



Sarfaraz Khan gets maiden Test call-up after all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and batter KL Rahul are ruled out of 2nd Test against England, which begins on Feb 2, after shock loss in series opener, P 21



Maldives's main oppn party, which holds majority in parliament, plans to submit a motion to impeach President Mohamed Muizzu even as 3 members of his cabinet were denied approval, P 20

White House vows 'very consequential response' to a drone attack in Jordan that killed 3 US troops, but clarifies that it's not seeking a war with Iran or looking for a wider conflict, P 20

Samsung's T M Roh tells TOI that the Korean giant will dethrone Apple from the top slot in smartphone market. Company has lined up plans to make laptops in India for the first time, P 19



U'khand set to implement UCC soon, hints CM

Uttarakhand CM PS Dharmi Monday said a panel set up under retired SC judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai will hand over its report to the state on Feb 2. The government then plans to discuss the matter in its cabinet meeting and introduce the bill in the state assembly. If all goes as planned, Uttarakhand will be the first state to implement UCC after Independence. P 16

Indian sues Japan for racial profiling

Three foreign-born residents of Japan, including one of Indian descent, filed a lawsuit on Monday against the national and local governments over alleged illegal questioning by police based on racial profiling. It is the first such lawsuit in Japan. P 20

Indian student in US hammered to death

Vivek Saini, a 25-year-old Indian student from Haryana who recently earned an MBA degree in the US, was mercilessly hammered to death by a homeless drug addict whom he had been helping for the past couple of days in Georgia state's Lithonia city. P 20

HC junks interfaith couples' plea in UP

Declaring that their marriages were not in compliance with the provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, Allahabad high court has dismissed petitions filed by eight interfaith couples for protection of life. FLAP OPP

J'khand CM 'untraceable' as ED reaches his Delhi house

City Cops Roped In For 'Manhunt', Alert At Border

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New Delhi: In an unprecedented development, Enforcement Directorate on Monday roped in Delhi Police to look for Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren after they did not find him at his Delhi residence.

The ED team had reached Soren's residence in connection with its probe into a case of alleged money laundering of hundreds of crores.

ED sources said the investigators, who were told Soren had left moments before their arrival, sounded an alert when they found the phones of the CM and his personal security officers switched off.

JD(U) came to us, fearing RJD poaching, says Bihar BJP chief

Ashay Singh & Sheezan Nezami

CAN MEET ON JAN 31: SOREN EMAIL

► ED team reaches Hemant Soren's south Delhi house for questioning, told that he had left moments earlier

► Team sounds alarm when it finds phones of CM & his PSO switched off. Delhi Police roped in for the search'

► ED learns Soren had cancelled his chartered flight to Ranchi scheduled at 6pm. Asks for picks at Delhi borders, alerts sent to police in neighbouring states

► ED QUESTIONS LALU; COURT SUMMONS FOR RABRI, P 10

The agency asked for picks at Delhi's borders after they learnt Soren had canceled his 6pm chartered flight to Ranchi. Police in adjacent states were asked to look for him, leading to arguably the first-ever manhunt for a CM.

ED, which questioned Soren in Ranchi earlier this

In an email to ED, Soren agrees to questioning at 1pm on Jan 31 at his Ranchi residence. Says ED's insistence to record his statement again on or before Jan 31 reeked of 'malice' and was 'motivated by political agenda' to disrupt state government's functioning

► 'Preserve video recording of 7-hour questioning (of Jan 20) to make available to court of law,' it says

month after he had avoided eight summons, had written to him saying it wanted him to answer a few more questions either on Monday or Wednesday. The probe team decided to question him on Monday in the capital after getting to know that he was in the city for legal consultations.

► 'Has no option', P 15

1 killed as locals crash party at Ggn farmhouse

Mumbai: There are signs that growth in home loans is shifting from the affordable segment to higher-value homes, reports Mayur Shetty.

A man died and six were injured in a brawl after local villagers gatecrashed a farmhouse party of college students in Baliawas around midnight Saturday, reports Bagish Jha. The brawl began as an argument when a car with three youth from the village got stuck behind a line of cabs waiting to take the students back to Delhi.

The youth left and returned with around 50 villagers, armed with sticks, rods and other weapons. They attacked the students outside the farmhouse first and then stormed inside. P 4

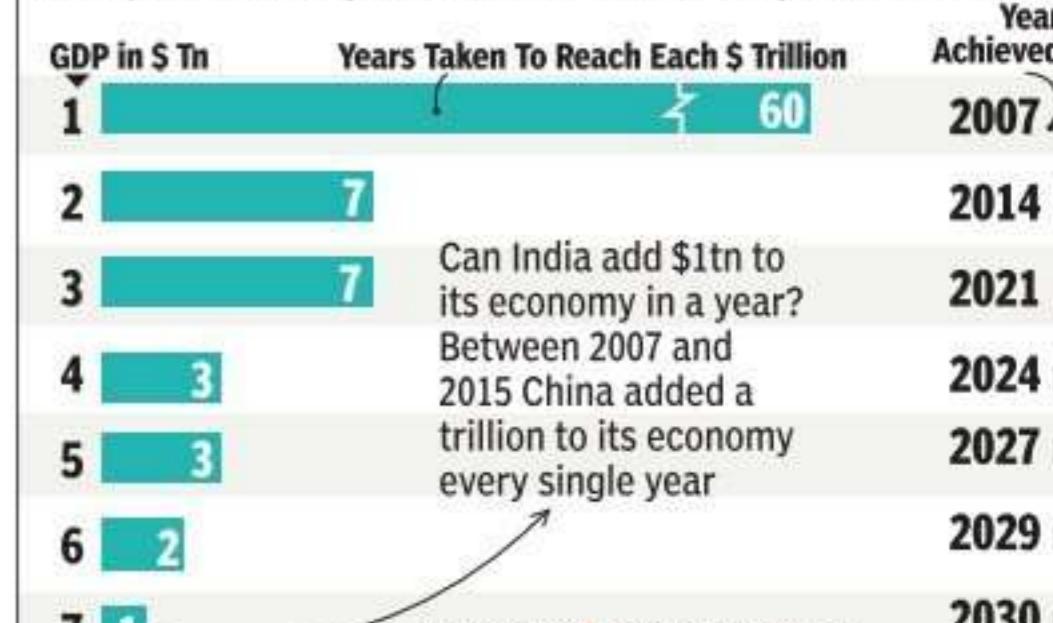
India can aspire to be \$7tn economy by 2030: Review

Possible To Grow Above 7% In Coming Years

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

60, 7, 3, 2 YRS...HOW INDIA'S JOURNEY TO EACH TRILLION KEEPS GETTING SHORTER

Govt's economic review released on Monday targets \$7 trillion GDP by 2030. Barring an unforeseen shock, the goal is achievable



New Delhi: The Indian economy is likely to achieve a growth rate of 7% in fiscal year 2025 after growing at or above 7% in 2023-24, driven by resilient domestic demand despite risks and uncertainties in the global economic landscape, according to a review of the economy unveiled on Monday.

It also said India can aspire to become a \$7 trillion economy in the next six-seven years (by 2030) asserting that this would be a significant milestone in the journey to delivering quality of life and standard of living that match and exceed the aspirations of the Indian people.

"If the prognosis for FY25 turns out to be right,

that will mark the fourth year post-pandemic that the Indian economy will have grown at or over 7%. That would be an impressive achievement, testifying to the resilience and potential of the Indian economy. It augurs well for the future," V Anantha Nageswaran, chief eco-

nomic advisor in the finance ministry said in the review.

National Statistical Office estimates the economy will grow 7.3% in 2023-24 while Reserve Bank of India has projected a 7% growth rate for the current fiscal year.

► Area of concern', P 19

RIL, bank stocks propel mkt; BSE mcap at new high

AVERAGE SIZE UP

► Avg size of home loans has gone up by 22% since FY20

► 30% of new loans were above ₹75L in Apr-June 2023 compared with 19% in FY20

► 53% loans were below ₹35L in FY20; down to 31.4% in FY23

► Post-pandemic period saw preference for larger houses, demand eased for affordable housing, say bankers

nations during April-June 2023 while loans between Rs 35 lakh and Rs 75 lakh constituted 31.4% of new loans.

► Higher by 18%, P 19

Sensex and Nifty rallied on Monday as investor interest revived in banking stocks that had witnessed strong sell-off the previous two weeks, along with a 7% gain in Reliance Industries that recorded the best daily gain in three years. Sensex gained 1,241 points to close at 71,942. Nifty gained 385 points to close at 21,738. The day's gains made investors richer by Rs 5.5 lakh crore with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 383 lakh crore, a new life-high level. This, however, came without much support from foreign funds. P 19

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Dumped,
forgotten cars
at police
stations cry
for disposal | 3



Mayor clears key proposals amid strong protest from opposition | 7

How Rooftop Solar Panel May Bring Power Bill Down To Zero

As Part Of 2024 Policy, Get Paid For Generating Electricity At Home: Kejriwal

SOLAR POWER: DELHI UPS THE GAME

DELHI SOLAR POLICY 2024

Target | Increase total installed solar capacity of Delhi to 4,500 MW by March 2027
► This is 3 times of current capacity of 1,500 MW
► Includes 750 MW of rooftop solar plants installations and 3,750 MW through utility scale solar plants installed outside Delhi by 2027

How it will help
► Reduce air pollution
► Help fight inflation by bringing down electricity bills

1 Generation-based incentives
► For every unit of solar power generated, Delhi govt will offer a GBI of ₹3 for small rooftop plants (up to 3 kW) and ₹2 for larger plants (3 to 10kW)
► Unlike in 2016 policy, no minimum generation mandated to receive GBI
► Amount under GBI to be adjusted against monthly electricity bill of the consumer
► Any excess amount to be deposited into consumer's bank account by Discom every month

SPEND ₹570 crore



OTHER KEY FEATURES

Earlier, GBI amount was transferred only twice a year		
Consumer Category & Rooftop Solar System Size (in kW)	GBI (₹ /kWh)	Comparison with 2016 Solar policy
Residential, 1 kW to 3 kW	3	Increased from ₹2 earlier
Residential, 3 kW to 10 kW	2	Same as earlier
Group housing societies/ RWA	2	Same as earlier
Commercial and Industrial (for first 200 MW of installations in Delhi)	1	Introduced for first time

MANY FIRSTS IN THE POLICY

► In a first, capital subsidy to residential consumers of ₹2,000 per kW of installation up to a maximum of ₹10,000 per consumer. This will be over and above capital subsidy of Centre

► Community solar model to enable consumers who don't have suitable roof for installing a solar plant to access system installed at third-party location

► Peer-to-peer trading to enable owners of solar energy systems to sell excess electricity in real time to other consumers in Delhi

► Hybrid Resco model will allow even smaller consumers who don't have funds but have viable roof space to benefit from cheap solar energy

► Out-of-state solar plants | Delhi to aggressively raise procurement of solar power from utility scale plants outside the city



KEJRIWAL SAYS
The aim is to reduce air pollution and help fight inflation by bringing power bills of non-subsidised residential consumers to zero

years, the consumers will continue enjoying zero bill for the life of the solar panel, which is 25 years."

GBI will be adjusted against the monthly electricity bill of the consumer and any excess amount will be deposited into the consumer's bank account every month. This again is a change from the earlier policy under which incentives were transferred at half yearly periods.

Unlike the earlier policy, Deli government this time will also give a capital subsidy to residential consumers of Rs 2,000 per kW of installation up to a maximum of Rs 10,000 per consumer. This will be over and above the capital subsidy offered by the central government, which, under the Roof-top Solar Programme Phase-II, provides Rs 14,588/kW for 3kW capacity and Rs 7,294/kW for a capacity of 3-10kW.

Also, while GBI wasn't available to commercial and industrial consumers earlier, the new policy allows them GBI of Rs 1 per unit for the first 200MW of installation.

The new policy allows them GBI of Rs 1 per unit for the first 200MW of installation.

There are other firsts in the policy. The community solar model will enable consumers who do not have a suitable roof for installing a solar plant to access system installed at a third-party location and still avail benefits like GBI and net-metering.

Also, 'peer to peer' trading has been introduced to enable owners of solar energy systems to sell their excess generated electricity in real time to other consumers in Delhi via a P2P energy trading platform.

Leader of the Opposition in Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said there was nothing new in the new policy.

"Other state governments are running similar schemes. When at the helm in MCD, BJP also encouraged solar plants atop schools," he claimed.

"Kejriwal government should announce at least a 50% subsidy on the cost of solar panels."

New Delhi: Delhi government has finalised the new solar policy under which people installing solar panels on their rooftops will get more generation-based incentives (GBI) than the 2016 policy, capital subsidy and facility to sell the excess generated electricity in real time to other consumers in the capital.

Under the Delhi Solar Policy 2016, the consumers got Rs 2 per unit of solar energy conditional to generating 1,100 units per kW per annum. The new policy offers an increased Rs 3 per unit for small rooftop plants (up to 3 kW) and Rs 2 per unit for larger plants (3 to 10kW). The 2024 policy also does away with the riders of the earlier policy, leaving no conditions on minimum generation to receive GBI.

Announcing the policy, chief minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "The aim of Delhi Solar Policy 2024 is to reduce the

Boy sexually harassed & forced to lick slippers, 3 held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Light, sound and action: Beating Retreat drums up patriotic fervour, marks end of R-Day celebrations

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New Delhi: A 14-year-old boy was allegedly sexually assaulted and harassed by a group of boys in South Delhi's Hauz Khas. The video of the indecent act was recorded to threaten the victim. Cops have apprehended three boys in the case.

On Jan 28, the boy's mother made a PCR call regarding the incident. A team from the local police station rushed to the spot and met her. She told the police officers that some boys had committed unnatural act with her son. The victim was counselled and taken to hospital for medical examination.

A senior officer said it was found that at 6.30 pm on Jan 27, the boy was returning home after playing at Central Park in Hauz Khas.

"Three boys aged between 12 and 14 years took him to an isolated place. One of the juveniles pointed a vegetable knife towards the victim and threatened him. The accused then committed an unnatural act with him and captured the act on a mobile phone. The victim was threatened not to disclose the incident to anyone. He was also made to lick the slippers of the accused," the officer added.

"The victim hid the incident from his family members. The mother came to know about it when another boy sent the video clip to her on Jan 28," the officer said.

A case under sections 377 (unnatural offences), 506 (criminal intimidation), 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of IPC and 12 Pocso Act was registered at Hauz Khas police station.



sun during the culminating 'Tiger Hill' performance.

The Indian Navy band, with the mellifluous notes of 'INS Vikrant', 'Mission Chandrayaan', 'Ekla Chalo Re' and 'Hum Tayar Hain' showcased unique formations like an indigenous aircraft carrier, nari shakti, lighthouse and Vikram Lander in a nod to the country's recent accomplishments.

The Indian Army band raised patriotic pulses with 'Faujdar Ka Jigar', 'Agniveer', 'Kargil 1999' and 'Taqat Watan'. The gold, silver, pink and tri-colour hues synchronised with the setting

fervour hit a high with the special music of 'Agrance Bharat'.

Braving the cold, Ravindra Mehta, a 59-year-old businessman from Meerut, revealed ecstatically that he had grown up with music and had enjoyed the evening. That same excitement was mirrored in his seven-year-old granddaughter, whose eyes gleamed with energy and happiness, the melodies at the military event creating a generational connection.

Pramod Kumar Agarwal, 60, smiled constantly and did not

budge an inch throughout the performance, humming to the bands' music. Travelling all the way from Moradabad with his family, he shared, "It was like a dream come true. The reverberation of the tunes running through me is indescribable."

Meanwhile, Kushagrata, a 28-year-old aspiring drummer from Delhi, found himself lightly headbanging to the infectious beats. "It's like an inspiration for my own music," he smiled.

The performance reached a crescendo with the 'Army Mil

Call' when the bands combined to form the massed bands and together played perennial favourites like 'Kadam Kadam Badhay Ja', 'Ay Mere Watan Ke Logon' and 'Drummers Call'. The buglers retreated to the tune of 'Sare Jahan se Acha' and countless yellow lights lit up the entire vista, leaving the audience gasping with wonder.

The ceremony marks a centur

ies-old military tradition, when the troops ceased fighting, sheathed their arms, withdrew from the battlefield and return

ned to the camps at sunset at the sounding of the retreat," explained the defence ministry handout. "Colours and standards are cased and flags are lowered. The ceremony creates nostalgia for the times gone by."

With a note of serenity in the twilight sky, the President's Bodyguards trotted along, the hooves creating their own unique music. The nightfall then blended with the troopers' retreat, preserving a beautiful tradition while perfectly pain-

ting a portrait of a time.

Silver Line gets golden touch to ensure better identification

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has changed the color code of the upcoming Delhi Aerocity-Tughlakabad metro corridor from silver to golden. The decision is aimed at improving the identification of the trains since the silver color tends to blend with the stainless steel body of trains, which may cause inconvenience to commuters, officials said.

Delhi Metro has color-coded all its operational corridors for effortless identification by passengers. A shaded strip indicating the color code of a particular corridor is prominent on trains. For example, a train operating on the blue Line from Dwarka Sector 21 to Noida and Vaishali flaunts a blue strip just below the windows.

The Aerocity-Tughlakabad Metro Corridor will be 23.6 kilometers long with 15 stations. The corridor will connect the violet Line (Kashmere Gate-Raja Nahar Singh) with the Airport Express Line and provide connectivity to many new areas in the southern part of the capital. This corridor is expected to be operational by March 2026.

Apart from the "golden" line, two more corridors are being constructed as part of DMRC's phase IV expansion. The 12.3 km corridor from Majlis Park to Maupur is expected to be ready by March 2025, while construction of the Janakpuri West-RK Ashram corridor is likely to be completed by March 2026.

"The selection of golden as the colour code will ensure better identification of trains and will be more convenient for the passengers," said Anuj Dayal, principal executive director, corporate communications.

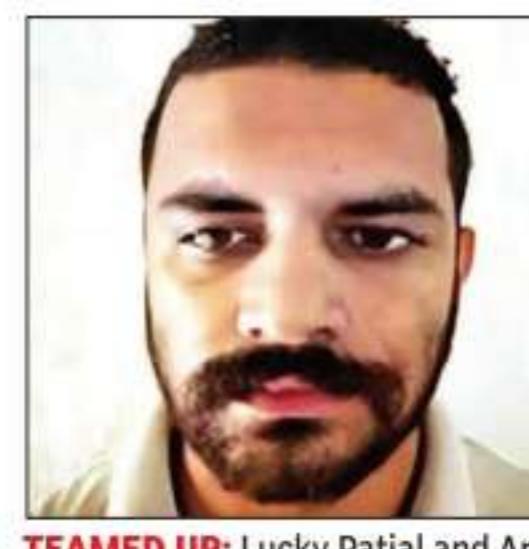
Bishnoi henchman bumped off by shooters of rival gang

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New Delhi: Rajan Jaat, a key henchman of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, was killed on Monday by shooters allegedly engaged by his Canada-based rival Arsh Dalla, a designated terrorist, and Lucky Patial, kingpin of the Bambiba syndicate. The killing was in retaliation for the murders of Siddhu Moose Wala, Karni Sena chief Sukhdev Gogamedi and Sukha Duneke, the Bambibas claimed on social media.

The gunman killed on Monday was identified as Rajan, a resident of Kurukshetra. His charred body was found between Delhi and Yamuna Nagar. The limbs were tied, suggesting he was tortured before being killed. Because of jurisdiction, Haryana Police is conducting a formal investigation. Several teams are trying to track down the killers, sources confirmed.

Bishnoi has vowed to seek revenge, a source said, citing chatter among his gang members. Delhi Police's Special Cell and the Crime Branch are on alert apprehending a hit from Bishnoi because this is the second blow to the Bishnoi syndicate this month. On Jan 2, Patial had Bishnoi's key associate,



TEAMED UP: Lucky Patial and Arsh Dalla

Sachin, eliminated in Kurukshetra. Sachin was accused of getting forged passports made for Bishnoi's men. "We will kill anyone who has ever offered water to Bishnoi and his gang," the Bambibas wrote in a post on social media.

Gangster-turned-terrorist Sukhdu Singh alias Sukha Duneke — a close associate of slain terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar — was bumped off by gunmen sent by Bishnoi and Goldy Brar in Canada in Sept 2023. Duneke, who was from Moga in Punjab, was shot at least nine times from point blank range by his rivals in Winnipeg city. Duneke was a close associate also of gangster Patial and was managing the extortion racket for the Bambibas from Canada.

In the new post, the Bambibas

Expect rain tomorrow, snow in hills may bring down temp

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: With the maximum temperature at 22.6 degrees Celsius, one notch above normal, the city witnessed a slightly warmer day with shallow fog in the morning. The minimum temperature, meanwhile, was recorded at 6.8 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal.

Though the day remained sunny, the impact of the western disturbance may cause the clouds to hover over the city towards Tuesday evening. The weather department expects strong winds and rain in the city on Wednesday, while hilly areas, especially Jammu and Kashmir, may see snow, causing the city temperature to likely go down in the following days.

The city on Monday saw shallow fog with visibility at 700m at Safdarjung and around 1000m in Palam. The cloudiness on Sunday, caused by the arrival of a western disturbance, improved towards Monday. The impact of the western disturbance may show up again on Wednesday, with clouds overcast from late Tuesday night," said Kuldeep Srivastava, head, regional weather forecasting center, India Meteorological Department.

The maximum and minimum temperatures today are likely to hover around 22 and 8 degrees Celsius, respectively.

Meanwhile, the air quality improved within the very poor category. However, the forecasting agencies expect it to deteriorate to se-



BEATING THE COLD

vere. The air quality index (AQI) on a scale of 0 to 500 was 353 against 365 a day earlier.

"The sub-committee noted that the spurt in Delhi's average AQI projected/forecasted for tomorrow by IMD/ IITM is likely for a short duration before returning to the very poor category owing to improved meteorological conditions, including gusty winds with a probability of rain. Further, the overall outlook for subsequent days projects Delhi's average AQI to stay in the poor/ very poor category. Therefore, after reviewing the overall air quality scenario and relevant aspects, the sub-committee decided not to invoke Stage III of GRAP at this stage," stated CAQM.



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300 'Case' Vehicles Turn To Ashes In Fire At Malkhana

Cause Of The Incident Being Determined By Forensic Team

A BURNING PROBLEM

Why so many vehicles are lying in pits

- The case in which a particular vehicle was seized is still pending and its production may be required
- Owners of the vehicle has already claimed insurance
- Insurer not interested in taking the vehicle to save on cost of lifting, storage and disposal

Over 300 vehicles were destroyed in a massive fire that broke out at a vehicle pit behind the police training school at Wazirabad on Monday



Why keeping vehicles for years is a bad idea

- The volume of case properties in Delhi has acquired gigantic proportions
- They consume enormous space inside as well as outside police stations
- Lack of covered space exposes heavy and bigger case properties, particularly vehicles, to vagaries of weather, which reduce their life and value



TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Over 300 vehicles were destroyed in a massive fire at a vehicle pit behind the police training school in north Delhi's Wazirabad early on Monday. Nobody was injured in the fire.

The cause of the fire at the police malkhana is yet to be ascertained and police are probing all angles, including sabotage, sources said. An FIR has been registered.

Around the same time in 2022, a mysterious fire had engulfed a vehicle pit in southwest Delhi's Sagarpur and dozens of vehicles were gutted.

Monday's blaze started around midnight and gutted over 200 bikes and 50 cars, which were seized in various cases and dumped at the 500-square-yard plot. The blaze was controlled by 5.20am. "All damaged vehicles are part of case properties of outer district," said DCP (northeast) Joy Tirkey.

Officers said the exact number of damaged vehicles would be checked from the list and records of district and police stations concerned. "The cause of the fire is being determined by a forensic team. We have filed a case of causing mischief with fire at the Sonia Vihar police station," said a police officer.

"A call regarding a blaze at a police gowdown was received at the control room of the Delhi Fire Services at 12.16am, and six fire tenders were immediately sent to the site," said DFS director Atul Garg.

Police suspect that either someone set a vehicle on fire on purpose, which eventually engulfed more vehicles, or a beedi or cigarette thrown by someone might have led to the fire.

A senior fire department officer said it took them more than six hours to extinguish the fire. "At least 40 firefighters battled the blaze due to the combustible materials like seat covers, which led to the fire spreading quickly to other vehicles," he said.

The fire officer added that the fire's location in an open space, away from any residential area, had let them try several options to douse it.

Dumped and forgotten, they need quick disposal

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New Delhi: Hundreds of dust-covered, damaged vehicles are a usual sight outside the city's police stations or at vehicle pits. Often dumped in a brand new condition, these vehicles rot there till the time they can be turned into scraps. Sometimes, mysterious fires, or even thefts, pave the way for their disposal.

Monday's blaze, which destroyed vehicles worth crores, has yet again brought the spotlight back on this issue. Many police officers blame the century-old Evidence Act under which a vehicle connected with an offence becomes a "case property" and is kept under police protection until the case is settled. The number of vehicles were few when the law was made, but "today, hundreds of vehicles are involved in accidents or used in crime every month in a city like Delhi, requiring quick disposal of such vehicles", said a senior cop.

The slow legal process adds to the woes. "The vehicles keep rotting till the case is settled after years. A minuscule number of vehicles are released on superdari (returning seized goods). With cramped spaces in and around police stations, vehicles are doomed once they reach the yard. The red tape is such that many interested owners also give up to avoid running around," a retired officer said.

The case properties not only crowd the police station areas but also the centralised malkhana in Wazirabad. Monday's fire happened at the vacant land behind the malkhana, which was being used as a vehicle pit.

A few years ago, Delhi Police had in

200
BIKES WHICH
WERE SEIZED IN
VARIOUS CASES
GUTTED IN FIRE

its custody around 31,000 vehicles, worth over 100 crores, despite a large number of vehicles being disposed of, said an officer. "In a year, we seize over one lakh vehicles and a major chunk is disposed of. In a span of five years, we had seized around 7.6 lakh vehicles and disposed of around 7.3 lakhs," recalled a cop, citing the data from a few years ago.

According to Delhi Police, in many accident cases when vehicles are badly damaged, neither the owners nor the insurance companies come to claim them. "If a vehicle is insured, the owner might collect compensation from the insurance company and abandon the car at the police station. Insurance agents typically only recover the vehicles they can sell after minor repairs. Otherwise, they don't bother due to the added costs of towing and storage."

Officers added that many abandoned vehicles were linked to drug trafficking or arms dealing cases. "If the owner is involved in such activities, the vehicle release is unlikely," said an officer, adding that even if it's registered under someone else's name, nobody usually comes to claim a vehicle associated with a criminal activity. "These abandoned vehicles, often left in malkhanas or pits, take up significant space and resources."

So, what is the way out? Auctioning is one option. Recently, the deputy commissioners of police were empowered to initiate e-auctioning and dispose of the vehicles seized under 66 Delhi Police Act. However, its impact is yet to be analysed.

Many officers also suggest options like recycling, loaning to institutions for training and experiments, besides giving to art colleges for model sculptures etc.

Kalkaji Temple accident: Notice to member of organising committee

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Police has served a notice to a member of Sri Kalkaji Saja Sevadar Mitr Mandal for the religious event at south Delhi's Kalkaji Mandir, asking him to join the investigation into an accident when an elevated platform collapsed on Sunday, leading to the death of a woman and injury to 17 devotees.

Satish Kumar had made an application to authorities for organising an event on behalf of the Mandal, police said. "Kumar has been asked to join investigation," the officer said.

Deputy commissioner of police (southeast) Rajesh Deo said there are several other



IN RUINS

members of the Mitr Mandal and they are identifying other organisers. He said the event was held at the Mahant Parshar in the temple so they have been contacted to ascertain who had applied to book the space. "We are also ques-

tionsing tent house owners, performers and promoters to determine who contacted them for bookings, thereby identifying the main organisers," the officer said.

Meanwhile, a post-mortem on Tina, who died after the staged collapsed, is being done. Her husband, Ved Prakash, said: "She had gone to the event with other women in the locality. At midnight, I called her up to see when she would be back. My wife told me she would be home in a few minutes, so I went to sleep."

