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10 degrees of relief in 1 hr as rain cools city

Temperatures dipped by up to 10 degrees in 1 hour in parts of Delhi Thursday evening as a short but sharp rainstorm brought respite from heatwave conditions. At Mayur Vihar, the mercury dipped from 37 degrees C to 27 degrees between 5.30pm and 6.30pm. Earlier in the day, Delhi saw 'warm night' conditions for the second straight day. Rain has been forecast for next two days, with heatwave abating. P 6

2 J&K govt staffers fired for terror links

J&K LG Manoj Sinha on Thursday terminated the services of two govt employees — senior assistant in J&K PWD Ishtiyaq Ahmad Malik and assistant wireless operator in J&K Police Basharat Ahmad Mir — over alleged terror links. P 12

Rain-linked incidents kill 54 in 4 states

At least 54 people were killed in UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand on Thursday following a deadly spell of severe weather marked by thunderstorm, lightning and heavy rains. While 27 people died in Bihar, there were 22 deaths in UP. P 13

Mumbai cops fail to find stolen Raza

Mumbai police have filed a closure report after failing to trace modernist painter S H Raza's work, 'Prakruti', that was stolen from an auction warehouse in south Mumbai seven months ago. The painting is estimated to be worth Rs 2.5 crore. P 11

City pvt vehicles have 1.7cr pending challans

Around 9.3 lakh private vehicles in Delhi have three or more pending challans. The total number of bookings is 1.7cr, while commercial vehicles have 16 lakh pending challans. The top offender among the private vehicles has 601 challans. P 6

Jaypee buyers' stir at Suraksha office

Wish Town homebuyers Thursday held a protest near the Sector 128 office of Suraksha, the resolution applicant that took over Jaypee Infratech Ltd, shouting slogans and breaching barricades, forcing police to intervene. P 5

PMJAY rolls out in city, MoU signed

Centre's flagship health cover scheme, AB-PMJAY, rolled out in Delhi on Thursday and an MoU was signed between the Union and city govts for setting up 1,139 Arogya Mandirs in the capital at the cost of Rs 2,406 crore. P 4

Rana arrested on arrival, appears before NIA court

20-Day Remand Sought, Judge Reserves Order

Raj Shekhar Jha & Bharti Jain

New Delhi: Tahawwur Hussain Rana, who played a key role in plotting the 2008 terror attack on Mumbai that claimed 166 lives, was arrested by NIA here on Thursday after his arrival from US on a special flight.

The Pakistani-Canadian terrorist was produced before special NIA judge Chander Jit Singh, who held an in-camera hearing on NIA counsel and special public prosecutor Narender Mann's plea for a 20-day remand. Rana was represented by Piyush Sachdeva, provided to him by Delhi Legal Services Authority. After the hearing, the judge reserved his order.

Rana's extradition process was nothing short of a nail-biter with fears of sabotage looming till the flight touched down at Palam airport's technical area. The home ministry and the office of NSA, along with Intelligence Bureau, constantly monitored the flight ferrying Rana, taking precautions to thwart any attempt to stop him from landing in the grasp of Indian agencies.

▶Pak disowns Rana, says he's a Canadian nat'l, P 14

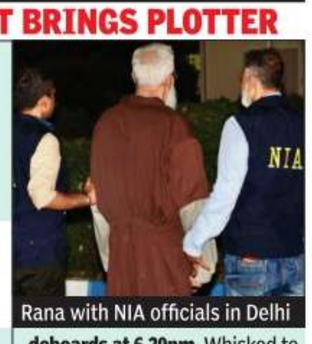
▶'Historic feat': BJP claims credit; Cong disagrees, P 14

▶Dummy code used, P 14

CHARTERED FLIGHT BRINGS PLOTTER

- A Gulfstream G550 chartered aircraft takes off from Los Angeles early Wednesday. Tahawwur **Rana is seated with NSG commandos** around him. **Senior NIA officials form the next ring**
- A **dummy code is generated** for the plane **to dodge public flight trackers** and alleviate threats of any attack
- Makes **pit stop in Romania** before **touching down at Palam** technical area at 6pm Thursday. **Rana, in prison browns, deboards at 6.20pm.** Whisked to court through a **green corridor in a 20-vehicle convoy guarded by SWAT commandos**

Photo: IANS



Rana with NIA officials in Delhi

Nirbhaya prosecutor to lead NIA team

Senior lawyer Dayan Krishnan, at the forefront of proceedings for the extradition of 26/11 co-conspirator David Coleman Headley, will lead NIA's prosecution team in the Rana case. In 2012, Delhi Police had appointed Krishnan special public prosecutor in the Nirbhaya case. P 14

Security at Palam, court beefed up

Cops in Delhi were on high alert, with security at Palam, NIA headquarters and Patiala House Court beefed up. DMRC shut a gate near JLN Stadium, and public transport was restricted in adjoining areas. Police were deployed on rooftops around these high-security places. P 3

Govt seeks to work with US to 'speedily seal trade deal'

Won't Be Easy, Main Talks Yet To Start: Officials

Times News Network

New Delhi: After the tariff pause, govt is looking to engage with the US to speed up the trade deal while asserting that it is handling the dialogue "wisely".

"PM Modi and President Trump had decided in Feb to sign a trade agreement that'll make trade between India and the US easier. This will also increase trade up to $500 billion, about 2.5 times more than before. It will create more job opportunities and further strengthen the country's economy. India was already ahead in this race, and our discussions are making good progress," commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said after the US paused reciprocal tariffs for 90 days.

Most businesses are pushing the govt to speed up the deal so that they are not hit hard in case Trump decides to reinstate the duties.

Govt officials, however, recognise that speeding up the proposed bilateral pact is easier said than done with the discussions so far focusing on the modalities. The technical negotiations are scheduled to commence this month.

▶ EDIT PAGE: Trumped by treasuries/Don dusted

▶ Level-playing field, P 22

BOND MKT SWINGS HALTED TARIFFS?

- White House clarifies **tariffs on Chinese goods to be at least 145%** even as China's own retaliatory duties of 84% kick in. Meanwhile, China urges US to meet it 'halfway' while reaching out to other countries in bid to form a united front
- Several US senators call for an **insider trading probe into Trump over his tariff pause announcement.** 'Who in the admin knew about Trump's latest tariff flip-flop ahead of time? Did anyone buy or sell stocks, and profit at the public's expense?' asks California Senator Adam Schiff
- **EU to suspend its retaliatory measures** against US tariffs for 90 days after Trump suspended his tariff plan, says EU chief Ursula von der Leyen
- Wild swings in US govt bond market seen as the reason for Trump's pause on tariffs on Wednesday, say media reports. The **tariff rate flip-flop also led to a wild rally in stock market** that broke several records

See TOI Explainer on P 22

- Wall Street rally fizzles out as US shares fall sharply Thursday over persistent concerns about fallout of Trump's trade war. Larger-than-expected dip in US consumer inflation in March fuels grim outlook | P 21, PG OPP

Grenade found at RIMS director house in Imphal

Kangkan.Kalita1
@timesofindia.com

An unexploded grenade was found Thursday in the compound of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences director G Sunilkumar Sharma's Imphal East residence, adding to the security jitters caused by gunmen firing 7-8 rounds at a shelter for displaced and underprivileged children in the Manipur capital the previous day.

The grenade was taken away and defused by a bomb disposal squad that reached the official's home after his family called police at 8am. Investigators suspect the grenade had been planted by suspected extortionists as a ploy to get their intended target to pay up.

▶3 militants held, P 16

Govt can't take away pension, gratuity: HC

State govt cannot take away any part of an employee's pension, gratuity or leave encashment without a statutory provision 'even under the guise of administrative instructions', Chhattisgarh high court has ruled, **reports Partha Behera**.

The court quashed the govt order that permitted the recovery of over Rs 9.2 lakh from the pension of a deceased govt employee, Rajkumar Gonekar, a resident of MP's Chhindwara, and directed that the amount be refunded to his legal heirs within 45 days. It is a "hard-earned benefit which accrues to an employee and is in the nature of 'property'", the court observed. P 13

Rape survivor 'responsible' for 'inviting trouble', says HC, gives bail to accused

Prayagraj: A college student drinking at a bar till 3am and accompanying her alleged rapist to an apartment because she was inebriated and needed to rest suggests that she "herself invited trouble" and was hence accountable for the consequences, Allahabad HC has said while granting bail to the suspect, **reports Rajesh Kumar Pandey**.

"Even if the allegation of the victim is accepted as true, it can be concluded she… was also responsible for the same. Similar stand has been taken by the victim in her statement. In her medical examination, her hymen was found torn but doctor did not give any opinion about the sexual assault," Justice Sanjay Kumar Singh said.

▶Morality of act, P 16

IN THE COURTS

- **ED, which filed petition against 'non-cooperation'** of Chhattisgarh police in liquor scam, says it too has 'rights', **SC tells it to be 'sensitive to rights of others'** | P 12
- Special Pocso court in Mum sentences man (25) to **20-yr RI in case involving sex crimes against minor**
- **Can't stop NREGS funds permanently, Cal HC tells Centre**, asks why scheme, stalled in Bengal since 2022, shouldn't be prospectively implemented | P 11
- Allahabad HC's Lucknow bench sentences **lawyer to 6-mth jail for appearing in court with unbuttoned shirt**, calling judges 'goondas' | P 11

Drone crashes into IAF tower at Jammu airport

Jammu: An Army personnel waSs seriously injured after an unmanned aerial vehicle crashed after colliding with an Indian Air Force tower located within the high-security technical area of Jammu airport on Thursday. No official statement has been released regarding the incident yet, **reports Sanjay Khajuria**.

However, official sources said the UAV, a Searcher Mark-2 of the Army, crashed around 2.45pm during routine flying. The sophisticated Israel-made drone is used by Army in surveillance and reconnaissance operations along LoC. Naik Surinder Pal, a Defence Service Corps personnel, got injured in the accident and was admitted to hospital. A probe has been launched to ascertain the cause of the incident.

AI Exp pilot, 36, lands flight at IGI, dies of cardiac arrest soon after

Times News Network

New Delhi: An Air India Express pilot suffered a cardiac arrest at IGI Airport on Wednesday shortly after safely operating a flight from Srinagar and passed away. First officer Armaan, who was about 36 years of age and had recently got married, had operated the Delhi-Srinagar-Delhi flight on Wednesday. After landing in Delhi, he went to the aircraft lavatory where he vomited. He collapsed in the forward galley and was taken to the airport medical centre by cabin crew and ground staff. He was then taken to a private hospital in Vasant Kunj but could not be saved.

"We deeply regret the loss of a valued colleague due to a medical condition. Our thoughts are with the family during this time of profound grief. We are extending all possible assistance to them as we all cope with this tremendous loss," an Air India Express spokesperson said.

▶Prioritise rest, P 6

RECENTLY WED

- Armaan had flown for less than 12 hrs in the past week
- Airline Pilots' Assn said there's an urgent need for transparent **regulations that prioritise rest for pilots**
- Several pilots say they have been pleading for **less strenuous working conditions** for a long time

Digital Data Act sec undermines RTI: INDIA bloc

Times News Network

New Delhi: Opposition INDIA bloc on Thursday demanded that the govt repeal Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, claiming that it "undermines" the public's ability to access critical information under the RTI Act.

The alliance will submit a petition signed by 120 politicians, including Rahul Gandhi, to electronics and information technology minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Responding to concerns raised by Congress's Jairam Ramesh, Vaishnaw clarified that "any personal information subject to disclosure will continue to be disclosed under the RTI Act".

▶Privacy principles, P 14

UP woman 'delivers' 25 times, gets 5 sterilisations in 30 mths for ₹45k dole

Mohammad.Dilshad
@timesofindia.com

Agra: A woman from Agra district reportedly 'delivered' 25 times and underwent sterilisation on five occasions in 30 months, from 2021 to 2023, to claim a govt dole of Rs 45,000, records at a community health centre in UP revealed.

That this was no real woman came to light after a recent audit found fraudulent claims under the govt's National Health Mission-run schemes. The funds were transferred to a bank account opened by using fake documents in the name of Krishna Kumari, 35, who had no knowledge about the money. Her identity was misused for the scam.

A complaint was filed against five persons, four of them health employees. Three of them were held Wednesday.

▶Officials involved? P 16

IDENTITY THEFT

- 35-year-old woman's name used for fraudulent claims under **National Health Mission**
- Scheme offers **₹1,400** for rural delivery, **₹1,000** for urban delivery, and **₹2,000** for sterilisation
- Four of the accused **posted at Fatehabad CHC**

JD(U) man shot dead in Bihar, assailants flee

Patna: A JD(U) worker was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Khagaria district, police said on Thursday. The victim, Kaushal Singh (50), was travelling with his wife on a two-wheeler in Chautham town's Kaithi Tola area on Wednesday night when they were attacked, **report Kshitiz & Manoj Chaurasia**.

Khagaria SP Rakesh Kumar said preliminary investigations point to a family dispute as the likely motive. Singh, a former panchayat samiti member, was known to be associated with Beldaur's JD(U) MLA Panna Lal Singh Patel.

▶RJD-BJP slugfest, P 12

'Fake doc' probe: Death of ex-C'garh Speaker after heart op under scanner

Raipur: The administration in Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh, has sent a notice to a well-known private hospital following allegations that "Dr John Camm, aka Narendra Vikramaditya Yadav", operated on former Chhattisgarh Speaker Rajendra Prasad Shukla, who died shortly after surgery in 2006, **reports Partha Behera**.

The notice seeks to know how long Camm was employed with them and details of the patients he saw. Shukla was a Congress MLA from Kota assembly constituency and was the first Speaker of the Chhattisgarh assembly, from 2000 to 2003.

Camm, now in MP police custody, is accused of carrying out unauthorised cardiac surgeries on 13 patients in Damoh in two months, after which seven of them died.

▶'Fake' doc's tenure, P 16

'DISCLOSE COMPLAINTS'

- Pvt hospital sent notice, asked for **info on Camm's employment, patients, education**, and whether he was registered with Chhattisgarh Medical Council
- Also asked for **photocopy of appointment letter**, and to disclose if complaints were raised about qualifications; **told to submit report in 3 days**

Priest among 3 held for UP journo's murder

Police arrested a priest and his two aides in UP's Sitapur on Thursday over the March 8 murder of journalist Raghvendra Vajpayee (36). Shivanand Baba allegedly orchestrated the killing after the journalist, a reporter with a national Hindi daily and an RTI activist, caught him sodomising a minor boy at his temple and threatened to expose him.

Shivanand allegedly paid Rs 4 lakh to two contract killers through his accomplices, Nirmal Singh and Aslam Ghazi. The killers are currently on the run. The arrested trio was produced before a court Thursday and sent to jail. P 13

Doon School drops co-ed idea after alumni red flag

Tanmayee.Tyagi
@timesofindia.com

Dehradun: A memo meant for trustees at The Doon School has stirred up a hornet's nest, prompting the school management to clarify that there has been no decision at all on the venerated boys-only institute turning co-ed.

A message sent by headmaster Dr Jagpreet Singh on March 17 to members of the Indian Public Schools' Society — the school's governing body — included a four-page document outlining the logic for exploring a co-ed model.

However, alumni expressed their concern over a shift to a co-ed system and its likely impact on the cultural DNA of the institute founded in 1935. To allay the worries, the school management issued a note saying that "no decision has been taken regarding the school becoming co-ed".

▶'For internal debate', P 14

THE FLIP-FLOP

- Initial memo highlights **changing academic landscape** and calls for feedback
- Some alumni members express concern over moving to a co-ed system
- Follow-up memo clarifies earlier message meant **only to initiate discussion**
- Biggest **challenge is to ensure necessary infra** for female students, feel many

Prada strikes $1.4bn deal to buy Versace

Prada struck a nearly $1.4 billion deal to buy smaller rival Versace from Capri Holdings on Thursday, including its debt, in a move that unites two of the biggest names in Italian fashion.

Prada is seeking to expand, having defied a slowdown in luxury demand, while Versace has been operating at a loss in the last few quarters. Owning Versace, with its bold, baroque-style prints, will bring new customers to Prada, known for its minimalist style. The merger strengthens Italy's hand in a luxury industry led by French conglomerates, the biggest being Louis Vuitton owner LVMH. PAGE OPP

US court restores, for now, F-1 status of int'l student

Lubna Kably

A temporary reinstatement of the F-1 status of an international student by a US district court is the first whiff of victory for international students reeling under the same predicament. Hundreds of students (including those from India) have had their F-1 visa revoked and legal status abruptly terminated on the SEVIS platform, without any notice and in most cases without any specific reason, with instructions to self-deport from the US at the earliest.

The US district court (New Hampshire), in an emergency hearing on Wednesday, called for temporary restoration of the F-1 student immigration status of Xiaotian Liu, who was studying and researching computer science at Dartmouth College.

▶Ruling in wks, PAGE OPP

Univs join legal battle against crackdown

Prominent American universities and academic associations have banded together to launch a legal challenge against the Trump admin's recent immigration enforcement actions targeting international students. Their lawsuit warns of severe consequences for US academia if these policies continue unchecked. PAGE OPP

Armyman killed after testifying in murder case

Meerut: Two days after an Army jawan testified in court against an accused in the 2021 murder case of his cousin, he was shot dead barely 300 metres from his house in Mudikhedi village of UP's Saharanpur district on Wednesday night, **reports Krishna Chaudhary**.

Saharanpur SP (city) Vyom Bindal told **TOI**, "Based on a complaint filed by the victim's family, an FIR under BNS Section 103 (murder) has been lodged against one Devendra, who is also the main accused in the murder of the jawan's cousin. He will be arrested soon."

▶Was threatened, P 13

6 teams in fray as cricket back in Oly after 128 yrs

Cricket will feature six teams battling for top honours when the sport returns to Olympics at the 2028 Los Angeles Games after a gap of 128 years. This was confirmed on Wednesday. Cricket last featured at Olympics in the 1900 edition in Paris, where a one-off, two-day match between Great Britain and France was held, which is now recognised as an unofficial Test. The former won by 158 runs.

At LA, cricket will be played in the T20 format, with six teams in both the men's and women's competitions. Every team will be able to name a 15-member squad.

Qualification criteria are yet to be confirmed, but US is likely to earn a direct spot as the host, meaning five teams will make the cut. It's expected top five teams in ICC rankings within a certain cut-off date will qualify. PTI

▶22 more events, P 23

Gaikwad ruled out, Dhoni to lead CSK

MS Dhoni was named CSK captain Thursday after Ruturaj Gaikwad was ruled out of the rest of the IPL with a broken elbow. The injury complicates a brewing crisis for CSK, who have one win out of five games. P 23

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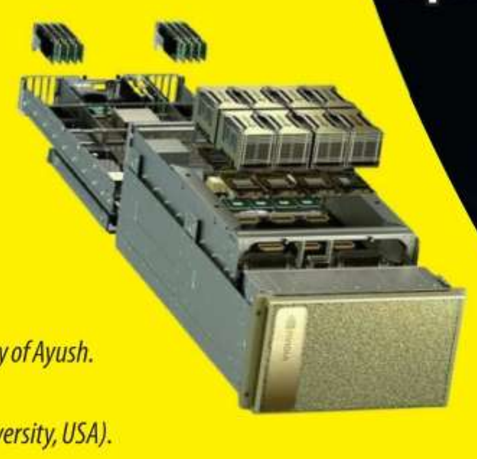

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Delhi Traders Face Licensing Fee Hike

Additional Amount Of Up To ₹75k To Be Paid

Vibha.Sharma
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Traders in the city, already discontented with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's move to impose user charges for garbage collection, now face an additional setback due to raised health and general trade licensing fees. MCD notified a 15% hike in licensing fees from April 1, with the additional amounts to be paid ranging from Rs 1,500 to Rs 75,000 according to trade activities.

In a letter to the mayor and other officials, the traders accused MCD of attempting to make up for its monetary shortfalls by imposing financial burdens on residents. In response, the civic body stated that a 15% increase in health trade licensing fees every three years was clearly outlined in the revised regulations of 2022.

In the 2022 order, the health trade licence fee for a five-star hotel was fixed at Rs 5 lakh. It has been revised to Rs 5.75 lakh. For a banquet hall with more than 250 seats, the fee was Rs 25,000 in 2022 and Rs 28,750 now. For a food court seating up to 100 people, the fee has gone up Rs 40,000 to 46,000, while for a food court with more than 100 seats it has risen from Rs 80,000 to Rs 92,000. Similarly, the Rs 10,000 paid by an eating house seating up to 20 has gone up to Rs 11,500 and the Rs 20,000 for a restaurant up to 50 seats to Rs 23,000.

"Prior to 2022, the health trade licence fees in the erstwhile North Delhi Municipal Corporation were very low, just Rs 500 for a five-star hotel and hadn't been changed for 21 years," said a civic official. "To bridge the gap and make rates uniform across the city, we revised the fee structure that year. The order also prescribed a 15% increase after three years."

Irate traders felt the decision was an additional burden on them. "To be able to run a small shop, we are forced to pay multiple fees to MCD, including user charges, licence fee, conversion and parking charges, outdoor advertising fee and finally, property tax," said Nitin Gupta, president, Kamla Nagar Traders' Association. "In fact, the MCD system is not accepting property tax unless we pay the user charges. How do they expect the traders to survive with such a big financial burden?"

As far as the hike in trade licence fee is concerned, for an outlet of up to 10 square metres, the general trade licence fee was Rs 3,968 in A and B categories in 2022, and Rs 2,645 in C and D categories. Now, this will be Rs 4,563 in the former categories and Rs 3,042 in the latter. For 10-20 sqm shops, the fee in 2022 was Rs 9,919 for A and B categories and Rs 6,613 for C and D. These have gone up to Rs 11,407 for A and B categories and Rs 7,605 in C and D levels.

A TRADER SAYS

To be able to run a small shop, we are forced to pay multiple fees to MCD, including user charges, licence fee, conversion and parking charges, outdoor advertising fee and finally, property tax. In fact, the MCD system is not accepting property tax unless we pay the user charges

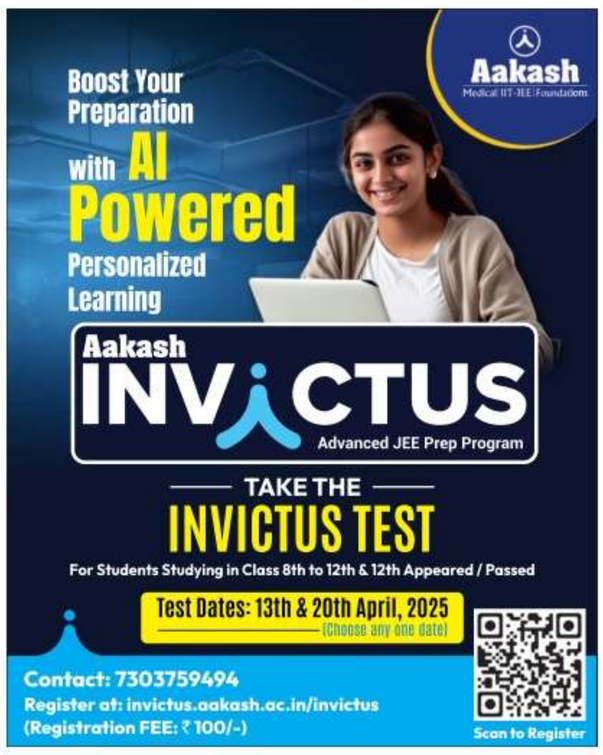
Mayor writes to CM against user charges on garbage

New Delhi: Delhi mayor Mahesh Kumar wrote to chief minister Rekha Gupta, opposing the imposition of user charges for solid waste management. In his letter on Wednesday, the mayor emphasised that before implementing such charges, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) must establish an effective door-to-door waste collection system, which is currently lacking.

The issue sparked a controversy, with the BJP, in opposition in the MCD, accusing Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of deliberately imposing the surcharge.

"A similar surcharge was proposed earlier in 2021 by the then commissioner of the corporation, but the BJP mayor at that time halted its implementation. In contrast, the current AAP Mayor Mahesh Kumar is merely issuing statements without taking any action," said Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor.

The mayor, on the other hand, alleged that the proposal to collect user charges along with house tax was never passed by the MCD. In his post on 'X', he stated that the proposal was not brought before the House and was instead implemented behind the scenes by municipal commissioner Ashwani Kumar. TNN



Cops on their toes over Rana's arrival in city, hoax calls

Abhay & Vineet Upadhyay | TNN

New Delhi: Cops in Delhi were on high alert on Thursday and security at several locations, including the airport, was strengthened for Tahawwur Rana's arrival. The roads near the National Investigation Agency's office in south Delhi's Lodhi Colony wore a deserted look, as security personnel cordoned off the entire area and restricted any kind of vehicular movement in the vicinity.

Piyal Bhattacharjee

Security was tightened around National Investigation Agency HQ

As a precautionary measure, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation also shut the entry/exit at a gate near JLN Stadium. A DMRC official said that the gate which was closest to the NIA building would remain closed till further orders from Delhi Police. "However, metro train services will continue as usual and all other entry and exit points at the station will remain open for commuters," the official added.

Meanwhile, two bomb hoax calls kept cops on their toes in the morning.

A police officer said that they received a call around 9am about a bomb threat at Jama Masjid and Red Fort. Bomb disposal units, along with canine squads, and firefighters rushed to the locations. After hours of searching both the iconic sites, nothing suspicious was found. "The bomb disposal teams and CISF personnel thoroughly checked the entire premises. It was a hoax call. We are still on alert," the officer added.

Since Wednesday, security measures were significantly heightened and multiple police vans were stationed near Palam Technical Airport, the NIA headquarters, and Patiala House Court. Nearly 200 cops were deployed in and around the court premises. Thorough frisking and checking of visitors was carried out.

"We have increased barricading and strategically deployed policemen to maintain law and order at several places. Additionally, a company from Central Armed Police Forces has been deployed to bolster security. Rooftop points have been identified, and security personnel stationed at strategic locations to provide comprehensive coverage. Drones are being used to monitor the areas," the officer said on Thursday.

He further added, "Round-the-clock shifts of policemen have been planned, and we have deployed riot control vehicles as part of our security measures. The routes through which Rana will be transported to the NIA headquarters and subsequently to Patiala court have also been sanitised."

Man shot due to personal enmity

New Delhi : A 24-year-old man was shot in south Delhi's Tigri area on Thursday. During the investigation, it was revealed that a scuffle broke out between the victim, Salman and a group of 4-5 boys, during which one of them fired a shot at him. The police suspect personal enmity as the motive behind the incident. TNN

Man held for blackmailing woman with morphed pics

New Delhi: A 27-year-old man was apprehended for allegedly creating a fake social media account in the name of a former colleague and uploading morphed nude photographs along with her mobile number.

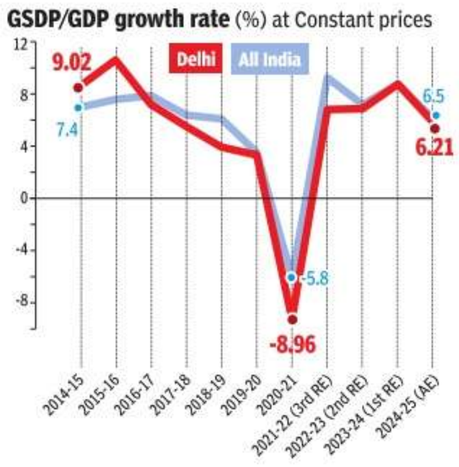
The case came to light on March 11 when a complaint was registered at Cyber police station, Outer District. "The team traced the origin of the fake account through digital footprints, including IP addresses, email IDs, and mobile number records, which ultimately led them to the suspect's location," DCP Sachin Sharma (Outer) said.

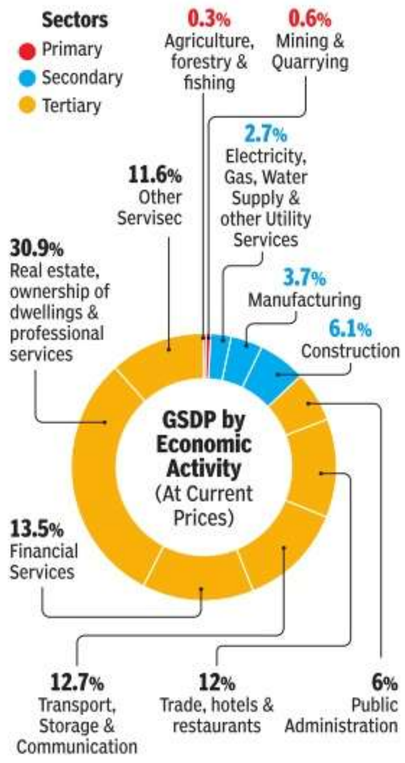
The accused, identified as Divanshu, was apprehended from west Delhi's Harinagar. During interrogation, police found that the accused was previously employed as a bartender at a restaurant in Subhash Place, where he became acquainted with the complainant, who worked there as a waitress. "After their friendship ended and he was reportedly terminated from his job in Dec 2024, Divanshu allegedly retaliated by creating the fake profile and posting obscene content," a senior police officer said. TNN

PROF. (DR.) MAHESH VERMA
Vice Chancellor
&
Members of Statutory Bodies of
GURU GOBIND SINGH INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY
Cordially invite you to the occasion of
17th Convocation
FRIDAY | 11TH APRIL 2025 | 11:00 A.M.
at
Silver Jubilee Auditorium
Sector 16 C, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078
Presided By
SHRI VINAI KUMAR SAXENA
Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi & Chancellor, GGSIPU
Guests Of Honour
SMT. REKHA GUPTA — Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi
SHRI ASHISH SOOD — Hon'ble Minister of Higher Education, Delhi
Chief Guest
PADMA SHRI PROF. ASHUTOSH SHARMA
President, Indian National Science Academy (INSA)
Shall deliver the Convocation Address
August Presence
SHRI DHARMENDRA — Chief Secretary, Delhi
SMT. NANDINI PALIWAL — Secretary (Higher Education), Delhi
Scan for Location
RSVP:
DR. KAMAL PATHAK, REGISTRAR
Tel: 011-25302113, 25302114
Email: registrar@ipu.ac.in | Website: www.ipu.ac.in

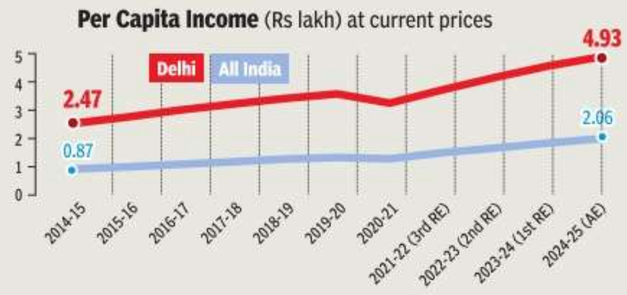
SLOWING GSDP SIGNALS COOLING URBAN ECONOMY DESPITE INCOME GAINS

Growth in Delhi's gross domestic product is estimated to decline by nearly 3 percentage points to 6.21% in 2024-25 (AE), down from 9.16% in 2023-24 (RE), according to data released this week by Delhi govt's directorate of economics and statistics. This figure is comparable to growth in India's GDP, which is projected to be 6.5% in 2024-25, a decrease from 9.2% in 2023-24 (RE)





The city's per capita income is estimated to reach ₹4.93 lakh in 2024-25, nearly 2.5 times higher than India's ₹2.06 lakh. It is expected to be 7.32% more than the ₹4.59 lakh recorded in 2023-24 (RE)



1,139 Arogya Mandirs To Come Up Under ₹2,406-Crore Health Mission

PM-ABHIM To Expand Delhi's Healthcare Network With New Clinics, Labs

Anuja.Jaiswal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The city's primary healthcare infrastructure is set to expand with the establishment of 1,139 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAM), alongside 9 critical care blocks and 11 integrated public health laboratories under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).

PM-ABHIM, introduced on Oct 25, 2021, operates as a centrally sponsored scheme. This nationwide programme aims to fortify the existing public health framework. The primary objective is to improve healthcare establishments across the country, ensuring they are well-equipped to address future health crises and disease outbreaks effectively.

The MoU for the project, costing Rs 2,406 crore, was signed between the Delhi and Union govts on Thursday to coincide with the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). During the event, PM-JAY cards were symbolically distributed to 30 beneficiaries.

The chosen beneficiaries represented various social and economic segments of the Union territory's population. Eligible Delhi residents can now obtain their Ayushman cards. The scheme provides Rs 5 lakh annual health insurance per family through PMJAY, with Delhi govt offering an additional Rs 5 lakh coverage, totalling Rs 10 lakh as yearly insurance.

Officials said that the Ayush Arogya Mandirs will offer 12 comprehensive service packages, encompassing mother and child care, vaccination, mental health services, elderly care and communicable disease treatment.

The integrated public health laboratories will provide in-house testing facilities, while the critical care blocks will strengthen ICU and OT capabilities in major hospitals and medical colleges.

Health officials said that the first integrated public health laboratory, part of a planned network of 11 facilities, will be set up at Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital in Tahirpur. Officials also confirmed Indira Gandhi Hospital, Dwarka, as the location for another laboratory, while the selection process for other sites continues to be under consideration by the administration.

A tentative list comprising 80 healthcare facilities under Delhi govt has been drafted for elevation to Ayushman Arogya Mandirs, pending clearance from authorities. The majority of these establishments consist of existing mohalla clinics or Delhi govt dispensaries, which are slated for transformation into AAM.

Chief minister Rekha Gupta said: "Health has always been a priority for Union govt. Besides improving health infrastructure and making quality and affordable medicines accessible to the masses, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always emphasised nutrition, yoga, meditation, etc., which shows the emphasis being given to the health sector."

BOOSTING HEALTHCARE

DELHI TO HAVE ▶ **1,139** Ayushman Arogya Mandir (AAM) | **11** District integrated public health labs | **9** Critical care hospital blocks

AAM will offer

- 12 comprehensive service packages, including mother and child care, vaccination, mental health services, elderly care and communicable disease treatment
- Integrated public health laboratories will provide in-house testing facilities

₹2,406 crore approved for implementation of PM ABHIM in Delhi

- Critical care blocks will strengthen ICU and OT capabilities in major hospitals and medical colleges

Union minister of health and family welfare JP Nadda hands over PM-JAY health cards

Speaker convenes meet to examine CAG reports

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Delhi Assembly speaker Vijender Gupta called a meeting on Friday in Vidhan Sabha, during which committees formed to examine the CAG reports will start their work.

After the formation of the new govt in Delhi, eight pending CAG reports were tabled in the assembly. These reports were sent to the Public Accounts Committee and the Committee on Public Undertakings of the assembly for further investigation and action, an official said.

During the budget session, new committees were formed, and their chairpersons appointed. According to sources, Delhi's accountant general (audit), speaker Gupta, deputy speaker Mohan Singh Bisht, public accounts committee chairperson Ajay Mahawar, committee on public undertakings chairperson Gajendra Daral, Delhi chief secretary Dharmendra, and additional chief secretary of the finance department Ashish Chandra Verma will be present at the meeting. A presentation will also be made by the accountant general (audit).

Additionally, a status report on the implementation of the audit para-monitoring system will be presented. Gupta has instructed all departments concerned during the budget session to submit para-wise action-taken notes on the CAG reports and set a deadline for it. In the meeting, officials will also present their action-taken notes on these reports. There will also be a discussion on the further investigation process of these reports.

Legal opinion is also being sought, he said. Chief minister Rekha Gupta has, so far, tabled eight reports. These include reports related to the liquor policy, public health services, pollution caused by vehicles, the functioning of DTC, and two reports related to the financial management of AAP govt.

Make essential bldgs resistant to quake: PWD

New Delhi: Public Works Department has issued an order to survey and retrofit all essential buildings in the city and make them earthquake resistant, officials on Thursday said.

In the wake of the earthquake in Myanmar, which claimed the lives of around 3,000 people, PWD's order has been issued to all staff to strictly adhere to the National Building Code and other local by-laws. "Identify critical infrastructure such as hospitals, schools, fire stations, police stations and other essential buildings and conduct vulnerability assessments to determine the need for retrofitting or seismic upgrading," the order issued by PWD says.

Due to its proximity to the Himalayas, Delhi is located in zone IV, which has fairly high seismicity where the general occurrence of earthquakes is of 5-6 magnitude, according to the Delhi Disaster Management Authority. PTI

Parties that didn't implement Ayushman Bharat in their states voted out: Nadda

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Union health minister JP Nadda took a dig at political opponents on Thursday, saying the ruling parties that did not implement the Ayushman Bharat scheme in their states were voted out of power, asserting that it is West Bengal's turn next.

Addressing a gathering after the signing of the MoU to implement the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in Delhi, Nadda said three states refused to implement the Ayushman Bharat scheme. "One was Odisha, where the previous govt fell and the lotus (the BJP's poll symbol) bloomed. The second one was Delhi, where the govt was voted out of power and the lotus bloomed. Now, only one state — West Bengal — remains. There too the lotus will bloom and the govt would be ousted," Nadda, who is also the BJP national president, said. He said govts that do injustice to people do not survive.

Nadda said after the Covid-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi allocated Rs 64,000 crore for ramping up healthcare infrastructure to deal with Covid-like emergencies and therefore, the PM-ABHIM was implemented in 2021-22.

He said as part of the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), Delhi was allocated Rs 2,406 crore, but the previous AAP government even went to the Supreme Court to prevent its implementation.

Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta said health has always been a priority for the BJP-led Centre. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said that with the distribution of the cards, his party's biggest electoral promise made ahead of the 2025 assembly polls has been fulfilled. "In other states, the beneficiaries of the Ayushman card can get free medical treatment up to Rs 5 lakh. In Delhi, they will be able to receive free treatment worth up to Rs 10 lakh annually," Sachdeva said. "Delhi BJP will run an awareness campaign at the municipal ward level to encourage people to get Ayushman cards issued," he added. BJP's South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri said nearly 36 lakh people in the capital will start getting free treatment under the scheme. He added that chief minister Rekha Gupta has assured in a meeting of all minsters, MPs and MLAs that special camps will be set up to help people register under the scheme.

AAP, called the Ayushman Bharat scheme a "scam" and accused BJP of sabotaging Delhi's "world-class" healthcare model. "Over 80% of patients in Delhi govt's hospitals come from neighbouring BJP-governed states where Ayushman Bharat is operational. This is the proof of the scheme's total failure," AAP's chief spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar said. "The per capita income in Delhi is 3.5 times the national average. Minimum wages are the highest in the country. To avail the benefit of Ayushman Bharat, people should not have a fridge, air-conditioner, mobile phone, or a scooter," she added and questioned how many in Delhi will actually benefit from the scheme.

AAP SAYS

Over 80% of patients in Delhi govt's hospitals come from neighbouring BJP-governed states where Ayushman Bharat is operational. This is the proof of the scheme's total failure

Haryana govt orders revocation of 300 MTP centres' registration

Gurgaon: Haryana govt has revoked registrations of 300 abortion centres and initiated action against over a dozen health department officials as part of efforts to improve the state's sex ratio at birth (SRB) and curb any illegal practices.

A state task force, formed last month, surveyed all 1,500 centres where medical termination of pregnancy (MTP) was allowed and found that 300 of them did not comply with all norms.

These centres did not send weekly data on abortions permitted to the health department, and they did not disclose reasons for allowing termination of pregnancy in some cases, officials said on Thursday.

Registrations of some of the centres were also cancelled because they did not re-register their on-staff gynaecologists after the MTP Act was amended in 2021, they said. Under the amendment, re-registration of doctors working at MTP centres was mandatory.

Dr Virender Yadav, director of National Health Mission-Haryana, said action was taken against officials found lax in monitoring banned practices such as female foeticide and prenatal sex determination. TNN

CORPORATE BUZZ

www.toi.in/psu

Ground-breaking ceremony held for project in Sri Lanka

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Sri Lanka H.E. Anura Kumara Disanayake jointly launched the ground-breaking ceremony of 50 MW (extendable to 120 MW) solar power project in Sri Lanka on April 5, 2025. This has been a part of agenda of visit of the PM to Sri Lanka from April 4 to 6, 2025. NTPC Limited is embarking on a major stride towards increasing India's presence in energy landscape in neighbouring countries with the development of 120 MW solar project in the

eastern province of Sri Lanka. The project is being established through Trincomalee Power Company Limited (TPCL), a 50:50 joint venture (JV) between NTPC Limited, India and the Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) Sri Lanka, with an envisaged investment of USD 100 million. The power purchase agreement by TPCL with CEB and the implementation agreement with Sri Lanka for Phase I of 50 MW have been signed.

THDCIL signs tripartite agreement

THDCIL has signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Shrine Board of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Katra, J&K, and the Geological Survey of India. The agreement, formalised on April 8, 2025, at the central office of the Shrine Board in Katra, aims to conduct slope stability studies along the yatra route leading to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan. Through this collaboration, THDCIL will

leverage its extensive experience in slope stability analysis, geotechnical and geophysical investigations and designing of state-of-art stability measures ensuring long-term safety and resilience of the pilgrimage route. The signing ceremony was graced by the presence of Anshul Garg, (IAS), CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, and Shallinder Singh, Director (Personnel), THDCIL highlighting the strategic importance of this initiative. Under this agreement, the Geological Survey of India will undertake geological investigations along the entire pilgrimage route, while THDCIL will focus on geotechnical and geophysical assessments.

REC inks MoU with MMRDA

REC Limited has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) to provide financial support of Rs 1 lakh crore for infrastructure development in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR). The agreement was formally signed by Harsh Baweja, Director (Finance), REC Limited; and Dr. Ankush R Nawale, Financial Advisor MMRDA, at the India Global Forum (IGF) Mumbai NXT 25 event at the Jio Convention Centre, Mumbai. Those present included Maharashtra's CM Devendra Fadnavis; Deputy CM Eknath Shinde; Dr. Sanjay Mukherjee, IAS,

Metropolitan Commissioner, MMRDA; Vikram Kumar, IAS, Additional Metropolitan Commissioner, MMRDA; Rahul Dwivedi, IAS, Executive Director, REC, and senior officials of REC and MMRDA. The MoU outlines REC Limited's commitment to financing a wide array of infrastructure projects in the MMR, focusing on urban mobility, housing, and essential infrastructure.

SCOPE and HBSP ink pact

Atul Sobti, DG, SCOPE, and Douglas Beimler, VP, Global Sales, HBSP, USA inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) and Harvard Business School Publishing Corporation (HBSP), USA, a subsidiary of Harvard Business School to leverage synergies aimed at fostering a culture of continuous learning for public sector enterprises (PSEs). The MoU was signed in the presence of senior officials from both

organisations and PSEs, with the aim to develop a culture of excellence and innovation within the public sector, ensuring its alignment with global best practices in learning and leadership development.

HURL shines at SIGMA SUMMIT 2025

The SIGMA SUMMIT 2025, held on April 5, stood as a powerful convergence of thought leaders, industry pioneers, and policymakers united under the theme 'Developing & Evolving Entrepreneur Net Zero 2070: Harnessing Growth with CBG'. At the heart of this summit was a resolute focus on sustainable innovation, circular economy models, and unlocking the full potential of the compressed biogas (CBG) ecosystem. Gracing the occasion as chief guest, Dr. S.P. Mohanty, Managing Director, Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL), delivered an insightful keynote address on 'Unlocking the Value Chain – Bio-Products & Additional Revenue Streams'. HURL made a strong

presence with an interactive exhibition stall that showcased its advancements in sustainable practices, innovation in green technologies, and ongoing projects aligned with India's green growth mission. In recognition of its influential role in shaping India's bio-energy policies, HURL was honoured with the 'Appreciation Award for Visionary in Policy & Government Advocacy for CBG'.

Home Furnishing Exhibition begins in Delhi

The capital is set to witness a vibrant celebration of Indian home décor and textile traditions as the Home Furnishing Exhibition comes to 11–18 Janpath, Connaught Place, New Delhi. Organised under the guidance of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, the exhibition will bring together some of the finest creations by India's weavers, showcasing the elegance and richness of handwoven home furnishing products. The exhibition will feature an array of bed linens, cushion covers, curtains, rugs, and other home décor elements — blending traditional weaving techniques with contemporary design. It offers a unique opportunity for interior designers, décor retailers, and conscious consumers to explore sustainable living through the lens of Indian craftsmanship. More than just a display, the event stands as a platform to empower the weaving communities of India, support their livelihoods, and promote eco-friendly choices in home styling.

BIS hosts 15th plenary meeting of ISO committee

"The government is committed to advancing AI technology particularly LLM and SLM in a responsible manner, ensuring these are developed with both global collaboration and national priorities in mind, " said Nidhi Khare, Secretary, DoCA, at the inauguration of the plenary meeting hosted by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). The event was the 15th Plenary meeting of the Technical Committee of the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) and International Electrotechnical

Commission (IEC) for developing international standards on Artificial Intelligence. BIS is leading the global efforts of standardisation related to AI. The 15th plenary and sub-group meetings of the ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 42 'Artificial Intelligence' sub-committee were attended by more than 350 global experts from 70 countries. Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Director General, BIS, welcomed the participants and the ISO/ IEC JTC 1/SC 42 and applauded its efforts in establishing transparent and inclusive AI standards.

NBCC and RailTel ink pact

NBCC (India) Limited has signed a strategic memorandum of understanding (MoU) with RailTel Corporation of India Limited (RAILTEL) to collaborate in developing data centre projects from 'concept to commissioning' across India and overseas, for a period of five years. The MoU was signed by Pradeep Sharma, ED (BD), NBCC; and J.S. Marwah, Company Secretary and GM (Law) in the presence of K.P. Mahadevaswamy, CMD, NBCC and Sanjai Kumar, CMD, RailTel along with Saleem Ahmad, Director (Projects), NBCC; Dr. Suman Kumar, Director (Commercial), NBCC; Anjeev Kumar Jain, Director (Finance), NBCC; and other senior officials from both

NHAI signed a concession agreement with M/s Dineshchandra R Agrawal Infracon Pvt. Ltd to develop 121-km long Guwahati Ring Road project on BOT (toll) mode. The agreement was signed in the presence of NHAI Chairman Santosh Kumar Yadav and other senior officials at NHAI headquarters in New Delhi

organisations. As per the MoU, NBCC will offer project management consultancy services for the construction of data centre buildings and associated civil/passive infrastructure, while RailTel will provide expertise in planning, designing, supply, installation, testing, commissioning (SITC), and operations and maintenance of IT-related infrastructure for data centres.

HUDCO signs MoU with MMRDA

Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), Maharashtra, on April 8, 2025 at Mumbai. The MoU establishes a framework for cooperation between HUDCO and MMRDA wherein HUDCO shall explore and provide funds up to Rs.1,50,000 crore over a period of

five years for development of infrastructure projects to be implemented by MMRDA in Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Further, HUDCO will also extend consultancy services and capacity building activities to meet the emerging requirements of MMRDA. The MoU was signed in presence of Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister, Maharashtra; Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister; Sanjay Kulshrestha, Chairman & Managing Director, HUDCO; Dr. Sanjay Mukherjee, VC & MD MMRDA and other dignitaries.

44L Of 60L Users Got Zero Power Bills In Feb

Over 24 Lakh Received Zero Bills In May 2024; New Govt Has No Plans To Shelve Scheme

Abhinav.Rajput
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The number of households benefiting from the power subsidy scheme has gone up sharply. In April 2022, around 22.8 lakh households received a 'zero bill' for consuming up to 200 units. The figure rose to 36 lakh by April 2024. Winter is a good season for free power. The number of houses getting zero bill in Dec 2022 was 31 lakh and in Jan 2023, 29 lakh. The winter months of Dec 2023 and Jan 2024 saw 42 lakh and 35 lakh households availing the zero-bill benefit. In Dec last year and Jan this year, the beneficiary households were 45 lakh and 40 lakh. There are 60 lakh domestic electricity consumers in Delhi.

In a scheme announced by the AAP govt in 2019, electricity in Delhi is free for households consuming up to 200 units a month. A 50% subsidy is given monthly to those consuming 201-400 units. The rest pay the applicable tariff rates.

The attractiveness of the subsidy has been discussed even by the current govt, which has no plans to shelve the scheme. The state budget for 2025-26 allocated Rs 3,847 crore for the power sector.

Data shows that the beneficiaries of zero bills came down to almost half in the summer months due to use of cooling appliances. In May 2022, only 18 lakh people compared with 32 lakh in Dec that year. The next year, beneficiaries number 26 lakh in May and 42 lakh in Dec, while last year, it was 24 lakh in May and 45 lakh in Dec.

"This shows that around 40% of the bill is due to use of ACs and coolers in rooms or offices," a power department official said. "The number of ACs hasn't been surveyed, but if done, it would be astonishing. In middle-class income neighbourhoods, at least one room has an AC." Another official said, "What began as a targeted relief for poor people is now being used by higher-income categories, especially in winter."

A closer look at the 201-400 unit segment across the same months over different years reveals a clear upward trend in the number of beneficiaries. Take April, for instance: in 2022, around 22.2 lakh households fell in this bracket. By 2023, the number had dipped to 13 lakh due to weather conditions that year, but in 2024, the number bounced back significantly to 16.6 lakh.

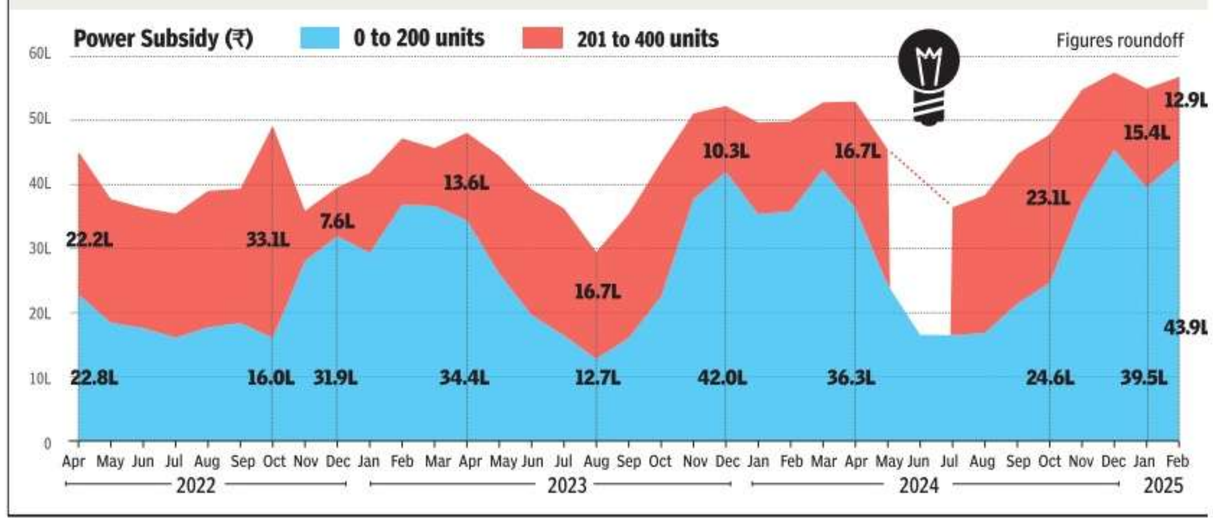
Winter months also show this trend. Dec 2022 had just 7.6 lakh consumers in the 201–400 slab, which rose to over 10.2 lakh in Dec 2023 and then to 12 lakh in Dec 2024.

