

THE TIMES OF INDIA

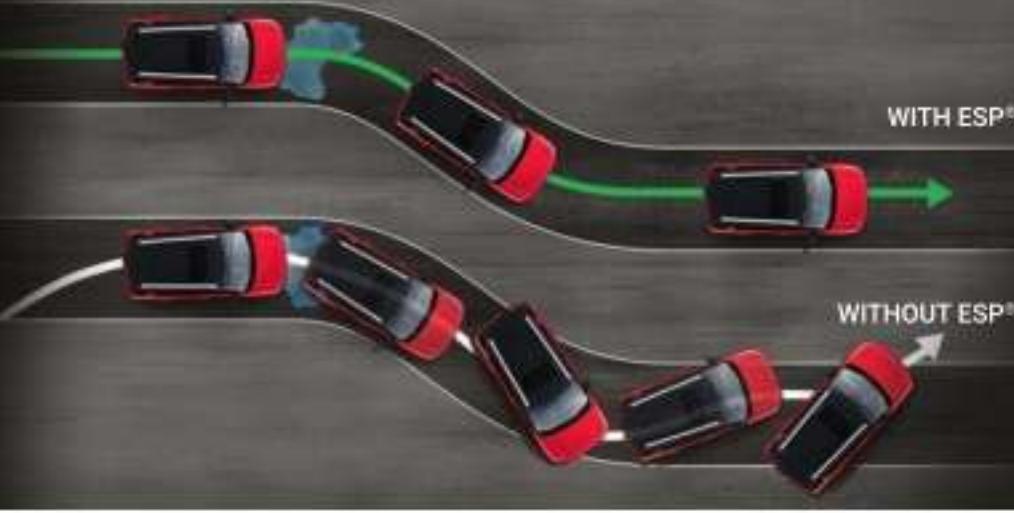
CHHOTI HOLI

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Cops gun down 2nd accused in Prayagraj killing

Prayagraj police gunned down on Monday morning Vijay Chaudhary, alias Usman, claiming that he had fired the first shot in the killing of Umesh Pal, the prime witness in the BSP MLA Raju Pal murder case, on February 24 in the city. The encounter, the second in the Umesh Pal murder case, took place between Gothi and Belwa, in Kaudhiyara police station area, at around 5.30 am. Suhani, the wife of Vijay Chaudhary has accused police of killing him in a fake encounter. A cop was also injured in the exchange. **P9**

Foxconn chairman assures K'taka CM

In a letter to Karnataka CM Bommai on Monday, chairman Young Liu said he would put in all efforts to ensure the proposed Foxconn project in the state fructifies. The letter appears to be an attempt to quell the uncertainty around the Taiwanese company's project. **P21**

Suicide bombing in Balochistan kills 9

At least eight security officers and a civilian were killed and 13 more people wounded on Monday when a suicide bomber triggered an explosion by ramming his motorcycle into a police truck at Dhadar tehsil, about 150km east of Quetta, in Pakistan's restive Balochistan province. **P19**

SUV mows down man, biker in Ggn

A rashly-driven Scorpio ran over an elderly pedestrian and a labourer on a motorcycle in Gurgaon's Dhanot-Basal Road on Sunday. Both were rushed to hospital where they died. The driver, who fled, is yet to be identified. A passerby managed to note down the SUV's registration number. **P2**

Bachchan injured in Hyd film shooting

Amitabh Bachchan, 80, suffered an injury to his rib cage while shooting for a film in Hyderabad last week and was treated at a private hospital in the city before being flown to Mumbai. The actor said that he was mobile for essential activities but had been "generally lying around" at home. **P15**

EPFO's hurdle for pre-Sept 14 retirees

EPFO had asked EPS members who retired before Sept 1, 2014, to submit documents showing they opted for higher pension and it was rejected, but experts point out that EPFO had discontinued the facility from Dec 2004-March 2017, which will make most applicants ineligible. **P17**

Court sends Sisodia to Tihar Jail for 2 weeks

CBI Claims 'Politisation'; No Media Curbs, Says Judge

Vineet Upadhyay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A special court on Monday sent Delhi former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia to 14 days in judicial custody. The court also remarked that it will not stop the media from reporting the matter.

"If media is reporting, they are reporting. As long as protests are peaceful, it is fine," the court of special judge M K Nagpal said. The judge's remarks came after the counsel representing the CBI submitted that the media was giving a "political colour" to the matter.

In view of the submissions made and further keeping in view the facts that investigation of the case is still pending to unearth the entire conspiracy and the role of other persons involved therein, the accused is remanded to JC till March 20, 2023 and he is directed to be produced before this court on the above said date at 2pm physically, as has been requested on behalf of the accused. Let his custody warrant be prepared, as per the applicable rules and guidelines," stated the court while sending Sisodia to judicial custody.

The CBI in its application did not seek custody of Sisodia but stated that it can seek the



Former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia arrives at Rouse Avenue court in New Delhi on Monday

Sisodia may get meditation cell

Manish Sisodia will be lodged in Tihar jail no 1 and could be allotted a meditation cell at the discretion of the jail superintendent. Sisodia will be kept alone in a separate cell located away from his colleague Satyendar Jain. **P6**

same later. However, the counsel for the CBI submitted before the court that Aam Aadmi Party functionaries are politicising the matter and witnesses are "terrified".

► Allows him to carry Gita, P 6

CBI questions Rabri for 4 hrs in rail job 'scam'

Former Bihar CM Rabri Devi was quizzed by CBI sleuths at her residence in Patna for about four hours on Monday in connection with an alleged land-for-job railway recruitment scam in which her husband, ailing RJD chief Lalu Prasad, their two daughters and 14 others face charges, reports Piyush Tripathi.

RJD supporters staged a dharna outside the residence alleging misuse of central agencies by the Centre. Lalu's son and deputy CM Tejashwi Prasad Yadav said "such things" will continue till the 2024 LS polls. **P 17**

Manik Saha to be Tripura CM, PM to attend oath

Manik Saha, whose 10 months as Tripura CM marked him out as BJP's choice for a full term at the helm going into the polls, was Monday elected legislature party leader amid lobbying by some within the party for Union minister Pratima Bhomik. Saha's ex-deputy Jishnu Dev Varma is tipped to retain the post. PM Modi is scheduled to be in Agartala on Wednesday for the swearing-in. **P 11**

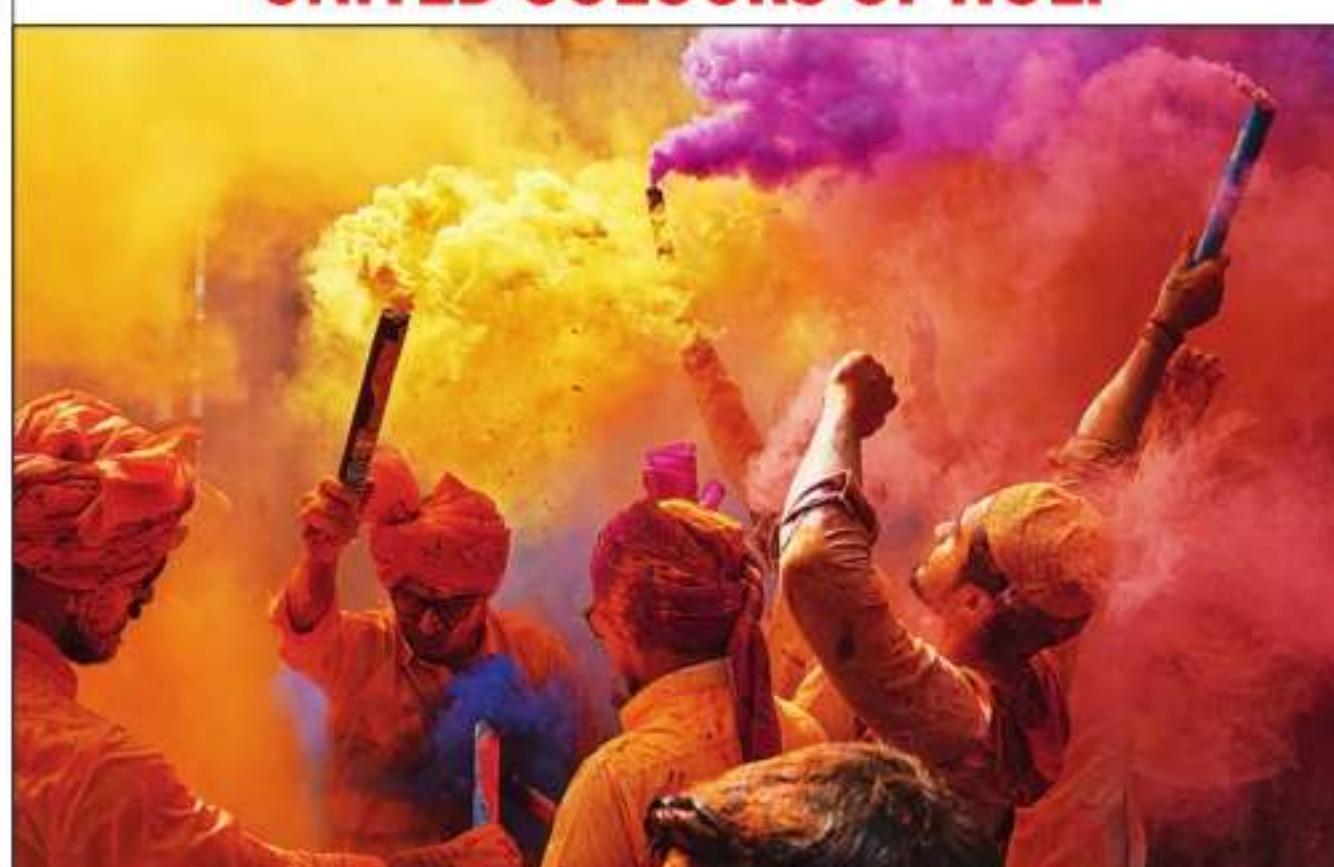
Covid-19 cases inching up for past 3 weeks

The past three weeks have seen a steady rise in Covid-19 infections in India, though overall detections remain very low—1,898 new cases were reported last week—and there's no increase in fatalities. India saw a week-on-week spike of 63% in the seven days ending Sunday, after a 39% rise in the previous week and a 13% rise the week before, reports Amit Bhattacharya. In fact, cases have been inching up for five straight weeks. South India and Maharashtra account for most of the new cases. **P 11**

HC lets boy pick which parent to live with

The Calcutta HC recently let a 13-year-old boy, in the midst of a bitter parental custody battle, decide who he wanted to stay with, saying he was "intelligent and mature enough". The child told the court that ideally, he wanted to stay at his father's place with both parents. The HC at first tried to save the marriage in keeping with the child's wishes but was not successful. The boy was allowed to return to his father and the mother was given twice-a-month visitation rights. **P 9**

UNITED COLOURS OF Holi



Traders of Hyderabad's Begum Bazar on Monday celebrated what is known in the city as 'Chhota Holi' or 'Mini Holi'. It's a tradition of the traders, many originally from Gujarat & Rajasthan, to celebrate Holi a couple of days in advance

Gzb gym trainer beaten to death, 6 students held

Ghaziabad: A gym trainer died at a Delhi hospital on Monday, two days after he was thrashed by a group of students of a private college in Sahibabad. Six BA students were arrested, reports Avishhek Kumar.

Police said Virat Mishra (27), the trainer, saw one of the students and a woman riding a scooter near his house in Sahibabad's Lajpat Nagar.

► Gym owner, friend held for staffer's murder, P 8

He told the two they were inappropriate being intimate in a residential area. An argument broke out and a group of students rushed in and started hitting Mishra with bricks, sticks and rods.

► Hit with rods, bricks, P 8

Can't speak in India: Rahul in UK; don't betray country: BJP

Naomi Canton

London: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said at a diaspora event here on Sunday that he spoke about the problems in India overseas because he wasn't allowed to speak in India.

Addressing Congress supporters during a "London Greets RG" event, Rahul said while giving a talk at Cambridge University, he thought to himself that "it's strange that an Indian politician can give a talk in Cambridge or Harvard but cannot give a talk at an Indian university".

Rahul, meanwhile, asked Rahul not to "betray India" with comments in the UK. "Don't be-

tray India, Rahul Gandhi ji. The objections to India's foreign policy is an evidence of your scant understanding... No one will believe lies you spread from foreign soil," Union minister Anurag Thakur said.

Last Monday evening (India time), Rahul told British MPs at an event organised by Labour MP Virendra Sharma within the House of Commons complex that microphones in the Lok Sabha are often silenced. "Our mikes are functioning...but you can't switch them on. It's happened to me a number of times while speaking."

► Related reports, P 22

'My answer to Taliban': Afghan woman wins MA gold at Guj univ

Yagnesh Mehta
@timesgroup.com

Surat: Afghan woman Razia Muradi has given a fitting reply to the Taliban with a gold medal in MA (public administration) from a Gujarat university. "I want to tell the Taliban that given a chance, women can excel in any field," she said.

► Af divorcees forced back to abusive husbands, P 19

► Women still barred as Af univs reopen for men, P 19

I represent the women of Afghanistan. I am happy for the medal, but sad at not being able to meet my family for three years. I will inform them over the phone and they will be happy — Razia Muradi

Muradi got 8.6 cumulative grade point average, the highest score in her subject, and was the toast of Monday's convocation at Veer Narmad South Gujarat University in Surat, hitting out at Afghanistan's rulers for banning female students from attending schools and universities in their wide-ranging crackdown on women's rights and freedoms.

► Hope world steps in', P 22

rat, where she has been for the past three years. She completed her MA in 2022 and is currently doing her PhD in public administration. Besides the gold medal, she won the Sharad Ambelal Desai Prize.

She was happy and sad at the same time. She hasn't gone home after coming to India in 2020. "I am happy for the medal, but sad at not being able to meet my family for three years. I will inform them over the phone and they will be happy," Muradi said. Her country has changed much since she left. The Taliban returned to power after America's chaotic departure in 2021.

The syndicate said the onus would be on the principals of colleges to verify the medical records of candida-

Kerala Univ students to get 6-mth maternity break

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

FOLLOWS OTHER UNIVS

Thiruvananthapuram: State-run Kerala University Monday announced up to six months of maternity leave to girl students over 18, weeks after the state government notified that institutes of higher education in the state could cap the required attendance for women at 73% to account for menstrual leave.

A student who goes on maternity leave for up to six months can resume classes without having to take admission again, Kerala Univ said.

► Last week, Cochin University of Science & Technology decided to grant 60 days of maternity leave to students. It was the 1st to grant menstrual leave.

► Kerala Univ of Health Sc has also been granting 6-month maternity leave to students

tes and permit them to rejoin college without having to seek the university's approval.

The university has already reduced the minimum required attendance from 75% to 73% for girl students.

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Source: Mehta et al. (2023)



Inquiry committee on Bhagirath Palace fire recommends measures to clear Walled City mess | 5

30.5°
MAXIMUM
15°
MINIMUM
FORECAST Partly cloudy sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 31°C and 14°C
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SUNSET 6.24PM (TUE)

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

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DELHI AQI
ON MONDAY
(MODERATE
CATEGORY)

Covid link in
cardiac deaths
among youths | 6



Two-week
makeover for
Qudsia Ghat
holds out hope
for cleaner
Yamuna | 4

SUV runs over elderly man, bike rider in Ggn

Bhaskar Mukherjee | TNN

Gurgaon: An elderly man waiting to cross a road and a labourer riding a motorcycle were mowed down by an SUV being driven rashly on the Dhankot-Basai road on Sunday morning.

Police said on Monday they are trying to identify the Scorpio driver, who drove off after the accident. Aarik (35), who belonged to Alwar, and Jagat Lal, a 60-year-old resident of the city, died on the spot, they said.

Mosam Khan, who filed the case and witnessed the accident, told cops he was on his way to work when he saw that his

colleague Aarik, a labourer employed with the same company, was just ahead of him on a motorcycle.

"A speeding Scorpio heading towards Gurgaon from Chandu first mowed down an elderly man who was waiting to cross the road. The SUV driver then lost control over the wheels and the car then hit Aarik's bike," Khan said.

Khan managed to note down the license plate of the SUV, which is registered to Gurgaon.

The complainant said nearby residents and passersby informed the police and rushed Aarik and Lal to the Civil Hospital in Sector 10. Doctors declared both

of them dead. Police said that a team rushed to the accident spot and saw the two men bleeding out.

"We found out they were Aarik and Jagat Lal. We arranged an ambulance and rushed them to the government hospital, where doctors declared both of them dead. We have also informed the family members of the victims and handed over the bodies after postmortem examination," said Rajendra Park police station SHO Parveen Kumar.

The SHO said an FIR has been registered against the unidentified driver. Police are also scanning CCTV footage from the area to identify the accused.

Winter Air: Delhi's Best In 5 Years Not Good Enough

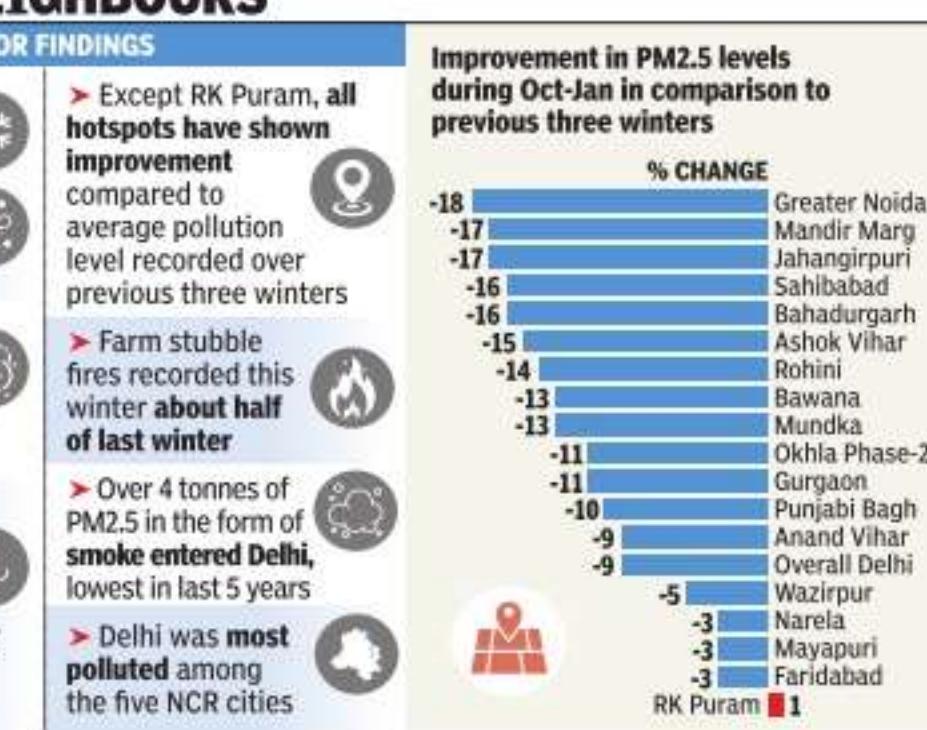
It's Most Polluted Among Major NCR Cities & Towns: CSE Study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

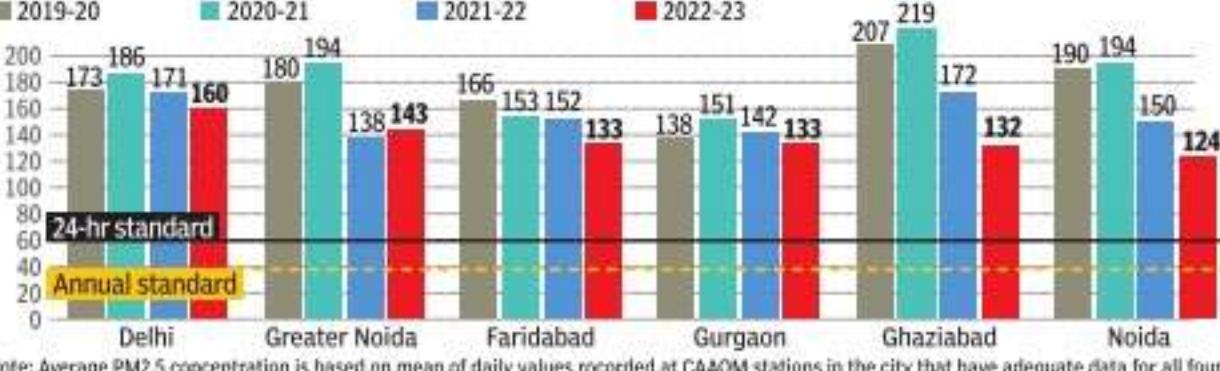
DELHI VS NEIGHBOURS

MAJOR FINDINGS

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Winter pollution recorded in NCR



the least polluted hotspots.

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The CSE study revealed hotspots in north and east Delhi to be the most polluted. Jahangirpuri was the 'most polluted' official hotspot with an October-January average PM2.5 level of 201 micrograms per cubic metre. Other most polluted hotspots were Anand Vihar (196 µg/m³), Wazirpur (185 µg/m³), Mundka (185 µg/m³), Rohini (182 µg/m³) and Bawana (179 µg/m³).

Bahadurgarh with 105 µg/m³, and Gurgaon and Faridabad each with 133 µg/m³ were

10 oldest stations, there is an improvement of almost 20%.

CSE researchers estimate that about 4.1 tonnes of PM2.5 fell over Delhi this winter in the form of smoke, which is 37% less than 6.4 tonnes last year and almost half of the 2020-21 winter figure.

The quantity of smoke from farm fires that falls over

Delhi is dependent on two major factors: quantity and intensity of stubble fires, and meteorological conditions conducive for transportation of the smoke to the city. This winter, not only have the qu-

antity and intensity of farm stubble fires been low, but the meteorological conditions have also been less conducive for the transport of the smoke," said the study.

The study said the total count of farm stubble fires reported this year from Punjab, Haryana and Delhi in October and November stood at 55,846, according to NASA's VIIRS satellite, and 12,158, according to its MODIS satellite.

These are respectively 36% and 40% lower than the figures for October-January in 2021-22.

No holiday from poor air this Holi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhites are likely to breathe 'poor' air on Holi as the air quality index is predicted to cross 200 on Wednesday. The AQI was 142 in the 'moderate' category on Monday. Central Pollution Control Board's data shows that the air quality was 'poor' on Holi last year as well.

According to Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the AQI is likely to deteriorate but remain in 'moderate' category on Tuesday and reach the lower-end of 'poor' category on Wednesday. "The air quality is likely to remain in the lower end of 'poor' category on Thursday. The outlook for subsequent six days is that it is likely to remain in 'moderate' to 'poor' category."

The air quality may deteriorate because wind speed is likely to slow down, officials explained.

CPCB data shows that the AQI was in 'moderate' category on Holi days in 2020 and 2017. In both the years, Holi was celebrated in the first half of March. The AQI was 188 on March 10, 2020 and 180 on March 13, 2017.

However, in other years, Holi has been mostly celebrated amid 'poor' air quality. On last year's Holi day, the air was the most polluted as the AQI was in the higher-end of 'poor' category with a reading of 293.

Meanwhile, the day temperature is likely to witness a slight rise on Holi day as the maximum temperature may touch 31 degrees Celsius. The maximum temperature on Monday was recorded at 30.5 degrees Celsius, three degrees above normal. The minimum temperature was 15 degrees Celsius, two notches above normal. The relative humidity oscillated between 32% and 90%.

The day and night temperatures are likely to be around 31 and 14 degrees Celsius, respectively, on Tuesday. The maximum temperature may touch 34 degrees Celsius on March 12.

7kg gold hidden in portable O₂ concentrator seized at IGI

New Delhi: A Kenyan passenger was arrested for allegedly carrying seven gold bars, worth around Rs 3.4 crore, which were hidden in a portable oxygen concentrator.

The passenger from Nairobi arrived at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport on Monday afternoon. Customs officials "discreetly" followed the Kenyan passenger from the flight gate on the basis of suspicion and profiling.

"The passenger is a medical professional. He was carrying a portable oxygen concentrator to provide oxygen to a four-month-old infant. The passenger, who was holding the portable oxygen concentrator, had attached the oxygen mask on the infant's face. He pretended that the baby was critically ill and needed oxygen supply. The accused claimed that the baby is visiting India with his parents for a cardiac surgery," said a Customs official.

Later the Customs team detected the gold in the oxygen concentrator. "On personal search, taking due care for the safety of the infant, seven bars of gold, weighing around 7kg, were recovered. The baby was found to be fit on examination," said the official.

"The passenger has been placed under arrest. Further investigations are underway," added the official.

Similarly, gold bars weighing 4 kg were recovered from the lavatory of an aircraft at IGI on Friday. It was recovered after rummaging through the flight when it landed in Delhi. The seized gold was estimated to be around Rs 1.9 crore.



Inquiry committee on Bhagirath Palace fire recommends measures to clear Walled City mess | 5

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

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DELHI AQI
ON MONDAY
(MODERATE
CATEGORY)

Covid link in
cardiac deaths
among youths | 6



Two-week
makeover for
Qudsia Ghat
holds out hope
for cleaner
Yamuna | 4

SUV runs over elderly man, bike rider in Ggn

Bhaskar Mukherjee | TNN

Gurgaon: An elderly man waiting to cross a road and a labourer riding a motorcycle were mowed down by an SUV being driven rashly on the Dhankot-Basai road on Sunday morning.

