा, आन्ध्रप्रदेश संरचना विकास प्राधिकार, प्रथम तल, उद्योग भवन, पूर्वी मैदान के मूल पटना-800004
6. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	दिनांक 15.02.2024 को 15:30 बजे तक (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
7. वित्तीय बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	तकनीकी बीड के निष्पत्ति के पश्चात्। (on website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)
8. निविदा कैला की अवधि	120 दिन
9. कार्य का विवरण :-	

विस्तृत जानकारी state.bihar.gov.in/prdibihar से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।
PR-016402 (B & C) 2023-24 कार्यपालक अभियंता (तकनीकी)
नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Cabinet Secretariat Department
(Directorate of Civil Aviation)
Patna Airport, Patna - 800014.
TEL. No- 0612-2225659, 2224423
Fax 0612 2224614, e-mail: cadbihar@bihar.gov.in

Letter. No: CBN(Misc.)-05-32/2023

CORRIGENDUM
(PR.No.011352 (Cabinet)/2023-24, PR.No.014467 (Cabinet Secretariat)/2023-24 & PR.No.015569 (Cabinet Secretariat) 2023-24)

CHANGE IN LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF EOI

With reference to our Expression of Interest (EOI) Ref. No.- PR.No.011352 (Cabinet)/2023-24 published on date 05.11.2023 for Purchasing a brand new Twin Turbine Engine Helicopter.

Due to unavoidable circumstances:-

We hereby revise last date of submission of Expression of Interest (EOI) to 29.02.2024 at 05:00 PM.

Participants are requested to contact Director, Operation (8757894141).

Alternatively, interested and qualified agencies may send their queries through mail cadbihar@bihar.gov.in.

For detailed notification or further updates, kindly visit the following website; www.state.bihar.gov.in/csd

Other terms and conditions of the tender published in PR.No.011352 (Cabinet)/2023-24 will remain unchanged.

This bears approval of the Add. Chief Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat Department. This information is available on www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdibihar also

(Nishith Verma)
Director, Operation

PR. No. 016500 (CSD) 2023-24
नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

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Knowledge Partner
(9-15 yrs of experience)

Non-Technical Positions
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Project Officer

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2. Post Graduate degree in Science/ Computer Application/MBA
3. ME/M.Tech or equivalent degree
4. Ph.D.

Qualification

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A thought for today

Indian fiscal federalism is under stress, in the sense that the trust in institutional arrangements and the manner in which they work is under stress

VV REDDY

Mission Federalism

16th Finance Commission will have to find a fair way through high intensity GOI-states fiscal disputes

Sixteenth Finance Commission's work is set to get started following yesterday's announcement of its members. Commission's terms of reference were set out in December along with the appointment of economist Arvind Panagariya as its chairman.

Federalism's lynchpin | As an institutional arrangement, finance commissions are at the heart of India's federal architecture. Mandated by the Constitution, FCs are primarily meant to recommend a division of resources between GOI and states. In the process, they also set out how the resources that flow to states from GOI are to be distributed among them. GOI's budget arithmetic is influenced by an FC's recommendations. This makes FCs more important in resource transfers, even if it is budgets that hog attention.

Two asymmetries | Expenditures incurred by states as a percentage of GDP are greater than that of GOI. However, administrative efficiency, GOI is empowered to raise most of the taxes. It leads to vertical asymmetry in India's federal system. Separately, states are very different in terms of financial needs and capabilities. Addressing these two asymmetries smoothly determines how harmonious a federal system is.

Limited ToR | FCs function according to terms of reference (ToR) they are given. 16th FC has a limited ToR compared to its predecessor's. 15th FC was given three terms that determined the incentive structure underpinning grants given to states. That level of detailing is missing in ToRs for this FC. It's not unusual for FCs to be given ToRs halfway through their functioning. Therefore, there's a possibility the current ToRs will be expanded.

Data gaps, delimitation fears | 16th FC will function against the backdrop of inadequate data and political anxiety among southern states about the possibility of delimitation of parliamentary seats. A delay in conducting 2021 Census deprives this FC of valuable data, particularly a recent baseline for population projections. While delimitation is unrelated to an FC's remit, politics around it is unlikely to leave 16th FC untouched. It will require deft handling as FCs are far too important to be ensnared in political cross-currents.

FCs make their recommendations after extensive consultation with both GOI and states. FC's functioning over the next 21 months before the October 2025 deadline will make it a real-time experiment in federalism. It's critical that its effort is seen as being even-handed.



Keep The Faith

Chandigarh mayoral election raises questions. HC must decide on the matter quickly

Punjab & Haryana HC, which immediately heard AAP's allegation of vote tampering by presiding officer during counting process of Chandigarh's mayoral election, has given UT's municipality and administration, in charge of conducting the mayoral poll, three weeks to respond. By Indian judiciary's clock, that's like an early date.

Don't drag this | Arvind Kejriwal has held INDIA would have won had 8 votes not been declared invalid. Losing parties raising a storm is routine, but widely shared doubts on any poll process is damaging. So, given questions on the mayoral polls' integrity, three weeks is perhaps too long a wait. Official recording of counting process was surely done. That can be made available for perusal almost immediately.

No poll is minor | Urban local body (ULB) and even mayoral polls are turning contentious. Chandigarh's controversial Jan 30 mayoral election comes almost a year after Delhi's fraught one, which was finally held in a fourth attempt after Supreme Court stepped in. Even in Chandigarh, HC decided on Jan 30 for the election after it was put off once. In Maharashtra, too, at least 24 of 28 municipalities are without elected representatives, and no ULB election has been held in almost two years.

India's calling card | Trust in India's election process is at the core of successful elections since 1951-52. Political parties are key stakeholders. Multiple CECs have time and again reiterated their "business is of maintaining trust". Faith in free and fair elections incentivises parties and voters; India's multipolar party system has taken shape basis election-process integrity. No system is foolproof - corrective measures are taken when malpractices come to light. This time should be no different. Counting of 30 paper ballots took no time, settling the dispute should not take months.



Padma BhUSHAN

The R-Day award was overdue but I'm still over the moon

Bachi Karkaria

Maybe I'm biased, but surely not alone in saying that no one deserved Padma Bhushan more than Usha Uthup. The news was so 'Like a Wow!' Indeed, like her soar from nightclub singer to the high octaves of sarkari recognition. No, not like her voice. That doesn't climb, it plummets deep down below - from where her gut is.

And, 54 years on, still gets your heart, pulse and feet a-thumping from the very first throaty, smoky note. Correction: even before she goes into her self-deprecating pre-patter about why she's taken to wearing long sari blouses, 'because those photographers always choose that unflattering angle.' All she has to do is step on stage in her trademark Conjeevaram, and a roar rises and shakes the rafters. Yes, like her voice.

So let me tell you why I love Usha. 'Coz, she's been there from my teenaged stomps at Trinca's, and will be till my replaced knees give way. 'Coz she's stayed with her style - sartorial and singing - neither of which sprang from a brand manager's paisa-pocked brain. 'Coz, she's the only person who gets the audience dancing at a litfest - or anywhere. If Usha's there, she'll agree to belt it out. And elevate the evening. Or salvage it, like when the lead guy of the billed act at a Cal club was too stoned to hold a note. Rashtrapati Bhavan's prim Durbar Hall? Ummm, na. But somewhere on the sidelines? Ji, hanth.

'Coz, she's the most generous person I know. From bearing no rancour for Bollywood not finding her sexy enough to lustily naming her friends in the audience to showering me with saris and upcycling my keds too with her signature silk. All she wants in return is 'brun pao from Bombay', a reminder of growing up in police quarters of Byeulla. Elvis - or Freddie - can leave the building, Usha'll rock you.

Alec Smart said: "Why 'in'terim Budget? 'Coz this govt will be out - and in."



erratica

Pak Set For Another Selection

Army managed Pakistan polls 5 years back & got Imran in. Now he's been put in jail & Nawaz is army's choice. One more IMF bailout looms

Ajay Bisaria



Pakistan's general election, scheduled for Feb 8, is possibly the most predictable one in its troubled history. It comes at a chaotic time when the country is dealing with a severe polycrisis, riddled with security, economic and political challenges.

Imran bowled out | Imran Khan had proclaimed from jail that the polls would represent 'mother of all selections'. He should know, he was a beneficiary five years ago. Pak army has levelled the field for PML-N by 'selecting' Nawaz Sharif while putting Imran behind bars, reversing the position from 2018 when an angry Nawaz, removed from office in 2017, watched Imran's crowning from prison.

Nawaz back in favour | Level-playing field in Pakistan now implies levelling Imran and his PTI to the ground to allow Nawaz an easy glidepath to being Pak army's junior partner in governance. The former cricket hero had his bat, his party's election symbol, snatched from him and now has been 'clean bowled' twice in succession with hastily assembled courts sentencing him to 10 years for leaking secrets and 14 for accepting illegal gifts. PTI has also been dismantled with several reprogrammed 'electables' propped up as independent candidates. Army's message to voters, who appeared to overwhelmingly favour Imran, is clearly that they should only choose from options on offer.

Zardari jockeying too | PPP, unlikely to make inroads beyond Sindh, is being primed to accept the position of junior coalition partner, even though Zardari is said to be negotiating a maximalist demand of getting himself the job of President and Bilawal Bhutto that of PM. The hybrid-plus government headed by Shehbaz Sharif in 2022-23

may become the model for a hybrid-double-plus government, with rivals PML-N and PPP compelled to share power again in an uncertain coalition guided by Pak army.

Master puppeteer | For Pak army running domestic politics is an easier wargame than dealing with security challenges or salvaging the economy. In a tepid campaign for elections a week away, perfunctory and belatedly announced manifestoes of major parties inspire little confidence. PML-N is positioning itself as the party that will address the economic crisis but demonstrating no resolve to undertake the deep structural reforms required. No party has dared address the elephant in the room viz keeping Pak army away from politics or pledging to halt use of Pakistan's soil for terrorism against neighbours. Army chief Asim Munir has taken a more 'supreme leader' posture with an expansive trip to US and tough pronouncements on domestic platforms.

Strike, counter-strike | The latest security crisis followed a familiar template. A militant group within Pakistan struck a neighbour that struck back with an airstrike targeting a terrorist sanctuary within Pakistan. Envoys of both countries were pulled into their home capitals as tensions mounted. Within days Pakistan launched its own retaliatory airstrikes to 'establish deterrence'. Diplomats soon returned to their stations. This was the story of Iran's action in Balochistan this month. It could well have been one of India's in Balakot five years ago. In this year's edition, when Iran launched airstrikes on Sunni radical group Jaish-al Adl, Pakistan retaliated in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province. Even as Pakistani analysts are hastening to make the distinction that Iran is a brotherly Islamic nation while India remains the forever adversary, they are aware that other countries are also exasperated by terrorist sanctuaries within Pakistan.

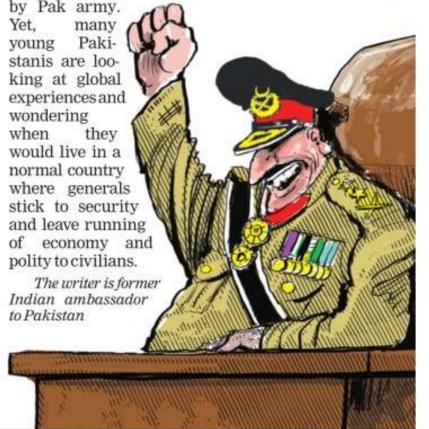
Pak Frankenstein's monster | It was in fact US that was first to enter Pakistan in hot pursuit of terrorists in 2011 when it eliminated Osama bin Laden. That action came amidst a robust drone war US ran from 2004 to target terrorist sanctuaries in Af-Pak region. While three of its neighbours and US have reached the end of their patience with terror sanctuaries, Pakistan is currently grappling with snakes reared in its own backyard.