Prakash woke up in the morning and realised his wife had not returned home. He asked the other women who had gone to the event with her. "They informed me about the

incident," he said. "I rushed to the temple, then to the police station, and later learned about her death," he said.

Tina is survived by her husband and three sons, one of whom is undergoing treatment for cancer. He added that this was the first time she had visited the temple. The family lives in Tughlakabad. Ved Prakash is a vegetable vendor.

About the incident, police had said 1,500-1,600 people had assembled at the Kalkaji Mandir around midnight. "Around 12.30 am, the elevated platform caved in as it could not bear the weight of people sitting and standing on it. People sitting below the platform were among the injured," the officer said.

Deadly angeethi: Woman, 2-year-old die in Maidangarhi

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 23-year-old woman and her son died of suspected carbon monoxide poisoning from an angeethi in Maidangarhi on Sunday. Her husband and two kids were receiving treatment. This was the fourth such incident this month.

Police received information regarding the incident at 6:16 am on Sunday. A team from the local police station reached the spot and identified the deceased as Anjali and her two-year-old son. Her husband Dinesh and two kids—four years old son and six years old daughter—were receiving treatment at a hospital.

A senior officer said they found that on Saturday night, the family used an angeethi in the room, which had no ventilation provisions except the door. Next morning, all the family members were found gasping for oxygen.

On Saturday night, the family used an angeethi in the room, which had no ventilation provisions except the door. Next morning, all the family members were found gasping for oxygen

A fire department official said, "Burning angeethis indoors can be deadly because they consume oxygen and release harmful gases, creating a dangerous environment that can lead to suffocation or carbon monoxide poisoning, especially in poorly ventilated spaces."

The official advised that people should ensure proper ventilation in the room to prevent oxygen depletion. "Consider placing a wide, open container filled with water near the heat source. This helps maintain humidity and oxygen levels, reducing the risk of suffocation or carbon monoxide poisoning," he said.

Earlier this month, a couple and their two children were found dead at their rented home in Khera Kalan village, north-west Delhi. They died of suspected carbon monoxide poisoning from angeethi. In the second incident, two men from Nepal, working as a house help and a driver west Delhi's Inderpuri, were found dead. A spent angeethi was found in their room. In another case, a couple died in Dwarka Sector 23, though their two-month-old baby survived the carbon monoxide poisoning.

21-year-old kills woman for 'avoiding him', held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Four days after a woman's body riddled with stab wounds was found in northwest Delhi's Shakur Basti, police have arrested a 21-year-old man for the murder.

The man has claimed that he was friends with the woman earlier; but she had started avoiding him of late. He called her to an isolated area on the pretext of a last meeting and stabbed her around 50 times.

A police officer said the body was found lying near railway tracks in Shakur Basti at 1.30 pm on Jan 25. After reviewing 100 hours of footage and conducting a thorough investigation, police identified the suspect. He was apprehended and confessed to the crime. The accused was identified as Pandav Kumar (21), a resident of Budh Vihar. He works as a labourer. "Kumar was nabbed from Budh Vihar. He was planning to escape his

rented accommodation," the officer said. DCP (Outer) Jimmy Chiram said that during interrogation, Kumar claimed that he had been friends with the woman for the past one year and a half. He met her in his native village in Bihar as her elder sister was married there. "During the last few months, he suspected that the victim was having multiple affairs and was ignoring him. Hence, he decided to kill her," the officer added.

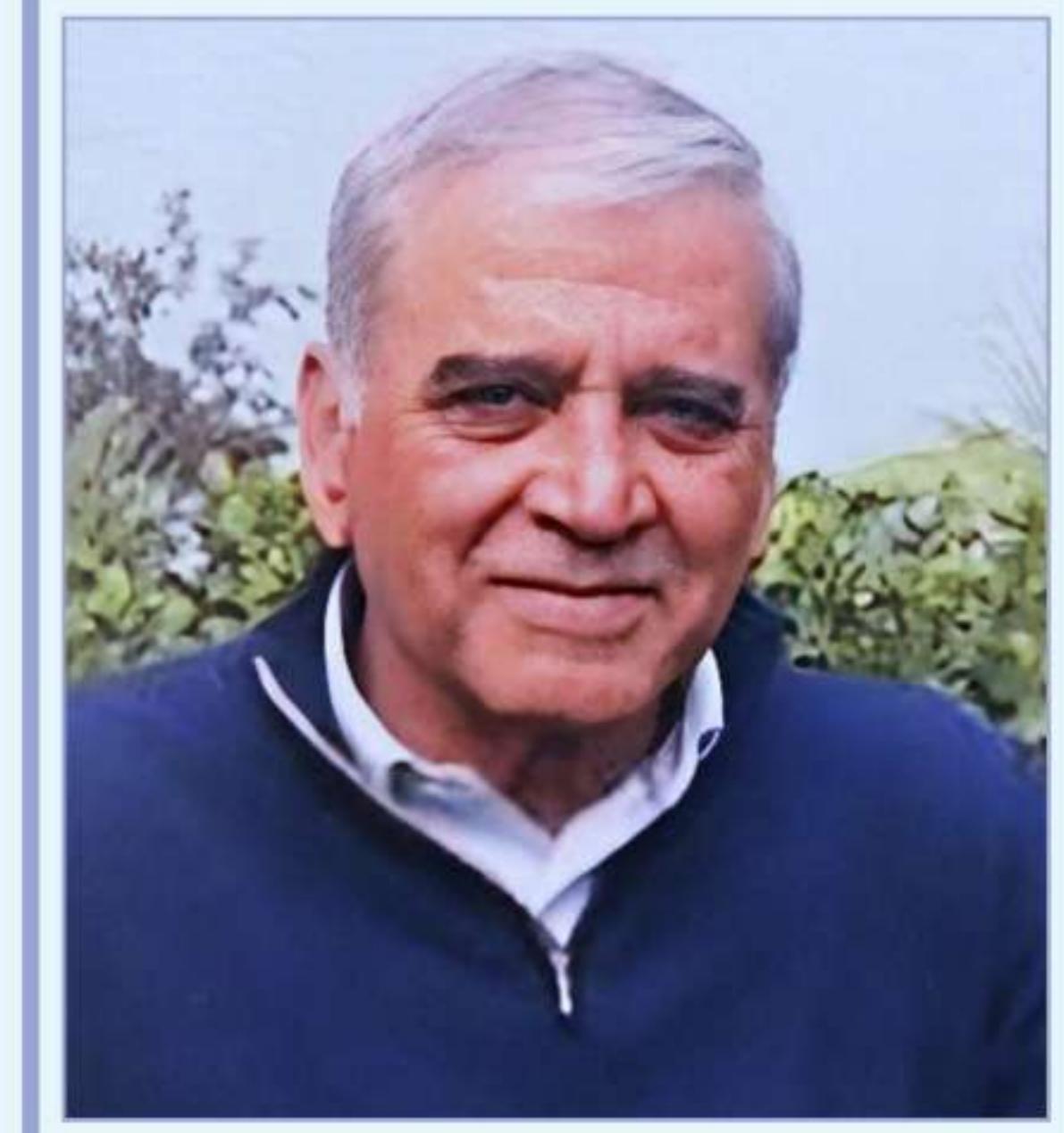
Kumar had purchased two knives from a local vendor at Rani Bagh Market to execute his plan. On Jan 24, he called the woman at Budh Vihar Nala and told her to live together in a rented accommodation. After she denied, he took her to an isolated railway yard and stabbed her to death. A cop said that there was no part of the body which didn't have a stab or slash mark. Her eyes were gouged out as well.

Road accidents claim one life, injure two

New Delhi: In two separate incidents on Monday, a man died and two people were injured after they met with accidents in Bharat Nagar and Alipur. A man died after he rammed his car into a central verge in Bharat Nagar. Police received a call at 12.11am about the accident at Satyawati Flyover. In another incident, two people were injured after an SUV rammed a stationary tempo in Alipur. They were identified as Deepak Yadav and Gaurav Yadav. Probe is on to ascertain whether fog was the reason behind the accident. TNN

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Tara Sarna
Jai Sarna

Ground Reality Belies Panel's Claims Of Yamuna Being Cleaner In A Year

Contamination Of Water High At River's Exit Point Even As Key Deadlines Pushed

Kushagra.Dixit@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: A year after it was constituted in Jan 2023, the high-level committee (HLC) on the Yamuna claimed at its meeting this month that certain pollution parameters of the river water had shown a 70% improvement.

The assessment was based on comparison of the faecal coliform level between Dec 2022 and Dec last year at Asgarpur, the point where the river exits the city. However, bellying the claims of improvement, the contamination of the water remains high even as the deadline for treating all sewage flowing into the river has been shifted from Dec 2023 to March.

The committee held only eight meetings in the year since its formation. No meetings were held in Nov and Dec last year despite the National Green Tribunal's mandate being to meet every month.

According to the minutes of the meeting chaired by Delhi chief secretary earlier this month, a fresh deadline was set for sewage treatment

MILES TO GO FOR A CLEAN RIVER



Water quality of Yamuna at Asgarpur (exit point)

	Dec 2022	Dec 2023
1. BOD	73	51 (30% improvement)
2. Faecal coliform	8.1 lakh	2.4 (70% better)
3. Treatment capacity	632	667 (35% increase)
4. Actual treatment	530	565 (35% increase)
5. Sewage generation	768	792
6. Gap in treatment	238	227

BOD: The minimum oxygen required to treat or break biological/organic pollutant in water; varies depending upon several factors; unit mg/l

- Faecal coliform is found in excreta that contaminates water through untreated sewage. Unit: MPN (most probable numbers) per 100 ml
- The higher the level of FC the higher the presence of disease-causing pathogen in water
- Sewage in MGD

MISSSED DEADLINES

- First high-level committee meeting held in Jan 2023
- In Feb 2023, it was decided to increase treatment capacity to 814MGD by Dec 2023
- Eight meetings held since Jan 2023
- Revised deadlines for sewage treatment
- **March 2024:** 814MGD
- **Dec 2024:** 922 MGD
- **March 2025:** 964.5MGD

charged through drains and sewage diverted to STPs has to be taken into account.

It added that in the STPs' performance results, no data had been provided for faecal coliform. The performance results provided by CPCB in its report on nine STPs show that only two of them were meeting the required norms, it said.

HLC stated it had taken certain decisions on the Action Plan for Rejuvenation of River Yamuna', which includes 100% treatment of sewage, tapping of all drains, establishment of sewerage network in unauthorised colonies and JJ clusters, management of industrial effluent through 13 treatment plants; management of faecal sludge (septage), regulation of the floodplain, utilisation of treated waste water and solar power generation along the Najafgarh drain.

HLC has been informed by various departments that 183 storm water drains have so far been disconnected from the sewers and around 102 hectares of floodplain land have been freed of encroachments.

HC pulls up DDA for non-compliance with fencing order

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Development Authority (DDA) came under fire from the high court on Monday for failing to fence its land in Yamuna Pusta.

A bench of acting chief justice Mammooh and Justice Manmeet P S Arora took a dim view of DDA's inability to fence all and under its possession in Yamuna Pusta.

"On fencing of land in Yamuna Pusta, our directions are very clear. We don't think the court's order can be more categorical than this," an irked bench told the counsel for DDA.

Delhi High Court's comments came when DDA claimed there was lack of clarity on the court's earlier order over demarcation and fencing of land to free these of squatters and encroachers. "Your officers in DDA need to be vigilant, you can't let your lands be encroached. If government land is getting encroached we will take action. We want an affidavit since your officers are not following orders. Don't take oral assurances, they (officers) are misleading the court. Let them give an affidavit, if they have the

guts, that the court's orders have been implemented," the bench told DDA's counsel.

Giving three weeks time to the land owning authority, the court made it clear that its order passed in Nov last year must be complied with. During hearing of a PIL on encroachment of DDA land, the court had directed it to file an affidavit "clarifying that the entire land belonging to it in Yamuna Pusta is in its possession and the same has been fenced."

It was hearing a plea by an NGO Manav Samaj Sudhar Suraksha Sanstha seeking action against all unauthorised and illegal construction/encroachment on a land in Yamuna Pusta (in Okhla area). DDA had earlier told the court it removed the encroachers and took possession of the land, prompting the court to direct it to be fenced.

Interestingly, the high court had also turned its lens on the petitioner NGO's president and directed DDA and MCD to inspect his residence in Jamia Nagar over allegations of illegal construction. Later, MCD found a few floors of the building to have unauthorised construction and took action on the matter.

LG gives nod for transplant of trees for ISTM building

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Lieutenant governor VK Saxena has permitted the transplanting of 134 trees to aid the construction of a building of Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) on the old JNU campus here, Raj Niwas officials said on Monday.

Compensatory plantation of 1,340 trees in addition to transplantation of these trees at a cost of Rs 76.3 lakh will be done, Raj Niwas said.

The department of forests and wildlife told the LG that 132 of the 134 trees of a native species will be transplanted at Mehrauli and two trees of exotic species are proposed to be compensated for. A senior official of Raj Niwas said: "An inspection of the site was done by the forest department with officials of ISTM." The deputy conservator of forests (DCF), south, inspected the land and found it suitable for transplanting.

The compensatory plantation in the ratio of 1:10, totalling 1,340 saplings would be carried out at NTPC Eco Park in Badarpur by ISTM on 1.40 hectares. The compensatory plantation cost will be deposited in advance by ISTM.

The LG's permission was sought under the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act.

Wetland panel not to acquire 115 acres in Najafgarh due to financial burden

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The Najafgarh Wetland Committee (NWC) has decided not to acquire around 115 acres of inundated land around Najafgarh Jheel because of its large financial implication of Rs 268 crore. NWC had informed the high-level committee (HLC) for the rejuvenation of the Yamuna that it will preserve the lake in its current state.

Najafgarh Jheel is a trans-boundary wetland shared between Haryana and Delhi. In Feb 2023, the National Green Tribunal had directed HLC to look at the rejuvenation of the lake since the committee was already dealing with the issue of pollution of drains and water bodies impacting the Yamuna. NGT also directed Haryana's chief secretary to deal with the portion of the lake that lay in that state. Both Delhi and Haryana governments had prepared an environmental management plan.

However, during a meeting of HLC held on Jan 10, NWC told HLC that acquiring the land around the lake would cost around Rs 268 crore, a significant financial burden. "The DM (Southwest) briefed HLC on the NWC decision and how the option of land acquisition had a huge financial implication of about Rs 268 crore for 115 acres affected by inundation. Further, there would be a threat of encroachment of acquired land if the water received. NWC had unanimously concluded that the Jheel area in its current nature needed to be maintained," say the minutes of the meeting.

Experts said villages around the Najafgarh lake remain inundated throughout the year due to high groundwater level. During the review meet, NWC told HLC that the problem of wastewater entering the lake was likely to see significant improvement by March 2025, which is the deadline for multiple projects being undertaken by the Haryana to prevent pollution flowing into the lake.

tes of the meeting. The minutes also say, "It was decided that gram sabha land may be identified and replaced or given in exchange by DM (Southwest) to the landowners of permanently inundated land to protect the Najafgarh wetland to the extent possible and at a minimum cost to the exchequer with the approval of the competent authority."

Experts said villages around the Najafgarh lake remain inundated throughout the year due to high groundwater level. During the review meet, NWC told HLC that the problem of wastewater entering the lake was likely to see significant improvement by March 2025, which is the deadline for multiple projects being undertaken by the Haryana to prevent pollution flowing into the lake.

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Man kills friend over unnatural sex demand

New Delhi: A man was murdered by his friend in north Delhi's Kashmere Gate for allegedly demanding unnatural sex. The accused, 20-year-old Rajesh Kumar, has been arrested from Patna.

After receiving information about a body lying at a park on Jan 19, police found that the face was crushed probably by a heavy object. There was blood around the mouth and a notable cut was visible above the eye. The surrounding areas also had signs of blood.

The deceased was identified as Pramod Kumar Shukla, who came from Jalon in Uttar Pradesh and worked at Khoja Mandi.

"The investigation revealed that the victim was last seen with Kumar, a resident of Mori Gate. Kumar has confessed to the crime," police claimed.

Kumar told police that Shukla, in his mid-30s, used to pressure him into having unnatural sexualities. An upset Kumar had planned to eliminate Shukla at an opportune moment. On Jan 17, they had been at a secluded spot in the park. "Shukla then allegedly made unwanted advances. A physical altercation ensued after Kumar's refusal, leading to Shukla's death," police said.

Kumar took the money and mobile phone from Shukla's pocket. "He sold the phone for Rs 400 at a station before boarding a train to Amritsar and bought a phone with the stolen money," police said. A murder case has been registered. **TNN**

17 Trafficked Girls Rescued

All Those Freed Are Tribals From Jharkhand's Sahebganj District

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Seventeen tribal girls, who are victims of child labour and human trafficking, have been rescued from different areas in Delhi. Two persons operating a placement agency have been arrested.

The raids were carried out by a Jharkhand Police team, assisted by Delhi Police and an NGO, Mission Mukti Foundation. An officer from Jharkhand Police said all the girls are from Sahebganj district in Jharkhand and were trafficked with the promise of gainful employment. They were employed as domestic workers.

"The trafficker brought the girls from the villages and handed them over to various agencies and received Rs 35,000 for each girl," an NGO official involved in the rescue said.

The NGP official added that on Jan 23, a person contacted Jharkhand Bhawan in Delhi and said that six girls had been trafficked and needed to be rescued.

"Jharkhand Bhawan immediately contacted Mission Mukti Foundation, which took help from National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR). The team, with the help of Delhi police, raided the placement agency in south Delhi and rescued one girl and nabbed two people," the NGO official said. Mission Mukti Foundation said it had information that the agency had employed 20 girls across Delhi-NCR. Later, the Jharkhand Police reached Delhi.

"Jharkhand Police, with the support of Delhi Police, re-

scued 16 girls. The operation is still on," an officer said. The girls were rescued from Civil Lines, Fatehpur Beri, Amar Colony and other areas in the city.

The arrested were identified as Rajni and Ansul Ansari. They were taken to Jharkhand in three days' police remand. "We're investigating the placement agency's operational history and potential links to traffickers," the officer said.

Virender Kumar Singh from Mission Mukti Foundation said: "A gram sarkar was trafficking the girls. He got Rs 35,000 per girl. This time the placement agency denied him the amount. He then shared information with Jharkhand Bhawan. Two of the girls have accused two men of sexually

assaulting and threatening them." Police are investigating the claims and raids are on to nab the trafficker.

One victim said that she never wanted to leave her ailing mother. However, a woman from her village, named Rajni, lured her with promises of good pay and easy work. "The woman at the placement agency beat me up and threatened me with dire consequences," she said. "Despite pleading with her to return home, she told me I'd go back after one or two months of work. Sadly, I stayed for three months and the agency's owner kept my salary."

The victim also reported physical abuse, alleging that she was hit with a rolling pin. Another girl corroborated the account, saying that the woman subjected them to harsh treatment.

Court rejects fine waiver plea of riots case accused

Vineet Upadhyay
@timesgroup.com

COURT SAYS

This shows the mindset of the applicant and learned counsels, as to how much regard they had for the orders passed by the court. If a party does not believe in giving due respect to the orders of the court or mandate of law, he is not entitled to seek any lenient approach from the court of law

"If a litigant or his counsel opt to act as per their sweet will and their whims, in defiance to the mandate of law (herein under Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (power to postpone or adjourn proceedings), he cannot be entertained on the grounds of such a plea of poverty," the court said.

The court, stating that the conduct of the accused had not been good for availing opportunities to cross-examine the witness or making a correct plea seeking deferment of cross-examination, added that given the conduct of the applicant and deliberate ignorance to the directions of the court, it does not find him entitled to any further leniency.

The court stated that there has to be a limit of taking a lenient approach. "Despite having knowledge of time limit of two working days to take steps for summoning of PW16/Ct. Gyan Singh, so as to cross-examine him, the present application was filed by the same counsel for the applicant at the end point of that given time period i.e. in the evening of 23.01.2024," the court said.

PWD to repair road of Old Yamuna Bridge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ructing a single layer of specified compacted thickness using a bituminous blacktop consisting of crushed stone aggregate mixed with a bituminous base," says the tender for the project issued by PWD. According to the official estimate, it will take two months to finish the work after the project is awarded to a private firm. PWD plans to spend Rs 98 lakh on the project.

This historic bridge was first opened for traffic in 1866 and connected Calcutta and Delhi on a continuous rail network for the first time. The bridge is popularly referred to as Lohia Pul because of its iron structure. A witness to many floods in its over a century-and-a-half-long existence, it has become a reference point for measuring the danger level for the river water level. It is usually closed for traffic when the water level rises during the monsoons. During last year's floods, the bridge was closed for traffic to prevent any mishaps.

A new Yamuna bridge in Delhi has been under construction since 2004.

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Key Proposals Cleared, BJP Claims MCD Rules Violated

Leader Of House Rejects Allegation Role Of Committees Bypassed

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Amid strong protest from BJP councillors in a house meeting on Monday over mayor Shelly Oberoi approaching Supreme Court for vesting standing committee powers to the house, she passed proposals regarding naming of roads in at least five colonies, demolishing the existing structure before redevelopment of the Sarai Kale Khan crematorium, repairing a school building and permitting government cooperatives to open kiosks for selling their products, among others.

BJP councillors argued that the naming committee had not yet been formed and the proposal related to naming and renaming should have come through this committee only.

"By bypassing the role of the committees, MCD is violating norms. Further, the mayor is reluctant to conduct elections for the standing committee, fearing that their councillors might cross-vote. Despite the SC not imposing any restrictions on the standing committee and other wards committee elections, the



Mayor Shelly Oberoi speaks as opposition councillors create a ruckus

mayor is consistently delaying the process," leader of opposition Raja Iqbal Singh said.

Leader of the house Mukesh Goel said that except for standing, education, rural and ward committees, which are statutory committees, the rest are advisory committees. "In any case, the suggestion for naming or renaming of roads comes to the house for final approval. The DMC Act was nowhere violated," Goel said.

2 | 5
PROPOSALS BROUGHT IN THE MEETING

Oberoi said the house meeting was called on Monday to hold discussions on listed issues. "But like always, BJP councillors did not allow the meeting to continue. Ideally, important proposals should be discussed, so that there is no hindrance in the development work of Delhi. In total, 25 proposals were brought in the meeting and of these, 7 were postponed, one was rejected and one was referred back," the mayor said. BJP councillors

gathered in the well of house with placards.

At Sarai Kale Khan, the cost for the crematorium redevelopment will be about Rs 4.9 crore. Demolishing the existing structure will cost Rs 2 lakh. "New features such as a waterbody, sculptures, landscaped green areas... are being included," an official said.

The approved proposals included six important items and were passed unanimously. Some of them were on setting up polling booths for general elections and an updated policy for giving opportunity to selected government cooperatives and societies for sale of products at MCD abandoned dhalaos, outlets and stalls, the mayor said.

Other proposals related to allocation of Rs 20 crore for pending work at multi-level parking lots in Jungpura and New Friends Colony, and a four-time rise in parking fee during Stage 2 GRAP were postponed.

Raja Iqbal Singh said AAP wanted to burden the public with taxes. "They intended to increase parking fees four-fold. However, after our opposition, they had to suspend the proposal," he said.

'Make all Delhi govt hospitals fully accessible for disabled'

Make equipment at govt hospitals functional: HC

Abhinav.Garg@timesgroup.com

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: All district magistrates and directors/medical superintendents of the Delhi government hospitals have been directed by the state commissioner for persons with disabilities to make hospitals fully accessible for PwDs.

They have also been directed to submit an action-taken report to the commissioner within 90 days since the issue of the order on Jan 24 on a petition filed by Dr Satendra Singh, director and professor of physiology, University College of Medical Sciences (UCMS) and Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital, highlighting the inaccessibility on hospital premises.

Dr Singh stated that despite the progressive legal mandate, the Delhi government hospitals were not yet accessible to PwDs. While Maulana Azad Medical College's auditorium and library are not accessible, the reserved parking is not close to the entrance, he pointed out, adding that BSA Hospital's academic block didn't have a lift despite being a new structure.

The petitioner stated that the Union health ministry had relaxed accessibility standards for healthcare in 2022, but the hospitals were slow to implement them.

According to the petition, the standards regarding the barrier-free entries and exits of hospitals and barrier-free accessibility for persons with disability were passed on June 30, 2022, but the outcome is not satisfactory.

Considering the submissions, state commissioner Ranjan Mukherjee ordered that all directors/medical superintendents of hospitals were directed that every department/lab/other rooms/drinking water/toilets were made accessible for PwDs.

The engineer-in-chief of the Public Works Department should direct all PWD executive engineers that all efforts be made with the hospital authorities to make every place of a hospital accessible, the order stated.

Meanwhile, the principal UCMS and enabling unit inaugurated a stairlift for medical students, staff and faculty with disabilities on Monday.

BJP to ask top cop to probe AAP's charge

New Delhi: Delhi BJP president Virinder Sachdeva on Monday said a party delegation will submit a letter to the police commissioner demanding investigation as AAP leaders have alleged that BJP was trying to lure MLAs by offering money.

Sachdeva said: "A demand will be made before the police commissioner to go to the bottom of the false allegations by the Delhi chief minister. BJP will demand that police should seek information from CM Arvind Kejriwal as to which Aam Aadmi Party MLAs were contacted by the BJP and what allegations were given."

"If Arvind Kejriwal has any evidence, he should bring the evidence and meet the police commissioner with us and demand an investigation," he said.

AAP said on Saturday that the BJP has purportedly offered Rs 25 crore each to seven of its Delhi MLAs to defect. Kejriwal posted on social media about this and said that he would soon face arrest. TNW

HIGH COURT BENCH SAYS

We intend to pass an order that the secretary health shall ensure that all equipment installed in hospitals are functional within a month. CT scan (in GTB Hospital) was non-functional for the last six months or so. Make sure all equipment is working

parent that spending in hospitals has gone down... Rs 700 crore shortfall is a huge shortfall. Rs 700 crore shortfall on hospitals will take its toll," the court remarked. It asked government's standing counsel, Satyakam, to explain "why the spending on hospitals has gone down and whether any money is diverted to some other planned event of yours".

The bench asserted that unspent money from the budget should not "go waste" with the closing of the financial year and must be spent on the concerns raised in the proceedings.

The high court was hearing a matter it took up suo motu in 2017, but its latest directions came after the bench was disturbed by an incident in which a man who jumped out of a moving police control room van died after denial of medical treatment by four government hospitals last month. The court had then expressed concerns over the lack of medical infrastructure for critical care patients in government hospitals.

Amicus curiae and advocate Ashok Agarwal informed the court during the hearing that there were no ICU beds in nine Delhi government hospitals and medical equipment were non-functional.

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MCD revises policy for opening milk booths in abandoned dhalaos

Vibha.Sharma@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has passed a revised policy expanding the scope of opening milk booths in abandoned dhalaos. The corporation will now be giving permission to government cooperatives and societies across the country to open outlets in old dhalaos, land, kiosks, shops, outlets, etc, and sell a variety of products, including ghee, rice, atta and oil.

The approved proposals included six important items and were passed unanimously. Some of them were on setting up polling booths for general elections and an updated policy for giving opportunity to selected government cooperatives and societies for sale of products at MCD abandoned dhalaos, outlets and stalls, the mayor said.

The project aims at increasing the revenue of the civic body, officials said.

"MCD will provide the bare land, space on 'as in where is basis'. The construction will be allowed for single-storey structure and all constructions over the land and space will be carried by the cooperative societies or federations at their own cost after obtaining prior written permission from MCD," said an official.

The monthly licence fees will be revised after three years of allotment or entering into agreement.

In Sept 2022, the remunerative and project cell of MCD implemented a unified policy for setting up Amul milk booths in the jurisdiction of the corporation. However, the decision drew flak from some RWAs which opposed the decision to allow milk booths in parks. "In the revised scheme, no space will be given in parks to the cooperative societies. Also, the status of dhalaos or sites which are occupied for the milk booths will not be changed," said the official.

MCD has closed hundreds of dhalaos in the past few years.

proper tenders and on a monthly license fees basis for a period of 10 years from the date of allotment and may be extended further on mutual agreement.

