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Source: Reuters Institute for the study of Journalism, IRS 2019 Q4; Internal MIS data

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Summons 'motivated, bad in law', says Kejriwal, skips ED's quizzing

Leaves For 3-Day Campaign Tour Of MP & C'garh
Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal didn't appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday in the excise policy case and left on a three-day tour of poll-bound Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Before flying to Singrauli in MP along with Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann, Kejriwal, in a letter to ED's assistant director, termed the summons as "illegal" and "politically motivated", asking the agency to

HOW CAN YOU ARREST KEJRIWAL'S THOUGHTS?, P 2

The said summons is not clear as to the capacity in which I am being summoned, i.e. as a witness or a suspect, in the above-mentioned case. Please recall the said summons.... Simultaneous to the summons, in the afternoon of 30.10.2023, BJP leaders started making statements that soon I would be summoned and arrested. By the evening... I received your summons. It is thus apparent that the said summons was leaked to select BJP leaders to malign my image and reputation and has been issued at the behest of the ruling party at the Centre — ARVIND KEJRIWAL's letter to ED

withdraw it immediately. His party colleagues came out in his support and addressed press conferences alleging there was a "political conspiracy" behind the summons and that opposition leaders were being deliberately targeted.

The ED had issued the summons on Monday, asking Kejri-

Customs evasion case: ED searches Delhi min premises

New Delhi: ED on Thursday carried out searches on the premises of Delhi social welfare minister Raaj Kumar Anand in a money laundering case related to alleged customs duty evasion in import of goods.

► ED calls Raj Cong chief's sons over paper leak, P 15

ED's probe is based on a prosecution complaint filed by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in connection with alleged customs duty evasion of Rs 7 crore apart from inter-

national hawala transactions. More than a dozen premises of the minister, AAP's MLA from Patel Nagar, and his associates were searched by agency officials with the help of a team of paramilitary forces, to avoid any protests from party workers. DRI has alleged false declarations in imports for customs evasion. ED initiated its probe under PMLA after a special court took cognizance of the DRI chargesheet. TNN

► No notice before raid, P 6

SEVENTH HEAVEN: INDIA STORM INTO SEMIFINALS WITH 302-RUN VICTORY OVER SRI LANKA

REPORTS | P 23 & 25

► India crushed Sri Lanka by a whopping 302 runs (the 4th largest margin ever in ODIs) to post their 7th straight win in the World Cup and become the first team to ensure a semifinal spot

► Shubman Gill (92), Virat Kohli (88) and Shreyas Iyer (82) all scored half-centuries as India finished on 357/8, the highest team total without an individual century in World Cup history

► In reply, Lanka were reduced to 29/8 and were in danger of being dismissed below the world record low score of 35 but managed to reach 55

► Player of the match Mohd

Shami (5/18) now has four 5-wicket hauls in ODIs, the most by an Indian. Three have come in World Cups, a joint record with Mitchell Starc

► With 45 wickets in 14 games, Shami is now the leading wicket-taker for India in World

Cups, surpassing Zaheer Khan's tally of 44 in 23 matches

► Thursday's thrashing of Lanka



Mohd Shami celebrates the dismissal of Angelo Mathews, one of his 5 scalps on Thursday followed India's 10-wicket win in the Asia Cup final in Sept. India had bowled out Lanka for 50 and chased it down in 6.2 overs

GRAP 3 kicks in as city's AQI turns severe; primary classes, old cars off

Rapid Fall In Air Quality: 351 At 8am, 402 At 5pm

Photo: Anindya Chatterjee/Dnyanayavah

THE HAZE CHOKING DELHI-NCR IS TOXIC 'SMOKE'

IMD SAYS LOW VISIBILITY DUE TO SMOKE, NOT FOG

- All Delhi primary schools shut for next 2 days
- BS-3 petrol and BS-4 diesel cars barred in Delhi, Ggn, Fbd, Gzb & Noida districts
- Ban across NCR on non-essential construction & demolition, stone crushers, mining & associated activities

Thursday morning | India Gate

PEAK FARM-FIRE SEASON STARTS, P 4

METRO TO ADD 20 MORE TRIPS, P 4

At 8pm, the most polluted stations were Mundka (475), Anand Vihar (474), Rohini (472), Bawana (466), Narela (448) and Dwarka Sec-8 (446).

Experts said a rise in stubble burning and adverse meteorological conditions led to a sudden deterioration in air quality. The night saw calm conditions while light winds of up to 3kmph blew during the day, which prevented dispersal of pollutants.

► Desperate Delhi, P 4

Nitish: Cong busy with polls, INDIA not moving

Abhay Singh | TNN

Patna: Congress is so preoccupied with the assembly elections in five states that it has little time to get the newly formed opposition bloc INDIA moving. Bihar CM Nitish Kumar said Thursday.

"All of us got together and worked to project Congress as the fulcrum of our unity initiative, but the party has shown no such chinta (thought)... It was felt initially that 'kaam teji se ho'. (But) nothing mu-

ch is happening," Nitish said at a rally organised by CPI, which is part of INDIA.

► Nitish hopes, P 15

Indians donated ₹8.4kcr this fiscal, 59% more than '22

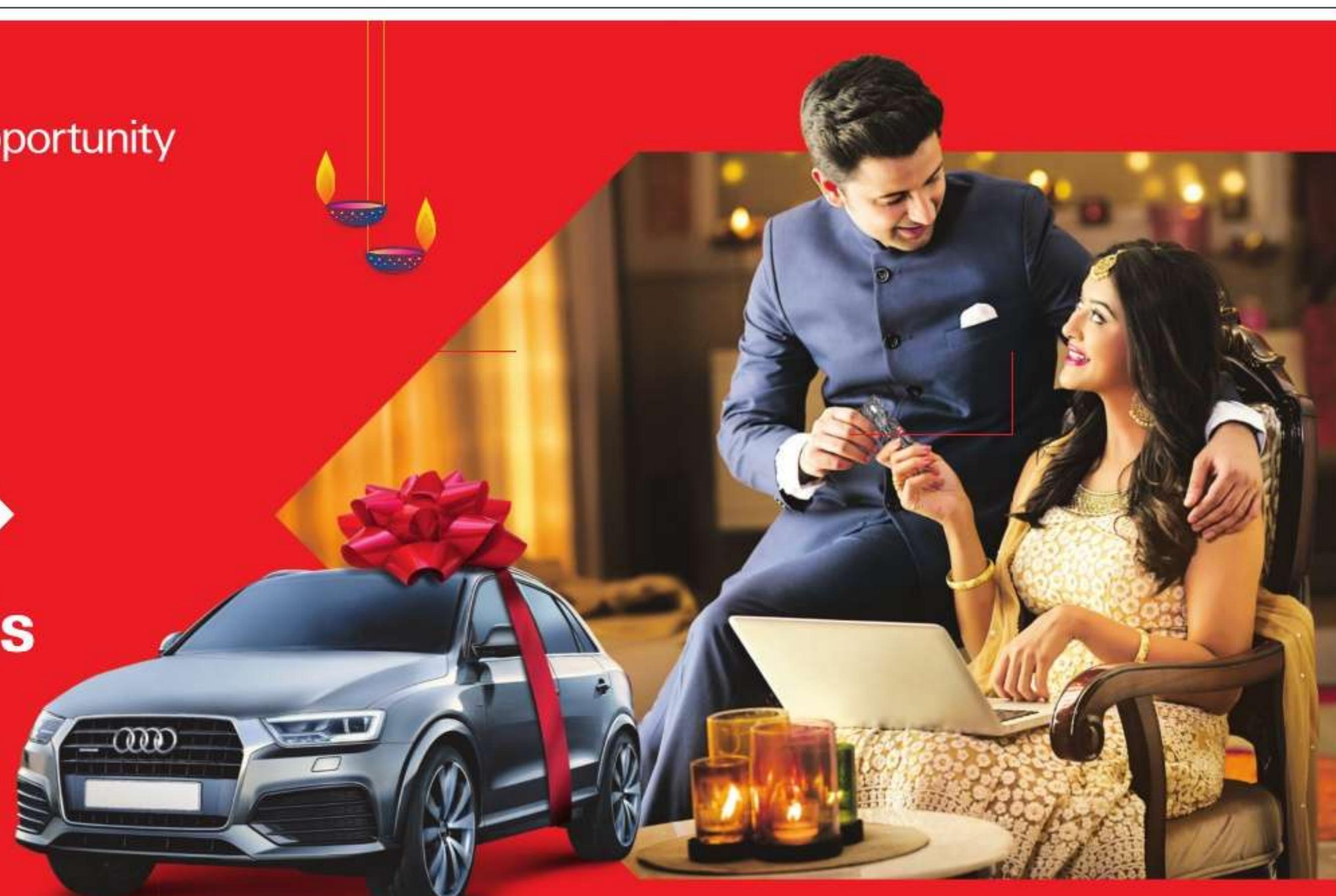
A total of 119 individuals donated Rs 8,445 crore this year, up 59% compared to last year and 200% compared to 3 years ago. The top 10 together donated Rs 5,806 crore in FY23, against Rs 3,034 crore last year, shows the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023.

Shiv Nadar, 78, remained the most generous Indian for the 3rd time in five years, donating Rs 2,042 crore this year. Wipro's Azim Premji (Rs 1,774 crore) was second. P 19



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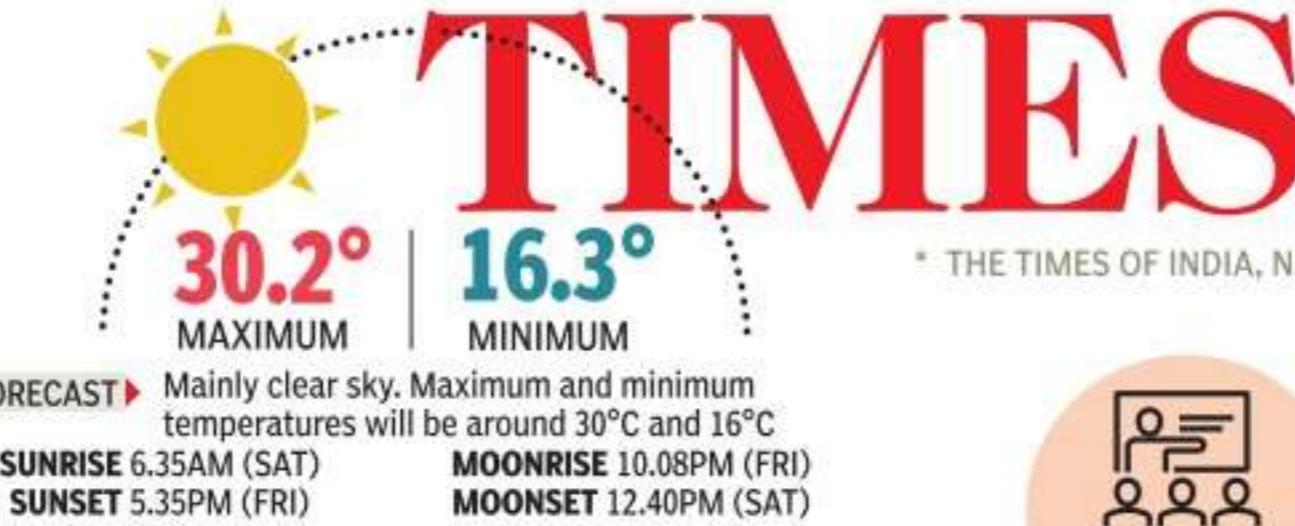
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Peak stubble
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starts, no. of
farm fires in
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India rises | 4



* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023

DU English dept hikes PhD
fee by 10 times, prompts
rollback demand | 8

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AQI IN DELHI ON
THURSDAY AT 5PM
(SEVERE
CATEGORY)

A tree can't be cut
just to make way for
parking or increasing
the premium of a
property, says HC | 8



AAP, BJP Cross Swords As CM Misses ED Call

Bharadwaj calls it a politically motivated conspiracy hatched at the behest of BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said on Thursday that the Enforcement Directorate's summons to chief minister Arvind Kejriwal was a political conspiracy with the manner in which BJP knew about it in advance being proof of this.

Bharadwaj claimed, "The entire matter is purely and solely a politically motivated conspiracy. On October 29, BJP's MP Manoj Tiwari made a statement saying ED would summon CM Shri Arvind Kejriwal and arrest him. How did Manoj Tiwari know about ED sending a summons even before it was sent? This statement by Manoj Tiwari makes it clear that this entire matter is sponsored by the central government."

Tiwari rebutted the charge and said, "The letter Kejriwal wrote to ED on Thursday proves that no one is a bigger scamster than Kej-



BHARADWAJ SAYS
Kejriwal is the leader of a national party. Elections are under way in five states and he is scheduled to campaign for AAP in these elections

riwal. When Manish Sisodia applied for bail in the Supreme Court, the court clearly said that the loot of Rs 338 crore was proved in the entire case. Despite this, Kejriwal is saying that BJP is trying to implicate him."

Bharadwaj also said that the summons to the CM did not make it clear whether ED was calling Kejriwal as a witness or a suspect. "It is also unclear in the ED's summons whether Kejriwal is being called in his capacity as the CM of Delhi or as AAP's national convener," the minister said.

These ambiguities in the

ED's summons have led to questions and concerns regarding the purpose and intent for summoning Kejriwal for questioning, he alleged. "Kejriwal is the leader of a national party. Elections are under way in five states and he is scheduled to campaign for AAP in these elections"

Rai also contented that from fear of losing in the 2023 Lok Sabha elections, BJP was "disregarding rules and regulations and misusing government agencies to assassinate democracy". He said, "BJP is dreaming of winning the elections by misusing official agencies, something that has never happened before in India's history and will not in the future too."

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The law has never granted any agency the right to summon an individual without proper grounds for question-

BJP claims Kejriwal is running away from truth, says its struggle bearing fruit now

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Questioning Arvind Kejriwal's repeated claims of being "hardcore honest" (*kattar imandar*), BJP on Thursday accused the Delhi chief minister of "running away" from the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) summons in connection with the alleged excise policy scam, saying he does not want to face the truth.

BJP asserted that ED is sued summons based on facts and evidence, but Kejriwal was running away from the probe agency's questions because he knew the truth. "Today it's proved that the one who is *kattardishonest* is *kattar shameless also*," the BJP leader charged, adding, "ED doesn't send summons randomly. We firmly believe that ED or any other agency sending summons to Kejriwal was based on some grounds."

Citing Kejriwal's letter to ED asking in what capacity he was summoned, Patra said, "Why is this VIP syndrome?"



SAMBIT PATRA SAYS
It won't be an exaggeration to say that the Delhi liquor scam king has accepted that he was involved in the liquor scam and corruption

Are you above law? Just because you are Delhi chief minister, no agency can summon you?"

Referring to the Supreme Court judgment in former deputy CM Manish Sisodia's bail plea case, the BJP functionary said the top court had made a statement that around Rs 338 crore money trail had been tentatively established. "If the tip of the iceberg is so big, how big the actual scam will be," Patra stated.

"I am surprised that this is the same Kejriwal who used to raise his voice against Sheila Dikshit, Sonia Gandhi, Lalu Prasad and Robert

Vadra when he was not part of a political party. Now he is making alliances with the same people," he said.

Patra accused Kejriwal and AAP of deliberately delaying ED's probe as the top court had said Sisodia could seek bail again after three months if the probe was slow.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva sat on a dharna outside Rajghat, demanding the CM's resignation. Sachdeva claimed that for the past two years, BJP had been struggling to bring out the truth of the liquor "scam". "The struggle by all those mothers and sisters against the opening of liquor vending is now bearing fruit," he said.

Several BJP leaders raised slogans like "Kejriwal tell the truth, open your mouth on liquor scam" at the dharna site. Leader of opposition in the assembly Ramveer Singh Bidhu said BJP had been saying from the beginning that Kejriwal was the real mastermind behind the "scam".

Cong maintains silence as other oppn parties cry 'BJP vendetta'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress maintained silence on AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal skipping the ED summons to campaign in Madhya Pradesh, even as other opposition parties backed the Delhi chief minister by describing the action against him as BJP's political vendetta.

AICC did not issue any statement on Kejriwal's ED summons nor did it express offence on his decision to challenge the Congress in BJP-ruled MP.

Though Congress backed AAP on the Delhi ordinance controversy recently, it has largely steered clear of the crisis being faced by the outfit in the wake of the action by the enforcement agencies. The two have joined the INDIA alliance, but the bitterness of the past appears to linger on. Congress has also been cold to AAP's demand that they hammer out a seat-sharing deal in Delhi and Punjab.

Former city MP Sandeep Dikshit, however, said, "The ED summons are about the liquor scam. No decision is taken in AAP or Delhi government without the nod of Kejriwal... He is behaving like a fugitive. His letter to ED is frivolous. Why is he running away?"

AICC secretary Abhishek Dutt said Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi were summoned by ED during peak Covid, and they joined the investigation because they knew they had done nothing wrong and were being targeted by BJP. "If you are right, join the probe."

Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, RJD's Manoj Jha and Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut expressed solidarity with Kejriwal. Jha said, "We can tell you what BJP are going to do in the coming days. In Bihar, Bengal, Chennai, Maharashtra and Jharkhand, ED is roaming all around. It is basically BJP that is roaming around. I am worried about those officers who bent to the government's wish."

'In what capacity am I being summoned?'

►Continued from P1

The Supreme Court had on Monday denied bail to former deputy CM Manish Sisodia on the ground that there was "material and evidence" which "tentatively" supported one of the charges under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) that 14 wholesale liquor distributors earned an "excess profit" of Rs 338 crore in about 10 months when the now-scraped excise policy was in operation.

Kejriwal alleged in his letter that he had been served the notice at the behest of

BJP to prevent him from campaigning in the five states which are going to the polls this month. He said the notice was "vague, motivated and unsustainable in law".

The ED had last month told the court that it was contemplating adding the Aam Aadmi Party as an accused in the excise policy case.

Kejriwal alleged that the summons had been issued for "extraneous considerations". He claimed that BJP leaders had started making statements on the afternoon of October 30 that he would soon be summoned and arrested.

"The said summons does not specify whether I am being summoned as an individual or in my official capacity as chief minister of Delhi or as national convener of AAP

and appears to be in the nature of a fishing and roving inquiry," he said in his letter.

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He claimed that BJP leaders had started making statements on the afternoon of October 30 that he would soon be summoned and arrested.

"By the evening of that day, I received your summons. It is thus apparent that the said summons was leaked to select BJP leaders to malign my im-

age and reputation and has been issued at the behest of the ruling party at the Centre," said Kejriwal.

Kejriwal said that being the national convener of AAP, he was required to travel as "star campaigner" of the party in Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Telangana where assembly elections are scheduled to be held this month.

Urging the ED to recall the summons, Kejriwal said he also had official commitments as CM of Delhi for which his presence was required, particularly in view of Diwali in the second week of November.

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Though Congress backed AAP on the Delhi ordinance controversy recently, it has largely steered clear of the crisis being faced by the outfit in the wake of the action by the enforcement agencies. The two have joined the INDIA alliance, but the bitterness of the past appears to linger on. Congress has also been cold to AAP's demand that they hammer out a seat-sharing deal in Delhi and Punjab.

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How can you arrest Kejriwal's thoughts, CM asks at MP rally

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bhopal: AAP convener and Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal defied an Enforcement Directorate (ED) summons on Thursday and campaigned in Madhya Pradesh's Singrauli, asking, "How can they arrest Kejriwal's thoughts?"

The central agency had asked Kejriwal to appear for questioning in the Delhi excise case, but the CM called the notice "illegal and politically motivated" and headed for the poll-bound state where he and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann took part in a roadshow for AAP candidate Rani Agarwal, the Singrauli mayor and state party chief.

Pointing out that AAP was born of an anti-corruption movement, Kejriwal said, "AAP has worked with honesty and neither indulged in corruption nor allowed anyone to do it. This saved up a lot of funds to build roads, schools, hospitals, and to provide several amenities."

"They have been threatening in Delhi that they will arrest Kejriwal. They threaten every day. You can arrest the body of Kejriwal, but how will you arrest the thoughts of Kejriwal," he asked, drawing loud cheers from the crowd.

"The day the election results are declared, I do not know whether I will be in jail or outside. But wherever I am, I want to hear that Kejriwal came to Singrauli and the people of Singrauli made history by making Rani Agarwal the winner," the AAP leader said.

"You can arrest Kejriwal, but how will you arrest thousands, lakhs and crores of Kejriwals spread across the entire country," he said. "We have emerged from Anna Andolan, we who were sitting on the stage at Ramlila Maidan during

the protests. I was there, Satyendar Jain was there, so was Manish Sisodia. You can arrest all the people that were on the stage but how can you arrest the crores of countrymen who had come to the site from all over the country?"

Highlighting the work done by the AAP governments in Delhi and Punjab, especially in education and health, Kejriwal said, "People have blessed us on the basis of our work, how we opened schools, built hospitals, and provided free power and water. Earlier governments used to say there are no funds for welfare schemes but AAP proved them wrong because we are an honest party that effectively curbed corruption."

APP candidate Agrawal has carried forward the tradition and built roads, schools, hospitals and other amenities after becoming the mayor of Singrauli, he said.

Kejriwal with Bhagwant Mann during the roadshow in Singrauli ahead of the MP Assembly elections

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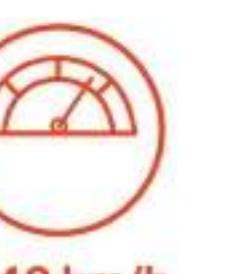




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Priyangi.Agarwal
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: After the air quality turned 'severe' on Thursday at 5pm, the sub-committee of the Commission for Air Quality Management enforced the measures for 'severe' air pollution under stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan with immediate effect in Delhi and NCR. Thus, construction and demolition (C&D), stone crushing and mining-associated activities have been prohibited. In Delhi, all primary classes till Class V have been suspended.

CAQM asked all states to impose strict restrictions on allowing BS III petrol and BS IV diesel cars running in Delhi and in the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar. Delhi Metro will add 20 more trips across its network from Friday to meet the additional public transport demand. It is already running 40 extra trips in trips on weekdays.

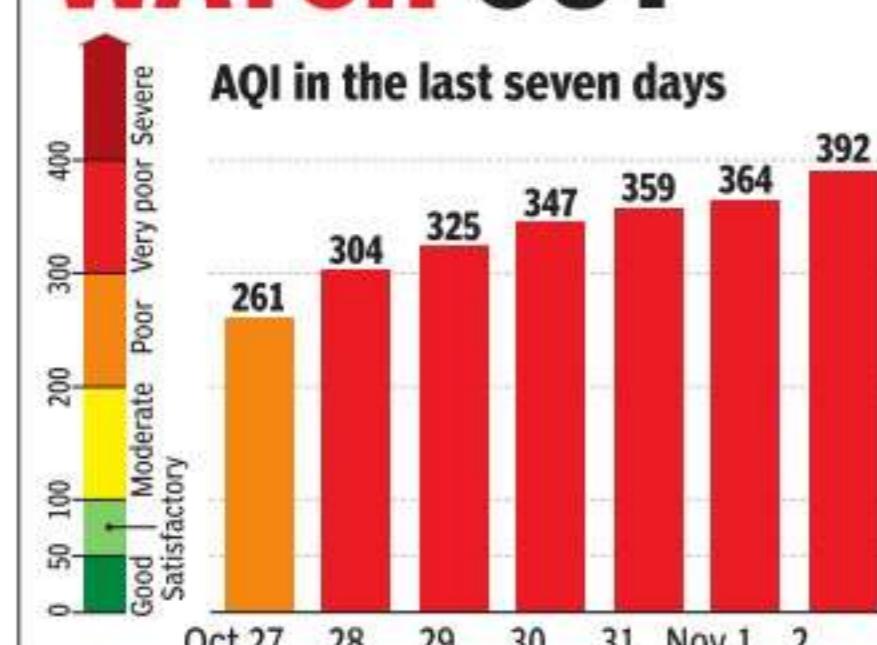
CAQM's order banned all C&D activities, except those related to railways and metro services, airports, interstate bus terminals, national security, defence-related activities, projects of national importance, among others.

While non-polluting and non-dust generating activities can continue, the ban on C&D activities will impact the earnings of the daily-wage labourers involved in the housing sectors.

CAQM said it invoked stage III of GRAP to prevent further deterioration of air quality in the region. "Unfavourable meteorological conditions, sudden increase in farm fires and north-westerly winds moving pollutants to Delhi are the major causes for the sudden spike in AQI," explained

WATCH OUT

AQI in the last seven days



Factors affecting air

Calm wind conditions, increase in stubble burning cases, winds from opposite side accumulating pollutants

As per CPCB bulletin at 4pm, AQI was 392 (very poor). It was 'severe' at 5pm (402)

Share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 at 21.3%, according to DSS

Visibility dropped to 500m at 7am and 700m during the day at Safdarjung

Measures under Stage III of GRAP come into force with immediate effect in Delhi-NCR

CAQM, adding that it was keeping a close watch on the situation. It directed officials to further intensify public transport services and introduce differential rates to encourage off-peak travel. All schools will hold primary classes online.