Snake's pit | Pakistan can ill-afford opening another front to the west with Iran while it is engaged with containing brutal attacks by Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan on Afghan border. TTP problem itself is coalescing with the larger Pashtun and Baloch movements against Pak army. This spells a distracting security nightmare for an army that needs all its bandwidth to engineer elections and to put a favoured candidate in saddle in a new hybrid regime.

Tanking economy | Most critical element of the polycrisis is the economic meltdown Pakistan faces with inflation close to 40%, growing deficits, absent investment, stunted growth and mounting public anger. All this will require the new civilian regime to start knocking on IMF's door for a grim 24th bailout programme from June 2024.

Cursed democracy | Pakistan has been unlucky with elections. The only truly free election in its history, in 1970, led to the country's break-up. The current mood is sombre, resigned acceptance of outcomes managed by Pak army. Yet, many young Pakistanis are looking at global experiences and wondering when they would live in a normal country where generals stick to security and leave running of economy and polity to civilians.

The writer is former Indian ambassador to Pakistan



Will Neuralink-Like Science Lead To Mind Control?

Musk's long-term project is uncharted territory as much for ethics as it is for science. Questions on both: what are 'good outcomes' & how can humans remain in charge?

Devangshu Datta



It's been done before but it is also new and worth all the big headlines it's getting. Elon Musk's company Neuralink has just implanted its new device 'Telepathy' in a human volunteer's brain. Several research outfits have already accomplished similar implants. But Neuralink's stated long-term ambitions are straight out of science fiction.

Deep brain | It has significantly different technology compared to other implants. For one, the implant is inside the brain rather than on the surface. Most brain implants attempt to compensate for some disorder such as epilepsy or Parkinson's disease. Some implants work to offer sight to the congenitally blind. Some try to compensate for spinal damage.

Second, most implants connect electrodes to a generic brain region where each electrode processes collective signals from hundreds of neurons. Neuralink's chip design includes many exceedingly fine filaments that can hook up with individual neurons. In theory this could give finer control and also a better understanding of brain function.

Cyborg future | Neuralink's immediate goal is to offer control of mobile devices and computers to the implant wearer. It targets users who have lost control of their hands. In the long run, however, it seeks to integrate humans and computers in a more fundamental way.

If AI continues to make advances as promised, Neuralink's devices could enable 'cyborgs' to jump into a new era. They could take direct control of drones or autonomous cars or descendants of ChatGPT, they could play super chess and oversee complex scientific experiments such as protein-folding.

Some of this is not hard to conceptualise even with

current technology. Wireless remote control of mobiles and laptops is easy. As is wireless recharge of batteries. So an implant that is wirelessly recharged and controls nearby devices is well within reach.

Inception | How the filament-neuron connectivity works is of course work-in-progress. Neuralink says it will do 11 such implants in 2024 and experiments should help stabilise the technology. Musk's company received permission to experiment with human implants after testing on monkeys. So let's assume that the surgery itself is medically safe.

Les Unpredictables | Musk has invoked Stephen Hawking's example to explain what a difference an ability to write quickly or use internet seamlessly could make to a paraplegic. But implants could also have unwelcome side effects. Another disturbing possibility is an implant user getting hacked.

On balance, implants that could dramatically improve the quality of life for differently-abled are surely worth investigating. But the technology does come with question marks, including ethical ones.

Singularity? | Technologies are unproven, big assumptions are being made. Let's consider four: First, that AI will continue to make big advances and eventually achieve 'singularity' - that is, AI will develop general intelligence that's higher than Homo sapiens. There are no guarantees about this. But

let's agree AI is already better than humans at a whole host of things. It's an open question if that will translate into general intelligence.

HumanAI? | A second big assumption is that medical science and neurology will advance to the point where telepathic integration between AI and humans is feasible. This is probably true. The brain is a computer and conceptually, networking computers is eminently possible. But there could be intractable biological or cognitive barriers. Experimentation is the only way to find out.

Best of us? | A third assumption is that a cyborg with an implant will be greater than the sum of its parts. Will it be more intelligent than its AI component, or add an edge in terms of emotional sensitivity and grasp of human behaviour?

Transfer of power? | A fourth assumption is that such an intelligent cyborg will also be an ethical interlocutor between AI and humans. Or, push comes to shove, that cyborgs will be able to control AI and defend humanity, if AI goes rogue.

Even in optimistic scenarios where everything follows Neuralink's script, there are ethical questions. Is it right to stick a chip into somebody's head and turn her into a cybernetic Wonder Woman? What guarantees can you have that such a person will be ethical, or on the side of 'humanity'? There was the old trope of Stalin being the equivalent of Genghis Khan with a telephone. Now, think of a cyborg Stalin.

The writer is a science journalist



Calvin & Hobbes



Sacredspace

That which is hearing of our hearing, mind of our mind, speech of our speech, that too is life of our life - breath and sight of our sight. The wise are released beyond and they pass from this world and become immortal.

Keno Upanishad

Wanted: A GPS For The Mind

Narayani Ganesh

How convenient it would be if a GPS system could help us find the mind. But GPS is connected to the physical realm, whereas the mind exists in the non-physical realm - or does it? Some say that the mind is an extension of the brain, so it could be both within and without us.

Father Gregory of Nyssa, a Trinitarian theologian, pondering on the mind-body relationship, said the mind is fully integrated into our animal nature but not enclosed within the body's parameters. Joshua Moritz, in the Templeton Foundation's 'Possibilities', says because Gregory of Nyssa "originated the concept that mind is extended beyond the brain and into the surrounding environment of information, some have proposed Gregory as the patron saint of extended mind." Both Socrates and Plato in fifth

century believed that mind and body are differently made. Plato said that the mind is rational, and examining the mind can lead to the truth, whereas what we experience through the brain via the senses, is part of the physical body, and they can be tricked.

Socrates, writes Moritz, believed that the mind or psyche was beyond and yet within one's body. But the mind belongs to "the ideal world of forms that do not change and never die... while the essential mind is unchanging; its time spent in the body leaves some residual corporeality that clings to it."

For Apostle Paul who came 400 years after Socrates, the mind is both diffused outside the body and contained within, but it is the future glorified and resurrected body that is unchanging and immortal. Seeing the mind as a

quality that is extended throughout cultures and belief systems, Paul encouraged his Roman and Corinthian readers to cultivate "the mind of Christ", and to "renew their minds" according to the mind of God and not in conformity to the mind and patterns of the surrounding Roman culture.

Cognitive philosopher Andy Clark asks, if someone consistently relies on a notebook or smartphone for an address or number; that same notebook or phone is part of that person's cognitive process of remembering, and consequently, part of that person's mind. According to Clark and others, external technological and community-based supports for cognition act as scaffolding. Just as a construction crew uses scaffolding to support a building they are working on, we use technology and the people around us to support or

extend mental processes such as memory and thought, writes Moritz.

Would we be in danger of "losing" our mind if we rely too much on external resources like family, friends, devices and other aids? Can you remember telephone numbers without your cell phone? Can you do complicated calculations without a calculator? Or find your way without your GPS navigator? These tools are all part of your extended mind. Does this mean the mind that is yours is within you, and the tools you use to extend this mind are outside of you? Can one conclude that the mind is both within and without, as one will?

Hippocrates said that the brain is the seat of the mind. Modern cognitive philosophers say that the mind extends itself to tools in the external universe. Perhaps the mind is located everywhere - wherever one sources memory and information.

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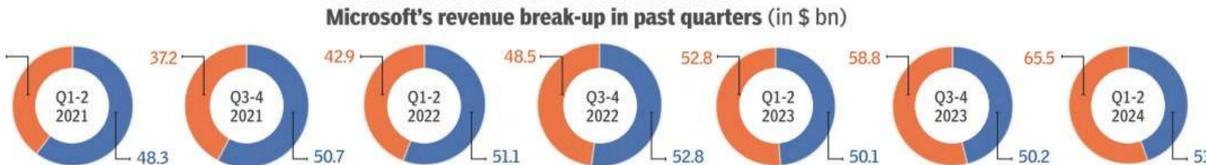




Cloud Services Contribute 55% To Microsoft's Revenue In July-Dec '23

Microsoft's best-known front-facing product might be its productivity suite **Microsoft 365**, but **cloud services & properties** have been integral to its success over the last couple of years. Out of **\$118.5bn** generated between July-Dec 2023, cloud computing was responsible for **55%** of its total revenue — a continuation of the trend of cloud solutions slowly overtaking Microsoft's other products in terms of fiscal importance

Source: Statista



Paytm's 'inability to take action' forced RBI's hand

Central Bk Engaged With Co For 2 Yrs Over Regulatory Issues

Mayur Shetty & Sidhartha | TNN

Mumbai/New Delhi: For nearly two years, RBI has engaged with the Paytm Payments Bank management over what it believed were transgressions by one of the most familiar names in the digital payments space.

After months of engagement and Paytm's inability to take remedial action, in March 2022, the regulator took a hard call by barring the payment bank from onboarding new customers.

Among regulated entities, there is a rush to comply after any RBI action. But in this case, there was allegedly no serious attempt to rectify the errors, which ranged from non-compliance with KYC guidelines to other RBI regulations.

"The Comprehensive System Audit report and subsequent compliance validation report of the external auditors revealed persistent non-compliances and continued material supervisory concerns in the bank, warranting further supervisory action," RBI said.

LIGHT-TOUCH VS HAMMER

RBI's recent regulatory actions:

- In 2020, it imposed restrictions on **HDFC Bank** to get new credit card customers or launch digital business-generating activities
- In 2023, **Bank of Baroda** was barred from onboarding new customers on its app
- Bajaj Finance** too was disallowed from sanctioning and disbursing loans under two products

- In the case of payment banks, regulation is usually **light-touch** because these entities are not allowed to lend
- RBI officials have not shied away from discussing issues, which in most cases has been a sure-shot nudge to go slow or take remedial action
- But when the response has been slow, including at the systemic level, RBI has resorted to using the **regulatory hammer**

In the case of payment banks, regulation is more light-touch because these entities are not allowed to lend, and they deal in small-value transactions. However, RBI is against combining funds of depositors, wallet-holders and shareholders.

What was the trigger to act on the eve of the interim Budget is unclear, but market players are likening it to a series of strict disciplinary measures taken by RBI in recent years. In 2020, it imposed restrictions on HDFC Bank to get

new credit card customers or launch digital business-generating activities. Last year, Bank of Baroda was barred from onboarding new customers on its mobile app. And Bajaj Finance was disallowed from sanctioning and disbursing loans under two of its lending products.

"It is not as if RBI takes this action when someone sneezes. It is done after detailed discussions with the entity, which is given an opportunity to correct the problem," said a source familiar with

recent actions. Over the last few years, the regulator has also sharpened its supervision over entities, arming itself with many more tools that keep tabs on the volume of business by banks and finance companies and even businesses they lend to. Whenever it spots a sharp rise in growth or exposure, RBI officials have not shied away from discussing the issue, which in most cases has been a sure-shot nudge to go slow or take remedial action.

But whenever the response has been slow, including at the systemic level, RBI resorted to using the regulatory hammer — a case in point being the recent increase in risk weights for unsecured loans.

"The idea seems to be securing systemic stability. Strict action has only been taken where material violation is involved. Every action has been preceded by months of engagement and nudging them bilaterally to act. But if the entities are indifferent to the issues, RBI has to act," said a source.

NTPC to buy ₹5,000cr KSK Mahanadi power unit

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New Delhi: NTPC is set to acquire the beleaguered KSK Mahanadi power station in Chattisgarh, one of India's largest single-site greenfield projects with proposed 3,600 MW capacity, making it the state-run utility's second acquisition of a stressed asset.

People in the know said the investment in the project has been valued at Rs 5,000 crore but declined to indicate NTPC's acquisition price. The project is located in Janjgir-Champa district of Chhattisgarh.