A senior power official said the pattern showed more moderate consumers —those who crossed the 200-unit mark but stayed under 400, thus eligible for the half subsidy. It highlights growing awareness of subsidy ceilings, he said. "Also, we should consider the 3 lakh people added to the network by the power discoms. A section of those would also fall in that beneficiary list," he said.

BSES Rajdhani Power Limited, BSES Yamuna Power Limited, Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited provide power to most parts of Delhi.

BENEFICIARIES CAME DOWN TO HALF IN SUMMER MONTHS

- Govt provides free electricity for a monthly consumption of up to 200 units
- A 50% subsidy is also given monthly for those consuming between 201 and 400 units
- Households exceeding the permissible free electricity limit pay applicable tariff rates
- Over the past five years, Delhi's power subsidy data shows a clear upward trend in consumers that got zero bill in winters, according to discoms' data submitted to Delhi govt
- In 2022-23, people getting zero bills in peak winters of Dec and Jan was 31 lakh and 29 lakh, which increased to 45 lakh and 40 lakh this year. In 2023-24, this figure was 42 lakh in Dec and 35 lakh in Jan
- Data shows that the number of beneficiaries receiving zero bills dropped by almost half during the summer months. In the peak summer of May 2022, 18 lakh people received a zero bill, while in Dec, the number increased to 32 lakh
- Over 42 lakh consumers received zero bills in Feb 2025



AN OFFICIAL SAYS

The number of ACs in Delhi hasn't been surveyed, but if done, the number would astonish. In middle-class income neighbourhoods, at least one room has an AC

Jaypee buyers protest at Suraksha office as long wait gets longer

Aditya.Dev@timesofindia.com

Noida: Over the years, they have seen many false dawns. A section of India's most troubled group of homebuyers – some of them waiting for the houses they booked in Jaypee Wish Town in Noida for nearly 15 years now – took to the streets yet again on Thursday, saying they feared another.

This was the first such protest against Suraksha, the resolution applicant that took over Jaypee Infratech Ltd (JIL) last May after a long-winded legal process. Homebuyers shouted slogans and breached barricades near Suraksha's office in Sector 128, forcing police to intervene.

They expressed anger over Suraksha's failure to resume construction almost a year into the takeover, demanded a meeting with the senior management and sought timelines. Around 17,000 buyers are waiting for their flats since 2014-15.

On March 7, 2023, National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved Suraksha's bid to acquire the debt-ridden JIL. On May 24 last year, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) upheld the NCLT order with a modification that the Mumbai-based asset reconstruction company would pay an enhanced farmers' compensation amount of Rs 1,335 crore to Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority.

When the NCLT order was passed, construction was on at 62 towers in four Wish Town projects — Kosmos, Klassic, Kensington Boulevard and Kensington Park Apartments and Heights. Work was stalled or yet to begin in 15 towers of the four projects and 82 towers across six condominiums — Garden Isles, Krescent Homes, Kasa Isles, Orchards, Kube and Pebble Court— affecting 9,321 home buyers. Work on some of these towers had been abandoned for nearly eight years.

"The NCLAT order of May 2024 marked the 'approval date'. So, as per the resolution plan, Suraksha Group was required to resume construction within 90 days. But eight months since then, there's hardly any progress," said Ashish Mohan Gupta, president of JIL Real Estate Allottees Welfare Society, that organised the protest.

According to Gupta, about 125 homebuyers, who marched to Suraksha's office, were first stopped by security guards and then police. Some suffered minor injuries in a scuffle. But they manage to get to the office. "Thousands have put their life savings into these homes. We are not asking for charity but our homes," said a protester.

CM: Will develop riverfront along Najafgarh drain

Jatin Kumar

LG VK Saxena and CM Rekha Gupta inspect old Barapullah bridge drain

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Chief minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday said a riverfront project would be developed along the Sahibi river, also known as the Najafgarh drain. She added that the irrigation and flood control department would also develop a park on 50 acres of land in Uttam Nagar's Vipin Garden, which was neglected and encroached upon for years.

The announcement was made during Gupta's inspection of several ongoing projects to clean the Yamuna. She was accompanied by lieutenant governor VK Saxena and water minister Parvesh Verma, apart from officials of Municipal Corporation of Delhi, New Delhi Municipal Council, Delhi Jal Board and departments of public works, transport, and irrigation and flood control.

"This land holds immense potential for the community and has long been left in a deplorable condition. We are now committed to converting it into a lush, accessible green space," Gupta said.

CM inspected the desilting work at the supplementary drain in Wazirabad, and Barapullah, Sunheri Pul and Kushak drains. Govt said the primary objective of the inspection was to evaluate the current status of the desilting of major drains, identify the causes of waterlogging, and ensure the completion of cleaning and repair work before the monsoon.

Talking to reporters, CM said the work to desilt 22 drains that fall directly into the Yamuna was going on in full swing using advanced machinery. Gupta said desilting of drains was not just a technical process, but a comprehensive effort to purify the Yamuna and restore its ecological equilibrium.

"The progress observed today compared to the previous inspection is commendable — modern machinery is operating efficiently for desilting in the drains. Govt's objective is to ensure that water flows naturally through the drains, free from obstructions. When it enters the Yamuna, it should be free from pollution, thereby facilitating the restoration of the river to its pristine state," she said, adding that the inspection of the drains was being conducted every 15 days to ensure timely progress and quality control.

Gupta also accused the previous govt of failing to comprehend the necessity of assessing the ground situation of the drains. She alleged that the decisions were made from airconditioned offices. "Our govt has resolved to monitor the Yamuna cleaning efforts at the ground level, personally overseeing the work at the drain sites. Drain cleaning is not just a pre-monsoon formality. It is about safeguarding public health and urban infrastructure," she asserted.

Following the inspection, LG said the problem of waterlogging in the capital was not just confined to the monsoon. "It is a critical issue affecting the fundamental infrastructure and quality of life in the city. Today's joint inspection of the capital's drains in collaboration with various departments is not merely to identify problems, but also to ensure time-bound, coordinated and permanent solutions," Saxena said.

"Officers of all departments concerned have been directed to work with mutual cooperation and transparency to provide Delhi residents with a clean, safe and waterlogging-free environment," he added.

23-yr-old man held at IGIA with 3.3kg cocaine worth ₹46.4 crore

New Delhi: A 23-year-old Indian man was arrested at Delhi's IGI Airport on Wednesday after 3.3 kg of cocaine, valued at Rs 46.4 crore in the international market, was found concealed in his luggage. The youth, who had arrived from Entebbe, Uganda, via Sharjah, was intercepted by Customs officials based on specific intelligence.

During X-ray screening of his baggage, the authorities observed suspicious concealment. "Six packets containing a white powder were discovered hidden in the periphery of his trolley bag," an official said. The substance was tested and confirmed to be cocaine using an NDPS field test kit. The cocaine was seized, and the passenger was detained. Legal action under the NDPS Act and Customs Act is currently underway. TNN

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1.7cr Unresolved Offences Against Pvt Vehicles Outpace Commercial Wheels

SERIAL OFFENDERS: Top Three Violators In This Category Yet To Pay 601, 509 And 464 Challans

Ishita.Jairath@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: While Delhi Traffic Police is considering ways to tackle the backlog of traffic violations by commercial vehicles, private car owners, considered more law-abiding than their commercial counterparts, are ratcheting up a more worrying number of offences.

Around 9.3 lakh private vehicles in the city have three or more challans pending against their name for road rule violations. The total bookings awaiting resolution among private vehicles is 1.7 crore, far exceeding the 16 lakh challans pending against commercial vehicles. The top three private vehicles in this dishonour list are yet to pay 601, 509, and 464 challans.

Among vehicles with unsettled fines, there are 51.6 challans for speeding beyond permitted limit. The second highest offence is improper parking with 21.5 lakh violations. There are 21 lakh challans pending payment for violations related to riding without a helmet on a two-wheeler.

Interestingly, an ongoing study by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute, based on observations of 2,34,740 two-wheeler riders and passengers on different road types and urban environments, found that while a significant proportion of riders wear helmets, only 63% did so correctly.

Not holding a valid pollution under control certificate has emerged as the fifth most common offence, with over 12.9 lakh unresolved offences. Officials attribute this to increased surveillance and digital enforcement mechanisms that flag expired or missing PUC certificates in real time.

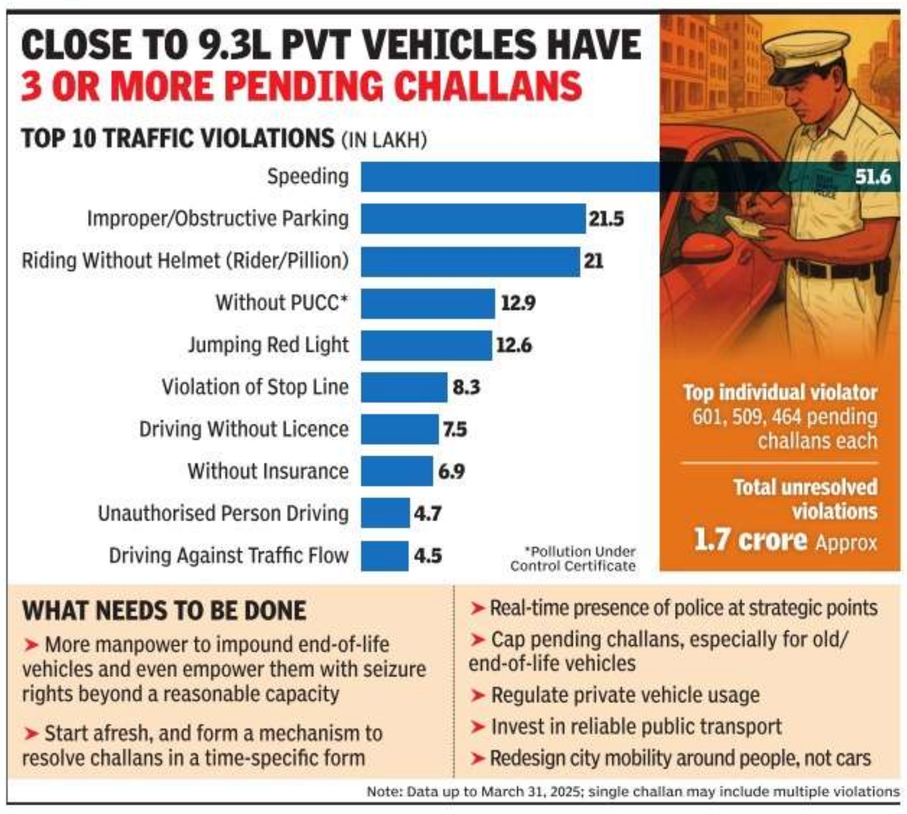
How will this huge pendency in bookings be resolved? Experts say a balanced approach is needed — fair to motorists, rule violators and police — else the people will continue violating rules. S Velmurugan, chief scientist and head, Traffic Engineering and Safety Division, CSIR-CRRI, said, "From overspeeding to the pollution violations, the pendency on resolving bookings has risen, but private car owners remain indifferent. Many wait to pay their fines during the special Lok Adalat camps when the amounts are reduced. Some don't even bother doing that. Without more manpower for impounding end-of-life vehicles and traffic officers being given seizure powers, enforcement will remain weak. We need a cap — say, three challans — beyond which vehicles can be impounded."

Vivek Chattopadhyay, principal programme manager (Clean Air and Sustainable Mobility), Centre for Science and Environment, said, "Traffic certainly has overwhelmed the city. Building more flyovers or underpasses hasn't helped. Central govt thought that increasing penalties for offences would intimidate people into obeying the rules. But today there is almost lawlessness on the roads. Unless we invest in public transport, regulate private vehicle use and redesign roads for people instead of cars, the congestion and pollution will only get worse."

The reliance on offence spotting cameras and fines don't help, observed Anil Chikara, a transport expert. "Reckless drivers face no real deterrent. Name-and-shame campaigns and stricter training before granting a driving licence can make a real difference," he said.

A motorist said that there had to be a mechanism to haul up violators quickly and real-time presence of traffic police personnel at key points was essential to control lawbreaking. Chetan Sharma, chairman, Federation of GKII Complex RWAs, said, "I think it is absolutely necessary for any govt agency, including police/traffic police, to have powers and methods of enforcing the law. The traffic cops have to work on enhancing public-police cooperation to bring down the violations."

Traffic officers say their hands are tied and they have authority only to issue challans. Satya Vir Katara, additional commissioner of police (traffic headquarters), said, "When booked, violators themselves ask for a court challan. Also, we have minimal powers to impound vehicles for not paying fines. The cameras are there, so the probability of violators being caught is increasing. But what next is uncertain. This is lessening the fear of motorists. Some autonomy for traffic personnel is necessary to address this problem. We are deliberating on this for commercial vehicles, but not for private vehicles. We will soon come up with a solution."



'Advise resolution, don't fuel allegations in matrimonial row'

Times News Network

New Delhi: Delhi High Court has stressed that lawyers must advise clients embroiled in matrimonial disputes to resolve the matter instead of "fuelling" allegations against each other.

A bench of justices Prathiba M Singh and Amit Sharma observed that in matrimonial disputes, the litigants experienced emotional trauma, with their personal lives coming to a standstill, and it was conscious of their "frustration and exasperation". The conduct of litigants in such matters could not cross the boundaries prescribed in the law, the bench added.

"Lawyers also have a great responsibility in such matters not only towards their own client but also towards the court and society. Peace and tranquillity are extremely necessary," the court asserted. It further highlighted that allegations in such matters could be taken extremely personally, which could lead to clients misbehaving with opposing counsels, though the same could not be justified in any manner.

The court made the observations while imposing costs of Rs 1 lakh on a husband, to be paid to his estranged wife, for his misbehaviour in a family court, which included hurling profanities at the wife's counsel.

While dealing with a woman's plea for initiating criminal contempt proceedings against the husband and awarding him six-month jail time, the court observed that though several events occurred during the proceedings in the high court and the family courts, he couldn't be squarely blamed. If there were any allegations against the counsel for the wife, the court said, the husband ought to have adopted the proper course of action, and "hurling abuses in court would not be permissible".

In July 2024, the husband allegedly hurled profanities at the counsel in a family court, triggering commotion. It came on record that he demeaned the proceedings by using abusive language not just against the wife's lawyer but even made aspersions against the judge. The matrimonial dispute, the court said, turned into an "ugly spat" between the lawyers for the parties.

Bearing in mind the background of the case, the remorse expressed by the husband and the fact that he had an ailing father, the court admonished the husband and directed him to tender a verbal apology to the wife's counsel.

HIGH COURT SAYS

Lawyers also have a great responsibility in such matters not only towards their own client but also towards the court and society

Court overturns man's acquittal in cheating and arms case

Times News Network

New Delhi: A city court has set aside the acquittal of a man previously cleared of charges involving cheating, impersonation, and possessing illegal arms by a magistrate court, describing the judgment as "perverse" and a gross miscarriage of justice.

In its April 5 order, the court of additional sessions judge Vishal Singh found that the magisterial court had misinterpreted the evidence and given "irrational and illogical" reasoning for acquitting the accused, Bawa alias Sunny. The court emphasised that, given the weight of the evidence, conviction was the only reasonable conclusion, and Bawa's acquittal led to a miscarriage of justice.

The court allowed the state's appeal, overturning the previous verdict, and directed Bawa's conviction on the charges. It further stated that sentencing would follow after hearing submissions from both parties.

The case stemmed from a Dec 2019 decision by a magistrate's court, which acquitted Bawa of charges including cheating, impersonation, possessing forged documents, and using them to deceive authorities, as well as forgery. The magisterial court also dismissed charges under the Arms Act.

In overturning this decision, the ASJ court noted that the magistrate had incorrectly concluded that impersonation, forgery, and cheating by Bawa were not substantiated. The central allegation against Bawa was his possession of an illicit firearm loaded with six live cartridges. He had also fraudulently obtained a fake ration card by impersonating one Pranabh Jain, and used the forged card to apply for a passport under Jain's name. Referring to a forensic science laboratory (FSL) report, the judge confirmed that Bawa was the "author" of the forged documents, including the ration card and passport application form. "The evidence leaves no room for doubt that Bawa impersonated Pranabh Jain and used Jain's educational certificates to manipulate govt departments into issuing the forged documents," the judge stated.

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Palod and Atal Family

Airport awards honour for IGI

New Delhi: Delhi airport was recognised as the Best Airport in India and South Asia at the 2025 World Airport Awards by Skytrax, said airport operator Delhi International Airport Limited on Thursday.

DIAL said IGI airport improved its global ranking to 32 in 2025 from 36 in 2024. Additionally, Delhi airport was placed at the 8th spot among the world's top 10 best airports in the 70+ million passenger category. The awards were presented at an official ceremony during the Passenger Terminal EXPO in Madrid, Spain, on April 9. TNN

'Need to prioritise rest for pilots'

▶Continued from P1

Armaan, who went by his first name only, had joined AI Express in 2023 from SpiceJet. He had flown for less than 12 hours in the last seven days, it is learned.

The Airline Pilots' Association of India said in a statement that there's an urgent need to put in place transparent regulations that prioritise rest for pilots, safety and humane scheduling practices. The association, which represents over 800 pilots of various Indian carriers, has stressed the need for having comprehensive mental health support systems within airline organisations and not merely as checkboxes but as active, accessible, and stigma-free services. ALPA says the untimely death of captain Armaan's death raises troubling questions about pilot welfare, mental health, and working conditions in the Indian aviation industry.

While not linking Armaan's tragic death to fatigue, several pilots say they have for a long time been pleading for less strenuous working conditions in India. After a significant delay, slightly less strenuous flight duty time limitations (FDTL) rules — that govern key issues like how much a pilot can fly with what rest periods and limits on night flying — are set to be enforced from this summer.

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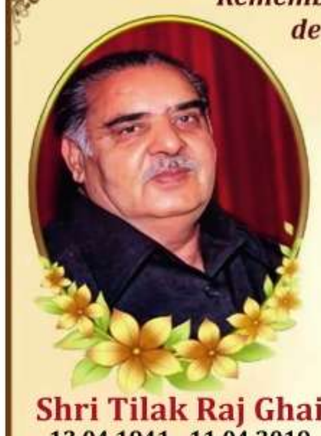

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AYANAGAR AND RIDGE WERE UNDER GRIP OF HEATWAVE

Heatwave conditions continued in parts of the city for a fourth consecutive day

Warm night conditions recorded for third straight day

At 25.6 degrees Celsius, Safdarjung recorded the warmest April night in three years

Rain and gusty winds on Thursday evening brought respite from soaring mercury

Very light rain or drizzle, accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds, likely on Friday

Maximum temperature likely to fall by 3-5 degrees Celsius in next 3 days Photo: Sanjeev Rastogi

Light rain on Thursday evening caused a significant drop in temperature Photo: Rajesh Mehta

	Min	Max (in °C)	Departure
Safdarjung	25.9	39.6	5.9 / 4.5
Palam	26.8	39.1	6.8 / 3.6
Lodhi Road	24.6	39.6	5.6 / 5.6
Ridge	25.6	40.9	5.5 / 5.8
Ayanagar	24.8	40.2	5.9 / 5.3

What is warm night

A warm night is declared when the maximum temperature is 40 degrees Celsius or higher and the minimum temperature is 4.5 degrees or higher than normal. If the minimum temperature departure is 6.5 degrees or above, it is considered as 'severe warm night'

What is heatwave

IMD defines a heatwave day as one where the maximum temperature is 4.5°C or more above the normal temperature, with the maximum temperature reaching at least 40°C. A heatwave is also considered if the maximum temperature hits 45°C or higher. A "severe" heatwave is declared when the maximum temperature exceeds the normal by 6.5°C or more

Heatwave persists in city, but rain offers late respite

Priyangi.Agarwal@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhiites sweltered under a 'warm night' for the second consecutive day, along with a heatwave in parts of the city on Thursday, making it another stifling afternoon. However, a brief but intense spell of rain accompanied by strong winds in the evening offered much-needed respite.

The winds, gusting up to 50 kmph in parts of the city, brought the mercury down by a significant 6-10 degrees across most areas, said India Meteorological Department (IMD). The Met department predicted very light rain or drizzle on Friday and Saturday, with heatwave conditions unlikely till April 16.

Parts of Delhi reeled under heatwave conditions for the fourth consecutive day. The maximum temperature at Safdarjung, the city's base station, reached 39.6 degrees Celsius on Thursday, five degrees above normal, down from Wednesday's 40.5 degrees Celsius. While Safdarjung didn't register heatwave conditions, Ayanagar (40.2 degrees Celsius) and Ridge (40.9 degrees Celsius) were under the grip of a heatwave. The heat index for Delhi was between 40 and 50 degrees Celsius.

The city saw the second consecutive warm night. The minimum temperature at Safdarjung stood at 25.9 degrees Celsius, six degrees above normal. It was also 0.3 degrees higher than Wednesday's minimum temperature, making it the highest minimum temperature in April in three years. It was last exceeded in April on April 14, 2022, at 26.2 degrees Celsius.

A warm night is declared when the maximum temperature is above 40 degrees Celsius while the minimum temperature is at least 4.5 degrees above normal. The warm night conditions were met at most stations in Delhi.

"The city saw above normal temperatures in the night and during the daytime, leading to warm night and heatwave conditions. However, under the influence of a western disturbance, Delhi received very light rain in parts of the city on Thursday evening. Strong winds caused significant temperature reduction," said a Met official.

Krishna Kumar Mishra, a scientist at IMD, said the mercury dropped at Lodhi Road from 36 degrees Celsius to 30 degrees between 5.30pm and 6.30pm post-thunderstorm. However, Mayur Vihar experienced a decline from 37 degrees Celsius to 27 degrees Celsius during the same period due to more activity over eastern Delhi, said Mishra.

According to IMD, base station Safdarjung did not record any rain between 5.30pm and 8.30pm while Mayur Vihar logged 5mm rainfall during the same period. Pitampura received 1mm rain.

"The maximum temperature is likely to fall by 3-5 degrees Celsius during the next three days and gradually rise by 2-4 degrees Celsius thereafter," said IMD. A Met official said strong winds were likely to blow on Friday, but winds are expected to slow down from Saturday.

Meanwhile, Delhi's air quality remained in the poor category. The air quality index stood at 256. However, AQI is expected to improve to moderate from Friday to Sunday, thanks to the rain on Thursday.

IMD SAYS

The maximum temperature is likely to fall by 3-5 degrees Celsius during the next three days and gradually rise by 2-4 degrees Celsius thereafter

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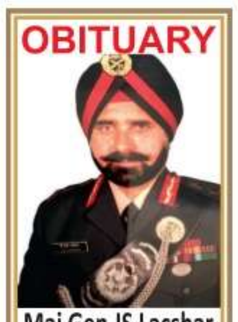

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'Illegal' Tree Felling In Dwarka: Probe Begins

Notices Issued To CPWD, Research Institute

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Around 100 trees may have been felled here, said a senior official

New Delhi: The forest and wildlife department issued notices to Central Public Works Department and National Institute of Immunology for the illegal felling of trees in violation of Delhi Preservation of Trees Act 1994 (DPTA) in Dwarka's Sector 5. Nearly 100 trees were cut, and a forest team is ascertaining how many of them meet the criteria of a tree under the Act.

An official said the site, where trees were cut without permission from the forest department, belongs to National Institute of Immunology, and CPWD is planning to construct a building there. It is mandatory in Delhi to take permission from a tree officer under DPTA before felling or pruning trees.

A senior forest official said, "No permission was sought from any agency to fell trees here. As per the preliminary assessment, around 100 trees may have been felled here. However, we are determining how many trees met the definition of trees as per DPTA based on their length and girth."

"A restraining order has also been issued that no work can take place at the site. A JCB machine has been seized. It is being investigated why trees were cut," he added.

According to DPTA, a tree means any woody plant that has branches supported by a trunk or body of at least 5cm in diameter and is at least one metre high.

Chetan Sharma, who resides in a society in Dwarka's Sector 5 and lodged a complaint with the forest department and made a PCR call, said a mini patch of green cover was cleared. "On Wednesday morning, I saw a JCB machine removing trees from the site. A CPWD official said they were pruning trees, but scores of felled trees were lying at the spot. No one at the site could show a copy of permission from the forest department," said Sharma.

CPWD could not be contacted in the matter. An official of National Institute of Immunology said, "It is a vacant plot where staff housing has been proposed. Since the land was unattended for nearly a year, shrubs had grown there. These shrubs were being removed from the site. No tree was felled."

In a similar case in March, National Green Tribunal imposed an environmental compensation of Rs 95.05 lakh on the transport department for the illegal cutting of trees and not carrying out the mandatory compensatory plantation during the construction of bus depots in Burari in 2019. NGT has asked all pollution control authorities across the country to use in such cases the guidelines used by it to calculate the compensation.

NGT: Look into plea on illegal felling of trees

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: National Green Tribunal has asked the forest department to take appropriate action on a complaint related to the illegal felling of trees in Ibrahimpur village in north-east Delhi.

The plea was filed by a resident, who claimed that in Khasra numbers 131 and 132 of Ibrahimpur village, trees were illegally felled in a nursery, violating the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, and other environmental norms.

The plea claimed that though the applicant lodged a complaint with the forest department on Feb 13 this year, no action has been taken.

The tribunal observed that when a complaint is made by the applicant regarding the illegal felling of trees, a spot inspection is required, and the truthfulness of the allegation needs to be ascertained. If the allegation is found to be correct, appropriate remedial and punitive action is required, NGT said.

The plea was filed by a resident, who claimed that in Khasra numbers 131 and 132 of Ibrahimpur village, trees were illegally felled in a nursery

"We direct the principal chief conservator of forests to consider the complaint of the applicant dated Feb 13, ascertain the correct factual position, and take appropriate action, keeping in view the observations made above, as expeditiously as possible, preferably within a period of two months," said the bench headed by Justice Prakash Shrivastava in an order dated April 7.

The NGT said the applicant has not enclosed any prima facie material indicating the felling of trees. However, the counsel for the applicant told the tribunal that since there is a boundary wall surrounding the nursery, he could not collect the material.

Four Bangladeshis staying illegally for over 15 yrs held

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A 72-year-old man and his two sons, all from Bangladesh, were caught for living illegally in northwest Delhi's Bawana. They were living in the city for over two decades, and the sons were working as property dealers. The accused were identified as Mustaq (72), Shahid Khan (28) and Mintu (32).

Police recently received information that a family of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh was living in Bawana. "We monitored the activities of the accused and, upon confirmation, conducted a raid in JJ Colony, Bawana," said DCP (Crime) Aditya Gautam.

The two brothers tried to mislead the team by denying any connection with Bangladesh and producing documents to prove their nationality, which were found to be fake upon verification.

POLICE SAY

A 72-year-old man and his two sons were caught for living illegally in Bawana. Another person was arrested in Mahipalpur

"However, on sustained interrogation, the accused finally confessed to being illegal immigrants. They said that after entering India by illegally crossing the border from Bangladesh, they procured fake documents, including birth certificates and Aadhaar cards, with the help of locals in West Bengal and Delhi," the DCP added.

In another case, another Bangladeshi national, Mohammad Monto, was arrested in southwest Delhi's Mahipalpur. Police said that they received information about an illegal migrant seeking accommodation in the area. A team of cops then approached the suspect and asked for identification documents. The individual failed to produce valid documents and admitted to being an illegal migrant who entered India 15 years ago. After a thorough inquiry and completion of legal formalities, he was transferred to the deportation centre at the foreigners regional registration office.

OHE all set to power RRTS stretch ops, trial runs soon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The overhead equipment (OHE) between New Ashok Nagar and Sarai Kale Khan RRTS stations is all set to power train operations. Trial runs on the stretch are expected to begin soon, said officials.

Currently, Namo Bharat trains are running between New Ashok Nagar and Meerut South, covering 55 km and 11 stations along the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor.

"This newly charged section from New Ashok Nagar to Sarai Kale Khan spans around 4 km and will receive power from the Sarai Kale Khan receiving substation in the near future. The substation will receive 66 kV electricity and will supply 25 kV for train operations and 33 kV for powering stations along the corridor," explained an official of National Capital Region Transport Corporation, which is executing the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor.

To enable this, NCRTC has signed an agreement with Delhi Transco Limited and the gas turbine power station. At present, electricity in this section is being supplied by the Ghaziabad receiving substation, added the official.

"The overhead wires are specially designed to support the high-speed operations of Namo Bharat trains, up to its design speed of 180 kmph. The overhead equipment on this corridor is engineered to handle both high speeds and frequent services efficiently," said the official.

Namo Bharat trains are already operating between Anand Vihar and New Ashok Nagar in the 14 km-long Delhi section.

Sarai Kale Khan is one of the largest and most important stations on the entire corridor. It will serve as the central hub for train operations across all three priority corridors of Phase I. The station is equipped with four tracks and six platforms—the highest among all stations.

To ensure smooth passenger movement, the station includes five entry and exit gates, multiple staircases, 14 lifts, and 18 escalators. Spanning 215 metres in length, 50 metres in width, and 15 metres in height, its spacious layout was designed for effective crowd management.

The Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor originates at Sarai Kale Khan in New Delhi and terminates at Modipuram in Meerut.

2 held for bank fraud

New Delhi: Two men were arrested by EOW for siphoning off Rs 8.94 crore from the bank account of a joint venture between multinational companies. TNN

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Post	Number of Post
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)	01

Last date of receipt of application on **30.04.2025.** For details visit website
https://ihmcl.co.in/careers

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GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

The Executive Engineer, Salt Lake Reclamation Division invites two no. online percentage rate basis e-tenders vide **Tender ID No. 2025_UDD_833593_1 & 2 WBUD & MA/EE/ SLRD/NIT-01(e)/2025-26 of EE/SLRD** dated 04/04/2025. Value of works are Rs. 9,68,933.00 and Rs. 9,65,358.00. Start and Last date of submission of bid online are 11/04/2025 and 18/04/2025 up to 13-00 Hrs. respectively. All documents can be seen / obtained from the website **https://wbtenders.gov.in**. Detailed information can also be seen in the website **www.wburbanservices.gov.in** and office Notice Board. ICA- T7382(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

O/O the Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte.
Paschim Medinipur Electrical Division,
Sahid Mangal Pandey Sarani,Midnapur-721101
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

WBPWD/EE/PMED/NIT-03/e-T /2025-2026. Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_834720_1. Last date of submission of bid :- 28.04.2025 up to 1:00 PM Name Of Work: Vertical Extension of existing 1st floor of DWF Store of CMOH Office for setting up new district control Office, Paschim Medinipur under P.W.Dte. and Seperate Entrance for Drugs Control Office, at 2nd floor of DWF Store of CMOH Office, under Paschim Medinipur Division P.W.Dte.---- Electrical Installation work. Amt. Put to the Tender Rs. 10,43,243.00, EMD Amt.- 20,865.00 Further details can be seen in the above mentioned office during working hours or in Official Website www.pwdwb.gov.in For all details and online tender submission visit https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- EE, PMED, PWDte. ICA- T7452(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Tender for Labour Contractor
No. MCM/KOL/NIT/25-26/08
Date: 07.04.2025

Online E-Tender is invited by Mayurakshi Cotton Mills (1990) Ltd. (Under MSME&T Dept. Govt. of W.B.) from Bonafide Agencies / Firms / parties through e-tendering for engagement of contractor for supplying of security personnel. Tender Documents and other details can be downloaded from e-procurement portal from www.wbtenders.gov.in The bidders shall have the Digital Signature Certificate (preferably category III) for downloading the e-tender documents from the above portal. Bids shall be submitted/ uploaded through the above portal from 08.04.2025, 05:00 PM to 23.04.2025, 05:00 PM along with Earnest Money Rs. 30,000/- by way of RTGS/NEFT (Online) and documents of such payment shall be uploaded online. Pre Bid Meeting will be held on 11.04.2025 at 03:00 PM to 5:00 PM. via link https://meet.google.com/dpu-jujc-ghp All other information and correspondence shall be made through this e-portal along with any corrigendum/information. No physical communication shall be made in this respect. Sd/- Managing Director ICA- T7406(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

E-TENDER NOTICE
OF WEST BENGAL STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION (A STATUTORY CORPORATION) OF SE, W.B.S.W.C.
email:- ce-swc@wb.gov.in
NIET No. 05 of 2025-26 of SE/WBSWC
Tender ID - 2025_WBSWC_834517_1

Repair and renovation work at Nabagram 2000MT godown in the district of Murshidabad. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION - 28.04.2025. For detailed NIET see https://etender.wb.nic.in Sd/-Superintending Engineer, West Bengal State Warehousing Corporation ICA- T7473(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE
NIeT No. 01 of 2025-26 Circulated vide Memo No. 953/SMD Dt- 07-04-2025

On behalf of the Governor of W.B. e-Tenders are invited in W.B.F. No 2911 by the Executive Engineer, South 24 Pgs Mechanical Division PHE Dte. [2025_PHED_834008_1-6]. Bid proposal submission end date 30.04.2025 upto 03.00 P.M. Other details information/download/upload will be available from the website: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, South 24 Pgs Mechanical Division, PHE Dte. ICA- T7428(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

IRRIGATION & WATERWAYS DIRECTORATE
ABRIDGED e-NIT
e-NIT No. e-NIT-22/2024-25 (Sl. No. 1 to 6) of Executive Engineer, MMED.

Online tender is hereby invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of West Bengal from the eligible bonafide contractors for the work. Last date and time of application is 25th April, 2025, 17:00 Hrs. IST. Others details may be available from the office of the undersigned during office hours on any working days. Details of tender notice may be seen at www.wbiwd.gov.in and https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Metropolitan Mechanical & Electrical Division ICA- T7401(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited by the Assistant Engineer(H.Q), Jhargram Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. eNIT No. 01 of AE(H.Q)/JHD of 2025-2026 and ID: 2025_PHED_834636_1 to 2025_PHED_834636_4 for DIFFERENT TYPE OF WORKs in Jhargram District. Details will be available in the website wbtenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 21.04.2025 upto 18:00 Hours. Sd/- for Assistant Engineer(H.Q.), Jhargram Division, PHE Dte. ICA- T7419(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

The Executive Engineer, Salt Lake Reclamation Division invites one no. online item rate e-tenders vide **Tender ID No. 2025_UDD_833493_1, vide NIQ No. WBUD & MA/SE/SLRDC /NIQ No. 01(e) OF 2025-2026 of EE/ SLRD dated 04/04/2025.** Start and last date of bid submission are 11/04/2025 and 25/04/2025 respectively upto 13.00 Hrs. All documents can be seen /obtained from the website **https://wbtenders.gov.in**. Detailed information can also be seen in the website **www.wburbanservices.gov.in** ICA- T7381(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

WRI&DD. e-NIT

Executive Engineer (A-M), Berhampore II (A-M) Division invites e-tender for Installation of New solar MINI RLI scheme under Berhampore-II (A-M) Division under RIDF XXX Tranche. e-NIT no: EE(AM)/BER-II RIDF/eNIT-14 (2nd call)/2024-25 & Tender ID: **2025_WRDD_824827_6. Last dropping date is 28.04.2025 up to 4.00 PM**. Intending bidders are requested to visit the website http//wbtenders.gov.in for details.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (A-M)
Berhampore-II (A-M) Division
ICA- T7418(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited.
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIT No. 01/WBTDCL OF 2025-26 (Technical)
Tender ID- 2025_WBTDC_835184_1 and 2025_WBTDC_835184_1

WBTDCL invites e-Tender for the work: "Annual Maintenance for Orchid Park and Landscaping, Beautification with other allied works at different Tourism Property under WBTDCL." From the reputed, bonafide and experienced agencies in similar works. Start date & time of documents download: 09.04.2025 - 16:00 Hrs. Last date & time of Bid Submission: 26.04.2025 - 16:00 Hrs. Details are available in website: wbtdcl.wbtourismgov.in / wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited ICA- T7415(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NIQ
O/o the Exe. Engineer Jhargram Electrical Division, PWDte.
NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Tender Id: 2025_WBPWD_835045_1. WBPWD/EE/JED/eNIQ 02/2025-26. Bid Submission Start Date: 14/04/2025. Bid Submission Last Date: 28/04/2025. For details, visit concerned office or http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/-Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte. Jhargram Electrical Division ICA- T7471(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

P.W.(Roads) Directorate
Notice Inviting e-Tender

Superintending Engineer, Eastern Highway Circle, PurtaBhavan, Salt Lake, 1st Floor, Room No.104 &105,Kolkata-700091 invites online Percentage rate eNIT No. 01 of 2025-2026 of the SE/EHC, [Tender Id : 2025_WBPWD_834948_1-3] for the works:- 1. NH-34 to Simurali Railway Station Road from 0.00 Km to 3.00 Km - Strengthening work including 500.00 m. of Drainage work under Nadia Highway Division No.-II, P.W. (Roads) Directorate in the District of Nadia. Amounting to Rs. 3,64,49,150.00. 2. Jagatpur Road from 0.40 K.m. to 1.184 K.m., Widening and Strengthening under Barasat Highway Division No. - I in the District of North 24 Parganas. Amounting to Rs. 3,86,34,020.00 3. Construction of Masonary drain at 0.00 kmp to 1.80 kmp of Moyna - Madhabpur Road including construction of 01 (one) no. RCC cross drain under Barasat Highway Division -II in the dist of North 24 Parganas.(2nd Call). Amounting to Rs. 1,92,55,272.00 Last date and time of submission of Bid is on 08.05.2025 upto 1.00 PM. (Tender Application& Financial bid both concurrently). The details can be obtained from the website https://wbtenders.gov.in & Office Notice Board. Corrigendum or Addendum if issued will be published only on website. For any clarification Bidder may contact PWD e-Tender Help Desk with following Phone No. (033) 2223-6236. Sd/-SE/EHC,P.W.(R) Dte. ICA- T7467(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited.
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
NIT No. 02/WBTDCL OF 2025-26 (Technical)
Tender ID- 2025_WBTDC_835081_1

WBTDCL invites e-Tender for the work: "Annual maintenance of landscaped garden at Bhorer-Alo Tourism Property, Gajoldoba in the district of Jalpaiguri during the year 2024-25." From the reputed, bonafide and experienced agencies in similar works. Start date & time of documents download: 09.04.2025 - 16:00 Hrs. Last date & time of Bid Submission: 26.04.2025 - 16:00 Hrs. Details are available in website: wbtdcl.wbtourismgov.in / wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Superintending Engineer, West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation Limited ICA- T7414(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender Ref No. : WBIDC/Eng/UIP/CII/2014-15
E-tender Id-2025_WBIDC_834030_1

WBIDCL invites e-tenders for Contractor for Repairing and Construction works at Uluberia Industrial Park, Uluberia, Dist-Howrah. Details are available at www.wbtenders.gov.in ICA- T7383(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Calcutta National Medical College
32, Gorachand Road, Kolkata - 14
Notice of Re e-tender for Books

Principal, Calcutta National Medical College invites Re e-tenders for Medical Books for COE, Pavlov Hospital under the Department of Psychiatry, Calcutta National Medical College. For detail visit, https://wbtenders.gov.in or https://www.wbhealth.gov.in on 12.04.2025. Sd/- Principal, CNMC ICA- T7395(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIeT No. PHE/EE/NIeT-02/2025-2026 is invited by the Executive Engineer New Town Kolkata W/S Divn-I, PHE Dte. Details information about the tender will be available in the website - www.wbtender.gov.in as well as in the office notice board. Sd/- EE, NTK W/S Divn-I, PHE Dte. ICA- T7422(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

E.E., Murshidabad Electrical Division, P.W.Directorate invites online tender for the following NIQ: NIQ No: WBPWD/EE/MsdED/01/e-T of 25-26 Tender ID: 2025_WBPWD_834501_1 Bid submission end date:- 23.04.2025 upto 12.00. Detail of Tender may be downloaded from website: http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Murshidabad Electrical Division. ICA- T7436(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE
NIeT-01 of 2025-26 EE/NMD-II, Ref: Tender Id- 2025_PHED_833088_1 to 16

Sealed NIeT in WBF NO 2911 are invited by EE/NMD-II, PHE Dte. O & G of diff. PWSS Dist-Alipurduar and Coochbehar. The detail of work will be available at website www.wbtenders.gov.in and www.wbphed.gov.in The last date of closing of tender on 23.04.2025 upto 2.00 P.M. Sd/- EE/NMD-II, PHE Dte. ICA- T7424(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Abridged Notice

Enit - eNIT-02/25-26/EE/DWSD/PHE Dte. Publication on 09.04.2025 at 18.30 Hrs. and last date of submission tender bid on 25/04/2025 upto 18.30 PM. For any kind of details are avaliable in website:- wbtenders.gov.in and wbphed.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Durgapur W/S Division, PHE Dte. ICA- T7423(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (HANDLOOM), BARASAT
TENDER NOTICE

Invites online Tender as Follows: NIT NO-DO (H)/BARASAT/RMG /NIT02 (e)/2024-25, 2ND CALL. TENDER ID-2025_ZPHD_834346_1, Dated-11/04/2025. Details may be obtained from website : https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA- T7386(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. 02 of 2025-26 of E.E. Barasat Hway Divn. No. II, P.W. (Roads) Dte. (Sl.No.1) Inviting online e-tender for 01(One) No. Restoration of PHED work and Civil work under Barasat Highway Division No.II in the District of North 24 Pgs. Details may be obtained from the Website; wbtenders.gov.in., Tender Id:-2025_WBPWD_834617_1. Last date of bid submission: - 26/04/2025 Sd/-EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BARASAT HIGHWAY DIVISION II. ICA- T7435(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Webel Technology Limited
(A Government of West Bengal Undertaking)
The EOI No. WTL/EOI/Lab Equipment/ 25-26/001 dated 08.04.2025

For Supply and Delivery of Science and Maths Laboratory Equipments with Online tracking and Delivery Management System for 79 Madrasahs under Directorate of Madrasah Education,Government of West Bengal. EOI / corrigendum may be downloaded from www.wtl.co.in Sd/- For Webel Technology Limited, Dy General Manager (HR&A), Legal ICA- T7410(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

E-TENDER NOTICE
OF WEST BENGAL STATE WAREHOUSING CORPORATION (A STATUTORY CORPORATION) OF SE, W.B.S.W.C.
email:- ce-swc@wb.gov.in
NIET No. 04 of 2025-26 of SE/WBSWC
Tender ID - 2025_WBSWC_834504_1

Repairing work for water distribution line and grill gate at Kandi RIDF godown in the district of Murshidabad. LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION - 21.04.2025. For detailed NIET see https://etender.wb.nic.in Sd/-Superintending Engineer, West Bengal State Warehousing Corporation ICA- T7472(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE

e_Tender Notice is invited by the Assistant Engineer, Rampurhat Sub-Division, PHE Dte. on behalf of Governor of West Bengal vide Ref. No. 02/2025-2026 and 2025_PHED_834452_1 to 3 for different Mtc. works under Rampurhat Sub-Division within Birbhum Division, PHE Dte. Details will be available in the website wbtenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 13.05.2025 at 14:00 IST. Sd/- for Assistant Engineer, Rampurhat Sub-Division, PHE Dte. ICA- T7434(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

EE/PWD/Purulia Division invites Online e-tenderfor 03 (Three) No. work related to mtc. Road under Purulia Division PWD." N.I.E.T. NO. 02 of 2025-2026. Bid submission start date (Online): 11.04.2025. Bid submission closing date (Online): 21.04.2025. Corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of N.I.T. and documents may be downloaded from: http.//wbetenders/gov.in Id. no: 2025_WBPWD_834618_1, 2025_WBPWD_834618_2, 2025_WBPWD_834618_3. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Purulia Division, P.W.D. ICA- T7459(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER (HANDLOOM), BARASAT
TENDER NOTICE

Invites online Tender as Follows: NIT NO-DO (H)/BARASAT/RMG /NIT03 (e)/2024-25, 2ND CALL. TENDER ID-2025_ZPHD_834383_1, Dated-11/04/2025. Details may be obtained from website : https://wbtenders.gov.in ICA- T7385(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

N.B.D.D INVITING e-QUOTATION

Notice Inviting e-Quotation by the S.E(EL)./NBDD, Vide: NIQ No – 01 (SL No. 01 to 10) of 2025-26, NIQ No – 02 (SL No. 01 to 07) of 2025-26, NIQ No – 03 (SL No. 01 to 10) of 2025-26, NIQ No – 04 (SL No. 01 to 08) of 2025-26, Details of works be seen in the above mentioned NIQ in the website:- **www.wbnorthbengaldev.gov.in** & **https://wbtenders.gov.in.**

SD/- Superintending Engineer (Electrical), North Bengal Development Department ICA- T7402(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

TENDER NOTICE
N.I.e.T. No. WBPHED/EE/BMD/NIeT-1 OF 2024-2025

Rate Quoted Notice inviting e-Tenders are invited by the EE, BMD, PHE Dte. Ailakundi, Bankura as per Tender Id. 2025_PHED_833524_1 to 12. Bid submission Starting Date is 25.04.2025 at 06.00 P.M. Last date of uploading is 20.05.2025 upto 5.00 P.M. Details will be available at notice board & at website www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bankura Mechanical Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA- T7431(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online tender is invited by the undersigned for the works: "Renovation & Up-gradation of power Distribution system from substation to different Sub-Panel of Bikash Bhawan, Salt lake, Kolkata-91.". Tender No: WBPWD/EE/BED/e-NIQ-04/2025-26 & e-Tender ID No. 2025_WBPWD_834704_1. Document Download Closing Date: 06.05.2025 up to 11:00 Hrs. Details may be downloaded from etender.wb.nic.in Sd/-Executive Engineer, PWD Bidhannagar Electrical Division ICA- T7443(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT-CUM-VICE PRINCIPAL
NORTH BENGAL MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL
SUSHRUTANAGAR, DARJEELING
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
NO. NBMCH/1867 Date 07/04/2025

E-Tender is invited for TENDER NOTICE FOR PROCUREMENTS OF 07 types of RT-PCR kits [02nd call] (Med/T4(1)25) of the M.S.V.P., North Bengal Medical College & Hospital. For tender details, forms may be downloaded from https://wbhealth.gov.in or https://www.wbtenders.gov.in Technical & Financial Bid Submission Closing Date: 30/04/2025 at 5:00 PM. For Details, Please visit the website www.nbmch.ac.in or the Office of the MSVP, North Bengal Medical College & Hospital, Sushrutanagar, Darjeeling. ICA- T7400(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE, PHE DTE.
NIJALAY, PLOT NO. CN-8, SEC-V, SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA - 700091
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Reference No: WBPHED/SE/EC/NIET-68/2024-25
Tender ID : 2025_PHED_828448_1

e-Tenders in WBF 2911 are invited for the work of "Construction of R.C.C Elevated Reservoir of 700 Cum. Capacity of staging height 20M at Head works site with Annular combined pile raft foundation for Badkulla Zone-II Water Supply Scheme under Nadia Division P.H. Engineering Dte. & Corrigendum uploaded." Bid Submission Closing Date (Online): 21.04.2025 at 02.00 p.m. Further details are available in the website:- http://wbtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, PHE Dte. ICA- T7432(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Bishnupur Division, PWD invites online Tender for the work of –1. Vitrified flooring and some essential allied works at Children's Rooms of Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) within Bishnupur DH campus, Bishnupur under Bishnupur Division, P.W.D in the district of Bankura during the year 2024-2025. Amount Put to Tender- Rs. 1,92,423.00. 2. Repair at Ch.3.200 k.m to Ch. 3.300 km of RM Loop Road by interlocking concrete block pavements (ICPB) under Bishnupur Division, P.W.Dte in the district of Bankura during the F.Y-2024-25 (2nd call). Amount Put to Tender: Rs. 9,89,824.00, 3. Outside repairing & painting work to the Administrative Building of Bishnupur Sub Division under Bishnupur Division, P.W.D in the district of Bankura. Amount put to tender: 5,92,370.00. Tender ID 2025_WBPWD_835010_1 to 3. e-NIT No: 01 of 2025-2026 of EE/BD/PWD; Bid submission closing date 22.04.2025 up to 12.00 pm corrigendum if any will be published in website only. Details of NIT and Tender documents may be downloaded from http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/ Executive Engineer, Bishnupur Division, P.W.Dte. ICA- T7469(2)/2025

NOTICE

Government of West Bengal
Office of the Superintendent
Matigara Children Home for Girls
P.O. New Rangia
Dist: Darjeeling-734013

E-tenders are invited from the eligible bonafide agencies by this office vide Tender ID No: 2025_CDWDS_835197_1

For details please visit **https://wbtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

Sd/-
Superintendent
Matigara Children Home for Girls
Memo No.: 732(3)/Advt./SDI&CO/SLG. Date: 09.04.2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

E.E., Murshidabad Electrical Division, P.W.Directorate invites online tender for the following NIQ: NIQ No: WBPWD/EE/MsdED/05/e-Q of 25-26 Tender ID 2025_WBPWD_834877_1. Bid submission end date:- 24.04.2025 upto 12.00 Detail of Tender may be downloaded from website: http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Murshidabad Electrical Division. ICA- T7449(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

E.E., Murshidabad Electrical Division, P.W.Directorate invites online tender for the following NIQ: NIQ No: WBPWD/EE/MsdED/04/e-T of 25-26 Tender ID 2025_WBPWD_834840_1 Bid submission end date:- 17.04.2025 upto 12.00 Detail of Tender may be downloaded from website: http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Murshidabad Electrical Division ICA- T7448(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer, Malda Division, PHE Dte. On behalf of Governor of West Bengal Vide Ref. No. NIeT No. 02 of EE/MD of 2025-2026 and ID: 2025_PHED_832894_1 to 2025_PHED_832894_13 for DIFFERENT TYPE OF WORKS in Malda District. Details will be available in the website wbtenders.gov.in The last date for submission of tender is 17.04.2025 upto 17:00 Hours. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Malda Division, P.H.E. Dte. ICA- T7425(4)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NIQ
O/o the Exe. Engineer Jhargram Electrical Division, PWDte.
NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Tender Id: 2025_WBPWD_835044_1. WBPWD/EE/JED/eNIQ01/2025-26. Bid Submission Start Date: 14/04/2025 Bid Submission Last Date: 21/04/2025 For details, visit concerned office or http://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/-Executive Engineer, P.W.Dte. Jhargram Electrical Division ICA- T7470(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

e-TENDER NOTICE

Tenders is invited for reputed firms for construction works under Darjeeling (SMP). NIeT No.- 15 (Const.) of 2024-25. The publishing date & time of online bid is 11.04.2025 from 11:00 AM. visit www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Chief Medical Officer of Health, Darjeeling ICA- T7398(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

PWD TENDER NOTICE

Executive Engineer, Nadia Construction Division, P.W.Dte invites online e-Tender for the work of : 1) Repair & renovation with Face Lifting work of Saktinager District Hospital Building at Saktinagar District Hospital Campus. Est. Amt. Rs. 96,83,852.00 2) Implementation of green initiatives such as gardening, lawning improvement of infrastructure for beautification of campus at Mohanpur of WBUAFS, Nadia - Civil Works Est. Amt. Rs. 5,75,142.00 3) Implementation of green initiatives such as gardening, lawning improvement of infrastructure for beautification of campus at Mohanpur of WBUAFS, Nadia -Gardening Works Est. Amt. Rs. 8,80,433.0 e-N.I.T-01 of 2025-26 of EE/NCD/PWDte Tender ID: 2025_PWD_834584_1, 2025_PWD_834584_2, 2025_PWD_834584_3. Bid submission start date(online): 16.04.2025 from 11.00 A.M. Bid submission closing (online) : 30.04.2025 up to 02.00 P.M. Corrigendum, if any, will be published in website only. Details of N.I.e.T and Tender Documents may be download form https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/-Executive Engineer, Nadia Construction Division, P.W.Dte. ICA- T7440(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

A1. Construction of Stalls at Gate No. 01 (Eastern Side) with allied works at Bethuadahari Principal Market Yard under Nadia Zilla Regulated Market Committee vide NIT No. WBSAMB/CEO/1/2025-26 Dated 03.04.2025 bearing Tender Id:- 2025_WBSMB_833289_1. The last date for submission of Tender is on 29.04.2025 upto 12:00 Noon. A2. Development work with Construction of Stall, RCC Road, Surface Drain, Land development & Electrical works at Sheoraphuli Principal Market Yard within Hooghly District vide NIT No. WBSAMB/CEO/2/2025-26 Dated 03.04.2025 bearing Tender Id:-2025_WBSMB_833301_1. The last date for submission of Tender is on 05.05.2025 upto 12:00 Noon. A3. Infrastructure Development of Katwa Sub Market Yard (Construction of 1 no. 500 MT Godown with Internal Road, Drain and Electrification works) under Purba Bardhaman District vide NIT No. WBSAMB/CEO/3/2025-26 Dated 03.04.2025 bearing Tender Id:-2025_WBSMB_833309_1. The last date for submission of Tender is on 29.04.2025 upto 12:00 Noon. The detail information regarding e-NIT(s) will be available on the **https://wbtenders.gov.in** Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, West Bengal State Agricultural Marketing Board. ICA- T7376(3)/2025

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Regd. Office : Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata - 700 091
CIN : U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in

WBSEDCL invites e-Tender as follows:

NIT No.: DM/NTD/E-Tender/2025-26/04/33, **Dt.:** 04.04.2025 of the **Divisional Manager**, Newtown Division, WBSEDCL. **Estimated Cost:** ₹ 1,20,05,909/- for the work of *'Drawal of LT and HT UG cable, along with installation of new DTRs, LT Kiosks, FPBs, DBs for LT UG Ringmain works at 'AC' & 'AF' Blocks, AA-IA under Newtown Division, WBSEDCL'.* ICA- T7411(3)/2025

For details, visit **https://wbtenders.gov.in** & **www.wbsedcl.in**

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE, PHE DTE.
NIJALAY, PLOT NO. CN-8, SEC-V, SALT LAKE CITY, KOLKATA - 700091
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Reference No: WBPHED/SE/EC/NIET-02/2025-26
Tender ID : 2025_PHED_833006_1, 2025_PHED_833006_2, 2025_PHED_833006_3 & 2025_PHED_833006_4

e-Tenders in WBF 2911 are invited for the work of "**1)** Revamping / up gradation of hydraulic parameter of distribution network and providing FHTC for Doula, Debipur Chandpur Biraberia Dhantala & Notungram and Hizuli (Part) Village and under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Under Ranaghat-II Block in connection with Dhantala PWSS & Hizuli Water Supply Scheme. **2)** At Malsadaha, Ulasi, Silberia, Nasra (P) and Hijuli (P) Mouzas as a part of Jal Jeevan Mission in reference to Hijuli and Nasra PWSS. **3)** Interconnection of pipeline from manifold to different direction of distribution pipeline including laying of balance pipeline and FHTC along with allied works at Nrisinghapur (Chandkuri) under Parbatipur Piped Water Supply Scheme at Parbatipur & Gopalpur Mouzas. **4)** Carriage of DI pipes including Pipe carrying structure, road restoration, repair of damaged UPVC pipeline, crossing of pipeline by jack pushing, pathway and allied works related to Integrated Surface Water Based Water Supply Scheme under Ranaghat-I & II Blocks under Nadia Arsenic Division-I, PHE Dte. (SL NO 1 TO 4) & Corrigendum uploaded." Bid Submission Closing Date (Online) : 05.05.2025 at 02.00 p.m. Further details are available in the website:- http://wbtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app. Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle, PHE Dte. ICA- T7433(3)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Dept. of Health & Family Welfare
Institute of Post Graduate Ayurvedic Education & Research
At
Shyamadas Vaidya Shastra Pith, 294/3/1, APC Road, Kolkata-9
E-mail id:ipgaersvspkol@gmail.com

E-tender are invited from the agency distributor/supplier/retailer in e-tender platform of Government of west Bengal, www.wbtenders.gov.in as per following details:

E-tender No.	Details of Services/work/item proposed to be obtained	Opening of Bid document download & e-submission	Closing of Bid document download & e-submission
SVP/ 577/2025	Kits & Chemicals	11.04.2025 (after 4.00 PM)	02.05.2025 (up to 5.00PM)
SVP/ 578 /2025	Herbs & Raw Materials/Minerals	11.04.2025 (after 4.00 PM))	02.05.2025 (up to 5.00PM)
SVP/579 /2025	Office Equipment & Instrument Items	11.04.2025 (after 4.00 PM)	02.05.2025 (up to 5.00PM)

Tender documents shall also be available in the website of Health & family Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal, www.wbhealth.gov.in Sd/- Principal ICA- T7396(2)/2025

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

Satyendra Nath Tagore Civil Services Study Centre announces Admission Call for aspirants to SNTCSSC Composite Course for UPSC Civil Services Examination 2026 for IAS / IFS / IPS and Allied Services

Aspiring candidates appearing for **UPSC Civil Services Examination, 2026** can join Satyendra Nath Tagore Civil Services Study Centre (SNTCSSC) for a 10-month Composite Course for Prelims and Mains Examinations including Mock Test Series and Mock Interviews, starting from July 2025.