"While the sites will be offered through limited tender amongst government cooperatives and federations, MCD has fixed nominal rentals for allotment (of these commercial spaces) on the basis of property tax category in which those kiosks, shops, etc, fall," said an official. The monthly licence fees will be revised after entering into agreement.

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New Delhi: A man who died earlier this month, after being refused proper treatment by four government hospitals in Delhi, was not even provided with a stretcher and passed away while hospital staffs haggled over paperwork.

These details emerged in a response filed by Delhi government's department of health and family welfare before Delhi High Court, after the court demanded an explanation.

During Monday's hearing, the high court indicated it would direct a joint inquiry into the matter by senior officials of both the Centre and Delhi government so that in future shortage of medical infrastructure did not cause such lapses. The court also said liability must be fixed by authorities and was told by Delhi government that an inquiry was underway.

Patient Pramod was taken to Delhi government's Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and Lok Nayak Hospital and the Centre's Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital but was refused treatment on various pretexts, including non-availability of ICU/ventilator bed or CT scan.

Giving chronological details, the affidavit said the 47-year-old patient was brought to Jag Pravesh Chandra Hospital with injuries on Jan 2 at 10pm. After admitting him in surgery department, the hospital transferred him to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital for better treatment, where he reached with an accompanying doctor by 12.30am.

However, GTB hospital failed to even provide a stretcher to the patient and the junior doctor sent along with him was asked to get an emergency card made, but the same was refused as consent CMO-on-duty was required for it.

The report said the CMO declined saying, "CT scan machine is not working and ventilator is also not available, so the patient cannot be taken up by the hospital."

Patient Pramod was taken to Delhi government's Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital.

Fast deteriorating, Pramod was then rushed to Lok Nayak Hospital by the accompanying JPC hospital doctor by 1.40am, but was refused admission due to lack of ICU ventilation bed in neuro-Surgery department, no attendant and non-availability of nursing orderly.

Citing these, the patient was told to go back to JPCH or GTB hospital or advised to go to AIIMS at 3.45am.

Dr Jyoti, who accompanied Pramod, then reached RML hospital by 4am, only to be refused admission by the CMO, who pointed out there was no stamp or signature on the prescription of neuroSurgeon department of LNJP Hospital.

By the time the doctor reached JPCH by 4.30am, Pramod's life slowly ebbed away.

In a response filed in the matter, the Centre said it had no objection in principle to the establishment of a central portal to provide real-time information on the availability of beds and that there were several ICU beds in its hospitals.

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PUNJAB GOVERNMENT

TAKING GOVERNANCE TO THE DOORSTEP



DELIVERING 43 GOVERNMENT SERVICES AT CITIZENS' DOORSTEP

WITH THE LAUNCH OF THE 'BHAGWANT MANN SARKAR, TUHADE DWAAR' SCHEME, PEOPLE IN PUNJAB ARE NOW AVAILING CITIZEN-CENTRIC GOVERNMENT SERVICES, INCLUDING THE ISSUANCE OF BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES, BY SIMPLY DIALLING THE HELPLINE NUMBER 1076 FROM THE COMFORT OF THEIR HOMES

BHAGWANT MANN SARKAR, TUHADE DWAAR

- The Punjab government will provide hassle-free access to Government 2 Citizen (G2C) services through Door-Step Delivery (DSD).
- The scheme generated more than 4,000 jobs, thereby opening new avenues of employment for the youth.
- From paying bills to receiving pensions, citizens can avail of 43 services at their doorstep by dialling on helpline number 1076, and scheduling an appointment at their convenience.
- The scheme has been launched by the Punjab government to save people from the plight of visiting government offices to get their work done.

In a monumental stride towards citizen-centric governance, the Punjab government, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, has unfurled a groundbreaking initiative 'Bhagwant Mann Sarkar, Tuhade Dwaar'. The visionary scheme, launched in December 2023 by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann aims to provide 43 essential government services directly to the doorsteps of Punjab citizens, heralding a new era of responsive governance.

The 'Bhagwant Mann Sarkar, Tuhade Dwaar' initiative marks a paradigm shift in the delivery of Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services, eliminating red tape and bureaucratic hurdles. At the core of this transformative initiative is the Door-Step Delivery (DSD) mechanism, designed to offer seamless access to critical services, including Certificates of Birth and Deaths, Income, Residence, Caste, Pensions, and Electricity Bill Payments.

To avail themselves of these services, citizens can now dial the dedicated helpline number 1076 and schedule an appointment at their convenience. This strategic move reflects Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's commitment to ensuring hassle-free access to essential services, thereby reinforcing the government's dedication to its citizens. The scheme has been launched to save the people from the plight of visiting government offices to get their work done. Earlier, people had to stand in long queues, take leaves,



skip farm work and even pay money to the middleman to get their work done.

NEW ERA OF RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE

The implementation of the 'Bhagwant Mann Sarkar, Tuhade Dwaar' scheme involves a meticulous process, where citizens are informed of the necessary documents, applicable fees, and other prerequisites for the service they seek. A comprehensive SMS is sent to the citizens, detailing the required documentation and specifying the date and time of their appointment. Trained personnel, known as Sewa Sahayaks, equipped with tablets, visit citizens' homes or offices at the scheduled time. They efficiently handle paperwork, collect fees, and provide an acknowledgment receipt, enabling citizens to track the progress of their

applications. This initiative not only augments the convenience of the people but also tackles the longstanding issue of middlemen, fostering transparency, efficiency, and a truly citizen-centric approach to governance. By bridging the gap between the government and the citizens, the 'Bhagwant Mann Sarkar, Tuhade Dwaar' scheme fosters a sense of inclusivity and empowerment.

REDEFINING GOVERNMENT ACCESSIBILITY

The citizens can access the Door-Step Delivery Service through both Sewa Kendras and the dedicated helpline number 1076, making it an accessible and user-friendly process for all. The deployment of Sewa Sahayaks across the state further ensures that even remote areas benefit from this revolutionary scheme, bringing government services closer to the people.

The 'Bhagwant Mann Sarkar, Tuhade Dwaar' initiative is not merely an administrative reform but a testament to the government's commitment to facilitating routine administrative tasks for the citizens. By streamlining the process and leveraging technology, Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's government has successfully taken a giant leap towards delivering on its promise of responsive governance.

'Bhagwant Mann Sarkar, Tuhade Dwaar' stands as a beacon of progress, embodying the spirit of a government that prioritizes the welfare and convenience of its people. As Punjab welcomes this historic initiative, it sets the stage for a new era where citizens can truly experience the benefits of governance at their doorstep, a transformative journey led by the visionary



The toll-free number 1076 will act as a catalyst for providing the government services to people at their doorstep within a stipulated time period. The Punjab government will regularly keep a tab on the scheme to benefit the common man and end exploitation in government offices. The scheme has been initially launched with 43 services but would soon cover 80 of them.

— Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

43 CITIZEN-CENTRIC SERVICES

- Issuance of Birth/Non-Availability Certificate
- Addition of Name in Birth Certificate
- Multiple Copies of Death Certificate
- Correction in Birth Certificate
- Issuance of Death/Non-Availability Certificate
- Multiple Copies of Birth Certificate
- Delayed Registration of Birth Certificate
- Delayed Registration of Death Certificate
- Correction in Death Certificate
- Registration of Marriage under Punjab Compulsory Registration of Marriage Act
- Registration of Marriage under Anand Marriage Act
- Stipend Performa to the Children of Beneficiaries
- Registration of Construction Worker
- Renewal of Construction Worker Registration
- Residence Certificate
- Issuance of Income certificate
- Affidavit Attestation
- Inspection of Revenue Records
- Certified Copies of Registered & Unregistered Documents (copying service)
- Issuance of Non-Encumbrance Certificate
- Equity Entry of Mortgage
- Fard Generation
- Countersigning of Document
- Indemnity Bond
- Border Area Certificate
- Backward Area Certificate
- Demarcation of land
- Countersigning of Documents of NRI
- Countersigning of Police Clearance Certificate
- Kandi Area Certificate
- Rural Area Certificate
- Caste Certificate SC
- Caste Certificate BC
- Issuance of General Caste Certificate
- Caste Certificate OBC
- Income and Asset Certificate
- Ashirwad (Shagun) Scheme
- Old age Pension Scheme
- Widow/destitute Pension Scheme
- Disabled Person Pension Scheme
- Apply for Disability Certificate and UDID Card
- Dependent Children Pension Scheme
- Electricity Bill Payment

Punjab government adopts new model to run Sewa Kendras

THE ADOPTION OF NEW MODEL TO RUN 538 SEWA KENDRAS ACROSS THE STATE WILL SAVE RS 200 CRORE IN 5 YEARS

In a groundbreaking move to enhance public service delivery and uphold transparency, the Punjab government, under the able leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, has embarked on a visionary initiative to revamp the operation model of Sewa Kendras across the state. The strategic decision not only aligns with the commitment of providing top-class services but is also anticipated to result in substantial savings of Rs 200 crore over the next five years. Traditionally, the Sewa Kendras operated under a revenue-sharing model, but the paradigm shift towards a transaction-based model signals a fresh approach to governance. Making a fresh start, a new service operator has been selected by the Punjab government to manage and maintain 538 Sewa Kendras in the state.

Under the new contract, the operator has been entrusted with the responsibility of providing both IT and non-IT infrastructure, including desktops, computers, scanners, air conditioners, and water coolers – amenities previously supplied by the government. This move not only optimizes resource utilisation but also fosters a more dynamic and responsive system.

One of the pivotal outcomes of this transformative initiative is the introduction of door-step delivery services, a promise championed by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann. The introduction of door-step governance not only simplifies the lives of the residents of Punjab but also contributes significantly to fiscal prudence. By eliminating logistical costs associated with citizens visiting Sewa Kendras in person, the state exchequer is poised to save a substantial Rs 200 crore.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann lays stress upon the long-term impact of this initiative, suggesting that future generations will reflect on today as the turning point when the common man's struggles with unnecessary visits to government offices were decisively addressed. The forward-thinking approach not only exemplifies the government's commitment to good governance but also sets a precedent for other states to consider innovative models for efficient public service delivery.

Punjab's visionary initiative under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann marks a paradigm shift towards citizen-centric governance, embracing technology, transparency, and efficiency for the betterment of the people.



PHOTO BY PUNJAB DPR

REACHING DOOR-TO-DOOR TO HELP CITIZENS





BENGAL LoP SUVENDU SPARKS ROW WITH VULGAR TERM TARGETING RAHUL; CONG FILES COMPLAINT

DIGVIJAYA SAYS HE WON'T CONTEST LOK SABHA POLLS, BUT CONG HOPES HE WILL CHANGE MIND



Tragedy in Kota again: 'Sorry mummy, papa... yehi last option hai'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kota: An 18-year-old JEE aspirant hanged herself in her Kota home on the eve of the test starting Tuesday, making her the second entrance exam candidate to die by suicide in the coaching hub in a week.

The girl, a resident of Kota's Shiv Vihar Colony, scribbled a purported suicide note addressed to her parents, suggesting the pressure of preparing for the exam got her, DSP Dharman Singh said.

"Mummy papa I can't do JEE, so suicide. I am (a) loser, worst daughter. Sorry mummy, papa... yehi last option hai," says the note. A cousin of the girl, the eldest of three sisters, said she was under severe stress. "She had planned to repeat her Class XII exam this year to improve her scores, having performed below her expectations last time. She was a good student and would devote around seven to eight hours to her studies."

The deceased's father works as an armed guard in a private bank. The family hails from Akawdakhurd village of Jhalawar district and has been living in Kota for around three years, DCP Singh said.

On January 23, a 19-year-

Day after MP teen's suicide, parents kill themselves

A day after a 17-year-old boy died by suicide in MP's Gwalior, his parents also killed themselves. Bereaved relatives and neighbours placed the three bodies on the road at Baradari intersection on Monday and staged a protest, demanding the arrest of the suspect named in the man's suicide note and bulldozer action on the accused's house.

The deceased were identified as Jitendra Jha (50), a property dealer, his wife Triveni (47), a school principal, and their son Achal (17), a Class XII student. In a suicide note, Jitendra blamed his business partner Devendra Pathak for his son's suicide, accusing him of "tormenting" Achal and driving him to take the extreme step, police said. Pathak and his family are yet to be traced.

old NEET aspirant from UP's Moradabad district died by suicide in his hostel room. He had been preparing for the exam at an institute in the city for over a year. Kota reported 26 student suicides in 2023.

Make anti-rabies serum available at PHCs: Centre

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New Delhi: The Centre has directed all states and UTs to ensure the availability of anti-rabies serum at all sub-health centres, primary health centres and urban primary health centres. It has stated that financial support will be provided for the procurement of the anti-rabies serum under the National Health Mission.

Anti rabies serum is administered in cases where there is risk of severe exposure after contact with a rabid animal or an animal is presumed to be rabid. It is to be used in conjunction with rabies vac-

cine in severe cases. It costs over Rs 10,000 per dose and, doctors say, isn't available in most primary health centres.

A NHM official in a letter to the states and UTs, stated recently that rabies is a deadly viral infection and availability of medicines for its management and prevention is important to save families from the financial and emotional burden imposed by it. Easy availability of medicines will help in reducing out-of-pocket expenditure borne by patients affected by the disease. The letter also highlighted the need to ensure availability of sickle cell anaemia drug (hydroxyurea), anti-haemophilia factor VII.

CORIGENDUM OF DATE

Name of Work: - RFP for SCADA/DMS Implementation for RDSS works in NDMC
Tender Value : Rs. 114,45,17,000/- Tender ID No.: 2024_NDMC_251667_1

Particulars	Original Date	Revised Date
Bid Submission End Date	30-Jan-2024 15:30 Hrs.	19-Feb-2024 15:30 Hrs.
Bid Opening Date	30-Jan-2024 16:00 Hrs.	19-Feb-2024 16:00 Hrs.

Further details can be seen at <https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in> and <https://www.ndmc.gov.in/tenders.aspx>

Note:- To participate in e-tender in NDMC registration with application services provider NIC is mandatory.

Executive Engineer (E) RDSS

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
232413 006769	Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported) with 4200 GAR of Indonesian origin	12.02.2024

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com/ and www.intenders.gov.in/nicapp/app

DIPR/455/Tender/2024 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person Namely: Unknown, S/o : Unknown, R/o : Unknown, Age : About 55-60 years, Height : 5'7", Complexion : Wheatish, Face: Long, Built : Thin, Hair: White hair with long white beard, Wearing : Black Colour Hoodie T-Shirt & Mahandi Colour Pajama and Bare Footed has been found dead at Asaf Ali Road, LIC HFL, Near Mother Dairy, Kamla Market, Delhi on 24.01.2024. In this regard a case vide DD No. 36A dated 24.01.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours in MAMC Mortuary, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO :
P.S. Kamla Market, Delhi Central Distt., Delhi Tel. No. 011-2323743, 8750870424, 9910780239

DP/1076/CD/2024

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NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Tender No. 0124025. Name of Goods: 4 Quad x 0.9 mm Underground Railway jelly filled Telecom Quad Cables for Signalling and Telecom installations as per RDSO spec No. IRS:TC.30/2005 (ver.1). Earnest Money: ₹293820.00/- Closing date and time of Tender: 29.02.2024, 15:00 Hrs.

Note:- Tender documents can be downloaded from the website address www.irps.gov.in and <https://dfccil.com>. Terms and conditions and other information are shown on website. Any further addendum/corrigendum for this tender will be posted in www.irps.gov.in and <https://dfccil.com>. Manual tenders/offers are not allowed and will not be accepted.

The Company Secretary
M/s. MSPL Limited,
Baloda Enclave, Abheria Baldota Road,
Hospet-523203, Karnataka.
Phone : 08394-232002/3
Email: mspse.sec@m splimited.com

Note-Terms and conditions related to above tender/quotation are available on website <http://www.etender.up.nic.in>

(Nagender Singh Kataria)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
IRRIGATION CONSTRUCTION DIVISION
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Biennial polls for 56 RS seats on Feb 27

Manmohan, Nadda, Vaishnaw, Pradhan Among Those Retiring

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New Delhi: Biennial polls to Rajya Sabha across 15 states on Feb 27 to fill 56 seats of members retiring in April may not change the overall composition of the upper House significantly as the recent assembly election results in three states and existing tallies in others will see major political parties, including BJP, mostly retain their respective seats.

Though BJP will gain two seats in Gujarat, the party may lose two in Uttar Pradesh where 10 seats will go to polls in this round of biennial election. Similarly, a gain of one seat for NDA

in Maharashtra due to splits in Shiv Sena and NCP will not add up to the overall tally as BJP will lose its one seat in Himachal Pradesh. The election in Maharashtra will be keenly watched due to the splits.

Congress, on the other hand, will lose two seats in Gujarat but will gain two in Telangana where those seats are currently held by Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS).

Though the return of JD(U) to the NDA fold on Sunday gave the alliance an advantage of five seats, the majority mark of 120 under the current strength of Rajya Sabha (238) continues to elude the ruling group. NDA's



BJP will have the maximum number of retiring members in April. It is learnt that the saffron party may not repeat many of its members as they may be asked to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls

tally with JD(U) is 114 in the upper House as on Monday.

Prominent members who will retire from Rajya Sabha in April include Union ministers Bhupender Yadav, Ashwini

Vaishnaw, Dharmendra Pradhan, Mansukh Mandaviya and Parshottam Rupala; former Union ministers Prakash Javadekar and J P Nadda (BJP president), and former PM Man-

mohan Singh.

BJP will have the maximum number of retiring members in April. It is learnt that the party may not repeat many of its members as they may be asked to contest the upcoming LS polls.

Uttar Pradesh will have the highest number of vacancies of 10, followed by Maharashtra and Bihar (six each), Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal (five each), Karnataka and Gujarat (four each), Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan (three each), and Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Chhattisgarh (one each).

The nomination process will begin on Feb 8 with the issuance of the notification. Last date for filing nominations will be Feb 15 while the last date for withdrawal of candidature will be Feb 20.

SC transfers to itself Cal HC proceedings in caste cert scam

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New Delhi: Aiming to curb possible escalation of sparring between Calcutta HC judges, the Supreme Court on Monday shifted to itself all proceedings before HC on caste certificate scam in admissions to West Bengal medical colleges but rejected the state's plea to restrain Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay from acting inimical to TMC government.

A bench of CJI D Y Chandrachud, and Justices Sanjiv Khanna, B R Gavai, Surya Kant and Aniruddha Bose ordered immediate transfer of the writ petition pending before Justice Gangopadhyay and the appeal against his order before a bench of Justices Soumen Sen and Uday Kumar to SC.

It took on record WB government's appeal against Justice Gangopadhyay's January 24 and 25 orders, but future proceedings before SC promise a debate between TMC government and its detractors as a NGO working for Scheduled Castes jumped into the fray with a writ petition seeking CBI probe into the alleged large-scale MBBS admissions using forged caste certificates.

Appearing for NGO 'Aikyatan', senior advocate Maninder Singh said the state has admitted that 14 of the 52 admissions to MBBS courses were done using fake certificates and argued that Justice Gangopadhyay had rightly ordered a CBI probe, as was earlier done for investigating scams relating to teachers' recruitment and appointments to municipalities.

The CJI-led bench said, "We would like to have a status report on the current state of investigations by the state police." It asked the state to file affidavit within four weeks.

SC slams Guj cops, magistrate, says they need to be educated

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New Delhi: Taking strong exception to Gujarat police seeking custody of a Surat-based businessman and a magistrate allowing his police remand despite the fact that it had granted anticipatory bail to him, the Supreme Court on Monday said that both the state police and the magistrate "needed to be educated" and also expressed concern over practice of lower court rejecting pre-arrest bail plea without going into the merit of a case.

A bench of Justices B R Gavai and Sandeep Mehta, which had on the last hearing issued contempt notice to top cops of Surat and the magistrate, decided to make Gujarat HC a party in the case and issued notice to it.

At the outset of hearing, solicitor general Tushar Mehta who was accompanied by additional solicitor general S V Raju and Aishwarya Bhati candidly accepted that it was a mistake on the part of authorities which cannot be defended. He said that the concerned police official had been suspended.

"We will have to tell Gujrat HC to send the magistrate to judicial academy," the bench observed. The court said that there is no provision under CrPC allowing police to seek custody when a person had been granted anticipatory bail from higher courts. "It is brought to our notice that there is a practice prevailing in Gujarat that after bail is granted, one line is mentioned to give liberty to IO (investigating officer) to file application for remand. We find that such a condition... defeats the very purpose of Section 438 CrPC," SC said.

Maha Speaker gets till Feb 15 to take call on NCP petitions

Supreme Court on Monday set Feb 15 as the fresh deadline for Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narvekar to decide the petitions filed by Sharad Pawar-led NCP seeking disqualification of Ajit Pawar group's 41 MLAs under anti-defection law for crossing over to the Sena (Shinde)-BJP coalition government, in what could cause political turbulence in the state in the run up to LS polls. On Oct 30 last year, SC had mandated Narvekar to decide cross-petitions of the Uddhab Thackeray and Eknath Shinde factions of Shiv Sena seeking disqualification of 34 MLAs by Dec 31 and NCP's pleas to terminate membership of 41 MLAs of Ajit group by Jan 31.

SG Tushar Mehta, appearing for Speaker, informed SC that Narvekar has fixed final hearing on NCP's disqualification petition for Jan 30 and 31. TNN

Won't interfere with HC order on Naidu's pre-arrest bail: SC

Supreme Court on Monday refused to interfere with Andhra Pradesh HC's order granting anticipatory bail to TDP leader and former CM of the state, M Chandrababu Naidu, in the Inner Ring Road alignment case.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta dismissed the plea of Andhra Pradesh government against the Jan 10 HC order to seek cancellation of pre-arrest bail. The court, however, clarified that observations made in the order will not affect the investigations. The court said that the state would be at liberty to move for cancellation of bail if Naidu does not cooperate with the police. The court upheld the grant of relief to Naidu after noting that another accused in the case was also granted anticipatory bail by the HC and the order was upheld by the SC in 2022. TNN

Hubby kills MP SDM for not making him nominee in a/cs

Jabalpur: Shahpura subdivisional magistrate Nisha Napit (50) was murdered by her husband because she did not include him as a nominee in her service records, insurance policies and bank accounts, police in Madhya Pradesh's Dindori district said Monday. Shahpura is around 55km from the district HQ and 400km east of Bhopal.

Police said Nisha's husband Manish Sharma (45) tried to dodge investigators by claiming that he found her unresponsive after returning from his morning walk but forensic examination and the autopsy busted his lie. Sharma was arrested on Monday and charged with murder.

The couple had met on a matrimonial site and married in October 2020. Nisha had celebrated her 50th birthday barely a month ago. On Monday the preliminary post-mortem report said that Nisha had been smothered with a pillow around 4am Sunday. Police found that the accused had washed a bloodstained bedsheet and the clothes that Nisha and he were wearing at the time of the murder, in a washing machine, SP Patel said. When interrogated, Sharma admitted to the crime, the SP added. TNN

If Tejaswi expresses regret, SC relief likely in defamation case

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday indicated that proceedings against RJD leader Tejaswi Yadav in a defamation case for his remarks on Gujaratis could be quashed if he expressed regret and filed a "proper statement" withdrawing his comments.

A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan granted him one week to file a proper statement in court. Yadav had filed an affidavit in the SC on Jan 19 withdrawing his alleged "Gujarati thugs" remark but the complainant said it was not clear. The court directed him to file a fresh statement. According to the complaint, Yadav, while talking to the media in Patna in March 2023, had said, "Only Gujaratis can be thugs in the present situation, and their fraud will be forgiven. Who will be responsible if they run away with the money belonging to LIC or banks?" TNN

Sachin-funded Hyd co inks deal with Rolls-Royce

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Hyderabad: Sachin Tendulkar-backed Hyderabad company Azad Engineering has padded up for a seven-year innings as producer and supplier of critical engine parts to British aerospace and defence behemoth Rolls-Royce Plc for its military aircraft engines. Azad Engineering informed the bourses

Monday that it has inked an agreement with Rolls-Royce Plc. The components will be manufactured at Azad's facilities in Hyderabad.

The company, which was listed last Dec and has Tendulkar on board as an investor, will join global supply chain for highly complex and critical rotating components for military engines.

Azad Engineering is known for manufacturing high-precision forged and machined zero-defect, life-critical rotating components required in aviation, including civil and defence aircraft and engines.

Azad Engineering founder & CEO Rakesh Chopdar said, "We are honoured to be chosen as a strategic partner by Rolls-Royce... It not only showcases the capabilities of Azad Engineering but also represents a pivotal moment for India's aerospace and defence industry."

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Extract from the Unaudited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results for the Quarter and Nine Months Ended 31st December 2023

IEW
INDIA ENERGY WEEK 2024

SI No.	Particulars	Standalone						Consolidated					
		Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended		Financial Year Ended	Quarter Ended		Nine Months Ended		Financial Year Ended		
		31 st December 2023	31 st December 2022	31 st December 2023	31 st December 2022		31 st March 2023	31 st December 2023	31 st December 2022	31 st December 2023	31 st December 2022		
1	Total Income from Operations	34,253.52	35,380.38	98,303.61	111,443.41	144,301.61	34,767.84	35,939.96	100,666.30	112,610.97	145,875.03		
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	3,693.99	222.67	8,712.80	5,992.94	6,583.81	4,074.77	662.07	9,495.74	6,567.48	7,256.38		
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	3,693.99	222.67	8,712.80	5,992.94	6,583.81	4,074.77	662.07	9,495.74	6,567.48	7,256.38		
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	2,842.62	245.73	6,659.51	4,697.99	5,301.51	3,193.34	397.59	7,428.50	4,953.15	5,595.89		
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	3,044.81	1,012.68	8,295.53	3,954.17	4,464.14	3,334.75	914.82	8,895.63	4,183.30	5,013.35		
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face value of ₹ 10 each)	6,575.10	6,575.10	6,575.10	6,575.10	6,575.10	6,575.10	6,575.10	6,575.10	6,575.10	6,575.10		
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserves)					44,284.44						52,295.70	
8	Securities Premium Account	-	-	-	-	-							
9	Net worth	57,547.86	52,880.78	57,547.86	52,880.78	50,859.54							
10	Outstanding Debt	14,195.16	12,094.80	14,195.16	12,094.80	14,308.74							
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	-	-	-	-	-							
12	Debt Equity Ratio (in times)	0.23	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22							
13	Earnings per share (in ₹) (Face Value of ₹ 10 each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)	4.32	0.37	10.13	7.12	8.04	4.86	0.63	11.30	7.55	8.52		
a) Basic													
b) Diluted													
(EPS for the Quarter and Nine Months not annualised)													
14	Capital Redemption Reserve	126.74	126.74	126.74	126.74	126.74							
15	Debt Service Coverage Ratio (in times)	4.00	1.73	3.39	4.44	3.73							
16	Interest Service Coverage Ratio (in times)	16.46	4.36	12.98	16.89	13.33							

Christian missionaries 'very active... this will stop soon': Chhattisgarh CM

Raipur: Chhattisgarh CM **Vishnu Deo Sai** alleged that Christian missionaries are carrying out conversions under the garb of healthcare and education and warned that his government will stop it.

The CM said Christian missionaries are "very active" in Chhattisgarh and are dominating health and education sectors, resulting in rise in religious conversions. "All this will stop soon and Hindutva will gain strength," he said.



Criticising the CM's statement, Congress communication wing chairperson Sushil Anand Shukla dared BJP government to release a white paper on number of churches built during Congress regime and previous BJP governments. "It will be clear that no church was built during Congress rule. BJP is unnecessarily making religious conversion an issue ahead of Lok Sabha polls," he said. TNN

Govt. of Bihar

Bihar Museum Society, Patna
(An Autonomous Organization under the Department of Art, Culture & Youth, Govt. of Bihar, registered under Societies Registration Act, 21, 1860)

Corrigendum

Tender Notice with PR Number 014448 (Youth & Art) 2023-24, and ID-13293, dated 30.12.2023 for Main Cafeteria, Bihar Museum Society, Patna (An Autonomous Organization under the Department of Art, Culture & Youth, Govt. of Bihar, registered under Societies Registration Act, 21, 1860) as per request by Bidder on pre-bid meeting which was held on 20th January 2024, last date for submission of tender is extended (which was 30.01.2024 up to 03.00 p.m.), now the interested agency can submit tender by 15/02/2024 up to 03.00 p.m. and the technical bid will be opened on 15/02/2024 up to 04.00 p.m.

