

L-G ISSUES ORDER AHEAD OF LS POLLS

Major reshuffle in Delhi Police: Over 2 dozen cops transferred

ARNABJIT SUR
& JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

FROM THOSE in charge of Law & Order zones to specialised units such as Crime, Economic Offences Wing, Special Cell, Security, and Traffic, and district in-charges — the Delhi Police Friday saw over two dozen officers being transferred following an order by L-G VK Saxena in this regard.

As many as 25 Indian Police Service (IPS) and 2 DANIPS officers were part of the overhaul. This is likely the last exercise of its kind before the Lok Sabha elections, said officials.

While L-G House officials termed the exercise a "routine affair," sources in the bureaucracy told *The Indian Express* that

the reshuffle had been on the anvil for several months. Said an official, "The L-G had sought a reshuffle in the Delhi Police ranks well before the G20 Summit but the matter was postponed due to one issue or another; Saxena has come down very heavily on issues related to policing on more than one occasion since taking over, especially with respect to corruption."

"The recent NCRB report, which posits Delhi at the top of the list of metropolitan cities most unsafe for women, did not help the Delhi Police's case in this regard," the official also said.

Both Special Commissioners of Police for Law and Order, Zone 1 and 2, have been transferred. Dependra Pathak, earlier Special CP (Law and Order, Zone 1), is now Special CP (Security). Pathak had held the post since

September 2021. Sagar Preet Hooda, Special CP (Law and Order, Zone 2), has now been posted as Special CP Ops (PCR and Communications) with additional charge of Perception Management and the Media Cell Division.

Further, Special CP (Crime Branch) Ravindra Yadav has been made Special CP (Law and Order, Zone 1) while Madhup Tiwari, who was earlier Special CP (Protective Security Division), has been posted as Special CP (Law and Order, Zone 2).

Meanwhile, Special CP (Special Cell) HGS Dhaliwal has been posted as Special CP (Traffic, Zone 2) while incumbent SS Yadav has been posted as Special CP (EOW). In Dhaliwal's tenure as Special Cell chief, police caught assailants who killed Sidhu Moosewala,

busted ISIS terror modules, caught a Hizbul Mujahideen leader and arrested wanted gangsters from Mexico and Azerbaijan.

Rajender Pal Upadhyay, Special CP (Perception Management and Media Cell Division), is now Special CP (Special Cell).

At the DCP-level, DCP (New Delhi) Pranav Tayal, under whose supervision crucial cases like the Parliament breach, wrestlers' protest, Israel Embassy blast, among others, are being probed, is now DCP (Special Branch). DCP (IGI) Devesh Mahla has taken charge as DCP (New Delhi).

Sources said Saxena had conveyed the need for a "change" among Deputy Commissioners of Police in "certain districts" on "more than one occasion" to the MHA last year.

BJP 'hatching' plan to remove all slums in Delhi: AAP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

At AAP-Cong 2nd meet, no consensus on seat sharing yet



A two-hour meeting was held at Congress Rajya Sabha MP Mukul Wasnik's residence on Friday. Anil Sharma

JATIN ANAND
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

THE SECOND meeting between the Congress and AAP on Friday, with seat-sharing for the Lok Sabha polls on the agenda, remained inconclusive. All eyes are now on a Zoom call between leaders of parties part of the INDIA bloc scheduled Saturday.

According to AAP sources, during the two-hour meeting at Congress Rajya Sabha MP and general secretary Mukul Wasnik's residence, the party had pushed for a seat-sharing arrangement in Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Goa, and Gujarat.

According to Congress sources, AAP's decision to announce the candidature of its Gujarat AAP MLA Chaitar Vasava from the Bharuch Parliamentary constituency at a meeting of AICC coordinators from Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Maharashtra, Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu — chaired by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge earlier during the day — had emerged as a sore point.

Congress sources said the party's national leadership had then stepped in to assure the coordinators it would take the matter up with AAP convenor

Arvind Kejriwal, adding that the seat-sharing only revolves around Delhi and Punjab for the moment but talks regarding the entire country are simultaneously ongoing.

Following the meeting, Congress National Alliance Committee member Salman Khurshid said there would be "many more rounds" of discussion on the way forward. "Our discussion was very positive. We are very happy that today, we've been able to find the chemistry we were looking for during our talks...we are proceeding forward very well..." Khurshid said, adding that whatever representatives of both parties had gathered from the talks would be convened to their national leadership.

AAP Punjab Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha told reporters, "Discussion around the alliance is proceeding well...such a discussion is not a cricket match that can have ball-by-ball commentary."

During Monday's meeting between the two parties, AAP leaders had expressed the possibility of a 4-3 seat-sharing formula in the national capital, staking claim especially to the Northeast Delhi seat. Congress sources had said AAP also wants to contest from Chandni Chowk, Northwest and West Delhi.

Delhi Ministers Atishi and Saurabh Bharadwaj at the AAP office. Praveen Khanna

Security, CCTVs outside women's toilets: DU updates fest advisory

VIDHEESHAKUNTAMALLA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

MONTHS AFTER a few women students from a Delhi University college alleged they were secretly filmed while changing inside a washroom at IIT-Delhi, the varsity has made an addition to its 17-point advisory to colleges and departments for holding any programme, event or fest.

The addition, issued on Thursday, states that "there should be proper security arrangements/CCTVs outside the ladies' washroom/changing room in every institution".

Last October, the Delhi HC had taken suo motu cognizance of a report by *The Indian Express* of the alleged secret filming of students of DU's Bharti College at IIT-Delhi's annual Rendezvous fest. The students were participating in a fashion show.

The HC had said the report brings to light lapses in security measures employed for annual college festivals organised by universities in the state resulting in injuries, violations, and trauma

for students attending them.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, DU Proctor Rajni Abbi said, "The case is still going on in court. This addition has been made keeping in mind the incident students had to go through at IIT-Delhi and to make sure such incidents do not occur again... We had published updated set of guidelines yesterday keeping in mind the court's directions to issue (them)."

South Campus Director Sriprakash Singh said, "After the incident, the Delhi Police was proactive and visited both campuses of DU and sat down with the Proctorial team of the university to bring in the necessary policy changes or additions to the 17-

point guidelines."

The varsity issued the advisory last year in April following the alleged harassment of students of Indraprastha College for Women during their annual fest and similar incidents at Miranda House and Gargi College over the past few years.

It stated that college authorities must hold security drills along with Delhi Police. "Entry for events should be through pre-registration like (through) Google forms. Details of the event, date, time, expected number of participants should be submitted to the police with a copy," it had said.

A police NOC is a must for holding any event.

राजकीय दून मेडिकल कॉलेज, देहरादून, पटेल नगर, देहरादून।

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पत्रकार्यालय: राजकीय दून मेडिकल कॉलेज, देहरादून के केंद्रीय पुस्तकालय में वर्ष 2024 हेतु राजकीय दून मेडिकल कॉलेज, देहरादून की आवश्यकता है। इससे सम्बंधित समस्त जानकारी राजकीय दून मेडिकल कॉलेज, देहरादून की वेबसाइट www.gdmcu.com पर उल्लिखित है। कॉलेजन प्रेषित करने की अन्तिम तिथि दिनांक 23.01.2024 साथ 4:00 बजे तक है।

प्राचार्य
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Yet another 'collapse' at Chintels; this time, in tower declared 'safe'

AISWARYA RAJ
GURGAON, JANUARY 12

IN YET another incident of a collapse at Chintels Paradiso residential society in Gurgaon, a portion of the balcony of a fifth-floor flat in Tower J came crashing down on Friday.

In February 2022, a portion of a sixth-floor apartment in Tower D collapsed all the way to the first floor, killing two women. The incident prompted a CBI probe and a structural audit of the nine-tower society. Five towers — D, E, F, G and H — constructed under Phase I were declared unfit for habitation due to structural deficiencies and ordered to be vacated. Towers A, B, and C were said to be safe temporarily but required a timely audit to check depreciation.

Tower J, one of those built during Phase 2 of construction, is occupied. Though a structural audit report from IIT-Delhi is awaited, it was declared safe and fit for



A portion of the balcony of a fifth-floor flat in Tower J came crashing down on Friday. Express

with a temporary remedy as they are awaiting reports of the audit. Two years ago, I noticed some cracks and informed them but they haven't done anything yet. The problem is, this is not just one apartment facing this issue, many residents in the 'safe' towers have complained of cracks in their flats," he claimed.

J N Yadav, vice-president of Chintels India Limited, said it was just plaster that fell and attributed it to weather changes. "This might have been due to other reasons and not necessarily structural damage. We have asked CBRI (Central Building Research Institute) to conduct an audit for all four towers (A, B, C and J) and form a decision when it comes in two-three months," he said. He added that the IIT-Delhi report on Tower J, which has not been made public yet, declared it safe.