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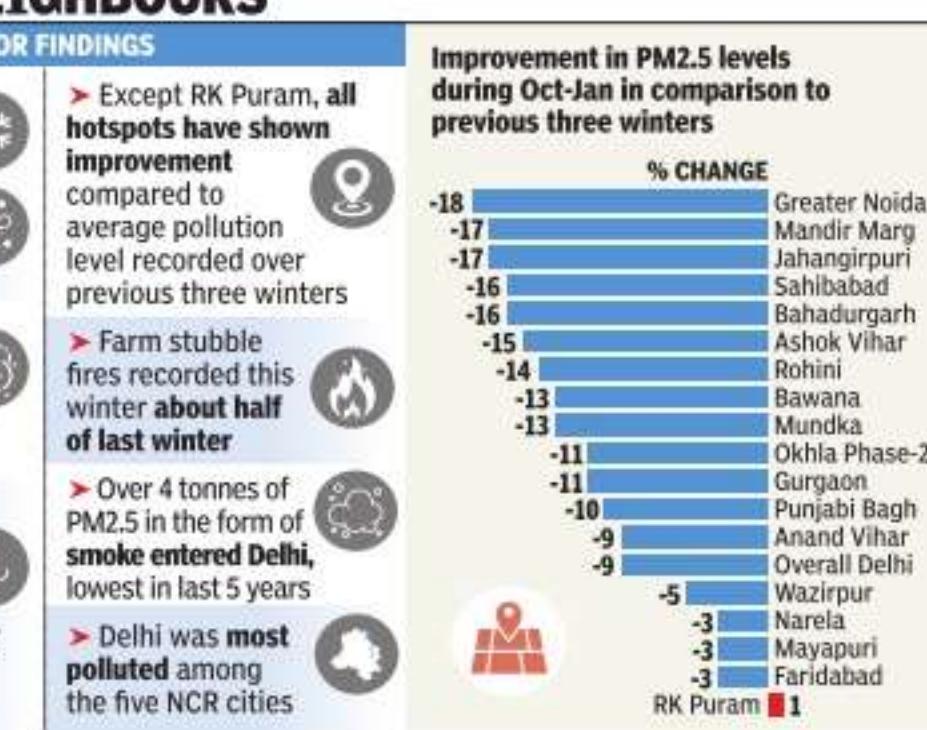
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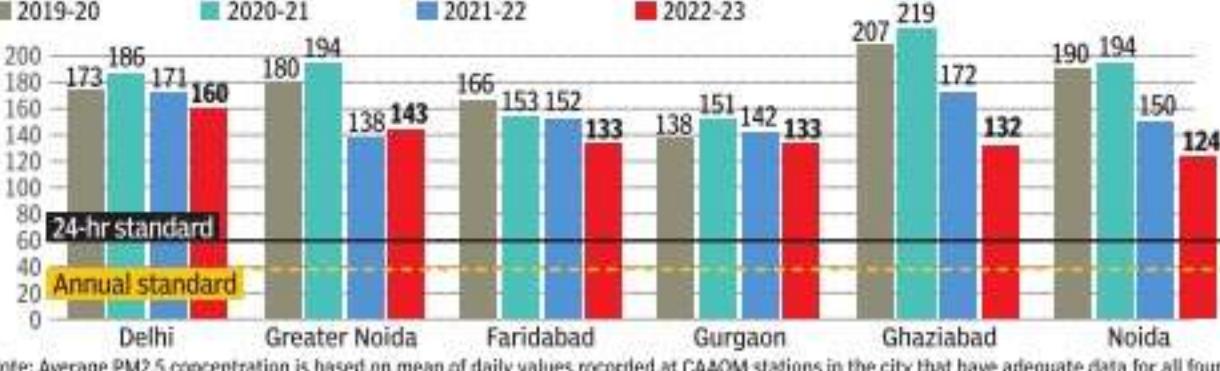
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Flyover Out Of Bounds For Heavy Vehicles

ASHRAM EXTENSION: PWD Removing High-Tension Wires That Could Prove Fatal For Trucks

Siddhanta Mishra &
Sakshi Chand | TNN

New Delhi: The 1.4km extension of the existing flyover at Ashram, which took 32 months to complete and cost Rs 128 crore, will provide a direct route between the DND Flyway and AIIMS. At least 3.5 lakh vehicles pass through Ashram every day. On Monday PWD opened the main extension road and the carriageway going towards Sarai Kale Khan, though the ramp between Sarai Kale Khan and Ashram is still under construction and may take over a month to complete. Heavy vehicles will not be permitted yet on the new flyover because of the presence of high-tension electricity wires passing above.

According to PWD officials, the high-tension wires hang above the two main ramps and



Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, who inaugurated the flyover extension, said minor tasks were left before the facility became fully operational

could prove dangerous for heavy vehicles passing below. The agency has not yet asked Delhi Transco Limited to relocate the high-tension wires. PWD engineer-in-chief Anant Kumar said another organisa-

tion had to remove the wires. "But we ourselves have undertaken the task and hope to have done it by the end of this month. After that, heavy vehicles will also be allowed to drive on the flyover," said Kumar.

At the inauguration, Kejriwal said there used to be long traffic jams in this area earlier, particularly during the office hours, and the extension of the flyover would bring relief to the lakhs of mo-

torists who use the route every day. The CM added that only a few minor tasks were left to be finished before the flyover became fully operational.

Soon after the inauguration function got over, traffic

was permitted from the DND Flyway towards Lajpat Nagar. The second ramp was opened around 5pm, the traffic police's advisory said.

Some other works that remain to be completed included the construction of the central verge near the integration of the extension with the existing flyover, installation of road signage and the construction of the ramp for traffic coming from Sarai Kale Khan and bound for Ashram.

The erection of the RRTS piers at Sarai Kale Khan will take three more months, while work on the parallel flyover will only start at 2023-end. "Till all construction work is finished, the motorists cannot expect the traffic movement to ease here," said an officer of the Delhi traffic police.

Over 2k cops on duty to check violations on Holi



Schoolchildren celebrate Holi a day before the break for the festival of colours

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: As many as 2,033 cops will be deployed at 287 major intersections and 233 "vulnerable points" for Holi celebrations on Wednesday to detect and prosecute traffic violations, police said on Sunday. Delhi Traffic Police has made elaborate arrangements to ensure the safety of pedestrians and motorists on roads and to check the incidents of drunken driving, over-speeding and reckless, zig-zag driving, etc, they said.

Those found guilty will also have their driving licence seized and liable for suspension for a minimum period of three months, they said. Therefore,

the general public is advised to obey traffic rules, specifically not to drink and drive, observe prescribed speed limits, obey traffic signals, and not indulge in racing or competition with other vehicles, they said, adding two-wheeler riders should wear helmets and avoid triple riding. People have also been asked not to allow minors or unauthorised persons to drive.

Barricades will be erected at border points, arterial roads, and outside hotels and farms where celebrations will take place. Police have advised people to celebrate in their locality or indoors and not engage in throwing balloons or colours at random people on the roads.

Shab-e-Baraat: Security up, traffic curbs in place

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Elaborate security and traffic arrangements will be in place from 8pm Tuesday till 6am Wednesday for Shab-e-Baraat, in which a large number of people are expected to offer prayers at graveyards and mosques across the city.

A total of 759 traffic officials will be deployed at 283 strategic locations. Special checking teams, along with PCR and local police, will be stationed on various roads and at intersections all over Delhi to keep an eye on drunk driving and traffic signal violation. Radar guns will also be deployed at vulnerable spots to check incidents of speeding.

According to officials, the measures will ensure safety of motorists on the roads and smooth flow of traffic. They are also aimed at keeping pedestrians on the footpaths, guide the devotees and commuters about the routes and traffic diversions as well as preventing rash and negligent driving.

During Shab-e-Baraat, many people from the Muslim community visit the graves of their loved ones and seek forgiveness for their sins. The devotees travel throughout the night from one place to another.

Keeping this in mind, officials said adequate traffic arrangements have been made in various areas in central and south Delhi. Since several motorists would move around at night, traffic and district police will install pickets to ensure there is no ral-

A total of 759 traffic cops will be deployed at 283 strategic locations. Special checking teams, along with PCR and local police, will be stationed on various roads and at intersections all over Delhi to keep an eye on drunk driving and traffic signal violation

cining on the roads and check any stunts by those on two-wheelers.

Further, as per the directions of the Supreme Court's Committee on Road Safety, in cases of drunk driving, violation of traffic signal, using mobile phone while driving, dangerous driving and speeding, the driver's licence will also be seized and would be liable for suspension for a minimum period of three months.

Officials said action will also be initiated against the registered owners of vehicles that are found to be driven by minors or unauthorised persons, or if they are found to be performing stunts or are being driven without a licence.

"We request the general public to avoid traffic violations, especially drunk driving, speeding, triple-riding, riding without a helmet or driving in the wrong carriageway. We also request parents and guardians to ensure that they do not allow their minor children to drive," said a traffic police official.

CM slams 'raid' on Rabri, says oppn govt not allowed to work

New Delhi: Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday condemned CBI's "raid" at the residence of RJD leader Rabri Devi in Patna. There is a growing trend in the country about not letting the governments of opposition parties work, Kejriwal said while inaugurating the Ashram extended flyover.

Asked if the CBI action could be linked to the letter written by the opposition leaders to Prime Minister Narendra Modi after AAP senior leader Manish Sisodia's arrest, the chief minister said, "It could be the reason, they won't be allowed to function. They use ED, CBI and governors to trouble them. Democracy will go ahead only when everyone will work together, whoever has a government should be allowed to work there. Whether it is the opposition or the party in power, whoever gets the vote should be allowed to work."

Earlier in the day, CBI went to the residence of the former Bihar chief minister to question her in a land-for-job case. TNN

Body of a woman found in Haiderpur

New Delhi: The body of an unidentified woman, in her thirties, was found in a canal at KN Katju Marg on Monday, police said. After receiving information about the incident, a team from the local police station reached the spot, they said, adding the body was stuck in a net at the Haiderpur water treatment plant. "There were no marks of injury on the woman's body, and a post-mortem will be conducted to ascertain the cause of death," an officer said. TNN

Duhai Depot of RRTS corridor opens

New Delhi: Duhai Depot of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor is now functional with state-of-the-art facilities, National Capital Region Transport Corporation officials said on Monday. Earlier, the officials had said that the 17-km Duhai-Sahibabad priority stretch of India's first RRTS was set to be operational by the last week of March. PTI

DISSOLVE

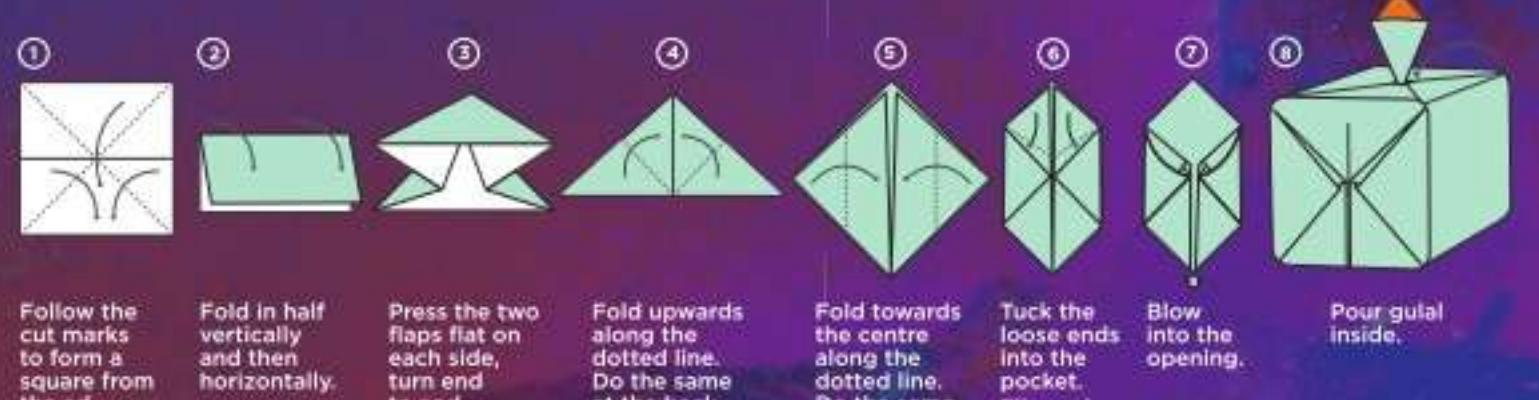
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THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHANGE Begins Here

WT-5545.2023

Doc thrashed by patient and her kin, case filed

New Delhi: The emergency ward of Babu Jagjivan Ram Memorial Hospital was shut briefly in protest against an alleged attack on a doctor, police said, adding the incident took place on Sunday. At 9pm, Dr Shivam Kumar Yadav was thrashed by Saheen, a patient, and her attendant at the hospital. Yadav sustained abrasion injuries. On his complaint, a case under IPC and Medical Service Persons and Medicare Service Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage of Property) Act was registered. TNN



Photos: Anindya Chattopadhyay

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Curious about trees? Event at Sanjay Van likely to interest you



BIRDERS' DAY OUT

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: If the world of woods excites you, head to the tree festival at Sanjay Van on March 11. The event, which is being organised by Delhi Development Authority, will be held between 7am and 12noon.

"During the festival, experts from WWF-India will inform the visitors about varieties and girth of trees planted in the forest and how these can be distinguished based on their leaves, flower, fruits, and wood. People can participate in the festival only after registering online," said a senior DDA official.

The link for participation is likely to be shared on social media pages of DDA and WWF-India a day before the event. "We are not allowing registrations now to avoid too many visitors, which may be difficult to manage," said the official.

On March 5, Sanjay Van's first bird festival was held. Delhi is the second bird-rich capital in the world after Kenya's Nairobi, said the official. The festival included nature walks, talk shows with experts, exhibition stalls and interactive multimedia sessions. The event saw participation of over 450 people from all walks of life.

The bird festival began with nature trails wherein experts led the bird walks with participants and these took place in multiple groups to spot resident as well as migratory species. "Then there were bird-based arts & crafts activities where stalls were set up with artists guiding participants to express their admiration for birds in innovative ways, from origami to stone painting and body art," said another official.

Also, there were interactive multimedia exhibits and games for participants to learn about birds. There was a stall dedicated to exploring birds and birdwatching through play-based learning.

"During the event, we spotted about 25 species of birds. A guide book on birds was also launched," said the official.

The bird festival began

Times View

Birds add "ecological value" to our surroundings in a variety of ways. Their sounds enliven cloistered and joyless urban spaces. A bird festival of this nature creates public awareness on their importance and is welcome in a city where their numbers have dwindled. However, organizers also need to publicise such events better and tie up with schools to ensure more participation.

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The bird festival began

e-Tender Notice
Hooghly Zilla R.M.C. invites e-Tender vide N.I.T. No. 57/HZRM/C/2022-2023 (S.No. 1, 2, 3) Dated 06.03.2023 as on date of award of contract. Bid closing date 1 PM. The details of the e-tenders are available on the website <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in>. Sd/-
Secretary
Hooghly Zilla R.M.C.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, Nadia Division, P.W.D. invites online e-tender for the work of Sl. I. "Repairing and Renovation work of Chamber of Deputy DL & L.R. Section, Law Section, TA Section of different floor of Administrative Building, Nadia Circle, Division-I, P.W.D." Estimated Amount - Rs. 9,27,679.00. e-NIT No. 11 of 2022-23. Tender ID: 2023_WBPWD_485879_1. Bid submission start date (online) 03.03.2023 from 10.00 AM. Bid submission end date (online) 13.03.2023 upto 3:00 PM. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- M.Saha- Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Electrical Construction Division.
ICA-T4936(2)/2023

Notice Inviting EOI
Invited by the Secretary Jalpaiguri Zilla R.M.C. for "Lease out 7 Nos. of Weighbridge of 60.0 MT capacities each at different Location under Jalpaiguri Zilla Regulated Market Committee Market area." vide EOI No. WBJALZRMC/02-SEC/JAL/2022-23, DATED : 03.03.2023. The last Date of submission is 20.03.2023 upto 14.00 Hours (IST). For details may contact the Jalpaiguri Zilla Regulated Market Committee.
Sd/-
Secretary
Jalpaiguri Zilla RMC

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE
Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Electrical Construction Division invites online e-tender for the work of "Renovation of E.I. Works at Cyber Petrol Cid of CID, West Bengal". e-NIT No.: WBPWD/EDC/ENIT/28 (2) Call/2022-23 tender ID: 2023_PWD_486175_1. Bid submission start date (online) 07.03.2023 from 02:00 P.M.. Bid submission closing date (online): 15.03.2023 upto 2:00 P.M.. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- M.Saha- Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Electrical Construction Division.
ICA-T4942(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL KMDSA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No.: WBPWD/EE-WKED/NQ-91/2022-23 Tender ID: 2023_WBPWD_485191_1 Name of work : Annual Comprehensive maintenance and operation of sound and Projection system at Auditorium of Charukala Bhawan within the complex of Rabindra Sadan. Bid submission end date : 13.03.2023 upto 1:00 pm. Website: <https://tenderwb.wb.nic.in> or <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer-II, P.W.D., West Kolkata Electrical Division, 4th Floor, C-Block, New Sectt. Bldg., 1, K.S. Roy, Ballygunge, Kolkata-700091, from experienced firms / companies / individual contractors / Joint Ventures / Consortium, for the work. Name of Work, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Survey, Design, Drawing, Construction, Testing, Commissioning with 5 (Five) Years of Operation & Maintenance of Fecal Sludge Treatment Plant (FSTP) of Capacity 50 KLD at Burdwan Municipal Town for Pollution Abatement of River Ganga. (2nd Call), Rs. 9,00,000/- differential amount 2% of the quoted amount and deposited EMD is to be submitted by the successful bidder prior to issuance of LOI / Work Order, 01 Year excluding trial run and O&M activity. Last date & time for Online Bid submission: 30.03.2023 upto 15.00 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDS-1174)
www.kmdsa.wb.gov.in
www.wbtenders.gov.in
ICA-T4883(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE
S.E. NBC-II, P.W.D. Jalpaiguri, invites online e-tender for the work of "Upgradation of Minor Road from 0.00 km to 1.00 km under SD Hospital Mirik in the District of Darjeeling (For Civil Work Only)." Estimated Amount : Rs. 15,81,57,618.00. Tender Ref. No: WBPWD/SN/BC/ II/NT/13/2023/23/1. Tender ID: 2023_PWD_485682_1. Bid submission start date (online): 20/03/2023 from 6.00 P.M.. Bid submission closing date (online): 27/03/2023 upto 10.00 A.M.. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details N.I.T. and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- SE, PWD, NBC-II, Jalpaiguri, Govt. of WB
ICA-T4913(3)/2023

www.wbtenders.gov.in
ICA-T4883(3)/2023

Two-Week Makeover For Qudsia Ghat Holds Out Hope For Cleaner Yamuna

LG Sets June 30 Target For Cleaning The Entire Floodplain In City, Improving River Health

Kushagra.Dixit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Well laid-out paths, grassy landscaped riverbanks, a river that doesn't emit a foul odour plus a constructed wetland to treat drain water, conveyor belts to collect trash and dredging machines at hand — Qudsia Ghat has undergone a major makeover that is today under the steady eyes of a Territorial Army patrol team.

Just around two weeks ago on February 16, Lieutenant governor V K Saxena had initiated a Yamuna floodplain cleanliness drive at Qudsia Ghat in north Delhi. Days later, the ghat looks nothing like the forsaken stinking heap of garbage it was earlier. Riverine grasses have been planted to stabilise the banks of the drain and a monitoring hut made of bamboo has been set up at the ghat.

The facelift still has its challenges, among them to keep the revamped riverine area clean, prevent encroachment, improve the Yamuna's health and redevelop the entire floodplain — issues the LG hopes to have tackled by June 30.

"We started the drive to clean Qudsia Ghat around 15 days ago back. Given that we managed to remove tonnes of rubbish in a fortnight, we are confident of cleaning the river by June 30," the LG told TOI. "This won't simply be cleaning the riverbanks, but also improving the river's health by reducing the biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and improving the dissolved oxygen (DO) level. There will be a visible change by the deadline set by NGT."

Asked how untreated sewage flowing into the river could be prevented, Saxena pointed out that

ALL IN A FORTNIGHT

WHEN | FROM FEBRUARY 16 TO MARCH 6



STEPS TAKEN

- Constructed wetland built on Qudsia Ghat drain to treat sewage
- Pathways constructed
- Garbage, hyacinth removed from floodplain and the river
- Stink reduced drastically
- Landscaping work done
- Desilting started
- Conveyor belt installed to collect floating garbage
- Encroachments removed
- Territorial Army to be deployed to avoid encroachment and dumping on the floodplain



WHAT NEXT

- Facelift of entire floodplain and ghats
- Reduce pollution in river by June 30
- Build constructed wetlands on all drains falling into the river

Photos: Sanjeev Rastogi, TOI

a new wetland had been constructed on the Qudsia drain. "We aim to build low-cost wetlands on drains that are directly discharging into the river. They treat water naturally," the LG said.

An artificial wetland system comprises a layer of limestone for primary treatment, boulders for turbulence to improve dissolved oxygen and root-treatment plant species like *Canna indica* and vetiver grass.

Saxena said several ways to improve BOD, which is the minimum oxygen required by the river to decompose organic matter and indicates the healing power of the river, will be undertaken. Currently, BOD at the ISBT bridge is 40 mg/l when the measure for Class C standard for a drinking water source must be below 3 mg/l. The BOD reduction techniques involve complete removal of garbage, hyacinth and plastic waste using floating booms and a mechanised conveyor machine. The river stretch under the ISBT bridge had also been barricaded to prevent garbage being dumped into the water.

The LG said the National Mission for Clean Ganga had arranged for Territorial Army personnel to patrol the riverbanks and prevent garbage throwing or illegal occupation. "We have the TA teams for at least a year; though they will remain here to help us keep the river clean as long as we want," said Saxena. "However, we are getting support from the residents who have vowed not to throw garbage in the river; for example in the 18-km stretch in Najafgarh that has been cleaned." The LG added that a tree plantation drive would be organised on the riverbanks on March 21.

Bike taxis attract 128 challans since February crackdown

Abhinav.Rajput@timesgroup.com

Corrigendum Notice
1st-Corrigendum is published on date 06.03.2023 for the work: "Construction of Super-structure and Rectification of Sub-structures for 92.00m Span Steel Bridge over 'Dawali Khola' at Gorubathan Block, Kalimpang Dist. under WBSR, Kalimpang Division, Gorakhpur Territorial Administration"

RFP-XVIII/SC/2022-23/1 cover section vide e-NIT No. 15 of 2022-23. Tender ID: (2023 PRO 481825_1). All details may be had from this office. Notice Board and in website <https://wbtenders.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
P&RD Dept, Govt. of West Bengal
North Bengal Circle Jalpaiguri

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL TENDER NOTICE
GEN/2023/B/3213750

e-Tender board constituted by the SENIOR HEPIC W.P.D. KIT Annex Building, 5th Floor, Kolkata-73 from the eligible contractors for Construction of proposed New OPD Building within the campus of 55KM Hospital, Kolkata — SITE of 600 KVA Diesel Generator set with AMF and R-Rooms.

Corrigendum if any will be issued on 01/03/2023 upto 11:00 AM (IST). End date and time of submission bid proposal: 08.03.2023 upto 11:00 AM (IST). N.B.- Any corrigendum and addendum, if issued for this e-NIT will be published in Online mode only. Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Berhampore Division No.II.

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 16 of 2022-23

Online e-tender (Tender ID: 2023_WBPWD_486243_1) under 2t/2t bike system is invited for the work of Emergent balance work of repairing of damaged portions of concrete surface of Girder marked LG2 & span P24 - P25 (Balkhali side) of the newly constructed High Level Major Bridge on river Hatna. Distance to Km. 113.297 of NH-117 under N.H. Division No. 11 in the district of South 24 Parganas during the year 2022-23. (ii) Repairing & Painting of Railing of Santrapachhi ROB at Chainage 4.50 Km at Kona Expressway (NH 117) under NH Division-I; in the District of Howrah; during the year 2022-23. Closing date of submission tender (online) : 21.03.2023 upto 15:00 PM. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be download from : <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- E.H.D., A.H.D., P.W.R.D., GOVT. OF WB
ICA-T4947(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 17 of 2022-23

Online e-tender (Tender ID: 2023_WBPWD_486243_1) under 2t/2t bike system is invited for the work of repairing of damaged portions of concrete surface of Girder marked LG2 & span P24 - P25 (Balkhali side) of the newly constructed High Level Major Bridge on river Hatna. Distance to Km. 113.297 of NH-117 under N.H. Division No. 11 in the district of South 24 Parganas during the year 2022-23. (ii) Repairing & Painting of Railing of Santrapachhi ROB at Chainage 4.50 Km at Kona Expressway (NH 117) under NH Division-I; in the District of Howrah; during the year 2022-23. Closing date of submission tender (online) : 21.03.2023 upto 15:00 PM. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be download from : <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- E.H.D., A.H.D., P.W.R.D., GOVT. OF WB
ICA-T4947(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 18 of 2022-23

Online e-tender (Tender ID: 2023_WBPWD_486243_1) under 2t/2t bike system is invited for the work of repairing of damaged portions of concrete surface of Girder marked LG2 & span P24 - P25 (Balkhali side) of the newly constructed High Level Major Bridge on river Hatna. Distance to Km. 113.297 of NH-117 under N.H. Division No. 11 in the district of South 24 Parganas during the year 2022-23. (ii) Repairing & Painting of Railing of Santrapachhi ROB at Chainage 4.50 Km at Kona Expressway (NH 117) under NH Division-I; in the District of Howrah; during the year 2022-23. Closing date of submission tender (online) : 21.03.2023 upto 15:00 PM. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be download from : <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- E.H.D., A.H.D., P.W.R.D., GOVT. OF WB
ICA-T4947(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 19 of 2022-23

Online e-tender (Tender ID: 2023_WBPWD_486243_1) under 2t/2t bike system is invited for the work of repairing of damaged portions of concrete surface of Girder marked LG2 & span P24 - P25 (Balkhali side) of the newly constructed High Level Major Bridge on river Hatna. Distance to Km. 113.297 of NH-117 under N.H. Division No. 11 in the district of South 24 Parganas during the year 2022-23. (ii) Repairing & Painting of Railing of Santrapachhi ROB at Chainage 4.50 Km at Kona Expressway (NH 117) under NH Division-I; in the District of Howrah; during the year 2022-23. Closing date of submission tender (online) : 21.03.2023 upto 15:00 PM. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be download from : <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- E.H.D., A.H.D., P.W.R.D., GOVT. OF WB
ICA-T4947(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 20 of 2022-23

Online e-tender (Tender ID: 2023_WBPWD_486243_1) under 2t/2t bike system is invited for the work of repairing of damaged portions of concrete surface of Girder marked LG2 & span P24 - P25 (Balkhali side) of the newly constructed High Level Major Bridge on river Hatna. Distance to Km. 113.297 of NH-117 under N.H. Division No. 11 in the district of South 24 Parganas during the year 2022-23. (ii) Repairing & Painting of Railing of Santrapachhi ROB at Chainage 4.50 Km at Kona Expressway (NH 117) under NH Division-I; in the District of Howrah; during the year 2022-23. Closing date of submission tender (online) : 21.03.2023 upto 15:00 PM. Details of N.I.T. and Tender documents may be download from : <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- E.H.D., A.H.D., P.W.R.D., GOVT. OF WB
ICA-T4947(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL NOTICE INVITING TENDER
e-NIT No. 21 of 2022-23

Trader, labourer die in 2 separate road accidents

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A trader and a labourer died in separate road accidents in north and west Delhi on Sunday.

In one accident, 30-year-old Pukit Chawla died when his scooter collided with a bike in Subhash Nagar west Delhi, on Sunday. Chawla lived in Hari Nagar and had a tent supply business. The biker, Azad Singh of Ranholi in west Delhi, suffered minor injuries.

Ghanshyam Bansal, deputy commissioner (west), said the police got a call at 10.15 pm about the accident at Milap Market in Subhash Nagar. "The victims were taken to a hospital,

where Chawla was pronounced dead. An inquiry has revealed that the scooter and bike collided with each other," he said.