KSK Mahanadi came under corporate insolvency resolution process in April 2022 after it defaulted on Rs 21,760 crore loans in March 2018.

NTPC in September 2022 acquired Jhabua Power's 600 MW Seoni plant in Madhya Pradesh for Rs 925 crore as part of plan to buy stranded assets to meet long-term capacity addition target of 7,000 GW. KSK Mahanadi was among 40 GW stressed and non-performing capacity identified in March 2018 by a special Parliamentary panel. This included 34 coal-fired power projects with estimated debt of Rs 1.7 lakh crore.

At over ₹1.72L cr, GST collection 2nd highest

Better Administration Showing Results, Govt Expected To Easily Surpass Target: Experts

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

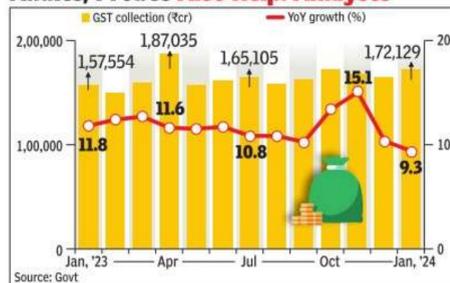
New Delhi: GST collections rose 9.3% to Rs 1,72,129 crore during January, according to preliminary numbers released by the finance ministry on Wednesday.

The collections, based on transactions in Dec, are the second highest since the introduction of the GST in July 2017 and only the third time that the kitty has gone past the Rs 1.7 lakh crore mark. The numbers are expected to be higher as full data is yet to come in with collections up to 5 PM recorded so far, the ministry said.

GST collections have stayed strong and the revised estimates for the current financial year, which is due to be presented by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday, are expected to see an upward revision.

"The GST collections are in line with the other macro-economic parameters, which indicate a significant uplift in economic activities, with even the IMF upgrading the growth forecast to 6.7% for FY 2023-24. The same collection trajectory in the next two months will en-

Audits, Probes Also Help: Analysts



sure that the tax collection targets for the year are comfortably surpassed," said MS Mani, partner at Deloitte.

A part of the jump in collections in January may be on account of completion of audits and investigations related to earlier years, said analysts.

"This consistent upward trend, evident in surpassing key milestones, reflects the effectiveness of improved tax administration and heightened taxpayer compliance. Overall, these positive indicators pave the way for continued economic expansion," said Saurabh Agarwal, tax partner at consulting firm EY.

Tax experts expect the Centre and the states to undertake the next round of reforms after the general election, which could result in rationalisation of rates and reworking of slabs.

"... over past seven years or so of the GST regime, the CAGR of collections has been at around 12%. As taxpayers' base has also doubled and keeps increasing by the day, these are clear indications that the biggest tax reform in Indian history has stabilised to a large extent," said Vivek Jalan, a partner consulting firm Tax Connect Advisory.

What happens to your wallet, Fastag?

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Paytm on Wednesday faced unprecedented action from RBI, which virtually put on hold services offered through Paytm Payments Bank starting March. While transfers and withdrawals are allowed, you will not be able to top up your wallet or Fastag, or deposit money in an account after Feb 29. TOI explains how RBI's action against Paytm will affect users...

Will UPI payments through Paytm be possible?

RBI's actions are likely to affect those who have linked UPI to their Paytm Payments Bank account. Money can be transferred into a Paytm Payments Bank account until Feb 29, which can then be used until it runs out. However, if your UPI address is linked to other bank accounts, like SBI, or ICICI Bank, RBI's action will not impact you.

Will merchants accept money via Paytm?

RBI: Outflows from any a/cs will not be hampered

From P 1

RBI said, "Settlement of all pipeline transactions and nodal accounts (in respect of all transactions initiated on or before Feb 29, 2024) shall be completed by March 15, 2024 and no further transactions shall be permitted thereafter." However, any interest, cashback or refunds may be credited to customers anytime. One97 Communications owns the Paytm brand and the app. It holds a 49% stake in Paytm Payments Bank, which operates the wallet and bank accounts. Paytm has so far not commented on the regulatory action. Given Paytm's disproportionate share of the digital payments market, many expect a scramble for new service providers after Feb 29.

"There is a physical challenge and a digital one. Replacing Fastags, QR stickers and soundboxes present a physical challenge while several new digital prepaid accounts may need to be created," said a bank official. An industry person described RBI's action as nuclear, covering almost all aspects of business that a payments bank is permitted to undertake. RBI's measures ensure that no funds will flow through Paytm Payments Bank for transactions from March. "Unlike commercial banks, in the case of payments banks, there is no fear of a run as these entities don't lock their funds in loans," said a banker. RBI's statement said outflows from any accounts wouldn't be hampered.

Curbs On Top-Up, Deposits, Not On Balance Funds

What is impacted?

- Wallet (including sub-wallets like food & fuel) | Paytm Payments Bank a/c | Fastag
- Funds can be deposited into these products till Feb 29
- There is no restriction on withdrawal or use of funds till the money is exhausted

What is not impacted?

- Paytm services like stock broking, mutual fund distribution not covered by RBI action
- Loans secured through Paytm — continue repaying them

Why It Matters: Paytm Has 10cr Wallets, Over 3cr Bank A/cs

- Accounts for 16% of Fastag transactions
- Issued 3.5cr biz QR codes

- Having lost its ability to provide money holding accounts, Paytm will be relegated to being a third-party UPI app

Merchants acquired by Paytm — those who receive money into a Paytm Payments Bank account — will not be able to accept payments as fresh credit into these accounts will not be permitted. However, many of them have other companies' QR stickers, which will allow them to continue accepting digital payments.

What happens to your wallet balance?

The best option is to transfer wallet balance back to your

bank account (free of cost). You can also use the funds lying there by paying electricity or phone bills until you exhaust the balance.

What about sub-wallets like food and fuel?

RBI has barred Paytm from accepting funds into any prepaid instruments, including NCMC (national common mobility cards) used in metros, and food, fuel wallets. While existing balance can be used, no fresh funds

can be added after Feb 29.

What if you have a Fastag issued by Paytm?

Paytm Fastag users should purchase a new tag from other issuers and deactivate the existing one.

What about loans taken through Paytm?

Borrowers will have to continue to make their repayments as these loans are by third-party lenders and not Paytm. Failure to repay or any delay would impact their credit score.

What happens to stock, mutual fund services?

These services are regulated by Sebi and are not covered under RBI's order. It is unclear whether Sebi will review their operations after RBI's action.

What happens to Paytm's payment gateway?

Some large government platforms have multiple payment gateways. Smaller entities may have to shift.

TCS links promotions to 'return to office' order

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Bengaluru: TCS is linking hikes and variable payout to complying with its recent return-to-office mandate. Recently, unit heads have written to their respective teams that assigning grades — which are a prerequisite for rolling out promotions — will depend on their track record of working from the office.

TCS offers digital compensation to freshers who have cleared courses assigned to them, making them eligible for higher salaries beyond the Rs 3 lakh annual compensation. "We are asked to be compliant with the return-to-office. This will be eventually approved for return-to-office complaint cases," sources told TOI. This newspaper has reviewed communication between TCS's HR team and employees through emails and Teams messages. TCS, however, did not respond to TOI's email on the matter till the time of going to press.

TOI had reported that TCS is asking employees to return to office on all five days of the week. Work from home has ended for some teams. Adding to the confusion, employees have been asked to come to the offices assigned to them and not opt for offices that are closer to their homes.

Maruti Q3 profit up 33% at ₹3,207cr

New Delhi: Maruti Suzuki on Wednesday reported a 33% increase in consolidated net profit at Rs 3,207 crore for the third quarter ended Dec 31 on higher sales. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 2,406 crore for the year-ago period, it said in a regulatory filing. Total revenue from operations was up 15% at Rs 33,513 crore as compared with Rs 29,251 crore. TNN

SITHARAMAN'S 6TH STRAIGHT BUDGET



Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman with her deputies Pankaj Chaudhary (left) and Bhagwat Karad and top officials, who are part of the Budget team, in North Block on Wednesday. (Standing L-R) CBIC chairman Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, CBDT chairman Nitin Gupta, economic affairs secretary Ajay Seth, financial services secretary Vivek Joshi, finance secretary T V Somanathan, chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran and revenue secretary Sanjay Malhotra

Core sector growth slows to 14-mth low

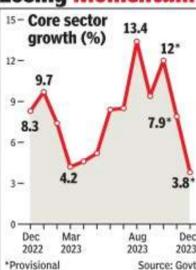
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Growth in country's key infrastructure sector slowed to a 14-month low in Dec, led by slowdown in six out of the eight sectors, posing concerns for overall industrial output data for the month.

Data released by the commerce and industry ministry on Wednesday showed the eight core sectors, spanning coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity rose 3.8% in Dec, slower than the 7.9% in Nov and lower than the 8.3% recorded in Dec last year.

Six out of the eight sectors witnessed moderation, while the crude oil segment contracted. The coal sector recorded a double digit growth during the month while the fertilizer sector grew 5.8% in Dec, higher than the 3.4% in Nov. The steel sector slowed to 5.9% in Dec from 9.4% in Nov. The cement sector grew 1.3% during Dec after contracting 4% in Nov.

Losing Momentum



sector growth slowed to a 14-month low of 3.8% in Dec weighed by base normalisation. While seven out of eight sectors witnessed a year-on-year increase in output, growth was seen moderating in most sectors," said Rajani Sinha, chief economist at ratings agency CareEdge. Separate data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) on Wednesday showed the fiscal deficit at the end of Dec was at Rs 9.8 lakh crore or 55% of the full year target of Rs 17.9 lakh crore. The deficit for the corresponding period last year was at nearly 60%.

Mobile prices may dip after import duty cut on parts

Pankaj.Doyal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Mobile prices may come down as the government slashed import duty on certain key spare parts ahead of the Budget to make domestic manufacturing more competitive and give a boost to exports. The move is expected to help a variety of companies, such as, Apple, Xiaomi, Vivo, Oppo, and Samsung.

Import duty on parts like battery covers, main camera lenses, back covers, other mechanical items of plastic and metal, GSM antenna, and other parts, has been reduced to 10%, the finance ministry said in a notification. Import duty on inputs used to manufacture these components has been cut to zero.

Telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in a post on X said duty rationalisation would strengthen mobile phone manufacturing ecosystem. GTRI co-founder Ajay Srivastava said duty cut will have no impact on improving export competitiveness of mobile phones made in India as all inputs, parts, and components used in phones for exports can already be imported at zero duty under various schemes like SEZ, advance authorisation.

Sensex up 21% since last Budget

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

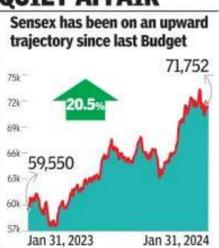
Mumbai: The volatility in the stock market continued on Wednesday as the Sensex, after opening marginally lower, rallied through the session to end with a 612-point gain at 71,752 points. This came after an 802-point drop on Tuesday and a 1,241-point gain on Monday.

With the day's 0.9% gain in the Sensex, total gain in the index since the last Budget now equals a little over 20%.

The day's rally added Rs 4.7 lakh crore to investors' wealth with BSE's market

IN THE INTERIM, A QUIET AFFAIR

Day	Date	% Change
NDA 1	Jan 30, 2004	-1.8
UPA 1	Feb 15, 2009	1.8
UPA 2	Feb 14, 2014	0.9
NDA 2	Jan 31, 2019	1.9
NDA 3	Jan 31, 2024	0.9



cap now at Rs 386 lakh crore, an all-time high. Since the last Budget, Indian investors

have accrued Rs 119 lakh crore worth of wealth from the rally in the stock market,

US Fed leaves rates unchanged

The US Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged on Wednesday but took a major step towards lowering them in coming months in a statement that tempered inflation concerns with other risks to the economy and dropped a reference to further hikes in borrowing costs. REUTERS

translating to nearly \$1.4 trillion at current dollar-rupee exchange rate.



