



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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## BIS norms for fans, cookware from next year

From 2024, several products used in our daily life such as electric ceiling fans, stainless steel cookware, wrought aluminium utensils, block boards and aluminium cans for beverages will come under the mandatory quality norms notified by the BIS. Violators can be jailed for up to 2 years or fined Rs 2 lakh. **P 15**

## 7 killed in fire at Mumbai highrise

A fire in a seven-storey building in Goregaon west killed seven people, including two minors, and injured 62 Friday. A short-circuit in the stilt parking area may have caused the blaze. **P 17**

## Email threat to kill PM, blow up stadium

The NIA and Mumbai police are looking into an email threatening to assassinate Prime Minister Narendra Modi and blow up the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. Efforts are on to trace the sender. **P 11**

## TCS plans fifth buyback in 6 yrs

TCS will consider buying back shares for the fifth time in six years. It could funnel cash back to parent Tata Sons that's betting on new ventures such as semiconductors and EV batteries. **P 23**

## AB KI BAAR, ASIAN GAMES MEIN 100 PAAR

India is poised to cross a historic century of medals at Asiad after the men's hockey team claims a gold, wrestlers bag 3 bronze and sepaktakraw athletes add a 1st-ever bronze to take the country's tally to 95. On top of that, India is assured of 7 medals today

► India is the 4th country in the history of the Games — after Japan, China and South Korea — to bag 100 or more medals in a single Asiad. Host Indonesia came close with 98 in 2018. India will most likely finish 4th in the table, its highest position since the 1962 Jakarta Games, when it came 3rd. India had finished 2nd in the inaugural 1951 Games in New Delhi

► Skipper Harmanpreet Singh leads from the front and scores two goals as Indian men rout Japan 5-1 to win the hockey gold and qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics in the process

► A 13-year wait ends in archery with the Indian men's and women's recurve teams clinching silver and bronze respectively — their first medals at the Games since 2010

► Aman Sehrawat, Kiran Bishnoi and Sonam Malik win 3 wrestling bronze

► India clinches its first-ever medal in women's sepaktakraw (kick volleyball). Regu team wins bronze

► In cricket, India crushes Bangladesh by 9 wickets to set up a gold medal



The hockey team on Friday after winning gold and qualifying for the 2024 Paris Olympics

**INDIA @ ASIAD**

Gold	22
Silver	34
Bronze	39

Total: 95 FULL REPORT P 25, 26



## Canada moves out diplomats on India's demand

## RBI keeps rates unchanged, flags inflation as a worry

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Canada was reported on Friday to have relocated a majority of its diplomats in India to Malaysia and Singapore. New Delhi had earlier asked Ottawa to pull out 41 diplomats to ensure parity with India's diplomatic presence in the North American country. "A majority of the Canadian diplomats working in India outside of New Delhi have been evacuated to either Kuala Lumpur or Singapore," a report by a Canadian TV channel said.

The development followed Canadian PM Justin Trudeau's allegation that Indian agents had a role in the killing of pro-Khalistan leader Hardeep Nijjar. **P 10**

## Das sounds alarm on personal loan growth

RBI has asked banks, NBFCs and fintechs to strengthen surveillance over strong growth in some personal loans. "Certain components of personal loans are recording very high growth... These are being closely monitored by RBI for any signs of incipient stress," RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said. **P 23**

Analysts had predicted the RBI would maintain status quo. The last time the central bank had raised interest rates was on February 8 this year.

► Align inflation... **P 23**

## City AQI slips to 'poor', GRAP stage 1 kicks in

Delhi's air quality dipped to "poor" on Friday for the first time in nearly four months, prompting stage 1 measures to kick in under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). With average AQI at 212, this was the first "poor air" day since June 14.

Under stage 1, a complete ban on coal and wood-fired tandoors at hotels, restaurants and open eateries is in place, along with dust-mitigation measures to be ensured during construction and demolition, use of anti-smog guns, water sprinkling to check dust-triggered pollution and zero tolerance of visible emissions from polluting vehicles, etc. **P 2**

## Singham infused funds to destroy India's unity: Cops

### NewsClick FIR Names Chinese Phone Makers

New Delhi: The UAPA FIR against web portal NewsClick names Shanghai-based businessman Neville Roy Singham and jailed activist Gautam Navlakha as accused along with the portal's editor-in-chief, Prabir Purkayastha. Tuming Singham, who is of Sri Lankan-Cuban descent, as an active member of the propaganda department of the Communist Party of China, Delhi Police's special cell claims he infused crores with the intention of disrupting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India, to cause disaffection and threaten the country's unity and security.

"It is further learnt that big Chinese telecom companies like Xiaomi, Vivo, etc incorporated thousands of shell companies in India in violation of PMLA/FEMA for illegally infusing foreign funds in India in furtherance of conspiracy [to peddle false narratives]," it adds. Xiaomi denied the allegation while Vivo declined comment. **TNN**

### Charges untenable, bogus: NewsClick

NewsClick said the charges, "apart from being ex facie untenable and bogus, have been made time and again, in investigations by three government agencies... None led to any chargesheets or complaints in over three years... Prabir (Purkayastha) was granted interim protection in these investigations. The latest FIR has been registered only to circumvent this protection and carry out illegal arrests under the draconian UAPA." **TNN**

shell companies in India in violation of PMLA/FEMA for illegally infusing foreign funds in India in furtherance of conspiracy [to peddle false narratives]," it adds. Xiaomi denied the allegation while Vivo declined comment. **TNN**

### Arunachal, Kashmir, P 12

## Want to be judge? Be tech-friendly, says CJI

New Delhi: "If you want to become a judge in the courts, you have to be technology-friendly," said Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud while reading the riot act to all the 25 high courts to collaborate with states to put in place the virtual mode of hearing cases in two weeks for the benefit of lawyers and litigants, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra**.

Identifying Allahabad HC as "the complete offender" and Bombay HC as "regressive" in their approach towards marrying judicial functioning with technology, a bench of CJI Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra asked, "Why are the high court judges so reticent about using

### BATS FOR HYBRID INFRA

► CJI asks all 25 HCs to put in place virtual mode of hearings within 2 weeks  
► Calls Allahabad HC 'complete offender' and Bombay HC 'regressive' in approach towards hybrid hearings  
► Says tech 'no longer matter of choice', 'it's like a driving licence required for driving a car'

technology when the SC judges have voluntarily taken lessons in use of technology to conduct court proceedings on paperless e-platforms?"

### E-hearing infra, P 16

## Sikkim flood toll rises to 44, list of missing doubles to 142

Roshan Gupta, Nisha Chhetri & Tamagha Banerjee & TNN

The ravages of Wednesday's flash flood in north Sikkim continued to haunt the region as six more bodies washed ashore downstream of the Teesta in neighbouring Bengal's Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar on Friday, taking the number of confirmed casualties to 44.

The list of missing people almost doubled overnight to 142, based on freshly collated data from Namchi and Pakyong districts of Sikkim. Till late Thursday, the number had stood at 78.

All six bodies found downstream on the third day since the disaster — a glacial lake outburst flood, or GLOF — were those of residents of Pakyong, the Sikkim government said.

### Inclement weather, P 21

### IN THE COURTS

► Shocked by Delhi Police detaining a man for 30 mins before releasing him, Delhi HC orders 2 cops to pay ₹50,000 to the victim | **P 2**

► Court says MP Raghab Chadda has no vested right to continue to occupy bungalow after allotment cancelled | **P 3**

► Holding that a cop falsely implicated a disabled NDA employee, Bombay HC quashes FIR and orders ₹25,000 compensation | **P 16**

► Tripura HC says normal rule of bail, not jail, in criminal cases not applicable to NDPS, UAPA cases | **P 12**

► Calcutta HC commutes death sentence of Kamduni trio, who raped and killed a 20-yr-old in 2013, to life | **P 21**

► SC says it can't stop parties from making poll promises but seeks replies from Centre, MP, Rajasthan and EC on PIL alleging irrational doles by CMs of poll-bound states | **P 16**

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Heritage building on Ashoka Road to be converted into a museum on city's police force | 5

**36.3°** MAXIMUM  
FORECAST Mainly clear sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 36°C and 21°C  
**18.6°** MINIMUM  
SUNRISE 6.17AM (SUN)  
SUNSET 6.01PM (SAT)

**MOONRISE** 12.20AM (SUN)  
**MOONSET** 2.02PM (SAT)

# TIMES CITY

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

OTT-inspired painter held for printing fake currency notes | 4



November-end deadline for cycle track around Nehru Park | 9



## 'Not above law': HC orders 2 cops to pay ₹50k to fruit seller

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi Police can't behave as if it is above the law, Delhi High Court has said, directing two police officers to cough up Rs 50,000 from their salary as compensation to a fruit seller who they threw into a lock-up for 30 minutes without an FIR against him.

The court took a dim view of the manner in which the man was illegally detained. It was 'appalling' the way citizens were treated by the police, Justice Subramonium Prasad said.

"This court is deeply troubled by the fact that the petitioner was not even arrested. He was simply picked up from the spot, brought to the police station and placed inside the lock-up for no rhyme or reason. The high-handed way in which the police authorities have acted, throwing to the winds the constitutional and fundamental rights of a citizen, is appalling," the judge said.

The court made it clear that the "time spent in the lock-up by the petitioner, even for a short while, cannot absolve the police officers who have deprived the petitioner of his liberty without following due procedure".

The petitioner had moved court demanding compensation. He said that despite being the one who alerted the police about a fight between a woman and a vegetable seller, police put him in the lock-up in September last year. After the SHO admitted that the petitioner was picked up from the spot without an FIR, the court said censure alone was not sufficient in this case.

"This court is troubled by the way citizens are being treated by the police authorities who behave as if they are above the law," the court added. "This court is of the opinion that a meaningful message must be sent to the authorities that police officers cannot be the law unto

**HIGH COURT SAYS**  
The high-handed way in which the police authorities have acted is appalling

themselves.... Even though the illegal detention of the petitioner was only for about half an hour, this court is inclined to grant compensation of Rs 50,000 to the petitioner, which shall be recovered from the salaries of respondents no.4 and 5," the judge said.

The court made it clear that the "time spent in the lock-up by the petitioner, even for a short while, cannot absolve the police officers who have deprived the petitioner of his liberty without following due procedure".

The petitioner had moved court demanding compensation. He said that despite being the one who alerted the police about a fight between a woman and a vegetable seller, police put him in the lock-up in September last year. After the SHO admitted that the petitioner was picked up from the spot without an FIR, the court said censure alone was not sufficient in this case.

## Man gets 12-yr jail under Pocso for raping minor

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court has sentenced a 32-year-old man to 12 years of rigorous imprisonment for the offence of aggravated penetrative sexual assault of a minor under the Pocso Act.

The court of additional sessions judge Susheel Bala Dagar said, "The convict who is found to be having perverse mind, indulging in sexual offences with children, does not deserve any leniency."

The court also sentenced the convict to five years of rigorous imprisonment for the offence under IPC section 506 (criminal intimidation).

Calling the act as "loathsome", the court said that the penalty awarded to the convict should be commensurate with the gravity of the crime so that it serves as an effective deterrent. The court rejected the convict's plea that he was suffering from mental ailments, saying that he was feigning mental illness.

The court was hearing a case against M Narshima, against whom Delhi Police had filed a chargesheet under the provisions of Indian Penal Code and Pocso Act.

The prosecution submitted before the court that Narshima committed the penetrative sexual assault upon 16-year-old minor girl on many occasions, including in July 2016, and he also threatened to kill the victim and her family members.

Among the key stretches where vigil will be on are the stretches from Rajghat to Sarai Kale Khan, Karkardooma Junction to ITO, Bhikaji Cama Place to Daulha Kuan, Mayapuri Chowk to Britannia Chowk, Sarai Kale Khan to Hauz Khas and Azadpur to Delhi University as well as Lutyens' Delhi areas.

Border areas will be monitored by the department so that that polluting vehicle do not enter.

Under the Motor Vehicles Act, owners could face an imprisonment of up to six months or a fine of up to Rs 10,000 or both if caught without a valid pollution check certificate.

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi's air quality dipped to "poor" on Friday morning, prompting the enforcement of Stage-I measures under Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

The calibrated response that targets construction activity, truck entry into the national capital and the use of dust suppression measures came into effect from October 1. On Friday, the air quality index (AQI) was 212.

The Stage 1 regulations include dust mitigation measures during construction and demolition, use of anti-smog guns, water sprinkling to

check dust-triggered pollution, zero tolerance of visible emissions that could lead to impounding of polluting vehicles, deployment of traffic police, action against non-compliant and illegal industrial units, brick kilns and hot mix plants and regular lifting of waste.

"A 27-point action plan under Stage-I is applicable with immediate effect from today in entire NCR," the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas (CAQM) said on Friday. "This action plan contains steps to be implemented/ensured by various agencies including Pollution Control Boards of

**EARLY WARNING SYSTEM**  
The air quality is likely to be in the poor category from October 6 to 8. It may turn moderate on October 9. The outlook for the subsequent six days is moderate or poor AQI

NCR states and DPCC," it added.

The last time the city saw poor air quality was June 14.

According to the early warning system, air quality is likely to remain

"poor" till Sunday. "The air quality is likely to be in the poor category from October 6 to 8. The air quality is likely to be in the moderate category on October 9. The outlook for the subsequent six days is that it is likely to remain in the moderate or poor category," the warning system stated.

Following this, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas (CAQM) held a meeting to review the situation and invoked the GRAP Stage-I plan in entire NCR.

A CAQM sub-committee directed the Pollution Control Boards of NCR states and DPCC to ensure

strict implementation of GRAP Stage-I. It advised residents to follow the citizen charter for Stage-I. These include keeping engines of vehicles properly tuned, maintaining proper tyre pressure, updated PUC certificates, turning engines off at red lights, choose hybrid vehicles or EVs, report pollution on apps such as 311, Green Delhi App, SAVIEER App and not driving old vehicles.

"Strictly enforce the Hon'ble Supreme Court order on diversion of non-destined truck traffic for Delhi," CAQM said. "Strictly enforce Hon'ble Courts/Tribunal orders regarding ban on firecrackers," it added.

## Polluters under gaze of transport dept as winter draws near

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New Delhi: The transport department is set to tighten its vigil on vehicles to penalise polluters as Delhi approaches winter; a season when its unclean air becomes a national talking point.

The department will deploy teams at 22 locations, including border areas, said a senior transport official.

The air quality in Delhi dropped to "poor" on Friday and authorities in the National Capital Region have been asked to strictly implement Stage-I measures of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).

A senior transport official said there will be multiple layers of enforcement at the 20 locations to ensure that polluters do not escape, especially on Ring Road and Outer Ring Road.

Among the key stretches where vigil will be on are the stretches from Rajghat to Sarai Kale Khan, Karkardooma Junction to ITO, Bhikaji Cama Place to Daulha Kuan, Mayapuri Chowk to Britannia Chowk, Sarai Kale Khan to Hauz Khas and Azadpur to Delhi University as well as Lutyens' Delhi areas.

Border areas will be monitored by the department so that that polluting vehicle do not enter.

Under the Motor Vehicles Act, owners could face an imprisonment of up to six months or a fine of up to Rs 10,000 or both if caught without a valid pollution check certificate.

**UNDER SCANNER**  
Photo for representation

Kushagra.Dixit@timesgroup.com

## Tracing back to green revolution, rice variant that could ease Delhi's woes

WHY PR126 IS CLAIMED TO BE BETTER THAN PUSA44

Days saved	<b>37</b>
Irrigation	<b>9 days</b>
Fertiliser saved	<b>₹442 per acre</b>
Pesticides saved	<b>1,076 per acre</b>
Labour saved	<b>₹1,395 per acre</b>

**EXPECTED BENEFITS**

- Less water consumption, so groundwater level may improve
- Less stubble is produced
- Consumes less time; early harvest; almost similar profit
- More window for farmers to manage stubble
- Punjab aims to cut stubble fires this harvest season by 50%
- Last season, there were over 49,000 fire incidents

polution to 50cm annually.

"Persevering with PUSA44 also brought out problems like a tiny window for sowing the next wheat crop," said Mangat. "The farmer resorted to stubble burning because of the time constraint."

By 2009, the groundwater in Punjab was falling at an average of 70cm per year. Alarmed, in 2008, on PAU recommendation, an ordinance prohibited paddy sowing before May 10 and transplantation before June 10 to save water. A year later, the ordinance became the Punjab Preservation of Sub-Soil Water Act. This has improved water de-

pletion to 50cm annually. grain quality was coarse. So, around 1976, a superfine variety, PR106, was introduced which remained popular for three decades till 1994, when PUSA44 emerged," he said.

The scientist added that PUSA44 wasn't recommended because of its long growing period and its susceptibility to infections, but it was released in West Bengal and Punjab. As a medium option between coarse and superfine varieties, it caused the phasing out of PR106. In 2013, PR121 and 122 were introduced and in 2015 came PR126.

"As plant breeders, we strive for diversity in the field. If we have a single variety, the entire

**CURRENT SITUATION**

- In 2022, PUSA44 sown over 33%
- In 2023, PUSA44 sown over 22%, PR126 over 33%
- Earlier this week, PUSA44 banned by Punjab government for next year
- Scientists support varieties to avoid larger risks, so other Grade A variety like PR121 being promoted too
- PUSA44 was introduced in 1994, against recommendation of several scientists
- Needed more water, took more time to harvest
- Produced more stubble due to high productivity
- PR126 being produced as solution to primarily address the water crisis PR106 developed by Punjab Agricultural University, introduced in 2016

stock could be at risk of diseases and pests. That is why even now we have several options for specific regions in Punjab, based on soil salinity and water availability," said Mangat.

Dr Rajbir Singh, assistant director general, Agroforestry and Climate Change, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, explained that PR126 offered farmers an escape from the paddy-wheat regime besides entailing low cost, comparative yield and low pest risk. "Because of early harvest, farmers have time till the first fortnight of November, when wheat is sowed, to grow potato, vegetables and pulses," said Singh.

## Urbanised villages at odds with ₹800cr grant for rural areas

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Days after lieutenant governor VK SAXENA announced a revamp of the city's 49 villages using a corpus of Rs 800 crore, the residents of urbanised villages said the condition of their areas was equally bad and the government should make a special policy for their redevelopment.

During his recent visit to Qutabgarh, Jaunty and Nijam villages in northwest Delhi, the LG had said most rural villages in the capital had broken roads, overflowing drains and they lacked general cleanliness. He added that the government had nearly Rs 800 crore for the development of villages, to be used through Delhi Development Authority, and he had decided to give it to DDA for development of these rural villages.

Paras Tyagi of Centre for Youth, Culture, Law and Environment, an organisation working for public policy reforms with a special focus on villages, however, said the amount was Gram Sabha Area Fund, vested with the central government when a village is urbanised.

"The money the LG is referring to is Rs 793 crore of Gram Sabha Fund that belongs to 178 villages that were declared urban in 2018 and 2019 and the remaining 49 rural villages. Every village has a separate account. The money must be spent on all villages as per the balance in their accounts," Tyagi said.

Villagers complain they don't even have the most basic amenities required to live a decent life. The government had promised spending Rs 2 crore per village per year, which is



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- PICK UP POINT SHUTTLE SERVICE
- DROP OFF POINT SHUTTLE SERVICE
- TAXI (DROP OFF / PICK UP LANE)

\* - USE METRO OR PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO REACH THE STADIUM

**Nearest Metro Station:**  
Delhi Gate, (Gate No. 4 & 5) 

**DIVERSION / RESTRICTION (AS AND WHEN REQUIRED)**

There will be diversion of traffic for half an hour after conclusion of the match. No heavy vehicles and buses shall be allowed on Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, Delhi Gate to JLN. Marg, from Darya Ganj to Bahadurshah Zafar Marg and from Guru Nanak Chowk to Asaf Ali Road. People are requested to avoid following roads from 12:00 AM to 12:00 PM on the match day respectively when the spectators would be coming to the stadium and congestion is expected.

Raj Ghat to JLN Marg.

JLN. Marg from R/A Kamla Market to Raj Ghat.

Asaf Ali Road from Turkman Gate to Delhi Gate.

Bahadurshah Zafar Marg from Ram Charan Agarwal Chowk to Delhi Gate.

**ENTRY TO THE STADIUM**

(I) Gate Nos. 1,2,3,4,5,6 & 7 are located on the southern side of the Stadium & entry to these enclosures are from Bahadurshah Zafar Marg.

(II) Gate No. 8,9,10,11,12,13,14 & 15 are located on the Eastern side of the Stadium on the road and entry is from JLN. Marg next to Ambedkar Bus Terminal.

(III) Gate Nos. 16, 17 & 18 are located on the Western side of the Stadium & entry is from Bahadurshah Zafar Marg near Petrol Pump.

**PARKING**

Labeled Vehicles

Limited parking is available for labeled vehicles in the proximity of the Stadium. Display of car parking label on windscreen is mandatory. Vehicle number must be written on the parking label. Those who do not display parking label with vehicle number will not be allowed in the proximity of the stadium.

Car parking label holders are advised to take Ring Road, JLN. Marg, Asaf Ali Road or Bahadurshah Zafar Marg. 'U' turn at Delhi Gate is allowed. Entry to parking lots P1, P2, P3 & P4 shall be from Bahadurshah Zafar Marg only from near the Petrol pump.

**General Vehicles**

No vehicle shall be allowed to be parked on Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, Jawaharlal Nehru Marg & Ring Road from Rajghat to I.P. Flyover (both the carriageways) on the match day. Vehicles parked on these roads shall be towed away and prosecuted as per law.

**PARK & RIDE**

For spectators, unlabeled vehicles 'park & ride' facility has been created at the following places:- Mata Sundari Parking • Shanti Van Parking • Under Velodrome Road

All the spectators coming in their vehicles shall reach these Park & Ride sites, and avail 'Park & Ride' facility or walk down to reach stadium.

**BUS**

All buses will start their service 2 hours before the match and will continue till one hour after the start of match. The bus service from the stadium to their respective destinations will start as soon as the game ends and will continue for one hour after the match ends.

**TAXI**

Spectators using app based taxi and other taxis should use the service lane on Ring Road between I.P. Flyover & Rajghat crossing for drop & pickup.

**RIDE METRO FOR HASSLE FREE JOURNEY**

**Parking :** Mata Sundari Parking, Shanti Van Parking, Under Velodrome Road

**SECURITY INSTRUCTIONS:** Spectators visiting the stadium are requested not to bring the following prohibited items:

- Laptop
- Camera
- Helmet
- Bagpack
- Remote Controlled Car keys
- Eatables
- Water Bottles
- Power Bank
- Lighter & Match Box
- Knives & Arms

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# False Cases Filed To Threaten Oppn: CM

'Atmosphere Of Fear Being Created In Country'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: False cases are being slapped to threaten opposition leaders and parties and an atmosphere of fear has been created which is not good for the country, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Friday.

Talking to reporters while inspecting the Ghazipur landfill, Kejriwal claimed that false cases were being filed across the country to immobilise the opposition. Businesspersons across the country are also being targeted he alleged.

"It's disheartening to note that in the past five to seven years, nearly 12-13 lakh very wealthy individuals have given up Indian citizenship and taken foreign citizenship," AAP's national convener said. "They have left India and shut down their businesses here. These people used to invest in India, run their industries, and provide jobs to millions of youth. Behind them, ED, income-tax and CBI have left their mark."

The agencies have con-

## KEJRIWAL SAYS

I have been saying from the beginning that there has been no financial wrongdoing (in the alleged liquor scandal). The Supreme Court repeatedly asked them on Thursday to provide evidence of corruption money. They don't have a single piece of evidence

ducted so many investigations, but nothing has come out of them, Kejriwal claimed. "They claimed that there was a scandal, but nothing came out of it. They asserted that a scam was carried out in building school classrooms, but nothing came out of it."

The AAP convener claimed that it had now become clear that even the alleged liquor or "scandal" was fake. "I have been saying from the beginning that there has been no financial wrongdoing. The Supreme Court judges repeatedly asked them on Thursday to provide evidence of corruption money. They don't have a single piece of evidence," he said. While former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia

has been in custody in the case since March, Enforcement Directorate also arrested AAP's Sanjay Singh on Wednesday.

Kejriwal said they needed to entangle people with dissenting voices in investigations by various agencies all the time. "These people neither do any work themselves nor allow others to work," he claimed.

The leader of opposition in the Assembly, BJP's Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, claimed that the law had been taking its course and now the investigation was reaching the "mastermind of the scandal". He alleged, "Whenever a dishonest person is caught, he claims to be innocent and also accuses others of making false cases."

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New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday dismissed the interim bail application of Samer Mahendru in a money laundering case in the alleged scam in Delhi Excise Policy.

Mahendru sought bail on medical grounds citing his multiple surgeries from March-August and stated that he had been advised complete bedrest

sed physiotherapy sessions and rehabilitation process from the Sports Injury Centre of Safdarjung Hospital or any other referral or private hospital, then he may be taken to the said hospital for the same. Needless to say that the above visits of applicant to these hospitals shall be at his own expense and in a specialised ambulance accompanied by a competent doctor and having proper medical facilities, as already directed by the Hon'ble High Court vide its order dated 04.09.2023."

Noting the CCTV footage showing his fall and his suffering after the fall on the intervening night of September 6-7, and how no attendant or official of the jail had come to help him for around 12-13 minutes, the court observed that this was not acceptable when the jail authorities had been constantly claiming that Mahendru was under supervision and CCTV coverage 24x7. "Hence," the court said, "it is being directed that one full-time attendant be provided to take care of the applicant by rotation of the duties so that such an incident was not repeated."

The next hearing is scheduled for December 12, 2023.

The court also pointed out that the directions of Delhi High Court already existed for Mahendru to be taken to VNA Hospital for the other specialised therapies or sessions. It also noted that the medical report given by the jail authorities said that the applicant was not showing any signs of improvement from his regular visits.

"Hence," the court said, "it is also being directed that if the applicant requires or desires any further speciali-

## ED probes Sanjay's stake in biz venture

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate, which on Friday began questioning senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh in its custody and confronting his close aides on alleged bribes received in the Delhi liquor scam, is focusing on a stake Singh had acquired through his parliamentary secretary Vivek Tyagi in a firm jointly with other accused involved in the liquor cartel.

The ED had told a special court on Thursday while seeking his custody that Singh was "involved in the conspiracy of extending favours to private persons in the excise policy formulation".

During its investigation, the ED claimed it found that Singh had assured co-accused turned approver Dinesh Arora to get changes through then excise minister Manish Sisodia in the then proposed excise



Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and his wife, Sunita, meet the family of AAP MP Sanjay Singh on Wednesday

policy of 2020-21 to increase the brand registration criterion for IMFL brands — something that would have helped Amit Arora, a liquor trader, who was feeling inconvenienced because of the existing policy which "prescribed only a minimum sale criterion" and favoured those already entrenched in the Delhi market.

Raising the bar would have helped Amit Arora who

policy to be tweaked so that only those who had sold a minimum of 500,000 cases or more in markets excluding Delhi in "any of the two preceding financial years i.e. 2018-2019 or 2019-20 or in the current financial year" would be deemed eligible for an LI licence (whole-sale supply of Indian liquor).

As part of the understanding, the ED claimed an MoU was worked out between Singh's aide Vivek Tyagi, Dinesh Arora and Amit Arora, according to which Amit was to give 20% stake to each of the other two in his business. However, at Amit's insistence, a clause was inserted in the agreement stipulating that the MoU would be executed only when the policy change had been effected, the ED said based on the statement of Dinesh Arora's chartered accountant Ankit.

Meanwhile, on Friday, the ED summoned Singh's assistants Sarvesh Mishra and Vivek Tyagi for questioning related to the alleged receipt of bribe at his residence.

At a press conference, BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said, "The court is saying that with the kind of evidence that has come, it is necessary to keep them in custody and do an inquiry. AAP, which had come to power claiming to establish politics of values, appears to have become a valueless party. Delhi's public is feeling deceived today."

The BJP spokesperson claimed that the character of AAP was being torn to shreds now. "First, their minister, Satyendar Jain, went to jail on charges of corruption and

did not get bail from the court. Then deputy CM Manish Sisodia went to jail. Now, the leader of the parliamentary party, Sanjay Singh, is on remand on charges of corruption. Corruption is becoming common in AAP," he said.

He cited a Delhi court's observations that the material placed before it nowhere showed that Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh's arrest in the excise policy case was unwarranted and unreasonable, as he slammed AAP's condemnation of the action against its leader. "Those who speak of having new experiences in politics... it is no more the era of experimental politics. India is emerging strongly on the world stage to play a new role," Trivedi said, claiming that AAP has shown how tragic and dangerous such experiences could become. TNN

## 'No absolute right to occupy same govt bungalow during entire tenure as MP'

Vineet Upadhyay  
@timesgroup.com



New Delhi: A court has vacated its earlier order restraining the Rajya Sabha Secretariat from evicting AAP leader and MP Raghav Chadha from his government accommodation.

The court of additional district judge Sudhanshu Kaushik was hearing a review application filed by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat seeking recall of the interim order issued on April 18, 2023.

The court said Chadha had no vested right to continue to occupy the bungalow after the cancellation of the allotment as the same was only a privilege given to him as an MP. The argument that the accommodation, once made to a member of Parliament, cannot be cancelled under any circumstances during his entire tenure as the MP can't be upheld, the court observed.

"His status is akin to that of a licensee, which can be revoked by the competent authority at any time. The plaintiff cannot claim that he has an absolute right to continue to occupy the accommodation during his entire tenure," said the court.

After listening to both parties, the court said it had reached a conclusion that the application for review needed to be allowed. "This is certainly an error apparent on the face of the record and the

same needs to be corrected. Accordingly, the order dated 18.04.2023 stands recalled and the interim order stands vacated," it added.

In September 2022, Chadha was allotted a Type-VII accommodation bungalow on Pandara Road in Delhi. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat cancelled the allotment on March 3, 2023. Chadha then sought a permanent injunction against the cancellation, and the court directed the secretariat to not "dispossess" him till the pendency of his application.

The secretariat contended that the court had granted the interim relief to Chadha without following the procedure under Section 80(2) of Civil Procedure Code (CPC), adding that a hearing was required to be given to both sides before granting the leave under it.

The court said Chadha had "failed to demonstrate that any urgent or immediate relief needs to be granted in the present matter" and the accommodation granted to him fell under the

definition of public premises. The court recorded the secretariat's submission that an action under Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act 1971 was being contemplated and appropriate proceedings were going to be initiated against Chadha.

"The argument that the plaintiff was not given hear-

Sabha after taking into consideration all the factors "peculiar to me", but its cancellation "without any cause or reason" signals that the entire exercise was undertaken to "wrongfully target and victimise me", the MP claimed.

"This, along with my suspension as an MP, which was initiated by the treasury bench, leaves no doubt that BJP is leaving no stone unturned to target vocal MPs," he alleged.

Chadha claimed that many first-time MPs had been allotted accommodations above their entitlement. "About 118 out of the 240 RS members are living in accommodations above their entitlement, but selectively targeting... vocal repre-

sentatives, who are giving a strong opposition to BJP on the floor of the House and maintaining a healthy democracy, is a sorry state of affairs for the nation," he added.

ring before the cancellation of allotment stands rejected as no such notice was required under the law. Since no urgent or immediate relief needs to be granted in the present suit, therefore, the plaintiff is returned for presentation after complying with the requirement of Section 80(1) of CPC," said the court.

ring before the cancellation of allotment stands rejected as no such notice was required under the law. Since no urgent or immediate relief needs to be granted in the present suit, therefore, the plaintiff is returned for presentation after complying with the requirement of Section 80(1) of CPC," said the court.

It is shocking to see the CM pleading that it cannot hire a new agency as MCD's Standing Committee is not in place. It is AAP's political fear that is not allowing the formation of the committee. To speed up development work, AAP should allow its formation by giving voting rights to aldermen," Kapoor said.

In the past few days, Kejriwal also visited Bhalswa and Okhla landfills to assess the progress there. Though the pace at Bhalswa is faster than the set target, approximately 65-70 lakh tonnes of waste is still left and we need an additional agency, he said, adding that the work is slower at Okhla and it, too, needs another agency," Kapoor said.

## Speed up work at Ghazipur landfill: Kejriwal

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Unhappy with the pace of the disposal of legacy waste at Ghazipur landfill, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday directed Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to engage two more private agencies to ensure the deadline to flatten the "mountain of garbage" is met.

During his visit to the landfill, Kejriwal noticed that only 5.3 lakh metric tonnes of the waste could be disposed of against the target of 15 lakh MT. "This is a joint venture of three companies and they ha-

**TIMES CITY**

## Excise scam: Mahendru's interim bail plea rejected

Vineet Upadhyay  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Friday dismissed the interim bail application of Samer Mahendru in a money laundering case in the alleged scam in Delhi Excise Policy.

Mahendru sought bail on medical grounds citing his multiple surgeries from March-August and stated that he had been advised complete bedrest

sed physiotherapy sessions and rehabilitation process from the Sports Injury Centre of Safdarjung Hospital or any other referral or private hospital, then he may be taken to the said hospital for the same. Needless to say that the above visits of applicant to these hospitals shall be at his own expense and in a specialised ambulance accompanied by a competent doctor and having proper medical facilities, as already directed by the Hon'ble High Court vide its order dated 04.09.2023."

He was arrested on September 28, 2022 and his bail application was dismissed by the same court on February 16 this year. Later, he also approached Delhi High Court for grant of regular bail and that plea is still pending before the High Court.

