



Congress's Priyanka Gandhi Vadra offers eight 'guarantees' in Chhattisgarh, including the launch of a women-focused 'Nyay' scheme for ₹500 subsidy per LPG cylinder refill and waiver of loans to women self-help groups, P 16



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUSIVE OF DELHI TIMES (CIRCULATED ONLY IN DELHI NCR)

\*APPLICABLE ONLY ON MONTHLY PURCHASE (IN DELHI NCR)



EAM S Jaishankar meets family members of 8 former Navy personnel sentenced to death by a Qatari court, assures that govt will make all efforts to secure their release, P 10

## Excise case: ED summons CM hours after SC rejects Sisodia's bail plea

**Kejriwal Told To Appear On Nov 2 For Questioning; Aides Quizzed In Feb**

Pradeep.Thakur@timesgroup.com



In multiple chargesheets, ED has alleged Kejriwal's involvement

**Centre's only goal to finish AAP: Saurabh**

It is clear the Centre's only goal is to finish AAP," Saurabh Bharadwaj said after the CM was summoned in the excise case. "They are leaving no stone unturned to frame Kejriwal and send him to jail." On Sisodia's bail plea, Atishi said AAP respects the apex court but disagrees with the decision. P 3

ED quizzed his PA Bibhav Kumar and Jasmine Shah, another close aide who headed the Delhi Dialogue Commission, in February, around the time Sisodia was taken into custody.

► ED to pile up pressure, P 3

**PMLA charge tentatively backed by evidence: SC**

AmitAnand.Choudhary@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: In a major setback to Aam Aadmi Party, the Supreme Court on Monday rejected the bail plea of its senior leader and former Delhi deputy CM Manish Sisodia in corruption and money laundering cases pertaining to change in Delhi's liquor poli-

► Don't equate financial crimes with murder, P 3

cy, allegedly involving payment of bribes of Rs 338 crore by wholesale distributors. Another AAP leader and MP Sanjay Singh is also behind bars in the same case.

...There is one clear ground or charge in the compla-

We have made one pointed observation that they have said that the trial will conclude in 6-8 months. So within three months, if the trial proceeds in a sloppy manner or slowly, he (Sisodia) will be entitled to file an application for bail — SC bench

int filed under the PMLA Act, which is free from perceptible legal challenge and the facts as alleged are tentatively supported by material and evidence," the bench said.

► Bail plea after 3 mths, P 3

**Snatcher who caused death of BTech student in Gzb killed in encounter**

**Dad: She won't return, but justice served**

Ravindra Singh, Kirti's father, said, "She cannot come back, but justice has been served to us as the culprit is dead. His accomplice must be given strict punishment. Women should be provided with more security." Kirti, who cracked JEE in 2022 and 2023, hoped an engineering degree would not only get her a good job but also help fulfil her dream of travelling to Paris and the US. P 7

Balbir drove parallel to the auto and Jeetu lunged at Kirti, who was holding the phone in her hand, to steal it.

When Kirti resisted, Jeetu pulled her, causing her to fall from the auto and sustaining head injuries to which she succumbed on Sunday.

► Snatcher fired at cops, P 7

**MCD: No meat shop within 150m of religious sites**

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has proposed a uniform licensing policy to decide cross-petitions of Uddhav Thackeray and Ek Nath Shinde factions of Shiv Sena seeking disqualification of 34 MLAs by December 31 and the NCP's plea to terminate the membership of 41 MLAs of the Ajit Pawar group by January 31, all involving alleged infraction of the anti-defection law, reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.

It will also ensure platforms (thadas) allotted for sale of chicken and fish are regularised. The proposal will be tabled in the House meeting Tuesday for approval. P 5

**Tata wins Singur case, to get ₹766cr as compensation**

**Bengal Govt Cries Conspiracy, Will Challenge Award**

**CO HAD TO SHIFT NANO PLANT TO GUJ**

► 2006: Then CPM CM Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee & Ratan Tata announce Singur Nano plant. Land acquisition starts, cops used to curb stir

► 2008: TMC wants 400 of 997 acres acquired returned to 'unwilling landowners'. Tata quits Singur, shifts factory to Sanand, Gujarat

► 2016: SC says acquisition was illegal & void, orders Tatas to return Singur land

In October 2008, Tata Motors, which had planned to produce its small car Nano from Singur, moved to Gujarat's Sanand due to protests that were seen to be political. By then, the Tatas had put over Rs 1,000 crore in Singur.

► Arbitration clause, P 19

**Terrorists shoot dead migrant worker from UP in Kashmir**

Srinagar: Terrorists shot and killed a migrant labourer from Uttar Pradesh in the Tumchi Nowpora area of Pulwama district in south Kashmir on Monday afternoon.

The victim has been identified as 38-year-old Mukesh Kumar from Bhatpura village in Unnao district, 40km from Lucknow, reports Saleem Pandit. This happened after a lone terrorist shot and grievously wounded inspector Masroor Ahmad Wani when he was playing cricket with friends at Eidgah ground in Srinagar the day before.

According to witnesses, two terrorists on a bike attacked Kumar when he was walking to the brick kiln where he worked. He was rushed to a hospital, where he was declared dead. Terrorists are known to pick "soft targets" like migrant labourers.

► Sole breadwinner, P 17

**Cannot regulate political blocs: EC on INDIA**

New Delhi: The EC has told Delhi HC it lacks the legal authority to regulate "political alliances", while responding to a petition challenging the use of the acronym INDIA by a coalition of 26 opposition parties. The EC said it possesses the power to conduct elections and register entities as parties, but "political alliances" are not recognised as "regulated entities" under the Representation of the People Act or the Constitution. TNN

► Wrong precedent, P 15

► Reply not our stand, P 17

**2 big events in city, traffic to be hit today**

**SC censures NCLAT judicial member, he quits**

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday censured apex company law tribunal judicial member Rakesh Kumar, a former Patna HC judge, for defying an apex court order even though he informed the court that he had tendered his resignation as a small mistake on his part besmirched his unblemished four-decade career as a lawyer.

► RTI Act fast becoming a dead letter: SC, P 10

er and then as a constitutional court judge, reports Dhananjay Mahapatra

A bench of CJJD Y Chandrachud, Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra closed the contempt proceedings against Justice Kumar with a censure for wilful defiance of the SC's October 13 order asking the NCLAT bench headed by him to defer pronouncement of an order relating to the Finolex Cables case.

► 'Reminder for all', P 14

**Health covers to be more transparent**

Health insurance plans are set to become more transparent and user-friendly from 2024. Key info such as policy limits and exclusions will be available in a simple sheet. You will get a 15-day period to cancel a cover. P 19

**'Sex assault': IAF officer surrenders**

K V Sreenivas (54), an IAF officer accused of sexually assaulting the 13-year-old daughter of a friend in June, surrendered in a court in Bhubaneswar on Monday. Sreenivas had absconded after the alleged crime. P 10

**Maratha quota stir turns violent, agitators torch 2 NCP MLAs' homes, offices**

**BRS MP stabbed while campaigning**

Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: A large number of protesters stormed four-time NCP (Ajit Pawar camp) MLA Prakash Solanke's bungalow at Majalgaon, in Marathwada's Beed district, and set the building ablaze on Monday. There

► Kunbi certs for Marathas to claim OBC quota, P 15

were also reports of at least two self-immolation attempts by agitators in the Marathwada region. The Maratha community has been demanding reservation. The MLA, who was in the bungalow when the incident took place, was quickly moved to a safer place.

This Majalgaon incident marked the beginning of a day-long spree of violent inci-

ents across Beed. In Beed city, Rashtiwadi Bhavan, which is the NCP district headquarters, Sharad Pawar camp MLA Sandeep Kshirsagar's bungalow, former minister Jaidutt Kshirsagar's office, and a leading hotel were among the properties torched by protesters.

► Curbs imposed, P 15

**Andhra train collision toll climbs to 13**

The toll in the collision between two passenger trains in Andhra's Vizianagaram district climbed to 13 Monday while the number of injured rose to 50. The condition of many of the injured is critical. While an inquiry into the accident has been ordered, the exact cause remains unclear. Officials said it was premature to comment on human error or signal failure. Neither train had the railway's safety system Kavach in place. P 10

**Kerala IEDs likely triggered with phone signal**

The four bombs used to target a Jehovah's Witnesses congregation in Kerala were radio frequency-activated IEDs packed with low-grade explosives, and had petrol pouches placed next to them for incendiary effect. Sources linked with the probe said the IEDs were triggered by a radio-frequency based mechanism, possibly a mobile signal. P 13

**15 Hindu College pupils rusticated over 'indiscipline'**

Fifteen students of DU's Hindu College have been "rusticated for a finite period (maximum four months)" after being charged with "indiscipline" during college union polls between September 15 to 18. Action against three others is likely. ABVP said it was "in solidarity" with the students and alleged cops had been called and the students roughed up. P 8

**Vehicles top source of city pollution**

Vehicular emissions continue to be Delhi's top air pollution source, accounting for 14% of the PM2.5 load on Monday, followed by pollution coming from Noida (33.1%). P 6

**Lack of rain relief, P 6**

**Just 3 online cos offer minimum wages, says study**

BigBasket, Flipkart and Urban Company have a minimum wage policy to ensure their workers earn the hourly local minimum wage after factoring in work-related costs, showed Fairwork India Ratings 2023. The three internet platforms met the minimum wage policy criteria for the second year in a row.

This year, the team surveyed 963 workers and evaluated 12 platforms against five Fairwork principles based on research, worker interviews conducted in Bengaluru, Delhi, Kochi, and Thiruvananthapuram, and evidence provided by platforms. P 19

**Delhi's October AQI this year worst since 2020**

New Delhi: The air quality in the capital this month has been the worst in last three Octobers, partly because of a lower number of rainy days this year as compared to October in previous two years, reports Amit Bhattacharya.

As per CPCB figures, the average AQI so far this month (mean of daily AQIs till October 30) is 214 as opposed to 210 in October last year and as low as 173 in 2021, which was the clearest October on record.

With Delhi currently seeing "very poor" air, the final AQI of the month is expected to be around 220, the worst in Octobers since 2020, when an average of 266 was recorded.

► Lack of rain relief, P 6

**15 Hindu College pupils rusticated over 'indiscipline'**

Fifteen students of DU's Hindu College have been "rusticated for a finite period (maximum four months)" after being charged with "indiscipline" during college union polls between September 15 to 18. Action against three others is likely. ABVP said it was "in solidarity" with the students and alleged cops had been called and the students roughed up. P 8

**Vehicles top source of city pollution**

Vehicular emissions continue to be Delhi's top air pollution source, accounting for 14% of the PM2.5 load on Monday, followed by pollution coming from Noida (33.1%). P 6

**Lack of rain relief, P 6**

**Just 3 online cos offer minimum wages, says study**

BigBasket, Flipkart and Urban Company have a minimum wage policy to ensure their workers earn the hourly local minimum wage after factoring in work-related costs, showed Fairwork India Ratings 2023. The three internet platforms met the minimum wage policy criteria for the second year in a row.

This year, the team surveyed 963 workers and evaluated 12 platforms against five Fairwork principles based on research, worker interviews conducted in Bengaluru, Delhi, Kochi, and Thiruvananthapuram, and evidence provided by platforms. P 19

**Delhi's October AQI this year worst since 2020**

New Delhi: The air quality in the capital this month has been the worst in last three Octobers, partly because of a lower number of rainy days this year as compared to October in previous two years, reports Amit Bhattacharya.

As per CPCB figures, the average AQI so far this month (mean of daily AQIs till October 30) is 214 as opposed to 210 in October last year and as low as 173 in 2021, which was the clearest October on record.

With Delhi currently seeing "very poor" air, the final AQI of the month is expected to be around 220, the worst in Octobers since 2020, when an average of 266 was recorded.

► Lack of rain relief, P 6

**Vehicles top source of city pollution**

Vehicular emissions continue to be Delhi's top air pollution source, accounting for 14% of the PM2.5 load on Monday, followed by pollution coming from Noida (33.1%). P 6

**Lack of rain relief, P 6**

**Just 3 online cos offer minimum wages, says study**

BigBasket, Flipkart and Urban Company have a minimum wage policy to ensure their workers earn the hourly local minimum wage after factoring in work-related costs, showed Fairwork India Ratings 2023. The three internet platforms met the minimum wage policy criteria for the second year in a row.

This year, the team surveyed 963 workers and evaluated 12 platforms against five Fairwork principles based on research, worker interviews conducted in Bengaluru, Delhi, Kochi, and Thiruvananthapuram, and evidence provided by platforms. P 19

**Delhi's October AQI this year worst since 2020**

New Delhi: The air quality in the capital this month has been the worst in last three Octobers, partly because of a lower number of rainy days this year as compared to October in previous two years, reports Amit Bhattacharya.

As per CPCB figures, the average AQI so far this month (mean of daily AQIs till October 30) is 214 as opposed to 210 in October last year and as low as 173 in 2021, which was the clearest October on record.

With Delhi currently seeing "very poor" air, the final AQI of the month is expected to be around 220, the worst in Octobers since 2020, when an average of 266 was recorded.



# TRAFFIC ADVISORY

31<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER, 2023

MERI MATI MERA DESH-AMRIT KALASH YATRA



Mega event 'MERI MATI MERA DESH-AMRIT KALASH YATRA' at Vijay Chowk on 31 October 2023 on the occasion of birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

## TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

The movement of traffic will be regulated/diverted accordingly from the road network of New Delhi district and its vicinity on 31.10.2023 between 0800Hrs to 2100Hrs/also as and when required.

The following roads and junctions are expected to witness heavy volume of traffic, pedestrian footfall and consequent congestions.

R/A (Round About) Shanti Path	R/A Patel Chowk
Bhinder Point Junction	R/A GPO
Aurbindo Chowk	R/A RML
Q Point	R/A GRG
R/A MLNP	R/A Mandi House
R/A RGM	R/A Firozshah/Ashoka Road
R/A Raja Ji Marg	R/A Firozshah Road/KG Marg
R/A MAR Janpath	Mahadev Road
R/A Rajender Prasad Road/Janpath	R/A Patel Chowk
A Point	W Point
Dhaulankuan Flyover	Under Motibagh Flyover
AIIMS Chowk	Neelagumbad
Ashram Chowk	Sarai Kale Khan
R/A Shankar Chowk	R/A Dayal Chowk
Minto Road	R/A Kautilya Marg
Under Geeta Colony Flyover	ISBT Kashmeeri Gate
Chandigarh Akhada	Outer Ring Road-Signature Bridge Junction

It is advisable that these roads/stretches should be used for travel only in case of urgent need/necessity.

## TRAFFIC REGULATION FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Movement of HGV/MGV/LGV will be affected/ regulated in New Delhi District from 0800 Hrs to 2100 Hrs on 31.10.2023.

Movement of HGV/MGV/LGV will be affected/ regulated between I.S.B.T. Sarai Kale Khan and I.S.B.T. Kashmiri Gate on Ring Road from 0800 Hrs to 2100 Hrs on 31.10.2023.

Further movement of commercial vehicles will be regulated on the following stretches

Mukarba Chowk towards Wazirabad	Signature Bridge towards Chandigarh Akhada
Rani Jhansi Flyover	Sanjay T Point Towards Daula Kuan Flyover
Under Motibagh Flyover Towards Shanti Path	AIIMS Chowk Towards Aurobindo Chowk
NeelaGumbad Towards Zakir Hussein Marg	Minto Road Towards Outer Circle Connaught Place
A Point Towards New Delhi	Round about Shankar Road Towards RML

However, goods vehicles having valid 'No Entry Permissions' carrying Essential Commodities such as milk, vegetables, fruits, medical supplies, etc. will be allowed to ply on the above mentioned Roads and stretches.

## TRAFFIC DIVERSION MAP



## DIRECTION FOR GENERAL PUBLIC

- Participants of this program will be travelling by buses which will stop at Talkatora Stadium, Gurunanak Chowk, Rajghat Chowk and Delhi Gate. Further these buses will be parked at Talkatora Stadium, Ramila Ground, IGI Stadium and its vicinity. People are advised to avoid these roads and junctions except in case of emergency as the same are expected to witness heavy congestion.
- People are advised to use public transport vehicles instead of their own vehicles to decongest the roads.
- People are advised to avoid roadside parking as it causes hindrance in normal flow of traffic.
- The commuters going to Vayu Bhawan, Sena Bhawan, Vigyan Bhawan, Nirman Bhawan, Parliament House, South Block, North Block, Central Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan, India Gate etc. should leave their spot with sufficient time at hand to accommodate possible delays on the route.
- Park your vehicles only at designated parking lots.
- Follow the traffic rules and regulations.
- Cooperate and support the police personnel present on duty.
- In case any unusual/unidentified object or person is noticed in suspicious circumstances, information should be given to the Police immediately.

Overall objective is to facilitate hassle free movement of various modes of transport so as to ensure ease of movement for general public.

General public and motorists are advised to keep patience, observe traffic rules and road discipline and follow directions of traffic personnel deployed at all intersections and remain updated through Delhi Traffic Police Website [https://traffic.delipolice.gov.in](https://traffic.delhipolice.gov.in), Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/dtptraffic>, Twitter handle <https://twitter.com/dtptraffic>, Instagram page <https://www.instagram.com/dtptraffic>, WhatsApp Number 8750871493, and Helpline Numbers 1095/011-25844444.



## METRO SERVICES

Expected gathering in the event is around 100000 people and the gathering will mainly be travelling through Delhi Metro and hence it is expected that there will be rush in Delhi Metro Routes especially Yellow and Violet lines. However, boarding/de-boarding at the below mentioned metro stations is expected to witness heavy foot fall, hence travel shall be planned accordingly:-

Sultanpur	Ghitorni
Guru Dronacharya	IFFCO Chowk
Arjan Garh	Udyog Bhawan
Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium	Mandi House
Supreme Court	Barakhamba Road
Qutab Minar	Central Secretariat

BE A TRAFFIC SENTINEL

Download App from

24 Hrs. Traffic Helpline: 011-25844444/1095

Traffic Whatsapp Helpline 8750871493

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112



सत्यमेव जयते

## Jammu & Kashmir towards Peace, Progress & Prosperity

### The Ongoing developmental Journey of four years

- Over 1.88 crore tourist visited the UT in 2022.
- 75 new offbeat tourist destinations introduced.
- 100% villages of J&K achieved, ODF plus model status under SBM-G
- Over 60 lakhs youth participated in sports activities during 2022-23.
- 5130 youth clubs constituted.
- 50000 trained under Skill Development Initiative

- J&K becomes first in the country to launch free of cost Universal Health Insurance Scheme for all residents.
- More than 7 Lakh boys and girls became entrepreneurs in last 4 years
- First multiplex opened in Srinagar
- JK ranked first amongst UTs in National e-Service Delivery Assessment of DARPG 2021
- 1000 plus online services available on e-unnat platform

- More than 300 plus services linked with Auto appeal system
- PMEGP: More than 82,000 units established in last FY - Direct employment to 2.85 lakh youth
- AIIMS, IIM, IIT established in record time
- Entire Budget Allocation made online via Budget Management Application-BEAMS
- Shifting of 121 treasuries on e-Kuber portal of RBI in respect of Government payments

RECORD NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS COMPLETED

10 times increase  
In number of projects completed, from 12637 projects in 2019-20 to 92560 in 2022-23

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Celebrating 5<sup>th</sup> UT Foundation Day



Barricades to  
keep street  
crime at bay add  
to traffic woes at  
Akshardham | 7

# TIMES CITY

**33.5°** MAXIMUM    **16.2°** MINIMUM  
FORECAST Mainly clear sky. Maximum and minimum temperatures will be around 33°C and 17°C  
SUNRISE 6.33AM (WED) MOONRISE 7.25PM (TUE)  
SUNSET 5.38PM (TUE) MOONSET 10.04AM (WED)

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023



Twin events may hit  
traffic today, curbs put in  
place in central Delhi | 5

**347**  
AQI IN DELHI  
ON MONDAY  
(VERY POOR  
CATEGORY)

Sharp drop in  
beer consumption  
this summer in  
comparison with  
last year | 4



## Don't equate fin crimes to murder to deny bail: SC

AmitAnand.Choudhary  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday said economic offences should not be equated with crimes like drug trafficking, murder, rape, dacoity etc to deny bail and held that an accused can be granted bail on the ground of delay in trial and his long incarceration.

While rejecting the bail plea of senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia, a bench of Justices Sanjeev Khanna and SVN Bhatti said speedy trial was a fundamental right of

**The bench referred to various judgments of the apex court to protect the rights of an accused and said it was not a rule that bail should be denied in every case even if the allegation was one of grave economic offence**

an accused and it was a wrong perception that an accused should not be granted bail under a Prevention of Money Laundering Act case till he had suffered incarceration for the specified period.

"Detention or jail before being pronounced guilty of an offence should not become punishment without trial. If the trial gets protracted despite assurances of the prosecution, and it is clear that the case will not be decided within a foreseeable time, the prayer for bail may be meritorious. While the prosecution may pertain to an economic offence, yet it may not be proper to equate these cases with those punishable with death, imprisonment for life, 10 years or more, like offences under the Narcotic Drugs and

CrPC which says that an accused should be released after being under detention for a period extending up to half of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for that offence, the bench said Section 436A can apply to offences under the PMLA as it effectuates the right to speedy trial, a facet of right to life, except for a valid ground such as where the trial is delayed at the instance of the accused himself.

"In our opinion, Section 436A should not be construed as a mandate that an accused should not be granted bail under the PMLA till he has suffered incarceration for the specified period," the bench said.

Referring to Section 436A of CrPC which says that an accused should be released after being under detention for a period extending up to half of the maximum period of imprisonment specified for that offence, the bench said Section 436A can apply to offences under the PMLA as it effectuates the right to speedy trial, a facet of right to life, except for a valid ground such as where the trial is delayed at the instance of the accused himself.

"Atishi said, "AAP is an honest party and it has never been involved in corruption, nor will it be in future." The verdict, she claimed, was completely opposite to the proceedings. "The Supreme Court repeatedly asked Enforcement Directorate

for evidence of the money trail related to Sisodia, but ED couldn't provide any proof," she said. "If ED cannot demonstrate money reaching Sisodia, how can there be questions of money laundering and Prevention of Money Laundering Act?" She added, "We will thoroughly study the order, and based on legal options available to us, we will take our next steps."

Referring to the ED summons to CM Arvind Kejriwal, Atishi said, "BJP fears AAP. They fear all the good work done in Delhi and Punjab. They fear good schools, mohalla clinics, and that's why they want to file false cases and finish AAP. The summoning of CM Kejriwal is part

of the same conspiracy. But we do not fear going to jail. We will keep doing good work for people." Saurabh Bharadwaj, another AAP minister, said ED's summons "makes it clear that the central government has just one intention—to leave no stone unturned to finish AAP. For this, they are making false cases".

Atishi reiterated, "I still have full confidence that not a single case of corruption will be proved because AAP has never committed corruption." Claiming that the entire country is watching how BJP is using agencies like ED and CBI to target opposition parties, she said, "People will give them a befitting reply."

BJP circles were suddenly

awash with old tweets of Kejriwal where he had claimed investigating agencies and courts had adjudged Sisodia to be innocent and targeted PM Narendra Modi.

Trivedi accused Kejriwal of engaging in brazenness and drama, noting that AAP leaders even went to Mahatma Gandhi's memorial to vouch for their party's honesty in the alleged scam.

The BJP leader claimed that the growing scale of corruption in the AAP government was being established gradually as first former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain was nabbed in a money laundering case, followed by the arrests of Sisodia and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh in the excise case.

Delhi BJP president Vi

rendra Sachdeva said, "Today when the Supreme Court rejected Sisodia's bail plea, it vindicated BJP's allegations of liquor scam and ED's summons to Kejriwal is the final step to take the corruption saga to its conclusion."

Amit Arora, one of the co-

accused in the case, has claimed that Kejriwal was present during the conversation related to the liquor deal, and said the central agencies would investigate objectively.

**'Vindicated', ED set to pile up pressure in case**

Pradeep.Thakur@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Buoyed by the Supreme Court order denying bail to Manish Sisodia, the Enforcement Directorate seems set to pile on more evidence against him and other AAP leaders during the trial.

Although SC found "prima facie" merit in ED's charge that the changes in Delhi's liquor policy carried out by the AAP government resulted in gains of at least Rs 338 crore to wholesale distributors who returned the favour by funding AAP's election campaign in Goa, the agency plans to produce strong evidence during the trial to establish that the quantum of money lost to the exchequer was much higher, sources familiar with the investigation said.

**Supertech chairman in SC for bail**

AmitAnand.Choudhary  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Monday issued notice to the Enforcement Directorate on bail plea of real estate company Supertech's chairman who alleged that he was arrested by the agency in violation of apex court's order and he had not been furnished the ground of arrest till now.

A bench of Justices Aniruddha Bose and Bela M Trivedi agreed to hear R K Arora's plea and sought response from the agency after senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi submitted that his client had filed application for seeking ground of arrest on the same day when he was taken into custody but it had not been supplied to him in the last four months. Arora was arrested on June 28.

The bench asked the agency to file its response and posted the case to November 7 for further hearing. Arora approached the apex court after his plea for bail was turned down by the Delhi High Court.

He submitted in his plea that he was arrested in violation of SC order which directed that only one out of 20 projects be put under insolvency proceedings and allowed him to complete the housing projects by getting Rs 2,000 crore foreign investments.

**SC: Oppn MP's exclusion a very serious matter**

**The agency had claimed in its prosecution complaints filed earlier that ₹1,000 crore of proceeds of crime were generated in the liquor scam**

The agency had claimed in its chargesheets filed earlier that Rs 1,000 crore of proceeds of crime were generated in the liquor scam of which it had established a money trail of over Rs 500 crore. Sources said they had statements of 'angadias' (couriers) who carried the bribe earned from the liquor scam to Goa as well as agencies which put up hoardings of AAP in the tiny state before the last assembly election.

Sources expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the bail petition, "argued on merit, and on detail", and said it showed the ED's success in building a strong case despite alleged destruction of evidence that involved disappearance of mobile phones used by Sisodia and other accused, and "vicious vilification" of

the agency by the AAP leadership. The SC order brings on record generation of kickbacks worth Rs 338 crore, with the agency having already attached properties worth over Rs 128 crore belonging to several alleged beneficiaries, including Sisodia. The SC has given its prima facie stamp of approval on the proceeds of crime in the hands of the AAP leadership, a reason to keep him behind bars until the "time-bound completion" of trial. The SC judgment fur-

ther strengthens ED's ongoing probe against the AAP leadership and its claims that bribes were paid and proceeds of crime used by the party during the last assembly election in Goa.

The verdict may have far-reaching consequences for other politicians, including senior AAP leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, arrested earlier this month in the liquor scam case. The agency has already submitted several technical evidence against Singh while seeking his remand on the alleged bribes and money trail established against him. Sisodia moving the SC has also had the inadvertent fallout of the ED planning to book AAP as an accused in its money laundering investigation, the first for any political party.

While dismissing challenges to

the ED's 'money trail' in the alleged kickbacks paid by the liquor cartel, SC noted that "the 12% profit margin gone in the hands of private wholesalers in the Delhi excise policy 2021-22 is Rs 581 crore, and if the profit margin was fixed at 5% (as was the case earlier), the profit to private wholesalers would have been only Rs 243 crore. Thus, the difference of Rs 338 crore is only due to the 7% increase, from 5% to 12%, by Manish Sisodia in lieu of bribes". The ED had claimed in its submission that this substantial increase in commission was done by Sisodia and AAP's communications chief Vijay Nair in collusion with the South Group in lieu of a bribe of Rs 100 crore in advance. Sisodia failed to satisfy the court on the rationale for this huge increase.

Further, the agency claimed that its probe into the money trail of the advance kickbacks of Rs 100 crore had found that "ultimately all the money was used by the leaders of AAP, including ministers and their associates in AAP government who were the architects of this liquor scam. The movement of a part of the cash through some processes/activities has been proved".

The Text/ Plan indicating the proposed modifications shall be available for inspection at the office of Deputy Director, Master Plan Section, Delhi Development Authority, 6th Floor, Vikas Minar, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110023, on all working days within the period referred above. The text/plan indicating the proposed modifications is also available on the following link i.e., <https://dda.gov.in/mpd-2021-public-notices-2023> and <https://citizenservices.dda.org.in>.

(F.No.-F.20(16)/2014/MP)

D. SARKAR, Commissioner-cum-Secretary

Follow us on [@ddaoofficial](#) [@Official\\_dda](#) [@Official\\_dda](#) [@Official\\_dda](#)

Real Estate/Property

**LEASE  
WITH EASE.**

Need to advertise your property listings? Book your ad today using [ads.timesgroup.com](#), the official online ad booking platform for Times Classifieds.

Scan the QR code



Or Visit [ads.timesgroup.com](#)

Best Offers User-Friendly Safe and Secure

Toll Free: 1800-1205-474 Chat with an expert: 70121 91460

## Sisodia Can Seek Bail After 3 Months If Trial Delayed: SC

Also Allows Leeway For Interim Relief On Health Grounds

Continued from P1



NO IMMEDIATE RELIEF: Manish Sisodia

A bench of Justices Sanjeev Khanna and SVN Bhatti, which had granted extended hearing on Sisodia's bail petition, turned down his plea after examining the evidence and contents of the chargesheet, which alleged that the existing excise policy was changed to facilitate and get kickbacks from wholesale distributors by enhancing their commission/fee from 5% under the old policy to 12% under the new policy.

Sisodia headed the group of ministers which carried out the changes allegedly to suit a liquor cartel which, in turn, funded AAP's Goa campaign.

In its judgment, the court extensively cited allegations made against Sisodia in the chargesheet under PMLA to turn him down even while it noted that "prima facie", there was lack of clarity on a specific allegation on the involvement of the former deputy CM in the alleged transfer of Rs 45 crore through hawala for AAP's Goa campaign. The court also noted the ED's submission that it would take a decision to arraign AAP as an accused once the amount used by the party in the Goa election was ascertained. The submission was prompted by the bench's query during the course of hearings as to why the ED had not made AAP an accused when, going by its own contention, the party was the main beneficiary of the "proceeds of crime" generated through changes in the liquor policy.

The agencies have alleged that the new excise policy was meant to give windfalls to a few wholesale distributors, who in turn had agreed to give kickbacks.

Sisodia had refuted all allegations

against him and his party and told the court that change in policy was not an individual decision but an institutional one that was taken after consultations and it was approved by a group of ministers, the cabinet and Delhi's lieutenant governor. He had said the allegation of kickbacks was a "concocted story" unsupported by any admissible evidence and material.

Noting that the prosecution had assured to complete the trial within eight months, the court opened a small window for Sisodia to seek bail after three months if the trial got delayed. It allowed him to seek interim bail in case of ill health and medical emergency due to illness of his wife. "In view of the assurance given at the bar on behalf of the prosecution that they shall conclude the trial by taking appropriate steps within next six to eight months, we give liberty to the appellant Manish Sisodia to move a fresh application for bail in case of change in circumstances, or in case the trial is protracted and proceeds at a snail's pace in the next three months. If any application for bail is filed in the above circumstances, the same would be considered by the trial court on merits without being influenced by the dismissal of the earlier bail application, including the present judgment," the bench said.

It will, however, be a herculean task for the trial court to wind up proceedings within eight months as there are over 450 witnesses and documents running into over 50,000 pages.

The agencies have alleged that the new excise policy was meant to give windfalls to a few wholesale distributors, who in turn had agreed to give kickbacks.

Sisodia had refuted all allegations

against him and his party and told the court that change in policy was not an individual decision but an institutional one that was taken after consultations and it was approved by a group of ministers, the cabinet and Delhi's lieutenant governor. He had said the allegation of kickbacks was a "concocted story" unsupported by any admissible evidence and material.

Noting that the prosecution had assured to complete the trial within eight months, the court opened a small window for Sisodia to seek bail after three months if the trial got delayed. It allowed him to seek interim bail in case of ill health and medical emergency due to illness of his wife. "In view of the assurance given at the bar on behalf of the prosecution that they shall conclude the trial by taking appropriate steps within next six to eight months, we give liberty to the appellant Manish Sisodia to move a fresh application for bail in case of change in circumstances, or in case the trial is protracted and proceeds at a snail's pace in the next three months. If any application for bail is filed in the above circumstances, the same would be considered by the trial court on merits without being influenced by the dismissal of the earlier bail application, including the present judgment," the bench said.

It will, however, be a herculean task for the trial court to wind up proceedings within eight months as there are over 450 witnesses and documents running into over 50,000 pages.

The agencies have alleged that the new excise policy was meant to give windfalls to a few wholesale distributors, who in turn had agreed to give kickbacks.

Sisodia had refuted all allegations

## Govt duty bound to account for money, says BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** BJP on Monday welcomed the Supreme Court's rejection of AAP leader Manish Sisodia's bail plea in the liquor "scam" case and claimed that the apex court's verdict, based on Enforcement Directorate's (ED) finding that AAP had collected Rs 338 crore in bribes from liquor dealers, had exposed the party and its leader, Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal.

"It is no longer just an allegation; what was once a substantive claim is now a quantitative allegation and a confirmation about a transaction of an amount of Rs 338 crore," BJP spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi said at a press conference. "According to staunchly honest Kejriwal, Sisodia should have been awarded Bharat Ratna. However, he has been in jail since last winter. During this period, his bail application has been rejected six times. This time, the observation given by the Supreme Court is very serious," he added.

Trivedi said that on behalf of the people of Delhi, BJP wanted to ask AAP and Kejriwal "where is the money?" He added, "It is incumbent on the government constitutionally and legally to account for the funds. Morally, it is essential for them to give answers to the people of Delhi."

BJP, which was at the receiving end of AAP's campaign accusing it of misusing agencies to implicate Sisodia and other leaders in false cases, hit back by recirculating tweets of Kejriwal and other AAP leaders where they had claimed that the allegations against Sisodia were false. "Still don't understand what liquor scam is," the party quoted the Delhi CM as saying.

BJP circles were suddenly

awash with old tweets of Kejriwal where he had claimed investigating agencies and courts had adjudged Sisodia to be innocent and targeted PM Narendra Modi.

Trivedi accused Kejriwal of engaging in brazenness and drama, noting that AAP leaders even went to Mahatma Gandhi's memorial to vouch for their party's honesty in the alleged scam.

The BJD leader claimed that the growing scale of corruption in the AAP government was being established gradually as first former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain was nabbed in a money laundering case, followed by the arrests of Sisodia and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh in the excise case.

Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said, "Today when the Supreme Court rejected Sisodia's bail plea, it vindicated BJP's allegations of liquor scam and ED's summons to Kejriwal is the final step to take the corruption saga to its conclusion."

**Man murdered by business partner**

**New Delhi:** A 36-year-old man was allegedly murdered by his business partner over a dispute in Samaypur Badli on Sunday. Police have apprehended the accused.