Last December, Chintels wrote to the CBRI, asking it to carry out the audit for the four towers. Yadav said officials visited the society for an inspection recently.

habitation by the builder.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Hitesh Kumar Meena Friday said they have received the report of tower J from IIT-Delhi and will announce the findings next week. In October, the ADC had said the structural audit report of Tower J had similar findings to that of other towers considered safe.

According to the owner of the flat, R B Chopra, a former defence personnel, his tenant informed him of the incident in the afternoon and he rushed there. "The plaster and concrete fell from the balcony... even the rods holding the structure up have corroded. I informed maintenance and they told me they can only come up

GOVERNMENT MEDICAL COLLEGE

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TEL. No. 05946-255255, 255926, 282578, FAX: 05946-282578, Website: www.gmchd.org, email: principal-gmchd@gov.in

Walk-In-Interview

In order to strengthen the faculty position (Speciality & Super Speciality) for U.G./P.G. courses at Government Medical College, Haldwani (Nainital) a "Walk-In-Interview" will be held on 25th January, 2024 (Thursday) from 11:00 AM onwards, in the "Office of the Principal, Government Medical College, Haldwani (Nainital), Uttarakhand". The appointments will be made on the contractual basis initially for one year, which may be further extendable annually, subject to a satisfactory appraisal report by the concerned Head of Department, for a maximum tenure of 03 years only or till regular appointment are made. The vacancy position in various departments is as given below:-

S.No.	Department	Designation		
		Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
1	Anatomy (MD/MS/DNB)	—	01	01
2	Physiology (MD/DNB)	—	01	02
3	Pharmacology (MD/DNB)	—	01	01
4	Microbiology (MD/DNB)	—	01	02
5	Forensic Medicine (MD/DNB)	01	01	—
6	Community Medicine (MD/DNB)	—	02	05
7	General Medicine (MD/DNB)	—	03	10
8	T.B. Chest (MD/DNB)	—	01	01
9	Skin V.D (MD/DNB)	—	01	—
10	Psychiatry (MD/DNB)	01	01	01
11	Paediatrics (MD/DNB)	—	02	01
12	General Surgery (MS/DNB)	—	02	10
13	Orthopaedics (MS/DNB)	—	01	—
14	Ophthalmology (MS/DNB)	—	01	—
15	E.N.T. (MS/DNB)	—	01	—
16	Gynaecology & Obstetrics (MD/MS/DNB)	—	02	04
17	Radiology (MD/DNB)	01	02	02
18	Anesthesiology (MD/DNB)	—	03	01
19	Neuro Surgery (M.Ch./DNB)	01	01	—
20	Urology (M.Ch./DNB)	01	—	01
21	Plastic Surgery (M.Ch./DNB)	01	01	01
22	Nephrology (DM/DNB)	01	01	01
23	Cardiology (DM/DNB)	01	01	01

Emoluments per month :-

- (a) Professor : - Rs. 1,43,000/-p.m. fixed (Annual increment Rs. 6000/-)
- (b) Associate Professor : -Rs. 1,23,000/-p.m. fixed (Annual increment Rs. 6000/-)
- (c) Assistant Professor : -Rs. 95,000/-p.m. fixed (Annual increment Rs. 3600/-)

Age: As per N.M.C. norms.

Qualification for Faculty : As per N.M.C. Norms.

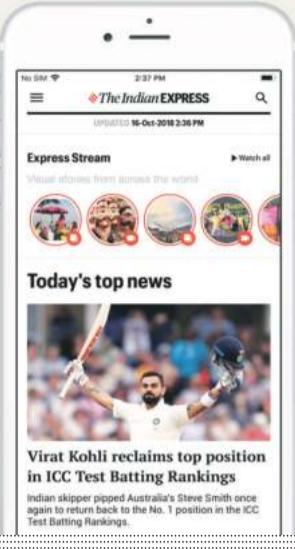
Reservation: As per Uttarakhand State Govt. Rules.

No/TDA will be admissible for attending the interview. The Chairman, interview committee reserves the right to accept/reject any application without assigning any reason and also reserves the right to fill or not to fill any of the post. Number of posts advertised may be increased or decreased as per requirement. Candidate must bring their resume along with original MBBS, MD/MS/DM/MCh/DNB degree, Medical Council/State Council Registration certificate, Experience Certificate and Undergraduate teaching certificate during MD/MS/DM/MCh/DNB course on concerned specialty/superspecialty and other relevant documents. Candidate working in any Central/State Government sector requires No objection certificate (N.O.C.) from his employer for appearing in interview. Candidate should also bring a set of photocopies of all relevant documents along with two recent passport size color photographs which will be needed at the time of Interview.

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EXPRESS AUDIO

The Pannun murder plot case, direct cash transfers, & garlic prices

In 3 Things, we discuss charges against Nikhil Gupta, who, according to US, plotted to get Gurpatwant Singh Pannun murdered, do direct cash transfer schemes make people lazy, and sharp hike in garlic prices

Lentil production set to touch all-time high: Consumer secy

Production stood at 1.56 million tonne in the 2022-23 crop year

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

INDIA IS set to become the world's largest producer of lentil (masoor) during the 2023-24 crop year on account of higher acreage, Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar said Friday. This is significant for India which, despite being among the world's top five lentil growers, second only to Canada, depends on imports to meet its domestic demands.

"I was looking at the lentil numbers, masoor production numbers, and this year, the numbers are going to be at an all-time high. And I was told by experts yesterday that our lentil production may probably be the highest in the world as a country this year," Singh said during a roadshow ahead of the Global Pulse Conference (GPC), being held in February in New Delhi.

India's lentil production has tapered since 2017-18 when the country recorded its highest output of 1.62 million tonne. According to official data, in the 2022-23 crop year, the country's lentil production stood at 1.56 million tonne.

With the government incentivising farmers to grow more pulses, the country has reported a higher area under lentil crop during the current year. Data from the Agriculture Ministry show 19.45 lakh hectares under

lentil till January 12, 2024. This is 1.06 lakh hectare (or about 6%) higher from last year's area of 18.39 lakh hectare, and 37% higher than the normal area (14.37 lakh hectare) under lentil.

Speaking during the roadshow, NAFED managing director Ritesh Chauhan said India was now on "the path to self-sufficiency". "As the Home Minister (Amit Shah) has said... if a farmer grows pulses he will have a full fertiliser factory in his field due to inherent benefits of the crop and we firmly believe in the same," he said.

According to the data available with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the world top lentil growers in 2022 were Canada (2.3 million tonnes), India (1.26 million tonnes), Australia (0.99 million tonnes), Turkey (0.44 million tonnes), and Russia (0.26 million tonnes) during 2022.

Despite being the second largest producer of lentil, India has so far been relying on imports to meet its domestic requirements, buying mainly from Australia, Canada, Russia, Singapore, and Turkey. During the current year, it also imported some quantities of lentil from UAE, USA, Sri Lanka and Nepal.

During the April-October period of the current financial year (2023-24), India imported 9.46 lakh tonne of lentils, 15% higher than the 3.65 lakh tonne imported in the same period last year.

IIM Rohtak director faces probe

FROM PAGE ONE PM opens Atal Setu in Mumbai

FULL REPORTS ON
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PM opens Atal Setu in Mumbai

speed and there will be progress. In developed India, distances will be reduced and every corner of the country will be connected. Be it life or livelihood, everything will go on continuously, without interruption. This is the message of Atal Setu," he said.

The six-lane bridge, which will be thrown open to the public Saturday morning, connects Sewri in Mumbai to Chirle in Raigad district. It will enhance connectivity from Mumbai to Navi Mumbai, Pune, Goa, and South India. The Prime Minister travelled the entire length of the bridge from Mumbai to reach the site in Raigad district where the inaugural function was held.

He told the gathering, "Today is a historic day for Mumbai and Maharashtra. In line with the resolve for Viksit Bharat (developed India), today the nation has received Atal Setu, one of the longest sea bridges in the world."

He thanked the government

of Japan and remembered late Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, stating that both had vowed to complete the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link project.

While the project was initially conceptualised in the 1960s, and the first tender was floated in 2006, it was redrawn several times and underwent several unsuccessful project biddings. It was also caught in an acrimonious business dispute before work finally commenced in 2018, largely because of the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which primarily funded the project.

Modi said that the completion of the sea bridge project highlighted the government's efficient execution of infrastructure projects. He said that this was in contrast with the previous government's slow pace of work and questionable intentions.

"Our 'niyat' (intention) is clean and 'nishta' (commitment) is for the country's progress and development.

Taking a dig at the previous

government, Whereas the previous government's intention was to do vote bank politics and fill up their own coffers. Their commitment was to their family members and not to the country," the Prime Minister said.

He also highlighted the problem of completion of large projects in the country.

"Earlier, people had no hope from the system, which had the habit of delaying the work for years. People thought that it was difficult for big projects to get completed while they were alive. This is why I assured that the country will change. This was a success of 'Modi Raj' back then," he said. "Before the 2014 election, I had visited Raigad fort and had taken a few resolutions, Atal Setu was one of them. Ten years ago, there was talk of mega scams of thousands of crores, but now discussion is around mega projects worth thousands of crores."