(Ranbeer Singh Rajput)
Additional Director-Admin (i/c)
Bihar Museum

नशामुक्त हो जाए विहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

Govt. of Bihar

SOUTH BIHAR POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(Registered Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna -800021)

A Govt. Of Bihar Undertaking (DEPARTMENT OF O&M)
CIN-U40109BR2012SCG018890

(Through e-procurement mode only -www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Short Tender Inviting Notice

Online tender is being invited by Chief Engineer (O&M) SBPDCL invites Request for Proposals (RFP) for appointing an agency for staffing of Customer Care Executives and Supervisor/Manager/IT Supervisor/Call Quality Auditor/Trainer for Customer Care Centre and Suvidha agents at Electrical supply division offices for a period of two years. Details are as below:-

SL NO	NIT NO.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In INR)	Cost of EMD (In INR)	Cost RFP Document (In INR)	Bid Processing Fee (In INR)
1	17/PR/SBPD CL/2024	Request for Proposals (RFP) for appointing an agency for staffing of Customer Care Executives and Supervisor/Manager/IT Supervisor/Call Quality Auditor/Trainer for Customer Care Centre and Suvidha agents at Electrical supply division offices for a period of two years	12,14,58,264	24.30 lacs	29,500/- (25,000+GST @ 18% i.e 4500)	As per eproc2

The Time line for the above tender is as follows:

Bid submission start date :	From 01/02/2024, 11:00Hrs
Bid submission due date (Last Date):	Up to 15/02/2024, 18:00Hrs
Date of Opening of Technical & Commercial Part (Part-I)	On 16/02/2024, 15:00Hrs onwards
Date of Pre Bid Meeting:	On 06/02/2024, 14.30Hrs

* The details are available at the website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in,

* Date of opening of price part: To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation

Toll Free Number: 1800 572 6571

Email Id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in

Working Hours: 8AM to 7PM (All days in week except few selected state holidays)

Note- (1) Subsequent information / notification/ corrigendum will be available only on website of EPROC and/or SBPDCL i.e www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and/or www.sbpdc.co.in.

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

PR- 16110 (B & C) 2023-24

**Chief Engineer (O&M)
SBPDCL**

नशो से बचने की दृष्टि है, क्योंकि परिवार ज़रूरी है

Govt. of Bihar

SOUTH BIHAR POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(Registered Office: Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna -800021)
A Govt. Of Bihar Undertaking (DEPARTMENT OF O&M)
CIN-U40109BR2012SCG018890

(Through e-procurement mode only -www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in)

Short Tender Inviting Notice

Online tender is being invited by Chief Engineer (O&M) SBPDCL for Design, Development, Deployment & Operations support for Integrated Omni-Channel CRM system for Customer Complaint Handling Activities being done by North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (NBPDCL) and South Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (SBPDCL) for a period of 2 Years post Go Live and extendable by another 3 years based on satisfactory performance of the selected bidder for operations support on a year-to-year basis.,Details are as below:-

SL NO	NIT NO.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In INR)	Cost of EMD (In INR)	Cost of BOQ/Tender Document (In INR)	Bid Processing Fee (In INR)
1	16/PR/SBPDCL /2024	Design, Development, Deployment & Operations support for Integrated Omni-Channel CRM system for Customer Complaint Handling Activities being done by North Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (NBPDCL) and South Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited (SBPDCL) for a period of 2 Years post Go Live and extendable by another 3 years based on satisfactory performance of the selected bidder for operations support on a year-to-year basis	23,94,71,781	33,95,000	11,800/10,000 +GST@18%	As per eproc2

The Time line for the above tender is as follows:

Bid submission start date :	From 31/01/2024, 11:00Hrs
Bid submission due date (Last Date):	Up to 15/02/2024, 18:00Hrs
Date of Opening of Technical & Commercial Part (Part-I)	On 16/02/2024, 15:00Hrs onwards
Date of Pre Bid Meeting:	On 06/02/2024, 12.00Hrs

* The details are available at the website www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in,

* Date of opening of price part: To be notified after Technical Bid Evaluation

Bid Processing fee and cost of tender are mandatory to be paid through online mode i.e internet payment gateway (Credit/Debit cards),Net banking, NEFT/RTGS. Bids along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-payment portal www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in before date and time specified in the NIT. The department does not take any responsibility for the delay/Non Submission of tender/Non Reconciliation of online payment caused due to Non-availability of Internet Connection, network Traffic/Holiday or any other reason.

Tender documents must be accompanied with scan copy of Bank Guarantee towards Bids security(EMD) in favour of "Sr. Manager (F&A),SBPDCL, Patna" payable at Patna. Acknowledgement of online payment of cost of BOQ & bid processing fee and Original Bank guarantee towards bids securities (EMD) must be submitted to Chief Engineer(O&M) SBPDCL,Vidyut Bhawan, Patna positively up to 14:00 hrs of 16/02/2024, failing which the bidder will not be eligible.

Notice -- For queries related to tender email on ceomsbpdcl22@gmail.com

Toll Free Number: 1800 572 6571

Email Id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in

Working Hours: 8AM to 7PM (All days in week except few selected state holidays)

Note- (1) Subsequent information / notification/ corrigendum will be available only on website of EPROC and/or SBPDCL i.e www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in and/or www.sbpdc.co.in.

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

नशो से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार।

Cops cut short seer's Gyanvapi march

Curbs Can Be Imposed On Entering Fenced Area But Parikrama From Outside Should Be Allowed: Seer

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Varanasi: District administration stopped Jyotishpeeth Shankaracharya Swami Avimuktеш्वरानन्द Saraswati's bid to march to the Gyanvapi complex on Monday to perform a circumambulation of the "original Vishwanath".

Senior police and administration officers said the seer had not taken permission and could not be allowed to perform circumambulation of the complex.

The Shankaracharya has fil-

ed a petition seeking regular worshipping rights after claims that a 'Shivling' was purportedly recovered from the wuzukhana (ablution pond) during a court-mandated survey in May 2022.

Bhelupur ACP Atul Anjan Tripathi & Dashaswamedh ACP Ashwadheen informed the seer that if he wants to perform a circumambulation, he will have to seek permission from district administration and police.

In view of the seer's call, heavy police force was deployed at Shri Vidya Mutt, in Kedarnath



Shankaracharya Avimuktеш्वरानन्द and his supporters being stopped by police from entering the Gyanvapi complex in Varanasi on Monday

area, on Monday. When the seer and his disciples tried to come out, police stopped them, leading to a heated argument between the seer and the ACPS. Finally pacified, the seer decided to seek per-

mission and went back.

The seer said he had been visiting Gyanvapi for 40 years for circumambulation and many Samantras practise it as priests are not allowed to offer prayers to deities

inside Gyanvapi. "I have been doing the parikrama for years. After becoming Shankaracharya, it was the first time I was going for circumambulation. Restrictions could be imposed on entering the fenced area but parikrama from outside should be allowed," the seer said.

The seer said the purported 'Shivling' found in the wuzukhana is Lord Adi Visheshwaranand cannot be left without daily worship.

In his suit, he sought regular worship of the purported 'Shivling' on grounds that it is the right of the deity to be worshipped every day. His petition was filed before the court of civil judge (senior division). In April 2023, it was transferred to the court of district judge and clubbed with six other Gyanvapi-related cases.

ASI report a bid to set false narrative, says Muslim side

Rajeev.Dikshit
timesgroup.com

Varanasi: Gyanvapi mosque management committee, Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, has disapproved of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) report on scientific study and survey of the mosque, terming it "an attempt to set a false narrative".

"How can it be claimed that it was a grand Hindu temple only?" Varanasi had also been a major centre of Buddhists, and after the arrival of Shankaracharya, Buddhists were compelled to migrate," Yaseen said, adding that it should also be studied whether any Buddhist monastery or temple existed here to learn the real history. If the city is excavated, many facts of Buddhists and Jains could also be found, he added.

Based on history available with AIM, it claimed that the mosque was constructed in three phases starting in 15th century CE.

In the first detailed reaction to the ASI report after its opening on Jan 25, AIM joint secretary SM Yaseen said, "A detailed study of the report is being done by legal experts and historians. But, after an initial study, we have reached the conclusion that the facts and findings of the report are not very different from court commissioner survey conducted in May 2022."

"As per history available with us, a rich man of Jaunpur, Sheikh Sulemani Moaddadi, had built the mosque on open land in Gyanvapi between 804-42 Hijri (at the beginning of the 15th century). After that, Mughal emperor Akbar initiated expansion of

the mosque as per the philosophy of Din-i-Ilahi and the ruins of the western wall are part of the same construction," he said, adding that Aurangzeb ensured further expansion in the 17th century.

"How can it be claimed that it was a grand Hindu temple only?" Varanasi had also been a major centre of Buddhists, and after the arrival of Shankaracharya, Buddhists were compelled to migrate," Yaseen said, adding that it should also be studied whether any Buddhist monastery or temple existed here to learn the real history. If the city is excavated, many facts of Buddhists and Jains could also be found, he added.

Despite SC order for a non-invasive scientific study, ASI dug up many areas, claimed Yaseen. He said GPR can help indicate possibility of any structure at any place, but based on outcomes of studies done through it claims of a grand Hindu temple are being made.

Yaseen said AIM will challenge the report and keep contesting cases, whenever they are filed, to protect the mosque. "We have full faith in the Constitution and judiciary," said Yaseen.

Mandy/Bengaluru: Protests intensified on Monday over removal of a saffron flag bearing Lord Hanuman's image from a 108-ft post at Keragodu in Karnataka's Mandya, with locals and right-wing activists demanding the "Hanuman dhawaja" be restored.

Police had resorted to mild lathi-charge on Sunday to disperse a restive crowd after the flag was brought down and replaced with the Tricolour by local authorities in the state. CM Siddaramaiah said the authorities had to intervene as permission was granted only to hoist the national and Kannada flags.

Fatwa issued against me for attending Ayodhya event: Imam

Chief imam of All India Imam Organisation on Monday said a fatwa was issued against him for attending the consecration ceremony at Ram temple in Ayodhya. Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi said he has been getting abusive & threatening phone calls since Jan 22. The fatwa asks "me to tender an apology and resign", he said. PTI

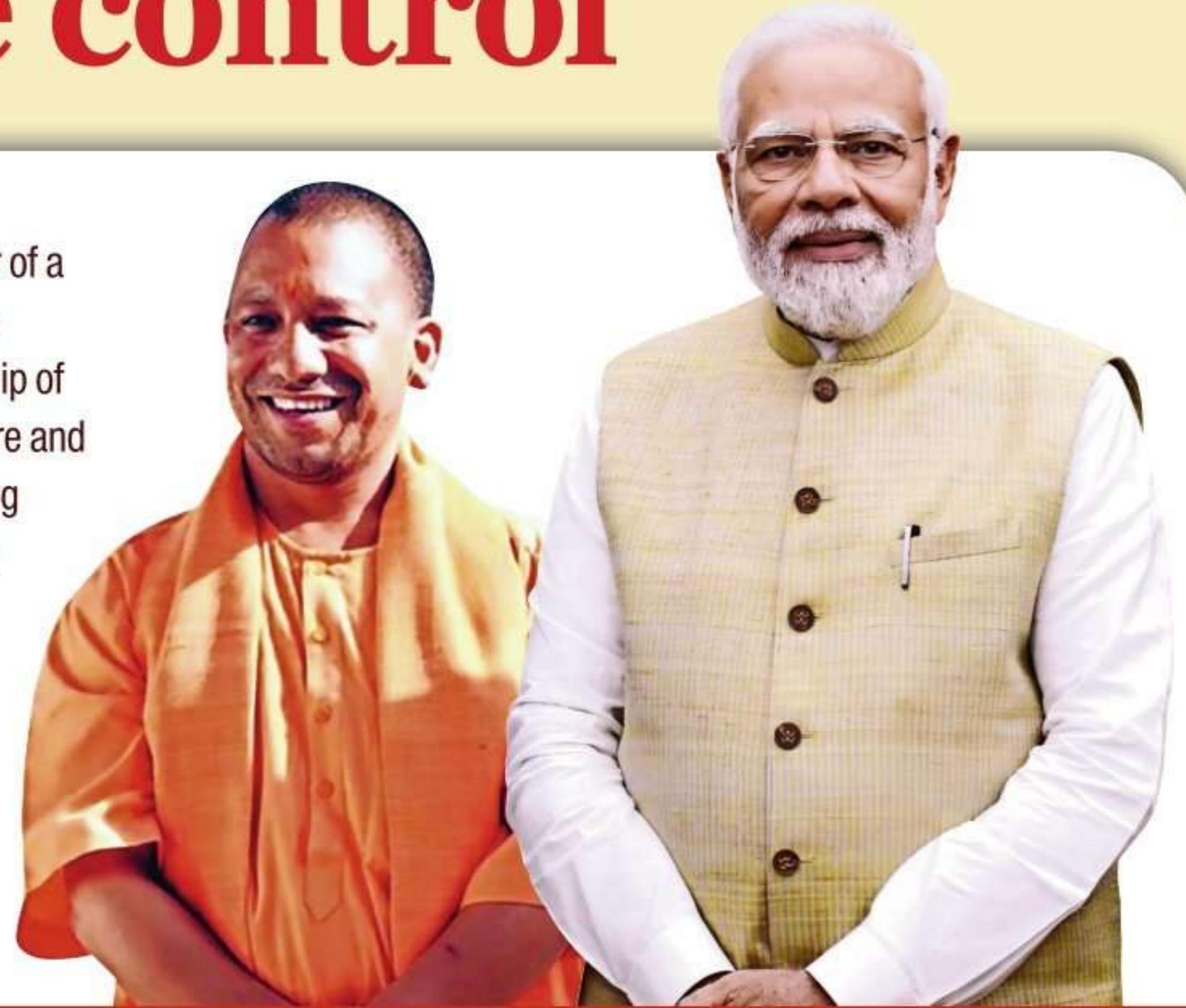
Police on Monday kept the situation from boiling over in Keragodu. Section 144 was clamped to restrict gatherings and barricades were put up around the flagpole.

The flag row unfurled a political slugfest. The CM accused BJP and JD(S) of trying to instigate people ahead of the Lok Sabha elections. Responding to accusations, Siddaramaiah said: "I'm a Hindu. I love people from all religions. What is said in the Constitution? Coexistence & tolerance. I believe in it."

But ex-CM and senior BJP MLA Basavaraj Bommai accused Congress government of indulging in "appeas

Protecting and serving: Uttar Pradesh's effective model of crime control

Every citizen deserves a crime-free society, and law and order is the key pillar of a secure, prospering, and civilised nation. With a 'zero tolerance' policy towards crimes and criminals, Uttar Pradesh government, under the dynamic leadership of CM Yogi Adityanath, has been successful in building a new landscape of secure and crime-free living over the last seven years. From its iron-hand policy to tackling organised crime with a relentless crackdown on mafia, to implementing laws to put a leash on rioters, the CM Yogi Adityanath-led government has been on a reformation spree. And it's not just about pure statistics; it's also about perception. From being a crime-infested heartland of the country, which would drive away investors, Uttar Pradesh has now emerged as a 'sunrise' destination and as one of the most preferred hubs for investors, where big business houses are willing to put their money and are thriving.



- Due to good law and order, renowned companies of the country and the world are now coming to invest in UP, and actively participated in the UP Global Investors Summit held in February 2023. Uttar Pradesh received investment proposals worth more than Rs 40 lakh crore



- The latest data of NCRB confirms the strengthened law and order situation in UP. National figures point out that compared to many states, there has been a significant reduction in criminal incidents in Uttar Pradesh
- The state government is also working on a war-footing to bring the 'Safe City' project on the ground. Under the first phase of the Safe City project, as many as 21,968 cameras are being installed for integrating 17 municipal corporations and Gautam Buddha Nagar. Of these, 15,732 have been integrated with the control room. Due to complete CCTV surveillance of cities, the number of crimes has reduced, and investigations have become faster
- Regular meetings of the District Monitoring Committee (comprising DM, SP/SSP, commissioner, and district judge) to be encouraged to ensure the timely filing of chargesheets
- Implementation of police commissionate system in Lucknow in 2020 opened a new chapter in better management of law-and-order situation in UP
- UP has commissionate system in Agra, Ghaziabad, Prayagraj, Lucknow, Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida), Varanasi and Kanpur



- State police headquarters has also adopted latest technologies and systems, such as CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems), UP 112 emergency helpline service, digitisation of police records, online FIR, improved surveillance systems, and the

formation of specialised units like the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS), Special Task Force (STF), and Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF)

- UP is also way ahead in meting out punishment for crimes related to women in comparison to other states. Effectively resolving cases related to crimes against women and children, with an exceptional 98.20% disposal rate and ranks first in the country
- 7,276 criminals convicted under the POCSO Act and crimes against women
- Formation of Women and Child Security Organisation
- Establishment of women police station and additional deployment of female Station House Officers (SHOs) in police stations in each district
- 1,55,623 police personnel recruited — 15,130 women police posted across 1,518 police stations, out of which 10,378 allotted women beats



- The Anti Romeo Squad has conducted a total of 2,95,55,522 checks. Out of this, warning issued to 1,14,82,892 persons, and legal action taken against 29,375 individuals
- Formation of 3 women PAC battalions (Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Badaun)
- Establishment of 79 women police counselling centres in 74 districts, status of police stations granted to them in the state
- Provisions to facilitate safe escort of women to their desired destination seeking assistance, during 10 PM to 6 AM
- The integration of Women Power Line 1090, GRP, fire service and Women Helpline 181 services
- Gangster Act imposed against 71,476 criminals and NSA against 897 criminals
- Properties worth more than an estimated value of Rs 12,402 crore seized under the Gangster Act, including both movable and immovable assets
- Illegally acquired assets of Rs 3,758 crore seized from mafias and criminals
- Illegal encroachments freed from gangsters being used by the UP government to build houses for the poor

- A total of 711 case registered against 1,197 members and associates of 68 identified mafia groups at the state level
- 18 regional cyber-crime police stations operational, indicating a focused approach for combating cyber-crime. To provide further impetus, decision to establish cyber-crime police stations in remaining 57 districts



- Cyber cell is operational in all 75 districts and an advanced cyber forensic lab established at the Cyber Crime Headquarters in Lucknow
- The cyber help desk is operational in 1,653 police stations across the state. An amount of Rs 79.63 crore has been frozen or held up in respective banks since 2017 through helpline 1930
- Establishment of UP State Institute of Forensic Science, Lucknow. It is a first-of-its-kind institute that provides modern facilities and technology in the field of scientific crime investigation
- Approval of additional 126 police stations, 116 outposts, 7 women police stations, 4 economic offenses units, 16 cyber-crime stations, 10 branches of vigilance establishment, 6 narcotics police station, 90 fire stations and 3 water police outposts



- 75 anti-human trafficking units upgraded into police stations for effective control of human trafficking incidents
- 27 special courts constituted under the Prevention of Corruption Act
- Establishment of the Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force dedicated to safeguard important installations
- New field units of ATS formed in Deoband, Bahraich, Aligarh, Kanpur and other districts

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited, Jaipur
D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax No. 0141-2228065 E-mail : edepmmsc-ri@nic.in
No. F-8(RMSC/EPMM-M-4/NIB-818/2022-23/1003 Dated: 24.01.2024

NOTICE INVITING BID
Bid for item Plastic Bags 15 Litres (Red, Black, Yellow) And Plastic Bags 25 Litres (Red, Black, Yellow) are invited from interested bidders up to Date: 12-02-2024 : 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website "https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in" or "www.dipronline.org" or "https://proc.rajasthan.gov.in" or website "http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in". UBN: MSC2324GLRC00125
Raj Samvad/C/23/12371 Executive Director (EPM)

UJVN Limited
(An Uttaranchal Govt. Enterprises)
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharanji Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866
Website: www.ujvn.com

Ro. No. 136 e-Tender Notice Dated 29/01/2024
The office of Executive Engineer (E&M), Pashulok Barrage, Rishikesh invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:-
e-Tender No. 13/EE(E&M)/PB/2023-24
Name of work/supply/services etc. : Procurement of electrical accessories for colonies and Virbhadrar Barrage, Pashulok, Rishikesh.
Estimated cost : Rs.13,80,795/- + GST Extra
Date of availability of bid document on website: 30/01/2024 from 17:00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of bids on website: 19/02/2024 Up to 15:00 Hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in>" Executive Engineer (E&M)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

STORES E-PROCUREMENT
Tender Notice No.: S/36/2023-24; Dated: 24-01-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-

SN. 1; Tender No. 50/23/5044A/OT/269/2023-24;**Closing/ Opening Date: 09-02-2024**

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Supply, transportation, installation, testing and commissioning of MSDAC for mentioned DP as per SIP for the purpose of TCs, complete system including central evaluators, processors, final track clearance relays form each track section, reset boxes, Monitoring consoles. Diagnostic PC/laptop of suitable configuration LV Boxes, detection points, mushroom housing for track side electronic, deflector plate and all other accessories for successful commissioning, as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/SPN/176/2013 (ver. 3) or latest, specification of OEM/manufacturer and as per TS given in Annexure-A. NOTE : Dual detections to be provided with complete redundancy for all other equipments as well as communication media. (Rate to be quoted per DIP) (Inspection Authority- RDSO) Per DP = 01 No. Qty - 137 Nos for Sr. Section Engineering SIG/Fakiragram Jn., NFR (Assam). Item code no. - 5604N033.

SN. 2; Tender No. 30/23/5065/OT/270/2023-24;**Closing/ Opening Date: 14-02-2024**

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: UIC type Rubber Vestibule. Mat Spec., RDSO spec.-RDSO/2007/CG-05 with (Rev-01) RDSO Drawing. SK - 99056, item-2, to 14 & 25 alt-3 & SK-99057, item-8, Alt-2. (1) Qty- 3 Set for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). (2) Qty- 30 Set for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/Depot, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-30254115.

SN. 3; Tender No. 30/23/1276/OT/271/2023-24;**Closing/ Opening Date: 05-02-2024**

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Lateral Bump Stop, LHB as per Drg No. RCF/LW05104, alt-d. (1) Qty- 1000 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/ Depot, NFR (Assam). (2) Qty- 1000 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/ Depot, NFR (Assam). P. L. No. - 33681818.

SN. 4; Tender No. 10/24/4532/OT/272/2023-24;**Closing/ Opening Date: 09-02-2024**

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Repair Kit for Compressor OVH (Condition based change including - 42 items) as given below. (Qty in per set) 1. Oil Level Rod to EMD Pt No. 8468582, Qty- 1 No. 2. Screw to EMD Pt No. 8102043, Qty- 1 No. 3. Nut Crank Shaft to EMD Pt No. 8083551, Qty- 1 No. 4. Big Roller to EMD Pt No. 8083552, Qty- 2 Nos. 5. Plate Brdg Cover to EMD Pt No. 8083556, Qty- 1 No. 6. Shim 0.005 Inch Thick to EMD Pt No. 8083557, Qty- 6 Nos. 7. Shim 0.007 Inch Thick to EMD Pt No. 8083558, Qty- 6 Nos. 8. Shim 0.010 Inch Thick to EMD Pt No. 8083559, Qty- 4 Nos. 9. Bolt Hex HD 5/8-11 to EMD Pt No. 271556, Qty- 6 Nos. 10. Ring Retaining to EMD Pt No. 9311031, Qty- 1 No. 11. Ring Piston to EMD Pt No. 9311032, Qty- 2 Nos. 12. Ring Oil Intro to EMD Pt No. 9311033, Qty- 1 No. 13. Seal Oil to EMD Pt No. 8341228, Qty- 1 No. 14. Gasket LP & HP Cyl to EMD Pt No. 8204460, Qty- 3 Nos. 15. Gasket Head to Cylinder to EMD Pt No. 40055479, Qty- 2 Nos. 16. Bolt 5/8-11 to EMD Pt No. 8442579, Qty- 16 Nos. 17. Gasket Water Flange to EMD Pt No. 40083398, Qty- 2 Nos. 18. Piston Ring Assly LP to EMD Pt No. 40017902, Qty- 2 Nos. 19. Ring Piston LP Compression to EMD Pt No. 8267599, Qty- 4 Nos. 20. Bolt Assly Con Rod to EMD Pt No. 8363799, Qty- 6 Nos. 21. Bolt Drilled Hex Hd 1/2-20x2 to EMD Pt No. 8063255, Qty- 3 Nos. 22. Bearing Con Rod to EMD Pt No. 8083586, Qty- 6 Nos. 23. Hex Lock 5/8-11 to EMD Pt No. 107812, Qty- 6 Nos. 24. Washer Lock 3/4 to EMD Pt No. 8282734, Qty- 12 Nos. 25. Gasket HP Cyl HD to EMD Pt No. 4005203, Qty- 1 No. 26. Bolt Hex HD 5/8-11x5-3/4 to EMD Pt No. 272552, Qty- 4 Nos. 27. Gasket Inspection Plate to EMD Pt No. 9572075, Qty- 2 Nos. 28. Bearing Roller HP Cyl to EMD Pt No. 842202, Qty- 2 Nos. 29. Ring Retaining to EMD Pt No. 274621, Qty- 4 Nos. 30. Piston Ring Assly HP to EMD Pt No. 40017904, Qty- 1 No. 31. Ring Piston HP to EMD Pt No. 8267600, Qty- 3 Nos. 32. Screw Set 5/8-11x2-1/2 to EMD Pt No. 138878, Qty- 2 Nos. 33. Nut Hex 5/8-11 to EMD Pt No. 8038969, Qty- 3 Nos. 34. Plunger Lower Unloader to EMD Pt No. 8057791, Qty- 2 Nos. 35. Spring to EMD Pt No. 8057790, Qty- 3 Nos. 36. Plunger Lower Unloader to EMD Pt No. 8057452, Qty- 1 No. 37. Spring to EMD Pt No. 8120265, Qty- 4 Nos. 38. Nut Hex 3/8-16 Crown to EMD Pt No. 8083324, Qty- 3 Nos. 39. Set Screw 5/8-16x2-1/4 to EMD Pt No. 138722, Qty- 3 Nos. 40. Set Screw 5/8-11x2-1/4 to EMD Pt No. 138877, Qty- 1 No. 41. Gasket Brdg End to EMD Pt No. 8083555, Qty- 1 No. 42. Stud Oil Filter to EMD Pt No. 9311036, Qty- 1 No. Qty- 6 Set for Siliguri Jn./Depot, NFR (West Bengal). P.L. No. - 16857124.

SN. 5; Tender No. 60/23/5065/OT/273/2023-24;**Closing/ Opening Date: 08-02-2024**

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: (1) Supply, fitment & Commissioning of Bogie Load Testing Machine on turnkey basis along with all concomitant accessories and tools. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No. -650304340012. (2) Cost of concomitant accessories. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No. -65030434. (3) AMC for 5 years. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No. -65030434. (4) Cost of any other accessory. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No. -65030436. (5) Cost of turnkey charges. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No. -65030437. (6) Cost of preventive maintenance. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No. -65030438. (7) Optional accessories with breakup. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No. -65030439. (8) Consumables. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No. -65030440. (9) Spares for two years. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No. -65030441.

SN. 6; Tender No. 10/24/3661/OT/274/2023-24;**Closing/ Opening Date: 22-02-2024**

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Bearing adapter assembly for WDG4 as per EMD Part no- 40074918. (1) Qty- 50 Nos for Siliguri Jn./Diesel/ Depot, NFR (West Bengal). (2) Qty- 12 Nos for New Guwahati/Depot, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-1702020.