A Municipal Corporation

AQI AT 5PM

Burari Crossing | 420

RK Puram | 417

Okhla Phase II | 415

Patparganj | 412

Shadipur | 407

NSUT Dwarka | 406

Najafgarh | 404

Nehru Nagar | 400

Vivek Vihar | 397

IGI Airport, T3 | 395

North Campus, DU | 388

Karni Singh Shooting Range | 388

Sonia Vihar | 385

DTU | 382

Siri Fort | 377

Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium | 376

Rashtrapati Bhavan at noon

THE 10 MOST POLLUTED

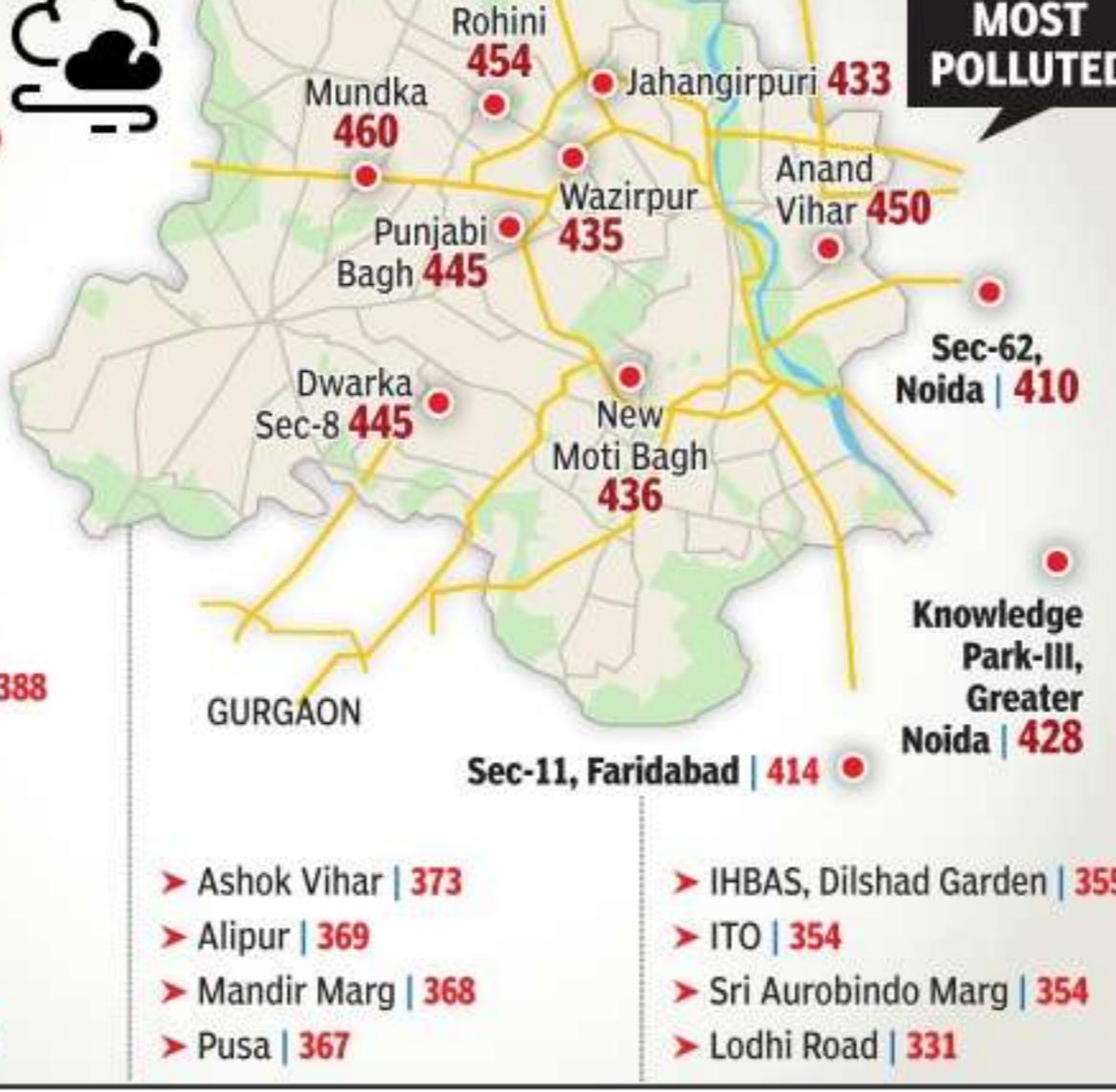


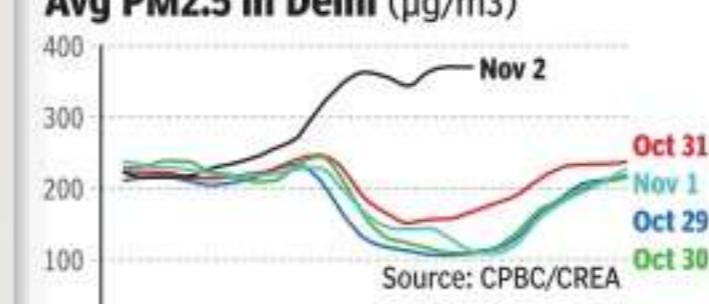
Photo: Anindya Chattopadhyay

ACTION IMPOSED UNDER STAGE III OF GRAP

Ban on construction & demolition activities

EXCEPTIONS

- (A) Railway and metro stations and services
- (B) Airports, ISBTs
- (C) Projects/ activities of national importance, security or defence
- (D) Hospitals, healthcare
- (E) Linear projects, such as highways, roads, flyovers, overbridges, power transmission, pipelines, etc
- (F) Sanitation projects like sewage treatment, water supply, etc
- (G) Ancillary activities related to categories mentioned



Avg PM2.5 in Delhi ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
Source: CPCB/CREA

Activities that do not generate pollution or dust, such as plumbing, interior decoration, electrical work, carpentry (excluding painting, polishing and varnishing) will be permitted

RESTRICTIONS | Use of stone crushers; mining and associated activities; restrictions on plying of BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel cars in Delhi and NCR districts; State govts may decide on discontinuing physical classes in schools up to Class V

Stubble burning & Met factors behind Delhi-NCR misery

Priyangi.Agarwal
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: No change in meteorological conditions is expected for the next two days. As farm fires have started increasing in north-west India, the AQI is likely to remain in the 'severe' category.

The dip to severe levels was not forecast. The Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi (EWS) in its bulletin on Wednesday said the air quality was likely to be in 'very poor' category till November 4 and also in the subsequent six days. The EWS forecast on Thursday morning continued to forecast 'very poor' air quality till November 5, with 'very poor' to 'severe' likely in the subsequent six days.

Safdarjung, which is the city's base station, saw mainly easterly winds on Thursday while Palam witnessed north-westerly winds. Experts said pollutants accumulated due to winds coming from opposite directions in the city.

Visibility at Safdarjung dropped to 500 metres at 7am and 1,000m at Palam. During the day, the visibility hardly improved and the met department at 12.30pm described it as 'smoke'. "Visibility was recorded at 700 metres at Safdarjung and 1,000 metres at Palam around 3pm. There was no fog as relative humidity remained low," said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist and head, Regional Weather Forecasting Centre of IMD. Srivastava said light winds are expected to blow in



The share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 was estimated at 22.4% on Thursday and 21% on Friday

the city for the next two days.

The Decision Support System, the forecasting body under the Union ministry of earth sciences, estimated the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 at 22.4% on Thursday and 21% on Friday. Satellites detected 1,921 farm fire counts in Punjab, 99 in Haryana and 95 in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday. Data for Thursday wasn't available.

The sub-committee of the Commission for Air Quality Management in national capital region and adjoining areas (CAQM) met on Thursday evening as Delhi's AQI turned 'severe' and banned construction activity, operation of stone crushers and all mining and associated activities in NCR.

It asked the governments of Delhi and NCR districts to impose strict restrictions on plying of BS III petrol and BS IV diesel LMs (4-wheelers) in Delhi and the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar.

Metro to add 20 more trips, DTC to run e-shuttle buses

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

DTC will also hire 1,000 private buses to be used on congested routes, an official said

New Delhi: The metro and Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) will add to their services following Delhi government's instructions due to the increasing pollution level in the city.

Since October 25, when Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) stage II came into force to combat air pollution, Delhi Metro has been running 40 additional trips from Mondays to Fridays. It will add 20 more trips across its network from Friday in view of the implementation of GRAP III, said Anuj Dayal, the principal executive director of corporate communications at Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC).

"Thus, DMRC will be running 60 additional trips as part of its measures taken under GRAP to encourage more and more people to use public transport in Delhi-NCR," Dayal added.

DTC has been asked to start 128 shuttle bus services on congested routes, said a senior official. The first such electric bus service will start on Friday from Kidwai Nagar and RK Puram to Central Secretariat for central government employees and from Gulabi Bagh to Delhi Secretariat for Delhi government employees. "The single-journey pink pass and other admissible passes are allowed in these special

shuttle trips," he added. DTC will also hire 1,000 private buses to be used on congested routes, the official said.

An analysis of last year's satellite data shows the number of daily paddy residue burning events stood between 2,500 and 3,500 from November 2 to 12. The peak per day counts recorded in 2022 were 3,916 on November 11 and 3,634 on November 2 in Punjab, according to Indian Agricultural Research Institute data.

From September 15 till November 1 this year, satellites detected 9,594 paddy residue burning events in Punjab, Haryana and UP, respectively. The figures for Thursday were unavailable. In this season so far, Amritsar, Sangrur, Tarn Taran and Firozpur in Punjab and Fatehabad, Kairali and Jind in Haryana are witnessing a higher number of farm fires.

Gufran Beig, chair professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, and founder, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research, said, "The data of past years shows that intense burning takes place from November

executive director, research and advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment, said, "As we are now fast approaching the sowing time of the next crop, there will be a rush to burn residues if alternatives are not available to farmers. Rapid outreach and concentrated efforts are required to prevent this as far as possible. Ultimately, a solution is possible only by enabling farmer access to technology and the market for biomass."

On Wednesday, the daily stubble burning counts were 1,921, 99 and 95 in Punjab, Haryana and UP, respectively. The figures for Thursday were unavailable. In this season so far, Amritsar, Sangrur, Tarn Taran and Firozpur in Punjab and Fatehabad, Kairali and Jind in Haryana are witnessing a higher number of farm fires.

Raiju Beig, chair professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies, and founder, System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research, said, "The data of past years shows that intense burning takes place from November

ber to 15. The burning season gets over by November-end."

Chandra Bhushan, CEO, International Forum for Environment, Sustainability and Technology (iForest), said though some action has been taken, the basic problem has not been solved yet.

The problem and solution to the issue is the combined harvester. It harvests the

crop but allows a few inches of paddy to remain in the ground. There is a need to change its design so that everything is cut and no paddy residue is left," said Bhushan.

"Smog, low wind speed and south-east wind direction don't allow for dispersion of pollutants in the air; allowing particulate matter to stay afloat. These toxic compounds can cause severe health hazards," Shubhang Tiwari, a research associate at the Centre for Science and Environment, said.

In Gurgaon, Gwal Pahari station, located 5km from the protected Aravalli hill range, recorded the worst AQI of 320 (very poor). The average AQI

at the three other stations was 'poor' — Vikas Sadan (295), Teri Gram (293) and Sector 51 (251).

"A smog blanket has engulfed the city and affected visibility, but the AQI is still in the 'poor' category. There seems to be a disconnect," Sachin Panwar, an independent expert on air, said.

Another officer said these fires not only contribute to air pollution and pose a health hazard, they can also spread to other places if strong winds are blowing and lead to a massive blaze.

DTS director Atul Garg said firefighters try to reach the scene quickly to extinguish the blaze in the initial stages.

"There is a risk of garbage fires spreading quickly due to the presence of combustible materials and they emit harmful pollutants as well. We need the public's support. If they see a small garbage fire, they should sprinkle water on it," he said.

Environmental expert Swati Singh Sambyal said

He added, "The stubble of basmati rice is not burnt. Haryana is a basmati belt where the crop is harvested manually and no residue is left. Hence, Haryana witnesses fewer farm fires than Punjab."

Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and adjoining areas said Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, a central government PSU, is setting up a second generation (2G) bio-refinery plant at Bathinda at a cost of over Rs 1,400 crore. The bio-refinery is designed for utilisation of paddy straw for production of ethanol under the Centre's ethanol blending programme.

"The production capacity of this plant is 100 kilo litre ethanol/day. For this purpose, 570 MT of paddy straw would be utilised per day (2,00,000 MT annually) when the plant operates at full capacity. Approximately 1 lakh MT biomass will be procured this season for use as feedstock for the 2G ethanol plant, which is expected to be commissioned by this year-end," CAQM said.

Announcing it on X, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "In light of the rising pollution levels, all govt and private primary schools in Delhi will remain closed for the next 2 days." Later, the Directorate of Education also issued a circular and asked all schools to conduct online classes for these classes. The head of each school has been asked to inform the parents about the decision.

For the senior classes, the schools have suspended outdoor activities. "From Class VI, children have been advised to wear mask," said Sudha Acharya, principal of ITL Public School Dwarka. Tania Joshi of The Indian School said, "Even without enforcing it, some children are already wearing masks to school."

In 2022, the primary section was shut on November 4, while in 2021, Delhi experienced the longest closure of schools due to air pollution. The stage III of Graded Response Action Plan recommends that the state government takes a decision on the physical closure of schools up to Class V and conduct classes online.

NHAI sets up centre to manage dust

Abhay@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The National Highways Authority of India has set up a 'Dust and Control Management Centre', following the directions issued by the Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) to improve the air quality index in the NCR.

The highways authority said this has been done to monitor the effective implementation of dust control measures in NH projects in Delhi-NCR. NHAI is implementing projects including the Dwarka Expressway, UER-II, Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway and Delhi-Delhi Expressway.

A fire department officer said garbage burning is caused by two factors — deliberate action and carelessness. "In most cases, people intentionally set fire to garbage to dispose of it quickly while carelessness occurs when someone throws a burning cigarette or matchstick on gar-

bage," the officer said.

NO SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE

GARBAGE BURNING CALLS

251 433 52 457

Jan F M A M J J A S Oct

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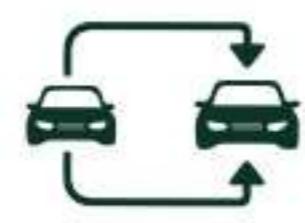
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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

EE, PWD, Darjeeling Electrical Division invites e-tender for the work of "SITC of Air Conditioner, Water Cooled Air Conditioner, Emergency MO Room & MCW Doctor Room, ART Clinic, ART Centre & EYE OPD of North Bengal Medical College and Hospital, Dist-Darjeeling." Estimated amount: Rs. Item Rate.Tender ID: 2023-23_WBTDCL_59740_4_04_Bid Submission start date: (Online): 01.11.2023 at 09:00 A.M. Bid Submission closing date (Online): 21.11.2023 at 12:00 Hrs. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from : [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://wb.tenders.gov.in) Sd/- K. Sahu, Executive Engineer, PWD, Darjeeling Electrical Division. ICA- 122369(4)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD-NH TENDER NOTICE

EE, National Highway Division-X invites online e-Quotations for the supply of Security Guard via e-NIT No.: 01/2023-24 of the EE, National Highway Division-X, PW(Roads)Dte. Tender ID: 2023_NH_59728_1_Bid submission start date (online): 01.11.2023 after 18:00 Hrs; Bid submission closing date (online): 21.11.2023 up to 18:00 Hrs. IST. Details of NIT and Quotation documents may be downloaded from <http://wb.tenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Dist-Purulia, Darjeeling Electrical Division. ICA- 122381(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No.: WBPWD/EE-WKED/NQ-59/2023-24 Tender ID-2023_WBPWD/EE-WKED/NQ-59/2023-24 Name of Work: Annual Comprehensive Maintenance and servicing of 3 nos. 50 Tr & no. 40 Tr capacity Water cooled type Air Conditioning Plant installed at the Auditorium, Rabindra Sadan Building, Salt Lake City, Kolkata. Start Date: 17/11/2023 upto 1:00 p.m. Website: <https://etender.wbnic.in> or <https://wb.tenders.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer-I, P.W.D., West Kolkata, Electrical Division, 4th floor, C-Block, New Sectt. Bldg., 1, K.S. Roy Road, Kol-1 ICA- 122375(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

1ST DATE CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

Tender Id - 2023_WBMB_572236_1 Authority of West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board has decided to extend the last date of bid submission on 09-11-2023 upto 12 Noon, 2023. The last date of bid submission for the above mentioned tender has been rescheduled on 17-11-2023 at 12 Noon for administrative reason. All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. The detail information regarding NIT and bid available on the website <https://wb.tenders.gov.in> Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board ICA- 122318(1)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

WR&DD-e-NIT

Executive Engineer, DPMU Bankura, WBADMIP invites e-tender for the following Works: 1: no. Water Detention Structure(1 no. groups in total)inGangaljala Block of Bankura District under MATIR SHRESTI PHASE VII PROGRAMME 2023-24 of the DPMU BANKURA, e-NIT no.: 11/2023-24/ MS/ EE DPMU /BK/2nd Call-e-Tender ID's - 2023_WRDD/AE/ASD-E/NIT-01/2023-24/2/e-Tender ID: 2023_WRDD/597996_1, (TOTAL 1 NO GROUPS), estimated value put to tender minimum Rs 27,23,601.00. Last dropping date:24.11.2023 upto 17.00 Hrs. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website <http://wb.tenders.gov.in> for details. Sd/- Executive Engineer DPMU, BK/2nd Call-e-Tender ID: 2023_WRDD/597996_1 ICA- 122389(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD & DDC-e-NIT

Executive Engineer, DPMU Bankura, WBADMIP invites e-tender for the following Works: 1: no. Water Detention Structure(1 no. groups in total)inGangaljala Block of Bankura District under MATIR SHRESTI PHASE VII PROGRAMME 2023-24 of the DPMU BANKURA, e-NIT no.: 11/2023-24/ MS/ EE DPMU /BK/2nd Call-e-Tender ID's - 2023_WRDD/AE/ASD-E/NIT-01/2023-24/2/e-Tender ID: 2023_WRDD/597996_1, (TOTAL 1 NO GROUPS), estimated value put to tender minimum Rs 27,23,601.00. Last dropping date:24.11.2023 upto 17.00 Hrs. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website <http://wb.tenders.gov.in> for details. Sd/- Executive Engineer DPMU, BK/2nd Call-e-Tender ID: 2023_WRDD/597996_1 ICA- 122389(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Salt Lake Reclamation Division invites TWO no. online percentage rate basis e-tenders vide Tender ID. No. 2023_U.D.D_5.5 9.5 2.1_2_1, 2_WBUD&MA/EE/SLDRD/NIT-09(1)/2023-24 of EE/SLDRD issued 17/10/2023. Value of works are Rs. 17,70,748.00 and Rs. 20,34,518.00 respectively. Start and Last date of submission of bid online are 03/11/2023 and 17/11/2023 up to 13:00 hrs. respectively. All documents can be obtained from the website <https://wb.tenders.gov.in>. Detailed information can also be seen in the website www.wburbanservices.in and office Board. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Salt Lake Reclamation Division ICA- 122321(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

KMDA TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No. 04/EE/ND/W&S/KMDA/2023-24 e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, North Division, W&S Sector, KMDA, Padmapukur Water Treatment Plant Campus, Shibpur, Howrah-711109, from reliable, experienced, bona fide and resourceful contractors, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of completion, Repairing and renovation of 1.94 MG UGR cum Booster pump station, rooms along with electrical, fabrication, construction of surface drains, concrete pavement road surrounding of UGR, Installation and repairing of valves with other ancillary works at Bhattacharjee by Baruipur Municipality, Rs.46,82,237/-, Rs.93,645/-, 04 months, Last date & time of submission of Bid online: 01.12.2023 upto 17:30 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-743) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA- 122323(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No. 04/EE/ND/W&S/KMDA/2023-24 e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, North Division, W&S Sector, KMDA, Padmapukur Water Treatment Plant Campus, Shibpur, Howrah-711109, from reliable, experienced, bona fide and resourceful contractors, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of completion, Repairing and renovation of 1.94 MG UGR cum Booster pump station, rooms along with electrical, fabrication, construction of surface drains, concrete pavement road surrounding of UGR, Installation and repairing of valves with other ancillary works at Bhattacharjee by Baruipur Municipality, Rs.46,82,237/-, Rs.93,645/-, 04 months, Last date & time of submission of Bid online: 01.12.2023 upto 17:30 hrs., for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-743) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA- 122323(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

KMDA of 2023-2024

Online tender is invited by the Superintending Engineer, Programme Circle, SD & SWM Sector, KMDA, 5th floor, Block-A, Unnany Bhavan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, from reliable, resourceful, bona fide and experienced agencies, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Cost, Earnest Money Deposit, Time of Completion, Construction and repairing of surface drain's under storm water drainage system at ward no. 27 and 29 under Serampore Municipality, R. S., 18, 73, 3747/-, Rs.37,467,48, 08 months, Last date & time of online tender submission: 25.11.2023 upto 18:55 hrs, for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-743) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA- 122324(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

KMDA TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No. 04/EE/ND/W&S/KMDA/2023-24 e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Nadia Division, Housing Dte., Mayurakshi South Canals Division No. WBWD/MSCO/NIT-02(1)/2023-24 e-Tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal from the eligible contractors for 03(Three) nos. work under 1st and 2nd call, 1st & 2nd & 3rd & 4th of Bid submission: 17-11-2023 till 16:00 Hours IST. Details of Tender Notice may be seen at <https://wbwd.gov.in> Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mayurakshi South Canals Division Sd/- J. Jha Executive Engineer Nadia Division, Housing Dte. ICA- 122343(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

TENDER NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, Nadia Division Housing Dte., has invites open e-NIT. No. 05 of 23-24 for R/R work for Treatment by APP to RHE, R. K. Ashram, Krishnanagar, Nadia, Tender ID: 2023_HSD_597981_1 and Last date & time of bid submission (online) is 23.11.2023 up to 17:00 Hrs (IST). Details will be seen from the notice board on any working days within office hours and from website <http://wb.tenders.gov.in> Sd/- J. Jha Executive Engineer Nadia Division, Housing Dte. ICA- 122343(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No.: 05/EE/HGD/W&S/KMDA of 2023-2024 e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Hooghly Division, W&S Sector, KMDA, 1, R.N. Tagore Road, Kolkata-700076, from eligible and resourceful contractors, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Emergency leak repairing works to 4 nos. 600 mm and 3 nos. 500 mm dia D.I. rising main at ward no 17,14 and along Badu Road within Madhyamgram Municipal area., R.s. 15,11,591/-, Rs.10,232/-, 15 days, Last date and Time of online bid submission: 21.11.2023 upto 18:45 hrs, for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-746) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA- 122327(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

KMDA TENDER NOTICE

e-NIT No.: 05/EE/HGD/W&S/KMDA of 2023-2024 e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Hooghly Division, W&S Sector, KMDA, 1, R.N. Tagore Road, Kolkata-700076, from eligible and resourceful contractors, for the work, Name of Work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money, Time of Completion, Emergency leak repairing works to 4 nos. 600 mm and 3 nos. 500 mm dia D.I. rising main at ward no 17,14 and along Badu Road within Madhyamgram Municipal area., R.s. 15,11,591/-, Rs.10,232/-, 15 days, Last date and Time of online bid submission: 21.11.2023 upto 18:45 hrs, for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-746) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA- 122327(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Chief Executive Officer, Siliguri Development Authority, Himachal Vihar, Near-Passport, Seva Laghu Kantor, Matigara-734010 NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER The Chief Executive Officer, Siliguri Development Authority, Siliguri invites electronic notice inviting e-bid (Online) under 2 (Two) bid system from eligible resourceful companies / individuals contractors, for the work, SL. No., Name of Work, Name of the work, (1) Safety Audit for Hooghly Municipal Roads, Tender ID - 2023_KMDA_596748_1, Rs. To be quoted by the bidders, Rs.12,000/- [Online (Net Banking/NEFT/RTGS)], (2) Safety Audit for Kharai Municipal Roads, Tender ID - 2023_KMDA_596748_2, Rs. To be quoted by the bidders, Rs.12,000/- [Online (Net Banking/NEFT/RTGS)], (3) Safety Audit for Dhalua Municipal Roads, Tender ID - 2023_KMDA_596748_3, Rs. To be quoted by the bidders, Rs.12,000/- [Online (Net Banking/NEFT/RTGS)], (4) Safety Audit for Maheshati Municipal Roads, Tender ID - 2023_KMDA_596748_4, Rs. To be quoted by the bidders, Rs.12,000/- [Online (Net Banking/NEFT/RTGS)], Time of Completion : 15 days for each no., Last date & time of Online Bid submissions: 17.11.2023 upto 14:00 hrs, for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-758) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA- 122324(3)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE

Online Bids are invited by the Superintending Engineer, Circle-III, R&B Sector, KMDA, 2nd floor, Unnany Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700091, from reliable, experienced & resourceful firms / individuals contractors, for the work, SL. No., Name of Work, Name of the work, (1) Safety Audit for Hooghly Municipal Roads, Tender ID - 2023_KMDA_596748_1, Rs. To be quoted by the bidders, Rs.12,000/- [Online (Net Banking/NEFT/RTGS)], (2) Safety Audit for Kharai Municipal Roads, Tender ID - 2023_KMDA_596748_2, Rs. To be quoted by the bidders, Rs.12,000/- [Online (Net Banking/NEFT/RTGS)], (3) Safety Audit for Dhalua Municipal Roads, Tender ID - 2023_KMDA_596748_3, Rs. To be quoted by the bidders, Rs.12,000/- [Online (Net Banking/NEFT/RTGS)], (4) Safety Audit for Maheshati Municipal Roads, Tender ID - 2023_KMDA_596748_4, Rs. To be quoted by the bidders, Rs.12,000/- [Online (Net Banking/NEFT/RTGS)], Time of Completion : 15 days for each no., Last date & time of Online Bid submissions: 17.11.2023 upto 14:00 hrs, for details contact the above office or visit both websites. (KMDA-758) www.kmda.wb.gov.in www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA- 122335(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

The Chief Executive Officer, Siliguri Development Authority, Siliguri invites electronic notice inviting e-bid (Online) under 2 (Two) bid system from eligible resourceful contractors, for the work, Name of Work : 1) Construction of Seefee Zone "I LOVE JALPAIGURI" an Rajbari Dighi Park premises, Jalpaiguri & 2) Painting at the outside of CEO's Office cum Residence Building and other allied works. Amount paid to the contractor, Rs. 4,29,99,768/- & Rs. 30,963,00 Earnest Money, 1) Rs. 9,246,45 & 2) Rs. 7,019,00. Tender Documents Sale/ Download Start Date & Time: 08.11.2023 at 4:00 P.M. and Bid Submission End Date & Time: 17.11.2023 upto 4:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. All details can be obtained from the website : www.sida.org or Log in: <http://wb.tenders.gov.in> or contact Engineering Section of KMDA at (0363) 2512922, 2515647. Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, ICA- 122335(2)/2023

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

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The Chief Executive Officer, Siliguri Development Authority, Siliguri invites electronic notice inviting e-bid (Online) under 2 (Two) bid system from eligible resourceful contractors, for the work, Name of Work : 1) Construction of Seefee Zone "I LOVE JALPAIGURI" an Rajbari Dighi Park premises, Jalpaiguri & 2) Painting at the outside of CEO's Office cum Residence Building and other allied works. Amount paid to the contractor, Rs. 4,29,99,768/- & Rs. 30,963,00 Earnest Money, 1) Rs. 9,246,45 & 2) Rs. 7,019,00. Tender Documents Sale/ Download Start Date & Time: 08.11.2023 at 4:00 P.M. and Bid Submission End Date & Time: 17.11.2023 upto 4:00 P.M. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. All details can be obtained from the website : www.sida.org or Log in: <http://wb.tenders.gov.in> or contact Engineering Section of KMDA at (0363) 2512922, 2515647. Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, ICA- 122335(2)/2023

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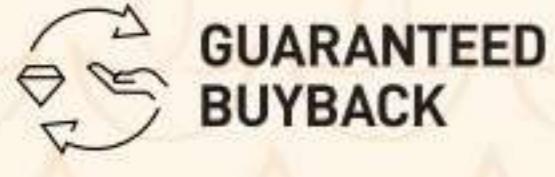
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Har Tyohaar ke sang Malabar





Har Tyohar ke Sang Malabar

House Fellows Move HC To Get Jobs Back

Also Seek Salaries For Period Already Served

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Assembly Research Centre (DARC) fellows who were fired earlier, approached Delhi High Court once again on Thursday, urging it to reinstate them.

The professionals, who had moved the court last month challenging termination of their services, also sought payment of salaries for the period they have already served.

Justice Subramonium Prasad sought the stand of the legislative assembly secretariat, finance and services departments and posted the plea for hearing next week.

Last month, the court had vacated its interim direction for continuation of the petitioners' services, saying since the Supreme Court earlier declined to entertain their plea, HC should not have intervened.