A case under IPC sections 279 (rash driving) and 304 A (causing death by negligence) has been filed, police said.

The other accident was reported from Sarai Rohilla in north Delhi. A 25-year-old labourer, Vikas, who was riding with two men as pillion, died. One of his friends, also called Vikas, suffered injuries and is being treated in a hospital.

Police said two of the three men on the bike were drunk and neither was wearing a helmet. The accident happened because the bike rammed into a tree.

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesgroup.com

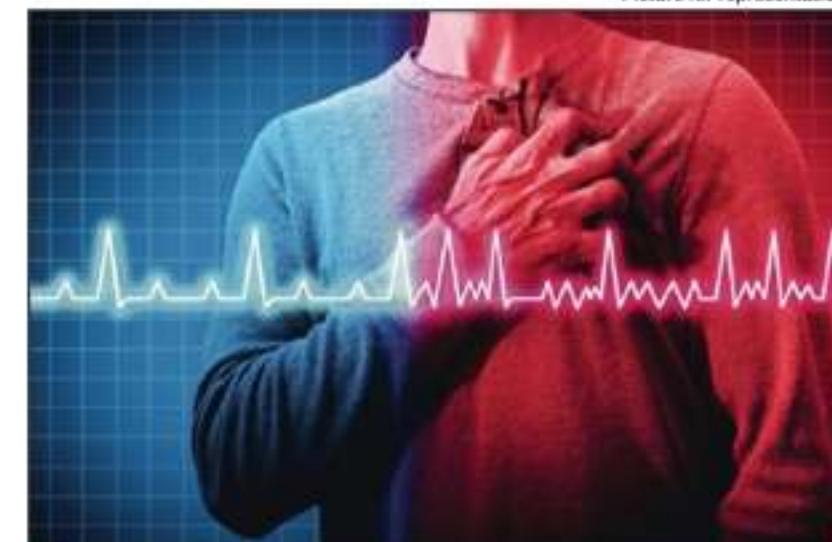
New Delhi: There has been an unusual increase in the rate of sudden cardiac death (SCD) in apparently healthy individuals with a history of Covid, doctors say. Some hospitals have witnessed an increase of 10 to 15% and the trend is in sync with a recent US research which documented higher rates of mortality and higher risk of cardiac arrests, strokes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in people exposed to the coronavirus.

Director of cardiac department at Max Hospital, Saket, Dr Balbir Singh, confirmed the increase in such deaths, adding that the recent deaths include people in their twenties. He, however, said that a more detailed study was required in the matter. The number of such de-

aths in people aged less than 50 years was 15% during the pre-Covid time but later shot up to 24%, added Dr Singh.

According to AIIMS professor Rakesh Yadav, there is no quantifiable data, but anecdotal evidence suggests at least a 10-15% increase in such cases. Those who were infected with Covid should not ignore symptoms like breathlessness, regardless of their age or fitness, and should immediately consult a doctor, he suggested, adding everyone should get periodic health check-ups.

Senior Consultant, cardiology & interventional cardiology, Narayana Hospital, Dr Sanjay Kumar Chugh said the increase in deaths due to cardiac arrests among young adults was due to an electrical rhythm-related abnormality such as ventricular fibrillation or asystole. "In both ca-



Picture for representation

MATTERS OF HEART: Doctors say a family history of cardiac illness was 'often' found absent in people who had sudden cardiac death

ses, the heart stops beating effectively and suddenly leads to death unless prompt resuscitation is done," he said, adding many young doctors have suffered SCD.

According to the study — 'One-Year Adverse Outco-

mation. "In Covid-19 patients, these blood clots can be in the small vessels inside the lungs and heart as well as in the bigger pulmonary highways and large modes in the legs. The clots can lead to the lungs, which can vitiate blood inflow and reduce the capacity of the lungs. Some major clotting events may lead to long-term pulmonary complications, which can be fatal in some cases," he said.

Dr G C Khilnani from the PSRI Institute of Pulmonary, said: "Long Covid is a well-recognised entity and consists of fatigue, cough, pain (joint, throat, chest), loss of taste or smell, shortness of breath, brain-fog depression, panic attacks and others."

The middle-aged and elderly with a history of Covid should watch for hypertension, obesity and cholesterol, he said. They also should not indulge in unusual heavy exercise as several sudden deaths have been reported with such endeavours, he added.

Dr Navneet Sood, pulmonologist at Dharamshala Narayana Superspeciality Hospital, Delhi said some studies found that numerous cases of Covid-19 have increased clotting by inflam-

mation. "In Covid-19 patients, these blood clots can be in the small vessels inside the lungs and heart as well as in the bigger pulmonary highways and large modes in the legs. The clots can lead to the lungs, which can vitiate blood inflow and reduce the capacity of the lungs. Some major clotting events may lead to long-term pulmonary complications, which can be fatal in some cases," he said.

Director and head of cardiology, Fortis Vasant Kunj, Dr Tapan Ghose said, "Young and middle-aged active individuals are the victims. Known coronary risk factors are either absent or are undetected in these cases."

As per doctors, a family history of cardiac illness was "often" found absent in people who had sudden cardiac death and 50% were non-smokers.

Covid Link In Cardiac Deaths Among Youths

City Hospitals Report Nearly 15% Rise In Such Fatalities Among Those With Corona History

Jail No.1 for Sisodia, cell away from Jain

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Manish Sisodia will be lodged in Tihar jail no. 1 during his two-week judicial custody and could be allotted a meditation cell on discretion of the jail superintendent, officials said on Monday.

Sisodia will be kept alone in a separate cell located away from his colleague, former minister Satyendar Jain, said a source.

The jail administration said they had made elaborate arrangements to house Sisodia during his judicial custody. The officials said they would go strictly as per the jail manual and the court order pertaining to him.

One of the concerns for the prison authorities is to avoid a rerun of a controversy that broke out after Jain was found getting VIP treatment in jail. Jain, who was arrested in a money laundering case, is lodged in jail number 7.

Sisodia will be alone in his barrack and won't be given any VIP treatment in jail, officials asserted. "The jail superintendent will take a call on lodging Sisodia in the vipassana/meditation cell," an official said.

According to the Tihar officer, Sisodia will get dal, chawal, sabzi and rotis or rice for dinner. "CCTVs are installed outside his cell to keep an eye on him. There was also a discussion about his security arrangements," he said.

Another officer said that Sisodia may get a few jail staff when he goes

Court allows him to carry Gita, specs to jail

►Continued from P1

An application has been moved by the IO now for sending the accused to judicial custody for a period of 14 days as it is stated that his CBI/police custody is not required in the case for the time being and the same may be sought/prayed by the prosecution later on in terms of Section 167 CrPC, if required," the court noted.

"Witnesses are terrified. The media is giving a political colour. Their supporters and the media are politicising the matter," the CBI counsel submitted before the court.

Senior advocate Mohit Mathur, appearing for Sisodia, opposed the submissions of the agency, adding that he was appalled by such an argument.

"Are they scared of the media?" Mathur asked.

The court allowed Sisodia to carry the Bhagavad Gita, his spectacles and medicine to jail, while directing Tihar authorities to consider his request to be allowed to do Vipassana meditation. TNN

out from his ward for some work inside the prison so that no untoward incident takes place. "So far, he has not requested anything. He will follow the same rules as other undertrial prisoners," the officer said.

mes Among US Adults With Post-Covid Condition vs Those Without Covid-19 in a Large Commercial Insurance Database" — published in the Journal of American Medical Association, there was increased mortality of 2.8%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi special court on Monday granted bail to Butchibabu Gorantla in the Delhi liquor scam case stating that he was "not related to any of the credit notes issued by the wholesalers in favour of retailers," nor had he met Manish Sisodia or any public representative.

Butchibabu is the former chartered accountant of Telangana MLC Kavitha, who is the daughter of chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao.

Special court judge MK Nagpal granted Butchibabu bail against a personal bond of Rs 2 lakh with a surety of equal amount. He said that the apprehensions about him tampering evidence or influencing witnesses did not appear reasonable.

The judge said that Butchibabu was only a CA and because some of his clients may happen to be influential persons, he cannot be considered to be a threat to witnesses or to the trial.

The court noted that Butchibabu was "neither a licensee, nor a beneficiary" of the criminal conspiracy or the cartel formed by the various accused persons. The judge said that Butchibabu was not involved in the liquor business in Delhi or in any part of the country and the allegation against him

is only that he participated in some meetings that took place in different places in connection with the formulation of the excise policy. He was in the meetings on behalf of the south lobby.

The order said that in the reply filed by the CBI, which appealed

COURT ORDER SAYS

It has been admitted that the applicant participated in these meetings as a representative of Ms Kavitha, MLC, and Sharat Reddy of the Aurobindo Group of companies, who were members of the south lobby

against the bail, "it has been admitted that the applicant participated in these meetings as a representative of Ms Kavitha, MLC, and Sharat Reddy of the Aurobindo Group of companies, who were members of the south lobby".

The court also said that Butchibabu's role was lesser than what has been attributed to two of his co-accused — Vijay Nair (accused 3) and Abhishek Boinpally (accused 4). The court added that the evidence on him has already been "col-

lected by the CBI" and there was no possibility of him tampering with the evidence. Even the oral evidence on his participation in the meetings has been collected by the investigating agency, the court said.

The court said that the recovery of WhatsApp chats cannot be used as a ground to seek further detention of Butchibabu, that too when Nair and Boinpally have been granted bail.

The court said that the contents of these chats "may only show his participation" in the meetings in his professional capacity, not in any personal capacity or for deriving of any pecuniary benefits.

The CBI had opposed Butchibabu's bail plea. It said that although he was not named in the FIR, his role had clearly surfaced during the investigation and he was in regular touch with the other accused. They said the evidence against him was highly incriminating.

The agency added that Butchibabu failed to explain his stand during the investigation. He was rightly arrested by the investigation officer and confined to Tihar Jail, the CBI said.

The agency alleged that Butchibabu either gave evasive replies or the information was found to be contrary to the facts and evidence collected in the case. Hence, his detention was required, the CBI said.

BJP holds 'Holika Dahan of graft & scam' across city

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Monday organised "Holika Dahan of corruption and scams" in all 70 assembly constituencies in Delhi, calling them bonfires of corruption.

The leader of opposition in the assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, and Delhi BJP working president Vinendra Sachdeva burnt the effigies of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and former minister Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain outside the ancient Hanuman temple in Connaught Place. Sisodia and Jain are in custody in alleged corruption cases.

Sachdeva said, "During elections, Kejriwal takes blessings from the Hanuman temple, so we are giving a clear message to Kejriwal from here that we will end his politics from where he started. Let's resolve to end it at the same place." He added, "Holika Dahan is a symbol of victory of good over evil, so today Aam Aadmi Party leaders are symbols of liquor scam and corruption, we have gathered to burn them their effigies."

AAP functionary Atishi asserted that CBI did not ask for Sisodia's custody because it could not find any evidence to substantiate its allegations of corruption. "Lack of concrete evidence has raised concerns about the credibility of the investigation... Since CBI has no concrete proof, its strategy is to coerce Sisodia into signing a false confession," Atishi alleged. "By choosing not to request police custody again, CBI also demonstrated that it has run out of questions to pose," she claimed.

BJP's Bidhuri said it was a matter of shame that the government did not open a new school during its tenure, but formed a liquor policy. Chandni Chowk MP Harsh Vardhan, who organised an event in Shastri Nagar, said, "The two ministers whom Kejriwal praised the most have turned out to be corrupt."

Fridge murder: Judicial custody of Sahil extended

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday extended the judicial custody of Sahil Gehlot and five other accused in the Nikki Yadav murder case for 14 days till March 20.

Gehlot was produced before the court of additional chief metropolitan magistrate Samiksha Gupta after his 12-day judicial custody ended on Monday. Delhi Police had arrested him on February 14.

Police submitted before the court that the five co-accused were arrested after ascertaining their role in the killing

According to the police, on the intervening night of February 9-10, when Yadav confronted the accused about his marriage, he killed her using the data cable of a mobile phone in his car and then kept her body in a refrigerator at his dhaba.

The police had registered a case under sections 302 (murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of an offence committed, or giving false information to screen offender) of the Indian Penal Code at Baba Haridas Nagar police station.

Gehlot's father Virendra Singh, his cousins Navneen and Ashish, and friends Lokesh and Amar were sent to police custody on February 17.

The police submitted before the court that the five co-accused were arrested after ascertaining their role in the killing.

According to the police, during an initial investigation, Gehlot confessed to killing Yadav because she was pressuring him to marry her, but later it was revealed that they both had tied the knot in 2020. He killed Yadav after he could not convince her to allow him to go ahead with the wedding his family had fixed, said a police officer.

Neighbour shoots at 16-year-old girl, was upset at her talking to another boy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 16-year-old girl was allegedly shot at by her neighbour in northeast Delhi's Noida Nagar area on Monday, police said, adding the accused was infuriated with her for talking with another boy.

The accused was identified as 19-year-old Kasim, a resident of Noida Nagar. He works at a mobile repair shop. The girl, a Class 10 student, lives in the same locality, police said, adding that her mother works as a maid.

The accused and girl belong to different communities.

Police said at 8.27pm, they received a call regarding a firing incident in the Kodi Colony.

Hearing the gunfire and girl's screams, the residents rushed to the spot and found her lying in a pool of blood

was talking to someone on the phone near her home. Suddenly, Kasim reached there and snatched her phone, an officer said.

He then redialed the last phone number from her phone, and some boy answered. "He disconnected the call, and an argument ensued between them over continuous talking with another boy. Kasim took out a pistol and shot at her," the officer said.

Hearing a gunshot and girl's screams, the residents rushed to the spot and found her lying in a pool of blood. The accused had fled the spot.

"Multiple police teams have been formed, and raids are on to nab the accused," the officer said.

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OBITUARY

REMEMBRANCES

'Child from partner's previous marriage has to be taken care of'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has said that anyone marrying a person with a child cannot be allowed to argue later that the child is not his or her responsibility.

The court dismissed a plea moved by a man, who had challenged an order by a family court that had dismissed his Plea seeking modification of judgment wherein divorce was granted to him from his wife on the ground of desertion.

"When a person solemnises marriage with a person who already has a child, the said person shall be presumed to have undertaken the responsibility of the child and also cannot later be permitted to contend that the child is not his/her responsibility," the division bench of Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva and Justice Vikas Mahajan said.

The elder daughter of the petitioner's wife was born out of her first marriage to an army staffer. The yo-

unger daughter was born out of wedlock with the petitioner.

The court said the petitioner, at the time he got married, was aware that the elder daughter was from his partner's first marriage. "If the respondent had known the appellant was not going to maintain her first daughter, she would not even have married him," the court said. "It is not in dispute that the appellant was bringing up the elder daughter and maintaining her till the parties fell out," the court said.

The court said the order by the ardent authority, which showed the elder daughter as a family member of the late husband, would have no bearing on the family court's order.

The family court had directed the petitioner to pay Rs 2,500 to the children for the first five years and Rs 3,500 for another five years. The court had also asked the petitioner to pay Rs 5,000 each till both children are married or attain financial independence.

Kin of man who jumped to death from police stn in N Delhi allege torture

New Delhi: A day after a man died after jumping off the third floor of the Kamla Market police station in north Delhi, his family on Monday alleged torture and harassment by police. However, police have refuted the charges.

Police said a few personnel on the ground floor or raised an alarm and tried to dissuade Anand Verma, a resident of Uttam Nagar, when they spotted him trying to jump around 3.20pm. The postmortem was conducted on Monday.

A cheating case was filed against Verma by head constable Ajee Singh of the same police station for allegedly taking Rs 14 lakh to get Singh's relative a job. "Singh told us that Verma was freed following an initial inquiry, after he assured that he would return the money," an officer said, adding that the victim was seen walking on the third floor of the police station before suddenly taking the step. Singh has been suspended, he said.

Verma's family, however, claimed that he was harassed during the inquiry. "On March 4, without a notice or warning, they picked him from his house in Uttam Nagar, his father then called emergency helpline 112 and informed police. Verma was harassed," a relative said. TNN

Guest teachers: What will you achieve by stopping everything, CM asks LG

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A day after the Directorate of Education (DoE) denied any irregularity and embezzlement of funds regarding guest teachers in government schools, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal asked lieutenants governor VK Saksena through a tweet on Monday, "24-hour fake inquiry. Putting obstacles in every work. Stop everything. What will you achieve from it?"

In September 2022, Saksena ordered an internal inquiry into the alleged irregularities and embezzlement of funds by paying salaries to "non-existent guest teachers" at Delhi government schools. Kejriwal posted the tweet quoting a TOI story published on March 6.

Education minister Raaj Kumar Anand later said the LG's claim had fallen flat. "He addressed our teachers as 'ghost teachers', but all his claims have fallen flat with this latest report of DoE. As per the report, there are no irregularities. The LG's allegations are fabricated and baseless, not even a single rupee was used illegally in the entire process," he claimed.

According to him, the documents of 16,600 guest tea-

chers were scrutinised, and nearly 16,500 of them had all documents in order. "Around 109 teachers have been asked to submit their remaining documents as soon as possible as some had submitted provisional documents, OBC certificates of other states, etc. DoE has given them time to do the same," Anand said.

"After this report, I would like to request the LG to stop harassing Delhi government and disrupting education of poor children by making false allegations. These teachers... are ensuring education to lakhs of children studying in Delhi government schools, and he should not address them as 'ghost teachers,'" said Anand. TOI was the first to highlight how district education officers had raised doubts in 109 cases.

AAP chief spokesperson Saurbab Bharadwaj said, "The LG office should issue a press release and inform people that the allegations... were untrue." AAP MLA Atishi claimed that the Kejriwal government had got a certificate of honesty from the DoE investigation committee. "The report has put on record that the government hired guest teachers with full transparency and accountability," she said.

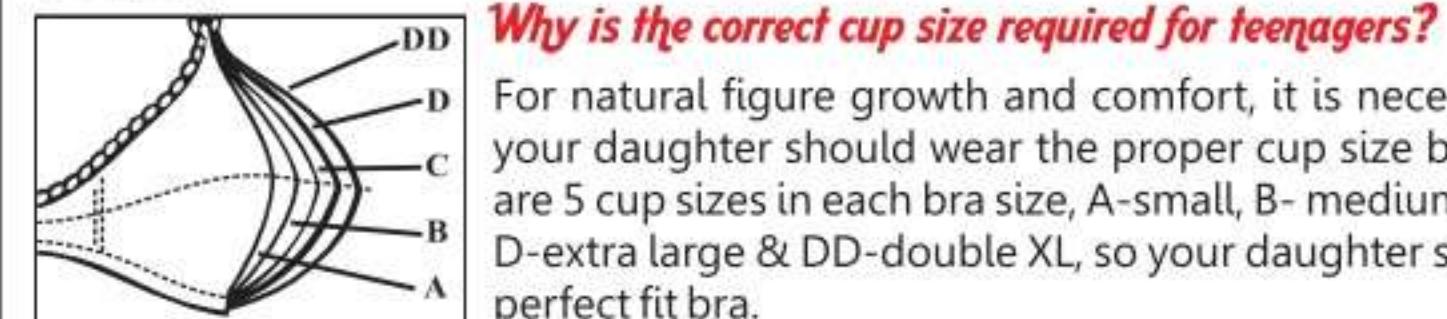
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New Delhi: A Delhi court on Monday granted four days of interim bail to Olympic medalist wrestler Sushil Kumar for performing the last rites of his father.

Additional sessions judge Shivani Anand said Kumar be released on interim bail, on humanitarian grounds, only on furnishing personal bonds of Rs 1 lakh with two sureties of the same amount.

The court also directed Kumar to surrender before the concerned jail superintendent after the expiry of the interim bail period on March 10.

The court issued directions that at least two security personnel should be present with the wrestler round the clock. **TNN****Gym owner, friend held in murder case**

Advitya.Bahl@timesgroup.com

POLICE SAY**Shiva (victim) worked at the accused's gym as a cleaner and lived in the same building**

Friday," ACP-1 (central Noida) Amit Pratap Singh said.

The complainant said Shiva had run to the second floor of the building to save himself but the two men grabbed him from behind and threw him onto the road.

"A severely injured Shiva was taken to a nearby hospital but was referred to Delhi's Safdarjung hospital where doctors had declared him brain-dead. He was declared dead on Sunday," the ACP said, adding a case was registered against Neeraj and Arun under relevant IPC sections.

According to police, no digital video recorder was found in the CCTV camera recovered from the gym. The accused, a senior officer said, may have destroyed it after Shiva's family filed a complaint

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Disciplinary proceeding has been initiated against Mr. Veer Pratap - EC No. 112686. SWO 'A' vide issuance of charge sheet dated 02.11.2022. Regular hearings were held on 30.11.2022, 12.12.2022 and 26.12.2022. Mr. Veer Pratap was absconding during all the hearings and the inquiry was concluded ex parte on 26.12.2022. Inquiry report was forwarded for seeking comments of Mr. Veer Pratap over the said report but no reply was received. Further, the Disciplinary Authority gave opportunities to Mr. Veer Pratap, EC No. 112686, to represent his case in personal hearings scheduled on 13.02.2023 and 23.02.2023 but none of the hearings were attended by Mr Veer Pratap. If he does not submit any representation in his defence within 7 days from the date of publication of this message, the bank shall proceed further in the matter as per bank's extant guidelines.

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Managing Director**TENDER NOTICE****Mess committee, ZRTI, Chandausi (Private Body), invites sealed tenders from interested firms/persons for supply of Cooks, servers etc. for the preparation and service of wholesale food for the trainees.****Tenders forms with terms and conditions can be collected strictly between 16.00 to 17.00 upto 13.03.23 from the office of Secretary Mess Committee, ZRTI, on payment of Rs. 300/- office will be open even in case of holiday.****The Tender from should be deposited by 12.00 on 03.04.23 on Secretary Mess Committee, ZRTI office.****Secretary
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According to police, no digital video recorder was found in the CCTV camera recovered from the gym. The accused, a senior officer said, may have destroyed it after Shiva's family filed a complaint

Gym trainer hit with rods, bricks**>Continued from P1**

The accused came to beat up Mishra with wooden and iron rods. They also picked up some bricks lying on the road and hit him with them," said Bhaskar Verma, Sahibabad ACP.

Mishra's friend Bunty who lived nearby, intervened but he too was thrashed, the ACP said, adding the accused fled after other neighbours came in. "Locals took Mishra and Bunty to a nearby private hospital," Verma said.

The two of them were referred to GTB Hospital in Delhi for further treatment. Bunty was discharged on Sunday, but Mishra died at the hospital on Monday.

Based on Bunty's complaint, an FIR was registered and six BA students of LR College — Maneesh Kumar, Gaurav Kasana (22), Vipul Kumar (22), Maneesh Yadav

TENDER FOR MEDICINES FOR THE YEAR 2022-23 UNDER Medical Superintendent & HOD, AGMC & GBP Hospital, Agartala

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The details of tender, list of items with indicative quantity and Tender Documents are made available on website (<http://tripratenders.gov.in>). The last date/time of submission of the tender documents by online is 16.03.2023 upto 05.00 PM. All future modification/ corrigendum shall be made available in the e procurement portal, So bidders are requested to get the update themselves from the procurement web portal only.**Medical Superintendent & HOD
AGMC & GBP Hospital
Agartala****U.P.RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD, OBRA-SONEBHADRA E-Tender Notice**1. Tender No: T-04/SE-IV/BTPS/EMD-II/2023-24 online e-Bids are invited for the "Daily Monitoring preventive/breakdown maintenance, repairing, overhauling, shifting of 0.4kV L.T. Motors of Obra TPS". E-tender has been uploaded on 27.02.2023 on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of work approximately **Rs. 15.07 Lacs only**, Completion Period: 365 Days, E.M.D. 30,000.00, Tender Cost 1180.00. Last date of submission 28.03.2023 up to 18.00 Hrs., SE-IV2. Tender No: T-05/SE-IV/BTPS/EMD-II/2023-24 online e-Bids are invited for the "Rewinding of damaged stators of 0.4kV LT Motors of Obra TPS". E-tender has been uploaded on 27.02.2023 on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of work approximately **Rs. 22.82 Lacs only**, Completion Period: 365 Days, E.M.D. 45,600.00, Tender Cost 1180.00. Last date of submission 28.03.2023 up to 18.00 Hrs., SE-IV3. Tender No: T-19/SE/(CMC-I)/CMD-II/2022-23 online e-Bids are invited for the "Work of preparation of monthly account of CFA&BO (A/B/C TPS), R&M, HOPD at Obra Thermal Power Project". E-tender has been uploaded on 04.03.2023 on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of work approximately **Rs. 7,16,110.00 only**, Completion Period: 01Month, E.M.D. 14,500.00, Tender Cost 1180.00. Last date of submission 24.03.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs., SE, CMC-I4. Tender No: T-04/O&MC-II/BMD-II/BTPS/2023-24 online e-Bids are invited for the Work of "Reclamation of Bowl Mill & RC Feeder spares for 5x200MW units, BTPS, Obra". E-tender has been uploaded on 04.03.2023 on <http://etender.up.nic.in> Estimated cost of work approximately **Rs. 5.99 Lacs only**, Completion Period - 12 Month, E.M.D. cost **Rs. 12,00,000**, Tender Cost **Rs. 1180.00**. Last date of submission 03.04.2023 up to 16.00 Hrs., SE-II, 3x200MW



WILL ENSURE MVA CONTESTS MAHA ASSEMBLY AND LS POLLS TOGETHER, SAYS SHARAD PAWAR

SP COULD FIELD A CANDIDATE IN 2024 LS POLLS FROM AMETHI SEAT, HINTS AKHILESH YADAV



Punjab pilgrims go on rampage, tension grips HP's Manikaran

Kullu: Tension gripped the hilly town of Manikaran, in Kullu district, Himachal, after a group of pilgrims from Punjab went on the rampage late Sunday night, beating up local residents, throwing bricks and stones at their houses, damaging shops and smashing the window panes of parked vehicles, reports Rohit Mullick.

Over a dozen vehicles and a few shops were damaged by the group of pilgrims, who were brandishing swords and batons in the Manikaran market and beating up people. The damaged vehicles belong to local residents as well as tourists.

Locals claimed that there were no policemen present when the violence broke out at around 11.30 pm and continued for over half an hour.

According to police officers there had been an argument and a subsequent scuffle between some local youths and pilgrims prior to the violence. They said an FIR has been registered against unidentified people, but no arrests had been made as yet.

Kullu SP Sakshi Verma told TOI additional forces have been deployed in Manikaran to maintain law and order. "The situation is completely under control. It was a scuffle between locals and pilgrims that took place at a fair here and then flared up later. We are checking footage from CCTV to identify the accused," Verma said.

