

THE TIMES OF INDIA

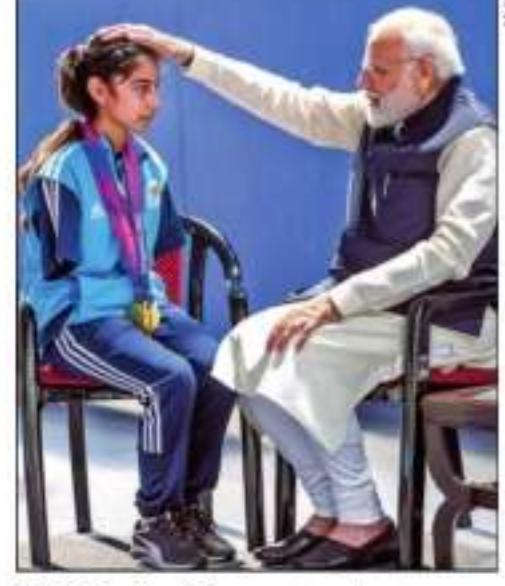
INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES & TIMES LIFE (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR) | *APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE (IN DELHI NCR)

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

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Para medal haul inspiration for all, says PM



PM Modi with para-archer Sheetal Devi at Dhyani Chand Stadium where athletes who brought home a record 111 medals were felicitated Wednesday. The win is a 'life inspiration', the PM said | P 21

32 Myanmarese among 44 held in Manipur

A day after a cop was killed in a sniper attack, security forces in Manipur detained at least 44 people, 32 of them suspected Myanmarese infiltrators, in Moreh on Wednesday. Unrest spread across the valley with cops using water cannons and tear gas to disperse protesters in Imphal. A tribal organisation announced a 48-hour strike in all hill districts from Thursday. P 10

CERT-In warned Apple users of threats

Against Apple's 'alert' to certain iPhone users over potential hacks, it has come to light that India's cyber watchdog CERT-In had on Oct 27 warned company users of "multiple vulnerabilities" that could allow attackers to access sensitive info. P 9

Indian stabbed in US gym, critical

Putcha Varun Raj (29), a student from Telangana's Khammam, is extremely critical after being stabbed in the head by a man at a gym in Indiana. The assailant told cops he found Varun a "little weird" and hence "reacted". INSIDE JACKET

Hyd co develops oral insulin spray

Hyderabad's NiedlFree Technologies claims to be the first company in the world to have developed a painless and needle-free oral insulin spray called Ozulin. It has applied to CDSCO for approval to conduct safety and toxicology studies. P 11

Wife given talaq for shaping eyebrows

A man pronounced triple talaq from Saudi during a video call with his wife in Kanpur as she got her eyebrows shaped against his wishes. Kanpur cops booked the man after she also alleged her in-laws had been harassing her for dowry. P 11

'US commandos helping Israel find hostages'

American commandos on the ground in Israel are helping locate over 200 hostages seized during Hamas' attacks on Oct 7, the Pentagon's top special operations policy official said Tuesday. "We're actively helping the Israelis to do a number of things," Christopher Maier, an assistant secretary of defence, said.

► 1st evacuees exit Gaza as camp struck again
► PIO among slain Israeli soldiers. INSIDE JACKET

id, adding the key task was to help Israel "identify hostages, including American hostages." Other officials say several dozen commands we're sent to Israel. INSIDE JACKET

SC for transparent electoral bonds; govt backs privacy

Info Blackhole, Black Money Not Ruled Out: Bench

Dhananjay Mahapatra
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New Delhi: In testing the validity of electoral bonds (EBs), used mainly by corporate houses to donate huge sums to political parties, the Supreme Court on Wednesday prima facie perceived certain shortcomings in the scheme's transparency, but the Union government said revealing the identity of donors would expose them to retribution or victimisation as has been acknowledged by parties in Parliament. The current system has created an "information blackhole", the bench said.

After hearing the last co-

66% OF PARTY FUNDING 'UNKNOWN'

Total income of 8 national parties in 2021-22: ₹3,289cr
Known Sources | Other Known Sources | Unknown Sources
781cr 336cr 2,172cr

(*Other known sources include sale of assets, membership fees, bank interest, sale of publications, party levy etc)

Party	Total Income (₹cr)	Unknown Sources (%)	Total Income From EBs From 2017-18 to 2021-22 (₹cr)
BJP	1,917	61	> BJP: 5,272
TMC	546	97	> Cong: 952
Cong	541	72	> BJD: 622
CPM	162	48	> YSRCP: 330

(Data collated from EC website by senior advocate Vijay Hansaria)

Source: ADR | Related Report: P 9

unsel from the challengers' side, senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, a bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said the problem with the electoral bond scheme was the selective confidentiality to the donor's name and the political party to whom

the contribution was made. "It is not confidential for the State Bank of India which issues the electoral bonds or to law enforcement agencies. So, the government may come to know who has funded opposition parties, but the opposition parties would have no wherewithal to find who has donated to the ruling party."

Delhi riots: Court pulls up cops for clubbing 20 complaints in one FIR

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New Delhi: A city court has pulled up Delhi Police for "wrongly clubbing" 20 complaints in a single FIR related to the 2020 Delhi riots, saying the cases "were not complete and properly investigated".

Ordering that all the incidents be probed separately, additional sessions Judge Pulastya Pramachala stated the clubbing was done without any "sound basis". Though all the incidents took place in 20 different places, the investigating officers didn't ask the two eyewitnesses — the primary complainant and a head constable — about the 19 additional incidents. Saying this, the co-

urt acquitted one Sandeep Kumar accused of being part of a mob that had set on fire the primary complainant Shokin's house and shop.

► Cited proximity, P 6

SC: HC bail to Teesta, hubby OK but they must join probe

IN THE COURTS

► SC holds that review of a judgment can't be allowed merely because of any passing reference made against it by another bench of equal strength and the petitioner can't be permitted to reargue the case on that ground | P 11

► Allahabad HC expresses concern about misuse of PoCo Act, saying the law was originally designed to safeguard kids under 18 and not intended to criminalise consensual romantic relations between adolescents | P 11

► Delhi HC rules that denial of sex by spouse can be considered mental cruelty, but it must be persistent, intentional & for a period | P 7

► Political vendetta, P 12

Jharkhand villages get giant mobile LEDs to watch their betis play hockey

KA Gupta | TNN



Gumla: Nikki Pradhan stands tall in the realm of Indian hockey — a formidable force on the field, representing her country as a two-time Olympian. Alongside fellow forwards Salima Tete and Sangita Kumari, she has earned numerous accolades for India.

The sad reality is that the families, residing in remote villages of Jharkhand, have never witnessed their heroic performances live on television due to their inability to afford TV sets. But like they say in hockey that "great moments are born from great opportunities", a different story unfolded this year. These tranquil hamlets sprung to life each evening at 8pm, thanks to gigantic mobile LED vans broadcasting live action from the Women's Asian Champions Trophy being held in Ranchi.

Starting Tuesday, three of these vans were dispatched,

with one stationed in Nikki's village of Hesal in Khunti, another in Salima's village of Badkichhaper, and the third in Sangita's Karangagudi-Navatoli village in Simdega.

► Great opportunity, P 15

This creates an imbalance in the scheme," the bench said. "The other problem is that a donor may not necessarily be the purchaser of the electoral bond as a corporate donating a huge sum can ask a large number of people to buy electoral bonds by paying a premium over the cost price, then aggregate it to give it to political parties. This does not rule out the play of black money."

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta told the court the nature of the beast was such that a complete ban or restriction on corporate donations to political parties exponentially increased infusion of black money into the system in the past. Every political party knows this and successive governments attempted to eradicate black money by regulating it through various means, Mehta added.

► Selective confidentiality, P 16

Goyal's ₹538cr assets attached in PMLA case

New Delhi: The ED Wednesday said it has attached assets worth over Rs538 crore of Jet Airways promoter Naresh Goyal, his wife and son in several parts of India as part of a money laundering probe against him. Goyal was arrested in September and is in judicial custody.

The ED claimed its investigation revealed Jet Airways siphoned off the loans from a consortium of public sector banks led by SBI. The attached properties include 17 residential flats/bungalows and commercial premises.

► Personal expense, P 16

'47 logins made to Moitra's LS a/cs from Dubai'

New Delhi: A day before TMC MP Mahua Moitra appeared before the Lok Sabha ethics committee probing the cash-for-query allegations against her, sources claimed that nearly 47 logins to her parliamentary account were made from the Dubai office of businessman Darshan Hirandani.

Moitra has accepted that she shared the mail ID and password with Hirandani but said there was no quid pro quo and it was normal for MPs to let others use their parliamentary logins. However, PIB's Nishikant Dubey, the complainant, had said sharing login was a violation of the contract MPs signed with National Informatics Centre. TNN

► Political vendetta, P 12

India part of first global AI pact at UK summit

Dipak Dash @timesgroup.com

round 28 countries, including India, the UK, the US and China, and the European Union agreed on Wednesday on the "need for international action" as political and tech leaders gathered for the world's first summit on artificial intelligence (AI) safety.

The two-day event is being held at Bletchley Park, north of London, once a top secret base for World War II codebreakers that's seen as a birthplace of modern computing. In the declaration that takes the venue's name, the nations resolved to "work together...to ensure human-centric, trustworthy and responsible AI". INSIDE JACKET

What's more, fatalities at police-managed junctions rose 17% over the previous year even as 21% more accidents took place at such stretches in 2022. At 2,421, deaths at road crossings regulated by cops were higher than those at light signals (2,238).

The 'Road Accidents in India' report released on Tues-

Brace for toxic air as peak pollution period begins

'AIRPOCALYPSE' FORTNIGHT NOW

WHY AIR IS DIRTIEST During Nov 1-15

1. Farm fires peak
2. Period often coincides with Diwali
3. Traffic volumes rise due to festival season
4. Normal weather conditions — cool, dry with calm winds — conducive for trapping pollutants

Worst Air Quality Fortnights Period | Avg AQI

Period	Avg AQI
Nov 1-15	370
Dec 16-31	351
Jan 1-15	324
Dec 1-15	322
Nov 16-30	299

Based on 2018-2023 AQI data in Delhi

AQI turns 'severe' at 4 city stations

While the average AQI in the city remained in the 'very poor' range for five straight days was bad enough, brace for what could follow in the next couple of weeks. AQI data of the past few years reveals that November 1 to 15 is the year's most polluted fortnight in the capital.

In the past five years, the first fortnight of November recorded an average AQI of 370, higher than the peak

► Why NCR continues to run on fumes, P 4

winter periods of December 16-31 (351) and January 1-15 (324), as per Delhi Pollution Control Committee data.

With Diwali falling on

Every 3rd city kid now asthmatic: HC

Every third child in the city was asthmatic, and it was the responsibility of the authorities to ensure that the air quality improved, an alarmed Delhi HC observed on Wednesday. P 3

perts said Delhites are likely to witness multiple days of very toxic air.

► Enforce GRAP strictly, P 4

2.5L US visa slots: Delhi wait drops to 37 days from 542

New Delhi: Indians seeking US visas — typically first-time applicants in the B1 (business) and B2 (tourist) categories, or those whose previous B1/B2 visas lapsed over four years ago — need not wait till eternity for an interview slot. In Delhi, the wait period is down to 37 days from 542, or almost 1.5 years, until last week, reports Saurabh Sinha. The change triggered by the US embassy opening over 2.5 lakh visa interview slots was reflected on Wednesday in data on the state department's site, which showed the wait for a B1/B2 interview appointment in Delhi down to over a month.

► Mum wait period, P 13

Hasina's daughter gets key WHO post

India preferred Bangladesh over Nepal for the post of regional director of WHO's Southeast Asia Region contributing to the win of Saima Wazed, daughter of Sheikh Hasina. Sources said it voted for Wazed at the expense of Dr Shambhu Acharya. P 11

pride in the fact that it's the No. 1 development partner of Bangladesh," Modi said. TNN

► Strong bond, P 12

Young filmmaker bleeds on road after crash, robbed even as help comes late

Sakshi Chand @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A 30-year-old filmmaker lay bleeding on a busy road in south Delhi for about half an hour, after being involved in a collision with another bike, with passersby and bystanders recording videos and selfies even as his life ebbed away. Piyush Pal, who had suffered severe head and facial injuries, didn't get a fighting chance because of the disturbingly familiar lack of empathy of Delhiites in such situations. What's worse, Pal's laptop and mobile were stolen.

The accident happened on Outer Ring Road, in the carriageway that goes from IIT crossing to Nehru Place, around 9.45pm on Saturday, going by the time stamp on the CCTV footage secured from a





Computers can now use digital lockers at metro stations using an app | 6

32.3° MAXIMUM
16.4° MINIMUM
FORECAST Clear sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 32°C and 15°C
SUNRISE 6.34AM (FRI)
SUNSET 5.36PM (THU)

TIMES CITY
THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

364
AQI IN DELHI
ON WEDNESDAY
(VERY POOR
CATEGORY)

Delhi government plans to add 50 more services under its flagship doorstep delivery scheme | 6

Homeless left powerless as shelters go dark over unpaid dues | 7



Excise Policy Probe Brings ED To CM's Doorstep

Kejriwal Likely To Appear Before Agency At Its Headquarters Today In Case That AAP Has Maintained Is 'Fabricated'

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The probe into alleged irregularities in the formulation and implementation of the Delhi Excise Policy of 2021-22 has brought the Enforcement Directorate to the doorstep of chief minister Arvind Kejriwal. The CM is likely to appear before the ED at its headquarters at 11am on Thursday.

It took the probe agency just two weeks after it told the Supreme Court that it was contemplating making the Aam Aadmi Party an accused in the excise policy case and summoning the party's national convener and the chief minister of Delhi to appear before it in connection with the ongoing probe into the liquor policy irregularities. He was questioned for nearly nine hours by CBI in April.

In the last 15 months since the Central Bureau of Investigation registered a case against 15 persons, two AAP heavyweights—the then deputy CM Manish Sisodia and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh along with its former media and communication in charge Vijay Nair have been arrested, while several other bureaucrats and close aides of the Aam Aadmi Party functionaries have been called for questioning by the investigating agencies.

It was in July 2022 that lieutenant governor VK Saxena recommended a CBI investigation into the formulation of the excise policy of 2021-22 after chief secretary Naresh Kumar in a report alleged "prima facie violations of various acts and rules" in addition to "deliberate and gross procedural lapses" to provide "undue benefits" to liquor licensees. The policy was made on the recommendations of a group of ministers and was approved by the council of ministers and the then LG Anil Baijal before it came into effect on November 17, 2021.

The AAP government, however, has termed the case as "fake" and maintained that

THE NO-CHEERS STORY SO FAR

Nov 2021

Delhi government introduces new liquor policy for 2021-2022

2022

July 22 | LG VK Saxena recommends CBI probe into the policy for 'deliberate and gross procedural lapses' to provide 'undue benefits' to liquor licensees

July 23 | LG asks the chief secretary to probe the role played by bureaucrats

August 17 | CBI registers a case against 15 accused, including the then deputy CM Manish Sisodia

August 19 | The agency

conducts raids at 31 places in seven states, including at Sisodia's residence, documents and electronic devices seized

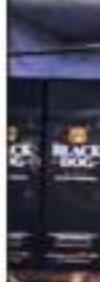
August 31 | Delhi government withdraws policy, brings back old regime

September 27 | CBI arrests Vijay Nair, the then communications in-charge of AAP; named as accused number 5 in the FIR

September 28 | ED arrests Sameer Mahendru, MD of liquor distributor Indospirit Group

October 7 | ED conducts raids at 35 locations across the country, seizes Rs 1 crore from a businessman's house

October 10 | CBI arrests Abhishek Boimpally, a close confidant of a top political



SC, which directs him to move HC

► **Sisodia and jailed minister Satyendar Jain resign from Delhi cabinet**

March 4 | A Delhi court extends Sisodia's CBI custody till March 6

March 9 | ED arrests Sisodia after grilling him for the second time; he is currently lodged in Tihar Jail

October 4 | ED conducts raids at Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh's house, takes him into custody after a day-long interrogation

October 30 | SC rejects Sisodia's bail plea; ED asks Kejriwal to appear before it on November 2 in connection with its money laundering probe

caused business disruption and return of earnest money of Rs 30 crore to the lowest bidder for the Airport Zone licence, among others."

Based on this report, the LG decided to recommend a CBI inquiry into the policy. According to officials, the chief secretary's report to the LG was in accordance with Rule 57 of the Transactions of Business Rules, 1993, which mandates the chief secretary to flag any deviation from laid-down procedures.

In a submission to the apex court earlier, ED had said it intended to investigate AAP as a beneficiary of the bribes from the alleged swindle. Sources said the grounds for Kejriwal's questioning were ready soon after ED grilled his personal assistant Bibhav Kumar and dialogue and development commission's vice-chairman Jasmine Shah. The agency's submission in the court was a clear indication that the CM would be summoned for questioning soon.

The Supreme Court also found *prima facie* merit in ED's charge that the changes in the liquor policy carried out by the AAP government resulted in gains of at least Rs 338 crore for wholesale distributors, who returned the favour by funding AAP's election campaign in Goa.

The agency had also claimed in its chargesheets filed earlier that Rs 1,000 crore of proceeds of crime were generated in the liquor scam of which it had established a money trail of over Rs 500 crore.

Sisodia, who held the excise portfolio and also helmed the group of ministers that gave its recommendations which became the part of the cabinet note, continues to be in judicial custody since February 27 when he was arrested by CBI. ED has also submitted several purported technical evidence against Sanjay Singh while seeking his remand. After establishing an alleged bribes and money trail against him.

WHAT CBI PROBE ALLEGES

► In mid-March 2022, south Indian group met Vijay Nair in Delhi; used business centre and photocopy of hotel to print and copy documents. On March 18, Sisodia handed over some documents, a draft of the GoM recommendation on excise policy, to his secretary. This document had the same number of pages as the document photocopied by the South lobby in the hotel

► Apart from higher turnover eligibility, this draft stated 12% profit for wholesalers, which

was included in the final GoM report. Two more suggestions found in the chat of South group. These were also included in the report

► South group paid Rs 100 crore upfront for police tweaks and grant of licence

► After objections were raised on application of M/S Indospirit, dominated by south group, over wholesale licence, a second application submitted. Thereafter, Sisodia issued directions to grant licence on second application when there was no reason for him to know they

had submitted the second application

► While examining a digital device seized from excise department during searches conducted on August 19, CBI traced one of the excise policy draft documents to a different system, which was not part of excise dept network

► CBI seized a computer from Sisodia's office on January 14. Though most files were deleted, the probe agency retrieved some records. The forensic examination revealed that the file originated externally and was received via WhatsApp

HOW AAP WAS BORN

April 2011 | India Against Corruption, led by activist Anna Hazare and Arvind Kejriwal, takes to street over allegations of corruption against the Congress-led UPA regime

► Group of activists from varied backgrounds come together to demand enactment of Jan Lokpal Bill

► Spanning one and a half years, protest marches, dharnas and social media campaigns held

► Led by Anna Hazare, thousands of people at several locations sat on fasts to build support for Jan Lokpal Bill

► One section of IAC activists, led by Kejriwal, decides to form political party to fight against corruption

► AAP born in Oct-Nov 2012

MEMBERS WHO LEFT AAP

► Prashant Bhushan and Yogendra Yadav expelled in 2015 after being dropped from the party's main decision-making committee for criticising Kejriwal

► Captain GR Gopinath resigns in May 2014, citing differences with Kejriwal

► Kapil Mishra suspended from primary membership of AAP in May 2017 after he levels corruption charges against Kejriwal

► Mayank Gandhi quits AAP in November 2015, saying he is losing interest in politics

► Kumar Vishwas sidelined in 2017 after speaking out against Kejriwal

► Journalist-turned-politicians Ashutosh and Ashish Khetan leave AAP one week apart in August 2018, citing personal reasons

the party and its leaders were "staunchly honest".

With the complaints of brand-pushing of alcohol, pilferage and a stagnant revenue stream, Delhi government deci-

ded to revamp the liquor business in the capital in 2020-21 and a new excise policy was made with inputs from all stakeholders. The main features of the new policy included the govern-

ment's withdrawal from the re-

tail business, allowing private players to offer discounts on liquor; reduction in the number of dry days to just three and allowing the shops to come up in

non-conforming areas.

"Following complaints of

irregularities, the chief secre-

tary, being the chief vigilance officer of Delhi, conducted an inquiry and prima facie

found some irregularities in the formulation and implemen-

tation of the policy," said a government official. "The report noted that the profit margin of the wholesalers

had been increased from 5% to 12%, indicating a quid pro quo, waiver of Rs 144.36 crore to the liquor cartel on the tendered license fee on the ground that Covid-19 pandemic

had also submitted several purported technical evidence against Sanjay Singh while seeking his remand after establishing an alleged bribes and money trail against him.

of Kejriwal's arrest had left the party restive with no senior functionary currently in sight who can take control of the party and the government, especially when the Lok Sabha elections, which are crucial for AAP's expansion, are just six months away. Another party functionary, however, decried what he called "an unnecessary buzz" on social media about AAP discarding party members who could be given the responsibility of running the government. A party MLA added, "The cadres want Arvindji as CM. We aren't thinking in any other direction even in the case of his arrest."

Sources also revealed that the party was in touch with the INDIA bloc on the issue. AAP maintains that more than 150 cases have been registered against its functionaries, including elected representatives, in the 11 years since its forma-

tion. The summoning of the party's con-

venor was worrisome because Kejriwal is not just the CM of Delhi, but also the party's face in other states.

With AAP hoping to be considered a serious contender in the states going to polls later this month, any action by the investigating agencies may be a huge blow.

Though Kejriwal doesn't hold any portfolio in Delhi government, he keeps an eye on all issues of importance and holds reviews with the ministers. With several old timers having left the party and Singh, a loud opposition voice, in jail, AAP may lack the experience to weather the storm.

Party members are certain that the arrest threat indicates BJP is rattled by the strong opposition alliance and is seeking to "crush" AAP. Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha said, "Our sources have revealed that BJP devised the strategy to arrest and imprison the top leaders of all parties in the INDIA bloc. When a party's top leadership is jailed, how will it fare well in elections?"

Chadha added, "Between 2014 and 2022, 95% of the cases filed against political functionaries by agencies such as ED and CBI were against members of parties opposed to BJP."



► TRAGIC END: Piyush Pal

who drove as fast as he could," Jain told TOI, regretting that Pal could not be saved.

Bose said Pal had bought a new Hero X Pulse bike and was probably returning from a fitness centre in R K Puram when the accident happened.

The head of neuro intervention and senior consultant, neurosurgery, at PSRI Hospital, Dr Sumit Goyal, said: "The patient was brought to the hospital around 11pm. He was in a very critical condition with severe head and facial injuries. He was immediately put on ventilator support and medicines were started to stabilise his falling blood pressure. However, with such severe injuries, despite all efforts, he passed away." Pal was pronounced dead around 5.13pm on Tuesday.

An autopsy was conducted and his body handed over to his relatives on Wednesday for the last rites. The cremation took place late evening at Nigambodh Ghat.

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Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

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First Prize/Gold Medal (01 No.)	₹ 50,000/-	₹ 50,000/-	₹ 1,00,000/-
Second Prize/Silver Medal (01 No.)	₹ 30,000/-	₹ 30,000/-	₹ 50,000/-
Third Prize/Bronze Medal (01 No.)	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 20,000/-	₹ 30,000/-
Appreciation Prize (10 Nos.)	₹ 7,500/-	₹ 7,500/-	₹ 15,000/-

*Winners will also be awarded laptops / tablets and will also get an opportunity for study tour within India.

man identified as Bunty (26). Pal's friends dispute this version. Pal worked as a freelance photographer at Gurugram while Bunty is a driver, also based in Gurugram. "On the basis of Bunty's statement and analysis of CCTV footage, a case of accident was registered on Monday. On Tuesday evening, we received the news of Pal's death," added Chowdhary.

Police said a PCR call about the accident was received at 10.11pm. "The caller said two people were injured. Our men reached the spot by 10.30pm but both persons were found to have been shifted to different hospitals," said Chandan Chowdhary, DCP, South. "No eyewitnesses were found at the spot. One of the injured had been shifted to PSRI Hospital and another to AIIMS Trauma Centre."

"His mobile phone and laptop were taken away. His parents were trying to reach him on his phone but the person who took it kept cutting the calls and later switched

off the phone. Had someone taken those calls and told the family, things could have been different," said Bose.

Pal was just a few kilometres away from his home in Kalkaji when tragedy struck. His family runs a shop that sells puja items in Chittaranjan Park.

Good Samaritan Jain lamented that people don't step forward to help. "Accidents can happen to anyone, anytime. I am grateful to the auto driver

HC: Every 3rd Child In City Asthmatic, Authorities Must Keep AQI In Check

Ensure All Trees Are Deconcretised Or Face Contempt, Senior PWD Official Told

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New Delhi: Every third child in the city is asthmatic, and it is the responsibility of the authorities to ensure that the air quality index (AQI) comes down, an alarmed Delhi High Court observed on Wednesday.

The court made it clear to the principal secretary of Public Works Department, who appeared in response to earlier directions, that the agency must ensure all trees are deconcretised or face contempt proceedings.

"What is happening in Southern Ridge? This is shocking. Three hundred hectares of land, all encroached... This is not acceptable. People of Delhi are wanting trees, that is one thing which is under yo-



ur control. Remove encroachments and plant trees. Look at the level of pollution, the air quality," Justice Singh said.

"Construction is happening right under your nose and you are oblivious? Please remember, the department is responsible for the quality of air we breathe. It is your obligation to ensure AQI levels come down. We can't have people being forced to leave Delhi every December-January due to rising pollution. Every kid is having breathing problems," the judge lamented, warning the authorities of contempt action.

The judge said the court would not allow movement of motor vehicles through a road inside Central Ridge, which houses an Indian Space Re-

arch Organisation station, and asked the Centre for a "viable solution" to access it.

Giving one week's time to the department, the court said, "Show what action is taken (to remove encroachment)... Otherwise we will frame contempt... In place of forest, there is concrete jungle." It sought a report before the next hearing.

The court acted after hearing lawyers Gautam Narayan and Aditya N Prasad, apportioned as amicus earlier.

Meanwhile, the forest department said it had identified 136 acre in Isapur to develop a forest and would eco-resto-

re it on a war footing. The court ordered that the land be fenced and eco-restoration start in two weeks.

New Delhi: The air quality re-

mained in the 'very poor' category for the fifth day in a row with a layer of haze hanging over the city. The overall air quality index (AQI) of the city was 364 on Wednesday as against 359 a day earlier.

Satellite data shows that farm fires have started rising as it detected 1,921 in Punjab, 99 in Haryana and 95 in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday. However, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh recorded 1389, 51, and 28 paddy residue burning events, respectively, on Tues-

day, according to satellite data compiled by Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

The total stubble burning counts from September 15 onwards have been recorded at 9,594 in Punjab, 1,296 in Haryana, 1,029 in UP and two in Delhi. The share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 was estimated at 12.9% on Wednesday by Decision Support System, the forecasting body under the union ministry of earth sciences.

Central Pollution Control Board's data shows that the air quality turned severe at four stations—Anand Vihar, Mundka, New Moti Bagh and Punjabi Bagh.

Experts said meteorological conditions like low temperature, calm wind conditions and low mixing layer height have caused accumulation of pollutants. Calm wind conditions prevailed during the night time. However, low wind speed of 4 kmph was recorded during the day which impacted the process of dispersion of pollutants.

Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist and head, Regional Weather Forecasting Centre, India Meteorological Department, said, "The visibility dropped to 800 metres at Safdarjung, which is the city's base station, at 7 am as shallow fog was formed. However, the visibility at Palam was 1,110 metres."

He added that a wind speed of 4-6 kmph is expected to blow in the city for the next two days.

According to Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the air quality is likely to be in the 'very poor' category till November 10.

100% Chana Dal
100% Taste

Fortune besan

Construction work to be halted in areas with AQI above 400 for a week: Rai

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Environment minister Gopal Rai on Wednesday said the Delhi government would ban construction work in areas recording an air quality index (AQI) above the 400 mark for the next one week.

All the heads of government departments have been instructed to provide heaters to security guards on night duty in their respective departments, he added.

For water sprinkling, it has been instructed to mix dust suppressants and spray them not only on hotspots but also at other places. PWD has been instructed to deploy mobile anti-smog guns at construction and dust sites, the minister said.