The next hearing is scheduled for December 12, 2023.

The court also pointed out that the directions of Delhi High Court already existed for Mahendru to be taken to VNA Hospital for the other specialised therapies or sessions. It also noted that the medical report given by the jail authorities said that the applicant was not showing any signs of improvement from his regular visits.

"Hence," the court said, "it is also being directed that if the applicant requires or desires any further speciali-



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## 'Show forensic evidence linking Congress MLA to Nuh riots'

Bagish Jha@timesgroup.com

Nuh: The district court has directed Nuh police to submit forensic lab reports of mobile phones, which were sent to a forensic lab along with DVRs of CCTV cameras in the violence-hit areas.

At the bail plea hearing earlier this week, Khan's counsel TH Devla had argued that the MLA's name was retrospectively added to the FIRs and no specific role was attributed to him. "The arrest was politically motivated due to political rivalry and forthcoming assembly election in the state," Devla argued.

Public prosecutor Pratap Singh said one of the two phones that Khan had submitted was found to be formatted, and that four other phones of the MLA's brother and electronic surveillance data

### Foundation stones of 5 MCD schools to be laid by Dec: Mayor

New Delhi: Mayor Shelly Oberoi on Friday

said the foundation stones of five new schools will be laid by December this year.

Principals of MCD schools are being sent to IIM for training, and teachers will be sent to foreign countries for training, the Mayor said.

"Work is being done to improve school buildings," she said. TNN

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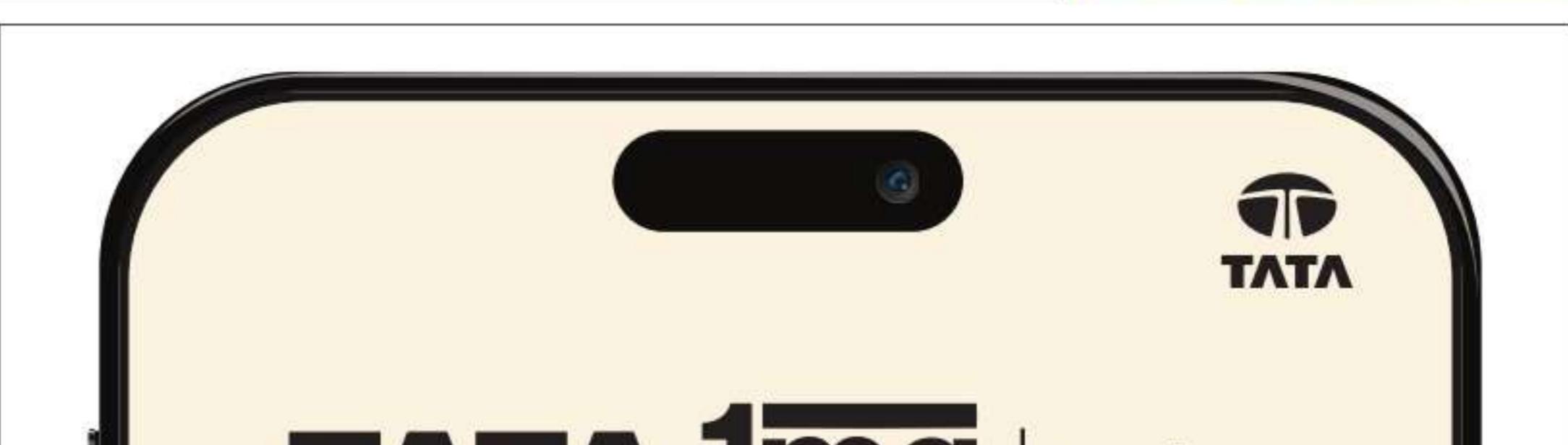
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## CM gives ₹10cr for HP relief

**New Delhi:** Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday donated Rs 10 crore to Himachal Pradesh relief fund for relief efforts following the havoc caused by heavy rains in the state.

Earlier, the Chief minister of Himachal Pradesh sought help from the Delhi government to mitigate the turmoil caused by incessant monsoon rains, said CM office.

Kejriwal said, "I am deeply saddened to hear about the havoc wreaked on lives and livelihood by the incessant rains in Himachal Pradesh. My heart goes out to the people who have lost their loved ones amidst this calamity. I assure you that the people of Delhi and the government stand with the people of Himachal Pradesh in this time of crisis." TNN

## Huge quantity of fake cumin, black pepper seized

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The cumin many of us might be using in our kitchens may just be a concoction of marble stone powder, discarded fennel, and carrot seeds. Delhi Police's Crime Branch has seized 25 tonnes of spurious cumin and black pepper and 40 tonnes of raw material for preparing fake spices from a tempo transporting them and a godown where these were being prepared.

The spurious stuff was being supplied to Sadar Bazaar and other wholesale markets. Sources said with the festive season around not just sweets but even spices and other items being manufactured are fake, so one should be careful while making purchase.

Acting on an informer's tip-off that a person is preparing fake cumin seeds and black pepper on a large scale in Delhi's Jindpur village, the crime branch officials yesterday intercepted a tempo bearing a Delhi number and upon checking found 15 plastic bags of spurious jee-

ra and 10 plastic bags of fake black pepper, officials said, adding the vehicle's driver was arrested.

The tempo's driver, Bagesh Gupta, claimed that he works in the spices business and was going to deliver the products in the market. On his instance, a godown was also raided wherein a huge quantity of fake jeera was spread on a sheet on the floor.

"During the interrogation, Bagesh revealed that in order to earn more money he prepared cumin in large quantity by using artificial cumin seeds, sub-standard saunf, carrot seeds, caraway seeds, artificial colour, marble stone powder and sheera (jaggery liquid) and supplied it in the market," said Ravindra Yadav, Special Commissioner of Police, Crime.

After Bagesh's arrest, one godown in Swaroop Nagar was busted and huge quantity of fake cumin seeds and black pepper was recovered. The police is carrying out raids in parts of Delhi-NCR to arrest other accused in the case.

**1kg cocaine seized at IGI**

**New Delhi:** The customs department at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport arrested a foreign national for smuggling around 1 kg of cocaine, said customs officials.

The arrest was made on the basis of specific intelligence input received by the customs department, officials added.

According to the officials, the person apprehended is from Uganda and he was arriving from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He had ingested 60 capsules that contained 1,000 gram of cocaine, valued at Rs 15.13 CRORE. ANI

## Real Cuffs For 'Farzi' Notes: OTT-Inspired Painter Held

Cops Seize High-Quality FICN With Face Value Of ₹19.8L

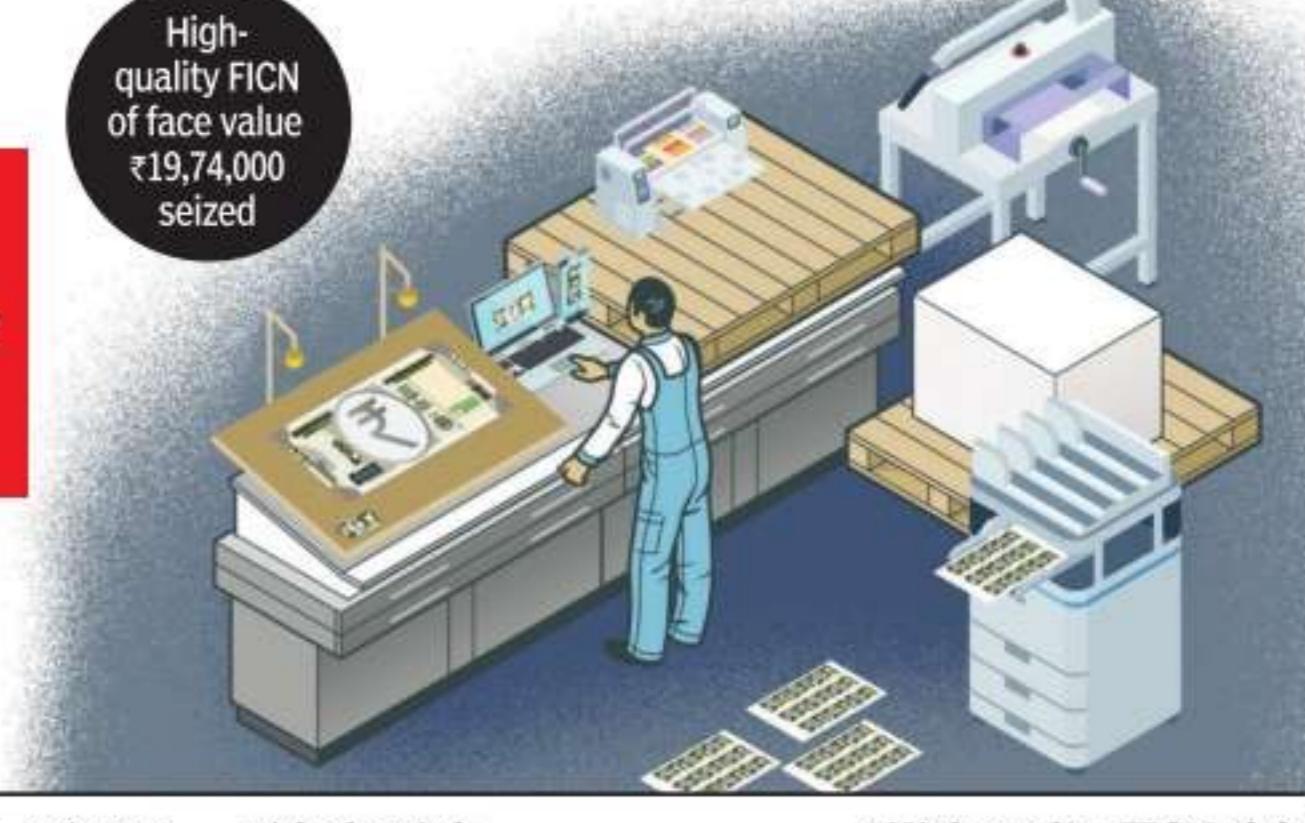
### BLUEPRINT OF THE PLAN

**A cash-strapped painter, Shakur Mohammed,** watches web series Farzi, and plans to print and circulate fake Indian currency notes (FICN)

**Police Action**  
Five key members including mastermind, Shakur Mohammed, arrested

Raw material & tools including printer, watermark, laminator, chemical, ink, etc, seized

Mobile handsets with sim cards and two cars used in FICN trafficking also seized



the police seized printers, computers, laptops and uncut but printed sheets with currency markings that total to Rs 8.14 lakh. There were lamination machines, 19 ink bottles and chemicals too.

Police were somewhat shocked with the recovery of the "green thread line roll of the RBS", which the gang said they ordered from a website called India Mart. The thread line is a security feature on a currency note.

The police also seized frames used to imprint the numeral 500 on the fake notes

with glow ink.

Arrested along with Mohammed were Lokesh (28), Himanshu (47), Shiv Lal (30) and Sanjay Godara (22). All are from Rajasthan.

The operation was conducted after the police got technical inputs and human intelligence. Two ASIs, Governor and Ajay, along with other team members started tracking the gang. The team was tipped off that the gang would come to Akshardham temple in Delhi to deliver a consignment. A trap was laid and the suspects arrested.

Mohammed is a graduate and took to crime as he couldn't find a job in Rajasthan. Lal is an NCC certificate holder and was in huge debt, so he joined Mohammed. Himashu worked as an accountant and Lokesh ran an E-Mitra centre. "Lokesh was selected as a Grade-III teacher in Rajasthan. Godara has studied till Class XII," the special CP said.

## 11 illegal travel agents nabbed with fake papers in September

**New Delhi:** Two people were killed in two separate accidents on Friday. In the first case, a truck driver reversing his vehicle on Church Road allegedly mowed down a motorist. A witness caught hold of the accused driver, Sumant Kumar Shah (19). He has been arrested, police said. In the second incident, a tempo driver died after his vehicle overturned on the Geeta Colony Pushta road. Nagender Singh (52) was rushed to the hospital but was declared dead on arrival, police said. TNN

**Two killed in separate accidents in different parts of capital**

**New Delhi:** At least 11 agents involved in sending ineligible people to foreign countries using forged documents were arrested in September, police said on Friday. One of the arrested agents has been identified as Barinder Singh (30) from Punjab. Singh and other arrested persons allegedly ran a racket that targeted individuals aspiring to travel abroad using illicit means.

Singh was arrested when an Indian passenger arrived at IGI Airport after being deported from London. "His emergency certi-

ficate and departure details raised suspicion as they did not align with legitimate travel records. It was revealed that he had travelled to the UK using someone else's passport. A case was registered and inquiry initiated," said Devesh Kumar Mahla, DCP (IGI Airport).

The passenger further revealed that his journey was arranged by Singh who had charged him Rs 17 lakhs for the service.

"Following technical surveillance, a raid was conducted at Singh's residence in south Delhi's Gre-

### Scooters' theft solved, 2 arrested

**New Delhi:** The mystery surrounding the theft of a number of Honda Activa scooters from central Delhi has been solved with the arrest of two individuals in their early twenties.

The accused — Gautam Malik (22) and Ritik (24) — both unemployed, told the police that they turned to crime to make quick money and that these vehicles fetched a good price in the grey market.

Over a dozen Activas have been recovered from Patel Nagar and nearby areas with their arrests.

Police said they had formed different teams and analysed CCTV footage from nearby areas to create a trail.

"On Wednesday, after a tip-off, our team decided to intercept the men under the Zakhira flyover in north Delhi. The suspects attempted to escape but were successfully apprehended. The particulars of the two-wheeler they were riding were checked and were found to be stolen," said DCP (central) Sanjay Kumar Sain.

Subsequently, 14 stolen vehicles were recovered from their possession, originating from various parts of the capital.

During interrogation, Malik revealed that they would use stolen vehicles for various criminal activities and abandon them in secluded locations for a period to evade detection by police.

After a cooling-off period, they would sell the two-wheeler to individuals dealing in stolen properties, said a senior police official.

The cops are tracing the recipients of these stolen vehicle. TNN



**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**N.B.D.D NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
Notice Inviting e-Tender by the S.E./NBDD Vide NIET No- 67 (SL. No. 01 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09, 10 & 11)/2023-24. Details of works to be seen in the website www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.wbhrd.wb.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer - North Bengal Development Department ICA-T20685(4)/2023

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**1st CORRIDGUM FOR NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
No. WBWB/EE/COB/eOI-01(m) of 2023-24  
1st corrigendum for the above said eOI where last of submission of eOI has been extended upto 11.10.2023 @14:00 Hrs. All others details of eOI will be remain same. The corrigendum will be available on departmental website i.e. www.wbtdwbd.gov.in from 04.10.2023 @ 18:00 Hrs. Ist. Sd/- (P. MANDAL), Executive Engineer, Cooch Behar Irrigation Division, Debari, Cooch Behar.

**GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL**  
**NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER**  
No. WBWB/EE/KMDR/e-NIT-11/2023-24  
On behalf of the Governor of W.B. the Executive Engineer, Kangsabati Mechanical Division, Khatra, Bankura invites tender for the electrical works : Amount Put to Tender Rs. 8,22,590.00 Last Date of application of tender : 16.10.2023 at 11:00 Hrs. Details of work : Construction of 10 Nos. Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting and artificial recharge scheme at different places in the district of Paschim Medinipur & Jhargram under S.W.I. Division No. 1, Ministry under COR/CTC Program in FY : 23-24 vide e-NIT no. SWIDE/EE/AIMD/2023-14 & 12/23-24, Tender ID-2023 SWID\_584619/ 584680.1, Maximum estimated value for individual scheme is Rs. 19,82,642/- and last dropping date is 02/11/23 at 01:00 PM. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website [wbtenders.gov.in](http://wbtenders.gov.in) for details.

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**E-TENDER NOTICE**  
Executive Engineer (A-I), Kalyani (A-II) Division, Berhampore-II (A-II) Berhampore-II (A-II) Division, Berhampore-II (A-II) Division invites e-NIT for Off-Drilling, Installation and Development of Heavy Duty Tube Well of size 350 mm X 200 mm NB, in place of defunct one in internal wiring, repairing maintenance of pipe line etc and necessary repair of Ramnagar-I & Berhampore Block. Bidder must be registered under Executive Engineer (A-I), Berhampore-II (A-II) Division under Sector 202-24 Programme vide e-NIT no. WRDDE/EE/AI/BER/109 of 2023-24(m) call) and Tender Id: 2023 WRDD\_58415 to 1, Amount put to tender Rs. 8,72,346.00 for Sl No-1 and Rs. 8,72,346.00 (for Sl No 3 & 4) respectively and Last date of online bid submission 01.11.2023 upto 05:00 PM. For details please visit [wbtenders.gov.in](http://wbtenders.gov.in). Sd/- Executive Engineer(A-I), Berhampore-II (A-II) Division

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# Cattle Class? Land For 3 Schools Is Home To Cows, Fish & Waste

Neglect Writ Large In Region Suffering From Grossly Overcrowded Classrooms

Shradha.Chettri  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The boundary wall around the 14 acres in northwest Delhi's Qadipur indicates there is a school within. But a peep inside shows a startling picture: there are cows grazing there while garbage has accumulated near the gates. This is the state of the land given to the Directorate of Education to build a school in what is a region suffering from grossly overcrowded classrooms.

It is not the only one. There are three other plots that were once fenced in. Today, only the poles remain. One of the plots has a pond where people carry out fish farming.

This is the story of approximately 30 acres of land allotted to DoE in the district's Qadipur, Nangli Poona and Nathu Colony. The local residents say that if schools had been constructed here, they would ease the pressure on the Qadipur school. That school, constructed on a 1-acre parcel, has 32 classrooms for over 3,000 students. Students even have to do lessons sitting in the corridors. Till 2018, the school ran in four shifts, with some children called in only on alternate days. Amid this, the people are forced to send their children to Libaspur, Bakhtawarpur and Alipur, which are equally crowded and require the kids to travel 4-5 km every day.

Delhi government's revenue department had handed over the gram sabha land to DoE in 2015. In 2017, the then-custodian, the head of the Qadipur school, was ordered to erect walls around the plots. Five years later, in May 2022, the work on the walls began but was never completed. In August of that year, the Qadipur school wrote to DoE with details of the land and the need for its intervention, to little avail.

On the 14-acre plot on Kusak No 2 Road in Qadipur, TOI found cattle grazing when it visited the site on Friday. In December 2021, the then-education minister Manish Sisodia had inspected the place and assured an educational hub would



be built. He had even released the layout plan. The only difference between then and now are the damaged gates.

Social activist Vikas Saini said, "A part of this land was under dispute, but the litigant lost the case. But DoE has done nothing since. I think they are waiting for another encroachment battle."

In response, Himanshu Gupta, director, DoE, told TOI, "We want to build a school hub there. PWD has prepared the layout plans."

The 2-acre plot in Nathu

Colony, Qadi Vihar, also has boundary walls and a guard room. But the guard is anxious. He pointed to a temple that has extended its walls towards the school area and said, "People throw garbage here and dirty drain water flows in. I get scared of something untoward happening here."

The other plots don't even have walls. DoE had allocated Rs 3 crore to erect boundary walls around the 1.5-acre, 5-acre and 2.5-acre parcels, but on Friday TOI could only see broken remnants of the fence.

A resident reported, "The contractor did not complete the wall on the 5-acre plot. When some people protested, he ran away, leaving the land for people to grow vegetables on." On the 2.5-acre area, there is wheat growing.

Gupta confirmed that funds were sanctioned for the boundary walls. "When PWD started work, the locals pelted stones at them. Later, when PWD resumed work, the people said they had been cultivating the particular land for years and filed a case," Saini, who has been collecting information and documents related to the plot, revealed that while the matter had gone to court, there was no stay on DoE activities there.

Just across GT Karnal Road at Nangli Poona, a 6-acre revenue department land has wheat growing on it. "The department isn't even aware of this land. This region doesn't have a single Sarvodaya Vidyalaya, where children can study from nursery to Class XII. Such a school could have been built here," signed Saini.

## 40-metre tunnel leads police to underground oil theft nexus

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A bizarre incident of oil theft was unearthed after police discovered a 40-metre tunnel that robbers had dug to access the pipes at an Indian Oil Corporation Limited facility in Dwarka. A man has been arrested in connection with the case.

Police said the crooks dug the tunnel, drilled holes in the pipeline and, using a valve mechanism, inserted a plastic pipe in it to draw out the oil, adding that the digging area was covered with hay to avoid any suspicion.

The incident was reported by IOCL, northern region, on October 4. On September 29, according to the complaint, an inspection was carried out and it was discovered that the theft was likely being carried out from Pochanpur village in Dwarka.

Following the complaint, a police team visited the location, excavated the spot and uncovered the elaborate work the robbers had done. A case has been registered at Dwarka Sector-23 police station under the Petroleum and



Police said the crooks dug the tunnel, drilled holes in the pipeline and, using a valve mechanism, inserted a plastic pipe in it to draw out the oil

"The excavated site was roughly 40 metres from the IOCL pipeline. We found that the tunnel reaching the pipeline was dug up on the plot of Rakesh alias Golu in Pochanpur village. He was subsequently arrested. We are questioning him to unearth the nexus and nab the remaining accused," said Mr Harsha Vardhan, DCP (Dwarka).

Police have recovered two pipes measuring 40 and 62 metres, blowers, ladder and other equipment used to drill and dig.

## Atishi orders action over dismal condition of Jahangirpuri school

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Visiting an MCD school in Jahangirpuri, education minister Atishi on Friday directed the district deputy education (DDE) official to issue a show-cause notice and act against the principal and teachers over the dismal condition of the school and dereliction of duty. The DDE official was also reprimanded and instructed to ensure that the condition of the school was improved.

During the inspection, the minister found that despite the school's opening time being 8 am, 13 out of 15 teachers, including the school-in-charge, were absent. The school premises were littered with filth, floors and toilets were dirty. Despite the presence of desks in the school, students were forced to sit on the floor and the school-in-charge was unaware of the school's affairs.

"If cleanliness and teachers' punctuality issues persist in any of the schools after this week, harsh consequences will follow for the DDE," said a statement issued by Delhi government. The DDE has been directed to submit reports related to the inspection to the education minister's office by Friday evening.

Atishi said, "These schools and their filthy conditions expose 15 years of the BJP's mismanagement, demonstrating that education was never a priority for the BJP. However, such negligence will no longer be tolerated under the current

AAP government. MCD schools are also home to children from poor families, no compromise will be accepted in providing world-class education. Any negligence or laxity will just not be tolerated".

During the inspection, several parents also complained to the minister that late arrivals of teachers and filth in the classrooms was common occurrence in the school.

Responding to the allegation, Delhi BJP spokesperson Shikha Rai, said "It's shocking to see that even after Aam Aadmi Party being in power in MCD for the past 9 months the education minister Ms. Atishi is carrying out inspections and issuing adverse comments just to create a false aura about herself being vigilant. Even after being in power for 9 months, the schools are still lacking basic amenities like sanitation, hygiene and drinking water then it is the failure of mayor and her team".

### DOCUMENTING THE HISTORY AND TRANSFORMATION OF DELHI POLICE

## Heritage building that once housed police officers to turn into museum

Anuja.Jaiswal@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (Intach) has signed an MoU with Delhi Police for restoration of a heritage building on Ashoka Road that once housed police officers. It will be converted into a museum on the history and transformation of the city's police force. The trust had recently restored Barh ki Chowki, one of Delhi's oldest police posts constructed in the early 1800s.

Intach has conceptualised the museum as a "hybrid" institution, using static displays integrated with state-of-the-art technologies. This 1920 bu-

ilding used to be the residence of four police officers including Kiran Bedi. There are four wings, two on the ground floor and two on the first floor. The project will restore the beautiful columns and fireplaces currently hidden by modern additions like tiles. Two of the four fireplaces will be restored while all the columns on the first floor, which were covered by brick walls, will also be restored.

ad of the architectural heritage division, Intach, revealed that the aim of the project was to restore, conserve and use the heritage building as a police museum. "The existing police museum at Kingsway Camp only has a static

exhibition. The newly proposed one will have digital and interactive exhibits along with static ones," said Vijaya, adding that the "world-class" museum would employ modern technology such as projections and touch screens.

Rummanuddin Siddiqui, senior architect, Intach, added "The museum will aim to educate and generate awareness about the history, the theoretical and physical training of police personnel and their role as professionals."

The storyline of the city's police will be displayed in 10 galleries. At the entrance will be an orientation room, where a brief introduction to the museum will be available to the visitor. The next gallery will have a historical perspective of Delhi Police, like how it was once a part of Punjab Police and how the capital's force evolved over the years. Another gallery will show the transition and transformation of the city cops in terms of their uniform, arms, communication, transport, etc.

While the right wing of the ground floor will have a cafe, library and souvenir shop, the first floor will showcase the seven different training centres of the cops through videos. Another gallery will have material related to the canine unit of the Delhi police. There will also be exhibits on how Delhi Police works and solves cases and the same will be exemplified through FIRs dating back to 1800.

One gallery will be on the diversity of Delhi Police, with the original appointment letters of the first woman inspector and first woman sub-inspector on display. Other galleries will showcase the achievements and milestones of Delhi Police and a picture gallery will project slides on how the cops helped people during Covid, natural calamities and other crises. The last two galleries will consist of a memorial hall where people can sit and pray for officers who laid down their lives in the line of duty. A gallery for kids with fun exercises like quizzes is also on the cards.



Proposed galleries

Heritage building of 1920



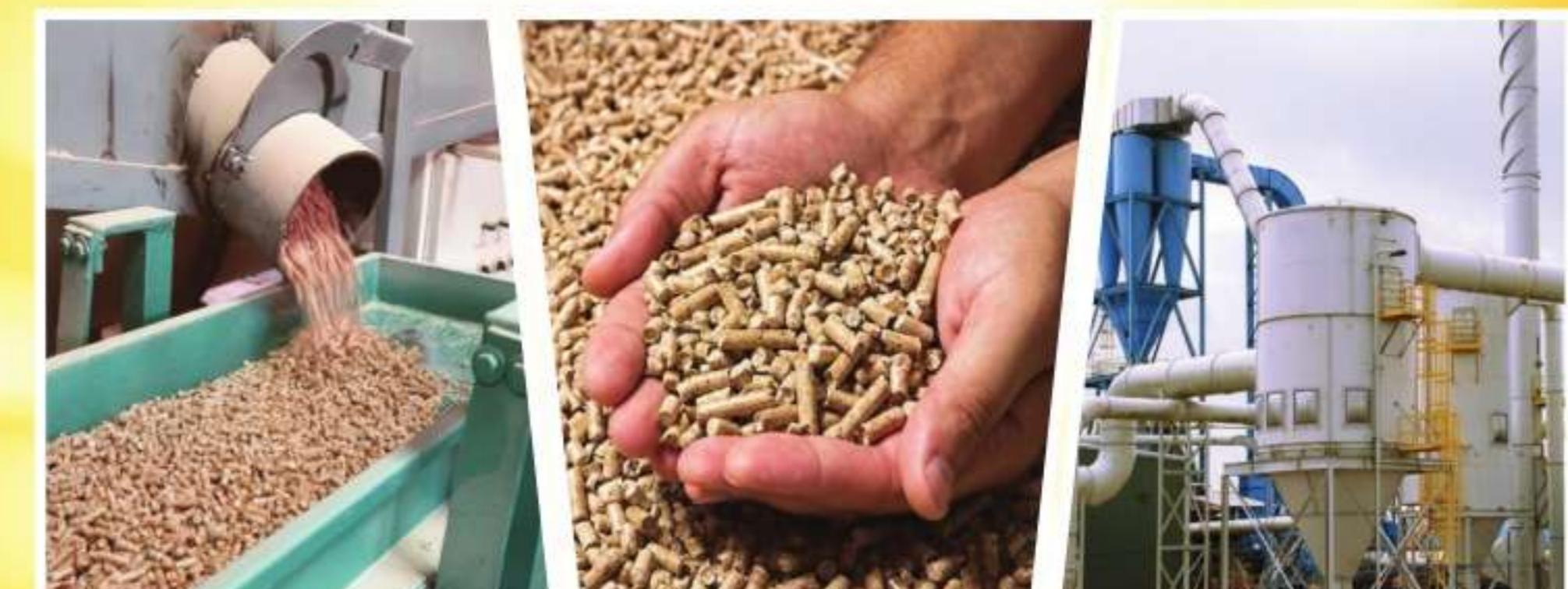
### THE POLICE STORY

The galleries will focus on

- Documenting the legacy and heritage of Delhi Police and its emergence over the years
- Create awareness about its roles and responsibilities and evolution
- Inspire future generations by showcasing training process
- Creating repository of documents, artefacts and information
- Re-conceptualise and re-curate existing galleries, and develop content and narratives for museum and gallery displays

## Benchmark Price for Biomass Pellet Procurement

Procurement of biomass pellets to be done by Thermal Power Plants at the Benchmark Price



samarth.powermin.gov.in



Ministry of Power has set benchmark price for procurement of non-torrefied biomass pellets for the National Capital Region (NCR), effective from September 1, 2023

For more detail, contact

NATIONAL MISSION ON USE OF BIOMASS IN THERMAL POWER PLANTS  
Address: E-3, Ecotech-II, Udyog Vihar, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh- 201306  
Phone: 0120-2356 584/ 577, Mail: md-biomass-power@gov.in

# Get Rid Of Hoardings Near Yashobhoomi: LG

Takes Stock Of Venue For Upcoming P20 Summit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** With the surroundings of Yashobhoomi, the newly-built international convention centre in Dwarka which will host the 9th P20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit next week, continuing to have debris and illegal hoardings, LG VK Saxena on Friday directed the agencies to remove them at the earliest.

A day after he held a meeting with top officers of all departments concerned at Raj Niwas to chalk out the way ahead, the LG inspected the convention centre and the area around it and asked the project developer, Delhi Development Authority, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Public Works Department to coordinate and develop the surrounding on the lines of Bharat Mandapam at Pragati Maidan, venue of the recently concluded G20 Summit.

"In terms of landscaping, repair of roads and revamp of public infrastructure, much remains to be completed at the venue due to heavy construction activities that the area has witnessed for over two years," said an official from the LG's secretariat.

Officials said Saxena also discussed the traffic arrangements for movement of the delegates with Delhi Police and issued instructions for seamless



Instructions were issued to Delhi Police for the deployment of PCR vans, ambulances, and fire tenders in and around the venue, said officials

transport and traffic movement. He issued specific instructions for the removal of construction waste, barricades, crash barriers, and illegal hoardings that he found lying along the route to be taken by the delegates.

Apart from landscaping and beautification around gate number 6 of the convention centre from where the delegates would enter the venue, he asked the civic agencies and NHAI to keep the area clean. Instructions were also issued to Delhi Police for the deployment of PCR vans, ambulances, and fire tenders in and around the venue, said officials.

"Saxena also asked for the installation of proper branding signage and flagpoles around the venue and instructed to replace the non-functional street lights, especially between gate number 1 and 4 at the earliest. The forests department was directed to suitably place 10,000 flowerpots by the 10th of this month, so that they are in bloom when the summit starts on October 12," said an official.

After hosting the heads of states during the G20 Summit, Delhi is now getting ready to host the P20 summit and a congregation of Parliamentarians from across the world for which speakers from more than 30 countries have already confirmed their participation.

The summit will be preceded by a parliamentary forum on October 12, 2023.

## CINEMA OF THE WEEK

**Mission Raniganj: The Great Bharat Rescue (Evacuation thriller) ★★**  
**Cast:** Akshay Kumar, Ravi Kishan, Kumud Mishra, Dibyendu Bhattacharya, Pawan Malhotra, Rajesh Sharma, Parineeti Chopra  
**Direction:** Tinu Suresh Desai  
**Duration:** 2 hours 18 minutes  
**Language:** Hindi (U/A)

Based on a real-life rescue mission of 1989, the film pays homage to the late Jaswant Singh Gill, who saved the lives of 65 miners trapped in a flooded coal mine in Raniganj, West Bengal.

Tragedy struck on November 13, 1989, in the Mahabir colliery in Raniganj. While triggering blasts to extract coal, the underground water table ruptured under pressure, unleashing a torrent of water and risking the lives of 65 miners trapped inside. In a race against time, when the usual methods failed, engineer Jaswant Singh Gill (played by Akshay Kumar) suggested to drill a well and deploy a specially crafted rescue capsule. In the absence of a crane and corruption within CIL (Coal India), the film shows how Gill, and his bunch of valiant experts rescued all 65 miners, one by one through the innovative capsule.

Bringing true events to screen and honouring



the valour of India's unsung heroes is great, provided the storytelling does justice to the brave hearts and the perilous events that unfolded. *Mission Raniganj* with all its potential to tap into the human psyche and behaviour when put in a life-threatening situation, misses the goal by a mile.

The films headlined by Akshay Kumar that make a social statement or unfold from the pages of India's story have followed a pattern. They start with a Punjabi wedding song, two brief scenes with the heroine who then disappears, the

hero's slowmo entry scene and a heroic ending, where he is hailed as the ultimate saviour. It's not that the films lack intent, what it lacks is the effort in pushing boundaries or delving deeper into the characters. There's no attempt to understand who Gill was as a person beyond the basic information available on the internet.

The first half is poorly made. There's no character buildup for you to feel for them. Shoddy production value and visual effects don't help either. The ferocious water waiting to explode in the mine looks and sounds anything but real, and the supporting performances also don't hold up. Even someone as senior as Ravi Kishan, who plays one of the miners comes across as too theatrical. No conversation in the narrative brings out the gravity of the situation as it should. The film gains momentum in the second half, however, it's weighed down by immature tussles and trivial internal politics. Parineeti Chopra in a blink-and-miss-role barely makes an impact.