The deceased was identified as Hari Shankar Mishra who lived in Siraspur. He along with his partner was running a factory in Siraspur for past two years.

A case under Section 302 (murder) of IPC was registered. **TNN**

**Delhi govt asks depts to geotag all projects**

Atul.Mathur@timesgroup.com

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The beer swig was not as big this summer as it was last year; liquor industry sources in Delhi have said.

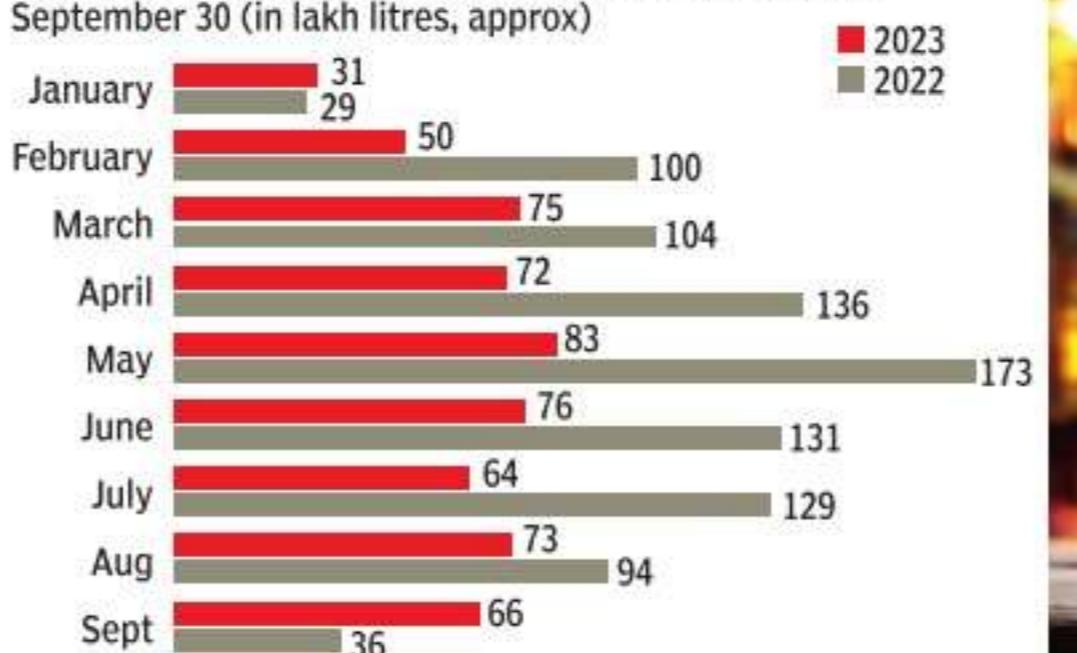
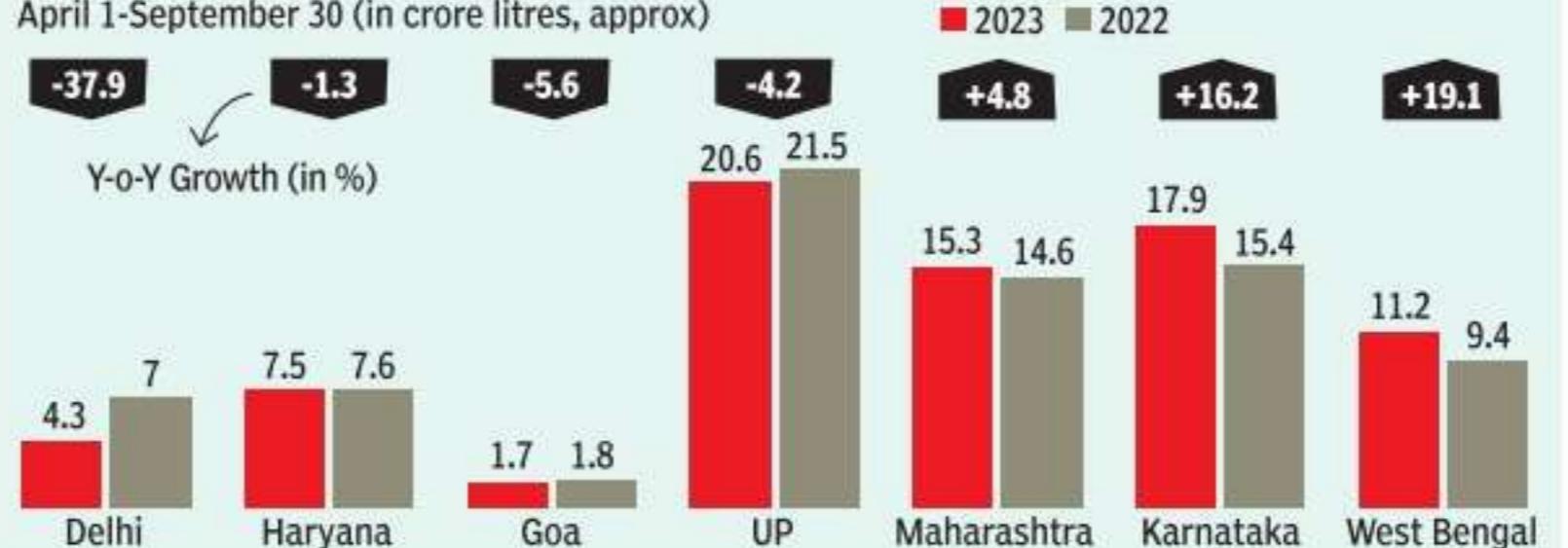
They pointed to the sharp fall and negative growth of nearly 38% between April 1 and September 30, 2023, compared to the same period last year. Delhiites gulped nearly 7 crore litres of beer in the first six months of the 2022-23 financial year, but only 4.3 crore litres between April and September in the current fiscal.

Bigger states such as West Bengal and Karnataka registered double-digit growth. Delhi's neighbours Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, on the other hand, witnessed a marginal drop in sales this summer.

Industry players attributed the negative growth to "supply-related issues" and non-availability of certain brands. The excise department of the Delhi government said the comparison with the sale figures of 2022, when discounts on liquor was a norm, was not fair.

The sale of beer in Delhi and other north Indian states started picking up in March and reached its peak in June when the temperature consistently crosses 40-42 degrees centigrade. With the onset of the festival season in September and October, beer makes way for hard spirits.

Between April and July

**LACKING FIZZ?****Beer consumption in Delhi** From January 1 to September 30 (in lakh litres, approx)**State-wise beer consumption in summer** April 1-September 30 (in crore litres, approx)

gent to the wide availability across on-trade channels in hotels, restaurants, bars and clubs in the city," said AB InBev's India spokesperson.

The city currently has a network of 630 odd retail shops, all owned by the government, and over 900 hotels, clubs and restaurants that serve liquor.

Industry players said there are multiple reasons for sluggish sales, such as less variety, brand pushing, non-availability of chilled beer in shops during the peak season, less stock in stores due to their size and companies diverting products to states where the margins are higher.

During peak summer, beer comprises over a third of the total liquor sold.

Vinod Giri, director-general of the Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies, said: "Beer consumption is driven by availability of chilled bottles as most Indians don't stock beer at home. Since many shops in Delhi had no chillers this summer, it affected availability of cold beer and hence purchase, especially impulse and unplanned ones," Giri said.

"Supply of some popular beer brands was far from adequate, which also affected overall sales. Frequent policy changes made companies wary of stocking up in Delhi," he said.

Officials said the association of industry owners in Bawana drew the LG's attention towards several illegal structures that had come up in the area and the violation of building bylaws by certain allottees and complained that this would have detrimental impact in case of a fire or any other accident. "He emphasized that maintenance should be carried out in a manner that there is no waterlogging in future and warned that the cleaning work should not be superficial," an official said.

**Ensure basic facilities in industrial areas: Saxena**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** A fortnight after he reviewed the scheme of relocating factories from non-conforming pockets to planned industrial areas, LG VK Saxena visited the industrial areas of Narela, Bhorghar and Bawana to take stock of the amenities.

Officials from the LG's secretariat said that "appalled" at the lack of basic infrastructure required for industries to start functioning, Saxena directed Delhi State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (DSIIDC) to make the infrastructure conducive for ease-of-doing business.

He also set a deadline of November 15 for DSIIDC, Delhi Development Authority, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and other agencies concerned to carry out the repair work, ensure cleanliness and complete sewerage and power-related work in these areas.

While the process to relocate industrial units started 27 years ago, less than one per cent of over 21,000 factories that were allotted alternative plots have managed to start operating so far.

Officials said the association of industry owners in Bawana drew the LG's attention towards several illegal structures that had come up in the area and the violation of building bylaws by certain allottees and complained that this would have detrimental impact in case of a fire or any other accident. "He emphasized that maintenance should be carried out in a manner that there is no waterlogging in future and warned that the cleaning work should not be superficial," an official said.

**This court has no jurisdiction to try wrestlers' case: Brij Bhushan**

**New Delhi:** Former Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh on Monday submitted in a city court that it had no jurisdiction to try any offence that was allegedly committed outside India as a sanction under Section 188 of CrPC had not been obtained.

Section 188 of Criminal Procedure Code provides for prosecution of offences committed outside the

territory of India by an Indian citizen, which requires previous sanction of the central government.

The court of additional chief metropolitan magistrate Harjeet Singh Jaspal was hearing arguments on framing charges against the BJP MP in a case of sexual harassment allegations by six wrestlers.

"There is no action or consequence that has happened in India, and therefore, the alleged offences,

which, as per the prosecution, have happened at Tokyo, Mongolia, Bulgaria, Jakarta, Kazakhstan, Turkey, etc., cannot be tried by this court," submitted advocate Rajiv Mohan, the counsel for Singh.

The prosecution, represented by additional public prosecutor (APP) Atul Kumar Srivastava, said the act of sexual harassment was a continuing offence as it did not stop at any particular time. **TNN**

**Cops suspect Swiss woman was tortured for money**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Sources said Singh had been evasive during questioning and continuously changed his statements about the murder**

Switzerland to meet the victim. We suspect it was at this time that he performed some rituals and asked for a big payment but received none," the source claimed.

While the cops felt it was highly probable that the victim suffocated to death, they are awaiting the final medical report. "Berger was tortured in the car. Singh had chained and locked her limbs to prevent her from escaping," a police source said. "Then is a possibility that he first strangled her and then covered her face with a plastic bag. She struggled for a long time and tore the car seat with her nails. It is possible that she may have struggled to breath for more than 30 minutes." Singh had

Sources said Singh had been evasive during questioning and continuously changed his statements about the murder

Switzerland to meet the victim. We suspect it was at this time that he performed some rituals and asked for a big payment but received none," the source claimed.

While the cops felt it was highly probable that the victim suffocated to death, they are awaiting the final medical report. "Berger was tortured in the car. Singh had chained and locked her limbs to prevent her from escaping," a police source said. "Then is a possibility that he first strangled her and then covered her face with a plastic bag. She struggled for a long time and tore the car seat with her nails. It is possible that she may have struggled to breath for more than 30 minutes." Singh had

Sources said Singh had been evasive during questioning and continuously changed his statements about the murder

Switzerland to meet the victim. We suspect it was at this time that he performed some rituals and asked for a big payment but received none," the source claimed.

While the cops felt it was highly probable that the victim suffocated to death, they are awaiting the final medical report. "Berger was tortured in the car. Singh had chained and locked her limbs to prevent her from escaping," a police source said. "Then is a possibility that he first strangled her and then covered her face with a plastic bag. She struggled for a long time and tore the car seat with her nails. It is possible that she may have struggled to breath for more than 30 minutes." Singh had

Sources said Singh had been evasive during questioning and continuously changed his statements about the murder

Switzerland to meet the victim. We suspect it was at this time that he performed some rituals and asked for a big payment but received none," the source claimed.

While the cops felt it was highly probable that the victim suffocated to death, they are awaiting the final medical report. "Berger was tortured in the car. Singh had chained and locked her limbs to prevent her from escaping," a police source said. "Then is a possibility that he first strangled her and then covered her face with a plastic bag. She struggled for a long time and tore the car seat with her nails. It is possible that she may have struggled to breath for more than 30 minutes." Singh had

Sources said Singh had been evasive during questioning and continuously changed his statements about the murder

Switzerland to meet the victim. We suspect it was at this time that he performed some rituals and asked for a big payment but received none," the source claimed.

While the cops felt it was highly probable that the victim suffocated to death, they are awaiting the final medical report. "Berger was tortured in the car. Singh had chained and locked her limbs to prevent her from escaping," a police source said. "Then is a possibility that he first strangled her and then covered her face with a plastic bag. She struggled for a long time and tore the car seat with her nails. It is possible that she may have struggled to breath for more than 30 minutes." Singh had

Sources said Singh had been evasive during questioning and continuously changed his statements about the murder

Switzerland to meet the victim. We suspect it was at this time that he performed some rituals and asked for a big payment but received none," the source claimed.

While the cops felt it was highly probable that the victim suffocated to death, they are awaiting the final medical report. "Berger was tortured in the car. Singh had chained and locked her limbs to prevent her from escaping," a police source said. "Then is a possibility that he first strangled her and then covered her face with a plastic bag. She struggled for a long time and tore the car seat with her nails. It is possible that she may have struggled to breath for more than 30 minutes." Singh had

**He shoots arrows with precision.****She smashes boundaries with finesse.****They're among India's Unstoppable 21.**

The jury have selected Parth Salunkhe and Shafali Verma as two of the 21 Unstoppable Indian prodigies.

Dive into their fascinating stories at [www.unstoppable21.in](http://www.unstoppable21.in)

#Unstoppable21

Parth Salunkhe, 19, India's first gold medalist archer at YWC



Shafali Verma, 19, ICC Women's T20 WC winning team captain



Scan the QR code to watch the 'Hum Ho Rahe Kamyab' anthem about young India's unstoppable spirit.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

CHANGE Begins Here



Krishna went to visit his grandmother at the time of the incident

by negligence" was added, " said Ravi Kumar Singh, DCP (Outer North). The boy is survived by his parents and his younger sister. His family members told **TOI** that his mother sells vegetables on a cart while his grandmother sells fruits. At the time of the incident, the child had gone to meet his grandmother and had borrowed some money from her to buy some goodies.

His uncle Deepak Bharadwaj said many people present at the spot attempted to save the child. "They tried to lift the gate, but it was so heavy that they weren't able to. Other children who were standing close to the gate escaped unharmed since they were some metres away. The gate was in a poor condition for the past five months and written complaints had been submitted to the RWA, but no one paid heed," said Bharadwaj.

"Different teams were formed to nab the three suspects. We scanned CCTV footage of nearby areas to check the routes taken by the accused to flee, and finally, on the basis of this information, we conducted a raid and nabbed the suspects from Rishikesh," an officer said.

"A suspect claims that the victim had an affair with his sister and threatened to release a private video of her online, which led to an altercation," the officer added.

"A suspect claims that the victim had an affair with his sister and threatened to release a private video of her online, which led to an altercation," the officer added.

A case has been registered under Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code.

**CURBS FROM 9AM TO 9PM****No meat shop within 150 metres of religious place: MCD proposal**

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has proposed a new licensing policy for meat shops that would be uniformly implemented in all 12 zones. The proposal will be tabled in the House meeting on Tuesday for approval.

The new policy aims to remove the variations in licensing fees and regulations that existed among the erstwhile north, south and east corporations. It also proposes 150 metres as minimum distance for meat shops from religious places as well as a fixed fee for issuing and renewing licences — up to Rs 18,000 for shops and Rs 1.5 lakh for processing units.

"Prior to unification, the three civic bodies had their own policies for granting licences to meat shops and processing units, as well as different fees and penalties. We have been pursuing seniors for a long time to implement a uniform policy," said an MCD official.

The policy states that the minimum distance between a meat shop and a temple, mosque, gurdwara, crematorium, religious places and burial ground shall not be less than 150 metres, measured from either side. However, this will not be implemented in case of renewal of licences of shops existing before the date of approval of the proposed policy by the corporation.

While the size of the meat shops in residential areas will be 20 sqm, there will be no restriction in commercial areas or notified roads with mixed-use land use, states the policy.

For meat processing, packing and storage plants, the fee for issuing a new licence will be Rs 50,000 for one year, Rs 1 lakh for two years and Rs 1.5 lakh for three years. The fee for renewal will be the same, said officials.

**Hardayal library gets new mgmt panel, BJP protests**

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Monday formed a new management committee of Hardayal Municipal Public Library despite strong objection from BJP, which termed the process "illegal". Councillor Preeti from ward 217 was elected secretary while councillor Usha Sharma from ward 72 elected as elected joint secretary.

The election took place under the chairmanship of mayor Shelly Oberoi, who is the ex-officio chairperson of the library. The mayor had called the election meeting at her office, which was opposed by BJP.

According to BJP, the library constitution empowered the outgoing general secretary — in this case former BJP councillor Poonam Parashar — to call the meeting.

"The election was illegal, against the norms and held without any information to the outgoing general secretary. We are planning to challenge the matter in court," said leader of the House Raja Iqbal Singh.

The committee comprises 11 members and is chaired by the mayor. Of them, six members were nominated by the mayor earlier. These include five AAP councillors — Preeti, Usha Sharma, Punardeep

Claiming misuse of funds on a "large scale", Oberoi added: "The scams at the library will also be investigated. The funds given for the salaries of the employees were also misused."

**Twin Events May Hit Traffic Today****Curbs Put In Place In Central Delhi**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Traffic movement is likely to be affected on Tuesday in view of the 'Run for Unity' and 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' events, scheduled to be held simultaneously in central Delhi to commemorate Sadar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary.

While about 7,700 people will take part in the run, the other event will see at least one lakh people, including ministers and dignitaries, gathering at Vijay Chowk, said traffic officials.

Traffic police have issued an advisory asking commuters to avoid certain stretches in central Delhi from 6.45am to 9am Tuesday for the run. Restrictions for the other event will be in place from 9am to 9pm.

Movement of heavy vehicles will be regulated in New Delhi areas as well as ISBTs. Those going to Vayu Bhawan, Sena Bhawan, Vigyan Bhawan, Nirman Bhawan, Parliament House, South and North Blocks, Central Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhawan and India Gate have been advised to keep sufficient time for the commute.

C-Hexagon will remain closed from 6.45am to 9am to facilitate the run, being held as part of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, which will be flagged off from gate number 1 of Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium. Traffic will be diverted on Tilak Marg-Bhawan Das Road, Purana Quila Road, Mathura Road, Shershah Road, Mat-

hura Road, Subramanian Bharti Marg, Q-Point and the roundabouts at Mansingh Road, Jaswant Singh Road, KG Marg-Firozeshah Road intersection and Mandi House, the advisory stated.

Commuters moving from north to south Delhi or vice-versa can take the Ring Road-Sarai Kale Khan-IP flyover-Rajghat and Lala Lajpat Rai Marg-Mathura Road-W Point-A Point routes to avoid jams. Those moving from east to west or vice-versa can take IP Marg-A Point-W Point-Sikandara Road-Mandi House-Firozeshah Road roundabout-Windsor Place-Asoka Road-Gol Dak Khana-RML-Shankar Road, NH-9-Ring Road-Bhajan Marg-Mathura Road-SBM-Q Point-Abdul Kalam Marg route.

Meanwhile, restrictions are already in place for the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh Amrit Kalash Yatra' being held Monday-Tuesday.

On Tuesday, movement of heavy vehicles will be affected from 8am to 9pm in New Delhi area and regulated between the Sarai Kale Khan and Kashmere Gate ISBTs. Movement of commercial vehicles will also be regulated, but those carrying essential commodities will be allowed to ply.

As the gathering will mainly be travelling through Delhi Metro, heavy rush is expected, especially Yellow and Violet lines, said the advisory. Several stations like Barakhamba, Supreme Court and Arjargarh stations are expected to witness heavy footfall.

**Fresh push for bus terminus revamp**

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) floated a fresh tender for the Shivaji Stadium bus terminus revamp project on Monday. The project will take at least three years to complete from the date of the allotment of work.

The allotment will take four months and once the agency is finalised, NDMC will seek the council's approval to go ahead with the work, said officials. The estimated cost of the project is Rs 63.8 crore.

"In 2018-19, the civic body prepared a detailed project report for redeveloping the bus terminal, but tenders were not received. So we decided to re-invite tenders," said Satish Upadhyay, vice-chairman, NDMC.

The facility will come up on a 4235.7 sq m area near the Shivaji Stadium to facilitate the parking of 113 vehicles.

**WORLD'S MOST LUXURIOUS TRAIN MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS**

Special Christmas Departure (20th - 23rd Dec 2023)

DELHI - AGRA - RANTHAMBORE - JAIPUR - DELHI

**Tibro Exclusive Offer**

\* Price Per Person

Cabin Type	Valued at	Tibro Offer
Deluxe	₹ 4,10,760	₹ 1,75,000
Junior Suite	₹ 4,36,800	₹ 2,25,000
Suite	₹ 6,70,320	₹ 2,75,000
Presidential Suite	₹ 11,38,200	on request

ONLY FEW LEFT

Inclusive of: Stay, All Meals, Premium Drinks, Butler Service, Sightseeing

Shriyansh Gupta +91 96175 62428

Aditya Patidar +91 84618 35717

maharajasexpress@tibro.in | www.tibro.in

PSA of Maharajas Express

Tibro

TIBRO EXCLUSIVE CHARTER DEPARTURE FOR INDIAN NATIONALS

October 31, 2023

**Nation pays tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on his birth anniversary**

Let us all come together to realize the dream of Sardar Patel of United India, Empowered India

**Grand celebration of National Unity Day**

Date: 31.10.2023, Time: 8 a.m.

Venue: Ekta Nagar, Gujarat

In the august presence of

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**Various programs to be organized**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will offer tribute to the Statue of Unity

National Unity Parade to be organized by BSF and various state police forces

Flag-in of all 75 women bikers of CRPF and dare-devil show

Women Pipe Band Show by BSF

Showcasing economic viability of Vibrant Villages in border states

Choreographed programs by Gujarat Women Police

NCC Special Show, School Band Display

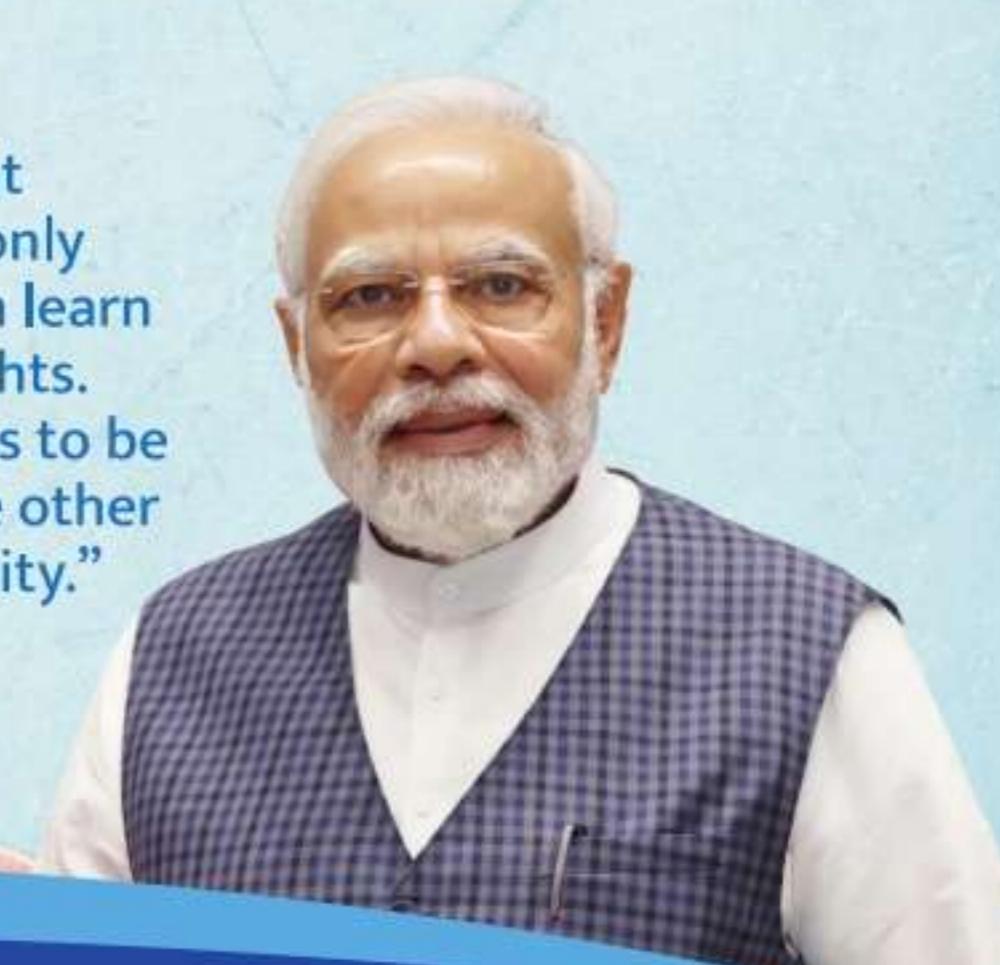
Cultural programs of different states

Indian Air Force fly past

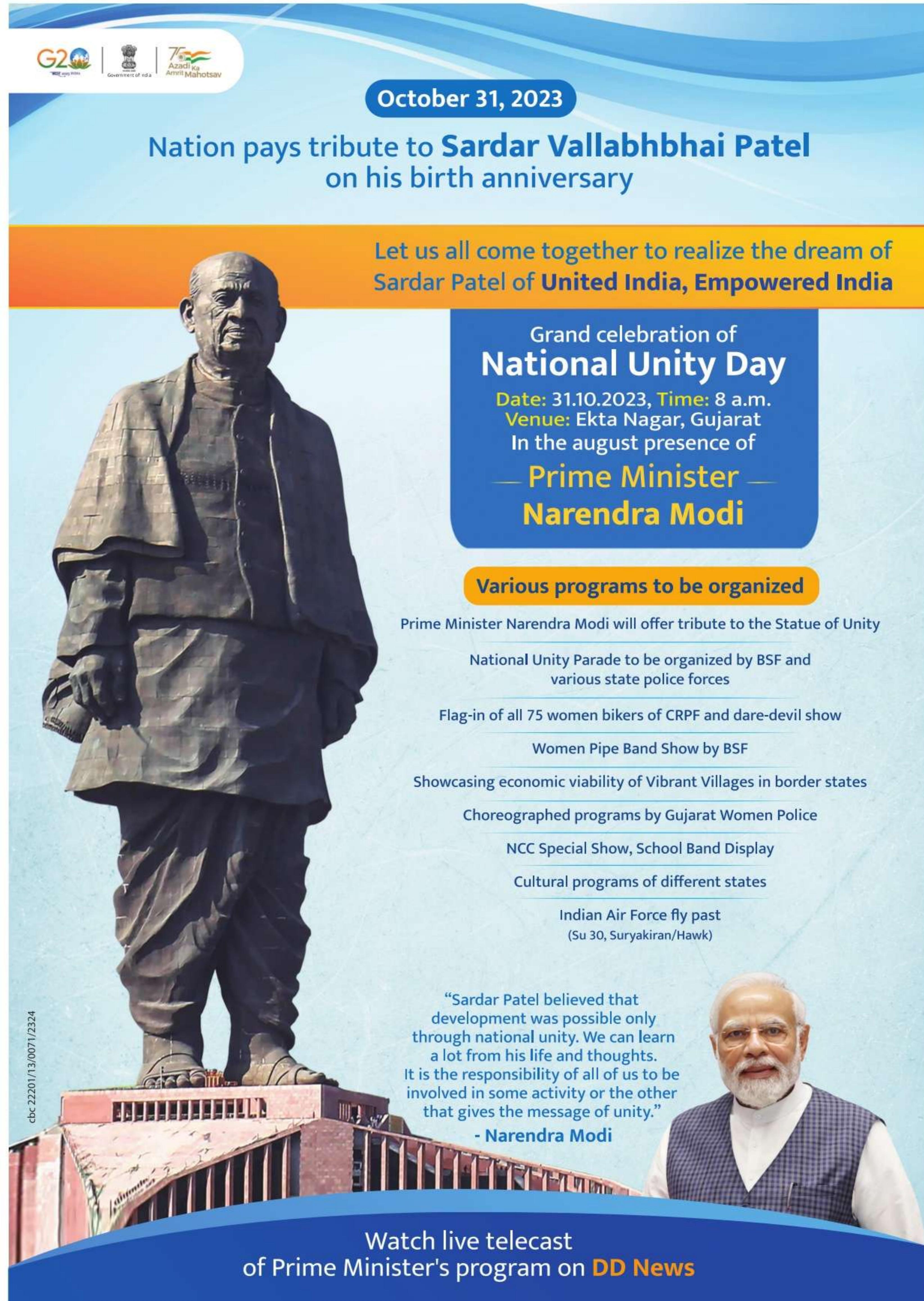
(Su 30, Suryakiran/Hawk)

"Sardar Patel believed that development was possible only through national unity. We can learn a lot from his life and thoughts. It is the responsibility of all of us to be involved in some activity or the other that gives the message of unity."

- Narendra Modi



Watch live telecast of Prime Minister's program on DD News



# Transport Fuels Choke On Delhi, Is Top Local Source

Decision Support System Puts Contribution At 12% And 11% For Next 2 Days

Priyangi.Agarwal  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Transport is currently the top source of local pollution in Delhi's PM2.5 with the Decision Support System (DSS) estimating its contribution to be around 14% on Monday and 13% on Tuesday. The other two main sources in PM2.5 pollution are biomass burning (9.8% on Monday and 7.2% on Tuesday) and emissions from neighbouring Gautam Buddha Nagar (13.1% on Monday and 14.3% on Tuesday), according to DSS, a forecasting body under the Union ministry of earth sciences.

The contribution of different sources to the pollution differs on a day-to-day basis. With the seasonal harvest stubble burning yet to become a major pollution component, the current fall in air quality is caused by local sources, with transport a major offender. Experts said though Delhi government has taken steps to switch to cleaner technologies to deal with vehicular pollution, more needs to be done to reduce the use of personal vehicles and increase ridership in public transport.

Experts said people used the buses only because they had no other option. The planned premium bus service is stuck for a year now, the policy having been sent to the lieutenant governor only earlier this month. People are also wary about low bus frequencies and problematic last-mile connectivity. Delhi has 7,041 buses running under Delhi Transport Corporation and the Cluster Scheme, far below the 11,000 the city needs. These force people to use their personal cars, with

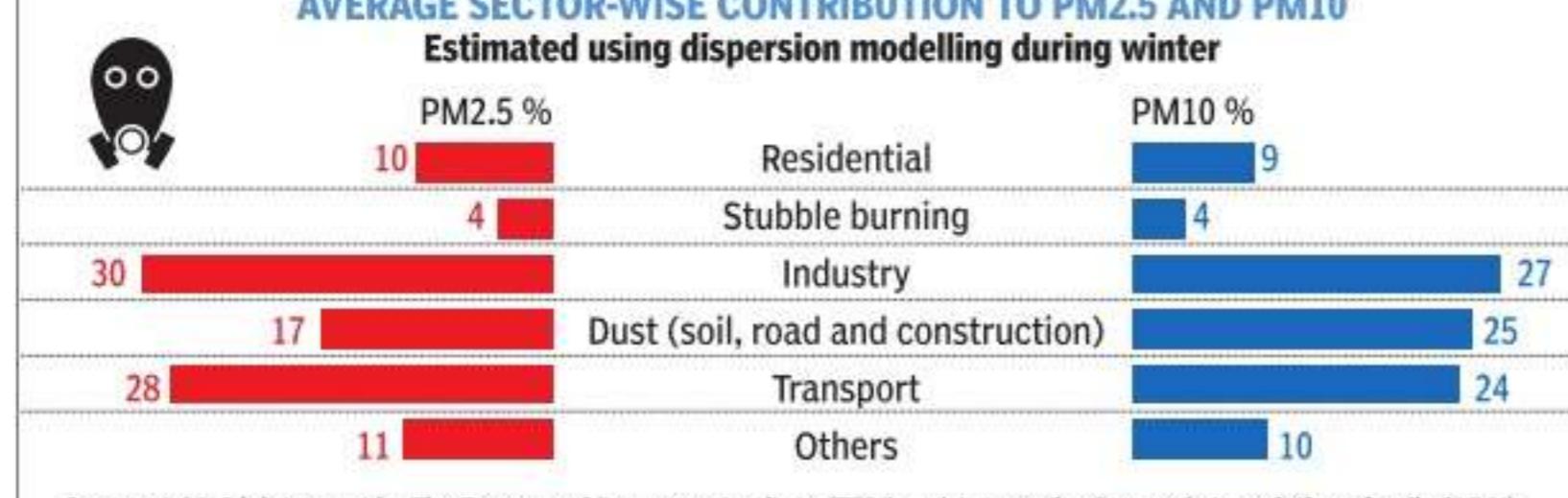
## FILLED WITH FUMES

### Major pollution sources in Delhi PM2.5 contribution in %

Source	Oct 30	Oct 31	Nov 1
Biomass burning	9.8	7.2	13.0
<b>Delhi transport</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.4</b>
Faridabad	8.0	6.0	6.2
GB Nagar	13.1	14.3	10.5
Ghaziabad	7.3	8.0	6.0
Delhi residential	2.8	2.6	2.4
Gurgaon	5.8	2.8	3.0
Bulandshahr	4.2	6.7	4.4
Delhi waste burning	1.3	1.2	1.1



### AVERAGE SECTOR-WISE CONTRIBUTION TO PM2.5 AND PM10 Estimated using dispersion modelling during winter



Source: A 2018 joint report by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI)

vehicular emissions proportionately affecting air quality.

Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director, research and advocacy, Centre for Science and Environment, said, "Vehicles have continued to remain the dominant source of emissions despite several actions initiated in the last decade, including converting public and local commercial transport to CNG and phasing out 10-year-old diesel vehicles and 15-year-old petrol vehicles. Bypasses have been created to

divert non-destined truck traffic. Each truck entry attracts an environmental compensation charge. A pollution charge is also levied on the purchase of diesel cars with enginesize of 2000cc and above and an environmental cess is levied on each litre of diesel sold in the city. While electrification of vehicle fleets is close to 12% now, all petrol and diesel vehicles must now meet BS VI emissions norms."

And yet, despite these interventions, vehicular pollu-

tion remains a serious problem. "This is due to the sheer increase in the number of vehicles, which negates the emissions gain per unit of vehicle," explained Roychowdhury. "Ridership in buses and Delhi Metro is not increasing and dependence on personal vehicles continues."

She said that Delhi government should demarcate legal parking areas and penalise illegal parking plus introduce variable parking pricing and eliminate free par-

king. "This can discourage personal vehicle usage," said Roychowdhury. Use of cleaner fuels must also be promoted, she added.