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For kids under five, PM2.5 a hammer blow

Priyangi.Agarwal
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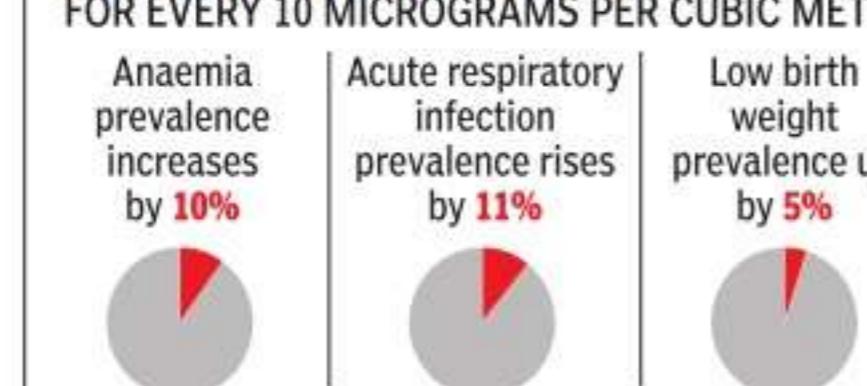
New Delhi: A study has demonstrated a clear association between components of PM2.5 pollutants with low birth weight, anaemia and acute respiratory infection among children under the age of five years in India. For every 10 micrograms per cubic metre increase in PM2.5 exposure, anaemia, acute respiratory infection and low birth weight prevalence increase, respectively, by 10%, 11%, and 5% in the children, the study said.

The study published in journal *Nature Communications* on Wednesday says that the major health risks of PM2.5 were posed by exposure to NO₂ (nitrate), NH₄ (ammonium), EC (elemental carbon) and OC (atmospheric organic carbon).

According to the study titled 'Cumulative effect of PM2.5 components is larger than the effect of PM2.5 mass on child health in India', N03, EC and NH4 were more associated with these three health outcomes than other PM2.5 components. It states that total PM2.5 mass as a marker for air pollution exposure co-

VULNERABLE LOT

INCREASE IN PM2.5 EXPOSURE FOR EVERY 10 MICROGRAMS PER CUBIC METRE



Other findings

- Major health risk posed by exposure to NO₂ (nitrate), NH₄ (ammonium), EC (elemental carbon) and OC (atmospheric organic carbon)
- Total PM2.5 mass as a surrogate marker for air pollution exposure could substantially underestimate the true composite impact of different components of PM2.5

Source: Study, titled 'Cumulative effect of PM2.5 components is larger than the effect of PM2.5 mass on child health in India.'

uld be underestimating the true impact of the different components of PM2.5.

"PM2.5 is composed of different components, including sulphates, nitrates, ammonium, elemental carbon, organic carbon and metals. PM2.5 mass concentration depends on different sources and geographical areas. However, some PM2.5 species are more toxic than the

others," said Sagnik Dey, Institute Chair Professor, Centre for Atmospheric Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, and an author of the study. "The composite effect of exposure to various PM2.5 species on child health is more than the effect estimated using only PM2.5 mass concentration."

Dey added, "The study is a good start to help policyma-

kers identify pollution sectors that are more harmful than others. The authorities can take mitigation steps on a priority basis in high-impact sectors."

The other major authors of the study are Ekta Chaudhary of IIT-D's Centre for Atmospheric Science, Francisco George from the division of epidemiology, biostatistics and population health

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Running On Fumes, NCR's Pollution Fight Is Choking

Erratic Power Supply Not Fixed, Diesel Genset Use Widespread

Abhijay.Jha
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the approach is not helping. The NCR cities have some deep-rooted problems that are yet to be administratively resolved to bring them on a par with Delhi.

One of them is power supply, another is a crackdown on end-of-life vehicles, one more is public transport.

Outages remain common across NCR cities. Snags in the distribution network, known as local faults, are a factor, but all problems don't stem from the grid. There are scores of housing societies that see their feeders break down frequently due to overloading because consump-

tion, with growing use of air conditioners and other gadgets, has outstripped capacity.

As a result, use of diesel gensets is widespread. Between Noida and Ghaziabad, which collectively contributed around 20% of PM2.5 levels in Delhi on Tuesday, there are 740 housing societies, most of which have DG sets for power backup. Industrial units also use DG sets, as do office complexes, malls and other commercial establishments.

This year, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) wanted to stop use of these gensets altogether in October-March – the peak pollu-

tion phase when the graded response action plan (GRAP) is in force – but had to walk back on its proposed ban because of protests from RWAs and industry owners about the high cost of conversion of gensets to CNG and unavailability of gas lines in some places. The relaxation is till December 31, but no major changes are likely in this period.

Rajiva Singh, president of Noida Federation of Apartment Owners' Associations, said, "There is no strict compliance with (emission) norms in highrises. Some of these DG sets have become old and they can't be upgraded. Most societies have not upgraded due to technical reasons."

Alok Singh, an official in the electrical safety department, said rules mandate that all diesel gensets should be fitted with emission control devices and switch to a dual fuel system. "We have provided NOCs to over 1,200 establishments for installing gensets but the number of gensets in use, be it commercial, industrial or residential, is far more," he said.

Neeraj Swarup, chief engineer of Pashchimanchal Vidyut Vitan Nigam Ltd (PPVNL), said there is no shortage of power in NCR and city areas receive power supply on an average for 23 hours and 50 minutes any given day.

But it's in the local distribution network where outages originate, a problem that has dogged the NCR cities for years and made diesel gensets integral to daily life, unlike in Delhi, largely outage-free. The revamp of old power distribution lines has also been sluggish in Noida and Ghaziabad.

Experts said the risk of multiple days of 'severe' air quality occurring in mid-November was high this year. Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), said, "In the past, we have noticed prolonged smog episodes (higher number of consecutive days of severe pollution levels) when Diwali and increased crop residue burning occur together deeper into the winter and atmospheric conditions turn adverse."

"To manage air quality during this period, it will re-



GHAZIPUR, A DUST BOWL

Anindya Chattopadhyay

Even as Delhi reels under bad air, massive dust pollution near the Ghazipur landfill continues to inconvenience motorists and those living in the vicinity. The nearest residential settlement is just 200 metres away. The air quality in the capital remained in the 'very poor' category for the fifth day in a row. It was even 'severe' at some stations. The AQI at Safdarjung, the city's base weather station, was 368 at noon.

Enforce GRAP strictly to beat November pain, say experts

At 1.9k, Punjab farm fires at season's high

Neel.Kamal@timesgroup.com

matology of the past 10 years, and other factors using artificial intelligence. The initial report of the pilot model shows that AQI may rise from November 6 to 8. However, AQI is likely to remain in the 'very poor' category till November 15," said Beig.

Beig agreed that to improve the air quality, drastic steps are needed in the entire airshed region. "The steps taken under GRAP in Delhi have to be enforced strictly in the entire airshed. However,

there is a possibility that a western disturbance may impact the region during the period till November 15. If there is good rainfall activity under the influence of the western disturbance, air quality would improve due to the 'wash out' effect. But if the western disturbance brings only moisture to the region, the air quality can deteriorate," added Beig.

Bathinda: Crop residue burning continues to go strong in Punjab, with over 1,000 cases reported for four consecutive days. On Wednesday, 1,921 crop residue burning cases were registered in the state—the maximum in a day so far this season, taking the overall count to 9,594.

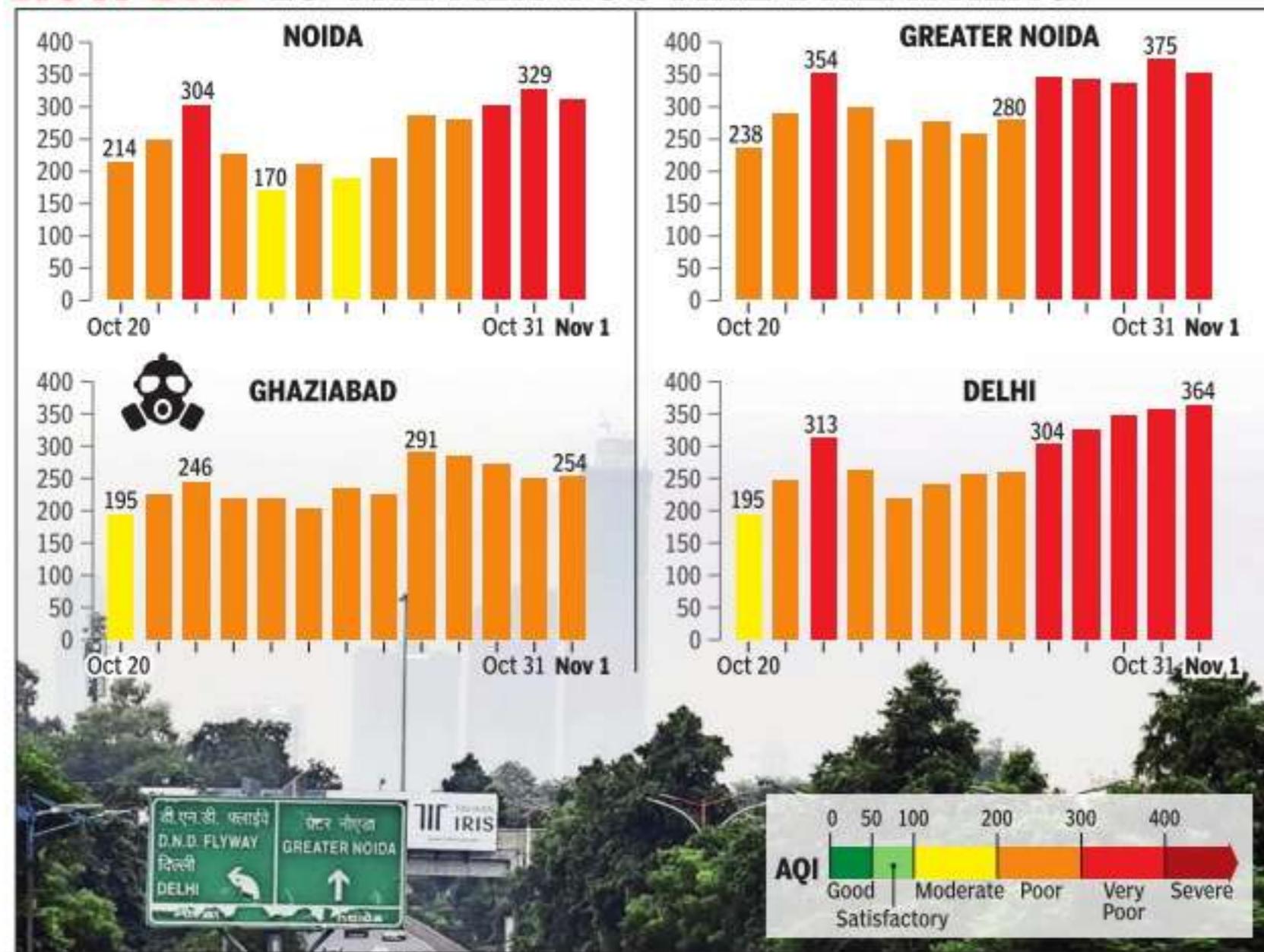
Punjab had recorded 1,389 farm fires on Tuesday. On October 29, 1,068 farm fire cases were registered.

With an increase in crop residue burning cases in the last four days, Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann's native Sangrur district has pipped Amritsar to lead the stubble burning chart in the state with a total of 1,304 farm fires so far. Sangrur registered 345 crop residue burning cases on Wednesday. The district had recorded 181 cases on October 29, 198 on October 30, and 221 on October 31.

Sangrur has remained at the top of the crop residue burning list since 2016, when the farm fires were recorded for the first time. A maximum of 9,705 cases were reported in Sangrur district in 2020. However, the count had come down to 5,239 last year.

The crop residue burning so far this season is nearly 46% less than the previous two years. The Punjab government had set a target of reducing farm fires by 50% in 2023 when compared to 2022, when 49,922 cases were reported.

HOW BAD IS THE AIR YOU ARE BREATHING



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Applications are invited from the retired Group-C employees of State / Central Government / Government Undertakings etc. below the age of 64 years as on 31st March 2024 for recruitment for the post of Clerk for Jalpaiguri Collectorate on purely contractual basis for one year. The applications will be received on and from 21.11.2023 to 08.12.2023 in offline mode at the establishment section, D.M. Office, Jalpaiguri.

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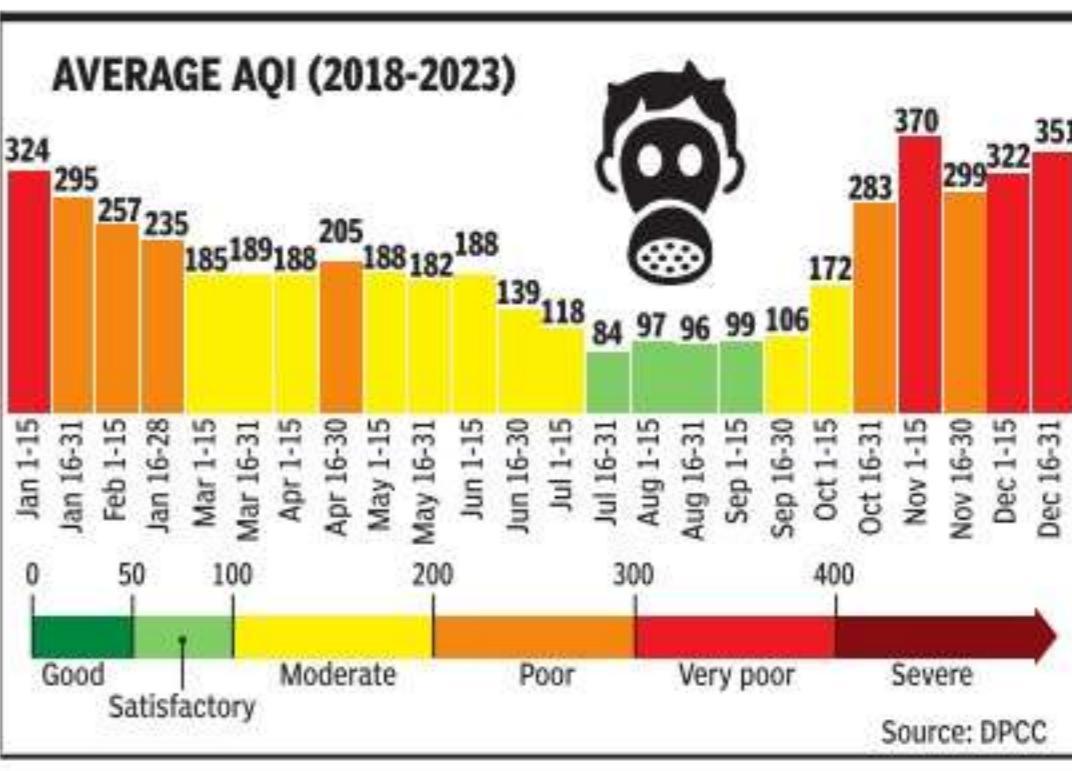
Sd/-
District Magistrate
Jalpaiguri
Dated: 01.11.2023

Memo No.: 147(3)/ADVT/DICO/JAL

Over 400 heavy industrial polluters in Gzb

Noida: 'Red', or heavily polluting, industrial units still operate in the vicinity of your home. More so in Ghaziabad, where UP Pollution Control Board findings released this June marked 426 industrial units as 'red'. Noida has 84 such units and Greater Noida 110. 'Red' units account for the maximum amount of particulate matter emissions, ozone, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide released into the atmosphere. UPPCB officials said they keep polluting industries in check by issuing fines if violations are found, but all such units will have to be shifted away to clean up the airshed. In Ghaziabad, around 1,400 polluting industries have been shifted out of the city's municipal limits, an official said on Wednesday. TNN

AVERAGE AQI (2018-2023)



Source: DPCC

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Respidit.Chennai
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The construction sector in India is undergoing a revolutionary change with the need for more biophilic spaces, natural ventilation, acoustics and thermal performance as key criteria. Glass, fenestration & façades play a key role to help buildings achieve these requirements and to be more congenial for the people who occupy them. These changes and the need to reduce carbon emissions are creating technologies that are being driven by the need for

visionary resolutions for the challenges faced by the construction industry. Leading brands from across India and the world will present their innovations to address complications in the global construction and realty industry at India's annual exhibition which returns to Mumbai this month. The expo has grown to become a major draw by serving as a platform for industry stalwarts, manufacturers, traders, experts and suppliers from glass, façades, doors, windows and aluminium extrusions over the last 20 years. The 2023 edition is expected to have a participation of 350+ brands from 30+ countries. It will be at the forefront for sustainable

products and solutions that will enable the industry to reach out to new products, solutions and interact with leading vendors in this space to evaluate new ideas, notions and designs. The expo will showcase more than 10,000+ products sprawling over 30,000 sqm floor space. The expo is open to architects, developers, contractors, entrepreneurs, façade consultants, fabricators, importers and distributors and presents itself as the only dedicated platform to learn about the latest technologies and developments in the construction arena in addition to expanding one's networks in the industry.

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'Graft': Former Sub-Registrar Faces Probe

LG Nod For Inquiry Against Official Accused Of Demanding Bribes

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena has granted permission to conduct an inquiry under the Prevention of Corruption Act against a former sub-registrar of the revenue department who was accused of demanding bribe from applicants for registering their documents.

Officials said that complaints had been received against Yogesh Gaur, who was posted as sub-registrar in Janakpuri office, in the year 2019 and 2020.

"The LG in his observation on the file stated that in the interest of justice, there was a need to conduct an inquiry into the allegations made against Gaur and the directorate of vigilance should be directed to process the request received from the anti-corruption branch, after due diligence," said an official from the LG's secretariat.

"The LG also noted that there was irrefutable evidence of acts of omission and commission against the officer concerned," the official added.

According to officials, the ACB had sought sanction to probe the complaints against the accused officer under the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The investigating agency in its report to the directorate of vigilance of Delhi government stated that the accused officer had been demanding and obtaining bribes through his two agents. It alleged that the accused officer kept documents pending and cleared them only after the bribe was paid.



LG VK SAXENA

This includes one post of a senior system analyst, one post of a system analyst and eight posts of data processing assistants (assistant programmers).

LG nod for creating 10 more posts of IT professionals

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: To strengthen IT-enabled services in the prison's department of Delhi government, LG VK Saxena has given his approval to the creation of 10 additional posts of professionals having expertise in information technology.

This includes one post of a senior system analyst, one post of a system analyst and eight posts of data processing assistants (assistant programmers).

"This move will ease the workload that has increased due to modernisation of prisons and digitisation of the records of prisoners," said an official.

According to the LG office, the total financial implication for the creation of 10 posts has been estimated at a little over Rs 1 crore annually.

"The departments of IT, administrative reforms and finance have concurred with the creation of above mentioned 10 additional posts," the official added.

38-yr-old woman crossing road rammed by car, dies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 38-year-old woman was rammed to death by a car while crossing a road in Samaypur Badli in north west Delhi on Tuesday. Police have booked the car owner for causing death due to negligence.

The accident took place around 7.30pm on Monday at a checkpoint. "The victim was hit by a car on the main GTK

Road and was found lying in a pool of blood. The offending vehicle, approaching from Mukarba Chowk, was being driven erratically and collided with the woman as she crossed the road," a police officer said.

The woman sustained severe head injuries and was rushed to the hospital but succumbed to her injuries. Princely Rana, the car driver, was detained subsequently.

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- Soni Tejwani, Kolkata
- Jasneet Singh, Jabalpur
- Stuti Purohit, Bhuj
- Kalpana Biswal, Bangalore
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In case of any queries, you may contact us on defaultsc@nse.co.in or on toll free number 1800 266 0050 (Option - 5).

Place: Mumbai
November 02, 2023

For National Stock Exchange of India Ltd.

Sd/-
Chief Manager
Defaulters' Section

Law student held for molesting classmate at party

Aditya.Bahl@timesgroup.com

Noida: A first-year law student of a private university was arrested on Wednesday for allegedly molesting his classmate in her apartment a condominium on Sunday night.

Police have also served notices to five of his friends who were allegedly involved in a scuffle with security guards of the society.

The accused, a resident of Delhi's Kalkaji Extension, had been invited to a party at the classmate's house during which he allegedly touched her inappropriately. A police officer told **TOI** that drinks were being served at the party, according to the complaint filed by the woman, her classmate was drunk at the time.

"The woman's sister, who was also present at the party, asked him to leave the house. She called the guards for help.

The next day, he went back to the classmate's society with five friends, apparently to talk to her about Sunday night's incident, but got into a scuffle with the guards when denied entry," the officer said.

According to the complainant, which the woman filed later on Monday, her classmate and his friends tried to forcibly enter her flat and abused her when she stopped them. She called the guards for help.

A video clip of the incident recorded on a cellphone shows the guards, some armed with sticks, hitting a youth. There's a melee as his friends come to his aid, but are outnumbered by the guards, who slap and kick some of them.

Additional DCP (central Noida) Hirdesh Kathriya said the accused was arrested and produced before a local court after a case was registered at the Sector 142 police station.

CHAUTHA RASAM PAGDI

**Smt. REENA ARORA**

(Wife of Rajkumar Arora)

With Profound Grief, we inform the sad demise of our beloved Reena Arora on 30th October 2023

Chautha Rasam Pagdi

will be held on

Thursday, 2nd November 2023 between 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm
at Bella- Monde, NH 8, Delhi- Jaipur Expy, West End Greens,
Rangpuri, New Delhi.

In Grief :

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2020 riots: HC to hear bail pleas of Sharjeel, Saifi, Khalid in Jan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Bail petitions of Sharjeel Imam, United Against Hate founder Khalid Saifi and several others in a UAPA case linked to the alleged larger conspiracy behind the 2020 communal riots will be heard afresh in January next year.

A bench headed by Justice Suresh Kumar Kait was informed

by the counsel for the accused as well as Delhi Police that the matters will have to be heard again due to a change of the bench that was previously hearing them. It was headed by Justice Siddhartha Mridul who was elevated as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court.

The bail petitions were listed for hearing separately on different dates, starting Janu-

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U0104WB19SSGC039154
Sagaridh Thermal Power Project
P.O. Monigram, P.S. Sagaridh, Dist. - Murshidabad, Pin - 742237
Notice Inviting E-Tender
Ref. No.: WBPDCL/Tend-Adv/23-24/SgTPP/C-842 Date: 17.10.2023
NIT No.: WBPDCL/SGTPP/NIT/E2585/23-24
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbtenders.gov.in> by the General Manager SgTPP WBPDCL from eligible Agencies/Companies in 3 (Three) part bid system for 'Procurement of Clinker Crusher Complete Assembly for Unit #2 O/I' scheduled in 2024 under AHP-MM, Stage-1, for Sagaridh Thermal Power Project, WBPDCL'. Tender Document Download Start Date: 06.11.2023 at 03:00 PM. Bid Submission End Date: 28.11.2023 at 03:00 PM. Contact Person: Mr. Arun Mandal, Senior Manager (Purchase). Phone: 8336903813. E-mail: amonda@wbpdccl.co.in. For details please visit: <https://wbtenders.gov.in> ICA-T2225(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
PWD TENDER NOTICE
Assistant Engineer, PWD, Coach Behar Sub Division No. I, PWD Coach Behar online e-tender e-NIT No.- WBPWD/AE-I/COS/NIT/ 22/23, 24, Tender ID : 1) 2023 - WBPWD 596656 1, 2) 2023 - WBPWD 596656 2, 3) 2023 - WBPWD 596656 3, 4) 2023 - WBPWD 596656 4, 5) 2023 - WBPWD 596656 5, 6) 2023 - WBPWD 596656 6, Bid Submission start date (online) 07.11.2023 from 18:00 P.M., Bid Submission closing date (online) 21.11.2023 upto 18:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender Documents may be downloaded from <https://wbtenders.gov.in> Sd/- Assistant Engineer, Coor Behar Sub Division No. I, Coach Behar. ICA-T2228(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice
NIT No.: WBHD/EE/ED-II-e-NIQ-11/10/23-24, Tender ID : 2023_HSD_597439_1, Name of work: "Replacement and Repairing of Compound light at IHE Patnala under Sodepur Electrical Section (HID)" under Electrical Division No. II, H.D. Bid Submission end date: 22.11.2023 up to 09:00 A.M., Tender Opening Date: 24.11.23 at 11:00 A.M., Tender details may be obtained from the Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. II, Housing Directorate, 67, Bentinck Street, Kolkata-700069 on all office days during office hours. ICA-T22307(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
Tender Notice
NIT No.: WBHD/EE/ED-II-e-NIQ-10/23-24, Tender ID : 2023_HSD_597341_1, Name of work: "Replacement and Repairing of Main Switch, Busbar & Meter Box at 11 Nos (Block-B (1,2,3,4,5) & Block-C (1,2,3,4,5,6) Building at RHE Banamalipur Barasat under Sodepur Electrical Section (HID)" under Electrical Division No. II, H.D. Bid Submission end date: 22.11.2023 up to 16:00 P.M., Tender Opening Date: 24.11.23 at 11:00 A.M., Tender details may be obtained from the Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division No. II, Housing Directorate, 67, Bentinck Street, Kolkata-700069 on all office days during office hours. ICA-T22306(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
BIRBHAM ZILLA PARISHAD
SURI, BIRBHAM
Abridged Notice Inviting e-Tender
Tender Notice No.: BWHD/N-1/23-24 Memo no: 39172/1/BZP, Dated: 31.10.2023 Online Tender No.: 2023_ZPHD_597930_1 Additional Executive Officer, Birbham Zilla Parishad invites e-Tenders for 01 (One) no of work. Detailed information including downloading and uploading time are available from the website [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://wbtenders.gov.in). Sd/- Additional Executive Officer, Birbham Zilla Parishad Memo No.: 133/2/lnfadvt/Bir Dated: 01.11.2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
THE WEST BENGAL STATE HANDLOOM WEAVERS' CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD.
18/4, BLOCK-DD SECTOR-1, SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA-700064
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
No. WBNTANTU/BNA/MO/18/2023-Date: 01.11.2023 Online tender is hereby invited for procurement of cotton fabric for hospital items. For details, visit wbtenders.gov.in and website of Deptt. of MSMEs, Govt. of West Bengal. Online Bid Meeting Date: 01.11.2023 at 12:30 P.M. Meeting ID: 870 5129 2274. Passcode: 825345. Last date for submission: 01.12.2023 upto 4:00 P.M. Sd/- MD, Tantua ICA-T22452(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
NOTICE INVITING e-QUOTATION
No: Agri/BDN/ODA (Adm) No-03/2023-24 Tender ID : 2023_DOA_595049 The Deputy Director of Agriculture (Adm), Purba Bardhaman invites online Item Rate bids in two bids system for the Supply of Seed Treating Chemical, PP chemical and Micronutrient for different schemes at different block office in the district of Purba Bardhaman. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from website wbtenders.gov.in Documents download start date : 17.10.2023 on 5.00 PM and bids submission closing online date 06.11.2023 on 11.00 AM. Sd/- Deputy Director of Agriculture (Administration), Purba Bardhaman. ICA-T22247(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No.: EEF/EM/INURM-II/T-09 of 2023-24 Online percentage premium two-part e-tender is invited by the Executive Engineer(E/M)/INURM-II, E/M Sector, KMDA, 6th Floor, Umayan Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091 from reliable, resourceful, bona fide and experienced agencies for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money to be deposited, Time of completion, Round the clock operation & minor maintenance of 1000 m³/hr capacity clear water pumping station with 11 KV substation located at Arpahata, Howrah for three years, under KMDA, Rs.45,86,46/-, Rs.91,730/- (Balanced amount to determine @ 2% of contract/acceptance value to be deposited before issuing of order) 03/11/2023. Last date & time of Online Tender submission: 23.11.2023 upto 15:00 hrs. for details contact the above office or visit both websites. www.kmda.wb.gov.in (KMDA-735) [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://wbtenders.gov.in) ICA-T22240(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
KMDA TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT No.: EEF/EM/INURM-II/T-08 of 2023-24 Online percentage premium two-part e-tender is invited by the Executive Engineer(E/M)/INURM-II, E/M Sector, KMDA, 6th Floor, Umayan Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091 from reliable, resourceful, bona fide and experienced agencies, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money to be deposited, Time of completion, Round the clock operation & minor maintenance of 720 m³/hr capacity clear water pumping station with 11 KV substation located at Arpahata, Howrah for three years, under KMDA, Rs.45,86,46/-, Rs.91,730/- (Balanced amount to determine @ 2% of contract/acceptance value to be deposited before issuing of order) 03/11/2023. Last date & time of Online Tender submission: 23.11.2023 upto 15:00 hrs. for details contact the above office or visit both websites. www.kmda.wb.gov.in (KMDA-734) [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://wbtenders.gov.in) ICA-T22239(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
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e-NIT No.: EEF/EM/INURM-II/T-08 of 2023-24 Online percentage premium two-part e-tender is invited by the Executive Engineer(E/M)/INURM-II, E/M Sector, KMDA, 6th Floor, Umayan Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091 from reliable, resourceful, bona fide and experienced agencies, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money to be deposited, Time of completion, Round the clock operation & minor maintenance of 720 m³/hr capacity clear water pumping station with 11 KV substation located at Arpahata, Howrah for three years, under KMDA, Rs.45,86,46/-, Rs.91,730/- (Balanced amount to determine @ 2% of contract/acceptance value to be deposited before issuing of order) 03/11/2023. Last date & time of Online Tender submission: 23.11.2023 upto 15:00 hrs. for details contact the above office or visit both websites. www.kmda.wb.gov.in (KMDA-734) [www.wbtenders.gov.in](https://wbtenders.gov.in) ICA-T22239(3)/2023

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ary 15. The prosecution submitted all cases dealing with the conspiracy behind the riots and different roles have been attributed to different accused.