An evacuation thriller can be engaging, unnerving and an ultimate test of humanity. Unable to scratch beneath the surface, director Tinu Suresh Desai's film is loud, melodramatic, leaving you indifferent towards an important event.

— Renuka Vyavahare

To review any movie and check show timings, visit [etimes.in](https://etimes.in)

## The Exorcist: Believer (Horror) ★★

**Cast:** Leslie Odom Jr., Ann Dowd, Lida Jewett, Olivia O'Neill, and Ellen Burstyn  
**Direction:** David Gordon Green  
**Duration:** 1 hour 59 minutes  
**Language:** English (A)

Best friends Angela and Katherine exhibit signs of demonic possession after spending three days in the woods. Angela's father, Victor, and local hospital nurse Ann must now intervene to confront the demonic force affecting the girls.

If one were to describe *The Exorcist: Believer* in a metaphorical shape, it would resemble an inverted pyramid. The film's most intriguing aspects are concentrated at the beginning. While it does have its moments, particularly in the first half, where it skillfully establishes an atmosphere of suspense and a suburban ambiance, the overwhelming influence of the original film becomes burdensome. In its final run, this film falls short of living up to its legacy. Despite inspiring countless sequels and imitations, *The Exorcist* remains an elusive magic to replicate. This film, unfortunately, falls short in this pursuit. While it explores the intriguing concept of exorcising



two best friends, the film's initially credible performances and eerie atmosphere falter as the exorcism process begins, particularly with Ellen Burstyn's character's arrival, causing it to lose its grip on the audience's interest.

The film starts with photographer Victor Fielding (Leslie Odom Jr.), vacationing in Haiti with his pregnant wife, Sorenne (Tracey Graves). Unfortunately, an earthquake claims Sorenne's

RATING SCALE | TRASH ★ | BELOW AVERAGE ★★ | AVERAGE ★★★ | ABOVE AVERAGE ★★★ | GOOD ★★★★ |

| VERY GOOD ★★★★ | OUTSTANDING ★★★★★ | MASTERPIECE ★★★★★

— Abhishek Srivastava

## DDA clears way for better green cover at Smriti Van

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Delhi Development Authority has informed the National Green Tribunal that it had removed the concrete structure and tiles from the ground at Smriti Van to maintain the green cover.

In a report submitted to NGT on October 4, DDA said, "The concrete

structure, which was found recently within Smriti Van has been completely removed and the excavated earth has been filled therein. At various locations within Smriti Van, interlocking tiles were scattered on the ground, which have been completely removed now. This will aid and abet the maintenance of the green cover." It added that it was commit-

**A plea filed last year claimed that some of the green area at Smriti Van had been illegally dug and the park which once was a habitat to rare flora and fauna was poorly maintained**

ted to the cause of creating, protecting and maintaining green covers in the area under its jurisdiction.

DDA further informed that the work of compensatory plantation, including plantation of 1,500 saplings for a National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) project and 250 saplings for the Rajya Sabha

Secretariat project, had earlier stalled due to the absence of necessary approvals from the forest department. However, the compensatory plantation of these 1,750 saplings had been completed in the first week of August. It reiterated that it was not giving permission to hold any social, religious or marriage function at Smriti Van.

Last year, a plea had been filed in the NGT which stated that some of the green area at Smriti Van had been illegally dug. The plea claimed that with its waterbody, Smriti Van was a beautiful habitat of rare flora and fauna, but it was poorly maintained and had only a few trees at Smriti Van.

**Man who posed as dumb and deaf to steal items arrested**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** A 33-year-old man, who used to pose as deaf and dumb and commit burglaries, has been arrested. Police said Jaya Kumar from Aminjikarai in Chennai, who is an auto driver by profession, is suspected to be involved in over hundred such thefts.

Police said the suspect is married and lived in Tamil Nadu with his family of three children. He used to travel to the national capital by train, stay at budget hotels and commit thefts.

According to the police, a complaint of theft was received on September 4 from a resident of Anand Vihar who stated that while he was at a gym, someone stole his mobile phone. Deputy commissioner of police (Shahadra) Rohit Meena said his team collected the relevant information about the incident.

"After perusing CCTV footage and clues provided by the informers, the police were able to track down the suspect to a place in Old Delhi more than 15km from the place of incident. The identified location was then raided, and the suspect was arrested," DCP added.

During interrogation, Jaya Kumar disclosed that he is a resident of Chennai and has been committing interstate burglaries to evade police attention. He further disclosed his modus operandi that he comes to Delhi by train and stays at budget hotels in Pahar ganj for around 5-6 days. Traveling Delhi and NCR by public transport, he locates crowded places and easy targets like hospitals, gyms, banks and malls where he does a thorough recce and after executing robberies for 5-6 days, he returns to Chennai with all the stolen property," Meena said.

Meena said the man disclosed that he used to commit burglaries for 5-6 days in a month and has been doing this continuously since November 2021. "He was never arrested previously," the police said.

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ASC fraternity prays to the Almighty to grant peace to the departed soul & fortitude to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss. Mobile No-9641310513.

Mrs Manju Subba (Wife) Vill- Bich Gaon, Jorebunglow, Distt- Darjeeling, West Bengal DGST and all Members of ASC Association.

Rohita Bansal Rastogi  
28.11.1973-07.10.2018

W/o Sanjeev Rastogi D/o Sh. Prem Chand Aggarwal & Late Smt Nirmal Aggarwal

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Sir Walter Scott

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Sir Walter Scott



**Smt Raj Rani Suri Bhasin**

31.05.1932 - 29.09.2023

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved Smt Raj Rani Suri Bhasin (President Suri Education Foundation, Principal Happy Hours School) who left for her heavenly abode on 29/09/2023.

Prayer meeting will be held on 08 Oct. 2023, from 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, at Chinmaya Mission Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110003.

Grief Stricken : Ashok Kumar Bhasin (Husband), Prem Amar Bhasin (Son), Divya Bhasin (Daughter), Neha Mohta (daughter in law), Gaurav Mathur (son in law)  
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Programme Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

Kirtan & Antim Ardas 3.00 PM at the community hall, Vijay Rattan Vihar, Sector-15 Part-II, Gurugram

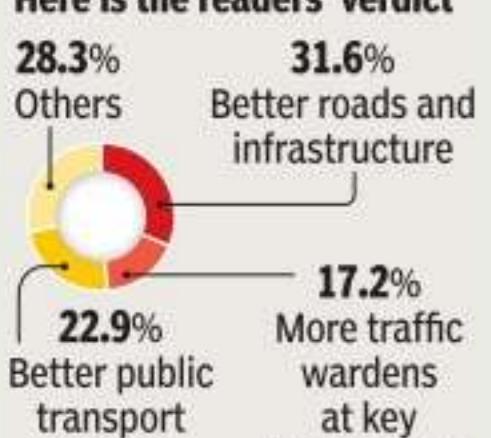
Forever in our hearts Major (Retd.) Prabhul Lal Batra & Family

Prabhul Lal Batra & Family</p

**THE TIMES OF INDIA  
READERS POLL**

In yesterday's TOI we asked our readers what they think should be done to improve the traffic situation in your city?

**Here is the readers' verdict**



We also checked on how much time they spent on commuting every day (coming and going)

**35-yr-old man thrashed**

**Noida:** A 32-year-old man was allegedly thrashed by 4-5 men after he tried to break up a scuffle between two groups of tempo drivers at a petrol pump in the Surajpur area of Greater Noida, earlier this week. An FIR was registered on Thursday and 4 men have been detained in the case so far, police said. TNN

**SBI staffer has lucky escape as abductors run into policemen**

Avishek.Kumar@timesgroup.com

**Ghaziabad:** A 32-year-old marketing manager with SBI in Delhi was abducted by two armed carjackers when he stopped his vehicle on a road in Vasundhara to talk to colleagues on Thursday night.

He escaped because of a lucky break — barely five minutes into the ride, when he was held at gunpoint, the car ran into a police check post at Atal Chowk, forcing the two abductors to get off since there was no scope to reverse the car.

Vikmendra Pratap Singh was returning home to Vasundhara after dropping a colleague when he pulled up his EcoSport in Prahlad Garhi to attend a video call around 10pm. After a few minutes, a man knocked on the window of his car and asked him to slide it down. Singh, his mind on the call, did so. The man immediately pointed a gun at him, opened the door and got in. He unlocked the doors and his accomplice barged into the driver's seat from the other side. They shoved Singh into the back seat and took control of the car.

Both the carjackers, Anand Balmiki (31) of Muradnagar and his accomplice, Gaurav Balmiki (26) of Loni, were caught by the police. An FIR was registered against the two at Indrapuram police station.

**MCD gags teachers:  
No joining protests,  
social media posts**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

updated transfer posting policy introduced by MCD.

In order to bring transparency in teacher transfers in MCD primary schools, the process was made online this year.

TOI tried to reach MCD for a comment, but none was forthcoming.

The order, issued by the education department of Rohini zone, said that any act of this kind would be viewed seriously and the teacher may face disciplinary action. "It is brought to the notice of all concerned that it is prohibited to post any message on social media and not publish anything in print media which may be embarrassing to the department. In this regard, an earlier order issued by the headquarters be followed strictly.

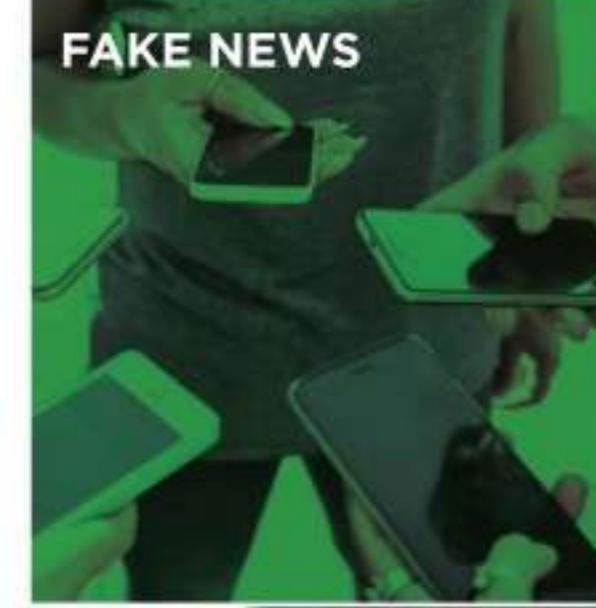
Furthermore, there is not any association recognised by the department or in existence," the notice said.

The move has come in the backdrop of a protest announced by a group of teachers on October 9 against the recently

**DMRC to extend timings for cricket**

New Delhi: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation will extend its last train timings on all lines (except Airport Express Line) to facilitate watching of Cricket World Cup 2023 on match days at Arun Jaitley Stadium.

The Arun Jaitley Stadium, adjacent to Delhi Gate metro station on the Violet Line, will host five day and night matches, beginning Saturday and train timings on all lines on match days have been extended to help spectators to return to their homes. TNN

**FAKE NEWS****REAL CONSEQUENCES**

**THE COST  
OF SHARING  
A FAKE  
FORWARD  
COULD BE  
TWO LIVES.**

Two youths were beaten to death by a mob in Karbi Anglong district, Assam on suspicion of being child lifters. The incident was preceded by a mass paranoia in the village fuelled by fake forwards.

Fake news has very real consequences. So, the next time you get a suspicious message\*, let our experts verify it for you. Just WhatsApp the message to

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**T**he 34th edition of Medicall India's largest and No 1 B2B Medical Equipment Exhibition, organised by Medexpert Business Consultants Pvt Ltd will be held between 7th and 9th October 2023 at Hall 5, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

With over 400 exhibitors participating in the event, it is expected to aid greater collaboration in the healthcare industry and help them offer better services and equipment, right from surgical cotton to high-end operation tools. In essence, Brainstorm Medicall's Interactive

Healthcare Intelligentsia delivers concise 'nuggets of wisdom'. Some seminars lined up for this year include survival strategies for small and medium hospitals, online branding and marketing for hospitals, and designing and managing cost-effective ICUs and OTs.

In this context, Dr S Manivannan, Medicall's founder and CEO, says, "Small and medium-sized hospital owners from tier II and III cities cannot afford to have qualified purchase managers. Equipment companies also do not have adequate sales force to meet all these hospital owners. Since I have undergone the difficulty for my hospital, I thought Medicall will bring in all equipment manufacturers under one roof."

Besides other networking opportunities made available at the convention this year, Medicall Academy offers a platform to nurture talents and develop their skills through simulation-based workshops, inducing hands-on experience on the latest skills and technologies in the healthcare industry.

Since 2006, Medicall shows have been organised in Chennai, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Colombo. Some of the products and services available at the expo include 3D printers, cold storage solutions, air ambulance services, surgical equipment, medical testing and calibration services, AR and VR therapy solutions, biomedical waste

management systems, electric wheelchairs, blood bank solutions, and hospital branding services.

For professionals tasked with purchasing and procurement for healthcare facilities, Medicall offers enough options to stock up for the upcoming year. The equipment fair allows buyers to hold detailed discussions with the key influencers from manufacturing companies and assists them in securing the best deals. Hospital owners, medical directors, purchase managers, biomedical engineers, owners of diagnostic centres and other paramedical service centres are some of the key clientele of the expo. More than 10,000 professionals are expected to visit the Delhi exhibition.

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**GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN  
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF  
ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES ZONE JAIPUR**  
No. 3482 E-NIT no -22/2023-24 Date: 26/9/23  
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, bidders for the work "Rehabilitation of Surwal Medium Irrigation subproject Districtawai Madhopur RWSLIP" Rs 2411.50 Lac is invited from eligible bidders up to 06:00 PM on dated 30.10.2023 and technical bid will be opened on dated 31.10.2023 at 03:00 PM.  
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state.  
NIB no: WRD23240518  
UBN no: WRD2324WLOBO1507 Additional Chief Engineer  
Water Resources Zone Jaipur  
DIPR/C/15026/2023

**NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20**  
**E-Tendering Tender Notice** GSU Unit, Gwalior  
Deputy Chief Engineer-II/GSU/Gwalior N.C. Railway for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open online e-Tenders (Two packet System) for the following work.

Description of work	e-tender No.	Approx. Cost (₹)
Jhansi-Kanpur Section-Construction of Limited Height Subway in line of Level crossing No. 213 & 229.	DYCEGSU	11.74 Crores

Date of closing Tender: 26.10.2023, Date of completion/period from issue acceptance letter: 12 months. \*Tender can be submitted online up to 11.00 hrs. on 26.10.2023. For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) 1610/23 FA

North Central Railways @CPRONR @northcentralrailway www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

### U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

#### Short E-Tender Notice

E-Tender No. SD-970 online E-Bids are invited for "Supply of 02 Types Tools & Plant Equipment for different UPPTCL Substations". E-tender has been uploaded on 05.10.2023 on [www.etender.up.nic.in](http://www.etender.up.nic.in). Estimated Cost of work: Rs. 14.95 Lacs only. Completion Period: 03 months. E.M.D. Cost: Rs. 15,000.00 only. Last date of E-tender submission: 16.10.2023 at 12.30 Hrs. Total Quantum of Work, Tender Specification and Other Terms & Conditions are as per Tender Document available on the E-tender Portal. Undersigned reserves the right to cancel the e-Bids without assigning any reason.

Corrigendum, Addendum, Extension if any shall be uploaded only on the above website. Bidders are advised to visit the website regularly for updated information from time to time.

**Superintending Engineer, ESDC-I, UPPTCL**

"Save Electricity for the Interest of Nation" RO-350 / 05.10.2023

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

#### See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused Vivek, S/o Ajay, R/o: H. No. 353, Gali No. 6, Shakti Vihar, Meethapur, Badarpur, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 70/2019, U/s 33/52 Delhi Excise Act, P. S. Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Vivek cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Vivek has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said Vivek accused of FIR No. 70/2019, U/s 33/52 Delhi Excise Act, P. S. Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 20.12.2023.

By Order

Sh. Himanshu Tanwar  
Metropolitan Magistrate-10  
Room No. 307, South-East District  
Saket Courts, New Delhi

DP/11236/SE/2023

### PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

#### See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person Rajendra S/o Munni Lal R/o H.No. 36/6, Gali No. 10, Harijan Basti, Near Mata Chowk, Jharoda, Burari, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence FIR No. 96/2016 u/s 380/451/411/34 IPC P.S. Kotwali, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said Rajendra cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Rajendra has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in the case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said Rajendra accused of FIR No. 96/2016 u/s 380/451/411/34 IPC P.S. Kotwali, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 24.11.2023.

By Order: Ms. Meena Chauhan  
Metropolitan Magistrate-08 (Central),  
Room No. 272, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/11147/N/23

### NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY G20

#### E-Tendering Tender Notice

CSTE/Project/Co-ord.- N. C. Railway/Prayagraj for and on behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on Line (E-Tendering) for the following work.

Mode of Tender EPC-Modi (Single Stage - Two Packet system)

Tender Notice No. Bid No. NCR-S&T-EPC-ABS-MTJ-PWL.Dt. 03.10.2023

Name of work: "Provision of EI based Automatic Signalling on 3rd and 4th Line with continuous Track Sections and other Associated works alongwith suitable indoor alterations in EI/RRPI Stations enroute in Mathura Junction (incl.) - Palwal (incl.) Section of Agra division of North Central Railway"

Approx. Cost ₹ 71,87,31,837.00 (71.87 Cr) Completion Period : 450 Days

Earnest Money Amount ₹ 35,93,700/- (Rs. Thirty Five Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Seven Hundred only)

Availability of Tender document on Railway website Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) from Dated: 03.10.23 to 29.11.2023 upto 11:00 Hrs (Morning) as per IST.

Physical submission of all documents. Dated : 05.12.2023 upto 11:00 Hrs (Morning) as per IST.

Date & time of opening of tender : 12.12.2023 at 11:00 Hrs. (Morning) as per IST. 1613/23(DG)

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

तरल संसाधन संभग कोटा

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES ZONE KOTA**  
क्रमांक:- F.C.EWRZ/RPS & SJE-NIB-21/2023-24/10829-37 Date: 16.09.2023

#### e-NIT No. 21/2023-24

Bids for (1) "Rehabilitation, Improvement of Hydro-Mechanical works at Rana Pratap Sagar Dam in Rawatbhata district Chittorgarh of Rajasthan under DRIP II", (2) "Rehabilitation, Improvement of Hydro-Mechanical works at Jawahar Sagar Dam in district Bundi of Rajasthan under DRIP-II" and (3)"Rehabilitation, Improvement of Civil works and Basic Facility of Rana Pratap Sagar Dam in Rawatbhata district Chittorgarh of Rajasthan under DRIP-II" is invited from interested bidders from 18.09.2023 (9:30 hr.) to 18.10.2023 till 11:00 hr. other particulars, terms and conditions may be seen on the procurement portal [https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in](http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in) & [https://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in](http://sppp.rajasthan.nic.in) www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in. & [www.water.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.water.rajasthan.gov.in).

UBH No. 1. WRD2324WSOB01255  
2. WRD2324WSOB01256  
3. WRD2324WSOB01257

Chief Engineer  
Water Resources Zone  
Kota  
DIPR/C/14404/2023

**Rajasthan Medical Education Society**  
(Directorate of Medical Education)  
Chikitsa Siksha Bhawan  
Near Pink Square Mall, Opp. Psychiatric Centre, Janta Colony, Jaipur-302004  
Tel No.+0141-2605994, Email: r.mes@rajasthan.gov.in  
No. F.27(46)Raj-MES/Central Proc./CT 128 Slice/2023 / 7413 Dated: 4/10/2023  
(Abridged form of NIB for Publication on State Public Procurement Portal)  
(NIB No. 75/2023-24)

Sealed Single Stage Two - envelopes and unconditional online Bids for (A) TURNKEY PROJECT FOR SUPPLY & INSTALLATION OF 128 SLICE CT-SCAN MACHINAE AND (B) OPERATION & MAINTENANCE ALONG WITH PROVIDING VARIOUS INVESTIGATION RELATED SERVICES ON INSTALLED 128 SLICE CT-SCAN MACHINE FOR RAJES'S MEDICAL COLLEGES LOCATED AT BHARATPUR/BILHWARA/DUNGARPUR for 10 Years are invited from interested bidder's upto 30-10-2023 at 06:00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state. UBN no: Enclosed

Director,  
Raj-MES  
DIPR/C/15177/2023

### Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone, Ajmer

No.:ACE/AJ/TECH/F2/30-Ajmer)/D- 2389 Date : 28/09/2023

NIB No. : PWD2324A8512 Notice Inviting Bid No. 28/2023-24

Bids for 02 No. Work are invited from interested bidders upto 12.00 Noon on Monday 09 October 2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.raj.nic.in>) of the State; and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 3816.89 Lacs.

UBN No. : PWD2324WLOB15500 Sd/-  
PWD2324WSOB15501 (Vikas Dixit),  
Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone, Ajmer.

DIPR/C/14850/2023

**INSTITUTE FOR AUTOPARTS & HAND TOOLS TECHNOLOGY**  
A-9, PHASE - 1, Sector - 10, Faridabad, Haryana - 121001, Ph. 91-161-2674597, 502297, e-mail: iattidh@iapt.org  
On behalf of Institute for Autoparts & Hand Tools Technology, Ludhiana (IATT), Hereto bid system for the following equipment / machines

S.N. Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)  
1. Salt Spray Chamber (Fully Automatic)  
2. Prevailing Torque Testing equipment of Fasteners  
3. Industrial X-ray Equipment  
4. Torque Wrench Calibration System, Capacity 3000 Nm.  
5. Electronic Dead Weight Type Computerize Pressure Calibration System (7 to 70 MPa/1000-10000 PSI).  
Cost of Tender Document: Rs. 500/- each. Further detail about security deposit / EMD and terms & conditions, guidelines to download tender document, online bid submission procedure and clarification on e-only bidding can be obtained from the website (<http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>) of the state Government or on e-Procurement website (<https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>). Note: Correspondum / Addendum / Correction / Amendments etc. will be uploaded at <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> under corrigendum only and will not be published in newspaper / journal. Hence, bidder should regularly visit the Website to keep themselves updated.

General Manager

Tender document availability on <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

Start Date : 09/10/2023 Closing Date : 09/10/2023

Kalyanpur, Kanpur Dated: 19.09.2023

**NATIONAL SUGAR INSTITUTE**  
An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institute  
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution  
Department of Food & Public Distribution  
Government of India

Kalyanpur, Kanpur Dated: 19.09.2023

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

On behalf of President of India sealed tenders are invited for "DESELLING & RESSELLING OF TOP ROLLER AND BOTTOM ROLLER" from reputed Parties/firms having previous experience of having executed similar work in the Central/State Government Organization/Autonomous Bodies/ Public Sector Units etc. under single bid system.

The Tender document with complete details including technical specifications and other terms & conditions can be downloaded from the website [www.nsi.gov.in](http://www.nsi.gov.in) and e-procurement portal of the Government of India <http://eproc.gov.in>/e/publish/app. Bids must be submitted on or before the 26.10.2023 upto 01:00pm. The Bids will be opened on the same day at 03:00 PM onwards.

Administrative cum Purchase & Sales Officer

File No: 10/4/ESF/Pur/2014-15  
**Exporters!**  
HARYANA STATE EXPORT AWARDS AWAIT YOU

Applications on the prescribed form are invited from the outstanding manufacturer exporters of Haryana for grant of State Export Awards for the year 2022-23. As per the notification dated 08<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 under Chapter 14 of the Haryana Enterprises & Employment Policy, 2020 (HEEP, 2020), there are 12 outstanding Exporter Awards of Rs. 5.00 Lakh and 12 Consolation Prizes of Rs. 51,000/- each across the following twelve different industrial category under the State Export Award Scheme (including Outstanding Woman Exporter Entrepreneur as well as Outstanding Exporter Entrepreneur from SC Category) for large Scale Industries:-

Sr. No.	Industrial Group	Large Scale Industries
1.	Engineering, Auto & Auto Components	1
2.	Agro-based, Food, Horticulture	1
3.	Glass, Rubber and Ceramics	1
4.	Scientific Instruments and Home Appliances	1
5.	Textile, Hosiery, Readymade Garments, Leather, Footwear	1
6.	Handloom & Handcrafts	1
7.	Electronics, IT, ITES	1
8.	Pharmaceutical, Drugs, Bio-tech	1
9.	Toys	1
10.	Miscellaneous	1
11.	Outstanding Woman Exporter Entrepreneur	1
12.	Outstanding Exporter Entrepreneur from SC Category	1

Exporting Units may apply online on the web portal of the Department i.e. [www.haryanaindustries.gov.in](http://www.haryanaindustries.gov.in) by 20.10.2023. Large Scale Industries units exporting their products directly are eligible for the award. For further details, the scheme alongwith prescribed form has been uploaded on the Department website [www.haryanaindustries.gov.in](http://www.haryanaindustries.gov.in). No offline application shall be entertained.

Note:-

The Exporting unit once selected for award shall not be considered again during 5 years, which includes the year of selection.

Director General of Industries & Commerce, Haryana

30 Bays Building, Sector 17, Chandigarh-160017

Issued through:DPR.Haryana/Advt.No. 21685/06/10/2023

Ph :- 0172-2701344

DIPR/C/15185/2023

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग बृह-दासा (राज.)  
क्रमांक फा. निविदा / 2022-23 / 2244-60 दिनांक :- 21.09.2023

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 11 / 2023-24

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल मंत्रोदय की ओर से निर्माणविभाग भवन निर्माण कार्य के लिए उपर्युक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निविदा विभाग ग्र

# Cycle Track Around Nehru Park To Be Ready By Nov End

2.7km-Long Facility Was To Have Become Operational In May

Vibha.Sharma  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has fixed the end of November as the deadline for making the 2.7km cycle track around Nehru Park in Chanakyapuri fully operational.

The foundation stone for the project was laid by the lieutenant governor in mid-January with a four-month deadline. NDMC vice-chairman Satish Upadhyay said that due to extended rain and the G20 preparations in Lutyens' Delhi, the work for painting cycle logos and installing lights and boards along the track had been delayed. To make provisions for enough light in the evening, 200 lamp posts of 4mm height will be installed along the



The foundation stone for the project was laid in mid-January

track. "We are trying to complete all work by next month," he said.

The track around the park's boundary wall aims to motivate cycle enthusiasts to safely take rounds along the lush green space. The average width of the track is 3 metres to let two persons cycle at the same time. The track has

been built using latest techniques, with a 150mm-thick concrete layer, 6mm-thick micro surfacing and 2mm cold plastic paint overlay.

"To reach the track from all intersections or connecting roads such as Vinay Marg, Satya Marg, Niti Marg and Panchsheel Marg, we will develop cycle crossings as part of the project," said an official.

Spread over 75 acres, Nehru Park is surrounded by various foreign embassies, high commissions, residents of diplomats and high-profile dignitaries, apart from state bhavans and residences of central government employees. "The footfall at this place is already high, and with the construction of the track, we are expecting a large number of cyclists to use the facility," said an official.

NDMC is also working on a dedicated 9-km cycling track, which will connect government housing colonies to offices in and around North Block, South Block, Nirman Bhawan, Central Secretariat and New Moti Bagh. Financial approvals are pending for the project.

## NDMC invites ideas from public for upcoming budget

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has started the process to prepare its budget for 2024-25 and has invited suggestions from the public related to reforms in sectors like water, electricity, property tax, crèche, public toilets, sanitation, roads, and streetlights.

"For last 3-4 years we are making provision for 'community-based improvement' budget wherein residents and traders are invited to give suggestions for improving area specific infrastructure facilities. They can give opinion for improving greening, some repair in market or doing other works in locality. After assessing, we make provision in budget," said an official.

Last year, NDMC has estimated an income of Rs 4743.4 crore and Rs 4,160 crore as expenditure. In this, the income

from license fee was fixed as Rs 839.1 crore, Rs 1,150 crore from tax revenue, Rs 1,715 crore from fees and user charges and Rs 449 crore from interest.

Of the total expenditure estimated, Rs 467.99 crore was for capital expenditure and Rs 3692.42 crore for revenue expenditure.

**Karyalay, कृषि उपज मंडी समिति इन्दौर जिला इन्डौर**  
लालभाई नगर, छोटा बांगड़ा रोड, इन्दौर  
E-mail ID : apmcindore@gmail.com  
क्रमांक/निर्माण/मंडी/2023-24/2022 इन्दौर, दिनांक : 05.10.2023  
:: दिवीतीय निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना ::  
प्रमुख अधिकारी, म.प्र. लोक निर्माण विभाग में उपयुक्त (एकीकृत पंजीयन प्राप्तार्थी) पंजीकृत निविदाकारी से प्रतिशत दर आधार पर सिस्टम निविदा क्रमांक 2023\_MPSMS\_315721 के अंतर्गत अनेकांन निविदाएं दिनांक 27.10.2023 को शाम 5:30 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रत्येक एवं अन्य जानकारी निविदाकारी को म.प्र. शासन के ई-निविदा के पोर्टल <http://www.mptenders.gov.in> पर भी समस्त जानकारी मंडी बोर्ड के पोर्टल [www.mpmmandiboard.gov.in](http://www.mpmmandiboard.gov.in) पर भी अवलोकनीय होती है।  
नोट : - आवश्यक होने पर उपरोक्त निविदा सूचना से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार की संशोधन सूचना अथवा अन्य जानकारी के बावजूद उपरोक्तानुसार पोर्टल पर प्रदर्शित की जाती है।

**U.P. POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED E-TENDER NOTICE**  
E-Tenders in Two Parts valid for 180 days are invited on behalf of UP Power Transmission Corporation Ltd. For Supplies and Works as per details mentioned below. 1. Specification CD-144 for Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Remote Terminal Units & its Integration with SCADA/EMS System of UPTCL at Main SLDC, Lucknow & Backup SLDC, Modipuram Tender Fee Rs. 1770/-, EMD amount Rs. 94,873.00. Last Date & Time of bid uploading 25.10.2023 up to 15:00 hrs., Date & Time for opening of Bid 15.30 hrs., 26.10.2023.

2. Tender Specification CD-145 for Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of Fiber Optic Terminal Equipments & their Integration with existing Fiber Optic Network, Quantity-11 Nos., Tender Fee Rs. 1770/-, EMD amount Rs. 88,400/-, Last Date & Time of bid uploading 08.11.2023 up to 15:00 hrs., Date & Time for opening of Bid 15.00 hrs., 09.11.2023. 3. Tender Specification CD-146 for Supply of Optical to Ethernet Converter, Quantity-66 nos., Tender Fee Rs. 590/-, EMD amount Rs. 16,510/-, Last Date & Time of bid uploading 26.10.2023 up to 15:00 hrs., Date & Time for opening of Bid 15.00 hrs., 27.10.2023. For detailed information E-Tender documents against above bids can be downloaded from [www.upptcl.org](http://www.upptcl.org) and e-procurement website of U.P. Govt [www.e tender.up.nic.in](http://www.e tender.up.nic.in) on payment of a prescribed non-refundable fee. E-Tender shall be submitted only on e-procurement website [www.e tender.up.nic.in](http://www.e tender.up.nic.in). All bids shall be opened ONLINE in the office of Superintending Engineer, ECCDC, UPTCL, 10th floor, Shakti Bhawan Extension, 14-Ashok Marg, Lucknow - 22001 in presence of Bidders, if any. Superintending Engineer ECCDC, UPTCL, 10th Floor Shakti Bhawan Extension, 14-Ashok Marg, Lucknow-226001, Email - [seccdcik@uptcl.org](mailto:seccdcik@uptcl.org), UPTCL Website - [www.upptcl.org](http://www.upptcl.org) E-Procurement website - [www.e tender.up.nic.in](http://www.e tender.up.nic.in)

## Cong protests 'objectionable' post against Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi: Agitated over the circulation of an "objectionable" post on Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, the Delhi unit of the party staged a huge protest near the BJP headquarters on Friday.

Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely said the "massive success" of Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra had "rattled and unsettled" BJP. "This is why BJP has stooped so low to defame him by sharing objectionable posts on its social media," Lovely said. He added, "BJP should regret its sinful act and read the Ramcharitmanas for penance."

Senior party member Mukesh Sharma said the police detained the Congress workers and let them off later with a warning. "Congress will not remain silent on this issue," he said.

No immediate reaction was available from BJP. TNN

**IIITD INDRAPRASTHA INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DELHI**  
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav  
G20 India  
Advertisement for Non-Academic Posts

Online applications are invited for Direct Recruitment in the following posts at the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology-Delhi (IIITD), a State University Established by an Act of Govt. of NCT of Delhi:

- Manager (Corporate Communication) : 01 post, Pay Level-10 (Pay Scale-56,100-1,77,500);
- Executive Assistant : on consolidated salary basis.

For detailed information please, visit the Institute website: <https://iiitd.ac.in/careers/staff>

**No./NITRR/S-1/Advt.-corrigendum/2023/115 Corrigendum**  
Date: 05.10.2023

As per the instructions of the competent authority (BoG of the Institute) regarding Faculty recruitment, part of the clause 'Experience' (i.e. clause number 6 on page 5 of the advertisement No./NITRR/S-1/Advt./2023/1082 dated 27.07.2023, clause number 8 on page 6 of the advertisement No./NITRR/R-1/Advt./2023/1229 dated 10.08.2023 and clause number 8 on page 5 of the advertisement No./NITRR/R-1/Advt./2023/1178(A) dated 24.08.2023), namely, "However, this criterion does not apply for serving regular faculty member of the Institute, NIT Raipur. For the serving regular members previous experiences irrespective of above conditions will be considered.", stands withdrawn.