SN. 7; Tender No. 60/23/5064/OT/275/2023-24;**Closing/ Opening Date: 08-02-2024**

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: (1) Supply installation and commissioning of Rotary Screw Electrical Driven Air Compressor Cap: 500 CFM, 10 Kg/cm sq. on turnkey basis. Details attached in terms and conditions. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-650506290019. (2) AMC for 5 years. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-65050629. (3) Cost of concomitant accessories. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-65050630. (4) Cost of any other accessory. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-65050631. (5) Cost of turnkey charges. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-65050632. (6) Cost of preventive maintenance during 1st and 2nd year. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-65050633. (7) Optional accessories with breakup of individual items. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-65050634. (8) Consumables. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-65050635. (9) Spares for 2 years. Qty- 1 Set for SSE/MWS/DBWS, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.-65050636.

NOTE:- For full details of Tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.reps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

PCMM/ Maligaon

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile".

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
PUBLIC HEALTH AND MUNICIPAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

INT:73/TUFIDC/UNIT-II/AMRUT2.0/NLG/KNM/2023-24, Date:29.01.2024

Name of the work: MA & UD - PHMED: Water Supply Projects in 26 ULBs under AMRUT 2.0 under the jurisdiction of (Nalgonda and Khamman PH Divisions) in Package-II, Total Cost: Rs.175.36 Crores. Bid Submission Start Date: 30.01.2024 @ 11:00 AM; Bid Submission Closing Date: 06.02.2024 @ 04:30 PM.

For details visit <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> Contact No.- 8978261291, 9160042233.

Sd/-
Superintendent Engineer (PH)
TUFIDC, UNIT-II, NALGONDA

DIPR R.O. No.: 809-DPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2023-24, Date: 29-01-2024

Dated: 24.01.2024

NOTICE INVITING BID

Bid for item Plastic Bags 15 Litres (Red, Black, Yellow) And Plastic Bags 25 Litres (Red, Black, Yellow) are invited from interested bidders up to Date: 12-02-2024 : 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website "https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in" or "www.dipronline.org" or "https://proc.rajasthan.gov.in" or website "http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in". UBN: MSC2324GLRC00125

Raj Samvad/C/23/12371 Executive Director (EPM)

GMDC

RFP for Selection of Facility Management Agency for GMDC's Akrimota Thermal Power Plant project facility in Kutch , Gujarat

E-Tender Notice:- RFP/Facilities Management/01/GMDC LTD./2023-24

GMDC is a leading Public Sector Mining and Minerals Company of Gujarat with operational experience of over 60 years. GMDC intends to Select Facilities Management Agency for Providing Catering, Housekeeping and Laundry services at Akrimota Thermal Power Plant project facilities in Kutch, Gujarat. Interested parties shall download RFP from below mentioned website from 29/01/2024 and submit their proposal online on <https://gmdc.nprocure.com> on or before 19/02/2024 up-to 15:00 hrs.

For Further Details Please visit our Website www.gmdctld.com and <https://gmdc.nprocure.com>

Executive Engineer (E&M)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No.: S/36/2023-24; Dated: 24-01-2024. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-

SN. 1; Tender No. 50/23/5044A/OT/269/2023-24;**Closing/ Opening Date: 09-02-2024**

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Supply, transportation, installation, testing and commissioning of MSDAC for mentioned DP as per SIP for the purpose of TCs, complete system including central evaluators, processors, final track clearance relays form each track section, reset boxes, Monitoring consoles. Diagnostic PC/laptop of suitable configuration LV Boxes, detection points, mushroom housing for track side electronic, deflector plate and all other accessories for successful commissioning, as per RDSO Specification No. RDSO/SPN/176/2013 (ver. 3) or latest, specification of OEM/manufacturer and as per TS given in Annexure-A. NOTE : Dual detections to be provided with complete redundancy for all other equipments as well as communication media. (Rate to be quoted per DIP) (Inspection Authority- RDSO) Per DP = 01 No. Qty - 137 Nos for Sr. Section Engineering SIG/Fakiragram Jn., NFR (Assam). Item code no. - 5604N033.

SN. 2; Tender No. 30/23/1276/OT/271/2023-24;**Closing/ Opening Date: 05-02-2024**

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Lateral Bump Stop, LHB as per Drg No. RCF/LW05104, alt-d. (1) Qty- 1000 Nos for Dibrugarh Town/Workshop/ Depot, NFR (Assam). (2) Qty- 1000 Nos for New Bongaigaon/Workshop/ Depot, NFR (Assam). P. L. No.-33681818.

SN. 3; Tender No. 30/23/1276/OT/271/2023-24;**Closing/ Opening Date: 05-02-2024**

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Repair Kit for Compressor OVH (Condition based change including - 42 items) as given below. (Qty in per set) 1. Oil Level Rod to EMD Pt No. 8468582, Qty- 1 No. 2. Screw to EMD Pt No. 8102043, Qty- 1 No. 3. Nut Crank Shaft to EMD Pt No. 8083551, Qty- 1 No. 4. Big Roller to EMD Pt No. 8083552, Qty- 2 Nos. 5. Plate Brdg Cover to EMD Pt No. 8083556, Qty- 1 No. 6. Shim 0.005 Inch Thick to EMD Pt No. 8083557, Qty- 6 Nos. 7. Shim 0.007 Inch Thick to EMD Pt No. 8083558, Qty- 6 Nos. 8. Shim 0.010 Inch Thick to EMD Pt No. 8083559, Qty- 4 Nos. 9. Bolt Hex HD 5/8-11 to EMD Pt No. 271556, Qty- 6 Nos. 10. Ring Retaining to EMD Pt No. 9311

Joshimath area highly unstable: GSI report

Sanjay Dutta | TNN

New Delhi: A sudden outburst of silt-laden water from Jaypee colony at Marwari, located in the lower part of the Joshimath slope, led to ground fissures and cracks last year in the Uttarakhand pilgrim town spanning the localities of Marwari, Singhdhar, Manoharbagh and Sunil Gaon, the final Geological Survey of India report on land subsidence in the area said.

The burst of water was triggered by a breach in a water body perched at shallow depth close to the surface. The report said leakage from drilling of a tunnel for NTPC's 520 MW Tapovan-Vishnugad hydel project had no relation with it. In 2010, a multi-disciplinary team under the then Chamoli district magistrate too had found no evidence of the tunnel work inducing instability in the Joshimath area. The tunnel was completed in 2011.

Residents and activists opposed to hydel projects, however, had blamed the tunnel for the subsidence seen between Jan 2 and Jan 8 last year. A state government assessment report, prepared by a multi-disciplinary team of experts, had in Sept said 1,403

TOP 5 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 New construction should not be allowed
 - 2 Strictly regulate construction activities in Auli and upper part of hill slopes
 - 3 Avoid road-widening activities along Joshimath-Auli road
 - 4 Areas between Sunil Gaon, Manoharbagh, Singhdhar and Marwari be left without any construction of buildings and developed only as a green belt
 - 5 Develop area-wise site-specific surface and underground drainage network and connect them to main cross-drainage network
- | | |
|---|---|
| Low-risk zone
► Part of Sunil ward, Ravidram and banks of Alaknanda river | High-risk zone
► Sunil, Marwari, Manoharbagh, Singhdhar, Upper Bazar, Lower Bazar and Gandhinagar wards |
|---|---|

Government of Madhya Pradesh Office of the Engineer-in-Chief Water Resources Department, Jai Sansadhan Bhawan, Tulsi Nagar, Bhopal (M.P.) Email Id: ceproc.enccrd.bpl@nic.in Tel: 0755-2767635 Fax: 0755-2552406			
N.I.T. No. 1048/2023-24/E-In-C/e-tendering		Bhopal, Dated 24.01.2024	
Bids for following works are invited on website https://www.mptenders.gov.in Last Date of purchase/download of Bid Document and submission of bid is 16-02-2024, 17:30 hrs. Any amendment/modification can be seen only on the website. Detailed N.I.T. and other details can be viewed on above mentioned website.			
S. No.	Tender No.	Work	District Amount (Lakhs)
1.	2024-WRD-328178	On Turnkey Basis:- Construction of Kabulpur (Kamardipur) pressurized pipe system in 3100Ha, and Gagorani Barrage (with gates) on Lakhunder river, as per detailed scope of work but not limited that.	Shajapur 5568.02

कोरोना में सावधानी हरी, समझो दृष्टना घटी। G-23522/23 Chief Engineer (Procurement)

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (UP)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.in

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firm for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.in & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

A Fresh Tender Work:

S. Job No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (Rs. Lacs)
1. 34/DGM/SM (WC-4)/ET/2023-24	Widening of Road (Widening of 18.00 mtr. wide road along green belt from J-32 to G-314, Sector-63), Noida.	139.56
2. 59/DGM/SM (WC-10)/ET/2023-24	D/o Sector- 151 (C/o boundary wall for Kisan Kota Plots in Sector-151) Noida	181.15
3. 60/DGM/SM (WC-10)/ET/2023-24	Strengthening of 30.00 mtr. road in front of Plot no. SC-02/A9 and SC-02/L adjacent to Pusta Road in Sector-150 Noida	193.14
4. 61/DGM/SM (WC-10)/ET/2023-24	D/o Sector-148 (C/o M/o footpath work and repair of Tiles Work on 45.00 mtr. wide road from E.S.S. to G.S.T. Office in Sector-148), Noida.	193.96
5. 62/DGM/SM (WC-10)/ET/2023-24	D/o Sector-145 to 147 (C/o Central Verge on 45.00 mtr. wide road from Metro line towards Railway track side in sector-147), Noida.	123.75
6. 35/DGM/SM (WC-6)/2023-24	Development of Sector-112 (Improvement of road Patries in 9m and 12m wide road in Sector-112), Noida	164.11
7. 43/DGM/SM (WC-6)/2023-24	Construction of Road, Drain and Culvert in Sector-75, 76, 77, 78 and 79 (Construction of Damaged Drain and Raising/ Repairing and Fixing of RCC Drain Cover on road between Sector-74 and 75), Noida	156.48
8. 44/DGM/SM (WC-6)/2023-24	M/o Road (Misc. Repair work on road between Sector-122 and 5percent Abadi plot work circle-6), Noida	164.89
9. 21/GM/SM (WC-5)/2022-23	M/o Road (P/L C.C. Paver Blocks on 30.00 Mt. wide Road between Sector-57 and 58) Noida.	195.98
10. 63/DGM/SM (WC-5)/2023-24	M/o Drain (R/o Drain and P/F M.S. Jaal & SFRC Cover in Neelgiri-I/III, B-1, B-10 and B-12A in Sector-34) Noida.	192.60
11. 64/DGM/SM (WC-5)/2023-24	Maintenance of Road (P/L C.C. Paver Blocks on Internal Patries of A& Block in Sector-34) Noida.	141.10
12. 65/DGM/SM (WC-5)/2023-24	D/o Village (C/o Drain, P/L C.C. Pavement, Interlocking Tile & M.S. Jaal between Gali No. 01 and 11 in Village-Garhi Chaukhandi), Noida (Part-VI)	420.68
13. 67/DGM/SM (WC-5)/2023-24	M/o Drain (Repair of Internal Drain and Leveling of Interlocking tile in Sector-24), Noida	127.38
14. 70/DGM/SM (WC-5)/2023-24	M/o Drain (C/o R.C.C. Culvert in Sector-59 & 60 and D/o Parking near Plot No. B-96D in Sector-60), Noida	192.02
15. 52/DGM/SM (WC-9)/ET/2023-24	Strengthening of road (P/L DBM & BC work on 30.00M wide road along Yamuna Pista in Junior high school asgarpur to Ghari Shapur cut in Sector-128) Noida	165.26
16. 53/DGM/SM (WC-9)/ET/2023-24	M/o Road (Construction of R.C.C Central Verge on 45.00m wide Road From Hazipur Underpass to Village Sultanpur Cut) Noida	130.98
17. 54/DGM/SM (WC-9)/ET/2023-24	Strengthening of road (P/L DBM & BC work on 45.00m wide road parallel to Expressway in Sector-167) Noida	164.64

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 12.02.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 13.02.2024 at 11.00 AM.

B) Re-Tender Work:

S. Job No.	Name of the Work	Tender Amount (In Lacs)
18. 41/DGM/SM (WC-9)/ET/2023-24	D/o Sector-163 to 167A & 167B (C/o RCC drain along service road of 45.00 mtr. wide road Parallel to Expressway in front of Sector-167), Noida.	144.35
19. 16/DGM/SM (WC-1)/2023-24	M/o Drain (M/o Drain (Ch. 0.00 to 952.00) & Reconstruction of RCC Drain (Ch. 952.00 to 1113.00) with RCC Cover in Sector-15A along North Side Boundary wall) Noida.	142.33
20. 31/DGM/SM (WC-1)/2023-24	Strengthening of road (Strengthening of road on 30.00 mtr. road between Sector-55 & 56), Noida.	164.54
21. 57/DGM/SM (WC-10)/ET/2023-24	D/o & M/o Village (C/o culvert, M/o C.C. Road & Fixing of Jaal Village Badauli Sector-154) Noida.	148.80
22. 57/DGM/SM (WC-5)/2023-24	M/o Road (R/o Internal Roads, Drains, Sign Boards, C.C. Paver Blocks, Covering of Drain etc. in 5% Abadi Plots in Sector-121), Noida	153.82
23. 61/DGM/SM (WC-5)/2023-24	M/o Road (Repair of Central Verge & Footpath and Filling Pot Holes and Patch repair of road in Sector-57, 58, 59, 60, Kondli and Gijhore Road), Noida.	125.48

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 05.02.2024 up to 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on dated 06.02.2024 at 11.00 AM.

Dy. General Manager (Civil) NOIDA

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Panel to give UCC draft on Feb 2, implementation soon: Dhami

Dehradun: Providing a clear indication that Uttarakhand government will proceed with implementation of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state next month, chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Monday said that the five-member panel constituted under retired SC judge Jus-

tice Ranjana Prakash Desai will hand over its report to the government on Feb 2, reports **Kautilya Singh**.

In a social media post, the chief minister said the government plans to discuss the matter in its cabinet meeting and introduce the bill in the state assembly after the panel's submission.

Do not let exam pressure overpower you: PM to kids

'Be Friends With Brighter People, Get Inspired'

Manash.Gohain@timesgroup.com



New Delhi: Speaking at the annual "Pariksha Pe Charcha" programme on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi suggested students to "always make friends who are more intelligent and work harder". "You must be inspired by such friends. Don't let the pressure of studies and examinations overpower you," he said.

Modi said that even though competition and challenges act as inspirations, competition must be healthy. "A lot of parents keep on giving examples of other children to their children. Parents should avoid doing these things... never sow the seeds of rivalry and competition among students," he said.

"We have also seen that those parents who have not been very successful in their lives make the report card of their children their visiting card," he said.

The PM said it's a collective responsibility of teachers and parents to help students face challenges as he encouraged educators to build strong connections with their pupils. "The bond between educa-

tors and learners is the foundation for a bright future... Teachers must expand their connections with students much beyond their subject syllabus so that students can reach out to their teachers even for the smallest of problems," he said.

Responding to a query from two teachers, one of a music teacher (Kondakanchi Sampatha Rao) from Andhra Pradesh, Modi said: "Music teachers can not only help their own students deal with tensions, they can do so for students of the entire school."

When Dhiraj Subhas (Rajasthan), Najma Khatton (PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya in Kargil) and a government teacher from Tobi Lahim in Arunachal Pradesh sought his views on striking a bal-

ance between exam preparation and maintaining a healthy lifestyle, Modi said, "I get into deep sleep within 30 seconds of lying on the bed on all 365 days. When I am awake, I am fully awake, but I am totally asleep while sleeping ... even mobiles need recharge to be used, and similarly our body also needs to be recharged... Don't use your sleep time for watching reels."

The PM also encouraged students to practise writing, expressing concern over the declining trend of writing in the era of mobile phones and laptops.

Ahead of his interaction held at Bharat Mandapam, which was also joined online by many, an estimated 2.26 crore students, parents and teachers had registered.

Ahead of LS polls, Centre plans event to showcase infra triumphs

Dipak.Dash@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Just ahead of the Lok Sabha election, government plans a mega event to showcase the major infrastructure projects executed in the past nine-and-a-half years and their socio-economic impact. Ministries and departments have been asked to ready some of the models of major projects for display at

the event, which would be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

TOI has learnt that the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIT) is heading the plan of Bharat Infrastructure meet, which would be one of the key government programmes before the model code of conduct kicks in. "There will also be focus on displaying the roll out of big roads, rail, power, port, telecom and other projects which have brought down lo-

gistics costs, improved movement of man and materials, and impacted people's lives positively," said a source. The event would be held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.

Sources said all departments and ministries will put out the full list of completed projects and There is a possibility of virtual inauguration and foundation stone laying of a record number of infrastructure projects in one go. Government is also likely to unveil its infrastructure development plan till 2047.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH SAMAGRA SHIKSHA
Request for proposals are invited through e-procurement platform for Selection of Service Provider to provide Training Facilities, Residential Facilities and Support Services for implementing Capacity Building Program for School Teachers of Government of Andhra Pradesh. RFP downloading starts from: 30.01.2024 @ 03.00 PM. Last date for RFP : 14.02.2024 @ 03.00 PM. Note: Further details can be viewed at <https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> or contact: 8074175258, 9515581396 Sd/- DIPR No.2642PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2021-22 D:29/01/2024 for State Project Director

TAMIL NADU MARITIME BOARD (GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU)
Tender No. 4770/S1/2022 Dated 29.01.2024 Request For Proposal (RFP) for selection of port developer for Development, Marketing, Operation & Maintenance of Cuddalore port Tamil Nadu Maritime Board Invites Request For Proposal (RFP) for selection of port developer for Development, Marketing, Operation & Maintenance of Cuddalore port for a period of 50 years. The schedule of Important dates are as follows:
Date of Issue of RFP Documents 31.01.2024 @ 11:00 AM Application Due Date and Time 27.03.2024 @ 11:00 AM Opening Date and Time 28.03.2024 @ 11:30 AM For detailed Request For Proposal, please visit: <https://Intenders.gov.in/nicgep/app> DIPR.465/Tender/2024 STATE PORT OFFICER

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Bhagwan Das S/o Chhote Lal, R/o C.J.-03, Tihar Jail, Hari Nagar, Delhi & H.No.118, Basement, Dayanand Road, Darya Ganj, Delhi Age: 63 years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Hair: Normal, Religion: Hindu, was admitted due to illness on 23.01.2024 in DDU Hospital, during the treatment Doctors declared him dead on 27.01.2024 at 1:30 AM. Deceased was lodged in Case FIR No. 337/16, u/ 376 IPC, PS Daryaganj, Delhi. In this regard a DD No.10A dated 27.01.2024 u/s 176 Cr.PC has been lodged at P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-28125719, 28521251 Mob.: 8750871128



APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION
General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age: 35-40 years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Hair: Short, Religion: Hindu, was admitted due to illness on 23.01.2024 in DDU Hospital, during the treatment Doctors declared him dead on 27.01.2024 at 1:30 AM. Deceased was lodged in Case FIR No. 337/16, u/ 376 IPC, PS Daryaganj, Delhi. In this regard a DD No.56A, dated 23.01.2024 has been lodged at P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi. If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO P.S. Keshav Puram, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27181325, 27151723 Mob.: 8750870223

DIPR/1135/NW/2024

GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM PUBLIC WORKS ROADS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER (EAP)

ARR & TI COMPLEX FATASIL AMBARI GUWAHATI-25. Email: cea.apwd@nic.in

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB) E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE

(Two-Envelope Bidding Process with e-Procurement)

The Government of Assam through Government of India has received financing

Rahul must apologise for quota lie: Pradhan

Cong Leader
Had Alleged
RSS Bid To End
Quotas In Edu

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



New Delhi: Responding to Rahul Gandhi's allegation of an RSS conspiracy to end reservations, education minister Dharmendra Pradhan Monday said the Congress leader's politics was based on lies and he should apologise for his act of misguiding people.

"As soon as the truth of one lie is exposed, they rise with another lie. The list of false statements made by him is endless. Now, Rahul Gandhi and Congress are telling a new lie regarding appointment to reserved posts in central universities. 3,000 are vacant. Only 7.1% are Dalit, 1.6% are tribal and 4.5% are backward class professors. BJP-RSS, which have even talked about reviewing reservation, now want to snatch the jobs of deprived classes from

tions given to SC, ST and OBC categories in higher education institutions in the name of "de-reserving" posts if enough qualified candidates were not found.

"Today, out of approximately 7,000 reserved posts in 45 central universities, 3,000 are vacant. Only 7.1% are Dalit, 1.6% are tribal and 4.5% are backward class professors. BJP-RSS, which have even talked about reviewing reservation, now want to snatch the jobs of deprived classes from

such higher education institutions," Rahul claimed.

In response, Pradhan said, "It is clear from the data that the maximum number of appointments have been made in the Modi government in proportion to regular reservation on reserved posts in central universities. In the total appointments made on 6,080 posts, Scheduled Caste (SC) is 14.3%, Scheduled Tribe (ST) is 7% and OBC is 23.42%. Apart from this, the appointment process for the remaining posts under these rules is in progress."

Claiming that Rahul was spreading lies, the minister said, "Congress has an old habit of dividing society and creating instability by spreading lies. The basic character of Congress is anti-SC-ST-OBC. While in power, Congress has always openly opposed the interests of the deprived society."

"This is an open challenge to Rahul Gandhi to provide concrete evidence of the false figures given by him or publicly apologise for his lies," Pradhan added.

**A thought for today**

We need a Global Coalition for Social Justice. It will position social justice as the keystone of global recovery... In sum, it will ensure our future is human-centred

GILBERT F HOUNGBO, ILO

What's 'Social Justice'?

*Politics has emptied the phrase of meaning.
Quotas & free cycles are not it*

Social justice' politics abounds. But social justice delivery is often piecemeal, compartmentalised, hobbled by conflicts and for few groups. Stretched and reshaped by political competition, social justice has morphed into a catch-all term for welfare measures and every populist promise made, north to south. Such a superficial sweep empties social justice of its core meaning – equal access to all resources, education to health to mobility, jobs to justice and expression.

Jobs is justice | In talk of uplift and targeted programmes for marginalised, an essential pillar has long been invisibilised. There can be no meaningful social justice without economic justice. Yet, inequality is seemingly entrenched, latest CMIE data showed unemployment rate has climbed to its highest in over two years, joblessness in rural areas has increased. Yet, state after state, party after party, offers as succour quotas or proportional representation in the name of 'social justice'.

Quotas a dead-end | Once quotas were allowed on criteria beyond social marginalisation, it opened the doors for even well-off communities to claim similar 'benefits' – but what is the stuff of such benefits beyond periodic handouts? Making thinner and thinner slices of a shrinking economic pie is unsustainable. As economic inequality grows, so do quota demands. Who has the roadmap post-quota?

Nothing new | That said, post-globalisation, welfarism is universal politics – there is no 'newness' to a govt or political parties designing leg-ups, trickle-downs, affirmative actions or handouts, whether dole, or insurance, gas cylinders or cash benefits, bicycles or laptops. Fact is, social justice in its true form remains as peripheral as the communities that need it most.

Diversity without equity | India's fabled diversity is a tapestry of its fault lines – caste, tribe, religion, ethnicity, region, language, gender. Leave these aside for a minute. Two relatively modern marginalised populations where several fault lines dovetail are seasonal migrants and undertrials behind bars who can't afford bail. Both growing, both without access to basic rights. Who looks out for them, who protects their right to proper wages or legal help? It is this that lies at the core of social justice – equity.

Votes, women & jobs | Economic empowerment, the world of work, is central to real social justice. India-style 'social justice' is perhaps best demonstrated by the fact that women's turnout during elections is ever-increasing while their actual participation in the workforce is in alarming decline.

Mona Lisa Shrugs

Rads grow up. Throwing stuff at famous artworks is plain silly

Alart meets diverse responses. Likewise, there can be many interpretations of the scene in which environmental protesters hurled soup at da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* this weekend. But two facts are indisputable. First, this was not at all an act of originality. Second, the protesters' connective logic fails even kindergarten standards.

Imitation | Rad(radical, in case you didn't know) climate protesters have already directed soup at Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring* and van Gogh's *Sunflowers* and fed mashed potatoes to Monet's *Haystacks*. And these were themselves copycat acts. *Mona Lisa* in particular has a long history of being attacked. An angry Japanese woman once threw red paint at it and an angry Russian woman a teacup.

Misdirection | These desecrations draw tons of publicity. Beyond this, their relationship to August activism breaks down. When Gandhi went on the salt march or Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white person or when an indigenous community protects its forest from being cut, the immediate and real targets of protest are very clear. But how is a painting to blame for global warming?

Asymmetry | One of the Louvre vandals asked, "What is more important? Art or the right to have a healthy and sustainable food system?" Ironically, that's exactly like authorities responding to complaints against polluted air and water, by asking citizens to choose between environment and development.

Global economic growth has piggybacked on fossil fuels and emissions for two centuries. Today we want to cut both these without cutting growth. Campaigning for better climate actions is a wonderful public service. But what does shaming the same public for enjoying the finer things in life achieve? Art is not Nature's enemy. It can deepen human connectedness to the environment.

Christian kya maangta

Reena and Rahul, beside Julie and Anthony

Shinie Antony



Art directors of Christian film scenes in India order a large crucifix as the main prop and smaller crosses as pendants for protagonists. And though Christians in real life can be Reena or Rahul, in films they are always Albert or Annie. They speak ungrammatical Hindi with no region-specific accent – a Goan, Malayali, Tamil or Mangalorean speaks the same broken Hindi, with lots of 'maangta'. English words are added, English being conventionally educated. Nuns are there to run orphanages and look on beatifically as a baby is adopted. A priest says 'my child'.

From Mona darling to Monica O my darling, one presumes an 'eesai' background, just like Loin's henchmen Robert and Peter, and the occasional cabaret artiste of yore called Rosie. Famous Christians on screen include Anthony of *Amar Akbar Anthony*, Julie whose heart is beating, keeps on repeating, Nancy Pereira and Tony Braganza of *Baton Baton Mein*, Max and Shirley Dias of *Josh*. Rarely are we told if they are Pentecostal, Jehovah's Witnesses or Born Again. Were Anglo-Indians of *The Archives Indo-Portuguese*, we don't know.

Mammootty went from a pious James returning from Velankanni church to a Hindu Tamil labourer Sundaram in one stroke in Malavalam film *Nanpakkam Nerathu Mayakkam*. In *Kaathal – the Core*, he is a gay husband in a Syrian Christian household, ensuring the first 'coming out' is by a Mathew. In *Kho Gaye Hum Kahan*, Neil Pereira is the lower middle class friend. The title *Merry Christmas* is itself partial towards Maria (played by Katrina Kaif) because the south usually avoids this American usage and goes with 'Happy Christmas', as Albert Arrogiasami (Vijay Sethupathi's character) would have. The south is more Brit than Brit when it comes to writing/studying English.

Filmi Christians draw the sign of the cross as they please. Unlike so-called defence officers of Hindi cinema who have just one salute for navy, army and air force, every Christian has his own cross to draw. Without the accompanying words 'the father', 'the son' etc it is a quick snaking of hand from head to anywhere on the body. English was the traditional language of villains, with 'darling' what they called their molls. Today popular songs (like the Kannada 'Darling, darling, come, come, darling...') are returning romantic vibes to that endeavour. While others may run scared of conversion, the Christian himself fears only tokenism. And then they ask *Albert Pinto Ko Gussa Kyoon Aata Hai?*

A thought for today

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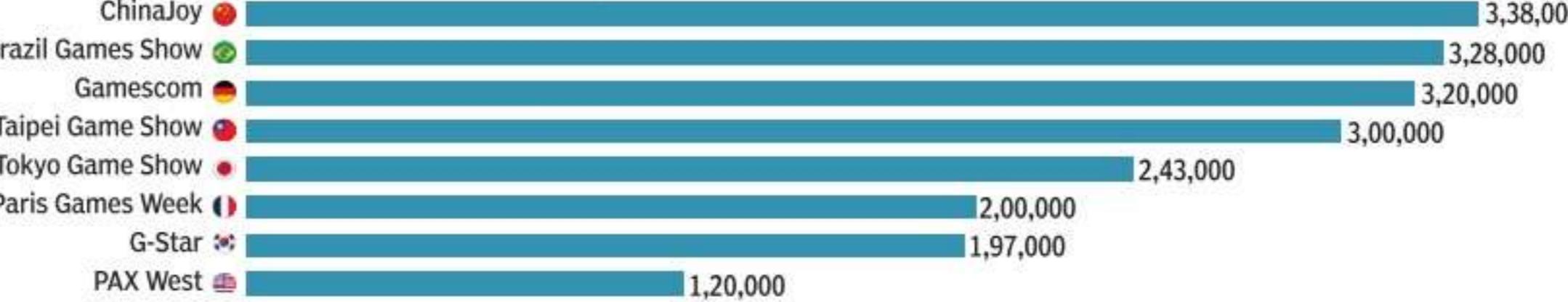
GILBERT F HOUNGBO, ILO

China Digital Entertainment Expo & Conference, or ChinaJoy, is the biggest video game convention in terms of attendees. Its 2023 edition saw 338,000 entries over four days, reflecting the status of China as the second-biggest gaming market despite Beijing being strict in terms of video game licenses for its domestic market.