- Premier and nationally reputed Coaching Institutes and eminent faculty of the country are associated with SNTCSSC.
- Course fee per month is Rs.1000/- for Unreserved category and Rs.500/- for Reserved category candidates.
- **ONLY** those who will appear in the UPSC CSE 2026 are eligible to apply.

Last date forsubmitting form is April 21, 2025, Monday 3.00 pm.

Date of ADMISSION TEST is May 04, 2025, Sunday.
Admission Test venue will be in Kolkata.
Details will be announced on website in due course of time.
The decision of the SNTCSSC in the process of selection of candidates will be final.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS: visit www.csscwb.in

ICA- N 142(3)/2025

Minor fire on escalator at IGI Airport quickly contained

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A minor fire broke out on an escalator at Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport on Thursday evening. Officials confirmed that smoke was visible briefly, but the situation was swiftly controlled with no injuries or property damage.

The incident occurred around 5.30 pm on Thursday. Usha Rangnani, DCP (IGI), said, " The rubber component of an escalator caught fire in the domestic airport area, near the food court. The fire was quickly doused."

An airport official said a component malfunction likely caused the minor fire, which was promptly extinguished. "Only smoke was observed coming from the escalator. No passenger faced any problems. The area has been barricaded," the official said.

Sparks Of Summer: Cases Rise, Residences Worst Hit

Fire Incidents Jump To 4,432 This Year, But Fewer Lives Lost

Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: With the rise in temperature, the city has witnessed a 10% rise in fire incidents, with residential premises being the worst impacted, said fire officials.

According to the data from Jan 1 to April 6, the number of fire incidents rose from 4,026 in 2024 to 4,432 in 2025. This Jan, 938 incidents were reported, which rose to 1,076 in Feb and peaked at 1,809 in March. As of April 6, the number of fire incidents stood at 609. In comparison, the count for the same period last year was 1,204 in Jan, 1,032 in Feb, 1,328 in March, and 462 till April 6.

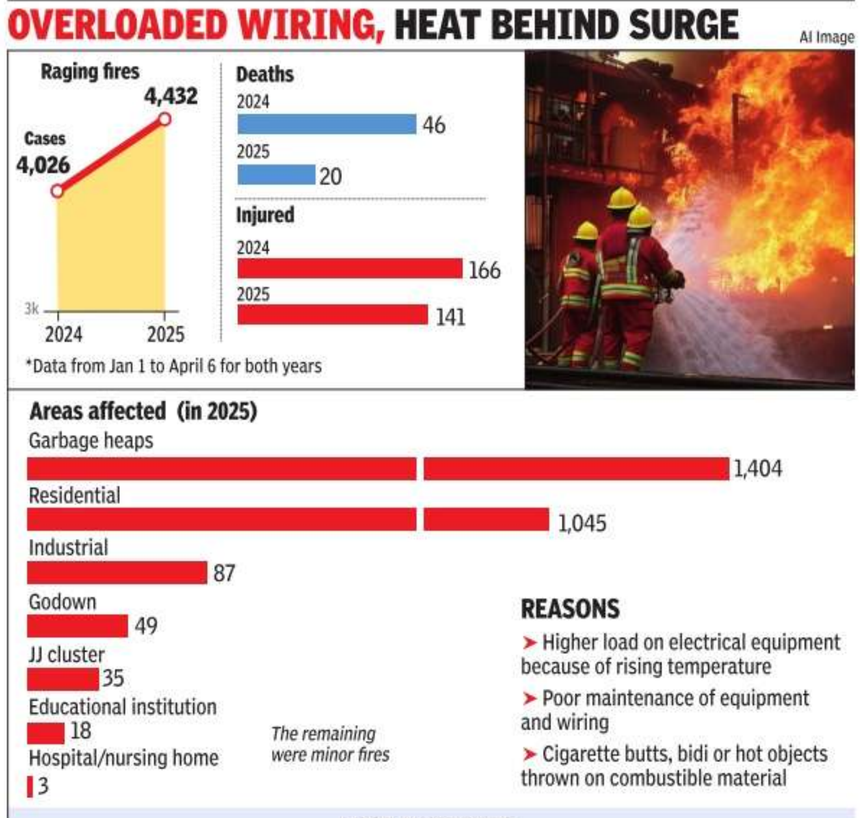
The number of fatalities during the entire period decreased from 46 in 2024 to 20 in 2025, while the injury count was 141 people in 2025 against 166 in 2024.

A breakdown of the types of places that caught fire in 2025 revealed that residential areas were the most affected, with 1,045 incidents at such places.

Delhi Fire Services ditector Atul Garg said people often didn't upgrade their wiring to accommodate new electrical equipment, resulting in overloading and short circuits. This oversight can be particularly hazardous when combined with the presence of combustible materials such as gas cylinders, curtains, plastic items or other flammable substances, which can quickly escalate a small spark into a catastrophic fire. While dousing a fire, there is always a risk of a gas cylinder explosion, Garg said.

In 2025, industrial areas saw 87 fires while godowns and JJ clusters reported 49 and 35 incidents, respectively. Educational institutions, and hospitals and nursing homes witnessed 18 and 3 incidents, respectively. A staggering 1,404 garbage fires were reported, highlighting the need for improved waste management.

OVERLOADED WIRING, HEAT BEHIND SURGE



PAST INCIDENTS

April: A massive fire gutted over 300 vehicles at Delhi Police's Malkhana in north Delhi's Wazirabad

➤ A massive fire broke out in a building in central Delhi's Jhandewalan, forcing nearly 60 people to flee for their lives

March: Three migrant workers lost their lives after a fire broke out in a shanty in east Delhi's Anand Vihar

➤ A fire broke out in the kitchen of a restaurant in Connaught Place, leaving six injured

➤ A 14-year-old girl and her 7-year-old brother died after their house caught fire in west Delhi's Punjabi Bagh

➤ Three people were rescued after a fire

Children Can't Fly! What You Can Do To Prevent Fall From Heights

Over 4k Kids Hurt From Falls In 6 Years; AIIMS Data Sparks Safety Initiative

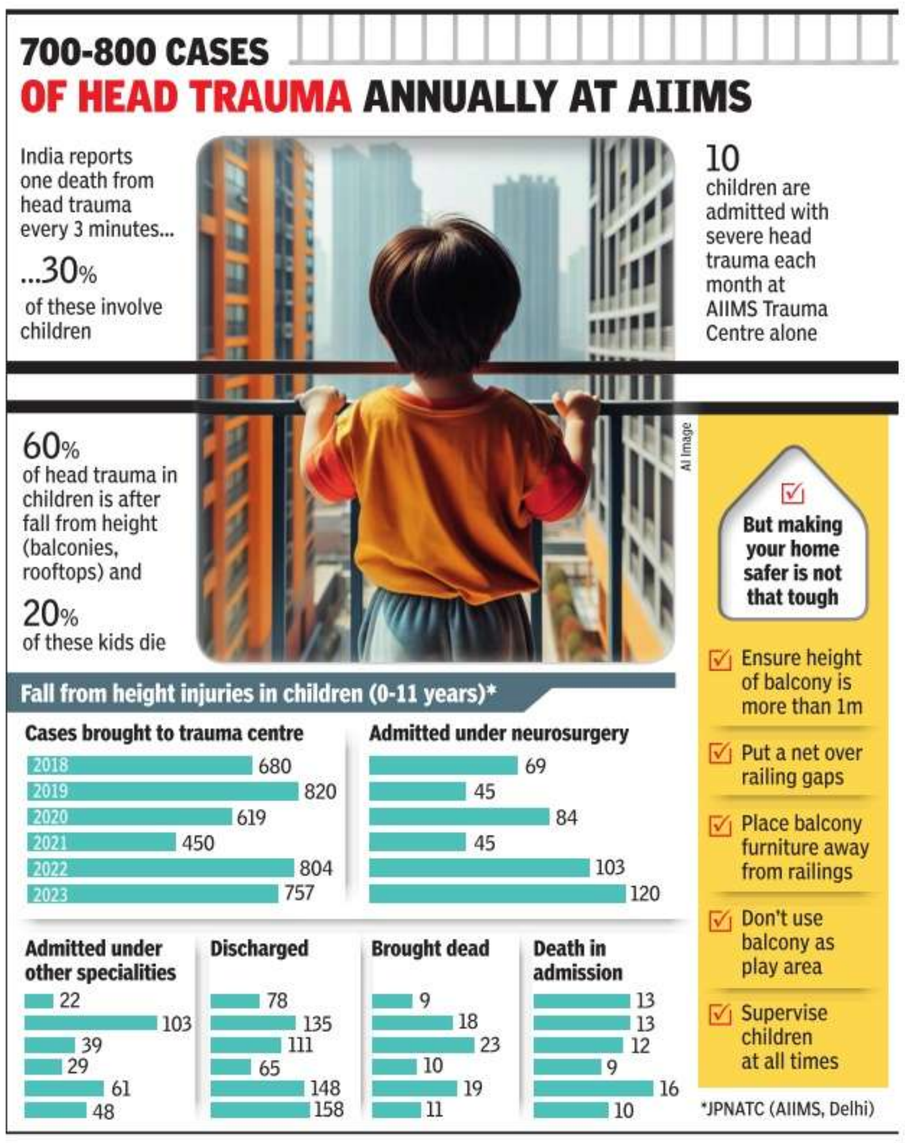
Anuja.Jaiswal
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Over 4,000 children suffered injuries after falling from heights, with 151 fatalities recorded before or upon arrival at AIIMS in the past six years, according to Jai Prakash Narayan Apex Trauma Centre at AIIMS.

The medical team plans to discuss preventive measures, particularly focused on balcony-related falls among children under the 'Safe Balcony Safe Child Initiative' at a round table symposium on Saturday at the ongoing 8th AIIMS Annual Neurotrauma Conference, which began on Thursday. Twenty international faculty members will participate to explore improvements in this area.

Professor Deepak Gupta of the AIIMS neurosurgery department shared data showing 680 children were brought to the trauma centre in 2018 after falling from heights. Among them, 69 were admitted to neurosurgery and 22 to other specialities, including trauma and orthopaedic surgery for limb and abdominal trauma. Nine arrived deceased, 13 died during hospitalisation and 78 were discharged. Children fall patients brought to the trauma centre in subsequent years were 820 in 2019, 619 in 2020, 450 in 2021, 804 in 2022 and 757 in 2023.

Neurosurgery admissions increased to 103 children, aged 0-11 years, in 2022 and 120 in 2023, following the addition of 25-30 new beds. The total fatalities during this time numbered 151, including those pronounced dead on arrival or in emergency. Gupta said that the survivors required multiple surgeries and extended hospital stay and often faced permanent disabilities. One-third of admitted children sustained severe head injuries.



The doctor noted no reduction in head trauma cases since launching the 'Safe Balcony, Safe Child' campaign in 2022, with 700-800 head trauma children arriving at emergency annually. He referenced the US campaign on 'Kids Cannot Fly' from the 1970s, which achieved a 96% reduction after 16 years, suggesting India could achieve similar results.

Gupta emphasised the necessity for behavioural changes and building reforms with govt intervention. Recommendations include minimum balcony height of one metre, vertical rather than horizontal rails, gaps between vertical bars under 4 inches, furniture-free balconies and adult supervision requirements. Govt guidelines for high-rise buildings need revision to address rural areas lacking roof parapets.

Most trauma centre cases originated in NCR cities, including Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Mewat and Nuh.

Professor Amit Gupta of AIIMS clarified this wasn't solely an urban issue, with patients arriving from both urban and rural areas within Delhi and NCR region. He stressed the importance of dedicated trauma databases at all trauma centres for policy changes and preventive measures. Currently, the AIIMS trauma centre leads an ICMR National Task Force project involving eight centres, including KGMU, Lucknow, AIIMS, Patna, Jawaharlal Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education & Research and CMC for data registration. This supports quality improvement, policy formation, and preventive measures.

Row over DU circular on RSS-linked NGO event

Sugandha.Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Delhi University has come under criticism after it issued a circular encouraging colleges to participate in a run organised by Sewa Bharti, a non-governmental organisation affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). The move has prompted objections from some faculty members, who question the university's official backing of the event.

In a circular dated April 3, the DU registrar stated that Sewa Bharti has been working for the empowerment of women and girls since 1979 and is organising a 'Run for a Girl Child' on April 13 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

"The mandate of this event aligns with the National Service Scheme and Fit India, one of the value addition courses by the university," the circular noted, urging heads of departments and college principals to encourage participation of students, faculty, and staff. It also said the participation fee could be covered by the college's student welfare fund, describing the run as being aimed at raising awareness on education, healthcare, and skill development of underprivileged girls.

However, this has raised concerns among teachers. "Why should there be official encouragement for a run organised by a particular organisation, a branch of RSS?" said Rajesh Jha, a DU faculty member. "The cause is genuine, but giving official support is partisan and sets a precedent to be misused. As a university, we should not side with any organisation," he said.

DU registrar Vikas Gupta did not respond to a request for comment.

Gang involved in flight ticket scam busted, two held

Times News Network

New Delhi: Two men who allegedly ran an online racket promising cheap national and international airline tickets have been arrested by Delhi Police.

The scam came to light when a complaint was registered by a resident of northwest Delhi's Siraspur in Nov 2024 through National Cybercrime Reporting Portal, said police. "The complainant responded to a social media ad for cheap Delhi-Toronto air tickets, sharing his details with the scammer to book a ticket. The scammer booked a ticket on an airline site, asked for payment, but never sent him the ticket," DCP (outer north) Nidhin Valsan said.

A cheating case was registered under Section 318 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. "A special team was formed that used technical surveillance and analysed the call details of the suspected numbers, bank accounts were tracked, and a money trail was established," said Valsan. Raids were conducted in Maharashtra and south Delhi's Lajpat Nagar-2, leading to the arrests.

The accused were identified as Salman Sayeed Siddiqui (50), arrested on April 5 from Delhi, and Rohit Rajaram Ghanekar (29), caught from Maharashtra on April 2. They operated through social media, creating fake pages posing as legitimate travel agencies. Flashy ads with too-good-to-be-true ticket prices were used to lure people. Once contact was established via WhatsApp and virtual numbers, they collected personal and financial information, often booking tickets with stolen credentials and cancelling them post-payment—or not booking them at all, police said.

The accused operated through social media, creating fake pages posing as legitimate travel agencies. Flashy ads with too-good-to-be-true ticket prices were used to lure people

Police identified Siddiqui as the alleged kingpin of the racket and found that he wasn't new to the world of ticketing and deception. "With a formal background in travel and tourism, a degree from a prominent university in Hyderabad and a certification from an airline trade association, he used his industry knowledge to pull off the scam.

Siddiqui worked with multiple agencies in Mumbai before launching his own travel business. "In 2023, he was arrested in a case involving fake international flight bookings in Mumbai, following which he shifted to Delhi to stay under the radar," a senior officer said.

Ghanekar had a chequered past in cyber fraud support roles. "A school dropout from Raigarh, he moved to Mumbai in search of work and soon began procuring fake SIM cards and mule bank accounts for scam networks, an expertise he brought into this con," the officer said.

NE students 'feel betrayed' as JNU opens Barak Hostel without quota

Sugandha.Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: After over a decade of planning and more than a year since its initial opening, Jawaharlal Nehru University's (JNU) Barak Hostel has finally opened for student allotment, but not as the exclusive facility for students from India's north-east.

The university's purported scrapping of the promised 75% reservation for students from the region has led to silent protests on campus and accusations of betrayal by the North East Students' Forum (NESF).

Funded by the Union ministry of development of north eastern region (DoNER) through the North Eastern Council (NEC), Barak, named after a river in the Northeast, was conceptualised as a space to address the long-standing concerns of safety, discrimination and cultural alienation faced by students from that region on the campus.

An email from the ministry to the JNU vice-chancellor last year, accessed by TOI, reaffirms that "75% reservation should be given to north-eastern students in the hostel accommodation" following the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the university and NEC.

The university's purported scrapping of the promised 75% reservation for students from the region has led to silent protests on campus and accusations of betrayal by the North East Students' Forum

However, at an inauguration event on April 7, JNU VC Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit clarified that, like other hostels, Barak would accommodate students from across the country. "JNU is a national university where inclusivity and multiculturalism are cherished," she said.

The forum alleged that the VC told the protestors: "JNU cannot reserve any hostel. We follow the Constitution of India... no separation of any identity on this campus."

The comments drew sharp criticism from NESF, which pointed out that constitutional provisions allow for affirmative action towards disadvantaged communities.

"The DoNER ministry funded this hostel for students from the Northeast. Scrapping the reservation is a betrayal of years of struggle," NESF's April 9 statement said. The forum organised a silent protest during the inaugural event.

NESF's discontent was further fuelled when the dean of students released the first allotment list for female PhD scholars on April 8. The forum claimed a prior verbal assurance was given to it that the list would not be issued before discussions with representatives from the north-east community. "This unprecedented move... is extremely disrespectful," NESF said.

The forum has put forth several demands, including an immediate rollback of the allotment list, reservation of 75% of seats for Northeast students, public release of all related documents, and written assurances from the administration. It also called for transfer of Northeast students from other hostels to Barak, and cooks familiar with the region's cuisine for the hostel.

NESF has also released a detailed timeline tracing the project's inception in 2013—after demands raised by MPs and student leaders. The demand for the hostel gained momentum after the 2014 death of Nido Tania, a student from Arunachal Pradesh, in a reported racially motivated attack in Delhi. Following the death, the Bezbaruah Committee had recommended setting up safe spaces for north-east students.

NESF alleged that campus students' groups had failed to consult or include north-east students in the recent push for the hostel's opening.

A request seeking a comment from the JNU VC was directed to the dean of students, Manuradha Chaudhary, who did not respond.

Police and NCB launch surprise inspections

New Delhi: Delhi Police's Crime Branch and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), in coordination with local police, launched surprise inspections at suspicious locations and public hotspots using NCB's Dog Squad.

The aim of this initiative, according to police, is to tackle the illegal trafficking of drugs while promoting awareness among community members, including residents, students, and travellers, in areas under the jurisdiction of CP and Paharganj police stations.

Police said they will also create awareness through informative sessions on drug awareness, legal consequences, and health risks. "Pamphlets, posters, and leaflets explaining signs of drug abuse and helpline numbers. Interactive discussions with residents, students, and shopkeepers to encourage community participation in reporting suspicious activities," police said.

For surprise inspections, teams from Crime Branch and NCB officials, along with their Dog Squad and local police, were deployed at key locations for random inspections. TNN

Fire erupts at departmental store

New Delhi: A fire broke out at a departmental store in Begumpur on Thursday. No one was injured in the incident.

The fire was reported around 9.11 am, prompting a swift response from emergency services. As many as nine fire tenders with 36 firefighters were dispatched to the location, near the bustling Begumpur main market. Upon arrival, the firefighters began dousing the fire, ensuring that no one was trapped inside the building. However, due to the presence of combustible materials, the fire spread quickly, engulfing the ground floor and three additional floors. TNN

TIMES INTERNET LIMITED
(CIN: U74999DL1999PLC135531)
PUBLIC NOTICE
"Optimal Media Solutions"
(A division of Times Internet Limited) presents
"The Times of India Film Awards" (TOIFA)
with the Theatrical Edition in June of 2025.
TOIFA 2024 aims to recognize and honour the talent par excellence in acting and film making for films released in theatres across the country in Hindi language.
Films released within the period Jan 01, 2024 to Dec 31, 2024, will be considered for evaluation.
The awards are segregated into 3 broad segments across 41 categories.
• TOIFA Academy led - Exceptional Talent for Acting & Film Making (12 Awards)
- Exceptional Technical Expertise (11 Awards)
- Exceptional Musical Expertise (7 Awards)
• People's Choice Awards (7 Awards)
• Editorial & Advisory Council led – Special (4 Awards)
The Awards Management has made every effort to identify eligible films. If any films are missing, please write to us at toifa@timesofindia.com before 06:00 pm IST of April 12, 2025.
For the films list visit the official Instagram page: @toifaawards
TOIFA
THE TIMES OF INDIA FILM AWARDS

IDEMI
Organised by IDEMI Mumbai Ministry of MSME Govt. of India
Government Certificate Course on
Cyber Security & Ethical Hacking
Sessions include hands on practice
Course Timing 1.30 pm to 5 pm
(ONLINE)
Course Dates: 19,20,26,27 April 2025
Course Duration- 4 days
Email id : training@idemi.org Web : www.idemi.org Ph.: (022) 2405 0301/2/3/4
Contents : Cyber crime & terrorism, Type of attacks, Goal of Security & computer Forensic, Social Media, Mobile Hacking, Cyber Hacking, Digital Forensic, Data Recovery.
Course Fees- Regular- 4000+18% GST
Course Fees- Student- 2000+18% GST
(Fees are not refundable)
After successful completion, certificate will be issued
For IT professionals, Banks, Police, Industries, Law practioners & other interested candidates
Call for details between 10am to 6pm
Contact- 9403566219, -8007765693, 8275181503,986908761

भारतीय प्रबंध संस्थान कोझिकोड
Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode
Globalizing Indian Thought
IIM Kozhikode, Amongst India's Top-3 Management Schools, Announces a Transformational Offering for Working Professionals...
ONE-YEAR DIPLOMA IN MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (DMP)
nirf GOVT. OF INDIA India Rankings 2024 Management #3 India
FT MASTERS IN MANAGEMENT 2024 RANKING #68 Globally
FT EXECUTIVE EDUCATION 2024 RANKING OPEN-ENROLLMENT #70 Globally
Programme Highlights
01 Designed for Working Professionals & Aspiring Managers
02 Blended Learning Approach: Online + In-Campus Modules
03 Recognized Diploma with Credit Transfer Options to MBA Programmes
04 Industry-Relevant Electives in AI, FinTech, Digital Marketing & More
Eligibility: Graduation (50%) or Diploma (60%) + 3 Years Work Experience
Selection Process: IIMK DMAT (Diploma Aptitude Test) + Interview
Why Choose IIM Kozhikode?
NEP-Aligned & Flexible Learning
Taught by Expert Faculty & Industry Leaders
Hands-on, Practical Curriculum
Global Exposure
Executive Alumni Status
TENTATIVE DATES
Application Cut off Date April 24, 2025
DMAT April 27, 2025
Interview 01-04 May, 2025
Programme Commencement May 19, 2025
Application & Programme Details
https://shorturl.at/YcyKG
For further enquiries, contact
Phone: 0495-2809558
Email: dmpadmission@iimk.ac.in

School Buzz

nie NEWSPAPER IN EDUCATION

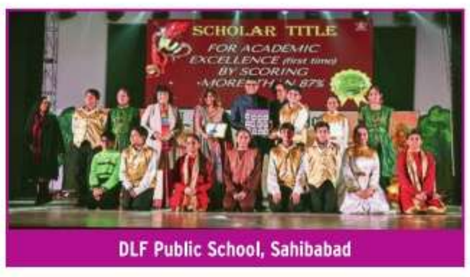
DPS, Noida came alive with music, d rhythm as 550 tiny tots of classes Prep and I presented annual production-"Music in My Heart." The programme commenced with a welcome address by school principal Kamini Bhasin, who stated that, "Through our educational programme, we constantly explore innovative pathways to learning, that involve reflection, imagination and sensitivity." BK Chaturvedi, (former IAS officer and Padma Bhushan awardee) chairman DPS Society and DPS Noida complimented the performance by the students. Appreciating the performance, VK Shunglu, (Padma Bhushan awardee and former Comptroller and Auditor General) vice chairman DPS Society spoke about the deep connection between music and academics. The show was also graced by prof Vibha Chaturvedi, former professor of philosophy, DU and Madhu Shunglu.

DPS, Noida

Gyan Bharati School, Saket

Gyan Bharati School, Saket held the first TCA Jayant Memorial Cricket Tournament-2025. The event saw enthusiastic participation by 8 different teams. The tournament featured eight teams. School director Lata Vaidyanathan encouraged the participating teams. Former Indian cricketer Gursharan Singh was the chief guest in the opening ceremony. Prof Namita Ranganathan and TCA Ranganathan played a major role in uniting Late TCA Jayant in spirit with his alma mater. Madan Lal Sharma, cricketer was the chief guest on the final day along with school chairman Gopal Ansal. The winner trophy was lifted by DPS RK Puram. School principal Dr Mudita Sharma gave the vote of thanks.

DLF Public School, Sahibabad conducted a musical extravaganza with participation of 600 students from class VI to VIII on their annual award conferral ceremony. 'Tamso Ma Jyotirgamaya', was a contemporary take on the Bhagwat Gita. Himanshu Gupta, secretary, CBSE, was the chief guest. He conferred awards to students for excellence in academics and co-curricular pursuits. School principal Seema Jerath presented the annual report highlighting school's achievements.



DLF Public School, Sahibabad

Indirapuram Public School, Pratap Vihar celebrated its graduation ceremony with a "Stepping Up Gala," themed "Retro to Revamp – A Journey through Chitrahaar." The event, held at Deendayal Upadhyay Auditorium, featured cultural performances where students recreated iconic songs from the 1950s to the 1990s, along with nostalgic advertisements like Amul, Nirma, and Nerolac. The school welcomed chief guests, renowned writer, producer, and filmmaker Faiyaz Dilbar, and astrologer and psychic Shruti Dwivedi. Also present were Ashish Mittal and Gurinder Singh, who, along with the chief guests, were felicitated by secretary Priyank Joshi, deputy secretary Amit Sinha, director Pankaj Joshi, and principal Madhukar Priya. A tribute was paid to retiring teacher Kiran Arora for her years of dedicated service. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by foundational in charge Rekha Bisht.

Indirapuram Public School, Pratap Vihar

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THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

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STALIN SLAMS AIADMK FOR SKIPPING NEET MEET, SAYS BOYCOTT SHOWS ALLEGIANCE TO BJP OVER TN'S NEEDS

Sealed shop opened to let out sparrow

In a heartwarming display of compassion, residents of Ulikkal village in Kerala's Kannur district came together to rescue a house sparrow trapped for three days inside the glass frontage of a sealed textile shop. The shop, shut for six months due to a court dispute between its owners, had a bird fluttering helplessly against the glass since Tuesday, unable to find its way back out after entering through a pipe hole. Locals, unable to break the seal due to legal restrictions, fed the bird grains and water through the pipe. Their efforts and media coverage drew wider attention. Responding to public concern, district collector Arun K Vijayan contacted district judge Nisar Ahmed, who coordinated with HC judges Mohammed Mushtaq and Ravi to obtain clearance. Ahmed travelled 48km from Thalassery and personally oversaw the rescue Thursday. A villager freed the bird as onlookers applauded. "The law must never stand in the way of life—human or otherwise," Ahmed said, praising the collective resolve that turned a small rescue into a powerful reminder of empathy and unity. TNN

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How America Went From Brown To White

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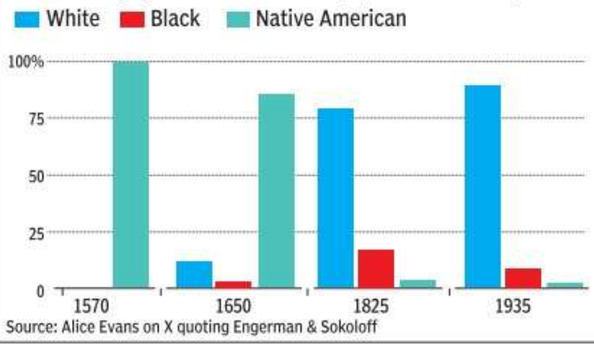
New-world population distribution (%, US and Canada)

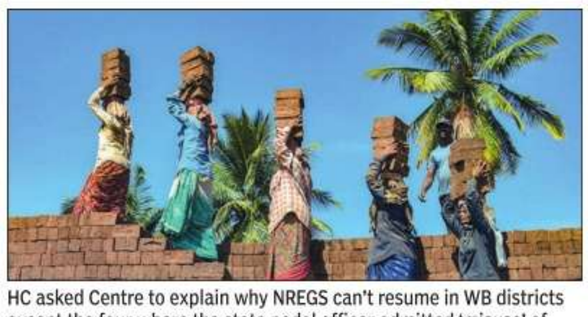


Source: Alice Evans on X quoting Engerman & Sokoloff

Centre cannot indefinitely withhold NREGS funds: HC

Scheme Stalled In WB Since 2022 For Fund 'Misuse'

Subrata Chattoraj | TNN



HC asked Centre to explain why NREGS can't resume in WB districts except the four where the state nodal officer admitted 'misuse' of funds. It also asked why unemployment allowance should not be given to people who have remained jobless for the last three years

Kolkata: The central govt cannot indefinitely withhold MGNREGS funds, the Calcutta high court said on Thursday, asking why the rural employment guarantee scheme — stalled in West Bengal since 2022 — should not be implemented "prospectively".

A division bench of Chief Justice T S Sivagnanam and Justice Chaitali Chatterjee (Das) directed Centre to submit an affidavit explaining why the scheme (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) should not be implemented in all districts of the state barring the four in which the state nodal officer had admitted "misuse" of funds.

"A plain reading of the provision reveals there cannot be a permanent withholding of funds," the CJ observed, citing section 27(2) of the MGNREG Act. The rules allow the Union govt to suspend funds to a state pending an investigation, but also state that Centre should "institute appropriate remedial measures for its proper implementation within a reasonable period of time", he added.

The bench also directed the state to file an affidavit stating why unemployment allowance should not be given to people who have remained jobless for the last three years, as provided in MGNREGA.

The high court gave three weeks to both the Centre and the state govt to file their affidavits, and posted the matter for hearing on May 15. The release of MGNREGS funds to Bengal have been withheld since March 9, 2022.

Chief Justice Sivagnanam noted that the both stakeholders found "misuse" and "defalcation" of funds in four districts — Hooghly, East Burdwan, Malda and Darjeeling GTA area. The state said more than Rs 2.37 crore has already been recovered from the four districts (out of Rs 5.37 crore).

Additional solicitor general Asoke Kumar Chakraborty submitted that central teams inspected MGNREGS accounts in 15 districts, but the Chief Justice said the documents available with the court mention only four districts. He directed the Centre to bring on record whether it had made similar recommendations for districts other than the four.

The CJ also wanted to know what measures the central govt would take to implement the scheme prospectively, and why it should not be renewed in districts other than the four where there had been misuse of funds. The bench then directed the Centre to clarify how it proposed to use the Rs 2.37 crore already recovered and deposited in the state nodal account of MGNREGS.

Unbuttoned shirt in court gets lawyer 6 months in jail

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: The Lucknow bench of Allahabad HC on Thursday sentenced local lawyer Ashok Pande to six months' simple imprisonment in a contempt case after he appeared in court without his lawyer's robe, with his shirt unbuttoned, and misbehaved when the judges objected to his attire.

The bench had on August 18, 2021, initiated suo motu contempt proceedings against Pande after he called the judges "goondas" when asked to leave the courtroom. His conduct was seen as a serious breach of court decorum and judicial dignity.

The bench has granted him four weeks to surrender before the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate in Lucknow to serve the sentence. He has also been ordered to deposit a fine of Rs 2,000, failing which he will have to spend an additional month in jail.

A division bench comprising Justice Vivek Chaudhary and Justice BR Singh passed the verdict while hearing the criminal contempt plea. The same bench also issued a show-cause notice to Pande asking why he should not be restrained from practising in the Allahabad high court and its Lucknow bench. He has been asked to file his response to the notice by May 1.

ROGUE ROBES

"In light of the gravity of the charges, the contemnor's previous conduct, and his deliberate failure to participate in the present proceedings, we are of the view that exemplary punishment is warranted," the judges stated in their order. The court also noted that Pande had been involved in several earlier contempt proceedings and, in 2017, had been barred from entering the premises of both benches for two years.

Adults are entitled to live-ins: Allahabad HC

Allows Police Protection To Interfaith Duo

Rajesh Kumar Pandey | TNN

Prayagraj: Observing that adult couples are entitled to live together without marriage, Allahabad high court granted police protection to an interfaith live-in couple, while hearing a plea filed by their minor daughter which claimed the erstwhile in-laws of the child's mother are threatening the couple.

The case pertains to an interfaith couple, where the woman's husband passed away some years ago and she began living with another man since 2018 without contracting a marriage. The live-in couple now have a child, on whose behalf a petition was filed in HC to provide security to the family from the threats held out by the woman's former in-laws.

A division bench of Justice Shekhar B Saraf and Justice Vipin Chandra Dixit in its order said that the biological father and mother of the child are of different religion and have been living together since 2018. The high court noted that the child is at present one year and four months old.

The court noted that the parents of the child are "apprehensive of threats from private respondents who are erstwhile in-laws of her biological mother".

"In our view, under the constitutional scheme the parents, who are major, are entitled to live together, even if they have not undergone marriage," the bench said referring to various judgments of Supreme Court.

The parents of the child submitted that police are not willing to register an FIR against the private respondents and, that, the police time and again are humiliating them when they approach them for lodging a complaint.

The high court in its order dated April 8 allowed the writ petition and directed the SP concerned to ensure that an FIR is registered if the parents file a complaint at the jurisdictional police station. The court also directed the SP to ascertain if any security is necessary for the child and her parents in accordance with law.

Police fail to find stolen Raza, file closure report

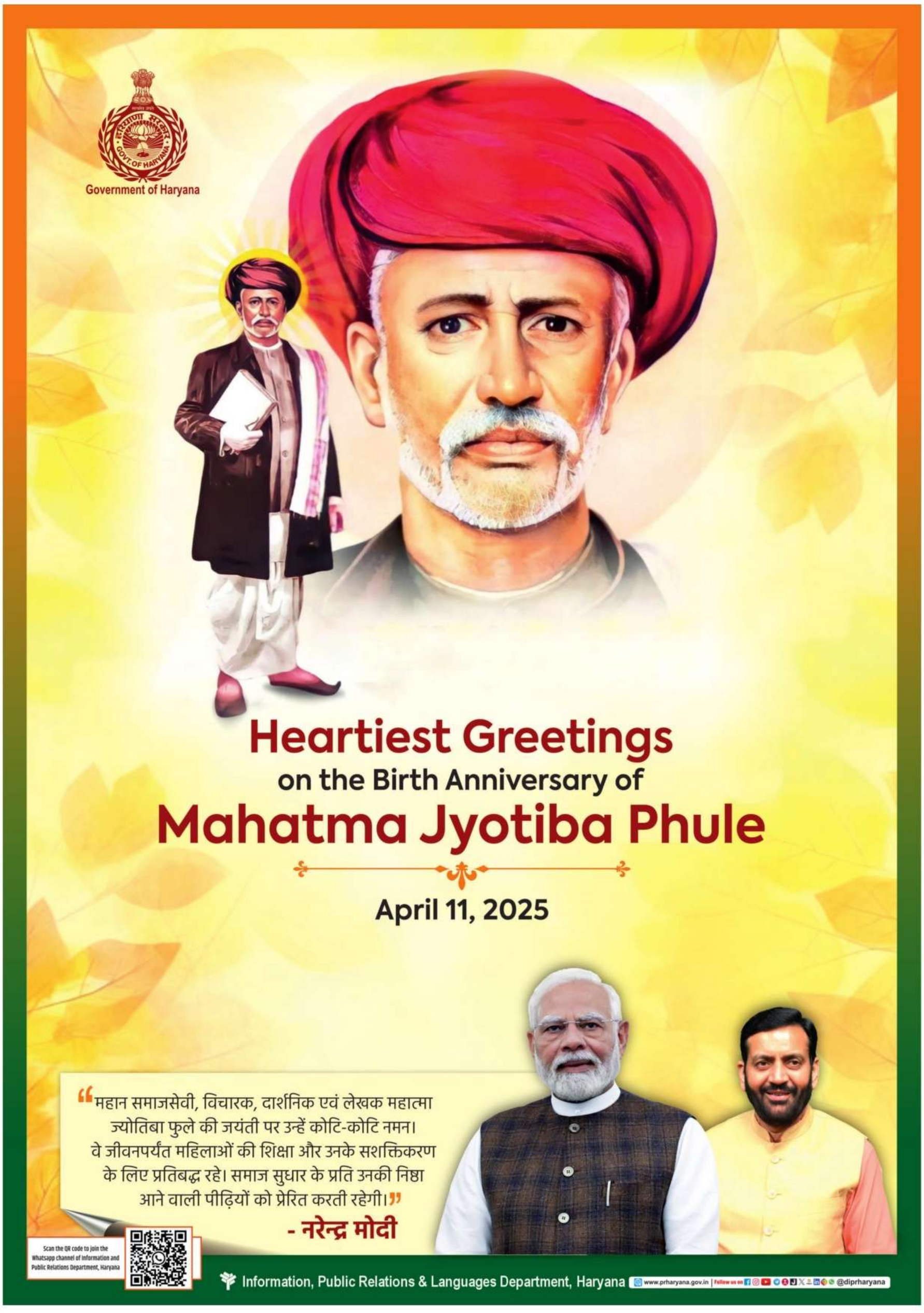
Mateen.Hafeez@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Seven months after modernist painter S H Raza's 'Prakruti' worth Rs 2.5 crore was stolen from an auction warehouse at Ballard Pier in south Mumbai, police on Wednesday filed a closure report before a Mazgaon court.

The case was registered at MRA Marg police station on Sept 10, 2024, following a complaint by AstaGuru Auction House's chief administrative officer Siddhant Shetty.

"We examined the register for entry and exit of the paintings at the auction house's office and warehouse, but couldn't find any information about the exit date of this painting," said a police source. "We recorded the statements of eight witnesses, including the staff... We could not find the CCTV footage. We filed an A summary (case true, but not detected) before the court and closed the case." In 2020, the owner of the painting, Indra Veer, had given it to AstaGuru Auction House, which stored it in the warehouse. The painting was last seen on March 24, 2022. In 2024, when Veer asked for the painting to be put up for auction again, the auction house realised it was missing.

S H Raza's painting was last seen on March 24, 2022. In 2024, when the owner of the painting asked for it to be put up for auction again, the auction house realised it was missing



Tobacco use leading to heart ailments, causing sudden deaths, say doctors

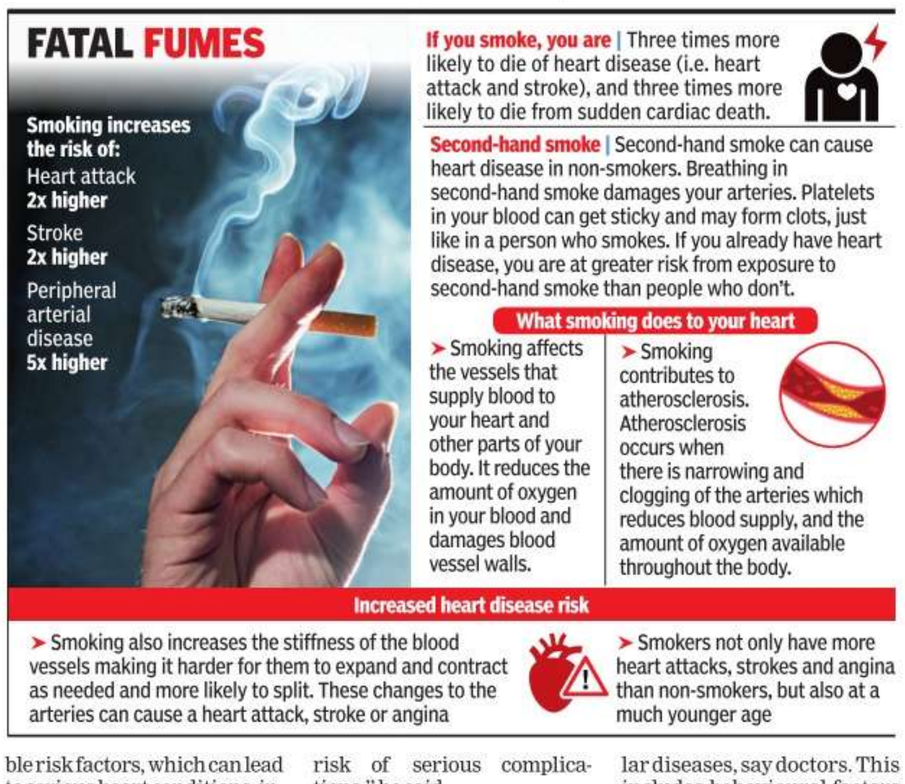
DurgeshNandan.Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The death of a 28-year-old Air India Express pilot due to cardiac arrest, shortly after landing his flight in Delhi on Wednesday, and that of a 23-year-old woman while dancing at a wedding in Madhya Pradesh in Feb, has put the spotlight on rising incidents of sudden cardiac deaths among young people. Social media is flooded with videos of people collapsing and dying suddenly while dancing, singing or just taking a walk, either due to cardiac arrest or heart attack — the conditions becoming more common in the under-40 age group.

Recently at AIIMS, Dr Ambuj Roy, a senior cardiologist at the hospital, treated a 26-year-old man after he suffered a massive heart attack. He was physically fit and there was no history of any chronic illness but doctors found that he was a heavy smoker. "People associate tobacco-use, whether it is a smokeless product or smoking, with lung diseases and cancer. But if you look at the statistics, number of deaths caused by heart diseases, where tobacco use is a culprit, is almost equivalent to the number of deaths caused by the other two diseases," Dr Roy said.

His colleague, Dr Nitesh Naik, called for increased awareness to reduce modifiable risk factors, which can lead to serious heart conditions, including heart attack or sudden cardiac arrest. These risk factors include smoking, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol and obesity. "It is equally important for people aged 40 and above to undergo periodic health check-ups to screen for underlying heart diseases. Timely detection and intervention can reduce the risk of serious complications," he said.

In the pilot's case, it is not yet clear what triggered cardiac arrest or sudden loss of heart activity due to an irregular heart rhythm. But the incident has triggered concerns regarding long work hours and stress among pilots. Several mechanisms have been postulated for linking stress with cardiovascular diseases, say doctors. This includes behavioural factors such as smoking, excess alcohol intake, lack of exercise, poor adherence to medications and increased heart rate and raised blood pressure. These factors, doctors add, may either individually or in combination lead to an increased risk of cardiovascular disease in patients with a higher degree of stress.



We've rights too, says ED; Be sensitive to others' rights: SC

Case Relates To ₹2,100cr C'garh Liquor 'Scam'

Pradeep.Thakur
@timesofindia.com

ED had filed a petition against the alleged non-cooperation of Chhattisgarh police with its probe into the liquor 'scam' that unfolded under the then Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress govt in the state

New Delhi: Courts are deluged with writs seeking protection of rights. But the one which turned up before Supreme Court bench of Justices Abhay Oka and Ujjal Bhuyan a few days ago grabbed attention because it fell in the 'rarest of rare' category. It was filed by Enforcement Directorate which has been at the receiving end of rights-enforcement petitions.

Though the anti-money laundering agency, through additional solicitor general S V Raju, withdrew the plea Tuesday, it will go down in court records for its extraordinariness. Appearing before the bench, Raju argued that ED also had rights. "We expect you to be sensitive also to the rights of others," the bench reparteed on a lighter note.

ED had filed the petition against alleged non-cooperation of Chhattisgarh police with its probe into the Rs 2,100 crore liquor 'scam' that unfolded under the then Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress govt in state. The plea was withdrawn, sources said, because Chhattisgarh police's approach changed after Congress's defeat in assembly polls. In fact, a subsequent affidavit filed by Chhattisgarh govt in Aug 2024, (after formation of a BJP govt in state), supported ED's allegation of nexus between Economic Offences Wing of Chhattisgarh police and one of the principal accused in the liquor 'scam', IAS officer Anil Tuteja.

In its now-withdrawn petition, ED had cited "evidence" to claim that Chhattisgarh police had not just shared drafts of reports on the status of its investigation with Tuteja but had also agreed to carry out changes suggested by him. ED went on to say that Chhattisgarh police influenced a witness to retract his statement under PMLA. "The purpose of sharing the draft (SIT report) was to seek approval from the accused persons before the same could be filed before (Chhattisgarh) HC," the fresh affidavit said.