Director  
NIT Raipur

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[www.nhdc.nic.in](http://www.nhdc.nic.in)

**INTER UNIVERSITY ACCELERATOR CENTRE**  
(An Autonomous Centre of University Grants Commission)  
ARUNA ASAFA LI MARG, NEW DELHI-110 067.  
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE  
TENDER NO.: IUAC/NIT/11/BKG/2023-24  
E-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for the "SITC of Air Dehumidifier cum Air Handling Unit (Air Conditioning Dehumidifier) of Capacity of 11250 CMH at IUAC. Tender documents can be downloaded from <https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app> and [www.iuac.res.in](http://www.iuac.res.in) Last date for submission of tender is 06-11-2023 at 3.00 pm.

**राष्ट्रीय आयुर्वेद संस्थान**  
मानव विश्वविद्यालय (डी-नोवो)  
(आयुष मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
जोधपुर सिंह गेट, अमरे रोड, जयपुर - 302002  
**M.D/M.S. (Ayurveda)** पाठ्यक्रम सत्र 2023-24  
में प्रवेश हेतु काउंसिलिंग - रजिस्ट्रेशन की सूचना  
राष्ट्रीय आयुर्वेद संस्थान (मानव विश्वविद्यालय) जयपुर, राजस्थान विश्वविद्यालय जयपुर एवं डॉ. डॉ. सर्वपल्ली राधाकृष्णन राजस्थान आयुर्वेद विश्वविद्यालय, जोधपुर के संघटक महाविद्यालयों से स्नातक (वी.ए.एम.एस.) आयुर्विद्याकोटी की सीटों पर तथा इनके अतिरिक्त राजस्थान राज्य के उपरोक्त तीनों विश्वविद्यालयों एवं राजस्थान के अन्य तथा बाहरी राज्यों से सम्बन्धित समस्त संस्थान (मानव विश्वविद्यालय) जयपुर द्वारा स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रम M.D/M.S (Ayurveda) सत्र 2023-24 में प्रवेश हेतु AIAAGET-2023 पाठ्यकाराक अभियार्थी से अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय आयुर्वेद संस्थान-आयुर्वेद पत्र दिनांक 09-10-2023 से काउंसिलिंग बोर्ड वेबसाईट पर आवंतित किये जाते हैं। | जिस्ट्रेशन, आवेदन शुल्क, सीटों एवं अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी काउंसिलिंग बोर्ड की वेबसाईट [nijaijaipur.in](http://nijaijaipur.in) पर उल्लिख है। आवश्यक जारी निर्देशों के लिये काउंसिलिंग बोर्ड की वेबसाईट का नियमित रूप से अवलोकन करते रहें। (प्री. एम.एल. मीर) चेयरमैन, एडमिशन बोर्ड

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## Canada shifts most of its diplomats posted in India to S'pore, Malaysia

**Delhi Had Asked 41 To Be Pulled Out To Ensure Diplomatic Parity**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Canada was reported on Friday to have relocated a majority of its diplomats in India to Malaysia and Singapore. The Indian government had earlier asked Canada to pull out 41 diplomats from India to ensure parity with India's diplomatic presence in North American country.

The development followed Canadian PM Justin Trudeau's allegation, not yet backed by any evidence according to Indian authorities, that Indian agents had a role in the killing of Khalistan leader and Canadian nat-



**NIJAR FALLOUT?** As per Canadian media, New Delhi had given Ottawa time till October 10 to reduce its diplomatic staff

tional Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Amid concerns that a reduction in Canada's diplomatic strength could delay visas for Indian nationals, particularly students, the government had said on Thursday that its focus now is on ensuring parity as Canadian diplomats continued to interfere in India's internal affairs.

A report in CTV News, a

privately-owned Canadian television network, said the Indian government had given Ottawa time till October 10 to reduce Canadian diplomatic staff to a level on par with the number of Indian diplomats in Canada. More specifically, Canada was asked to withdraw 41 diplomats for parity.

"A majority of Canadian diplomats working in India out-

### Shots fired in Ontario, 8 Sikh youths held

Canadian police have arrested eight Sikhs, aged between 19 and 26, and charged them with possession of 'loaded prohibited or restricted firearm' in Brampton city in Ontario province. Police said that on the night of October 2, they received reports of shots being fired but confirmed that no one was hurt. AGENCIES

side of Delhi have been evacuated to either Kuala Lumpur or Singapore," the report said.

Meanwhile, the US reiterated support for Canada's probe into Nijjar's killing calling it a terrible assassination. "Let me just say that we support Canada's investigation. We want everyone—including the Indian government—to help advance the investigation into this ter-

rible assassination, and we would urge everyone to cooperate and to take the investigation as far as it goes," said the US Global Engagement Center (GEC) special envoy James Rubin. The GEC works under the US State Department.

Rubin was responding to a question about whether the India-Canada row was a fertile ground for disinformation campaigns and if it made Canada a more attractive target for Chinese propaganda. "This is obviously an area that is ripe for information manipulation," said Rubin.

Global Affairs Canada, the department that manages the country's diplomatic and consular relations, had previously stated that "with some diplomats having received threats on various social media platforms", it was "assessing its staff complement in India".

►Related report, P15

### FRENCH COUPLE'S VIBRANT GRAFFITI



**CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS:** Famed French street artist Jace and his wife celebrate the diversity of Indian culture and the festive colours of Holi with a wall graffiti near Lucknow's Botanical Garden on Thursday. Jace is in India as part of the Wall Art festival hosted by Alliance Francaise centres across the country.

### 5 teens out for a swim in Ganga drown in Prayagraj

**Prayagraj:** Five teens, all aged 15 and 16, drowned in the Ganga while two others were rescued at Mehdauri Kachar ghat in the city on Friday afternoon. The incident took place when a group of seven teenagers had gone for a swim.

The deceased were identified as Shani (16), Priyanshu (15) and Akash (16) of Belli and Himanshu (16) & Mulayam (16) of Myorabad. Two others, Sonu (15) & Aryan (16) of Myorabad, were saved by local swimmers.

ACP (Line) Swetabh Pandey said: "While swimming one of the kids lost balance and started drowning. Four others panicked and tried to save him but they too drowned." TNN

Recalling the initiatives taken by the Centre, Shah said

## Left-wing extremism will be finished in 2 yrs: Shah

'Maoist Strongholds Shrinking Since 2019'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Stating that Left-wing extremism was in its last phase and would be "completely uprooted in the next two years", home minister Amit Shah on Friday said the priorities of the Narendra Modi government included deployment of central forces to counter Maoists, rationalisation of development and setting up security camps there to facilitate an administrative and development push.

"Vacuum" areas refer to "core" Maoist strongholds, mostly in thickly-forested areas, where security or administrative machinery has not been able to make any inroads. Counter-Naxal forces, as part of a strategy, are now moving deeper into such areas, pushing back Left-wing extremists and setting up security camps there to facilitate an administrative and development push.

Addressing a meeting to review Left-wing extremism and discuss fine-tuning of strategy, Shah said the "vacuum" areas had been shrinking since 2019, with 195 camps of central armed police forces established and 44 more on the anvil. He emphasised on the need to maintain constant surveillance in the areas liberated from Left-wing extremists' hold, to rule out any revival of the problem there.

The deceased were identified as Shani (16), Priyanshu (15) and Akash (16) of Belli and Himanshu (16) & Mulayam (16) of Myorabad. Two others, Sonu (15) & Aryan (16) of Myorabad, were saved by local swimmers.

ACP (Line) Swetabh Pandey said: "While swimming one of the kids lost balance and started drowning. Four others panicked and tried to save him but they too drowned." TNN



Home minister Amit Shah with NSA Ajit Doval at Friday's review meeting on left-wing extremism. Shah stressed the need for surveillance in areas liberated from extremists' hold, to rule out revival of the problem

### NIA, other agencies resolve to intensify efforts to dismantle terror ecosystem

**The two-day anti-terror conference concluded in Delhi on Friday with NIA and the anti-terror squads (ATS) and counter-terror (CT) units of all states resolving to intensify coordinated efforts by all the central and state intelligence, security and law enforcement agencies to dismantle the entire ecosystem of terror in the country and choke terror funding.**

Summarising the directions given by home minister Amit Shah while addressing the inaugural session of the conference on Thursday, NIA said they included designing of a common training module to fight terror; multidimensional use of various national databases to investigate, prosecute and prevent crimes; thinking up innovative measures to counter terrorism; sharing of good practices; and international cooperation to counter challenges like crypto, hawala, terror-funding, organised crime syndicates and narco-terror links. Home secretary Ajay Bhalla, while chairing the concluding session, stressed on the need for teamwork and collaborative and concerted efforts by central and state agencies to prevent the establishment of terror ecosystems. TNN

Doval; home secretary A K Bhalla and DGs of CAPFs.

In his address, Shah attributed the successes of the Modi government in curbing LWE, particularly in 2022 and 2023, to its zero-tolerance approach to the problem. He underlined that 2022 had recorded the lowest levels of violence and deaths due to Left-wing extremism, in the past four decades.

There was a decline of more than 52% in LWE violence, 69% in deaths, 72% in fatalities among security forces and 68% in civilian deaths during the period 2014-2023, as compared to 2005-2014, he said.

Recalling the initiatives taken by the Centre, Shah said

the ex gratia to LWE victims had been raised to Rs 40 lakh.

It was last revised from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 20 lakh in 2017.

Keen to push development in the affected states, the Centre was offering special attention to road construction, telecommunication, financial inclusion, skill development and education. The Centre, Shah said, had launched more than 14,000 projects under the Special Central Assistance (SCA) scheme to accelerate development in the districts most affected by Left-wing extremism. More than 80% of these projects have been completed and Rs 3,296 crore released to affected states.

### Record 45 lakh pilgrims make it to Char Dham yatra this year

**Dehradun:** The Char Dham yatra this year has breached all previous records of pilgrim numbers, with a total of 44.7 lakh pilgrims participating in the journey to the revered shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Yamunotri, and Gangotri located in the Garhwal Himalayas, reports Kautilya Singh.

Last year, the pilgrimage season saw 44.2 lakh devotees offering prayers at the four sites. Also, for the first time, Kedarnath witnessed a higher turnout than Badrinath.

With around 50 days left for the yatra to conclude, authorities anticipate that the total number of pilgrims may very well exceed the 50 lakh mark.

**CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS:** Famed French street artist Jace and his wife celebrate the diversity of Indian culture and the festive colours of Holi with a wall graffiti near Lucknow's Botanical Garden on Thursday. Jace is in India as part of the Wall Art festival hosted by Alliance Francaise centres across the country.

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#### आवश्यक सूचना

एकीकृत 69वीं संयुक्त (प्रारम्भिक) प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा के अन्तर्गत सामान्य अध्ययन (General Studies) विषय की परीक्षा दिनांक 30.09.2023 को विभिन्न परीक्षा केंद्रों पर आयोजित की गयी है। उक्त विषय की प्रश्न पुस्तिका शुरूखला 'A', 'B', 'C' एवं 'D' के सभी प्रश्नों के ओपरेटिंग उत्तर पर 06.10.2023 से आयोग के वेबसाइट www.bpsc.bih.nic.in पर उपलब्ध रहेंगे।

उक्त परीक्षा में सम्मिलित (Appeared) उम्मीदवारों को एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि वे से उम्मीदवार, जिन्हें उक्त विषय के किसी भी प्रश्न के ओपरेटिंग उत्तर पर आपत्ति हो, तो वे अपने Username एवं Password से Login करते हुए डेंशेबोर्ड पर 09.10.2023 से दिनांक 11.10.2023 तक अपनी प्राप्तिकार्य स्थल/साथ के साथ Upload कर सकते हैं। इमेल तथा स्पॉष पोस्ट के माध्यम से किया गया आपत्ति स्वीकार्य नहीं होगा।

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क्रम सं.	ग्राम का नाम	खाता संख्या	खसरा संख्या	खसरे का कुल शॉ (हेक्टर)	खातेदार का नाम व पता	तहसील से प्राप्त रिपोर्ट के आधार पर काश्तकार का हिस्सा (हेक्टर)	काश्तकार का विकाय हेतु क्षेत्रफल (हेक्टर)
1	आकलपुर (सौ-10)	09	77	0.1070	श्री अमित वर्मा पुत्र दर्शनलाल वर्मा निवासी मॉन 305 / 4 मौहल्ला प्रेमनगर तुलन्दशहर		सम्पूर्ण 0.1070 हेक्टर
2	मकसूदपुर (सौ-10)	96	198	0.5080	योगेश कुमारी पत		

# New disability pension rules will prevent misuse: CDS

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The recent tightening of the disability pension rules for the armed forces will prevent 'the exploitation of its liberal provisions from misuse' as well as ensure a fitter military chief of defence staff General Anil Chauhan said on Friday, amid the continuing uproar among a section of serving personnel, veterans

and legal experts against the new defence ministry policy.

"The provisions of the revised rules will be applicable for those personnel who retire after September 21, 2023. It has no retrospective application," Gen Chauhan said at a press conference, flanked by the IAF and Navy chiefs and Army vice chief.

"The revised rules do not, in any manner, alter the emoluments of war widows, family pensioners or veterans. There is no change in the entitlement for any category of personnel being granted compensation for death or dis-

pairment relief" to cover most life-style related diseases like hypertension and diabetes. Such diseases will only be considered attributable to service in case they occur in active operations, high-altitude, extreme physical exertion and the like.

The All-India Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association has strongly protested against the new MoD policy, claiming

the new rules are "draconian", "perverse in law" and place soldiers at a disadvantage when compared to civilian government employees.

"It's a globally accepted that the stress and strain of military service adversely impacts the health of soldiers. Earlier, the place of a soldier's deployment was not a condition for the grant of benefits," a veteran said.

# Central agencies on alert after mail threatens to kill PM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** An email threatening to assassinate PM Narendra Modi and blow up the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad has had the central agencies on their toes. The sender also demanded the release of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi besides Rs 500 crore.

Mumbai police has been informed about the email on the basis of initial technical probe

and efforts are on to trace the sender, sources said. The NIA is also looking into the matter besides the Gujarat police.

Mumbai police is learnt to have stepped up security as the city is set to host five World Cup matches at Wankhede Stadium. The mail, sources said, was received on Thursday morning and has been shared with police in different states.

The agencies are concerned because a similar threat was issued by terrorist outfit Sikhs For Justice last week. Cops are trying to ascertain if the mail was a hoax or SFJ was behind it. Intriguingly, Bishnoi has been on SFJ's radar after he claimed responsibility for the killing of gangster Sukha Duneke in Canada two weeks ago. Viewed from this angle, the mail could even be a red herring, said a source. "We are trying to ascertain the IP address of the sender," he said.

## Man murders bro-in-law, wife in Tirupati hotel

A man from Maharashtra allegedly murdered his wife and brother-in-law at a hotel in Tirupati on Friday. The family had come to the temple town for darshan of Lord Sri Venkateswara.

The police have identified the accused as Yuvaraj, resident of Nanded in Maharashtra.

According to the police, At around 2 am on Friday, Yuvaraj stabbed Manisha and Harshvardhan killing them on the spot. The accused surrendered himself along with his two children. TNN

## 60-year-old booked for rape bid hangs self

A 60-year-old man was found hanging from a tree in UP's Bareilly district on Friday, just hours after being booked for allegedly attempting to sexually assault a five-year-old girl.

The family of the deceased man has accused the family of the girl for being responsible for his death. The man's son alleged that his father, who was "framed" by the girl's dad, might have been killed by him. TNN

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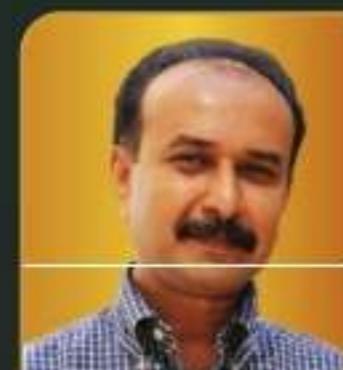
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PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Jaipur Phone :- 0141-2226537 Ex.-299

File No-1245 NIB NO-35/2023-24 Date 18/09/2023  
Bids (on EPC Mode) for 02 no. ROB Works in Alwar / Khairthal Tijara Districts are invited from interested bidders upto 6-00 pm on 19-10-2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>) of the state; and <http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in>. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 9508.00 lac.

Sd/-  
Addl. Chief Engineer  
PWD Zone-II, Jaipur  
DIPR/C/14472/2023

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

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE  
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>  
(First Call)

System Tender No 148992/ NIT No.: 02/SAC/23-24 Dated: 04.10.2023  
Online Tenders are invited for the following works up to 25.10.2023 at 17.30 Hours.

Name of work - Construction of Trough from RD 69436.00 m to 71230.00 m and Construction of D.R.B. at RD 70257 m of Main Canal of Rajiv Samuda Nisda Diversion Scheme Phase II.

Probable Amount of Contract:- Rs. 2471.78 Lakhs  
(As per S.O.R dated 01.08.2010 and amended upto dated 22.08.2022).

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 11.10.2023, at 17.30 Hours (IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/interested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
M.R.P. Phase II Work Division, Raipur  
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Project  
Raipur (C.G.)

G-05986/6  
GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) JAMMU.  
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS

E-NIT NO:-CEJ/PMGSY/750 OF 2023-24 DATED :- 03/10/2023

Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu on behalf of The Government of Jammu & Kashmir, invites e-tenders on %age Above/Excess (+) OR %age Below/Less (-) basis (i.e. on Percentage-Rate Basis) from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K U.T. Govt, CPWD, Railways or equivalent and other State/U.T. Govts upto 1700 Hrs. on 14-10-2023 for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the date of completion on OMMSA.

S. No.	Name of the Work/ Package No.	Name of the PIU	Constr. Part (Rs. In Lacs)	Maint. Part (Rs. In Lacs)	Total (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of Documents (Rs. In Lacs)	Bid Security (EMD) @2% of total cost rounded to the nearest thousand (Rs. In Lacs)	Time Allowed for completion	Call of tender	Time and date of opening of technical bids	Class of Contractor
1.	Balance Work for Construction and Maintenance of road from L027-Mangar to Upper Dhar, Package No. JK07-227, Stage-II, Regular PMGSY (Batch-I, 2018-19) Block Billawar, District Kathua, Length-7.250 Kms Adv. Cost excluding maintenance but inclusive of GST-Rs. 211.71 Lacs	Billawar	211.71	31.08	242.79	0.06	4.86	05 Months	1"	17-10-2023 1100 Hrs.	Any registered contractor with State/U.T. PWD/ CPWD/Railways or equivalent qualifying eligibility criteria as provided in the Standard Bidding Documents can tender for the works

- (a) The Bidding document can be downloaded from the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from 1655 Hrs on 04-10-2023 to 14-10-2023 upto 1700 Hrs.
- (b) The Bids shall be deposited ONLINE ONLY in electronic format on the website <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in> from 1000 Hrs on 06-10-2023 to 1700 Hrs on 14-10-2023.
- (c) Pre bid meeting will be held on 05-10-2023 at 1200 Hrs.
- (d) Technical Qualification Part of Bids will be opened online at 1100 Hrs on 17-10-2023.
2. The date and time of opening of Financial Bids shall be notified on Web Site <http://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in>.
3. For Complete Information refer to the bidding document.
4. For further details kindly visit our website <https://pmgsytendersjk.gov.in>

No:-CEJ/PMGSY/14987-15061  
Date:-03-10-2023  
DIP No:DIP/J-9137/23/05.10.2023

Sd/-  
Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Jammu  
For and on behalf of The Government of Jammu and Kashmir

## Ex-Cong MLA gets 2 yrs' jail for encroaching on forest land

Kanwardeep.Singh  
@timesgroup.com

Bareilly: The MP/MLA court in UP's Lakhimpur Kheri on Friday awarded two years imprisonment to former Congress MLA Satish Ajmani (77) for encroaching on forest land in Dudhwa National Park by building a godown and shops for commercial purposes.

## MLA gets 1 yr in jail in 12-yr-old rioting case

A special MP/MLA court in Bhopal on Friday sentenced Congress legislator Vipin Vankhede to a year's rigorous imprisonment in a 12-year-old case of rioting and obstructing official work. Vankhede is the MLA from Agar-Malwa constituency, which he won in the 2020 bypolls. The verdict comes less than two months before the assembly polls. TNN

The case was registered in 1997 by the then deputy director of the park under section 26 of the Forest Act, along with section 28 of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972, at Gauri-fanta forest range office against Ajmani and two of his aides—Munna Lal (64) and Sunil Kumar (59).

## Teacher shot in leg by students claiming to be 'gangsters'

Deepak.Lavania  
@timesgroup.com

**Agra:** Inspired by videos of gangsters, two class 12 students—aged 17 and 19—carrying a country-made pistol called their tuition teacher, Sumit Kumar, outside the coaching class at Khandoli in Agra district on Thursday and shot him in his left leg.

The one used to shoot the teacher were recovered from them. A case under section 3/25 of the Arms Act has also been registered. The injured teacher was rushed to hospital and is undergoing treatment."

SHO (Khandoli) Neeraj Kumar Mishra added, "One of the students was upset that the teacher informed his family about his affair with a girl at the coaching centre... Among the two accused, the 17-year-old was the one who shot at the teacher."

Later before the police, the boys claimed "responsibility for the crime" which they said they committed to "cause terror".

Preparing for their high school exams, the two students, from farming families, had joined the coaching centre about two years ago. On Friday, while being taken to local court, Uttam said, "We regret the incident and apologise for it."

## 'Bail, not jail,' norm doesn't apply to NDPS, UAPA cases: HC

Agartala: The normal rule of bail, not jail, in criminal cases is not applicable to cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Tripura HC has said.

Justice Arindam Lodh laid down the position while allowing a government plea to cancel the bail of three NDPS case suspects. He noted that the NDPS Act prescribes stringent conditions, making bail an exception in such cases and not the rule. The accused were alleged repeat offenders in trading illicit substances.

The HC criticised lower courts for "irresponsibly and rampantly" granting bail to NDPS accused on grounds of procedural violations. Several judgments have settled the position that procedural violations or irregularities in arrest should not be taken into consideration at the stage of bail under the NDPS Act, but only during trials, the HC said.

"It is unfortunate that some of the special courts are enlarging the accused on bail in total disregard to the limitations embodied in Section 37 of the NDPS Act," Justice Lodh said.

The judge directed HC officials to circulate the order to all special judges in Tripura. TNN

## HC questions cops' stand but gives NewsClick duo no relief

### 'Why Wasn't Ground For Arrest Mentioned In Remand Plea?'

Abhinav.Garg  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Delhi high court asked the Delhi police on Friday why the grounds for arrest were not provided in the remand plea seeking custody of arrested NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and executive Amit Chakravarty in a case lodged under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

"Apparently in the remand order you don't disclose grounds of arrest. There is a judgment of the Supreme Court now staring in the eye (sic)," Justice Tushar Rao Gedela pointed out, citing a recent apex court ruling.

The HC, however, refused to grant any interim relief to Purkayastha and Chakravarty, who have challenged their arrest and sought quashing of the FIR. It said the allegations are of such a nature that they don't permit immediate release.

Posting the matter for Monday, the HC asked the police to also respond to their applications seeking interim release till the pendency of the petitions. The two were arrested by the Delhi police special cell on October 3 and their custody was granted to the police by a trial court till October 11.

At the request of senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who appeared for the accused, the HC also asked the investigating officer to produce the case diary before it on Monday. It also directed that the medical condition of Chakravarty, who is differently abled, not be compromised.



A cop at the office of NewsClick at Saket during raids by Delhi Police's special cell on Tuesday

Posting the matter for Monday, the HC asked the police to also respond to Purkayastha & Chakravarty applications seeking interim release till the pendency of the petitions. The two were arrested by the Delhi police special cell on October 3

ence of the petitioner's counsel though he was contacted only at 7 am and could not have been present at 6 am, the time recorded in the remand order. "What is happening to our courts? That's all I can say. Grounds of arrest are not given to me. Now there is an order of the Supreme Court that grounds of arrest are not only to be communicated but they have to be handed over to the person in writing," he argued.

The HC told the SG: "So far as the remand order is concerned, it was passed at 6 am and apparently he (trial court judge) has not heard the counsel (for accused)."

The SG sought time to respond to the petitions.

## FIR claims plot to present Arunachal and Kashmir as 'disputed territories'

►Continued from P 1

Responding to the allegations made against it in the NewsClick FIR, a Xiaomi India spokesperson said, "We have no knowledge about this. We strongly deny the said allegation against Xiaomi in the FIR. Xiaomi conducts its business operations with utmost respect to, and in strict compliance of applicable laws. Any allegation of conspiracy is completely baseless."

The FIR says Singham has invested crores through a complex web of entities by circumventing rules for receipt of foreign funds by NGOs. It also states, "Since April 2018, fraudulent funds in crores of rupees has been received by M/S PPK NewsClick Studio Pvt Ltd through illegal means during a short period of five years from M's Worldwide Media Holdings LLC, USA and others," claiming that Navlakha was a shareholder in NewsClick and had ties with ISI agent Ghulam Nabi Fai.

"Inputs also revealed that Purkayastha, Singham and some Chinese-origin employees of Singham have exchanged mails which expose their intent to show Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh as not part of India. Such attempts by these persons reveal their conspiracy to peddle a narrative, both globally and domestically, that Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh are disputed territories," the FIR says.

"Their attempts to tinker with the northern borders of India and to show Kashmir and Arunachal as not parts of India in maps amount to an act intended towards undermining the unity and territorial integrity of India. The accused persons have also conspired to disrupt supplies and services essential to the life of community in India and damage and destruction of property by protraction of farmers' protest through such illegal funding," it alleges.

These allegations were also used in seeking Purkayastha's remand in court after the arrest. According to the FIR, a mutually beneficial nexus was established between some Indian entities and inimical foreign establishments.

"The objective of the above nexus was to promote, support each other for the purpose of backing, supporting, funding farmers' agitation with the objective of causing huge loss of several hundred crores to the Indian economy and create internal law and order problems in India," it alleges.

"Purkayastha, Singham and (historian Vijay) Parshad and others also actively propagated false narratives to discredit the efforts of the Indian government to contain the Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, they have acted against the national interest by promoting a misleading and false narrative about the domestic pharmaceutical industry and the policies and development initiatives of the democratically elected Indian government in cohorts with the Anti-National forces (sic)."

"It is learnt that Purkayastha conspired with a group namely People's Alliance for Democracy and Secularism (PADS) to sabotage the electoral process during the 2019 General Elections. To disrupt sovereignty of India and to cause disaffection against India, large amount of funds were routed from China in circuitous and camouflaged manner and paid news were (sic) intentionally peddled criticising domestic policies, development projects of India and promoting, projecting and defending policies and programmes of Chinese government."

"It is also learnt that People's Dispatch Portal, owned and maintained by M/S PPK NewsClick Studio Pvt Ltd, has been used for intentionally peddling these false narratives through paid news in lieu of crores of rupees of illegally routed foreign funds as part of conspiracy." Further, Purkayastha, Singham, Geeta Hariharan and Gautam Bhaitia (key person) conspired to create a Legal Community Network in India to campaign for and put up spirited defence of legal cases against aforementioned Chinese telecom companies in return for benefits by these Chinese firms," the FIR alleges.

It concludes saying that "the accused and their associates have been involved in continuous unlawful activities which include undermining India's unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. That aforementioned accused have conspired to commit unlawful activities and terrorist acts by aiding and abetting disruption of supplies and services essential for life of community and continued damage and destruction of property through illegal means."

## Facing heat, Maha eases norms for drugs purchase

Mumbai: Facing heat for failing to procure medicine stocks on time, the state on Thursday granted collectors the authority to utilize 100% of medical funds available with the District Planning Development Committee (DPDC) for purchase of drugs. Previously, they could use only 10% of it. Additionally, in the wake of the Nanded incident, the public health department has decided to urgently purchase essential and life-saving medicines to address any potential shortages, reports Sumitra DebRoy.

During the pandemic, similar powers were delegated to districts to facilitate emergency medical purchases. A fixed portion of the DPDC funds is specifically designated for procurement of medical supplies. However, districts were only able to expend 10% of this allocation, with the remaining 90% directed toward bulk purchases by Haffkine Biopharmaceutical. The circular issued on Thursday ushers in a shift in procurement, allowing districts to fully utilise their DPDC medical budgets at their discretion.

TOI recently published a series of reports, shedding light on Haffkine Biopharmaceutical's failings in centralised procurement, resulting in intermittent shortages of medication at government facilities over the last few years.

## — Unstoppable —

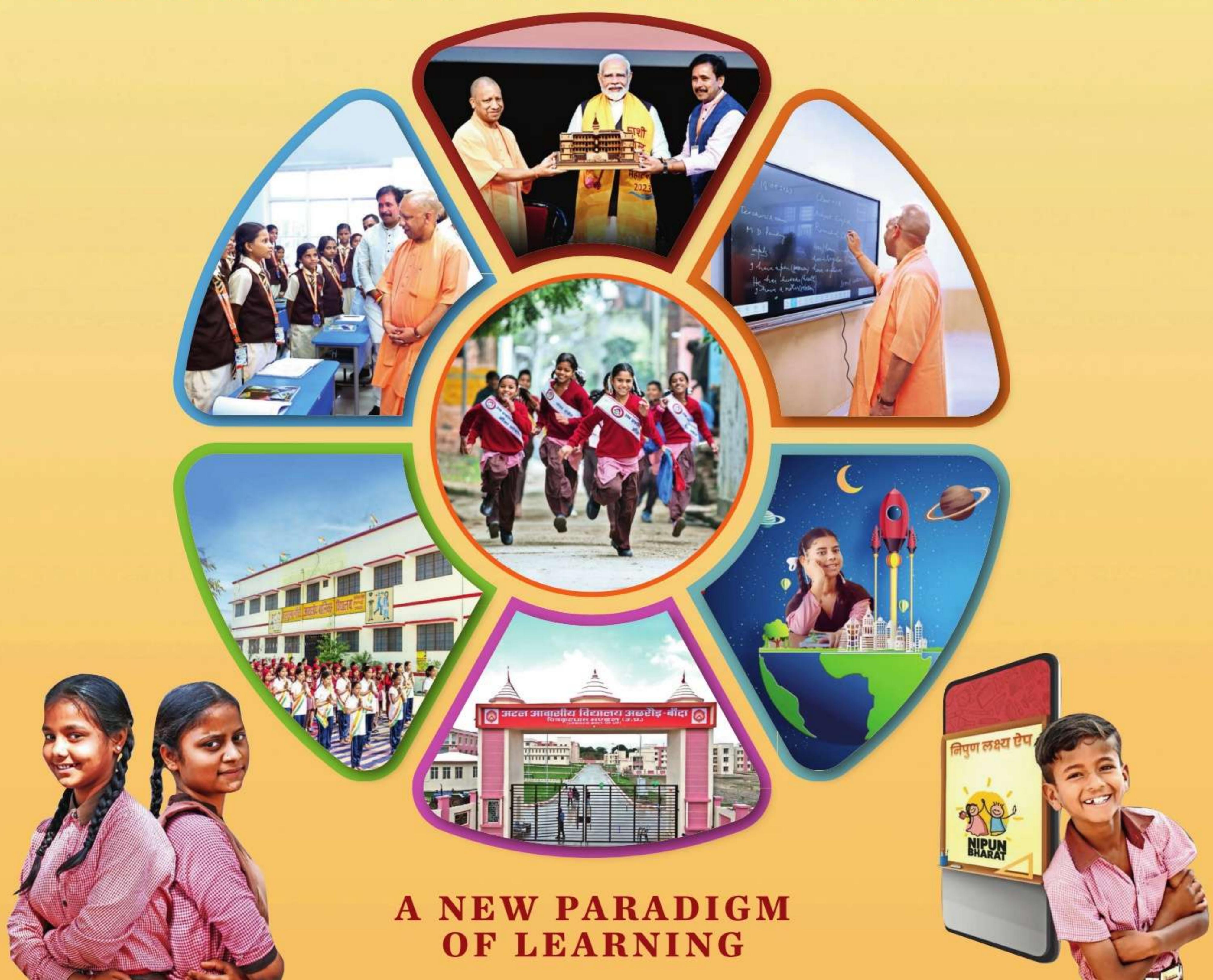


Celebrating India's #Unstoppable21

They are young. They are ambitious. And they're shaking up the world.  
They are the Unstoppable 21, selected by TOI's eminent jury for their talent and ability to re-shape tomorrow. Scan the QR code to delve into their stories.



# EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION IN UTTAR PRADESH



## A NEW PARADIGM OF LEARNING

### SCRIPTING A NEW CHAPTER FOR A NEW UTTAR PRADESH

#### OPERATION 'KAYAKALP'

- Better educational infrastructure and environment being provided to students through Operation 'Kayakalp', which has led to significant rise in student enrolments
- Under Operation Kayakalp 1.40 lakh schools rejuvenated
- Provision of basic amenities like separate toilets for boys and girls, multiple hand washing units, upgradation of school kitchens, tiling of classrooms, clean water and other infrastructure facilities made possible through 'Kayakalp'
- Smart classes established for quality-based digital learning in 1.40 lakh primary and upper primary schools

#### NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR PROFICIENCY IN READING WITH UNDERSTANDING AND NUMERACY (NIPUN) BHARAT MISSION

- The objective of the mission is to establish foundational literacy and numeracy in primary schools by 2025
- Nipun Assessment Test (NAT) once every trimester to evaluate the learning of students in district schools
- Test organised for 1.92 crore students between class I and class VIII
- Best training being imparted to more than 6.24 lakh teachers for enhancing their expertise
- More than 150 print study-materials and maths kits provided for activity-based education plan in schools

#### VIDYA SAMIKSHA KENDRA

- Vidya Samiksha Kendra established by CM Yogi Adityanath in January 2023
- Data dashboard developed through

more than 20 technical parameters

- Direct interaction with more than 1 lakh beneficiaries every month

#### SCHOOL HAR DIN AAYEN (SHARDA) PROGRAMME

- Surveys conducted under the programme and 5.5 lakh school dropouts identified and enroled back into schools
- Beautification of basic infrastructure in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya
- Arrangements for condensed study material, teaching-learning material, and special training for nodal teachers

#### PROJECT ALANKAR

- As many as 450 state-run high schools and intermediate colleges across Uttar Pradesh are being revamped under Project Alankar
- Project includes construction of laboratories, multipurpose halls and library rooms besides providing clean piped drinking water facility, additional classrooms, separate toilets for boys and girls, playground, badminton & volleyball courts and open gyms

#### DIGITAL & SMART INTERFACES

- Career guidance through 'Pankh' Portal
- 'PAHUNCH' portal being used for school mapping so it may serve in unserved habitation
- Smart classes in more than 40,000 schools
- ICTs lab upgraded in more than 5000 schools
- 16 lakh tablets/smartphones distributed to meritorious students
- Distribution of 2.09 lakh tablets to

teachers of Council schools

#### DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING (DIKSHA) APP

- Study material developed by subject experts available to students from class I to class XII
- 60,000 headmasters trained through DIKSHA, workshops and YouTube Live under the School Leadership Development Programme

#### SAMARTH APP

- More than 2.98 lakh physically challenged children have been identified through the app and registered in schools
- Arrangement of 2116 special educators/teachers

#### DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER

- Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) of Rs 1200 to parents of 1.92 crore school children falling under the Basic Education Council, Uttar Pradesh, for uniforms, sweaters, school bags, shoes, socks, stationery, etc

#### RANI LAXMI BAI SELF-DEFENCE TRAINING PROGRAMME

- Through Rani Laxmi Bai Self-defence Training Programme, as many as 40 lakh girl students from 44,000 upper primary schools and 746 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya trained in self-defence
- 11,000 sports instructors, physical trainers/ female trainers and sports teachers trained by experts

#### TRANSPARENT AND FAIR BOARD EXAMINATIONS

- Formation of 'Central Command &

Monitoring Centre' for holding fair and transparent examinations

- More than 3 lakh CCTVs used for real-time monitoring of 1.37 lakh examination centres

#### NEW HORIZONS

- 16 Residential Schools for needy children in Uttar Pradesh – Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas – have been opened to provide quality education to children of labourers and construction workers and those orphaned during the Covid-19 pandemic
- UP to have state-of-the-art Chief Minister Model Composite Schools in 57 districts, which will provide education till class XII
- These schools to be built on 5 to 10 acres
- Enrolment of 1.92 crore children under 'School Chalo Abhiyan'
- 648 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya upgraded till class XII
- 79,600 female students provided with free lodging
- Under the recently announced Prime Minister Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI), ultra-modern technical and digital education system is to be developed in schools in a phased manner in accordance with the principles of the NEP
- 925 government schools of UP have been selected under PM SHRI with the cooperation of the Central Government
- Teachers being provided exposure through visits to centres of excellence – IIT Gandhinagar, IIM Lucknow and IIT Mandi



# Amid row, Canada says it will attend P-20 meeting

All Issues Will Be Raised, Says LS Speaker

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Amid the diplomatic row with India, Canada has confirmed its participation in the Parliament-20 meeting of G20 nations' presiding officers scheduled for next week with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday saying that all issues will be raised with the speaker of the Canadian senate.

The presiding officers of 25 countries and 10 deputy speakers from the G20 member-nations and invite countries are expected to attend the P-20 Summit that will be held at the India International Convention and Expo Centre — Yashobhoomi — at Dwarka from October 12 to 14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the P-20 meet.

Canada will be represented at the P-20 Summit by speaker of the senate Raymonde Gagné. India's relations with Canada have been under severe strain after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau linked Indian agents to the killing of Khalistani



The proposed theme is 'Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future', Speaker Om Birla said at a press conference on the P-20 Summit

separatist leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia in June.

"We will discuss issues that have been listed for the summit. Other issues will be discussed informally," Speaker Birla told reporters.

More than 350 delegates are expected to attend the three-day summit that will see the participation of 50 members of Parliament, 14 general secretaries, 26 vice-presidents, the International Parliamentary Union president and the president of the Pan-African Parliament.

"The main theme of the 9th P-20 is proposed to be 'Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future,'" Birla told a press conference here.

**Story-telling or gentle shaming, or both, may have worked**

►Continued from P 1

V erma, with 14 years of teaching under his belt and with the responsibility of maintaining quality of education in five schools in the area, first sent other students to persuade the kids. Then he tried talking to elders in Meena and Gajraj's family. He was told the children were needed at home to help with housework.

In many Uttar Pradesh schools, that would have been the end of the story. Verma made it the beginning of a whole new story. He got a nod from his head teacher and last Wednesday, held classes at the doorstep of the dropouts.

Verma says he thought this would be the best way to demonstrate to the two dropouts and their parents what the kids are missing out on.

The day he took the school to the dropouts' home, it didn't begin well. Neither the family nor the villagers were much impressed. Then Verma, who travels 34km every day for his teaching duties, started telling stories — short tales with morals on the importance of education.

Maybe it was because he's a good raconteur or maybe because his gentle shaming worked, or perhaps because of both, villagers started coming to hear him — and then Meena and Gajraj trooped out.

Since that day, the children have been back at school. The video of Verma taking the school to those who wouldn't come to school has gone viral.

"I am famous now," says the 43-year-old teacher. He deserves his fame.

**'Burden of patients' can't be excuse for deaths: HC to Maha**

Rosy Sequeira  
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Bombay high court on Friday told the state government it cannot escape its responsibility by citing the burden of patients coming to its hospitals while hearing a suo motu public interest litigation following deaths in two state-run hospitals in Nanded and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar between September 30 and October 3.

"You can't escape by saying there is a burden of patients coming in. You are the State. You can't shift responsibility to private players," said Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Arif Doctor. They responded to advocate general Birendra Saraf's statement that in government hospitals, the "burden of patients is so high" and while these deaths are "unfortunate", "it does not seem like gross negligence by the hospitals."

Saraf submitted a report, by the commissioner, medical education and AYUSH, regarding 24 deaths on October 1 at the Nanded hospital. He said patients were brought in critical condition having been referred by private and some government hospitals. Medicines and other supplies were administered as per protocol.

Three out of 12 infants who died were born in the hospital. The judges said the report "underscores the need for more manpower" due to increased neonatal patients. They said 278 of 325 sanctioned posts are filled,

The next hearing in the case is on October 30.

## U'khand okays home mini-bar licence policy, but with riders

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Dehradun: Uttarakhand government's new excise policy for 2023-24 has introduced a provision of giving licence to keep mini-bars at home, but with certain key riders.

District excise officer (Dehradun) Rajiv Chauhan said, "Anyone who has been filing ITR for the past five years can apply for the licence at the district magistrate office, which will issue the home bar licence at an annual fee of Rs 12,000." Once approved, the licence holder will be entitled to keep nine litres of Indian Made Foreign Liquor, 18 litres of foreign alcohol, nine litres of wine and 15.6 litres of beer at home.

A pre-summit event, namely Parliamentary Forum on Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), will be held on October 12 at Yashobhoomi. An exhibition titled 'Mother of Democracy' will also be organised to highlight India's ancient and participative democratic traditions," Birla said.

The P-20 delegates will also be taken on a tour of the new Parliament house. This will be followed by a cultural evening and dinner hosted by Speaker Birla.

## 4 charged to death in Punjab pharma unit fire

Amritsar: Four staff including a woman were charged to death in a fire at a pharmaceutical factory near Amritsar city around 5pm Thursday. As many as 15 fire tenders were deployed to douse the flames but they could not contain its spread, as nearly 500 alcohol drums in the unit caught fire.

It was well past midnight when the blaze was put out and rescue operations started. It was then that the bodies of the staff were found. TNN

**HOSPITAL TRAGEDY**

The judges, however, frowned at the budgetary allocation for public healthcare in the last 3 years, saying "a clear decline is visible". Amicus curiae, advocate Mohit Khanna, said Maharashtra Medical Goods Procurement Authority Act, 2023 came into force on May 10 to ensure timely availability and distribution of medical goods. "How to strengthen it? Everything is there in place on paper. If it has not trickled down to the ground, what is the point?" the CJ asked.

The HC judges lamented about the general condition of healthcare in the state. On learning the procurement authority has no fully fledged CEO, the judges directed the state to appoint a CEO within 2 weeks.

The bid document cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)

Online Bids through e-Tender portal ([https://tendersodisha.gov.in](http://tendersodisha.gov.in)) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, Installation & Commissioning of Blood Bank Equipment with Reagents & Micro-pipettes as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost Inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1	OSMCL/2023-24/Blood Bank EQP with reagents & Micro-pipettes/21	Tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Blood Bank Equipment with Reagents & Micro-pipettes	Rs. 5,900/-

Sl. No. Particulars Date and time

- Date & time of release of bid 06.10.2023, 5 PM
- Date & time of Pre-bid meeting 16.10.2023, 11:30 AM
- Date & time of Online bid submission Start Date & Time 25.10.2023, 3 PM End Date & Time 13.11.2023, 5 PM
- Date & time of online Technical bid opening 16.11.2023, 3 PM
- Date of opening of Price Bid To be informed to the qualified bidders

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

Sd/- Managing Director, OSMCL OIPR-10112/11/0027/23-24

**CAD-2326**

**Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)**  
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar - 751 001  
Tel.: (0674) 2380608 Website : [www.osmcl.nic.in](http://www.osmcl.nic.in), Email: [proc.osmcl.od@nic.in](mailto:proc.osmcl.od@nic.in)

Notification No. 9953/OSMCL/2023

NOTICE INVITING E-Tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Blood Bank Equipment with Reagents & Micro-pipettes

Date: 05.10.2023

Online Bids through e-Tender portal ([https://tendersodisha.gov.in](http://tendersodisha.gov.in)) are invited from eligible bidders for supply, Installation & Commissioning of Equipment as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl. No. Bid Reference No. Item Name Bid Document Cost Inclusive of GST (Rs.)

1 OSMCL/2023-24/Blood Bank EQP with reagents & Micro-pipettes/21 Tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Blood Bank Equipment with Reagents & Micro-pipettes Rs. 5,900/-

Sl. No. Particulars Date and time

1. Date & time of release of bid 06.10.2023, 5 PM

2. Date & time of Pre-bid meeting 16.10.2023, 11:30 AM

Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit - III, Bhubaneswar

3. Date & time of Online bid submission Start Date & Time 25.10.2023, 3 PM End Date & Time 13.11.2023, 5 PM

4. Date & time of online Technical bid opening 16.11.2023, 3 PM

5. Date of opening of Price Bid To be informed to the qualified bidders

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

Sd/- Managing Director, OSMCL OIPR-10112/11/0027/23-24

**SHRI SAIBABA SANSTHAN TRUST, SHIRDI.**  
Post-Shirdi, Tal. --- Rahata, Dist. Ahmednagar, Pin 423109  
Phone No. - (02423) 258901 / 258905 Fax - 258870  
E mail: [construction@sai.org.in](mailto:construction@sai.org.in), Website: [www.sai.org.in](http://www.sai.org.in)

**Tender Notice**

Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust, Shirdi invites tenders from GeM Portal for the supply of furniture and benches for "Sai Baba Educational Campus" At Gat No.: 183, Nimgaon- Korhale, Tal: Rahata, Dist.: Ahmednagar. The tender details will be available on website [www.gem.gov.in](http://www.gem.gov.in) for downloading. For details and terms and conditions / minimum qualifying criteria visit our official website [www.sai.org.in](http://www.sai.org.in).

Tender publishing date: 07/10/2023

Tender submission end date: 21/10/2023

(P. Siva Shankar, IAS)  
Chief Executive Officer,

DGIPR 2023-2024/3992

## From 2024, BIS nod must for another 115 items

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: From next year, products, including many used in our daily life such as electric ceiling fans, stainless steel cookware, wrought aluminium utensils, block boards and aluminium cans for beverages will come under the mandatory quality norms notified by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). This will ensure products manufactured, imported and sold here

are not sub-standard.

Once the Quality Control Order (QCO) comes into effect, manufacturing, importing, storing and sale of non-BIS compliant products becomes an offence. Violation of this can attract jail of up to two years or a fine of at least Rs 2 lakh for the first offence. For second and subsequent offences, the fine will be a minimum of Rs 5 lakh and extend up to 10 times the value of goods.

The government has noti-

fied timelines for implementation of the mandatory quality norm, officially called Quality Control Order, for 115 categories of products in the next six months of this financial year. In the past six months, till Friday, products under 55 categories, including water treatment system (RO) and food for special medical purposes intended for infants have been mandatory since October 8.

Officials said the QCO for electric ceiling fans, stainless steel cookware, wrought aluminium utensils and aluminium cans for beverages will be in force from February 9.

To support MSMEs, implementation is from August 2024.

RFB No. : No CE/EAP/ARRBP/111/TENDERS/2023/44

## REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB) E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE - Open Competitive Bidding (Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

The Government of Assam through Government of India has applied for financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the **Assam Resilient Rural Bridges Program (ARRBP)** and intends to apply part of the proceeds to the eligible payment under the contract. Bids are invited online from the eligible bidders from India for the following works as detailed in the table below.

### TABLE

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of the work	Approx. Estimated Amount (Rupees in Lakh)	Bid security (Rupees in Lakh)	Tender Processing fees (INR)	Completion Period (month)
1	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-2/Morigaon/04	<b>Construction of Bridges in Morigaon district:</b> i) Br. No. 3/1 on Pachim Charabahri Garmari Road ii) Br. No. 4/1 on Jaliguti Kurpar to Kolmoubari via Barchakabaha	901.85	18.04	5000	30
2	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-2/Morigaon/05	<b>Construction of Bridges in Morigaon district:</b> i) Br. No. 1/1 on Kodamtola to Dakhin Tengaguri Road ii) Br. No. 2/1 on Kadamtola to Dakin Tengaguri Road	519.15	10.38	5000	24
3	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-2/Nagaon/01	<b>Construction of Bridges in Nagaon district:</b> i) Br. No. 1/1 on Beltoli Notun Bazar Road ii) Br. No. 3/1 on Samaguri Udmari Road to Kathalguri Amlakhni Road via Sotarbasti	546.29	10.93	5000	24
4	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-2/Nagaon/02	<b>Construction of Bridges in Nagaon district:</b> i) Br. No. 2/1 on Chalchali Muslimegaon to KA Road ii) Br. No. 1/1 on BB Road to Ghogragaon	474.18	9.48	5000	24
5	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-2/Kamrup/11	<b>Construction of Bridges in Kamrup district:</b> i) Br. No. 2/1 on Lochana Sathikarpa Road ii) Br. No. 1/1 on Tapor Pathar Village Road	568.25	11.37	5000	24
6	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-2/Darrang/07	<b>Construction of Bridges in Darrang district:</b> i) Br. No. 1/1 on Singimari Dampur Road ii) Br. No. 1/2 on Duni Bagachala to Duni Connecting Road	470.65	9.41	5000	24
7	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridges-2/Darrang/08	<b>Construction of Bridges in Darrang district:</b> i) Br. No. 1/1 on RK Road to Pokibhangipara via Kulapani Nath ii) Br. No. 5/1 on NH- 15 to Bandia Road	564.48	11.29	5000	24
8	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Darrang/09	<b>Construction of Bridges in Darrang district:</b> i) Br. No. 1/1 on Gomthapra LP School to Jhargao connecting Road	347.02	6.94	5000	24
9	CE/EAP/ARRBP/OCB/Bridge-1/Lakhimpur/04	<b>Construction of Bridge in Lakhimpur district:</b> i) Br. No. 1/1 on Dimouruguri Panchayat to Lepong				

# In 20 years, half of SC & HC judges could be women: CJI

Greets 75 New Maha Judicial Officers, 42 Of Them Women

Dhananjay.Mahapatra  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud on Friday proposed that half the Supreme Court and the high court judges could be women in a decade or two as he welcomed into his courtroom 75 new judicial officers from Maharashtra, of which 42 were women, and termed it "signs of changing time" for gender equality in the traditionally male-dominated judiciary.

"This is now a trend in the recruitment of judicial officers all over the country. I am very happy to inform everyone that out of the 75 new batch of judicial officers from Maharashtra present in the courtroom and visiting the SC, 42 are women. There are five direct recruit district judges, of whom two are women," the CJI said prior to commencing judicial work.

Equal representation of women among constitutional court judges appears a remote possibility, even if one



This is a trend in the recruitment of judicial officers all over the country, the CJI said and termed it 'signs of changing time' for gender equality in the traditionally male-dominated judiciary

It is heartening with women having a 35% representation among judicial officers. Goa takes the lead with 70% of women judicial officers followed by Meghalaya 62.7%, Telangana 52.8%, Sikkim 52.4% and Mizoram 51.2%.

In contrast to the popular perception that the judiciary does not attract talent, the CJI informed the lawyers present in his courtroom that the newly recruited judicial officers from Maharashtra possessed diverse talents.

From among the crowd of lawyers, senior advocate Dushyant Dave said the bar body expects similar representation of women among the constitutional court judges. The CJI said, "What we see today in the constitutional courts is a reflection of the situation two decades back in the district courts. As gender equality is taking firm roots in the district courts, I am sure a similar representation of women would be witnessed among constitutional courts in a decade or two."

shares the CJI's optimism, as among the 32 SC judges only three are women, which includes Justice B V Nagarkar who would go on to become the first woman CJI in 2027 albeit for 36 days. Among the 25 HCs, there is not a single woman CJI. Among the over 780 HC judges, women comprise only 13%. Manipur, Meghalaya, Patna, Tripura and Uttarakhand HCs have no women judges.

But, the trend in trial cou-

## SC is now more accessible with a sign language interpreter

New Delhi: The appointment of a sign language interpreter by the Supreme Court will make the judicial system more inclusive and accessible and ensure that every voice is heard, every word understood and every right upheld, according to disability rights activists.

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Friday announced the appointment of a sign language interpreter to help hearing-impaired lawyers and litigants to comprehend judicial proceedings. The CJI said he wanted to have a sign language interpreter for the constitution bench hearings.

Lauding the move, disability rights activist Satendra Singh said that with the appointment of a sign language interpreter, the SC reaffirms its commitment to a justice system where no one is left behind. "Justice knows no bounds. Inclusive judicial proceedings ensure that every voice is heard, every word understood, and every right upheld," said Singh, professor at University College of Medical Sciences and GTB Hospital, Delhi. PTI

# Can't bar parties from pledging poll sops: SC

## Issues Notice To MP, Raj, Centre & Poll Panel

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday said it could not control political parties from making all kinds of election-eve promises but decided to seek responses from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, the Centre and the Election Commission on a PIL that alleged that irrational cash doles announced by chief ministers of poll-bound states were pushing these states into financial crises.

"Before elections, all kinds of promises are made. We can't control it," said a three-judge bench led by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud when a PIL filed by Bhattacharjee came up for hearing. Jain's counsel said that cash doles promised by the CM of Madhya Pradesh, which is facing financial constraints, would put the state in a precarious condition financially and the burden would be passed on to



the taxpayers after the polls.

Unaware of Jain's recent unsuccessful attempt before the Madhya Pradesh high court on this issue, the CJI asked petitioner's counsel why he had approached the SC directly without moving the HC. The counsel then said that Rajasthan chief minister had also announced similar cash doles.

The bench then decided to issue notice to the two states, the Union government and the EC, and tagged the

petition with the pending PIL of Ashwini Upadhyay, who has sought a direction to the EC to frame guidelines to rein in parties from making election-eve promises for irrational freebies without quantifying the cost of such promises to the exchequer and future burden on taxpayers.

Cash doles, as part of poll eve strategy or otherwise, is nothing new and it has been prevalent in states ruled by both NDA and opposition INDIA alliance parties.

## Can't deactivate person's UID without proper probe, says HC

Kolkata: The Calcutta HC has stayed the deactivation of Aadhaar of a woman and her family members, accused of being Bangladeshi citizens, saying such a move, without a formal inquiry, would impact their right to live with dignity, reports Aheli Banerjee.

The Union home ministry had proceeded to deactivate their Aadhaar cards based on information received from a central security agency, after the petitioner's estranged husband had initiated criminal proceedings, alleging that she and her family were Bangladeshis. The petitioner had earlier filed a matrimonial suit and an alimony application against her husband.

The court noted that the documents submitted by the woman indicated Indian citizenship. Even if it was assumed that the documents furnished by her husband were purportedly of her Bangladeshi nationality, "there is no reason why...such documents, without further scrutiny...would violate the documents produced by her", the judge said.

## CJI distressed by HCs junking e-hearing infra

New Delhi: Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, whose initiatives have virtually ushered in a revolution in use of technology in the conservative and traditional justice dispensation system in the SC, Friday took exception to many high courts dismantling the investment-intensive infrastructure for virtual hearing set up to provide access to justice to litigants and lawyers during the dark phases of the pandemic, reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.

He said, "The question no longer is whether a judge is technology-friendly. Technology is no longer a matter of choice and all judges must realise this. It is part of the system like law books. It is like a driving licence required for driving a car."

He said the parliamentary committee were very receptive to the SC's proposals on e-courts and the government has released Rs 7,000 crore for it. "The MPs are expressing concern that the virtual hearing infrastructure, which was put up in every HC at huge cost, is being disbanded. We must understand that a huge public fund had gone into it," the CJI said.

Referring with considerable anguish to the state of affairs relating to the hybrid system of hearing in Bombay HC, CJI Chandrachud said, "It distresses me no end that my parent HC has disbanded the infrastructure. In a city like Mumbai, which faces perennial traffic problems and travelling is so difficult, why not have a hybrid system of hearing?"

"Why would the HC in a premier financial centre be so averse to technology? The Bombay HC must give a signal to all other HCs that it is in sync with the march of technology and not project to the country that they will function as they did 150 years ago," the CJI said.

Maharashtra advocate general Birendra Saraf said, "We can only convey it to the HC chief justice. On behalf of the state government, I can say it is ready to provide all assistance to the Bombay HC for setting up hybrid hearing infrastructure in every courtroom." However, he said that the HC being a heritage building faces wireless signal problems.

The CJI disagreed and said, "When I was a judge there was no air-conditioning and the same ruse of heritage building was given. It could be done with some imaginative steps. I am sure the state AG and the HC in consultation and collaboration can make WiFi facilities available in the entire building."

## SC refuses to restrain Bihar from acting on caste study data

AmitAnand.Choudhary  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday turned down a plea to restrain the Bihar government from taking further decisions on the basis of the caste survey done by it in the state, saying that preventing a government from taking a policy decision would be wrong.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhattacharjee said the Patna HC verdict, upholding the state's decision to hold a caste survey, was very detailed and a challenge to it had to be heard in detail. As the petitioners made a fervent plea to direct the state to maintain status quo, the bench said it would not be right to pass such an order as data was very important because policy decisions were taken on the basis of data. "We can't stop the state government. Preventing the government from taking decisions on policy would be 'stretching it too much'." The bench, after hearing both sides, issued notice and posted the case for hearing in January.

Aprajita had also argued that the HC order was wrong on multiple fronts and tried to make out a case that conducting a caste survey was illegal on many grounds, including violation of right to privacy of citizens. But the bench said connecting violation of privacy with the survey would be "stretching it too much". The bench, after hearing both sides, issued notice and posted the case for hearing in January.

On August 1, the Patna HC had dismissed a batch of PILs challenging the validity of the survey, terming the state government's initiative "perfectly valid and legally competent", paving the way for the stalled exercise to resume after almost three months. The data collection exercise was completed within days after the HC verdict.

## SC seeks govt strategy on muscular dystrophy

Dhananjay.Mahapatra  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday sought to know from the Union government its plans about putting in place a national scheme for treatment of patients of advanced stage muscular dystrophy after entertaining a petition by parents of 251 children afflicted with this near fatal rare disease.

Appearing for the parents, advocate Utsav Bains informed a bench of CJ D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala that grade-I muscular dystrophy (MD) afflicted children, who show signs of it in tender age, is possible with one-time treatment that costs Rs 15 lakh, a sum provided by the government.

However, it is the late detection of the rare disease, due to absence of information and wide availability of medical technology that creates both emotional and financial issues for the parents. Bains said that the grade-II

and III muscular dystrophy treatment cost ranges from Rs 2-3 crore annually as medicines are imported from US and European countries with little chance of complete recovery.

The CJI-led bench said as medicines for this are not developed in India at present, there may be a need for framing a national policy. It sought the Centre's response to the PIL within four weeks and requested additional solicitor general Aishwarya Bhati to assist the court.

"All forms of MD grow worse over time as muscles degenerate and weaken. Many with MD lose the ability to walk. ...There are about five lakh such patients in India," the petitioners said.

Invoking the right to life, which encompasses right to health, the petitioners said there is an urgent need for framing of a national programme for children with muscular dystrophy and issuing each patient a unique ID to enable them get free treatment.

## HC slams cop for framing disabled NDA staffer by conducting false probe

Rosy.Sequeira@timesgroup.com

tion of Rs 25,000 to Kamal Tiwari and directed it to be paid to the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority within six months. The state government will recover the amount from the salary of the investigation officer Anand Pagare, who is currently posted as inspector at Police Training Centre, Daund.

The NDA had sent Tiwari's 41% disability certificate issued by Sassoon Hospital, Pune, on December 1, 2012, to the facility for verification. The hospital said it couldn't trace the original record pertaining to the certificate, prompting the NDA to lodge a complaint in May 2016 that Tiwari, who had joined as assistant professor (sociology),

had produced a forged certificate. Tiwari was booked for cheating and forgery. In September 2016, the hospital wrote to Pagare that the original record had been traced. Pagare ignored this communication, and filed the chargesheet in July 2017.

Tiwari's advocate Jagdish Reddy said he was made to suffer because of Pagare's vindictive attitude. The judges said "malicious" prosecution caused Tiwari not only harassment but also immeasurable anguish, and the acts done in a clandestine manner by Pagare warrant compensation. Reddy said Tiwari is not interested in compensation and it can be paid to the legal services authority.

## TIMES interact

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### tender & notices

#### TENDERS

**SBI**  
**STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
RBO - 4, AO - 4, CRM Campus-II, Plot No.79, Sector-18, Gurugram, Haryana-122015  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE**  
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**Name of Branch & Approx Carpet Area**  
Sector 34, Gurugram Branch Hiring of premises for Shifting of Sector 34, Gurugram Branch (Branch code 62249) Carpet Area - 2000 sq ft (185 sq mts) preferably on ground floor in Sec- 37C & Sec-37D.  
For further details and downloading bidding form/documents, please visit website [www.sbi.co.in](http://www.sbi.co.in) or <https://bank.sbi> under "PROCUREMENT NEWS" section. The last date for submission of bids by our above office is 21.10.2023 upto 03:00 PM.  
No brokers please.  
Authorised Signatory

#### MSTC LIMITED

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)  
CIN: L2730WB1964G012621

Tender for selection of Agencies for sand operation in AP

e-Tender for selection of Agency for conducting all Sand Operations, such as Excavation, Storage, Sale etc. of sand in the State of Andhra Pradesh for following packages:

**Package-I:** Srikrishnampet, Maniyam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, Alluri Seetha Rama Raju, Konaseema, Kakinada & East Godavari districts (e-Tender No. MLS/Head Office/Marketing/I/23-24/ET/6).

**Package-II:** West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, N.T.R., Guntur, Palnadu, Bapatla & Prakasam districts (e-Tender No. MLS/Head Office/Marketing/I/23-24/ET/7).

**Package-III:** Nellore, Sri Balaji, Chittoor, Annamayya, Y.S.R. Kadapa, Ananthapuram, Sri Satyavati, Kurnool & Nandyala districts (e-Tender No. MLS/Head Office/Marketing/I/23-24/ET/8). Due date for Tender submission: 30/10/2023. For details & registration visit <https://www.mstccommerce.com/eproc>. Corrigenda/Extensions/Clarifications, if any, will be hosted on MSTC's website only. Bidders should regularly visit above website to keep themselves updated.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Ishaan Gupta is going to surrender his SEBI registration No. INA100003675 and if anyone has any grievances, please lodge the grievances at [scores.gov.in](http://scores.gov.in)

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**Audi** Q7 3.0 Quattro PP, Mfg 2014, Regn 2015, 65000 km, 2nd owner, Silver, excellent cond for Sale in Mumbai (Thane), Price 25 Lakhs, WhatsApp: 9819586611

#### personal

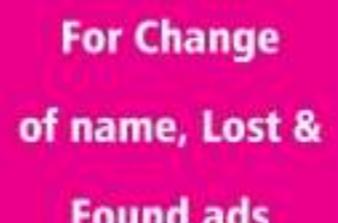
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#### NOTICE

HC slams cop for framing disabled NDA staffer by conducting false probe

Rosy.Sequeira@timesgroup.com

tion of Rs 25,000 to Kamal Tiwari and directed it to be paid to the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority within six months. The

## Mobile internet ban in Manipur extended till October 11

Imphal: The ban on mobile internet services in Manipur has been extended for five more days — till October 11 — even as schools reopened in the state on Friday after remaining shut for nine days, reports **N Benson Singh**.

State education authorities had ordered the closure of all schools on September 27 owing to protests by students in Imphal over the disappearance of two students and their alleged murders. However, Attendance was low on the first day.

Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh said that the government is trying to ensure that “people continue with their normal lives” after suffering for over four months now. Inaugurating the Institute of Driving Training and Research Centre at Imphal East, Biren said the crisis has been identified as a war waged against the Indian Union, and that the people should support the steps taken by the Centre and the state to protect Manipur from all forces attempting to break it up.

The CM stressed the need to start development projects as the situation was gradually returning to normal. “We have to show that despite so many difficulties, Manipur has overcome everything,” the CM said.

# 2 minors among 7 killed in Mumbai fire

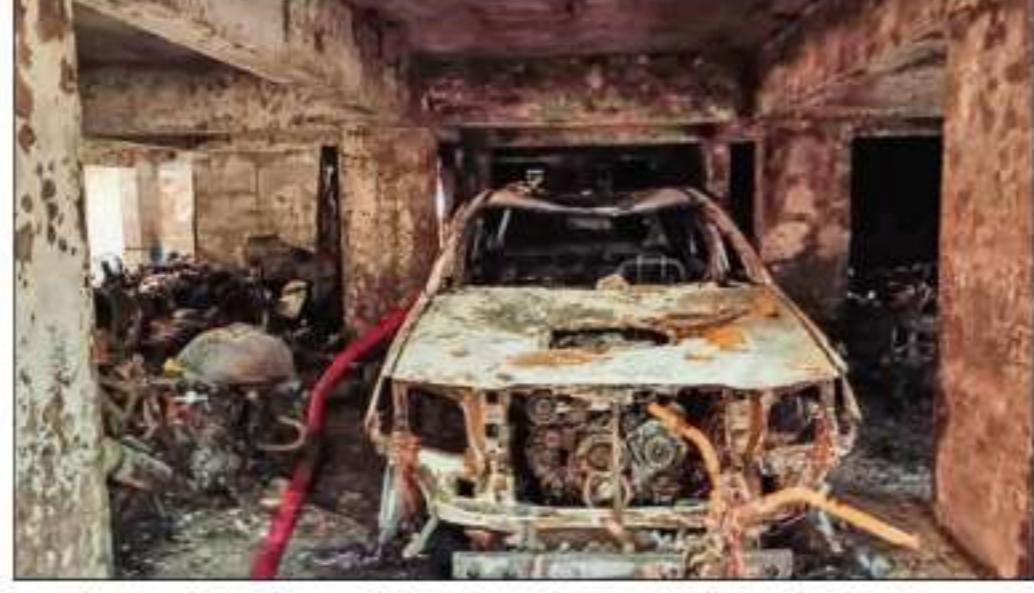
## 62 Injured In Blaze Sparked By A Short-Circuit

**Richa Pinto**  
& **Vijay S Singh | TNN**

**Mumbai:** Seven people including two minors were killed and 62 injured in Mumbai's worst fire tragedy this year at a seven-storey building in Goregaon west on Friday. A short-circuit in the stilt parking area seemed to have caused the early morning blaze which eventually spread due to a pile of old clothes in a corner of the 15-year-old slum rehabilitation tenement.

The Jay Bhawani building, built over a shanty settlement in 2008, did not have functional fire-fighting systems or lifts. An adjoining apartment constituting the slab component of the SRA project was partially damaged. However, none of its residents were injured.

Chief minister Eknath Shinde announced Rs 5 lakh compensation for relatives of the deceased and free medical assistance for those injured. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu expressed condolences



Survivors of the fire said they were better off living in the slums as Jay Bhawani building didn't have water supply or a working lift

over the loss of life. Modi declared relief of Rs 2 lakh for kin of victims and Rs 50,000 for the injured from the PM's National Relief Fund.