FROM GOT WORLD TO DC UNIVERSE: 'HOUSE OF THE DRAGON' ACTOR MILLY ALCOCK TO PLAY 'SUPERGIRL' ON BIG SCREEN

NOT SO PURR-FECT! ED SHEERAN RETURNS TO CAT CAFE IN JAPAN AFTER 10 YEARS TO IMPRESS FELINES WITH A SONG... FAILS AGAIN



In 2nd sentencing in 2 days, Imran gets 14 years' jail on graft charges

Wife Sentenced Too In Toshakhana Case; Both Barred From Office For 10 Yrs

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Embattled former Pakistan PM Imran Khan received his second jail sentence in as many days on Wednesday when the country's anti-corruption court sentenced him and his wife, Bushra Bibi, to 14 years imprisonment in the Toshakhana (state treasury) case linked to illegal sale of state gifts.

A special court established under the British-era Official Secrets Act of 1923 had handed the cricketer-turned-politician and ex-foreign minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi 10-year jail terms the previous day for sharing state secrets. The back-to-back sentences came just days before the Feb 8 general election, vindicating speculation about Imran's conviction ahead of the polls. His lawyers said they would challenge both verdicts in Islamabad high court.

The accountability court, which hears cases of graft, ruled that Imran and Bushra would



A file pic of Imran with his wife Bushra Bibi arriving at a court in Lahore. Imran was on Tuesday sentenced to 10 years of jail for sharing state secrets

not be eligible to contest any public office for 10 years. This means Imran could not be PM again until 2034. The court also slapped a fine of 787 million rupees (\$2.8m) on each of them.

Last month, the anti-corruption watchdog filed a fresh reference against the couple in an accountability court for retaining a jewellery set received from the Saudi crown prince against an undervalued assessment. It alleged that during his term as PM, Imran and

his wife received a total of 108 gifts from heads of state and other foreign dignitaries. Earlier this month, the court indicted them in the case.

While Imran has been in jail since Aug last year, his wife Bushra, who has kept a low profile since her marriage to him, arrived at Adiala prison to surrender after her conviction. She was subsequently taken into custody. Last year, Imran had been convicted in a separate Toshakhana case and

sentenced to three years in jail. Islamabad HC suspended his sentence, but a division bench later rejected his plea seeking suspension of the conviction.

"Complete destruction of every existing law in Pakistan in two days," Imran's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf said. In a post on X, the party said Imran and his spouse had faced "yet another kangaroo trial in which no right to defence was given to both". "This case has no basis to stand in any higher court."

Imran urged his supporters Tuesday to take revenge for every injustice "with your vote while staying peaceful". Several PTI leaders are behind bars or on the run, fearing arrest. The party has also been stripped of its electoral symbol, the cricket bat. All PTI candidates are contesting the polls as independents. However, this gives them the option to join other parties—and Khan remaining in jail for the foreseeable future increases the chances of this.

No more multiple entries for H-1B lottery: Passport to now serve as unique identifier

Aims To Stop Sponsoring Cos From Registering Several Times For One Candidate

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BIG FEE HIKE: The e-registration fee of \$10 for an H-1B cap visa stands hiked to \$215 per registration (a hike of over 2000%). However, this will not be in effect for this year's H-1B registration period, which runs from March 6-22

Sponsoring companies acting as conduits will no longer be able to game the H-1B cap lottery system through multiple applications for the same individual. Final rules, introduced by the Biden administration early Wednesday, change the US visa registration mechanism to one that is beneficiary-centric.

The new mechanism will also apply for H-1B cap registrations that open on March 6 for the 2025 season (ie: for the fiscal year that commences from Oct 1). In addition, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has also announced final rules that will hike visa fees from April 1 across a wide spectrum, including for H-1B visas.

The H-1B visa is a very popular work visa for Indians applying to work in the US. Typically, at least 60% of the annual quota of 85,000 is allotted to Indian beneficiaries, especially those working in the technology sector. In 2019, the USCIS had introduced an H-1B cap e-registration process against a paltry fee of \$10 per registration. Sponsoring employers could electronically register

beneficiaries (prospective employees whom they wish to hire under the H-1B route). Detailed H-1B visa applications were then required to be filed only for those beneficiaries selected in the lottery process.

Last filing season, (for fiscal year that commenced on Oct 1, 2023), the USCIS had received 7,58,994 eligible registrations—a 60% rise in numbers. The USCIS pointed out that some sponsoring companies had tried to gain an unfair advantage by working together to submit multiple registrations on behalf of the same beneficiary, thus increasing his or her chances of being selected in the lot-

tery. This led to the decision to strengthen the mechanism. Now, under the beneficiary-centric system which kicks in for the upcoming H-1B season, a foreign national's passport or valid travel document will be required for an H-1B cap registration submission on their behalf. This document will be used as the beneficiary's unique identifier. Each beneficiary will only be entered into the H-1B cap lottery selection process once, regardless of how many e-registrations were submitted on their behalf. The new mechanism eliminates the "gaming of the system".

Mitch Wexler, partner at

global immigration law firm Fragomen, explains: "Under the new system, if a potential employer (say Co A, Co B) that filed a registration on that beneficiary's behalf will be notified and eligible to file an H-1B cap petition for the beneficiary." This in turn will also give beneficiaries some autonomy in choosing their employer, if they are selected in the lottery and have multiple job offers, an immigration adviser of a multinational company added.

On another front, a revised fee schedule is slated to take effect from April 1. The final rule is to be published in the US federal register on Jan 31. The hike in e-registration fee from \$10 to \$215 will not impact the registrations that open in March. However, sponsoring employers will have to bear the higher application fees, which will rise by 70% to \$780 from \$460, with concessions available to small employers and non-profits. In addition, they will be subject to a new asylum programme fee of \$600 (\$300 for smaller firms and exemption for non-profits) at the time of the initial application and also when sponsoring the employment-based green card.

Pressure from Iran & Iraq? Militia behind hits on US forces says halting military ops

In a surprise move, an Iran-linked militia in Iraq that the Pentagon said was likely responsible for a lethal drone attack on a US base in Jordan over the weekend announced on Tuesday that it was suspending military operations in Iraq under pressure from the Iraqi government and from Iran. The announcement came shortly after President Biden said that he had decided how to respond to the attack in Jordan on Sunday, though he did not say what that response would be. His comment raised fears in Iraq about a possibly retaliatory US attack on its territory.



Palestinians flee Khan Younis in Gaza

US navy shoots down Houthi-claimed missile

A US navy destroyer in the Red Sea shot down an anti-ship cruise missile launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels, the latest attack targeting American forces patrolling the key maritime route, officials said Wednesday. The attack late Tuesday night targeted the USS Gravelly, an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, the US military's Central Command said in a statement. "There were no injuries or damage reported," the statement said. A Houthi military spokesperson claimed the attack Wednesday morning.

Resistance, a network of Iran-backed groups operating in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and occasionally farther afield. The other two Iraqi groups that are believed to have been

involved in strikes US targets — Harakat al-Nujaba and Sayid Shuhada — have not announced they will halt attacks.

The leader of Kata'ib Hezbollah, Abu Hussein al-Hamidawi, said in a statement: "We announce the suspension of military and security operations against the occupation forces — in order to prevent embarrassment to the Iraqi government." It was the first time that the militia had publicly declared a suspension of operations. The statement made clear that Iran had pressured the group to stop the attacks on US troops. The group made a point of suggesting that it chooses its own targets and timing, rather than following Iran's orders. "Our brothers in the Axis, especially in the Islamic Republic of Iran, they do not know how we conduct our Jihad, and they often object to the escalation against the occupation forces in Iraq and Syria," the statement said.

Asked about Kata'ib Hezbollah's announcement, a US defence department spokesman, Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, said at a Pentagon briefing: "I don't have a specific comment to provide other than actions speak louder than words." NYT

Zelensky, top gen not on same page? Reports say prez wants him to go



General Valeriy Zaluzhny (R) now ranks as more popular than Zelensky in some opinion polls

Kyiv: In Ukraine, speculation raged this week in political and military circles, the news media and online that Ukrainian President Zelensky had fired the commander, General Valeriy Zaluzhny, with rumours becoming so widespread that the president's office was forced to issue a public denial. "There was no dismissal," the president's spokesperson, Serhiy Nikiforov, told the media on Monday. The curt response has only fuelled further speculation.

Other reports said that Zelensky asked Zaluzhny to step aside this week, but that he refused. Another source familiar with the matter told Reuters on Wednesday that Ukraine's ground forces commander Oleksandr Syrskyi was offered the job of replacing Zaluzhny, but declined. A former senior Ukrainian official said Zelensky's government had been planning on dismissing the general, but backed off Monday when the news was leaked. A Ukrainian member of parliament who had been briefed on the plans gave a similar account, saying the two men met Monday night but no decision was made.

Removing Zaluzhny could also lead to a thorny political problem for Zelensky. The military commander now ranks as more popular than the president in some opinion polls, and dismissing him would be viewed by some as a move intended to diminish the general as a potential political opponent. Zaluzhny's job has been in doubt since it became clear in the autumn that Ukraine's counteroffensive in the country's south had failed. Zaluzhny is seen as a hero to many in Ukraine after his troops successfully defended Kyiv at the start of the Russian invasion. Ukraine media have tipped Syrskyi and military spy chief Kyrylo Budanov as two possible successors to Zaluzhny. AGENCIES

From April 1, it will be costlier to bring spouse/fiancee to US as visas' fees hiked

Biggest Rise For Investors Under EB-5 Investment-Linked Green Card Scheme

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The US Citizenship and Immigration Services has announced a final rule that introduces significant fee hikes for various immigration applications. It is the first major fee adjustment since 2016.

According to the immigration agency, the fee revisions will help it to recover a greater share of its operating costs and support more timely processing of new applications.

The fee schedule will be published in the US federal register on Jan 31 (which will be late night India time) and will come into effect from April 1. Bringing your spouse or fiancée to the US could get more expensive. To illustrate: Fees for form I-130, used for family reunification, including on marriage to enable the spouse to immigrate will go up 26% to \$675 (a tad lower at \$625 for online filing).

Cyrus D Mehta, a New York-based immigration attorney, told TOI, "It is unfair to raise fees if USCIS does not process cases faster. It should not be taking the USCIS an average of 14 months to process an I-130 petition filed by a US citizen on behalf of a parent, spouse, or minor child overseas. This is only the first step... as consular processing can add on several more months to the timeline." Immigration experts say that it remains to be seen whether incre-



PRICE DEAL: Fees for form I-130 that enables the spouse to immigrate will go up 26% to \$675 (a tad lower at \$625 for online filing)

\$1,225 to \$1,440—a hike of 18%.

Former president of the Maldives Mohamed Nasheed has temporarily relocated to Ghana in West Africa after announcing his hiatus from "active politics" without informing parliament, it emerged on Wednesday. In a post on X on Tuesday night, Nasheed said he has arrived in Ghana's capital Accra to start work as the secretary-general of the Climate Vulnerable Forum. The parliament on Wednesday said Nasheed did not inform it before moving, sun.mv news reported. PTI

ase in fees will expedite the processing of applications.

If you intend to bring your fiancée to the US, the fees for Form I-129F stands increased from \$535 to \$675, an increase of 26%. Interestingly, the department of homeland security, which houses USCIS, in a publicly available advance copy of the fee revisions, said, "The DHS does not believe that the I-129F fee increase will encourage out-of-country marriages, since, if the couple marries abroad, instead of paying \$675 to file the I-129F for their fiancée to immigrate, the petitioner would need to file Form I-130 for their spouse to immigrate. This final rule increases the fee for online I-130 filings to \$625 and paper filings to \$675; therefore, out-of-country marriage would not result in significant cost savings."