ED arrested Tuteja on April 21, 2024, after the agency claimed (in its remand note) that it had recovered digital evidence of the IAS officer allegedly receiving over Rs 14 crore from proceeds of crime. The agency subsequently seized Rs 16 crore of assets allegedly linked to Tuteja and his associates out of about Rs 200 crore of total attachments in the case. ED had submitted "evidence" of regular contact between Chhattisgarh police and Tuteja, including a WhatsApp chat purportedly between the IAS officer's son and and one of the members of the SIT, with the former sharing the advice of his father's counsel on how to draft the report on the status of investigation.

In another purported exchange with Tuteja Jr, the then head of EOW and Anti-Corruption Bureau discussed "efforts" to influence witnesses to get them to depose in favour of the IAS officer.

"The chats reveal role of successive chiefs of EOW/ACB in diluting the case against prime accused of predicate offence, Anil Tuteja and Alok Shukla," the affidavit said, adding "the draft report of SIT was vetted by the prime accused, Anil Tuteja, with the help of his advocate Peeyush Bhatia".

The affidavit also mentioned role of advocate general under Congress govt.

Two J&K govt employees sacked for 'terror links'

New Delhi: Services of two J&K govt employees were terminated by LG Manoj Sinha Thursday over alleged terror links, taking the total number of such dismissals in the UT to 70, reports **Bharti Jain**.

Senior assistant in J&K PWD Ishtiyaq Ahmad Malik and assistant wireless operator in J&K Police Basharat Ahmad Mir were sacked by invoking Article 311(2)(c) of the Constitution on grounds that included trying to create a network of terrorist sympathisers & overground workers, leaking sensitive information on the movement of security forces, & aiding transport of arms and ammunition for use in terror attacks in J&K.

Malik, shortly after being appointed to govt service in 2000, had started hobnobbing with Jamat-e-Islami and Hizbul Mujahideen, sources in J&K govt said. "During interrogation he admitted to have played a key role in organising mobs for street violence, arson and hartals after the killing of Hizbul terrorist Burhan Wani," the source told **TOI**. Mir, who was appointed as a police constable operator in 2010, was in touch with Pakistani intelligence operatives and was leaking critical information.

Army raises influx bids, truce violations with Pak

Sanjay Khajuria | TNN

Jammu: Army officials flagged infiltration attempts, ceasefire violations, and IED blasts at a brigade commander-level flag meeting Thursday with their Pakistan counterparts along the LoC at Chaka-da-Bagh in J&K's Poonch.

Official sources said the Indian side lodged protests over the three issues at the meeting, held to discuss border-management issues and ease tensions along LoC. "Such flag meetings are routine and part of LoC and border management process in accordance with director-general of military operations understanding between both sides," a defence spokesperson said.

The meeting came against the backdrop of unprovoked ceasefire violations after a mine exploded along LoC in Poonch on April 1. "On April 1, a mine blast occurred in Krishna Ghati sector while Pakistan Army was patrolling along LoC. This was followed by unprovoked firing and ceasefire violation by Pak Army. Indian troops responded effectively in a controlled and calibrated manner," Army PRO Lt Colonel Suneel Bartwal had said.

Ramadoss Sr names self PMK prez, family rift now out in open

Villupuram: The rift between PMK founder S Ramadoss and his son and party president Anbumani Ramadoss is out in the open. On Thursday, senior Ramadoss 'appointed' himself as the party president, and announced Anbumani would be the working president.

Anbumani supporters pushed back, saying only the president (Anbumani) can make appointments and change the party structure, reports **Bosco Dominique**.

Ramadoss, 85, said the decision was made ahead of 2026 assembly elections following appeals from young party members to him to take over the reins of the party again. "I will reveal more details soon," he said, announcing PMK general council, executive council and MLAs would meet to discuss the way forward.

Party treasurer M Thilagabama, an Anbumani supporter, called Ramadoss's decision a "gross misstep". In a social media post, she supported Anbumani's leadership and said democracy within the party has systematically eroded. "Until now, every decision taken by Ayya (Ramadoss) was commendable...(but) this particular decision is a grave misstep... If we are truly committed to safeguarding welfare of our society, especially in the current political scenario, it can be achieved only under the leadership of Anbumani," she posted.

Shah: Drug cartels being destroyed with full might

New Delhi: Union home minister and minister of cooperation **Amit Shah** Thursday said Modi govt is "mowing down drug cartels with full might", following a massive drug seizure in Assam Sunday that dealt a serious blow to narcotics syndicates operating in the region.

In a post on X, Shah stated: "In our vision to build a drug-free Bharat, our agencies launched operations strangling drug cartels & seized 30.4kg methamphetamine tablets worth Rs 24.3 crore while arresting three people in Assam. Our offensive against drugs will continue with ruthless force."

NCB, with Assam Police and CRPF, carried out two back-to-back intelligence-led operations on April 6, in Silchar. NCB Guwahati intercepted a car and found 9.9kg methamphetamine tablets. The sole occupant, a resident of Churachandpur (Manipur) was arrested. Later that night, another vehicle was stopped, and 20.5kg methamphetamine tablets were recovered. Two more individuals from Churachandpur were arrested. TNN

Missing for 4 days in Great Rann of Kutch, engr found dead

Rajkot: Four days after an engineer conducting a survey in Great Rann of Kutch to create infrastructure for BSF went missing, a joint search operation by multiple agencies, local police, and border force found his body in Little Rann of Kutch Thursday evening.

"Arnab Pal's body was found near Mauvana village. Initial reports suggest he died from severe dehydration. However, Friday's autopsy will ascertain the exact cause," Kutch East SP Sagar Bagmar said.

The engineers, working on a project for BSF, were stranded after their vehicle broke down. Two of them then set out on foot before tragedy struck

Pal, from Bengal and working with a private firm involved in renewable energy projects, along with assistant Chelaram Mitharam and driver Mohammad Ganikhan, had entered the Great Rann through BSF's Bela border outpost on Sunday.

While surveying, the team's vehicle broke down. Pal and Mitharam proceeded on foot. As Mitharam got exhausted, Pal went ahead alone. Soon he became incommunicado. Driver Ganikhan rushed back to Bela outpost and alerted BSF which tracked Mitharan with help of his cell signal. But poor network coverage hampered their efforts to trace Pal. TNN

Nainar may be named TN BJP chief tomorrow

Chennai: BJP Tamil Nadu unit is poised for a leadership change with the party notifying election for state president and national council members on Thursday, reports **Julie Mariappan**. BJP floor leader Nainar Nagenthran is likely to be introduced as next president at a meeting scheduled at Shrivaaru Venkatachalapathy Palace in Vanagaram Saturday, sources told **TOI**.

The upcoming leadership change marks a significant development for the party in TN as it gears up for 2026 assembly elections. Election returning officer and state BJP vice-president M Chakravarthy issued the notification.

BJP constitution specifies that a candidate should be proposed by at least 10 members of state electoral college. It also states the candidate should be an active member for three terms and a primary member for 10 years.

It raises questions about eligibility of both incumbent president K Annamalai & his likely successor Nagenthran. Nagenthran joined BJP in 2017. Annamalai became state president in 2021, a year after joining the party.

Bihar JDU neta's killing sparks RJD-BJP slugfest

▶ Continues from P 1

The wife of the deceased identified one of the attackers, a nephew of the deceased, and named other suspects. She has alleged financial issues as the motive behind the crime

Locals confirmed that victim Kaushal Singh played an active role in the party's district-level organisation. "According to wife of the deceased, the assailants, riding a motorcycle, shot Singh at point-blank range and fled. He was taken to hospital where he was declared dead," Khagaria SP Rakesh Kumar said. He added that the wife identified one of the attackers, a nephew of the deceased, and named other suspects. "She has alleged financial issues as the motive. A special investigation team has been formed. The body has been sent for a post-mortem and a manhunt launched for the assailants," he added.

Meanwhile, leader of opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav launched a sharp attack on NDA govt, citing a "worsening" law and order situation. He claimed that relatives of NDA functionaries have become frequent targets. "It is strange that NDA netas are silent. These incidents reveal the govt's weakening grip on administration," Tejashwi said. He listed recent crimes involving relatives of Union ministers Jitan Ram Manjhi, Nityanand Rai and Raj Bhushan Choudhary.

Reacting to Tejashwi's attacks, BJP said they suspected involvement of RJD-backed criminals in those incidents. "No matter how powerful the culprit, they won't escape," BJP spokesperson Manoj Sharma said.

Interfaith couple found dead in UP

An interfaith couple were found hanging from a tree on the outskirts of the woman's village in UP's Barabanki Thursday, prompting police to launch probe to ascertain if it's a case of a suicide pact or double murder. Deceased, Suraj Kumar (21) and Nisha Bano (18) were in a relation for past 4 years and had eloped a few days ago after facing opposition from their families. TNN

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Pension a hard-earned benefit, not bounty: HC

Orders C'garh To Refund Pension To Kin Of Deceased Staffer In 45 Days

Partha.Behera@timesofindia.com

'An employee earns pension and gratuity by dint of his long, continuous, faithful and unblemished service and... (therefore) it is in the nature of 'property',' says Chhattisgarh HC

Raipur: State govt cannot take away any part of an employee's pension, gratuity or leave encashment without a statutory provision 'even under the guise of administrative instructions', Chhattisgarh high court has ruled.

The court quashed the govt order that permitted the recovery of over Rs 9.2 lakh from the pension of a deceased govt employee, Rajkumar Gonekar, a resident of MP's Chhindwara, and directed that the amount be refunded to his legal heirs within 45 days.

"It is an accepted position that gratuity and pension are not bounties. An employee earns these benefits by dint of his long, continuous, faithful and unblemished service. It is thus a hard-earned benefit which accrues to an employee and is in the nature of 'property'," Justice Bibhu Datta Guru said in a recent order. This right to property cannot be taken away without the due process of law as per the provisions of Article 300-A of Constitution of India, Justice Guru said.

"It follows that the attempt of the appellant state govt to take away a part of pension or gratuity or even leave encashment without any statutory provision and under the umbrage of administrative instruction cannot be countenanced," the order said.

Gonekar's counsel submitted to the court that he was appointed as assistant director on March 29, 1990, and later promoted to deputy director in 2000. However, due to certain corrections in the gradation list, he was demoted to assistant director. Following court orders, he served as deputy director and retired on Jan 31, 2018. During his service, Gonekar received a notice alleging misappropriation. In his response, he denied the allegations and asserted that he acted lawfully. After retirement, a show-cause notice was issued on Dec 13, 2018, and he submitted his response on Jan 25, 2019, again refuting the charges.

The court noted that the order to recover Rs 9.23 lakh from his pension was passed without properly considering these facts and without following due process. The state contested this and said procedure was followed, adding that govt granted permission to recover the amount only after receiving Gonekar's reply.

The HC noted that the original petitioner, Gonekar, died on June 20, 2024, and his legal heirs were subsequently included in the petition.

The court quoted Rule 9 of Chhattisgarh Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1976, emphasising the governor's right to withhold or withdraw a pension or order recovery for pecuniary loss caused to govt if the pensioner is found guilty of grave misconduct or negligence in departmental or judicial proceedings. It referred to previous judgments, where SC stressed the importance of providing a reasonable opportunity to be heard before imposing pension cuts, adhering to the principle of natural justice.

Thunderstorm, lightning claim 54 lives in a day in 4 states

Times News Network

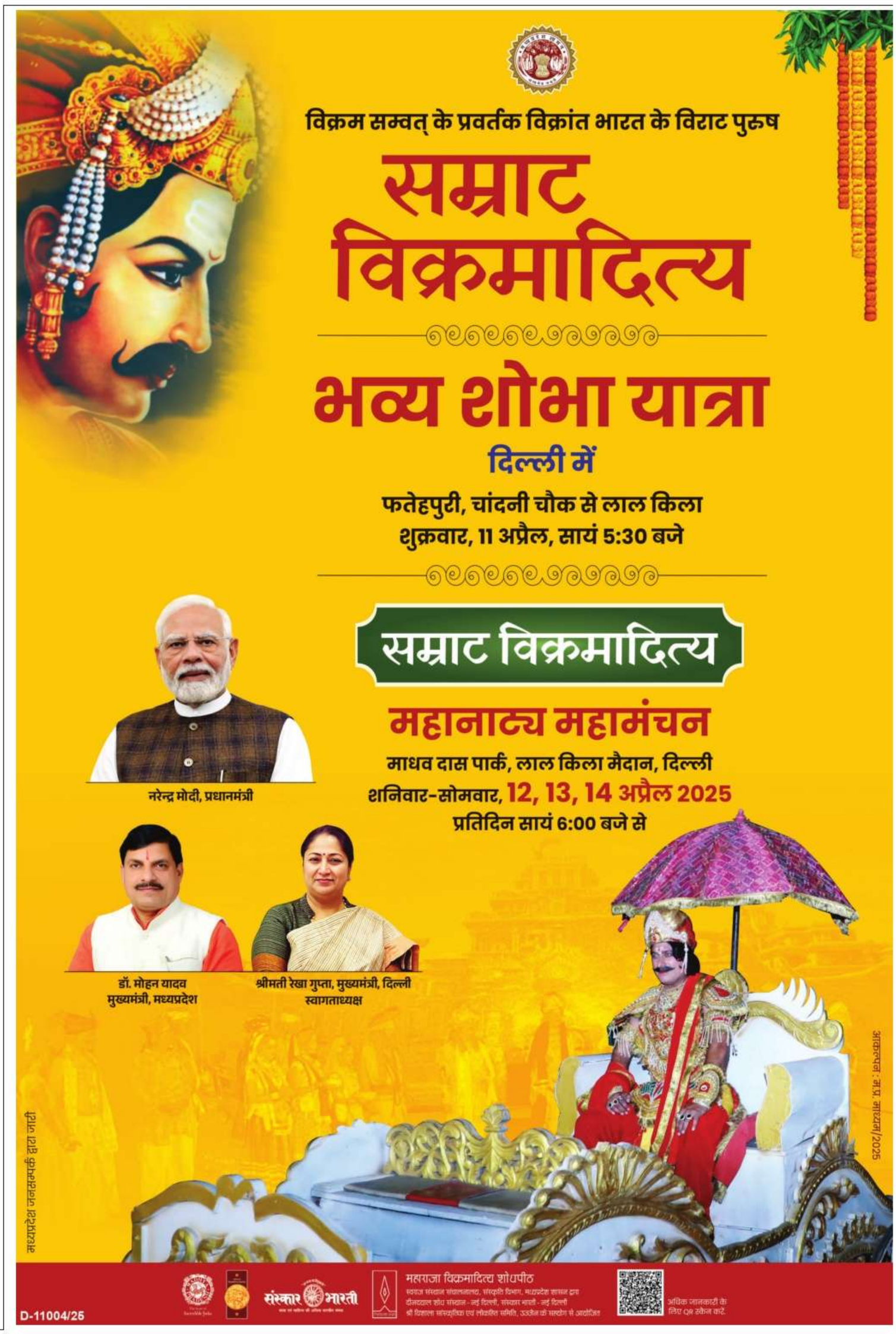
Patna/Lucknow/Ranchi: At least 54 people lost their lives in UP, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand on Thursday following a deadly spell of severe weather marked by intense thunderstorm, lightning and heavy rains.

While 27 people died in Bihar, UP saw 22 fatalities across 11 districts, including 13 resulting from lightning strike. Four deaths were reported from Hazaribagh district in Jharkhand. In Uttarakhand, a 40-year-old farmer died after being struck by lightning in Sunkhari Kalan village of Udham Singh Nagar district.

In Bihar, Nalanda district alone accounted for 20 deaths, while two persons died in Siwan and one each in Katihar, Darbhanga, Begusarai, Bhagalpur and Jehanabad districts. The state has reported at least 40 deaths due to inclement weather over the past two days, with lightning strike claiming 13 lives across four districts on Wednesday.

The deaths on Thursday were reported even after the disaster management department issued an alert during the day, warning that "a very severe convective system (like thunderstorms) is moving very fast from west Bihar to east Bihar", and advising people to remain indoors until 6.13 pm as a precautionary measure.

The severe weather also caused widespread damage to power infrastructure in the state, toppling 320 electricity poles. CMs Nitish Kumar and Yogi Adityanath announced ex gratia Rs 4 lakh to the next of kin of each victim.



In U-turn, FSSAI says baby milk substitutes law out of its purview

Rema.Nagarajan
@timesofindia.com

SWITCHING RESPONSIBILITIES

Four and a half years after issuing an advisory asking food safety officers in states and UTs to monitor violations of Infant Milk Substitutes Act which regulates promotion and marketing of baby foods, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has done an about turn stating that the Act does not come under its purview.

FSSAI said this in response to an RTI filed in March 2025, seeking details of action taken for monitoring the IMS Act and for information regarding any training sessions conducted for designated officers and food commissioners. In its reply on April 1, FSSAI said the Act falls under the ministry of women & child development.

Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) said in a statement that FSSAI's response contradicts the explicit provisions of law, which mandate that food safety officers be empowered as authorised officers to protect infant health. BPNI said this resulted in a bureaucratic void in which violations such as unchecked sponsorships and promotional activities by infant formula companies were effectively given a free rein.

BPNI appealed to PMO to reassign enforcement responsibilities of IMS Act from WCD ministry to health ministry so that "those best equipped with medical expertise and a robust presence in healthcare service delivery" were at the forefront of protecting infant health.

Menstruating Dalit girl forced to take exams outside TN class

Times News Network

Coimbatore: Tamil Nadu Police in Coimbatore district Thursday registered a case against three officials of a school at Senguttaipalayam after a menstruating Dalit girl was made to write her class 8 annual exams sitting outside the classroom.

The private matriculation school correspondent, assistant correspondent-cum-principal, and office assistant were booked under relevant sections of SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989. Police registered a case against them based on the complaint of the girl's father V Surendranath (34). He stated he has two daughters studying in Swamy Chidbhavananda Matric Higher Secondary School.

The younger one attained puberty on April 5 and was made to write her exams outside the classroom on Monday and Wednesday.

"My wife was very upset and questioned the officials. The correspondent told my wife a dalit would be treated like that only," said Surendranath. The mother then took a video of her daughter sitting outside the classroom. School education minister V Senthil Balaji said Coimbatore rural police were conducting a detailed inquiry into the incident.

Meanwhile, the school management has suspended principal Anandhi.

UP temple priest among 3 held for journo's murder

Times News Network

Lucknow: Police in UP's Sitapur on Thursday arrested a temple priest and his two accomplices in connection with the murder of journalist Raghvendra Vajpayee, who was shot dead on March 8 in Maholi.

Police said the accused priest, Shivanand Baba alias Vikas Rathore, allegedly orchestrated the killing after journalist caught him sodomising a minor boy at the temple and threatened to expose him. Shivanand allegedly paid Rs 4 lakh to contract killers through his accomplices, Nirmal Singh and Aslam Ghazi, to eliminate him.

While Shivanand, Nirmal and Aslam were arrested, the two hired killers are still on the run. The arrested trio was produced before a court on Thursday and sent to jail.

Vajpayee, 36, a reporter with a national Hindi daily and RTI activist, was waylaid and shot multiple times while on his way home. Locals rushed him to hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival.

According to police, Vajpayee regularly visited Karedev Baba Temple, where he became acquainted with Shivanand. In Feb, he allegedly caught the priest in a compromising act with a minor boy. "Fearing public disgrace and criminal proceedings, the priest plotted Vajpayee's murder," said Sitapur SP Chakresh Mishra.

Wife seeks CBI probe: Raghvendra Vajpayee's wife Rashmi has cast doubt on the police version. "We don't trust this probe. We will approach CM and demand a CBI probe."

Soldier was being threatened not to testify against cousin's killers

▶Continued from P 1

Naik Vikrant Gujjar (25) was posted in Jammu and had come home on four-day leave to record his statement in court, said police. His brother Harsh said Vikrant joined Army in 2019. Saharanpur SSP Rohit Singh Sajwan said, "Vikrant had gone out on Wednesday evening with his nephew. He then told the latter to return home, saying he would follow soon. Vikrant was last seen with a few men."

Sajwan added: "When he did not return till late in the night and his phone was found switched off, the family searched for him but could not find him. On Thursday, Vikrant's body — with bullet injuries on his head and chest — was found. A forensic team collected evidence from the spot. The people with whom Vikrant was last seen are being questioned." Family members told police that in 2021, Vikrant's cousin, Rajat Gujjar, was stabbed to death by Devendra and his aides Kapil, Dinesh, Rocky and an unidentified man after some dispute. Vikrant, who was returning from the fields, witnessed the crime and tried to save his cousin.

An FIR was lodged in that case, and all accused were arrested. They secured bail a few months ago and started threatening Vikrant, warning him of consequences if he testified against them in court. Vikrant is survived by his father, mother, a younger brother and two sisters.

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Dummy code used for Rana's plane to India to hide it from flight trackers

Precaution Taken To Foil Attack By Those Who Don't Want Him To Talk

Raj Shekhar Jha & Bharti Jain | TNN

New Delhi: Exercising utmost caution in extraditing Tahawwur Hussain Rana, a dummy code was generated for the chartered aircraft, a Gulfstream G550, ferrying him to India to avoid detection on public flight trackers and alleviate threats of an attack. The aircraft took off from Los Angeles in the early hours of Wednesday and landed in New Delhi around 6 pm, after a pit stop in Romania.

Rana, along with his close school friend and fellow jihadi Daood Gilani aka David Coleman Headley, had left Mumbai on Nov 19, 2008, just a week before a gang of jihadi terrorists belonging to and motivated by LeT and trained by serving officers of Pakistan army landed on the Worli shore to carry out an attack in which 166 people were killed and which left the nation traumatised. The massacre marked the execution of a plan that Rana and Headley helped draw by selecting the targets to be struck.

As Rana stepped on the tarmac in prison browns with NIA personnel clinging to him, he looked far from the unassuming businessman he had posed as when he checked into a Powai hotel in Mumbai in 2008. He had also visited Agra, Hapur, Kochi and other cities during this trip, supposedly to promote his immigration business, though NIA suspects the trips may have been a cover to scout for potential terror recruits for LeT.

Rana, for long a strategic asset for Lashkar-e-Taiba and Pakistan's military intelligence complex, was placed under arrest at the airport, made to undergo a medical examination and whisked to court through a green corridor amid heavy security comprising a 20-vehicle cavalcade and SWAT commandos.

On the plane back to India, Rana was seated in the middle with NSG commandos on all seats surrounding him, followed by senior NIA officials. Just after touchdown, the NIA acknowledged the assistance of US Sky Marshals who are assigned with secure transportation of federal prisoners, including inmate transfers via air.

At least 166 people were killed as a group of 10 terrorists attacked multiple iconic locations in Mumbai, including the Taj Hotel in Colaba

In a statement, the NIA termed Rana a key conspirator and confirmed his extradition. "Rana was being held in judicial custody in the US pursuant to proceedings initiated under the India-US extradition treaty. The extradition finally came through after Rana exhausted all legal avenues to stay the move. The district court for the Central District of California had ordered his extradition on May 16, 2023. Rana then filed multiple litigations in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, all of which were rejected," it said.

Extradition proceedings were initiated between the two countries after India eventually secured a surrender warrant for the wanted terrorist from the US govt.

The extradition finally came through after Rana's various litigations and appeals, including an emergency application before the US Supreme Court, were rejected with the active assistance of the US department of justice's Office of International Affairs, US Attorney's Office for the Central District of California, US Marshals Service, FBI's Legal Attache Office in New Delhi, and US department of state's Office of the Legal Adviser for Law Enforcement, the NIA said.

For NIA investigators, the challenge will be to get Rana to reveal more than what he has already told US authorities. His interrogation will be aimed at getting to the bottom of the Mumbai attack conspiracy and exposing the role of Pakistan-based LeT masterminds like Hafiz Saeed, Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi and others in planning and remote-controlling one of the deadliest terror strikes against India.

Lawyer who played key role in extradition to lead NIA case

Rajshekhar.Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Senior lawyer **Dayan Krishnan**, who was leading the proceedings for the extradition of 26/11 co-conspirator David Coleman Headley, will be spearheading the NIA's prosecution team which will make a watertight case against Tahawwur Rana. Krishnan will be assisted by a team including special prosecutor Narender Mann, an experienced criminal lawyer, who earlier represented CBI in Delhi HC, sources said.

Krishnan, sources said, was instrumental in Rana's extradition proceedings as well and his team presented irrefutable evidence to the US judiciary, culminating in the dismissal of all of Rana's pleas and appeals. Krishnan was closely working with NIA when the extradition process began in 2019-20. He and his team also accompanied NIA to the US to present India's case, sources said, adding that he was assisting the team in an unofficial capacity due to US laws.

IANS

26/11 Mumbai attacks accused Tahawwur Rana being brought to Patiala House Court under tight security in New Delhi on Thursday

"He was instrumental in segregating the offences to establish that India's case was different from what the US had prosecuted Rana for," said an NIA officer.

In 2012, Krishnan was appointed as the special public prosecutor by Delhi Police for the trial in Nirbhaya gang rape-murder case. He had volunteered to lead the team free of cost, an investigator recalled on Thursday.

"In the aftermath of the crime, I felt I owed a duty to society. I would surely not make money when I discharge my duty to society," he had told **TOI** after the accused were sentenced to death.

"He (Krishnan) is an alumnus of the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) Bengaluru with a career spanning nearly three decades. He has worked on several high-profile cases, including the 2001 Parliament attack, Kaveri River water dispute, telecommunication cases, Goa child abuse scandal, Nitish Katara murder case, and Uphaar case," said a source.

Maan is also a seasoned legal expert with a career spanning over three decades. He is an alumnus of Delhi University's Campus Law Centre and Kirori Mal College. Mann will serve for three years or until the completion of the trial, whichever is earlier.

Mum market tries to erase memory of Headley office 26/11 plotter helped build

VijayV.Singh@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The Immigration Law Centre's former location at Tardeo's AC Market has become virtually untraceable amidst the building's numerous commercial establishments. The history of this office, which was used as a cover by David Headley with the help of Tahawwur Rana in plotting one of India's most devastating terror attacks, remains a sensitive topic with occupants of various premises in the market.

From this office space, the Law Centre, established through Rana's financial support and Headley's planning, operated under the guise of helping workers obtain visas for North American countries. The premises were strategically chosen to facilitate Headley's surveillance activities across Mumbai and other Indian cities.

The office space, established with Rana's financial support, was chosen to facilitate Headley's surveillance activities across Mumbai and other cities

Rana, who operated an immigration services office in Chicago, US, as a cover for terrorist activities, established a Mumbai branch here at the suggestion of his childhood friend Headley two years before the 26/11 attacks, following directives from their Pakistani handlers.

According to Headley's court testimony, Rana provided financial backing for the office. Headley had hired a local woman to manage the office, who testified before the court later about Rana's visit to the office with a woman before the terror attacks.

While the immigration office was opened ostensibly to help skilled and unskilled workers get visas for the US and Canada, Headley used it as a cover to visit India, meet his contact and do recce of the possible targets.

Currently, the AC Market houses various commercial establishments, including advocates' chambers and those of immigration consultants. The building's narrow corridors lead to compact office spaces, with some units having just enough space for basic furniture.

The office's operations began on Nov 1, 2006, following a formal agreement with the landlord by Headley. Financial transactions between Rana and Headley were conducted through IndusInd Bank's Nariman Point branch, with multiple transfers used for setting up the office and for the recce of possible terror targets.

Present-day occupants of the AC Market offices, including new staff members and the society manager, maintain minimal knowledge about the tainted office's controversial past. Renovation of nearby office spaces and a regular turnover of tenants have contributed to the gradual erasure of this contentious past from local memory.

Prior to the 26/11 attacks, Rana and his wife undertook extensive travels across India, visiting multiple cities including Delhi, Agra, Kochi, Ahmedabad and Mumbai. Headley's last documented interaction at the premises was on July 16, 2008, when he secured an extension for the office licence.

Pak distances itself from ISI agent, says he is Canadian

Rajshekhar.Jha
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Hours before Tahawwur Rana's arrival, Pakistan washed its hands off him saying he had ceased to be Pakistani and was a Canadian.

Distancing itself from Rana, whom the ISI protected till the end, Pakistan govt's foreign office issued a statement Thursday saying they had no connection to him. "He is a Canadian national and as per our record, he has not renewed his Pakistani documents for over two decades," its spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan said at a briefing.

The strenuous distancing is significant because the involvement of Pakistan's spy agency ISI was established by Indian agencies with the help of the confession of Ajmal Kasab, the lone Lashkar terrorist involved in the carnage to have been apprehended alive, and findings of the investigation conducted with help from foreign partners; especially the FBI.

Rana, born in Pakistan in 1961, served in the Pakistan Army Medical Corps before moving to Canada in the 1990s, where he obtained citizenship. Sources in the intelligence establishment have consistently maintained that this was a routine move by the ISI to 'settle' their assets abroad to facilitate their India-centric operations.

Denial has been the default first response of Pakistan govt which faced international opprobrium after the mass slaughter of innocents carried out by its assets, and which further steeled its already-formidable notoriety as the hub of jihadi terror. It had denied Kasab was a Pakistani citizen, going to the extent of identifying him as an Indian national — something which could have helped its effort to pass off the Mumbai attack as a case of homegrown terror. Kasab and others were carrying forged IDs which showed them as Hindus. As part of the camouflage, they had tied saffron strings ('kalevas') they had found on the fishing trawlerthey had commandeered.

Kasab's alias was that of a Bengaluru resident, Samir Dinesh Chaudhari. The gameplan came to naught because of the expose that confirmed his identity as a Pakistani national born to Amir Kasab and Noor Illahi — both Pakistan citizens. Then Pakistani PM Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani subsequently sacked his adviser on national security Mahmud Ali Durrani for his "irresponsible behaviour".

Hang him at earliest, says slain 26/11 hero Tukaram Omble's bro

Mumbai: Calling the extradition of 26/11 Mumbai attacks accused Tahawwur Rana a "big day," Eknath Omble, the brother of Ashok Chakra awardee and 26/11 hero Tukaram Omble, on Thursday urged the central govt to hang Tahawwur Rana.

Tukaram Omble, a sub-inspector in Mumbai police, held onto terrorist Ajmal Kasab's rifle, ensuring his arrest, but unfortunately fell to the bullets during the attack.

"Many innocent people and policemen were killed. It was a painful night. Rana was the closest ally of David Headley, who was the mastermind of the attack — they all should have been hanged earlier... But it's a big day for the country. I have a request from the government that he (Tahawwur Rana) should be hanged as soon as possible," Eknath Omble told ANI.

"He should be given such strict punishment that those in Pakistan who facilitate such things should think twice before committing such things... However, we tolerated the delay in Kasab's punishment because it exposed the real face of Pakistan before the world."

On the night of Nov 26, 2008, Omble played a crucial role in capturing terrorist Kasab alive. Armed only with a baton, he confronted the gunman, allowing security forces to overpower Kasab, but he lost his life in the process.

Indian govt had been seeking Rana's extradition for years, and US Supreme Court's decision paved the way for his transfer to India. ANI

Israel hails India's persistence

New Delhi: Israeli ambassador Reuven Azar welcomed the extradition of Tahawwur Rana and thanked the govt for its "persistence in bringing the terrorists to justice".

"We are encouraged to hear about the extradition to India of one of the perpetrators of the terrible and horrendous terrorist attacks that happened in Mumbai on Nov 26, 2008, which took the lives of innocent civilians, including Israelis," Azar said in a video message. "I would like to thank the govt of India for its persistence in bringing the terrorists to justice." TNN

A critical step towards seeking justice, says US

New York: The extradition of Mumbai terror attacks accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana is a "critical step toward seeking justice" for the victims of the heinous attacks, US said on Thursday.

US on Wednesday extradited Rana, a Canadian citizen and a native of Pakistan, to stand trial in India on 10 criminal charges stemming from his alleged role in the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, a justice department spokesperson said.

"Rana's extradition is important for seeking justice for the six Americans and scores of other victims who were killed in the heinous attacks," the spokesperson for the US department of justice said.

Among the 166 killed were US, British and Israeli nationals. Besides, 238 were injured in the deadly attacks carried out by a group of 10 Pakistani terrorists on a railway station, two luxury hotels and a Jewish centre after they sneaked into Mumbai through the Arabian Sea.

The development comes just days after Rana's last-resort attempt to evade extradition to India failed after US SC justices denied his application, moving him closer to being handed over to Indian authorities to face justice in the dastardly attacks. PTI

As Rana Reaches India, BJP & Cong Claim Credit For Extradition

BJP: Cong did nothing to punish attackers, PM bringing them to justice

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: BJP on Thursday said the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, one of the chief conspirators of the 26/11 Mumbai attack, was a historic achievement of Modi govt and an assertion that India would never forgive, never forget. It also criticised Congress for "not doing anything" to punish those involved in the terror attack, which killed 166 people.

"During Congress's time, terrorists had attacked the very hotel we are standing in. People died here. However, Congress didn't do anything to punish those involved. The one who was caught, Kasab, was served biryani. Those who attacked our country... this is PM Modi's resolve to bring them to justice, and they get punished. Every Indian citizen is proud of PM Modi that those involved will be punished in this land," Union minister **Piyush Goyal** told reporters in Mumbai.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said Rana's extradition was a major victory for all security, counter-terrorism, prosecution and intelligence agencies. He said the extradition reflected the resolve that India would not remain silent on terror attacks but would give a befitting reply. "India will neither forgive nor forget the terrorists," he added.

Poonawala said senior Congress functionaries even tried to create a "fake narrative", alleging that the attacks, including the one in Mumbai, were conspiracies by RSS and Hindus.

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said the first resolve of the Modi govt was zero tolerance against crime.

Surender Singh, former National Security Guard commando who was part of the operation during the 2008 attack, said Rana's hanging would be a "tight slap" to Pakistan and terrorism. "It's a big day for the country. I thank PM Modi, the American president, and the agencies involved in this extradition process," Singh, now in BJP, said.

Modi govt didn't initiate process, has benefited from UPA move: Cong

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: On a day Mumbai terror attack accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana was extradited from the US to India, Congress said Modi govt did not initiate the process and in fact benefited from the "mature, consistent and strategic diplomacy" that began under UPA.

In a statement, former union minister **P Chidambaram** said that "while Modi govt is rushing to take credit for this development, the truth is far from their spin."

"This extradition is not the result of any grandstanding, it is a testament to what the Indian state can achieve when diplomacy, law enforcement, and international cooperation are pursued sincerely and without any kind of chest-thumping," Chidambaram said. He added, "It is the culmination of a decade-and-a-half of painstaking diplomatic, legal and intelligence efforts initiatedby UPA govt in close coordination with the US."

"The coursework began on Nov 11, 2009, when NIA registered a case in New Delhi against David Coleman Headley (US citizen), Rana (Canadian citizen), and others involved in the 26/11 conspiracy. Canada's foreign minister confirmed collaboration with Indian agencies, thanks to UPA's effective foreign policy," he said.

In 2012, external affairs minister Salman Khurshid and foreign secretary Ranjan Mathai took up the matter of Headley's and Rana's extradition with US secretary of state Hillary Clinton and under secretary Wendy Sherman, , which Chidambaram called a "textbook example" of handling international justice through diplomacy.

Even after the change in govt in 2014, it was the institutional efforts already in motion that kept the case alive, he added. Chidambaram said that in Feb 2025, PM Modi and US President Trump " tried to take credit for what was essentially the result of years of UPA-era groundwork".

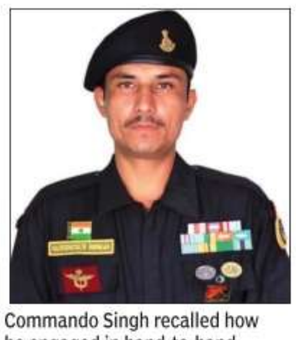
'I knew I could also die, but I didn't care about my life'

Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: On Nov 26, 2008, former NSG commando Surender Singh was at the NSG campus in Manesar when news of the Mumbai terror attacks broke. Despite having a newborn son he had not yet met, Singh and his team immediately mobilised. By the morning of Nov 27, they were in Mumbai. From there, an NSG squadron, including Singh's team, was deployed by helicopter to key locations like Nariman Point and the besieged Taj Hotel. After days of intense combat, they successfully rescued hostages and neutralised the terrorists.

Recounting the harrowing events, Singh shared his profound commitment: "My son was born on Nov 22, 2008. I hadn't even seen him, but I went to protect our country from terrorists," he told **TOI**.

At the Taj Hotel, where they were dropped off to begin their rescue mission, Singh and his team tirelessly evacuated civilians. Tragedy struck with the death of Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan.


Commando Singh recalled how he engaged in hand-to-hand combat with two terrorists during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks

Singh described their tactical approach: "We started clearing the hotel floor by floor. On the fourth floor, we neutralised one of the terrorists during a search."

While searching the second floor, Singh faced a grenade attack. In a split second, he leapt from the second floor and took cover inside a nearby bar. Though injured, he continued to engage the terrorists for approximately 90 minutes, even contemplating a suicidal grenade attack. "I knew I could also die, but I didn't care about my life," he remembered.

Before he could act on this, fellow NSG commandos breached the walls to extract him. Undeterred by his injuries, Singh soon rejoined the fight, throwing a grenade at the terrorists' position before entering the area and firing. "I engaged in hand-to-hand combat with two terrorists, drawing my knife and stabbing them while shouting 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Sahas ki Vijay'. This alerted my team to the close-quarters fight," he said.

Singh and his team successfully neutralised four terrorists. However, Singh suffered severe injuries. "I was shot in both my legs, and I have splinter marks all over my body. The treatment that followed was lengthy," he revealed.

Singh welcomed the extradition of Tahawwur Rana, expressing satisfaction that justice was finally being served for victims of the attacks.

Doon School clarifies co-ed memo was for internal debate

▶Continued from P 1

What was meant to be an internal discussion about a potential shift to co-education, quickly snowballed into a public controversy, prompting school authorities to clarify that the message sent by headmaster Jagpreet Singh on March 17 to the school's governing body was not a declaration, but an invitation to deliberate, reconsider, and reimagine what the future of the school might look like.

Accompanying the headmaster's memo was a four-page document, outlining the rationale for exploring a co-ed model. Citing research that challenged the academic benefits of same-sex education, the memo acknowledged a changing educational landscape and called for feedback to help navigate a possible transition.

"Over the years, many schools have made the transition to co-education," the document noted. "Researchers claim that there is no significance of same-sex education on academic performance."

However, even before a dialogue could take shape, the memo had moved beyond its intended audience. Alumni, many of whom see The Doon School as not just as a place, but as a part of personal identity, responded with unease. Sensing this disquiet, the school management issued a follow-up communication on April 7 from Anoop Singh Bishnoi, chairman of the board of governors, to IPSS members, most of whom are alumni.

"The document and communication in question were intended solely as a discussion note, shared internally with members of IPSS," Bishnoi wrote. "The purpose was simply to initiate preliminary thought, invite inputs for discussion and dialogue among the members." Offering reassurance, he added: "I want to personally assure you that no decision has been taken regarding the school becoming co-ed. Further, having received your valuable feedback, we will not be taking any decisions in this regard unless it finds favour with most of you."

While the idea of admitting girls has surfaced in conversations around the school for years, there has never been a public plan or timeline — only murmurs and conjectures.

The document also raised questions: how to build infrastructure to accommodate female students, how to ensure their safety and wellness, and how to fund these changes.

DPDP Act in harmony with privacy principles: Vaishnaw

▶Continued from P 1

Replying to a letter from Congress' Jairam Ramesh dated March 23, electronics and information technology minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said it won't restrict disclosure of personal information, "rather it aims at strengthening the privacy rights of individuals and prevent the potential misuse of the law".

Vaishnaw said the DPDP Act is in "harmony with privacy principles as enshrined in the Puttaswamy judgment of Supreme Court and the principles of transparency in public life as enacted in the RTI Act".

The law aims to strengthen privacy rights and prevent misuse, without restricting personal information disclosure, said Vaishnaw

Though the DPDP bill received presidential assent on Aug 11, 2023, it is yet to be notified by govt as consultations are underway on the provisions of the law.

In a joint press conference in New Delhi, INDIA bloc members said they would wait to see if govt repeal's the section and addresses their concerns before deciding on future course of action, like seeking legal recourse.

Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said that "very surreptitiously, maliciously and mischievously, the right of citizens to information has been snatched" by the DPDP Act.

Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Priyanka Chaturvedi, CPM's John Brittas, DMK's MM Abdullah, SP's Javed Ali and RJD's Naval Kishor also addressed the presser. Key alliance members such as NCP (SP) and TMC have endorsed the petition.

Gogoi said RTI Act's Section 8(1) states that if somebody seeks personal information, which has no public interest in it, that information can be withheld. But, in case the information is relevant in public interest, it cannot be withheld even if it means giving some personal information about someone, he said quoting the section.

He claimed that Section 44 (3), which undermines Section 8(1) of the RTI Act, says notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, there shall be no obligation to give any citizen information that relates to personal information.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI
S.V.AYURVEDIC HOSPITAL

Tender ID No: 799390 Tender NIR No: TTD-102022(31)/4/2025-SVAYH SEC

e-Tenders are invited for procurement of Ayurvedic Medicines for a period of 1 year (2nd call) from the date of award. Document downloading start date 11.04.2025 from 11.00 AM - Last date for receipt of bids 01.05.2025 up to 01.00 PM. Tender documents can be downloaded from the website https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in and for further details : www.tirumala.org For queries : 0877-2264666 and mail id : svayhcs.tpt@gmail.com

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv. No. 17). Date : 10-04-2025 **Executive Officer**

बुन्देलखण्ड औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण
ब्लॉक ए, प्रथम तल, किसान बाजार, तालपुरा, झांसी - 284001

पत्रांकः 01/बीडा/नियोजन/मा.प्ला.-लै.यू./2025-26 दिनांकः 09.04.2025

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि-

1. (क) अधिसूचना संख्या 5595/77-4-23-1372/23 दिनांक 14 सितम्बर 2023 के अन्तर्गत बुन्देलखण्ड औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण विकास क्षेत्र, झांसी की ड्राफ्ट महायोजना-2045 का ड्राफ्ट तैयार कर लिया गया है और,

(ख) निरीक्षण के लिए उसकी एक प्रति बुन्देलखण्ड औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण की वेबसाइट https://bida.co.in/notice पर एवं बीडा के कार्यालय ब्लाक-डी, किसान बाजार, तालपुरा, झांसी पिन-284001 में दिनांकः **11 अप्रैल, 2025** से **11 मई, 2025** तक के बीच सभी कार्य दिवसों में प्रातः 10:00 बजे से 05:00 बजे तक एतद्पश्चात् पैरा-3 में उल्लेखित दिनांक तक उपलब्ध रहेगा।

2. एतद्द्वारा इस योजना के प्रारूप के सम्बन्ध में आपत्तियां और सुझाव आमंत्रित किये जाते है।

3. आपत्तियां/सुझाव ई-मेल bidajhs1234@gmail.com, रजिस्टर्ड डाक तथा व्यक्तिगत रुप से कार्यालय भवन के ब्लाक-डी में श्री सौम्य मिश्रा, विशेष कार्याधिकारी, नियोजन, बुन्देलखण्ड औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण को लिखित रूप में दिनांकः **11 मई, 2025** के पूर्व भेजे जा सकते है। आपत्तियां/सुझाव देने वाले व्यक्ति को अपना नाम, पता एवं मो. नं. सहित पूर्ण विवरण देना होगा।

मुख्य कार्यपालक अधिकारी

CAD-91

Tender Call Notice

Odisha Rail Infrastructure Development Limited, (ORIDL) invites sealed tenders for hiring of passenger cars (03 Nos) for a period of two years from reputed transport agencies / firms. Tender document and details of the work are available in website **http://oridl.in/current-tenders/.**

Last date for submission of tender is **13.05.2025 at 03.00 PM**

Sd/-
Director (BD & F)

OIPR-13228/11/0002/24-25

BRIC NIAB
राष्ट्रीय पशु जैव प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान
National Institute of Animal Biotechnology
An Autonomous Institute of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt of India

Survey No. 37, Opp. Journalist colony, Extended Q City Road, Near Gowlidoddi, Gachibowli, Hyderabad - 500 032
Tel: +91 40 23120130; Email: academic@niab.org.in; Web: www.niab.res.in

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Ph.D Admission Program - 2025
BRIC-National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad

BRIC- NIAB, a premier autonomous institution of Department of Biotechnology (DBT), engaging in research in animal biotechnology, invites applications from motivated students for admission to its PhD program (2025-26/RSP-I). Students with Master's (M. Sc./M. Tech./M. V. Sc./M. Pharm.)/ MBBS/B. Tech. degree in any branch of Life Science and with a valid CSIR / UGC / DBT / ICMR / INSPIRE NET-JRF/UGC-RGNF or any other national research fellowship for 5 years are eligible to apply. The last date of application is 30/04/2025. For more information and application process, visit **https://www.niab.res.in/**

Sd/- DIRECTOR, NIAB

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender No. AGCTRDT202507
Closing Date : 15.05.2025 15:30 Hrs
Corrigendum No. 1

Event Description: Pre-Bid Conference Date Time, **Existing Provision**: 09.04.2025 12:00, **As per Corrigendum No.-1:** 16.04.2025 15:30, **Meeting details : Online Mode-** Link Detail for online meeting- https://meet.google.com/nja-sjzo-gqp **Email Id-** srdeetrdagc@gmail.com **Mobile No.-** 9760536301 **Offline Mode-** Venue-Office of Sr. DEE/TRD/Agra, DRM office campus, Near Agra Cantt. Railway Station, Agra (UP) 561/25 (AS)

North central railways @ www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in @ CPRONCR

WESTERN RAILWAY - BHAVNAGAR DIVISION
DEVELOPMENT OF CLOUD BASED DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

E-Tender No : BVP-EL-P-13-2024-25 **Name of Work :** Bhavnagar Division - Development of cloud based data management system for integration of electrical assets with IR NIYANTRAC. **Tender Value (Rs.) :** ₹49903748.00 **EMD :** ₹399500.00 **Date of Bidding Start Date :** 18/04/2025 **Date of Bidding Closing :** 02/05/2025 The NIT will be uploaded on Rly. Web site www.ireps.gov.in on 09/042025. 006

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EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

E-TENDER NOTICE No. TRS-G-T-RSP-OPN-01-25-26 DDU dt. : 08.04.2025.

For and on behalf of the President of India, E-tender (Open) is invited from competent, established, experienced contractors/ establishments for the following work.

1. Name of the work with its location : Mid Term rehabilitation of 5400 KVA transformer for conventional locos. Qty-12 Nos. At Firm's Premises. and At Electric Loco Shed/DDU. 2. Approx. Cost of the work : ₹2,38,62,202.44, 3. Earnest money to be deposited : ₹2,69,,300.00, 4. Last date and time of submission of e-tender and opening date of the e-tender : 02.05.2025 Upto 13.00 Hrs. 02.05.2025 at 15.00 Hrs. 5. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen : Tender shall be made available on ECR website http://www.ireps.gov.in and detail of tender shall be available in the office of the Sr. DEE/TRS/E.C. Railway at Electric Loco shed/DDU.

Divl. Railway Manager/TRS/ ECR/Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya
PR/0069/DDU/Elect./T/25-26/36

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/ E.C.Railway/Samastipur for and on behalf of the President of India invites Open Tender from experienced and financially capable tenderers for the following works in E-Tendering mode of IREPS web portal of Indian Railways:

Tender Notice No.: TC-57-2025-SPJ

1. Name of work: Supplying and stacking of 50 mm size machine crushed stone ballast (1,00,000 cum) as per Rly. Specification for Track ballast at Purnia Court Station and loading the same into any type of railway wagon at Purnia Court Railway Station Depot in Samastipur Division. **2. Tender Value:** Rs. 268300000.00 **3. Earnest Money:** Rs. 1491500.00 **4. Completion period of the work:** 18 Months. **5. Last Date & time for receiving of Tender in E-Tender mode on IREPS web portal:** 30-04-2025 upto 12.00 hours. **6. Opening Date & time for E-Tender:** 30-04-2025 after 12.00 hours. **7. Website particulars where complete details of tender & tender document can be seen on Website: www.ireps.gov.in** Amendments/ modifications if any shall not be published in the newspapers but the same shall be uploaded in the website.

Sr. Divisional Engineer/ I / E.C.Railway/ Samastipur
PR/0073/SPJ/ENGG/T/25-26/40

कार्यालय परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-08
कन्स्ट्रक्शन एण्ड डिजाइन सर्विसेज
उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम (नगरीय)
(उ0 प्र0 सरकार का उपक्रम)
भवन सं. 55, अरूणा नगर, सुनहरी लाल पाठक पार्क के सामने, एटा-207001
Visit us at : www.cdsupjn.org
E-mail id : unit08_agra@rediffmail.com

पत्रांक : 296/एम-13/57
दिनांक : 07.04.2025

ई-निविदा सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश जल निगम, की ओर से अधोहस्ताक्षरी द्वारा **(मुख्यमंत्री वैश्विक नगरोदय योजना CM-VNY) योजनान्तर्गत नगर पालिकर परिषद-एटा, जनपद एटा में कम्यूनिटी सेन्टर के निर्माण कार्य** अनुमानित लागत **रू. 500.14 लाख (जी.एस.टी. रहित एवं लेबर सेस सहित)** हेतु सी.एण्ड डी.एस. में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से **दिनांक 30.04.2025** के **अपरान्ह 15:00 बजे तक** ई- निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। उक्त कार्य हेतु ई-निविदा प्रपत्र **दिनांक 08.04.2025** से **दिनांक 30.04.2025** के मध्य उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की e-procurement की वेबसाइट **https://etender.up.nic.in** से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते हैं तथा ई-निविदा **दिनांक 30.04.2025 को 15:30 बजे** परियोजना प्रबन्धक, यूनिट-08, सी.एण्ड डी.एस., उ.प्र. जल निगम (नगरीय), एटा में खोली जायेगी। ई- निविदा प्रपत्र का मूल्य **रू. 10,000.00 +GST (18%) कुल रू. 11,800.00** देय होगा।

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट **www.cdsupjn.org** एवं प्रोक्योरमेन्ट पोर्टल **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर उपलब्ध है। समस्त शुद्धि पत्र (Corrigendum) **https://etender.up.nic.in** पर ही अपलोड किये जायेंगे, **इनका पृथक से कोई प्रकाशन नहीं किया जायेगा।** निविदादाताओं को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे उक्त वेबसाईट का समय- समय पर अवलोकन करते रहें।

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KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT
Belapur Bhavan, Sector – 11, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614

Registration of contractors for Mechanical department
EOI Notice no : CO/M/Manpower/EOI/E64973, dated 10.04.2025

Chief Mechanical Engineer invites Expression of Interest for the Empanelment of Manpower Consultants / HR Recruitment Agency for Hiring Contractual Manpower for Mechanical department of KRCL for various projects from eligible firms. For further details please visit **www.konkanrailway.com**. (The path for EOI document : **www.konkanrailway.com** ➔ Departments ➔ Mechanical ➔ Expression of Interest (EOI) document) **Cost of application form**: Rs. 11,800/- inclusive of GST@18% (Rupees Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred only) (non-refundable & Non-transferable). **Last date and time of submission of EOI: 02.05.2025 up to 15:00Hrs**.