Sunil Dahiya, analyst, Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air; said it was evident that districts with industrial clusters — Panipat, Jhajjar, Gautam Buddha Nagar — were major sources of pollution. Along with transport and stubble burning, these "geographies need effective control measures to reduce emissions load," Dahiya said, recommending steps such as installation of flue gas desulphurisation in coal-based power plants, strict emission load regulation at industries, better paddy straw management and crop diversification to curb pollution.

Professor Sachidanand Tripathi of IIT Kanpur's civil engineering and sustainable energy department, who is a member of the National Clean Air Programme steering committee, said, "The authorities must shift all bus services to electric vehicles, first in Delhi and later in NCR districts. School buses and private buses too should go electric."

On its part, the state government said, "Delhi government has introduced 700 new electric buses in the capital and 400 are set to be inducted into the fleet. Vehicles older than 10 years are getting forfeited. To tackle pollution, Delhi Government has launched a premium bus aggregator scheme to promote public transport."

The government is running schemes such as 'Red light on, gaadi off,' claimed the government statement. Other factors that de-

TIMES

Special

CITY

As far back as in 2018, the source apportionment study carried out

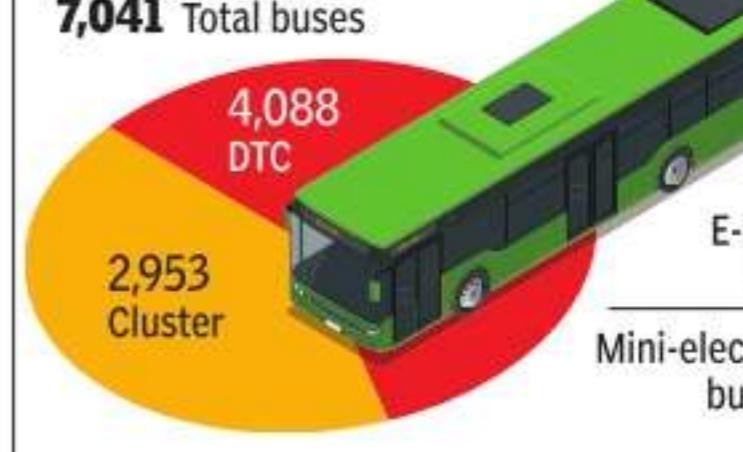
by The Energy and Resources Institute and Automotive Research Association of India put the contribution of transport to PM2.5 in Delhi's air at 39% and to PM10 at 19%.

ICCT India MD Amit Bhatt said, "We have to work on multiple fronts to promote public transport and stop private vehicles on the road. People who currently use buses are mostly forced travellers, not choice travellers."

Bhatt said the need was to develop multi-modal setups, boost frequency of buses and offer luxury bus travel options to people.

However, the Delhi government's plan in which people can use an app to book a seat on a privately owned premium bus has been stuck for a year now. The policy on this was only recently forwarded to the lieutenant governor. Other factors that de-

## DELHI'S BUS FLEET LAGS



In 2018, the Delhi government had informed court that Delhi needs 11,000 buses. Policies yet to see light of the day

stage".

Anil Chhikara, former transport department deputy commissioner, said, "In countries like Singapore, the public buses offer the comfort of a car. If our public buses are at that level, many passengers will start using them." Buses and Delhi Metro must also have seamless connectivity, he said.

The frequent breakdown of the CNG buses is also a bane. An official said the buses should ideally not be used for more than 10 years but are allowed to run for 15 years in the capital. "Most buses have logged over eight lakh kilometres," he said.

## Lack of rain relief behind a more polluted October

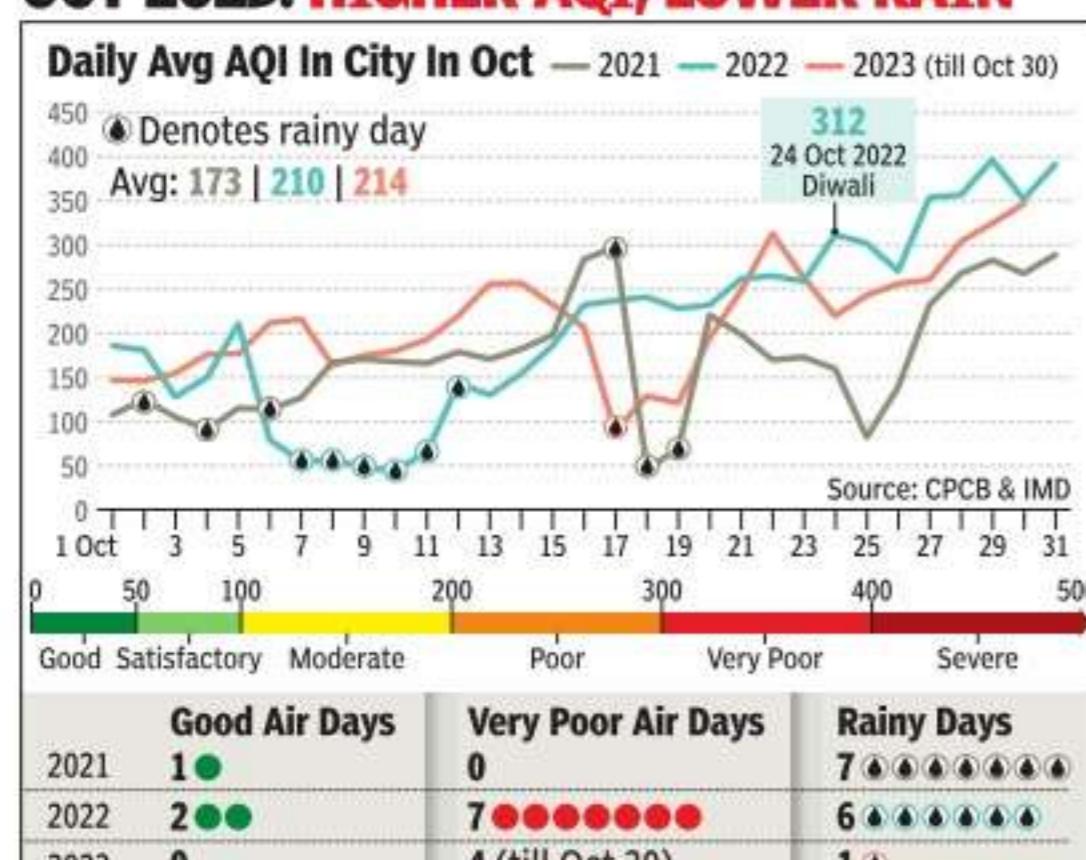
Amit.Bhattacharya  
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The dip in the city's air quality this month as compared with October in the previous two years will come as a disappointment to the various agencies involved in cleaning up the city's air, particularly because the previous months of 2023 have generally seen an improvement.

However, one crucial factor that led to a lower average AQI in October in the previous two years was rainfall. A substantial spell of rain usually leads to an immediate and drastic improvement in air quality. October 2021 saw seven rainy days with a total 122.5mm of rain in the month, as opposed to a normal of 14.1mm. Similarly, October last year had six days of rain totalling 128.6mm. By contrast, this month saw just one rainy day on October 17, when Safdarjung recorded 5.4mm.

Last October, all six rainy days came on the trot during a single wet spell that saw Delhi's air quality improve to 'good' on two days. Similarly,

### OCT 2023: HIGHER AQI, LOWER RAIN



in October 2021, there were three consecutive days of rain with one 'good air' day in between. October this year did not have a single 'good air' day.

However, this month has so far seen four 'very poor' air days, likely to increase to five by Tuesday, lower than the count of seven in October last year. The higher number of days in the very poor AQI

range last October was mainly on account of Diwali falling during the month. Last year, the festival of lights was celebrated on October 24, and all seven 'very poor' air days were recorded in the subsequent eight days (including Diwali) as meteorological conditions prevented dispersion of pollutants from firecrackers, among other factors.

## NE riots: 2 get rigorous imprisonment

New Delhi: A court on Monday sentenced a convict in a 2020 northeast Delhi riot case to seven years' rigorous imprisonment for an attempt to murder while another was handed over a term of five years' rigorous imprisonment for his "specific role" in the crime.

The court of additional sessions judge Purnima Pramachala said though the attempt to murder was not a lighter crime, some mitigating factors could not be overlooked.

Imran alias Model and Imran were convicted of being members of an unlawful assembly that committed rioting and used criminal

force against police by firing gunshots, injuring a constable in Brijpuri. The court observed that firing at police showed the duo's "readiness" to "challenge the State", which was "dangerous for the society".

According to the prosecution, Model fired upon police while Imran "supported and instigated" him. They were also sentenced to three years' RI for voluntarily causing hurt to deter a public servant from his duty and simple imprisonment for one year and six months, respectively, for rioting with a deadly weapon and disobedience of a public servant's order. TNN

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The air quality continued to remain in the 'very poor' category for the third consecutive day with an Air Quality Index of 347 on Monday. Relief from bad air is unlikely till November 2. The number of farm fires in Punjab remained over 1,000 for the second day in a row. Punjab, Haryana and UP recorded 1,030, 52 and 19 stubble burning counts, respectively, on Monday.

However, due to variable winds, the contribution of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 was roughly 9.8% on Monday, according to the decision support system, the forecasting model under the Union ministry of earth sciences.

The fire counts in Punjab were recorded at 127 on Saturday, but the detection of farm fires on Saturday was hampered by the presence of clouds over Punjab, Haryana and central Uttar Pradesh, said IARI. On Sunday, Punjab recorded 1,068 fire counts.

Experts said calm wind conditions and low temperatures caused accumulation of pollutants on Monday. A haze hung over the city too. "The visibility was recorded at 1,000 metres at Safdarjung on Monday morning," said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist and head, Regional Weather Forecasting Centre, India Meteorological Department. "For a few hours, wind speed dropped to nil at Safdarjung. Easterly winds were recorded

at Palam," Srivastava added.

Central Pollution Control Board's data shows that AQI at four stations — Mundka, North Campus of DU, Rohini and Wazirpur touched the severe category with an AQI of over 400. According to Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, the air quality is likely to remain 'very poor' till November 2.

The commission for air quality management (CAQM) said that during the 45-day period (September 15 to October 29) in the current paddy harvesting season, the total stubble burning incidents in Haryana, Punjab, NCR districts in Rajasthan and Delhi have come down from 13,964 in 2022 and 11,461 in 2021 to 6,391 in 2023.

"Though cases of open burning rise when the temperature goes down, incidents of waste burning are not difficult to find. In eateries and roadside dhabas too, rampant use of coal at tandoors can easily be seen. These are adding to the already rising pollution levels, but the authorities don't seem to be acting strictly against them," said Nitin Gupta from the Kamla Nagar Market Association.

CAQM, however, stated that it needs to find evidence on the ground before issuing challans or penalising defaulters.

"We have engaged 302 dedicated surveillance teams to check open burning and deployed 560 staff to monitor burning of biomass. The teams are working diligently. Besides conducting field inspections, the squads are also acting on complaints received on various apps. But without proof, we can't penalise suspected violators," said an MCD official.

As for action taken for violation of guidelines related to construction and

akthrough in their careers, transferred funds to him in five instalments," added the senior police officer.

The victims received offer letters via email, only to discover upon verification with the legitimate organisation that these documents were forged. They attempted to confront the accused, but were threatened with dire consequences. Consequently, a case was registered and an investigation initiated.

During the investigation, technical

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 33-year-old person who posed himself as a senior doctor affiliated with the World Health Organisation has been arrested for extorting lakhs of rupees from job seekers. Clad in a white lab coat and with a fake ID card hanging around his neck, the accused, Gaurav Kumar Jha, who operated out of Jyoti Nagar, managed to dupe seven people of Rs 15 lakh, officials said on Monday.

The accused used to make grand promises of high-paying positions, perks and additional benefits to the victims. "The victims, eager for a bre-

akthrough in their careers, transferred funds to him in five instalments," added the senior police officer.

The victims received offer letters via email, only to discover upon verification with the legitimate organisation that these documents were forged. They attempted to confront the accused, but were threatened with dire consequences. Consequently, a case was registered and an investigation initiated.

During the investigation, technical

## Air quality still very poor, respite unlikely till Nov 2

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

File photo



COUGH! COUGH!

## Residents contest MCD's claims of no open burning

Kushagra.Dixit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Between October 6 and October 30, not a single case of open or biomass burning was detected in the city by Municipal Corporation Delhi (MCD) teams, prompting several residents to question the civic body's intent, or the lack of it, when it comes to checking sources of pollution.

"We are checking government, non-government, residential and other construction sites and keeping vigil of hotspots prone to dumping of C&D waste. MCD has constituted a total of 517 surveillance teams, with 1,119 officers to check various violations, including open burning and illegal C&D waste dumping," said the official.

MCD, however, stated that it needs to find evidence on the ground before issuing challans or penalising defaulters.

However, according to experts, there is a desperate need to intensify inspections on the city's outskirts and in far-flung residential colonies. Sunil Dahiya, analyst, Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air, said it is important to verify individual complaints received on the MCD app as the number of challans are less considering the ongoing construction in the city.

"People living on the city's outskirts are carrying

# Barricades To Keep Street Crime At Bay

But Measure At Akshardham Adds To Traffic Woes

## TROUBLE STRETCH

### Issues faced

- Private buses heading to Nepal, UP, Madhya Pradesh, parts of Haryana and Punjab stop on the flyover near Akshardham (on Noida Link Road, leading to slowing down of traffic on the stretch)
- Crowd waiting for buses prone to street crime such as snatchings
- People walking on the flyover and going to the opposite side to click pictures with Akshardham in the backdrop

### Solution by law enforcement agency

- 2-3 feet on the



Sakshi.Chand@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Snatching and other street crimes on the Noida Link Road from Vikas Marg to Akshardham Mandir has prompted the local police to erect barricades on the side of the flyover close to the temple. A large number of private buses going to various cities stop on the flyover to pick up passengers and it is during such halts that a rising number of snatchings have taken place. Barricades have, therefore, been put up to occupy 2-3 feet of the road, causing a significant fall in snatching incidents, according to police.

While erecting the barricades has helped the local police curb crime, the traffic cops are having to deal with traffic congestion issues, especially during the evening peak hours. A traffic officer said, "We have spoken to the local police to remove the barricades from 5pm to 7.30pm to avert traffic problems. The spot is important for traffic because a road near the mouth of the flyover leads to

**TIMES VIEW:** The key question is why are private bus operators being allowed to convert the flyover near Akshardham into an illegal bus stand. This not only slows down the traffic but also endangers the life and property of waiting passengers. We wonder why the traffic police and the transport department don't stop them. It is good to know that barricades have reduced snatching in these parts. But the police and the transport department should consider more basic solutions

NH-24 and Ghaziabad while the flyover itself takes motorists to Mayur Vihar and Noida. The barricades create a bottleneck for traffic."

Buses stopping for passengers on the flyover usually drive to Nepal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and parts of Haryana and Punjab. At least, 19 snatchings have been reported on the stretch in the last 25 days by passengers who were mostly at the site waiting for their buses. At times,

The officer added that police and traffic officers are in contact to find out a viable solution to ensure that the private buses don't transgress the rules. "We are not allowing the private buses to stop and since we are only excluding 2-3 feet of the plying road, there shouldn't be any major traffic congestion," added the officer.

## Edu officer's mission: To secure admissions for poor children



So far, the drive has touched Hauz Rani, Chhatarpur and Pushp Vihar

Shradha.Chettri  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** District deputy education officer Ashok Kumar Tyagi of South district was taken aback to find that the three children of his house help were not attending school. Apparently, they hadn't been admitted when the school had asked the family to submit bank account details and other documents.

In reality, government school admissions for children aged 6-14 years only requires an undertaking from the parents, who can submit any form later. To make parents aware of this, Tyagi started the "Dakhila Abhiyan", or admission campaign, to enrol children in schools.

So far, the campaign has touched Hauz Rani, Chhatarpur and Pushp Vihar, all in south Delhi. At Hauz Rani, four children were enrolled, while the campaign in Pushp Vihar on Monday aided the enrollment of seven children. Chhatarpur had the most admissions with 23 in both Delhi government and Municipal Corporation Delhi institutions.

"Under the Samagra Siksha Abhiyan, out-of-school children are brought back to classes. I thought that as an education officer I needed to do something more," Tyagi told TOI. "Taking the help of Cluster Resource Centre Coordinators, District Urban Resource Coordinators, and schoolteachers, I have been

visiting places and talking to people there."

Tyagi, who became the DDE (South) in January, is also being helped by National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme and eco club members in the campaign. "In Chhatarpur, a school band attracted the attention of people. Playing bagpipes and drums, the marchers held up placards as they walked around the Chhatarpur mandir area, with interesting slogans like "Adi roti khaenge, school jaroor jaenge (We will eat half a roti, but attend school)", "Padi likhijab mata hogi, ghar ki bhagya vidatha hogi (An educated mother is the guardian of the family's destiny)", "Desh ko agar badana hai, tor har bacche ko padana hai (For the country to grow, every child needs to be educated)".

Nitin, whose daughter was admitted to Class VI in Government Girls' Senior Secondary School, Chhatarpur Mandir, related, "I was not allowed entrance to the school by the guard. Then, the teacher I met asked me to get several documents, without which she said admission couldn't be given. I am so happy that my daughter will get to school."

Tyagi responded, "It is important to conduct a campaign for bringing children back to school every month. Visiting areas such as construction sites, unauthorised colonies and flyovers is crucial for this."

**The MLA and his wife were convicted of assaulting Razia, then the principal of a government-run school in New Delhi**

The court also imposed various conditions, including that the convicts shall not involve themselves in any offence and registration of any case shall lead to cancellation of their probation.

The Rouse Avenue court in April convicted the Seelampur constituency MLA along with his wife in connection with an assault and criminal intimidation case of 2009. They were convicted of assaulting Razia, then the principal of a government-run school in New Delhi.

The court held that the AAP MLA and his wife, Aasma, criminally intimidated the school's top official while she was holding the office of a public servant. The court stated that the accused assaulted the principal to deter her from discharging her duties.

On August 16, the court issued a notice on an appeal challenging the order of sentence and the AAP MLA's and his wife's probation.

Conditions apply. Packages include: Airfare, Quality Hotels, Meals, Visa, Insurance, Sightseeing & Services of our Tour Manager. Prices mentioned are Ex Delhi & are per adult on twin sharing basis. Cruise Ports of Call will differ as per sailing date. Taxes as applicable. ROE is calculated at 1 EUR = INR 90.00, 1 GBP = INR 105.00 and will vary on the date of payment. SOTC utilises the services of various third party service providers to deliver specific services in the products/tours.

## What the snatchers took away: A life, a career and a daughter full of promise

Antyika.Pal@timesgroup.com

**Hapur:** At Kirti Singh's home last Friday, lunch was being readied for her. The first-year BTech student had called her cousin around 1pm and said, "I'll be home soon". She didn't. The next call came from police.

Kirti (20) was on her way back from ABES College of Engineering in Ghaziabad with a classmate in an auto when she was targeted by snatchers. She fell from the auto and sustained critical injuries. On Sunday evening, she passed away at a private hospital.

"I will miss her dearly, especially our visits to the temple together," sobbed Leena, Kirti's cousin who is almost her age. "We were close since childhood."

She was very fond of chocolate cake. Once in a while, I would bake it for her. She liked painting too," added Leena, pointing to a sketch in Kirti's room in New Pannapuri.

Focused on studies since school and setting out on her own life path — one that was not influenced by societal pressure — Kirti's story was like that of any other middle-class Indian girl working to build a career. She cracked JEE twice, in 2022 and 2023, then took admission at ABES. Her eyes were firmly set on the engineering degree that, she hoped, would get her not just a good job but be her ticket to her dream places — Paris and the US. "She wanted to go on foreign trips, but only after she had secured that engi-

neering degree," said Leena.

Kirti had told her parents that she would marry only if she got a decent job. "She always wanted to become an engineer. In Class V, she got admission at Tagore Shiksha Sadan Inter-College in Hapur," Leena said.

When she took admission at ABES this year, Kirti's brother Ankit accompanied her

Enfield, cellphone and wallet containing Rs 5,100.

CTV footage shows the auto accelerating together away from the bikers but they easily kept up in their Apache.

Balbir was arrested after a gunfight in Govindpuri on Saturday night. Police had announced a Rs 25,000 reward on Jeetu's arrest.

Around 11pm on Sunday, a team from Masuri police station had set up a checkpost after a bike theft was reported in Muradnagar. Yatendra Vashisht, the complainant, alleged that two men pointed a gun at him and fled with his Royal

Yadav said sub-inspector Bhanu Prakash was hit by one of bullets fired by Jeetu on his left hand, near the shoulder. Jeetu was taken to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. Jeetu was on the same Apache used for the snatching when police shot him.

Jeetu, police said, had been booked in 12 cases of snatching, robbery and provisions of the Arms Act at different police stations in the city. He had allegedly been active since 2016, starting with smuggling liquor and going on to sell illegal arms and carry out robberies. He lived in Mishal Garhi in Masuri.

"He was addicted to drugs. He would spend most of the money he made from crime on buying them," the DCP said.

Jeetu had been in and out of jail. In 2016, he was arrested three times under provisions of the Arms and Excise Acts.

In 2017, he was picked up twice in connection with cases of theft. Police said he started carrying out snatchings in 2020. That year, he was nabbed four times. After the BTech student died on Sunday evening, police had registered a case under Sections 392 (robbery) and 302 (murder) of the IPC against Jeetu and Balbir.

## Eye on poll, Cong targets AAP and BJP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** With its eyes set on Lok Sabha polls next year and Delhi Assembly elections in 2023, the Delhi Congress on Monday launched a sharp attack on both BJP and Aam Aadmi Party, accusing the former for price rise and unemployment while questioning "health and education models" of the latter.

In a public meeting, named 'Pratigya Rally' at northeast Delhi's Mustafabad, Delhi Congress chief Arvinder Singh Lovely alleged that common people were suffering due to high inflation and the Centre's failure to provide jobs. He also questioned the silence of the BJP MP and area MLAs for the inactivity of the Trans-Yamuna Development Board, a flagship scheme of the previous Congress government.

This was Delhi Congress' third rally under its ongoing 'Jawaab Do-Hisab Do' campaign launched by Lovely after he took over the reins of the party last month.

Locally alleged people were disillusioned with BJP and their anger would reflect in the forthcoming 2024 parliamentary elections.

The former Delhi minister also claimed that the Congress government had taken several steps to improve school education in Delhi, but the current dispensation was propagating a "false, non-existent" education model.

No immediate reaction was available from AAP.



TRAGIC END: Kirti Singh

## Snatcher fired at team chasing him: Cops

Continued from P1

C TV footage shows the auto accelerating together away from the bikers but they easily kept up in their Apache.

Balbir was arrested after a gunfight in Govindpuri on Saturday night. Police had announced a Rs 25,000 reward on Jeetu's arrest.

Around 11pm on Sunday, a team from Masuri police station had set up a checkpost after a bike theft was reported in Muradnagar. Yatendra Vashisht, the complainant, alleged that two men pointed a gun at him and fled with his Royal

Yadav said sub-inspector Bhanu Prakash was hit by one of bullets fired by Jeetu on his left hand, near the shoulder. Jeetu was taken to a hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. Jeetu was on the same Apache used for the snatching when police shot him.

Jeetu, police said, had been booked in 12 cases of snatching, robbery and provisions of the Arms Act at different police stations in the city. He had allegedly been active since 2016, starting with smuggling liquor and going on to sell illegal arms and carry out robberies. He lived in Mishal Garhi in Masuri.

"He was addicted to drugs. He would spend most of the money he made from crime on buying them," the DCP said.

Jeetu had been in and out of jail. In 2016, he was arrested three times under provisions of the Arms and Excise Acts.

In 2017, he was picked up twice in connection with cases of theft. Police said he started carrying out snatchings in 2020. That year, he was nabbed four times. After the BTech student died on Sunday evening, police had registered a case under Sections 392 (robbery) and 302 (murder) of the IPC against Jeetu and Balbir.

Locally alleged people were disillusioned with BJP and their anger would reflect in the forthcoming 2024 parliamentary elections.

The former Delhi minister also claimed that the Congress government had taken several steps to improve school education in Delhi, but the current dispensation was propagating a "false, non-existent" education model.

No immediate reaction was available from AAP.

**sotc.in**

**Summer Offers To Choose EUROPE 2024**

**Get 3-Night European Cruise FREE!**

**Get 4-Night European Holiday FREE!**

**11-D East European Wonders + 4 Nights Croatia & Slovenia FREE!**  
Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Austria, Slovakia & Hungary

**12-D Best of Spain and Portugal + 4 Nights Morocco FREE!**  
Madrid, Salamanca, Porto, Lisbon, Seville, Costa Del Sol, Granada, Valencia & Barcelona

**8-D Best of Scandinavia Fjords Cruise + 4 Nights Denmark FREE!**  
Helleysly, Geiranger, Stavanger, Kiel & Copenhagen

**8-D Best of Greek Island Cruise + 4 Nights Italy FREE!**  
Bari, Mykonos, Santorini & Olympia

**Super Savers Start @ ₹ 1 89 900.00 with Airfare**

**8-D European Dreams**  
Switzerland, Germany, Belgium & France

**8-D Glimpses of East Europe**  
Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia & Hungary

**Departures start from March 2024**

**Call: 1800 209 3344**

**sotc.in**

**Video Chat with us!**

**Just Scan & Connect LIVE 10 am to 8 pm**

**SOTC**

**For Holidays.**

**HOLIDAYS • INCENTIVE TRAVEL • BUSINESS TRAVEL • VISAS • TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES**

**Holiday World Outlets: DELHI: Connaught Place: 9619921871, Greater Kailash: 9167708356, Model Town: (Near Ashok Vihar Flyover) 9619925537, Pitampura: Ring Road Mall: 9619924883, Punjabi Bagh: 9167081258. FARIDABAD: 9167270691. DLF GURUGRAM: 9619152956 GURGAON: MG Road: 9619923927. GHAZIABAD: 9619624676. NOIDA: 9619924198. RAJOURI GARDEN: 9167708416, AGRA: 9619931546. ALLAHABAD: 9619931658. AMBALA: 9167146096. VARANASI: 9619931510.**

**Conditions apply. Packages include: Airfare, Quality Hotels, Meals, Visa, Insurance, Sightseeing & Services of our Tour Manager. Prices mentioned are Ex Delhi & are per adult on twin sharing basis. Cruise Ports of Call will differ as per sailing date. Taxes as applicable. ROE is calculated at 1 EUR = INR 90.00, 1 GBP = INR 105.00 and will vary on the date of payment. SOTC utilises the services of various third party service providers to deliver specific services in the products/tours.**

**Man, busy on phone, suffers injuries after his van falls into a drain in Dwarka**

**New Delhi:** A man was injured after his van fell into a drain near a college in Dwarka's Madhu Vihar on Sunday. Police said the victim was busy with his phone, which probably led to the incident. TNN

**कार्यालय महानिदेशक, सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग,**  
सूचना भवन, लाइपुर रिंग रोड, निकट वाणिज्य कर भवन देहरादून (उत्तराखण्ड )  
E-mail : infodirector.uk@gmail.com दृष्टांशः 0135-2662971, 2662369/फैक्स : 2662334  
Website: www.uttarainformation.gov.in

पत्रांक: 3200/मु.एव.ला.संवि. प्रका. 38/2012 दिनांक: 30 अक्टूबर, 2023

**ई-निविदा-शुद्धि पत्र**

इस विभाग की ई-निविदा संख्या 3103/मु.एव.ला.संवि. प्रका. 38/2012 दिनांक 26 अक्टूबर, 2023 के माध्यम से सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड, द्वारा समय-समय पर उत्तराखण्ड सरकार की उत्तराखण्ड विभाग परक योजनाओं के प्रवाचन-प्रसार के दृष्टिकोण सरकारी/परिक्रामा के मुद्रण कार्य के लिए इच्छक/अनुभवी प्रतिष्ठित स्थानीय फौजों से टू-वीडीオ सिस्टम के आधार पर ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी थी, जिसको संशोधित किया जाता है, जिसका विवरण निम्नवर्त प्रस्तुत है:-

S.No.	Particular	Date
1.	Date of availability of Tender Documents on Website for download	01 November, 2023, 02: PM
2.	Date of Pre-Bid conference	02 November, 2023, 11:00 AM
3.	Bid Submission start date	03 November, 2023, 01: PM
4.	Last date of Bid Submission	16 November, 2023, 10: AM
5.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid And Presentation	16 November, 2023, 11: AM
6.	Date of Opening of Financial Bid Will be intimated separately	-----
	Tender Documents Cost	Rs. 2000/- + GST 18% = 2360

**Note:** If any date mentioned above is declared as Holiday, that date will be shifted to next working day without any change in other parameters such as Venue, etc.

**Sd/-**  
RO 2023103019800 / सु.एवं.लो.संवि.  
देहरादून: दिनांक: 30 अक्टूबर, 2023

**महानिदेशक, सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग,  
उत्तराखण्ड देहरादून**

**KK-276 DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION & TRAINING, ODISHA, CUTTACK.**  
Tel: 0671-2301061 Email:dteorissa@gmail.com  
Phone No-0671 2301061 e-mail: dteorissa@gmail.com

**Notice inviting Request For Proposals (RFP)**

For selection and engagement of professional Agency for imparting Training on Life skills including Entrepreneurship and Management and Smart Technology for Diploma students of the Government Polytechnics of Odisha.

**NIT NO. DTET/2023-24/15188**

The Director, Technical Education & Training, Odisha invites Technical and Financial Proposal from the Agencies of National/ international depute for empanelment as Professional Agency for imparting Training on Life Skills including Entrepreneurship and Management and Smart Technology to Diploma students of Government Polytechnics of Odisha.

The RFP document can be downloaded from the website link <http://dteorissa.gov.in/en/tender/> with effect from 31.10.2023.

Any addendum or corrigendum (if required) will be uploaded at DTE&T website mentioned above.

**Sd/-**  
Director of Technical Education & Training, Odisha  
OIPR-44008/11/0022/23/24

**कार्यालय महानिदेशक, सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग,**  
सूचना भवन, लाइपुर रिंग रोड, निकट वाणिज्य कर भवन देहरादून (उत्तराखण्ड )  
E-mail : infodirector.uk@gmail.com दृष्टांशः 0135-2662971, 2662369/फैक्स : 2662334  
Website: www.uttarainformation.gov.in

पत्रांक: 3201/मु.एव.ला.संवि. प्रका. 38/2012 दिनांक: 30 अक्टूबर, 2023

**ई-निविदा-शुद्धि पत्र**

इस विभाग की ई-निविदा संख्या 3103/मु.एव.ला.संवि. प्रका. 38/2012 दिनांक 26 अक्टूबर, 2023 के माध्यम से सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा समय-समय पर उत्तराखण्ड सरकार की उत्तराखण्ड विभाग परक योजनाओं के प्रवाचन-प्रसार के दृष्टिकोण सरकारी/परिक्रामा के मुद्रण कार्य के लिए इच्छक/अनुभवी, प्रतिष्ठित स्थानीय फौजों से टू-वीडीो सिस्टम के आधार पर ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी थी, जिसको संशोधित किया जाता है, जिसका विवरण निम्नवर्त प्रस्तुत है:-

S.No.	Particular	Date
1.	Date of availability of Tender Documents on Website for download	01 November, 2023, 02: PM
2.	Date of Pre-Bid conference	02 November, 2023, 11:00 AM
3.	Bid Submission start date	03 November, 2023, 01: PM
4.	Last date of Bid Submission	16 November, 2023, 10: AM
5.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid And Presentation	16 November, 2023, 11:05 AM
6.	Date of Opening of Financial Bid Will be intimated separately	-----
	Tender Documents Cost	Rs. 2000/- + GST 18% = 2360

**Note:** If any date mentioned above is declared as Holiday, that date will be shifted to next working day without any change in other parameters such as Venue, etc.

**Sd/-**  
RO 2023103019799 / सु.एवं.लो.संवि.  
देहरादून: दिनांक 30 अक्टूबर, 2023

**महानिदेशक, सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग,  
उत्तराखण्ड देहरादून**

**कार्यालय महानिदेशक, सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग,**  
सूचना भवन, लाइपुर रिंग रोड, निकट वाणिज्य कर भवन देहरादून (उत्तराखण्ड )  
E-mail : infodirector.uk@gmail.com दृष्टांशः 0135-2662971, 2662369/फैक्स : 2662334  
Website: www.uttarainformation.gov.in

पत्रांक: 3201/मु.एव.ला.संवि. प्रका. 38/2012 दिनांक: 30 अक्टूबर, 2023

**ई-निविदा-शुद्धि पत्र**

इस विभाग की ई-निविदा संख्या 3103/मु.एव.ला.संवि. प्रका. 38/2012 दिनांक 26 अक्टूबर, 2023 के माध्यम से विभाग द्वारा समय-समय पर सूचना निदर्शित के मुद्रण हेतु इच्छक/अनुभवी, प्रतिष्ठित स्थानीय फौजों से टू-वीडीो सिस्टम के आधार पर ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी थी, जिसको संशोधित किया जाता है, जिसका विवरण निम्नवर्त प्रस्तुत है:-

S.No.	Particular	Date
1.	Date of availability of Tender Documents on Website for download	01 November, 2023, 02: PM
2.	Date of Pre-Bid conference	02 November, 2023, 11:00 AM
3.	Bid Submission start date	03 November, 2023, 01: PM
4.	Last date of Bid Submission	16 November, 2023, 10: AM
5.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid And Presentation	16 November, 2023, 11:15 AM
6.	Date of Opening of Financial Bid Will be intimated separately	-----
	Tender Documents Cost	Rs. 2000/- + GST 18% = 2360

**Note:** If any date mentioned above is declared as Holiday, that date will be shifted to next working day without any change in other parameters such as Venue, etc.

**Sd/-**  
RO 2023103019797 / सु.एवं.लो.संवि.  
देहरादून: दिनांक 30 अक्टूबर, 2023

**महानिदेशक, सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग,  
उत्तराखण्ड देहरादून**

**CAD-2615**  
**idco** | **ODISHA**  
NEW OPPORTUNITIES

**Minor among 2 killed in separate cases**

**New Delhi:** Two separate incidents of murder took place in Delhi on Sunday.

A warehouse worker lost his life while his two friends were injured after they were attacked by a group of men who came to rescue a suspected thief in Najafgarh. Police were alerted about the incident around 8.30pm on Sunday. "Upon arriving at the scene, our team discovered that three men in an injured condition had been rushed to the hospital. One of them, Dharmender (33), succumbed to his injuries whereas his two friends, Chotu and Sukh Sagar, who also work in the same place, were injured," said DCP (Dwarka) M Harsha Vardhan. A case has been registered and two suspects have been detained.