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for the Orange Gate to Marina Drive tunnel project and inaugurated key infrastructure projects, including the Digha Goan suburban station, Uran Kharkopar new suburban line and Navi Mumbai Metro One.

Congress government, Modi said that the Bandra Worli Sealink, although five times smaller than the Atal Setu, took almost a decade to complete.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde compared the Atal Setu to Ram Setu, stating that the way the Ram Setu destroyed the hubris of Ravana, the new bridge would destroy the arrogance of the Opposition. Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis termed the inauguration of the sea bridge as success of "Modi Raj".

He highlighted the significance of the new bridge in enhancing the economy of Navi Mumbai and Raigad district, predicting a positive impact for the next 25 years.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for the Orange Gate to Marina Drive tunnel project and inaugurated key infrastructure projects, including the Digha Goan suburban station, Uran Kharkopar new suburban line and Navi Mumbai Metro One.

Debris of missing plane found

gone missing.

The help of NIOT was sought at that time as well, but it did not have the kind of equipment it has now.

The wreckage was found in sea around 300 km off the Chennai coast. "It was a purely accidental discovery last week. It had not gone there to search. The AUV had gone to the sea earlier as well as part of its tests. This time, when it was about 3,400 metres below the sea surface, it noticed the wreckage. The AUV takes photos and videos while exploring the area under sea. Those images have now been confirmed to be that of the crashed AN-32," Ravichandran said.

The Defence Ministry said it had confirmed that the images are indeed that of the crashed aircraft.

"The search images were scrutinised and found to be conforming with an AN-32 aircraft. This discovery at the probable crash site, with no other recorded history of any other missing aircraft report in the same area, points to the debris as possibly belonging to the crashed IAF AN-32," it said in the statement.

Retail inflation surges to four-month high; IIP slips to eight-month low

growth in manufacturing, mining and capital goods output.

This marked the second consecutive month of rise in headline retail inflation and four calendar years and a quarter (51 months) of retail inflation staying above the 4% mark in the 4 +/- 2% band of medium-term inflation target set by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The annual rate of food inflation, as measured by the Consumer Food Price Index, surged to 9.53% in December from 8.70% in November and 4.19% a year ago. Urban areas recorded double-digit 10.42% food inflation in December and rural areas registered 8.49%.

However, core inflation – non-food, non-fuel segment – eased further to sub-4% level, the first time in the post-pandemic period, to 3.9% in December from 4.1% in November.

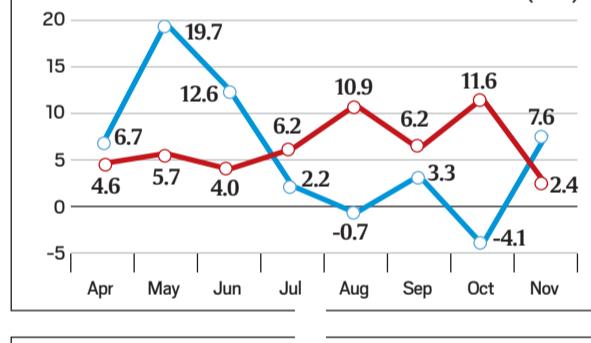
"Core inflation has declined to 48 months low of 3.89% in December 2023. Declining core inflation at a time of strong economic growth is a conundrum," a note by India Ratings' Principal Economist Sunil Kumar Sinha and Senior Analyst Paras Jasrai said.

Inflation rate for the food and beverages segment, which carries a weight of 45.86% in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), increased to 8.70% in December from 8.02% in November.

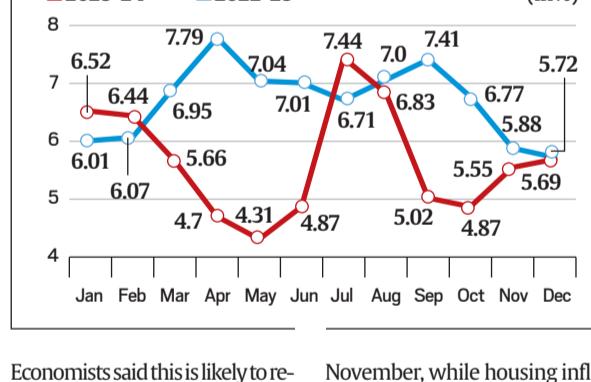
Vegetables inflation surged to 27.64% in December from 17.70% in November, while pulses and spices inflation rates rose to 20% levels in December at 20.73% and 19.69%, respectively. Inflation rate for cereals also continued to be high at 9.93%, though it was slightly lower than 10.27% in November.

Even as miscellaneous inflation, which broadly indicates price change for services, inched lower to 4.07% in December from 4.38% in November, goods inflation remained high at nearly 9.5%.

FACTORY OUTPUT GROWTH



CPI-BASED RETAIL INFLATION (COMBINED)



Economists said this is likely to result in a prolonged pause in the rate cycle by the RBI.

"CPI inflation at 5.7% is on expected lines with goods inflation leading at 9.5%. Pressure points are products like pulses, vegetables, fruits which will ease only with supplies increasing... personal-care products and health still have cost side issues. These headline numbers aligned with RBI projections which clearly indicate status quo for extended period," Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda said.

Clothing and footwear inflation rate moderated to 3.61% in December from 3.90% in November, while housing inflation increased to 3.63% in December from 3.55% in November.

Fuel and light group continued to be in negative territory at -0.99% in December as against -0.77% in November.

In the rural-urban split, retail inflation rate in rural areas increased to 5.93% in December from 5.85% in November, while urban areas registered an inflation print of 5.46% in December as against 5.26% the previous month.

The outlook for the inflation for certain items like rice, wheat and pulses remains "somewhat vulnerable", given the estimated fall in annual kharif production, as

well as the year-on-year lag in the ongoing rabi sowing season amid El Nino conditions, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA said.

Nine of the 22 major states/UTs registered an inflation rate above the headline inflation rate of 5.69% in December, with the highest in Gujarat (7.07%), followed by Rajasthan (6.95%), Haryana (6.72%), Karnataka (6.65%) and Maharashtra (6.05%).

On the industrial output front, manufacturing, which accounts for 77.6% of the weight of the IIP, grew by 1.2% in November as against 10.2% in October and 6.7% in November 2022.

Mining and electricity output recorded growth of 6.8% and 5.8%, respectively as against 9.7% and 12.7% in the year-ago period.

Primary and infrastructure/construction goods recorded growth rates of 8.4% and 1.5%, respectively, in November this year as against 4.8% and 14.3% in the year-ago period.

Output of capital goods – an indicator of investment – slumped to a 13-month low of (-)1.1% in November as against 20.7% growth in the year-ago period and 21.3% in the previous month.

On the consumption front, consumer durables output, which reflects consumption demand, slipped to a five-month low of (-)5.4% in November. Consumer non-durables output, which reflects fast-moving consumer goods, declined to 13-month low of (-)3.6% growth in November as against 10% growth in the year-ago period.

Cumulatively, during April-November, factory output has grown 6.4% as against 5.6% in the year-ago period. Just six of the 23 sectors in manufacturing registered growth in November, with manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products, beverages, rubber and plastic products among the highest growing sectors.

Army vehicle attacked in Poonch district

Jammu: Suspected militants fired at an army vehicle near Lower Krishna Ghati area in Poonch district on Friday evening. No one was hurt.

The incident comes three weeks after terrorists killing four soldiers and injured three others in an attack near Bafliaz in Poonch district.

While details were awaited, sources said that 3-4 rounds were fired on the army vehicle.

They said the security forces cordoned the area soon after the firing incident and launched searches.

ENS

Last opportunity to submit district-level response on identification of minorities: Supreme Court to states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

THE SUPREME Court on Friday gave another last opportunity to states to submit their responses to its notice in a plea seeking identification of minorities at the district level.

A bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Dipankar Datta conveyed its displeasure at some of the states failing to file their response despite reminders. Giving them six more

weeks to comply with its directions, the court said it will impose a fine of Rs 10,000 each on defaulters. Adjourning the hearing until April, the bench also asked the Centre to file a fresh status report.

In April last year, too, the SC had given states and UTs which were yet to file their response a last opportunity to do so.

Among others, the petitioners have sought a direction to the Centre to define the term minority. They pointed out that though the Constitution refers to "minorities" in some Articles, it does not define the term. Neither does the National Minorities Commission Act, 1992, under which the Centre notifies which communities are minorities.

EYE ON ELECTRIC PROPULSION TECHNOLOGY

Rajnath's visit to UK: Progress in talks to get key tech for warships

AMRITA NAYAK DUTTA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

DISCUSSIONS ON getting the electric propulsion technology from the United Kingdom to meet the future needs of Indian warships are learnt to have seen a significant forward movement during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's two-day visit to the country this week.

As per sources in the government, discussions on getting this key technology from the UK are learnt to have featured at multiple levels during Singh's meeting with the UK's Defence Secretary Grant Shapps, Foreign Minister Lord David Cameron and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Wednesday.