NOTIFICATION
(ISSUED AS PER PARA 6(7) OF ADOPTION REGULATION 2022)

1.Name of the child: **Riyoshiha S**
2. Boy/Girl: **Girl**
3. Date of Birth: **Not known**
4. Name of the SAA where the child has been placed: **Kerala State Child Welfare Council, Thiruvananthapuram**
5. Date when the child was admitted in SAA 13.12.2024 6. CWC order no and date: **OP No.290/23 dtd 30.12.2024.**

Any claims on the guardianship of the above-mentioned child may state the same with necessary evidence within 30 days from the date of notification to the District Child Protection Officer, District Child protection Unit, TC 42/1800 Rotary Junction, Opposite SBI Local Head Office, Poojapura, Thiruvananthapuram 695012. Phone - 0471 - 2345121. If no claims on the child have been informed within 30 days the child will be deemed to have no legal heirs and steps will be taken for the child's adoption.

Sd/- District Child Protection Office, Thiruvananthapuram

F4/132/2025/I&PRD

RAIL COACH FACTORY, KAPURTHALA

On-line bids are invited by PCMM, RCF on behalf of President of India for following items:-

Sr. No.	Tender No. & Due Date	Description	Qty. (NOS./ Sets)	EMD (₹)
1.	12231419A 09/05/2025	Set of Partition Frame for LHB AC 3T Coach	50 Set	3,50,000/-
2.	12231399C 06/05/2025	Non AC Area Ceiling Arrgt. for LHB AC 3Tier Coaches.	50 Nos.	1,76,080/-

1. For details and making On-line Bids, visit Website **http://ireps.gov.in.** Drawings / specifications, wherever required can be downloaded from RCF website **http://www.rcf.indianrailways.gov.in.** Class IIIb digital signature certificate required for on-line Bidding, can be obtained from licensed certifying agencies listed at **http://www.cce.gov.in.** 2. Tenders will close at 14.25 Hrs. on due date and Tender will be opened at 14.30 Hrs. Tenders Sr. No. 1 & 2 will be opened at RCF Kapurthala. 3. For queries, contact IREPS heldesk at 011-24102855, 011-24105180 or RCF helpdesk at 011-23378658.

Note: GST Number of RCF is 03AAAGM0289C1ZT. All the suppliers are advised to quote this in dispatch documents for the supplies made by them.

PCMM

CORRIGENDUM

The following amendment is authorized against **1) Tender No. 12241320B** for procurement of Set of Window Inner Frame for LHB SCN, GS, SLRD Amrit Bharat Coaches in which Due date to be read as 11/04/2025 instead 02/04/2025. **2) Tender No 17231508** Due date to be read as 15/04/2025 instead 08/04/2025. **3) Tender No. 13245381** for procurement of Optical Emission Spectrometer for Testing of Safety Critical Items as per Spec No. Mech/M/Umbrella Project /438/22 in which due date to be read as 23/04/2025 instead of 15/04/2025.

T. No.: 006-S/2024-25 **Dated: 10.04.2025**

हिमाचल प्रदेश तकनीकी शिक्षा बोर्ड, धर्मशाला-176057
Himachal Pradesh Takniki Shiksha Board, Dharamshala-176057

Telephone No. : 01892-222662, 225755 **email: hptechboard@gmail.com**
Tele fax : 01892-229055 **Website: www.hptechboard.com**

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR THE ENTRANCE TEST OF POLYTECHNIC ADMISSION TEST (PAT-2025) AND LATERAL ENTRY ENTRANCE TEST (LEET-2025)

Online application from the desirous eligible candidates are invited through website www.hptechboard.com for the Entrance test of Polytechnic Admission Test (PAT-2025) and Lateral Entry Entrance Test (LEET-2025) for admission to Diploma courses in Govt. /Pvt. Polytechnics of Himachal Pradesh for the Academic session 2025-26. These Entrance tests will be conducted by the Himachal Pradesh Takniki Shiksha Board Dharamshala. The complete details of conduct of these tests along with eligibility criteria are as under:-

POLYTECHNIC ADMISSION TEST (PAT-2025)
(ADMISSION IN 1ST YEAR DIPLOMA ENGINEERING COURSES):-

Starting date for Submission of online application forms w.e.f.	27.03.2025
Last date for submission of online application forms alongwith fee.	05.05.2025
Fee	Through Net Banking/Credit/Debit Card FOR GENERAL CATEGORY = Rs. 650/- FOR SC/ST/OBC CATEGORY= Rs. 400/-
Date of Examination	18.05.2025 (Sunday) from 10:00 A.M. to 01:00 PM
Eligibility Criteria for admission	The minimum eligibility criteria for admission to 1st year Engineering courses and Architecture Assistantship course etc in Govt. / Private Polytechnics of Himachal Pradesh is that the candidate must have passed 10th standard with 35% marks at the qualifying examination from a recognized Board/University or its equivalent as prescribed by the AICTE/COA. In case, candidate has appeared or going to appear in Matriculation is also eligible to appear in the Entrance test provisionally but his/her eligibility shall be verified at the time of counselling by the central Admission Selection Committee

LATERAL ENTRY ENTRANCE TEST (LEET-2025)
(DIRECT ADMISSION IN 2ND YEAR DIPLOMA ENGINEERING COURSES):-

Starting date for Submission of online application forms w.e.f.	27.03.2025
Last date for submission of online application forms alongwith fee.	07.05.2025
Fee	Through NetBanking/Credit/Debit Card/UPI FOR GENERAL CATEGORY = Rs. 650/- FOR SC/ST/OBC CATEGORY= Rs. 400/-
Date of Examination	25.05.2025 (Sunday) from 10:00 A.M to 12:00 Noon
Eligibility Criteria for admission	The candidate must have Passed 10+2 examination with physics/ Mathematics /Chemistry / ComputerScience / Electronics / InformationTechnology/ Biology/ Informatics Practices/ Biotechnology / Technical Vocational subject / Agriculture /Engineering Graphics/Business Studies/ Entrepreneurship as per table 8.4 of AICTE, Approval Process Hand Book (APH) 2024-27 and the essential qualification for course of engineering which have not been mentioned in the table 8.4 is enclosed as Appendix III (a) in the prospectus part –I of LEET prospectus. or 10th + 2 years ITI under NCVT/SCVT/ COE in Engineering stream shall be eligible for admission to Second year Diploma Course(s) of appropriate Programme as per AICTE Norms. In Case, candidates has appeared or going to appear in 10+2/NCVT/SCVT/ COE examinations, is also eligible to appear in the Entrance test provisionally but his/her eligibility shall be verified at the time of counseling by the central Admission Selection Committee.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:-
1. The desirous candidates are advised to keep ready (a) A scanned copy of a self singed colored passport size photograph. (b) The scanned signature.
2. Before filling the online application form, read the prospectus (Part-I & Part-II) carefully available on the website.
3. For filling up of online application form, candidate can take help in the facilitation centres created in Govt. Polytechnics & ITIs. The detail of facilitation centres is available on Himachal Pradesh Takniki Shiksha Board website.
4. After the declaration of Test result, candidates must have to fill the Part-II of application form available on the website for online counselling. The candidate has to enter the choice of Branch and Polytechnic along with other required information in this form. The first two round of counselling will be online
5. The Entrance Test helpline No. 01892-225755. For any inquiry regarding Entrance Exam (PAT-2025 & LEET-2025) the candidate can make correspondence with Board through E-mail : hptsbadmission2021@gmail.com.

Secretary
Himachal Pradesh Takniki Shiksha Board
Dharamshala

Advt.No. 0059/10/04/2025

NTPC Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

UNIFIED SHARED SERVICE CENTRE, CPG-1, RAIPUR

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

EOI No. USSC/CPG1/EOI **Date: 11.04.2025**

Name of Work: - Major Repair of Multi louver dampers & Replacement of associated Exhaust ducting, Expansion joints and Blind plate along with insulation (Internal-Ceramic pads covered by SS liner plate and External-Rockwool covered by corrugated and plain Aluminum sheet) of Gas Turbine Exhaust System.

Last Date for Site Visit, Queries / Seeking clarifications: 20 days from date of EOI

Last Date for Submission of EOI: 30 days from date of EOI

Interested parties are requested to submit their proposal in the specified manner & formats in soft copy at the NTPC e-tendering portal at https://eprocurentpc.nic.in/nicgep/app or via email as per details mentioned at Section-I to VII of EOI.

For details of EOI, please visit at **https://eprocurentpc.nic.in/nicgep/app** or **https://ntpctender.ntpc.co.in** or **www.ntpc.co.in**

Regd. Office: NTPC Bhawan, SCOPE Complex, 7 Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110 003, Website: www.ntpc.co.in, CIN:L40101DL1975GOI007966

1041/2025-26/01 Concept

Leading the Power Sector

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Vidyut Bhawan" Near ISBT, Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun-248002
Corporate ID U40101UR2004SGC028675, Tel. No. 0135-2642711

E-TENDER CORRIGENDUM-1

The pre-bid clarifications and Amendment No. 1 of the E-Tender for "Replacement of old Panther conductor with HTLS conductor of 132 KV Majra-Jhajra line" against Tender Specification no. PTCUL/ E-Tender/C&P-II/TL-19/2024-25 has been uploaded on e-tender website and the last date of submission of the e-tender is extended upto **22.04.2025 15:30 Hrs.** For more details please visit the e-tender website www.uktenders.gov.in (tender id no. 2025_PTCU4_81047_1) and for e-tender corrigendum notice our website www.ptcul.org. All other terms and conditions shall remain same.

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000

RO 693/HQPU/PTCUL Date : 09.04.2025 **Superintending Engineer (C&P-II)**

"Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation"

RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
SADASHIVANAGAR, BENGALURU – 560 080

Advt. No. 7/2025 – Dt. 08/04/2025

Raman Research Institute is a premier autonomous institute engaged in research in basic sciences funded by the Government of India. The institute is inviting applications for the following positions on Direct Recruitment basis :

(1) **Engineer A (Electronics) – 3 Posts**
(2) **Engineer A (Photonics) – 2 Posts**
(3) **Engineering Assistant C (Civil) – 1 Post**
(4) **Assistant – 4 Posts**
(5) **Assistant Canteen Manager – 1 Post**

Last date to apply is 14th May 2025 and for more details, please visit; https://www.rri.res.in/careers/other-openings

उ0 प्र0 लोक सेवा आयोग

संक्षिप्त विज्ञप्ति

आयोग के विज्ञापन संख्या ए-9/ई-1/2024, दिनांक 17.12.2024 के द्वारा विज्ञापित **सम्मिलित राज्य अभियंत्रण सेवा (सामान्य/विशेष चयन) (प्रा0) परीक्षा- 2024** के संदर्भ में एतद्द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि आयोग द्वारा उक्त परीक्षा **दिनांक 20 अप्रैल, 2025 (रविवार) को एक सत्र में (पूर्वाह्न 11:00 बजे से अपराह्न 01:00 तक)** प्रदेश के 07 जनपदों यथा-बरेली, गोरखपुर, कानपुर नगर, लखनऊ, मेरठ, प्रयागराज एवं वाराणसी के विभिन्न परीक्षा केन्द्रों पर आयोजित की जाएगी। प्रश्नगत परीक्षा से सम्बन्धित अभ्यर्थियों के प्रवेश-पत्र आयोग की वेबसाइट **https://uppsc.up.nic.in** पर दिनांक 09.04.2025 से उपलब्ध हैं।

संख्या-10/08/ई-2/2024-25 (ओंकार नाथ सिंह)
दिनांकः प्रयागराज, 09 अप्रैल, 2025 अनुसचिव

POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF UTTARAKHAND LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Enterprise)
"Vidyut Bhawan", Near ISBT Crossing, Saharanpur Road, Majra, Dehradun -248002
Corporate ID No: U40101UR2004SGC028675 Tel. No. 0135-2642711

E-TENDER NOTICE

Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited invites E-Tender for **"Augmentation of 132 kV Substation Laksar from 3x40 MVA Transformer to 2x40 MVA + 1x80 MVA Transformer at 132/33 kV voltage level"** against Tender Specification no PTCUL/E-Tender/C&P-I /SS-02/2025-26". The last date of bid submission of e-bid is **14.05.2025 upto 15:30 Hrs.** For more details please visit e-tender website **www.uktenders.gov.in** (tender id no. 2025_PTCU1_82656_1) and for e-tender notice our website **www.ptcul.org**

For any assistance on E-Tendering, please contact +91-8899890000

Letter No.: 692/HQPU/PTCUL **Superintending Engineer (C&P-I)**
Dated : 09-04-2025 **" Save Electricity in the Interest of Nation."**

ARMY COLLEGE OF NURSING (ACN)
DEEP NAGAR, JALANDHAR CANTT-144005

TENDER NOTICE

The tender is invited through two bid system for selection of contractor for the construction of Girls Hostel of Army College of Nursing (ACN), Jalandhar Cantt. The complete tender document can be downloaded from ACN, Jalandhar Cantt website www.acn.co.in or https://eprocure.gov.in/

Ser No	Name of Contract/ Tender	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of Tender Form
1.	Construction of Girls Hostel of Army College of Nursing, Jalandhar Cantt-Construction Work	₹ 12.31 Crore	₹ 24.62 Lakhs	₹ 5000/-

The period of contract is 12 months. Bidders can download the "Tender Document" from ACN, Jalandhar Cantt website www.acn.co.in or https://eprocure.gov.in/ and submit hard copy to office of Registrar, Army College of Nursing, Deep Nagar, Jalandhar Cantt-144005. No online submission will be accepted for this tender.

Ser No	Activity	Date	Time in IST
1.	Date of Tender Published in Newspaper	11 Apr 2025	10:00 AM
2.	Bid Document Download Date	11 Apr 2025	10:00 AM
3.	Bid Document Download End Date	13 May 2025	1:00 PM
4.	Bid Submission Date	13 May 2025	1:00 PM
5.	Technical Bid Opening Date	13 May 2025	3:00 PM

Chairman
ACN, Jalandhar Cantt

National Highways Authority of India
(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)

भर्ती सूचना/RECRUITMENT NOTICE

भा.रा.रा.प्रा. निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए भर्ती हेतु आवेदन आमंत्रित करता है :–
NHAI invites applications for recruitment to the following posts :-

Post	No.*	Pay Scale	Mode
मुख्य महाप्रबंधक (प्रशासन एवं मानव संसाधन) Chief General Manager (Admn. & HR)	02	पे मैट्रिक्स में लेवल-14 (रु. 144200-218200) Level-14 in Pay Matrix (Rs. 144200-218200)	पदोन्नति/प्रतिनियुक्ति Promotion/Deputation
मुख्य महाप्रबंधक (विधि) Chief General Manager (Legal)	01		प्रतिनियुक्ति Deputation
महाप्रबंधक (विधि) General Manager (Legal)	02	पे मैट्रिक्स में लेवल-13 (रु. 123100-215900) Level-13 in Pay Matrix (Rs. 123100-215900)	प्रतिनियुक्ति Deputation

*भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की आवश्यकता के अनुसार पदों की संख्या बढ़ या घट सकती है।
*Number of posts may increase or decrease as per requirement of NHAI.
2. भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट **(www.nhai.gov.in)** पर उपलब्ध विस्तृत विज्ञापन में दी गई प्रक्रिया के अनुसार आवेदक दिनांक **13.05.2025 (सायं 6:00 बजे तक)** ऑनलाइन आवेदन जमा करना सुनिश्चित करें।
The applicant is required to ensure submission of online application as per the procedure indicated in the detailed advertisement, available on NHAI website **(www.nhai.gov.in). by 13.05.2025 (upto 06:00 PM).**
3. आयु सीमा, योग्यता मानदंड, अन्य शर्तों आदि से संबंधित विस्तृत विवरण भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट पर देखे जा सकते हैं।
Details regarding age limit, eligibility criteria and other conditions may be accessed on NHAI website.
4. इस विज्ञापन के संबंध में शुद्धिपत्र/अनुशेष/निरस्तीकरण, यदि कोई होगा तो, उसे केवल भा.रा.रा.प्रा. की वेबसाइट पर प्रकाशित किया जाएगा।
Corrigendum/Addendum/Cancellation to this advertisement, if any, shall be published on NHAI website only.

airads

BUILDING A NATION, NOT JUST ROADS

UJVN LTD.
H.O.: 'UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135 - 2763808, Fax 0135-2763508
CIN No. : U40101UR2001SGC025868, Website : www.ujvnl.com

Letter No.256 **e-Tender Notice** Dated 09.04.2025

Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C), Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun invites sealed online tender from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No. : 01/EE(P&C)/2025-26
Name of work: Procurement of tyres & tubes for various site vehicles of UJVN Ltd.
Estimated cost : 7,30,266.00 (excluding taxes)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 11.04.2025 at 16:00 hrs.
Last date for submission of bids on website: 02.05.2025 upto 17:00 hrs.
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal **"http://uktenders.gov.in"** **Executive Engineer (P&C)**

"Avoid Wasteful use of Electricity"

लोकप्रिय गोपीनाथ बरदलै क्षेत्रीय मानसिक स्वास्थ्य संस्थान
तेजपुर: असम: पिन: ७८४००१
LGB REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH
(An Autonomous body under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
Website: www.lgbrimh.gov.in, e - Mail: mail@lgbrimh.gov.in
Post Box No. 15:: FAX No. (03712) 233623
TEZPUR:: 784001 :: ASSAM

No. LGB/NAZ/1364/2024-25/1968 **Dated :- 03/04/2025**

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online re-tenders in two bid systems (Technical and Financial) are invited through the e-procurement portal http://eprocure.gov.in/cppp by the Director, LGBRIMH, Tezpur from authorized firms, dealers or distributors for supply of Printing items, printing related items & accessories to LGBRIMH, Tezpur. The Supply shall be for 1 (One) year from the date of AOC. The last date of bid submission is 23/04/2025 For more details log on to http://eprocure.gov.in/cppp or w.w.w.lgbrimh.gov.in. **Sd/- Director LGBRIMH**

CBC 17179/12/0001/2526

Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board
Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Vikas Kuteer, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002
Mail: umamaheshrao.rpcelldusib75@gmail.com

E-Tender Notice

Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board invites online e-Tender in two bid system from Service Provider Agency for e-auction services in Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board as per prescribed terms & conditions for a period of 5 (five) years from execution of the agreement.

DATE OF E-TENDER

Release/Uploading of Tender through e-procurement Website 11.4.2025 by 18.00 Hrs.
Date & time for download of entire Tender document /encryption w.e.f. 11.4.2025 to 25.4.2025 upto 15.00 Hrs.
Last date for submission of mandatory documents with EMD is 25.4.2025 Upto 15.00 Hrs.
Opening of Envelope -1 (Eligibility criteria Bid) on 25.4.2025 (Friday) at 15.30 hrs.
For further details of eligibility criteria & procedure (if any correction/changes in above schedule will be notified only on these website) kindly visit the website **https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in** or DUSIB website **www.delhishelterboard.in.**

Sd/-
Dy. Director (RP)
(Mob. No. 8826697456)

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0010/25-26

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 35-Elect/G/PRYJ/25-26 **Date: 08.04.2025**

E-Tender Notice

Senior Divl. Electrical Engineer/Gen/N.C. Rly/Prayagraj, for and on behalf of the President of India, invite the following e-Tenders on prescribed form for the following works up to **15:00** hrs. on **01.05.2025** The details of the tenders are as under:-

TN: ELG-65-2526, **Name of work:** Left over work of Provision of Air Conditioning in the GM/NCR office blocks (Phase-II) with augmentation of power supply arrangements.

Cost of work (In ₹): ₹ 97,99,075.25	**Bid Security (In ₹):** ₹ 1,96,000.00
Duration of completion : 06 Month	
Tender Opening Date : 01.05.2025, 15:00 Hrs.	

Note:- (1) The complete information along with tender document of above e-Tender is available on Website **www.ireps.gov.in** up to **15:00** hrs. on the due date of tender opening. **636/25 (MG)**

North central railways @ CPRONCR www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

KRIBHCO
Cooperative and beyond...
KRISHAK BHARATI COOPERATIVE LIMITED
PRE QUALIFICATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT CONTRACTORS

KRIBHCO invites applications for pre-qualification for appointment of road transporters for movement of bagged imported fertilizers from Visakhapatnam, Krishnapatnam, Gangavaram, Kakinada, New Mangalore, Mundra, Pipavav, Karaikal, Tuna, Kandla & Tuticorin ports to destinations within/outside the concerned state, for its present and future requirement (2025-2028).

KRIBHCO shall be handling approximately 20.00 lakh MT bulk imported fertilizers annually at East / West Coast Ports.

Reputed Road Transporters having experience in transportation of bagged commodities like fertilizers, food grains, cement, sugar, seed and other bagged material may apply. The complete detail along with application form are available at KRIBHCO's website **www.kribhco.net.**

Transporters already qualified for the above work should apply afresh.

The complete application along with all enclosures should be sent to the following address so as to reach on or before **02/05/2025.**

Sh. L.P. Goodwin, Jt.GM (Mktg.), Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited
A-10 Sector-1, NOIDA, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, UP-201301
Ph. 0120-2534631, Ext. 232, E- mail :goodwin@kribhco.net

Office of the Director General, Medical Health & F.W.
Danda Lakhound, P.O. Gujrada, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Letter No: 27P/PPP/06/2023/8874 Dated: 09.04.2025

Government of Uttarakhand Short Re E-tender Notice

1. Name of Work- Build, Operate, Manage and Transfer Cardiac Care Unit at SDH L.D. Bhatt, Kashipur, U.S Nagar.
2. Date and time of e-publishing of Tender - **16.04.2025, till 14:00 PM**
3. Closing date of online submission of Tender - **29.04.2025, till 14:00 (IST)**
4. Opening date of technical bid Tender - **29.04.2025, till 15:00 (IST)**
5. Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website **https://uktenders.gov.in.**
6. **Portal Registration:** The bidder intending to participate in the bid is Required to register in the portal using his/her active personal/ official email id as his/her Login id and attach his/her valid digital signature certificate (DSC) to his/her unique login.

For further queries, the bidders may contact through email- mhvuttarakhand@yahoo.com and at Room No 52, Office of the Director General, Medical Health & Family welfare, Danda Lakhound, P.O. Gujrada, Sahastradhara road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Director (PPP)

कार्यालय अस्पताल अधीक्षक एवं एकेडेमिक इंचार्ज
डी.के.एस. पोस्ट ग्रेज्युएट इंस्टीट्यूट एवं रिसर्च सेन्टर, रायपुर (छ.ग.)
(वेबसाईट- www.dkspgi.in ई-मेल dkspgi@zgmail.com)

क्रमांक /2029/डी.के.एस./रख-रखाव /2025 रायपुर, दिनांक 07/04/2025

// निविदा सूचना//

सिस्टम टेण्डर क्र0 - 166563

दाऊ कल्याण सिंह स्नातकोत्तर संस्थान एवं अनुसंधान केन्द्र रायपुर में बाहय स्त्रोत के माध्यम से डायलिसिस सेवाओं हेतु ऑनलाइन निविदा दिनांक 09/04/2025 से आमंत्रित की गई है, जिसमें ऑन-लाइन निविदा जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि दिनांक 27/05/2025 तक निर्धारित है। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in 166563 सिस्टम टेण्डर क्रमांक में देखा जा सकता है, इच्छुक निविदाकारों को अपनी निविदा उपरोक्त वेबसाइट पर ही. देनी होगी। निविदा से संबंधित सूचना चिकित्सालय के http://eproc.cgstate.gov.in भी उपल

Notice seeks info on 'fake' doc's tenure & expertise

▶ Continued from P 1

Camm's credentials as a medical practitioner are under scrutiny. Around 400km from Damoh, chief medical and health officer of Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur is probing allegations that Narendra Vikramaditya Yadav "treated" heart patients there too nearly two decades ago.

The notice seeks information on Yadav's employment, position and tenure at Apollo Hospital in Bilaspur, his education and expertise, and whether he was registered with Chhattisgarh Medical Council. The notice also inquires if he worked as a cardiologist, number of operations he performed, how many were successful, and number of post-operative deaths.

Apollo Hospital has also been asked to provide a photocopy of Yadav's appointment letter and to disclose whether any complaints were raised about his qualifications or skills prior to this incident, and, if so, what action was taken. The hospital has been told to submit its report within three days. Hospital PRO Devesh Gopal told **TOI** that they have received CMHO's notice and will respond in due course. "I have to check exact date of receipt," he said when asked about the deadline.

"He has accepted that most of his certificates are fake. We are trying to verify his MBBS degree," Damoh SP Shrut Kirti Somavanshi had told **TOI** last Tuesday.

'Involvement of health officials can't be ruled out'

▶ Continued from P 1

The fifth accused is an agent from Nagla Kadam, the village where Krishna Kumari lives, police said. This agent allegedly opened a bank account in Krishna's name and then withdrew the govt dole from it. "Four accused, on contract, were posted at Fatehabad CHC, while the fifth was an outsider. A thorough investigation is under way and efforts are on to find out whether there were more such cases," Arun Srivastava, CMO, told **TOI**.

A health official said the fraudulent claims could not have been made without the involvement of health department employees. The involvement of administrative staff, nurses and even doctors cannot be ruled out, he added.

The scam revolves around NHM's 'Janani Suraksha Yojana' and 'Mahila Sterilisation Incentive Scheme'. These schemes offer financial aid to women — Rs 1,400 for rural delivery, Rs 1,000 for urban delivery and Rs 2,000

FAKE DELIVERIES

for a sterilisation procedure.

Police said Gaurav Thapa (block programme manager), Neeraj Awasthi (block accounting manager), Gautam Singh (data entry operator), and Azhar Ahmed (data entry operator at another CHC) were named in the FIR along with Ashok Kumar, the agent.

Survivor can understand morality of her act: Judge

▶ Continued from P 1

In his March 11 order, Justice Singh said, "Considering the facts and circumstances of the case, as well as keeping in view the nature of the offence, evidence, complicity of the accused and submissions of the counsel for the parties, I am of the view that the applicant has made out a fit case for bail."

The survivor, a postgraduate student, had visited a bar in Delhi's Hauz Khas along with her woman friends and were joined by some "male acquaintances" of the latter. The alleged rapist, whom the survivor had just met, insisted that she should rest at his place in Noida because she wasn't feeling well after the night out, states the FIR registered by Gautam Budh Nagar Police on Sept 23, 2024.

Getty Images/iStockphoto

Justice Sanjay Kumar Singh of Allahabad HC says, 'I am of the view that the applicant has made out a fit case for bail'

The suspect allegedly took her to a relative's place in Gurgaon instead, touched her inappropriately during the car ride, and raped her twice on reaching the place of crime. The man was arrested last Dec.

Justice Singh said the survivor was competent enough to understand the "morality and significance of her act", as detailed in the FIR. The suspect's counsel argued that even if all the allegations were taken to be true, it could not be termed "rape" given the possibility of a consensual relationship between two adults.

The counsel also contended that the suspect had been "languishing in jail since Dec 2024 despite having no criminal history". He assured the court that his client "would not misuse the liberty of bail and cooperate in the early disposal of the case".

Grenade seizure: 3 militants from Imphal East held

▶ Continued from P 1

The grenade was corroded. Such explosives are used for intimidation by members of banned militant outfits as part of their extortion strategy," a security official said.

By afternoon, police arrested three militants from Imphal East for their alleged involvement in extortion. It wasn't immediately known if the arrests were linked to a grenade being found at the RIMS director's residence. Sharma wasn't home when the bomb was discovered.

Based on information extracted from the arrested men, security personnel traced a cache of arms and ammunition to an undisclosed location. The arrested militants are from PLA, KYKL and KCP (PWG).

Hotel fire: A fire broke out in a hotel on old Mumbai-Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar highway on Thursday night, though no one was hurt in the incident, a police official said. PTI

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male (depicted in the photo) name **Unknown** S/o **Unknown, R/o Unknown**, age 45 years. He was found Dead Near Nangloi Metro Station, **Delhi**. In this regard **DD No. 90A, Dt. 11.03.2025**, has been lodged at **P.S. Nangloi, Delhi**. His physical description is as under.

Sex: Male, **Age:** 45 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Black Colour Shirt, Blue Colour Trouser. Any person is having information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address and telephone number **S.H.O**

PS: Nangloi, Delhi
Ph No.: 011-23015218, 011-23014046 & 011-23015218 extn. 210
DP/4473/OD/2025

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified male (depicted in the photo) Name **Unknown** S/o **Unknown, R/o Unknown**, age about 60-65 years. He was found Dead in front of Shop No. 30 Naya Bans Khari Baoli, Delhi on Dt. 05.04.2025. In this regard **DD No. 63A, Dt. 05.04.2025**, has been lodged at **P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi**. Dead body has been preserved for identification for 72 Hours in Subzi Mandi Mortuary. His physical description is as under.

Sex: Male, **Age:** about 60-65 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing:** White Pajama only. Any person is having information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address and telephone number:- **S.H.O**

PS: Lahori Gate Delhi
DP/4393/N/2025 **Ph No.: 011-23953776, 8750870122**

टेलीफैक्स– 0135–2522941 ई–मेल – bridcul@gmail.com
CIN No - U45203UR2008SGC032591

BRIDCUL (ब्रिडकुल)
ब्रिज, रोपवे, टनल एण्ड अदर इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर डेवलपमेंट कॉरपोरेशन ऑफ उत्तराखण्ड लिमिटेड
(उत्तराखण्ड सरकार का उपक्रम) पूर्व में उत्तराखण्ड राज्य अवस्थापना विकास निगम लिमिटेड
प्रधान कार्यालय: अवस्थापना भवन, 583-ठ, राजकीय आइ.टी.आई. निरंजनपुर के सामने, माजरा, सहारनपुर रोड, देहरादून- 248001

Ref:807/BRIDCUL- 969-Tender/25 Dated: 09/04/2025

E-Tendering

On behalf of Hon'ble, Governor of Uttarakhand, E-Tenders are invited by Managing Director BRIDCUL, from the Contractors registered with any Govt./Semi Govt./PSU/Nigam in suitable Class & Category for the works given as below:-

S. No.	Ref No.	Name of Project	Estimated Cost (In lac Including GST)	Earnest Money (In Lac)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Time Period
1	BRIDCUL/ HQ HLD/11/2025-26)	Construction of Working Women Hostels at Rudrapur Distt. U.S.Nagar Uttarakhand (Civil Work)	8371.87	167.44	5000 + 18% GST	18 Months

For above tenders, document download start date is 17.04.2025 and Bid submission end date is 08.05.2025 at 1500 Hrs. The details of e-tender of above work can be obtained directly from website https://uktenders.gov.in
Changes, if any will be intimated only through website https://uktenders.gov.in

General Manager (Civil)-I

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Soni D/o Bhura R/o** E/607, Dholak Wali Gali, near Jama Masjid, JJ Colony Bawana, Delhi **Age:** 17 years, **Height:** 5'6" **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Long, wearing Maroon colour embroidery Suit Salwar and White colour Shoes in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from the factory (Add.: F-170, 171, Sector-2, DSIIDC, Bawana, Delhi) where she worked since 27.03.2025 at 10:30 AM. In this regard a **FIR No. 178/2025 U/s 137(2) BNS, dated 29.03.2025 has been registered at P.S. Bawana, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Bawana, Delhi
DP/4443/ON/2025 **Ph. No.: 011-27751949, 27756090**

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is here by informed that this girl (depicted in the Photo) **Namely:** Renu **D/o:** Sh. Data Ram **R/o:** House No. 92, Kalyan Vihar, Delhi, **Age:** 14 Years, **Height:** 4 feet 9 inch, **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Jeans pant, firozi colour and white colour printed top and pink colour slippers in feet, has been missing since **26.03.2025** at **09:00 am** from her home under area of **P.S. Model Town, Delhi.**

In this regard a **FIR No. 164/2025, U/S 137 (2) BNS, Dated 27.03.2025** has been registered at **P.S. Model Town, Delhi.**

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

Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S.- Model Town, Delhi
Ph. 91-11-27459202, 8750870230
DP/4498/NW/2025

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

MD. Aamir

General Public is hereby informed that one Male (depicted in the photo) namely **MD. Aamir S/oMD. Sukru R/o:** H.No.-21, R-3, A-3, Street No.-3, Tiranga Chowk, Sunday Bazar Road, Mohan Garden, West Delhi, **Age**-22 Years, has been reported missing since 05.02.2025 at about 5.00 PM from his Residence, vide **DD No. 72A, Dated 06.02.2025,** registered at **Police Station Ranhola, Outer Distt., Delhi-110041.** His physical description is as under:

Sex: Male, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Red Shirt, Blue Lower and Blue Slipper on his Feet.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing Male but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing Male please inform to the following.

SHO,
Police Station Ranhole,
Outer Distt., Delhi-110041
Website: https://cbi.nic.in **Ph.: 011-28100961**
DP/4494/OD/2025

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Rakhi

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Rakhi, D/o Baldev, R/o H.No. 1316, TC Camp, 12.5 Gaj, Raghubir Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 31.03.2025 at 10:00 AM from her home.** In this regard **DD No. 0007 A, Dated 01.04.2025** has been lodged at Police Station Rajouri Garden, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Rakhi, Age: 23 Years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Wearing: Pink Colour Suit and Sandal in Feet.

If anyone has any information about this missing female please inform P.S. Rajouri Garden, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station Rajouri Garden, Delhi
DP/4464/WD/2025 **Ph: 8750871127**

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Smt. Sunita

General Public is hereby informed that a female namely **Smt. Sunita W/o Sh. Karanlal R/o** H.No. 88, Janta Falte Vivek Vihar, Delhi has been missing since 27.03.2025 from her house in the area of PS Vivek Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 65A** dated **28.03.2025** has been registered at PS, Vivek Vihar, Delhi. The description of missing female is as under:

Name: Smt. Sunita, **Husband's Name :** Sh. Karanlal, **Age :** 30 years, **Height** : 5'5", **Complexion** : Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built :** Strong, **Wearing:** Purple Color Saree and Blouse and Golden Color Shoes in feet. **ID Mark:** Black Spot on Cheek.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax : 011-24368639
Ph. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/4122/SHD/2025

SHO
P.S., Vivek Vihar, Delhi
Ph. : 011-22146040
7065036021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that a man (depicted in the photo) Namely: **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown** was found dead at **A-Block, Near Jalebi Chowk, JJ Colony, Madanpur Khadar, New Delhi on 19.03.2025 at 9.30 A.M.** In this regard vide **DD No.31A Dated 19.03.2025** has been registered at **P.S. Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi.**

The description of the deceased is given as below:

Name: Unknown, **Sex:** Male, **Age:** About 30 Years, **Height:** 5' 7", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Sky Blue T-Shirt and Pink Pant.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to identify the man but no clue has come to light so far. Anyone having information about the person, please inform the undersigned.

SHO
P.S Kalindi Kunj, New Delhi
DP/4460/SE/2025 **Ph.: 9582904454, 011-29945322/23**

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Ridhi Malhotra

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Ridhi Malhotra, D/o Unknown, R/o K-18, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar, Delhi has been missing since 30.03.2025 at 06:30 PM from her home.** In this regard **FIR No. 189/2025, U/s 137 (2) BNS, Dated 30.03.2025** has been lodged at Police Station Tilak Nagar, Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Ridhi Malhotra, Age: 17 Years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Maroon Colour Night Suit.

If anyone has any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. Tilak Nagar, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

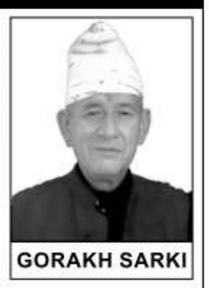
SHO
Police Station Tilak Nagar, Delhi
DP/4103/WD/2025 **Ph: 8750871130, 8006789261**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this Person **Named: Unknown, S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 50 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'7", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Medium, **Eye:** Black, **Wearing:** Blue Colour T-shirt and Blue colour Jeans, **Place of Recovery:** Found unconscious and blood was oozing from his head near Kripal Asharam/ Yoga Asharam, Model Town, Delhi, by Ambulance was laying at BRJM Hospital and after the treatment he was dead on Date : 08.04.2025. In this regard **DD No. 18A, Dated: 08.04.2025,** has been registered at P.S.: Model Town, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about identity of this Person but no clue has come to light so far. If any person having any information or clue about this Person may kindly inform to the following.

SHO
P.S.: Model Town, Delhi
DP/4451/NW/2025 **Ph.: 8750870230**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



GORAKH SARKI

General public is hereby informed that one male Namely **Gorakh Sarki S/o** Jagat Singh **R/o** H.No. 24/15, Gali No. 07, Joshi Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi. has been missing/ kidnapped from his house since **01.04.2025**. In this regard, a case **FIR/ DD No.75A. Dt. 02.04.2025** has been registered at **P.S.Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Delhi**. The description of the missing male is as under.

Age: 75 years **Height:** 5'9", **Complexion:** Fair, **Built:** Normal, **Face:** Long, **Wearing:** Light White Black Jacket and Light Gray Color T-Shirt and Dark Gary Color Lower. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out his but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing then please inform **P.S. DBG Road, Delhi** at following Tel No./ e-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.in** and Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**, providing clue about the person.

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011- 24368639

Sd/-
S.H.O. DBG Road, Delhi
DP/4351/CD/2025 **Tel 23537374, 8750870429**

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is here by informed that this girl (depicted in the Photo) **Namely:** Anjli Yadav **D/o:** Sh. Jamna Parshad, **R/o:** H. No. 115, Near Rajdhani Public School, Kureni, Narela, Delhi, **Age:** 21 Years, **Height:** 5 feet 2 inch, **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Pink colour suit salwar & black sandal in feet, has been missing since **29.03.2025** at **05:00 am** from her home under area of **P.S. Narela, Delhi.**

In this regard a **DD No. 41A, dated 30.03.2025** has been lodged at **P.S. Narela, Delhi.**

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

Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

E-Mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: http://cbi.nic.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S.- Narela, Delhi
Ph. 011-27282350, 9315759395
DP/4514/ON/2025

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Pinki

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Pinki, D/o Suresh, R/o 337/ 12, Master Colony, Tuglakabad Village, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 12.03.2025 at about 04:00 PM from her home.** In this regard **FIR No. 159/2025, U/s 137(2) BNS, Dated 15.03.2025** has been lodged at Police Station Govindpuri, New Delhi. The description of missing/ kidnapped girl is as under:

Name: Pinki, Age: 16 Years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: White Colour Kurti Black Colour Lower.

If anyone has any information about this missing/ kidnapped girl please inform P.S. Govindpuri, New Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station Govindpuri, New Delhi
DP/4512/SE/2025 **Ph: 011-29980049, 8750870932**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Kishan Lal Narte

General Public is hereby informed that one Male (depicted in the photo) namely **Kishan Lal Narte S/o** Sukal Singh Narte **R/o:** Kh. No.-36/22, Ground Floor, Jain Colony, Bhagya Vihar, Rani Khera, Delhi, **Age**-40 Years, has been reported missing since 03.03.2025 at 11.00 AM from his Residence, vide **DD No. 100A, Dated 12.03.2025,** registered at **Police Station Prem Nagar, Rohini Distt., Delhi.** His physical description is as under:

Sex: Male, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Blue Track Suit, Blue and Black Shoes on his Feet.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing Male but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing Male please inform to the following.

SHO,
Police Station Prem Nagar,
Rohini Distt., Delhi
Website: https://cbi.nic.in
DP/4510/RD/2025 **Ph.: 9315164042, 8010221427**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

NISHA

General public is hereby informed that this Woman (depicted in the photo) namely **Nisha D/o Dalip Kumar R/o H.No. 236 Gali No. 11, Shiv Kunj, Sant Nagar, Burari, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped from residence since **01.04.2024 at about 10:00 AM.** In this regard a DD No. **98A, Dated 03.04.2025** has been registered at **PS Wazirabad, Distt. North, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this woman but no clue has come to light so far. His physical description is as under:-

Sex: Female, **Age:** 22 years, **Height:** 5' ft., **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Salwar Suit.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing woman may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO
Website: http://cbi.nic.in **PS: Wazirabad, Delhi**
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in **Ph.: 011-23812734, 23810076**
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 **Mob. No.: 8750870131**
Fax No.: 011-24368639 **DP/4481/N/2025**

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Kiran

General Public is hereby informed that one Girl **Namely: Kiran D/o** Bhairam Thapa **R/o** H. No. 135, H Block Near Madina Masjid Jaitpur Extn Delhi, **Sex:** Female, **Age:** 20 Years **Height:** 4'10", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Thin, **Identiffication Mark:** Mole Mark on the middle finger of the right hand. **Wearing:** Suit & Salwar and Sandals in Feet. has been missing since 20.03.2023 from H. No. 135, H Block Near Madina Masjid Jaitpur Extn Delhi, from the Jurisdiction of Police Station Jaitpur Delhi, In this regard **FIR No./DD No. 217/2025 Dated 02.04.2025** has been registered at **PS: Jaitpur Delhi,** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the Missing Girl but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this Missing Girl Please inform to the following.

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/4520/SE/2025

SHO
P.S.: Jaitpur Delhi
Mobile: 8750871645

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

DURGA DEVI SUMIT KUMAR

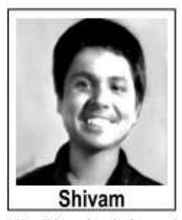
General public is hereby informed that one female Namely **Durga Devi W/o** Bhupender Pandit **R/o** Ram Bazar, Ramaiya Chowk, Chai Wali Gali, Kashmiri Gate, Delhi with her son namle **Sumit Kumar Age:** 08 years, has been missing/ kidnapped from her home since: **25.03.2025**. In this regard, a case **FIR/DD No. 60A Dt. 30.03.2025**. has been registered at **P.S. Kashmiri Gate, Delhi**. The description of the missing female is as under.

Age: 45 years, **Height:** 4'5", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Yellow Color Saree and Green Slipeer in Feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing female then please inform **P.S. Kashmiri Gate, Delhi** at following Tel No./ e-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.in** and Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**, providing clue about the person.

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011- 24368639
DP/4383/N/2025

Sd/-
S.H.O. Kashmiri Gate, Delhi
Tel No. 8750870123

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Shivam

General public is hereby informed that one man (depicted in the photo) Namely: **Shivam, S/o: Vakil, R/o: A-254 JJ Colony, Camp No.2, Nangloi, Delhi** has been Missing/ Kidnapped from him home since **06.04.2025 at 11.00 A.M.** In this regard a missing report vide **DD No.200A dated 07.04.2025** has been lodged at **P.S Nangloi, Delhi.**

His Physical description is as under:-

Sex: Male, **Age:** 20 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Dusky, **Built:** Normal, **Face:** Round, **Indentification Mark:** Handicap with one hand, **Wearing:** Light Grey Color T-Shirt, Lower and Slippers.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace the missing man but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone having any information about this man please inform the following:-

Phone No.: 011-24368638, 011-24368641 | Fax No. : 011-24368639 | Email id : cic@cbi.nic.in | Website : http://cbi.nic.in

SHO
P.S Nangloi, Delhi
DP/4508/OD/2025 **Phone: 011-25949470, 9811055130**

PUBLIC NOTICE
GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
DEPARTMENT OF STATE TAXES AND EXCISE

NOTICE FOR ALLOTMENT OF LEFT OUT RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSES IN FORM L-2, L-14 & L-14A THROUGH AUCTION-CUM-TENDER PROCESS FOR THE YEAR 2025-26 IN THE STATE OF HIMACHAL PRADESH.

In continuation to the Public Notice No. 7-1/2025-EXN-5568-5593 dated 13-03-2025 published on 14-03-2025, even No. 5635-61 dated 15-03-2025 published on 16-03-2025, 6263-83 dt. 20-03-2025, 6504-6522 dt. 22-03-2025, 6651-66 dt. 24-03-2025, 6882-93 dt. 25-03-2025, 7244-7263 dt. 27-03-2025, 7508-7526 dt. 28-03-2025, 7710-7723 dated 29-03-2025, 7775-93 dated 30-03-2025, 7975-7993 dt. 01-04-2025, 8246-8264 dt. 02-04-2025 and 8592-8610 dated 06-04-2025, it is further notified for the information of general public that sealed tender applications for allotment of left out retail liquor vends in Form L-2, L-14 and L-14A for the retail sale licensed outlets of Country Liquor (L-14/L-14A) and retail sale licensed outlets of Indian Made Foreign Liquor (L-2) in following Districts of State of Himachal Pradesh is fixed as under.

1. The date of receiving applications and opening of tender along with venue is also given in the schedule below :-

Sr. No.	Name of District	Venue	Date and Time for submission of tender applications	Date of biding-cum-opening of tender
1	Kangra	Lions Club Shyamnagar, Dharamshala, District Kangra	11-04-2025 from 09:00 AM to 10:30 AM	11-04-2025 from 11:00 AM onwards
2	Shimla	Bachat Bhawan, DC Office Shimla, District Shimla		
3	Kullu, Lahul & Pangi area	Conference Hall of Multipurpose Building, Dhalpur District Kullu.		
4	Mandi	Zila Parishad Hall, Bhiuli, Mandi		
5	Bilaspur	O/o Dy. Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise, District Bilaspur		

Note: The tender application forms can be received and tenders can also be filed on the day of opening of tenders as per the time allowed by the Chairman of the Allotment Committee of the District.

2. There shall be no clubbing of vends.
3. The Auction-cum-Tender process will be subject to approval by the Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise, Himachal Pradesh who reserves the right to reject the same without assigning any reason.
4. The dates, time and venues are liable to be changed at the sole discretion of the Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise, Himachal Pradesh.
5. Other terms and conditions shall remain same as mentioned in the Public Notice dated 13-03-2025.
6. The Excise Policy for the financial year 2025-26 is also available on the official website of the department **i.e. www.hptax.gov.in.**
7. For any further query and assistance please contact :-

District	Name of Officer	Contact no.
Shimla	Sh. Pradeep Sharma, DC STE	94180-84241, 0177-2621475
Kangra	Sh. Anupam Kumar Singh, DC STE	94181-74555, 01892-224886
Mandi	Sh. Varun Katoch, DC STE	94181-63237, 01905-222186
Kullu	Sh. Manoj Dogra, DC STE	94184-75672, 01902-222542
Bilaspur	Sh. Harish Chatte, DC STE	70186-29001, 01978-222309

(Dr. Yunus) IAS
Commissioner of State Taxes & Excise
Himachal Pradesh

Advt. No. 0066/10.04.2025

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
(A State Government Undertaking)

CORRIGENDUM

The arrangements and Events against HPSEBL tender no. IS-06/2025 for advance banking of power and tender no. IS-02/2025 for Sale of RE Power is hereby, amended / extended as under:

1.

S. No.	Event	Date & Time
1.	**Last date of submission of Bids** against HPSEBL tender no. IS-06/2025 for advance banking of power	16.04.2025 at 11.00AM
2.	**Opening of technical Bids**-Part-A against HPSEBL tender no. IS-06/2025 for advance banking of power (EMD should reach the office inviting Bids before opening of non-financial bid)	16.04.2025 at 03.30 PM
3.	**Last date of submission of Bids** against HPSEBL tender no. IS-02/2025 for Sale of RE Power	16.04.2025 at 11.00AM
4.	**Opening of technical Bids**-Part-A against HPSEBL tender no. IS-02/2025 for Sale of RE Power (EMD should reach the office inviting Bids before opening of non-financial bid)	16.04.2025 at 04.00 PM

2. Amendment in Annexure-1 against HPSEBL tender no. IS-06/2025 for advance banking of power

Import of Power	Period	Export of power	Period	Remarks
52.80 MU	18.04.2025 to 30.04.2025	52.80 MU	01.07.2025 to 31.08.2025	However, quantum of power of import/export in each time slot shall remain as per tender documents published on 04.04.2025

All other terms & condition shall remain unchanged. Further this corrigendum shall be the part of tender document

Chief Engineer (System operation)
HPSEB Ltd., Vidyut Bhawan, Shimla-171004.

Advt.No. 0054/10/04/2025

VARANASI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
SIGRA, VARANASI-221010,
UTTAR PRADESH
(Notice Inviting Request for Proposal)

Corrigendum

Online bids are hereby invited on behalf of Municipal Commissioner, The Tender Notice No. 03/SBM/VMC/2025-26 on Dated: 03/04/2025 and Publication number 09/मीप्र0वी0/3/4/25 published on date 4/4/25 for the following work- Door-to-door Collection & Transportation of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) in 3 Zones, namely Sarnath Zone, Varunapar Zone and Adampur Zone up to the Designated Processing Facility/SLF of Varanasi Nagar Nigam. The schedule has been revised and will now be read as follows -

Release of Tender	05/04/2025; 15:00 PM
Tender Download Date	05/04/2025; 15:00 PM
Date of Pre-bid meeting	15/04/2025; 15:00 PM
Last date of submission of Pre-bid queries	15/04/2025; 15:00 PM
Online Bids Submission Last Date	28/04/2025; 17:00 PM
Physical Hard Copy Submission	28/04/2025; 17:00 PM
Technical Opening & Responsiveness Check	29/04/2025; 12:00 PM
Bid Validity	150 days from the bid submission deadline

Rest term and condition shall be same. For any queries, please refer to the e-Tender portal https://etender.up.nic.in

Name:- Savita Yadav
Designation:- Additional Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam Varanasi.
Contact:- 7565806391
Email:- amc1.nnvns@gmail.com
nsa.nnvns@gmail.com

MORADABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Pili Kothi, Jalkal Compound, Moradabad-244001 (U.P.)