"In 3 matters, judgment was reserved. They also have to be re-heard," the prosecutor said. All accused in the present batch of pleas had moved Delhi High Court for bail in 2022.

Sharjeel Imam, Khalid Saifi and several others, including Umar Khalid, have been booked under the anti-terror law Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and provisions of the Indian Penal Code for allegedly being the "masterminds" of February 2020 riots in northeast Delhi which left 53 people dead and over 700 injured.

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Homeless left powerless as shelters go dark over unpaid dues

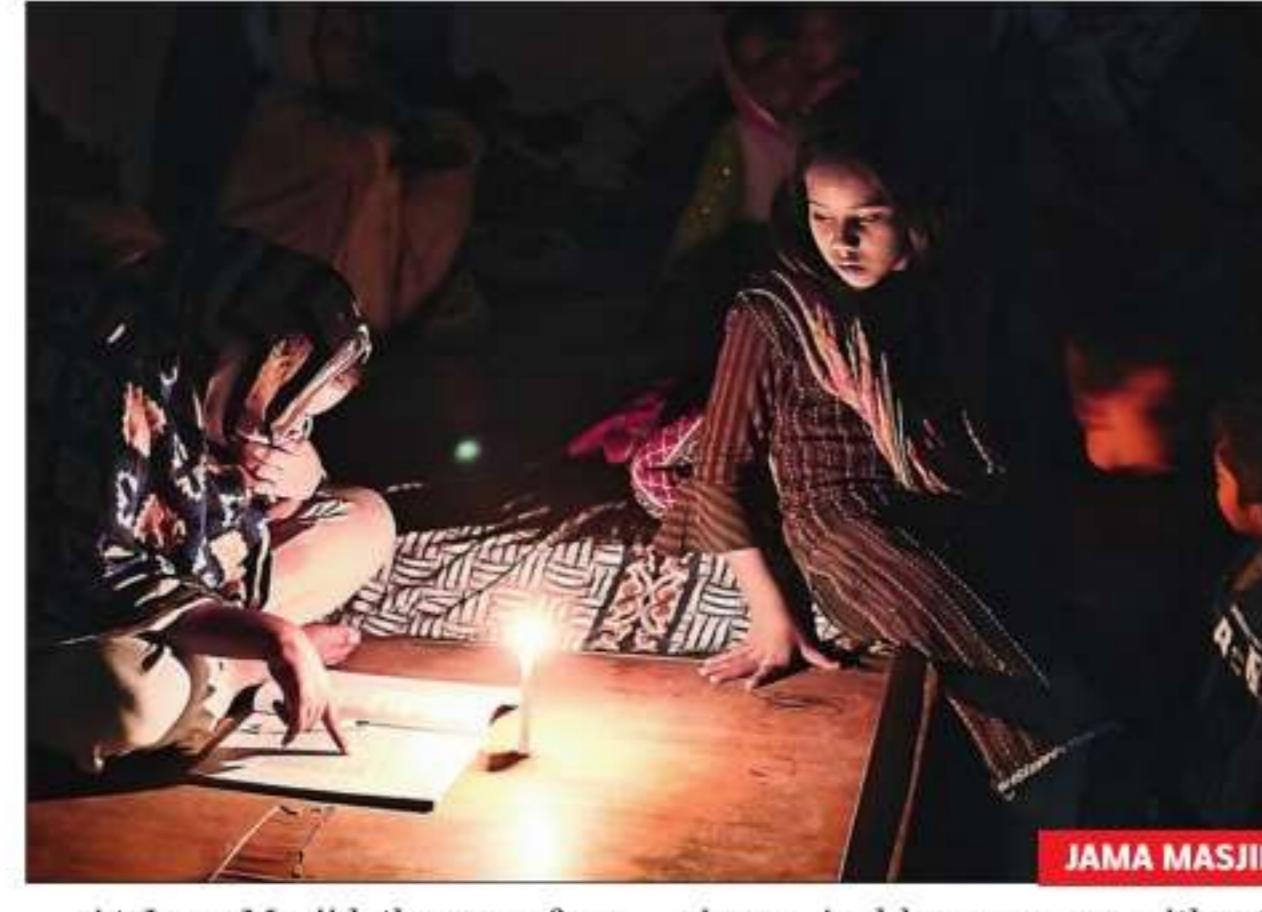
Ridhima.Gupta@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Five days ago, Chandani gave birth to a daughter in hospital and returned home — a government-run night shelter near Jama Masjid in old Delhi. For the 20-year-old mother, her biggest worry now is protecting her newborn from rat bites at the vermin-infested home which has not had any electricity for the last few weeks.

"Since the electricity connection was severed, many of us have been bitten by rats," said Chandani, whose husband is a daily wage earner. "I can't risk my daughter getting bitten. I must not leave her in darkness, so I have bought a torchlight. I get it charged from a shop for Rs 20 and use it around my daughter at all times."

The residents of several rain basera (night shelters) in the city lament the poor conditions of the homes. With no power supply, poor sanitation and defunct toilets, several night shelters run by Delhi government are in no state to be called homes for people, grumbled several dwellers.

Denial of sex by spouse can amount to cruelty: HC



Photos: Sanjeev Rastogi

JAMA MASJID NIGHT SHELTER

At Jama Masjid, there are four night shelters, of which three are for families and one reserved for women. Navigating her way to her bed in the women's home, her feet illuminated by the dim light of her mobile's torch light, student Shazia, 23, said, "For those living in residential colonies, even an hour's power cut causes so much inconve-

nience. And here we are, without electricity for 15 days and there is no one even to hear our plea."

Shazia, who lives at the women's shelter with her single mother, added, "For the last one year, the washrooms have not been usable at the shelter. In the daytime, the women and children use the nearby public toilet. Using them, of course, means

we have to pay money but there is no option. However, the public toilets close down at night, so we have to go out in the open. Without electricity, this means double the trouble when stepping out of the shelter."

Another resident, Ruksana, 30, claimed that she and her daughter are forced to sleep outside the home at night due to the power cut. Her

daughter Alisha, a Class X student, rued that her studies were getting affected because she couldn't study for lack of illumination.

A shelter for the homeless in Chandni Chowk is also facing a host of similar issues. Diwakar Kumar, caretaker at the home, himself admitted that the washrooms at the shelter were "only for show". With

a wry expression, he said, "In reality, the toilets cannot be used by the residents because they have remained defunct for the past year."

When asked about these existential lacks, Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) officials said that the night shelters were grouped into clusters and maintained by private shelter management agencies, which are all paid by Delhi government. The officials said that in clusters 1 and 2, which are facing a blackout, the transfer of authority after a new shelter management agency was given the responsibility of handling the homes hasn't taken place yet.

One of the officials explained, "Unfortunately, on September 19, Delhi High Court issued an order in reference to a petition that subject to the hearing of the respondents, there would be a status quo with respect to services of the staff in the night shelter. In such circumstances, the handing over/taking over of management between the outgoing and new agency did not materialise. Due to this, the electricity problem hasn't be-

en resolved in some night shelters in clusters 1 and 2."

A RESIDENT SAYS

Since the electricity connection was severed, many of us have been bitten by rats. I can't risk my daughter getting bitten. I must not leave her in darkness, so I have bought a torchlight. I get it charged from a shop for Rs 20 and use it around my daughter at all times

en resolved in some night shelters in clusters 1 and 2."

Another official added, "Given this problem, the chief engineer, DUSIB, has ordered all electrical divisions to start recharging of electric meters and payment of power bill dues at the night shelters falling under their jurisdictions. Additionally, DUSIB is also trying to get the stay on the status quo vacated. This order on status quo is causing an unsustainable condition in maintaining the night shelters."

Dust Pollution: MCD To Fix Internal Roads

However, Curbs Due To Bad Air Pose Challenge

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com



File photo

At present, the material required for carrying out patchwork for road repairs is not available due to the closure of hot-mix plants in Delhi-NCR.

The court, while considering the wife's appeal, stressed that allegations of sexual denial should be dealt with carefully due to the sensitive nature of the issue. The court said these claims cannot be based on vague and unspecific statements, especially when the marriage has been consummated. In this case, the husband failed to prove any mental cruelty, and the court found the situation to be a normal wear and tear of the matrimonial bond.

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It noted that the discord was primarily between the wife and her mother-in-law, noting that trivial irritations should not be confused with mental cruelty. IANS

WTP to stay shut for 2 days, supply will be hit: DJB

New Delhi: The Chandrawali Water Treatment Plant (WTP) will remain shut for two days from Thursday due to work for the installation of a flowmeter, Delhi Jal Board (DJB) said.

The Chandrawali plant will remain shut on November 2 from 10am onwards and thus water supply will not be available in several areas in the evening of November 2 and the morning of November 3, the water utility said in a post on X on Wednesday.

The affected areas include Civil Lines, Hindu Rao Hospital, Kamla Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Karol Bagh, Pahar Ganj and NDMC areas. "Supply will also be hit in Rajinder Nagar, Patel Nagar; Baljeet Nagar, Prem Nagar, Inderpuri adjoining areas, etc," DJB said. PTI

Each MCD zone to get ₹20 lakh for better air quality management

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has allocated Rs 20 lakh per zone for augmenting air quality management in the city. The funds will be used to buy dust suppressants, ensure efficient operation of anti-smog guns and sprinklers, and hire drivers or staff after working out the requirement at the zonal level.

Engaging additional staff for lifting garbage along the railway tracks is also part of the plan, stated the civic body on Wednesday.

"We are leaving no stone unturned to control air pollution in the city," MCD stated. It has already set up 51 surveillance teams with 1,064 officers to check open burning, illegal construction and demolition (C&D) waste dumping, and checking of C&D sites and dust on roads. Officials have been asked to make all efforts to improve the air quality over the next three days.

The amount will be utilised to strengthen the machinery and manpower to mitigate dust pollution. Dust suppressants will be used in anti-smog guns and water sprinklers on at least every alternate day during non-pe-

ak hours," said a civic official.

The municipal corporation has decided to take strict measures for regulating construction and demolition waste dump sites. "We are anyway strictly implementing the directions issued by Commission for Air Quality Management and the central environment ministry from time to time," said the civic official.

The civic body has installed 20 anti-smog guns at construction and demolition plants, sanitary landfills and waste-to-energy plants. Fifteen anti-smog guns have also been placed at the identified highrise buildings following the lieutenant governor's direction. "We are using 225 water sprinklers and 30 mobile anti-smog guns to abate dust pollution on busy roads or near such sites," said the official.

To cover potholes, all the zonal committees have been asked to undertake immediate repair work," the official added.

The amount will be utilised to strengthen the machinery and manpower to mitigate dust pollution. Dust suppressants will be used in anti-smog guns and water sprinklers on at least every alternate day during non-pe-

MCD changes building plan sanction fee, houses to cost more in east & south Delhi

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has decided to levy a compensatory regulatory charge, an additional fee to be paid to get the building plan sanctioned for all properties, including residential ones, to strengthen the civic infrastructure.

Officials said the fee was so far levied in the areas under the erstwhile north corporation, and since the unification of the three civic bodies, there was a constant demand for its implementation across the MCD jurisdiction. "The decision will automatically increase the cost of constructing houses in Delhi, especially in south and east Delhi, where this additional charge wasn't levied earlier," said the official.

The unified building-by-laws mandate MCD to impose charges while sanctioning the building plans. The collected amount will be used for maintenance and development of the civic infrastructure in the MCD areas, including

The collected amount will be used for maintenance and development of the civic infrastructure in the MCD areas, including regularised colonies and village abadis

regularised colonies and village abadis.

The charges on the proposed built-up area of a property will be determined based on the prevailing circle rate in that colony. For example, for a residential property in category A with a plot size up to 250 square metre, the charge will be Rs 387 per square metre. It will be Rs 122.70 per sqm for a similar plot in category B, Rs 79.90 in category C, Rs 63.80 in category D and Rs 35 in category E. For residential plots over 250 sq metre, Rs 774 per sqm will be charged in category A, Rs 245.50 in category B, Rs 159.80 in category C, Rs 127 in category D and Rs 70 in category E.

Civic officials came with the proposal

CM: Promise fulfilled, 6k safai workers made permanent

New Delhi: Congratulating Delhiites, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Wednesday that the promise made for the regularisation of 5,000 sanitation workers at Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) had been fulfilled. "So far, we have made 6,494 sanitation workers permanent and AAP is diligently working for the rights of MCD workers," he said.

Alleging that BJP had only exploited the sanitation workers during its 15-year tenure at MCD, Kejriwal said, "Our government has given them their rights. During BJP's tenure, there were

reports of corruption and employees not receiving their salaries for many months and being forced to go on strike. But now everyone is receiving their salaries on time, and sanitation workers are also being made permanent."

for many months and being forced to go on strike. But now everyone is receiving their salaries on time, and sanitation workers are also being made permanent."

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, however, said it was regrettable that the chief minister was misleading MCD's sanitation workers by claiming that with the House passing a resolution on Tuesday, 5,000 workers stood regularised. "It is based on a resolution dated December 13, 2014, which was related to the creation of 5,000 posts of regular sanitation workers and approved by the erstwhile BJP-run east corporation," Sachdeva said, alleging that despite the east corporation's repeated requests, Delhi government never released the budget of Rs 583 crore needed to create the posts. "This resolution also has no financial provision," he claimed.

The CM said he had received numerous phone calls from sanitation workers to express their gratitude. "The AAP government came to power in MCD in January. Since then, we have made around 6,494 sanitation workers permanent. In Punjab also, within 1.5 years, we have regularised approximately 30,000 workers," he claimed.

After the proposal was passed on Tuesday, Kejriwal had posted on X, "Many congratulations to all the confirmed sweepers and their families for this wonderful gift received on Diwali. We are serving the people of Delhi wholeheartedly and together we will make Delhi a clean and beautiful city." TN

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150 flyers of Pune-Delhi flight spend 2 hours in plane, another 3 at airport

Joy.Sengupta@timesgroup.com

Pune: Around 150 passengers booked on an IndiGo's Pune-Delhi flight in the early hours of Wednesday spent about two hours in the aircraft after it developed a snag midway through taxiing and over three hours more in the airport till the airline made an alternative arrangement for them.

The flight (6E 2418) was scheduled to take off from the city at 2 am. The aircraft — an Airbus 320neo — developed a snag while taxiing. After engineers failed to fix the problem, the flyers were allowed to deboard the plane around 3.30am. They were flown to Delhi in an alternative aircraft at 7.30am. A spokesperson of the airline told TOI that the flight was delayed due to a technical problem. "An alternative aircraft was provided for the flyers," he said.

Several passengers' onward travel plan went for a toss because of the delay of the flight. Shashank Yadav was one among them. Slated to travel to his hometown Mathura by train after landing in Delhi, he missed his train.

He said all the passengers were taken to the arrival area of the Pune airport after deboarding and were told to collect their baggage. "Around 5am, the ground staffers informed the passengers that an alternative aircraft was being arranged and it would be in Pune around 7am," he said.

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Social Workers In SMCs: Nominations Withheld

DoE Cites Anomalies In Selection Of Candidates

Shradha.Chettri
@timesgroup.com

In September this year, DoE had notified the formation of SMCs, after the previous committees completed their tenure in 2020

New Delhi: After detecting anomalies in the selection of social workers while constituting school management committees (SMC) in Delhi government schools, the Directorate of Education (DoE) has withheld the nomination process.

The Right to Education Act 2009 mandates constitution of SMCs, each of which has the principal as the member secretary, besides two teachers, 12 parents who are elected, a social worker from the field of education and an MLA nominee as its members.

SMCs, as per the RTE Act, act as the main decision-making body for a school, charting its plan and taking crucial decisions up to the elementary level, stated a circular issued by DoE director Himanshu Gupta. Sub Rule 3(d) of Rule 3 of Delhi RTE Rules 2011, which deals with the composition and functions of

SMCs, prescribes the qualification of a social worker for the committee. "However, a perusal of the lists of social workers supplied by the district DDEs reveals that a number of social workers nominated to SMCs do not qualify for this basic mandate of the statute. Some of them have not even completed their schooling," the circular pointed out.

In September this year, DoE had notified the formation of SMCs, after the previous committees completed their tenure in 2020. Each school has a permanent group comprising of the head of the school and two teachers that assists the district depu-

Five, including 4 members of family, injured as cylinder blast causes fire

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Four members of a family and a tenant were injured in a fire caused by cylinder blast in southwest Delhi's Pahar Ganj. Four fire tenders took two hours to extinguish the blaze. Police received information about the incident at 10pm on Tuesday. "During inquiry, we came to know that there

was a cylinder blast, which led to the incident. The house was damaged, and household items also got burned," a police officer said.

Ram Bharose (72), Satya Narayan (62), Radhe Shyam (48), his wife Chandra (47), and tenant Anil (43) were injured. "Ram Bharose, Anil, and Chandra sustained critical burn injuries and are getting

treatment at a hospital," the officer said.

Radhe Shyam and his wife Chandra lived on the third floor, where the explosion took place.

"They had gone to ground floor when someone informed them that there was a fire at their house. They rushed to the spot and were injured," the officer said.

An FIR was registered against the unidentified accused under Sections 279 (rash driving) and 304-A (death by negligence) of the IPC at Sector 37 police station.

Man on bike hit by SUV in Gurgaon, dies

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Gurgaon: A 48-year-old man, who worked as an operator at Honda, tragically died in a road accident when his bike was allegedly hit by a car while he was going to his office in Sector 37 from Sector 93.

On Monday morning, according to police, the deceased, identified as Phool Singh, had been residing with his family in a society in Sector 93 for more than 20 years. The accident occurred near an underpass on the Dwarka Expressway, close to Antriksh Society, as reported by police.

A police complaint was filed by his elder brother, Ratan Singh, at the Sector Police Station, in which he stated, "My brother left his home for his morning duty at his office in Sector 37 at around 5 AM on Monday. As he crossed the underpass on the Dwarka Expressway near the Antriksh Heights Society, a speeding car hit him from behind. The collision caused my brother to fall on the road, resulting in severe head injuries and substantial blood loss. Bystanders at the scene then took him to a hospital, where the authorities informed us about the matter."

Subsequently, the victim was transported to Aravali Hospital in Sector 90, where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival. Upon the victim's admission to the hospital, the authorities promptly alerted police to investigate the incident.

An FIR was registered against the unidentified accused under Sections 279 (rash driving) and 304-A (death by negligence) of the IPC at Sector 37 police station.

6-month jail to IIT alumnus who sought death penalty for judge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

HIGH COURT SAYS
As a responsible citizen of the country, he is expected to voice his grievances in a civilised manner

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Tuesday sentenced a litigant who had demanded death penalty for a sitting judge who dismissed his pleas to six months in jail.

Observing that Naresh Sharma, the litigant against whom criminal contempt proceedings were initiated in August, had no remorse for his conduct and actions, the division bench of Justice Sudesh Kumar Kait and Justice Shailesh Kaur said, "Even if it is taken that the contemnor due to outrage preferred the writ petition, but despite issuance of showcause notice, he without pleading guilty, filed a highly disrespectful reply thereto, which explicit-

ly shows that he has no guilt to his actions. Rather, the contemnor has stated that he has no remorse to whatever he did and he stands by the same. He has used utter derogatory language for the learned bench."

Sharma, in his appeal before the coordinate bench, urged that the single bench judge should be criminally charged since the judgment was "not just baseless but also defama-

tory and inserted with lies".

"As a responsible citizen of the country, he is expected to voice his grievances in a civilised manner, maintaining the dignity of the court and judicial process," the court further stated.

In August, the high court issued a showcause notice for criminal contempt while hearing Sharma's appeal challenging the single judge order passed on July 20 rejecting his pleas with costs of Rs 30,000 each.

Sharma also sought death penalty for government officers by firing squad. The plea was rejected by a single-judge bench of Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma on July 27, following which he filed three appeals against the judge

and made some scathing remarks against her and the apex court.

Earlier, Sharma, an alumnus of IIT, submitted before the single judge that hundreds of government organisations "are criminal in the extreme sense of sedition because they are societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860". He also stated that there is a legal option for such organisations to disobey the government and even join forces against the government. He alleged before the single judge that his fundamental right was being infringed. Article 21 of the Constitution includes right to have public organisations that are not criminally established, he argued.

Continue deployment of Civil Defence volunteers as bus marshals, says CM

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New Delhi: A day after the Delhi government issued a circular to end the 'call-out duty' of Civil Defence volunteers — virtually removing them from work — chief minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday issued directions to continue them as bus marshals.

In a note to transport minister Kailash Gahlot, the CM also directed the release of pending payments of bus marshals before Diwali and asked him to initiate proceedings for suspension and disciplinary action against Ashish Kundra, principal secretary-cum-transport commissioner, and princi-

pal secretary (finance) Ashish Verma for allegedly causing delay in the payment of their salaries, according to officials.

More than 10,000 Civil Defence volunteers (CDVs) have not been paid salaries for the past five months. "The home guards are to be expeditiously deployed as bus marshals, whose number should not be reduced. Till the engagement and deployment of home guards as bus marshals, the CDVs are to be continued (as bus marshals) so that safety of women passengers is not compromised," Kejriwal said.

Senior officials said disciplinary action against the senior officials can be taken only on recommendation by Na-

tional Capital Civil Services Authority (NCCSA). "Appointment of CDVs as marshals is completely illegal, which is why they have been discontinued from October 31. No payment will be released against illegal appointments and deployments," a senior finance department official said.

Sources said LG VK Saxena has directed to examine the matter of action proposed by the transport minister against officers in accordance with statutory provisions by the department concerned and Directorate of Vigilance before it is taken up with NCCSA. "It is premature to say the matter is referred to the authority," a source said, adding, "Engagement of CDVs

as home guards will be undertaken after following due process of law." The bus marshals are currently staging an indefinite sit-in at Delhi Secretariat demanding salary payments.

Earlier, the Directorate of Civil Defence said in a circular the divisional commissioner, also the director (Civil Defence), has ended the 'call-out duty' of the CDVs. Their appointment was not done in a transparent manner and was contrary to rules mandating their requirement for dealing with disaster management and hostile attacks, it added. Sources said the LG had approved a proposal of the CM for termination of CDVs, a charge denied by AAP leaders.

Four car thieves held, 10 high-end vehicles seized

Siddhivin.Singh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Crime Branch on Wednesday claimed to have busted a car stealers syndicate, with the arrest of four men and recovery of 10 high-end vehicles. Suspects Mohammad Sabu (24), Mohammad Asif (22), Sagar Barman (23) and Pasang Tamang (33) were allegedly involved in transportation of stolen luxury cars to the northeastern states.

Ravindra Singh Yadav, special commissioner of police (crime), said that the alleged thieves used a specially designed screwdriver to break open car locks and a software tab to generate duplicate keys.

The alleged thieves used a specially designed screwdriver to break open car locks and a software tab to generate duplicate keys.

nior police officer said.

During interrogation, the gangmembers divulged that in response to the luxury cars' demand in northeastern states, they had decided to establish a syndicate. Within this framework, they engaged in selling the stolen cars, police said.

"Explaining the modus operandi, the accused confessed they identified vehicles based on specific make and colour. Upon receiving a demand, they conducted recce in the Delhi/NCR region to pinpoint their targets. Subsequently, the stolen vehicles were strategically parked at predetermined locations to ascertain the presence of GPS tracking devices," added Yadav.

Police had been closely monitoring the trend of high-end luxury car thefts. "Through manual and technical surveillance, it emerged that the stolen vehicles were being transported to the northeastern states. Subsequently, multiple raids were conducted across various states, leading to the arrests," the se-

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The stolen vehicles were transported to Moradabad before being transferred to the northeastern states, ultimately reaching the end users at Rs 8-12 lakh, Yadav said, adding further investigation is underway to nab the remaining culprits for dismantling the entire network.

The deceased's parents had gone for a walk on Tuesday night. On their return, when the victim didn't come out of the room, they broke open the door to find him hanging from a weightlifting rod, the official said.

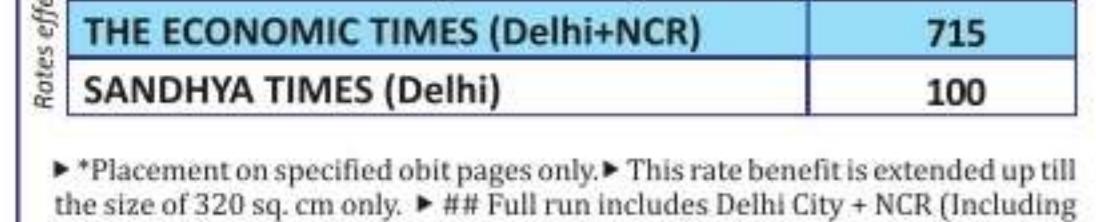
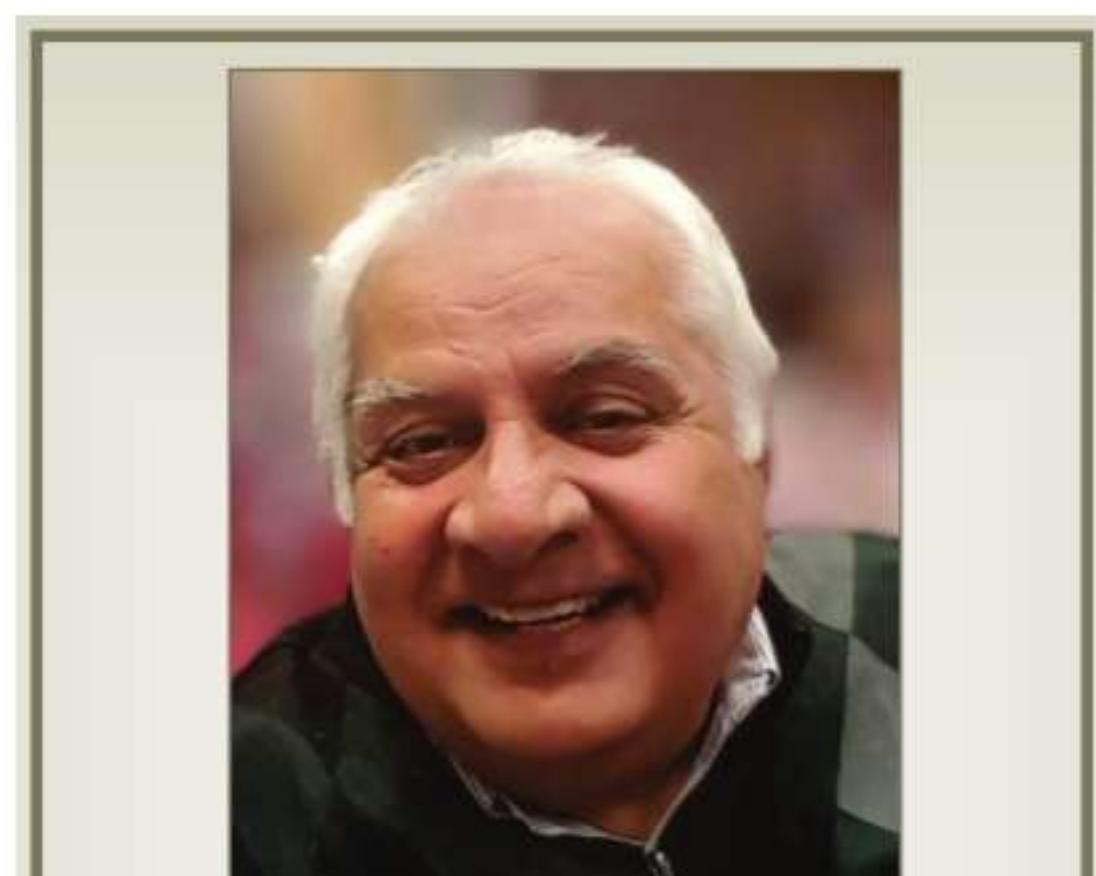
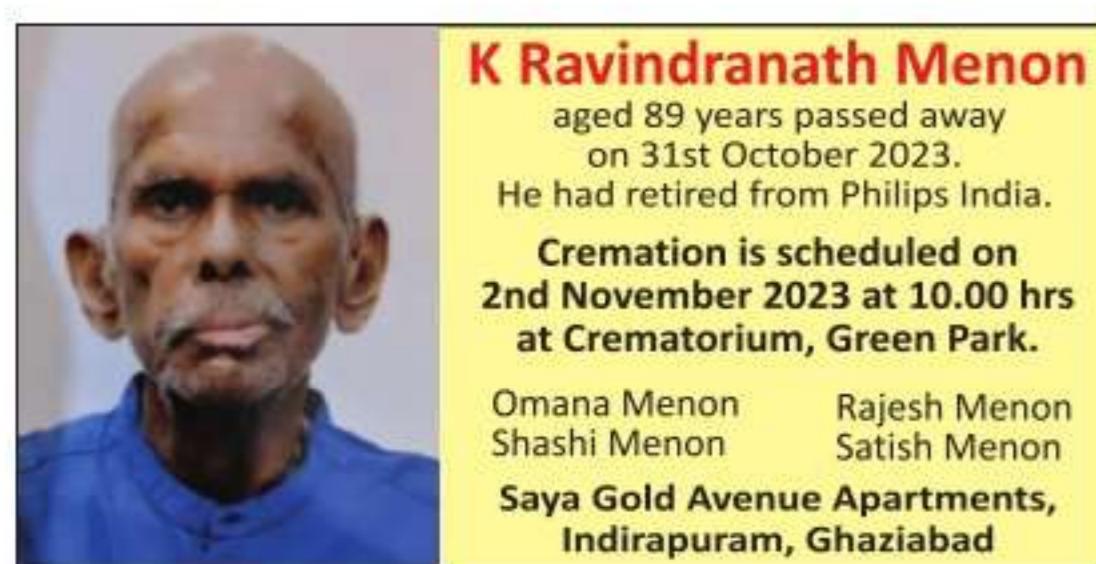
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According to dean of students' emai

"This is to inform you of the very sad and untimely demise of our B.Tech student... We need to offer our full support to each other also to deal with this unexpected tragedy. Members of the IIT Delhi community are encouraged to please contact our Counselling Services for help, if needed". TNN

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023



WITH SC SETTING DEADLINE, MAHA SPEAKER TO BEGIN DISQUALIFICATION HEARING TODAY

AS OPPN LEADERS SKIP OPEN DEBATE, CM MANN TARGETS PREVIOUS GOVT'S OVER SYL ISSUE

Maha civic poll candidates must affirm 'have no illegal structure'

Rosy Sequeira | TNN

Mumbai: The State Election Commission on Wednesday informed the Bombay high court that it has provided for candidates contesting municipal elections to declare that they, their spouses and dependents, have not built nor do they own unauthorised constructions and that they are aware that if such violations are found, they shall be disqualified.