They said one of the possibilities being explored is a government-to-government agreement on getting this technology from the UK that will power bigger warships of the Indian Navy.

Indian warships at present do not have electric propulsion systems. They are currently powered by diesel engines, gas or steam turbines. The Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers of the UK Royal Navy are integrated full electric propulsion vessels.

Both countries have set up a joint electronic propulsion working group that met in the UK in February and a delegation met



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak during a recent meeting in London. PTI

again on Royal Navy frigate HMS Lancaster when she made port call at Kochi in March last year.

The joint working group on India-UK electric propulsion capability partnership met again in November last year to discuss helping India develop maritime electric propulsion technology for its future warships.

Sources said this possibility was further discussed during the Defence Minister's visit to the UK.

If discussions go ahead, the UK will have to send a formal proposal to India on the agreement between the two for developing the electric propulsion system, since it will involve other aspects like training, equipment and infrastructure. Top sources in the gov-

ernment told *The Indian Express* that this technology will apply to bigger Indian warships with a displacement of over 6,000 tonnes and thus will be first tested on Landing Platform Docks and next generation destroyers.

In April last year, UK's Chief of Defence Staff Admiral Sir Tony Radakin had said India and the UK are having detailed discussions on sharing technical know-how and experience on maritime electric propulsion systems to meet future requirements of Indian warships.

Senior government officials told *The Indian Express* that the focus of the Defence Minister's two-day visit to the UK was defence technology.

His discussions with the UK government at multiple levels highlighted a three-pronged strategy to take the India-UK relations forward, including defence, trade and technology.

In his meeting with Sunak, Singh had highlighted the recent enhancement in bilateral defence engagements, including joint exercises, training, capability building, increased interoperability, military-to-military ties especially in the maritime domain as well as the efforts to enhance defence industrial cooperation, including in the technology domain.

He had also spoken about his positive interactions with the UK defence industry and the new positive energy in the bilateral defence relationship.

In a statement, the Defence Ministry said Sunak had expressed hope that the ongoing Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations could be brought to a successful conclusion soon, while underlining the UK's keenness to strengthen the defence and security pillars of bilateral relationship, including through government backing for stronger business and technology partnerships with Indian counterpart entities.

During his meeting with the British foreign secretary, there were discussions on the UK government's desire to collaborate with India in the defence areas.

Tarun Tejpal to apologise in national daily for defamatory story against Army officer

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

Tehelka.com published an expose in 2001

dismissed their review of the July 2023 order.

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Mammeet Pritam Singh Arora noted the submissions of the senior counsels appearing for Tejpal and Bahal who said that the "appellants are ready and willing to deposit Rs 10 lakh each and publish an unconditional apology" in a national English daily within two weeks "specifically stating" Ahluwalia had not accepted any bribe.

The HC was hearing an appeal moved by Tejpal and Bahal against a July 21, 2023, order of the single judge bench that had awarded Rs 2 crore damages to Ahluwalia in his defamation lawsuit for the "loss of reputation" suffered by him on account of a 2001 "expose" by the news portal alleging the officer's involvement in corruption in defence procurement.

The appellants (Tejpal and Bahal) had also challenged a September 1, 2023, order of the single judge bench which had

The bench also noted the submission of Ahluwalia's counsel Chetan Anand that this appeal is not maintainable as it only challenges the judgment and not the decree which had been prepared prior to filing of the present appeal. Anand had argued that a mere apology is not enough since his client, an officer, had lived with "stigma for nearly 22 years".

In its July 21, 2023, order, the single judge bench said the Rs 2 crore amount shall be paid by Tehelka.com, its owner M/S Buffalo Communications, its proprietor Tejpal, and reporters Bahal and Mathew Samuel.

The court however, found Ahluwalia had not been able to prove any act of defamation on the part of Zee Telefilms Ltd and its officials, who telecast the story after an arrangement with news portal. Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Ahluwalia said, "I won the case 3 or 4 months back. They (appellants) have admitted defamatory did take place."

30-yr-old Maoist commander, who murdered three members of a family, killed in encounter

Rajpur: Toya Potam, a 30-year-old Maoist commander, who led a gang that murdered three members of a family last year, was killed in an encounter with security forces Friday in Maoist-hit Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh.

Acting on information about the presence of Gangalur area committee secretary Dinesh Modiam, along with 20 to 25 armed Maoists in the Pusnar forests under Gangalur police station area, a joint team of District Reserve Guards (DRG) from Dantewada and Bijapur and CRPF set out on an anti-Maoist operation early Friday.

During searches, an encounter ensued between police and Maoists in forests of Pusnar in which Jan militia commander Potam alias Somru was killed. "There is a strong possibility of 3 to 4 other Maoists getting injured," said Anjneya Varshney, SP, Bijapur district. Potam had a reward of Rs 1 lakh by the government on his arrest. ENS

Macron's diplomatic adviser, EAM discuss bilateral ties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

LESS THAN two weeks ahead of French President Emmanuel Macron's visit to India, his diplomatic advisor Emmanuel Bonne and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday deliberated on bilateral issues and global developments of mutual concern.

Bonne is currently on a visit to New Delhi ostensibly to firm

up various aspects of Macron's trip. Macron will be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations on January 26.

"Glad to meet Emmanuel Bonne, Diplomatic Advisor to President of France. Spoke about strong India-France convergence on multiple issues. Also shared perspectives on global developments of mutual concern," Jaishankar posted on X. "Look forward to President @EmmanuelMacron's State visit for

Republic Day 2024," he added.

In another post, Jaishankar also congratulated Stephane Sejourne on becoming France's minister of Europe and foreign affairs. Sejourne succeeded Catherine Colonna. "Looking forward to working with you for further strengthening our strategic partnership and realising goals set by our leaders," he said.

New Delhi's invitation to Macron for the Republic Day celebrations comes amid a rapid

upswing in ties between the two countries including in areas of defence and security, clean energy, trade and investment and new technologies.

In July last, the defence ministry approved the purchase of 26 Rafale (marine) jets from France, primarily for deployment on board the indigenously built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant. France has already responded to India's initial tender for buying the jets.

adani
ElectricityADANI ELECTRICITY MUMBAI LIMITED
Registered Office: Adani Corporate House, Shantigram, Near Vaishno Devi Circle, S.G. Highway, Khodiyar Ahmedabad, Gujarat-382421, India.
Website: www.adanielectricity.com CIN: U74999GU2008PLC107256

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Date: 13.01.2024

NIT No.	Division	Brief Works Description	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lacs)	Cost of EMO (Rs. Lacs)	Prebid Meeting Date	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Bid Opening
AEML/MDB/2023-24/63	Distribution	Supply of Assorted sizes of LT Feeder Pillars	1,499.3	5.0	18.01.2024 11:30 hrs	02.02.2024 16.00 hrs	03.02.2024 16.00 hrs
AEML/MDB/2023-24/64	Distribution	Supply of Assorted sizes of HDPE Pipes	1,356.5	13.6	18.01.2024 11:30 hrs	02.02.2024 16.00 hrs	03.02.2024 16.00 hrs
AEML/MDB/2023-24/65	Distribution	Supply of Assorted ratings of LT Panels	629.6	2.0	23.01.2024 11:30 hrs	05.02.2024 16.00 hrs	06.02.2024 16.00 hrs
AEML/MDB/2023-24/66	Distribution	Supply of Onload Changeover Switch Disconnector for Metering Unit	255.1	1.0	22.01.2024 11:30 hrs	05.02.2024 16.00 hrs	06.02.2024 16.00 hrs
AEML/MDB/2023-24/67	Distribution	Conversational AI Based Intelligent Automation Platform & Integrated Cloud-Based Contact Center Implementation	950.0	9.5	30.01.2024 11:30 hrs	15.02.2024 16.00 hrs	16.02.2024 16.00 hrs
AEML/MDB/2023-24/68	Distribution	Upgradation - Structural Repairs and Retrofitting works and External Development of Ambivil Laxmi Ind Est R/s at Andheri (W) and Bainganwadi Building at Chembur, Mumbai	82.0	0.8	17.01.2024 15:00 hrs	02.02.2024 16.00 hrs	03.02.2024 16.00 hrs
AEML/MDB/2023-24/69	Distribution	Upgradation - Structural Repairs and Retrofitting works and External Development of Mira Road Rs 2 Staff qrtz Building at Mira Road (E), Mumbai	81.5	0.8	18.01.2024 16:30 hrs	02.02.2024 16.00 hrs	03.02.2024 16.00 hrs
AEML/MDB/2023-24/70	Distribution	Upgradation - Structural Repairs and Retrofitting works and External Development Bandra Rs old Building, Bandra (W), Mumbai	69.1	0.7	19.01.2024 15:00 hrs	05.02.2024 16.00 hrs	06.02.2024 16.00 hrs
AEML/MTB/2023-24/05	Transmission	Construction of 220kV GIS Substation at Chandivali, Mumbai alongwith LILO of 220kV TPS Salsette-TPC Saki line at proposed AEML Chandivali Substation	19,725.0	100.0	22.01.2024 11:30 hrs	05.02.2024 16.00 hrs	06.02.2024 16.00 hrs

All Materials & Services will be as per Adani Electricity Mumbai Limited specifications / BOQ.