ARI kills 7 more infants in 24 hrs in Kolkata; toll in 3 weeks 44

Kolkata: Seven more children succumbed to acute respiratory infection (ARI) in the past 24 hours across three city hospitals, taking the total number of infant deaths to 44 due to ARI from across Bengal in the past three weeks, report Sumati Yengkhom & Krishnendu Bandopadhyay. The spate of deaths has prompted the health department to cancel leaves of principals and MSVPs of medical colleges, along with district health officials. Leaves of paediatricians, including senior faculty and other hospital administrators who are involved in ARI management have been cancelled till further notice.

On Monday, CM Mamata Banerjee urged parents and guardians to wear masks. She stressed that the state was equipped to deal with the viral surge and urged people "not to panic and not to spread panic".

Five deaths were reported from Dr BC Roy Post Graduate Institute of Paediatric Sciences, one each was reported from Medical College Hospital, Kolkata and Institute of Child Health on Monday.

Ex-jailor was paid ₹6L to let Ansari meet wife: Police

Pathikrit Chakraborty
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Lucknow: Chitrakoot police on Monday said that an amount of Rs 6 lakh was given to suspended jail superintendent Ashok Sagar for facilitating unlawful meetings between jailed SBSP MLA Abbas Ansari and his wife Nikhat Banu. Police said that the said amount was shared between the arrested jailer Santosh Kumar and jail warden Jagmohan.

Chitrakoot police had arrested the three jail officials on Sunday and they were sent to Lucknow jail on Monday.

Chitrakoot superintendent of police Vrinda Shukla said that during raids at the residences of the three arrested jail officials, they recovered a multi-utility vehicle (MUV) belonging to Santosh and Rs 5.8 lakh cash.

"During probe, it surfaced that on February 7, Rs 6 lakh was handed over to suspended jail superintendent Ashok, via jail canteen operator Navneet Sachan. Navneet was given this

Some countries used Covid lifesavers as weapons: PM

'Trying To Cut Reliance On Other Nations In Healthcare'

DurgeshNandan.Jha
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New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi on Monday said life-savers like medicines, vaccines and medical devices became weapons during the Covid-19 pandemic and that his government was constantly trying to minimise India's dependence on foreign countries in the health sector.

"When the pandemic was at its peak, life-saving things like medicines, vaccines and medical devices had unfortunately become weapons for some countries. India has put a lot of attention to these issues in the last few year's budgets. We are constantly trying to minimise India's dependence on foreign countries," Modi said, while addressing a post-budget webinar on 'health and medical research', the ninth of a series of 12 post-budget webinars organised by the government to seek ideas and suggestions for effectively implementing the initiatives announced in the

Union Budget 2023.

The PM said healthcare could be seen in terms of pre-Covid and post-Covid eras. "The world's focus on healthcare is more than ever now, but India's approach is not limited to healthcare only. Instead, we are going one step ahead and working on overall wellness. It means that we are emphasising holistic healthcare, be it humans, animals or plants," he said.

Modi said his government has put forward a vision before the world and that is 'One Earth-One Health'. "For sev-

eral decades after independence, there was a lack of an integrated approach and a long-term vision regarding health in India. We have not confined healthcare only to the health ministry, but have emphasised the 'whole of the government' approach," he added.

The PM said sometimes calamity also offers an opportunity to prove oneself. "This has been proved by the pharma sector during the Covid period," he said, adding further that the way India's pharma sector has gained trust of the entire world during the pan-

demic was unprecedented. The market size of India's pharma sector is around Rs 4 lakh crore today, the PM said, adding that if there is better coordination between the private sector and academia, it can grow Rs 10 lakh crore.

Highlighting the several steps taken by the government to further research in this sector, the PM said many new laboratories by ICMR have been opened up for the research industry.

Modi said ensuring affordable treatment in India has been the topmost priority of the government and the spirit behind the free treatment facility up to Rs 5 lakh under the Ayushman Bharat.

The PM also highlighted the government's efforts towards improving the health infrastructure in the country.

More than 1.5 lakh health centres are being developed in close proximity to homes across the country. He said more than 260 new medical colleges have been opened in the last few years.

Cops kill man 'who fired 1st shot' in Prayagraj murder

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178 criminals killed in UP since 2017

In a sustained campaign against gangsters and wanted criminals, the UP Police gunned down as many as 178 listed criminals in exchange of fire, most of them carrying cash rewards ranging from Rs 75,000 to Rs 5 lakh on their arrest, since March 2017. At least every 13th day, a listed criminal was killed in a police encounter in the state in the past six year. Police have arrested 23,069 following encounters between March 20, 2017 and March 6, 2023, of which 4,911 were injured. ADG, law and order, Prashant Kumar said that during the exchange of fire, as many as 15 cops also laid down their lives while 1,424 cops suffered injuries. TNN

ings of Umesh Pal and his two gunners was moving around Kaudhiyara area, a joint team of Kaudhiyara, Khiri and Shakargarh police launched a search operation. "When the cops intercepted the criminal, he opened fire at the police and the cops retaliated, injuring the criminal. The criminal was taken to SRN Hospital where doctors declared him dead," Sharma said.

Police have seized one .32 pistol and several rounds of live and spent ammunition from his possession. He was mentioned as Usman in the police records but a background check revealed that his real name was Vijay Chaudhary. "He was given the name Usman by gangster Atiq Ahmad himself after he joined the gang sometime ago," a police officer said.

The police commissioner claimed that Usman was the first shooter to open fire at lawyer Umesh Pal, as seen on CCTV footage.

Baghel's poll-yr budget pledges ₹2,500 monthly sop for jobless

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Raipur: Unveiling a pro-rural, pro-poor budget in election year, Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday announced a scheme to provide a monthly allowance of Rs 2,500 to unemployed youth.

Presenting a Rs 15,200 crore deficit budget in the Vidhan Sabha, CM Baghel — who also holds the finance portfolio — set aside Rs 250 crore for the unemployment allowance scheme. Educated unemployed youth in the age group of 18 to 35 years and whose annual family income is less than 2.5 lakh are eligible for it.

The highest allocation in the Rs 1,2150 crore budget has gone to education — an impressive 16.1%.

The panchayat and rural development has been allocated Rs 10,379 crore and agriculture Rs 10,070 crore.

Terming his election year budget as 'Bharose ka budget' with a motto of 'We'll build a new Chhattisgarh', Baghel said it is aimed towards prosperity and growth of the state with rural economy in mind to complement the objectives of 'Chhattisgarh Model'.

He announced an increase in social security pension to the destitute, elderly, disabled, widows and abandoned women. Anganwadi workers have been given a nearly 54% pay raise — from Rs 6,500 a month to Rs 10,000 a month. TNN

HC overrides legalities, lets 13-yr-old decide on custody

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Kolkata: The Calcutta high court recently let a 13-year-old boy, in the midst of a bitter parental custody battle, decide for himself whom he wanted to stay with, saying he was "intelligent and matured enough" to decide the matter on his own.

The boy was allowed to return to his father, who lives in a joint family, and stay with his grandparents and uncles. The mother was given twice-a-month visitation rights and permission to interact with the child on phone or video calls over the weekend and a month's custody per year.

The father, a schoolteacher based in Balurghat, and his parents and brother, are out on bail but facing criminal charges filed by the wife, a Malda-based academic, for physically and mentally torturing her. The couple is also fighting for divorce.

Married in 2008, their son was born in 2010. The marriage broke apart in 2017 when the wife left her in-laws' home with the child and lodged a criminal case. The custody battle is also being fought in the courts for



'The court is not bound either by statutes nor by strict rules of evidence nor procedure or precedent,' the HC said

the last six years. The HC heard the case after the father complained that he was not being allowed to meet his son for these six years.

The father, a schoolteacher based in Balurghat, and his parents and brother, are out on bail but facing criminal charges filed by the wife, a Malda-based academic, for physically and mentally torturing her. The couple is also fighting for divorce.

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Forest fires rage in Odisha, tiger sanctuaries & parks affected

Bhubaneswar: Even though harsh summer is yet to set in, forest blazes are sparking concerns in Odisha, which recorded 2,200 active fire points on Monday across the state, including in tiger sanctuaries and wildlife reserves.

Forest department sources said the detection of more than 1,000 active fire points in the first week of March was significantly high, and if there was no rain soon, it could spell trouble, reports Rijan Ramanathan.

In March and April, massive forest fires are reported despite pre-emptive measures and awareness drives, which are required as it is a man-made phenomenon.

Debidatta Biswal, principal chief conservator of forests and head of forest force, said a spell of shower was the need of the hour. "If it doesn't rain anytime soon, we may have more infernos. But we have been able to attend to over 90% of the patches that are catching fire because of alertness and advance planning. Vulnerable mapping has been carried out in advance," he said.

On Sunday, the state had witnessed 1,380 fire points, of which 93 per cent spots were accessed to douse the flames.

Biswal said the state forest force was prepared. At present, close to 3,000 personnel of 27 fire squads are engaged here.

Women in uniform have led Republic Day contingents, flown fighter jets, sailed around the globe, been stationed at Siachen and held high ranks in the police and paramilitary forces.

Things have come a long way in the past years, but uniform opportunities in uniform are still some distance away - more so when it comes to frontline, combat and leadership positions, traditionally seen as male bastions.

How do we get there?

HOW'S THE GLASS CEILING? STILL HIGH, SIR!

DelhiTimes

Yeh dil maange more, say women in uniform. Read our Women's Day special series, starting March 8



Rural Works Department

Notice Inviting Tender (No.-RWD/MMGSY (NDB)/HQ/ET/46/2022-23)

The Government of Bihar has a loan no. [18IN01] from New Development Bank (NDB) towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Mukhya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojana) to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction & maintenance of works as detailed in the Table-1 below. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.

Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Works Department, behalf of Governor of Bihar invites, SBD based Percentage rate tender in electronic tendering system under Mukhya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojana (MMGSY) for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with RWD/RCD/CPWD/MES/Railways/Other State/Central Govt. departments.

Table-1

Sl. No.	Package	Target habitation name	Survey ID	Description of the Works [CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS (A) / BRIDGES (B)]		Length (KM)	Construction Amount (In Lacs)	Maintenance Amount (In Lacs)	Total Amount (In Lacs)	Earnest Money Payable (In Lacs)	Amount Payable to Works Division	10	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR	Shivnagar new tola	28461	A3	Shivnagar Chok NH 83	Mahadait Rawidash Tola Beldari Chak	2.500	331.20	22.61	353.80	12.54	Danapur
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12			Purwari tola nirpura	27117	A4	Yogendra Ray Home	Priyari School Purwari Tola Nirpura	0.650	67.84	3.46	71.29		
Nikunj Police Colony	22027	A5	Ramshikhar Singh Home	Saket Ranjan Singh Home	0.550	58.46	2.85	61.31																
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														5	4.850	587.66	39.18	626.84	12.54					
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Paswan tola	18213	A1	Dehri Rajpur Road	Paswan Tola	0.230	23.44	1.35	24.78		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Tendubahar	27873	A2	Nasriganj Road At Dyalganj Pul	Tendubahar	1.955	148.55	18.97	167.52		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Pcl colony narayanpur tola	18678	A3	PCL Colony Narayanpur Tola	PCL Colony Narayanpur Tola	0.210	21.51	1.24	22.75		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Rudrapura	18546	A4	Rudrapura Tola	Rudrapura Gopi Bigha	0.560	45.20	5.79	50.98		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Nadi tola	17330	A5	MMGSY Road (Near Nadi Tola)	Nadi Tola	0.425	50.91	2.53	53.45		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Narayan pur	19964	A6	PPCL Colony Path Near Culvert	Narayanpur Mahadalit Tola	0.500	56.42	2.81	59.24		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Rohtas gadh	21927	A7	Quila Road	Babhan Talab	1.735	124.34	17.30	141.64		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Budhua	21968	A8	Akabarpur Tarachandi Road (Nadiper)	Budhua	1.755	151.14	16.84	167.98		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Bahera rajwar tola	20530	A9	Chandanpura RCD Path (Bahera More)	Bahera Village	0.645	59.72	3.86	63.57		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														9	8.015	681.23	70.68	751.91	15.04					
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Pokhran dalit basti	18401	A1	Bagen Uchh School	Pokhran Dalit Tola	0.790	70.99	7.01	78.00		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Paharichak	20230	A2	Rampur	Jayrampur	0.950	90.64	7.04	97.68		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														2	1.740	161.63	14.05	175.68	3.51					
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Jathara m.dalit tola	20811	A1	Bandhua Kariyadpur RCD Path	Jathara M.Dalit Tola	1.325	110.01	10.26	120.27		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Sarvodaya puri sirs	18597	A2	Mocharam Koshika Road	Sarvodaya puri sirs	2.050	203.94	15.47	219.41		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Salarpur	18431	A3	Gaya Fatehpur Road To Salarpur	Saidpur	0.310	25.14	2.40	27.54		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Sri rampur	16339	A4	Kariyadpur	Srirampur	1.625	174.99	9.29	184.28		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														4	5.310	514.09	37.42	551.51	11.03					
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Bahera	22121	A1	Middle School Dihuri	Bahera	1.150	115.30	8.86	124.16		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Gadahiya tand	27900	A2	Fatehpur Wajirganj Road	Gadahiya Tand	0.525	43.89	4.16	48.04		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Khaira	18907	A3	Gaya Fatehpur Road To Khaira Mahadalit Tola (Santosh Manjhi)	Khaira	0.625	60.57	4.29	64.86		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-389-DANAPUR TOTAL														Bele	16418	A4	Rcd	Bele	1.500</td					

Saha to be Tripura CM, Jishnu may be dy CM despite poll loss

PM To Reach NE Today For Swearing-Ins In Three States

Biswendu Bhattacharjee & Prabin Kalita | TNN



BJP leader Manik Saha (R) meets Tripura governor Satyadeo Narain Arya to stake claim to form the government in Tripura on Monday

Agartala/Guwahati: Manik Saha, whose 10 months as Tripura CM marked him out as BJP's choice for a full term at the helm going into the polls, was Monday elected legislature party leader amid lobbying by some within the party for Union minister of state for social justice and empowerment Pratima Bhountuk.

A spokesperson for BJP said all 32 MLAs of the party "unanimously" endorsed Saha. His former deputy Jishnu Dev Varma, who lost the Charilam seat to his nephew and royal scion Pradyot Debbarman's T�ra Motha, is tipped to retain the post along with key portfolios like finance.

Sources said BJP waited three days after the poll results were declared to convene the legislature meeting in Tripura because the party

hadn't expected Varma and state president Rabijit Bhattacharjee to end up on the losing side. The twin losses strengthened the murmurs in the Bhoutuk camp about whether Saha was still the best person to lead the new government, they said.

In Nagaland, the BJP legislature party Monday decided that party member Y Pat-

ton would remain deputy CM in the new NPP-led government there.

PM Narendra Modi is scheduled to be in Agartala on Wednesday when the second BJP-IPFT government takes the oath of office, making it the third consecutive swearing-in ceremony for him in as many days. He will be in Shillong and Kohima

The previous day to attend the installation of coalition governments led by Conrad Sangma in Meghalaya and Neiphiu Rio in Nagaland.

This is the first time that the PM will be attending the swearing-in of state governments in Nagaland and Meghalaya. Modi was in Tripura on February 13 and in Nagaland and Meghalaya on February 24 to campaign for BJP and its allies.

"The PM will reach Guwahati at 10am Tuesday. He will take a chopper to Shillong to attend the swearing-in of the new government there at 11am. From there, he will fly to Kohima for the second swearing-in of the NPP-led government, scheduled for 145pm," Assam health minister Keshab Mahanta said. Modi will return to Guwahati and spend the night at the state guesthouse before leaving for Agartala in the morning.

Covid cases inching up for 3 weeks, no rise in deaths

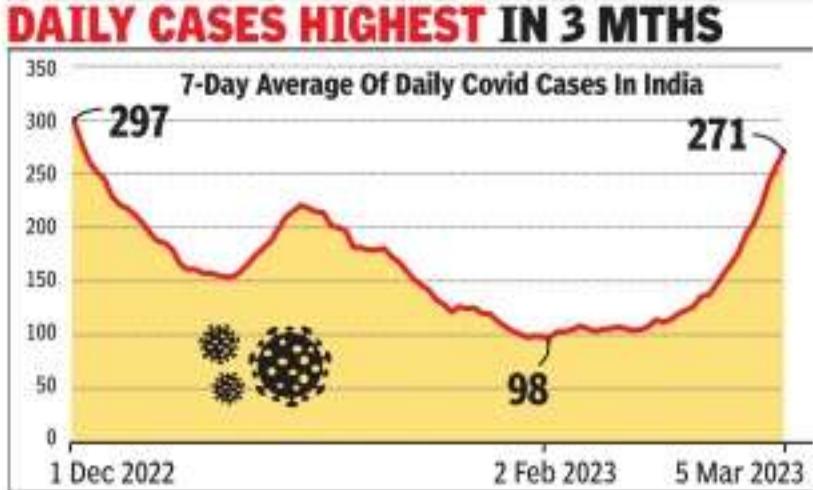
Rise Mainly In S India & Maha

Amit Bhattacharya
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While the spurt in flu infections across the country has been getting attention in recent days, Covid-19 cases have been quietly inching up. The past three weeks have seen a steady rise in Covid infections although overall detections remain very low and there's no increase in fatalities.

India registered a week-on-week spike of 63% in the seven days ending Sunday. This followed a 39% increase in the previous week and a 13% rise in the week before.

Last week, 1,898 new Covid cases were recorded in the country as compared to 1,363 and 899 cases in the previous two weeks, respectively, as per



TOI's Covid database. These numbers aren't significant yet but the steady rise would be a matter of concern.

In fact, cases have been inching up for five straight weeks — the first two weeks saw marginal increases — which is the longest period of rise since July last year; when the last Covid spike happened in the country with weekly infections peaking at 1.4 lakh in July 18-25. Since then, Covid cases have been declining steadily except for three short periods lasting no more than two weeks. Weekly cases hit a low of 707 in January 23-29.

South India and Maharashtra accounted for the bulk of new cases last week (February 27-March 5), with Karnataka recording the highest number at 473, up from 230 two weeks ago, followed by Kerala 410 (298 two weeks ago) and Maha 287 (185).

MHA allows Aadhaar authentication of jail inmates

New Delhi: The home ministry on Monday allowed states and Union Territories to perform Aadhaar authentication of prison inmates for extending services and benefits such as correctional reform measures, health, skilling, vocational training, interview with relatives, legal aid etc.

The home ministry was earlier authorised by the Centre to notify under Rule 5 of the Aadhaar Authentication for Good Governance (Social Welfare, Innovation, Knowledge) Rules, 2020 and Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, to perform Aadhaar authentication of prison inmates on a voluntary basis through the option of saying 'yes' or 'no'. "The prison authorities of the states shall adhere to the guidelines with respect to the use of Aadhaar authentication," it said. TNN

e-Corrigendum is hereby made for roads under RASTASHREE, 2023 under jurisdiction of WBSRDA, Jalpaiguri Division vide NIT No.- RASTASHREE/01-EE/JLP/2022-23 (Tender ID:- 2023_PRD_479953_7, 38, 43 & 48 and NIT No.- RASTASHREE/02-EE/JLP/2022-23 (Tender ID:- PRD_2023_PRD_480731_5 to 15). All details may be had from this office Notice Board and in website: <https://wbtenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
WBSRDA, Jalpaiguri Division

Man accused of raping minor acquitted on basis of another man's DNA report

'Copy Paste Error,' Says Prosecution

Pankul Sharma
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Dehradun: A fast-track special court in Haridwar acquitted a man, identified by his first name, Raju, who was accused of raping a 16-year-old girl in 2020, on the basis of the DNA report of another accused, Shah Rukh. Raju was cleared of the charge against him on March 4. Shah Rukh meanwhile, on the basis of the same report, had walked out of jail on March 2.

The prosecution in Raju's case, additional district government counsel (ADGC) Bhupendra Chauhan, when queried about the matter, called it a "copy paste" error.

In fact, Chauhan was also prosecuting the case against Shah Rukh. A copy of the order and the DNA report is with TOI.

District government counsel (DGC), Inderpal Bedi, meanwhile, said, "It is indeed a matter of concern and

prosecution's ADGC Chauhan produced the DNA report as 'evidence', which stated that the 'blood sample of Shah Rukh did not match with the vaginal swab of the survivor'. However, the real accused, in this particular case, was Raju and not Shah Rukh. Later in the course of the trial, the survivor and her father turned hostile. The court then acquitted Raju on the basis of the 'erroneous' DNA report and the prosecution's 'failure to prove the case'

we will challenge the decision in the high court. Even if it is a clerical mistake, it should not happen when the case is so sensitive involving the Poco Act."

In the case involving Raju, an FIR was lodged following a police complaint by the minor girl's father on July 17, 2020, under IPC sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 376 (I) (rape), 506 (criminal intimidation) and the Poco Act. Police then arrested Raju and sent him to jail on July 24, 2020. He got bail a year later.

The girl, in her statement before the magistrate under Section 164 CrPC, said she was going to the field to collect fodder when Raju dragged her and raped her. But, in the case, besides the DNA report, the doctor in the medical report stated "there was no conclusive evidence to suggest the

girl was raped". Prosecution's ADGC Chauhan subsequently produced the DNA report as "evidence", which stated that the "blood sample of Shah Rukh" did not match with the vaginal swab of the survivor".

However, the real accused, in this particular case, was Raju and not Shah Rukh.

Later in the course of the trial, the survivor and her father turned hostile. The court then acquitted Raju on the basis of the "erroneous" DNA report and the prosecution's "failure to prove the case".

In a separate "gangrape" case in 2021, Shah Rukh, the main accused was charged under IPC sections 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 363 (abduction), 376-D (gang rape), 376-D (raping girl under 16), 506 (criminal intimidation) and Poco Act along

with his accomplice Usman following a police complaint by the father of a 15-year-old girl at Laksar in Haridwar on April 1, 2021.

The doctor in this case, while examining the girl categorically stated that there was bleeding from the vagina, torn hymen and multiple injuries on her private parts "enough to suggest, with a doubt, that the girl was raped". The medical report also mentioned "internal injuries on the chest and abdomen of the girl".

In her statement before the magistrate, the survivor had said that she was abducted from her place in the middle of the night. Both the accused took her to a sugarcane field where they tied her hands and took turns to rape her. After the assault, she remained unconscious in the open field through the night and regained consciousness only at around 11am. Her father took her to the hospital in a critical condition and later informed the police.

In this case, too, the girl and her parents turned hostile and the court acquitted both the accused — Shah Rukh and Usman — on the grounds of "benefit of doubt".

This is in continuation of the advertisement No. F1 (42)/P&P-I/DSSSB/2023/880 (DIP/Shabdarth/0649/22-23) that was published in this Newspaper on 06.03.2023.

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board
FC-18, INSTITUTIONAL AREA, KARKARDOOMA, DELHI-110092
Website: <https://dsssb.delhi.gov.in>

No. F1 (42)/P&P-I/DSSSB/2023/880 VACANCY NOTICE/ADVERTISEMENT NO.01/23 Dated: 24/02/2023

IMPORTANT NOTE:- Only online applications will be accepted. Applications received through any other mode shall stand summarily rejected. No correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

The opening date and closing date for receipt of online applications are as under:-

Opening Date for Submission of Online Applications:- 09/03/2023 (9th March, 2023)
Closing Date for Submission of Online Applications, :- 07/04/2023 (7th April, 2023)

Online Applications are invited for recruitment to the following posts under Department of Training & Technical Education (DTTE), Govt. of NCT of Delhi:-

Sl. No	Post Code	Name of the Post	Name of Deptt.	Group	Grade Pay	EWS	UR	SC	ST	Total	PwD (Incl.)	ExSM (Incl.)
25	25/23	Craft Instructor-Electronics Mechanic (Degree/Diploma Holders)	DTTE	B	4200	1	1	0	0	2	0	0
26	26/23	Craft Instructor-Mechanist (NTC/STC/NAC Holders)	DTTE	B	4200	1	2	1	0	5	0	0
27	27/23	Craft Instructor-Draughtsman Mechanical (NTC/STC/NAC Holders)	DTTE	B	4200	1	2	1	0	5	1	0
28	28/23	Craft Instructor-Draughtsman Mechanical (Degree/Diploma Holders)	DTTE	B	4200	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
29	29/23	Employability Skills Instructor	DTTE	B	4200	2	8	5	2	18	1	0
30	30/23	Workshop Calculation and Science Instructor	DTTE	B	4200	4	9	10	2	1	26	3
31	31/23	Workshop Attendant	DTTE	C	1900	4	19	12	7	3	45	2

TOTAL VACANCIES 32 124 60 27 15 258 31 5
Candidates must apply online through the website <https://dssbonline.nic.in>. The closing date for submission of online application is up to 07/04/2023 (till 11:59 PM) after which the link will be disabled. The applicants are advised to visit DSSSB's website <https://dsssb.delhi.gov.in/current-vacancies/Delhi-subordinate-services-selection-board> to check the detailed advertisement and confirm their eligibility for the above vacancies based on the Recruitment Rules of the Department of Training & Technical Education (DTTE). The date of conduct of examinations will be intimated in due course only through the website of the Board. Further, candidate is advised to visit website of the Board on regular basis to get updates. The Board shall not be responsible for any lapse on the part of the candidate in this regard.

Sd/- (Dr. Nidhi Sarode)
Deputy Secretary (P&P) DSSSB

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE Executive Engineer, Hooghly Electrical Division, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the work of "Upgradation of Dhanakali Rd from 30beds to 100 bedded State General Hospital at Dhanakali purnch of AC machine...-STC of floor standing tower AC machine to be installed by Executive Engineer Hooghly Division office PWD (near O Bar Bunglow) in the district of Hooghly," eNit No. WBPWD/EE/M/Net-35/for 2022-23, Tender ID: 2023_WBPWD_487112_1 Bid submission start date (online): 03/03/2023 from 05:30 P.M. Bid submission closing date (online): 20/03/2023 upto 2:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T and Tender documents may be downloaded from : <http://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Hooghly Electrical Division. ICA-T4978(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL PWD TENDER NOTICE Executive Engineer, Hooghly Electrical Division, P.W.D. invites online e-Tender for the works of: Repairing of Armoury building along with Office and outside toilet at W.B.N.V.F. Training Centre, Kalyani, Nadia under Nadia Construction Division, P.W.D. during the year 2022-23 (2nd Call for Sl. No. 2) & WBSRDA/07-EE/JLP/2022-23 (7th Call for Sl. No. 4). Last date of submission of Tender is 10.03.2023. All details may be had from this office Notice Board and in website : <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer WBSRDA, Jalpaiguri Division

e-Corrigendum is hereby made for maintenance work of PMGSY road under WBSRDA, Jalpaiguri Division, vide NIT No. WBSRDA/02-EE/JLP/2022-23 (2nd Call for Sl. No. 2) & WBSRDA/07-EE/JLP/2022-23 (7th Call for Sl. No. 4). Last date of submission of Tender is 10.03.2023. All details may be had from this office Notice Board and in website : <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer WBSRDA, Jalpaiguri Division

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR SALE OF RAILWAY SCRAP LOT

The e-auction schedule for Sale of Scrap Lot through e-auction under the jurisdiction of Dy CMM/Pandu (as auction Conducting Officer) for the month of April/2023, May/2023 & June/2023 has been fixed as per following details.