In another incident, a 16-year-old boy was fatally stabbed by another juvenile in Subzi Mandi area over their previous fights. DCP (North) Manoj Kumar Meena said a case had been filed. The suspect has been apprehended. TNN

इस विभाग की ई-निविदा संख्या 3103/मु.एव.ला.संवि. प्रका. 38/2012 दिनांक 26 अक्टूबर, 2023 के माध्यम से सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड, द्वारा समय-समय पर उत्तराखण्ड सरकार की उत्तराखण्ड विभाग, विभाग परक योजनाओं के प्रवाचन-प्रसार के दृष्टिकोण सरकारी/परिक्रामा के मुद्रण कार्य के लिए इच्छक/अनुभवी, प्रतिष्ठित स्थानीय फौजों से टू-वीडीो सिस्टम के आधार पर ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी थी, जिसको संशोधित किया जाता है, जिसका विवरण निम्नवर्त प्रस्तुत है:-

S.No.	Particular	Date
1.	Date of availability of Tender Documents on Website for download	01 November, 2023, 02: PM
2.	Date of Pre-Bid conference	02 November, 2023, 11:00 AM
3.	Bid Submission start date	03 November, 2023, 01: PM
4.	Last date of Bid Submission	16 November, 2023, 10: AM
5.	Date of Opening of Technical Bid And Presentation	16 November, 2023, 11: AM
6.	Date of Opening of Financial Bid Will be intimated separately	-----
	Tender Documents Cost	Rs. 2000/- + GST 18% = 2360

**Note:** If any date mentioned above is declared as Holiday, that date will be shifted to next working day without any change in other parameters such as Venue, etc.

**Sd/-**

RO 2023103019800 / सु.एवं.लो.संवि.

देहरादून: दिनांक 30 अक्टूबर, 2023

**महानिदेशक, सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग,  
उत्तराखण्ड देहरादून**

**Office of the Chief Construction Engineer RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE**

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work

Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 51 for 2023-24

Date. 27.10.2023

Letter No. 5151

1. Name of the work



**Pushkar Singh Dhami**  
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand



December, 2023 | Dehradun

## DESTINATION UTTARAKHAND

GLOBAL INVESTORS SUMMIT 2023

Peace To Prosperity



**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

# Invest in prosperity, be our growth partners

## Giving Momentum to Tourism Economy

### Uttarakhand Tourism Policy 2030 (2023)

Focus on inclusive and sustainable tourism growth helping Uttarakhand emerge as a leading global tourism hub.

#### INCENTIVES FOR INVESTORS

The policy supports and incentivizes both existing and planned tourism projects.

Capital Subsidy for Hospitality Projects	
REGION CATEGORY	MAXIMUM CAPITAL SUBSIDY
Projects in Category A regions	25% of Eligible Capital Assets
Projects in Category B regions	35% of Eligible Capital Assets
Projects in Category C regions	50% of Eligible Capital Assets

#### CAPITAL SUBSIDY FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Eligible Tourism Units (non-accommodation) providing (or desirous of providing) tourism services and/or developing tourism products can avail capital subsidy in the form of reimbursement of their proposed investment in Eligible Capital Assets. Maximum Capital Subsidy shall be 100% of

their investment in eligible capital assets. PPP projects of the State Government of Uttarakhand shall not be eligible.

#### SUBSIDIES FOR UNITS / PROJECTS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CAPITAL SUBSIDY

- Incentive for high-value premium hospitality
- Incentives for foreign tourists' attraction
- Organization of MICE, art, social and cultural events, fairs and festivals.

#### INCENTIVE FOR HIGH-VALUE PREMIUM HOSPITALITY

Eligible Tourism Units can avail incentive of 1% of Eligible Turnover for achieving turnover of more than Rs 50 lakh per key per year. Revenue generated by all activities, including conventions, events, and ceremonies within the property, shall be counted towards computing per key revenue.

#### INCENTIVES FOR FOREIGN TOURISTS'

Eligible Tourism Units receiving foreign customers/ providing services to foreign customers can avail incentive of 1% of Eligible Turnover generated from foreign customers. Such units would need to submit necessary proofs for the nationality of the customers.

#### INCENTIVES FOR PROMOTION OF HELI TRANSPORT

To promote high-value tourism, the state shall incentivize hotels for offering Helicopter transport service to their customers. The state shall provide a subsidy of INR 500 per leg per person of Heli-transport from Sahastradhara, Jolly Grant and Pant Nagar Helipads to the Helipad nearest to the accommodation. The subsidy shall be paid against proof of actual journeys facilitated and booked through the hotel.

#### EXEMPTION ON ELECTRICITY DUTY

State shall provide exemption of Electricity Duty to the Eligible Tourism Units in the state till the end of policy period.

#### EXEMPTION ON STAMP DUTY

New Eligible Tourism Units shall qualify for Reimbursement of Stamp Duty applicable on:

- Sale / Lease deeds executed in respect of purchase / lease of land/ built-up area for a tourism project, provided that the sale / lease deed is entered into during the period of the Policy.
- Loan agreements entered for undertaking a tourism project during the Period of the Policy.
- Mortgage and hypothecation for undertaking a tourism project during the Period of the Policy.

Scan  
QR Code  
for Investors  
Registration



Scan QR  
Code for  
Key Policies



**A Perfect Investment  
A Perfect Destination**



COURT DISMISSES PLAINT AGAINST MAMATA ALLEGING DISRESPECT TO NATIONAL ANTHEM

# TIMES NATION

\* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023



PREZ MURMU TO VISIT SIACHEN BASE CAMP, AT ALTITUDE OF 12,300FT, ON WEDNESDAY

Cops will probe Hamas leader's virtual address, says Kerala CM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Kochi/Kozhikode:** Kerala Police will probe how a former Hamas chief popped up on a giant screen to address a pro-Palestine solidarity event in Malappuram last week, CM Pinarayi Vijayan said on Monday.

"The person referred to as a Palestinian fighter spoke at an event organised by the Solidarity Youth Movement (SYM), the youth wing of Jamaat-e-Islami. We need to see what he said. It appears that the speech was a recorded one. We need to understand that issue properly," he told reporters in Kochi.

On Union minister Rajiv Chandrasekhar and his aides contemplating legal action against those who attended the rally, Vijayan declared "that won't work in Kerala".

"We have always stood with Palestine. The country stood with Palestine. Now, there is some deviation," he said. "If Jamaat-e-Islami seeks permission to conduct a meeting, police normally give it. Police give permission to all organisations for meetings."

In Kozhikode, Solidarity Youth Movement functionaries said former Hamas leader Khaled Meshal's video address was a pre-recorded one that could be used as "a general message in all Palestine solidarity events in Kerala".

SYM state president C T Shuhaiib said in Malappuram that the pre-recorded video had been provided on request.

Terming Hamas "a resistance movement and not an entity designated by India or the UN as a terrorist organisation", Shuhaiib said there was no need to make an issue out of an online or video address by a leader of such an outfit.

## RTI Act fast becoming a dead letter, says SC

Fill Up Vacancies Immediately, Orders Court

Dhananjay Mahapatra  
@timesgroup.com



New Delhi: The Right to Information Act, enacted in 2005 to mandate public authorities to share information with citizens to ensure transparency in governance, is fast becoming a "dead letter law", the Supreme Court lamented on Monday after finding that the Central Information Commission and state ICs were plagued with vacancies and were unable to decide public complaints.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for petitioner social activist Anjali Bhardwaj, informed a bench comprising CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices JB Parikh and Manoj Misra that of the 11 posts of information commissioners in the CIC, seven were vacant and the incumbent ICs were scheduled to retire in November.

He said state information commissions were in worse shape. The Jharkhand state information commission had stopped functioning since May 2020 as all 11 posts of ICs were vacant. All posts of ICs in Telangana SIC fell vacant in February and Tripura in July 2021, Bhushan added.

mediate steps to notify vacancies and initiate the process for filling them up. "States, by failing to fill up vacancies in information commissions, have rendered the RTI Act a dead letter law," it said.

The RTI Act came into force on June 15, 2005, and was intended "to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto".

Bhardwaj informed the court that Maharashtra SIC was without a chief and functioning with only four commissioners even though over 15,000 appeals/complaints were pending. She said Jhark-

hand SIC was completely defunct since May 2020 and no appeals/complaints were being registered or disposed of for the last three years.

Tripura SIC was defunct since July 2021 and Telangana SIC since February 2023 even though more than 10,000 appeals/complaints were pending, Bhardwaj said. Karnataka SIC was functioning with five commissioners and six posts were lying vacant. More than 40,000 appeals/complaints were pending before the commission, she added.

The West Bengal SIC was functioning with three commissioners with around 12,000 appeals/complaints pending. Odisha SIC was functioning with three commissioners while more than 16,000 appeals/complaints were pending. Bihar SIC was functioning with two commissioners while more than 8,000 appeals/complaints were pending, Bhardwaj said.

"Fully share the con-

## Andhra train collision toll rises to 13; loco driver may have jumped signal

Nalla.Babu@timesgroup.com

Vizianagaram: The toll in the collision between two passenger trains in Vizianagaram district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday evening climbed to 13 a day after the accident and the number of injured rose to 50, many of them in critical condition. Railway officials are not ruling out the possibility of the death count increasing further.

The accident occurred when the Visakhapatnam-Rayagada train rear-ended the Visakhapatnam-Palasa passenger train, leading to the derailment of three coaches and extensive damage to two of those. An inquiry into the accident has been ordered, as the exact cause remains unclear. Neither of the two trains had the railway's safety system Kavach in place.

It's speculated that the Rayagada train overshot the



AFTERMATH OF TRAGEDY: Rescue and restoration work being carried out by NDRF personnel in Vizianagaram district on Monday

Alert driver averts tragedy

**Chandigarh:** A major tragedy was averted after the driver of Amritsar-Chandigarh Superfast Express noticed a dislodged pandrol clip (elastic rail clip) of a railway track between Mohali-Chandigarh stations on Monday, leading to stoppage for 20 minutes, reports Barinderjeet Saluja. A case was filed against unknown persons.

the alert system not function? 2. Why did the signalling fail?

3. How did the communications system fail?" he tweeted.

Meanwhile, 47 trains were cancelled following Sunday's accident. As the Chennai-Howrah mainline was affected, railways cancelled, partially cancelled & diverted trains.

(With inputs from Hemanta Pradhan and Umamaheswara Rao)

pursue against the verdict.

The family members sought intervention at the highest level by Indian government. The government has been addressing the issue in diplomatic and security engagements with Doha for over a year but has refrained from making any noise about it, realising the sensitive nature of ties with the tiny but influential Gulf state that's home to 800,000 Indian nationals. Some unconfirmed reports suggested that Qatar authorities might have radio intercepts of a conversation between one of the former naval officers accused of spying and an Indian official.

## Met families of 8 on Qatar death row, said govt will make every effort for release: EAM

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Trying to get them home, says Navy chief

**Panaji:** Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said here Monday that all efforts were being made to secure the release of eight naval veterans sentenced to death in Qatar, reports Newton Sequera.

Kumar said he had sought a transcript of the proceedings and the Qatar court order. "I have not seen the transcript of the hearing. It was supposed to be transcribed and provided Sunday. We will have a look at it," Kumar said on the sidelines of the fourth edition of the Goa Maritime Conclave.

cerns and pain of the families. Underlined that Government will continue to make all efforts to secure their release. Will coordinate closely with the families in that regard," he posted.

The eight men, detained in August last year for allegedly passing on classified informa-

tion about a Qatar submarine project to Israel, were awarded the death penalty on October 26 by a Qatar court in a verdict India described as shocking. India has spent a considerable amount of money to provide them legal assistance and is currently exploring the legal options it can

# TIMES interact

Connecting People, Connecting Needs.

jobs

business

tender & notices

TENDERS

EARN 2000/- Invest 70,000/- Install Auto Bulb Plant Labour, Marketing Facility with 100% Buyback Agreement # 011-45720199, 9910492487.

STATE BANK OF INDIA RBO - 4, AO - 4, CRM Campus-II, Plot No.79, Sector-18, Gurugram, Haryana-2012215

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT) PREMISES REQUIRED ON LEASE

SBI invites offers from owners / Power of Attorney holders for premises lease rental basis for opening a new Branch Commercial / Office space.

Name of Branch & Approx Carpet Area

Sector 56, Gurugram Branch

Hiring of premises for Sh. Sector 56, Gurugram Branch (Branch code 11443)

Carpet Area - 3200-3500 sq ft (297-325 sq m) preferably on ground floor within a radius of 1 K.m. approx of existing Branch

For further details and downloading bidding form/documents, please visit website [www.sbi.co.in](http://www.sbi.co.in) or <https://www.sbiunderprocurementnews.com>

THE LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF BIDS AT OUR ABOVE OFFICE IS 14.11.2023 UPTO 03:00 PM.

No brokers please.

Authorised Signatory

MACHINERY & TOOLS

**D.G. SET REQUIRED**  
500 KVA or more in good working condition. Please send details to:  
**kgplast@rediffmail.com**  
**9999225344**

COURT NOTICE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING ATTENDANCE OF DEFENDANT (ORDER 5, rule 2 of the Code of Civil Procedure)

In the court of Sh. Anil Kumar Paswan Additional District Judge-(4) East

Room No.103, New Building, Kankarbagh Courts, Delhi

Case No. 331/2023

Manoharan Kaur Vs. You

To: Sujeev Kumar Tiwari

R/o F-13, 3rd Floor, Vijay Chowk, Laxmi Nagar, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: ashish1934@gmail.com

2. Sanjay Choudhary

R/o D-4, Daryaganj Block, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110026

Email ID: sanjayshastri20@gmail.com

3. Dipak Choudhary

R/o D-4, Daryaganj Block, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110026

4. Amit Khurana

R/o F-13, 3rd Floor, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110029

Email ID: ashish1934@gmail.com

5. Kuldeep Arora

R/o D-4, Daryaganj Block, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110026

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

6. Kuldeep Singh

R/o D-4, Daryaganj Block, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110026

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

7. Ashish Gupta

T-1, Sector 10, Saket, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: ashish1934@gmail.com

8. Gopal Choudhary

R/o D-4, T-1, Sector 10, Saket, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

9. Rakesh Kumar

R/o D-4, T-1, Sector 10, Saket, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

10. Rakesh Kumar

R/o D-4, T-1, Sector 10, Saket, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

11. Rakesh Kumar

R/o D-4, T-1, Sector 10, Saket, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

12. Rakesh Kumar

R/o D-4, T-1, Sector 10, Saket, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

13. Rakesh Kumar

R/o D-4, T-1, Sector 10, Saket, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

14. Rakesh Kumar

R/o D-4, T-1, Sector 10, Saket, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

15. Rakesh Kumar

R/o D-4, T-1, Sector 10, Saket, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

16. Rakesh Kumar

R/o D-4, T-1, Sector 10, Saket, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

17. Rakesh Kumar

R/o D-4, T-1, Sector 10, Saket, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

18. Rakesh Kumar

R/o D-4, T-1, Sector 10, Saket, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

19. Rakesh Kumar

R/o D-4, T-1, Sector 10, Saket, New Delhi-110029

Email ID: corporate.data05@gmail.com

</div



75  
Azadi Ka  
Mahotsav

Mitti Ko Naman, Veeron Ko Vandan

# MERI MAATI MERA DESH

**Amrit Kalash Yatra and Amrit Mahotsav  
Closing Ceremony**

31<sup>st</sup> October, 2023 | 4:00 pm

Kartavyapath, India Gate, New Delhi



"The Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign is going to further strengthen our sense of unity and integrity. I am confident that under this Amrit Vatika will be created from the soil collected from across the country, which will realise the vision of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat."

**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

Foundation stone of  
**Amrit Mahotsav Memorial & Amrit Vatika**  
and  
Inauguration of  
**Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) portal**

'Mera Yuva Bharat' is an autonomous body that will serve as an overarching enabling mechanism powered by technology for youth development.

by

**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

## Event highlights

Panch Pran Pledge

Amrit Awards



All are invited!

Watch the live telecast on DD News



CIN: L31901WB1978PLC03141

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**

CESC Limited (CESC), having 3x250 MW coal based thermal power plant at Pujali, Budge Budge, 24 Pgrs (S), Kolkata, West Bengal, invites tender for procurement of 75,000 MT Imported Steam (non-coking) coal on CIF basis for delivery at Haldia or Paradip Port. Detailed terms & conditions of the NIT are available at MSTC website <https://www.mstccommerce.com/eproc/> and in Live Tender section under Vendors of the official CESC website <https://www.cesc.co.in>



**SJSVNL**  
(भारत सरकार द्वारा प्रशस्ति प्रदान की संस्कृत उपकरण)  
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & H.P.)  
CIN No. L40101HP1988G008409

Notice Inviting Request for Selection (RIS)  
RIS No.: SJVN/CC-Delhi/REIA/2023/SOLAR-1 Date: 31.10.2023  
SJVN Limited has been designated as a Renewable Energy Implementing Agency (REIA) vide Office Memorandum F. No. 283/33/2020-GRID SOLAR dated 24.04.2023 issued by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Govt of India. SJVN Limited hereby invites ONLINE bids from the eligible bidders for "Selection of Solar Power Developers for setting up of 1500 MW IITS-connected Solar Power Projects anywhere in India under Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding". The Request for Selection (RIS) Document can be downloaded from the websites [www.sjvn.nic.in](http://www.sjvn.nic.in), [www.eprocure.gov.in](http://www.eprocure.gov.in) and the e-tendering Portal <https://www.bharat-electronictender.com>, from 31.10.2023 to 15.12.2023 till 13:00 Hrs (IST). The Bid is to be submitted ONLINE on the e-tendering portal i.e., <https://www.bharat-electronictender.com>. The prospective bidders are requested to remain updated through above mentioned websites for any clarification or notification concerned with this RIS, as further information will be published in respect of this RIS through any other media.

Last Date &amp; Time for submission of bids : 15.12.2023 till 14:00 Hrs

Date &amp; Time of opening of Technical bids : 20.12.2023 at 15:00 Hrs

By, General Manager (C&amp;P)

6th Floor, Tower1, NBCC Office Complex, East Kidwai Nagar  
New Delhi-110023 Ph. 011-61901906/61901953

Our Shared Vision: 25000 MW by 2030; 50000 MW by 2040

**TOI**  
**INVENTIONS COME ALIVE ON PAPER.**  
**WE INVENT FOR THE PAPER.**  
**TIMES INNOVATION LAB**  
The perfect blueprint for reaching your marketing goals is drafted at the space where diverse minds get together to come customized, avant-garde innovations in print that create impact and talkability.  
All you need to do is reach out to us at [timesinnovationgroup.com](http://timesinnovationgroup.com) to write the future.  
THE TIMES OF INDIA  
CHANGE Begins Here

**NTPC Limited**  
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

NTPC- Vindhya Chal Post: Vindhyanagar, Distt. Singrauli M.P. - 486885  
For Issue of Dry Fly Ash on Free of Cost basis to Road Projects/ Flyover embankments/Dams/Mines/Shoreline Protection structures in coastal Districts, from NTPC-Vindhya Chal Super Thermal Power Plant – June 23 to May'24

EOI No. VSTPS / DRY FLY ASH / 2023-24/02 Date: 31.10.2023  
NTPC-Vindhya Chal invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested Bidders executing Road Projects / Flyover embankments / Dams / Mines Shoreline Protection structures in coastal Districts (as per extant MOEF&CC Notification and policy), for utilization of dry fly ash in these avenues, for one year duration, on 'free of cost', from NTPC-Vindhya Chal Super Thermal Power Plant, situated at Singrauli district, Vindhyanagar, Madhya Pradesh - 486885.

**How to Apply**

Interested parties are requested to submit their requirement(s) in the specified standard format to [mukeshkashyap@ntpco.co.in](mailto:mukeshkashyap@ntpco.co.in) / [sunmehdibagde@ntpco.co.in](mailto:sunmehdibagde@ntpco.co.in) by 18 hrs. of 10.11.2023

For any clarification please contact on 965099621 or 9425823680'  
**General Information**' and '**Standard format for application**' for Expression of Interest have been uploaded on [www.ntpcender\\_ntpc.co.in](http://www.ntpcender_ntpc.co.in)

Regd. Office: NTPC Bhawan, SCOPE Complex, 7 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003, Website: [www.ntpc.co.in](http://www.ntpc.co.in), CIN-A40101DL1975GOI007966

**Leading the Power Sector****E - TENDER NOTICE**

"E-Tender for requirements for expansion of CETP from 55 to 70 MLD. The requirements are as follow. (1) Turbo Air Blowers with Heat Exchangers for Air Cooling, (2) Hybrid Air Diffusers in Aeration Tanks with SS Piping Grid work. Interested organizations with similar type of experience may visit [www.mstcindia.co.in](http://www.mstcindia.co.in), [www.mstccommerce.com](http://www.mstccommerce.com) and [www.vgvelvapi.com](http://www.vgvelvapi.com). For more details download the tender documents from or e-mail to [dgm.purchase@vgvelvapi.com](mailto:dgm.purchase@vgvelvapi.com) or call 0260 2428950, 9714000828"

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
e-Procurement Notice  
**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer, Shimla, Division No. I, HPPWD, Shimla-3, H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the Percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

**Sr. No. :- 1 Name of Work :-** Construction of road from Tipra to Jagroti km. 0/0 to 6/0 including 27.00 mtr. span bridge at RD. 2/270 (SH-Construction of 27.00 mtr. R.C.C. T-Bram bridge at Rd. 2/270) **Estimated Cost. :-** 92,55,432/- **Starting date for downloading Bid :-** 01-11-2023 **Earliest Money :-** 185200/- **Deadline for submission of Bid :-** 10-11-2023 **Time Allowed :-** 180 days.

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [www.hptender.gov.in](http://www.hptender.gov.in).

The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/ application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

**HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
Ph. No. 01907-266245  
E-mail : ee-su-nhp@nic.in

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer, HPPWD Division Sunder Nagar, Distt. Mandi (HP) on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the percentage rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

**Sr. No. :- 1 Name of Work :-** Improvement and widening of Slapper to Tattapani road Km 0/0 to 68/00 (SH, R/FBD, M/T, R/Walls, B/walls, C.D. works, U-shape unlined surface drain, Metal beam crash barrier and dumping sites for intermediate lane portion KM 20/500 to 31/300 actual length 32/200) under CRF Job No. CRF-HP-2017-18-143). **Estimated Cost (in Rs.) :-** Rs. 47,22,00,038/- only. **Starting date for downloading Bid :-** 30.10.2023 **Earliest Money :-** Rs. 57,22,000/- only. **Deadline for submission of Bid :-** 16.11.2023

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website [WWW.hptenders.gov.in](http://WWW.hptenders.gov.in).

Executive Engineer,  
Sunder Nagar Division,  
HPPWD Sunder Nagar-175018  
On behalf of  
Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

Advt.No.:3565/30/10/2023.

**HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

**Kार्यालय नगर निगम हल्द्वानी-काठगोदाम**  
नैनीताल रोड, हल्द्वानी पिंड कोड-263139  
(www.Nagarnigamhaldwani.in) toll free no-8882610000  
E-Mail:haldwaninagarnigam@gmail.com दूरधारा- 09546-220035

पांचाल: 1375/2023-24/P.W.C दिनांक: 27.10.2023

ई-निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम हल्द्वानी-काठगोदाम कार्यालय हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जारी है, निविदा के सम्बन्ध में समस्त शर्तें एवं सूचनाएँ <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> पर दिनांक 02.11.2023 को अपलोड 2.00 बजे से दिनांक 16.11.2023 को सायं 05 बजे तक उत्तरव्य रहेगी।

क्र. कार्य का नाम अन्यायित लागत (रु. लाख में) कार्य की जपात राशि निविदा पार्स का मूल्य कार्य की अवधि निविदा की वैधता

1. बाईं नं 10 में कलाती चौराहे से नवीन निवारी जी के पास तक सौपीलो रोड का निवारी कार्य। 34.05 69,000.00 2500-18% 3 माह 45 दिन

2. बाईं नं 46 सोलाल संगमराम कालोनी में श्री पौलस विथ जी के भवन के समीन शौली शौली मार्ग का निवारी कार्य। 36.86 74,000.00 2500-18% G.S.T. 3 माह 45 दिन

3. नगर निगम क्षेत्रान्तरं निराकार पांचाल हेतु गोलाल चौराहे का निवारी कार्य। 283.51 5,70,000.00 6000-18% G.S.T. 9 माह 45 दिन

(डा. जोनेन सिंह गोलाल ) (पंकज कुमार उच्चाय्य) महारोग नगर निगम, हल्द्वानी

नगर निगम, हल्द्वानी

**DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION**  
DVC Towers, VIP Road, Kolkata – 700054

**Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)**  
Procurement of Grinding Roll and Bull ring segment for coal mill HP-1103 of RTPS, DVC

RTPS, DVC, Raghunathpur, West Bengal, Dist.-Purulia, a 2X600 MW Green Field Power Project, invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed organization/firm/company for participation in tender related to procurement of Grinding Roll and Bull ring segment for coal mill HP-1103 of RTPS, DVC as per terms and conditions as stipulated in tender of ID: 2023\_DVC\_166193\_1.

Interested organization/firm/company may contact on e-mail ID:- [rakesh.kumar@dvc.gov.in](mailto:rakesh.kumar@dvc.gov.in) and Mobile No. 9434746104. For any query and for terms and conditions, please visit website [etenders.gov.in](http://etenders.gov.in) and view tender ID: 2023\_DVC\_166193\_1. EOI should be sent through registered post to "The DGM (C&M), RTPS, DVC, Raghunathpur, PIN-723133".

DGM (C&M), RTPS,  
DVC, Raghunathpur

(INF/3/RTPS/23-24)

**Appeal for Identification**

General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body Name: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: About 65 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing : Blue Color Check Shirt and Black Color Lower was found dead at Gali No.9, Shyam Block Gandhi Nagar, on 26.10.2023 at about 09:00 PM. In this regard, a DD No. 04-A, dated 27.10.2023 174 CrPC has been lodged at PS Gandhi Nagar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. SHO P.S., Gandhi Nagar, Delhi

DP/12355/SHD/2023 Ph. : 011-22072761,7065036024

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General Public is hereby informed that this female Namely: Durga Wati, W/o Akhilesh Tiwari, R/o: Village & Post Kalidil, P.S. Fatapur, Teshil Raniganj, District Partagarh, U.P., has been missing/ kidnapped from Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Hospital, Delhi since 15.10.2023 from the area of P.S. I.P. Estate, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 38 A, dated 18.10.2023 has been lodged at P.S. I.P. Estate, New Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped female is as under: Age: 63 yrs, Height: 4'8", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Wearing: Red colour maxi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the female but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this female kindly inform to the following:

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

E-mail Id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)

Ph.: +91-2436638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639, 24368641

P.S. I. P. Estate, Delhi

DP/12204/CD/2023 Ph.: 011- 23370928, 8750870426

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that one unidentified dead body of male Name: Unknown, s/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: about 55-60 Years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'6", Face: Oval, Wearing: Sky Blue T-shirt and green color Payjama, who was found at Subzi Mandi Mortuary Delhi. In this regard a case FIR/DD No. 24A dated 24.10.2023 has been registered at PS: Sarai Rohilla RLY Station, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the above deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

Sd/- SHO  
P. S: Sarai Rohilla RLY Station Delhi  
Ph.28714802  
DP/12406/RLY/2023

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person whose name, residence and family is unknown, was found dead at LHMC Hospital, Delhi on 26.10.2023 at 05:51 PM. In this regard DD No. 81A, U/s 174 Cr.P.C., dated 26.10.2023, has been registered at P.S. Tilak Marg, Delhi.

The description of the UIDB is as under:  
Sex: Male, Age: About 40 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: White shirt, black pant.

If anyone has any information about this UIDB, kindly inform the SHO/Tilak Marg, Delhi.

SHO  
P.S. Tilak Marg, Delhi  
Ph. No.: 8750870526  
E-mail: sho-tilakmarg-dl@nic.in

**OFFICER INVITING BIDS**

1. DATE OF INVITING BID  
2. START DATE OF DOWNLOADING  
3. LAST DATE AND TIME FOR UPLOAD OF BID DOCUMENTS  
4. TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRE-BID MEETING  
5. PLACE OF SALES/RECEIPT OF Bid Documents  
6. TIME AND DATE OF OPENING TECHNICAL BIDS  
7. TIME AND DATE OF OPENING FINANCIAL BIDS  
8. LAST DATE OF BID VALIDITY  
10. Following work :-

Sl. No.	Dist	Name of the work	Consultant Fee for Preparation of DPR	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Cost of Bid document (In Rs.)	Bid processing Fee	Time of submission of DPR after work order	Name of PIU
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Buxar,Gaya, Jamui,lakhisarai, Darbhanga , Supaul,katihar.	RFP - Selection of Consultant for Preparation of Model Drawings (modern concept with naturally ventilated structure) of (A) Barrack						

# Kochi IEDs were crude ones, likely made with online guides

Investigators  
Suspect Mobile  
Phone Used To  
Trigger Blasts

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The four bombs used to target a Jehovah Witnesses congregation in Ernakulam, Kerala were radio frequency-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs) packed with low-grade explosives used in firecrackers, and had petrol pouches placed next to them for incendiary effect.

Sources connected with the post-blast investigation said the IEDs were triggered by a radio-frequency based mechanism, possibly a mobile phone signal. The preliminary assessment is that the bomber may not have been too far from the site at the time of the blasts; a source said the distance could be no more than 300-400 metres.

The IEDs were packed in jute bags and planted along with plastic pouches containing around a litre of petrol each. The bomber took care to place the IEDs and petrol



Teams of the NIA and NSG, which reached the blast site in Kerala on Sunday, have collected bomb traces for a detailed forensic analysis

## Suspect's mother-in-law was at event

Twenty-four hours after he surrendered and confessed that he had caused the explosion in Kalamassery, Kerala Police's SIT recorded the arrest of Dominic Martin Monday, reports **Disney Tom**. Martin had collected various self-incriminating evidence, which official sources said the SIT was able to corroborate. "He recorded a video of him pressing a remote and blasting the IED. He had bills of the materials he purchased for making IEDs," said an officer. Officers also said Martin requested them to produce him in court so he could admit he had committed the crime.

Interestingly, Martin's mother-in-law attended the event. "He tried to call his wife to prevent his mother-in-law from attending the event, but his call was not answered," said an officer.

pouches under separate chairs covered with cloth, so as to trigger a fire at the convention centre where over 2,000 people had gathered for prayer. An officer told **TOI** that plastic chairs were avoided as they would melt in the fire and not

contribute to the incendiary impact that the bomber was looking to create to maximise the damage and casualties. No shrapnel appears to have been packed into the IEDs.

A source said that the nature and composition of the

IEDs do not point to an expert bomb-maker but an amateur who learnt how to put together the IEDs from manuals available on the internet. The findings so far seem to confirm the claims of Dominic Martin — the main suspect in the case who owned up to the blast in a social media post and surrendered before the police — that he had assembled and planted the IEDs as he felt the Jehovah Witnesses' teachings were "highly anti-national".

Teams of the NIA and NSG, which reached the site Sunday, have collected bomb traces for a detailed forensic analysis. A preliminary report pointing to use of a radio-controlled IED (RCIED) will be shared with the Union home ministry.

The trigger for an RCIED is controlled by a radio link. The device is constructed so that the receiver is connected to an electrical firing circuit and the transmitter operated by the perpetrator at a distance. A signal from the transmitter causes the receiver to trigger a firing pulse that operates the switch. An RCIED can be triggered from cell phones, handheld remote control transmitters, car alarms, wireless door bells, pagers and portable two-way radios.

# At all-party meet, Kerala leaders slam 'efforts to sow mistrust'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Thiruvananthapuram:** An all-party meeting convened by Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the wake of the blasts at a congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses at Kalamassery adopted a resolution on Monday condemning "efforts to sow the poisonous seeds of mistrust and intolerance in the era of mutual trust, interdependence and collective survival".

"Spreading hatred against any creed should not be tolerated... All people are requested to stand united to single out any attempt to denigrate Kerala, its proud secular tradition, cultural heritage, and social distinctiveness by looking at any single incident," states the resolution.

The bombs that killed two women and wounded 58 others were allegedly planted by



Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan meets an injured victim in Kochi Monday

Dominic Martin, a disgruntled former member of the Christian denomination. He surrendered soon after and claimed to have targeted the congregation as he felt its teachings were "against society and the nation".

Leaders of various political parties appreciated the state government's "timely intervention" and assured their support to the peace initiative, the CM's office said.

"Steps will be taken to further strengthen the intelligence system. A thorough investigation will be conducted into the Kalamassery incident. Necessary steps will be

taken for the treatment of the injured. Strong action will be taken against hate propaganda through social media," Vijayan was quoted as saying at the meeting.

Leader of the opposition V D Satheesan accused CPM state secretary M V Govindan and Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar of making irresponsible statements on the Kalamassery blasts.

BJP spokesperson C Krishnamurthy asked the government to ensure an impartial investigation into the blasts, saying the people of Kerala weren't convinced by the claims of the man who owned up to the explosions. "People doubt how a man could commit such a crime alone. The involvement of terrorist groups was found in some blasts that occurred earlier. So, BJP demands that the NIA take over the probe," he said.

**Govt probing 'data breach' of 8cr Indians from ICMR Covid site**

**New Delhi:** The government is examining reports of breach of personal details from ICMR's Covid-testing database and has not ruled out a detailed probe if it finds sufficient evidence in the claims.

A TV channel reported that a threat actor — persons or a group that take part in an action intended to cause harm to the cyber realm — has posted on the dark web about having access to the dataset of over 8 crore Indians who underwent Covid tests. This dataset includes names, addresses and phone numbers sourced from ICMR, the threat actor has claimed, reported the channel.

ICMR and the health ministry have refused to confirm or deny the alleged breach. Government sources, however, said an exercise has been initiated to probe the matter. The report said the leak was first noticed by American cyber security and intelligence firm Resecurity on October 9. The "threat actor" had also shared spreadsheets with four large leak samples with fragments of Aadhaar data as proof to validate their threat. **TNN**

## Avoid over-exertion, Mandaviya tells those who had severe Covid

DurgeshNandanJha  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** People who had suffered from severe Covid-19 infection should not overexert themselves while doing exercise and stay away from hard labour for some time, Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya has advised amid a rise in reports of sudden unexplained deaths.

Videos have surfaced on social media and messaging platforms in the recent past that show people, many of them young, collapsing and dying suddenly while dancing or singing or just out for a walk.

Mandaviya, who was speaking to media on the sidelines of an event in his native district of Bhavnagar in Gujarat on Sunday, said the ICMR — India's apex health research agency — has done a detailed study on possible Covid link with the sudden unexplained deaths and advised that those who had recovered from severe Covid infections should desist from extra labour.

## 3rd e-mail sent to Ambani company, this time raising demand to ₹400cr

Ahmed.Ali@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** While investigators were still busy trying to trace the internet protocol (IP) address of two death threat emails sent to Reliance Industries chairman **Mukesh Ambani**, the company received a third email demanding Rs 400 crore from him Monday.