Prebid Meeting will be done in person / electronically / telephonically & same will be communicated separately.

For details in respect of Services/ Materials, Qualifying Requirement, Terms & Conditions, Services / Submission of Tender Documents, etc. Please visit our web site: www.adanielectricity.com ->Open Tenders. The Tender document will be available on above link by 13th January 2024.

Tenderer must submit their bids online / electronic submission. Vendor should keep in touch with website www.adanielectricity.com for any corrigendum / Amendment; no separate information regarding Corrigendum will be published in newspaper.

Date: 13.01.2024

Techno Commercial Department

ADVERTORIAL

Cementing its commitment to creating a sustainable future

JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd. has taken concrete steps towards sustainability by pioneering green building solutions, harnessing renewable energy, implementing various CSR projects and ESG initiatives



Underscoring JK Lakshmi Cement's commitment to serving society, we have pioneered and delivered several high-impact and need-based CSR projects enhancing the lives of marginalized communities near our plant locations.

— Mrs. Vinita Singhania
Vice Chairperson &
Managing Director –
JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd.



these collaborations, it validates and continually reduces its greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring that the Company's operations align with the highest environmental standards. Furthermore, the Company's target is to ensure that its water positivity level, which is currently 4X, reaches 5X by 2025.

Harnessing Renewable Energy
In the context of renewable power, JK Lakshmi Cement's green power share (on a consolidated basis), has increased to 37% of the total power requirement in FY 2022-23, with the installation of floating solar panels – a first in the Indian Cement Industry and the state of Rajasthan. By 2040, the Company aims to meet all its electrical energy requirements through renewable energy, as committed to RE100. Moreover, it is committed to doubling its energy productivity by 2040, based on the 2014-15 baseline, as part of EP100.

Honouring its commitment to harnessing the power of renewable energy, JK Lakshmi Cement implemented a 500 kWp solar power plant at Cuttack grinding unit to utilize renewable energy. Additionally, the Company commissioned an 8 MWp solar project at the Sirohi unit, contributing to 44% of the unit's total electricity requirement from renewable sources. Going ahead, it has commissioned a 56 MWp solar project in Open Access Group Captive mode for its Durg unit, which will help the Company meet 80% of its electrical energy through renewable energy.

**JK LAKSHMI
CEMENT Ltd.**

construction solutions provider company, JK Lakshmi Cement is also committed to increasing the share of green cement in its product portfolio. The organization prioritizes investing in research and processes that contribute towards better and environment-friendly cement production practices.

Digitalization

Over the past years, JK Lakshmi Cement has demonstrated exemplary commitment and leadership in the realm of digitalization. The successful execution of multiple digital projects has enabled the Company to access information at lightning speed and optimize its business processes, resulting in tangible value creation, enhanced operational efficiency and a distinctly superior customer experience.

Community Inclusive Development through Effective Corporate Social Responsibility Projects

At its core, JK Lakshmi Cement upholds ethical values and strives for economic development. It believes that the Company's long-term viability and ability to produce value are tied to how much it contributes to the life of the communities in which it operates. With the concept of socially responsible business being deeply ingrained in its corporate DNA from the very beginning, the Company has been at the forefront of pioneering and delivering numerous CSR projects over the years for those in need and vulnerable communities and families.

JK Lakshmi Cement has been enhancing the lives of marginalized communities near its plant locations through high-impact and need-based CSR projects in key areas of nation-building – education, healthcare, skill development, livelihood intervention, water and sanitation, rural development and environmental conservation. Its CSR vision aims to foster strong community relationships and create sustainable, positive change in the quality of life for neighbouring communities through innovative solutions.

Each year, JK Lakshmi Cement – with its commitment to social performance improvement extending across the entire value chain – directly impacts the lives of over 2.25 lakh individuals across its business operations, bringing about positive and meaningful changes. More than 65% of its project beneficiaries are women, girls, children, and other vulnerable groups. Due to its excellent CSR projects, the Company was awarded the "Golden Peacock Award for CSR Excellence".

Driving Sustainability in Supply Chain and Business Partnerships

Under the purview of its sustainability initiatives, JK Lakshmi Cement has its focus on engaging its customers, employees and supply chain intermediaries as its sustainability initiative



Spearheading many transformative endeavours, we have proactively engaged our customers, employees and supply chain intermediaries as our valued partners for various sustainability initiatives.

— Mr. Arun Shukla
President & Director –
JK Lakshmi Cement Ltd.

partners. The Company is committed to driving sustainability across the value chain of its operations. To achieve this, it focuses on carbon emissions, energy reduction, water management, waste management, biodiversity management, resource management, community relationship management, occupational health and safety, human rights management, employee well-being and product development.

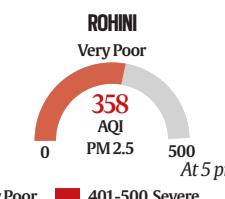
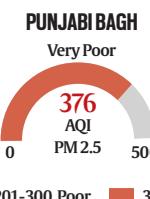
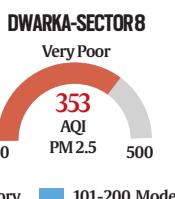
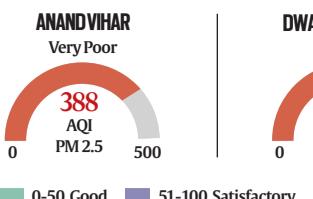
Strong Ethical and Responsible Governance

JK Lakshmi Cement's governance performance is grounded in an effective board composition, transparent ownership structure and a commitment to regulatory disclosures. It has implemented a board diversity policy, achieving a board diversity rate of 25%, which is higher than the industry average of 18%. The comprehensive code of conduct policy extends to suppliers, reinforcing ethical practices throughout the supply chain. Additionally, the Company has robust policies addressing biodiversity, sustainable sourcing,

6

THE INDIAN EXPRESS, SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2024

THE CITY



S K Y W A T C H
FORECAST: January 13
Partly cloudy/sky. Dense fog in the morning
AQI: Very poor

MAX: 19 0.9°C below normal | **MIN: 5** 2.4°C above normal

AS PER DELHI STATISTICAL HANDBOOK 2023

6 lakh old vehicles got nod for use in other cities, only 1.40L scrapped: Data

GAYATHRI MANI
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

DELHIITES owning old petrol and diesel vehicles that legally can't ply anymore appear to be more interested in selling or obtaining permission to use them in neighbouring cities and states rather than getting them scrapped, going by data in the Delhi Statistical Handbook 2023.

According to the data, there were a total of 1.42 crore registered vehicles in Delhi in the fiscal year 2022-23. Of these, 54,95,838 vehicles were de-registered and 6,23,034 vehicles obtained a No-objection Certificate (NOC) for sale or registration in neighbouring cities like Ghaziabad, Noida, Gurgaon.

In contrast, 1,40,342 were scrapped in the same period, data shows.

Following the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Supreme Court orders, the transport department in December 2021 announced that all diesel and petrol vehicles that completed 10 and 15 years respectively will be de-registered. The key aim behind this move was to reduce vehicular pollution in Delhi.

Said a senior transport de-

VEHICLES IN THE CITY (2022-23)

20.71 lakh
CARS & JEEPS

52.94 lakh
TWO-WHEELERS

93,654
AUTO-RICKSHAWS

83,278
TAXIS

6.23 lakh
vehicles have taken an NOC

(Data till 2022-23, till March)



54.95 lakh
De-registered vehicles

1.40 lakh
vehicles that were scrapped

(Source: Delhi Statistical Handbook-2023)

with electric kits through empanelled agencies approved by Transport department (retrofitment of the vehicles still under process).

Besides, the department also launched an enforcement drive against all ELVs found plying or parked in public places — they were impounded and sent to the scrapyard. About 14,000 vehicles were impounded from April to August last year.

Further, data shows that due to the crackdown on overaged vehicles, the number of total registered vehicles dropped to 79,45,596 in 2022-23 from 1,22,53,350 registered in 2020-21.

Further, the handbook shows that till March 31, 2023, Delhi has 20,71,115 registered cars and jeeps; 52,94,900 motorcycles and scooters; 93,654 auto-rickshaws; and 1,18,506 e-rickshaws that provide last-mile connectivity. Data also shows that the number of taxis came down from 85,079 in 2021-22 to 83,278 in 2022-23.

The handbook containing data on the socioeconomic parameters of the national capital was released by the Delhi government's economic and statistics department.

partment official, "People have some form of an attachment with their vehicles... also a large number are not interested in getting their vehicles scrapped because the scrap value is way less than what they invested (to buy it)... For instance, a Mercedes or a BMW is expensive but the scrap value offered is around Rs 50,000 to Rs 70,000. In such cases, people prefer to sell the vehicle in other states and get a better deal. Many people who have relatives or extended family in other states like UP, Rajasthan etc get it registered there and use it..."