Sl. No.	Month/Year	Auction Schedule No.	Auction Start Date/Time
1	March/2023	GSDPNO22N2037	27-03-2023/11.00
2	March/2023	GSDPNO22N2038	30-03-2023/11.00
3	April/2023	GSDPNO22N2039	27-04-2023/11.00
4	May/2023	GSDPNO22N2040	25-05-2023/11.00
5	June/2023	GSDPNO22N2041	22-06-2023/11.00

Interested bidders are advised to bid through IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in for registration, training, participation in e-auction, DY.CMM/Pandu

Rural Works Department
Notice Inviting Tender (No.-RWD/MMGSY (NDB)/HQ/ET/47/2022-23)

The Government of Bihar has a **loan no. [18IN01]** from New Development Bank (NDB) towards the cost of Rural Roads Project (Mukhya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojana) to cover eligible payments under the contracts for construction & maintenance of works as detailed in the Table-1 below. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the bidding document.

Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Works Department, on behalf of Governor of Bihar invites, SBD based Percentage rate tender in electronic tendering system under Mukhya Mantri Gram Sampark Yojana (MMGSY) for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with RWD/RCD/CPWD/MES/Railways/Other State/Central Govt. departments.

Table-1

Sl. No.	Package	Target habitation name	Survey ID	Description of the Works [CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS (A) / BRIDGES (B)]		Length (KM)	Construction Amount (In Lacs)	Maintenance Amount (In Lacs)	Total Amount (In Lacs)	Earnest Money Payable (In Lacs)	Amount Payable to Works Division	
				From	To							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-398-JAGDISHPUR	Doghara purvi tola	19857	A1	NH-84 Near Reliance Petrol Pump	Aaganbadi Doghara Purvi	0.700	66.87	6.25	73.12	1.46	Jagdishpur
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-398-JAGDISHPUR TOTAL												
2	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-399-JAHANABAD	Ibrahimpur	2602	A1	Barabar Road	Ibrahimpur	0.765	90.36	6.34	96.71	10.76	Jahanabad
		Firoji mahadalit tola	24189	A2	Damua Firoji Path	Dalit Tola	1.105	132.44	7.64	140.08		
		Usari tola nimchak	27666	A3	Milking Culvert	Usari Nimchak	0.455	47.31	4.10	51.41		
		Chandai harizan toli	16740	A4	Chandai Mahalbihigha PMGSY Road	Pani Tanki	0.365	39.54	2.88	42.43		
		Birra harizan toli	16710	A5	Kurthadil Aluabigha Road	Pani Tanki	0.746	76.54	6.38	82.92		
		Hamirpur mahadalit tola	24606	A6	Hamindpur Chowk Utrapatti Road	Dalit Tola	0.605	77.64	5.04	82.68		
		Dhiri	28453	A7	Patyama Devi Mandir	U. Madhya Vidhyalay Dhibri	0.315	39.88	1.76	41.64		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-399-JAHANABAD TOTAL												
3	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-400-MASAURHI	Thuba dubha path	18819	A1	At 2 km In Thubha Rwd Road	Khardiha	0.630	63.54	6.79	70.34	7.75	Masaurhi
		Rajnispuram	18929	A2	NH (Near Maharaja Hotel)	Rajnispuram	0.575	58.94	5.81	64.75		
		Niyamatpur musahari	17579	A3	Niyamatpur To Masaurhi RWD Road	Niyamatpur Musahari	1.712	163.58	23.33	186.91		
		Rajputana tola	16818	A4	Punpun Manjhuli Path	Rajputana Tola	0.536	58.09	7.20	65.29		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-400-MASAURHI TOTAL												
4	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-401-MOHANIA	Asarwsila	18690	A1	Kharhana Pul To Asarwalia Railway Crossing PMGSY Road At Devradh Girls High School	Asarwalia	0.560	50.42	5.81	56.23	3.70	Mohania
		Patti pingsy road to patti mahadalit tola	23248	A2	Patti PMGSY Road	Patti Mahadalit Tola	0.515	58.50	3.15	61.65		
		Morath mahadalit tola	19084	A3	Konahra Morath PMGSY Road	Morath Mahadalit Tola	0.505	63.87	3.09	66.97		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-401-MOHANIA TOTAL												
5	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-402-NAWADA	Dalit tola tungi	27834	A1	Nawada Gaya Road	Dalit Tola And High School Tungi	0.660	94.50	2.37	96.88	10.58	Nawada
		Rajbigha	18108	A2	RCD Manjhaway Road To Bhadseni	Raj Bigha	0.850	81.66	5.74	87.40		
		Bhola bigha stalinager	17677	A3	PMGSY Samai Path To Bhairo Bigha	Bhalro Beldariya	0.650	55.17	3.97	59.13		
		Semri	17462	A4	PMGSY Kujha Road To Jagarnathpur	Semri	0.750	70.99	5.23	76.22		
		Beldari tola	17719	A5	Proposed Road NH 82 To Bhelu Bigha To Bhawanipur Near Mandir	Beldari Tola Bhelu Bigha	0.410	36.99	1.40	38.39		
		Lalpura belari tola	17821	A6	Beldari RCD Road (Nalanda Border)	Lalpura Belari	1.200	109.22	8.67	117.89		
		Prahaldi bigha	18348	A7	Jato Manjhi Home To Meghipur Bailyari Road MMGSY	Prahaldi Bigha	0.600	47.95	4.96	52.91		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-402-NAWADA TOTAL												
6	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-403-NAWADA	Kashichak gaon	18059	A1	PMGSY Madhepur To Nemchak Near Railway Crossing	Kashichak Dalit Tola	0.360	39.90	1.23	41.13	11.73	Nawada
		Afaridh gaon	16429	A2	Afaridh Amma More	Aanandi Mahto Ke Ghar Tak	1.150	90.87	9.06	99.92		
		Naukadish dalit tola	17912	A3	MMGSY Lalpur Dalit Tola	Naukadish Dalit Tola	1.310	150.13	9.71	159.84		
		Aaku bigha mahadalit tola	20030	A4	PWD Road To Jasat Near Culvert	Aaku Bigha	2.150	221.93	17.11	239.05		
		Wajitpur	20105	A5	Pakaribarawa Walsaliganj RCD Road Near School	Wajitpur	0.550	43.24	3.45	46.69		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-403-NAWADA TOTAL												
7	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-404-NIMCHAK BATHANI	Soliya par	20202	A1	Atri-Bathani Road	Soliya Per	0.250	36.28	1.36	37.64	9.93	Nimchak bathani
		Uptu dasnagar tola	20181	A2	Arti Bathani Road	Uptu Dasnagar	0.810	106.66	4.69	111.35		
		Shri bigha simapar	20293	A3	Shri Bigha Rd to Deyay Road	Atri-Bathani Rd to Deyay Road	1.365	163.53	10.59	174.12		
		Natesar muslim tola	20364	A4	Bathani Saren Road	Natesar Muslim Tola	0.470	61.14	2.67	63.81		
		Riula	20359	A5	Water Tank	Riula More	1.230	100.21	9.28	109.49		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-404-NIMCHAK BATHANI TOTAL												
8	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-405-NIMCHAK BATHANI	Damar bigha	20277	A1	Gaya-Ishlampur to Sahabaji Pur Road	Damar Bigha	1.570	191.03	11.20	202.22	9.37	Nimchak bathani
		Jamuawan mahato (rajak, thakur) tola	21800	A2	Jamuawan Tajpur Road	Jamuawan Mahato Rajak Thakur Tola	0.345	22.09	2.75	24.84		
		Mokamchak	20246	A3	Maksdipur	Mokamchak	0.350	53.01	1.74	54.75		
		Devasthan	16505	A4	Saraswati Gas Agency	Dewi Sthan	0.790	60.11	4.71	64.81		
		Gendhar harijan tola	19264	A5	Gendhar Hariat Tola	Gaya Rajauli Road	1.080	114.08	7.82	121.90		
MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-405-NIMCHAK BATHANI TOTAL												
9	MMGSY-NDB-BRRP-406-PATNA	Mudera harijan tola	23854	A1	Malibiga REO Road At Ch. 200	Mudera Harijan Tola	0.495	41.85	7.62	49.47	5.82	Patna
		Sahora paswan tola	23700	A2	Om Sai Chowk At Fatuha Chandasi Road	Sahora Paswan Tola	0.775	85.99	10.97	96.96		
		Brahmsthan tola	22483	A3	RCD Road Jethauli to Bariya	Deva Ram Chak Harjan Samuday Bhawan	0.326	46.09	1.73	47.82		

		Mahuali shanti tola	22510	A4	RCD Road	Shanti Tola	0.800	86.15	10.69	96.83		

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Hyd doc suicide linked to caste bullying: Cops

Srinath.Vudali
@timesgroup.com

The messages traced by police bolster the abetment to suicide charge against Preethi's alleged harasser and some others at Kakatiya Medical College

Hyderabad: Messages on WhatsApp groups that smack of caste discrimination and humiliating remarks like "you don't have brains" were part of an allegedly orchestrated campaign by some seniors against postgraduate medical student Dharawath Preethi, leading to her death by suicide, investigators said Monday.

The messages traced and compiled by Warangal Police so far bolster the abetment-to-suicide charge against Preethi's alleged harasser, a senior identified as Saif, and some others at Kakatiya Medical College.

The investigation started after Preethi attempted suicide on February 22 by injecting herself with some chemical. She died at Hyderabad's Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences five days later.

"Preethi would be accused of incompetence. This had been going on since last November. We are

Bachchan hurt during shoot, says will take weeks to heal

Ch Sushil Rao &
Amrita Didyala | TNM

Hyderabad: Actor Amitabh Bachchan suffered an injury to his rib cage while shooting an action scene for a film here last week and was treated in a private hospital in the city before being flown to Mumbai with advice to rest at least a month.

Bachchan wrote about the accident in a blog post, also requesting fans not to turn up outside his home Jalsa like they usually do as he wouldn't be able to meet them at the gate. "In Hyderabad at shoot for Project K, during an action shot, got injured, rib cartilage popped, broke and muscle tear to the right rib cage. Cancelled shoot, did doctor consult and scan by CT at AIG hospital in Hyderabad and flown back home," Bachchan (80) wrote.

"... Will take some weeks, they say, before some normalization will occur... Some medication is on also for the pain. All work that was to be done has been suspended and cancelled, dropped, postponed for the moment until healing occurs."

E-Procurement Notice GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH HIMACHAL PRADESH ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (HPRIDC) REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT

NAME OF WORK : Construction of Flyover at Vidhan sabha Junction and widening of Victory Tunnel junction (under Shimla Smart City Mission)

Dated : March 04, 2023

The Director Projects, HPRIDC, Nirman Bhawan, Shimla-171002, Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-171002, Himachal Pradesh, India on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh, invites online bids (separate) for the construction of works detailed in the table :-

Name of Work	Bid Security (INR)	Cost of document (Rs.) + GST	Period of Completion	Estimated Cost (INR), including GST	Date of availability of bid document	Last date & Time for submission/ opening of Bids
Construction of Flyover at Vidhan sabha Junction and widening of Victory Tunnel junction	57,83,758/-	5,900/-	24 Months	23.13 cr. (Lump Sum)	March 20, 2023 at 15:00 hrs / 15:30 hrs. IST	

The detailed Request for Bids (RFB) Notice, Bidding Document along with other necessary information will be available on <https://himanachserservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html> & <https://hpbtenders.gov.in/link>.

Note :- Any further addendum/Corrigendum to this RFB notice shall be available to all interested bidders on official web site of HPRIDC under <https://himanachserservices.nic.in/hpridc/HPSRTP.html> & <https://hpbtenders.gov.in/link>

Advt. No: 0873/06/03/2023

**SOCIETY FOR APPLIED MICROWAVE ELECTRONICS
ENGINEERING & RESEARCH (SAMEER)**
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

IIT Campus, Powai, Mumbai 400 076

Advt No. NIELIT/SAMEER/2023/2

INVITES APPLICATION FOR THE FOLLOWING POSTS

Sl. No.	Post	Total Vacancy	Reserved for PWDs (Horizontal Reservation)	Qualification, Age & Other Eligibility Conditions
1.	Scientist - 'C' Group 'A' (S&T) Pay Level: 11 (Rs. 67,700 - 2,08,700)	3 (UR-3)	-	Please refer to detailed Advertisement available at https://www.calicut.nielit.in/sameer
2.	Scientist - 'B' Group 'A' (S&T) Pay Level: 10 (Rs. 56,100 - 1,77,500)	18 (UR-8, SC-1, ST-2, OBC (NCL)-5, EWS,2)	Reserved for PWD (Hard of Hearing) - 1	Candidates are advised to apply through the portal at https://www.calicut.nielit.in/sameer for further information including Eligibility, Age Limit, Reservations, Mode of Recruitment etc., refer Detailed Advertisement

Detailed Advertisement is also available at (a) <https://www.nielit.gov.in> (b) <https://www.moit.gov.in> (c) <https://www.sameer.gov.in> (d) <http://ccdisabilities.nic.in>

Applications for the above posts will be received only in online mode.

Application Portal will be open on 09.03.2023 10:00 A.M.

CLOSING DATE OF APPLICATION : 08.04.2023 5:30 P.M.**INVEST UP**4TH FLOOR, BLOCK A PICUP BHAWAN, VIBHUTI KHAND,
GOMTI NAGAR, LUCKNOW-226010 (U.P.)

Date: 07 Mar, 2023

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

'Invest UP' is the Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency under Infrastructure and Industrial Development Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Online applications are invited for the

105 Posts of Udyami Mitra

who shall be actively engaged in providing

support through the project life-cycle of the investors interested in investing in Uttar Pradesh and act as the interface between various departments of Govt. of U.P. and the investor community.

Qualification/Experience required

Candidates must have a Master's Degree in Business Administration with 60% marks from a recognised College/ Deemed University/University.

Candidates are required to have minimum experience of one year of working after completion of MBA in designated fields as well as education or work experience in certain disciplines.

For detailed terms & conditions, visit- <https://invest.up.gov.in/> and click on Udyami Mitra tab.

Interested candidates should submit their applications online only at <https://olms.org.in/App>

The last date to apply has been revised from 09.03.2023 to 16.03.2023

Chief Executive Officer,
INVEST UP**TIMES NATION**

Kalyan.Das@timesgroup.com

Dehradun: In a change in Agniveer recruitment process, the Army will now hold online test for candidates as the first step of recruitment with an aim to "stop interference of touts and assembling of large crowds at its recruitment rallies which puts extreme pressure on local administration".

It will also now charge Rs 250 from each candidate as registration fee for the Common Entrance Examination (CEE) after they meet the eligibility criteria. The information was shared on Monday by the Army recruitment officer at the Lansdowne centre in Uttarakhand, Col Munish Sharma.



Candidates will now be charged Rs 250 for the common entrance test, which will be held online. Those with NCC 'C' certificates will not get exemption from the test but will be offered bonus points

The first online test, CEE, would be held from April 17 at 176 locations across India. The Army will also allow candidates appearing in the class 10 and 12 exams to register for CEE on the condition that they will need to pro-

duce the original marksheets at the time of the recruitment rally following their success in the online test.

In another change, candidates having an NCC-C certificate will not have any exemption from the written

test as earlier. However, they would be now awarded certain bonus marks during the recruitment process.

Col Sharma pointed out that after passing the test, candidates will be invited in the recruitment rally followed by medical examination before finalisation of merit list for the final dispatch to regimental centres.

Of the "total fee amount of Rs 500", Col Sharma pointed out that Rs 250 would be paid by each candidate and the remaining by the government as the exam is being conducted by a private agency which also conducts NEET and JEE.

4 die in Odisha while illegally making crackers

Bhubaneswar: Four men died and three others were critically injured on Monday in an explosion at an under-construction building in Odisha's Bhusandpur village, where the group was making firecrackers to celebrate Dola Purnima and Holi, reports **Debabrata Mohapatra**.

Khurda collector K Sudarshan Chakravarthy confirmed that the deceased were making firecrackers illegally in the house. "We didn't issue any permission or licence to them to make firecrackers," Chakravarthy added.

Shrikrishna Patel
ICAR-Directorate of Coldwater Fisheries Research
Indian Council of Agricultural Research
Bhimpal - 263 136, District Nainital, Uttarakhand
F.No. 3-1(59)/2021-Est. Date: 06.03.2023

Walk-in-Interview

Walk-in-Interview for engagement of, YP-II under different projects will be held at DCFR, Bhimpal campus on 16.03.2023 at 10:30 A.M. Detailed instructions regarding Qualification/Experience is available on our website www.dcfrr.res.in.

Administrative Officer

भारतीय अनुसंधान प्रांगणी के अनुसंधान विद्यालय
लाल बहादुर शास्त्री प्रबन्ध, पुसा विहार, रुद्र दिल्ली-110012
ICAR-National Institute for Plant Biotechnology
Lal Bahadur Shastri Building, Pusa Campus, New Delhi-110012

WALK-IN/ONLINE INTERVIEW

Eligible candidates may appear in On-line/Walk-in-Interview starting at 11:00 am on 05/04/2023 for temporary position of **SRF/JRF** in an ICAR/DST-SERB funded projects. The details regarding number of positions, eligibility, emoluments, application form, venue etc. can be downloaded from the website (www.nipb.icar.gov.in).

(Assistant Administrative Officer)

No. BB/3484/2023/2
Brahmaputra Board
Ministry of Jal Shakti,
Dept. of Water Resources, RD & GR
Basistha Guwahati-29

Dated -03.03.2023

PRESS NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited for filling up the following posts on deputation basis in Brahmaputra Board, Guwahati-29, a Statutory Body established under an Act of Parliament:

Name of post	No. of post	Pay level
1. Deputy Chief Engineer	3	L-13
2. Superintending Engineer	6	L-12
3. Deputy Secretary	1	L-12
4. Executive Engineer (Civil)	14	L-11
5. Executive Engineer (Mech.)	1	L-11
6. Assistant Executive Engineer (Mech.)	1	L-10
7. Accounts Officer	1	L-10
8. Chief Draftsman	1	L-7
9. Section Officer (Sectt.)	3	L-7
10. Private Secretary	3	L-7
11. Divisional Accountant	1	L-7
12. Assistant	12	L-6
13. Upper Divisional Clerk	15	L-4

The details of eligibility criteria, pay, number of posts, application form etc are available in the Board's website <http://brahmaputraboard.gov.in/>. Interested candidates are requested to visit the website. Last date of receipt of application is 18.04.2023.

Sd/-
Under Secretary(E)
Brahmaputra Board

CBC 45108/12/0003/2223

MISSING

Sri Subin Luke S/o, Luke K Thomas, who was residing in a rented house (Daisy Nivas) at Priyadarshini Nagar-39, Kilikolloor Cherai, Kilikolloor Village, Kollam, Kerala. He is described as 6.5 Feet tall with fair complexion. He has been missing since 28.01.2023. A case under Crime No. 131/2023 U/s 57(A) of KPT Act has been registered in Kilikolloor Police Station, Kollam city in connection with this matter. If any information, please contact.

Subin Luke (Age: 42)
Kilikolloor Police Station
0474-2711155
RO No:
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Inspector of Police
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cmpdi
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CENTRAL MINE PLANNING AND DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi - 834031, Jharkhand, India

NOTICE
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/ respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, www.cmpdi.co.in), CIL e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal <https://gem.gov.in>."

GOLDEN KEY ARMY PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLEMENT TOWN**VACANCY**

Post	Minimum Age	Qualification
Teacher	25 yrs	(i) Graduate/ Post Graduate with NTT/B.Ed. (ii) Basic knowledge of computer. (iii) Minimum one year teaching experience.
Assistant Teacher	25 yrs	(i)

CORPORATE BUZZ

SR takes up Kollam station redevelopment project

Southern Railway (SR) has taken up Kollam Junction railway station for redevelopment to offer a world-class ambience, futuristic infra and airport-like facilities for passengers. Categorised under "NSG-3" stations, Kollam Junction is the second busiest railway station



in Kerala in terms of trains handled per day. Now, the redevelopment work is underway and progressing at a steady pace.

The project envisages redevelopment of the southern and northern side of the existing station. The south terminal building is planned as G+3 structure with amenities of world-class standard. The station will have an ample number of lifts and escalators, multi-level car parking, pick-up and drop-off facilities and dedicated arrival and departure concourse. The redevelopment work is slated to complete in another 33 months.

ICG ensures safety of over 2000 pilgrims

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has made unprecedented efforts by deploying its ships and aircrafts for safety and security of pilgrims who have set off to Katchatheevu Island to take part in the annual two-day festival at St. Antony's Church. Over 2000 pilgrims from Rameshwaram, Ramanathapuram and neighbouring districts are participating this year. A total of 70 mechanised boats departed from



Central Sector' to POWERGRID. The award was received by R.K. Tyagi, director (Operations), POWERGRID.

IRFC supports public charitable hospital

Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC), under its corporate social responsibility, supported D-Cucus-Education Centre, Manipur, in setting up Manipur Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital in



Bishnupur district by providing ultra-modern medical equipment for the welfare of the people of the state.

The Minister of Public Works Department, Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of Manipur, Govindas Konthoujam; Chairman and Managing Director (Addl. Charge) &

Pre-Sept '14 retirees face EPFO hurdle

Higher Pension Opt-In Stopped Between Dec '04 & Mar '17

Swati.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Though the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) had asked EPS members who retired before September 1, 2014, to submit documents showing they opted for higher pension while in service, and that it was rejected by the retirement fund, experts point out that EPFO had discontinued the facility between December 2004 and March 2017, which is likely to make most of the applicants ineligible.

A labour ministry statement on March 4 said EPFO received 91,259 online applications from pre-September 1, 2014, retirees till the deadline for submission of application. This, it said, "adheres to the provisions of the Scheme and complies with the Supreme Court orders".

However, Right to Information documents accessed by TOI show that EPFO had notified December 1, 2004, as the cut-off date for EPS members to opt in for higher pension. Subsequently, the retirement fund agency stopped accepting employers' contribution towards the pension fund. EPFO also issued a clarificatory circular on November 11, 2006, discontinuing acceptance of contributions on higher wages in the pension



Experts say the discontinuation of the facility in that period may make most applicants ineligible

fund. As a result, EPS members who wanted to opt for higher pension, could not submit the joint option under Para 11(3) of EPS—the joint option for the higher pension—during their service.

The cut-off date was subsequently challenged in several high courts and the Supreme Court finally read down Para 11(3) and deemed the cut-off date as "arbitrary" in October 2016.

In effect, EPFO rejected all applications for joint option from December 1, 2004 to March 23, 2017, when it issued a circular removing the cut-off date in compliance with the apex court's order.

At the Central Board of Trustees' 221st meeting in April 2018, EPFO also placed a status report before the Board, where it accepted that it had stopped giving EPS members (who retired before September 1, 2014) the opportunity to exercise the option to May 3.

contribute on higher wages. Another EPFO circular of November 22, 2006, added, "Option to contribute on a pay exceeding statutory limit is available to a member ONLY under Para 26(6) of the EPF Scheme, 1952 AND NOT UNDER PARA 11(3) of EPS."

It also said Para 11(3) clarifies the methodology of determination of pensionable salary only.

Effectively, while EPFO says it has received over 90,000 applications opting for higher pension, experts say those who retired between December 1, 2004, and March 2017, could not have signed up for higher pension during their service tenure, since EPFO was not allowing such applications.

As a result, many applicants have now applied with an undertaking to EPFO that since the facility was closed, EPFO is not justified in seeking compliance under this clause, and that the agency must treat December 1, 2004, as the date of opting in for all eligible persons who were contributing on higher wages at the time. The joint option form for EPS members who retired after September 1, 2014 remains available on the unified portal and the last date for application has been extended to May 3.

2 held in Kanpur for offering cash for conversion

Kanpur: Police arrested two people from the city's Shyamnagar Chakheri, on charges of luring people with money and converting them to their religion.

The accused allegedly targeted people coming from poor financial background, police said on Monday, adding that a case under relevant sections of the IPC and UP Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act has been registered. Along with them, police zeroed in on four other people and are probing their funding. TNN

India, Russia agree to boost bilateral trade

70 studying medicine in Ukraine pass examination to practise in India

New Delhi: Foreign minister S Jaishankar held a virtual meeting with Russia's deputy PM and minister for trade and industry Denis Manturov and co-chaired the India-Russia Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC).

Both sides agreed to work together to unlock the full potential of India-Russia

conomic cooperation between the two countries. It was set up by an agreement on Inter-governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed in May 1992. So far 23 IRIGC meetings have been held.

"The co-chairs reviewed the progress achieved in the various working group and sub-group meetings under the IRIGC-TEC framework since their meeting in Moscow in November 2022 and gave guidance to prepare ground for the next in person meeting of IRIGC-TEC which will be held in New Delhi at mutually convenient dates," said the government.

sia bilateral trade and economic relations including through addressing the trade deficit and market access issues, said the govern-

ment in a statement.

IRIGC-TEC is a mechanism for regularly monitoring bilateral progress across the sectors of trade and eco-

OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER M-3 DY. SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (T) M-3 DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI

H-BLOCK: SECTOR-15: ROHINI: DELHI-89

E-mail Id: e_tenderingm3.djb@gmail.com

PRESS NIT No. 100 (2022-23)

Press Notice Tender

S. No	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender Estimated	EMD/ Tender Fee	Date of release of tender procurement solution I.D. No.	Last date/time of receipt of bid through e-procurement solution
1.	Improvement of water supply in Postkot 2,3 and 4 by PHL 200 mm dia peripheral water line from postkot 1 to postkot 3 of Sector-15 Rohini in AC-07 Bawana under ACE/M-3 (Re-Invite)	Rs. 48,16,540/-	Rs. 96,400/- Rs. 500/-	04.03.2023 2023_DJB_237680_1	16.03.2023 Upto 3:00 PM
2.	Construction of office accommodation for E & M staff in Sector- 19 UGR Rohini in EEM-J-13 under ACE(M)-3	Rs. 47,82,158/-	Rs. 95,700/- Rs. 500/-	04.03.2023 2023_DJB_237680_1	16.03.2023 Upto 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)

Advt. No. J.S.V. 535 (2022-23) "STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

राष्ट्रीय अमृत महोत्सव



कर्यालय

SHOWROOM SPACE REQUIRED

FOR COIR BOARD IN NOIDA (U.P.)