In their plea, the petitioners told HC that the Apex court has clarified it never considered the issue. "They (petitioners) are struggling to make ends meet. Festive season is around the corner... Supre-

The high court had on Sept 21, on the petition by several terminated fellows, directed that their services with DARC shall continue till Dec 6 and stipends be paid to them

me Court has clarified that issue was never considered and the interim order should be reinstated," the counsel said.

The high court had on September 21, on the petition by several terminated fellows, directed that their services with the DARC shall continue till December 6 and stipends be paid to them.

The petitioners argued that their services were terminated prematurely in an "unceremonious, arbitrary and illegal manner" in the aftermath of a letter issued by services department on July 5.

"The petitioners were engaged as "fellows" / "associate fellows" and as "associate fellows (media)" for the Delhi Assembly Research Centre which was

constituted pursuant to a recommendation of the general purposes committee of the Assembly in February 2019 to create a dedicated research centre and team for the members of the legislative assembly of the NCT of Delhi," their plea has said.

The petition said the July 5 letter directed that the engagement of the petitioners, for which the prior approval of the lieutenant governor had not been sought, be discontinued and disbursement of salary to them stopped. It was challenged in court as a "colorable exercise of power."

The petitioners said since they were engaged at the DARC, which functions under the aegis of the legislative assembly and the speaker, the interference by the services and the finance departments was in contravention of the doctrine of separation of powers. They asserted their services cannot be terminated in the manner they have been, and Delhi legislative assembly and the government are bound by their promise of engaging the petitioners as per their terms of service.

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Thursday took exception to tree officers of the forest department allowing felling of trees in residential colonies on private plots.

"We must learn to live with nature. A tree can't be cut just to make way for a car parking or increase the premium of a property," Justice Jasmeet Singh observed, while hearing a contempt plea against a tree officer who allegedly ignored tree felling in two properties in Vasant Vihar.

"You are within your rights and power to refuse permission in certain cases," the court reminded the authorities and directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's (MCD) building department to file an affidavit indicating how many sanctioned plans released by it took into account the presence of trees in the boundary of the plots in question.

The court was perturbed to note that the tree officer in his latest order of October 31 had compounded the felling of 17 trees on two plots in Vasant Vihar by slapping a fine of Rs 10.4 lakh on the errant owners. The counsel for the tree officer tried to highlight that he had also directed MCD to promptly plant 190 trees to replace the fallen ones and clarified that these must be of native species and placed within Vasant Vihar.

But the court wondered why the trees adjoining the plots were allowed to be cut. "If you don't know why nine big trees were cut, then shut down your office. Can nimbrels come and cut trees on private property? How can you be so casual?" I

Photo for representation



The court was hearing a contempt plea against a tree officer regarding the felling of 17 trees

will say yours is a defunct organisation if that's the case. Such a non-sensitive, casual approach is not acceptable," the court told the government's counsel.

The court then directed the tree officer to take fresh action and convey his stand on the next date of hearing. It pointed out that "every tree in these A category colonies will affect or reduce marketability of these buildings that are coming up, it will give more car parking space to the builder, but we have to learn to live with nature".

It was hearing a contempt plea filed by

Sanjeev Bagai alleging violation of the court's prior orders that felling of trees in residential areas should not be allowed mechanically by tree officers. Through advocate Anu Monga, the plea argued that if such felling was compounded, builders would be encouraged to flout norms.

On Bagai's plea, the court had last year said that under Delhi Preservation of Trees Act 1994, the essential part of the preservation was that a tree should not be damaged in a manner that would impede its growth or otherwise severely affect its re-growth and regeneration.

HC orders halt on action against 100-yr-old mosque

New Delhi: Delhi High Court on Thursday directed government authorities not to take any action against a 100-year-old Shahi Masjid, a graveyard and a madrasa situated in Daula Kuan.

The court passed an interim order while issuing a notice and seeking response of the Delhi government's religious committee (home), the Centre, Delhi Development Authority, sub-divisional magistrate of Delhi Cantonment and Delhi Waqf Board on a petition fearing demolition of the three structures.

The court said the authorities shall file their replies to the petition within four weeks and listed the matter for further hearing on January 31.

"In the meantime, having regard to the fact that the structures are admittedly over 100 years old, the respondents are directed not to take any action against the structures till the next date of hearing, that is, January 31," justice Praetek Jain observed while hearing the plea filed by the managing committee of the Shahi Masjid and Qabristan Kangal Shah in Daula Kuan.

The committee said it feared that action may be taken against the structures concerned following a meeting of the Delhi government's religious committee on October 20, where the property was referred to as an illegal religious structure. TNN

Class XII student injured in brawl among schoolkids

New Delhi: A Class XII student sustained a neck injury during a brawl involving two groups of schoolboys in north Delhi, police said on Thursday.

Police said the victim, a second-year BA multidisciplinary student in Burari, was returning home on Wednesday after the evening shift when he encountered a skirmish between some boys, including those he knew from a junior school.

"Upon attempting to intervene, the attention of the boys turned towards him, resulting in an attack that caught the victim off guard. He sustained an injury to the back of his neck from a sharp object," said DCP (north) Manoj Kumar Meena.

Police further said they received a call from a hospital about the incident. A team was dispatched to the medical facility, from where the injured student was taken to another hospital for treatment.

"Prima facie, this incident appears to be a dispute between schoolkids. A case has been registered. The investigation is underway," added the official. TNN

Good Samaritan stepped in earlier too to save lives

Sakshi.Chand@timesgroup.com

ones," said Mistri, who runs a private business.

In the past three years, Mistri has rushed five persons to hospitals — one was stabbed during a robbery bid while the remaining were accident victims. Mistri said he rushed one of the victims he found lying on the Sarai Kale Khan stretch on his scooter.

"In the case of another victim, I ended up paying the hospital bill as he was unconscious. After a month, he returned the money and gifted me a T-shirt. I'm still in touch with the victims I tried to save. We often speak and ask about each other's well-being," added Mistri.

Mahender Arya, a private businessman who, along with Mistri, also helped rush Pal to the hospital, has been upset since he got the news of his death.

"I, my brother, Mistri and another person, Rahul, tried to save him but we couldn't make it in time. The loss feels so personal. We drove on the wrong side, asked the traffic to move and did our best, but..." said Arya.

Unlike Mistri, it was the first time Arya had stepped up to save someone's life.

"I request everyone to step forward and help him; it can be any of us in a similar situation one day. It was sad to see that we were trying to put him in an auto and people were busy clicking pictures. I even shouted at one of them; it was heartbreaking," recalled Arya.

Pal lay injured for almost 30 minutes near Panchsheel Park after the accident before he got help.



(Top) Pankaj Mistri & Mahender Arya

Shreya.Ghosh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Women are the backbone of Parliament and the country's economic development, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar said on Thursday. He invited students at Delhi University's Miranda House College to attend the winter session of Parliament and offered to invite five interns for a 15-day course on Parliament.

Delivering an address on the 'role of women in Indian Parliament' to mark the platinum jubilee of the college, the Vice-President shed light on how gender equality must be in substance, not just in form.

Talking about women's representation in Parliament, he said a minimum of one-third of seats each in the Lok Sabha and the legislative assemblies would soon be reserved for women candidates. Dhankhar said that this would certainly help the governance in evolution of policies that would lead to the resolution of larger issues.

Dhankhar further said, "In our country constitutionally structured reservation for women was provided in panchayat institutions. But males were not prepared to yield ground. I am happy that our grandmothers and mothers snatched that right. Now no one can dare to occupy the seat meant for women."

In response to a student's query about whether the numerical minority of women MPs influences the weight of their arguments in the active functioning of Parliament, Dhankhar affirmed that re-

"The structure depends on you. Rise of the Indian economy is principally driven by women," said Dhankhar, who is also the chairman of Rajya Sabha.

The VP called upon the girl students to never allow themselves to be on the back foot. "Today, Indian women are occupying the position of power in global institutions, making all of us very proud," he said, adding, "We have governance that makes it imperative for the system to be highly favourable to women."

Dhankhar further said, "In our country constitutionally structured reservation for women was provided in panchayat institutions. But males were not prepared to yield ground. I am happy that our grandmothers and mothers snatched that right. Now no one can dare to occupy the seat meant for women."

In response to a student's query about whether the numerical minority of women MPs influences the weight of their arguments in the active functioning of Parliament, Dhankhar affirmed that re-

gardless of numbers, the voices of women are heard and amplified. He expressed optimism that the Women's Reservation Bill is just the beginning, and the numbers will continue to increase.

As Miranda House celebrated 75 years of excellence in women's education, faculty members, students and other dignitaries were also present.

Speaking to TOI, Bijaya-

laxmi Nanda, principal of Miranda House, stated, "The Vice-President's commitment to empowering young women in politics is inspiring. I'm glad that he himself wanted to come to our college and address the students. The Women's Reservation Bill will transform the political landscape with increased women's representation. As for the internships, the selection process will pri-

marily focus on third-year students with merit and a keen interest in politics."

DU's VC Yogesh Singh congratulated Miranda House for having maintained NIRF rank one amongst colleges in India and was highly impressed with the academic atmosphere of the college.

Anushka Verma, a second-year BA multidisciplinary student in philosophy and political science, said, "I believe our country should be more inclusive to women youth leaders. Indian politics is stigmatized as people think that politicians are not interested in development and crave only power and money. This stigma discourages young individuals from engaging in politics, and the responsibility to remove this stigma lies with the government".

Dhankhar also aptly said that "No impactful change in any society is possible without being driven by the students. The Women's Reservation Bill will transform the political landscape with increased women's representation. As for the internships, the selection process will pri-

oritise merit and a keen interest in politics."

All India Students Association and Students Federation of India also demanded a rollback and called it a move towards "privatisation" following the implementation of NEP.

The head of the English department, Anil Aneja, and registrar Vikas Gupta did not respond to TOI's queries.

In 2022, DU had raised the fees for the PhD thesis evaluation by over Rs 2,500 for all students. The fee, which was earlier Rs 5,000 for the students with a fellowship, became Rs 7,500, while those without a fellowship were asked to pay Rs 5,500 instead of Rs 3,000.

22-year-old man arrested for sextortion

New Delhi: A man from Mewat, who targeted senior citizens in Delhi and other states through sextortion, has been arrested on Thursday. Suspect Rizwan (22) also impersonated a senior police official or one 'ACP Vikram Rathore'. The arrest came after a complaint by one of the victims who was duped of around Rs 13 lakh. The complainant received an unknown WhatsApp video call in July where an undressed woman was seen.

Subsequently, a screenshot was taken with the complainant's face visible. Afterward, he received calls... threatening that the screenshot would soon be made viral and legal action would be taken against him," said Rohit Meena, DCP (Shahdara). TNN

DU English dept hikes PhD fee over 10 times

Shradha.Chettri@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Delhi University's English department has increased the fee for the PhD scholars by almost 10 times — from Rs 1,932 to Rs 23,968 — prompting teachers and students to demand a rollback.

Students say the hike wasn't mentioned in the admission bulletin and they were informed about it late. While teachers have called the university move shocking, some Academic Council (AC) members have written to vice-chancellor Yogesh Singh against the hike. For other departments, the fees have reportedly been doubled.

Bhaba Dev Habib, a member of Democratic Teachers Front (DTF), said, "For other departments, too, the fees have been doubled and made close to Rs 4,000, which is rather steep. But a hike of over 1,200% is unacceptable and unfortunate. Nothing can explain this kind of inflation. Instead of

placing it before any statutory body of DU, the decision has been taken using the VC's emergency powers."

Teachers are worried that the hike will reduce diversity and adversely impact students. "Scholarships and concessions cannot be a substitute for affordable fees for all. Jawaharlal Nehru University saw a fee hike after the university took Higher Education Financing Agency's loans. This is the commercialisation of publicly funded universities," said DTF.

Vijaya Venkataaraman, a teacher at the Germanic and romance studies department, said the decision showed the university's attitude towards students who cannot afford to pay such huge amounts. "Students were informed of the hike very late and asked to pay the fees and take the seat, or leave it. This shows the utter callousness

of those behind this decision and the total disregard for those students who might have worked hard to get a coveted seat."

In the letter to the VC, four AC members, who are part of DTF, have demanded a rollback of the fees.

A student organisation, Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS), also submitted a memorandum to Singh on Thursday. It claimed that DU's Executive Co-



Several protests have been held over poor quality of the food and water being served to students in their hostels in the recent past

are unclean and there are not enough workers to clean the premises. Even geyzers do not work here. When we complain about these problems, the administration targets us and calls our parents."

Many students from other hostels also aired similar grievances regarding the facilities available to them.

A resident of another hostel added, "I have been living in the hostels since I was in Jamia school. Then, there were washing machines, we used to get milk packets and even the hostel fees were around Rs 15,000. Now, the fees have been increased to Rs 25,000, yet we are not getting proper facilities. The food quality is so bad that it becomes difficult to eat."

The Jamia's administration said, "The contractor has been told to ensure that the quality of the food is maintained, or strict action will be taken against them."

Jamia Alumni Connect, joint secretary of AAJMI, said, "Jamia Alumni Connect is a body formed by the administration and it is a kind of farewell dinner for the VC. We are the elected body whose constitution has been approved by the statutory bodies of the university."

The VC's last day at the university will be November 12.

The vice-president of AAJMI, Badre Alam, added, "It has been a set thing that the annual alumni fest is held on December 24 every year."

The Jamia's administration said, "The new body, Jamia Alumni Connect, is the actual alumni body of Jamia as per the UGC norms. The university does not recognise AAJMI."

AI in the dock for deploying plane with lower O₂ reserve

Saurabh.Sinha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Air India has come under the regulatory scanner for deploying a "wrong" Boeing 777 with less than the required amount of emergency oxygen to operate a Delhi-US non-stop recently. The pilot refused to operate the aircraft after detecting the same and now the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has sought information from the airline on this oversight. The pilot has since left the airline.

Most aircraft have cylinders to supply oxygen to overhead passenger masks for 25-30 minutes.

AI's non-stops between Delhi and North America are almost entirely on old B777s that have an extra oxygen cylinder. That day somehow an ex-Delta new Boeing



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Maoists kill 3 ahead of Modi election rally in Chhattisgarh

Raipur: Less than five days before Bastar goes to the polls, Maoists kidnapped and killed three villagers in insurgency-hit Kanker district late Wednesday night, accusing them of working for the police of neighbouring Maharashtra.

Questions are being asked of police as security has been strengthened in all of Bastar in view of the elections, and the PM's visit Thursday.

The victims — Kulle Katlam (35), Manoj Kovachi (22), and Dugge Kovachi (27) — were kidnapped from Chotebhaya village in Pachkanjur, around 250km from Raipur. This region is close to Gadchiroli and the Chhattisgarh-Maharashtra border. Maoist leaflets found on the scene accuse the trio of being informers for C-60, the anti-Naxalite force of the Maharashtra police.

Locals said some unidentified people approached Kulle, Manoj and Dugge on Wednesday evening and sought directions to a certain address. The three helpfully walked with them to show them the way. They were never seen again.

Hours later, some unidentified men went to the village and told the victims' families to "collect their bodies, dumped on the outskirts". TN

In Mahadev app probe, ED seizes ₹5cr in C'garh

New Delhi: In its investigation against Mahadev app, the ED Thursday made seizure of unaccounted cash of around Rs 5 crore from a vehicle parked at a hotel in Raipur and from the premises of an accused, allegedly carried by a courier to deliver the cash to functionaries of a political party in Chhattisgarh. The cash was allegedly used for use in election campaigns.

The ED action was based on an intelligence input that a courier had travelled from the UAE to specially arrange and deliver cash to political functionaries in Raipur. The cash was allegedly moved by the promoters of Mahadev app. A search began in the afternoon and continued till late night. TN

Those who loot state won't be spared, declares Modi

Cong & Development Cannot Coexist, PM Tells Chhattisgarh Voters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



Addressing a rally in Maoist-hit Kanker district, PM Modi vowed to protect the rights of the poor, tribals, Dalits and backward classes

Raipur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi warned on Thursday that those who indulge in corruption will not be spared. Speaking at a rally in Maoist-hit Kanker district, the PM made a "guarantee": "I tell the youth of Chhattisgarh — no matter how powerful the ones who have looted Chhattisgarh, they will have to return everything."

The PM accused Congress of "promoting dynastic, nepotism, and corruption", and failing to fulfil its promises.

"Congress and development cannot coexist. After losing power at the Centre, it is now filling its coffers through corruption in the states under its rule. No one who has looted (the state) will be spared," he said.

The PM alleged that Congress had "abused him" ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha elections because he is from an OBC community. "Congress betrayed the youth of Chhat-

tisgarh. They promised jobs, but the recruitment carried out by the public service commission became a source of corruption for them. The PSC office was transformed into the Congress committee's office, and instead of hiring qualified candidates, they favoured their own relatives and children," Modi claimed.

Over the past five years, the wealth of Congress leaders in Chhattisgarh, in terms of cars and bungalows, has increased, benefiting only them, their children, and relatives, not the poor, the PM claimed. "When you have entrusted me with the task of combating corruption, I am not here to have fun in this position. Modi and BJP are committed to the welfare of your children and you," he said.

Modi vowed to elevate Chhattisgarh to one of the top states in the country and to protect the rights of the poor, tribals, Dalits, and backward classes. "Rapid development is the key to achieving this goal..." he said.

Accusing Congress of insulting tribals, Modi said, "For the first time in the history of the country, BJP chose a daughter from a tribal family as the President. However, Congress objected to this as well. As the opposition, they seemed more concerned about Droupadi Murmu than BJP. Every tribal person in Chhattisgarh should consider it an insult to their daughters and seek retribution against Congress."

"This election is not just about choosing your ministers and chief minister but about determining the future of your children. I am not here to solicit votes from you. Instead, I am inviting you to attend the CM's swearing-in ceremony after the election results are declared and BJP comes to power," Modi said.

Twenty seats in seven districts of Bastar division, along with Rajnandgaon, Mohla-Manpur-Ambagarh Chowki, Kabirdham, and Kairagarh-Chhuiukhadan-Gandai districts, go to polls on November 7.

In Haryana, Shah makes Khattar, BJP workers vow to deliver all 10 LS seats

Ajay.Sura@timesgroup.com



Karnal: With less than six months left for parliamentary elections, Union home minister Amit Shah sounded the poll bugle in Haryana on Thursday from the home turf of BJP's CM Manohar Lal Khattar in Karnal city.

"Mere sath dono hath uthaiye and 2024 mein Modi ji koi phir se pradhan mantri banane ka sankalp lijiye (Raise your hands and take a pledge with me to make Narendra Modi the PM again in 2024)," Shah said. He also made Khattar and state BJP members promise to give all 10 Haryana Lok Sabha seats to Modi.

Shah listed the central government's achievements

Amit Shah, speaking in Karnal, targeted the previous Hooda-led government for 'corruption and nepotism' and the Chautala-led government for worsening the state's law and order situation

in the past nine years, including nullification of Article 370, the surgical strike, construction of a Ram mandir and hosting the G20 Summit.

He listed the construction of the Ram mandir as a major achievement, saying what others could not accomplish in 550 years, Modi did within a few years of forming government.

Shah attacked the previous Bhupinder Singh Hooda-led Congress government for "corruption and nepotism" and the Om Prakash Chautala-led state government for worsening the state's law and order situation.

Referring to the INDIA bloc, Shah said this "ghamandiyā gathbandhan (alliance of the arrogant)" has been formed by people looking to settle their family members in politics or please their "Madam". They are least bothered about the welfare of 130 crore people, he said.

2 terror associates arrested in J&K: Police Wednesday arrested two terrorist associates in Srinagar district and recovered arms and ammunition from them, reports **Saleem Pandit**. Yawar Rashid Dar and Basit Nabi Bhat, residents of Saderk Bala in Hajin Bandipora, have been booked under provisions of the Explosives Act and UAPA.



गोरखपुर औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
सेक्टर - 7, गोडा, गोरखपुर।
ई-मेल: ceogida-up@up.gov.in

— सूचना —

गोडा द्वारा दिनांक 07.10.2023 एवं 08.10.2023 को औद्योगिक एवं व्यावसायिक भूमियों के आवरण हेतु प्रकाशित विज्ञापन में, "आंतर-लाइन" आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अनियमित तिथि 03.11.2023 निर्धारित थी। मात्र औद्योगिक भूमियों के आवरण प्राप्त करने करने की अनियमित तिथि 03.11.2023 दिया जाता है। व्यावसायिक भूमियों के आवरण हेतु आवेदन करने की अनियमित तिथि 03.11.2023 यथावत रहेगी। मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी, गोडा, गोरखपुर।

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

Ratanagar Estate & Investment Private Limited ("the Company"), a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956, having address as 404, Nirmal Tower, 26 Barakhamra Road, New Delhi – 110001. The Company along with its related entities is engaged in the business of real estate projects and development of properties in residential, commercial and retail sectors and is collectively known as the SILVERGLADES Group. The Company is the owner of the Trade Mark "SILVERGLADES" and its stylised variants which are in regular and continuous use in relation to its activities over 30 years. Some of the "Trade Marks" / "Marks" includes but is not limited to the following—

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It has been brought to our attention that some individuals/entities are illegally and without authorization, using similar trade marks which causes confusion among the public and thereby creating a false impression in general as such persons are associated or affiliated to the Company.

We hereby notify and caution such individual/entities to abstain from unauthorized use of the Company's Trade Marks in relation to any goods or services & use of deceptively similar mark/ name wrongfully projects an alleged association between their businesses, products/services as those of the Company's Trade Marks. Any such individuals/ entities found to be unauthorizedly using the Company's Trade Marks and copyrighted works shall be liable for civil and criminal legal action and the infringing party shall be solely liable for all the costs and consequences thereof.

Members of the public having any knowledge/information of the above-mentioned Trade Mark being used by any person or entity other than the Company are informed to contact their legal attorneys at the address mentioned below:

Chadha & Chadha, An intellectual Property Law Firm
F-46 Himalaya House, 23 K.G.Road, New Delhi - 110001
Tel: 0124-6688014; Email: tm@iprattorneys.com



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1917 - 3rd November 1959

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4th Floor, Indira Bhawan, Ashok Marg, Lucknow.

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the post of Accountant (1No.) on "Deputation/Re-appointment basis". Last date for submission of on-line application is 20.11.2023 (5:30 PM) and 25.11.2023 (5:30 PM) for sending the hard copy. Website :- <http://reat.up.gov.in>

REGISTRAR

NETAJI SUBHAS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY
A STATE UNIVERSITY OF GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI (FORMERLY NETAJI SUBHAS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY) AZAD HIND FAUJ MARG, SECTOR-3, DWARKA, NEW DELHI-110078

NOTICE FOR PHD ADMISSIONS EVEN SEMESTER 2023-24 (WINTER)

Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT), New Delhi has been established as a State University by Government of NCT of Delhi, and is regarded as one of the premier Technical Universities of India. NSUT was upgraded from Netaji Subhas Institute of Technology (NSTI) in 2018, tracing back 40 years of glorious history of nurturing some of the finest minds in the country.

The University aims to identify suitable candidates, having keen interest in teaching and research, who would like to take up a career in academics and R&D. Exceptionally brilliant candidates having interest in an academic career shall be considered for University Research Fellow (URF).

Online applications are invited from eligible candidates for the PhD Program in various disciplines (ECE/ICE/EE/ME/CSE/IT/CIVIL/BSE/Information/Design/Physics/Maths/Chemistry/Management etc.) for the academic year 2023-24 (Winter). The categories of admissions are given as under:-

a) Research Scholars University Research Fellow (URF).

b) Research Scholars with fellowship from other sponsoring agencies (UGC/DST/CSIR/DBT/ICMR etc.).

c) Research Scholars without any fellowship (Self-financing mode).

Maximum number of intake under all the above categories, for the Summer Semester is 299. Out of these seats the maximum intake for University Research Fellow (URF) 93, with a fellowship of Re. 32,000/- per month for each scholar (After 2 years fellowship of URF may be enhanced to Rs. 36,000/- per month subject to fulfillment of the conditions laid down by the Research Council of the University). PhD Regulations 2022 (Revised), available at the University website is applicable to all categories.

Application Processing Fee (non-Refundable): Rs. 1000/- (Rs. One Thousand only).

APPLICATIONS OF CANDIDATES, WHOSE RESULTS OF QUALIFYING EXAMINATION IS LIKELY TO BE DECLARED ON OR BEFORE LAST DATE GIVEN IN INFORMATION BROCHURE, WILL ALSO BE ACCEPTED.

Date of Online Application Submission 01.11.2023 to 30.11.2023 (05:00 PM)

For more details, please refer the Ph.D Admission Brochure 2023-24 (Winter) on the University website i.e. <http://www.nsut.ac.in>. https://www.mnsut.org/mnsut/elearn_phdregistration.php

DIP/Shabdharsh/Classified/0208/23-24 Sd/- Section Officer (Academic)

क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय,

उत्तर प्रदेश प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड,

जे - 1 ज्ञान सरोवर कालोनी, गमवाट रोड, अलीगढ़।

पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति हेतु आयोजित की

जाने वाली लोक सुनवाई की सूचना।

सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि जनपद अलीगढ़ (उप.प्र.) के गाटा संचाला-19, ग्राम-गंगेश्वर गंगा, तहसील - अतरौली, जनपद अलीगढ़ में गंगा नदी वेड ऐरिया के 16 हेक्टेयर में 2,40,000 घनमीटों / वर्ष सैज़ मार्फिंग प्रोजेक्ट के गाटा सुनवाई लेखनकार से पर्यावरणीय स्वीकृति प्राप्त करने हेतु सम्बन्धीय प्रस्ताव, उप.प्र.प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, लखनऊ के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया जाया है।

पर्यावरण (संरक्षण) अधिनियम 1986 के अन्तर्गत पर्यावरण एवं जन मंत्रालय भारत सरकार द्वारा जारी अधिसूचना संख्या एस.ओ. 1533 दिनांक 14.09.2006 के प्राविधिकों के अनुपालन में लोक सुनवाई स्थल- पर्यावरण घर, गंगेश्वर गंगा तहसील - अतरौली, जनपद अलीगढ़ में दिनांक 07.12.2023 के अपारान्त 01:00 बजे आयोजित की जायेगी। उक्त सैज़ मार्फिंग प्रोजेक्ट की लोक सुनवाई हेतु जनपद के सुनवाई एवं जनावरी आदि अभियानों की ओर से जारी गयी अधिसूचना के सम्बन्ध में उपरान्त है-

1. कार्यालय जिलाधिकारी, जनपद अलीगढ़।

2. उपायुक्त, जिला उद्योग केन्द्र, जनपद अलीगढ़।

3. क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, पंड्रू प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, जे-1, ज्ञान सरोवर कालोनी, गमवाट रोड, अलीगढ़।

4. डॉप्रू प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड, भवन सं. टी०८०- 12०८ी, विभूति खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ।

Help to boost Lanka economy will go on: FM

'India Rendered Unprecedented \$4bn Aid Last Year During Financial Crisis'

Colombo: India on Thursday assured Sri Lanka it will continue to work very closely with the island nation on debt restructuring discussions and extend support for the economic recovery.