Becoming an American citizen will also become more costly in most instances, including for a request for hearing on a naturalization decision. However, an online application for naturalisation with biometric services sees a slight decline from \$ 725 to \$ 710. The fee schedule offers concessions to those with lower income and distinguishes between fees for online

and paper filing, with the former a shade less costly.

The biggest increases are for EB-5 investors—the investment-linked green card programme. The investors will now pay \$11,160 for their initial I-526 petitions—a hike of 204%, and \$9,535 for their I-829 application to remove conditions on permanent resident status, which is a hike of 154%. Under the programme, once the initial application is processed, and the consulate interview or adjustment of status (if the investor is in US) is completed with a conditional green card with a validity of two years is available. Later, an application has to be filed to "remove the conditions" and get a permanent green card. Fees at all stages have been hiked. Kripa Upadhyay, an immigration attorney, said: "This increase does not correlate to increased processing times and services. Specific to the EB-5 context, some of the basic services continue to be a challenge."

The USCIS received over 5,400 public comments in response to its Jan 2023 notice of proposed rule-making. The USCIS said that it took into consideration the comments and feedback that it received.

Foreign students with low grades getting UK degrees via back door, says report

Naomi Canton

London: UK's department of education has opened an investigation after a newspaper investigation found that international students are gaining back-door routes to undergraduate degrees at top British universities with far lower grades than their domestic counterparts require as universities are cash-strapped and need the extra fees they pay. Of the Indian students who come to UK, around 30% enrol in undergraduate programmes. While domestic student fees are capped at £9,250, international students can pay more than £40,000.

The story in "Sunday Times" involved two undercover

reporters posing as parents of international students with poor grades. They discovered that international students can enter courses via "international foundation courses", outside the traditional route. UK universities are paying millions of pounds to recruitment agents, who have offices in India and China, to hunt out such students who are prepared to pay to study at Russell Group universities. "These agents run their own mini-campus at universities where they run one-year pathway courses that allow international students to join courses in the first year, and sometimes they even run the first-year courses. The students simply have to pass an end of year exam,

which is just a "formality". Universities minister Roger Halfon held a meeting with vice-chancellors in response to the article. MP Stella Braverman called for the graduate route to be scrapped and the number of foreign students to be capped. Sanam Arora, chair of Indian students union NISAU UK, raised concern about the "paranoia in the UK media" about foreign students. "They bring close to £30 billion per year in revenues. It is the funding model of universities that the government needs to look at."

A Russell Group spokesman said: "Our universities are taking steps to address examples of unacceptable behaviour by individual agents."

Removing Zaluzhny could also lead to a thorny political problem for Zelensky. The military commander now ranks as more popular than the president in some opinion polls, and dismissing him would be viewed by some as a move intended to diminish the general as a potential political opponent. Zaluzhny's job has been in doubt since it became clear in the autumn that Ukraine's counteroffensive in the country's south had failed. Zaluzhny is seen as a hero to many in Ukraine after his troops successfully defended Kyiv at the start of the Russian invasion. Ukraine media have tipped Syrskyi and military spy chief Kyrylo Budanov as two possible successors to Zaluzhny. AGENCIES

image in their data on the last day after they scanned 13,468 sqkm of the ocean floor. "We'd gone 100 days without finding anything," Romeo said. "We were at each other's throats. And, you know, there it is... Amelia's plane in like 86 years." Archaeologists who have used similar technology said they were far from persuaded. After over 80 years in the ocean, it would be surprising if the plane were as intact as it appears to be in the sonar image, Megan Lickliter-Mundon, an underwater archaeologist.

Earhart's disappearance has inspired many expeditions, as well as outlandish theories she was captured by Japanese or returned to the US and lived under a new name. NYT

An explorer says he's found Earhart's plane. But experts are not convinced

It is one of the greatest enduring mysteries in aviation history: the disappearance of Amelia Earhart after she took off from Lae, New Guinea, in a Lockheed 10-E Electra on July 2, 1937. Earhart was trying to become the first woman to fly around the world. She and a navigator, Fred Noonan, were headed to Howland Island, a tiny Pacific atoll to refuel. But they were never seen again.



A file photo of Amelia Earhart

For years, many have tried and failed to find the wreckage. Now, the head of a marine robotics company believes he has done it, although some experts remain sceptical. Tony Romeo, CEO of Deep Sea Vision, says a sonar image captured during an expedition last year appears to show a plane resting abo-

ut 4,800 metres on the bottom of the Pacific near Howland Island. He won't give the precise location. He said he believes it's Earhart's plane because the image appears to show the two distinctive fin stabilizers on the back of her aircraft and the dimensions are "very close" to those of her sleek twin-engine Lockheed. He said his 16-member crew found the

Washington: US senators on Wednesday grilled the biggest social media companies, saying they had failed to do enough to protect children from sexual predators on their platforms, and said Congress must quickly pass legislation. The hearing marks the latest effort by lawmakers to address parents' concerns that tech firms put profits over making sure their platforms do not harm children.

"Mr. Zuckerberg, you and the companies before us, I know you don't mean it to be so, but you have blood on your hands," said Senator Lindsey Graham, referring to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg. Zuckerberg testified along with X CEO Linda Yaccarino, Snap CEO Evan Spiegel, TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew and Discord CEO Jason Citron. Senator Dick Durbin, the judiciary committee's Democratic chairman, cited statistics that showed financial "sex-tortion", in which a predator tricks a minor into sending explicit photos and videos, had skyrocketed last year. "This disturbing growth in child sexual exploitation is driven by one thing: changes in technology," he said. X's Yaccarino said the company supported the STOP CSAM Act, legislation introduced by Durbin that seeks to hold tech companies accountable for child sexual abuse material and would allow victims to sue tech platforms. The bill is one of several aimed at addressing child safety. None have become law. Chew said TikTok would spend over \$2 billion on safety efforts, but declined to say how the figure compared to the company's revenue. Zuckerberg reiterated that the company had no plans to move forward with a previous idea to create a kids version of Instagram. REUTERS

Meta, TikTok, X CEOs face questioning by US senators about child sexual exploitation

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AROUND THE WORLD



FRENCH MPS VOTE TO ENSHINE ABORTION RIGHT IN STATUTE
France's National Assembly on Tuesday approved a bill meant to enshrine a woman's right to abortion in the Constitution, the first key step in a legislative process that also requires a vote in the Senate. The measure has been pressed by President Macron. The bill was passed by the lower house of parliament with 493 votes in favour and 30 against

Judge voids Musk's 'unfathomable' \$56bn Tesla salary

A Delaware judge tossed out Elon Musk's record-breaking \$56 billion Tesla pay package on Tuesday, calling the compensation granted by the EV maker's board "an unfathomable sum" that was unfair to shareholders. The ruling, which can be appealed, nullifies the largest pay package in corporate America. "Swept up by the rhetoric of 'all upside', or perhaps starry eyed by Musk's superstar appeal, the board never asked the \$55.8 billion question: Was the plan even necessary for Tesla to retain Musk and achieve its goals?" said Judge Kathleen McCormick. Musk's lawyer did not comment. Musk, currently ranked by Forbes magazine as the world's richest person, testified during trial that the money would be used to finance interplanetary travel. "It's a way to

get humanity to Mars," he testified. "So Tesla can assist in potentially achieving that." The pay represents about a quarter of his \$210.6 billion fortune.

Taylor Swift, Bad Bunny, others may vanish from TikTok over licensing row
Universal Music Group, which represents artists including Taylor Swift, Drake, Adele, Bad Bunny and Billie Eilish, says that it will no longer allow its music on TikTok now that a licensing deal between the two parties has expired. UMG said that it had not agreed to terms of a new deal with TikTok. The licensing agreement between UMG and TikTok is expired as of Wednesday. In a Tuesday letter, UMG said it had been pressing TikTok on three issues: "appropriate compensation for our artists and songwriters, protecting human artists from the harmful effects of AI, and online safety for users." TikTok claimed that UMG is putting "their own greed above the interests of their artists."



LIV PLAYERS RETURNING TO PGA TOUR SHOULD NOT BE PUNISHED: MCILROY

ATLETICO MADRID SIGN DEFENDER GABRIEL PAULISTA FROM VALENCIA



EYE ON THE REPLACEMENTS

Sarfraz or Patidar? Sundar Or Saurabh? Team Combination Takes Centrestage As India Look To Turn The Tide In Port City

JAC.Gladson@timesgroup.com
Vizag: India have copped a lot of flak in the aftermath of the 28-run defeat to England in Hyderabad. Once the dust has settled, Rohit Sharma's men will realise they only have themselves to blame for the defeat. India's insipid show paled against the refreshing enterprise of an England team willing to put everything on the line against very tough customers at home. England's gamble paid off spectacularly. Ollie Pope and debutant Tom Hartley, in particular, came out with flying colours.

skipper Ben Stokes remains the defining image of India's doomed chase in Hyderabad.

Rajat Patidar had joined the team ahead of the first Test as Virat Kohli's replacement and looks ready to walk into the XI here, despite the clamour for Sarfraz Khan's inclusion. All eyes will also be on the spin department, which looked bereft of ideas even as Hartley, a little-known unheralded Lancastrian, put England 1-0 up with his second innings spell of 7/62.

ENGLAND IN INDIA

Everyday is not a Sunday, but returns of 3/126 from 29 overs on the last two days of the Hyderabad Test will rattle Ravichandran Ashwin and Axar Patel, now that Jadeja has been rendered *hors de combat*. Left-arm wrist spinner Kuleep Yadav should be a straight fit for Jadeja, and batting skills may help Washington Sundar pip left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar as the four-spinner theory gains credence. Mohammed Siraj may find himself on the bench.

Mark Wood has resigned himself to playing a limited role in a series that is likely to see spinners wheeling in marathon spells - Hartley bowled 51.2 overall and Joe Root sent down 48.



UNDER PRESSURE: Shubman Gill (left, seen here with R Ashwin) needs to break his string of low scores

Gill, Iyer hope to find form
 The form of young Indian batters is a cause for concern too. Anil Kumble has already said that Shubman Gill has got the cushion that Cheteshwar Pujara did not. The 24-year-old had scored 128 in India's first innings against Australia in Ahmedabad in March last and his highest at home has been an unbeaten 36. Gill has 21 Tests under his belt and has not scored a half century in his last 11 Test innings at home.



TIME TO SEIZE THE DAY: Sarfraz Khan (centre) showcases his slip-catching prowess in Vizag on Wednesday. Will he get to make his debut on Friday?

Shreyas Iyer, who has played 13 Tests, too is under the cosh but like India's coach Rahul Dravid, batting coach Vikram Rathour said the young turks need more time, though he added application is the key.

"There are young batters in our team who have not played much Test cricket. So, we need to be patient with them. Batters like (Shubman) Gill, (Yashasvi) Jaiswal and (Shreyas) Iyer will eventually start getting big runs, I'm sure of it," Rathour said on Wednesday. "There's a difference between playing with intent and playing attacking cricket. I want them to play with intent. If there is the opportunity to score some runs, they should take it."

South Africa found out in Cape Town how dangerous India can be when conditions suit them, and it could be England's turn next on a surface that is unlikely to aid the attack mentality of the England batters.

Sweep shots take spin out of the plan: Crawley

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Visakhapatnam: Ollie Pope had his chances against India earlier too. By his own admission, he didn't make it count in 2018 and 2021. Ever since, the Surrey player has been keen to lay down the marker at No. 4, where he reckons top batters like Steve Smith, Kane Williamson and Virat Kohli have shouldered the burden.



REVERSE-SWEEPING TO VICTORY: Pope's methods stumped India in Hyderabad

The 26-year-old is now the toast of England after his fabulous stroke-filled 196 put the focus on the brand of attacking cricket the visitors portrayed. Not for them the plodding approach anymore, said England opener Zak Crawley in the lead-up to the second Test.