Shinde said a fire audit would also be conducted on all SRA buildings in the city. This was the third such incident in an SRA building this year. BMC commissioner IS Chahal said the seven deaths were caused by suffocation, not burns. “A committee will be formed to study how such disasters can be prevented in future,” he said.

BMC opened up its Unnat Nagar Municipal School premises in Goregaon to house the residents of Jai Bhawani as the entire structure had to be evacuated. Casualties were higher as the fire broke out around 3am when almost all the occupants were home. With the staircase, which was the sole exit route, engulfed in smoke, most residents remained trapped until the fire brigade arrived around 3.20am. It took three and a half hours for the blaze to be put out.

Survivors of the tragedy said they were better off living in the slums as they neither had drinking water supply nor did the lift function in the building.

**MUNICIPAL CORPORATION :: RAJAMAHENDRARAM, ENGINEERING SECTION : e - procurement Tender Notice**  
NIT No. 338/MCR/NRCD/STP/2023-24 Dt. 06-10-2023

Online tenders are invited from the eligible contractors on e-procurement for 1 work for an Internal Bench Mark Value of **Rs. 7865.84 lakhs (EPC System with Reverse tendering)**

Pollution Abatement and Conservation of River Godavari at Rajamahendraram, Andhra Pradesh under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) - Investigation, Survey Design, Supply, Construction, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Sewage Treatment Plant of 50.6 MLD capacity based on Open Technology (SBR) with three month trial run Post Completion Operation & Maintenance of entire Sewage Treatment Plant for 5 (five) years including 02 (two) years Defect Liability Period in Rajamahendraram.

1. Tenders can be downloaded. The tender schedules for the above works will be available from 07-10-2023 at 11.00 A.M onwards. 2. Last date of time of receipt of tenders on or before dt. 03-11-2023 upto 4.30 PM.

2. Further details can be seen at e -procurement website: [www.approcurement.gov.in](http://www.approcurement.gov.in) & <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in>

Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Rajamahendraram.

**Rs.  
7865.84  
lakhs**

**SRI VENKATESWARA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES-TIRUPATI TIRUMALA DEVI THAVANAM**  
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### e-TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited through e-tendering process in ap-ePROCUREMENT platform (Two bid system) for the Medical Equipment. For details Log on to the website <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> & <https://svimstpt.ap.nic.in>. The Director-cum-VC reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**DONATE LIBERALLY TO "SRI BALAJI AROGY VARAPRASADIN SCHEME" \ DIRECTOR-CUM-VC**

**RAJA MAHENDRA PRATAP SINGH STATE UNIVERSITY, ALIGARH**

Ref No : RMPU/E-tender/ 2445 /2023 Date : 04.10.2023

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

UNIVERSITY hereby invites Bid from eligible contractor/firms for "SITC OF INTERIOR, FURNISHINGS and DIGITIZATION IN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ACADEMIC SCIENCE BUILDING AND VICE-CHANCELLOR RESIDENCE" through GEM Portal ([gem.gov.in](http://gem.gov.in)). Estimated Cost of work is Rs. 7.5 Crore i.e. G.S.T. Bid Number on GEM Portal is GEM/2023/B/4041345 Dated 04-10-2023. Bid End Date and Time is 19-10-2023, 20:00.

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### Notice for Invitation of Tender

E-Tender No.: IRCON/2022/Santragachi/Tender/CO/2023, Dt. 07.10.2023 E-tender for and on behalf of South Eastern Railway is invited from Bidders meeting qualifying requirements for the work of, "Construction of circulating area connecting KONA Expressway with Santragachi Station building, Motor cycle parking and other misc. work in connection to Station development project of Santragachi of South Eastern Railway in Howrah District of West Bengal."

Estimated Cost of the Work Rs.1,03,02,89,826.00

Last Date & Time of e-Bid Submission 30.10.2023 upto 15.00 hrs.

For further details and updates, visit website <https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app>. Corrigendum, if any, would be hosted only on the website.

**Chief Engineer (KSTPS)**

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Yojana Bhawan, Nepal House Campus, Doranda, Ranchi-834002 (Jharkhand)

Ph.: +91-651-2490070, Fax : +91-651-2490208

e-mail: [jtscey-dhete@jharkhandmail.gov.in](mailto:jtscey-dhete@jharkhandmail.gov.in)

**E-Tender Notice (2nd "Call")**

NIT No.: RUSA/Others-4/2022/HITESD-951 Ranchi/Dte: 05-10-2023

1. Name of the Work Selection of a Programme Management Unit (PMU) for various Government schemes to support the Department of Higher and Technical Education, Government of Jharkhand.

2. Mode of submission of bids e-tendering (<http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>)

Tender Fee & Earnest Money Deposit (In ₹) - ₹10,000/- (Non-Refundable)

Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) - ₹5,00,000/-

3. Date of Publication of Tender document on the website 06-10-2023

4. Date of submission of pre-bid queries till 11-10-2023 (13:00 hours)

5. Date & Time of Pre-Bid meeting 12-10-2023 (14:30 hours)

6. Bid Submission Start Date 13-10-2023

7. Last Date/Time for submission of online bids 27-10-2023 (till 18:00 hours)

8. Last Date of submission of EMD & Tender fees (Original) 30-10-2023 (till 13:30 hours)

9. Last Date of submission of hard copy of the technical bid 30-10-2023 (till 13:30 hours)

10. Submission address of Tender Fee, EMD (Original) and Hard Copy of Technical Proposal Department of Higher & Technical Education, 3rd Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Nepal House, Doranda Ranchi, Jharkhand - 834002

11. Date of Technical Bid Opening (Online) 30-10-2023 (15:00 hours)

12. Date of Financial Bid Opening (Online) Will be announced later

13. Date of Helpline no. Phone No: 0651-3511031 (during office hours.)

Email: [jtscey-dhete@jharkhandmail.gov.in](mailto:jtscey-dhete@jharkhandmail.gov.in)

Note: The above dates may change due to the declaration of holidays Interested bidders are advised to check the further details with respect to this RFP on the e-procurement website [https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in](http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)

Sd/- **jtscey-dhete@jharkhandmail.gov.in**

Joint Secretary to Govt.



**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER**  
National Highway Division, RCD, Deoghar  
Circular Road, Near D.C. Residence, Deoghar, Jharkhand  
(814112), E-mail ID : [cenhdeoghar@gmail.com](mailto:cenhdeoghar@gmail.com)

### Quotation Cancellation Notice

Short Term e-Tender Reference No.: NH/DEOGHAR/PROPOSAL/1/2023-24. Date: 22.05.2023, which was published in daily newspaper [PR No. 298007Deoghar(23-24)#D] for DPR Consultancy is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable circumstances.

Sd/-  
**Executive Engineer**  
National Highway Division,  
Deoghar  
PR 308479Deoghar(23-24)#D

**INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.**  
(A Government of India Enterprise - Mini Ratna)  
CIN : L74999DL1999G0101707

### IRCTC invites bids for the following:-

I) Open E-tender COINT/H &TH/2023/01 for Setting Up, Operation And Management Of IRCTC Hospitality & Tourism Hub at Ayodhya (AY) Railway Station, Last Date for submission of Tender is 25.10.2023 up to 15:00 hrs.

II) Applications from the PAD items suppliers for empanelment for supply of PAD items in mobile and static units of IRCTC under following categories:-

1. PAD items Suppliers:-

SN Category Notice Inviting Application No.

1 A-Special IRCTC/Emp./PAD/Apl./01/Rev/2023

2 A IRCTC/Emp./PAD/Catg./01/Rev/2023

3 B IRCTC/Emp./PAD/B/Catg./01/Rev/2023

Last Date for uploading the empanelment form is 27.10.2023 up to 12:00 hrs.

For details visit [www.irctc.com](http://www.irctc.com) & [www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC](http://www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC). Tender document download & participation can be done on website: [www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC](http://www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC).

In case of any conendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement, it will be published only on IRCTC's website [www.irctc.com](http://www.irctc.com) and [www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC](http://www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC)

Office Address: GM/SCS, 10th Floor, Statesman House, B-19, Barkha Road, New Delhi-110001, E-mail: [fp.fu@irctc.com](mailto:fp.fu@irctc.com), Tel. 011-2311263-64, Fax: 011-2311259

**GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND DIRECTORATE OF STATE LOTTERIES NAGALAND : KOHIMA**

No.DSL/17/2016-17

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Government of Nagaland is promoting and conducting Nagaland State Lotteries (Paper & Online) and as such invites Request for Proposal from various security printers/ suppliers for the following:-

I. Supply of stationery (thermal paper rolls) for printing of online lottery tickets.  
II. Printing of paper lottery tickets, as per size, design and quantity as approved by the Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, Government of Nagaland.

Interested printers/ suppliers must be a Government approved security press or any other high security press included in the panel of Reserve Bank of India or approved by the Indian Banks' Association, Mumbai as per Lotteries (Regulation) Rules,2010 and Nagaland Lotteries (Regulation) Rules,2022 and must have experience of supplying Government lottery tickets.

The thermal paper to be supplied by the empanelled printer/ supplier shall be used for printing of online lottery tickets through various points of sales terminals located at different locations having pre-printed back matter as approved by the State Government subject to conduct of online lotteries by the Government.

Interested printers/ suppliers may submit their request for proposal quoting rates of printing /supply in sealed cover within 14(fourteen) days of publication of this notice to the Director, Nagaland State Lotteries, P.R.Hill, Kohima-797001, Nagaland.

**ZHOTHOU DAWHUO**

Director,

Dated, Kohima, the 6th October 2023. Nagaland State Lotteries, Kohima.

**STORES E-PROCUREMENT**

Tender Notice No.: S/26/2023-24; Dated: 03-10-2023. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-

**SN : Tender No. 79/23/0001B/OT/1923-24;**

**Closing/ Opening Date: 13-10-2023**

**Brief Description**, P.L. No. & Qty: Soft Blanket check pattern maroon shade superior quality with four side satin piping (not less than 4 stiches per cm.). Dimension 215 cm x 120cm, Fibre content 60% wool, 15% nylon, balance others. Weight g/m² = 450 gsm. Breaking load (min) on 15cm x 20 cm (strip) (a) Warpway = 110 kgf (b) Weftway = 85 kgf. Ends per inch = 25 (min). Weave = 2/2 twill. The Blankets shall be free from grease, soap, filling or any other admixture which would give fictitious mass or firmness. The blankets shall be properly washed and shall be free from grease, soap, filling or any other admixture which would give fictitious mass or firmness. T the blankets shall be milled and given a raised finish. For sampling, testing and other details, IS : 894 of 1980 (Latest revision) may be referred with above specification 25 mm Satin border of matching colour with "IR" monogram embroidered in a corner. The date of month and year of manufacturing and manufacturer name should be labelled in one corner clearly as per Drg. no. N/A Spec : As per description [warranty period 24 Months after the date of delivery] (1) Qty- 203.00 Nos for Dibrugarh Town workshop Depot, NFR, (Assam). (2) Qty- 191.00 Nos for Kathar GSD, NFR. (Bihar). (3) Qty- 768.00 Nos for Pandu GSD, N

# Army probing Major's attack on fellow officers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Army has begun a probe into the shocking incident of a Major opening fire and lobbying a grenade to injure at least two of his fellow officers in a Rashtriya Rifles battalion at a camp near Thanamandi in the border district of Rajouri in J&K on Thursday.

"A court of inquiry will establish the chain of circumstances that led to the attempted fratricide case. The Major, who is in custody, had some personal issues, which included a death in his immediate family. He had been behaving strangely for the last few days," an Army source said on Friday.

The condition of the second-in-command of the 48 RR unit, a Lt-Colonel, is "stable" after an operation for the bullet injury he sustained on his neck during the incident. "He is still in the ICU. The unit regimental medical officer (RMO), in turn, was hit by some grenade splinter injuries and is fine now," the source added.

One Thursday evening, the Major first demanded to



Security personnel intensified vigil in Srinagar on Friday

see the general-officer-commanding (GoC) of his division and then opened indiscriminate fire near the Neeli post, with both the Lt-Col and RMO being injured in the initial phase.

"The incident stretched on for several hours, with other officers in the unit trying to persuade the Major to surrender. He was finally overpowered late in the night," another source said.

Fratricide cases are not uncommon in the 12-lakh strong Army. Four jawans, for instance, were killed by a fellow soldier at the Bathinda military station in April. "What

is shocking about Thursday's incident is that an officer was involved...it is virtually unheard of," an officer said.

Soldiers do suffer from a lot of stress and strain due to their hard postings, protracted deployment along the borders with Pakistan and China and relentless counter-insurgency operations. Over 120 soldiers die by suicide every year, with some cases of fratricide also being reported, which underlines the urgent need for better suicide prevention and stress management policies in the force, as reported by TOI earlier.

## Dhankhar slams Rajasthan CM for 'dragging him into petty politics'

New Delhi: It is inappropriate to "drag" into petty politics a person holding a constitutional post, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Friday during his visit to Rajasthan. Dhankhar was responding, without naming Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, to the latter's barbs about the VP's frequent visits to the poll-bound state.

Asserting that respect must be accorded to constitutional positions, Dhankhar said, "Some people are saying why are you coming here again and again... I do not expect, people in authority to make statements in light of constitutional positions. There must

be respect for constitutional positions and all of us in togetherness, hand in hand, in collaboration and coordination with a consensual approach, have to serve the people at large..."

During an election programme in Jaipur in September, Gehlot said, "Politicians should come, but please do not send the vice president, as it is a Constitutional post. Yesterday the vice president came and visited five districts. It is election season. If you come now it will send all kinds of messages, which are not good for democracy," Gehlot had said during a programme on September 27. TNN

## Truce over? Gehlot takes dig at Pilot again

Jaipur: Despite burying the hatchet, at least in public, to project a united front in the upcoming assembly elections, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot has once again taken a dig at his bete noire Sachin Pilot, terming him "Congress high command".

"Sachin Pilot is the leader of our party. Now he himself has become the high command. There is no need to tell the high command (what to do)," Gehlot said. "When the high command itself distributes the tickets, then Pilot will also have a role (in the exercise)." The comment came in response to a query on Pilot's role in ticket distribution, at a programme of a news portal in Jaipur on Thursday. Gehlot also appeared to take a jibe at Pilot's membership of the party's highest decision making body. "Being a CWC member is a big thing. Tickets for AICC office bearers and CWC members are also being decided by the party high command," he said.

On the possibility of BJP fielding former CM Vasundhara Raje against him from Sardarpura seat in Jodhpur, Gehlot said it would be his good fortune if she contested, as both he and Rajasthan would hog the limelight across the country. TNN

CAD-2330

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, JANPATH, BHUBANESWAR- 751022.					
Tender Call Notice No. IDCO/H.O./P&C/EST/E-2374/01/2023/V-II 31391, Dt:04.10.2023					
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT					
1. Name of the work : Construction of Approach Road to 80.56 Ac. Land, along with Development of New Internal Roads in Podhabal village Sundargarh District, Odisha.					
1	Request for Proposal for Selection of Service Provider for Implementation of AI based Thermal scanning for screening of breast cancer in the state of Madhya Pradesh"	06.10.2023	18.10.2023	26.10.2023	07.11.2023
2. Estimated cost : Rs.597.13 Lakh.					
3. Period of completion : 05 (Five) Calendar months.					
4. Other details :					
Procurement Officer		Bid ID/ Tender reference No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		
1		2	3	4	
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.		Tender Reference No. P&C / EST / E - 128/ 2023-24.	12.10.2023 at 17.00 Hrs.	26.10.2023 up to 17.00 Hrs.	
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal, <a href="http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in">www.tendersodisha.gov.in</a> and Corrigendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the e-Procurement portal <a href="http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in">www.tendersodisha.gov.in</a> and <a href="http://www.idco.in">www.idco.in</a> .					
Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar. OIPR-14003/11/023/23-24					

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन म.प्र भोपाल कार्यालय द्वारा ई-निविदा के माध्यम से दरों आमंत्रित की जाती है। इच्छुक निविदाकारी राशि रूपये 2,000/- (रु. दो हजार मात्र) का ऑनलाइन एम.पी. ई-टेंडर पर भुगतान कर निविदा प्राप्त कर सकते हैं विवरण निम्नानुसार है-

स्वा/-

उपसंचालक स्टोर

राष्ट्रीय स्वास्थ्य मिशन

मध्यप्रदेश

निविदा विवरण

क्रमांक / एन.एच.एम. / स्टोर/2023/16703

भोपाल, दिनांक 06.10.2023

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

G-20956/23

कोरोना में सावधानी ही, समझो दुर्घटना घटी



In a rock edict, the emperor declared all the gold and gemstones found at Jonnagiri were his.  
Now, a private company is gearing up to start gold mining at the ancient site again

Samdani.MN@timesgroup.com

**T**he ancients called it Suvarnagiri. Gold mountain. Time corrupted the name to Sonnagiri. Then Jonnagiri. But did Suvarnagiri really have gold? It did, and still does. And by this time next year, India's first private gold mine of the modern era could be producing a tonne of the yellow metal annually in Jonnagiri. But let's not telescope time so fast.

Jonnagiri in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district is just a village now, but in the days of Ashoka The Great it was the headquarters of the southern part of his empire. Some of his famous 3rd century BCE rock edicts have been found here. You can also see telltale marks of gold prospecting from centuries ago. A huge rock-cut well near a temple is probably a relic of an ancient gold rush.

We don't know how much gold the rocks of Jonnagiri yielded in bygone days. Probably a good deal, for Ashoka made it clear that the gold, gemstones and diamonds found at the site belonged to him.

Hundreds of years later; the Cholas were masters of Jonnagiri's gold. Some more centuries passed, and we know the British tried but weren't very successful. They moved on to Kolar, about 300km away in Karnataka, and scripted KGF (see box).

**Back To Golden Age**

Jonnagiri wasn't forgotten, though. Thirty years ago, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) came over and looked carefully at the village's old excavations. Their studies between 1991 and 1994 helped them identify blocks with significant potential for gold extraction.

All they needed to do now was to start picking up the yellow pieces, right? Wrong. Gold is precious because it is so rare. In Jonnagiri, the private mining company Geomysore is prepared to sift through up to 2 tonnes of soil to find 1 gram of gold.

Files had to be moved, government policies made, and it was 2006 by the time Geomysore first applied for a licence to explore Jonnagiri. Clearances didn't come until 2013. In that time, Facebook had opened to the public, bought Instagram and was on the verge of acquiring WhatsApp.

Geomysore – which is jointly owned by Thriveni Earth Movers Pvt Ltd (60%) and Deccan Gold Mines Ltd (40%) – has spent the past 10 years analysing the Jonnagiri site.

# Ashoka's gold mine set for comeback next year

**WHY JONNAGIRI MATTERS**

A yearly output of 1 tonne is less than 0.1% of India's gold imports, but it can save about \$62 million in foreign exchange

**CLOSED NOW, KOLAR GOLD MINE WAS FAR BIGGER**

Samdani.MN@timesgroup.com

The Kannada blockbuster series of KGF films has made Kolar Gold Fields a household name in the past few years. While the films are set in the 1970s and 80s, the mines are centuries old. The Cholas are said to have tried their hand at gold mining here more than 1,000 years ago.

However, British industrialist John Taylor III really turned Kolar's tap on in the 1880s.

His company, John Taylor & Sons, operated the Kolar mines from 1880 to 1956, when they were nationalised. To run the mines, Kolar even had electricity before the rest of India. By the time operations at Kolar were shut in 2001, due to a sharp fall

in international gold prices, the mines had yielded about 900 tonnes of gold. But Geomysore's managing director, Dr Modali Hanuma Prasad (in pic), says KGF would have again become profitable had the Centre borne the losses for two years. Kolar mines still have gold reserves, he believes.

India's only significant gold producer now is the Huttli mine in Karnataka that was revived in 1947. Since then, it has produced nearly 2 tonnes of gold per year.

"Since the grant of mining lease, we have carried out extensive advanced exploration, which includes trenching, soil sampling, IP survey, magnetic survey and drilling," says Geomysore's managing director Dr Modali Hanuma Prasad, adding, "About 33,000 sq metres of spaced drilling has been done from which we could establish

considerable deposits in the area."

**Mining Starts Next Year**

Geomysore is gearing up to kick off full-scale commercial operations at Jonnagiri by August 2024, says Prasad, who earlier worked with the GIS. They will be only the second operational gold miner in India

after the Karnataka government-owned Huttli Gold Mines Co Ltd, and have set a target of producing about 1 tonne of gold every year through the open pit mining and processing project.

But how much gold does Jonnagiri hold? There's enough to make the mine profitable, says Geomysore. The gold is



**DEEP DIVE:** Gold was mined in Jonnagiri many centuries ago. This rock-cut well near a temple in the village is believed to be an ancient mining pit. However, by British times the mines were not profitable. Now, high prices and new technology have led to their revival

method will be economically viable till a depth of 180m. They are prepared to mine till the concentration of gold in the ore falls to 0.6 grams per tonne.

"We expect to produce at least 1 tonne of gold annually, which could bring the firm into break-even range within 5-6 years," says Prasad, adding, the detailed assessment of the west, north and south blocks could potentially increase the mineable gold to 14 tonnes, and the mine life to 15 years.

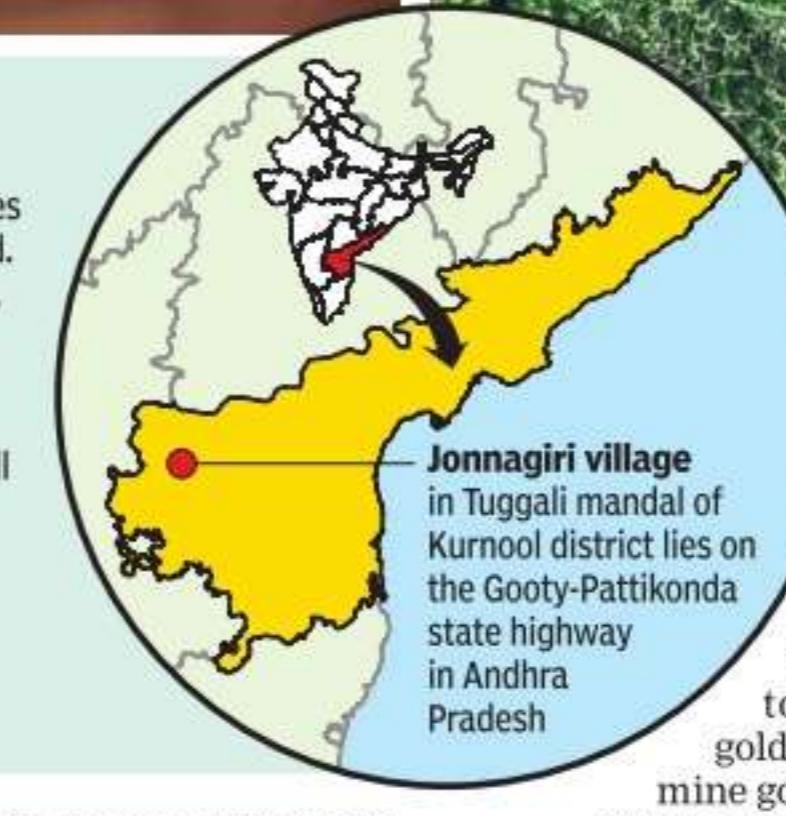
**Moving Mountains Of Ore**

Luckily, gold in the Jonnagiri ore can be recovered with the cheap 'gravity separation' method, says Biswal. To achieve the target of 1 tonne per annum of gold, a processing plant with a capacity to sift through 15,000 tonnes of ore daily will be set up.

The ore will be crushed in three stages and then pulverised in a ball mill before the gold is separated from the dirt in a hydrocyclone, a kind of centrifuge. The machine will churn 50 tonnes of ore per hour.

For now, though, a pilot-scale processing plant based on the gravity technique is being used. This plant has a capacity of 2 tonnes per hour and it has helped the company understand the commercial and technical aspects, and minimise risks.

Geomysore has already spent Rs 200 crore on the project and will invest more when starting commercial operations.



distributed across the four blocks – east, west, south and north – of the licence area and detailed evaluation of the east block has shown the presence of 6.8 tonnes of mineable gold. Enough to keep the mine going for 8-9 years.

"The metallurgical test work programme has been conducted primarily at the facilities of SGS Johannesburg, South Africa, with additional evaluation being done at the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) facility in Bengaluru," says Geomysore's director (operations) Manas Ranjan Biswal.

The company estimates the open pit

# As Jewar airport gets ready, KHURJA POTTERY looks to fly business class

Rahul.Singh1@timesgroup.com

going runway layering work with installation of air navigation services to begin in December". He agrees that the airport would transform the area and bring opportunities for local businesses and the people.

While it will be a "much-needed lifeline" for Khurja pottery, Rana of the pottery association said they are hoping for a "fast-moving highway so that goods can easily reach the airport" as there is only a single road now connecting Khurja and Jewar.

"Local industry will surely benefit with the airport. Transportation, logistics, and exports will improve. Khurja will see major growth once flight operations start. Several new industries are also expected to come up," said Ashutosh Singh, deputy commissioner (industries) at Bulandshahr's industry centre.

**Wheels Of Change**

Considered to be the oldest glazed pottery in the country, the first manufacturing unit was set up in Khurja in 1922 and Khurja pottery got its geographical indication, or GI, tag in 1999. There are about 400 units now engaged in the craft that altogether employ close to 60,000 workers who use techniques like wheel-throwing, hand-building and slip-casting to churn out everything from cups and plates to bowls, vases and various decorative pieces.

In the beginning it had started with red clay pottery with the move to blue glaze work coming later. The clay is sourced from nearby areas, including the Yamuna riverbed, and is mixed with natural material like quartz and feldspar – which impart the glazed look. The technique was introduced in the early days and is still in use today.

"Once the clay is processed, it is put in moulds for shaping into various forms. The pieces are then processed in furnaces at temperatures of 1,150-1,200 degrees Celsius. A machine runs 24x7 on natural gas to produce nearly 1,200 cups of 100 ml each every 50 minutes. The final decoration with hand-made drawings and colours is done by skilled workers," said Habib Ahmed, owner of a manufacturing unit.

Earlier, the clay products were left to dry in the sun for several days. While the natural drying process was replaced decades ago by large furnaces that ran on coal and oil, those in turn have now made way for natural gas in keeping with guidelines issued by the National Green Tribunal.

After drying, the pottery is polished and decorated with various colours and designs using natural pigments, giving it the easily recognisable finish associated with Khurja pottery.

The Noida International Airport, the official name of the Jewar airport, is likely to carry out its first test flight in March next year. Shailendra Bhatia, officer on special duty, Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL), said that "the airport is currently under-

Over 33 Years, Dr D C Patel Has Treated 19,243 Patients In Gujarat's 'Snake Encounter' Capital, Dharampur. He Is Now Documenting Each Case For Doctors & Researchers

Paul.John@timesgroup.com

Nestled amid dense forests, Valsad's Dharampur is notorious for being the state's snake encounter capital, recording the highest number of snakebite cases. The tribal town is home to the 'deadly four' snakes in the country — the spectacled cobra, Russell's viper, the saw-scaled viper and the common krait. Their venoms are a lethal cocktail of proteins that can shut down a person's nervous system within minutes and lead to death if timely help is not provided.

Treating 19,243 snakebite victims with 98% success rate, then, is no mean feat. Dr Dhirubhai Chhaganbhai Patel, who runs a hospital in Dharampur, now wants other doctors and researchers to benefit from his experience. He is documenting every case he has handled in his career spanning 33 years.

"Saving a snakebite victim means racing against time. The first two to four hours are crucial. The patient is writhing in pain. The deadly toxins have coursed through the bloodstream, disrupting haemostasis, and attacking the nervous system and tissues of vital organs. I have seen this play out 19,243 times as that's the number of snakebite patients I have attended to since 1990 with 98% success rate," claims the general surgeon, who is also the vice-chairman of the Government Snake Research Institute (SRI) in Dharampur. It is the second such institute in the country, and the first that adheres to World Health Organization's protocols.

Most snakebite cases are recorded between June and September and the victims are usually farm labourers. Between 2020 and March 2023, the department of health registered 23,537 cases in Gujarat, 115 of them being fatal. Nearly half of these deaths have occurred in the eight municipal corporation limits, except Rajkot and Vadodara.

Dr Patel receives around 1,200 snakebite cases a year at his hospital, largely from Dang, Navsari, Surat, Tapi, and Chhota Udepur in Gujarat, and Nashik and Palghar in Maharashtra.

"The treatment, comprising admin-

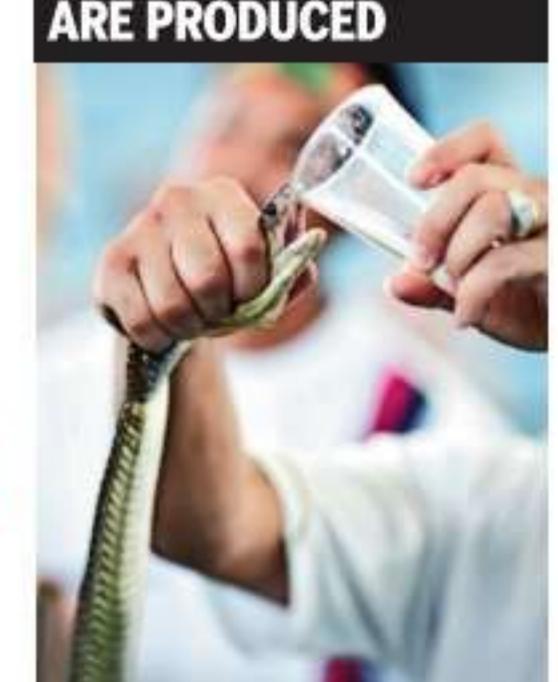


# FANGTASTIC EFFORT!

**SNAKEBITE-PRONE STATES**

State*	Snakebites	Deaths
Andhra Pradesh	251.3	1.4
Odisha	76.2	1.8
Rajasthan	71.3	1
Gujarat	45.7	0.8
Madhya Pradesh	28.3	1.1
Uttar Pradesh	27.8	0.6
Bihar	20.9	0.1

Figures in '000s. \*From govt hospital records of snakebites and deaths registered between 2003 and 2015

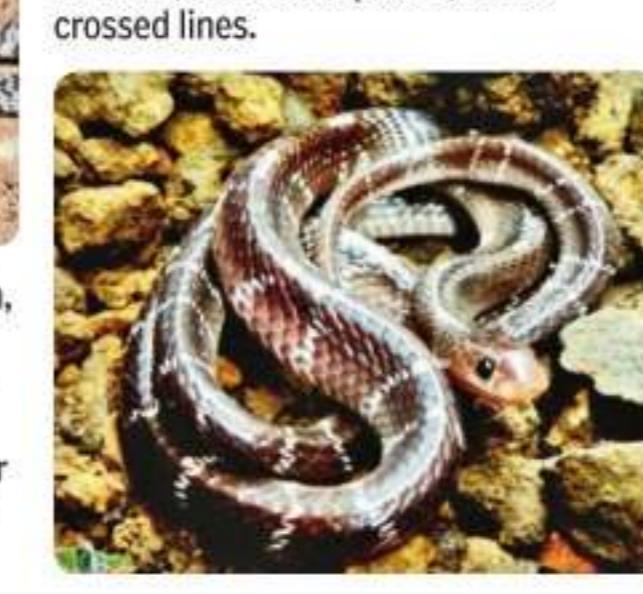
**HOW ANTIVENOMS ARE PRODUCED**

- Venom is collected from the 'big four' snakes responsible for most snakebites in India.
- The conventional polyvalent antivenom (effective against multiple venoms) is produced by immunising horses or sheep with venoms and collecting the antibodies. The venom concoction from a particular species may have 51 to 120 different proteins.
- There are only four antivenom manufacturing centres in India.

Dr Patel receives around 1,200 snakebite cases a year



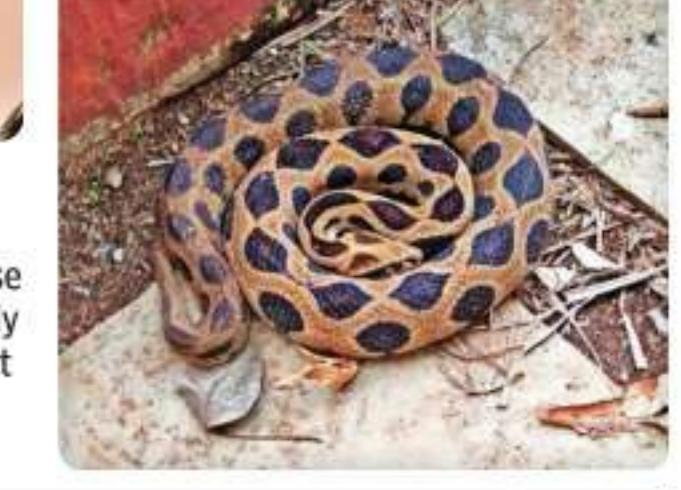
**COMMON KRAIT:** Smooth-scaled with its head broader than the neck, the common krait is found in glossy black, faded blue-gray or dark brown (often with blue iridescence) colours with narrow (sometimes paired) white crossed lines.



**SPECTACLED COBRA:** It has smooth, glossy scales and a broad head. Colours, pattern and hood marks vary. Many a time, hood marks are absent. These snakes are brown, yellow, grey or black with a speckled, and sometimes banded, pattern.