Now we have increased our demand to 400 crore rupees. If the police can't track me, they can't arrest me...," Monday's email stated.



Reliance Industries security in-charge had lodged a complaint late last Friday about the first threat email demanding Rs 20 crore. On Saturday evening, the company received another email from the same sender who increased the demand to Rs 200 crore.

The local Gamdevi police station where the FIR was lodged, crime branch and Maharashtra's cyber crime cells are jointly working to trace the sender. Police said prima facie it appears the email ID was created just to make the threats.

## Temple caves older than the Elephanta discovered in Ratnagiri

**Navi Mumbai:** A professor of ancient Indian history and his team of researchers have discovered two rock-cut Shivalite temple caves in a forested area near Rajapur, Ratnagiri,

reports **Vijay Singh**.

Professor Dr Anjay Dhana-

Budruk in 2016 and started researching on the topic. He told **TOI**: "The monolithic-cut laterite cave temple was created sometime around 5th or 6th century CE, and so are even older than the Elephanta caves. I find this to be a logical progression, because artisans used to build smaller rock cut cave temples, and later built the grander Elephanta caves."

## JOIN THE INDIAN ARMY AS AN OFFICER



भारतीय सेना  
INDIAN ARMY



Apply online for JAG-33<sup>rd</sup> Course  
Short Service Commission Non Technical,  
for Men and Women  
commencing in Oct 2024.  
Applications open from 30 Oct – 28 Nov 2023.

For more details visit

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



Scan QR Code

CBC 1060/13/0037/2324

## TVS MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED

**TVS** 

Regd Office: "Chaitanya", No.12, Khader Nawaz Khan Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai 600 006.  
Telephone No. (044) 28332115 Website: www.tvsmotor.com Email: contactus@tvsmotor.com  
CIN: L35921TN1992PLC022845

## STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated	
		Quarter ended	Year ended	Quarter ended	Year ended
		30.09.2023	30.09.2022	31.03.2023	30.09.2023
1	Total income from operations	8,190.85	7,220.55	26,478.66	9,983.75
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional items)	723.65	549.22	2,003.37	675.77
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional items)	723.65	549.22	2,003.37	675.77
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	536.55	407.47	1,491.03	415.93
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) or the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (after tax)]	545.19	404.49	1,463.35	418.49
6	Paid up Equity share capital (Face value of Re. 1/- each)	47.51	47.51	47.51	47.51
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	-	-	6,000.34	-
8	Security Premium Account			- NOT APPLICABLE -	
9	Networth	7,016.84	5,531.11	6,038.35	6,251.40
10	Outstanding Debt	1,664.43	647.82	2,010.23	21,518.63
11	Outstanding redeemable Preference Shares			- NOT APPLICABLE -	
12	Debt Equity Ratio (Times)	0.2	0.1	0.3	3.4
13	Earnings Per Share (Face value of Re. 1/- each) (not annualised) (i) Basic (in Rs.) (ii) Diluted (in Rs.)	11.29	8.58	31.38	8.13
14	Capital Redemption Reserve			- NOT APPLICABLE -	
15	Debenture Redemption Reserve			- NOT APPLICABLE -	
16	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	7.1	5.1	5.0	1.9
17	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (Excluding NBFC Subsidiary) (Times)	14.8	16.6	15.2	7.3
18	Current Ratio (Times)	0.7	0.6	0.6	1.0
19	Long term debt to working capital (Times)	-	-	-	2.6
20	Bad debts to Accounts Receivable ratio (Times)	-	-	-	2.8
21	Current liability ratio (Times)	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.6
22	Total debts to total assets ratio (Times)	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.6
23	Debtors Turnover ratio (Times)	25.7	26.2	27.0	26.4
24	Inventory Turnover ratio (Times)	14.0	18.3	17.0	10.7
25	Operating Margin (%)	11.0	10.2	10.1	9.6
26	Net Profit Margin (%)	6.6	5.6	5.7	4.2

Notes:

- The above is an extract of the detailed format of financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulations 33 & 52 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the financial results are available on the Stock exchange websites ([www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com) and [www.nseindia.com](http://www.nseindia.com)) and on Company's website ([www.tvsmotor.com](http://www.tvsmotor.com)).
- Figures for the previous periods have been regrouped, wherever necessary, to conform to the current period's classification.

Place : Chennai  
Date : 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

For TVS Motor Company Limited  
Sd/-  
Prof. Sir Ralf Dieter Speth  
Chairman



**Office of The Chief General Manager, Construction Wing,  
UTTARAKHAND Pejal Sansadhan Vikas Evm Nirman Nigam**  
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking)  
403/1 Indira Nagar, Dehradun-248001  
e-mail: cgnirmanwng@yahoo.com, gmnirmanwng@gmail.com

**PRESS NOTE**

Government of Uttarakhand "e" procurement Notice

Bid Identification no.: 4635/Nivida (Garhwal)Khel D.Dun/98		Dated: 30-10-2023	
S. No.	Name of Works	Estimated Cost	Period of Completion
1	Construction of 400 Mt Track & Football Ground at Roshnabad, Haridwar	Rs. 1125.05 (Excluding G.S.T.)	12 Months
2	Construction of 400 mtr. Track & Football Ground for Manoj Sarkar Sports Stadium, Rudrapur, Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir	Rs. 1130.37 (Excluding G.S.T.)	12 Months
3	Construction of Hockey Ground at Haldwani Stadium, Nainital	Rs. 1396.75 (Excluding G.S.T.)	12 Months
4	Name and Address of Officer Inviting the Bid:	General Manager, (Garh.), Construction Wing, Uttarakhand Pejal Nigam, 403/1 Indira Nagar, Dehradun	
5	Date and Time of Availability of bid documents in the portal :-	19/12/2023 - 17.00 Hrs.	
6	Pre Bid Meeting	22/12/2023 - 15.00 Hrs.	
7	Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal :-	02/01/2024 - 17.00 Hrs.	

Details of e-bid and subsequent addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website. further details can be seen from the e-procurement Portal <https://www.uktenders.gov.in>"

General Manager (Garhwal)

**Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM)**

Department of Labour Resources, Government of Bihar  
A-Wing, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Niyojan Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800001  
Phone: 0612-2528455 Fax: 0612-2535004  
Email: [biharskilldevelopmentmission@gmail.com](mailto:biharskilldevelopmentmission@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.skillmissionbihar.org](http://www.skillmissionbihar.org)

**Notice Inviting Request for Proposal**

RFP No: BSDM/DS-107/2022

Principal Secretary, Dept. of Labour Resources, Govt. of Bihar- cum- CEO, Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM), invites proposals (Single Bid System) from reputed and experienced organizations to implement employment linked Domain Skill Development Programme under Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) of PM-AJAY under the overall framework of Bihar Skill Development Mission. Training partners those have placement opportunities available through verifiable placement tie-ups can only apply under this RFP.

Kindly note that the empanelment /selection of agencies under this RFP will not guarantee allocation of work and BSDM will assume no liability or cost towards it. BSDM makes no commitments, express or implied, that this process will result in a business transaction between anyone.

**Document Fee and Tender Processing Fee:** All Applicants must pay a non-refundable Document Fee of Rs. 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) and Tender Processing Fee of Rs. 590.00 (Five Hundred Ninety only) through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card) on E-Proc Portal.

[**Earnest Money Deposit (EMD):** An EMD of Rs. 50,000/- (Fifty Thousand only), through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Credit Card/Debit Card) on E-Proc Portal, before the last date/time for submission/ uploading of proposal, failing which the bid will be rejected. This EMD will be non-interest bearing and refundable. If the selected agencies fail to submit the requisite performance guarantee or to execute the agreement, this EMD will be forfeited.

The Proposal has to be submitted through online mode on <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in> and can be searched by clicking the Tab "Tender" on home page of above website and then going to Latest Tender by searching Department Name as "Labour Resources Department".

The application procedure, eligibility criteria, evaluation methodology, terms and conditions and the scope of work are detailed in the RFP document which can be seen or downloaded from the "e-Procurement Portal <https://www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in> and departmental website: <http://www.skillmissionbihar.org>. The RFP will be available to download from the above websites from **Date 30.10.2023**. The last date for uploading of proposal will be **22.11.2023 up to 15.00 Hrs.** Proposals will be opened on or after **22.11.2023 post 16:00 Hrs.**

The Evaluation of proposals will be made as per criteria laid down in the RFP. Please refer RFP document for complete details.

Post selection and as and when required, the successful applicants will be intimated to register each training center as a Skill Development Center (SDC) on the BSDM portal or other specified portal, if required (to be intimated later post shortlisting) by following due online registration processes and terms and conditions as specified and modified time to time by BSDM. The BSDM portal (or other portal as will be applicable) will cover the entire value chain of skill development value chain right from registration of centers to candidates, batch formation, attendance management, monitoring, assessment & certification etc. along with registration of selected training partners.

BSDM reserves the right to issue addendum/corrigendum/ modification or to amend any or all conditions of this RFP Document or to accept or reject any or all proposal(s) or to cancel the whole of this RFP at any stage without assigning any reason thereof and no applicants/bidders shall have any cause of action or claim against the BSDM for the same.

For further details please visit : [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)

Mission Director,

Bihar Skill Development Mission,  
Labour Resources Department, Govt. of Bihar

PR-010895 (LRD) 2023-24

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से यार।

Govt. of Bihar	
<b>Bihar Medical Services &amp; Infrastructure Corporation Limited,</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor,Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Adjacent to State Health Society, Patna 800014, Phone/Fax: +91612 2283287,+ 91612 2283288 Mo. No- 8544402312, 9971559020	
<b>(Notice Inviting E-Bids)</b>	

Tender for the Procurement, Rate Contract and Supply of Medical Equipment for different Govt. Health Institutions of Bihar.

Notice Inviting Tender No.-BMSICL/2023-24/ME-331

(Only through E- Tender on website: <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

The Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited, Patna invites e-bids from interested parties for Procurement, Rate Contract and supply of Medical Equipment for different Government Health Institutions of Bihar as listed below:-

Sl. No.	Equipment Name	Sl. No.	Equipment Name
1	Transcutaneous Bilirubinometer	2	Irradiance Meter
3	Vein Finder	4	Infantometer
5	Stadiometer		

**Tender Schedule**

Re-Tender Reference No.	BMSICL/2023-24/ME-331
Date of Pre- Bid Meeting	02 <sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 15:00 Hrs in Conference hall of BMSICL, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Swasthya Bhawan, Behind IGIMS, Sheikhpura, Adjacent to State Health Society, Patna (Bihar)
All Pre-bid queries to be submitted through e-mail on bmsicltenderequipment@gmail.com	
Upto 05 November 2023 till 17:00 Hrs.	
(Note: No Pre-bid queries would be entertained after the above mentioned dead line)	

Last date and time of submission of online bids

05<sup>th</sup> December 2023 upto 17:00 Hrs.

Last date and time for submission of original documents of EMD.

06<sup>th</sup> December 2023 upto 14:00 Hrs.

Date, Time and Place of opening of Technical Bid

06<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (at 15:00 Hrs.) on the website of <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in> the office of BMSICL

Date and time of opening of financial Bids

To be announced later on <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>

Validity of Tender

180 Days

Cost of the tender document

Rs.11,800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Rupees only)

Non-refundable.

Tender Processing Fee

Rs 590/- (on the website of <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in>)

1. To participate in E-Tendering the tenderer will have to be registered with E-Tendering service provider. For this help desk – mjunction services limited RJ complex, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Canara Bank, Campus, khajipura, Ashiana road, P.S–Shastri Nagar, Patna-800014, Toll Free No.- 18005726571, Email-ID: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in can be approached.

2. Any queries and questions regarding the tender should be addressed to MD BMSICL (either through letter or through e-mail:- md-bmsiclh@nic.in and/or bmsicltenderequipment@gmail.com or contact no. 0612-2219634/35) up to 7 days before of closing of online bid registration.

For further details please visit website [state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)

PR-010933 ( NI.NI ) 2023-24

**GM (Procurement)**

**BMSICL, Patna**

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से यार।

**DELHI ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION**  
Viniyamak Bhawan, C-Block, Shivalik, Malviya Nagar,  
New Delhi-110 017.  
Website: [www.derc.gov.in](http://www.derc.gov.in),  
Telefax: +91-11-26673608, +91-11-41080417

Dated -26/10/2023

**TENDER NOTICE**

**REFERENCE DERC PUBLIC NOTICE DATED 21/09/2023 REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF C&AG EMPANELLED AUDITORS FOR VERIFICATION, RECONCILIATION & FINALIZATION OF ENFORCEMENT SALES OF DISCOMS FOR THE PERIOD FY 2007-08 TO FY 2021-22**

A corrigendum to subject bid document has been issued and uploaded on DERC website based on pre-bid meeting held on 19/10/2023. Accordingly, last date of bid submission is extended till 24/11/2023 till 17:00 hours and Opening of Technical Bids will be held on 30/11/2023 at 11:30 hours. The bidders are requested to visit DERC website [www.derc.gov.in](http://www.derc.gov.in) in this regard.

Sd/-  
DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0203/23-24 Rajesh Dangi, Secretary

**Modi, Hasina to open cross-border rail link tomorrow**

**Agartala:** PM Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina will virtually inaugurate on Wednesday a key cross-border railway project that officials said could cut the Kolkata-Agartala travel time from 31 hours to 10.

"Tripura CM Manik Saha will also attend the programme virtually from here at 11.30 am," state transport secretary UK Chakma said Monday. TNN

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**New Delhi:** Congress leader Sonia Gandhi has slammed India's abstention from the vote on the recent UN general assembly resolution on the West Asia conflict.

In a newspaper article, she asserted that valuing the relationship with Israel does not erase the fact that Palestinians have been dispossessed from their homeland of centuries. "There can be no peace without justice," she said.

Sonia attacked BJP without naming the party and said that "contrary to some mischievous suggestions", Congress' longstanding principled stand has been for a two-state solution, which has also been India's historic position. She said while the MEA in its October 12 statement mirrored the Congress line, it came only after Israel started the assault on Gaza. "The PM had made no mention of Palestinian rights in the initial statement expressing complete solidarity with Israel," she lamented.

The government maintains that the absence of any mention of the October 7 attack on Israel by Hamas terrorists in the UN resolution was the reason for India's abstention as there can be no equivocation on terror."

Trivedi's attack came even as BJP attacked the silence of Congress and CPM on the virtual participation of Hamas leader Khalid Mashal in a conference organised in Kerala by youth wing of Jamaat-i-Islami. TNN

**TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL**

SANDEEP ADHWARY

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CONSTRUCTION CIRCLE U.P. JAL NIGAM (URBAN)**  
220, CIVIL LINES (MEERUT), 250001  
E-mail: [gmpycugzb@gmail.com](mailto:gmpycugzb@gmail.com)  
Letter No. 863/Nivida/163  
Dated: 28.10.2023  
**SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE**

UP Jal Nigam(Urban) online e-tenders for execution of "Survey Soil Investigation, Design, Supply of all materials etc. Required for construction of Tube Wells, Pump House, OverHead Tank, SCADA room, Rising Main, Distribution Network, House connection, Boundary wall, MSgate, site development work etc.

as per specification in tender document including commissioning, trial & run, Defect Liability Period (one year for Civil work and two year for E&M work) and its handing over with all appurtenant works to Kheakra Nagar Palika Parishad under Kheakra (Reorg) Water Supply Scheme for Kheakra Nagar Palika Parishad Kheakra in District Baghpat" of Uttar Pradesh

**Giving speaker a deadline will set a wrong precedent: SG**

►Continued from P 1

A bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra said, "allowing the proceedings to linger would mean throwing the sanctity of the (Tenth Schedule) provisions to the winds."

Appearing for the Maharashtra assembly speaker, solicitor general Tushar Mehta said it was correct that the speaker acted as a tribunal while deciding the disqualification petitions and was amenable to the jurisdiction of the apex court. "But the SC does not fix a timeframe even for ordinary tribunals and uses words 'to preferably decide' within such and such time period. In this case, the tribunal involves the speaker of the assembly and it would be appropriate to suggest a timeline within which he should decide," he said.

"If the apex court deadlines him to decide the petitions by a certain date, it would set a wrong precedent. All high courts would follow suit and direct every assembly speaker to decide disqualification petitions and other issues within a stipulated timeframe. That could create a problem," the SG cautioned.

The Maharashtra speaker had categorised the pending petitions into two groups — those pertaining to cross-petitions by Shiv Sena factions and the other by the NCP against MLAs supporting Ajit Pawar.

The speaker had informed the court that he would endeavour to conclude the proceedings relating to Sena factions by February 29 given the constraint of time caused by the Diwali holidays in November and winter session in Nagpur in December. For the Thackeray group and the NCP, senior advocates Kapil Sibal, A M Singhvi and Devadatt Kamat said the speaker was deliberately delaying to ensure that these petitions became infructuous with the announcement of elections next year.

The CJI-led bench said the petitions were pending since June last year and the SC had rendered a judgment in May this year. "We had repeatedly allowed the speaker to conclude the proceedings. We are clearly of the view that procedural wrangling should not delay the adjudication process. We direct that the Speaker will pass final orders regarding the Sena group of petitions by December 31 and on NCP petitions by January 31," the bench ordered.

The SC said it could not allow the proceedings to be dragged till announcement of elections, thereby rendering them infructuous. The bench wondered whether the time had come for the court to decide the disqualification petitions after recalling that time and again. The SC had to direct speakers of various states to decide such cases after noticing extreme lethargy when such proceedings were against MLAs supporting the ruling dispensation.

## Case against Naidu over liquor licences

Vijayawada: The Andhra Pradesh Crime Investigation Department on Monday registered a case against TDP president and former CM N Chandrababu Naidu over the charge of permitting new brands of liquor and new distilleries after the general election notification was issued on March 18, 2019, reports **Gopi Dara**.

This is the fourth corruption case against Naidu. He is already facing charges in three cases relating to skill development, Fibernet, and Amaravati inner ring road.

## BJP ex-MP's son dies at UP hosp, probe ordered

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday ordered a probe into the death of the son of a former BJP MP at Sanjay Gandhi PGIMS in Lucknow, allegedly caused by shoddy treatment.

The government relieved the doctor in charge of his services and issued a warning to the hospital director. Prakash Mishra, 40, who had a kidney ailment, was rushed to the emergency wing by his father, BJP's Bhaban Prasad Mishra. After his son died, Mishra sat on a 'dharna' outside the institute. PTI

# Maha will issue Kunbi certs to Marathas for OBC quota: Shinde

**Panel OKs 11.5K Nizam-Era Cases With Docu Proof**

Priyanka.Kakodkar  
@timesgroup.com



NCP MLA Prakash Solanke was at home when it was set ablaze

### MPs, MLAs across party lines threaten to quit

Several MLAs and MPs across parties have threatened to quit if the Maharashtra government does not announce reservations for Marathas soon, a day after Shiv Sena MP Hemant Patil announced his resignation to support the ongoing agitation. The quit spree seems to have seeped to the grassroots, with nine of 11 members of an Ahmednagar panchayat bowing out in support of the cause. NCP Junnar MLA Atul Benke — aligned to deputy CM Ajit Pawar's camp — joined quota protesters in his constituency on Monday. Congress MLA from Parbhani, Suresh Warupurkar, has landed in Mumbai after reportedly drafting a resignation letter. BJP MLA Laxman Pawar, who represents Gevrai, announced he was "preparing" a resignation to be handed to the assembly speaker.

In Nashik, two-time Shiv Sena MP Hemant Godse has written to CM Shinde seeking to resign in solidarity with the cause. TNN

### CM calls on guy, to meet Sena MPs, MLAs today

Chief minister Eknath Shinde met governor Ramesh Bais on Monday evening. Officials in the CM's office said that Shinde briefed Bais on the Maratha reservation issue and the law and order situation in the state as the protests over Maratha reservation took a violent turn and activists targeted homes and offices of MLAs in Beed and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar districts, reports **Chaitanya Marpakwar**. However, CM Shinde's visit gave rise to speculation since it also came on a day the Supreme Court directed assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar to decide on the disqualification petitions of the Shiv Sena MLAs by December 31.

CM Shinde has called for a meeting of all MLAs and MPs of his Shiv Sena at his official residence on Tuesday evening. Party functionaries said this was to discuss the fallout of the Maratha reservation protests and violence in their constituencies. However, the Sena MLAs' disqualification case is also likely to be discussed at the meeting.

A meeting of the BJP's core committee also took place at Sagar, the official residence of deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis, late on Monday.

## Activist rejects CM's plan to grant quota in 2 phases

### MVA delegation asks guv to step in

A delegation of the Maha Vikas Aghadi on Monday urged governor Ramesh Bais to immediately step in and resolve the row over Maratha reservation. MVA leaders said the governor should talk to the NDA leadership and CM Eknath Shinde and initiate a dialogue with activist Manoj Jarange-Patil to sort things out and finally give directions to Shinde, reports **Prafulla Marpakwar**.

violence today (Monday). I feel the politicians from the ruling dispensation are getting houses torched by their own men..." he said.  
(Input from agencies)

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY e-OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

No. 128-W/280/Tender Notice/23-24/W-I (NIT-43) Dated : 30.10.2023 Sr. Divisional Engineer-II/Northern Railway, New Delhi for and on behalf of President of India invites e-tender on the prescribed form for the under noted work:

Name of work with location Provision of RGM/TTM, siding (Civil Engineering works Portion) at DWNA, RRDE, BBDE, TRR, SHDM, SFDE, PKDE, MLDE, PHWR, KLE, GRA, RUG, BHD, KUN, KKDE, NUR & SMK under Sr. DEN-II/DLI.

Approx. cost Rs. 37,500/- Earmest Money should be in the form of bank or payment gateway only. Note : FDR or Demand Draft will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No. 2015/CE-II/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016

Completion period 12 Months

Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender Up 15.00 hrs on 24.11.2023 Opening of e-tender at 15.00 hrs on 24.11.2023

Website particulars, published tender, notice location etc complete details of tender can be seen on website where the tenderform can be download

Similar nature of work Any Civil work other than track work

Note : All attachments must be self attested by the tenderers and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XXIV is compulsary.

3392/23 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

#### NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTIFICATION

Re-engagement of Retired Railway Staff on monthly remuneration basis in exigencies of services in Delhi Division, Northern Railway.

Applications are invited from Retired Railway Staff for Re-Engagement on monthly remuneration basis in Delhi Division, Northern Railway for various categories (Total 06 vacancies) on or before 15.11.2023. Maximum upper age limit for re-engagement on 15.11.2023 is 64½ years. The employee Removed/Dismissed/Compulsory retired as a result of disciplinary action or pending vigilance cases or in review and Retired employees being re-engaged, covered under the Safety Related Retirement Scheme/Liberalized Active Retirement Scheme for Guaranteed Employment for Safety Staff (LARSGESS) are not eligible for re-engagement.

For more details & to download application visit our website [www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in) > News & Recruitment Info > Recruitment Info > Notification of Retired Railway Staff on Delhi Division (Total 06 Vacancies).

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3386/23

## बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग

15, नेहरू पथ (बेली रोड), पटना - 800001

### आवश्यक सूचना

32वीं बिहार न्यायिक सेवा मुख्य (लिखित)

प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा (विज्ञापन संख्या 23 / 2023)

उक्त मुख्य (लिखित) प्रतियोगिता परीक्षा के दैसे अध्यर्थी जो अतिम नियार्थित तिथि 25.10.2023 तक ऑनलाइन आवेदन नहीं भर सके हैं, को सूचित किया जाता है कि वे दिनांक 31.10.2023 से 02.11.2023 तक ऑनलाइन आवेदन विलम्ब शुल्क के साथ भर सकते हैं।

उक्त संबंध में आवश्यक सूचना—सह—दिशा—निर्देश आयोग के वेबसाइट पर प्रदर्शित है।

स्वा:-  
परीक्षा नियंत्रक,

बिहार लोक सेवा आयोग, पटना

### Curbs imposed on gatherings around Beed city

►Continued from P 1

Beed district collector Deepa Mudhol Munde issued prohibitory orders on Monday night, imposing restrictions on gatherings of four or more people at any public place within 5km of Beed city.

Prakash Solanek's bungalow, which was guarded by police personnel, was extensively damaged. The security personnel were outnumbered by the protesters, who first set an SUV and a few two-wheelers on fire in the parking area. They then pelted stones at the bungalow. Meanwhile, flames from the vehicles burning in the parking area soon spread to other places and engulfed a large portion of the bungalow.

The agitators also torched Majgaon municipal council's premises, raising fears of crucial records of the civic body being reduced to ashes. This was followed by the protesters going from office to office and threatening to torch them if they were not shut immediately. Succumbing to pressure, most government offices were shut across Beed district in the second half of Monday.

In the evening, the office of Shiv Sena district president Kundlikh Khande was targeted, while a group of protesters set parked state transport buses on fire at the Beed bus stand.

In Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district, BJP MLA Prashant Bamb's office in Gangapur was ransacked and all the windows were smashed by stick-wielding protesters.

**Mum kid gets electrocuted:** A 6-year-old boy from Mumbai's Mulund was electrocuted Sunday. He was taken to the hospital where doctors declared him dead. TNN

e-Procurement Notice for Road Work						
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA						
No:	Date:					
1 Name of the work : Periodical Maintenance of 5 Years Completed PMGSY Road (01 No)						
2 Class of contractor : "B" & "A" Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority						
3 Estimated Cost : Rs.132.71 Lakhs (Approximately)						
4 Details projects as per Annexure attached :						
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender	
		From	To	5	6	7
1 Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCCRWSBD – Online – 41/2023-24	01.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	15.11.2023 up to 5.30 P.M.	14.11.2023 2.00 P.M.	16.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately
5. The details of works can be seen from the website <a href="https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in">https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in</a>						
6. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender website.						
Chief Construction Engineer Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda OIPR-2518/11/0040/23-24						

### Government of Odisha

Department of Agriculture & Farmers Empowerment

Directorate of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha, Bhubaneswar.

Notice No.DE/AGR/3485/Date. 27/10/2023

Expression of Interest for empanelment/approval of Manufacturers and Make & Model of improved Implements, Equipment and Machinery relating to Agriculture, Fisheries & Animal Resource Development sector for 2023-24 , 2nd phase for popularization under different schemes of Government of Odisha

Expression of Interest (EoI) is invited from manufacturing firms/source companies for enlisting improved and advanced implements, equipment and machinery relating to Agriculture, Fisheries & Animal Resource Development Sector for popularization through subsidized sale in the State of Odisha under various programmes of State and Central Government. Offers should be submitted online through the link <https://forms.gle/mi7ZiBQKwDnBoYJ9> and the hard copy of uploaded documents must be submitted to the Development Engineer, OFMRDC, Satyanagar-Bhubaneswar-751007. Offers through online mode will be received up to 5:00 P.M. of 23.11.2023 and hard copies of uploaded documents will be received up to 5:00 P.M. of 28.11.2023. Hard copies must be submitted through Registered post/ Speed Post/Courier within the due date and time failing which offers though submitted through online process will not be considered for empanelment by SLTC. The sealed cover containing the hard copies of the uploaded documents should be super-scribed as "OFFER FOR ENLISTMENT OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & ANIMAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT SECTOR FOR THE YEAR 2023-24, 2<sup>ND</sup> PHASE".

The authority is not responsible for any postal/courier delay. The letter of request from the manufacturers for enlistment/ empanelment of their products during 2023-24 without required authenticated documents and not fulfilling the stipulated terms and conditions will not be taken into consideration and will be liable for rejection. The authority reserves the right to reject/ cancel the offer in full or part without assigning any reasons thereof. The detail terms and conditions can also be obtained from the Govt. web site [www.odisha.gov.in](http://www.odisha.gov.in) and <http://agrisnetodisha.or.nic.in>.

MAJOR EVENTS UNDER THE EOI PROCESS:

1. Date of issue of EOI:	30.10.2023
2. Pre-bid meeting at OFMRDC Conference hall:	08.11.2023, 11.00 A.M.
3. Last date of submission of EOI in online mode:	5:00 PM of 23.11.2023
4. Last date of submission of hard copies:	5:00 PM of 28.11.2023
5. Date of opening of EoI:	At 11:00 A.M. on 29.11.2023 at Conference Hall of OFMRDC

#### Address for Submission of Proposal:

Development Engineer, OFMRDC, Satyanagar-Bhubaneswar-751007  
Email: [ofmrdc.dag@nicin/](mailto:ofmrdc.dag@nicin/)  
[ofmrdc21@gmail.com](mailto:ofmrdc21@gmail.com)

Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Odisha, Bhubaneswar

OIPR: 01051/1/0005/2324

<b>GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER CANAL CIRCLE, BURLA.</b>	
e-Procurement notice no.-CCB-02(01-04)/2023-24 Bid Identification No.: CCB-02(01)/2023-24 to CCB-02(04)/2023-24	
1 Type of the work : Road & Bridge Works	2 No of works : 4 (Four) nos

# Left parties enter fray in 3 states as talks with ally Cong come a cropper

**Yechury Rues Lack Of Unity In INDIA Bloc**

Swati.Mathur@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Seat-sharing talks between Congress, CPI and CPM have reached a dead end in poll-bound Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and MP, leading the two Left parties to enter the poll fray independent of their INDIA partner.

While the CPM is set to contest 17 seats in Rajasthan, three in Chhattisgarh and four in Madhya Pradesh, the CPI will contest 16 in Chhattisgarh, 12 in Rajasthan and is likely to field candidates on about nine seats in MP. In Telangana, both parties are in advanced stages of negotiation on seat-sharing with Congress and a final decision — likely two seats each for both — is expected soon.

Though tightlipped about the impact of the failure to reach a consensus on seat-sharing negotiations on the INDIA grouping, Yechury acknowledged that it would have been "better" if an agreement could have been reached.

"The opinion of the majority in the INDIA bloc is that this bloc was formed with the 2024 Parliament elections in mind.

**Telangana MP stabbed while campaigning, now stable**

**Hyderabad:** BRS Medak MP Kotha Prabhakar Reddy was stabbed Monday by a 38-year-old man while campaigning in Siddipet district as a candidate for the November 30 Telangana polls. Prabhakar, who is contesting from the Dubbik seat, was rushed to a private hospital in Secunderabad where he was operated upon for around three hours for the injury on his stomach's right side. He was later described by doctors as stable.

The assailant, G Raju, who is suspected to be working for a local YouTube channel, was caught and beaten up by BRS workers before being handed over to police. The attack took place in Surampalli village in Doulatabad when Prabhakar was about to get into his car after visiting a pastor.

BRS president and CM K Chandrasekhar Rao said he "considered the attack on Prabhakar as an attack on him" while asserting there was no place for such assaults in a democracy. KCR, campaigning at Banswada in north Telangana, was to visit Prabhakar in the Secunderabad hospital.

Siddipet commissioner of police (CP) N Swetha Reddy said Raju went close to the MP on the pretext of shaking hands with him and then stabbed him with what appeared like a knife meant to cut vegetables. "We will question Raju to know the exact motives for making the murderous attempt on the MP's life," the CP said.

Wounded in the BRS workers' thrashing, including beatings with sticks, Raju was admitted to a local hospital and not in a position to speak. At the time of the attack, he is believed to have been drunk.

Raju has been booked for attempted murder under IPC and violations of the Arms Act, CP Reddy said. **TNN**



While CPM is set to contest 17 seats in Rajasthan, three in Chhattisgarh and four in Madhya Pradesh, CPI will contest 16 in Chhattisgarh, 12 in Rajasthan and is likely to field candidates on about nine seats in MP

That was the declared objective. However, in the states also, we wish it would have happened. There should have been greater coordination and cooperation and that would have been helpful in the process for the 2024 elections," Yechury said, following a meeting of the party's Central Committee, where it was decided to contest all impending polls independently if seat-sharing talks between the allies collapsed.

CPI's Raja, however, appeared less accepting of Congress' unwillingness, underscoring yet again the need for the grand old party to show the "spirit of accommodation" toward its junior partners in the INDIA bloc and saying that such a disengaging stance could make future negotiations difficult.

Incidentally, the Left parties' decision to contest the im-

pending polls independently comes close on the heels of a sharp exchange between Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Congress leader Kamal Nath earlier this month over seat-sharing, when the two parties were unable to reach an agreement on the constituencies SP would contest on if it entered into an alliance with Congress in MP.

Though the bitter back-and-forth settled down eventually and was brushed aside as commonplace in election season, SP and other INDIA partners, including JDU and AAP have since announced their decision to contest the impending polls independently of Congress, preparing the ground for a multi-polar contests not just in Madhya Pradesh, but also in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan, where both SP and AAP will field candidates.

## Cong preparing to contest all 80 UP LS seats: Rai

Shailvee.Sharda  
@timesgroup.com

**Lucknow:** Days after the war of words between INDIA bloc allies Congress and SP over seat sharing in Madhya Pradesh assembly polls, Uttar Pradesh PCC chief Ajay Rai on Monday said his party was preparing to contest elections on all the 80 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh next year.

The two parties had failed to reach an alliance in MP with SP fielding candidates in 33 assembly seats.

Talking to **TOI**, Rai said: "The 2024 Lok Sabha elections are very crucial, and as the party's state chief, it's my responsibility to ensure that we prepare to contest on all 80 seats of the state with all the strength."

Rai added that he has been holding meetings with district and divisional office-bearers in "our preparations for contesting all the LS seats in UP". The party has also started several caste-based and community-centric campaigns to mobilise public support.

"I have been travelling extensively across districts and divisions for review," Rai said.

## Cong clears 65 for Raj, 30 more likely today

Subodh.Ghildiyal  
@timesgroup.com

**New Delhi:** Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot is making a determined bid to retain sitting MLAs, including the old guard, for the polls, and is said to have had an animated discussion with Rahul Gandhi who sought alternative faces to senior leaders in Monday's brainstorming over candidate selection.

Sources said, in the meeting that ran for about four hours, around 65 names were cleared and 30 remaining seats will be taken up on Tuesday. Congress had announced 95 candidates in three short lists earlier.

Sources said while individual seats were being discussed for probables, Rahul suggested that the party should come up with alternatives to the old guard and to some MLAs. A confident Gehlot, the sources added, pushed hard for fielding the sitting MLAs, arguing that "winnability" should remain the criteria for nominations, and there were no better choices. Rahul is said to have remarked that three months ago, his feedback was different with anti-incumbency against legislators.

## Amit Jogi takes on CM Baghel, Patan now a 3-way contest

**Raipur:** In a surprise move, regional party Janata Congress Chhattisgarh (JCC-J) president Amit Jogi, son of the state's first chief minister Ajit Jogi, filed his nomination papers in Patan constituency to take on chief minister Bhupesh Baghel on his home turf.

JP has fielded Baghel's nephew, Lok Sabha MP Vijay Baghel, in Patan. Jogi's entry makes it a three-way standoff.