Speaking at the 'NAAM 200' organised by the Government of Sri Lanka to commemorate the 200th anniversary of arrival of India-Origin Tamils (IOTs), finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said India rendered an unprecedented fi-



nancial assistance of over \$4 billion last year when the island nation faced a financial crisis.

"When Sri Lanka faced its unprecedented economic crisis a year back, we felt it was our duty to stand by with our friends in Sri Lanka. We could not bear the difficulties our friends in Sri Lanka had to face. Our government and the people of India acted collectively and came to your assistance in record time," she said.

Sitharaman also said that India was the first bilateral creditor to convey financing assurance to

the International Monetary Fund that paved the way for others to provide similar assurances that formalised the IMF programme for Sri Lanka.

India will work closely with the Sri Lankan government in realising the vision provided by the leadership of both countries and thereby further deepening civilisational ties with connectivity as a focus area, said Sitharaman who is on a three-day visit to Sri Lanka. PTI

Govt to release more onions at ₹25 a kg in various cities

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: After realising that government intervention of selling onion in retail market has made a better impact on cooling prices, the consumer affairs ministry will now sell higher quantities of onions at a subsidised rate of Rs 25 a kg in targeted cities from its buffer stock rather than releasing them in the wholesale market.

Union consumer affairs secretary Rohit Kumar Singh told **TOI** Thursday they will offload around 1 lakh tonne of onions in the retail market during this month. "We will identify cities based on the data and the historical price trends. Our retail interventions have brought down prices in cities," he said.

Officials said the sale of onions by government cooperatives have cooled down retail prices in cities such as Indore, Bhopal, Raipur and Jaipur.

Meanwhile, the wholesale price of onions at Delhi's Azadpur mandi, Asia's largest wholesale market for fruits and vegetables, has plunged to Rs 30-40 per kg compared to 60-65 per kg last week. However, the impact of this in the retail market is yet to be seen. Officials said they expect prices to cool down in the next few days across all cities.

Traders said the wholesale prices have fallen because of the government intervention of fixing the minimum export price (MEP) of \$800 per tonne on onion on October 28. Moreover, fresh crops have also started arriving in mandis.

The FCI Friday also sold 2.9 lakh tonnes of wheat from its buffer stock, taking the total auction of the cereal to 30 lakh tonne under the open market sale scheme (OMSS). The government aims to sell 100 lakh tonne of wheat via OMSS till March 31, 2024 to boost domestic supplies and curb prices.

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJNA									
NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)									
The Chief Engineer (SZ) HPPWD Shimla on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-II for each of the following works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD/CPWD/P&T/Roads /other State Govt /Central Govt agencies. Non registered bidders may submit bid, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.									
S. No.	District/ Division no.	Package	Name of the work	Estimated Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Construction	Maintenance	Total Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Period of Completion of construction (days)	Bid Form (Non-Refundable) Rs.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Nahan	HP10291	1) Upgradation of Jaintialghat to Kun road km. 0/00 to 8/635 including five-year maintenance under PMGSY-III Package No. HP10291 2) Upgradation of Jaintialghat to Rama Dhaunrood km. 8/00 to 17/300 including five-year maintenance under PMGSY-III Package No. HP10292	1445.52	140.32	1585.84	510	31.72	5000
2	Nahan	HP10294	1) Upgradation of Dadahu Bechar ka Bag road km. 0/00 to 21/500 including five-year maintenance under PMGSY-III Package No. HP10294	1803.55	168.20	1971.75	510	39.43	5000
3	Paonta	HP10286	1) Upgradation of Badripur Gujjar Colony Jammianvi to Khara road km. 0/00 to 8/455 including five-year maintenance under PMGSY-III Package No. HP10286 2) Upgradation of Gondpur Amarkot Nihalgarh Bhungari Ajoji Kishankot Kartarpur Bhangran road km.0/00 to 8/455 including five-year maintenance under PMGSY-III Package No. HP10287	1107.31	140.57	1247.88	510	24.96	5000
4	Paonta	HP10269	1) Upgradation of Dhaulukan to Baila road km. 0/00 to 15/800 including five-year maintenance under PMGSY-III Package No. HP10268	1105.14	110.00	1215.14	510	24.30	5000
5	Shillai	HP10282	1) Upgradation of Shillai Naya to Kandi Sundrari road km. 0/00 to 7/440 including five-year maintenance under PMGSY-III Package No. HP10282 2) Upgradation of Dravil Naunidhar to Hallan road km. 0/00 to 20/310 including five-year maintenance under PMGSY-III Package No. HP10	1838.48	227.98	2066.46	510	41.33	5000
Total :-				7300.00	787.07	8087.07			
2. Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement : 6 Nov, 2023 at 10.30 AM									
3. Cost of Bid Form : Cost of Bid form in shape of Demand Draft in favour of concerned Executive Engineers in respective Division.									
4. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission : The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in . The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website www.pmgstenders.gov.in . Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.									
5. Non-registered bidders may submit bids ; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.									
5. Submission of Original Documents : The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with Superintending Engineer, 12 th Circle HPPWD Nahan, on a date of opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand.									
6. Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering : - Last date /time for receipt of bids through e-tendering - 5 Dec, 2023 at 11.00 AM									
7. The site for the work is available.									
8. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in . The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 11:30 A.M on 5 Dec, 2023 in the office of Superintending Engineer, 12 th Circle HPPWD Nahan on the date of opening of the bids as specified. The bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.									
9. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.									
10. All the required materials like Cement/Steel/Bitumen/Explosive etc shall be arranged by contractor at his own level.									
11. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than ninety days after the deadline date for bid submission.									
12. To qualify for a package of contract made up of this for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.									
13. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to the tender.									
(Arvind Kumar Sharma) Superintending Engineer, 12 th Circle HPPWD Nahan Tel 01702-222826, Fax 01702-222581 E-mail hp-nah@nic.in For Chief Engineer HPPWD Shimla Nirman Bhawan, Nigam Vihar Shimla -171002									
Advt. No. 3632/02.11.2023									
HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPAK									

विहार सरकार										
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय										
मनन निर्माण विभाग, मनन प्रमण्डल, गया।										
राष्ट्रीय/स्पेशल ई०-निविदा सुचना संख्या : 15 /SBD/ET/BCD/Gaya/2023-24										
विस्तृत जानकारी बैरेसाईट state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा जा सकता है।										
1.	विज्ञानदाता का पदनाम एवं पता	कार्यपालक अभियंता, मनन प्रमण्डल, गया।								
2.	निविदा अभियंता करने की तिथि	दिनांक - 30.10.2023								
3.	निविदा कागजात प्राप्त करने (डाउनलोड :-	दिनांक - 08.01.2024 के 15:00 बजे तक करने) अभियंता एवं समय								
4.	निविदा जमा करने (अपलोड करने)	दिनांक - 09.01.2024 के 15:00 बजे तक की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय								
5.	निविदा पत्र लिखी का स्थान	केवल बैरेसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।								
6.	प्रीविड मिटिंग की तिथि, समय, एवं स्थान	दिनांक - 22.12.2023 को 15:00 बजे अधीक्षण अभियंता, मनन अंचल, गया एवं दिनांक - 27.12.2023 मुख्य अभियंता (३०) मनन निर्माण विभाग, पटना का कार्यालय का।								
7.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (तकनीकी बीड़)	दिनांक - 10.01.2024 को 15:30 बजे केवल बैरेसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।								
8.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय (विद्युतीय बीड़)	दिनांक - 17.01.2024 को 15:30 बजे केवल बैरेसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर।								
9.	निविदा कैंवा की अवधि	120 दिन।								
10.	कार्य का विवरण।									
क्र. सं.	कार्य का नाम	प्राकलित राशि (लाख में)	अधिकारी की राशि (रुपये में)	परिमाण वित्र की राशि (रुपये में)	बीड़	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि				
1	राज्य स्कैम मद से ३० भीम राज अभ्यंकर आवासीय विद्यालय प्रखण्ड -सह-अंचल बैलाङ्गंज जिला गया में विद्यालय भवन (720 आवासीय) का निर्माण कार्य वर्ष 2023-24 विद्युतीकरण कार्य एवं पांच वर्षों के लिए Operation, Maintenance & Repair सहित।	4607.97	56,08,000.00	10000.00	As Per Website	18 Month				
11.	कार्य भी संवेदक जो केंद्रीय/राज सरकार/सरकारी/स्वामित्वीक संस्थानों में निविदा हो अवश्यक अंतर्गत इसका अभियंता/राष्ट्रीय सरकार द्वारा प्राप्त होने के ब									

SC collegium recommends CJs for U'khand, Orissa and Meghalaya HCs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The SC collegium, led by CJI D Y Chandrachud, on Thursday recommended to the Union government names of judges for appointment as chief justices of the HCs in Uttarakhand, Odisha and Meghalaya.

The collegium, also comprising Justices Sanjay Kaul and Sanjiv Khanna, recommended appointment of Punjab and Haryana HC's Justice Ritu Bahri as chief justice of Uttarakhand HC, a post that

fell vacant on October 26 on retirement of Justice Bipin Sanghi. Justice Bahri will be the second woman CJ among the male-dominated 25 HCs.

She was appointed as a judge of the Punjab and Haryana HC on August 16, 2010, and is the senior-most judge there at present. Before appointment as a HC judge, she had practised in the same HC since her enrolment as advocate in 1986.

The collegium recommended appointment of Justice Chakradhari Sharani Singh, most senior judge of the Madras HC on October 25, 2013.

Patna HC, as the CJ of Orissa HC, a post that fell vacant with retirement of Justice Subhash Talapatra on October 3. Justice Singh was appointed as a judge of the Patna HC on April 5, 2012. He had been practising in that HC since 1990.

It recommended appointment of Madras HC's Justice S Vaidyanathan as the CJ of Meghalaya HC, a post which fell vacant on retirement of Justice Sanjib Banerjee on November 1. Justice Vaidyanathan was appointed as a judge of

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, ARVI

E-Tender Notice No.06/2023-24

E-mail:- arvi.ee@mahapwd.gov.in **Tel. No 07157-223859**
Online E-Tenders in SBD AND BRIDGE WORK C forms are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Arvi

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (Rs.) Lakhs	EMD (Rs.)	Cost of E-Tender (Rs.)	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COURT BUILDING (G+2)(1 COURT HALL) AT ASHTI TA.ASHTI DIST. WARDHA	2068.00	1034000/-	3590.00	Not applicable
2	CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE AT MOUZA WADALA TO ASHTA CONNECTING WARDHA AND AMRAVATI DISTRICT IN TALUKA ARVI DIST. WARDHA	2490.00	1245000/-	3590.00	Not applicable

Online Schedule will be applicable & Final
Detail information Regarding E-Tendering is available on following website.
1) <http://www.mahapwd.gov.in> 2) <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

No. 3032 /Tender/2023 Dt. 23.10.2023

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division, Arvi

DGIPR/2023-2024/4610

Office of the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle, HPPWD, Solan. Himachal Pradesh Public Works Department, Nigam Vihar Shimla

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

On the basis of e-procurement notice issued by Chief Engineer, Shimla Zone HPPWD, Nigam Vihar Shimla on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for construction of roads under New Technology "Full Depth Reclamation / In-situ Stabilization with Cement and Additive" under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III for each of the following Packages of works including their maintenance for five years from the eligible and approved Contractors registered with HP PWD, in the appropriate class (A) or equivalent category in CPWD/ MES/ Railways and other State Govt. and Central Govt. Departments. Non-registered bidders will submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

S. No.	Division	Package No.	Name of Road	Period of completion including rainy season (in days)	Estimated Cost Excluding GST (Rs. in Lakh)		Total Cost excluding GST (Rs. Lakh)	Bid Security in lakh
					Const- raction	Mainte- nance		
1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Nalagarh	HP11-166, HP11-167 & HP11-168	(i)UPGRADATION OF BAROONATO PHALAHI ROAD Including Bridge (T-08) KM. 0/000 TO 5/500 PMGSY-III Batch-II, (SH-Imp. Passing places, Missing CD, Side drain, Parapets, Crash Barrier, CC Pavement, Tarring and road signs etc i/c 5 yrs routine Maintenance. (ii)UPGRADATION OF PALLI RATER THALARAJWAN ROAD Including Bridge (T-15) KM. 0/000 TO 6/620 PMGSY-III Batch-II, (SH- Imp. Passing places, Missing CD, Side drain, Parapets, Crash Barrier, CC Pavement, Tarring and road signs etc i/c 5 yrs routine Maintenance. (iii)UPGRADATION OF REHROO JHIRIWALAADUWALJANDURI ROAD Including Bridge (T-05) KM. 0/000 TO 8/210 PMGSY-III Batch-II, (SH- Imp. Passing places, Missing CD, Side drain, Parapets, Crash Barrier, CC Pavement, Tarring and road signs etc i/c 5 yrs routine Maintenance.	510	1269.72	118.28	1388.00	27.76
2	Nalagarh	HP11-170 & HP11-172	(i)UPGRADATION OF KIYARAU TO CHILLAR ROAD (T-10) KM. 0/000 TO 8/000 PMGSY-III Batch-II, (SH- Imp. Passing places, Missing CD, Side drain, Parapets, Crash Barrier, CC Pavement, Tarring and road signs etc i/c 5 yrs routine Maintenance. (ii)UPGRADATION OF RAMSHEHAR TO KAWARNI ROAD, (SH- Imp. Passing places, Missing CD, Side drain, Parapets, Crash Barrier, CC Pavement, Tarring and road signs etc i/c 5 yrs routine Maintenance. (iii)UPGRADATION OF MAHADEV JANDU DIGGAL ROAD (T-11) KM. 0/000 TO 6/000 PMGSY-III Batch-II, (SH- Imp. Passing places, Missing CD, Side drain, Parapets, Crash Barrier, CC Pavement, Tarring and road signs etc i/c 5 yrs routine Maintenance. (T-13) KM. 0/000 TO 11/750 PMGSY-III Batch-II	510	1789.16	114.91	1904.07	30.08
3	Nalagarh	HP11-169 & HP11-171	(i)UPGRADATION OF RAMSHEHAR TO KATAL ROAD (T-09) KM. 0/000 TO 1/50/50 PMGSY-III Batch-II, (SH- Imp. Passing places, Missing CD, Side drain, Parapets, Crash Barrier, CC Pavement, Tarring and road signs etc i/c 5 yrs routine Maintenance. (ii)UPGRADATION OF MAHADEV JANDU DIGGAL ROAD (T-11) KM. 0/000 TO 6/000 PMGSY-III Batch-II, (SH- Imp. Passing places, Missing CD, Side drain, Parapets, Crash Barrier, CC Pavement, Tarring and road signs etc i/c 5 yrs routine Maintenance.	510	1880.11	122.47	2002.58	40.05
4	Nalagarh	HP11-165	UPGRADATION OF GOEL JALANANIYAR ROAD TO GUJJARHATTI ROAD (T-03) KM. 0/000 TO 31/000 PMGSY-III Batch-II, (SH- Imp. Passing places, Missing CD, Side drain, Parapets, Crash Barrier, CC Pavement, Tarring and road signs etc i/c 5 yrs routine Maintenance.	510	2731.60	184.73	2916.33	58.33

2. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement : **12.11.2023**

3. **Cost of Bid Form :** Cost of Bid form is Rs. 5000/- in the shape of Demand Draft in favour of concerned Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Nalagarh.

4. **Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission :** The bid document is available online and bid should be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in PMGSY may obtain the same from the website : www.pmgstenders.gov.in.

Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the valid digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.

* Non-registered bidders may submit bids; however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.

5. **Submission of Original Documents :** The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with Superintendent Engineer, 3rd Circle HPPWD, Solan, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid, either by registered post or by hand.

6. **Last Date / Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering :-** Last date /time for receipt of bids through e-tendering of above mentioned works are as follows:-

Sr. No.	Package No.	Last date /time for receipt of bids through e-tendering.
1	HP-11-166, HP-11-167 & HP-11-168	12.12.2023 at 11:00 AM
2	HP-11-169 & HP-11-170	12.12.2023 at 11:00 AM
3	HP-11-171 & HP-11-172	12.12.2023 at 11:00 AM
4	HP-11-165	12.12.2023 at 11:00 AM

7. The site for the work is available.

8. Only online submission of bids is permitted, therefore; bids must be submitted online on website www.pmgstenders.gov.in. The technical qualification part of the bids will be opened online at 11:30 A.M. Hours on above mentioned date in the office of Superintendent Engineer, 3rd Circle HPPWD Solan by the authorized officers. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of bids as specified, the bids will be opened online on the next working day at the same time.

9. The bidder is not required to quote his rate for routine maintenance. The rates to be paid for routine maintenance are indicated in the Bill of Quantities. Further, the payment for routine maintenance to the contractor shall be regulated based on his performance of maintenance activities.

10. All the required materials like Cement/Bitumen/Explosive etc shall be arranged by Contractor at his own level.

11. To qualify for a package of contract made up of this for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.

12. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information circulated to the tender.

13. The site for the work is available.

14. To qualify for a package of contract made up of this for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.

15. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information circulated to the tender.

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19. The site for the work is available.

20. To qualify for a package of contract made up of this for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.

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22. The site for the work is available.

23. To qualify for a package of contract made up of this for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.

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25. The site for the work is available.

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27. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information circulated to the tender.

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34. The site for the work is available.

35. To qualify for a package of contract made up of this for which bids are invited in the same NIT, the bidder must demonstrate having experience and resources sufficient to meet the aggregate of the qualifying criteria for the individual contracts.

36. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond

BJP names rivals to Gehlot & Pilot in Raj, Azhar in T'gana

In 3rd Raj List, BJP Fields 7 Women, Renominates 8 MLAs

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP on Thursday released its third list of 58 candidates for the November 25 Rajasthan assembly elections, fielding its nominees against chief minister Ashok Gehlot and former deputy CM Sachin Pilot.

The party also announced 35 candidates for Telangana state polls in which the names of two BJP members of Parliament—G Kishan Reddy and K Laxman—who had earlier unsuccessfully contested in the state polls did not figure.

Mahendra Singh Rathore, a former chairperson of Jodhpur Development Authority, is pitted against Gehlot in Sardarpura assembly constituency and former MLA Ajit Singh Mehta against Pilot in Tonk.

Mehta had won the 2013 assembly polls from Tonk on a BJP ticket and in 2018, Pilot wrested the seat from BJP.

In its third list, BJP has fielded religious guru of Hathojo, Dham Balmukund Acharya from Hawamahal, a seat for which Congress is yet to announce a candidate.



Sadhvi Anadi Saraswati joins Congress in the presence of Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot and state in-charge Sukhjinder Randhawa in Jaipur

BJP national general secretary and Rajasthan in-charge Arun Singh released the list in the national capital.

So far, the party has fielded candidates for 182 of the 200 assembly seats in Rajasthan. In the first two lists, the party announced 83 and 41 candidates respectively.

In the third list, BJP has fielded seven women candidates and renominated eight sitting MLAs. The party has not nominated any minister or an MP in the list unlike its first list in which seven MPs had figured. Sources said Union minister Gajendra

Singh Shekhawat will also not contest the state polls.

BJP has denied ticket to former assembly Speaker Kailash Meghwali from Shapura Bhilwara. Lalaram Bairwa has been given a chance in his place. Meghwali had recently opened a front against Union minister Arjun Meghwali, after which the party suspended him.

Voting for all 200 seats in the state will be held on November 25 and the counting of votes will take place on De-

cember 3. Nominations can be filed till November 6.

In Telangana, BJP has fielded Lalanka Deepak Reddy against cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin (Congress) in Jubilee Hills constituency. With the fresh list, BJP has so far released 88 names for the polls of the state assembly which has 119 seats. Kishan Reddy, who is a Union minister and a Lok Sabha member from Secunderabad, contested from Amberpet in the 2018 polls and lost to BRS sitting MLA K Venkatesh, while Laxman was defeated in Musheerabad segment by his BRS rival M Gopal.

Laxman was nominated to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh last year. Sources said that the names for some of the seats have not been announced, keeping in view the ongoing talks with Pawan Kalyan-led Janasena party.

Challa Sriratna Reddy is the lone woman candidate in the BJP second list for Telangana assembly elections. She will contest from Huzurnagar seat.

Rajasthan cops arrest official of ED, friend for corruption

Jaipur: Rajasthan's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested an inspector-level officer of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and his friend, a clerk in local sub-registrar office, on Thursday for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 15 lakh.

The accused ED officer, Naval Meena, is currently posted in Imphal and was in Jaipur on leave. He has been the investigating officer in a ponzi scam case worth over Rs 560 crore against one Sasnam Jacky of Lamjingba Group of Manipur.

The ED sources said it has constituted an inquiry against its officer, pending which he will remain suspended. If allegations are correct, the officer will face dismissal from service.

Naval's friend Babul Meena is a junior assistant in the Mundawar Sub Registrar Office in Rajasthan's Kotputli-Behror district.

The ACB initiated the operation after receiving a complaint and tracking their movements since October 20. A person had lodged a complaint, stating that Naval Meena, an EO with the ED in Imphal, Manipur had been demanding a bribe of Rs 17 lakh. TNN

ED summons Raj Cong chief's sons in paper leak probe

I-T dept conducts searches in T'gana

Jaipur: The ED summoned on Thursday Rajasthan Congress chief Govind Singh Dotsara's two sons in a paper leak-linked cash probe, just a week after their homes and that of a party candidate were searched in the election-bound state.

Ablishash has been told to appear for questioning on November 7 and Avinash on November 8 at the ED's Delhi office, a senior agency official said. The ED is probing a possible money laundering angle in the 2021 paper leak case of the Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers.

Speaking at a rally at Fattehpur hours later, Dotsara renewed his charge that the BJP-led Centre was using ED to intimidate rivals. "It is the people who help you win poll, not agencies like the ED. Why is the ED not touching (state BJP leaders) Rajendra Rathore and Subash Meheria, who have 1,000 times more properties," Dotsara said.

Meheria is contesting against Dotsara from Lachhmangarh. On October 26, the ED had combed the premises of Dotsara as well as those of his sons in the presence of central forces. The searches were part of a larger swoop spread across 11 locations in the state, including the premises linked to Omprakash Hudla, an outgoing MLA and Congress candidate from the Mahehuwa seat this time.

Dotsara had later claimed the ED officials did not ask him a single question, nor record his statement. "They could not take away even Re 1 or find any illegal document. All they seized was my phone, those of my sons and emails," Dotsara had said. Soon after the searches rolled, Dotsara had posted "Satyameva Jayate" on X.

Nitish remark understandable, but state polls important: Cong

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a measured accommodation of Nitish Kumar's public grievance that the lead opposition party was going slow on the INDIA alliance activities, Congress said the JD(U) chief is eager that the Modi government be dislodged at the earliest, and that the alliance be put on a higher gear. It, however, argued that state elections were also important and the party would turn the focus back on the opposition bloc once the polls in five states were over.

Congress MP Syed Nasir Hussain said that INDIA was launched at the national level for 2024 Lok Sabha elections and the Mumbai conclave finalised an action plan, but the polls to five states were announced in between. He said the polls are important as they come just six months before the national contest and would influence the future, adding that Congress is fighting strongly and looking like winning them all. He said the party will join the allies in implementing the INDIA action plan after the state contests.

The issue came up at the AICC presser called to welcome into the party a former DGP of Tamil Nadu Brahma Kishore Ravi. Ravi joined Congress earlier in the day.

Nitish: Hope Congress takes initiative and gives alliance momentum after state polls

Continued from P 1

"(Congress) is interested, at present, only in assembly elections," Nitish said. Harking back to his initial efforts to get non-NDA parties on the same page, Nitish said this led to meetings in Patna, Bengaluru and Mumbai, culminating in the formation of INDIA a couple of months ago.

The JD(U) patriarch, whose party is in alliance with Congress in the state, said he hoped that once assembly elections were over, the latter would "take the initiative and hold discussions" on giving the alliance momentum. Nitish's public criticism of Congress comes barely a month after he referred to his cordial "personal relationship" with several BJP leaders, saying he intended to keep it that way.

On Wednesday, the CM advised his ministerial colleagues to highlight the achievements of the Mahagathbandhan in Bihar as that of the government rather than their individual parties.

At the CPIM event, he criticised "those who are at the Centre" without directly naming BJP. "They had no role in the national freedom struggle, and have started obliterating the role of Mahatma Gandhi, who mobilised the masses," he said.

Bihar Congress president Akhilendra Prasad Singh said Kumar's eagerness to oust BJP was understandable, but the regime will only fall in time, and that focus on state elections was also important. "India is made up of states, we should remember. There is nothing objectionable about what Kumar has said. He only aired the sentiment that RJD chief Lalu Prasad expressed when he visited the Congress office in Patna earlier," Singh said.

Seeking to underscore the Congress's commitment to the INDIA's bid amid queries about the recent dissonance in states, Hussain said the grouping was specifically for seat-sharing in states for Lok Sabha, and that there was no decision that it would extend to state polls. He said Congress is still pursuing its traditional coordination with allies like the Left in poll-bound Rajasthan and Telangana, and it is likely that an understanding will be reached.

'Our development model is ecology and economy'

Having already signed MoUs worth Rs 81,500 crore during six roadshows ahead of the Global Investors Summit on December 8-9 to be held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami said the priority of his government is development with a fine balance between ecology and economy. On the Uniform Civil Code, the CM told TOI's Manash Gohain it would be tabled at the earliest. Excerpts from the interview:

You have just concluded the 6th road show in Ahmedabad for the investors' summit...

■ There is a lot of excitement to invest in "Destination Uttarakhand," which has been inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "Vibrant Gujarat" model that changed the developmental contours of the state and it became an exemplar globally. More than 54 corporates from Gujarat joined hands with us during the roadshow in Ahmedabad a couple of days ago and MoUs for investment of close to Rs 24,000 crore were signed from diverse sectors.

When is the status of the Uniform Civil Code?

■ The UCC panel has almost completed its job and the compilation work is underway currently. We are expecting to get it at the earliest and since this is what

the mood of foreign investors?

■ The world has acknowledged the capabilities of India post the success of G20 and sees big opportunities in India which is why big investors are interested to invest here. Investors are equally interested to invest in Uttarakhand.

Ecology is a critical area. How will you bridge the conflict between conservation and development?

■ Our development model is 'ecology and economy.' There will be a balance. We have initiated plans to implement GEP (Growth Environmental Product) in the State to ensure a fine balance between ecology and economy. We are committed to offer fresh air, water and environment to the world.

TOI INTERVIEW

the public endorsed during the elections we will move forward with it. We will initiate it as soon as we get the document.

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You have held roadshows in London and Dubai as well. What

is tourism one of the key focuses of the summit?

■ Tourism has been the main (revenue) source and this year we recorded the highest ever 54 lakh yatra for 'Char Dham Yatra'. So definitely this is one of the focus areas.

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■ Our development model is 'ecology and economy.' There will be a balance. We have initiated plans to implement GEP (Growth Environmental Product) in the State to ensure a fine balance between ecology and economy. We are committed to offer fresh air, water and environment to the world.

What is the mood of foreign investors?