Video game conventions with largest estimated attendance numbers in 2023

* THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024



Source: Statista

Sensex soars over 1,200 pts with RIL surging nearly 7%

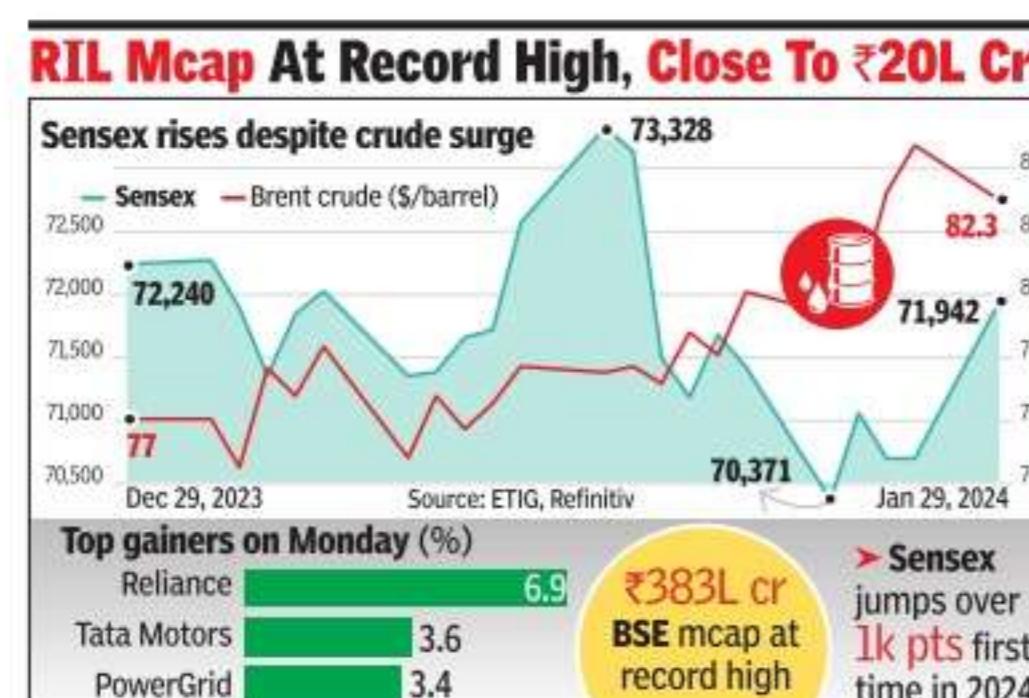
Best Day For Index In 2 Months, RIL Gains Most In 3 Years

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The sensex on Monday jumped 1,241 points—the highest single-day gain since Dec 4, 2023—to close at 71,942 with Reliance Industries leading the rally surging nearly 7%, along with strong gains by some banking stocks.

Nifty gained 385 points or 1.8% to close at 21,738 points. Some short-covering by speculators to minimise their losses also added to the gains in the sensex and Nifty during the late hours, market players said. Monday's strong gains came despite rising crude oil prices on the back of an attack on US defence base in Jordan by suspected Iran-backed militants.

For RIL, it was the best day in about three years, which also took its market capitalisation closer to the Rs 20-lakh-crore mark. At Rs 19.6 lakh crore, it's the most valued company in India by some distance with TCS at the second spot with a Rs 13.9-lakh-crore market cap. If RIL breaks above the Rs 20-lakh-crore market cap value, it will be the first Indian company to reach that



Crude oil gives up early gains

Oil gave up an earlier advance as traders digested the impact of separate attacks that killed US troops in Jordan and hit a fuel tanker in the Red Sea. Brent edged lower after jumping 1.5% in early Asian trading. Prices on Friday closed at the highest level since November. BLOOMBERG

mists and analysts said.

The day's gains in the domestic market made investors richer by Rs 5.5 lakh crore with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 383.1 lakh crore, an all-time peak. However, it came despite strong foreign fund participation while buying by domestic institutions was nothing extraordinary. End-of-the-session data on BSE showed that foreign funds were net buyers at Rs 110 crore while domestic institutions were net buyers at Rs 3,221 crore.

According to Vinod Nair of Geojit Financial Services, the domestic market under-

went an upturn as the recent sell-off and positive Asian peers provided an opportunity to accumulate quality stocks.

"Despite premium valuations, confidence is upheld among investors due to the optimistic environment surrounding the interim budget and recent set of results aligning with forecasts. Globally, the upcoming US Fed policy stands out as a crucial factor. While a rate cut by the FOMC is unlikely, investors will eagerly monitor their commentary to get cues on future rate paths." Of the 30 sensex constituents, 25 stocks closed with gains.

Govt, RBI measures have kept inflation in 2-6% range: Finmin

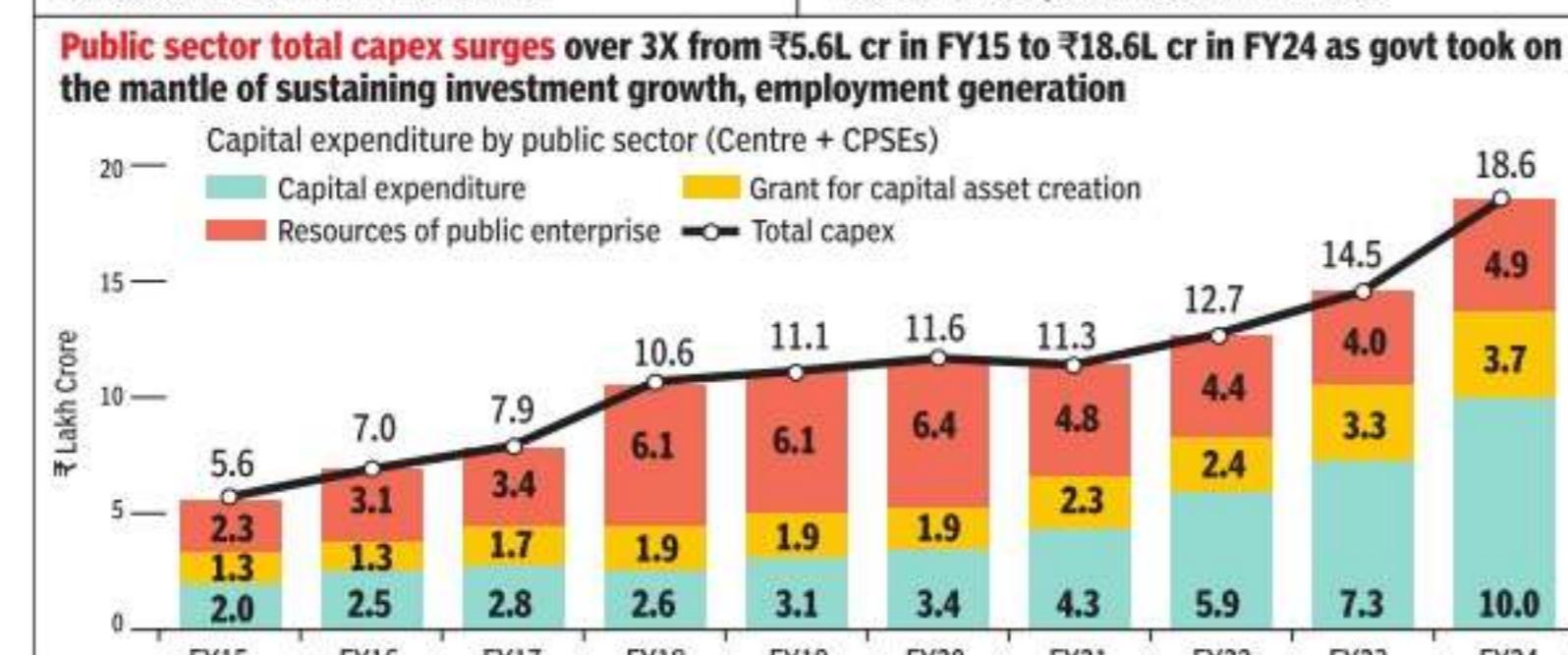
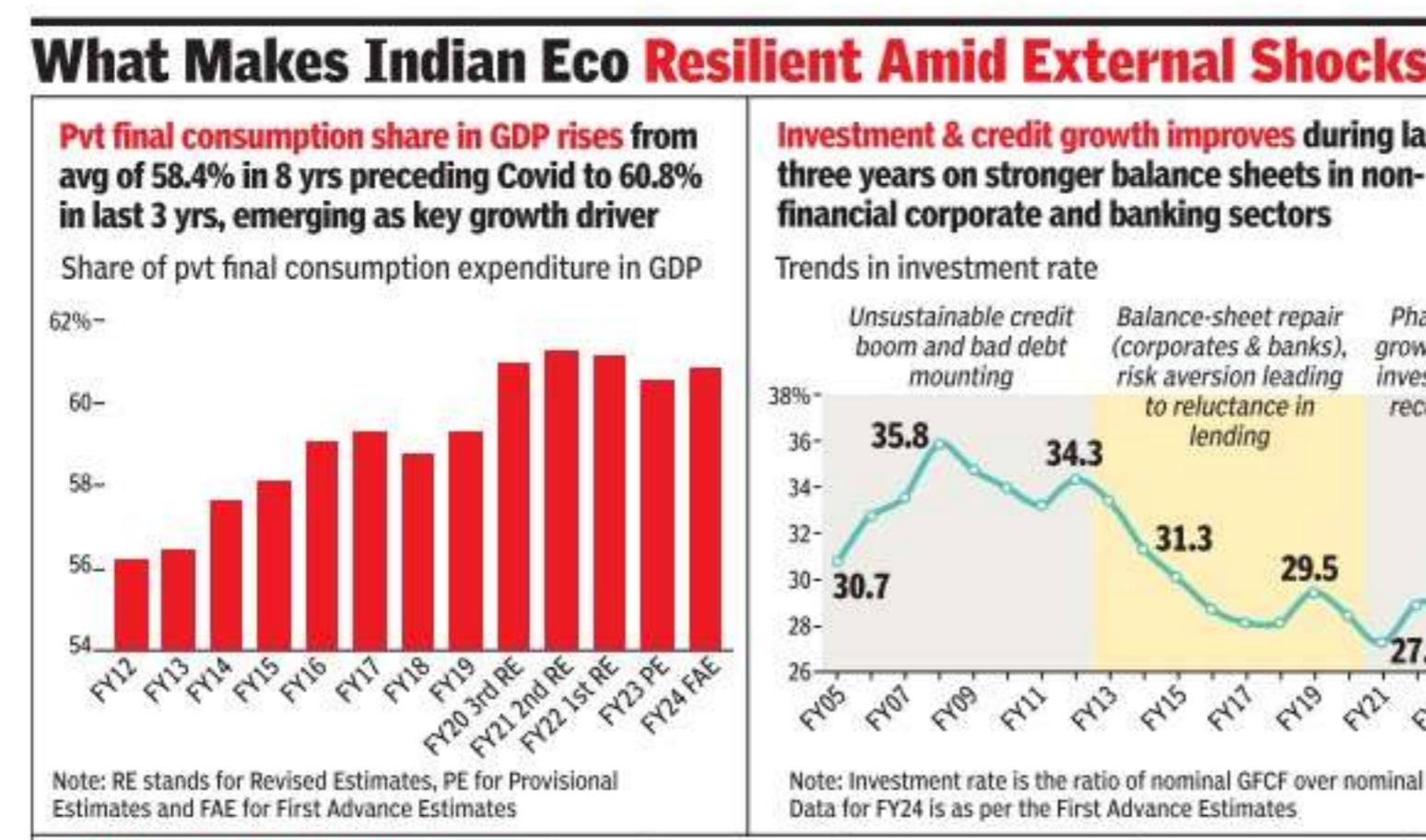
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Finance ministry on Monday said the Indian economy has remained resilient amid global headwinds on the back of robust domestic demand, an investment-led strategy due to a transformed climate and high level of public spending, macro-economic stability, apart from a spate of reforms initiated by government over the last 10 years.

A review of the Indian economy released by the ministry said inflation has been reigned in within 2-6% band because of steps taken by government and RBI.

It, however, warned of risks to the external sector from sticky inflation, sluggish growth and fiscal pressures in the global economy, with the tension around Red Sea seen as a potential threat. "Potential risks are expected to emanate from ongoing geopolitical tensions and the recent surge in shipping costs due to re-routing to avoid security risks in international waters, which contains the potential for triggering inflation, especially in terms of energy costs," the 63-page document released ahead of the interim Budget said.

When it came to India, it appeared upbeat on the overall prospect. "Ten years ago, India was the 10th largest economy in the world, with a GDP of \$1.9 trillion at current market prices. Today, it is the 5th largest with a GDP of \$3.7 trillion (estimated FY24), despite the pandemic and inheriting an economy with macro imbalances and a broken financial sector."



Public sector total capex surges over 3X from ₹5.6L cr in FY15 to ₹18.6L cr in FY24 as govt took on the mantle of sustaining investment growth, employment generation

Capital expenditure by public sector (Centre + CPSEs)

Capital expenditure

Grant for asset creation

Resources of public enterprise

Total capex

Total capex figs have been rounded off: Source: NSO, MoS, Indian Economy: A Review (Dept of Economic Affairs)

This ten-year journey is marked by several reforms, both substantive and incremental, which have significantly contributed to the country's economic progress. These reforms have also delivered an economic resilience that the country will need to deal with unanticipated global shocks in the future," the review said.

The report said private consumption has been a major growth driver, post-pandemic, helping counter some

of the adverse impact of geopolitical risks and sluggish global demand. It said consumption expenditure is balanced across all components, including durables, semi-durables and services. Consumption demand has got a boost from government's financial inclusion drive and more inclusiveness of rural India, the report argued.

It argued this has contributed to boost private sector capital investment, helping

equip the company with necessary resources to deliver on its mission," founder Byju Raveendran said in a note to shareholders, which was reviewed by TOI.

Raveendran claimed that the founders have infused over \$1 billion into the company over the past 18 months.

"In these uncertain times, we have not shied away from ta-

king several tough decisions in the best interest of the company, and we will continue to do so in the coming months," Raveendran said.

The Bengaluru-based startup, which was once chased by investors who collectively infused more than \$5 billion into the firm, has recently been dragged to the

insolvency tribunal by its fo-

reign lenders over the com-

pany's failure to repay a \$1.2-

billion term loan it had raised in 2021. Over the past months, the startup has seen several senior-level employ-

ees exit the company, a series

of valuation markdowns by investors and has been mired in litigation. In much delayed filings, the startup last week revealed over Rs 8,000 crore in consolidated losses for FY22.

Raveendran said that Byju's is less than a quarter away from achieving operational profitability. The com-

pany is yet to file its FY23 re-

sults. Since October 2022, the

company has laid off more than 5,000 employees in a bid to check costs. It is also try-

ing to sell some of its assets to repay the term loan.

Byju's eyes \$200mn at 99% valuation cut



Last official valuation

Valuation marked down by investors

Rights issue valuation

Time period of valuation markdowns capture the reporting period of investors

Note: Time period of valuation markdowns capture the reporting period of investors

Byju's valuation (\$ bn)

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NICOLE KIDMAN'S HONG KONG-BASED SERIES 'EXPATS' UNAVAILABLE IN THE CITY; OBSERVERS SAY CENSORSHIP OVER UMBRELLA STIR SCENES

ADELE REVEALS SHE TOOK LONDON TUBE IN 2023 AFTER A GAP OF 20 YEARS, SAYS SHE HAS BEEN SCARED SINCE 2005 TERROR ATTACK THAT KILLED 50

US vows 'consequential' reply to drone hit on base in Jordan

Pressure On Biden To Target Iran; Tehran Denies Role In Strike That Killed 3 US Troops

The White House on Monday vowed a "very consequential response" to a drone attack on a base in Jordan that killed three American troops, with President Joe Biden blaming Iran-backed militants. The casualties — the first US military deaths in an attack in the region since the Israel-Hamas war began — raised fears of an escalating conflict, as fighting rages in Gaza.

As Biden warned that the US would respond, American officials said that the deaths will require a different level of action from what the White House has ordered in the nearly four months since Israel's war with Hamas sparked broader turmoil in West Asia. Biden is "working through" options, National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said, but reiterated that the US doesn't want a "wider war" with Iran.

US defence secretary Lloyd Austin vowed that the US would take "all necessary actions" to defend its troops. "The president and I will not tolerate attacks on US forces," he said at the start of meeting with NATO secretary-general Jens Stoltenberg at the Pentagon. He returned to work after nearly a month's absence over a prostate cancer-related surgery.

The US is trying to determine exactly why the nearly 350 troops at the base in Jordan, known as Tower 22, were unable to stop the drone. Two officials said a US drone was approaching the base around the same time the attack drone was incoming. One of the offi-



There has so far been no claim of responsibility for the strike on US troops, although on Sunday the Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed to have launched three drone attacks at bases in Syria, including near the Jordanian border

Houthi say hit US warship, def official denies

Yemen's Houthi rebels said they attacked a US navy mobile base at sea Monday without offering evidence, something immediately rejected by a US defence official. Houthi military spokesperson Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree claimed the group fired a missile at the USS Lewis B. Puller in the Gulf of Aden. The Puller, which serves as a floating landing base, had been earlier stationed in the Arabian Sea as part of efforts to curtail Houthi attacks on shipping through the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Houthi attacks will continue "until the aggression is stopped, and the siege is lifted on the people of Palestine in the Gaza Strip," Saree said. A US defence official said there had been no reported attack on the Puller. The Houthis have previously launched missiles that did not reach their intended target. AP

cials said the attack drone was also flying low, factors that may have contributed to it being missed by base defenses.

US troops have been attacked over 150 times in Iraq, Syria and Jordan, as well as on warships in the Red Sea, where Houthi fighters in Yemen have been firing drones and missiles at them. The attacks are piling political pressure on Biden to deal a blow directly against Iran, a step he has been reluctant to take out of fear of igniting a

broader war. His options could range anywhere from targeting Iranian forces outside to even inside Iran, or opting for a more cautious retaliatory attack solely against the Iran-backed militants responsible.

The US hasn't struck Iran's territory for decades. In 2020, under then-President Trump, the US assassinated Iran general Qassem Soleimani in Iraq, saying he was responsible for planning attacks on Americans through proxies. Then, as

now, there were fears of an all-out war in West Asia that would pit the United States and its allies against Iran and its proxies. Both sides backed away.

A spokesman for Iran's foreign ministry said the militias "do not take orders" from Iran and act independently to oppose "any aggression and occupation". He said that accusations that Iran had ordered the strike were "baseless". There has so far been no claim of responsibility for the strike, although on Sunday the Islamic Resistance in Iraq claimed to have launched three drone attacks at bases in Syria, including near the Jordanian border. The group is a loose alliance of Iran-linked armed outfits that oppose US support for Israel in the Gaza conflict and wants them out of Iraq.

The US central command said late on Sunday the attack had hit the remote Tower 22 logistics support base and that 34 personnel were also wounded, eight of whom required evacuation. Little is publicly known about the base, which sits near the demilitarized zone on the border between Jordan and Syria. The Iraqi border is only 10km away. The base's location offers a site for US forces to infiltrate and quietly leave Syria. A small US garrison at al-Tam in Syria is just 20km north of Tower 22. That base is along a Syrian highway leading into Iraq and ultimately Mosul, once a key base of the Islamic State. It's also a potential weapons shipment route over the road for Iran. AGENCIES

Iran media: 'Israeli attack' on Iranian military advisory site in Syria kills 2

Damascus: Two people were killed and several wounded on Monday in what Iranian and Syrian media said was an Israeli attack on the outskirts of the Syrian capital, with Iran's ambassador to Damascus denying reports the location was an Iranian military post.

An Israeli military spokesperson declined to comment.

Iranian state media reported the two deaths but did not identify the victims. Tasnim news agency said Israel "attacked an Iranian military advisory centre" in Syria, but Iran's envoy to Syria, Hossein Akbari, denied the details on the target and said the casualties were not Iranian. Syrian state media, citing a military source, said Israel had launched an air assault on several locations south of Damascus. In a first version of the story on its site, Syrian news agency SANA said the dead included an unspecified number of "Iranian advisers" — a rare admission of Iranian casualties by Damascus — but the site was updated to remove the reference.

The attack comes a day after three US troops were killed in a drone attack on a military outpost in Jordan, the first time American troops have been killed under fire since the Israel-Gaza war erupted in October. Israel has also ramped up its years-long policy of striking Iran-linked targets in Syria, with deadlier attacks against both Iranian installations as well as Tehran's Lebanese ally Hezbollah, which is deployed in Syria. An Israeli strike earlier this month killed an intelligence chief in the Iranian Guards' Quds Force, along with four others. REUTERS

Maldives oppn planning to move impeachment motion against prez

3 Members Of Muizzu's Cabinet Denied Approval In House



res for the motion comes a day after PPM-PNC coalition submitted no-confidence motions against speaker Mohamed Aslam and deputy speaker Ahmed Saleem — both from MDP.

Earlier in the day, parliament voted to deny approval to housing minister Ali Haider Ahmed, Islamic minister Mohammed Shaheed Ali Saeed, and attorney general Ahmed Usham, while economic minister Mohamed Saeed narrowly survived the same fate himself. Sun.com reported.

"MDP, in partnership with Democrats, have gathered enough signatures for an impeachment motion. However they have yet to submit it," Sun.com reported, quoting a lawmaker from MDP. "The Constitution, along with parliament's standing orders, dictates that the president can be impeached with 56 votes," Sun.com said. Parliament recently amended its standing orders to make it easier to submit impeachment motions.

The Maldivian parliament has 80 members. Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) has 45, followed by its ally Democrats (DEM) with 13 members. Of the ruling coalition of PPM-PNC, Progressive Party of the Maldives has two while People's National Congress has 13. There are three independents while Jumhooree Party and Maldives Development Alliance have two each.

The gathering of signatu-

3 foreign-born Japan residents sue govt over alleged racial profiling

One of the plaintiffs, Matthew, a man of Indian descent who holds permanent residency, said he had been questioned by cops countless times

afraid to go out for fear of being stopped. "I never knew what social withdrawal was until recently," he said, declining to provide his surname for fear of harassment. "I feel like every time I finish work, I'm hiding in my house."

Syed Zain, who was born in Pakistan but took Japanese citizenship after moving to Japan with his family as a child, said he hoped the case would lead to positive change in the society where the number of Japanese with foreign roots is growing.

The plaintiffs say they have suffered distress from repeated police questioning based on their appearance and ethnicity, which they say is a violation of the constitution.

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Israel: 190 UNRWA staff double up as Hamas, Islamic Jihad militants

Intel Dossier Details How 12 Employees, Including Teachers, Were Involved In Oct 7 Attack

An Israeli intelligence dossier that prompted a cascade of countries to halt funds for a UN Palestinian aid agency includes allegations that some staff took part in abductions and killings during the Oct. 7 raid that sparked the Gaza war. The six-page dossier alleges that some 190 UNRWA employees, including teachers, have doubled as Hamas or Islamic Jihad militants. It has names and pictures for 11 them.

The Palestinians have accused Israel of falsifying information to tarnish UNRWA, which says it has fired some staffers and is investigating the allegations. One of the 11 is a school counsellor accused in the Israeli dossier of providing unspecified assistance to his son in the

abduction of a woman during the Hamas infiltration in which Israel says 1,200 people were killed and 253 kidnapped.

Another, an UNRWA social worker, is accused of unspecified involvement in the transfer to Gaza of a slain Israeli soldier's corpse and of coordinating the movements of pick-up trucks used by the raiders and of weapons supplies. A third Palestinian in the dossier is accused of taking part in a rampage in the Israeli border village Beeri, one tenth of whose residents were killed. A fourth is accused of participating in an attack on Reim, site both of an army base that was overrun and a rave where over 360 revellers died.

The dossier was shown to Reuters by a source who could



Palestinians queue up at a UNRWA centre to receive aid in Rafah

spokesperson for UNRWA said she could not comment due to an ongoing probe by the UN. More than 10 countries, including major donors the US and Germany, have halted their funding to the agency. UNRWA said on Monday it would not be able to continue operations in the region beyond the end of Feb if funding were not resumed.

The Hebrew-language dossier accuses Hamas of "methodically and deliberately deploying its terrorist infrastructure in a wide range of UN facilities and assets", including schools. Hamas denies that. Two of the alleged Hamas operatives cited in the dossier are described as "eliminated", or killed by Israeli forces. A 12th Palestinian whose name and picture are

not be identified by name or nationality. The source said that it had been compiled by Israeli intelligence and shared with the US, which on Friday suspended funding for UNRWA. The accusations that 190 staff have militant links would represent nearly 15% of UNRWA's total Gaza employees of 13,000.

Asked about the dossier, a

provided is said to have no factional membership and to have infiltrated Israel on Oct 7. Also in the list of 12 men are an UNRWA teacher accused of arming himself with an anti-tank rocket, another teacher accused of filming a hostage and the manager of a shop in an UNRWA school accused of opening a war-room for Islamic Jihad.

The number of non-Japanese living in Japan reached a record high last year, at nearly 3 million. It also comes amid a renewed debate over what it means to be and look Japanese, after a Ukrainian-born, naturalised citizen was crowned Miss Japan last week.

The three men filed the lawsuit with Tokyo district court demanding that the national, Tokyo Metropolitan and Aichi Prefecture govern-

ment recognise it is illegal for police to stop and question people solely on the basis of their race, nationality or ethnicity.

The plaintiffs say they have suffered distress from repeated police questioning based on their appearance and ethnicity, which they say is a violation of the constitution.

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ANC suspends Zuma for campaigning for rival party

Johannesburg: South Africa's governing party, the African National Congress, moved to kick Jacob Zuma out of the party Monday, punishing the former president for campaigning for a rival political party.

The party announced that it had suspended Zuma's membership after he helped to form a rival party, of which he has become the "figurehead", the party's leadership said. Zuma announced last month that he will campaign for the newly formed "uMkhonto WeSizwe" party, even as he insisted he remained a member of the ANC.

It was not immediately clear whether Zuma would be allowed to challenge his suspension or face an internal disciplinary process. Describing him as "erratic" and "disruptive", the party said it wanted to "cut its losses". The suspension of the former president of the co-



untry and the party is a remarkable reproach by party leaders who spent years defending Zuma against accusations of corruption and wrongdoing, even as his tenure eroded public support for the party. In the aftermath of his presidency, Zuma continued to sow chaos as he undermined the party's current leadership through stinging statements.

The decision to take

disciplinary action against Zuma signals a show of strength by President Cyril Ramaphosa as he seeks re-election in polls that are just months away. Still, analysts say it will be difficult to disentangle the party from Zuma in the minds of many voters. In recent weeks, while he endorsed an opposition party, some members of the ANC leadership tried to persuade Zuma, 81, to return to the fold, an indication of the sway he still holds. NYR

'EU threatens to hit Hungary's eco if Ukraine aid vetoed'

The EU will sabotage Hungary's economy if Budapest blocks fresh aid to Ukraine at a summit this weekend, under a confidential plan drawn up by Brussels, Financial Times reported on Sunday.