"JCC-J will free Patan from the clutches of 'Chacha aur Bhatija' (uncle and nephew)", Jogi Jr said, apparently referring to CM Baghel and BJP's Vijay Baghel. The JCC (J) leader jumped into the fray on the last day for filing nominations. Voting is on November 17.

"I am not contesting against Bhupesh Baghel but against corruption. This contest is between a powerful 'Dau' family and the poor people of Patan. I am just a face, the candidate is the people of Patan," Jogi said, adding that he will fight for the "victims of Public Service Commission (PSC) recruitment scam".

"I stand here as the representative of the victims of corruption. I had options to contest from many safe seats. I could have even contested from two constituencies. However, I have decided to contest only in Patan on the wish of the people of Patan," he added.

Jogi said that for the past 23 years, the contest in Patan has been between the uncle and nephew of a single family but the "real election will take place this time".

JCC(J), the only recognised regional party in Chhattisgarh, has fielded its candidates in 84 seats while extending support to one candidate each of Hamar Raj Party and Gondwana Gantantra Party. **TNN**

## Maya to address 9 poll meetings in MP, 8 in Raj

**Lucknow:** BSP chief Mayawati will address nine rallies and public meetings in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh between November 6 and 14, up from just two rallies that she had addressed in the last assembly elections in the state in 2018.

Party insiders said that in 2018, Mayawati had addressed two rallies, in Satna and Rewa, which have OBC and Dalit voters in considerable numbers.

This time around, apart from Satna and Rewa, rallies have been planned in Sagar, Damoh, Chhatarpur, Bhind, Morena, Datia and Ashoknagar also. This is being done to improve BSP's tally in the assembly.

"The state unit is expecting a huge turnout in these rallies. This will help in amplifying the party's message that it is committed to the cause of bahujan samaj," insiders said. **TNN**

# Why 'Rajyapal', 'Rashtrapati' will vote in Rajasthan polls

Names of children of Kanjar tribe in Bundi district were an attempt to escape social censure, thanks to de facto collective criminal profiling. Times are better now, and names are changing

Rajiv Saxena | TNN

**Bundi:** Every time Meghalaya goes to polls, the Swedes, Thailands, Thursdays, Everydays, Venuses of the state hit headlines. But in the sweepstakes of voter names that catch attention, Rajasthan's Ramnagar village in Bundi district may just be ahead—hiccup, meaning high court, will vote when the state goes to polls on November 25, so will Collector, Rashtrapati and Rajyapal, and while Congress is fighting the polls as the incumbent party and Rajiv Gandhi is one of its icons, both Congress and Rajiv Gandhi will also vote in the elections.

Sources said while individual seats were being discussed for probables, Rahul suggested that the party should come up with alternatives to the old guard and to some MLAs. A confident Gehlot, the sources added, pushed hard for fielding the sitting MLAs, arguing that "winnability" should remain the criteria for nominations, and there were no better choices. Rahul is said to have remarked that three months ago, his feedback was different with anti-incumbency against legislators.

Sources said while individual seats were being discussed for probables, Rahul suggested that the party should come up with alternatives to the old guard and to some MLAs. A confident Gehlot, the sources added, pushed hard for fielding the sitting MLAs, arguing that "winnability" should remain the criteria for nominations, and there were no better choices. Rahul is said to have remarked that three months ago, his feedback was different with anti-incumbency against legislators.

But the genesis of these names is not quirky—there's some complex social history behind them. During the British rule, said Balak Das, a local Kanjar, "the Kanjars were notified as criminal tribe because some of its members' involvement in crime and illegal activities." The director of Adivasi Academy, Tejgarh, Gujarat, Dr Madan Meena,

now deceased. "Rajiv Gandhi", though, works in the village as MGNREGS worker with government job card. Collector is a 57-year-old voter; named so by his mother; goes the local lore, because she was "deeply impressed" by a Collector who paid the village a visit.

Times have changed, become better for Kanjars, and names have changed too. With access to internet and private TV stations and determined efforts by village leaders to improve the community's image, names in recent years reflect larger local conventions.

There are around 650 students, boys and girls, studying in government primary and senior secondary schools in the village, and two locals were recruited as teachers. They are among seven government employees in the village.

Future Kanjar voters are unlikely to be named Rajyapal and Rashtrapati.

## Priyanka vows 8 sops in C'garh, including ₹500 subsidy on LPG

Rashmi.Drolia  
@timesgroup.com



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addresses a public meeting at Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh on Monday

## Voting in Raj to be for 11 hours instead of 9: EC

**Jaipur:** In a first for assembly elections in Rajasthan, polling would take place for 11 hours instead of the usual nine hours, stated a notification issued by the Election Commission of India on Monday. "The EC fixes the hours from 7am to 6pm, as the hours during which the poll shall, if necessary be taken on the date (November 25) specified above, for the election," the notification added.

During the 2018 assembly elections in the state, polling took place from 8am to 5pm but in the last bypoll — held in Sardarshahar assembly constituency of Churu district on December 5, 2022 — polling went on for 11 hours. **TNN**

## ED questions Gehlot's son on FEMA violations

**New Delhi:** The ED questioned Vaibhav Gehlot, son of Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, at its headquarters here on Monday for more than eight hours in a case related to Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) violations and suspected round-tripping of investments in hotel properties controlled by some of his associates in the state. He has been summoned again on November 16 to record his statements.

Gehlot junior, however, dismissed these allegations and told reporters that neither he nor anyone from his family has any associations with the alleged FEMA violations or any foreign transactions. He said he had sought more time from the agency to appear for recording of statements, but the agency denied it. **TNN**

## STABLE GOVT BEHIND GROWTH STORY: PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday offers prayers at Goddess Amba temple in Banaskantha district in Gujarat. The PM, who is on a two-day visit to the state, later inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of several development projects worth Rs 5,950 crore in Kheralu, where he also addressed a public rally. He told the crowd India's rapid strides in development, and the fact that the country's growth story is being discussed across the world, was because of the power of the people who have elected a 'stable government'. You know your Narendrabhai, once he resolves to do something, he delivers it,' Modi said

## Shah's blitz comes as a big boost to BJP on Shivraj turf

Akhilesh.Singh  
@timesgroup.com

**Union minister Amit Shah's three-day visit to the state has pacified many of the rebel leaders within BJP who were enraged after being denied tickets to contest the assembly election, reports Suchandana Gupta.** Apart from addressing two public meetings — in Junnardeo (Chhindwara) and Ujjain — the former BJP national president spent most of the time between Saturday and Monday holding organizational meetings and meeting rebel leaders. Party leaders said that in three days, Shah managed to stave off trouble in at least 15 seats.

saw the rolling out of the strategy blueprint in Indore before workers from 37 assembly constituencies. He also held a meeting in Gwalior, covering 34 assembly seats in Gwalior and Chambari divisions, after which he interacted with local workers and leaders.

Party sources said he has held closed-door meetings with local leaders from all 10 divisions of MP in the last three days and reviewed the party's preparedness for all 230 assembly constituencies.

Shah has made it a point to engage with local leaders, an exercise integral to his

poll strategy, which was one of the key factors in the historic poll wins in UP, since the party won 64 out of 80 Lok Sabha seats in 2014, proving poll pundits wrong.

Shah also tore in to Congress at a rally, saying, "Only three families call the shots in the MP Congress. They are the Digvijaya family, the Kamal Nath family, and the Gandhi family."



**BATTLEGROUND CHHATTISGARH**

Shah meets rebel leaders, pacifies many

**U**nion minister Amit Shah's three-day visit to the state has pacified many of the rebel leaders within BJP who were enraged after being denied tickets to contest the assembly election, reports Suchandana Gupta. Apart from addressing two public meetings — in Junnardeo (Chhindwara) and Ujjain — the former BJP national president spent most of the time between Saturday and Monday holding organizational meetings and meeting rebel leaders. Party leaders said that in three days, Shah managed to stave off trouble in at least 15 seats.

saw the rolling out of the strategy blueprint in Indore before workers from 37 assembly constituencies. He also held a meeting in Gwalior, covering 34 assembly seats in Gwalior and Chambari divisions, after which he interacted with local workers and leaders.

Party sources said he has held closed-door meetings with local leaders from all 10 divisions of MP in the last three days and reviewed the party's preparedness for all 230 assembly constituencies.

Shah has made it a point to engage with local leaders, an exercise integral to his

poll strategy, which was one of the key factors in the historic poll wins in UP, since the party won 64 out of 80 Lok Sabha seats in 2014, proving poll pundits wrong.

"Only three families call the shots in the MP Congress. They are the Digvijaya family, the Kamal Nath family, and the Gandhi family."

**BATTLEGROUND MADHYA PRADESH**

Shah meets rebel leaders, pacifies many

**BATTLEGROUND RAJASTHAN**

Shah meets rebel leaders, pacifies many

**BATTLEGROUND CHHATTISGARH**

Shah meets rebel leaders, pacifies many

**BATTLEGROUND RAJASTHAN**

Shah meets rebel leaders, pacifies many

**BATTLEGROUND CHHATTISGARH**

Shah meets rebel leaders, pacifies many

## Kumar, father of 4, was sole breadwinner of family

►Continued from P 1

This year alone, there have been four shootings — including Monday's attack, the killing of ATM guard Sanjay Sharma in Pulwama in February, and the murder of a circus employee in Anantnag district in May. In July, three labourers from Bihar were wounded in a terrorist attack in Shopian district.

In 2022, a total of 29 targeted killings were reported in J&K, with five being Kashmiri Pandits, raising concerns for the safety of non-local workers and residents in the region.

Kumar's family was unaware of the tragedy until informed by local police after TOI shared his photo and Aadhaar details to reach out to the family for their reaction. The shocking news was difficult for the family to accept since Kumar had spoken to his wife Kusma on Monday morning, hours before he was killed.

Kumar, a father of four and the sole breadwinner of the family, came from a poor Pasi community. The family lives in a modest dwelling with brick walls and a thatched roof. "Uncle was worried about his eldest daughter Nisha's marriage, as the family had no money to fund it. So, he left for Kashmir to work at a brick kiln four months ago. He told his wife that he would deposit some cash in the bank account," said Suresh Kumar, the victim's nephew.

Nisha (18) was at her maternal grandmother's home when she received the news of her father's death. His other children, Pankaj (12), Khushi (10), and Ankush (8), are all in a state of shock. J&K LG Manoj Sinha condemned the fatal attack and offered his condolences to the slain man's family. He assured that the perpetrators would not escape justice.

## EC: Reply not our stand on 'INDIA' legality

►Continued from P 1

The Election Commission of India (ECI) clarified that its reply is limited to its role and should not be construed as an expression of its stand on the "legality of the usage of the acronym INDIA".

The poll panel referenced a Kerala high court ruling that a political front or an alliance of political parties is not considered a legal entity under the Representation of the People Act. In August, the HC had sought responses from the Centre, ECI, and the political parties involved in the petition, with a hearing scheduled for October 31.

The plea challenging the use of the INDIA acronym alleges that these parties are taking "undue advantage in the name of our country". It has requested an interim order to prohibit the use of INDIA by the political alliance and also the national flag with this acronym.

## Onion price drops at mandis after govt fixes MEP

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



New Delhi: The wholesale mandi prices of onion have declined marginally following the imposition of the minimum export price (MEP) of \$800 per tonne on Saturday. In Delhi's Azadpur, which is Asia's largest wholesale market for fruits and vegetables, the prices fell to Rs 45-50 per kg on Monday from Rs 55-60 per kg a few days ago. However, it will take some time for the impact to reach the retail market.

The most common price of onion across centres was Rs 60/kg on Monday and in some places like Delhi it was selling at Rs 70/kg.

While officials said they expect prices to fall in the next few

**Officials expect prices to fall further in the next few days. Traders are hoping for a decline as kharif crops have started arriving from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra**

days, traders are hoping for a decline in prices as kharif crops have started arriving from Rajasthan, MP and Maharashtra.

The consumer affairs ministry, in a statement, also said that

there has been an immediate impact of the MEP on the price correction in Maharashtra markets, where prices recorded a decline of 5% to 9% from the highest price registered last week. It added that the weighted average price of onion in Maharashtra across all the markets has declined by 4.5% and a similar decline was observed in consumption centres as well. Even at Lasalgao in Maharashtra, the hub of the country's onion market, the benchmark price declined.

**G.B. PANT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT  
KOSI-KATMALL, ALMORA 263 643,  
UTTARAKHAND, INDIA**  
**Walk-in-Interview** will be conducted on 09.11.2023 (10:30 hrs. onwards) for purely project based temporary positions of **Junior Project Fellow (03)** at **Sikkim Regional Centre, Panthang, Gangtok, Sikkim** of the Institute.  
For details (age, emoluments, qualification, etc.), please see Institute website ([www.gbpnih.gov.in](http://www.gbpnih.gov.in)).  
CBC 13136/12/0025/2324      **Administrative Officer**

**OFFICE OF MISSION DIRECTOR, NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION, UTTARAKHAND**  
Uttarakhand Health & Family Welfare Society,  
DoMHW, Uttarakhand Govt.  
Danda Lakshmi, Sahasthrada Road, Dehradun-248001  
Email - info.nhmuk@gmail.com Phone/Fax 0135-2608646  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
Tender No. 1903/NHMUK/HR/2023-24/E13569(253A) Date 30/10/2023  
The Mission Director, National Health Mission, Uttarakhand (Uttarakhand Health and Family Welfare Society), invites E-tenders from bidders for Hiring of Service Provider Firm for recruiting and managing Human Resources as per the requirement of National Health Mission, Uttarakhand. The detailed tender document can be viewed and downloaded from website: <http://www.uktenders.gov.in> from 31/10/2023 11:00 AM to 20/11/2023 upto 02:00 PM. The last date and time for submission of bid is 20/11/2023 upto 02:00 PM. All subsequent corrigendum, modifications and clarifications in respect of this tender will be published on aforesaid website only.  
Mission Director  
National Health Mission Uttarakhand

**आई.सी.ए.आर। राष्ट्रीय कॉलरा और आंत्र रोग संस्थान  
icmr** National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases  
P-33, CIT Road, Scheme-XM, Beliaghata, Kolkata - 700010  
Extension Notice for Advertisement No.NICED/02/2023 dated 29/09/2023  
**CORRIGENDUM - 01**

Reference to the vacancy notification vide advertisement No. NICED/02/2023 dated 29/09/2023 published in newspaper, Employment News and also uploaded in the ICMR - NICED and ICMR website, inviting applications for the post of **TO-B, (01 No.)**. It is informed that the last date of receipt of the application, complete in all respects as mentioned in the above vacancy notification, has been extended up to **15<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 till 17.00 hrs.** Sd/- Director

**TRANSLATIONAL HEALTH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE**  
NCR Biotech Science Cluster, 3rd Milestone, Faridabad-Gurugram Expressway, P.O. Box No. 04, Faridabad-121001  
**Recruitment Notice No. THS-C/R/N/18/2023**  
**S. No.** **Name of the post** **Number of Positions** **Emoluments up to (Consolidated) per month based on experience and qualification**

1	Program Manager	01	₹1,00,000/-
2	Associate Program Manager	03	₹80,000/-
3	Data Analyst	01	₹65,000/-
4	Project Associate (accounts)	01	₹35,000/-

For more details, please visit our website: [www.thsti.res.in](http://www.thsti.res.in)

**यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे ओटोग्राहिक विकास प्रायोकरण**  
प्रधाम तल, कॉम्पैशनल कॉम्प्लेक्स, पी-२ सैक्टर-ओमेशा-१,  
गंगर नीरांडा, जनपद गोपालगढ़नगर- 201308 (उम्रा)  
Toll Free No. 18001808296 वेबसाइट : [www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com](http://www.yamunaexpresswayauthority.com)  
पत्रक : वाई.इ.आई.डी.ए / सर्कारीता / 2023 / 2354 दिनांक : 27.10.2023

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**

यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे ओटोग्राहिक विकास प्रायोकरण क्षेत्र में विश्वविद्यालय के भूमिकाएँ के आवंटन / रथापना हेतु लाली गई योजना SCHEME CODE : YEA/INST/2023-2024/02 दिनांक 28.09.2023 से प्रारम्भ की गयी जिसमें आवेदन करने की अन्तिम तिथि दिनांक 27.10.2023 थी, को दिनांक 03.11.2023 तक विस्तारित किया जाता है।

हस्ता /— प्रबंधक (संस्थागत)

**DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION GOVERNMENT OF NAGALAND**  
Request for Proposal for World Bank Aided – Nagaland Education Project-The Lighthouse (NECTAR) for eligible firms with requisite experience and capabilities for the following activity:  
"Selection of an agency to build capacity to strengthen assessments and evaluation practices in the State"  
For more details kindly visit [nagalandtenders.gov.in](http://nagalandtenders.gov.in) or [nagalandeduproject.com](http://nagalandeduproject.com)

**GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA  
COMMISSIONERATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, MUMBAI.**  
Procurement Cell, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Arogya Bhavan, St. Georges Hospital Compound, Mumbai - 400 001.  
• E-mail - [procurementcell@gmail.com](mailto:procurementcell@gmail.com)

### TENDER NOTICE

Date :- 30.10.2023

Joint Director of Health Services (Procurement Cell), Mumbai invites tenders in two envelope systems from the eligible Service Providers for Mechanized Cleaning Services in hospitals & Primary Health Care Centers under Health Institutes under Commissionerate of Health Services, Maharashtra.

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Name of Item	Period of sale, preparation & submission of bid	Date of Pre bid meeting	Date of Bid Closing	Bid Opening
1	E-10	Appointment of Service Provider Mechanized Cleaning Services in hospitals & Primary Health Care Centers in health facilities under Commissionerate of Health Services, Maharashtra state.	30.10.2023, 02:00 PM to 20.11.2023 02:00 PM	06.11.2023 At 02:00 PM	20.11.2023 02:00 PM	21.11.2023 02:00 PM

- For detailed information, the interested Service Providers may visit the [https://mahatenders.gov.in](http://mahatenders.gov.in).
- The Jt. Director of Health Services, (P. Cell) Mumbai reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity to be purchased and also reserves the right to cancel all the tenders without giving any reason to.

For e-tendering help/information, please contact.

Website: - <https://mahatenders.gov.in>.

Contact:- Toll-free Number: 1800-419-3436; 1800-102-3436

Email—[procurementcell@gmail.com](mailto:procurementcell@gmail.com)

Jt. Director of Health Services (Procurement Cell), Mumbai

## TIMES NATION

### RECRUITMENT NOTICE

**Subject: Engagement of retired Government Employee as Consultant (Administrative Officer) in IHBS on contractual basis**

Applications are invited from the employees retired at the level of Administrative Officer/ Equivalent from Ministries/Departments/Institutions of Central/State Governments for engaging as Administrative Officer on contractual basis initially for a period of six months.

2. The application duly filled in along with self attested copy of required/supporting documents must reach to the Office of Joint Director (Administration), IHBS on or before 30th November, 2023.

3. For application form, details of eligibility criteria, remuneration, terms & conditions, etc, please visit our website ([www.ihbas.delhigovt.nic.in](http://www.ihbas.delhigovt.nic.in)).

4. Institute reserves the right to increase/decrease, fill or not to fill any/all the vacancies or cancel the advertisement without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-

(Dr. VKS Gautam)

DIP/Shabdharth/Classified/0204/23-24

Offg. Joint Director (Admn)

### MENTAL ILLNESSES ARE TREATABLE

## Govt. of Bihar

### Animal & Fisheries Resources Department

#### Dairy Development Directorate Bihar, Patna

Notice for Selection of an agency for website maintenance, software development & monitoring of Dairy Development Schemes.

#### Fact Sheet

Tender No.	.....
Title of Tender	Selection of an agency for website maintenance, software development & monitoring of Dairy Development Schemes.
Date of Pre-bid Meeting and venue	01.11.2023 Dairy Directorate, Department of Animal and Fisheries Resource, Govt. of Bihar, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Vikash Bhawan, Patna - 800015
Last Date and time for receipt of response to RFP (Bid – Documents)	10.11.2023, Time:- 03:00 P.m
Date of Opening of Technical Proposal	10.11.2023, Time:- 04:00 P.m
Date of opening of Financial Proposal	To be communicated to technically qualified bidders
Mode of Proposal submission	Offline
Address for submission of Proposal	Director Dairy Development, Directorate of Dairy Development, Animal and Fisheries Resources Department, Govt. of Bihar, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor, Vikash Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna, Pin: 800015..
Tender document fee	Rs. 8000/- through DD favor of "Director Dairy Development, Bihar, Patna" which is non-refundable.
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	EMD: Rs. 2,00,000/- in favor of "Director Dairy Development, Bihar, Patna" as Bank Guarantee
Method of Selection	Least Cost Method (L1)
Letter of Awards	To be notified
Assignment duration	Agency would initially be engaged for a period of 3 years which may be extended further for a period of 2 years on satisfactory work and mutually agreeable terms.
Nodal Person for general queries	Dy. Director(HQ) Dairy Development Directorate
Website	<a href="http://state.bihar.gov.in/ahd">https://state.bihar.gov.in/ahd</a> <a href="http://state.bihar.gov.in">https://state.bihar.gov.in</a>
E-Mail	director@dairy@gmail.com
Amendment /corrigendum, if any, shall be published at above mentioned web address.	
This information is available on <a href="http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also">www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also</a>	
PR. No. 010974 (Animal) 2023-24	

Director Dairy

## BAREILLY SMART CITY LIMITED (BSCL)

### BAREILLY (UTTAR PRADESH, INDIA)

Ref.No: BSCL/2023-24/3933 Date:- 30.10.2023

Bareilly Smart City Limited, Bareilly invites e-tender for the following projects-

S. No.	Name of the Work	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Tender fee with GST @ 18% (Rs.)	Work completion Period	Bid Start Date


<tbl\_r cells="6"



## A thought for today

Liberty cannot be preserved without general knowledge among the people

JOHN ADAMS

## Money, Money, Money

As SC begins poll bonds hearing, note that political funding is a challenge no democracy has solved

Congress, according to a TOI report, is set to use a crowdfunding platform to supplement its resources. If it follows the popular model, its most notable feature will be an electronic trail and perhaps greater transparency in political funding. Regulating political funding is very challenging the world over. There's an inherent conflict of interest that needs to be addressed. Political parties are distinct from the state, but in the legislature they make laws on behalf of the state, including the regulatory framework of their funding.

Political funding is regulated along two strands, caps on individual donations and disclosure about the source of funding. Of the two, transparency on the funding source is more critical because caps can be easily sidestepped if the donor is not identified. Major democracies have struggled to design a regulatory regime that comprehensively addresses these challenges. Most member-states

of the EU stand apart in their recourse to state funding of political parties to partially level the playing field. But it's not a convincing approach as Germany, for example, links public funding to the vote share in the last election. By design, it's in favour of established parties who also have greater access to private funds.

The US is an outlier in political funding. A Supreme Court judgment in 2010 effectively removed both a century-old cap on donations and allowed for concealing identity of donors provided a meaningless condition is met – there can be no formal coordination between a political party and donors. Thus, the US has the "Super PACs", outside groups that ostensibly produce independent campaign advertisements. An outcome has been the growing importance of "dark money" and the fear of foreign interference in US elections. America is the best proof that transparency in poll funding is among the hardest challenges faced by democracies.

In the UK, opaque political funding in the form of unincorporated associations, originally meant for non-profit ventures, has been growing. In India, a cap on corporate donations was lifted through a legislative amendment in 2017. The next year, electoral bonds were notified. It's a bearer bond issued by a bank, but legislative changes ensured the source of funding is concealed from voters, the most important stakeholders in an election. A bench of the Supreme Court will today begin a hearing on its constitutional validity. It represents India's biggest test case for transparent political funding.

## Sports' Other Half

India's para-athletes have to overcome systemic neglect. That makes their Asiad medal haul even more impressive

India's para-athletes, like India's athletes, won 100-plus medals at the Asian championship. But unlike our athletes, our para-athletes receive very little government support. The story of most para-athletes is one of great personal determination. From lack of training infrastructure to financial constraints, para-athletes are up against huge odds. Even India's para tournaments have been shoddily organised. The National Para-Athletics Championship in 2021 was moved from Tamil Nadu to Karnataka just four days before the event.

The Paralympic Committee of India, the nodal body for para-sports in the country, has been mired in controversy. The sports ministry had derecognised the body in 2019 due to violation of the National

Sports Code. Though it was reinstated a year later, it continues to be guilty of a lackadaisical approach. As a result, most para-athletes are left to fend for themselves. Consider the case of Preeti Pal who missed two medals at the Hangzhou games by a whisker. The sprinter (T35 category) from Meerut lost out mainly because of the unavailability of synthetic tracks for practice in her hometown. Similarly, Suvarna Raj made it to the top 8 in discus and shot put (54kg category) in Hangzhou. But she could have done far better had she not been forced to run from pillar to post to get access to a proper place to practise in Noida.

Add to this the shortage of specialised coaches for para-athletes who need scientific interventions based on their individual profiles. The sports ministry was allocated a substantial ₹3,397.32 crore in this year's budget. But para-athletes don't get a proportional share of the resources. Creating an enabling environment for them would include accessible stadiums, substantial financial support for those who represent the country, and the right scientific interventions. That's how records are consistently broken.

## Dial M for madness

Muzak, memory tests and proving you are you

Bikram Vohra



Please listen carefully to the menu because all our options have changed. Why? What was wrong with the old ones. I had just gotten used to them. I am a nervous Nellie when it comes to these auto-convos. Dial 1 for this, dial 2 for that, all the way up to 10 and then it says go back to the main menu dial 0. Confusion reigns, was mine the 3 or the 5.

Off and on when your luck is running strong you are asked if you wish to speak to an agent... yes, yes, pretty please, anything for a fellow human. Ominous silence followed by muzak and it doesn't matter if it is 2am all the agents are busy, please wait. You finally get a human, and he says I need to verify you are you. Of course, I am me, who would want to impersonate me. And then the question: what is your mother's maiden name? I have never figured out the need for this intimate piece of information. How has my mum's maiden name got a role in updating my bank details, she married my dad in 1946 and took his name, how is it going to help in 2023 and how do you even know I am telling the truth?

Achting, this is the Gestapo, we have sent you an OTP to your registered number. One-time passwords scare me into tremors. You now have to go to SMS and then wait for it and it doesn't come and then return to phone, and request resend, and it is 453245 and now you go back to the keyboard and the mind goes blank was it four five or five four and sure enough up comes the warning: OTP is not correct.

Life is one big password and if it isn't that it's the first digits of your registered number ting ding, ting ding, you have exceeded the permitted number of tries, dial 1 for...

Worse than all this is that montage of photos. Which ones have bridges in them? Are you a robot? If I was a robot and you were conducting this inquisition, would I admit it? Why would robots want to suffer this torture? Like these higgledy-piggledy numbers and letters they jumble together; and they are misshapen, uh is that R or Y and that is A could be B, will someone tell me why we are doing this.

And having third degreeed you into confessing all sorts of sins just to end the madness they ask you if you will take part in a survey. Not if I must give my mum's name.



## Angry Gods' Own Country

That an explosion at a Jehovah's Witnesses meet raised Kerala's political discourse to fever-pitch shows how multiple forms of radicalisation are roiling the multi-religious state

TK Arun



What would happen to God's own country, if, instead of smiling down on a thin strip of green tropical glory, sandwiched between spice-bearing mountain slopes to the east and many-coloured sand and surf to the west, the god in question splits into several, each of whom waxes wrathful, sending their followers on earth onto the warpath?

Kerala today has to confront this question, following a bomb blast at a gathering of a minuscule religious group that killed three, injured scores, and more significantly raised the temperature of the political discourse to fever-pitch, with potentially explosive consequences in the multi-religious state.

That danger was averted, thanks to the swift identification of the culprit as a member of the targeted religious group, as he confessed to his crime in a Facebook Live, before surrendering himself at a police station. But before his confession social media had already filled with speculation of the bomb blasts having been committed by radical Islamic groups.

Kerala's religious composition is unique among Indian states. About 57% of the population is Hindu, 23% are Muslim and 19% are Christian. Kerala has had trading links with the Levant from ancient times, and hosted a Jewish community of Levantine traders in Kochi, when a breakaway faction of Jews in their homeland accepted Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah and Christ's apostles spread out to mobilise supporters.

It is believed that St Thomas, one of the apostles, reached Kerala and Sri Lanka, and converted a section of the Jews and some local residents to the new faith. Even today, several denominations of Kerala Christians carry on with liturgy in Syriac, a form of Aramaic, the language supposedly spoken by Christ. Apart from Syrian Christians, descendants of the original converts, subsequent streams of conversion by European missionaries have created multiple strands of Christianity in Kerala.

Islam, too, came to Kerala, through trading contacts, in the very same century in which it was founded in Arab lands. One Kerala king is supposed to have converted to Islam. Christians and Muslims coexisted with Hindus without much friction for centuries, these two groups occupying the position of banias – there is no

explicit bania group among Kerala's Hindus.

Given the polytheistic nature of Hinduism, it was not difficult for India's dominant religion to absorb Kerala's little traditions, with strong Buddhist and more ancient influences, into its ambit. Christianity and Islam joined the lot.

The Jehovah's Witnesses emerged from a Bible study group founded in the US in the 1870s. Their reading of the Bible led them to abandon the notion of the Holy Trinity, of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. They believe the world lives in sin, and redemption is possible only for their followers. They recognise no state, and refuse to serve in the army or sing any national anthem.

The image is for representational purposes

not to lose legitimacy, the government also set up schools.

To protest against upper-caste refusal to admit a girl from an agricultural labour caste, Pulaya, a leader Ayyankali organised a strike. Farm workers bucked tradition, hunger, want, upper-caste threats and violence, and continued their boycott of work for two seasons. Ayyankali withstood assassination attempts, organised support for workers. Finally, the upper-caste landlords gave in, and decided to open schools to children of all castes.

Sree Narayana Guru de-legitimised caste within Hindu spirituality, arguing that Advaita, the philosophy of non-duality, leaves no room for distinctions based on caste or religion. His teachings had enormous influence.

This dynamic of social change was carried forward by the communists, who organised all sections of the working people to secure their rights, which included effective land reforms. The communists realised the Constitution's promise of democracy, and reshaped all the state's political parties into their own image.

However, the communists balked at fostering capitalism, the economic counterpart to liberal democracy, leading to economic stagnation and, over time, atrophy of cultural dynamism and the communists' own political authority. Large-scale emigration and the resultant remittance income have cushioned the fallout.

It is in this context that Islamist radicalisation made inroads into Kerala, despite the active presence of the Muslim League, a party that has championed Muslim interests in harmony with other religious groups. Political opportunism has tempted the communists to use radical elements to weaken the League.

The Hindu right woos Kerala's Christians, even as its fringe groups attack churches in north India. Islamists draw globalised inspiration, and wield clout, even if numerically small.

The bomb blast at the Jehovah's Witnesses meet showed the capacity for explosive violence even in small groups in Kerala. The feverish suspicion on social media that the attack could have been carried out by radical Islamic or Hindu groups reveals the potential for violence among all major social groups.

Kerala cries out for another paradigm shift in politics and economics, if this mix of diverse radicalisations is not to blow up in its face. The rare solidarity that came to the surface in the wake of the 2018 floods shows there is hope. Concerted action must build on that hope.



## House Panel's Coding Doesn't Fix The Problem

Bills intended to replace India's criminal codes were sent to the parliamentary standing committee on home affairs. Two legal experts say while the committee's reported suggestions are right on some counts they are crucially wrong on lynching, adultery & marital rape

Naveed Mahmood Ahmad and Ayushi Sharma



We look at the House committee's crucial recommendations, by arranging them under five broad heads.

Right direction |

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023 (BNS) provides for community service as a form of punishment for a few offences. But it does not define community service or provide a framework for its imposition. This can render a much-needed step unenforceable. The committee recommended defining community service and identifying the official responsible for executing community service orders.

The committee has also recommended inclusion of a provision to criminalise non-consensual same-sex intercourse and bestiality. While the Supreme Court in Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India (2018) read down only the portion of Section 377 that criminalised consensual sexual intercourse, the entire provision has been removed in BNS – leaving no recourse against non-consensual same-sex intercourse and bestiality. Reintroducing a modified version of Section 377 can contribute towards safeguarding vulnerable individuals from sexual abuse and exploitation.

**On lynching |** Under BNS, lynching can attract a mandatory minimum sentence of seven years, or life imprisonment, or death. This is unlike the offence of murder, which can only attract life imprisonment and death penalty. The committee's recommendation that punishment for lynching be enhanced and brought on a par with that of murder.

But the committee didn't point out that BNS fails to recognise the different roles and varying degrees of participation of each member of a mob and risks punishing all the same way. The provision falls woefully

short in addressing challenges associated with prosecution of lynching cases. Complementary procedural and evidentiary guidelines are critical to make the substantive law on mob violence meaningful.

**On organised crime & terrorism |** BNS makes provisions to deal with offences committed by a group of individuals, whether as members of a crime syndicate or for such a syndicate. A syndicate has been defined to include gangs and mafia involved in grand criminality, racketeering etc.

The committee has recommended the definition of organised crime syndicate be further clarified and terms like gang, mafia, and racketeering be better defined. It has also recommended separation of clauses governing attempts to commit organised crime and actual commission of crime. It would have been useful if the committee had also scrutinised the increased scope of "organised crime" by inclusion of all cognizable crimes under "continuing unlawful activity" in BNS and its overlap with other state-level laws.

On "terrorist acts", the definition used in BNS mirrors that in the stringent Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1961 (UAPA). Yet, procedural safeguards provided in UAPA have not been provided in BNS.

The committee's recommendation that a senior police officer may decide on invoking UAPA provisions is hardly a step towards making these provisions more fair and reasonable.

**On reviving adultery laws |** BNS has dropped the provision on adultery, giving effect to the SC's decision in Joseph Shine vs Union of India (2019). The committee, however, has recommended adultery be brought back



into the statute as a gender-neutral offence. This recommendation might address issues of manifest arbitrariness and discrimination, but the concern for preserving the sanctity of marriage at the expense of an individual's right to sexual privacy seems obtuse and misplaced.

SC struck down Section 497, which penalised men for sexual intercourse with married women without husbands' consent, on the grounds of it being archaic, discriminatory and violative of a woman's dignity.

SC also held that the state has no legitimate interest in criminalising adultery.

**Missed opportunities |** The bills aim to ensure decolonisation, gender neutrality and a citizen-centric criminal justice system but fail to significantly impact all fronts. For instance, only the offence of child procurement (Clause 94) has been made gender-neutral. Most offences, including rape, sexual harassment, and stalking, remain gendered. This, despite evidence of sexual violence against men and other sexual minorities.

Archaic offences such as enticing a married woman (Clause 83), causing miscarriage (Clauses 86-90), and the marital rape exception (Clause 63) have been retained. Newly added offences, such as acts endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India (Clause 150) and making or publishing fake news (Clause 195), are vague, ambiguous and susceptible to misuse.

The committee's review was an opportunity to better align the laws with the stated objectives. However, much like the drafting of the three bills, the House panel's efforts seem superficial, leaving much to be done.