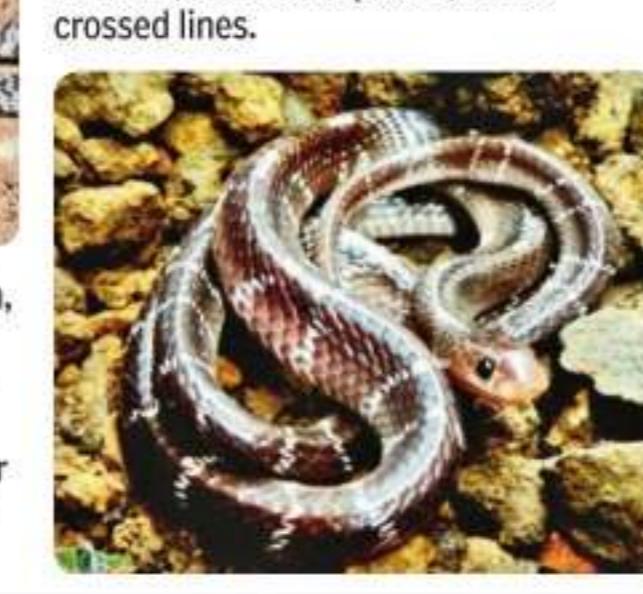
**RUSSELL'S VIPER:** It has a stout body and is rough with strongly keeled scales. The triangular head is broader than the neck. The tail is short and thin with three longitudinal series of prominent, large brown or black oval or round spots.



**SAW-SCALDED VIPER:** The reptile is found in light or dark brown, brick-red, grey colours with zigzag patterns. These vipers are characterised by a stout body with a pear-shaped head that is distinct from the neck. The top of its head usually has an arrow-like mark.



**SPECTACLED COBRA:** It has smooth, glossy scales and a broad head. Colours, pattern and hood marks vary. Many a time, hood marks are absent. These snakes are brown, yellow, grey or black with a speckled, and sometimes banded, pattern.



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# 'The Iguazu National Parks first 'nationalised' a border — the focus on saving nature came later'

**Frederico Freitas** is associate professor of history at North Carolina State University.

Speaking to **Srijana Mitra Das** at Times Evoke, he discusses two national parks in Argentina and Brazil, united by a waterfall — and divided by an international border:

#### What is the core of your research?

I'm a historian of Latin America with a focus on Brazil and Argentina in the 20th century. I work on environmental history and use digital humanities methods like GIS, remote sensing, etc. My first book, 'Nationalizing Nature: Iguazu Falls and National Parks at the Brazil-Argentina Border' studied the history of conservation policies in these countries from their beginning until the 1980s. My second project is an environmental history of Brazil's capital, Brasilia, built in the 1960s.

#### Can you share the story of the national parks created in Brazil and Argentina?

I focused on two parks established in the 1930s by Brazil and Argentina separately — these are located at the border between the two countries. There was a river there with the famous Iguazu Falls. The border crosses this, splitting the falls half in Brazil and half in Argentina. Since the 1870s, when America established Yellowstone, the idea of a national park caught on in both nations. Argentina started its Iguazu National Park in 1934 and Brazil established its Iguazu National Park in 1939.

Now, you typically envision such parks as spaces of totally protected nature. Generally, they don't have people living inside them, growing crops, hunting, etc. — but in Argentina particularly and in Brazil, the people who designed these had something else in mind. They felt the parks should also be used to nationalise the border. This is quite unique in this context.



PURELY ICONIC: The Iguazu falls, shared by Argentina and Brazil, are the largest waterfall system on Earth, surrounded by lush subtropical rainforest

Argentina were afraid too many people were crossing over into the country via this area — so, they used the funds and structures earmarked for the national park to settle Argentine nationals in there. The Argentine National Parks administration even established towns inside the park, moving settlers in. The aim was to make the border more Argentinian, with this infrastructure managed by the National Parks Agency while preserving the area — this meant having two conflicting goals though, to both develop a national park with humans and preserve the other section for nature.

Meanwhile, Brazil, looking at what was happening across the border, decided to do the same. As they already had a 19th century town in the area, they funded this and developed schools, highways, airports, etc., there.

From the beginning, there were people in Argentina and Brazil who were critical of this — they felt national parks should exclusively conserve nature. However, they were a minority voice with little political clout and this policy continued in both nations until the 1960s. Then, a new generation of leadership came to govern both national park

authorities — unlike the politicians and army officers involved earlier, they had a very different mindset. This new generation of administrators comprised forest experts, engineers, agronomists, etc., professionals with technical training who decided against the policy of having people living inside the parks — they were determined these communities should be resettled.

These removals took place in the 1960s and came with a lot of conflict in both nations. These were both governed by military dictatorships then and they used a heavy hand for such resettling. That is another story I tell in my book.

Which species benefitted from finally getting these parks?

During the 1960s' debate about removing the settlers and only



BIRD WATCHING? An Iguazu caiman (L) spots a flame-red guará bird (R)



highways, airports, etc., there.

Interestingly, in the 1980s and '90s, indigenous people from outside the park began to pressure the government to expand their federally granted lands — they would occupy the park, saying the area was historically theirs. But that was a strategy used by them to get land elsewhere and not actually to take space for themselves inside the national park.

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## A thought for today

There is more power in rock music, videos, blue jeans...than in the entire Red Army

RÉGIS DEBRAY

## Barbie Beats Putin

Why cultural censorship doesn't work anymore

Where there is an audience, there is a way. Western sanctions have denied Russians access to Hollywood's hits, and Putin's regime wants Russians to partake of "traditional Russian spiritual and moral values", whatever that means. But Russians aren't listening. Movie theatres in Russia are using regulatory loopholes to screen films like *Barbie*. This speaks to a worldwide trend. Nationalism in its many avatars has become increasingly rigid and exclusionary. At the same time, a cultural internationalism, which refuses to fall in line with local edicts of what's vulgar and what's virtuous, is also stronger than ever. It keeps frustrating the censorship regimes everywhere.

Even back in the 1980s when India banned Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*, many Indians who wanted to read it despite the ban, or because of it, succeeded in doing so. Today, the very technological arsenal that governments exploit to block access to this or that, is as easily exploited to gain access. Benedict Anderson called modern nations imagined communities, a romantic description that today seems more befitting to transnational fandoms. Such as all the Indians who joined Club Pasoori despite taunts of anti-nationalism or all the Pakistanis who still choreograph their weddings to the latest Bollywood hit – their cultural imagination transcending hostile borders.

China is a unique case study because of the huge money it has thrown at building Hollywood alternatives, besides being more successful than most autocracies in keeping foreign culture away from the public. *Top Gun: Maverick* wasn't allowed screening and China's movie theatres showed pro-government *Born to Fly*. But nobody can recreate *Top Gun*'s popular appeal so crudely. Hollywood soft power isn't tamed so easily. Even China may learn that there is a wonderful decentralisation of global cultural production underway. And it doesn't need a passport to find an audience.

## Message For Ayatollahs

Narges Mohammadi is a richly deserved Peace Prize winner

This year's Nobel Peace Prize, given to Iranian rights activist Narges Mohammadi, follows the recent trend of recognising those fighting for change in exceptionally dangerous circumstances. Mohammadi has long campaigned for women's rights, for gender justice and against the death penalty in Iran. No

surprise that she's currently in prison. Like her mentor, Nobel laureate Shirin Ebadi, she has faced persecution from the Iranian regime. But despite her incarceration, Mohammadi organised protests that were part of the anti-hijab demonstrations that rocked Iran last year.

That Mohammadi's Nobel recognition comes on the heels of the first anniversary of those demonstrations is not lost on anyone. However, since then the Iranian regime has only tightened restrictions, recently passing a new law that imposes harsher penalties on women who breach hijab rules. This is a self-goal for the Iranian state. Had the regime allowed women to lead full, normal lives – Iranian women's labour force participation is only 15.7% – Iran, given its legacy of education and regional cultural influence, could have been a great Middle Eastern power. That's something that the ayatollahs must think hard about – after all, even Saudi Arabia is now in a sort-of modernisation drive, granting its women more freedoms.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee says it hopes Iran will release Mohammadi before the prize ceremony in December. That's unlikely. But even in her absence, the message will ring loud and clear.

## How Not To Mark A Student's Future

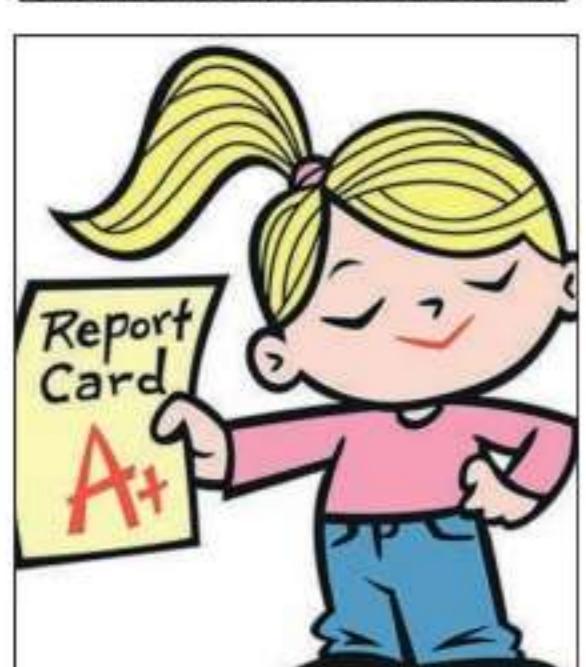
Exam assessment systems can get better, fairer

Marks and rankings are the currency of education and advancement. But they are flawed and unfair assessments. *Off the Mark: How Grades, Ratings, and Rankings Undermine Learning (but Don't Have To)* by Jack Schneider and Ethan L Hutt, is set in the US, but analyses this global dilemma.

Why do we need tests and grades? To motivate learners, to succinctly record their abilities, communicate these to other institutions, and signal to employers. But they don't work that way: grades goad students, but not their learning. Students don't waste time on anything that won't be tested. Grading skews incentives, as students cheat or game the system. Marks also sharpen inequalities. The strongest predictor of marks is a student's family and neighbourhood; affluent parents exert more pressure and provide more support.

## mindfield

SHORT TAKES ON BIG IDEAS



educational equity. If someone is nearsighted, then they are not told they have a permanent deficiency, they are prescribed glasses. It's when a result is treated as the end of the story, rather than the impetus for intervention, that there's a problem.

School is supposed to be the great equaliser of social opportunity, but it doesn't work that way. Standardised tests do take away the high-stakes pressure of school grades, but both are correlated with socioeconomic status. But then again, so are student essays, for which they often rely on their networks. Recommendation letters can be hard to parse, a mess of adjectives and writing styles. There is no easy fix for fairness, the only way is to use nuanced judgments, knowing that these useful tools can also be weapons.

The predicament of marking and testing is a wicked problem, the whole world struggles with similar frustrations. Countries experiment with different elements and weights. Zambia assesses students with 75% on national exams and 25% on school grades. New Zealand measures progress in secondary school through a pass-fail system, not grades, reducing both competition and gaming. At higher levels, it adds distinctions for merit and excellence, to let students compete. Singapore has recently flattened its ranking systems, after deciding it was unhealthy. Another way is to peg tests to practice: for instance, instead of multiple-choice questions for history, it makes sense to do what historians do, piece fragments from the archive to offer an interpretation of the past.

But what blanket critiques of standardised tests miss is that they are not all the same. 'Norm-referenced' tests, meant to place a student in a particular distribution, can identify those who are very advanced and those who need special assistance. Meanwhile, 'criterion-referenced' tests are used to check if a student has reached a particular standard.

This targeted assistance for identified weaknesses can make all the difference to students and can be a tool of

## Q&amp;A

● What could have triggered the Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in Sikkim?

Heavy precipitation in northern Sikkim probably started the GLOF from South Lohnak pro-glacial lake. The lake's been growing over a few decades and was one among the region's potentially dangerous lakes. Colleagues who investigated this lake had warned about its associated potential hazard in 2021.

One can infer from pre- and post-disaster satellite images that possibly some heavy precipitation-induced avalanches hit the lake and it was partially breached, releasing 20-25 million cubic metres of water. This is roughly equal to the volume of ice/rock mass that detached from Ronti Peak, which resulted in the Chamoli disaster on February 7, 2021.

Some floating ice chunks can also be seen in post-disaster satellite images of the South Lohnak lake. Villages and towns downstream in Sikkim are still under threat as the lake did not breach completely, and may now be more vulnerable. We're awaiting high-resolution satellite images and satellite-based precipitation amounts to investigate the disaster further.

## ● Can it be attributed to climate change?

Yes. Climate change is working in two ways. First, global warming is resulting in glacier wastage that is more pronounced post-2000 in the Himalayan region. Receding glaciers are leaving "overdeepenings" (ground eroded to very deep depths) at their terminus region,

which fills with meltwater thus creating pro-glacial lakes. These are often held by fragile moraine-dams (glacier sediment at the ridges). These lakes grow in both size and numbers with global warming.

Second, climate change is resulting in extreme weather. Frequency of extreme precipitation and heatwaves is only increasing. Extreme precipitation makes pro-glacial lakes more vulnerable to breaches. This was the case in Kedarnath's disaster in 2013 where Chorabari pro-glacial lake was completely breached. Sikkim's breach is probably a similar case.

## ● How vulnerable is the Himalayan range?

Extremely vulnerable. The high altitudes make it more vulnerable to climate change. The 1.5°C global temperature rise is expected to result in a 2.1-2.4°C rise in temperatures in the Himalayan region.

With warming, Himalayan glaciers are rapidly wasting their mass, winter snow covers are decreasing, high elevations that received good snowfall are now seeing more rain, permafrost is thawing – resulting in slope instability, land subsidence etc.

Our modelling studies suggest that initially, up to around the year 2050, the increased glacier and snow

melt would result in more water in the river system and then reduced amounts of meltwater post-2050.

The higher rate of melting of these frozen storages during the 2022 heatwave in western Himalayas complemented last year's floods in Pakistan.

## ● Are hydropower projects worth it in this seismologically vulnerable region?

India still produces around 55% of energy from coal. Ours is a land of rivers with huge hydropower potential. We're only using 30% of this. To reduce black carbon emissions and grow our economy, we need more hydropower.

However, we need to assess existing and proposed hydel plants for natural hazards. Satellite-based remote sensing makes it easy to investigate upstream regions of any hydel plant. We need better infrastructure planning and we need to bring in glaciologists, meteorologists, seismologists when building in the Himalayas.

## ● How can human settlements and existing projects be safeguarded in the Himalayan region?

Iso has published a list of potentially dangerous pro-glacial lakes in the Himalayan region. These need observation, especially the upper reaches near settlements and infrastructure.

Peru and Nepal mechanically siphon water from potentially dangerous pro-glacial lakes in a controlled manner. We can start such practices and modify them as required. We need high-elevation meteorological stations for more accurate weather forecasts. Most of us use remote-sensing methods but we also need to develop our capacity in field glaciology.

Five to six glaciers are under observations in the Himalayas – out of 40,000 glaciers. Early warning systems in sensitive regions need to be installed to allow downstream communities time to vacate villages and towns. New settlements or development work in the Himalayas must be controlled, and allowed only after rigorous assessment of the project impact on local geology/communities.

## Sacredspace

Smile

It was only a smile... It didn't make anything all right... A leaf in the woods, shaking in the wake of a startled bird's flight. But I'll take it.

With open arms. Because when spring comes, it melts the snow one flake at a time, and maybe I just witnessed the first flake melting.

Khaled Hosseini

## Calvin &amp; Hobbes



WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANYONE ELSE, BUT I CAME FROM MY ROOM. I'M A KID WITH BIG PLANS, AND I'M GOING OUTSIDE! SEE YA LATER!



SAY, WHO THE HECK IS PAUL GAUGUIN ANYWAY?

## Green Leaf Is Nature's Tiny, Wise Sage

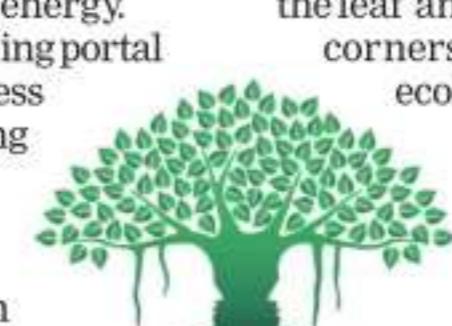
Vir Singh

What, in your view, is the most wonderful creation on planet Earth? For me, there exists nothing on Earth more enigmatic, influential, and astonishing than the green leaf. It is, without a doubt, the leaf that facilitates the Sun's descent to Earth, the leaf that transmutes light into life through the miraculous process known as photosynthesis. This very leaf is responsible for creating an oxygen-rich atmosphere, bestowing the gift of breath upon all living beings. As a creator of the biosphere and a nurturer of life in its myriad forms, the benevolent leaf extends its generosity throughout the planet.

A leaf is not merely a physical structure; it embodies a phenomenon of the biosphere. Enriched with nature's verdant elixir – chlorophyll – the leaf possesses the remarkable ability to convert light into life. Photosynthesis, the process that fuses carbon and water

into biomass brimming with life's energy, is orchestrated solely by the green leaf. Across terrestrial and a significant portion of marine life as well as humanity itself, photosynthesis conducted by leaves remains the ultimate source of biomass and life-sustaining energy.

A leaf serves as a captivating portal from light to life. With countless leaf types, each corresponding to distinct plant species, photosynthesis unfolds uniquely. It gives rise to an array of characteristics, such as diverse colours, enticing aromas, distinct flavours, medicinal properties, and more. Additionally, the chlorophyll-laden leaf stands as the primary source of enzymes, which propel metabolism, and the abundant protein in the sphere, RuBisCo. Furthermore, it synthesises cellulose, the biosphere's most abundant biomolecule, and starch, the primary source of energy that fuels our vitality.



The narrative of life on Earth finds its genesis in the story of the green leaf.

'Phylosophy', derived from the Greek words 'phyllous', meaning 'relating to leaf', and 'sophia', signifying 'wisdom', encompasses wisdom pertaining to the leaf and should be regarded as a cornerstone of Eco-Philosophy, ecological philosophy.

When we delve into the morphology, anatomy, physiology, and contributions of the leaf, we uncover a captivating tapestry of evolutionary pathways. These pathways have paved the way for the prevalence of photosynthesis-based life across terrestrial ecosystems and much of the ocean. It is the pivotal role of the solar-powered leaf that has ushered the human species, from its origins to the status of *Homo sapiens* through the waves of Evolution's benevolence.

At every level of existence, from the microcosmic realm of cells to the macrocosmic expanse of the cosmos, energy reigns supreme. It is energy, not matter, which serves as the driving force. Matter, in its neutrality, relies on energy for functionality. Every task we undertake, every action we perform, our intellect, imagination, thoughts, ideas, philosophy, creativity, and the entirety of human endeavours, all manifest as various dimensions of energy. Even spirituality, itself, emerges as a facet of this energy.

The source of all this energy lies in solar radiation, with a fraction of light from distant stars in the galaxy passing through the enchanting chlorophyll-bearing leaf. In the intricate journey of energy from the Sun to us, the leaf functions as an indispensable bridge.

Let us celebrate the leaf, and the wisdom emanating from the leaf: the phylosophy.

The writer is professor emeritus of environmental science, GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology

The sensex see-sawed in the first week of October. Crude oil prices first shot up to near the \$100-per-barrel level, raising concerns about domestic inflation and economic fundamentals, and then fell sharply. A rise in US bond yields is also giving the jitters to local investors.

Source: ETIG, Refinitiv, CDSL, RBI, Agencies

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

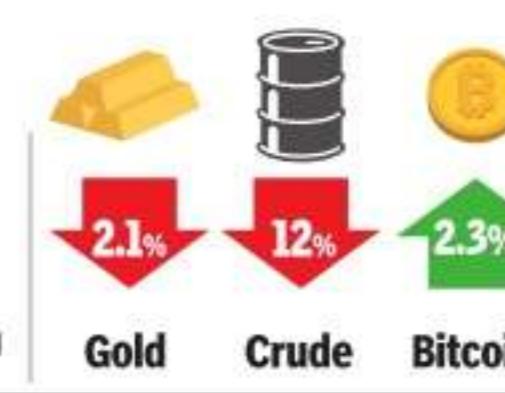
**The Week That Was...**

Sensex (65,996)	▲ 0.3%	Godrej Ind.	26%	-9% MTNL
S&P 500	▼ 1.5%	Authum	22%	-8% Dalmia Bharat
MSCI Emerging Mkt	▼ 2.4%	eClerx	19%	-7% Indiabulls Hsg Fin

(As of 12am; BSE Group A comprises most traded stocks)

**BSE Group A Gainers**

**Losers**



FPI Inflows ₹7,998cr

Rupee vs \$ 83.25 ▼ 21 paise

Forex kitty\* \$587bn ▼ \$3.8bn

PAUSE CONTINUES

6.5% | RBI kept its repo rate unchanged

(\*Week ended Sept 29)

# RBI sounds alarm over 'very high' personal loan growth

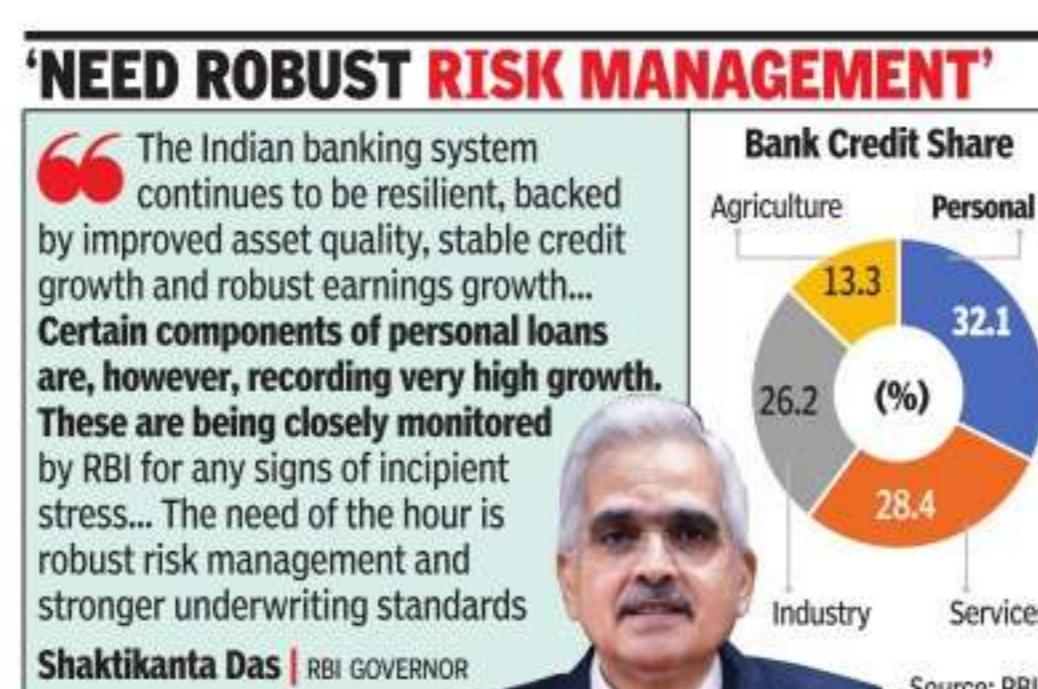
Asks Banks, NBFCs, Fintechs To Boost Surveillance Systems

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The RBI is concerned about the strong growth in some personal loans and is watching out for any stress in that segment, asking banks, NBFCs and fintechs to strengthen their surveillance mechanisms.

"Certain components of personal loans are recording very high growth... These are being closely monitored by RBI for any signs of incipient stress... The need of the hour is robust risk management and stronger underwriting standards," Shaktikanta Das, RBI governor said on Friday. He asked banks and NBFCs to address build-up of risks, if any, and institute safeguards. "The need of the hour is robust risk management and stronger underwriting standards," he added.

On an annual basis, personal loans contributed 37.7% of incremental bank credit in August 2023, according to RBI's monetary policy report for October 2023. Within these loans, during August 2023, credit card lo-



ans had shown a growth of 30%, vehicle loans 21% and housing loans 14%.

The composition of bank credit has witnessed substantial change over time, with an increasing proportion of credit now going to services and retail loans relative to industry. Amid these structural changes, the impact of bank credit on GDP growth appears to have strengthened, the report noted.

The regulator also said that soon the guidelines for

ombudsman schemes for individual lenders would be consolidated and harmonised into a single master direction.

At present, the internal ombudsman framework in regulated entities comprises separate guidelines for select scheduled commercial banks, non-bank issuers of prepaid payment instruments, NBFCs and all credit information companies. These guidelines have similar design features but vary in certain operational aspects. All these would now be consolidated into one, RBI said.

The central bank also said that for urban co-operative banks (UCBs), it would double the existing limit for gold loans under its bullet repayment scheme to Rs 4 lakh. But this would be applicable only for those UCBs that have met the overall target and sub-targets under the priority sector lending".

RBI has also decided to extend the payments infrastructure development fund (PIDF) scheme by two years till December 31, 2025. "Since its launch in January 2021, the PIDF scheme has enabled over 2.7 crore new payment touch points across the country. The coverage of PIDF scheme is also being expanded to include the beneficiaries of PM Vishwakarma Scheme and to deploy emerging modes of payment acceptance, such as soundbox and Aadhaar-enabled biometric payment acceptance devices," RBI said.

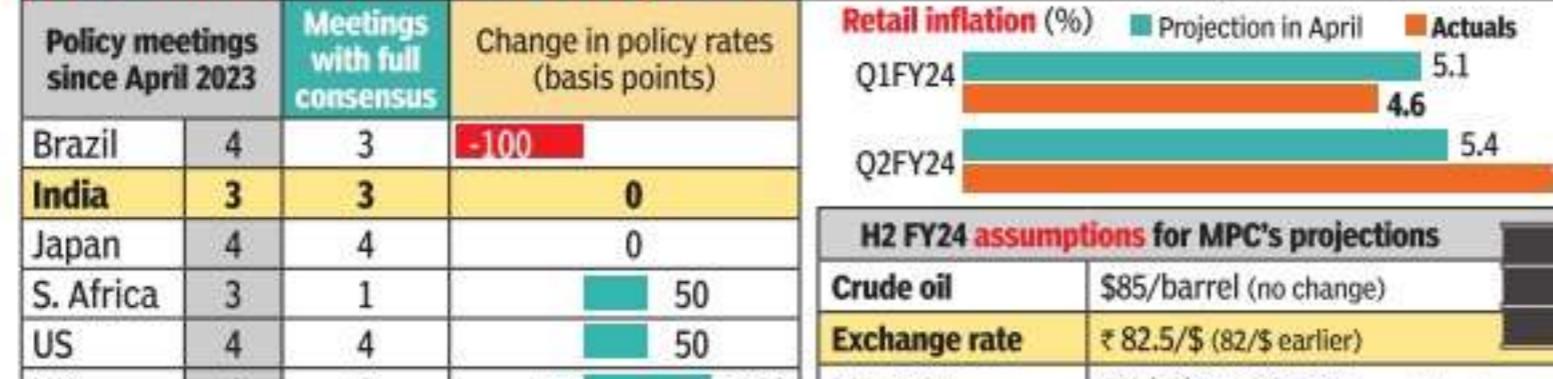
## RBI's bond sale plan leads to rout

Partha.Sinha@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** The government bond market witnessed a sell-off on Friday after the RBI governor said that the central bank could resort to open market operation (OMO) sales to manage liquidity in the banking system. Bond prices fell and benchmark 10-year gilt yields firms up by 12 basis points (100bps = 1 percentage point) to close at 7.34% while the cut-off yield for the same bond at Friday's auction was 7.35%.

Under OMO, the central bank either buys or sells government securities (G-Secs) to pump in or pull out liquidity from the system, as the situation warrants. In case of OMO sales, RBI would sell G-Secs in the market and take in money. Fearing excess supply of G-Secs on Friday the prices of these bonds fell and yields rose. This happened despite the governor clarifying that it could resort

### Consensus At India Policy Meets... Crude Reality On Horizon



Source: RBI

to OMO sales only to manage liquidity and not yield.

The bond market, however, had a different view. According to economists and bond dealers, the yield differential between US and India 10-year G-Secs have fallen to historically low levels. This could have a negative impact on the strength of the rupee moving ahead as the rupee-dollar exchange rate is near its historic low.

In the forex market, the rupee closed almost unchanged at 83.25 to the dollar on Friday. Market players, however, expect some volatility in the coming week.

The 20-year average yield differential between India and US is 400bps. Last year's average was 360bps while currently it's lower than 250bps. This could be a cause for concern for RBI since it has not hiked the policy rates this time. OMOs by RBI could help arrest the rate differential from narrowing further," a bond dealer said.

A recent report by Emkay Global Financial Services had noted that the expected resumption of an uptrend in dollar and US Treasury yields would require significant

shock repricing of higher yields outside the US. "The rate differential between EM Asia/India and DMs has reached unprecedented levels, generating renewed concern about further volatility ahead," the report said.

In the stock market, the reaction to RBI's decision to maintain status quo on rates led to a rally, although delayed. The sensex was initially unchanged but in the late session rallied 364 points to close at 65,996. Bajaj Finance, Infosys and ITC contributed the most to the index's gain, BSE data showed.

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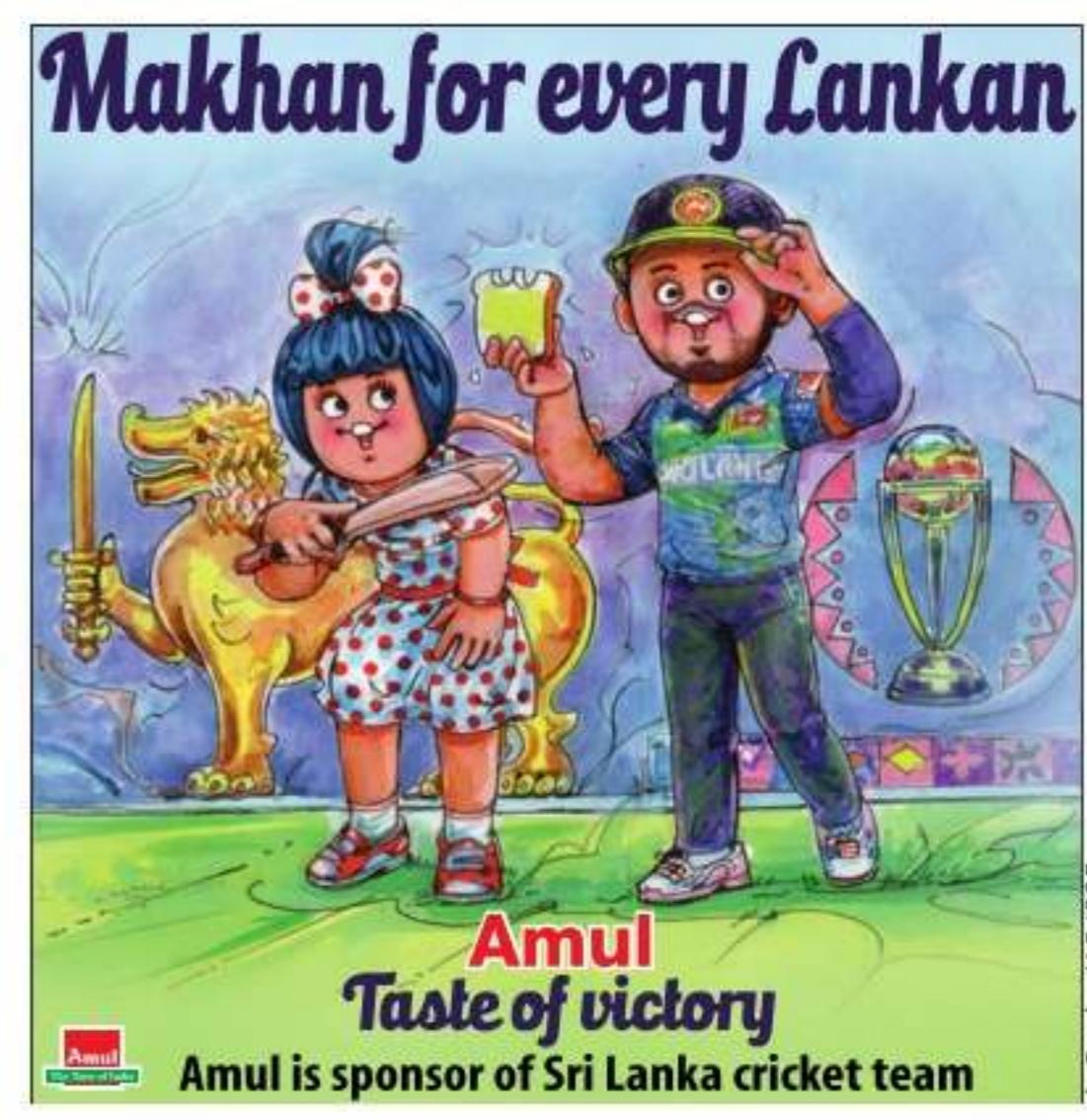
I HAD MORE CHANCES IN THE FIRST GAME BUT IT DRIFTED AWAY FROM ME AFTER 14-14. AT MY CURRENT FITNESS LEVEL, I'M HAPPY ENOUGH TO PLAY THE SEMIFINAL ON SUCH A BIG STAGE."