The department started the de-registration process in January 2022 and initially, de-registered 1,0,1247 diesel vehicles. After that, both petrol and

diesel vehicles were de-registered gradually in the next few months.

As part of this, the department gave multiple options to vehicle owners on what to do with their 'end of live' (ELV) vehicle — get an NOC and shift the vehicle to another state, get it scrapped at a government-authorised scrapyard, or retrofitted



IN SYNC

Women BSF cadets perform stunts during the Republic Day Parade rehearsal at Kartavya Path, Friday. Praveen Khanna

People getting alcohol from Delhi, Gurgaon? Tell us, says Noida admin

DHEERAJ MISHRA
NOIDA, JANUARY 12

EVEN AS the sale of liquor in the city has increased by more than 15% in the last six months, the Gautam Buddha Nagar district administration has asked its citizens to report anyone who is buying alcohol from neighboring states. Officials said the appeal has been issued to make people aware of the excise rules and increase liquor revenue. They also said the identity of the complainants will not be revealed in such cases.

"In Uttar Pradesh, bringing or consuming liquor from outside the state (Haryana, Delhi or any other state) is a punishable offence. For this act, a case can be registered against the person under Section 63 of the Uttar Pradesh Excise Act 1910 and he/she can be sent to jail, and under Section 72, the vehicle of the person transporting illegal liquor can be confiscated," said Subodh

Kumar, District Excise Officer.

He further said only a single open bottle of another state is allowed in Uttar Pradesh. Kumar said for such violations, a penalty of a minimum of Rs 5,000 is imposed which can be increased further by a court.

The department has issued phone numbers of the area excise inspectors for citizens to re-

port about such cases.

According to data from the excise department, the district collected revenue of Rs 892 crore through liquor sales in the last six months (from July to December 2023) — an increase of 15.54% compared to 2022 when it collected revenue of Rs 772 crore during the same period.

The district has a target of Rs 2,324.78 crore revenue collection in the financial year 2023-24. Of this, it has collected Rs 1,342.87 crore (84%) till December 2023.

Of the total liquor sold, data shows that 75,38,735 bottles of foreign liquor; 2,74,99,400 cans of beer; and 1,11,35,996 litres of country-made liquor were consumed in the district from July to December 2023.

This is higher than the corresponding figure for the same months in 2022. The sale of foreign liquor has increased by 7,15,723 bottles, beer by 67,54,497 cans and country-made liquor by 11,18,611 litres.

Woman found injured in East Delhi park is critical: Police

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

A 19-YEAR-OLD woman was found with multiple injuries on her body in East Delhi's Mayur Vihar, officers said Friday. She is admitted to Lok Nayak Hospital where her condition is said to be critical and she is currently unfit to record a statement, police said.

According to police, they received a PCR call at 9 am Friday that a woman was found in a pool of blood. A police team rushed to the spot and found the woman was in a park. Said an officer, "She had multiple injuries... her throat had been slit... Preliminary probe shows she was assaulted by someone who later fled the spot."

A case of attempt to murder has been lodged and teams have been formed to nab the accused, said DCP (East) Amrutha Gugulotu.

Mercury at 3.9°C, zero visibility: Delhi sees its coldest morning yet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

DELHI RECORDED the coldest morning of the season so far on Friday with the minimum temperature dropping to 3.9 degrees Celsius, three degrees below the normal for this time of the year.

This was accompanied by very dense fog with visibility dropping to 0 metres at the IGI Airport, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

"Fog cover lasted from around 3.30 am to 10 am, and visibility was 0 to 50 m (at the airport). This was the most intense fog episode this January. We saw fog cover earlier, from December 25 to 30, and now this is another spell, which began with a couple of hours early on January 11. The prolonged fog spells we are seeing this winter are similar to what we saw in 2019 over the Indo Gangetic Plain — most places across the plain are reporting persistent fog," said RK Jenamani, scientist, IMD, adding that low wind speeds and the absence of an active western disturbance contributed to the recent fog cover.

The drop in minimum temperature from 5.8 degrees on Thursday to 3.9 degrees on Friday was on account of clear skies on Thursday, IMD officials said. "With clear skies on Thursday, heat was able to radiate back into the atmosphere, resulting in significant cooling. Relative humidity was high and

LOWEST MINIMUM TEMP IN JAN

	Temp
*2024	3.9°C
2023	1.4°C
2022	4.2°C
2021	1.1°C
2020	2.4°C
2019	4°C
2018	4.2°C
2017	3.2°C

(Data from IMD)



(till Jan 12)



moisture was available, and wind speed was low in the morning hours, contributing to the formation of dense fog," said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist, IMD.

The minimum temperature of 3.9 degrees is above the lowest minimum temperature of 1.4 degrees Celsius recorded in January last year. Delhi has seen three 'cold days' so far this January, when the maximum temperature was 4.5 degrees or more below normal. On Friday, the maximum temperature was 19.3 degrees Celsius, a notch below the normal.

The IMD has issued a 'yellow' alert (to be aware) for dense fog over the weekend. The minimum temperature is likely to remain at around 4 or 5 degrees till Monday, and could rise to around 8 degrees Celsius by January 17, going by the forecast.

The maximum temperature could remain at around 19 or 20 degrees over the next six days.

DDA allots 181 acres in Narela to 7 institutes to set up campuses

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

THE DELHI Development Authority (DDA) has allotted 181 acres of land to seven government institutes for development of their campuses in Narela, in an effort to transform the Narela sub-city into an 'education hub'.

In October last year, L-G VK Saxena had asked the DDA to develop Narela into an 'education hub', in addition to the other residential and other projects in the area. The DDA has allotted land in Narela to Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University; Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University; Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University; Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology; Delhi Technological University; Delhi Teachers University; and Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women.

GMC officials also said the corporation has identified around 40 temples in the city where religious programmes like 'kathas' and 'kirtans' will be organised from January 14 to 22. It added that a statue of Lord Ram will be installed at UP Gate and a road in the city will be named 'Ram Path'.

Former athlete among 3 held in illegal firearms syndicate bust

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

THE DELHI Police busted an illegal firearms syndicate and arrested three men, including a former state-level athlete, for possessing weapons they had procured from Madhya Pradesh, officers said Friday. The weapons were meant to be supplied in

Delhi-NCR, they added.

The accused are Aligarh resident Pushpendra Singh (25); Naeem (19) from Hapur, and Manish Bhati (19) from Jodhpur.

The officer added that the police team surrounded the accused and asked them to surrender: "All

three were nabbed. Six sophisticated pistols were recovered from Naeem and two semi-automatic pistols from Manish's bag."

Dhaliwal said during questioning, it was revealed that they used to purchase semi-automatic pistols from MP, ranging from Rs 9,000 to Rs 12,000, and sell them to gangsters and criminals in Delhi-NCR and UP (West) for amounts ranging from Rs 20,000 to Rs 30,000. "It has also come to light that Pushpendra was a state-level athlete; he participated in an 800-metre event at the junior level in 2014-15," added Dhaliwal.

The officer added that the police team surrounded the accused and asked them to surrender: "All

DDA OPENS 100-YEAR-OLD FACILITY TO NON-MEMBERS

Now, public can avail of outdoor sports facilities at Roshanara Club

UPASAKA SINGHAL
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

THE GENERAL public can now avail of outdoor sports facilities at Roshanara Club. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) decided Friday to open the historic club to non-members for facilities such as lawn tennis, basketball, football, and mini-football from January 13 onwards for a nominal fee.

"DDA Roshanara Club is com-

mitted to providing a top-notch sports experience so that fitness enthusiasts can indulge in their favourite outdoor activities. Everyone is requested to come and have the best experience..." it said in a statement.

The club will be open on all days of the week, except Monday, from 7 am to 5 pm.

Considered the birthplace of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which took shape here back in 1928, the club was opened on September 29 last year



by the DDA after its two leases expired. According to the DDA, two parcels of land had been leased to Roshanara Club Limited for 30 years, subject to extension for 60 more years. During the British Raj, the Secretary of State for India in Council granted Roshanara Club Ltd. two pre-

In September last year, the DDA sealed the 100-year-old club after its two leases expired. Archive

mium-free leases on an annual basis for 30 years each.

The DDA stated that the 100-year-old club could extend each lease for two additional periods of 30 years, totaling a maximum of 90 years. The first lease began in September 1922 and the second in January 1928, expiring in August 2012 and December 2017, respectively.

The club was given a total area of 23.29 acres under these leases, the DDA stated, adding that there were no provisions in

the lease agreements for renewal or extension beyond the 90-year limit.

Last November, the DDA stepped up the pressure on the colonial-era club demanding Rs 2,485.76 crore in damages for occupying the agency's land beyond the lease expiration. President of the club, Manish Aggarwal, had expressed surprise at the sudden demand.

"We had never received any notice for damages before, so why the sudden demand?"