The writers are with the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy



Calvin &amp; Hobbes

Sacredspace



Love is the first born, loftier than the gods, the fathers and men. In many forms of goodness, O

Love, you show your face. Grant that these forms may penetrate within our hearts. Send elsewhere all malice.

Atharva Ved

## Love Is The Only Religion Worth Dying For

Sumit Paul

"I have been astonished that men could die martyrs for religion – I shudder at it – I shudder no more. I could be martyr'd for my religion – Love is my religion – I could die for that." These lines by John Keats, English romantic poet, assume far greater profundity in our age of religious fanaticism when dying for one's faith is seen as something very exalted and worth emulating. Love is the true and only religion worth dying for.

The idea of Keatsian love is like that of Jalaluddin Rumi, "My love is like the morning glow that suffuses and subsumes the whole sky and leaves no corner darkened." In these turbulent times, we want the overwhelming power and reach of love that can touch and change every individual. Keatsian universal love can

uplift and sublimate all souls because love is non-discriminatory, non-denominational and non-categorical.

Elsewhere, Keats says, "Love for the sake of love." We need to develop this sublime idea of love for the sake of love. That'll demolish and diminish all the barriers and walls of hatred. When love exists for an object, person, or idea, it becomes selfish. But when love encompasses all in its ambit, it becomes universal. In other words, love cannot be objectified. Nor can it be confined to a mere emotion. It is the very kernel of human existence and the essence of humanity. Pyaar har rang mein logon ko sada deta hai/ Pyaar ke parde mein hum sabka Khuda rahta hai." Love calls you in all its hues/ Behind the curtain of love, resides our god.



THE SPEAKING TREE

THE SPEAKING TREE&lt;/div

## Corporate America Weighs Business Impact Of New Weight-Loss Drugs

US companies across sectors such as food & beverage makers and manufacturers of glucose monitors are facing investor questions over the risk to future sales from the growing popularity of promising weight-loss treatments. Drugs in a class known as GLP-1, such as Novo Nordisk's Wegovy and Ozempic and Eli Lilly's Mounjaro, have been shown to help control blood sugar and dramatically lower weight in clinical trials. Here's what companies have said about the potential impact:

Source: Reuters



### Retailers, Food & Beverage Cos

- Walmart expects revenues from its health & wellness products to increase, mainly due to the popularity of weight-loss drugs
- PepsiCo has said the company is 'not seeing any impact' yet from the popularity of these drugs
- Hershey's CEO Michele Buck said the drugs' use was not materially impacting business

- Coca-Cola CEO James Quincey said the company was monitoring impact, if any, the drugs will have

### Dialysis Services Providers

- Germany's Fresenius Medical Care said the use of Ozempic and other drugs would have an overall neutral effect on how many patients require dialysis services in future
- Davita is monitoring drug-related developments and expects limited impact from their use, as they may only benefit some patients

### Medical Device Makers

- Johnson & Johnson's third-quarter sales for devices used in abdomen surgeries were hit by a slowdown in demand for weight loss and other procedures, as many obese patients turned to Wegovy and Ozempic
- J&J has said the use of the drugs could make patients eligible for procedures like hip and knee replacements
- Abbott CEO Robert Ford has said that diabetes patients could end up using glucose monitors with weight-loss drugs
- Insulet Corp expects that the use of Ozempic and Mounjaro could delay the time for patients to become dependent on insulin, but does not expect its long-term market to be impacted

### Drug Distributors

- Cencora, Cardinal Health, and McKesson have flagged potential boosts to revenues this year, owing to the growing demand for weight-loss drugs

# In New Year, know your health cover at a glance

## Irdai Mandates Info Like Policy Limits & Exclusions In A Sheet, 15-Day 'Free-Look' Period

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** Come New Year, you will not only be able to read quickly the fine-print of a health insurance policy — which will be available in a simple sheet — but you will also get a 15-day period to cancel a cover.

Health insurance plans are set to become more transparent and user-friendly, with the regulator directing companies to issue a sheet containing a concise summary of basic policy information and holders' rights.

From January 1, 2024, policyholders will be able to quickly access key information, including coverage details, waiting periods, limits, sub-limits, and all exclusions.

While basic information is present within the insurance contract, it is often embedded in the fine print clauses of the policy. These terms are typically couched in legal language — a necessity due to the contractual nature of insurance policies.

The insurance regulator (Irdai) said the purpose of customer information sheets (CIS) is to "promote transparency and enhance policyholder awareness regarding between insurers and policyholders.

According to insurers, this move will reduce the occurrence of health insuranc-

### MANDATE TO CURB MIS-SELLING

- From Jan 1, 2024, policyholders will be able to quickly access key information, including coverage details, waiting periods, limits, sub-limits, and all exclusions
- Moreover, health insurance covers will include a 15-day 'free-look' period.

cies... empowering them with a deeper understanding of their insurance coverage." Irdai said several complaints are arising due to an asymmetry of information between insurers and policyholders.

According to insurers, this move will reduce the occurrence of health insuranc-



which policyholders can utilise if they believe they have been subject to mis-selling

- While basic information is present within the insurance contract, it is often embedded in the fine print clauses of the policy

ce mis-selling by intermediaries. "The regulator aims to increase transparency and awareness to reduce grievances. The introduction of the customer information sheet will help minimise cases of mis-selling," said T A Ramalingam, chief technical officer, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.

**Insurance regulator Irdai said purpose of customer information sheets is to "promote transparency and enhance policyholder awareness regarding their health insurance policies..."**

In addition to basic details, the CIS will update customers about their rights by highlighting concepts such as 'free-look' cancellation, migration, portability, the moratorium period, guidance on the claims procedure, and contact information for

grievance resolution. Moreover, the CIS emphasises the policyholder's obligation to make transparent and fair disclosures of material health-related information. Irdai said that failing to disclose such information may impact claim settlements. Insurers are now mandated to obtain the signatures of policyholders to confirm their receipt and understanding of CIS details.

According to Irdai, there were 52 lakh health insurance claims in FY22, of which 47.4 lakh were settled within one month, and 3.6 lakh were resolved between one and three months. The remaining claims were paid over a period of up to two years.

## Just 3 internet cos offer min wage for gig workers: Study Bigbasket, Flipkart, Urban Co Meet Criteria

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Bengaluru:** Bigbasket, Flipkart, and Urban Company have a minimum wage policy to ensure their workers earn the hourly local minimum wage after factoring in work-related costs, showed Fairwork India Ratings 2023. The three internet platforms met the minimum wage policy criteria for the second year in a row.

Urban Company, for instance, has committed to onboarding an external auditor before October 31 to conduct periodic audits of its payment calculation and reimbursements to bridge the gap, if any, in monthly earning guaranteed programme. It also plans to change its rating system by removing unjustifiably low ratings and removing feedback from habitual low raters.

The Fairwork India Team, led by the Centre for IT and Public Policy (CITAPP), International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B), in association with Oxford University, assess the

working conditions of gig workers and ranks them on how they fare on five principles — fair pay, fair conditions, fair contracts, fair management and fair representation.

This year, the team surveyed 963 workers and evaluated

Where New Age Cos Stand On Fair Policies	
Fairwork Ratings	Score
Bigbasket	6/10
BluSmart	5/10
Swiggy	5/10
Urban Company	5/10
Zomato	5/10
Zepto	4/10
Flipkart	3/10
Amazon Flex	2/10
Dunzo	1/10
Uber	1/10
Ola	-
Porter	-
Minimum standards of fair work	

Only Bigbasket, Swiggy, Urban Company, Zepto and Zomato were awarded the second point for providing workers with accident insurance coverage at no additional cost, monetary compensation for income loss in cases where they were unable to work due to medical reasons other than accidents, and for ensuring workers' standing was not negatively affected when they returned after a break taken with prior notification.

However, this year, no platform scored more than six out of the 10 points, and none scored all the points across the five principles. The report said Amazon Flex, Bigbasket, BluSmart, Flipkart, Swiggy, Urban Company, Uber, Zepto

## SAT lifts Sebi ban on Zee promoter Punit Goenka

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Mumbai:** The Securities Appellate Tribunal on Monday set aside an order by markets regulator Sebi that had barred Punit Goenka, MD & CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises, from holding any key managerial post in the company and other group firms.

Sebi had passed the order after it found that Goenka, along with Subhash Chandra — a promoter of the company — had diverted funds from it. Sebi had also alleged that funds from Zee were routed through several group companies to itself again, which were bogus transactions.

In the 9-page order, SAT also directed Goenka to cooperate with Sebi's probe against him. The order to ban him was an interim order which was ex parte in nature when initially passed, but was later confirmed after giving an opportunity to Goenka to present his side of the case.

"The restraint order passed by the respondent (Sebi) pursuant to the ad interim order and the confirmatory order restraining the appellant to function as a (MD) and is set aside," the order said.

BPCL returns to black in July-Sept

New Delhi: Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) reported returning to profitability in the September quarter after a boost in marketing margin improved earnings. Consolidated net profit in July-September was at Rs 8,243.6 crore compared to a loss of Rs 338.5 crore in the same period a year back, the company said.

The profit was aided by a boost in marketing margins as a freeze on petrol and diesel price revision despite a fall in input oil prices helped recover losses incurred when rates were high last year. AGENCIES

market reports estimated Blackstone's buyout of CARE to be over \$700 million

and that of KIMSHealth in the region of Rs 3,000-3,500 crore (\$360-420 million).

After the acquisition, PE player TPG — which currently owns CARE Hospitals through the Evercare Health Fund — will be left with a significant minority stake in the combined platform.

On the other hand, while True North will sell its entire 61% stake in KIMSHealth, the chain will continue to operate under its founder chairman & managing director Dr M I Sadiqulla. Blackstone Private Equity managing director Ganesh Mani said Blackstone aims to build a patient-centric hospital platform that will be focused on quality clinical care and services.

Blackstone enters Indian healthcare with Hyd buy

and that of KIMSHealth in the region of Rs 3,000-3,500 crore (\$360-420 million).

After the acquisition, PE player TPG — which currently owns CARE Hospitals through the Evercare Health Fund — will be left with a significant minority stake in the combined platform.

On the other hand, while

True North will sell its entire 61% stake in KIMSHealth, the chain will continue to operate under its founder chairman & managing director Dr M I Sadiqulla. Blackstone Private Equity managing director Ganesh Mani said Blackstone aims to build a patient-centric hospital platform that will be focused on quality clinical care and services.

The deal, which is pegged at over \$1 billion, will create one of India's largest hospital chains with a combined network of 23 hospitals with 4,000 beds across 11 cities, and catering to over 30 clinical specialties.

While none of the players disclosed the deal sizes,

market reports estimated Blackstone's buyout of CARE to be over \$700 million

and that of KIMSHealth in the region of Rs 3,000-3,500 crore (\$360-420 million).

After the acquisition, PE

player TPG — which currently owns CARE Hospitals through the Evercare Health Fund — will be left with a significant minority stake in the combined platform.

On the other hand, while

True North will sell its entire 61% stake in KIMSHealth, the chain will continue to operate under its founder chairman & managing director Dr M I Sadiqulla. Blackstone Private Equity managing director Ganesh Mani said Blackstone aims to build a patient-centric hospital platform that will be focused on quality clinical care and services.

The deal, which is pegged at over \$1 billion, will create one of India's largest hospital chains with a combined network of 23 hospitals with 4,000 beds across 11 cities, and catering to over 30 clinical specialties.

While none of the players disclosed the deal sizes,

market reports estimated Blackstone's buyout of CARE to be over \$700 million

and that of KIMSHealth in the region of Rs 3,000-3,500 crore (\$360-420 million).

After the acquisition, PE

player TPG — which currently owns CARE Hospitals through the Evercare Health Fund — will be left with a significant minority stake in the combined platform.

On the other hand, while

True North will sell its entire 61% stake in KIMSHealth, the chain will continue to operate under its founder chairman & managing director Dr M I Sadiqulla. Blackstone Private Equity managing director Ganesh Mani said Blackstone aims to build a patient-centric hospital platform that will be focused on quality clinical care and services.

The deal, which is pegged at over \$1 billion, will create one of India's largest hospital chains with a combined network of 23 hospitals with 4,000 beds across 11 cities, and catering to over 30 clinical specialties.

While none of the players disclosed the deal sizes,

market reports estimated Blackstone's buyout of CARE to be over \$700 million

and that of KIMSHealth in the region of Rs 3,000-3,500 crore (\$360-420 million).

After the acquisition, PE

player TPG — which currently owns CARE Hospitals through the Evercare Health Fund — will be left with a significant minority stake in the combined platform.

On the other hand, while

True North will sell its entire 61% stake in KIMSHealth, the chain will continue to operate under its founder chairman & managing director Dr M I Sadiqulla. Blackstone Private Equity managing director Ganesh Mani said Blackstone aims to build a patient-centric hospital platform that will be focused on quality clinical care and services.

The deal, which is pegged at over \$1 billion, will create one of India's largest hospital chains with a combined network of 23 hospitals with 4,000 beds across 11 cities, and catering to over 30 clinical specialties.

While none of the players disclosed the deal sizes,

market reports estimated Blackstone's buyout of CARE to be over \$700 million

and that of KIMSHealth in the region of Rs 3,000-3,500 crore (\$360-420 million).

After the acquisition, PE

player TPG — which currently owns CARE Hospitals through the Evercare Health Fund — will be left with a significant minority stake in the combined platform.

On the other hand, while

True North will sell its entire 61% stake in KIMSHealth, the chain will continue to operate under its founder chairman & managing director Dr M I Sadiqulla. Blackstone Private Equity managing director Ganesh Mani said Blackstone aims to build a patient-centric hospital platform that will be focused on quality clinical care and services.

The deal, which is pegged at over \$1 billion, will create one of India's largest hospital chains with a combined network of 23 hospitals with 4,000 beds across 11 cities, and catering to over 30 clinical specialties.

While none of the players disclosed the deal sizes,

market reports estimated Blackstone's buyout of CARE to be over \$700 million

and that of KIMSHealth in the region of Rs 3,000-3,500 crore (\$360-420 million).

After the acquisition, PE

player TPG — which currently owns CARE Hospitals through the Evercare Health Fund — will be left with a significant minority stake in the combined platform.

On the other hand, while

True North will sell its entire 61% stake in KIMSHealth, the chain will continue to operate under its founder chairman & managing director Dr M I Sadiqulla. Blackstone Private Equity managing director Ganesh Mani said Blackstone aims to build a patient-centric hospital platform that will be focused on quality clinical care and services.

The deal, which is pegged at over \$1 billion, will create one of India's largest hospital chains with a combined network of 23 hospitals with 4,000 beds across 11 cities, and catering to over 30 clinical specialties.

While none of the players disclosed the deal sizes,

market reports estimated Blackstone's buyout of CARE to be over \$700 million

and that of KIMSHealth in the region of Rs 3,000-3,500 crore (\$360-420 million).

# AFGHANS CONTINUE BIG-GAME HUNTING



**ON A HIGH:** Rashid Khan (2L) celebrates with teammates after dismissing Dhananjaya de Silva

Tushar.Dutt@timesgroup.com

**PUNE:** Continuing with their mission of making it their most memorable World Cup, Afghanistan registered their third win by beating Sri Lanka in Pune on Monday.

Afghanistan chased a modest 242-run target in 45.2 overs making it a slow-burner of a match. With this win, Afghanistan have gone up to the fifth spot with six points, while Sri Lanka have dropped a place below to sixth position.

A clinical 4-34 by left-arm pacer Fazalhaq Farooqi, followed by half-centuries by Rahmat Shah, skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi and allrounder Azmatullah Omarzai propelled Afghanistan to a 7-wicket win over Sri Lanka at the MCA Stadium in Gahuri.

The skipper reached his half-century in 67 deliveries and made 58 in 74 balls (4sx2, 6sx1), while Azmat was the fastest with 73 off 63 (4sx6, 6sx3). Azmat also contributed with a wicket during their bowling.

A ground, that is known to support batters more than the bowlers, saw its first 50-plus individual score in the 25th over of the second innings when Rahmat took a single to finish his second consecutive half-century in 61 balls. He made 62 off 74 balls (4sx7). Rahmat had made 77 against Pakistan in their previous match.

Rahmat came in to bat on the fifth ball of the innings when opener Rahmantullah Gurbaz was clean bowled by Dilshan Madushanka and Afghanistan were yet to put a run on the board.

HOW THEY STAND							
Pos	T	P	W	L	N/R	NRR	Pts
1	Ind	6	6	0	0	+1.405	12
2	SA	6	5	1	0	+2.032	10
3	NZ	6	4	2	0	+1.232	8
4	Aus	6	4	2	0	+0.970	8
5	Af	6	3	3	0	-0.718	6
6	SL	6	2	4	0	-0.275	4
7	Pak	6	2	4	0	-0.387	4
8	Ned	6	2	4	0	-1.277	4
9	Ban	6	1	5	0	-1.338	2
10	Eng	6	1	5	0	-1.652	2

Not that it was an easy chase for Afghanistan. At 50-1, they were not much ahead of Sri Lanka (41-1) in terms of runs on board after 10 overs. They both were 88-2 after 20 overs. However, the Afghans looked at ease and reflected confidence that the Kusal Mendis's side lacked. While Rahmat displayed patience and tried to build partnerships, Hashmat and later Azmat tried to excel the run-rate, more so while reaching closer towards the target.

Earlier, Sri Lanka played their innings like a team in the '90s. In the first 10 overs, Lanka had 41-1 on board, took singles even when a little push could have given them the second runs. Their first boundary came in the sixth over, while the ball was sent across the ropes only twice.

On the other hand, Afghanistan looked

more prepared. Right from taking a brave decision of bowling first after winning the toss on a ground that is known for assisting batters, Hashmatullah ticked more boxes than his Lankan counterpart.

His choice of opening the bowling with off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman with another young bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi, a left-arm pacer, was not just interesting, but also effective. Farooqi, who had taken only three wickets from four matches so far in the World Cup, came up with his best ODI figures. He finished his quota of 10 overs with 10-1-34-4, which included important scalps of opener Dimuth Karunaratne (15), Charith Asalanka (22), Angelo Mathews (23) and Maheesh Theekshana.

Hashmat was better even in shifting to their plan B whenever needed. For instance, Rahmantullah Gurbaz kept wickets from the second over onwards after their regular wicketkeeper Ikram Alikhil got injured. Likewise, he changed Farooqi from the Pavilion end to the South End in his second spell. Farooqi had taken one wicket from the Pavilion end, but he took three after the change of ends.

While bowling, left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka's spells kept Sri Lanka in the game. The pacer took two wickets from his 10 overs, split into four spells.

Another pacer Kasun Rajitha provided some support to Madushanka by taking a wicket, but other bowlers' inability to create chances ruined Sri Lanka's chances of defending a modest total.

On the other hand, Afghanistan looked

## How They Stand

Pos T P W L N/R NRR Pts

1 Ind 6 6 0 0 +1.405 12

2 SA 6 5 1 0 +2.032 10

3 NZ 6 4 2 0 +1.232 8

4 Aus 6 4 2 0 +0.970 8

5 Af 6 3 3 0 -0.718 6

6 SL 6 2 4 0 -0.275 4

7 Pak 6 2 4 0 -0.387 4

8 Ned 6 2 4 0 -1.277 4

9 Ban 6 1 5 0 -1.338 2

10 Eng 6 1 5 0 -1.652 2

more prepared. Right from taking a brave decision of bowling first after winning the toss on a ground that is known for assisting batters, Hashmatullah ticked more boxes than his Lankan counterpart.

His choice of opening the bowling with off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman with another young bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi, a left-arm pacer, was not just interesting, but also effective. Farooqi, who had taken only three wickets from four matches so far in the World Cup, came up with his best ODI figures. He finished his quota of 10 overs with 10-1-34-4, which included important scalps of opener Dimuth Karunaratne (15), Charith Asalanka (22), Angelo Mathews (23) and Maheesh Theekshana.

Hashmat was better even in shifting to their plan B whenever needed. For instance, Rahmantullah Gurbaz kept wickets from the second over onwards after their regular wicketkeeper Ikram Alikhil got injured. Likewise, he changed Farooqi from the Pavilion end to the South End in his second spell. Farooqi had taken one wicket from the Pavilion end, but he took three after the change of ends.

While bowling, left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka's spells kept Sri Lanka in the game. The pacer took two wickets from his 10 overs, split into four spells.

Another pacer Kasun Rajitha provided some support to Madushanka by taking a wicket, but other bowlers' inability to create chances ruined Sri Lanka's chances of defending a modest total.

On the other hand, Afghanistan looked

more prepared. Right from taking a brave decision of bowling first after winning the toss on a ground that is known for assisting batters, Hashmatullah ticked more boxes than his Lankan counterpart.

His choice of opening the bowling with off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman with another young bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi, a left-arm pacer, was not just interesting, but also effective. Farooqi, who had taken only three wickets from four matches so far in the World Cup, came up with his best ODI figures. He finished his quota of 10 overs with 10-1-34-4, which included important scalps of opener Dimuth Karunaratne (15), Charith Asalanka (22), Angelo Mathews (23) and Maheesh Theekshana.

Hashmat was better even in shifting to their plan B whenever needed. For instance, Rahmantullah Gurbaz kept wickets from the second over onwards after their regular wicketkeeper Ikram Alikhil got injured. Likewise, he changed Farooqi from the Pavilion end to the South End in his second spell. Farooqi had taken one wicket from the Pavilion end, but he took three after the change of ends.

While bowling, left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka's spells kept Sri Lanka in the game. The pacer took two wickets from his 10 overs, split into four spells.

Another pacer Kasun Rajitha provided some support to Madushanka by taking a wicket, but other bowlers' inability to create chances ruined Sri Lanka's chances of defending a modest total.

On the other hand, Afghanistan looked

more prepared. Right from taking a brave decision of bowling first after winning the toss on a ground that is known for assisting batters, Hashmatullah ticked more boxes than his Lankan counterpart.

His choice of opening the bowling with off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman with another young bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi, a left-arm pacer, was not just interesting, but also effective. Farooqi, who had taken only three wickets from four matches so far in the World Cup, came up with his best ODI figures. He finished his quota of 10 overs with 10-1-34-4, which included important scalps of opener Dimuth Karunaratne (15), Charith Asalanka (22), Angelo Mathews (23) and Maheesh Theekshana.

Hashmat was better even in shifting to their plan B whenever needed. For instance, Rahmantullah Gurbaz kept wickets from the second over onwards after their regular wicketkeeper Ikram Alikhil got injured. Likewise, he changed Farooqi from the Pavilion end to the South End in his second spell. Farooqi had taken one wicket from the Pavilion end, but he took three after the change of ends.

While bowling, left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka's spells kept Sri Lanka in the game. The pacer took two wickets from his 10 overs, split into four spells.

Another pacer Kasun Rajitha provided some support to Madushanka by taking a wicket, but other bowlers' inability to create chances ruined Sri Lanka's chances of defending a modest total.

On the other hand, Afghanistan looked

more prepared. Right from taking a brave decision of bowling first after winning the toss on a ground that is known for assisting batters, Hashmatullah ticked more boxes than his Lankan counterpart.

His choice of opening the bowling with off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman with another young bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi, a left-arm pacer, was not just interesting, but also effective. Farooqi, who had taken only three wickets from four matches so far in the World Cup, came up with his best ODI figures. He finished his quota of 10 overs with 10-1-34-4, which included important scalps of opener Dimuth Karunaratne (15), Charith Asalanka (22), Angelo Mathews (23) and Maheesh Theekshana.

Hashmat was better even in shifting to their plan B whenever needed. For instance, Rahmantullah Gurbaz kept wickets from the second over onwards after their regular wicketkeeper Ikram Alikhil got injured. Likewise, he changed Farooqi from the Pavilion end to the South End in his second spell. Farooqi had taken one wicket from the Pavilion end, but he took three after the change of ends.

While bowling, left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka's spells kept Sri Lanka in the game. The pacer took two wickets from his 10 overs, split into four spells.

Another pacer Kasun Rajitha provided some support to Madushanka by taking a wicket, but other bowlers' inability to create chances ruined Sri Lanka's chances of defending a modest total.

On the other hand, Afghanistan looked

more prepared. Right from taking a brave decision of bowling first after winning the toss on a ground that is known for assisting batters, Hashmatullah ticked more boxes than his Lankan counterpart.

His choice of opening the bowling with off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman with another young bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi, a left-arm pacer, was not just interesting, but also effective. Farooqi, who had taken only three wickets from four matches so far in the World Cup, came up with his best ODI figures. He finished his quota of 10 overs with 10-1-34-4, which included important scalps of opener Dimuth Karunaratne (15), Charith Asalanka (22), Angelo Mathews (23) and Maheesh Theekshana.

Hashmat was better even in shifting to their plan B whenever needed. For instance, Rahmantullah Gurbaz kept wickets from the second over onwards after their regular wicketkeeper Ikram Alikhil got injured. Likewise, he changed Farooqi from the Pavilion end to the South End in his second spell. Farooqi had taken one wicket from the Pavilion end, but he took three after the change of ends.

While bowling, left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka's spells kept Sri Lanka in the game. The pacer took two wickets from his 10 overs, split into four spells.

Another pacer Kasun Rajitha provided some support to Madushanka by taking a wicket, but other bowlers' inability to create chances ruined Sri Lanka's chances of defending a modest total.

On the other hand, Afghanistan looked

more prepared. Right from taking a brave decision of bowling first after winning the toss on a ground that is known for assisting batters, Hashmatullah ticked more boxes than his Lankan counterpart.

His choice of opening the bowling with off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman with another young bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi, a left-arm pacer, was not just interesting, but also effective. Farooqi, who had taken only three wickets from four matches so far in the World Cup, came up with his best ODI figures. He finished his quota of 10 overs with 10-1-34-4, which included important scalps of opener Dimuth Karunaratne (15), Charith Asalanka (22), Angelo Mathews (23) and Maheesh Theekshana.

Hashmat was better even in shifting to their plan B whenever needed. For instance, Rahmantullah Gurbaz kept wickets from the second over onwards after their regular wicketkeeper Ikram Alikhil got injured. Likewise, he changed Farooqi from the Pavilion end to the South End in his second spell. Farooqi had taken one wicket from the Pavilion end, but he took three after the change of ends.

While bowling, left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka's spells kept Sri Lanka in the game. The pacer took two wickets from his 10 overs, split into four spells.

Another pacer Kasun Rajitha provided some support to Madushanka by taking a wicket, but other bowlers' inability to create chances ruined Sri Lanka's chances of defending a modest total.

On the other hand, Afghanistan looked

more prepared. Right from taking a brave decision of bowling first after winning the toss on a ground that is known for assisting batters, Hashmatullah ticked more boxes than his Lankan counterpart.

His choice of opening the bowling with off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman with another young bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi, a left-arm pacer, was not just interesting, but also effective. Farooqi, who had taken only three wickets from four matches so far in the World Cup, came up with his best ODI figures. He finished his quota of 10 overs with 10-1-34-4, which included important scalps of opener Dimuth Karunaratne (15), Charith Asalanka (22), Angelo Mathews (23) and Maheesh Theekshana.

Hashmat was better even in shifting to their plan B whenever needed. For instance, Rahmantullah Gurbaz kept wickets from the second over onwards after their regular wicketkeeper Ikram Alikhil got injured. Likewise, he changed Farooqi from the Pavilion end to the South End in his second spell. Farooqi had taken one wicket from the Pavilion end, but he took three after the change of ends.

While bowling, left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka's spells kept Sri Lanka in the game. The pacer took two wickets from his 10 overs, split into four spells.

Another pacer Kasun Rajitha provided some support to Madushanka by taking a wicket, but other bowlers' inability to create chances ruined Sri Lanka's chances of defending a modest total.

On the other hand, Afghanistan looked

more prepared. Right from taking a brave decision of bowling first after winning the toss on a ground that is known for assisting batters, Hashmatullah ticked more boxes than his Lankan counterpart.

His choice of opening the bowling with off-spinner Mujeeb Ur Rahman with another young bowler Fazalhaq Farooqi, a left-arm pacer, was not just interesting, but also effective. Farooqi, who had taken only three wickets from four matches so far in the World Cup, came up with his best ODI figures. He finished his quota of 10 overs with 10-1-34-4, which included important scalps of opener Dimuth Karunaratne (15), Charith Asalanka (22), Angelo Mathews (23) and Maheesh Theekshana.

Hashmat was better even in shifting to their plan B whenever needed. For instance, Rahmantullah Gurbaz kept wickets from the second over onwards after their regular wicketkeeper Ikram Alikhil got injured. Likewise, he changed Farooqi from the Pavilion end to the South End in his second spell. Farooqi had taken one wicket from the Pavilion end, but he took three after the change of ends.

While bowling, left-arm pacer Dilshan Madushanka's spells kept Sri Lanka in the game. The pacer took two wickets from his 10 overs, split into four spells.

&lt;p

**FACE-OFF**  
PAK  
VS  
B'DESH  
**TV TIME**  
2 PM  
STAR SPORTS

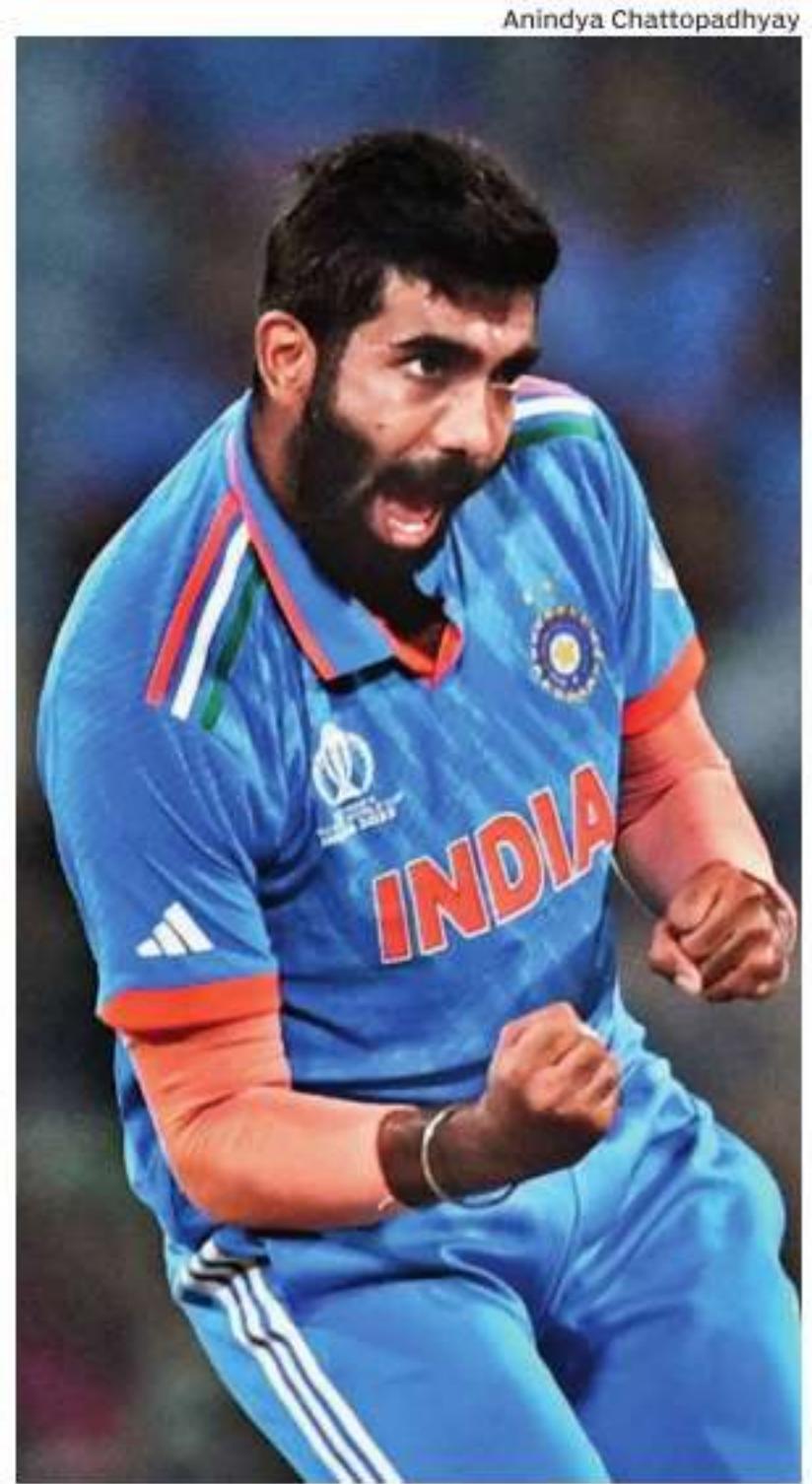


TIMES SPORT | THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023

# WORLD CUP

"THERE IS A LOT TO PLAY FOR. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE TO WIN TO BE ABLE TO QUALIFY FOR THE CHAMPIONS TROPHY. THAT'S AN IMPORTANT TARGET I THINK WE CAN SET AT THIS MOMENT."

—Shakib Al Hasan | BANGLADESH CAPTAIN



## SYNC AND SWIM TOGETHER

Whether Hunting In A Pack Of Six Or Five, Indian Bowlers Have Shown Superb Control And Consistency To Trouble The Best Batting Line-ups

Partha.Bhaduri@timesgroup.com

**Lucknow:** Mohammed Shami was steaming in, but it was Ben Stokes at the crease who was huffing and puffing. A small group, comprising mostly of the Ekana stadium's administrative staff — and by now, one would assume, some of them quite used to watching live cricket at this ground — stared wide-eyed, in silence, completely in thrall to the pacer's magical spell.

There are joys of moving yourself away from the television screen or glass cages of stadiums and soaking in the sight of a heaving cauldron of 50,000 cricket watchers screaming their lungs out for a pace bowler. A younger fan muttered, "That was so fast, TV maya pata hi nehi chalta hai (it's impossible to sense the pace on television)." It may have been only mid-130s kph, but to the naked eye, that is fast. Very fast if you are standing slightly to the right of the umpire's line, on the second tier; but square enough to see the ball's trajectory. No wonder all hell broke loose when a frustrated Stokes quickly gave up the ghost.

There was something primal in the proceedings as

Jasprit Bumrah and Shami demolished England's chase on Sunday night. India's sixth consecutive win in this World Cup — this time by 100 runs, against a side that appears broken by bad luck and worse planning — reprised a familiar sight in Indian cricket of late, that of the bowlers stealing the spotlight and fashioning a dominating win. The bowlers owned the night, even as the combined star power of the batters dimmed a bit on a difficult batting surface, Rohit Sharma excepted.

It was Bumrah who prised the floodgates open as England chased an unimposing 230. In complete control of his craft and with great clarity of purpose, Bumrah made the ball talk, slanting it across Dawid Malan from round the wicket and getting the batter to chop one on. Next ball, Joe Root fell LBW for a duck, falling over in the process.