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Ref. No : 497/PA-2/C.E./NNM/2025-26 Date: 09-04-2025

Sr. No.	Name of the work	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.)	Tender Fee with GST@ 18% (Rs.)
1.	हनुमान मूर्ति के समीप हनुमान वाटिका विकसित किये जाने का कार्य।	11.90 Lakhs	11800.00
2.	खेलो इण्डिया (वेस्ट टू आर्ट) पार्क।	24.00 Lakhs	11800.00

Key Dates:-

S.No.	Description	Date and Time
1.	Start Date for Purchase of Tender (Online)	**11/04/2025 at 10.00 AM**
2.	Last Date for submission of Tender (Online)	**01/05/2025 at 04:00 PM**
3.	Technical Bid Opening (Online)	**01/05/2025 at 05.00 PM**
4.	Authorized Representative	Chief Engineer, Nagar Nigam, Moradabad.
5.	Office Address	Office of the Chief Engineer, Nagar Nigam, Moradabad.
6.	Email for correspondence	**moradabadnagarnigam@gmail.com**

Note:-
1. Tender Document and other details shall be available on Website- **https://etender.up.nic.in**
2. Amendment to NIT, if any would be published only on website **https://etender.up.nic.in**
3. Bank Details for online payment-
   A/C Holder Name - NAGAR NIGAM MORADABAD E-TENDERING
   A/c No - 27050100020717
   Bank Name - Bank of Baroda
   Bank IFSC code - BARB0BLYMOR (5th Character is Zero)
4. Document Fee Rs. 11,800/- (Eleven Thousand Eight Hundred Only) has to be paid through **FDR/NSC/RTGS/NEFT** during the Downloading of RFP Document & Payment of RFP Document Fee in favour of "Municipal Commissioner, Moradabad Municipal Corporation".
5. The NIT may be postponed or cancelled at any time due to administrative reasons and no claim shall be entertained of this account.
6. All the documents are to be submitted online.

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Uttar Pradesh e-Procurement Portal https://etender.up.nic.in from **11/04/2025 at 10:00 Hours** (IST) onwards. Online bids are invited for the following works up to **01/05/2025 at 16:00 hours. Technical Bid will be opened on same day at 17.00 hours at Office of the Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Pili Kothi, Moradabad.**

For more details on the tender and bidding process you may please visit the above mentioned portal.

Chief Engineer
Nagar Nigam, Moradabad

TT-01

Government of Odisha
Sports & Youth Services Department
Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar-751012
Email: deptsportsodisha@gmail.com

No. SYS-IT-MISC-0002-2023/9263/SYS **9th April 2025**

CORRIGENDUM

Sports and Youth Services Department, Government of Odisha issued **corrigendum** to the RFP No. SYS-IT-MISC-0002-2023/8308/SYS, Dated: 25th March, 2025 for **"Selection of Public Relations & Communication Agency" for Sports Youth & Services Department, Government of Odisha**. The details of the RFP & Corrigendum document are available at the below mentioned website.

Website: https://tendersodisha.gov.in & https://sports.odisha.gov.in

Interested firms / parties / agencies are advised to study the RFP & Corrigendum document carefully before submitting their bid.

Important Dates & Information:

Date of Publication of RFP: 26th March 2025
Date of Publication of Corrigendum: 9th April 2025
Last Date and Time for Submission of Bid: 21st April 2025, 05:00 PM
Opening of Technical Bid: 22nd April 2025, 11:00 AM

Sd/-
Additional Secretary

OIPR-29001/11/0071/24-25

C-85

Capital Region Urban Transport
Bhubaneswar • Cuttack • Puri

Capital Region Urban Transport
Plot No-548/1452, Patia, Kalarahanga
Bhubaneswar, Odisha (INDIA), Pin- 751024
Email: crutbbsr@gmail.com; Phone No.: 0674-3501580

Notice No. 810 /CRUT **Date: 10.04.2025**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF FIELD OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FOMA) FOR CAPITAL REGION URBAN TRANSPORT.

Capital Region Urban Transport (CRUT) invites Proposal from interested agencies for the above-mentioned purpose. Please refer the RFP document for details.

- The RFP document shall be available from **11.04.2025** onwards in following web portal: **www.capitalregiontransport.in. Any further intimation (i.e. Corrigendum/ Addendum/ Responses to the queries/ Clarifications) shall be uploaded in the above website only.**
- Applicants are required to submit duly filled Proposal as per the prescribed formats on or before **28.04.2025 by 4:00 PM.** The Proposals received shall be opened at **12:00 PM** on **29.04.2025**.
- In case of any queries/clarifications, **email at crutbbsr@gmail.com**
- CRUT reserves the right to accept or reject bid process without assigning any reasons thereof.

Sd/-
General Manager (P&A)
Capital Region Urban Transport

OIPR-13183/11/0035/24-25

Govt. of Bihar

Bihar State Power Generation Company Limited
5th Floor, VidyutBhawan, Bailey Road, Patna – 800 021

Website:https://bspgcl.co.in, Email ID:chiefengineerbspgcl@gmail.com
CIN: U40102BR2012SGC018888
2nd Tender Extension Notice of
NIT No.02/PR/BSPGCL/2025

Online e-tenders for request for selection (RfS) (single bid two envelope system) from technical capable and financial sound positioned bidders for setting up of total 125 MW/ 500 MWh standalone Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) under Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) with support of Viability Gap Funding (VGF) under Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) model in the state of Bihar at different Grid Sub -stations of Bihar State Power Transmission Company Limited (BSPTCL) for a period of 12 years.

The due date for submission of bid and opening of the tender (online) is hereby extended as per below schedule:

Last Date of Online Sale of Tender document	Upto 14:00 Hrs. of 22.04.2025
Last Date of Submission of Original EMD	Upto 15:00 Hrs. of 23.04.2025
Last Date of Online Submission of Tender	Upto 17:00 Hrs. of 23.04.2025
Date of Opening of Technical Part (Part -I)	15:00 Hrs. onwards on 24.04.2025
Date of Opening of Financial Part (Part-II)	Eligible Bidders will be intimated through e-mail.

1. Other terms & conditions will remain same.
2. However, for any enquiry bidders may contact on following: -
   (i) Contact No.7763813863, 7763813856, 7260800413.
   (ii) E-mail Id- chiefengineerbspgcl@gmail.com

Chief Engineer, BSPGCL

e-Procurement Help Desk
Toll Free Number: 1800 572 6571, Email Id: eproc2support@bihar.gov.in
Working Hours: 8AM to 7PM (All days in week except Sunday and few selected state holidays)

PR- 00704 (B & C) 2025-26 नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

BIHAR STATE POWER (HOLDING) COMPANY LIMITED
(A Govt. of Bihar Undertaking)
(Department of General Administration)
Reg. Office : Vidyut Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna – 800 001
GST No. - 10AAFCB2394A2ZD,
CIN No. U40102BR012SGC018495

Govt. of Bihar

NOTICE
EMPLOYMENT NOTICE NO.- 01/2024
PR No. – 20684 (B&C) 2024-25

Candidates, who either requested for extension of joining or did not appear on the scheduled date of joining on 07.04.2025, are hereby given a last opportunity to submit their joining on 17.04.2025, 9:30AM at Vidyut Bhawan, Bihar State Power (Holding) Company Ltd., Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Patna – 800001 on the post of Assistant Executive Engineer (GTO) against Employment Notice No. – 01/2024. A notice in this regarded has already been uploaded on the company website www.bsphcl.co.in.

2. No separate offer letter will be sent to such candidates. The formal signed/ original offer letter will be provided at the time of their joining.
3. Candidates must note that no more chance/ extension will be allowed for joining on the said post.
4. No TA/DA will be admissible for joining.
5. For more details kindly visit company's website www.bsphcl.co.in

PR. No. 000847 (B&C) 2025-26 **General Manager (HR/Adm.)**

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

गर्भावस्था की पहली तिमाही में माँ की एच.आई.वी. और सिफलिस की जाँच जरूर करायें।

C-

ବିଜ୍ଞାପିତ ଅଞ୍ଚଳ ପରିଷଦ, ରେଡ଼ାଖୋଲ

OFFICE OF THE
NOTIFIED AREA COUNCIL, REDHAKHOL
(ODISHA), DIST - SAMBALPUR
E-mail: conacrdl@gmail.com

'e' Procurement NOTICE
No. 898 / NAC Dt. 09.04.2025
Bid Identification No. RDL NAC-1/2025-26
Tender ID- 2025_ORULB_112355

The Municipal Executive Officer on behalf of NAC Redhakhol invites tenders in Single Cover System, Bid documents consisting of specification the Schedule of Quantities and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen the Govt. Website i.e. **https://tendersodisha.gov.in**

1. Number of Civil works/Others : (31) numbers
2. Estimated Costs : 1.68 crore to 10.16 crore
3. Period of completion : As per NIT
4. Date and time of availability of the bid documents in the portal : From 10.00 A.M. of 10.04.2025 to 05.00 PM of 24.04.2025
5. Last Date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal : 05.00 PM of 24.04.2025
6. Bids will be opened on : 9.00 AM of Dt. 25.04.2025
7. Name and address of the officer inviting bid : Executive Officer, NAC Redhakhol

Sd/- **Executive Officer**
NAC Redhakhol

OIPR-13175/11/0007/24-25

NORTHERN RAILWAY
OPEN TENDER NOTICE

The Divisional Engineer/Track, Northern Railway, DRM Office, Delhi Division, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055, for and on behalf of the President of India invites sealed open electronic tenders for under noted work:-

NIT No.	Name of Work	Approx Cost of Work	Earnest Money to be deposited	Completion period	Date of opening
02	Supplying of machine crushed hard stone track ballast confirming to RDSO's specification IS/RDSO-GE/0001-2023 of February'2023 (as amended vide upto date correction slips) including leading to loading point and loading the same into BOBYN type wagons from NIJAMPUR Railway Station (in NWR Region). The rate is Inclusive of all cost, labour, materials, tools, plants, equipment, machinery, all lead/lift, handling/re-handling, loading/unloading, transportation, crossing of Railways tracks/nalah/river/ stream as required, Safety precautions in vicinity of Railway track, inclusive of all Royalties, taxes (including GST) levied by Central/State Govt. & local bodies and all other incidental charges etc. complete in all respect.	Rs 3,70,07,000	Rs 3,35,000/-	06 Months	02.05.2025

The e-tender is to be submit through railway website 'https: **ireps.gov.in** The tenders can be submit on website up to 15:00 hrs. on 02.05.2025 and shall be opened there after. **NO: 128-W/Sr.DEN-C/NIT-02-2025-26-WC Date: 09.04.2025**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1084/25

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
B & R DIVISION, HPPWD, SOLAN-173212
TEL. NO :- 01792-223811 E-MAIL :- ee-sol-hp@nic.com

CORRIGENDUM

The E-tenders for the work "Construction of center of Excellence for Divyangjan at Kandaghat Distt. Solan HP (SH: Construction of building portion of blocks A,B,C and D including site development, retaining structures, water supply, sanitary works, rain water harvesting tank, underground water tanks, landscaping work, fencing, internal road work, i/c internal electrical works, fire fighting, fire alarm, solar palnt, DG, LAN and EPBAX, CC TV, HT lines, AC ect.)" was invited vide this office letter No. PW-SD/CB-Tender/2025-26-39-49 dated 02.04.2025, due to some technical/Administrative reasons the following terms for this work may be read as under.

Sr. No.	Particulars	"Instead of"	"May be read as"
1	Estimated Cost	Rs. 58,69,04,036/-	Rs. 58,69,04,751/-
2	Earnest Money	Rs. 1,17,38,080/-	Rs. 77,69,100/-
3	Time for completion	18 months	24 months

Others terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Executive Engineer,
Solan B & R Division,
HPPWD, Solan.

Advt.No. 0147/10/04/2025 **HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK**

O-28 email - serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA

NO :_____/ **Date:_____/**

E-Procurement Notice for PMGSY maintenance works

1. Name of the work : Periodical Renewal work of 5 year post DLP PMGSY Roads (02 Nos)
2. Class of contractor : "B" & "A" Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : **Varies from Rs.99.72 Lakhs to Rs. 169.51 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4. Details projects as per Annexure attached :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCS BD-Online-01/2025-26	10.04.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	24.04.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	23.04.2025 up to 2.00 P.M.	25.04.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the website **https://www.pmgsytenders.gov.in** for PMGSY maintenance work.
6. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender website.

Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda
OIPR-25182/11/0051/24-25

O-41 email - serwsbd2003@yahoo.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SUNABEDA

NO :_____/ **Date :_____/**

E-Procurement Notice for Roads with Bridge works

1. Name of the work : Construction of Road with Bridge Works - (10 Nos)
2. Class of contractor : "B", "A", Special & Super Class of (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : **Varies from Rs. 208.99 Lakhs to Rs. 2371.88 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4. Details projects as per Annexure attached :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda	CCERWCS BD-Online-02/2025-26	17.04.2025 at 11.00 A.M.	07.05.2025 up to 5.00 P.M.	06.05.2025 up to 2.00 P.M.	08.05.2025 at 10.00 A.M.	To be intimated separately

5. The details of works can be seen from the website **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
6. Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender website.

Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Sunabeda
OIPR-25182/11/0052/24-25

CAD-86

ODISHA POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha undertaking)
AT-IB THERMAL POWER STATION, PO: BANAHARPALI, DIST: JHARSUGUDA, ODISHA-768234
Phone no: (Land Line No. 06645-289232/221/355/356/245)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

OPGC invites sealed bids from bona fide and financially sound Registered Agencies /Firms /Companies for execution of the following Works & Supplies for its Thermal Power Plant at Banharpali.

Works Tenders: NIT No. ITPS/CC-22/2025-26/01, Date: 11/04/2025

SL.No	DESCRIPTION	BID SALE DATE
1	Service contract for oil filtration in boiler and CHP area.	15.04.25 TO 30.04.25
2	Phase Array Ultrasonic Testing of U#3	11.04.25 TO 28.04.25
3	Construction of passenger retiring room Toilet for Development of Bus Stop at Telenpali village under Telenpali GP	11.04.25 TO 28.04.25
4	Servicing of High/Low Pressure Valves, Butterfly and Safety Valves for Annual Overhaul Work of Unit # 3&4 TG & BOP (FY- 2025-26)	18.04.25 TO 06.05.25
5	Deployment of competent person at ITPS for inspection and certification of lifting item as per Factories Act.	18.04.25 TO 06.05.25
6	Increase of height of compound wall of DAV(English) and North side of D1 Block at ITPS Colony	18.04.25 TO 02.05.25
7	Collection of steel scrap inside OPGC plant premises	18.04.25 TO 02.05.25
8	External painting of D3 block, new guest house IB club and Guest house boundary wall	21.04.25 TO 06.05.25
9	Painting of CMT, Learning Center & C-Type block near Learning Center	21.04.25 TO 06.05.25
10	External painting of D1 block (4 Nos. Block)	21.04.25 TO 06.05.25
11	External painting of 22 Nos. of E-type Qtrs	21.04.25 TO 06.05.25
12	Construction of New Pipe Culvert Adjacent to the Existing Culvert at Unit 1 & 2 Ash Pond Entrance Gate.	21.04.25 TO 06.05.25
Supply Tenders:		**BID SALE DATE**
1	Supply of Steel Items	ITPS/Pur/25-26/1230000030 — 11.04.25 to 23.04.25
2	Supply of IDCT PVC Fills	ITPS/Pur/25-26/1230000029 — 20.04.25 to 10.05.25
3	Procurement of HCSD Pump Suction Strainer Assembly & Elements	ITPS/Pur/25-26/1230000024 — 14.04.25 to 30.04.25
4	Procurement of KGVs	ITPS/Pur/25-26/1230000025 — 14.04.25 to 30.04.25
5	Procurement of Square Port Knife Gate Valve	ITPS/Pur/25-26/1230000026 — 14.04.25 to 30.04.25
6	Procurement of Fluidising Tiles	ITPS/Pur/25-26/1230000027 — 14.04.25 to 30.04.25
7	Procurement of Aci Bends & Expanders	ITPS/Pur/25-26/1230000028 — 14.04.25 to 30.04.25

The detailed NITs along with Terms and Conditions are available for download at OPGC website at www.opgc.co.in. Addenda/Corrigenda/ Extensions, if any, will be notified on the OPGC website only and will not be published in any other media. Interested companies or entities may visit OPGC website for the tender timeline and other details.

Sd/-
Manoj Pradhan
DGM, Contracts

OIPR-04067/11/0021/24-25

Government of Uttar Pradesh
Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow

email-dirdcf.ah-up@gov.in, dir.ah.up@nic.in, Ph. No. 0522-2742880 Fax: (0522) 2740202

No. 04/Pur.Cell/E-Tender/Vaccine/2025-26, Dated: 01 April, 2025

NOTICE FOR INVIATION OF E-TENDER

Online tenders through e-procurement system are invited for rate contract of various vaccines for the financial years 2025-26 under the Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P., from sole manufacturing license holders firms who have minimum 03 years manufacturing experience for the quoted vaccines. Tenderer firm should not be blacklisted or debarred in any department/government institution in the country for last 02 years and quoted products are not found Not of Standard Quality by competent authority for last 3 years. If Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or by any other competent investigating agency recommends for stay or cancellation of existing rate contract, action shall be taken accordingly as per provision of U.P. Procurement Manual 2016. Tenderers should have valid manufacturing license, non-conviction certificate, performance Certificate, market standing certificate, Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) certificate, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) certificate and ISO certificate. Only those tenderer will be eligible to participate in tender whose turnover for last 03 years is not less than Rs. 5.00 crore each year. MSME/SSI units of U.P. are exempted from Turnover condition & MSME/SSI units of U.P. will be given purchase preference as per government policy. It is also to inform that only those tenderers who are registered for e-tendering (documentary proof for registration in U.P. Electronics Corporation Ltd., (UPLC), Lucknow is necessary to enclose) and having digital signatures in reference to this office memorandum No. 3157/Pur.Cell/Kra,Ni./E-pro/2016-17 dated 15-03-2017, shall be eligible to participate in e-tendering in Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. Details regarding e-tender, tender Terms & Conditions and tender form would be available on the departmental website http://animalhusb.upsdc.gov.in http://etender.up.nic.in within the stipulated period.

Particulars	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs.	Tender Documents cost Rs.
E-Tender for approval of rate of vaccines for the financial year 2025-26 **Schedule(A)** H.S. Vaccine **Schedule(B)** Anti-rabies Vaccine **Schedule(C) For remaining other vaccines** (B.Q., Theileriosis vaccine Swine Fever, Sheep Pox, Goat Pox. Enterotoxaemia, Porcine cysticercosis & Poultry Vaccines)	As per schedule of requirement Section III(B) of tender documents, for estimated value of the goods upto Rs. 1.00 lakh (one lakh) Rs. 1500.00 and for each additional Rs. 1.00 lakh and part there of Rs. 1000.00 as bid security.	Rs. 25,000.00 + GST

Cost of Tender Form (Non-refundable) in shape of Demand Draft of any nationalized/ scheduled bank in the name of Director, Administration & Development, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow and amount of Earnest Money in shape of Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) of any nationalized/scheduled bank pledged in favour of Director, Disease Control & Farms, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow should compulsorily be deposited in the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Badshahbag, Lucknow. The scanned copy of the Cost of Tender Form and e-Bid Security/EMD must be submitted along with the e-Bid and the original should reach to Director, Disease Control & Farms, Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow **preferably on or before end date of submission of e-Bid but in any case, not later than 5 days after end date of submission of e-bid.** Online e-bid should be submitted through U.P. Govt. e-tender website http://etender.up.nic.in.

The Scheduled dates and time for the Tender are:-

The Scheduled dates and time for the e-Tender are:-

1- Availability of Online Tender Forms: Date 15.04.2025 from 05.00 PM
2- Submission of Online Tender Forms start date: Date 15.04.2025 from 07.00 PM
3- Pre Bid Meeting: Date 22.04.2025 at 03.30 PM
4- Last Date for online submission of tender form: Date 14.05.2025 up to 12.00 PM
5- Opening of Online Tender Forms (Technical bids): Date 14.05.2025 at 03.30 PM

(Dr. Yogendra Singh Panwar)
Director,
Disease Control & Farms, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow

UPID-232121/09.04.2025
www.upgov.nic.in

CONTRAPUNTO

If you call failures experiments, you can put them in your resume and claim them as achievements

– MASON COOLEY

Don Was Dusted

What was the point of Trump's tariffs? US got a financial scare & economic gains, if any, will be small

Anyone expecting the Don to flow quietly for the next 90 days is plain tired. In 80-something days of his presidency, Trump's already imposed, raised, discounted and paused tariffs more times than you care to remember. Now that everyone, barring China, is tariffed at the 10% baseline, and markets have expressed hysterical relief – but US futures are showing signs of a sugar crash – we may ask, what was the point?

Trump's always been Tariff Man. In his 2011 book *Time to Get Tough,* he advocated a flat 20% tariff on all countries – "No more free admission into the biggest show in town." Last year's US poll was all about the economy, and tariffs were Trump's top prescription. So the surprise is not that he imposed them, but that he backed off so fast. It begins to make sense, though, if you consider tariffs as an interesting experiment.

Trump sold tariffs to voters as a fix for American manufacturing's decline. Surprisingly, even Wall Street types – you, Bill Ackman – backed him because he was seen, in the words of a Wharton School professor, as "the most pro-stock market president we have had in our history". Markets took Trump's first tariff announcement on Jan 31 – 25% on Canadian and Mexican imports, 10% on China – rather well. S&P 500 lost just 0.5%. But the incessant hammering, uncertainty, and the indiscriminate tariffing of all countries, eventually proved too much – for markets, voters and billionaires.

The Economist's 'Trump approval tracker' shows he's never been less popular in the past six months. During April 2-8, S&P 500 lost about 12%. For ordinary Americans, that kind of stock market mayhem means reduced wealth and pensions. Fears of a recession coupled with tariff-induced inflation also weighed on them. Meanwhile, Trump's billionaire friends were spooked by the prospect of a "self-induced nuclear winter". As for Trump, bonds – treasury bonds – bent him. That investors were dumping US bonds meant more than ordinary instability. The experiment had to end.

When, or rather if, the tariff dust settles, the best case scenario is that US may have a smaller trade deficit, but with its strong currency it can't expect low-value manufacturing – textiles, garments, toys, laptop assembly – to return like it's the 1950s. As the world's reserve currency, the dollar is always in demand, hence valuable. So, US goods can't compete on price alone. But Trump's stirred a hornet's nest with tariffs and everyone will pay a price for it.

To Weather The Weather

Summer 2025 is expected to be as severe if not more than last year. Have heat action plans kicked in?

In 2024, the first heatwave hit east and south India on April 5. This year's first heatwave hit Mumbai in Feb. Last year was the hottest year on record; 2025 is expected to set a new record for longer, more frequent and more intense heatwaves. It's estimated that extreme heat could impact over 70% of India's land area in a few decades. April-June is peak heat, but it's the wet bulb phenomenon that ensures high power demand till Sept. Add to that poorly designed cityscapes that create urban heat islands. Heatwaves majorly drive the spike in demand for cooling – 70% of which is met via fossil fuel generation to run the 10mn-15mn new ACs India adds annually. A World Bank wonk noted India is set to become world's largest market for ACs – that by 2037, "every 15 seconds, an air conditioner will be sold in India." Yet, a telling data point: AC penetration in India is just 8%. This fact demands pause.

Are we prepared? On the one hand, there's the power demand – April-Sept 2024 was 6.1% higher than 2023; April to June 2024 demand rose by 10.4% – a third of the rise from increased use of air conditioning. Parliament was told domestic coal stock stood at 53.2MT (as of March 18), sufficient for 20 days for a power plant to run. Per GOI, India's prepared to meet summer 2025 peak power demand of 270GW, up from 250GW met in 2024.

On the other hand, what about the remaining 90% of households, their livestock and pets? It is hoped heat action plans in 23 states have rolled out – from regular clean-water supply, to providing roadside shade & shelter, tweaking work hours, ensuring no loss of livelihood, providing protection from heat strokes to quick attention to myriad heat-related conditions. This is especially needed for those who work outdoors: from gig workers to airport ground staff and traffic cops, vendors and street dwellers. Summer's a bruising battle.

The write to work

Technology frees us from boring chores, so that we can do what we really want to

Jug Suraiya

Thanks to a tip from a neighbour, I've made an amazing discovery that's a game-changer for Bunny and me.

It's a free app on my phone that transcribes my spoken words into printed text, ready for publication.

Being not just digitally challenged but digitally defeated, I've always handwritten my columns and articles, which Bunny would key in on her laptop for me. A boring job for her.

But now, thanks to my new found app, my handwritten pieces can be dictated directly into my phone, which turns them into text, saving time and trouble for Bunny who no longer has to perform the task of keying them in.

This app has led to an even greater discovery. Namely, of how technology has helped to liberate us from dull, humdrum chores, and leave us free to get on with work we really want to do.

There's a world of difference between mindless drudgery – like typing up handwritten script or spending hours totting up long columns of numbers when the calculator on your cell phone can do it for you in half a jiffy – and work, real work, which fully enlivens us and which we love.

jugular*vein*

When we say we look forward to weekends or holidays because then we don't have to 'work', what we really mean is that we don't have to go to a job, which we might find unexciting but which gives us a livelihood, or do daily repetitive chores.

Days off allow us to do work that we truly enjoy. In the case of an enthusiastic cook, such work could be trying out new recipes for friends and families to savour. To someone with a green thumb, it would be tending flowering pots and plants. To a bird watcher, it would be spotting a rare species. To a philatelist, the study of stamps. To a dancer, the perfection of mudras. To an athlete, the raising of the bar a notch higher.

Work is what engages us, body and soul. It is the prayer we make in thanksgiving for the boon of life.

Trumped By Treasuries, Not Protest

US president kept golfing over the weekend as 'Hands Off' protests spread across the country. It's 'yippy' investors offloading American bonds alongside stocks that finally forced a U-turn

Dan Cassino

Prof of Govt & Politics

There is now a level of opposition in US that the Trump administration doesn't seem to know how to respond to. Trump surrogates strained to defend his disastrous tariffs in the face of a cratering stock market. And instead of nervous investors seeking safety in US Treasury bonds, they started selling these too. It's the bond market red flag that seems to have finally got to Trump, causing him to back down.

He now claims that he will wait another three months before putting most of the tariffs in place. It's hard to trust this, after so much vacillation. The question now is whether broad-based opposition to Trump will keep up. Is his retreat on tariffs strategic, or the first sign of a rout?

Over the weekend, millions of Americans took to the streets in more than a thousand separate 'Hands Off' protests. There have been precursors in anti-DOGE rallies held at Tesla dealerships. It was the size of the protests that was the surprise, as the scattershot nature of Trump's first months in office starts to catch up with him.

Though Trump was always going to hurt someone, his supporters didn't think they'd be the ones suffering. Just as they started to feel this, Trump backed down from his hard line on tariffs.

His first term saw the largest protest marches in US history to date – women's marches, marches for science, and Black Lives Matter protests. But those were focused on specific grievances, while the demands of the Hands Off marches have been more varied.

Sponsored by more than 150 different groups, they oppose every aspect of the administration – gutting of federal programmes, tariffs, projected cuts to Social Security and Medicaid. The administration might actually have been able to sell the public on some tariffs – there was little resistance to the targeted tariffs of the first Trump term. But the ridiculous, poorly thought-out tariff proposal he put forward on April 2 was too much even for his supporters.

Chaotic as the many tariff U-turns have been, these are of a piece with the cavalcade of often illegal policy announcements that has left the opposition reeling. Rather than concentrate on one message, the opposition has been forced to try and keep up with Trump, barely putting together a response to one assault before the next one starts.

That's been an advantage for Trump, but the protests show the danger of such a strategy. Attacks on one group – immigrants, trans people, universities – might be overlooked by others. Attacks on many groups simultaneously, combined with higher prices, risk mobilising everyone.

While the president and Republicans have promised not to cut Social Security – which sends monthly cheques to more than 70mn Americans – or Medicaid – which provides health insurance to almost 80mn – people who depend on these programmes aren't buying it.

Chad Crowe (USA)

Trump and DOGE head Elon Musk have claimed that there is substantial Social Security and Medicaid fraud – though all of their evidence to date has come from misunderstandings of how the system works. These claims of fraud are important, because you could, in theory, cut spending by ending fraud and waste without cutting benefits.

Cuts to programmes that help poor people, immigrants, minorities, women were expected, and politically, benefits that go to these kinds of groups are expendable. But when middle class people feel they're being targeted by cuts, or see increased prices due to tariff chaos, it becomes harder to ignore the damage.

Social Security might seem like it's just a programme for the elderly poor. It's not. Most Americans don't have enough money to comfortably retire, and wind up depending on it as a supplement.

Poorly tested software updates to the programme, pushed by DOGE, have already led to panic among retirees. Now they can't access their benefits online. At the same time, staffing cuts mean their calls are on hold for hours and help centres they would otherwise have visited are closed down.

Similarly, Medicaid cuts may be targeted at the poor but it pays for about half of all long-term care in US. Consider for example that nursing home care is enormously expensive, averaging about $70,000 a year, and isn't covered by health insurance. As such, Americans who need such care and can't afford it are advised to bankrupt themselves, spending or giving away all their assets until they're considered poor enough to get Medicaid.

Higher prices due to tariffs and a collapsing stock market might make the process of running out of money easier, but that's hardly something people are happy about.

Until now, Trump has been shielded by Congressional Republicans unwilling to risk his ire. At any point, Congress could reverse DOGE's cuts or roll back his tariffs, but Republican members have been resigned to the idea that their own supporters seem to like Trump's policies.

Only in the last few days have there been any cracks in this façade, with Republican Senators pushing a bill that would rescind the president's authority to set tariffs, an effort mostly mooted when Trump mostly rescinded his proposal for high tariffs, postponing them (again) after repeatedly promising that he wouldn't (this time).

In the first term, tariffs, like most of Trump's actions, were narrowly targeted, limiting the opportunities for widespread resistance. Black people or people concerned with climate change or immigration advocates might march, but there wasn't the sort of general mobilisation we've seen in the past weeks.

More than 60% of Americans own stocks. As their value was plummeting due to Trump's tariffs, he was spending the weekend golfing. On his flight back to Washington, what he repeatedly stressed to reporters was that he had won his match. But the April 9 U-turn suggests the cries of investors if not protesters finally got through.

The writer teaches at Fairleigh Dickinson University, US

Why Can't We Laugh & Therefore Be Free?

Recent state responses to satire remind us that free speech flourishes in societies comfortable with sharp comedy, historical complexity and ambiguity

Gautam Bhatia

British TV series Monty Python staged an episode called 'Ministry of Silly Walks'. In it, along with buildings for ministry of finance, and department of education, stood the building for 'Ministry of Silly Walks' where bureaucrats in black suits and bowler hats demonstrated ridiculous and exaggerated walking styles.

If we in India were to, similarly, set up a 'Ministry of Free Speech', perhaps it could be jointly headed by Kunal Kamra or some other provocative comedian along with some of the more volatile members of Shiv Sena. The ministry's primary objective would be to manage the tension between free speech and the people it targets.

Of late, cases against stand-up comedy have been multiplying. Within weeks of the FIR in Jan against Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi over his Instagram post, came the police investigation of Ranveer Allahbadia's allegedly obscene remarks on a YouTube channel – followed by an FIR against Kunal Kamra over his comic criticism of Eknath Shinde. Kamra also received death threats after his comic video *Naya Bharat*. Madras HC has granted him relief from arrest till April 17.

Given the variety of mounting offences, the 'Ministry of Free Speech' would need sections dedicated to hurt humorous sentiments, another for vandalism, one for public morality, yet another for censorship, and perhaps some more, as FIRs pile up.

What then of the freedom to preserve past speech and past actions? Historical narratives and ideas are after all carefully and consciously preserved in books, monuments and museums, in order that we retain a culture of self-awareness. But in today's volatile climate they've become flashpoints for public debates.

Recent demands to demolish Aurangzeb's tomb in Khuldabad, for instance, despite its ASI protected status, only highlight our selective approach to history. Obviously, no one is suggesting that Aurangzeb be given space in the Central Vista canopy at India Gate, but why should one of the rare examples of architecture of the Mughal period be demolished? Shouldn't then his portraiture also be removed from Indian museums, despite the paintings being some of the finest artworks of Indian miniature tradition? What then of the Mughal gardens in Kashmir? Should they too be obliterated?

Similar patterns persist elsewhere. In US, Trump has issued a new directive to alter history displayed in public institutions like the Smithsonian, to "restore truth and sanity to American history". The order which talks of portraying American values is seen by many as a cover to remove narratives of racism and slavery. However, the American federal court will most likely object and intervene, protecting as it does, an unusual variety of free expressions – including flag burning as protest, clothing with political symbolism, as well as indecipherable art like Jackson Pollock's abstract paintings – all safeguarded under the First Amendment.

Uday Deb

Free speech flourishes in societies comfortable with comedy and satire, historical complexity and ambiguity. In a humourless society, heavily burdened with a self-appointed religious conscience, free speech however remains a mongrel idea. Roaming and scavenging where it can get a few bites, and trying to stay clear of censoring authorities.

Messy and complex as it is, our history is filled with heroes and villains; with Shivajis, Gandhis and Aurangzebs; not to forget numerous blots difficult to bear, and equally difficult to erase – Operation Bluestar, Bihar famines, Babri Masjid demolition, Dalit oppression, Jallianwala Bagh massacre, destruction of Buddhist shrines, among others. Acknowledging this contradictory heritage is crucial.

Sadly in the black and white landscape of our current political and social reality, the cases are too often simplistically of defamation or hurt religious feelings. Subtler legal variations, more publically significant, are still awaited. Will someone sue a company for soiling our most sacred river by dumping sewage into it? Will someone else take a state govt to court for banning the killing of an animal seen as an important staple? Could yet another sue a local school system for not providing adequate primary education? It may be a long time before our legal cases leave the world of private insults for something of real national value.

Monty Python remains more relevant today than ever. Through the 'Ministry of Silly Walks' it reminds us of the cultural necessity of allowing any and all expressive matter to exist side by side – comedy, painting, writing, satire, whatever – matter that is meaningful for some, offensive to others, complete nonsense to yet others.

Maybe while matters simmer in courts, we might not just consider establishing a 'Ministry of Free Speech', but also a dedicated 'Ministry of Offence' (distinct from ministry of defence) – a govt body meticulously documenting who has offended whom, complete with published rankings and awards for the most creatively offended citizens, along with an honours list of offenders announced during Republic Day celebrations. With govt handling the ministry, at least for once, the humour would be taken seriously.

The writer is an architect

Calvin & Hobbes

Sacred*space*

The common mistake that bullies make is assuming that because someone is nice that she is weak. Those traits have nothing to do with each other. In fact, it takes considerable strength and character to be a good person.

Mary Elizabeth Williams

Was Mahavir The World's First Existentialist?

Sumit Paul

It's imperative to know that Jainism is often described as not atheistic in the strictest sense, but rather transtheistic or nontheistic, as it rejects the idea of a creator god but acknowledges the existence of siddhas, liberated souls worthy of respect, not worship. The West had three types of existentialists: Theistic, atheistic and non-theistic. While Sartre and Camus were atheistic existentialists, the Danish existentialist and a key figure in existentialism, Søren Kierkegaard, was a non-theistic but 'believing'.

Mahavir's existentialism stands out because of its expanse, non-categorical and non-denominational nature and spirit. Mahavir wasn't a nihilist or a spiritual anarchist. He did believe, but not in a conventional manner. His belief wasn't orthodox. It was revolutionary as well as dynamic. Mahavir emphasised the importance of individual effort and Self-realisation as the path to moksh. He rejected the authority of gods and rituals, emphasising power of individual action and importance of understanding the nature of reality. Mahavir's philosophy focused on inner transformation and pursuit of spiritual liberation through ethical conduct and self-discipline.

Mahavir's exalted concept of existential spirituality blossomed into universal morality. Mahavir believed that morality didn't ensue from any god or religion. Morality began as an existential necessity, which became universally accepted conscientious behaviour. His teachings centred around nonviolence, truth, non-stealing, non-attachment, and promoting a life of purity and virtue. At the same time, Mahavir highlighted that his teachings were not innovations but reaffirmations of eternal truths. He didn't postulate anything unprecedented or unique. All moral acts, actions, and rules are eternal and created by humans.

THE SPEAKING TREE

Morality is an existential necessity because it revolves around humans and begins and ends with humans. Mahavir propounded self-inquiry and self-effort; he realised through deep meditation that when man is the measure of all things, his morality is an intrinsic part of human behaviour. Since no higher being is dictating morality, it must emerge from within individuals.

According to the Uvasag Dasang Sutta, divinity lies in truly self-realised humans. Jainism does not believe in a conventional god who created, maintained, or controlled the universe or intervened in human affairs. However, it understands the importance of human proclivity to worship and follow a 'higher' being. So, enlightened beings such as jinas and Tirthankaras overcame themselves, attained liberation, and are considered worthy of respect and emulation.

To sort out all types of existential crises, Jainism gave anekantavad, pluralism, to the world that believes in the validity of all viewpoints. In other words, don't jeopardise your existence or someone else's just to prove that you're right and the other person is wrong. Respect, even if you can't accept all views; even if the truth is subjective, and reality is relative. Imbibe the spirit of Mahavir.

Honour individual and collective existence. Instead of following and worshipping imaginary gods in heaven, follow your conscience. That's the real god. Mahavir always underscored this.

From killing to skilling: Ex-Maoists choose new course in Bastar school

A first-of-its-kind initiative launched by Chhattisgarh govt in the state's Maoist hotbed is offering vocational courses for surrendered rebels. TOI visits the training centre to see how the path away from insurgency is being paved

Rashmi.Drolia@timesofindia.com

As the reign of terror wanes in the Maoist heartland of Bastar in Chhattisgarh, authorities are on to another critical mission. The counteroffensive is not based on the usual strategies, but they hope it contributes towards the making of Bastar 2.0. Because this one aims to reshape the future of rebels who have laid down their weapons for a life of normalcy.

Not many residents of Bastar division's Bijapur would know that tucked away behind high walls in one corner of the town is the state's first formal rehabilitation centre for surrendered Maoists. When **TOI** visited the place, it found the first batch of 58 former Maoists — mostly aged 19-25 years — learning the basics of construction. Hands that once clicked bullets into magazines now picking up tricks of brickwork, eyes following the thread of a plumb line that once squinted down the sights of an AK-47.

School Is Cool

They start their day early, at 5.30 am, in much the same way as they would in the forests, with physical exercise. But what follows breakfast is a session in the classroom. During breaks, they play volleyball and badminton. Back in their quarters, they take turns to cook meals.

Most of them are illiterate. So, basic reading and writing is a must. Others get computer lessons. This batch is learning the ropes of building and construction. There are theory and practical classes. A slideshow presentation covered construction techniques, a coach and a translator explaining things in the Gondi dialect.

"Once, they stood around an instructor in the jungle, taking weapons and IED lessons. Now, they are watching a 'mistri' teach them how to ensure walls are straight and bricks are aligned," said an officer.

Those among them who'd gone to school were forced to drop out in class 5 or 8 when Maoist recruiters came calling. "Guns slung across their shoulders, the cadres would come with the diktat: 'Give us at least 10 young girls and boys or the village will be ostracised'. Families that do not hand over a child do get ostracised. No 'jal-jungle-jameen' for them," said a 20-year-old, who asked not to be named.

He surrendered recently after eight years as an outlaw. He remembers waking up in a panic at every slightest sound in the jungle. "Two more boys from my village had joined the Maoists along with me. Both were shot dead in encounters. I was heartbroken and terrified and decided to give up violence," he said.

Another youngster, aged 19, recalled how miserable it was to sleep on wet ground in forest hideouts without a roof overhead. "In just two years, I felt I was done. It was horrible. Often, gunfire would jolt us awake in the middle of the night. I wanted desperately to get out, but it wasn't easy," he said.

Dial M For Metamorphosis

The younger Maoists **TOI** spoke with were fascinated by gadgets. "On the rare occasions when we visited our village, we would see youngsters playing games or watching videos on their phones. And there we were, living miserable lives for an ideology that none of us understood or really believed in. Life in the jungle is very hard. After some time, you begin yearning for very basic things, like peaceful sleep," said a 20-year-old.

As they embrace the mainstream, a police officer said that the "desire for a better life and easy access to mobile phones are diluting the younger cadres' dedication towards Maoist ideology". Their trainer, Ved Vyas Sahu, said he's surprised how quickly the tribal youths are acquiring new skills. "There was an air of uncertainty on both sides in the beginning. We were not sure how far we would be able to go together. But it seems the former cadres have already undergone a lot of training in the outfit. The quality of their work shows their competence," he said.

Bastar range inspector general of police P Sundarraj said that the surrendered cadres who are interested in other work, like textile and garments, are shifted to govt-run factories. "Many wish to study and are provided good education," he said. Now, Chhattisgarh govt has decided to open similar rehab centres in each district headquarters in Bastar division.

BJP govt in Chhattisgarh has recently approved the State Naxal Surrender/Relief and Rehabilitation Policy-2025. One of its standout provisions allows panchayats in hypersensitive areas to declare themselves 'Maoist-free' and get work approvals worth Rs 1 crore.

Also, an official said, "If 80% or more cadres of a platoon/battalion/area committee surrender together, then the state govt will pay them double the amount of bounty placed on their heads". Besides, govt has decided to give 15,000 houses under PM Gramin Awas Yojana for surrendered Naxals and families affected by Maoist violence.

Reclaiming Their Lives

But turning a new leaf is not easy. Especially, for hardcore ultras. **TOI** spoke with one of the most dreaded Maoists of Bijapur, who is said to be behind the killing of more than 100 people. He admits that it was quite late before he realised that Maoist ideology was like "slow poison". Locals weren't happy when the benefits of Chhattisgarh's rehabilitation policy for surrendered cadres were extended to him. He says it was how the insurgency works.

"When one leads a group of 100 Maoists as an area committee member or divisional committee member, all the killings carried out by the cadres under them are attributed to the leader. They are also the ones who get punished if a wrong person is killed."

A govt officer said it's about looking at the "bigger picture". "It's a big fight against a violent ideology... If we don't wipe off their crime records after they surrender, other big commanders are less likely to give up arms."

"The junior-ranked former cadres are given skill development training and are free to work as they want. The security of senior rank cadres is a matter of concern and they are usually settled around camps in the town itself and are trained to work as sentries or inducted in the District Reserve Guards," the IG said.

An officer added that "they can't be kept in barracks for long as they get frustrated and want to go out on operations". "Surrendered Maoists can begin to go back to their native place if their region has enough security camps, but not to areas with a security vacuum."

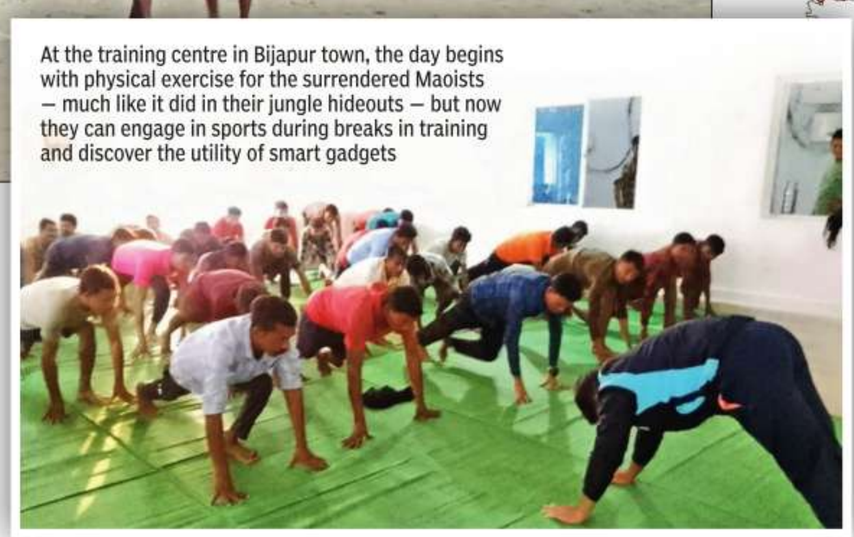
'Weird And Wonderful'

For the younger members at the camp, thoughts of making a fresh start bring an equal share of joy and jitters. "I was jumpy at first. We are used to watching over our shoulders all the time. Freedom felt weird and wonderful at the same time. Now, I will go back to my village and work as a mason at construction sites," one of them said.

But will villagers accept them in their midst? "I feel that instead of disowning us, they will welcome our decision to surrender. They would be relieved that both their lives and ours are safe. We are all sons of the same soil," said a 23-year-old.

TOI visited the village of one of these youths, around 30km from the district headquarters, where a villager said, "*Takleef to hai, lekin sukoon bhi hai ki hinsa kam hogi* (There's the pain of the past, but relief, too, that the violence will decrease)."

802 Maoists surrendered in Chhattisgarh in 2024. The number so far this year is 216



At the training centre in Bijapur town, the day begins with physical exercise for the surrendered Maoists — much like it did in their jungle hideouts — but now they can engage in sports during breaks in training and discover the utility of smart gadgets

The first batch of surrendered Maoists at the Bijapur centre is being trained in construction work. Along with basic reading and writing lessons, computer classes are also held for them

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी. एल.-33004/99 REGD. NO. D.L.-33004/99

सत्यमेव जयते

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-09042025-262365
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असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY
भाग II-खण्ड 3-उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II-Section 3-Sub-section (ii)
प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 1627] नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, अप्रैल 08, 2025/ चैत्र 18, 1947
No. 1627] NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, APRIL 08, 2025/ CHAITRA 18, 1947

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 8th April, 2025

S.O. 1658(E).—Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, **1015 Dated:27/02/2025**, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Subsection (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intension to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of NH 02 in the stretch of land from Km. 199.66 to Km. 323.525 (Collectrate, Etawah) in the district of ETAWAH in the state of UTTAR PRADESH.

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in **"Times of India (English)"** and **"Navbharat Times (Hindi)"** both dated **02.03.2025**; under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

Now, therefore, in compliance of sub-section (3) of Section 3G, the Competent Authority hereby invites all the landowners or persons interested in the land being acquired under these proceedings to submit their claims in respect of the land mentioned in the Schedule given here-in-below within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Public Notice in the office of the Competent Authority i.e. Office of Competent Authority(L.A.)/ ADM (F/R), Collectorate Etawah.

All the persons interested (owner of the lands and other interested person(s)] in the lands specified in the Schedule given below are hereby called upon to submit their claims in the said land their share, area of land, any assets attached thereto e.g. structures/ trees etc. and state the nature of the respective interest in such lands along with relevant records. The said landowners or persons interested therein shall also furnish the particulars of their Bank Accounts to which they would like their compensation amount to be credited. The claims may be submitted in the following indicative format:

Name of village/ Town	Name of the Landowner/ interested person	Field Survey No.	Area of land in his share	Any structures/ trees/tubewell attached to the land	Name of the Bank & Branch in which he/she holds the Account	Particulars of the Bank Account No. ..... IFSC Code of the Bank Branch

Competent Authority (L.A.)/ ADM (F/R) , Collectorate Etawah

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the NH 02 in the stretch of land from Km. 199.66 to Km. 323.525 (Collectrate, Etawah) in the district of ETAWAH in the state of UTTAR PRADESH

District: Etawah
https://egazette.gov.in
Publication date: 10.04.2025
https://bhoomirashi.gov.in//showFile_qrD.cshtml?TAB=bGFfVGhyZWVEX2ZpbGVz&fk=bm90aWZpY2F0aW9uX2lk&fkid=NTg3MTc=&EncHid=2527038&type_id=1
Note : Physical copy of this notification is also available at the office of CALA/ PIU/ RO and land owners may also see the notification there.

[F. No. NHAI/11013/2011-L A/Notif/2017/PIU-AGRA/3D]
SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
General Administration Department (GAD/MEst-2)
Mantralaya, Mumbai-400 032.

Tender Notice

Hon.Chief Minister's official residence "Varsha", "Nandanvan" and "Devagiri Bungalow" Official residence of the Hon. Dy.Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Tenders are invited through e-tendering system from experienced suppliers for supply of good quality food products for a period of two years. The Annual turnover of this work is approximately Rs.10.22 Crores (Rs.Ten crore twenty two lakhs only). The sample of tender is available on the website of Maharashtra Government http://mahatenders.gov.in and all the tender process will be done online.

Sd/-
Under Secretary,
General Administration Department

DGIPR/2025-2026/163

Government of Uttar Pradesh
Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow-226007

No. 02 /Pur.Cell/E-Tender/Minerised cattle lick/2025-26, , Dated: 01.04. 2025

NOTICE FOR OF E-TENDER

Online tenders through e-procurement system are invited for rate approval of **Mineralised Cattle Lick ISI (01 kg pack as brick)** marked (As per Schedules of requirement mentioned in table below) under the Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. (for the financial year 2025-26) from (1) Sole manufacturers, (2) Repacking license holders, (3) such Third party manufacturers (who are producing for Tenderer), (4) loan licensee and (5) bearer of import license; who have minimum 05 years manufacturing experience for the quoted **Mineralised Cattle Lick ISI** marked. Tenderer should not be blacklisted or debarred in any state/ department/government institution in the country for last 02 years and quoted products are not found Not of Standard Quality by the Competent Authority for last 3 years. If the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or any other investigating agency recommends the existing rate contract of the concerned firms for staying or cancellation, the action shall be taken accordingly as per U.P. Procurement Manual 2016. Tenderer should have valid Manufacturing License, Non-Conviction Certificate, Performance Certificate, Market Standing Certificate, Good Laboratory Practices (GLP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and ISO certificates and other eligibility as per detailed tender documents. The Tenderer should have BIS/ISI Certificate for the items for which BIS/ISI mark is required. Only those tenderer will be eligible to participate in tender whose turnover for last 03 years is not less than Rs. 5.00 crore each year MSME/SSI units of U.P. are exempted from Turnover condition & MSME/SSI units of U.P. & Government of India Undertakings (C.P.S.E.) will be given purchase preference as per government policy. It is also to inform that only those tenderers who are registered for e-tendering and having digital signatures in reference to this office memorandum No. 3157/Pur.Cell/Kra,Ni./E-pro/2016-17 dated 15-03-2017, shall be eligible to participate in e-tendering in Department of Animal Husbandry, U.P. Detailed terms and conditions and other details along with proforma for Tender Documents would be available on the departmental website **http://animalhusb.up.nic.in** and U.P. Govt. E-Tender portal **http://etender.up.nic.in** within the stipulated period.

Particulars	Earnest Money (EMD) Rs.	Tender Documents cost Rs.
Tender for approval of rate of Mineralised **Cattle Lick ISI** (for the financial year 2025-26) as per schedule of requirement given below- 1. **Mineralised Cattle Lick ISI Marked (IS-920: 1972) (1 kg pack as brick)**	As per schedule of requirement Section III(B) of tender documents, for estimated value of the goods upto Rs. 1.00 lakh (one lakh) Rs. 1500.00 and for each additional Rs. 1.00 lakh and part there of Rs. 1000.00 as bid security.	Rs. 15000.00 + GST

Cost of Tender Form (Non-refundable) in shape of Demand Draft of any nationalized/scheduled bank in the name of **Director, Administration & Development, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow** and amount of Earnest Money in shape of Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) of any nationalized/scheduled bank pledged in favour of Director, **Disease Control & Farms, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow** should compulsorily be deposited in the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, U.P., Badshahbag, Lucknow on or before the date and time scheduled for submission of e-tender. Online **e-bid should be submitted through U.P. Govt. e-tender website http://etender.up.nic.in**.