Coir Board, Govt.of India, Ministry of MSME,

interested to relocate its Showroom for which 1000 to 1200 sq.ft. area is needed at the prominent business places in Noida (Uttar Pradesh) with clear road accessibility and having vehicle parking facility. Interested owners of the property may please contact the Secretary, Coir Board, 1st Floor, Rajiv Gandhi Handicraft Bhawan, Baba Khadag Singh Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001

(Tel: 011-23747766, 23341388, Mob: 9899804408) within 20 Days from the date of publishing the advertisement.

Sd/-Secretary



OFFICE SPACE REQUIRED

FOR COIR BOARD IN NEW DELHI

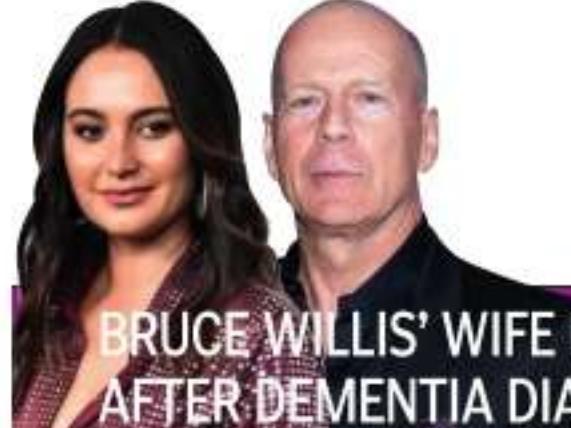
Coir Board, Govt.of India, Ministry of MSME, requires Guest House cum Camp Office Space of

200-300 sq. mtr. (Approx.) in New Delhi between Airport and Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi with clear road accessibility and having vehicle parking facility. Interested owners of the property may please contact the Secretary, Coir Board, 1st Floor, Rajiv Gandhi Handicraft Bhawan, Baba Khadag Singh Marg, Connaught Place, New Delhi-110001.

(Tel: 011-23747766, 23341388, Mob: 9899804408) within 20 Days from the date of publishing the advertisement.

25.02.2023

Sd/-Secretary



TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023

BRUCE WILLIS' WIFE EMMA HEMING BEGS PAPS TO STOP YELLING AT HIM AFTER DEMENTIA DIAGNOSIS: 'JUST DON'T DO IT... KEEP YOUR SPACE'

STEVEN SPIELBERG BELIEVES IN ALIENS: IT IS MATHEMATICALLY IMPOSSIBLE THAT WE'RE THE ONLY INTELLIGENT SPECIES IN COSMOS

NO ONE CAN FIGURE OUT YOUR WORTH BUT YOU — PEARL BAILEY



Ukraine: Forces holding on in 'utter hell' of Bakhmut battle

Pentagon Chief: Fall Of City Won't Mean Russia Has Turned Tide Of War

Kyiv: Ukraine said on Monday its troops were still holding out in a brutal fight for Bakhmut, while Washington said that even if the eastern city should fall to a Russian offensive, it would not necessarily give Moscow momentum in the war. In the latest sign of a feud between Russia's military and the Wagner private army leading its Bakhmut assault, Wagner's boss demanded more ammunition and said his aide had been barred from the military's operational headquarters.

Russia is trying to encircle Bakhmut to secure what would be its first major gain in more than half a year, at the culmination of a winter offensive that has brought the bloodiest fighting of the war. The intense battle has depleted both sides' artillery reserves, with thousands of shells fired daily along the eastern and southern fronts. Kyiv's European allies are working on a deal to procure more ammunition for the fight. Ukrainian troops have been reinforcing positions west of Bakhmut in apparent preparation for a possible retreat, but so far appear not to have decided to pull out.

Speaking to reporters in Amman, Jordan, US defence secretary Lloyd Austin said he would not predict when or if Ukrainian troops might leave the city, but that its fall "won't necessarily mean that the Russians have changed the tide of this fight". "It think it is more of a symbolic value than it is strategic and operational value," Austin said.

Moscow says capturing the city would be a step towards its major objective of seizing the full territory of the surrounding Donbas region. Kyiv says Russia's losses in trying to seize a city reduced to rubble could determine the future course.



Soldiers fire a howitzer towards Russian positions near Bakhmut in Ukraine's Donetsk region on Sunday

Russia defence minister in rare visit to occupied areas in Ukraine

Sergei Shoigu, the Russian defence minister, made a rare visit to occupied Ukrainian territory amid the lackluster performance of Russia's renewed military offensive and growing tensions with the Wagner mercenary group, a prominent paramilitary ally. Shoigu toured the occupied southern Ukrainian city of Mariupol, according to videos and statements released by the Russian defence ministry Monday. He also visited a Russian military base in the eastern Donetsk region Saturday. Shoigu's visit to Ukraine came days after Yevgeny Prigozhin, the leader of the Wagner group, Russia's largest paramilitary force, escalated his criticism of Shoigu and other senior military commanders, accusing them of being out of touch with frontline reality and prioritizing politics over military performance. A year into the war in Ukraine, the Russian military has suffered staggering losses — approaching as many as 200,000 troops killed or wounded, Western officials say, and thousands of tanks and armored vehicles destroyed or captured by Ukraine. The video montages released by the defense ministry showed a stony-faced Shoigu looking over maps and talking to subordinates in Ukraine. The somber scenes, many of them muted, stood in contrast to Prigozhin's histrionic frontline video dispatches, in which he has paraded people he said were Ukrainian prisoners of war on the rooftop of a bombed-out building, challenged the Ukrainian president to a duel from an airborne fighter jet and overseen the loading of coffins filled with what he claimed were fallen Ukrainian soldiers. NYT

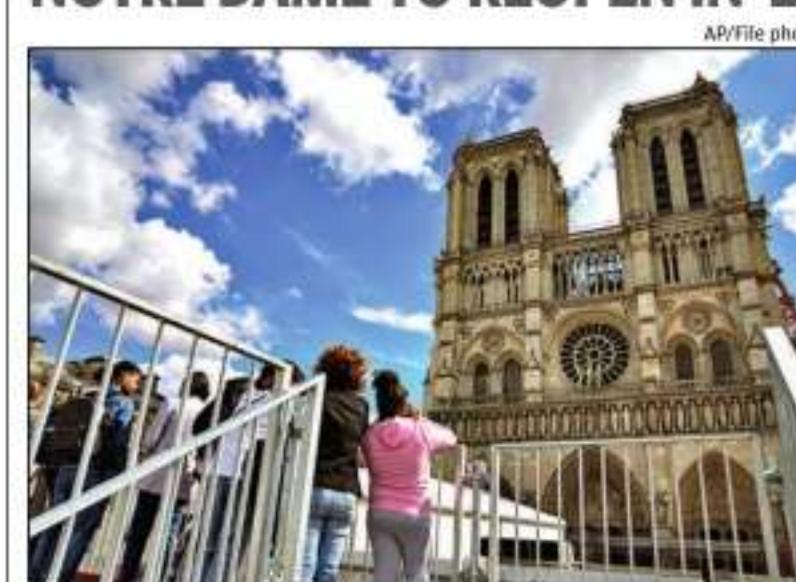
se of the war by destroying combat power ahead of decisive battles later this year. Volodymyr Nazarenko, a Ukrainian commander in Bakhmut, said there had been no order to retreat and "the defence is holding", albeit in grim conditions. "The situation in Bakhmut and around it is utter hell, as it is on the entire eastern front," Nazarenko said in a video posted on Telegram.

President Volodymyr Ze-

lenksy's office said he had discussed the operation on Monday with his chief of the general staff and commander of ground forces, who both "spoke in favour of continuing the defensive operation and further strengthening positions in Bakhmut". Yevgeny Prigozhin, the Wagner boss who sent tens of thousands of convicts recruited from Russian prisoners into battle around Bakhmut, issued the latest in a bar-

rage of statements that have deepened his rift with Russia's top brass. Prigozhin said he had written a letter on Sunday to the commander of the Ukraine campaign "about the urgent need to allocate ammunition". On Monday morning he said his representative at operational headquarters had his pass cancelled and had been denied access. There was no immediate response from the Russian ministry of defence. REUTERS

NOTRE DAME TO REOPEN IN '24



The reconstruction of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris is going fast enough to allow its reopening to visitors and faithful at the end of 2024, less than six years after a fire ravaged its roof, French officials said Monday. The cathedral's iconic spire, which collapsed in the blaze, will gradually start reappearing above the monument this year. Authorities have made the choice to rebuild the 12th century monument the way it was before. That includes recreating the 93-meter-high spire

Indian-American woman named first justice of a US district court

Washington: Tejal Mehta, an Indian-American woman judge, has taken oath as the first justice of a district court in the US state of Massachusetts — Ayer District Court. Her swearing-in took place on Thursday. She has served as an associate justice with the same court. "I'm confident that with her leadership... the best is yet to come for the Ayer District Court," said Judge Stacey Fortes, chief justice of the district court, who selected Mehta for the position and swore her in.

In November, engineers who left Twitter described why they expect a bumpy road for Twitter's more than 230 million users now that well over two-thirds of the San Francisco company's pre-Musk core services engineers are gone. While they don't anticipate near-term collapse, the engineers said Twitter could become very rough at the edges — especially if Musk makes major changes without much off-platform testing. AP

"As a lawyer, you can help people, but as a judge, you can do so much more..." Mehta said. "When you are the first justice, then you can really get to know the community and make a real impact." Mehta, a resident of Concord, started her career in civil work, before becoming a prosecutor with the Middlesex District Attorney's Office. She went on to open her own practice, becoming a public defender, before pursuing a position on the bench as a circuit judge. PTI

For months Marwa endured a new round of beatings, locked away in the house, with her hands broken and fingers cracked. Gathering the strength to leave, she fled hundreds of kilometres to a relative's house with her six daughters and two sons, who have all assumed fictitious names. "Nobody knows us here, not even our neighbours," she said, fearing her husband would discover her. In

Afghanistan nine in 10 women will experience physical, sexual or psychological violence from their partner, according to the UN's mission in the country. Divorce, however, is often more taboo than the abuse itself. Nazifa, a lawyer who successfully handled around 100 divorce cases for abused women but is no longer permitted to work in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, said five of her four daughters

Twitter suffers outage as links, images fail to load

Twitter experienced a bevy of glitches on Monday as links stopped working, some users were unable to log in and images were not loading for others. The company, which has experienced an up-tick of instability and bugs in recent months after Elon Musk cut its staff sharply, said "Some parts of Twitter may not be



The company, which has experienced an up-tick of instability & bugs in recent months after Elon Musk cut its staff sharply, said it made an internal change that had some unintended consequences

working as expected right now. We made an internal change that had some unintended consequences. We're working on this now and will share an update when it's fixed."

Trying to visit Twitter's help page Monday led to an error message that says "Your cur-

rent API plan does not include access to this endpoint" and displays a link to a software developer page that also doesn't work. Musk tweeted on Monday: "This platform is so brittle (sigh). Will be fixed shortly."

According to Downdetector, users began reporting the outages shortly before noon US eastern time. Internet access watchdog NetBlocks said "Twitter is currently experiencing international slowdowns and outages affecting many users," and noted that it was also affecting image and video content. Some users were not able to see the images that other users were posting. Twitter engineers and experts have been warning that the platform is at an increased risk of fraying since Musk fired most of the people who worked on keeping it running. Just last month, a bug left users unable to send tweets.

In November, engineers who left Twitter described why they expect a bumpy road for Twitter's more than 230 million users now that well over two-thirds of the San Francisco company's pre-Musk core services engineers are gone. While they don't anticipate near-term collapse, the engineers said Twitter could become very rough at the edges — especially if Musk makes major changes without much off-platform testing. AP

Divorced Afghan women forced back to abusive ex-husbands

Kabul: Abused for years by her ex-husband who broke her teeth, Marwa has retreated into hiding with her eight kids after Taliban commanders tore up her divorce. Marwa was one of a small number of women who, under the previous US-backed government, were granted a legal separation in Afghanistan.

When Taliban forces swept into power in 2021, her husband claimed he had been forced into the divorce and commanders ordered her back to his clutches. "I said to myself, 'Oh God, the devil has returned!'" Marwa, 40, whose name has been changed, said. The Taliban government adheres to an austere interpretation of Islam and has imposed severe restrictions on women's lives that the United Nations called "gender-based apartheid". The Taliban's treatment of women and girls in Afghanistan "may amount to gender persecution, a crime against humanity", according to a UN report presented on Monday at the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Lawyers said that several women have reported being dragged back into abusive marriages after Taliban commanders annulled their divorces.

Women still barred as univs reopen for men

Afghan universities reopened on Monday after a winter break, but only men returned to class with a "heartbreaking" ban by the Taliban authorities on women in higher education still in force. "It's heartbreaking to see boys going to the university while we have to stay at home," said Rahela, 22, from the province of Ghor. The Taliban government imposed the ban after accusing women students of ignoring a strict dress code and a requirement to be accompanied by a male relative to and from campus. AFP



NO COUNTRY FOR WOMEN?

8 security officers and a civilian killed in attack in Balochistan

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN



Security officials examine the attack site near Dhadar in Quetta

Islamabad: At least eight security officers and a civilian were killed and 13 others wounded on Monday when a suicide bomber triggered an explosion by ramming his motorcycle into a police truck in Pakistan's restive southwestern Balochistan province. The blast was reported from Dhadar tehsil of Kacchi district, about 150km east of Quetta, the provincial capital.

Interior minister Rana Sanaullah said the police van was targeted when it was returning to Quetta from Dhadar, where the Balochistan Constabulary personnel — a department of the provincial police force that guards key events and sensitive areas, including jails — was posted for a cultural festival in Sibi city.

Agha Samiullah, the deputy commissioner of Kacchi, said the truck was carrying 22 members of Balochistan Constabulary. The wounded, three of them critical, were shifted to Combined Military Hospital in Sibi. "We fear the toll will increase to double digits," said Mehmmad Notezai, a senior police officer in Kacchi. It's unclear who is behind the suicide bombing as several separatist groups in Balochistan have been fighting the government for decades. The Pakistani Taliban had claimed responsibility for a number of

attacks in the past. Last month, a bomb blast in Balochistan's Barkhan city killed five people and wounded 14. In January, at least 13 people were wounded after an explosion in a passenger train in the province's Bolan district.

PM Shehbaz Sharif condemned the attack, calling it a part of "nefarious designs to create instability in the country". All such conspiracies will be made unsuccessful with the public's support," Balochistan CM Mir Abdul Qudoos Bizenjo said.

Monday's blast follows attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in the northwest and areas bordering Afghanistan.

Since talks with the outlawed Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) broke down in November 2022, the group has intensified its attacks. Insurgents in Balochistan have also stepped up their violent activities.

TTP had boasted of carrying out 29 attacks in February by releasing a list containing date, location and other information about each strike.

Court rejects Imran plea for suspension of arrest warrant

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: A district and sessions court in Islamabad upheld on Monday the non-bailable arrest warrants for former PM Imran Khan after rejecting his plea seeking the suspension of the court's earlier order in a case of alleged corruption against him related to the purchase and sale of gifts from the Toshakhana (state depository).

Additional sessions judge Zafar Iqbal announced the verdict, reserved earlier in the day, after hearing arguments on an application filed by the PTI chief seeking the cancellation of his warrants. The same court had last week issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Imran after he decided not to turn up before the court while attending hearings of three other cases — prohibited funding, terrorism, and attempted murder — filed against him in other courts located in the same judicial complex.

On Sunday, police went to Imran's Lahore home to arrest him but the PTI chief evaded arrest and later addressed his supporters, lashing out at the current coalition government for its incompetence and targeting former army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa for his ouster from office last year.

His speech had prompted Pakistan's media regulator to ban television channels from broadcasting his speeches and news conferences. On Monday, the private ARY TV news channel was taken off air for airing his address a day earlier. The channel is considered sympathetic towards Imran and action had been taken against the broadcaster in the past as well. Imran has thrice skipped indictment hearings in an Islamabad sessions court in the case. Imran is accused of not sharing details of the gifts he retained from the Toshakhana and proceeds from their reported sales.

Taiwan warns of China military's 'sudden entry'

Taipei: Taiwan defence minister Chiu Kuo-cheng on Monday warned the island has to be on alert this year for a "sudden entry" by the Chinese military into areas close to its territory amid rising military tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

China has stepped up its military activities around Taiwan in recent years, including almost daily air force incursions into the island's air defence identification zone. Speaking in parliament, Chiu said PLA might find excuses to enter areas close to Taiwan's territorial space as the island steps up its military exchanges with US. He said PLA might make a "sudden entry" into Taiwan's contiguous zone. "I make these comments this year, meaning they are making such preparations," Chiu said. In response, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Beijing "will take firm measures to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity." REUTERS

Belarus oppn leader gets 15 yrs' jail for 'treason'

Tallinn (Estonia): A court in Belarus on Monday sentenced exiled opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya to 15 years in prison after a trial in absentia on charges including conspiring to overthrow the government, the latest move in a months-long effort by the Belarusian government to suppress dissent.

Tsikhanouskaya ran against authoritarian President Lukashenko in August 2020, in a poll that handed him his sixth term in office and was widely seen as rigged. The results of the vote triggered the largest protests in the country's history. Lukashenko unleashed a crackdown on demonstrators, and Tsikhanouskaya fled to Lithuania. Tsikhanouskaya and four other opposition figures were tried in their absence in the Belarusian capital, Minsk. The charges against them also included inciting hatred and harming national security. AP

Kashif Brohi, a university student and an eyewitness, claimed that the students had taken a prior permission from the university administration for the celebrations. Khet Kumar, who suffered injuries on his hand, said the university guards thrashed them when they held a demonstration outside the vice-chancellor's office to protest the treatment meted out by the Islami Jamiat Ulama (IJT).

JUST LIKE THAT



Capital punishment for those poisoning students: Khamenei

Dubai: Iran's supreme leader said Monday that if a series of suspected poisonings at girls' schools are proven to be deliberate, the culprits should be sentenced to death for committing an "unforgivable crime". It was the first time Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has spoken publicly about the suspected poisonings, which sickened hundreds of kids. "If the poisoning of students is proven, those behind this crime should be sentenced to capital punishment," Khamenei said. Authorities have acknowledged suspected attacks at more than 50 schools across 21 of Iran's 30 provinces since November. AP

AROUND THE WORLD



PROTESTING 'CRAZY' RENT COSTS: Harrison Marshall, 28, an artist, has built a home in a rubbish skip in London and plans to live in it for a year, seeking to draw attention to the 'crazy' price of renting a room in Britain's capital. He moved into the specially-adapted skip on a patch of grass in Bermondsey a month ago, explaining that it was the only way he could afford to live near where he works. He spent £4,000 building a wooden hood with a curved roof and fixing it onto a skip. Inside, he has a small kitchen and a mezzanine bed space.

Matterhorn mountain are melting away from Toblerone bars

The Swiss pyramid-shaped chocolate Toblerone will change its packing to remove the Matterhorn mountain peak, media reports said on Sunday. The image of the jagged mountain peak, used on the chocolate's packaging since 1970, will have to change as some of Toblerone's production was moved outside Switzerland, and a 2017 Swiss law states that national symbols cannot be allowed to promote milk-based products

that are not made exclusively in the country, the BBC reported. The Matterhorn will be replaced with a more generic Alpine summit and include its founder's signature, as per Mondelez which owns the brand.

Georgina Beyer, world's 1st openly transgender MP, dies New Zealander Georgina Beyer, the world's first openly transgender member of parliament & tireless advocate for LGBTQ rights, has died at the age of 65. A former sex worker, actor and drag queen, Beyer was elected to parliament in 1999. She served as a Labour MP until 2007.



A thought for today

I can resist everything except temptation

OSCAR WILDE

Petty, Ugly & Costly

Karnataka is proof how much 'small' corruption hurts India, reputationally & ultimately economically

Over the last week, Karnataka witnessed a series of raids by the Lokayukta police wing, renewing public attention to corruption. A BJP MLA's son, an employee of Bengaluru's water and sewerage board, was caught accepting a bribe. Subsequent raids of his property and his father, Madal Virupakshappa, have reportedly led to seizures of more than Rs 8 crore in cash. Virupakshappa is chairman of the state government-owned Karnataka Soaps and Detergents.

These developments are salient for both the battle against corruption in India and Karnataka's recurring problems with it. Big-ticket 'scams' dominate the conversation about corruption. However, research on the subject throws up estimates that indicate petty corruption's scale is not of a smaller magnitude. If anything, in aggregate petty corruption is a bigger drain than 'scams'. Recall studies by Transparency International. In 2020, a report based on a survey on corruption in Asia concluded that India has the highest rate of bribery and use of personal contacts in accessing public services.

Many of the respondents indicated that was the only way to access services such as government documents.

In an environment characterised by information asymmetry and poor grievance redressal mechanisms, the disproportionate power different

arms of the state wield over the lives of citizens inevitably results in payoffs. Speed money is one of the most common manifestations of this system as the bureaucracy is not going to be penalised for delays. For sure, this is not the only form of corruption, but it's all pervasive. Unsurprisingly, India ranked 85th out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index, 2022, with a score below the global average. Within India, Karnataka has a poor record. In 2017, a Centre for Media Studies survey found that people in the state experienced the highest incidence of corruption in accessing public services.

Karnataka is one of India's economic growth engines, with Bengaluru having an unmatched presence in the communications and IT sector. However, across governments, the state has had to deal with multiple allegations of corruption in government contracts and services. The entire country loses if Karnataka doesn't clean up fast. Two quick ways in which Karnataka and other states can deter petty corruption is to implement both RTI and state Right to Service Acts better. It will help offset information asymmetry and minimise the opportunities for speed money.

Catch Him, Try Him

Rape-accused Nithyananda may spin absurd tales. But the key thing is he's absconding from Indian law

Citing deception, New York metropolitan area's largest municipality of Newark revoked a strange-in-the-first-place pact inked in January with wannabe-nation Kailasa, founded by fugitive godman Nithyananda, for long wanted by Indian police for sexual assault. Last week, the UN dismissed as irrelevant an application that Nithyananda faced persecution. Multiple images surfaced of his sadhus in tube-tops and top knots going about with a cut-out of the dubious gent in his elaborate get-up.

Nithyananda, who once in his audience had tech executives and pundits, has been in conflict with Indian law for over a decade. A US "disciple" accused him of sexual assault over five years in the US and India. That's more pertinent than the video of his private activities. In 2012, his devotees attacked media at a presser in his Karnataka ashram. Then CM Sadananda Gowda ordered his arrest. Somewhere in between the self-described guru filed a Rs 10 crore defamation suit against the CM and the state in Karnataka high court. Between 2019 and 2022, Gujarat police investigated his ashram in rural Gujarat and arrested two "sadhus" for illegal confinement of girls. Once declared absconder by Gujarat police, the story turned absurd.

Nithyananda apparently set up island nation Kailasa off Ecuador's coast. On the kerfuffle thus created, Ecuador stated it had denied the godman any protection or help. Nithyananda morphed into a WhatsApp staple with a silly feed of jovial mumbu-jumbo.

But there is no place for amusement here. Nithyananda faces prosecution, not persecution. He has masked his physical whereabouts but is ever-active online. Senior police officers once suggested he may still be in India. He clearly also is well-funded. Nithyananda's antics at the UN and Newark, however funny, are not the story here. That he is getting away is.

Art of the token gift

It needs thought, contemplation, imagination, very unlike that sapphire or diamond set

Bikram Vohra

I bought my wife a rain shower. I would have liked to buy her a diamond ring or a set of gold bangles or even a castle in Capri. But I am a supremely underpaid journalist and like all of my tribe I cannot buy even one bangle so I buy token gifts.

As all underpaid folks will tell you, selecting token gifts is an art and a science and some of us become pastmasters at it. The trick lies in making it seem like it is drenched in deep thought and sensitivity. Like I gave my wife a sock for her company's inaugural and wrote on it, 'Sock it to 'em.' She was not impressed. Where, she asked, is the other sock? On her birthday I got her a tennis ball (new, not used) and wrapped it in cotton wool and with a card that read, 'Have a ball.'

It might have worked but her friend had a birthday two days earlier and her husband, silly, unthinking fellow, bought her a sapphire set and that, incredibly, eclipsed my sterling effort. I ask you what imagination is needed to buy a Rs 80,000 piece of jewellery as compared to the thought and contemplation that goes into being creative. I pulled the tennis ball out of the can fresh and pristine.

I still remember when we were younger it was our anniversary and I bought a thermometer and had it fancy packed and inside it I wrote, 'You give me fever.' It fell out of the packaging, shattered and the spilled mercury rolled under the sofa and is probably still there.

People like us have no choice, we go through life finding reasons to praise the logic of flying economy. Like a single rose on Valentine's Day. A photo frame with a shot of both of us in happier days. If we buy a book or a set of DVDs or tickets to a cricket game it has nothing to do with our own needs and there is no way I wanted to present my wife a gift in which I have even a mild interest. So, now she is looking at the big square of steel with little holes in it and a spatula type lever and says, 'What is this?' It is a rain shower, I say, you get the feel you are in a Mumbai monsoon.

So she goes to bathe after much effort at fixing it and naturally, the moment she has applied shampoo the water pressure goes off and the monsoon turns to a drip and a drop and she is yelling, oh just get a bucket and a mug, soap in my eyes. Next time, maybe the sapphire set.



Migrants Are All Of Us

Tamil Nadu controversy shows how much of the colonial legacy of mistreating migrant workers survives. And any protective law will have to address complex questions

K Chandru



As the motivated rumours spread, that the migrant workers in Tamil Nadu would be attacked by the locals, the north-bound railway trains filled up. It was reminiscent of how during Covid the sudden denial of employment, shelter and transport saw migrants walking long distances to their home states. That was perhaps the first time that the existence of large number of migrant workers without any legal protection whatsoever, was widely noticed.

In the current case, the Tamil Nadu government was prompt in assuring that there was not really any threat to migrants even as it put police on full alert to prevent any untoward incidents. But it is also true that the past several months have seen complaints that migrant labourers have displaced locals, plus calls to reserve employment for the locals. Karnataka government had introduced a bill for reserving a certain percentage of employment for locals. Subnational groups have also stepped up a campaign against the "northern invasion".

Hundred years ago

One is reminded of a poem Mahakavi Subramanya Bharathi wrote in Tamil around 100 years ago, about the plight of migrant Hindu women working in the cane fields in Fiji: "Should the tears of those wretched poor be rained on earth to merge therewith? ... In utter misery they die and die, with none to succour them."

Indian labour laws are also almost a century old. The colonial government never wanted to extend to British India the labour legislations prevailing in the UK. Indentured labour were 'freely' kidnapped away from India to several other British-ruled areas including Fiji, Mauritius, West Indies and in Africa. The Indian Penal Code actually provided punishment for workers who escaped servitude.