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NBCC (INDIA) LIMITED
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Registered Office: NBCC Bhawan, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
(CIN:L74899DL1960G010335) - website: www.nbccindia.in

Supreme Court Monitored Projects
Executed through NBCC (India) Ltd. (A Navratna PSU of Govt. of India)

Through E-Auction
Sale of attached properties of erstwhile Amrapali Group through NBCC. Interested parties may register themselves on RAILTEL. (The agency engaged by NBCC (INDIA)LTD for holding e-auction) or on website <https://nbccaution.envida.com>. Last date for submission of application is 24.11.2023.

E-Auction will be held on 28.11.2023.
For details, please call: 8168059012
Sd/-
NBCC

SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE
संसद के अधीन, मिनिस्टरीज़ के तहत यह "महत्वपूर्ण संसाधन का सम्पद"

An "Institution of National Importance" under an Act of Parliament
(प्राचीन संसाधन, राष्ट्रीय महत्व का)
4-अम्बेडकर भव., कल्पकाल स्टेट, नई दिल्ली, Block-B, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi - 02
फोन/फैक्स: 011-23702382-80, फैक्स/फैक्स: 011-23702383 www.spa.ac.in

ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANT (ESTABLISHMENT)

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the engagement of Consultant (Establishment) on contractual basis. For details refer SPA, Delhi website www.spa.ac.in.

Last Date of submission of application is 13th November, 2023.
REGISTRAR

Government of Maharashtra
Public works Division, No-2 Latur
Ph No.02382-257270
website: www.mahapwd.gov.in

E-Tender B-1 Notice No.LTR-21/2023-24 (online)

Online B-1 tenders are invited by Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, No. 2, Latur from the eligible contractors. Tender Documents download from Web site of <http://mahatenders.gov.in>. Right to accept or reject tenders is reserved by Executive Engineer, Public Works Division 2, Latur.

Note :-

- 1 Details of Tender Documents Will be available on website <http://mahapwd.gov.in>, <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
- 2 Contractors are mandated to get enrolled on <http://mahatenders.gov.in>
- 3 For details contact 24 x 7 Help Desk Toll Free No.1800 3070 2232 Mobile No.+917878107985/86 + 917878007972/73 Email: eproc.maharashtra@gmail.com, cppo-support@nic.in
- 4 Right is reserved to reject any or all tenders without any reason thereof.
- 5 We are not responsible for any problem crop up during the Online E- tender process.
- 6 Above Tender Notice is also available on Web site of <http://mahapwd.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division No. 2 , Latur

DGIPR/2023-2024/4603

MUMBAI METRO RAIL CORPORATION LIMITED
(A JV-SPV of Govt. of India and Govt. of Maharashtra)

No. PRO/MMRC/41

Recruitment Advertisement 2023 - 06

Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. intends to appoint qualified and experienced professionals for various posts for Systems, Projects, Planning and Finance Division on Regular /Contract/ Deputation basis. For further details please visit the Career portal of MMRC website - www.mmrc.com. Last date for Submission of Online Application - 05th December, 2023

Sd/-
Date: 03/11/2023 (Ashwini Bhide, I.A.S)
Place: Mumbai Managing Director, MMRC

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TUBERCULOSIS AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES
(An Autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Sri Aurobindo Marg, Near Qutab Minar, New Delhi-110030

Dated : 31st October, 2023

**CORRIGENDUM
Recruitment Notice No. October, 2023**

The Number of vacant post for Medical Officer advertised on 14th October, 2023, be read as 05 [UR-02, OBC-02 & SC-01] instead of 06 [UR-03, OBC-02 & SC-01].

DIRECTOR

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Letter No:-DRM/C/AGRA/NFR/E-AUCTION Dated:-01.11.2023

E-AUCTION NOTICE

On Behalf of the President of India, The Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager-North Central Railway-Agra invites E-Auction as per categories given as under:-

Category	Catalogue No.	Asset Details	E-Auction Start Date and Time	E-Auction End Date and Time
Misc- Static-Services	23-03	Two Wheeler vehicle Packing at Agra Cantt near parcel office	Date:16.11.2023 Time:-11:00	Date:16.11.2023 Time:-11:30

Note:-Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in). The Lot-wise details are available therein under the above mentioned Catalogue Number.

1772/23 (ADM)

North central railways @PRONCR @northcentralrailway

PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT
Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening Project
31/62 Rajpur Road, 3rd Floor, Urban Development Directorate Building, Dehradun Pin 248007, Uttarakhand. E-mail- ukpmfswb@gmail.com

Request for Proposal
The Government of Uttarakhand is being financed from the World Bank toward the cost of Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening Project (UKPMS) (8928-IN) intends to apply part of the proceeds for following consultancies services:-

S. No.	Assignment	RFP Availability date	Last date of submission (online on e-procurement)	Date & Time for opening of technical bid
1.	Consultancy Firm for Conducting a Study to Analyze Trends in Subsidies Granted by the Uttarakhand State Government and its impact on the Finances of the State vis a vis the Outcome of such Interventions.	03.11.2023 to 05.12.2023 upto 1400 Hrs.	05.12.2023 upto 1400 hrs	05.12.2023 upto 1530 hrs
2.	Selection of Consultancy Firm to prepare Functional and Technical Document for IFMS Software for Govt. of Uttarakhand.	04.11.2023 to 06.12.2023 upto 1400 hrs	06.12.2023 upto 1400 hrs	06.12.2023 upto 1530 hrs

Proposals must be submitted online through www.uktenders.gov.in. Detailed RFP and corrigendum will be available in www.uktenders.gov.in and www.uttarakhand.gov.in. Consulting firm may refer for any amendment and corrigendum on www.uktenders.gov.in or www.uttarakhand.gov.in. For any amendment/extension on dates on the said website.

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Government of Maharashtra
Office of the Executive Engineer
Public Works Division No.2, Mul Road, Chandrapur
E-Mail- chandrapur2.ee@mahapwd.gov.in
Telephone No.0712-252256

Corrigendum - 2
For E-Tender Notice No. 01/C Form/2023-24

The work published vide this office E-Tender Notice at sr.no.2 is online available as per following schedule.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Lakhs)
1	CONSTRUCTION OF MAJOR BRIDGE AT DEVAI- CHINTALDHALA- SONAPUR- MOHADA- NAVEGAON MORE- DIGHORI- PIPRI DESHPANDE TO DISTRICT BORDER ACROSS (MDR-55) ANDHARI RIVER BETWEEN SONAPUR MOHADA KM 21/00 TAH-POMBHURNA, DIST- CHANDRAPUR (Under CRF)	3000.00

Online E-Tender Sale Period : 30/10/2023 to 22/11/2023 upto 18.00 Hrs. Website - <http://mahatenders.gov.in>

All Tender related information is available on above portal.
(If there is any change in the notice, then the information / Corrigendum will not be given in the newspapers and the same will be communicated on the above websites. Also, Online Schedule will be applicable and final.)

The other details in original tender notice remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Public Works Division No.2,
Chandrapur

TAMIL NADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	CE/IT & RAPDRP	IT & RAPDRP.31, IT & RAPDRP.32, IT & RAPDRP.33, IT & RAPDRP.34, IT & RAPDRP.35, IT & RAPDRP.36, IT & RAPDRP.38	8
2	CE/CIVIL/DRIP	04	1

For details of Works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.in.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in DIPR/5855/Tender/2023

DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY, UTTAR PRADESH
Jankipuram Extension Sector-11 Sitapur road, Lucknow-226031

Ref. No. AKTU/R.O./Store/2023/747 Dated: 31-10-2023

Faculty of Pharmacy, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University invites application for the selection of contractual faculty under self finance scheme. The format of the application form, details regarding educational and other qualifications are available on the University website [https://aktu.ac.in](http://aktu.ac.in). The Interested candidates can fill their application form through the website of the University by 5.00 pm, November 20, 2023 and submit the hard copy of the application along with the attachments to the office of the Registrar by November 25, 2023.

Registrar

DGCL Dakshin Gujarat Vij Company Limited

CIN U40102GJ2003GCC042909
Regd. & Corp. Office : 'Urja Sadan', N. V. Road, Kapodara Char Rasta, Surat 395 006 GUJARAT | Toll Free No.: 19123 (or 1800 233 3003)

Tender Notice

Details are available on www.dgcl.com (for view and download tender documents) and www.tender.procure.com (for view, download and online tender submission).

Sr. No.	Tender No.
1	DGVCL/SP / 2414 / 2C & 4C LT PVC Cable
2	DGVCL/SP / 2416 / 4C LT PVC Cable
3	DGVCL/SP / 2417 / 3C LT AB Cable
4	DGVCL/SP / 2418 / 1C LT AB Cable
5	DGVCL/SP / 2409 / Poly Carbonate Plastic Seal
6	DGVCL/SP / 2420 / 22 KV XLPE Cable
7	DGVCL/SP / 2461 / Instrument Transformer Test Equipment
8	DGVCL/SP / 2439/ 100KVA LTDB

Note: Bidders may visit our website/s for regular updates till opening of the tenders.

CE (P), DGCL, Surat.

RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION, JAIPUR
No.: REJU/E/EPIC-06/EIG-25KV/PLCJ Dated: 26.10.2023

Proforma-10.01
INDIAN RAILWAY
"Public Notification"

Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway lines and premises situated on the completed section of the under noted section of the Jodhpur Division of North Western Railway that the 25000 Volts AC, 50 Hz, AC overhead traction wires will be energized on or after **date 31.10.2023**. On and from the same date, the overhead traction line shall be treated as live at all times and no unauthorized person shall approach or work in the proximity of the said overhead line.

Section:
Phalodi Jn. yard (all lines) from Loc. 133/05(Inc.) (Km 133/289.50) to Loc. 134/21(Inc.) (Km 134/972.50) & by pass line from Loc. PLCJ/1020 (Inc.) (Km 133/289.50) to Loc. 152/01(Inc.) (Km 152/000.00) towards Malar side of the Jodhpur Division of North Western Railway.

Chief Project Director
Railway Electrification, Jaipur
PR/168/2023/ANU

"Serving Customers with a Smile"

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines).

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
232413 004925	Procurement of Ortho Phosphoric Acid 85% Purity for Unit-I	15.11.2023
232423 003094	Supply of LT Power & Control Cables for Additional Pulp Storage Tower in TNPL Unit - II	23.11.2023
232433 000296	Graphite Based Service Lubricant for Girth Gear Drives	20.11.2023
232413004925 - purchase.rawmat@tnpl.co.in 232430300294 - pndt@tnpl.co.in 2324300296 - purchase.gen@tnpl.co.in		

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our website: <a href="http://www.t

Can trans woman seek relief under DV Act? SC to decide

Appeal Against Bombay HC Order Upholding Plea For Maintenance

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Can a transgender who becomes a woman by undergoing gender reassignment surgery and gets married to a man, seek relief under the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act? The Supreme Court has decided to examine the issue on an appeal filed against Bombay high court which has held that such women are protected under the Act and are entitled for maintenance.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Rajesh Bindal agreed to hear an appeal filed by the husband against HC order and granted four weeks time to the woman to file her response. The court posted the case for hearing to January 2025.

The HC had ruled that a person who exercised his right to decide the self-identified gender of women is an aggrieved person within the meaning of Section 2(a) of the Domestic Violence Act, 2005. The HC upheld a lower court order directing a man to pay monthly maintenance of Rs 12,000 to his estranged wife who was initially a transgender.

The woman converted her gender from transgender to female through a surgery in June 2016. The couple got married in July 2016 but the relationship soon turned sour and she filed a complaint and sought interim maintenance.

Granting her relief, the HC had relied upon Supreme Court's 2014 judgment on recognition of transgender as third gender and said, "there is no manner of doubt that a transgender person or either a male or female who has undergone a sex change operation is entitled to the gender of their choice."



The Supreme Court posted the case for hearing to January 2025

Judicial demand for NewsClick founder, HR head till Dec 1

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Thursday remanded NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and HR head Amit Chakravarty in judicial custody till December 1.

Additional sessions judge Hardeep Kaur sent both the accused to jail after they were produced before the court on expiry of their nine-day police custody.

Purkayastha and Chakravarty have been booked under UAPA by Delhi Police over allegations that they received foreign funds to further propagate China propaganda through the news portal and disrupt the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.

They were arrested on October 3 and were initially sent to seven days' police custody, before being remanded in judicial custody till October 20, which was subsequently extended till October 25.

HC: No 'kidnapping' if dad takes away kid from mom

Vaibhav Ganjapure
@timesgroup.com

Nagpur: If a man takes away his minor son from the mother's custody, it does not mean he kidnapped him, the Nagpur bench of Bombay HC said.

The biological father cannot be booked for kidnapping under the IPC in such cases, if a competent court had not granted the minor's custody to the mother; a division bench comprising Justices Vinay Joshi and Valmiki Menezes ruled.

Quashing the FIR lodged by a woman against her husband, the court said: "Natural father of the minor is also a lawful guardian along with the mother. Therefore, he

cannot be said to have committed the offence under section 361 to be made punishable under section 363."

The father's move just amounted to taking the child from one "lawful guardianship of the mother to another lawful guardianship of the father", the judges observed.

"So long as there is no disengagement of the rights of guardianship of a father, he cannot be held guilty of an offence under section 361," the bench ruled.

The father moved the high court after Amravati police booked him for kidnapping after his wife lodged a complaint that he had forcibly taken away their three-year-old son on March 29.

Conviction overturned, BJP MP acquitted in rioting case

Deepak Lavaania
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Thursday remanded NewsClick founder Prabir Purkayastha and HR head Amit Chakravarty in judicial custody till December 1.

Additional sessions judge Hardeep Kaur sent both the accused to jail after they were produced before the court on expiry of their nine-day police custody.

Purkayastha and Chakravarty have been booked under UAPA by Delhi Police over allegations that they received foreign funds to further propagate China propaganda through the news portal and disrupt the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India.

They were arrested on October 3 and were initially sent to seven days' police custody, before being remanded in judicial custody till October 20, which was subsequently extended till October 25.

the sentence until the appeal was disposed of.

Speaking to TOI, Katheria said, "Taking cognisance of my appeal and facts of the case, the district and sessions court acquitted me, setting aside conviction by the lower court. I have been taking up issues of public interest and will continue to do so. During BSP government in the state, various politically-motivated cases were registered against me. This was one of them."

The case dates back to November 16, 2011, when Katheria, along with 10-15 supporters, barged into the office of Torrent Power and allegedly vandalised the premises and attacked the manager. A complaint was lodged by Samedhi Lal, the then security superintendent of Torrent Power.

SC to hear TN, Kerala, Punjab's pleas against governors

►Continued from P 1

The SC, which has in recent months examined a similar plea filed by the Telangana government and also adjudicated the legal battle between the Delhi government and lieutenant governor over control over bureaucracy, will now have to hear and decide on the petitions filed by Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Kerala.

"In keeping bills pending for such long periods, the governor is directly violating the provision of the Constitution, namely, that the bill should be dealt with 'as soon as possible'. Grave injustice is being done to the people of the state, as also to its representative democratic institutions (i.e. the state legislature and the executive) by the governor, by keeping bills pending for long periods of time. The governor appears to be of the view that granting assent or otherwise is a matter entrusted to him in his absolute discretion. This is a complete subversion of the Constitution," the petition said.

It said the conduct of the governor in keeping bills pending for long and indefinitely periods of time is manifestly arbitrary.

While adjudicating Telangana government's similar plea in April, the SC had said, "The first proviso to Article 200 states that the governor may as soon as possible after the presentation of the bill for assent, return the bill if it is not a money bill together with a message for reconsideration to the House or Houses of the state legislature. The expression 'as soon as possible' has significant constitutional content and must be borne in mind by constitutional authorities."

The Tamil Nadu government, which filed a similar petition a few days ago, said there is a "constitutional deadlock" in the state due to non-cooperation of the governor who is not giving assent to bills passed by the assembly.

IIT-BHU girl alleges molestation on campus, massive protests break out

Rajeev.Dikshit@timesgroup.com

Varanasi: Massive protests broke out on the Indian Institute of Technology-Banaras Hindu University (IIT-BHU) campus on Thursday after a student alleged that she was molested on campus by three unidentified men on Wednesday night when she was taking a stroll inside the premises.

Bocutting their classes, around 2,000 students started a sit-in at Rajputana hostel crossing and later near IIT-

BHU director's office demanding arrest of the accused, upgradation of security on the campus and resignation of the director.

On the complaint of the survivor, the Lalka police lodged an FIR under Section 354b, 506 of IPC and 66E of IT Act at 7.20 am on Thursday, said commissioner of police, Ashok Mutha Jain. "The cops from Lalka police station had reached the spot after being alerted by the institute officials around 3 am," he added.

The CP said three teams had been formed to nab the accused persons. Senior officials have been deployed on the campus to maintain law and order.

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Hutti - 584 115, Raichur Dist., Karnataka State, Ph: (08537) 275463, 276339, Fax:(08537)275048, 275054

e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 18/23-24 Dt: 03.11.2023

(Through e-procurement Portal only)

Tender is invited by "The Dy. General Manager (Materials)" for the procurement of following items from reputed manufacturers/ authorized dealers as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	Approx value in Crores	EMD in Rs.
1	Development of Ventilation crosscuts at various levels for NRAS. HGML/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT51	9.70	14,55,000/-
2	Manufacturing, Testing, Supply and Commissioning of LPDT at Hutt Gold Mine. HGML/2023-24/IND0124	9.20	13,81,000/-
3	Manufacturing, Testing, Supply and Commissioning of Diesel LHD at Hutt Gold Mine. HGML/2023-24/IND0123	8.39	12,60,000/-
4	Manufacturing, Testing, Supply and Commissioning of Single Boom Drill Jumbo at Hutt Gold Mine. HGML/2023-24/IND0122	3.81	5,73,000/-
5	Tender for Underground Exploratory Diamond Core Drilling Work at Hutt Gold Mine. HGML/2023-24/SE00010	3.75	5,63,000/-

Calendar of events:

(1) Pre-Bid Meetings (Zoom): **16.11.2023 for Sl.No.1 at 10.30 AM, Sl.No.2 at 11.00AM, Sl.No.3 at 11.30 AM, Sl.No. 4 at 12.00 PM and Sl.No. at 12.30 PM**

(2) Last date for receipt of tender: **30.11.2023 at 4.00 PM**

(3) Opening of Technical Bid on: **02.12.2023 at 10.00 A.M**

For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website <https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in e-procurement portal.

Sd/- General Manager (Tech)

LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA



NORTH EASTERN INDIRA GANDHI REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SCIENCES, MAWDIANGDIANG, SHILLONG - 793018.

Advertisement No. NEIGR.E-III/15/2014/Pt.VII dated the 17th October, 2023

Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for filling up the following **Group 'B' & 'C'** posts on direct recruitment. Eligible candidates are requested to submit their applications online by visiting the institute's website www.neigrihs.gov.in through online link provided in the institute's website. The application fee once deposited will not be refunded. Candidates working in Govt./Semi Govt./Public Sector Undertaking/Autonomous Institutions/Organizations are requested to submit No Objection Certificate, from their employer/ institute/ organization. Candidates should note that mere fulfilling of the minimum requisite qualifications and experience bestows no right on them to be called for written test/online exam. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for written test/online as the Institute deemed fit. Only Indian citizens need to apply.

Sl. No.	Name of post(s)	No. of post(s)	Level in the Pay Matrix
1.	Assistant Accounts Officer	1-UR	Level-7
2.	Junior Accounts Officer**	3-UR	Level-6
3.	Store Keeper	6 (3-UR*, 2-OBC & 1-SC) *1 post reserved for PwBDs i.e VI (LV)	Level-6
4.	Assistant Dietician	1-UR	Level-6
5.	Radiographer	5 (2-UR*, 2-OBC, 1-EWS) *1 post reserved for PwBDs i.e (D,HH)	Level-6
6.	Medical Social Worker	2 (1-UR & 1-SC)	Level-6
7.	Junior Engineer (Electrical)	1-UR	Level-6
8.	Junior Engineer (Civil)	1-UR	Level-6
9.	Physiotherapist	1-SC	Level-6
10.	Occupational Therapist	1-UR	Level-6
11.	Warden/Lady Warden**	2 (1-UR & 1-OBC)	Level-6
12.	Technician (Endoscopy/Colonoscopy)	2-UR	Level-6
13.	Technician (Nuclear Medicine)	4 (3-UR & 1-OBC)	Level-6
14.	Health Inspector	1-UR*	Level 6 *Post reserved for PwBDs i.e (D,HH)
15.	Pharmacist	5 (2-UR*, 2-ST, 1-EWS) (*1-UR post reserved for PwBDs i.e LD - OA, OL, CP, LC, Dw, AAV)	Level-5
16.	ECG Technician	2 (1-UR & 1-ST)	Level-5
17.	Junior Laboratory Technician	12 (6-UR, 4-ST, 1-EWS & 1-OBC)	Level-5
18.	Radiotherapy Technician	4 (2-UR & 2-ST)	Level-5
19.	Jr. Hindi Translator	1-UR	Level-5
20.	Technical Assistant	2 (1-UR, 1-ST)	Level-5
21.	Registration Clerk	1-SC	Level-4
22.	Data Processing Assistant Grade-II	1-UR	Level-4
23.	Accounting Assistant	3 (1-UR & 2-ST)	Level-4
24.	Lower Division Clerk	10 (4-UR*, 5-ST & 1-EWS) (*1-UR post reserved for PwBDs i.e VI (LV))	Level-2
25.	Record Clerk	07 (2-UR, 4-ST & 1-EWS)	Level-2
26.	Dark Room Assistant	02 (1-EWS*, 1-ST) (*1-EWS post reserved for PwBDs i.e ID - ASD (M), SLD, MI Or MD- Multiple disabilities from amongst Persons under -BLV, D,HH, LD, ASD(M), SLD & MI,	Level-2
27.	CSSD Assistant Grade-II	02 (1-UR & 1-ST)	Level-2
28.	Mechanic (Air conditioning & Refrigeration)	1-UR	Level-2

Abbreviations Used for PwBDs: B=Blind, LV=Low Vision, D=Deaf, HH= Hard of Hearing, OA=One Arm, OL=One Leg, BA=Both Arms, BL=Both Leg, OAL=One Arm and One Leg, BLA=Both leg & one arm , BLA=Both Legs Arms, CP=Cerebral Palsy, LC=Leprosy Cured, DW=Dwarfism, AAC=Acid Attack Victims, MD=Muscular Dystrophy, ASD=Autism Spectrum Disorder (M= Mild, MoD= Moderate), ID= Intellectual Disability, SLD= Specific Learning Disability, MI= Mental Illness, MD=Multiple Disabilities, VI= Visually impaired, HI= Hearing impaired, LD=Locomotor Disability

** 2(Two) posts of Junior Accounts Officer at Sl.2 and 1 (one) post of Warden/Lady Warden at Sl.11 are subject to revision and approval from Ministry.

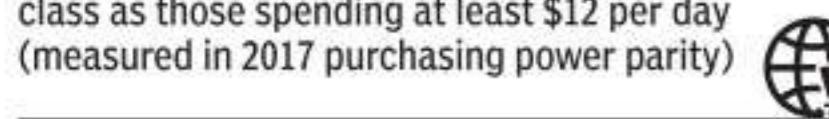
Further details regarding application fees, educational qualifications, age, experience, etc. are given in the detailed advertisement and to kindly visit the Institute's website <http://www.neigrihs.gov.in>

CANDIDATES ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY ONLY ONLINE AGAINST THIS ADVERTISEMENT THROUGH THE LINK PROVIDED BY VISITING THE INSTITUTE'S WEBSITE <http://www.neigrihs.gov.in> or through direct link <https://hlneigrihs.ctexam.in/> AND NOT TO WRITE TO THE INSTITUTE FOR APPLICATION FORMS. All applicants must fulfill the essential requirements of the post and other conditions stipulated in the advertisement. They are advised to satisfy themselves wherever applicable as laid down for various posts. Candidate should take printout of the application form for their own records and to be submitted to the Institute, at any stage, if required by the institute.

Starting date of online applications : 03.11.2023

Closing date of online applications: 23.11.202

According to a World Data Lab study, 113 million people are expected to enter the global consumer class in 2024. Of this, nearly 57% are likely to come from India and China. The study defines the consumer class as those spending at least \$12 per day (measured in 2017 purchasing power parity)



People expected to enter the global consumer class in 2024 (Mn)

33

China

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023

Asia Latin America Africa Rest of World

5 Indonesia 5 Bangladesh 4 Vietnam

3 Pakistan 2 Philippines 1 Turkiye

1 Thailand 6 Others 2 Egypt

1 Nigeria

7 Others

1 Brazil

1 Mexico

4 Others 6 Rest of the World



Source: Visual Capitalist

Zurich Insurance to buy 51% in Kotak co for ₹4k cr

Kotak General Insurance Valued At ₹8,000Cr, Deal Marks Swiss Co's Return To Indian Market

[Mayur.Shetty@timesgroup.com](#)

Mumbai: Zurich Insurance Group will buy a 51% stake in Kotak Mahindra General Insurance for Rs 4,051 crore (about \$487 million), valuing the company at around Rs 8,000 crore. The deal, which is the single largest investment by a global strategic insurer in an Indian non-life insurer, marks the Swiss company's return to India.

Zurich has signed a deal to acquire up to 70% stake in the Kotak Mahindra Bank unit — it intends to acquire

an additional stake of up to 19% over time. Part of the consideration will go to Kotak Mahindra Bank for the sale of shares, while some of it will be allocated towards subscribing to the fresh issue of shares by the insurer.

Prior to the opening up of the insurance industry in 2000, Zurich had a mutual fund presence in India, which it sold to HDFC in 2003. Zurich had also been exploring partnerships to enter the non-life business during the liberalisation period and had set up a representative office, but these

BIGGEST INVESTMENT IN INDIAN NON-LIFE CO

- It is the **largest investment** by a global strategic insurer in an Indian non-life co insurer
- Zurich had a presence in the **mutual fund biz** in India, which it sold to HDFC in 2003
- Only recently, Zurich had expressed **interest in Reliance General** but subsequently withdrew from the deal
- The deal values Kotak's general insurance business, with a **market share of less than 0.5%**, at about ₹8,000 crore
- The deal values Kotak's general insurance business, with a **market share of less than 0.5%**, at about ₹8,000 crore

plans were later abandoned. More recently, Zurich had expressed interest in Reliance General Insurance during the Reliance Capital bankruptcy process but subsequently withdrew from the deal.

Insurers have noted that Kotak Mahindra Bank has secured an excellent valuation for its non-life business. The deal values the general insurance business, which holds a market share of less

than 0.5%, at more than one-third of the market cap of New India Assurance, valued at Rs 22,643 crore.

ICICI Lombard, the largest private insurer with a market share of 8.7%, has a valuation of Rs 67,500 crore. IndusInd Bank, the successful bidder for Reliance Capital, will pay Rs 10,000 crore for the company, which owns a general insurance company and a stake in a life insurance joint venture.

Kotak Mahindra General Insurance reported a net loss of Rs 117 crore in FY23, compared to a net loss of Rs 83 crore

in FY22. The FY23 loss occurred despite a total premium income of Rs 673 crore, up from Rs 500 crore in FY22.

Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO Dipak Gupta said, "Kotak Mahindra Group's pan-India 'phygital' distribution presence and Zurich's distinct global capabilities in digital assets, B2B, and B2C formats have the potential to create a transformational 'digital' impact for the Kotak General Insurance franchise, delivering innovation efficiently and rapidly in the Indian general insurance space."

vijay sales

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SCAN FOR STORES

Small personal loans that drove retail lending see signs of stress

Loans Under ₹50,000 See Rise In Default: Credit Bureau Study

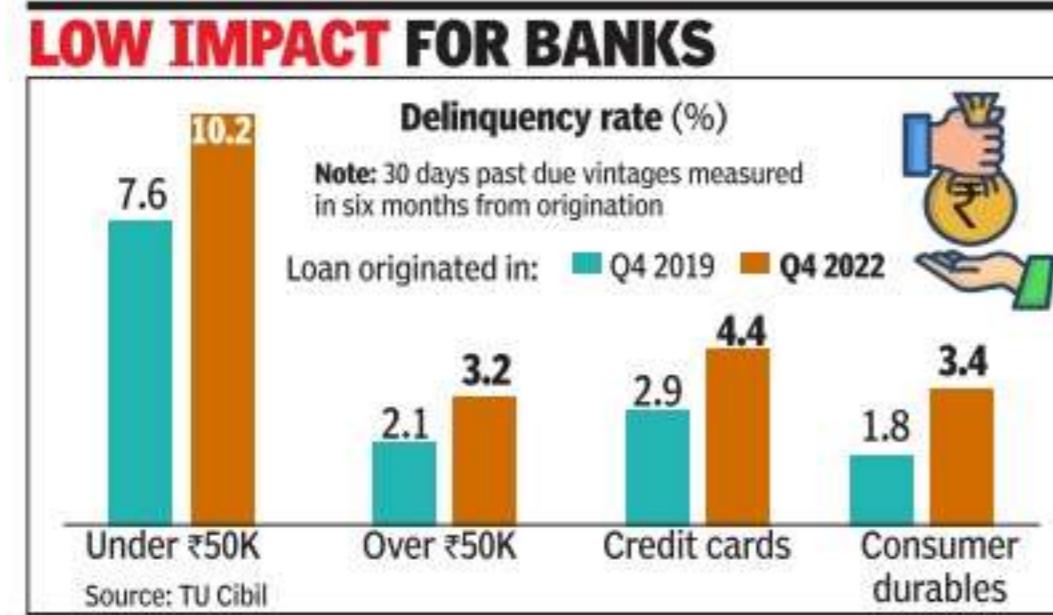
[Mayur.Shetty@timesgroup.com](#)

Mumbai: Personal loans under Rs 50,000 have been the fastest-growing segment in retail lending. However, they might also turn out to be a source of pain for lenders.

Borrowers of small-ticket personal loans are more likely to default — many of them are saddled with multiple loans with overdue payments, a study by credit information company TransUnion Cibil showed.

According to the study, since January 2022, small-ticket personal loans have accounted for approximately 25% of total new loans in volume. The share of credit-active individuals availing a small-ticket loan has increased to 8% in June 2023 from 3% in June 2019.

For consumers with at least one small-ticket loan, the delinquency rate was 5.4%, compared to 4.2% in Q2 2022. Despite this increase, delinquencies in this portfolio have had only a marginal impact on the overall retail loan book of lenders. In terms of



value, these loans represent only 0.3% of retail credit. This is because most bank lending to individuals is through home loans, auto loans, credit cards, and personal loans of over Rs 50,000.

"Even though delinquencies on small-ticket loans have a marginal impact on the personal loan portfolio, they need to be closely monitored, especially because consumers may prioritise other payment obligations ahead of personal loan payments, which may be a broader indicator of financial stress," TU Cibil said in its report.

There are also signs of

over-leverage among borrowers in this segment. In Q2 2023, approximately half (51%) of consumers who availed small-ticket loans had more than four credit products at the time of availing another new loan, compared to just 17% in that category in Q2 2019.

According to the data, delinquencies in all individual loan segments have improved except for personal loans and credit cards, where they have worsened. In personal loans, accounts with overdue payments of more than 90 days have increased to 0.84% from 0.44% last year. In credit cards, delinquencies have increased

to 1.63% from 1.46%.

The most significant improvement has been in loans against property, where delinquencies have dropped to 2.18% from 3.19%.

There has been a major decrease in the approval rate across all retail loan segments in the second quarter of FY23 compared to the year-ago period, indicating that either lenders have become more selective or loan applicants are less creditworthy.

The biggest decrease is in personal loans, where the approval rate has fallen from 25% in Q2FY22 to 18% in Q2FY23. In auto loans, only 36% of inquiries lead to sanctions, compared to 43% a year ago. In the case of home loans, which are secured debts, only 35% of credit seekers qualify, as opposed to 40% earlier.

The only segment that has shown improvement is consumer durable loans, where the approval rate has risen to 33% from 30% last year.

In terms of outstanding loans, the most significant increase in portfolio balances has been in two-wheeler loans and credit cards.

HC hears plea relating to SFIO powers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Bombay HC is hearing a petition to strike down Section 212 of the Companies Act, pertaining to the manner in which the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) is engaged by the government.

The section gives broad powers to the government to ask SFIO to investigate a company based on the government's opinion that it is in public interest or on request from any government department. The petition has been filed by a director of Birla Power Solutions, a Yash Birla company, which is facing probes for its failure to repay public funds. The HC has accepted the petitioner's request for a stay of proceedings in a Mumbai court till December 5.

UCO Bank asks staff to gift sweets to defaulters

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Public-sector banks typically name and shame defaulters through ads and picketing. Kolkata-based UCO Bank, however, has asked staff to distribute sweets during Diwali to top 10 defaulters in each branch to show that they are valued, a circular said.

Bank officials neither confirmed nor denied the circular till the time of going to press.

"It is essential to recognise that customers presently classified as NPA (non-performing asset) borrowers were once esteemed clients of the bank. Establishing a meaningful con-

nnection with these customers has the potential to bridge the divide that has developed over time. Such interactions may also foster a sense of empathy and harmony, motivating some borrowers to take steps toward settling their outstanding

DIWALI DEAL

accounts with the bank," the circular, issued by the bank's general manager in charge of recovery, said.

It noted that while relationship with the borrower deteriorates when an account turns into an NPA, not all of them are wilful defaulters, and many default due to unfortunate circumstances. "Conversely,

some cases have revealed that conflicts of ego between customers and bank officials alone have driven accounts into NPA status," the circular said.

The circular said the initiative to distribute sweets to top 10 defaulters aligns with the practices of peer public sector banks (PSBs). "Branch heads need to personally meet them, greet them on the occasion of Diwali and distribute them a sweet packet. Zonal heads are similarly advised to personally engage with and greet the top 10 NPA borrowers in their respective zones on the auspicious occasion of Diwali," the circular said.

For the December quarter, Cognizant expects its revenue in the range of \$4.6 billion to \$4.8 billion. TNN

At ₹8.4k cr, Indian billionaires give 59% more in FY23

Shiv Nadar Retains Most Generous Individual Tag With ₹5.6Cr Donation Per Day

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Big-hearted Indian billionaires gave away more of their wealth to charity in fiscal 2023 with 119 individuals cumulatively donating Rs 8,445 crore, up 59% in a year and 200% compared to three years ago.

According to EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023, the top 10 cumulatively donated Rs 5,806 crore in FY23, as against a combined donation of Rs 3,034 crore in the previous year.

Shiv Nadar, 78, retained the title of India's most generous individual for the third time in five years. Shiv Nadar & family made an annual donation of Rs 2,042 crore through the Shiv Nadar Foundation, which comes to Rs 5.6 crore per day. The founder-chairman of HCL Technologies — whose philanthropic endeavours have predominantly centered around arts & culture and education — contributed 76% more than



his donations in FY22. Wipro's Azim Premji, 78, in the second spot, made an annual donation of Rs 1,774 crore — a 267% increase year-on-year, and attributed to a significant 400% rise in dividend payments by Wipro in FY2023. This strategy employed by Premji enables trusts to benefit monetarily from shares, while Premji retains voting rights.

Naghma Mulla, CEO, EdelGive Foundation, said this is a record year for big philanthropy, adding the list

captures the essence of modern India's giving culture. "Wealth creation is important for economic development, while philanthropy is equally important for economic prosperity. I am enthusiastic about the surge in personal philanthropy in India. Cumulative personal donations have increased by 60% to reach Rs 4,958 crore, constituting 70% of the total donations in the list," said Mulla.

In the past five years, the number of donors contribu-

tions, channelled through the Reliance Foundation, are focused on enhancing the education and healthcare sectors.

Kumar Mangalam Birla & family figured in the fourth spot with a donation of Rs 287 crore. Notably, around Rs 75 crore of this contribution comes from their personal funds. On a global scale, the group's corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure surpasses Rs 500 crore.

At the fifth position, Gautam Adani & family of the Adani Group donated Rs 285 crore, while Anil Agarwal & family, in the 7th spot, made a donation of Rs 241 crore, marking a 46% increase over their contributions in the previous year. Also in the top 10 are the philanthropic couple Nandan Nilekani and Rohini Nilekani, with annual donations of Rs 189 crore and Rs 170 crore, respectively.

Zerodha's co-founder Nikhil Kamath, 37, is the youngest philanthropist in the list with the Kamath Brothers donating Rs 110 crore this year.

The under Re 1 pill became a household name for pain and fever relief during the pandemic, posting 30% sales growth to around Rs 350 crore last year. The move mirrors the trend of pharma biggies like Cipla, Piramal, Sun

and Mankind entering the wellness play

for faster growth, wider reach and higher visibility on the strength of the distribution network. Each of these com-

panies are delivering steady growth in the consumer healthcare portfolio, and registering revenues in the range of Rs 800-1,000 crore annually.

Typically, OTC medicines — those available without a doctor's prescription — are

dominated by immunity-building vitamins, skin ointments, lozenges and pain relief gels, and are growing at a robust 10-15% pace — one of the fastest growing segments in the pharma market.

At present, the Rs 400 crore Dolo brand is marketed under the strength of 650 mg and 500 mg. Under the OTC play, the company will market brand extensions including Dolo 500, Dolo Pain Relief Gel, Dolo Spray, Dolosils cough lozenges, and other products like skin ointments, nicotine gum and ORS. Under the consumer healthcare market, two segments — vitamins & supplements and gastro drugs — are sold the most, at about Rs 15,000 crore and Rs 12,000 crore annually.

Dolo maker eyes OTC foray with wellness product range

Rupali.Mukherjee
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Mumbai: Riding on the success of the widely-prescribed pain relief pill Dolo, Bengaluru-based Micro Labs is entering the high-growth over-the-counter (OTC) segment with wellness products.

To start with, the Rs 5,000 crore privately-held firm will shift a part of the portfolio from the 'legacy' brand Dolo to the OTC segment, development sources close to the

development told TOI. The under Re 1 pill became a household name for pain and fever relief during the pandemic, posting 30% sales growth to around Rs 350 crore last year. The move mirrors the trend of pharma biggies like Cipla, Piramal, Sun



A thought for today

We treat financial stability as non-negotiable

SHAKTIKANTA DAS

Credit & Risk

Households borrowing more to consume more is welcome. But India needs more savers

A common thread running through different phases of India's economic policy has been the dependence on domestic savings to grow, which has lowered the risk of financial instability. Within India, it is households that provide the bulk of savings. Given this backdrop, the recent trend in household savings raises questions. In absolute terms, gross financial savings of households continue to grow. However, the story is different in terms of savings in relation to GDP, the more important indicator.

Three trends stand out between 2018-19 and 2022-23. One, financial assets of households as a proportion of GDP have declined from 12% to 10.9%. Two, the financial liabilities have risen from 4.1% to 5.8%. Three, as a consequence of these trends, the net financial assets of households in 2022-23 were 5.1% of GDP, considerably lower than the historical average of 7.5%. To unpack these ratios, it would make sense to look at where the extra borrowing by households, mainly from banks, is going and the consequent economic impact.

Minutes of RBI's October monetary policy committee meeting show that the additional borrowing by households is going into physical assets such as housing, vehicles and consumer durables. Some members of MPC believe this is a positive development as it boosts private consumption, which constitutes around 60% of GDP. This makes sense because the durability of India's economic growth depends on stability in private consumption growth. However, there's another side to this story, which is the risks that banks are taking on. According to RBI, the annual retail credit growth in the last couple of years is 30%, of which secured retail credit has grown at 23%. During the same period, credit to other areas has grown at 12-14%.

This has prompted RBI to flag potential risks as it believes what we have seen is an "outlier level of growth". This leads back to the original approach to growth that India continues to follow, reliance on domestic savings. The development that will mitigate risks thrown up by the recent trend, without undermining its positive aspect, is an increase in disposable income across wider income groups. India's domestic savings rate is relatively high but there needs to be a faster expansion in the pool of savers. Once that trend is more deeply entrenched a lot of changes in consumption patterns across income groups will even out.

Dhaka's Volatile Again

Hasina has been great for Indo-Bangla ties but New Delhi needs political relationships beyond her

Continuing the positive momentum in India-Bangladesh ties, PM Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina inaugurated yet another clutch of development projects in Bangladesh, including the Agartala-Akhaura cross-border rail link. This comes alongside the election of Hasina's daughter Saima Wazed as the director of WHO's Southeast Asia Regional Office in New Delhi. Ties between New Delhi and Dhaka have been on a positive trajectory over the last decade. This has been primarily underpinned by Hasina's zero-tolerance policy towards anti-India militant groups operating from Bangladeshi soil.

However, there are some headwinds that New Delhi should take note of. First, as elections – expected in January – approach Bangladesh, the country is again becoming a battleground for external forces. The US has been applying pressure on Dhaka to ensure "free and fair elections", while China too has been trying to increase its footprint in Bangladesh.

This puts India in a tricky spot between an ally and a rival. Second, Bangladesh is facing serious economic woes, with the country's forex dipping to \$20 billion, barely enough for three months of imports. Add to this the rising cost of living and inflation touching 9.6% in September.

This is fueling public unrest as seen in the ongoing protest by garment factory workers, demanding a raise in minimum wages. Simultaneously, opposition BNP and its allies have been hitting the streets demanding the next elections be conducted under a neutral caretaker government. Plus, there are allegations against Hasina's government of targeting opposition leaders and workers through enforced disappearances and killings. All of this means that Bangladeshi politics is again becoming unpredictable. Thus, New Delhi would do well to broaden its political engagements in Dhaka. The goal should be to make India-Bangladesh ties politics-proof.

Choke de!

Dustin' Coffman is the star of Mumbai's latest lungbuster

Bachi Karkaria



If Air Quality Index is urban India's haunting tune, then 'AQI-on mila ke/lungs choke kar ke/chale nahi jaana' is the remix version of the 1944 classic crooned by smokey-voiced Zorabai. Dilli is still tops, but Mumbai follows suit. Its AQI has reached such disastrous levels that drastic curbs have been imposed on runaway real estate construction. Poetic justice: BMC has had to cull its biggest cash cow. Developers were allowed to stampede through the city to make up for the Covid slump, and sarkari agencies had milked them for this via commission etc. In fact, the builder-politician nexus had long replaced the underworld in ruining the city. Now it's payback time. The good news is that tough decisions have been taken. The bad news is that cities, like hell, are paved with good intentions.

Fat-cat builders occupy the penthouse of rule-breaking; they are unlikely to be deterred by the riot act warning them to comply or face a total Stop Work. Some 1,500 scrawny bakeries are Culprit No. 2, each using 500 kg of polluting firewood a day to supply the poor man's pav. In the same category are 88 Hindu crematoria, the dead ghoulily killing the living. The list is longer, but BMC is no Shri Herculeskar who can cleanse the Augean stables aka toxic AQI.

Ani the bigger polluter is the police! More particulate matter (PM) is spewed by the sarkari infrastructure being frenetically built as if there's no tomorrow. Ironically these connectors will encourage a bigger 'bumper' crop of vehicles further toxifying our tomorrow.

So, while Longfellow's 'Dust thou art to dust returnest' was not spoken of the soul, it has certainly returned to smother every surface of my home. Dealing with it was always fraught since *jhadoo-pochha-bartan* (sweeping-swabbing-utensils) is the limit of the remit of my part-time help; our old Calcutta-boy's *jhad-pochhi* (dust'n'wipe) is beyond the 'My way or the bye-bye' Mumbai ba!

(Unclearly, a 'bad heir day' is a pan-urban problem, not just that of a certain party. Actually, the entire opposition reels under the overwhelming 'PM' levels in political atmospherics.)

Alec Smart said: "Alleged Snooping: An Apple is again used to subvert the phone-privacy Eden."

Testing The South's Patience

The soon-to-be-formed 16th finance commission will navigate a disconcerting double blow for rich states, increasing their cross-subsidy for poor states while cutting their share of Parliament seats

Duvvuri Subbarao



The government will shortly appoint the next finance commission whose main task will be to determine how much of its tax pool the Centre must give away to states (vertical sharing) and how that divisible pool should be apportioned among states (horizontal sharing).

Currently, for every rupee it collects in taxes, the Centre gives away 41 paise to states. States will of course demand, as they always have, that the Centre should give away more on the argument that being on the frontlines, they can spend that money more efficiently. The Centre on its part will plead its inability to raise the share given its own expenditure commitments, particularly on defence and national security.

Even as we might see a testy debate, there is not much wriggle room here and the finance commission is unlikely to tinker with the existing formula.

Horizontal sharing of the divisible pool will likely turn out to be more contentious. For every rupee they contribute to the Centre's taxes, richer states like Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra get back less than a rupee while poorer states like Bihar and Jharkhand get more than a rupee.

Such cross-subsidisation of poorer states by richer ones is inevitable in a large and diverse country like ours, and has, in fact, been an accepted principle. The question is, are we hitting the limits of such cross-subsidisation?

There is already an emerging north-south divide on the economy front. Many headline numbers suggest that the southern states are doing better in terms of infrastructure, private investment, social indicators and rule of law, which has put them on a virtuous cycle of growth and prosperity and widened the north-south gap.

Given their urge to move up faster, how much more of cross-subsidisation will the southern states countenance? And for how much longer?

Add to this the looming delimitation that is due in 2026 based on updated population data. Over the last few decades, population growth rates in the southern states have declined more sharply than in the north. If as a result of that, the southern states lose their relative

share of Parliament seats, they will face the double whammy of reduced political clout combined with an open-ended commitment to cross-subsidisation.

This will be a complex political challenge beyond the remit of the finance commission. Resolving it will demand enlightened leadership at central and state levels that can look beyond politics and build a consensus around an optimal way forward.

Beyond its main task of recommendations on tax sharing, it's been an established practice for finance

said, 'Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach him to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.'

How can freebies be restrained? Given the state of politics in the country, it's unrealistic to expect all political parties to agree on a code of conduct. Though the PM has decreed the *revadi* culture, it's unlikely that even the Centre will take the initiative in this regard given its own political compulsions.

We will have the best chance of success if an apolitical body like the finance commission – which by the very nature of its job consults the Centre, states and other stakeholders – makes a specific recommendation in this regard.

● The second issue that the finance commission should engage with is the need for a fiscal council. The FRBM (fiscal responsibility and budget management) committee headed by NK Singh recommended the establishment of a such a council whose mandate will be making multi-year fiscal projections, preparing fiscal sustainability analysis, providing an independent assessment of the Centre's fiscal performance and compliance with fiscal rules, and recommending suitable changes to the fiscal strategy. In short, the expectation is that a fiscal council with such a wide remit will aid informed debate and enhance fiscal responsibility.

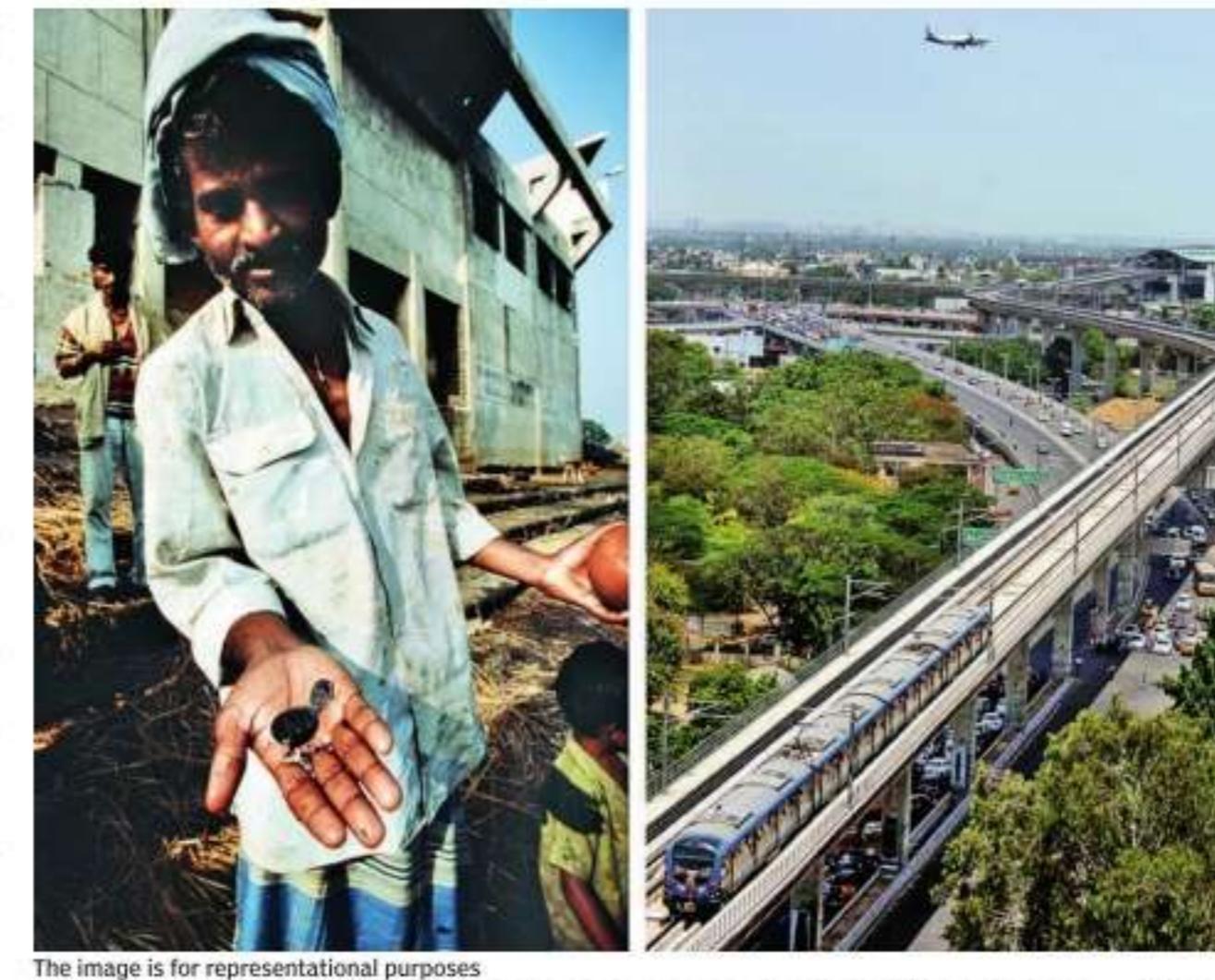
There is a contrarian view, to which I subscribe, that a putative fiscal council will add more to the noise than to the signal. We already have the FRBM Act as per which the government submits biannual statements to Parliament on its current and projected fiscal stance. Those statements have never triggered a substantive Parliament debate. Why should we expect that a fiscal council will produce better results?

Moreover, the existence of such a council will allow the finance ministry to shift the blame to the council, which in turn will potentially dilute the government's accountability.

Nevertheless, given the weight that the FRBM committee has put behind this recommendation of a fiscal council, it will be appropriate for the finance commission to examine it *de novo*.

It is better, as Keynes said, to be roughly right than be precisely wrong.

The writer, a former governor of the Reserve Bank of India, is currently a Senior Fellow at Yale Jackson School of Global Affairs



The image is for representational purposes

commissions to advise on issues in fiscal federalism that they think are important even if absent from their terms of reference. Invoking that precedent, I believe the next commission should focus on two issues.

● The first is the growing trend of freebies. Virtually all political parties are guilty on this count, some possibly more than others. In a poor country where millions struggle to make a decent livelihood, transfer payments to the most vulnerable groups are necessary, indeed even mandatory. But competitive populism like what is unfolding is late fiscally perilous, possibly even inimical to our long-term growth and welfare.

Freebies have an opportunity cost. The money spent on them could be spent on roads, education and health, which arguably would aid growth and welfare on a more sustainable basis than mere handouts. As Mao

The What, Who & How Of Maratha Quota

Maharashtra's panchayat polls on November 5 will be held amid a resurgent demand for Maratha reservations. A lowdown on the community's battle in the state

Nandita.Sengupta@timesgroup.com



The demand for a quota in government jobs and educational institutes for Marathas, about 32% of Maharashtra's population, started over 40 years ago. All major parties – BJP, NCP, Shiv Sena, Congress – support it. Ordinances (2014), legislations (2014, 2018) and recruitments (2014) to the effect have been stayed/cancelled by Bombay HC and the Supreme Court (2014, 2021). A review petition is pending in the Supreme Court.

The issue is how to accommodate the promised 16% quota – whether to breach the Supreme Court's ceiling of 50% or cut out a Maratha slice within the OBC pie. In the ongoing stir, the Shinde government has promised that a section of Marathas, those in Marathwada region, with documents that connect them to "Nizam-era", will receive Kunbi caste certificates.

● What was the trigger for the vandalism by protesters?

The 56-odd agitations since the first teip demand in 1981 have largely been peaceful. This time, protesters turned violent in districts Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (CSN), formerly Aurangabad, and Beed.

Maratha activist Manoj Jarange Patil began his indefinite fast on August 29 in his village Antarwaali Sarai in district Jalna. CSN, Beed and Jalna together with five other districts form the Marathwada region, an agrarian belt and Maharashtra's least developed.

Trouble started when police lathi-charged the peaceful Jalna protest on September 3. Politicians across parties swooped down to Jalna to commiserate with the injured and Jarange-Patil. Who ordered the lathi-charge is still a "mystery".

Jarange-Patil discontinued his fast on September 14 after the CM set up a five-member committee, led by former chief justice Sandeep Shinde, to review the demand to give Marathas in Marathwada Kunbi caste certificates within a month. When its term was extended by two months to December 24 – since it needed Telangana help to access "Nizam-era" records but Telangana bureaucracy is busy with the state polls –

Jarange-Patil saw betrayal and embarked on his second fast on October 25, which he ended on November 2.

Jarange-Patil demands Kunbi certificates regardless of documentation; CM Shinde has narrowed the qualification for a Kunbi certificate to those with "Nizam-era" documents, essentially those in Marathwada region, once under Hyderabad state.

● Why would Marathas get Kunbi caste certificates?

Kunbis are recognised as OBC (class interchanges with caste) in both state and central lists. Marathas

are listed as OBC in Telangana and Karnataka, which border Marathwada. In Maharashtra, Marathas are in the general category, some avail 10% EWS quota benefits.