The SEC's decision was informed to chief justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and justice Arif Doctor during the hearing on a public interest litigation by Pimpri-Chinchwad resident Shantanu Nandgude who had sought such a disclosure clause in the nomination form and/or affidavit of a candidate contesting civic and local body elections.

SEC's advocate Sachindra Shetye submitted an affidavit by secretary K Suryakrishnamurti that "an order" was passed on September 26 for amending clause 16.5 of the affidavit to be filed by the candidate contesting an election to municipal corporation." He said, "It will be mandatory on the part of the candidate to make such a declaration."

Vrushali Kabre, one of Nandgude's advocates said, "SEC has only provided the order for the disclosure clause and not the election nomination form". The chief justice responded, "Whenever they make the nomination form, they will incorporate it." Kabre then inquired whether a similar provision will be introduced for elections to local bodies including gram panchayats. The judges have directed advocate Sachindra Shetye to take instructions from the SEC about it and inform the court on December 21.

Source not known for 66% of funds of 8 nat'l parties in '21-22

**48% For CPM,
61% For BJP,
72% For Cong,
97% For TMC**

Dhananjay.Mahapatra
@timesgroup.com



File photo

New Delhi: Political parties governing the Centre and states cornered the lion's share of donations from the public & corporate houses, irrespective of the mechanism regulating such contributions, the Centre told the Supreme Court on Wednesday.

As parties are not obliged to declare the details of donors who contribute less than Rs 20,000 in a single tranche, the income from this source is termed unknown. After electoral bonds were introduced in 2018, contributions received through these bonds too are bracketed as unknown sources of income.

CPM's total income of Rs 162 crore included Rs 79 crore or 48% from unknown sources.

According to senior advocate Vijay Hansaria, who collated data from the EC website, the total income from redeeming electoral bonds by political parties between 2017-18 and 2021-22 was: BJP Rs 5,272 crore; Congress Rs 952 crore; AAP Rs 50 crore; TDP Rs 113 crore; YSRCP Rs 330 crore; JD(S) Rs 43 crore; JD(U) Rs 24 crore; RJD Rs 2.5 crore; Shiv Sena Rs 101 crore; NCP Rs 64 crore; BJD Rs 622 crore; DMK Rs 46 crore; AIADMK Rs 6 crore.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta pointed out that CPM, despite not accepting electoral bonds, had more than 50% of its income from unknown sources since 2017-18.

CPM informed a bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Bhushan R Gavai, J B Pardiwal & Manoj Misra on Tuesday that though it was in office in Kerala, it had taken a stand not to accept donations through electoral bonds, at much cost to the party.

Petitioner NGO Association of Democratic Reforms, which has challenged the validity of electoral bonds, collated data that showed that total income of national and regional parties between 2004-05 and 2014-15 was Rs 11,367 crore, of which Rs 1,836 crore (16%) came from known sources. Income from other known sources was Rs 1,699 crore or 15%. Income from unknown sources was Rs 7,833 crore, or 69% of the total income of parties.

The total amount of donations above Rs 20,000 declared by the six national parties was Rs 1,405 crore. BJP topped the list by declaring receipt of Rs 918 crore through such donations, which was more than double such donations declared by the Congress during the same period.

Between 2004-05 and 2014-15, 83% of the total income of Congress at Rs 3,323 crore and 65% of the total income of BJP at Rs 2,126 crore came from unknown sources.

Among regional parties, Rs 766 crore or 94% of the total income (Rs 819 crore) of Samajwadi Party and Rs 88 crore or 96% of the total income of Shiromani Akali Dal came from unknown sources.

BSP is the only party to have declared receiving zero donations above Rs 20,000 between 2004-05 and 2014-15.

So far, only two national parties have filed their 2022-23 contribution reports with EC.

AAP declares all, from ₹30 to contributions in lakhs of rupees

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Contributions to the Aam Aadmi Party, which became a national party earlier this year, totalled Rs 37.1 crore in 2022-23, which was slightly less than the Rs 38.2 crore donations declared by the party in 2021-22.

Aam Aadmi Party, in its contribution report for 2022-23 submitted to the Election Commission on September 30 and placed in the public domain on Wednesday, maintained its tradition of declaring all donations and not just those above Rs 20,000 as required by Section 29 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The contributions declared by the party, which is in office in Delhi and Punjab, range from as little as Rs 30 to lakhs of rupees.

Among electoral trusts, Prudent Electoral Trust contributed Rs 90 lakh to AAP in the last fiscal, in two installments of Rs 45 lakh each.

Contributions — which are essentially direct donations by individuals, companies and electoral trusts and different from contributions by way of electoral bonds — to Aam Aadmi Party had risen sharply from Rs 11.3 crore in 2020-21 to Rs 38.2 crore in 2021-22. In the last decade, the highest contributions to AAP had come in 2014-15.

So far, only two national parties have filed their 2022-23 contribution reports with EC.

FESTIVE GLOW ON MOONLIT NIGHT



GRACE AND TRADITION: Dressed in traditional finery for Karwa Chauth, a woman in Punjab's Jalandhar appears to relive a bridal moment as mehendi-adorned hands encircle her in a photo-op amid a slew of rituals on Wednesday. In the time-honoured tradition of this festival linked to the legend of queen Veeravati, women fast from sunrise to moonrise for the well-being of their spouses

28% increase in road deaths among people aged under 18



TROUBLING REALITY: The government maintains that socio-economic cost of road crashes in India account for 3% of the GDP as it loses a large number of youngsters and working professionals each year

T-junctions see more crashes than 4-way crossings

► Continued from P1

While 2,421 people died in crashes at police-controlled junctions in 2022, 7,733 were injured, as per the recently released 'Road Accidents in India' report. Experts said while physical deployment of police personnel should have tamed drivers from breaking rules, ironically the violations go up every time the policeman is blindsided or temporarily absent.

The government data highlights how "uncontrolled crossings" — without any traffic signal or policemen — remained the biggest problem as the number of fatalities remained high at 24,857 during 2022 and the total number of injured in crashes at such crossings was 68,833.

The report also shows how drivers are often more careless at T-junctions compared to Y-and four-arm junctions. In 2022, the number of fatalities in crashes at T-junctions was 12,101, more than double of the deaths at both Y-and Four-arm junctions.

On October 27, CERT-In warned Apple users of 'multiple vulnerabilities'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Even as controversy erupts over Apple's 'alert' to certain iPhone users over potential hacks from "state-sponsored attackers", it now comes to light that India's cyber watchdog CERT-In had on October 27 also warned the company's users of "multiple vulnerabilities" that could allow attackers to access sensitive information, execute arbitrary code, and bypass security restrictions.

CERT-In, which issues regular warnings over potential weaknesses in operating systems and other procedures of devices and software, said that the affected software related to Apple's iOS 15.8, 16.7.2 and 17.1 operating systems. There were also vulnerabilities noticed in certain OS versions of Mac-Book and also Apple Watch.

"Multiple vulnerabilities have been reported in Apple products which could allow an attacker to access sensitive information, execute arbitrary code, bypass security, cause denial of services conditions, bypass authentication

3 paragliders killed in 7 days in Himachal

Rohit.Mullick@timesgroup.com

Kullu: Recent tragedies in the Dhauladhar range of the Himalayas have raised concerns about the safety of paragliders, particularly "free flyers" gathering in Bir-Billing of Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district, for the ongoing flying season. Three paragliders have lost their lives in seven days since October 20. Two were free flyers — a Russian and a Polish — while the third was a 29-year-old trainee pilot from Lucknow.

Bir-Billing is a renowned paragliding destination, attracting enthusiasts from around the world. Apart from 93 paragliders from 70 countries taking part in the ongoing Cross Country Pre-World Championship, around 300 free flyers have gathered in Bir-Billing this season.

The fatalities have prompted questions about the safety measures in place for free flyers, a term used for those who are allowed to use take-off sites at Bir-Billing by the Special Area Development Authority (SADA). SADA officials said it grants permission to free flyers after verification of their flying experience, documents, licences, and insurance.

Blinken and Austin to be in India next week for talks with EAM, Rajnath Modi To Skip APEC Meet In San Francisco

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New Delhi: US secretary of state Antony Blinken & secretary of defense Lloyd Austin will travel to India next week for the 5th 2+2 ministerial dialogue that the government will host on November 10.

The dialogue is expected to see the two countries reaffirming commitment to their global partnership and Indo-

nate someone else. During Modi's visit to US in June, President Biden had invited India to be the guest of the host. The campaign for the assembly polls will likely keep Modi occupied around the time of the meet, where the focus will be on Biden's meeting on the margins with Chinese President Jinping.

PM Modi will also be spared the trouble of coming face to face with his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau in the middle of a stand-off that saw India expelling 41 Canadian diplomats.

While the government has put in place several regulations for safety of minors, there is a need to make them aware of the risks on road. Even the World Health Organization has categorised road crashes as the leading cause

of death among youths and kids," said K K Kapila, road safety activist and former president of Geneva-based International Road Federation.

The data collated from all states and UTs also show that people in their most productive age were the biggest victims of road crashes with around 1.12 lakh deaths.

The report also said that the worst hit in such accidents, accounting for more than two-third of the total 1.68 lakh fatalities in 2022.

As per the report on road crashes released by the Union transport ministry on Tuesday, the number of minors (below 18 years) killed increased to 9,528, 6% of all road fatalities in 2022, compared to 7,764 in 2021.

"While the government has maintained that the socio-economic cost of road crashes in India cost around 3% of the country's GDP as it loses a large number of young and working persons every year, Union road transport minister Nitin Gadkari has called it as 'one of the biggest national losses'" while urging people to contribute to make roads safer.

The government data highlights how "uncontrolled crossings" — without any traffic signal or policemen — remained the biggest problem as the number of fatalities remained high at 24,857 during 2022 and the total number of injured in crashes at such crossings was 68,833.

The report also shows how drivers are often more careless at T-junctions compared to Y-and four-arm junctions. In 2022, the number of fatalities in crashes at T-junctions was 12,101, more than double of the deaths at both Y-and Four-arm junctions.

Arrest of M3M MD illegal, says HC, grants bail

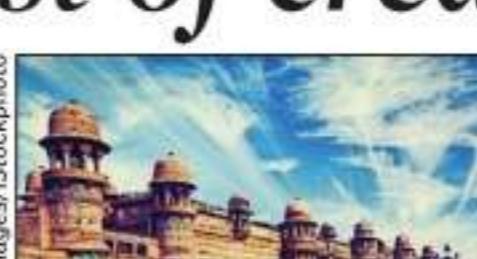
Chandigarh: In a major embarrassment to the Enforcement Directorate, the Punjab and Haryana HC granted regular bail on Tuesday to M3M managing director Roop Bansal in a money-laundering case, terming his arrest "illegal".

Relying on the Supreme Court's October 3 orders granting bail to two other directors of the M3M group — Pankaj Bansal and Basant Bansal — the HC held that since the case of Roop Bansal was the same as that of Pankaj Bansal in so far as not conveying in writing the grounds for arrest was concerned, the only conclusion this court can arrive at is that the arrest of Roop Bansal was also illegal and cannot be sustained.

The Punjab & Haryana HC also made it clear that the arrest itself is held to be illegal, all other subsequent actions would be of no consequence and would have to fail. TNN

Gwalior, Kozhikode now on Unesco list of creative cities

Swati.Mathur
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New Delhi: In an acknowledgement of their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity as part of their development strategies, Unesco on Tuesday included two Indian cities — Gwalior and Kozhikode — to its Creative Cities Network. Gwalior has made the cut in the 'Music' category, while Kerala's Kozhikode earned its place on the list in 'Literature' category.

Modi and Union culture minister G Kishen Reddy as a proud moment for India. Celebrations broke out in Kozhikode, where city mayor Beena Philip said the recognition was a result of the relentless effort by the city's people, writers, journalists, and local libraries. She said Kozhikode carried the distinction of being home to over 500 public libraries.

Gwalior, home to the Gwalior Gharana and synonymous with musicians like Baiju Bawra and Tansen was acknowledged for being a popular destination for learning Indian classical music from musicians in the Guru-Shishya Parampara.

Unesco released 55 new entries to its Unesco Creative Cities Network list on Tuesday. The UN culture body said the cities were being acknowledged for "their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity as part of their development strategies, and displaying innovative practices in human-centred urban planning."

"India's cultural vibrancy shines brighter on the global stage with Kozhikode's rich literary legacy and Gwalior's melodious heritage now joining the esteemed Unesco Creative Cities Network," PM Modi said.

New Delhi: The government on Wednesday raised the price of commercial LPG refills by Rs 101, the second increase in a month that is bound to impact the margins of sweetmeat shops and small eateries during the festive season sales.

After the increase, 19-kg cylinder will cost Rs 1,833 in Delhi, Rs 1,943 in Kolkata, Rs 1,785 in Mumbai, Rs 1,914.5 in Bengaluru, and Rs 1,999.5 in Chennai.

Price of commercial refills was raised by Rs 209 in October. The latest increase brings the total hike to Rs 310 per cylinder within a month. The price was cut by Rs 158 in September.

The increase was prompted by rising cost of benchmark Saudi contract price of LPG as commercial refill prices are market to market rates. The price of domestic LPG refills has not been changed since the government controls its price and gives subsidy to state-run fuel retailers. TNN

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The increase was prompted by rising

Day after cop killing, 32 Myanmarese among 44 held

Prabin.Kalita@timesgroup.com

Guwahati: Security forces in Manipur detained at least 44 people, 32 of them suspected Myanmarese infiltrators, in Moreh on Wednesday as a frisson of unrest coursed through parts of the state over a sniper attack in the border township the previous day that killed an on-duty police officer.

The crackdown linked to sub-divisional police officer Chingtham Anandkumar's killing in Moreh and the subsequent militant ambush in which three cops were wounded did little to calm the outpouring of anger on the streets of Imphal East and West in the valley.

A large mob of hundreds of people on Wednesday attacked a camp of the 1 Mani-

pur Rifles, close to the Raj Bhavan and the chief minister's office in Imphal West district, to loot its armoury, prompting security person-

MANIPUR UNREST

nel to fire several rounds in the air and the state government to reimpose round-the-clock curfew in the capital, officials told PTI.

CM N Biren Singh attended the official gun salute to the slain SDPO at the 1st Manipur Rifles ground in Imphal. The ceremony couldn't be held on Tuesday after Anandkumar's family and local groups refused to accept his body until those responsible for his killing were brought to justice.

In tribal-dominated Kangpokpi, the Committee

on Tribal Unity announced a 48-hour general strike in all hill districts from 6am on Thursday, alleging militants masquerading as police commands set ablaze houses, vehicles and church offerings at Sinam village.

The All Naga Students' Association warned of an economic blockade in all Naga-inhabited areas on Friday against the internet ban.



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tender & notices

TENDERS

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E-AUCTION forms are invited for participating in e-auction for Disposal of Salvage of Stock of Wheat On "As Is Where Is" basis, belonging to M/s Globus Warehousing & Trading Pvt. Ltd., Moonak, Sangrur.

Inspection can be done till 08/11/2023 till 12 pm (Prior Appointment) Contact: Mukul Gupta: +91-9999707373 Date of E auction is 08/11/2023 Pm 4:00 onwards.

E auction Forms with Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to be submitted latest by 08/11/2023 up to 2 pm At the auctioneer's address OR at seller's address.

E-auction Portal is www.rasavajee.auction . visit and register yourself. Forms can be obtained from the details given below. For inquiries please contact:- Mr. Mukul Gupta: +91-9999707373 R.L Aravali Salvoe Solution LLP, Plot No. 18, Block C2, Sushant Lok Phase - 1, Gurgaon-122002.

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27004532 Fax No. 27004500
E-mail: nia31000@newindia.co.in
Corrigendum-III

With reference to e-tender advertisement published on 22.09.2023 titled "Requirement of Commercial Space (1) Around 1500 Sq. ft. in and around Bhubha Ki Cama Place, New Delhi. (2) Around 1200-1500 Sq. ft. in and around Connaught Place, New Delhi". The last date of submission of bids of the above tenders has been extended upto 14.11.2023 till 3:00 pm. Other terms and conditions remains the same.

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22.11.2023 16:00 hours
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Pocso Act not for criminalising consensual ties: Allahabad HC

Prayagraj: The Allahabad high court has expressed concerns about the misuse of the Pocso Act, highlighting that the legislation was originally designed to safeguard children under the age of 18 from sexual exploitation and was not intended to "criminalise consensual romantic relationships between adolescents", reports **Rakesh Kumar Pandey**.

The court said the Pocso Act has become a "tool of exploitation" of adolescents and stressed that when considering bail in such cases, consensual relationships originating from love should be taken into account. The HC underlined that ignoring the survivor's statement and leaving the accused in jail would be an injustice.

Making these observations, Justice Krishan Pal granted bail to Mrigraj Gautam, aka Rippi, who was charged under sections 363 (kidnapping), 366 (abduction of a woman with intent to compel her to marry any person against her will) of IPC, and Pocso Act for allegedlyenticing a 15-year-old girl on May 13. An FIR was lodged against Gautam in UP's Jalaun.

Aggression by China worrying, says Aus leader

New Delhi: China's "level of aggression" in the Indo-Pacific is a matter of concern, Australia's leader of opposition Peter Dutton said Wednesday even as he pointed to India's experience on its border with China.

"There is a level of aggression (by China) that causes a lot of concern and angst because in the end, what we all desire is for continued peace in...the Indo-Pacific," Dutton, also a former defence minister, said. He is in India for an Economic Trade Delegation Summit.

"We want to make sure the trading relationship can continue to prosper but Australia should never shed our values or step back from arguing for what we believe is right and just," Dutton said. He referred to India's "experience on the land border" with China and Philippines' experience in the South China Sea. **PTI**

SC: Remarks by coordinate bench no ground for review

Says Judgment Open To Review In Case Of Error

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The bench rejected a review petition seeking re-examination of last year's verdict pertaining to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) of a firm Rainbow Papers Limited.

"It is a well-settled proposition of law that a coordinate bench cannot comment upon the discretion exercised or judgment rendered by another coordinate bench of the same strength. If a bench does not accept as correct the decision on a question of law of another bench of equal strength, the only proper course to adopt would be to refer the matter to a larger bench, for authoritative decision, otherwise the law would be thrown into the state of uncertainty by reason of conflicting decisions," the bench said.

The verdict assumes significance as a three-judge bench of the apex court recently decided to go ahead with its hearing to decide whether its verdict of upholding stringent provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act needed to be re-examined. Even the Centre argued that the scrutiny of a 3-judge bench verdict by another bench of the same strength would set a wrong precedent.

Refusing to review the verdict, the bench said the plea of review petitioners deserves to be outrightly rejected for the simple reason that any passing reference to the impugned judgment made by the bench of equal strength could not be a ground for review. The court said that the ground taken in the petition that the court had not examined Section 53 of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was incorrect as all provisions of the IBC were referred in the verdict for deciding the priority for the purpose of distributing the proceeds from the sale as liquidation assets.

"Apart from the well-settled legal position that a coordinate Bench cannot comment upon the judgment rendered by another co-ordinate Bench of equal strength and

that subsequent decision or a judgment of a co-ordinate Bench or larger Bench by itself cannot be regarded as a ground for review, the submissions made by the learned counsels for the review petitioners that the court, in the impugned decision, had failed to consider the waterfall mechanism as contained in Section 53 and failed to consider other provisions of IBC, are factually incorrect," the bench said.

Delving into the scope of review jurisdiction, the bench said a judgment is open to review if there is a mistake or an error apparent on the face of the record but a review petition has a limited purpose and cannot be allowed to be appealed in disguise."

A bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar (now retired), Dinesh Maheshwari (now retired) and C T Ravikumar had last year passed judgement upholding all provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act last year.

A bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Sanjiv Khanna and Bela M Trivedi on October 18 agreed to examine whether the verdict be referred for reconsideration.

Simi offshoot not banned, don't discriminate against cop: HC

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Madurai: Observing that discrimination should not be shown in any form based on one's caste, race, colour, region, religion and socio cultural identities, Madras HC on Tuesday granted relief to a police constable by directing the authorities to fix his seniority on a par with his batchmates, who were appointed following the selection process in 2007-2008.

Petitioner M Haja Sherif was successful in the TNUSRB tests to the post of grade-II police constable. As the authorities passed an order rejecting his candidature, he had filed a petition before HC in 2010.

The authorities contended that he was not appointed because he was an active member of Manitha Neethi Pasarai, an offshoot of banned SIMI, Al-Umma and Jihad Committee. In 2012, the court directed the authorities to issue appoint-

ment order to him after taking into account that Manitha Neethi Pasarai is not a banned organisation.

The authorities issued an appointment order in 2013. Since his representation seeking to fix seniority on a par with his batchmates was rejected by the authorities, he had filed the present petition in 2016.

Justice Battu Devanand observed that the court cannot lose sight of the contention of the petitioner's counsel that the authorities, with an intention to prevent the development of minorities, curtailed their rights to enter into the social arena and fixed the stigma stating that minorities are anti-social elements.

"In this civilized 21st century, this attitude has to be changed in the minds of all, particularly the officers of the state and central governments, who are vested with the statutory powers," observed Justice Battu Devanand.

Oral insulin spray in a few years: Hyd firm

Hyderabad: For diabetics who find insulin shots painful, a relief may be on the way. In about two to three years, controlling blood sugar levels may become as easy as spraying an insulin dose in the mouth, reports **Swati Bharadwaj**.

NiedlFree Technologies Pvt Ltd, set up two years ago as an associate company of Hyderabad-based R&D company Transgene Biotek Ltd, claims to have become the first globally to develop a needle-free oral insulin spray — called Ozulin.

The company has applied to the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) for approval to conduct safety and toxicology studies, after completion of which it will go for human clinical trials, Dr K Koteswara Rao, co-founder and director of NiedlFree Technologies and CMD of Transgene Biotek, told **TOI** on Wednesday.

NiedlFree has already been granted global patents covering over 40 countries for the oral insulin, Dr Rao said, adding that the company is also working on developing oral and nasal sprays for treatment for ailments such as cancer, osteoporosis and Alzheimer's.

Petition in SC seeks review of same-sex judgment

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

machines are referred to as AI. Everything is done by them, from booking my ticket to suggesting I move with the times. "All decisions are taken by us," said my host robot. "You want enlightenment? Please wear the simulated reality glasses and press the kind of enlightenment you want...you could choose through the route of pleasure or pain..."

I was not listening to the robot any more. Where was I? I had been airlifted by time itself. I was not 'moving with the times'. I had let time carry me away. There was merit in the man-made human look-alike robot, but something had been missed...the powerful inner winds had not been harnessed.

While material progress had happened, no human being found satisfaction in his life. They were reduced to puppets, and machines without inner fire were ruling the world.

What we need is the practice of inner fire. That is when you learn to make proper use of time, which means using time purposefully, to your end.

Inner fire is the first subject in the set of tantric practices. It is fundamental to the realisations of the illusory body. According to Buddhist tantric practices, the air flowing through the central channel alone is pure. When all the inner air enters, stabilizes and gets absorbed or dissolves into the central channel, great bliss or enlightenment follows. Not as my robot told me, by using a simulator.

This enlightenment is great bliss because when it combines with wisdom, it brings the understanding of emptiness, of the full moon and the full ocean, the nothingness and the existence within. ■

THE SPEAKING TREE

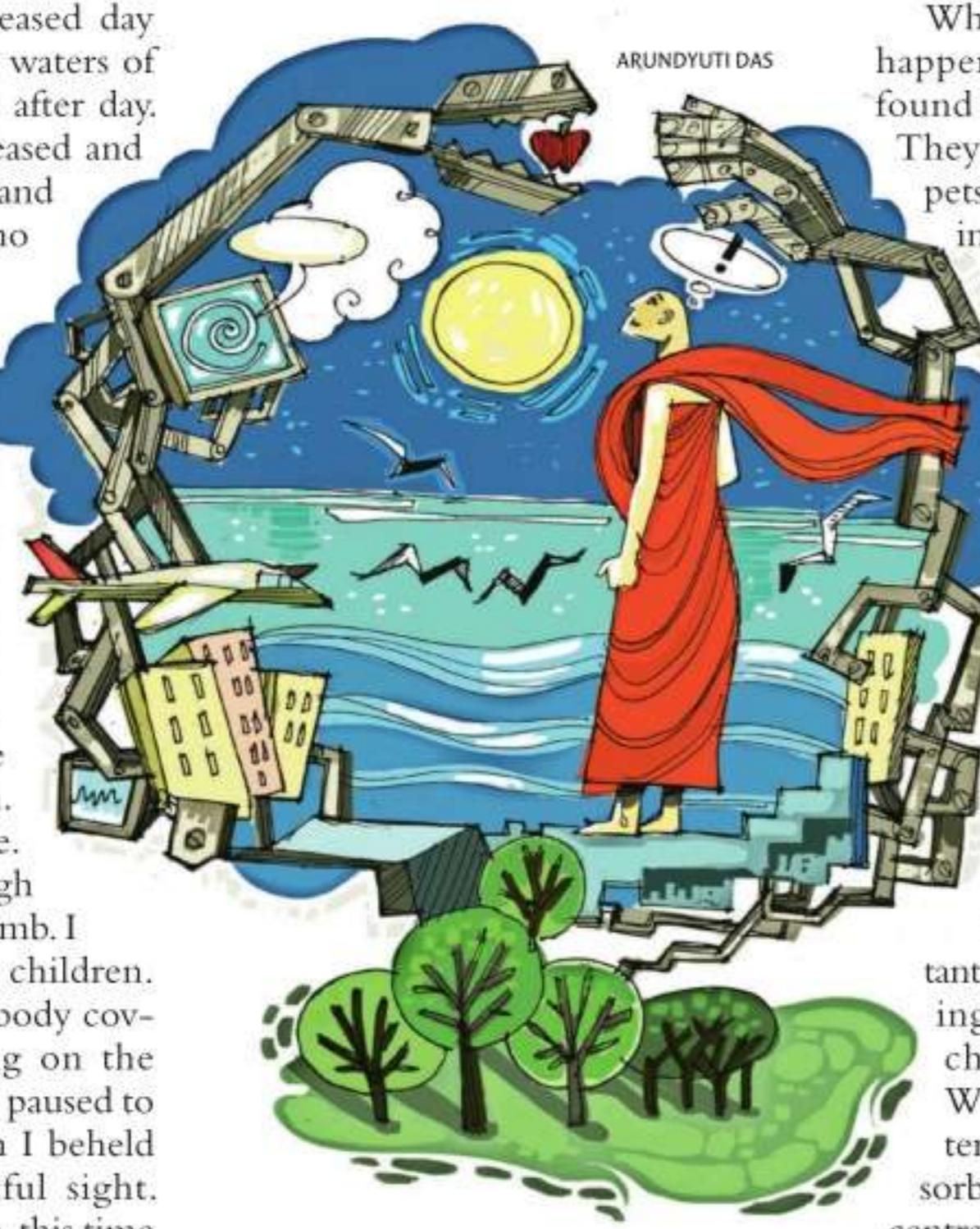


Lama's Celestial Odyssey

LAMA DOBOOM TULKU embarks on a cosmic journey, losing himself in the celestial dance of the moon and the serene depths of the ocean, only to resurface in a world where AI reigns supreme. He shares his insights

One day, I saw a full moon, resplendent and brilliant. Looking below I saw the ocean, full but calm. That was all I saw. There was nothing else. There was not even me. I was imagining myself as the moon. I was imagining myself as the ocean. Sometimes the light of the moon decreased day after day. Sometimes the waters of the ocean decreased day after day. Sometimes they all increased and I was there, witnessing it and yet there was no 'me', no individual.