The Scheduled dates and time for the Tender are:-

The Scheduled dates and time for the e-Tender are:-

1- Availability of Online Tender Forms: Date 15.04.2025 from 05.00 PM
2- Submission of Online Tender Forms start date: Date 15.04.2025 from 07.00 PM
3- Pre Bid Meeting: Date 22.04.2025 at 03.30 PM
4- Last Date for online submission of tender form: Date 14.05.2025 up to 12.00 PM
5- Opening of Online Tender Forms (Technical bids): Date 14.05.2025 at 03.30 PM

UPID-232120/09.04.2025
www.upgov.nic.in

(Dr. Yogendra Singh Panwar)
Director,
Disease Control & Farms, Animal Husbandry, U.P., Lucknow

Government of India
Ministry of Railways

Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs)

Recruitment of Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP) 01/2025
Indicative Notice

Applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the post of Assistant Loco Pilot given in the table below. Applications must be submitted **ONLY THROUGH ONLINE MODE.**

Opening date of Application: 12-April-2025
Closing date for submission of Application: 11-May-2025 (23:59 hours)

Name of the Post	Pay Level as per 7th CPC	Initial Pay (Rs.)	Educational & Medical Standard	Age as on 1.7.2025	Total Vacancies (All RRBs)
Assistant Loco Pilot (ALP)	2	19,900/-	Annexure-A of the detailed CEN	18 – 30 years	9970

Candidates are strongly advised to verify their primary details using Aadhaar, during filling of online application, in order to avoid inconvenience and additional delays due to special detailed scrutiny at every stage of recruitment process for Non-Aadhaar verified applications. In order to achieve successful verification using Aadhaar, Name and Date of Birth in Aadhaar shall be get it updated to match 100% with the Full Name and Date of Birth available in Tenth class pass certificate. Similarly, Aadhaar needs to be updated with latest photo and latest biometrics (Fingerprint & Iris) before filling the online application.

This notification is purely indicative in nature. For full details, the applicants are advised to go through the detailed CEN No. 01/2025 (ALP) thoroughly before filling up the ONLINE application. Any corrigendum/addendum /important notice related to the aforesaid recruitment shall be issued time to time on the websites of RRBs listed below:

Websites of RRBs Participating in CEN No. 01/2025			
Ahmedabad www.rrbahmedabad.gov.in	Ajmer www.rrbajmer.gov.in	Bhopal www.rrbbhopal.gov.in	Bhubaneswar www.rrbbbs.gov.in
Bilaspur www.rrbbilaspur.gov.in	Chandigarh www.rrbcdg.gov.in	Chennai www.rrbchennai.gov.in	Guwahati www.rrbguwahati.gov.in
Jammu Srinagar www.rrbjammu.nic.in	Kolkata www.rrbkolkata.gov.in	Malda www.rrbmalda.gov.in	Mumbai www.rrbmumbai.gov.in
Muzaffarpur www.rrbmuzaffarpur.gov.in	Patna www.rrbpatna.gov.in	Prayagraj www.rrbald.gov.in	Ranchi www.rrbranchi.gov.in
Secunderabad www.rrbsecunderabad.gov.in	Siliguri www.rrbsiliguri.gov.in	Thiruvananthapuram www.rrbthiruvananthapuram.gov.in	Gorakhpur www.rrbgkp.gov.in

No. RRB/SC/Rectt./CEN 01/2025 (ALP)
Date: 11-04-2025

Chairpersons
Railway Recruitment Boards

"BEWARE OF TOUTS, BROKERS AND JOB RACKETEERS"

बिहार सरकार

जल संसाधन विभाग
कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमंडल, दरभंगा
निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना सं0 –02SBD/2025-26
राष्ट्रीय स्पर्द्धा निविदा आमंत्रण
(केवल ई–टेन्डर पद्धति के अनुसार वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)

1. कार्य का विवरण –

क्रम सं0	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रू0 लाख में)	अग्रधन की राशि (ऑन लाईन अथवा फिजिकल / मैनुअल मोड में भुगतेय) (रू0 लाख में)	परिमाण–विपत्र का मूल्य (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) (केवल ऑनलाईन मोड में भुगतेय) रू0	बेलट्रॉन को देय "बीड प्रोसेसिंग फी" (अप्रत्यर्पणीय) :केवल ऑन लाईन मोड में भुगतेयद्ध रू0	कार्य पूर्ण करने की तिथि
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	प्रगति यात्रा के दौरान की गई घोषणा के आलोक में पुरानी कमला धार, जीवछ नदी, पुरानी कमला नदी आदि को पुनर्जीवित करने एवं इससे सिंचाई सुविधा बढ़ाने तथा बाढ़ न्यूनीकरण कार्य।	12800.00	138.00	10,000/-	5900/-	15 फरवरी 2027

2. विज्ञापन दाता का नाम : कार्यपालक अभियंता, पश्चिमी कोषी नहर प्रमंडल, दरभंगा।
3. निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना निर्गत करने की तिथि : दिनांक 07.04.2025
4. निविदा कागजात डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की अवधि : दिनांक 28.04.2025 के 10.00 बजे पूर्वाह्न से दिनांक 05.05.2025 के 03.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। (केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)
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6. तकनीकी बीड खोलने की तिथि एवं समय : दिनांक 07.05.2025 के अपराह्न 03.30 बजे (केवल वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in पर)।
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10. विशेष जानकारी प्राप्त करने हेतु : वेबसाईट www.eproc2.bihar.gov.in / www.wrd.bih.nic.in / www.state.bihar.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

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PR. No. 000760 (WRD) 25-26

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पश्चिमी कोशी नहर प्रमंडल, दरभंगा
मो0 :–7463889747

नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।

Sacked teachers will get salaries: Bengal edu min

Says State Govt, SSC Likely To File Review Petition In SC Soon

Poulami.Roy@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: There should not be any problems with salaries of teachers rendered jobless after last week's SC order in the Bengal recruitment scam, state education minister Bratya Basu said Thursday.

Speaking to a news channel, Basu backed up his claim by citing CM Mamata Banerjee's assurance last Saturday to "eligible" teachers and non-teaching staff that their jobs were "safe". West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC), along with the state govt, is likely to move SC for clarifications and file a review petition soon, Basu indicated.

"I do not foresee any problem in (jobless teachers getting their) salary when the CM herself has assured the deprived teachers and other staff that their jobs were safe. They got their salary on April 1 and the SC verdict came after that. The next salary date is May 1, before which we will file a review petition with SC. Is there any scope for uncertainty in this case?" Basu asked.

Basu, SSC chief Siddhartha Majumder and other officials will meet the teachers Friday. "We will listen to what they have to say. There are some who are trying to mislead them (the job losers) to serve their own political agenda. The board has filed a petition in SC mentioning the deplorable condition of schools after losing such a large number of teachers and non-teaching staff," Basu said.

The minister alleged a deliberate attempt to tarnish WB's education system. "But I am confident about the new SSC, they will definitely have a clean and transparent recruitment procedure," Basu said.

At Friday's meet, the minister and his team are likely to urge the affected staff to return to schools, citing the legal follow-ups. "The state, along with SSC and the secondary board, is fighting a legal battle. They should return to their schools, which may help them fight the legal battle, too," Basu said.

Deprived Teachers' Association convenor Mehebub Mandal said they had queries, including those on salary-related matters, that they would like answered at Friday's meeting. They plan to protest on April 16 at Delhi's Jantar Mantar, a day before SC's expected hearing on the matter.

Sukhomoy Sen

Teachers during a protest in Kolkata on Thursday

BJP, CPM, Cong back teachers, stage rallies

Kolkata: Expressing solidarity with teachers rendered jobless following SC order, opposition BJP, CPM and Congress Thursday staged separate protests demanding the resignation of CM Mamata Banerjee, holding her responsible for the uncertain future of thousands of 'untainted' candidates.

The rallyists condemned the police action against eligible teachers Wednesday when they went to the office of District Inspector of School, Kasba, to submit a memorandum.

BJP North Kolkata district unit chief Tamaghna Ghosh along with supporters staged a demonstration in front of Amherst Street PS, shouting slogans against the Banerjee administration, SSC and education department. "While this govt cannot ensure jobs for thousands of deserving teachers, it unleashes police force on them. Shame," Ghosh said.

CPM students' wing SFI took out a rally in College Street, expressing outrage over the "torture of teachers the previous day." SFI state unit member Shuvajit Sarkar demanded the OMR sheets of the 2016 SSC recruitment exam be made public without delay and steps should be taken to restore the jobs of the 'eligible' teachers who were axed.

Activists of Congress also rallied in central Kolkata. The rallies, held almost simultaneously, affected vehicular traffic in most areas of north-central Kolkata for over an hour. PTI

17 yrs old, but 4 of 7 nat'l pharma edu hubs campus-less

Hemali Chhapia | TNN

Mumbai: Seventeen years is a long time to not unpack. However, four of India's seven National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) are still functioning from spaces borrowed from companies as well as makeshift classrooms in local colleges, waiting for permanent campuses to be built.

At the second council meeting of the NIPERs which was held this week, a dean summed up the situation: "Even after 17 years, NIPER Hajipur, Hyderabad, Kolkata, and Rae Bareli are still operating out of transit campuses. The space crunch stifles research and academic growth."

It's a story of institutions suspended in academic limbo. NIPER labs function only where space permits, and class size has been shrinking due to lack of infrastructure. Two of the institutes have no full-time directors; one for NIPER Hajipur was selected on Tuesday, and her appointment raised eyebrows. For NIPER Hyderabad, no one's been suitable by the ministry for the last two years.

"Two heavyweights from the IIT system who are senior professors with academic excellence, JC Bose National Fellow and elected fellows of science academies, were rejected over the candidate who was selected as director. In case of NIPER Hyderabad, applications of senior deans from the existing NIPER system were rejected," said a source.

Four NIPERs haven't had permanent registrars for over five years. At NIPER Guwahati, Hajipur, Hyderabad, and Kolkata, the position of registrar has been vacant for almost five years. Only recently did Hyderabad advertise for the role. "We need immediate appointments. A strong administrative spine is essential if faculty are to focus on academics," said a former director.

This year, many of these institutes, which work under the Union ministry of chemicals and fertilisers, plan to cut back on intake—not because of dwindling interest, but because their master's programmes can no longer afford stipends, said sources. To date, the NIPER JEE notification has not been released, whereas other national entrance exams are nearing the last date of application. Nearly 30% of faculty and non-faculty positions across newly established NIPERs remain unfilled. Administrative offices are manned by people holding "in-charge" titles for years, said insiders.

Students, too, feel the drift. With no designated training and placement officer in any of the NIPERs, campus placement efforts are dented. "We need student voices in the senate—a representative each from the postgraduate and PhD programmes," said a senior faculty member, noting how easily concerns get lost in the administrative vacuum. In all, the NIPERs have about 2,500 students.

The faculty's morale is also in doubt. Some speak of salaries that lag behind those of their IIT counterparts. Faculty pay structures of newly established NIPERs are inferior to those of NIPER Mohali. There are no professional development allowances, no clarity on gratuity schemes. Even a career advancement scheme, a promotional policy that determines promotions, remains unfinished.

A faculty member at one of the institutes said, "In-charge deans have been holding positions for years. Vigilance officers should be appointed as per CVC rules. Without oversight, there's space for power to go unchecked."

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BITTER PILL

K'taka govt favouring big fish with links to mantris: Contractors

Times News Network

Bengaluru/Chitradurga: Days after Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah's economic adviser, Basavaraj Rayareddi, caused a flutter by claiming the state was "No 1 in corruption" before retracting the statement, the Congress govt has faced further embarrassment.

The Karnataka State Contractors' Association has now alleged growing interference by middlemen in govt departments, accusing the administration of favouring big influential contractors while sidelining small and medium ones.

In a letter addressed to Siddaramaiah, his deputy DK Shivakumar, public works minister Satish Jarkiholi, and minor irrigation minister NS Boseraju, association president R Manjunath and general secretary GM Ravindra have demanded an official meeting to discuss the crisis. "In the last 3-4 months, middlemen are spoiling the system," the association said in its representation to the CM.

Manjunath told **TOI** pending dues to contractors have crossed Rs 32,000 crore. "Govt should maintain the seniority list to clear pending bills. However, there are middlemen — described as 'invisible hands' — in each dept, and they help some influential contractors, doing injustice to the small and medium-level contractors."

The association alleged that while departments like PWD, four irrigation corporations, and minor irrigation continue to withhold payments ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 50 lakh, special letters of credit (LoCs) are being selectively used to benefit contractors with political backing. These LOCs, intended for emergencies such as health issues or family events, are reportedly being misused.

Contractors working with BBMP in Bengaluru have also alleged that bribe-demanding middlemen influence bill clearances in the city, favouring those with deeper pockets.

At a press conference in Chitradurga, Manjunath claimed interference by ministers' relatives and aides in department functioning. "While relatives of ministers have gained undue influence across departments, ministerial interference has increased in recent months. The ministers establish proper payment schedules, but intermediaries alter these arrangements to facilitate selective disbursement."

Despite raising these issues in a meeting with DK Shivakumar on Dec 3, Manjunath said their concerns remain unresolved. "Substantial amounts of Rs 100-150 crore are being allocated to influential parties, while smaller contractors face neglect," he said, adding, "The water resources department suspended payments while, in minor irrigation, minister Boseraj's son's involvement raised concerns regarding grants and payments."

SPECIAL LOCs

- Contractors' association, in **letter to CM Siddaramaiah, DCM DK Shivakumar** and other ministers, **alleges interference by middlemen** in govt depts
- Says **influential contractors being favoured by officials,** small and medium-level ones sidelined while clearing bills
- Claims depts, including PWD & irrigation, are withholding payments ranging from ₹5L-₹50L; **special LoCs are selectively used to benefit contractors with political backing**

Varanasi Scaling New Heights under Double Engine Government

Inauguration/Foundation Stone Laying of 44 Development Projects worth ₹3,900 Crore

₹1,046 Crore

Inauguration of 400 KV Substation at Sahupuri (Chandauli), 400 KV at Machhalishahar (Jaunpur), 220 KV at Bhadaura (Ghazipur) and the associated transmission lines

(Uninterrupted electricity supply to residents • Enhanced power supply, greater reliability and improved voltage control)

₹653 Crore

Foundation Stone Laying of Underpass Road Tunnel on NH-31 near Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport

(Safer and smoother transportation • Reduction in commuters' travel time and fuel cost)

₹584 Crore

Foundation Stone Laying of the project for Upgradation and Modernisation of the Electrical Distribution System in Varanasi

by

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

In the august presence of

Anandiben Patel
Governor, Uttar Pradesh

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Keshav Prasad Maurya
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Brajesh Pathak
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Suresh Kumar Khanna
Minister, Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Uttar Pradesh

Anil Rajbhar
Minister, Labour and Employment, Coordination Uttar Pradesh

A. K. Sharma
Minister, Urban Development, Overall Urban Development, Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation, Energy, Additional Sources of Energy, Uttar Pradesh

Ravindra Jaiswal
Minister of State (Independent Charge) Stamp and Court Fee, Registration, Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu'
Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ayush, Food Security and Drug Administration (MOS), Uttar Pradesh

And Other Dignitaries

Date : 11th April, 2025 I Time : 10:00 AM I Venue : Ring Road, Mehndiganj, Rajatalab, Varanasi

Projects for Inauguration

• Widening and strengthening of Umraha-Atesuwa road, Babatpur-Jamalapur road, the stretch from Varanasi-Bhadohi Road to Sewapuri block and Kila Katariya road from Ramnagar-Panchvati Tiraha to NH-19 • Drinking water schemes in 130 Village Panchayats • Beautification and tourism development of 6 wards • Transit hostel at Police Line and Police barracks for 36th Battalion PAC in Ramnagar • Upgradation of Samne Ghat in Varanasi and Shastri Ghat in Ramnagar • Government Polytechnic at Kuru village, Pindra • Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Government College at Barki village, Sevapuri • 100 Anganwadi centers and 356 libraries in rural areas • Installation of sculptures at important locations in Varanasi

Projects for Foundation Stone Laying

• Widening and strengthening of the Kajisarai-Gairaha Murdaha road, Kuru Koilar-Dhaukalganj Sarawan Road, Hathiwar-Churapur-Babatpur road • Renewal of Babatpur-Chaubeypur road • 200 KV Substation at Chaukaghat • MSME Unity Mall in Varanasi • Road bridge between Varanasi Ring Road and Sarnath • Flyovers at Bhikharipur and Manduadih Crossings • Hostel at Varanasi Police Line • Administrative buildings for Shivpur, Mirzamurad, Lalpur Pandeypur and Badagaon police stations • Community halls in 40 Village Panchayats • Beautification of various parks in Varanasi • Renovation of 77 primary school buildings with smart classrooms • 132 KV Substation in Ghazipur

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Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh

TIMES BUSINESS
THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

Apac cos derive a moderate share of revenue from the US.
But, sectors like auto & parts, steel, chemicals, textiles and shipyards, which are heavily dependent on the US, may need govt support if tariffs kick in after 90 days, according to a report

Data as of year-end 2024 for non-financial listed firms. Data captured sales of both goods and services, which could overstate the risk because services are not subject to the US tariffs

Source: Moody's

Reverse Swing: Wall St sinks again, day after Trump blinks

Signs Of Disorder: Dow Jumps Record 8% On Wed, Falls 3% On Thu

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: US President Donald Trump's flip-flop on tariff rates on Wednesday took global investors on a wild ride across markets that in turn created several records for some of the leading indices and stocks markets.

Although investors were relieved by the stock rally, most market commentators are still doubtful if the current volatility will subside. This is because the pace of policy changes by Trump and the wide range of areas he covered in less than three months, has left most business leaders doubting the stability of decisions by Trump.

"Beneath the current euphoria lies a more stubborn truth: Markets may breathe easier in the short term, but the long-term damage to trust is real," said Nigel Green, CEO, deVere Group, a London-based global financial advisory. The US markets' trading pattern in Thursday's early trades gave credence to what experts were thinking. In opening trades, rather than building on Wednesday's record-breaking rally, the US market was deep in the red (down 4%).

US markets which on Wednesday broke several records — S&P 500 jumped 9.5%, the biggest single-day gain since the global financial crisis in 2008-09; Dow Jones Index shot up by 2,900 points, the single-biggest one-day gain ever for one of the world's most tracked indices; and tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite jumped 12.2%, its biggest single-session jump in nearly a quarter of a century — reversed gains a day later.

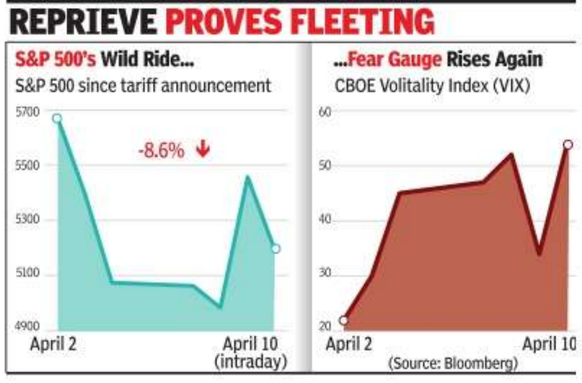
By mid-session Thursday, Dow was down nearly 1,800 points (4.4%), Nasdaq was down over 1,000 points (6.1%) and S&P 500 was trading 280 points (5.2%) in the red.

Earlier, during Wednesday's rally, the magnificent 7 (Mag 7) stocks added $1.5 trillion in just one session, of which $440 billion was by the chip giant Nvidia alone. For perspective, Nvidia's one-day gain in market value is almost equal to India's current market capitalisation of $454 billion, BSE data showed.

"We're now all witness to brinksmanship's costs," a report on Yahoo Finance noted. "The stock market is still well off its highs; retirees are drawing from smaller pools of savings, uncertainty abounds, businesses have already altered investments and hiring, the US foreign relations are strained, and we're still left with a lot more tariffs and an unresolved trade war with China." Dalal Street, however, was saved from any rub-off effect from Wednesday's rally on Wall Street since Indian markets were closed for trading.

When markets open on Friday, trading is expected to be weighed down by Thursday's close on Wall Street, market players said.

REPRIEVE PROVES FLEETING



▸ Why bonds spooked Trump into pausing tariffs, P 22

Banks start reducing loan rates after RBI repo cut

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Several banks revised their external benchmark lending rates after RBI cut repo rate by 25 basis points to 6% on Wednesday. Indian Bank said it will reduce its repo-linked benchmark lending rate (RBLR) to 8.7% from 9.05%, effective April 11. PNB has cut its repo-linked lending rate (RLLR) to 8.85% from 9.1%, effective April 10. Bank of India has revised its RBLR to 8.85% from 9.1%, with the change taking effect from April 9.

The monetary policy committee voted unanimously for a rate cut and to shift the policy stance to accommodative, with RBI stating that it would maintain surplus liquidity in the system. RBI requires banks to link all floating rate loans to an external benchmark. The repo rate cut is expected to reduce lending rates, but may compress banks' net interest margins, since the cost of funds has not declined at the same pace.

Fed signals it's not planning to lower rates

Federal Reserve policymakers worry Trump's trade policy could deal a blow to economic growth, but are signaling they won't be quick to ride to the rescue with interest rate cuts because they expect increased tariffs to boost inflation. Fed officials pointed to the risk of stagflation at their meeting last month, a scenario in which economic growth slows even as inflation remains stubbornly high. Almost all Fed officials viewed "risks to inflation as tilted to the upside and risks to employment as tilted to the downside," according to the minutes of the March 18-19 Federal Open Market Committee meeting. AGENCIES

Trump tariffs put pause on startups' IPO plans

Turmoil Sours Private Market Sentiment Too, Cos May Have To Settle For Lower Valuations

Asmita.Dey@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The market downturn triggered by Trump tariffs have not only upset startups' IPO plans — pushing timelines by at least one to two quarters — the subdued sentiment has also spilled over to private markets where deals are stuck over valuation concerns.

Investors are sitting on enough capital and big private equity (PE) funds are scouting for startup investments, but the correction in public markets have led them to renegotiate valuations, delaying closure of sizable deals, fund managers, investment bankers and consultants told **TOI**. This means that startups in need of funding will have to settle for lower valuations and those who are raising pre-IPO capital will have to make peace with flat valuations. Even as the US has announced a 90-day pause on reciprocal tariffs for countries barring China, uncertainty about the global macro environment persists, leading to investor caution.

"On an average, funds are yet to deploy 25%-30% of the capital they have raised earlier and also new funds are being raised. But valuations are being negotiated for deals that are in the works. If public markets continue to remain subdued, the first leg of discussions will keep getting delayed. Companies that are in need of urgent capital will have to compromise on valuation multiples," said Mehekka Oberoi, fund manager at IIFL Fintech Fund. Investors are back on the table but pricing is a concern, said Amit Ramchandani, CEO and head of investment banking at Motilal Oswal Financial.

Had valuations not been an issue, the flow of big funding deals ($100 million and beyond) would have been higher given that private markets are more attractive at this juncture, said Amit Nawka, partner at PwC. "The market is ripe for growth deals but the question is when will public markets recover? Because public markets have taken a beating, valuations to enter large private deals will be questioned," Nawka said. Over the past few months, PE players like KKR and Kedaara Capital have become active in the startup space—earlier this week fintech Juspay bagged $60 million in funding led by Kedaara Capital while KKR bought stake in Rebel Foods through a secondary transaction in Dec.

"While overall India remains attractive for investors and startups, some tempering of valuations could be expected in select mid to growth stage deals and the stringent evaluation by investors will continue," said Aditya Shukla, partner at Bain & Company.

From a broader perspective, the private markets currently look better and overall funding (including big deals) should pick up pace in the months to come, investors said. "The IPO window is shut for now and listing activity is poised to be significantly lower this year. Rational valuations in private markets should fuel funding in the unlisted space," said Shapath Parikh, co-founder at White Whale Partners.

IMPACT ON FIRMS

- Startups in need of funding will have to settle for lower valuations
- Those raising pre-IPO capital will have to adjust to flat valuations
- Investors to stay cautious because of US-China tariff war
- Private markets look better, overall funding should pick up pace in months ahead

'Pharma cos need to look beyond US mkt'

Swati.Bharadwaj
@timesofindia.com

Hyderabad: With the Trump administration's flip-flops on tariffs giving the Indian pharma industry a headache, experts feel it's time the sector looked at an 'America plus' strategy to reduce heavy dependence on US consumers and explore other markets to derisk business.

The US market dominates India's pharma exports, accounting for over 30% ($9 billion) of the total $28 billion in FY24, while the European Union stands as the second-largest market at around $4 billion. "The industry was relieved when Trump did not announce any tariff earlier and put a 90-day pause on tariffs after earlier stating his intention to impose tariffs on pharma, but the situation is still very dicey," said an industry source.

DERISK STRATEGY

The US market dominates India's pharma exports, accounting for over 30% share

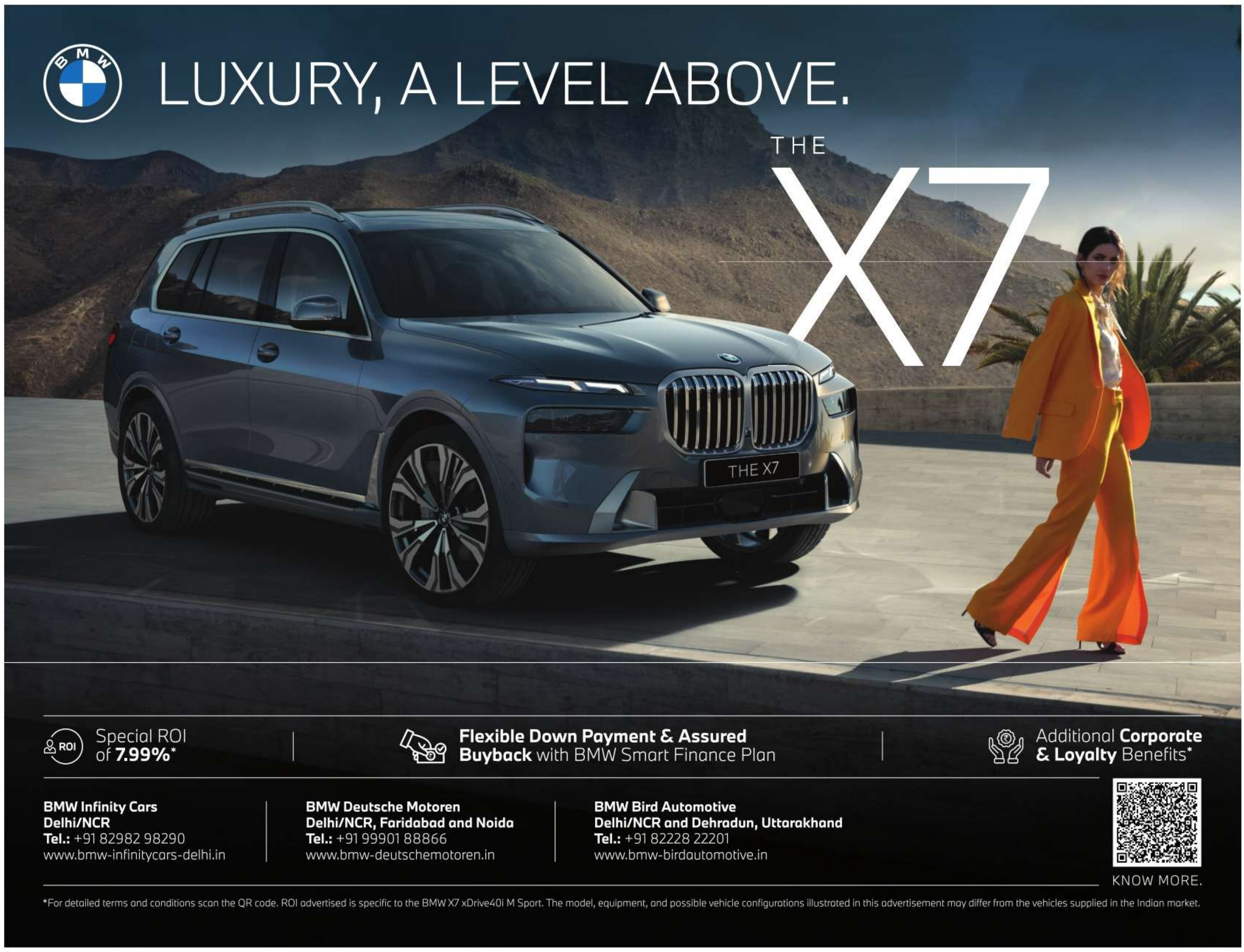
Many major Indian pharmaceutical companies, including Dr Reddy's, Sun Pharma, and Aurobindo, derive 40-45% of their revenues from the US market, making them particularly vulnerable to any adverse policy changes. Prescribing an 'America Plus' strategy for the Indian pharma sector, former Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (Pharmexcil) Director General Ravi Uday Bhaskar said there are significant opportunities in the global generic drug market, which is projected to grow from $430 billion currently to $790 billion by 2030. He advocated market diversification for the Indian pharma sector while maintaining their US presence.

"We can't leave the US as 31% of our products go there, but we also need to look at expanding to other geographies. There is a huge opportunity we can tap in Latin America, Africa, and Asean," said Bhaskar. However, industry sources pointed to some challenges in finding alternative markets that could match the US market's scale.

Global trade slowing as cos pause orders

US President Donald Trump may have announced a delay in some of his tariff plans, but the first signs of an economically damaging slowdown in global trade are already emerging as companies around the world hit their own pause button on orders and he continues to escalate his trade war with China.

Analysts noted that even after the temporary reprieve, the average US tariff rate is still rising to 24%, up almost 22 percentage points since Trump started his second term. That means the hit to economic growth and inflation remains similar in "a shock that will play out over two to three years". Amazon began canceling orders from China and other parts of Asia. Haas Automation, which bills itself as the largest machine tool builder in the western world, said it was reducing production. BLOOMBERG



Byju's founders sued in US over $533mn transfer

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Byju's Alpha, a US-based financing arm of the edtech firm, said on Thursday that it filed a lawsuit in a US court against its co-founders **Byju Raveendran** and Divya Gokulnath, and former chief strategy officer and senior executive Anita Kishore. The complaint accuses them of engineering a fraudulent scheme to transfer $533 million in loan proceeds — referred to as the "Alpha Funds" — out of the company without receiving any value in return.

In a statement issued to **TOI**, Raveendran denied the allegations, calling them "completely baseless and untrue". He said, "This lawsuit is a part of Glas' conspiracy to wrestle control of Byju's through all possible nefarious means. It is nothing but another cog in the wheel of lies that Glas, the illegal representative of disqualified lenders in the US, has been rotating for a long time now." Glas Trust is the trustee for lenders to which Byju's owes $1.2 billion.

Raveendran added that a signed and verified affidavit submitted to the Delaware court outlined the use of the entire $1.2 billion loan "to the last dollar," and alleged the affidavit was "conveniently ignored" by Glas. He also alleged violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) involving individuals associated with the lenders, including "Vishal Chanani of Redwood, Dan Ornstein of HG Vora, and Irena Goldstein of Glas," in connection with an alleged bribery scheme involving an Indian court official. Raveendran stated that Glas is "already under investigation in a criminal case in India."

According to the recent court filing reviewed by **TOI**, Byju's Alpha alleged that the three defendants participated in a "lawless scheme" to divert Alpha Funds from the debtor entity into other group affiliates after the company defaulted on a $1.2 billion term loan in 2022. The filing alleged that Raveendran, acting as the "self-appointed CEO" of Byju's Alpha, transferred the company's limited partnership interest in Camshaft Capital Fund—valued at over $540 million—to a non-guarantor affiliate, Inspilearn, on March 31, 2023, for zero consideration.

Moody's cuts 2025 India GDP forecast to 6.1% from 6.4%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India's GDP growth forecast for 2025 has been revised downwards to 6.1% from the earlier 6.4%, citing the impact of the US tariffs if they are implemented fully after the 90-day freeze announced by US President Donald Trump, Moody's Analytics said on Thursday.

But it also said that it expects overall growth to be relatively insulated from the shock since external demand makes up a relatively small portion of GDP.

"The US is one of India's largest trading partners, so a 26% tariff hovering over imports of Indian goods will heavily impede the trade balance. Gems and jewellery, medical devices and textile industries will be among the worst hit," the agency, which is an arm of Moody's said in a latest report on the impact of the bruising tariffs on Asia Pacific economies.

The agency said that it expects the Reserve Bank of India to lower interest rates, most likely in the form of 25-basis point cuts that would take the policy rate to 5.75% by the end of the year. "This, paired with tax incentives announced earlier this year, should help boost the domestic economy and dampen the shock of the tariffs on overall growth relative to other vulnerable economies," said Moody's Analytics.

Why US bond markets spooked Trump into pausing tariffs

What is the US Treasuries market?
US Treasuries are debt securities (bonds) of varying maturities issued by the US Department of the Treasury to finance the govt's operations, including budget deficits. Because the US issues debt in dollars — the same currency it can print — it is virtually impossible for it to run out of money to repay investors. It is the most liquid investment because there are $27 trillion worth bonds with $600 billion worth bonds being bought and sold every day. Roughly $7.5 trillion is held by foreign govts like Japan, China and India, and the rest is held by the US Federal Reserves, institutions and other retail investors.

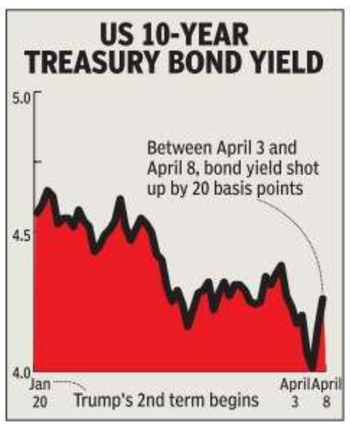
TOI Explains

Why do US Treasuries matter globally?
US Treasury yields serve as a benchmark for global borrowing costs. When they rise, funding becomes more expensive across the board. Investors also use their bond purchases to express confidence in a govt's fiscal management. In the 1990s, the then US President Bill Clinton was forced to roll back his plans for economic expansion as bond markets were spooked by overspending and yields rose. The US has long enjoyed a "safe haven" status, but the tariff shock post April 2 has eroded some of that trust. In the wake of the tariff announcement, borrowing costs for sub-investment grade US firms rose by one percentage point.

What has happened since April 2?
On April 2, President Trump declared 'Liberation Day' and announced reciprocal tariffs on all trading partners with whom the US had trade deficit and a 'baseline' tariff of 10% on others. The move caught global markets off guard. Investors, uncertain about what the tariffs would mean for trade and economic growth, began selling even the safest assets, including Treasuries. By April 7, concerns about a possible US recession were growing. The situation worsened on April 9, when the tariffs officially took effect. That announcement triggered panic in the bond market. Investors rushed to sell Treasuries, causing their prices to drop and their yields to jump.

Why did yields rise?
A bond's yield is the return an investor earns for holding it. It is calculated by dividing the annual interest payment on a bond by its price. When that price falls, yield rises. The converse also holds true. Typically, when interest rates rise — or are expected to — bond prices fall. One possible impact of Trump's tariff was inflation, and therefore expectations of higher interest rates. That's why, by April 9, the yield on the 10-year Treasury reached its highest level in seven weeks. At the same time, the US dollar fell against other major currencies. This unusual mix — rising bond yields and a falling dollar — suggested that confidence in the US economy was starting to crack.

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL SANDEEP ADHWARYU



The initial selloff reflected a scramble for cash amid market volatility. But the moves were amplified by the unwinding of "basis trades," where hedge funds borrow short-term to buy long-term Treasury bonds. This trade assumes falling yields and low volatility. When yields instead rose, leveraged funds rushed to exit, pushing bond prices down further. The 30-year yield rose 53 basis points over three days—its largest such jump since 1982. There were also conspiracy theories about action by the Chinese govt.

What role is China playing in this crisis?
China holds around $760 billion in US Treasuries. There is speculation it could offload some of these holdings in retaliation—though this is considered a "nuclear option" and unlikely unless tensions escalate. However, China has been diversifying its reserves. Reuters reported that the People's Bank of China instructed domestic banks to reduce dollar purchases after the yuan dropped 1.3% in April.

What does the yield curve mean?
The yield curve is a graph that plots the yield (or return) on bonds of different maturities at a single point of time. When investors sell long-term bonds their prices dip and the long-term yield rises, resulting in steepening of the yield curve. On April 9, the gap between 2- and 10-year notes increased by 30 basis points in a few hours. A steepening curve typically signals rising inflation expectations or reduced confidence in long-term fiscal stability. It also increases borrowing costs for businesses and govts, affecting everything from corporate loans to mortgages.

How did the Federal Reserve respond?
Initially, markets had priced in multiple rate cuts for 2025, anticipating a slowdown caused by the trade disruption. But as inflation expectations climbed, the likelihood of cuts diminished. The Fed remained on the sidelines during the bond market turmoil, which further unnerved investors and contributed to rising yields.

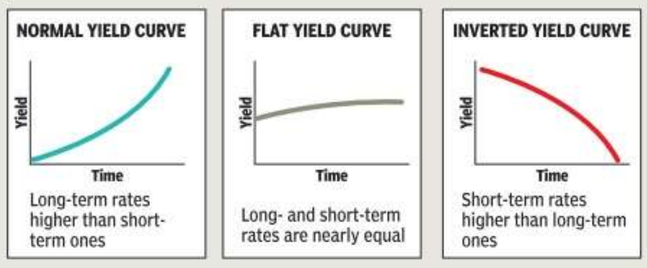
How has the global bond market reacted?
Japan's 30-year bond yields rose to a 21-year high, prompting an emergency meeting of the central bank, finance ministry and regulators. UK gilts reached their highest yields since 1998. German bonds remained relatively stable, reflecting their haven status within Europe. The divergence in responses shows varying levels of exposure and market confidence across economies.

Did the US govt respond to the market turmoil?
Yes. On April 9, Trump announced a 90-day suspension of tariffs for all countries except China, which faced even higher tariffs. The move was seen as a tactical retreat aimed at calming markets and isolating China. It triggered a rally in US equities. Still, uncertainty persists ahead of a major bond sale on April 10 — $39 billion in 10-year notes and $23 billion in 30-year bonds. Wells Fargo cautioned that weak foreign demand and retreating domestic buyers may make for a difficult auction.

What does this mean going forward?
The turbulence in the Treasury market has raised concerns about the sustainability of US debt and the global appetite for it. A key pillar of the financial system — faith in US fiscal discipline — is under pressure. If that trust continues to erode, the world's most important bond market may become more volatile, and more expensive to finance. —**Mayur Shetty**

Understanding Bonds
What Happens When Your FD Goes to Market?

Suppose a fixed deposit you hold in a bank starts getting traded (bought and sold) in the market—bond market.



Why would anybody buy your FD? And at what price?
The answer to both questions lies in interest rate.

Let's assume interest rate on your FD is 6%. One month after you invested in FD, interest rates on similar FDs have fallen to 5.5%. Your FD is more valuable than current FDs, because of the 0.5% higher interest rate it will yield when it matures. There may be investors who will pay you higher than your FD amount to buy it from you.

Alternatively, if FD rates rise, the value of your FD to a potential buyer will fall and you won't be able to sell it unless you reduce the price to a level lower than what your investment was.

Interest rates aren't the only factor affecting your bond prices. Inflation rate, by affecting interest rate, also matters. Higher inflation leads to higher interest rates and vice versa.

It was the fear of higher inflation — caused by higher tariff — that started creating turbulence in the US bond market. Higher prices would mean higher interest rate on bonds, which make old bond with lower interest rates less attractive, and their prices fall.

Credit rating also influences bond prices. If credit raters assess that the country or company issuing bonds won't be able to repay investors on maturity, it will downgrade the bond rating, causing a fall in its price.

Where does yield come into the picture?
Yield is interest rate divided by price. It changes as price changes.

Normally, interest rate on short maturity bonds is lower than rates on medium or long maturity bonds. This is depicted as what is called 'normal yield curve' that is upward sloping in shape and flattening at the top (see chart).

When interest rates on short and long term bonds are similar, we get 'flat yield curve.' This happens during periods of uncertainty when investors are unsure of medium- and long-term prospects.

When demand for short term bonds exceeds that of medium and long term bonds, we get 'inverted yield curve'. This usually happens when investors are not just uncertain but negative about the long term and are flocking to short term bonds. **Such a yield curve is often a predictor of recession.**

Are bonds, treasury bills and gilts the same?
Bonds are classified based on their tenure and issuer. When issued by businesses, they are typically called corporate bonds or debentures. When issued by govts, they are referred to as Treasury bills or gilts. Commercial paper and notes are terms used for short-term debt instruments.

TCS revenue growth slows to 2.5% in Q4

Up 4.2% In FY25 | FY26 Will Be Better: CEO

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: TCS CEO K Krithivasan indicated caution mixed with optimism regarding the current demand environment even as the IT major crossed the $30-billion revenue milestone in FY25. For FY25, TCS's revenue grew by 4.2% in constant currency compared to 3.4% in the previous year.

However, for the March quarter, growth significantly slowed to 2.5% from 3.6% and 5.5% respectively in the preceding two quarters, impacted by curtailed discretionary spending and deferred decision-making.

"Overall, while we had a de-growth of 0.8% on a sequential basis, all the major markets and most industry verticals grew. Based on the order book we've announced and the deals we've signed, while there could be some short-term uncertainty, FY26 will be a better year than FY25. Until Feb, we were quite positive and very optimistic about the quarter. However, in March, we started seeing some uncertainty creeping in, resulting in some project and decision-making delays. We have not seen any major project cancellations. There are some ramp-downs, but there are delays in decision-making. We believe in the next few months, this uncertainty should settle, and we should be back in business," Krithivasan said in an earnings conference on Thursday.

Growth in the mainstay North America market, which accounts for 50% of the overall business, dropped 1.9% in the March quarter and 1.8% for the 2024-25 financial year. TCS's operating margins declined to 24.2% in the March quarter compared to 24.5% in the Dec quarter. CFO Samir Seksaria said the guiding margin beacon remains at 26-28%.

Tariff toll: TCS defers annual hikes

Bengaluru: TCS's decision to defer its annual increments, a rare deviation from its April cycle, coincides with clients' downbeat sentiment emerging from a slowdown and tariff-related uncertainty. "Due to the uncertain environment, we will decide on wage hikes during the year. We don't want to set a timeline for ourselves by saying when we will announce it (hikes). However, we said that once we have clarity, we will announce hikes," said its EVP and CHRO, Milind Lakkad. TCS rolled out average increments in the range of 7-9% in FY24, down from 10.5% in FY22. TCS was one of the few companies to give a hike in April last fiscal. For many IT professionals, excluding a select club of top performers, salary increases have moderated to a single digit. TNN

Tata Sons chief digital officer Subramanian to be TCS COO

Reeba Zachariah
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: TCS has appointed **Aarthi Subramanian** (58) as its new COO, filling the position left vacant after N Ganapathy Subramaniam's retirement in May 2024.

The appointment, effective from May 1, requires Aarthi to step down from her current position as chief digital officer (CDO) at Tata Sons and relinquish her directorships in various Tata Sons subsidiaries, including Tata Industries, Tata Capital, Infiniti Retail, Tata AIA Life Insurance, and Tata Electronics.

Aarthi started her career with TCS in 1989 and joined its board in 2015. In 2017, she was appointed CDO of Tata Sons, transitioning from an executive director of TCS to a non-executive director (NED) of the IT services company.

According to TCS policies, Aarthi received Rs 2.7 lakh as sitting fees in FY24, as NEDs employed full-time with other Tata companies cannot receive commissions. She currently owns 5,600 TCS shares, valued at about Rs 1.8 crore.

The FY24 report of TCS disclosed that key management personnel — TCS chairperson N Chandrasekaran, Ganapathy, and Aarthi — are related.

After his retirement as TCS COO, Ganapathy was appointed chairman of Tata Communications. In her new role, Aarthi will report directly to CEO and MD K Krithivasan (61).

Kohli's Puma stint ends, looks to build one8 brand

Asmita.Dey@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: Former India captain Virat Kohli has ended his long association with German sports brand Puma to join Agilitas as an investor, sources told **TOI**. Kohli had inked an eight-year contract with Puma as its brand ambassador in 2017 in a deal pegged at about Rs 110 crore. The cricketer, sources said, declined to extend the partnership, refusing a Rs 300 crore deal offered by the brand for the next eight years.

Puma India confirmed the end of the brand's partnership with Kohli. "Puma wishes Virat the best for his future endeavours….it was a wonderful association with him spanning over several years, many outstanding campaigns and path-breaking product collaborations. As a sports brand, Puma will continue to actively invest in the next generation of athletes and aggressively build the future of the sporting ecosystem in India," a spokesperson from Puma said in a statement.

Turning investor: **Kohli is teaming up with Agilitas, a company co-founded by former Puma India MD Abhishek Ganguly to expand his brand one8**

Consultancy firm Sporting Beyond, which handles Kohli's business interests, did not respond to queries. Kohli is now teaming up with Agilitas, a sportswear company co-founded in 2023 by former Puma India and Southeast Asia managing director Abhishek Ganguly to expand the growth of his lifestyle and athleisure brand one8 which Kohli aspires to take global.

JLR pips Audi in India to be No. 3 luxury car seller

Defender On The Offensive | Supply Woes Have Hit Performance, Says German Co

Pankaj.Doval
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Tatas-owned Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) entered the Top 3 luxury car ranking by surging ahead of German Audi, with the category crossing the psychological 50,000-unit mark in FY25 for the first time by registering 3% growth in the financial year.

While sales have started to slow down from Jan-March '25 quarter as the stock markets took a beating and some concerns started to build up around the economy, the industry still managed to post growth for full fiscal, registering sales of 51,406 units.

JLR has shown healthy performance, despite near absence of Jaguar models with availability of only a few units of F-Pace. SUVs of Land Rover led the growth. JLR sold 6,183 units in FY25 at a growth of 40% (4,417 units in FY24), ahead of Audi's 5,990 units, where numbers declined by 15% (7,027 in the previous year).

Merc In Top Spot

	FY25 sales	YoY % change
Merc	18,928	4
BMW	15,266	5
JLR	6,183	40
Audi	5,990	-15
Volvo	1,750	-51
Mini	689	-20
Others	2,600	11
TOTAL FY24	49,862	3
TOTAL FY25	51,406	

Source: Industry

"In FY25, Defender was the highest selling-model with a growth of 90%, followed by the locally-manufactured Range Rover and Range Rover Sport at 72% and 42% respectively," Rajan Amba, MD of JLR India, said. The company is hopeful of continuing the growth momentum in FY26. Sources in VW group, owner of Audi, said the brand was impacted by "supply constraints and red sea crisis" last year. "In spite of limited product offerings, the company has started 2025 with growth in quarter one. However, long-term outlook remains challenging until new products arrive."

JLR was behind Mercedes-Benz and BMW, who occupied top two positions in the luxury car market respectively. Mercedes sold 18,928 units at a growth of 4%, while BMW saw numbers move up 5% on sales of 15,266 units.

Mercedes MD & CEO Santosh Iyer said the company's volumes were led by new product launches, as well as upgradation of network. "Strong performance of core and top-end luxury segment remained the highlight of last fiscal," he said.

Vikram Pawah, president and CEO of BMW India, said the brand continues to see healthy demand, and has seen strong performance of its electric vehicles range. "We see healthy adoption of electrics in our portfolio and are confident to grow this share further."

'Indian cos on level-playing field with global peers on tariff pause'

▶ From P 1

While the three-month suspension came as a major relief for Indian businesses, the 10% import duty on all countries, which is in addition to the product-specific levy, however, stays.

"The pause is a welcome relief and offers a much-needed breather to our exporters. It puts us on a level playing field with global competitors, at least temporarily, and allows us to stabilise operations and strategise for the months ahead. The added cost of 10% on our products may lead to a short-term slowdown in demand in the US, as it will make jewellery products more expensive for the US consumers," said Gems & Jewellery Export Promotion Council chairman Kirit Bhansali.

Some experts also suggested that India should seek to bolster its production facilities. "With the US-China trade war escalating and the imposition of substantially high tariffs on Chinese goods, there's a window of opportunity for India to attract global supply chains and position itself as a preferred destination," said Bipin Sapra, partner at EY.

India, UAE sign 8 MoUs to boost ties

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: India and the UAE signed eight memoranda of understanding (MoUs) in Mumbai on Wednesday during a visit by Dubai crown prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed. The pacts — covering infrastructure, healthcare, education, and trade — were signed in the presence of Sheikh Hamdan and commerce minister Piyush Goyal, with the event hosted by Dubai Chambers. The agreements aim to build on earlier frameworks such as the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and the Bilateral Investment Treaty.

Dubai Chambers signed MoUs with the Confederation of Indian Industry, Ficci and the Indian Merchants' Chamber to enhance private-sector collaboration. These will support Indian companies targeting Gulf markets and Dubai-based firms exploring opportunities in India.

BlackRock largest investor in Adani bond issue

New Delhi: Funds managed by BlackRock, the global investment behemoth, emerged as the largest subscribers of the $750-million private bond issuance by the Adani Group.

The US-based asset manager, overseeing $12 trillion in assets, has taken on one-third of the $750 million issuance, which carries a tenure of 3-5 years, sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

This investment comes at a time when Adani Group officials are under scrutiny following a US Department of Justice (DOJ) indictment in a bribery case in Nov last year.

BlackRock's move marks its first private placement in India's infrastructure sector — a segment the firm is increasingly bullish on. AGENCIES

IPL 2025

TODAY'S FACE-OFF
CSK VS KKR
TV TIME 7:30 PM
STAR SPORTS / JIOHOTSTAR

PLAYED 29
Won by CSK 19 (65.52%)
Won by KKR 10 (34.48%)

LAST FIVE MATCHES
CSK L L L L W
KKR L W L W L
VENUE: CHENNAI
ODDS
CSK 12/10
KKR 8/10

"MY LOVE FOR WICKETKEEPING IS BECAUSE OF ADAM GILCHRIST. THE WAY HE USED TO KEEP SO EASILY, THE WAY HE USED TO CATCH... WHILE 'KEEPING, THERE ARE SOME BASICS LIKE SQUAT POSITION ON THE BALLS OF THE FEET. THERE ARE THUMB RULES. I ALWAYS TRY TO POSITION MYSELF IN SUCH A WAY THAT MY SHOULDERS & KNEES ARE IN A BOX."
—Jitesh Sharma | RCB WICKETKEEPER

Syed Asif

93*
Lokesh Rahul's unbeaten match-winning knock is his second highest against RCB, behind the 132* in Dubai (DICS) on Sept 24, 2020.