● In 1990, to blunt the opposition to 27% OBC reservation that had to be implemented as per Mandal, then CM Sharad Pawar had proposed a 30% reservation for the economically backward, which would include Marathas since their social and political capital as an intermediate caste/class had not fetched them sufficient representation in government. Many were poor. Together with the constitutional 34% quotas to SC/STs/nomadic tribes etc, the total would be 90%.

fashion themselves as a warrior class, are listed as OBC in Telangana and Karnataka, which border Marathwada. In Maharashtra, Marathas are in the general category, some avail 10% EWS quota benefits.

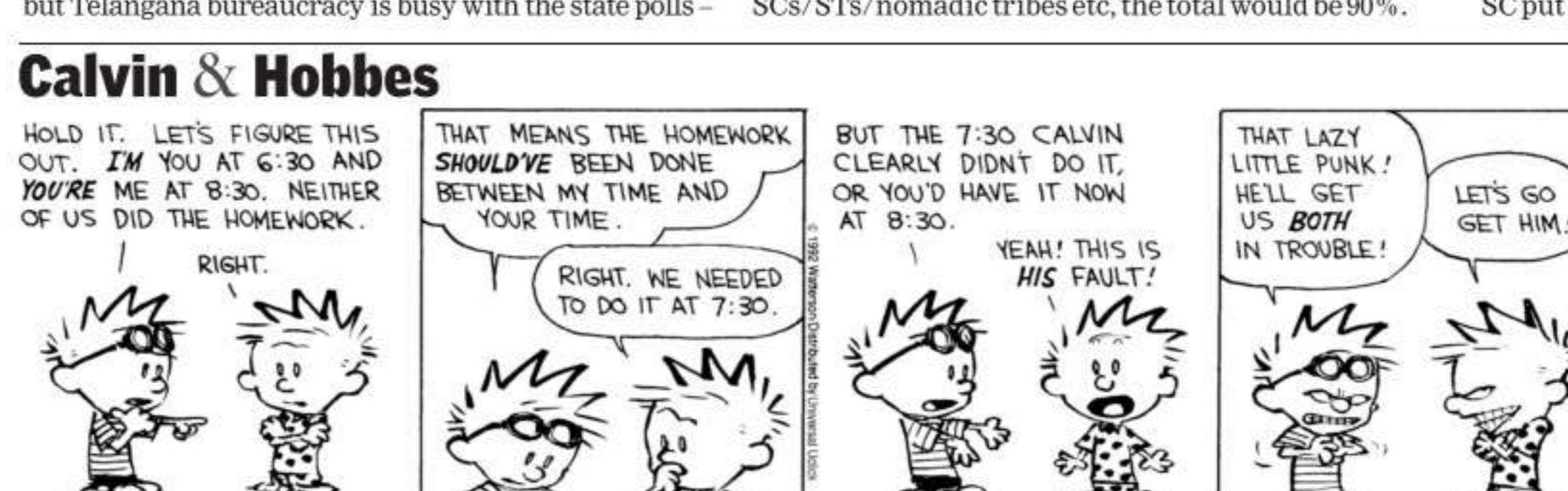
● In 1990, to blunt the opposition to 27% OBC reservation that had to be implemented as per Mandal, then CM Sharad Pawar had proposed a 30% reservation for the economically backward, which would include Marathas since their social and political capital as an intermediate caste/class had not fetched them sufficient representation in government. Many were poor. Together with the constitutional 34% quotas to SC/STs/nomadic tribes etc, the total would be 90%.

● Is Marathwada a poor region?

The disparity between coastal districts of Konkan region (urbanised, prosperous, with Mumbai) and western Maharashtra (Pune, Baramati, Kolhapur, Sangli, Satara: the sugar, sugarcane and cooperatives belt), and Vidarbha and drought-prone Marathwada is stark. For 2021-22, gross district domestic produce for the western regions was ₹18.8 lakh crore, for Marathwada ₹3.5 lakh crore. Konkan contributes over 40% of GSDP, Marathwada 9%. Farmer suicides, water distress ail Marathwada.

● What are the political implications of the stir now, with Janla as epicentre?

On November 5, Maharashtra will hold statewide gram panchayat polls. These will be the first elections after NCP split and Ajit Pawar joined the Sena (Shinde-BJP) government. Though not fought under party symbols, newbie BRS will be on the ground. Telangana CM KCR has campaigned in Marathwada on water and farmer distress, championing his successful farmer schemes in Telangana, also drought-prone. In Marathwada, over 400 netas and workers have joined BRS from NCP, Sena, Congress and BJP. Local body elections in Maharashtra have been on hold for two years over the state's attempt to enforce 27% OBC reservation, which SC put on hold; hearings are slated for November.



Bridging The Gap, From Pickle To Perfection

Jaya Row

Imagine a freshly made pickle – it's sharp and intense. It has all the ingredients that a ready-to-eat pickle has but lacks the mellow taste. As it ages, it matures into something truly delicious. In the same way, when you gain knowledge, you may have the answers to many situations. But there are rough edges to your personality. You may speak words of wisdom. You are not living them.

You know you should exercise, eat healthy food, and be unselfish, but the challenge is putting that knowledge into action. You get distracted by the allure of instant pleasure. This gap between what you know and what you should do is not insurmountable.

Becoming wise is a journey. It involves three phases. The first stage is

shravana, gaining information, like reading a book or watching a video. The second phase is *manana*, reflection, thinking, contemplating on these ideas, experimenting with them. Finally, the third phase is *nidhidhyasana*, living them. This is when you truly transform into a better person. The intake of knowledge is easy; reflection takes effort, but applying it in life is the real challenge.

You may have lived with the attitude of taking, feeling a sense of separateness from people and focusing on fleeting pleasures. Consider a different approach – the joy of giving, loving others, and rising to emotional thrills and intellectual delights. You will grow into a remarkable personality. The final plunge is to the spiritual

realm. You will then see the futility of worldly pursuits, and not be carried away by the glitter of transitory joys. You will seek infinite happiness and reach Enlightenment.

Long before you take on the world, you must win against your deadliest opponent – *you*. You have imposed limitations on yourself. You worry about failing, and do not even consider the possibility of winning. Using golf terminology, you have lost your swing.

Find purpose. What are you living for? Life cannot be just growing, getting a job, going on a few vacations, growing old and dying. In the end you want meaning in life. More zest, energy, vitality. You want to wake up excited, with a thirst for life you haven't felt since childhood.



THE SPEAKING TREE

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AROUND THE WORLD THIS WEEK

New type of AI chip by China?

In a recent study, Chinese researchers claim to have developed a chip that outperforms existing high-performance AI chips in terms of speed and energy efficiency, particularly in tasks like image recognition and autonomous driving. While this chip is not an immediate replacement for those found in computers and smartphones, it holds potential for integration into wearable devices, electric vehicles, and smart factories. The researchers, in their publication in the journal Nature, assert that this advancement could bolster China's competitiveness in widespread artificial intelligence applications. This development is driven by China's efforts to narrow the AI technology gap with the United States, which has imposed restrictions on China's access to advanced technology, including advanced chips. The newly introduced chip, named the All-Analogue Chip Combining Electronics and Light (ACCEL), operates on light-based principles and utilises photons, elementary particles, for computation and information transmission, resulting in enhanced computing speed. While the concept of light-based chips is not novel, current chips primarily rely on electric current for calculations due to the challenges in controlling photons.

CAREER LADDER FOR WOMEN

Never impose an expiry date on your dreams & aspirations

Neethu George

Growing up, I was always reminded of the importance of financial independence for a woman. A stable job with a monthly income was emphasised as the ultimate goal of education. Consequently, my decision to pursue a degree in engineering was simply to attain that. However, a decade after completion of my Bachelor's in technology, I have come a long way from these perceptions about what my career means to me.

When I joined my first job after graduation, I was thrilled to have checked the box of 'financial independence'. However, within a few months, I realised that true happiness came from being passionate about what one does every day and started looking beyond financial independence. My decision to resign and pursue higher studies was far from easy, but it marked the first step in my journey to the fulfilling and rewarding career I now have at Hitachi Energy.

It was during my Master's degree that I was introduced to research through an internship at Hitachi Energy. I found genuine joy in my work and found myself eagerly looking forward to Monday mornings. Today, nearly a decade later, I am a power system researcher at Hitachi Energy contributing to technology development of cutting-edge solutions for the electric power grid. I have numerous publications and patents to my name and was also awarded the Young Woman Engineer award 2022 by IET India for my contributions and potential to inspire fellow women engineers.

My advice to young women today is simple: do not confine yourselves by fitting into the outdated notions of "careers suitable for women" or "a job for financial independence". Explore your options and settle only for a career that ignites your passion. Embrace continuous learning, growth and self-improvement. When I decided to pursue a PhD sponsored by my organisation two years ago, not surprisingly, I was faced with several questions like "but you already have a good job", "why now, when you have a family to take care of", etc. However, I refused to let go of my dreams. To borrow from a movie reference, let us not impose an expiry date on our dreams and aspirations.

Neethu George is senior R&D engineer at Hitachi Energy

PATENT PATHFINDERS
Turning Work into Wonders

Indians filing patents have surged in the past decade, a reflection of how innovative the local ecosystem is becoming. Today, we are starting a column where patent holders write about their work, and what it requires to be innovative.

At NetApp, we had a whole new problem space open up when the company strategy became hybrid cloud from on-prem earlier. Software that worked really well on-prem required large scale changes to work optimally in the cloud. Let's take an example. The cloud is known for its grow-on-demand and pay-as-you-go models. On-prem enterprise storage software typically works with disks that come in fixed sizes. Adapting storage software to work with cloud-disks that can grow on demand was a problem to solve, and the first conversation around this happened in the NetApp Bengaluru cafeteria over coffee with two of my colleagues where we developed a thorough understanding of the problem. This was followed up by more whiteboard discussions where we vetted possible solutions before finalising on something that could be really made to work. The solution turned out to be ingenious and elegant.

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Eventually, as the software was getting ready to be shipped, the solution was patented. I cannot over-emphasise the teamwork that happened over the life-cycle of the patent. In fact, most patents that I have come across have more than one inventor. So too with this one. We went on to look for more

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problems in cloud adaptation and solved them in a similar manner. We have filed six patents in this area and all inventors happen to be from NetApp Bengaluru.

Going further back, an opportunity came up with the arrival of solid state disks (SSDs) which were a tremendous improvement over the mechanical hard disk drives (HDDs) in terms of performance and capacity. But SSDs have a limitation that they come with limited write-cycles, that is, the number of times they can be erased and written to is fixed and could be fairly low in certain types of SSDs. We figured that we could use insights from the nature of data that is getting written to the SSDs and combine that with how SSDs themselves

manage wear-out, to significantly enhance the life of SSDs. The essence of this invention lies in segregating short and long lived data while writing, and getting the SSD vendors to expose mechanisms through which multiple concurrent streams of data could be sent to it. This innovation not only got us a few patents, but it was also used to enhance how software interacts with SSDs.

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The very first idea that I had put up for patenting did not meet NetApp's criteria. There was another recent one, where the solution required a lot of hard work and was really cool, but at the time of internal scrutiny someone pointed to a whitepaper which seemed to have described something similar, thus no patent was filed for it. These did not in any way deter me from taking up new challenges.

PC Musthafa's company has innovated a slew of products since it pioneered packaged idli/dosa batter, and has used information technology to great effect

ID RUNS ON IT, & LOTS OF ENGINEERING

Sindhu.Hariharan@timesgroup.com



Founders: (L-R) Jafar TK, Shamsudeen TK, Abdul Nazer, PC Musthafa, and Noushad TD

Leading butter on bread can be messy, especially for children. PC Musthafa saw his young son one day struggle with this. But he had also noticed that the boy could apply glue on paper with ease. That's when the ID Fresh Food co-founder felt a marriage of design principles was possible here – a glue stick-like butter stick. They worked on it, and launched it recently. You just need to keep the butter stick outside the refrigerator for some time to soften the butter, then remove the top lid and twist the bottom knob clockwise. The butter flows out of the tiny holes at the bottom, allowing you to spread it evenly. The stick is refillable.

The first lot has been sold out, says chief marketing officer Rahul Gandhi.

Engineering innovative products like these, as also information technology (IT), have been core to the success of the company, founded 18 years ago and whose products are now widely available across India, West Asia and the US. "ID runs on IT," says Musthafa, adding that entrepreneurship must be about discovering a new way of doing things. Listening to customers, he says, is also crucial. "We recently gave iPhones to customers who helped us identify the biggest problems with our products," he adds.

The company's best-known design innovation is its idli/dosa batter packaging. It's a zip-lock package which, when opened, becomes a vessel that can be stored in the refrigerator. It also solved the problem of contamination that would happen when lying on store shelves.

Then there's the easy-to-use coffee decoction standee pouch, with a specially designed nozzle that pours the right quantity of the freshly brewed liquid. And there's the vada batter package that has a nozzle with a cutter that allows you to squeeze gently and get a perfect-sized ring.

For batter production, the focus has been to achieve the quality of the stone wet grinder, but with the scale of modern machinery. Musthafa says Germans are the most innovative in food processing, but they don't eat idli/dosa. So, his team went to Germany, and brought from there a mustard-making machine. Unlike mustard, batter requires blades capable of finely grinding particles to achieve a perfect, smooth consistency. "To achieve that, we employed a process of customising the blades through various permutations and combinations," Musthafa says.

Similarly, for ID's popular ready-to-heat Malabar parotta, the company adapted a pastry-making machine from Greece. "We used thin sheet making technology. And then our in-house team played a pivotal role in developing the methods for layer-making and spindling," Musthafa says.

In our monthly operations, our algorithm plays a pivotal role by providing a six-week forecast for future demand, breaking it down to a day+SKU level. We have designed our technology solutions to have humans in the loop, and thus these projections are reviewed and corrected if necessary by our experienced field sales team. Our future plans include expanding our predictions to the store/SKU/day level. Our solution is the result of a collaborative effort, combining our in-house expertise with external data science solution providers.

Sujeeth Ravindran | CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER



Employee filling the idli/dosa batter

Accurate demand forecasting

IT and digital technologies have been central to supply chain management. In the early days, a very high proportion of its perishable products would be wasted because of lack of demand prediction capabilities. Today, wastage is less than 1%, thanks to algorithms that make demand forecasting highly accurate for each day and product.

Sujeeth Ravindran, chief technology officer, says that for a product that uses no preservatives, needs to be delivered fresh, and for which wastage needs to be kept to a minimum, a traditional distribution system does not work. "We have put all the tech components in place to move from an instinct-driven business to a data-driven one," he says. ID Fresh, he says, was among the first of the new-age consumer enterprises to implement Salesforce automation systems and ERP. "This gave us shop-level and day-level transaction details, and this data is now helping us efficiently plan sourcing, production, and distribution," he says.

The distribution centres do not even

have storage. "The supply chain is a zero inventory model. And that's a big achievement," says Musthafa, who did computer science from NIT Calicut, worked at Manhattan Associates, Motorola and Citibank, and then did the MBA programme at IIM Bangalore, during which the idea of starting an idli/dosa batter business emerged.

New innovation team

Efforts are now on to accelerate innovation. Till now, innovations were largely driven by Musthafa, and somewhat ad hoc. The company is now setting up a separate team of 6-7 people for new product development and innovation. The team will be led by Enakshi Dasgupta, who has spent 15 years in the FMCG industry in organisations such as Grupo Bimbo (Modern Foods), Avon, and Godfrey Phillips. ID, Musthafa says, doesn't simply see itself as a food company. "We are an organisation driven by a noble purpose – to offer nourishing food solutions free from chemicals and preservatives, making life easier for all while promoting healthier eating habits."

Harman's Ggn 5G testing lab serves the world



Sharad Kohli | TNN

reading number plates and tracing the movement of cars in a city, or cameras at traffic junctions figuring out how much time it will take for the traffic to clear. 5G private networks, which allows the spectrum owner to provide restricted access, are expected to power the growth of many more connected devices and enable the building of smart cities, smart stadia, and smart parking.

The possibilities are endless. And every journey begins in the lab.

Test & verify

The Gurgaon lab has a private network interoperability lab & experience centre incorporating extensive network spectrum as well as device testing tools, alongside simulation architecture to trial any 5G-compatible device. The facility enables device manufacturers, chipmakers, telecom operators, service providers, telcos and others to carry out a slew of protocol and functional tests, while enabling them to thoroughly authenticate and assess applications in an actual 5G radio environment before they enter the market.

As many as four devices can be tested together in one of the lab's chambers.

Abhishek Chattopadhyay, associate director of software development, says they have two big chambers for testing, and these can do everything that can be done in the US.

"We started the journey last year when we did a tie-up with AT&T in the US. Any device that goes through our network, we certify it. We created a replica of their US lab here, a mini lab. So, instead of taking devices to those labs, which are very costly, we can test those devices in our labs.

Ajit Singh

HEAD, COMMUNICATIONS, HARMAN DTS

There's a simulator box that completely simulates the 5G network. "Suppose you take your device to a 5G network, and move from one cell to another, that entire scenario can be simulated in the box. And we put the device in a shielding chamber to avoid any radiation or interference while testing," says Abhishek.



For private 5G, there is no simulator – the 5G network is real. Since private 5G is for smaller areas, like a stadium or hospital, small cells with shorter ranges are sufficient.

The lab is also capable of validating end-to-end interoperability of the network, without the need for simulators. It supervises operations for private networks, where there is a requirement for keeping track of – and accounting for – different SIMs.

How SSDs & cloud got me multiple patents

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The 5G test lab assists in verifying medical devices from both the connectivity and performance perspectives, to empower vital use cases in robotic surgery, connected care, and virtual reality-based therapy.

In manufacturing, 5G promises hassle-free connectivity of smart-factory equipment. Harman's 'IoT in a Box' – powered by digital twins and edge AI – is a low-code IoT platform that allows machines to communicate with enterprise applications, and vice-versa.

In communication, telcos are looking to actualise use cases of enhanced mobile broadband (EMBB) while also launching 5G-based connected CPEs (customer premise equipment) like wi-fi router and wi-fi hotspot. 5G is expected to bring transformational video AI use cases, such as

the lab is also capable of validating end-to-end interoperability of the network, without the need for simulators. It supervises operations for private networks, where there is a requirement for keeping track of – and accounting for – different SIMs.



TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023

A DAY WITHOUT LAUGHTER
IS A DAY WASTED
— CHARLIE CHAPLIN



ANGELINA JOLIE SLAMS BOMBINGS IN GAZA, SAYS WORLD LEADERS
'COMPLICIT IN THESE CRIMES', CAN'T JUSTIFY INNOCENT LIVES LOST

SCARLETT JOHANSSON TAKES LEGAL ACTION AGAINST AI APP
THAT RIPPED OFF HER LIKENESS IN ONLINE ADVERTISEMENT

Pressure on Israel to pause war as Gaza toll crosses 9k

Hamas Says 3,700+ Kids Among Dead; Biden Suggests Humanitarian Halt As Arab Nations Express Unease; Bibi Says Israel At 'Height Of Battle' At Gaza City

Israeli troops fought with Hamas militants on the edges of Gaza City on Thursday, as the Palestinian death toll rose above 9,000. With no end in sight after nearly four weeks of war, US and Arab leaders raised pressure on Israel to ease its siege and at least briefly halt its attacks in order to aid civilians. US secretary of State Antony Blinken was heading to the region for talks Friday in Israel and Jordan, after President Joe Biden suggested a humanitarian "pause" in the Gaza fighting to let in aid for Palestinians and let out foreign nationals. Israel did not immediately respond to Biden's remarks. PM Benjamin Netanyahu has previously ruled out a cease-fire, vowing to destroy Hamas rule in the Gaza Strip after its bloody Oct. 7 rampage in southern Israel in which the militants killed over 1,400 civilians and took some 240 people captive.

Arab countries, including those allied with the US and at peace with Israel, have expressed mounting unease with the war. Jordan recalled its ambassador from Israel and told Israel's envoy to remain out of the country until there's a halt to the war and the "humanitarian



MORE FLEE GAZA: Several more foreigners and dual nationals fled war-torn Gaza for Egypt under a humanitarian deal. At least 335 foreign passport holders left Wednesday and about another 100 left Thursday

Blinken on way to Israel to push for pauses

Secretary of state Antony Blinken will urge the Israeli government to agree to a series of brief cessations of military operations in Gaza to allow for hostages to be released safely and for humanitarian aid to be distributed, White House officials said on Thursday. The message comes as President Biden revealed on Wednesday that PM Netanyahu of Israel had previously agreed to half shelling briefly on Oct. 20 to allow for the release of two Americans. The push for "humanitarian pauses" is one of several subjects Blinken will raise with Netanyahu and other officials when he arrives in Israel on Friday. Before departing, Blinken said on Thursday that he would ask Israel to take "concrete steps" to minimize harm to civilians in Gaza. NYT

an catastrophe" it is causing. In Egypt, which has had ties with Israel for decades, protesters rallied in cities chanting "Death to Israel". A parliamentary committee in Tunisia

advanced a draft law that would criminalise normalization with Israel. In Morocco and Bahrain, activists are demanding the reversal of agreements that formalise ties with Israel.

and at least 777 people hurt. Israel, which accuses Hamas of hiding behind civilians, said it killed two Hamas military leaders in Jabalia. It singled out Ibrahim Biari, a commander it described as a central figure in the attacks, and said "a large number of terrorists who were with him were killed." A Hamas spokesman denied that a Hamas commander had been in the area. AGENCIES

At least 9,061 Palestinians have been killed in the war, the Hamas-run Gaza health ministry said. More than 3,700 children among them have been killed in 25 days of fighting.

Israeli forces have pushed further into Gaza City in their assault on Hamas in the north of the Gaza Strip. Netanyahu said on Thursday, but they faced resistance from militant hit-and-run attacks from underground tunnels. "We're at the height of the battle. We've had impressive successes and have passed the outskirts of Gaza City. We are advancing," Netanyahu said in a statement. He gave no further details. Israeli military chief Lieutenant-General Herzi Halevi said in a televised statement: "Our forces are now in the heart of a ground operation in the northern Gaza Strip." Brigadier General Iddo Mizrahi, chief of Israel's military engineers, said troops were in a first stage of opening access routes in Gaza but were encountering mines and booby-traps. Hamas and allied Islamic Jihad fighters were emerging from tunnels to fire at tanks, then disappearing back into the network, residents said and videos from both groups showed. REUTERS & AP

Sunak unveils 'landmark' deal on safety testing of new AI models

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Thursday said that like-minded governments and artificial intelligence companies had reached agreement on testing new AI models before they were released.

Sunak is hosting a 2-day AI Safety Summit where on Wednesday he secured China's backing for an international effort to manage the risks of the technology.

On Thursday, Sunak announced a further "landmark agreement" with "like-minded governments

and AI companies." A list of the countries that had signed up to the safety testing collaboration did not include China, whose representatives were not included in the second day of talks. Representatives from the US, EU, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Canada and Australia were involved in the talks.

Asked why China had not been invited to discuss AI model testing, Sunak said it had been right to invite China to some parts of the summit, in line with Britain's policy to engage with China where possible but also protect against risks. REUTERS

Pak to hold delayed elections on Feb 8

Islamabad: Pakistan will hold delayed national elections on February 8 next year; the election commission said Thursday, as the country grapples with overlapping political, economic and security crises.

"It was unanimously decided that the election will be held on Thursday, February 8," the Election Commission Pakistan (ECP) said, after its members met with President Arif Alvi. The president's office confirmed the date in a statement.

A caretaker government has been running the South Asian country since parliament was dissolved on August 9. Polls were supposed to have taken place within 90 days of parliament's dissolution but the ECP said it needed time to redraw constituency boundaries following the latest census. The announcement comes after the Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the commission and the president to agree a date before the next hearing on Friday. AFP



FORCED TO FLEE

Afghans swamp Pak border amid migrant crackdown

Thousands of people swamped Pakistan's main northwestern border crossing seeking to cross into Afghanistan on Thursday, a day after the government's deadline expired for undocumented foreigners to leave or face expulsion. Pakistani authorities began rounding up undocumented foreigners, most of them Afghans, hours before Wednesday's deadline. More than 24,000 Afghans crossed the northwestern Torkham crossing into Afghanistan on Wednesday alone. REUTERS

Report: China, US to discuss N-arms control ahead of Xi-Biden meet

China and the US will discuss nuclear arms control next week, the first such talks since the Obama administration, Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday.

China's foreign ministry said on Monday after a visit by foreign minister Wang Yi to Washington that the two countries would hold "consultations on arms control and non-proliferation" in the coming days, as well as separate talks on maritime affairs and other issues.

Those arms talks would be led on Monday by Mallory Stewart, a top state department official, and Sun Xiaobo, the head of the arms-control department at China's foreign ministry. The US department and China's embassy in Washington didn't respond on the timing of the talks. The arms talks would occur before a likely meet between Joe Biden and Xi Jinping in San Francisco in November, an official said. REUTERS

Putin signs law revoking nuclear test ban treaty

Moscow: President Putin on Thursday signed a bill revoking Russia's ratification of a global nuclear test ban, a move that Moscow said was needed to establish parity with the US. Putin has said that rescinding the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, also known as the CTBT, would "mirror" the stand taken by the US, which has signed but not ratified the nuclear test ban.

Aus woman held for fatal mushroom meal: Australian police arrested the woman at the centre of a mushroom meal mystery that left three people dead and a local preacher fighting for his life. The arrest of Erin Patterson is the latest twist in a saga that has gripped the nation. Deaths from eating mushrooms are relatively rare in the country, which has several species, including the "death cap" mushroom, that are dangerous enough to kill a human. REUTERS

AROUND THE WORLD

Beatles' last song out, Lennon voice powered by AI



'NOW & THEN'

The final Beatles recording is here. Titled "Now and Then", the almost impossible-to-believe track is four minutes and eight seconds of the first and only original Beatles recording of the 21st century. First written and sung by Lennon in 1978, the song was

Lebanon's Hezbollah hits 19 Israeli posts; Israel retaliates with 'broad assault'

The Israeli military said it targeted Lebanon's Hezbollah with a "broad assault" on Thursday, as the Iran-backed militant group said it had attacked 19 Israeli positions simultaneously. Hezbollah said its fighters "simultaneously attacked 19 Israeli military positions and points with guided missiles, artillery shelling and other weapons". In response, Israeli "warplanes and helicopters attacked targets of the Hezbollah terror organisation, together with attacks with artillery and tank fire", an Israeli military statement said. Hezbollah fighters have been exchanging fire with Israeli forces across the border since Hamas and Israel went to war on Oct. 7, in the deadliest escalation at the frontier since a 2006 war. Hezbollah leader is due on Friday to deliver his first speech since the onset of the violence. REUTERS

2 days of Israeli strikes leave vast destruction

Rescue efforts pressed ahead on Thursday after two days of Israeli air strikes decimated a densely populated neighbourhood of northern Gaza, and international criticism mounted over the casualties caused by Israel's bombardment. Gaza's Hamas-run media office said at least 195 Palestinians were killed in the two hits on Tuesday and Wednesday. Israel said it killed two Hamas commanders in Jabalia camp



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TIMES SPORT



THIS BIRD HAS FLOWN: Manchester United's Marcus Rashford (C) heads away a Newcastle corner kick during the League Cup fourth round match at Old Trafford

Devils in a dark place

United Descend Deeper Into Crisis After Humbling League Cup Defeat

Manchester: Manchester United's season descended deeper into crisis after a 3-0 home loss against Newcastle ended their defence of the League Cup and heaped more pressure on manager Erik ten Hag.