Bumrah knew the batter's ego wouldn't allow him to leave without a DRS appeal, so once Root had signalled the umpire, he merely walked over to the batter, smiled affably and muttered, "That is out," then shook his head as if to suggest he was completely sure. He may as well have raised his finger.

Root turned away and began the trudge back, probably completely disgusted with himself. "Usually when you bowl with the new ball you look for swing," Bumrah told Sky Sports later. "Otherwise, you just try and hit a hard length, make it difficult for the batsman. I changed to seam bowling and that helped. I heard a lot of question marks on my career, that I will never come back (from injury) and all of that. I realised how much I love playing the game. I was not chasing anything."

And then it was Shami's turn. The Shami who was slighted by the team management and kept out of World Cup games to accommodate a stronger batter. The Shami who had thought, as he suggested in Dharamshala after a five-for against New Zealand the other night, that he was hunting in a pack and not in competition with his fellow pacemen. The Shami who described being left out as "painful".

The pacer's bagful of angst and agony was unleashed on Stokes, as if he had just these few balls to showcase the complete range of his skills — the set-up, moving the ball away from Stokes' arc, leaving the batter repeatedly beaten and fumbling before attempting an ugly grand heave and getting bowled.

"Shami is outstanding, one of the legends of the game," Bumrah said. "It was as if he was playing a Test match. We've had a lot of partnerships in Test cricket and I enjoy bowling with him. I'm happy with the way he is going."

Local boy Kuldeep, a wrist-spinner transformed, too decided to have his say, getting the ball to grip, bite, dip and turn. His dismissal of the England captain, Joe Buttler, might well herald the end of an era in England's white-ball cricket.

Kuldeep's attempt at explaining India's night out with the ball was simply, "There is always a special feeling. There is always public support. I know my ground well."

Then he got a bit more into the specifics. "This wicket spins and when you bowl on the seam it spins better. I was trying to bowl on a good length and use the crease. 100% it was a good pitch. It was challenging."

"The quality of the players is also important. Under lights the ball was seaming, and we have quality seamers. The way Shami and Bumrah bowled the first spell, they got wickets, and we were back in the game."

"Back in the game" suggests India were not completely confident of having posted a small total. But Bumrah and Shami broke England's back with their mastery of seam bowling, and suddenly India had more than enough to defend.

India now need only Mohammed Siraj to impose his presence. Hardik Pandya is out injured and the team can play with only five bowlers, but that doesn't seem to have affected the attack's bite. With Ashwin sitting on the bench, can India now claim to have the most glamorous bowling attack in the World Cup?

### INDIAN BOWLERS IN WORLD CUP 2023

	M	Wkts	Ave	Best	4WI	5WI	SR	ER
Jasprit Bumrah	6	14	15.07	4/39	1	0	23.07	3.91
Kuldeep Yadav	6	10	26.10	2/24	0	0	34.80	4.50
Mohammed Shami	2	9	8.44	5/54	1	1	11.33	4.47
Ravindra Jadeja	6	8	25.75	3/28	0	0	41.12	3.75
Mohammed Siraj	6	6	48.33	2/50	0	0	49.50	5.85
Hardik Pandya	4	5	22.60	2/34	0	0	19.80	6.84

After six matches

### PACERS VS SPINNERS

	M	Overs	Runs	Wkts	Ave	SR	ER
Pacers	6	154.2	794	36	22.05	25.7	5.14
Spinners	6	122.5	501	19	26.36	38.7	4.07
Total	6	277.1	1295	55	23.54	30.2	4.67

—Rajesh Kumar

## Mott blasts dressing room unrest claims

**Lucknow:** England coach Matthew Mott on Sunday said the team remains an "incredibly tight-knit unit" despite a 100-run thrashing by India which condemned the defending champions to a fifth defeat at the World Cup.

Matt's claims came after former England captain Eoin Morgan insisted that there were splits in the camp which were causing the champions to under-perform.

"I've never come across a sports team that has underperformed like this, given the level of expectation," 2019 World Cup winning skipper Morgan told Sky Sports.

"There's something within the team that is definitely unsettled. I think there's something else going on - there has to be."

Mott was quick to refute the claims. "I don't think that at all. I think anyone that's inside our tent at the moment would say that despite our results, we're an incredibly tight-knit unit," he said. "I can only say from my opinion the group's been incredibly strong in that part. If you see our training sessions, they're full of fun. People are putting their arm around each other, trying to help them."

Pressed on the topic and Mott said: "Eoin's entitled to his opinion. He's obviously

England languish bottom of the 10-team table with a chance of missing out on the 2025 Champions Trophy, where the top seven teams from this World Cup and hosts Pakistan are expected to compete. However, Mott said they got to know about the qualification scenario only "about an hour and a half ago". "Well, the ICC do change the rules quite a bit with qualification and to be honest I don't think it would affect in any way the way we've played," said Mott. AFP

**HARDIK PANDYA**

overs meant half-baking one of your resources. The defensive mindset of picking Thakur and covering for eventualities could have also found a modern expression: "team's requirement in an ever-dynamic environment" (or any clever phrase to that effect). And it is perfectly understandable if the team management argued that Shami would have played the subsequent matches even if Pandya was not injured.

However, it also meant that world-class batters and world-class bowlers needed a cushion of early wins (to play Shami later in games which are not must-wins) and a cushion of Thakur in the initial games.

Pandya's injury gave the team

management a forced reason to rejig the playing XI. Else changing the winning combination would have been quite tricky.

When India reached the 2003 World Cup final in South Africa, three players did not get a game: Ajit Agarkar, Parthiv Patel and Sanjay Bangar. More importantly, 'world-class' Anil Kumble got just three games - against Holland, Australia and Pakistan in the league phase.

Dinesh Mongia was dubbed an allrounder by captain Sourav Ganguly. And Mongia played ahead of Kumble in the title clash against Australia. There was little chance Ricky Ponting and Damien Martyn would have got out to him. India clearly missed Kumble's guile in the crunch game.

Shami has been associated with weapons for the ages. Now, the Indian team think-tank is reaping the reward of the Shami weapon which has not suffered from any rust despite being unused for some time.

And fans of skilful cricket are lapping it up.

**MURALI**

is a bigger wicket-taker (on his own skills) than Mongia was. After India's win over New Zealand, Rohit Sharma has said in jest that Thakur is a "badey match ka" player.

Thankfully, going by current form, he is not expected to take the place of Shami in this team.

The tree of Shami is an important part of Mahabharata. The pandavas had hidden their weapons inside the shami tree when they had to bear one year of exile after 12 years of vanvaas.

Shami has been associated with weapons for the ages. Now, the Indian team think-tank is reaping the reward of the Shami weapon which has not suffered from any rust despite being unused for some time.

And fans of skilful cricket are lapping it up.

ing in one country, the spectator is sometimes reluctant to (watch) other smaller teams," he said. "If it had been in all four Asian countries, this would have been one of the biggest World Cups. Like when you play in England, Ireland and Scotland, then the public interest in the local team, to support them, will come in numbers. So then you would not have seen sometimes (the) 30 percent, 40 percent (turn out). So in future, thought for ICC to look at that way (of hosting a World Cup) because home teams people will love to come and watch all the matches and support them."

**Ravi Shastri**

It's just the nature of the surfaces. In that sense, India having attacking bowlers, people who can take wickets is a huge asset to have. The worry for me with One-Day cricket is that there haven't been enough close games in this tournament. Who knows what will happen in the next two weeks?

**Is Heinrich Klaasen the best power-hitter in world cricket?**

If you look at his performances in franchise cricket and for South Africa for the last two years, for me he's the best white-ball player in the middle-order. If

he gets a hundred, SA will probably win 99% of their games. He gets it in such a way that it's hard to match for the opposition. In (Aiden) Markram, (David) Miller and Klaasen, SA have three dynamic middle-order batsmen at No 4, 5 & 6. They play spin well too. On their day, they can be the most destructive batters in the world. That's a big asset for SA.

**Rohit Sharma seems to have reinvented his aggressive batting style...**

Yes, he's playing well. It goes in ebbs and flows. I was here during the IPL and people was questioning if he was still at his best. Now, people are raving about him. Class is permanent, form can be sometimes temporary. He and Virat (Kohli) have had excellent starts to the tournament. Two massive players at the top of the order, they allow the youngsters to play around them. If they get runs on their day, you're in trouble. It's good to see Rohit playing well.

## 'The game will bite, if you underestimate any team'

Kumaraswamy.K@timesgroup.com

**Injury** to real all-round talent and vice-captain Hardik Pandya during the game against Bangladesh was unfortunate. But it played a positive role in clearing the cobwebs of the Indian think-tank.

Mohammed Shami, paceman of far higher pedigree, not finding a place in the first XI, because of the perceived utility of Shardul Thakur was a travesty of justice. It needed an ankle knee twist to correct that folly.

Once Pandya was unavailable and replaced with specialist batter Suryakumar Yadav, the bowling looked thin and an axe had to fall on Thakur. In the absence of Shubman Gill, India had played Ishan Kishan in the opening game against Australia and played three spinners.

Ashwin could not keep his place in the next match against Afghanistan as conditions in Delhi were thought to be different. That paved the way for Thakur's entry.

Of course, there was a reason why India picked Thakur. Losing ICC knockout games on a consistent basis have made them overthink.

Thakur was a good antidote. Against a middle-order collapse or one of the bowlers getting injured during the game or having an off day. But was it necessary to pick an insurance player by compromising the quality of bowling attack?

Why rest one of your best bowlers (Shami) fearing an accident? Moreover, with Thakur not getting to bat and not bowling full quota

Thursday's re-match. "Any match, you can't take it easy. India can be playing brilliantly. Any big team can flop on the day. The game is bigger than an individual team or individual person. The game will bite you sometimes. You have to accept, you can't win every match. We also can't lose every match. I think any match (we have) our chance. That's why I said you have to take one match by match, believe (in) yourself and move forward."

Murali, who took 800 wickets in Test and 534 in ODIs, besides 13 in T20Is, said the reason for Sri Lanka's decline since the mid 2010s was their failure to back talented players and build a team.

Shami's words are not made just in one day, one year or two years. It's a process of five years," the official ambassador for this World Cup, said.

The 13th edition of cricket's flagship tournament has been accompanied by talk of the death of the one-day game. As if to corroborate the theory, only matches featuring hosts India have seen stadiums fill up to capacity. Murali strongly opined that all three formats needed to be preserved and believed spreading matches in the present edition across the Asian subcontinent would have ensured better turnout. "What happens is, here in India, because you're play-

ing in one country, the spectator is sometimes reluctant to (watch) other smaller teams," he said. "If it had been in all four Asian countries, this would have been one of the biggest World Cups. Like when you play in England, Ireland and Scotland, then the public interest in the local team, to support them, will come in numbers. So then you would not have seen sometimes (the) 30 percent, 40 percent (turn out). So in future, thought for ICC to look at that way (of hosting a World Cup) because home teams people will love to come and watch all the matches and support them."

**MURALI**

ing in one country, the spectator is sometimes reluctant to (watch) other smaller teams," he said. "If it had been in all four Asian countries, this would have been one of the biggest World Cups. Like when you play in England, Ireland and Scotland, then the public interest in the local team, to support them, will come in numbers. So then you would not have seen sometimes (the) 30 percent, 40 percent (turn out). So in future, thought for ICC to look at that way (of hosting a World Cup) because home teams people will love to come and watch all the matches and support them."

**Ravi Shastri**

It's just the nature of the surfaces. In that sense, India having attacking bowlers, people who can take wickets is a huge asset to have. The worry for me with One-Day cricket is that there haven't been enough close games in this tournament. Who knows what will happen in the next two weeks?

**Is Heinrich Klaasen the best power-hitter in world cricket?**

If you look at his performances in franchise cricket and for South Africa for the last two years, for me he's the best white-ball player in the middle-order. If

## If dreams come true, it will be an India-SA final: Smith

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** The smile doesn't leave his face even after the interaction in the final! I'm heading back to South Africa on Wednesday, but if SA get to the final, we'll have to be clamouring for tickets and trying to get a hotel in Ahmedabad! India have been so dominant that they haven't even been tested. I've played against India at the Eden Gardens on a number of occasions. It's just an incredible experience. It's a fantastic stadium to play in. Our players have done so well, they've exceeded expectations. So, it's shaping up for a big clash. South Africa have got

Graeme, the way both teams are playing in the World Cup, how excited are you about the



India, New Zealand and Afghanistan to go, and the fact that they're pretty much qualified for the semifinals is exciting.

Having said that, Australia have started to play well. New Zealand know how to win. The knockouts are going to be tough. India, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia will be my guess for the top four. If dreams come true, it will be a South Africa versus India final.

**At this stage**

# RUBIALES BANNED FOR THREE YEARS

## Spain's Ex-FA Chief Suspended From All Football-Related Activities Over Kiss Scandal

Geneva: FIFA banned ousted former Spanish soccer federation president Luis Rubiales from the sport for three years on Monday for misconduct at the Women's World Cup final where he allegedly forcibly kissed a player on the lips at the trophy ceremony.

FIFA did not publish details of the verdict reached by its disciplinary committee judges, who had investigated charges relating to "basic rules of decent conduct" and "behaving in a way that brings the sport of football and/or FIFA into disrepute."

Rubiales also is under criminal



Luis Rubiales with the Spain women's World Cup players in August this year

investigation in Spain for kissing player Jenni Hermoso on the lips after the team's 1-0 victory over England on Aug. 20 in Sydney, Australia. He denied wrongdoing to a judge in Madrid who imposed a restraining

order for Rubiales not to contact Hermoso. At the final whistle in Sydney, Rubiales had grabbed his crotch as a victory gesture in the exclusive section of seats with Queen Letizia of Spain and 16-year-old Princess Sofia standing nearby.

Rubiales was removed from office by FIFA judges during their investigation, and they also cited a third incident — "carrying the Spanish player Athenea del Castillo over his shoulder during the post-match celebrations" — in a ruling to explain why he was provisionally suspended. The risk of witness tampering by Rubiales and his allies also was cited to justify the interim ban that is now confirmed to extend beyond the next men's World Cup in 2026 being hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

**I will go to the last resort to see that justice is done and that the truth shines through."**  
— Luis Rubiales, IN A STATEMENT VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

**"Something had to be done. I thought it wasn't right. Women's football stuck together on this and it's the right outcome."**  
— Sue Smith, FORMER ENGLAND MIDFIELDER

Rubiales resigned from his jobs in soccer in September after three weeks of defiance that increased pressure on him from the Spanish government and national-team players.

"After my swift suspension by FIFA, and the rest of the cases building against me, it is clear that I cannot return to the post," Rubiales said on Sept. 10 when finally giving up the federation presidency he had held since 2018.

Rubiales also had to give up his vice presidency of European soccer body UEFA which paid him 250,000 euros (\$265,000) each year. UEFA later thanked Rubiales for his service in a statement.

Rubiales can request details of the FIFA disciplinary verdict within 10 days and then file an appeal. He could file a further appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport. AP

## Marseille goons attack Lyon bus, Grosso injured

### French Football Left Reeling Again By Rioting Fans As Olympics Loom; Nine People Detained

Paris: French football was again marred by violence after Olympique de Marseille's Ligue 1 match against Olympique Lyonnais was called off on Sunday when the visitors' bus and some fans were pelted with stones and beer bottles, injuring Lyon coach Fabio Grosso.

Grosso, a World Cup winner with Italy in 2006, sustained facial injuries during the incident, leaving league officials to deal with another episode of rioting fans. Sky Italia footage showed damage to two bus windows and Grosso being led into the stadium by two assistants. He was covering his face with his hands, which were stained with blood. Italian media said Grosso suffered injuries to his scalp and face. "He can't hold a conversation, he had shards of glass in his face," Lyon's club president, John Textor added. "I'm very angry - our players, our coach, prepared for tonight and the fans wanted to see the game played," he told Prime Video.

Since Sunday's incidents happened outside Marseille's Stade Velodrome, the French League (LFP) have no jurisdiction to im-



### FRANCE'S TROUBLE TRAIL

Incidents of the away team bus being targeted in Marseille were reported in 2016 and 2019.

It also came after fan trouble marred the 2021-2022 season. That time Nice were docked two points, after serious incidents during their game against Marseille when visiting players clashed with home fans and stoned on the pitch.

The northern derby between RC Lens and Lille was also hit by crowd problems. Riot police and stewards had to intervene.

There had also been crowd trouble in Montpellier, Angers, Marseille and St Etienne. (2021-2022 season)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)

### INCIDENTS OF THE AWAY TEAM BUS BEING TARGETED IN MARSEILLE WERE REPORTED IN 2016 AND 2019.

IT ALSO CAME AFTER FAN TROUBLE MARRIED THE 2021-2022 SEASON. THAT TIME NICE WERE DOCKED TWO POINTS, AFTER SERIOUS INCIDENTS DURING THEIR GAME AGAINST MARSEILLE WHEN VISITING PLAYERS CLASHED WITH HOME FANS AND STONED ON THE PITCH.

THE NORTHERN DERBY BETWEEN RC LENS AND LILLE WAS ALSO HIT BY CROWD PROBLEMS. RIOT POLICE AND STEWARDS HAD TO INTERVENE.

THERE HAD ALSO BEEN CROWD TROUBLE IN MONTPELLIER, ANGERS, MARSEILLE AND ST ETIENNE. (2021-2022 SEASON)



# THE TIMES OF INDIA

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

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

Inzamam-ul-Haq  
resigns as chairman of  
the national selection  
committee after Pak  
Cricket Board starts  
a probe into a conflict  
of interest case, P 20

# ICICI Bank



## BIG DEALS ON BIG BRANDS with ICICI Bank Festive Bonanza

Enjoy these & many more offers this festive season

Up to ₹12,500 off

Up to ₹5,000 cashback

10% off

Up to ₹10,000 cashback

10% off

EMIs starting at ₹2,497

Up to ₹5,000 off

10% savings

Up to ₹25,000 cashback

Up to ₹26,000 cashback

Up to ₹5,000 off

Up to ₹1,500 off

Up to ₹27,500 cashback

Up to ₹9,000 off

Up to ₹6,000 off

Scan the QR code to  
know more about the offers



Scan the QR code to  
apply for an ICICI Bank Credit Card



# TIMES GLOBAL

\* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023



GOLDIE HAWN CLAIMS SHE MADE CONTACT WITH ALIENS IN CALIF DESERT WHEN SHE WAS 20: 'THEY TOUCHED MY FACE'

LIZZO'S TOURING CO BACKS HER IN MOTION TO DISMISS SEXUAL HARASSMENT LAWSUIT, DESCRIBE ALLEGATIONS AS 'FABRICATED'

EVERYTHING THAT IS DONE IN THE WORLD IS DONE BY HOPE — MARTIN LUTHER



## Israel Troops Advance On Gaza City

Much Of Hamas Forces, Infra Said To Be Located There; Tank & Bulldozer Seen On Key Highway

Israeli troops and tanks pushed deeper into Gaza on Monday, advancing on two sides of the territory's main city, as the UN and medical staff warned that air strikes have hit closer to hospitals where tens of thousands of Palestinians have sought shelter alongside thousands of wounded. Video circulating on social media showed an Israeli tank and bulldozer in central Gaza blocking the territory's main highway, which the Israeli military in recent weeks has suggested Palestinians use to evacuate to south. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who remain in the north would no longer be able to escape if the road is blocked.

The video, taken by a local journalist, shows a car approaching an earth barrier across the road. The car stops and turns around. As it heads away, a tank appears to open fire, and an explosion engulfs the car. The journalist, in another car, races away in terror, screaming, "Go back! Go back!" at an approaching ambulance and other vehicles. The Gaza health ministry later said three people were killed in the car that was hit. The Israeli military declined to comment on where its forces were deployed.

The Israeli military has been vague about its operations inside Gaza, including the location and number of troops. But the movements of recent



Baby strollers displaying portraits of Hamas' young hostages in Bordeaux



Grieving Palestinians at a hospital in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip

days, including stepped-up ground operations both north and east of Gaza City, combined with calls for residents to head south, point to a focus on the city. Israel says much of Hamas' forces and militant infrastructure, including hundreds of kilometers of tunnels, are in Gaza City, which before the war was home to over 650,000 people, a population comparable to that of Washington, D.C. Casualties on both sides are expected to rise sharply if Israeli forces expand their ground operation and end up battling Palestinian militants in dense residential areas.

Though Israel ordered Palestinians to flee the north, where Gaza City is located, and move south, hundreds of thousands remain, in part because Israel has also bombed targets in so-called safe zones. Around 117,000 displaced people hoping to stay safe from strikes are staying in hospitals in northern Gaza, alongside thousands of patients and staff, according to UN figures.

The death toll among Palestinians passed 8,300, mostly women and children, the Gaza health ministry said Monday.

The figure is without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence. More than 1.4 million people in Gaza have fled their homes. Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' initial attack, also an unprecedented figure.

Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, an Israeli military spokesman, said additional infantry,

armoured, engineering and artillery units had entered Gaza and the operations would continue to "expand and intensify." The military said troops have killed dozens of militants who attacked from inside buildings and tunnels. It said in the last few days, it had struck more than 600 militant targets, including weapons depots and antitank missile launching positions. Palestinian militants have continued firing rockets into Israel, including toward its commercial hub, Tel Aviv. Hamas said its fighters clashed with Israeli troops who entered the northwest. It was not possible to independently confirm battlefield claims made by either side.

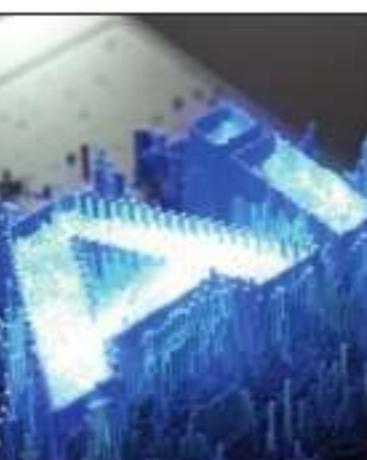
Meanwhile, crowded hospitals in northern Gaza came

## Biden unveils sweeping rules to regulate emerging AI tech

Sets New Standards On Security & Privacy Protections With Far-Reaching Impact On Cos Like Amazon, MS And Google

**Washington:** President Joe Biden is directing the US government to take a sweeping approach to artificial intelligence regulation, his most significant action yet to rein in an emerging technology that has sparked both concern and acclaim. The lengthy executive order, released on Monday, sets new standards on security and privacy protections for AI, with far-reaching impacts on companies. Developers such as Microsoft, Amazon and Alphabet Inc.'s Google will be directed to put powerful AI models through safety tests and submit results to the government before their public release.

The rule, in line with the Defense Production Act, is designed to vet technology with potential national or economic security risks, along with health and safety. It will include recommendations, but not requirements, that photos, videos and audio developed by such systems be watermarked to make clear that they were created by AI. The commerce department has been asked to issue the guidance to label and watermark AI-generated content. The order also touches on matters of privacy, civil rights, consumer safety, scientific re-



The order is aimed at the most advanced future systems, and it largely does not address the immediate threats of existing chatbots. It will include guidance that photos, videos and audio developed by AI be watermarked

search, worker rights. The order also asks immigration officials to lessen visa requirements for overseas talent seeking to work at US AI companies.

The new rules, some of which are set to go into effect in the next 90 days, are likely to face many challenges, some legal and some political. But the order is aimed at the most advanced future systems, and it largely does not address the immediate threats of existing chatbots that could be used to spread disinformation.

The regulation builds on voluntary commitments already made by tech firms. Microsoft, OpenAI, Google and Meta are among 15 companies that had agreed to voluntary safety and security commitments, including having third parties stress-test their systems for vulnerabilities. The tech industry has said it supports re-

gulations, though the companies disagree on the level of government oversight.

Biden's order will be issued days before a gathering of world leaders on AI safety organised by the UK. On the issue of AI regulation, the US has trailed the EU, which has been drafting new laws, and other nations, like China and Israel, that have issued proposals for regulations.

The US is home to many of the leading developers of cutting-edge AI technology, including Google, Meta and Microsoft, and AI-focused startups such as OpenAI, maker of ChatGPT. Ever since ChatGPT exploded in popularity last year, lawmakers and global regulators have grappled with how AI might alter jobs, spread disinformation and potentially develop its own kind of intelligence. BLOOMBERG & NYT

## Female Israeli soldier freed in Gaza during ground op, says army

A female Israeli soldier was freed from Hamas captivity in the Gaza Strip during the military's ground operation, the military and Shin Bet intelligence agency said on Monday. The military said the soldier, Ori Megidish, had been kidnapped by Hamas on October 7. It said she had undergone medical checks and was "doing well" and has met with her family. It did not elaborate on the circumstances of her release.

Energy minister Israel Katz, a member of Israel's security cabinet, said on X: "I want to send strength and congratulate the soldiers and commanders of the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) and Shin Bet for the bold operation."

PM Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed her home in a brief statement, saying "our forces" had freed her from Hamas. He said the "achievement" by Israel's security forces "illustrates our commitment to free all the hostages." Hamas and other militant groups are believed to be holding some 240 captives, including men, women and kids. Netanyahu has faced mounting pressure to secure their release. Hamas, which has released four hostages, has said it would let the others go in return for thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, including many implicated in deadly attacks on Israelis. AGENCIES



Soldier Ori Megidish (centre) with her relatives in an undated pic

### Hamas releases clip of 3 women hostages to send msg to Bibi

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu condemned as "cruel psychological propaganda" a video released on Monday by Hamas that shows three of the hostages seized by the Islamist movement on October 7. The video shows three women – identified by Netanyahu as Yelena Trupanov, Danielle Aloni and Rimon Kirsht – sitting side by side against a bare wall, with Aloni addressing an angry message to the PM. Accusing Netanyahu of failing to protect Israeli citizens during the deadly Hamas attack and failing to get them back home, she called for an agreement to secure their release in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. "You were supposed to free all of us," she said. In a statement, Netanyahu repeated a pledge to make every effort to bring the hostages home. REUTERS

## Mob storms Russian airport to 'catch' Jewish flyers from Israel

### Putin Blames Ukraine & 'West Agents' For Riots

In Russia, where rioters stormed an airport tarmac apparently searching for Jewish passengers on a flight from Israel, has shocked Jews in Russia and beyond, drawn condemnation from the Israeli government and prompted the Kremlin to call a meeting to address the clashes.

Hundreds of young men stormed the main airport in the predominantly Muslim republic of Dagestan on Sunday night, searching for a commercial flight from Tel Aviv, Israel. Videos and some images on social media showed some of the rioters holding Palestinian flags and carrying signs opposing the war in the Gaza Strip, possibly spurred on by a Telegram messaging channel that urged them to "catch" the passengers of the incoming flight from Israel.

Over 20 people were injured, with two in critical condition. The injured included police officers and civilians. Police said they had arrested 60 people in connection with the unrest and identified 150 of the most active participants. Russian aviation authorities said the airport, in Makhachkala, the republic's capital, would reopen Tuesday.

Israel, in a statement, said



Videos from the airport at Makhachkala, the capital of predominantly Muslim Dagestan region, showed the rioters waving Palestinian flags, breaking down glass doors and running through the airport on Sunday

### Cornell Jewish Center under guard after online threats to Jewish students

Campus police at Cornell University, in Ithaca, New York, were guarding the university's Center for Jewish Living on Sunday after online posts threatened violence against Jewish students, according to a statement by Cornell President Martha Pollack. The posts, which appeared on an online discussion forum about fraternities, included threats to shoot Jewish students and encouragement to others to kill them. They also called for the Jewish center to be torn down. "We will not tolerate antisemitism at Cornell," said Pollack. "Threats of violence are absolutely intolerable, and we will work to ensure that the person or people who posted them are punished to the full extent of the law." NYT

It expected Russian authorities to protect all Israeli citizens and Jews and to act firmly against the rioters. Russian President Putin accused Ukraine and "Western special services" of instigating the anti-Israel riot. "The events in Makhachkala last night were instigated also through social networks, not least from Ukraine, by the hands of agents of Western special services," Putin said in televised comments. "Who is organising the deadly chaos and who benefits from it today, in my opinion, has already become obvious... It is the current ruling elites of the US and their satellites," he said. He called a meeting of security and law enforcement officials on Monday and said "firm action will be taken. Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the meet will discuss "attempts by the West to use the events in the Middle East to divide the (Russian) society." NYT & AGENCE

## Bibi: Ceasefire will not happen

**Tel Aviv:** Israel's PM Benjamin Netanyahu said that a ceasefire in the Gaza war "will not happen" as it would amount to surrendering to the territory's Islamist rulers Hamas. Netanyahu said that other countries must give more help in the struggle to free more than 230 hostages kidnapped by Hamas in its October 7 attacks. The Israeli leader said international community must demand the captives be freed immediately". He said among the captives were 33 children and Hamas was "terrorising them, keeping them as hostages". "Calls for a ceasefire are a call for Israel to surrender to Hamas, to surrender to terrorism, to surrender to barbarism. This will not happen." Vowing Israel would "fight until this battle is won", he said the army was going out of its way to "prevent civilian casualties" in Gaza. AFP

.....

## Working to avoid war: Lebanon PM

**Beirut:** Lebanon's caretaker said Monday he was working to ensure his country does not enter the Hamas-Israel war, even as Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging cross-border fire. Najib Mikati said he feared an escalation, with the border skirmishes stoking concerns that Lebanon's powerful Iran-backed Hezbollah movement, a Hamas ally, could open a new front with Israel.

"I am doing my duty to prevent Lebanon from entering the war" raging further south, Mikati said. AFP

## 23-yr-old German-Israeli paraded half-naked in a truck by Hamas is dead



Shani Nicole Louk was one of scores of people taken by Hamas

which was matched to Louk's DNA. Her family initially thought she was alive but injured when she was snatched from the music festival but now believe she was killed on the same day, possibly shot in the head, German broadcaster RTL/ntv said.

"What we saw on the Gaza-Israel border goes far beyond a pogrom. We saw a slaughterhouse," Louk, 23, was one of scores of people taken by Hamas during a deadly assault on the Israeli military and civilian communities that killed 1,400 people, mostly civilians. Hamas has not commented on Louk's fate. The circumstances of her death were not clear.

"At least she didn't suffer," her mother Ricarda Louk told RTL/ntv. Ricarda Louk first raised the alarm about her daughter at the weekend after she recognised her in videos circulating online, due to her striking tattoos and dyed hair.

The videos showed a half-naked woman lying seemingly unconscious face down in the back of a pickup truck in Gaza filled with armed men. REUTERS & AFP

## AROUND THE WORLD



SPIDER-VERSE IN BUENOS AIRES: Some 1,000 people gathered at a major monument in Argentina's capital on Sunday dressed as Spider-Man, aiming to break a world record for the most people dressed as the famous superhero at a single public event

## Deportation of Af refugees in line with law: Pak

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Pakistan has rejected UNHCR's warnings against expelling Afghan refugees and other illegal immigrants, saying the move was compliant with international norms and principles.

Foreign office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch reiterated that the repatriation plan applies to "all illegal foreigners, irrespective of nationality and country of origin". "The decision is in exercise of Pakistan's sovereign domestic laws," Baloch said. The deadline for voluntary exits of such people is October 31.

UN agencies had warned that the expulsion of over a million "undocumented" Afghans risked triggering a "human rights catastrophe".

According to UNHCR, about 1.7 million Afghan refugees are deemed to be in Pakistan illegally. UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration report nearly 60,000 Afghans have returned home since October 3 when Pakistan announced its deportation deadline.

## China, Russia take aim at US at Beijing forum

Naomi Cantor

Beijing: Chinese and Russian military chiefs targeted the US for criticism at a security forum in Beijing on Monday, even as China's second most senior military commander vowed to boost ties with Washington.

The lack of regular communications between the US and Chinese militaries has been a worry for Washington as tensions rise over various issues and given the risks of an accidental clash in the South China Sea or near Taiwan.

Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu warned the West that its involvement in the Ukraine war created grave dangers.

Zhang Youxia, vice chairman, under President Xi, of China's central military commission, delivered veiled criticism of the US and its allies, accusing "some countries" of trying to undermine China's government. He stressed for improving military ties with US. REUTERS

## Indian woman, 19, stabbed to death at London house

Naomi Cantor

London: A 19-year-old Indian woman who recently arrived in the UK has been stabbed to death at a house in south London. A 23-year-old man was arrested at the scene on suspicion of her murder. The woman had recently arrived in the UK. Police said the two knew each other

ce were then talking to a girl from the house and she was saying she didn't hear anything because she had her headphones on and was speaking to her family in India."

Another neighbour said: "There was pandemonium, there were police everywhere. They kicked the door open of the house where it happened." Police officers are still working to trace and inform the woman's family.

A Metropolitan police spokesperson said: "The man and woman were known to each other. At this stage, nobody else is sought in connection with the murder investigation." On Monday forensic officers arrested him and he was banded by paramedics and then taken off. The police

## B'desh cafe attack convicts' death penalty commuted

Dhaka: Bangladesh's HC on Monday commuted the death sentences of seven Islamist militants to life imprisonment unto death, nearly four years after they were convicted for their role in the country's worst terror attack at a popular Dhaka cafe in 2016 that killed 23 people, including an Indian girl.

The heavily armed militants attacked the Holey Artisan Bakery restaurant in Dhaka's posh diplomatic area on July 1, 2016, and took the diners hostage. They subsequently killed three Bangladeshi, seven Japanese, nine Indians and one Indian.

The militants were killed during a rescue operation conducted by commandos, and two police officers and a cafe chef lost their lives during the 12-hour standoff. On Monday, a two-member HC bench comprising Justices Shahidul Karim and Md Mostafizur Rahman commuted the death sentences of seven men to imprisonment until death, Dhaka Tribune newspaper reported. PTI

## Hijab metro death: Lawyer who went to funeral arrested

**Dubai:** Iranian authorities arrested a leading human rights lawyer Sunday after she attended the funeral of a teenage girl who died after being injured weeks ago in a mysterious incident on Tehran's Metro.

The report by the semi-official Fars news agency, which is close to the country's security forces, said authorities detained Nasrin Sotoudeh on a charge of violating Iran's mandatory headscarf, or hijab, law.

Many other Iranian news outlets republished the report and said there were multiple arrests at the funeral of Armita Geravand, who also was not wearing a headscarf at the time she was injured.

On Saturday, 60-year-old Sotoudeh – known for defending activists, opposition politicians and women prosecuted for removing their headscarves – called Geravand's death "another state murder." The funeral took place Sunday morning.

Geravand was injured and in a coma for weeks. It's not clear what happened in the few seconds after Geravand entered the train on October 1. AP

## Xi advice to women: Actively cultivate culture of marriage and childbearing

**Chinese President Xi Jinping** said women have a critical role and must establish a "new trend of family", as the nation grapples with an ageing population and record decline in the birth rate. Xi said the role of women had been part of a discussion with the new leadership team.

Women's own development, he said but