Rahul Dials It Up At 'Home' Ground With 53-Ball 93* To Fashion Win Over RCB

DC HIT THE KL SWITCH

Manuja.Veerappa@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: After KL Rahul (93 not out; 53b; 7x4; 6x6) scored the winning runs for Delhi Capitals (DC) with a six, he sauntered to the adjoining pitch, drew a circle and thumped his bat on the ground. After all, the M Chinnaswamy stadium is his home turf, and Rahul simply owned the stage on Thursday night.

A flamboyant yet classic batter whose repertoire of strokes runs delightfully deep, Rahul in his backyard is a dangerous proposition, especially if he is dropped by the opposition even before he gets going, as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) found out the hard way.

Rahul, dropped by Rajat Patidar on five, turned match winner in Capitals' six-wicket victory in a tricky chase of 164, ensuring DC cantered home with 13 balls to spare.

Rahul oozed class and composure as he soaked in the pressure of losing early wickets to stitch together a match-winning 111-run (55 balls) fourth-wicket partnership with Tristan Stubbs (38; 23b; 4x4; 1x6).

Defending a modest total, RCB's bowlers were on the money in the first half of DC's chase. The new-ball pair of Bhuvneshwar Kumar (2/26) and Yash Dayal had the crowd on their feet with their swing and testing lengths, sending back openers Faf du Plessis (2), Jake Fraser-McGurk (7) and Abhishek Porel inside the Powerplay. On 58/4 in the ninth over, the visitors had their backs to the wall.

Even as the cloudy Bengaluru skies threatened to open up, Rahul stepped on the accelerator in the 15th over, picking the seasoned Josh Hazlewood for a display of delectable drives and magnificent cover drives which yielded 22 runs. From there on it was just a matter of formality as Rahul and Stubbs ensured a four-match winning streak for Capitals.

SALT ASSAULT

There was an aura of invincibility around Phil Salt. The only person who could have stopped the explosive opener was the Englishman himself. All it took was a stumble on the turnaround and a communication lapse and the momentum tilted in DC's favour. RCB raced to 61 off 23 deliveries with Salt contributing 37 (17b; 4x4; 3x6). Just when it seemed like the combination of Salt and Virat Kohli (22) had set the tone for a run feast, Salt, after a failed bid for a cheeky single, stumbled and then scrambled to make his crease even as Rahul — that man again — hit the stumps.

Salt's dismissal snuffed the impetus as the RCB batting line-up mostly made guest appearances at the crease, crumbling around the lack of pace from spinners and poor shot selection. It took an unbeaten 20-ball 37 from Tim David to take RCB to 163/7, with 36 runs coming off the last two overs.

Devdutt Padikkal's stay at the crease was laboured and Mukesh Kumar ended it in quick time. The hosts ended the Powerplay with 64/2.

The onus was on Kohli and skipper Rajat Patidar (25) to resuscitate the innings, but Capitals unleashed leggie Nigam to render the boisterous crowd speechless. Kohli, looking to drive, failed to control his shot and Starc rushed in from long-off to complete a brilliant catch. Axar Patel's blend of spin and pace attack choked the RCB batters and ensured wickets at regular intervals. Kuldeep Yadav (2/17) and Nigam, with their googlies and flighted deliveries, were impressive.

50 RCB reached fifty in three overs, their second quickest in the IPL behind the 2.3 overs against Kochi Tuskers in Bengaluru on May 8, 2011.

5.56 Kuldeep Yadav's economy rate while claiming 8 wickets at 11.12 in 4 matches, the best among bowlers with at least 6 wickets this season.

30 Runs conceded (including extras) by Mitchell Starc in his second over, the second most by a DC bowler behind the 32 by Anrich Nortje to Mumbai Indians' Romario Shepherd in Mumbai on April 7, 2024.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

SCOREBOARD

RCB: P Salt run out (Nigam/Rahul) 37, V Kohli c Starc b Nigam 22, D Padikkal c Patel b Mukesh 1, R Patidar (c) c Rahul b Kuldeep 25, L Livingstone c Ashutosh b Mohit 4, J Sharma c Rahul b Kuldeep 3, K Pandya c Ashutosh b Nigam 18, T David not out 37, Bhuvneshwar not out 1; **Extras (lb5, nb1, w9): 15; Total (20 ov; RR: 8.15): 163/7; FoW:** 1-61, 2-64, 3-74, 4-91, 5-102, 6-117, 7-125; **Bowling:** Starc 3-0-35-0, Axar 4-0-52-0, Nigam 4-0-18-2, Mukesh 3-1-26-1, Kuldeep 4-0-17-2, Mohit 2-0-10-1

DC: F du Plessis c Patidar b Dayal 2, J Fraser-McGurk c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 7, A Porel c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 7, KL Rahul not out 93, Axar c David b Suyash 15, T Stubbs not out 38; **Extras (w7): 7; Total (17.5 ov; RR: 9.47): 169/4; FoW:** 1-9, 2-10, 3-30, 4-58; **Bowling:** Bhuvneshwar 4-0-26-2, Dayal 3.5-0-45-1, Hazlewood 3-0-40-0, Suyash 4-0-25-1, Pandya 2-0-19-0, Livingstone 1-0-14-0

Result: DC won by 6 wickets (with 13 balls remaining)

1 DC have won 4 matches on the trot for the first time at the start of an IPL season, beating LSG, SRH, CSK & RCB.

111 Runs (unbroken) put on by Rahul and Tristan Stubbs, DC's highest fifth-wicket partnership, going past the 110 (unbroken) between Jean-Paul Duminy and Ross Taylor vs RCB in Sharjah on April 17, 2014.

1001 Virat Kohli has become the first batter to hit 1000-plus boundaries in the IPL.

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NRR	PTS
GT	5	4	1	1.413	8
DC	4	4	0	1.278	8
RCB	5	3	2	0.539	6
PBKS	4	3	1	0.289	6
LSG	5	3	2	0.078	6
KKR	5	2	3	-0.056	4
RR	5	2	3	-0.733	4
MI	5	1	4	-0.010	2
CSK	5	1	4	-0.889	2
SRH	5	1	4	-1.629	2

MS DHONI

Ramesh Shankar

Dhoni to lead CSK, Gaikwad ruled out with broken elbow

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesofindia.com

Chennai: There was much drama in the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) camp on the eve of their must-win game against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). Ruturaj Gaikwad, who was hit by a Tushar Deshpande delivery in the game against Rajasthan Royals in Guwahati last week, appears to have a broken elbow. "Ruturaj has been ruled out of the rest of the IPL with a broken elbow. And now a certain uncapped player called MS Dhoni will lead us," coach Stephen Fleming said.

Gaikwad hasn't been at his best and it will be interesting to see if CSK go back to senior player Rahul Tripathi at the top of the order or throw in one of the rookies — Shaikh Rashid or Andre Siddarth — into the deep end.

Asked whether it was difficult to make Dhoni take up the captaincy again, Fleming said, "No, he understood the situation. Ruturaj didn't want to go but it's an unfortunate situation."

The injury complicates an already complicated situation for CSK, who have only one win out of five. Another loss here on Friday may just make the uphill road to playoffs qualification all the more difficult.

But then, their opponents KKR aren't exactly better off either. They have won only two of their five and it's extremely important that the defending champions take full points here.

There's one thing, though, that may just help the Knight Riders at the MA Chidambaram Stadium — the pitch. They have complained a lot about their home pitch at the Eden, but here, their spinners might get the purchase they are looking for.

WEATHER
33°C

NUMBERS GAME

23 With 23 wickets, Sunil Narine is the top wicket-taker for KKR against CSK.

8 Matches won by CSK vs KKR out of the 11 games played in Chennai, including four in succession between 2013 and 2019.

ARE CSK MAKING THE BEST USE OF RAVINDRA JADEJA?

Dwaipayan.Datta@timesofindia.com

Chennai: For a long time, one of the centrepieces of Chennai Super Kings' success has been Ravindra Jadeja. It was his consistency over the years that made CSK shell out Rs 18 cr to retain him. However, in the five games that CSK have played so far, it seems that their former captain has been underutilised to a degree.

In none of the games did the experienced left-arm spinner get his fulll quota of four overs. In 13 of the 20 available overs that he bowled, Jadeja gave away 105 runs, going at an economy rate of 8.

"We have six options. It's not a set stage for anybody, we try to go according to the situation," coach Fleming said on Thursday.

Meanwhile, as a batter too, Jadeja has been limited to the role of a finisher at a time when the top order has struggled. "We really like his partnership with MS at the back end. That appeals to us," Fleming said.

'There is no fear or restriction now'

Sai Sudharsan, Gujarat Titans' man in form, terms his ₹8.5 cr price tag 'liberating,' says it has helped him focus on his game

Gaurav.Gupta@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: IPL-2025 is turning into a happy hunting ground for Tamil Nadu opener Sai Sudharsan. He is the second-highest run-getter of the season so far, with only Lucknow Super Giants' Nicholas Pooran ahead of him. *Excerpts from an interview...*

Opener or No. 3, which position suits you better?

Anybody would love to open the innings in T20s. You have a little bit more time. I'm enjoying opening in this format.

There are so many contenders for that slot in the Indian team. How does the intense competition make you feel?

India has great talent and there are quality openers and top-order batters. I focus on myself and try to improve so I can be a better batter. Whenever I get an opportunity to play for the country, I should be equipped for that.

Which batter or left-hander have you fashioned your game on?

I've been watching a lot of Murali Vijay (former India & Tamil Nadu opener) videos. I love the way he moved at the crease and the way he batted.

You are the fastest Indian to 1000 IPL runs. Next target?

The record for most runs in the IPL, I'd love to have that. But right now, it's all about taking baby steps and going for wins.

You were bought for Rs 20 lakh in 2022 and retained before this IPL for Rs 8.5 cr. That's a quantum leap. Does that motivate or unnerve you?

That's a good question. I look at it differently. Now I'm in a different price bracket. It gives me more freedom because there is no fear or restriction from my point of view. It's all about cricket from now on. It's all about exploring and giving my best rather than thinking about what I will do to earn money.

You played for Surrey in 2023. Are you looking at a county contract this year too?

I'd love to play a few more county games. A county stint will definitely have a big impact on my batting. I was exposed to a lot of difficult fast bowling and swinging conditions when I played for Surrey.

How has it been playing alongside former England captain Jos Buttler?

It's been exciting. The experience and knowledge that he brings reassures me out there. I get to learn a lot from him.

RR SKIPPER SAMSON FINED ₹24 LAKH FOR SLOW OVER-RATE

Ahmedabad: Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson has been asked to pay a hefty fine of Rs 24 lakh after his team maintained a slow over-rate during their match against Gujarat Titans. "As this was his team's second offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL's code of conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Samson was fined Rs 24 lakh. The rest of the members of the playing XI, including the Impact Player, will be fined either Rs 6 lakh or 25% of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser," an IPL statement said. PTI

Ministry must clarify stand on BFI polls: HC

Sabi.Hussain
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The Delhi high court has directed the govt to elucidate its position on how the Boxing Federation of India's (BFI) long-overdue elections will be conducted after the global governing body – World Boxing (WB) – formed an interim committee to oversee and administer the sport in the country.

The court instructed the sports ministry to clarify its stand concerning the global body's April 7 letter constituting a six-member panel, which will "provide administrative continuity and safeguard the rights and interests of Indian boxers until elections are held and a new democratic executive committee is elected".

Through the formation of the committee, the world body placed the governance of the BFI's affairs into incumbent president Ajay Singh's hands whilst keeping the electoral proceedings in abeyance for an extended period.

"This court is of the view that the union of India, i.e., ministry of youth affairs and sports, ought to bring forth its stance with respect to the letter issued by World Boxing. Furthermore, learned counsel appearing for the union of India shall also indicate to this court on the next date of hearing, as to how the elections of the BFI are now to be proceeded with," a single-judge bench of Justice Mini Pushkarna noted in its order.

ARCHERS WELCOME ADDITION OF COMPOUND EVENT IN LA GAMES

Archiman.Bhaduri
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: India's dream of winning an Olympic medal in archery got a shot in the arm with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announcing on Wednesday the addition of compound mixed team event to the archery programme in the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

The Games will now feature this new medal event, in addition to the existing five recurve events in men's and women's individual as well as men's and women's team and mixed team events.

The news came as a double bonanza for the Indian compound archers just minutes after their men's team opened the country's medals tally at the Archery World Cup Stage 1 with a bronze in Florida on Wednesday.

MORE TO AIM FOR: Abhishek Verma

The Indian trio of Abhishek Verma, Rishabh Yadav and Ojas Deotale defeated Denmark 230-223 in the bronze-medal playoff match. India were unable to field a women's team due to visa issues.

Earlier, the men's team, which qualified fourth, edged past Guatemala 220-218 in the quarterfinals but narrowly lost to Italy in the shootouts in the semifinals. "I was waiting for this news for the past 22 years and now it has happened," star compound archer Verma said. "We will now train harder for the Olympic medal," he added.

"We are now on par with recurve, we are an Olympic event now," Ojas Deotale said amidst rejoicing from his fellow archers.

"An amazing news. I am super thrilled," Jyothi Surekha Vennam said.

India have grown into a dominant force in compound archery over the years and are currently ranked second in the world behind the United States in compound mixed team event.

Dhiraj, Anshika join action in Florida: In a last-minute dash to Florida after getting their US visas, recurve archers Dhiraj Bommadevara and Anshika Kumari managed to join the competition just before the start of their events on Wednesday. Exempted from taking part in the official practice session, both archers qualified as top Indians in their respective categories at sixth and 11th positions, respectively.

ISSF REMOVES KNEELING, PRONE FROM RIFLE 3POSITION FINAL

Tushar.Dutt@timesofindia.com

Pune: The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) president Luciano Rossi is glad that shooting will retain 15 events at the Los Angeles Games 2028.

His fear of the sport losing events at the Olympic Games was real. Indeed, if the international body had not made important changes to the format of some of the events in the line of fire, that may well have been the case.

Luckily, ISSF has made some significant changes in the finals of 50m rifle 3Position, men's 25m rapid fire and shotgun events to make it relevant. Apart from having 60 shots in the qualification round (20 each position), the 3Position event used to have 45 shots in the final that included kneeling, prone and standing positions. The ISSF has removed kneeling and prone positions from the final and the new format will see only the final being played in standing position.

TWENTY-TWO MORE MEDAL EVENTS AT LA

▶ Continued from P1

ICC consists of 12 full members in Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the West Indies and Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, the IOC on Wednesday approved the event programme and athlete quotas for the LA Games, adding 22 more medal events as compared to Paris 2024. IOC approved a record 351 medal events for LA and the athlete quota remains at 10,500. For the first time in history, all team sports will have at least the same number of women's teams as men's. Among other sports, boxing will achieve full gender parity.

SIX NEW SWIMMING EVENTS AT 2028 OLY

Los Angeles: Six new events were added Wednesday to the Olympic swimming programme, with 50m backstroke, butterfly and breaststroke to be contested for the first time at the 2028 LA Games. Previously, only freestyle was raced over the sport's shortest distance despite all four strokes being on the schedule at world championships. Overall there will be 55 medals awarded in aquatics. AFP

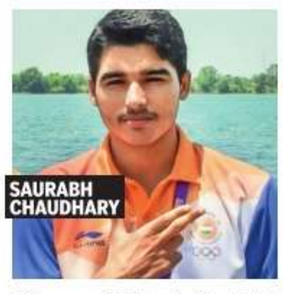
Saurabh-Suruchi duo wins bronze

Tushar.Dutt@timesofindia.com

Pune: Saurabh Chaudhary is back to winning ways. Albeit not the way he was known for – winning gold – but being on the podium again will surely revive the muscle memory that was lost for some time.

Participating in his first World Cup after two years, the former World No. 1 shooter won the 10m air pistol mixed team bronze with Suruchi Singh. The Saurabh-Suruchi pair defeated their compatriots Manu Bhaker and Ravinder 16-8 in the bronze-medal playoff of the Buenos Aires World Cup on Thursday.

ISSF WORLD CUP



SAURABH CHAUDHARY

Suruchi and Saurabh scored 581 to finish third in the qualification round, while the Manu-Ravinder duo had a total of 579 to secure the fourth place.

The top two teams compete for gold, while the third and fourth teams shoot for bronze. The gold match had both Chinese teams. Yifan Zhang-Qianke Ma won gold with a score of 16-10 against Kai Hu and Qianxun Yao.

"It feels great to win a medal again after a gap. Though when I shot my individual match here, I never felt I was away for a long time. But winning a medal made me realise the gap. I am happy to have won today with Suruchi, who is a very good shooter," Saurabh told **TOI** after his match.

Both the Indian teams were tied at six points, but Saurabh and Suruchi started hitting more 10s, while Manu and Ravinder struggled with 9s and some 8s too.

In the mixed team event, the team that reaches 16 points first, wins. While Saurabh won a medal, Manu had to return empty handed from Buenos Aires, as she couldn't win any medal from the three events she had participated in (10m air pistol individual, team & 25m pistol).

Badminton Asia: Sindhu bows out in second round

Manne.Ratnakar
@timesofindia.com

Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto were the exceptions as the rest of the Indians bowed out of the Badminton Asia Championships in Ningbo, China on Thursday. PV Sindhu, Priyanshu Rajawat, Kiran George, Hariharan Amsakarunan-Ruban Kumar and Ashith Surya-Amrutha Pramuthesh all lost their second-round matches.

Dhruv and Tanisha rallied to defeat Ye Hong Wei and Nicole Gonzales Chan of Chinese Taipei 12-21, 21-16, 21-18 to set up a quarterfinal meet with fifth seeds Chun Man Tang and Ying Suet Tse. The Hong Kong pair downed Amri Syahnawi and Nita Violina Marwah of Indonesia 21-15, 21-14.

Despite a 14-11 win-loss record, Sindhu succumbed to Akane Yamaguchi 12-21, 21-16, 21-16. Yamaguchi started with a 4-0 lead and made it 11-5 by the mandatory change of courts. At one stage the Japanese was up 16-10. Though Sindhu reduced the gap to 14-17 she was never in the contest.

Kiran George began well by taking the first game against Kunlavut Vitidsarn before losing 21-19, 21-13, 21-16. The reigning world champion is known for his slow starts but surprisingly, he struggled in the third as well. But the Olympic silver medallist used his experience to get over the line.

GALLERY

'Confident of securing CWG hosting rights'

New Delhi: Sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday expressed optimism regarding India securing the hosting rights for the Commonwealth Games in 2030, notwithstanding the competitive bids tendered by Canada and Nigeria to organise the quadrennial multisport extravaganza.

Pukhraj, Lohan in joint lead: Pukhraj Singh Gill of Ludhiana and Faridabad's Abhinav Lohan fired opening round scores of six-under 66 to hold the joint lead at the Rs 2 crore Indorama Ventures Open Golf Championship 2025 in Ahmedabad.

Lovlina mulls moving to 70kg category: Tokyo Olympics medallist Lovlina Borgohain could move down to the 70kg category after the IOC scrapped her current 75kg weight class for the 2028 Los Angeles Games, forcing her to pick a new division. "I think I will have to move down to 70kg because it will be difficult for me to go up to +80kg," Borgohain said.

Alcaraz eases into Monte Carlo QFs: Carlos Alcaraz cruised into the Monte Carlo Masters quarterfinals for the first time on Thursday with a 6-3, 6-1win over Daniel Altmaier. Jack Draper was knocked out by Alejandro Davidovich Fokina. TNN/AGENCIES

ACTION TODAY

BADMINTON: Asian ch'ship, 7.30 am (Sony) **CRICKET:** IPL: CSK vs KKR, 7.30 pm (Star Sports, JioHotstar); **FOOTBALL:** Bundesliga, 11.55 pm (Sony) **GOLF:** Augusta Masters, 12.30 am Saturday (Fancode)

Barca's Lewandowski, Raphinha And Yamal Decimate Dortmund

THREE AMIGOS

Reuters

THREE OF A KIND: Lamine Yamal (L) celebrates scoring Barca's fourth with Raphinha (R) and Robert Lewandowski

Barcelona: Robert Lewandowski hit a brace to help a devastating Barcelona rout Borussia Dortmund 4-0 in a one-sided Champions League quarterfinal first leg on Wednesday. Hansi Flick's team is a step from reaching the semifinals for the first time since 2019 and extended their unbeaten run to 23 matches. The five-time winners took the lead through red-hot winger Raphinha before Lewandowski reached 40 goals for the season with his double. Teenager Lamine Yamal was an unstoppable force throughout and deftly prodded home Barcelona's fourth as Dortmund collapsed.

Flick warned his team that the job was not done yet.

The coach selected his typical side, with only one decision to make — he opted for Fermin Lopez over Gavi in attacking midfield to support the dynamic forward trio.

Barcelona seized control from the start, opening the scoring after 25 minutes. Lopez whipped a free-kick to the back post, with Inigo Martinez nodding the ball towards Pau Cubarsi, who turned it towards goal. The young defender's effort beat Gregor Kobel and was heading over the line before the tournament's top scorer Raphinha slid in to make sure, claiming his 12th goal.

Lewandowski netted his 10th of the tournament early in the second half. Yamal clipped a cross to Raphinha, who looped a header over to Lewandowski at the far post to nod home from virtually under the crossbar. AFP

QUARTERFINALS 1ST LEG

BARCELONA (Raphinha 25, Lewandowski 48, 66, Yamal 77)	4
BORUSSIA DORTMUND	0

> **Lamine (Yamal), Raphinha and I are working well on and off the pitch. We've got four big steps left in this competition. I've got 99 goals now for Barcelona and I'm pleased with that. But we all need to work as a team, strikers included."**
>
> **—Lewandowski,** ON BARCA'S TERRIFIC ATTACKING TRIO

23 Barcelona have enjoyed a superb 23-game unbeaten run across all competitions. They are the only team in Europe's top five leagues yet to lose in 2025 and are still in the running to win three titles.

36 Barca have now scored 36 goals in 11 games in the Champions League.

14 Lewandowski has scored more goals at the age of 35 and over, than any player in Champions League history. His brace took his tally to 14, moving him beyond Cristiano Ronaldo (12), with whom he was previously tied.

7 Raphinha has scored in each of Barca's last four CL knockout stage matches, hitting seven goals in that span.

PSG put Villa on notice with 2-goal cushion

Paris: A wonder goal from Khvicha Kvaratskhelia upstaged a brilliant curling shot from teammate Desire Doue as Paris Saint-Germain beat Aston Villa 3-1 in the first leg of the Champions League quarterfinals.

After Morgan Rogers gave Villa the lead in the 35th minute, the 19-year-old Doué drew PSG level four minutes later with the 12th goal of his breakthrough season.

Kvaratskhelia put PSG in front four minutes after the break on Wednesday and left back Nuno Mendes added a third goal in stoppage time at the Parc des Princes stadium with a fine finish of his own to the dismay of watching Villa fans, including Britain's Prince William.

"I think they've put the world on notice to how good they are," said Aston Villa goalscorer Rogers on high-flying PSG. "I think the result reflects the difference between us and them," said PSG coach Luis Enrique, whose side has greater firepower and showed more of a threat going forward.

"Our objective is to keep the ball and be aggressive in attack." Kvaratskhelia's was the goal of the night.

He sprinted down the left from just over the halfway line and then mesmerized Villa's defense in a blizzard of quick feet and superb balance.

Advancing at pace with the ball seemingly glued to his right foot, he then wrong-footed defender Axel Disasi with a sudden change of direction, before rolling the ball onto his left foot in one smooth motion and blasting an unstoppable shot over the head of goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez. "For a coach like me it's so great to have a player like him, with his mentality. He scored a brilliant goal," Luis Enrique said about Kvaratskhelia. AFP

KHVICHA KVARATSKHELIA

QUARTERFINALS 1ST LEG

PSG (Doue 39, Kvaratskhelia 49, Mendes 90+2)	3
ASTON VILLA (Rogers 35)	1

Nakamura ousts Arjun; Carlsen vs Caruana in SF

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hikaru Nakamura knocked out Erigaisi Arjun from the title race in the Paris leg of the Freestyle chess tournament on Thursday.

FREESTYLE CHESS

The American won with white pieces to enter the semifinals where he awaits the winner of the match between Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi and first-leg winner Vincent Keymer of Germany. Arjun was left with playing for the 5th to 8th classification spots.

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen survived from an inferior position against Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattorov and escaped to a draw with black pieces. He had won with white pieces the previous day. Carlsen will play Fabiano Caruana in the semifinals. The American beat Frenchman Maxime Lagrave.

Nakamura had his share of troubles out of the opening against Arjun but converted the position of two extra pawns (4 vs 2) in queen, double bishop vs queen and double knight endgame.

Abdusattorov almost outplayed Carlsen in the opening. But the world No. 1 defended tenaciously and transposed the game to rook, bishop, extra pawn vs two rooks and three weaker pawns of the Uzbek.

The second classical games started with 'Position number 73' of the 960 version where the knights started on the 'a' and 'b' files and bishops on 'd' and 'e'. The rooks occupied 'c' and 'h' files and king and queen on 'f' and 'g' respectively.

In the classification matches for the 9th to 12th spots, Vidit Gujrathi and D Gukesh could not win on demand against R Praggnanadhaa and Richard Rapport respectively and will play to avoid the wooden spoon in the 12-player meet. Pragg and Rapport will play for the ninth place.

AIFF panel meets early to decide I-League champs

Marcus.Mergulhao
@timesofindia.com

Panaji: The big suspense over the I-League champions is likely to end on Saturday with the All India Football Federation's appeals committee meeting much earlier than scheduled.

The I-League concluded on Sunday without an official champion for the first time. Churchill Brothers finished on top of the table with 40 points, one more than second-placed Inter Kashi (39).

Ideally, they should have been crowned champions, but with Kashi scoring twice in stoppage time to edge past Rajasthan United 3-1, they are also in contention for a top spot, and consequently a place in next season's Indian Super League (ISL). Kashi were awarded three points by the AIFF disciplinary committee after Namdhari FC were found to have fielded an ineligible player. The decision was challenged and stayed by the appeals committee. Should the appeals committee decide against Namdhari, Kashi will move on top with 42 points.

The appeals committee was scheduled to meet on April 28 but with growing pressure on AIFF to announce the champion, the panel has now advanced its meeting to Saturday, April 12. "This will probably be the most important decision of the appeals committee," a senior official told **TOI**. "The I-League champions will be decided based on the order of the committee."

Nicklaus, Watson insist India needs more facilities

V Krishnaswamy

Augusta: It has been a long time since an Indian played at the Augusta National, but the legendary starters of the Masters, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Tom Watson, did have a word or two of advice for Indian golf and how it can try and produce champions and world class golfers.

After their traditional tee shots amidst a lot of applause, the trio had their customary meeting with world media and as usual they gave a lot of useful advice using their experience of more than 60-70 years in the game.

Just around the time they finished, Aaron Rai, an Indian-origin player, who was born and raised in Wolverhampton, England reared his head and raced to 4-under through the first 10 holes. Then he faltered around the beautiful but dangerous Amen Corner and further with three bogeys in a row to fall to one-under. He may or may not make up, but he had made his presence felt on his debut Masters – to be on top of the leaderboard even if for nine holes in your first start is an honour. More will come his way in the future.

AUGUSTA MASTERS

Meanwhile, 'that man' Scottie Scheffler was back sharing the lead — at 3-under through nine holes. With him were two Englishmen, Tyrrell Hatton and Justin Rose. Scheffler is looking to become only the fifth man ever to successfuly defend his Masters jacket.

Turning back to Nicklaus, Player and Watson trio, they were asked what it would take for India to produce a world-beater in golf and what advice would they give from their side. Nicklaus said, "I think basically they have to get access to tours and the ability to play in competition."

Saying they needed to get to where the facilities are, he went on, "I don't think it's any different in India. I don't think you probably have the number of facilities to encourage young people to play. You certainly have the population. But you need the facilities for young people to play." Bang on.

Watson added, "I think, very simply, to cut to the bone, I don't think there's enough golf courses. The US has, I think we have over 25,000 golf courses here in the US, and I think like 70 to 80% of them are public — people can go and play. You don't have to be a member of a club. In India, what's the No. 1 sport, cricket? Yeah, cricket. Again, ball, hit like that, moving ball. It's a culture thing."

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Shrivalli's star rises as India overwhelm HK

Kumaraswamy.K
@timesofindia.com

Pune: It is fast becoming Shrivalli Rashmikaa's tie. So much so that the popular number answering to her name from the Telugu film Pushpa has become the Indian team's new anthem.

From having not played a singles match until the start of the week to winning all her three rubbers in as many days, the 23-year-old Shrivalli has led the Indian challenge with style and panache at the Billie Jean King Asia-Oceania Group1 competition in Mhalunge-Balewadi.

BILLIE JEAN KING CUP

The young star clinched the match for India against Hong Kong on Thursday after overcoming Hong Yi Cody Wong, another promising 23-year-old to watch out for in the coming years, 7-6 (6), 2-6, 6-3 in the second singles.

Vaidehi Chaudhari, playing in place of Sahaja Yamalapalli, who retired due to cramps in her match against Thailand on Wednesday, laid the foundation by beating Ho Ching Wu 7-6 (8), 6-1 in the opening singles.

In the absence of Sahaja, the No. 1 mantle fell on Shrivalli and she wore it comfortably. The most admirable part of Shrivalli, besides her eye-pleasing stroke making, over the past three days has been her fitness.

While footwork and taller players usually don't go together, the 5-foot 10-inch Indian has impressed with her court coverage. She has also sustained her aggressive game despite the extremely hot weather and seemed to still have some fuel left in the tank after the 2-hour 27-minute epic on Thursday.

Shrivalli fell behind 0-1 as Wong, world ranked 378, took the attack to her from the word go. But Shrivalli soaked up the early pressure and turned the heat on her rival to get the break back in the eighth game.

In the tiebreak, Shrivalli saved a set point at 5-6 before converting at 7-6, finishing off a half-volley with her trademark forehand. Wong played clever tennis in the second set.

Realising the futility of engaging the stylish Indian in baseline slugfest, she decided to go for the jugular — throwing a cocktail of forehand chops, deft drop shots and the odd under-arm serve.

She ran away with the second set but Shrivalli turned it around in the decider brilliantly. The Hyderabadi simply refused to give in. If anything, she stepped on the gas even more, unleashing thunderbolts with her serve as well as the groundstrokes.

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KL Rahul scores 93 not out as Delhi Capitals stretch winning streak to 4 games, handing RCB a 2nd home defeat in IPL, P 23

DSPL-24

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda
Union Health & Family Welfare,
Chemicals & Fertilizers Minister

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

Launching Ceremony

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Cobranded Card Distribution
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Chief Guest

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda
Union Health & Family Welfare, Chemicals & Fertilizers Minister

In the august presence of

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
Union Education Minister

Shri Jual Oram
Union Minister of Tribal Affairs

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology

Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo
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11 April 2025 | 2.30 PM | Baliyatra Ground, Cuttack

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Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Odisha

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, NEW DELHI | FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025

OLD AGE IS LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE. TO MAKE A SUCCESS OF IT, YOU'VE GOT TO START YOUNG — THEODORE ROOSEVELT

JUSTIN BIEBER GOES ON WILD, UNPROVOKED TIRADE AGAINST 'MONEY-HUNGRY' PAPARAZZI: 'YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT PEOPLE'

KANYE WEST BLAMES TAYLOR SWIFT FOR NEVER BEING 'ALLOWED' TO PERFORM AT SUPER BOWL

From 'Be Cool!' To 'Getting Yippy': Inside Trump's Reversal On Tariffs

Prez Clarifies Raised Duty On Chinese Goods By 145%, Not 125%, Since Taking Office; EU Pauses Countermeasures

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US President Donald Trump's 90-day hold on punitive tariffs on the world minus China has elicited a reciprocal pause from the European Union, momentarily isolating Beijing but giving the rest of the world respite to negotiate with Washington.

The jury is still out on whether Trump caved to intense pressure the US economy came under because of his tariff gambit or if it was planned brinkmanship. But the danger to global trade has not abated yet. The baseline 10% tariff he imposed on the world is still in place, as also new levies on steel, aluminum and automobiles.

Still, the EU said it took note of Trump's decision to pause reciprocal tariff and is doing likewise "to give negotiations a chance," and even China indicated it is ready to talk — provided the dialogue was conducted on an "equal footing" and on the "basis of mutual respect." China's commerce ministry spokeswoman He Yongqian stressed that "the door to dialogue is open". "We hope the US will meet China halfway, and, based on the principles of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation..." EU President Ursula von der Leyen too warned, "If negotiations are not satisfactory, our countermeasures will kick in."

In the US meanwhile, Trump is being compared to an arsonist who sets fire to his own home and then pulls out a fire extinguisher to put it out even as neighbours and friends rush to help because it also endangers their homes. While MAGA mouthpieces projected Trump's brinkmanship as the work of a genius who took a leaf out of his "Art of the Deal," the liberal intelligentsia called it "Art of the Squeal" — a gambit gone horribly wrong.

Trump aides though spun the president's tariff pause as a win, the outcome of "master strategy, bold statesmanship and brilliant tactical planning" which, according to his deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller, "has done more to reform broken international trade in days than anyone has achieved in decades while economically and politically isolating the global architect of economic aggression: China."

US President Donald Trump during signing of an executive order in the Oval Office in Washington DC on Wednesday

Jet with 3 lawmakers on board struck on taxiway by another plane in US, all safe

An American Airlines plane carrying at least three members of Congress at Reagan Washington National Airport was struck on the taxiway by the wingtip of another American Airlines jet, Federal Aviation Administration said Thursday. American Airlines flight 5490 — a Bombardier CRJ 900 headed to Charleston, South Carolina — struck American flight 4522 — an Embraer E175 which was headed to New York's JFK Airport, around 12.45pm ET, the FAA said. No injuries were reported. REUTERS

Trump though appeared to confirm that he backed down because Americans — and the stock market — got jittery with his strategy. "People were jumping out of line a little and getting a little yippy, a little bit afraid," he told reporters who asked why he decided to hit pause on his tariff imposition just hours into its enforcement. He also revealed he was concerned about people "getting a little queasy" about the bond market, which also sank on Tuesday as the rest of the world began losing faith in the US economy and its stability after Trump tariff caper. Stock and bonds seldom go down together and typically move in opposite directions. "I was watching the bond market. It's very tricky. If you look at it now it's beautiful. But I saw last night where people were getting a little queasy," he said.

Market mavens and economic pundits later surmised that it was Japan's — not China's — sale of US treasury bonds that spooked the markets and forced Trump's hand to announce a 90-day suspension of tariffs (except for China). Japan holds more than $1 trillion in US bonds and China holds $760 billion.

The question now boils down to who among the US and China have greater resilience in this game of chicken, and who needs who more. On Wednesday, the president said he was increasing the import tax on China to 125%. But on Thursday, he clarified that he had raised tariffs on Chinese goods by a total of 145% since taking office. The White House later put out a statement making it clear the 125% rise was in addition to a 20% tariff Trump had already imposed on China for its role in supplying fentanyl and its precursors in the US. Just how much depends on whether China can find other markets to dump its goods and/or talk US back from the brink.

The biggest outcome of the ongoing trade war, for now, appears to be the profound distrust of the US. "Don't think for a second that all that's been lost is money. A whole pile of invaluable trust just went up in smoke as well," NYT columnist Thomas Friedman noted gloomily, calling Trump tariff gambit the "trade equivalent of the Biden administration's botched exit from Afghanistan."

TRACKING TRUMP

Kash Patel removed as acting ATF chief and deputy resigns

Kash Patel, the FBI director, has been removed as the interim head of the bureau of alcohol, tobacco, firearms and explosives (ATF) and replaced by Daniel Driscoll, the army secretary, four people said Wednesday. The highly unusual move places a civilian military leader in charge of a domestic law enforcement entity. Marvin Richardson, a 35-year ATF veteran, resigned late on Wednesday as deputy director of the agency, after being given the option to leave or be removed, two people familiar with the matter said on Thursday. White House officials decided to make the switch in late Feb just after Patel was named the ATF's director, because the responsibilities of running two agencies were seen as too time-consuming, according to an official. REUTERS

Trump signs order to 'make America's showers great again'

President Trump has signed an executive order lifting water-pressure restrictions on showerheads, a move White House said would "make America's showers great again". Trump has long complained about inadequate water pressure in American bathrooms which he blames on federal water conservation regulations. "In my case I like to take a nice shower, to take care of my beautiful hair," Trump said. AFP

Trump's 'buy' tip before tariff pause sparks insider trading talks

New York: When Donald Trump offered some financial advice on Wednesday morning, stocks were wavering between gains and losses. But that was about to change.

"THIS IS A GREAT TIME TO BUY!!! DJT," he wrote on his Truth Social at 9.37am. Four hours later, Trump announced a 90-day pause on nearly all his tariffs. Stocks soared, closing up 9.5% by the end of trading. The market gained back about $4 trillion, or 70% of the value it had lost over the previous four trading days. "He's loving this control over markets, but he better be careful," said former White House ethics lawyer, Richard Painter, noting that securities law prohibits trading on insider information.

Democratic senators are calling for investigation. "Did anyone buy or sell stocks, and profit at the public's expense?" asked senator Adam Schiff. "An insider trading scandal is brewing," added senator Chris Murphy. A key question is, was Trump already contemplating the tariff pause when he made the post? "Over the last few days, I've been thinking about it," he said when asked about when he arrived at his decision, but then added, "Fairly early this morning."

White House spokesman Kush Desai defended Trump's post. "It is the responsibility of the president of the US to reassure the markets and Americans about their economic security in the face of nonstop media fearmongering."

AFP

Senate Democrats are asking for the US Office Of Govt Ethics to look into whether anyone benefited financially from advanced knowledge of Trump's decision to back down on tariffs on Wednesday

Another curiosity of the posting was the signoff with his initials DJT, also the stock symbol for Trump Media and Technology Group, the parent company of his social media platform of Truth Social. It's not clear if Trump was saying buying stocks in general, or Trump Media in particular. The White House was asked, but didn't address that either. Trump includes "DJT" on his posts intermittently, typically to emphasise that he has personally written the message.

The ambiguity about what Trump meant didn't stop people from pouring money into that stock. Trump Media closed up 22.67%, soaring twice as much as the broader market, a stunning performance by a company that lost $400 million last year and is seemingly unaffected by whether tariffs would be imposed or paused. AP

China takes a 'heavy' troll of USA

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: AI-generated videos and memes from China trolling tariff-entranced Trumpian USA is tickling some Americans and tormenting others.

One video created by a Chinese tik-toker that has gone viral shows obese Americans performing low-skilled work with sombre Chinese music for background score.

Other videos show President Trump, his V-P JD Vance, Elon Musk and other White House officials assembling iPhones and making sneakers. The American "workers" typically look gloomy and overweight. Riffing on the tariff war, China-origin memes also show the trade-mark 'Make America Great Again' caps, 'Made in China' and retailing for $ 50, selling for $ 77 after Trump's import duties.

"Be cool! Everything is going to work out well"

Yet another meme shows Trump sweating it out by the phone with a bubble caption reading "Why won't he call?"

The trolling comes amid increasingly bitter diatribes against Beijing in the MAGA world, with Trump acolytes accusing China of stealing US jobs and intellectual property. US leaders too have spoken derisively about China.

In a putdown this week on Fox News that some critics found condescending, Vance said "we borrow money from Chinese peasants to buy the things those Chinese peasants manufacture." China holds $ 760 billion in US treasury bonds, propping up American consumption.

Many Americans on social media took the Chinese trolling sportingly, remarking, "When did China get a sense of humor?" and "I love how they're trolling us with the work that they do." Some others were miffed. "Mocking the working class. Maybe I'm missing something?" said one peeved American, while another asked, "What's wrong with factory workers?"

Spicy smackdowns followed on social media to Chinese statements. A video posted by the Chinese embassy in US showing Mao Tsetung asserting "We don't back down!" invited several acerbic ripostes: "So you roll out one of the biggest mass murderers in history as a mascot? Interesting choice" and "Mao represents the future you want?" One post quoted Confucius: Before you embark on a journey of revenge, dig two graves.

Varsities join int'l students' legal battle

Lubna Kably | TNN

A coalition of prominent American universities and academic associations has launched a legal challenge against the Trump administration's recent immigration enforcement actions targeting international students. These actions — ranging from visa revocations and arrests to threats of decertifying certain educational institutions — have, according to the coalition, fostered a pervasive "climate of fear" across campuses.

Led by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), the lawsuit has garnered support from the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, which represents more than 570 college and university leaders. The Alliance filed an amicus brief in the matter before the US district court (Massachusetts) warning of severe consequences for US academia, innovation, and global competitiveness if these policies continue unchecked. Eighty-six other institutions and associations, including Georgetown University, Rutgers, and Illinois Institute of Technology, have endorsed the brief.

Miriam Feldblum, president and CEO of the alliance, said the actions have disrupted lives, threatened institutional safety, and compromised academic freedom. She emphasised that the uncertainty caused by abrupt visa cancellations and terminations could undermine the US's ability to attract and retain global talent in the long run. Feldblum noted that international scholars and students fuel the US economy and embody the collaborative ethos of American education.

The amicus brief highlights several troubling incidents. Among them is the arrest of Rumeysa Ozturk, a Turkish PhD student at Tufts University, and Mahmoud Khalil, a graduate of Columbia University — both reportedly detained without evidence of wrongdoing beyond their political views. The brief also references Ranjani Srinivasan, an Indian Fulbright scholar at Columbia University, who self-deported amid growing fears. Media reports cited in the brief indicate that, as of April 8, over 500 non-citizens — many of them foreign students — have had their immigration status revoked.

In a departure from previous protocols, the administration is also terminating students' SEVIS records without informing their institutions or offering explanations. This policy shift makes students more vulnerable to arrest and deportation.

Beyond civil rights concerns, the brief underscores significant economic risks. International students contributed more than $50 billion to the US economy in 2023, supporting over 378,000 jobs. Many also remain in the country after graduation, especially in STEM fields, where they play a critical role in driving innovation. The brief notes that 70% of international STEM PhDs stay in the US workforce — a pipeline of talent now in jeopardy.

The impact is already visible. StudyPortals, a global education platform, reports a 42% decline in international interest in US graduate programmes in 2025. Recruitment agencies in India, China, and other regions confirm a pivot toward Canada, Australia, and the UK.

WORLD WATCH

New arrest warrant for Hasina, and her daughter for graft

A Bangladeshi court on Thursday issued a new arrest warrant against deposed PM Sheikh Hasina, her daughter Saima Wajed Putul and 17 others in a graft case, accusing them of "fraudulently" procuring a residential plot. Dhaka metropolitan senior special judge Zakir Hossain Galib accepted the charge sheet submitted by the anti-corruption commission. As the accused were absconding, court issued arrest warrants against them.

'France could recognise Palestinian state in June'

French president Emmanuel Macron said on Wednesday France could recognise a Palestinian state in June, adding that in turn some countries in West Asia could recognise the state of Israel. "We need to move towards recognition (of a Palestinian state)...," he said. Hamas said Macron's announcement was an "important step", after Israel's foreign minister slammed the plan.

Pak's mineral investment push outrages Balochistan

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

Islamabad: Pakistan's aggressive push for international investment in its mines and minerals sector has ignited a firestorm of dissent in Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) regions.

The Pakistan Minerals Investment Forum 2025, held in Islamabad on April 8-9, was billed as a golden opportunity to unlock "trillions of dollars" of the country's mineral wealth. The event drew over 300 delegates from nations like the US, Saudi Arabia and China. The forum has deepened the divide between the centre and provinces. Locals in accuse Islamabad of tightening its grip on their wealth for the benefit of foreign powers and the central elite.

Addressing the forum, PM Shehbaz Sharif said: "If we harness these vast reserves, Pakistan can bid farewell to global lenders." His words, however, ring hollow in Balochistan, where Reko Dik copper-gold mine has become a lightning rod for dissent.

Reuters/File

Dissent has also risen in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, POK, Gilgit-Baltistan

The province has endured decades of neglect while its resources are siphoned off to benefit the elite. KP's gemstones have long been a source of pride, yet locals say they see little of the profits. "The mountains bleed wealth, but our children starve," said a tribal elder. In Gilgit-Baltistan, where gold, uranium and gems abound, protests were held over leases to Chinese firms. Leaders in PoK, known for ruby and sapphire deposits, have long demanded autonomy over resources. "Our minerals will line foreign pockets while we're left with dust," said Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, a former PM.

4 Sikhs accused of masquerading as Afghans to get UK asylum; they deny

Naomi Canton

London: Four Sikhs accused of being Indian nationals masquerading as Afghans fleeing the Taliban to get asylum in Britain have all pleaded not guilty to the charges against them.

On Thursday at Croydon Crown Court, Ardet Kaur (68), her husband Gurbakhsh Singh (72), and one Guljeet Singh (43) pleaded not guilty to the charge of knowingly arriving at Heathrow airport on Dec 23, 2023 without valid entry clearance and without a passport. They also pleaded not guilty to failing to have an immigration document which satisfactorily established their identity and nationality at their asylum interview at Heathrow. Refusing the application, judge Antony Dunne said: "I don't think, based on submissions, the defence is anywhere close to establishing substantial grounds that press, in reporting contemporaneously this trial, will prejudice it."

Formal ruling in foreign student's case in weeks

▶Continued from P1

Such action was taken against him by US agencies despite his never having committed a crime or traffic violation, and having never participated in any protest in the US or elsewhere.

Judge Samantha Elliott issued a temporary restraining order reinstating Liu's F-1 status, pending a formal ruling in his case in the coming weeks.

It is believed that this order is the first relief by any district court since US agencies starting revoking so hundreds of visas of international students. Cases are increasingly being filed by international students in district courts across the US. Class action suits are also being contemplated.

As reported by **TOI** in its edition of April 9, the American Civil Liberties Union of New Hampshire, which filed the lawsuit on his behalf, has asked the district court to reinstate Xiaotian Liu's F-1 student status. In a press release, Gilles Bissonnette, legal director at ACLU-NH said, "The court's temporary restoration of our client's student status means that he can continue studying and working... International students are a vital community in our state's universities, and no administration should be allowed to circumvent the law to unilaterally strip students of status, disrupt their studies, and put them at risk of deportation." Ronald L Abramson, chair of the immigration law group at Shaheen & Gordon, a firm representing the student, added, "Today's decision reaffirms the basic principle that a person who follows all the rules should not be subject to losing their immigration status — and everything they have worked to achieve — based upon the govt's whim."

TOI spoke to immigration attorneys, who believe that filing lawsuits under the Administrative Procedure Act can get results. They add, it is about due process, of the right to be notified of adverse action that govt agencies take against you; about the right to be furnished with information that the govt claims to possess which is the reason for termination of your legal status.

DAILY PLANET

Reuters

A giant inflatable is installed in Crimea, ahead of Cosmonautics Day to mark the anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's first human space flight in 1961

Michelle opens up about divorce talks, public absences

It's not quite an age-old adage, but at this point it has long been true: Don't believe everything you read on the internet. Michelle Obama, the former US first lady, reminded people of this in a recent podcast interview. In rare public comments about her personal life, she discussed swirling rumours that she and former president Barack Obama were headed for divorce, and tacitly explained why she didn't attend President Trump's inauguration. The gossip about a possible split was fuelled by Michelle's absence from two major public events in Jan: former president Jimmy Carter's funeral and Trump's inauguration. "I chose to do what's best for me, not what I had to do," she said in a podcast, referencing a "real big example" of something on her calendar that she skipped. People "couldn't even fathom that I was making a choice for myself, that they had to assume that my husband and I are divorcing," she said. "This couldn't be a grown woman just making a set of decisions for herself, right?"

Taliban's morality police arrest men for haircuts, skipping mosque, says UN

Taliban's morality police have detained men and their barbers over hairstyles, and others for missing prayers during Ramzan, a UN report said Thursday, six months after laws regulating people's conduct came into effect. The vice and virtue ministry published laws last August covering many aspects of everyday life in Afghanistan, including public transport, music, shaving and celebrations. The ministry also issued a ban on women's voices and bare faces in public. That same month, a UN official warned the laws provided a "distressing vision" for the country's future by adding to existing employment, education, and dress code restrictions on women and girls. Taliban officials have rejected UN concerns about the morality laws. The UN mission said both sexes were negatively affected, particularly people with small businesses leading to a reduction or total loss of income and job opportunities.

Prada to buy Versace for nearly $1.4bn to form an Italian fashion powerhouse

On Thursday, in the biggest luxury deal of the year, Prada announced it was buying Versace for 1.3 billion euros ($1.4 billion) from Capri Holdings, a beleaguered New York group that at one point styled itself as the American answer to the great fashion groups of France.

The deal is a sign of faith in the continued value of Made in Italy at a time when financial markets are in chaos because of Trump's policies. And it marks the end of Capri's attempt to create an American luxury group up to rival LVMH and Kering, while signaling an attempt by Prada to create an Italian competitor to the powerhouses.

Versace will join Prada and Miu Miu, as well as Luna Rossa, America's Cup sailing team, and pastry brand Marchesi as part of Prada Group, creating a "best in class" mosaic of Italian savoir-faire. It also gives Prada Group's fashion holding critical mass, adding a ready-to-wear brand with a different identity to those of Miu Miu and Prada — as well as one that is not dependent on designer Miuccia Prada — to the mix. Prada CEO Andrea Guerra said the acquisition would add, "a new dimension, different and complementary," to the group. "The journey will be long," he added.

AP

A 2017 photo of (L-R) Claudia Shiffer, Donatella Versace, Naomi Campbell, Cindy Crawford and Helena Christensen. Donatella was replaced as creative director of the company founded by her late brother Gianni Versace in March

Prada and Versace are, on the surface, a study in contrasts. Versace made its name on a celebration of flash and fantasy, reveling in sun, sex, the male gaze and the tightrope between bad taste and elegance. Prada, by contrast, embraced a contrarian exploration of the meaning of femininity, gender politics and strange allure of ugly chic. But, Prada chairman Patrizio Bertelli said, "we share a strong commitment to creativity, craftsmanship and heritage," and an understanding of consumer power of brand semiology — the upside triangle, medusa head — and a belief in the importance of family. Miuccia Prada is close to Donatella Versace, who stepped in to run the company her late brother Gianni founded in 1997; though Versace left her position as chief creative officer last month, she is "delighted' to have her brand back in family hands. NYT