According to Crawley, England's batters are all natural strokeplayers and the new approach of skipper Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum has only helped them showcase their attacking instincts. "I suppose it ('Bazball') comes naturally, as a lot of our teams are playing more aggressively. The mindset when I first came to England was to take your time and build a long innings. I didn't think that came naturally to me and a few of the others. A lot of us play a bit better under this regime," he added.

Crawley looked good during his 20 and 31 in Hyderabad and said England are not wary of an Indian backlash. "There are four games left. We have got to stick to what we

do well. The wickets in Abu Dhabi (where they trained) turned a lot because we wanted them and we made them turn," he said.

The preparation included using the sweep shot to negate the Indian spin threat. "Sweeping and reverse sweeping when it's spinning is a good option. It takes spin out of the plan. I think the reverse sweep is more common for us, because there's just less fielders in the deep. The reverse sweep comes probably just as naturally to us as the normal sweep," he added.

The 25-year-old Kent batter said India still have the depth in their ranks to offset the loss of KL Rahul and Jadeja. "Looking at their depth, they have two very good players coming in. We're just trying to play the same, read the conditions on Day One and see what happens from there," he said.

We could have batted with more discipline: Rathour

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Visakhapatnam: Of all the shots in the cricket manual, the sweep easily could be one of the most difficult to execute. England had simulated the conditions in the subcontinent during their camp in the UAE and came well prepared for the tour of India.

If the first innings of the Hyderabad Test was a learning curve, they showed remarkable alacrity in improving their performance in the second, with all their batters showing a pronounced tendency to employ the shot - both conventional and reverse. The reverse scoop was another improvisation that negated the spin threat of India and fetched them runs.

On the other hand, the Indian batters were created-tired. India's batting coach Vikram Rathour said the sweep shot is a difficult stroke to master. "You need to be prepared for that by practising it," he said on Wednesday. "If you add more shots to your game, it's always beneficial. We played traditionally. The strength is going straight when it comes

to using our feet. If we can add more shots and score through the square of the wicket, that's always an addition. The batters need to possess that intelligence as to which is the best or safest shot on the surface."

"The absence of disciplined batting, Rathour reckoned, hurt India in the first Test. "Could they have batted with more discipline? Maybe they could have. That's what they need to decide, and then come up with their plans. But they need to score runs by playing shots, as you need to back your strengths," he said.

Rathour lauded Ollie Pope for his brilliant knock but added that the first Test defeat has not put India under pressure. "The kind of innings Pope played was exceptional. I haven't seen too many playing such a knock against our attack," Rathour said.

"I don't think (there's any pressure). We are expected to win while playing in India, and the boys are used to that. The message from the support staff is to play good cricket and not bother about results. The other teams also come well-prepared."

Jack Leach skips training, Bashir may make debut



LEACH

Visakhapatnam: England's most experienced spinner Jack Leach will in all likelihood miss the second Test against India starting here on Friday, owing to a left knee injury sustained during the series opener in Hyderabad. Leach didn't take part in the team's training session on Wednesday and was seen receiving treatment from the physio on the sidelines.

"He's a tough kid, Leachy. So, I am not sure. You never know with Jack. You can never really write him

off. We'll see how he pulls up in a couple of days," opener Zak Crawley said on Wednesday.

Leach had jarred his left knee while fielding on the first day of the Hyderabad Test. He played through pain, bowling 26 overs in the first innings and 10 in the second essay despite bruising and swelling around the joint. He was seen limping during Wednesday's training session.

Leach's injury means that off-spinner Shoaib Bashir, who joined the team late in Hyderabad due to visa issues, could be set for his Test debut.

Crawley is confident that Bashir, if given an opportunity, will do well. "He is a great kid. He has got a lot about him. He knows what he is trying to do with his bowling and he backs himself. If he gets his chance he will go well." PFI

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GALLERY

Sailor Sarvanan earns Paris Oly qualification

Adelaide: Asian Games bronze medalist Vishnu Sarvanan became the first Indian sailor to qualify for successive Olympics as he made the cut for the Paris Games at the World Championships here on Wednesday. A Subedar from the Mumbai-based Army Yachting Node, the 24-year-old secured qualification for the upcoming Paris Games by finishing 26th out of 152 participants. He thus becomes the first Indian sailor to make the cut for Paris 2024. Vishnu secured the top rank among Asian countries, surpassing Asian Games gold medalists from Singapore. Vishnu ended with an overall score of 174. Following the standard rule, his least score of 49 in a race was subtracted, resulting in a his net score of 125.

Non-bailable warrant against pacer Vaidya: A non-bailable warrant was issued against former international cricketer Prashant Vaidya on Wednesday in connection with nine bounced cheques totalling Rs 1.9 crore issued in October 2022. The former Indian fast bowler was taken to the special court, which released him on a surety bond of Rs 5,000. The complainant claimed Vaidya owes him Rs 2.8 crore. AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

BASKETBALL: NBA, 6 am (Jiocinema); **TENNIS:** Davis Cup, Qualifying, Ukraine vs USA, 9.30 pm (Sony Sports)

Agarwal returns to B'loru

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal, who was hospitalized in Agartala after consuming an unidentified liquid on board a New Delhi-bound flight on Tuesday, was flown to the city on Wednesday evening.

The 32-year-old top-order batter endured a health scare after the liquid - he had assumed it to be water - left him with a burning sensation in the mouth. Agarwal, who was received by his wife Aashita Sood Agarwal at the airport, headed home on the outskirts of the city. He is expected to undergo further examination and treatment over the next couple of days.

Earlier in the day, Agarwal took to social media to express his gratitude to people for their support. The social media post, accompanied by two photographs of him in the hospital, read: "I am feeling better now. Gearing up to come back. Thank you for prayers, love and support, everyone."



ALL WELL: Mayank posted about his well-being on Wednesday

KIYG: Maharashtra retain championship

Chennai: Maharashtra ended the Khelo India Youth Games here on Wednesday with 156 medals, including 57 gold, 48 silver and 53 bronze. Hosts Tamil Nadu added three golds on the final day, finishing with 38 gold, 21 silver and 39 bronze - their best-ever performance in the event to date. Haryana failed to secure the top-two berth for the first time, finishing third with 35 gold, 22 silver and 46 bronze. Meanwhile, Delhi (13 gold, 18 silver, 25 bronze) finished ahead of Rajasthan (13 gold, 17 silver, 17 bronze). PFI

Farmer's son Limbani cycles his way to success!

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Vadodara: His virtually unplayable inswinger uprooted the stumps of New Zealand opener Tom Jones off the very first ball of the innings in the U-19 World Cup tie on Tuesday. Before NZ could recover, the 18-year-old Baroda pacer, Raj Limbani scalped another wicket in the same over, setting the stage for India's massive victory at Bloemfontein in South Africa.

Limbani's feat came as a pleasant reminder of Baroda pacer Irfan Pathan who claimed a hat-trick against Pakistan in the very first over of the 2006 Karachi Test. Obviously, Limbani felt good after a stupendous performance. "Our team played a good game and I am happy that I could contribute to the victory. It has improved my confidence," Limbani told TOI from South Africa.

When asked if he had a specific plan against the Kiwis, Limbani said, "I had bowled well in the earlier matches but couldn't get much wickets. This pitch was flat so I didn't try anything new and instead decided to bowl in good areas. I was confident that wickets would follow." Having travelled 45 km daily to attend an English medium school from Dayapar village in his native Kutch, this farmer's son has come a long way. "Our financial condition wasn't good but I was always interested in playing cricket and my



Raj Limbani celebrates a wicket against the Kiwis on Tuesday

family supported me. I shifted to Vadodara in 2017 as the city offers fantastic cricketing facilities. It worked well for me," the right-arm pacer said.

His cricketing career started at Motibaug Cricket Club run by the royal Gaekwad family and he soon cemented his place in various teams of Baroda. Limbani went on to play in Cooch Behar Trophy, Col CK Nayudu Tournament, U-19 Challenger Trophy and U-23 men's one-day tournament. In the U-19 Asia Cup last year, he picked 12 wickets in four matches.

Limbani, whose role models are Dale Steyn and Jasprit Bumrah, touched 140 kmph during a National Cricket Academy high-performance camp last year. "He cycled 14 km to and fro daily from his house to Motibaug Cricket Club as he couldn't afford to spend on daily trans-

port. That was a blessing in disguise as the cycling improved his stamina and helped him bowl faster," said a senior Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) trainer.

U-19 WC SUPER SIX: BRIEF SCORES

- Nepal Under-19s 169 in 49.5 overs (B Bikram 48, D Khanal 35; Borson 4/19, Jibon 3/34) lost to Bangladesh Under-19s 170/5 in 25.2 overs (A Islam 59*, J Alam 55; Bhandari 5/44) by 5 wks
- Zimbabwe Under-19s 102 in 29.2 overs (R Patel 32; Maphaka 5/34, Luus 3/25) lost to SA Under-19s 103/1 in 13.3 overs (L Pretorius 53*, Stock 37) by 3 wks
- Australia Under-19s 266/6 (H Weibgen 120, H Dixon 53; Wylie 4/42) beat England Under-19s 104 in 16.5 overs (C Allison 26; Vidler 4/29, MacMillan 3/16, Straker 2/16) by 110 runs (DLS method)

BCCI secy Jay Shah reappointed as ACC chairman for third successive term

New Delhi: Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah was on Wednesday appointed as the president of the Asian Cricket Council for a third consecutive term.

Shah's extension was proposed by the Sri Lanka Cricket president Shammi Silva for the second time and the nomination was unanimously backed by all the members of the ACC at its annual general meeting in Bali.

Shah initially assumed the role in January 2021, succeeding Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan. Under Shah's leadership, the ACC successfully organised the Asia Cup in T20 format in 2022 and in ODI format in 2023. "I am grateful to the ACC Board for their continued trust. We must remain committed to ensuring the all-round development of the sport with a special focus on regions where it is still in its infancy. The ACC is committed to nurturing cricket across Asia," Shah said in a release.

"Under Shah's guidance, the ACC has been instrumental in unearthing and promoting new talent in cricketing powerhouses like Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka," Silva said.

Pankaj Khimji, chairman of Oman Cricket and vice-president of the ACC, also extended congratulations. "Stakeholders see value in investing in tournaments that the ACC conducts, and I credit him for this major transformation, which will further fuel the growth of the game in the region," Khimji stated. Welcoming the reappointment, Hassan said cricket in Asia will continue to prosper under Shah's leadership. PFI

'It was like meeting my separated brother'

Islamabad: For Hameed ul Haq, meeting India captain and coach Zeeshan Ali in Islamabad was like reuniting with his separated brother. More than 36 years have passed since he visited Bengaluru but the former Pakistan Davis Cup captain vividly remembers how Zeeshan's father, the late Akhtar Ali, would take care of the Pakistan players. He still remembers how he made the mistake of entering Trivandrum without a

valid visa and was sent back by a DIG without causing any discomfort to him. Hameed, now 62-year-old, still remembers the generous act of Indian player Srinivasan Vasudevan who took him home when he was struggling to find accommodation in Bengaluru in 1987 when he had gone to the city to compete in a satellite tournament. He still remembers that Delhi food was as spicy as he would get in Karachi. Ha-

meed, honoured with the Pride of Performance (a title in Pakistan) in 2000, is gushing about the fact that an Indian team has come to Pakistan for playing tennis. "Now that I am meeting the Indian contingent here in Islamabad, it feels like I have met my own brothers, who got separated. Coach Zeeshan Ali is a very good friend of mine. His father Akhtar Ali also used to help us a lot. He was like our father and coach, he was helping the Pakistanis a lot," Hameed told PFI in an interview.