Brussels has outlined a strategy to target Hungary's economic weaknesses, imperil its currency and drive a collapse in investor confidence in a bid to hurt "jobs and growth" if Budapest refuses to lift its veto on the aid to Kyiv, the newspaper reported. Hungarian PM Viktor Orban boasted about his ties with Kremlin since Russia went to war in Ukraine in Feb 2022. The document seen by FT declares that "in the case of no agreement in the Feb 1, other heads of state and government would publicly declare that in the light of the unconstitutional behaviour of the Hungarian PM they cannot imagine that" EU funds would be provided to Budapest. Reuters

PIO couple convicted of smuggling cocaine to Aus

Naomi Canton

London: An Indian-origin couple accused of a double murder in Gujarat who UK courts refused to extradite — despite New Delhi's request — were convicted on Monday of smuggling £57 million worth of cocaine on commercial flights from London to Sydney. NCA investigators discovered millions of pounds of cash and gold-plated silver bars at their home. Dhir and Rajada denied the charges.

India had in 2019 tried to extradite the couple to face double murder charges in Gujarat. The couple are accused of plotting the murder of 12-year-old orphan Gopal, whom Dhir had adopted in 2015, and his brother-in-law Harsukhbhai Chaganbhai Kardani, in order to get the proceeds from a claim on a Rs 1.3 crore insurance policy that Dhir took out for Gopal.

in Sydney in May 2021.

Rajada's fingerprints were found on the plastic wrapping, while receipts for the trolley boxes were discovered at the couple's home. Dhir and Rajada had both been employed at a flight services company at Heathrow and their knowledge of the airport freight procedures was used to cover their criminal activities. After being arrested, NCA investigators discovered more than 514 kg of cocaine to Australia after a National Crime Agency (NCA) investigation found they were behind a front company that had sent the drugs by plane under a cover load of metal toolboxes.

The couple were identified by NCA investigators after Australian Border Force intercepted the cocaine upon its arrival at Sydney International Airport. They had made electronic devices checked, were prohibited from communicating with anyone outside and, in some cases, held for more than 10 hours. It said the actions of border control officers "have had a serious impact on the studies of international students from China and caused great psychological harm." The statement also said the actions ran counter to the agreement between Presidents Joe Biden and Xi Jinping that they would promote people-to-people exchanges. AP

AROUND THE WORLD



PARIS UNDER TRACTOR SIEGE: French farmers began choking off major motorways around Paris on Monday, threatening to blockade the capital in an intensifying standoff with the government. In response, the government has ordered the deployment of 15,000 police and gendarmes. In recent weeks there have been a slew of protests in the EU's largest agriculture producing country by farmers angry about incomes, red tape and environmental policies

X pauses searches for Taylor Swift as deepfake explicit images spread

Social media platform X has blocked searches for Taylor Swift as pornographic deepfake images of the singer have circulated online. Attempts to search for her name on the site resulted in an error message and a prompt for users to retry their search, which added, "Don't

fret — it's not your fault."

Searches for variations of her name such as "taylor swift" and "Taylor Swift AI" turned up the same error messages. "This is a temporary action and done with an abundance of caution as we prioritise safety on this issue," Joe Benaroch, head of business operations at X, said.

Britney Spears has apologised to former boyfriend-singer Justin Timberlake about the revelations she made about their relationship in her 2023 memoir "The Woman In Me". In the book, Spears had revealed that she had an abortion while dating the former NSYNC star. The 42-year-old singer shared videos of Timberlake's appearances on talk shows in an Instagram post. "I wanna apologize for some of the things I wrote about in my book. If I offended any of the people I genuinely care about I am deeply sorry. I also wanted to say I am in love with Justin Timberlake's new song 'Selfish,'" she wrote.

China protests 'interrogations & deportations' of its students at US entry points

Beijing: The Chinese government has protested to the US over the treatment of Chinese arriving to study in America, saying some have been interrogated for hours, had their electronic devices checked and in some cases were forcibly deported from the country.

Xie Feng, the Chinese ambassador in Washington, said dozens of Chinese have been denied entry every month for the past few months when returning to school from overseas travel or visiting relatives in



Nearly 2,90,000 Chinese students are in the US, about one-third of the foreign students in the country



NELLY KORDA RALLIES TO BEAT LYDIA KO
IN PLAYOFF TO WIN 9TH LPGA TOUR TITLE

PANAMA'S ALL-TIME LEADING GOALSCORER
LUIS 'MATADOR' TEJADA DIES AT AGE 41



LONG WAIT ENDS FOR SARFARAZ KHAN

Prolific Domestic Batter Gets
Nod For Test Squad After
Rahul, Jadeja Are Ruled Out;
Left-Arm Spinner Saurabh &
Sundar Also Make The Cut

Gaurav.Gupta@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Reeling after a 28-run defeat to England in Hyderabad, India, already missing Virat Kohli, suffered a big blow when Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul were ruled out of the second Test, starting in Vizag on Feb 2. Rahul's injury means the consistent Sarfaraz Khan's long wait for a maiden Test call-up is finally over. The Mumbai batter will be Rahul's replacement in Vizag.

Jadeja sustained a hamstring injury when he was run out while going for a quick single on Sunday. "Jadeja sustained a hamstring injury during play on Day 4 of the first Test while Rahul complained of right quadriceps pain. The medical team is monitoring the progress of the duo," the BCCI said.

The same quadriceps injury on Rahul's right thigh saw him sit out of the game for four months, during which he underwent surgery in Germany.

ENGLAND IN INDIA

many. "Rahul could perhaps return later in this series, but Jadeja's injury could be more serious. Let's see what the BCCI's medical team tells us," a source in the BCCI told TOI.

Apart from Sarfaraz, the selectors, looking to boost the spin department in Jadeja's absence, added left-arm spinner Saurabh Kumar, another consistent performer for India A and in domestic cricket for

Uttar Pradesh, and off-spinning all-rounder Washington Sundar to the squad for the second Test.

Sarfaraz will now be competing with Rajat Patidar for a place in India's middle-order, while 'chinaman' bowler Kuldeep Yadav is likely to get the nod ahead of Sundar. Last week, after he was ignored in favour of Patidar when the Indian team was named for the first two Tests, Sarfaraz smashed 161 (160 balls) against

England Lions (the 'A' side) in the third unofficial 'test'.

No clarity on Kohli yet
Meanwhile, TOI has learnt that there's no clarity on whether Virat Kohli, who had made himself unavailable for the first two Tests due to personal reasons, will be back for the remainder of the series. "We haven't heard anything from him on his return as yet," said a BCCI official.

NEW WEAPONS TO COMBAT 'BAZBALL':

SARFARAZ IN FIRST-CLASS CRICKET

For	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50
Mumbai	22	33	8	2562	301*	102.48	10	6
Rest of India	2	3	0	168	138	56.00	1	0
Uttar Pradesh	8	12	0	440	155	36.66	1	1
India 'A'	10	12	1	527	161	47.90	1	4
West Zone	3	6	1	215	127*	43.00	1	0
Total	45	66	10	3912	301*	69.85	14	11

NEW WEAPONS TO COMBAT 'BAZBALL':

Sarfaraz will be hoping for a chance to stamp his presence on the international scene while UP's Saurabh Kumar (far right) is another consistent performer



Elgar claims Kohli 'spat' at him, said sorry two years later

Cape Town: Former South Africa skipper Dean Elgar has claimed that Virat Kohli "spat at him" during a Test match and apologised two years later after being confronted by his RCB teammate AB de Villiers.

Without mentioning the series in which the incident took place — speculated to be South Africa's tour of India in 2015 — the recently-retired Elgar said on a podcast that he had showdowns with Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin.

"(We had showdowns) all the time," Elgar said on the 'Banter with the Boys' podcast alongside former South African allrounder Chris Morris and rugby player Jean de Villiers. "In India, those wickets were jokes. I came in to bat and I was actually holding my own against Ashwin and what's his name Jajeja...Ja-Ja-Ja-JeJa, ('Jadeja', said someone in the background) and Kohli, he like spat at me."

"I said to him, 'If you do that, I'll **** you with this bat,'" Elgar claimed.

BUMRAH REPRIMANDED FOR CODE OF CONDUCT BREACH IN HYDERABAD

Dubai: Pacer Jasprit Bumrah has been reprimanded and handed a demerit point for deliberately stepping in England player Ollie Pope's way as he went for a run, which led to "inappropriate physical contact" during the first Test in Hyderabad. Bumrah's offence is a Level 1 offence under the ICC code of conduct. One demerit point has also been added to Bumrah's disciplinary record as it was his first offence in a 24-month period. The incident occurred in the 81st over of England's second innings. PTI

GALLERY

Gukesh finishes joint second

Wijk Aan Zee (The Netherlands): Grandmaster D Gukesh endured a heartbreak in the final tiebreaker against Wei Yi of China and had to be content with a joint second place finish at the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament here. Another Indian GM Luke Mendonca, however, won the challengers section, defeating compatriot Divya Deshmukh in the final round.

Sanjana improves national mark: Sanjana of Haryana improved her national youth record enroute a 76 kg gold in the weightlifting competition of the Khelo India Youth Games in Chennai on Monday. Meanwhile, Sayali Wani of Maharashtra bounced back from the brink to catch the girls singles table tennis gold.

ACTION TODAY

BASKETBALL: NBA, 5.30 am to 9.30 am (Jiocinema); **FOOTBALL:** Asian Cup PQFs: Uzb vs Tha, 5 pm; Saudi vs Kor, 9.30 pm (Jio). EPL: Nottingham vs Arsenal, 1 am Wednesday (Star); **MULTI-SPORT:** KIYG, 9.30 am (Star)

India look to continue momentum against NZ

Bloemfontein: Off to the best possible start with three wins on the trot, defending champions India will look to keep the juggernaut rolling when they take on New Zealand in their Super 6 stage match of the U-19 World Cup here on Tuesday.

Having qualified for the super six stage as Group A leaders, India will also have the advantage of playing at the Mangaung Oval on Tuesday — the same venue that they have played all their

MAN IN FORM: Arshin Kulkarni

team's most consistent performer with the bat. Having scored a century and a fifty, Mursheed is the third highest run getter in the tournament after the group stage.

Squads

India: Uday Saharan (c), Arshin Kulkarni, Adarsh Singh, Rudra Mayur Patel, Sachin Dhas, Priyanshu Moliya, Musheer Khan, Aravally Avanish Rao, Saamy Kumar Pandey, Murugan Abhishek, Innes Mahajan, Dhanush Gowda, Aaradhy Shukla, Raj Limbani and Naman Tiwari.

New Zealand: Oscar Jackson (c), Mason Clarke, Sam Clode, Zac Cumming, Rahman Hemkatt, Tom Jones, James Nelson, Seneith Reddy, Matt Rowe, Ewald Schreuder, Lachlan Stackpole, Oliver Tewatiwa, Alex Thompson, Ryan Tsourgas and Luke Watson.

Match starts: 1:30pm IST

Saurashtra to start inquiry after liquor is recovered from U-23 cricketers

New Delhi: The Saurashtra Cricket Association (SCA) on Monday decided to launch a disciplinary probe after liquor bottles were recovered from its U-23 cricketers while they were heading back to Rajkot from Chandigarh.

As per SCA sources, the incident occurred on January 25 following Saurashtra's win over hosts Chandigarh in the CK Nayudu Trophy.

A sizeable amount of liquor was detected in the cargo area of the plane, which the cricketers were to board. The liquor was subsequently seized by authorities at the Chandigarh Airport. "There has been an alleged incident at Chandigarh that was brought to notice of Saurashtra Cricket Association," said the SCA in a statement.

The alleged incident is unfortunate. The Ethics and Disciplinary Committee and the Apex Council of Saurashtra Cricket Association will make an in-depth examine of the incident and take proper disciplinary action."

As Gujarat is a dry state, one is not allowed to carry alcohol into the state. However, the state government issues permit to visitors who can purchase alcohol from its dedicated outlets. PTI

Delhi register first win of season

Put It Across Uttarakhand By 7 Runs

But once Rawat fell to off-spinner Shokeen leg-before, the writing was on the wall for Uttarakhand and the result went in Delhi's favour.

Odisha win big

Cuttack: Rajesh Mohanty sparked a batting collapse in Himachal Pradesh ranks who lost nine wickets for a mere 88 runs on the final day against hosts Odisha, who romped home with a 238-run win. Mohanty returned with figures of 5/33 as Himachal were shot out for a mere 149 in their second essay, having scored 176 in the first. Prashant Chopra waged a lone battle on Monday.

After Mohanty lifted Delhi with a counter-attacking 194, Himanshu (5/39) and Shokeen (3/81) ran through the Uttarakhand batting line-up to help their side record a vital win which gave them six points. Despite the win, Delhi are languishing at the seventh spot in the eight-team Group D with seven points from one win and two draws.

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Resuming the day needing 77 runs for win with four wickets in hand, Uttarakhand folded up for 165 in 79.3 overs. Akhil Rawat was the lone warrior for Uttarakhand as he scored a valiant 63 off 183 balls but he lacked support from the other end.

As Gujarat is a dry state, one is not allowed to carry alcohol into the state. However, the state government issues permit to visitors who can purchase alcohol from its dedicated outlets. PTI

Saurabh, net bowler for India against Eng in '21, squad member in '24!

Hyderabad: The life of Saurabh Kumar, veteran of a decade in domestic cricket, took a sharp turn on Monday when he made the Indian squad for the second Test against England starting in Visakhapatnam on February 2.

The 30-year-old left-arm spinner can now nourish hopes of donning a national cap after being a journeyman with the Indian squad during the series against Sri Lanka in home in 2022.

Of course, there is no guarantee that the Uttar Pradesh spinner will make his debut in Visakhapatnam ahead of Kuldeep Yadav or Washington Sundar, but at least he has another chance.

"It has always been a dream to be a part of the Indian team. I mean which cricketer wouldn't want that? Lot of things need to come together for it, but I have had a bit of experience," said Kumar. The

"experience" that Kumar mentioned was the opportunity to be a bowler at the Team India nets during England's tour in 2021, the starting point of his upward journey. "Not everyday will you get a chance to bowl to a Virat Kohli or Rohit, especially if you are a domestic player. They hardly play in Ranji Trophy or other domestic matches because of national commitments. So, it was a chance for me to have a closer look at them," he said.

Kumar has also been a regular face in India A's tours. He played against South Africa 'A' in Potchefstroom in Dec and grabbed four wickets. He bettered that effort against England Lions recently in Ahmedabad during the second unofficial 'test', taking six wickets and scoring 77 as India 'A' beat the tourists by an innings and 16 runs. PTI

'Gill has got cushion that even Pujara didn't have'

Anil Kumble Feels Out-Of-Form Batter Needs To Justify Spot

Hyderabad: Former India captain Anil Kumble feels that the embattled Shubman Gill has been given the "cushion" that veteran Cheteshwar Pujara never got and the young batter needs to make it count in the second Test against England or risk being under tremendous pressure. The 24-year-old Gill has not scored a half century in his last 11 Test innings.

Gill scored a 128 in India's first innings against Australia in Ahmedabad in March last year, but after that his highest score has been 36. He made 23 and 0 in the two innings of the first Test against England.

"He (Gill) has been given the cushion perhaps even a Cheteshwar Pujara didn't get, although he (Pujara) has played over a 100 Tests," Kumble told JioCinema. "I keep coming back to him (Pujara) mainly because that was his place (No. 3) not too long ago. Pujara played in that World Test Championship (WTC) fi-

nal and post that, it's been Gill, who's been moving from the opener's slot, and he himself wanted to bat at No. 3."

The 36-year-old Pujara last played a Test in June 2023 — in the WTC final — and he was ignored after that. He scored a double hundred (243 not out) in a Ranji match earlier this month. Skipper Rohit Sharma, before the start of the England series, said that younger players were being preferred in a bid to look ahead.

Kumble said the youngster needs to work on his mindset and also adjust his technique slightly for the second Test.

"When you want to bat at No. 3, especially in India, you need to work on your game. He has the skills, he is young and he's learning, but he needs to do it in Vizag (in second Test), otherwise the pressure will be on him," Kumble said.

"He needs to be a lot freer, score runs. He needs to come up with his own plan to tackle spin, because he has hard hands. When the ball is turning, when it's slow, you need to use your hands and check your shots. That's something he needs to work on." PTI

INDIA SLIP TO FIFTH SPOT IN WTC RANKINGS AFTER HYDERABAD LOSS

Dubai: India have dropped to fifth behind Bangladesh in the World Test Championship standings after their 28-run defeat in Hyderabad. India were briefly on top after drawing the two Test-series South Africa before being overtaken by Australia following their victory over Pakistan. Rohit Sharma's men have suffered in terms of accumulated percentage points, going down from 54.16 after the South Africa series to 43.33 currently. Australia are on top with 55 percentage points, followed by SA, NZ and Bangladesh. PTI

RANJI TROPHY (FINAL DAY SCORES)

In Mohali: Delhi: 147 and 264/9 decl. (Himmat Singh 194, Lakshay Thareja 43) beat Uttarakhand: 239 and 165 (Akhil Rawat 63; Himanshu Chauhan 5/39, Hritik Shokeen 3/81) by 7 runs.

In Vadodara: J&K: 457 and 193/7 (Sahil Lotra 63 not out; Mahesh Pithiya 5/82) drew with Baroda: 383.

In Cuttack: Odisha: 138 and 425/8 decl. beat Himachal Pradesh: 176 and 149 (Prashant Chopra 57; Rajesh Mohanty 5/33) by 238 runs.

In Mumbai: Mumbai: 198 and 320 (Shivam Dube 117, Shams Mulani 63; Aajib Khan 4/63) lost to Uttar Pradesh: 324 and 195/8 (Aryan Juyal 76, Karan Sharma 67 not out; Tanush Kotian 5/58) by 2 wickets.

In Raipur: Andhra Pradesh: 431 and 150/2 decl. beat Chhattisgarh: 262 and 193 (Ek Nath Kerkar 76, Amandeep Dadhe 5/60) drew with Maharashtra 194 and 96-2 (Ankit Bawne 50 not out; Harshal Patel 2/35).

pions and hosts Mumbai by two wickets on Monday. On the final day, Mumbai were bowled out for 320 after resuming at 303/8 in their second innings. Juyal and Karan laid the foundation of a tricky chase of 195 with a 104-run stand for the third wicket after UP were jolted twice early on. Despite regular strikes from Mumbai, Karan stood tall with a 173-ball 67 not out (7x4, 2x

JORDAN LEAVE IT LATE

Doha: Jordan advanced to the Asian Cup quarter-finals after two stoppage-time goals secured a 3-2 win over Iraq, who had striker and tournament top scorer Ayman Hussein sent off late on for excessive goal celebrations on Monday. With Iraq looking destined to move into the last eight when the clock struck 90 minutes, Jordan's Yazaan Al-Arab equalised in the 95th before Nizar Al-Rashdan scored two minutes later with a glorious long-range effort to break Iraqi hearts.

Jordan went ahead on the stroke of halftime when Yazaan Al-Naimat pounced on a sloppy pass and raced past the defence. The 24-year-old chipped the ball over goalkeeper Jalal Hassan to score before celebrating with his team mates by sitting on the turf and pretending to eat a meal.

Iraq struck back in the 68th when Saad Natiq headed home from a corner before Hussein scored eight minutes later when he controlled a cross and fired into the bottom corner.

The joy of scoring his sixth goal of the tournament quickly turned to shock when the referee produced a second yellow card for excessive celebrations after the striker mimicked Jordan's players and sat on the turf, pretending to eat by himself.

While Iraq fumed, Jordan took full advantage of the extra man and when Mousa Tamari's stoppage time effort was parried by Hassan, Al-Arab was on hand to fire home the rebound. The comeback was complete when midfielder Al-Rashdan was left unmarked outside the box and curled his shot past the keeper to set up a quarter-final with tournament debutants Tajikistan.

Debutants Tajikistan stun UAE to advance

Asian Cup debutants Tajikistan booked their place in the quarter-finals with a dramatic 5-3 penalty shootout win over the United Arab Emirates after a 1-1 draw on Sunday.

Alisher Shukurov buried the final spot-kick in Doha to send the Central Asians – ranked 106th in the world – into a showdown with either Jordan or the 2007 champions Iraq.

Tajikistan goalkeeper Rustam Yatimov saved from Caio Canedo with the UAE's second penalty of the shootout. Tajikistan looked set for a famous victory when Vahdat Khanonov scored with a 30th-minute header, only for Khalil Al-Hammadi to equalise in the 95th minute and send the game into extra-time.



TAKE THAT: Jordan's Yazaan Al Arab scores their second goal

Congo knock Egypt out, face Guinea in quarters

Abidjan (Ivory Coast): Congo knocked seven-time champions Egypt out of the Africa Cup of Nations with an 8-7 win on penalties after the teams finished 1-1 after extra time in the round-of-16 match.

Egypt goalkeeper Mohamed Abou Gabal struck the crossbar with his spot kick before Congo counterpart Lionel Mpasi stepped up to send the Leopards into the quarterfinals.

AFRICA CUP Also known as Gabaski, Abou Gabal was playing because regular goalkeeper Mohamed El Shenawy dislocated his shoulder in the team's final group game against Cape Verde.

It was the latest misfortune for Egypt, who lost Liverpool star Mohamed Salah to a hamstring injury during the 2-2 draw with Ghana in their second match.

The Egyptian Football Association sacrificed a cow on Thursday in an effort to change the team's luck. However, the Pharaohs' defence was caught out by a

quick throw in for Congo's opening goal, scored by Mechack Elia in the 37th.

Mostafa Mohamed equalized from the penalty spot in first-half stoppage time. But extra time was needed between two teams that had failed to win any of their games so far. It was the eighth consecutive Africa Cup match that Egypt failed to win in normal time including the previous tournament.

Egypt finished the game with 10 players when defender Mohamed Hamdy was sent off on the first period of extra time with his second yellow card for a late challenge on Simon Banza.

In the shootout, Mohamed struck Egypt's second penalty to the right of the goal, but Congo's Arthur Masuako reciprocated by sending his effort over and no other players missed until Abou Gabal did.

Congo will next face Guinea.

Mohamed Bayo scored in the eighth minute of stoppage time to send the National Elephants into the quarterfinals with a 1-0 win over Equatorial Guinea.

The game was heading for extra time when Ibrahim Diakite crossed for Boya to finally break the deadlock with a header inside the near post. AGENCIES

Inter reclaim top spot

United survive Newport rally in FA Cup

Newport: Manchester United survived a major FA Cup scare from Newport County as Anthony's first goal this season inspired a dramatic 4-2 victory over the fourth-tier minnows on Sunday. Bruno Fernandes put United ahead and Kobbie Mainoo's first goal for the club doubled their lead in the first half of the fourth round clash.

But Bryn Morris pulled one back for plucky Newport – currently 16th in League Two – before Will Evans rocked United with his second half equaliser.

With United wobbling, Anthony was their unlikely saviour as the Brazil forward bagged his first goal since April.

Rasmus Hojlund put a flattering gloss on the scoreline for United when he netted in stoppage-time. United's victory came on another problematic day for Ten Hag, who had to fend off reports of a row with Marcus Rashford.

Inter reclaim top spot

Milan: Inter Milan reclaimed top spot in Serie A as they beat fifth-placed Fiorentina 1-0 on Sunday courtesy of an early header from

Lautaro Martinez. Inter moved

back top in the standings on 54 points, one ahead of second-placed Juventus.

Juve squandered the chance to increase their lead over Inter when they were held to a 1-1 home draw by lowly Empoli on Saturday. Fiorentina thought they had taken the lead when forward M'Bala Nzola nutmegged visiting

goalkeeper Yann Sommer in the 11th minute but the Angola striker was ruled to be offside. Martinez put Inter ahead three minutes later, nodding in a corner from a tight angle. AGENCIES

Confronted with 2 Ntis, wrestlers walk tightrope

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Pune: Jitender lost his men's freestyle 65kg repechage bout to Delhi's Manish Goswami in the senior National Wrestling tournament in Pune on Monday. This was Jitender's first senior National, but in a few days, he will participate in his second.

The Pune Nationals are being conducted by the Wrestling Federation of India; led by Sanjay Singh. The second Nationals will be organised in Jaipur by the ad-hoc committee formed by the Indian Olympic Association and supported by the sports ministry from February 2. Post Singh's win in the elections held last year, the WFI was suspended by the ministry and the IOA.

Rajasthan's Jitender has no choice but to participate in both the events as it is his first year in the senior category and he can't risk his career: "I will play in both the Nationals. I may have missed the medal here, but I can win one there. And even if I don't win, who knows which result will be ultimately considered," the wrestler said.

Most top names have opted out of the Pune Nationals. However, the lesser-ranked wrestlers don't have the choice. Despite the directive from the ministry that medals won at the Pune meet will be inconsequential and will not be considered for team selection or government jobs, several wrestlers have decided to compete in both the meets rather than siding with any one faction.

"I have worked so hard to become a senior international official and after clearing one more level, I will be eligible for the Olympics. I cannot afford to see this slip away just because of the politics happening in the sport," the official said.

The Pune Nationals will end on Wednesday and the Jaipur Nationals will begin from Friday. "We will not have enough time to travel and train, but we will have to manage," said another wrestler.

Russian skater Valieva suspended for doping

Lausanne: Teenage Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva received a four-year ban from the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Monday for failing a doping test prior to the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Valieva was found to have "committed an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) under Clause 4.1 of the All-Russian Anti-Doping Rules of 24 June 2021," said the three-member panel in sport's highest court.

"A period of four years incl-

igibility is imposed on Ms Valieva, starting on 25 December 2021. "All competitive results of Ms Valieva from 25 December 2021 are disqualified, with all the resulting consequences (including forfeiture of any titles, awards, medals, profits, prizes, and appearance money)," CAS added.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) welcomed the ban but took aim at those who had doped Valieva, who was just 15 at the time. AFP

Nod for Hyderabad FC players to join new club

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Panaji: The player status committee of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has given the go ahead to four Hyderabad FC players to terminate their existing contracts and join elsewhere before the transfer window ends on January 31.

Chinglensana Singh, Nikhil Poojary, Hitesh Sharma and Nim

Dorjee had all served notices to the club and complained to the player status committee about unpaid salaries for multiple months. The four domestic players had told Hyderabad that they would be free to terminate their contracts on a "just cause" if their salaries were not cleared within 15 days. The AIFF player status committee had a meeting on Monday and decided to issue temporary no objection certificates

(NOCs) to the players so that they can complete the transfer formalities before the window ends on the last day of this month.

"The committee took a decision to give them the NOCs so that their career is not affected," a senior official told TOI.

"It's clear that Hyderabad did not make the monthly payments. Even during the hearing, they only appeared to be buying more time.

The committee has ruled in favour of the players."

According to sources, Hyderabad did not have any of their club officials at the hearing. A legal representative told the panel that the AIFF notice was served only last night at 11pm and the club did not have enough time to respond adequately.

The PSC decision comes on a day when Hyderabad were left with just one foreign player.

'I OWE IT TO MY PERFECT PARENTS'

It Was Tough Leaving Home At 14, Says Australian Open Champion Jannik Sinner

TIMES IN MELBOURNE

SUPPORT CAST: Jannik (in blue) with his parents (top left), family and coaches when he won the Next Gen trophy in 2019

The intricately designed Norman Brookes Challenge Cup sat before Australian Open champion said it was all yet to sink in. Sinner delivered one of the most moving victory speeches, reaching out to his parents Johann and Siglinde Sinner, who he called "perfect parents".

The 22-year-old said, "Growing up away from home was the fastest way to grow up."

Sinner's father Johann works as a chef in a restaurant and his wife Siglinde also worked at the same restaurant as a waitress. Most of Sinner's childhood was spent with his grandparents, who looked after him when his parents were away at work.

Simeone Vagnozzi, Sinner's coach for the last three years, said the 22-year-old's parents should be held up as an example. "Sometimes they come to the tournament, and they do not speak one word about tennis. They are just there. They enjoy the life of the tournament, but never come to us (his coaches) and say, serve, volley, etc."