Days passed. The light of the moon grew longer and stronger, and I could see more than the waters and the moon. I saw crows crowing, I saw them flying in the air. Then I looked down and further down. I saw the earth. There were rocks on the earth. There was even a cave. They appeared as though they would be easy to climb. I moved further and saw children. Wearing the simplest of body coverings, they were skiing on the snowy mountain slopes. I paused to enjoy the sight, but soon I beheld another equally beautiful sight. They were children again, this time they were playing in the sand... sand gliding... along the sides of the sandy stretch lay more rocks. Somebody told me they were called Yamraj rocks. Yamraj does not mean some frightful creature. Yamraj is nothing but time. Time is most powerful. Nobody can stop time.



Then I come to a fantastic place where machines were running the world. Here human beings travel by airplanes, so did I. At the destination I found there were machines that help human beings think, turn on the lights, plan their day, even design their menu. The

Triple talaq over shaping brows gets man booked

Faiz.Siddiqui
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Kanpur: A man pronounced triple talaq from Saudi Arabia during a video call with his wife in Kanpur because she got her eyebrows shaped at his wishes.

The woman, Gulsaba, has registered an FIR with Kanpur police and the case is under investigation. The incident took place on October 4, but came to light on Tuesday, when she approached the police again with a complaint that no action was taken in the matter.

Police said Gulsaba got married to Mohammad Salim of Phulpur, Prayagraj, about a year ago. Three months after their wedding, Salim left for Saudi Arabia to work with a private firm there.

Gulsaba stayed with Salim's parents for some time, but later shifted to her parents' house.

Collectorganj assistant commissioner of police (ACP) Nishank Sharma said that in her complaint, Gulsaba also alleged that her in-laws had been harassing her for dowry. The harassment allegedly increased after Salim left for Saudi Arabia, and she moved to her parents' house. Gulsaba also mentioned in her complaint that her husband was orthodox and used to object to her being fashionable.

On October 4, Salim noticed his wife's shaped eyebrows while talking to her on a video call, and asked her why she went for it without his permission. In a fit of rage, he pronounced triple talaq and told her now she was free to do whatever she wanted.

 Spotify

The stories of Mahabharata

There's a Podcast on the quest for truth. Beware of fake info. And friends.

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Hasina's war on terror gets daughter India's vote

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New Delhi: India preferred Bangladesh over Nepal for the post of regional director of World Health Organisation's (WHO) Southeast Asia Region contributing to the comfortable victory of **Saima Wazed**, daughter of Bangla PM Sheikh Hasina.

Wazed, who is a global autism advocate and has been a member of the WHO's 25-member expert advisory panel on mental health, would have won in any case as eight of the 10 member nations preferred her over Dr Acharya who is a WHO specialist.

WHO said that Wazed's nomination will be submitted to the WHO executive board during its 154th session, taking place on 22-27 January 2024 in Geneva, Switzerland, and that the newly appointed regional director will take office on 1 February 2024.



शारखण्ड लोक सेवा आयोग
सकुलर रोड, रॉनी-834001

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

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विज्ञापन संख्या-04 / 2018 के अंतर्गत **History** विषय का साक्षात्कार के उपरांत परीक्षाफल प्रकाशित कर दिया गया है। यह परीक्षाफल आयोग के वेबसाइट www.jpsc.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

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9th Circle Public Work Department Dehradun

Office of the Superintending Engineer, 9th Circle PWD, Dehradun Uttarakhand

Website- <http://pwd.uk.gov.in> E-mail: sepdddu09@gmail.com

Letter No. 7529/1C-9/23

Dated: 01.11.2023

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e-tender Notice (Short term)

The Superintending Engineer 9th Circle, Public Works Department, Dehradun on behalf of "Governor of Uttarakhand" invites short term tender in two bid system for the following works. Information regarding tender shall be available on <https://www.uktenders.gov.in> from date 02.11.2023.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Earnest Money (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Validity of Tender (In days)	Period of Completion (In Month)	Contractor Category of Registration
1	Construction of Boundary wall of Science City at Jhajhra, Dehradun under Deposit work.	3.87	5000.00 + 18% GST	60	09	Registered in 'B' & above category in Building works in Central Govt./State Govt./any Govt. Undertaking

F.No.1/25/2023/G.II

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
DHOLPUR HOUSE, SHAHJAHAN ROAD

NEW DELHI-110069

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Online bids are invited on GeM portal for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of the following items from authorized vendors/partners of the proposed OEMs:-

S.No.	Name of the Items	Quantity
1.	Hyper Converged Infrastructure Solution. a. 9 Nodes (5 Production + 4 DR) at NIC b. 12 Nodes in the Commission's Office	21 nodes
2.	Network Switch for Data Center - Top-of-Rack Switch fully loaded with module a. 4 Switches (2 Production + 2 DR) at NIC b. 6 Switches in the Commission's Office	10
3.	Management Switch	2
4.	Standard Server Rack 42U</	

NORTHERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Date: 27.10.2023.

The Sr. Divisional Engineer-IV, Northern Railway, Delhi Division for or on behalf of President of India invites e-Tender in prescribed form for the following work.
Inivation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

Name of work: 1. Rag picking in km. 13 to 20 excluding yards in DLII-BTI section and widening of cess in km. 17-19 under ADEN/ROK. (NIT 36-W-IV-23-24)
 2. Balance work in C/W with construction of Limited height Subway at the closed L-ting no. 168-C in Kajhal yard on DLII-BTI section under ADEN/JHL (Not pushing). (NIT 41-W-IV-23-24)
 3. Conversion of line No. 4 at Tohana into common loop line with provision of cross over at JHL end. (NIT 42-W-IV-23-24)

Approx. Cost of work 1) Rs. 49,74,405.05 2) Rs. 4,62,18,656.64 3) Rs. 19,04,671.80
 Earnest money 1) Rs. 99,500.00 2) Rs. 38,100.00

Date and Time of submission of tender opening of e-Tender at 15.00 hrs on 21.11.2023

Website particulars, published e-tender, notice location etc. complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded : Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3413/23

OFFICE OF THE SUPER ENGINEER,
CONSTRUCTION DIVISION (E/M)
U.P.JAL NIGAM (URBAN)
R-1, Rajnagar (Near Telephone Exchange)
Ghaziabad, 201002

Letter No.: 1001/प्रियंका-13/164

Date: 31.10.2023

SHORT TERM e-TENDER NOTICE

U.P.Jal Nigam (Urban) online e-tenders for execution of "Surveying, Soil Investigation, design and Supply of all materials, labour, T&P etc. required for Construction of Over Head Tank, Pump House, Staff Quarter, Boundary wall, Gates, Site Development, Supply of all materials for laying & Joining of Rising main, Distribution System, Including all labour & T&P etc. complete in all respect & construction of Tube wells including SCADA and automation as per specifications in tender document for Dasna water supply reorganization scheme, Dasna, District Ghaziabad. The scope of work also includes trial & run of 3 months & defect liability period of 12 months for civil works and 24 months for E&M works after completion of trial run. All completed and commissioned works under Dasna Water supply reorganization scheme shall be handed over to Nagar Panchayat Dasna, district Ghaziabad after 03 months successful trial run period." under AMRUT 2.0 Programme are invited in two bid system on percentage rate basis from eligible, reputed and experienced bidder.

E-tender documents will be available for download from **08.11.2023 at 17:00 Hrs**. Pre-Bid meeting will be held on **dated 14.11.2023 at 13:00 Hrs** in the office of undersigned. E-bid can be submitted till **29.11.2023 up to 17:00 Hrs** and technical bid shall be opened on **30.11.2023 at 15:00 Hrs** in the office of the Superintendenting Engineer, Construction Circle, U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban), Ghaziabad presence of contractor or their authorized representative. E-tender Cost is **Rs. 20,000.00+GST @18%**. Details are available on U.P.Govt. e-procurement portal <http://etender.up.nic.in> & U.P. Jal Nigam (Urban) website www.jn.uspsc.gov.in.

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY

E-Open Tender Notice No. 36/2023

For and on behalf of President of India, Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (chg), West Central Railway, Bhopal invites E-Open Tenders from reputed contractors for the under mentioned work. **Name of work:** Linen distribution and handling in AC coaches of Train of Bhopal Division of WCR. **Approximate Value of work:** 1,16,59,910.18/- (Including GST @ 18%) **Contract Period:** 26 weeks i.e. 182 days (4) **Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,08,300/- **Cost of Tender Documents:** Nil. Date and time of Closing of Tenders: 14.11.2023 at 15.00 hrs. **Data and timing of Tender Opening:** 14.11.2023. After 15.30 hrs. TenderNotice can be seen on notice board of Sr.DME office WCR/BPL and all information regarding tender terms & conditions and eligibility criterion is available on the website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>, No manual offer will be acceptable. **Sr. Div. Mechanical Engineer (Chg.), West Central Railway, Bhopal**

एक कदम रखते होंगे और

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. COS/CRJ/PU/B/e-Tender/19/0162 Date: 27/10/2023. The following e-Tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in. Offers for such e-Tender can be submitted only electronically by accessing the link www.ireps.gov.in—login → E-Tender Stores/Supply. Vendors may also contact the following officials to obtain clarification regarding particular tender or IREPS related information if any, Dy.CMM/HQ CLW/Chittaranjan, 0341-2525594 or SMM/CON/HQ, 0341-2535631. Office Address: Office of the PCMW/CLW/Chittaranjan. Sl. No.: [1], Tender No.: 70230991A. Brief Description of Item: BULL GEAR 107 Teeth for WAG-9HC as per Dng No. SK-DP-3848 Atal 1 and Spec. No. MPB/300.19(Rev.01) June 2019; [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery]. Quantity: 2827.28 Numbers. **Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees):** ₹200000.00. Tender Closing Date & Time (IST): 25/11/2023 at 11:00 AM. PR2/18 PCMM/CLW/Chittaranjan

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NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E-TENDER NOTICE

DRM / TRD, North Western Railway, Jodhpur for & on behalf of the president of India, invites e-tender for the following work.

1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No: <http://www.ireps.gov.in> 2. Date & time of closing of e-tender:- 28.11.2023 up to 15.00 hrs. **3. Date & time of opening of e-tender:-** After 15.00 hrs. on 28.11.2023 **Tender No:** 06TRD-JU-ETENDER-23-24 **Name of Work:** Provision of Railway Electrification Work of BGKT/Diesel Shed and other associate Railway Electrification work over Ju Division. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.) :** ₹ 73642074.30 **Tender No.:** 07TRD-JU-ETENDER-23-24 **Name of Work:** TRD work in c/w Construction of LHS at various section of Jodhpur Division and launching of composite girders for the ROB of Jodhpur Division. **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.) :** ₹ 6207395.60 **For detailed information visit:** <http://www.ireps.gov.in> [1147-AC/23]

Follow us on NWNRailways

Maha gives out first Kunbi cert, recipient sets it on fire

Marathas Need To Have Patience, Give Govt Some Time: CM

►Continued from P 1

MLAs from a cross-section of parties, including the Ajit Pawar group of NCP which is part of the government, locked one of the gates of Mantralaya demanding a special session of the legislature on the reservation row.

The resolution adopted after the all-party meeting also sought activist Manoj Jarange-Patil's cooperation and appealed to him to call off his indefinite fast.

While the Dharashiv district collector gave the first Kunbi certificate to Sumit Mane, thus paving the way for inclusion of Marathas in the OBC category, Mane stepped out of the collector's office and burnt the certificate as the government has not yet recognised the entire Maratha community as Kunbi.

In the morning, Maratha activists blocked the Nash-



ANGER ON STREETS: Maratha Kranti Morcha activists during a protest on Pune-Solapur highway in Solapur on Wednesday

ik-Chhatrapati Sambhaji-nagar Road near Suregaon in Yeola taluka and the Solapur-Nanded highway by burning tyres, disrupting traffic. In Jalsa and Hingoli too, tyres were burnt to block highways.

In Mumbai, opposition party MLAs also held a demonstration at Vidhan Bhavan to demand a special session of the legislature.

With Jarange-Patil con-

tinuing his fast and the community targeting legislators and ministers, political leaders are coming out on the streets to support the quota. However, the ruling parties admit that making the quota stick in court will be a major challenge.

CM Shinde said after the all-party meet, "Everyone expressed their unhappiness over the unfortunate incidents of stone-pelting

and arson. This will become a blot on the agitation. There was consensus that the state should take strong steps to maintain law and order." He added, "The Maratha community needs to have patience and give the government some time. Jarange-Patil needs to cooperate with the government and call off his fast."

At the meeting, Congress leader Ashok Chavan said the Centre should intervene in helping with the quota. NCP leader Jayant Patil said the police needed to take strong action against those attacking the homes of legislators and political leaders.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) complained its leader Uddhav Thackeray was not invited to the all-party meeting even though its leaders Ambadas Danve and Anil Parab were present. MNS chief Raj Thackeray and the Samajwadi Party were also not invited.

Mallick & Mahua issues 'political vendetta': Mamata

►Continued from P 1

Meanwhile, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee Wednesday broke her silence on the arrest of her cabinet colleague Jyoti Priya Mallick and the Mahua Moitra issue, calling it "political vendetta", and accused the BJP-led Centre of trying to "clear the field" ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Nishikant Dubey has accused Moitra of asking questions, which were keyed in through her parliamentary account, at the behest of Hiranandani in return for bribes and favours from the Dubai-based scion of a well-known business family.

The third-term BJP MP from Jharkhand on Wednesday referred to "media reports" that her log-in was opened 47 times from Hiranandani's place in Dubai and as many questions were asked in Parliament.

"If this news is true, then all MPs of the country should stand against Mahua ji's corruption," Hiranandani asked questions in Lok Sabha for Hiranandani. Are we MPs for promoting selfish interests of capitalists?" Dubey said on X. He added that it was a unique case that Hiranandani was posting questions related to his own business through Moitra's email.

Hiranandani has submitted an affidavit in which he admitted to giving bribes to Moitra so that she could



Moitra expressed her desire to cross-examine alleged 'bribe giver' Hiranandani

ask questions to target the Adani group and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Meanwhile, Moitra on Wednesday shared a copy of the letter written by her to the panel dated October 31 which said, "Since ethics committee deemed it fit to release my summons to the media, I think it is important I too release my letter to the committee before my hearing tomorrow."

In the letter posted on X, Moitra said she would appear before the panel on November 2 and would "demolish" the complaint of cash-for-query against her.

She said parliamentary committees lack criminal jurisdiction and emphasised the importance of involving law enforcement agencies in such cases. Moitra also expressed her desire to cross-examine alleged "bribe giver" Hiranandani, who submitted an affidavit to the committee "without offering substantial evidence".

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL

SANDEEP ADHWARYU



Inauguration of projects shows we have strong bond: Hasina

►Continued from P 1

The list of our achievements is so long that we can spend an entire day talking about it," said Modi. The other two projects inaugurated by Modi and Hasina are the 65-km Khulna-Mongla port rail line, and Unit 2 of the Maitree super thermal power plant in Bangladesh's Rampal. "The joint inauguration of these important projects shows that we have a strong bond of friendship and collaboration... I also thank PM Modi for the warm hospitality during my visit in September for the G20 Summit," said Hasina.

India had extended Rs 392.5 crore as grant assistance to Bangladesh for the Agartala-Akhaura rail link, officials said. As part of the Khulna-Mongla port rail line, a 65-km broad gauge route was constructed between Bangladesh's Mongla Port and the existing rail network in Khulna. The length of the rail link is 12.24 km with a 6.8 km Dual Gauge rail line in Bangladesh and 5.5 km in Tripura. Modi said it will allow northeast states to access ports in Bangladesh.

Earlier this year, Modi and Hasina inaugurated the 'India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline', a cross-border energy pipeline, built at an estimated cost of Rs 377 crore.

6 arrested in TN for urinating on 2 Dalit men

Tirunelveli: Police arrested six people from the OBC Maravar community on Wednesday on the charge of robbing, assaulting, and urinating on two scheduled caste men near Thachanallur in Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli district on October 30. Both men are receiving treatment at a Tirunelveli hospital and their condition is stable. TNN

Government of India

G20

LIFE

Powering Progress through Energy Efficiency

India Setting an Example for the World



"Unprecedented possibilities are emerging for energy sector in India that is moving with a resolution of a Viksit Bharat"

– Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

33rd National Energy Conservation Awards (NECA) 2023

Sectors: Industries, Transport, Buildings, Institutions, Appliances

&

3rd National Energy Efficiency Innovation Awards 2023

Category A: Buildings, Transport, Industries | Category B: Students & Research Scholars

To Submit Entries Register at:

www.neca.beeindia.gov.in

Fill New User Registration Details Read & Accept Terms & Conditions Upload Necessary Document & Submit



Scan the QR Code
to know more

Last date for submission:

9th November, 2023

cbc 3410G/15/0014/2324

WESTERN RAILWAY-BHAVNAGAR DIVISION

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

W.118/NIT/E-Tender/2023-24/17/WA

Date: 26/10/2023. The Divisional Railway Manager, (S/T), western Railway, Bhavnagar invite e-tenders on behalf of President of India for the following works. (1) **Tender No. 19-2023: Bhavnagar Division:** Provision of outsourcing of the part supply of signalling material, installation, testing and commissioning in connection with work for repair and maintenance of outdoor signalling gears in ADSTE-JND section. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 1,22,56,326.23/- One Crore Twenty-Two Lacs Fifty-Six Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Six Rupees & Twenty-Three Paisa. (2) **Tender No. 20-2023: Bhavnagar Division:** Charging of secondary batteries of ADSTE-DLJ section at 10 Stations. Alampur, Ujakav, Jaliya, Damagar, Liliya Mota, Savarkundla, Gadhdakada Stations). **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 6,56,454.00/- (Six Lacs Fifty Six Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Four Rupees). The bidders have to apply on line through link i.e. www.ireps.gov.in only for further detail please visit web site www.ireps.gov.in Last date for on line apply 27/11/2023 up to 15.00 Hrs.

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110

She was the third highest run-scorer at the U-19 Women's World Cup 2023 and has many records to her name. The TOI #Unstoppable21 jury has picked the 19-year-old from Haryana as one of the Unstoppable 21 Indians under 21 years

Talent, composure, self-belief: Shafali Verma in a nutshell

Manuja.Veerappa
@timesgroup.com

Shafali Verma gave the first glimpse of her potential in the women's exhibition matches during the 2019 Indian Premier League. All of 15, she took on international bowlers with her fearless striking of the ball and ability to step out against spin. Playing alongside and against international stars like Hayley Matthews and Sophie Ecclestone, Shafali held her own. She's not a player who can be compartmentalised, drive and sweep shots are not her usual style. Although diminutive, she treats short balls with disdain and surprises with her power hitting. Watching her clobber pacers is a sight to behold.

The performance in the exhibition matches was no flash in the pan. Within months, she became the youngest cricketer to debut for the Indian women's T20 team. By the time she was 17, she had another record to her credit. She proved her



DRIVING FORCE: Shafali proved her versatility when she struck 96 and 63 on her Test debut in 2021 against England in Bristol

tional support in ensuring my dreams come true. I look forward to doing better and making my country proud," says Shafali.

"The focus has always been on one dream, which is to make my country proud. I haven't allowed any kind of pressure to distract me from my goal. Also, when I started, there wasn't a lot of focus on

en's cricket. She must try and keep that going. Also, she is constantly looking at the areas where she needs to improve," Raman says.

Shafali's bucket list is full and she has been working meticulously to tick off her goals from the list. One among those was the U-19 World Cup title, which she led the country to in the inaugural edition earlier this year. Although there were critics who disagreed with Shafali's inclusion in the team, her captaincy proved to be a masterpiece for the country. While she scored 172 runs and collected four wickets, what stood out about Shafali during the successful campaign was her ability to handle pressure and lead from the front.

But switching gears from senior to age-group cricket wasn't easy for the youngster, who is tuned to a certain pace.

"Initially it was difficult to adjust to slow balls. It took me four-five days to adapt. Once I adjusted to the pace of the game, it was a great campaign for us. The U-19 World Cup win will always be special," says the skipper.

Raman, an astute reader of the game, pointed out, "A lot of people don't give her credit, but she is a good thinker of the game. No wonder, she led the team to the U-19 World Cup title."

While the semifinal finish at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup wasn't what Shafali and the team wished for, she is confident the team is only getting better.

Shafali, who picks time spent amidst nature as her favourite, has learnt the art of staying calm. "It is easy to stay calm even when you are emotionally down. It is important not to lose self-confidence and if you can pull yourself up during the low phases, you can handle yourself better on the field. When I go through low phases, I tell myself, this too shall pass. I go back to watching my videos and note down the areas I need to work on. Also, I've grown to believe that I have control over practice, hard work and sincerity towards the game, not the result," she says.

women's cricket and the live coverage of our matches was also limited," she adds.

According to former Indian women's coach WV Raman, a vocal supporter of the youngster's game, aggression and striking prowess are Shafali's remarkable traits. "She strikes the ball very well and is aware that it is her main strength, and she backs it. She is a nightmare to the bowlers in wom-

men's cricket. She must try and keep that going. Also, she is constantly looking at the areas where she needs to improve," Raman says.

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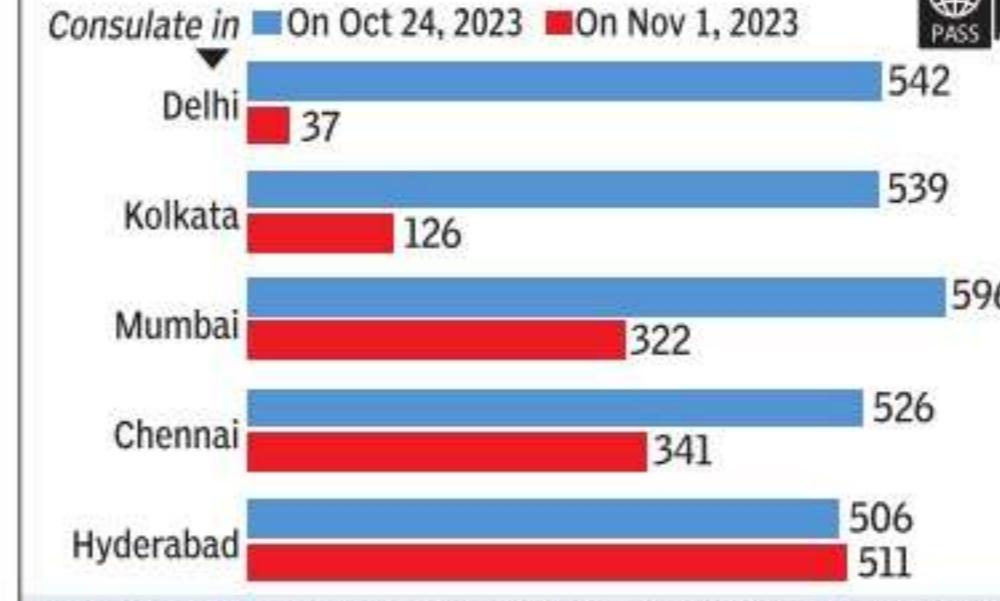
we opened over a quarter million non-immigrant visa appointments. Book yours today at <https://ustraveldocs.com/in/en/>, the US embassy posted on X.

The US embassy has since taken several steps to ease the backlog, with external affairs minister S Jaishankar raising this issue. The measures include setting aside non-immigrant visa interview appointments specifically for Indians in consulates abroad like Frankfurt and Bangkok. With the US embassy processing over 10 lakh non-immigrant visa applications this year, the wait period dropped to about 1.5 years until last week.

US visa: Mum wait period now 322 days

EASE OF TRAVEL

Estimated wait time For B1/B2 interview (in days)



Possible reason for drop: US embassy has opened over 2.5 lakh non-immigrant visa appointments
(Source: US State Dept.)

►Continued from P1

While Delhi has seen the sharpest drop in the number of days an applicant has to wait, some other consulates have reported a marked improvement, too. The US department's website showed the B1/B2 interview wait period in Kolkata at 126 days, down from 539 last week.

Mumbai is now at 322 days, declining from 596 last week. Chennai is down to 341 from 526 days. Only Hyderabad has seen a marginal increase from 506 to 511 over the past week. It was a busy weekend for our consular team! Over the weekend,

'Funds misuse' case against Teesta, hubby

►Continued from P1

Narendra Modi in the 2002 riots cases in the state.

Setalvad, who has been on interim bail since September last year, was asked by the Gujarat HC to "surrender immediately" after it rejected her bail plea on July 1. However, she was granted interim protection against arrest by the apex court in a special sitting convened in late night on the same day. The Ahmedabad police's detection of crime branch (DCB) had accused her for conspiring to falsely implicate innocent individuals in connection with the 2002 Gujarat riots.

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Principal, APS, Dhaula Kuan

A criminal case was registered against the couple in connection with alleged misappropriation of funds collected for building a 'Museum of Resistance' at the Gulberg Housing Society in Ahmedabad, where over 60 persons were killed during the communal riots of 2002. In July this year, the SC had granted regular bail to Setalvad in connection with another case relating to alleged fabrication of documents to frame high-ranking officials, including then Gujarat CM

Principal, APS, Dhaula Kuan

Sealed tenders are invited from leading firms with professional expertise for providing School Canteen Services to Army Public School, Dhaula Kuan.

Firms with past experience in providing required services and having Registration No., EPF Code, ESI Code, GST Code etc may contact school office between 9:00 a.m. to 15:00 p.m. on any working day for collection of tender forms costing Rs 1,000/- between 02 Nov 2023 to 08 Nov 2023. Last date for submission of tender form is 14 Nov 23 by 1100 hrs. For any queries contact Principal on 011-25693131/8628817399.

Principal, APS, Dhaula Kuan

TENDER NOTICE

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Principal, APS, Dhaula Kuan

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, TTD, TIRUPATI DIST, A.P.	
TENDER NOTICE	
ADV No.63/D3/CE/TTD/2023-24 & NIT No.207/SE-I & 125/S-E-II/TTD/2023-24: Dt: 31/10/2023	
Name of Works: (1) Widening of existing road to four lane with central divider from Cherpallip cross to Srinivasa Mangapuram, Tirupati. Amount Rs.2200 Lakhs. Time for completion 12 months.	
Note: The above work full details log on to the website https://www.tirumala.org .	
(2) Providing Interiors, Acoustic treatment, paintings, Electrical works including Air-conditioning & yard lighting etc. for S.V Auditorium in S.V.Colege, New Delhi. Open Tender type, Time for completion 12 months.	
Note: The above work full details log on to CPPP https://www.eprocure.gov.in	
ROC. NO. PR4 /13960/Adv. No. 243/ PRO / 2023, Dated: 01.11.2023	
Sd/- Executive Officer	

UJVN Limited H.O.: 'UJJWAL' Maharan Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006 Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508 CIN NO. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website : www.ujvn.com	
RO No.-1076 Dated: 31.10.2023	

e-Tender Notice Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M-II), Lakhwar MPP (3x100MW) Dakpathar, Dehradun invited online bid from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below: Tender No: 15/EE(E&M-II)/LP/2023-24 Name of work : Annual operation and Maintenance contract of various 33/11 KV substation and 11 KV lines of Lakhwar MPP for the period of 12 months. Estimated cost: ₹ 94,28,834.00 (excluding taxes). Date of availability of bid document on website: 02.11.2023 at 15:00 hrs. Last date of submission of bid on website: 24.11.2023 at 16:00 hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal " https://uktenders.gov.in "	
Executive Engineer (E&M-II) Lakhwar Project "Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"	

SOUTHERN RAILWAY Track Machine Unit / Royapuram / Chennai-13	
E-Tender Notice No. TMC-RPM-06 of 2023 Dt: 01.11.2023	
For and on behalf of the President of India, The Deputy Chief Engineer / Track Machines / Royapuram / Chennai invites ONLINE Tenders for the work as per tender notice and complete details are given in our e-tender portal www.irps.gov.in	
Sl. No. Tender No. Name of work Appx. value of the work (₹ in Lakhs) Amount of EMD (in ₹) Completion period of work	

SI. No. 01- Tender closing date and time : 21.11.2023 at 15.00 hrs.

Note: It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting Tender.