"During the Asian Cup in Dubai, I had lost the semifinal to Zeeshan. In Lahore also I met him. I knew he is coming, I was waiting with excitement for him. I want to take him home and help him see the city, but you know, it is not possible in current circumstances." In India and Pakistan, applicants get city-specific visa because of the diplomatic tension between the two countries. Hameed, who played Davis Cup between 1984 and 1997, had travelled to

Former Pakistan Davis Cup Captain Hameed-Ul-Haq Gets Emotional After Meeting India Coach Zeeshan Ali

Delhi for the Asian Games in 1982, and fondly shared memories of those days. "I don't feel I am in a foreign land when I go to India. India is like Pakistan. The language, the food, the attire, everything is similar. The spicy food that we have in Karachi, the same taste we got in Delhi too. Then, in 1987, I played Satellite tournaments in Bombay, Bangalore and Trivandrum. I was facing problems in getting an accommo-

dation, and India player Vasudevan learnt about it and took me to his home. There was a security concern, but Vasudevan said he did not care and took me home. I felt like I am staying at my own home. Whenever there was an issue, someone would stand up and find a solution." Hameed also shared how he was helped by a concerned Indian when he got carried away and dared to meet his uncle without a valid visa. PFI

SURGE OF THE SAMURAI

Japan Cruise Into Quarters With 3-1 Win Over Bahrain

Doha: Four-times champions Japan eased into the quarter-finals of the Asian Cup with a clinical 3-1 victory over Bahrain on Wednesday at Al Thumama Stadium with goals from Ritsu Doan, Takefusa Kubo and Ayase Ueda.

Bahrain coach Juan Antonio Pizzi had been looking to heal old wounds after his Saudi Arabia team lost to Japan at the same stage in 2019 but Hajime Moriyasu's side put in a commanding performance and rarely looked troubled against the Gulf nation.

Japan will face the winner of the final last-16 tie between Iran and Syria later on Wednesday.

"All Asian teams here at the Asian Cup are getting better, the level of football has grown. But even though other teams are growing, we've managed to improve as well which is down to our players' efforts," Moriyasu said.

"But I don't think today's performances were 100% and we can still improve."

Japan took the lead in the 31st minute when Seiya Maikuma unleashed a venomous strike that crashed off the post but midfielder Doan was alert to pounce on the rebound to score from close range.

Japan went 2-0 up just after halftime through a stroke of good fortune when an unmarked Kubo returned the ball inside the box, turned and fired home, with the goal being awarded after a VAR check for an offside call. Bahrain halved the deficit from a cor-

ner when Japan keeper Zion Suzuki saved Sayed Baqer's header but as he attempted to catch the ball when it looped up in the air, Ueda tried to head it clear and they collided as the ball went over the line.

While Moriyasu was not too concerned about the own goal, Japan have failed to keep a clean sheet in every game at the tournament so far.

"It's true we conceded a goal, every opponent we come up against will analyse us and expose our weak points," Japan skipper Wataru Endo said. "I know we have to make this right, we have to concentrate for 90 minutes."

However, Ueda made amends for the own goal when he made it 3-1 after quickly evading three Bahrain defenders and as they tried to stop him racing away by pulling his shirt, the striker pulled the trigger from a tight angle to beat the keeper. The game also saw Kaoru Mitoma make his return from injury and the Brighton & Hove Albion winger sent a buzz around the arena when he made several chances with his agility and speed on the ball, skipping past defenders with sublime ease.

But Japan did not capitalise on his forays into the box while Bahrain keeper Ebrahim Lutfalla also stood firm to deny the east Asian side a fourth goal. "It was a difficult match, they were stronger and better than us technically and physically. They have players with great individual skills," Pizzi said. REUTERS



ASIAN CUP

A STEP CLOSER: Japan players celebrate after a VAR check of their second goal scored by Takefusa Kubo

In football, teams are analysing you and trying to find out where there are gaps that they can exploit. It's important that we don't let our concentration drop for the full 90 minutes." — Wataru Endo, JAPAN CAPTAIN

JAPAN WERE BETTER THAN US TACTICALLY AND PHYSICALLY. JAPAN HAVE HAD THE SAME COACH FOR FIVE YEARS AND EVERY SUBSTITUTE THEY BROUGHT ON HAD THE SAME LEVEL OF QUALITY." — Juan Antonio Pizzi, SAUDI ARABIA COACH

SAUDI CHIEF BRANDS MANCINI PENALTY WALKOUT UNACCEPTABLE, ITALIAN APOLOGISES

Doha: Roberto Mancini said he 'didn't want to disrespect anyone' by disappearing down the tunnel before South Korea took the penalty that eliminated his Saudi Arabia team from the Asian Cup on Tuesday.

Mancini walked back to the dressing room at Doha's Education City Stadium after Abdulrahman Ghareeb missed a second Saudi penalty and handed match point to South Korea.

Wolverhampton Wanderers forward Hwang Hee-chan tucked it away to send the Koreans into a quarterfinal against Australia. "I apologise, I thought it was finished," the

All Asian teams here at the Asian Cup are getting better, the level of football has grown. But even though other teams are growing, we've managed to improve as well which is down to our players' efforts." — Hajime Moriyasu | JAPAN COACH

Italian said of his early exit. "I didn't want to disrespect anyone," added Mancini, who won the European Championship with Italy in 2021. "I want to say thank you to all my players for what they did. They are improving a lot."

The president of Saudi Arabian football Yasser Al-Mishehal said Mancini's disappearing act was "completely unacceptable".

"The coach's exit is completely unacceptable and we will discuss with him why this happened," he said. "He has the right to explain his point of view and then we will decide the appropriate action."

It was reported that he was offered more than \$25 million to join the Saudis, who are set to host the World Cup in 2034. Mancini's job does not appear to be at immediate risk, despite the defeat extending Saudi Arabia's wait. They last won it in 1996. "Technically we are satisfied with the performance presented in the Asian Cup," said Mishehal, adding: "I do not like to rush into anything."

Arsenal get rid of the away blues

Newcastle End Villa's Unbeaten Home Run

Nottingham: Arsenal climbed up to second in the Premier League with a 2-1 win at Nottingham Forest as Aston Villa's unbeaten home record was ended by a 3-1 defeat to Newcastle on Tuesday. Goals from Gabriel Jesus and Bukayo Saka maintained the Gunners' title push at the City Ground ahead of their clash at home to leaders Liverpool on Sunday.

Arsenal's first away win since early December takes Mikel Arteta's men within two points of Liverpool, who are in action on Wednesday at home to Chelsea.

Despite having 74% possession and 19 shots, Mikel Arteta's Gunners side did not break the deadlock until the 65th minute when Jesus, who played despite struggling with fluid on his knee in the build-up to the match, scored from a very tight angle.

"We have to do what we have to do," Arteta told BeIN Sports. "Perform the way that we were doing last year and

start of this year, because performances were there, results now. Results are going our way now. We have some momentum, let's go for it."

Jesus has managed a mere 19 goals in 56 games in all competitions since his £45 million (\$57 million) move from Manchester City in 2022. And the 26-year-old, who has helped lay goals on for teammates, is determined to be more single-minded in terms of boosting his own tally. "Sometimes it is all about stats and sometimes it is all about watching the game," said Jesus. Forest's relegation fears grew with Nuno Espirito Santo's side in 16th with 20 points, two points above the drop zone.

Villa failed to join Arsenal on 46 points after losing at home in the league for the first time since February last year. Unai Emery's men had won 16 of their 17 Premier League games at Villa Park since, but gave themselves a mountain to climb as Newcastle centre-back Fabian Schuster scored twice from corners in the first half. AGENCIES



NAME GAME: Bukayo Saka hands his jersey to a fan at the City Ground

Bafana Bafana tame Atlas Lions

Hakimi Misses Late Penalty As SA Knock Morocco Out

Abidjan (Ivory Coast): Another day, another upset at the Africa Cup of Nations. None of the eight quarterfinalists in the last edition of the Africa Cup in Cameroon have made it to the last eight this time, nor have any of the five African teams that played at the 2022 World Cup.

Achraf Hakimi missed a late penalty as Morocco became the latest big name to be knocked out with a 2-0 loss to South Africa in the round of 16 on Tuesday.

Evidence Makgopa's 57th-minute strike and a free kick from Teboho Mokoena in the fifth min-



South Africa's Teboho Mokoena (C) celebrates with teammates

ute of stoppage time sent the Bafana Bafana through to the quarterfinals at the Atlas Lions' expense. "We're very disappointed because we came with the ambition of winning it. Going out so

early in the tournament wasn't expected, but this cup is really difficult. Lots of surprises," said Morocco coach Walid Regragui.

Morocco follow defending champions Senegal, seven-time champions Egypt, five-time winners Cameroon, four-time champions Ghana, along with former winners Algeria and Tunisia to be knocked out ahead of the quarterfinal stage. South Africa will next play Cape Verde.

Mali held on to beat Burkina Faso 2-1 to set up a quarterfinal match against tournament hosts Ivory Coast. AP

AIFF cancels Imphal derby after fresh Manipur violence

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Panaji: Fresh violence in Manipur has forced the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to delay a much-awaited return of national-level club football to the north-eastern state.

Since May last year, Manipur has been rocked by violence with two rival ethnic groups at loggerheads. The violence prompted the state's clubs in the I-League, TRAU and Neroca FC, to play their home games away in Bengal due to safety concerns of visiting teams.

With the I-League second phase

set to resume on Thursday, the AIFF allowed these clubs to play their home games at the Khuman Lampak Stadium in Imphal. But just when all preparations appeared to be on track for the Imphal derby between TRAU and Neroca on Feb 3, at least two people were killed and five others were injured in fresh incidents of violence.

The I-League is the country's second-tier club competition after the Indian Super League (ISL).

"We cannot put anyone at risk with incidents of violence in Manipur," a senior AIFF official told TOI. "There

was an incident very close to the stadium. We had to cancel the match because we did not get safety assurances."

The AIFF was also alarmed after the final of the Manipur Premier League was abandoned due to crowd violence at the artificial turf ground, Lamlong, on Wednesday. According to sources, the clash between Southern Sporting Union and ASUFII FA had to be stopped late in the first session as crowd took to the field.

All Manipur Football Association (AMFA) president M Ratan Kumar Singh spoke with AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey and briefed him about the security situation.

Neroca and TRAU are both at the bottom of the I-League table and will need to script a major turnaround to escape relegation.

Court quashes VB's eviction order against Amartya Sen

Suri: A Birbhum court Wednesday set aside Visva-Bharati's order asking Nobel laureate Amartya Sen to vacate a portion of land at his ancestral home in Santiniketan, which the university claimed he had been occupying illegally, reports S Boral. District and sessions judge Sudeshna De (Chatterjee) said the order — regarding 13 decimals of land at Sen's home, Pratiche — violated all principles of natural justice, adding that a land survey by the university was arbitrary and illegal. The court faulted VB for waking up to Sen's alleged "illegal" occupation after eight decades, while refusing to give him even five months to defend his rights.

Sen had challenged the university notice issued on April 19 last year, ordering him to vacate the land or face eviction.

The university did not immediately indicate if it would challenge the order, with its spokesperson Mahua Banerjee saying a decision would be taken "after examining the order".

Bill to check exam paper leaks proposes 10 yrs in jail, ₹1cr fine

To Be Tabled In Parliament Next Week

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New Delhi: A bill seeking to enact the first-ever national law against use of unfair means to rig public examinations for recruitment to government jobs and admission to central educational institutions will be introduced in Parliament next week. It proposes tough penalties, extending up to 10 years in prison and fine of not less than Rs 1 crore, for organised mafias and individual offenders associated with the examination authorities, service provider firms or institutions.

Announcing the government's intent to bring the Public Examinations (Pre-



It has been decided to enact a new law to deal sternly with malpractices, President Murmu told Parliament on Wednesday

vention of Unfair means) Bill, 2024, President Droupadi Murmu told a joint sitting of Parliament on Wednesday. "My government is aware of the concerns of youth regarding irregularities in examinations. Therefore, it has been decided to enact a new law to deal sternly with such malpractices".