Defeat in the round-of-16 game was United's eighth loss in all competitions this season and the latest blow for English soccer's most storied club.

"It is below the standards everyone expects from Manchester United. It is not good enough by far," Ten Hag said. "We have to put it right. I take responsibility for it. My team is not performing. I have to share it with my players, but I am responsible."

The League Cup may not be a priority for a club of United's stature, but it provided Ten Hag's finest moment in the job when in February he led the team to the trophy by beating Newcastle at Wembley Stadium and ended its six-year wait for silverware. That is a distant memory as United's season continues to slide.

United suffered a 3-0 loss at home to Manchester City in the Premier League on Sunday and Saudi-backed

Newcastle's repeat of that scoreline raises further questions for Ten Hag.

The Dutch coach, who won three league titles with Ajax, was mocked by Newcastle's fans throughout the game as they chanted that he would be fired in the morning. While there has been no suggestion Ten Hag's position is under threat, United's poor form is of growing concern.

After the game he described himself as "a fighter" adding he was confident he would overcome it. "At all my clubs I have done it and also last year here I did it as well, but at this moment we are in a bad place," he said. "I see it as a challenge."

Newcastle was too much of a challenge on Wednesday as first-half goals from substitute Miguel Almiron and Lewis Hall put the visitors in control by the break and Joe Willock completed the scoring after an hour.

Defeat came despite Ten Hag naming a starting lineup that had cost around half a billion dollars — even without \$82 million off-season signing Rasmus Hojlund, as well as Bruno Fernandes and Marcus Rashford. By

the time those players were called for in an attempt to turn the game around in the second half, Ten Hag had fielded around \$720 million of talent. It made little difference to the outcome. "As a team we are not good enough and whatever the reasons are, it is no space for excuses," said Ten Hag.

Newcastle now travel to Chelsea in the quarterfinals.

Chelsea put their troubles in the league behind them with a 2-0 win against second division Blackburn. Everton are also finding joy in this competition. They saw off Burnley 3-0 at Goodison Park and now face Fulham in the quarterfinals.

Hammers beat Arsenal, face Liverpool

Darwin Nunez scored a 70th-minute winner as Liverpool won 2-1 at Bournemouth. Jurgen Klopp's team won the competition in 2022 and is back in the hunt. Liverpool next host West Ham, who beat Arsenal 3-1. There will be a team from outside of the Premier League in the semifinals after 3rd-div Port Vale was drawn against 2nd-tier Middlesbrough. AP

SOUR EXIT FOR BAYERN MUNICH AT SAARBRUECKEN

Saarbruecken: Third-tier Saarbruecken stunned Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich 2-1 with a last-gasp winner on Wednesday to dump them out of the German Cup in the second round.

Marcel Gaus netted the winner for the hosts deep into second-half stoppage time to complete a sensational comeback and trigger wild celebrations.

Bayern, who last lifted the trophy in 2020, had taken a first-half lead through Thomas Mueller before Saarbruecken levelled in first-half added time. "This is a brutal blow for us," said Mueller. "To be eliminated for the third time in the second round of the Cup is not what we strive for. We have to congratulate Saarbruecken for their fight. A bit of luck is also part of it."

Neymar has ACL surgery, likely to miss Copa America next June

Sao Paulo: Brazil forward Neymar went through ACL and meniscus surgery on Thursday at a hospital in the city of Belo Horizonte, local media reported. The procedure was performed by national team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar. Neymar's surgery took four hours. The recovery is expected to take between six and 12 months. He is likely to miss the next Copa America, which will be played in the United States in June. AGENCE

Swiatek takes care of error-prone Gauff

Cancun: US Open champion Coco Gauff double-faulted four times in a row while serving for the second set and wound up losing 6-0, 7-5 to four-time major title winner Iga Swiatek in round-robin action at the WTA Finals on a windy Wednesday night.

"A tough day in the office for me," said Gauff. "I mentally didn't stay in it when I was serving for it."

She said the wind didn't help things, nor did a recent break of about two weeks without serving because of a shoulder injury. "I have done well throughout the year, serving well," the third-seeded Gauff said, "so I'm not going to let to let ... (a) bad two games define how I serve."

There were plenty of empty seats at the temporary hard court — and Swiatek noticed.

"It's a shame that we don't have a full stadium," she said afterward. "Hopefully for the future, there's not going to be any more situation like that, and they're going to work to improve that," the second-seeded Swiatek said.

The WTA's decision to host the event in Cancun was not announced until September.

The two who will advance to the semis from this group will be determined Friday, when Swiatek (who is 2-0 so far) faces Jabeur (1-1), and Gauff (1-1) meets Vondrousova (0-2). AP



JABEUR TO DONATE PRIZE MONEY TO PALESTINIANS

Cancun: In the other singles match on Day 4 at the season-ending championship, three-time major runner-up Ons Jabeur defeated Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova 6-4, 6-3. Jabeur lost to Vondrousova at the All England Club in July.

Jabeur, a Tunisian who was the first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam singles final, told the crowd after her win she will donate part of her prize money "to help the Palestinians. ... It is not a political message. It is humanity. I want peace."

She choked back tears. "I am very happy with the win, but I haven't been happy lately," said the only Arabic woman to reach a Grand Slam final. "The situation in the world doesn't make me happy," Jabeur added as she broke down in tears.

Djokovic stays on track

Paris: Novak Djokovic stayed on track for the year-end No. 1 ranking for a record eighth time by beating Tomas Martin Etcheverry 6-3, 6-2 in the second round of the Paris Masters. Grigor Dimitrov eased into the quarters with a 6-2, 6-2 over Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik.

Djokovic had racked up 500 more points than Alcaraz this season before Paris. There are 1,000 points for the winner. "My greatest motivation is still love for the game," Djokovic said. "And then, I always have goals."

Sinner pulls out after late finish

Italian Jannik Sinner has withdrawn from the Paris Masters after his second round

Was checking my nails: Daniil Medvedev denies making an obscene gesture

Daniil Medvedev denied making an obscene gesture towards the crowd. The World No. 3 walked off court after his loss to Dimitrov, examining his hand before pointing his middle finger at the stands. "No, I didn't (middle finger the crowd). I just checked my nails," he said.

"Why would I do that to this beautiful Paris crowd?" AGENCE

ACTION TODAY

CRICKET: WC, Ned vs Afg, 2 pm (Star) **FOOTBALL:** I League: Sreenidi vs Kashi, 4.30 pm; MSC vs Shillong, 7 pm (Fancode, Eurosport); ISL Odisha vs NEU, 8 pm (Jio); La Liga, Las Palmas vs Atletico, 1.30 am Saturday (Jio); French League, PSG vs Montpellier, 1.30 am Saturday (Jio) **TENNIS:** ATP Paris Masters, 3.30 pm (Sony) **MULTI-SPORTS:** National Games, 9 am (Jio)



TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2023



Virat Kohli Falls Short Of Matching Sachin Tendulkar's Record Of 49 ODI Centuries As Wankhede Witnesses Heartbreak Again

BEEN THERE, SEEN THAT

Nitin.Naik@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: The Wankhede has experienced this before — 35,000 people waiting for a special landmark, only to be cruelly silenced.

Sachin Tendulkar was just six runs short of his 100th international hundred in the third Test against West Indies here in December 2011. The Wankhede fans, who had cheered him on lustily in April as the Indian team members took a lap of honour while taking turns to carry him on their shoulders, after the World Cup win, were prepared again to give their favourite son another cheer.

However, an attempted punch off Ravi Rampaul ended in the hands of Darren Sammy at second slip.

The West Indies skipper was back to spoil Tendulkar's farewell party two years later. The retiring Master was close to a brilliant hundred in his last innings for India, playing sublime drives and punches. But as he tried to cut a Narsingh Deonarine delivery that bounced a bit more, the edge went to Sammy at slip to trigger a deathly hush at the W.

Wankhede was buzzing with anticipation again on Thursday as India prepared to take on Sri Lanka in their seventh match of the World Cup. The stars were aligned, it seemed, for Virat Kohli to get to three figures and go level with Ten-

dulkar's record of 49 ODI tons.

As one approached 'D' road from Churchgate station to enter the Wankhede, the street was full of youngsters donning the India Blue No. 18. With Tendulkar himself in attendance as a UNICEF brand ambassador and the newly installed statue looking on from the Sachin Tendulkar stand, it seemed as if the Master, the 'Idol' and The Idolizer were in for something special.

When Kohli was dropped by the speedy Dushmantha Chameera off his own bowling when he was still on 10 and after surviving some checked drives on a sticky pitch initially, it looked like the Gods wanted it too.

The batter settled down to essay his trademark cover drives and the punch through mid-wicket off middle and off that scorched the turf to race to the fence. It's a shot that he plays well when in top gear. He also seemed to be unusually chatty too.

He conversed frequently with Sri Lanka skipper and keeper Kusal Mendis. In between, he relayed throws from the fielders back to the bowler. When Pathum Nissanka dived at the extra cover boundary to save a run, he was all applause.

When Shubman Gill, with whom he shared a second-wicket stand of 189 off 179 deliveries, played a gor-



8 **VIRAT KOHLI** became the first batter to score 1,000 runs or more in a calendar year eight times in ODIs to better Sachin Tendulkar's feat of doing so on seven occasions.

JUST SHORT: Virat Kohli checked his drive off a cutter from Dilshan Madushanka but couldn't keep it down and popped it to Pathum Nissanka at short cover

Kohli's 1000-plus runs in a calendar year

Year	I	R	HS	Ave	100s/50s	SR
2011	34	1381	117	47.62	4/8	85.56
2012	17	1026	183	68.40	5/3	93.78
2013	30	1268	115*	52.83	4/7	97.53
2014	20	1054	139*	58.55	4/5	99.62
2017	26	1460	131	76.84	6/7	99.11
2018	14	1202	160*	133.55	6/3	102.55
2019	25	1377	123	59.86	5/7	96.36
2023	20	1054	166*	65.87	4/6	101.73

Stills: Rajesh Kumar

118 Kohli's knock of 88 was his 118th (48 centuries & 70 fifties) fifty-plus innings in ODIs which helped him equal Kumar Sangakkara's (25 centuries & 93 fifties) tally. Only Tendulkar has more such knocks in this format—145 (49 centuries & 96 fifties).

13 Kohli's innings against Sri Lanka brought up his 13th fifty-plus score in the World Cup which helped him overtake twelve each recorded by Kumar Sangakkara, Shakib Al Hasan and Rohit Sharma. Tendulkar tops the list with 21 fifty-plus knocks.

drained a tiring Kohli of his strength and enthusiasm. A string of dots bowled by Madushanka which saw Kohli checking his drive through covers, denied him his staple diet in the middle overs. The single.

The bowler and captain spotted the over-eagerness and tightness. The fielders were asked to close in tighter. A short cover was employed.

Kohli checked another cover drive, off a 114 kph slower one. It popped in the air. Straight to Nissanka. He was gone for 88.

The batter was stunned. The crowd seemed cut off from oxygen as one heard 35,000 gasps. Wankhede had witnessed another heartbreak.

I have no issues with short deliveries: Iyer

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Perhaps, Shreyas Iyer chose to carry some of the belligerence that saw him smash a whirlwind 56-ball 82, that included six massive sixes, against Sri Lanka on Thursday in a league game of the 2023 World Cup at the Wankhede Stadium, into the post-match presser too.

It was this question which blew the Mumbaikar's fuse. "I wanted to ask, short ball has been a problem for you since the beginning of this World Cup and today we saw some great pull shots. How much are you prepared for the next match against South Africa because we know how good they are with the short balls?"

Firing back at the reporter, Iyer thundered: "When you say, it is a problem for me, SHREYAS IYER

to get out anyway. Irrespective of it's a short ball or it's an over-pitched delivery. If I get bowled two or three times, you all would say that, 'Ok, he can't play an in-swinger ball. He can't play a cut if a ball is seaming.'" Iyer retorted.

Iyer blamed the media for creating the perception that he has issues against the rising delivery. "We are bound to get out on any sort of deliveries, you guys have created that atmosphere outside that he can't play the short ball. Coming from Mumbai, especially the Wankhede, where it bounces more than anywhere else (in India), I know how to tackle it. It is just that when I go to hit some shots, you are bound to get out. You may think I have a problem but in my mind, I know there's no problem," he said.

"I have confidence in my ability, on my skills and how much I have played, I may get out again and again but I don't mind as long as I have the confidence in myself, and my teammates support is a motivating factor, I don't bother about anything else," Iyer said.

IND-ENG PITCH RATED AVERAGE

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ICC has rated the pitch as average. A similar pitch rating was given for India's matches against Pakistan match on October 14 in Ahmedabad and versus Australia at Chennai on October 8. Richardson was the match referee for the India-Australia match too.

In the pitch ratings mentioned on the ICC's website till October 31, the only other pitch which has been rated as 'average' in the World Cup is the one for the Pakistan versus Bangladesh match played at Eden Gardens on October 31. All the other pitches—which have mostly seen high-scoring contests—have been rated as 'good' or 'very good.'

I judge myself through rhythm, not wickets: Siraj

Mumbai: He did have issues with rhythm in the past couple of games but Mohammed Siraj's parameter of judging himself is consistency in deliveries bowled in good areas rather than the volume of wickets taken. Siraj has so far taken nine wickets

from seven games and after Pakistan game, once again looked in rhythm during his wonderful spell of 3/16 in 7 overs as India bowled Sri Lanka for a paltry 55. "Taking wickets is important. But my rhythm was not consistent for the last 2-3 matches. Some-

times I was in rhythm and sometimes I was not," Siraj told the mixed zone media after India's win here.

"I am not judging myself with (the number of) wickets (taken). The fact that I was able to land the ball consistently (in good areas) and the swing which I got, that you saw, I am very happy about it. I want to carry this momentum forward," he said.

Sri Lanka was a game where his execution was picture perfect.

"Whatever I had planned coming

into this match brought me success and whatever I had thought of, I was able to execute. I am happy that we have qualified (for semifinals) as well," he added.

With Mohammed Shami producing his second five-wicket haul in three games and Jasprit Bumrah at the top of his performances in every game so far, there is talk about India's bowling line-up being the best in the Cup. However, Siraj does not want to get drawn into any such talks or com-

parisons. "When we do well, everyone keeps saying that the combination is good, but when the performances go down there is talk that this bowler should be dropped or that one," he said.

Siraj expressed happiness that each of India's bowling attack members have stepped up. "Our fast-bowling unit is very good. If I am not getting wickets, Shami bhai is stepping in and taking them or Jassi bhai (Jasprit Bumrah) is," Siraj said. PTI

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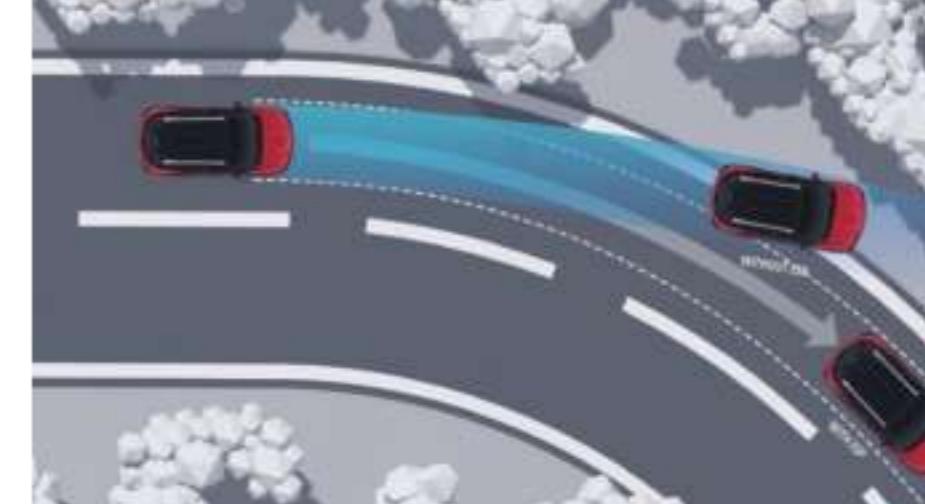
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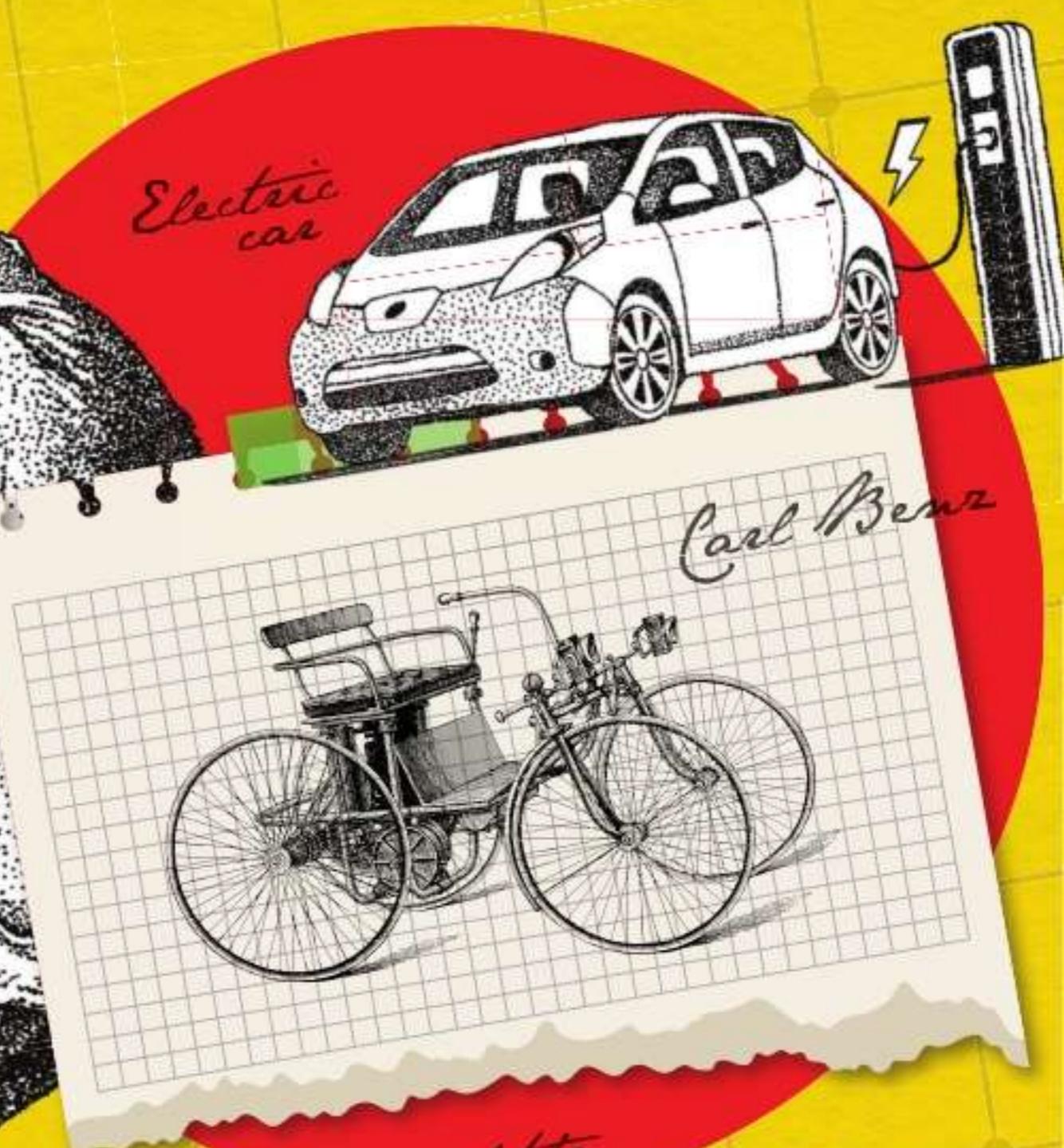
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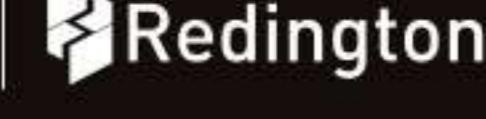


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₹4000 Instant Cashback on HDFC Bank Cards and EasyEMI*

*Terms and conditions apply. Offer available till stocks last. Special offer available at select participating stores. The limited period illustrative EMI of ₹4538.00 p.m. shown above is computed on 0 down payment, 24 months No Cost EMI consumer loan scheme available from Bajaj Finance Ltd, HDFC Bank and IDFC First Bank and is calculated on the exchange effective price of ₹108900.00 for iPhone 15 Pro (15.54 cm, 1N) 128 GB. The exchange effective price of ₹108900.00 is calculated on the MRP ₹134900.00 (inclusive of all taxes) for iPhone 15 Pro (15.54 cm, 1N) 128 GB is further reduced by exchange value of iPhone 12 (15.40 cm) 64GB of ₹20000 in a good working condition along with up to ₹6000.00 exchange bonus. The Exchange bonus of up to ₹6000.00 is exclusively provided by the Apple Authorised Trade-in Provider (Cashify) at select participating stores at their sole discretion. Exchange bonus is valid only for transactions involving trade-in of eligible old devices valued at least ₹3000.00 or above. Customer's eligible old devices valued between ₹3000.00 and ₹10000.00 will receive an exchange bonus of ₹3000.00, while customer's eligible old devices valued between ₹10000.00 to ₹15000.00 will receive an exchange bonus of ₹4000.00 and customer's eligible devices valued above ₹15000.00 will receive an exchange bonus of ₹6000.00. The exchange bonus and trade-in value will be passed on as a credit or discount in the customer's invoice. Exchange Bonus offer can be clubbed with Consumer Loans and Cards Cashback Offer. Customer's eligible old device trade-in value as diagnosed and assessed by Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers will be the final offer. Any other T&Cs as specified by Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers will apply. EMI's illustrated above are rounded off to the nearest rupee for ease of reference. The consumer loan approval from the financier is at their sole discretion. The scheme is provided as No Cost EMI i.e. the benefit of No Cost EMI as a total applicable interest to be charged by financier on consumer loan for original tenure will be borne by Apple Authorised Distributors. Processing fee is applicable and will be charged to customer. Goods and Services Tax will be applicable on processing fee, and foreclosure charges, as applicable. Customer may be required to enter into separate agreements or arrangements (by whatever name called) with the financier to avail or use the EMI facility. Customers are advised to read the offer/agreement terms and conditions carefully. The instant cashback offer of ₹4000.00 is valid exclusively on HDFC Bank Debit Cards EMi & Non-EMi & on HDFC Bank Debit Card EMi. The cashback offer is valid for transactions made using Brand EMi option on Pine Labs and Paytm terminals only and also, applicable on select participating online merchants via Pine Labs Payment Gateway. No Cost EMI is applicable on HDFC Bank Credit Cards EMi and Non-EMi & on HDFC Bank Debit Card EMi transactions on 6 months tenure only. Low-Cost EMi is also applicable available on tenures greater than 9 months. Processing fee and GST on interest component is applicable as per the Bank's terms and conditions. Offer available till stocks last. Available at select participating Apple Authorised Reseller stores. For store details log on to [indiaistore.com](#). The offers may be revised or withdrawn without any prior notice. Product features vary by model. TM and © 2023 Apple Inc. All rights reserved.



iPhone 15

Now at ₹2246 p.m. with exchange[#] or ₹3330 p.m. without exchange.*



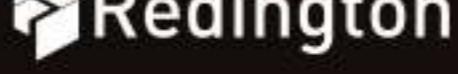
Go to IndiaStore.com to find Apple Authorised stores near you.

0 Down payment | No Cost EMI | 24 Months



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Exchange bonus up to ₹6000*

 INDIA
iSTORE
 INGRAM |  Redington

₹5000 Instant Cashback on HDFC Bank Cards and EasyEMI* 

*Offer available till stocks last. Special offers available at select stores.

*Terms and conditions apply. Offer available till stocks last. Special offer available at select participating stores. The limited period illustrative EMI of ₹2246.00 p.m. shown above is computed on 0 down payment, 24 months No Cost EMI consumer loan scheme available from Bajaj Finance Ltd, HDFC Bank and IDFC First Bank and is calculated on the exchange effective price of ₹53900.00 for iPhone 15 (15.54 cm, IN) 128 GB. The exchange effective price of ₹53900.00 is calculated on the MRP ₹79900.00 (inclusive of all taxes) for iPhone 15 (15.54 cm, IN) 128 GB is further reduced by exchange value of iPhone 12 (15.40 cm) 64GB of ₹20000 in a good working condition along with up to ₹6000.00 exchange bonus. The Exchange bonus of up to ₹6000.00 is exclusively provided by the Apple Authorised Trade-in Provider (Cashify) at select participating stores at their sole discretion. Exchange bonus is valid only for transactions involving trade-in of eligible old devices valued at least ₹3000.00 or above. Customer's eligible old devices valued between ₹3000.00 and ₹10000.00 will receive an exchange bonus of ₹3000.00, while customer's eligible old devices valued between ₹10000.00 to ₹15000.00 will receive an exchange bonus of ₹4000.00 and customer's eligible devices valued above ₹15000.00 will receive an exchange bonus of ₹6000.00. The exchange bonus and trade-in value will be passed on as a credit or discount in the customer's invoice. Exchange Bonus offer can be clubbed with Consumer Loans and Cards Cashback Offer. Customer's eligible old device trade-in value as diagnosed and assessed by Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers will be the final offer. Any other T&Cs as specified by Apple Authorised Trade-in Providers will apply. EMI's illustrated above are rounded off to the nearest rupee for ease of reference. The consumer loan approval from the financier is at their sole discretion. The scheme is provided as No Cost EMI i.e. the benefit of No Cost EMI as a total applicable interest to be charged by financier on consumer loan for original tenure will be borne by Apple Authorised Distributors. Processing fee is applicable and will be charged to customer. Goods and Services Tax will be applicable on processing fee, and foreclosure charges, as applicable. Customer may be required to enter into separate agreements or arrangements (by whatever name called) with the financier to avail or use the EMI facility. Customers are advised to read the offer/agreement terms and conditions carefully. The instant cashback offer of ₹5000.00 is valid exclusively on HDFC Bank Credit Cards EMI and Non-EMI & on HDFC Bank Debit Card EMI. The cashback offer is valid for transactions made using Brand EMI option on Pine Labs and Paytm terminals only and also, applicable on select participating online merchants via Pine Labs Payment Gateway. No Cost EMI is applicable on HDFC Bank Debit and Credit Card EMI transactions on 6 months tenure only. Low-Cost EMI is also applicable available on tenures greater than 9 months. Processing fee and GST on interest component is applicable as per the Bank's terms and conditions. Offer available till stocks last. Available at select participating Apple Authorised Reseller stores. For store details log on to indiaistore.com. The offers may be revised or withdrawn without any prior notice. Product features vary by model. TM and © 2023 Apple Inc. All rights reserved.