Vagnozzi said such people were always hard to find, more so in the internet age, where



parents. Obviously, I know only them, but they are awesome. Also, my brother, he brings me honesty."

Cahill, who was pushing Sinner throughout the near four-hour final, asking the 22-year-old to show him what he's got, said the Italian's conduct on the court is a reflection of his upbringing.

"Jannik is incredibly respectful on the court, whether it be to the umpires or ball kids or lines people, or anybody around the tournament — transport drivers, people at the restaurant," the Aussie said. "He's been brought up really well. He's got his feet on the ground. He's exactly like his parents."

The reason Sinner's parents didn't join their son in the later stages of the Australian Open was because they didn't want to jinx his run here. "His dad's a chef. So, we want him to come as much as possible because we eat really well when he's around," Cahill said.

Cahill noted that Sinner, who has shown great improvement in the last 12 months, was on his way as a player.

"Our job as coaches is to try to fast-track his journey as quickly as possible and get him to where he wants to go, so he can have a long window at the top of the game," Cahill said.

"He's absorbing everything and trying new things on the court. He just wants to get better."

FOR PARENTS TO LEAVE THEIR 14-YEAR-OLD SON IS NOT EASY. THEY ARE THE PERFECT PARENTS. OBVIOUSLY, I KNOW ONLY THEM, BUT THEY ARE AWESOME. ALSO, MY BROTHER, HE BRINGS ME HONESTY."

I left home when I was 14 years old. So, I had to grow up quite fast, trying to cook for myself, trying to do laundry. That was maybe the fastest way to grow up."

I LIKE TO DANCE IN THE PRESSURE STORM. PERSONALLY, I LIKE IT, BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE MOST OF THE TIME I BRING OUT MY BEST TENNIS. I'M ALSO QUITE RELAXED IN THIS OCCASION, BECAUSE I ALWAYS TRY TO ENJOY BEING ON THE COURT."

—Jannik Sinner

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— Adriano Panatta, THE LAST ITALIAN MAN TO WIN A GRAND SLAM SINGLES TITLE (FRENCH OPEN IN 1976)

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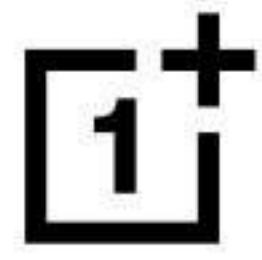
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visiting players' safety

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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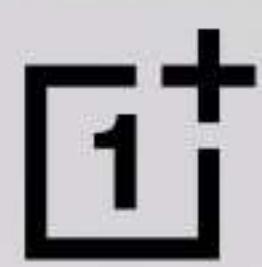
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**ADMISSIONS OPEN
2024-25**

HC junks plea for protection by 8 interfaith couples in UP

'Marriages Not In Compliance With Anti-Conversion Law'

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: Declaring that their marriages were not in compliance with the provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, the Allahabad high court has dismissed the petitions filed by eight interfaith couples for protection of life.

The anti-conversion law passed in UP in 2021 prohibits unlawful conversion from one religion to another by misrepresentation, force, fraud, undue influence, coercion and allurement.

The couples, through separate petitions, had approached the court seeking directions for their protec-



RED FLAG

tion and non-interference in their matrimonial lives. The court dismissed these petitions on different dates

between Jan 10 and Jan 16. In the orders, Justice Sagar Srivastava noted that these were cases of inter-

faith marriages, which were not in accordance with law as the anti-conversion law had not been followed.

Out of eight cases, five Muslim men had married Hindu women and three Hindu men had married Muslim women. The court mentioned the religions of petitioners in the orders.

Declining the requests made by the petitioners, the court said, "In such view of the fact, the relief prayed by the petitioners cannot be granted. Consequently, the writ petition is dismissed."

However, the court said the petitioners could file fresh writ petitions if they solemnised the marriage after following due procedure of law.

Cal HC judges differed on proceedings in teacher recruitment scam too, SC stepped in

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The controversy arising out of the spat between two judges of the Calcutta high court is not confined to a hearing in the fake caste certificate scam as the judges also differed in court proceedings related to the teacher recruitment scam in West Bengal, and the Supreme Court had to step in.

► Related Report, P11

While hearing a plea of candidates who were not selected and who sought disclosure of their breakup of marks and also publication of the panel of candidates in terms of primary school

Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay passed an order even after it was brought to his notice that a division bench had already ruled on the petitions in the case

teachers recruitment rules, Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay said that publication of the panel should be done. He directed the production of a copy of the panel and passed the order even after it was brought to his notice that a division bench had already stayed the direction for publication of the panel.

"An interim order passed by a court in respect of one matter having one set of facts, cannot be used for another matter having different set of facts, specially, when it has been admitted by the board itself, a party, that panels have already been published by the board which has been quoted above," Justice Gangopadhyay said in his order.

That order was challenged before a division bench of Justices Soumen Sen and Uday Kumar which set aside the single bench order and said, "However, the learned single-judge has not stated in the order distinguishing facts on the basis of which the aforesaid order could have been passed as in our order, we have

clearly stated in paragraph 3 that the writ petitioners have to first establish their legal right as a duly qualified Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) 2014 candidates in order to get a relief whatever the nature of the proceeding may be."

The division bench order was challenged in SC. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan on Jan 25 stayed the single bench order.

SC had last year dismissed the plea of Trinamool Congress leader and former chairman of the West Bengal Board of Primary Education Manik Bhattacharya challenging his arrest by Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case in the teacher recruitment scam.

How they made sure India's Constitution lasts for ages

The Original Copies Are Calligraphed And Intricately Adorned. Indian Scientists Collaborated With US Experts To Preserve The Documents

Vishwa Mohan
@timesgroup.com

Republic Day marks the occasion when the Constitution of India came into force. This year, we commemorated the 75th anniversary of the day on which the arduous efforts of the founding fathers of a newly independent India reached a momentous conclusion. The Constitution though was adopted by the Constituent Assembly, the body that drafted it, on November 26, 1949. The outcome of over two years' labour was presented in the form of two carefully calligraphed copies bearing the signatures of the doyens of the freedom movement. But where are those volumes?

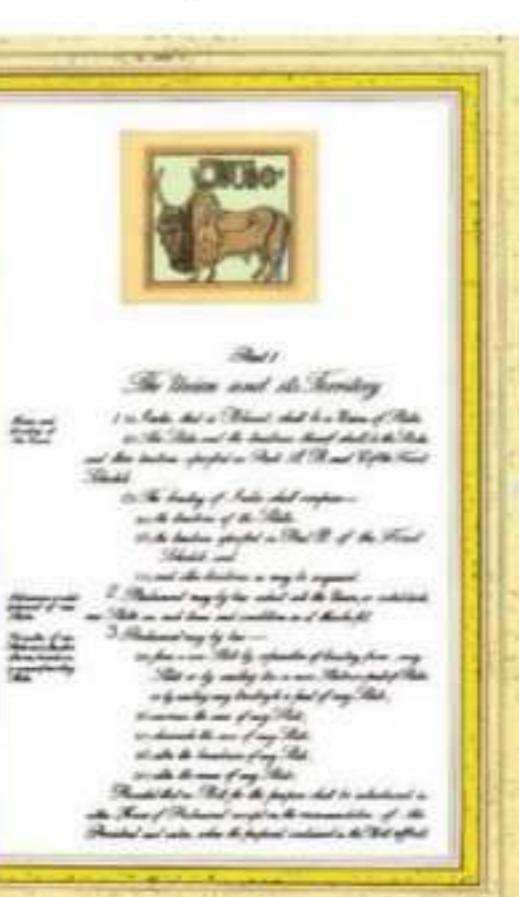
The original calligraphed copies of the Constitution of India are, in fact, preserved inside the Parliament Library in display cases that are quite similar to the ones used for the royal mummies at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. The English and Hindi versions of the Constitution are kept in hermetically sealed glass receptacles designed to maintain a micro-environment of less than 1% oxygen at 45% relative humidity. It ensures that these documents are not affected by moisture, temperature or pollutants.

These receptacles, created by CSIR's New Delhi-based National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in collaboration with the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) of US, are housed since 1994 in a strong room in Parliament Library.

The two receptacles are inside a protective vault-like room — 180cm wide, 180cm deep, and 305cm high — in the Parliament Library. The room is climate-controlled to maintain a temperature of 20 degrees Celsius and 30% relative humidity throughout the year. Each box is 55cm wide, 70cm long, and 25cm high. "These receptacles are periodically evaluated by a team of NPL scientists while the Parliament Library monitors them on a

weekly basis. Both copies are in very good condition and the monitoring parameters are adequately maintained," Venugopal Achanta, director, CSIR-NPL, told TOI.

The two original calligraphed copies have great autographic and historical value as they contain the signatures of the founding fathers of the Con-



ILLUSTRATED CHARTER OF INDIA

The original English version of the Constitution of India was calligraphed by Prem Behari Narain Raizada

It weighs about 13kg and has 221 calligraphed sheets of handmade parchment paper

The sheets were decorated and illustrated by Nandalal Bose

The pages depict India's journey from the Harappa-Mohenjo Daro and Vedic periods to the freedom movement

The Hindi version was calligraphed by Basant Rao Vaidya

It weighs about 14kg and comprises 252 calligraphed sheets

Both versions have been bound in Morocco leather and embossed in gold

BINDING COMMITMENT: Indian officials (top) pose with experts who helped create the climate-controlled boxes for keeping the original copies of the Constitution, which are now housed in Parliament Library

Ranjana Mehrotra note how they sought to collaborate with various national and international institutions to develop the hermetically sealed glass cases.

In 1989, NPL scientists finally landed at the door of GCI, which had developed "nearly similar cases for the storage and display" of the Egyptian Museum mummies. NPL and GCI signed an agreement in July 1993 for the creation of the display cases for the Constitution of India. It was agreed that two identical cases would be fabricated for the English and Hindi versions of the Constitution. The receptacles were built by GCI in the US and shipped to the Parliament Library. They were installed in March 1994.

"As those boxes are aging, the proposal to build new ones should be taken up at the earliest," Aswal, posted as director, Health Safety and Environment Group, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), told TOI.

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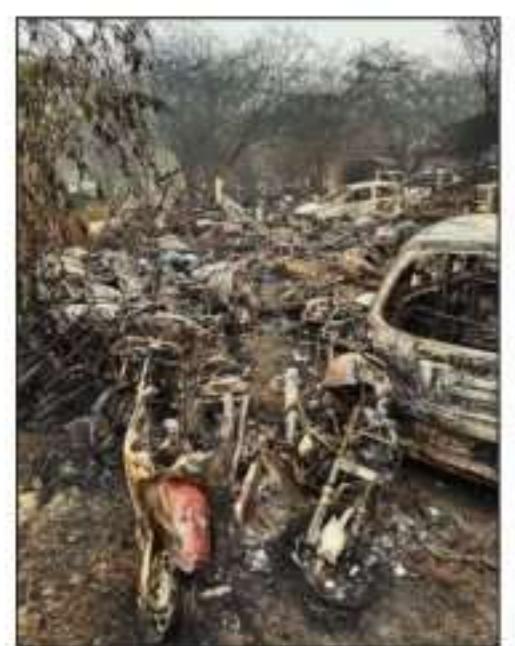
**RUSSIAN FIGURE SKATER KAMILA VALIEVA,
WHOSE POSITIVE DOPING TEST ROILED 2022
WINTER OLYMPICS, BANNED FOR 4 YEARS 22**

Railway Board ex-chief named Trai chairman

The Centre on Tuesday appointed Railway Board ex-chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti as chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai). Barring Justice RS Sodhi and M S Verma (SBI ex-chairman), the post has remained with retired IAS officers. Lahoti belongs to Railway Engineering Service. The appointment comes four months after previous chairman P D Vaghela's term ended. **FLAP INSIDE**

'Ensure anti-rabies serum at PHCs'

The Centre has directed states/UTs to ensure the availability of anti-rabies serum at sub-health centres, primary health centres and urban primary health centres. Financial support will be provided for procurement under NHM, it said. **P10**



Over 300 seized cars and bikes were destroyed in a massive fire at a vehicle pit behind the police training school in north Delhi's Wazirabad early Monday | **P3**

Byju's eyes \$200m at 99% valuation cut

EduTech startup Byju's has launched a rights issue to raise \$200 million from existing investors at a valuation of about \$225-230 million — a 99% drop from its peak valuation of \$22 billion, as it struggles with funding crunch. **P19**

Govt extends ban on SIMI for 5 yrs

The Centre Monday declared SIMI an 'unlawful association' under UAPA for 5 more years, citing recent terror cases involving members of PFI and IS-inspired modules, who were associated with SIMI before the outfit was first banned in 2001. **TNN**

Man stabs woman 50 times in city

A 21-year-old man allegedly stabbed a woman about 50 times, resulting in her death, at an isolated railway yard in Shakur Basti in Rani Bagh area on January 24. He told cops she was a friend but was "avoiding" him and he suspected her of having multiple affairs. **P3**

Wet spell coming, chill may return

After a prolonged dry spell during a harsh winter, Delhi may finally get some rain. Met department has forecast a wet spell on Wednesday with strong winds, and snow in the hill states, particularly J&K. This may be followed by a chilly spell. **P2**

More incentives for going solar in new city policy

Delhi government unveiled a new solar policy on Monday that offers more incentives for residents to install solar panels, promising more generation-based incentives (GBI) than the 2016 policy, capital subsidy and facility to sell excess electricity in real time to other consumers. **REPORTS ABHINAV RAJPUT**

The payback to users has been increased to Rs 3 per unit for small rooftop plants (generating up to 3kW/year) while being pegged at Rs 2 per unit for larger plants (3-10kW). Under the old policy, consumers got Rs 2 per unit conditional to generating 1,100kW. **P2**

CAA to be implemented in 7 days, says minister

Govt May Soon Notify Rules For Enforcement

Bharti.Jain@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Union minister Shantanu Thakur on Monday said Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) would be implemented in the next seven days, reinforcing the possibility of an early rollout of the law. Modi government enacted in 2020 in the face of widespread protests.

"I can guarantee that in the next seven days, not just in West Bengal, but CAA will be implemented across India," Thakur, junior ports & shipping minister, said while addressing a public gathering at Kakdwip in Bengal's South 24 Parganas. The statement came amid gathering indications of the Centre no-

tifying rules for the implementation of the law.

The changes in the Act aim to provide Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim immigrants, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and Christians, from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who entered India before Dec 31, 2014.

WHY NOW?

► Union minister Shantanu Thakur, BJP MP from Bengal's Bongaon, which has a substantial population of

Matua community, made announcement Sunday.

Matuas, comprising a significant portion of state's SC popn, have been migrating to Bengal since the 1950s, fleeing religious persecution in erstwhile East Pakistan, now Bangladesh.

Matuas anticipated to reap most benefits of CAA implementation

WHAT'S THE ACT

► Citizenship (Amendment) Act, notified in 2020, seeks to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim immigrants, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and Christians, from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan who entered India before Dec 31, 2014

WHY NOW?

► Union minister Shantanu Thakur, BJP MP from Bengal's Bongaon, which has a substantial population of

Trinamool spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said BJP's raising of issue ahead of LS polls is 'just election rhetoric.'

2014. Though the Act was notified in early 2020, guidelines crucial for its implementation could not be framed — first because of protests against the exclusion of Muslims from its ambit and later because of the Covid pandemic.

► Online portal, P 17

Stop mentioning caste and religion of litigants, SC directs all courts

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Disapproving of the practice of litigants mentioning their religion or caste along with their names, Supreme Court has directed all courts across the country to shun the practice and comply with its order.

"We see no reason for (it)... Such a practice must be ceased forthwith. It is therefore deemed appropriate to pass a general order directing that henceforth the caste or religion of parties shall not be mentioned in the memo of parties of a petition/proceeding filed before this court, irrespective of whether any such details have been furnished before the courts below," said a bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Ahsanuddin Amanullah. **TNN**

► 'Had no choice', P 17

IN THE COURTS

► Guj police, magistrate need to be educated, says SC over cops seeking man's custody even after SC gave him anticipatory bail | **P11**

► SC seeks Arunachal's response on PIL alleging irregularities in public work contract allotment & CM Khandu's role in giving contracts to relatives | **P11**

► Road 'scam': SC declines Andhra govt's plea against HC's anticipatory bail to Chandrababu Naidu | **P11**

► SC extends deadline to decide disqualification pleas against Mahा's Ajit Pawar faction till Feb 15 | **P11**

► NewsClick case: Court extends judicial custody of founder Prabin Purkayastha and Amit Chakraborty by 20 days | **P12**

► 'Had no choice', P 17

No role of NTPC project in Joshimath subsidence: Geological Survey report

Sanjay Dutta | TNN

New Delhi: Widespread ground subsidence reported in January 2023 in Joshimath, Uttarakhand, that damaged 65% of houses in the town was induced by "unregulated development in form of high-rise buildings" as well as "disturbance to the natural drainage system" in the fragile mountain, and not by NTPC's hydel project, as per the Geological Survey of India.

The agency's final geological and geotechnical probe report recommended, among other measures, not allowing new construction in Auli and upper slopes, and strictly regulating construction work as well as avoiding road widening activities along the Joshimath-Auli axis.

► 'Highly unstable', P 15

AVOID WORK ON ROAD WIDENING'

► Unregulated construction of buildings & disturbance to natural drainage caused Joshimath subsidence, says final GSI report. NTPC's hydel project played no role

► Recommends construction ban in Auli, upper slopes; says avoid road-widening activities

► Says breach in groundwater aquifer body caused outburst in town's Jaypee colony

► 'Highly unstable', P 15

Rescued workers return to tunnel

Two months after 41 trapped workers were rescued from the Silkyara-Barkot tunnel following a harrowing 17-day ordeal, life is slowly returning to normal at the site, with rescued workers starting to trickle in. **P7**

► 'Highly unstable', P 15

Hosp equipment must function: HC to Delhi govt

Flagging an annual shortfall of Rs 700 crore in Delhi government's budgetary allocation on hospitals, HC on Monday said all medical equipment in state government hospitals must be

► Man who died not even offered stretcher, P 7

functional within a month. "What sort of hospitals do you have where there are no ventilators, no CT scan? It can't be that they are not working. This is very serious," the court said. **P7**

Don't treat your kid's report card as your visiting card: PM to parents

Manash.Gohain | @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday urged parents not to treat their children's report cards as their visiting cards and suggested that students should compete with themselves and not others. He called for reducing screen time through "no-gadget zones in house" and "no gadgets during dinner" rules to achieve tech-life balance.

Interacting with students, parents and teachers during his annual "Pariksha Pe Charcha" programme, the PM said, "It is crucial to instill resilience in our children and help them cope with pressure... We cannot just switch off and the pressure is gone. One must become capable of bearing any kind of pressure." He classified stress faced by students into three types as "induced by peer pressure,

parents or self-induced".

Conceptualised to beat stress, exam-related fear continues to be among common questions in each edition.

► 'Don't let pressure', P 16



PM interacts with students during 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' on Monday

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► 'Don't let pressure', P 16

GST 'anti-profiteering' clause is fine, says HC; many cos to be hit

Cos Had Not Passed On Benefit Of Lower Prices To Consumers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK



'CONSUMER WELFARE'

New Delhi: Delhi high court has upheld the constitutional validity of the anti-profiteering clause in the GST law, which mandates companies to pass on the benefit of lower taxes and input tax credit to consumers.

The move will come as a blow to several companies as the National Anti-Profiteering Authority's (NAA) order could not be implemented all these years. The court has also held that the agency's rules are valid.

The list of petitioners included top FMCG players ranging from Reckitt Benckiser to Hindustan Unilever, ITC, Nestle, P&G and Patanjali in addition to a host of other companies such as Philips, Samsonite, Samsung, Starbucks, J&J and several builders and restaurants.

They argued that the pro-

vision in the law and the rules based on it were unconstitutional as they were beyond the legislative competence of Parliament. They also argued that they conferred excessive powers on NAA and questioned the absence of specifics of the methodology to determine "profiteering".

Government responded by saying that the provisions were meant for consumer welfare and essentially created a substantive restriction on suppliers appropriating the gains from GST. Amicus curiae Amar Dave told the court that there was no question of

any unbridled powers being conferred on NAA, which was entrusted with ensuring compliance. He further said that Section 171 was for consumer welfare and equity.

Upholding the provision, Delhi HC's acting chief justice Manmohan said: "This court is of the view that the amounts foregone from the public exchequer in favour of consumers cannot be appropriated by the manufacturers, traders, distributors etc. To allow them to do so would amount to unjust enrichment... In the absence of such anti-profiteering provisions, there would be no legal obligation to pass on the benefit of GST regime and, consequently, the intended objective of reducing overall tax rates and mitigating the cascading effect would not be achieved."

He also ruled that Section 171 was within Parliament's

law-making powers and did not delegate any essential legislative function. The court also dismissed the claim by the petitioners that the provisions were in the nature of a price-fixing mechanism.

It, however, held that a "one size fits all approach" formula cannot be prescribed as the facts of each case or industry are not the same. It observed that the methodology adopted in case of real estate companies was flawed and there was no correlation between the turnover and input tax credit.

"It has been clarified by HC that in case parties can satisfy the cost escalation of inputs or other factors when GST rate becomes lower than the existing rate on date of transition, in such genuine cases, anti-profiteering orders passed against parties can be set aside," said tax lawyer RS Sharma.

Former rly board chairman Lahoti is new Trai chief

New Delhi: In a surprise move, government on Tuesday appointed former Railway Board chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti as the new chairman of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai).

Barring Justice RS Sodhi and MS Verma (former SBI chairman), the top regulatory post has remained with retired IAS officers. The appointment comes four months after the last chairman PD Vaghela's term ended. Government had conducted interviews a second time with the high-profile job opened up to the private sector. Names of several former secretary-rank IAS officers were doing the rounds. Lahoti belongs to the railway engineering service and is from the 1984 batch.

Patrol vessel INS Sumitra responded to a distress message about the hijacking of fishing vessel Iman, which had been boarded by pirates who took the crew hostage on Sunday night.

INS Sumitra intercepted the vessel and "acted in accordance with the established SOPs (standard operating procedures) to coerce the pi-

Navy rescues crew of hijacked Iranian vessel off Somalia coast

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In another swift operation on the high seas, an Indian warship intercepted an Iranian-flagged fishing vessel hijacked by pirates along the east coast of Somalia and ensured the safe release of all 17 crew members on Monday morning.

Patrol vessel INS Sumitra responded to a distress message about the hijacking of fishing vessel Iman, which had been boarded by pirates who took the crew hostage on Sunday night.

INS Sumitra intercepted the vessel and "acted in accordance with the established SOPs (standard operating procedures) to coerce the pi-

rates for safe release of crew along with the boat", a Navy officer said. "The action led to the pirates fleeing the vessel in their skiffs," he said.

The mission-deployed Indian warships on anti-piracy and maritime security

operations in the Indian Ocean Region symbolise the Navy's resolve towards safety of all vessels and seafarers at sea, he added.

The latest operation comes two days after Indian guided-missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam had come to the aid of Marshall Island-flagged tanker Marlin Luanda hit by an anti-ballistic missile fired by Houthi rebels of Yemen in the Gulf of Aden.

Escalating attacks by Houthi rebels and Somali pirates on merchant ships transiting through Red Sea, Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea had disrupted maritime trade between Europe and Asia over the last few months.

Leprosy curable since 1980s, but laws remain stuck in 1890s

India Marks Anti-Leprosy Day Today On Mahatma Gandhi's Death Anniversary. But Over 100 Laws Guided By Raj-Era Lepers Act Discriminate Against Persons With Leprosy

Dhvani Mehta, Rituparna Padhy, Nikita Sarah & Subhojit Goswami

If the forced detention of suspected Covid cases in 2020 seemed excessive, in Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu police can still detain "beggars affected by leprosy" even though this bacterial disease does not spread easily and has been curable for almost 40 years.

India's numerous state laws discriminating against persons with leprosy (see graphic), and even people who have made a full recovery, are a vestige of The Lepers Act of 1898. Ironically, the British law was out of sync with scientific opinion when it was passed 126 years ago.

The Report of the Leprosy Commission in India, 1893, had categorically said: "The amount of contagion that exists is so small that it may be disregarded, and no legislation is called for on the lines either of segregation, or of interdiction of marriage with lepers." Instead, they recommended voluntary isolation.

Even after Independence, new discriminatory laws were made. Leprosy was recognised as a ground for divorce, persons affected by it were prohibited from entering marketplaces and libraries...

The Commission had been tasked with a detailed investigation of leprosy in India and the factors contributing to its spread. The commissioners personally examined 2,000 persons affected by leprosy across the country at a time when the disease was shrouded in stigma. They concluded that race, caste, diet and geography were not causal factors. Rather, they observed that leprosy attacked the poor more than the rich because of their inability to access adequate nutrition and sanitation.

Yet, the 1898 law was enforced, giving police powers to arrest 'pauper lepers' with-

out a warrant and to confine them to 'leper asylums'. It also made it a criminal offence for persons affected by leprosy to sell food items or drinks, to bathe in a public tank, to ride in a public carriage or to exercise any trade prohibited by notification.

Even after Independence, new discriminatory laws were made. Leprosy was recognised as a ground for divorce, persons affected by it were prohibited from entering marketplaces and libraries, and they could not be appointed as members of university academic boards or even stand for local polls.

There have been significant medical and legal advancements since 1898. In the mid-1980s, multi-drug therapy (MDT) was developed and leprosy became curable. The very first dose of this WHO-

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recommended regimen ensures an infected person is no longer contagious. Yet, more than 100 discriminatory provisions related to leprosy remain on India's statute books.

In 2015, the 256th Report of the Law Commission recommended the repeal of the Lepers Act as well as other such provisions. This was bolstered by the enactment of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act in 2016, which prohibits discrimination on the ground of disability. The Act covers leprosy-cured persons as well as persons with physical or sensory impairment due to leprosy.

In 2017, on a petition filed by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy challenging such discriminatory provisions, Supreme Court observed that there was no longer any justification for them and called on Central and state governments to amend them.

Over the past five years, 33 Central and state laws have been amended but many more remain. Anti-Leprosy Day should be marked by a push to rid India of such irrational colonial relics and ensure the constitutional right to dignity and equality of persons affected by leprosy.

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WITH DISEASE, AN ADDED BURDEN

Positions in boards and councils of universities and other institutions, and appointments to municipal and panchayat bodies can be closed to persons affected by leprosy, who can also be disqualified from serving as typists and working in liquor shops or slaughterhouses. There are municipal laws that permit authorities to expel persons with leprosy from public places or penalise them. Beggars suffering from leprosy can be forcibly detained in 'leper asylums', or 'sanatoriums' while prisons and correctional homes can hold them in isolation without providing appropriate healthcare. Here's a look at states with the highest number of discriminatory provisions:

State	No. of laws with discriminatory provisions	Persons with leprosy can be...
Andhra Pradesh	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Disqualified from holding positions in educational institutes, municipal corporations, religious institutions ➤ Forcibly detained in case they are found to be beggars ➤ Barred from holding liquor shop licences
Odisha	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Disqualified from holding positions in local government ➤ Forcibly detained, in case of children in children's homes, in separate premises ➤ Disqualified from becoming a professional typist
Kerala	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Disqualified from holding positions in professional associations, government offices and councils ➤ Disqualified from becoming document writers ➤ Prohibited from entering public resorts
Madhya Pradesh	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Disqualified from holding positions in local government and religious institutions ➤ Forcibly detained in case they are found to be beggars ➤ Prohibited from travelling on steam vessels and entering slaughterhouses
Tamil Nadu	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Disqualified from holding positions in educational or religious institutions, local government ➤ Forcibly detained in case they are found to be beggars



File photo of a leprosy survivor making saris for nuns at Missionaries of Charity's Prem Nevas Leprosy Centre in Kolkata

Of late, several states have started amending laws to remove references to persons affected by leprosy in discriminatory provisions. Notable examples are the Tamil University (Amendment) Act, 2022, amendments to UP Cooperative Societies (Forty-fifth Amendment) Rules, 2006, and Rajasthan Rehabilitation of Beggars or Indigents (Amendment) Act, 2020.



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