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Tender No.	CONCER-II/MLP/VARNAMA/H-I/II/ELECT work/2024
Name of Work	Providing External electrical work in connection to DFCIL connectivity at MLP Varmama, Vadodara.
Estimated Cost	Rs., 159.82 Lakhs (Inclusive of all)
Completion Period	06 Months
Earliest Money Deposit	Rs. 2,30,000/- (through e-payment)
Cost of Tender Document	NIL
Tender Processing Fee (Non-refundable)	Rs. 4,720/- (inclusive of all taxes & duties through e-payment)
Date of Sale of Tender (online)	From 12.01.2024 (11:30 Hrs.) to 02.02.2024 (upto 17:00 Hrs.)
Date & Time of Submission of Tender	05.02.2024 (upto 17:00 Hrs. -E-Tendering Mode Only)
Date & Time of Opening of Tender	06.02.2024 at 11:30 Hrs.

For financial eligibility criteria, experience with respect to similar nature of work, etc., please refer to detailed tender notice available on website www.concorindia.com, but the complete tender document can be downloaded from website www.tenderward.com/CCL only. Further Corrigendum /Addendum to this tender, if any, will be published on website www.concorindia.com, www.tenderward.com/CCL and Central Procurement Portal (CPP) only. Newspaper press advertisement shall not be issued for the same.

General Manager (Projects), Phone No.: 011-41222050


Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited
(प्रावित सरकार के उपयोग / Govt. of India Undertaking), या संस्कृत / Ministry of Defence Regd and Corp Office GRSE BHAVAN, 61, Garden Reach Road, Kolkata - 700 024 Web: www.grse.in, (CIN: L3511WB1934GOI007891)
E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ONLINE BIDDING

(1) NIT NO.: PUR/PRESS/ASK/OT/PIPE CLAMP/LTA10/STOCK/RA-2046

Sub: Supply of Pipe Clamps for Steel & CU-NI Pipes for Long Term Agreement

(2) NIT NO.: PUR/PRESS/ASK/OT/GM FLANGE /LTA16/STOCK/RA-2047

Sub: Supply of GM Flanges for Long Term Agreement

Due Date: 21 days from date of publication

1. Details will be available in GRSE e-Procurement portal https://eprocuregrse.co.in and websites http://www.grse.in & https://eprocure.gov.in/cpp/
2. Any addendum/corrigendum to this tender enquiry will be published in above websites only, no separate paper advertisement will be issued.

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

Dated: 12.01.2024

VACANCY NOTICE / ADVERTISEMENT NO. 01/2024 COMBINED EXAMINATION, 2024 FOR SENIOR PERSONAL ASSISTANT, PERSONAL ASSISTANT & JUNIOR JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

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

Opening Date of Application: 18/01/2024 (18th January, 2024)

Closing Date of Application: 08/02/2024 (08th February, 2024) (Till 11:00 PM)

Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board (DSSSB) invites online applications on behalf of Delhi District Courts and Family Courts from eligible candidates from Indian Nationals (citizens of India as defined in the Constitution of India or under any law made by the Parliament to regulate the rights for citizenship) for recruitment to the posts of Senior Personal Assistant, Personal Assistant & Junior Judicial Assistant against vacancies in District & Sessions Courts and Family Courts as per details given below:-

SENIOR PERSONAL ASSISTANT, PERSONAL ASSISTANT & JUNIOR JUDICIAL ASSISTANT

SI. Post No. Code

Name of Post

Name of Department

Pay Level

UR OBC SC ST EWS Total PwBD ESM

Vacancies *

1 1 801 / 24 Senior Personal Assistant District & Sessions Courts 8 18 7 7 5 4 41 6 0

2 2 Personal Assistant District & Sessions Courts 7 43 153 70 43 58 367 24 0

3 3 Personal Assistant District & Sessions Courts (Family Courts) 7 5 2 3 3 3 16 0 0

1 1 802 / 24 Junior Judicial Assistant District & Sessions Courts 5 222 138 72 60 54 546 22 54

2 2 Junior Judicial Assistant District & Sessions Courts (Family Courts) 5 8 0 0 4 8 20 0 0

GRAND TOTAL 296 300 152 115 127 990 52 54

* The above vacancies are tentative and based on inputs of the indenting Departments.

Candidates must apply online through the website <https://dssbonline.nic.in>. The closing date for submission of online application is up to 08/02/2024 (till 11:00 PM) after which the link will be disabled.DSSSB will conduct examinations for making recruitment against the vacancies notified above. The date of conduct of examinations / interview will be intimated in due course only through the website of the Board / District and Sessions Courts. The applicants are advised to visit DSSSB's website i.e <https://dssbonline.nic.in> to check the detailed advertisement and confirm their eligibility for the above vacancies based on the Recruitment Rules of the indenting departments.

IMPORTANT NOTE:- Only online applications will be accepted. Applications received by post/by hand/by mail etc. will not be accepted and will be summarily rejected. No correspondence will be entertained in this regard.

Sd/- Deputy Secretary (P&P-I) DSSSB

DIP/Shabdharth/Classified/0291/23-24

* The above vacancies are tentative and based on inputs of the indenting Departments/Bodies.

Candidates must apply online through the website <https://dssbonline.nic.in>. The closing date for submission of online application is up to 08/03/2024 (till 11:59 PM) after which the link will be disabled.DSSSB will conduct examinations for making recruitment against the vacancies notified above. The date of conduct of examinations will be intimated in due course only through the website of the Board. The applicants are advised to visit DSSSB's website i.e <https://dssbonline.nic.in> to check the detailed advertisement and confirm their eligibility for the above vacancies based on the Recruitment Rules of the indenting departments.

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Sd/- Deputy Secretary (P&P-I) DSSSB

DIP-SHABDARTH-CLASSIFIED-0293-23-24

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DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



MILESTONE DISPLAY

WITH THE BJP in full poll mode, party leaders are not missing any occasion to send out a political message. At Union Minister Hardeep Puri's Lohri celebrations, a milestone — Viksit Bharat 0 km — was prominently displayed. Both Puri and his wife Lakshmi, a former ambassador, were seen welcoming guests standing near the milestone. While welcoming the guests, Puri reminded them that the festival this year was going to be "the beginning of good things to come" and that "the best is yet to come." He also said that India will soon become the third largest economy in the world. At another Lohri celebration, BJP general secretary Tarun Chugh kept the idols of Lord Ram and Sita at a prominent place to mark the celebrations that have already begun in Ayodhya.

PARTICIPATION MARKS

AFTER NOT participating in the Union government's annual cleanliness survey for six years, some West Bengal cities were included in the latest ranking released on Thursday. The Swachh Survekshan 2023 ranked a total of 56 Bengal cities in various categories. The bottom 10 cities among those with a population of 1 lakh and above were all from Bengal. According to sources, this was possible only after some cities agreed to have third-party assessors visit. But while the assessments were ongoing, it seems there was a change of mind leading to only some of the around 120 urban local bodies of the state being covered. Asked about Bengal's performance, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Puri on Friday said, "I would encourage their participation, that in itself is good."

IITs, IIMs among others to submit 50 papers on impact of Smart Cities Mission

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

AS THE June 30 deadline for the Smart Cities Mission approaches, the question of whether the projects have worked will soon be answered through 50 research papers being produced by the students and faculty of premier institutes, including IITs and IIMs.

Miranda House, the only Delhi University college that is part of the initiative, will research on whether Smart Cities projects like parks are inclusive for people with disabilities, senior citizens, and children; and IIM-Bangalore on the impact of the projects on real-time tracking of criminal activities, especially against women. The institutes will be provided with Rs 6 lakh stipend for each research paper, said officials.

According to Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs sources, the work has started this month and is likely to conclude with 50 research papers by March-end. So far, 23 institutes have been brought on board, they said.

Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Friday said the Mission will "hopefully" achieve its targets in 2024. Among the topics being studied are whether the concept of area-based development has been

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GOVT & POLITICS

Convener appointment likely on table as INDIA bloc meets today; TMC to skip

MANOJ CG
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

AS SEAT-SHARING talks between the Congress and other parties of the INDIA bloc gather pace, the heads of 14 major parties of the alliance will hold a virtual meeting Saturday to decide on appointing a convener for the coalition.

The JD(U) has been mounting pressure on the grouping to appoint Bihar CM Nitish Kumar as the convener.

However, days after the TMC refused to join seat-sharing talks with the Congress's national alliance committee, the party said it would not attend the meeting. Earlier this week, the TMC signalled it was willing to concede two or at best three seats to the Congress, an offer which the state Congress has already rejected.

TMC sources said its chairperson Mamata Banerjee would not attend the meeting as she had pre-scheduled programmes. "We



JDU is of the view Cong chief Kharge should be INDIA bloc's president

were informed at around 5 pm about the meeting at 11.30 am. It is for heads of parties. Mamata di has some pre-scheduled programmes. We told the Congress she can attend the meeting if it is held next week..." a TMC leader said, adding the Congress had not disclosed the agenda of the meeting.