— HS PRANNOY, AFTER SIGNING OFF WITH A BRONZE, INDIA'S FIRST MEDAL IN MEN'S SINGLES IN 41 YEARS



TAKE THAT: Manpreet Singh (front) celebrates with teammates after scoring against Japan in the men's hockey final at Hangzhou on Friday

Getty Images



The main thing is we get a year to prepare for the Olympics, that's the best part. Japan put on a wonderful display. They made an effort to score more goals, which gave us control of the game." — PR Sreejesh | INDIA GOALKEEPER

daCunha/AB/905

# ASIAD DONE, SEE YOU IN PARIS

TIMES IN HANGZHOU

Sabi.Hussain@timesgroup.com

**H**armanpreet Singh threw his hockey stick in jubilation. Manpreet Singh knelt down and kissed the blue astroturf. PR Sreejesh looked up towards the sky in a praying gesture. There were hugs and smiles. High emotions make experiences memorable, and that's what it was.

The ghost of Jakarta was finally exorcised and the Indian men's hockey players can now proudly tell the world they are the conquerors of Asia. On a breezy Friday evening at the Gongshou Canal Sports Park Stadium, an undefeated Harmanpreet Singh-led side booked its berth for the Paris Olympics 2024 after a dominant 5-1 win over defending champions Japan in the final of hockey here.

Egged on by vociferous 200-odd spectators from the Indian diaspora, who had travelled from Chinese cities of Beijing, Shenzhen and Tianjin to watch their favourite stars in action, the Craig Fulton-coached squad came up with a stellar show of stick craftsmanship, putting on display high-quality reverse flicks, high presses and powerful drag flicks to penetrate the Japanese D at will.

The victory earned India its fourth men's hockey gold at the continental meet after

Bangkok 1966 and 1998 and Incheon 2014. This was also the highest victory margin for India in the final of the Asiad. They beat Pakistan 1-0 in 1966, South Korea in shootout 4-2 (1-1 regulation time) in 1998 and Pakistan in shootout 4-2 (1-1 regulation time) in 2014.

In Jakarta five years ago, it was a heart-break at the death for India after the Malaysians scored a 59th-minute equaliser, and then beat Manpreet Singh & Co in a shootout. India didn't want a repeat of Jakarta in Hangzhou and the pressure that followed to qualify through complex continental championships cycle for the Olympic Games.

So, it was natural that emotions ran high when India took to the field with the main aim of qualifying for Paris. "Look, that was the main objective coming into the tournament. We didn't want to leave anything to chance. We had taken care of the preparation and programme, so winning was the most important thing on our minds. Glad the boys did that. We played a nice blend of hockey. We scored a lot of goals, we defended well and attacked at the same time. For me, our semi-final against (four-time Asian Games champions) South Korea was the game of the tournament. We beat them 5-3 but it was quite tough," Fulton said after the final.

India played a fast-paced game against Japan and a strong defence laid the foundation for early inroads, as the trio of Sukheet Singh, Mandeep Singh and Manpreet hovered around the Japanese D, looking for openings

to attack. India earned their first penalty corner in the 15th minute of the first quarter but Harmanpreet's drag flick was brilliantly saved by goalkeeper Takumi Kitagawa.

In the second quarter, India earned the second PC (17th minute) but Amit Rohidas flicked it wide. The way the Indians were mounting relentless attacks, the opening goal wasn't far away. The moment came in the 25th minute when Manpreet Singh's perfect reverse hit sailed past Takumi's defence to give India a 1-0 lead.

At the half-time, India led Japan 1-0. In India's third PC, Hardik sent the ball to Mandeep, who stopped it for Harmanpreet to score through. India continued to full-press their opponents and succeeded in earning the fourth PC in the 36th minute when an aerial ball by Harmanpreet found Sukheet, who deflected it to Ryozen Kato standing outside the circle. Amit Rohidas successfully converted off the bounce.

"It feels wonderful to earn our Paris Olympics ticket. We raised our level when it mattered the most," said Sreejesh. "We won bronze at the Olympics and recently we claimed the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai. We now know how to beat the big teams in tough conditions. This Asian Games win is a baby step. The players are getting the experience of knockout matches."

"Our Olympics cycle has already started," he added.

## Team embraces Fulton's defend-to-win approach

### Shows Big Improvement In Game Awareness, Tactics

Manuja.Veerappa@timesgroup.com

**T**he scars of failure are hard to erase. The Indian men's hockey team went into the Asian Games as hot favourites and was in rampaging form in the pool phase. Yet, caution was the watchword. The bulk of the team, which went through the heart-break of finishing with a bronze at the previous edition of the Asian Games in Jakarta, was wary of complacency.

After amassing 76 goals in the initial phase, the semifinal loss to Malaysia changed the narrative in Jakarta. Driven by desire and spurred by redemption, a dominant India reclaimed the gold on Friday, they last won in 2014.

The road to Hangzhou was strewn

with challenges. After a dismal show at the World Cup at home in January this year, the cookie crumbled with the overhaul of the coaching and support staff. Head coach Graham Reid made way for Craig Fulton in March. Time was at a premium as the South African assembled his crew and went about familiarising himself with the team and the system.

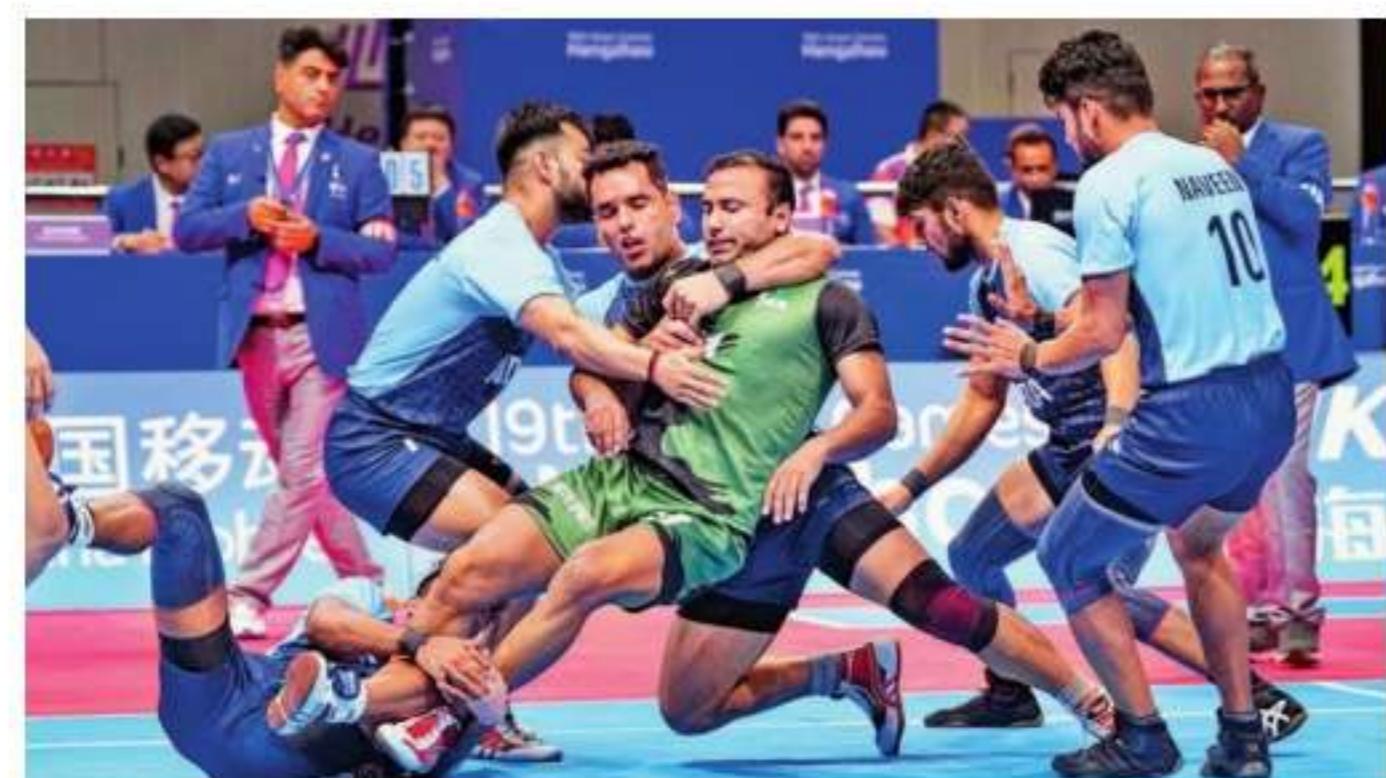
Traditionally, the Indian team does not welcome change at short notice, but it adapted well to Fulton's half-court and defend-to-win approach. Most often, India loaded the midfield with Manpreet Singh and Hardik Singh anchoring with accuracy, while dismantling the opposition's defence at regular intervals.

Also, a key factor that worked in India's favour was Fulton's approach towards the Asian Games. While most went gung-ho about a Paris Olympics berth, Fulton's message was clear despite the pressure to deliver.

"We want all the eggs in the basket and come away with that opportunity (of qualifying for the Olympics). But if it doesn't happen, it is not the end of the world. It is not ideal but there is another opportunity," was his bold statement to TOI in the run-up to the games.

The coach's mantra and mental coaching sessions with Paddy Upton have augured well for the team. While rewriting records at Hangzhou, the Indians showcased a marked improvement in game awareness and tactics.

With Mandeep Singh and Sukheet Singh, 24-year-old Abhishek — unyielding and accurate — formed the fulcrum of the attack. While Abhishek was at the heart of selfless passing and deft stickwork inside the circle, Mandeep backed his talent with sharp presence of mind, improved reflexes and good reaction time. After a forgettable World Cup, skipper Harmanpreet Singh has found his mojo again. Unperturbed under pressure, the drag-flick ace was the leading scorer for India with 13 goals. His penalty corner variations with Amit Rohidas hold promise for the future with Paris 2024 in mind.



## India crush Pakistan for 'grudge' match with Iran

### Women Overcome Nepal; Chinese Taipei Next In Final Battle

Sabi.Hussain@timesgroup.com

**H**angzhou: India's dominance in world kabaddi was threatened when both its men's and women's teams lost their defending champion crown to Iran at Jakarta Asian Games in 2018. The teams were subjected to a lot of ridicule on social media back home.

There were reasons for the outrage. Before Jakarta, India's men's kabaddi team had won all seven gold medals on offer since the sport's introduction at the Games in 1990. Women's kabaddi became part of

the Asiad programme in 2010 and the Indian team won the inaugural gold in Guangzhou, before successfully defending its title at Incheon 2014 only to finish runners-up at the last edition.

In Hangzhou, a lot has been riding on the two teams — not only to bring the gold medal home but also in terms of reclaiming the past glory. The way the two teams have been brushing past their opponents, it seems the Indians are headed for a final flourish.

On Friday, the two teams overcame their rivals with such dominance and perfection in their respective semifinals that routine all-outs (a team gets all seven players on the opposing team out at once) became the order of the day. While the women's team crushed Nepal 61-17 to set up its final date with Chinese Taipei, the men's

squad drubbed arch-rivals Pakistan 61-14 in another lop-sided encounter. They will face old nemesis Iran in Saturday's final. Taipei caused a huge upset after they ousted the defending champions, Iranian women, 35-24 in the other semifinal. In the men's last-four stage clash, Iran pipped Taipei 47-24.

In the semifinal between India and Pakistan, the gulf between the two teams was evident from the final scoreline. India were slow off the blocks and conceded four straight points to Pakistan's defence with a two-point raid from team's captain Mazhar Iqbal. The Indians regrouped quickly and showed their opponents why they are such a dominant force in kabaddi.

It was raider Naveen who got India its first points in the match with a bonus and then a touchpoint. Naveen single-handedly helped inflict the first

all-out on Pakistan within the first eight minutes of the contest with India leading 10-4. Thereafter, it was all Naveen and captain Pawan Sehrawat's show as they raided the opponent's half of the court at will and escaped their backsheets displaying brilliant agility.

In the women's final, India made it to its fourth successive final after thumping Nepal with super raids and excellent tackles. Nepal matched India's pace for the first few minutes of the start but their challenge soon fizzled out after raider Pooja Hathwala earned a couple of touchpoints to help her side surge ahead at 9-2.

India inflicted its first all-out on Nepal at 14-5. Thereafter, the women in blue kept mounting attacks on the Nepal's defence line to keep the scoreboard ticking. Going into the break, India led their opponents 29-10.

## Bajrang takes a tumble; Aman, Sonam and Kiran claim bronze

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**H**angzhou: Bajrang Punia was offered exemption from the selection trials for the Asian Games on the grounds that the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist was the country's best bet for a gold in the men's freestyle 65kg competition at the Hangzhou.

Indian Olympic Association (IOA)-led ad-hoc panel, headed by India's chef-de-mission (CDM) at the Games, Bhupender Singh Bajwa, felt that Bajrang and Vinesh Phogat have the skills, experience and mental fortitude to claim another top of

the podium finish for India.

This despite the fact that the two spent a major part of the year protesting on the streets against the former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharani Singh — who was accused of sexually harassing six female grapplers — and were completely out of the competition mindset.

The promising Vishal Kaliraman, who had topped the trials in Bajrang's category and the one who was in regular practice, wasn't considered for selection despite his repeated pleas to authorities to name him in the Asiad

bound squad. Vinesh, who too was spared from the trials, suffered an injury ahead of the Games and pulled out of the event, offering her reserve in the women's 53kg category, Antim Panghal, a chance to compete, which the two-time junior world champion happily grabbed and will return home with an impressive bronze.

For many in the Indian sports administration, Bajrang was an outright pre-tournament favourite who was primed to defend his title won in Jakarta 2018. However, Bajrang failed to live up to the hype and lost his bronze medal bout to Japan's Kaiki Yamaguchi on technical superiority without scoring a single point.

However, he ran into former world champion and reigning Asian champion Rahaman Amouzadkhaili of Iran in the last-four stage bout and lost 1-8 in a lop-sided contest.

While Bajrang's defeat would have come as an eye opener to many, it was Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Ravi Dahiya's heir apparent, Aman Sehrawat, who impressed the most with his excellent mat work.



ON TOP: Aman Sehrawat (in blue) on way to winning the bronze against China's Liu Minghu in men's 57kg freestyle

## Arrow fired in Hangzhou, bounty lands in Buldhana

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**N**agpur: This is a tale of how an arrow landed on barren ground and fortune spouted forth. This is also the story of middle India, where sport offers sustenance, an opportunity to a better life, and where compound archery bested compound interest. Here's how.

A day after winning his maiden gold medal on his Asian Games debut, compound archer Prathamesh Jawkar, son of a farmer in Maharashtra's Buldhana, was seeing those dreams coming true. "This Asian Games gold was my main target, and this means a lot to me. Now I am eligible for a Class 1 job under the government sports quota, and will be able to help my father," said the 20-year-old about his eight-year journey as an archer and his aim of getting a government job.

In the men's compound team final at Hangzhou, Prathamesh combined with Nagpur's Ojas Deotale and experienced Abhishek Verma of Delhi to help India secure gold. Not far, if you traversed the light years of ambition, but a thousand physical miles away if you actually stopped to measure the vast distance, in Alam pura, a small village in Nandura tehsil 67-km from Buldhana district headquarters, a family was finally seeing a new dawn.

At 12, Prathamesh had accompanied his father Samadhan Jawkar to a multisport event in Buldhana. "After trying various activities at the event, I picked up the bow and arrow, and my first-ever attempt was a perfect 10. This is how I got hooked to archery," Prathamesh said.

In 2015, Prathamesh joined ar-

### EDITOR'S PICK

cery classes under Chandrakant Ilag, a retired army and police officer, who teaches the sport in Buldhana. "Prathamesh is from a very poor background," says Ilag, "Seeing his potential, I told his father to buy the required equipment. Samadhan took a Rs two-lakh loan."

"With the loan, we were able to buy second-hand equipment," Prathamesh told TOI.

"Then, my uncle, aunty and maternal grandparents contributed to help me purchase advanced equipment. With that, I became three-time national champion before I made my India debut."

The prize money and cash rewards are helping pay off the loan.

Prathamesh soon made his international debut and he never looked back, going on to win the World Cup silver. Earlier this year, he captured the gold at the World Cup Stage 1 in Shanghai, China, and was richer by Rs 5 lakh. This enabled the Jawkar family to pay off the Rs two-lakh loan, which had swelled to Rs 5 lakh due to interest.

### INDIANS IN ACTION TODAY

**ARCHERY:** 6.10am — Women's compound bronze medal match — Aditi Swami vs Raithi Fatih (Ind);

**6.30am** — Women's compound gold medal match — Jyothi Venman vs Chaewon So (Kor);

**7.10am** — Men's compound gold medal match — Abhishek Verma vs Ojas Deotale

**BADMINTON:** 11.30am — Men's doubles gold medal match — Satwikaraj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty vs Korea

**CANOE SLALOM:** 6.55am — Men's kayak semis — Shubham Kewat, Hitesh Kewat; 11.52am — Final

**CHESS:** 12.30pm — Men's, Women's team

**CRICKET:** 11.30am — Men's final — India vs Afghanistan

**HOCKEY:** 1.30pm — Women's bronze medal match — India vs Japan

**JU-JITSU:** 6.30am onwards — Men's 85kg R32 — Uma Reddy vs Tha;

**6.30am onwards** — Women's 63kg

**R16** — Kiran Kumari vs Mgl; **6.30am onwards** — Men's 85kg R32 — Amarjeet Singh vs Mgl

**KABADDI:** 7am — Women's team

gold medal match — India vs Chinese Taipei; **12.30pm** — Men's team gold medal match — India vs Iran

**ROLLER SKATING:** 8.30am — Ladies artistic single free skating final — Gereshna Dontara and Sai Samitha

**SOFT TENNIS:** 7.30am onwards — Women's singles QF - M. Kulandaivelu vs Chn; **7.30am onwards** — Men's singles — Ankit Patel vs Tpe

**SPORT CLIMBING:** 6.30am — Semis

— Women's boulder & lead semis — Shivani Charak, Sanjya Shaikh;

**5.58pm** — Final

**VOLLEYBALL:** 8am — Women's 9-10th place match — India vs Hong Kong

</div

# SATWIK & CHIRAG HAVE ONE HAND ON GOLD

Prannoy Fails To Get Into Singles Final

Manne.Ratnakar@timesgroup.com

**S**atwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty made short work of Aaron Chia Teng Fong and Soh Wooi Yik of Malaysia 21-17, 21-12 to storm into the men's doubles final at the Asian Games badminton on Friday.

HS Prannoy, playing with a back niggle, had to rest content with a bronze after losing the singles semifinal to Li Shifeng of China 21-16, 21-9.

Satwik and Chirag are the first Indian doubles team to reach an Asiad final and this is the best show by the Indian shuttlers. They are in line to win at least two silver and a bronze. India won three bronze in 1982 and a bronze and a silver in 2018. The world No.3 Indian duo will face world No.15 Korean pair of Choi Sol Gyu and Kim Won Ho. The Koreans downed Lee Yang and Wang Chi-Lin of Chinese Taipei 21-12, 21-10 in the other semifinal.

Satwik-Chirag go into the final as favourites, having defeated the Korean pair twice in the last two years.

The Indians did not allow the Malaysians to get a foothold in the match. Consistently hitting hard, they reeled off seven straight points from 10-10 in the first game. Though the Malaysians saved three game points at 20-14, the gap was too big to overcome.

The Indians continued in the same vein and jumped to 11-3 lead by the break in the second game. Producing smash winners with ease and retrieving everything, the Indians were in splendid form



throughout the 46-minute contest.

Chief coach Pullela Gopichand was thrilled. "It's a fantastic performance. Both have hard-hitting skills but they have displayed their retrieving skills today," Gopichand told TOI. "We have witnessed several big results from the girls but very few expected the boys to come good in this tournament. I am happy with what we have achieved after several decades," he added.

Prannoy was not able to give his best against Li. "After 41 years, someone from India is getting an Asian medal in men's singles. This shows how tough the Asian Games are. It's a kind of World Championship for us. In the top 10, there are nine from Asia. So, to win a medal is up there with the World Championships bronze that I won last month," said Prannoy.

"I've had this injury in the past... Hopefully, in the next few weeks, I will be in a much better position," he added.



KILLER MOVES: Chirag Shetty (left) and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy get into the dancing mode after reaching the men's doubles final on Friday. (Left) HS Prannoy bowed out in the semifinals

## Recurve archers bring more glory to India

**Men's Team Claims Silver, Women Win Bronze**

TIMES IN HANGZHOU  
Sabi.Hussain@timesgroup.com



An unprecedented achievement for India! Assured of 100 medals at the Asian Games. It's a moment of immense pride for every Indian. The dedication and hard work of our athletes is truly commendable. A big salute to the sports federations, coaches, support staff, and the vision of our government with its impactful schemes. Together, we rise. Well done, Team India!

—Abhinav Bindra

**Hangzhou:** Indian archers continued to reap rich rewards at the Asian Games here after the men's and women's recurve teams won silver and bronze, respectively on Friday.

The men's team, comprising Atanu Das, Dhiraj Bommaudvara and Tushar Shelke, settled for silver after falling short against the South Korean trio of Lee Wooseok, Oh Jinhyek and Kim Je Deok in the final. The Indians lost the gold medal match 1-5.

Competing against the Koreans was always going to be a tough ask for Atanu & Co as all three of their opponents were gold medallists in the team event at the World Championships in Berlin this year. Earlier, India had defeated Bangladesh 4-2 in the semifinals after accounting for Mongolia 5-4 in the quarters.

Meanwhile, the women's

team of Ankita Bhakat, Bhajan Kaur and Simranjeet Kaur, and men's team members (right) Dhiraj Bommaudvara, Atanu Das and Tushar Shelke

ended their wait for a medal after falling short against the South Korean trio of Lee Wooseok, Oh Jinhyek and Kim Je Deok in the final. The Indians lost the gold medal match 1-5.

Competing against the Koreans was always going to be a tough ask for Atanu & Co as all three of their opponents were gold medallists in the team event at the World Championships in Berlin this year. Earlier, India had defeated Bangladesh 4-2 in the semifinals after accounting for Mongolia 5-4 in the quarters.

Meanwhile, the women's

team of Ankita Bhakat, Bhajan Kaur and Simranjeet Kaur had to be content with a bronze finish after losing 2-6 to South Korea in the semifinal. They triumphed in the bronze medal match, defeating the Vietnamese trio of Do Thi Anh Nguyet, Nguyen Thi Thanh Nghi and Phuong Thao Hoang 6-2. The Indians had defeated Japan by an identical margin in the quarterfinal.

Atanu expressed happiness with the result as the men had

failed to win medals in Jakarta 2018 and Incheon 2014. "Finally, I am not going home empty-handed. It feels amazing, we fought like warriors," he said.

Asked whether they were intimidated facing South Koreans who are Olympic gold medalists, Atanu replied: "I don't think like that because in the stadium matches, everyone's the same, everyone has the same capability. You can get tense and sometimes make a little mistake

and it will cost you. Or you can make some good shots and you can win the match."

Atanu hoped that he would be able to win a quota place for the Paris Olympics at the upcoming Asian Championships. "Our second chance is the world ranking meet and our third chance will be the Stage 3 of next year's World Cup. We have three more chances but it will be tough," he added.

Women's team member Kaur said strong winds and rain on Friday morning made sighting the target difficult. "But as a team, we just focused on ourselves. The junior talent is rising and therefore they are catching up with the seniors."

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# WORLD CUP



"AS A SOUTH AFRICAN TEAM, WE KNOW WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THAT 'CHOKERS' CHIP ON OUR BACKS TILL WE WIN."

-Tamba Bavuma | SA skipper

## KISHAN MAY OPEN IN GILL'S ABSENCE

**Coach Dravid Keeps Fingers Crossed On Shubman's Availability For India's Opener Vs Australia**

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesgroup.com

**Chennai:** There was a cloud hanging over the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Friday. It probably reflected the mood in the Team India camp. It's not easy losing your designated opener — and premier, in-form ODI player, who has been preparing specifically for this tournament — for the first game of a month-and-a-half long World Cup journey. That too against a team like Australia.

With the dynamic Shubman Gill down with fever — suspected to be dengue — it is highly unlikely that the right-hander will be available on Sunday. He missed the first two days of practice and it wasn't any different on Friday, with Ishan Kishan being prepared for the role.

Coach Rahul Dravid, though, refused to completely rule Gill out of the first game. "There's still 36 hours to go for the first match and he is feeling better today. The medical team is monitoring him and we will take a call tomorrow," the coach said ahead of an optional training session on Friday evening.



ISHAN KISHAN IN ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS

	M	R	HS	Ave	SR	100s/50s
Overall	25	886	210	44.30	102.42	1/7
GILL	7	448	210	74.66	125.13	1/3

One felt that the management was resigned to the fact that it will be a miracle of sorts if the opener, who boasts of an ODI average of 66.1 and a strike-rate of 102.84, makes Sunday's game. It does take a bit of time to recover from dengue, and even if he tests negative over the next 24 hours, Dravid and Co. will surely look to preserve him for later in the tournament.

Now it seems likely that the left-handed Kishan, instead, will go out to bat with captain Rohit Sharma. The Jharkhand left-hander has had a couple of extended batting sessions over the last two days.

Kishan opens in white-ball cricket and has a strike-rate which is almost identical to Gill's. His average, though, is 44.3, which is significant-



**ALL SMILES:** Despite the uncertainty over Shubman Gill's availability for the game against Australia, Indian players were in a cheerful mood, as Virat Kohli (left) and Ishan Kishan's expressions suggest

ly lower compared to Gill, who has shaped up as the poster boy of Indian cricket in recent times. Kishan can also be a bit of a suspect against genuine pace, even though he has the ability to generate easy power.

On Friday, the 25-year-old didn't look in his best shape against the likes of Mohammed Shami, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj. There were quite a few occasions when he was beaten by the pace trio and against Australia on Sunday, things won't get any easier. Towards the end of the session, he was seen receiving words of advice from Virat Kohli on how to deal with pace and swing.

Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins will try not to give Kishan the room that he enjoys and it can become one of the most crucial plot-points of an intriguing contest on Sunday. There is also a suggestion of KL Rahul opening, but he has been batting at No. 5 and it's unlikely that there will be a change of role so late in the day.

## Pak too strong for Dutch despite De Leede show

Jac.Gladson@timesgroup.com

**Hyderabad:** The World Cup is just two days into the tournament and there's so much talk about over-rate, a situation the teams are likely to encounter down the line. New Zealand set the tone in the opener against England.

But Pakistan seemed unaffected in their opening fixture and their way of cricket as their director Mickey Arthur put it on match eve, clearly lacked flair. If they expected the Netherlands to roll over at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium on Friday, it didn't happen.

In fact, the Dutchmen were on top after putting their opponents in. But for a 120-run partnership between Mohammad Rizwan (68; 75b, 4x8) and Saud Shakeel (68; 52b, 4x9, 6x1), Pakistan, who won by 81 runs, would have managed less than the 286 they managed in 49 overs.

With their openers — Fakhar Zaman and Imam ul Haq — struggling for form and skipper Babar Azam falling in quick succession, the Dutchmen were cock-a-hoop. It also exposed the frailties of the Pakistan middle order. Rizwan revived the innings and gave it some momentum before Bas de Leede (4/62) triggered a late order collapse with two wickets in the 44th over.

Shaeen Afridi averted the hat-trick but that Pakistan managed just 59 runs in the last nine overs is an indication of their inability to dominate an attack not entirely new to them since the teams played against each other in Rotterdam recently.

Afridi was missing in the Pakistan attack in Rotterdam but the Dutch looked in control with opener Vikramjit Singh (52; 67b, 4x4, 6x1) playing a good hand at the top. They looked a different team to the one that struggled to counter the conditions and lost all their matches against Karnataka in the lead-up to the tourna-



### SCOREBOARD

**Pakistan:** Fakhar Zaman c & b van Beek 12, Imam-ul-Haq c Aryan Dutt b van Meekeren 15, Babar Azam c Saqib Zulfiqar b Ackermann 5, Mohammad Rizwan b Bas de Leede 68, Saud Shakeel c Saqib Zulfiqar b Aryan Dutt 68, Iftikhar Ahmed Edwards b Bas de Leede 9, Mohammad Nawaz run out (van Meekeren/Ackermann) 39, Shadab Khan b Bas de Leede 32, Hasan Ali lbw b Bas de Leede 30, Shaheen Afridi not out 13, Haris Rauf st Edwards b Ackermann 16. Extras (nb1, w8) 9; Total: (49 overs) 286

**Netherlands:** Vikramjit Singh c van Beek 12, Afzal Khan 52, Max O'Dowd c Shaheen Afridi b Hasan Ali 5, Colin Ackermann b Iftikhar Ahmed 17, Bas de Leede b Mohammad Nawaz 67, Teja Nidamanur c Fakhar Zaman b Haris Rauf 5, Scott Edwards lbw b Haris Rauf 0, Saqib Zulfiqar lbw b Shaheen Afridi 10; Roelof van der Merwe run out (Babar Azam/Rizwan) 4, Logan van Beek not out 28, Aryan Dutt b Hasan Ali 1, Paul van Meekeren b Haris Rauf 7, Extras: (W-9) 9; Total: (41 overs) 205; FoW: 28-1, 50-2, 120-3, 133-4, 133-5, 158-6, 164-7, 176-8, 184-9, 205-10; **Bowling:** Shaheen Afridi 7-0-37-1, Hasan Ali 7-1-33-2, Haris Rauf 9-4-33, Iftikhar Ahmed 3-0-16-1, Mohammad Nawaz 7-0-31-1, Shadab Khan 8-0-45-1.

**MoM:** Saud Shakeel

Singh 2-0-16-0, Saqib Zulfiqar 2-0-15-0.

**Vikramjit and de Leede (67; 68b, 4x6, 6x2) frustrated Pakistan more.**

De Leede bowled his heart out earlier in the day and hardly put a foot wrong till he was castled by Mohammad Nawaz, but lacked support at the other end, as Haris Rauf (3/43) ended their resistance with two wickets in the 27th over.

The rest caved in and the Dutchmen were bowled out for 205.

## For South Africa and Lanka, it's all about restoring pride and honour

**'Choker' Tag Looms Large As Bavuma & Co Begin Cup Campaign**

Arani.Basu@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** It's not easy being Temba Bavuma. He is leading a South Africa team that has become increasingly susceptible to losing players to T20 leagues. His own place in the team has forever been under scrutiny.

In essence, he has to do more than just plot a World Cup campaign which starts with facing Sri Lanka here on Saturday. When one of the most experienced members of the team — Quinton de Kock — publicly declares that the lure of T20 leagues is much greater than the pride of representing his country, there ought to be an uneasy feeling in the camp.

South African cricket has been in choppy waters, and Bavuma has been placed in front of the wheel to steer them towards stability. For all his diminutive appearance, Bavuma has a powerful stature.

"I don't know if it's my job as captain to inspire the guys to play ODI cricket. It's becoming tougher for the guys to overlook the opportunity of playing in T20 leagues. That's just the real thing. I can speak about Cricket South Africa, we are trying to get ahead of the train. I guess that train has already gone. But we are trying to accommodate those individuals who have those opportunities of playing outside South Africa," Bavuma said on Friday.

"For me if you have the opportunity to play for your country, you wear that badge with pride and honour and don't take anything for granted," he added.



PRESENT TENSE? South Africa skipper Temba Bavuma (left) with coach Rob Walter at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Friday, the eve of their opener against Sri Lanka

**WEATHER**

A sunny afternoon is expected with temperatures of 36 degrees Celsius. Under lights, it will cool down to 25.

**ODDS: SOUTH AFRICA 7/10, SRI LANKA 5/4**

**6** World Cup fixtures contested between South Africa and Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's only win came in 1992 — by three wickets at Wellington on March 2. South Africa have won four — by 89 runs at Northampton on May 19, 1999; by one wicket at Providence on March 28, 2007; by 9 wickets at Sydney on March 18, 2015 and by nine wickets at Chester-le-Sreet on June 28, 2019. The Durban game on March 3, 2003 was a tie decided by DLS.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

**SA vs SL**

**HEAD TO HEAD**

SA 45 | SL 33 | NR 1

One match ended in a tie

**PITCH**

If this is to be believed, there is quite a bit of grass on the surface which should suit the South African pacers. There is help for spin when the pitch slows down.

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**WEATHER**

A sunny afternoon is expected with temperatures of 36 degrees Celsius. Under lights, it will cool down to 25.

**ODDS: SOUTH AFRICA 7/10, SRI LANKA 5/4**

**6** World Cup fixtures contested between South Africa and Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka's only win came in 1992 — by three wickets at Wellington on March 2. South Africa have won four — by 89 runs at Northampton on May 19, 1999; by one wicket at Providence on March 28, 2007; by 9 wickets at Sydney on March 18, 2015 and by nine wickets at Chester-le-Sreet on June 28, 2019. The Durban game on March 3, 2003 was a tie decided by DLS.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

**SA vs SL**

**HEAD TO HEAD**

SA 45 | SL 33 | NR 1

One match ended in a tie

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**WEATHER**

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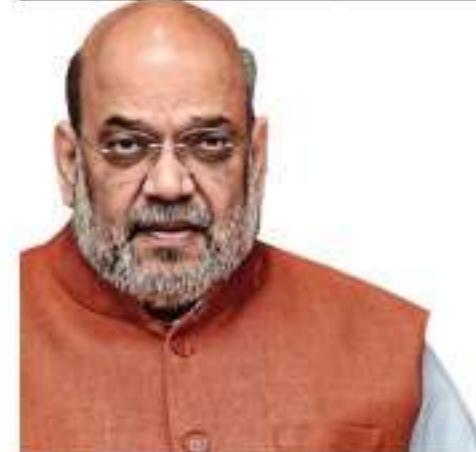
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