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER No.: 25/EE/UDP-DIVN/UDP/2023-24, Dated. 20.10.2023	
The Executive Engineer, Udaipur Division, PWD(R&B), Gomati, Tripura on behalf of the 'Governor of Tripura', invites online percentage rate e-tender in two bid system for the following work:	
1. Name of work : "Strengthening of road from Chechua (Ompri) to Nityabazar via Nagrai under 3rd Circle, PWD, Udaipur under Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2023-24."	
2. DNIIT NO. 49/CE/PWD(R&B)/SE (P&DU)/2023-24	
3. Estimated Cost : Rs. 16,09,87,808.00	
4. Bid Fee: Rs.10,000.00 (Non Refundable).	
5. Earnest Money : Rs. 32,19,756.00	
6. The Date and time for Pre-Bid Meeting : 09.11.2023 at 11.00 AM.	
7. Last date & time for online Bidding : 21.11.2023 upto 3:00 PM	
8. Date & time of Opening of Technical Bid : 22.11.2023 at 11.00 AM if possible.	
Note: The bid forms and other details including online activities should be done in the e-procurement portal https://tripuratenders.gov.in	
Sd/- Executive Engineer Udaipur Division, PWD(R&B) Udaipur, Gomati District, Tripura	
ICA/C/2949/23	

Press NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER No. 19/EE-BRG/PWD/2023-24 dt. 20.10.2023	
The Executive Engineer, Bishramganj Division PWD(R&B), Sepahijala, Tripura on behalf of the 'Governor of Tripura', invites online percentage rate e-tender in two bid system for the eligible Central & State public sector undertaking / enterprise and eligible Contractors/Firms/Private Ltd. Firm / Agencies of Appropriate Class registered with PWD/TTAACD/MES/CPWD/Railway/Govt Organization of other State & Central for the following work:	
1. Improvement of road from Bishalgarh to Golaghati (L= 9.00 Km) during the year 2023-24/ Portion from Bishalgarh to Gandhi home/ SH: Granular Sub-base, metalling, BM, BC, Side shoulder, road side drain portion from 0.00 Km to 8.00 Km under Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment for 2023-24. DNIET No. 43/CE/PWD(R&B)/SE (P&DU)/2023-24, Estimated Cost: Rs. 10,45,51,661.00, Earnest Money: Rs.20,91,033.00, Amount of Bid Fee: Rs.10,000.00, Time For Completion : 450 Days	
Bid documents can be seen in the website https://tripuratenders.gov.in w.e.f 20th October, 2023 to 20th November, 2023 and last date of downloading & bidding for bid is 20th November, 2023 up to 3:00 pm.	
Submission of tender physically is not permitted.	

For details please visit: https://tripuratenders.gov.in	
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tripura	
Sd/- (Er. D. Karmakar) Executive Engineer	
Bishramganj Division, PWD(R&B) Bishramganj, Sepahijala, Tripura	

F. No. D-14011/1/2023-GAR Government of India Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)	

NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Online bids (both Technical & Financial bids) are invited for award of Contract for renovation/refurbishing of rooms in the Department of Revenue located in different premises viz., North Block, Hulco Vishala Building, Jeevan Tara Building, Jeevan Deep Building, Jeevan Vihar Building, etc. in New Delhi. The last date of submission of online bids is 20th November, 2023 (3.00 P.M.). The technical bids shall be opened on 21st November, 2023 (3.30 P.M.). After opening of the technical bids, the date of opening of financial bids of the technically qualifying firms shall be informed through the web portal.	
In this regard, the Tender Notice has been published on the website (http://eprocure.gov.in) on	
30th October, 2023 and all the terms and conditions and other details of the Tender are available in the said Tender Notice.	
Sd/- (Yoginder Kumar Pandit) Under Secretary to the Government of India Room No. 66-D, North Block, New Delhi - 110001 Tel. No. 23095366 Email: yoginder.pandit@nic.in	
CBC 15301/11/0002/2324	

Invitation for Bids Procurement of Equipment for Interim Campus Workshop – Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Lab	
Date: 2nd November 2023	
The Mission Director, Assam Skill Development Mission (ASDM) ("the Purchaser"), invites online bids from eligible Bidders for "GS02a: Equipment for Interim Campus Workshop - Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Lab" ("the Goods") of Assam Skill University Project.	
Interested bidders may download the tender document and submit their Bids electronically using the e-procurement portal https://assamtenders.gov.in .	
The deadline for the submission of bid is 1400 hours (IST) 30th November 2023.	
Sd/- Mission Director ASDM, Guwahati	
Advt.No. 3624/01/11/2023	

Sd/- Executive Officer

UJVN Limited

H.O.: 'UJJWAL' Maharan Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006

Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508

CIN NO. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website : www.ujvn.com

RO No.-1076 Dated: 31.10.2023

e-Tender Notice

Office of the Executive Engineer (E&M-II), Lakhwar MPP (3x100MW) Dakpathar, Dehradun invited online bid from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No: 15/EE(E&M-II)/LP/2023-24

Name of work : Annual operation and Maintenance contract of various 33/11 KV substation and 11 KV lines of Lakhwar MPP for the period of 12 months.

Estimated cost: ₹ 94,28,834.00 (excluding taxes).

Date of availability of bid document on website: 02.11.2023 at 15:00 hrs.

Last date of submission of bid on website: 24.11.2023 at 16:00 hrs.

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal "<https://uktenders.gov.in>"

Executive Engineer (E&M-II)</b

'It's a great opportunity to see our players on screen'

►Continued from P 1

On match days, these vans are positioned near the homes of these hockey stars, attracting the entire village to witness their daughters playing live in Ranchi.

Shishir Minz, the former head of Basen panchayat, could hardly believe his eyes when the first LED vehicle reached Karangadu-Navatoli. "It's a great opportunity to see our players on screen in the village itself. We thank CM HeamtSoren, who arranged this



Villagers of Karangadu-Navatoli watch on a big screen the women's Asian Champions Trophy tie between India and Japan on Tuesday

for us," Minz said.

Sangita's father Anselan Kujur, who encouraged his daughter to pursue hockey, shed tears of happiness. He believes that this initiative will rejuvenate interest in the sport, inspiring more budding

players from these unassuming regions. With some of India's top hockey players originating from remote villages in Jharkhand, Odisha, Mizoram, and other parts of the country, the villagers hope that their success on the field will translate into development for their communities.

"Sangita brought fame to our village. Now we hope development follows suit," said Amit Lal, a local businessman.

Salima's father Sulakshan Tete was equally elated: "Our village boys and girls are de-

lighted to see Jharkhand players on the big screen right at their doorsteps."

Nikki's school coach Dashrath Mabto and Simdega public relations officer Aasha Maxima Lakra believe that the government's latest initiative will inspire numerous promising talents to follow in the footsteps of Nikki and other state players. "These LED vans will continue to show matches till the final of the tournament on November 5," said Lakra, amidst resounding cheers of the villagers.

Govt. of Bihar

Department of Animal & Fisheries Resources Bihar, Patna

TENDER INVITATION NOTICE

on
<https://gem.gov.in>
for

Procurement of Base Vehicle with Customisation and Fabrication for Mobile Veterinary Units (534) for Animal & Fisheries Resources Department, Bihar, Patna for 2023-24 Tender Notice No: 2023/AHD/04, (Published Bid GEM/B/4136887).

Interested Manufacturers /Firms/suppliers should visit GEM portal for detail information and submit the bid upto Bid closing date/time- 28/ 11/ 2023 at 05:00 PM.

This information is available on state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also

PR-011135 (Animal) 2023-24

Director
Animal Husbandry, Bihar

नरों से बनानी दूरी है, ज्योंकि परियार जरूरी है।

DGIPR/2023-2024/4572

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT (CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE) CIRCLE TIRUVANNAMALAI



TENDER NOTICE

TENDER NOTICE NO.35/2023-2024/HDO, DATED:31.10.2023

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Percentage tender** under two cover system through online only will be received upto **12.12.2023, 12.00 hours** by the Superintending Engineer (H), C&M, Tiruvannamalai Circle for CRIDP 2023-2024 (CMRDP 4 Laning) (2 Works) pertaining to **Cheyyar and Kallakurichi(H), C&M Divisions.**

Details of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **08.11.2023** onwards in the Government website <https://tnntenders.gov.in> If any changes / corrections in the tender, it will be published in the above Government website only.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)
C&M CIRCLE, TIRUVANNAMALAI

DIPR/5822/TENDER/2023

PP-48

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF TEXTILES, BARGARH

At/P.O./DISTT.- BARGARH, PIN-768028

E-mail - ddtbargarh@gmail.com

QUOTATION CALL NOTICE

Notice No-3646 Dated-30.10.2023

Sealed Quotations are invited in two separate bidder like Technical Bidder & Financial Bidder from the registered Suppliers/ Manufacturers / Dealers / Firms having valid PAN & GST registration with up to date Income Tax & GST clearance certificate, for supply of different handloom items like Frame looms, Pit looms, Weaving Accessories, Sley, Wefting Machine, Tie & Dye frame (Kamda), Dyeing Utensils & other related accessories etc under "Technological Intervention" component for the weavers under the scheme "Promotion of Handloom Industries" for the year 2023-24 of programme of Bargarh Textiles Zone.

Interested suppliers may submit their quotation on or before **dt.17.11.2023** by 5.00 PM through Registered/Speed Post only and the same will be opened on **dt.18.11.2023** at 10.30 A.M in the office of D.T.D. Bargarh.

For more details, terms & condition etc, please visit the official website www.sadhacodisha.org, www.boyanika.com, www.textiles.odisha.gov.in or www.sambalpurbastralya.com.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject or accept any or all the quotations without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- S.K.Nag
Deputy Director of Textiles
Bargarh
OIPR-31032/11/0004/23-24

Kalyan Singh Govt. Medical College, Bulandshahr

(Autonomous State Medical College, UP)

Email Id: Principalksgmcbs@gmail.com Website: <http://ksasmcbulandshahr.org/>

Letter No. KSGMC/Advt./2023-24/1270

Dated 31.10.23

Advertisement for Walk in interviews (Contractual & Tenured posts)

KSGMC, Bulandshahr invites applications on prescribed format for positions of Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant professors on contractual basis, and for Senior and junior Residents on tenured basis in various departments, interviews will be conducted on every Tuesday as per the updated vacancy status in Office of Principal, 4th Floor, Jila mahila Chikitsalya, New building Bulandshahr from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. Online Applications of interested candidates should reach by mail along with copy of relevant documents at least 2 days in advance. Candidates are to report with a fees of Rs. 500, original documents, 2 photographs and 1 set of attested photocopies of all required documents. No TA/DA will be payable to candidates. Eligibility as per latest NMC guidelines.

S. No.	Speciality	Professor	Assoc Prof.	Assistant Prof.	SR				
		No. of Posts	Cate gory	No. of Posts	Cate gory	No. of Posts	Cate gory		
1	Obs. & Gynae	--	--	01	UR	--	--	01	OCB
2	Blood Bank	--	--	--	--	01	UR	--	--
3	Emergency Medicine	--	--	01	OBG	01	SC	06	1 SC, 2 UR, 1 OBG, 1 OBC 1 EWS
4	Anesthesiology	--	--	--	--	01	UR	01	SC
5	General Medicine	01	SC	01	UR	01	OBG	03	1 OBC 1 UR 1 SC
6	General Surgery	--	--	--	--	01	SC	02	1 UR 1 OBC
7	Resp. Medicine	--	--	01	EWS	--	--	01	OCB
8	Dermatology & Leprosy	--	--	01	SC	--	--	01	EWS
9	Paediatrics	--	--	01	OBG	--	--	01	SC
10	Pharmacology	--	--	01	SC	--	--	--	--
11	Physiology	01	OCB	--	--	--	--	--	--
12	Biochemistry	--	--	01	OBG	01	OBG	--	--
13	Radiodiagnosis	--	--	01	OBG	01	SC	02	1 OBC 1 UR
14	Psychiatry	--	--	01	EWS	--	--	01	SC

For the faculty selected, the final decision will be taken by the Director General, Medical Education, UP. The consolidated salary on contractual basis for Professor is Rs. 1,30,000; for Associate Professor Rs. 1,20,000; for Assistant professor Rs. 90,000. Private practice is permissible outside office and duty hours with details of the same shared in writing with Principal. The pay scale for SR will be Level 11 (67700), and for JR will be Level 10 (56100) along with other allowances. Private practice not permissible for SRs and JRs. Complete details are available on website. JR vacancy will be updated from time to time.

B/o
Principal, KSGMC

TIMES NATION

'It's a great opportunity to see our players on screen'

►Continued from P 1

players from these unassuming regions. With some of India's top hockey players originating from remote villages in Jharkhand, Odisha, Mizoram, and other parts of the country, the villagers hope that their success on the field will translate into development for their communities.

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GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, NASHIK

E-Tender Notice No. 42 for 2023-24 (Online)

Online E-Tenders in "B-2" Form (Item Rates) for the following works invited by Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik Phone No. (0253/2583761-64, 2575324) for and on behalf of Governor of Maharashtra State From Capable of P.W.Dept. Registered / Unregistered Contractor or International Contractor whose Sub company / branch in India and also complete terms and conditions mentioned in tender document.

Tender document download on our website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>. Right of rejection of E-tender / cancellation of E-tender reserved by The Executive Engineer, P.W.Division, Nashik. *Conditional Tender will not be accepted.

Note:- Above mentioned E-Tender Notice including Total 1 (One) (Costing Rs. 15.00 crore and above) Work And details of mentioned E-Tender Notice available on below website.

1. www.mahapwd.com 2. <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Tender Document Sale Start and End Date Time	02.11.2023	to	16.11.2023
From	11:05	Upto	17:00

* Blank E-Tender form Fees (Non refundable) and EMD amount will be accepted Online only.

* Post Qualification criteria condition included in tender document

* All eligible/intrested Contractors are required to be enrolled on portal <https://mahatenders.gov.in> before down loading tender documents and participate in e-tendering

* The information of E-Payment Gateway available on E-Tendering website <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Please Note this to all Registered / Unregistered Contractors.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Public Works Division, Nashik

DGIPR/2023-2024/4587

पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका

मुद्रतवाढ शुद्धीपत्रक क्रमांक -5

पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका, पिंपरी -18

निविदा सुचना क्र. 24-01/2023-24

पिंपरी चिंचवड महानगरपालिका केच्या विद्युत मुख्यालय कडील निविदा प्राप्त झाल्याने दिनांक 24-01/2023-24 मधील खालील कामांसाठी 3 पेक्षा कमी निविदा प्राप्त झाल्याने दिनांक 28/10/2023 ते 16/11/2023 दु.3.00 पर्यंत मुद्रतवाढ करणेत आलेली असून मुळ निविदा सुचनेतील अटी व शरी इतर तपशिलात वदल नाही. (निविदा उघडणेचा दिनांक 20/11/2023 शक्य असल्यास)

Sr. No.	Tender Id
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Impact Of Influencers On The Rise In India, Brazil

Influencers have big impact over people's purchasing decisions in **Brazil, China and India**, according to a survey of countries' online populations. While influencers' sway has only become bigger in Brazil and India, it has **decreased in China**, but continues to stay at a high level

Source: Statista

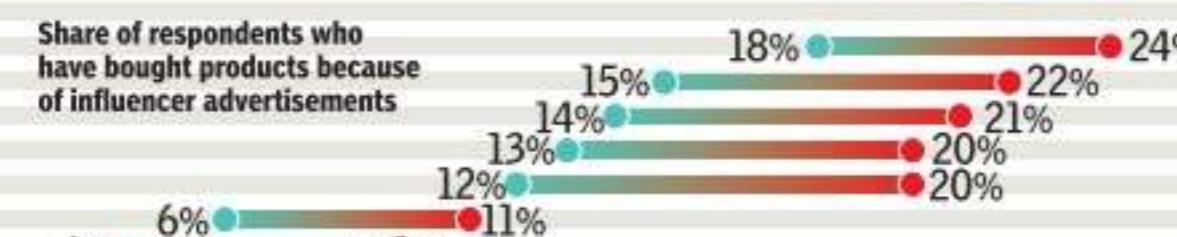
TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

36% 27% 36% 39% 41%



2019 2023
Brazil India
China Italy
Spain US
UK
Germany Denmark Japan



2,000-10,000 respondents (18-64 y/o) per country, surveyed Nov 2017-May 2019/July 2022-June 2023



Lenders fear taxmen will eat into recovery pie

SC Rules That Rights Of Tax Dept Are On Par With Secured Creditors In Bankruptcy Cases

Mayur.Shetty@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Banks are staring at a reduced scope of recovery from bankrupt and insolvent borrowers as a Supreme Court order has recognised tax departments and government agencies on par with secured creditors under the IBC.

Recoveries under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code have been dipping because of delays in resolution, bankers said. Now, with the SC judgement, tax authorities are likely to claim a large chunk of the recovery. Senior bankers

TOI spoke to said that the government must resolve this issue to ensure that the IBC process does not lose its efficacy for lenders.

An SC bench on Tuesday dismissed a bunch of petitions seeking a review of its earlier judgment on the insolvency case of Rainbow Papers. The earlier order said that statutory creditors like tax authorities and government agencies would be considered as secured creditors under the IBC.

"The judgment in Rainbow Papers had the effect of altering the statutory pres-

Top Of 'Liquidation Waterfall'

► An SC bench on Tuesday dismissed a bunch of petitions seeking a review of its earlier judgment on the insolvency case of Rainbow Papers

It's essential to recognise that tax authorities typically have no role in creating a company's assets, especially in cases financed by banks using public funds. The uncertainty over the priority of charge could deter banks from extending credit, impacting industry funding

Mukesh Chand | SR COUNSEL, ECONOMIC LAWS PRACTICE

ription under the IBC i.e., 'government dues'—having a lower priority, were equated with 'secured creditors'—having a much higher priority in 'liquidation waterfall'. Apart from being contrary to

the legislative intent, which specifically lowered the primacy of government dues, the judgment also appeared to have ignored the provisions of IBC with regard to its primacy and overriding effect,"

said Abhishek Swaroop, partner at Saraf & Partners.

The term 'liquidation waterfall' refers to how existing stakeholders will be reimbursed in the case of a company's liquidation—it ranks the creditors in terms of priority. "The judgment has created confusion, as clearly the interests of the financial lenders have been compromised. The situation warrants that the matter/ issue be referred to a larger bench so that the issue is settled once and for all," said Swaroop. "The preamble defining

At ₹1.7L cr, GST mop-up surges to 2nd highest ever as imports recover 13% Growth From Sept | Gets Boost From Tax Dept's Audits

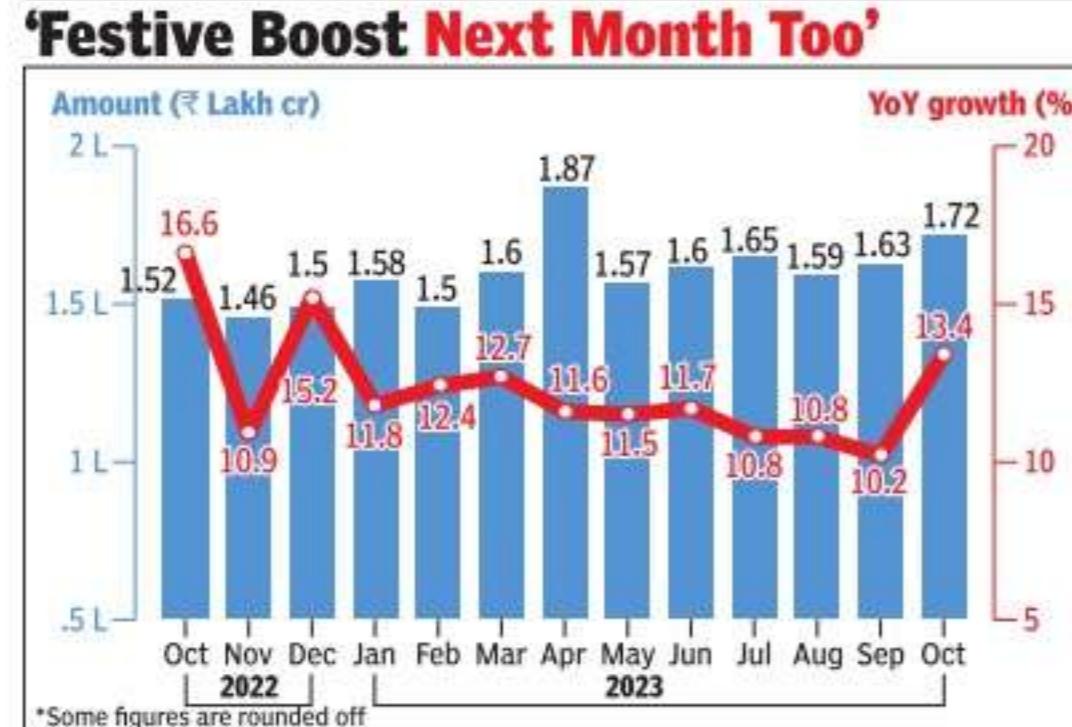
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Goods and services tax (GST) collections rose 13.4% to Rs 1,72,003 crore, the second highest ever, on the back of a rebound in mop-up from imports.

Barring troubled Manipur, which saw a 19% decline in collections in October (based on sales in September), and Himachal Pradesh (2%) that has been hit hard by rains, all the other states reported healthy growth, numbers released by the finance ministry on Wednesday showed.

In a statement, the finance ministry said collection from domestic sources was 13% higher. A break-up of the components showed that central GST rose 15.4% to top Rs 30,000 crore, while state GST kitty was 14.3% higher at Rs 38,171 crore. The GST levied on goods and services is a mix of central and state GST.

Integrated GST, which is imposed on inter-state sales and imports, saw an 11.7% increase to Rs 91,315 crore. Wit-



hin this, IGST on imports was estimated to have grown 13% to Rs 42,127 crore. Similarly, cess on imports jumped 56% to nearly Rs 1,300 crore. The cess is levied on domestic and imported sin and luxury goods.

"The remarkable growth in GST collections over the past few months is not only on account of the underlying strong economic factors, but also due to the efforts of the tax authorities in deploying tools to compare data sets to

determine short payment and evasion. The growing emphasis on audits led by specific information available on various databases, not only on the GST portal, has led to a significant increase in compliance across sectors and states. This is also reflected in the upsurge in the GST collections across key manufacturing and consuming states," said MS Mani, partner at Deloitte India.

"This significantly incre-

ased collection could be linked to settlement of disputes for FY17-18 as the normal period of limitation was ending on September 30. A mid-year collection of such an increased number is definitely worth a cheer and ongoing festivities driven consumption could help this continue," added Abhishek Jain, indirect tax head and partner at consulting firm KPMG.

While most states reported double-digit growth, with Sikkim topping the charts with a 29% rise, Kerala, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Tamil Nadu and Tripura reported sub-10% increases. Analysts expect robust numbers next month too.

"The rise in collections in the state and UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Mizoram, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya, Sikkim, etc indicates increased consumption and taxable base in these parts of the country. The collections in next month are likely to be higher due to festive season," said Saurabh Agarwal, tax partner at EY.

tivity, hiring, and inflation," the US central bank's policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee said in a post-meeting statement published on Wednesday in Washington, adding the word "financial" to language that previously referred only to credit conditions.

The decision left the target range for the benchmark federal funds rate unchanged at 5.25% to 5.5%, the highest since 2001, as part of a strategy to slow the pace of rate increases as the central bank nears the end of its tightening campaign. The S&P 500 index and Treasuries extended their rally while the dollar slipped after the announcement. BLOOMBERG

RR Kable
Source: EY

Car dispatches up 16% at record 3.9L units in Oct

Pankaj.Doval@timesgroup.com

Festive push: Fuel, power demand up

New Delhi: India's fuel sales posted a smart rebounded and power demand surged by a record 22% in October as the monsoon clouds over economic activities lifted, signalling the onset of festive season demand. Government data showed power consumption spiking to 139.8 billion units (BU) compared to 113.9 BU a year ago and 112.7 BU in October 2021.

The same factors added traction to October fuel sales, with preliminary market data showing a 5% increase in diesel from a year ago, the sharpest increase since May. Petrol consumption, which had turned the corner in September with a 4.5% annual growth on record auto sales, continued to rise in October – albeit at a modest 3% from a year ago. — Sanjay Dutta

ad of 41 lakh units.

Tarun Garg, COO at Hyundai India, said the company's dispatches are up 15% as it gets demand for SUV line-up, including newly-launched mini Exter.

One of the biggest set of numbers came in for Mahindra which nearly touched a dispatch of 44,000 units with its set of SUVs such as the Scorpio-N, XUV700, and Thar. "While the strong festive demand should see us continue our

growth momentum in November, we will keep a close watch of select supply related challenges," Veejay Nakra, president of M&M's automotive division, said.

The festive push also came to rescue of two-wheeler companies, which have been seeing sluggish demand due to pressures on entry-level category. All top makers, such as Hero Moto, HMSI, TVS, Royal Enfield and Suzuki had a growth in dealership dispatches.

While its total income declined to Rs 55,910.2 crore from Rs 60,206.8 crore in the year-ago quarter, its expenses stood at Rs 55,853.4 crore in the quarter under review as against Rs 57,684 crore a year ago. In a separate statement, Tata Steel said its net debt stands at Rs 77,032 crore. AGENCIES

RR Kable
Source: EY

Salaried class rules personal loans Share Of Non-Metro Borrowers Rises, Self-Employed Lags: Study

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Personal loans are becoming more inclusive gradually but salaried borrowers remain the preferred segment for lenders.

While a wider section is now borrowing from institutions, lenders still have a preference for salaried borrowers who get loans faster, with fewer rejections and from multiple providers compared to self-employed customers. The scoring methodology of credit information bureaus gives salaried individuals a better ranking because of their steady income flows.

The share of borrowers from non-metros seeking credit has risen to 75% from 55% four years ago. According to a study by Paisabazaar, credit

score inquiries (which are a precursor to credit) from tier-2 and -3 towns are on the rise. The share of tier 2 has gone up to 30% from 28% in FY19, and the share of tier 3 has risen to 45% from 27%.

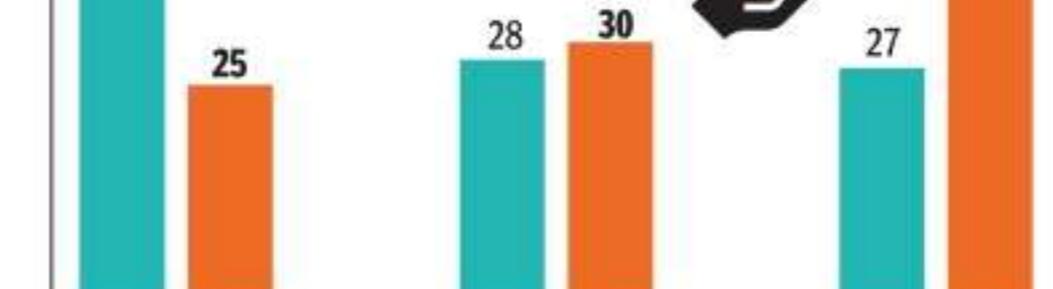
However, there is a disparity between salaried and self-employed individuals when it comes to access to credit. While 29% of salaried borrowers have five active credit accounts, the number of self-employed borrowers with similar accounts is 23%. Also, while salaried borrowers have on average 3.8 active credit accounts, the number for self-employed is 3.4. Of the home loan enquiries, the approval rate for salaried

is 28%, while for self-employed, it is 19%. Additionally, over 25% of salaried consumers have an excellent credit score of 770 and above, only 14% of self-employed consumers with that strong credit profile. Both segments had 32% of consumers who had a good credit score.

In other parameters too, the gap between salaried and self-employed is visible. Average salaried customers get their first credit card at 27 against 30 for self-employed.

According to Paisabazaar CEO Naveen Kukreja, rapid digitisation within the lending ecosystem along with the new data ecosystem should act as key catalyst in the expansion of the market for personal loans and making it more inclusive.

75% Credit Score Inquiries From Non-Metros



Naomi Canton

Six Indian banks have won their court battle in London to be paid \$2.1 billion by a Singapore subsidiary of the GVK group after it defaulted on its loan repayments.

Dame Clare Moulder in the high court in London ruled that the Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Canara Bank, ICICI Bank, Indian Overseas Bank and Axis Bank are entitled to \$1 billion in interest and \$1.1 billion of the principal sum owing.

The Indian banks (apart from Axis Bank which is the security agent) in September 2011 provided GVK Coal Developers (Singapore) with a \$1 billion loan, a \$35 million letter of credit faci-

lity and in March 2014, a \$250 million loan. GVK drew down on the \$1 billion, took \$160 million from the 2014 loan, and then breached its payment obligations.

After demands for payment were unsuccessful, the six banks brought the case against GVK Coal Developers in the commercial court of the high court as well as against various companies within the GVK Group in Singapore and India—Black Gold Ventures, Cool Water Ventures and Harmony Waters—which are all the guarantors of the loan.

The court heard that GVK had intended to use the loans to part-finance coal-mining projects in Australia—but failed to obtain a mining licence. In its defence, GVK said that "the deterioration in the market for coal, the lack of third party investment and legal challenges to the mining projects in the courts of Queensland meant that very little progress was made to develop the Hancock Companies' mining assets". It also blamed the downturn in the Indian infrastructure sector at the time.