When the case of indentured labour and their forced migration came to the notice of the Royal Commission of Labour, it commissioned a study. But the



colonial government did nothing to safeguard the interests of migrant labour who were thronging the cities in search of employment in factories.

Meanwhile, ILO at its 21st session adopted the Migration for Employment Convention, 1939. In 1975, there was the 143rd convention concerning Migrations in Abusive Conditions and the Promotion of Equality of Opportunity and Treatment of Migrant Workers. Recommendation 151 also dealt with migrant workers. All these recommendations were only concerned about migration of workmen from one country to another country. Because the British kept British India and other colonies as separate countries, the recommendations did have some meaning at that time.

States and laws

It was only after the reorganisation of states on a linguistic basis in 1956 that different states began to have their own labour legislations. Though the discussion on migrant labour increased, the organised trade unions never took up their issues for special consideration. In most sectors like coal, steel, docks and plantations the problem of migrant labour was dealt with only along with the general problems of other workmen

independently. The problem of migrant labour was dealt with only along with the general problems of other workmen.

It was only three decades after the Independence that Parliament thought of enacting a special legislation: the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979. This defined an inter-state migrant workman as "any person who is recruited by or through a contractor in one state under an agreement or other arrangement for employment in an establishment in another state, whether with or without the knowledge of the principal employer in relation to such establishment."

In 1984, on finding that a large number of workmen from Odisha were engaged in a hydel project in Jammu with no legislation worth its name covering them, the Supreme Court observed that it was clear that the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act was enacted to eliminate abuses by the contractors, sardars or khatedars.

Atrocities and encounters

In 2014 there was a newspaper report of a gruesome incident involving chopping off the palms of two migrant workers in Odisha. This became a basis for suo motu action by SC and thereafter several orders were pronounced about this case.

In 2012, five men who were suspected to be involved in two major bank robberies in Chennai were killed in an encounter with police. Four were said to be from Bihar and one from West Bengal. One was reported to be an engineering student. These persons were shot dead only due to suspicion and their encounter death did not result in any inquiry against the policemen involved. HC also dismissed the PIL filed in this regard. Therefore, it is easy for local police to make allegations against strangers in the locality (migrant workers) and finish the case by encounter.

In 2015 labourers taken from rural districts from Tamil Nadu for timber work were shot dead by Andhra Pradesh police on suspicion of smuggling Red Sander wood from AP forests. There were as many as 20 labourers killed in that encounter.

The problems faced by inter-state migrant labour cannot be addressed only through a labour legislation. There are other issues like shelter, civic rights, right to get civic amenities. Now there is also a security question. Any change in law must also take into account all these factors. Another issue is when people from the scheduled areas go to other states and lose their status as a Scheduled Tribe. So Parliament has to consider a special legislation that deals with all aspects of migrant workers' rights including their security and civic rights and not just the labour issues.

The writer is a retired judge, Madras HC

'Before making traffic lights smarter we need to get our cities to the average baseline of a Chinese city first'

Pilibhit MP Feroze Varun Gandhi's new book *The Indian Metropolis: Deconstructing India's Urban Spaces* analyses the country's urban infrastructure, from municipality funding to law and order, housing to civic services and job opportunities. Talking to Nandita Sengupta, he details how this infrastructure is breaking and groaning and what the solutions should be:

● You write that policymakers view healthcare as a commodity. What fundamentally must change to correct this?

The pandemic has shown us our urban deficiency with respect to healthcare infrastructure, and its inability to cater to both access and affordability. We need a push for universal healthcare. Expanding healthcare insurance is a promising initial step, but additional investments in primary healthcare (such as mohalla clinics) are required to expand capacity and reduce disease burden. Simply announcing that one has cover under a national insurance scheme won't do.

● Which areas should be prioritised to overhaul a tier-2 city?

One must start with the basics – urban design and planning need to be professionalised by strengthening urban planning departments with town planners along with a push to embrace concepts like sustainability and the 15-minute city in masterplans. Fixing past land use problems will be critical before one can think of the future.

Additional investments in municipal capabilities and police commissioners will improve their ability to maintain the city's infrastructure in line with masterplan expectations, while ensuring a safe landscape. Finally, long overdue investments in expanding bus networks and sewage treatment plants must be made.

● On urban crime, you speak about institutional autonomy in police forces. Where would the starting point be?

Past judgments (Prakash Singh vs Union of India, 2006) give us a road map on this – the court issued direc-



tions to set up state security commissions in each state, specified minimum tenure of two years for various categories of police personnel, and called for separation of investigation personnel from the law-and-order police force. Transfers and promotions within police need to be unshackled from influence peddlers and patronage networks.

● Your book was inspired by the sheer scale of the Covid migrant exodus. What do you think are the employment lessons post-pandemic?

With unemployment rampant among the urban underprivileged, I think the framing of the problem should be expanding employment opportunities, whether outside or at home. We need a push for an urban employment programme, coupled with the need to invest in public services in our cities. Odisha's Urban Wage Initiative offers lessons – aiming to generate jobs for about 20 lakh workers with a focus on a range of jobs (development of new water bodies, public parks, walking tracks, lighting, desilting of storm water drains etc) and creating micro-community centres for self-help groups, along with a focus on employing local artisans in beautification initiatives.

● Our cities are broke and growing. How far can the Smart Cities Mission help?

It is a promising initiative but has limited scale – our urban problems are significant and funding short. We need to get our cities to the average baseline for a Chinese

city first – let's fix for optimised land usage, urban water access, robust public transportation and reduced crime first, before pushing for making traffic lights smarter and setting up a city-wide IoT network.

● On revenue to run cities, why do you say privatisation models are no better than PSU-led models?

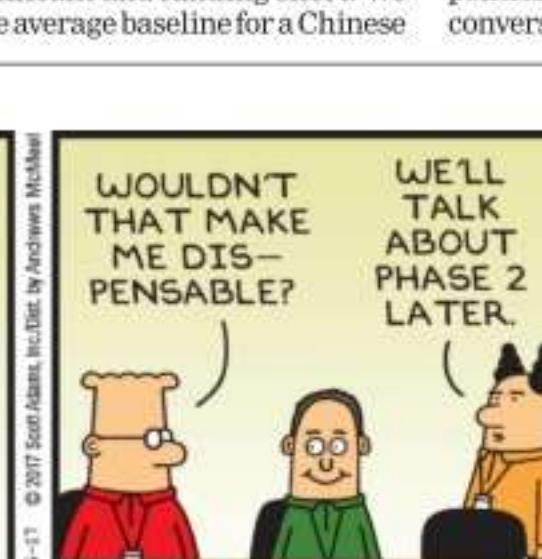
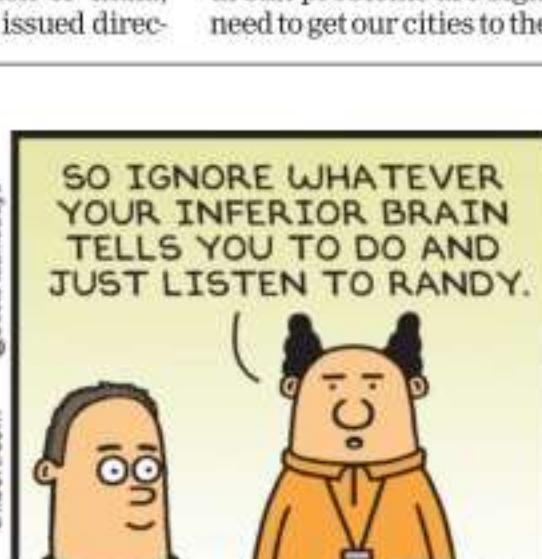
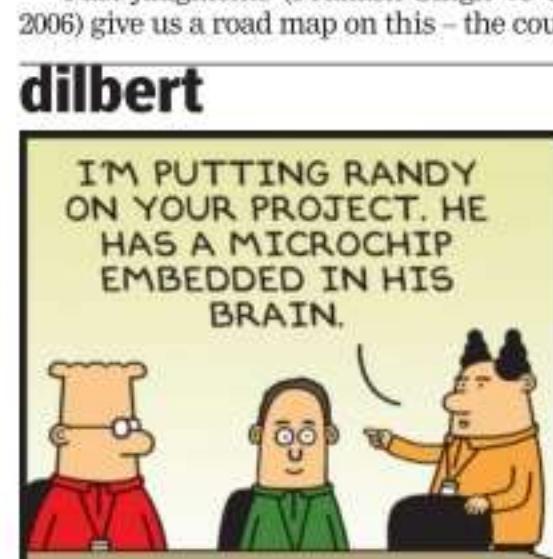
About 18,000 teachers working in about 1,000 primary schools under the recently unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi have not received their salary for the past two to four months – the social consequence of unpaid teachers on the quality of education given to students in government schools will be significant. Urban local bodies and municipal corporations need to be provided a fiscal stimulus, much of it from the state and Centre. Green bonds need to be pursued with gusto while property taxes also are fit for rationalisation.

● What did the Delhi municipality/mayoral wars say about city managers?

Such conflict highlights challenges with urban governance. One must note Delhi's newly elected mayor can continue in her post only till March 31, with elections commencing again then. With shortages of professional town planning staff in municipalities already significant, a political vacuum and short tenure of city mayors mean that urban policymakers are inclined towards short-term announcements. Reform in urban governance is significantly overdue.

● You write "we as a people need to change". How do we reach a point where we demand better water and healthier air?

Every day, ordinary citizens in India expend a huge amount of effort in making a city work, all while barely denied a living for themselves. We are fashioning an urban landscape driven by organised private property, but seemingly have forgotten to make our cities more humane. While urban civic awareness has grown, identity politics continues to prevail – one hopes that sparking a conversation on urbanisation can change this paradigm.



Sacred space

What Do You Own?

How can you possess in this world? You were not here and the world was here; you will not be here one day and the world is going to be here. How can you claim that 'I am the owner?'... And if you are meditative, your whole life will become a sharing.

Osho

Jabala & Shandili's Forgotten Legacy For Women

Sudhamahi Regunathan

In childhood, we were told stories of Sita, the ever suffering; Draupadi, the one with unstinted faith; Savitri who won over Yama and so on.

Less often were told the stories of Jabala, Maitreyi, and Shandili, to mention a few. Thus, we missed out on some vital lessons.

Jabala had a son called Satyakam. He went to a teacher and asked to be taught. The teacher said it was necessary for him to know if his student was of the right mettle, for teaching could be imparted only to the high-born. So, he asked him his lineage. Satyakam went to his mother and asked who his father was. The confident mother told him she had many paramours then, and so she was not sure. "Tell your teacher, you are Jabala's son," she said. "That should suffice." She was unashamed and

unapologetic. She stood tall. How many mothers have the confidence to tell their children to be known by their name?

Maitreyi yearned to learn philosophy from Yajnavalkya. She got married to him, for then it would be easier to establish the student-teacher relationship. One fine day, he called his wives and declared that he would like to divide his property between them, as he himself was renouncing the world to seek the Supreme. Katyayani, his first wife, took her share. "Will your riches give me what you are going to seek?" asked Maitreyi.

When he said it would not, she said she didn't want his wealth, and that she too would renounce the world to seek enlightenment. Yajnavalkya thought it would be too much for her. "When you are renounced me, how can you decide



THE SPEAKING TREE

Sage Galava looked at him with concern. "Sage, did you nurse any bad thoughts about this ashram?" he asked the hapless eagle. "Oh no," replied Garuda. And then added, "I just thought her place should be in the heavens with the gods, with Shiv, Vishnu and Brahma."

Garuda felt that his thought had accorded her the highest praise. But when Garuda fell at Shandili's feet and apologised, she said, "I do not need to associate with anyone, god or man, for my greatness. I am I. Derived from myself. All that I have achieved is due to my own strength, conduct and austerity. Do not insult me by thinking I belong elsewhere. I belong where I am. Do not denigrate any woman similarly."

She was her own measure. How many of us know of or believe in our infinite potential?

March 8 is International Women's Day

In the wake of its invasion of Ukraine, Russia is now the most-sanctioned country in the world with 14,081 sanctions on Russian individuals and entities. This is five times the number compared to before it recognised the Luhansk and Donetsk regions as independent states on February 22, 2022.

Number of
currently active
sanctions (By
target country)
Before February 2022
After February 2022
(As of February 19, 2023)

RUSSIA	2,754	11,327
IRAN	3,616	4,191
SYRIA	2,598	2,643
NORTH KOREA	2,052	2,133
BELARUS	—	1,155
MYANMAR	—	806
VENEZUELA	—	651

14,081



Source: Statista

Adani stocks see GQG-led rally continue for 5th session in row

7 Show Strong Gains | ACC, Ambuja Cements End In Red

Partha Sinha &

Reeba Zachariah | TNN

Mumbai: It was a mixed bag for Adani Group stocks with seven of the 10 picking up strong gains, while the two cement shares — ACC and Ambuja Cements — were in the red. The day's session also added Rs 30,250 crore to the group's combined market valuation, which inched near the Rs 9 lakh crore again, BSE data collated by TOI showed. It was the fifth consecutive session of gains for most of the stocks from the group.

Since January 25, the stocks from the ports-to-FMCG conglomerate have been on a slide on the back of a report by US-based short-seller Hindenburg Research that accused the group of accounting fraud, stock price manipulation and other corporate



malfeasance. The group had denied all the allegations in the report.

In over a month since the report, combined market capitalisation of the group had dipped more than 70% but has since recovered some of the lost ground.

A serious recovery in the group's stocks started after

GQG Partners, a US-based fund manager, invested about \$1.8 billion to buy stakes in four of group companies from promoters.

Market players said large investment by GQG that was announced last week helped assure other investors that group's businesses were not on shaky ground.

In Monday's session, group flagship Adani Enterprises closed 5.5% up at Rs 1,963. Since recording a 52-week closing low at Rs 1,394 on February 27, the stock has gained an eye-popping 66% in exactly a week. The stock now commands a PE ratio of 160. Six other stocks — Adani Total Gas, Adani Transmission, Adani Green Energy, Adani Power, Adani Wilmar and NDTV — closed at respective 5% upper circuit limit.

Adani Power rallied despite a Bloomberg report that said Mundra Power Plant, the crown jewel of its conventional power production business, has more liabilities than business and has employed some creative accounting to obfuscate the true picture. The Adani group did not respond to Bloomberg's queries relating to the story.

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Agreement, people make decisions to invest or buy companies on the basis of what they feel is in their interest at that time. These matters are not for the government," O'Farrell said.

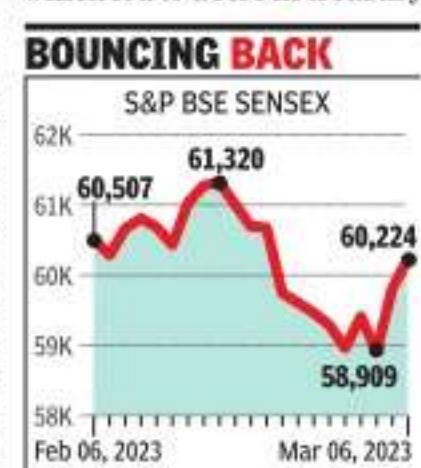
Asked about the so-called Khalistan referendum in Australia, the high commissioner said Australia's respect for Indian sovereignty is unwavering. "The so-called Khalistan referendum call has no legal standing in Australia," he said.

Buying by FIIs has improved sentiment, says analyst

From P 1

The NSE Nifty gained 117 points to close at 17,711 on Monday.

According to Vinod Nair, head of research, Geojit Financial Services, one of the major concerns that prevailed in the market in the last few weeks was the fear of aggressive US Fed policy action, which led to a rise in treasury



yields and US dollar. Additionally, there were uncertainties surrounding Adani Group stocks. "All of these have now shifted in favour of the bulls, as US officials reduced the likelihood of a sharp rate hike, forcing yields and the dollar index to moderate. Additionally, improved market sentiment due to the foreign bulk deal at Adani, the oversold stage of the domestic market, and FII buying (have) helped sharpen the recovery," Nair wrote in a note.

Among sensex stocks, Infosys, RIL and HDFC contributed the most to the day's rally while profit taking in L&T, Tata Steel and ICICI Bank limited the gains partially. Of the 30 sensex constituents, 24 closed higher while six closed in the red. Chartists said the Nifty's inability to close above the 17,800-mark was a sign of weakness for the market.

Das asks payment cos, banks to beef up systems

Says Daily Usage Under UPI May Hit 100Cr

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has asked banks and payment system operators to significantly enhance and modernise the capacity of their system as daily transactions under the unified payment interface (UPI) are likely to hit 100 crore soon.

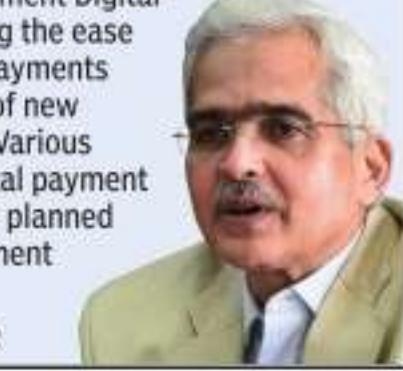
"Currently there are 26 crore transactions per day in UPI and the system has capacity to handle 100 crore per day. So, the system is there to onboard new customers. NPCI is running three systems parallelly so that if there is a problem in one the others are in operation," said Das, while addressing digital payment awareness week in RBI.

Launching the 'Har Payment Digital' mission, Das said RBI will initiate a '75 Digital Villages' programme in observance of 75 years of Independence. Under this pro-

gramme, Payment System Operators (PSOs) will adopt 75 villages across the country and convert them into digital payment-enabled villages.

The governor said the central bank has launched campaigns to increase awareness among users to not share confidential information. On the spike in number of fraudulent messages seeking KYC updation, Das said there was a pattern in these frauds. "Usually, there is an increase in these fraudulent messages whenever there is a festival when attention is low," said Das. He added that RBI was working to authorities to act against the fraudsters.

The mission "Har Payment Digital" is aimed at reinforcing the ease and convenience of digital payments and facilitating onboarding of new consumers into digital fold. Various campaigns highlighting digital payment channels available are being planned by banks and non-bank payment system operators."



No impact of Adani Group crisis on its biz in Australia, says envoy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Gautam Adani's business in Australia is fully functional and he remains a significant investor there, Australian high commissioner Barry O'Farrell said Monday, while not ruling out a possible meeting of the industrialist with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese when he lands in India later this week on a visit.

"Mr Adani's investments in Australia are fully function-

ning and fully providing the resources, whether it is clean energy or coal. There have been no reports that I have seen in Australia that his operations have ceased. So, he is still a significant investor

MAJOR INVESTOR from India in Australia," the envoy said in response to questions on the Adani Group, which operates a port terminal, coal mines and solar energy projects in Australia. The high commissioner

said the issue related to the impact of the Hindenburg report on the Adani Group was a matter for India's regulators to look into and there had been no reports about the business group ceasing operations in Australia.

"He has successful businesses in Australia. In countries like Australia and India where you have a Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), free trade deal or a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Ag-

reement, people make decisions to invest or buy companies on the basis of what they feel is in their interest at that time. These matters are not for the government," O'Farrell said.

Asked about the so-called Khalistan referendum in Australia, the high commissioner said Australia's respect for Indian sovereignty is unwavering. "The so-called Khalistan referendum call has no legal standing in Australia," he said.

successful grounding of 'Project Elephant' in Bengaluru. I am confident that this project will lay a strong foundation for our other multiple plans, spanning mechanical/precision machinery, electric vehicle, IC design and semiconductor segments to consider your state as a potential investment destination," he said.

"Project Elephant" is the name the state government has given to the proposed Foxconn project. The letter

appears to be an attempt to quell the uncertainty around the Taiwanese company's project, following its statement on Friday that no 'definitive agreement' was signed during Liu's visit.

Meanwhile, the Telangana government on Monday sought to clear the confusion by releasing a letter from Liu to CM K Chandrasekhar Rao, reiterating his commitment to manufacture in Telangana. Liu had met both KCR and Bommai last week.

Foxconn chief confident of project taking off in B'luru

Shilpa Phadnis

@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: In a letter to Karnataka chief minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday, Foxconn chairman Young Liu described his visit to Bengaluru last week as a big success, and said he would put in all efforts to ensure the proposed Foxconn project in the state fructifies.

"My team will be in close contact with your team to take this forward and ensure

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"NEVER ENTER UPI PIN TO RECEIVE MONEY."



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- 4 Scan QR ONLY for making payment and NOT for receiving money.
- 5 Do not download any screen sharing or SMS forwarding apps when asked upon by any unknown person and without understanding its utility.

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UPI Banks apps & PSPs: Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank, Catholic Syrian Bank, Central Bank of India, DBS Digibank, Federal Bank, HDFC Bank, HSBC, ICICI Bank, IDBI Bank, IDFC Bank, Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, IndusInd Bank, Karnataka Bank, Karur Vysya Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, Punjab National Bank, RBL Bank, South Indian Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, State Bank of India, TJSB Bank, UCO Bank, Union Bank of India, Yes Bank, City Union Bank, Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Janta Sahakari Bank Pune, Equitas Small Finance Bank, Airtel Payments Bank, Fino Payments Bank, Paytm Payments Bank, Bandhan Bank, Jio Payments Bank, Dhanlaxmi Bank, India Post Payments Bank, ESAF Small Finance Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, Dombivli Nagri Sahakari Bank, NSDL Payments Bank, Cosmos Co-op Bank, SBM Bank, Utkarsh Small Finance Bank, The Surat Peoples Co-op Bank, Jana Small Finance Bank, Tamilnad Mercantile Bank, Citi Retail

If you are a victim of cyber financial fraud, report immediately on helpline no. 1930 and register complaint on National Cybercrime reporting portal – www.cybercrime.gov.in

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PV retail sales rise 11% as new models fuel demand

Concerns Remain Over Inflation, Adverse Monsoon Effect

Pankaj.Doval@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Auto retail stayed in a healthy trajectory in February, though concerns around adverse impact on the monsoons as well as inflation saw the industry strike a cautious note.

According to numbers released by dealers' body FADA (Federation of Automobile Dealers Association), retail sales remained positive for cars and SUVs, that fall under the passenger vehicles (PV) category.

PV sales stood at close to 2.9 lakh units in February '23, a growth of 11% year-on-year and 16% higher when compared to the same month in pre-Covid times. New models have fuelled demand in the category, and retail deliveries have also got benefited due to better supplies and output as semiconductor shortages

CHIP AVAILABILITY IMPROVES

Retail sales for Feb 2023

Category	Feb '22	Feb '23	Change (%)
Passenger Vehicles	2.6L	2.9L	11
Two-wheelers	11L	12.7L	15
Comm Vehicles	67.4K	79K	17
Three-wheelers	40.2K	73K	81
Tractors	60.5K	69K	14
Total	15.3L	17.7L	16

L=Lakh; K=Thousand; Source: FADA

year-on-year, but was down (by 10%) when compared to pre-Covid month of February '20. "Walk-in enquiries improved during the month. Apart from this, demand has also increased due to change in OBD norms, which will see price hikes. On the government side, infrastructure spending has been healthy. This is also aiding better sales."

In three-wheelers, the year-on-year growth was 81%, though it was only up 3% when compared to the same month in pre-Covid era. "This category has seen a drastic growth due to central and state government subsidies, along with good scheme promotion done by the states. Along with this, aggressive finance schemes continue to aid growth for this category," the dealers association said.

Not only two-wheelers, but even the commercial vehicle category grew 17% year reduced.

On two-wheeler side, while year-on-year growth stood at 15% on deliveries of around 12.7 lakh units, the numbers are still lower than what the industry retailed in the pre-Covid era.

"The 2-wheeler category was down by 14% when compared to pre-Covid month of February '20. The change in

OBD (on-board diagnostic) norms, which comes into effect from April, along with marriage season kept the sales ticking. On the overall, high inflation and poor sentiment has kept the customers at bay," FADA president Manish Raj Singhania said.

Not only two-wheelers, but even the commercial vehicle category grew 17% ye-

Zee settles disputes with IPRS

Mumbai: Zee Entertainment Enterprises (Zee) and Indian Performing Right Society (IPRS) have settled their disputes, with the music artists' body agreeing to withdraw its insolvency petition against the media major.

In a regulatory filing, the Punit Goenka-managed media company said there is no penalty paid to IPRS. It, however, didn't disclose the terms of the settlement pact with IPRS. In January, IPRS filed an insolvency petition against Zee with the NCLT-Mumbai.

It took this step after the media major defaulted on a royalty payment of Rs 21 crore. At that time, Zee had rejected IPRS claim, citing that there is a pre-existing dispute between them on the claimed amount. TNN

ONDC will help small retailers survive: Goyal

New Delhi: The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a unified payments interface-type protocol, will help small retail

survive the onslaught of large tech-based e-commerce companies, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday.

ONDC is an initiative of the ministry to help small retailers expand their business and reduce the dominance of e-commerce giants. It aims to build an open, interoperable network on which buyers and sellers can transact without needing to be present on the same platform.

It offers small retailers an opportunity to provide

their services, and goods to buyers across the country through an e-commerce system, where buyers will be able to purchase the products, which are sold on any platform.

"ONDC will help our small retail survive the onslaught of large tech-based e-commerce companies," Goyal said here at an event on the retail sector. He said that the effort is to encourage small companies, and startups to integrate into the e-commerce ecosystem. "Like UPI democratized payment systems, ONDC will democratize benefits of e-commerce," he added.

He also said that the consumer industry in India, and FMCGs have been victims of indiscriminate low-quality imports because of which people have suffered. Without naming China, he said India's imports from one geography led to a significant increase in trade deficit between 2004-14 and broke the back of Indian manufacturing.

"When we are doing our free trade negotiations, the focus is on opportunities that India offers." Goyal said, adding, the government has focused over the last few years to bring back manufacturing into India again.

He added that the government have been able to stem the fall of manufacturing, and now "we have to work to take it to greater heights". Consumers will be equally responsible for making this happen, he said. AGENCIES

imports because of which people have suffered. Without naming China, he said India's imports from one geography led to a significant increase in trade deficit between 2004-14 and broke the back of Indian manufacturing.

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TIMES NATION

Oppn's mikes often silenced in LS, Rahul tells British MPs

'Not Allowed To Discuss Demonetisation, GST, China Faceoff'

London: Congress member Rahul Gandhi told British parliamentarians on Monday that microphones in Lok Sabha are often silenced against the Opposition. "Our mikes are not out of order; they are functioning, but you still can't switch them on. That's happened to me a number of times while I was speaking," he said.

During an event organised by Indian-origin Opposition Labour Party MP Virendra Sharma in the House of Commons complex, Gandhi shared experiences from the Bharat Jodo Yatra which he described as a "deeply political exercise in mass mobilisation".