As reported first by TOI on Wednesday, the thrust of the proposed law is to crack down upon persons, orga-

nised mafia and institutions engaged in paper leaks, paper-solving, impersonation, hacking into computer resources, often in collusion with elements within the "system", for monetary or wrongful gains. The bona fide students, whose future gets jeopardised due to undetected leaks, cancellation of exams and holding up of results, will not be liable for action.

TOI has exclusively learnt that persons engaged in impersonation of a candidate, paper-solving, causing holding of examination at a place other than the examination centre or not reporting an exam fraud (like an invigilator) may attract a jail term of 3-5 years and fine of up to Rs 10 lakh. A service provider engaged in conduct of the computer-based examination, if found guilty, will attract fine of up to Rs 1 crore and may be barred

from holding the exam for four years. The top management of such a firm, if involved, will face 3-10 years in jail and Rs 1 crore in fine.

An organised group of persons engaged in use of unfair means in public examinations, including those associated with the service provider or the examination authority, will invite jail term of 5-10 years and fine of not less than Rs 1 crore. Institutions engaged in such organised crime will attract fine of not less than Rs 1 crore and may face attachment of property.

Public servants engaged in paper leaks will invite 3-5 years in prison and fine of up to Rs 10 lakh, though ones who act in good faith will be protected from legal proceedings & departmental action. Public servants working for organised exam mafias will face 5-10 years in prison & invite not less than Rs 1 crore in fine.

It's difficult to understand why IIT-B lecture was cancelled, says Prof Devy

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Mumbai: IIT-Bombay announced the lecture in public domain and then cancelled it. Such last-minute cancellations do leave a bitter taste, said professor Ganesh N Devy about the lecture that got cancelled at the premier institute.

Devy, a cultural activist, literary critic and former professor of English at Maharashtra Sahitya Akademi, was to deliver a lecture at IIT-B on Wednesday. The lecture titled "The Crisis Within: On Knowledge and Education in India", based on one of his books, was called off on Monday. A mail sent to students and faculty members attributed the cancellation to "unforeseen circumstances". Devy's talk was part of the institute's lecture

A mail sent to students and faculty attributed the cancellation to 'unforeseen circumstances'

series, and the topic was finalised a month ago. "It is difficult for me to understand the motivation behind calling off the event. If I could deliver a lecture at IIT-Guwahati, another central institute, governed by the same regulations, then why not IIT-Bombay?" said Devy while speaking to TOI. "I had sent them the synopsis of the lecture almost a month ago. The discussion over this started about four to five months ago and after a lot of deliberations on both sides, Jan 31 was finalised for the talk. The book that I was

going to speak about is published and is in the public domain. I do not think this has anything to do with the content of the book or the topic of the lecture, nor do I wish to build a hypothesis around it. They are a scientific organisation, and I would like to believe that the reasons are not irrational," he added. He was the keynote speaker at IIT-Guwahati's Graduate Research Meet in Oct last year and spoke on 'Describing India: People's Movements and Knowledge Production'.

Devy said there is no resentment against the institute. "There is so much to do in life. My mission will be on. I love talking to students and I will continue doing that," he added. He regularly visits institutions overseas to deliver talks and has been to Cambridge, Sussex and Chi-

cago universities recently.

An IIT-B spokesperson maintained the lecture was called off as per the decision by the 'institute's colloquium committee'. Devy had earlier returned the Sahitya Akademi award in 2015 as a mark of protest and in solidarity with other writers over what he then called "growing intolerance towards differences of opinion in the country".

Students from Ambedkar Periyar Phule Study Circle at IIT-B organised a reading of Devy's book at the same time and venue on Wednesday. Around 25 residents on the campus, including a few faculty members, attended. The students alleged instances of cancelling events due to "unforeseen circumstances" are not isolated and are curtailing the academic freedom on the campus.

'Changes in law enacted to augment forest management'

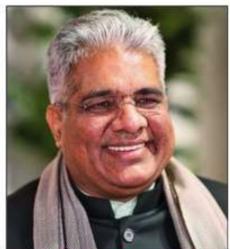
Addressing questions over tweaks in the Forest Act, environment minister Bhupender Yadav justifies the changes in an interaction with TOI's Vishwa Mohan. Excerpts from the interview:

What was the need to amend the Forest Conservation Act?

The Forest (Conservation) Amendment Act, 2023 has been enacted with a view to augment and strengthen the forest management, remove ambiguity in the applicability of the provisions of the principal act, promote plantation in private lands, achieve the targets envisaged in the National Forest Policy, 1988 and to align with dynamic changes in the ecological, social and environmental regimes during the last four decades. The law was enacted mainly to regulate the use of forest lands for various non-forest purposes.

How will it exactly help?

The provisions of the amendment act strengthen the management of forests and provide for sustainable development, while improving health, productivity and flow of the ecosystem goods and services for providing better refuge to biodiversity. Promotion of afforestation in the non-forest land will create additional carbon sinks besides reducing the biotic pressure on forests. The provisions also



TOI INTERVIEW

promote people participation in the process of forest conservation besides providing them livelihood opportunities by way of eco-tourism and setting of zoos and safaris etc.

What's the idea behind asking all states and UTs to prepare a consolidated record of all lands within one year?

The one-year period provided in rules is for consolidation of government records, not for providing relief from the purview of the act. The provisions imply that states and UTs have been provided an opportunity to consolidate their records for the purpose of applicability of the Act

without evading forest like areas from the purview of the act. Provisions of the Act, as were being applied earlier, will continue to remain applicable in such lands during the period of consolidation of records by the states and UTs.

How will India go for its energy transition without compromising on energy security?

India's approach on energy transition is based on the need to ensure India's high energy needs for development, including poverty eradication, achieving sustainable development goals and economic growth. Further, the approach for the country's energy security is based both on the expansion of non-fossil fuel sources for power generation and rational utilisation of fossil fuel resources. Specific steps for such utilisation include expanding renewables and strengthening the grid and focusing on demand-side management. The National Green Hydrogen Mission alone is expected to result in significant decarbonisation of the economy and reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports.

BJP MP booked for grabbing gurdwara in UP

Ayodhya: A criminal case was registered on Wednesday against 12 persons, including BJP MP Kirti Vardhan Singh and two police inspectors, in Gonda district, on charges of illegally occupying a gurdwara building. The FIR was registered after the complainant moved to HC which asked the local MP-MLA court to initiate action, reports Arshad Afzal Khan.

The accused also included then inspector-in-charge of Mankapur Kotwali police station and an inspector. Gonda's resident Gurbachan Kaur had filed an application in the HC in Sept 2023 praying that her father-in-law Mohar Singh had built a house in Mohalla Bhagat Singh Nagar and a gurdwara on premises of the house.

Vehicle skids into gorge after J&K snowfall, 8 killed

Srinagar: Eight people, including four women, died while seven others were injured when the vehicle in which they were travelling skidded off the road — rendered slippery after snowfall — and plunged into a gorge in Uri region of north Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday, traffic officials said, reports Saleem Pandit.

The injured were shifted to GMC Baramulla, said a police officer. J&K Disaster Management authority issued an avalanche warning and inclement weather alert for six districts.

85 cops shunted out of Hyd thana at one go

Hyderabad: K Sreenivasa Reddy, city police commissioner, transferred 85 police personnel from the high-profile Panjagutta police station at one go and directed them to report at the City Armed Reserve headquarters, reports Pinto Deepak.

The police station has been embroiled in controversies over the last six months. This is the first ever transfer of this magnitude from a single PS in Telangana. Among those transferred include SIs, assistant SIs, head constables, and constables. The blanket shake-up

came in the aftermath of serious charges of dereliction of duty on the part of the personnel and several lapses, including allowing Md Raheel Aamir, son of former BRS MLA, Md Shakeel Ahmed, go scot-free in a road accident near Praja Bhavan.

DCP SM Vijay Kumar said the action was initiated in view of recent incidents that occurred in the station limits. "Apart from lapses in policing, inefficiency and indiscipline, not following norms and, most important, no proper supervision by SHO, were glaring," he said.

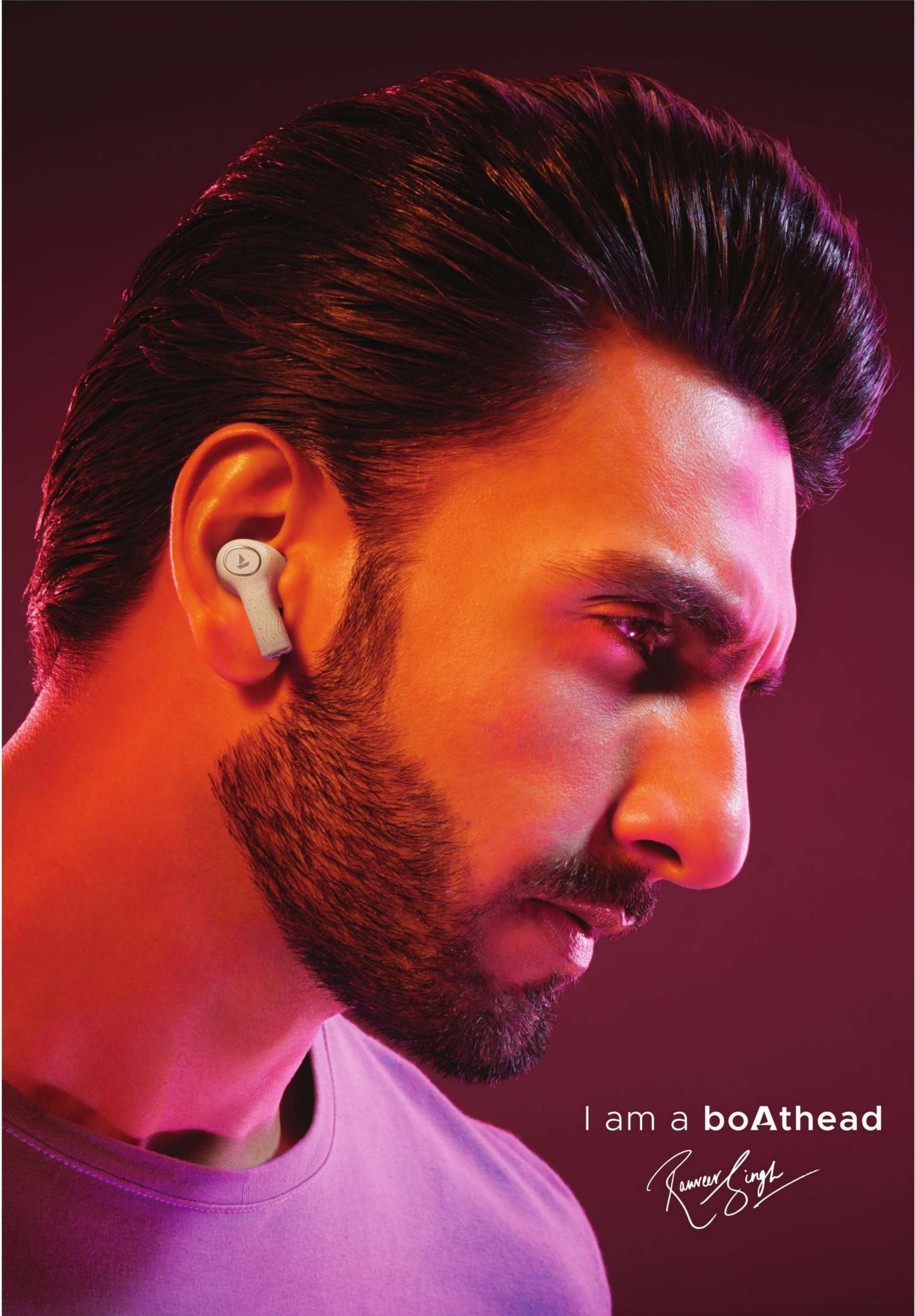


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INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

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player of the year,
while Mitchell Marsh
is men's ODI player
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