"We will continue to be patient and gracious because the TMC is committed to the INDIA bloc to defeat the fascist BJP who cannot provide jobs to the youth," said a senior party leader.

Congress General Secretary in-charge of communications, Jairam Ramesh posted on X: INDIA party leaders will be meeting over Zoom tomorrow January 13, 2023 at 11:30 am. They will review various issues like seat-shar-

ing talks that have begun, participation in Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra that will begin from Thoubal near Imphal day after tomorrow, and other important matters.

The JD(U), sources said, is of the view that Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge should be appointed the president or chairperson of the alliance and Kumar the convener — a North-South combination that it feels will send a positive signal to the people in the absence of a prime ministerial face for the bloc.

The Congress is said to be not keen on heading the alliance as it knows that some of the regional parties are not comfortable with the idea. It is, however, agreeable to Kumar being appointed the convener if there is a consensus.

The JD(U), sources said, reached out to several leaders of the alliance in the last two weeks seeking support for its proposal. The party was also upset with the lack of enthusiasm shown by the Congress on the issue. Reacting sharply to Kharge's statement on January 6 that the

alliance would meet in "10 to 15 days" to make decisions about key posts, JD(U) chief national spokesperson KCTyagi told *The Indian Express* on January 7 that the grand old party should show much more urgency.

"The way the Congress chief responded to media questions on Saturday on this (convener question) did not go down well with us. We are running out of time and ideas. We still have time to catch up. But it is Congress that has to show urgency to see a vibrant INDIA bloc," Tyagi had said.

Among those now expected to attend are heads of the Congress, NCP, DMK, Shiv Sena (UBT), AAP, RJD, CPI, JMM, National Conference, PDP, JD(U), Samajwadi Party, and the CPI(M).

These parties are members of the bloc's coordination committee. Leaders of some of the INDIA bloc parties said the TMC was not really enthusiastic about the idea of appointing Kumar as the convener.

PANEL EXCLUDES CJI

SC declines to stay new law on picking CEC, ECs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

THE SUPREME Court Friday declined a request for an interim stay of the new law excluding the Chief Justice of India from the panel to select the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).

A two-judge bench presided by Justice Sanjiv Khanna issued notice on a plea by Congress leaders Jaya Thakur and Sanjay Narayanrao Meshram.

"We can't stay a statute like this," Justice Khanna told senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for the petitioners.

Singh told the bench, also comprising Justice Dipankar Datta, that the new law was against the concept of separation of powers.

He also referred to the March 2, 2023 Constitution bench ruling, which directed that the CEC and ECs shall be appointed on the advice of a committee comprising the Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Chief Justice of India.

Where no leader of Opposition is available, the committee was to include the leader of the largest Opposition party.

in the Lok Sabha, in terms of numerical strength.

Subsequently, the government enacted a new law — The Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023 — excluding the CJI from the selection panel.

This was challenged before the Supreme Court by Thakur and Meshram who contended that the new law does not provide an "independent mechanism" for the appointment of EC members and is thus violative of the principles of free and fair elections.

The petitioners argued that the new law also went against a 2023 Supreme Court five-judge bench ruling which restricted the government's power to appoint CEC and ECs.

The plea said the new law has diluted the Supreme Court judgment by keeping the CJI out of the process of selection. It pointed out that the SC had in the past held "mandamus issued by" it "cannot be overruled by the legislature and separation of power is also the basic structure of the Constitution".

On December 9, 2023, President Droupadi Murmu had given assent to the new law passed by Parliament.

SCHOOL SLAPPING ROW
SC: It happened because State didn't do what was expected of it

New Delhi: The Supreme Court said on Friday the developments that followed the unsavoury incident of slapping of a Muslim schoolboy by his classmates at the behest of their teacher in Uttar Pradesh were the result of the State not doing what was expected of it after the offence was committed.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan said the state should have been concerned about the manner in which the incident had happened.

The bench asked advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for petitioner Tushar Gandhi, to give suggestions to the state government on the implementation of the recommendations of Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) with regard to counselling of the victim child and his classmates.

According to the former judicial officers, they were removed without being accorded any reasonable opportunity of hearing or holding any department enquiry, to ascertain if they had "justifiable reasons".

The Madhya Pradesh government had terminated their service on a recommendation by the High Court, which decided this on its administrative side in May 2023.

The court has scheduled the next hearing on February 9.

SC notice to MP HC over removal of six women judicial officers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JANUARY 12

THE SUPREME Court on Friday issued a notice to the Madhya Pradesh High Court's Registrar General over the termination of six women civil judges from service on account of their disposal not being up to the set standards.

Advocate Gaurav Agarwal has been appointed as amicus curiae to assist the bench in the matter.

The women, in their representation to the Chief Justice of India, had submitted that they were terminated in the initial phases of their career in violation of statutory provisions, and that the low rate of disposal was due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the former judicial officers, they were removed without being accorded any reasonable opportunity of hearing or holding any department enquiry, to ascertain if they had "justifiable reasons".

The Madhya Pradesh government had terminated their service on a recommendation by the High Court, which decided this on its administrative side in May 2023.

The court has scheduled the next hearing on February 9.

Criticism of Pinarayi or Modi? Kerala's tallest author M T sparks debate with remarks against 'hero worship' of people in power

MT Vasudevan Nair made the remarks in Kerala CM's presence Thursday, later he said his comments were not directed at anyone specific

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JANUARY 12

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN 12

RENOWNED MALAYALAM writer and Jnanpith Award winner M T Vasudevan Nair's criticism of "hero worship" of people in power has sparked a debate in Kerala — whether he intended the remarks for Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Nair, an illustrious novelist popularly known as M T, made the remarks at the inauguration of the Kerala Literature Festival, organised by D C Books, in Kozhikode Thursday in the presence of Vijayan. In his address, he said, "In our political, social and cultural spheres of life, no great leader is ready to admit a mistake. I see the goal here is to conquer the ego consciousness and accept the importance of the subcon-

sious mind. E M S Namboodiripad (who led the first elected Communist government in Kerala in 1957) became a great leader because he believed that the 1957 win was only the beginning of converting a crowd, which voted the party into victory, into a responsible society. Concepts of freedom in a changing society have to be subjected to repeated correction and review. EMS always strived to change that old perception of a few to lead and many to be led. That is why he was not seen anywhere in ceremonial leadership worship."

M T's criticism, raised in the presence of the CM, was viewed as a barb against Vijayan. Later, the author came out with a clarification. "I was not criticising anyone. I wanted to speak the truth. If that paved the way for self-criticism for someone, it is fine," he said. M T is a cultural phenomenon

I wanted to speak the truth, the renowned author said

in Kerala. In over seven decades, he has published nine novels, 19 collections of short stories, over 50 film scripts, directed six films, three travelogues, a play, and numerous collections of essays and memoirs. He won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi award at the age of 25 for his second novel *Naalukettu* (1959) and a decade later *Kaalam*, his fifth, fetched him the Kendra Sahitya Akademi prize.

Few artists in any language

have enjoyed as much commercial and critical success as M T. He has also been politically engaged, campaigning with the civil society for the preservation of rivers, against nuclear plants, and has written against authoritarianism.

During the recently concluded Nava Kerala Sadas, a statewide tour of the Cabinet, Vijayan received extreme praise from his ministers. Minister V N Vasavan, for instance, said, "Vijayan is a blessing for Kerala from God." The Sadas witnessed several such praises from Cabinet colleagues and CPI(M) leaders. A week ago, CPI(M) state secretary M V Govindan described Vijayan as the "sun" and said that "anyone who goes near the sun will get wilted".

As political rivals claimed that the criticism was aimed at Vijayan, the CPI(M) clarified that the author's speech was from a

collection of his articles published in 2003. The CPI(M) social media handles reproduced the relevant portions of the said article that M T quoted in his speech. The article has reference to EMS and leadership worship, which M T used in his Thursday speech.

Reacting to the author's comments, CPI(M) central committee member and Left Democratic Front (LDF) convenor E P Jayarajan said the party had always been against the worship of individuals. "M T should not be dragged into the controversy. I don't find any reason to target the CM and the state in his words. When I heard the speech, I felt it was a criticism against PM Narendra Modi, the BJP and the Union Government, fascism, and attacks against the Parliamentary system. The CPI(M) is always against the worship of leaders. The CPI(M) is a party of

has exposed the double standard of the CPI(M)," he said.

M T, in his address, also said, "We have been hearing for a long time about the decline of values in politics. Political work is a recognised route to attain power. Anywhere, power can be supremacy or dictatorship. A Cabinet berth or a membership in an Assembly or Parliament is an opportunity for supremacy. The doctrine that power is an opportunity to serve people had been buried long ago."

"A leader, who aims at the creation of a society which is eager to free itself from all forms of oppression, must always have thought in new directions and vision to new horizons. In such a society, a leader becomes a historical necessity. That was EMS. I hope that those in power will realise that this is the need of the hour," he added.