Krishna Vora, barrister for the banks, and Gautam Bhattacharyya, partner at Reed Smith—the solicitors representing the banks—said, "We are delighted to have secured a resounding and landmark victory for our Indian banking clients in a matter of such commercial significance."

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With 149 IPOs, India tops in listings this year: Study

Small & Medium Cos Lead In No. Of Offers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Nearly \$2bn Raised In Sept Qtr

Largest IPOs in Sept Qtr (\$ in \$ mn)

	236	186	165
RR Kable	Source: EY	Concord Biotech	SAMHI Hotels

► The Sept quarter of 2023 saw 21 IPOs in the Indian main market, compared to just four in the year-ago period

► Funds raised in Q3 2023 were \$1.8bn, 376% higher compared to \$372mn a year ago

► The SME segment raised \$165.8mn via 48 IPOs in Q3 2023

dia," said Adarsh Ranka, partner and financial accounting advisory services leader, member firm of EY Global said in a statement. "This momentum is expected to continue."

"To capitalise on this unprecedented growth, businesses must focus on maintaining transparency, robust governance, and innovation in their business models," Ranka said. "Furthermore, staying attuned to changing regulatory and market dynamics will be crucial for sustained success."

The IPO landscape is witnessing a staggering 21 IPOs on the main platforms of the bourses, compared to just four in the same quarter of 2022. The proceeds raised during the quarter

Indian cos can list on foreign bourses directly

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi:</b

**A thought for today**

Experience is simply the name
we give our mistakes

OSCAR WILDE

Thieves & Servers

Healthcare data taken out of ICMR points to gaps in digital architecture & risk of wide exemptions for govt

Last month, there was a server breach in ICMR that led to unauthorised access to personal information of about 81 crore Indians who had taken Covid vaccines. The criminal act was followed by an attempt to auction the data on the dark web by providing sample files. This is the third time that healthcare system servers were breached. GOI informed Parliament that there was a leak of CoWIN data in June that was followed by an FIR and inputs from CERT-In for an investigation. Prior to that, there was a ransomware attack at AIIMS, Delhi.

Some experts believe the ICMR breach is also a ransomware attack. GOI's position on this breach is unclear. The repeated breaches of healthcare data are indicative of a challenge faced by the digital architecture. Health data is highly sensitive and often retrieval is triggered by emergencies. Consequently, it's been a key target globally for ransomware and subsequent extortion. In India,

healthcare data and provision of services are in the midst of a shift to a digital mode of access and use, which is being led by GOI. Its Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) is an online platform that aims to link over 5 million healthcare professionals and 1.2 million healthcare facilities with patients.

ABDM works on the principle of federated architecture, which means that information flows between all stakeholders in the healthcare universe but doesn't get centrally stored. This is in fact the basic approach underlying India's digital public goods in other areas too. ABDM provides benefits that come with scale and interoperability. On the flip side, risks of a data breach can be magnified. By design, ABDM accounts for these risks, but recent experience suggests there's more to be done. To cite one example of a potential risk, a World Bank study of ABDM said health insurers can access patient data simply because they are in the ecosystem and use the information to hike premiums.

This leads to the problem with the data protection law. India's digital public goods are a collaboration between governments and the private sector. Data protection law provides sweeping exemptions to the government. This very likely influences the approach to cybersecurity. Governments are sweeping in data and need stricter oversight on security. Also, they need to be more accountable to people whose data has been leaked. A US cybersecurity firm flagged the ICMR leak. Shouldn't it have been a GOI agency?

One For The Road

Too many people are dying on India's roads. Too little attention is paid to factors that are wearingly familiar

The death count is growing by the year. India leads the world in road fatalities. The transport ministry's 2022 report calculates road accidents claimed 19 lives every hour. Crashes claimed around 1.68 lakh lives, a 9.4% increase over 2021's corresponding figure. Injuries have shot up by 15%. Two-wheelers accounted for 45% of fatalities. And 67% of victims were aged between 18 and 45. Accidents are a leading cause of death for a major portion of India's working demographic.

The Road Accidents in India 2022 report cites, as every year, speeding, wrong-side driving, not wearing seat belts and potholed roads as key causes for fatalities. Reckless driving is frequently on display by two-wheeler riders on all roads. Tyre killers, speed-breakers with a slope on one side and metal spikes on the other, installed to control wrong-side driving in Noida some years ago spectacularly failed as one person would hold down the spikes that would puncture tyres of vehicles on the wrong side of the road (and the law), while the driver hauled the two-wheeler over the speed-breaker. But such experiments have helped some in Ahmedabad and Pune.

That said, it is established that road accidents are multi-causal. Road design is key. Countries with far higher speed limits have fewer than a fraction of India's fatalities. Faulty road engineering, poor designing of junctions, inadequate signage, haphazard planning of state highways and city roads/lanes all play a role in causing accidents – these factors are well known. Finally, the gig economy of delivery workers, the largest users of two-wheelers for work, is ever-growing. From 68 lakh in 2020, the gig workforce is expected to expand to 2.35 crore by 2029-30. India's rapid adoption of electric two-wheelers, smaller and quieter is celebrated, yet they are driven even more recklessly. It may be a good idea to teach traffic rules from primary school.

War & remembrance

The ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict brings back refugee recollections

Jug Suraiya



The murderous Israel-Palestine war brings back harrowing memories of a long-ago round in the West Asian theatre of conflict that turned Bunny and me into refugees, thousands of miles from the battlefield.

It was 1973, and having worked in London for 15 months to save funds to travel through Europe, we arrived in Munich after six weeks of journeying on a frayed shoestring budget.

Staying in the cheapest lodgings, living off street-side food stalls, we'd travelled overland through France, Italy, Switzerland and Austria, and reached Germany, from where we had a ticket on a cut-price Arab airline to fly us back to India.

We had no clue that war had erupted, with Egypt, Syria, and other Arab allies attacking Israel.

The Syrian Arab Airline, which was to get us to India, had a fleet of five planes, out of which two had been damaged. The remaining three were deployed to carry wounded soldiers back from the warfront.

No other airline would accept our Syrian Arab tickets. We had no money to buy new tickets, and RBI rules didn't permit our families in India to pay in rupees for our flight home.

Westayed in youth hostels where the bunk beds smelt of stale sweat, and worse. We foraged in the reject bins of supermarkets for foodstuffs past their expiry dates. When

Bunny fell into the restless sleep of exhaustion, I'd break a bar of stale chocolate, pretend I'd eaten my share, and when she woke, coax her to eat what was left.

Eventually, we were left with no option but to plead for repatriation to India. We had to watch our passports being destroyed, and for the first time I understood the real meaning of the word 'refugee': an utterly helpless individual who seeks refuge from calamitous circumstances totally beyond one's control.

I remember our refugee days, and think of the hundreds of thousands caught in the Israel-Palestine crossfire and enduring far greater privations and suffering than we did. The West Asian tragedy now unfolding is all the more grievous in that despite all the world's science and technology, art and philosophy, we still have to learn that in the barbarity called war there are no victors, only victims.

jugular vein

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Smogged: The City By The Sea

It's tough to turn coastal Mumbai into a dust bowl. Credit goes to many badly planned projects and multiple municipal failures for maximum pollution in the Maximum City

**D Stalin**

Mumbai is known as the city that never sleeps. But these days it has become the city whose inhabitants *cannot* sleep. Because almost every second one of them is suffering an upper respiratory tract infection caused by air pollution. This almost defies science and logic. Because a coastal city with a long shoreline should never become a dust trap. This isn't a natural phenomenon.

It is almost as if several entities have been toiling hard to make us India's most polluted city, especially over the last three years. The evidence is spread throughout Mumbai.

Let's start with the coast. We were taught that the sea brings fresh air that is good for health. But this pure fresh air from the Arabian Sea is intercepted now by the long dusty making of what is called the Coastal Road. A 29km expressway to run along the western coast, connecting south Mumbai to the northern suburbs.

The original plan was to build it entirely on stilts, to assuage many environmental concerns including air pollution. But all these concerns were dumped in 2019 by the powerful municipal corporation that runs the city like a fiefdom. Once the stilts idea was compromised, what followed was absolute mayhem.

Tens and thousands of dumper trucks began dumping lakhs of tonnes of mud, rocks and gravel into the sea day and night. Covid restrictions did not apply and this work went on at a feverish pace. Besides polluting the marine zones, it adds massive amounts of dust into the winds from the sea that hit the shores of Mumbai.

Residents living in buildings along the coast where the work is going on will vouch for the increased settling of dust in their homes. The sea breeze that used

to clean the city's atmosphere, now worsens it.

Looking inland, other major sources of air pollution are the Metro works that are underway across the length and breadth of the city. The worst offender is underground work for Line 3, which will run through the belly of Mumbai's land mass and be its first underground rail network. Connecting Colaba in south Mumbai to Aarey forests in the western suburbs it is the most expensive infrastructure project, factoring in both the economic and environmental costs.

The 33km of tunnelling involves the excavation of 3 lakh tonnes of mud and the sacrifice of over 5,000 trees. The detailed project report had said that the excavated mud would be sent to port construction areas by sea, in barges, to avoid pollution inside Mumbai. Instead, all the excavated mud is traversing the city streets in open dumper trucks.

Third, each and every street in the city has been dug up in some part – for resurfacing, repairing or utility work. Here again the culprit is the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, which does not like to bother with consulting social, scientific, environmental experts on any of its projects. Nor does it seriously engage with any citizenry questioning or complaints.

A natural shield against air pollution is roadside trees whose foliage traps the dust and makes the air safer to breathe. But BMC has denied Mumbai kars even this respite. The lower branches have been 'pruned' off every roadside tree.

Mumbai traffic has worsened as a result of all the traffic disruptions, adding more carbon monoxide to the air while ensuring that dust doesn't settle on the ground. The latter problem could have been resolved by regularly washing the roads with treated sewage water. But when did BMC last wash the roads will have to be researched from historical records.

Mumbai air is also degraded by a massive 110 ha open garbage dumping ground, the biggest in the country. There is also private development going on in all the wards. There are actually so many buildings under construction – close to 3 crore sq ft – that it feels like half of Mumbai is being added onto it. Not a single construction site conforms to the laws relating to control of air pollution. Still, greasing the right palms ensures that the work goes on uninterrupted.

Most of the construction sites have never seen a pollution board inspector. Those who land up rarely take any steps worthy of mention. Meanwhile, almost every dispensary in the city is constantly crowded with patients feverish, coughing, wheezing and gasping. At least the city's scarce playgrounds should be sprinkled with water, to protect the children a little.

The crucial connecting factor in all this is that the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board is a toothless tiger. Forget taking action, its officers rarely even take cognizance of the flouting of environmental norms by government projects, which are run by powerful contractors.

The proverbial nail in the coffin will be the upcoming Diwali festival. Cracker smoke will add a new dimension to the already dangerous air. When congested neighbourhoods witness massive use of fire-crackers, the smoke does not clear out even during the day. The situation is so bad that the city is hardly visible from an airplane window above it.

Yet, the government seems unmoved and Mumbai kars have resigned themselves to suffering and trying to survive. After all there is little they can do to escape misery and ill health. The daily dust bath within half an hour of being outdoors is to be experienced to be believed. The alarm bells are ringing loudly but with no help coming.

The writer is director of Vanashakti, a Mumbai-based environmental NGO

'Hamas's military wing went too far with October 7 attack, it has become a state within a state for the group'

Hamas so far is defiant in the face of Israel's continuing ground offensive in Gaza. Paola Caridi, author of *Hamas: From Resistance to Regime*, in a conversation with Rudroneel Ghosh, explains why the militant outfit is deeply worried about getting the terrorist tag:

● How do you explain Hamas's October 7 attack? Why now? Were you surprised by the scale of the attack?

I think everybody was taken by surprise. Regarding why, in my understanding there are various reasons. For 16 years, from 2007 till 2023, Hamas was sealed with the Israeli blockade of Gaza. I think the idea was to break the encirclement, break the siege, not just physically but also in terms of the imagination of the Palestinians. There is, of course, a regional explanation too. Which is that around the same time there were contacts between Israel and Saudi Arabia on the normalisation of relations between the two countries. Meanwhile, in the same month the political leadership of Hamas also paid a visit to Saudi Arabia in order to strengthen their relations.

Finally, you have the prisoners file. This issue touches almost every Palestinian family. Before October 7 there were almost 5,000 prisoners, and now there are almost 7,000 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails. So the Hamas idea was to kidnap hostages in order to effect a prisoner swap that hadn't happened for the last few years. The other reason I may add is Jerusalem. The iconic city is the sign of Palestinian unity. And what had happened over the last few years, especially the last weeks and months, at Haram al-Sharif, the Temple Mount for the Jews, was very risky and dangerous.

● What is it about Jerusalem that galvanises Hamas's resistance at this point?

Jerusalem means Palestine. Jerusalem means the history of Palestine, apart from religion. So for the Palestinian population, Jerusalem is the core. It also epitomises

the occupation. So what is going on in Jerusalem is what Palestinians have already experienced in Hebron. It is the representation of the Jewish settlers' movement, which aims to split Palestinian areas in order to control them. The belief is they will do the same to Haram al-Sharif. The latter is where all Palestinians gather as part of normal life. But in the last weeks and months, this collective behaviour has been broken by the settlers who increasingly go there with Israeli border guards.

● But how has Hamas been able to capture the narrative around Jerusalem as opposed to other Palestinian groups?

The Palestinian Authority (PA) and Fatah have practically lost contact with Palestinian society in the West Bank. What the Palestinians are saying to PA is that you are serving the occupation, you are serving the Israeli security apparatus, you are in fact part of the security apparatus that is strangling the West Bank. Jerusalem has been detached from Palestinian people and society. The Palestinians who live in Israel – they are 20% of the population – can go to Haram al-Sharif. But those who live in Ramallah or Bethlehem can't arrive in Jerusalem because there is an encirclement of Jerusalem through the separation wall and settlement colonies. So PA has been detached from the Jerusalem narrative and Hamas has stepped into that void.

Hamas says we are defending Jerusalem and Haram al-Sharif is our red line.

Q&A**● But how has Hamas been able to capture the narrative around Jerusalem as opposed to other Palestinian groups?**

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Hamas says we are defending Jerusalem and Haram al-Sharif is our red line.

● Does the Palestine issue not resonate among Arab countries as much as it used to before?

Yes, before October 7 and no, after October 7. The idea of the Palestinians being expelled from Gaza has filtered out. Documents from Israel's ministry of intelligence that spoke about the expulsion or some Israeli leaders saying that we have to cancel Gaza resonate inside Arab countries. From October 8, it is really the fear of Arab countries like Egypt and Jordan that they will have to pay the price for a new Nakba unfolding. So after October 7, the Palestinian issue is once again the most important issue for the Arab countries.

● Do the growing calls for designating Hamas as a terrorist organisation affect the outfit?

I think they are concerned. It is a change in the paradigm. The scale of the October 7 attack was unbelievable. But I don't agree when there are comparisons made between Hamas and ISIS or al-Qaeda. ISIS was a top-down phenomenon put on countries like Syria and Iraq. Hamas was born inside Palestinian society, as an arm of the Muslim Brotherhood. Also, all the attacks it has carried out have been inside the borders of Israel-Palestine, never abroad. I think on October 7 the military wing of

Hamas went too far, influencing its political direction.

There has been a militarisation of Hamas over the years, especially since 2007, where the military wing led by people like Yahya Sinwar and Mohammed Deif has become a state within state for Hamas.

Sacred space

Once you realise that the road is the goal and that you are always on the road, not to reach a goal, but to enjoy its beauty and wisdom, life ceases to be a task and becomes in itself an ecstasy.

Nisargadatta Maharaj

Your Atman Is Fearless, How About You?

Ashok Vohra

All schools of Indic philosophy with the sole exception of the materialist school, Charvaka, believe that Atman, soul, is eternal and imperishable. Explaining the nature of Atman, Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita, verse 2:25, 'The soul is spoken of as invisible, inconceivable, and unchangeable' and that 'the soul is neither born, nor does it ever die; nor having once existed, does it ever cease to be. The soul is without birth, eternal, immortal, and ageless. It is not destroyed when the body is destroyed (Gita:2:20).'

A similar conception of Atman is contained in the Kathopanishad, 1:2:18, where it says, 'The soul is not destroyed when the body is destroyed.' It is because the Atman, unlike the body, is devoid of the six types of transformations: existence in the womb, birth, growth,

procreation, diminution, and death.

The nature of Atman cannot be comprehended by indriyas, the senses, because as the Kathopanishad argues, 'Beyond the senses are the objects of the senses; subtler than the objects of the senses is the mind. Beyond the mind is the intellect; and subtler than the intellect is the soul.' Anything that is subtle cannot be grasped by the grotesque. So, to understand the nature of the



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ANOTHER THUMPING WIN FOR PROTEAS

South Africa Show Title Credentials With 190-Run Rout Of New Zealand

Kumaraswamy.K
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MOST SIXES BY A TEAM IN A WORLD CUP

Team	Comp	Sixes	Fours	Mt
South Africa	2023	82	202	7
England	2019	76	283	11
West Indies	2015	68	143	7
Australia	2007	67	273	11

Pune: Fast bowlers win matches even on flat decks. Ask South Africa. And New Zealand.

Their rugby World Cup final over the weekend in the French capital was a close one. The cricketing face-off on Wednesday turned out to be pretty one-sided on Wednesday. The Proteas took a major step towards emulating the Springboks with a comprehensive 190-run win over the Black Caps.

Yes, it was a league clash, and there is still a lot of cricket to be played. But the manner in which South Africa dismantled New Zealand, one of the pre-tournament favourites, has made them a strong contender for the title and their next fixture against hosts India in Kolkata on Sunday could turn out to be a dress rehearsal for the title decider.

New Zealand have now lost their third match against a top team — in a row — in the competition. Pakistan, their next opponents, will fancy their chances of making the semi-finals. So too Afghanistan, who have played a game less.

More than two decades ago, South Africa, then led by the likeable Hansie Cronje, registered

their first Test series win on Indian soil. Then, as now, their template was built around express pace. If it was the combination of Allan Donald, Shaun Pollock and Nantie Hayward in 2000, it was the trio of Kagiso Rabada, Marco Jansen and Gerald Coetzee that picked apart the Kiwi batting in clinical fashion at the MCA stadium.

After South Africa were put into bat by Tom Latham, Quinton de Kock smashed his fourth century of the World Cup and Rassie van der Dussen also cracked a century as the Proteas raced to their sixth win in seven matches.

De Kock made 114 and Van der Dussen struck 133 as South Africa posted 357-4. David Miller exploded late with a 30-ball 53 as South Africa scored 119 in the last 10 overs.

Jansen set the ball rolling in the New Zealand innings when he had Devon Conway caught in the slip cordon in

his second over. His left-arm pace was simply too quick, as Rachin Ravindra found out when he attempted a hook and ended up finding Coetzee in fine leg. Coetzee, another 23-year-old like Jansen, induced a nick from Will Young

before Rabada, the senior pro, got into the act by squaring up to Latham.

The venue, with its reliable bounce and the short boundaries, might have otherwise been a batsman's delight, but not on Wednesday night when

the ball at times flew even over the keeper's head. The top-order disarray set the perfect stage for Keshav Maharaj to ransack the middle and lower order. And the left-arm spinner, very much in the mould of Ravindra Jadeja, decimated what was left of the Kiwi line-up with rippling turners.

Daryl Mitchell might have wished to target Maharaj from the outset. He went for a big shot off just the third ball from the spinner and ended up holing out in the deep. Maharaj then bowled his counterpart Mitchell Santner

SA have recorded their highest total vs NZ in ODIs, erasing the 324 for four at Centurion on October 25, 2000. While

battling first, South Africa have registered their eighth consecutive score of 300-plus in ODIs, extending their record.

200 The 200-run partnership between Quinton de Kock and Rassie van der Dussen for the second wicket was South Africa's highest for any wicket vs New Zealand in ODIs, eclipsing the 185 between Amla and Rossouw for the 2nd wicket at Centurion in 2015.

8 Number of hundreds in seven matches registered for South Africa in this edition of the WC, emulating the most hundreds by a team (Sri Lanka scored 8 in the 2015 World Cup) in any edition.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

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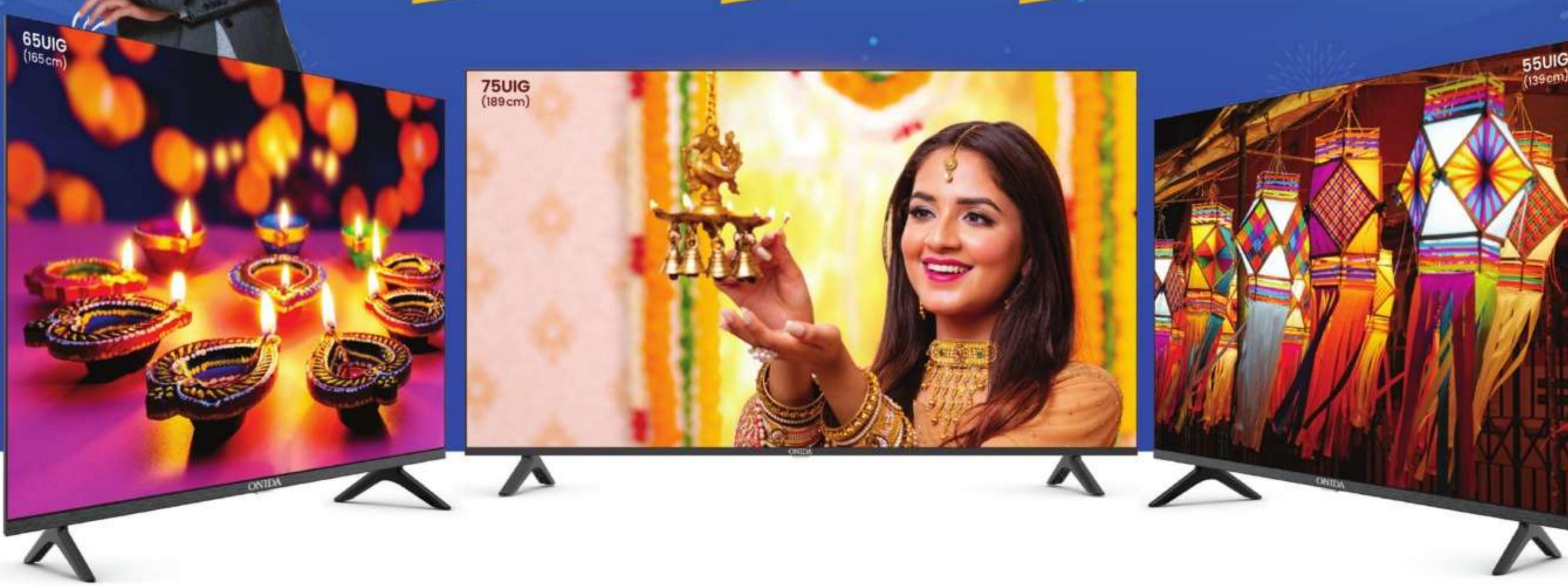
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WORLD CUP

"THE DEFEAT IN THE ASIA CUP WOULD GIVE MORE MOTIVATION TO THE BOYS TO COME OUT AND OBVIOUSLY FIGHT, SHOW PLENTY OF SPIRIT AND GET STUCK IN TO THE INDIAN SIDE."

-Chris Silverwood | SRI LANKAN COACH

Memories of 2011, Scars of 2023

SL. Shanth Kumar



ALL FOCUSED: Virat Kohli does some batting practice at the nets on Wednesday

India And Sri Lanka Clash At Storied Wankhede

Nitin.Naik@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Angelo Mathews, Dinesh Chandimal, Lahiru Thirimanne, Upul Tharanga, Chamara Kapugedera, Lasith Malinga, Thisara Perera, Dimuth Karunaratne, Kusal Perera, Dasun Shanaka. These are the men that led Sri Lanka for the first time in ODI cricket after their loss to India in the 2011 World Cup final on a heady Saturday on April 2, 2011, at the Wankhede stadium.

Kumar Sangakkara was captain of Sri Lanka in that final. Add Kusal Mendis to the list and the count is 11. Compare that to India, who, after the triumph, had first-time ODI skippers in the form of Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, Rohit Sharma, Shikhar Dhawan, KL Rahul, and Hardik Pandya. Just six.

The last time the two teams met was in the Asia Cup final on September 17 at Colombo's Premadasa Stadium and

World Cup on Thursday, the contrast in strengths and stability of the two teams could not be starker.

Injury-ravaged Sri Lanka have limped their way to two wins and four points in six games, while India sit comfortably at the second place of the table with six wins out of six. A victory on Thursday will guarantee the hosts a semifinal berth and if they don't meet Pakistan, they will play their last-four game too at the Wankhede.

India have bossed this 'rivalry' lately, having won 10 of their last 11 clashes. Sri Lanka's last win came in Colombo in 2021 when a Covid-19 side, led by Dhawan, had to field a host of debutants. Sri Lanka's last win vs India in India came in Dharamshala in December 2017, Rohit Sharma's first as India captain.

The last time the two teams met was in the Asia Cup final on September 17 at Colombo's Premadasa Stadium and

Mohammed Siraj (6-21) bowled a spell for the ages to skittle Sri Lanka for 50 in just 15.2 overs. India chased down the score in 6.1 overs and won by 10 wickets.

Will the Islanders carry those psychological scars as they make their journey from Pune, where they suffered a heavy loss to Afghanistan, to Mumbai?

Most of India's big guns are booming. Skipper Rohit Sharma, dropped from the 2011 World Cup squad, and who watched the final from the stands, has led the way with 398 runs from six games. He would like to make his first game as India ODI captain in front of his home crowd, a memorable occasion by carrying on with his powerplay pyrotechnics.

Virat Kohli, with 354 runs from six games, is just one short of equalling Sachin Tendulkar's record tally of 49 ODI tons. What better venue to go level with the Master than at the Wankhede,

whose Sachin Tendulkar's stand was adorned with a statue of the Master himself on match eve.

What will delight India is the fact that they have faced several trials and have found personnel and method to come out of them. Be it as Australia in Chennai where they were reduced to 2 for 3 in a chase of 200, or against New Zealand in Dharamshala, when chasing 274, they slipped to 191 for 5.

The box that was unticked, winning a game batting first, was also checked in Lucknow, where the bowlers, led by Jasprit Bumrah and an inspired Mohammed Shami, helped them emphatically defend a sub-par 229 vs England.

If they can find runs from Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer, who have not clicked consistently so far; on Thursday, India will enter the homestretch with added swagger.

For Sri Lanka, stand-in skipper Kus-

al Mendis has tried to employ the Rohit Sharma template in the powerplay. The true Wankhede track will suit him. It will also suit Sri Lanka's most impressive batter, Sadeera Samarawickrama (331 runs from six games) and Pathum Nissanka (four successive fifties), but it's their bowling that has imploded. They conceded a World Cup record 428 to South Africa in New Delhi and saw 345 being chased down by Pakistan in Hyderabad, also a World Cup record.

Dilshan Madushanka, with his left-arm seam, showed penetration and promise in the last two games and Dushmantha Chameera also bowled with pace after being recalled in Pune. They will have to be on their A game on Thursday, else it will be another leather hunt on a pitch that has already seen South Africa rattle up scores of 399 and 382 batting first vs England and Bangladesh respectively.

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Mumbai: When the media manager introduced Rohit Sharma in pre-match press conference on Wednesday, the Indian skipper hid his face in his palms and started guffawing as if to suggest, "Dude, don't these guys know me?"

The 36-year-old has been relaxed with the bat in hand or while captaining and he has been receiving high praise for the selfless turbocharged batting approach that he has adopted in the powerplay, often sacrificing statistical glory for a higher team goal. When asked if he needs to be more selfish, as suggested by former players and bat longer, Rohit's face went through the contortions that they usually go through when he answers a tricky question. "Aisa nahin ki mujhe surf bat ghuma na hain. Achhi tarah se ghuma na hain. I want to put the team into a good position. When I open, I always remember that the scoreboard starts from zero. When you start, you can be fearless and play the way you want, but in the last game, we were put under pressure in the power play. We lost three wickets. So, the game had to be changed. As a batsman, my focus is on what the team needs."

Zaman, who had to sit out for five matches during this World Cup, felt Pakistan are gradually adjusting to the conditions in India and that was evident in the last two matches. "We thought we did pretty well against South Africa, although we lost it narrowly. Against Bangladesh, we played the game we wanted. Even our bowlers are now understanding the conditions and are trying to use them."

Although there were some injury concerns for Zaman, he said he could have played any time. "It wasn't the kind of injury that would have kept me away had Pakistan needed my service."

Pakistan will face New Zealand in Bengaluru on Saturday, before returning to Kolkata for their final league game against England on November 11. They would be praying that they stay alive in the tournament till then. As head coach Grant Bradburn had admitted, their fate is no longer in their control.