In a lighter vein, he used a faulty microphone in the

The idea that BJP is unbeatable is a narrative that is being created. It was the same narrative in the media in 2004, about India Shining and when the result came it was a shock for BJP. So, I don't buy the narrative in the media. I listen to the people on the ground

RAHUL GANDHI | Congress member

room to make his point about what he described as a "stifling" Opposition debate in India. "Demonetisation, which was a disastrous financial decision, we were not allowed to discuss. GST we were not allowed to discuss. Chinese troops entering Indian territory we were not allowed to discuss. I remember a Parliament where there were vibrant discussions, heated debates, arguments, and disagreements but we had a conversation. And, that's frankly what we miss in Parliament. We have to use debates to fit in other debates. There is a stifling that is going on," he said.

Gandhi also pointed out that Congress had successfully "governed the country for many, many years" and dismissed what he dubbed

as a flawed media narrative against the party's electoral prospects in future.

"This idea that BJP is unbeatable is a narrative that is being created. It was the same narrative in the media in 2004, about India Shining and when the result came it was a shock for BJP. So, I don't buy the narrative in the media. I listen to the people on the ground," he said, adding that he is "pretty confident" of bringing the Opposition together on one platform.

When asked about his "dreams" for India, he said that the "future of India is very good as long as we can take care of this turbulent period we are going through where our structures are being attacked". AGENCIES

Naomi Cantor



Rahul explained he was forced to walk the Bharat Jodo Yatra as all Indian institutions that protect freedom of speech and democracy had been captured by BJP, so the best option was to go directly to people of India.

turned away. When Rahul arrived, three hours after the start time, there were huge cheers and people swarmed around the stage to photograph him, shouting "Rahul Gandhi Zindabad". A whole string of people, including Sam Pitroda, made speeches before he did. Rahul's speech in English, with bits in Hindi, ended up being only 15

minutes long.

Rahul attacked S Jaishankar for his recent comments in which he had said China is much more powerful than India so how can India pick a fight with China. "At the heart of the ideology is cowardice," he said. "The foreign minister is saying China is stronger than us so we can't fight with them. The British were stronger than us, so we shouln't have fought with them?... This is a fight between courage and cowardice, a fight between respect and disrespect, between love and hatred," he said. He praised the Indian diaspora for being a shining example of what it means to be Indian by respecting England and living peacefully whilst also sharing their traditions and culture.

Rahul explained he was forced to walk the Bharat Jodo Yatra as all the Indian institutions that protect freedom of speech and democracy had been captured by BJP, so the best option was to go directly to people of India.

democracy had been captured by BJP, so the best option was to go directly to people of India. What he learnt from listening to people was that the big issues facing the country are unemployment, price rise, the violence that Indian women face and the concentration of wealth. "This is at the expense of the Indian people because when there is no competition in a country, and one person is making all the money because of his political connections, the strength of the country is wasted," he said.

"The interesting thing to me was that what the people of India were talking about is not in the media at all. We see anger, hatred, violence, Bollywood, Aishwarya Rai, cricket, but we don't see the real issue the people are facing," he said. The 4,000-km yatra, attracted at any one time 50,000 to 1,00,000 people of all religions, castes and languages, he said.

Women share highest in gold, edu & home loans

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Among retail loan categories, the share of women borrowers is highest for gold and education loans, while it is the least for two-wheeler loans. Overall in retail loans, the share of female borrowers (by value) has risen from 25.3% as of December 2021 to 26% as of December 2022.

According to credit bureau CRIF High Mark's report, 42% of gold loans is taken by women. This is understandable, given that the security used in the case of gold loans is primarily women's jewellery. Women are also borrowing more for

SHARE OF WOMEN-LED STARTUPS RAISING FUNDS UP IN 2022: STUDY

While the number of women founders in India's growing startup ecosystem is still at levels best described as "non-flattering", data shows that 2022 was a successful year for women entrepreneurs in the area of fundraising. Despite the funding winter and a significant dip in PE and VC investments, 2022 turned out to be a positive year for women-led startups. The share of the pie for startups with at least one co-founder as a woman entrepreneur grew three percentage points from 8% of the total funding (\$53.7 billion) in 2021 to 11% of the total funds (\$35.6 billion) in 2022, data from research firm Traxn shows

Year	Total funding (\$bn)	Number of total rounds
2021	4.3	349
2022	3.9	251

Sectorally, the edtech and consumer segments turned out to be the most successful in terms of investment raised by women-led startups.

TOP SECTORS FOR WOMEN-LED STARTUPS IN 2022 (Figures in \$)
Consumer
EdTech
Enterprise Applications
Retail
FinTech

STAGE-WISE DETAILS OF FUNDING RAISED BY WOMEN-LED STARTUPS

(Figures in \$)

2021 2022



DETAILS OF TOP FUNDING DEALS IN 2022 PERTAINING TO WOMEN-LED STARTUPS

Funding date	Startup	Round	Amount (in \$ mn)
October 17, 2022	Byju's	Series F	250
June 02, 2022	Ampere Vehicles	Series B	220
April 07, 2022	Instored	Series B	200

Sebi framework for cloud services adoption

New Delhi: Sebi on Monday came out with a framework for the adoption of cloud services by stock exchanges, clearing corporations and other regulated entities.

The cloud framework has been drafted to provide baseli-

ng standards of security and for the legal and regulatory compliances by Regulated Entities (REs). It will be in addition to the existing circulars/guidelines/advisories of Sebi.

"Major purpose of framework is to highlight the key

risks, and mandatory control measures which REs need to put in place before adopting cloud computing. The document also sets out the regulatory and legal compliances by REs if they adopt such solutions," it said. AGENCIES

Over 6% of desi industries don't follow green norms

WHAT THE UPGRADE MEANS

Non-compliance of green norms by industries risks air, water and soil

No. of operational industries 4,40,989*

No. of industries complying with environmental standards 4,12,823

No. of industries non-complying with environmental standards 28,166

Legal cases filed | 158

Closure direction | 2,616

Action under process | 6,451

Show cause notice | 18,941

*Total no. doesn't include industries of West Bengal, Delhi and Lakshadweep as exact data from these state/UTs was not available during compilation

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MANCHESTER UNITED MELTDOWN VS LIVERPOOL
WAS UNPROFESSIONAL, SAYS ANGRY TEN HAG

CHELSEA MANAGER POTTER'S EXPENSIVE RECRUITS
FACE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE MOMENT OF TRUTH



GALLERY

Shakib shines as B'desh deny England clean sweep



Chatogram: Bangladesh all-rounder **Shakib Al Hasan** delivered with bat and ball as they beat England by 50 runs in the third One-day International to earn a consolation win in Chatogram on Monday.

After top scoring with the bat to score 75 runs and help Bangladesh post 246, he returned with the ball to finish with figures of 4-35 as the 35-year-old became the first Bangladesh player to take 300 ODI wickets. England's openers Jason Roy and Phil Salt laid the foundation for the run-chase with a 54-run partnership before the tourists lost three quick wickets.

SCORES: Bangladesh 246 in 48.5 overs (Shakib 75, Mashfiqur 70, Najim 53; Archer 3-35, Rashid 2-21, Curran 2-51) vs England 196 in 43.1 overs (Vince 38, Salt 35, Woakes 34; Shakib 4-35, Ebadot 2-38, Taijul 2-52)

Wood expects limited role in Ashes at home: England seamer Mark Wood expects to play a limited role in their Ashes campaign at home later this year, owing to the team's fast bowling options. Wood was England's leading wicket taker in the 2021-22 Ashes series in Australia, which they lost 4-0, but he has played only three Tests since then. "I will definitely not play all five Tests," Wood said on Sunday. Wood is part of a fast bowling unit led by James Anderson and Stuart Broad. Jofra Archer, Matthew Potts, Saqib Mahmood, Ollie Robinson, Sam Curran and Olly Stone are also likely to fight for a place in the team for the Ashes.

Nortje out of second Test vs West Indies: South Africa will be without fast bowler Anrich Nortje for the second and final Test against West Indies that starts at The Wanderers on Wednesday after he picked up a mild groin injury and is to be rested. South Africa have opted not to call up a replacement, which will likely mean a return for either of their spin options. Keshav Maharaj and Simon Harmer, who were left out in the first game.

SQUAD: Temba Bavuma (captain), Gerald Coetze, Temy de Zorzi, Dean Elgar, Simon Harmer, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Senuran Muthusamy, Keegan Petersen, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickleton.

Durant dazzles as Suns sink Mavs: Kevin Durant produced a 37-point masterpiece as the Phoenix Suns defeated the Dallas Mavericks with Steph Curry's return from injury was not enough to prevent Golden State falling to the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA on Sunday. In the Eastern Conference, the New York Knicks made it nine straight wins with a thrilling victory in double overtime against the second-placed Boston Celtics.

Kitayama seals maiden PGA Tour win in thriller at Bay Hill: Kurt Kitayama kept his cool in a nerve-shredding final round to clinch the first PGA Tour victory of his much-traveled career at the Arnold Palmer Invitational in Orlando on Sunday. The 30-year-old journeyman, who led by one at the start of the final round, held off a ferocious challenge from some of the biggest names in world golf to card an even-par 72 and complete a one-shot victory. AGENCIES

Gokulam Kerala score four past Sudeva Delhi: Sudeva Delhi's last home game of the I-League season ended in another big defeat with Gokulam Kerala thrashing them 4-1 on Monday. Sergio Mendigutxoa put Gokulam Kerala in the lead in early minutes of the game before Sudeva's Alexis Gomez equalised. Shilton D'Silva handed Gokulam the lead again before Farshad Noor and Mendigutxoa added one each for a comfortable victory. AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

BADMINTON: German Open (BWF TV)
CRICKET: WPL, Delhi Capitals vs UP Warriorz, 7.30 pm (Sports 18, Jio Cinema)
FOOTBALL: ISL semi, Leg 1: Bengaluru vs Mumbai, 7.30 pm (Star); CL R16, Leg 2: Chelsea vs Dortmund, Benfica vs Club Brugge, 1.30 am (Sony)



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New Delhi: A courtroom battle over selection matters has threatened to take the sheen away from the upcoming IBA women's World Championships, which India will be hosting for historic third time – most ever by any country since the tournament's inception in 2001.

Three of the country's leading female boxers – all reigning national champions – Manju Rani (48kg), Shikha Narwal (54kg) and Poonam Poonia (60kg), on Monday dragged the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) to the court over their non-inclusion in the 12-member Indian squad for the Worlds, scheduled to be held here from March 15-26.

Filing the writ petition in the Delhi High Court through their lead counsel Sandeep Lamba, the three

boxers alleged that their non-selection has "revealed the malpractices and corruption in the system of the boxing federation".

The matter was listed before the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, who, after allowing the petition, listed it for an urgent hearing before a single-judge bench of Justice Pratibha M Singh in the Court No. 43 on Tuesday.

Apart from BFI (Respondent No. 1), the petitioners (Manju Rani & Others) have made the Sports Authority of India (Respondent No. 2), ministry of youth affairs and sports (Respondent No. 3), the selected three boxers for the Worlds – Nitu Ghanghas

(48kg), Preeti (54kg) and Jaismine Lamboria (60kg). Respondents No. 4 to 6 – and women team's head coach Bhaskar Chandra Bhatt (Respondent No. 7), party to the matter.

TOI reached out to BFI ofice-bearers but calls seeking their response went unanswered.

After the trio were left out of the Indian team for the Worlds earlier, they had questioned the BFI's selection policy which was envisaged in consultation with the boxing's high-performance director (HPD) Bernard Dunne and the other Indian coaches, where the squad was selected based on the boxers' performance in a nearly three-week long national camp at NIS Patiala between January 20 and February 8. The federation has maintained that winning the Nationals wasn't the sole criteria to pick the team.

AIFF rejects Blasters' demand to replay tie

Marcus.Mergulhao
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Panaji: The disciplinary committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has quashed Kerala Blasters' protest which sought a rematch of their contentious clash against Bengaluru FC in the ISL last week.

ISL

Blasters walked off in protest at what they saw as an unfair refereeing call from Crystal John that allowed Sunil Chhetri to score a controversial goal and put Bengaluru ahead. Infuriated by the decision, coach Ivan Vukomanovic marched onto the pitch and waved at his players to walk off the field. The players walked out in the sixth minute of extra time with 24 minutes still

left to be played. The club later filed a protest seeking a rematch and a ban on the referee.

The AIFF disciplinary committee led by Vaibhav Gaggar met on an emergency basis late on Monday and heard all parties, including four representatives from Kerala Blasters. The panel has now decided to quash the protest and a statement is expected to be issued on Tuesday.

"A refereeing decision cannot be overturned by the disciplinary committee," a senior official who has tracked the hearing told TOI. Kerala Blasters were asked to show the panel clearly written rules that prove the referee's error. There is nothing in the (IFAB) rule book to show that the referee took a wrong decision."

Mumbai: League Shield winners Mumbai City FC will be eager to bounce back with a positive result against Bengaluru FC in the first leg of their Indian Super League (ISL) semifinal at the Mumbai Football Arena on Tuesday.

Mumbai concluded the league stage with two back-to-back defeats, including one against Bengaluru FC, and will look to end the visitors' nine-game winning streak to carry an advantage to the second leg on Sunday.

Following a two-week break since the end of their league stage, Mumbai City FC will be keen on beating the Blues who stopped them from attaining a perfect, unbeaten record ahead of the playoffs by becoming the first team to beat them this season.

In the final game of the league season, Mumbai suffered another defeat and their

SEMICINAL

first one on home soil when they went down against East Bengal. Head coach Des Buckingham had fielded a second-string side against East Bengal, but will revert to his strongest lineup — including talisman Greg Stewart who had injury concerns for a few weeks — for the first leg of the semifinal.

"I see it (two-legged semifinal) as two individual games. You have to plan for the 90 minutes that you are about to face knowing the outcome could influence the second part, but there is no point in looking at the second part till we are done with the first," said Buckingham as quoted by an ISL press release.

"We will approach this fixtures this season, the two sides have met 12 times in the ISL. Mumbai have won six times, while Bengaluru FC have won on five occasions. ANI

HAYLEY STORM BLOWS RCB AWAY

Matthews' 77* From 38
Balls & 3/28 Give MI Commanding 9-Wkt Win

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Mumbai Indians' Hayley Matthews (left) and Nat Sciver-Brunt run between the wickets during the game against RCB in Mumbai

WPL



PTI

SMITH TO LEAD AUSTRALIA IN FOURTH TEST TOO

Ahmedabad: Steve Smith will lead Australia in the fourth and final Test against India as regular captain Pat Cummins remains with his unwell mother back home. Smith had captained the side in Indore in Cummins' absence. Cummins had flown back home after the Delhi Test to be with his mother, who is in palliative care. Three ODIs follow the final Test and a decision on Cummins' participation in those will be taken later.

Smith had captained Australia to a nine-wicket win in Indore last week. India lead the series 2-1 and need a win to qualify for the World Test Championship Final.

With the win in Indore, Australia secured their qualification for the WTC summit clash in London in June. Smith, who captained Australia to their first win in India in six years, had enjoyed leading the side but said it was "very much" Cummins' team. "My time is done. It's Pat's team now. I've obviously been able to stand in this week, obviously in tough circumstances with Patti going home," he said. PTI

AUSTRALIA IN INDIA

TURNING TRACKS TEST FORTITUDE: VETTORI

Ahmedabad: Australia assistant coach Daniel Vettori said he does not mind the spin-friendly pitches on offer in their series in India as they have challenged the batsmen and brought their skill and perseverance into play. "I don't mind the surfaces because I feel it's the same for everyone," New Zealander Vettori said. "It doesn't feel like the toss is the key ingredient, you almost know what to expect. You turn up and you can see that it's going to be this type of wicket and you can prepare for it."

"I think that allows some skill to come into it, some perseverance and some fortitude among the things that you have to do. The batting group, hearing them talk, has started to bind to that as well. A score of 30 could be a great day. It's how you get that 30 that makes such a difference. The challenge is in accepting it more than anything. That's easier said than done."

Australia's Nathan Lyon claimed 11 of the 20 wickets in Indore and has been well backed in the series by the likes of newcomers Matt Kuhnemann and Todd Murphy. Vettori said he was delighted with the consistency the duo had shown. REUTERS

'DON'T BELIEVE IN HYPE AROUND PITCHES IN INDIA'

Melbourne: Former pacer Michael Kasprowicz doesn't understand why so much attention is being given to pitches in ongoing Border-Gavaskar trophy as they are "typical" Indian wickets, he says, on which Australia need to "adapt and adjust". "I don't believe the hype because for all the attention around the pitches they were typically Indian wickets," Kasprowicz, one of the architects of Australia's first Test win in India in 29 years, told the Age. "I realise this last one in Indore did a few tricks early on, but because they're starting so early (9.30 am), maybe that little bit of moisture helps grab the ball. But at other stages later in the day, it wasn't doing anything like that."

Most of the experts, including former Australian captain Mark Taylor and Mark Waugh, too have been critical of the pitches, especially the Indore track. "When I say don't believe the hype, I know the odd ball was turning square, and it got a poor rating," said Kasprowicz. PTI

New faces in India squad for Billie Jean King Cup

New Delhi: Vaidehi Chaudhary was on Monday rewarded for her good form as she was named in India's Billie Jean King Cup squad for the upcoming Asia Oceania Group I competition, where seniors Ankita Raina and Karman Kaur Thandi will lead the country's challenge. The 23-year-old Chaudhary had recently won her second ITF women's singles title in Gurugram after beating compatriot Sandeepi Singh.

Also making it to the five-player squad is Sahaja Yama-

pali, who is the fourth-highest ranked player from India at No. 454. Rutuja Bhosale has kept her place (419) in the squad even as Riya Bhatiya has been dropped by the selection panel, led by Nandan Bal.

The action in Asia Oceania Group I will begin in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from April 10.

Surprisingly, the All India Tennis Association (AITA) has replaced Vishal Uppal as captain. Shalini Thakur Chawla, who was the coach in the previous tie, has taken his place. PTI

Lakshya Sen will have physio Matthews by his side at All England championships



Indore: Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey feels he has more chances of succeeding if he goes for his shots, including the sweep, rather than defending in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar trophy. The southpaw has been impressive with his glovework on wickets offering turn from day one but has only managed 56 runs in the series so far.

Carey also feels the Australian batters have their own methods to deal with rank turners and he is going to back his own style in the final Test in Ahmedabad.

"I had some confidence out of the first game and then getting out defending, am I happy with that? Not really," Carey said.

"I think probably just sticking to my method now and understanding if you chase it too

Novak withdraws after failed bid to play in US event

Indian Wells: Top-ranked Novak Djokovic has withdrawn from the upcoming BNP Paribas Open, having lost his bid to enter the United States unvaccinated to play in the Southern California event. The tournament announced his withdrawal on Sunday night.

Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., said on Twitter that Homeland Security had rejected Djokovic's vaccine waiver request, which would have allowed him to play back-to-back at Indian Wells and Miami. AP

dy is in a good space," he added.

Bengaluru FC comes into the semifinal with a nine-match winning streak.

Head coach Simon Grayson will likely field an unchanged XI, relying on the pace of Roy Krishna and Siva Narayanan on the counters.

"To be the first team to beat them after such an unbelievable season was a real highlight for us," said Grayson.

"We have done well against them, but previous games will count for nothing. In these two-legged games, it's all about who handles the pressure better. It will be about who gets the breaks, who gets a little bit of luck, and who plays well," he added.

Including the two league fixtures this season, the two sides have met 12 times in the ISL. Mumbai have won six times, while Bengaluru FC have won on five occasions. ANI

MOMENT OF TRUTH

Chelsea's Expensive Recruits Aim To Overturn Deficit Against Dortmund

London: Chelsea have one final shot to save their season when Borussia Dortmund visit Stamford Bridge in the last 16 of the Champions League on Tuesday defending a 1-0 first leg lead.

Despite an all-time record investment of over £500 million (£603 million) in one season by the Blues' new owners, Chelsea are languishing in 10th in the Premier League and crashed out early in both domestic cups to Manchester City.

Graham Potter stopped the rot with a 1-0 victory over Leeds on Saturday to end a six-game winless run. But the manner of victory failed to quash doubts that Potter's job could be on the line against the Germans.

Dortmund travel to London on the back of a 10-game winning run that has taken Edin Terzic's men into a share of the Bundesliga lead alongside Bayern Munich.

Chelsea, by contrast, are looking up at Brentford, Brighton and Fulham after three wins in their last 16 games. Scoring goals has been the biggest problem for Potter's men, with the pressure on their expensive new recruits to start delivering.

Champions League rules meant only three of Chelsea's January signings could be registered for the knockout stages with the attacking trio of Enzo Fernandez, Joao Felix and Mykhailo Mudryk making the cut. Fernandez broke the British transfer record when he joined from Benfica for £107 million.

But the Argentine World Cup winner is yet to have the desired impact

3 Chelsea's win against Leeds was just their third in their last 16 games in all competitions

How it stands (first leg):
DORTMUND 1 CHELSEA 0



WHEN WILL THE MONEY TALK? Chelsea spent £10 million just to have Joao Felix on loan for the final few months of the season



10 Dortmund have recorded 10 consecutive victories since returning from the winter break, with their eight straight Bundesliga wins equalling their club record from 2011/12.

We have to attack better as a team. That's my responsibility. It's too easy to zoom in on individuals and blame them. It's a collective, we have to create more, do better, and that starts with me." – Graham Potter, CHELSEA MANAGER

FORM GUIDE
Chelsea
Form (all competitions, most recent first): WLLDD
Where they stand: 10th in Premier League

Dortmund
Form: WWWWW
Where they stand: 2nd in Bundesliga, German Cup quarterfinals

QUARTERS IN BENFICA'S SIGHT

Milan: Thriving and facing an opponent in crisis, Benfica couldn't be in a better position to keep their good run going in the Champions League.

The Portuguese side will defend a 2-0 lead from the first leg against Club Brugge at home on Tuesday. Benfica are looking to reach the quarterfinals of Europe's top club competition for a second straight season, a feat they last accomplished more than five decades ago. They were eliminated by eventual runner-up Liverpool in the final eight last year.

There aren't many teams

in Europe in as good a form as Benfica, who are unbeaten in 12 games in all competitions. They have won 10 of those matches, including the last four and

How it stands (first leg):
CLUB BRUGGE 0 BENFICA 2

eight of the last nine. They didn't lose in the group stage of the Champions League, winning their group ahead of powerhouses Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus. Benfica also comfortably lead the Portuguese league.

Brugge, meanwhile, have won only twice in 11 matches since English coach Scott Parker took over in December. AP

Ancelotti rues Real's lack of bite

Seville: Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti raised concerns over the team's lack of urgency in front of goal following a 0-0 draw with Real Betis in LaLiga on Sunday.

Since thrashing Liverpool 5-2 in the first leg of their Champions League 16 tie, Real have scored only once in their following three matches in all competitions.

They are also without a win since beating Liverpool, having drawn 1-1 with Atletico Madrid in the league and losing 1-0 to Barcelona in the first leg of the Copa del Rey semi-finals.

"I'm upset more than angry. It's strange we're not scoring," Ancelotti told reporters. "It's not normal that a team with this much quality didn't score more than one goal in the last three games. It does upset me, a lot."

"The players are also disappointed because we've got the quality to score and we've

LIGA: HOW THEY STAND	P	W	D	L	Pt
Barca	24	20	2	2	62
Real	24	16	5	3	53
Atletico	24	13	6	5	45
Sociedad	24	13	5	6	44

always done it. I think our attack is a problem right now. We need to be more clinical and deliver more."

The goalless draw did little to enhance Real's prospects of catching Barcelona in the LaLiga title race, with Ancelotti's team nine points behind their arch-rivals after 24 games.

Asked if Real are out of the title race, Ancelotti said: "No. The gap is big. We'll work this week, we have a whole week to work. We need to keep fighting until the end. There are lots of games to be played but we need to improve."

Real host Espanyol in the league on Saturday. REUTERS

staff "recommended a ligament repair operation" be undertaken.

Neymar will miss PSG's Champions League match at Bayern Munich on Wednesday and will be operated on in the coming days at a hospital in Doha.

PSG, still waiting for a maiden Champions League title, bid to overturn a 1-0 first-leg deficit in the last 16 against Bayern Munich in Germany on Wednesday.

Neymar, who has scored 18 goals in all competitions this season, was in fine form for the French champions before the World Cup break. AGENCIES

How will United and Liverpool react?

Unacceptable, embarrassing, to be honest. I think I felt embarrassed for us players, for the fans that were there supporting us, that were watching at home, to watch that second half." – Luke Shaw

The result is quite obvious. It's unprofessional enough. As a team, you have to stick together. I haven't seen this from my team. I don't think it's Manchester United. So it's really bad and poor." – Erik Ten Hag

has been an inability to produce consistent winning runs. United's issues have been the opposite. It was not the first time United manager Erik ten Hag has been humiliated in his early reign at Old Trafford. Yet United went into Sunday's game on the back of winning the League Cup. AP

LIVERPOOL'S MOMENTUM

There have been signs in recent weeks that Liverpool is coming into form at just the right time to salvage a desperately frustrating season. Champions League qualification is now in sight, with Liverpool only three points behind fourth-place Tottenham with a game in hand and superior goal difference. Newcastle are one point behind Liverpool and have played a game fewer, but it is the Merseyside club that appears to have the momentum and has also been boosted by key players returning from injury.

FREAK RESULT, TOP PERFORMANCE." – Juergen Klopp

KLOPP'S FORWARDS

Liverpool's new look attack produced its most ruthless display against United as Cody Gakpo, Darwin Nunez and Mohamed Salah scored two goals each. Klopp's success in recent years has been built on his attacking trio of Sadio Mane, Roberto Firmino and Salah.

Understandably, it has taken time for him to reconstruct his forward line and Sunday provided a glimpse of the future. Gakpo's performance, in particular, may have left United regretting the decision not to pursue the player that Ten Hag wanted to sign in Jan.

CONSISTENCY

On only one occasion this season has Liverpool managed to put a run of more than two league wins together – a four-game sequence spread over either side of the World Cup in November and December.

TEN HAG'S TOOLS

After the loss to Brentford, Ten Hag ordered his players to come in the next day and run 8.5 miles (about 13.5 kms) during a British heatwave in August. It was the difference between the distance run by both teams in that match and Ten Hag joined in on the run as a show of unity. After losing to City, he publicly called out his players

and notably left Ronaldo on the bench at the Etihad Stadium. On both occasions, Ten Hag got the desired effect. United beat Liverpool and Arsenal in the aftermath of Brentford and lost only one game in 12 in the league after City.

WORK IN PROGRESS

The latest humiliation was a reminder that Ten Hag is still in the process of building this United team and his squad remains short in key areas. Ten Hag wants to bring in a top centre forward in the offseason, with Harry Kane linked with a move from Tottenham. He also needs more cover in midfield.

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