India have won five games chasing and the Wankhede, at least in IPL, has been a great chasing ground. But in this World Cup, South Africa batted first, batted big and won against both England and Bangladesh. The skipper, along with the coach Rahul Dravid, were seen having a long chat with

the curator, trying to assess the pitch. When asked what he would do on match-day, if he wins the toss, Rohit said, "I don't want to say what we're going to do tomorrow. It's a ground where things can be unpredictable at times as there's so much in it for the bowlers as well. You can see a top spell coming from the bowlers, rattling the opposition. If the bowlers put the ball in the right area, it can be difficult. Everyone gets value here, the bowlers, spinners as well, and the batters."

The heroes with the ball in the win over England in Lucknow, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami did not train in the optional nets on

many citizens. Rohit addressed the issue on Thursday. "In an ideal world, you do not want a situation like this, but I am pretty sure that the concerned people are taking all the necessary steps. Looking at the future generations, your kids, my kid, it is important that they get to live without any fear."

Sri Lankan coach Chris Silverwood said, "We can only play in the conditions that are there, so we have got to prepare for them, make sure we are ready for any conditions that we may come."

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on his flight from Lucknow to Mumbai, Indian skipper got on the Gram and posted a picture of the Mumbai haze on his story with the words, "Yeh kya ho gaya Mumbai ko. (What has happened to Mumbai)." The rampant construction and redevelopment projects in the city have made the air toxic and the falling AQI levels have caused respiratory ailments in

either Tuesday or Wednesday, giving rise to theories that India, having 12 points in the kitty and almost being through to the semis, were planning to rest them and bring in R Ashwin, who had a long bowl on Tuesday.

"You can still play with three spinners and two seamers if need be. In this World Cup, you've seen spinners are the ones who are stopping the run flow in the middle overs. I am keeping my options open whether we have Hardik back or not. As far as the resting for the bowlers are concerned, I think they are in great rhythm now. They don't want to rest."

INDIA SRI LANKA

ICC ODI RANKINGS

1

7

VENUE

Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai

PITCH

The red soil track and close location to sea aid seaming conditions in the evening. Batters could also relish the wicket.

WEATHER

It has started to get a little pleasant by evening but day-time temperatures are still high. No threat of rain.

ODDS: INDIA 3/10 SRI LANKA 3/1

THE SCENARIO

SA are on top of the points table and have virtually qualified for the semis, as have India. If India beat Sri Lanka on Friday, Rohit Sharma's team will have assured itself of a spot.

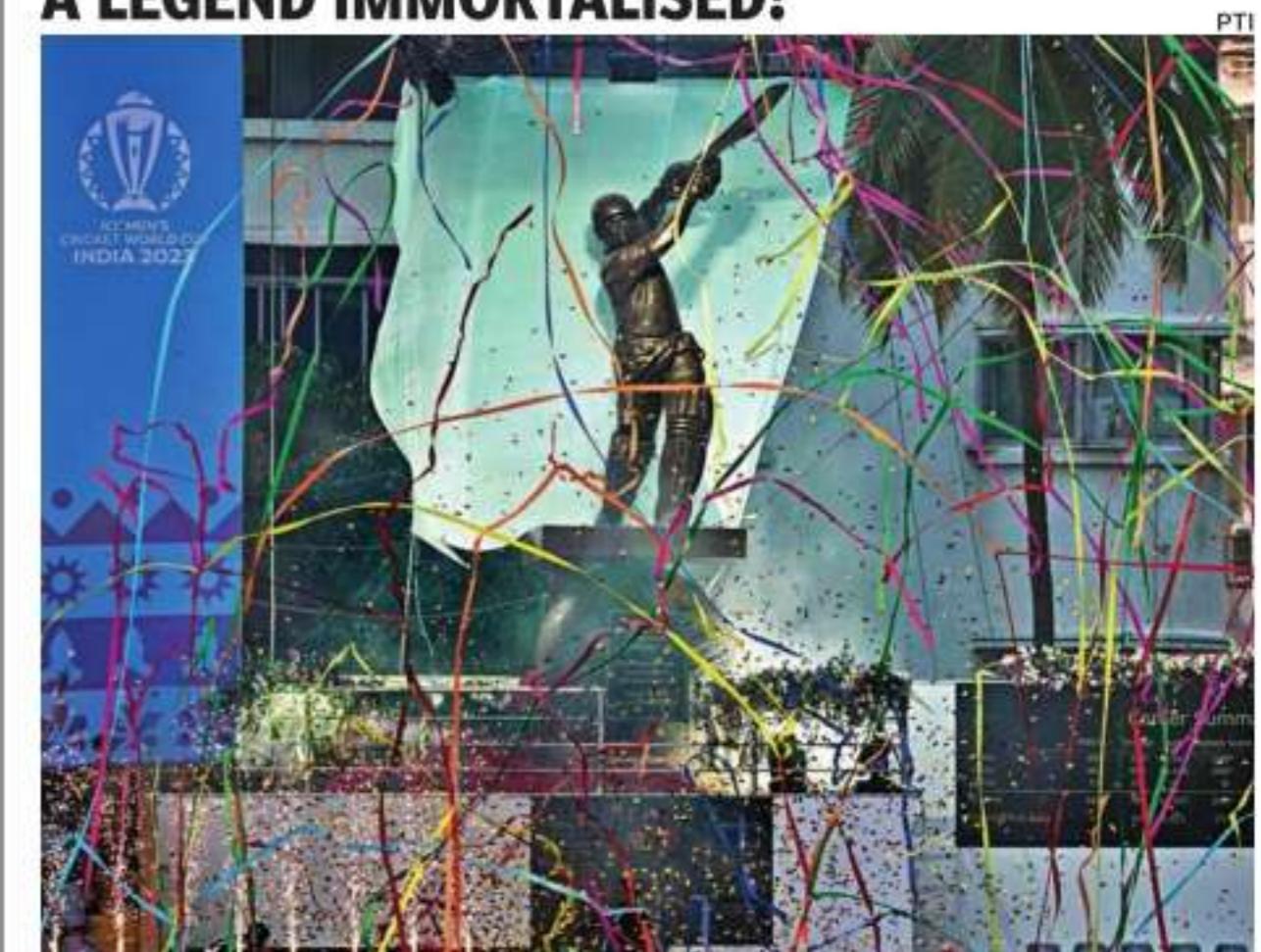
NZ's big loss to South Africa on Wednesday keep's Pakistan's hopes alive for qualifying for the semifinals. If Afghanistan lose to Australia and Pakistan win their remaining two matches – including the one against New Zealand – they might sneak through. For the Kiwis, it is now touch and go.

Australia have peaked at the right time and look on course to making the semis, with their remaining games against down-and-out England, minnows Afghanistan and Bangladesh, who have been eliminated.

Afghanistan are on a roll but to qualify for the semis they need to win their remaining 3 games and hope that England beat Australia.

Netherlands and England too are virtually out and need a miracle to qualify.

A LEGEND IMMORTALISED!



Batting great Sachin Tendulkar's statue was unveiled at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium by Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde at a grand ceremony on Wednesday. Tendulkar was accompanied by wife Anjali and daughter Sara. The former cricketer chose the occasion to recall his first-ever visit to the stadium and revealed that the first game that he watched at the venue was without a ticket as a 10-year-old

It will take only one match for me to be labelled a bad captain: Rohit

Nitin.Naik@timesgroup.com



RELAXED: Indian skipper Rohit Sharma gets ready for a batting session on Wednesday

IMPORTANT THAT OUR KIDS LIVE WITHOUT FEAR'

Mumbai: On his flight from Lucknow to Mumbai, Indian skipper got on the Gram and posted a picture of the Mumbai haze on his story with the words, "Yeh kya ho gaya Mumbai ko. (What has happened to Mumbai)." The rampant construction and redevelopment projects in the city have made the air toxic and the falling AQI levels have caused respiratory ailments in

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Maxwell ruled out of Eng clash after falling off buggy

Ahmedabad: Australian allrounder Glenn Maxwell will miss the Cricket World Cup clash with old rivals England after falling off a golf buggy and suffering concussion, media reports said Wednesday.

The 35-year-old came off the back of the buggy in the dark after playing a round on Monday as players took a break between matches at the marathon tournament.

As well as concussion, Maxwell picked up significant bruising, said cricket.com.au, the digital arm of Cricket Australia.

It is the second freak accident to befall Maxwell in the last 12 months after he broke his leg at a friend's birthday party in November 2022.

Maxwell blasted his way into the record books at the

world's biggest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad, he is expected to return for the later stages of the tournament.

"In transporting him back from the clubhouse to the team bus, Glenn came off the back of a cart and has suffered a small concussion, so he will go into concussion protocols for the next period of time and will unfortunately miss the England game," coach Andrew McDonald said.

"The guys were ferried off on carts; Glenn and a few other players jumped on the back of carts and unfortunately he lost his grip on the way back to the team bus and sustained that injury."

"It was just a clear-cut accident. He's an important player for us, hopefully it's just the one game

NO STOPPING QUINTON



RUNS SCORED BY SOUTH AFRICA IN THE POWERPLAY (1-10) IN THE 2023 WORLD CUP

BATTING FIRST

Date	Opponent	Venue	PP	Total	Result
7-10-2023	S.Lanka	Delhi	48/1	428/5	Won by 102 runs
12-10-2023	Australia	Lucknow	53/0	311/7	Won by 134 runs
21-10-2023	England	Mumbai	59/1	399/7	Won by 229 runs
24-10-2023	Bangladesh	Mumbai	44/2	382/5	Won by 149 runs
1-11-2023	N.Zealand	Pune	43/1	357/4	Won by 190 runs

BATTING SECOND

17-10-2023	Netherlands	Dharamshala	39/1	207	Lost by 38 runs
27-10-2023	Pakistan	Chennai	67/2	271/9	Won by 1 wicket

FOUR OR MORE CENTURIES IN A COMPETITION

Season	Comp	Batter	For	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	SR
2019	WC	Rohit Sharma	IND	9	9	1	648	140	81.00	5	1	98.33
2014-15	WC	Kumar Sangakkara	SL	7	7	2	541	124	108.20	4	0	105.87
2023-24	WC	Quinton de Kock	SA	7	7	0	545	174	77.85	4	0	112.60

Kock then edged Tim Southee, brought on for Henry, while attempting a half-hearted uppish cut when on 12 in the 10th over. But Glenn Phillips failed to hold on to the flick at point.

When he finally opened up his shoulders in the 16th over, hitting Southee for a four and six off successive deliveries, de Kock had played 21 dot balls for his 22 off 39.

There were only 30 dots in the remainder of his innings. The 30-year-old's batting was on a different plane from there on. In the process, he became the first batsman at this World Cup to score 500 runs.

When Mitchell Santner, Kiwi's highest wicket-taker in the tournament, came on, de Kock stepped out and deposited him into the sight screen. The Indian fans have developed an affinity for Rachin Ravindra and the Pune crowd, packing the 36,000 capacity stadium nearly to the full, chanted "Raachin, Raachin," rhyming it with the most famous name in the history of Indian cricket.

De Kock couldn't care. He gave a "warm welcome" of his own kind to the 23-year-old — whacking the left-arm spinner's very first ball, a full toss, over the midwicket to bring up the team's 100 in the 21st over.

He followed it up with a nonchalant reverse sweep. It helped that he had for company an in-form Rassie van der Dussen (133, 118b, 9x4, 5x6), who kept his foot firmly on the pedal at the other end.

An unexpected mix-up between the two left-deck stranded in the middle of the pitch when on 94 (SA 194/1 in 35.1), but Ravindra missed the target at the non-striker's end. The southpaw then brought up his three-figure mark by hoisting Jimmy Neesham over fine-leg fence.

When he finally fell, this time Phillips holding on to a more straightforward catch off Southee at point, it was clear that the South African still had more fuel in the tank.

Not just for the day, but for much more and beyond!

MALAN WON'T BLAME COACH MOTT FOR ENG'S DISMAL TITLE DEFENCE

New Delhi: England opener Dawid Malan thinks it is unfair to blame coach Matthew Mott for the team's shambolic title defence at the 50-overs World Cup in India.

The holders stay rooted to the bottom of the table after five losses in six matches and are only mathematically alive in the race for a place in the semifinals. Their only win in the tournament came against Bangladesh.

"Matty is not the one walking out on the field," Malan told BBC Sport ahead of their next match against a resurgent Australia on Saturday. "As players, we need to take responsibility when we cross that rope. We are being given everything we need to perform. The facilities and work, everything is being done as it always has been, we just haven't been able

“MOTTY IS NOT THE ONE WALKING OUT ON THE FIELD. AS PLAYERS, WE NEED TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY WHEN WE CROSS THAT ROPE.”

—Dawid Malan

to find a way to get wins on the board. It has been frustrating from a players' point of view because we know we're better than that." REUTERS

NO CONTRACT, WILLEY TO QUIT AFTER WC

Mumbai: England seamer David Willey said Wednesday he will retire from international cricket following the World Cup after missing out on a national central contract.

The 33-year-old left-arter, also a hard-hitting lower-order batsman, was the only member of England's struggling 15-man squad in India not to be given a deal of any kind.

That decision left Willey in the strange position

of trying to turn around England's woeful title defence while knowing his bosses were not prepared to secure his future as an international cricketer. "I never wanted this day to come," said Willey in a post on Instagram announcing his retirement. AFP



UNLUCKY: This is the second freak accident Maxwell has suffered in the last 12 months

World Cup last week when he hit the fastest hundred in tournament history off just 40 balls in 309-run demolition of the Netherlands in New Delhi.

Although Maxwell will sit out Saturday's game against England in the at the

he misses."

After facing defending champions England, the Australians will take Afghanistan at Mumbai on November 7 and conclude their group campaign in Pune against Bangladesh on November 11. AFP

Fitness freak Stoinis travelling with Indian chef during World Cup

Ahmedabad: A fitness freak who is very particular about his food intake, Australia allrounder Marcus Stoinis is travelling across India with a personal chef to ensure that he is getting a low-carb diet during the ODI World Cup.

The 34-year-old allrounder is on a ketogenic diet (high-fat, low-carb) with baked oats infused with protein one of his favourites, according to a report in cricket.com.au. Mumbai-born Velton Saldanha, a chef trained in French cuisine, travels with Stoinis while he is in India and

cooks him meals out of the Australian team's hotel kitchens, according to the report.

"Quite a few of the Indian boys do it, that's where I got the idea," Stoinis told cricket.com.au's "Unplayable Podcast". "I've always been quite strict with my food and all that stuff in my preparation." The Australian team has its own chef, who oversees food preparation as they move around the country, but Stoinis has gone a step further in his pursuit of peak performance.

"Garlic naan is out. Gluten-free banana bread and shepherd's pie with roasted cauliflower mash are in. A roast butter chicken, the intersection of Saldanha's French training and his Indian heritage, has also been a hit," the report said. "Stoinis is getting by on baked oats – at least for the small

carbohydrate portion of his meticulously curated diet," it said. "By the end of the World Cup, Saldanha might be able to sell the 'Stoinis Oats' as a standalone dish." Stoinis had met Saldanha, who has worked in fine-dining restaurants in Chica-

go and New York, during this year's Indian Premier League on a recommendation from his Lucknow Sunrgiants teammate and India star KL Rahul.

Saldanha founded Mumbai's Chutney Collective during the Covid-19 pandemic. Stoinis has struggled to play consistently in this tournament. He missed the opening match with a hamstring and quad concern. His scores in the three matches he has played so far are 5, 20 not out and 21. "I want to play for as long as I can. I want to take con-

trol of as many things as I can through my cricketing career," said Stoinis. "We travel a lot and we're obviously away from our comfort zone. We're in different time zones. We're in different beds, we're in different hotels – we're not exactly by the beach in Perth, having a coffee and that sort of stuff."

He does not consider investing in a personal chef as waste of money. "I'm happy to invest in my own chef or invest my own batting coach or invest my own sports psychologist – that's just the way I see things." PTI

Third-division Port Vale script League Cup surprise

London: Third-division Port Vale have already secured their place in the quarterfinals of the League Cup. The Midland-based team has never played higher than the second tier of English football and have never won one of its major trophies. They beat Mansfield 1-0. Alfie Devine's goal five minutes into the second half at One Call Stadium ended 4th-div Mansfield's own hopes. Michael Carrick's Middlesbrough came back to beat third-division Exeter 3-2.

Holders RB Leipzig knocked out of German Cup

Berlin: Wolfsburg knocked out holders RB Leipzig with an inspired 1-0 win. The Red Bull outfit reached the previous three finals.



Paredes misses match due to computer glitch

Zurich: Spain defender Irene Paredes was kept from making her 100th appearance with the women's national team because of a computer glitch.

Spain coach Montse Tome said after the team's 7-1 rout of Switzerland in the Women's Nations League that a computer error kept Paredes from being added to Spain's official match squad. "There was

some kind of computer problem, I was told about it at the hotel," Tome said.

Spanish media said the federation was not able to properly update the game squad in UEFA's official application. Instead, the squad from the previous match — in which Paredes was not included because she wasn't fit — was

bettered the meet record en route to the gold medal in the National Games women's hammer throw event at the Athletics Stadium here on Wednesday. Tanya, who finished seventh at the Asian Games, had a best of 62.47m to eclipse the 22-year-old mark of 61.56m set by Hardeep Kaur in 2001. 2018 Jakarta Asian Games bronze medallist Manju Balaji of Rajasthan took the silver with a heave of 60.27m while UP's Rachana finished with the bronze in 59.85m.

In pole vault, Madhya Pradesh teenager Dev Kumar Meena scaled 5.16m to not only clinch the gold but also qualify for the World U-20 Athletics Championships to be held next year. Kuldeep Kumar of Uttar Pradesh won silver, while Anas Babu EB of Services settled for bronze. TNN

Pegula downs top seed Sabalenka, enters semis

Cancun: Jessica Pegula upset world number one Aryna Sabalenka 6-4 6-3 to win her second group stage match at the WTA Finals in Cancun on Tuesday and advanced to the semifinals after Elena Rybakina edged Maria Sakkari 6-0 6-7(4-7) in the evening match.

Pegula, who came into the contest with a dismal 1-4 record against the hard-hitting Sabalenka, managed to absorb her powerful serve to extend rallies and thwart the Belarusian's comeback attempts.

Sabalenka, who has said she did not feel safe playing on the newly constructed Estadio Paradisus, never looked totally comfortable against Pegula, committing 29 unforced errors on a sunny day.



American Jessica Pegula returns a shot to Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka at the WTA Finals in Mexico

Alcaraz loses in return from injury

Paris: Carlos Alcaraz's hopes of finishing the season as the top-ranked player took a hit after a 6-3, 6-4 loss

to qualifier Roman Safiullin in the second round of the Paris Masters.

In his return from injury, Alcaraz dropped serve four times and made 27 unforced errors to 21 for Safiullin, a former world No. 2 junior. "I didn't feel well, you know, in the game," Alcaraz told a news conference on Tuesday.

The Spaniard was knocked out in the fourth round of the Shanghai Masters nearly three weeks ago and withdrew from the Swiss Indoors in Basel because of a left foot injury and muscle fatigue to his lower back.

Malhotra sorry for 'second-class citizens' remark about Assam team

Mukut.Das@timesgroup.com

Guwahati: Former India Test cricketer and coach Ashok Malhotra expressed "unconditional apology" on Wednesday over his remarks on air during commentary on Assam's match against Bengal in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT). Malhotra had labelled the Assam players of his time as "second class citizens" which led the Assam Cricket Association (ACA) in writing to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) condemning his comment. Malhotra made the remark after Bengal suffered a

MEDVEDEV CALLS PARIS FANS 'STUPID', FALLS TO DIMITROV

Daniil Medvedev became the latest high seed to fall at the Paris Masters losing his temper before losing 6-3, 6-7(4-7), 7-6(7-2) to Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov. "I'm not going to play when they whistle," Medvedev shouted at the umpire. "They're stupid!" he said before telling the crowd. "I play guys, but shut your mouths, okay!"

COURT ORDERS ZVEREV TO PAY \$476,000 IN PHYSICAL ABUSE CASE



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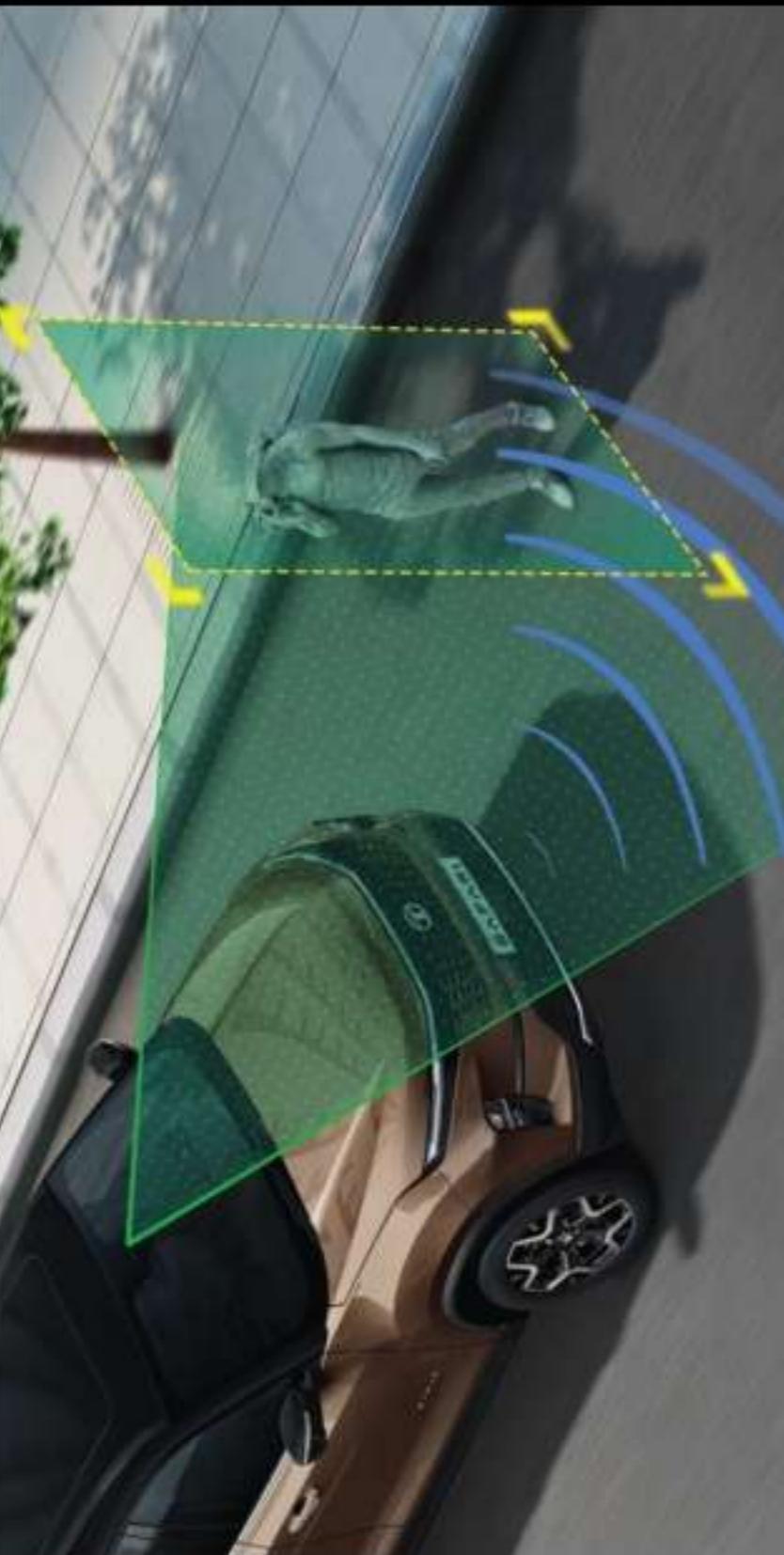


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SECON



Quinton de Kock scores his 4th ton at the World Cup and Rassie van der Dussen hits 133 off 118 balls as South Africa hands NZ a 190-run defeat, P 19

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Education Department

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Bihar launches groundbreaking recruitment drive by distributing appointment letters to

1 Lakh 20 Thousand 336 Teachers

▶ 70545 Primary Teachers ▶ 26089 Secondary Teachers ▶ 23702 Sr. Secondary Teachers

APPOINTMENT LETTER DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY

Chief Guest:

Shri Nitish Kumar

Hon'ble Chief Minister, Bihar

Distinguished Guest :

Shri Tejaswi Prasad Yadav

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Bihar

On Thursday, November 02, 2023 at 03:00 PM
at Gandhi Maidan, Patna



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Bihar continues to champion women empowerment: 57,854 or 48% of the selected teachers are women.



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(15 August 2023)

- Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister, Bihar

Hon'ble Chief Minister to distribute appointment letters to 25,000 teachers at Gandhi Maidan, Patna, while the remaining teachers will receive their letters from Hon'ble Ministers-in-charge, same time in their respective districts.

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* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2023

KITES RISE HIGHEST
AGAINST THE WIND
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MARGOT ROBBIE DONS INCOGNITO LOOK FROM 'V FOR VENDETTA' ON HALLOWEEN, BREAKING ACTORS' STRIKE RULE TO AVOID FILM GET-UPS

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First evacuees exit Gaza as refugee camp struck again

320 Foreign Passport Holders, Some Injured Gazans Cross Into Egypt Under A Qatar Deal; Hamas Says 7 Hostages Among 50 Killed In Israel's Tue Strike



Under a deal brokered between Egypt, Israel and Hamas, 81 wounded and 500 foreign passport holders were expected to leave initially

Rafah: At least 320 foreign passport holders and some injured Gazans left the Palestinian enclave through the Rafah crossing into Egypt on Wednesday, the first to benefit from a deal mediated by Qatar, three Egyptian sources and a Palestinian official said. Under the deal brokered between Egypt, Israel and Hamas, 81 wounded people and an initial list of 500 foreign passport holders were expected to be allowed out of the Gaza Strip in the coming days, sources in several nations said.

A diplomatic source briefed on Egyptian plans said some 7,500 foreign passport holders would be evacuated from Gaza over the course of about two weeks, adding that Al Arish airport would be made available to fly people out. Diplomats said initial foreign national evacuees were ex-

pected to travel by road to Cairo and fly out from there.

Hundreds more remain in Gaza, and talks on further evacuations were reportedly continuing among Egypt, Israel and Qatar, which has been mediating with Hamas. The US has said it is trying to get out 400 Americans with their families. Egypt has said it will not accept an influx of Palestinian refugees because of fears Israel will not allow them to return to Gaza.

The limited evacuations come more than three weeks into a total blockade of Gaza by Israel, which has been bombing the densely populated enclave and has sent in ground troops in response to an attack by Hamas fighters on Israel on October 7.

Another blast shook Jabalia, Gaza's largest refugee camp, on Wednesday, a day after



Palestinians try to pull a girl out of the rubble of a building that was destroyed in an explosion in Jabalia refugee camp on Wednesday

Palestinian health officials said an Israeli air strike killed about 50 people and wounded 150 there. The Gazan interior ministry said a second Israeli air strike in the same area had killed and injured more people. The Israeli military said the Tuesday attack had killed Ibrahim Biari, a Hamas commander it said was pivotal in organising the October 7 assault, as well as dozens of Hamas militants. A Hamas spokesman denied that he had been in the area.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said he was appalled by the high number of casualties in Jabalia and he urged all sides to respect the "laws of war and humanity". Israel says Hamas enmeshes its fighters in crowded residential districts and uses them as cover for command posts and weapons sites. AGENCIES

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said Israeli hostages held in Gaza were subject to the same "death and destruction" that Palestinians have faced. The Hamas military wing has said that seven of the hostages, including three with foreign passports, were killed in Tuesday's air attack.

Israeli troops pushed to the outskirts of Gaza City. Internet and phone service was cut for several hours Wednesday, a replay of the temporary communications blackout when Israeli ground troops first advanced in large numbers into Gaza. Hospitals expressed increasing alarm that their generators running life-saving equipment were on the verge of going dead after weeks of Israel barring entry of fuel. Only hours of electricity remained at the largest hospital al-Shifa. AGENCIES

US commandos on the ground in Israel helping to locate hostages

Cornell student held for threats to Jews



An Israeli woman at a rally in Tel Aviv seeks release of hostages

forces are not assigned any combatant roles in Israel, but they are talking through with their Israeli counterparts "what is going to be a very complex fight going forward" in the Gaza Strip, Maier said.

In his talk with his Israeli counterpart, defence secretary Lloyd Austin has stressed the need for careful consideration of how Israeli forces conduct a ground invasion of Gaza, where Hamas maintains a network of tunnels. "We will work with them as much as possible to help advise them on those types of activities," Maier said. He said US forces in the region are also poised "to help our own citizens get out of places and to help our embassies be secure." NYT

dispatched several dozen commandos in recent weeks, in addition to a small team that was in Israel on October 7 conducting previously scheduled training. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the commandos would join FBI, state de-

partment and other US government hostage-recovery specialists in their discussions with Israeli counterparts.

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